



THE STONY BROOK PRESS

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The University Community's Feature Paper

October 13, 1999

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What's New at SBU

SUNY at Stony Brook presents...

Top Girls

by Caryl Churchill

Directed by Beverly Longo

The Department of Theatre Arts at the State University of Stony Brook opens its season with *Top Girls*. A modern masterpiece, this play addresses the trade-offs that women have made to succeed in the workplace since the success of feminism in the 1970s. The inability to sustain long-lasting friendships, the frustrations with a dissatisfied job, and most important, the seeming lack of time for both building a career and nurturing a family; these are all concerns that face both women and men in our society. By raising questions about these issues, Caryl Churchill, one of Britain's most acclaimed playwrights, begins to answer them.

Top Girls opens on Thursday, October 14 in Theatre Two at the Staller Center for the Arts. The performances are scheduled for Thursday, October 14 through Saturday, October 16 at 8 p.m., Sunday, October 17 at 2p.m., Thursday, October 21 through Saturday, and October 23 at 8 p.m., Sunday, October 24 at 2p.m.

Tickets are \$10/general admission; \$8 faculty/staff; and \$6/students and seniors. Tickets are available through the Staller Box Office or at 632-ARTS. For further information or to arrange for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Department of Theatre Arts at 632-7300.

Baroque Sundays at Three

On Sunday, October 17 at 3:00 p.m., *Baroque Sundays at Three* opens the season in the Recital Hall of the Staller Center for the Arts with the *Duo Marchand*, who will present an exciting and unusual program of Renaissance and Baroque vocal and instrumental music for voice, lute and Baroque harp. This was a time in Europe when beautiful music was performed in the most intimate settings: royal chambers and richly appointed music rooms, with one singer and one instrumentalist telling a love story or portraying vivid emotions. Please join us for this "salon" concert. Featured will be vocal music by the great composers from England, Italy, and Germany. Instrumental elegies and dances will round out this exquisite jewel-like program.

The *Duo Marchand* consists of soprano and harpist, Marcia Young, and lutenist Andy Rutherford. Montana-born Marcia Young performs and records with a number of ensembles in the New York area including Pomerium, Musica Sacra, and the New York Virtuoso Singers. The early harp, a recent enthusiasm, has led Ms. Young to new explorations in medieval and early Baroque song, as well as transcriptions of renaissance lute, bandora and cittern music.

Andy Rutherford, a native New Yorker, began studying the lute in connection with his interest in 17th century art, especially the works of Caravaggio and Vermeer. He performs regularly with Chacona, Parthenia, Polyhymnia, and other early-music groups. Mr. Rutherford also has an international reputation as a builder of lute-family instruments and has made the instruments he will be playing at the concert. As always, on the *Baroque Sundays at Three* series, admission is free with a small good will offering requested to offset concert expenses and promote early music at Stony Brook. For more information, call the Music department at 632-7330.

COMPUTER MUSIC CONCERT

The Computer Music Studio at the State University of New York invites you to experience a fascinating sound world on Sunday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook. Admission is free. Donations at the door.

What happens when the most talented performers and the most provocative composers team up through technology? Special guest composer and phenomenal electrical guitarist Mikito Oki performs his dizzying, dazzling *Sparks* and improvises along with the computer in his *TBA*. West Coast composer and experimentalist Alvin Lucier is represented by the strangely seductive and meditative *Music for Piano with Slow Seep Pure Ware Oscillators*. Our own Daniel Burly spins and mutilates his own voice in a high-tech and humorous cautionary tale of what happens to a local *Ducky*. Michael Pound's *Release* combines sensuous sound and brilliant percussion performance. You will also be treated to Dennis Miller's stunning *Three Movements for Video Tape* and Mark Aiger's appropriately titled *Shatter*. As always, there will be whimsical commentary on the music and the technology.

A reception will follow the concert and audience members are invited to meet the composers and performers. This is a "user-friendly" production. Funding from Meet the Composer, Inc. is provided with support from the New York State Council on the Arts, ASCAP, Virgil Thomson Foundation, The Eleanor Naylor Dana Charitable Trust, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, call the Music department at 632-7330.

"Women Composers Concert"

Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players

The Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players presents their season premiere concert at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 27th, with a concert of women composers in the Recital Hall of the Staller Center for the Arts. This concert includes recent works by Melinda Wagner, Laura Kaminsky, Linda Bouchard, Libby Larsen, Chen Yi, Daria Semegen, and a world premiere of a work by Sheila Silver. Admission is free.

The New York Times praised the Contemporary Chamber Players as "a remarkably well-trained small army of musicians... of consistent accomplishment... offering finely polished renderings of new works". The ensemble will also be performing the women composers concert in New York City on Friday, October 29th, 8:00 p.m. at Christ and St. Stephen's Church, 122 W. 69th Street. Admission is free.

For more information about either of these concerts, call the Music Department at 632-7330.

The Song Remains the Same: The State Of Affairs in the English Department

By Jill Baron

The English Department at Stony Brook has experienced a lot of turmoil in the past year. The protests that took place last semester objecting to the situation over the hiring of Professor Roy have continued this semester, and have taken on new issues and further complications as well.

The situation is partly traceable to an ideological divide that has existed in the Department, and in many other English departments, for years. There are some, often called traditionalists, who stress the importance of teaching and understanding the standard classics, or the "dead white males," as they are also known. Others, who can be called multiculturalists, favor stressing literature from other cultures and incorporating a "diversity" perspective into the teaching of English. This ideological divide is nothing new, but seems to be the breeding ground for a lot of the commotion that has taken place in the Department.

The trouble started last year, when Lee Edelman was brought in from Tufts University to head the English Department. In recent years the department had been losing faculty and, in essence, its vision. Many thought that Edelman, who specialized in "queer theory", would breathe some new life into the department and basically reshape it. However, after coming to Stony Brook in the Fall of 1998, he abruptly resigned in the Spring and returned to Tufts. His reasons for resigning have been sources of contention. Edelman's supporters have claimed that he left because the other "faction" of the department (i.e., the traditionalists), were openly hostile toward him and made the working environment unprofessional. The other faction, however, denies any hostility and claims that Edelman never really cared about reshaping the department and only used his position at Stony Brook to gain leverage at Tufts, where he returned after resigning. According to an English faculty member who identifies himself as a traditionalist, and asked that his name not be used, this claim is based on information that Edelman was already in negotiations with Tufts in December of '98 (three months after coming to Stony Brook) for a top position there. The faculty member contends that since Edelman was already in negotiations by then, he must have decided to leave by October, one month after he came to Stony Brook. If he had made up his mind to leave after a month, he obviously never cared about "reshaping the department."

Despite all this, the real source of conflict is the hiring of Professor Modhumita Roy, a former Stony Brook graduate student. Last spring, before

Edelman made known his plans to resign, he began the process of hiring new faculty. After five other applicants had turned a position down, Edelman offered the position to Roy, also of Tufts University. She accepted the position and, according to a letter to President Kenny drafted by graduate students (see letter below), negotiations reached an "advanced stage." However, when Edelman announced his resignation soon after, many members of the department made known their disagreement with Edelman's offer to Roy, contending that someone who was leaving the department

shouldn't be conducting hiring, and furthermore, since her hiring had not gone beyond negotiations with Edelman, it was never even formalized. In response, President Kenny mandated that Professor Roy not be hired

and implemented a "hiring freeze," so that no new faculty could be hired until a new department head was found. Last semester, many of the graduate students in English and other departments staged protests and circulated petitions demanding that President Kenny rehire Roy and put an end to the freeze.

And that brings us to this semester. Professor Roy was not hired and has remained at Tufts. However, another source of conflict has come to light. Last semester, a memo containing information about Professor Roy's GPA when she was a student at Stony Brook, along with other alleged confidential information, was created in the English department and somehow circulated around the Africana Studies Department. Paul Dolan, a member of the English faculty, admitted to creating the memo but contends that he only intended for it to be shown to a few select people, and whoever circulated it did so without his knowledge or consent. The "unknown party" that circulated the memo has not been revealed. The aforementioned graduate students became very irate when Dolan admitted to creating the memo,

and this semester sent a letter to President Kenny demanding a formal apology on behalf of the University to Professor Roy, and that some sort of disciplinary action be taken against Dolan. "Clearly, it was abuse that confidential grades were released and [this] reflects the fact that a small minority went to the level of showing meanness and viciousness and is...unethical. This kind of treatment makes Stony Brook look bad and shows the attitude of this small faction to use any trick to maintain power over the Department...English has gone down the drain at

Stony Brook," said David Anshen, a graduate student in Comparative Literature. President Kenny has not yet formally responded to the letter.

Whether or not these "issues" will be addressed by President Kenny remains to be seen. A search committee to find a new department head has been formed and will be convening soon to begin their search. Heading the committee is Professor Stephen Spector of the English Department. Also on the committee are

Professors Martinez-Pizzaro, Huffman, Kaplan, Dolan, Livingston, and graduate student Bob Conklin. This committee, unlike the one that chose Lee Edelman, consists solely of members of the English Department. According to the anonymous faculty member, the committee that found Edelman consisted primarily of members from other departments, and the English Department voted to have the committee consist only of members of their own department this time. "One thing Edelman destroyed," said the faculty member, "was a plan by the Dean to add nine faculty members over three years. The Dean gave him nine appointments, and [by resigning] he undercut that plan." As a result, he said, the committee is unsure what promises can be made to the new chair. Regardless, the committee expects that the search will be completed relatively quickly and a new chair should be appointed by September of 2000. Once the new department chair is in place, the hiring of new faculty can resume. Then the department, which used to be one of the top-ranked English Departments in the country, should be able to begin rebuilding itself.



Graduate students protesting during graduation.
Photo by Joanna Wegielnik

September 21, 1999

An Open Letter to President Kenny

Dear President Kenny,

On the occasion of the memorial gathering in honor of the late Michael Sprinker, recent recipient of both the President's and the Chancellor's awards for excellence in teaching, we would like to reaffirm the integrity and principles that Michael stood for throughout his academic career. Thus we formally request that you issue a public response to the abuses and irregularities surrounding the non-hiring of Professor Modhumita Roy of the Tufts University English Department. The decision to terminate the hiring process took place after a verbal offer was made, and negotiations had proceeded to "an advanced stage." While many of us believe that this situation was mishandled in several ways, in this letter we will focus on the incident which most severely undermines the academic reputation of our university.

As you are no doubt aware, an unsigned flyer was circulated attacking Professor Roy's academic credentials, which included the release of her grades while she was a student attending Stony Brook. This clearly reflects a violation of the confidentiality of students' grades and a level of mean-spiritedness that is both unprofessional and morally repugnant. Moreover, it damages the fine reputation of the Humanities at Stony Brook. This event has been widely reported in nationally respected journals including *Lingua Franca* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. We feel that this kind of behavior cannot be tolerated or condoned. Therefore, we ask you: first, to take a personal and professional stand repudiating any circulation of students' confidential records without the expressed approval of the student involved. Second, since a member of the English Department faculty has publicly taken credit for this act, we demand an investigation and appropriate sanctions should it turn out that he or any other faculty has taken part in this shameful and potentially libelous act. Lastly, we feel that a public apology should be issued on behalf of the university to Professor Roy for this action.

THIS MEAL PLAN SUCKS!

With about a third of the semester passed, weekly activities have started to become routine. One of these routines is the Sunday evening rush to unload residence points by those students in the vise-like clutches of the meal plan.

If one were to observe purchasing patterns through a given week, they would notice that come Sunday, students begin buying food in quantity. It looks as if they are bracing themselves for an imminent natural disaster. But Hurricane Floyd has come and gone and the Y2K bug won't hit for months. The reason for their strange behavior is the new meal plan.

Students with a weekly balance above what is deemed appropriate must now flock weekly to the residence halls in a display very similar to what took place at the end of last year. When faced with the prospect of losing money if they don't spend it, students have to buy mass amounts of food that they don't want.

Combine this with price mark-ups, food service personnel who make ordering a sandwich a monumental task, and a \$125 "activation fee," and what we have is a collection of students who are displeased with the meal plan, yet again.

In the rest of this country, if someone goes into a restaurant for a meal and

finds that the prices are high, the service is slow, the order is screwed up, and the food tastes bad, that person will not be returning to the restaurant. They will go find a competitor who is doing the job right.

Campus dining halls are run like stores or restaurants in every respect but one: Chartwells is the only game in town. This goes against one of the fundamental tenets of capitalism, the idea of competition. Students are required to spend money at the dining halls whether or not they are satisfied with the service (the majority of resident halls on campus require that students buy a meal plan in order to live there). Money not spent will be forfeited either to Chartwells or to an as-of-yet unspecified, meal-plan related use. With no competition, and the guarantee that at least some of students money will land in their coffers, what incentive does Chartwells have to provide a service that pleases the student body?

The question is then raised: is student satisfaction important, and if so, is it important enough to make some changes in the meal plan? There have been plenty of words exchanged on the topic of potential improvements. Whether these words will manifest into action remains to be seen.

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1998 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM AWARDS

- FIRST PLACE IN REPORTING
- FIRST PLACE IN HELLRAISING
- BEST SENSE OF HUMOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

As you have heard, the 'Sensation' exhibit displayed at the Brooklyn Museum has run into problems and a number of vocal protests have been made against it, from the Mayor on down. Many of these protests are met with familiar assertions of the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of expression. Others assert the need for artistic expression. But, I assert the need for more sensitivity to others. There is something called taste and apparently the defenders of this scandal lack it. As a Christian, I am offended and insulted by the spreading of feces over a picture of one of the holiest figures in the Christian religion. I believe that any person of any other religion, whether they be Jewish Moslem or Hindu would also deeply resent such treatment of the ones they consider holy. Underlying this piece of "art" is a strong show of disrespect and complete lack of sensitivity both by the artist and his proponents. It is just this kind of "free expression" that makes this "art" not art.

—anonymous

Ode To Queen Shirley

By Gary Setzer

The Queen of Stony Brook has announced:

Soon the peasants will be trounced,

The million dollar fountain will stand in repose,

Now that the Bio library has been closed.

The students? just an inconvenience you see,

Why, without them we could be so happy,

The royal administrators and myself
Pigging out on all this wealth.

So one more time let's raise those fees

All you peasants down on your knees!!

C o v e r p h o t o s b y J o a n n a W e g i e l n i k

Campus Events

From the Community of Students:

Senior Undergraduate Artists
Michael Christie, Kevin Garcia
and Michelle Kendall at the
SUNY Stony Brook Union Art Gallery

A Trilogy comprised of the work of
three SUNY undergraduate student
artists will be displayed in the
Stony Brook Union Art Gallery
from October 19 to unique
styles and themes.

There will be a reception for the
artists on Friday, October 22,
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

The Art Gallery is located in the
Stony Brook Union, second floor,
SUNY at Stony Brook.

*Eugene Weidman Wellness
Center Presents:*

"WELLNESS IS FUN!"

A Humorous Approach to
Wellness Presented by
Don Ardell, Ph.D.

Come and learn about the nature
of wellness through a slide pre-
sentation and a 12 Step program
for "well" people.

October 20
8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
SAC Auditorium

Sponsored by the
Wellness Planning Committee

Pediatric Toy Drive

Please donate toys to the Pediatric
Ward at Stony Brook Hospital. Toys
can be dropped off at Roosevelt
Quad, Keller College from
October 14 through October 21.
Any questions? Further details? Go
to <http://people.go-play.com/ihateusb>
or email IhateUSB@aol.com

What's New at NYPIRG

By Hilary Vidair

This year marks the New York Public Interest Research Group's (NYPIRG) 25th Anniversary. NYPIRG purpose is to serve as "New York State's largest consumer, environmental, and government reform organization." They are "a nonpartisan, not-for-profit group established to effect political reforms."

Stony Brook's chapter of NYPIRG, directed by Todd Stebbins, has many plans for this semester. On September 29, the organization had a meeting to discuss projects to benefit both the students and the community.

There are six different projects, each directed by a NYPIRG intern. The projects are as follows: Higher Education (Jen LoGerfo), Homeless Empowerment (Rory McEnvoy), Consumer Action (Christina Mueller), End Sweatshops (George Koutsouvanous), Student Vote 2000 (Liz Kelly), and Access to Justice (David Rodgers).

The Higher Education project involves maintaining affordable tuition, preventing further TAP cuts, and organizing hundreds of students to rally in Albany.

Last year, NYPIRG's Homeless Outreach Project gathered 30,000 pounds of canned and dried food here on campus. The Homeless Empowerment project aims at continuing programs such as this one. They also plan on taking more active roles like volunteering in soup kitchens.

The Consumer Action project hopes to obtain better standards of consumer safety, includ-

ing a toy safety project. This project also promises to organize a student book exchange that helps students buy and sell books to each other at reasonable prices. In addition, a Small Claims Court Action Center, run by student counselors, will teach others about the inner workings of the court system as well as provide procedural advice.

The End Sweatshops campaign deals with corporations such as Nike, Gap, Wal-mart, and Liz Claiborne, who abuse child labor laws by paying children far below minimum wage and forcing them to work more than the legal maximum hours. There are hundreds of sweatshops in places like California, Asia, New York City, and even here in Suffolk. NYPIRG hopes to rally against these corporations in December. This is the first semester that NYPIRG will organize such a program.

The goal of Student Vote 2000 is to encourage more students to utilize their right to vote, as well as to register more student voters. "We have the ability as students to do so much...in a way that we don't get to do very often," Kelly stated. "As students, we have a responsibility to vote."

Finally, the Access to Justice program focuses on protecting New Yorkers from potentially harmful legislation. This group will lobby, as well as engage in a letter writing campaign.

"This really is a year where a legacy will be established," said Chris Meyer, the Executive Director of NYPIRG.

To get involved in one of the projects mentioned above, or to inquire about NYPIRG's Fall Conference (scheduled for October 22 at Syracuse University), call Stebbins at 216-6457.

The Student Senate

By Tim Connors

The Student Senate has held two meetings so far this semester. The first one was informal, and consisted of socialization activities. The second was formal, but rather short. Neither was too exciting, but here are the highlights.

The Student Senate is like any other group of people, some aesthetically pleasing, and some who smell like they don't know how to wipe their asses. Chairman Calvin Coleman, who ran the meetings quickly, made a point of saying that his measurement of the Senate's success will be its accomplishments.

Dave Klein presented two motions about concerts at Stony Brook. The first was to have the Student Activities Board concert chairman John Sulit appear before the senate and report on his progress every two weeks. The second motion was to form a committee to examine why there has been a lack of concerts at Stony Brook over the last several years. Both motions passed, and Calvin Coleman promised to have John Sulit at the next senate meeting. Apparently John Sulit's idea of a rock concert is to have an eighties cover band.

The second issue touched upon in the Senate was mistakes in last year's budget that left some clubs without funding this year. A volunteer committee will form and report back to the Senate in two weeks with information concerning remedies for this oversight.

Since we're talking about the budget, a former Polity officer gave me a tip that the number of students is underestimated in forming the budget, and that the additional funds go into a discretionary fund. That's just a rumor.

Several Senators expressed concern about the closing of the Student Activities Center lobby for events sponsored by the Administration. The logic behind the objections to the closing is that the build-

ing is meant for the students, and there are other rooms on campus that could be used for banquets. The meal plan picks up the tab for these lavish catered affairs. The Senate did not decide on a course of action; instead the schedule of events will be reviewed and a spectacle will be made at an inappropriate time.

The Executive Council met and the big news is that Beanie Man is coming to Stony Brook! This concert will only cost \$21,000, which is a real bargain for a one hit wonder few people have heard of. Dr. Preston's office is donating five grand towards the event. The SPA is looking for a raise in their starting salary and bonus for four employees of the month.

Well that covers the first real Senate meeting. Now about the informal meeting that was supposed to allow Senators to get to know one another. There were two games run by the Student Activity Center. The first involved telling your most exciting experience and the second involved walking on paper plates to study group behavior.

Some of the life experiences were interesting, such as the EMT who dealt with two cardiac arrests. Most of the stories were not so forth coming, like the girl who went to Las Vegas for her twenty-first birthday and only gambled and never had a drink. One Senator later informed me that his most exciting experience was a circle jerk while he was in the Navy.

Dave Klein suggested I cover the Senate from the inside so I went to a Commuter Student Association meeting and got elected to the senate. This was very easy. All I had to do was talk for thirty seconds and I was in. If you're a commuter and you want to be a Senator (and you know how to wipe your ass), then show up at a CSA meeting on Wednesday at 12:40 in SAC room 114 and nominate yourself. CSA still needs about twenty more Senators.

A Dead Rainforest Near You

By Angelos Hannides

The Incorporated Village of Greenport has decided they want a Boardwalk. All right. It would take them three phases. The first phase would cost \$1.5 million. They want to use rainforest hardwood, and specifically brazilian ipà; all 35,000 board feet of it. Problem: for every 10 board feet of Fine Export Quality Brazilian ipà, a whole acre of rainforest has to be wasted. Why? Going in the area, picking out the trees you want and transporting them out by air is not exactly the way that industry works. It is all done by land. Bulldozers are brought in, roads are built, "useful" trees are cut and processed; the "accidental" fatalities are "discarded." In the end, for every tree actually targeted, another thirteen are wasted. Besides, 80% of the logging in Brazil is illegal, which means these loggers get really pitiful money for the wood they sell, therefore they have to produce quantity. How do they manage to export it, then? The seven families which control exports and have the appropriate documentation to do so buy this illegally-logged hardwood for despicably low prices and export it with all legality.

So, why then not use domestic hardwood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council? Because it is more expensive. By how much? 11 thousand (0.7% of the total cost). Even the Board of Trustees realized how ridiculous this is, and decided to go with the recommendation of Rainforest Relief, a non-governmental organization, and buy certified hardwood instead. That was a year ago. At the end of September, the Mayor announced that the

supplier of the project, Timber Holdings, could not find certified lumber. Instead of changing the supplier, the Board heeded the Mayor's suggestion and changed the lumber back to rainforest hardwood. The Mayor apparently timed this to be too close to the annual Maritime Festival, thinking that nobody would bother to follow up on it, and nobody would bother. Wrong. By a long shot. Grassroots organizations live for this stuff.

On Sunday, September 26th, members of Rainforest Relief and the SUNY at Stony Brook Chapter of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC, pronounced "seek") busted the party. Flyers were passed around, banners were put up on buildings, and people were talked to. They discovered that vast majority of Greenport citizens did not agree with it. That's pretty boring. Thank goodness for the minority which spiced up the day with absurd arguments, and funny little dances with a foaming mouth on the sidewalk. One person, who claimed to be a professor, quoted the comedy show South Park, which taught him what

the rainforest really is and why it should not be spared (this guy was serious about it; scary!).

Enthusiasm reached its climax when it was discovered that the lady selling stuff in front of the building on which the banner was hung (without the permission of the owner) was a member of the Board. Along with another Board member, who leaped out of nowhere, the pair defended their territory by drooling



incessantly on the pavement and chanting in a strange Melanesian dialect. The event ended in the evening, after a policeman claimed that an activist was disrupting the public with his loud proclamation of the event's purpose. The agent of law had to repeat himself because the Budweiser lady next door was yelling, "I smell some beer over here," and passing out frothy ones to the visitors heading towards their cars. In the end, no arrests were made (thankfully), though the point was. It is expected that the Village might reconsider at least for the second and third phase of the project (perhaps for the first one too; who knows?) to use certified lumber. If not, get in touch if you are ready for a daytrip out east: ahannide@ic.sunysb.edu.

Bone Marrow Transplantation For Muscular Dystrophy

By Theodore Smirilis

As unexpected testimony to the versatility of the body's cells, researchers have found that they can make bone marrow cells turn into muscle cells, causing mice with muscular dystrophy to produce correctly working muscle cells. The experiment suggests that a form of bone marrow transplant could, in principle, treat patients with a variety of diseases. The immediate relevance of the new result is for muscular dystrophy, a set of diseases said by the Muscular Dystrophy Association to affect 250,000 Americans.

Muscular dystrophy is the name of a group of chronic hereditary disorders, characterized by progressive degeneration and malfunction of voluntary muscles. The most common and severe type is Duchene muscular dystrophy. It typically occurs in boys between the ages of three and six. In this type, the disease progresses rapidly, and few survive their early 20's. Some other forms include limb girdle, Becker, facioscapulohumeral, and myotonic. Muscular dystrophy is characterized by the production of a genetically defective protein called dystrophin.

Information in the cells is transduced from DNA to RNA to protein. As information is passed from DNA to RNA it first gets copied to a precursor molecule called pre-mRNA. The pre-mRNA molecule subsequently gets processed to remove introns (junk DNA) in order to be converted into the mature mRNA. The dystrophin gene however is loaded with introns and contains over 100 of these sites. These introns must be cut out precisely. If the excision process is off by one nucleotide, then the entire reading frame is off, which leads to the pro-

duction of the defective protein.

In order for a treatment to be effective against muscular dystrophy, genes with the capacity of producing the correct form of dystrophin must be introduced in the cells. Gene therapies in the past have been limited by problems of getting altered genes or cells to the right site in the body. However, as this study suggests, stem cells (bone marrow) may provide better means for a gene shuttle. Stem cells are immature (un-differentiated) cells that have the unique capacity to give rise to a population of mature, functioning cells. Hematopoietic stem cells traveling in the blood stream communicate with organs and tissues in the body, and are able to sense the need for replenishment of cells in organs and tissues. They also provide the cells necessary for repair. This is exactly the method the researchers used to deliver the genes to the appropriate sites in the body. Using stem cells derived from the bone marrow, they were able to carry therapeutic genes back to sites of disease and remodel genetically defective organs and tissues, allowing them to permanently carry the corrected gene.

The researchers first irradiated mdx female mice (an animal model of Duchenes muscular dystrophy) to eliminate any blood-related, or hematopoietic, stem cells, which are normally found in bone marrow. The scientists then injected

dystrophin-positive stem cells isolated from the bone marrow or muscle tissue of male mice into the female mice. By 12 weeks after injection, as many as 10% of the muscle fibers in mdx mice injected with immature bone marrow cells produced dystrophin.

If the the excision process is off by one nucleotide ... leads to the production of the defective protein

Similarly, mdx mice injected with immature muscle cells produce dystrophin in up to 4% of their muscle fibers. The most important conclusion of the studies is that bone marrow cells appear to provide a means for the repair of muscle. The levels of dystrophin achieved in this study were

insufficient to cure muscular dystrophy in the mice; however it is believed that the procedures used could be optimized to result in therapeutic levels of dystrophin in humans. In addition, these findings hint that adults may harbor stem cells from a variety of organs and tissues that might be manipulated to heal genetic defects in organs and tissues throughout the body.

As many details in these complex experiments have to be worked out, there are however two opposing views for the immediate treatment of the disease. The first view supports that the ideal treatment suggested by the experiments, would be to take a sample of the patient's own muscle cell, isolate muscle stem cells and treat them outside the body with the correct version of dystrophin.

Of Rudy and Doody:

Amid legal and religious rhetoric, opponents in art controversy exchange fierce words

By Michael Yeh

Waving signs denouncing censorship and depicting Mayor Rudy Giuliani as a Nazi officer, more than a thousand protesters gathered in front of the Brooklyn Museum of Art on the eve of the unveiling of its controversial exhibit, "Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection."

The demonstration, organized by the New York Civil Liberties Union and local artist groups, featured prominent guest speakers including children's author Judy Blume, playwright Wendy Wasserstein, and actress Susan Sarandon. But the crowd, which filled the area in front of the main entrance and spilled onto the right lane of adjacent Eastern Parkway, grew so large that many people could not hear the speeches at all.

Protesters blasted the mayor's decision to cut off funding to the museum and his threat to evict its board from the city-owned building. Calling the artwork "discriminatory" and "anti-Catholic," Giuliani allegedly took action in response to demands by William Donohue of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, an ultra-conservative group with no official ties to the Catholic Church.

The funding cut, which began this month, would take away almost \$7 million a year in operating expenses, or about a third of the museum's total budget.

"Giuliani continues to create frightening precedents in the area of freedom of speech," said protester Elise Engler. Since his inauguration in 1994, Giuliani's administration has faced 21 lawsuits for First Amendment violations, and lost in 18 of 20 cases, with no decision in two cases.

Brooklyn resident Susan Banta used this event as an opportunity to teach her children the importance of free expression. "It's important for them to learn that if you believe strongly in something, they should stand up for it," she said, pointing to her eight year-old son Arlo and six year-old daughter Tess.

"The mayor has no right to take away our museum," Arlo said, holding up a large cardboard sign.

"My children benefit directly from the presence of the museum," Banta said. "I'm outraged that the mayor thinks he has the power to single-handedly close the museum."

But much the drama occurred behind the stage, where the police had fenced off an area for seven counterdemonstrators. Some of them taunted the supporters of the exhibit, which sparked off several heated arguments.

"Shut up, Jews, Christ killers!" shouted a man wearing a large metal cross on a gold chain.

"Christ Killer Jews! Holocaust survivors!" He

pointed to a long-haired man, Aron Ray, who was explaining his support for the exhibit to another opponent. "Get out of here, you pig! You Jewish pig!"

"Don't call me a Jewish pig," Ray said calmly. "We're not gonna let Kristalnacht happen again."

Biting his lip, the man stretched his right arm and waved an erect middle finger in front of Ray's face.

"This is art!" he yelled.

Others were not as belligerent, although they were also fuming with anger. "I, as a taxpayer, do not want to fund it," said Blanche Ciccone, who described Giuliani as a "gutsy mayor" for taking on this issue. "I'm an artist. I oppose that crap."

Stuart A. Balberg, a member of the community school board in neighboring Crown Heights, was worried that the exhibit would send "immoral messages" to children. "Children come to the museum. School groups come to this museum. Should they be exposed to this pornography?"

Although opponents of the exhibit spoke fervently against the artists, none of them had seen the artwork. In her statement, Judy Blume

also challenged the mayor on this point. "Like most censors, he hasn't actually seen what he has so quickly denounced," she said.

Waving a red flag and proclaiming her love for God, Desiree Bernstein claimed that unless our society shuns "trash art" and turns to religion, we would be punished with earthquakes, storms, and violent crime.

"We are a Judeo-Christian nation, and I love that fact," she said. "This is one of our holy days, and I have to come out to defend our Lord. Where's the Pope? Why isn't the Pope here?"

Her words attracted the attention of Valerie Haskins, an African-American woman who pointed out that elephant dung used in Chris Ofili's now infamous painting of the Virgin Mary is a revered symbol in his culture.

"Should I go to the bathroom here and paste it all over?" Bernstein said. "This is art?"

A small crowd had gathered to watch, and several television crews as well as people with camcorders

made a beeline to the duo.

"Giuliani talks about the anal stage," replied Haskins. "Your priest is in an anal stage."

She said that she was tired of looking at pictures of a white Virgin Mary and that she welcomed a painting of a black Virgin. Bernstein grabbed a long, polished animal horn from a purple velvet bag, allowing the bag to drop onto the pavement. She waved the horn high in the air, and shouted, "Zulu! Zulu, baby!" The stunned audience was silent

for a moment, then broke out in raucous laughter. "Crazy sista," someone muttered. Undeterred, Bernstein jumped up and down, in rhythm to her chants. "Zuuulu!" She picked up the flag, and sang, "God is good, God is good."

Meanwhile, members of the museum were offered a special preview of the exhibit.

"It was quite beautiful, actually," said Manny Grinfeld, referring Ofili's painting. His companion, Jon Linder, saw nothing unusual in this particular exhibit.

"We've had art like this in SoHo for decades," he said. "[Giuliani] has got to get out more often."

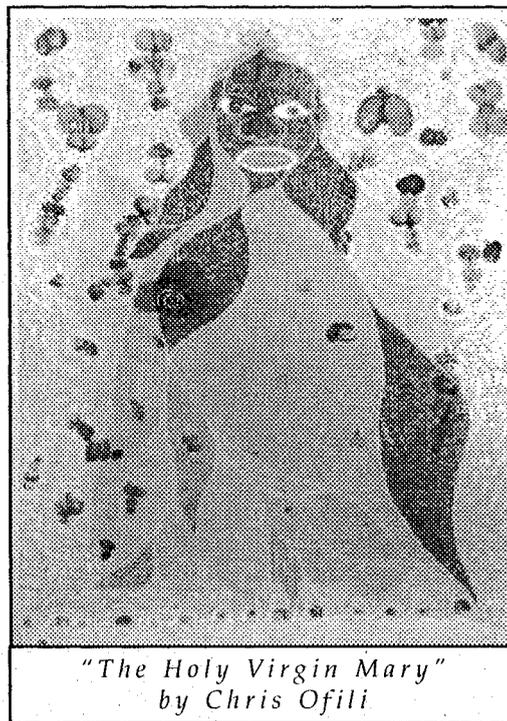
"I can't imagine what the fuss was about," said Valerie Moolman, who called the piece "totally inoffensive" and beautiful. "It had nothing to do with religion."

Just try explaining that to the mayor, who has recently stepped up his attacks on the exhibit by accusing Christie's auction house of conspiring with Charles Saatchi, the owner of the collection, to jack up the value of the art through the museum's presentation.

Represented by Floyd Abrams, a renowned First Amendment attorney who was a co-counsel to the New York Times in the Pentagon Papers case, the museum's management has vowed to fight back by launching a lawsuit against the city. Ironically, Giuliani's corporation counsel Michael Hess, who played a significant role in this issue, also participated in the same case as a co-counsel for the U.S. military.

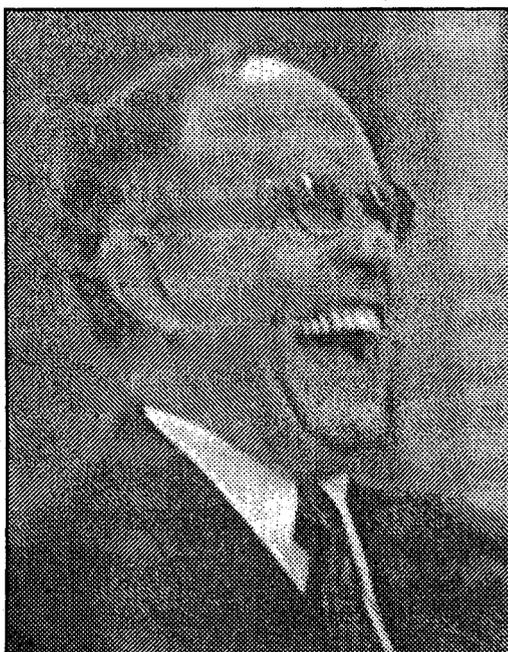
But with polls showing most New Yorkers in favor of the museum's right to show the exhibit, some people like Brooklyn State Assemblyman N. Nick Perry see the mayor as a political opportunist eager to curry favor from conservatives.

"I didn't hear so much from him when Amadou Diallo was shot," Perry said. "He's going too far in attacking our rights. This time, he picked the wrong crowd."



"The Holy Virgin Mary" by Chris Ofili

"Giuliani continues to create frightening precedents in the area of freedom of speech."



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani courtesy of the New York Times

"I Disagree Completely With What You Paint, But..."

By F.L. Livingston

I sincerely hope that Voltaire, famous champion of free speech, would not cringe in horror if he could see my awkward paraphrasing of his immortal words. I could not resist. His beliefs apply so aptly to my feelings about the war between the city government and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The irreverent art show there called "Sensation" bears criticism — in fact, it seems to invite it — but it does not call for suppression any more than any other controversial display of art.

I totally understand how Mayor Giuliani feels about the show. It's disgusting. Especially the painting of the Virgin Mary splattered with elephant dung! It is an affront to Catholics — and, for that matter, anyone who reveres religious tradition. And, besides, as I said, I think it's just plain disgusting.

But I do not believe that it warrants his threatening to deny funds to the museum or trying to have them evicted from their building.

Please don't get me wrong. I do not object to the mayor's speaking out against the display, particularly since so many of the city's residents are likely to find it offensive. It would be a sad commentary on human relations in our society if a prominent mayor did not show some sensitivity to the feelings of his constituents. And if he objects personally and wants to give vent to that, then why not? It takes character for someone to stand up and express a controversial opinion, and I am all for character, especially in our elected officials. Then again, perhaps, as some suggest, he is doing this only in an effort to retain "the Catholic vote," but is it any great harm if our public servants are aware that they depend on the approval of the people in order to keep their positions? None of this is inherently wrong.

Of course, not everybody shares this negative opinion of the painting. The director of the museum points out that dung is a symbol of "regeneration" in some African cultures and suggests that we interpret the work with that in mind even though it is part of a collection of pieces by young British artists. The painting's creator, himself, explains that he feels that many pictures of the Virgin are "sexually charged" and insists that this is merely his "hip-hop version" of that phenomenon. Neither of them see it as an insult at all.

Perhaps Mayor Giuliani has trouble applying

these concepts to this painting. (I know I do.) Or maybe he feels that the average person in our society has too negative an attitude toward manure to ever see it in a positive light, no matter how it is intended. And he has a right to express his viewpoint. A right to his freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech — there's the issue. To legally penalize the museum unless they remove this particular art show would be a direct assault on that liberty. To criticize the display is one thing. To demand an explanation is another. To discourage people from attending the show is still another. But for the government to formally punish the museum for refusing to bend to the mayor's will is outright censorship — and bullying — and is completely unacceptable in a free society.

Flashback: I am a college senior dating a foreigner from a totalitarian nation. He loves the sense of liberty that he experiences in America. He especially revels in the joys of free speech. Perhaps too much. He is shocked when someone here so much as gets angry at something he says. And sometimes just as astounded when that anger does not lead to his being arrested or confronted by somebody's father. It takes a while for him to learn to determine the fine line between offending someone and being penalized for the offense. Since he is accustomed to a dictatorial environment, it is difficult, at first, for him to grasp the idea that anger does not necessarily translate into prosecution or other serious punishments.

This should not be difficult for an American mayor. Especially not one in as sophisticated a city as New York, culture capital of the country, if not the world — a place quite used to encompassing whole new and different movements in art, literature, etc., let alone one art show.

Plus, Mayor Giuliani should realize that freedom of speech is one of our most precious liberties. It is

an integral part of all our other basic freedoms. "Freedom of the press" and "freedom of petition" are variations thereof. "Freedom of assembly" — the right to gather with any group we so desire — would mean little if we could not say what we wanted when we got there. (What would be the point? Just to sit and look at each other or talk about the weather?)

And "freedom of religion". What kind of religious liberty would we have if we did not have freedom of speech, as well? Imagine if the government could tell us what prayers to say or what words to use in our prayers, or what religious symbols we could or could not display in our homes and places of worship. Yes, some-

times the use of free speech may thwart religious tradition, but it is largely that freedom of speech that protects our free expression of faith. We cannot risk that.

The taxpayers may not wish to pay for such a shocking presentation of art, as the mayor and other officials point out. At least, not if they believe that that's all they're doing. But if they think of these funds as supporting one of our most precious liberties, then I think that there would be a much different reaction.

I realize that there are limits to free speech. I am a person who contends that the use of words or symbols that incite people to riot or to persecute is unconscionable and should not be tolerated. I do not believe for a minute that we should dare to risk the lives and well-being of thousands just because there are one or two who cannot control their mouths. But "Sensations" does not seem to me to reach those proportions, and according to the artist, it certainly was not intended that way.

So — I hope Voltaire would forgive me if he knew that I was about to try to paraphrase his words once again. (After all, that's my "freedom of speech," is it not?) "I disagree completely with the showing of this painting, but I strongly defend the museum's right to show it." (No, I would not "defend to the death" their right to show it — nor the artist's right to paint it — but — well — you get the idea.) We must not sacrifice a cherished liberty because somebody doesn't like something.

...for the government to formally punish the museum for refusing to bend to the mayor's will is outright censorship...

Giuliani's Pro-Censorship Views Need Balance on Sunday

FAIR ACTION ALERT

When New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appeared on three national television shows attacking the Brooklyn Museum and its current art exhibit, "Sensation," none of the shows saw fit to include an advocate of civil liberties or artistic freedom. Giuliani appeared unopposed on NBC's Meet the Press, ABC's This Week with Sam and Cokie, and Fox News Sunday (all 10/3/99).

Furthermore, while none of the participants in the broadcasts had seen the exhibit, it didn't stop anchors on two of the shows from joining Giuliani in condemning "Sensation." On Fox News Sunday, anchor Tony Snow dismissed the exhibit as "silly," while Cokie Roberts on This Week said of the show, "It's yucky." (On Meet the Press, anchor Tim Russert consistently asked Giuliani tough questions.)

If an advocate for art—or even someone who had looked at the art in question—had taken part in the discussion, some errors might have been avoided. Following Giuliani's lead, anchors mostly asked about the painting "The Holy Virgin Mary," by Chris Ofili—who used elephant dung as a medium in this and other works as a symbol of Africa, fertility and the earth.

Playing off this, ABC's George Will asked

Giuliani: "Suppose, instead of a portrait of the Virgin Mary splattered with excrement, it was a portrait of Martin Luther King. How do you suppose people would react to it?" To which Giuliani replied, "I don't think the museum ever would have done it. The museum board would have been too sensitive to the concerns of the minority of people that would be offended by this."

Someone who had actually seen the show might have pointed out that no painting there was "splattered with excrement"; that the Virgin Mary portrayed in the painting was herself black, and thus representative of the "minority" Giuliani and Will think people are too sensitive to; and that another painting by Ofili included in the exhibit indeed featured African-American icons, including Miles Davis, James Brown and Muhammad Ali—and that this painting too employed elephant dung, to no particular outcry.

Earlier in the program, Cokie Reports declared that "Sensation" was, "according to all reports...at best, a fifth-rate adolescent exhibit." While reviews of the show have been mixed, many of the artists in it—including some of the most controversial—have been widely praised by critics. Ofili, for example, last year won the Turner Award, Britain's most prestigious artistic prize. The New

Yorker (10/11/99) referred to his "Holy Virgin Mary" as "sweet, gorgeous and respectful of its subject."

On Fox News Sunday, the closest thing to a pro-art point of view was when panelist Fred Barnes asked Giuliani: "The people in the arts and culture community... What does it say about them? What's the matter with them?"

Lost in all the discussions was the fact that Giuliani was not simply trying to withhold public money from art on the grounds of offensiveness—a practice the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional—but is attempting, by trying to replace the museum's board, to take over a private cultural institution whose policies he objects to. The threat to free expression posed by this kind of government intervention was not pointed out even by Russert, Giuliani's toughest Sunday morning critic.

ACTION: Contact the Sunday morning shows and ask them to bring on a defender of the First Amendment to balance the time given to Rudolph Giuliani's pro-censorship views.

This Week with Sam and Cokie
 netaudr@abc.com
 Fox News Sunday
 foxnewssunday@foxnews.com
 Meet the Press

Art Review: Shocking Images of Life and Death

By Michael Yeh

Mayor Giuliani's assault on Charles Saatchi's flamboyant collection of young British artists may have been just what the Brooklyn Museum needed to boost its attendance.

Since the opening of "Sensation," the institution that for years has played second fiddle to its Manhattan counterparts is now the talk of the town. Scores of curiosity seekers wait in line for up to an hour every day just to see what the fuss is all about. Taking advantage of the captive audience, conservative Catholic groups blasted their objections and Hail Marys from loudspeakers facing the building's pillars. Working with the police department, the security personnel passed every visitor through a metal detector, and examined every bag—perhaps fearing incidents like the one when two youths in Australia smashed Andres Serrano's infamous Piss Christ with a hammer.

But it was worth the trouble, that is, if you have a curiosity for the grotesque. (And let's be honest, who doesn't?) One of the first paintings in the display is Marcus Harvey's *Myra* (1995), which created a stir in London and prompted a spiteful visitor to hurl eggs at it. This is a portrait of Myra Hindley, serving a life sentence in Britain for torturing and murdering numerous children. But look more closely and one can see that the painting is actually made up of eerie child-sized handprints in black, white, and shades of gray.

Marc Quinn's "Self" (1991) is a cast of the artist's head, made with nine pints of his own blood drawn over five months and frozen. The figure appears dark and corpse-like, but the face is visibly relaxed. Like humanity itself, monument is fragile and temporary—destined to vanish should one pull the plug of its refrigerated case.

Much of the attention was focused on "The Holy Virgin Mary" (1996) by Chris Ofili, the artist whose obsession with elephant dung has drawn so much attention to the show. It was impossible to get a close view of the work, for visitors were kept several feet away behind a clear plastic panel guarded by a security guard and a city police officer. Nevertheless, the effect was dazzling. An unmistakably African figure with an open mouth and fleshy nose stood out from a rich yellow background, with a golden glitter halo surrounding her face. Her flowing, light blue garment parted at the chest, revealing a breast of elephant dung with a spiraling gold areola. Pictures of buttocks and female genitalia cut in the shape of angel wings flutter around her, and two more clumps of dung on the floor bearing the words "Virgin Mary" prop up the canvas itself.

Ofili's other works also contain his trademark proboscidean anal fruit, but they did not draw the same impassioned complaints. *Afrodizzia* (1996) contains paper cutouts of famous black celebrities including Louis

Armstrong, Nelson Mandela, and others mounted on a multicolored swirled background. At the bottom is an image of the back of a black head shaved with the word "respect," and clumps of elephant dung adorned with the names of Cassius Clay, Miles

Davis, James Brown, and Tito Jackson stand out from the flat setting. But the black community isn't branding this piece insulting, unlike the easily offended, censorship-happy Christian fundamentalists.

If Damien Hirst weren't a successful artist, perhaps he would have had a productive career as a biologist. Hirst's collection of assorted critters pickled in 5% formaldehyde has aroused the wrath of animal rights activists and moralists of all sorts. (Peek into one of the zoology labs on the second floor of the computer science building to see visually similar samples.) But simple as they may appear, the reality of his once-living materials creates an unsettling effect. Hirst's *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living* (1991) features a large tiger shark suspended with monofilament fishing line in a white steel cage filled with a bluish-green formaldehyde solution. The shark's grimacing face creates wrinkles behind its eyes, as its open mouth reveals rows of razor-sharp pointed teeth. Although no longer alive, it retains a very menacing appearance.

His collection of preserved farm animals can be upsetting to city folks whose only exposure to mammalian carcasses occur in the supermarket as they pick over neatly packaged steaks and cutlets. We are comfortable in our ignorance, as we no longer hear and feel the primal shrieks and kicks of our food as a knife is plunged into its neck, spilling blood and guts onto the ground and onto us.

"This Little Piggy Went to Market, This Little Piggy Stayed at Home" (1996) features a pig sliced lengthwise suspended in two preservative-filled metal cages. The animal's right side glides back and forth slowly on a motorized track, revealing the intricate visceral network inside. In "Some Comfort Gained from the Acceptance of the Inherent Lies in Everything" (1996), twelve tanks contain cross-sections

of a cow, perpendicular to its body axis. These pieces show the chaotic maze of muscle fibers, nerves, and solid and hollow organs contained within a seemingly neat furry package. Although it is not clear what the author meant by "inherent lies," a viewer reaching the end of the display is surprised with a second head, and realizes that the display contains not one, but two cows.

Hirst captured the horrific aftermath of death in "A Thousand Years" (1990), which features his trademark white steel enclosure divided into two compartments. One side contains plump, black maggots feeding on cotton soaked in sugar water. When they mature, they can fly into the other side, where an artificial severed cow's head lies bleeding on the ground. An electric bug zapper hangs directly above the head, creating a layer of dead, decaying flies on the bottom of the cage.

Jake and Dinos Chapman evoke similar horrors with a sculpture depicting human slaughter, based on an etching by Francisco Goya called *Disasters of War* that showed the brutal deeds of Napoleon's soldiers when they invaded Spain in 1808. The Chapmans' sculpture, titled *Great Deeds Against the Dead* (1994), shows three bodies lashed onto a bare tree trunk. Their genitalia were cut off, leaving gaping holes with internal organs protruding from them. One man is tied upright, with his left ring finger cut off. Another hangs upside-down behind him. A third man dangles from a horizontal branch from his knees, with his arms and head chopped off. His arms, suspended by thick rope, hang next to his trunk and under his head, which is impaled on a branch.

But more shocking, perhaps, is "Zygotic Acceleration, Biogenetic, De-sublimated Libidinal Model" (enlarged X 1000) (1995), a plastic sculpture con-

sisting of naked pre-pubescent girls fused into a siamese ring. Some of them sprout out of the bodies of others, and all wore black Fila sneakers. They look homogeneous at first glance, sporting similar cheap wigs, their dull blue eyes staring eerily at the viewer. But many of them have penises instead of noses, with snout-like cylindrical mouths. Some were joined at the temples, cheeks, and eye sockets, where their features melt into distinct vulval labia.

The Chapmans extended this theme to other works as well. In *Tragic Anatomies* (1996), these figures stand in a garden of cheap artificial shrubbery, on an astroturf ground littered with artificial leaves. One of them, almost obscured in the far right corner, has a penis on each temple like bovine horns. Some of them had two upper bodies, fused at the groin as if fornicating doggie-style. *DNA Zygotic* (1997) featured one body with many heads, arranged in sets of four, joined together by a shared anal opening.

And speaking of the anus, Mona Hatoum takes us into the opposite end of the digestive tract in *Deep Throat* (1996). Borrowing the name from the '70s porn video, the sculpture consists of a plain square table covered with a white tablecloth and a plain wooden chair. In the middle of the plate in the place setting, a video monitor shows the path that a piece of food takes as it is ingested.

Filed using a fiberoptic endoscope, the video initially shows the artist licking the lens gingerly. The probe is thrust deep inside her, passing quickly through the esophagus and into the stomach, where the folded lining pulsates rhythmically. Occasionally, a burst of steam or digestive juices would cloud the view temporarily, as the lens is maneuvered to show parts of the gastrointestinal anatomy. As the endoscope is withdrawn slowly, peristaltic contractions of the esophagus pinch off the view, eliciting gags and signs of disgust from some of the viewers.

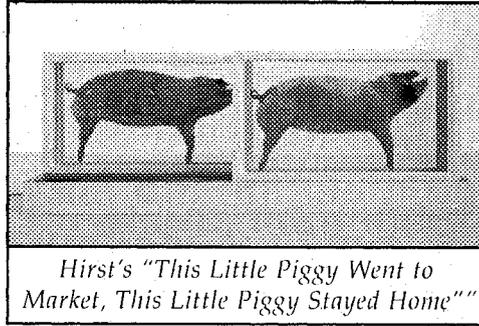
In contrast to the Chapmans and Hirst, Ron Mueck portrayed more serene images of death. His silicone and rubber "Dead Dad" (1996-1997), created in tribute to his late father, features a small figure lying supine on the ground. He is naked and vulnerable, with gray hair on his head and legs.

With impeccable detail, Mueck recreates the protruding collarbones, the outline of the rib cage, every crease on the hands and fingers, and the flabby, limp skin of the buttocks.

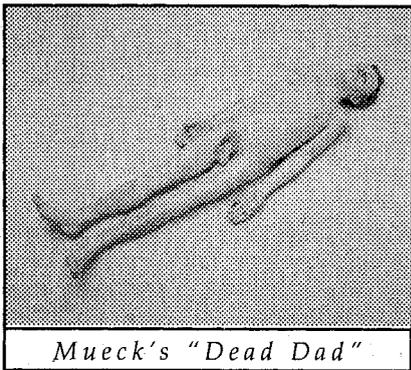
This is, of course, an unconventional tribute to a man Mueck loved, and one may wonder about their relationship. But in an adjacent room, the father figure is reborn in *Angel* (1997). He is still naked but alive, as he sits on a paint-spattered wooden stool with his chin resting on his hands as if in deep thought.

Every piece of artwork in this exhibit is designed to challenge visitors to think about the unfamiliarity of ordinary objects and settings. There is an abundance of shocking images, such as Mat Collishaw's photograph of a gunshot wound to the head, and Richard Billingham's pictures of his own dysfunctional family, showing his drunken father passed out by the toilet bowl.

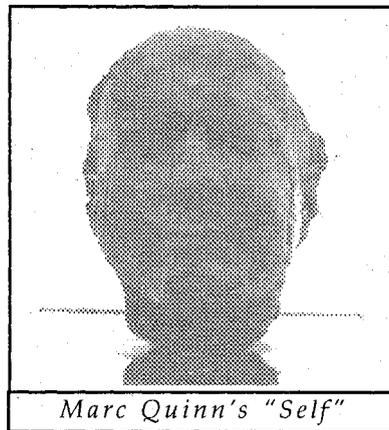
And if all goes well, traditionalists will continue to take offense at these daring novelties in expression. Because that is precisely the point.



Hirst's "This Little Piggy Went to Market, This Little Piggy Stayed at Home"



Mueck's "Dead Dad"



Marc Quinn's "Self"



Chapman's "Zygotic Acceleration, Biogenetic, De-sublimated Libidinal Model"

Right-Wing Catholic Yuppie Lawyers From Hell

By Chris Sorochin

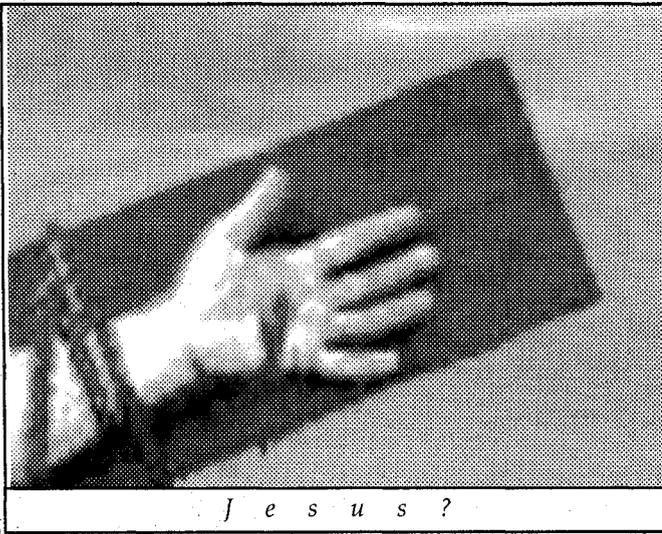
"Rule #1: The Boss is always right.

Rule #2: If the Boss is ever wrong, see Rule #1."

—Commonly posted in workplaces

I would like to describe two events that took place under the auspices of the Catholic Law Students Society at St. John's University School of Law. The first was at the Catholic Worker on East 3rd St. in Manhattan. The evening's "clarification of thought" was to be a panel discussion on the papal encyclical *Fides et Ratio* ("Faith and Reason") presented by St. John's law professors David Gregory, Lawrence Joseph and Rev. John Coughlin, OFM.

The panelists were uncannily unanimous in stating that reason is OK and in fact encouraged—as long as it doesn't lead you to any conclusions that may contradict official Church doctrine. Otherwise you are "in error," the term "heresy" no longer being



politically correct. During the Q & A period, someone said that Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker, always believed in the primacy of conscience and was told yes, that's right, but fortunately her conscience never led her outside of Church doctrine. We were also reassured, in a dizzying flashback to parochial school catechism, that the Catholic hierarchy owns the Truth outright—they keep it in special jeweled reliquary and take it out and play with it when nobody's around.

In fact, if I understood correctly, all true reason will eventually lead to the Church's position. I began to be reminded of hardline Marxists and their conviction that their "scientific" view of history was inevitable.

At some point one of the panelists mentioned birth control, prompting one young and foamingly fervent aspiring attorney to deliver a fevered defense of the Party line: sex is for procreation and procreation only, the Supreme Being apparently seeing humanity as one vast breeding farm. He accompanied this with several very interesting addenda, viz:

1. Availability of contraception has led to society going to hell in a handbasket. Now that sex has been separated from pregnancy we no longer respect "our" women! Yeah, women really had it good before the twentieth century. Any competent social history will reconstruct the pedestal they posed upon back when they literally were "our" women, property of their fathers and husbands with no political or legal rights.

2. The population crisis is a myth (as the planetary population nears a cozy 6 billion) and everyone on Earth could fit into Texas. Now, I know that some fairly unsavory types, like the anti-immigrant brigades, use overpopulation as a cover for their xenophobic agenda, but let's face it, we can most definitely do with zero population growth and reduction of consumption in wealthy countries.

Another audience member brought up the Church's historic role in anti-Semitism. Now, for those of you who don't know, it's considered a

very gross faux pas in serious Catholic circles, even leftish ones, to make any mention of the Crusades, the Inquisition, the witch burnings, the Thirty Years' War, the Hundred Years' War, the "Rat Lines" that helped Nazis escape to South America with Vatican passports, or any of the Imperial Church's many other crimes and misdemeanors. It's like a big, dysfunctional family get-together in which the family skeletons remain desperately locked in the closet, but still manage to haunt anyone who's really engaging the old gray matter. I tell ya, folks, the air was as thick as pea soup with eau de denial.

The answer to the query on anti-Semitism was a variation on the NYPD's "few bad apples" defense and about as satisfying. I guess these folks weren't acquainted with the Biblical quote about a good tree being unable to bear bad fruit.

Several panelists brought up the Church's "lack of credibility," and one, who should know better, blamed it on the media. I believe that Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting examined this alleged bias a while back and I recall their finding that when Pope John Paul II came to the US, the media went out of their way to render US Catholic critics of His Holiness all but invisible. Maybe this was due to his Cold War credentials (he's stated that one cannot be both a Christian and a socialist, although this strikes me as having absolutely no scriptural basis whatsoever), because the US media made him marginal when he criticized free-market capitalism, visited Cuba and criticized the bombing of Yugoslavia. He's supposed to go to Iraq later this year. Look for it to be lavishly underreported.

"Ordination of women?" someone wondered. This issue has been unilaterally declared "closed" by the Vatican. But the "No Girls Allowed" policy as far as decision-making goes is far from closed for Catholic women. The arrogance and high-handedness of this pronouncement seems to have engendered very little outrage, though. What if all those gals one day got tired of being treated as second-class citizens and withdrew their material and moral support? There's already a shortage of priests because the dinosaurs in Rome won't consider allowing female or married clergy.

In the afterglow of this blessed event, Professor Gregory asked why no one had brought up Galileo. Maybe because many of us had a suspicion that such a query would have elicited more of the same pat responses. As they say in Vegas, "the house always wins," and I recognized a phenomenon I had seen before. I call it "Debate Squad Catholicism" and the object of the game is to defend the Institution with legalism and sophistry while never once examining what it is you're defending. One participant, when I mentioned a new book, *Hitler's Pope*, which implicates Pius XII in the rise of Nazism, responded thusly: "I can refute it." Maybe it's because many of these people are lawyers or law students

that winning the case seemed more important than seeing that justice is done. The woman so intent on defending the Institution never entertained for a minute the possibility that the leaders of what has been for most of its history an earthly power with territory and armies might ever do anything reprehensible. No, the Great Leader must be defended and never, ever questioned, just like in your standard issue cult (which is exactly what the Romans considered Christianity in its early days).

Of course this schema is all too familiar, as it's the same we routinely hear about another sacred institution, the United States. Yet another member of the audience regaled us with his assertion that it was better to be colonized by the British than any other European power because the British, unlike the French or the Germans, believed in the rule of law, thus implying that British colonialism was somehow more OK than other varieties. I was too well-mannered to suggest that he pay a visit to the folks in West Belfast and Bogside, Derry and ask them how sweet it is to live under the rule of British law.

I did offer that the US, being a British spin-off, had learned from them the revered technique of perfuming its crimes with rhetoric about rule of law and democracy, but my pearls just rolled all over the floor of the sty.

A short time later, I had the dubious honor of attending yet another of these encyclical klatsches, this one at St. John's Law School itself. I really should have known better, but this one included an expensive Northern Italian dinner afterwards, paid for by those law school graduates who are now raking in major shekels by serving as big-time corporate sharks.

This one was presided over by one Fr. John Perricone, one of the big names in paleoconservative Catholicism. If you were shooting a movie about the life of Christ, you would cast Fr. Perricone—who kept reminding me of Dr. Smith on *Lost in Space* reruns—in the role of Chief Complacent Pharisee. The encyclicals in question were to have been on the rights of workers but Fr. Perricone's interpretation was mostly that workers have the right to keep their mouths shut and not make any trouble. Most of his presentation was a screed against socialism and militant unionism. Communal ownership, he assured us, was intrinsically inconsistent with Christianity, even though the early Christians (and many subsequent ones) lived that way. Capitalism was not so anathematized: he pulled out something about the spiritual need to own

We were also reassured... that the Catholic hierarchy owns the Truth...

property, despite the Gospel teachings about camels and the eyes of needles and Christ's exhortations to leave behind all worldly things and follow him. I believe he actually cited the commandments against coveting as

justifying his position.

Further revelations had to do with the divine placement of temporal authority (a.k.a. Divine Right of Kings, which we had a revolution over some years back) and the sinfulness of not being content to stay in your divinely appointed place—I was unaware that Catholicism had so much in common with the Hindu caste system. He even paid homage to Ronald Reagan's State Department by saying that those slaughtered in Latin America, including priests and nuns, had it coming because they were involved in politics.

Fetal People

By Shari Goldsmith

Fetuses will be granted "personhood" according to a bill that was approved by the House of Representatives, on October 1, 1999.

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act protects the "unborn child," defined as "a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb," according to Robert Pear, a writer for the *New York Times*.

A criminal being prosecuted would be charged separately for harm done to a fetus while the crime was in progress. Independent of the mother, the fetus would be recognized as a person.

President Clinton has threatened to veto the bill saying that "to identify the fetus as a separate and distinct victim of crime is 'unprecedented as a matter of Federal statute,'" according to Pear. Today's Federal homicide statutes only apply to the killing of a human being (that has been born). Supporters have tried to reassure skeptics that under this bill, a doctor could not be prosecuted for performing an abortion, nor could a "woman with respect to her unborn child" be held legally responsible.

Contemplation over the bill has been divided mainly along party lines: 198 Republicans and 56 Democrats voted to pass the bill, while 150 Democrats and 21 Republicans opposed it.

Republicans explain that their intentions are to provide protection for the "unborn child." Opponents warn that legally recognizing a fetus as a person, as the stipulations of this bill provides, could lead to curtailing a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy. This act could undermine the 1973 Supreme Court decision in the case of *Roe vs. Wade*, which constitutionally legalized abortion.

Democrats led by Representative Zoe Lofgren contend that "if a fetus is granted separate rights, abortion eventually could be outlawed as murder, and women who do anything harmful to a fetus could be prosecuted," according to Wendy Koch of *USA Today*. Republican Representative Lindsey Graham initiated the proposal, arguing that "the bill would appropriately punish crimes that harm a fetus but would not eliminate abortion."

Discussions of the bill developed into a

debate over when life begins. "The aim of this legislation is to create a body of law that recognizes a newly conceived egg as an independent legal entity, separate from its mother," according to an editorial of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

This type of argumentation reverts back to ideology which was supposedly resolved by the *Roe vs. Wade* decision. "A woman's right to choose shall not be infringed based on her constitutional right to privacy."

The trimester system, as agreed upon by the medical community, officially outlined fetal development.

Two other landmark Supreme Court decisions stand out, in regard to legalized abortion. The 1989 *Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services* case reinforced a woman's right to choose, but granted states the right to place whatever stipulations they saw fit. And *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey*, in 1992, "clearly shifted the balance, seeming to allow states to impose more conditions on the availability of abortions," according to Barbara Hinkson Craig and David M. O'Brien, in the book *Abortion and American Politics*. The court undermined the authority of using the trimester system as a guideline, after the first trimester, and announced their refusal to take on future cases contemplating abortion.

States constantly test the boundaries of their ability to legally infringe upon the right of a woman to have an abortion. They devise methods of discouragement, by enforcing laws ranging from requiring parental consent, spousal consent, and waiting periods, to requiring medical evidence that the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother to a large enough degree that would justify its termination.

Eleven states have already passed laws similar to this bill passed by the House. Thirteen other

states have approved laws that grant separate rights to a fetus that is at least 14 weeks old, according to Koch.

The passion of vested interests in this issue forces people to question the motivations behind legislation regarding abortion, especially this bill. Supporters of the bill claim its intention is only to heighten the penalties imposed upon criminals that are guilty of assaulting a pregnant woman.

However, the *St. Petersburg Times* wrote,

"There is nothing new in this legislation that will deter violence against pregnant women. It was written to legally divide mother from child, not protect them."

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, said,

"This bill . . . completely ignores the reality that any assault or violence that harms a pregnancy is inherently an attack on a woman," according to Koch.

Democrats have agreed with the importance of a bill's increase in the punishment on criminals that incur violence upon pregnant women, "but they did not want to recognize the fetus as a separate person, a crime victim with rights distinct from those of the pregnant woman. As an alternative to the Republican bill, Democrats offered a proposal to increase the criminal penalties for certain acts of violence against pregnant women. Its focus would be on harm done to the woman, not the fetus," said Koch. Their proposal was voted down 224 to 201.

Democrats insist that this bill is just a back-door way to "establish the legal status of the fetus as a person," said Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat of Manhattan.

Opponents warn that legally recognizing a fetus as a person..could lead to curtailing a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy.

Right-Wing Continued

They should have just been helping the poor with charity and not making any waves. Fr. Perricone also lamented the decline of religion, not realizing that his cherished irrelevancies may have a lot to do with that decline.

All this did not go unchallenged; there were two representatives of the Catholic Worker there and they took great exception to most of this. Perricone would then proceed to cover them and the entire room in a layer of smarm and condescension reminiscent of that kids' show where contestants get a bucket of green glop dumped on them for saying the wrong word. He would accuse his critics of being narrow minded and remind them that the hierarchy sees the whole picture and they don't. He was glib and oily and effete and I, mystic that I am, detected an air of complete falseness about him.

His malarkey about not being political was especially bogus. Since when has the Church not been political? Proclaiming that God likes one economic system while damning another is a political rather than spiritual statement and one traditional role of the Church, when not a political power herself, has been acting as handmaiden to earthly power.

The right wing of the Catholic Church is seen when it attempts to influence international conferences on women's rights and family planning.

It's there when the gay Irish can't march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. And, as everyone now knows, it's there now as New York's hometown Führer, Rudy Giuliani, raises a tempest in a teapot over a painting by a Catholic artist because it represents the Virgin Mary with elephant dung (a wholly legitimate and respected medium in the artist's ancestral Africa) and surrounded by clippings from porn magazines (Mary is the desexualized version of the Mother Earth goddess). Giuliani is trying to make points with conservative Catholics, who would seem to be

a significant voting block here in good old "liberal" New York, for his Senate race. Those who have seen the painting by British artist Chris Ofili say that they wouldn't have known it to be "blasphemous"--nor that it contained excrement--had they not been told it was.

The upshot is massive popularity for the exhibit and the Brooklyn Museum. The Defenders of the Faith should realize by now that when they make a big brouhaha over these things, they end up being invaluable free advertising. And if they want to picket an offensive, obscene "museum," they can do as many of us

have done and protest the pile of dung that is being sold at the *Intrepid*. Anchored off 45th Street, this vast machine of death is a propaganda vehicle for militarism and does not show the true face of war. Despite sagging revenues, the Giuliani administration continues to underwrite this nauseous white elephant, even going so far as to lower its rent. Now that's blasphemous.

We at SUNY have our own member of this cult: dear old Candace DeRussy, a lackluster academic and political

hack who made a big deal about a conference on female sexuality at New Paltz that featured a display of sex toys. People in New York like to think they're so urbane and sophisticated and laugh at folks in the Bible Belt who let the Christian Right dictate public policy. Like those dolts in Kansas who've all but gotten rid of evolution to appease the fundamentalist knuckledraggers that can muster votes. But let us not be too haughty: Candace, Rudy, George Pataki and hordes of lesser opportunists are just waiting for the purple-hued dawn of clericofascism, American style.

Since when has the Church not been political?

Encephalitis:

By Angelos Hannides

It is the first half of October, and a viral disease continues to dominate the news in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. It has already claimed the lives of six people and dozens of birds (predominantly crows), and has been detected in dozens of others. This viral disease, already misdiagnosed once, appears to be West Nile Fever, transmitted by the West Nile virus, which was unknown to the Western Hemisphere before this last month. It is transmitted by mosquito species foreign to this part of the land, but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) did find the virus present in one mosquito from Nassau County, New York. It took them six weeks and hundreds of mosquito samples from the whole region.

The highlights of this case seem to shift the interest of the actively involved groups and individuals from the graphic quotes and vacuous (however dangerous) insights of the mayor of New York City on public health and science, to a game played at a higher level. In this first part of the coverage of the encephalitis outbreak, we will explore the events and happenings and the questions that arise from these. On the second part (to be published in a subsequent issue of the Press) we will delve into the dark side of "the Rudy" and explore some of the proposed explanations for the origin of this crisis. The mass media have contributed—as always—like more than willing accomplices of the authorities, in creating hype and hysteria about the evil virus that lurks in the dark, and the buzzing incarnates of Satan that carry it. They consistently omitted mentioning a few things about what is known about the pesticides which are distributed en masse over the populace and any dangers they might pose, not just to monarch butterflies (whose well-being the *NY Times* actually feature as endangered by the spraying) but to other organisms including humans. So, I attempted to provide some of the much-needed information myself below, and all is verifiable either by using the listed sources or by contacting me (ahannide@ic.sunysb.edu).

A Brief Timeline

The New York City Department of Health first announced the presence of three cases of St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) on Friday, September 3rd. City Health officials started suspecting something was wrong during the last week of August, although they did not disclose how. They waited until the CDC verified the presence of the virus that Friday, and announced it immediately. At the same press conference, they announced their intention to ensue spraying with malathion to kill the mosquitoes carrying the virus, while trying to appease the concerned residents by citing some fact that 11 out of 300 bites from the mosquito species that carries St. Louis encephalitis actually transmit the disease.

Things escalated quickly after this. The City expanded the original spraying plans to cover Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island in addition to Queens and the Bronx. Pyrethroids were thrown in the cocktail. Mosquitoes were trapped and sent for examination. Bird watching groups were

requested to notify the authorities in case they observed aggregations of dead birds and even to send samples in for identification. Adjacent areas started checking things out too. Westchester County (September 21st) and Fairfield County, Connecticut (September 22nd) detected the virus and resumed spraying, although with much less vigor and zeal than the City.

All this, of course, came with intense criticism. A natural concern arose amongst people about the method and amount of pesticide sprayings. The fact that malathion, resmethrin and sumethrin are neurotoxins that affect significantly the nervous system of most vertebrates, including humans, raised questions about this practice and alternatives. The

New York Greens accused the City of lax controls on the mosquito population, and contrasted it with Suffolk County's control measures: New York City has 2 full-time employees working to control mosquitoes compared to Suffolk County which has 33. New York City spends \$120,000 per year on mosquito control compared to Suffolk County which spends \$2 million. Dozens of witnesses contacted the Greens hotline reporting bee and yellowjacket disappearances from around the Metro area, fish kills on the Staten island shores, and direct spraying on people at Riverside Park. The Greens went on to sue the City of New York on October 6th for violations of the federal Clean Air/Clean Water Act. Other groups, such as NYPIRG and Artists Response To Illegal State Tactics joined in, especially motivated by mayor Rudy Giuliani's claims that "there's absolutely no danger to anyone from this spraying (the EPA prohibits any company from claiming that any pesticide is safe).

A Sudden Twist

Bird deaths at the Bronx Zoo during the late summer and early fall baffled vets. Tests took place at the CDC, the labs of the Department of Agriculture in Ames, Iowa, and an army lab in Fort Detrick, Maryland.

Nothing came up. Enter the New York State Health Department. While at a meeting in Albany, officials of the department met with researchers from the Emerging Disease Laboratory at the University of California at Irvine, and arranged with them to have samples of the fatalities sent over for testing. Before the weekend of the 26th, the lab at Irvine discovered the West Nile virus in a human brain. Suddenly, the CDC caught up and announced on that Sunday that they had found the virus in birds.

The next day, Monday the 27th, they reclassified all the cases previously attributed to SLE, including the three fatalities, to West Nile virus, and asserted that the preventative measures for the two viruses are the same.

Meanwhile, the cases of humans infected with what was now called West Nile-like virus spread into Nassau County, which started its spraying of Scourge (resmethrin) and Anyil (sumethrin). Suffolk found dead crows infected with the virus and sprayed malathion in the Town of

Huntington. As of yet, there are five or six fatalities due to the virus region-wide, all of individuals 60 or older, and 39 confirmed cases in the City (75% of which involve individuals 60 or older). (Note: although encephalitis could be one of the fatal demonstrations of the West Nile virus, it is not the sole and certainly not the most common one, which is [as the name suggests] extremely

high fevers; meningitis is also a common demonstration of this virus.)

The City announced on October 7th that it completed a voluntary population survey to understand more about

exposure to West Nile-like virus in Northern Queens. The survey included 470 households and 700 volunteers and was carried out by the contracted Research Triangle Institute of Maryland. Oh! By the way on October 8th, the case of the first actual mosquito carrying the virus in the region was announced. It had been sampled in Nassau County earlier that week.

The Questions

This dull account of events does not clearly represent the uniqueness of the case from an epidemiological or a public health standpoint. Naturally, the most striking event is the occurrence of a virus never seen before in the Western Hemisphere. How did it get here? Migration? Was carried in captivity? Or could there be a source of the virus closer than one would think? The discovery of the virus smells funny too. Why did two Federal labs (CDC, DOA) and one military lab (Ft. Detrick) not detect the virus despite having more time than the independent lab, which managed to come up with the discovery first? And, most importantly, why did the CDC out of all the labs in the country mistake all cases for a different virus?

The second interesting phenomenon involves the behavior of the mayor and the City authorities. While the abuse of the word proactive by City Health Commissioner Neal L. Cohen and Rudy Giuliani's unannounced Senate campaign point at all too familiar pre-election schemes (sort of showing the public things are done), the way in which concerns about the pesticides were put aside is discomfiting. Cohen certainly knows better about the dangers of malathion, at least to humans. Why, then, all this zeal? Why did the City contract the Research Triangle Institute to do the survey? According to the people themselves, the Institute identifies and measures chemicals in environmental media that present potential for human or animal exposure and in biological media to improve the understanding of absorbed dose as a result of exposures to environmental media. The Health Commissioner said it was to provide understanding of the exposure to the virus. And the employees themselves, when asked by the volunteer residents, said they were doing a survey on drugs, neighborhood, and social life.

The plot thickens, and the case will get really spicy in the second part of this article. A different view of the comments and behavior of officials during this crisis and perhaps some answers to these questions, coming up in the next issue of the *Press*.

City health officials started suspecting something was wrong...although they did not disclose how.

Why did two Federal labs...not detect the virus while having more time than the independent lab...?

A Sick, Sad Story...

The Drugs

Malathion - Malathion is one of the most popular organophosphate insecticides used worldwide. It was first registered for use in the US in 1956, where (according to the EPA) 15 million pounds of the active ingredient are used annually. It is produced by at least 14 manufacturers worldwide, and its popularity is attributed to the successful elimination of insect pests of various species. It works by disrupting an enzyme called acetylcholinesterase, which is involved in the transmission of messages across nerves. This enzyme and acetylcholine, the protein with which it interacts, are present in most vertebrates, including fish and humans. It is chemically related to various nerve gases used during World War II. Malaoxon, a chemical resulting from the oxidation of malathion in mammals, insects, plants, and sunlight, is approximately 40 times more toxic than its parent chemical and is considered the primary reason for malathion's toxicity. Malathion has been linked with non Hodgkin's lymphoma in workers at cotton plantations and flour mills who have been exposed to malathion. The National Cancer Institute studied its carcinogenicity in mammals and found benign and malignant tumors in the brain, liver, lungs and endocrine glands. Mutagenicity has been observed in human, animal and bacterial cells. Complications during pregnancy in mammals, such as increased still births and aborted fetuses, and decreased birth weights, have been verified to be due to exposure to malathion. Fish and bees appear to be extremely sensitive to malathion and its derivatives, and appropriate notices are included even on the safety labels of the companies marketing this chemical.

The pyrethroids - (include resmethrin and surmethrin (examples of commercial names used in the area are Anvil [TM] and Scourge [TM]) Naturally found in the chrysanthemum flowers, these substances are potential nerve poisons, and act by interfering with the sodium ion channels in nerve cell membranes. They have also been observed to cause acute respiratory problems, especially to persons sus-

ceptible to allergies and asthmatic complications. Other symptoms include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, runny or stuffy nose, chest pain, difficulty breathing and skin and eye irritation.

The vectors on drugs - "Ultra-low volume application of adulticides in response to impending or ongoing SLE epidemics have been credited with aborting or dampening transmission. Nevertheless, serious doubts remain, and in recent years trial applications of adulticides for control of both *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipiens* have underscored the difficulty in reducing vector populations by this method." (Monath and Tsai, 1987). The fact that insecticides have not been as effective as expected was explained by the presence of esterases. These enzymes are produced by female mosquitoes which are digesting a blood meal, and detoxify insecticides, thus remaining unaffected by them.

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The Bugs

St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) Virus - This flavivirus was first recognized in 1932 after an outbreak in Paris, Illinois. Two outbreaks the following year in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri, led researchers to believe that it was an insect-borne disease, but this was not proven until the 1950s, when the principal vectors of the disease in the Eastern and Central US were found to be *Culex pipiens* and *Culex quiquefasciatus*, two mosquito species which breed in polluted waters, especially where poor sanitation exists. The incubation of the virus lasts for 4-21 days and the predominant symptoms are an altered level

of consciousness, abnormal reflexes and tremors, accompanied by fever, chilliness, headache, neuralgia, myalgia, sore throat and cough. Attack rates range from 1-800 per 100,000(!), and are usually much higher in individuals 60 years of age or older than in younger ones. Hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and diabetes predispose for fatal infections, and usually account for deaths amongst older individuals. Since 1955, 5,000 cases have been identified in the US, with 10 cases in the State of New York between 1955 and 1986. The disease appears in July, and peaks in August-September. Mosquito abundance and relatively warm June temperatures favor epidemic build-up. It is forty times more fatal in persons 55 or older than in younger individuals. In the epidemic of Houston, in 1968, high attack rates were associated with lowest economic strata, open foundations, unscreened windows, and standing waters.

West Nile Fever Virus - This is also a flavivirus, closely related to the SLE Virus, although with much milder effects on humans. Symptoms include fever, headache, myalgia, and anorexia, and occasionally pharyngitis, nausea, and abdominal pain. The disease usually lasts for 3-6 days and is followed by full recovery, with children experiencing it much more mildly than adults. It is widely prevalent in Africa, Middle East, parts of Europe and the ex-Soviet Republics, India and Indonesia. It is extremely common in the Nile Delta. It multiplies in mosquito species of the genus *Aedes*. Many bird species develop viremia (presence of the virus in the blood stream) when infected, although encephalitis and death are rare. Cases of naturally acquired encephalitis in horses have been reported in the past, and the rule there also is antibody production and absence of chemical illness.

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A Relaxing Activity For All Times...

By Angelos Hannides

In a meager attempt to optimize time usage, while releasing anger aggregated in class or in the dorm, and sustaining a more comfortable existence for many groups and individuals in this community, I would like to recommend to each and everyone a new mental and physical activity which will reap many benefits for many humans and other organisms: tear down a corporate ad.

Many major corporations believe they have colleges and universities around the country by the balls. In trying to tap in the college student masses' wallets, they pay "poster-bots" to go find campus bulletin boards and plaster their glossy, grossy ads all over them. And what if there is no room? No problemo. Just rip apart some student group flyers here and there. Yes, this has been actually witnessed at SUNY Stony Brook, and it's no news to some of us. Well, let's tell these corporations to go and shake their bootie elsewhere (or preferably go to a corner, curl up and die).

How shall we do this? Well, first of all, what ads are we talking about? The ones which have a long record of putrefying presence at our school include Kodak, Discover, Visa, Mastercard, Columbia, BGM etc. These are fair

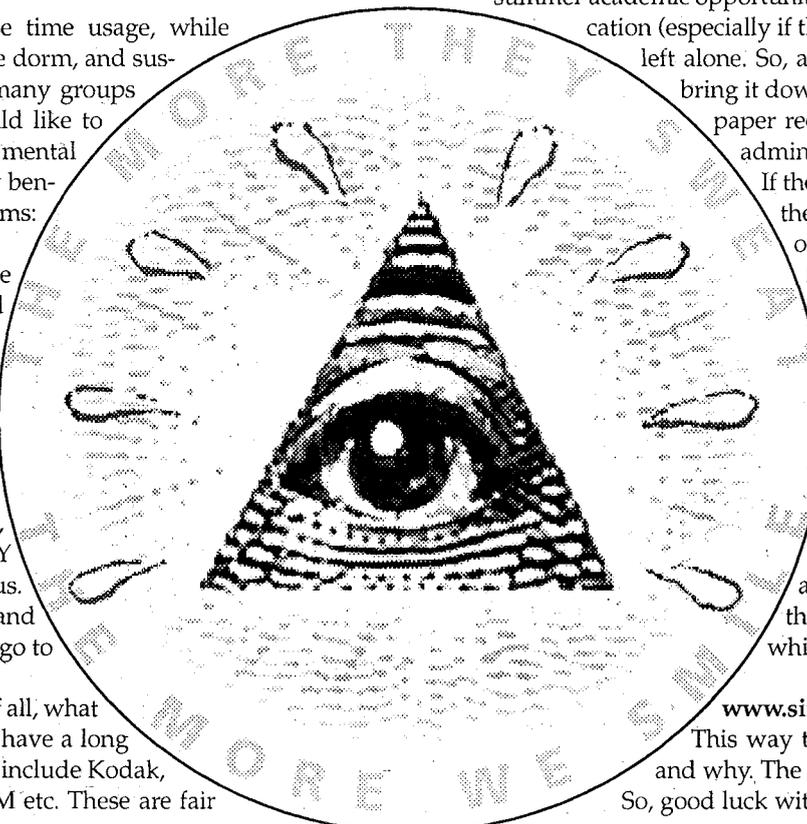
examples. Glossy ads which inform people of educational exchange programs or summer academic opportunities can actually prove beneficial to one's education (especially if they involve travelling abroad) and should be

left alone. So, after you locate the corporate titan's tentacle, bring it down and dispose of it (I wish I could say "in the paper recycling bin..." but, "no, not at Stony Brook!" administration says that's a whole different story).

If the ad involves business-reply-mail cards, drop them into the nearest mail box. That way, not only will their scheme fail, but they will also have to pay to receive pieces of paper they paid posting up in the first place! You could also write a letter to the company, explaining the purpose of the existence of your university and why (as if as it is not obvious) forcing dubious products and services down your throats and up your asses does not belong here. Finally, to fill a very small part of the vast empty bulletin board space left after your noble rampage, you may post a little flyer provided by your local chapter of the Student Environmental Action Coalition which you can find, download and print at:

www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/seac/BullBoards.html.

This way there will be no doubt as to what happened and why. The more they sweat, the more we smile. So, good luck with classes, stay calm, and drink lots of water.



Women on the Move

By F.L. Livingston

"Hillary takes press away from Elizabeth," Bob Dole argues."

The bold-faced blurb caught my eye. It was part of an article on the campaign of Elizabeth Dole in the September issue of *George*.

But wait a minute. Hillary? Hillary Rodham Clinton? What does she have to do with Elizabeth's gain or loss of publicity? They're not running for the same office. Mrs. Dole is seeking the Republican nomination for president. Mrs. Clinton is probably going to try for the Senate seat being vacated by New York senator, Pat Moynihan. They are not competing in the same race.

Or are they? Does the fact that they are two prominent women candidates render them "opponents" whether they are running for the same office or not? We are used to hearing such terms as "the Democratic front-runner" or "the Republican front-runner"; will we soon be hearing the expression, "female front-runner," as well?

If this is so, does it make any sense? Why would these two particular women be viewed as competitors? And what does it say, if anything, about the progress of women in American politics? These questions ran through my head as I took time to read the *George* article. They were still on my mind as I turned to read the Hilary Clinton interview in the September issue of the new magazine, *Talk*.

Last question first. This comparison of the two women and their media publicity may tell us a lot. In a way, it says, "Political women have arrived!" Remember—these are not two Hollywood starlets vying for media time. Nor are they two female socialites or, say, members of British royalty. Rather, these are two women seeking public office—and being taken seriously enough that at least one person is worried that one of them may deflect media attention from the other. (Granted, that one "worried person" is the husband of the candidate who seems to attract less attention, but still...)

But in another way it says, "Sexism is alive and well—and living in American politics!" After all, why should two candidates be pitted against each other just because they are both female? Is it possible that the media can only focus on one woman candidate at a time? that if one female contender captures their attention, they can find little time or space to give to any other? Is this a new brand of "tokenism"?

True enough, it is easy to see these two women as "opponents" even if they are not in the same political race. Besides the obvious fact that they are from two different political parties, they are at opposite ends of the spectrum on certain emotion-packed issues. Mrs. Clinton, for example, is pro-choice regarding abortion. Mrs. Dole, by contrast, is pro-life, though she brushes the topic off as a "dead issue".

It strikes me, however, that their similarities invite comparison even more than their differences. Again there are some obvious factors. They are both political wives with some experience living and working in Washington. And they are both highly educated (Clinton graduated from Wellsley and Yale Law School, while Dole studied

at Duke University and Harvard Law.)

But I find their other, lesser known and less obvious similarities more intriguing. For one, consider the unconventional attitudes that they each displayed in their youth. Hillary shocked family and friends when she attacked black Republican Senator Edward Burke in the commencement speech that she gave at Wellsley. Despite the fact that he was the main speaker at the ceremony, she unabashedly rebuked him for what she felt was a habit of mistaking empathy for action. A girl who dreamed of becoming an astronaut during her junior high years—an idea "unthinkable" for young women at that time—she later obtained a law degree and a law professorship at a time when women, as a group, were just beginning to break into such fortresses of male predominance.

Equally as strong-minded, Elizabeth eschewed the role of "the-woman-behind-the-man" to which many of her sorority sisters at Duke aspired. Instead, she sought personal success. She obtained it at college through induction into Phi Beta Kappa and election as student body president. And, when she decided to seek a degree in law, she not only defied the conventions of her time, but horrified many members of her family. Very self-directed women, Clinton and Dole both opted to buck social tradition and family expectations in order to express their own views and achieve personal goals. It is no surprise that these are the women who are commanding—and perhaps battling over—our attention today.

Both of them have endured criticism for their independence and ambition, as well as their political contributions. While a modern First Lady is expected by many to "have a cause" or be otherwise engaged in world affairs, Hilary was castigated for being "too" involved and having "too much" input on such issues as national health insurance. ("Who elected her?" some people queried angrily when Bill Clinton inadvisably referred to her as "copresident".) Those close to Elizabeth claim that she feels a need to appear "ladylike" in front of her more conservative constituents, to stifle any sign of personal aggression. Her critics, on the other hand, often lambaste her for that very lack of fire. (Her current campaign may be suffering from this absence of passion.)

Nor is either of these women interested in personal objective alone. Each of them has made a concerted effort to improve the world around them. HRC has done a great deal of international work (much of it ignored by the media, by the way—Sorry, Bob). Consider, for example, "Vital Voices," the world-wide program that she helped to create with the purpose of inspiring women all over to participate in politics. And the fact that she convinced the

Liz Clairborne company to keep its factories in Macedonia open — and to donate sufficient materials to fashion 250,000 items of clothing for the Kosovo refugees living there.

Elizabeth has also worked to help those in need. In 1991, for example, she left her position in then-President Bush's cabinet to take over as head of the Red Cross. Through a clever market-

ing campaign, she raise hefty sums of money for the ailing organization, totally turning its fortunes around and making it a solvent and effective institution once again.

Not merely concerned with personal success—or even just with advancing the government role of their own gender—these are women who care. And they do something about it.

But the most compelling comparison of these two candidates is, in my view, one that seems to blur the concepts of "similarity" and

"difference". It is the fact that both of these independent minds switched their party allegiance in their youth, although in opposite directions. Having grown up in a

Why would these two particular women be viewed as competitors?

Republican family, HRC rebelled and became a Democrat. "Liddy" (as Elizabeth is often called), was raised as a "southern Democrat," but later defected to the Republican party. (Of course, as she points out herself, the values of a "southern Democrat" are often as conservative as those of Republicans anywhere else, but I think the comparison is still of interest.) I must admit that I find the temptation to compare the two women very powerful.

Make no mistake. Brought up by parents who were staunch Democrats for most of their lives, I am a rather strong Democrat myself. I will likely vote for the Democratic candidate in both these elections, regardless of whether they are male or female. And, of course, I have to hear their respective stands on specific issues. I am not a person who votes by gender. But none of that blinds me to the remarkable similarities between these two women.

Yet that does not really excuse or even explain any tendency to treat them as if they are in a contest for media time. It is not necessary—or even desirable—to look at two or more female politicians and choose to focus on one. Prominent male candidates in various political races receive equal time and space. The same should be true of women.

Then again, the complaint about loss of space may just be the rantings of a disgruntled political husband defending his wife's allegedly lackluster campaign. Other women candidates are discussed in the media, though I admit that HRC appears to receive more press. As for Mrs. Dole, I agree that she has not received as much attention as Mrs. Clinton, though lately I am reading more about her, including the feature in which her husband made the accusation!

Can I get away from the idea that Hillary has received a vast amount of publicity? No. (Think: the now famous *Vogue* cover.) However, I suspect that is largely because of her husband's philandering, as well as her reaction to it—and the fact that certain officials turned this very private matter into a public issue. (I am certain that she would have preferred to attract less of this kind of coverage.) I doubt that it has anything to do with selecting one political woman above all others.

So perhaps, Bob Dole is creating an "issue" where there is none. Or maybe I am. However, the very fact that we are discussing this issue (non-issue?) shows that women have, as they say, "come a long way" in politics. And, yes. I know, we still "have a long way to go".

That does not really excuse...any tendency to treat them as if they are in a contest for media time.

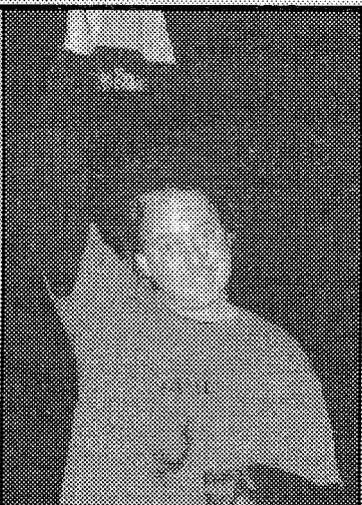
Top Ten Things More Offensive Than The "Sensation" Exhibit At The Brooklyn Museum Of Art

- 10) Looping a tape of Giuliani's assassination and masturbating to the image of his bloody head
- 9) Projectile menstruation (a.k.a. vaginal blood farting)
- 8) Jerry Falwell
- 7) White Castle bathrooms
- 6) The Virgin Mary wasn't one
- 5) The "morning after" pill available in Pez dispensers
- 4) A sailor with Tourette's syndrome
- 3) Accidentally finding your parents' K-Y Jelly
- 2) A department store Santa with a hard-on
- 1) Remember when your mom used to clean dirt off your face with a spit-soaked napkin? Her pussy juice would probably have made a better solvent.

MIKEY AND THE MERRY PRANKSTERS AND TENT CITY LEGEND
GEORGE MANN

Will perform Saturday,
 October 16 @8PM
 at the Unitarian Fellowship
 Nichols Road, Stony Brook

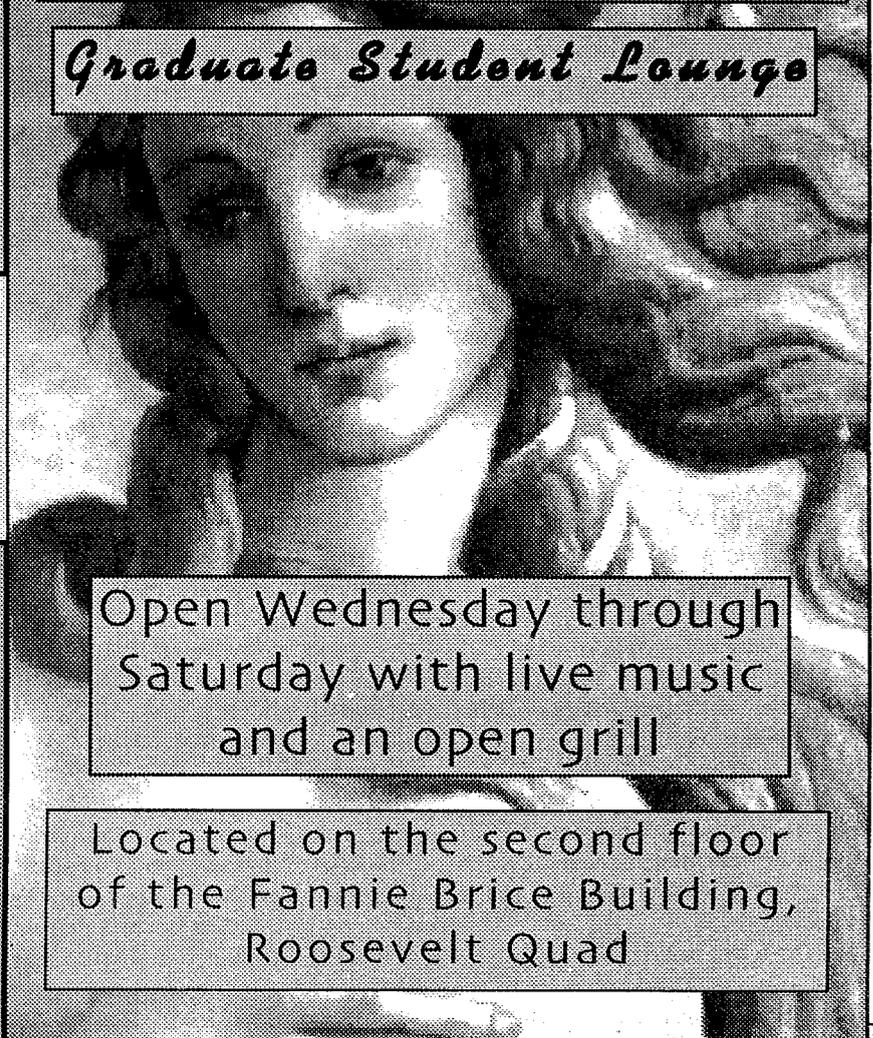
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*The
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A Republic, Not an Empire:

By Stephen C. Preston

[Author's Note: I do not endorse Pat Buchanan's views on issues outside the scope of this book. I have read some of his articles, and have found some of his opinions to flatly contradict what is in this book. Many of his positions are offensive to me, and should be offensive to anyone. Yet, I think the debate that the book has ignited is one that should not die soon, and therefore I intend in this article to only discuss Buchanan's views within the book. I think the ideas on foreign policy are valuable enough that they should transcend whatever odious qualities the messenger has.]

Pat Buchanan's recent book, "A Republic, Not an Empire", has been one of the most controversial books in recent history, judging from the talk shows and the opinion columns. Well, that's not quite accurate: "controversial" implies opinions on both sides, and there have been very few defenders of the book in most media.

The Presidential candidates have taken their shots at it. Somebody read John McCain a portion of an excerpt of a summary of the part dealing with World War II, and he decided there was "no place in the Republican party" for Buchanan, then complained about other candidates "continuing to appease Buchanan." Buchanan = Hitler, get it?

McCain, of course, has little else to talk about, now that we're not at war with Serbia anymore. Six months ago, it was much easier for him to get attention, by getting on talk shows and crying for war: "Bigger, harder, faster, more!" The talk show hosts, then as now, respond with: "Oh yes, John, yes! Baby, don't stop!"

So What's This Book All About?

The book is a historical justification of Buchanan's foreign policy. Its central premise is that America is "replicating, with alarming exactitude, the course that brought the British Empire to ruin... From arrogance and hubris, to assertion of global hegemony, to imperial overstretch, to trumpeting new 'crusades'..."

The main point is that all of the large empires have fallen through wars; wars which quite often were caused by arrogance and carelessness, and could have been avoided by either side. He ultimately prescribes a list of recommendations, all of which share the primary purpose of avoiding conflict. For example, withdrawing troops from bases all over the world, rewriting mutual defense treaties to remove the obligations of automatic war, and generally taking advantage of diplomacy and negotiation in any situation where the U.S. is not directly threatened with attack.

This has led Buchanan -- almost alone among the media elite -- to criticize both Bush's policy ("neoconservatism", the embodiment of which might be the Iraq war) and Clinton's policy ("Wilsonian globalism", especially as represented by the Serbian war).

Now in modern America, you can choose your excuse for murder, whether for "love" (as Clinton) or for "money" (as Bush). But if you choose not to murder, the screech of the war hawks is "Pussy!" (or the more polite euphemism, "Isolationist!").

So Buchanan's book is a defense of what is essentially his antiwar view, with the intention of

refuting the "isolationist" charge. His point is that isolationism implies a lack of involvement in foreign affairs; his view (he calls it "nationalism") is that America should engage with foreign countries, while strenuously avoiding conflict. He quotes Charles Beard as saying, "It is not: Shall we Love Europe? ... It is: How can this country avoid war?"

The book is mostly filled with examples from American history of diplomacy that avoided war, as well as the failures of diplomacy that brought war. This makes it an extremely informative book, whose achievement is not just to convey a political attitude, but to awaken debate on topics that have been (and remain) taboo in the mainstream press. It provides a useful antidote to the usual "war-to-war" history, in which periods of peace are typically portrayed as dull, to be skipped over as quickly as possible. Justin Raimondo, of the popular website <http://www.antiwar.com>, has described it as a "manifesto for the new antiwar movement", despite its flaws (which I'll discuss below).

"Isolationist" America: 1787 - 1898

The beginning of the "American Empire" is generally traced to the Spanish-American war of 1898. Before this, American policy, though expansionist, was not imperialist. The distinction in Buchanan's mind is that expansionist America intended to conquer new land and settle it with Americans, as distinct from conquering new lands and exploiting a currently existing population. In particular, expansionism relied on the fact that the lands to the west were mostly empty; the conquest became imperialism once it subjected a fully-existing population with its own culture and customs to American rule. Of course, the problem here is that the western half of the continent was not empty, and the horrible crimes committed against the native population are not mentioned at all in the book. When natives are mentioned they are only referred to as hostile and British-supported Indians.

Buchanan defends the war of 1812, which was started by Madison in an attempt to seize Canada from the British while Britain was occupied fighting Napoleon, as a "just and righteous cause". He justifies Andrew Jackson's actions of war against Spain, in the seizure of Florida. He similarly defends the conquest of Texas and the Southwest from Mexico in Polk's Mexican-American war of 1845-1848 under the doctrine of "Manifest Destiny". His general principle is that "these lands were contiguous, largely empty, easily defensible with a small army, and involved no entanglement with the great powers of Europe". Expansion to fill the entire continent was justified, Buchanan believes, by their benefits to the population.

Yet also, it was justified by the fact that America did not need to fight very hard to obtain these lands. The country had its goals, and accomplished them, sometimes with "duplicious and ruthless" techniques, but still showing the restraint of a nation that knows it might lose. And still, America's intent even when fighting these wars

was not "unconditional surrender", as it might be now. At the end of the Mexican War, for example, even after occupying Mexico City, Polk only claimed the northern portion of land, and paid the government of Mexico several million dollars for it. Thus goes Buchanan's argument for the distinction with later imperial policy.

But more time is spent on the wars America did not fight. A typical example: when Americans went to France in 1797 to negotiate an agreement after French seizures of American ships, they were insulted by demands of a bribe before negotiations could begin. When they returned, cries of, "Millions for defense, but not a penny for tribute!" resounded. President Adams authorized the seizure of French ships in retaliation, but soon sent negotiating teams to France, and the crisis was defused before it became the full war that many were demanding. Adams secured peace, even at the cost of his re-election.

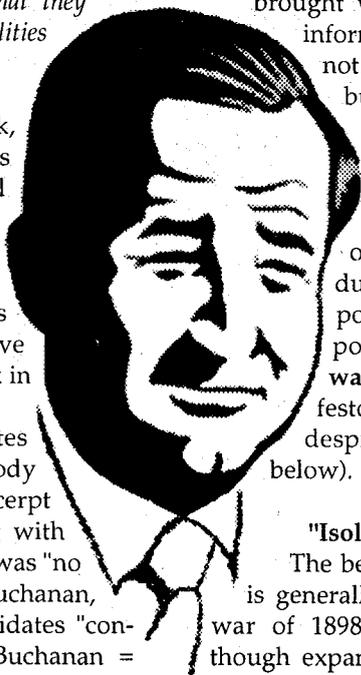
The Fruits of Empire: 1898-1918

Buchanan argues that after the wars of conquest, America was a completed nation by 1869, having a (mostly) contiguous land mass, with little remaining "empty" land left on the continent. Thus the decision in 1898 to go to war with Spain, with the purpose of seizing Spain's colonies, was the first step on the road to empire. The first territory the U.S. annexed, to wide approval in the country, was the Phillipines. The Filipinos soon revolted, and the U.S. quite brutally crushed their rebellion. This was the first step on the road to empire. Although the Filipino rebellion discouraged America from also annexing Cuba, and perhaps resulted in the later anti-imperialist opinion of the nation before the world wars, the desire to rule over foreign peoples would recur, and each time become easier for the American republic to rationalize.

When World War I began, the American public had little interest. The British were adamantly trying to get the U.S. involved, with some extremely effective anti-German propaganda. But still, most Americans saw no difference between the aims of Britain and those of Germany. What eventually got the U.S. involved was German violation of American principles of neutrality: The U.S. was loaning money and selling weapons to Britain, profiting from the war and violating its official stance of neutrality. Germany decided to fire on American ships, and the first deaths of Americans led Wilson to declare war.

The technique was a typically American one; the President aims to declare war against the public will, so he provokes the desired enemy into firing the first shot. The technique was learned in the Spanish-American war and was repeated for World War II and Vietnam.

With the eventual Allied victory, Wilson and the other Allied leaders partitioned Germany, divided the Austro-Hungarian Empire between Britain and France, and ordered Germany to pay full reparations. Buchanan revels in the numerous contradictions between Wilson's claims of liberal idealism (supporting the self-determination of peoples, establishing the League of Nations to fairly handle disputes, etc.) and the sleazy and cynical deals he agreed to, again and again, for the sake of the British and French Empires. It was not long before



But if you choose not to murder, the screech of the war hawks is, "Pussy!"

A Leftist's Defense of Pat Buchanan's Book

Americans became disenchanted with the whole thing, and realized the entire war had been a sham. The Versailles Treaty which ended the war would eventually be blamed for everything that happened later, and the view of the war as a blunder and travesty of justice would continue to this day. In this evaluation, Buchanan's detailed criticisms of the war are hardly controversial.

World War II

The most controversial part of the book is clearly the part dealing with the Second World War. Buchanan's opinion here is that Germany was not a threat to Western Europe in 1939, and if war had not been declared by England and France, Germany would have moved east in its goal to conquer Russia. Had this happened, the Nazis and Bolsheviks would have fought and weakened each other, leaving the victor in no position to attack Western Europe for several years; by this time, England and France could have built up their armaments to make their countries less susceptible to attack. The U.S. could have entered later, or not at all, since Hitler not only had no plans to attack the U.S., but had no capability of doing so either.

This view of the situation, while held by many historians, is rejected by many politicians and political commentators. This makes sense, perhaps: the more one understands history and the multiplicity of interpretations, the less likely one is to pursue a political career, for fear of making matters worse. Thus, only the ignorant do not fear their own power.

To understand Buchanan's interpretation of events, we must understand what Germany's foreign policy goals were. They were not "world domination"; although Hitler surely dreamed of such a thing, he certainly had no plan to achieve it. His immediate goals in the late 1930s were to reverse the Versailles treaty, in order to regain territory from Czechoslovakia and Poland. What must be understood is that the British, on the whole, thought Hitler's plans for regaining German territory were quite reasonable. They regretted the Versailles treaty and wanted it dismantled, believing that the Germans had been cheated. Although they disagreed with Hitler's tactics, they thought his cause was just.

What should also be understood is that while Hitler's genocide of the Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs in Germany was monstrously evil, and perhaps could have been perpetrated by no other individual, his foreign policy was unexceptional among Germans. Any other German leader would have done more or less the same things with neighboring countries. This doesn't

make his foreign policy right, but it must also be understood that the Holocaust was not what motivated most people to oppose Hitler; it was rather the foreign policy which virtually all Germans agreed upon. When we argue over whether the United States should have entered the war to save the Jews from the Holocaust, we are creating a debate that never existed. Had Hitler not tried to expand the German frontier, no nation would have been willing to fight solely for the Jews. Even when the war was eventually declared, it was not at all fought for the Jews. This is morally wrong, but a historical fact, largely undisputed.

Hitler did not expect his invasion of

Poland to provoke war with Britain and France, despite their war guarantee to Poland. (They had violated similar treaties before.) Hitler, in fact, was not prepared to fight Britain or France at the time, and Britain and France were not prepared to defend themselves. There was a standoff at the Maginot Line for a year, then after France was conquered, a standoff across the English Channel. By 1940, Britain had won the air force battle with Germany, and the tide was already beginning to turn. Yet, had Britain and France waited until Germany was a direct threat to themselves, they would have had time to rearm, and they would have been better able to defend themselves and the countries of Western Europe from the Nazis. Hitler's explicit plan was always to go to war with the Soviet Union, and by the time that war was over, even if he had won, he would have been much weaker, not stronger. Thus he would have been easier to defeat, when the time came.

The question when dealing with World War II is not (at least in Buchanan's book) whether we should have gone to war in 1941, after Hitler declared war on the U.S. Of course, Buchanan says, at that point war should have been fought. But the common point of view among the armchair warmongers is that not only was it right to go to war with Hitler, but we should have done so long before Hitler actually declared war upon us. And it is this which makes the World War II debate relevant today (in case you were wondering): because so many people think we should have known better back in 1939 or earlier, we should have gone to war then. And because they regret our delayed entry, they now advocate war against any small-time authoritarian who might aspire to regional domination, in the hopes of stopping a future Hitler. It is the warmongers who make World War II relevant again and again, by declaring

Manuel Noriega, Saddam Hussein, and Slobodan Milosevic to all be the equivalent of young Hitlers. And it is because they (and the American public) do not understand the real issues at stake, that they do not question whether a comparison with Hitler is a suitable justification for war. They hear the name "Hitler", and they turn off their critical reasoning skills, and cry, "No more Munich! Down with the dictator! Negotiation is appeasement!" But the better we understand the real situation and the debate that went on, the better able we are to see through this irresponsible bloodlust.

Immigrants and their "Passionate Attachments"

Towards the end of the book, Buchanan throws into the book his anti-immigration views. He quotes Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson's complaints about "hyphenated Americans" (those who identify themselves jointly

as Americans and as some other nationality) having undue influence on foreign policy. These opinions have done nearly as much as the World War II discussion to overshadow and obscure the rest of the book.

Buchanan believes that immigrant communities have a substantial impact on American foreign policy. To a certain extent, this is clearly true: think of the Cuban and Vietnamese exile communities in this country, who demand that America continue to battle the Communist dictatorships, even when such battling alienates America from her other allies. The Jewish community, at least the portion which involves itself heavily in foreign policy, fully supports and campaigns for nearly every Israeli policy. Yet, American foreign policy is arguably far more influenced by economics than by the petitioning of ethnic-nationalist communities, and Buchanan's raising of the "hyphenation" issue serves more to distract and incite than anything else.

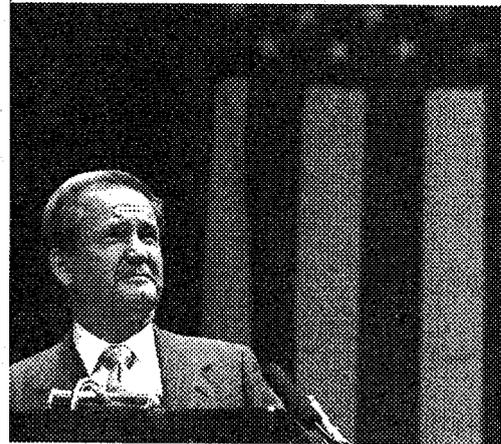
The truth is that at the time, Hitler's intentions were not known. When Hitler became a threat, the U.S. should have fought him; but this idea of continued "pre-emptive" war to stop young Hitlers is untenable. The difference between fighting for pressing concerns and fighting for future comfort is the difference between Republic and Empire.

Summary

Although Buchanan's foreign policy stance becomes much less reasonable during the Cold War (he advocates the Korea, Vietnam, and even Grenada wars, and does not understand the contradictions between this advocacy and his ideological positions; perhaps this is his own ego, as a former Nixon/Reagan staffer), his current recommendations are very reasonable, with the exception of his argument that limitations on immigration would somehow affect American foreign policy. (However, for a more consistent and principled Old Right antiwar history, I recommend Joseph Stromberg's column on antiwar.com over Buchanan's.)

What I think makes this book so valuable to the war and foreign policy debates is the fact that many of Buchanan's positions stem from nationalism and practicality, yet end up being quite similar to the antiwar and anti-imperialist positions of the left. It has been a long time since any prominent right-winger had a real antiwar message for modern political situations, and I think the antiwar left would be foolish to ignore the large numbers of people who will listen to this message when conservatives say it. The book, if it successfully unites conservatives with the principled and pacifist left, in a new single-issue "America First"-type of antiwar movement, could be, as Raimondo hopes, a real manifesto for antiwar Americans.

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN



A REPUBLIC, NOT AN EMPIRE

Reclaiming America's Destiny

*Towards the end,
Buchanan throws
in his anti-
immigration
views.*

cartoon of Pat Buchanan (left)
courtesy of www.salon.com

From Russell with Love

This Issue's Target: Campus Dining Services

The other day, I received this cheery letter from campus dining services. Perhaps some of the rest of you have also been contacted to remind you to go out and spend your Res. Points so that you don't "lose" them. At first, I thought to myself gosh, what a nice gesture, to remind me that I am in jeopardy of losing money. Then I realized what was really going on: I was being fucked.

There are two ways to look at the meal plan. There is the bullshit public relations outlook, chock full of spin and double-talk, in which Residence points help to foster a feeling of "community" by requiring students to eat where they live. In this mindset, residence points get the students out to be social and dine with their community. As for the new 30-a-week addition, apparently students were complaining that they had too much money left over at the end of the semester and not enough time to use it. CDS has dealt with this by budgeting out residence points on a weekly basis, how thoughtful of them.

There is also the thinking man's outlook. This happy community eating experience is not real. Students are only eating in these places because they are being forced. Those who live on campus are not given a choice whether or not they want the meal plan. And now they are not being given a choice where they want to eat. When students complained that they were losing money leftover at the end of a semester, a new policy was enacted. Now students are being robbed on a weekly basis instead. This did nothing to correct the problem that students were griping about, it missed the point entirely.

Words fail to convey exactly how much this pisses me off. I don't like the food in most residence halls (duh.) I don't like eating there. It was bad enough that my remaining meal plan points weren't refunded at the end of a semester, now I have a WEEKLY quota? How can this be justified? Are we all stupid? Are we not adults? Can we not decide for ourselves when and where we want to eat? Do students need to be on a meal plan so that they don't get malnourished? If so, then it doesn't make much sense to take away money that has been allocated for food.

What happens when you are running a fever? You obviously aren't hungry and don't feel well enough to go out to Kelly and eat one of those God-awful deli sandwiches. Well now it looks as though being sick, or without appetite will cost you 30 dollars a week. What about those students who go home on the weekends? They now have an extra two days worth of Residence points that they MUST spend, probably on something they would not have otherwise purchased. They are being punished for enjoying a home-cooked meal twice a week.

This doesn't convey HALF of my grievances with the meal plan. This system is obscene. Campus Dining Services are making a killing off of student apathy and laziness. I think the new meal plan system is horribly unjust, and is taking advantage of the students even more than usual.

Receiving this e-mail was like insult to injury. Not only is my money being toyed with, but now I have to suffer arrogant e-mails with vile slogans like "Use 'em don't lose 'em." I do not plan to tolerate this and I don't think anyone else should. How ironic it is that I was hard up for someone to write a letter to this week...

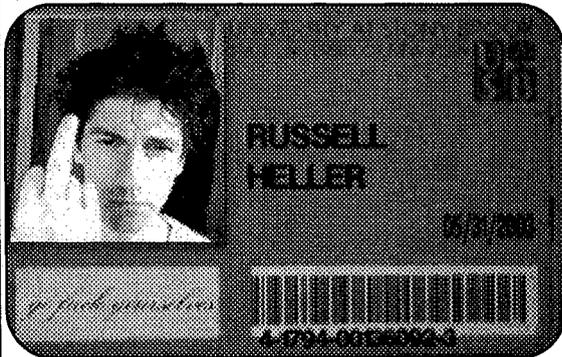
From: Dawn Villacci
<dvillacci@notes.cc.sunysb.edu>

This notice is being sent by Campus Dining Services as a reminder for you to use your resident points.

Got Resident Points? Use "Em, Don't Lose "Em!

As of Wednesday morning, October 6, you did not use any resident points this week.

Your Resident Point balance is high and you run the risk of losing thirty (30) resident points by the end of service on Sunday, October 10. Resident Points can be used in Kelly, Roth or Campus Connections at H Quad. Your resident points balance should be at or below 300 no later than Sunday night, 10/10. Hours of operation for resident locations are as follows:



Kelly

Breakfast (Monday - Friday) 7 am - 11:30 am
(a la carte, grab & go, grill to order)

Brunch

(Sat. & Sun.) 10:30 am - 3 pm
(all you care to eat buffet)

Taco Bell

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - 2 am
(Sat. & Sun.) 5 pm - 2 am

Deli

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - 3 am
(Sat. & Sun.) 3 pm - 3 am

International Food Court

(Monday - Sunday) 5:30 pm - 8 pm

Kelly Pizza

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - Midnight
(Sat. & Sun.) 5 pm - Midnight

Campus Connections @ H Quad

(Grill to order, wraps, grab and go salads and sandwiches, hot entrees (i.e., turkey, meatloaf), pasta sauté, fried appetizers
(i.e., cheese sticks, chicken fingers)

Lunch

(Monday - Friday) 11 am - 2:30 pm

Dinner

(Sun. - Thursday) 5:30 pm - 10 pm
(Friday & Sat.) 5:30 pm - 8 pm

Brunch

(Sat. & Sun.) 10:30 am - 3 pm
(all you care to eat buffet)

Roth

Burger King

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - Midnight
(Sat. & Sun.) Noon - Midnight

Deng Lee's

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - Midnight
(Sat. & Sun.) 4:30 pm - Midnight

Kosher

(Monday - Friday) Noon - 2 pm & 5 pm - 7:30 pm

(all you care to eat)

Trattoria

(Monday - Friday) 11:30 am - 2 pm (Italian food)

Mkt. Carvery/ Caribbean

(Monday - Friday) 5:30 pm - 9 pm

Remember, you are required to spend a minimum of thirty (30) resident points each week (Monday through Sunday) or you will lose them.

If you have any questions or need help with your meal plan please call me at 2-4372.

Dear Dawn Villacci,

Hello. My name is Russell Heller, I am a student here, and I recently received one of the many emails you must send out regarding residence point use. First of all, let me thank you for your interest in the state of my meal plan finances. Second, let me tell you where to stick it.

You put on a wonderful charade of genuine and sincere concern, but you miss one key point. If you really cared about protecting my meal plan balance, you would STOP STEALING FROM ME. That is what your policy is, bullying and theft.

I realize that some people might not think what you are doing is so bad, but they are sheep. I consider your letter both an insult and a challenge. An insult because you presuppose that everyone is happy with your asinine policy. Have you been to the Kelly Deli late Sunday night, when all the students are rushing to spend the points they inevitably have leftover? There is no useful food left by then, certainly nothing one could make a healthy meal of. I have mentioned this to food service personnel, who tell me that I should space it out during the week so that I won't have leftover points. Essentially the message I get is, "use it or lose it." Well I say fuck that. I will eat when and where I want to, and if you threaten to take my money away if I don't play ball, then I will retaliate. When I am given no voice in the policy making, and no choice whether or not to be on this meal plan in the first place, don't expect my compliance.

Your letter is a challenge to me and to my self-respect. Should it ever happen that I am running a high balance of Residence points at the end of a week and I am not hungry, I will be purchasing a large quantity of tuna fish salad. This will exhaust my remaining points so that you vultures don't get them. I will be hiding the tuna fish salad somewhere in your office. I am encouraging other students to do the same thing. I think after a few weeks of rotting tuna salad, you might rethink your policy.

I realize what I have proposed is a drastic measure, and I don't want it to come down to that. If you would like to meet with me to discuss how the meal plan WILL be changed, by all means let me know and we can avoid all this ugliness. I don't like having to resort to threats, but I feel that an injustice is being committed here and I am only responding to the cleverly worded threat I received from you. "Use 'em or lose 'em" translates into "we will take your money anyway, so you might as well buy some food with it." That is extortion, and a threat if I have ever heard one.

I feel the pretense of concern you take on in your letter to be ingenuine and offensive. I hope that I have given you a new perspective on this issue, and that this will generate action, but I doubt it. Correct what is wrong here, and put an end to your exploitation of the student body and I will sing your praise. Until then, you are high on my list of total bastards.

Love and Kisses,

Russell Heller



—Jack and Hil went up the hill looking for some campus feedback. Alas, Alack, they were all high on crack, and can't drop a note in our email.

THIS ISSUE: HOMOSEXUALITY

JACK:

Here it is folks, the long awaited homosexuality article. We, my personalities, and me have decided to present a little 10.% theory. We've all heard of it, but what does it mean?

The most scientific surveys of human sexuality and sexual attitudes have discovered that approximately 10% of the population are totally homo. In addition, only 10% of the population has never had a homosexual thought or act in their lives; they're the totally heteros (AKA breeders).

Using my trusty TI-82, I calculate that 80% of the population is neither homo nor hetero. Think of the balance knob on your stereo. At one extreme, the music is on your left; at the other extreme, the music is on your right. Bisexuals are right in the middle. The rest of us fit in between the left and the middle or between the right and the middle.

Hypothetically speaking, if you get a woody looking at your naked roommate, that doesn't make you gay. Hell, I'd go so far as to say that if, after a night of heavy drinking, in the heat of the moment, you blow your roommate, you still aren't gay. You are merely exploring an avenue of sexual expression that you will probably not choose as a way of life.

Let's face it. We're still kids. We can still explore certain aspects of life like children. Don't wait until you are married with 3 kids before you decide to act on a healthy sexual fantasy. I know too many 30+ men and women who are just realizing that they are not hetero. I think it's great that they are being honest with themselves now, but most of them have husbands, wives and kids who aren't as impressed with their sexual liberation.

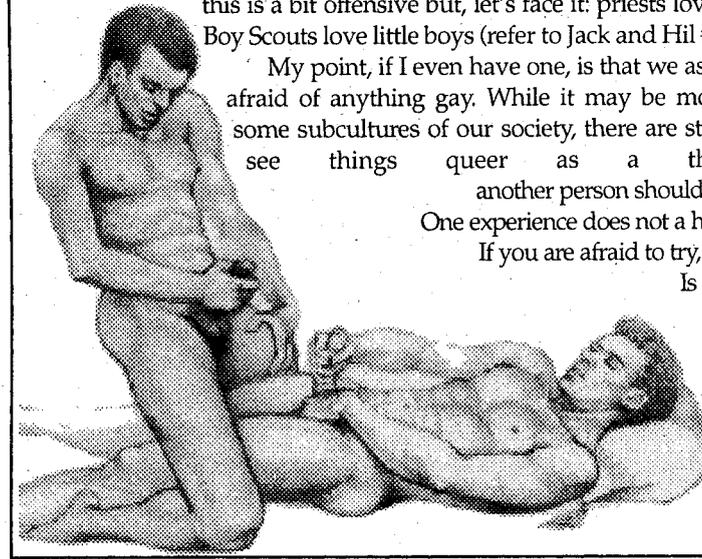
The Greeks considered homosexuality to be a normal aspect of sexual expression and a means for personal growth. Imagine a culture where people thought you were weird if you weren't bugging a little boy. Now, I certainly am not advocating a return to the Greek "tutelage" system, but we can't shove our heads up our asses and pretend it didn't exist. Many European aristocrats shared their time between their wives and the hottest little palace page. And let us not forget those wonderful Bonobo Chimps. You are just as likely to get a "hello" blowjob as you are a handshake from these frisky, furry, friendly, flip-fuckers. At other times in human history, affection could be acceptably shown towards members of the same sex.

I nearly forgot to talk about the Catholic Church. Let's just consider 100,000 men who spend all their time together and are "celibate". I know this is a bit offensive but, let's face it: priests love altar boys. The Boy Scouts love little boys (refer to Jack and Hil #2 for more info).

My point, if I even have one, is that we as a society are too afraid of anything gay. While it may be more acceptable in some subcultures of our society, there are still too many that see things queer as a threat. Loving another person should not pose a threat.

One experience does not a homosexual make. If you are afraid to try, ask yourself why.

Is it because you're afraid you'll like it?



No matter how comfortable you might be discussing most situations, this one might make you tighten up like virgin pussy.

All pictures on this page courtesy of "Sex For One: The Joy of Self-loving" by Betty Dodson, Ph.D.

HIL:

"My judges are going to understand that marriage is between a man and a woman—not two men," said Gary Bauer, one of the Republicans who's planning to run for the Presidency.

The general stance of society is that homosexuality is disgusting, evil and wrong. Churches denounce it, standing by the viewpoint of the Bible. Many parents, upon finding out that their children are gay, refuse to believe and/or accept it, sometimes even disowning them. The question I have is this: Should we avoid homosexuality based on society's view of it? Of course not.

We've all had homosexual thoughts cross our minds. Don't lie to me! More importantly, don't lie to yourself. Don't tell me that you've never looked at someone of the same sex and wondered, "What if?"

Now that we've established the fact that everyone's considered it, no matter how slightly, I need to address the fact that some people act on these thoughts while others don't. This decision is based on the difference between thinking and doing, between fantasy and reality.

However, if you decide not to act on your homosexual fantasies based on what you think society would want you to do, you need to realize that the country you live in prides itself on promoting individuality. Every psychology or history textbook we read tells us that we are a country that focuses on individualism rather than collectivism. Point: Do what you want, not what others tell you to do.

I would like to introduce the idea that having a homosexual experience doesn't necessarily mean that you're gay, rather, it is another way of expressing both lust and love.

In terms of lust, sleeping with somebody of the same sex is just another way of experimenting. Just as I have encouraged trying out different orgasm techniques, masturbation and dildos, I also encourage having a homosexual experience under your belt.

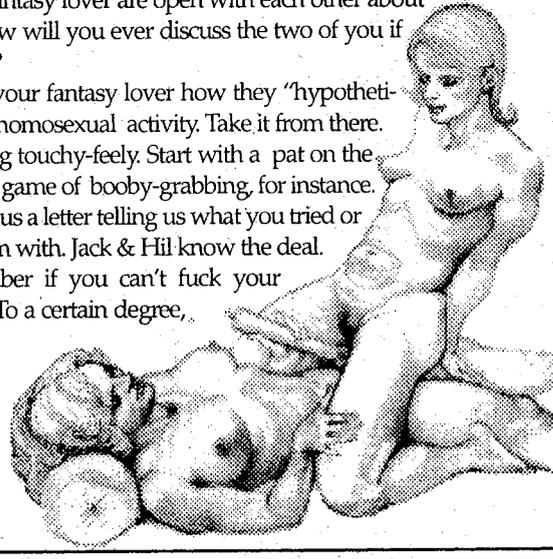
And in the case of love, I know many friends of the same sex who wanted to express how much they meant to each other in a way more than words. This doesn't mean they were gay or in love; however, it suggests that something physical was an extension of that emotional bond. Is this different from an artist painting or a dancer performing? We should feel free to express ourselves in any way that we want, verbal or sexual.

So, if you want to shove a cucumber up your friend's twat, go ahead (with her permission of course!). Which brings me to an even tougher issue: how to get what you want. No matter how comfortable you might be discussing most situations, this one might make you tighten up like virgin pussy.

Relax. Here are some steps you can take to remedy this situation.

- 1) Make sure you and your fantasy lover are open with each other about sexual activity in general. How will you ever discuss the two of you if you can't talk about sex at all?
- 2) Casually bring it up. Ask your fantasy lover how they "hypothetically feel" about engaging in homosexual activity. Take it from there.
- 3) Get drunk and start playing touchy-feely. Start with a pat on the back that lingers, or a playful game of booby-grabbing, for instance.
- 4) If none of this works, write us a letter telling us what you tried or what you're having a problem with. Jack & Hil know the deal.

Until then, remember if you can't fuck your friends, who can you fuck? To a certain degree, we all want it. Yes, even you.



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