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Stipend Increase Haunts Polity

By Greg Forte

The Polity Council and President David Greene have of late been under fire because of the recent stipend increase. The Senate in this year's meetings has voiced concern over the issue of the council's pay raise. Greene defends the pay increase because the amount of work that is required by council officers is not reflected in their stipends.

Tensions between Student Polity President David Greene and *Statesman* have been heating up in both offices. In editorials, *Statesman* has criticized David Greene's and the other officers that voted for and accepted the stipend increase. It also applauded Jerry Canada for not accepting it.

Greene has responded to the recent articles and editorials in *Statesman*, running a full page polity ad which defended the actions of the council and tore into *Statesman* for misrepresenting the facts. *Statesman* has since followed with another editorial standing by their facts.

In a prepared statement to the senate on June 16, Greene said that "The stipends aren't for compensating people for their day to day work...they were put [up] for the overtime and for the 80-hour work weeks."

David Greene officially became Polity President at the start of Summer Term I. Council meetings were conducted during the summer. According to the council minutes from the 6/8/92 meeting, the following people were present; David Greene, Rachel Richards (Secretary), Tricia Stuart, Crystal Plati, and Fred Baptiste (not present were Jerry Canada and Alphonso Grant). During this meeting that Crystal Plati made the motion: "To increase stipends as follows: President & Treasurer from \$80 to \$100, Vice President and Secretary from \$70 to \$80 (on 6/22, this was revised to from \$70 to \$85), Class representative from \$60 to \$75." The motion was seconded by David Greene. It was briefly discussed, and passed unanimously.

In the next council meeting (dated 6/15/92) Plati made the motion to approve the summer budget. This

summer budget included the pay raise in its proposal. The vote was unanimous, and the budget would now have to be approved by the Summer Senate for any amendments.

The second scheduled summer Senate meeting was on June 23, at which Rachel Richards, Fred Baptiste, the senators from each of the three colleges (Stimson, Mount, and Whitman), and representatives from HSO, the Science Fiction Forum, and *The Press* were present. The budget was ratified and passed during this meeting. The stipend increase was officially in effect from that day on.

However, not all members of the council accepted their pay increases. Newly elected Vice-President Jerry Canada has refused to accept it.

According to Canada, he was not aware of the pay increase, either prior to or during the summer. Canada is presently looking into the validity of the increase.

Tensions between Greene and *Statesman* started to rise when *Statesman* ran its first editorial. It was not until the first Senate meeting that speculation among members of the senate began to question the pay increase. Many senators agree that the timing of the council's pay increase was so that it could be done covertly—it would draw less attention during the summer.

Presently, the only organizations that are considered clubs that receive a pay increase are Student Polity officers and members of the *Statesman* staff. Many club presidents argue that the University should offer college credit for their involvement with clubs and activities. For example, the department of athletics grants 1 credit for participation on a team.

Statesman's editorial, "Watch Out For Green's Double-Talk", defended its article in the same issue, stated that Greene now earns \$5200 a year, mak-

ing him the highest paid student body president in the SUNY University Centers. David Greene earned \$1,160 for the summer.

In the first issue of the *Statesman*, in the editorial "Polity Stipends Undermine Students' Efforts", *Statesman* claimed that Polity's Stipends "are higher than any comparable student government in the State." Recently, Greene ran a full page polity ad for \$200 to inform the students of the justified pay raise, and to voice his own criticism of *Statesman's* pay statistics.

Greene has been under recent stress not only from *Statesman*, but from others who disagree with the stipend increase. Newly elected Vice-President Jerry Canada declined to take the pay increase. Canada presently receives \$70 per week. The new stipend increase of \$15 would generate an additional \$780 per year of income for Canada.

Presently, it has been brought up in the last two senate meetings, as of yet the pay increase is still in effect. No word to change it back to the original pay through an amendment in the original resolution has of yet been brought up.



AIDS Quilt

By Anthony Ramos

This spring the University at Stony Brook hosted a display of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to raise money for AIDS benefit organizations. Funds raised by the display totaled \$9419 and were distributed by the host committee to five beneficiary organizations. More than 6,000 people attended the Quilt display which was held March 31 through April 2 at Stony Brook's Indoor Sports Complex. It was the first major display of the Quilt on Long Island with 1,320 panels shown.

According to host committee co-chair Dallas Bauman, "We went through a list of organizations that people knew about. We targeted organizations which provide direct services for people with AIDS."

The five beneficiary organizations that were chosen were the People With AIDS coalition (PWAC) of Long Island, the AIDS Treatment Center of the University Hospital, Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC), Little Flower Children Services, and Catholic Charities Parish Outreach. According to Bauman, "Each of these organizations put in a lot of time and effort in getting the display organized." All of these organizations subsist largely upon funds raised from the public.

The AIDS Center at the University Hospital, LIAAC and PWAC all provide services for people with AIDS and educational programs in the community on preventative measures. Dina Burg, Director of Development for LIAAC, says the group also offers an information hotline and provides legal services, meals, and trans-

portation for people with AIDS. In addition to providing support services and education programs, the PWAC of Long Island also provides Chiropractic services, health forums, and sponsors social activities. "We do a lot in trying to provide a comfortable atmosphere," says Pat Maravel, Director of Operations. "we have a drop-in lounge that is open six days a week and have monthly socials."

Little Flower Children's Service is a foster care organization which had a program devoted to placing children with AIDS in homes. "we go out into the field once a month and visit with the children," says nurse Ginny Spataro. "We have very close relationships with the children."

The Catholic Charities Parish Outreach provides a support network for people with AIDS and their families.

The entire Quilt now has over 20,000 panels and will be on display in Washington D.C. from October 9-11.



Better Living Through Public Relations:

University President Speaks

by Sensate Mass

In his convocation address on September 15, University President John Marburger focused his attention squarely upon the University's desperate financial situation. After the depressing, obligatory statistical review (we have less money than last year, which was down from the year before, combined with annual \$4 million mid-year cuts, declining enrollment, etc.), he spoke of what can be done about it.

Much of his time was spent emphasizing the role that health care money plays in the University budget process. Half of the money spent by Stony Brook is generated through the University Hospital and related concerns. He mentioned that the state was attempting to cut funding to its hospitals and was in the process of appropriating more of their revenues.

Later, he spoke at length on the subject of private investment in the University, and of its effect upon the budget process. Because, according to Marburger, "...state dollars carry fringe benefits [that] don't show up in your budget...but if you have someone on the payroll who's paid by...non-state dollars, then you have to pay the fringe benefits. What has happened is that we have vastly more people on the state budget, and most of the non-people expenditures are being carried by non-state [money]." Since the accounting office is not very well-adapted to dealing with non-state money, and there is a move afoot to "decentralize...budget decisions," more money for equipment and resources will be available to departments that are able to attract private dollars, while those without the ability will have to get by with less.

Marburger highlighted the accomplishments of various University scholars and researchers, and said that Stony Brook is still doing a good job of meeting its goals. However, he said that "as a broad generalization, I would state that our situation is still very dangerous...we will need restorations of operating budget dollars some time during the next few years to prevent eventual disaster."

He listed "three major issues," that the University must deal with to stay strong: "The financing of health care at Stony Brook...the care and feeding of research and graduate education...and the undergraduate issue." He stressed the financial and prestige rewards that success in dealing with the first two areas would bring, and the difficulties the University is having with the third. Increasing, or at least maintaining the contributions to the University from its health care and research components would obviously be quite beneficial to Stony Brook in these difficult economic times, and enhance Stony Brook's reputation to attract more investment. Undergraduate education was another story.

President Marburger referred to the University's "persistent problem in attracting the best students." While

the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen had risen 20 points to 1000, he also noted that undergraduate freshman enrollment was down by 250. He said that, in spite of our much-renowned faculty, that students are simply not attracted to Stony Brook, and that our reputation as a research leader and medical center simply does not transfer itself to our undergraduate program. The solution to these problems, according to Marburger, is to "create a supportive atmosphere" through efforts to make faculty more sensitive to the needs of undergraduates, and to improve our public relations, through promotion and advertisement.



University President
John Marburger

Blackworld Gets Disturbing Message

By Greg Forte

A disturbing phone call was received late Saturday night at the offices of *Blackworld* newspaper. The caller, who identifies himself only as being black, criticized *Blackworld* for not understanding the "real problem going on with America", and denounced the organization. It was made from a public ROLM phone on campus, concealing the callers identify.

According to Jennifer Toussaint, production manager for *Blackworld*, they received the message last Saturday evening.

The call was then forwarded to several organizations (including the *Press*) across the campus. *Blackworld* has since filed a complaint with Public Safety, according to Toussaint.

The following is a transcript of the message left by the late night caller:

"I would like to say this *Blackworld*. I'm a black man alright. Okay...and I've read your paper here *Blackworld* published on the week of March 9th, 1992 Vol. 25 #2, and like to say the that the people who run this paper have a problem.

It feels like, that, you know I'm black and you know if black people have white friends, then it feels like your system, your party system, seems jealous. Or maybe you just don't understand the problem that's going on with America. Maybe you, the black people need to understand the white race for what it is. Alright, do you see what I'm saying.

Your paper is pro-black, pro-this, pro-that. But you

don't address the real problem in life, you understand that? Black and white must live together, must work together. But your paper, your paper, your organization and your stand is racist against the community at Stony Brook and the college. That's the way I feel about the situation. Even though I am black, and I have nothing against black people at all, but, I would like to say this for the record...I mean come on, I been living in a white neighborhood for a long time. Now I know the first thought that comes to your mind is that I sold out. Why black stay, dark night. I've been black, I've been persecuted. I've been called names like nigger and stuff like that. But those names don't bother me. And you guys have to understand is that when somebody says nigger, take it for granted. Take it for granted, don't take it like, oh boy like some honky is saying this, take it for granted and turn the other way. Just turn the other fuckin way.

I'm sick and tired you printing this pro-black racist bullshit against the man, the man, the fuckin man, as you say, the fuckin white man, if it wasn't for the white man, you wouldn't be in that fuckin college, you understand that. If it wasn't for the white administration, you ass would not be in the fuckin school. Okay. So fuck you, fuck your paper, kiss my ass. *Blackworld*, goodbye... I just want you to know, I always read your paper. And as the famous KKK guy said "wake up, white people, we got niggers, kikes, spics, in the area, filthy, dirty. Guess what guys, you heard that from a black man and I know you head must be tripping man. A black guy said that. Bye-bye.2

Acting-Treasurer resigns from Polity

By Greg Forte

Acting-Treasurer Fred Baptiste resigned from his position last Monday, Sept. 23. In a memo submitted to Polity President Greene, Baptiste officially resigned from his position Monday.

Greene said "it was due to personal circumstances, he would not be able to perform his duties, and felt it best to resign."

Fred Baptiste had previously stated that any and all questions from the media should be addressed to him directly. However, he could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Baptiste was appointed by Greene during the summer to fill the vacated position after David Greene became Polity President.

Cory Williams, one of the assistant Treasurer's has been filling in the position in Baptiste absence. Williams has not yet been confirmed as Acting Treasurer.



More On Bosnia

"Bosnia is anything but war: in a war at least some sort of equality is assumed. ... It is immoral to claim this is a war. What is going on is simply the destruction of the Bosnian lawn, upon which elephants are performing some dances of their own, incomprehensible to anyone else. Until when will the orchestra play on the Titanic of the new world order?"

Zoran Bosnyak, Novi vjesnik (a Croatian daily), 8/12/1992

DISINFORMATION REGARDING THE RECENT HISTORY

"The Croats aided the Nazis in the killing of Jews, whereas Serbs allied with Jewish resistance to try to drive Germans out. Beilin (the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister) said Israel 'will always remember the past contact between the Serbs and the Jews. But there comes a time when atrocities are too big, not that minor ones are tolerable.' Harry Wall, the head of the Israel's office of B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League said Israel's previous silence was understandable, given the history, and the fact that other western countries seemed rather passive in face of what was going on."

Newsday, 8/6/1992

The twentieth century history of the Balkans is indeed much more controversial (due to numerous deliberate distortions and a lack of historical distance, not to a peculiar complexity!) and thus offers plenty of opportunities for more credible disinformations. Broadly speaking, they are intended to support the old thesis that "Balkans produce more history than they can consume locally", with the implications that the noble attempts of the great powers to save the Balkans from its "superstitions and primitivity deeply rooted in ancient social soil" (George Will, *ibid.*) invariably result in worldwide catastrophes. In other words, it is the Balkans which mysteriously bring disasters to naturally benign great powers, not vice versa. That is why the Westerners should refrain from uncontrolled outbursts of generosity and calmly watch the concentration camps- after all people being exterminated (or "exhausted" in terminology suggested by Mr. Eagleburger) are not "us", Westerners, you would by no means call them "Western hostages", they essentially belong to an inferior and dangerous civilization. On the other hand, the obvious alternative explanations of the ongoing slaughter are conspicuously absent from the American media: concepts like "imperialism of the Western democracies", "a region with conflicting spheres of influence", "cold strategic (mis)calculus of the great powers behind the stage", "subservient regimes or 'valuable allies' of the West", "a war caused by a military imbalance perpetuated by the Western powers", are not just outmoded- they belong to the arsenal of the vanquished communist ideologues and thus should not be used by people with at least a minimum of self-respect. (Judging by the general climate in the American media, those ideas have apparently been successfully proscribed, with one notable exception: Germany's support for Croatia. The equally fervent support by Iceland (which recognized Croatia long before Germany did), Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Czech and Slovak federation, Ukraine, Australia etc. has conveniently been ignored.)

Most of the disinformations pertaining to modern history could be classified as elements of a very elaborate scheme (generously offered to the American media by the Serbian propaganda), namely **anticroatianism**, which plays a crucial role in both construction of a moral facade for an amoral foreign policy, and in an artificially complicated presentation of a reasonably simple situation. In other words, anticroatianism is a *conditio sine qua non* for the bedeviled-by-ethnicity-theory, for a symmetric distribution of guilt, and for a theory of total chaos

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with no discernible instigators or principle culprits. Although the tradition of anticroatianism is much shorter than that of antisemitism- its beginnings can be traced to the activities of the so called Yugoslav (predominantly Serbian, of course) diplomacy in the years after WWII, there are obvious similarities: in both cases there is a deeply rooted irrational tendency among large segments of certain populations to use the allegedly inherently evil nationality as a scapegoat for virtually anything. In other words, arbitrary or completely fabricated claims are used to satisfy the subconscious human need for a concrete incarnation of "dark forces".

This special attention presented to Croatia is by no means accidental: it was Croatia where the anachronistic imperialist nature of the Bush world order first lead to war. Just a month before the belated American recognition of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia, Mr. Baker insisted (at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting) that the US would not recognize Croatia "since it achieved its indepen-



dence by force". Those irrational and insolent Croatians had declined his benevolent suggestion to accept a minor sacrifice (just surrendering to the Serbian fascist regime and undergoing some innocuous ethnic cleansing). Thus, they completely ignored the American interests in that region and the notorious fact that those interests can be protected exclusively by Serbia, which is the only significant power in the Balkans with sufficiently anti-German traditions. Instead, Croatians chose to misbehave (by declaring independence) despite his stern warnings that an arms embargo would be imposed on them and Serbia would be given a green light to use its infinitely superior army to restore the American sphere of influence. Fortunately, the much more reasonable Bosnians, strictly following suggestions from Washington, have not even tried to arm themselves, and thus, unlike Croatians, enjoy the benefits of remaining in the American sphere of influence and of receiving so reassuring compassion from the American public.

Due to the above mentioned importance and consequent omnipresence of anticroatianism, any attempt to briefly enumerate and refute its main dogmas would be extremely naive- this task would require a much greater effort with many quotations from the relevant sources. Instead, some of those dogmas will be analyzed as they naturally arise in the further text, while for the time being a few salient misinterpretations could be given as a convincing proof of the presence of anticroatianism in America:

In a comprehensive treatise on how "the Balkans are

behaving like the Balkans" John Newhouse (New Yorker, 8/24/92) writes that the Western diplomats *knew that on May 6, 1991 Serbian and Croat surrogates of Milosevic and Tadjman had met at Graz to pin down their separate shares of Bosnia*. This statement significantly reinforces his incrimination of Croatia regarding the outbreak of war in Bosnia. It is almost correct: Karadzic and Boban did meet at Graz on May 6, just the year was 1992. This "misprint" happens to be very convenient: it "refutes" the Croatian claim that the faction among the Bosnian Croats which advocates division of Bosnia became significant only after the Serbians conquered the parts of Bosnia with the (unarmed) Muslim majority. (To be sure, the logical Muslim- Croatian alliance, although functioning, is not ideal: due to its excellent relations with the US, at the time of the Serbian aggression of Croatia the Bosnian Muslim leadership adhered to the theory of symmetric distribution of guilt.)

A few weeks ago David Brinkley told us in his

highly competent-sounding voice how during WWII the brave Serbian guerrillas kept 37 German divisions busy in the Balkans. Well, the only (exclusively) Serbian guerrillas were Chetniks, so he must have meant them. In fact, in literally dozens of articles that has been explicitly stated. On the other hand, in the April 92 issue of the journal European History Ann Lane writes: *Although the Chetniks were accepted initially as a source of resistance to German occupation, during 1943 and 1944 evidence accumulated indicating that they were playing at best only a passive role and at worst were actively collaborating with enemy*. Of course, that has been widely publicized in historical journals ever since 1945. After all, Churchill stopped supporting Chetniks in 1943 after the British intelligence caught even the Chetnik supreme commander in flagrant planning attacks on anti-fascist partisans with German army officers. By ascribing the merits for anti-fascist struggle exclusively to Serbians, the media conceal from the uninformed American public (that

process is usually called misinformation regardless of intentionality) the fact that it was Croatians who carried the brunt of the anti-Nazi struggle: when Italy was about to collapse, there was a general uprising in the whole of Southern Croatia (occupied by Italy) due to the perception that the war was almost over; such uprisings also happened in the cities of Warsaw and Prague, but much, much later. Thus the number of anti-Nazi partisans in Croatia suddenly increased from about 20,000, of whom about a half were Serbians, to well over 100,000, by and large Croatians. The above mentioned perception was wrong, of course, as Rommel himself convinced the new anti-fascist fighters during his visit to Croatia on that occasion. In consequence, an extremely fierce essentially frontal war was raging in Croatia for almost two years (Germans soldiers apparently preferred being sent to the Eastern front than to Yugoslavia!) As for the Serbian contribution, it is true that there was an uprising in South-Western Serbia as early as July 1941. It was partly a result of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, and partly of the Serbian megalomania inherited from 19th century (the fixed idea of being a "nation of warriors", although the Russian help in Serbian victories over Turks was always decisive). Germans had to withdraw one division from the Russian front (which infuriated Hitler) and one division from France. In a very short but barbaric campaign (a hundred Serbian hostages for one German soldier, mass shootings of anywhere between 2000 (Wehrmacht sources) and 7000 (Serbian sources) Serbian civilians at a time), they completely pacified Serbia. That resulted in an absolute calm (as far as war

Still More On Bosnia

operations go) in Serbia from October 1941 to October 1944 (when the Soviet and Bulgarian armies liberated a substantial part of Serbia). Thus it was only the 2 million Serbians in Bosnia and Croatia who significantly contributed to the anti-Nazi struggle (although a substantial number of them were collaborators, i.e. Chetniks). Thus, it is clear that Serbian contribution to the anti-fascist struggle could by no means have been greater than Croatian.

Another myth perpetuated in American media consists in widespread accusations that it was principally the (30,000 strong, including Bosnian Muslims) Croatian fascist units who perpetrated war crimes during WWII. Two issues are involved: playing down or even denial of the genocide committed by Serbian collaborators, and wild exaggerations of the genocide committed by the Croatian fascists (which was horrible enough even without that, but certainly not more so than the Chetnik genocide).

In connection with the first issue, it must be pointed out that those "brave Chetniks", although nominally British allies who happened to be passive in their anti-Nazi struggle, were at the same time very active in ethnic cleansing, just like nowadays- except that their most favorite method then was extermination, not expulsion. Yet, due to what Mr. Eagleburger calls "traditional friendship and alliance between Serbian and American people" (McNeil- Lehrer, April 92), the prevalent attitude in American media is clearly that Chetniks during WWII did not satisfy the reasonably well established criteria in the definition of a "fascist movement". In summer of 1990 there was a huge rally in the Eastern Bosnian Muslim town of Foca under the motto (literally) "the river of Drina will forever flow clear through our Bosnia". No, it was not an environmentalist protest, but a commemoration of a day in 1942 in which 5000 Muslim women and children were slaughtered on the bridge over Drina and thrown into the river. The commemoration clearly failed in its main objective: David Brinkley did not report on this mass gathering of people in mortal fear. On the contrary, as their corpses are seen floating in Drina on a photo in Newsweek, David Brinkley is still praising the alleged WWII Chetnik bravery, while George Will comments that same photo with phrases like "superstition and hatred rooted deeply in ancient social soil" (Newsweek, 8/24). The implicated cynicism is fully seen only in the light of the fact that, according to many Bosnians and Croatians, the US government denied those unarmed Bosnians their basic human right of self-defense and instigated the Serbian aggression by imposing (through UN) an arms embargo (still in force!!) on Croatia and Bosnia a year ago. The New York Times does not allow those less prestigious media to take the lead: in May 31 issue it refers to the Serbian Chetniks as "WWII guerrillas who took to the mountains to fight the Nazis". It is also unambiguously implied that they are now indulging in ethnic cleansing for the first time in this century, and are thus spoiling (isn't that a shame) the excellent record which their grandfathers have earned with The New York Times by their brave anti-Nazi struggle.

As for exaggerations of the magnitude of the crimes committed by the Croatian fascists, it is impossible to reveal in an article of this type the fabrications underlying this most remarkable success of Serbian propaganda. Since the absurd figure of 800,000 victims has been perpetuated in mainstream media with an incredible persistence, the American public seems to be firmly convinced that Croatian fascists have committed, relatively speaking, the greatest crimes in WWII. Of course, in the eyes of the Serbian public, Croatians as a nation have been made (by the same method—proof by repetition) even more odious. Instead of attempts to refute this deeply rooted "historical truth", perhaps it is better to point out that historians have resolved (or almost resolved) this issue in an essentially different way: they operate with figures of a different order of magnitude. The interested reader could be referred to the article of Nikola Koljevic (an eminent Serbian historian) published in *Nase Delo*, London (nota bene: not Belgrade), 1985 and the article "The fearful

asymmetry of war", *Dedalus*, spring 1992, by the Yale history professor of Croatian origin Ivo Banac.

THE RISE OF FASCISM IN SERBIA

In 1986, one year prior to Milosevic's rise to power in Serbia, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts issued the (in)famous Memorandum, which, although initially censored for its virulent nationalism, almost instantly shook the very foundations of the Yugoslav federation. Until that moment, this federation was perceived by a huge majority of its population (including both Serbians and Croatians) as reasonably stable and viable, with a very good prospect to become even harmonious, due to a seemingly irrepressible democratization process. Yugoslavs were by and large very proud of the acquired degree of democratization and a prosperity very unusual for a communist country—the supposedly more affluent German, Italian and Scandinavian tourists were often not able to



detect a significant difference in the standard of living, except for the fact that even the most prosperous Yugoslavs, namely Slovenes and littoral Croatians, were driving ordinary (but exorbitantly expensive) Yugos. (This Serbian factory had an absolute monopoly on the Yugoslav car market.)

Although the memorandum, being a creation of such a respectable institution, deserves an elaborate analysis, for our purposes it will suffice to abstract its highly pathetic language and give a very brief characterization: it is essentially an appeal to the Serbian leadership to seize a historical opportunity ("history would never forgive them if they don't") to restore Serbia's greatness after a long rule by an odious Croatian dictator (Tito), who deprived Serbia of its natural right to dominate the South Slavonic peoples. This natural right is a consequence of the glorious Serbian history, (the five centuries of slavery under the Ottoman rule were just an unfortunate result of objective historical circumstances), the God-given Serbian warrior spirit, the honest Serbian conquest after the collapse of Austro-Hungarian empire and, most of all, the fact the Serbians make more than 70% of the officer corps of the formidable Yugoslav National Army. Thus, those lucid Serbian poets and other men of letters demonstrated an admirable sense of reality and an extraordinary talent for cold political calculus. They ingeniously noticed a logical flaw in Tito's legacy: although he created a moderately decentralized political system, with a mechanism which prevents any nationality from dominating the federation, for the army there was no such mechanism since he relied on the communist internationalism inherent to perfectly indoctrinated and professionally idealistic army officers. But in those days in Yugoslavia the orthodox communist ideology was completely out of fashion, so those anational officers were very likely to become good Serbians. In consequence, there was obviously a discord between the present status of Serbia in Yugoslavia and its objective possibilities: there were no real obstacles for the transformation of Yugoslavia into Serboslavia.

It goes without saying that the above blasphemous simplified presentation of the Memorandum to the American public would be indignantly condemned by that part (unfortunately, sizable) of the Serbian intellectual elite which stands behind the Memorandum. But at the same time, those academicians did not mind if an average executor of their ideas interpreted their sublime work in precisely the same unsophisticated way. Of course, for large segments of the population such a simplification would not be good enough- the whole endeavor could appear very risky or unnecessary. That is why the media should convey the paranoia theoretically elaborated in the Memorandum to the general public in a convincing and easily comprehensible way. (To be sure, even before the Memorandum appeared, there existed some paranoia due to tense relations between Albanians and Serbians in Kosovo. But the paranoid fear for the fate of the Serbian minorities in Bosnia and Croatia was totally artificially created at a time when those Serbians had absolutely no clue they would soon be honored by the mother Serbia with the title "endangered brethren".)

Needless to say, the general public in other republics (especially Slovenia and Croatia) also showed an enormous interest in the Memorandum, although it looked as a mere abstraction at the time. It resulted in a considerable mistrust and a boost to moderately centrifugal (confederalist) forces.

In summary, the present disastrous ethnic hatreds in former Yugoslavia were by no means kept under control by the communist system. On the contrary, they were ultimately caused by a flaw in that system, namely the control of the extraordinarily strong army by one nationality, which was clearly due to the totalitarian nature of the system. Furthermore, they were not spontaneous, but conceived by the supposedly pragmatic academi-

cians who had the best intentions for their own nationality, and not so good intentions in general. In retrospective, it is clear they were actually about as pragmatic as the Kissinger's school of pragmatism. Thus, the formula which destroyed Yugoslavia was supposed pragmatism and amorality. Of course, the necessary condition for that formula to work was a sympathetic international community. By mere coincidence, the political doctrine currently governing the policies of the world's "leading" power was based on that same formula (as pointed out by Patrick Glynn in the article quoted above). Thus, it was not entirely unexpected when the executors of the Memorandum received the absolutely crucial support from the "leading" power and its two subordinate would-be great Western powers. (Naturally, this support was nominally given to the otherwise imponderable federal government since too cordial relations with the Serbian Fuehrer would contradict the basic diplomatic *savoir vivre*.) Still, this by no means completely explains what American interests this (mis)calculation was intended to protect. The motivation of the decision-makers in the State Department is actually the only complex problem related to the war in former Yugoslavia. But before this issue is addressed, let us recall the very original way in which the US government refrained from interfering in these purely European affairs.

DID U.S. REALLY LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO THE EUROPEANS?

From Croatian or Bosnian perspective the moral dilemma haunting the American public, namely "didn't we have a moral obligation to intervene", does not have much to do with reality. Instead, the dilemma should be "since we had concluded that Bosnian or Croatian lives were not a vital American interest, and consequently had so firmly decided not to protect the victim of the aggression, didn't we at least have a moral obligation to prevent the administration from intervening on the side of the aggressor". Indeed, according to some Croatians and Bosnians, the wars in ex-

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Editorial

The Fourth Estate: Who is David Greene?

Just who is the real David Greene? Newly elected President David Greene now has many people wondering whose side he is really on; Administration's or the students'. Does he want to get things done in Polity?

It seems that one of the first things David Greene did as Polity President was to increase his staff's pay and his own. It's money deserved. Raising the stipends during the summer, however, was sneaky and uncalled for and nobody, not even the Vice-President, knew anything about it. The increase in stipends could have, and should have, been postponed until the beginning of the Fall semester so that input from the rest of the Senate and other interested students in general could have been heard.

Had the council done so, the controversy that has surrounded the stipend increase for the past few weeks would have been totally avoided. It was in poor taste for David Greene to increase his pay as soon as he got into office. His performance should justify a pay increase—if after having been in office for some time, he presented the student body with a list of accomplishments justifying the need for an increase in pay, an objective decision could have been reached. However, to increase one's pay for a job not yet done is clearly *bogus*. The second thing David Greene did was propose his own Student Activity Fee budget without ever getting it approved or ratified by the Senate. What happened?

Due to the fact that the last three Senate meetings of the Spring semester did not meet quorum, the budget was never discussed. At the same time, David Greene, who was then Treasurer, was able to not only write his own budget, but in the process now has the power to approve it as well *without* the consent of the Senate.

This year, the first senate meeting was not held until September 16, already two weeks into the semester. The council approved the budget, but as of yet there hasn't been any discussion about it from the Senate. This is our money, and we don't even get a say on how it is spent.

Fred Preston is in the process of approving it, even though he knows full well that it has not yet gone to the Senate. For Preston, Stress, and the rest of Student Polity, the sooner the budget gets approved the better. In fact, although the budget still hasn't been approved, they are now operating with monies they don't really have yet.

Sadly, *Statesman* has not been fair in their mainstream reporting of the facts. Greene was correct when he said that one would have to work 52 weeks to make the \$5200. Council members do not work all 52 weeks of the year. Maybe *Statesman* should concentrate on its own financial situation and rethink their own stipends, instead of blasting Greene for making a lousy \$100 a week (roughly \$5 per hour).

In fact, though *Statesman* claims to be completely student-run (Editorial Sept. 21), it does have full-time non-students running the paper, all of whom are paid outrageous salaries (upwards of \$20,000 per year), and every staff member (even the ones who just distribute their paper) are paid stipends. There is no other campus paper that pays students for their participation. So let's have a little journalistic integrity and stop being hypocritical. If Polity is run on student money, so is *Statesman*. Though they claim not to be, they are funded by Polity referendum money.

The ongoing battles between *Statesman* and David Greene are getting rather stale, and are losing sight of the real issue. Was it fair for Greene to pay \$200 to print an ad for himself in *Statesman*? We don't think so. Greene should have the right to a fair rebuttal. He simply could have submitted a viewpoint to *Statesman*, without running it as a paid ad.

If *Statesman* feels so guilty about taking student money maybe they should have run the ad for free. One thing they are not lacking in is ads, which on average take up over 64% of its pages (and that's an F for journalistic integrity).

Republican Party

With Slightly less than six weeks left before the big day, it seems the Dynamic Duo for "Family Values" are beginning to run out of gas. Many anxious Americans tune in every night to see just how Bush and Quayle will remove themselves from another degrading situation that they got themselves into the days prior. Lately it seemed whenever the public needed a laugh, or required proof that there does exist a really large group of naive people in this country, they could just sit back and review the hypocrisy and outright lies that these two superfiends have contrived and fed to our loyal citizens, but lately it seems that all they know how to do is trip over their own rapidly flickering poisonous tongues and create more trouble for themselves.

It all seems to have started back last May when Bush's "Boy Wonder" made those thoughtful, intellectually stimulating comments about single mothers, the importance of fathers, and lifestyle choices. Did Quayle know Murphy Brown was a fictional character? (He should have, since he himself is one) Danny should learn not to talk about someone who has a higher Nielsen rating than all the Republicans dead or alive could ever hope to command. So he decided to play along like a good little boy, send a letter to "Baby Brown," as well as watch the show with a group of single mothers.

The Vice President, being the genius that he is, came out with the idea that he never really made the statement about single mothers. This made him look even more ridiculous, but at the same time gave his party some free publicity.

Their next adventure occurred at their home base in Houston, Texas. The Republican National Convention was supposed to be a time during which the two could regain some of their already lost support and try to pull ahead in the polls. Did that happen...nope don't think that it did.

Bush chose to have friends such as the infamous Pat Buchanan, and the holy Pat Robertson speak for him, and disaster struck again. Buchanan chose to take the opportunity as a way to revitalize his anti-homosexual monologue, and although it seemed to go over pretty well among all those Nazi—rather, Republican, supporters with their "Family Rights Forever. Gay Rights Never" signs waving in the wind. Luckily it struck a sour note with many people outside the Republican camp. The Long Cabin Federation,

a gay republican group, threatened to endorse Clinton. When Bush realized exactly how much money that this encompassed, and that open-minded America was outraged, he once again had "Boy Wonder" ready with a statement. This was a little harder to swallow because, after all, we read the Republicans lips like we were told, but nevertheless Quayle said we "misreported, and misinterpreted" the remarks. He also added that he still thought homosexuality to be "wrong." This was a pathetic defense; Quayle needed to dispel the hatred, not just change its tone. At least he and Bush will have a long time to think about their mistakes after January, when the word "former" is added to their titles.

Finally we reach episode three, "Did he, or didn't he dodge the Draft." Since Bush can't find anything relating to this decade to criticize Clinton about, he figured he would babble about the past.

This whole situation is most amusing because, although some may feel this is an important question, it is coming from a president who is harboring another veritable draft dodger. We have all at one time or another heard the story of stones and glass houses—perhaps someone should let George in on the joke. Although Quayle is not a single mother, and we all assume he is not gay, there is enough reason to believe he dodged the draft just like the average Joe might have. The only difference between the two is that Quayle joined the National Guard, and Clinton was going to enter the R.O.T.C., but by that time the draft had ended.

So when the people hear Quayle saying how much he supported the Vietnam War and then how he had a comfortable and safe position with the National Guard, there is a large tendency to disbelieve him. If he favored the war so deeply, then why is that he was stationed here in America?

Clinton clearly stated he opposed the war, so at least he is not being a hypocrite. Clinton's actions as well as Quayle's should be judged in today's terms. When Bush was involved in WWII, it was an popularly supported

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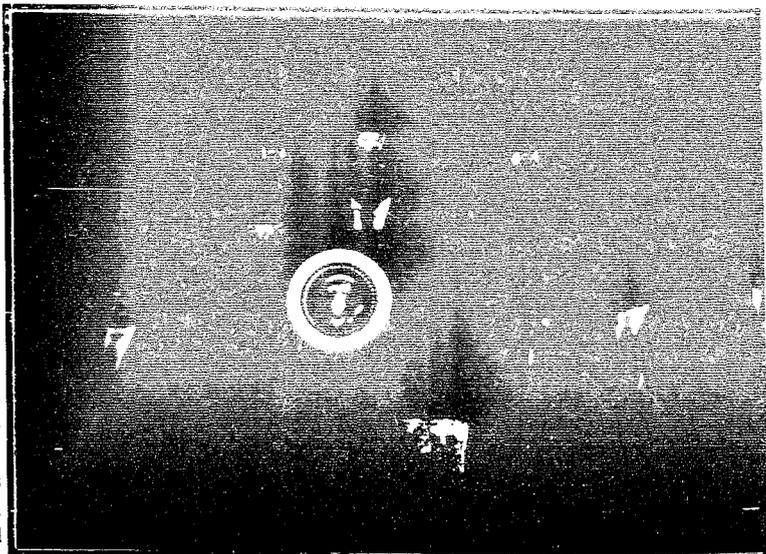
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Along the Color Line: Criticize Clinton, but Beat Bush

The presidential campaign of 1992 seems in many respects a replay of 1976. In both campaigns, a moderate, Democratic governor from a Southern state emerges from the middle class hinterland, to seize his party's nomination from the liberal establishment. An embattled, frustrated Republican president presides over a major economic recession, driving his popularity polls into the basement. The Republican incumbent is even challenged unsuccessfully by a leader of the right wing of his own party in the primaries. In November, 1976, Jimmy Carter narrowly defeated Gerald Ford. This November, Bill Clinton should narrowly defeat George Bush—but nothing in politics is predictable.

The historical analogy breaks down when we consider the social and ideological behind Carter and Clinton, respectively. Carter ran in 1976 with the Democrats having won seven of the previous eleven presidential contests, and with the national disgrace of Watergate tarnishing the Republicans. Nevertheless, Carter was unable to transform the Democrats into an explicitly "centrist" party, despite his aggressive cuts in social programs.

But after a decade of Reaganism, the political cultures of both major parties have shifted decisively to the right. It was in this context of reaction that Clinton and the conservative cabal, the Democratic Leadership Council, seized control of the party's national apparatus. Their conservative agenda represents a sharp break from New Deal-Great Society liberalism. Clinton's basic strategy is to speak primarily to two key constituencies: "Reagan Democrats," the white, blue collar workers who abandoned the party of Roosevelt and Kennedy over affirmative action, busing for school

desegregation, and welfare; and younger, suburban, white professionals who were attracted to the candidacies of Gary Hart in 1984 and Paul Tsongas earlier this year. The DLC's objective is to win the support of at least 47 percent of the white electorate. Clinton is painfully aware that since 1948, the Democrats have captured the majority of whites' votes only once in any presidential election. In the three presidential elections in the 1980's, Republican candidates won 33 million more votes than the Democrats, with an eight-to-one margin in electoral votes.

This explains Clinton's determination to avoid being characterized as a "tax-and-spend liberal," of the Kennedy-Mondale-Dukakis tradition. Preaching "family values," "patriotism," and "personal responsibility," he frequently sounds like Republican evangelist Pat Robertson. Rainbow Coalition chief strategist Jack O'Dell suggests that a Clinton presidency would be roughly similar to the administration of Harry S. Truman.

For progressives, the real question presented by the Clinton-Bush electoral contest boils down to a simple alternative: Do I vote for Clinton, or do I stay home on November 3? At times, when I watch a Clinton speech on C-SPAN, his words almost make sense, but I know he's not talking to me. I fear that a Clinton White House would be even further to the right than Jimmy Carter.

Despite these misgivings, I would still advise African-Americans, other people of color, and progressives to criticize Clinton, but to beat Bush this election year.

We must ask ourselves whether a substantial, critical

distinction can be made between Clinton-Gore and a second term for Bush-Quayle. Millions of women, threatened with the loss of their freedom of choice on the issue of abortion, can certainly understand the dangers of a Bush victory over Clinton. People of color recall that Bush vetoed the 1990 Civil Rights Act, and turned Willie Horton into Michael Dukakis' unofficial running mate. Advocates of the poor realize that the Bush Administration has consistently rejected legislative proposals to address the crisis of hunger. The thirty-seven million Americans without health insurance have much to gain if Clinton's initiatives are enacted in public health.

Clinton could still snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, however, if he continues to distance himself from the Black electorate and its concerns. The Democratic candidate has no high-ranking blacks in his campaign organization, and his golfing excursion last Spring at an all-white country club was racially insensitive and politically stupid. If fewer than fifty percent of Black voters go to the polls in November, the Arkansas Democrat will probably lose, regardless of the white vote. African-Americans must vote against Bush by voting for Clinton—but we must be prepared to struggle every day against the conservative policies of a Clinton administration.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado, Boulder. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 250 publications and over 50 radio stations internationally.

Commentary

Liberalism: Politics of the Individual

In the context of the current political campaigns, the ideology that is associated with liberals and their political thinking has been reduced to the advocacy of "godless...tax-and-spend policies" that care little for the good of the nation or the economy. Republican political rhetoric paints liberals as the slaves of special-interest groups, such as welfare, organized labor, gay rights, and other organizations that disagree with, and wish to take resources from, "real (normal) Americans." While politicians on the Left generally support such causes, they do so in keeping with a much broader political philosophy.

Liberals (in the purest sense) address themselves to the interests and needs of the individuals in a society. Their aim is to advance these interests as far as is practically possible, the rationale being that happy and fulfilled individuals make a happy and fulfilled society. A corresponding conservative idea would be that a healthy economy makes more money available to individuals, which they can then use to make themselves happy.

The difference between the two is one of emphasis and action. While conservatives attempt to meet the needs of the individual indirectly, through actions directed at statistical, societal concerns, liberals aim their policies more at the direct interests of people. The difference boils down to the distinction between top-down and bottom-up policies.

Liberals often are attributed the additional label "progressive," because most of them believe that things can always be made better for individuals; nothing is so good now that it could not stand improvement. While it may not be possible to realize a perfect society in which everyone could be perfectly happy, the effort must be made to approach that state of affairs as closely as possible with the resources that are available. Their attempts along these lines have been characterized as attacks upon people that are living within the status quo, rather than as attempts for the improvement of our society. Because of this, they are the natural enemies of vested interests everywhere. At least in the ideal state of affairs, they are; many elected Democrats have gotten cozy with political action contributors. This

being the case, one is still able to find a few of them who adhere more strictly to their beliefs.

More specifically, liberals attempt to achieve an equality of opportunity in this country, so that each individual has a chance to realize his or her full potential, and to keep social and economic oppression to a minimum. To this end, government involvement in education, civil rights, and poverty relief are advocated to allow everyone a guaranteed minimum chance at finding self-fulfillment.

Following is a list of policy areas and the liberal viewpoint upon them.

Economic Liberalism—While mainstream liberals within a democratic, capitalistic society are not communists, they do believe that there should be some force at work within society as a complement or counterpart to unbridled self-interest. They realize that each unit within a market-driven economy will pursue its own particular interests rather than the good of society in general, or (in the cases of the environment or diplomacy) of the world. As an institution whose purpose it is to look after general welfare, the government should be this other force. Within society, liberal policy usually follows some form of "enlightened self-interest," which equates the good of individuals within society with the general good. The idea can be paraphrased "Happy individuals are more productive; a society composed of happy individuals will therefore be productive, and conducive to a healthy economy."

To realize this end, liberal domestic policy uses redistribution of funds that it is hoped will be sufficient to insure at least a minimum level of equality of opportunity and eliminate poverty and economic suffering. These policies are characteristically long-term; liberals are willing to invest in the future at the expense of short-term profits and economic goals.

Internationally, liberal economic policy embodies many of these same ideals, but on a larger scale. Economic self-determination of other countries is seen not only as "right," but also as being contributory to greater productivity and wealth worldwide. Developing countries are assisted via foreign aid to help them to develop the potential of their resources (human or nat-

ural).

Political Liberalism—While freedom is the key to the vitality of our society, liberals realize that it means precious little without the means to act as one would like. For this reason, relatively unintrusive government intervention in society is acceptable when in the interest of creating an atmosphere in which all individuals are capable of achievement and happiness. Social equality is of utmost importance to this purpose; liberals are staunch supporters of civil rights legislation.

Liberal government is government according to principles: A government may not, either through action or inaction, allow its citizens to come to harm. While the people are to be protected from the rapaciousness of business or each other, the government should have no interest in protecting them from themselves, except through education.

Foreign Policy Liberalism—Liberals believe that it is important for this country to act as humanely as possible to redress human rights violations in other countries, either through trade policies, diplomatic or other actions. While this provides a basis for intervention in other countries, liberals believe that we are not justified in such action for purely political reasons. Liberals believe in allowing the self-determination of peoples, except where others are harmed as a result of these efforts (civil wars, etc.). Liberals believe that such policies can eventually get countries working together to make the world a better place. Liberal ideology places less emphasis upon national interest, and more upon global community.

Social Liberalism—Liberals believe in maximizing individual freedom, through support of freedom of expression, the right to privacy, and open-minded policies in the area of lifestyle choices. Only in cases of direct harm to others should people be restrained. They believe that people should live up to their own standards, not to some governmentally predetermined set of absolute values, and thus throw out of consideration any special privileges for Christianity or any other religious groups.

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to preserve their little empire by force, why would Russians proceed with the withdrawal of their troops from their valuable former colonies in North-Eastern Europe?

Thirdly, Europe now has its own Palestinians—a homeless nation of westernized and once relatively prosperous Muslims, who will most probably turn to fundamentalism and anti-Western (Germany excluded) terrorism as their credulous leaders in consternation gradually comprehend the full extent of America's betrayal. It goes without saying that the Iranian and possibly Libyan arms currently being smuggled into Bosnia and (Albanian populated) Kosovo will ensure a firm outpost for those countries in Europe. Thus, the feigned Serbian fear of fundamentalism will no more be feigned. Furthermore, the idyll (manifested so clearly in Kurdistan in the aftermath of Gulf War) in U.S. relations with Turkey, Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim satrapies might soon be over: no other event in recent history has unified the Islamic world as the barbaric siege of Sarajevo, pogroms and mass slaughters of Muslims in the heart of Christian Europe.

Fourth, the pro-American attitudes throughout Eastern Europe inherited from the era of Wilson and Roosevelt, and reinforced by the cold war propaganda, have

all but disappeared: the existence of a widespread egoistic "patriotism" in America supportive of would-be machiavellian foreign policy, has all of a sudden been made transparently clear to the people who had been inclined to idealistic interpretations of history and very susceptible to Reagan's rhetoric, due to their terrible sufferings in this century—most recently under communist totalitarianism. (They are not necessarily aware of the possibility of major distortions by the American media in the coverage of events in faraway countries, which would be intentionally designed to whip up superiority feelings and justify imperialist policies.) In most countries neighboring to Serbia, as well as in most newly independent countries or separatist regions in Europe (e.g. Ukraine, Catalonia) this pro-American attitude has been replaced by outright anti-Americanism. (Remember the lecture on "suicidal separatism" delivered in Kiev by the American President to an audience whose state of mind was compatible exclusively with Wilson's idealism and principle of self-determination. This revelation on the nature of separatism by an American, not Russian, President, must have shocked the audience.) The paranoid fear in America of German influence in Slovenia,

Croatia, Slovakia and, possibly, Ukraine, is no more paranoid: those countries have received the crucial support from Germany in the fateful moments to their history, when their independence was fiercely opposed by U.S., Britain and France.

Finally, a long-term consequence of the application of Kissinger's doctrine in the Balkans could be the full comprehension of the necessity of creation of "Europe of regions": after being tormented terribly twice in this century, Europe is likely to identify as the main source of its troubles not the sporadic emergence of fascist regimes among the tiny countries of Serbia's size, but the supposedly rational and acceptable nationalism of the great powers: Serbia would have been sobered easily by an alliance of Croatia, Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Hungary, had it not been for the crucial support for Serbia from the pseudo-pragmatists in Washington, London and Paris. In other words, the friction of interest spheres of small countries is likely to result in sporadic very localized conflicts, but when the interest spheres of great powers clash, the results turn out to be global catastrophes. Although Germany and Russia presently seem to be benign when compared to Britain and France, they are not

likely to remain so for too long (as suggested before): they have relinquished their interest spheres only temporarily, unless there is a fundamental transformation of the world order. That is why the smaller European countries could be expected to take the initiative and try to create a system that would tame the dinosaurs belonging to an era which will hopefully end with the elephantine would-be pragmatic policies in Croatia and Bosnia. The Danish "ne" to Maastricht was actually a "ne" to London and Paris, not to Edinburgh, Cardiff, Marseilles, Grenoble, Munich or Barcelona. It goes without saying that U.S. would not be honored as "the world's leading power" by this future European confederation—they would not even have very cordial relations unless U.S. foreign policy undergoes a very substantial transformation and adjusts to the new climate in international relations.

Darko Mrakovcic is a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics of SUNY Stony Brook, and is a native of Croatia

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AIDS Testing, While Scary, Is Necessary

By John Marburger

I looked at the nurse incredulously, knowing now that the worst was in store, but I sat there silent as she dialed the lab on the phone. A moment earlier she had discovered that the test result wasn't there, asked me if I had been told this when I was tested, and when I said no she had commented "That's strange!" as the sirens went off in my head. I began bracing myself as she placed the call.

I thought that at least this was good, knowing I was indeed HIV-positive. I had delayed this for so long, and yet I had lived all that time in fear, knowing that I needed to be tested. If I was positive, I could begin the necessary tasks of ordering my priorities and preparing myself, and those close to me, for what lay ahead.

I thought of Carol, and how I would break the news to her. I wondered which would be worse, the simple act of telling her or the admission, at first implicit and then confirmed, that I had not been monogamous during our long relationship. Would she be devastated and shocked? Or had she really known all along, as I'd often suspected, that there were others? And what about her? What if she'd screwed around and given it to me?

Sure, we'd used condoms as our primary form of birth control, but we'd done other things, spontaneous and yes, a bit crazy at times. All these years I had known deep down, known that I was putting her at risk. And yet I remained silent, silent with her and the other partners I'd had over the years.

But I loved Carol; I had loved few of the other women I'd been with, either before or after I met Carol. It didn't really matter what happened to them. There hadn't been many, and most had been one-night stands, slippery back-seat encounters or even quick trips home after some drinks; some hard sex and then see ya later. I could have passed it to any of them, but then again, any one of them could have passed it to me. Each of them slept with a dozen or so women who had slept with a dozen or so guys, and just one in the chain might have slept with an infected gay man or needle junkie or person who had gotten a blood transfusion in the early '80s. There was little chance of knowing where it started in this particular figure tree. How could I even contact them?

All of this swirled in my head as the nurse spoke, somewhere in the distance, into the telephone, reciting a series of numbers. I started narrowing down the list of people I could have gotten it from. I was not gay, and while I'd participated in a couple of *menage a trois*' in my life, I'd steered clear of sex with men. Not that I have anything against homosexuals, it's just not for me. So there was a mental list of about two dozen women, some of whom I could hardly remember.

And that's when it hit me that it might not have happened during an act of betrayal to Carol. Arthur Ashe said it was seven years between the time he received that contaminated blood transfusion and the discovery that he was HIV-positive. The nurse who counseled me before taking my blood had said it was sometimes up to ten years before people noticed symptoms of infection. It was probably Karen. We'd had a brief affair in the early 80's, before I met Carol. Her ex had been a heroin addict, and while she said she had never shot up, just snorted it, I never knew for sure. And I didn't care because at that time, so little was known about this new disease except that it was being called "the gay plague." I didn't hear about its connection to needle use until long after Karen and I had our last screw. Heck, Reagan never even used the word "AIDS" in a public speech until 1987.

There were a couple of experiments with anal sex, but from what I'd heard it would be the recipient, not me, who was in danger of infection. Since it was usually my fluid being exchanged, there was a greater chance that my partners were being infected than the other way around. But the nurse had told me otherwise; the chances were reduced, especially if I was receiving oral sex, but it was possible that saliva or vaginal juices, or sores or cuts in my partner's body, for that matter, could transmit HIV to me. Still, it was probably Karen, or Julia. She wasn't a junkie, but she'd slept with a couple of men who were supposedly bisexual. Julia was a

—And there was also Dolores from Ohio, "Dotty" as she was known to her friends. I'd forgotten about her background. We'd met at a conference about six years ago, and kept up an occasional romance over a couple of years until she got involved with someone who ended up marrying her. Dotty was intelligent, mature, attractive— but she had been in a car crash once and

received blood transfusions. It had to be one of these three....

My thoughts were interrupted by the sound of the nurse saying "Thank you" and hanging up the phone. I focused intensely on her demeanor as the seconds seemed like minutes until she looked up at me and said, "Your results came back negative." I felt like crying and hugging her, holding on so tightly with relief, and guilt over my having escaped. But I maintained a calm exterior except for the smile which I felt spreading across my lips.

And then came the kicker. "Have you had unprotected sex in the past six months?" she asked. I told her that I had, and learned that to be sure I was HIV-negative, I should be tested six months after the last time I had unprotected sex, as the antibodies won't show up for three to six months after infection. Then she asked me if the nurse who had taken my blood four weeks earlier had talked to me about prevention, and slightly embarrassed, I said yes.

So while I know I didn't get AIDS from all those women in the past, I have to be careful about getting it in the future. And I'm trying, really trying, to have safe sex, at least with women I think are risky. But each time I have unprotected sex pushes the date of my second test back. One thing I've learned is that you never know who might be a carrier unless they can produce evidence of a negative test. *Anyone* could have it, even prim and proper Catholic girls, cute young boys who like baseball, or CEO's and presidents. Even George Bush and Jennie Fitzgerald, Bill Clinton and Gennifer Flowers, for that matter, could have AIDS if they weren't careful. But it's so hard having *safe* sex. At least I'm being more selective in the type of women I have *unsafe* sex with....

John Marburger is the pseudonym for a writer who wishes to remain anonymous. Anyone can get AIDS, mous testing for HIV is available through the New York State Anonymous HIV Counseling and Testing Program (853-2999). For further assistance and information, call the Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) at 385-AIDS.

Liberalism Continued

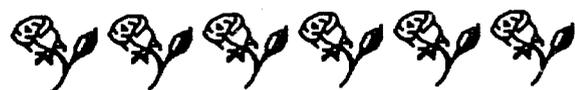


any special privileges for Christianity or any other religious groups.

In the criminal justice system, liberals lean to the side of the defendant; they regard an unjust conviction as a far greater evil than that of allowing a criminal to go free. They hold that the purpose of our correctional system is to correct, not to punish. Only if it is impossible to reform a criminal, should he or she be kept incarcerated. The emphasis upon retribution should be taken out of our law-enforcement policies.

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A Progressive Mentality



for an ever changing society



Still More from Bosnia

Yugoslavia would not have happened at all if U.S. had been truly isolationist and completely neutral, and according to most Croats and Bosnians, there would have been no wars if U.S. had taken the right and timely diplomatic action. Indeed, there was a very tense stand-off in January, and again in March, of 1991, when Serbian generals hardly resisted the temptation to use their powerful army to crush virtually unarmed Croatia and Slovenia. (In order to get an idea of the military imbalance, one should be aware that, according to the reasonably reliable Croatian daily "Novi Vjesnik", Russia has about 50,000 artillery pieces, Serbia 18,000, China 15,000, and U.S. (just like Ukraine) about 5,000. (These numbers, of course, do not translate directly into conventional firepower since caliber of the cannons and mortars was not taken into account.) After long deliberations, even the most belligerent generals agreed to resist the temptation, perhaps because of stern warnings from the State Department regarding use of force.

But on June 20, 1991, five days before Croatian and Slovenian declarations of independence and the outbreak of war, James Baker III came to Belgrade to express a strong U.S. support for a unified Yugoslavia and deliver the threat of a total isolation to the presidents of Croatia and Slovenia. In fact, his support for ex-Yugoslavia must have been unusually strong: immediately after meeting Mr. Baker, the Yugoslav prime minister held a speech in the Yugoslav parliament and announced, for the first time, the possibility of use of force against the "separatist" republics (see The New York Times, 6/21/1991). At that time the Presidency of Yugoslavia, which by constitution had the exclusive right to order the army to intervene, was not functioning at all. Thus, it is not too far fetched to conjecture that Mr. Baker approved of an unconstitutional use of army to preserve a federation that had already fallen apart in a perfectly constitutional way. At any rate, he effectively demanded that Croats and Slovenes accept to remain in Yugoslavia without offering them protection from the Serbian fascist regime which was clearly about to overthrow their elected governments and enslave them like Albanians of Kosovo. (In fact, the announced declarations of independence, which were so fiercely condemned by the U.S., were essentially desperate appeals to the international community for help in withstanding the ongoing "creeping aggression" and the imminent full-scale aggression. The alleged Western concern for the 12% strong Serbian minority in Croatia was most likely not genuine: even if one does not trust the Croatian constitution and legal system, there remains the provision in the Croatian declaration of independence that the Yugoslav troops stationed in Croatia would be allowed to stay there for three years.)

Thus, if the above mentioned conjecture is correct, in that fateful moment Mr. Baker offered Croats and Slovenes to choose between slavery and a war against a far superior aggressor, under the circumstances of a total arms embargo. That is certainly how this ominous American "non-interference" will be remembered by a huge majority of ex-Yugoslavs. As early as 6/28/1991 even The New York Times adhered to this theory of who has opened the Pandora's box in the Balkans: "Some political experts have suggested that by stressing the need to preserve Yugoslavia's unity European governments—as well as the United States—might have encouraged Belgrade to use force..." After these initial reactions, the American media have conveniently stopped embarrassing the government with such unpleasant speculations. But the curious American non-interference continued in the same spirit. The UN indeed imposed the arms embargo (even on defensive weapons!), as if Serbia were as unarmed as Croatia. Despite its alleged ineffectiveness, the embargo certainly makes the arms unaffordably expensive for the war-torn Croatia and Bosnia. In November 1991, as Croatian civilians in at least seven larger Croatian towns were being massacred by the indiscriminate bombardment and Croatian soldiers armed with pistols and hunting guns were facing tanks and airplanes, the media in this country proudly reported how CIA foiled in Budapest an attempt to deliver a \$5 million valuable shipment of arms purchased in Chile to Croatia. This was by no means an isolated case: several Croats in this country have been arrested for similar attempts, and many shipments of arms have been seized. On the diplomatic front, the U.S. unsuccessfully used all its influence to prevent Europeans from recognizing Croatia: in December 1991, there was a major confrontation on this issue in the UN between US and

Germany—that was the first significant split in NATO (followed by the formation of a Franco-German army) and the first German diplomatic victory after unification.

The case of Bosnia is essentially different: Bosnian Muslims could not be blamed for arming themselves and thus "endangering the Serbian minority", so the theory of symmetric guilt was not applicable and the American public had to be given the impression that US were siding with Bosnia. (Actually, Mr. Eagleburger initially did try on McNeil-Lehrer to suggest that the West should simply wait until the warring sides "exhaust each other". Although the same ingenious suggestion had functioned superbly last year in the case of Croatia, this time the imbalance of power was so drastic that the suggestion was not good for use in public: the electorate does not like when you declare that you wait until Serbians completely exhaust Bosnians in concentration camps. Apparently, there was a disagreement on this issue between the Secretary of State and his deputy.) But the obvious fact that the face-saving sanctions on Serbia are like a drop in the ocean when compared to the effect of the still valid arms embargo on Bosnia and Croatia, has simply not been observed by the media. The answer to a genocide committed against a people whose leaders were literally receiving instructions from Washington, were just mild attempts to perform some cosmetic changes in the country which perpetrated the aggression.

MOTIVATION OF THE DECISION MAKERS IN WASHINGTON

One can only speculate on this issue, of course. The most obvious speculation would be to interpret the curious completely doomed attempts to preserve Yugoslavia (meaning the Serbian sphere of influence) in the context of an equally doomed attempt to preserve the Soviet Union. But, the support for the preservation of the Serbian sphere of influence continued after the disentanglement in the Soviet Union. Perhaps this could be explained simply as an inertia in foreign policy intended to cover up the previous misjudgments (this would imply existence of an incredible intellectual inertia in Washington DC). But a much more important factor is probably the obsession with the German sphere of influence, which would supposedly be countered with the existing Serbian sphere of influence. If that is the case, the problematic decisions must have been made with the expectation of a decisive Serbian victory and fall of Croatia. Under the assumption of the existence of intelligence on the Croatian determination to fight to the last ditch, this would imply not only a miscalculation, but a conscious decision about a genocide in Croatia comparable to the one in Bosnia.

As for the possible origin of the above mentioned obsession with the German sphere of influence, it might be identified as the shocking realization that Germany has been allowed to unify without conditions as a result of "seeking favor with West Germans, and discouraging them from moving toward Moscow, by pretending that only the Soviet Union blocked the unification and the new power role that it would bring Germans" (A. M. Rosenthal, The New York Times, 9/22/92). So the West, "trapped in its own hypocrisy", "lost legal power over the pace and shape of the unification" and "just stood there, a smile pasted on its startled face" (ibidem.). The first rationalization was "the fairy tale that dangers could be handled by tying Germany down with bureaucratic ropes" within EC (ibidem). But it turned out it was like "anchoring a cat in a dairy" (ibidem). Of course, such assessments of the German unification did not imply the danger of an exact repetition of history—this time the "danger" was that the united Germany would dominate Europe, or even a much larger region using its economic power (as if some other countries had not been dominating and even running other supposedly independent countries by the same means). At that time it seemed inconceivable that the situation in Europe would become so chaotic (in accordance with the administration's "excellent foreign policy record") and that Germany would dare to reform its immigration policies starting with Gypsies.

So the situation in ex-Yugoslavia might have been seen by people who lost control of the events in connection with German unification as an excellent opportunity to teach Germany that it could not recreate its sphere of influence. The fury caused by the supposedly uncontrollable unification was possibly redirected to more realistic

objects—the emerging allegedly germanophilic countries, namely Croatia and Slovenia. At any rate, a vigorous opposition to this supposed German expansionism could have been intended to appease the considerable germanophobic portion of the American electorate.

In connection with this, it should be stressed that Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia only a year ago used to be no more pro-German than pro-American and that they would probably have tried to balance between the two powers in order not to be dominated at all. Unfortunately, due to an excellent misinformation campaign, the American public had no idea that in this century German Nazis carried out a large scale ethnic cleansing in North-Eastern Slovenia, and that 68,000 partisans in Croatia (by and large Croats) were killed in fierce battles against Wehrmacht. (For instance, in May 1943 the Second Dalmatian Brigade fought literally to the last man holding for two days a crucial position in the battle of Sutjeska and thus enabled the 20,000 strong division led by Tito to escape from the German encirclement; in October 1943 Rommel's armoured units slaughtered near Rieka 1,200 unarmed Croats on their way to join the partisans.) As for the "traditional historical ties", few Americans pay attention to the fact that as soon as Croatia voted Communists out of power in 1990 every single town or major village in Croatia had a street named after Counts Zrinski and Frankopan, who were decapitated in Wiener Neustadt in 1671. (These two most famous Croatian national heroes conspired to dethrone Habsburgs from the Croatian throne since Austria prevented them from liberating Eastern Croatia after their brilliant victories over Turks. In other words, the Croatian-Austrian "historical alliance" lasted from 1527, when the Croatian diet elected a Habsburg to the Croatian throne, to 1671, when Austrians realized that Croatia might become too strong as the Turkish power gradually declined. Ever since then (until 1918) Austria, along with Hungary, has been the principal Croatian national enemy.)

WHAT FOREIGN POLICY?

It is generally known that many Americans, especially supporters of the GOP, do not mind minor departures in the foreign policy from the ethical code conventionally accepted as valid for the domestic policy. Recently the author of this article had the opportunity to hear a very honest formulation of this attitude: "We do not care if Eastern Europeans or Kurds or Iraqis live under totalitarian regimes or starve to death or get killed in millions, as long as it is in the American interest, or as long as the American standard of living does not deteriorate." Although this might sound like a perfectly acceptable and coherent reasoning, it is not difficult to detect its logical flaws (even when one accepts a purely amoral viewpoint). History shows that when such machiavellian ideas and superiority feelings accumulate (usually in an era of relative stability) and result in actions which in turn provoke feelings of injustice and bitterness on the other side, at some point the consequent instability eventually makes the "naive" ethical and emotional notions dominant historical forces. (Recall WWII, which started with very rational concepts of a superior race (more intelligent or at least economically more powerful), and was decided by the highly irrational emotions ("the just wrath") of the supposedly inferior race.)

What are the consequences of the would-be pragmatic and amoral foreign policy in Croatia and Bosnia?

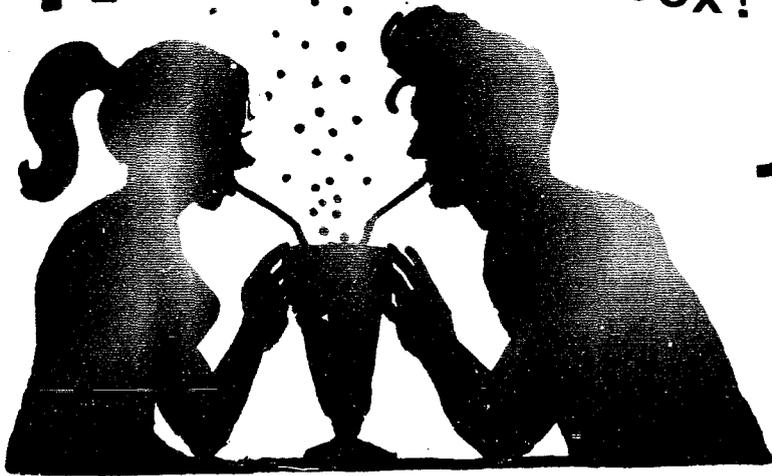
Firstly, Germans have been reminded that they still live in a Hobbesian world: if they thought that in the new world order the spheres of influence would be decided exclusively through economic competition, they were wrong: other great powers with immaculate historical record are allowed to sponsor aggressions and even tolerate genocides in order to try to preserve their interest spheres. Needless to say, this was an enormous boost for the extreme right wing in Germany and expulsion of Gypsies should come as no surprise. (Why would Germans be expected to have the most generous asylum laws and accept 200,000 refugees from Bosnia if Britain and France have accepted only 1,000 each, in spite of their responsibility for the aggression?)

Secondly, the Russian right wing is about to finish the era of incredibly tolerant and benevolent Yeltsin's foreign policy: if Serbians are allowed and almost encouraged

continued on page 8

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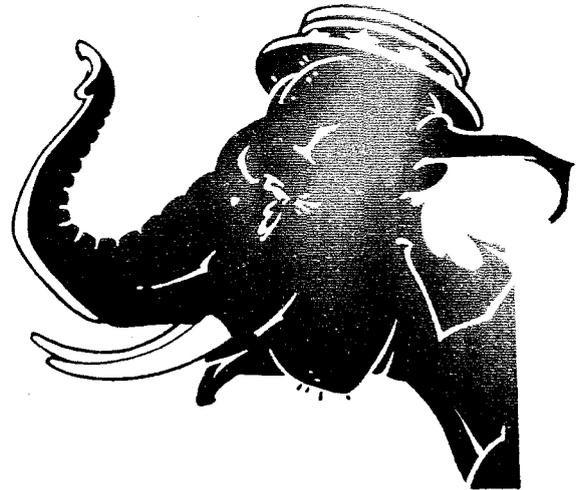
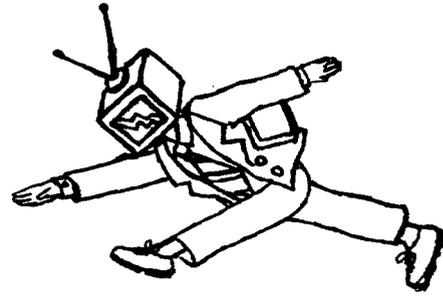
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Election Day's Coming....

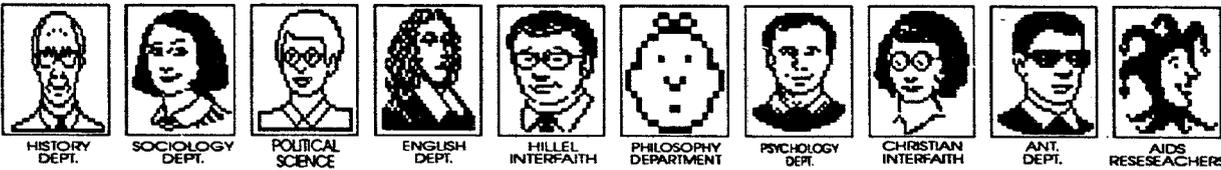
So, get off yer ass and vote, dude!



Last semester, during the "Black History Extravaganza," Dr. Khallid Abdul Muhammad announced an offer to debate Seven (7) of Stony Brook's best MINDS on any subject matter, they wanted to discuss. As it now stands, the offer is still open. The purpose of such a debate is to establish truth, communication and understanding. We feel such a debate will resolve any unanswered questions and concerns. And are therefore, healthy to stimulate extra curricula learning in an academic environment.

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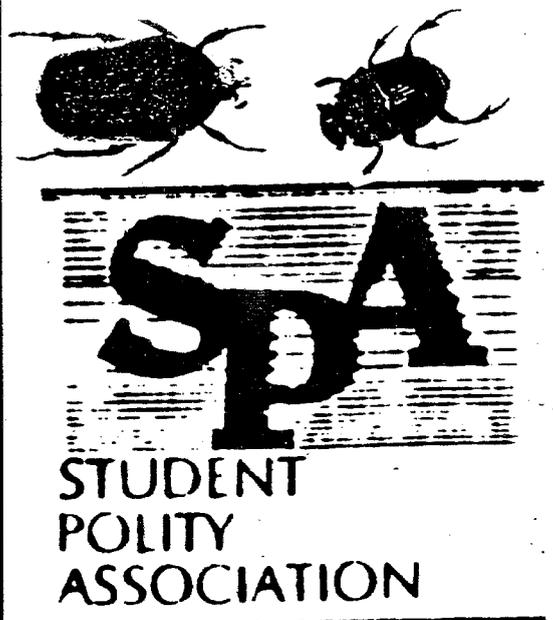
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DYSFUNCTIONAL FABLE

Sheep And The Hedgehog

by Rachel S. Wexelbaum

In the Scottish Highlands there lived a sheep who stood apart from his flock. The others did not understand why he stood on the edge of the cliff for hours, without eating or drinking, just breathing in the fresh air and gazing at the view below. Sometimes he spoke to himself in a singsong voice, and when the flock asked him what he was saying the sheep would reply in poetry. The elders would shake their heads, for in their eyes they only saw things as good to eat, not good to eat, sheep, dog, or two legs.

The more he admired the natural beauty around him, the more the sheep wished to leave the flock and explore the world to find others like him. It frustrated the sheep that the others did not have eyes as he did, and finally he gathered the courage to run away and find those who saw like him.

After successfully dodging the dog he jumped the fence and left the Highlands, discovering a great Forest where many animals lived peacefully. However, most of them were too busy debating over politics to even think of soft rose petals or gentle summer breezes. The sheep began to feel lost in his new environment.

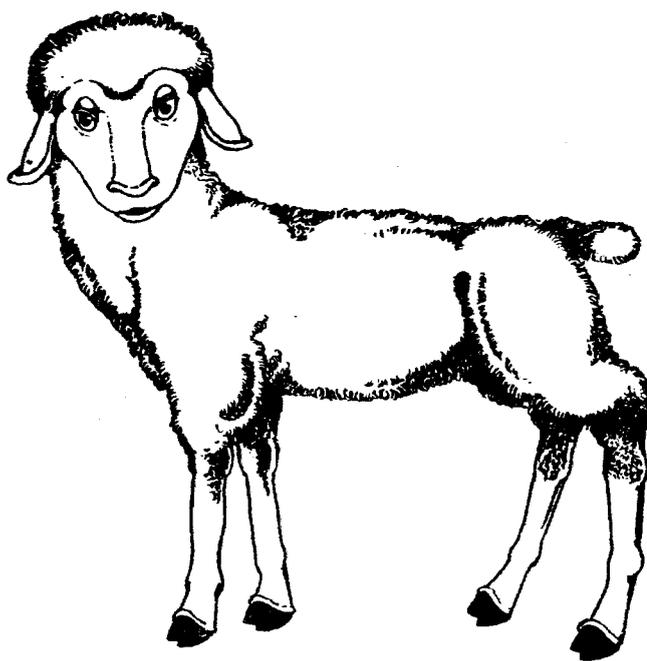
Then, one day, he awoke from a deep sleep in the cool grass and heard a small voice speak of rainbows and fluffy clouds after a storm. At first he thought he was dreaming, but after some careful tracking the sheep traced the verses to a small hole in the earth. The sheep stuck his nose in the hole and roused a tiny hedgehog from his coffeehouse. He praised the prickly one's haiku in tight iambic pentameter, bleating in happiness over finding another who saw like him, but the hedgehog waved his little

paw in humility. "There are more like us downstairs, man," he said. "Why don't you come down and make some music? The brothers and sisters would like to meet you."

This made the sheep very happy, but unfortunately he was too large to fit through the hole. No matter—the hedgehog called out his fuzzy compatriots and they set to work building a gazebo for future poetry readings. It was still too small, but no one cared. They chose to hold coffeehouses outside from then on, praising the fine weather while stuck to the sheep's wool when it got cold. The others looked on in amusement, bemusement or disgust, but they all had to admit that these were the happiest people they had ever seen.

MORAL: One good poet deserves another.

MORE IMPORTANTLY: Those who are deepest in thought are lightest in the head.



RACHEL S. WEXELBAUM
9/23/92

A Call To Arms!

Shall I compare thee to a long haired hippie,
a militant pacifist,
a dumb bleached blonde chippie?
Yea, fear not, I just wax poetic
when I see things that bug me
(or that look quite aesthetic),
so to avoid anymore of my babbling
we are looking for writers
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BE AS DETAILED AS THIS?

I'M ASKING
MYSELF THE
SAME.
QUESTION,
BERNARD...



FILM

The Noble Savage As A Twentieth Century Sex Symbol A Review Of *The Last Of The Mohicans*

By Rachel S. Wexelbaum

Depending on your attitude toward Native Americans, James Fenimore Cooper and the unrealistic images of men depicted by the media, you may either love *The Last Of The Mohicans* or absolutely hate it. It stars Daniel Day-Lewis as the legendary Hawkeye, Natty Bumppo or Pathfinder (however you may remember him best), and Madeline Stowe as the beautiful daughter of an English officer, Cora Munro.

Shot in the picturesque forests and mountains of North Carolina, this movie provides a visual feast for nature lovers, romanticists and man-watchers alike.

It is ironic that a British actor, Daniel Day-Lewis, was chosen to play the part of an all-American hero. He sided with neither the British nor the French, but stood up for the colonists and the "friendly" Indians of whatever region he traveled through, merely desiring to live a simple, rugged existence, free to hunt and explore. However, unlike Kevin Costner's *Robin Hood*, we soon forget that Day-Lewis is really British because he speaks with a perfect "American" accent, burr-and-brogue free, as opposed to the evil English Army officers. This role of Hawkeye for Day-Lewis is an extreme change from the physically challenged writer

Christy Brown in *My Left Foot*, but both are heroes in their own right, and he fits perfectly in the deerskins of the ideal frontiersman. His craggy features and awesome body make him convincing as the adopted son of the Mohican Chingatchgook (Russell Means).

Cooper would have approved of transforming Natty Bumppo into a movie idol. His *Leather Stocking Tales* were written for the sole purpose of encouraging introverted nineteenth century city dwellers to become "real men" and go to the frontier, where one could live in peace with the Indians and do as he wished. This romanticized notion of frontier life, where one could even find a woman, still exists to this day. However, instead of sticking to

the original Cooper stories, Michael Mann decided to make the film more historically accurate by studying what actually took place at the British Fort William during the French and Indian War as described in the diaries of Comte de Bougainville (aide-de-camp to Montcalm, the French commander portrayed in the film), the historian Parkman, and the work of Simon Shama and Howard Zinn. Of Cooper's work Mann

Cora Munro) crosses cultural and class barriers during the collapse of manners and custom under the pressure of war."

The romantic attraction between Cora's sister Alice (Jodhi May) and Uncas (Eric Schweig), the son of Chingatchgook, is also a revision of Cooper, whose attitudes toward miscegenation required that the woman Uncas is drawn to (Cora, in the novel) be a dark-haired mulatto. In this film there is no real "good" or "bad" side, although the worst of the bunch is a Huron named Magua (Wes Studi) who clearly displays Europhobic tendencies. Even so, there is good reason for it—the English and French pose the real threat to the early American peoples and their cultures, and the Indians have no power to fight them off. Instead of uniting themselves against the foreigners, the different tribes take sides with the opposing armies and destroy each other. This is symbolized in Magua's fight with Uncas at the end of the movie. By fighting with Uncas and killing him, this shows that the Indians copied the white man's politics and used it to their disadvantage.

But enough of armchair liberalism. There is plenty of swashbuckling action, slashing and scalping to please the simpler audiences. The kids will root for Hawkeye, Uncas and Chingatchgook smashing up the Mohawks, and the older ones will enjoy all of the handsome characters and the breathtaking scenery. The inspirational soundtrack will also help in the production of pleasant dreams. *The Last Of The Mohicans* will prove Michael Mann a masterful director, and will replace the shoddy 1936 black and white version with a work of art for the mind's eye as well as our animal instincts.



said, "I found parts of it provocative and powerful, but the novel was written in an age (the 1850's) which romanticized the events of 75 years earlier. It also diminished the representatives of complex and powerful native cultures into simplistic and two-dimensional villains."

Mann also concentrated on making his film more "politically correct" than both the book and the original screenplay. He does not forget the fact that the Europeans could not stage a war in The New World without the assistance of the Native Americans. He also goes on to say that "(The story of Hawkeye and

TUNE OUT!

The Edge Of The Disc

music reviews by Rich P. and Dwight C.

Morrissey - Your Arsenal:

"This Charming Man" has questioned whether there is an audience for his brand of laconical wit. Judging by this album's sales, I'd say he had little to worry about. This record comes close to being the masterpiece that he and The Smiths never produced. (Although Morrissey's *Viva Hate* and *Bona Drag* albums were both great, they lacked the cohesiveness of *Your Arsenal*.) The new backing band immediately strikes a heavier chord with "You're Gonna Need Someone On Your Side" and "Glorious Glue". "National Frat Disco" (about the neo-Nazi movement), "You're The One, Fatty" (Morrissey restating his penchant for the "big boned" set—remember "Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others"?), and "Tomorrow" are amusing stabs of sardonic brilliance.

Indigo Girls - Rites Of Passage:

Another collection of mood affecting pieces from Atlanta's star duo. The girls have a knack for interesting forays into the metaphysical narrative, with the likes of "Ghost", "Joking" and "Jonas and Ezekiel". Whether they're documenting the real or surreal, The

Indigo Girls can strike a contemplative chord even in the most casual listener.

Ghost Of An American Airman - Life Under Giants::

Fourteen passionate, well-written gems from this quartet that hails from Northern Ireland. "Bring On The Mystery", "Honeychild", "For Your Love" and "Whipping Boy" are all clever shots of powerful wonderlust. They are vaguely reminiscent of early U2, sans the naivete and preachiness. These guys gave a powerful performance at The Bitter End over the summer and should not be missed live.

Rich P.

Fudge Tunnel - Teeth EP:

Fudge Tunnel is one of the grungiest bands I've ever heard, and no, they are not from Seattle. They are, in fact, three guys from Nottingham, England who play their music with a lot of distortion. Songs like "Shit For Brains" and "Joined At The Dick" make this CD fun for the whole family. The "Teeth" EP also includes a version of "Sunshine Of Your Love" that is so horrible, you have to love it.

It doesn't matter that the band may lack in originality and talent because they play their music with a reckless abandon that is irresistible. The new release only contains six songs, two of which appeared on previous albums. For a good idea of what Fudge Tunnel sounds like, check out their previous full length release *Hate Songs In E Minor*, which they dedicated entirely to Ted Nugent.

Definition Of Sound - The Lick:

Someone told me that the definition of Sound was a great Hip Hop Band. They were wrong. *The Lick* contains cheesy upbeat songs that are at best inoffensive. The band makes no attempt to sing about anything interesting. Songs such as "Move Your Body", "Looking Good" and "Can I Get Over" are redundant and I find it hard to believe that even Top 40 radio would have any interest in this drivel.

Tool - Opiate:

I really don't know what to say about this CD except that I've listened to it every day for the past three weeks.

Dwight C.

"IT WAS DIFFERENT IN QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DAY..."

by Catherine Krupski

"Brief Lives" was a fun history lesson and one-man show directed, written and performed by Rod Wissler, a visiting theater professor from Queensland, Australia. It ran at the Staller Center for The Arts from September 17 to September 19, back by popular demand from the Seventh Stony Brook International Theater Festival. The play is based on the memoirs of John Aubrey, the seventeenth-century equivalent of a staff writer for *The National Enquire* or *People*, who documented all the dirt about the celebrities of his day that you would never see in our sterile history books. He knew many famous people in government and other fields of life, including Sir Walter Raleigh, William Penn and Sir Isaac Newton, and recalled their private lives with great fondness for ninety minutes.

The set accurately depicted a room in seventeenth-century London. The clutter of books, papers, and unfinished projects transported one through time to the world of an intellectual on the verge of the Enlightenment. There was even a fireplace where Aubrey prepared a meal which he ate during his monologue. The set also represented Aubrey's personality - a jumble of incomplete thoughts and projects which he meant to rush out in the last moments before his death. During the intermission Wissler himself became part of the set, fall-ing asleep in the middle of a sentence and remaining still for fifteen minutes.

The show started off as your worst nightmarish trip to your grandparents' house. Between farts and belches, Aubrey complains about the disrespect

toward the elderly in the community, distrust of the medical field and its practitioners, the ugliness of war, and politics. Medicine had yet to make its breakthroughs and tobacco had just started to become popular in England. It was delightful (yes, delightful) to hear this old man bitch and moan,

ety is getting worse and young people don't know how lucky they have it. He frequently started each story with, "Things were different in Queen Elizabeth's day." If Queen Elizabeth was replaced with Roosevelt, wouldn't it sound familiar?

And yet, such a man enjoyed telling stories of Sir Walter Raleigh's sordid love affairs or the eccentricities of members of The House of Lords with a mischievous gleam in his eye, as if he had nothing better to do but pass the time away. He called Oliver Cromwell "The Attila of England" and satirized much of English high society while a baby cried in the next room.

It was as if Aubrey's soul knew the inevitable was coming and he had to pass on his wealth of entertaining trivial knowledge to the next generation. He was not only aware of people's dirty laundry, but he had many philosophies of life that would ring true in centuries to come. Before he died, he left something ingrained in my mind, well after I left the theater: "Hope makes a good breakfast, but an ill supper."

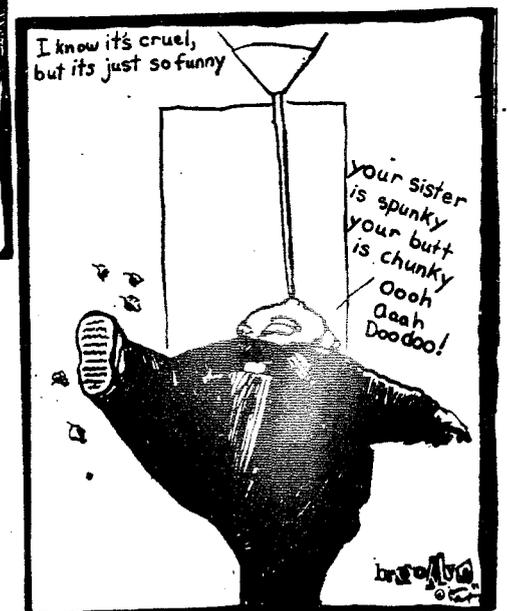
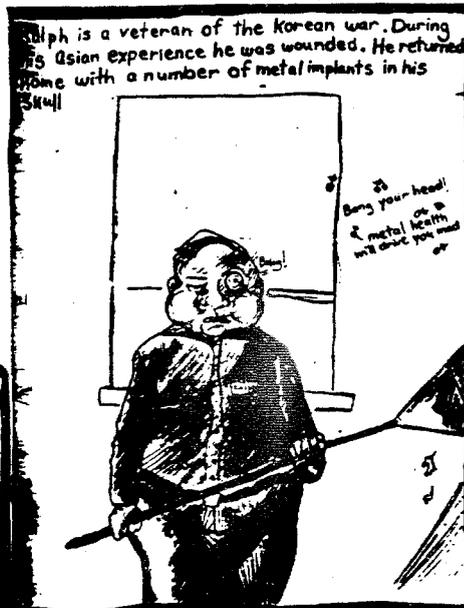
Wissler gave a fine performance. By giving us a comical point of view of history that we could never get from a book, he almost becomes a standup comedian of his time. Think about it, will our children

ever read those lack-of-memory jokes about President Reagan in history class? I don't think so.



because when you really listened to him and got into the play it was funny. Being transported to the seventeenth century to hear an old man complain about the ills of society was humorous because they were the same things old people say today, that our soci-

Some Sense of Humor?



ART REVIEWS

Union Gallery

by Nicki Frazer

The Union Gallery is currently running the works of two undergraduate artists, Nicholas Genovese and Nadine Robinson. Robinson has been attending Stony Brook since 1991 and is a full-time student in the Fine Arts Program. Her works are "an accumulation of works/projects executed here at Stonybrook." Genovese has an Associate degree in Advertising Art and Design from Farmingdale University. But enough about them, let's talk about the art.

As you walk into the Gallery, the first portraits to strike you are those of Nadine Robinson's. She has on display 11 pieces, including two self-portraits and four still-lives. An avid fan of self-portraits, of course I enjoyed those the most. The best of the two was the Egon Shiele Study, based on Egon Shiele's "Self-Portrait." The facial expression was rather striking and the pose, in and of itself, with the arm twisted over the head, left me with some serious vibes. It isn't possible to explain its effect otherwise. Another one of my favorites was the other Egon Shiele study, picturing two lovers naked on a bed. What was found most striking about this was the facial expression on the man's face. He has this puzzled look on the man's face, as if to say, 'what the hell am I gonna do with this?' The rest of the work was also quite good. Two paintings done a subject named Jade, Portrait of Jade and Montage Project: Jade Stroy, are also worth mention here. A copy of Degas' "Races at Long Champ" was done particularly well, though of course it cannot compare to the original.

Nicholas Genovese displayed 8 selected works, the first entitled "Wounded Knee," which is "a homage to the 300 Sioux men, women, and children who

were massacred on their reservation by U.S. Troops."

Though the picture was not easily indicative of the subject matter, the message hit right at home. Another work worth mentioning is "Metamorphosis of Dreams", a three-part silkscreen series done in a bold explosion of color at first, that becomes lighter and lighter as the dream metamorphoses from actuality to mere memory with the waking of the dreamer. Probably the best of all the portraits was one entitled "Blue Lady," which was done in vivid primary colors, silkscreen on plastic—it truly was as incredible as it was beautiful. It gave one a sense of utter confusion and yet calm at the



Nicholas Genovese

Photo by Jo-R

"Untitled"

same time. Another really good portrait was an untitled done in charcoal. I'm quite sure what it was, but it looked like someone's head torn into pieces, nailed to a wall (it's much better than it sounds, trust me).

The display, though consisting of only 19 portraits in all, is worth seeing. It will be running till October first, and you should definitely check it out. Even if you don't like the work, which would be surprising, it's always good to support up-and-coming artists. Besides, you never know when one of them will get really famous and then you can brag to all your friends that you knew the artist way back when... So check it out—before it's too late.



Photo by Jo-R

Nadine Robinson-Egon Shiele's "Self-Portrait"

