Volume XXXIX, Number 65

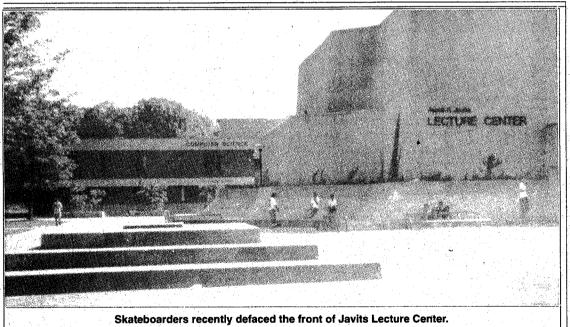
Monday, July 29, 1996

First Copy Free

## Residential Grounds Left Littered



John Hughes points out broken glass on the parking lot in front of Gershwin College.



Javits Lecture Center Defaced

By Rob Anderson

Special to The Statesman

Campus security spotted two young men defacing University property with skateboards and skateboard wax on a Wednesday, at approximately 2:30 p.m. To the casual observer, this may seem ridiculous. But upon witnessing the damage incurred, one may be astonished.

The three concrete steps in front of the Jacob Javits Lecture Center were badly stained and The foundation broken. encompassing the building was damaged resulting in a ten-foot span of crumbling concrete. In addition, the bicycle rack nearby has been torn out and bent beyond

While Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services Gary Matthews and Directors of Public Safety Richard Young were walking the University grounds, a building manager working for the University alerted them to the problem.

Matthews and Young attempted to dissuade the men from continuing their actions by explaining the financial repercussions the University endures by such actions. The men did not comply. As the men became verbally abusive, their skateboards were confiscated.

"It's not a question of having fun, we want the University campus to be enjoyed to it's fullest potential," explains Matthews,

"but we also have a responsibility to keep the campus a safe environment free of destructive forces. We have a budget to do some positive things for the campus. When property is needlessly damaged, we have to use some of these funds to repair the damages and lose those amounts we designated for a more positive use."

The destruction of school property as a result of skateboards is not isolated to this one case.

Matthews said that "signs will be posted to discourage people from this destruction. But we don't want to turn the campus into a barrage of "No —" signs. We need people to use a little discretion."

By Eneil Ryan de la Pena

Statesman Staff

In the recently mowed grounds of Roth Quad, one would expect it to be clean of litter, but shredded papers, broken glass, and other garbage still litter the

John Hughes, a maintenance assistant, blames the trash on the outside contractor, ISS, hired by Residential Operations. Hughes claims that the workers from the outside contractor, employed to aid them in cleaning the residential grounds, are not doing their proper job. Freshman orientation groups reside on Roth Quad, along with students taking summer courses and summer conference participants.

"The residential physical plant hired this outside contractor," says Hughes. "They claim that we're behind and they are doing a much better job than us and cut more lawn." Hughes disagrees, saying that when the contractor's workers mow the lawn, they don't pick up the sticks, stones, and papers before the mow. "We have broken glass in the lawn because they sometimes cut the bottles."

The contractor workers are assigned to mow the lawn, while the regular maintenance groundworkers on residential operations are assigned to pick up the garbage from the trash cans and trim the hedges. Hughes says that the contractor is supposed to also "poke" papers out of the way and place them in the proper receptacles. Instead, the contractor only puts them aside from the path of the mower, leaving it on the ground.

"I have a total of five grounds people for the entire area of the residence halls, including Chapin and Schomburg," explains Fred Tokash, director of Residential Operations. "During the summer, these five people cannot do everything that they're suppose to do and keep up with the grass and the trimming. We've hired these other people to help us out with some of the grass trimming so that our present workers can continue to do the other tasks that they need to do." Tokash's contract with ISS is only for the month of July.

When asked about whether Tokash has any knowledge of the contractor's activities, he responded that "So far, I have not seen any areas where they've left the newspaper on the ground and

just cut it up into small shreds of paper. I didn't realize that they were just moving it. Instead of picking it up and putting it on the proper receptacle . . . When I talked to their boss, the agreement was that they would poke in front of the lawn mowers and pick up the trash so that it's not cut."

Wilson Sagastido and Manuel Araya are two of the workers from ISS that are hired to mow the grass. They say that they were assigned to "just landscaping" and told not to poke the garbage from the grounds, but do put aside the garbage if its on the way of the mower.

"When you cut lawn, you gotta pick up the sticks, the stones, the papers, and everything," says Hughes. "You just don't move the stuff out of the way or cut over it." Hughes pointed out broken glasses and shredded paper run over by the mower in the grounds around Gershwin College and Cardozo College.

In addition, the contractor utilizes equipment in mowing. "When the machines break, the state pays for the parts and pays for the labor of getting that machine fixed," Hughes comments. "And that's stupid . .

. if they blow up a \$5,000 machine, then the state has to replace \$5,000 worth." He adds that damage has already been reported to these equipment.

"On the first day, we had some minor damage done to a See GROUNDS, Page 2

## INDEX

INDEX
News1
LETTERS
COLUMN: DAVE AND THE HITMAN
Campus Calendar -Page 2
A SPECIAL NIGHT AWAITS AT MARCHELLO'S
-Page 3
HARDCORE REFUSED FUSES MELODY AND ANGST

-Page 6

The Birdcage, 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6 and 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7 at Auditorium, SB Union. Admission is free.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

On Sunday, August 4, the Market Pro Computer Show and Sale will be in the Arena, Sports Complex from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Adults, \$6; children under 12 free with adult. Call 632-9271.

#### **FILM**

The Staller Center Film Festival: Screenings on the new 40 - foot film screen with Dolby stereo. \$4/adults;

\$3/students. seniors children under 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance, Monday - Friday, Noon - 4:30



p.m., at the Staller Center Box Office, Hunger Campaign from October 1. 632-7230. From July 30 - August 3.

Staller Center "Meet the Moviemakers" Series: Eli Wallach will discuss Baby Doll with host Michael Edelson. Sunday, August 4 at 4 p.m. on the new 40 - foot film screen with Dolby stereo. \$8, general admission; \$6/seniors/students. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Staller Center. For ticket information, call the Staller Center Box Office, 632-7230.

### MUSIC

Saturday, August 3: "Meditations" Spiritual Music of Liszt, Barber, Block, Ravel and others. Pre-concert talk: 7:15 p.m. Features an electric selection of spiritual reflections.

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES **BOARD**

Thursday, August 1 and August 8: Free Food, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the SB Union Courtyard.

Wednesday, August 7: Stimson

Barbecue, located at the Stimson College in Roosevelt Quad. Call 632-6799 for more information.

Friday, August 2: Action Park Trip. Reservations must be made in advance. Admission: \$5. Call 632-6460 for reservations a week in advance. First come, first serve basis.

#### **CLUBS**

A new activities club is forming and participants are needed! The Military and Science Fiction Activities Club will indulge in Lazer Tag, Paintball, Museum Trips, Lazerium Trips, Movie Openings, Computer Games, Board Games, Conventions, and other activities on and off campus. Help is needed especially by comeone living on campus. No uniforms, no rules, just fun! All interested please call Dave (516) 731-6903.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Long Island Cares, Inc., which operates the only food bank on Long Island, is looking for volunteers to assist with their 1996 Check-Out-

thru November 30, 1996.

The Check-Out-Hunger program was launched by food banks and retailers to generate additional funding for the fight against hunger that afflicts more than 300,000 individuals in Long Island. Participating supermarkets and convenience stores will offer \$1, \$2, and \$5 coupons to shoppers for redemption.

Volunteers will play a vital role as liaisons between Long Island Cares, Inc., and store managers, to promote the program, create smooth working relationships with the cashiers, and are responsible for set up and maintaining supplies in their own local stores. Hours are flexible, but require about two hours per week. If interested, please contact Susan Reh Riley of Long Island Cares, Inc. at (516) 435-1489.

Be a host family for a foreign student visiting in Long Island. Please call Susan Benatti for more information on becoming an ASSE Host Family at (516) 536-6359 or 1-800-677-2773.

## Residential Grounds Left Littered

From GROUNDS, Front Page

machine," says Tokash. "But I credit that to the people not really knowing where some of the obstacles were in the grass, such as a piece of concrete being used as a barrier on a parking lot. I think one of the guys ran into one of the curbing for the parking lot that was buried underneath some tall grass. But after that, I don't think we had any more damage. At least, it hasn't been reported to me." Tokash explains that when an equipment used by the contractor is damaged, it has to be determined whether the fault is from the contractor's negligence. If it is the contractor's fault, they pay for the damage.

According to Tokash, "The reason I hired this contractor is their open-ended contract with the University." If anything has to be done immediately, such as clean up after a hurricane, ISS is a contractor the University can call. Tokash hired them for the month of July, while the department searches for another contractor that will work during the months of April to October, which are the spring and summer seasons. He says that he has used ISS workers for the past

David Smith, who works in purchasing, initiated the contract with ISS and is evaluating the bids on the present grounds maintenance contract. Smith could not be reached for a

In choosing a permanent contractor, Tokash describes the selection process as checking the resumes of the contractors and their references, especially if they had done a job as extensive as what they would do in the residential grounds. "Based on the feedback that we get from the references, then we will go to the lowest qualified bidder that is going to meet our needs," says Tokash. "The bottom line is the improvement part of

Tokash further added, "There are two things that we have to keep in mind. One is that the goal is to improve, and that's with a capital 'I' . . . improve the grounds around the residence halls rather than just maintain the status quo. Secondly, is state workers are not being replaced."

"I don't care if there are contractors there," Hughes says, "but at least just do the job right."



An ISS worker weed-whacking paper on the grass by Hendrix College.

# PDY BY

## August 31 **Stony Brook** 1996 ALL-**COLLEGIATE EVENING**

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**BETWEEN NICOLLS RD & BENNETS RD** 

Monday, July 29, 1996

Statesman **Stony** 

# Statesman Heatures

Monday, July 29, 1996

## A Special Night Awaits at Marchello's

## Fine Cuisine and Romantic Ambience Combine for a Winning Dining Experience

BY ALAINE KIM RANIERI Special to The Statesman

The charming atmosphere and delicious Italian cuisine of Marchello's Restaurant in Smithtown is sure to win that someone special's stomach, as well as heart.

To start your evening, try a bottle of Marchello's red wine, Mauro Maschio. It has a mild taste that won't make you too intoxicated and ruin your date's impression of you. Along with the wine, order an antipasto salad as your appetizer.

Order either a hot antipasto salad with breaded mozzarella, eggplant, shrimp and baked clams, or a cold antipasto salad with fresh vegetables, rolled cheese, prosciuto and spicy peppers.

For the main entree, Marchello's provides a variety of pasta dishes with or without chicken and/or

shrimp. The restaurant also offers a variety of chicken and veal parmesan platters such as Veal Sorrentino and Chicken Marchello. Another good choice for an entree is Pasta Marchello with artichoke hearts, black olives, mushrooms and prosciuto When ordering pasta, just be careful in your choice- linguini is a mess to eat if you are not a pro when it comes

to eating a pasta.

No meal is complete without dessert. Marchello's has delicious desserts from homemade cannolis to Oreo cookie fudge cake. Coffee lovers should try a piece of Tiramisu, which is made of lady fingers dipped in espresso, layered in cream and topped with whipped cream and chocolate shavings. Be sure to order a cappuccino along with your dessert. It is served with whipped cream and a rock candy stick to sweeten up the rich taste.

An evening at Marchello's will warm your date's heart, just don't forget the roses - they weren't on the menu.

Marchello's 368 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD SMITHTOWN, N.Y. (516) 265-2300

## Marchello's Dessert Menu

Canoli

Homemade Cheese Cake Orange Creamside Tartufo

Ice Cream

Tirami-su Mississippi Mud Pie Hot Apple Crisp a la Mode Oreo Cookie Judge Chocolate Mousse Pie

Alagne's Packs: Tarama-su and Oreo Cookae JUDGE. AND DON'T JORGET THE CAPPUCCINO!

## Two New Flicks Hit Theaters Last Friday

## Sex, Bugs & Rock-n-Roll

The first ever comedy/ romance/musical starring a full chorus of roaches, "Joe's Apartment," opened nationwide

Fresh off the bus from Iowa, Joe (Jerry O'Connell) is just trying to make it in New York, but he's got no job, he's got no girl and, worst of all, he's got no place to live. However, life's about to change for Joe. He finds an apartment — a slummy. squalid, seedy little box of a place, but it's a pad he can call his own. . . or so he thinks. It seems that not all of the apartment's former tenants have packed up and moved away.

Joe discovers that he's living with 50,000 roommates, an army of six-legged "go-go-go" supporters, a veritable nation of roaches, there to stand arm-inarm-in-arm-in-arm-inarm with their guy Joe in his times of need — whether he likes it or not

And what's more, these roaches don't just think and talk. .. they dance and sing. They're around to teach Joe what life's really all about in the big city: sex, bugs and rock and roll.

"Joe's Apartment," which also stars Megan Ward, is written and directed by John Payson, who created the original Joe's Apartment" short feature that aired on MTV in 1992.

Jerry O'Connell followed his work on "Joe's Apartment" with a role in the sports comedy "Jerry Maguire" opposite Tom Cruise. O'Connell can also currently be seen as the lead in the Fox science-fiction series "Sliders."

Born and raised in New York City, O'Connell graduated from majored in film and served as captain of the men's sabre team, an avocation he continues today. O'Connell always knew he wanted to be an actor and as a youngster, he appeared in "Hannah and Her Sisters." His first feature starring role came as one of the youths in Rob Reiner's "Stand By Me."

starred in the series "My Secret by best-selling author John Identity" and "Camp Wilder."

Director/writer John Payson makes his full-length feature directorial debut with "Joe's Apartment." Payson was born and raised in Northern New England. After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1983, he moved to New York.

In 1984, Payson joined MTV, shelving tapes and answering phones. He later stars Brenda Fricker, Oliver became Director of MTV's On- Platt, Charles S. Dutton,

School of the Arts, where he capacity, he oversaw the production of MTV's promos, animation other

New York University's Tisch Air Creative Departmnt. In that programming. He wrote and directed the award-winning short film "Joe's Apartment," which aired on MTV in 1992.

## Searing Coutroom Thriller

Joel Schumacher, director of "The Client," returns with "A Time to Kill," an On television, O'Connell adaptation of another novel Grisham. Featuring an allstar ensemble cast led by Sandra Bullock, Samuel L. Jackson, McConaughey and Kevin Spacey, "A Time to Kill" opened Friday nationwide.

> This searing dramatic thriller follows a murder case and its shattering consequences in a simmering, small Southern town and also

Ashley Judd, McGoohan and Donald Sutherland.

Over a time period of slightly longer than one year, & Bullock has established most popular and acclaimed leading actresses with a trio of big-screen hits: "Speed," and "The Net." Following her work on "A Time to Kill," Bullock began production on "In Love and War". "In Love and War," Richard Attenborough's World War I

See FLICKS, Page 7

## EDITORIALS

## Degrees Needed To Answer Needs Of The Future

New York City is a media center or the communications? media center. Stony Brook is located only sixty miles away. The largest SUNY campus within reach of the metropolis is in a unique position to ride the coming wave of the information revolution. But what does Stony Brook offer potential students in terms of training in the fields required in this revolution? Not much. As it stands Stony Brook offers no major programs in journalism communications.

All of the major news happenings of the day usually result from changes occurring in the media industry. Corporations merge and expand their endeavors. The Internet is burgeoning with opportunity. Long Island is in a slump, it doesn't no which way to aim in the future with the decline of the defense industry here. How much farther must you fields look than the

This most glaring omission in the course offerings of an institution that purports to offer to the future work force of this state accessible, professional worthwhile jobs. Stony Brook has no journalism program or communications department. Stony Brook is not poised to attract any interest in the exciting new opening fields in the media business. Courses in journalism and communication make sense now more than ever.

The technology exists to broadcast 150 channels, newspapers are expanding onto the Internet. Stony Brook should plan to get into some of that action as soon as possible. If the university is looking for professional skills to teach people that they will be able to use productively in this society communications is strong. information age is heralded through the

media. Those media arts should be taught here.

The commitment to the media in the school is strong by way of support by the student government which provides more than a fair share of monies for student run newspapers, television and radio ventures. All the practical outlets are already in place. What the university needs to get are some programs lined up so that students who appreciate these activities can get degrees and pursue careers. Why should a half dozen newspapers exist with no journalism program? Why should radio and television stations operate without a communications department? students enjoy those fields they have no real incentive to pursue them here.

The information revolution will roll right by Stony Brook unless specific actions are taken to insure that the training is made available here.

## The Worst Of The Budget Worries Are Through

Some things look promising in the SUNY Budget reports as of late. It doesn't seem as if things will be as bad as the prophets of doom predicted at the beginning of the year. Back then all the cuts meant the end of public higher education as we know it (would that have been a bad thing?) leading further toward the dissolution of society. The cuts would mean the end of education. Well, fortunately things are not turning out so bad. There will be no increase in tuition in SUNY. No cuts in TAP and no \$250 raise. According to a New York Times article which appeared July 16 "The 1996 budget will leave the 64-campus system with a deficit of \$40 million in a \$1.51 billion operating budget, less than half of the 98 million budget gap SUNY officials anticipated in January." When from here and goes there. The best thing

compared to the horror stories this seems almost welcome.

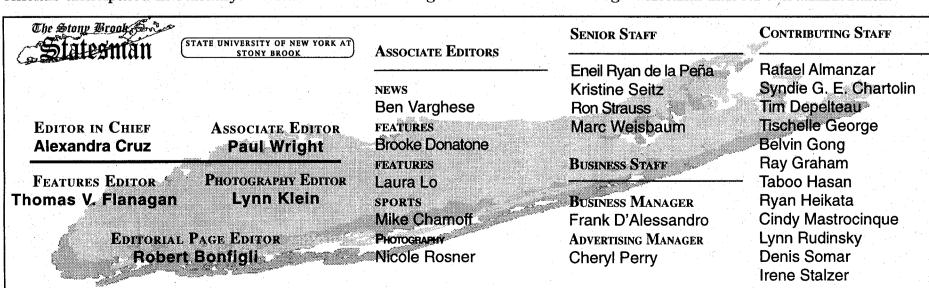
It seems natural that the events played themselves out as they did. First, a heightened sense of emergency is cultivated. Everyone is made to feel that they are standing on the brink of destruction. From that point anything looks good. Even a \$58 million deficit. Life as we know it will continue as planned. Politicians need to look like they've done something noble and everyone is relived. Even though it probably would have played out like this without the panic.

The panic is worth it though if it forces officials to be more efficient. Public institutions run fat because the money they spend is not their own. It comes

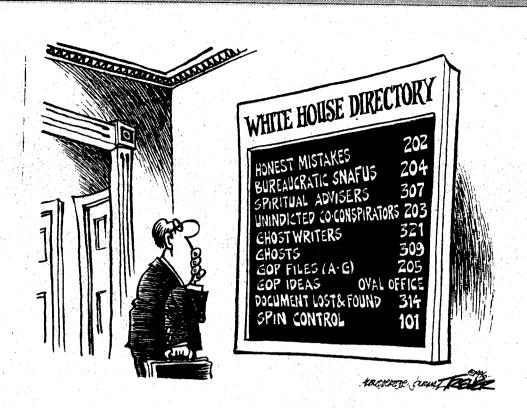
you can do is get as much as you can and spend it, fast. This is not an attitude encouraging to thrift. Thrift is important if you just want to provide the bare necessities or have the money to try new things.

What looks most promising in all this is the incentive that the colleges can keep any savings once the deficit is eliminated entirely. That sounds like a responsible thing to do. Let the colleges keep what they save and spend it how they see fit without any interplay with Albany, that can only cost more money and not meet Stony Brook's specific needs.

The great experiment in American public education may be this sort of devolution to the individual institutions away from the bureaucracy in Albany. Who would know better what to do with funds than our own administration?



Monday, July 29 The Stony Brook Statesman



**Campus Information Numbers 632-SNOW Emergency Weather Information** Main Campus

444-SNOW

**Emergency Weather Information HSC/Medical Center** 

**632-INFO** 

Physical Plant Service Interruption Information Main Campus, HSC/Medical Center

**632-NEWS** 

News and Events

63-ALERT

To Report a Safety Hazard

632-WOLF

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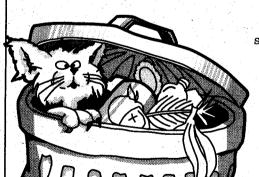
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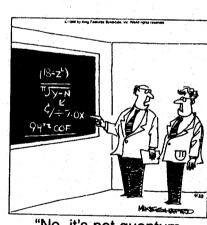
## **MATCH POINT**

Always keep a shovel, rake and water nearby when burning debris.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

When putting out a campfire, drown the fire, stir it, and drown it again.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.



"No, it's not quantum physics. I'm still trying to figure out how much I owe the IRS."

The Stony Brook Statesman, the newspaper for SUNY at Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication that is produced twice-weekly during the academic year and bi-weekly during the summer. Statesman Association, Inc.'s offices are located in the lower level of the Stony Brook Union.

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 Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and are written by one of its members or a designee.

· The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinion pieces, suggestions about newsworthy events and issues on or around campus and its community. Write to:

> The Stony Brook Statesman P.O. Box 1530 Stony Brook, NY 11790

Room 075 Student union Campus Zip 3200

Fax: (516) 632-9128 statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu

All letters and opinion pieces (including email messages) must include the author's name, address, and phone number for purposes of verification. Please type all submissions, and include all information (i.e., titles, positions, etc.) you would like to have printed

with your name.

Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed.

 Please keep submissions to a maximum of 750 words. Statesman reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language, and readability.

 Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author(s), and are not necessarily those of Statesman Association, Inc., The Stony Brook Statesman, their employees, their staff

members their advertisers.

 Writers are work on 3.5" Macintosh (preferably) or IBM disks. Disks will be returned upon request.

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DEADLINES FOR LAST TWO SUMMER ISSUES: THURS., JULY 26: Thurs., Aug. 12.

Statesman Classifieds WORK! Call Frank @ 632-6480 for Details

## Hardcore Refused Fuses Melody and Angst

BY MARC WEISBAUM Statesman Staff

Sometimes surprises are good. While many hardcore kids in America are familiar with Sweden's Doughnuts, not nearly as many are aware of Refused. The band's U.S. debut album, Songs to fan the flames of discontent is probably one of the best metal tinged hardcore releases this year.

Refused put melody and angst in the same blender to pump out tracks like the slightly Tool sounding, "The Slayer." This band has all the stop and go's down perfectly to avoid sounding as generic as Helmet and kick as much ass as labelmates Earth Crisis in tracks like "Worthless Is The freedom Bought ... " The band sounds like a cross between Karl and co. (Destroy the Machines era) and Sick Of It All in "It's Not O.K. ..." Listen to vocalist Dennis LyXen's psychotic delivery towards the end of 'Crusader Of Hopelessness."

refused is one of few bands that actually comes across as a single unit.



Photo / Victory Records

Refused

No showing off. Bassist Magnus Bjirkland's style is reminiscent of Shane Durgee. LyXen, a hardcore vocalist with a clean voice, possesses the rage to sound like Zack de la Rocha, but not as gritty as D.J. Rose of Halo or Karl Crisis. Drummer David Sandstrim blows away any NYHC or Strong Island drummer with one hand tied behind his back. Finally, the guitar work of Henrik Janson and Kristoffer Steen cement the foundation for this savage beast. The final star goes to the band for writing lyrics that actually matter.

Refused proves that surprises can be great. Normally, an album of a band that's unheard of remains untouched on a shelf for several days, but this attack found its way through three rotations the day it came. Imagine what the guys at Under The Volcano will say.

Contact: Victory Records

P.O. Box 146546 Chicago, IL 60614 🚨

"Batman" series, "Batman and Robin," which will star Arnold Schwarzeneggar, George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell, Uma

Thurman and Alicia Silverstone. Producer John Grisham is one of the world's top-selling authors and recently saw his latest novel, "The Runaway Jury," become the latest in his consistent series of best-sellers. Grisham practiced law in Mississippi from 1981 until 1991, specializing in criminal defense and personal injury litigation. He is currently in semiretirement from his law practice.

## Searing Courtroom Thriller

FLICKS, From Page 3

front. Bullock's other feature-film credits include "Two If By Sea," The Vanishing," "The Thing Called Love" and "Love Potion #9.

Samuel L. Jackson received Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominations as Best Supporting Actor and won a Best Supporting Actor Award from

the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for his role in "Pulp Fiction." His other recent credits include "The Great White Hype," "Die Hard With a Vengeance," "Fresh," "Kiss of Death" and "Losing Isaiah." His performance in Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever" earned him the first and only Best Supporting Performance Award ever given by the judges at the Cannes Film Festival and also won him the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor. Jackson also stars in the upcoming psychological thriller "The Long Kiss Goodnight," opposite Geena Davis for director Renny Harlin.

Director Joel Schumacher has become one of America's most vigorous, talented and successful filmmakers. In 1995, he brought moviegoers the biggest domestic box-office hit of the year, "Batman Forever." He will soon begin work on the highly anticipated fourth installment in the

See a Jackie Chan movie today!



## FOURTH WORLD COMICS

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## STATESMAN | **MONDAY, JULY 29, 1996**

## Atlanta Coverage Not "INCLUSIVE"

Dave

&

THE

**HITMAN** 

Inclusion is a key word when it comes to the Olympic spirit, although it is a difficult element for television coverage. For NBC, the solution to juggling all the summer games' numerous and varied venues has been simple: don't do it at all.

Too much coverage of a few select sports and athletes and not enough of the rest, have set sports columnists around the nation grumbling and griping about the first week of coverage in Atlanta. Though varied, the general theme of complaints have been the same; "lack of inclusion".

So far NBC has given viewers a steady diet of gymnastics, swimming and occasionally volleyball but has virtually ignored many events they consider to have a smaller following. In short, their philosophy has been: there are the "prime time" sports and to hell with the rest. NBC is, after all, only doing it's job trying to capture the broadest audience possible. Certain competitions are as a matter of fact more viewer friendly. Ask yourself which will have the larger following: beach volleyball or shuttlecock, swimming versus pistol shooting? The answers are simple. But there have been more questionable passovers. Among many overlooked events are boxing (in which there is a dominant U.S. contingent), team hand ball and table tennis. Less production possibilities? Maybe. But what about the Olympic spirit of inclusion? Couldn't they have simply intermittently flashed the progress of these competitions or their results? Instead NBC has kept us completely in the dark about these events.

And how much can we stand of the venues they do allow us to see? Yes we sat through enough hours of swimming and kayaking to get water logged ourselves. Every night there are short productions, set to emotional

music, reminding us of the graceful and valiant doings of the U.S. gymnastic team. Kerri Strug's final vault with battered ligaments was inspirational indeed, but it happened last week already. Now with track and field in full swing, Michael Johnson's gaudy gold shoes are being mentioned no less than a hundred times a night.

Sports writers are apt to complain but they are not the only one's unhappy. The tri-state area sports talk fluff pieces, concentrate on the events with bona fide U.S. medal contenders to keep the patriotic juices flowing. One ten minute montage of those same gymnasts and swimmers intercut with Ray Charles singing a jazzed up improvesation of America The Beautiful, culminating in Mr. "Georgia" Charles' passionately swaying image being superimposed on a background of Fourth of July

fireworks, had me teary eyed and



Dave Chow

show radio waves have been a buzz with grumpy sports fans. One disgruntled couch potato joked on air to 66WFAN.AM, "Now I know more about kayaking than some of those kayakers do."

The productions, on the one hand, however narrow, have been anything but lacking in quality. NBC has taken a page out of the MTV book with slick cuts and superimposed images underscored by soundtracks that bombard viewers with overwhelming emotional impact. Any first year NYU film student would be proud. You could see the well considered plan NBC is playing out and that is to go for the gut and heart strings. In addition to showing overblown bioptic

Mike Chamoff

standing erect with a hand over my

Some U.S athletes themselves have not helped the cause of being blindly patriotic and enthusiastic. This year audiences have gotten a sour dose of some grating personalities. Take Janet Evans, who was all smiles when she took four golds in Barcelona. Those pretty smiles turned to ugly words in Atlanta, when she couldn't accept her failure to win this time around. She was all sour grapes, when she suggested Michelle Smith, a competitor from Ireland who won three golds, had given a "suspicious performance" insinuating that she might have used performance enhancing drugs. Her teammate Amy

Van Dycken, who did medal (four golds), has been no less obnoxious and ungracious with her over zealous competitiveness and cocky talk before competitions.

Another major complaint about the NBC coverage has been that of commentators taking an "us versus them attitude" against U.S. opponents. Upon examination, this has not been really a problem. This year has been a stark contrast to the exceedingly offensive job done by NBC four years ago. In Barcelona the network cut away from live action events in progress, just to show any American live on a medal stand elsewhere. Despite some many very nicely done bio shorts on foreign athletes this year, some viewers have still been stung by subtle partisanship.

Forgetting we are a nation of immigrants, NBC is failing to realize overall American interests are everywhere. These interests should be "included".

Incidentally the sports events hard core fans have been really talking about recently have not been the centennial Olympic games, but old reruns. More and more people have been discovering the classic sports channel that has sprung up on channel 31in New York City. You can catch classic battles on any night, in any sport, boxing, tennis, baseball, ect. In somewhat refreshing contrast to the force fed coverage of the Olympics, the announcers of yesteryear seen here are dry and alarmingly emotionless. Perhaps if NBC hits you with another Michael Johnson shoe update, you can take a time out here and rediscover some of the greatest moments in U.S. sports history.

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