

THE STONY
BROOK

PRESS

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"Big Brother Approved"

February 21, 2000



HE'S WATCHING YOU

pg.
10&11

Sorochin Goes Wee-Wee

Fuchsberg/Moss Starship

W. Bombs Saddam

pg.2

pgs.
3, 8, 9,
&18

Baby Bush Resumes Daddy's Battle: President Bush Authorizes U.S. and British Warplanes to Bomb Iraq

By Ellen Yau

Picking up where the former President George Bush left off, United States and British warplanes bombed several Iraqi radar stations and command centers Friday in what our new President George Bush called a "necessary response to Iraqi provocation."

Barely a month has passed since Bush became president and the U.S. already tried to initiate a war. The attack was the first use of military power authorized by the new president. The target, Iraq, is an area already familiar (from the Persian Gulf War under the presidency of his father) to the U.S. citizens. The President approved on Thursday the Pentagon's request to attack. The authorized strike, involved 18 U.S. jets-Navy F/A-18 Hornets from the carrier *Harry S. Truman* and Air Force F-15E's based in Saudi Arabia and six British Tornado fighter-bombers, in launching television and radar-guided bombs. The weapons were reported to perform as expected.

The U.S. and British raid hit five separate targets- it included sites between five and 20 miles outside Iraq's capital, Baghdad, and as many as 20 Iraqi radars and command centers, identified as Bajda, Taquddum; Taji, AnNumaniyah and As- Suwayrah.

The president described the attack as "routine," and "part of a strategy" to "enforce the no-fly zones."

After the Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's defeat in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the U.S.-led coalition established over far-northern and southern Iraq areas called no-fly zones. The no-fly zones were imposed to protect the local Shiites and to prevent Hussein's military from using air forces against neighboring areas, such as Kuwait.

However, several countries, such as China and Russia, viewed this to be a threat to the peace in the Middle East. When Secretary of State Colin Powell travels to Middle East capitals next week, he will be trying to convince Arab and Muslim leaders that America's main interest is to deny weapons to Hussein, not to inflict further economic and military punishment on the Iraqi people.

France, a member of the Gulf war coalition demanded an explanation for the air strikes near Baghdad, the first in over two years, and suggested that the U.S. and British assaults fuels the Iraq problem rather than solve it. Turkey expressed its hopes for the raid to end. Bush noted that the raid does not represent a change in foreign policy but an "emphatic reiteration of what was in place." "We are going to watch very carefully as to whether or not [Hussein] develops weapons of mass destruction," said Bush, "... and if we catch him doing so, we will take appropriate action."

Hussein has remained in power in Iraq in the decade after the Gulf War. Since the beginning of this year, Iraq has fired 13 SAM 6 missiles at U.S. and British pilots flying patrols over the no-fly zones. According to defense officials, U.S. intelligence reports have indicated Iraq has acquired new supplies of SAM 6's from Serbia, Ukraine and other countries. Although the SAM 6's are a relatively old missile system, military officials said that Iraq has more skillfully integrated them with older Russian designated radar systems that can detect Western aircraft more than 200 miles deep in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. and British interpreted this as a breach of the agreement that Hussein signed after the Gulf War, which removed Iraq's 1990-1991 occupation

of Kuwait. Therefore, Bush authorized the attack. The planes took off for the raid Friday at 11:20 a.m.

Two innocent Iraqi civilians, an 18-year-old woman and a man in his 30s, Aliah Atshan Abdullah and Khalil Hameed Alwash, respectively, were reported to have died in the U.S. and British attack. Terrorist Saddam Hussein remains fully intact...

For the past month, I spent 100 minutes twice a week in the front of my EGL 375 class reading about the horrors of the 1945 A-bomb attacks on Hiroshima. Today, about 56 years later, I expect things to change; history not to repeat itself.

But Friday, as I sat down in my suite to embrace my usual peculiar looking Harvest Moon stir-fry dinner from Kelly dining in front of my television, CNN broadcasted a breaking news story: over two dozen United States and British warplanes bombed the outskirts of Baghdad in what Bush claimed to be a necessary response to Iraqi provocation.

A necessary response? Iraqi provocation?

"Oh god," my boyfriend mutters. "You see this? He just became president and he's already trying to put the country into war."

But the news did not end with implication that Hussein will soon be overthrown or the Arabs will soon resolve their problems with one another.

Rather, two civilians were reported killed while over 20 were injured from the raids. Hussein is still alive somewhere, and perhaps feasting over a better dinner than most pitiful university students and Iraqi civilians.

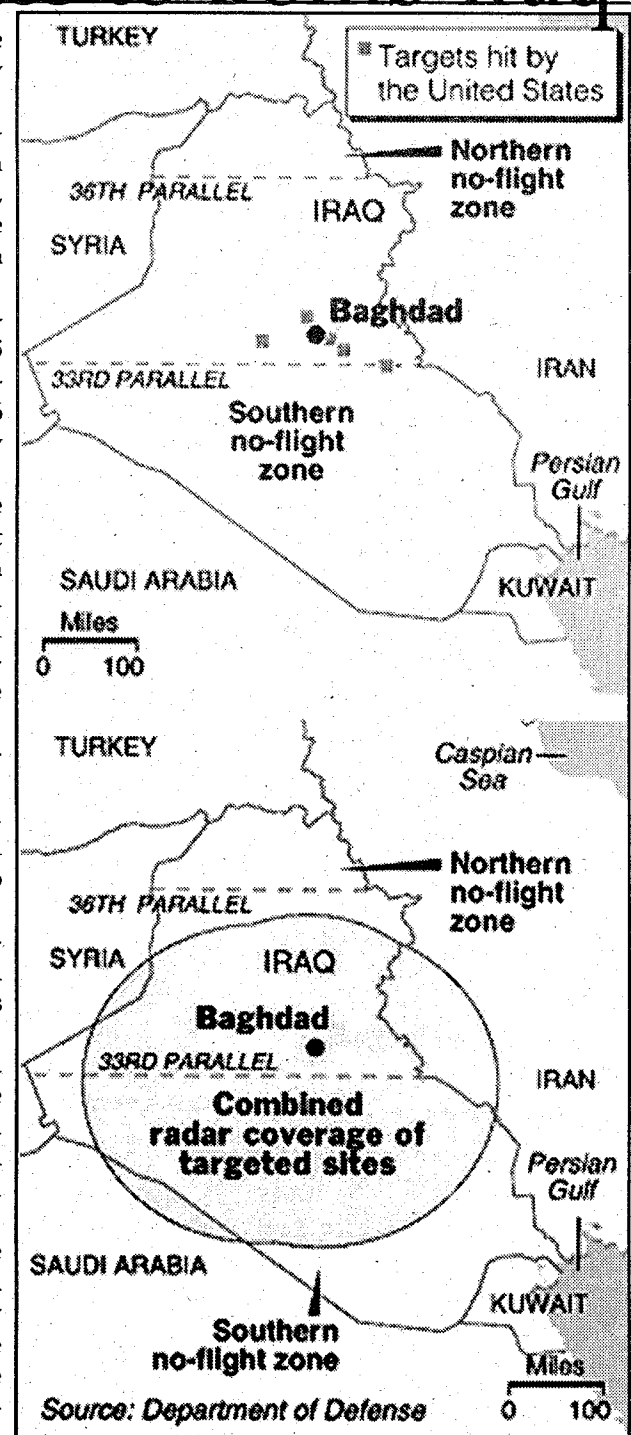
Obviously, Hussein was never a nice man, but the urgency of the U.S. and British raids should still be put into question. Why was it even necessary to bomb Iraq? Were the civilians or was Hussein the target? Why have two people died while Hussein is still breathing?

According to Bush, the attacks were a reminder to Hussein of the agreement that he signed after Desert Storm. Yet, the areas targeted, although mainly military defense systems, had little to do with overpowering Hussein himself. Why do we have to attack the innocent to intimidate Hussein?

My question is why not send an army that would actually carry-out a unique purpose- such as seek out Hussein, the bad guy, and hmm, shoot him, or simply force him to surrender, or at least toss him behind bars, for life.

Presently, the Iraqi civilians, who should despise and want to overthrow Hussein, are not furious at him, but at U.S. and Britain. According to the latest release in the *New York Times*, the civilians pledged with Hussein to retaliate against the U.S. and Britain. Yet, that should not be a big surprise.

Although the attacks were not nearly as horrendous as the thousands that suffered from the Hiroshima bombings, the parallel is that there is no reason the innocent should suffer. Moreover, many organizations, such as NATO, Spain and other European allies, were not informed of the country's intentions to attack. I have always thought that the U.S., the country that abides by the system to protect the innocent, the country that constantly amends the constitution to protect the innocent, would seek



a policy that expresses their belief of democracy. How did we manage to approve of a pitiful foreign policy that pumps incredible amounts of our tax money into malicious military movements and bullying tactics when it could be used for more productive means? Former President George Bush justified the Gulf War with a prediction that Hussein would soon be overthrown. A decade later, the new Bush administration makes a similar justification. Yet, we note that Kuwait is no longer occupied by Iraq. The U.S. never cared to interfere with governments of poor oppressed countries. The Gulf War is over. And we listen to our new president, as he talks about big dreams, big tax cuts, free trade throughout the Americas, unfettered trust. We should listen again, and think this is the son of our former president Bush, whose famous one-liner was, "Read my lips. No more taxes!"

So, if we pretend to believe that the Bush administration's motivation for attack is to liberate the poor exploited Iraqi civilians, then I guess Clinton "did not have a sexual relation with Monica Lewinsky." If not, why not send those millions of dollars spent on the military to feed the starving people in Somalia, create more hydro-electric plants for cleaner air, fund a better education system, or simply strategize a more covert way to eliminate Hussein...

Fifteen Minutes? Ah, Who's Counting?

By Candice Ferrette

When I thought about coming out for a weekend visit, I didn't expect to do this much thinking. But when I arrived to the newly sanitized office of the Stony Brook Press on Saturday morning to find a Fox 5 news reporter and cameraman there, interviewing Glenn Given, the newspaper's Managing Editor, my initial reaction was to document the occasion, since it is so rare to see the press flocking towards *The Press* discussing the state of the press.

Apparently, Given, a graduating senior who has been writing for *the Press* for more than four years, wrote an editorial in the form of political satire in the paper's February 7th issue. In the editorial, phrased as a prayer to "Jesus Christ, King of Kings," he asked to "smite" President George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Christine Whitman, and John Ashcroft and the rest of George Bush's cabinet. He also asked to "take out Carson Daly as well".

After an open-house Press meeting on February 14th, Two officers from the United States secret service, accompanied by a campus police officer, entered the *Press*' office and asked who was responsible for the editorial. Given claimed responsibility for writing the editorial that launched him to a state of first amendment martyrdom. The secret service brought him upstairs to an office to question him.

Meanwhile, Given's fiancée, Jennifer Champigni, thought it was going to be just another Valentine's Day, a day typically spent cooking dinner together and possibly watching a movie at home. When at 4 p.m. last Wednesday, Given called and told her that he was going to be a little late, because he "had a spot of trouble," she thought he was simply stopping off somewhere to get her candy and flowers.

When a few hours went by, and she had heard nothing, she called the *Press*' office and they told her that Given was in a room on the second floor of the Union, undergoing questioning and psychological analysis by two officers from the Melville, U.S. secret service regional branch.

Worried, Champigni told me that she drove from their Sound Beach home to find Given at school. Meanwhile, he and the two secret service agents were on their way to the couple's house, which the secret service searched, with Given's permission. They had persuaded him to waive his rights and conducted a search of his home, and searched his medical records. At the time, Given had no legal counsel and the Secret Service agents had told him that the First Amendment right to free speech would not protect him. The agents, according to Given also said that they would be forced to press charges should additional complaints come to their attention.

While Given assured me that the officers were completely harmless and objective throughout the three hours he spent with them, he did admit that the event did shake him up. "They didn't want to be there as much as I didn't," Given said, "but they were just doing their job."

The question is, in a case of a disagreeable editorial in an independent, non-profit satirical student newspaper, what is their job? Why were the agents sent out to find the author of the editorial in the first place?

According to the Reporters' Committee

for Freedom of the Press, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Watts v. United States* states that although threatening the president's life is illegal, it doesn't apply to something clearly in the form of satire or "political hyperbole."

Simply stated, Given has the right to be funny, (or make an attempt at it) show his dissent for George W. Bush, and not be accused of threatening the president of the United States.

I was confused when I first heard about this incident, because, like most, I am either most familiar with Giuliani's attempt to stifle first amendment rights in his on-going battle with the Brooklyn Museum, or the Czech Republic's closing of several independent journalism organizations.

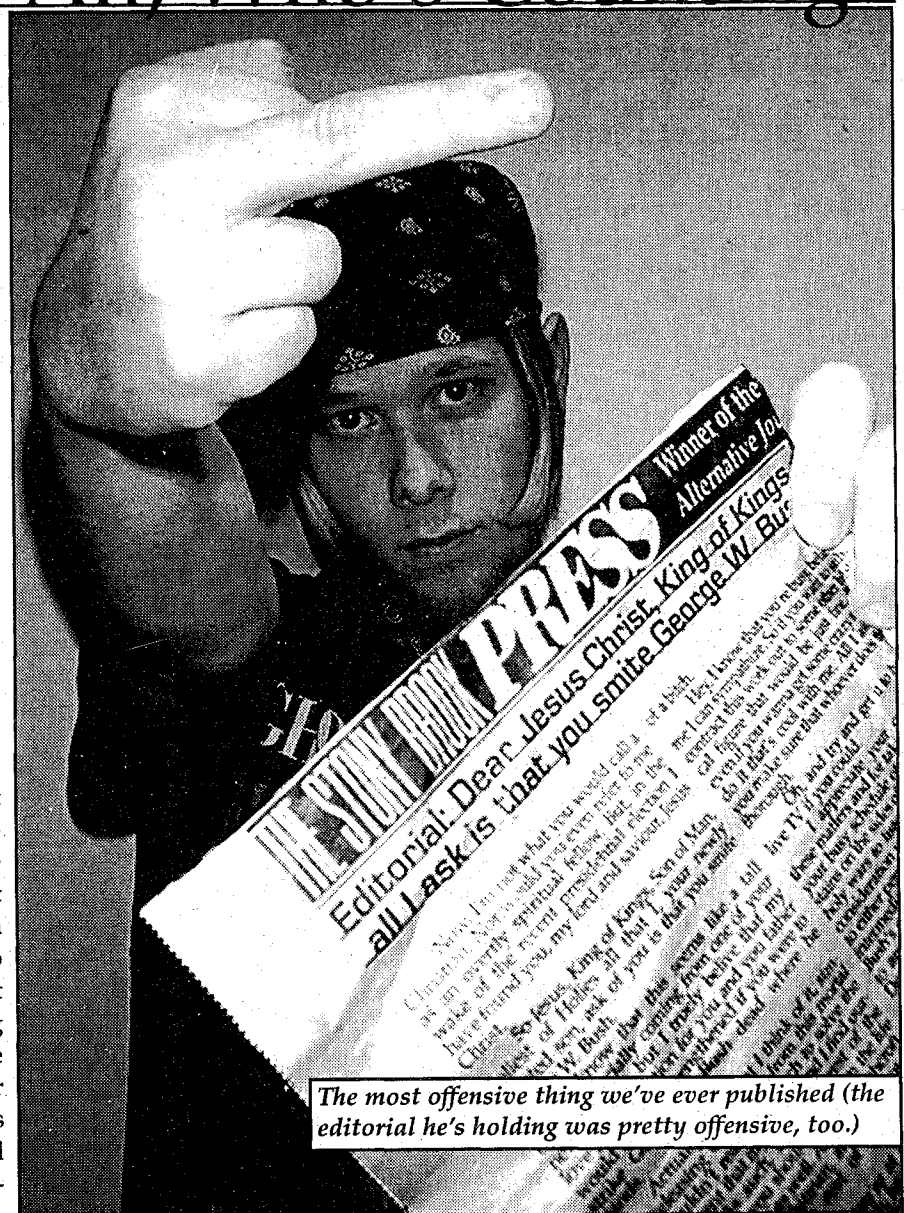
In spite of Given's clean police record and college-aged manner, the Secret Service came and questioned him because they thought that his words would perhaps inspire another student or "crazy mortal" to carry out the wishes of Given's prayer.

While there might have perhaps been those who were offended by the language and content of his editorial, it is true that Given does have a right to free speech. And, while it is the Secret Service's job to protect the president, they, as do the campus police, and all readers, have a responsibility to look at creative pieces, such as Given's editorial with a critical eye.

What those of us who are in student media call "zero tolerance," a widely debated topic that has been enforced in many public places of congregation, and in educational and professional arenas. Basically, an administration, of panel of decision makers construct policies separate from the government to set guidelines on how their citizens may use the first amendment.

Most recently, a federal appeals court in Pennsylvania dealt with the issue of a State College school district's zero tolerance program. The districts program, as was reported in the *New York Times*, set up to protect the students from harassment and the school district from litigation. The court found that this anti-harassment policy, which included forms of name-calling, joking, graffiti, and making fun of other students' clothes, was in violation of the First Amendment.

Though motivated by the desire to keep an orderly educational environment, devoid of hostility, the decision was actually prompted by two students who were fearful of punishment under the program if they expressed their



views on homosexuality as a sin. The zero tolerance policy was restricting these students from expressing their religious beliefs.

While this decision and school district may be far removed from Given's first amendment woes, the concept of having a panel of administrators deciding what is socially suitable for any form of dialogue can be a scary alternative to entertaining the Secret Service on Wednesday afternoons.

What would it be like if student media had to be careful of making a mistake? As Rudy Giuliani's suggestions of forming a decency council for judging the quality of art exhibitions in New York City, the idea isn't that far away.

Writers, artists, producers of any and all media content, have a responsibility, in which the parameters are subjective. Obviously, taste is dependant on many factors. However, those who chose to ingest this, or any form of media also have a responsibility. It is important that the members of this collective audience understand their role as well. A national dialogue, whether a serious or joking form of expression, cannot happen unless everyone has access to a forum dedicated to the free exchange of ideas. It is imperative that people do their homework, and follow-up, even faculty members and Secret Service agents.

Because the media here is supported by student activity fees, and not dependent on advertisers, or other outside funding, I can breathe a sigh of relief (somewhat) that *The Press* still maintains the level of independence that it does. Which brings me back to the beginning, when that Fox 5 reporter asked in a low voice, "What is this newspaper? What is alternative journalism?" I chuckled to myself and thought aloud, "Well it sure as hell isn't concerned with ratings!"

Editorial: You Are a Fool, a Coward, or Both

However controversial, our editorial from Feb. 7 is protected by the 1st amendment. The Secret Service went too far and has been appropriately chastised for it, (see back cover). The only defense of their actions has been that the Secret Service were just doing their jobs, (which does happen to include overzealous reactionary intimidation) and as it has been stated, they really CAN'T take a joke.

Well, fair enough. Let's for a second accept that the Secret Service have a job which requires them to react in precisely this manner. Maybe under normal threat-to-the-president situations, it is the knee-jerk response of the Secret Service that can save the life of the president. In the case of our editorial, it was just an extremely poor judgement call on their part. We don't need to belabor this point. The Secret Service has made themselves look foolish enough without our help. We are content to let their actions speak for themselves.

There is one individual however who is doing remarkably little speaking for his or herself: The "Anonymous Faculty Member" who brought the editorial to the attention of the Secret Service. It is this person, not the Secret Service who cannot take a joke.

Dear "Anonymous Faculty Member,"

What could possibly have motivated you to do such a thing?

For the benefit of our readers let's try to place ourselves in your shoes. Let's try to attempt to understand your perspective:

Perhaps you thought we were seriously threatening the president. Maybe you felt a responsibility to notify the authorities and to do your part in averting a national catastrophe.

It is difficult however, to imagine that an academic such as yourself could be that stupid.

You might have been worried that someone else would read the editorial as a call to action and harm the president. Well, as a result of your

actions, the editorial has now been seen by thousands more people. Good job.

It is also conceivable (and maybe even likely) that you don't give a hoot about Dubya and that you just have it in for the Press. Maybe we gave an unfavorable review to your class in our semesterly registration guide. Maybe our "raucous" humor and "biting" wit are too "cutting" edge for you. Maybe you were merely offended by the invocation of Jesus Christ in a less-than-reverential sense.

In a cowardly, vindictive act, you might have called the Secret Service as a means of giving us headaches. We sincerely hope this is not the case. We would hate to have to refer to you as a slimy, Orwellian, narc without the intestinal fortitude to discuss your gripes in an intellectual public forum, choosing instead to fink about, under the veil of anonymity.

What a damn shame it would be if we had to break out the thesaurus and describe you in such bilious terms as, "craven," "tremulous" or "with a yellow streak"

We even considered labeling you "milk-sop," a "milquetoast," a "sissy," a "baby" or a "big-baby." But we digress "white-feather," we digress.

In all seriousness, we are a reasonable organization, we open ourselves up to criticism. We are only shaking our polysyllabic sticks at you because you have declined to identify yourself and discuss your opinions. Although it is readily apparent that you are a fool, a coward or both, if you were to come forward and own up, at least we would respect you.

So there you have it. Consider your face slapped with the proverbial glove. Until such time as you decide to crawl out from the shadows, you sir, or madam, are naught but a crusty weasel.

In the future, why don't you directly address the individuals whose opinions differ from yours before you escalate the ruckus: federal-version-style.

No one likes a tattletale.

Editorial: We as Journalists

As Journalists, or as Citizens we have both far-reaching rights and terrible responsibilities. Paramount to our participation in the American system (and to the foundations of said system) is the duty to exercise our freedom of speech.

The unmitigated discourse, the "never-ending debate" between ideological opposites, this is the single most important factor in American life.

Our ability to express ourselves, in as eloquent or as crass a way as possible is what makes this society unique. Whether or not we agree with someone's viewpoints, we as a society agree with their right to speak them.

That is what makes this past situation so troubling. When members of the community forget the range of freedom that we enjoy, their whistle-blowing gun-jumpings enable the more restrictive branches of government to push our freedoms back another inch.

Whether or not these situations turn out to be of critical importance or simple banter the actions taken at the behest of the easily-alarmed restrain us as a society.

We as Journalists and as Citizens have a responsibility to act and speak in the best interests of the society (whether we believe that these interests are reflected through progressive action or the maintenance of the status quo, being irrelevant). We also have a responsibility to read

and hear with critical sensibilities. We must be aware that when we "Cry Wolf" although we may believe that we are working to protect society (and it's elected representatives) we instead are working to undermine the tennets that American society is built on.

It is a social responsibility that many of us don't employ: to be reasonable and rational. To be aware of what the laws of the system are and exactly where they begin and where they end.

In this situation we do not blame the Secret Service; it is their most important job to respond to threats made against elected figures (however legitimately or illegitimately they have been placed in power). And we are glad that they take every call made to them with the utmost seriousness; because we may be forced to make that call one day.

But if that day arrives for any of us we need to remember our responsibility to each other, our responsibility to assess the situation intelligently and critically, before we place another inch of our freedom on the line in the name of the alarmist and the reactionary.

Or in the name of those who cannot take a joke, or can't stand to hear something that they disagree with. These people who refuse to put the greater good that these freedoms beget before their personal opinion.

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Letter: Dear Mr. Hell(er)

Dear Mr. Heller,

The thousands of Christians on campus are furious at your paper!! In just one issue of Feb. 7, 2001, you published three extremely insulting things ridiculing the Christian religion. Freedom of the press may allow you to ridicule many things but when it comes to religion, you are dealing with peoples souls!!! You have to respect that.

We do not know your personal faith or it's strength (and we are not questioning it), how ever we urge you as Executive Editor to find some way to monitor anything that is offensive to Christians. The powerful on-campus Christian organizations are hoping that they will never see another

piece ridicule their religion especially by a student funded organization.

I urge you to just try and imagine what a faithful Christian would feel if they saw the ad on page 9 of the last supper, the mocking tone of the editorial on page 4 and the repulsive Internet sites recommended on page 19 including "jesusdressup.com."

Please look into the situation immediately! We would appreciate a published apaology and promise for change. It is only fair.

-unsigned.

Letter: Letter to the Editor

The article in issue 8, titled "Why Mental Illness" by Ph.D. John Pflaum was a pompous, and pointless commentary on consumerism. The comparison to mental illness that the article relies upon to degrade consumerism, in fact reinforces stigmas about mental illness, while showing little understanding of our modern society. The writing style was annoyingly repetitive and yet made use of a thesaurus inspired rhetorical semantics. The idea that "the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors we label as indicative of mental illness are reactions to the frustration of the five basic psychological needs," is bullshit! Mental illness is not about being frustrated.

The basic psychological need is survival, and that means air, water, food, and being warm and dry. Failure to meet these needs results in death, not frustration. What the Ph.D. outlined was an opinion about Maslow's concept of self-actualization. The five basics are external to the

individual, which means that you achieved your purpose of existing when another person approves of you. The five basics are what many people in the United States strive for. Living in the States, it is hard to see the culture for what it is.

The Ph.D closes the article asking where we/you stand today, and which direction are we/you going. My answer is that today, like most days, I am standing on my feet. Which direction? The idea of controlling the direction of society is an illusion.

It is refreshing to know that The Press will run articles containing gratuitous stupidity, just because of the credentials of the author. Earning credentials is important, but the process is an indicator of persistence and financial resources, rather than common sense, decency, intelligence, and wisdom.

--Tim Connors

Letter: Breakin' the Law! Breakin' the Law! (part 1)

Dear Editors,

Sorry to hear about your harrassment by the wonderful U.S. Secret Service. Loved the editorial--it's so ironic that part of the point is that they can't take a joke--and they can't! If there's anything I can do for you, just let me know. FYI, you're getting good coverage on

<http://www.obscurestore.com>, a pretty big-deal site. Glad to see that the Press is keeping the flamethrower alive.

All the best,
David Yaseen

Letter: Breakin' the Law! Breakin' the Law! (part 2)

I live in Manhattan and attend Carnegie Mellon University but am on leave at the moment. I was so appalled when I read the response that your article received from the government, I was compelled to look up your email and write you. First of all, I am a total atheist and loathe Bush, (just the title is the kind of humor I appreciate) but personal morality aside, as you know, you have every right in this "God" forsaken country to print your thoughts.

Please do not give up this important fight. I wish you the very

best, and if there is anything I can do from afar that would be helpful, please feel free to contact me via email or at *(***)**-***. This is... for some reason, is making me imagine a horrible military/martial law state if this sort of governmental behavior is to continue (not to mention what we have seen from the Bush admin. from the past few weeks).

Cheers,
Emilie Bodoin

Letter: Breakin' the Law! Breakin' the Law! (part 3)

I would like to commend you on allowing the editorial satire about George Bush.

I truly hope that the college and the newspaper will stand behind the free speech amendment. I am not happy about this past election and will not be convinced that the election process was rigged in some way. I feel that as a citizen of this country, we are entitled to our opinion without fear of reprisal from our government. I also personally feel that George Bush, better known as Dubya, should realize that he will be ridiculed because of the way he got into the office he now resides. There was nothing threatening in the editorial, at least nothing that was written up on our local television's news site

(<http://www.wral-tv.com/news/national/SecretService-Editori> =TOPAP.html).

As I have told many of my friends, dear Georgie-boy said he trusted the people with their money while he was on the campaign trail but he has proven time and time again that he doesn't trust us with our votes. Now it seems that he doesn't trust our opinions either. It is sad to say but I truly hope the next four years will pass quickly. So much of the good that has been accomplished over the last 8 to 10 years will be ruined by his politics including a woman's right to choose what she does to her body and how our education system is funded or rather lack thereof.

Please let the student that wrote that editorial note know that there are people out here that really did get a kick out of it and hopes that he/she fights for the constitutional right to free speech.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Samantha Thomas, North Carolina

Letter: Nonsecular Semantics

Dear SBPress,

In the 2/7/01 Press issue pg.14 you refer to the burning bush (Exodus 2:25-3:8) as the "Physical Incarnation of the Might of God." I think it would be more appropriate to call it a theophany or maybe a pre-incarnate Christ. The only "Physical Incarnation of the Might of God" found in the Bible is when God sent his son Jesus to earth to die for our sins. This can be found in John 1:1-3,14 among other places, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." I hope this helps.

Sincerely,
Roger Harrison

Democracy Under The Sniper's Scope

By Wendy Fuschsberg and Walter Moss

The past few months have been very important ones for us. We have been waiting for a long time to vote in a Presidential election, and we finally got the chance this past November. It was a proud moment, when we exercised our rights as citizens of a democratic society.

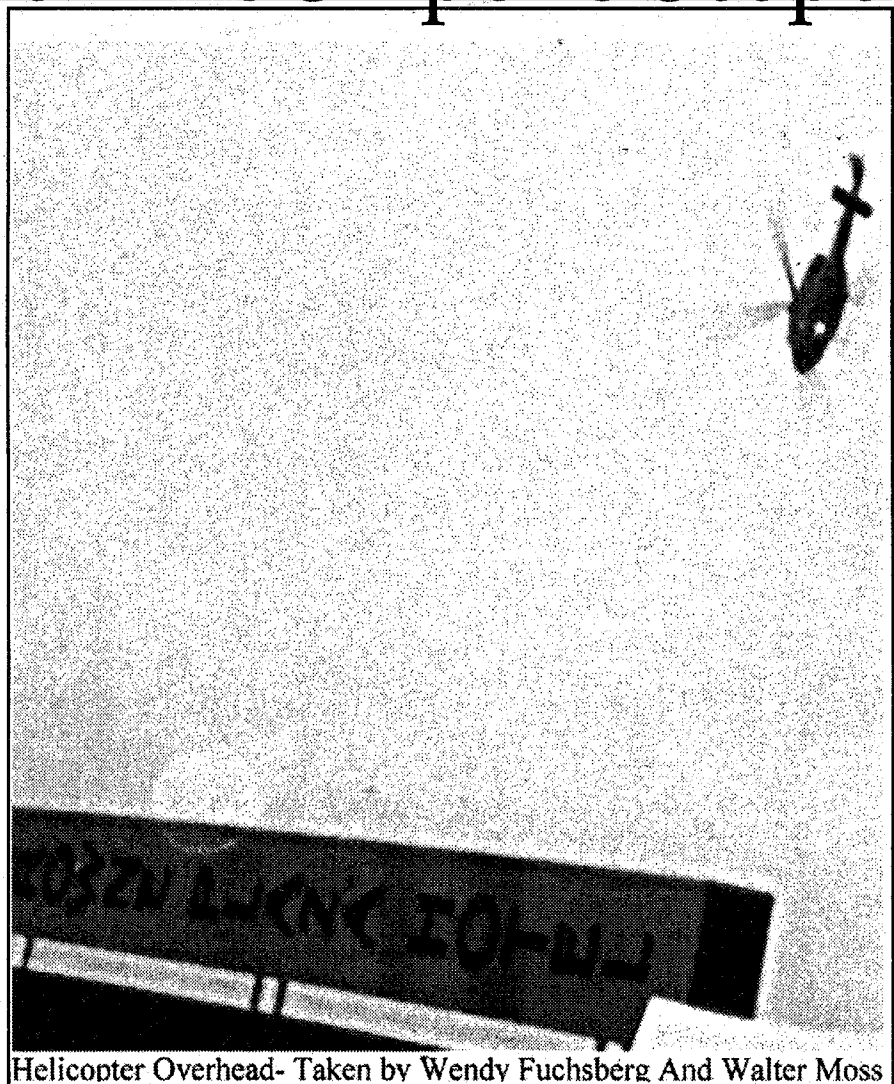
However, it was not a proud moment when we realized that this not a democracy, that our votes counted only insofar as we selected the electorates who voted on behalf of New York State in a ridiculous all or nothing system. Many people feel as we do, that American democracy has a long way to go to become a full and working participatory democracy. These like-minded individuals converged onto the capitol on January 20th. We joined them and participated in our first protest.

This protest was very instructive. It illustrated just how far America has strayed from her constitutional roots. Several thousands of people peacefully assembled at Dupont Circle in Washington D.C. (indeed there were that many regardless of what was reported by most of the media in an attempt to underplay the event). All sorts of people were there, voicing many different grievances. Among these groups: those who believed Al Gore won, those who were concerned about George W. Bush becoming our next President and the events responsible for this, environmentalists, people calling for Campaign Finance Reform, unionists, people concerned about who George W. Bush chose for his cabinet, those who believed that they were disenfranchised in this election and those who agreed (people were indeed disenfranchised in this election as admitted to by the Republicans in the Civil Rights Hearings. One in three blacks in some Florida precincts were refused their most basic right as a citizen of this country, to vote. These people were refused this right based upon their erroneous classification as felons. In fact, these people were not felons. Whether this was intentional or unintentional is irrelevant insofar as its effect on the disenfranchised voters and their feelings about a country that had denied them their inalienable rights not to mention basic human rights for literally centuries.) People of all races, creeds and colors assembled at the Circle. The main focus of this protest was to reform our electoral process and show our support for a voter bill of rights whereby the voices of all Americans would be heard. It was a great feeling to be there, among all these people participating in a constitutionally guaranteed right to assemble. However, as the day progressed, there would be those who would infringe on our constitutional rights.

This was a well-organized protest. We had a permit to march onto the inaugural parade route. As far as our protest was concerned, we stayed on the designated course and behaved like civilized human beings. In fact, in all of the protests, almost all of the people were non-violent and civilized. The "Christian Right" and even many moderates love to point their fingers at the left, including Al Sharpton and many of his supporters, labeling them violent extremists. Even in this protest, the press reported on outbursts of violence, leaving the public to speculate as to the individuals involved. Well, I will tell you that the violent individuals were a few young white teenagers obviously mistaking this protest for Halloween. Just before getting to the parade route, we were stopped by the D.C. police. A line of black clad riot cops blocked our progress, armed with guns, pepper spray, and large batons which they eagerly held in front of us. They used these batons to push people back, forcing us to

crowd together into a dangerously packed mass of people. It didn't matter who you were, the police pressed these batons into the crowd even though there were young children and elderly people present. However, we remained non-violent so as not to give the police an excuse to assault us. In light of the presence of the elderly and the children, we had to seriously consider the issue of safety.

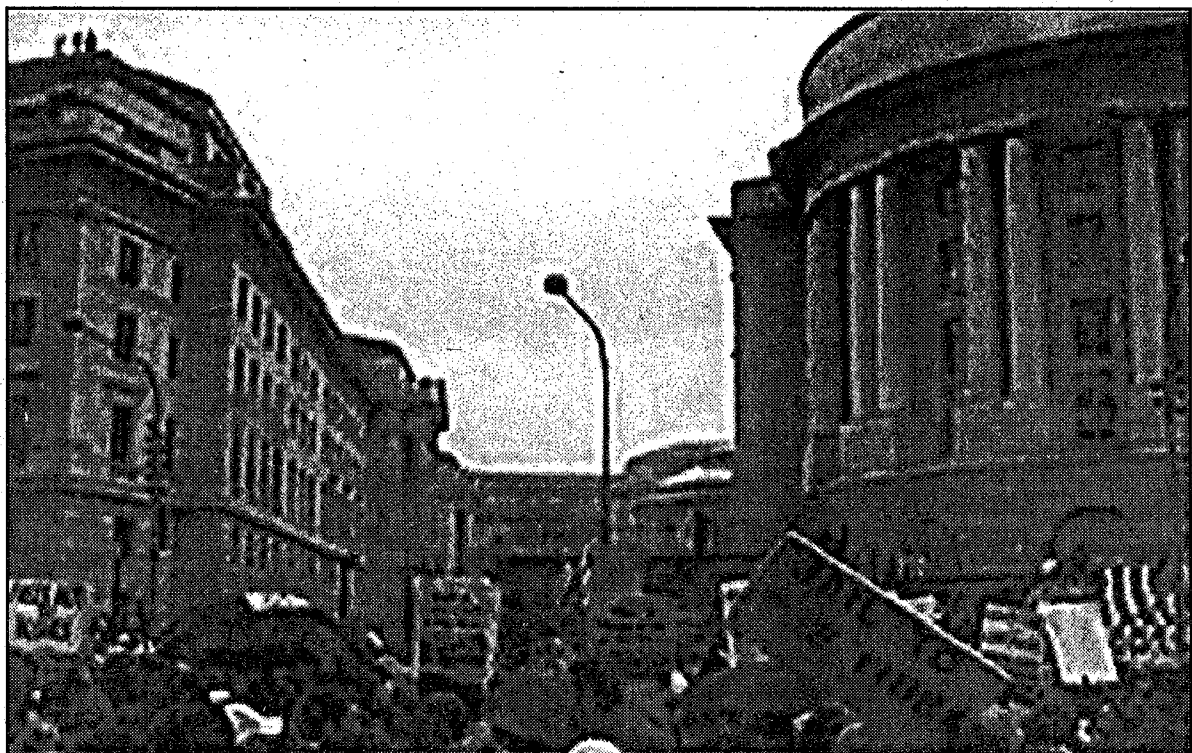
It seems that the police were arresting another group of demonstrators who had gone to the parade route. They stopped us too, even after they carted off the arrestees (some of whom did not have a permit to protest), they refused us admission. Even though we DID have a permit, the police kept up their blockade. We stayed there for half an hour chanting, "we have a permit" and "let us through". We sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America, the Beautiful" but to no avail. They refused to budge and even called in reinforcements. Dozens more police and a helicopter showed up. Things began to get pretty scary at this point. With more people, the cops held their batons just a little bit higher. And then the helicopter began to swoop down over the crowd. In a gesture of pure intimidation the chopper just sat there and hovered over us, so close we could feel the downwash from the rotor-blades blowing into our faces. This was disgusting! There was no excuse for having a helicopter hover over a crowd of peaceful demonstrators! There was not even a



Helicopter Overhead- Taken by Wendy Fuschsberg And Walter Moss

hint of violence from the protesters. Are we in China? Do we not have the right to assemble, without having to deal with overt attempts at intimidation?

After a while, we gave up on getting the cops to let us through and decided to enter through an alternate route. In an organized group we turned around and marched toward the 7th Avenue entrance. When we got there, the secret service met us and refused us access. All of a sudden, this checkpoint was now closed. The agents there told us we should try either the 3rd or 12th Avenue checkpoints, which also suddenly closed when we arrived. At this point our organized protest degenerated into scattered individuals trying their best to gain access to the parade route where WE HAD A PERMIT TO PROTEST!!!



Snipers were on every roof on the parade route. Taken by Steve Scher / BaysideFriend@aol.com

...Sniper Scope cont.

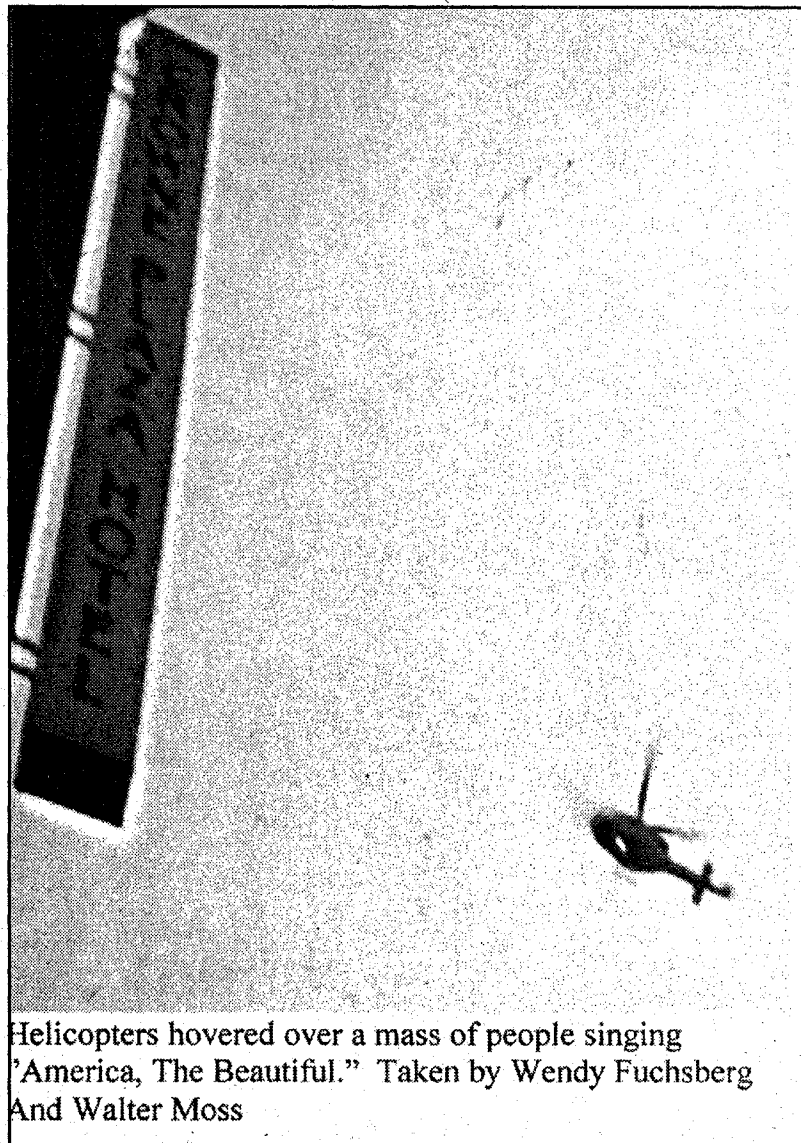
We tried several avenues of entrance but were denied. At one gate we encountered some major discrimination based upon economic status. We actually saw a barrier removed by Military Police, so that a man in a Jaguar could just drive right through without being bothered by any kind of search of his person or vehicle (because you know rich people never engage in overt acts of violence.) Right after these people went through, the barrier was replaced. I guess if we had come in our Rolls Royce, we would have found easy access to the inauguration. Instead we had to fight our way to one of the only checkpoints still open to the public.

As for the other checkpoints where we had tried to get in, there were lines stretching a half-mile back. For some reason these lines were not moving forward. Mobs of people were forming at the entrances and pushing into the parade. We joined the mob and pushed our way into the police checkpoint, where more of our rights were violated. Police passed metal detectors over us while other officers opened up our bags and confiscated elements of our belongings, namely our lunches. No iced tea or apples for us. It seems that iced tea and apples are now considered deadly weapons in Washington D.C. I seem to recall that there is a fourth amendment to our constitution that is supposed to protect us from exactly what occurred at that checkpoint. "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated". What was the officer's rationale for searching people's bags? Wasn't the probing of the metal detector enough? Are we willing to say that police have sufficient cause to suspect all Americans of plotting violence and criminal activities because they disagree with another person's politics and care enough to protest? Do we really want to give them the right to look into our personal belongings as we walk the streets in a public space where we are allowed by law to walk without fear of our government? How about at a public space where we legally secured a permit to exercise our right to peacefully assemble and protest?

After getting through the barriers, two bottles of Snapple and two apples lighter (at least if they had taken our sandwiches someone would

have a well-balanced lunch, albeit not us), we joined other protesters who had positioned themselves along the parade route. We had the strange honor of being one of a group of people who stood next to the announcer's stand which housed the rock star Meatloaf. In a truly surreal moment, protesters exchanged a short political dialogue with a man named after a brick of ground beef. Once the novelty of Meatloaf faded, we turned our attentions to the reason we were there. Ignoring the ice-cold drizzle, we began the protest in earnest. People of widely diverse backgrounds and differing interests joined together in chanting anti-Bush slogans. We tried our best to make America see that a whole lot of their fellow citizens felt that George W. Bush is an illegitimate president selected through undemocratic and possibly illegal means.

Contrary to what I have heard in the press, there were more people there to protest Bush, than were there to support him (at least at the beginning of the day before the police harassment and governmental intimidation scared a lot of people into leaving). Even later in the day, where we were positioned protesters constituted about 60 to 70 percent of the crowd, and by God we were vocal! The chants were loud and yelled with great energy, despite the final and most overt act of intimidation staged by the government. On every rooftop, snipers aimed their rifles at us for the entire protest. These men were in groups of three, two snipers with guns and one spotter with a pair of binoculars. It was a terrifying experience to know that there was a gun aimed at us the whole time we were there. It was the first time we've had guns trained on us and we did not like it. This was the most disturbing

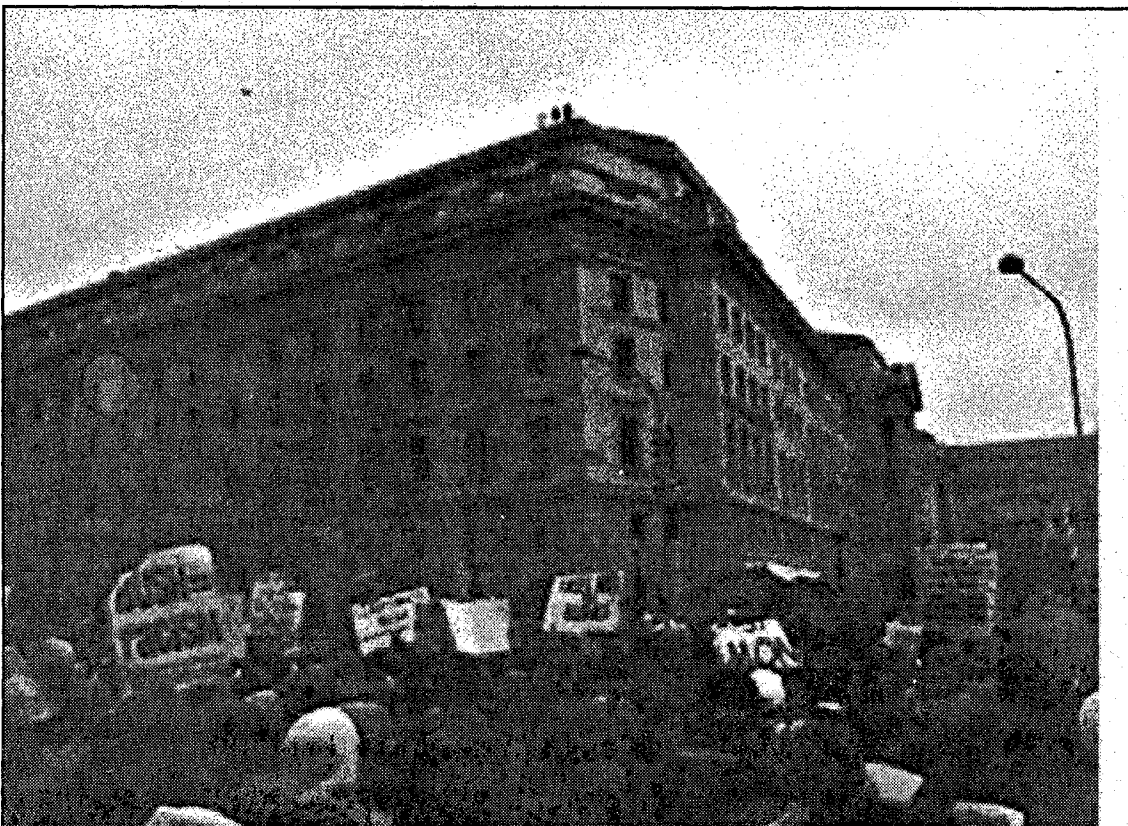


Helicopters hovered over a mass of people singing 'America, The Beautiful.' Taken by Wendy Fuchsberg And Walter Moss

part of the entire event. How could anyone justify having snipers covering a parade? Protesters and parade goers alike had rifles pointed in their direction. Even when the Pope comes to the U.S., he doesn't have snipers protecting him. As a people, Americans would never stand for it even if he asked (I doubt the Pope ever would considering his positions on violence). He is a much more controversial figure than George W. Bush. We call ourselves the land of the free, but we cannot even assemble to watch a parade without having trained killers hovering over us.

This is the face of American democracy. It is a democracy under the sniper's scope. It is a democracy where people aren't even permitted to assemble as described in our constitution. It is a democracy where it is frightening to even protest peacefully because you have to do so with helicopters and snipers covering you. It is a democracy of the powerful intimidating the powerless, seeking to petition the government for their rights by non-violent means. A democracy of sniper rifles and bullets is no democracy at all. We are glad to have gone because, despite all the intimidation, people were there. Americans do love freedom and democracy. The proof is in the fact that Americans were willing to risk police batons, and even bullets to fight for their rights.

A few of the protesters had drums so we all protested by dancing while we chanted, in spite of the snipers, helicopters, military police, secret service, and D.C. cops. A bunch of complete strangers with different ideas and backgrounds, united in the face of an ever-present danger. They would not intimidate us into leaving. Even in the midst of this insanity, We The People assembled, protested, and celebrated. Why did we celebrate? Because even though we were stuck in the middle of a scene eerily reminiscent of a fascist dictatorship, we are Americans. We have hope, a vision of a better America, the America we had always thought we had, the one our parents and teachers told us we had, the idealists' America, With Liberty and Justice for all.



Snipers on the roof - Taken by Steve Scher / BaysideFriend@aol.com

Another Innocent Man On Death Row

By Wendy Fuchsberg, Walter Moss, and the West Suffolk Green Party

I am writing this in response to the overturned conviction (due to DNA evidence) of Earl Washington Jr., a mentally handicapped black man unjustly convicted of the rape and murder of a white woman. Sadly, this is a common occurrence in a society that is more likely to convict black defendants and issue them harsher sentences than their white counterparts. The most disturbing aspect of this is that, had there not been incontrovertible DNA evidence, this man would be another unmarked grave in a prison cemetery. It is time, we as a society, do some serious self-examination.

Arguments in favor of the death penalty have consistently been refuted with actual evidence, for example, the "deterrent" argument. The death penalty is not a deterrent. The average homicide rate in death penalty states is 9.3 per 100,000 people as opposed to a national average of 9/100,000. 5% of all persons convicted of a crime are later found to be innocent. 68% of death penalty trials have been found to have a serious error on appeal. (All of these statistics have been taken from an article on page 28 of the February 2001 issue of *Scientific American* magazine.)

Then we have the ever-so-popular "justice" argument, "an eye for an eye." However, it should be noted that since the advent of DNA testing in the late 1980s, sixty-three people have had their convictions overturned. All the more troubling is the fact that many prisoners are denied access to this revolutionary technology because of its tremendous cost. The average

cost of DNA testing is approximately \$10,000, far beyond the means of the average American, let alone someone who is poverty-stricken. A program called "The Innocence Project" at Cardozo School of Law has begun to address this problem. This organization is providing pro bono assistance to death row inmates whose cases involve DNA evidence. This program has been responsible for thirty-six of the sixty-three overturned convictions. The program is currently handling over two hundred cases and has one thousand cases still pending evaluation. So, given the possibility of the innocent being executed, a case is made for the death penalty being grossly unjust.

Human beings are fallible; we all make errors in judgment. Should that error in judgment occur while we are serving on a jury and an innocent man is sentenced to death, we become the aggressor, the guilty party. There is also a more philosophical question pertaining to the death penalty.

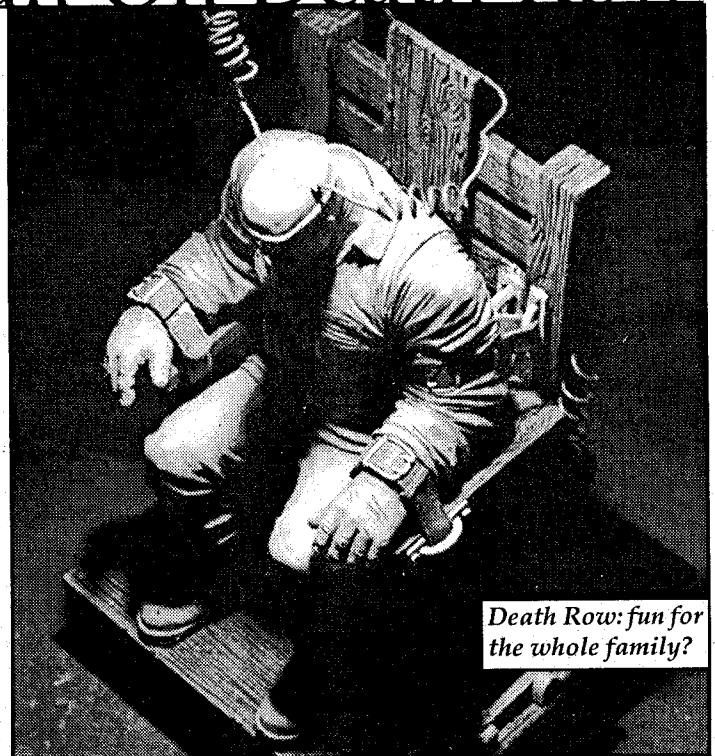
Shouldn't the government be setting an example of a non-violent approach to solving problems if it expects non-violent problem resolution from its people? I would say that that reacting to violence with violence begets more of the same. We as a society need to uphold a standard of non-violence if we want to demand

non-violence from others.

While I agree that there are certainly people in this great country who behave like savage animals, I reject the notion that we must behave in this fashion in order to serve justice. I would like to end this letter with a quote, just a little something to think about:

"He who fights monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster... If you gaze for long into the abyss, the abyss also gazes into you."

- Friedrich Nietzsche



Vaginal Venting

By Hilary Vidair

Several historians say that around 27,000 BCE it was quite possible that humans lived in a matriarchal society. Goddesses were perhaps worshipped and all women might have been honored, seen as the creators of life. Unfortunately, there is no written history dating back to that time period, making the only evidence lay in the form of little statues. These artifacts have been interpreted by some as goddesses, while others perceive them as simply representing fat, pregnant women of the time. Either way, we'll probably never know.

What we do know is that people who lived in cultures such as Athens have left written accounts of their daily lives, showing a society in which women were completely subordinated. Women throughout the ages were seen as disgusting creatures, forbidden to enter a church after giving birth or during menstruation, shunned from voting and isolated from public arenas unless they were engaging in prostitution. Although our present day viewpoints are more tolerant of women, they are certainly by no means egalitarian. Countless women feel less honored than men, whether it is at work, at school or in their very own bedrooms. Even more ridiculous is the fact that men think they're enjoying it.

No matter how many times *Cosmo* encourages women to speak up in bed, loads are left unsatisfied post-coital. One girl who confided in me admits to faking orgasm during sex with her boyfriend on a regular basis. Is it because love is more important than sex? Does he compensate for this in other ways that are worth the sacrifice of the big-O? If this is true, then she wouldn't still be complaining. The problem is that she's complaining to the wrong person. What do you think a man would do if he didn't cum on a regular basis with his girlfriend?

Make no mistake here, I am NOT blaming the man. I am, however, highly upset with the

woman. So many ladies are still self-conscious in bed. If women want equality, in bed or otherwise, they have to demand it. And they must do so, not only with their minds, but with their bodies as well.

Last week, a production of *Vagina Monologues* was performed in the Union auditorium. The women in this show spoke of all things vaginal: from self-examination to good sex; from embarrassing moments to worse things like rape. What guts these women had to stand on the stage and discuss issues such as "vaginal flooding" and "clitoral" vs. "vaginal" moans! Even in today's society, where we finally admit that sex exists, it is not common to hear women openly discuss their vaginas, in public or in private. Yet how many men do we hear talk about jerking off or the size of their penis?

I am therefore asking women on this campus to do themselves (and men) a favor: start your vaginal venting! Don't settle for mediocre sex! Don't moan unless you mean it! Know your body before you let someone else learn it! And don't think you're having good sexual relations with someone unless you're flooding (for any woman who thinks she can't, I'm willing to bet she's wrong). Contrary to popular belief, women are not supposed to be having sex just to please their men!

Furthermore, what is this concept of "their man," anyway? Why are women so god damn possessive? A few days ago, I was racking a male friend of mine's brain about this and he said, "I wish you knew what men think about...if you got in a man's brain, you would see that most of the time he's not thinking about anything. Once in a while, it's like, hmmm...sex." This is the only time I will ever encourage women to think like men! Single ladies, stop focusing on getting a boyfriend and start concentrating on finding a sexy young man who's free in the evenings. Don't worry about whether or not he wants



to commit to you, worry instead about whether or not he made your toes curl!

Furthermore, if you spot someone you'd like to try and make your toes curl, tell them to read this article. There's no better feeling than looking at someone who makes you weak in the knees, except getting him down on his own knees! I'm sure we all know some man who's going to pick up *The Press* and wonder if there's a woman out there who's hot for him like this. Don't let him wonder too long, though. There's nothing wrong with being forward. Most men would love to side-step all the confusion and just know that somebody wants them. Just make sure they know that they're going to have to work hard.

The Whizz (Urine Trouble Part 2)

By Chris Sorochin

"No other nation today is so rigorously policed. The lust to standardize and regulate extends to the most trivial minutia."

-H. L. Mencken, referring to the USnited States (August, 1925).

"If somebody was urinating in the street, the reaction would be, oh, we can't do anything about that. And then the idea would start to develop that there must be some inherent human right to urinate on the street."

-Rudolph Giuliani, *New York Times Magazine*, December 3, 1995, as quoted in *Sayings of Generalissimo Giuliani*, compiled by Kevin McAuliffe.

Well, I guess it was just a matter of time before I ran afoul of the Giuliani regime and I guess I shouldn't be too surprised that it wasn't necessarily in a traditionally "political" setting. Hizzoner's crusade against minor violations has made nominal criminals out of thousands of New Yorkers since The Great One took office accompanied by his vision of a squeaky-clean, obedient and corporate friendly city.

Last December, perhaps as a parting gift to a constituency that failed to appreciate that vision, or perhaps in preparation for the visit of warm and fuzzy fascist Bill Clinton, the Little Dictator unleashed a "Christmas crackdown" on pot smokers, turnstile jumpers and other low-level miscreants. The narcotics squad even raided a medical marijuana club and stole some reefer-laced cookies.

It was on December 9, coincidentally the anniversary of Mumia Abu-Jamal's fateful encounter with law enforcement, that I found myself at Jamaica Station with a full bladder. The tiny public men's room was already past capacity and I faced an hour's subway ride home. So I decided to do the cheap and sleazy and ducked out the back door to what I knew was a deserted wasteland of garages and warehouses. I unzipped once, right by Archer Ave, but figured that place was just a little too indiscreet--better try a side street. So I found what looked like a convenient dumpster next to an garage-type structure, and proceeded to open the floodgates.

Towards the end of my cascade, I noticed I had company. Two individuals in police uniform were observing me with keen interest. "Marking your territory?" asked one, tall, blond and very young looking, with that policeman's knack for banal humor.

Thinking quickly, I channeled the spirit of Sicilian novelist Leonardo Sciascia. Sciascia's books deal almost exclusively with the corruption and venality of state power, which his characters meet with an air of resigned dignity.

"Yeah," I replied as nonchalantly as possible. "That's public urination there," said the other one, shorter and more businesslike, indicating the other side of Archer Avenue, "and there," pointing to the spot directly behind me. He did so with the triumphal air of someone who had just caught John Dillinger knocking over the First Federal Savings and Loan, and a forensic precision eerily reminiscent of those cops on, well, *Cops*, pointing out the crime scene for the benefit of the viewing audience.

They requested ID and I produced my St John's University faculty card. I don't have a driver's license, or even one of those non-driver's licenses that pass for official ID, so I figured that declaring oneness with St. John's, Catholic, conservative and cop-friendly (Justin Volpe is a graduate of our criminal law program, although no one is exactly bragging about it), would be the best strategic bet.

"Y'see, sir," the young cop explains, "we work here. It's kinda like we live here and we have to smell it."

"Well, I'm sorry, but I really had to go."

"There's a public restroom in the station," replied the other one, who was busy making out a ticket in one of those huge books they wear on their belts.

"Yeah, and it was packed," I replied in my defense, "If they don't want people peeing out here, they should provide more places for people to go." Anyone familiar with New York City, even as an infrequent visitor, knows that one of the most salient characteristic of the place is its dearth of toilet space. Public facilities are virtually nonexistent, and restaurants and other businesses usually demand you be a customer, that is, if they even have a restroom; many of the city's food emporia do not. So I thought I was saying something fairly noncontroversial, when a third officer, standing just behind my field of vision, made his presence known.

"They' don't have to provide you with anything; it's not 'their' concern."

I confess to being taken aback by this. It was completely unsurprising to be getting a ticket for some piddling (pun intended) offense in Giuliani's New York, but here I was, actually being lectured on The Role of the State by someone who in all likelihood slept through high school civics class. Maybe police academy training in this glorious era contains a component of indoctrination in Giulianiism, because this guy was spouting it full tilt.

He went on: "Everyone is supposed to take responsibility and provide for himself."

Izzat so? I strongly resisted the urge to inquire as to whether I still have to keep paying "them" the ridiculously high rate of taxes I pay to live in a city that won't spend any money on toilet facilities, but will spend wads of the stuff on ever greater numbers of uniformed personnel to write tickets and lounge about subway entrances during school hours.

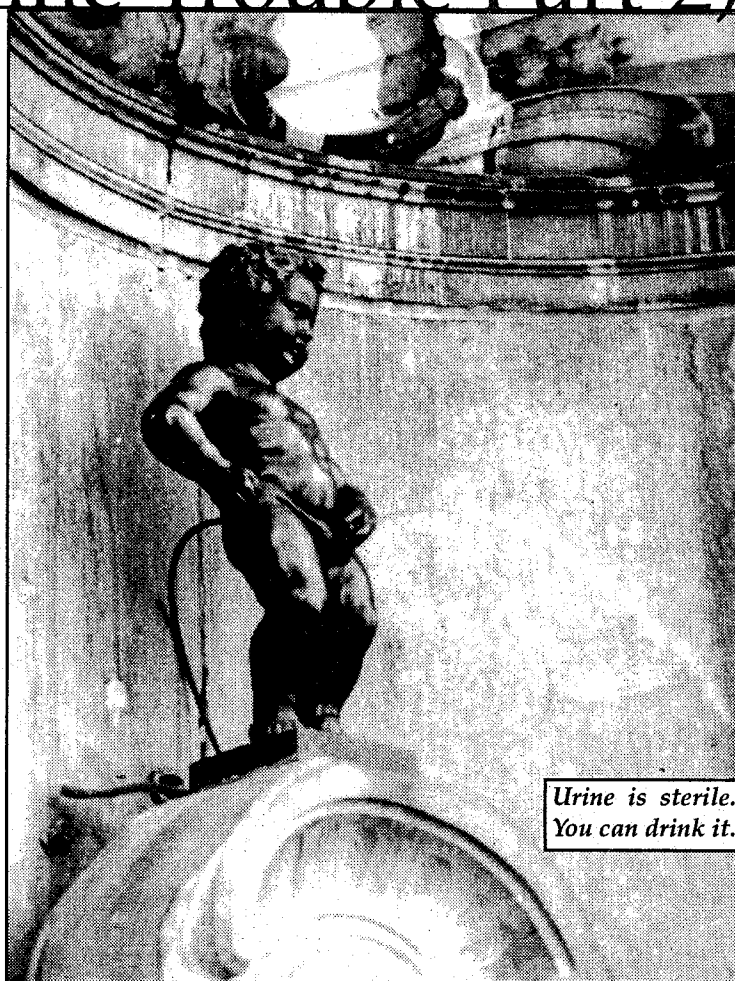
Instead, he had left me with a thoroughly irresistible opening for a comeback--you know, the kind where it's just so perfect that it's out of your mouth automatically, even though you know it's not a good idea.

"Well, that's what I was just doing," I said, mustering an ironic little smile and indicating my "illegal" puddle, "providing for myself."

"We just want you to understand where we're coming from, sir," said the young one, who, I guess, was the "Good Cop" in what felt very much like some training exercise. He requested a second time, reminding me that it was the second time, to remove my hands from my pockets. In the "broken windows" universe of the Giuliani mind-set, whizzing against a wall automatically makes one a potentially dangerous and armed criminal.

"Yes, I know," I said, talking over him, "I read the papers." I wondered if he realized he'd let me go for my wallet before without properly "covering" me, just in case I pulled out an Uzi or something.

They took my name, address, social security number and radioed it in. Asked me if I'd gotten any tickets lately. It's a good thing my complete "record" didn't come through, or they'd have



known that I was one of the more than 1,000 citizens from all walks of life arrested in front of One Police Plaza in the wake of the Diallo killing, and the tone of the encounter might have changed dramatically.

I was beginning to notice that I didn't feel particularly nervous, and I attribute this (besides the intervention of Sciascia's ghost) to all those demonstrations I've been to, where facing down cops comes with the territory. Non-violence training sessions for large-scale demos always stress the cardinal rule for dealing with enforcement personnel: be polite yet firm, and, above all, speak truth to the power they represent.

I'm also white, middle-class and "respectable." Things might have been quite different had I been non-Caucasian, or young or homeless.

The officer who'd informed me I have no right to expect to be able to relieve myself in a civilized manner came over and said, "Look, we're adult men. We don't go pulling out our penises in public." He made it sound as if I had been waving Willie around on a crowded thoroughfare. Was he trying to up the charge to something like "indecent exposure," which would be slightly more worrisome to an instructor at a Catholic institution (to say nothing of in court)?

I replied that most of the "adult men" I knew peed in unofficially sanctioned places if the necessity demanded. "Well," he said, "it's that attitude that brings the city down."

Gee, I thought I was just pissing, but it turns out I was really bringing about the decline and fall of civilization as we know it! I'm surprised, indeed, shocked, that Rudy hadn't banned *Big Daddy*, whose advertisements showed Adam Sandler corrupting his son by relieving himself on a brick wall right in front of him. Not to mention the celebrated "parking garage" episode from *Seinfeld*. Rudy's just the boy to go after these moral transgressions, too. Why didn't he initiate a public crusade against public urination? Was he in shock over his wife's appearance in *The Vagina Monologues*? Or did his own prostate trouble cause him to shy away from matters urinary?

The vibe I was getting from Officer Friendly at that moment was that he was one of

Cont. on Page 21

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Beasts of Censorship

By Neil Haber

Do we in this school believe in freedom of speech? Or are we only paying lip service to it? Well, let's see, if we did, we would permit people to say what they want as long as they are causing us no immediate harm. Now if we deprive others of their right to express their thoughts (or to do anything else they please), how can we pretend that we can do so without the same right being taken away from us?

This is a worldwide problem that must be fixed! It can not be fixed by only talking about it, but by thinking of and implementing ways of correcting it. Let's use a few examples on many levels. It happens with governments, religions, corporations and various other organizations. These groups of people convince others that they are so much better than others and know how to 'take care' of society by imposing their quite limited views on majorities. We see how this has always been happening with governments. They trick 'voters' into believing that they have voted and that all of their choices of who should be in power are correct.

This is even more apparent with "King George: President Select" recently who neither represents 'the will of people' or 'the rule of law' which was fake rhetoric thrown around by two large parties which constitute a "duopoly" and control who is in or out for such a large place!

Not only that, this person with a past record of drunk driving and multitudes of drugs gets excessive protection from 'Secret Service' who are neither secret nor conduct any service! 'Secret Service' has a history of hiding who they are externally by using 'security' as a front for propaganda to continue and justify their pitiful existence (for all relevant info on 'Secret Service' check out 2600.com/secret).

They have expanded illegally their investigations into all areas of people's lives instead of sticking to two areas: 'protection' and finding 'counterfitters'. We ask for honesty from our politicians, and when we are satisfied that they can answer some superficial questions which will not determine answer we still accept them ("wild Willy" who was highly dishonest and not very trustworthy due to his constant legal shenanigans and lack of cooperation with American citizens and charades such as starting wars in far off places in order to avoid him being questioned).

It is not like most people do not care but it may seem so when they realize that they are powerless to produce change, but this is wrong. Every individual can do it is whatever they want to do and then some (which includes correcting injustice conducted in government and any other aspects which they feel they have been wronged. We must get to bottom of things so we can live better more positive lives. There is censorship going on within our school in many ways and one very important one in which it occurs

is within our computers.

We are forced to not be able to use sites we want to visit to obtain music we want. How can we practice our 'God given rights' of freedom of speech and expression and pursuit of happiness if we are censored and are not free to choose all choices to know what we want? How about our 'right to choose' what we want to eat on our campus? When did we authorize it so we would have to eat certain foods and have to be on meal plans for no reason?

Another huge issue for students in any educational institution has become these admins who believe that their vision is right and that in order to achieve it they must sell out to huge, private corporations to 'make it big.' If this was so, how come in past, schools didn't have to 'make deals with devils' in order to succeed? Obviously, we do not need these greedy conglomerates to be involved in education and government, so they must be separate from each other or these systems in which so many are involved in will collapse.

How do we get information from government? Through the 'Freedom of Information Act' we are supposed to receive information about whatever we want about what they do (except when problems come up and they hide things).

Do not listen to 'greed' or watch too much TV. It will help you think clearer since it rapes your mind by depriving it of the stimulation of what goes on in real world situations.

Gather with people who have similar and different interests as a way to counteract any lies you may have been told from other sources such as 'greed' who under most circumstances can not be trusted since they haven't earned it in any way and are only showing you whatever they want to profit off of you as a number, not in terms of truth. Work on things from bottom up, not top down so you can be involved in all aspects of our world in which we are all affected.

We say and believe in this country we have our freedoms which can not be taken away. It was all fine and dandy for a while, but it eventually became what it is now where people are censored, their property is redistributed, they are forced to be drafted, they are searched without cause or warrants.

Contact any of your 'representatives' in any way you can (even if they are some bureaucrat removed from average citizens) and leave them many messages about topics they should or shouldn't be involved in. Ignoring our problems here will not make them go away, but by speaking about them with what we know, we can correct them, and make it better for ourselves and all others!

The Offspring have a song "Kill the President." It is quite unknown since it has been cen-

sored by radio stations who have monopolies on music play and on what people hear and what becomes mainstream 'pop.'

In order to hear uncensored music, we can use the internet to find it and then tell others about it who would not ordinarily be able to find it.

Now, who would want to kill a president? What would it accomplish? Their successor would be a vice president (most of whom, in this country don't exactly do or know a lot). So that 'order' is maintained. Something like this cannot happen in the current power structures.

But where exactly were Secret Service when JFK was shot, (accurate complete reports on this still have not been released)? Or how did someone 'slip by' so easily?

How can this happen if they say they will take bullets for leaders of a country (where all votes are not counted and its 'Supreme Court' pretends to be 'not involved in politics' and decided this election based on 'equal voting' rights)?

We can not speak of 'Constitution' as if it's 'holy' anymore since we now see that it has major flaws that have to be corrected now. If a motto of our country is 'In God We Trust,' then how come there is all this corruption within all these branches of government (on local, state, and federal levels) which contains those who can't even cover up events well enough for people not to notice?

If our country were 'religious' or even 'humanistic' it would not advocate or conduct verbal and physical violence onto its own citizens or other countries. Secret Service and IRS are both branches of the Treasury (small parts of a huge bloated system), yet people know little about what they do or how they work using such manipulative, coercive ways.

So express yourselves in all ways. Listen to who you are and not to what others tell you to be. Remember that 'government is people' and we have rights for reasons: so that we can live freely. Within our school, we also need major changes in order to get what is wanted for most students and then some (for students this is currently through polity, hint HINT! vote for us who will give you change you want, which translates into giving power back to students).

If you think you are being censored, figure out legal ways around them so speech can be preserved. A great tool to preserve our speech and communicate with others is the internet. Keep in mind that if you have a particular way of life (religion, philosophy, belief, class, sex, grouping, etc.) that just as you have freedom to do, others have freedom not to do whatever it is you are doing (so do not impose on others). Always remember to have fun!

Mikey & The Merry Pranksters: A Black Panther In King Arthur's Court

By Alan Smithee

Mikey & The Merry Pranksters' new CD is the type of music I like to hear: a group of talented musicians having fun and exploring different sounds. The songs range from beautifully sweet ballad to pure funk, and the band pulls off this range amazingly well. There isn't a song on the album that doesn't work.

As well as being diverse in sound, it is also diverse in emotion, going from light-hearted and wacky one minute to serious and political the next. Of particular interest are the upbeat, toe tapping tunes such as "Freeloader Bob" and "Spanky's Medley a go go". There is an infectious energy to the CD that is hard not get caught up in.

A Black Panther in King Arthur's Court is exactly what you would expect from a group of "Merry Pranksters". It is full of fun and joy and joking around. Even so, it is not without a message. Along with the upbeat melodies the band explores themes of racism and oppression. It's not all fun and games, but the band manages to achieve the perfect balance of merriness and message.

Mikey and The Merry Pranksters is a band that deserves attention. Their mixture of funk, jazz, rock, and R&B is refreshing in today's world of derivative and unoriginal music. You can order *A Black Panther in King Arthur's Court* at: <http://www.indiecanada.com/mikeyandthemerrypranksters/>.



Yours Angrily. Guess Who?

By F.L. Livingston

How do you explain the movie *Valentine*? Well, for starters, it's your basic psychological thriller. You know, former-nerd-seeks-revenge-on-his-childhood-tormentors (especially the pretty girls who snubbed him as a "loser.")

But what does all this have to do with Valentine's Day? Nothing (and everything). The film begins with a flashback to a sixth grade Valentine's Day dance at which Jeremy, the class "geek" is harassed and humiliated by several of the other kids. And, back in the present, a series of unexplained murders starts around February 14.

Beyond that, this "lovers' holiday" lends itself to shocker fare more easily than I thought. Valentine cards provide a great medium for cryptic messages to potential victims. And a cupid's mask (cheesy bite-off of the ghostly one used in *Scream*?) makes the perfect disguise for the killer. Besides, such a sexy, romantic kind of "scary movie" is a good excuse to stock the script with highly attractive players, both male and female, including television's *Angel* and movieland's latest "box office draw," David Boreanaz.

Clever, I suppose. But a little too obvious to be taken seriously. And just the type of film to which I usually object. Not just because of its gruesomeness quotient (and actually, this one isn't too gross). But because of its time setting. The time for holiday "fear-jerkers," I contend, is around October 31. "Save the horror for Halloween," I've been known to proclaim (to no one of any influence, of course). "We don't need demonic Santa Clauses or poison Easter eggs!"

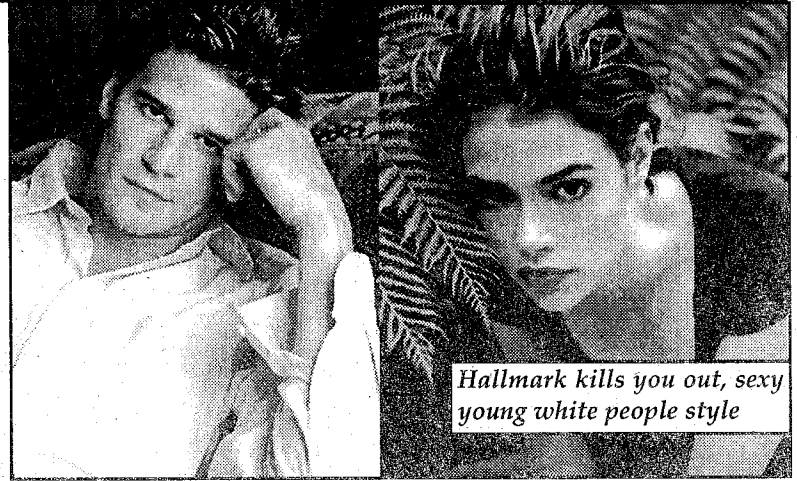
So why did I even go to see this flick? Only because my teenage daughter took me to it as a "present" for my birthday (along with two of her friends, of course).

Yet, to my surprise, I found that this typical tale of terror had some redeeming features. And no, I'm not just referring to handsome, hunky Boreanaz; though that's one! (Shh!! Don't tell my husband I said that!) What I'm talking about is that the film brings out the fact that most people share the "dweebs" need to "belong," that many nerdy insecurities are just reflections of our own, though perhaps more intense.

And that the "revenge of the nerds" is often mirrored in our own desire to strike back at those who hurt us. (For convenience, I'm separating the "misfits" from "the rest of us." But, in truth, we may all be "misfits" in one way or another.)

Consider the young women in the film, for example. There's Kate (Marley Shelton), a former popularity queen who now rationalizes that her violent, alcoholic boyfriend (Boreanaz) is "just a borderline addictive personality who has a problem with alcohol." And Lily (Jessica Cauffiel), "the funny one," who tries to convince her friends -- and herself -- that a sex-obsessed, pornographic artist is really interested in a serious relationship with her. Also, Shelly (Katherine Heigl), "the smart one," a medical student who pursues blind dates without the requisite sense of humor. (I mean, when a guy tries to get you into bed by pointing out that this is "all just about preservation of the species," well, it's gotta, at least, be good for a laugh with your friends!) Not to forget, Paige (Denise Richards), ever "the sexy one," who'll go to any length to find "love," not just the usual blind dates, videos, and personal ads, but even something called "Turbo-Dating." (Is this for real? A girl gets to speak to a series of guys for thirty seconds at a clip and then picks a date?) And then there's Dorothy (Jessica Capshaw), former "fat girl," who still latches on to any guy who pays her attention.

Nor is vengeance solely the province of "drips" here. At one point, Dorothy lashes out at her current friends, the former "cool girls," accusing them of still looking down at her as "fat." And Paige, bitterly disappointed when Turbo-Guy offers her his penis as a "surprise" -- well -- all I can say is that she waxes really fiery. (She doesn't seem to have any better sense of humor than Shelly. I don't blame her for rejecting crude behavior. But for a sophisticated twentysomething to get sooo "hot and bothered" about this? A bit unbelievable. Who writes this stuff, anyway, Paula Jones?)



Hallmark kills you out, sexy young white people style

In fact, one of the eeriest moments in the plot occurs when the homicide detective considers Jeremy as the perpetrator. With a little plastic surgery and a few other changes, the officer concedes, the suspect could have made so drastic a change in appearance that "He could be anybody."

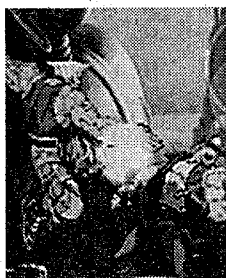
Yes, "anybody." And in truth, when you think about it, Jeremy was never that geeky. Kind of plain, a little awkward, with the proverbial too-thick glasses -- that's it. The class could have isolated almost any of its other members. They could have targeted Paige as a "slut" or shunned Shelly as "the brain." And Dorothy, no doubt, was saved from total pariah status only because the kids had already tapped Jeremy as their scapegoat. In a different place or time the roles could have easily shifted. The choice of victim, it seems, depends more on the felt needs of the group than on any personal traits of the unlucky outcast.

Regardless, the viewer learns early on that there's one foolproof clue to the identity of the murderer. The psychopath's nose bleeds after every slaying and, presumably, in all moments of strong duress. (Another flaw in the movie, I think: there are a few stressful exchanges in which the culprit's nose does not bleed.) In true geek fashion, the killer's vulnerabilities are more visible than those of others, mask or not. (Maybe that mask isn't so "cheesy," after all.)

And that, I suppose, is the real difference between those misfits and the rest of us. But it's the only difference -- Scary thought, huh?

The Arcade

games, videos, pool



mon-sat
ten.am til
eleven.pm

Student Union Basement

TOP TEN Battle of the Century

Things to do
when you know
the Secret Service
is watching your
every move

1st Amendment

Gin Martinis

VS

10 **CENSORED**

9 **CLASSIFIED**

8 Find Your Old
"Public Enemy" T-Shirt

7 Read Ayn Rand Into
The "Tapped" Phone

6 **TOP SECRET**
Masturbate to George
Washington's Hair

5 Sneak Around Everywhere,
Humming The Theme
From "Mission Impossible"

4 Try To Rub Your Nuts On
All The 'Bugs' In The Room

3 Beat A Dead Horse

2 Two Words: Narcissistic
Paranoia

1 Stop "Fucking About"
And Get The Paper Done

The Illusion of
Free Speech

PRO

Gin

Sophistication

Erases Your Fear of
the Secret Service

Olives

Whole Lotta Booze
per Glass

Dry Vermouth

Entertain Your
Friends by Acting
Like a Pompous
Old British
Aristocrat

The Illusion of
Free Speech

CON

Pompous Old
British Aristocrats
are the Reason we
had the American
Revolution

Tastes Like Pine-y,
Stale, Old
Turpentine

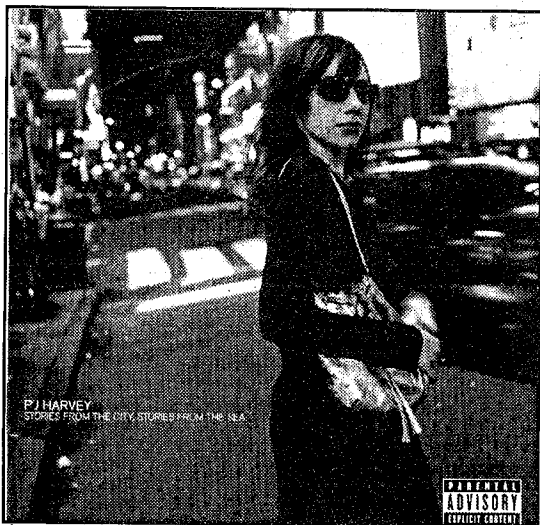
Ted Kennedy

Those Fuckers
who like Cocktail
Onions

Produces: "No, I
Won't Fuck You"
Breath

GRAIG SCHLANGER'S BIG MOUTH

PJ Harvey: *Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea* (Island Records)



After letting off a few lackluster records Polly Jean Harvey is back on track. *Stories from the City...* is as strong an album as any of the classic material this diva has bestowed upon us. In fact, I'm willing to argue that this may even be her best record.

From the opening anthem "Big Exit" to the tender "A Place Called Home" (which would be a Top Ten single in a perfect world), PJ Harvey has really loaded up the goods here. While there are some minor hitches ("Beautiful Feeling" gives off quite the opposite feeling with its' monotonous, melancholy tone), PJ Harvey knows how to go straight for the heart. Her gorgeous duet with Thom Yorke of Radiohead, "This Mess We're In," is an potent tearjerker for all the right reasons. This vixen hasn't lost a step.

Goatsnake: *Flower of Disease* (Man's Ruin)



Goatsnake's second full length release is one of those rare musical excursions to which words cannot do justice. They've far exceeded the quality of their previous releases (which were quite impressive) and entered into a league all their own. To hear four veterans gel into one monstrous rock n' roll entity is just a real pleasure.

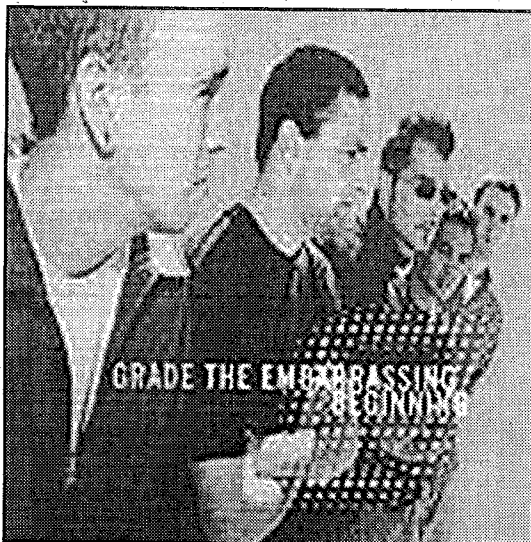
Some might lump Goatsnake into the "stoner rock" category, but they'd be foolish and

shortsighted to do so. Where other bands of that ilk have no problem rehashing Black Sabbath and Trouble riffs, the 'Snake use just enough of their influences to build a far superior machine.

None of the members of Goatsnake are rookies either. Vocalist Pete Stahl got his start singing for DC punk legends Scream, who at one time featured Dave Grohl of Nirvana and Foo Fighters fame on drums. Afterwards Stahl went on to play with Wool who released some memorable material in the mid-'90s. Guitarist Greg Anderson has done time in Engine Kid as well as doom legends Thorr's Hammer and Burning Witch. Their experience obviously played a huge part in the creation of this landmark release. Songs like "Prayer for a Dying" and "Live to Die" groove with a sense of urgency I've not heard since Kyuss. Stahl's crooning easily gives Ozzy a run for his money.

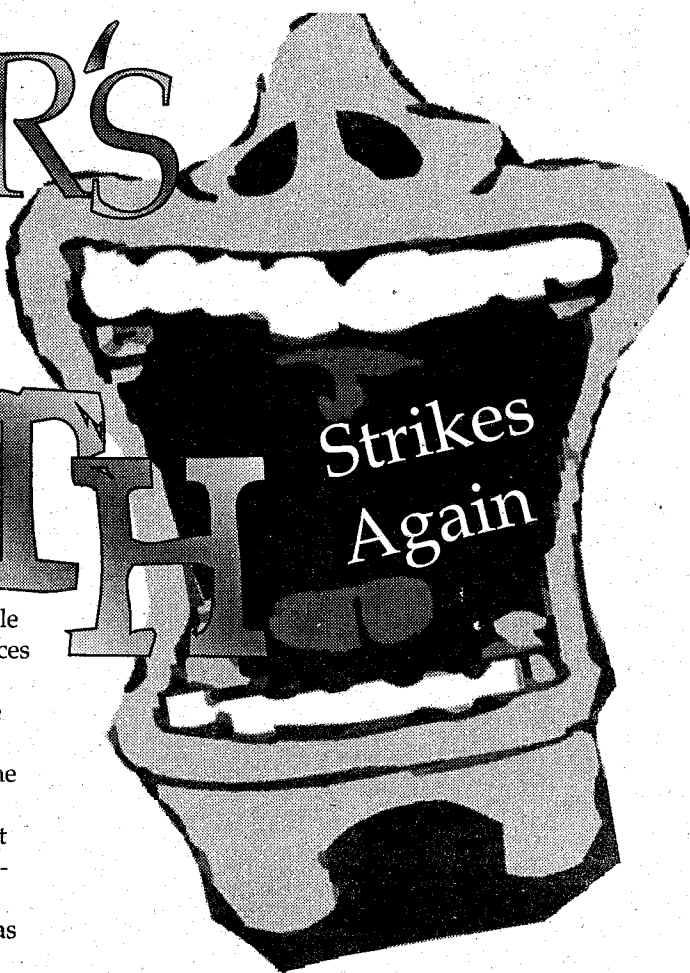
As a whole, Goatsnake are certainly making rock n' roll fun again. Fuck the hype. Water the flower of disease...

Grade: *The Embarrassing Beginning* (Victory Records)



To either satisfy contractual obligations, or simply tide their fans over until their next album, Canadian emo-rockers have put together this package of odds and ends. The *Embarrassing Beginning* offers up a well-rounded picture of where the band has been and where they come from.

Some of the bands earliest material, from their split CD with Believe (originally released in 1994 by Workshop Records), displays their chugga-chugga metallic roots. With songs that could easily be mistaken for Earth Crisis throwaways, listeners may be surprised to see how far this band has come. If you can sit through some mediocre tracks, you'll be lucky enough to come to the stunning anthem "Entangled", an early example of Grade's creative songwriting ability. Their gift for creating a mosh frenzy and quickly turning it into a Soul Asylum-esque sing-a-long is a hint of where their later material would take them. This track alone makes this disc worth a listen.



The remaining tracks are covers, b-sides and acoustic versions of tracks from their 1999 Victory Records debut, *Under the Radar*.

Grade have managed to keep their music interesting for well over five years. And while I wouldn't recommend this collection to every emo fan I know, hardcore Grade fans tired of scouring Ebay for those rare 7"s would do well to invest.

C.R. : *Forty Six Songs* (Chainsaw Safety Records)

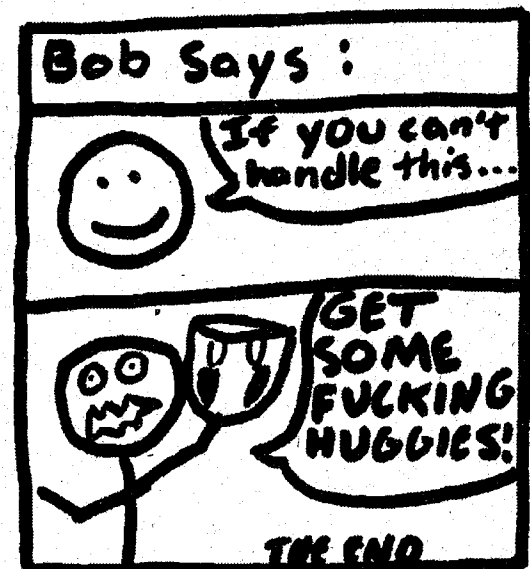
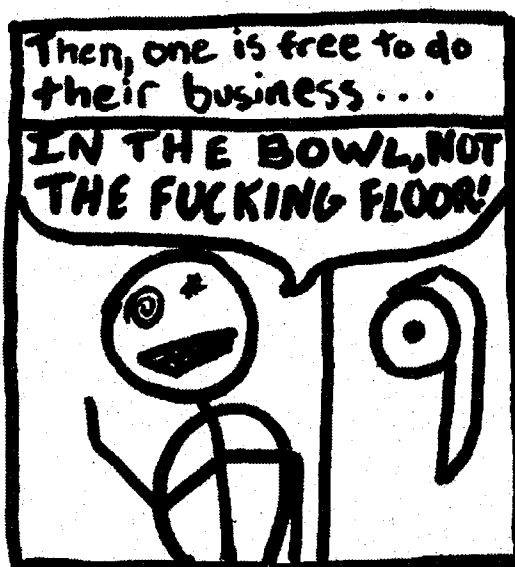
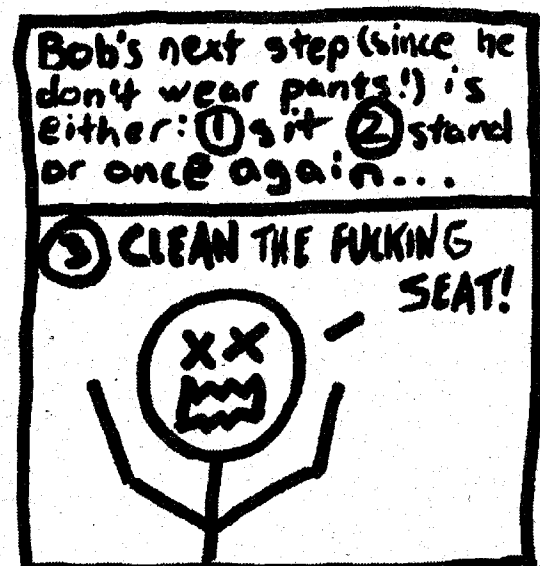
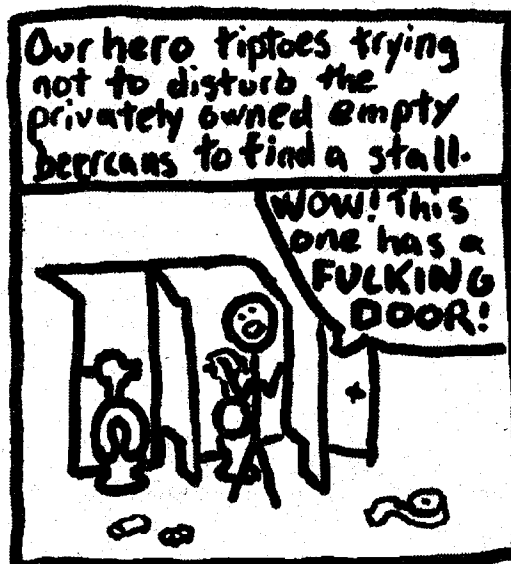
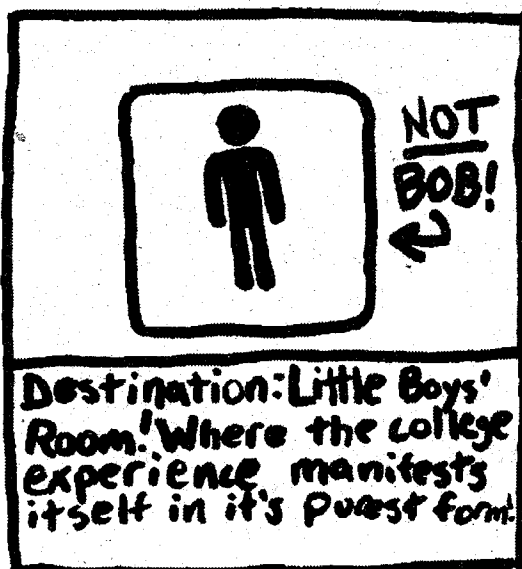
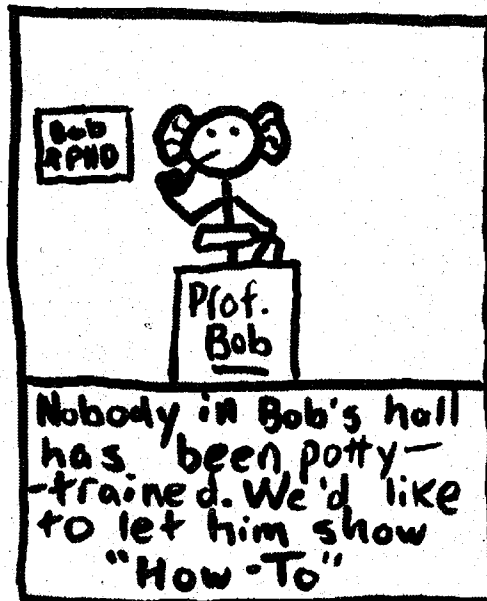
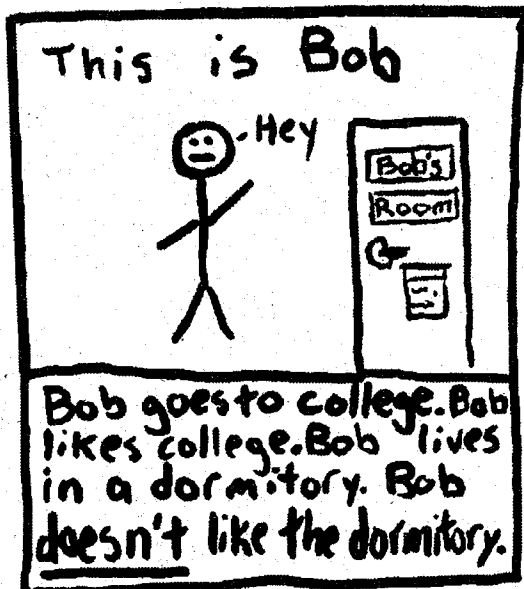


C.R. took the New York Hardcore scene by storm when they came together, almost accidentally, in the summer of 1995. At a time when hardcore was defined by the stagnant metallic bullshit of bands like Strife, Mouthpiece and Snapcase, C.R. gave us a swift kick in the 'nads. Their popularity drew attention to other NY-area bands who played at frantic speeds, such as the Judas Iscariot, Automaton, Devola, Black Army Jacket and grind-core terrorists SoIHadToShootHim.

This retrospective CD shows why C.R. made a huge impact during their brief existence (the band broke up on-stage in April of '97). Kicking off with their 10 song debut 7" and concluding with five songs culled from their final recording session, the bands progression was staggering. Where their early material drew heavily from bands like Infest and Negative Approach, their later material mixed it up with a Today is the Day-like element of pandemonium. From top to bottom, C.R. will certainly be remembered as hardcore heroes.



by Jamie Mignone



all work
and no
play
makes jack
a one eyed
mutant



work @
home,
play @
the spot

2nd floor fannie brice
thr-sat 6pm-2am

Adam Shreckhise's "Bridge Over Troubled Water"

By Chris Stackowicz

Occasionally someone becomes aware that our department exists. Walking through the library, you might stumble on the little gallery near the commuter lounge, across from the elevators which move with some expediency. This gallery is the main venue for Stony Brook's Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) students to show their work to the general public. Unless you have come down to the graduate studios at South Campus or poked your head into the gallery you might not even be aware that Stony Brook has an MFA program. Hopefully the new show in the Graduate gallery, in the library, will cause some notice, not only to the artist, Adam Shreckhise, but also to the vastly under-recognized activities of these graduate students.

Adam has created something that will, if not force the viewer to reconsider what experiencing art means, at least allow some fun to occur in the gallery setting. Walking in you will see no images on the walls. Only the floor and the ceiling are there. Two floors. The first is the original austere white floor sitting in its usual floor position, never really considered much when one looks at art. The second floor is suspended from the ceiling. The tiles on the hanging floor, are sleek, shiny, black and smooth. Not a mar occurs on their surface. The second floor is segmented according to a systematic grid that represents nothing but a skewed perspectival

rendering of a floor. It hangs enigmatically from the ceiling by sexy silver wires. Unlike Adam's last show in the gallery, this experience invites the viewer to interact. If you choose to just look, the piece has all the necessary components of a formally pleasing aesthetic. But then you miss out on the piece. Passive viewing, seems to be not only frowned upon, but also schematically hindered and negated by the layout of the suspended tiles. You are meant to walk on them. To feel them swing as you move from one section of the floor to the next, to hear the wood bases knock against each other, and to know that you are on the floor and it moves. It is the floor and, simultaneously, it is not the floor, this is the piece. All the elements of what we typically see when we think of "art" are gone. All you have left is the experience of the piece. It is not what you see but rather what you do. There is something fundamentally significant in my last phrase as it echoes what I see as the definitive sentiments of this piece. Art becomes the experience. And it is what you do every day. You just have to recognize it and experience it. Take notice of the little things, even the mundane and banal, even the floor and ceiling. They are not just given in life, but they are experiences and sensations, that when opened up, twisted and beautified, are the art of life.

I interviewed Adam prior to the open-

ing. Many of the questions bordered on the closer side of boring (for me to ask and for you to read). So in the interest of the reader of this article and the potential viewer of the show, a more interesting consideration of the piece can be gained from his response to just one question:

Describe a music video that you could see being staged in here: Adam's response: "Well, first I would make some slight alterations. From the wires suspending the floor, I would string up some cages. I would have scantily clad dancers gyrating around them. There would be people sliding underneath along the floor, getting excited and trying to get a peek at the dancers through the space between the floor sections. They'd be dressed in trench coats. They'd be excited, like psyched, not swelling. They would all be moving in unison. The band would be crowded into the little cage on the center floor panel. When the dancers started to get tired of dancing, someone would go and cut the ropes and the floor would fall and crush the little guys underneath."

I think this answer does compel you, the reader, to go into the gallery and experience the piece for yourself. The artists' motives for the creation of this piece are left naked and hanging for all to see. Everything else is left to the imagination.

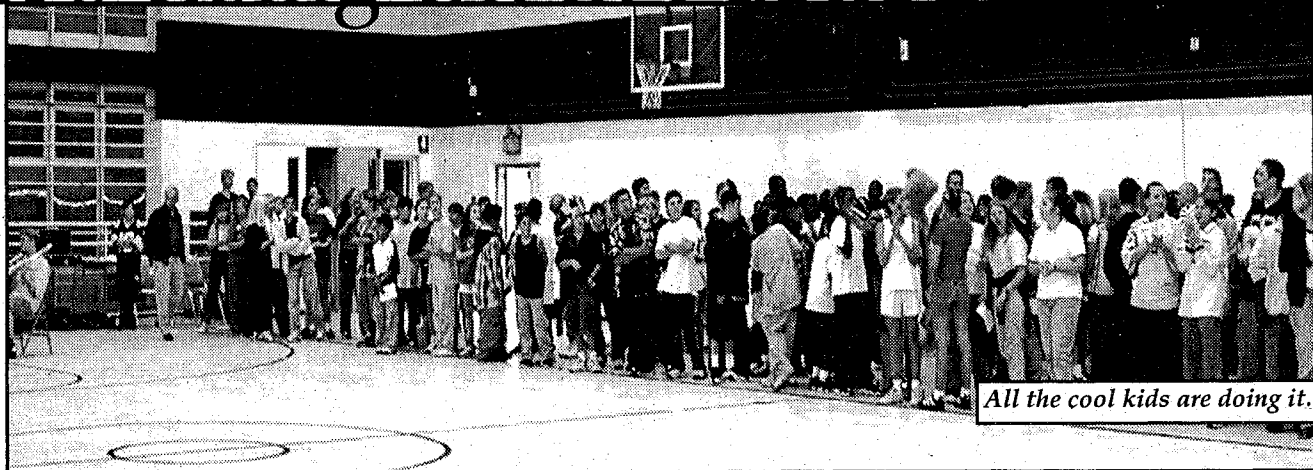
What's Going On In Public Schools?!

By Greg Knopp

When I was in high school, the restrictions and regulations placed on the students always managed to infuriate me. Asking permission to go to the bathroom, getting in trouble for cutting class, being subjected to the dress code, being picked up by a police car and taken to some distant auditorium to sit there in silence for 5 hours, for leaving school grounds. These were things a school student had to put up with. But with the latest developments in public schools, my four year stay seem negligible in contrast with what students have to deal with now.

A good reason why a direct democracy would not work is a mob. And what's worse than a mob? A religiously inspired mob. In a Texas town, a new program was implemented, which requires drug testing for all public school students. Students lined up, and had to provide urine samples for analysis. Those who refused were put on a so called 'probation'. They were required to wear orange colored jumpsuits, same as the ones prisoners wear, and were isolated from the regular 'cup-pissing' population of the school. The town had a very strong reaction towards all of this. Students and their families showed up in an auditorium intent on showing their feelings about this program. They all wore matching T-shirts (what better way to express one's feelings), and the T-shirts said: "Mandatory Drug Testing, We Asked for Them, You Gave Them To Us, We Appreciate It" or some variation of that. Yes that's right, they were all showing their appreciation for this policy.

You want to talk about tolerance, not only wouldn't these good Texan Christians tolerate anyone using the so called 'illegal drugs', but they wouldn't stand for someone refusing to be



systemically tested for them within an educational institution. Not only are young people bound by the law to attend school, they are now constantly drug tested. But what surprises me is not the government's push for more control over our personal life, but the town's compliance, and its reaction to those unwilling to comply. One father who refused to allow the school to see what flows through his kids' bodies. The town did not like that. He was fired from his job, the kids were suspended, and someone shot his dog with a bee-bee gun. They shot his dog!

Another development managed to scare me as much just as the one above. Thirty-five public schools in Pennsylvania introduced a program that will speed up lunch lines and amuse the children at the same time. Instead of cash, these grammar school students will now purchase lunches with a mere touch of their index finger. This isn't magic, but it is rather amazing. The pattern of their finger will be scanned, compared with all other patterns on record, and identified. The price of the lunch will be subtracted from the student's account, all of this done quickly and efficiently. One problem though. They are going to FINGERPRINT every student in school! Now this sounds completely fucked up to me. It arouses feelings I had while reading all those

dystopia novels..

Schools everywhere are trying to see how much control and invasion of privacy they can get away with. Many have capitalized on the Columbine shooting to make laws that would not normally stand. My brother's high school installed cameras in every hallway of the building. My old high school, along with many others, have made trench coats illegal on school ground (claiming that weapons could be easily hidden in them.) Some schools require see-through backpacks for extra safety. Another school made all its students wear bar-coded ID's around their necks at all times. These are used for easy identification, checking out books, and attendance. Teachers are required to make sure all students are wearing their IDs' before every class.

All these events are quite disturbing, to say the least. They amaze and scare me at the same time. Public schools seem to have less and less to do with education, and more with then labeling, categorizing, and conditioning of youth. Invasion of privacy in the school system even overcomes that implemented in the drug war. Every year, the schools pull something completely ridiculous and unthinkable, and manage to get away with it.

What They Start NA Meetings With

By Tim Connors

This article is about the ideas in the readings and traditions at the beginning of Narcotics Anonymous meetings. It is my experience that much of the program is outlined there, and hearing it helped me with my issues as to whether I belonged in NA, or not. It also helped me with surrendering, and following the program when I had a basic idea of what it was about.

**CLEAN
&
SERENE
FOR
ONE
YEAR**



**Just
For
Today**

Well on to the readings, which I will quote from selectively, because of space constraints associated with printed material. I realize that selectively using material can be a way to misrepresent the Narcotics Anonymous Blue Book, so I included page numbers with the hope that you will look for yourself. To get a book go to Ellen Driscoll, or make a meeting.

On page 3; Who is an addict? Very simply, an addict is a man, or woman whose life is controlled by drugs. As addicts we are people whose use of any mind-altering, or mood-changing substance causes a problem in our lives. We suffer from a disease that expresses itself in ways that are anti-social and that make detection, diagnosis, and treatment difficult. Hostile, resentful, self-centered, and self-seeking we cut ourselves off from the outside world. This section goes from page three to page eight.

On page 9; What is the Narcotics Anonymous Program? This is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs. We are not interested in what or how much you used or who your connections were, what you have done in the past, how much or how little you have, but only in what you want to do about your problem and how we can help. We have learned from our group experience that those who keep coming to our meetings regularly stay clean. The section goes from page 9 to page 12.

On page 13; Why are we here? Through our inability to accept personal responsibilities we are actually creating our own problems. Our disease always resurfaced or continued to progress until in desperation, we sought help from each other in Narcotics Anonymous. We couldn't face life on life's terms.

1. We are powerless over addiction and our lives are unmanageable.

2. Although we are not responsible for our disease, we are responsible for our recovery.

3. We can no longer blame people, places, and things for our addiction. We must face our problems and our feelings. From page 13 to page 16.

On page 17; How it works; If you want what we have to offer, and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. These are the principles that made our recovery possible. (The twelve steps follow.) This sounds like a big order, and we didn't get addicted in one day, so remember - easy does it. The individual steps are in this section, and I suggest you find a sponsor willing to help you work through them. This section goes from page 17 to page 19, and the steps go until page 51.

Now on to the traditions outlined at the beginning of the meeting. I've read and re-read the four traditions emphasized at meetings, and for me, every time I get a little better under-

standing. The Blue book says on page 58, "Understanding these traditions comes slowly over time." Also on that page it says, "The twelve Traditions of N.A. are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our Fellowship alive and free." There is a further explanation of the origin, and nature of the traditions on page 58 of the Blue Book.

On page 59; Tradition One - "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity." The customary saying I've heard is, that drugs, weapons, and paraphernalia are not welcome, but you are. There is more to Tradition One than physical security in the meeting place, yet having a safe place to meet is important to me. The book says, unity is a must in Narcotics Anonymous. This is not to say that we do not have our disagreements and conflicts; we do. However we can disagree without being disagreeable. We must live and work together as a group to ensure that in a storm our ship does not sink and our members do not perish. With faith in a Power greater than ourselves, hard work, and unity we will survive and continue to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

On page 62; Tradition Three - "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using." The only thing we ask of our members is that they have this desire. Without it they are doomed, but with it miracles will happen. We open our doors to other addicts, hoping that they can find what we have found. But we know that only those who have a desire to stop using and want what we have to offer will join us in our way of life.

On the bottom of page 67; Tradition Seven "Every N.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." A good way to get an understanding of this is to attend a group business meeting. There's also the pamphlet, I think it's called "What's the Basket For?"

On page 72; Tradition Twelve - "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." A dictionary definition of anonymity is "a state of bearing on name." In keeping with Tradition Twelve, the "I" becomes "we." The spiritual foundation becomes more important than any one group or individual.

As we find ourselves growing closer together, the awakening of humility occurs. Humility is a by-product that allows us to grow and develop in an atmosphere of freedom, and removes the fear of becoming known by our employers, families or friends as addicts. Therefore, we attempt to rigorously adhere to the principle that "what is said in meetings stays in meetings."

Throughout our Traditions, we speak

in terms of "we" and "our" rather than "me" and "mine." By working together for our common welfare, we achieve the true spirit of anonymity.

We have heard the phrase "principles before personalities" so often that it is like a cliché. While we may disagree as individuals, the spiritual principle of anonymity makes us all equal as members of the group. No member is greater or lesser than any other member. The drive for personal gain in the areas of, sex, property and social position, which brought so much pain in the past, falls by the wayside if we adhere to the principle of anonymity. Anonymity is one of the basic elements of our recovery and it pervades our Traditions and our Fellowship. It protects us from our own defects of character and renders personalities and their differences powerless. Anonymity in action makes it impossible for personalities to come before principles.

I know this lacks something in terms of being personally revealing, and quoting from the book is not a display of literary talent. I know I'm powerless over who reads this, or if it even gets published, but I got something out of writing it. Currently I'm on the second step of the program, which is coming to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Just an aside, currently I am looking for a sponsor who can share their understanding of sanity. I often hear sanity defined as a lack of insanity. This definition doesn't work for me, because when I was using I would repeat the same mistakes, without thinking of the results, and in the last few years I was also psychotic most of the time. I'm not going to describe being psychotic, either you understand it or not. Currently I lack both of those forms of insanity in my life, but does that mean I'm sane? To make a very odd comparison, if I was restored to being a fire engine, I would not be insane, yet I would also lack a normal range of feelings and thoughts, even though fire engines are very important to society. Bluntly, I'm looking for someone who, by example, can share how being restored to sanity is evidenced in their life, in a way that is not just the lack of insanity.

I know it sounds like I'm over thinking this, but I don't see myself turning my will and life over to the care of God, without some idea of why/how/what being restored to sanity will change my life. Yes I am still self centered enough to want to know what's in it for me. On the positive side there is a step that deals with defects of character, so I have hope I will change. I just want some glimpse of what is possible. I may just have to rely on faith, and if that were the case I'd need a sponsor to help me do that.

Counterstrike and Change

By Jackie Yeh

What is this thing we have about change? Aren't our lives so boring we would crave some new things for once? The thrill of trying something new and loving it; it's one of the best feelings one can go through. Doing the same shit day after day after day after day stinks.

Dust. What the fuck is everyone's obsession with this goddamn map? You go on LAN games for a good ol' game of *Counterstrike*, and what do you see? Server after server of fucking *Dust*. The worst part is, they're always full.

I won't deny it. It's a pretty damn good map. It's got something for everyone. You're an asshole camper? Join the counter-terrorists and stake out the underpass. Like the rampage and claustrophobia of close quarters? Jump in the tunnel with a bunch of your teammates and make sure you've got a flash grenade on you. It isn't the biggest map, nor is it the puniest. It's just right, with just the right numbers of different routes you can take towards your opponents. Hell, it was the first map I've ever played on.

Despite its many advantages, I cannot believe people can stand to play this map over and over and over again. For the love of Christ! One must get bored of always playing in the same damned map. There are other maps that are just as fun.

For those who are slow-to-warm, you can try *Dawn*. God, it's *Dust* with a few minor variations. Aesthetic-wise, it's a pretty map: its dust at dawn. The goddamn buildings won't blind you in this version. Not to mention there is a new way to

get under the bridge through some basement tunnel dealie.

For those of you who are pretty flexible, why not play the other maps more often? There are a zillion lonely ones to choose from. *Aztec* is good, a little big and confusing, but the random thunderbolts are half the fun. One second you're happily running around buh-duh-duh-ing all them dirty terrorists, and the next second you're looking up at the raging sky, dead. The Gods apparently didn't like your cockiness.

Office is an interesting map, too. It's one of those where certain doors open from only one side. There are sniper positions in strategic spots, meaning if you get too close to a window, you might suddenly get your head blown off.

Assault is also a fun map, though it is more in favor of the terrorists, who can merely camp inside the warehouse and wait to pick off the counter terrorists. There are at least three ways to get inside, however, and if you're really buff you can kill any self-worth present on the terrorist team by single-handedly dominating them and taking the hostages to safety. If you're already an assault fan you probably know all about the highly pretty *Assault2k*. Damn it looks good!

Speaking of which, if you can lay your grubby hands on *Chinatown*, it's the most amazing map you'll see. The person must have been one bored assed motherfucker. It's a pretty big map, fun to explore. Even if you never plan on playing in it, it's fun to explore. I was amazed with how much you can explore in *Chinatown's* theatre. You

can even go up to the projection room!

Sadly, I think the problem with playing in any map other than *Dust* is the lack of people. Servers can choose to offer any map, but it kind of sucks to play when there are only three other people playing with you on the goddamn server. Especially when a newbie who still has his name on the default "Player" is on your team, and your opponents apparently belong to the same clan. Ouch.

Sometimes there is a decent amount of people playing on a map like *Aztec* or *Office* or *Arab Streets*. But they are almost always on some private server that you need a password to. Which sucks. That's what people resort to when they want to play maps that are not *Dust*.

So, for the love of God, join other maps, people. *Rats* is supposed to be one awesome map. Try them all out. Better yet, if you can, set up a server offering any map that is not *Dust*. And if you'd rather play, Jesus H. Christ, join anything but *Dust*. If you see two people in some map you really do like, join and pray that people are feeling adventurous that night.

Change is supposed to be good. Quit doing the same-o same-o day after fucking day. You'll be doing that when you get into the real world and you go from 9-5 doing mindless paperwork for some corporation you'd rather shit on than work for. Enjoy the sloth you experience now, and leave the mindless humdrum for the rest of your life. Remember: the Gods will really smile the day Andy Lau has zero people on his server.

Has Shakespeare's Time Run Out?

By F.L. Livingston

"Timeless," said my sophomore English teacher in high school. "Shakespeare's themes are timeless and universal: Love, Jealousy, Ambition, Revenge. We can sum up almost every one in a single word that has meaning for us all."

My other English teachers agreed, both in high school and college. And though many students of that time cried out for greater "relevance" in education, I never heard any of them dismiss Shakespeare as "irrelevant." Dickens? Sometimes. Austen? Often. But Shakespeare? Never. Most of us saw the famous "Bard" as a playwright "for all seasons."

And we may have been right. Otherwise why have his plots been reworked so many times and adapted to so many other scenarios? *Romeo and Juliet*, alone, has known several "modernizations," including the most recent played out by Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes in a contemporary urban setting. Nor can we overlook its "translation" into cases of racial division (*West Side Story*) and, though more loosely, class warfare (*Titanic*). And let's not forget the two "modern" adaptations of *Taming of the Shrew*: first, *Kiss Me Kate* and much later, *Ten Things I Hate About You*. (Yeah, that "teeny-bopper flick." How's that for "universality?")

Consider, too, the fabled playwright's perceptions of human need. Shakespeare was one of the first writers to assign psychological motives to behavior. *Shrew's* Kate is a bitch because she's jealous of her younger sister. Iago deceives Othello out of painful disappointment over his own lack of success. Commonplace ideas now, but revolutionary then!

Often, they're still pertinent. *Hamlet's* Ophelia, for example, has become so synonymous with female suppression that two recent books on feminine psychology were "named for" her: Dr. Mary Pipher's *Reviving Ophelia* and Sara Shandler's *Ophelia Speaks*.

Yet, lately, I'm hearing an increasing number of young people say "Shakespeare" and "irrelevant" in

one breath. And "unrealistic," as well!

Not that all of you have totally rejected him. (As a family friend and prospective English major recently told my adult daughter, "I love all that stuff!") Nor did everyone in my generation enjoy him. But today there seems to be an open, unabashed criticism of Shakespeare that didn't exist on a large scale before.

"Guys don't act that way," my teenage daughter asserted, speaking of Bianca's suitors in *Shrew*.

"People don't act that way," proclaimed a student about Shakespeare's characters, in general, in a recent episode of the popular show *Boston Public*.

Oh really? No jealous husband has ever killed an innocent wife? No young lovers have ever "risked all" to be together? I don't think you mean that?

Rather, I suspect that what truly disturbs some of you are certain details of the Bard's characterization. It's easy for most of you to believe, I imagine, that one half of a "star-crossed" couple might die in a gang fight. It's much harder, I suppose, to accept the idea of both of them dying due to an ironic twist of fate (and plot).

Nor perhaps, do you feel comfortable with all the social conventions of Shakespeare's day. Few modern women would solve their problems with a man by giving in (or pretending to give in?) as Kate does at the end of *Shrew*. (I'm not sure that the conclusion of *Ten Things* is any more realistic, with the "sweeter" sister morphing into a tough *Buffy* clone and decking a "player." But I'm guessing that it rings truer to many of you than the other does.) Clearly, not all Shakespeare's motifs are "eternal."

In fact, despite its obvious flaws, *Ten Things* gives us deeper insights into its Kat than Shakespeare offers into his Kate. Of course, the surly Kat envies the more popular Bianca. But she also acts out of her own bitter experience with a former boyfriend, as well as a protective concern for her "little sister." Yes, Shakespeare's analysis was novel for its day. But the

psychological profiles in modern literature are frequently more complex.

So -- do I think that Shakespeare's writings have lost all meaning for our time? No. But I do think youth has a valid complaint. Many of our habits have changed since Shakespeare's day. Some merely in their expression, (sure, some guys still vie over girls like Bianca's suitors, as I'm sure even my teenager and her friends would agree, but they don't use Latin to do it,) others because of major shifts in our attitudes toward gender roles and parent-child relationships.

And, yes, I still feel that "relevance" matters. Our greatest experiences with literature, I believe, enrich our own lives.

But it would be worthwhile, I contend, for us to "revisit" Shakespeare's work and separate what has significance for us from what doesn't. To explore how much has changed -- and how much has remained the same -- regarding our ideals, our insights, and our ways of expressing them.

In order to do so, however, we need to let go of any sense of awe regarding Shakespeare. We also need to drop any tendency to brush his plays aside as "too old-fashioned." We have to be completely open to studying his work side by side with any related current efforts. (Yeah, even such "teenybopper flicks" as *Ten Things*.) And yes, we have to be willing to admit to those ways in which the newer works excel over the old in terms of depth and quality -- and those in which the Shakespearean pieces prevail.

It's not about proving that Shakespeare is superior, or even "contemporary." Nor, conversely, is it about proving that he's "obsolete." It's a matter of discerning the ways in which our culture has evolved over the centuries. Also, it's about finding the points at which each one of us connects with the past and/or the present. In short, it's about better understanding ourselves.

Nothing could be more relevant. Nothing could be more timeless.

Why We Voted For Nader

By Wendy Fuchsberg and Walter Moss

Since Gore lost the election, there have been many references to Ralph Nader as a "spoiler." People have even gone so far as to say that he had "no right to run." Just a quick reality check, we do still live in a democracy, don't we? The media has given a great deal of attention to the Democrats' perspective but seldom does the media pay any attention to why we voted for Nader. We voted for Ralph Nader for the ONLY reason anyone should vote for a candidate, because we agree with every one of his beliefs. Contrary to popular belief, the Green Party is NOT the same as the Democratic Party.

Here is a sample of what Ralph Nader and The Green Party stand for:

1. Ralph Nader supports electoral reform. Many people are unhappy with the way our electoral process "works." We all know about the illegal disenfranchisement of black voters in Florida. However, there is a "legal" disenfranchisement of citizens who have committed "crimes" in the past.

Ex-convicts are denied the right to vote even though they they've done their time and are supposed to be free citizens. Ralph Nader believes a citizen should have the right to vote regardless of their past history. 1 in 3 black men in America don't have the most basic right as a citizen of this country, to have a voice in their government.

2. Opposes NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), which has enabled American corporations' human rights abuses in other nations (sweatshops) and wreaked havoc here in America by costing many people their jobs. Republicans and Democrats both support NAFTA and the WTO (World Trade Organization).

3. Promotes Campaign Finance Reform so that the American people will have a say in their own government. The same corporations fund both the Democrats and the Republicans, Ralph Nader does NOT accept corporate "contributions" and considers it bribery. Government should not be a puppet for the corporate elite. It should be a government for the people.

4. Ralph Nader does not support a National Missile Defense System. This is something that both Al Gore and George W. Bush support even though the Union of Concerned Scientists have testified at length about it's inadequacies as a viable national defense and therefore, it would be a huge waste of money, not to mention it would be a major violation of the US-Russian arms control agreements, more specifically the START treaties, a stipulation of which is that neither nation will build a NMD system. This agreement would eliminate several thousand nuclear warheads on both sides. (For more info on this issue, visit the Union of Concerned Scientists website at <http://www.ucsusa.org/>)

5. Supports efficient alternatives to fossil fuels. Yes that's right. There are efficient alternatives to fossil fuels. Wondering why you haven't heard of them? Think oil industry, which both Al Gore and George W. Bush are heavily involved with, in terms of owning stock, supporting oil drilling in wilderness areas formerly protected by the U.S. government, and campaign funds donated by the oil industry. The burning of fossil fuels is the main source of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) in this country. The U.S. contributes 24.3% of the worlds CO₂ emissions (carbon dioxide accounts for the bulk of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming), producing approximately 1,494,000,000 metric tons in the year 1998 alone. To put this into perspective, all of Europe and the former Soviet Union only account for 29.4% of world emissions while housing approximately four times the population of the U.S. Human activity (industry) has worn a hole through our planet's ozone layer, which is a layer of ozone gas (O₃), which protects us from ultra-violet radiation. It is responsible for vari-

ous forms of skin cancer, immune system suppression, and other health problems in

humans. If corporations could "police themselves" insofar as environmental issues are concerned, why haven't they thus far?

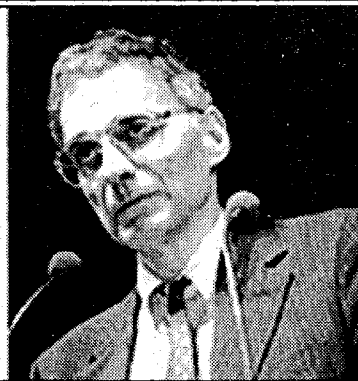
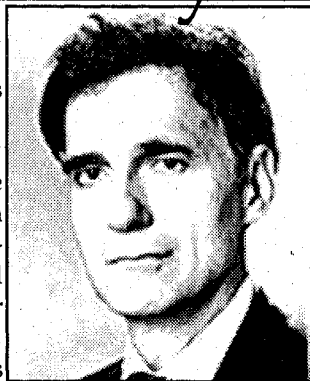
6. Gay rights. Gays are perpetually discriminated against all over America, structurally as well as socially. They are not protected by hate crime legislation, their marriages are not recognized by society and the law, which leads to other issues, for example, healthcare coverage. Gay people are also routinely discriminated against in the workplace.

7. Opposes the Death Penalty and promotes non-violent solutions to problems in this country as well as overseas (Democrats should keep in mind, Al Gore supports the death penalty). The death penalty is racially biased. Not only in terms of the number of whites vs. blacks put to death but also if you consider the fact that blacks are more likely to be erroneously convicted due to the racist cultural fabric of America and the stereotypes that persist to this day, as well as the fact that blacks are notoriously given harsher penalties than whites for the same crime. Innocent men have been sentenced to death. "Since the advent of forensic DNA testing in the late 1980's, at least sixty-three people in the United States have been exonerated through DNA testing of their evidence and set free. Extrapolating from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's own findings, there may be thousands of innocent people currently incarcerated." (This quote was taken directly from *The Innocence Project* web page at the Cardozo School of Law at <http://www.cardozo.yu.edu/innocence-project/>). 5% of all persons convicted are later found to be innocent. 68% of death penalty trials have been found to have a serious error on subsequent appeals. Any study that has been done on the subject has shown that it is not a deterrent (average homicide rate in death penalty states is 9.3 per 100,000 people as opposed to a national average of 9/100,000. All of these statistics have been taken from an article on page 28 of the February 2001 issue of *Scientific American* magazine). The death penalty is state sanctioned revenge and gives rise to a society that supports vigilante justice (possibly against the wrong man). The State should be on the side of justice not revenge. The state should be setting an example of non-violent solutions to problems if it expects its citizens to do the same.

8. Ralph Nader supports affirmative action without being wishy washy about it. He doesn't change his views dependent upon the audience.

9. He supports the protection of a woman's right to choose and supports the coverage of abortion under a proposed national healthcare system.

10. Supports public healthcare. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation without national healthcare. In some places in this country, the infant mortality rate rivals that of third world nations. As it is, as a nation, we have the highest infant mortality rate of all industrialized countries. These rates are infant deaths per thousand births: U.S.A. 6.67, Portugal 6.6, Spain 6.31, Italy 6.21 Belgium 6.07, New Zealand 6.07, Ireland 5.84, Great Britain 5.7, Taiwan 5.67, (not only does Taiwan have a national healthcare plan, they make provisions for health insurance for foreigners! In other words, if you visited Taiwan, you would be covered under their healthcare system but when you come home, you're



on your own.), France 5.56, Canada 5.36, Lichtenstein 5.18, Iceland 5.17, Denmark 5.05, The Netherlands 5.05, Austria 5.04, Germany 5, Australia 4.97, Luxembourg 4.93, Norway 4.91, Switzerland 4.83, Japan 4.05, Sweden (Green Party Government) 3.9, Singapore 3.8, Finland 3.79 AND Ralph Nader supports prescription drug coverage for everyone, not just seniors.

11. Al Gore has been in support of Occidental Oil Company (the corporation he and his family own stock in) drilling for oil in Columbia, displacing native peoples with the aid of the Columbian military. The Columbian government is acting as a puppet for the oil industry. Al Gore, an environmentalist? (You might want to check out his position on drilling for oil in rainforests and wilderness areas).

12. Ralph Nader believes that the "drug war" is senseless. Ralph Nader does not see drugs as the almighty evil. Some people can use controlled substances without becoming addicted while some people do become addicted to drugs. This is an illness in the same way that alcoholism is an illness. It is a health issue, not a crime, and should be treated as such by the government.

13. Ralph Nader supports community based economics and government. Our democracy as it stands, does not represent the voice of the people. Grassroots Democracy would make politicians responsible for the voices of the people who they are supposed to represent. We need a participatory democracy. Local government should be given the funds they need to improve their community. As it stands now, we pay the most taxes to our federal government, which gives tax breaks to the people who need it the least, corporations.

14. Ralph Nader supports welfare. We spend three and a half times more on corporate welfare than on social welfare. This corporate welfare comes in the form of tax breaks, agribusiness subsidies, tax-free municipal bonds, lower taxes on capital gains, nuclear subsidies, aviation subsidies, export subsidies, mining subsidies, synfuel tax credits, timber subsidies, ozone tax exemptions, etc.

15. Ralph Nader believes in raising minimum wage to a living wage. How on earth companies get away with paying people \$5.50 an hour considering that the economy is "doing so well" is beyond me. However if you look at the distribution of wealth, the economic status of the top 1% of people have increased while the rest of us have stayed the same, thus the income gap is bigger than it was 8 years ago.

So to all you people out there who say, "But Nader will never be elected," I would say this: throughout history people have been predicting the future of this great country. They said slavery would never end, that black people would never get the right to vote, that women would never get the right to vote, that segregation would never end, that abortion would never be legalized. They were wrong.

I do believe Bob Dylan said it best: "Your old road is rapidly agin'. Please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand, for the times they are a-changin'."

NYPD Gestapo

By Tim Connors

The surest way to advance in the department is to follow the twenty-minute rule. When a call comes in, wait twenty minutes before responding. Following this rule insures that the officers will avoid any danger to themselves, because the incident will be over by the time they get there. Many a career has been built by following this simple axiom of waiting until things are over before showing up.

But what about plain clothes cops? The thing to do is to bust dealers, and charge them with the minimum possession amount, and keep the rest of the drugs. The dealer won't complain, since that would be confessing to a worse crime. The under cover cop can sell the drugs themselves and make a ton of dough.

The beat cops must be jealous, since all they get is free meals at local eateries. That hardly offsets the effort it takes to intimidate people hanging out in the wrong public places. What were once bustling street corners are deserted, mainly due to Billy club enforcement of political directives in New York City. Somehow cops know how to give people a shot with a Billy club, without leaving much of a mark.

Many a cop is a drunk, but they don't lose their job as long as they show up to work and sleep it off. Cops will cover for one another as long as covering doesn't involve lying about where the drunk is. Some Cops also use drugs, which is no big secret. The testing program is a joke, since the officers are notified more than a week in advance about the random test. The City uses the cheap urine test that can only detect drugs used in the two or three days before the test.

The graft and corruption that existed in the Sixties and Seventies has not gone away. The

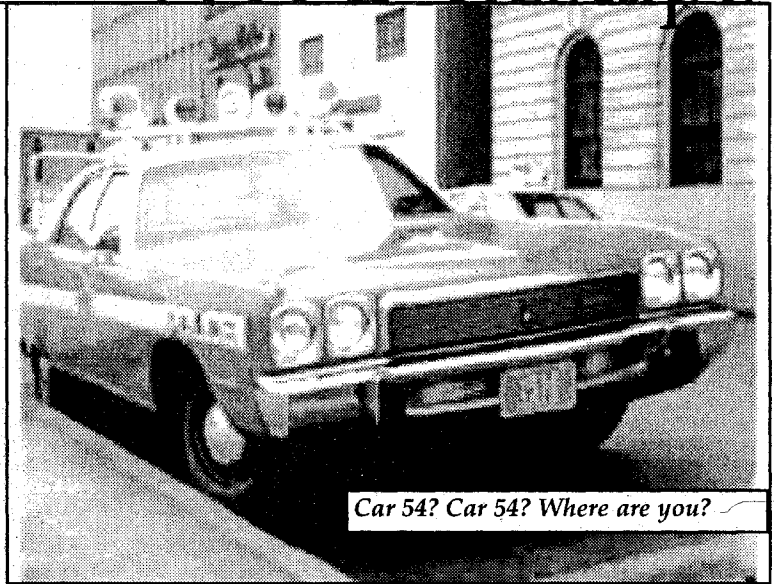
Police department is either grossly incompetent in obeying the laws it is supposed to uphold, or is deliberately flouting them. There is no one to complain to, other than the police department.

On Long Island the police will log tremendous overtime in the years right before retirement, since their pension is based on an average of the amount of money earned in the last years of service. This means cops are pensioning out with full salaries, and going on to get other jobs with pensions. This practice is called double dipping.

The taxes on Long Island are notoriously high. The majority of that money is going to pay for police officers with the highest salaries in the country. There is no need to pay them so much; there are many people who would be willing to do the job for less money. When tests are held for the few openings that come up, there are droves of applicants. There are far more dangerous places to be a cop than Long Island.

What are the taxpayers getting for their money? Long Island is not the safest place in the country, but there seem to be plenty of cops protecting Dunkin Doughnuts, and Seven Elevens. Long Island cops are well dressed, and have the newest equipment, but that is not qualitatively improving the standard of living. It's not like they are consistently enforcing the speed limit. Racial profiling is common on Long Island, just look at who gets pulled over as you speed by.

Maybe that's why cops are paid so well on Long Island. Is their role to deter minorities



Car 54? Car 54? Where are you?

from traveling out to Long Island, and to harass those who live here. When I travel around the Island I notice that the police are more noticeably present in minority neighborhoods. Is that because there is more crime, there's probably statistics that indicate that, but if that's where the cops focus efforts to arrest people, it would follow that statistically more crime would be present in those neighborhoods.

I don't know what the statistics are for crime on Long Island, and those statistics are bullshit anyway. The saying about there being liars, damn liars, and statisticians is still true today. There is probably more drug traffic along the north shore of Long Island, yet less police presence. Both of those things are related to the amount of money that people have.

I apologize for focusing on the obvious, but it is the only thing I have a firm grasp of. We don't need to waste so much money on police. But it is not going to change any time soon.

The Whizz (continued)

these cops who commute in from the suburbs and view the entire place as a rancid cesspool of vice and degradation. Up to that moment, I thought that such an attitude was reserved for the "lower orders," but then I saw that I, too, was an urban sub-humanoid and this guy saw it as his mission to straighten us all up, like a lone gunslinger ridin' into Dodge in an old Western.

The idea of police busting people for things they themselves do kind of rangles me, and I've known quite a few cops in my time, many of whom would readily pee on buildings, and a good deal more, so I asked him, "You mean to tell me you've never peed in an alley?"

"Well... I sup-POSE so," he exploded in a little orgasm of sarcastic self-righteousness, sort of like John Cleese in a Monty Python sketch.

"All right, then. This is obviously going to cost me money, so I think I can do without the sermon." (It's a tribute to Rudy Giuliani and his psychological chokehold of the city that at no point in the proceedings did I ever even consider the possibility that they'd just let me go with a warning).

It felt like I was on very thin ice, but I couldn't really help myself. I've come to think that in many cases these people rely on intimidation and if you seem not to be intimidated, they back off. Had I been in full pontification mode, it might have occurred to me to bring up that not far from where we were, just a little ways down Archer Avenue, was a building that was the center of a scandal a few years ago when it was discovered that it was a brothel run by...the local precinct.

And last year, also in South Jamaica, a woman sought refuge from her abusive husband, an off-duty cop with a gun, in a church.

The congregants refused to let him in, so he went to the station house and returned with the now-familiar army of cops (white) who besieged the church (black).

And, of course, there was the Mollen Commission, the Amnesty International report on the NYPD and, in fact, wasn't the entire department under some sort of federal investigation for doing things a whole lot more heinous than pissing on a dumpster?

So who was he to lecture me on morality and proper behavior?

He was someone with a gun and the power of the State and two allies who would most likely corroborate any story he told, that's who.

God, in its infinite wisdom and mercy, often strikes us dumb at crucial moments, as I fortunately did not spout the above litany. Did not even think about it, in fact, until I was on the subway home.

"We're just discussing this, that's all," was his reply. "People complain that the cops give tickets and don't say anything."

And this was supposed to be an improvement?

"Discussion?! Is there anything I could possibly say that'd make him stop writing the ticket?" I tried to inject this last with full Sicilian world-weariness, throwing in an expressive hand gesture for good measure.

Finally, the cop writing the ticket finished and handed me a pink sheet, informing me that there were instructions for pleading on the back.

"That'll be all, sir."

"Thank you," I said, even though I have

never understood why anyone would thank someone who'd just given them a summons, and

had always vowed never to do so myself. Maybe it's just force of habit, from the hundreds of perfunctory "thankyous" we mouth every day. Or maybe it really means, "Thank you for not totally screwing me to the full extent of your power, officer." I folded the ticket with studied insouciance, not even looking it over, and walked away.

On the ride home, I felt half bugged by what had just happened, mostly due to my own stupidity, and half elated. I noticed that I hadn't even broken a sweat.

I unfolded the ticket and looked to see what the damages were. Let's see...what's urination al fresco going for these days?

It didn't say! Apparently, one could no longer just plead guilty and send in the fine. The Lords of Discipline had decided you had to sacrifice some of your precious time, too! What tyranny! And the date they'd given me was during my vacation (ticket already purchased). A further charming innovation of the Giuliani regime is that if one doesn't show up in court for a minor offense, they still issue a warrant for one's arrest. I'd read a Jimmy Breslin column about just such a case: a guy went off to England without appearing for an open container charge. He even wrote in saying he couldn't make the date. Seems they dispatched a goon squad to go 'round to his apartment.

Whatever was I to do? Would I require a lawyer? Tune in next time, for the continuation of this kidney-rending tale of modern "justice."

Are Voodoo Dolls An Appropriate Representation of Black History Month?

By Naomi Edwards

Showing at the Stony Brook Union gallery is the exhibition "Haitian Voodoo Flags and Dolls," in celebration of Black History month. The exhibit is due to run until Feb. 23, 2001. The two principle artists featured are Veronique and James Fischetti, along with various flag artists and craftsman from Haiti.

The arrangements of these works are organized aesthetically; projecting a perceptual representation. Visually they are meticulously well crafted, with use of strong vibrant colors. However, walking into this exhibition with little or no background knowledge of Haitian culture (or Black History for that matter) one would feel curious and intrigued but not educated. These works obviously serve as a function for a decorative purpose or to interpret a religious rituals and or myths. However, there is no explanation of this. The flags have what appear to be iconic figureheads and narrative scenes, along with the dolls that are carefully wrapped in fabric. Some are even mutilated. The only given reference to these works is a briefing about Voodoo cult and practice, which really is not enough information to change people general opinion about Voodoo. Voodoo is commonly looked at as black magic or religious sacrifice. Granted, Voodoo is more complex but I would neither want this as an exploitation of Black history nor would I want this to be the main focus of Haitian art.

Many students were appalled at the exhibition as a celebration of Black History month and felt that it was a negative and stereotypical reflection of Black and Haitian culture. Student Frasilie Stinvil wrote a letter in reaction to this in support and protection of her Haitian heritage:

"To Whom this May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the "Haitian Voodoo dolls and Flags" exhibition in the Art Gallery located in the Union on the second floor. I, as a Haitian and Black-American I find the display to be offensive and inappropriate as a celebration of Black History. I was and am under the impression that one of a University's goals is to enlighten its students on other cultures and hopefully destroy any stereotypes that are associated with certain cultures. This display does not enlighten; unfortunately it adds to the misconception of Haitians. It is unfortunate that every time I meet a person of a different culture I find myself explaining that not all Haitians practice Voodoo, and yes I am a Christian. It is even worse that these people are not aware that Haiti was the first country to have a successful slave revolution, which was led by Touissant D'ouverture.

I applaud the intent of including Haiti in the celebration of Black history. However I would like to emphasize that a meeting with the Haitian Student Organization would have depicted a better understanding of Haitian Art, and its role in Black History. Thank you for your time, consideration and cooperation.

*Sincerely,
Frasilie Stinvil*

Her letter's opinion is strong and righteous. The curator should have considered the reaction of students or consulted with the Haitian Student Organization or other African American students



before choosing this exhibition to commemorate Black History month. Voodoo practice is seen to be an uncomfortable and negative portrayal of their heritage. This

exhibition is not an adequate representation of Black History because of the way it has depicted one aspect of Haitian culture that has upset and embarrassed many Haitian and African American students.

Wake Up!

By Dan Schneider

I am sick and tired of animal rights activists and self-righteous vegetarian preachers. They have no right to dictate to me what to buy and eat. The worst of these preachers are the vegetarians who eat seafood, and hypocrites who won't wear fur but see no injustice in a tossed salad. Humans seem to think that cows are superior to carrots. This assumption is based purely on the fact that cows are four limbed mammals with a head, just like humans. People feel no guilt in eating lettuce because it isn't human-like. The oval shaped fish isn't human-like either and therefore many vegetarians have no problems eating them.

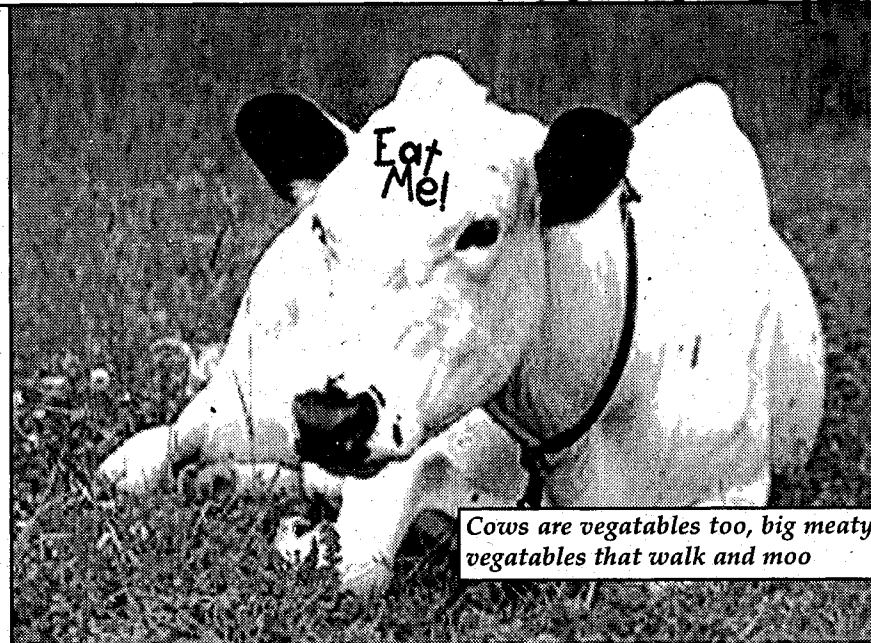
Many animal rights activists have people sign petitions using ballpoint pens. How ironic it is that they would use an ink product to sign a petition to forbid the sale of fur. They protest killing animals for human luxuries by using a pen! Millions of squid are slaughtered each year and robbed of their prized possession: ink. These creatures are killed in the name of Bic, Cross, and Paper Mate with no remorse. Notice that the squid has something similar to a head (a head, but no neck) and tentacles, which are limb-like but certainly aren't like the limbs of the cow. The squid also isn't a mammal.

Squid aren't the only sea creatures who are neglected by animal rights activists and vegetarians. When was the last time you saw a vegetarian who had a problem with sponge cake? Sure, sponges aren't cute and cuddly but neither are hippopotami. I could bet that there would be a huge uproar in the animal rights community if I plucked a hippo out of the water and made him into a cake. "Why?" you may ask. I'll tell you. It's because hippopotamuses

are mammals with four limbs and a head just like humans and the cow.

The two worst atrocities of the food industry go completely un-protested and unnoticed. They are so disgusting that to talk about them makes me physically ill, but for the sake of the cause, I must. The first is a pickle. A cucumber, having a fun afternoon in the sun, is suddenly ripped from the rest of the plant by a giant hand. If the cucumber still has any life left in him, he won't after they slaughter him and throw him into a barrel with a mysterious liquid where he will ferment for possibly years. Once his fermented fluid soaked corpse is removed from the barrel he is sliced into rippled circles. They then take the mangled pickled pieces to use as a sandwich condiment. Anyone who uses the argument of "it's okay to eat cucumbers because they aren't intelligent life" obviously has never had a conversation with one. They are intelligent fun loving creatures. Remember, plants have feelings too.

The second atrocity is the French-Fry. People go out of their way to harm and dismember a potato. They are ruthlessly dug out of their subterranean homes. They then have their eyes pulled



out and their skin peeled off. Then the mutilated body is sliced into strips and thrown into hot oil, until the flesh is partially cooked and the insides are not unlike a viscous liquid. The tortured dismembered pieces are then eaten. Take note, cucumbers and potatoes don't even remotely resemble a cow.

Animal rights activists have no right to dictate what you or I can buy and eat. They selectively pick which lives to save. Vegetarians who eat seafood are even worse. So, the next time someone knocks at your door asking you to sign a petition to stop the sale of fur, tell him or her to "FUCK OFF!" and then take their pens and slam the door in their faces. Take the pen to the back yard and give it the proper burial that all living creatures deserve.

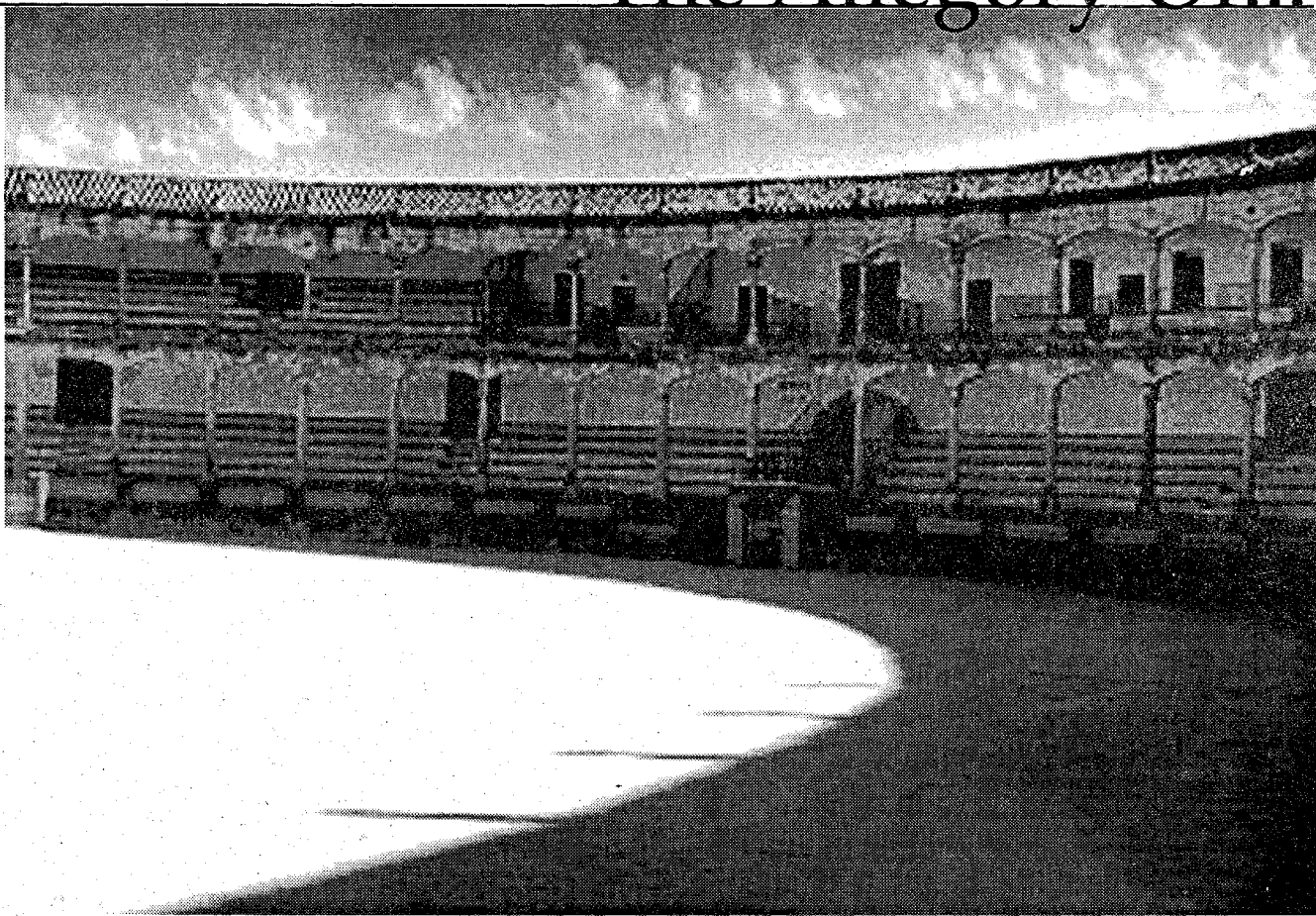
The Allegory Of...

By Dan Schneider

The arena sits in the center of town, surrounded by parks, gift shops, and fruit stands. It is Sunday and the townspeople and their families are strolling in the sun, laughing, and children are playing. Everyone is excited over the event that is about to take place, after all, it is Sunday. On Sundays, late in the morning, after all the townspeople have had breakfast and socialized, they slowly fill the arena in the center of town. Just outside the arena there are clowns juggling, popcorn and roasted peanuts are being sold by the bag, and the town's children run to the souvenir stands and plead with their parents to buy them balloons or a t-shirt. This is where the Jones family can be found, as well as Mr. Smith and his family whom Mr. Jones is engaged in casual conversation with. It is Sunday and they have all come to see the fate of the criminal. He has spoken against the Emperor an must be punished.

Mrs. Jones buys a balloon for her six year old son and a lollipop for her eight year old daughter. Mr. Smith buys a bib for his three month old son that has the slogan "Anyone Can Commit Crime, Everyone Is Punishable" printed in large rainbow colored balloon letters on the front. The two families start to walk towards the stadium's entrance. Above the entrance, in large white letters is printed, "Pure Thoughts Save." The entrance consists of three motorized sliding doors, side by side, with a line behind each door. When the Joneses reach the door, Mr. Jones types in an I.D. number for his family at a computer terminal, each family member touches the screen, the doors swing open and they all walk in. The Smith family reaches the door, follows the same procedure, but the phrase "DENIED: Must register at three months," flashes on the terminal's screen. Mrs. Smith laughs. They had forgotten to register their son with the Punishment Department before he had reached the age of three months, which is required by law. She signals to Mrs. Jones that they would meet them inside, and they walk to the Registration Office.

The Jones's walk to gate "J", where they are met by a man in a yellow suit. He greets them and shows them to their assigned box. Mr. Jones tips the man with a coin and he expresses his gratitude. They all sit down to watch the punishing. Within a few minutes the national anthem pours through loudspeakers, and everyone rises in silence. This is followed by a pledge of allegiance to the Emperor. Everyone once again sits down. At one edge of the arena is a large metal gate which mechanically swings open. Two men dressed completely in black push out a large throne of bronze and black velvet. They then stand at attention, one on either side of the chair as a figure appears from the gate- it is the Emperor. He's dressed in his normal attire- a black long sleeved shirt, which is tucked into black pants, which is tucked into black boots which are laced up slightly below the knees. He also wears a cloak of a shiny black material with a



large white star printed on the back. No one has ever seen his face. He always wears a black expressionless mask, not unlike a theater mask with only the eye holes cut out. He walks toward the throne and the crowd applauds, cheers, and throws flowers. He sits majestically on the throne, and the two men at his sides sit cross-legged on the ground where they had been standing.

In the center of the arena rises a wooden armchair out of an underground shaft. Strapped to the chair is a man of about twenty-five who is trying to hold back his expression of terror. Each one of his arms is bound to an arm of the chair, each one of his legs is bound to a leg of the chair, and his head is forbidden movement by a head restraint. The crowd boos and hisses. The noises of hate turn to excitement as another figure comes from the gate where the Emperor had only moments earlier. A man dressed completely in a shiny white suit, except for a red cape and a red "X" which is printed on his chest, walks forward towards the man in the chair. Mr. and Mrs. Jones encourage their children to applaud just as is the rest of the crowd. Their son points and screams, "Yeah!, it's the Punisher." Mrs. Jones smiles in pride, "Very good! Now, watch what's happening."

The Punisher's voice pours through the speakers, "You have been accused of a Speaking Crime against the Emperor. Are you sorry for your blasphemy?" The man in the chair knew that his reply had no effect on his fate, as did the crowd that anxiously awaited it, which was "No." The crowd went wild. The Jones children jump up and down in anticipation. The Punisher strikes the man in the face with the back of his hand. The crowd cheers. Mr. Jones turns to his wife and tries to yell over the roaring crowd, "This is marvelous, isn't it?" She smiles back at him and screams, "It's wonderful!" The man in the chair tries to talk, "All I said was th-" His sentence is cut short as a fist meets his face. Blood gushes from his nose. The children laugh, even they knew it was foolish of him to try to talk. The Punisher pulls a large knife from his pocket. His voice echoes

through out the stadium. "You do not deserve ears to hear with," with this the knife is pressed to the side of his head. The bound man shakes. The Knife is pulled down and his ear falls to the ground. Blood runs down the side of his face as the crowd cheers. The Punisher holds up the knife again. The crowd falls silent. Tears stream down the captive's face. "You do not deserve fingers to touch with," The Punisher said as he brought the knife down on the fingers of the prisoner. Two fingers fall to the ground and the audience applauds and whistles. The bound man dares not scream because this would surely make his treatment more entertaining and prolong his punishment. The Punisher stares into the prisoner's watering eyes and yells, "You do not deserve to live!" A wave of relief sweeps through the man's body as the knife slashes his throat. He gasps for air, chokes on his own blood, and then his body goes limp. The crowd is silent. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the first to stand up and applaud. This is followed by the couple in the box behind them doing the same. Soon, the whole crowd is in a standing ovation, whistling and clapping. The crowd settles back down. The Punisher faces the crowd, throws his hands to the sky, and says profoundly, "Pure Thoughts Save!" The crowd repeats the slogan in unison.

The chair with the bloody battered corpse sinks back into the underground shaft. A voice comes over the speakers. "We have a second unscheduled punishing for this afternoon." The crowd stands up and cheers. New chairs start to rise out of the shaft as the voice continues. "These criminals have offended the Emperor by not abiding by his laws. They stand punishment for Being a Party to Failure to Register, and Failing to Register." The chairs containing the criminals completely surface. There are two chairs, in one seats a woman and in the other a man. In the woman's arms is a small child. The Punisher raises his knife to the child. "Are you sorry for your crimes against the Emperor?," is violently asked of the youngest. The Jones's gasp. This is their lucky day. They would get to see three more punishings.

Dear Secret Service

By the Student Press Law Center and the Reporters Comitee for Freedom of the Press

Brian L. Stafford
Director
United States Secret Service
950 H St. NW, Suite 8000
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Mr. Stafford:

This letter is prompted by actions taken by Secret Service agents from the Melville, N.Y., field office against Glenn Given, managing editor of The Stony Brook Press.

The undersigned organizations generally represent the First Amendment interests of the news media. The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press is a voluntary, unincorporated association of reporters and editors that works to defend the First Amendment rights and freedom of information interests of the news media. The Reporters Committee has provided representation, guidance and research in First Amendment and Freedom of Information Act litigation since 1970. The Student Press Law Center, established in 1974, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides free legal assistance to high school and college student media around the country.

These are the facts of the situation at issue, as we understand them.

On Wednesday, February 7, 2001, Glenn Given wrote an editorial entitled "Editorial: Dear Jesus Christ, King of Kings, all I ask is that you smite George W. Bush." This editorial was published in The Stony Brook Press, a student newspaper at SUNY-Stony Brook.

The editorial was in the form of an open letter to Jesus. The writer stated that he had recently "found" Jesus in light of the recent election and asked Jesus to "smite" George W. Bush, as well as his Vice President and the cabinet members. The editorial also requested that Jesus smite Carson Daly, host of MTV's Total Request Live.

The editorial was clearly a form of satire and political hyperbole. President Bush has extensively publicized his dedication to Christianity. He publicly cited Jesus as his favorite philosopher. His inaugural speech invoked numerous religious themes, and he has established an Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, which has been criticized by some as an improper promotion of religion. To invoke religion in stating an opposition to President Bush's administration would therefore be an expected satirical ploy. Moreover, the fact that Carson Daly was included in the panoply of petitioned smitees should have made it obvious that the editorial was satire.

Neither the newspaper's editorial board nor the University saw any reason to censor Mr. Given's speech. However, a faculty member contacted the Secret Service, apparently because he or she was disturbed by the editorial.

It is our understanding that on February 14, 2001, University police and Secret Service agents arrived unannounced at the newspaper's offices. The agents first demanded to speak to the entire editorial board, but eventually questioned Mr. Given alone when he claimed responsibility for the editorial.

Secret Service agents questioned him extensively and asked him to submit to a psychological evaluation which reportedly consisted of personal questions about his family and his parents' divorce. During questioning, Mr. Given was not represented by an attorney, nor was he advised of his rights as an accused. Mr. Given signed, upon request, a waiver allowing the search of his home. Apparently, nothing threatening was found there. He also signed a medical release authorizing the Secret Service to obtain his medical records. Mr. Given was told by Secret Service agents that his editorial was not protected by the First Amendment and that charges could be filed against him. Agents also stated that they may file charges if

they received additional complaints about the editorial. Although Mr. Given voluntarily signed the waivers and offered to remove all remaining newspapers from stands, such actions were taken under the threat of arrest and without legal counsel. The paper has since reported that 2000 copies of the newspaper are missing from a storage area, and there is a concern that Secret Service agents seized those copies.

We understand that threats against the President are a serious matter, and we in no way mean to imply that the Secret Service should not undertake to protect the President and investigate credible threats. Mr. Given's editorial, however, was not a credible threat. As stated above, the editorial was satire, or, at a minimum, sarcasm.

The statute governing threats against the President, 18 U.S.C. § 871(a), provides for criminal sanctions against anyone who threatens the President, but the statute must still be read in the context of free political debate. Our position is supported by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Watts v. United States*, 394 U.S. 705 (1969). In *Watts*, a young man at a political rally was protesting the draft. He had received a draft card and was supposed to report to the Army. He stated, "I am not going. If they ever make me carry a rifle the first man I want to get in my sights is L.B.J." *Id.* at 706.

The Supreme Court held that his statement was not sufficient to constitute a "threat" against the President within the meaning of the statute, even though the statement, taken literally, referred to shooting the President. The Court found that his statement was merely political hyperbole. Even though the statement referenced shooting the President, it was, in context, merely a crude expression of political opposition to the President rather than a genuine threat.

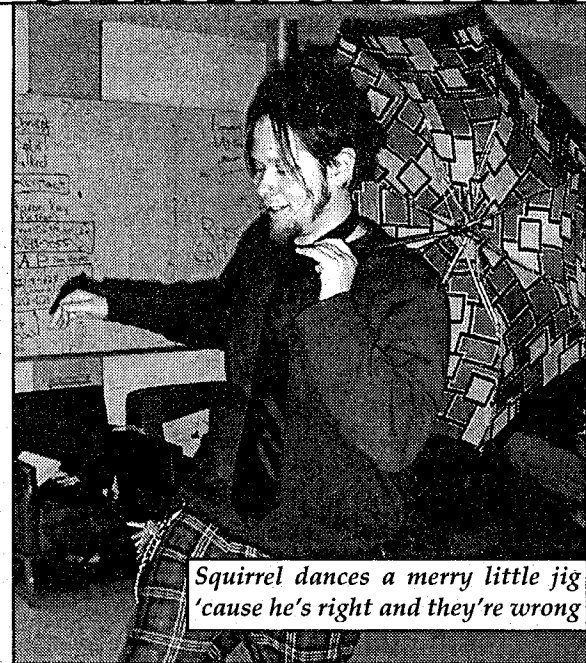
The Court stated that the statute, 18 U.S.C. § 871(a), is constitutional in general, as the nation has a strong interest in protecting the President, but the Court also stated, "what is a threat must be distinguished from what is constitutionally protected speech." *Watts*, 394 U.S. at 707.

The Court held that in order to prosecute someone under the statute, the government must prove that there is a "true" threat as opposed to a mere statement of political hyperbole, which is protected. The Court stated, "we must interpret the language Congress chose 'against the background of a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on the government and public officials.'" *Watts*, 394 U.S. at 708 (quoting *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 270 (1964)).

Similarly, Mr. Given's editorial may have been crude and offensive to some, but it fell well within the range of political hyperbole.

It is possible that the Secret Service's concern was not that Mr. Given himself posed a threat, but rather that some random member of the community might read the editorial as a call to action. However, the Supreme Court has clearly stated that speech should not be censored and does not create criminal liability unless such speech is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action. *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969). Mr. Given's editorial cannot reasonably be interpreted as speech that incites imminent lawless action.

We believe that it is inappropriate to harass a journalist, editor, writer, or any citizen for exercising his or her right to free speech. Prior to allowing federal law enforcement agents to launch an intrusive and intimidating investigation, the government must make a reasonable attempt to distinguish between true threats and political hyperbole. This was clearly not done in the present case.



Squirrel dances a merry little jig 'cause he's right and they're wrong

We are also concerned that the over-aggressive response to Mr. Given's editorial may signify disparate treatment of student publications from professional publications, and an intent to intimidate Mr. Given simply because he is a student. Student publications are entitled to equal First Amendment protection. Suppose a professional publication whose editorial board believed that President Bush was improperly promoting his own religious denomination to the exclusion of others featured an editorial cartoon of God smiting President Bush. Would the editorial board be detained, questioned, threatened and subject to searches of their homes and medical history? The television show *Saturday Night Live*, which has a long history of political satire and parody, recently featured a skit where former President George H.W. Bush contemplated shooting his son, the current President Bush. Should that skit have been censored as a veiled threat to the President? Would the cast of SNL be subject to prosecution? Student publications provide a forum for students to learn the principles of journalism and hone their skills to better prepare them for professional endeavors. Student editorials may, at times, be less refined than professional editorials, but they are nevertheless entitled to equal First Amendment protection.

There is a proud history of political satire in America. Satire, sarcasm, hyperbole and parody allow for richer expression. We may not all agree with Mr. Given's sentiments, but we all agree that he has an unrestricted right to express his opinion.

The undersigned organizations therefore respectfully request that the Secret Service recognize the valid and important First Amendment issues raised by Mr. Given's editorial. We ask, first, that the Secret Service issue a formal, written apology to Mr. Given and The Stony Brook Press for subjecting them to unreasonable harassment when their only action was to engage in protected expression in political opposition to the President. Second, we ask that the Secret Service educate its agents to be more sensitive to First Amendment issues. Finally, we ask that the Secret Service clarify that it will not pursue charges against Mr. Given based on his editorial, which is protected by the First Amendment.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gregg Leslie, Esq., Legal Defense Director
Lucy Dalglish, Esq., Executive Director
Ashley Gauthier, Esq., Legal Fellow
The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Mark Goodman, Esq., Executive Director
Michael Hiestand, Esq., Staff Attorney
Student Press Law Center

The Final Word