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THE STONY BROOK PRESS

Vol. XXI No. 1

The University Community's Feature Paper

September 15, 1999

Court Censors College Yearbook

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Congress shall make
no law ... abridging the
freedom of speech, or
of the press.

-First Amendment

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What's New at SBU

Stony Brook Names Acting Provost

STONY BROOK- State University of New York at Stony Brook President Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny today announced the appointment of Dr. Robert L. McGrath as Acting Provost. His appointment [was] effective August 11.

Dr. McGrath, Deputy Provost since 1996, will continue to serve as liaison with Brookhaven National Laboratory in the capacity of Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs. He succeeds Dr. Rollin Richmond, who is leaving the university to become Provost of Iowa State University.

"I am extremely delighted that such an able administrator has agreed to fulfill this role," President Kenny said in announcing the appointment. "This will assure a smooth transition as Stony Brook moves into the millennium." A provost search will begin this academic year.

A 1960 graduate of Oberlin College, Dr. McGrath holds a masters and doctorate from the University of Iowa. He has been at Stony Brook since 1968. He previously served as Associate Dean of the Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics and Director of the University's Nuclear Structure Laboratory. He was named Associate Provost in 1994 and Deputy Provost in 1996.

Dr. McGrath is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and in 1974 was named an Alexander Von Humboldt Senior U.S. Scientist Awardee. Prior to joining Stony Brook, he was a staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards and has been published extensively in refereed journals. He also has served as associate editor for experimental physics papers of the *Physical Review C*, and on program advisory committees for accelerator facilities at both Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory.

In 1997, as co-principal investigator, he received a three-year National Science Foundation Recognition Award to Stony Brook based on the university's achievements and vision for integrating its research and education missions. Dr. McGrath is a member of the board of Brookhaven Science Associates, the State University of New York at Stony Brook-Batelle Institute management team that oversees operations of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

—courtesy of University News Services

Plans For Sunwood II Announced

Plans to revamp Sunwood, the former estate of the Melvilles, were announced by the University this summer. The original estate that lay on the beachfront property, which is now owned by the University, burned down in 1987, and until now has never been restored.

The project, whose cost has been estimated at \$3 million, is being funded by the Stony Brook Foundation. The Foundation consists of individuals who help the University raise money, and is headed by IMAX CEO Richard Gelford, who is also a Stony Brook alumnus.

According to President Kenny, her vision for the new Sunwood is to make it "the living room of the University." Though she said the new Sunwood "will not be an exact replica of the old one," her vision for the new Sunwood is quite grandiose. There will be rooms for "distinguished guests," and large spaces to hold receptions and concerts, as well as suites to house Nobel Prize winners and other "important" visitors.

Despite all the talk of having a "living room" for the University, President Kenny also revealed that approximately one third of the new estate will be "the President's quarters." Dr. Kenny told the *Three Village Herald* that "obviously most universities have president's houses. This will be small - but if you have these other entertaining spaces, it would do. We're talking about three bedrooms, a study and a great room...if the university is going to get another president, they've got to have a house. It is really important." President Kenny told *The Press* that she isn't sure what will come of the house that she currently resides in, which is located in Old Field, and that it will be a matter for future presidents to decide.

This brings to mind two things: the President already has a residence, and Dr. Kenny didn't specify that the old will be passed on when Sunwood is completed. Does the president really require two residences? Dr. Kenny also seemed to be insinuating that Sunwood will be necessary to attract a new president when she vacates her position. Do we really need a fancy mansion to lure a qualified and enthusiastic president? While Sunwood is indeed a "beautiful piece of land," as Dr. Kenny said, and deserves to be revered, one can't help but wonder if, in this time of academic downsizing, the university couldn't have found a less cosmetic use for three million dollars.

—Jill Baron

The Survival of Community: Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and El Salvador An Exhibition in the Stony Brook Union Art Gallery

September 24-October 15, 1999

Keith Miller visited three communities in the affected areas; through interviews and photos, the effects of the hurricane are seen. The images do not speak of suffering, but of hope for rebuilding, and they portray people with names and families, histories and futures.

In the aftermath of the hurricane which recently devastated parts of Central America, there followed a broad array of images and information concerning the results of the damage in terms of numbers and statistics. Ten thousand, a hundred thousand, billions of dollars, etc. But these numbers and images are in a sense meaningless, lost in a sea of similar statistics rushing in from all parts of the world, easily confused with any other. The impact of numbers and of images occurs on a personal level when the viewer can relate in a humane way to what is being transmitted. This doesn't occur when the damages, the numbers or the images become too abstract and distant.

While images of the resultant construction were fantastic and attention-calling, they did not represent the human side of the situation in a way that is even more interesting, and no less shocking. Underneath the tragedy lay individuals who still continue to survive, hope, and to love. It is the strength of the survivors and the memory of the victims to which one must now turn attention.

Through the use of the photographic image and accompanying text, the viewing public will be invited to feel a sense of direct humanity and hope emanating from precisely the people who have suffered the greatest loss. It will be they who state their own case.

There will be a reception for the artist on Tuesday, October 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The art gallery is located in the Student Union, upper level. For additional information, call 632-6820.

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Court Censors College Journalism

By Hilary Vidair

For more than thirty years, college campus journalism has been protected by the First Amendment to the same extent as the commercial news media. Until now.

On September 8, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that college administrators may censor the content of campus journalism as they see fit. The decision was made based on *Kincaid v. Gibson*, concerning the confiscation of 2000 copies of Kentucky State University's yearbook, *The Thorobred*.

The case dates back to 1994 when Charles Kincaid and Capri Coffey, the editors of *The Thorobred*, decided to sue administrator Betty Gibson for commanding that the yearbooks be locked in a university storeroom and prohibited their distribution. Gibson's disapproval stemmed from her feeling that the yearbook had a general "lack of quality" and the fact that it did not contain the school's colors, green and gold, on the cover.

The court's recent decision maintains District Court Judge Joseph M. Hood's November 1997 ruling against the students. It is an extension of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Hazlewood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, made in 1988, which states that administrators have the right to censor the student media if they can prove there is a "legitimate pedagogical" reason for doing so. This

includes anything that school officials feel is written poorly or "inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order." This is the first time that *Hazlewood* has been applied to any thing other than a high school publication.

In 1997, the case was dismissed based on "Hazlewood." The case was resubmitted to the 6th Circuit Court in favor of the students, with support from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ); the Student Press Law Center and the American Civil Liberties Union.

All public universities and colleges in the affected states with an accredited public journalism program filed a request that the lower court's ruling be overturned, as did several news media groups. Therefore, the case was handed over to the 6th Circuit Court.

The new court ruling is based on the fact that the yearbook is not legally established as a public forum. "The Court in *Hazlewood* noted...that if the school did not intentionally create a public forum, the the publication remains a nonpublic forum, and school officials

may impose any reasonable, non-viewpoint-based restriction on student speech exhibited therein," wrote Judge Alan E. Norris, according to an article found at the Student Press Center website.

"It is no doubt reasonable that KSU should seek to maintain its image to potential students, alumni, and the general public," the court decided, according to the same article. "In light of the indisputably poor quality of the yearbook, it is also reasonable that KSU might cut its losses by

refusing to distribute a university publication that might tarnish, rather than enhance, that image."

The new rule is now only applicable in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee. However, it will most likely be used in several cases to come, giving administrators a fairly easy means of controlling what is published in college publications.

Kincaid and Coffey are planning to once again appeal the court's decision. A copy of the decision can be obtained at <http://pacer.ca6.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/getopn.pl?OPINION=99a0322p.06>.

...administrators have the right to censor the student media if they can prove there is a 'legitimate pedagogical' reason for doing so.

This Year's Meal Plan

By Jill Baron

The beginning of the 1999-2000 school year brings us, among other things, more changes to the meal plan. The meal plan underwent some upheaval last year when food service provider Aramark was replaced by Chartwells; and the disputed campus/resident point breakdown was implemented. While this year's changes aren't as drastic, they are important nonetheless.

"There are four options available [see chart]. They range in price from \$1100 to \$2000 dollars," said Dawn Villacci, who has been the Customer Advocate for Campus Dining Services for the past

five years. "All of the options are split into campus and resident points. Campus points can be spent anywhere on campus, and resident points must be used in the resident dining halls, which are Kelly, Roth and H. The only exception to that is delivery, which is run out of Roth but comes out of campus, not residence points," she said. The Kosher plan is an extra \$150, on top of the \$1100. That fee, said Villacci, is necessary to cover the cost of the "rabbinical supervision, their own kitchen and cutlery."

The fact that there are four plans being offered this year is a major change from last year, when there was only one. The other options were added in response to complaints

received last year that there was only one plan to suit the different needs of different students.

She also mentioned the \$125 operating fee, which is another one of the major changes to the plan this year. The fee is added to all four meal plan options, and, says Villacci, "is the amount of money necessary to make the program whole." Essentially, however much money they made last year wasn't enough to

cover their operating expenses, so they tacked on the \$125 to "close the gap." What that means for students is that, if they are on the basic plan, which is \$1100 a semester, they will only be able to spend \$975 of it on actual food. One would think that, since the operating fee has been implemented, they would adjust the retail prices so that students don't end up bearing the brunt of their burden. This seems especially unfair to commuter students, who are entirely apart from the meal plan. Should those of us paying cash be forced to pay inflated prices because Chartwells and/or FSA couldn't make ends meet?

In addition to the operating fee, there

are a few other things different about the plan this year. In previous years, unused money from the fall semester carried over to the spring semester. From now on, any unused money at the end of the fall semester will be lost. And, in a very unpopular move, residence points that used to stretch the whole semester are now allocated weekly. Each student is allotted \$30 per week, and however much of the thirty is not used each week is lost. In this system, the week runs from Monday morning to Sunday night. Other complications have also arisen. "I went to Kelly this morning to get some food, and I asked for a receipt so I could see how much of the thirty dollars I had left for the week, but the receipt doesn't say that, and I wanted to know how I'm supposed to keep track of how much I used, and she said 'you start with \$480, and every week you lose thirty.' That makes no sense," said one anonymous student.

One of the biggest complaints Villacci received last year, she said, was "there were a lot of students with money left on their account, and they couldn't spend it all." Other complaints she receives are from students who don't understand why the distinction between campus and residence points is necessary. "The rationale behind that," she said, "is that we want to build a sense of community in the resident dining areas. We want people to go there. We also don't have enough room in the center of campus for everybody."

Problems, questions, and comments regarding the meal plan should be addressed to Dawn Villacci at Dvillacci@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, or by calling 632-9374.

Meal Plan	Semester Cost	Oper. Expense	Campus Points	Res. Points
Basic	\$1100	\$125	495	480
Basic Plus	\$1,200	\$125	595	480
Ultra	\$1,400	\$125	820	480
Ultra Plus	\$2000	\$125	1445	480

DON'T EVEN TRY IT, SHIRLEY

The 6th Circuit Court of appeals has made it possible for administrators to censor college journalism from printing what they deem "ungrammatical," "poorly written," "inappropriate," or "inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order." The decision was made after the courts reviewed *Kincaid v. Gibson*, a case dating back to 1994 concerning the faculty's confiscation of 2000 copies of Kentucky State University's yearbook *The Thorobred*, and the removal of the newspaper's faculty advisor after refusing to censor content sensitive to the college.

Betty Gibson, an administrator at the university, disapproved of the yearbook based on its general "lack of quality" and the fact that the cover was not green and gold, the school's official colors.

Up until this ruling, journalism published by a university was protected by First Amendment rights also

enjoyed by the commercial news media. The new ruling is an extension of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1998 *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* decision, in which only high school administrators were allowed to any type censor their schools' publications.

This decision is abominable. College students have been robbed of their right to be protected under the First Amendment. The freedom of college press has been greatly restricted, therefore disabling it as a credible source. Furthermore, it fails to draw a line between college and high school standards.

Although the circuit court's decision is currently affecting only Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee, it will now make it easier for administrators to have a major say in what their university student papers publish. Potentially, this could one day affect *the Press*. If and when it does, we'll fight it all the way to the Supreme Court.

TO THE EDITOR

So, how were your first two weeks of school? You would think that the first few days would be fun (meeting up with all of your friends again after a long summer) and carefree (who really does any school work in the first few days). And yet, thanks to those special people at Campus Residences and ECC, my first few days were like hell on earth. As you all know, Tuesday, September 1, was the official move in day for returning students.

This year I was moving into Roosevelt from H quad, so I thought living conditions would be a whole lot better. Well, the first thing I noticed when I checked into my new room was the bunk bed. My roommate and I were very upset about this. Then our RA told us that Campus Res. put bunk beds in rooms randomly. Just our luck! The second thing that I noticed was that the door handle was sticking out of both sides of the door. The lock still worked, and the door opened, but it looked like the handle might come flying off with a hard slam of the door.

Since neither of these situations were pressing emergencies (at least I thought so at the time), the best thing that we could do was to fill in a work order to fix the door and debunk the beds. We did this on Tuesday afternoon. So, can you guess what happened that same night? At 11:30 p.m. I left the room to go to the bathroom, closing the door behind me. When I returned I could not open the door. Somehow it had mysteriously locked, trapping my roommate inside and locking me out. Then I knocked on the door and asked my roommate to open it. He could not open it from the inside either. This was the situation. It was 11:30 at night. I'm locked out of the room and my roommate is locked in. We were both tired and sleepy. Earlier in the day we moved all our stuff into the room and that takes a lot out of you. What were we to do?

After we realized that neither of us could open the door, I went to find an RA. The RA tried fidgeting with the door to no avail. The RA called the RHD, but he couldn't do anything either. The RHD called maintenance. We were lucky that we reached them because they only stay on campus until midnight. The time we called them must have been about 11:55. The maintenance workers came over several minutes later. For 20 minutes they tried to open the door with screwdrivers and hammers, but were unsuccessful. After calling their supervisor, they were advised to call the locksmith, who would have to come from off campus. The locksmith finally arrived at around 1:45 am. For a little more than an hour I waited in the hall lounge for him to come. My roommate was still trapped in the room. I wonder what would have happened if he had to use the bathroom during this time? Or even worse, what if (knock on wood) there was a fire in the building?

Soon after the locksmith arrived, he was able to open the door and fix the handle. It took him less than a half hour. What really irks us is that the door was in such poor condition when we first moved in. From the end of the sec-

ond summer session to the beginning of the fall semester there are at least two weeks of time with no classes, plenty of time for Campus Res. to fix any problems. I would assume that they would use this time to prepare the dorms for the fall move in.

Now on to the story behind the bunk beds. When we filled out the work order, they told us it would take three to four days complete. We called up Campus Res. to see if it could be done faster, but they said no. So we waited. As of Monday, September 13, the beds have not yet been debunked. We called Campus Res. on Wednesday, September 8 to check if they received the work order, but they just told us to talk to our RA and have them check. It must have been too hard for them to check themselves. When we talked to our RA, he gave us a bullshit answer, and basically asked us if we wanted to fill out another work order. What good was another work order if Campus Res. did not even look at the first one?

My third complaint is against those geniuses at the ECC. I handed in their contract agreement form to the campus office on Tue. 9/1. They said it would take 1-2 days for my PAC number to work. By that Friday, three days later, it was still not working, so I came by their office again. I talked to one of their workers and they put all my information into the system and said that my number would be up and running by next Tuesday. When Tuesday came around, the number was still not working. What does one have to do to get some service around here? So I stopped by their office for the third time on Thursday the 9th. Plugging my information into the system, they realized that they had the wrong room number for me! It took me three visits to ECC before they discovered their error. By the next day my PAC number was fully operational.

My fourth complaint goes back to those wonderful people at Campus Res. The magnetic keys that were given to my roommate and me on the move in day did not work in our building. We only realized this a week later because the doors were unlocked for the first week. This was another unnecessary nuisance that could have been avoided. I received a new magnetic key on Thursday the 9th. Apparently, that was the last good key for our building, because later that day my roommate also stopped to change his key, and they were fresh out. As of Monday the 13th, his key still does not work.

With the money that we pay for room and board, I'm not exactly expecting the Ritz, but really, I do expect some decent service. Is it too much to expect keys that work, doors that open and close properly, working telephone service, and a good night sleep in school? As students, these inadequacies make it difficult for us to focus on our studies when our dormitories do not meet the basic standards of livability. It should not take a whole semester to fix problems that could be taken care of a few weeks prior to move in. Our experience just magnifies some of the inadequacies of residential life at Stony Brook.

—Boris Reznik and Kris Milliken

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Clinton...Tolerance for Terrorism?

By D.J. O'Dell

A recent decision has been made by President Clinton that has come under attack by many politicians. The decision, a conditional clemency deal being offered to ex-terrorists, seems to be one more thing Republicans are running with to express their displeasure with Clinton's presidential actions. The decision to offer clemency holds great import in that it will reflect our country's stance on terrorism, terrorist actions, and how our country will treat those who involve themselves in acts of political violence. Many fear that the decision indicates a softening towards terrorism when compared to the traditionally extreme stance the United States has taken when confronted with acts of terrorism.

The sixteen individuals who are being offered clemency belong to the pro-independence Armed Forces of National Liberation for Puerto Rico, known by its Spanish initials FALN (thank God for acronyms). The FALN is a terrorist group that claims responsibility for more than one hundred bombings in the United States, targeting political and military institutions, during the 70's and 80's. Six people were killed in attacks made by the FALN, along with seventy others who sustained injuries during the FALN's campaign.

These particular members were captured in Illinois in 1980, and were sentenced within a year of their capture. Twelve members were charged and convicted for the charges of seditious conspiracy, possession of unregistered firearms (including explosives), car theft and transportation of said stolen vehicle, interference with Interstate Commerce by violence and interstate transportation of firearms with intent to commit a crime. Four members were arrested for a Connecticut bank robbery in 1983, when 7.1 million dollars was stolen from an armored car. The sixteen members who are being offered clemency were not convicted of the actual bombings, and they were not convicted for the deaths or injuries caused during the FALN's activities.

The prisoners were prosecuted by former Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah Devaney who responded to President Clinton's offer by claiming that "the President has seen fit to reward the conspirators simply because they were unsuccessful in their murderous attempts," saying that "the conspirators made every effort to murder and maim." Her response, strongly criticizing Clinton's decision to offer clemency, is one example among many regarding the criticism he is currently facing.

The deal itself is conditional as expressed by White House press secretary Joe Lockhart, who issued a written statement saying that "the President expects all those who accept the conditional clemency grant to abide fully by its terms, including refraining from the

use or advocacy of the use of violence for any purpose and obeying all the statutory conditions of parole." Conditions include restrictions on their association with each

other and other members of the FALN, as well as avoiding other radical political groups who are committed to gaining independence for Puerto Rico. Under the deal, if the conditions for clemency are violated, the prisoners will be returned to jail.

Those in support of the deal include former president Jimmy Carter, Bishop Desmond Tutu,

Cardinal John O'Connor, and other Human Rights advocates (along with over 100,000 petitions sent to President Clinton urging him to offer the deal). Supporters claim that their sentence was too long for the charges they were convicted of. Opponents of the deal include law enforcement officials who continue to view these individuals as terrorists. The FBI, the Justice Department, the Bureau of Prisons, and several U.S. attorneys advised Clinton against offering clemency, but officials have not released the opinions expressed to Clinton by these groups, claiming that the President was entitled to confidential advice on the matter.

Other opponents include figures such as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, and Republican presidential candidate Governor George W. Bush who stated, "I do not think the President should have offered to pardon the sixteen terrorists. As a nation we must have zero tolerance for terrorism." Both Hillary Clinton and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, unofficial and official Senate candidates respectively, also oppose the clemency offer.

The clemency offer was formally filed in November of 1993, constituting a six year process that is currently coming to fruition. Administrative officials say they have been petitioned by lobbyists since 1993. Former White House Counsel Jack Quinn took the issue up in 1996, holding several meetings with clemency supporters. Quinn, however, handed the issue off unresolved to his successor Charles Ruff, who also met with supporters. Ruff was supposed to file a recommendation for clemency to President Clinton at the end of 1998, but was a year late actually filing it (due to other White House inquiries).

Twelve of the sixteen members have so far accepted the offer after a month's deliberation. Eleven of the twelve prisoners would be eligible for immediate release (pending federal processing) while the twelfth member, Juan Enrique Segarra Palmer, will have his original fifty-five year sentence drastically reduced but will still have to serve another five years before being released on parole. Two other members (Roberto Maldonado Rivera and Norman Ramirez

Talavera), who have been released from jail and are living in Puerto Rico, have a few more days until they must decide whether or not to accept the offer, which would forgive them the unpaid balance on their fines. The two remaining members, Oscar Lopez Rivera and Antonio Camacho Negron, have chosen to reject the offer.

Rivera, linked to top FALN bombers and convicted on charges of weapon violation and conspiracy to transport explosives with the intent to destroy government property, must serve another ten years of his original seventy year sentence. He related the deal to a "prison without a prison." Negron, convicted in 1989 on charges of conspiracy to rob a bank

and foreign transportation of stolen money, must also remain in jail, serving the remainder of his fifteen year sentence.

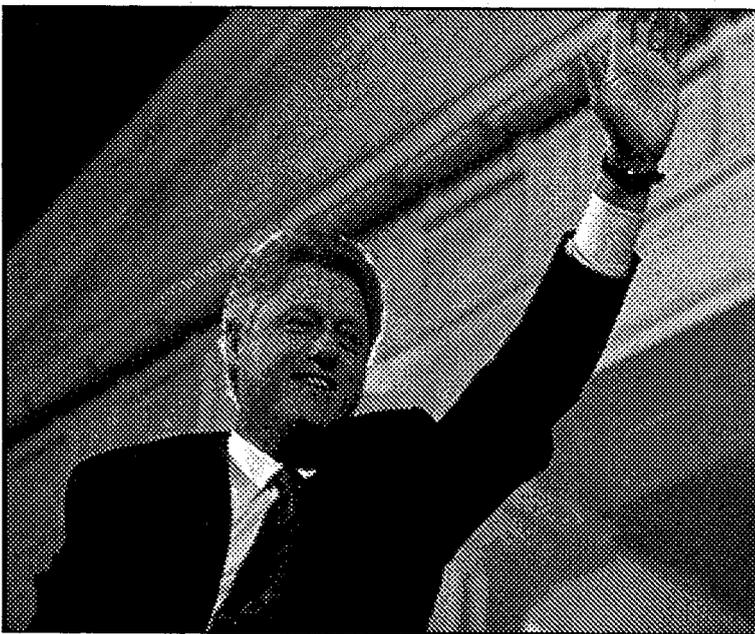
The lawyer representing these members, Jan Susler, is currently trying to fight some of the provisions of their conditional release. Susler says she will continue to fight until the prisoners are "free on the street without conditions" and to mobilize "protection for the prisoners" against the FBI and parole officers who will be monitoring their release. Fearing that they

will be harassed by law-enforcement officials and parole officers, and to assure that their rights will not be abridged, Susler mentioned that "watch dog groups" would be formed in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to protect the members from harassment. Susler also feels that the members should not be denied the right to peaceable political activity, claiming that they should be

allowed to, and will continue to engage in non-violent political activity geared towards the independence of Puerto Rico as they have "dedicated their lives to the freedom of their country and deserve to be free." Susler also challenges the parole restrictions placed on their "ability to associate with each other," citing Alicia Rodriguez and Ida Luz Rodriguez as examples, two sisters who she feels should not in any way be kept from seeing one another. Susler, speaking for the members, say they are "vowing to continue to work for the freedom of those left behind by the President's offer," specifically referring to Carlos Alberto Torres, the supposed leader of the FALN who is currently serving a seventy year prison sentence.

Due to the recent and strong opposition that has been voiced against clemency, Clinton will be faced with much political fall-out over his decision. Many Republicans, as well as other opponents, claim that Clinton has offered the clemency deal to help boost Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign for the Senate among the 1.3 Puerto Rican inhabitants of New York City (though Hillary has currently denounced the clemency deal). Though Joe Lockhart claims that Clinton's decision was "not a partisan maneuver," opponents are demanding that the Justice Department files on the case be released to discover if Clinton's decision had a proper basis. One individual calling for the files to be released is New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, claiming that "the file will tell you, did he have a proper basis for it or didn't he— and is this speculation that it was political warranted or unwarranted?"

GOP lawmakers who feel that the deal "sends the wrong message to terrorists," plan to hold congressional hearings September 15th to investigate the clemency offer, investigating, in particular, if rumored jail tapes exist wherein the prisoners vow to return to violence exist. Republican Vito Fossella (R-NY) says he'll introduce a resolution condemning Clinton's decision, claiming that "the President of the United States should be sending a clear signal around the world that terrorism is not tolerated on our soil." Some politicians have gone so far as to call for a presidential withdrawal of the offer, made more than a month ago; an offer that, having been accepted by 12 members, would seem irrevocable.



Susler says she will continue to fight until the prisoners are "free on the street without conditions..."

East Timor Under Siege:

Militias and Indonesian Military Unleash Campaign of Terror

By Joanna Wegielnik

Thursday, September 9, the East Timor Action Network (ETAN), in association with the Green Party and Catholic Worker, held a demonstra-

tion in front of the Indonesian Consulate in New York City to call attention to the violence perpetrated by militias and the Indonesian military in East Timor, two weeks after a majority of East Timorese voted for independence in a historic referendum supervised by the United Nations.

East Timor was invaded and annexed by Indonesia in 1975, in a move never recognized by the United Nations. Since the invasion more than 200,000 East Timorese, about a third of the population, have perished under the Indonesian occupation, according to human rights groups and the Catholic Church in East Timor.

Approximately 70 people gathered in front of the consulate for four hours of demonstrating and picketing, drawing attention to the United States' complicity in the matter. Five successive American administrations have supported Indonesia through direct sales of arms, military training and economic aid. According to State Department records, the United States provided 90 percent of the weapons used by Indonesian forces during the invasion of East Timor in 1975.

Twenty-one of the protesters present at the demonstration engaged in acts of civil disobedience, stepping on the front steps of the Indonesian Consulate. Under international law, consulate property is considered foreign soil. All were arrested on charges of "disorderly conduct" and processed at the 25th precinct in East Harlem.

Last week, UNMET (United Nations



Protesters displaying signs in front of Consulate.

Mission in East Timor) and a host of non-governmental organizations overseeing the elections confirmed that more than 78% of East Timorese registered voters opted for independence, overwhelmingly rejecting Indonesia's autonomy package in the UN-supervised plebiscite on August 30. Less than 24 hours after the UN announced the results, paramilitary militias and the Indonesian military sharply escalated their campaign of terror against the pro-independence population. Most journalists, international aid workers, and UN staff were forced to evacuate in response to the violence.

"All observers from the International Federation for East Timor Observer Project (IFET-OP) have been forced to evacuate East Timor due to rampant violence by both paramilitary forces and TNI (Indonesian military forces), including Kopassus Special forces, known for its atrocious human rights abuses," announced ETAN, a human rights organization, in a recent press release. "Dili (capital) is burning; the streets are deserted and refugees are amassing in churches and other and other relief centers. Many children are among the dead. Paramilitary forces roam the streets of Dili unimpeded, while joint militia/army roadblocks block the entrance to and exit from the capitol. The paramilitaries and TNI are systematically targeting buildings which house refugees," the release says.

Human rights groups and independent observers maintain that the only effective way to stop the violence being perpetrated by the militias and TNI forces is to bring in an international peace keeping or armed UN presence into Timor. After a week of mounting international pressure on Indonesia, including President Clinton's crucial decision to cut off military and economic aid to

Jakarta, President Habibie announced yesterday that he has invited international forces to join his own military in East Timor. Habibie said he has instructed UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan to invite international forces to take part. The peace-keeping mission will most likely be spear-headed by Australia and neighboring Pacific-rim countries. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is due to arrive in New York this week to finalize plans for an arrangement with the Security Council.

David Hicks, a professor in the Anthropology Department, was in East Timor during the historic vote on August 30th. "I was a delegate with the Carter Center, a non-governmental organization formed by Jimmy Carter, to assist UNMET with the pre-election process and the election," said Hicks. "One of my duties as a delegate to the Carter Center was to assess the degree of intimidation of the East Timorese and to inhibit the militias by our presence."

The militias, according to Professor Hicks are undoubtedly linked to the Indonesian military. "The Indonesians provide guns, ammunition, and protection from East Timorese resistance fighters," said Hicks, "the militias couldn't operate without Indonesian support." The Indonesian government continues to deny any connection between the militias

and TNI forces, claiming that the militias are rouge elements acting independently of the Indonesian forces.

Hicks said the mood of the East Timorese during the election was "quietly festive" but reserved

because of the intimidating militia and Indonesian military presence. "They knew something big was happening.... finally, after years, they have a say in deciding their own future."



U.S. Role Missing From East Timor Coverage

FAIR Action Alert

By Peter Hart

9/01/99 - The ongoing story of East Timor's referendum on independence has received a moderate amount of coverage in the mainstream media. But news outlets have frequently failed to put the Timor story in a full and accurate context.

For example, in reports from East Timor's capital, the *Associated Press* and some other news outlets continue to use the dateline "Dili, Indonesia," implying that Indonesia has a legitimate claim over East Timor. This formulation is comparable to a dateline of "Kuwait City, Iraq" in the months following Iraq's illegal annexation of Kuwait. *The Washington Post* (8/31/99) reported that Timorese were voting on "whether to remain a part of Indonesia."

More importantly, many stories fail to note two crucial facts about East Timor's nearly 25-year struggle against Indonesian occupation. First, the Indonesian occupation has been extraordinarily bloody, resulting in the deaths of more than 200,000 Timorese, out of a pre-invasion population of approximately 600,000. A recent AP story noted that an "estimated 2,000 Indonesian troops have died fighting separatist guerrillas since Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975," but failed to note the massive numbers of Timorese who have perished.

Others seemed to confuse the deaths caused by the occupation with those caused by the resistance movement. ABC News' Charles Gibson said that "It's been an extraordinary violent independence movement there with hundreds of thousands of people killed" (*Good Morning America*, 8/31/99).

Secondly, news consumers are not informed that the U.S. backed Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. President Gerald Ford and



Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in December 1975, just before the invasion was launched, where they were told of Suharto's plans to attack the island (*Washington Post*, 11/9/79).

The following month, a State Department official told a major Australian newspaper (*The Australian*, 1/22/76) that "in terms of the bilateral relations between the U.S. and Indonesia, we are more or less condoning the incursion into East Timor... The United States wants to keep its relations with Indonesia close

and friendly. We regard Indonesia as a friendly, non-aligned nation--a nation we do a lot of business with."

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was then the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations wrote in his memoirs (*A Dangerous Place*) that "the Department of State desired that the United Nations prove utterly ineffective in whatever measures it undertook" to reverse the invasion. "This task was given to me and I carried it forward with no inconsiderable success," Moynihan reported.

Finally, according to the State Department, 90 percent of the weapons used in the invasion came from the United States. Two years later, as the atrocities in East Timor were reaching a peak, President Jimmy Carter authorized an addition \$112 million in weapons sales to Indonesia.

ACTION: Please call on local and national news outlets to stop treating East Timor as a legitimate part of Indonesia. And ask them to include the facts about the consequences of the Indonesian invasion, as well as the role the U.S. has played in supporting the illegal occupation.

To contact the AP, write to:
Associated Press
Thomas Kent--International Editor
(212) 621-1655
mailto:info@ap.org

Dispatch from Dili

Pacifica Network News

[Ed. Note: The following is an abridged version of an interview aired on September 13 between journalist Alan Nairn and Amy Goodman, host of Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now!". Nairn is believed to be the only US reporter left in East Timor. In 1991, Nairn and Goodman were badly beaten by Indonesian soldiers while witnessing the massacre of several hundred East Timorese during a funeral procession in Dili. Nairn and Goodman were subsequently declared "threats to national [Indonesian] security" and banned from entering East Timor and Indonesia. He spoke to Goodman via satellite telephone from Dili, the capital of East Timor.]

GOODMAN: "Alan, in this latest news, although [Clinton] announced the cut off of military aid as well as arms sales to Indonesia which clearly is what brought President Habibie and General Wiranto to their knees and forced them to accept an international peace keeping force which they refused to accept earlier in the week, what is your reaction to first a peace keeping force in East Timor and second, President Clinton saying that perhaps the military aid will be restored once the international force moves in?"

NAIRN: "First of all, the peace keeping force is not the issue. The issue is when Wiranto (commander of Indonesian forces) turns off the terror. He controls the buttons of the militia forces, that's been made clear many times. The question is whether he chooses to push that button and that is determined by whether a real pressure is being exerted on him by Washington or whether it isn't. At this point in time, we don't have enough information to determine this."

GOODMAN: "What do you think it'll mean when Australian and American troops move into the territory. What will it look like?"

NAIRN: "It all depends under what conditions they'll arrive. Their presence here, in and of itself, doesn't mean much. The most important thing is whether the Indonesian military/militia terror [will be] shut down by orders from Wiranto. If it is shut down, than the Australian, US or UN troops won't have much to do here. The Timorese, I think, will be peaceful and law-abiding, and the troops will find themselves hanging out on the street corners with little to do. But if Wiranto decides that he can get away with playing this game, and taking this further, and the militias and army continue to stage attacks on the Timorese, then the international forces will be put in a position to confront them, that would be unnecessary and bad."

"Today, I heard second-hand from a refugee who heard this on Indonesian radio, that an Indonesian politician representing one of the Islamic parties commented on how ironic it is that the United States approves the invasion of East Timor in 1975, backs the army all through out the occupation, and suddenly the [US] wants to play the hero by coming into back up the peace-keeping force to liberate East Timor....I can certainly see how Indonesian politicians and others looking at this can feel bitter if the US does suddenly come in the last minute with troops and claim to be liberator of East Timor. What an ugly display that would be after the history of what Washington has done here."

GOODMAN: "What has happened over the last few days in Dili since the UN Mission, the Security Council five ambassadors have come to Dili?"

NAIRN: "It seems that the terror has continued although maybe not with the same intensity of the previous days. It's very hard to tell, this is all based on scattered impressions. They [militias/military] are not doing massive gun firing into the air at least in the southern part of town, as they did before. In the streets of Dili, they've been leaving bodies out in the open to rot. There were two bodies of young men next to the canal river that run behind a new seminary, close to the site of the 1991 Sanata Cruz massacre. Those two young men have been out there for several days now, and the refugees inside the seminary, started to complain that they can't eat because of the stench of the decaying bodies is wafting in. This is part of the psychological warfare, the war of terror, just leaving the bodies out as a message to people."

"Also, in the past 24 hours, several waves of people have come down from the mountains, from Darwe, where thousands of refugees have fled, with the news that food is very low there. People have been living off cassava, stripping the coffee plantations for food. Also around the UN compound, I mentioned last time we spoke that noodles began appearing in the diets of the refugees, well a lot of these noodles are being sold by the military people who have stolen them from various homes and aid agencies and are selling them at a 600 percent mark-up to those refugees who have a little cash."

Students With Drug Convictions Risk Losing Federal Aid

By Jennifer Hobin

It's no secret that using drugs comes with a variety of risks. However, with the passing of a congressional amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965, students who use drugs may face a new risk: The loss of federal financial assistance for education. Last year, Congress amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include a provision to withhold federal financial aid to students convicted of even minor drug offenses.

While the amendment, introduced by Republican congressman Mark Souder of Indiana, has not yet been implemented, its intention is to tighten "the eligibility requirements for student [federal] assistance programs by requiring students convicted of a state or federal drug-related offense to successfully complete a drug rehabilitation program, and test negative for drug use twice before his/her assistance is reinstated." This means that, beginning in 2000, a student found guilty of selling or possessing illicit drugs, even just a few joints, may soon be in danger of losing federal financial assistance. Interestingly, no other criminal offenses, including rape, robbery and assault disqualify students.

Eligibility suspension would begin on the date of the state or federal drug conviction and could endure for as little as a year, but may be suspended indefinitely depending on the nature and number of convictions. Students may regain eligibility early, by completing a drug rehabilitation program which would include two unannounced drug tests. What constitutes an acceptable drug rehabilitation program, however has yet to be defined.

Stony Brook's financial aid director, Ana Maria Torres, says that "Financial Aid is left to determine rehabilitation. [The provision is] very vague and would present tremendous problems for the institutions." As a consequence, the eligibility provision will not be implemented until July 1, 2000 when the ill-defined provisions are made more precise. "Congress passes outrageous laws and it's left for all of us to understand how to implement," says Ms. Torres.

Although the program will not actually go into effect until next summer, students mustn't think that their current actions will have no bearing on their eligibility. For example, a first conviction for possession of a controlled substance on February 1, 2000, will make the student ineligible for assistance from July 1, 2000 until January 31, 2001 (one year from the date of the conviction).

The new amendment is not without its critics, however. Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) has recently introduced H.R. 1053, a proposal to further amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to "repeal the provisions prohibiting persons convicted of drug offenses from receiving student financial aid", thereby restoring eligibility for student loans to students with minor drug offenses. The Department of Education supports Frank's proposal citing that judges already have permission to strip students of aid if they see the need. Therefore, Department of Education officials see the Provision as unnecessary.

Other groups have also spoken out against the provision. The National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Laws (NORML), for example, has backed Frank's proposal. NORML charges that the bill may force low-income college students to drop out. And they say, "it will greatly affect minorities, especially African Americans who, while comprising 13 percent of drug users, comprise 55 percent of those arrested for drug offenses."

Indeed, some critics claim that the bill may actually result in a greater rate of drug use by college-age Americans as their educational opportunities are limited. DRCNet opposes the provision, in part because they feel it "place obstacles in the way of people who have been in trouble with the law but are striving to turn their lives around. Setbacks such as not being able to raise money for school they say, may "set a young offender onto a downward spiral toward failure."

How likely is a student convicted of a drug offense to face the consequence of being denied aid? Well, first the financial aid administrators must find out. This is contingent upon students actually reporting that they have been convicted of a drug offense when filling out their FAFSA. The Department of Education has reminded financial aid administrators not to "actively question their federal student aid applicants about drug-related matters." Instead they plan to use the 2000-2001 aid application processes to collect needed information from applicants and to report the results to schools.

In addition to possibly losing federal financial aid, Stony Brook students face other repercussions if convicted of drug offenses on campus. Last summer an undergraduate student, who asks that his name not be used, was arrested by campus police for drug possession. Discovered by campus police with a few grams of pot and a small pipe, the student was promptly arrested and taken to the campus police station. After pleading guilty to possessing the drugs he faced a series of punishments.

The undergrad was placed on academic probation for six months, was required to perform 25 hours of community service, and perhaps most severely, lost his position as a resident advisor, a position he counted on to help him afford the cost of living on campus. This student might be considered lucky: Possessing marijuana on campus could have resulted in academic dismissal. While he is still attending Stony Brook, he awaits a possible state conviction, an outcome that could see him denied federal student aid.

The situation faced by this student, and others around the country raises a question posed by Ana Maria Torres: "Should we penalize students for the past?" Indeed, should students, in this case be penalized at all?

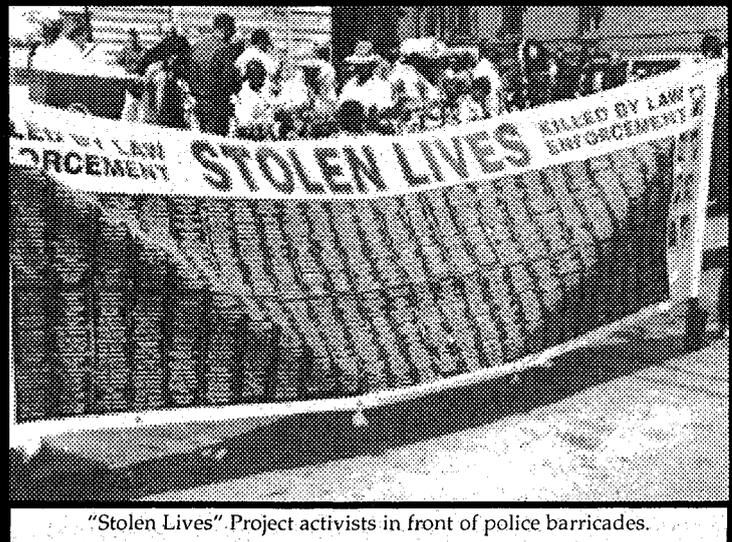
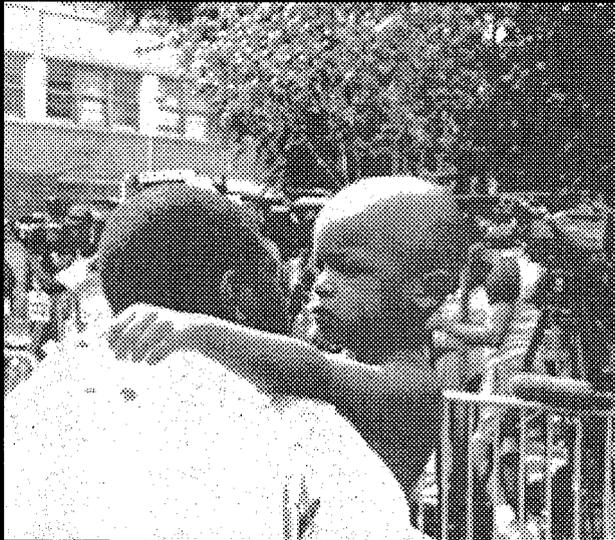
Million Youth March - September 4, 1999 Harlem, New York



NYPD presence was formidable. Police partitioned off area around march site from 118th to 125th street.



Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal march on Malcom X Boulevard.



"Stolen Lives". Project activists in front of police barricades.



Khalid Abdul Muhammed takes the stage.

Photos/Text by Joanna Wegielnik

Manufacturing a Madman:

The Media's Efforts To Discredit The Million Youth March

By Michael Yeh

As the final chants of "black power" rang across the heart of Harlem, ending a tense week of rhetorical dueling between Khallid Abdul Muhammad and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the spin doctors were already busy questioning the integrity and purpose of the Million Youth March.

Muhammad did make the news, though portrayed as a hateful madman by Giuliani and the mainstream media. But his positive messages, which made up the majority of his speech, were ignored by a press establishment more interested in quoting selectively from his fiery rhetoric.

Much of the resulting coverage focused on the low turnout and lack of violence at the event. *The Daily News* ran the headline "Khallid's Harlem Rally a Big Bust," never once questioning the low police estimate of the crowd that filled two blocks, which may have been accurate only when people were beginning to arrive. *The Associated Press*, however, reported that 2,000 people attended the rally. The headline in the *Jerusalem Post*, an obviously unsympathetic publication, read "1,000 Attend Harlem 'Hate March'." The first sentence of the article subsequently began with: "Fewer than 1,000 people gathered on a Harlem street."

Reporters who braced themselves for a violent confrontation like the one at the previous year's march treated this year's peaceful atmosphere as an anomaly. *The Associated Press* made this fact the main idea of their article, and printed the headline, "Million Youth March Goes Peacefully," as if it were a great surprise. Although the article referred to the melee that erupted when police in riot gear attempted to enforce a curfew at last year's rally, it did not mention that it was the police that stormed the crowd before people were given a chance to disperse. The *New York Times* was more impartial, and included quotes from Federal Judge Denny Chin stating that "excessive numbers of police officers in riot gear, rigid enforcement of deadlines, and helicopters swooping over the crowd can only increase, rather than lessen, tension," and that if the police "had simply been patient and given the participants a few minutes to disperse, the risk of violence would have been substantially reduced." But many other publications gave little consideration to the role of the police in inciting violence, and some neglected to mention it at all. "Do not be one who is the aggressor," Muhammad told the crowd during this year's rally. "We did not put you in a position to risk your lives. You should be polite, you should be courteous to anyone who is respectful to you."

But the *Times* approached the story with an unusual angle, in an article titled, "Harlem, in the Middle, Loses Quiet Weekend." This

story consisted almost exclusively of interviews with Harlem residents who opposed the event. But what about the large crowd that came out in support of the rally? Their presence was portrayed as a disturbance on an otherwise "decent" community.

Khallid Muhammad's incendiary remarks against white "crackers" and "so-called Jews" made up only a small fraction of his speech. Yet it would be impossible to determine that from viewing the news reports that day. Many reporters were unable to separate his fiery rhetoric from an actual call to violence. Muhammad urged black residents to form a "people's militia" to defend their communities from crime and to build a sense of community. In fact, this idea is already being used by the Hasidic communities in Brooklyn, which have organized neighborhood patrol groups that watch the streets. Perhaps the word "militia" and the thought of organized black youths patrolling the streets make some people uneasy, despite Muhammad's strong condemnation of gang violence.

While Muhammad calls for radical changes in society, he is also conservative, calling for self-empowerment and less reliance on the government. "We called the youth together because all over the place it was the youth who lay the foundation for revolution," he said, and encouraged black children to study to become revolutionary doctors, lawyers, mothers, and fathers.

He also urged people to respect each other and challenged popular musicians "stop rapping the filth that keeps people in the position they are in." He told black men to respect black women, and to stop referring to themselves as "pimps, hoes, and dogs." "Quit calling yourself a dog. You can never be a man if you call yourself a dog." Similarly, he called for women to respect themselves by dressing modestly and seeking stable, loving relationships.

"We want you to unite with us, regardless of your religion, regardless of your political persuasion," Muhammad said. "Rebuild the black family. Set up study groups among you." He also encouraged the formation of anti-drug groups, free food programs, and cultural organizations. "Give the white man back his dope, his weed, his alcohol," he said.

Political participation was also high on his agenda for building "black power." "We're gonna use politics as a war mechanism," he said. "We're gonna use the vote as a weapon."

Nevertheless, none of this was considered important enough to warrant coverage in the mass media. Muhammad's call to "cross over from darkness into light, from ignorance to understanding and cross-understanding," was lost in the media's mad scrutiny of the size of the crowd and dissection of his comments.

But to those who did show up to hear the uncensored version, this rally offered a message of hope for a community that has been ignored for generations. "This is the most powerful weapon you have," Muhammad said, pointing to his head. "Wake up, clean up, and stand up!"

Many reporters were
unable to separate his
[Muhammad's] fiery
rhetoric from an
actual call to violence.

Big Media Applaud

Big Media Merger

By Norman Solomon

When the story about *Viacom* and *CBS* broke, news accounts quickly depicted a match made in corporate heaven — at more than \$37 billion, the largest media merger in history. With the public kept outside the frame, it was a rosy picture.

"Analysts hailed the deal as a good fit between two complementary companies," the *Associated Press* reported flatly. The news service went onto quote "a media analyst" who proclaimed: "It's a good deal for everybody."

"Everybody?" Well, everybody who counts in the mass-media calculus. For instance, the media analyst quoted by *AP* was from the PaineWebber investment firm. "You need to be big," Christopher Dixon explained. "You need to have a global presence."

Dixon showed up again the next morning (September 8) in the lead article of *The New York Times*, along with other high-finance strategists. A woman at Merrill Lynch agreed with his upbeat view of the *Viacom-CBS* combo. So did a guy from *ING Baring*: "You can literally pick an advertiser's needs and market that advertiser across all the demographic profiles, from Nickelodeon with the youngest consumers to *CBS* with some of the oldest consumers."

In sync with the prevalent media spin, the *Times* devoted plenty of ink to assessing advertiser needs and demographic profiles. But for the crucial first day of *Times* coverage, foes of the *Viacom-CBS* consolidation did not get a word in edgewise.

The *Washington Post*, meanwhile, provided a similar ode to the latest and greatest media merger, pausing just long enough for a few dissonant notes from media critic Mark Crispin Miller: "The implications of these mergers for journalism and the arts are enormous. It seems to me that this is, by any definition, an undemocratic development. The media system in a democracy should not be inordinately dominated by a few very powerful interests." Amen.

But overall, big media outlets — getting bigger all the time — offered only narrow and cheery perspectives on the meaning of the humongous merger.

Hours after the September 7 announcement, the nation's most influential TV news show aired its unwitting parody of corporate-friendly coverage. "The News Hour With Jim Lehrer" featured an interview with two guests. It was hard to tell the financial analyst apart from the journalist, Ken Auletta.

Barely able to stifle a smirk in response to Lehrer's beach-ball questions, Auletta kept repeating that "bigger is better." No one bothered to mention that Auletta — currently a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine — can hardly be expected to voice strong objections to the steady march of media monopolization. After all, the owner of *The New Yorker* is an expanding media conglomerate, Advance Publications, which holds an array of glossy magazines including *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *Self*. Generally, people in glass skyscrapers are uninclined to throw stones.

News accounts keep focusing on the market-share preoccupations of investors and top managers. For good measure, coverage of mergers and buyouts is now routinely filled with various permutations of metaphors that liken financial wheeling and dealing to intimate human relations. "The \$37.3 billion deal joins not just two enormous media companies," a *New York Times* article declared on September 8, "but two oversized corporate personalities in a marriage that was consummated after a two-year flirtation and a brief but painstakingly intense two-week prenuptial discussion." Ugh. (Is there a sublimation crisis in American journalism?)

Perhaps worst of all is the evasive tone that now pervades so many news stories about media consolidation. "The merger impulse," one *Times* article concluded, "is driven by the belief that at a time of increasing uncertainty in the media business, there is an advantage in owning both the programming and the distribution networks." Translation: With the federal government serving more and more as enabler rather than regulator of rapacious conglomerates, the media business knows few bounds.

Today, some huge corporations are sitting on the windpipe of the First Amendment. Meanwhile, many journalists — and the public at large — are gasping for the oxygen of public discourse that allows democracy to breathe. With rare exceptions, news outlets have covered the *Viacom-CBS* deal as a business story. But more than anything else, it's a story with dire implications for possibilities of democratic media as the 21st century gets underway.

The Hacker Menace: Why the New

By Elvis Duke

Last winter, unknown parties broke into the *New York Times* website, demonstrating how vulnerable our news-makers are to the whims of malicious hackers. During his State of the Union address in February, President Clinton

proposed new defenses against 'cyber terrorism.' A few weeks later, hackers took over a British army satellite and held it for ransom. In March, a federal banking comptroller warned banks around the country to beware of attacks by hackers. The Pentagon announced soon after that their systems were under attack from the most coordinated assault ever seen. Representative Curt Weldon (R- PA) was recently quoted as saying that the U.S. is "basically... at war" with hackers, and that "cyberwar" is the major threat to our security in the future.

Hackers are the new enemy of the state, and they are a hugely dangerous threat to our national security. They commit crimes which cost government and industry hundreds of millions of dollars a year. They collude with foreign interests to steal secrets... and increasingly, our enemies are using them to wage electronic war against us. Or so, at least, the propaganda goes.

More reasoned and informed analysis shows otherwise. The British satellite story was a pure fabrication. The Pentagon is counting every single query and finger as an "attack." No bank has yet to prove that an external hacker has actually stolen money from them. Curt Weldon is an idiot.

Who is behind these lies? Why, the archetypal 'man', of course; government, corporate America, and the news media. Together, they're doing their best to paint hackers as the new public enemy #1, and the Internet as the battlefield of the future. Corporations report massive-trumped up losses from "malicious hackers." The media reports tilted (and sometimes entirely fabricated) news stories, helping to demonize them... and then the government steps in, introducing legislation to combat the problem.

Why are they doing this? A brief history lesson may be in order.

In the early part of this century, industrialization and new technology were changing the way the world worked. Much like the Internet is now revolutionizing modern business and society, innovations like the assembly line and mass production were producing unheard of amounts of money, and the

potential for growth seemed endless.

In the capitalist U.S., corporations seized control of the new technology and industry, consolidating power in the hands of a few elites. Government supported these corporations as much as they could because they built the economy, provided jobs for voters, built up the home districts of congressmen, and perhaps most importantly, contributed money to the elected officials, legally and otherwise. Essentially, what was good for corporations was good for government, and our elected officials did what they could to support that.

More often than not, government support for corporations came through the 'defense' industry. The United States government signed massive contracts with private industry to build bombs,

airplanes, tanks and guns. Corporate America got big bucks, and the government (in additions to the benefits mentioned previously) got to increase its military might.

The problem was, though, that nobody likes paying taxes, but the government was asking for more and more of them in order to pay these corporations. How to convince voters this massive expenditure was necessary?

Easy. Scare them into it.

And so, the U.S. Government set itself to work coming up with enemies around the world. These were usually tin soldiers who could be sold to America as evil forces that must be stopped. Government picked a target, and then called on its puppet friend 'media' to turn it into a bogeyman and scare the hell out of the American populace.

And so they started to develop something called the 'military-industrial complex.' The government promoted military growth through wars and scare tactics, and industry thrived on the big business of making weapons and supporting armies.

For decades, the complex grew. The "Cold War" against communism set up a convenient enemy for seventy years, providing justification for massive

Who is behind these lies?

Why, the archetypal 'man', of course; government, corporate America, and the news media.

H a c k e r L i n k s

The Hacker's News Network (www.hackernews.com) provides links to all the latest news about and for hackers, whether it's the "Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt" propagated by corporate media, or alternative sources like Phrack and 2600. HNN also gives a good amount of analysis and commentary. Since everything is submitted by readers, the news can sometimes be a bit spotty, but editor Space Rogue (from the legendary 10pht) deserves high praise for his work. HNN is the best source to get the truth whenever a computing story is being mangled by the mainstream media.

Slashdot.org (www.slashdot.org, duh!) bills itself as "News for Nerds... Stuff that Matters." Essentially, they're a voice of the open source movement, existing mostly to support operating systems like Linux. Their site features a number of daily news items covering all kinds of computing and geek-oriented issues... everything from new developments in technology to the latest Star Wars rumors.

Wired is an increasingly business-oriented and irrelevant voice, whether you read it in print or on the web. Nonetheless, the quality of their writing is much higher than most computing magazines and sites, so they're notable at least for that. Their online news site

(www.wired.com/news) occasionally breaks an interesting story, and can be useful for obtaining industry news. Along the same lines, there's CNet News (www.news.com), run by tech publishing monster Ziff-Davis. Expect a lot of the same corporate and business propaganda as in *Wired*. Despite that, sites like these are important to read and monitor in order to have a really well-rounded view of what's going on around you.

For news on the Kevin Mitnick case (arguably the most important thing going on right now in the hacker world), keep an eye on kevinmitnick.com.

This site is run by Kevin's supporters, and is a clearing house for all sorts of information related to Kevin's plight.

2600 (www.2600.com) is the one of the hacker world's biggest magazines, and Off The Hook (www.2600.com/offthehook/) is its premiere radio show (Okay, so it's also one of the only ones...). Both are run by USB alumnus Emmanuel Goldstein. You can get 2600 in bookstores. OTH is broadcast locally every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on WBAI 99.5 FM in New York City, as well as over the website. Both feature news, commentary, and technical information. Emmanuel is a talented host, and he manages to make esoteric subjects accessible and entertaining.

—E.D.

Enemies of the State are Online

defense spending. But then came glasnost, and the subsequent fall of the red menace.

When communism effectively died in 1990 with the fall of the Soviet Union, people around the world rejoiced. This was expected to herald the beginning of a new age of peace and cooperation. The cold war was over, and now we could all be friends.

But not everyone was happy about that. The military-industrial complex in the United States had grown to a multi-trillion dollar industry, and their existence was based on the threat of the Cold War.

Without an impending commie peril, there was little need for huge government spending. If you don't have any real enemies, why should you spend fortunes on defense?

In the time since, the U.S. government has tried its best to establish some sort of new enemy, so as to justify continued defense spending. At times, it tried using Saddam Hussein (a dictator who had actually been supported by the U.S. in the eighties), but he's turned out to be less effective than needed. Increasingly, the U.S. has justified its military buildup by going out on "Peacekeeping" or "Police Missions," including the skirmishes against warlords in Somalia and the bombing of Slobodan Milosevic's regime.

But none of these enemies has really scared the U.S. citizenry like Communism used to. Saddam and Slobodan simply aren't serious threats to the U.S.- they're obviously overpowered, and would never really stand a chance in full-out war.

So the military-industrial complex searches, looking for whatever bogeymen they can find... and in the heart of a new, powerful technology, finds one.

Hackers fit the bill nicely for a new enemy. Though they lack the hulking military and nuclear threat of the old U.S.S.R, they make up for it in many ways.

The Internet is a new world, and computing a new technology. Most Americans don't understand it at all... and though, from a hacker's perspective it's hard to imagine, many Americans don't even own a computer. Most don't have email. Most have never even been on the web.

And so, the hacker becomes an ominous figure, shrouded in mystery and imbued with unimaginable power. Let's listen in to this conversation between two typical Americans:

"Hackers can use their computers to break into banks and steal money from your account," says the average American, "Or they can erase your identity so nobody knows who you are! I saw it in that Sandra Bullock movie!"

"Yeah," says his buddy, "And they can break into military bases and take control of satellites if they want, or change what it says on the front page of the newspaper! I saw it on the news!"

If you don't understand the technology -or even, for that matter, use it- it's easy to believe that hackers are capable of destroying the world.

At the same time, hackers make a great enemy of the state because they feed into the new waves of American paranoia. The U.S. is a country terribly afraid of itself; ever since the presidential betrayal of Watergate, nobody trusts the government anymore. "Freemen" and "Patriots" form groups across the states to stand in arms against their own country.

The X-Files, with its rabid paranoid themes, becomes a huge hit. Meanwhile, acts of domestic terrorism like in Oklahoma City and the Atlanta Olympics turn people against their neighbors. Anyone can be a terrorist. Trust no one.

In this environment, the hacker is a perfect villain. He's anonymous. He's untraceable. It could be the guy next door, or a hostile Russian agent, dialing in from Moscow. He can destroy the country (launching missiles, shutting down power, crashing planes) or just you (erasing your bank account, or your identity.)

By promoting the idea of the "Malicious Hacker," the military-industrial complex creates an environment of fear and paranoia, much like that of the Cold War. In that atmosphere,

it's easy to manipulate the populace and further the agenda of the complex, whether it is to control people, make more money, or both.

In turn, once you've got a citizenry that's already scared out of their minds, it's much easier to sell them on military action around the world. And if

you can tie the foreign menace into the electronic one, all the better! When U.S. and NATO forces first began bombing Serbia earlier this year, a handful of websites were hacked and replaced by anti-NATO messages. The U.S. was quick to jump on this, eagerly pointing out that their "infrastructure" was "under attack"

by Serbs, and that they had to take action before these foreign hackers really started to make trouble. Media told the story, government provided the quotes, and corporations got richer.

So why does the media fall in line, and so readily support the needs of government and business?

Well, for starters, the media is usually inseparable from business. Take, for instance, NBC

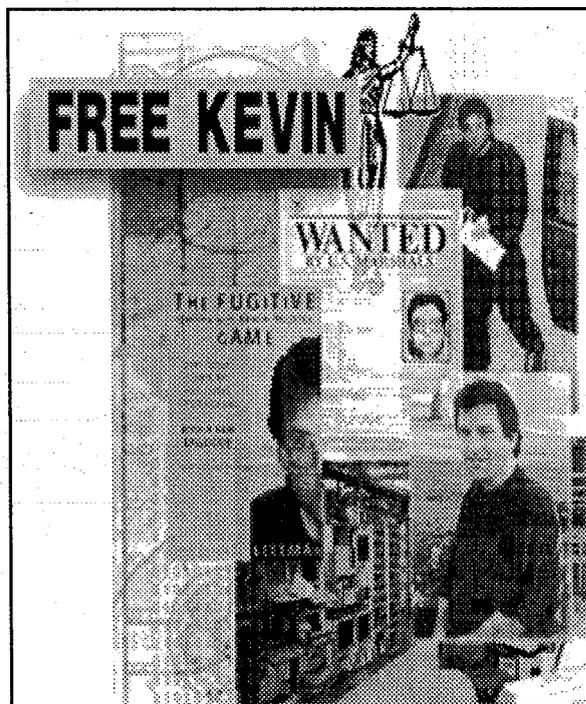
News. They're owned by General Electric, one of the biggest defense contractors in the world. War is great for G.E.'s bottom line, and so it isn't unreasonable to think that the news sources they own will fall in step to support the military-industrial agenda.

At the same time, the government owns a lot of the media itself. In a 1997 Rolling Stone article, journalist Carl Bernstein (famous for breaking the Watergate story) revealed that over 400 U.S. journalists had worked for the CIA, and that the "Company" even owns dozens of newspapers around the world.

There's also the source issue—government is the biggest maker of news in the world, and reporters depend on their government sources to make a living. If a source who has helped a reporter on numerous occasions asks for a "favor," or even just makes something up to further his agenda, it's likely to appear in the news.

And so stands an unholy alliance of greedy corporations, manipulative government and their mutual pawns in mass media. Together, they're colluding to demonize hackers and the Internet, to scare the populace and use the whole situation to increase their power. Fortunately, there are ways to fight back. One of the best ones is to stay informed, and figure out the truth for yourself.

If all the mainstream media sources feed nothing but lies and innuendo the truth for yourself. When it comes to telecommunications and the internet, where can you go to get more reasoned news? Here's a handful of different websites that are worth a look. (See sidebar)



Kevin Mitnick

In this environment, the hacker is the perfect villain. He's anonymous. He's untraceable. It could be the guy next door...

Comedy, Tragedy

By F.L. Livingston

Bigotry always shocks me. That is why the recent spate of hate crimes took me by surprise. These attacks have taken various forms: anti-Semitic arson at Jewish centers, Nazi swastikas scrawled across a middle school, the beating of a black marine because he was in the "wrong" (read "white") bar, the shooting of a Latino worker simply because of his race, etc. They have all astounded me, all the more so since they seemed to follow one right after the other. How could so much hatred still exist in our largely-pluralistic society?

But perhaps I am being naive. I should know by now, that despite

our efforts to eradicate it, prejudice is still embedded in our culture. Sedated maybe, weakened, thank goodness, and often dormant. But ready to awaken—and pounce — sometimes at the slightest provocation. I should know that and be on the alert for it. So should we all, but often we're not.

My own naivety goes back, I suppose, to my childhood in the 1950s. Back then, I assumed that anti-Semitism was dead and racism was fast on the way to meeting the same fate. (Also, that time I thought of these two phenomena as separate evils. I did not yet realize that they were two almost identical facets of one single demon.) Born in the wake of World War II, I heard so much about the Holocaust as I was growing up, that I was sure that the world had finally seen the error of its anti-Semitic ways. I doubted that anyone would ever allow themselves to hate "the Jews" again. I also remember hearing about the bus boycott in Alabama. I picked up my parents' sense of outrage at the injustice of the law forcing blacks to "ride in the back of the bus," but I when I learned of the activities of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., I felt certain that they would stamp out the specter of race hatred forever.

I can almost hear the laughter, but hey, I was only a little girl.

Most young people today are aware that prejudice still exists in spite of many advances. Even in elementary school, my own daughters would declare, "You're so racist!" to any friend or relative who indulged in rigid stereotyping of any ethnic group. Today's youth is quick to spot bigotry and call it by its name. In fact, my own incredulity notwithstanding, most modern people have relinquished the illusions that I entertained in my childhood.

Or have they? Is it possible that young and old alike, we continue to promote the prejudice that we profess to abhor? And is this because we are largely unaware of this monster in our midst — until it rises and roars in our faces?

Granted, the beast has lost much of its power. Racism so dominated our social organization years ago that most people thought it was part of life, and that has changed in some important ways. I met very few black children in school, for example, and never had a black teacher until college. Not too many blacks were encouraged or allowed to gain access to positions in business or the professions. And African-American traditions were not viewed by society as a cohesive culture. I can-

not deny the fact that much of this has changed as a result of Civil Rights laws, Affirmative Action, and multicultural education.

Jews then faced a related problem, though not quite the same one. True, we were already integrated into much of the educational and professional world at that time. And we were identified as a distinct religion and culture. However, the needs of religious Jews for Kosher food, etc., were not honored by most schools and businesses; nor did the media tend to openly recognize Jewish

tradition, not even with so much as a "Happy Chanukah!" or "Happy Passover!" flashed across the television screen. We were accepted in the "mainstream" as

long as we left our ethnic identity at home. Again, various laws and educational programming have helped to correct this offensive situation.

Yet the monster of prejudice still lurks in the shadows. Not just in the vicious acts of aggression publicized by the news, but in more mundane activities as well. It is evident even in parts of our conversation. How often do we offer up or accept such sweeping generalizations as "The blacks think that..." or "The Jews want..." or "The Puerto Ricans insist..."? Etc. As if all the members of one ethnic group were of one mind, as if they functioned as clones of one another, as if there were no individual differences between one member and another.

Now I can hear the objections. "It's just a way of talking..." "We can't watch our words every second..." "You're taking people's words way too seriously..."

Perhaps. But it's compelling to note that we rarely lump the members of our own ethnic background together in this way. It's almost always "the other guy."

For the beast gets in our heads, affecting not only our words but our behavior, even though it is usually nonviolent. In recent years, several blacks have complained that store personnel often watch them more closely than they do whites or Asians. And how often do we hear of a young black male being arrested merely for being in the "wrong" place at the "wrong" time? Too often, I'm afraid.

Flashback: 1972

I was a Jew dating an Arab — almost unthinkable at the time. We encountered negative reactions on both sides, but what concerns me here is the tendency to react according to stereotyped ideas. For many Americans at that time the prevailing images of Arabs were those of either dangerous terrorists or wealthy oil sheiks. My then-boyfriend was decidedly neither. Nor was he plagued by hatred of Jews, Israelis, or anyone else (I would not have dated him if he were.) But other students often viewed him with a touch of fear, regardless of their ethnic background or relative interest in the Middle East. One young man, given

to crude and sexist behavior (another aspect of the same problem, of course), made lewd comments to every halfway attractive young woman he saw — except me. In fact, I tended to draw compliments from him even though I certainly was no prettier or sweeter than any of the other girls that we knew. For days I wondered why.

Eventually I found out. It had to do with his prejudiced perceptions of my boyfriend. "I figure I gotta be careful," he confessed to a friend of mine in one of his more serious moments. "I haveta say something. I mean, man, ya know? I just can't help myself. But I gotta be careful 'cause, ya know, she's goin' with that Arab." In this case, the bigotry happened to work in our favor, and the situation may be unusual, but it is still an illustration of the way in which bigoted ideas can alter one's behavior.

Perhaps the greatest proof that bigotry is still an integral part of our society is in our humor. Our very sense of comedy often suggests that we still maintain many rigid stereotypes, and, in fact this brand of humor tends to spread these prejudices further.

Another flashback: This time it's 1962. It was my first personal experience with bigotry. (It was also my first lesson in the strong connection between the diverse forms of prejudice.) I was 12 years old, and my older brother was 16. He had just made some teenage agreement with a Gentile friend, and they went to "shake on it." As my brother extended his right hand, his "friend," pulled his away and switched to his left, smirking and saying, "Left hand for blacks and Jews [except that he did not use the words "blacks and Jews" but rather more insulting terms].

Stunned, I expected my brother to order him out of our house — even to throw him out bodily. (I realize now that my brother was no less a "kid" than I was, but he was my "big brother," and I counted on him to be strong and brave.) But he didn't. he just laughed along with his friend.

When I asked him about this later, he just shrugged and said, "It was just a joke."

Just a joke. There it is. Right there. In the joke and the reaction to it. The subtle acceptance of bigotry in our midst. A signal that something is very wrong in our attitudes, but a signal that is apt to be stifled by the sound of our own laughter.

The character of a culture is reflected in its humor. If it's in our jokes, then it's in our society.

"You're being overly harsh," some people may counter.

Am I? I don't think so. This kind of humor is based on fixed, narrow images, usually

unflattering ones. In fact, it depends upon them. The listener has to know the stereotype involved in order to "get" the joke. If he/she doesn't, somebody is almost always willing to explain. The existence of this brand of humor in a society is a strong indication that prejudiced ideas are still around and that they will be perpetuated.

"But we have to have humor!" other people will argue.

True. However, there are many forms of jest. Do we really need to laugh at particular ethnic groups in order to enjoy ourselves? I think not.

*Flashback: 1972.
I was a Jew dating an Arab—almost unthinkable at the time.*

Perhaps the greatest proof that bigotry is still in our society is in our humor.

a n d B i g o t r y

And many of the foibles that we attach to specific groups are simply human failings. Greed. Stupidity. Socially "backward" or deviant behavior. Must we pin any of these to a given ethnicity in order to get a laugh? Again, my answer is negative.

"Yeah, but you have to be able to laugh at yourself, still other people will insist.

I suppose. But why is it that certain ethnic groups get singled out for this allegedly good-natured derision more frequently than others? Blacks, Jews, Hispanics, Asians, Poles — why are they expected to "laugh at themselves" more often than anyone else?

Besides, the "laugh-at-yourself" premise actually begs the question. The value of such laughter entails being able to see the comedy in your own individual idiosyncrasies. It does not require slamming your entire ethnic background. In fact, to suggest that the disparaging images associated with one's ethnic heritage apply automatically to oneself is to propose that these stereotypes are irrevocably true. To defend this type of joke in this way is to deny the individuality of the group in question (usually a minority). It is dehumanizing. As long as we continue to laugh at narrow-minded humor, many of us will find ourselves crying as the result of narrow-minded hate.

Not that I am trying to blame the recent wave of bigoted crimes on the prejudiced aspect of our humor alone. Or on that in our more serious discussions. Or on the bigoted elements of our behavior. I am merely identifying all these factors as signs of the ethnic hatred that still resides in our culture.

Nor am I accusing our entire population of having committed those acts of hatred. Society did not strike the match, shoot the gun, raise the fists, or scratch out the graffiti. However, the above factors do tend to create an environment in which the beast of bigotry can thrive — or if not thrive, then, at least survive. We have tolerated its presence too long. It is obvious that we can do so no

more. Yes, we have done a great deal, through law, education, and media events, to destroy prejudice and its harmful effects. Even so, we must redouble our efforts. We need stronger gun control to stem the aggression, of course. We need tougher

laws against violent crime. And we must enact some form of anti-bias legislation. But these measures do not do enough.

What we also need is to further educate society. We have to teach our children from the earliest years not just to respect every culture, as invaluable as that may be, but also to treat each other

with dignity, regardless of religion, race, gender, etc. And we need to set an example for them by removing all vestiges of prejudice from our own lives, no matter what the form.

It is not enough to restrain the monster. Nor to merely sedate it. We must drag it out of its hiding places and slay it. Then perhaps we can all live together peacefully without fear of injury or death on the basis of our heritage.

Or am I being naive again?

Blacks, Jews, Hispanics, Asians, Poles--why are they expected to 'laugh at themselves' more often than anyone else?

I n D e f e n s e o f B u s h

By Robert Pesin

As seen over the last few weeks, the media has found a new scandal for its assorted talking heads and ratings-driven "news" programs to obsess on. While it does not involve interns, "youthful indiscretions," or other issues geared for the soap-opera crossover audience, it is a lawdry enough issue to fuel debate amongst all of the idiotic television talking heads and the bored and depressing radio-show callers (not to mention the hosts) whom they seem to inspire for, quite possibly, years to come. The issue in question, of course, is whether or not George W. Bush, Republican candidate for president, and the son of our forty-first president, ever used cocaine.

To people who treat and work with substance abusers, this issue must be laughable. It is well known and even admitted by the candidate himself that W. had an alcohol abuse problem, which he successfully completed treatment for. People with substance abuse problems tend not to be extremely discriminating in their choice of what they intake. In other words, as he has admitted to a past substance abuse problem, and to making mistakes in the past, it is truly amazing the extent to which the media has desperately tried to engineer this story of whether or not he ever used this one specific drug, into the next Whitewater-gate or Monica-gate.

And it is the media which has tried to engineer this into a huge story, and certainly not popular demand from our citizenry want-

ing to know about the specific substances on Bush's resume. In fact, opinion polls show that Bush's approval ratings have gone up since he adapted the policy of not answering any more questions about his chemical intakes.

It is widely speculated that the man who set this story in motion is Democratic Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, by flaunting the rumor that Bush had used cocaine to a group of reporters, and urging them to question Bush on the issue. If this is the case, shame on him. The man who leads a party that spent so much of the last year constantly complaining that President Clinton's personal behavior and morality have no bearing on how he performs his duties has proven for the few of those who might have been unsure that as an extreme partisan he is willing to speak out of both sides of his mouth, to the detriment of his country and to the benefit of his party so that his own personal political power will increase.

If he is truly responsible for all of this nonsense, the blame lies squarely with him, and not at the top. This is because for once, Clinton has not gone back on his word. He pledged to help end the politics of personal destruction during impeachment, and his operatives like the ubiquitous James Carville and Paul Begala have spoken out against the out-of-control reportage and feeding frenzy on this issue. The media, on the other hand, should be truly ashamed of the conduct of some of its members, who so eagerly may have responded to the beck and call of a top

political official. For a top politician to have such acute control over the media indicates not only an incredible lack of professionalism within the industry, but also contributes to a mostly misguided, but widespread belief among right-wingers that members of the press (in general, not our beloved newspaper), 90% of whom voted for a Democrat in the last election according to the polls, actually collaborates with the Democratic party. The journalists who grilled Bush on the question of possible cocaine use certainly embarrassed their colleagues and disgraced their profession.

What is missing in the entire discussion is proper perspective. Gore has admitted to using marijuana. If Bush used cocaine and marijuana, and Gore only used marijuana, does this make Gore the better candidate for president? In a world where nuclear proliferation continues to increase, new peace deals in the Middle East are being worked on each day, and Holocaust-type atrocities recently occurred in Kosovo, is the question of whether or not Bush used cocaine really all-important?

This is to speak nothing of the issues that divide our country, like whether or not only upper and middle-class are entitled to health care, if and why abortion should remain legal, and whether or not more hate crimes laws should be passed to prevent, or at least execute in due speed, sick anti-Semites and racists who shoot up nursery schools and firebomb temples. If marijuana, cocaine, alcohol and other ingested substances are really more important than these timely issues, then maybe we should forsake names and party identifiers and just put drug symbols on the ballot, giving people the opportunity to vote for whomever used their own drugs of choice, or didn't use any drugs, if that's what they prefer.



George W. Bush
courtesy of georgebushstore.com

GEETCH'S WEB PICKS

By Donald "Geetch" Toner

Welcome to a new year of hassles, trouble and debt. That's right folks, school is started and it's time to buy everything that all your professors "require" for their classes. Hopefully I can help alleviate some of the cost by guiding you through the net to fulfill all your college textbook needs.

www.collegebookservice.com is one of the many college textbook sellers out there. They deal with individual buying, and bulk and company buying of books. If they have the book you need, you can buy it for a reasonable price. The selection is adequate but the site itself is somewhat impersonal. To them you are only money, not a person. If all you need is a book and you don't care about looks or enjoyment of the web this is probably where you should go.

www.textbooks.com is a very well thought out site. They have multiple methods of searching for the books you need, by subject, title, and soon by school. They cater to the people who want to buy the most inexpensive books out there. Both new and used books are available for you to acquire. One feature I found on this site that no other site had was a guaranteed buy back. After you are done with the book, they will buy it back, at a reduced price, and thereby are selling you the cheapest books out there. Not all books are guaranteed but a good percentage are. They also have a "student advantage" plan which can save you an

additional 10% on books.

www.studentmkt.com was the next place I visited. This place is basically the college version of ebay. There are hundreds of thousands of college students out there selling and buying things from each other. Not only textbooks but computer components, DVD's, clothes, and inflatable furniture are out there. Most of the products are 40% off retail value. If there is any last minute shopping you need to do, then this is the place to go. It is all available for a price, and a not to shabby price at that.

www.etext.net/index.htm was one of the best sites for the computer friendly penniless student. If you have a computer and internet access, something all the penniless students seem to have, you can get more than you previously thought for class. That is correct my friend this site has FREE BOOKS. Okay, you have to download them to your computer and sure they are only the "classics" like *Moby Dick*, *Canterbury Tales*, and the *Aeneid*, but it's better than nothing. They have normal textbooks available as well, and I do not believe you need a book they don't have. This site had more variety and was so thorough it took me hours to just browse through everything. All subjects covered, nothing overlooked. If there is something

you need that they don't have, just suggest it to them and they will try and get it. They also have a phone and fax number, just in case you want to get friendly with them on a more personal level.

www.varsitybooks.com will be the final site covered for this subject. This site was exceptional. You can narrow down your search by school, and almost every school I could think of, including Stony Brook, had individual listings. From there you just type in whichever

bit of information you have to find the book. Whether it be the isbn, the title, the author, the subject, or the professor. That's right, the search engine knows what classes your professor teaches and what books they want. It is all listed in a very organized way. They prices are significantly cheaper than going to the on campus bookstore to buy them and they have a free account sign up.

You can establish an account with them and they will keep in touch with you for free. If you want individual attention this is the place to be.

Good luck in all your classes and I hope that you find all the books, or other services, you need. The web is your friend and it wants you to visit.

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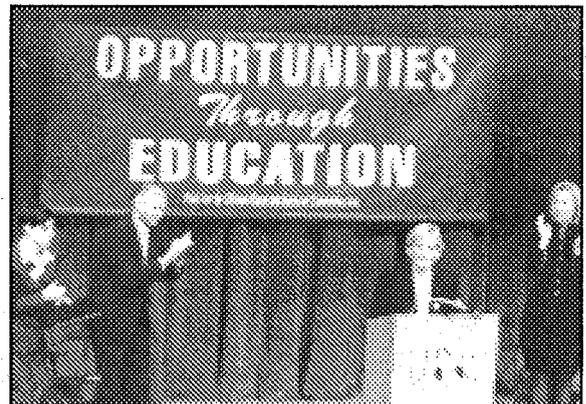
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THE WITCHING HOUR

The Blair Witch Project in Review

By Chris Sorochin

It's a revered article of pop social psychology that horror literature and movies reflect the collective fears of the culture they represent. We all vaguely recognize that *Frankenstein* was all about the unease about science and technology that must have permeated the Industrial Revolution. The Atomic Age angst behind *Godzilla* and all those other flicks featuring giant mutants resulting from radiation are obvious, as is the environmental anxiety underlying all those nature-strikes-back films of the '70s. And, depending on your politics, the original *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* is either about insidious commie infiltration or the mindless conformity of the McCarthy era.

Deeper analysis are even more fun: did you know that *Dracula*, besides sublimating Victorian horror of sexuality, also had a geopolitical subtext? Yep, it seems that Britain, at the height of its imperial power, feared the rise of the Central European powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, as personified by old Drac), who, being absolute foreign rotters, sought to sap Britannia of her pure and noble vitality.

Similarly, in Ira Levin's *Rosemary's Baby*, the sweet little girl-next-door from Middle America is initiated into the society of evil not by Satan, but by the amoral cosmopolitanism of sleazy old New York. Levin did a similar demonization number on burgeoning suburbia in *The Stepford Wives*, in addition to voicing what must have been a common suspicion among newly-conscious feminists: that most men would actually prefer compliant automatons to flesh-and-blood women. And my personal fave cult flick, *The Wicker Man*, is really a Gramscian fable about the ability of economic power to shape ideology.

I would like, therefore, to offer my tortured deconstructions of this summer's surprise low-budget hit, *The Blair Witch Project*. Now, I normally don't like to jump on bandwagons for the fad of the moment, especially one that's been hyped as shamelessly as this one—a companion CD has just been issued and they're going to release the movie on video in time for Halloween.

Nevertheless, it's very gratifying that a movie made on a shoestring is cleaning up ahead of big-budget Hollywood flotsam. Will the *Blair* wizards be co-opted? In an eerily amplified heartbeat! And I'll bet my last Power Bar that nothing they make in the future will be as good.

I was pleasantly surprised when I did see the "mockumentary." It was genuinely spooky and suspenseful with no special effects or even much gore. In the best horror tradition, the film

is scary because everything is left to the imagination of the audience, just like a good campfire tale. The posse of adolescents who sat behind us didn't share my reverence, however, and talked of demanding a refund when they failed to obtain their ultimate gory payoff.

It also must have taken great talent to make well timed suspense look like an student film project. Now if I may, I'd like to offer the full gamut of

analysis, some you've no doubt heard, others of my own diseased mind:

SEXUAL: Yeah, the witch mythology represents fear of female sexuality. Blessedly, *The Blair Witch Project* avoids the tired staples of exploiting youthful nubility—no buff young bodies skinnydipping in mountain streams and no love story. We do get

a tour of the less attractive guy's chest hair, but it's hardly the same thing, is it? The actors are, actually made to look as frumpy and nondescript as possible, perhaps to facilitate the viewer's projection of him/herself into the story.

The witch myth is also about male fears of female power and it's significant that Heather, the leader of the expedition is the only female and as such she's almost immediately distrusted by the two guys, who seem to form their own bond against her. She, in turn, resorts to the mundane witchery of playing on male insecurity ("You're not afraid, are you?").

I'd like to take things a step further and suggest that the real love story is between Mike and Josh. Check out how the one behaves when the other disappears.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Sentimental note: one thing I found most appealing was the film's setting in the Allegheny Mountains of Western Maryland. I grew up in the same mountains, where they extend into New York State, and felt a nostalgic twinge seeing the deciduous woods, the limestone-studded creeks and the creepy old abandoned houses 'way back in the boonies. It brought me back my days as a bent little yokel, when the great outdoors provided escape from the pressures and tedium of family and school. (Note: neither I nor anyone else I knew up there raped canoeist, married our cousins or amused ourselves by knocking over cows.)

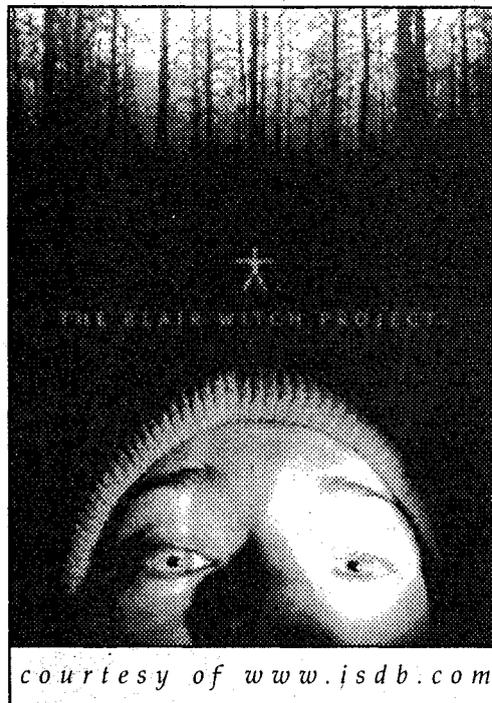
I didn't see *The Blair Witch Project* in a rural setting. I saw it in Brooklyn on Hiroshima Day, in the middle of yet another record-breaking summer of sweltering heat. The entire city was like a huge sauna in which someone has dumped not water, but urine, on the coals. Yet even the narrow streets of New York City have been invaded by suburban attack vehicles the size of small tanks.

The witch hysterias of Europe were really persecutions of the old nature-worshipping religion, so witches also stand in for nature and its force. The three students think they are so in control with their cameras and compasses (read technology). They feel that the camera gives them the power to control reality by controlling images and, as children of a society that venerates technology, they have no

respect for the "spirits" of the woods they're lost in.

It's pretty clear to me that Mother Nature ain't gonna take our crap indefinitely. All the heat waves, floods, droughts and storms, to say nothing of potential food shortages are warnings that we'd better clean up our collective act.

SOCIOECONOMIC: I once took a course in humanistic psychology and we did a section on fairy tales. To the peasants of northern Europe, forests were places of great danger and mystery. In such classics as "Hansel and Gretel" and "Little Red Riding Hood" and many more, young protagonists venture out into the unknown and prove themselves as adults by overcoming monsters (and witches!). So the woods might be said to signify the predatory "real world." Just think of our tropical metaphor to the effect that it's a jungle out there. In traditional tales, the youths, after many difficulties, triumph. I'm not giving anything away by telling you



courtesy of www.jsdb.com

that the *Blair Witch* kids don't. In fact they meet an unspecified yet ugly fate at the hands of something unseen yet "all around them" and all-powerful. Something like the economic system? Face it, few students today are all that confident that they won't be swallowed up whole for the greater glory of free-market capitalism. I've always thought most people stop liking horror movies when they find out just how scary real life can be.

GEOPOLITICAL: You knew I'd go for this one, so let's pull out all the stops, shall we? I'll be quick and sloppy.

1) Remember the part where they sing the national anthem while schlepping through the ever more menacing woods? Just by coincidence, the movie was made near the Cumberland Gap area, where our supposedly hardy pioneer foreparents crossed in the first great wave of continental expansion. Again, the message is that this slacker generation won't cut it as the myrmidons of empire either.

2) The hardy pioneers expelled and killed the Native peoples. Maybe the evil force is not the ghost of an old white witch, but the karmic curse the Original Inhabitants put on those who came to usurp their land and destroy their culture.

3) The murdered children and dismembered men in the legends that surround the area echo every war in history and...

4) The students know that when night falls, the huge, all-powerful and murderous force will be out for them and so, like the citizens of Baghdad and Belgrade, they huddle together alert to every sound and not knowing whether they'll live to see morning. We all know how close Maryland is to D.C. Could the "witch" be Madeleine Albright?

All right, enough for now, but I'll be back with more cinematic folies in October. I've just heard that the upcoming *Three Kings*, whose advertising looks like it's just another bonehaed "adventure" movie, is really a stinging indictment of the Persian Gulf War. In the meantime, save me the aisle seat.

The witch myth is also about male fears of female power, and its significant that Heather, the leader of the expedition, is the only female...

FEATURES

Cooking With A Dirty Li'l Monkey

"FRUITY" SHRIMP SALAD

By Michael "Dirty Li'l Monkey" Yeh

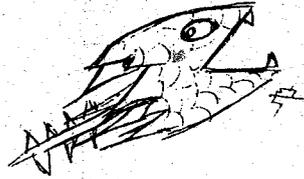
I've never understood the American obsession with mayonaise. Walk into any deli, and you'll find countless varieties of "salads" drenched in an oily bath of thick, white goo.

Here's a healthful and tasty alternative to the conventional seafood salad. This is also a great "show-off" dish for potlucks or buffets. It is elegant but simple, and the only real cooking skill required is the ability to boil water. But neatness is essential, and without a very orderly arrangement, the ingredients would form a disgusting mess.



Ingredients:

- 2 large, ripe tomatoes
- 1 ripe mango, seeded and diced
- 1 scallion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup diced sweet bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced cucumber



- 1 jalapeno pepper, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Juice of one lime
- Mayonaise (optional)
- 1 lb. shrimp, boiled and shelled



Doin' It:

Combine the mango, scallion, pepper, cucumber, jalapeno pepper, ginger, olive oil, and lime juice in a large bowl. Stir the mixture gently to combine the ingredients, but be careful not to mash the mango. Refrigerate for at least one hour to allow the flavors to blend together. Puree the tomatoes in a blender or food processor, and strain to remove the seeds and skin. If necessary, season with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon the tomato puree carefully onto a large serving platter, being careful not to allow a single drop to land on the side. (The presentation is very important! The goal is to form a symmetrical, pink circle in the middle of the plate, without any blemishes. If you mess up, get another plate and start again.) Arrange the shrimp in a ring on the plate, leaving a small circle (approximately 5" diameter) in the center. Spoon the mango mixture into the circle, to form a colorful mound in the middle of the plate. Using a fine-tipped pastry bag, swirl little strings of mayonaise on the mango and shrimp. (Don't get it in the tomato mixture, for it will ruin the smooth pink texture.) Garnish with fresh herbs or salad greens if desired.

More Monkey Tricks:

* Do not attempt this dish without very ripe tomatoes and mangoes. The pink plastic rocks that pass for tomatoes from the supermarket have very little flavor, and are not worth the trouble. You can use a canned tomato puree, but I find it a little too heavy for my taste.

* If shrimp is not available, feel free to replace it with other seafood. But don't use meat, which has a rougher texture and stronger taste.

* Try experimenting with fresh herbs such as thyme, basil, and mint. They all lend an interesting touch to the mango sauce, but I wouldn't use more than one herb in the recipe. For a sadistically hot sauce, replace the jalapeno pepper with the more potent scotch bonnet or habanero peppers, the essential ingredient in Jamaican jerk seasoning.

C R O S S W O R D I O I

"No Big Deal"

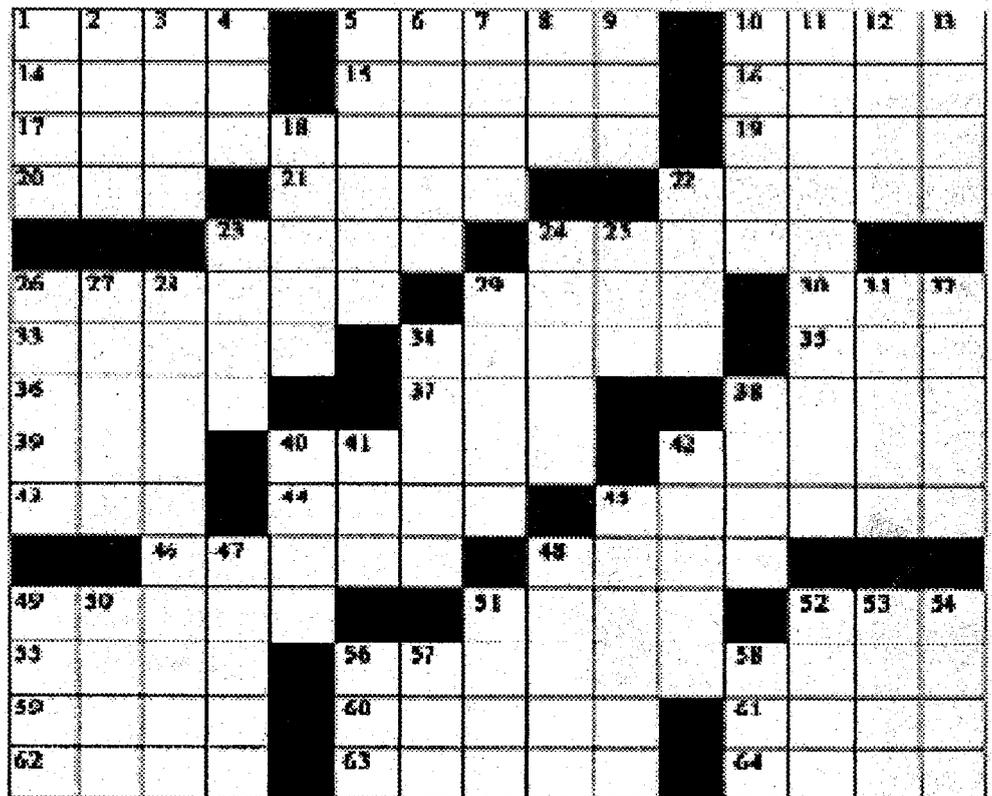
By Ed Canty

ACROSS

- 1 Legal lead in
- 5 Hermann __, Siddhartha author
- 10 "___ poor Yorick!"
- 14 Mil. trauant
- 15 Reproductive gland
- 16 Liver secretion
- 17 *Pierre's big crush*
- 19 Like ___ of bricks!
- 20 Promotions
- 21 Stow
- 22 Treaded the boards
- 23 Cone or tree
- 24 Danger
- 26 Ready and ___ to go
- 29 Mountain lion
- 30 Work unit
- 33 Clapton & Dickerson
- 34 Bush
- 35 Jelly container
- 36 Twitches
- 37 Postal creed word
- 38 Soft drink
- 39 Approximate suffix
- 40 Bridges
- 42 Master of India
- 43 Electric, for one
- 44 Birthday treat
- 45 Trousers
- 46 Florence's place
- 48 Target of 5 Down
- 49 The devil

- 51 Grain works
- 55 Against
- 56 *Part of a Big Mac Value*
- 59 Collapsed
- 60 "On Golden Pond" actor
- 61 Mine way
- 62 Barnyard moms
- 63 More shy
- 64 Existed

- #### DOWN
- 1. Mr. Hemingway
 - 2. Amazed
 - 3 Spoils
 - 4 The Greatest
 - 5 Gardening Job
 - 6 Sidestep
 - 7 Identical
 - 8 ___ Lanka
 - 9 Watch
 - 10 Calculators
 - 11 *Robin's big friend*
 - 12 Lotion ingredient
 - 13 Mail
 - 18 Dilutes
 - 22 Semite
 - 23 Snapshots
 - 24 Contented sounds
 - 25 Flightless bird
 - 26 Adjust the ascot
 - 27 Roll out
 - 28 *A big ape?*
 - 29 Call
 - 31 Word with clock or ham
 - 32 Snaps up



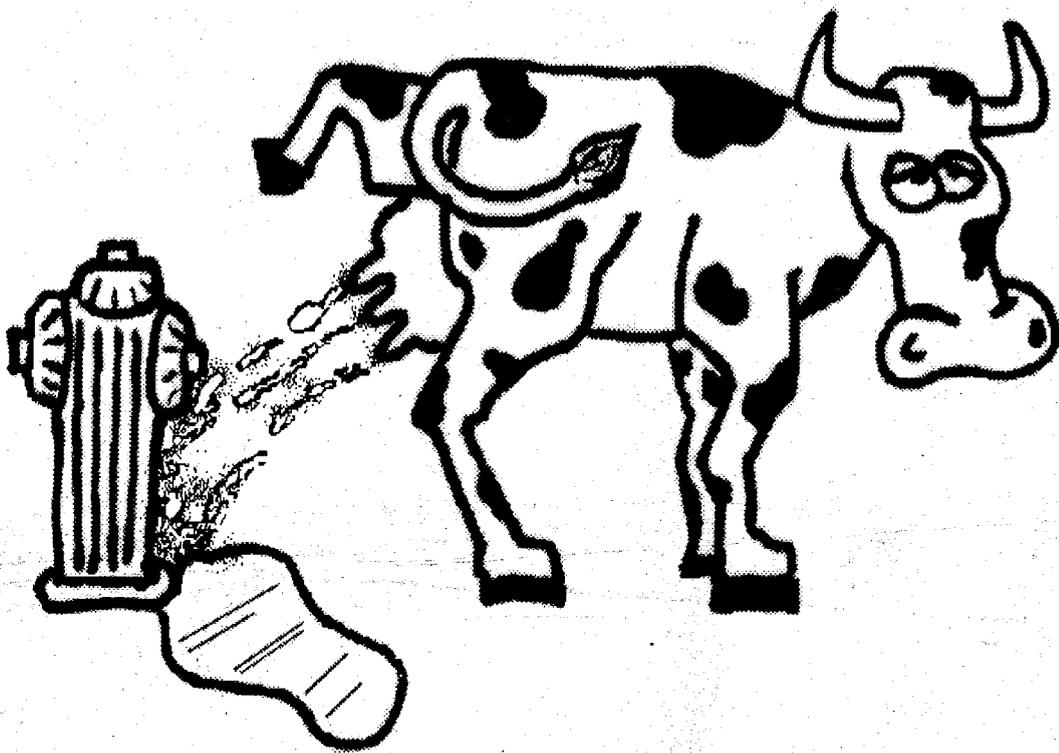
- 34 Eellike
- 38 Uttered
- 40 Leaf through
- 41 Friend
- 42 Book support
- 45 Wine area
- 47 Follows
- 48 "The importance of Being Earnest" author
- 49 Secure
- 50 Again
- 51 Umpteen
- 52 Team
- 53 Son
- 54 Royal Italian family
- 56 NCO
- 57 Barnyard babble
- 58 Untreated

Look for
answers
in the
next
issue!

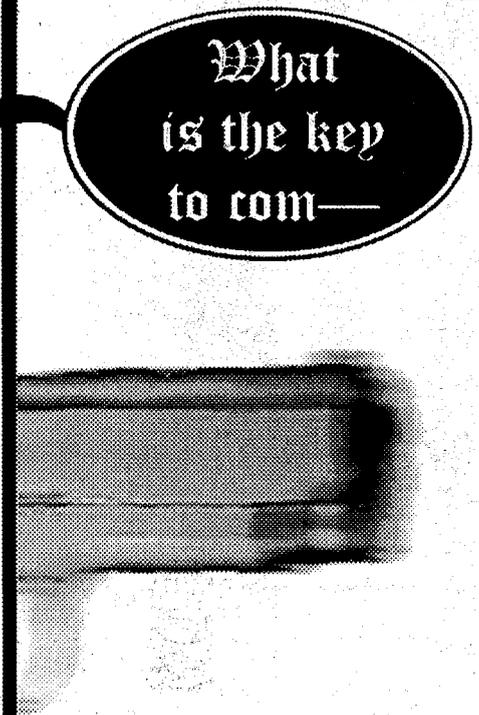
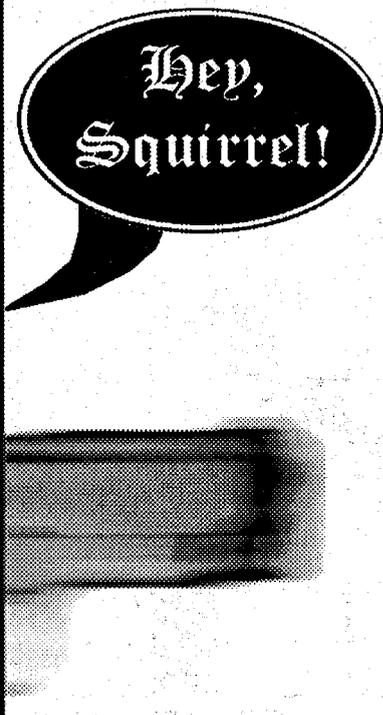
COMICS

MOO?

By Russell Heller



The Angry Squirrel



By Brian Libfeld

in "Staring At The Sand"

Get your fresh made at: www.bigfoot.com/~blibfeld

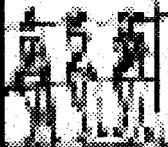
Manicdotes

By The Artist Formerly Known as Deborah Blisher

AS I GO BACK TO STONY BROOK FOR MY THIRD YEAR, MY SENSES ARE YET AGAIN ASTONISHED BY THE PERENNIAL LONG ISLAND NEW YORK FASHION MANDATES.

GAP

Everybody wear shorts!
OMG!!
I'm wearing shorts!



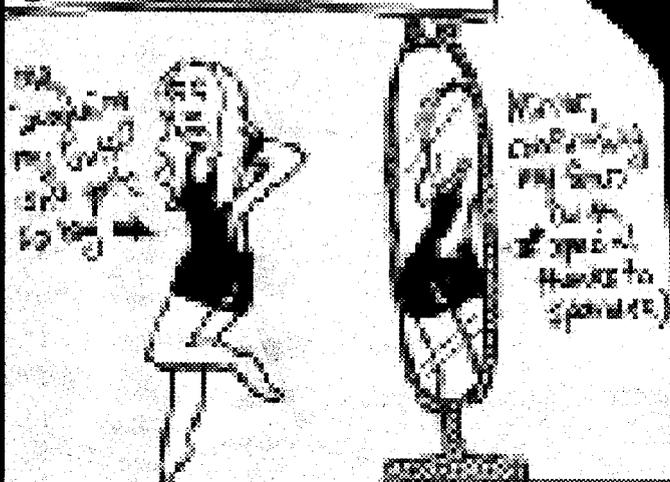
IT SAT IN EGL 205, THINKING

SO WE NEED TO A STRIKE LIGHT AND A LEAF, AND WE'LL HAVE A GIVE!

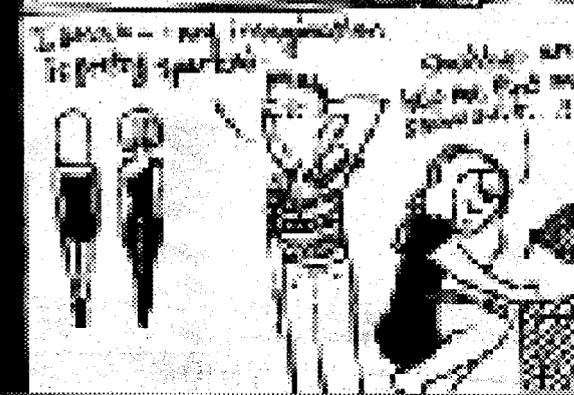


The year's proliferation of tubstaps, headstaplers, and laptop pants

WHENEVER COME UP WITH THESE SHRINK-WRAPPED OUTFITS - NEEDS TO DIE.



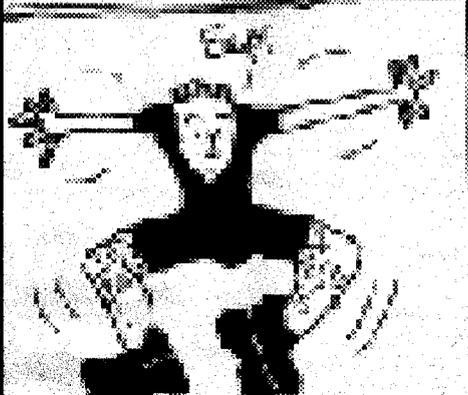
I WANT NEED TO GET LAID AS MUCH AS THE NEXT PERSON - BUT I LOVE TO LOVE A LITTLE TO THE THUNDERBOLT.



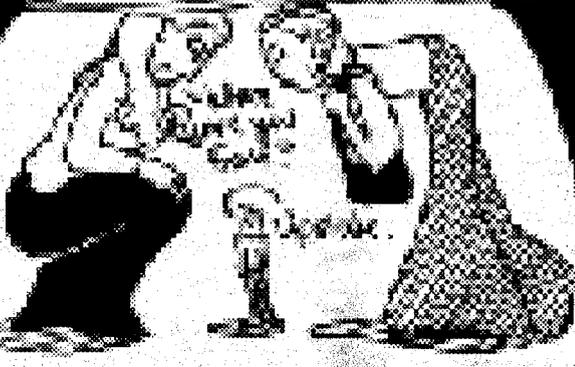
WHY CAN'T MEN BE CONTAINED BY LYONS IN SUCH A MANNER?



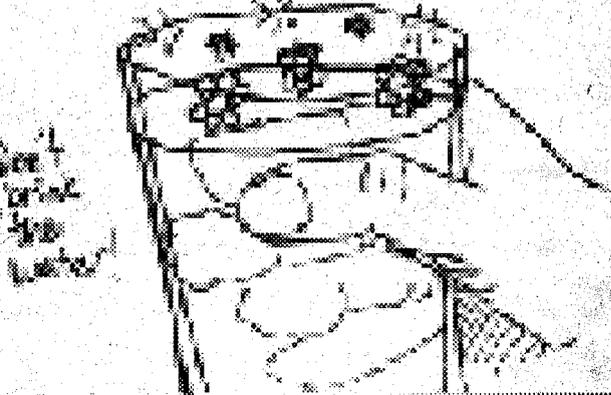
OR FOR THAT MATTER, WHY CAN'T MEN TRY ON YOUR SIZE THOSE THREE EACH PLATFORM SHOES?



WHEN I FIRST CAME TO LONG ISLAND, I WAS ASTONISHED BY THE MONSTEROUS SIZE OF THE GIRLS AROUND THE PARTS.



AT FIRST, I THOUGHT MAMBE BROTHER WITH LBS MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT...



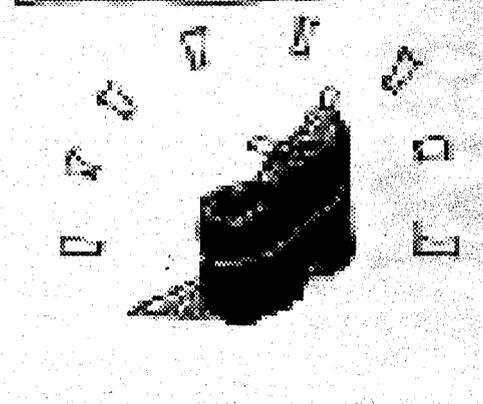
BUT THEN I JUST REALIZED THAT THE BIG GIRLS JUST WORE BIG STEVE MACHONS.



MY CURIOSITY PEAKED, I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT MYSELF A PAIR, WHICH IN BOMB...



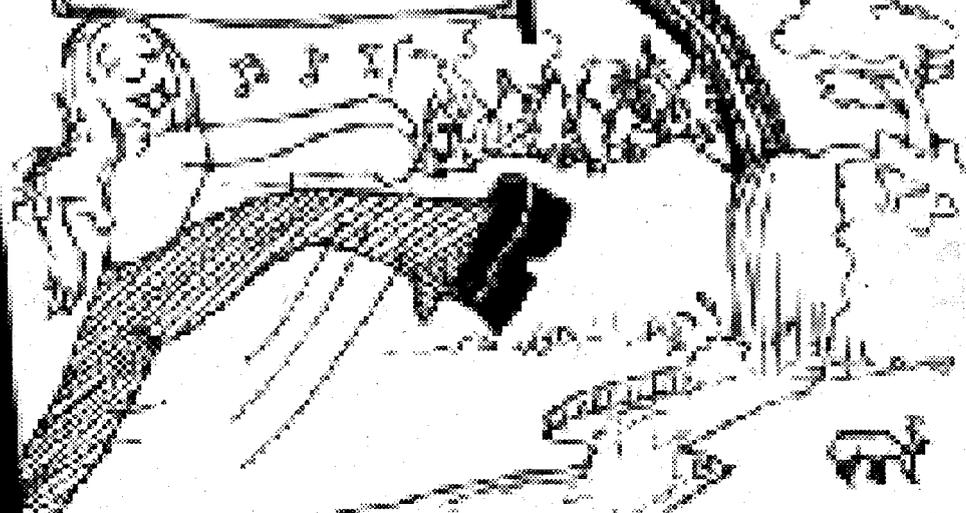
THEY WERE BIG, VERY BIG. AND THEY WERE NOT VERY PRETTY, THEY COST JUST ABOUT...



THEY ALSO HAD THIS GREAT FEATURE OF REPAIRING MASSIVE BLISTERS ON MY FEET WHEN I'D WEAR THEM.



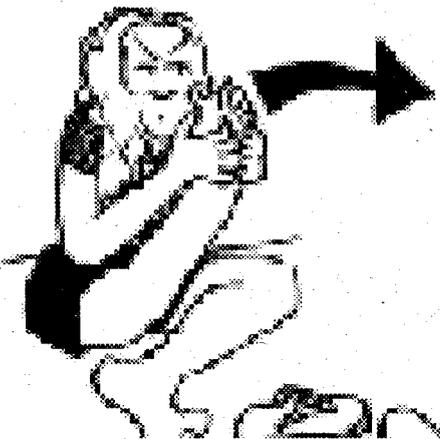
EVEN THOUGH, THOUGH THE PAIN SUBSIDED...



AND I BECAME HIS BISH AS THE MONSTER LONG ISLAND GELS...



ONE DAY THOUGH I NOTICE SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT MY TIDE...



Generalized warnings about my journal...



SO I WENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT TO GET IT CHECKED OUT...

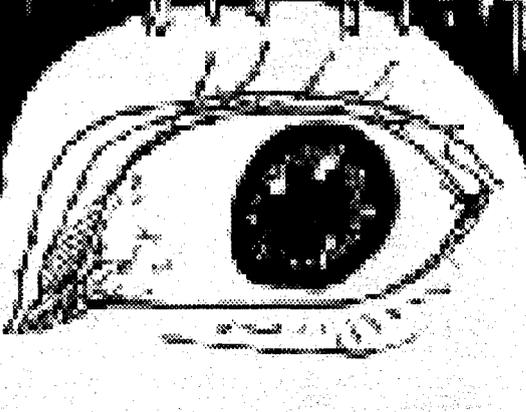


HAD FOUND THAT IT'S BEEN ISOLATED BY MY OWN STUDIES

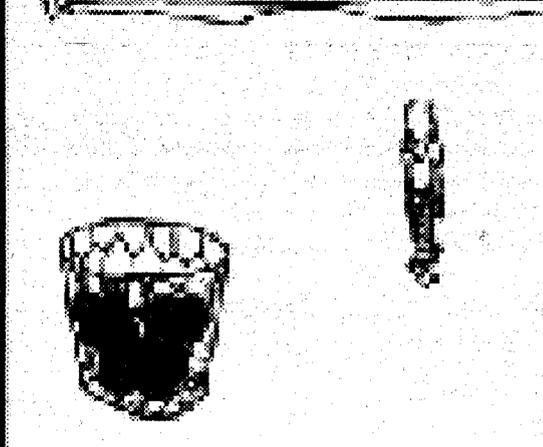
The strange part of which was that my position was just too much pressure on just my...



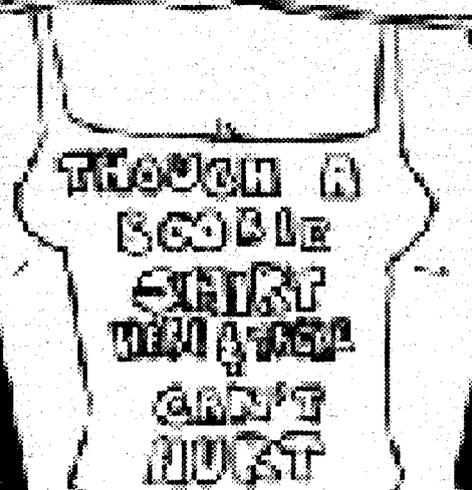
TRAWNA



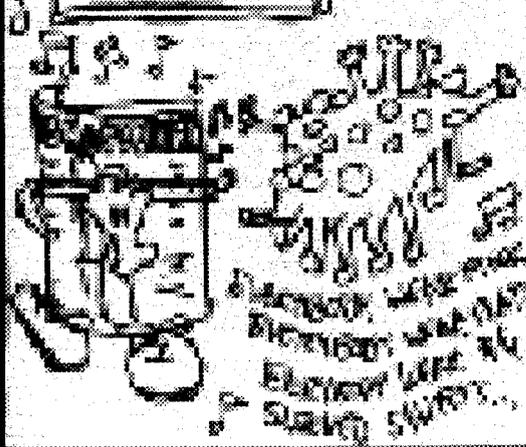
NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT THE RESURGENCE OF CHINESE FOOT BINDING, I TOSSED THOSE CLUMBIES AWAY.



AND HAVE SOME REGARDS TO THIS PUNY MAN OF DRESSING LIKE A POKER.



IT'S A GOOD THING TOO I HEAR IT'S GOING OUT OF VOICE I READ IT IN COSMO.



HOMECOMING '99

The Next Wave! September 22-26

Come out and cheer our mighty Stony Brook Seawolves as they battle the Monmouth Hawks

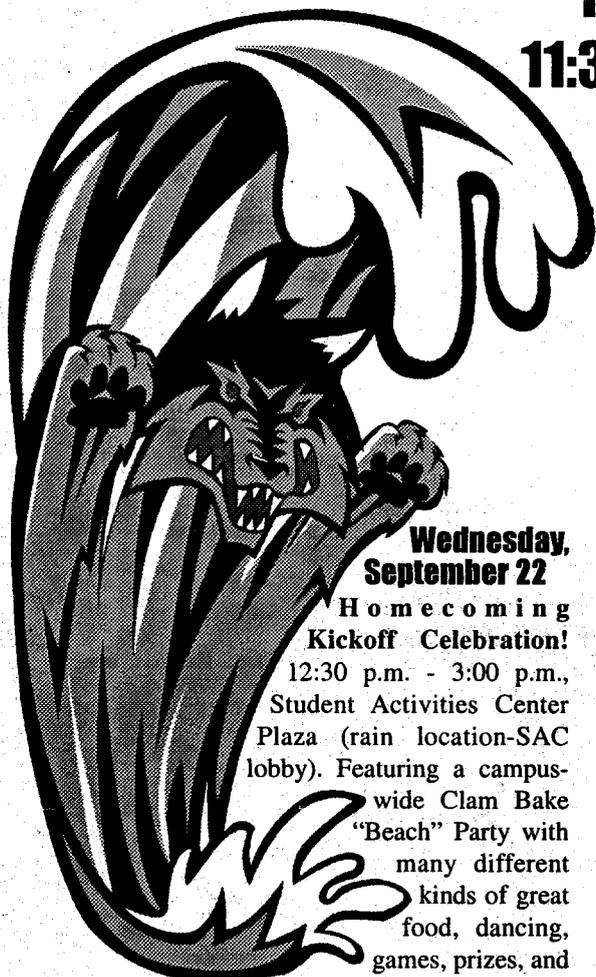
Saturday, September 25

12:30 p.m., Football Field

11:30 a.m., Pre-Game Festivities

featuring a

Homecoming Halftime show with "The Green Machine" Marching Band, the crowning of the King & Queen, and a chance to win a new truck!



Wednesday, September 22

Homecoming Kickoff Celebration! 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Student Activities Center Plaza (rain location-SAC lobby). Featuring a campus-wide Clam Bake "Beach" Party with many different kinds of great food, dancing, games, prizes, and give-aways. Live music by

Jack's Waterfall Band.

Homecoming King & Queen Contest. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium. Free admission. Presentations by all student contestants to the judges who will select the King, Queen and Homecoming Court, to be announced during Saturday's half-time show.

Thursday, September 23

Float Building Day! This is your chance to really flex those creative muscles. Students, individual faculty members, whole departments and staff can all co-sponsor floats. For assigned locations, rules, regulations, reimbursement, or for more information, call the Student Activities Office at 632-9392.

Friday, September 24
Parade and Street Festival
Show your spirit, win a prize,
or dance all night!
8 p.m.
SAC Plaza

Friday, September 24

6th Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series/Award Presentation and Luncheon. 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 2, Level 2, East Campus. Sponsored by the School of Health Technology and Management.

Alumni Welcome Cafe. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium. Enjoy a selection of gourmet coffees, teas, and other munchies as you listen to live Jazz and Folk music and reminisce with classmates and professors.

Homecoming Street Festival & Parade. 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m., Student Activities Center Drive and Plaza. Show your spirit at the annual parade and festival! Featuring a carnival with games, rides, laser tag, mini-golf, photo buttons, sand-art, washable tattoos, and DJs providing plenty of music! The parade with floats, marchers, and banners starts at 10 p.m. Contest winners announced at midnight for the best floats, banners, and bulletin boards.

Saturday, September 25

Alumni Reunion Breakfast. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium. Celebrating alumni from the class of '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99.

Pre-Game Show. 11:30 a.m. Pre-game show on Seawolves Field featuring Stony Brook Cheerleaders and Kickline.

Football Game! 12:30 p.m. Football Game and Half-time Show with the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen and the Brentwood High School Marching Band "The Green Machine." The football game and pre-game show

are free to USB undergraduate students with an ID. Guests are \$5, children under 12 are \$2.

Post Game Celebrations. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., End of the Bridge Restaurant, Stony Brook Union. Free admission with ticket stub from the Homecoming Game. Celebrate our first Division I season with a cake cutting ceremony, trivia contest with prizes, DJ, refreshments, and give-aways.

Alumni Sweethearts Dance. 8 p.m. - 11 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium. Dance the night away with a DJ spinning music from over the decades while you enjoy a light buffet dinner and refreshments.

Benedict Saloon Reunion. 9 p.m. - 12 a.m., H Quad Cafeteria, Benedict College. Buffet dinner and entertainment.

Sunday, September 26

Alumni Association's 11th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Scholarships. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Race starts in front of the Sports Complex at 10 a.m. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. inside the Sports Complex. Registration fee: \$10 for students; \$15 for community, faculty, and staff. Six categories of awards and a grand prize will be given to first place winners. First 300 registrants receive a free T-shirt. Join the Seawolf as he races over the finish line! Call 632-7206 for more race information. Following the race, enjoy an Old Fashioned Pancake Breakfast in the Stony Brook Union Ballroom.

Times and events subject to change. For the latest breaking news, check the Homecoming listing on the Web. Go to the University's home page (www.sunysb.edu) and look under Events.

For the latest information regarding Homecoming, call the Voice of Student Activities, a 24-hour services, 632-6821; the Department of Student Union Activities, 632-9392; the Office of Alumni Relations, 632-6330. Visit the on-line Web Calendar, Events, through the main University Web site at www.sunysb.edu for the latest updates. If you need a disability related accommodation, please call 632-9392.

TOP TEN CRIMES YOU CAN COMMIT WITHOUT LOSING YOUR FINANCIAL AID

- 10) SODOMY
- 9) CUTTING THE TAG OFF THE MATTRESS
- 8) WHALING
- 7) FINANCIAL AID FRAUD
- 6) GOOD OL' FASHIONED NORTH AMERICAN
MAN-BOY LOVIN'
- 5) KILLING PRAYING MANTISES
- 4) TRAINING AN ARMY OF MONKEYS TO OVER
THROW THE GOVERNMENT
- 3) EATING YOUR DEAD
- 2) ENVOKING THE WRATH OF GOD TO SPITE YOUR EX
- 1) WHORIN' (BUT NOT CRACK WHORING)

WHO'S REPRESENTING YOU?

By Tim Connors

What do a redneck divorce and a tornado have in common? The punch line is somewhere in this article on the student senate. Hopefully your still reading, because lets face it— the senate is duller than a lecture on the color Deng Lees makes your shit.

The Press editors decided to cover the senate. I don't know why, but I'm guessing its because this is the only body that represents students interests, and its not the most effective body ever constituted. That doesn't matter to you or me. I just have to write an article that covers the basics about the senate, but I think I would rather find out what it's like to masturbate with a cheese grater.

I guess that would be painful as sitting through a LEG meeting. Most of what I know about the student senate is from LEG meetings, and the updates that the senator gave. The Commuter Student Association has information about the senate on their web page.

LEG is short for dorm legislature and

each one elects a representative to the senate. This is not the most highly contested position, and basically anyone willing to do the job gets the position. The commuters elect their twenty or so senators at the commuter student meetings and anyone can also get elected. I don't understand why anyone would want this position. Who needs to go to weekly meetings that have up to this point not achieved a note worthy success?

Well, I'm a third of the way through the article and I just finished my second beer, so I'm right on track to finish a six pack will writing this article. I would rather be writing an amusing story about an extremely large dump someone took on a RHD's door. That is another job I don't understand why anyone would want.

The senators are supposed to get feedback from their constituencies and present those positions at the senate meetings. In the dorms this is done at LEG meetings. When I had to sit through those reports I would always hope the senator would burst into flames, get hit by a meteor, or the weird recycling guy would flip out and bludgeon him to death with aluminum can. The

senator only reflected the interests of those people who went to LEG, and that was not a well-attended function.

The senate has committees for these ambitious do —gooders to join. Probably the most important committee is the treasury committee that deals with finances. The senate determines the budget for all clubs and organizations on campus.

When the senate passes a resolution that affects only Polity, immediate action is taken. However, when the senate wants to act on matters outside of polity, the resolution becomes a request. In other words, the senate is impudent in matters outside of the jurisdiction of Polity.

When the senate wants to effect change outside of their jurisdiction they have several options available. They can send out petitions, hold demonstrations or engage in other acts of civil disobedience. The problem is that there is no following for these senators, so they lack the power to effect change.

What do tornadoes and red neck divorces have in common? Either way someone's losing a trailer.

With Love From Russ

This Week's Target: Cosmopolitan

By Russell Heller

For those of you unfamiliar with my articles from last semester, let me explain this. I send an e-mail to a deserving celebrity each issue and print it. I would print their response if anyone EVER wrote back. Last year I contacted Mick Jagger, Rocco Siffredi (porn star), The President, and Bjork. This issue's victim is Kate White, Executive Editor of Cosmopolitan.

To: cosmo_letters@heart.com

Dear Ms. White,

Hello. I am a student journalist at Stony Brook University. I recently picked up the September '99 issue of your magazine at my local newsstand. I can't tell you how impressed I was by what I read. The incisive wit and brilliant writing that goes into your periodical is some of the greatest I have seen. I must acknowledge you for putting out a much-needed caricature of a women's beauty magazine.

My sister did me the favor of leaving an issue in the living room. I'll confess, what drew me in was the sexually explicit cover, brazenly displaying the word "sex." I figured that I was in for a graphic depiction of something pretty libidinous. Being a teenage male, my curiosity was piqued enough to give the issue a look-over.

Now, I consider myself to be a pretty sharp thinker with a great sense of humor, but at first I actually believed that I was reading a legitimate beauty magazine. The parody is accomplished so well that I almost missed it completely. When I got to the article about how you can "tell his love style by the shape of his eyes..." I realized what was going on: the whole magazine is a put-on!

I reread the magazine, cover-to-cover, and I laughed myself to tears. Your work is in league with *The Onion*, *Mad Magazine* and *The National Lampoon*. Your writers marvelously burlesque the popular beauty magazines into the lowbrow trash that they are. You have picked apart every single detail that pervades the quintessential fashion glossy, right down to the base subject matter splashed across the cover.

As we all know, sex sells. The typical beauty magazine shamelessly capitalizes on this by throwing the spotlight on the those articles which are likely to get the blood pumping South. Your delightful magazine cleverly pokes fun at this, by basing the top cover story on the world's paragon of sexual manuals: *The Kama Sutra*. Not to mention, "The Bedroom Trick That Will Blow Him Away (All You Need Is A Hair Scrunchie)." I could hardly believe that you were suggesting the use of hair care products as sexual aides! I mean, where do you come up with something like that? I bet there are a few gullible people out there trying that right now. Not me though, I am way too shrewd.

Your comic genius continues throughout the magazine as you encourage your readers to imitate as closely as possible the myriad of celebrities that cover almost every page in the magazine. There must be

HALF A DOZEN pictures of Scott Wolf in this issue!! I was especially fond of "Control Your Crises (Like The Stars Do,)" and "How Hollywood Stylists Make Chubby Celebs Look Sleek And Sexy." The glossy rags that cover the shelves at a supermarket checkout are littered with this exact kind of gross advocacy of widespread conformity. You achieve a deep cutting satire by turning your magazine into a gossiping, star watching, fashion show that rivals the Oscars. If only you had the dried-up, whiny, abrasive, shrewish, commentary of Joan Rivers interspersed between your words of "wisdom" on haute couture.

Your features stories are by far the best section. With subject matter ranging from "The Day My Vibrator Got Away," to "I Was Dragged Four Miles By A Train." This absolutely captures the intellectually devoid writing that fashion mags are steeped in. You even take a few pot-shots at their diction, using phrases like "your beau," "aprons with attitude," and my personal favorite, "do-it-all divas."

The entire package is held together with hundreds of ads, as per usual beauty mag format. Offering such indulgences as larger breasts, smaller pores, longer/better/multiple orgasms, cologne samples, whiter teeth, a firmer tuchus, or just the opportunity to look at pictures of very attractive people smiling EXTRA big. It is here that you perfectly illustrate how a beauty magazine does nothing if not make ordinary people feel inferior and ugly.

What beauty magazine parody would be complete without a "self-quiz" where the quizee can produce an unreliable evaluation of some trivial aspect of her personality which she probably already knows? You provide a splendid take-off on such an exam. "Can You Keep A Secret?" puts forward nine VERY contrived scenarios in which one's discretion would be put to the test. The results tally into one of three categories:

Big Old Scuttlebutt- the chronic gossip
Cool Confidante- exercises good judgement in divulging secrets.

Silent Sadist- wouldn't crack under torture.

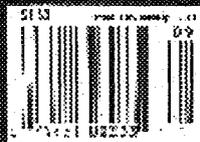
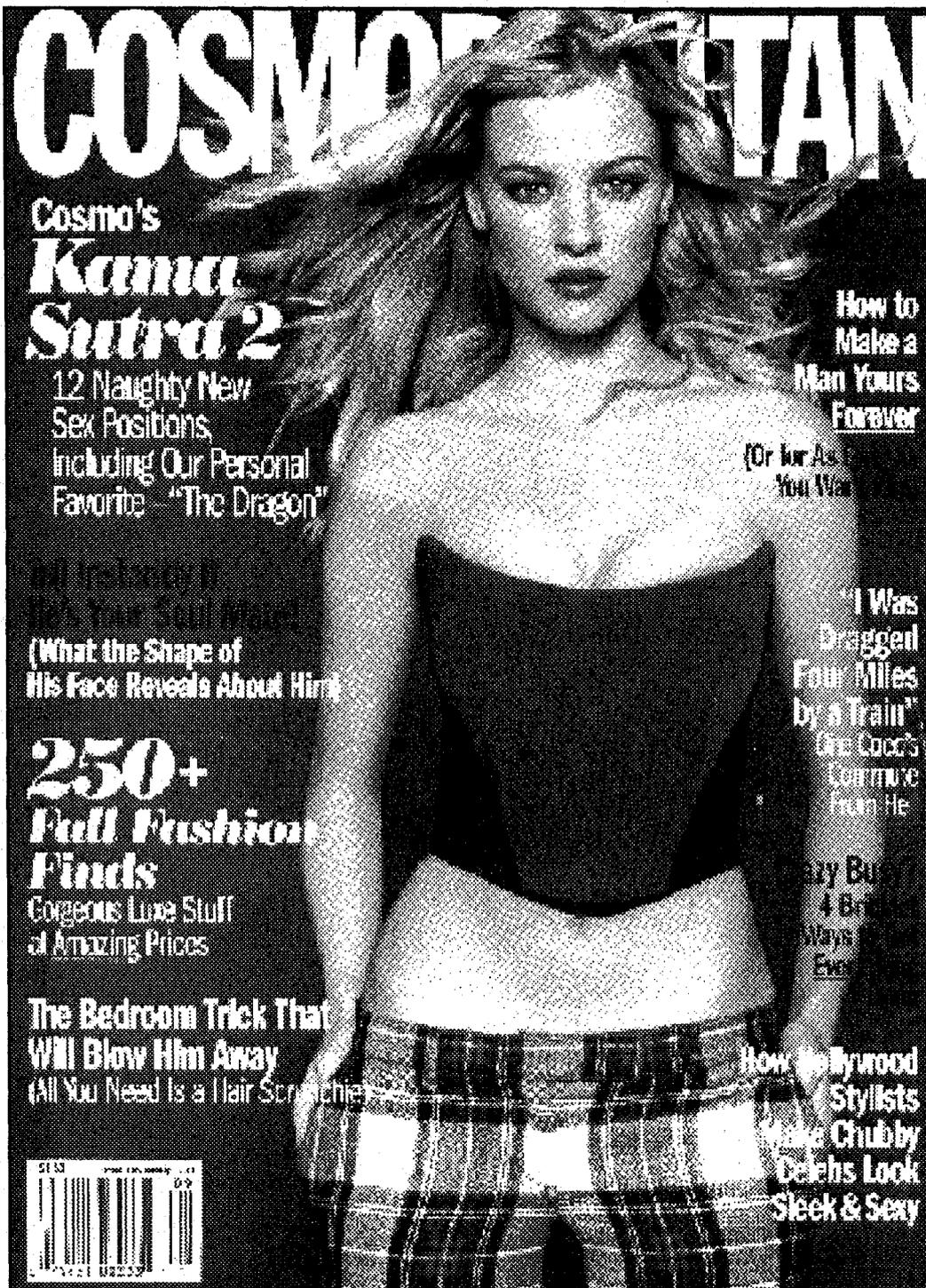
The best part about this piece are the descriptions of the triad of personalities, in which the readers are chastised for failing to achieve Cool Confidante status. "It doesn't take more than the

tinest twist of your arm to set you off on your friends..."

In conclusion, let me once again thank you for the pleasant surprise I had discovering the real story behind your humor periodical. I am anxiously awaiting the next issue, and would be honored to have my letter featured.

Gratefully Yours,
 Russell Heller, age 19
rheller@ic.sunysb.edu

(If you would like me to contact a celebrity on your behalf, send me an email with their name, email address, and why this celeb should be contacted. I may just send them an amusing letter for you.)



Introducing:

JACK AND HIL'S **SEX** ADVICE COLUMN

JACK:

Have you ever heard an ignoramus say in response to hearing that some woman was a lesbian, "What she needs is...?" What, some good dick? A real man, certainly not you. Well, this one is for the ladies, because Jack loves you.

Sex parallels society; you are always getting fucked.

Over the summer I started a relationship (applause). During the course of our encounters, I, who have done everything, was enlightened about something

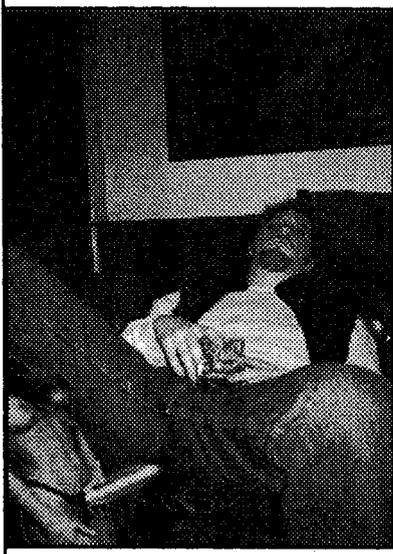
truly amazing. I was told of a heterosexual couple who had a great relationship. The woman swears that it has to do with the fact that every once in a while, she straps on a dildo and anally sodomizes her man. (Editors note: Sodomy being defined as any non-penile/vaginal missionary position sex, it is not redundant to say anally sodomize). Admittedly, I have never seen it but ladies, think about why this is a good idea. Your sexual role, as defined by our racist patriarchal society, is to be submissive (a bottom as some might call it). Sex parallels society; you are always getting fucked. Fight back !! Fuck back !!! Ask yourself, why is it you are always getting fucked, in life and in the sac?

So next weekend, visit Eve's Garden (by ladies, 4 ladies), or any of the plethora of more low-brow sex shoppes in NYC. Browse the strap-on dildo section. Find an implement that vaguely resembles your partners member in shape and size (different colors can be fun), and buy it!

The next time that lowlife you call your boyfriend gives you those bedroom eyes (because I'm sure he's not sensitive enough to notice when you want some), wink back, slip into a robe and your new strap-on (well lubricated, try Eros, it's fabulous) and follow your nose to its target. Take it like my prison bitch, honey!!

Joking aside this is a great idea. If you love your man and don't want him to run from your bed screaming and crying like the bitch that he is, talk about it first. Bring it up as a joke, gauge the reaction. The more you talk about it, the less foreign (read appalling) the idea becomes. Then go to one of the aforementioned sex shoppes and buy the aforementioned strap-on and a few smaller samples so that you don't hurt him when you take his virginity.

As if I hadn't already convinced you that this was a great idea, ass reaming can prevent cancer. Who knew?! Recent experiments show that regular prostate rotation (read ass reaming) reduces the risk of cancers of the prostate and colon (read cancer of the ass).

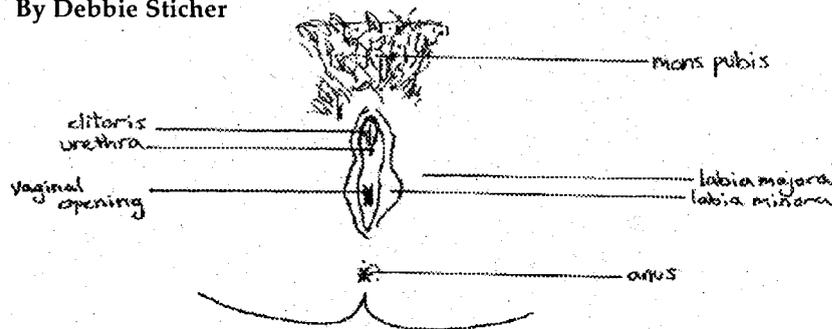


HIL:

It has recently come to my attention that many of you out there, both men and women alike, have some major misconceptions concerning the female anatomy. In an effort to educate the uniformed, fulfill the curious, and inspire the hormones, I have put together this little column utilizing my extensive knowledge of the female body.

First off, the basics. Unlike our male counterparts, us women have three holes down below. Yes, THREE. Although it may appear to be only two, a closer look will reveal a third, about a centimeter below the clitoris and hidden by the labia minora. This small opening marks the end of the urethra, which is the tube that carries the urine from the bladder to the outside of the body. Contrary to common belief, women do not pee out of their vaginal openings.

By Debbie Sticher



Next topic. We've all heard time and time again that the clitoris is the little wrinkle of pleasure. Get the motion flowin' on the raisin and you've taken your woman to exotic bliss. Yet one piece of advice, you eager beavers. If your lady's clitoris happens to retract during prolonged oral stimulation, it does NOT, by any means, mean stop! Actually, quite the contrary. Often, it is so enjoyable that she may barely be able to handle it. So lift that clitoral hood and lap it up until she combusts.

Maybe, if you're lucky, she'll even squirt. That's right, female ejaculation IS possible. I'm not just talking your average lubrication, either. I'm talking car flooding, sheet soaking, gushing torrents of love juice. Although there are some women who never achieve this feat, many, if touched the right way, will drench you like Niagra Falls. Some are even able to control their flow, starting and stopping on call. How?

Well, ladies, the trick is this: After lubricating the first time, push your clitoris and labia minora forward and expand your vaginal opening (the opposite of Kegel exercises). Have your partner alternate between rubbing your clitoris and your vaginal opening. Then have them insert about one quarter of their finger into your vagina, moving it slightly back and forth. Then, when you least expect it, they should quickly shove their fingers as deep into your vagina as possible. Girl, you'll be flowin' in no time!

I'm talking car flooding, sheet soaking, gushing turrents of love juice.

In the future, this space will be used to respond to the questions that are posed by the student body. Jack and Hil promise to carefully research and sensitively respond (Hil promises sensitivity, but it ain't really Jack's forte) to whatever you send in, preferably about your kooky and closeted sexual depravities. Email to sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu.



COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE !
WED. SEPT. 15 AT 1:00 P.M. STUDENT UNION RM. 060 & 061