

THE STONY
BROOK

PRESS

Vol. XXIII, Issue 3

"United we stand, we shall not fall, the bacon mushroom melt is BACK!"

October 10, 2001

BEHOLD THE GLORY OF: KUNG-FU CHURCH

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Warning: You Are Being Videotaped For Your Own Safety

By Isaac Pflaum

The founding fathers of this nation knew the peril of a national government. A government of a state, like that of Athens, would remain accountable to its citizens, but a national government took a vast amount of power much farther away. Our nation is a republic like Rome, not a democracy. The separation of the national government from the States has widened with bueracracy over the past 2until the Power seems so far away that basically all that people do is vote and watch the news. America is not a democracy. We fight in the name of Democracy. We kill, we influence, we exploit other people all over the world in the name of Democracy. Thomas Jefferson said more or less that the tree of Democracy (or was it Liberty) must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of young patriots. Not the Mel Gibson variety though.

Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison all wrote that the citizens must fear the government and be careful not to let it become too powerful and thus no longer accountable to the people. The "social contract" for the government was a lease the people could terminate when they wanted. They would have to get off their asses and do something to make it happen though. After all, it had worked against the British. The second amendment of the constitution expresses the importance of an armed militia to democracy. As long as the people had guns, some believed, they would have the ability to defend themselves from the government if their inalienable rights are threatened by the same government created to protect those

rights. Revolution had freed America from the British. The first battle of the war, Lexington-Concord, broke out when the British attempted to cease the weapons stockpiles the rebels had procured.

As the State grew in its Executive duties, it also grew larger and more buerocratic. The Post Office was one of the first Federal agencies. I happen to like the Post Office. The FBI is a newer agency it was formed after WWII. In the early nineties the FBI and some other agencies, stormed a compound in WACO Texas. Apparently, some psychotic pedophile had shackled up in the desert in a compound with lots of guns and all of his devoted followers. The FBI shot tear gas at this compound and a little while later it started on fire, with everybody in it. Do you remember that seen from Patriot when all those town's people get burned alive in their own church by that evil British Dragoon.

Put the helmet on Janet Reno and put her on a horse. Give her a sword and watch her unleash the FBI on a bunch of crazy people with lots of guns living peacefully in the desert. They were doing horrible things, no doubt, but only a few were guilty and they all burned in that building. These people were Patriots, although I am disgusted and frightened by their message. They are victims of the government, of its abuse of power. The Federal Government has grown so powerful and so drunk from its sprawl that it kills its own citizens, imprisons others in huge numbers, and has become the puppet theater of cooperations so large their quarter earnings are larger than some countries' GNPs.

If anything, the government will continue on this trend of gradual deconstruction of individual rights. The government has killed members extremist groups, by accident or by motive to insure its stability, and dispel all threats foreign and domestic. Their blood is the blood of Patriots. I call them this because they died for freedom. It is easy to support the actions of the Federal government towards these extremists because they are so fucking psychotic and gun-crazy most of the time, but it is dangerous to allow the government the ability to chose citizens as enemies and kill them. They might all be crazy to you now and they might always, if you were to bother to listen to what they had to say.

Eventually you may be seen as a threat too because this government, which suppresses its own citizens with such ferocity, which imprisons millions in its Drug War, and which runs unchecked by sufficient democratic channels is not to be trusted.

This situation has become drastically worse in the past few weeks. With the formation of the Homeland Security Agency, the government has taken FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and expanded upon its powers and organization.

George Bush issued an Executive Order forming the Homeland Security Agency, a FEMA-like management agency. The two organizations have a similar structure and Executive Orders.

The Homeland Security Agency is the largest threat to the freedom of american citizens in the history of this (Continued on page 15)

Hey Kids, Let's All Use Our Brains

By David Knuffke

In light of the insanity of 9/11 it seems that we, as a nation, are descending further and further into the depths of irrationality. While there are certainly many aspects to this, the one that I (as a biology major) feel most comfortable discussing is the nation's new found obsession with bioterrorism (cue the horrified shrieking!). I agree that bioterrorism is a concern. Certainly two pounds of *Bacillus anthracis* endospores dropped from a plane onto a major metropolitan area would be a calamity resulting in an unfathomable number of deaths. That said the chance of this happening at all, much less to anybody reading this article is very, very slim and there is nothing that we can do about it.

Anthrax is the name of a disease caused by the bacterial species *Bacillus anthracis*. This bacterium, like all bacteria, is very much present in the world at large. I can say without hyperbole that there are more individual *B. anthracis* cells alive right now than there are humans that have ever existed. The next time you are walking on soil, *B. anthracis* will probably be under your feet. However, like most bacteria, *B. anthracis* cannot survive in the open air. When environmental conditions are bad, the bacterium is able to form what are known as endospores, tiny capsules that contain only the bacterium's genetic code. It can remain in this "hibernating" form for a very long time (soil tests have shown that the spores can remain extant for up to 60 years). Once conditions get better, the spores are able to become their previous bacterial selves, and go about their business. It is these spores that would be used in germ warfare, as they are impervious to the open air.

Most cases of Anthrax in this country (there

are about 2 a year) come about when humans come into contact with infected animals. There are two major courses the disease can take. There is a par-enteral route, in which the bacterium enters the body through a previously existing cut or lesion in the skin. The bacterium holes up in the cut and forms pustules (never very fun). If the body's immune system cannot hold the bacterium in check, it can multiply rapidly and secrete metabolic waste products into the blood stream, causing septicemia (blood poisoning). If the spores are inhaled, they can set up shop in the lungs, where the conditions are very favorable to their growth. This type of anthrax, called pulmonary anthrax is by far the most deadly (there is currently a case in Florida, unfortunately by the time you read this that individual will probably be dead).

Okay, enough of the scary stuff. Nobody wants to get anthrax, it's an awful way to die. But if someone decides to start casting spores to the wind, realistically what can we do? The answer is nothing, at least nothing rational. It should be apparent to everyone that if someone is crazy enough to die for what they believe is a just cause, they cannot be stopped, only slowed down. Sure, we can pull a Howard Hughes, buy gas masks, stock up on antibiotics, get a shotgun and take no mercy on whoever comes to our door, but that sort of isolationist thinking only leads to loneliness or insanity or both. No matter what measures you take, you are not going to immunize yourself completely against an organism that is so small that three hundred of them can fit on the point of a safety pin. Short of wearing a full body latex suit, or one of those nifty personal atmospheres seen in the movie *Outbreak*, you are not going to be

fully protected. This is true of all biological agents be they bacteria or viruses.

Likewise, don't start chewing on antibiotics for fun. By all means, if you start developing nasty pustules and hacking up sputum go to a doctor and get a course of penicillin. But if you are asymptomatic please do not take antibiotics, you do not need them. Remember, antibiotics are blind weapons. They cannot tell the difference between bad bacteria, and all of our little friends that live in our intestines and make our pooh stinky. Without our little friends it is much harder to do things that we take for granted, like digestion and living. America has enough of a problem with misuse of antibiotics as it is. I refer to the various antibacterial soaps, socks and toilet paper that seem to have taken over the super markets and department stores of our great nation. Improper use of antibiotics will only lead to the development of bacterial strains that are impervious to our defenses (and then we'll all be fucked).

Of course, it's the network news and mainstream media that are really driving this newfound obsession with bioterrorism. I can't really say that I blame them, as the public eats it up like chocolate sauce. But if you're really concerned about your health during our "War on Terrorism," wear your seatbelt when driving, take the seventy bucks you had earmarked for your gas mask and buy some nicotine. These two measures alone will benefit your health much more than anything else you can realistically do. But if you want to take a more extreme approach let me know, I've got a shack in the Wyoming badlands that I've been looking to unload for quite some time.

Islam and Jihad

By Saleem Niazi

With over 1 billions adherents, Islam is one of the world's largest and fastest growing religions. Despite this fact, many people are clueless about the true meaning of Islam and what it represents. Often Muslims find that many people have misconceptions of certain practices within the Islamic ethos. One of these specifically targets the word "Jihad" which is often misused and misinterpreted by the media and the general public. Although this article seeks to shed some light on Islam and the concept of Jihad, it is naturally understood that one article alone cannot do full justice to any religious tradition.

The heart of Islam and its sole principle begins with the belief in One, Merciful and Compassionate God Who actively sustains the universe (The Arabic word for "God" is "Allah"). This faith believes that since the beginning of humanity, God has been sending Prophets with a message: a message sent to remind mankind of the covenant they took on, as spiritual beings, before they entered this world in the form of human beings. The clear message is that there is no other God but the One God, and that He alone is worthy of worship. This reminder of the covenant was sent not only through the last prophet of God, Muhammad, but also through previous prophets, beginning with Adam, and following through with Abraham, Moses, Jesus, all the other known prophets throughout the generations.

The Qur'an, believed by Muslims to be the unaltered word of God, was sent to the Prophet Muhammad through the Arch Angel Gabriel in 610 A.D. It explicitly states that God has created humans for no other reason than to worship Him. An act of worship in the Islamic sense means any act that is done for the sake of God alone. Thus, eating can be an act of worship along with praying and studying.

We can sum this all up by looking at the

meaning of the Arabic word, "Islam"- which means peace: peace with God, with the self and with the rest of creation- by submission to God's will. A Muslim is by definition one who submits his or her will to the will of God.

Having delved into the general meaning of Islam, we are faced with one of its greatest misconceptions: jihad. The media presents "Jihad" as "Holy War", but that is due to its policy of sensationalism and its habit of trading the truth for higher ratings. The truth is that "Jihad" does not mean 'Holy War'. In fact, the word jihad has never been used in the Qur'an to express any military meaning. The root word of Jihad in Arabic is Jahada, which literally means "to struggle". Jihad is the act of struggling.

So, what kind of struggling does this word really intend? The Prophet Muhammad said, "The greatest Jihad is to struggle with your own soul's insidious suggestions." To illustrate, we take an example from a Muslim's daily routine. Muslims have five daily prayers which they are required to do as a form of spiritual sustenance through the remembrance of God. The first of these prayers falls before the sun rises. When a Muslim gets out of bed to pray at 4 am on a cold winter morning and has to leave a cozy, warm bed to do so, s/he is performing an act of Jihad.

Another example of Jihad is struggling for social causes. Malcolm X left the ideals of the Nation of Islam (which has little to do with the Islam that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad) and became what he referred to as an "orthodox Muslim" after his fulfillment of the Hajj (the pilgrimage to Mecca every Muslim is required to perform at least once in their lifetime). In his autobiography, he describes his experience: "There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colors, from blue-eyed blondes to black-skinned Africans. But we were all participating in the same

ritual displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and the non-white...". When he returned to the United States as El-Hajj Malik al-Shabazz, he formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity, and his struggle--in essence, his Jihad--was to end the racism that was destroying America. Near the end of his autobiography he says, "...if I can die having brought any light, having exposed any meaningful truth that will help to destroy the racist cancer that is malignant in the body of America -- then, all of the credit is due to Allah [God]. Only the mistakes have been mine." Malcolm X fought a true Jihad, and if anyone died the death of a martyr in the name of God, it was he.

There exists a third form of Jihad, in which physical combat is allowed, and it is in those instances where one has to defend one's life, family, religion or property. Even in those circumstances, there are specific rules set by the Qu'ran and the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. In this type of Jihad one cannot poison wells or even uproot trees--and if this is the respect given to plants and inanimate objects, then it is no surprise that killing a civilian or any innocent person--no matter how different their beliefs may be--is heavily condemned in Islam.

To conclude, Jihad is not a Holy War of any kind. It is to struggle against the self, against social injustices and to defend those things most dear to us. The people who destroyed the World Trade Center were not performing an act of Jihad. They were not martyrs who died in the name of God. They were murderers. On the other hand, the fire fighters who risked their lives to help those buried in the rubble--they were the ones performing a Jihad.

If you have any more questions about Jihad, or any other aspect of Islam, you can e-mail learningislam@hotmail.com.

Leadership in Turbulent Times

By Jamie Mignone

On September twenty-eighth, the Provost's lecture series kicked off with its first installment for this semester. Dr. Richard Leakey addressed an audience in the Staller Center auditorium. His lecture was entitled "Leadership in Turbulent Times", though the concept of leadership was absent from his presentation, and turbulence has something to do with baboons. Dr. Leakey, although informative about environmental concerns in his native Kenya and its relation to global conservation, he was ultimately here to ask for money (which, apparently, he is very good at).

Dr. Leakey has been recognized for his involvement in politics, wildlife preservation, and paleoanthropology. Dr. Leakey's political endeavors in Kenya have been lobbying for increased security for African national parks to prevent the poaching of animals, especially the African elephant that inhabits the Serengeti. His past work as director of the Kenya Wildlife Service has led him to raise one-hundred-fifty million dollars to stop poaching and he was instrumental in implementing the worldwide ban on ivory trading. He is responsible for the formation of safina, a political party whose platform is anti-corruption in government. His paleontological discoveries include a nearly complete Homo Erectus skeleton in nineteen-eighty-four at Lake Turkana that is dated to be 1.6 million years old and is one of the best specimens of its kind.

Dr. Leakey's lecture focused on international crises, such as HIV infection and environmental conservation, and he also spoke of how these issues are manifesting in Kenya. According

to Dr. Leakey, twenty percent of the Kenyan population is afflicted by the AIDS epidemic. In light of recent events, Dr. Leakey said that by the time the world gets over its fear of flying, the Serengeti might have disappeared. This relates to Kenya's tourism industry, which Dr. Leakey cashed in on early in life with his photographic tour and safari business.

His lecture also dealt with the turmoil within Kenya involving the westernization of the country. The traditional tribal concepts of land do not mesh with European tradition. The tribes understood usage, not ownership. Conservation wasn't a problem until the government and the modern world were established with these foreign ideals. Private land forced the natives away from their homes without the natural resources they needed, while the lands were changed from forests or plains into man made centers for agriculture or industry. With such a state of affairs, distribution of public funds for Dr. Leakey is a matter of "human rights versus conservation", or welfare programs versus national parks.

Dr. Leakey then gave his audience a metaphorical anecdote from his misspent youth. He had once occupied himself with the profession of capturing baboons. The baboons were then to be delivered to laboratories for experimentation and research. This was not an easy skill to learn, baboons live mostly in trees, and they also sleep there. To find a way to ensnare his prey, Dr. Leakey looked to nature and found his answer in a notorious predator, the leopard. They eat baboons. Leopards catch their dinner by sneaking up to a

tree that is inhabited by several sleeping baboons. Then they say "BOO" and the animals jump from their perches in an unorganized swarm and mister leopard gets to pick from the lot. Dr. Leakey didn't dress like a leopard, but he did scream at the baboons, canvas sack in hand, ready to dodge excrement and capture the frightened beasts. The good doctor expressed his regret for participating in this practice and went on to compare the chaos of flying baboons to the potential for disaster in human society. He told of tragedy in the future for a world without proper leadership. We'll get eaten if we all just jump. We have to use our "innate, genetically based capacity to think through and make decisions".

It seems that the aforementioned turbulence is the loss of the planet's biological diversity, as in the tens of thousands of species that become extinct each year due to the lack of environmental conservation, but where this leadership is to come from was unaddressed.

The final proposal made by Dr. Leakey was to collect a fund for the purpose of accruing interest, which would maintain wildlife sanctuaries in Kenya. His proposed amount of capital necessary is sixty million dollars to start on the way to an eventual total of three hundred million dollars. He expressed the necessity to let an American organization keep and manage this money to avoid theft or corruption to give potential donors a sense of security in their endeavors, which with the guidance of Dr. Leakey, shall no doubt come to their full potential.

Editorial: Homeland Security: Yikes

Last week, the President ordered the establishment of a new federal agency called the Homeland Security Office with the purpose of strengthening America's defenses against terrorism. The office will work with state, federal and local governments to detect, prevent, prepare for, protect against and respond and recover from terrorism.

Good luck. If it were possible to detect, prevent, prepare for, protect against and respond and recover from terrorism, then there would be no terrorism. Even though the obvious intent of an initiative like this is to foster an environment in which this is the case, it doesn't look like that will happen any time soon considering the mentality that the problem is being addressed with.

Homeland Security will have almost unchecked power in the event of a terrorist incident. The terms that limit the agencies powers are vague at best, and given the agency's integration with intelligence and law enforcement, it will be a treat to the privacy and freedom of every American.

During the ceremony where Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania was sworn-in to lead the office, the President said "The best defense against terror is a global offensive against terror, wherever it might be found." He went on to use the word "evil" to describe terrorists four times before handing the floor to Gov. Ridge, a "man of compassion who's seen what evil can do."

Director Ridge described the new office and summed up with "Liberty is the most precious gift we offer to our citizens. It's what the terrorists fear most, what they tried to destroy on September 11th." Why

are our nations leaders pretending that we are doing battle with a comic book super-villain?

We at the Press would like to provide the following insights into reality:

Evil is not a motive. Even Hitler had reasons for his actions, however deplorable they may have been. Bin-Laden (or whoever) also has reasons for their actions that should be carefully considered if future incidents are to be avoided.

No one fears liberty. They may resent the attitude of invincibility we wrap around our precious liberty. They may even envy it, but the only thing fearsome about American liberty is that a disturbingly large number of Americans are really quite stupid and liberty can be abused.

The best defense against terror is a global offensive? Nonsense. We can't treat terrorism as a bug that we can squash with the established might of our global shoe. After the attacks on the 11th, we were shown video footage of Pakistanis celebrating in the streets; there were children cheering. Even if we achieve the impossible goal of killing every terrorist alive, we need only wait for the next generation to grow up before we have to start all over. The best defense against terrorism is understanding and a reevaluation of the foreign policies that result in people so furious with the United States that they will give their lives to attack us.

Tom Ridge has not proven himself to be a man of compassion. In spite of numerous constitutional violations in the case, Ridge signed a death warrant for Mumia Abu Jamal, a man who recognized that liberty was being threatened before the menacing specter of terrorism reared its head.

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Letter:

I'm surrounded by idiots, and they're all members of the Stony Brook Press. We'll begin at the top (or the bottom, if you will), with two of the editors: Isaac Pflaum (or is it Phlegm?) and Russ Heller. These two are truly the Head Idiots, and you can find their names in the E-Board column.

Let's start with Phlegm:

Isaac Phlegm can claim full credit for the editorial (and only piece) about the events of 9/11 which we had in the paper directly following the tragedies. The reason this was the only piece was because the staff was too damn lazy to rewrite the paper, and didn't feel that the events warranted such action. I, of course, disagreed. But the rest of the staff, being chock-full of morons and cowards, failed to say a word in my defense. Apparently, the 5,000+ people who died didn't cut it for them. Maybe 10,000 would've, or 20,000. Who knows? I do know, though, that enough people didn't die for them to take the extra time, spend the extra money, or think the extra thought.

And let's go over what Mr. Phlegm said in his one editorial:

Well, he didn't talk about the victims, the burning, the yelling, the pain, or even the heroes who died that day. Instead he talked about himself. That's right, himself. Apparently it's very important what happened to Isaac Phlegm that day, who was probably cozy at home in his blanket talking about how this was all our own fault. We "had it coming to us" he declared at the first Press meeting after the incidents, "[The victims] were rich, white upper-classmen" who evidently brought these horrors on through their terrible acts of capitalism (this according to Mr. Phlegm). Yes, the stupidity is overwhelming. But it gets worse.

In his editorial, Mr. Phlegm actually accuses the US of being guilty of terrorism, stating that terrorist acts are often done by "our own hands." It seems Mr. Phlegm does not understand the difference between acts of war and acts of terrorism. Acts of war can truly be terrible in and of themselves, it is true; but they are acts of war and not acts of terrorism, and there is a most tremendous difference. We target our enemies, not their civilians. As a matter of fact, even now, while we plan for justice upon those who attacked us, we still send food to the poor and helpless of Afghanistan.

After my vehement objections to the way the Press was handling matters, I was told that I could write anything I wished for the next issue.

Enter Moron Number 2.

What I wrote was a poem - sympathetic and patriotic. When I returned to my room Sunday night, however, I was informed over the phone by Editor-in-Chief Russell Heller (a.k.a. Moron, Idiot) that my piece would not be included because it did not conform to the paper's format.

"Who cares about format?" I said, "When things like this happen, you do away with format."

"No, you don't." said the Moron-in-Chief, "It would be against precedent."

"What precedent?" I cried, "The last time we were attacked?"

The piece was not included.

At the next Press meeting, though, I made sure to let the Moron-in-Chief know how I felt (I used the word "stupid" to describe their actions only about 14 or 15 times).

Stupid. (that's 16)

And I blame the entire Press staff. Not one person - not

one - stood up and said that I was right, that we could do more. Nobody wanted to be bothered with extra work. Nobody wanted to be bothered with taking the time to give the thousands who died the attention they so rightfully deserved.

The Press has put their efforts into other matters, however. They've taken the time to work on getting themselves a new TV, a free PlayStation, free video games, free CD's, and free tickets to shows at the Staller Center (you can find Isaac at the Penn and Teller show - somehow he found the time for that. If you see him in his messy blond curls, ask him how many innocent people have to die for it to warrant the Press' attention.).

As for the rest of the Press, you can call and let them know how you feel. The number is 632-6451. Or you can e-mail them at stonypress@hotmail.com. It would be good for them to hear from some proud, loyal Americans, who have the common sense and decency to know what happened here.

Ross Rosenfeld,
Press Staff

[Glenn Given, Stony Brook Press Ombudsman Responds:

SB Press policy is to refrain from responding to letters to the editor except in instances where gross error and misrepresentation of the facts have been made. It is also our policy not to run letters sent in by staff members (this is because they have or should have the cognitive capacity necessary to construct their statements into an article of some sorts). Seeing as how we have tossed that second rule to the winds in an effort to placate Mr. Rosenfeld I felt it appropriate to respond.

Firstly you grossly misrepresent the turn of events that led to the publication of vol. 23 issue 1. The fact of the matter was that the issue, being complete (barring the editorial) at the time of the WTC attack, was on it's way to the printers. Mr. Rosenfeld having little knowledge of the work required to redo the entire issue (as per his demands) simply assumed that fingers could be snapped, heads could be bobbed and magically the issue would fill itself with worthwhile content.

Because this is not the case, and a great deal of effort must be expended to complete each issue we decided to print the issue we had and hold off on our coverage until the following issue. The secondary reasoning for this was that given a greater window of opportunity for research and analysis we would be able to present articles of a higher caliber rather than immediate reactionary conjecture.

Mr. Rosenfeld did not take that time afforded him to craft a work of merit like so many of our staff did

The reality of the situation is that we print poetry only in our once-a-semester literary supplement.

To address your other issues, no one stood up to say you were right because no one believed you to be right. The free TV you refer to does not exist, the Playstation (a PS2 I might add) is my own and not the Press' as are the games, and the free CD's and tickets are the result of long standing associations with the venues and labels providing them rather than the immediate search for anything other-than-WTC that you paint them to be.

I repeat your invitation for anyone to call or write us and let us know how they feel about these events and our coverage of them.

Also, I humbly entreat you to "Cram it with Walnuts" Buster.]

Banners, Bad Manners, and Tear Gas Canisters

By Chris Bullock

In light of the September 11th catastrophe, the IMF and WTO decided to postpone their meetings until October of 2002. The meetings were scheduled to be held in Washington DC the weekend of Sept 28th, and were to be accompanied by unprecedented protests from the international activist/labor community. Instead of having months of planning come to nothing, several groups went to DC anyway to hold anti-war and anti-racism demonstrations.

I had gone in order to educate myself on the World Bank issue, hoping to gather information from both sides of the debate. I also wanted to be a witness to any chaos, social unrest, and violent police tactics. In lieu of any WTO talks, I attended the anti-war protests. My friend Neil and I both advocate responsible action, and our perspective overlapped the activists' on several points. We hopped in the car and went South, prepared with sandwiches (non-vegan) and gas masks. We received the usual amount of stares that a disgruntled Brooklynite and a trashy Long Islander could expect, and arrived just in time for the Anti-Capitalist Convergence march.

The ACC is a conglomeration of activists dedicated to abolishing the World Bank. Their website is www.abolishthebank.org. They planned on marching from Union Station to IMF headquarters, to hold a short rally, before joining up with the IAC (International Action Coalition) peace rally at Liberty Plaza.

We met at Union Station amidst a throng of banners, drums, bad facial hygiene, and pamphlets (which sadly turned to litter). The police arrived shortly after the marchers convened. IndyMedia estimated the protest to be 1,000 strong, 10,000 for the whole weekend. The NY Times reported the marchers to number 300. There were about two police for every attendee.

We began to walk, accompanied by press and undercover lawyers, who were prepared to intervene in case of injustice. The police surrounded the procession and arrested those who tried to leave the march. Occasionally the march turned into a "jog," in order to make cops sweat beneath their bulky black vests. At one point, the throng had absorbed 3 squad cars into the procession. The cars had originally escorted the march. The ACC marched peacefully with the cars, and motorcycle

cops began to make a show of force. One car rolled down its windows and pepper sprayed indiscriminately. Among the victims of the spraying was a Los Angeles activist named List Fithian as well as Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer. Police Chief Charles Ramsey also lost his left shoe in a melee. Neil was billy-clubbed in the chest, and I was picked up into the air as I tried to scatter from the melee. The gigantic black cop put me down a few feet over as he continued to the scene to administer some whoop-ass. After several altercations, when the protesters tried to divert from their predetermined route, we reached our destination, IMF headquarters.

We massed in the public square overlooked by the IMF building. There was to be a short rally; banners were unfurled and press began to record the happenings. For no apparent reason, a line of cops began to chant "Get Back," flaunting batons and isolating a group of twenty people, myself included. We didn't know what would happen to us; there were several officers with video cameras. They told us to climb a fence back into the park, then not to climb a fence back into the park. Eventually we were permitted to rejoin the crowd. Unfortunately, no one was allowed out of the square and several unlucky spectators were unable to return home. Every 10th cop had a rifle equipped with a tear gas canister. We were penned in, anxious, and scared. Down the street we could see public buses, commandeered by the police to hold the arrested. In light of the circumstances, we played soccer.

After a taxing hour and a half, Chief Ramsey let us disperse to the IAC rally held at Liberty Plaza. It was televised on C-Span, and flanked by several pro-war demonstrators. There were Socialist Workers everywhere, passing out newspapers. I amassed a pile of printed crap I'll never read. The rally was inspiring, replete with poets and spiritual speakers, although the IAC has been described as a group of "Stalinists" who have "portraits of Mao" in their offices and tag along on with other coalitions. We left the rally and unwound at Malcolm X Park, occupied by Black Bloc anarchists and spiritual energy healers. I ate some granola and had a great turkey sandwich. That turkey must have been a fabulous flapper when he was alive. Gobble

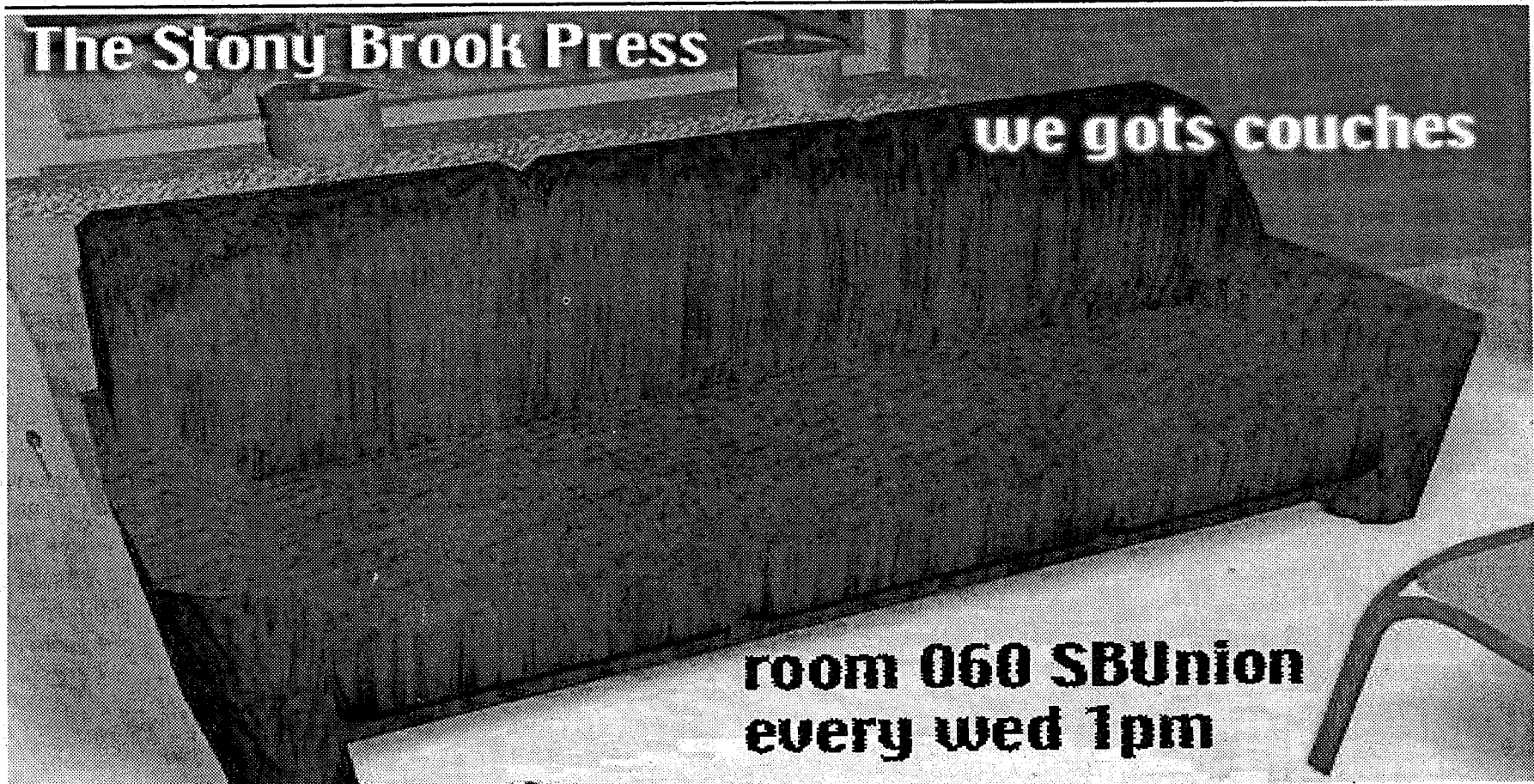
gobble gobble!

The standoff at IMF headquarters was unsettling. There was a feeling that we could get gassed at any time, and would be totally unable to escape. There were several black cops in the regiment. Any of them might have come from poor backgrounds and poverty, which is common in racially segregated Washington DC. A place more segregated than Stony Brook? It's true. These cops may have had grandparents who marched to be recognized as human beings, and they were ready to play the role of the oppressor, victims of a white-bred system of sad contradictions. All in all, there were 11 arrests.

It is likely that in surrounding the rally, the police sought to either "cool off" the unruly Black Bloc, or to provoke us into lashing out. That would supply generous amounts of footage for the evening news, grouping concerned citizens with international terrorists in the paranoid public eye. The Washington Post, while to its credit, provided a somewhat balanced account of the protest, nevertheless featured a knucklehead burning the American flag on its cover. The paper printed a police estimate of 7,000 people for both marches, over the weekend.

There is a consensus that now is a "bad time to dissent." Bush has recently passed an executive order allowing law enforcement to un-reasonably search and seize anyone suspected of aiding or collaborating with terrorists. Several news websites have been advised by their service providers to lay low or shut down, as the government's net of investigation has been expanded to include political subversives and dissidents. The situation is vague and disturbing, and we are suspended in a waiting game. Recently, Christian Fundamentalists in Oregon were accused of contaminating a supermarket produce section with salmonella, and anthrax has been detected in Florida. Times are changing and many of us don't know whether to lay low until the storm passes over, or to get caught up in the maelstrom.

Chris Bullock (ouchmyelbow@assdog.com) and Neil Stickel (neil@longislandhardcore.com) for information on future mobilizations/actions in the Stony Brook/Long Island Area. If anyone is interested in collaborating on screening movies on campus, please contact him.



Where, Oh Where Do Those Little Platlets Go?

By Christopher Genarri

Coursing through your veins, arteries and capillaries is blood. When you see it is red but it is not always red, much of the time it is actually blue (or some variant). Contact with oxygen gives blood its distinctive color. Blood is critical to living. Connected to every part of the body, the circulatory system is responsible for bringing nutrients, oxygen and all those other necessary ingredients to your organs. Without continuously moving blood the human body does not function. This simple fact makes blood a vital necessity for nearly every major surgery. The importance of blood for surgeries means that blood donations are extremely important to hospitals' ability to help people. One aftermath of September 11th was the outpouring of people donating blood all over the Tri-State area hoping to help. The sad point was that the donated blood was not needed to help disaster victims but these donations help other people every day.

The process of donating blood is a simple one. The donor makes an appointment to come into one of the permanent locations (Long Island Blood Services has one location on Route 110 in Melville/Huntington, Stony Brook Hospital has their own blood collection service as well) or attends one of the rotating day-collection centers (which was at USB in September and will return for several days in November). Every day in Nassau, Suffolk and Queens there are five to eight donation centers operating at schools, churches, libraries, and other public institutions. Both the permanent and rotating locations are staffed by professionals.

After the donor arrives he or she fills out a personal/medical history information form. This form asks several questions which are supposed to identify the risk of donated blood having an infec-

tious agent. Some of the questions are about travel habits (Have you traveled to Sub-Saharan Africa?), others ask about sexual practices (Have you had unprotected homosexual sex?, Have you had sex with someone who has AIDS?), and others ask about drug use (Do you use intravenous drugs?).

The next step for those with low risk possibilities is to have some vitals tested. A nurse or blood donation technician will take the donor's pulse, blood pressure, temperature and iron count. If all the results are within a narrow normal range the next step is to wait on line for a stretcher. Once on the stretcher all you have to do is sit there and enjoy the nurse's rather witty banter while he or she pierces your skin with a good long (and completely safe) needle which then begins an outflow of blood into a small plastic bag which holds one pint of blood. It takes about ten to twelve minutes to fill the bag and then the donor moves on to the juice and cookies section and has ten or twelve Oreos and gets a sticker before moving on back to class. The whole process takes between thirty and forty five minutes and the donation can help upwards of five different people if the blood is broken down into its various parts.

The blood's journey is not done. It goes on to a central blood center where it is then tested nine different ways for a host of diseases including AIDS and hepatitis. The blood center will contact you if the results of these tests come back positive and they will not allow that blood into general circulation. If the blood passes it is then sent out to hospitals.

The New York Blood Center's five regions have the collection goal of seven hundred pints of blood a day. The NYBC tries to maintain a five day supply of all blood types (There are four: A, B, AB, O, additionally all blood is also either RH negative

or positive). Type O is the most needed because it can be used by anyone. It is also the most common blood type. There are some fifty hospitals which use the NYBC throughout New York's five boroughs and Long Island. Blood stays fresh for about forty two days. After this month and a half the blood is no longer usable. Thus the NYBC is asking potential donors to make appointments for November and December when blood supplies are traditionally low anyway but will be about the time that the blood collected in the September 11th aftermath will no longer be useable.

According to Linda Levi of the New York Blood Center, the NYBC collected donations from about 5,000 people on September 11th while some 5,000 more people showed up wanting to donate but were turned away because the structures could not handle the sheer amount of people or blood. New York and Long Island hospitals also collected their own supplies of blood. Six hundred pints of blood were sent to area hospitals but were simply not needed because people were not coming into the hospitals with injuries that required transfusions. The total collection in the first week after the disasters was about three times more than normal collection levels. Donors are now being asked to return in November and December.

The NYBC, according to Ms. Levi, does not export its blood. All donated blood is used by area hospitals. While the donations in the weeks since the terrorist attacks could not help World Trade Center victims, the donated blood does help New York residents. Thus, donating blood is as much a sign of community spirit and social welfare as pinning a flag to your car window and it has the added benefit of actually helping your neighbors.

What Is Terrorism?

By Wendy Fuchsburg

While I was busy concerned about my all-too-human issues, something beyond humanity has occurred. I was on my way home from voting in the primary election, when I heard that the Pentagon was on fire. I got home, put on CNN and found out that two planes hit each of the twin towers. My first thought was that a close friend of the family that I grew up with (who is also the brother of my best friend) was almost certainly dead. I called my best friend at work and there was silence for a few seconds because I did not want to be the one to have to tell her about this. The first thing she said was, "Andy's okay. He gets to work at 9:30." I could breathe again. The next thing I did was call my family to make sure everyone was okay and thankfully, they were. Later that day, my mother called me and told me that an ex-boyfriend (who is a fireman) was one of the first units called in to respond and that no one knew where he was. I thought that he was surely dead and felt a huge pang of guilt and sadness. Later on that day, I found out he was okay. Then I found out my friend John was down there. The next day, I found out he was alright.

The repercussions of this event will be felt for

years to come. In the interview with my friend John, he stated that he thought this attack was provoked. I don't feel this way. In my opinion, attacks on civilians are always unprovoked. I would use this standard to evaluate the U.S. military attacks and the cruel economic sanctions in Iraq which have caused the deaths of thousands of civilians, therefore it is no different when civilians die here. However, I cannot support a "war on terrorism." I consider military attacks to be terrorism so to me, this "war on terrorism" seems incredibly Orwellian.

In addition, if we were serious about this "war on terrorism," we would begin in our own country and analyze our own actions and policies. The first thing to do would be to close the School of the Americas where the government trains Latin American terrorists and assassins to further their own ends overseas (such as the "war on Communism"). The graduates of the School of the Americas have committed some of the most gruesome atrocities and human rights abuses in history. We would also consider rethinking our support of vicious regimes in various parts of the globe. September 11th is certainly a date that will live in

infamy and in fact, it already does to the people of Chile. Until September 11th 2001, the most successful act of terrorism was also committed on September 11th in 1973. This was the day that Pinochet, backed by the U.S. government, toppled the democratically elected socialist government in Chile. This is typical of what the U.S. government does to foreign governments, especially leftist foreign governments, all over the world.

Furthermore, at this point I'm sure most people are aware that the Taliban were trained by the U.S. government to fight the Russians in this country's last war on an intangible ideology, the "war on Communism." In fact, Osama Bin Laden was considered a freedom fighter by the U.S. government until he started attacking the U.S. People say "but the Taliban is so evil." While this may be true, the Northern Alliance are also horrendous human rights abusers and to put these people into positions of power in Afghanistan would truly be a major mistake. To kill innocent civilians just to replace their government with another oppressive regime is one of the worst acts of terrorism I can think of.

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Local Elections: The Toilet That Is Long Island Politics

By Walter Moss

When I joined the Green Party last year, I had a vision. I saw politics as a noble enterprise, a vehicle for bringing justice and prosperity to the people. I was aware of the corruption inherent in the system, but I figured with hard work and perseverance almost anything could be accomplished. This was the energy of the Nader campaign pushing me and several million other Americans, to put our energies into building a viable alternative to the corporate regime in place today. This sort of political exuberance was short lived. Since then, the harsh realities of the political landscape have come into focus. I, and many others in the Greens have had a massive reality check.

The greatest factor involved in the squashing of my political naiveté has been being involved in local electoral politics. I had no idea how sleazy they really were, until a month ago, when I was dragged into a big mess caused when major party candidates attempted to steal the Green Party line. They used a wicked little law called opportunity to ballot to try and force their way onto the Green Party line in the next election. This opportunity to ballot law is a crock, it allows the major parties, with their massive budgets, to directly contact registered members of third parties and ask them to write them in as a candidate on primary day. In some cases, these candidates actually registered people in the green party with the express purpose of having them vote on primary day. My first experience with opportunity to ballot came a month ago when I received a mailing from Ed Spertzel, a candidate for Judge, who claimed to be the "official" Green Party Candidate. Soon after Spertzel's letter came several others each from a different candidate who wanted the Green line.

I found this to be fairly curious. As a representative for Smithtown in the Suffolk County Green Party organization, I'm pretty confident that I know most of the really active people, and all these candidates were new to me. As it turns out all of these individuals were Republicans or Democrats seeking to avoid the proper screening process the Green Party uses to choose whom it endorses. The people contacting Greens in Smithtown were only the tip of the iceberg. It seems that opportunity to ballot was widely used to co-opt the Green line throughout Suffolk county, and possibly throughout the country. Opportunity to ballot is a common tactic, which is

widely used by the major parties to take lines away from third parties. One has only to look at the sad shell that is the working families party, or the "independent" Conservative or Liberal parties, to see just how independent they really are. These parties are really just some letters that appear after Democrat or Republican on a ballot! This past primary, a similar loss of meaning almost occurred with the Green Party. Luckily, the Party was partially successful in blocking the candidates in Smithtown, and there was a major victory in the town of Brookhaven.

Before getting into the tactics used against the Republicrats, let's look at how they attempted to get Green votes. The judge candidate Spertzel, sent out a mailing to every green in my District, some even received oven mitts saying "Ed Spertzel the official Green candidate for...". This guy was by far the most ridiculous candidate. For those of us who were not wowed by his oven mitts, you can bet there was some outrage over this man's taking the Republican, Conservative and Right-to-Life party lines. If anyone could be further from the ideals of the Green Party, they would be wearing brown and goose-stepping through their trailer park! Running against Spertzel was a Democrat, Joel Zeigler who also wanted to take the Green line. Essentially, he and Spertzel were each fighting for the Green line to add a few votes in case of a close race. Zeigler's mailing came a week after Spertzel's and he certainly appealed to the Green's fear of having a conservative stealing the line. In addition to these two men, at least ten other candidates countywide attempted to use opportunity to ballot each of them sending out multiple mailings.

The Green Party of Suffolk had to call emergency meetings to discuss how to deal with the opportunity to ballot attack. We ended up meeting with Joel Zeigler. At his office he seemed like a fairly decent human being. He was a Democrat, and at least somewhat closer to Green Politics than Ed Spertzel. We ended up sending out a mailing of our own, endorsing Zeigler and urging Greens to write him in, to block Spertzel. We also sent out mailings urging Greens to write me in for a number of other positions under siege by Democrats and Republicans. I ended up in a primary for three separate positions: Superintendent of Highways, Town Council, and Suffolk County Legislator. The purpose was to block anyone from

outside the Greens from taking the Green name as a cheapening it. Unfortunately by choosing to deal with Zeigler we made a huge mistake.

After receiving our support, Zeigler sent out another mailing, where he gives a listing of Democratic candidates that people should write in for the Green line! When confronted, the bastard told us that he signed up eight new Greens, and that they were all voting for him. Essentially, he registered enough of his aides and supporters as "Green" to win him the primary and there was little we could do about it. Sadly, it really was too late to do anything about his winning the Green line. Elsewhere though we had some successes. We blocked most of the people on Zeigler's mailing. And now I'm running for Smithtown Town Council. My girlfriend and I each wrote in our cat Minnie for the position Zeigler was running for, and we got her name into last week's Newsday. The best success happened in Brookhaven, where the Babylon Greens totally fucked with the Democratic Party. One of the Democratic Party heads in Suffolk, Ray Garofola bragged to the chairperson of the Suffolk Green Party, that he "would own the Greens" this election cycle. To teach this prick a lesson, the Brookhaven Greens wrote in Garofola for one of the positions that were under attack by Democrats. Garofola who was a party executive, and not even able to run, ended up getting the Green line! He was so furious he called Roger Snyder, head of the Suffolk County Green Party, and threatened to sue. This was a pretty hilarious event.

This whole experience was fairly disheartening. The major parties have the laws stacked in their favors. They have the money, the power and the willingness to subvert attempts to create any alternatives to their presence. The only way to counter their bullshit is to struggle with them and fight for every single inch. That really was the moral of this fiasco, that this is going to be a very difficult struggle. To remain even an autonomous party will be very difficult, forget about the difficulty involved in getting larger. It's a battle, but it's a something worth fighting for. Hopefully, the amount of difficulty and general annoyance the Greens caused this election will be enough to give many politicians some pause. If the pressure can be kept up, in next election maybe Republicans and Democrats will learn not to mess with the Greens.

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TV Is Dead

By Adam Kearney

I am bombarded by an endless stream of mind-numbing propaganda. Hundreds of familiar faces coated in make-up, faking big friendly smiles, and telling me the world is going to hell but I shouldn't worry because the NASDAQ is up 700 points. They are always trying to sell something, even if you can't immediately discern just what and just how much, there is always a catch, a clever little scheme to get what's in your wallet. It is imperative to realize the true nature of the information being broadcasted on inaudible frequencies across the globe, the motivation behind those who make it possible for all that intellectual garbage to leak into your homes from various mechanisms. You pause and reflect during a commercial, wondering how this programming can be maintained by 15 minutes of advertisements every hour, as if anyone were convinced enough to run out and buy this stuff.

The people watching the set are not being told the whole story, which becomes increasingly apparent while watching the news. Most do not consider this possibility; it is they who are the target audience of these mongrels. The plain truth is that those in control of today's media empire are attempting to destroy our culture by replacing it with any piece of garbage that gets good ratings from the people they trained to be idiots. Sometimes, while reluctantly flipping through the channels in search of a good sci-fi flick, I become so disgusted with this system of entertainment that I vainly search out some large blunt object to hurl at the screen. I never find one though, because in the brief moments that the remote control was in my hand I had lost all capability of sustained attention.

It is always likely that someone you associate with has seen the latest Simpsons episode and you can exchange laughs as you remember the details. It is also possible that they are an avid fan of Buffy and they will chew your ear off for many long hours over the possibilities of her survival. There are good shows and there are bad shows and to an extent it depends on your prejudice. However, generally speaking, television is good because it is the most efficient process of sending information from the outside world into the very innards of your home. It is also uniform, in that everything you watch on any certain channel can be watched by others in your area at the same time from a different unit, and without a concern for lag or bandwidth. This creates a cultural common ground for most people; they get together to watch TV, or they talk about TV when they do get together. I don't; I hate TV (except for Star Trek). I think TV is a big piece of crap. I have my reasons, which I will divulge at length.

The first of the myths I will expel is that television is responsible for rotting your brain. This does not adequately explain its detrimental effects upon the human consciousness. The television is unique in that it actually tricks your brain into thinking that it is busy, when in fact it is no less active than when you are unconscious. Sometimes hours can pass before you even discover that you turned it on. Another fact I would like to bring up is that when active in an environment, the human being has five senses. The sight and sound are not enough virtual life

for some people, so they hold onto the remote while shoving junk food down their mouths. I have seen this in real life and it is scary. A normal television junkie will watch a channel for an average of four seconds, then skip to the next one. Four seconds, hmm, hm, click, munch, hmmm, hmm, hm, click, munch; ad nausea. The fact is that your brain does not merely rot, your body and its constituent organs rot along with, your life rots, you forget what it means to enjoy a walk, to enjoy the weather, to enjoy adventure. You begin to lose touch with what the word adventure actually means and wonder if that's what they do on TV.

The next of the great evils of television is the brainwashing; I am not kidding. The cable networks are controlled by a handful of very powerful conglomerate corporations. These corporations are not solely invested in the media, which means that they will attempt to make money off other investments through the media in any way possible. I am not claiming that money is responsible for the perpetual degradation of our cultural processes, but that it is the fault of the laziness and moralless greed of those involved in the making of money. They are attempting to control what we see and what we hear, so that we will do what they want us to do. They are trying to control what we think. They do not want us to make our own happiness; they want us to buy what they are selling. They want us to think that what they are selling will make us happy.

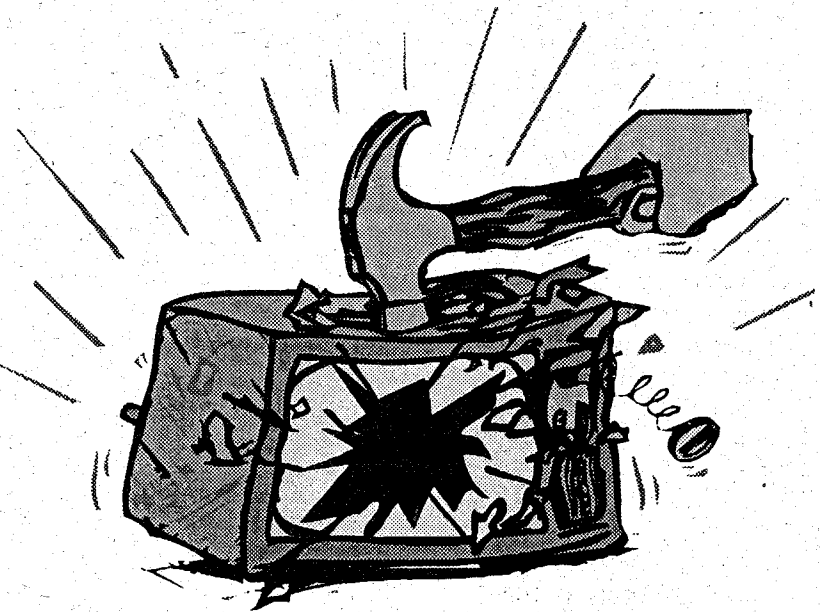
For instance, there is a show on primetime TV every Sunday that depicts the situation of an ideal American family struggling to uphold their values in the face of a hostile world. The family has a house and a car, the kids wear new stylish clothes, and they even watch TV together every Sunday night after dinner. Do you sense something suspicious? The show's basic purpose is to imply standards of behavior and ethics for the average American family, but only those standards that serve the purposes of the corporations funding the program. The show says "watch TV", "drive this car", "buy your children what they have seen on this TV show and they will love you." In these modern times this sort of situation has increasingly been called a mindfuck.

The greatest of these is the question of whether television is the cause of crimes related to sex and violence. The government was the first to ask, before it was paid off by the corporations that own the media. Then the media took over the job of discovering if there really is too much crap on TV. Of course there is, it sells! So do the news reports that analyze the situation. And the end result of the whole fiasco is more censorship. Art gets butchered, news gets more distorted, and they still put sex and violence on the air except now you have to pay extra for it. The message here is clear: consumers

are good; sex is bad, war is good; violence is bad, god is good; drugs are bad, and TV is great.

Today television is in the position to lose its status as the most popular form of media. The reason should by now be obvious to those who have not spent the last six years in a cave. It seems the Internet is our only hope to communicate freely to the masses without a mountain of bureaucratic regulation and corporate politics, unless you work for free publications, in which case you will eventually be arrested. Even now the Federal Communications Commission is trying to rob us of these liberties. In essence, a free country would never tell its people they cannot make money without asking for permission, nor would they attempt to censor what educated individuals have to say. This country is no longer free; it was stamped with a price tag and incorporated.

These spiritual parasites are now beginning to take over the Internet, the last refuge of freedom for those who tend to disagree with the standards set forth by the faceless names of global tyranny. You can see the advertisements increasing and almost feel the growing presence of the network mediocracy throughout cyberspace. Is nothing sacred? Must these credit hungry cretins with no ethical code totally corrupt our every source of culture until we are nothing more than a pathetic bunch of mindless grinning shoppers hurrying home from the mall to catch our favorite television shows? I say NEVER. Stand up to these white-collar fascists who create the illusion



that life is like TV: bland and dull and unavoidably so, yet relatively satisfying, like a plain McDonalds hamburger with no ketchup. Throw a brick at the screen and go out and buy a book. Hell, get drunk and break stuff. Do something, for the love of your eternal soul, that is not routinely depicted on television.

Now comes the test. You get home, you take off your coat, and you sit down on the couch. In front of you is the beast, with its compelling shiny screen and perfectly arranged little buttons. You stare at this object, you fixate your attention upon the little red button and you consider the infinite possibilities of things that might be right in front of you, just by giving it a little push. One hundred channels, you think, I should at least give it a try.

World Clash 2001, A slap in the face

By Jody Jarvis

The third annual NY World Clash was on Saturday, October 9, 2000. It was hosted by the none other than Rodney Price a.k.a. Bounty Killer. This year, dance hall patrons paid \$40-50, depending on arrival time, to see six Reggae sound systems do battle. This year was a little different from the previous years; each sound system had to be a previous winner of a landmark clash. Also there were three special rules which included, during one of the rounds there would be no cursing, next round no dubplates, and only 45's and no forced forwards. The theme for world clash was "Bring your trophy and defend it, winner takes all." The sound systems included: King Tubbys of England (the European champions,) Blackcat of Jamaica, (Global Cup Champions,) Mighty Crown of Japan, (1999 World Clash champions,) Poison Dart of Antigua, (Antigua's World clash champions,) Bass Odyssey of Jamaica, (the Jamaican Champions & Killamánjaro of Jamaica,) and 2000 World clash champions. However, this year Killamánjaro did not show up to defend their title; well, they weren't really missed.

In the first round, each sound system was required to play for 15 minutes. The first to play was King Tubbys who did well in their first half of their opening round but began to boil down. King Tubbys played nervously for a champion; they did not perform up to the standards expected of them. Next up was Black Kat, the DJ/selector. Pink Pantha came in and did a great job, but from the start the patrons were tired of hearing his same old tunes that are played in the same order all the time. Next was Mighty Crown, but the selectors played well and counteracted some of Blackcat's tunes. The fourth sound to come in and play was the highly anticipated Poison Dart,

who tore down the first round with their strong foundation tunes. The final sound to play in the first round was Bass Odyssey with Squingy; the selector came with an American Flag on his head in support of the bombing of the World Trade Center. He played the Alicia Keys Dubplate, "Falling," giving the people their money's worth.

In round two, King Tubbys started off playing weak and got thunderous boos from the crowd. Pink Pantha came back in and played, keeping the crowd interested, but giving the audience nothing special. Might Crown came up and made Dance Hall history playing an Iwer George & Beenie Man combination, "Show me ya hand." Bass Odyssey came in and played some vintage Bounty Killers and won the round.

During the third round, King Tubbys was eliminated and this round the selectors could not curse or force a forward. Blackcat started off and the patrons were unimpressed, but Pantha played good anyway. Mighty Crown played a hip-hop artist, "Fabolous" in combination with Bounty Killer. This tune tore down the place and the round went to Mighty Crown. Squingy of Bass Odyssey came in and played keeping the crowd interested and well entertained.

Bounty Killer took the mic next and asked for the people's votes on who should be eliminated. The fans decided that it should be Poison Dart. He then sang some of his tunes, like he was doing between each round. In this round the systems could only play 45's. In came Pantha and in this round he impressed the fans, playing a classic Bob Marley, etc. Mighty Crown was next and they could not wait to start cursing and calling Pink Pantha, "Pink Panty." This was Might Crown most impressive round and they won it by a land-

slide. Bass Odyssey came in and played but by this time all the hype 45's have been played by the other sounds. Squingy maintained and played well anyway and took second place in 45 round.

"Tune fi Tune," was the name of the next round and each sound was required to play ten songs, one after the other. Pantha started off, got booed on his first tune, and his nine tunes after that. Mighty Crown came up and got no response on their first tune, but won six of the ten. Squingy played and took the first and last three.

At this point the fans assumed that Mighty Crown won, but Bounty Killer said that it was tied between Mighty Crown and Bass Odyssey. The reason for this is that Bass Odyssey is known for playing lots of Bounty Killer's records; they represent him well, so he was trying to do anything to keep them from losing. Bass Bounty said that Blackcat was eliminated and that Mighty Crown and Bass Odyssey needed to play five tunes to decide a winner, even though it was clear that Mighty Crown had won already. Mighty Crown played and got boos for all five tunes and Bass Odyssey clearly won this round. The decision for the winner took about fifteen minutes. The patrons clearly decided that Mighty Crown won, but in the end "The Big Bias Bounty Killer" went against the rules of dancehall. He, deciding who won instead of letting the fans decide, and wasting no more time, said Odyssey was the winner. This was a slap in the face to dancehall fans who paid \$40-50 to see World Clash. It just reinforced the idea that sometimes no matter how hard you work, there is always people waiting to snatch the fruits of your labor right out of your mouth.

Why Sugar Ray Is Alright

By Andrea Leeson

If you were wondering if you should go to Tuesday's Sugar Ray concert, well, I'll give you the answers. You definitely should. First, friends, it is cheap. This is a popular, mainstream pop band whose tickets are selling for \$20 to any Stony Brook students. So, it's a good, cheap way to spend the evening. It's cooler than the Park Bench, cheaper than a fuzzy NYC Club, and you can even get drunk in the parking lot beforehand. But, wait, no tailgate parties here though, cus campus security is a bitch. Well, then, I must advocate drinking while driving on the way over. You know, to loosen up, to dance better... whatever.

Second, Mark McGrath, the lead singer, is really hot. If you dig guys, it'll be really fun to watch him strut around and sing and stuff. If you dig chicks, there will probably be a lot of chicks to meet and possibly date. So bring a pen and get lots of digits, ok!

Third, Stony Brook hardly ever has concerts. And just when it seems that they will, the concert gets cancelled, and well... they don't. Staller Center tends to have most of the good stuff, and that's alright, but where's that college-concert atmosphere that was so prevalent in the sixties? My mother saw Janis Joplin and Jefferson Airplane perform here. It was at this concert that she tried opium for the first time. And she did love it, even though Janis supposedly screamed, cried, drank some whiskey, and after five minutes left the stage. I do wonder at the exact truth of these events; she

said it was great opium, but still, this atmosphere is completely lacking on Stony Brook's campus. So I say, go to see Sugar Ray, and support an atmosphere of good ol' fashioned fun and opiates, ok!

But really, it is all about having fun. We need groovy shit going on here; we're young and this is college. I say- where the fun at? The SPOT has lots of great shows, I won't fault them for anything. They are the only bit of culture attempting to avoid suffocation by the red tape and greedy bullshit of campus administration. But The SPOT is strictly a 21-and-over venue, so what for the young people beneath the drinking age? For awhile the sentiment has been "it sucks to be you," while The SPOT continued to be the only place on campus to hear any live music like Mother Freedom, and the Causey Way.

But this is our chance. It is important to make this show successful so that the greater powers at this university see it monetarily and publicly worthwhile to have more concerts.

Let me bring you back to days when DJ Skribbles, Busta Rhymes, and Beenie Man played here. And even further back when the great Ani DiFranco was willing to withstand anal and inappropriate security measures to bring her music to Stony Brook. Oh yeah, and in the Spring of 1996 there was Notorious Big, Bounty Killer, and Lil' Kim. We've had Phish, Spragga Benz, Buju Banton, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Bob Dylan, and at the prime of cock rock in 1984, we had Quiet

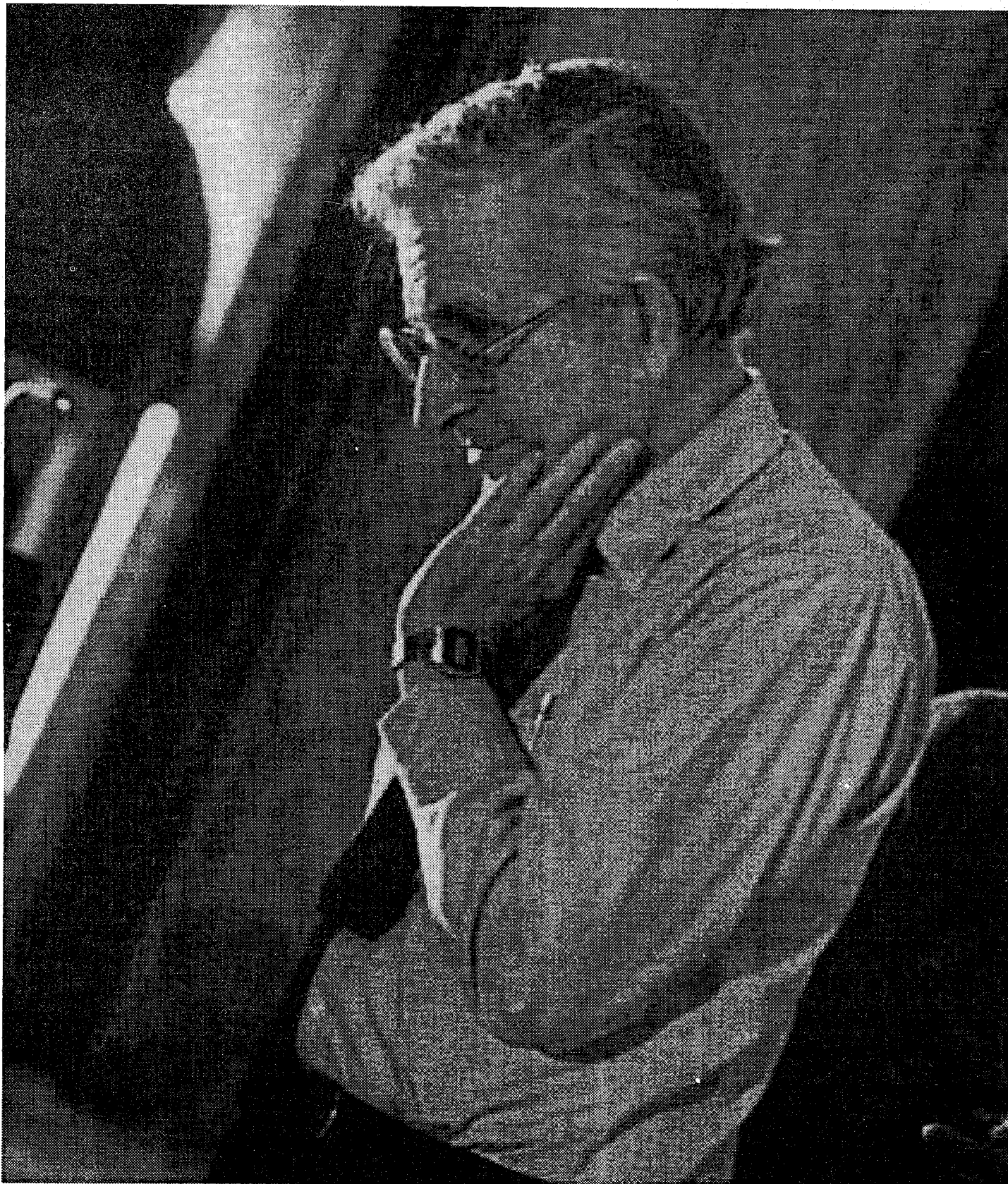
Riot. I'm going to continue. Stony Brook also hosted Cyndi Lauper, Ray Charles, Red Man, The Ramones, U2 and Dizzy Gillespie.

So, we were cool once. I won't propose what has gone wrong. It's a lot of politics and red tape. All I know is that students can do something. Show up and show support for more concerts at Stony Brook. This is all the info you need: the show is on Tuesday, October 16th, at 7:30 in the Sports Complex. Go to the SAC Box Office and get some tickets. You can call them up too, at 632-6464. And you really should, cus I go to other schools to see other shows and I wish this were an atmosphere we could foster on our own campus. It brings publicity to our school; someone tell Shirley that kids will want to come here if we do cool things with their Student Activity Fees. It makes students happy; someone tell Shirley that according to the Princeton Review, Stony Brook has some of the most unhappy, unsatisfied students in America. We need some music, folks. Groove matters. We need to dance and unwind. I demand phat beats and merry tunes. I demand happiness from my campus. I demand stuff to do on the weekends. I demand drug induced good times! And I especially demand sober, groove induced good times! So we've got to show up. Show up and listen. Show up and dance. We'll be old soon, folks. Real soon, we'll be real old. We'll be old and without any groove. So fight back. Show up and dance.

Noam Chomsky

speaks on the

World Trade Center Attack



Noam Chomsky releases a composite of his interviews with the European news sources. In his comments the accomplished linguist, sociologist, and historian brings his global perspective to the issues concerning the attacks against America, their impact, their cause, and their solution. Chomsky illustrates the hypocrisy of America's position, the history of abuse America seems to forget in our war against terrorism. Chomsky is concise, informed, and an eloquent speaker, who cuts deep in his analysis of this horrible tragedy.

1) The fall of the Berlin Wall didn't claim any victims, but it did profoundly change the geo-political scene. Do you think that last week's attacks could have a similar effect?

The fall of the Berlin Wall was an event of great importance, and did change the geopolitical scene, but not in the ways usually assumed, in my opinion. I've tried to explain my reasons elsewhere, and won't go into it now.

The events of September 11 are something quite new in world affairs, not in their scale and character, but in the target. For the US, this is the first time since the War of 1812 that the national territory has been under attack, even threat. Many commentators have wrought up a Pearl Harbor analogy, but that is quite misleading. On Dec. 7 1941, military bases in two COLONIES were attacked. Not the national territory, which was never threatened. During these years the US annihilated the indigenous population (millions of people), conquered half of Mexico, intervened violently in the surrounding region, conquered Hawaii and the Philippines (killing hundreds of thousands of Filipinos), and in the past half century particularly, extended its resort to force throughout much of the world. The number of victims is colossal. For the first time, the guns have been directed the other way. That is a dramatic change.

The same is true, even more dramatically, of Europe. Europe has suffered murderous destruction, but from internal wars. Meanwhile European powers conquered much of the world with extreme brutality. With the rarest of exceptions, they were not under attack by their victims outside. England was not attacked by India, or Belgium by the Congo, or Italy by Ethiopia. It is not surprising, therefore, that Europe should be utterly shocked by the terrorist crimes of Sept. 11. Again, not because of the scale, regrettably.

Exactly what this portends, no one can guess. But that it is something strikingly new is quite clear.

2) "Intelligent Bombs" in Iraq, "humanitarian intervention" in Kosovo. The USA never used the word "war" to describe that. Now they talking about war against a nameless enemy. Why?

At first the US used the word "crusade," but it was quickly pointed out that if they hope to enlist their allies in the Islamic world, that is a serious mistake, for obvious reasons. The rhetoric therefore shifted to "war." The Gulf war of 1991 was called a war. The bombing of Serbia was called a "humanitarian intervention," by no means a novel usage. That was a standard description of European imperialist ventures in the 19th century. To cite some more recent examples, the major recent scholarly work on "humanitarian intervention" cites three examples of "humanitarian intervention" in the immediate pre-World War II period: Japan's invasion of Manchuria, Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, and Hitler's takeover of the Sudetenland. The author of course is not suggesting that the term is apt; rather, that the crimes were masked as "humanitarian." But the pretext of "humanitarian intervention" cannot be used in the normal way in the present case. So we are left with "war."

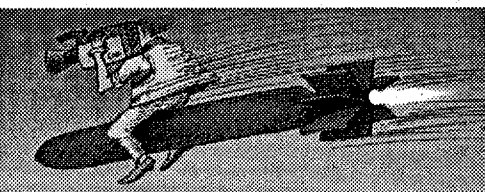
To call it a "war against terrorism," however, is simply more propaganda, unless the "war" really does target terrorism. But that is plainly not



"The CIA did have a role-recruiting, training and arming the most extreme Islamic fundamentalist it could find to fight a 'holy war' against the Russian invaders of Afghanistan..."



"...we should recognize that in much of the world the US is regarded as a leading terrorist state, and with good reason."



"When IRA bombs were set off in London, there was no call to bomb the US, the source of most of the financial support for the IRA. Rather, efforts were made to deal with what lay behind the resort to terror."

contemplated. Perhaps I may quote political scientist Michael Stohl: "We must recognize that by convention -- and it must be emphasized _only_ by convention -- great power use and the threat of the use of force is normally described as coercive diplomacy and not as a form of terrorism," though it commonly involves "the threat and often the use of violence for what would be described as terroristic purposes were it not great powers who were pursuing the very same tactic," in accord with the literal meaning of the term. Under the (admittedly, unimaginable) circumstances that Western intellectual culture were willing to adopt the literal meaning, the war against terrorism would take quite a different form, along lines spelled out in extensive detail in literature that does not enter the respectable canon.

3) Could you say something about connivance and the role of American secret service?

I don't quite understand the question. This attack was surely an enormous shock and surprise to the intelligence services of the West, including those of the US. The CIA did have a role, a major one in fact, but that was in the 1980's, when it joined Pakistani intelligence and others (Saudi Arabia, Britain, etc.) in recruiting, training, and arming the most extreme Islamic fundamentalists it could find to fight a "holy war" against the Russian invaders of Afghanistan. After that war was over, the "Afghanis" (many not Afghans, like Bin Laden) turned their attention elsewhere: to Chechnya and Bosnia for example.

5) Is the nation's so-called war on terrorism winnable? If yes, how? If no, then what should the Bush administration do to prevent attacks like the ones that struck New York and Washington?

I will not elaborate here, but if we want to consider this question seriously, we should recognize that in much of the world the US is regarded as a leading terrorist state, and with good reason. We might bear in mind, for example, that the US was condemned by the World Court for "unlawful use of force" (international terrorism) and then vetoed a Security Council resolution calling on all states (meaning the US) to adhere to international law. Only one of countless examples.

But to keep to the narrow question -- the terrorism of others directed against us -- we know quite well how the problem should be addressed, if we want to reduce the threat rather than escalate it. When IRA bombs were set off in London, there was no call to bomb the US, the source of most of the financial support for the IRA. Rather, efforts were made to deal with what lay behind the resort to terror. When a federal building was blown up in Oklahoma City, there were calls for bombing the Middle East, and it probably would have happened if the source turned out to be there. When it was found to be a militia-based bombing, there was no call to obliterate Montana and Idaho. Rather, there was a search for the perpetrator, who was found, brought to court and sentenced, and there were efforts to understand the grievances that lie behind such crimes and to address the problems. Just about every crime --

whether a robbery in the streets or colossal atrocities -- has reasons, and commonly we find that some of them are serious and should be addressed.

That is the course one follows if the intention is to reduce the probability of further atrocities. There is another course: react with extreme violence and expect to escalate the cycle of violence, leading to still further atrocities such as the one that is inciting the call for revenge. The dynamic is very familiar.

6) What aspect or aspects of the story have been under-reported by the mainstream press, and why is it important that they be paid more attention?

There are several fundamental questions:

First, what courses of action are open to us, and what are their likely consequences. There has been virtually no discussion of the option of adhering to the rule of law, as others do, for example Nicaragua, when it responded to the US terrorist assault by going to the World Court and the UN Security Council (failing, of course, but no one will bar such moves by the US); or as England did in the case of the IRA, or as the US did when it was found that the Oklahoma City bombing was domestic in origin. And in numerous other cases. Rather, there has been a fairly solid drumbeat of calls for violent reaction, with only scarce mention of the fact that this will not only visit a terrible cost on wholly innocent victims, many of them Afghan victims of the Taliban, but also that it will answer the most fervent prayers of bin Laden and his network, as the US falls into the "diabolical trap" they are laying, as the French Foreign Minister warned a few days ago, and as every knowledgeable observer has been trying to make clear.

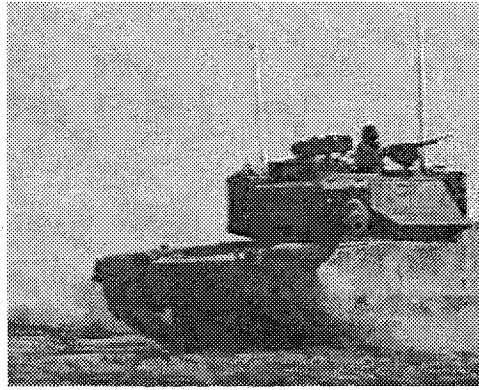
The second question is: "why?" The veteran British correspondent Robert Fisk, one of the most respected experts on the region, has had innumerable interviews, and he observes that almost no one is asking him that question. To refuse to face this question is choose to increase significantly the probability of further crimes of this kind. There have been some exceptions. The Wall Street Journal, to its credit, has reviewed the opinions of "moneyed Muslims:" bankers, professionals, businessmen, people who are pro-American but severely critical of US policies in the region, for reasons that are familiar to anyone who has paid any attention. The feelings in the streets are similar, though far more bitter and angry.

The bin Laden network itself falls into a different category, and in fact its actions for 20 years have caused great harm to the poor and oppressed people of the region, who are not the concern of the terrorist networks. But they do draw from a reservoir of anger, fear, and desperation, which is why they are praying for a violent US reaction, which will mobilize others to their horrendous cause.

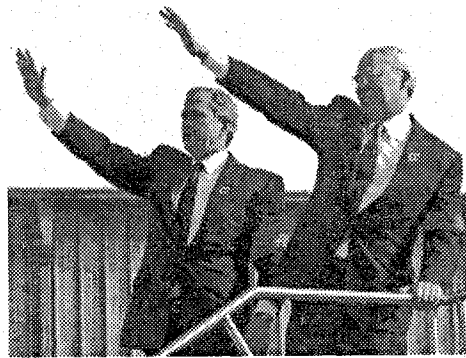
7) Assuming that the terrorists chose the World Trade Center as a symbolic target, how does globalization and cultural hegemony help create hatred towards America.

This is an extremely convenient belief for Western intellectuals. It absolves them of responsibility for the actions that actually do lie behind the choice of the WTC. Was it bombed in 1993 because of concern over globalization and cultural hegemony? A few days ago the Wall Street Journal reported atti-

"every crime , a robbery in the streets or colossal atrocities, has reasons, and commonly we find that some of them are serious and should be addressed."



"react with extreme violence and expect to escalate the cycle of violence, leading to still further atrocities"



"Bin Laden himself probably never even heard of 'globalization,' he knows virtually nothing of the world, and doesn't care to."

tudes of rich and privileged Egyptians at a McDonald's restaurant wearing stylish American clothes, etc., and bitterly critical of the US for objective reasons of policy, which are well-known to those who wish to know: they had a report a few days earlier on attitudes of bankers, professionals, businessmen in the region, all pro-American, and harshly critical of US policies. Is that concern over "globalization," McDonald's, and jeans? Attitudes in the street are similar, but far more intense, and have nothing at all to do with these fashionable excuses.

As for the bin Laden network, they have as little concern for globalization and cultural hegemony as they do for the poor and oppressed people of the Middle East who they have been severely harming for years. They tell us what their concerns are loud and clear: they are fighting a Holy War against the corrupt, repressive, and "un-Islamist" regimes of the region, and their supporters, just as they fought a Holy War against the Russians in the 1980s (and are now doing in Chechnya, Western China, Egypt (in this case since 1981, when they assassinated Sadat), and elsewhere. Bin Laden himself probably never even heard of "globalization." Those who have interviewed him in depth, like Robert Fisk, report that he knows virtually nothing of the world, and doesn't care to. We can choose to ignore all the facts and indulge in self-indulgent fantasies if we like, but at considerable risk to ourselves, among others. Among other things, we can also ignore, if we choose, the roots of the "Afghanis" such as bin Laden and his associates, also not a secret.

8) How do you see the reaction of the American Government? Who's will are they representing?

The US government, like others, primarily responds to centers of concentrated domestic power. That should be a truism. Of course, there are other influences, including popular currents -- that is true of all societies, even brutal totalitarian systems, surely more democratic ones. Insofar as we have information, the US government is now trying to exploit the opportunity to ram through its own agenda: militarization, including "missile defense," a code word for militarization of space; undermining social democratic programs and concerns over the harsh effects of corporate "globalization," or environmental issues, or health insurance, and so on; instituting measures that will intensify the transfer of wealth to very narrow sectors (e.g., eliminating the capital gains tax); regimenting the society so as to eliminate discussion and protest. All normal, and entirely natural. As for a response, they are, I presume, listening to the foreign leaders, specialists on the Middle East, and I suppose their own intelligence agencies, who are warning them that a massive military response will answer bin Laden's prayers. But there are hawkish elements who want to use the occasion to strike out at their enemies, with extreme violence, no matter how many innocent people suffer, including people here and in Europe who will be victims of the escalating cycle of violence. All again in a very familiar dynamic. There are plenty of bin Ladens on both sides, as usual.

9) World-wide intelligence services

and the international systems of control (Echelon, for example) could not foresee what was going to happen, even if the international Islamic terrorism network was not unknown. How is it possible that the Big Brother's eyes were shut? Do we have to fear, now a Bigger Big Brother?

I frankly have never been overly impressed with concerns widely voiced in Europe over Echelon as a system of control. As for worldwide intelligence systems, their failures over the years have been colossal, a matter I and others have written about, and that I cannot pursue here. That is true even when the targets of concern are far easier to deal with than the bin Laden network, presumed to be responsible for the Sept. 11 crimes. Surely one would expect the network to be reasonably well understood by the CIA, French intelligence, and others who participated in establishing it and nurtured it as long as it was useful to them for a Holy War against the Russian enemy, but even then they did not understand it well enough to prevent such events as the assassination of President Sadat in 1981, the suicide bombing that effectively drove the US military out of Lebanon in 1983, and many other examples of what is called "blowback" in the literature on these topics.

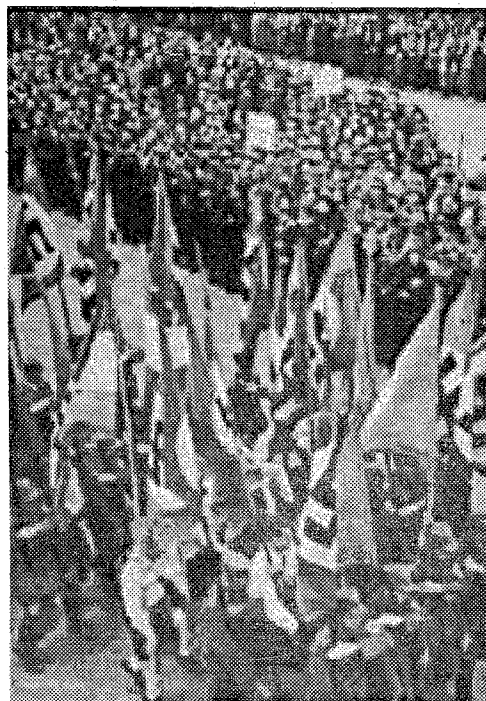
By now the network is no doubt so decentralized, so lacking in hierarchical structure, and so dispersed throughout much of the world as to have become largely impenetrable. The intelligence services will no doubt be given resources to try harder. But a serious effort to reduce the threat of this kind of terrorism, as in innumerable other cases, requires an effort to understand and to address the causes.

When a Federal Building was blown up in Oklahoma City, there were immediate cries to bomb the Middle East. These terminated when it was discovered that the perpetrator was from the US ultra-right militia movement. The reaction was not to destroy Montana and Idaho, where the movements are based, but to seek and capture the perpetrator, bring him to trial, and -- crucially -- explore the grievances that lie behind such crimes and to address the problems. Just about every crime -- whether a robbery in the streets or colossal atrocities -- has reasons, and commonly we find that some of them are serious and should be addressed. Matters are no different in this case -- at least, for those who are concerned to reduce the threat of terrorist violence rather than to escalate it.

10) Bin Laden, the devil: is this an enemy or rather a brand, a sort of logo which identifies and personalizes the evil?

Bin Laden may or may not be directly implicated in these acts, but it is likely that the network in which he was a prime figure is -- that is, the network established by the US and its allies for their own purposes and supported as long as it served those purposes. It is much easier to personalize the enemy, identified as the symbol of ultimate evil, than to seek to understand what lies behind major atrocities. And there are, naturally, very strong temptations to ignore one's own role -- which in this case, is not difficult to unearth, and indeed is familiar to everyone who has any famil-

"Surely one would expect the network to be reasonably well understood by the CIA... and others who participated in establishing it and nurtured it as long as it was useful to them for a Holy War against the Russian enemy,"



"It is much easier to personalize the enemy, identified as the symbol of ultimate evil, than to seek to understand what lies behind major atrocities."



"And if the US succeeds in killing him, he may become even more powerful as a martyr..."

ilarity with the region and its recent history.

11) Let's assume, for the sake of discussion, that bin Laden was behind the events. If so, what reason might he have had? It certainly can't help poor and disempowered people anywhere, much less Palestinians, so what is his aim, if he planned the action?

One has to be cautious about this. According to Robert Fisk, who has interviewed him repeatedly and at length, bin-Laden shares the anger felt throughout the region at US support for atrocities against Palestinians, side by side with US devastation of Iraqi civilian society. That ranges from rich to poor, across the political and other spectrums, and it would be surprising if he didn't share the feelings.

Many who know the conditions well are also dubious about bin Laden's capacity to plan that incredibly sophisticated operation from a cave somewhere in Afghanistan. But that his network was involved is highly plausible, and that he is an inspiration for them, also. These are decentralized, non-hierarchical structures, probably with quite limited communication links among them. It's entirely possible that bin Laden's telling the truth when he says he didn't know about the operation, though he is outspoken in approving of it.

All that aside, bin Laden has been quite clear about what he wants, not only to any Westerners who want to interview him, like Fisk, but more importantly to an Arab audience: on cassettes in Arabic that are circulating everywhere, and that are much like what he tells Westerners, according to those who have heard them. Adopting his framework for the sake of discussion, the prime target is Saudi Arabia and other corrupt and repressive regimes of the region, none of them truly "Islamic." And he and his network are intent on supporting Muslims defending themselves against "infidels" wherever it may be: Chechnya, Bosnia, Kashmir, Western China, Southeast Asia, North Africa, maybe elsewhere. They fought and won a holy war to drive the Russians (Europeans, in their view) out of Muslim Afghanistan, and they are even more intent on driving the Americans out of Saudi Arabia, a far more important country to them, as the site of the holiest places.

His call for the overthrow of corrupt and brutal regimes of gangsters and torturers resonates quite widely, as does his indignation against the atrocities that he and others attribute to the US, hardly without reason. It's entirely true that his crimes are extremely harmful to the poorest and most oppressed people of the region. The latest attacks, for example, were a crushing blow against Palestinians. But what looks like sharp inconsistency from outside may be perceived rather differently from within. By courageously fighting oppressors, who are quite real, he may appear to be a hero, however harmful his actions are to the poor majority. And if the US succeeds in killing him, he may become even more powerful as a martyr whose voice will continue to be heard on the cassettes that are circulating and through other means. He is, after all, as much of a symbol as an objective force, both for the US and probably much of the population.

There's every reason, I think, to take him at his word. And his crimes can hardly come as a surprise to the CIA. "Blowback" from the radical

Islamic forces organized, armed, and trained by the US-Egypt-France-Pakistan and others began almost at once, with the 1981 assassination of President Sadat of Egypt, one of the most enthusiastic of the creators of the forces assembled to fight a Holy War against the Russians. And has been continuing since without let-up.

12) What steps, in contrast, is the U.S. government seeking to undertake? What will be the results, if they succeed in their plans?

What has been announced is a virtual declaration of war against all who do not join Washington in its resort to violence, however it chooses. The nations of the world face a "stark choice": join us in our crusade or "face the certain prospect of death and destruction" (RW Apple, NYTimes, Sept. 14). Bush's rhetoric of Sept. 20 forcefully reiterates that stance. Taken literally, it's virtually a declaration of war against much of the world. But I am sure we should not take it literally.

Government planners do not want to undermine their own interests so grievously. What their actual plans are, we do not know. But I suppose they will take to heart the warnings they are receiving from foreign leaders, specialists in the region, and presumably their own intelligence agencies that a massive military assault, which will kill many innocent civilians -- not Taliban, but their victims -- will be the answer to bin Laden's prayers. Even if he himself is killed -- maybe even more so if he is killed -- a slaughter of innocents will only intensify the feelings of anger, desperation and frustration that are rampant in the region, and mobilize others to his horrendous cause.

The US will fall into a "diabolical trap" that bin Laden is setting, as the French Foreign minister put it. He may well have used the words advisedly. He -- or at least his intelligence agencies -- surely know that they were instrumental in drawing the Russians into an "Afghan trap," as Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski proudly informed the French press, congratulating himself on having sprung the trap months before the Russians actually invaded by arranging for US support for Mujahideen fighting the government. Brzezinski may have been bragging about his own brilliance in creating the monster that has been spreading death and destruction through much of the Middle East, Africa, and beyond, including New York City, but there's probably at least some truth to it.

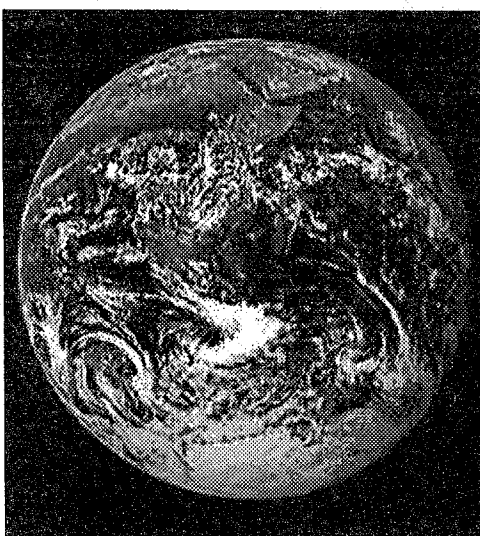
13) Many people say that the citizens of Arab nations should have taken responsibility to remove terrorists from the planet, or governments that support terrorists. How do you react?

It makes sense to call upon citizens to eliminate terrorists instead of electing them to high office, lauding and rewarding them. But I would not suggest that we should have "removed our elected officials, their advisers, their intellectual clique, and their clients from the planet," or destroyed our own and other Western governments because of their terrorist crimes and their support for terrorists world-

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wide, including many who know fall into the category of "terrorists" because they disobeyed orders: Saddam Hussein, and many others before him. However, it is rather unfair to blame citizens of harsh and brutal regimes that we support for not undertaking this responsibility, when we do not do so under vastly more propitious circumstances.

14) Many people say that all through history when a nation is attacked, it attacks in kind. How do you react?

When countries are attacked they try to defend themselves, if they can. According to the doctrine proposed, Nicaragua, South Vietnam, and numerous others should have been sending suicide bombers to destroy the US from within, Palestinians should be applauded for suicide bombings in Tel Aviv, and on, and on. It is because this doctrine had brought Europe to virtual self-annihilation after hundreds of years of savagery that the nations of the world forged a different compact after World War II, establishing -- at least formally -- the principle that the resort to force is barred except in the case of self-defense against armed attack until the Security Council acts to protect international peace and security. Specifically, retaliation is barred. Since the US is not under armed attack, these considerations are irrelevant -- at least, if we agree that the fundamental principles of international law should apply to ourselves, not only to those we dislike.

International law aside, we have centuries of experience that tell us exactly what this doctrine entails. And in a world with weapons of mass destruction, what it entails is an imminent termination of the human experiment -- which is, after all, why Europeans decided half a century ago that the game of mutual slaughter in which they had been indulging for centuries had better come to an end, or else.

15) Many people evince horrified anger at the expressions of anger at the U.S. emanating from many parts of the world, including but not confined to the mideast. The images of people celebrating the collapse of the World Trade Center leave people wanting revenge. How do you react to that?

The US-backed army took control in Indonesia in 1965, organizing the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly landless peasants, in a massacre that the CIA compared to the crimes of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao. That led to uncontrolled euphoria in the West, a display of exuberance that could not be contained, in the national media and elsewhere. Indonesian peasants had not harmed us in any way. When Nicaragua finally succumbed to the US assault, the mainstream press lauded the success of the methods adopted to "wreck the economy and prosecute a long and deadly proxy war until the exhausted natives overthrow the unwanted government themselves," with a cost to us that is "minimal," leaving the victim "with wrecked bridges, sabotaged power stations, and ruined farms," and thus providing the U.S. candidate with "a winning issue": ending the "impoverishment of the people of Nicaragua." We are "united in joy" at this outcome, as the New York Times proclaimed. It's easy to continue.

Very few people around the world celebrated the crimes in New York; overwhelmingly, they were deplored, even in places where people had been

ground underfoot by Washington's boots for a long, long time. But there were undoubtedly feelings of anger at the US. However, I am aware of nothing as grotesque as the two examples I just mentioned, or many more like them in the West. Those who believe that reactions last week call for revenge should be dedicating themselves to a campaign of mass destruction against their own institutions, and themselves, if the reactions are based on any moral principle.

16) Getting beyond these public reactions, in your view what are the actual motivations operating in U.S. policy at this moment? What is the purpose of the "war on terror," as proposed by Bush?

The "new war on terror" is neither "new" nor a "war on terror." We should recall that the Reagan administration came to office 20 years ago proclaiming that "international terrorism" would be a prime focus of our foreign policy, and we must undertake a war to eliminate this "cancer," this "plague" that was destroying civilization. It acted on that commitment by organizing campaigns of international terrorism that were extraordinary in scale and destruction, even leading to a World Court condemnation of the US, while lending their support to innumerable others, for example, in southern Africa, where Western-backed South African depredations killed a million and a half people and caused \$60 billion of damage during the Reagan years.

Hysteria over international terrorism peaked in the mid-80s, while the US and its allies were well in the lead in spreading the cancer they were demanding must be extirpated. If we choose, we can live in a world of comforting illusion. Or we can look at recent history, at the institutional structures that remain essentially unchanged, at the plans that are being announced -- and answer the questions accordingly. I know of no reason to suppose that there has been a sudden change in long-standing motivations or policy goals, apart from tactical adjustments to changing circumstances.

We should also remember that one exalted task of intellectuals is to proclaim every few years that we have "changed course," the past is behind us and can be forgotten as we march on towards a glorious future. That is a highly convenient stance, though hardly an admirable or sensible one.

17) Did the US "ask for" these attacks? Are they a consequences of American politics?

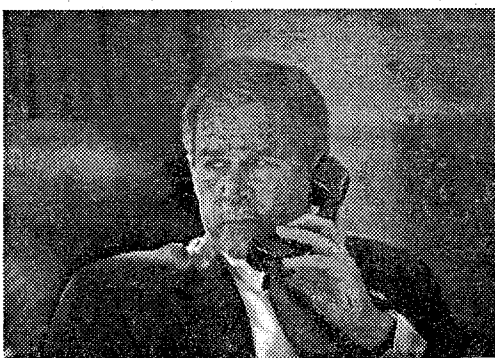
The attacks are not "consequences" of US policies in any direct sense. But indirectly, of course they are consequences; that is not even controversial. There seems little doubt that the perpetrators come from the terrorist network that has its roots in the mercenary armies that were organized, trained, and armed by the CIA, Pakistani intelligence, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and others (with initiatives from French intelligence too) in order to fight a Holy War against the Russian invaders in Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that these operations were underway at an enormous scale from early 1980. And it is not surprising that the CIA and its associates preferred the most extreme radical elements that they could round up from North

"the CIA and its associates preferred the most extreme radical elements that they could round up from North Africa, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere, to form the core of their "Afghanis," who were forged into a mercenary army"



"These radical Islamists (called "fundamentalists," in much Western commentary) are the most fanatic and dedicated killers."



"The US is, after all, the only country condemned by the World Court for international terrorism..."

Africa, Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere, to form the core of their "Afghanis," who were forged into a mercenary army of hundreds of thousands, armed with advanced weapons.

These radical Islamists (called "fundamentalists," in much Western commentary) are the most fanatic and dedicated killers. And the "blow-back," to borrow the CIA's term, began at once. In 1981, radical Islamists with "Afghani" roots assassinated President Sadat of Egypt, one of the most enthusiastic creators of the "Afghanis". In 1983, a single suicide bomber, possibly with indirect links to the same growing networks, effectively drove the US military out of Lebanon.

Since then, particularly in the 1990s, they have spread terror around much of the world. Their great triumph was driving the Russians out of Afghanistan, at enormous cost. The end result was to "destroy a moderate regime and create a fanatical one, from groups recklessly financed by the Americans" (London Times correspondent Simon Jenkins, a specialist on the region; most of the funding was apparently Saudi). "Afghanis" then joined Muslim forces fighting in Chechnya, Bosnia, Kashmir, Western China (themselves veterans of the Chinese-inspired campaigns), the Philippines, and elsewhere.

They have carried out murderous error attacks in the countries where the regimes are their main enemies, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. And in the 1990s, against the United States, which, according to bin Laden and his associates, have been occupying Saudi Arabia much as the Russians occupied Afghanistan, since the US established permanent military bases there. And the US of course is the prime backer of the corrupt and brutal Saudi regime, and others like it in the region -- none of them "Islamist" by the standards of the terrorist monster that was created by the West for its own purposes.

Furthermore, as is common knowledge among anyone who pays attention to the region, the terrorists draw from a reservoir of desperation, anger, and frustration that extends from rich to poor, from secular to radical Islamist. That it is rooted in no small measure in US policies is evident, and constantly articulated to those willing to listen.

18) Why are the US so much hated in the Middle East? Support for Israeli occupation, support of repressive Arab regimes, sanctions against civilian populations in Iraq, arrogance, US as a symbol (of what?), religious reasons?

The Wall Street Journal (Sept. 14) published a survey of opinions of wealthy and privileged Muslims in the Gulf region (bankers, professionals, businessmen with close links to the US). They strongly support the general policies that the US is advancing throughout the world: corporate globalization, and all the rest. But they bitterly resent US policies in the Middle East. Their primary grievance is the massive US military, diplomatic, and economic support for Israel's brutal military occupation, now in its 35th year, a stand that contrasts sharply in their minds with Washington's attack against Iraqi civilian society, devastating it while strengthening Saddam Hussein -- who, as they know, the US strongly supporter through his worst atrocities, including the gassing of the Kurds.

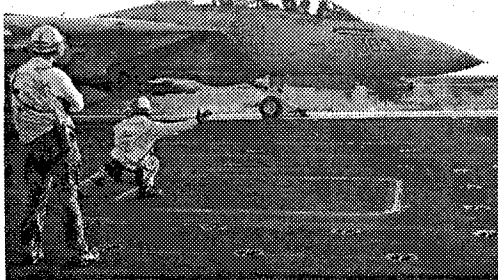
They also object strenuously to US support

for harsh, repressive and corrupt regimes throughout the region, its opposition to democratic tendencies, and its imposition of barriers against economic development by "propping up oppressive regimes." Among the great majority of people suffering deep poverty and oppression, similar sentiments are far more bitter. Though the bin Laden network and others like them cause immense harm to the people of the region, nonetheless their denunciation of the brutal and corrupt regimes, and their condemnation of US policies, surely has ample resonance.

19) You said that the main practitioners of terrorism are countries like the US which use violence for political motives. When and where?

I find the question baffling. The US is, after all, the only country condemned by the World Court for international terrorism -- for "the unlawful use of force" for political ends, as the Court put it, ordering the US to terminate these crimes and pay substantial reparations. The US of course dismissed the Court's judgment with contempt, reacting by escalating the terrorist war against Nicaragua and vetoing a Security Council resolution calling on all states to observe international law (and voting alone, with Israel, against similar General Assembly resolutions). The terrorist war expanded in accordance with the official policy of attacking "soft targets" -- undefended civilian targets -- instead of engaging the Nicaraguan army. That was only a small component of Washington's terrorist wars in Central America in that terrible decade, leaving 200,000 corpses and four countries in ruins. In the same years the US was carrying out large-scale terrorism elsewhere, including the Middle East: to cite one example, the car-bombing in Beirut in 1985 outside a Mosque, timed to kill the maximum number of civilians, with 80 dead and 200 casualties, aimed at a Muslim Sheikh, who escaped. And it supported much worse terror: for example, Israel's invasion of Lebanon that killed some 18,000 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, not in self-defense, as was conceded at once; and the vicious "iron fist" atrocities of the years that followed, directed against "terrorist villagers," as Israel put it. And the subsequent invasions of 1993 and 1996, both strongly supported by the US (until the international reaction to the Qana massacre in 1996, which caused Clinton to draw back). The post-1982 toll in Lebanon alone is probably another 20,000 civilians. In the 1990s, the US provided 80% of the arms for Turkey's vicious counterinsurgency campaign against Kurds in its southeast region, killing tens of thousands, driving 2-3 million out of their homes, leaving 3500 villages destroyed (10 times Kosovo under NATO bombs), and with every imaginable atrocity. The arms flow had increased sharply in 1984 as Turkey launched its terrorist attack and began to decline to previous levels only in 1999, when the atrocities had achieved their goal. In 1999, Turkey fell from its position as the leading recipient of US arms (Israel-Egypt aside), replaced by Colombia, the worst human rights violator in the hemisphere in the 1990s and by far the leading recipient of US arms and training, following a consistent pattern. In East

"Clinton destroyed half the pharmaceutical supplies in Sudan and the facilities for replenishing them, with a casualty toll that must be enormous, though no one knows, because the US blocked a UN inquiry..."



"...after Washington had rejected the orders of the World Court and the Security Council, and escalated its terrorist war, Nicaragua should have set off bombs in Washington."



British special forces prepare for action

Timor, the US (and Britain) continued their support of the Indonesian aggressors, which had already wiped out about 1/3 of the population with their crucial help (France as well). That continued right through the atrocities of 1999, with thousands murdered even before the September assault that drove 85% of the population from their homes and destroyed 70% of the country -- while the Clinton administration kept to its position that it is the responsibility of the Indonesians, and we don't want to take that away from them. It was only after enormous pressure that the Administration informed the Indonesians that the game was over, at which point they immediately withdrew, revealing the latent power that was always there had the US not been committed to support for Indonesian mass murderers. In 1998, in one of the minor episodes of US terrorism, Clinton destroyed half the pharmaceutical supplies in Sudan and the facilities for replenishing them, with a casualty toll that must be enormous, though no one knows, because the US blocked a UN inquiry and Western intellectuals evidently are not concerned about such trivialities: similar attacks in France, or Israel, or the US would presumably lead to a different reaction, though the comparison is unfair, because these are rich countries with ample supplies that can easily be replenished. I have already mentioned the devastation of Iraqi civilian society, with about 1 million killed, over half of them young children -- "a very hard choice, but the price - we think the price is worth it," as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright explained on prime time TV a few years ago. This is only a small sample.

I am, frankly, surprised that the question can even be raised -- particularly in France, which has made its own contributions to massive state terror and violence, surely not unfamiliar.

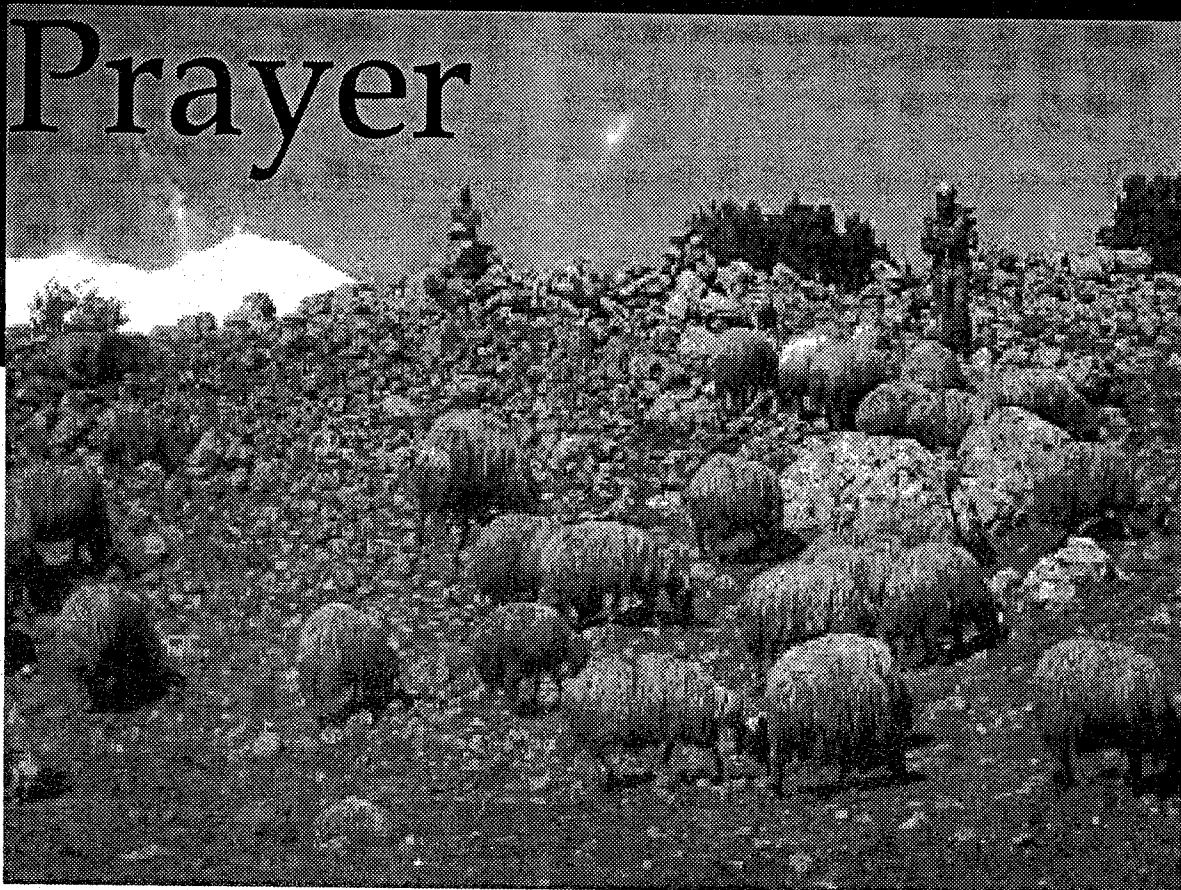
23) In other countries?

It depends which countries you mean. Surely many countries will rejoice at the opportunity to enlist Washington's support for their own atrocities. Commentators express much satisfaction that other countries are expressing some willingness to join Washington's "crusade against evil," but they are not explaining why. They surely know the reasons. US assistance is welcomed by Russia for crushing Chechens, by China for its wars against Muslims in Western China, by Indonesia for its continuing atrocities in Aceh and elsewhere; by India for destroying resistance to its rule in largely-Muslim Kashmir, and on, and on. If you have in mind the Middle East, the regimes that are the targets of bin Laden's wrath and despised many of their own citizens will be inclined to join Washington's assault against their enemies, and also be wary of the consequences. They doubtless agree with Foreign Minister Vedrine about the "diabolical trap" laid by bin Laden, who reiterated what has been stressed by specialists on the region and presumably US intelligence agencies. They understand the likely consequences of a ground war in Afghanistan, and understand as well that the massacre of Afghans -- not Taliban, but their victims -- will only help bin Laden and others like him to enlist others in the horrendous cause, the familiar dynamic of an escalating cycle of violence.

We cannot be confident about consequences, just as Washington planners cannot be. But there are plausible assessments of the likely consequences of the various choices that Washington and its allies might make.

A War Prayer

by Mark Twain



It was a time of great and exalting excitement. The country was up in arms, the war was on, in every breast burned the holy fire of patriotism; the drums were beating, the bands playing, the toy pistols popping, the bunched fire-crackers hissing and spluttering; on every hand and far down the receding and fading spread of roofs and balconies a fluttering wilderness of flags flashed in the sun; daily the young volunteers marched down the wide avenue gay and fine in their new uniforms, the proud fathers and mothers and sisters and sweethearts cheering them with voices choked with happy emotion as they swung by; nightly the packed mass meetings listened, panting, to patriot oratory which stirred the deepest depths of their hearts, and which they interrupted at briefest intervals with cyclones of applause, the tears running down their cheeks the while; in the churches the pastors preached devotion to flag and country, and invoked the God of Battles beseeching His aid in our good cause in outpourings of fervid eloquence which moved every listener. It was indeed a glad and gracious time, and the half dozen rash spirits that ventured to disapprove of the war and cast a doubt upon its righteousness straightway got such a stern and angry warning that for their personal safety's sake they quickly shrank out of sight and offended no more in that way.

Sunday morning came -- next day the battalions would leave for the front; the church was filled; the volunteers were there, their young faces alight with martial dreams -- visions of the stern advance, the gathering momentum, the rushing charge, the flashing sabers, the flight of the foe, the tumult, the enveloping smoke, the fierce pursuit, the surrender! Then home from the war, bronzed heroes, welcomed, adored, submerged in golden seas of glory! With the volunteers sat their dear ones, proud, happy, and envied by the neighbors and friends who had no sons and brothers to send forth to the field of honor, there to win for the flag, or, failing, die the noblest of noble deaths. The service proceeded; a war chapter from the Old Testament was read; the first prayer was said; it was followed by an organ burst that shook the building, and with one impulse the house rose, with glowing eyes and beating hearts, and poured out that tremendous invocation God the all-terrible! Thou who ordainest! Thunder thy clarion and lightning thy sword!

Then came the "long" prayer. None could remember the like of it for passionate pleading and moving and beautiful language. The burden of its supplication was, that an ever-merciful and benignant Father of us all would watch over our noble young soldiers, and aid, comfort, and encourage them in their patriotic work; bless them, shield them in the day of battle and the hour of peril, bear them in His mighty hand, make them strong and confident, invincible in the bloody onset; help them to crush the foe, grant to them and to their flag and country imperishable honor and glory --

An aged stranger entered and moved with slow and noiseless step up the main aisle, his eyes fixed upon the minister, his long body clothed in a robe that reached to his feet, his head bare, his white hair descending in a frothy cataract to his shoulders, his seamy face unnaturally pale, pale even to ghastliness. With all eyes following him and wondering, he made his silent way; without pausing, he ascended to the preacher's side and stood there waiting. With shut lids the preacher, unconscious of his presence, continued with his moving prayer, and at last finished it with the words, uttered in fervent appeal, "Bless our arms, grant us the victory, O Lord our God, Father and Protector of our land and flag!"

The stranger touched his arm, motioned him to step aside -- which the startled minister did -- and took his place. During some moments he surveyed the spellbound audience with solemn eyes, in which burned an uncanny light; then in a deep voice he said:

"I come from the Throne -- bearing a message from Almighty God!" The words smote the house with a shock; if the stranger perceived it he gave no attention. "He has heard the prayer of His servant

your shepherd, and will grant it if such shall be your desire after I, His messenger, shall have explained to you its import -- that is to say, its full import. For it is like unto many of the prayers of men, in that it asks for more than he who utters it is aware of -- except he pause and think.

"God's servant and yours has prayed his prayer. Has he paused and taken thought? Is it one prayer? No, it is two -- one uttered, the other not. Both have reached the ear of Him Who heareth all supplications, the spoken and the unspoken. Ponder this -- keep it in mind. If you would beseech a blessing upon yourself, beware! lest without intent you invoke a curse upon a neighbor at the same time. If you pray for the blessing of rain upon your crop which needs it, by that act you are possibly praying for a curse upon some neighbor's crop which may not need rain and can be injured by it.

"You have heard your servant's prayer -- the uttered part of it. I am commissioned of God to put into words the other part of it -- that part which the pastor -- and also you in your hearts -- fervently prayed silently. And ignorantly and unthinkingly? God grant that it was so! You heard these words: 'Grant us the victory, O Lord our God!' That is sufficient. the whole of the uttered prayer is compact into those pregnant words. Elaborations were not necessary. When you have prayed for victory you have prayed for many unmentioned results which follow victory -- must follow it, cannot help but follow it. Upon the listening spirit of God fell also the unspoken part of the prayer. He commandeth me to put it into words. Listen!

"O Lord our Father, our young patriots, idols of our hearts, go forth to battle -- be Thou near them! With them -- in spirit -- we also go forth from the sweet peace of our beloved firesides to smite the foe. O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with little children to wander unfriended the wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst, sports of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee for the refuge of the grave and denied it -- for our sakes who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask it, in the spirit of love, of Him Who is the Source of Love, and Who is the ever-faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore beset and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Amen.

(After a pause.) "Ye have prayed it; if ye still desire it, speak! The messenger of the Most High waits!"

It was believed afterward that the man was a lunatic, because there was no sense in what he said.

What to Wear at a Slumber Party

By Chris Stackowicz

I write this from a "white guy" perspective, so if it offends, I apologize ahead of time. I am writing from the only perspective I can know, regardless of how educated or naïve it is. The gallery can perform a multitude of functions. It can bring a drastic mood swing into your day. It can settle you into a contemplative state. It can make you ooh and aah. But most of all it brings one into a wholly different world. Nikki Anderson's most recent Library Gallery show did just that. Entitled "Boss Baby's Slumber Party," Nikki brought the viewer into a space functioning as a slumber party. Not the slumber parties I experienced for sure, but one, more than likely, intrinsically related to her own personal experiences with the dynamics of a slumber party- a slumber party for little girls- the thing as a boy I wondered about every so often, when my female friends were getting together and the boys were not invited.

To my imagination, like many little boys, these events we are not invited to put all types of silly notions into our heads. Not very unlike the notions that magazines like Maxim and Esquire continue to perpetuate. My idea as a little boy, one that had been buried until recently, was that a girl's slumber party was lock, stock and barrel filled with girls in little night gowns having pillow fights and talking about sex and boys. I assumed wrongly that when I received the postcard for Nikki's show, I would be entering into a feminist critique of that very idea I just illustrated. To be honest, as I walked by and saw the pink walls, I felt my suspicions were being confirmed, and was ready to poke my head only out of formality to one of my colleagues. These are the stereotyped notions that linger with us, as men. Not every heterosexual white middle class man had these assumptions, but it happened to me and if I'm only the only that it happened to, well maybe I have some issues I need to work on, but I intend on generalizing anyways.

But I did enter into the space of my own free volition. I was drawn in by the sounds of the voices, not the pastel colors that filled the room. I

was drawn on by the harmonious cacophony of sound that undulated and flowed back and forth. The sound's own disharmony was what made it so harmonious with everything else that was technically, aesthetically harmonious (if I am able to relate sound to color theory). The sound sent those preconceived ideals back into that position under the repressive bar where they belong (though some would say, you have to fully dispel such ideas, I don't know how humanly possible it is to eliminate all of that background baggage from the way you see or think).

The voices were all relative to the shapes from which they emitted. For instance, two forms connected together and sitting in the foreground were saying things like "I love you", "No, I love you." Though I know these forms are related to her twin sisters, I think the very way they were combined, with the dueling voices and dueling shapes imposed an unmistakable sense of twinning on the viewer/listener. These were twins speaking to each other. It made sense why these shapes were saying the things they were. I do not necessarily know the symbolism of the abstract forms. I tried to conceptualize what they could represent, but I am left only with a microphonic form, that I am assuming is not necessarily Nikki's only intention. The figures were placed on pillows scattered around the room. One had to bend down, get down on their knees in some cases and really interact with the shapes. Like the piece last year, you had to place your head at times right up next to the shape to decipher its message from the combating voices being heard around the room.

After hearing all of the voices, it was inevitable that one stands back and looks at the room as an entire configuration. Regardless of whether I was participating in the slumber party, (which I wasn't) I was still interacting with it. I was directed by her configuration and arrangement of the shapes, to move around the room, and pay attention to all of the little details of each of the shapes. This did not position me as an evil voyeur, basking in the spectacle of a female slumber party.

Instead I was taken, brought to the position of being enlightened by the social dynamics of this situation, and given the implications those dynamics have. The center figure placed in such a precarious position on top of the only pedestal-like shape sang the first refrains from Rock-A-By-Baby. It stopped at the exact moment when it should have been saying, "and down will come baby, cradle and all," as it sat, perched, awaiting what one would next expect to be delivered. In referencing the song and strategically stopping at the very moment of the position of the shape from which it emits, Nikki took us far away from that mythical fantasy of the female slumber party. She took us to that crucial point in a woman's life, directly prior to her entrance into the adult sphere.

The importance of this moment and its relation to the song is revelatory for myself as a male viewer. It informs me of a precarious position I can never completely understand, by not being a woman, but that I can relate to and subsequently understand as fundamentally differing from a similar point in a male's life. Nikki did not in any way critique me as a viewer, and then implicate my sexist version of slumber party by not having a pillow for me to sit on and making me all too aware of how much I was not invited into the space, as I may have first thought she was doing. Rather, Nikki did something inherently positive. She allowed me, the viewer, to recognize aspects in a woman's life that critically define her position in the world today as a mature woman.

I have the utmost respect for a piece that provides this type of informative, positive critique of a social situation, and still fulfills formal needs, shows aesthetic tastes and makes me walk away feeling enlightened, rather than offended or denied. I sincerely hope that an artist with the capacity to do this will continue in her pursuit as an artist. Especially as one who positively effects the viewer and still lets them leave with a sense of awe and wonderment in what she has brought to the surface.

The First War of the 21st Century

By Jose Lugo

Many government officials have stated that "This Will be the First War of the 21st Century", in reference to the war on terrorism resulting from the World Trade Center attack. A worrisome implication of this statement is that since this is to be the first war, then there will most likely be a second, a third, a fourth, a fifthetc.....etc.....etc.

This may seem to be unnecessarily alarming, but since we are basically doing things the same way as we did in the 20th century, it seems logical that we will get the same results, i.e., more war. Some people will say that this is not so because we are evolving into more mature creatures that can better handle world affairs insuring peace, justice and prosperity to all. But since most of us spend hours every day watching television aimed at a four year old mentality, the only evolution we are experiencing is reverse evolution leading to less maturity and most likely more war where the only intelligence that's shown is an increase in the efficiency of our killing machines.

Another troubling factor we must face is the fact that the 20th century suffered from governments that were either military dictatorships or were governments that had elections where rich people and corporations used their money to fund their favorite candidates for public office insuring business friendly governments that were most likely to cut social programs and cause social unrest which in turn leads to more war.

Isn't it time that we wake-up and smell the coffee, realize that doing things the same way only gets the same results. Isn't it time we do things differently, like get big money out of government, like change the United Nations procedure where only five countries can veto all debates. Isn't it time that we realize the methods that despots like Adolf Hitler used, like full control of the news media so that only their opinions are offered to the public can only lead to social unrest and war.

I mention this because many countries in Islam also have full control of the press. In Afghanistan, owning a radio or television is banned and they are having a civil war and most likely a foreign invasion. Isn't it time that we must state that all governments do not have the right to limit the news the people can receive. This is a criticism that I also aim at the United States, because it's news media was once controlled by hundreds of different news organizations and is now controlled by only three or four companies, thus establishing corporation control of the news media. This is really strange in a country that claims to be a democracy.

The current American government in stating that "This Will Be the First War of the 21st Century" is proving that it is out of touch, by not realizing that the war on terrorism has been going on for over twenty years and so is nothing new. What about the attack in Somalia on October 1993 that killed 18 Americans, the attack

on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August of 1998 that killed 224, what about the attack on the U.S.S. Cole that killed that killed 17, what about the attack in Lebanon that killed 241 and many other hijackings of airplanes and ships over the years.

As a side comment. When I was a kid in grammar school studying history, I came across a war called the "The War of the Roses", I immediately thought that they really didn't fight over some flowers, but simply just ran out of names because of the many wars they were fighting.

Isn't it time we make a study of the causes of war and re-design our governments and social institutions so that we can end war or at least lessen the frequency of War. And in a world where nuclear weapons are spreading to ever more countries. Isn't it time that we question the very basic form of representative governments we are governed by. If governments received report cards like we got in grade school, I think they would definitely get a failing grade because of all the wars we had, along with economic disasters, drug companies gouging profits and environmental destruction. Why not look into the possibilities of an electronic democracy, let the people have decision making power, instead of just personal selection in elections overflowing with corporation money (didn't we used to call this corruption).

I mean aren't we supposed to be evolving into more intelligent creatures?

A First-Hand Account of the WTC

By Wendy Fuchsburg

The following is an interview with my friend John who is a New York City firefighter.

Q: What was your first reaction when you heard about the World Trade Center attack?

Well, I was sitting at home, I got a call from my sister, "John, did you know the World Trade Center is on fire?" I just thought another big fire in a high-rise and they're tough jobs. I just clicked on the television, that's when I saw it was a plane and my initial reaction was, of course, maybe it wasn't an attack. Then two planes and I said, well maybe they had a near miss and they both didn't know, I just turned on the TV. Then I heard the Pentagon got hit, then I knew that there was no doubt, that this was an attack. I was shocked, but not all that surprised, and I thought, we're going to war. I was at the computer so I started e-mailing my buddy who's a redneck, conservative, bush-fan, from Atlanta not that geography has anything to do with redneck (laughs). Anyways, I found out that they called all the fireman back so I called my wife and said, "I gotta go to work," and I wanted to wait for her to come home. That's when the building collapsed and I just shit. I just could not believe it fell and I thought, this is bad. So really, it was just shock, I was just in shock. Then the second one fell when I was making my way into the city.

Q: About what time did you get there, after the buildings collapsed?

Yeah, I was on the highway when the second one collapsed. When we got there, they shipped us over to the Staten Island ferries. I think they were expecting a lot of casualties and I think they were expecting this very site to be a triage area and so they were keeping us there. We all wanted to go in and save guys, our brothers. I mean, firemen, you know, our brothers are number one priority. Anyways, they never triaged over there. I don't know what happened they brought everybody north to St. Vincent's and wherever else and nothing ever happened. So, I didn't get to the site until around 7:00 that night.

Q: What were you thinking when you heard the buildings collapsed, I mean, did you lose anyone down there?

You know that my wife, when she got home, before I left, she was worried sick and I says, "Don't worry I'll be alright." She says, she said something about losing all the fireman and my mind was so focused on like, global issues and that whole thing. I just stopped in my tracks and went, Oh my god, holy cow, you're so right. I never even thought of that, all the casualties, my focus was on, oh my god, we're going to war, this is nutty. It was just very strange that my mind wasn't on the casualties. I was over at the Staten Island ferries when building 7 went down and I think we were all in shock. You know, it's really weird.

Q: Did you lose anyone or...

Nobody close to me, but a lot of guys that I



work with, a few anyway, actually probably a lot of guys I worked with but the ones I knew, just a couple. That's a little tough. I mean, one guy, he worked for a year in our house. Young guy, full of talent, little daughter at home, basically a new wife, he was only married a couple of years, and they were living with his in-laws and he couldn't wait to get out of there. You know, he was an artist, a bagpiper, and just a general nice guy, sweetheart. He drew a mural, they had a lot of renovations in our firehouse so we had this one new wall, from these new bathrooms they put in, so it was like on the outside of the wall and he drew this mural for us. It was of Neptune, we had like King Neptune, and you know, all the firehouses have logos and stuff, and we have a patch, so he drew a big patch and the lighthouse at Coney Island, and all kinds of things.

It was beautiful. As a matter of fact, when he would be doing it, I remember him painting and he just got into this big project and I was like, "you sorry you started this" and he was like, "Yeah," you know, I don't know how serious he was (laughs), but it was a big job. So that's as close as it got to me. So I just really feel bad for his family, and it's a shame, you know, a young guy like that. He had so many, I mean, he wanted to be a bagpiper with the Emerald Society, so full of talent, a sweetheart of a guy. He's no more. Another guy, he was a lieutenant, he, um, I remember last holidays, he



worked with us, I didn't know him that well but I worked with him. He was making those wooden reindeers at Christmas time, you know, he was making them in the firehouse. Um, so it's like you work with these guys, you're not that close to them, 'cause you don't work with them that long, and then they move on and then, now, I hear they're dead. Actually, no, the one guy, the bagpiper, artist, he's really not pronounced dead yet. (Pause) Uh, one of the guys I work with, his brother, a little over a year on the job or about a year on the job, missing, presumed dead. You know, his

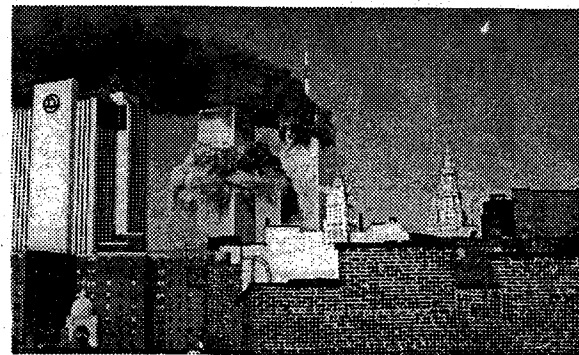
whole family is firemen. His father's a chief, his uncle's a captain, his brother Joey is, missing, his other brother Mike, who's not missing, thank goodness, and then my buddy Eddie. The whole family is firemen.

His father got banged up on the job, he survived, thank god, and he's relatively, you know, healthy, but his brother's gone. I mean, how do you deal with that? Another guy, his cousin was a probationary firefighter and he's missing. Another guy, whose brother-in-law was a civilian employee and he was told to go back to his desk, everything will be cool, he's missing. Two guys, I was talking to a friend of mine, two guys from my high school class, missing. (Pause) But again, nobody really close to me. I was really concerned about a couple of close guys in my house who I knew were working down in Manhattan, and that night I ran into them all, or I heard that they were fine, and I was like, thank goodness. (Sigh) It's tough but I can't imagine what it's like for someone that lost someone close to them, you know. (Pause) Whole companies, all your brothers that you work with, I mean, how do you deal with that? (Sigh)

Q: Um, What did you see when you were down there, when you got to the site?

Remember Mount Saint Helens? When that erupted? That's what it was like. I mean, not that I was at Mount Saint Helens, but I mean, all of lower Manhattan was covered with at least an inch of just,

dust, it was all just blown apart concrete, and there was chunks of concrete all over the streets, you saw cars just like banged up, cars that weren't banged up but their windows got blown out from something, you know. Um, but it was very surreal. I'm like, walking from the ferries up to the site. I can't believe I'm in lower Manhattan, this is lower Manhattan. This is mind-boggling. We found one of the wheels of the jets three and a half blocks away, on a side street. You know, we were thinking, how the hell did it get here? And then you get to the site, surreal is, is just the perfect word for it because as I'm there, I'm saying, I can't believe I'm, I mean, I know I'm here, I know this



is real, and this is just someone's, like Hollywood movie set, not that I've ever been on one of those either (laughs), but you know, I just couldn't. It was so hard to accept that this was real. Even days later, I remember taking a bus in with a bunch of the guys, they were just hauling us in on city buses. It was in the morning and I was saying to myself, I can't believe I'm really on my way back there, like, the twin towers aren't there and I'm really going back to the site. It was so weird, strange, hard to accept, but um, and it was creepy too, because, especially the first night, it was just smoke, 'cause there was still fires, smoke all over downtown.

Everybody's basically breathing in smoke and asbestos, and crap all night long. (Sigh) It's hard to describe because it was so beyond belief. Uh, I saw a lot of firemen eager to get in there and try and find somebody, whoever. I don't know if I should say this, but uh, it was kind of mayhem, in that there was really no organization. 'Cause just everybody going and trying to do something and yet, there wasn't much to do. I know, like, I got up onto the wreckage, and I figured, okay, well, let's start digging and I'm digging, trying to find a void or something, and it is, kind of, it seems overwhelming, like, what a waste of time. I'm gonna dig in here and I'm not gonna find nothing. What was shocking was that I thought I was gonna see bodies all over the place and I didn't. It was, I didn't find one body the first night, nothing. I saw everything else you could imagine would be blown apart in an office building but no bodies and um, they might've removed them prior to me getting there because I got there like ten hours later.

The guys, particularly the guys I was with, I think a lot of guys were just like, maybe they were in shock, maybe they were just stoned and didn't know how to handle the whole thing, but just walking around on top of the wreckage, kind of doing nothing, thinking digging here is fucking useless, you know. I think it took guys a while to realize, yeah, we do need to get down on our hands and knees and fill buckets and haul them out and get them out, but um, there was no direction because the a lot of the command was killed. So now, it was just really crazy, so we went in there trying to get an order to go in and help but no one's giving you that order, they're like, just stay here, so people were really just, just abandoning our detail and sneaking on because we just really wanted to help and I'm digging and thinking like, come over here and help me dig. What are you looking around for? This is what

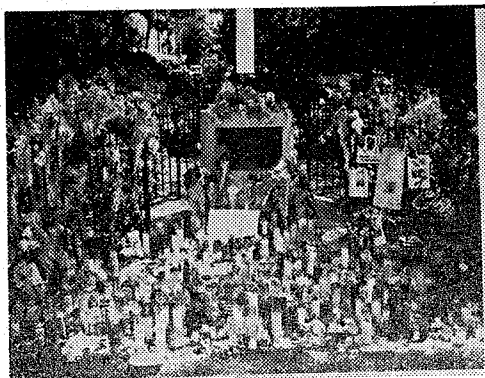
A First-Hand Account (continued)

we're here for, start digging, find something. And what, so you dig and there's nothing, it's just fiberglass and asbestos and crushed up concrete, and it's like, I'm not gonna find anything, but maybe, maybe I will. You know, where do you start? It's just all so crazy. A lot of guys, I think were just in shock, hanging around ten ten's quarters, they're right across the street from the World Trade Center, they probably lost both companies.

Every single window in this building was blown out. It was, people say it was like a war zone, it really was a mess. It was crazy, concrete on top of buildings, buildings with holes in them, it was insane.



I saw a lot, I could probably go on all night about what I saw you know. By the time I was leaving, we just gave up and said, they don't want us here, they don't need us here, we're done. You know, it took a lot out of you just being there. But, I will, in case you don't ask, it was really overwhelming too, the outpouring of people that were there. There were civilians who were just going into these stores that were bombed out and getting all their supplies and walking around with shopping carts and baskets and helping the fireman and police and everybody, do you want some water, want cigarettes, it was great (laughs). They had fruit, they made sandwiches from the supplies they'd take from these stores and they're always giving them to you. It was incredible, um, you know, and when I left, they had the ironworkers down there and they started bringing in cranes, and it was good. I remember just walking away from there saying, this is good, they're starting to get something done here, they're starting to move equipment in and pulling the pile out and that's what you gotta do instead of having firemen walk all over digging with their hands, you know. And then the next day, we knew immediately that the ironworkers were totally necessary, they were just the real saviors for this whole operation, without them, we really couldn't have done much, that building was just all steel. I was glad to see that, and we really appreciated the ironworkers. As a matter of fact, we had T-shirts made up, and um, I was telling you about that earlier, for every one you bought for \$10 or whatever, we would



make four more up and give them to the ironworkers because we wanted to do something for them. By the time we got that off the ground, they brought in the private contractor, and there were no more volunteers so now, we're just gonna take the money and send it to the widows and orphans for the PBA and the fire

department.

I mean, so many people helped out it was incredible. So many people wanting to volunteer, sending in stuff, um, sending in supplies, sacks, shirts, sweatpants, water, like forget about it, cooking food, and tables, it was unbelievable. We ate good (laughs), we really did. Even at the firehouse, people coming to the firehouse, thanking us, beeping horns everywhere you go, we were heroes. You go into the local restaurants um, bringing food in, Chinese food places that we never ordered from, bringing out trays of food, so it was quite an experience all around. Gimme another question already, shut me up.

Q: Um, how has this affected you? That's a hard one, right?

A: I tell you man I am, my initial reaction was shock. Then I don't know if I felt too much else after that initial adrenalin rush. I know that I heard a lot of anger within people. I know I came home the next day, so I must've known that night, hearing the hatred and all this, and it was misdirected in my mind and it frightened me because I knew that if we go "and bomb the shit out of towelheads," as I've heard these people say, as a matter of fact, the first night, I mean the hatred I heard on the Staten Island ferry, all day with all the crap that they were saying, and I just remember taking the ferry across and passing the Statue of Liberty and saying, do these guys realize their parents were once immigrants, or their parents' parents and that that's what this country is all about?

You know, it was just so ironic, and I remember leaving that night, the site and again, people talking all that stuff, about "rounding them all up just like we did in World War II with the Japs," and about "getting them all out of the country," "bombing the shit out of some country," "kill them all," just real nasty stuff. Sometimes it got really bad. I remember coming back, looking at the Statue of Liberty, and just feeling so bummed, so sad that people don't realize really what the hell is going on.

Oh, and the big thing is that, of course, and it's true because the news says it is, that it was an unprovoked attack. You know, and it's what, two and a half weeks now or whatever it is, I still can't get it through anybody's head that it was not an unprovoked attack, but they don't believe me! They think, I don't know what they think, it's weird. I came home, I knew when I came home I had to make a statement and um, I got home and I was sad. I was crying, I was crying when I came home. I was just so frightened for this country, really concerned and really sad because you know I've been listening to this shit coming out of politicians mouths for years and it's just been a lot of shit to me and that's why I got into politics, But now, it threatens the lives of American civilians and that's fucking scary, you're gonna have to clean that up there (laughs). And then I go home that Wednesday morning and I started typing on the computer.

I had to say something. I had to tell all the people I know who were not thinking like I did, this is the way I think and I'm afraid. And as I'm doing this, I'm listening to President dumb-dumb, talking tough, cowboy that he is and I was bawling, I was like, we're fucked. This is just so bad and it's so wrong. I guess that's not a leadership role, is it, you know, I really cried, I was just sobbing and my wife was there comforting me. (Pause)

That was a weird feeling. I'm crying for my country and people would think I'm just some commie, hippy, traitor, you know. So that's how it affected me.

Q: How have other firefighters and rescue workers been reacting, that you've seen, I guess you kind of answered that earlier.

A: Yeah, again, that is anger. And anger is understandable and I was angry too but yeah, okay, so I threw a lot of blame at our government because I think they got us into this mess. So my anger was really more directed at them, which could be wrong in a sense. I mean, the people who perpetrated that action



gotta be not right in the head.

I believe that we brought this upon ourselves and you reap what you sow and it really pisses me off. So I'm angry too, but their anger I think was misdirected and more, the hatred, the hatred of anyone of Arabic decent, which was pretty frightening too. It just seems like we don't learn from history, do we?

I mean, there were times when guys were talking and I knew that if I opened my mouth, I was in a heap of trouble. Then there were other times that I knew if I opened my mouth I'd be wasting my time so I shut up but every once in a while, I have something to say and I get it in. There was a lot of anger, hatred, and sadness, shock.

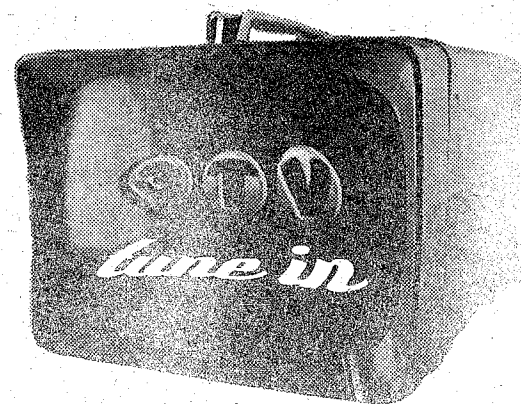
Q: I guess, are your colleagues for the war on terrorism?

A: Overwhelmingly. I can't think of one fireman who isn't behind the flag and the policies of George Dubya Bush (laughs).

Q: And um, if you could, um, decide the government's response to this, what would you suggest?

A: I have a couple of ideas that aren't mine (laughs). Stop meddling. Stop lying to your own people. Um, you know, people first, money comes second. I love the one that was thrown around the internet, web, whatever you wanna call it, that maybe we should take, someone said that if you tell Afghanistan to give up Osama Bin Laden, we will give you all this money for rebuilding your infrastructure, you know.

Wouldn't that be something, you know, we bring the so-called perpetrator to justice, and instead of spending billions of dollars on bombs, we just give them money to rebuild their, their country that's blown to bits. But if I was, my response to this policy, would be to say, you know what, we made a big mistake, a big mistake. We are sorry to the American people and things are gonna change around here. I don't know what it takes to change the world. Those are my thoughts on everything.



Students Respond

By Jamie Mignone

The United States' public majority opinion is being challenged, and for once the counterpoint is being made by Stony Brook University students. An anti-war coalition is being formed for the purpose of conducting demonstrations against war here on campus, which is a bold move considering the public's current thirst for blood.

Organizers of this upcoming event feel that they are not safe in expressing sentiment against US foreign policy, and that they have the right to create a public forum to relate to others with similar peaceful intent and at the same time spread these ideas to others. Virginia Rodriguez states "I was disturbed by the absence of any student protest, and the apparent lack of concern on campus. I figured I have no right to bitch about the widespread apathy unless I'm going to do something about it." She adds "What makes me angriest is that the Bush Administration is exploiting people's empathy and humanity to further a foreign policy of violence. Basically taking grief and turning it into hate." This seems

to be in accordance with enough people's views to conduct a rally, after all, college students are in the typical age group to be drafted, and we may not all be college students next semester.

A meeting held on October eleventh to ask permission to hold this event on our campus with faculty member Robert Fung went well; Mr. Fung assured the coordinators of this event that the proposed event would present no problem, and that ideally permission to hold the rally on the date of October seventeenth would be granted.

The initial rally is expected to draw seventy-five participants with hopes of continually growing into a larger congregation that is to meet regularly during campus lifetime hours. Among would-be participants are students who agree with Andy Farrell, another advocate for peaceful means to amending the damage to our country. "It's terrible how the media is manipulating people. I see war as no reason to become nationalistic." Virginia also adds "This is nothing new...the US has a lot of innocent blood on it's hands, and it's time to put it to an end."

People attending a peace rally on a college campus should come with open minds, and those who may be offended by the ideas presented should remember that this function is for the advocacy of peace, and to restrain from acting violently. Campus police will be attending this event to deal with potential problems involving persons who may feel too reactionary. No offense is intended, and none should be taken.

The peace rally will include speeches, and a march may be on the agenda. Who the speakers will be is yet to be announced, as are many attributes of the event, and all faculty as well as anyone who has particular interest or knowledge of the current offensive action or the prevention of further aggression are invited and urged to participate. Anyone who wishes to participate can contact Virginia by phone at 216-3648, or Andy Farrell by phone at 941-4363. Anyone interested in showing support or hearing something other than CNN's ideas or watching the hate slogans on the back of pickup trucks go by in traffic should attend the rally, Wednesday the seventeenth, during cam-

STOP THE WAR STOP THE BOMBING PEACE RALLY

OCTOBER 17TH WEDNESDAY
CAMPUS LIFETIME 12:30
FOUNTAIN BY ADMIN BUILDING

SPONSERED BY:

STUDENTS FOR PEACE AND HUMANITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE
MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR WOMYN'S CONCERNS

FEMINIST MAJORITY
PEACE CENTER
LGBTSA

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Warning: (continued from pg. 2)

nation. It is an agency designed to coordinate the executive branch's efforts to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks within the United States. The Director of the FEMA is responsible to establish federal policies for and coordinate all civil defense and civil emergency planning, management, mitigation, and assistance functions of executive agencies in the event of a civil emergency. A civil emergency is defined as "any accidental, natural, man-cause, or wartime emergency or threat thereof, which causes or may cause substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property."

FEMA and the HSA overlap substantially. They share the National Security Committee. FEMA originally advised the National Security Council, whose members were: the Director of FEMA, who was Chair, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and such others as the President may designate. Homeland Security advises a new National Security Council, this one headed by General Wayne Downing, who will be the president's top advisor on intelligence and military resources in the anti-terrorist campaign. Downing gained little prestige in 1996 as the lead investigator of the bomb attack that killed 19 American airmen at a military complex in Saudi Arabia. He will now chair a council composed of all Federal law enforcement, intelligence gathering and response Officials.

The Members of the National Security Council are: the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of the FEMA, the Director of the FBI, the Director of the CIA, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and whoever else they need. Homeland Security will advise Downing about what to do with the information gathered. Then they will form a strategy to either carry out on their own or submit to the President. There is no "civil emergency" clause for this agency. The basic organizational elements of FEMA were taken and expanded into something very powerful, without a clear limitation of its powers.

The Office will identify priorities and



coordinate efforts for collection and analysis of information within the United States regarding threats of terrorism. The Office will work with federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate collection of information from state and local governments and private entities pertaining to terrorist threats of activities within the United States; to coordinate and ensure that, to the extent of the law, all appropriate and necessary intelligence and law enforcement information relating to homeland security is disseminated to and exchanged among appropriate executive departments and agencies responsible for homeland security and, where appropriate for reasons of homeland security, to promote exchange of such information with and among state and local governments and private entities.

Homeland Security is taking on many of the responsibilities of FEMA and expanding upon FEMA's intelligence and military capability substantially. It is joining law enforcement, military, intelligence, and the State Department with a mood of peril and impending disaster. There have been many warnings from the Pentagon that Americans should expect more attacks in the near future. In the context of expecting an attack the surveillance of citizens becomes a huge priority. In such an environment Waco-like responses to possible domestic

threats become far more plausible. One might venture back to the couple of Red Scares we had in the last century. Surveillance and intelligence techniques were far more crude then, and the infrastructure was still forming, but the Federal government, in its fervor, ruined the lives of thousands of people, illegally watched and arrested civilians, executed two communists for espionage, and black listed thousands of people.

The technology is much better today. With information traveling as fast as it does and with so many opportunities for surveillance, millions could be identified as threats, and watched. Their credit cards could be reporting their every move; Their e-mail may be read. In the event of a large scale terrorist attack, FEMA combined with the Homeland Security Agency will wield unprecedented power. The concentration of so much intelligence and law enforcement bureaucracy will, under such circumstances, present a clear and present danger to the rights of privacy guaranteed by the constitution and to the lives of those citizens targeted as enemies of the United States.

With this agency we are inviting a bureaucratic police state. It is not a great leap from reality to one of those cheesy X-Files type scenarios. So don't get labeled a terrorist. If you don't, you'll be OK. Remember, watch

the Spot

open thur-sat
6pm-mid
music+beer+cabaret

2nd floor
fannie brice thtr.

Ben Folds Five - Rocking the Suburbs

By Andrea Leeson

So I'm going to tell you about Ben Folds' new solo album, "Rocking the Suburbs." Ben Folds knows the truth- love sucks sometimes... jobs suck sometimes... but wow, living is beautiful even with all of the nasty pain and nasty truth. Ben Folds undoes me with almost every word. The first song, "Annie Waits" opens with the lovely and typical beats of Ben folds. I start wiggling when I hear it, and someone just said, "Hey what song is that? Cus I like it." In the song Annie waits and waits for her lover. I know how that shit goes, and it's true when Ben Folds says it's why he'd rather be alone.

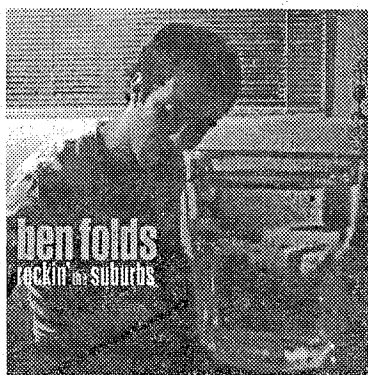
And then there's the song about Zak and Sara, who I can relate to more than I would wish. Ben Folds is humming in this song, "la da da" and I will carry this tune with me all day. Who doesn't need a song that mentions "visions of pills to put you in a loving trance, that make it possible for all white boys to dance." I think I went to high school with Zak and Sara. I think I know how it will end.

Before I play the third song, "Still Fighting It," I warn the Press office that "I'm gonna cry, so don't worry about it." It makes me miss everyone's father and I remember why photo albums of myself as a child hurt so much. The father tells the son, "you're so much like me... I'm sorry." And we're sitting here wondering how many parents end up saying that to their children at one time or another. And I think, I definitely will. How can you add up the pain of years and aging and mistaken relationships with our parents, who are strangers? "It sucks to grown up." The father tells the son, "one day you'll fly away from me." I pause to call my parents.

Then the fourth song, "Gone." The fuck you to your ex. The fuck you to all of the anger the ex gave. The fuck you to all of the embarrassed pain that you didn't want to feel. The fuck you to getting hurt. "I know that you went straight to someone else while I worked through all this shit here by myself." I know it. And Fuck Them (whoever they are). Is it bad when certain albums seem to paint a vision of your life? Counting Crows', "August and Everything After." Or Ani DiFranco's first album. This album is painting a lot of familiar scenes. Ben fucking Folds.

The Ascent of Stan mixes ascending and descending piano lyrics with a sweet, lonely voice. This is musically upbeat and I'm dancing to it as I write this. Really, it's got a great dance beat, with a bouncing, silly, bass line "Losing Lisa," "sounds like a ballad," says Beverly. Well, I don't like this song. It is whiny and I want him to shut up. And we've figured out, at an elapsed song time of 1:29, that it sounds like Sesame Street. Not very fun.... Very odd... my boyfriend's looking like Mr. Rogers. I go to the next song.

"The title song, "Rockin' the Suburbs" sounds awfully pop, with quirky electric guitar riffs. I love a good song making fun of pretentious white guys moaning about their "white boy pain" This is for anyone who grew up in the suburbs of Long Island, who hated the jocks in school, who hated the sluts, who hated the homecoming stuff, and the dull misery and banality of life. Remember us? We cried and slit our wrists when Kurt Cobain died. Some of us meant it, I know. But whatever. I call my best friend Robyn in Cortland and tell her that it's alright. We weren't losers in high school. We were simply hating the guys who were rockin' the suburbs "just like Michael



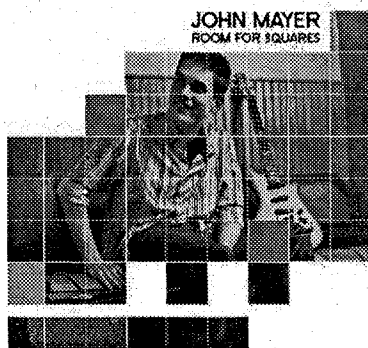
Jackson did." Every once in awhile it is good to make fun of the pain of easy living. Ah, and at the end of the song Ben Folds adopts the typical rock-rap screaming voice of familiar MTV bands when he says that "being male, middle class and white gets me real pissed off and it makes me wanna say fuck." It is hard not to laugh at this song and the purposefully idiosyncratic beat as Ben Folds talks about getting "pissed when people break in the McDonald's line." Good gosh I adore listening to this band make fun of the state of current music and bullshit angst.

This album is really groovy. It is sad and yummy and I send the lyrics up to Robyn in Cortland so that she can dance and cry and feel good when she says FUCK.

John Mayer - Room For Squares

By Vlad Shalmiyev

John Mayer is a great musician, he's got a great voice and I see where he is trying to go with this whole album. The songs set a very light mood in any room. Most of the songs are OK, while others are great. But something seems to be missing, some thing that separates this album from most of the albums I'm willing to shell out cash for, while there are some really great songs on the CD, some are just not that intriguing.

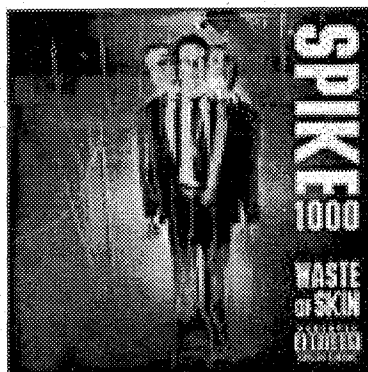


I guess some might say that John Mayer's sound is too generic and all he's trying to do is take the road taken by many other musicians, artists like Dave Matthews, and David Gray. But lets try not to forget that he poured his heart and soul into this album, no real musician would try to purposely imitate a style that seems to be popular at the time. It took a lot of work to put this thing together, and by no means is this a failure. It's just that at some points in the production he went wrong. After listening to the CD something inside tells me that there's nothing new, nothing I haven't heard before, no ground being broken here, not even a crack in the pavement. The album seems too juvenile, too nostalgic. He sings about prom kings, and running through the halls of his high school and the situations we had to deal with years ago. Perhaps this is not the ideal college student band, its got too much of a teeny bopper sound, too light, too blissful.

Spike 1000 - Waste of Skin

By Daniel Hofer

I don't know where to start with this album. Maybe it's the clichéd title and cover, featuring a flipping out drugged up man in a business suit that made me wonder if Spike 1000 was another, "I hate the world and the world hates me" band. Unfortunately, the CD wasn't far from my expectations. At first I did not realize the girl on the back cover was the singer. Imagine the Deftones teaming up with Melissa Etheridge and you will have the sound of Spike 1000.



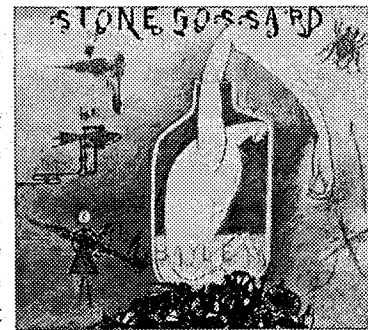
Next, imagine this new team of musicians putting out an album of songs based on a single idea. Now you will have what is Spike 1000. Starting with the first track,

"Manwhore" it seems like the singer Shannon Harris does not like men. All through the album, she is singing about being cheated, abused and ignored. Nowhere did I find any indication that she was talking about anyone else but men. Honestly, I don't have a problem with her hating men; I just have a problem with her focusing ten songs on it. All the Bloodhound Gang sings about is sex, and everybody likes sex, but does everyone own a Bloodhound Gang CD? Does anybody have all the Bloodhound Gang CDs? Why do I want to buy a CD when I already know what's on it? Besides the theme of her lyrics, her actual choice of words leaves something to be desired. For example, "When your push comes to shove, and your shove don't amount to shit, I think I'll quit, but that ain't it," doesn't mean anything to me, and is pretty lame. If Harris is trying to show she believes in female empowerment (which once again I have no problem with), I think she should go take notes from Janis Joplin or maybe even Alanis Morissette. Taking into account that "Waste of Skin" is Spike 1000's first album, they aren't a bad band. Hopefully their next album will be a little more mind stimulating.

Stone Gossard - Bayleaf

By Adam Kearney

Stone Gossard is a guitar player. He is also very famous. He was on the cover of Guitar World. He was also one of the pioneers of "grunge" music in the early nineties. Before this he had helped form the band Green River in 1984, who opened for the Dead Kennedies. Afterwards he was in a project known as Mother Love Bone, however this didn't last long as the lead singer, Andrew Wood, died of a heroin overdose soon afterwards. In 1990 he helped start the band Mookie Blaylock with Eddie Vedder and Jeff Ament.



They soon changed their name to Pearl Jam and took the world by storm, playing gigantic festivals such as Lollapalooza and releasing videos on MTV. Stone still desired additional outlets for his musical creativity and formed the band Brad in 1993. He continued to tour and record with Pearl Jam while working on this project until, in 1997, Brad released the album titled Shame. His first solo album was released on September 11th, 2001.

Bayleaf is what the collective spirit of repressed soul music has been asking for, and it is also the title of the album featuring Stone on bass, drums, guitar, piano, and vocals. The songs are not produced solely by himself and a four-track recorder; he has a backup band that provides the characteristic roundness of today's rock and roll. The quality of the sound, however, is different from that of Pearl Jam's in that it has a greater spirit and a downtrodden, wiser, beat attitude. Some of the songs are experienced, emotionally heightening ballads that describe the torment of unhealthy relationships while others, like their song "Cadillac" are simple odes to cars that instantly invoke the crystal images of those glossy, metallic ideals of internal combustion.

Stone is a talented musician and his new CD is entertaining; he has a groove that makes you want to listen to more. The songs he has produced on Bayleaf sound like each one has been produced by a different set of characters, but Mr. Gossard is the creative mastermind behind every one of them and he doesn't hesitate to surprise you when the next track has absolute no components in common with the one before it. It makes you wonder what he's thinking, like if he planned for it to sound like that or if it is just a result of sloppiness, but either way the album is a solid, soulful collection of quality tracks.

TOP TEN Battle of the Century

Osama Bin Laden
Halloween
Costumes

Stony
Brook

Afghanistan

VS

10 Osama Boy Lobster

9 Not-Sama Bin Laden

8 Osama Bin Lando Calrissian

7 Harry Potter

6 The Spaceship from
Independence Day

5 The Terrorist Formerly
Known as Osama Bin Laden

4 Sand

3 Lexama Bin Luthor

2 WWF's The Iron Shiek

1 John Walsh

The Press is here to
educate the masses.

Women are allowed
to wear less in public.

We have a relative
safety from attack
by cruise missiles.

The environment is
technically free from
theocracy.

We have roads and
trees and beer and
books and stuff.

PRO

There are free guns
everywhere.

There is free heroin
everywhere.

Sugar Ray is stricly
banned.

There is free dirt
everywhere (ooh,
love that dirt!)

The guns are
American.

The rave scene is HOT.

People who would
say "Where do we
get da gunz yo'?"

Sugar Ray Concerts.

College Network
Television.

The fact that the
Press is educating
the masses.

Public nudity is still
considered "inde-
cent exposure."

There is no such
thing as "free dirt."

CON

The guns kill lots of
innocent people.

The terrorist's we
gave the guns to
are trying to kill us.

Stepping in camel
shit.

American journal-
ists.

Illegal Sugar Ray
import's.

God is law.

WTC Crisis: A Call for Temperance

By Tyler Schauer

Canadian and Mexican Borders have been shut down. Disney World and Land are closed. Professional baseball has been canceled for today. The Twin Towers are no more. One fifth of the Pentagon has been burnt down. All major roads around Manhattan have been shut down. People are stranded in the city, with no way to get home or call their loved ones. Manhattan is in a state of Martial Law. People are panicking all over the place, most of who are glued to their televisions are eating up all of the propaganda and assumptions that are being fed to them. I am terribly afraid, not of the possibility of more terrorist attacks, but what my government may choose to do.

I arouse from my slumber on the morning of September 11, 2001 from a terribly distressful phone call from my mother. She informed me that there were planes crashing all over the United States, and that we were at war. I must say that at first I didn't believe her; it seemed like she was playing some cruel joke on me. So I hung up and went downstairs and turned on the TV. Of the formally majestic twin towers, symbols of monetary power of the United States, there was only one tower left standing, shortly after it's twin felt the same fate. I was in complete and total shock at first and I must admit I felt extremely threatened. I felt cornered and I was ready to fight and die, not for my country but for myself and my family.

However, the more I watched the news, the more I got turned off to the notion of more violence and the possibility of war. On the news they were reporting assumptions, things that they were claiming to probably be true, but had no basis for. All the hypotheses had no factual evidence except for a few things that were said in the past by various "terrorists." I was in complete shock when my fellow peers' away messages were such things as "Osama will die slow, the 44 will make sure all his kids dont grow; fuckin' Arabian Bitches runnin around tryin to be us; how they gonna be the mob when we're always on our job." I was absolutely appalled by this statement. More violence is not going to bring back our dead. And this racism is absurd, people are hating people because they think that people of a similar skin color and religious belief MIGHT have done this.

From the 50's to the 90's we were at war as well, but it was another "different" type of war, an unconventional war, a cold war. If this had happened in the early 80's the USSR would have been blamed instantly. It seems as Americans we always need a scapegoat, someone to blame all of our problems on, someone to portray as evil to make us look better in our own eyes (much as the Jews were used in Nazi Germany), and most importantly, someone to fear. There were people running around accusing people of being communist because they had such communist things as red hair, or believed in social equality over eco-

nomie freedom. Since we no longer fear the "threat of communism" we have had to create a new threat, a new band of people that we can "unite" against, and that can spark our nationalism so that most of us ignorant people can take pride in being Americans, and buy into their corporate media bullshit. Is the US really this saint country that gets involved in world affairs for the good of the people who reside there? Or are we just so blind that we actually believe it?

In our new day and age the red scare has been replaced by an Islamic scare. Media portrays people of Islamic descent as terrorists and monsters who have no conscience or emotion and are not human. Such movies as "True Lies", "Navy Seals", "Delta Force", "Executive Decision", portray them as evil people who are best utilized as moving targets. Now I pose a question, do you really think that these people as a whole hate the Americans and wish death upon thousands of innocent people? Most wish that on themselves as much as they wish it on us.

American news headlines told us all that America was under attack, and we are at war. They told us that Islamic people hate Americans because we are "free" and live in a "democracy". They tell us that Islamic people hate our ideology and despise our so called "free" society. Now do you really buy up this bullshit? Do you really believe that people that hate our "freedom" want to kill us, because, so we are told, that they are not free and jealous that we are? If this was actually the case why wouldn't they be attacking their own governments? The same tactics were used in the cold war. We were fed information telling us that Communists hated us because we were free, and we had to fight to defend democracy. They made an illusion that portrayed Communists as bad, and Capitalists as good; black and white, no gray.

Now I have another question. What would drive someone to be able to take a plane filled with passengers and fly them into various strategic targets around the United States? Many people think they must have been mad. I don't think this is true. To devise a way to hijack four separate planes and coordinate them so that they all crash into targets all within an hour of each other is something that I don't believe any mad man could do. Especially by himself, he would need a legion of mad men to pull this off. What are the odds of one mad man assembling an army full of more mad men? I'd say slim to none. I think these people were highly intelligent, free thinking, and really really pissed off. What would we have had to do to push someone to the edge where they would take their own lives and many others? These were people just like me and you, they have emotion, they have the ability to love, and unfortunately like the rest of us they have the ability to hate.

Now these people must have also have

been pushed to the point of war. The United States has engaged in war with the Middle East for years. The US has led or financed terrorism that has been occurring in the Middle East for ages, but there is one huge difference in language being used: we do not refer to our attacks on Middle Eastern peoples as acts of terrorism, we refer to them as surgical strikes to take out key personnel or key military facilities. Israel has been performing terrorist acts on the people of Palestine all the time but Palestine is unable to retaliate because the shadow of the United States is protecting them. We are very much so terrorists in other countries, perhaps that is why we saw some images of people cheering these bombings, much like most of us will probably be celebrating the death of the people that executed this surgical strike.

Many people are calling for an all out war now. They want to see whoever did this die a slow, painful, and public death. Most seem to not only want the people directly responsible for this to die, but they also want all other people who look like them to die also. Americans want blood, they want more death. Please realize that more dead bodies will not bring back our fallen, it may make you feel better at first, but it just perpetuates this vicious cycle of mass murder of innocent people.

Now I am not saying that it was a good thing that the United States got attacked and that hundreds upon hundreds of innocent people have been killed. It was a tragedy, just as it is whenever people get unjustly killed. I want you all to see that people have died unjustly because our government engages in acts of terrorism all over the world. It's terrible, but what's even more terrible is that this will probably go on and on for quite sometime. Personally I am deathly afraid of the possibility of war. I am not ready to go defend our country that seems to be more based on lies then truth. I am not about to go kill more innocent people so that their families would suffer as much as we have in these past few days. I urge all of you to not buy into the TV media and check out web sites like www.indymedia.org, they will give you the real story, and not the extremely slanted, angry, and irrational news that has been reported by major media corporations. I also urge you to try to read between the lines when reading news, use your common sense. If something just doesn't seem right then it's probably isn't.

We are now at war and this is a terrible travesty. Currently it seems that we are in a downward spiral into a bottomless hole of lies, ignorance, and death. So what can we do to stop this? Well to start you can come to the peace rally. Showing your support for peace is the first step of making the government aware of your discontent. I urge you all to come down and show your support at the peace rally this week.

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Polity is a Pain

By Isaac Pflaum

It was unusual to be attending a CSA meeting at 7:30 pm on a Thursday. About 40 people sat on couches about the Commuter Lounge or stood talking in the door of the CSA office. These people had been gathered at the last meeting for an emergency meeting. The emergency was that CSA, the organization which represents all commuter undergraduate students, had yet to elect any senators. The first senate meeting was in one hour, and the budget for all of Polity Corp was on the agenda for senate that night. How could this happen? It seems that the senate meeting was not publicized very well, because it caught CSA off guard, and with only a few resident senators with any experience, it was in the least an opportune moment for the interim President and Treasure of Polity to pass their budget without the interference of more experienced and organized CSA representatives. Attendance was taken, the meeting was called to order, and 25 CSA senators were confirmed. The minutes were written up and the meeting was adjourned. The whole lot stormed off to the senate meeting determined to either stall or kill the budget. There had been some talk of waiting until attendance had been taken and then leaving, as to derive the senate of quorum and end the meeting. It was decided that the meeting would not be killed, that some effort to pass the budget, which was at this time more than 3 month overdue, would be made. It was an amazing effort; the work of Godfrey Polia and Mike Bernardin, CSA Programming Director and Vice-President respectively. The expression of sheer disbelief on the face of Polity Interim President Natalie Hodgeson, when a full entourage of CSA senators showed up to spoil her fun, was priceless.

The senators squared off, residents on one side of the semi-circle of seats and commuters on the other. It was a mood of hostility so strong as to give new purpose to the meeting. Many people were not there to pass a budget they were there to fuck with the interim President. Many CSA senators describe Natalie Hodgeson as a conniving woman who has betrayed the students of USB for Fred Preston's favor, his recommendation, and a weekly stipend check. She is also described as a hard working woman who does everything she can for the students who elected her, the strange thing is that these people seem to forget she was not elected at all. Instead Fred Preston appointed her after the Polity Judiciary threw out the elections of last semester. She was not elected and is receiving a stipend check for her services as President, an arrangement that Mike Bernardin believes is not exactly legal.

She was in this case, at this particular meeting, a obstinate, antagonistic, and dictatorial, bully who deprived members of speaking time and failed to recognize speakers who's hands were raised for long periods of time. CSA senators, particularly Chris Bawls and Mike Bernardin were flip, incourteous and spoke out of tern. The atmosphere seemed unworkable from the start. Fumbling, Hodgeson made a statement as to the necessity of the meeting, the bi-laws of Polity Corp. dictate that the first senate meeting should be within 3 weeks of the start of school. It had been three weeks and it was about time that student government started functioning. Bernardin complained that CSA was not given time to prepare stating "what was I supposed, to do pull people away from the TV." when they were watching news coverage of the WTC during a CSA meeting. Such a time would seem appropriate if one were to check his e-mail and be aware of immediate procedures essential to the representation of over eight thousand commuting students in senate. The CSA senators are the best, hands done. They are organized, experienced, and have a defined leadership. There are only a few resident senators with the same level of experience,

there is no real organization of these members, but there is a forming leadership. Julius Shapiro is a long running resident senator who has hopes of bringing the new resident senators up to speed and forming a resident block aligned with CSA. Another resident senator, a complete new comer, is making his voice heard. He spoke more than any other resident at the meeting of September 20th, about a crisis with the budget.

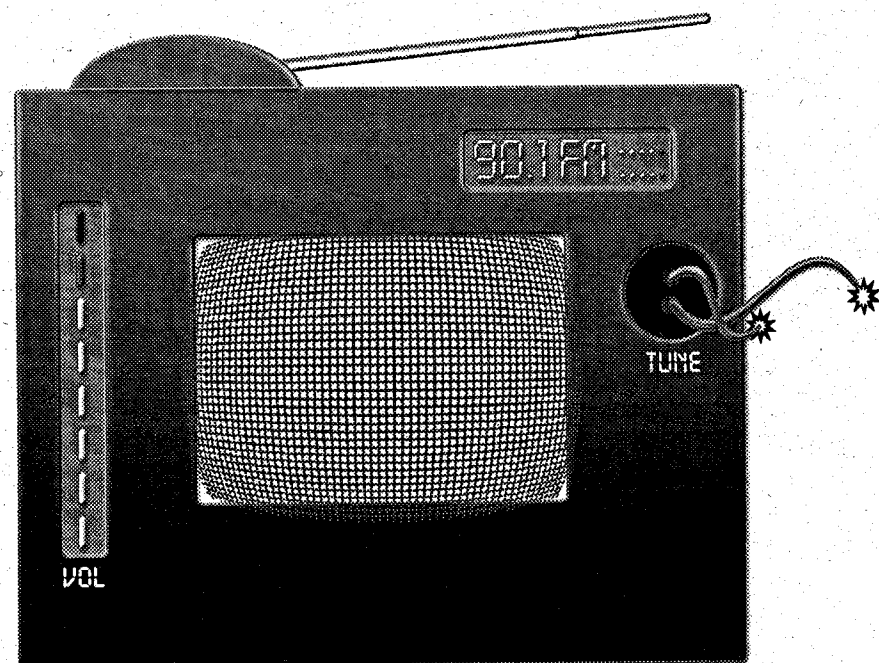
The numbers just didn't add up. After wasting hours teaching new people what a "Call for acclamation" meant and electing the Chairs' little helpers and the Co-Chair, Gina Fiori, an actual discussion of the budget began. The Interim Treasurer Sasha White looked like she was in her pajamas. She said she was sick. She didn't say she didn't know what the hell she was doing, which turned out to be he case. She didn't know if there was a surplus or a deficit. She didn't know how much money Polity organization had and her budget had typos in it, fucking typos. The referendum of different clubs reflected different numbers of students going to Stony Brook. This makes no sense. As the errors were recognized, pressure was applied to Sasha to admit the gross incompetence of her budget. She tried to defend herself, but it was to late. She has lost credibility completely among most of the Senators.

This basically killed the meeting. Senators went in circles arguing about what to do. Many wanted to pass a partial budget, a step some knew would fail. They wanted to shift blame from Senate to Preston and the administration. This is just more fucking politics. Everybody gets blamed and nobody gets to enjoy club events until the budget is passed. These Senators were misguided. Others wanted to pass a resolution to Preston asking him to release another quarter of the Polity Budget. The leader of this pursuit was the President of CSA. The President is described as having "crossed over to the dark side" and fallen victim to Fred Preston. The two are close in age, or appearance of age, within twenty years. They share conservative view. It is not unlikely the two would get along well, and they have a steady dialog. This is troubling because Fred Preston is not the friend of any senator. He is strongly aligned with the Council and is despised

by all Senate members, except Rod. Rod told Senate that Preston was a reasonable man and that he was for the students. It was getting late, and the Chair was informed that the building was closing. It is funny how Senate does more in the time between when the Chair says "the building manager has told me that he will be closing this room in 15 minutes" and when the room closes 30 minutes later, than it does for the two hour before. A resolution was drafted and sent to Preston. It was denied.

At the next Senate Meeting, Oct 3rd, Sasha was back, CSA was back, and the episode basically repeated. The problem with covering Polity is that it is so fucking boring. I was a Senator last year; I don't know how I put up with it. The budget didn't get passed, again CSA made a stink. Natalie was her charming self, spiking the cocktail with her own bitter taste. It was a farce of student government, a goddamn joke. My only solace is this rant, my drunken venting of resent that I have wasted my time and attention on the trying to bring to the readers of this paper a clear vision of the state of affairs within Polity. I can only project an image of its absurdly, discontinuity, and self-indulgent political maneuvering which drove me from Senate and has totally discredited the student government in the minds of those unfortunate few who have peered behind the curtain.

After much ado about nothing, the budget for the dorms, CSA, and the Elections was passed. The meeting adjourned. At the next senate meeting on Oct. 10, a complete budget was passed, 6 months late, and a few thousand dollars short. Gina Fiori chaired the meeting. It ran smoothly, effciently, and there was cheering when the vote was finally taken. Then the budget ws thrown out again, this time because it did not take into account a change in enrollment. At the next senate meeting the budget was passed, again, hopefully for the last time. It is now nearing the end of the second month of school. Many of the clubs and oginizations on this campus have not been able to produce any programing so far this year. If the budget nonsense is finnaly over, then students will finally have the chance to enjoy the student activity fee they were required to pay.



W-USB
the dial is broken. you have no choice.

Bob Is Cool

by Jamie Mignone

