

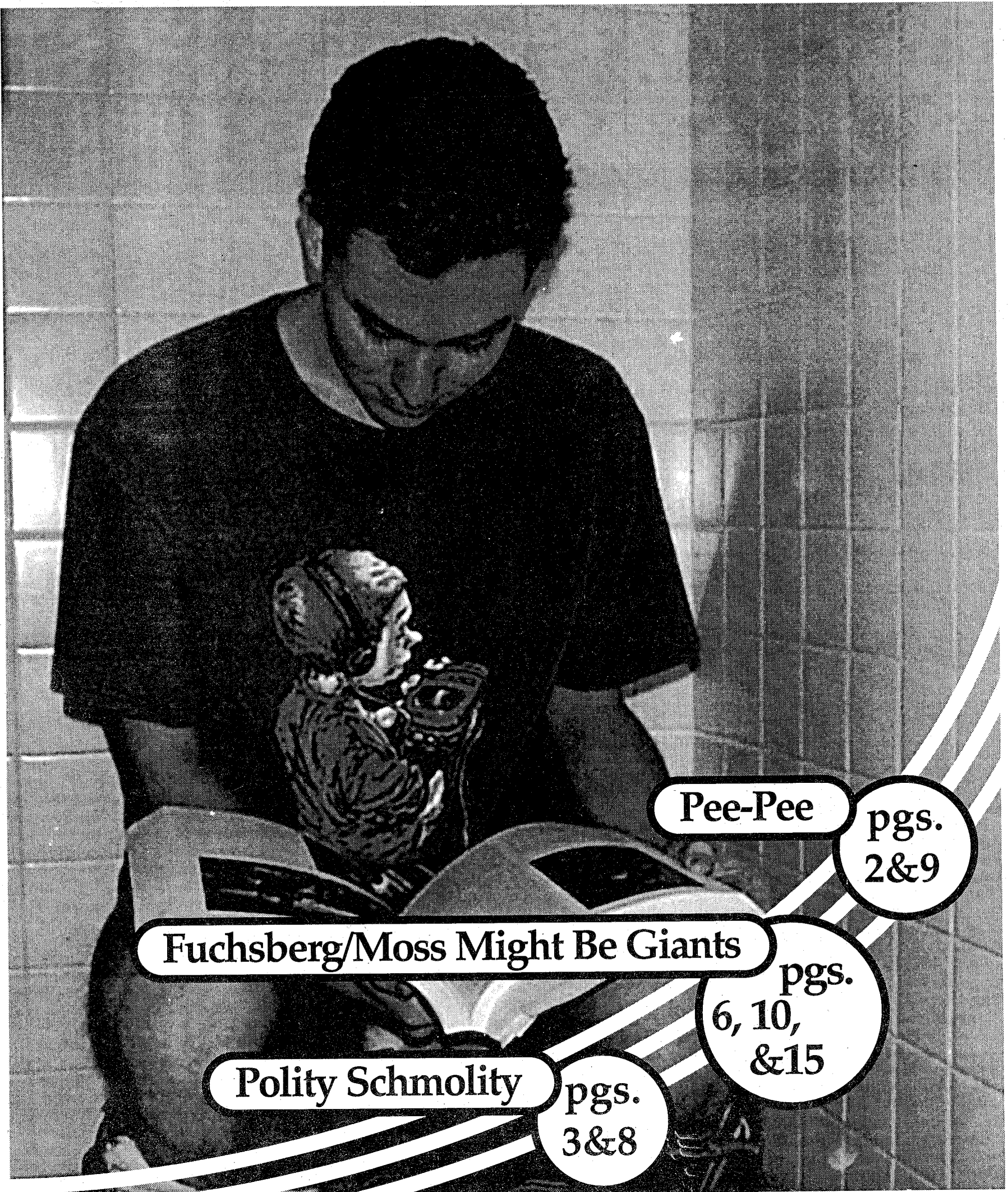
THE STONY
BROOK

PRESS

Vol. XXII, Issue 10

"Makes a Man Mean"

March 7, 2001



Pee-Pee

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2&9

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Napster Struggles to Keep its Service Alive

By Ellen Yau

As part of the effort to keep its song-swapping service alive, the lawyers of Napster Inc., presented on Friday to a judge its new music-screening system. This will hinder the trade of up to one million copyrighted song files, which has been Napster's heart and soul.

In hopes to mollify the judge, Napster's lawyers made its final plea at a two and a half hour hearing in Judge Marilyn Patel's Federal District Court in San Francisco. They said that the company's new screening system will be put into effect this weekend.

Napster, founded by Shawn Fanning and Sean Parker, exploded into popularity in the summer of 1999. The software acts as a free trade library of computer files over the Internet. Users type keywords into the search engine operated by Napster to locate a list of users and download a music file. They can register to have their files shared with the service as well. With the new screening system, tens of thousands of songs could be eliminated from exchange.

In the winter of 1999, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), which includes the five largest record labels: Sony Music Entertainment, Time Warner Inc., the BMG unit of Bertelsmann AG, EMI Group Plc, and Seagram Co.'s Universal Music Group, sued Napster for abetting in copyright infringements. They said that the free cyber song-swapping service cheats artists and labels by robbing them of billions of dollars in profits.

Experts predict that Napster's offer may not be sufficient to alter Patel's decision and the RIAA continues to urge her to proceed with the injunction to shut down Napster. She did not issue an injunction although she did indicate she would allow the two sides to go to mediation instead. The mediation is scheduled for March 9th.

Although the disadvantages, to the artists, of having free music in cyberspace and

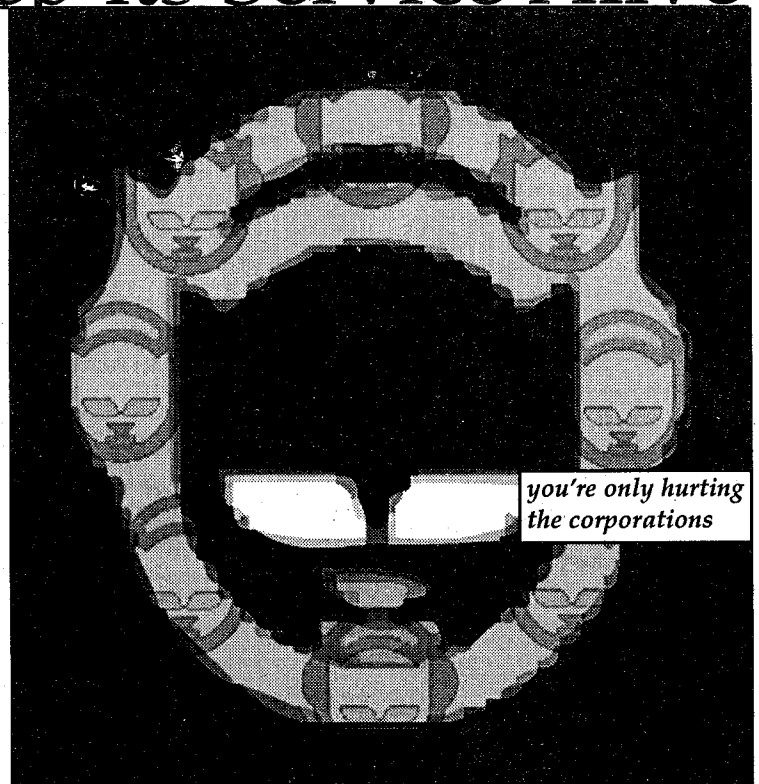
the record labels are obvious, record sales have not dropped but have actually increased by more than seven percent. Moreover, Napster and other music-swapping services are so popular on college campuses that many universities, including our university, have attempted to ban its use with firewalls.

Nevertheless, students continue to scour for other ways of trading MP3s. Although our university has set a firewall on Napster, other services have continually emerged. Even if all the vehicles for trading music files in cyberspace are banned, users will just resort to direct peer-to-peer song-swapping.

In the peer-to-peer swapping, one user will obtain permission or register with another user to share its music files and obtain a list of users who also have a list of music files in which they can obtain permission from that user to swap songs. This allows anybody that has access to the cyberspace, especially college students, to continue song-swapping without having to use a service medium like Napster, in which all their computers will have to register with, and it will also allow students to evade firewalls.

The availability of file-sharing software is unlikely to disappear. Meaning, regardless of whether Patel succeeds in shutting Napster down, other music-swapping services will arise: Presently, on college campuses, direct peer-to-peer file swapping is becoming increasingly popular due to firewalls against services like Napster and its cousins Scour and Gnutella.

Colleges indicate that they create firewalls because music swapping clogs up their



network and slows down the connection. However, the demand for obtaining large amounts of music files will remain high, and although direct peer-to-peer swapping is harder to hinder, it will continue to clog up the network.

And concerning Napster, the cat's already out of the bag. Napster already presented the idea of online file-swapping and it will continue to plague the minds of computer friendly Earthlings.

When Friday's hearing began, more than 8,500 Napster users were swapping more than 1.7 million music files through just one of Napster's 80 servers.

While you are home on the weekends, continue to download songs from Napster while it is still there. Or perhaps look online for a software that will work around the firewall if you do not go home on the weekends.

The Whizz 2 (Urine Trouble Part 3)

By Chris Sorochin

Our story thus far: when last we left our plucky, pissing protagonist, he had just received a summons to appear in Queens Criminal Court for the heinous act of public urination. His appearance date happens to fall during his Italian vacation and, should he not show up, there's a chance that Gotham's evil dictator, Rudy Giuliani, would send seven or eight members of his ever-growing enforcement squad to clap our hero in irons.

When I arrived home and told my wife, who also happens to be a lawyer, of my misadventure with the law, she advised me to plead not guilty, citing a bit of wisdom from one of her mentors to always plead so. Plus, they would reschedule for a later date. She explained that I didn't have to have a cogent case.

"Will it inconvenience Officer Friendly?" I inquired.

"Sure, he'll have to take a day to appear in court. I'll call some of my contacts over in Queens and find out who the prosecutor is and how he operates..."

"What do you mean 'prosecutor?'" I yelped incredulously, "I peed on a wall, for Christsake, and now you're telling me they're going to sic some ambition-mad prosecutor on me?!?"

Apparently any offense designated as "criminal" is dealt with by the gruesome machinery of the DA's office.

In perusing my ticket ("summons" sounds so very ominous), I noticed that the officers who had served me were not regular cops, but MTA transit police. I wondered if the garage-like structure upon which I had urinated so blithely was MTA property. Had I known this, I would have made a point of peeing on it much earlier, out of revenge for the numerous times the MTA had pissed on me.

The section containing the numerical code for the law I'd violated indicated that it was a health violation. I wondered of course, just how I'd endangered anyone's health. Perhaps urination in plain sight is aesthetically displeasing, but was there any scientific evidence that it was a health hazard? Whoever selected the accompanying illustration for my last article pointed out, urine is sterile and there are those who drink it.

My friend, Mike, lives in Japan. When I related my experiences to him over the holidays, he said that in Tokyo, every subway stop has a public restroom, which is well-maintained by female attendants who think nothing of strolling in while you're occupied. And an older colleague who'd grown up in New York City recalled the days when there were plentiful public restrooms. He said they were haunted by "weirdos."

The public urination laws, of course, are of course, nuisance laws, primarily directed at

the homeless or other indigents. They allow law enforcement to interfere with people who aren't really bothering anyone, but who belong to strata of society that those in power seek to exert control over. Similar statutes include those against loitering, disorderly conduct, creating a disturbance and the ever-unpopular open container laws. Let's not forget such all-purpose charges as "resisting arrest," "assaulting an officer" (usually applied when officers have assaulted a suspect) and "failure to disperse."

I also noticed that there was a part of the summons that I was supposed to have signed, affirming that I understood the charges and what I had to do, etc. It wasn't signed -- they hadn't asked me to sign it -- a technicality on which to beat the rap! But Sweetie and her fellow shysters (who don't do criminal law), however assured me that this meant nothing. She did say, though, that she couldn't find the law cited on the summons in any of the books. Another technicality?

At any rate, I sent in my summons (after making a copy) with my plea of "not guilty." About a week later, I got back a terse form letter from the Queens County Criminal Court, telling me to show up on my appointed day or they'd issue a warrant for my arrest, dangerous felon that I am.

Well, that cooked it. I sure as fuck

Cont. on Page 9

Impeach-o-rama!

By Jonathan Gelling

On Wednesday, February 21, the Polity Senate voted 44-0, with 4 abstentions, to impeach: Andy Auguste, the chairman of the Student Polity Activities Board, Renee Johnson, the Polity treasurer, and Jonnel Dorris, the President of the Student Polity Association. As a Polity Senator I feel that it is my responsibility to explain the extraordinary action that we were compelled to take and to explain why we had absolutely no other alternative in the matter.

The Senate established a committee to investigate the workings of the Student Polity Activities Board (SPAB) after learning of their intention to invite a minister from the Nation of Islam to campus. While SPAB claimed that Minister Muhammed was lecturing solely on black history and Egyptology the advertisements for his visit were of an inappropriate religious nature. Additionally, I am highly skeptical that Mr. Muhammed is fully qualified to lecture on topics of history, as there is evidence from his past lectures that the version of history he teaches is completely revisionist. If SPAB were interested in bringing in a lecturer on black history and Egyptology, certainly this university could provide a more qualified professor with actual credentials in either of those fields, and with no threat of religious indoctrination or racial intolerance in the message.

Minister Muhammed's lecture was only the beginning of the mess that was found. Although I hold the Polity executive council at fault for allowing the SPAB to host someone from the Nation of Islam, given that organization's past actions and statements, the real problems that led to the impeachments were related to their poor management of Polity funds and willful violations of Polity rules of procedure.

With a 2.2 million dollar organization, financial accountability is of paramount importance to ensure that fraud and abuse do not threaten the students' activity fee money. Those funds are entrusted to the Senate and the Council to distribute in a fair and responsible manner. The Senate committee, during the course of their investigation, found gross abuses of this trust by SPAB which went unchecked by the Polity Council, who have the responsibility of overseeing and approving the actions of executive organizations like SPAB. In particular, the committee found numerous instances where checks were written by SPAB to individuals, with vague statements of purpose; like purchasing "office supplies." Hundreds of dollars each week went toward the purchase of "office supplies." The checks were cut to individuals trusted to go out and purchase these supplies on their own.

Polity has detailed accounting rules in place to prevent fraud, abuse and, cutting checks to individuals conforms to none of them.

Such activity could easily lead to money disappearing. We also found many other instances where the minutes of SPAB meetings were incomplete or altered with no apparent explanation. The meeting at which Minister Muhammed's lecture was approved was held a few days before the spring semester even began. Theoretically, SPAB meetings are supposed to be publicized and open to members of the campus community. Clearly they do not choose to have such openness when approving controversial activities like inviting representatives of the Nation of Islam. According to the minutes from their meeting, held two days before school was in session, the vote to give \$250 of the students' money to Minister Muhammed was approved none for, none against, none abstained.

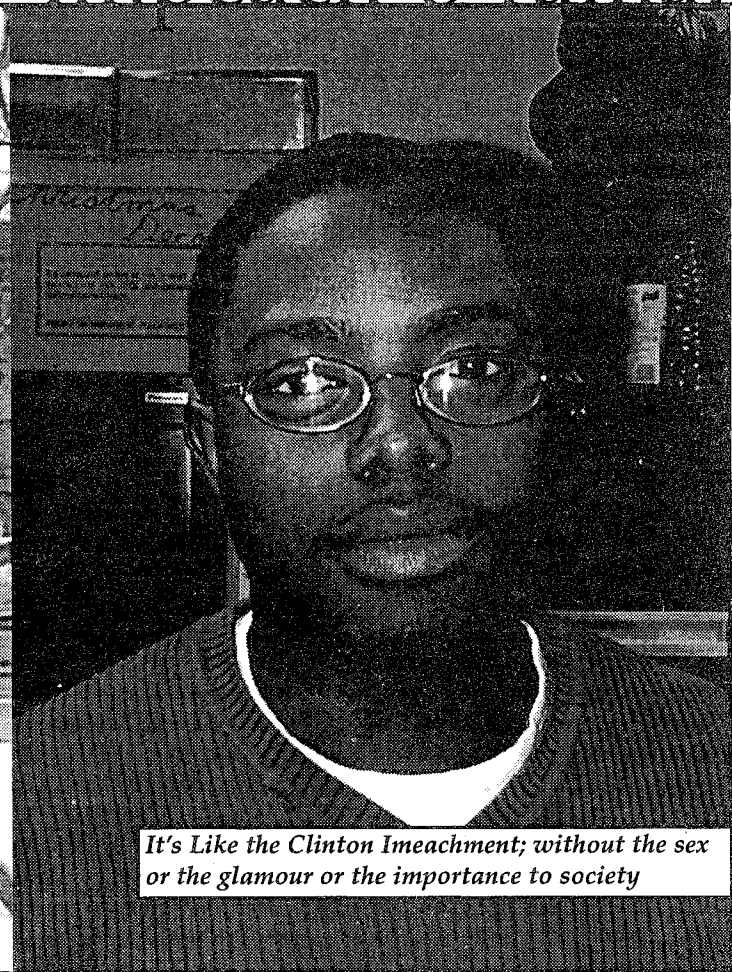
Furthermore, the organization was in violation of many of its own bylaws. The presiding officer of the committee introduced motions and voted on them improperly, as the chair of any committee has neither the power to vote nor the power to bring measures up for a vote, in order to maintain neutrality while presiding. It was also found that minutes, required to approve purchasing orders, had been signed improperly by people that had no authority whatsoever within SPAB. But the biggest problem we found in this area was that the committee and the Polity Council improperly allowed several different people to have signing authority for SPAB. According to our rules, the Secretary, Treasurer, and President of any organization all have to sign off on budget allocations. SPAB broke those rules by empowering several different people with signing privileges allowing all of them to withdraw money from the budget without following any sort of procedure to make sure that those funds had been properly appropriated. The Polity Treasurer and President were implicated by allowing such gross irregularities to continue. The President is also personally responsible for ensuring that the executive committees act in a manner consistent with Polity rules and regulations, which he allegedly did not uphold.

The President and the Treasurer of

Polity allegedly violated the Polity Constitution by refusing to enforce legislation passed by the Senate to temporarily suspend the budget of SPAB; pending the investigation of our committee. The President and Treasurer unilaterally decided that the Senate had no authority to take such an action without referring the matter to the Polity Judiciary; whose sole purpose is to interpret the Polity Constitution and its rules and regulations. On top of this, they didn't let any Senator know of their decision until right before the following meeting of the Senate two weeks later.

Well, after all of these considerations, some may be wondering if we are putting too much pressure on members of SPAB and the Polity Council in making them conform to standard rules of accounting and procedure. To this concern I can only say that with a 2.2 million dollar budget comes a great deal of responsibility, and that officers of the executive branch of our student government who are charged with spending that money must be held accountable or else our trust could easily be betrayed. The rules that are in place may be complex, but any students running for offices in student government should be aware of the difficulty of the job and they should be willing to put in the time to learn these simple matters of procedure. They are quite necessary because without them we would have no way of keeping track of this money and making sure that the affairs of student government are run ethically. I would also remind people that these executive officers are paid considerable stipends from these funds for their efforts. I do not believe that a little dry reading, the memorization of our regulations and some common sense accounting rules is too great a responsibility to ask of them. Such rules are likely to be found in the world of business where much larger sums of money are dealt with.

For all of the reasons I have outlined, the Senate felt compelled to impeach the Polity Treasurer and President and the Chair of the Student Polity Activities Board for their actions in violation of our rules, our Constitution, and our accounting regulations.



It's Like the Clinton Impeachment; without the sex or the glamour or the importance to society

Editorial: Polity Hooks You Up

One of the many valuable experiences available to the college student is the option to participate in a student government. A microcosm of democratic systems, student government shows us how full-fledged countries are run. Also, it's a damn good reason to read Robert's Rules of Order.

Stony Brook's Student Polity Association is no exception. We are fortunate to have a government that is a perfect reflection of the way larger government functions. Not a detail is missing. We've even got the corruption, embezzlement and shady dealing that goes on in a real government.

It would be such a shame to be deprived, during one's stay at college, of experiencing a student government that had to undertake impeachment proceedings against its president. Without this preparation, how would we react to the same scenario when it happened in the real world?

We at the Press are counting

our lucky stars for having been around during this exciting time. How often does one get the chance to witness, up-close and first hand, the non-functionality of a governmental system?

Stony Brook is a wonderful learning environment (in contrast to, say, an Ivy League school) because this school prepares you for real life. Everything is an over-committed, procedural pain in the ass here, which just like the real world, prevents anything from getting done.

We wouldn't want to attend a school in which we became accustomed to the luxury of working government, only to graduate into a world where one is more likely to see a black Pope than to see the government doing something worthwhile with our time and money.

So here's to the bureaucracy, the red tape, the infighting, the impeaching, the paperwork and the bullshit which is fortifying us against the barrage of shit we are in for after we leave this hallowed institution.

Letter: Eat me, Dan Schneider, Health and politics of vegetarianism

Your "Wake Up," article in your last issue was a sarcastic, malinformed piece that needs a response. Most Vegans and vegetarians are staunch environmentalists, consistent in their beliefs, and act accordingly.

The cattle industry is an environmental disaster. The over production of cattle and the feed needed to support it is a misuse of global resources.

Tons of feed made up of grains and corn are used to support this unnatural number of cattle. It's actually a net loss of food for the planet. To stretch the feed need to support the cattle big farmers have been feeding cattle by-products back to the cows forcing them to be cannibals. This practice led directly to "Mad Cow" disease. Mad Cow Disease and the use of anti-biotics are health threats to meat eaters.

Vast land has been usurped and used by the international cattle industry in the developing world, at the expense of the local economies and bio-diversity. Vegetarianism is a boost to bio-diversity and a blow against neo-liberalism.

In practice vegetarianism opens up new foods and dishes to people who try it. Foods from falafel, hummus, to vegan mitsoy piazzas.

All Vegans I know support non-animal alternatives in all consumer products. All environmentalists support the use of soy based ink as opposed to lead based ink for environmental reasons, even if squid ink was used. Maybe the Press can put out an environmental issue printed in soy ink on hemp paper.

Other mammals don't just seem closer to humans, they are. The mammalian kingdom is where intelligence and emotions emerge. Many vegetarians are so for empathetic and humanitarian reasons. To check out that hypothesis, see a film on what happens at a slaughterhouse. There is a big turn over in

employees in that occupation.

Most Vegetarians I know don't eat fish. Sponge cake is not made from the ocean sponges, as the "wake up" author, Dan Schneider, stated.

Dan said "Plants have feelings too," actually they don't. Plants don't have central nervous systems. Not all life is conscience life. That also includes many primitive animal life. Such as the starfish. Enjoy your starfish on toast.

Since it is a biological fact that plant life can't feel pain and are not conscience, the cruelty issue is moot. Dan, I want to hear about your conversations with Cucumbers. You are right about one thing. Cucumbers don't look like cows.

Shifting your diet from animal based to fruit and vegetable based has many health benefits. Eating too much meat leads to high cholesterol, and the consumption of saturated fats and anti-biotics. The vegetarian alternative gives you anti-oxidants and fiber. Anti-oxidants clean your body out from free radicals in your blood. These are your Vitamin C and B compounds. Not getting enough of that is the same as irradiating yourself. Nobody appreciates the overbearing self-righteous. Vegans are not going to dictate what you can but and eat. Nobody has that power over you. Vegans and Vegetarians are putting out important information, facts and perspectives to the public debate. The vegan, vegetarian, environmental communities are a poor target for your venomous, sarcastic vitriol. If you want to eat meat, go ahead. I got a piece of meat for you.

For more information on Vegetarianism and their environmental impact and political economy of diet check out www.earthsaves.com

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Letter: Dear Mr. 1st Amendment

I read about you in Newsday of February 16, and the story worries me.

In the past I wrote some crazy letters to high officials, including one to Dan Quayle. He had just been offered the Vice Presidency under Daddy George when I wrote, "My only regret is that the country will be surrendered to fools. So I beg of you as I pray to God, hold yourself back so better men can go forward." No SS - Secret Service - agents came banging on my door.

I also wrote to Janet Reno, "I watched the raid on the Gonzales residence. I think you should run for President. That way I can vote against you." Again, no SS.

But if someone wrote these things to me, I'd be upset.

That worries me about the current administration. Sonny George is not the brightest light on the Christmas tree, the electoral legitimacy of his

regime is in doubt, and I fear he hasn't the spine of those who came before him. He has spoken about creating an anti-terrorism group of sizable proportions, and his followers, on BookTV, remind us, that our democracy cannot last forever.

I fear he intends to suppress our rights to keep his power; Clinton and Daddy George didn't have that problem.

What we need is spine. We need a man like Lincoln who could walk through the enemies capitol while battles rage just miles away.

Think we'll get such a man soon?

If you have a letters column, feel free to print this. If you don't, print it anyway. I await the SS.

Sincerely, Gordon L. Stewart, Citizen

Letter: Don't Play Calculus With God! (?)

Dear Fellow Students,

I originally wanted to begin this letter quite differently, in a far more indignant corrosive manner, yet I'm somewhat sobered up by the prospect, or even in an ironic sense that there is still the hope that there might be some hope for myself, as well as for everyone else. This is a brief episodic tale of a fallen Christian:

About two years ago I had decided to renew my commitment to God. My attempt was both selfish and cowardly at best, initiated by a fast-ing off of bottled seltzer water for one day (after fifty-two days hospital-ization for alcoholic liver disease and dementia I used this as a substitute in lieu of alcohol). The purpose for this fast was not so much for a spirit filled walk with God, but rather as an inroad to be readmitted into this institution, being how my lack of genuine faith required the accompaniment of a sign. Three days later I was enrolled as a GSP student.

Fasting became an obsession with me, as I did get to see into the spiritworld as I merely fantasized that others might have or have alleged to. I was given instructions on which foods drink and medications to refrain from (and with the longer lasting more severe episodes of total abstinence of wheat and dairy products which culminated in 2-three day total food and drink fast with eighteen days of water only allowed directly between them). The same came to me mostly in dreams, but many through banging on and through walls and pipes in terrifying synchronicity with the thoughts and desires within me. Needless to say, I became an even much sicker emaciated wreck- forlorn and heartbroken as well.

Since I said this would be brief, and since I'm professionally incapable of compressing the two years of abysmal horror that ensued in the wake of getting involved with an exorcist who received communication of my plight(not through any agency of my own) and falsely prophesying the death of a close relative of mine, I have received the most relentlessly day and night vicious mind-bending heart tearing suicide-starving ass kicking that anyone who feels as totally worthless insignificant and degraded as me could feel. I'm out of God's grace, and might stay this way till the day I die- I don't know, clearly that's my problem. That I'm not a decent well structured careful writer is also clearly evident.

In closing, please bear in mind (and mostly, in your heart) that you never know what another person is going through. I'm a fucking asshole, admittedly, yet there's even hope for me. Even the people who criticize you for your lack of moral standards (there is nothing spiritual about morality or any other excuse for justification of social bigotry- it's the truth, the Lord, that counts in eternity), or humanistic atheism, they haven't made it yet either and not all of them will. They, as the rest of us, are all in this together. Whether we like it, we need each other in prayer in spirit and in humanity, as well.

Kevin Connell

PS, For the benefit of those of you who are being called (you know who you are) don't make the same tragic mistake that I did. Answer the Lord with your heart, not with your mind. Don't play calculus with God!

Letter: Dear Editors

Regarding the article "What's Going On in Public Schools" in the February 21st edition of The Press by Greg Knopp, I fully agree that the administrative establishment is pushing the line in submitting students to undergo invasive drug testing and fingerprinting. However, one must consider the cause of such breaches of privacy--namely the behavior of the students.

As a former member of the editorial board of The Stony Brook Press, I am appreciative of the inroads Mr. Knopp is trying to make regarding debate of educational policy. As a public school teacher, however, I am amazed at the sheer stupidity and arrogance of many of today's school children. It is this earned distrust of the high school student body that makes such appalling regulations unfortunately necessary.

Let us consider the routine drug testing. Firstly, Mr. Knopp makes the argument that since the students must be in school, forced "cup-pissing" is a violation of their human rights. However, the students were not denied their right to an education upon refusal of the drug test, they were merely put on probation. However disagreeable it may be, it is not illegal. Secondly, I am sure that the administration did not come to the sudden epiphany that spending tax dollars collecting urine samples would secure popularity. Rather they employed drug testing for one simple reason: too many kids were coming to school high. Here's the thing--if you're going to be stupid enough to smoke a "doob" five minutes before math class, you deserve to have to pee in a cup. Save it for a Friday night or at least until after eighth period. (If you can't wait that long to partake, then once again you deserve to pee in a cup because you, my friend, have a problem.) Thirdly, Mr. Knopp leaves out one important point in enforcing restrictions on school kids--essentially that they are kids. This is not to say that children do not have rights. But it is our responsibility as a society to teach children that sometimes, breaking the rules is just not okay. Bending, pushing, mar-

ring, and blurring the rules--fine. But I draw the line when I catch a 14-year-old cutting my class to sell a few ounces of crack.

Incidentally, teachers are subjected to drug testing, fingerprinting, records checks, dress codes, etc. Teachers are far more victims of "labeling, categorizing, and "conditioning" than are the students we teach (because I am a teacher, I am a "bitch", a "hag", a "nag", and a "cunt" just for doing my job of trying to give a kid a chance at an education.) I would love just for one day for my students to show an ounce of responsibility for their own lives and respect for themselves as well as for those around them. Perhaps it is time for us to stop crying for the poor little youths that are given the best of everything and yet continue to abuse it. While I do not like the idea of invading the private lives of people, perhaps mild restrictions are what is needed to show children that, for whatever reasons, life does have its responsibilities, and that part of enjoying the right to an education is to not disregard the privilege.

Mr. Knopp writes, "every year, schools pull something completely ridiculous and unthinkable, and manage to get away with it." I doubt that if he spent a week at the other end of the spectrum in a public high school (where students are stoned at eight o'clock in the morning, where sixteen year olds brandishing switchblades are a common occurrence and where you are told to "fuck off" three times before lunch) that Mr. Knopp would so adamantly deny that some kind of enforcement of rules are needed.

I know from first hand experience that The Press values the presentation of both sides of an issue. Hopefully, this letter will demonstrate that there is another side, even to something as loathsome as school rules.

Sincerely, Anne Ruggiero

P.S. Good work, Squirrel! I'm proud to have worked with you.

Hypocrisy: The American Way

By Wendy Fuschsberg

Oh, how they love to cry for the end of "Big Government" when they are talking about welfare, but never when they talk about the military. That's right those wacky conservatives who endlessly whine about states' rights, have just turned "Big Government" into "Big Brother."

Most of you are probably aware that the Secret Service came to our campus to harass one of our fellow students. Moreover, you'd think if they were going to question him at the newspaper's office in the student union, they would have to notify the university's administration, which would have shown some respect for the authority of the STATE of New York. It seems that when the Secret Service use their federal clout to intimidate a college student on the campus of a state university, states' rights just don't apply. Well, what did this student do that was so threatening to the president? He wrote an editorial praying for "God" or some other "supreme being" to "smite" George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and an MTV VJ. The author of this editorial did not say people should grab a gun and head off to Washington. Moreover, I think the underlying themes that were played upon in this article were absolutely on point.

Machiavelli, someone who is revered as a "realist" by many conservative Republicans, echoes strongly within George W. Bush. The similarities are difficult to ignore:

"A prince (in modern terms a Ruler or President), therefore, must be very careful never to let anything slip from his lips which is not full of the five qualities listed above: he should appear upon seeing and hearing him to be all mercy, all faithfulness, all integrity, all kindness, all religion. And there is nothing more necessary than to seem to possess this last quality. And men in general judge more by their eyes than their hands; for everyone can see but few can feel. Everyone sees what you seem to be, few touch upon what you are, and those few do not dare to contradict the opinion of the many who have the majesty of the state to defend them." Could it be that this whole fiasco is because this young man should not have "dared" to question this man's integrity and religiosity? How could he not? Integrity is respecting the principles your country holds sacred such as the separation of church and state, freedom of speech, and states' rights. When the state loses power and all the power of a nation lies in the hands of the federal government, this nation becomes the very definition of fascism.

Moreover, Machiavelli says: "Therefore it is not necessary for a prince to have all of the above-mentioned qualities, but it is very necessary for him to appear to have them." Many people do not think George W. Bush is the devout Christian he "appears" to be. Faith-based organizations? This man has executed 138 people (and counting) apparently acting contradictory to those parts of the new testament that speak of "love," "forgiveness," "mercy," and the like. I think it's safe to say

that if these are God's values, he must be pretty upset with the president right about now. Besides if we are going to have federal funding for faith-based organizations, the Satanists should apply for funding. After all, we do still have the freedom of religion in this country, don't we?

"But it is necessary to know how to disguise this nature well and be a great hypocrite and a liar: and men are so simple-minded and so controlled by their present needs that one who deceives will always find another who will allow himself to be deceived." Maybe if the President were a bit smarter, he could "disguise" his nature better.

Yet another point those kooky conservatives support, is this ridiculously hypocritical "drug war." In general, I think the personification and demonization of inanimate objects is propaganda. However, if we are going to have a "drug war," then I'm going to start making some citizen's arrests starting with Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., George W. Bush and the Central Intelligence Agency (in case the Gestapo are reading this, this is a JOKE. The statute of limitations has long since come and gone anyway). This country has a long history of aiding major drug dealers (and giving them presidential pardons). The Enterprise Operation established by Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and Admiral John Poindexter in 1984-1985 supplied the Medellin cocaine cartel with airplanes, labor, and landing strips to aid in transporting large drug shipments. The proceeds from this unselfish act of generosity were used to buy arms for the Contras. This is just one example, among many, of the United States providing drug dealers with money-laundering facilities, planes, labor, arms, and protection in carrying out their illegal activity.

Then we have those zany conservatives who espouse the great virtues of capitalism, as if capitalism (an economic system) has anything to do with democracy. What they forget to mention is that Adam Smith, the father of capitalism, thought that large businesses are not in the best interests of the market because they serve to LIMIT competition. Moreover, he felt that monopolies (such as the one Microsoft has) were not in the best interests of the free market because when a monopoly exists, a company can charge whatever they want and do not have to improve upon their technology, thereby halting any technological advances. Adam Smith's ideal was to have many small businesses competing, thereby fostering advances in technology, and providing the consumer with the best price available. Moreover, he would never have

supported the patenting of life-saving drugs and other things, which would serve to promote the common good. These points can be seen in an essay called "The Betrayal of Adam Smith," an excerpt from a book called When Corporations Rule the World by David C. Korten. "He would surely have strongly opposed current efforts by market libertarians to strengthen corporate monopoly control of intellectual property rights through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The idea that a major corporation might have exclusive control over a lifesaving drug or device thereby, able to charge whatever the market will bear would have been anathema to him. Furthermore, Smith did not advocate a market system based on unrestrained greed. He was talking about small farmers and artisans trying to get the best price for their products to provide for themselves and their families. That is self-interest-but it is not greed. Greed is a high paid corporate executive firing 10,000 employees and then rewarding himself with a multi-million dollar bonus for having saved the company so much money. Greed is what the economic system being constructed by the corporate libertarians encourages and rewards."

Those wacky conservatives, always trying to make us believe in something, which they clearly do not and furthermore, probably never did. These "candidates" change their views like they change their underwear. No wonder America's youth are confused and apathetic.

Hypocrisy, it has surely become the American Way.



The Arcade/Mon-Sat/1000toMidnight

PoolMovie rentalVideogamesLounge

Basement/Student Union

Page 6

By F. L. Livingston

Rudy Giuliani is grossed out by a new work on display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Out of a whole exhibit, he has zeroed in on one piece, slamming it as "disgusting," "indecent" and "anti-Catholic."

Wait a minute -- Doesn't this sound sort of familiar? Haven't we been here before? Oh yeah. 1999. The "Sensation" Exhibit, in which one painting portrayed the Virgin Mary, covered in images of elephant dung. Now, two years later, here we go again. This time the exhibit involved

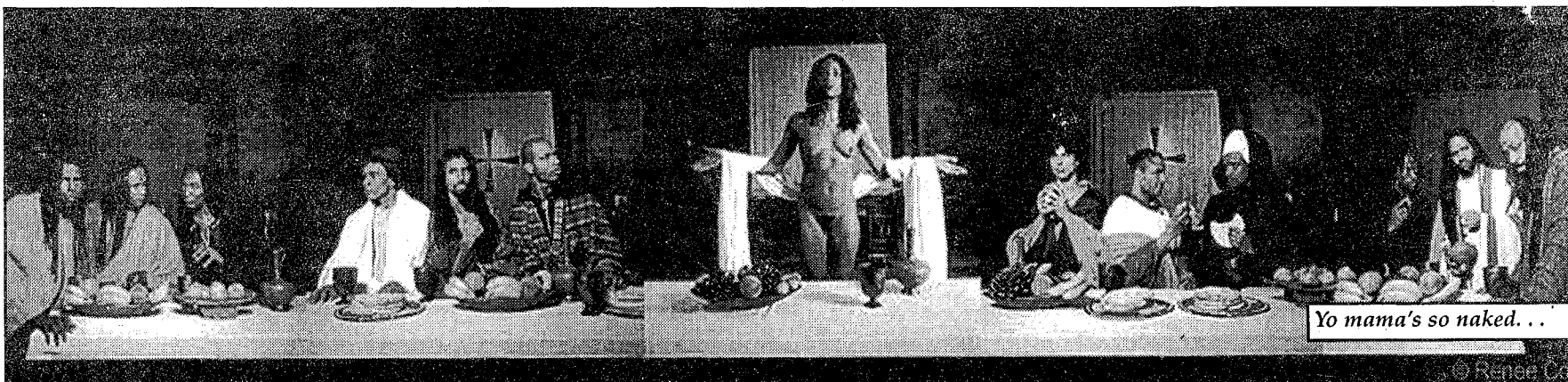
Hizzoner. Maybe, instead, it's the fact that the photographer cast herself, a woman, as the Christ figure. He may see that as a challenge to the Catholic Church's stand on the role of women, especially within the church itself. As the caption for the piece explains, Cox' work "addresses issues of race and gender, particularly of power and sublimation."

"Why can't a woman be Christ?" Cox asks. Well, okay, maybe because Christ was a man. But try broadening that question to read "Why can't a woman be a Christ figure?" or "a

that men and women are all "as one in the body of Christ."

The Naked Factor: What Rudy may truly find "indecent," though, is the nudity in the photos. Not perhaps because of the nudity in itself but because it is the Christ figure who is portrayed in the buff. In every picture Cox is "naked except for a gossamer cloth."

Why? I'm not sure. To stress the sexuality theme, perhaps. Or to emphasize the female presentation of this particular "Jesus." Maybe even to bring out the vulnerability of blacks and



is a display of African-American photography, and the work in question is a series of pictures by Renee Cox, entitled, "Yo Mama's Last Supper." It's a photographic take-off of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting of Jesus Christ's "Last Supper." Once again, Giuliani is claiming poor taste and Catholic-bashing. True to form, he's acting as if he's an authority on what constitutes art.

Okay, I'm no art critic, either. But I think Giuliani must have been sleeping when they taught symbolism in -- what? -- junior high? Plus, he seems to be operating from a very narrow view of religion. Let's take a look...

The Racial Factor: That Cox depicted Jesus and his disciples as black merely suggests, at first glance, that blacks, as a group, have been "crucified" through physical and psychological mistreatment. Look again, and one realizes that one apostle, Judas Iscariot, is white, which tends to bring out the fact that the villains in black history were usually white people.

But how is this an insult to Catholicism? Granted, since the work relies so heavily on Christian imagery, it's conceivable, that it was intended to focus on the betrayal of black Christians by certain of their white Christian "brothers." The fact that a point is made of spotlighting Judas, Christian symbol of "betrayal," increases the likelihood of that. No doubt, it's intended to question the hypocrisy of those who persuaded blacks to convert to Christianity and yet supported and practiced slavery and racism. But it's not necessarily an attack on all Christians, in general, and certainly, not on Catholics in particular.

Perhaps, I'm making the situation worse by expanding the category involved from "Catholics" to "Christians." I'm not trying to create a wider controversy; I'm just attempting to show that the piece is not necessarily aimed at once specific sect.

Of course, now, some believers will argue that the type of "Christians" who enslaved and mistreated black people weren't "true Christians." Maybe not. But that just underscores my point: the photos are more about hypocrisy than they are about any particular ethnic or religious group.

The Gender Factor: Perhaps the "race-and-religion" issue is not what really disturbs

Christ-like figure?" or a priest? That may be a different matter, even though the Catholic Church may not agree. Ms. Cox is in no position to set policy for any given sect but surely, she has as much right to express her opinion on this subject as anyone else does, head of the church or not.

But again, this concern isn't limited to Catholics, alone. True, people here in New York may be quick to associate this matter with the very visible Catholic Church. True, the Church is an "easy target" because it has a central authority that governs the religion as a whole. But the women's rights issue is a matter of contention within other Christian groups, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, and even some non-Christian ones, such as Orthodox Judaism. Why does Giuliani relate the situation only to his own faith?

The Gender-Bender Factor: Then again, what the mayor may be responding to is Cox' admitted wish "to unleash the bisexual nature of the human psyche." Does her presentation of a female Christ intimate that Jesus was bi? Or, more likely, that we all have both a "feminine" and a "masculine" side? Either way, I can see how this might disturb such institutions as the Catholic Church, since they teach that gay and bi behavior is "sinful."

But that may be just the kind of attitude that the artist is trying to fight. After all, if it were agreed that we all have some "male" and "female" in us, it could have a profound effect on religious teachings. The Church would no longer be able to draw on the fact that Jesus is identified as a male to exclude women from the priesthood. Also, its leaders might be more inclined to accept the sexual lives of non-heterosexuals.

Notice that I say such institutions as the Catholic Church. That's because, here again, the controversy isn't restricted to Catholicism. There are other sects that frown on non-heterosexual behavior ("love the 'sinner'; hate the 'sin,'" and all that) and that view Christ's male identity as a sign that women must not assume high positions in their churches.

So, a lot of people, Catholic and otherwise may disagree with the goals of Cox's work. But she has as much right to pursue them as any demonstrator marching down the street. Nor is it the first time that anyone has suggested

women who were subjugated, in one way or another, by "the powers that be." (Okay, maybe she was just going for the notoriety. I hope not. If so, however, she got her way, thanks to the mayor!)

But surely, it's not intended to insult the Catholics or the members of any other faith. There is nothing inherently "indecent" or "disgusting" about the human body, especially when depicted in a work of art. In fact, since God is said to have created the human body, and "in His image," no less, then how can this nudity be offensive in a religious context -- especially in a religious context?

Yes, I know the answer: because sexual modesty is also an important tenet of Christianity (including but, once more, not confined to Catholicism) and most modern religions. Some Christians might find it offensive that the artist chose to use nudity in a notably Christian scene.

"Offensive," yes. But "indecent?" Not necessarily. For "decency," like "beauty," is often in the eye of the beholder. And it's possible that Giuliani has personal matters of "decency" on his mind right now that shade his vision of all else. Or as Cox so aptly put it, "Now that he's been busted with other women, I wouldn't be talking about moral issues."

But what galls me the most about this whole episode, is that Giuliani wants to appoint a committee to establish a "decency standard" for art. How dare he! I mean, okay, at least he's finally admitting that he's not some omniscient authority. But setting up a panel to legislate morality in art based on their own beliefs and backgrounds? So an artist such as Cox will not be fully free to express her thoughts and feelings unless they mesh with those of the censors?

Outrageous! (And no, this is not "just like television." It's not coming into your home.)

The "Oops-She-Did-It-Too" Factor: Still, I have to concede, that Giuliani isn't the only one in this little drama with such a streamlined view of the world. Cox herself admits that her work reveals some of her specific problems with the Catholic Church. She insists that "forty percent of slave owners were Catholic," though she can't produce any proof. And according to Les Payne, the piece is "a direct counter-stab at the

Cont. on Page 11

By Beverly Bryan

It is not often that you see a standing room-only student government meeting, but on the evening of February 28, 2001 such was the case. There were questions raised about the capacity of the room and a small group of SUNY police officers were called in to ensure that everyone left in an orderly fashion. At Wednesday's Senate meeting in the bi-level of the Student Union, there was an unusually unregulated meeting of the student government and members of the student body that it represents.

A discussion on the impeachment of President Jonnel Dorris, Treasurer Renee Johnson, and Student Polity Activities Board Chair Andy Auguste was not listed on the agenda, but it came to be the only topic addressed. It was clear from the start that the issue of impeachment was what the students had come for, and that was on everyone's mind.

After the call to order, Chief Polity Justice Talia Paul informed the meeting that the issue was in question because the justices had been improperly appointed. There was a gag rule in place as regards the proposed trial. That is to say, no one connected with the trial could talk about the evidence. The room became vocal. A few students began chanting "No Justice, No Peace." Kaedrea Jackson, Senate chair and Polity Vice President called them by name and asked them to leave. Senators made repeated requests but the chanters showed no intention of going anywhere.

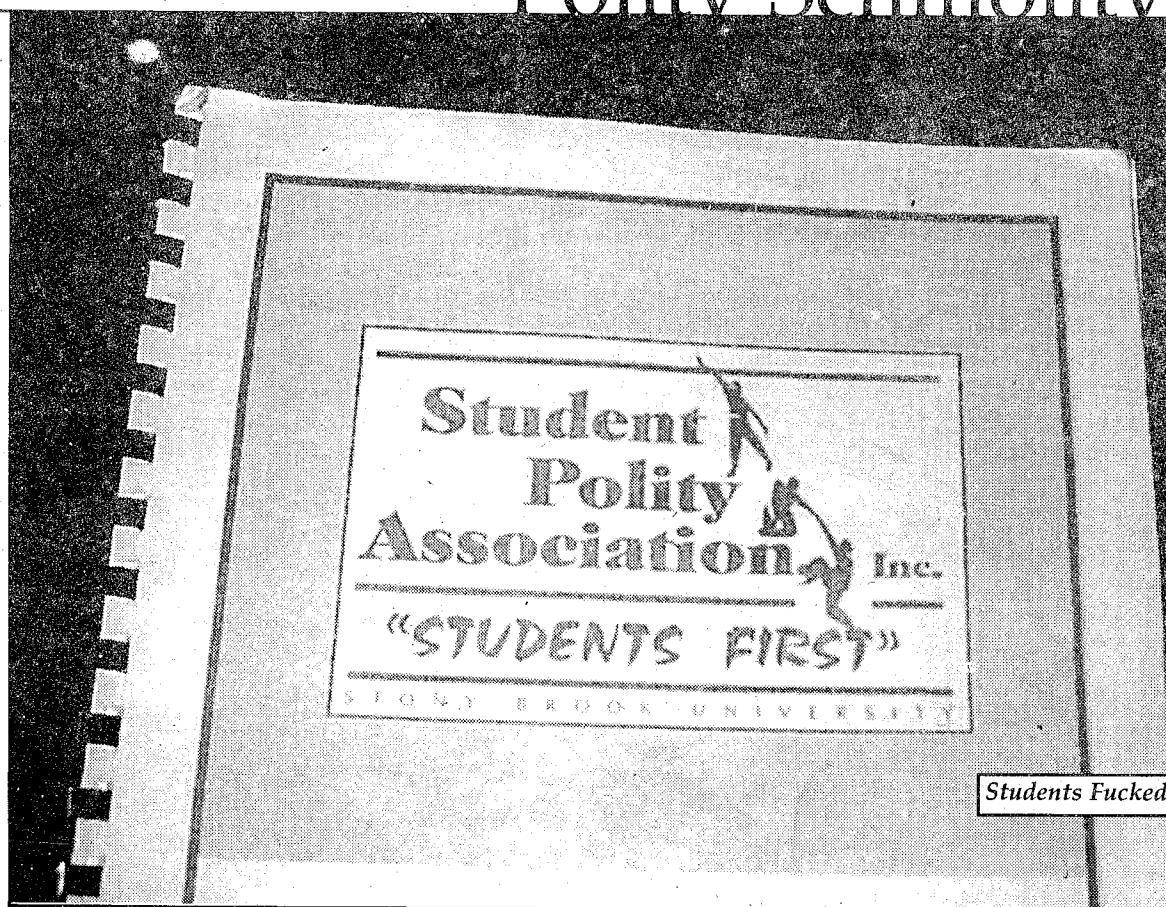
It was around this time that the convention at Senate meetings of waiting to be recognized by the Chair completely degenerated. Shouting became necessary to be heard above the crowd. Students demanded to know why more had not been done to bring the impeachment to their attention. Brief but passionate speeches met with applause. Students were asked, in vain, to applaud.

One senator defended the senate's position by comparing their body to the National House of Representatives. The House doesn't need to notify every citizen before they make a decision. In a representative government citizens simply trust their representatives to make the night decision. A spectator mused that most of those present had probably not been assiduous in attending LEG board meetings.

Anyone who had wandered into the room at that moment would have certainly wanted to know the cause of such contention. The facts as far as they may be publicly known are that on the 22 of January this year 250 dollars were allocated by SPAB for Minister David Muhammad to come on campus as a speaker. He was billed on the flyers posted for the event as a registered member of the Nation of Islam (Muhammad's Mosque #7, New York). It was not mentioned on the flyer what he would be speaking on but SPAB members maintain the focus was to be Egyptology.

This might never have become an issue except that a few individuals and, notably, a spokesperson for Hillel, a Jewish organization on campus, complained that the speaker was offensive because of Nation Of Islam's express racist and anti-Semitic position. Jonnel Dorris saw that the lecture was canceled, after it became obvious that the bill violated Polity rules.

The matter did not end there; however, four senators obtained permission from the senate to investigate SPAB. The grounds were that this was an illegal event for two reasons. First, funds should not have been allocated for it before the beginning of the semester because it eliminated the possibility of student input. Second is a rule barring "overtly religious" or



otherwise partisan organizations from speaking on campus. The accusation appears to be in essence that the first rule was violated in order to circumvent the second.

The guidelines for SPAB as stated in the meeting prohibit cutting checks to individuals-only stipends and reimbursements are permissible and those checks cannot exceed 200 dollars. If expenses exceed 1000 dollars three price quotes are needed. In the course of the investigation many checks were found to be cut to individuals.

The four senators who spearheaded the special committee for the investigation are described by one of their colleagues as seeing the David Muhammad incident as a "red flag" that SPAB was not operating entirely above board. In making their investigation they obtained evidence to suggest that the SPAB had been misallocating other funds.

It appears that at one point Senate ordered the SPAB budget frozen. SPAB representatives present at the meeting contended that they never got the memo. All of the senators had photo copied packets of evidence consisting of SPAB minutes, requests for purchase orders and checks as well as the flyer for David Muhammad's canceled lecture. Arguments over the validity of different points of evidence broke out. SPAB and Senate members vied for control of the microphone. The gag rule was suspended for the meeting. Finally, a motion was brought up to reconsider going ahead with the impeachment.

The senator who made the motion felt that in light of the defenses SPAB leaders had presented she was no longer sure she had made the right decision in voting for impeachment. Her motion was seconded. It was also challenged and further disordered debate ensued.

One senator made the point that a vote for impeachment is not a vote for removal from office and that the vote was made simply because there was enough evidence to go through the judicial process of impeachment. This is basically a trial where the accused is innocent until proven guilty. This is the stated purpose of the gag rule-to prevent a biased trial. Those involved in the trial are forbidden to read anything any campus paper publishes about the trial.

The discussion went on with many senators becoming increasingly upset with the difficulty of carrying on a meeting in the midst of an unruly crowd. One senator declared "This is a

fiasco, all of you people showing up tonight!" Another senator, however, contradicted him by saying, "They should be here every night."

A few senators were displeased enough with the way the meeting was going that they chose to leave, depriving the assembly of quorum. It has been said that these senators are on the investigative committee. The students cramming the doorway were at first unwilling to let them pass but relented under duress.

Beside the basic issue of whether or not there are good reasons to impeach the Polity leadership. There are other issues at work here in mobilizing the student body. Chris Efthymious, one of the senators closely involved with investigation, is generally acknowledged to have said that, "SPAB is too Black." That is one of the major concerns of those students who attended the meeting on Wednesday; that the attack on Polity is not entirely an impartial one. There are many that fear it that was motivated by a personal and possibly racial conflict within the student government.

No one is eager to define the issue along color lines. One well-meaning senator attempted to down play the racial issue by pointing out that there were black student leaders supporting the vote for impeachment. This did not have the effect on the crowd he hoped it would. There was uproar and many were offended by the implication that the only concern here was over the color of the accused.

Another issue appears to be the how uninformed about campus issues campus resident senators are relative to commuter senators. Many resident senators are freshman and inexperienced in the ins and out of student government. Along with the election schedule, agenda packets on "How to Make a Motion" were made available to senators at the beginning of the meeting. This reporter spoke to a few senators who were unable to answer basic questions about what was going on because they didn't know themselves.

In the end no decision could be reached once quorum had been lost. A pre-trial conference had been scheduled for the following evening but it was canceled until the senate convenes again and comes to a decision.

wasn't going to try to change my ticket (which I got through CheapTickets.com and was not even changeable for a fee). And even if I could, I sure as fuck wasn't going to give up five days of desperately needed dolce vita just to answer some bogus charge.

Still, I had very ugly visions of arriving at Kennedy and being welcomed home by some of Rudy's henchmen, who would detain me in my jet-lagged state and paw through my luggage, appropriating my souvenir bottles of grappa and Florentine silk ties for themselves.

I thought maybe I should send them a letter telling them I wouldn't be showing up. Just to make it classy, and possibly gain some sympathy, I could send it from Italy, perhaps with a charming postcard.

Sweetie quickly vetoes the idea, claiming it would only aggravate them further, dull-minded little bureaucrats that they are. She said to just go and she'd get in touch with a friend of ours who used to work in the Queens DA's office.

I took her advice since she's the professional in these matters, but what a wasted opportunity for some rhetorical fireworks. In the best tradition of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., I decided to compose a theoretical Letter to the Queens County Criminal Court that would never be sent:

Dear Queens County Criminal Court:

Thank you so much for the invitation to participate in the justice system. As a conscientious citizen, I would of course have loved to have spent the better part of a Friday morning, or maybe the entire day, in one of your funereal courtrooms, with several dozen of my fellow serfs, I mean taxpayers, similarly ensnared in another of the city's revenue-enhancing schemes.

Unfortunately, I am currently in the middle of a trip to Italy, and, as you must be able to appreciate, I really couldn't bring myself to come home early from a place with such fabulous food just so I could appear in court to answer some piddlyshit charge.

I'm sure you'll agree that only a complete and total numbskull would give up the sultry pleasures of the Mediterranean for the joyless formalities of the city government of New York. I'm also sure that, were you in my position, you'd do exactly the same thing.

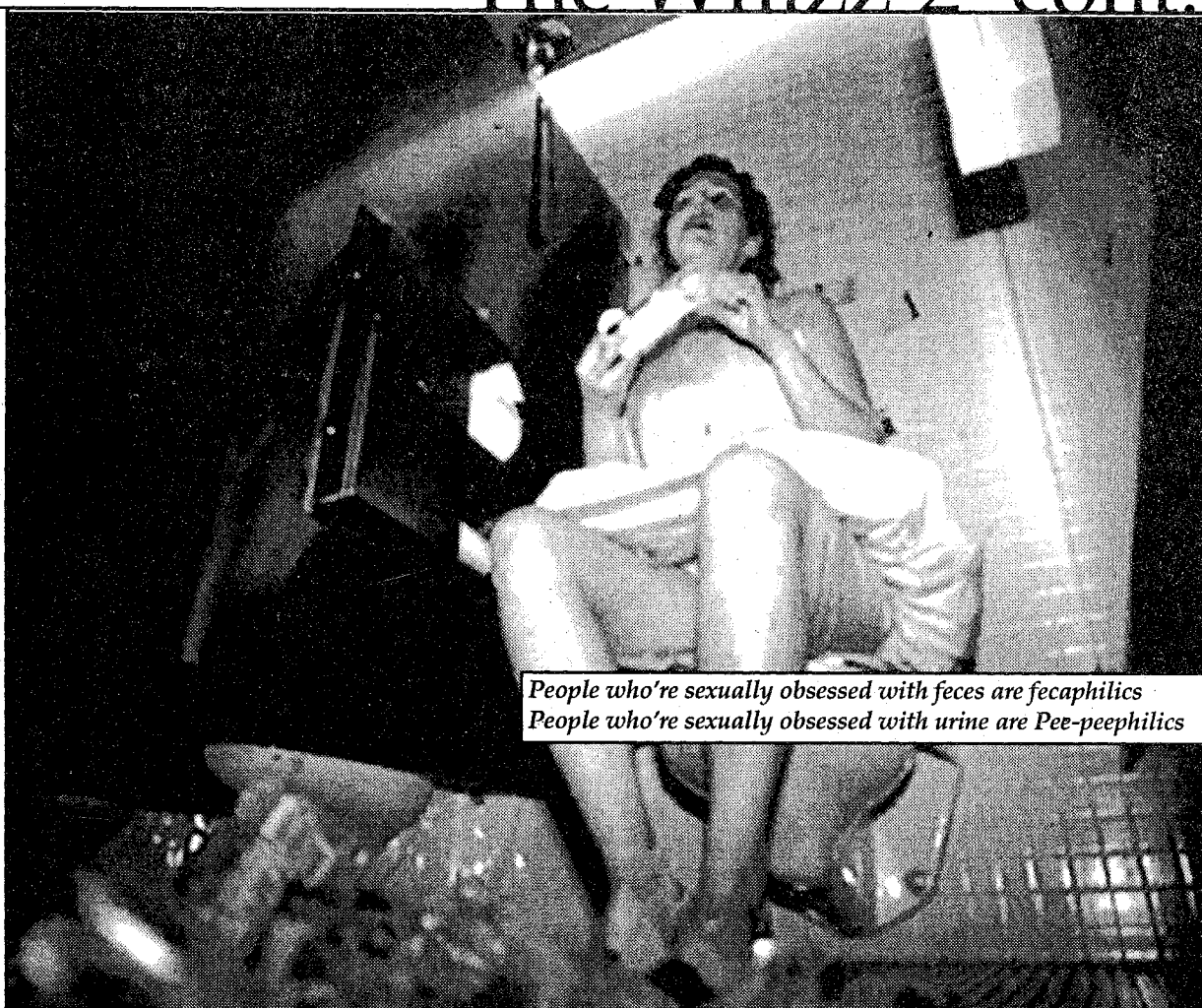
That's what keeps us human and eventually we humans will win out over the flesh-and-blood automatons who seem to be out in such force these days. Besides, my ticket is unchangeable.

I'm sorry for not letting you know of this before I left the US, but I didn't think it beyond the current administration to send a SWAT team to the airport to intercept me and lock me away in some dungeon without bail for "international flight to avoid prosecution" or some such thing.

Naturally, I'll be happy to show up in court upon my return. I eat a pineapple gelato in your honor.

*Wish you were here,
Chris Sorochin*

I even found some great postcards to enclose. One was from the National Archeological Museum in Naples and featured a Roman sculpture of a satyr fucking a goat. This, however might have been too provocative, given the Giuliani administration's obsessive horror of anything that might be construed as pornographic. So I managed to locate another, showing the seaside town of Amalfi, with a crude drawing of a cat superimposed on it and a caption that read, "Ti mando un gattino da Amalfi"



*People who're sexually obsessed with feces are fecaphilics
People who're sexually obsessed with urine are Pee-peephilics*

(I'm sending you a little pussy from Amalfi). It was subtle and educational, since they'd have to get it translated.

This fantasy spawned another, even more grandiose: I wished desperately I had access to someone with a video camera. I could do a Michael Moore and go to some Italian government office and beg for asylum on the grounds that I'd be arrested on my return to the States. I would be filmed doing this, as some picturesquely nonplussed Italian official looked on in bewilderment and his underlings broke into laughter.

"Please, Signor Vafanculo, if you make me go back to America, I'll be put in jail for a petty offense. My government is vindictive and despotic; they relish human suffering. I promise I'll be a productive member of Italian society. I won't pee on any walls. I'll even learn to eat octopus, just please don't sent me back..."

I didn't know anyone with a video camera, nor would I have had the first clue to which department in Italy's labyrinthine bureaucracy to turn for refuge. So that plan bit the dust.

But it might have been somewhat successful, at least from a propaganda point of view. At the time revelations of depleted uranium and Italian soldiers who'd been in Kosovo dying from it were all over the papers and TV. It seems NATO hadn't been completely honest about the deadly substance and there were calls for war crimes prosecution. Also, unidentified and unannounced military flights were detected by commercial pilots over a section of the Tyrhennian coast, causing a hazard to charted flights. They are widely believed to have been US fighters from an aircraft carrier. Perhaps not coincidentally, the US closed heightened security at its embassy and several consulates and raised the specter of our old friend Osama Bin Laden, who seems to materialize whenever the US government needs him.

Italians are still enraged over the US Air Force jet that severed cables on a ski lift in the Alps, killing several people, and the dumping of unexploded bombs in the Adriatic during the bombing of Yugoslavia. And they absolutely loathe our bloodthirsty judicial sys-

tem, especially capital punishment. I was there once when Texas (surprise) executed someone after someone else had confessed to the crime. It was all over the news and people I knew there kept asking me what kind of country we were running over here. One town in Sicily even made an executed US inmate and honorary citizen and buried his remains in their public cemetery.

When my court date of January 12 rolled around, I was in Ravello, stalking Gore Vidal, who has a villa there. Of course, Vidal, like the other beautiful people, only comes during the summer; the town is dead in the winter, I couldn't even find an open bar, so I was reduced to watching a late-night local soccer game and viewing a glass globe containing the blood of St. Pantaleone, which looks like brown sludge but supposedly turns bright red on his feast day, July 27. I was so impressed, I bought a holy card from the vending machine ("Icomat") in the church.

On Sunday, I phoned Sweetie from Rome to see how things had gone at my trial in absentia. Our ex-DA friend had gone to court for me and she said they had thrown it out on the basis of the summons being a "defective accusatory instrument" and when I got back there was an official piece of paper to that effect that I'm supposed to carry around just in case the warrant squad hasn't gotten the news.

So I was right all along about the ticket being no good. Our friend might have pulled some strings and not told us. She said thee MTA cops can't write tickets for shit. Or, she opined, they may have done it on purpose and related a tale of a traffic cop deliberately writing her a bad ticket once the officer learned she worked in the DA's office. Several other people had tales of "quality of life" summonses being dismissed out of hand.

So there's my latest brush with the Man. Admittedly, it's not quite as nerve-racking as an interrogation by the Secret Service or having snipers aim at you during a demonstration, but it did provide some fascinating insights into the system, how and for whom it functions and to what purpose.

Al Sharpton for Mayor

By Wendy Fuchsberg

I am part of a group organizing a voter march for May 16th. From this group, I received an e-mail that informed me that Al Sharpton might run for mayor of New York City. I asserted that if I were still a New York City resident, I would certainly vote for him even though I'm a Green at heart. I wish he'd run as a Green, but I'd vote for him regardless (a point that I refrained from commenting on since many people in this organization are democrats). The e-mails that I got back were not surprising. Most people voiced objections because of the Tawana Brawley incident. I replied that I'd like to think people are more forgiving than to define someone by one incident that happened a long time ago. I am making this e-mail public (without the name of the author) for one reason, because I think it echoes the concerns of many people:

Yeah, Wendy, like I said, I'm not set against groups. I'm working with Sharpton's group. I guess I just retain a sense of unease because the Tawana Brawley thing hit me so hard when it happened. I remember being in college, and seeing that footage on the news of her being pulled out of that garbage bag, with all those hateful slogans smeared on her in excrement . . . and being appalled. It seemed pretty plausible too, 'cause I used to go to summer camp upstate, and heard from a counselor that there were a lot of cops who were members of the Klan up there. And so, I just believed it completely and was so upset, and so eager to see the people responsible caught. The whole case just caused so many people bewilderment and pain. And I'll never forget that photo session she did for Newsday, during the period when she was supposedly too traumatized to help cops with the investigation, where she was striking this model pose in this leopard-spotted outfit. It was so destructive for kids and women who are genuine rape victims who don't get believed, and people who are victims of actual hate crimes . . . it left me with a "boy who cried wolf" feeling -- but maybe I should associate that more with her than with him. I can certainly appreciate the disdain for the people who make false allegations and I agree, it makes it so that women who are raped are not believed.

However, this has always been a problem, even to this day no matter how much "progress" we say we've made. But surely you can appreciate the predicament someone could be in when they originally believed someone, and then find out that person

is lying about the entire incident. There are surely cases in which the police are the perpetrators of acts of violence and I think it is important to point that out. A better way to handle the situation would have been if Sharpton came out and said, "she lied however, that doesn't mean things like this don't happen." My dad was a New York City cop and he'd be the first one to say, "Yes, unfortunately things like that do happen. Cops do sometimes abuse the power we give them."

Another incident I'd like to bring up is one that occurred when I did a brief internship in Harlem before I left NYC. An incident occurred where I saw a group of Blacks and Latinos being arrested for smoking marijuana. The girl I was with was black so the cops wanted to search us as well, even though they had no cause, which was pointed out to the officers when the girl I was with said, "I know my rights and you have no cause to search me." And they truly did not have cause since neither of us were using drugs. Unfortunately, the police cannot always be trusted (as some Suffolk County residents are beginning to find out). Not to mention the fact that if they started making arrests for smoking marijuana in largely white neighborhoods, it would be legalized tomorrow.

I had the honor of listening to the son of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s son speak when he came to our university. One of the points he mentioned was that his father's dream certainly is not yet a reality. So while I agree that false allegations of any kind are harmful to everyone, I also acknowledge that it is important to stand behind someone when you believe they have been wronged. I think his failure to acknowledge his error in judgment hurt his reputation greatly and while I know you will keep this past error in judgment in mind, I think if we give him a chance, he may just repair that reputation. Good God, how many of us have known that we were wrong and not admitted it for fear of looking foolish. I should think everyone has done something like this at some point. Al Sharpton is human like all of us. I don't think we should hold him to a higher standard than the one we hold ourselves to. His intention of standing up for someone who he believed was a victim was right, his mistake was not



Hibbity-dibbity-a-ratta-tat-tat

admitting that he had been fooled as well. His commitment to the Black community is also an important consideration. I think he could do some great things for New York City's racial profiling issues, among other things.

Before I went to the march in Washington D.C., an acquaintance actually asked me what those disenfranchised black voters have to do with me. A good thing to keep in mind is that when one person is wronged, we all should stand and be counted, so to speak. If you don't do this out of a sense of moral responsibility then do it because it could be you. One of my favorite quotes is:

"First they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak up for me."

-Rev. Martin Niemoller, 1945

In my opinion, we all have a responsibility to protect each other, especially in light of the recent disenfranchisement of black voters in Florida. What he's saying right now about this most recent racist incident is right and I'm willing to forget the past and stand behind him regardless of the times when he was wrong.

Parts of The Bible We Don't Quote in Church.

By Walter Moss

It is almost impossible to go through life without being preached to by Christians. These people try to invade our lives every day, and force us to believe as they do. They are in our streets "preaching the word". They are on our television sets; crying, praying, and asking for our money. They have even found their way into our government via George W. Bush and his cabinet of Christian cut-ups. It seems that Christians think that they are in a war for our hearts, our minds, and our very souls. One of the most powerful weapons in the Christian's arsenal is the Bible. They constantly drone on about this book, and they are always *selectively* quoting from it. For if they were to look at the Bible in its entirety, they would see the rampant contradictions inherent in the Book which they base their entire faith upon.

This Biblical blind spot is one of the best defenses a non-Christian has, against the so-called evangelical. Here is a small gathering of some of the more hideous sections in the Bible. The next time you are forced into defending your beliefs from attack, use the Christians own book against them. Nothing hurts as bad as the truth.

If someone tries to make you feel guilty for not loving their God who "loves man so

much, he sacrificed his only son for you." Just whip out some of these quotes:

(Deuteronomy 2:33-2:34) *And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. And we took his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain.*

(Deuteronomy 7:16) *And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them.*

Compare the previous two quotes, where God calls for, and approves of the killing of "little ones", to two quotes of Jesus from Luke.

(Luke 6:27) *But I say unto you which hear, love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.*

(Luke 6:29) *And unto him that smiteth thee on the cheek offer also the other.*

So when did God change his mind about killing children and smiting women? Throughout the Old Testament, God is a pretty unlikable character. Look at these quotes:

(Deuteronomy 4:21) *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

(Deuteronomy 6:15-160) *(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and*

destroy thee from the face of the earth. Ye shall not tempt the LORD thy God, as ye tempted him in Massah

So far we see a jealous, murderous God who falls prey to the temptations put before him by man! What about the all good, all wise and powerful God they talk about in church. I don't recognize any good qualities in the God represented by these quotes.

The Bible is also an amazing repository of weirdness; check out these lines, which might as well have come from The Hobbit.

(Deuteronomy 3:11) *For only Og, king of Bashan, remained of the remnant of giants, behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron, nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it (a cubit is an arm's length.)*

Show this to a person who is a biblical "literalist", if the Bible is the revealed word of God, then there was a race of giants, which at one time existed. Do you believe Christians look down on Pagans, and their stories about monsters and heroes, a bit hypocritical eh?

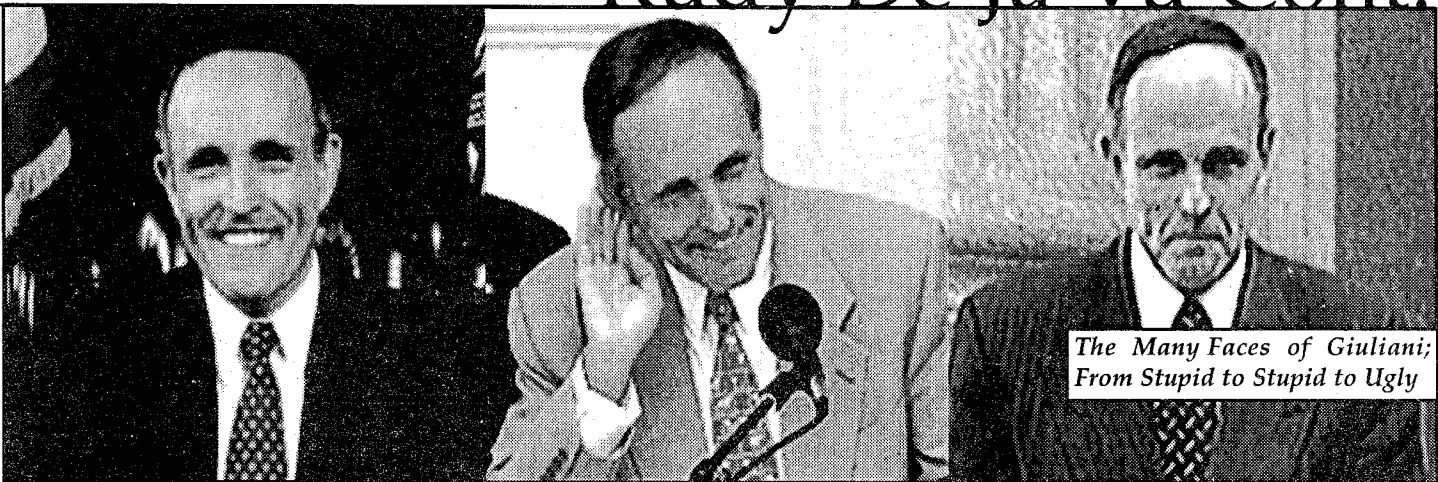
I hope these Bible quotes prove useful. In the future I will have more, but I suggest looking into the Bible yourselves, it is both shocking and at times hilarious!

Rudy De Ja Vu Cont.

[Catholic] church's refusal to ordain women." In summing up her purpose, Cox asserts that "The point of the matter is that the [Catholic] church has done some things historically, and they need to be held accountable or at least discuss these things" She also informs us that "there was a lynching show at the New York Historical Society last year, and it showed that a lot of lynchings were done on Sundays. The best time to start lynching African-American men was after they went to church. To me that's a huge contradiction."

Got it. But both Cox and Giuliani need to realize that not all Christians are Catholics. Neither is Sunday the Sabbath for Catholics, alone, but rather, for almost all Christians. (Cox at least concedes these two points, explaining, "I'm not saying that all [the people in the after-church lynch mobs] were Catholics.") Nor is Christian symbolism the sole province of the Catholic faith. Cox may have intended her work to be a challenge to Catholicism, but it could just as easily relate to other Christian sects, as well as the religious world and white American society, in general.

Cox spent four of her early years in a Catholic parochial school and claims to be reacting, in part, to her unhappy experience there. But that does not excuse her narrow view of religion. Both she and Giuliani need to "get out of school," look around the world, and recognize that the Christian faith is made up of many more sects than just one, and that they



*The Many Faces of Giuliani;
From Stupid to Stupid to Ugly*

all share in much of the same religious symbolism.

The "Make No Mistake(s)" Factor: Regardless, artists and writers have as much right to criticize religion as they do to criticize Government, Big Business, or anything else. They even have the right to question a specific faith, just as they do to question a specific government office, business, etc.

Nor are such themes and motifs "new." In the past, religion has come under scrutiny in many works, such as Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. And artistic nudity has been around since ancient times.

No, I do not like it when anyone spews hatred against any specific group. But even that's protected to some degree by The First Amendment.

Moreover, "questioning" or "criticizing" hardly amounts to "spewing hatred." True, given a choice between a mayor who speaks out against bigotry, real or imagined, and one who keeps silent in the face of definite proof, I prefer the former. Unfortunately, Giuliani hasn't proven to be very evenhanded

about his attacks on alleged bigotry. Also, I find it difficult to trust his judgment if his worldview is so narrow.

And yeah, he also has a right to his opinion and to his freedom of speech. As Cox, herself, pointed out, "When art is good, it's able to provoke some sort of discussion."

Well, so it has. Too bad, it began in an effort to stifle such dialogue, rather than to promote it.

We have been here before. Hopefully, we will not be here again.

Source: *Newsday*, Vol. 61, Nos. 167-170, including the following articles:

1. Jansen, Dan, and Sanchez, Ray, "Artistic Debate Heats Up: Mayor says artist is anti-Catholic." 2/17/01. A3
2. Payne, Les, "Thank the Lord, Giuliani Sets a Moral Tone." 2/18/01. B6
3. McCarthy, Sheryl, "Giuliani Has Problems - With Both Sex and Art." 2/19/01. A 26.
4. Pinkerton, James P., "Will That Jesus Photo Stand Test of Time?" 2/20/01. A29.

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TOP TEN Battle of the Century

Top Ten Lists
Where The Title Is
Funny But The
List Is Not

The Heart of
Dick Cheney

VS

A Fragile
Baby Bird

- 10 TT: Plagues of Egypt
- 9 TT: Ways to Taunt a Bull
- 8 TT: Shirley Strum Kenny
"Sex-capades"
- 7 TT: Hairstyles of The 80s
- 6 TT: Things John Madden
Says During Sex
- 5 TT: Motivations For
Characters Played By
Sylvester Stallone
- 4 TT: Sensations I Get From
Polity Meetings AND Urination
- 3 TT: Ways to Skin a Cat
- 2 TT: Ways to Get Accused
Of Being Racist
- 1 TT: Crimes *The Press*
Frequently Gets Away With

Weather-Proofed

Transplanted
Directly from Satan
Himself

Wizened (that
means wise)

3 Fully-Functional
Ventricles

Rockin 7 minute
version of
"Barracuda"

Strong Enough to
Pump The Vile
Black Ichor Cheney
Refers To As Blood

PRO

Adorable

Impressionable

Cute

Chirpy

Relatively Harmless

Very Little Chance
of Becoming The
Running Mate to
the Power-Mad
Imbicile-Son of A
Power-Mad
Imbicile Drug-Lord

Soft

Infernally Powered
By The Souls Of
Orphan Children

No Fully-Functional
Atria

Muscle Tissue Is
Thin As Saran-Wrap

Continues to Beat
Even When Placed
Under Floorboards

Unwilling to
Combine Powers in
order to form
Captain Planet

Outstays it's
Welcome

CON

Needy

Won't shut up
unless you vomit in
their mouths

Easily Crushed
(like the packet of
Saltines you get
when you order
soup)

Pathetically Co-
Dependant

Often Found on
Inspirational
Posters

GRAIG SCHLANGER'S BIG MOUTH



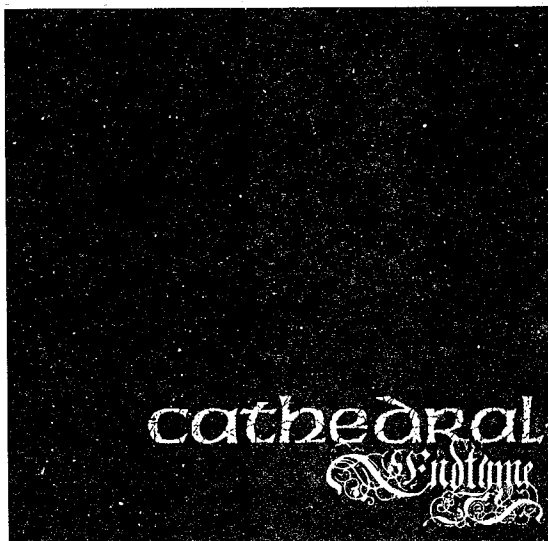
Vast: *Music for People* (Elektra)



I really dropped the ball here. *Music for People* has been out for the better part of the last eight months. But it's only come to my attention recently that this record simply rocks the body that rocks the party. I used to really be on top of this game. My shame is great.

Songwriter Jon Crosby has a knack for mixing the finest elements of the Beatles, the Doors, the Smiths, Adam Ant, and the Cure into simple yet infectious pop songs. While his lyrics often border on cheesy, this is easily excusable when considering the product as a whole. Crosby's refreshing take on mope-rock gives new life to a sound that ran its course about a decade ago; though Morrissey is still your messiah.

Cathedral: *Endtyme* (Earache Records)



Cathedral's last few records have found the band experimenting with new ideas and musical directions. Consequently, they sucked shit. They lacked the edge and consistency of early material and left fans confused. Somewhere along the way they must have had an acid flashback that motivated them to get back to their roots. When I put their CD into my stereo and hit play, the ground shook. A fire broke out all around me. I suddenly felt my

eardrums melting. Hell yeah.

Endtyme is brutal, hypnotic and technical. A fine return to form. Cathedral left an unquestionable mark on doom rock in the early '90s. Fresh off a stint in the legendary Napalm Death line-up, vocalist Lee Dorian joined Cathedral to craft music that took a U-turn from his previous outings. Where Napalm Death thrived on inhuman speed, Cathedral slowed that down almost to a standstill. These nine songs are an essential listen for fans of Black Sabbath, the Melvins, Earth and the Obsessed. The highlights of this maximum rock attack include "Whores to Oblivion," "Requiem for the Sun" and "Alchemist of Sorrow." Dorian's vocals are crisp as ever while his band-mates haven't forgotten how to turn it up and blow out your speakers.

'Nuff said, Cathedral is back. If you enjoy this disc, check out the accompanying 7" record on Southern Lord Recordings. Now get your pipe and your earplugs.

Darkthrone: *Preparing for War* (Peaceville Records)



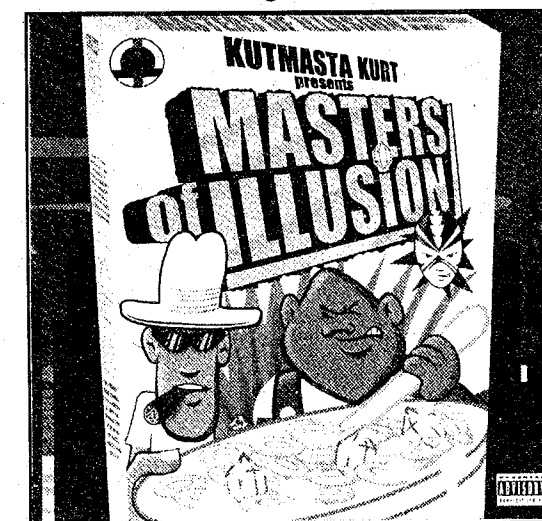
Darkthrone may be the most complete black metal band in existence. While not for more conservative ears, Darkthrone's appeal has been their ability to combine monotonous guitar riffs, coarse vocals, shit-simple drum patterns and a harsh demo-quality production into disturbingly entrancing compositions. They are also one of the few bands in all of rock n' roll history to completely regress throughout their career and become a better band for it.

For reference, when Darkthrone began in the late-'80s their brand of metal was technical death; early *Entombed* being a good point of reference. In 1991 they abruptly denounced their death metal roots and declared their new sound "Unholy Black Metal." They vowed never to perform live and fully disowned their early material. Subsequently the monumental *A Blaze in the Northern Sky* album was released and countless imitators were spawned. The music now drew heavily from thrash metal

legends like Celtic Frost and their production value began to deteriorate. What followed are some of the most essential listens in rock history.

This collection is culled from their earliest demos, rare live performances (the band vowed never to perform after 1991 and subsequently played one show in 1996) and the first four records. Most would agree that this is the most essential Darkthrone material though a strong case can be made for 1995's *Panzerfaust* album. Presented in a beautiful digipack with liner notes penned by drummer Fenriz, *Preparing for War* perfectly paints the picture of Darkthrone's importance in extreme music. Head on over to www.blackmetal.com and order this collection now. Find out why Darkthrone is "for the evil in all man."

Masters of Illusion: *Kutmasta Murt Presents* (Threshold Recordings)



Kool Keith and Motion Man link up to drop science over a plethora of Kutmasta Kurt beats. This means instant dopeness. Hilarious skits, creative beats and rhymes to go. In the past nine months I've covered five Kool Keith projects in these pages. Why? I'm on a mission to make you all Kool Keith fanatics. I am spreading the gospel that is Keith. I will see to it that all of our loyal readers line their walls with Kool Keith posters and merchandise. Of course since no one really reads this paper, I just have my fun. Point blank, Keith taps your ass just like that.

Laundry Day

By Greg Knopp

In order to lead a successful collage career a person must perform the three essential S's: Sleep, Shit, and Shower. Anything that prevents the student from executing these activities will hinder his academic progress.

Taking a shower is very important, especially when it's hot and humid outside, but it's not always as easy as it might seem. Certain objects that are needed, like soap and shampoo, are available only in the campus store if one doesn't have a car. Now I don't know about other people, but I only attempt to purchase these items when I run out of them. The sleep issue comes in here. The bank (which is necessary for cashing in paychecks) and the store operate on some obscure hours which I never heard of: 9-4. That's 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I'm lucking if I wake up by 3. Within a few days I'll usually make it in time and get the stuff.

Another issue comes into play at this moment. One needs clean clothing to change into, and clean towels to dry off with. With dirty laundry all over, and nothing clean left, the soap and shampoo seem useless, and last day's journey in vain. The laundry machine takes quarters and money on the ID card (but as I learned the hard way) not the combination of both. This might produce an illusion of simplicity, but attempting to do the laundry on the breaks between classes and work, difficulties will arise.

The Benedict debit machine used to be either broken or full all the time, so getting quarters was the next option. The cashier refused to provide me with two dollars of change, so I decided to buy something cheap, and accumulate change that way. Grabbing a banana, I gave the lady one dollar reluctantly. To my surprise she gave me 25 cents back and I realized that other means of locating change must be found.

After a few minutes of staring at the quarter and concentrating, with the fact that my next class is about to begin pressuring, it hit me that the union might have a functioning machine to put money on

my card. I asked a couple of people and found out that it was on the second floor. With a little wondering around I found it attached to the wall. With enthusiasm I put the dollar inside the little slot, and the wheels made a pleasant sound as the bill was being sucked in. It disappeared inside, but the digital 0:00 did not change like I

expected it to. I was discouraged, but did not give up. With my fingers shacking I managed to let another dollar down the mechanism. The longest 6 seconds of my life passed, with no result. I grabbed my card, and headed to the office adjacent to that wall. I told the lady what happened and she directed me to another room on the same floor. I found it in a few minutes, opened the door, and saw the following. About 10 businessmen sitting in a circle, and looking at the person presenting a graph. As I came in, they stopped talking and looked at me. One of them asked how he could help me.

"I was trying to put money on my card, and it ate two of my dollars!" I replied with confidence, realizing that my tuition pays their salary, and bought that graph. He looked at me for a few moments and somewhat arrogantly took two dollars out of his wallet and gave it to me. I took the money and broke out.

At the union deli, to my surprise, the cashier lady gave me change for the two bills. I headed back to Benedict and shoved two loads worth of laundry



in one machine. Later that night I took a shower. It felt good.

Going to the bathroom is another adventure in the hallway-style building. Every morning the bathroom gets cleaned, so your best bet is to defecate early. There is usually a designated "shiter". Ideally people wouldn't urinate on its seat. Like I said your best bet is to defecate early.

Another process occurs every morning. Someone pisses on the floor a little, obstructing the next person to assume a strategic position. That person, having to stand further away, adds to the puddle. This continues throughout the day, so by night, the bathroom smells terrible, and the two options are to stand four feet away from the toilet, separated by a yellow-brownish, semi-liquid pit, feeding it more substance, or run the water and piss in the shower.

One has to adjust to campus life, and the difficulties it might bring. With a little curbing of hygienic standards, and expectations of efficiency, one can adapt quickly, and get into the groove of things. Just remember the three S's and you will be fine.

Why I Should Have Voted for Nader

By Daniel Hofer

I was originally going to title this article "Why I Didn't Vote For Nader," as a direct response to last issue's "Why We Voted For Nader." After talking with others on this topic, I realized something important, I really should've voted for Ralph Nader.

Initially, when I learned of Nader's decision to run, I thought it was great that someone who has a clear stand on many issues wanted to be president. If he was elected, I figured there would be radical changes in our government.

I questioned Nader's motives. How would he implement all these radical ideas?

How could he change the government? He has never held any elected office, especially on the national level, and unlike Bush and Gore, he has little political friends inside our government.

The reason the Democratic and Republican parties are so prominent in government is because they try to cater to the other side to win votes. They both say they stand for contrasting ideas, but when it comes to the implementation of these ideas, it is almost directly down the middle. This is called compromise.

Without compromise, not much would get done. If you've ever hung out with your friends, or spent time with others, you know that not everyone wants to do exactly what you want. The same holds true for our government. A politician may stand strong on an issue, but he knows that very few others stand with him. If he wants at least some of his idea to live, he will have to compromise, or no

change in his direction will happen.

Sometimes politicians compromise their beliefs to get an elected position. Al Gore once wrote that the combustible engine was one of the worst things to happen to society. This may have been one of his strongest opinions, but when it came to campaigning this past election, he had appeared iffy on the subject. Did he truly change his thinking on the combustible engine or was he just saying that to get votes? Figuring out politician's true motives is one of the most confusing aspects of politics.

Nader on the other hand seems to stand strong by his ideas. Maybe that is why he has never been in office. Maybe that was why I questioned his motives in the beginning. Going from no political office to president is a big jump, and it's a tough job to handle.

Soon it dawned on me. Nader wasn't going to win; but he wasn't planning on it anyway. His job was to let the Democratic Party know that there are people who don't like how things are being done. His running for president should get the message across that it was time for a little more leftist thinking.

But was this election the time for it? Near the end of the race, when the numbers were almost even between Bush and Gore, Nader was being criticized for choosing this election to run. How was he supposed to know that the race was going to be so tight? Certain political analysts said if Gore campaigned better in certain states, he would have won the election easily. Maybe in the end Nader took

votes from Gore, but he shouldn't be blamed for the post election fiasco.

As Election Day grew closer, I worried about the outcome of the election.

Everyone was saying it was going to be a tight race between the two major parties. Even though New York is mostly democratic (or at least the lower part), I wondered how Bush would affect the voting here. At first, I didn't think much of what Nader would do, but if you were on campus around that time, you would have seen the chalk work of Nader enthusiasts. It seemed as they were saying anything to get votes. All the pro-Nader propaganda made me think once again as to how to vote. Maybe I was thinking many people were going to switch their votes to Nader at the last minute. Maybe I was becoming unsure of what the Green party stood for. In the end, I voted for Gore. The last thing I wanted was to have Bush win because Nader took valuable Democratic votes.

Did I know that Gore was going to win almost twice as many votes as Bush in this state? No. Most people don't pay attention at all to politics. I try my best to stick to it as closely as possible. If it was stated somewhere in the news that Gore was a definite win in New York, I missed it. Seeing how this election proved that everyone's vote really does count, I wanted my vote to represent me. Looking back, I realized I misrepresented myself at the polls.

Next election, I'll try to get it right.

By Walter Moss and Wendy Fuchsberg

"Politicians hide themselves away. They only started the war. Why should they go out to fight? They leave that part to the poor."

-Ozzy Osbourne, *War Pigs*

We were inspired to write this for two reasons. The first one is that Timothy McVeigh is scheduled to be executed on Wednesday, May 16. The other is that we're sick and tired of listening to these pro-military, draft-dodging, "Christian Right" republicans who haven't ever served overseas in the armed forces. Rush Limbaugh, Phil Gramm, Clarence Thomas, George Will, and Newt Gingrich all had chronic hangnails during the 1960's and 70's. George W. Bush "served" in the Texas Air National Guard during Vietnam (which is where the wealthy and privileged kids whose parents have political connections "serve" so they don't have to go overseas), yet he was AWOL for a large part of the war. Well, all these politicians have enough excuses for why they didn't go to fight in Vietnam but they surely have no trouble finding reasons to start wars for other people to fight in. In fact they have just started a new round in the never-ending conflict in the Gulf.

This most recent attack on Iraq, is yet another example of the U.S. government choosing self-interest over human decency. Our government has no problem killing two civilians and wounding thirteen others, in a "routine" bombing, so long as Iraq is forced to trade us oil in return for food and medical supplies. To most of us, there is nothing routine about killing the innocent, but to our policy makers this is just business as usual. These men, who never have to fear for their own safety, are more than happy to cause death and suffering in the so-called defense of American interests. If one believes that our "American interests" in Iraq are purely to defend ourselves from the menace of weapons of mass destruction, then they are sorely mistaken. If this were the case, we could have easily toppled Saddam Hussein's regime back at the end of the Gulf War, ending any threat of a retaliatory attack on America. Instead, our government chose to institute a perpetual sanction on an already impoverished country.

In a move that would have made George Orwell jealous, there are allowances in the sanctions, for Iraq to trade its oil in return for humanitarian aid. This humanitarian aid takes the form of a food for oil policy, whereby America and her allies can purchase Iraq's oil for literally peanuts! The whole situation is a beautiful scheme, where a few people in key positions can get rich from the systematic pauperization of a whole nation of people.

It seems that our American interests are to perpetrate a form of economic terrorism on a defenseless populace, by holding their lives hostage for some oil.

In order to justify this most recent bombing, many people say things like "Iraq is an enemy of the U.S." To these people we would say this; Saddam Hussein is a dictator. The people of Iraq did not elect him (much like George W. Bush) and therefore, the slaughter of these innocent civilians cannot be justified using this argument. Then there are always people who say, "Well, why don't the people fight to overthrow him." Let's examine this situation for a moment. The Iraqi military has no reason to want Saddam Hussein dead because they have it pretty good with him in power. The average citizen in Iraq is dirt poor. They have no guns and no money. So if the people of Iraq decide to revolt, they can expect truly disastrous results.

Another way people justify this most

recent attack by citing the fact that the Iraqis have been firing missiles at American planes. However, we still have sanctions on Iraq that are directly responsible for the deaths of 5,000 children each month. What would the U.S. (or any nation for that matter), do if a foreign government was killing our children by not allowing much needed food and medical supplies to its citizens (I don't think Saddam Hussein cares too much about this point but the United Nations does. They have denounced these sanctions), and imposing no-fly zones in our country?

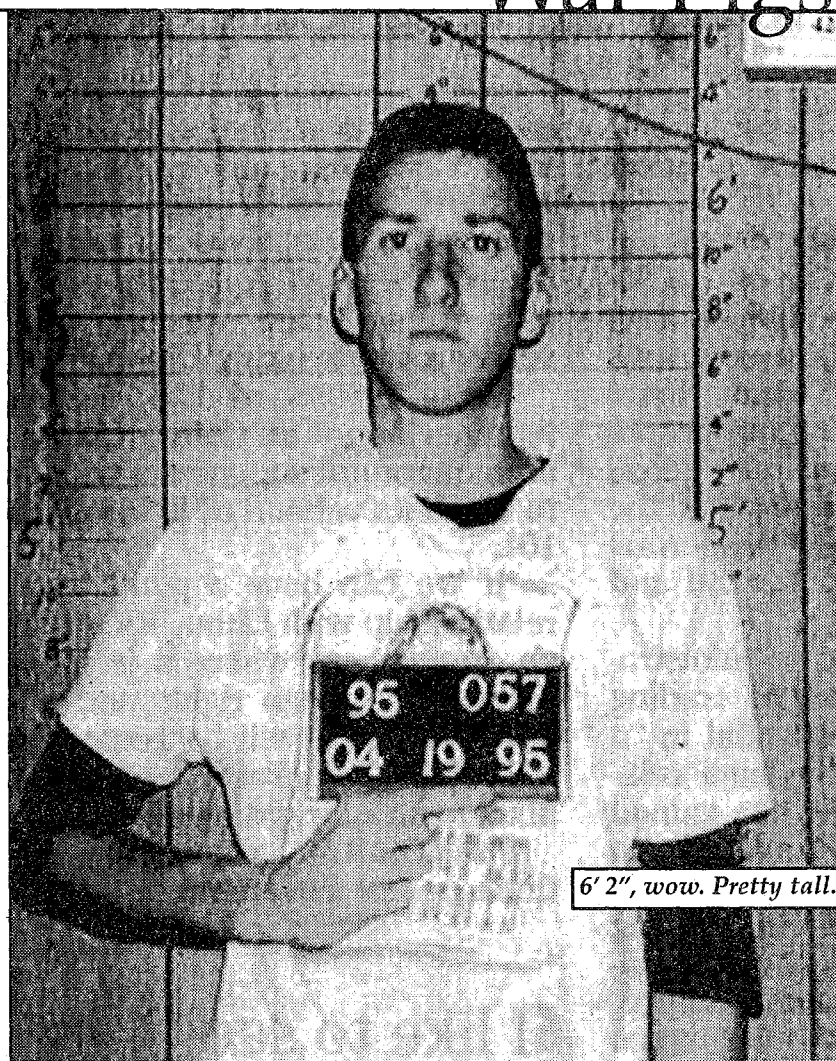
Then there is the argument that Iraq is trying to produce weapons of mass destruction. Isn't it a little hypocritical to say that other countries can't develop nuclear weapons when we won't even honor the agreement (START Treaty) we made with Russia which would serve to eliminate thousands of our nuclear warheads? Then there is the fact that only one country has ever actually used these weapons, The United States of America. You gotta love those people who say things like but Saddam Hussein is violent and unstable.

HELLO! Have you ever seen anyone on coke? Not to mention that George W. Bush when he's sober, doesn't come across as the most stable guy in the world.

America's policy makers also show a shocking lack of compassion, when it comes to their own people, and namely America's soldiers. In the military, you are trained to kill without reservation. In order to do that you have to put aside any moral reservations you may have about killing. The horrors of war are nightmarish and portray a degree of inhumanity that most of us cannot even begin to comprehend (if you don't believe that, ask any Vietnam Vet). These memories of being the victim and the perpetrator of so many horrors, can often haunt the veteran even after they return home and cause a variety of psychological disorders not the least of which is PTSD or post-traumatic stress disorder.

In terms of War, the U.S. Government tries to convince the people that there are no ulterior motives (such as oil) for the government's selective involvement in world conflicts. While it is true that our government tries to minimize the damage done to American soldiers in terms of physical casualties (albeit for purely political reasons), it utterly ignores the psychological trauma, which is an inevitable byproduct of war. For just a moment, imagine the guilt you would feel if you were responsible for the deaths of so many. Then imagine, living with the fear of death everyday for months.

Insofar as Timothy McVeigh is concerned, after he returned from Desert Storm, he asked the U.S. Government to provide him with therapy. This request was denied time and time again. After being required to kill countless people in Iraq the government left him on his own to adjust to civilian life.



One of McVeigh's duties during the war, was to dispose of the thousands of corpses left on the "highway of death", after American fighter planes ever so bravely slaughtered a retreating Iraqi army. McVeigh went into the war to defend America, not to partake in a Turkey shoot, where we just beat the hell out of a defeated and demoralized army. And Mc Veigh certainly did not go to war to hide bodies from the prying cameras of the worlds media (do you recall seeing any dead bodies in the footage from the highway of death? Thank Timothy McVeigh and the other shovel wielding GI's who so competently buried the "evidence".)

One of the points that McVeigh brought up in a letter he wrote during his trial, was that when he was part of an Army that killed thousands of civilians in Iraq he was called a hero and a patriot. But when he killed several dozen people in Oklahoma City, he was deemed a terrorist. Needless to say, McVeigh's war experience had a great part to play in his having snapped. But his mental breakdown could have been easily avoided, if the government made more of an effort to care for veterans. In fact, when the government refused to provide him therapy (even after several requests), McVeigh wrote two threatening letters to the VA, where he warned of "dire consequences" and "violence", if he did not get some sort of mental help.

These are pretty serious threats coming from a disgruntled veteran. If the government had only heeded his call for help, maybe Oklahoma City would have never happened.

Obviously, we think McVeigh should have spoken out against the U.S. government instead of blowing up a federal building. That act negated any point he could have made by speaking out. In that respect, we think he missed his own point. If it was wrong there, it is certainly wrong here as well. However, the government may have been able to change this tragic situation by offering counseling to aid veterans in their struggles with the psychological damage caused by the stresses of war. Unfortunately, now we'll never know.

Bob Is Cool

by Jamie Mignone

This week's Bob is based entirely on a true story!



TheSpot/ThrFriSat/600to200

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Nonsecular Semantics; Getting on Gods Payroll

By Roger W. Harrison (rharriso@ic.sunysb.edu)

Many people think they get paid less than they deserve. However, if we stop to think a minute, we can always find someone who is being taken advantage of ten times as much as we are. Maybe they get paid nothing at all or have their wages involuntarily withheld from them to contribute to the bottom line of corporate greed. Just think of the sweatshop industry both here in the United States and around the world. Consider that slavery still exists in Sudan, Mauritania and elsewhere. Does God care about sweatshop labor? What about the boss who cheats you out of a paycheck? We've all heard these stories from friends, or have been the ones telling them. It is clear from the Bible that every worker deserves to be paid the wages they are owed.

Furthermore, if the worker is poor it might be necessary to pay them daily instead of weekly or bi-weekly. (Lev 19:13) "Do not defraud your neighbor or rob him. Do not hold back the wages of a hired man overnight." and, (Dt 24:15) "Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin." are both good examples of what was expected in the Old Testament, and I think still holds true today.

Worse than getting paid a couple days late, is not getting paid at all! (James 5:4) "Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty". What a blessing it is to live in a country where most people to be able to afford to wait a week for their paycheck.

There is yet another kind of wage-based economy to be concerned with. The spiritual wage economy which buys and sells human souls. You are most certainly a part of this economy by the virtue of being alive and therefore being in possession of a human soul. Actually, the soul isn't even totally yours, but on loan from God who created it. Therefore, we are totally responsible to God for what we do with our souls while we live.

Now, our souls can either be subject to the power of truth and light which is God or the powers of darkness and deception which include Satan and his minions. Our wages will reflect the nature of the one whom we serve.

Let's consider the powers of darkness first. When we are slaves to sin, Satan, and our own selfish selves we are paid back a certain kind of wage. That wage is what we deserve for our evil work. It consists of grief, pain, sadness, anxiety, fear, loneliness, anger, bitterness, jealousy and eventually everlasting punishment and damnation in the fiery pits of Hell. "The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment" (Prov 10:16).

Right now, you might be thinking to yourself, "This guy is a few beers short of a six-pack." Nevertheless, I declare to you it is most certainly true. Now let's consider the case of serving the sovereign power of Truth and Light in the Universe which is God. When we love, obey and serve God in everything that we do, we are acting in obedience to Him. Jesus said it best when responding to a question about which commandment was the greatest. (Mark 12:29-31) "The most important one, is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these".

How can we love God with our entire heart, soul, mind, and strength, not to mention loving our neighbor (which can be very difficult at times)? It is only through the strength that God can give to us which enables us to do so. Because, (1 John 4:10-11) "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another".

What kind of wage does the Christian receive from God? It is simply this, (Gal 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law", and eternal life with our maker and redeemer in Heaven. God gives us this promise, (Rom 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The critical question is how do we get on God's payroll? One thing is certain: it is impossible to bribe God or to hack into God's payroll computer and add yourself to those in the Book of Life. To make matters seem all but impossible we can't even earn our way to Heaven by doing lots of "good deeds" and being a "good person". Actually, there really are no "good people" according to the Bible! "As it is written: (Rom 3:10-12) "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one".

Since it is impossible to observe God's law perfectly we need another solution: (Rom 3:20-22) "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe..."

In fact, the only way to receive the wages of a righteous person is by faith and not by good works, "Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness (Rom 4:5).

As Scripture has shown the critical element of receiving the gift of wages of eternal life depends entirely on faith in Jesus Christ; as well as his substitutionary death on the cross for our sins. Since Jesus has paid for our sin by receiving the penalty of the full wrath of God that was due us and due to us the only thing left to do is to cry out to God with a humble broken heart that he might have mercy upon your wicked soul and that he would give you a saving faith in Christ who can redeem you from Hell which is the present wages due. Here we conclude with a great promise God



makes: (John 3:36) "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him", and (John 1:12-13) "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Praise God that wages based on His love, mercy, grace and forgiveness are available to those who believe in Christ, rather than the wages based solely on justice that we deserve for our sins.

If you have questions about God, Jesus, the Bible or salvation please email me and I'll see if I can answer them in an upcoming Stony Brook Press issue.

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Who Wants to Be a "Fool" (and Why)?

By F.L. Livingston

Why would four "committed" couples risk their relationships by exposing themselves to sexual and romantic temptation? A free vacation for one thing, I suppose. And the irresistible (for some people) lure of appearing on television; not to mention the chance to be "discovered" as a model or an actor. (As I write this, one participant, Taheed, has already received an offer.)

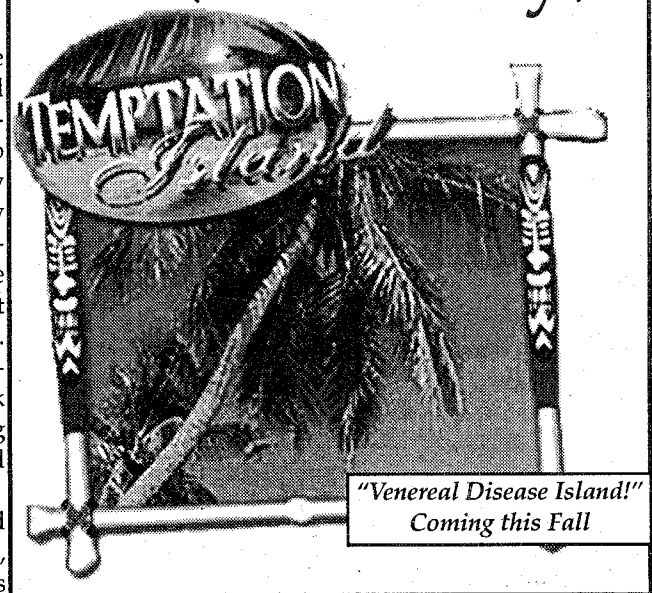
I'm talking, of course, about Fox 5's "Temptation Island," in which four couples spent time on the tropical island of Belize, sunning, swimming, boating, partying -- but not with each other. No, instead, the couples spent most of their time mingling with a number of gorgeous, sexy singles also brought there by Fox 5.

Yes, "gorgeous, sexy singles." Because the other motive for this trip was to "test" their commitments, to see if they could cope with temptation and whatever problems it might cause. Each of the couples - Shannon and Andy, Valerie and Kaya (pronounced "Ki-yuh"), Ytossi ("Why-tos-sie") and Taheed, Mandy and Billy -- were separated for two full weeks, able to communicate only by videotaped messages, if they so chose. But they were not left totally without the company of the opposite sex. The four women were surrounded with the several single men and the four guys with the single women. (Each couple made their own rules about "how far" they could each "go" sexually, if at all, with the singles they met there.) A reality-based "trashy wallow," if you will, but with a purpose. Where the "Survivor" shows measure the survival capacity of individuals, this program gauged that of relationships.

But why put your romance to such a "test?" Three of the coupled women (Shannon, Valerie, and Ytossi) and one of the men (Billy) all appeared insecure in their relationships, at first. They seemed to see this as a kind of "make-or-break" situation; either they would leave here with a higher level of commitment from their respective partners or split apart. Valerie, especially, was like, "I'm hoping he'll realize I'm The One."

The others had a greater variety of goals. The guys, Andy, Kaya, and Taheed wanted to deal with doubts of their inclination or ability to commit at any higher level. Taheed was hoping to "prove" to Ytossi that he could commit fully (since he had cheated on her in the past). Andy and Kaya approached this venture as an opportunity to openly explore their options. More specifically, Kaya wanted to discern his "market value" (his words, I swear!) with other women. Apparently finding Billy too loyal and easygoing, the feisty Mandy actually seemed to look forward to seeing him with other girls, hoping that this would spike her interest in him and strengthen her commitment.

Hold it. How many times have I used the c-word and its variations here: commitments, committed, commit? Yet, what do these words really mean here? The participants clearly started out from different points along the continuum to "permanent commitment" (if there is such a thing, nowadays, considering the high divorce rate). Nor did their attitude toward establishing commitment totally reflect traditional values. Traditionally, "commitment" has meant marriage, kids, and "growing old together," even "till death do us part." If uncertain of the strength of their relationship, most people tried to "protect" it by keeping themselves -- and their partners -- away from temptation. But these couples chose to face that temptation head on! What does that say about the state of romantic commitment in today's world? Maybe nothing. After all, it's just four couples. But perhaps, it reflects the heightened consciousness of that divorce rate, as well as the increased awareness of infidelity. The so-called "secret" of adultery is fully "out" today. So is the fact that unfaithfulness occurs in all walks of life. (Think Bill Clinton. Think Jesse Jackson.) In effect, by visiting Temptation Island, each member of the four couples is asking, "Is this my 'True Love' or do I still want to meet others? Can we resist temptation? If not, can we still hold our relationship together? Would we want



to?"

Borrowing from "Dawson's Creek," these pairs "don't want to wait...[They] wanna know right now, what will it be?" Still, I can't help but ask a question of my own: Is it really possible to know all this ahead of time? Even if a couple's relationship withstands the trials of Temptation Island, will it always? And even if "cheating" isn't a problem for a particular couple, isn't it possible, perhaps probable, that other difficult differences will crop up through the years from time to time?

It's unlikely, in my opinion, that this brief sojourn on Temptation Island can predict or insure any kind of "happily-ever-after."

Yet, love, I think, is worth some emotional risk. If you look at life as an adventure, or a series of adventures, then each romance along the way is another episode of discovery and experience, valuable in and of itself. If it lasts, great. If it breaks up, you treasure the time that you had together. And you may even find special rewards in the "alone time" between relationships. But you never say "What a waste!"

Cont. on Page 20

Schizoid's Views on Sanity

By Tim Connors

The definition of sanity is hard to pin down, because it has numerous meanings, depending on how the context the word is used in. The Latin origin for the meaning of sanity was health. The definition has evolved over the years to the point that just released dictionaries refer to sanity as conforming to societal norms, and role expectations. Another definition was no longer acting on one's first impulse is sanity.

The lack of mental illness is also given as a meaning of sanity. Being normal, and having a rational grasp on reality is sanity according on dictionary. I disagree with this definition, since I view normalcy and reality, as illusory and subjective.

Complying with societal norms and role expectations is another subjective and relative definition of sanity. This definition may be fine for you, but I have trouble with it because of the numerous conflicting roles I am expected to fulfill and societal norms that conflict with regards to appropriate behavior in those roles.

The main socially defining characteristics that I think I possess are; college graduate, an upper middle class childhood, recovering substance abuser, former employee of a large metropolitan newspaper, a Schizo affective mental patient, unemployed, on the government dole, and trailer park denizen.

Although my mental capacities have diminished over the years, there is a social expectation that I should be employed given the education

that I have. Employment is not something that concerns me, rather keeping myself warm, dry and feed are my main concerns. That may sound bad for a college graduate, but living independently is an achievement that many mentally ill people have great difficulty with.

Having a measure of sanity in life, which is determined by comparisons to notions of normalcy, is a set up for failure. For me there is a tendency to place expectations on my life as to where I should be, compared to what is normal. Falling short of these expectations, or exceeding them, gives me false feedback about my progress in life. I prefer to accept where, and who I am. I have hopes and dreams about the future, which are not based on societal norms. I put effort in today to become the person I want to be in the future, while not beating myself up because the change isn't instantaneous.

The idea of not acting immediately on impulses as an indicator of sanity is more realistic than the dictionary definitions. Evaluating impulses to figure out what results might occur, before acting on the impulse, sounds simple enough. For me this is would be a change for better, and I have hope that I will be able to consider the outcome of my actions consistently in the future. To me hope is a longing, or desire that I have a reasonable plan for achieving.

Still the definition of sanity has to be spelled out. I suppose that a very simple definition would do, such as being sane, yet my gut told me to expand

on the word, for the degree of sanity possessed is at the core of how life is experienced. I apologize for turning to numerous philosophers, and religions for a further explanation. I have experiences with living in a lack of sanity, yet no profound insight into what living in the graces of abundant sanity is like, or how to achieve that.

To me, sanity is experiencing the moment I am in, without excessive ideas, or illusions about the nature of the reality of that moment. Basically to experience life as a small child does, with the distinction of not being a simpleton. It is easy to be unaware of what is going on in life, and just to go through the motions of responding to outside environmental factors, with conditioned patterns of behavior.

I have been like a human doing through parts of my life, and found little satisfaction in life, regardless of the achievements that I may have earned. Yes, there is a difference between a human doing, and a human being. Part of being is to have feelings, that are not repressed, and to have serenity, and peace regardless of the situational context of the moment.

Sanity is a relative concept, which can always be improved upon. I don't use my pursuit of sanity to beat up on myself, instead I accept that my sanity for what it is. There have been people who lucidly expressed a keen insight into human existence, and I am not one of them. I am no more than a grain of sand on the beach of humanity.

Great Expectations

By Christopher Gennari

Its March! Spring is in the air (ok, in North Carolina maybe.) The radio commercials are speaking the truth – the days of tanktops and short shorts are coming. With frightful continuity the sun comes up and the sun goes down and the X marks on my calendar get nearer the bottom of the page. Soon it will be, (Dear God give me strength to say it) April.

Spring, not Summer, has been scientifically proven to be the Season of Lovers. Don't believe me, we need go no farther than the English Language: Spring Fever, Spring Break, Spring in His Step (wink, wink, nudge, nudge) All these phrases equate to sweaty, dirty, naughty, libidinous behavior via MTV-esque gyrations.

Dating is an inelegant dance. Its a Square Dance called by The Insane Clown Posse. There is a lot of confusion, some stepping on toes, and, sometimes, your partner leaves with a Spanish heart-throb named Raul just because he has a bigger car, a nicer job, flat abs, long black hair that mysteriously catches non-existent winds (even while indoors), walks like Antonio Banderas in a Robert Rodriguez movie, and can eloquently speak a Romance language even though she doesn't know a friggin' word of Spanish.

With Spring inevitably coming I thought I would do extensive research into what people are looking for in love and romance. My research method included extensive interviews with undergraduates, drunken conversations and dirty joke telling with graduate students, I saw *Sweet November* (ok, just kidding. Really.) I searched through well respected journals (*Cosmo*, *Maxim*, *Hustler*) then I consulted the true fountain of knowledge: *Redbook*. I read through some teen angst online diaries. I listened to *The Radio Chick*, *David Gray*, *Alanis Morissette* and the *Indigo Girls*. I reread old *Playboy* Advisors and *Letters to Penthouse*. I skimmed *Dear Abby*, watched *Oprah*, the *X-Show*, *The Man Show*, and bought the Special Edition

DVD First Season of *Sex in the City*. I suffered for my academic integrity. I talked to wide cross-section of the Stony Brook populace: whites, african-americans, asians, hispanics and the occasional vegan. I talked to people who like the opposite sex and to those who don't. I even talked to that short guy that stands outside the Humanities Building asking people to pull his finger. Then I barbequed a steak, had a Danish import and watched the market recap.

When I compiled this vast mountain of data (intricately kept on wet bar napkins, matchbook covers, and post-it notes) I came to two conclusions: People don't know what they want or they know exactly what they want, either way it makes them miserable. For example, one interviewed student who only dates girls who were centerfolds in 1989 (she doesn't get out much.) Another student only 'deserves a gorgeous, intelligent, sensitive, well tanned nineteen year old dominatrix who likes to read Nabakov (I was surprised by his active dating life – I guess I don't get out much.)

I found there is much concern with sexiness: What is it? Do I have it? Do I have enough and where do I find it if I need more? Is being an English underwear model residing on a beach in Bermuda sexier than being, say, a History TA at a Long Island State University? These are important questions.

There are different types of sexiness. There's the Bad Boy/Girl, the Professional Intelligent type, the Artist, the Hippie/Surfer/Skateboarder, and the Jason



Love is for dorks and feebs

Biggs/Ben Stiller (a.k.a the Dorkey Cute type.) The art is to know your category and to stick with it come hell or Swedish Bikini Stewardesses. Trying to cross-pollinate is difficult and leads to self-effacing analytical study and nudie bars. A Jason Biggs can not become a Bad Boy no matter how many leather jackets and stick-on tattoos he wears.

This brings us to a good point. Like George Michael sang, "the Clothes Do Not Make the Man." Sexiness is three-fifths attitude (of course, wearing an Armani suit doesn't hurt.) It is in the shoulders, the strutting walk, the jiggy dance floor moves. I have seen guys who go to bars and stoop over, shoulders close, like they are disappearing. Other guys lean back in their chair, shoulders apart, coolly smoking a cigarette like Marcello Mastroianni in a Fellini film. Who do Gay Guys buy more drinks? That's right, Guy #2.

In the end, sexiness is all about personality; reactions are all in the eye of the beholder. One girl I talked to only dates Surfer Dudes (or East Coast facsimiles) while one guy I spoke to is looking for the perfect eccentric female artist, like the jeans painter in the Levis commercial. "Know thy self but seek self improvement" seems to be the best advice. Avoid fashion magazines and Boy Band videos, read Keats, pull up your pants, and smile. Happiness is sexy.

By Diana Post

All right, I know that a lot of people think public bathrooms are gross, and I really do agree, but we have to make do since basically every bathroom on campus is for public use. However, the reason I think they're skeezy is because of the dirty bastards on this campus. You know who you are! The people do don't flush, and leave floating surprises for the rest of us. How kind of you. The ones who write "I love Johnny, Mark, Jose, Gretchen 4EVA" on every wall, or worse, ridiculous epithets. The chicks who leave their "sanitary" things out for the rest of us to stare at while we're TRYING to relieve ourselves. Is that fucking sanitary?! Is it a relief?!

But the people I have the biggest problem with are the chicks who somehow manage to miss the goddamn bowl. I mean really! Is it really that hard? Guys at least have an excuse to miss sometimes. But they also put the seat up so they don't make life difficult for everyone else.

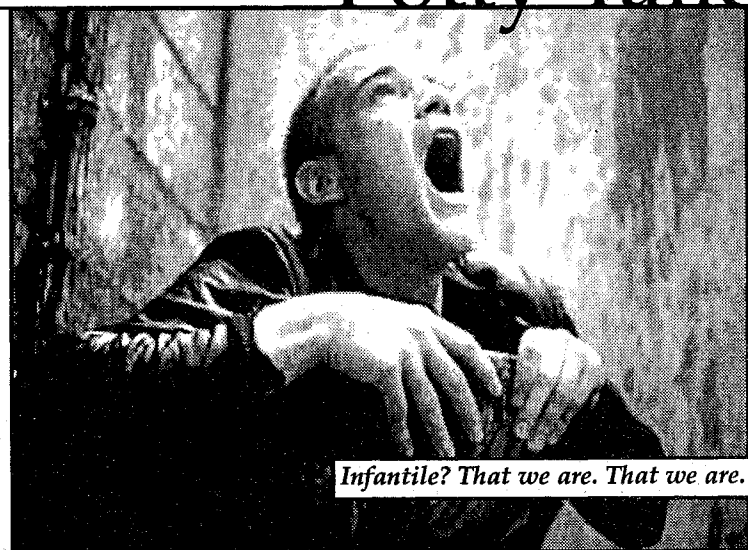
Okay, I know some of you don't want your baby soft asses on the same seat all those other asses have been on. Who knows where those asses have been? But I really don't see why you can't fucking wipe the damn seat when you're finished spraying like a leaky faucet. Your own piss is sterile! Or maybe you can take a cue from the fellas and put the seat up. But please, remember to put it back down when you're done. Something else that you can try and do is petition Administration to put in those

dispensers for wax paper toilet seat liners.

Since I am, in fact, a nice person, I'm more than willing to point you in the right direction on how to water the bushes standing up. If you'll just point your mice to www.restrooms.org/standing.html you can learn all about Denise's method to free women from the chains of squatting. Women's Lib is not dead! She has even found a handy-dandy plastic penis for the low-low price of \$3.95. For the truly daring, try www.restrooms.org/device-free.html. They even give you much needed pointers on how to aim!

The one thing that consoles me when I see a yellow spotted toilet seat is imagining how ridiculous you schmucks look trying to balance and hold yourself off the scary seat without letting it run down your leg. It takes a lot of hamstring strength. In fact, I often hope that it did run down your leg, and then you had to decide if you could take your Calc II midterm exam with it drying into your khaki bellbottoms from the Gap. But I digress.

Another neat site to visit for potty related fun, (if you are one of the people who pisses on the seats, you're not allowed to go here. You're punished), is www.toiletmuseum.com/



Infantile? That we are. That we are.

where you can see toilets from around the world. And most of them are clean.

All of us have had classes in Javits. The ladies room there is notorious for chicks with bad aim. Have some respect for all the Bio majors in 101 who have to take a piss sometimes. Let them relieve themselves with some semblance of peace. I know, I know, peace in there is impossible when you have to listen to chicks talk about all the dick they get, and genital warts and all kinds of peachy things, but you know what I'm talking about.

We all want a clean place to live and go to class. Even gerbils choose a corner of their little habitats and use it specifically for watering. Learn from your intellectual superiors, the gerbils!

MFA Art Show

By Deborah Sticher

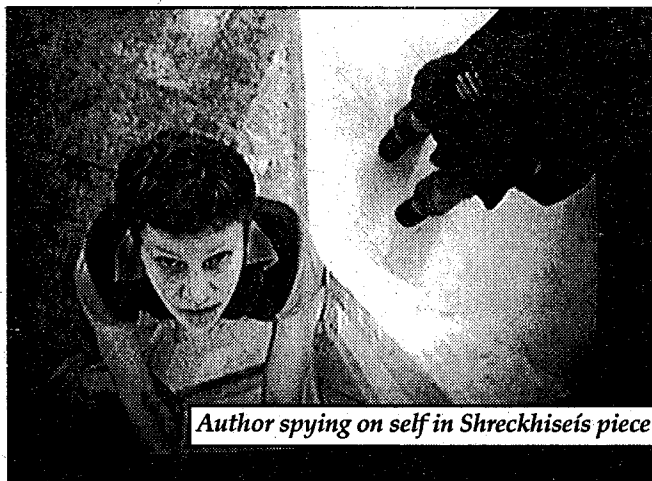
For days, I passed Melanie Baker grinding charcoal into her work "Men in Suits." From afar, the work looked fairly finished, but obviously she was not satisfied.

Art does not happen without perfection, Ms. Baker seems to realize. "Men in Suits" is just one of the monumental, "perfected" works featured in the current show in the Staller Center Art Gallery. For weeks, "Men in Suits" was the only work visible from the Staller Center hallway. But now, all of the works have been installed and the gallery has opened to the public.

This is the Masters of Fine Arts Thesis Show at Stony Brook. As the title implies, the works to be displayed are those of people who have mastered the art of visual expression. The notion is irresistible. So on March 3, 2001, I attended the opening of the show.

There is Ms. Baker's work, which is a huge charcoal-on-paper composition of old, white businessmen. Their backs are turned to us and only a glimpse of their disapproving frowns is offered. They judge and overpower the viewer, if only from their mountainous size, and the image brings to mind the word "corporate". They are the bullies that overshadow the world, the ones who make the rules and enforce them - imperializing the souls of whole continents, probably into making cheap shoes to be sold at your local Wal-Mart. They dress to impress and do so if only to exhibit supremacy. They intimidate, anonymously they're so high up there, you can't even see their eyes. And it's doubtful that they'd even look down to see who they're stepping on anyway. "Even their feet disappear into a deep, black void." She successfully illustrates a cliché -- but a good one.

Moving onward one comes across the tangle of wires that culminates in Adam Shreckhise's (apparently, for lack of a placard) untitled work. Made of wood, TVs, cranks, and cameras this seems to be a gazebo of voyeurism. Turn a crank, and a remote camera moves up or down or to the side. Televisions exhibit the results. There is even a camera on the viewer. Of course you might not realize it at first, because it is the back of your head. You kind of sneak up on you. It is post-modern and self-referential and interactive. Big Brother is not only watching you, but you are Big Brother, and you are watching yourself.



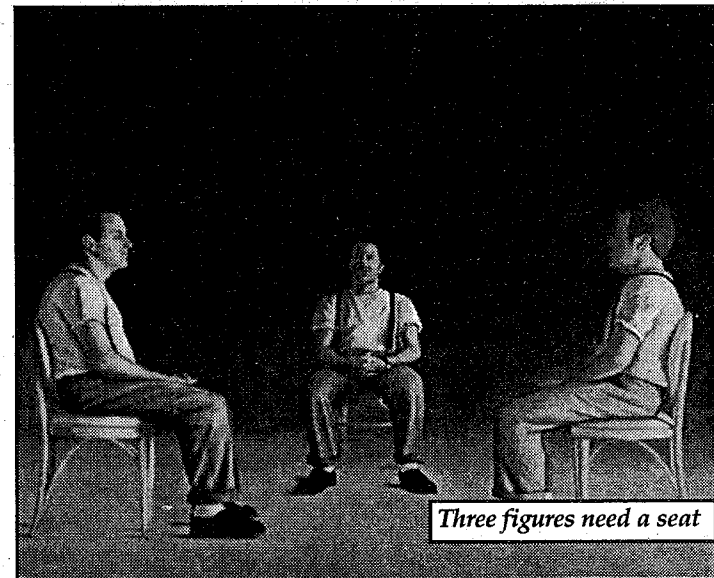
Author spying on self in Shreckhise's piece



Men in clothes in front of "Men in Suits"



Reverb from the sky



Three figures need a seat

Heading to the back of the room, we encounter a whole lot of Keith Miller. This I say in the sense that he exclusively does self-portraits. And these self-portraits are multiples of themselves which further complicates matters. Like a maze of mirrors, Keith Miller stares right back at himself in his works. He dubs each self a "figure" implying that he's not him, but just a guy. The universal guy. A guy that lonely contemplates in a skyward direction, in duality contemplates himself in an aside, and in triplicate simply has to sit down to handle it.

Last, but hardly least (if not most -- as it takes up most of the show space) is Nathaniel Johanson's also apparently untitled work. In what

looks like bleachers with a sail, Mr. Johanson incorporates a pleasant a gong noise, a cool breeze with fans, and Doppler reverberations into space with light. Say what? But, oh, so pretty. Physics majors, you'll eat this right up. He employs a moment of Zen for every sense. Of course, whether his attempt rings true with your soul is personal; whether you've seen the Gong Show or not, etc.

The Staller Gallery is a large beautiful space to see a show, and with these four artists, the space should not be missed. Four wholly disparate approaches to art are intersecting now at your local gallery. Catch them now before they get too famous.

Who Wants To Be a Fool cont.

Please understand that I'm not saying that anyone should remain in a relationship if his/her needs are not being met just because it's another "experience." Far from it. As famous dancer Gelsey Kirkland once pointed out, sometimes you have to "break your own heart in your own best interests." Nor do I, conversely, lock into Kaya's philosophy that "in a perfect world" people could slip easily in and out of each other's lives (and beds) without regret or recrimination. What I am saying is that in modern society, rather than finding "The One," we may each find a few such "Ones," who each enrich our lives in their own way, and vice versa. We need, I contend, to appreciate that more.

Meanwhile, back on television, there was much "trouble in paradise."

Like Ytossi and Taheed's removal from the group after producers learned about their baby. (Never let it be said that Fox 5 broke up anybody's parents!) Like Billy and Mandy deliberately sparking each other's jealousy, almost by turns. Like Shannon becoming more and more attached to one of the single guys and Valerie growing more and more distraught with each passing day (and night).

The Final Word

Like Kaya and Andy vying over one of the single women and two of those women competing over Kaya. And like some singles and some non-singles experiencing hurt and disappointment.

Did I ever feel like a voyeur, taking such gossipy interest in the tears, fears and indiscretions of complete strangers? You bet. But then I reminded myself that they willingly placed themselves in this position (though some of the couple members complained that they had no idea they would be so totally separated for so long).

And how did all this testing and tempting end? Amazingly, all the couples decided to stay together! Allowed to finish the remaining two weeks on a separate part of the island, Ytossi and Taheed decided to seek counseling to help them to remain with each other. Shannon's positive experience with Tom only reinforced her belief in her relationship with Andy, and she said, "Yes" when he (Andy) proposed! Mandy and Billy are reportedly "talking wedding bells," too, though right now they're carrying on a long distance romance, living on opposite coasts. And despite Kaya's seeming abandonment on the island, he told an

ecstatic Valerie that she was "always there" in his mind and concluded, "I choose you." After the show, they secluded themselves with each other for seven days, though I've heard "in the wind" that Kaya plans to do some traveling and further assess his future.

Wow! So love is stronger than lust, after all. Or perhaps, it was just the turn of events. (We'll never know what might have happened, for example, if Andy had had his favorite single all to himself, with no competition from Kaya.) Or maybe, after the emotional drama of the island experience, it just felt good to return to the comfort of the familiar. Most likely, it was a little bit of all three.

Intriguing. "Juicy." Significant. Fun. Yet maybe, a more positive response to today's realities would be to elevate the status of all close attachments, regardless of "where" they might "lead." And to learn to reap the benefits of being single, whenever the case may call for it. Then, perhaps, young couples such as these could relax. And maybe they wouldn't feel the need for pushing or clinging or subjecting their relationships to artificial tests.