

## Bobby Seale Brings to Light the Truth About the Black Panthers

By KEVIN BOUGHAL  
Statesman Staff

Higher education and a more complete understanding of African-American history are the keys to social change, according to Bobby Seale, one of the founders of the Black Panthers.

Seale, who along with Huey Newton, founded the Black Panthers, spoke to a packed Staller Center Recital Hall Tuesday as part of the celebration of Black History Month.

For Seale, the founding of the Black Panthers was the result of a self-awakening that began while a student at Merit College in California. Seale said he was walking near the college one day in 1962 when another black man, standing on a corner, asked him if he knew about African history.

Although he was a well educated engineering design major who worked nights on the Gemini Missile Program, Seale, then 26, said he had never heard of the West African kingdoms that the man talked about. So he began to read.

During breaks at night, he would read all about African American history, including contributions during wars that he had never heard about.

"I went to one of the top competitive high schools in Berkeley, California, [and then] to the University of California at Berkeley," said Seale. "They taught me blacks liked slavery."

But the more he researched, the more he learned about his ancestors history and struggle.

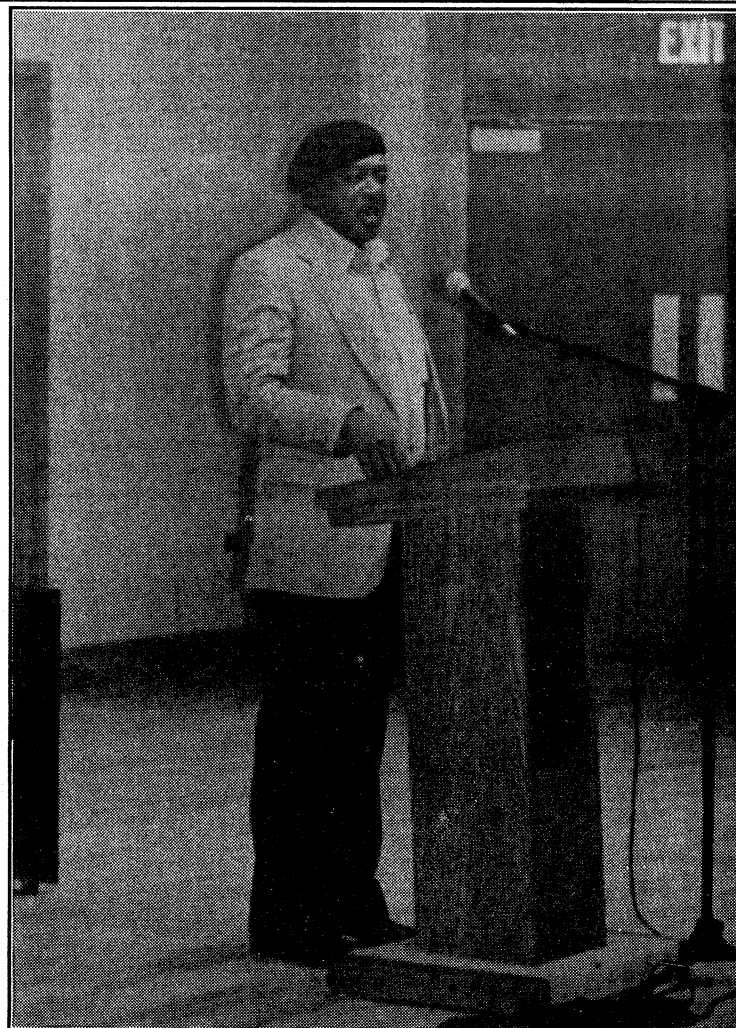
That awakening led him to associate with other people who wanted to discover who they were, Seale said. One of those people was Newton, who attended night law school and was particularly interested in peoples' constitutional rights.

Seale, who described himself as a revolutionary humanist, said he had often seen the police beat and murder people during peaceful protests. At the same time, he became increasingly dissatisfied with organizations that talked a lot and had many meetings, but never did anything tangible.

So after Seale and Newton were arrested because of a poem he was reciting on a street corner in Berkeley, the men got together in 1966 and wrote up ten basic principles that their fledgling organization, the Black Panthers would stand by.

They chose the name Black Panthers because they saw the decal of a Black Panther on a newsletter they received and thought about the virtues of a panther, Seale said. He said when a panther is cornered, it may move to the right and if blocked, will go to the left. Eventually, that cornered Panther will escape, he said.

They were not a violent organization, but like a panther, they were prepared



Statesman/Nicole Rosner

Bobby Seale, spoke in front of a packed audience, Tuesday, at Staller Center.

to defend themselves when confronted, he said. One of the keys to the success of the Black Panther organization was that they were well educated and well organized, he said.

Seale said the movie *Panther*, released in 1995, was about 90 percent inaccurate. "I was never contacted," he said, noting that many of the scenes in the movie were fictitious.

Seale also said the entire Black Panther organization was misrepresented by officials such as then California Governor Ronald Reagan who described the Panthers as a "bunch of murderers and thugs."

"We were college students," Seale said. "I was an engineering design major and Huey was going to night law school."

One of the more famous actions was when they followed the police,

See SEALE, Page 3

## New Things are in Store for Residential Computing Centers

By MARILENA IOANNIDOU  
Statesman Staff

For about a year now, computing centers have been available for use in the residential quads. The need for computing centers in the quads came about by a petition the Residence Hall Association conducted.

Now, several computing centers are conveniently located in all the residence quads except Tabler. The reason for that, as Dallas W. Bauman, assistant vice president of Campus Residences, pointed out is that there is not enough space available for such a center at this point.

By the Fall of 1998, when the renovation project of Tabler Quad will be complete, a computer center as well as a fitness center will be available to the residents of that quad. Renovation of Tabler Quad will take place in two phases; two of the buildings will be available by January 1998 but the remaining three will not be finished

until the Fall of 1998.

"The residential computer centers are being run by students hired by the Campus Residents Office," said Edward Hassildine, Information Systems Director of Campus Residences. The budgets for running these centers come mainly from the housing fee that is being charged to residents. Also, part of the budget for updating and expanding the centers comes from the University, from the technology fee. The centers are trying to provide the best access to everyone and they intend to add more terminals to some of the centers.

In Benedict six computers have just been added and an additional four will be added as well at Cardozo College. They are looking for rooms that can be used to expand the centers as they did in Stimson where they tore a wall down to add five more terminals.

"We try to give the students a decent size workspace, therefore,

given the size of the centers we decided to stay with the single PC platform," Hassildine said. If Macintosh computers are needed by students, Hassildine said they can put in a request with RHA so they can suggest them to Campus Residences. "The more students that want it, the more chances [there are] to pass a partition through."

"The working hours are based on the budget of RHA and it is based on a survey that was done one year ago," Hassildine said. "If a large group of students find the hours inconvenient they can talk to RHA and either ask for extra hours or a change of the already existing working hours."

Campus Residences is trying to offer as much as possible to the residents, by updating and increasing the computer software, said Hassildine. They are open to suggestions and recommendations from students.

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# Black History Month Calendar

## Friday, February 7

"Get On The Bus," a Spike Lee movie. Staller Center Main Stage, 9 p.m. Admission \$3 students, \$4 all others.

## Sunday, February 9

Catholic Mass, Featuring the USB Gospel Choir. Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry, 5 p.m., refreshments will be served.

## Monday, February 10

Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry and the Langmuir Living Learning Center present "Stolen Bones: African Influence on American Music," - a concert featuring Kelly Armor and David Sturtevant. 9 p.m., Langmuir Fireside Lounge

## Tuesday, February 11

"Reflections," an exhibition of Robin Holder prints. SB Union Art Gallery. On view until Wednesday, February 26.

"Brave New World," art exhibition. University Affairs Art Gallery. Reception in Administration building, Room 230, 4-5 p.m. On view until Friday, February 28.

## Wednesday, February 12

Print Making Demonstration, Robin Holder, Art Department, 10:30 a.m.

"Reflections," artist reception and informal talk. SB Union Art Gallery, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

"Black Love Poems and Letters from a

Rock Against the Wind," Poetry Center, Humanities, Room 195, 7 p.m.

Tribute to Black Women, Uniti Cultural Center, Roth Quad Cafeteria, 8 p.m.

## Friday, February 14

"In the Mood," Celebration of Black Love with poetry, jazz and more. End of the Bridge, SB Union, 9 p.m.

## Saturday, February 15

"Cultural Program Dance Performance, Uniti Cultural Center, Roth Quad Cafeteria, 8 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 18

"What you should know about Affirmative Action," panel discussion, Whitman College, Main Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 19

"Sing Sing Celebration," artistic theatric performance. Fireside Lounge, SB Union, 1 p.m.

"Tribute to Black Music," Uniti Cultural Center, Roth Quad Cafeteria, 8 p.m.

## Saturday, February 21

"Ladysmith Black Mombazo," Staller Center Main Stage, 8 p.m. Tickets \$24/22, students, \$11.

Black History Month Semi-Formal, SB Union Ballroom, 5 p.m. Keynote Speaker, Lauren Niles, Tickets \$12 with SBID before 2/22, all others \$15 at box office.

## Sunday, February 23

African American Read-in. Bring your poems, essays and thoughts to share. Uniti Cultural Center, 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## Wednesday, February 26

Tribute to Black Revolutionaries, Uniti Cultural Center, Roth Quad Cafeteria, 8 p.m.

## Friday, February 28

Taking It Back to the Essence II, Fireside Lounge, 8 p.m.

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# Carpools, An Alternative to Help with Campus Parking

3

It is apparent that much of the traffic during morning hours on Nicolls Road and Route 347 at 8:00

that has become increasingly popular over the past decade.

Most Stony Brook commuters do not arrive at school in a carpool. Some reasons for this are that commuters do not live near fellow students, are not acquainted with students who live near them, or have schedules that

conflict with other students' schedules. Such is the case with Adam Weinberger, a newly converted commuter who was previously a resident. He doesn't carpool because

he only lives 1.5 miles away from campus, and his schedule conflicts with most others.

There are, however, some students who do carpool to school. Sharon Ragnauth and Keane Leitch commute together from Queens. They have known each other since junior high school and live within five minutes of each other. The trip averages from 45-90 minutes, says Ragnauth, "depending on who's doing the driving." Ragnauth says she carpools because "it saves money and gas, you don't fall asleep and there is company for the ride."

There are some disadvantages to carpooling, though. "When one is late, you're both late," Ragnauth said.

Christine Sadowski and Carrie Nunves also carpool to school. They live within 15 minutes of each other. For Sadowski, carpooling is also beneficial to the wallet and she said it gives the non-driver "a chance to relax, not worry about driving, and to study." A disadvantage to carpooling, said Sadowski, is that her class schedule differs from Nunves'. For instance, Nunves' class begins at 8:20 a.m. on Thursdays, whereas Sadowski doesn't begin class until 12:50 p.m.

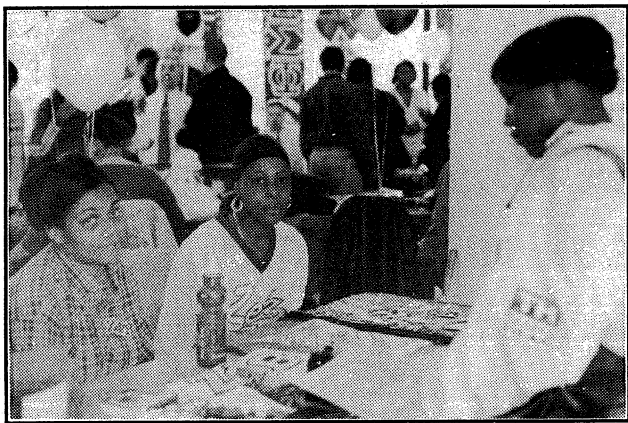
All the carpoolers involved agree that they would continue to carpool, especially if benefits such as a reduced transportation fee or closer parking to campus were given. □

## Commuter Corner

Jennifer Conefray

a.m. and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. is caused by those commuting to the University. The only way to alleviate the traffic problem is to eliminate the amount of cars. The only way to do this is by carpooling, a means of transportation

## Rush Is On



Sororities and Fraternities showed their stuff, yesterday, in a fair to give prospective members an opportunity to find out about their organization. Zeta Phi Beta Vice-President Allison McBean and Treasurer Nitika Hill help out sophomore Marilyn Saint-Pierre with information about their sorority.

## Seale Brings the Black Panthers Into a New Light

From SEALE, Front Page

armed legally with handguns, shotguns and tape recorders, and watched arrests to ensure that police did not violate the arrestee's civil rights.

But Seale said most people do not know that the Panthers ran breakfast programs for children, feeding 250,000 free breakfasts for children five days a weeks over a 2 1/2 year

period or that they provided free preventative medical health care spending "not one nickel of government money."

Seale said a new movie about the Black Panthers will be out in the next few years with the same title as his book, *Seize the Time*. Anyone who wants to learn more about the Black Panthers and Seale can contact his web page at [www.bobbyseale.com](http://www.bobbyseale.com). □

## Admin Receives "Disturbing" E-Mail

Police Blotter By Rob Bonfigli

### Wednesday, January 29

11:20 a.m.

A library textbook valued at \$106 was taken at Langmuir College.

4:09 p.m.

A female student was harassed by another female in Javits Room 110.

8:05 p.m.

A wallet containing three blank endorsed checks, a DMV Driver's I.D., a Green Card and other various belongings worth about \$220 was stolen in the library.

### Thursday, January 30

1:54 a.m.

Prank phone calls harass a student in Keller College.

11:11 a.m.

A Pentium Computer worth \$2,849 was taken from Light Engineering.

11:51 a.m.

A bank card, I.D card and credit cards were stolen in the lobby of the library.

11:59 a.m.

A intoxicated male was arrested in the library for threatening the staff.

12:08 p.m.

A \$45 textbook was taken from the Engineering Library. Roth Quad.

5:01 p.m.

A vehicle is reported stolen from North P-lot.

6:22 p.m.

A computer is stolen in Hamilton College.

11:58 p.m.

A student is assaulted at O'Neill College. He received bruises and a minor laceration from being hit with a telephone.

### Friday, January 31

12:01 a.m.

Officer assist R.A.'s in confiscation of a keg after a party is broken up in Benedict College.

1:08 a.m.

An R.A. reports a smell of marijuana which results in the confiscation of drug paraphernalia.

1:39 a.m.

Student who threw the party trashed college office while under the influence of alcohol causing \$10 in damage.

8:52 a.m.

A state employee is harassed in

11:25 a.m.

Disturbing e-mail messages are received in administration.

### Saturday, February 1

1:32 a.m.

During the dispersal of a party, a riot erupts in the Student Union Ballroom causing the injury of several students.

2:08 a.m.

Outside the Union a person is hit with a pipe fracturing an arm.

2:36 a.m.

A person suffers bruised ribs after being hit. An SPA security employee is injured in the knee during riot.

2:51 a.m.

An offensive letter written in Spanish is reportedly received in Benedict College.

4:34 p.m.

Female student reports receiving harassing phone calls in Gray College.

### Sunday, February 2

8:45 p.m.

A fight between eight males erupts resulting in one getting hit in the head with a phone at Irving College.

9:04 p.m.

Stimson College R.A. reports receiving prank phone calls.

### Monday, February 3

1:44 p.m.

A TV/VCR is taken from Humanities Hillel Interfaith Office.

6:39 p.m.

A Stimson College bathroom is vandalized. Showerhead, soap and toilet paper dispenser is ripped out of wall.

### Tuesday, February 4

10:44 a.m.

Harassing phone calls received on phone mail in Schomburg Apartments.

1:40 p.m.

A woman in the Library Commuter Student Lounge is harassed by another woman who threatened her before.

8:50 p.m.

Seven males with guns reported to be in Roth Quad parking lot.

7:58 p.m.

Stimson College resident receives harassing phone calls.



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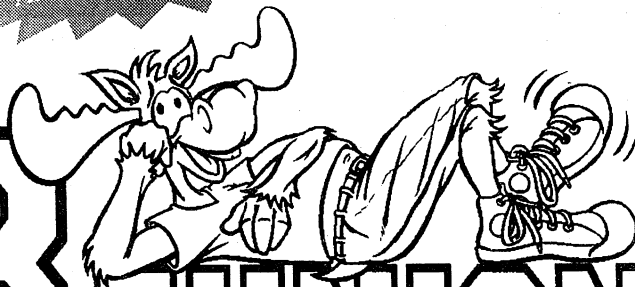
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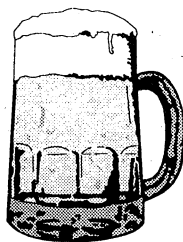
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# Christian Music Goes Mainstream

From MUSIC, Page 11

courting mainstream acceptance that they water everything down.) There's more than an incidental political affinity between these groups and the left critique of contemporary youth culture. To do talk, like the radical left, Generation X is "drowning in despair"

without vision or purpose, cynical and vengeful, selfish and self-absorbed. The only difference between them and readers of Mother Jones is the political strategy they'd use to remedy that despair.

Don't get me wrong; that's a mighty big difference, especially as it affects women, minorities and gays

and lesbians. But it is a sign that evangelical Christians are addressing the spiritual malaise in American culture - the search for community, the need for a higher purpose better than multicultural liberals, who are often so busy beating each other up over some politically incorrect utterance that we can make no alliances and

forge such a vision..

Whether you think Christian rock is an insidious ploy on the part of the right-wing evangelical conspiracy to insinuate their ideas into the counterculture or the youthful expression of a new generation's faith - or, more likely, a little of both - Christian rock is here to stay. □

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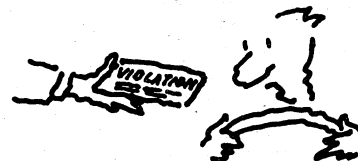
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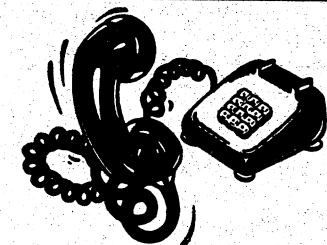
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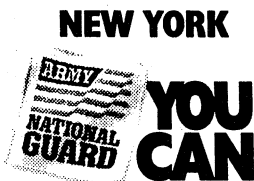


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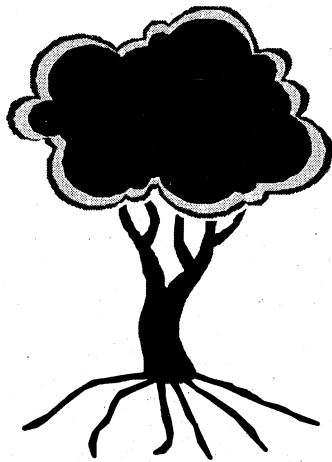
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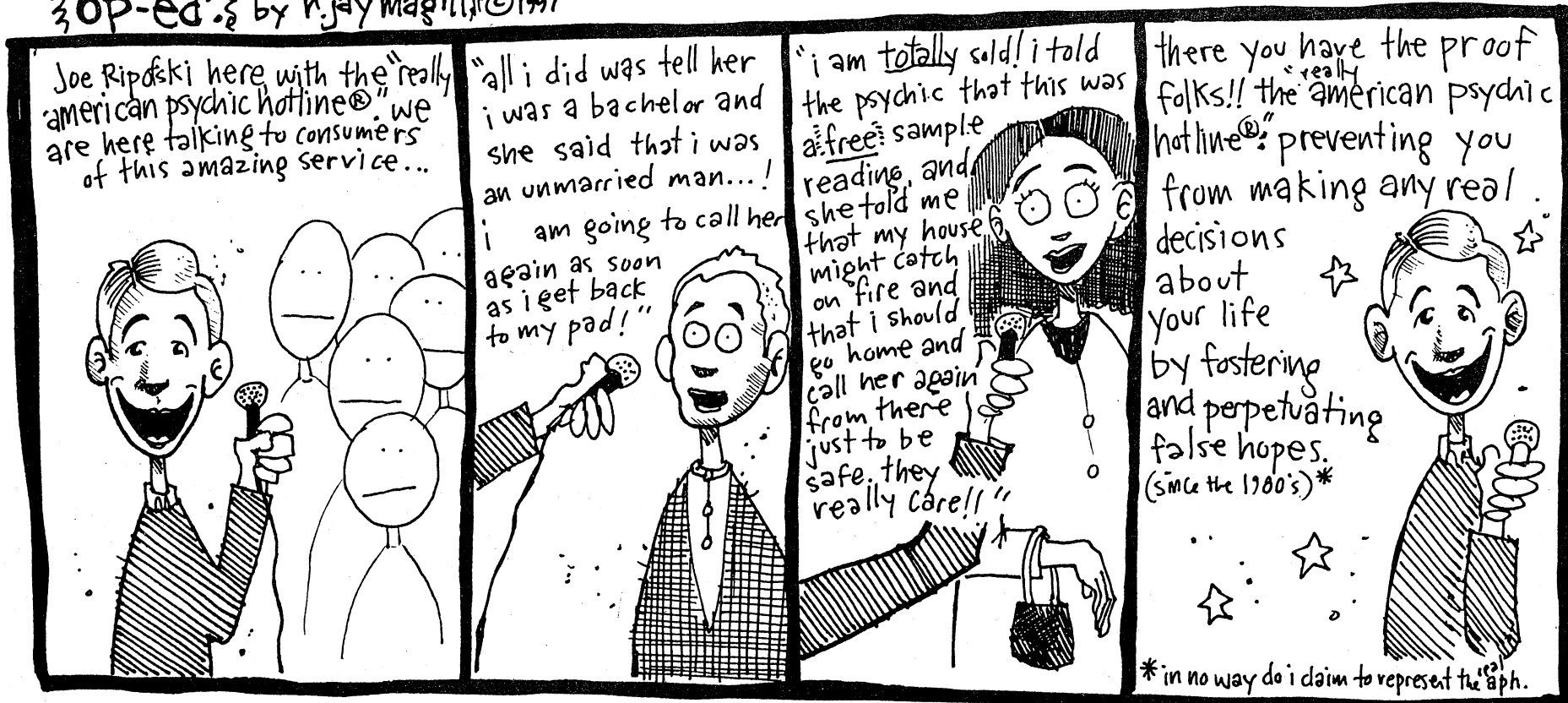
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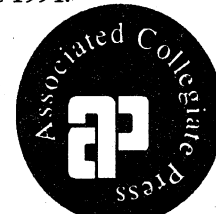
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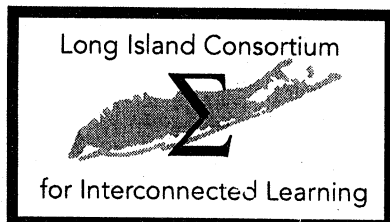
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# Personals

Eve,  
When are we drinking?  
Brown pants

---

Chocolate,  
The bathroom floor is waiting.

I think the pipes are still silver.  
B52

---

Joey L.,  
I miss your jacket. Does your  
exclusive girlfriend know

about your wife. Good thing.  
Nai tai tai.  
Nell

---

Mighty Eneil,  
How's your sewing?  
Beer

---

Kris,  
Choosy girls choose jif. Do  
you miss Billy?  
Ripper girl

Mighty Neil,  
Can you move a smaller rock?  
Be careful of the bottle caps.  
Ripper girl

---

B52,  
Is the bathroom floor clean?  
Chocolate

---

Fonzie,  
Ayy, how's married life?

Don't forget the milk. Where  
are the elves?  
Jonie

---

Cruz,  
Got to class!  
Pol 320

---

Jekyel,  
Gramercy Park Hotel  
Hyde

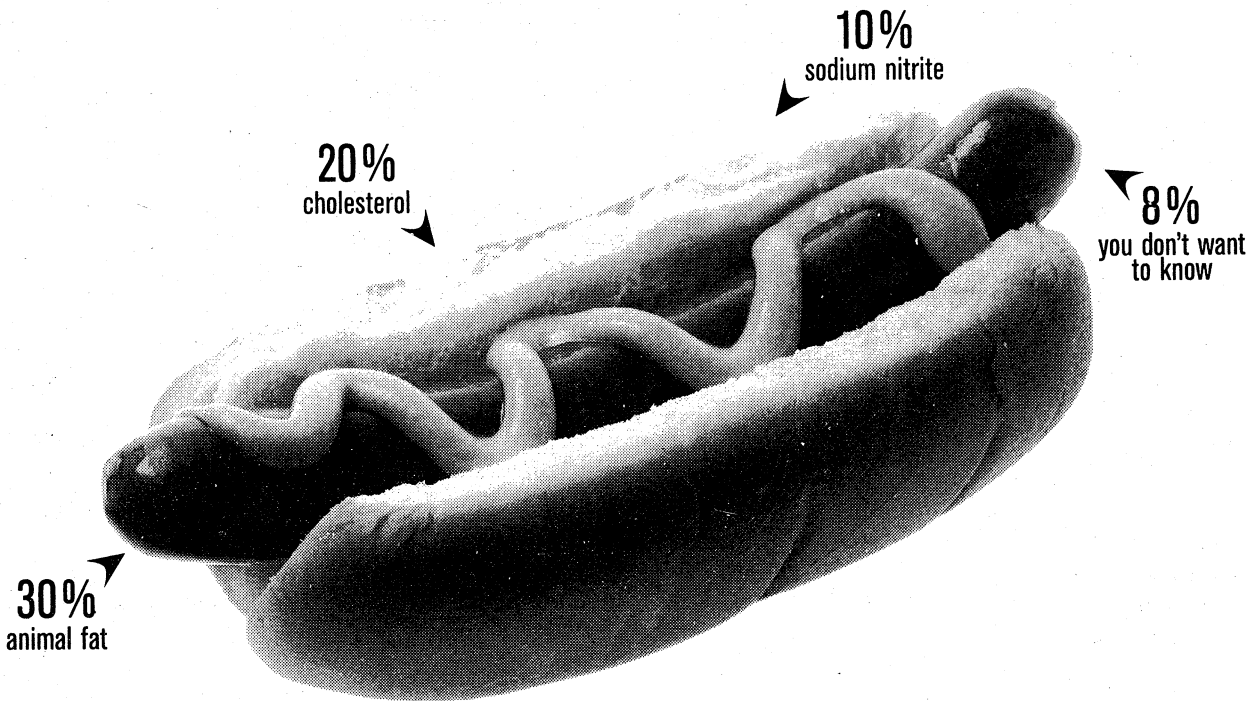
Chocolate,  
I'm sure we don't want to  
know what happened in that  
hotel.  
B52

---

Nadia,  
Be right back?  
Eve

---

Hyde,  
How did you miss the 3:43  
train? Ask the neighbors!!  
Jeckyl



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# Rocking for Jesus: Christian Rock Enters the Mainstream

By MICHAEL KIMMEL  
Special to the Statesman

Think of religious music and you're likely to think of either the sublime or the ridiculous. On the one hand, there are the soaring vocal harmonies of Josquin Des Pres and other composers of early vocal music, Bach's magnificent masses, Mozart's shattering *Requiem*. On the other, there are the close-out bins that spring up in January of all that awful Christmas music: Tennessee Ernie Ford singing "The Little Drummer Boy" ever so soulfully, or The Chipmunks hamming it up about hula-hoops.

There was little in the land between classical brilliance and country/pop dross. And certainly the idea of "Christian rock," when not utterly oxymoronic, conveyed only the pretensions of some operatic rockers or the soundtrack to *Godspell*.

Christian rock is gathering a larger and larger audience every day. In a down year for the music industry as a whole, Christian rock is the only genre currently experiencing double-digit growth.

They have the demographics: over 45% of Americans say they went to church last week (the best measure of religiosity for social scientists). Nearly one-third say they have a daily conversation with God. The largest men's movement in the country is Promise Keepers, an evangelical Christian organization. Religion's on the rise in America.

And with it, the music. One label, ForeFront seems poised to jump into the mainstreaming of Christian rock. Their two best selling bands, **dc talk** and **Audio Adrenaline** have recent records that give us a good idea where the movement as a whole is going.

Let's take a look. At first glance, these albums look like virtually any other alternative college-rock CDs. Carefully packaged, lyrics written in several post-modern typefaces, with band photo montages - the concept looks like any other **Pearl Jam** record.

There's also a startling familiarity in sound. At first listening, it all sounds so familiar. While **dc talk** dabble in white rap, jangly alternative rock like **R.E.M.**, or searing and soaring anthems like **U2**, **Audio Adrenaline** draw their musical inspiration from harder rocking 70s bands like **Led Zeppelin**, the **Who**, **Free** and the **Doobie Brothers** (the

Doobie Brothers?). For both, the mainstays are the heartfelt ballad and

the double meanings of lyrics allow the listener to consider the song on both the highest and lowest levels at once.

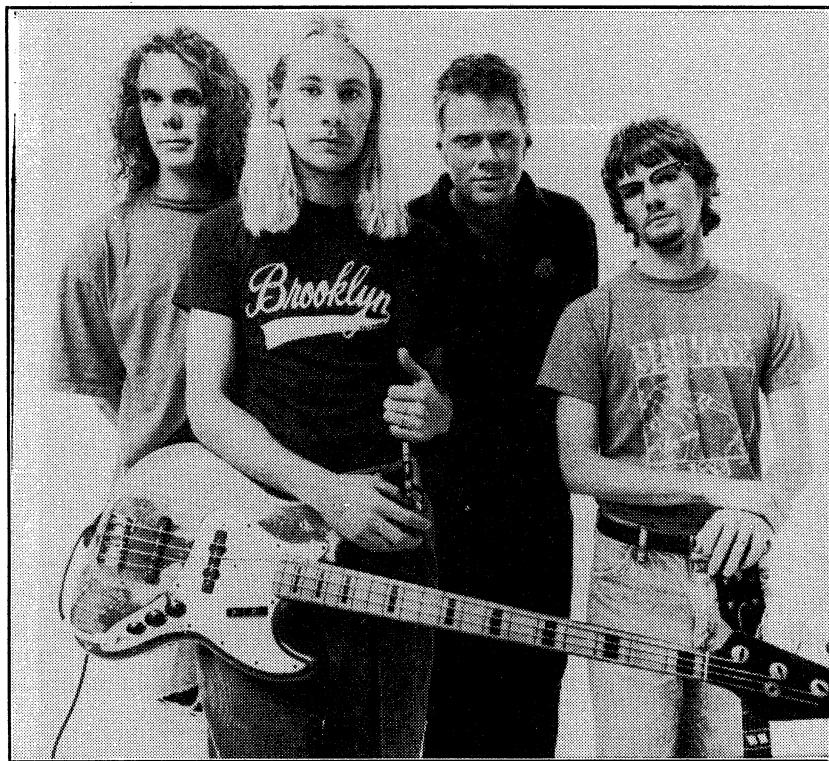
**dc talk** has already garnered a Grammy, and multi-platinum sales. Their most recent release, "Jesus Freak", outsold new releases by **T.A.F.K.A. Prince**, **De la Soul**, **Beck**, and **Porno for Pyros** in its first week out of the gate - the biggest first-week sales for a Christian album ever. This is a rock trio that knows its music as well as it knows its Lord.

**Audio Adrenaline** rocks harder, but far less well. Their newest release, *bloom* is heavy on the organ and Stratocaster electric guitar, but their songs plod heavily and their lyrics show none of the creativity of **dc talk**. Lots of distortion, few great guitar hooks.

For **Audio Adrenaline**, the music exists only to carry the message. "Music is our generation's art form and passion," said lead singer Mark Stuart. "If people are going to entertain the idea of God today, there's a good chance modern music will play a part in it." I'm afraid that entertaining the idea of God is not the same thing as being entertained.

An interesting point is that these bands are also about the only white mainstream bands that are offering social criticism within their musical vision. (Most bands are so busy

See Music, Page 6



Audio Adrenaline

Photo Credit: John Falls

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the soaring anthemic rocker.

Most surprising, of course, is the familiarity of the lyrics. After all, so much of rock's yearning is for transcendence. Just that traditionally rockers have sought such transcendence in the pleasures of love or the passions of sex. On some songs,

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# FEATURES

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & STUDENT LIFE

Thursday, February 6, 1997

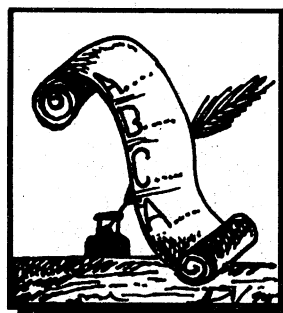
## The Failings of Prefontaine

If someone other than Jared Leto was in the title role of the movie "Prefontaine", would I have sat in the theater until the end of it? Definitely not. This is one of the most boring films I have seen in a long time and that is saying a lot.

"Prefontaine" tells the true story of a track runner's quest to win the Olympic gold medal. This runner did not want the bronze or silver medal. He only wanted the gold, but sadly never achieved it. The movie shows Steve Prefontaine's (Jared Leto) struggle in a pseudodocumentary. We see actors in horrid make-up that is supposed to convince us that twenty-five years passed. I was not fooled.

"Hoop Dreams" director, Steve James, shows each of Prefontaine's races. As each race appeared on

screen, I struggled to keep my eyes open. The race scenes all consisted



### The Final Grade By Natalie Casale

of similar situations. The runner crosses the finish line first and then boasts

to the press. Prefontaine wins each race except one. He loses the race that could have presented him with the Olympic gold medal.

During the course of the movie, Prefontaine goes through two

girlfriends, becomes the track star of his college, and then winds up living in a trailer park. By the tenth race, I had enough of this guy.

However, as the film ends, there are scenes that stand out. We see the deadly car accident that killed this determined runner just as he was back on the road to his second Olympic games.

Jared Leto has an uncanny resemblance to the actual Steve Prefontaine. Leto, best known for his role as Jordan Catalano on "My So-Called Life," gives a good performance and that must have been hard to do with such a cliché script. We get a glimpse of the actor's talent

during the scenes at the Olympics, in Munich. R. Lee Ermey plays Prefontaine's coach, Bill Bowerman. Ermey seems confused throughout this movie. However, I cannot tell if it is the fault of the actor or the sometimes garbled, corny script.

The film is somewhat poignant. Steve Prefontaine tried to fight many obstacles to win the Olympic gold medal. He never makes it, yet comes extremely close. He held American records in every distance between 2,000 and 10,000 meters. He also revolted against the Amateur Athletic Union. It is sad when we see Prefontaine die. However, a better movie could have been made about his life. Maybe we will see that in the next Steve Prefontaine biographical film, "Pre."

**Final Grade: C**

## Are You for Eighty-Six?

The term RU486 has been used for awhile now and is known as the controversial abortion pill from France. A severe misconception of the pill has been rumored for quite sometime. A student in one of my classes announced that the infirmary has been prescribing mifepristone (RU486) to students. Unless they have been doing so on the black market, it is quite impossible since the drug has not been approved yet in the United States. The "morning after pill" is not the same thing as RU486, which is another misconception.

The FDA issued an approval letter to the sponsor of mifepristone, which means the data the sponsor submitted demonstrates the drug is safe and effective when used under close medical supervision.

Mifepristone is currently legal in France, U.K., Sweden, and China. The drug induces abortion in early pregnancy by blocking the action of progesterone at its endometrial receptors.

It could be inferred that the name RU486 implies the controversy of whether people are for or against abortion. However, the name stems from a French pharmaceutical that developed the drug, Roussel-Uclaf plus the number given when first identified.

"The sponsor population council has applied for, [the] use of this drug as an abortifacient or for the

termination of early pregnancy. That's up to 49 days after the woman's last menstrual period," explained Lawrence Bachorik., Deputy Associate Commissioner for Public



### According to Eve

By Brooke Donatone



Affairs for the FDA. "There's another use of this drug that's been studied, and that is the use of RU486 as a sort of morning after pill," added Bachorik. However, this is the concept that is often confused when referring

to RU486, of which the possible legalization of its use isn't being considered in this country; only for its use as an abortifacient.

"Birth control pills that are already approved in this country, certain of those oral contraceptives have been shown to serve as morning after pills or emergency contraceptives if they're taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse," added Bachorik. Even though some of these pills aren't designated as such, doctors could prescribe it's alternate usages, which are known as off-label uses.

The experimental period of mifepristone lasted for about a year, between 1994-1995.

"This would not be the kind of

drug that would be taken casually. . . it's certainly reasonable to suspect that this would be the type of drug to be used under prescription," said Bachorik.

Some people worry that this drug would be used in place of barrier method birth controls and women would casually be able to walk into 7 11 and find RU486 next to Pepto Bismol. Under FDA regulations, mifepristone would be under the strict supervision of a physician and not so easily obtained.

"One of the FDA's jobs, whenever it reviews new drug applications, is to not only look at the safety and the effectiveness of the drug but to make sure a drug is properly labeled. And, it's conditions of use are carefully defined and specifically laid out so that the physician s who prescribe it will know how it's best used, most safely used, and be able to communicate that information to patients," said Bachorik.

Merely because Mifepristone becomes available, doesn't mean that women will have more abortions. It just presents a different viable option for women to have abortions. It's the difference between a woman having a tubal ligation or a man getting a vasectomy, it achieves the same goal in two different fashions.

Birth control pills prevent a woman from getting pregnant while Mifepristone prevents a woman from staying pregnant. Hopefully, if kept under strict supervision of physicians, the use of Mifepristone won't be misused-even if you aren't for eighty-six.

*And the Winner is . . .*

**Congratulations to David Ng who had the correct answer to A.B.C's trivia contest! Luke's Uncle was Owen. But Obi Wan Kenobi was a nice try for some of you.**

**David will receive two free hours of pool at A.B.C. Billiards in Bayport**

**Thanks to all those who played, lucky you didn't pick what was behind door number 3.**

**Stayed tuned for more trivia. It's better than the \$64,000 pyramid, even though you can't win as much money.**