

Polity Meeting  
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Ballot

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# Statesman

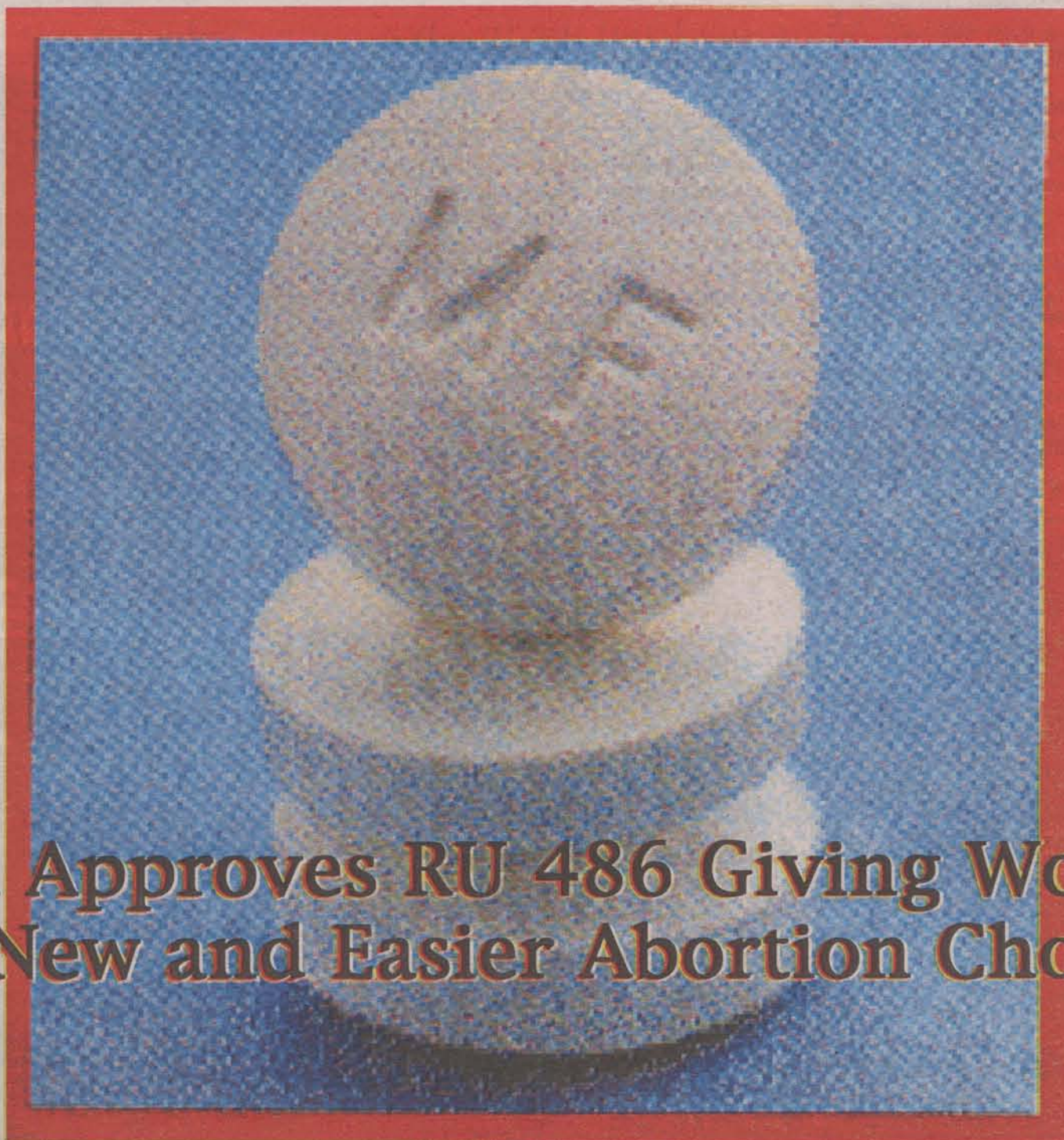
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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 46

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE-WEEKLY

## The Arrival Of The Pill



FDA Approves RU 486 Giving Women  
A New and Easier Abortion Choice

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# Kenny Speaks At Senate Meeting

## USB President Addresses Students Concerns

By ERIN ROSENKING  
Statesman Editor

Making a rare appearance in front of the student body, Stony Brook president Shirley Strum Kenny stood before the Polity Senate last Wednesday night along with Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs. Both administrators discussed the state of Stony Brook University before fielding questions from senators.

Talking over a loud echo in the Union bi-level and students who continued to come in and out of the room, Kenny was difficult to hear at times. The president said that she would like to see the University continue to grow and she said that the recent move to Division I was part of the growing process. "The move has allowed many outstanding athletes to join us," Kenny said.

She also mentioned the numerous construction projects currently taking place across campus. "We are building on campus at a great rate," Kenny said. "Humanities will be the next building renovated and the Wong building is supposedly to be completed by next summer." Kenny mentioned some of the features set to appear within the Wong building, including a state of the art conference center and a cafeteria that will host six different types of

Asian food.

Kenny also said that Phase two of construction of the SAC is set for a summer completion and that plans are in the works to build a conference center. "This is an exciting time," Kenny said.

Kenny also commented on the record enrollment in Stony Brook this past semester. She applauded the diverse student body. "This is the most diverse student population we

referendum approved by the student body last week 723 votes to 443. An addition to the campus which was highly touted by Preston, Kenny agreed that it will be a positive addition to the campus. "I am convinced that it would be something very rewarding," she said. "We need more places and spaces for students to do what they want to do." Kenny said that she feels it is important to make things

**"This is the most diverse student population we have ever seen with over 46 percent of the student coming from the five boroughs," said Kenny.**

have ever seen with over 46 percent of the students coming from the five boroughs," she said. "This diversity helps us all learn about the world we live in."

After opening remarks, Polity senator Gina Fiore opened the meeting up to questions for Kenny and Preston. Senator Jonathan Gelling asked Kenny if she had any thoughts about the recent passing of the recreation center, which was the

available regularly for students.

A senator from Tabler Quad asked if there were any plans in the works to convert the closed down cafeteria in the Quad, which is the furthest away from the main campus. Kenny invited Preston to the podium for this question. He said that close to three years ago, the students living there asked about establishing not necessarily a cafeteria but a place where they could get snacks.

"But that was some time ago and it would be what the students there want now," Preston said. Senator Julius Shapiro pointed out that using the space to house students could be an option for the abandoned dining hall. No definitive answer was given but Kenny did say that ventilation issues in the facility may restrict living there. "But that is not something that can be fixed," she said.

The next question addressed the fact that Stony Brook does not have a college town. Kenny said that she has worked hard to develop a relationship with the towns of Stony Brook and Port Jeff. "They have been more welcoming but people understand money," Kenny said. She said that many merchants realize that there is a potential clientele at the University. "I have extended my hands to the community," she said. "The more we open our doors the more we'll see them do the same for us." Preston added that in order to firm up a relationship between the surrounding towns and Stony Brook would require a change of image. "It is up to the leadership of students themselves," Preston said. "We have to change the image that all students want from the town is a bar."

Kenny said that the key is forming a relationship. "We have to make the people feel that they have a stake in the University," she said.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 6, 2000



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**A Thought From Rabbi Adam**

At a point in one's life a person has to stop and think: What am I doing with myself? What is the meaning of life? One can lead a very busy accomplished life that lacks direction. When one lacks direction they lead a life that can be likened to a dog chasing his tail- one based on circular reasoning. Why does one sleep? Because they are tired. Why does one awake? Because they have had enough sleep. Why is one studying at the university? In order to find a career. Why does one need a career? In order to financially support themselves? And why does one need to financially support themselves? To live. And why live? So as not to die. Why doesn't one want to die? So as to live. Give or take the details of fun, family and friends, most people are living "circular" lives which lack direction. Religion can offer direction by pointing out that one gets a Heavenly reward for the good deeds they do in this world. Therefore, life is not circular, but rather, a linear path from this world to the next. Yet 300 years ago, Chassidic philosophy made the point that this too is circular living, but in the spiritual sense. For why does one want to get to Heaven? So as not to live the "death" of Hell. And why doesn't one want the "death" of Hell? So as to achieve the eternal "life" of Heaven. The underlying reason for such "circular" goals is due to the emphasis on personal benefit. Instead, one should direct their lives toward the ways of altruism. A life dedicated for helping the other. A life full of acts of loving kindness. A life based on moral goodness. A life of peace. A life which exists as an image of G-dliness. And why should one live such a life? See next Monday's issue of "A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM"

# The Abortion Pill

## The FDA approved the sale of the controversial abortion pill RU 486

By JASMIN KHARGI  
Statesman Contributor

Earlier this month the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) passed the long awaited controversial abortion pill, mifepristone. This pill when combined with the drug misoprostol, is 95% effective at terminating pregnancy. To the scientific world this non-surgical method of abortion is a medical breakthrough and considered a triumph in the United States; but to anti-abortion activists it is a drawback. They are afraid that the ease mifepristone provides can both increase the accessibility and promote the idea of abortion.

Mifepristone, also known as RU-486 was first synthesized in 1980 in France. The France Health Ministry approved RU-486 combined with Prostaglandin for medical abortions in 1989 after years of clinical trials. Yet the United States, the world's leader in medical advancement did not approve the drug usage until 11 years later, due to decades of political controversy. This FDA approval comes 7 years after the New England Journal of Medicine reports success in the two-pill regimen.

Mifepristone is administered within the first 7 weeks of pregnancy. It is an anti-progesterone that causes the uterus to shed its lining which dissociates the embryo from the uterine wall. Progesterone is needed to maintain the pregnancy, and mifepristone blocks the production of this hormone. This is followed 48 hours later with misoprostol, which causes the uterus to contract and consequently discharges the embryo. According to a recent article in Time magazine, the side effects of this new abortion procedure are

excessive bleeding in 2% of women who used it.

The advantages of mifepristone is it allows women to have a more private and personalized abortion as opposed to an invasive surgical procedure. They can take the pill in the privacy of their own home or at a doctor's office instead of travelling to one of the few abortion clinics that are surrounded with anti-abortion picketers.

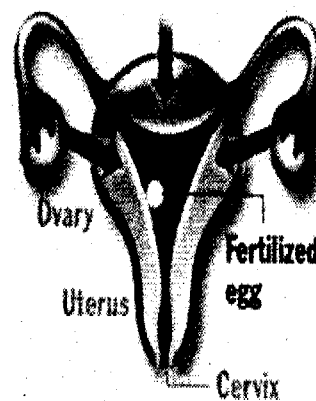
Due to the stance of pro-life politicians this approval was delayed. However the recent FDA approval does not mean total victory for pro-choice. The FDA has imposed many regulations that limit the disbursement of the pills. Some regulations vary state to state. The pills are being limited to physicians that can accurately determine the duration of a patient's pregnancy. The FDA is considering limiting distribution of the drug to only physicians who are trained to perform surgical abortions; restricting distribution to physicians who only have admitting privileges at a hospital within an hour of their office in case of emergency surgical intervention. Finally they are considering that physicians register with drug distributors which compromises the physicians right to privacy. All of these stipulations try to impose limitations and restrictions on the accessibility of RU-486.

Since the FDA's approval in early October, some New York City doctors already have access to prescribe mifepristone. Planned Parenthood at Smithtown will gain access to the pill by the end of this month, according to Vice President of Medical Services at Planned Parenthood. Some students have concerns about the pill. Brenda Chu, a senior, feels that "It's a good idea, as long as people don't consider it a form of birth control." Other students like senior Amanda Stewart are skeptic of the consequences of this new drug. "I think it's a good idea," said Stewart, "but measures should be taken to make sure that women are properly informed about the procedure as well as the risks."

This FDA approval comes at a time when abortion is scrutinized by our presidential candidates for the upcoming elections. Our next president has a tremendous influence on women's rights. Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush publicly denounces abortion; "I will do everything in my power to restrict abortions." Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore feels that "Today's decision is not about politics but the health and safety of American women and a woman's fundamental right to choose." The abortion controversy continues to be influenced by government even though some people feel it shouldn't. "I don't think the government has a right to impose its laws on women's rights," said Peter Rissland, a senior. "As long as a doctor prescribes it to appropriate women so they don't abuse the drug, its alright."

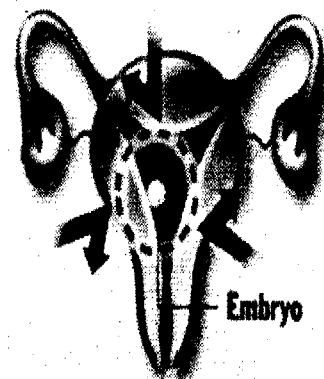
### HOW THE PILLS WORK

#### AT PREGNANCY



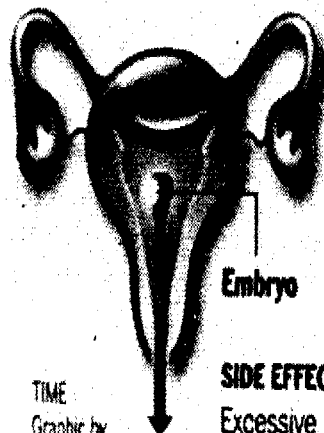
**Progesterone**, a hormone produced by the ovaries, is necessary for the implantation and development of a fertilized egg.

#### WITHIN 7 WEEKS



**Mifepristone**, an antiprogestin, taken in the first 7 weeks of pregnancy, causes the uterus to shed its lining, dislodging the embryo.

#### 2 DAYS LATER



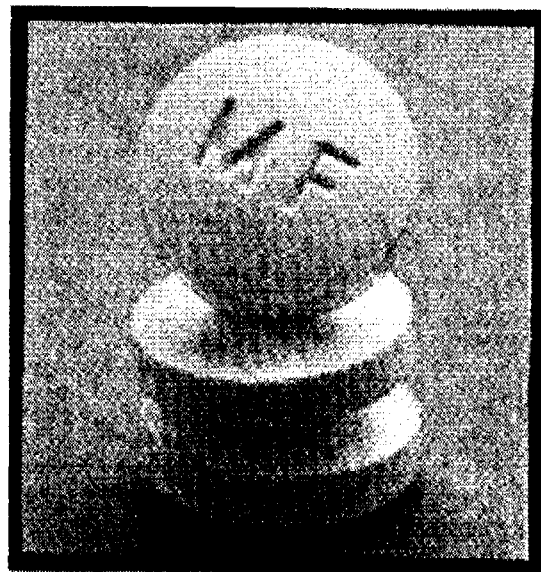
**Misoprostol**, taken next, induces contractions that expel the embryo in about 95% of cases.

#### SIDE EFFECTS

Excessive bleeding in about 2% of users

TIME  
Graphic by  
Lon Tweeten

Mifepristone combined with Misoprostol is 95% effective at terminating pregnancy



courtesy of TIME magazine

RU 486 is now legal in US

The Statesman Contributor Monday, November 6, 2000

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# Taking On Big Tobacco

## Former FDA Chairman Lectures on Battle Against Cigarette Companies

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR  
Statesman Staff

"Next time someone says it's too big, too powerful, remember: although it may be so, sometimes if you believe, believe there is a moral obligation you can take on the impossible."

Those were the closing statements of the former Food and Drug Administration chairman and current dean of the Yale School of Medicine, and a principal player in the closest thing to a modern-day "David and Goliath" story.

Dr. David Kessler slew big tobacco during the 1990's, and on last Thursday, he took the time to tell Stony Brook faculty, students, and administrators all about it as part of the George Goodman Memorial Symposium sponsored by the Provost Lecture series and the Round Table in honor of the memory of Dr. George Goodman, a member of the medical faculty and the executive board of the Round Table.

Kessler took the audience through a step-by-step journey of how he brought Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, and other tobacco companies to their knees by the end of his seven year tenure with the FDA.

He set the stage for the discussion by explaining why for over 50 years big tobacco had been allowed to operate with reckless abandon. "They were simply thought to be too big, too entrenched in the politics of



Statesman/Jefferly Javidfar

Legal action was taken against tobacco companies when it was found that marketing targeted teenagers.

Washington," Kessler said. "It was thought that you couldn't keep your job as Commissioner [of the FDA] long enough to have any meaningful impact."

As a result of these Washingtonian politics, the number one preventable cause of death in the United States, more than AIDS, highway accidents, and drugs combined went unbridled until Kessler took over during the Bush administration.

Kessler said that right from the start he was faced with a tough,

ethical decision. Either follow the FDA mission of protecting the public health or enforce and carry out the laws under which the FDA was created, two surprisingly conflicting goals.

This indeed did seem strange that legislators would leave such a gigantic loophole especially when the general well being of their constituents was at stake. Then Kessler cited a most notorious example Big Tobacco. Their vast war chest, which they had amassed for over half a century, was being used to motivate legislators to writing the finer points of the law in a manner favorable to Big Tobacco.

In accordance with this technicality, cigarette companies contended that tobacco wasn't a drug. Kessler explained why. "Well, because they didn't intend it to be. That's right, the nation's leading tobacco companies insisted that it provided pleasure, taste, and flavor."

However, Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, and company couldn't keep this facade up. Greed prevailed, and as Kessler's FDA demonstrated, they intentionally set out with wanton abandon to expand their client base, a.k.a. addicts.

As the FDA painstakingly proved, Big Tobacco operated

above the law. Such companies engaged in a host of activities aimed at increasing the nicotine content per cigarette and targeting a new generation of addicts by marketing their products towards teenagers.

As Kessler observed, contrary to popular belief, the amount of nicotine in cigarettes was significantly higher in filtered cigarettes than its high-tar counterparts. Most disturbingly, tobacco companies faced with the dilemma of a shrinking smoking population and a popular shift towards smoking light cigarettes, which have less tar and nicotine had found a way of replenishing the nicotine removed by filters.

Big Tobacco began genetically engineering high-nicotine tobacco leaves and synthesizing nicotine analogues, which they in turn, used to augment their cigarettes. Moreover, tobacco companies started coating the interior of packages and the outside of their filters with a chemically inactive form of nicotine. Through a patented-process called free-basing, in which the ammonia from cigarette smoke reacts with the inactive nicotine, the concentration

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Statesman/Jefferly Javidfar

Kessler holds an honorary degree from the University of Chicago.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 6, 2000

# Editorials

## Going Deaf

### Is the Bi-Level the Best Place for Senate?

Last Wednesday night, Shirley Strum Kenny actually showed her face to the student body. We have all heard her name but only a few have seen her face or even heard her voice. Many people have many a negative thing to say about her, partially because she is such a mysterious figure on campus. Possibly to alleviate some of this criticism, she made an appearance before the Polity Senate meeting in the Union bi-level where she spoke about the state of the University and answered questions from senators and the audience.

Although she had Vice President for Student Affairs to call on when she did not have a suitable answer, Kenny had a lot to struggle with. But it wasn't difficult questions or accusations that Stony Brook spends money the wrong way. Kenny's biggest battle was fought against the echo in the room which made her almost impossible to hear at times. Add bad acoustics to restless students who obviously cannot sit for an extended period of time and so feel it is necessary to come in and out of the room made for some tough hearing.

Polity Senate meeting used

to be held on the third floor of the SAC. The rooms were small but usually big enough to fit the people who chose to attend the meetings. But more importantly, over at the SAC you could hear what was going on.

In a noble effort to increase the near nil student involvement that characterizes almost every important even on campus, past Polity Vice President and President Calvin Coleman thought that moving the meetings into a high area of visibility would allow more students to come in, listen and hopefully participate. The room in the SAC was too hidden away and people would never stumble upon it. Some could not even find it when they looked for it. With glass windows that show everything, the bi-level was just what he was looking for. But what is the point in seeing if you can't hear a thing?

With it's high ceiling and lower level, the bi-level is a not the best place to hold these meetings. To make hearing matters worse, some of the students who did drop in insisted on whispering and snickering at Kenny's

comments, drawing the stares and dirty looks from those who were trying to listen. Besides looking like idiots, passing comments on Kenny without even allowing her time to finish her sentences, these students were plain rude and senseless for not realizing on their own that they should shut up.

What could further exacerbate the problem? The very same thing that Coleman was trying to use to the advantage of Senate meetings could be what is doing it harm. The Union is a center of student life. Held at 8:30pm, Senate catches students as they stop at the deli for dinner and snacks and as they head back to the dorms and to the parking lots after a day of classes. But all this activity makes for still more noise. The bi-level door remains closed but with the constant motion in and out, the sounds of laughter and talking filter in from outside.

Looking for students to get involved is admirable and members of Polity should be applauded for their efforts to do so. But the key may be in advertising through flyers and announcements and not through glass windows.



# Maybe Now, Maybe Nader

*Editor's Note: This commentary appeared in the Nov. 2 issue of Statesman but due to a computer error, the text was seriously corrupted. We apologize.*

By STEVEN PRESTON  
Statesman Contributor

You can't save Al Gore this election. You can't hurt Al Gore, either. In fact, whether you vote for Al Gore or George Bush in New York State is completely irrelevant to the results of the election. That's why you lucky New Yorkers have been spared the onslaught of political commercials that our poor neighbors in Pennsylvania have suffered through. New York is so firmly in the hands of Al Gore this year that, even if you persuaded every Gore voter under the age of 25 to switch to Ralph Nader, Gore would *still* win by a landslide.

In fact, this election will be decided by those people in swing states who don't even know the differences between Gore and Bush. A tenth of the population in these swing states is still undecided and who can blame them? Both candidates have done their best to either advocate the same policies, or obscure their differences.

Fortunately, you are spared this drama; in New York, the election was decided four months ago. Because of the electoral college, it makes no difference whether Gore beats Bush with 20% of the New York vote or 0.1% of the vote. Thus, both candidates have essentially decided they don't care which way you vote.

I began this endorsement of the Green Party's candidate with this seemingly pessimistic analysis, because I want to relieve you of the guilt you might have been feeling for thinking

about Ralph Nader. Because "lesser evil" analysis simply doesn't apply in this state, you should feel free to vote for the candidate you think is best, without any regrets.

Although your vote won't decide the election, your vote will not be wasted. No vote is wasted, even if it's for a candidate who probably won't win. This isn't betting on a roulette table. You don't support the guy you think will win, you support the one you agree with the most. Every vote given to a candidate like Ralph Nader helps build alternatives to the Republicans and Democrats. If Nader gets enough votes, for example, the Green Party will be eligible for federal funds in the next election. If you are frustrated by the corruption of the two-party system, this is a goal worth trying to reach.

Ralph Nader has been a progressive activist for over forty years. He has gotten more legislation through Congress than any other Presidential candidate, including the Freedom of Information Act and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, as well as the creation of OSHA and the EPA. Name an issue related to consumer rights, the environment, or political reform, and you can find Nader, or one of the many groups he founded, fighting for the progressive side.

The two responsibilities of the President are to enforce laws, and to propose legislation to Congress. Though he has not held elected office, Nader has done both of these far more successfully than Bush or Gore, who have both spent their political careers posturing and antagonizing people from both parties. Nader has worked with Democrats on

safety legislation and with Republicans on corporate welfare, as well as myriad other issues.

Although the Green Party is partly the outgrowth of environmental movements, it's not primarily an environmental party (as many seem to believe). Rather, it has broadened its scope and now has a variety of progressive issues, many of which remain unaddressed by the two parties.

For example, one very serious issue is international trade. The question is not whether we should trade with other countries, but rather what the rules will be. Institutions like the WTO have set the rules so as to favor corporations above other concerns, including the environment and consumer protections. If environmental and safety and health regulations can be gutted for the sake of corporate profits, then all the work of Nader and others can be rolled back. And if these decisions can be made not by elected officials, but by bureaucrats, then citizens have little hope of getting new regulations enacted. In short, the citizen's voice in government is reduced to a squeak.

There are many other issues on which Nader has taken a stand very different from both major parties. For example, there's the War on Drugs, which has failed miserably in reducing drug use but has imprisoned a million nonviolent people. Then there's the military budget, which Gore and Bush would increase mainly to please defense contractors. There's single-payer universal health care, which neither candidate will come near. There's also universal civil rights, as opposed to the

incremental rights Gore and Bush would grant to particular groups.

And perhaps the most important issue: what is to be done about the bribery of public officials? We have corporate lobbyists actually writing legislation in exchange for campaign contributions. Neither Gore nor Bush would change that, although they might make weak efforts to close certain loopholes.

As I wrote above, there's no possibility of your vote helping or hurting Gore or Bush. And given the political situation, there's no real possibility of Nader getting elected, either.

So why vote for a candidate who can't win? Because it makes a statement about the issues that you care about. There's no lever on the ballot that says, "I'm only voting for Al Gore to protect abortion rights." Your vote is considered an endorsement of every position on the candidate's platform.

The only thing that makes either party listen to your concerns is the fear of losing votes because of them. Third party movements have historically been very successful in this country. In this century, the Populists, the Progressives, and the Socialists all got their platform issues enacted either by Republicans or Democrats, though none of them ever came close to winning. The threat of not voting for a party that thinks it owns you is the strongest weapon you have, as an issue advocate.

Al Gore and George W. Bush are not the same, but on too many issues, they're not different either. You have a chance to reject them both, with no guilt. Take it. Vote for your hopes, your dreams, your conscience, and most importantly, your issues. Vote for Ralph Nader.

# No to Nader and Other Defacers

By REBEKAH KLARBERG  
Statesman Contributor

"Vote for Nader." The slogan itself makes me ill. To think there are some who wish to throw away their vote in this upcoming presidential election. But what makes me even more annoyed is the defacing of art.

The other afternoon as I was walking home from a less than great bio exam, I noticed that scrawled in huge neon pink letters was the infamous slogan "Vote for Nader" defacing the huge rust colored sculpture opposite the library. It is as though I was not already visually assaulted enough with similar slogans accompanied by pro-choice propaganda written over the walls and steps of the Staller buildings. Violating the conduct code to litter the campus with political messages harms and hurts more than it does

rally political support for one's candidate. When a group's views deface art or permanent structures such as buildings, the message is simply absence. It shows a general lack of respect for not only the artists and the sanctity of art, but University and those who work and attend class here.

Psychologically speaking, it is simply unwise to piss off those whose awareness you aim to raise. More specifically attacking the propaganda itself I say: While I do support pro-choice (propaganda mentioned above), tastelessly exhibiting my right as a women over the walls and steps of the Staller center is again a gross violation of decency, as well as the conduct code. I have my ideas of who is responsible for this mischievous conduct and I must say I am not surprised.

There are still some who are looking for a cause to fight for, even after all the good battles have been fought and won. As women, it is not our mouths and propaganda that will continue to give us dominion over our bodies, it is our vote. Raising awareness does not start in groups or cliches that makes some feel happy they have friends, while they shamelessly gallivant around campus with their piercings and unshaved legs. Indeed, feminism is something that each woman carries around with her and exhibits on a constant basis through how she carries herself and how she competes. She needs no group name or facades. She is the natural feminist and it is she who will be the example for other women.

As far as presidential politics: What is even more disgusting is that

the propaganda being forced down our throats, preaches support for a presidential candidate who has NO chance of becoming president anyway.

Making a moral vote is like making a moral decision not to cut your grass....you may believe in it, but it accomplishes nothing AND you piss off your neighbors. More to the point, a vote for Nader, as presidential hopeful Gore professes, is like a vote for Bush. While a vote for Nader is likened to a "protest vote," it accomplishes nothing while pushing a "non pro-choice" republican into office (which piss this neighbor off). A person's politics is their own business and I only hope that certain groups on campus could respect this and limit their political zealous to paper postings ONLY and leave defenseless art alone!

The Strong Brook Statesman Monday, November 6, 2000

# Tell Me About It

By Carolyn Hax

Carolyn:

*I have a wonderful boyfriend who I know loves me. We had a long-distance relationship for a while, in my last semester of college.*

*Many boys seemed to be attracted to me for once, and during that time I slept with someone else and felt absolutely horrible. I had told my boyfriend that I wanted to see other people and he said OK. He has no idea that I slept with someone.*

*We are now living together and everything is great, but I feel terrible about what I did.*

—Guilty Heart

Do this job long enough, and you start to notice some patterns. Your letter fits the "There's an elephant in the room and I'm freaking out because he doesn't match the rug" pattern.

Sort of. Neither your action nor guilt is that minor, to be sure—but you are being tougher on yourself than you need to be. When you told your boyfriend you wanted to see other people, you made it clear you had some exploring to do. So you explored. So maybe you explored a little too deep in the woods—the important disclosure was there: *This is not an exclusive deal we have here.* You owe your boyfriend a clean bill of sexual health—have you been tested since your expedition?—but a full-on confession would only provide painful confirmation of a possibility he likely had already faced. Now for the elephant, neatly contained in two words: "for once." As in, finally men came knocking. As in, men were not knocking before. This gives a crucial impression—that this wonderful boyfriend is the first one to come on the scene. This, in turn, raises three crucial questions: Are you happy with him, or just grateful? Have you done enough living to tell? Will you be swayed by these urges again?

The attention you got as a senior was

a quick education in men. You saw that you always have choices, that some men can give what some can't—and that all of this does help you judge. Meeting, knowing (non-biblically will do), comparing, weighing.

You may feel you've done your exploring, and maybe this guy is the one—but I do hope you give it more thought. Look at your opening line. You know he loves you. And?

Dear Carolyn:

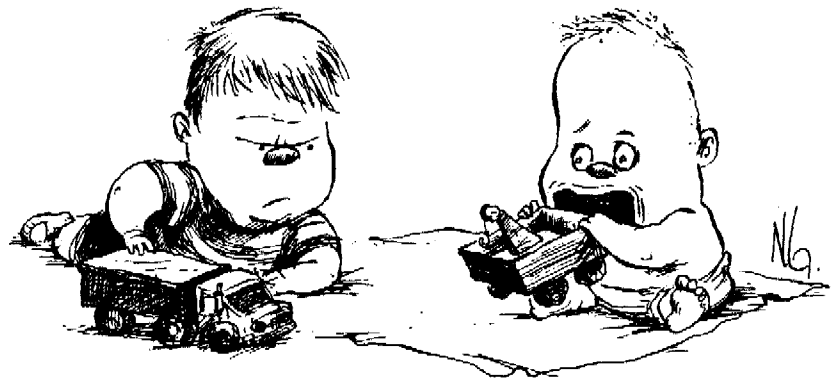
*A friend of mine, 23, just proposed to his girlfriend of four months, also 23. I want to be happy for him, but I'm worried that he is making a mistake. Both of us are in the Navy and I think the only reason he proposed to her is so he doesn't get a "Dear John" letter when we deploy in a few months. I have tried to tell both of them they are making a mistake and should wait till we get back. He has told me it isn't my place to critique his judgment. However, I grew up as a Navy brat and have seen friends' parents split up cause one or the other couldn't handle the deployments. Am I just putting my nose where it doesn't belong, or should I keep saying something about rushing into things?*

—C.

What you're up against here is Adolescent Law: Why learn from others' screwups when you can crash and burn on your own?

You're probably right about all of this. Your friend probably knows that you're probably right about all of this. Nevertheless, he has chosen to hope that you're wrong—or, more accurately, that he can't possibly be. At this point, you just have to honor his choice. We can argue about what your "place" is here—for what it's worth, I think you owed it to him to be honest—once—but your friend has made the point moot. Wish

THAT'S JUST GREAT. I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THIS GENIUS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.



him the best and hope like hell that you're wrong.

Dear Carolyn:

*My sister recently came from out of town for a visit, during which I was rather bitchy; I've been feeling miserable about unrelated things and snapped at her a couple of times for no reason. The second time this happened, she left the next morning (days before she was supposed to), before I woke up. I know I was in the wrong for taking things out on her, but her suddenly flying off shocked and hurt me. We've both apologized since, but I still feel awkward. Any advice?*

—M.

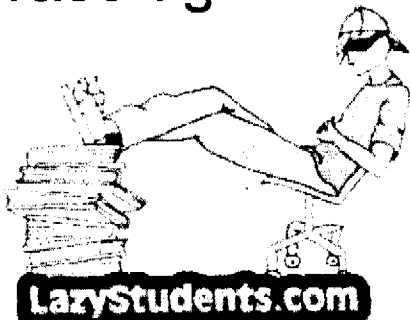
Yes, but only if you don't take it all out on me now.

Looks like it's one of two things. Either you under-apologized the first time—you were, after all, the instigator of bad will—or your unrelated misery has again leached into the picture. (Are you addressing that, by the way? Can I help?)

Conveniently, your sister is the perfect person to call if it's the first thing, the second or both. She's your sister—be angry, be hurt, be sad, but awkward? You grew up together. Talk for as long as it takes.

Write to "Tell Me About It," c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20071 or e-mail: [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com). Chat online with Carolyn each Friday at noon and Monday at 3 p.m., both Eastern time, at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

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**Assemblyman Steve Englebright**  
DEMOCRAT, GREEN, WORKING FAMILIES, INDEPENDENCE

*Paid for by Englebright for State Assembly*

# Beating on Cigarettes

Continued from page 5

of nicotine is dramatically increased per hit.

Furthermore, Kessler reiterated that now more than ever nicotine addiction begins as a pediatric disease. "The cigarette companies realized that if people don't get addicted as teenagers they will be highly unlikely to take up the habit as adults," Kessler said. Accordingly, companies like RJ Reynolds introduced the Camel brand accompanied by an aggressive marketing campaign aimed at children and teenagers.

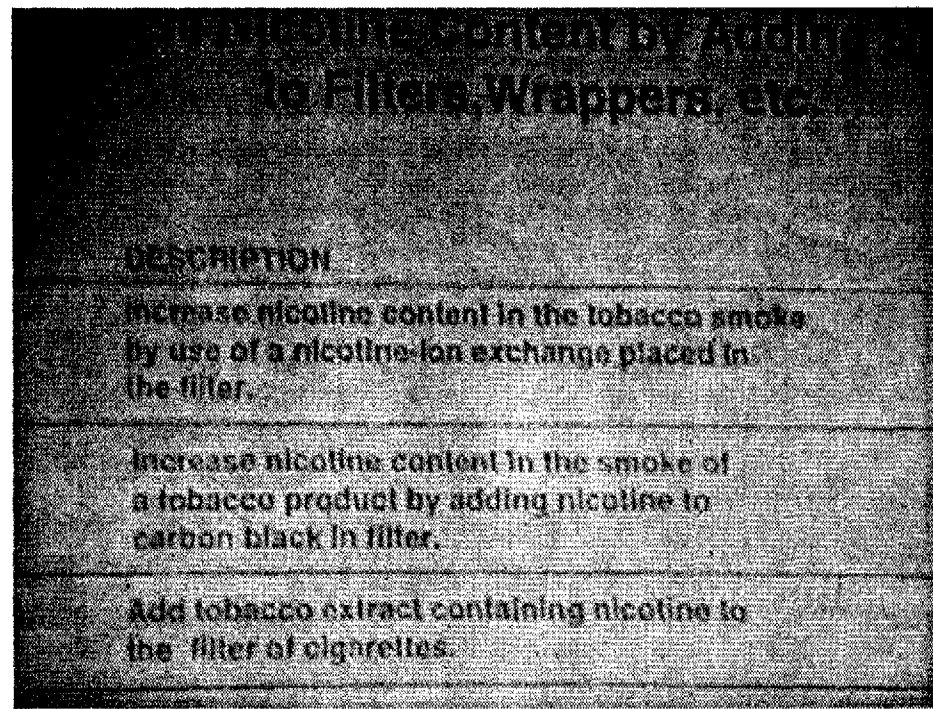
Through internal company memos and with the help of former employees Kessler was able to legally prove that Big Tobacco intentionally went after minors. It was this last fact which finally convinced juries to decide against tobacco companies.

When it was all said and done, Kessler's FDA was responsible for the

recent trend of tobacco companies being slapped with massive punitive damages, such as the \$140 billion decision recently rendered by a Florida jury.

Indeed, Big Tobacco is so afraid that they themselves have offered to accept massive concessions as long they are made immune from future class-action lawsuits.

As Kessler said in his presentation, Americans were perfectly willing to tolerate Big Tobacco's antics as long as they weren't directed at children. However, once that bridge was also crossed, juries no longer saw such actions as ethical. It was only then



Statesman/Jeffery Davidfar

The nicotine content in cigarettes was artificially raised to increase addiction.

"...companies like RJ Reynolds introduced the Camel brand accompanied by an aggressive marketing campaign aimed at children and teenagers."

that nicotine began to be considered a drug because it was intended to trap teenagers into its web of addiction.

Kessler, has degrees from Harvard, NYU, and Johns Hopkins, a law degree from the University of Chicago, as well as honorary degrees from ten other institutions.

"Cigarettes are a form of manipulation," Kessler said. "Many think it's cool all the while the tobacco executives are making money off of them. One thing young people want is freedom, this isn't freedom, it's actually the furthest thing from freedom."

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- December 13 1-2 pm

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 6, 2000



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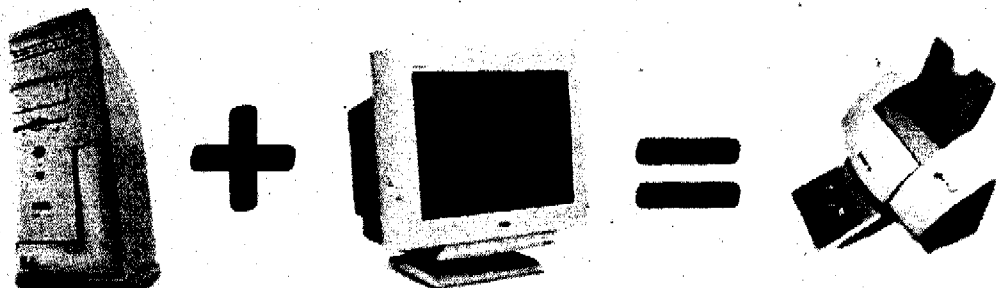


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# Kristallnacht

The Night 101 synagogues were burned

The Night that 26,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps



The Night Jews were physically attacked and beaten and 91 died

The Night the Holocaust began

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7:30 at Hillel Garden in front of the SAC: An interactive spiritual walk

8:30 in the Union Bi-Level: A movie gallery

Sponsored by the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life. Please get more info at 2-6565

# An Englishman in New York

## An Exchange Student's Postcard from America

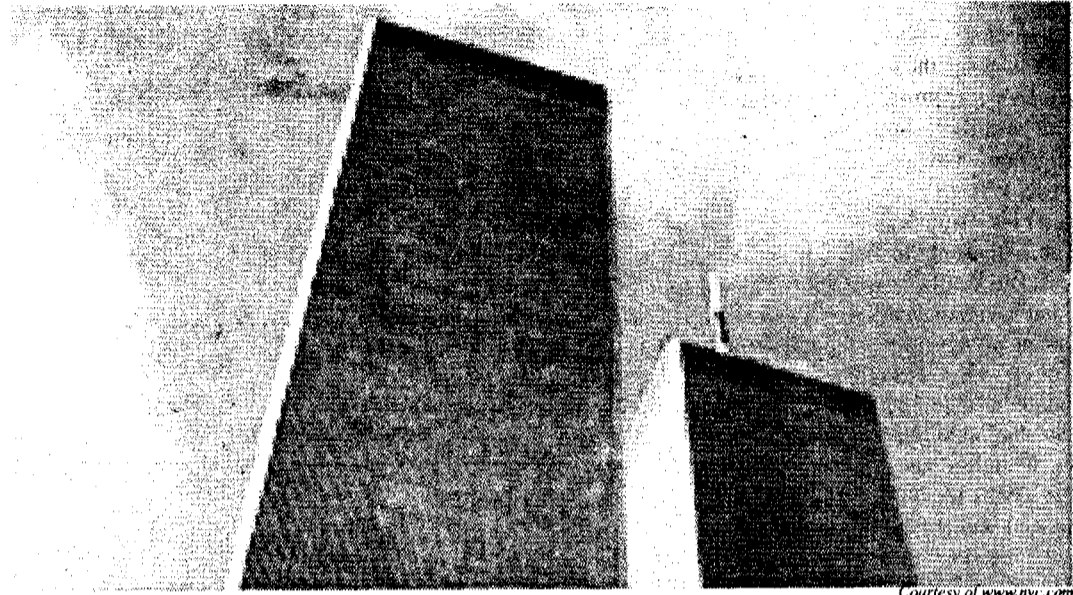
By CHRIS BINNIE  
Statesman Contributor

America has often been described as a melting-pot of many cultures. Yet, even by American standards, New York is truly cosmopolitan. People from almost every country in the world can be found in this city and with a population of eight million people, it is often described as the city that never sleeps. Any time you go there, it will be a hive of activity and excitement. It is genuinely a great city, where there is always something more to see and do.

All this comes from a place that has literally grown up out of the sea. The southern tip of Manhattan, the island that forms the centerpiece of New York City, was man-made when city Port Authorities decided they needed more space, and used landfill techniques to create more land. As a result came the huge Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, an instantly recognizable, world-famous pair of buildings, which also serves as the second-tallest buildings in the world, reaching high to the clouds at just under 1,400 feet tall.

However, even these enormous towers do not provide the most enduring images of the city. Any number of icons spring to mind upon hearing the words "New York." In addition, New York houses the Empire State Building, arguably the most famous building in the world, and Macy's, the world's largest department store, which takes up an entire block in the center of Manhattan. It owns the Chrysler Building, a former holder of the title of world's tallest building, before its few neighbor, the Empire State Building, superseded it, which has an exterior made from stainless steel hubcaps and other car parts which glint in the sun on bright days. There is also one of the most powerful symbols of the American Dream, the Statue of Liberty, standing in the harbor at the mouth of the Hudson River, looking out like a guardian from this City of Dreams.

This magnificent city has more bustle and energy about it than any other city I have ever



The World Trade Center is just one of the many sites the English traveler to New York City can enjoy.

experienced, even more than Delhi and other frantic cities on the Indian subcontinent, the most overpopulated region on the planet. Yet, right in the middle of this melee of madness, at every turn one discovers spectacular parks: Central Park, Washington Square Park, Madison Square Park, which particularly during the fall season, exudes beauty with splashes of color everywhere, as every tree is a different shade of red, yellow or orange.

As if New York was not busy enough, once every four years the election campaigns sweep the United States. New York, although not the nation's capital, is certainly a key focal point, both on the domestic front and for the rest of the world, and as such becomes a crucial factor in the race for the White House. The fire of New York's election fever has been further fuelled on this occasion by a fierce battle for New York's open Senate seat which includes in the blue (Democrat) corner, the current First Lady, Hillary Clinton. She is competing to represent a state where she has never lived and has

no real connection to yet, with less than a week remaining, looks set to win.

Alongside this high-profile Senate race, which has included dirty tricks that would shame even British politics, comes a presidential race featuring two candidates who struggle to project even half a personality between them to the public, and as result are tied in a dead heat in the polls going into the home stretch of the campaign. Despite rumors, this dead heat is at roughly 42 percent each, rather than the one percent each that many believe to be more accurate. Nonetheless, this illustrates very effectively that the American people simply do not care who wins. In fact, the result is more likely to affect the rest of the world than it will the United States, so similar are the candidates on so many issues.

But if New York City really were the key to the various election campaigns, in the previous two weeks you would never have guessed it. In fact, if you did not know better, you might struggle to guess that there was an election just around the corner. Recently baseball has been the only topic on the New Yorker's mind, as the 2000 World Series, the sport's best-of-seven equivalent of soccer's F.A.Cup Final, came around. The added bonus for New Yorkers, albeit to the detriment of the rest of the country, was that for the first time in 44 years, the two competing sides, the Mets and the Yankees, both hail from

Continued on page 17

### SPRING 2001 - CLASS SCHEDULE

The Spring 2001 Class Schedule will be available to students the week of **November 13<sup>th</sup>**.

They will be distributed as follows:

- **Residential Students** - Go to your College or Apartment Offices to pick up a class schedule starting at 7PM on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Check for posted hours of operation.
- **Undergraduate Commuters** - Pick up class schedule at the Student Activity Center (SAC), room 131, starting Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The office hours are: Monday through Friday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM. Tuesdays: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM.
- **Graduate (Non-SPD/GSP) Students** - Pick up at the Registrar's Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Administration Building during business hours. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (when classes are in session) 8:30AM - 4:00PM. Tuesdays: 10:00AM - 7:00PM
- **School of Professional Development Students (SPD)** -
  - \* ALL "New" SPD students can pick up a schedule at the SPD Office, Social and Behavioral Sciences Bldg, N 201, Monday - Thursday, 10:00AM - 6:00PM, Friday, 10:00AM-5:00PM
  - \* Class Schedules will be mailed to **Current SPD Students** on November 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be mailed to the home address currently on file with the Registrar's Office.
  - \* **Returning SPD Students** can either pick up a schedule at the Registrar's Office during scheduled office hours (see above) or they can call (631) 632-1278 to have a schedule mailed out. Please keep in mind that it may take several days to receive a schedule.

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## FBI Investigates Student After Yankees Site Hacked

TROY, N.Y. The FBI has seized three computers belonging to a college student after an obscene photograph and message appeared on the New York Yankees Web site the night they won the World Series.

Andres Salomon of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute said the agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation were polite and allowed him to save any schoolwork from his two laptops and one desktop computer last Saturday.

The FBI wants to find out who hacked into the Yankees.com Web site on Oct. 26 and posted an obscene photograph with the message "Yankees Suck!" Altering or defacing a Web site is a federal crime punishable by a fine or up to five years in prison.

Salomon, a computer major, admits going to the Web site that night but said he only went there after he heard \_ while online \_ the site had been hacked. He told the Times Union of Albany that he was merely curious and wanted to see how someone could have infiltrated the site.

He likened it to somebody peering in the window at the scene of a robbery.

## Fake Gun Causes a Scare at Marist

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. About 15 town policemen clad in body armor searched the Marist College campus Wednesday after a theater prop was mistaken for a real rifle.

A faculty member noticed the student carrying the prop which police said resembled a Western-style rifle with a black barrel and wooden stock. Police arrived around 3:30 p.m.

"About six of them (police) came through the classroom and searched around but they didn't really explain what was going on," said sophomore Martin Sanchez. Students were evacuated room by room during the search.

Meanwhile, campus security pieced the story together. A student apparently borrowed the fake rifle from a teacher for a class production and had gone to the building to return it when the witness spotted him.

"The witness didn't get a good look at the gun," said Captain Thomas Mauro. "It could have been mistaken for a real gun. Only if you had it in your hand could you tell the difference."

The college took no disciplinary action.

"The student was embarrassed and he apologized," said Tim Massie, a college spokesman. "He was conscientious in returning the prop, we just wish he had done it more discreetly."

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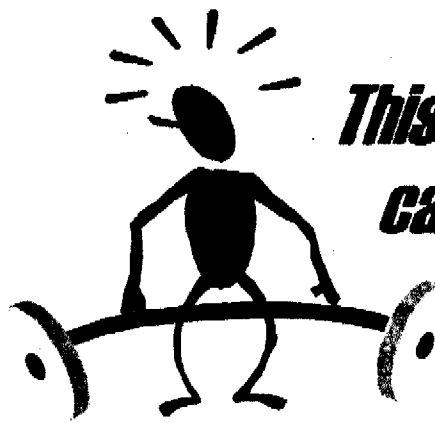
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# A Victory for Women

One Woman Celebrates the Legalization of RU-486 in the U.S.

By MELANIE SAYADIAN  
Statesman Contributor

Why are there negative attitudes towards the abortion pill? Approval of the drug gives American women a pharmaceutical abortion method already in wide use in France, Britain, China and 10 other countries. Health experts said abortion did not increase after the drug was introduced in Europe and why would the FDA approve of it if they didn't think it was safe? FDA determined the drug was safe and effective in 1996. Labeling problems and finding a manufacturer delayed approval for more than four years. The abortion pill, known as RU-486 and marketed as Mifeprex, was brought to the US after a seven-year effort by the Clinton administration and women's groups and will be sold to prescribing physicians, not pharmacies, by the closely held Danco Group. But why did it take so long?

I don't think RU-486 will be taking the place of abortions in the United States nor will it make it more and more common because surgical abortions are less prolonged and women's access to the pill will be determined largely by how many doctors choose to prescribe it. Surgical abortion will remain the predominant method of terminating a pregnancy because it can be done in a day rather than the two or three days for RU-486.

Did the FDA do the right thing by approving RU-486? Well for the first time, American women who choose abortion will have the option of taking a pill to end a very early pregnancy. They will now have access to a method that had been used safely and effectively by more than 500,000 women in Europe for over a decade. Finally

American women have the same access as millions of other women around the world to this safe, effective and private option for early abortion. The abortion pill can now be offered in private doctors' offices where doctors and women may eliminate the risk of harassment from anti-abortion advocates. Despite the enormous obstacles erected by opponents I think the FDA did the right thing by ensuring that good science and the health of women prevailed. I regret that politics delayed the importance of the pill. It should be treated as a scientific and medical decision. This is an improvement for science, the pro-choice movement and for women.

I believe that women should remember that it is their health and their choice and we should be respected to make those decisions according to the way we feel is correct for our lives. It is not a magical pill to take and abort. It is an alternative abortion method, which avoids invasive surgery. It is not only about abortion, but it goes to show that women have the right to choose what she can do with her body and not be controlled by the government. Those who choose not to have an abortion do not have to, so why should we lessen the choice for those who want to have an abortion? Abortion should not be used as a contraceptive, but it gives women their fundamental right to choose. It should not be about politics, but the rights and health of American women.

Our reproductive freedom has taken a century to claim and will be lost if we allow George Bush to become president. Many of us both males and females take women's reproductive freedom for granted. Most of us

know about the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision (Roe v. Wade) legalizing abortion, the right to safe, legal and accessible abortion for all women that has been attacked and eroded. Currently, a majority of both houses of Congress opposes a woman's right to choose, and the Supreme Court supports this right by a razor-thin margin of just one vote (pro-choice majority 5-4). Supreme Court Justices serve lifetime appointments. The next President will likely appoint 3-4 Justices, swaying the Court. If George Bush were elected, abortion rights would be lost. Abortion will become a crime.

George W. Bush called the FDA's decision "wrong." House Republican leaders promised to introduce legislation to block the agency's decision. Remember the sex education class we took in school? And the availability of contraception? Republicans oppose to all this! How can those of us growing up protect themselves from pregnancy and disease if they are not correctly educated and equipped? Are we going to let the government make our personal decisions and also make these policies worldwide where some of the world's greatest problems are birth rates and poverty? A Congressional Republican, Senator Jesse Helms, has blocked funds for family planning worldwide, which will aggravate one of the world's greatest problems, which is exploding birth rates and poverty.

This is not an issue only directed to those who would have an abortion, but to all of us, women and men. This decision will affect and lead other issues that will deeply affect our lives and the role of women in society.

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The Statesman Monday, November 6, 2000

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- NEWSWEEK

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- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

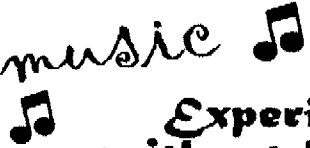
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- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK



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# The English Perspective

*Continued from page 12*

NYC. The entire city went baseball mad, with friendships put on hold and families divided as New Yorkers declared for one side or the other. The front page of the New York Times, the closest America has to a national daily, has been dominated by photos and reports from the game. Then, after a week of build-up, and a week of competition, the Yankees, baseball's most famous team, crushed the opposition by 4-1 to secure the title of World Champions for the third consecutive season. Following Monday's victory parade through the city, New York would surely return to normal life, wouldn't it?

Normal life, in New York? You must be joking! Twenty four hours after the city filled its streets to celebrate baseball's biggest stars, people packed the streets again for the largest, most expensive and most extravagant Halloween parade in the world. Even English exchange students found themselves caught

*"...we concluded that all Americans were (a) totally obsessed with Halloween, and (b) completely insane."*

up in the craziness. It is impossible to describe how big Halloween is in America. Although it is not a public holiday, it might as well be. Parking was forbidden all over New York's streets, and at times it was impossible to move, it was so cramped. In many ways it was reminiscent of London last New Year, the only major difference was that everywhere you looked, you discovered costumes that seemed to get more and more elaborate and meticulous as the night wore on. After a couple of hours of seeing some of the most bizarre costumes in history, and standing within five feet of Adam West, the original Batman, as he worked broadcasting the parade to the nation, enough was enough. We retreated around the corner to a real English pub, the Slaughtered Lamb, to watch the freak show on television. Over a bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale, (I have never appreciated a bottle of the Brown stuff quite as much as now, stuck in this country of dreadful beer) we concluded that all Americans were (a) totally obsessed with Halloween, and (b) completely insane.

Wednesday November 1 2000. Surely now, with no more baseball, and Halloween finished for another year, Americans might turn their attention to their election, now just six days away, and New York might become a relatively muted city after the chaos died down. So have the people of America's showcase city turned their attention to the forthcoming event that could affect their lives greatly over the next four years? In a word, no. The people of New York are no longer talking of baseball and Halloween, that is true. Their attentions have now turned to whether or not the New York Jets will make it to the 2001 Superbowl, and why the New York Knicks were so soundly thrashed on the opening day of the new basketball season.

An election? Really?

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# Know the Ballot

Below is a picture of the ballot exactly as it will appear on Tuesday, election day. Know the ballot before you hit the box.

## DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING ON THE AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINE

- 1st. Move the red handle to the right and leave it there.
- 2nd. Turn the pointer from this position to this position over the names of the candidates you wish to vote for.
- 3rd. Turn a pointer over the YES or NO of the question or proposition.
- 4th. Leave the pointers down .
- 5th. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the machine, lift up the slot in the column above the title of the office and write or stamp in the name.
- 6th. Move the red handle to the left in order to register your vote and exit machine.

**PROPOSITIONS, QUESTIONS, AND PROPOSITIONS**

THE AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINE DOES NOT ACT OR REGISTER YOUR VOTE UNLESS YOU HAVE FIRST TURNED THE RED HANDLE TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT IT THERE. YOU MUST ALSO TURN THE POINTERS TO THE POSITION OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE YOU WISH TO VOTE FOR. YOU MUST ALSO TURN THE POINTERS TO THE POSITION OF THE YES OR NO OF THE QUESTION OR PROPOSITION. YOU MUST ALSO TURN THE POINTERS TO THE POSITION OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE YOU WISH TO VOTE FOR. YOU MUST ALSO TURN THE POINTERS TO THE POSITION OF THE YES OR NO OF THE QUESTION OR PROPOSITION.

**PROPOSITION, THE 1**

THE 1997 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE STATE TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC UTILITIES. (YES OR NO)

YES

NO

YES

NO

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Facsimile ballot for General Election, November 7, 2000 - CD: 1; SD: 2; AD: 4 Town of Brookhaven (40 EDs)

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| Nathans         | U.S. Foods          |
| Big Geyser      | St. James Florist   |
| Rockland Bakery | Wes Design          |
| Boars Head      | New England Linen   |
| David's Cookies | Eastern Bag & Paper |
| Edy's           | General Mills       |

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# Features

## Independent Angels

### Charlie's Angels Comes Back from the 1970's and Into the New Millenium

By TINA CHADHA  
Statesman Editor

Remaking an already successful movie or TV show is a tricky job. Most remakes are either not true to the original form or end up being labeled ten times worse than the original. Only a rare few capture the essence of their basis while bringing an innovative take to the project, one that hopefully won't bomb at the box office or anger fans. Last Friday Charlie's Angels faced this test as it opened at theaters nation wide. With an estimated gross of \$40.5 million, it fared very well as the number one movie beating out its competition The Legend of Bagger Vance.

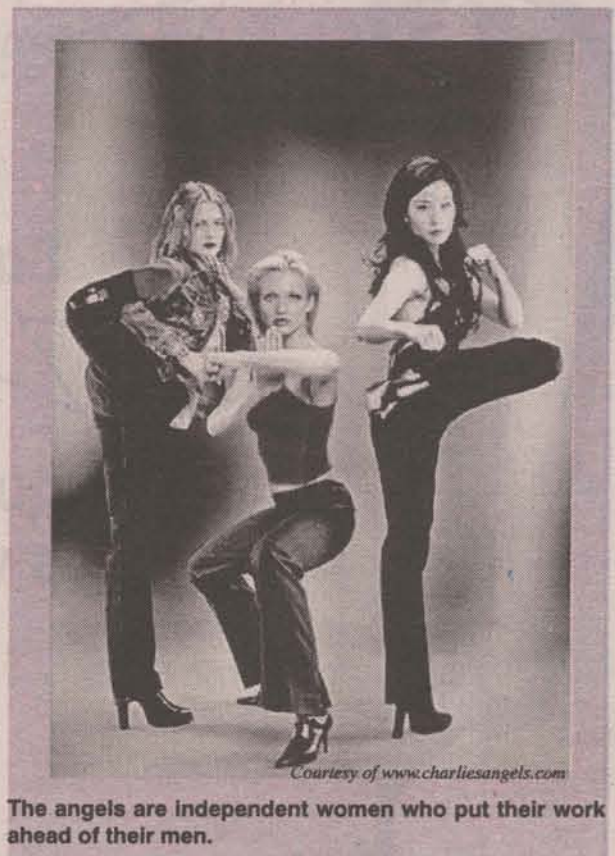
Right from the opening prologue, audience members noted the differences. The original introduction of the angels attending the police academy changed as the modern angels do not use guns. In its place was the story of the three different personalities. Cameron Diaz as Natalie, the once-nerd who showed early signs of being a fearless daredevil, Drew Barrymore as Dylan, the tough girl who takes no crap from anyone and Lucy Liu as Alex whose technical know-how and confident attitude take her all the way up to NASA. The new hair flipping, crime fighting, jaw dropping beauties, agents for hire like the original 70's TV, series work for mysterious billionaire Charlie Townshend, who communicates to the women via trusted

employee Bosley, played by Bill Murray who adds to the humorous ambiance of the film.

The setting for the film takes place in modern day Los Angeles where the trio finds themselves leading double lives as agents and regular every day citizens whose jobs as detectives takes priority to their relationships. Like the theme song by Destiny's Child says, the women are independent and put their career first over their relationships and often find themselves ditching boyfriends and dates. Cameos in the movie are made by LL Cool J, Matt LeBlanc, Tom Green and actor Steve Buscemi.

The movie, which doesn't take its self seriously, makes fun of the whole Charlie's Angels theme of babes beating bad guys. There are several moments like when Lucy Liu tosses her hair for about thirty seconds after removing her helmet or the three angels posing after every fight scene, that the movie pokes fun at the cheesiness of the TV series. The plot of the ladies tracking down a kidnapped computer technician and keeping his top secret voice-identification software out of lethal hands is also funny because it is so ridiculous.

Helping the Angels in their missions are extravagant disguises and state of the art devices and equipment. Better than anything James Bond



The angels are independent women who put their work ahead of their men.

has ever seen, the Angels have all sorts of expensive gadgets and high performance vehicles such as a Super Sport car, a Ferrari and not to mention a Formula one racing car. The trio is trained in martial arts techniques which is stressed throughout out the movie in detailed Matrix-like fight scenes. They are also knowledgeable of just about everything from rare species of birds to foreign languages to disarming bombs.

This time around the ladies trade in the Angels signature 70's bellbottom and platform shoes look for a more sleek, black leather, stiletto heel modern look combined with some retro 70's influences. One feature that is kept 100 percent true to the original angels is that angels 2000 also look beautifully done up in every scene with emphasis on their glossy lips and curvaceous bodies that male audiences everywhere are sure to love.

Charlie's Angeles 2000 has something in it for everyone. It is loaded with humor, action, adventure and the ever popular Matrix effects seen in many movies today. It pays tribute to the 1970's icon show while relating to and entertaining today's audiences.



The new angels use Matrix-influenced martial arts in place of the old angels' guns but the glossy lips and hair flipping remain the same.

Courtesy of [www.charliesangels.com](http://www.charliesangels.com)