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First Copy Free

University Senate Passes Minimum Requirements

Guidelines for Professors and Undergraduate Students are Established

By ENEIL RYAN DE LA PENA
Statesman Staff

The University Senate unanimously passed the Minimal Undergraduate Student Responsibilities and the Minimal Instructional Responsibilities Guidelines last month, establishing rules for both instructors and undergraduate students.

Presented by the Undergraduate Council, the guidelines will be published in the new Undergraduate Bulletin, outlining the teaching responsibilities of instructors, including TA's, and academic responsibilities of students in the university.

"Both sets would appear in the Undergraduate Bulletin so both the instructors and the students would know where everybody stands and what their roles and responsibilities are," said James Mackin, chair of the Undergraduate Council. "To have it publicized like that actually puts pressure on both groups to take care of their business. It's really more important, as

far as I'm concerned, to have the Instructional Responsibilities published so that students would know what they should be able to expect in a classroom and that'll put the pressure on the instructors to actually do those things."

Some of the items on the guidelines were published in the 1995-1996 Undergraduate Bulletin, but not collectively known as Minimal Responsibilities. Mackin said, "[The Undergraduate Bulletin] will change. Everybody agrees pretty much that the current undergraduate bulletin is not readable and so the Administration is going through a pretty hairy task of modifying that so that it's easier to read."

Under the Minimal Instructional Responsibilities, among the "minimal set of conditions and practices" instructors are expected to do are meet their classes regularly and promptly, at times and places scheduled; schedule and maintain minimally three office hours

per week; adhere to the Bulletin course descriptions; must observe the Final Examination Schedule that appears in each semester's class schedule booklet; and strive to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of student's examination, homework, and final grades.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, fairly and thoughtfully complete the course evaluation form, maintain personal copies of a tentative degree plan, and understand the concept of academic honesty as part of their minimal responsibilities.

Many deemed that the guidelines are plain common sense and thus eliminates the need for it to be printed.

Mackin responded, "Well, it may be common sense but a lot of the things particularly the instructional one, a lot of those things are not done by a lot of instructors. They are common sense but they are not done and nobody has any kind of guidelines or knows where to go to find

where it says that these things should be done."

"I do think it's worthwhile having the guidelines in writing," said David Saltz, an assistant professor in the Theatre Arts Department. "Both when I myself was a student and since I've been teaching, I have known instructors who have not followed all of the sensible practices listed in the Instructor guidelines, such as providing students with written feedback on their papers, providing a clear syllabus, adhering to the course description in the bulletin, or giving Final Exams on the officially scheduled date - and so it's useful to have these practices spelled out."

Saltz also commented on the Minimal Undergraduate Student Responsibilities. "Successful students have always followed the guidelines listed. . . but the guidelines may be helpful to inexperienced students. In particular, I like the idea of

emphasizing that students need to assume responsibility for reviewing academic policies and graduation requirements - though of course the University owes it to the students to make advising as easily-accessible and unthreatening as possible."

The Minimal Instructional Responsibilities were based on an earlier version drafted in the 80's. "We did the Minimal Instructional Responsibilities based on the early 80's version, but we did the Undergraduate Student Responsibilities from scratch," Mackin said. The Undergraduate Council took a year to collect comments and draft the Student Responsibilities.

The holding of three hours as minimum office hours for instructors and the confidentiality of grades in the guidelines were added to the early version.

"What we did was to raise the minimum number of office hours for instructors, from two to three hours," Mackin explained. "That's not much, still, but if this had been two years ago, I think we would have had a lot of trouble with that. But I think that it's pretty clear, based on the unanimous support in the

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Hospital Workers Picket for Contract

By ENEIL RYAN DE LA PENA
Statesman Staff

Dietary workers employed by the University Hospital picketed in front of the building, Wednesday, protesting that they have been working without a contract for nearly three months.

The employees contract with Morrisons, the food contractor, expired on March 31. Although Morrisons had offered a contract to the employees, it neither included a pension plan nor a raise for the employees.

"We need a pension and we need a raise and they're not offering us either one," said Eileen Foley, a dietary worker for the past eight years. "We're all out here on our lunch hours and on our breaks. We're not striking or anything because we're not allowed to and then on our breaks, everybody comes out and lets people know how we feel and we're not happy and we're hoping that they'll



Statesman/Enail Ryan de la Pena

Workers picket in front of University Hospital, last Wednesday.

come and negotiate with us and give us our contract."

Morrisons has been the hospital's food contractor for the past three years. The three-year contract, which

included a pension plan for its employees, expired on March 31. Morrisons renewed its contract with the hospital for another three years, but this time offered a contract to their

employees without a pension plan.

"We signed up a contract for three years, and after three

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MINIMAL INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

I. CLASSROOM AND CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

-INSTRUCTORS MEET THEIR CLASSES REGULARLY AND PROMPTLY.
-OFFICE HOURS SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND POSTED OUTSIDE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICES AND IN DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

II. COURSE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS

-PREREQUISITES THAT ARE NOT STATED IN THE BULLETIN AND CLASS SCHEDULE MAY NOT BE IMPOSED.
-A WRITTEN SYLLABUS THAT CLEARLY DEFINES THE CONTENT, GOALS, AND REQUIREMENTS OF EACH COURSE MUST BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE, MADE READILY AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE ADD/DROP PERIOD, AND KEPT ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

III. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

-HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMINATIONS AND TERM PAPERS SHOULD BE EVALUATED AND RETURNED PROMPTLY. WRITTEN COMMENTS, EXPLAINING THE INSTRUCTOR'S CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND GIVING SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT, SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

IV. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

-INSTRUCTORS MUST REPORT ALL SUSPECTED OCCURRENCES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY TO THE ACADEMIC JUDICIARY.

-IN DEALING WITH STUDENTS, INSTRUCTORS SHOULD BE POLITE, HELPFUL, AND FAIR. THEY SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL FACTORS AND PHYSICAL CHALLENGES THAT CAN AFFECT LEARNING, AND SHOULD ATTEMPT TO HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME ANY DISADVANTAGES.

MINIMAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

I. RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO
-ATTEND CLASS REGULARLY UNLESS BY OTHER ARRANGEMENT.
-ARRIVE FOR CLASS ON TIME AND LEAVE THE CLASSROOM ONLY AT THE END OF CLASS.

-EXHIBIT CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR THAT IS CONDUCTIVE AND NOT DISRUPTIVE TO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

II. COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO
-OBSERVE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE AND CONSULT WITH THE FACULTY/INSTRUCTOR IF PREREQUISITES ARE LACKING.

-OBTAIN AND UNDERSTAND THE COURSE SYLLABUS.
-KEEP UP WITH THE COURSE WORK AND TAKE ALL SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS.

III. ACADEMIC PROGRESS

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN ASSESSING THEIR ACADEMIC PROGRESS EACH SEMESTER, AND MONITOR THEIR OWN PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

IV. INTERACTIONS WITH FACULTY, INSTRUCTORS AND OTHER STUDENTS

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO
-UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF ACADEMIC HONESTY AND ADHERE TO ITS PRINCIPLES.

-BE RESPECTFUL AND POLITE TO ALL INSTRUCTORS AND OTHER STUDENTS.

-BE FAMILIAR AND ABIDE BY THE UNIVERSITY'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY POLICIES REGARDING CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS.

-CONSULT THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF STUDENT CONDUCT IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

University Passes Minimum Requirements

From MINIMUM, Front Page

Senate, the attitudes around the campus are changing. Nobody even hesitated on changing the number of minimum office hours. I would say very much different than it has been. The attitude expressed by Dr. [Shirley Strum] Kenny and [Provost Rollin] Richmond in the Senate had gone a long way plus the AD-HOC Committee report, that went a long way to changing attitudes as well.

Saltz agrees to the grade confidentiality guideline. "Grade confidentiality is probably a healthy thing," Saltz said. "Certainly, students who receive a low grade shouldn't need to worry that their performance will make them look worse in the eyes of other students. And I've known students who become unduly obsessed with comparing their grades with other students', and sometimes even becoming quite indignant, not because they received a lower grade than they felt they

deserved, but because they felt other students were being graded too 'easily.' That kind of competitiveness creates an unhealthy atmosphere. I'm in favor of any policy that encourages students to judge themselves in relation to their own abilities and growth, and to support each other."

Saltz also noted common practices, such as instructors leaving exams and assignments in a public area for students to pick up, particularly at the end of the semester. "This practice would seem to violate the guidelines by failing to maintain students' confidentiality," Saltz added. "I'm not sure, however, what practices we should or will adopt instead. Very few students, I suspect, will come to the instructor's office to pick up work at the end of the semester. It would be a terrible shame if, as a result of this well-intended policy, students never received feedback on work submitted toward the end of a course. We'll see how this all works out."

Skrew Finds Balance

From SKREW, Page 6

of us left. It was really quite a few steps down the road from the Angkor Wat record," said Grossman. Metal Blade Records has just rereleased both those Angkor Wat records on CD.

"People perceive things how they want to," said Grossman on the assumed oral sex references in some of the titles from the newest disc. Along with their organic/electronic sound and misinterpreted lyrics comes sampling. *Burning...* is absolutely polluted with Jacob's Ladder samples. "It was a really powerful movie. It was a great movie in the first place, but it was a garden of eden for killer samples," laughs Grossman.

Skrew are what Ministry should have been. *Psalm 69* was crying out to be *Burning...* What elevates Skrew beyond Ministry is the diversity which Ministry had on *The Land Of Rape And Honey* and just recently remembered on *Filthpig*. Just check out the Nitzer Ebb like "Prey Flesh" on *Burning...* Or "Picasso Trigger" from *Dusted*. Or any track from their Skrewiest album yet, *Shadow Of Doubt*. □

DISCOGRAPHY: *Burning In Water*, *Drowning In Flame*, *Dusted*, *Shadow Of Doubt*

Hospital Workers Picket for Contract

From PICKET, Front Page

years, we have to re-negotiate for a new contract," Foley explained. "So this was our three year period we got and now we're re-negotiating with the new company Morrisons, and they're not offering us anything."

"We're the only union in the hospital that doesn't have a pension," said Peggy Gavigan, a dietary technician and 1199 delegate, the union representing the employees. "We're probably the only few 1199's institutions that don't have a pension. What we're trying to do is to get the company, Morrisons, now to pay into the union pension plan."

Gavigan suggested how the contract could work. "What would happen then would be that they would start paying from the day they sign the contract and the union would put in all the back-money for the employees that have been here 10 years, 15 years, 16 years, so there's no back-money to be put in by the employer. The union will all put that in so these people won't lose any time. So that in five years, when these people are ready to retire, they have something there for them."

Although the employees are also seeking other benefits in their

contract, a pension plan is the major issue they want addressed. "We're concerned for [retiring employees]," said Gavigan. "We're concerned that in their old age they at least don't have to work until they die; they at least have something coming in. We're also asking for job security; we're asking for a decent raise, but those are the major issues."

"We want five, five, and five for the next three years. Five percent each year," Foley said. "They offered us a \$250 sign-up for the first year, \$250 for the second year, and the three percent for the third - no pension and that was it. We're really desperate now, we're hard workers and we deserve it. Pension is really our number one, or whatever they can come up with so that we have something for our future. We just want a good raise. . . all the other different unions got raises, so we'd like something, too, for the next three years."

Jose Gonzalez, another dietary worker employed for three years agreed that a pension is essential to the contract. "We've got a lot of young people now and they need that backup," Gonzalez said. "To work here seven or eight years and have nothing to show for makes no sense.

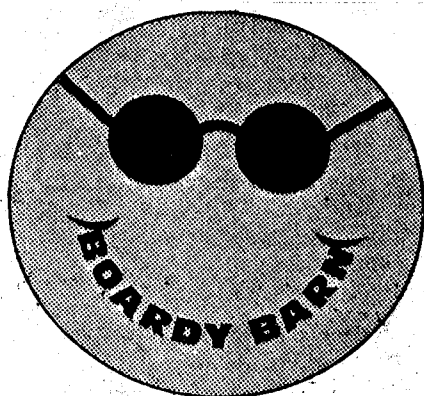
We were just looking for something that would be fair for everybody. At least we have something, even though they have to pay for it. Social Security and that's it. We're trying to fight for the younger people like us. We could use that pension. Something fair that's all we want. We're not asking for everything."

Other employees of the hospital also participated in the picketing and expressed their support for the picketing employees by bagging their lunch.

Laura Rodriguez, an employee from the cardiology unit and member of another union, held a picket outside the hospital. "Our department bagged our lunches today. . . to show support for these employees. It's very important. They're working hard, they need something to have for the future for themselves, they need raises, they need a pension plan."

According to Foley, Morrisons has set up a date on June 3 to negotiate. "They're gonna come and negotiate and they're gonna put an offer on the table for us," Foley said. "We're hoping that that's gonna be a good offer. We don't want this just as much as they don't want it."

"We sit down for negotiations in the 3rd," Gavigan said, "and hopefully they'll offer us something decent, if not we'll be back out here." □



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Statesman Features

Monday, June 3, 1996

Silver and Blood Runs Through Neurosis

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

"It feels to us like our best ever. Our tenth year and fifth LP. Just to know we are always changing and progressing is a good feeling to know. To us, it's the heaviest, as well," sums up Steve Von Till, guitarist/vocalist for Oakland hard-core vets, **Neurosis**' newest album, *Through*

Silver In Blood. "We had most of the songs out on the road for about six weeks before recording," said Von Till.

A particular trademark of the band is the intense percussion on their albums. "I don't know if we really developed more percussion this LP. It's worked more into some songs. There was a huge percussion track on the last one, (*Enemy Of The Sun*).

It's an ongoing part of our trip, particularly in our live shows and **Tribes Of Neurot**. We're moving away from dextrosity, unlike most bands, to texture. Almost orchestral. What all the layers do and how they work together. Getting the most from one note," said Von Till. "You can't label us. That's the glory of it. We've transcended all labels, but in our hearts we definitely came from punk."

Silver and blood seem to be important in their album titles, such as their latest *Through...* and **Tribes' Silver Blood Transmissions. So what's it mean? "I know specifically what it is, but it's not particularly sharing for the public. It's really personal, kind of a spiritual chemical growth, kind of psychic thing. But I can't go into detail about it, but it definitely has extreme spiritual significance to us, personal to the experience we all had. Our whole society is so f***ing draining and disconnected to what's natural. . . Someone once said 'Words are betrayed thoughts,' because they don't do the soul complete justice. But we're involved in a war for the soul," said Von Till.**

"It's hard to have a positive attitude when so many things are going to sh**," said Von Till. "I don't know if it's good or bad. It just is. Society can't maintain itself, it doesn't have the resources or ethical basis. They might be able to force control for a little while, but there'll be a time when they can't anymore and it will fall apart and it will be up to the individuals to decide how they want to live."

The band's music is their weaponry in their quest for soul, hoping to spread their message throughout the globe. Despite the fact that they used them to do

the artwork for their latest, computers are something the band is acutely wary of. "My main message I'd tell computer people is get away from the computer and stick your hands in the dirt. I don't know if it's the way of the future. It may come crashing down, but it's the way of now and hopefully artists can grab it rather than just the corporate world. It's kind of like when TV just started. It had promise as like an educational tool, and then just became the biggest bunch of sh** created," said Von Till.

But **Neurosis** is far more than a musical experience. They incorporate visual elements to their shows, taking them one step beyond the pack of hard-core and punk bands. "We want to do multimedia and video projects. Always expanding. Changing. Becoming exactly what we want to be," said Von Till.

Along with their changing, they've leaped from Alternative Tentacles Records to Relapse Records. "It's annoying we're not making a living on a band that we devote all our time to. We needed to have our promotion and distribution bumped up, but we wanted to stay on an independent. We didn't want to f*** with the major label crap that's ruining all our friends careers. Majors don't understand what to do with a band like us," said Von Till.

Following the release of *Through...* on April 2nd, the band (completed by Jason Roeder, Scott Kelly, Noah Landis, Dave Edwardson, and Pete Inc.) embarked on a 10 week tour in Europe with **Unsane**. Following this first assault they plan to take about two months off before invading The States. You've been warned. . . . q



Courtesy of Relapse Records

Neurosis

MTV Buzzes Back to Alternative Origin

By JOE FRAIOLI
Special to the Statesman

For what the MTV channel lacks in programming, it certainly makes up for in its albums.

With many of the music station's Unplugged and *Party to Go* albums reaching Billboard's Top 100 across the country and Top 20 in New York, the Generation X network teamed up with Atlantic Records' Mammoth label to release *Buzz Bin: Volume 1*. Instead of compiling popular dance songs for the *Party to Go* albums, MTV uses the same cookie-cutter technique by taking favorite alternative songs to make a great-sounding album.

The *Buzz Bin*'s selections include the more recent releases of the Dave Matthews Band's "What Would You Say" and White Zombie's "More Human Than Human" to slightly older cuts from Stone Temple Pilots' "Plush" (not the Headbanger's Ball version) and Danzig's "Mother" from his 1988 debut album.

"In most dictionaries, the word 'buzz'

is defined as a low steady noise," said Matt Pinfield, an MTV spokesman and host of 120 Minutes, a late-night program that gives airtime to both new and old alternative bands. "But in the world of contemporary music, 'buzz' is a word used to describe a new artist who is on the verge of something explosive - both commercially and creatively."

According to Pinfield, the *Buzz Bin* was created in October, 1987 to give a substitute to the metal and dance music that was played so heavily at the time. "The *Buzz Bin* was our way of bringing much deserved attention to these up-and-coming groups who were not yet established with mainstream music audiences," he said. "We were passionate about these artists and their videos, and created the *Buzz Bin* to bring attention to their clips."

What followed at MTV occurred across the country - audiences became hypnotized to the alternative sound and radio airtime and record sales boomed. A new genre exploded onto the scene and remains a strong musical influence for

children, teens and adults today.

"Today, alternative or modern rock has come to the forefront, and has touched the hearts and minds of music lovers everywhere," Pinfield said. "And while we're proud of the role the *Buzz Bin* continues to play in the success of new artists every year, it's really about the music from artists like the ones on this disc."

MTV successfully feeds off the enthusiasm of alternative listeners by collecting chart-topping hits like the cranberries' "Zombie" and Bush's "Everything Zen" to make what will most likely become a popular CD. This idea mirrors that of the station's programming - uncreative and unimaginative. Simply extracting hit songs from other albums for the benefit of theirs as with the *Party to Go* compilations seems to be a quick way to make a quick buck.

But looking beyond MTV's motives, the album's selections are well chosen favorites that are sure to get the attention of any alternative or rock listener. Even the obscure rock collector will have at least one

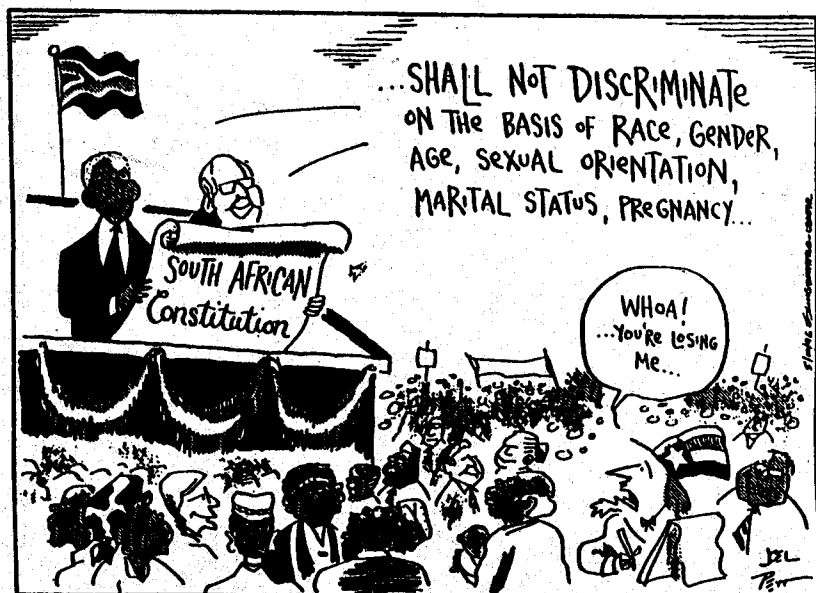
of the tracks in his or her own collection already. Other songs include "Hey Jealousy" by the Gin Blossoms, "No Rain" by Blind Melon, the uncut version of Radiohead's "Creep" and "Low" by Cracker. "Cantaloop" by Us3 and Filter's "Hey Man, Nice Shot," which MTV loves more than anyone else, round out the rest of the 12-track CD.

The album's selections give the disc an electrified and energetic sound brought down somewhat by the two songs from Filter and the Gin Blossoms.

The only mistake MTV made with this album was designing the jacket. The music channel doctored up old black and white photos for its covers. This stems from their retrospective promotional commercials which imitate the 1960s and 70's lifestyles. This was slightly amusing at first but has actually become dull and annoying over the years. The album follows suit with corny and lifeless photos that are irritating at best.

Viewers tired with bad reruns of "Road Rules" will definitely get a charge from volume 1 of the *Buzz Bin*. □

Back on the campaign trail, the intelligent discussion of the issues continues...



Angel Luis Borrás

Our congressional representatives fail to understand our frustration. The problem is that taxes, plus funds borrowed due to deficits, are not sensibly utilized which upsets most of us. One example to illustrate: a recent segment on ABC Television's "20/20" exposed our government's policy of qualifying drug addicts for benefits as "disabled" persons. There are millions of addicts. Should those irresponsible individuals become a burden to taxpayers? Is that fair to hard working Americans?

So long as our standard of living was increasing, taxpayers did not strongly object to the Washington-dictated spending growth for social programs. Now, we have reached a period of declining real wages, reduced opportunities, and a future full of uncertainty even for those with many years on the job.

To those who assure us that our greatest years are still ahead of us, they are quietly grumbling: "sure, . . . let me know when they arrive," as they gaze at the plethora of problems coming down the pike: Medicare will soon be broke; Social Security will be next as retirees-per-worker continue to grow, leading our young to feel sure that they will never see the government benefits they are paying for; an entitlement to benefits system which is a magnet for the poor of the world to come in, legally or not, which did not exist during previous immigration waves; a manufacturing base which continues to shrink, while low paying service jobs multiply; a trade deficit of embarrassing magnitude, despite the downward trend in the exchange value of the dollar; a health care system with 40 million uninsured, many of whom are either employed or laid off workers who find their meager

life savings at risk, while others who do not work are "entitled" to free care and more; a horrible crime rate, etc., etc., "yeah. . . prosperity is just around the corner."

They are not unpatriotic or downgrading our country; they are realists who recognize that our nation is headed down the wrong path. Yet, some politicians oppose necessary spending reductions. We must remind them that it is their duty to do that which is right for the country, not what is politically expedient.

More than ever, American politics are in a state of flux. The party that sets its sails to the strong winds of fiscal responsibility, while being fair, will reap its rewards in the coming realignment of American politics. Republicans are generally praised for making a good beginning by cutting spending, but there is growing dissatisfaction with proposed changes. To save face, they are unwilling to postpone a bad promise (proposed tax cuts) despite the pain for many, and no matter the cost in public trust. They could have been riding high had they delayed all tax cuts until the budget is actually balanced for two reasons:

1. Cutting taxes now is an illogical move which first increases the deficit, and then spreads the offsetting cuts in spending over the next seven years. Government has an atrocious record when it comes to long term estimates. Cutting spending is going to be a series of uphill battles, some of which will be lost, while others will not yield the projected savings (Medicare). The primary objective should be to balance the budget first, which benefits the whole nation. Tax cuts only benefit targeted groups and should be the secondary objective.

2. The proposed tax cuts force Congress to make much more

painful spending cuts than without them. The pain grows exponentially at the margin and as a consequence, voter dissatisfaction is bound to grow. The Achilles Heel for Republicans (which the leadership is unwilling to recognize) has been and remains to be taxes. Pocketbook issues will continue to control elections; that means both taxes and spending. It is amazing how both major parties, once victorious, instinctively go back to the programs which kept them out of office, convinced that the voters finally recognized they were right. They cannot overcome the high of winning (the "we can do no wrong" syndrome), until it is too late.

For Democrats, that means big government, high taxes and continued borrowing on our grandchildren's future tax payments to fund current social programs, which are often called "investments," but are really entitlements. As a result, the legions of the "entitled" keep growing. Republicans on the other hand, persist in giving tax breaks to the wealthy to expand the economy and create jobs, ignoring the growing accumulation of wealth among the richest one percent of Americans.

If the flat tax, the national sales tax, or VAT are used to totally replace income taxes, this trend in accumulation of wealth will accelerate and become a powder keg with a short fuse. In my opinion, the fallacies of the flat tax, national sales tax or VAT are as follows:

a. These adjustments are being erroneously promoted as resulting in lower taxes for nearly all taxpayers. If this sounds too good to be true that's because it is. First consider that the present rate on taxable income above \$38,000 is 28 percent; rising to 31 percent above \$91,850; 36

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

The Stony Brook Statesman

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percent above \$140,000; and 39.6 percent on income above \$250,000. Now consider that all those replacement taxes are being proposed at rates under 20 percent while exempting savings and investment income from taxation and you get a rough idea as to the magnitude of the change. Who is going to make up the tremendous reduction in federal revenues? If spending cuts to balance the budget are very difficult to achieve, further cuts in spending to support a flat tax, sales tax or VAT would be impossible to make. If spending cannot be cut to offset the reduction in taxes paid by the wealthy, the tax burden will have to be shifted to middle income taxpayers or the deficit will explode. Forbes' flat tax throws balancing the budget out the window. The Arney version narrows the gap between his flat tax revenues and spending by increasing taxes on business, which, while hidden like the value added tax (VAT), result in increased prices. Such price increases fall primarily on poor and middle income families, who consume almost all their income, negating any flat tax savings. The ultimate result is a tax savings for the wealthy, subsidized by a hidden tax on low and middle income families. I doubt that business endorses this approach. The basic problem with the flat tax is that it virtually eliminates the modest progressiveness in the tax code and replaces the 39.6% top rate on income above \$250,000 with a 17% flat tax rate. This runs counter to America's notion of fairness which dictates that those with the highest incomes can afford to contribute a higher percentage of income in taxes. Provided incentives to earn more are maintained. **DO NOT MISCONSTRUE THESE FACTS AS A CALL FOR HIGHER TAXES! I AM OPPOSED TO HIGHER TAXES.** I object to using these proposed taxes as total replacements for the income tax because of the required shift in taxes from the wealthy to the middle class, the group that is most deserving of a tax break.

b. It is claimed that the flat tax reductions to wealthy taxpayers would increase savings, reduce interest rates, increase investments, jobs and tax revenues. This view begs the question as to who will make up the huge reduction in tax revenues if not the middle class. In other words, if the budget must be balanced, and cuts in spending to offset the reductions in revenues are not visible, would a deficit neutral cut, where some taxpayers pay more (the wealthy), while others pay less (the middle class), significantly increase economic growth? You can count on one thing to increase, the ire of the middle class!

c. The elimination of subsidies. Preferences and deductions from the tax code is a desirable change which should be used to lower present tax rates (which I have advocated in previous writings). That change should not be combined with, and used to justify the flat tax.

TINKERING WITH THE SYSTEM IS NOT ENOUGH; AMERICA NEEDS A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN DIRECTION. SOME POSSIBILITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I. Balancing the budget by 2002 is extremely important and is worth a second try at a constitutional amendment in the Senate. However, while the approved annual budget must be balanced, actual expenditures during the budget year should not trigger immediate adjustments so long as the projected difference between expenditures and revenues for the entire year does not exceed 1.5% of the total approved budget. This would avoid constant tinkering with receipts or expenditures to attain perfect balance. Those differences (actual vs. budget) would become an automatic adjustment to the next budget to be approved by congress. A super majority should still be required to avoid the budget balancing requirement in cases of economic emergencies or war.

II. We need to establish a national sales tax combined with:

1. total elimination of personal income taxes on the first \$50,000 of income per joint return. The level of income exempted from personal income taxes depends on the desired sales tax rate.

2. total elimination of present allowable subsidies, preferences or deductions from income for individual tax purposes.

3. total elimination of corporate income taxes. No more corporate subsidies, preferences or deductions for tax purposes.

4. all corporate net income taxable to the stockholders under the theory of constructive receipt (what you don't collect as dividends is theoretically available as a change in the stock price). Dividends automatically become a non-taxable return of capital.

5. corporations would be required to withhold and pay stockholders tax liabilities from net quarterly earnings at a preset rate.

6. a national sales tax exemption on all exports whether wholly or partially manufactured in the USA. The final sales price of all imports of finished goods would be subject to the tax. This will alleviate the problem of inflated transfer values being used by some foreign companies to mask profits and evade federal taxes.

7. an exemption from the national sales tax for the

following:

- food (other than restaurant)
- medical services and prescription medicines
- utilities
- real property sales or rents
- mass transportation equipment or fares
- other business capitalized items

g. elementary, high school and college tuition fees profits from these enterprises, whether corporate or individually owned, would be reported as income by the owners.

III. We need a health care system where employers provide health insurance coverage for employees, coverage is available for most of the uninsured, insurance is portable and non-cancelable, preexisting conditions are eliminated, medical decisions are left entirely to doctors, patient selection of doctors is preserved, the system is privately run in its entirety and costs are controlled without government dictates.

IV. We need effective campaign reform without delay.

Balancing the budget must have priority over tax cuts. After the budget is balanced, then taxes can be cut to match further cuts in spending. Elimination of the corporate income tax should be next in priority. But the revenue drain is too large, which requires that stockholders be taxed on the corporate profits.

This ends the double taxation of profits (as earnings and dividends) and makes American business more competitive in the world marketplace. It places all savings directly at the business firm where the can be invested in plant and equipment, which expands the economy and creates jobs. Tax cuts on the other hand result in only some of the tax cuts being saved, and only some of the savings being invested in new Plant and equipment. You yet more economic bang for the buck by eliminating corporate income taxes than by cutting individual taxes. Corporate tax breaks automatically disappear, forcing higher profit recognition by the stockholders, offsetting elimination of taxes on dividends. Increased profits permit dividends to rise so that net return on investment to stockholders can be maintained, while the entity still has significant resources left for increased investments. Elimination of the corporate income tax increases retained earnings, drives interest rates down by reducing competition for funds, and further expands economic activity.

Corporations are to withhold the stockholders tax liability from net profits quarterly (at a government set rate and date for payment). They are to recoup those tax payments from stockholders by deducting them from dividends, which forces the government withholding rate to become the minimum dividend

rate. Quarterly tax liability will be based on stock ownership as of midnight on the date for tax payments. To accomplish that requirement, the corporation will provide their stockholders a new Form 1099 at year end informing them of their share of earnings to be included in income, taxes paid on their behalf, and dividends paid to them during the year. Stockholders must adjust the cost basis of their stock by adding to cost, the earnings reported as income, and deducting dividends received.

The national sales tax establishes an incentive to save rather than consume. Individual income and sales taxes can be adjusted so that jointly they yield the revenue for the reduced federal expenditures.

As stated above, a flat tax is not required in order to revamp the tax code. The elimination of all present subsidies, preferences, and deductions from income simplifies the code, allows present tax rates to be lowered, trims the IRS bureaucracy to a minimal level, and retains tax rate progressiveness. The threshold for no income taxes allows most taxpayers to file a simple post card tax return.

One thing is for sure, an open and sincere discussion of the issues is absolutely necessary if our nation is to find the proper course. We are not getting that from politicians these days. The future may be rosy for the few with Mr. Forbes' income, especially if a flat tax is enacted but not so for the middle class. If Republican leaders hang the future of the party on a flat tax which shifts more of the tax burden to the middle class, they will eventually return to a minority party.

Voters are still searching for a leader, willing to make changes which are bold but fair, in order to restore America's faith in the future.

Angel Luis Borrás

P. S.: The big unknown now is, whether or not our government will pass up an opportunity to agree on a balanced budget path, albeit with mushy numbers. The easy part is coming to an agreement, preferably one that spreads the cuts evenly throughout the seven-year period; the hard part will be enforcing it all the way. Will it all go down the drain like Gramm-Rudman? The only way to be sure it does not, is with a balanced budget amendment. In my opinion, the present gridlock would not be happening if we had a single six-year term for President. Any new administration's concern for reelection colors its judgment as to what is good for the country. A single six year term forces the President to be truly concerned with his legacy to the nation.

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Skrew Finds Its Balance In New Release

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

"I think it's the most Skrew of all the Skrew albums," effectively sums up Skrew's latest effort, *Shadow Of Doubt*, by Adam Grossman, lead singer/guitarist/mastermind behind Skrew. "I feel like we've finally found our perfect mix of what we've been trying to do all along," said Grossman, "I just think it's more well balanced, more intense than anything we've done in the past."

The new album incorporates

some new elements that were absent in the past. A first for *Shadow Of Doubt* is that this is the first album the entire band plays on. "It's always been me and generally one other person," said Grossman. Speaking of the band as a whole, *Shadow Of Doubt* sees the debut of Bobby Gustafson (formerly of *Overkill*). "Survival of the fittest. Pretty much everybody in the band, except for Bobby and Steve (May - drums), has toured with us in the past. We work a really tough schedule and we've had

people involved in the band that either couldn't hang with the schedule or generally just had bad, f***ed up attitudes, something I can't deal with," said Grossman of the band's changing lineup.

Not only does Skrew include members of other known bands, but they've produced them as well. Namely Danny Lohner, now in *Nine Inch Nails*. "After recording *Burning In Water, Drowning In Flame*, we did two tours back-to-back in Europe, and Danny, I guess, just wasn't real

happy at the time with being on the road," Grossman said. It was partially due to the fact that he wanted to go in a different direction than I wanted to go in. His favorite bands were NIN and Pantera, and that's what he wanted Skrew to be. Plus the fact he really wanted to go back to school and finish [his] education,



Courtesy of Metal Blade Records

Skrew

get a job, and get married. At least that's what he said he wanted to do. (Before joining NIN) He auditioned for *Red Hot Chili Peppers*, he took like funk guitar lessons for about a week before that."

You can also say goodbye to the intros on their previous two releases. This time, there's something lurking for you towards the album's close. "I think the whole intro thing has been done. Instead on this one we threw in kind of a sneaky little thing at the very end that was kind of sick," laughs Grossman.

Another goodbye: the

electronically distorted vocals. "On the first album they were a little bit overly effective," Grossman said. "I've just been looking for a more organic sound, not just in the vocals, but the music, as well. There's always been that struggle between man and machine, and I think we've got a pretty good balance of it now." Skrew was born out of the ashes of *Angkor Wat*. "[When we recorded] the first Skrew album we were still called Angkor Wat. We decided to change the name because there were only two

See SKREW, Page 2

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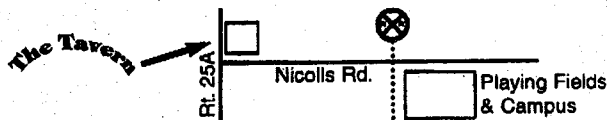
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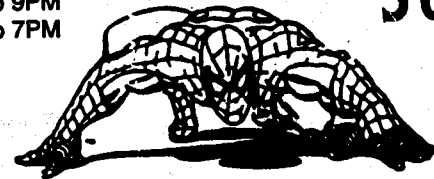
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STATESMAN SPORTS

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1996

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS BECOMING CHILD'S PLAY

Consider this scenario; you're a basketball player for a small suburban high school in a relatively quiet town. Over the four years you compile outstanding stats, gain the respect of coaches and teammates, go All-Conference every season, and approach graduation with a varsity letter and records that will remain untouchable for years to come. One year into your college career, the opportunity to turn pro first presents itself. The NBA draft is one month away and you are now faced with the biggest decision of your life. Do you enter the draft, get selected, play in the NBA, and make millions, or do you finish your education, get a degree, and then pursue your professional career with something to fall back on.

This is precisely the same scenario that many young athletes face today. These athletes are being lured by lucrative packages to turn pro before they are ready. It is the consensus of many coaches and executives in each of the four major professional sports (baseball, hockey, football, and basketball) that maturity is one of the key elements to becoming a successful professional athlete.

In the pros, you are exposed to the intense scrutiny of the coaches, fans, and media, as well as the pressure to produce. For many 18 and 19 year olds, this pressure is made worse by the fact that their levels of life experience and playing experience is relatively low compared to an athlete who has played at least four years of a college sport or semi-pro sport before entering the professional ring. Milwaukee Bucks Vice President Mike Dunleavy said to Newsday, "We've got too many kids coming into the NBA who haven't had a chance to be coached. They're just not mature in a lot of ways. It's not a problem of the programs these kids are coming out of - they just haven't had enough time to learn."

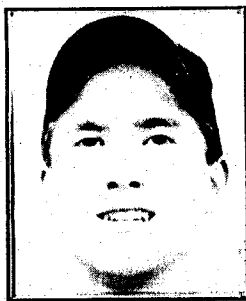
Another fact is that many athletes come out of high school and college with a label on them already, even before they've played their first professional game. How many times have you heard the media refer to promising talent as "the next so and so". The truth is, you can't compare the two levels of play and expect to get the whole picture. For example, former Stony Brook star shortstop Joe Nathan, who last year signed a pro contract with Bellingham, the single A minor league affiliate of the San Francisco Giants organization, found this to be indeed a rude awakening. "The pitching here [at the pro level] is much more dominating compared to college," Nathan said.

Luring young athletes into this

limelight before they are ready to, is destroying the purity of professional sports. Many young players do not even get off the bench or become full time players until their second and third seasons. Why is this? This is because many players who do have a great abundance of talent, need time to

much noise until he was traded from the Mets to the Angels, four years into his major league career.

Should it be considered heresy that the NBA endorses the "stay in school" message when in fact recently, the NBA is doing little to keep college athletes from



MIKE CHAMOFF



DAVE CHOW

DAVE AND THE HIT MAN

adjust to the different style of play at the pro level. Also, starting players that have held positions for a number of seasons, and who have already proven themselves, are not going to be easily unseated by a rookie. It is much easier for a player who has had more experience at a lower level such as college or a minor league circuit like baseball and hockey have, to make this transition. After this, a gradual ascent into the pros is possible. Many players who have made a relatively slow transition into the pros, turn out to be powerful contributors to their respective teams. Take David Cone for example. In his rookie season with the Kansas City Royals, Cone appeared in only nine games as a relief pitcher. When he was traded to the N.Y. Mets in 1987, he saw relatively little action and produced mediocre results. Cone didn't even become a starting pitcher until May 3, 1988 when Mets starting pitcher Rick Aguilera suffered a season-shortening shoulder injury that left a vacancy in the starting rotation. By the end of the '88 season, Cone was a 20 game winner. Since that point, Cone has become a strong, reliable pitcher and has enjoyed numerous successes with the Mets, Blue Jays, and Yankees. Of course this is not the case 100 percent of the time. We do find players who make immediate impacts very early in their careers such as Wayne Gretzky and Joe Montana. But not everyone can be Wayne Gretzky and Joe Montana. However it is more likely to be a Nolan Ryan, who didn't make

entering the draft after only completing as little as one year of school? Technically, it is heresy. However, the big issue does not lie in education. The fact of the matter is, a degree is a degree, and you can obtain a degree virtually whenever you want. Taking a leave of absence from college to pursue a career in the pros may actually enhance your educational future. The reason being is twofold. First, the added financial gain of playing in the pros, no matter how little it is (league minimum annual salaries in professional sports are enough to put you through four years at Stony Brook) will with no doubt help you with your tuition. Second, the maturity and focus that you obtain by being on your own in hostile media markets such as the ones that professional athletes endure, will make you more disciplined in focusing on your future. This is one of the reasons you are seeing more college students in your classrooms who are over the age of 35. Older students are generally more academically disciplined than younger students.

It doesn't really matter when you finally complete your college education. Mookie Wilson, the former NY Mets star who is notorious for hitting the grounder that eluded Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner in Game Six of the 1986 World Series to force the crucial seventh game, entered the amateur draft after completing one year of college. After a 12 year career in the majors, at age 40, and six years after he played his last major league game, Wilson

graduated last week from Mercy college in Dobbs Ferry, NY with his Bachelors degree.

If it's that easy, then why doesn't everyone do it? Like I mentioned before, education is not the issue, maturity and experience is. Loading up the professional venues with extreme inexperience is destroying the purity of the game, no matter what game it happens to be. It's a shame that professional sports teams are gambling big money on athletes with little experience. Baseball and Hockey usually draft players directly out of high school or give them the option of going to college first. However, these sports have a complicated network of minor league levels that players must graduate through in order to reach a stable spot on a professional roster. The NBA and NFL do not have this. Once a player is selected in the draft, they are on the roster, (providing they do not get cut in the preseason) regardless of their position or class level when they are drafted. Completing a full four years of college will not only give the athlete a quality education, it will give him or her the growing and learning experience that every athlete who aspires to go professional will need to make them a better player, ultimately leading to a complete and successful career in professional sports. The NCAA protects itself from losing players to the pros despite the growing numbers of NCAA athletes who are entering the drafts as underclassmen. According to NCAA regulations, if an athlete decides to go pro as an underclassman, and signs with an agent (which you should do if you want to survive in the salary bidding wars), they automatically forfeit their NCAA eligibility. In other words, there's no turning back. The NCAA want to be harsh on underclassmen who mislead early from their athletic program; rightfully so. This affects UNC center Marcus Camby, who with the ProServ agency, announced he will enter the NBA draft as an underclassman on June 26. Joe Mauer, who entered the Major League Baseball draft last year as a junior, finds his eligibility rescinded as well.

In Football and Basketball, this is becoming the "minors" for these when in fact it is designed for a very more than just a breeding ground for pros. The NCAA is a total expense and it should remain so. If you want it to take, then it shouldn't be a rush to be in the pros. An opportunity to grow and develop your talent before breaking into the bigs, can hurt you, not hurt you.