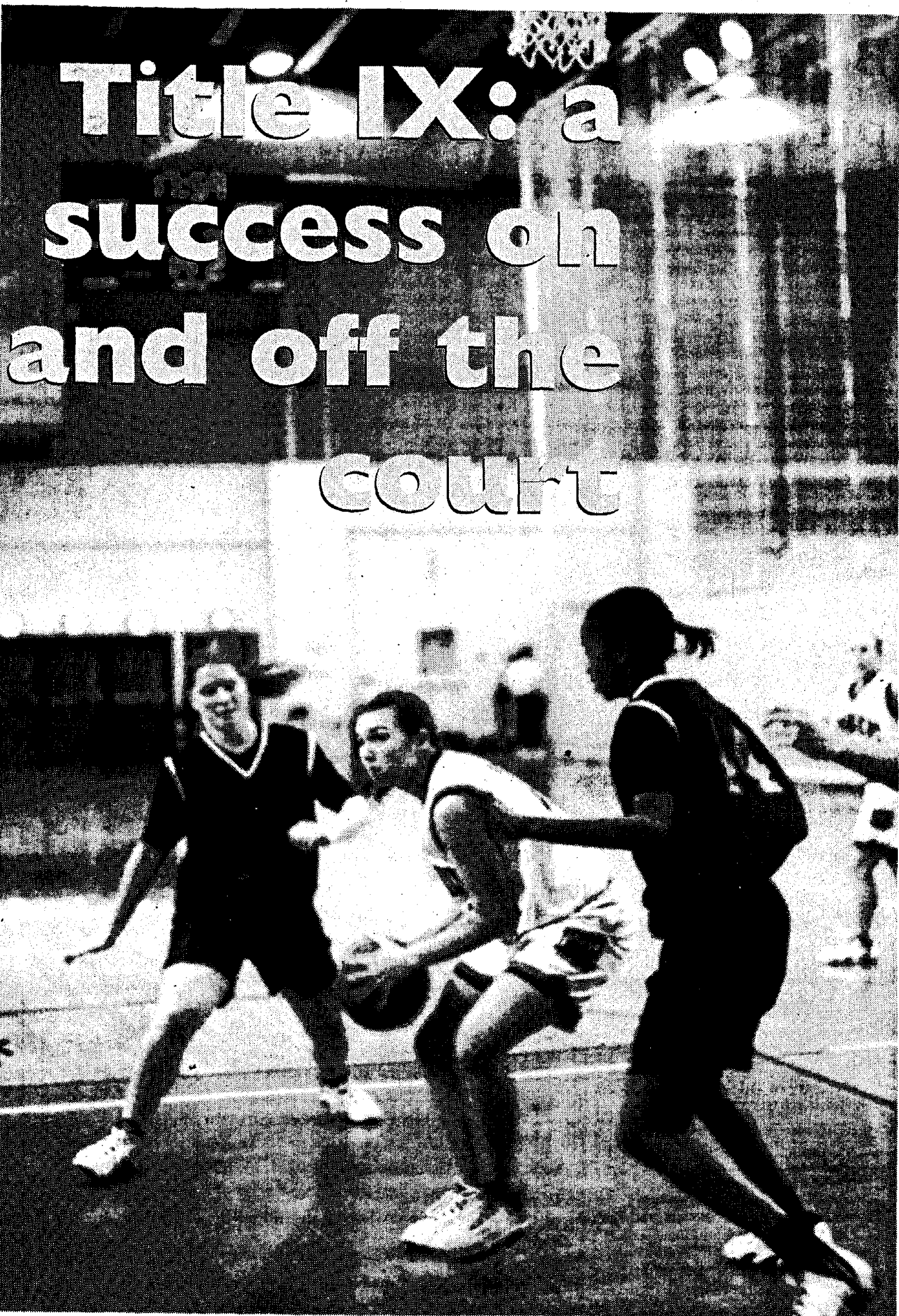


BEACON



HIGHLIGHTS

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Title IX: a success on and off the court

SGA makes move
to Silence Beacon
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Pizza delivery
service has arrived
at WPC
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Beacon at odds with SGA over proposed financial guidelines

By Matthew Halpern

For the first time, the William Paterson College Student Government Association will impose strict guidelines effecting advertising rates, salaries and commissions at WPC student-run publications.

The unprecedented decision came at last Tuesday's Executive Board meeting, which included a presentation on the current petition addressing the Follet Bookstore. There was also discussion of the recent Beacon editorial written by Beacon Editorial Page Editor Dan McDonough, Jr.

SGA President, Alex Malino, objected to the characterization of SGA Court of Judicial Review chair Thom Brooks as a Supreme Court Justice. He considered this "unfair." Other Executive Board members agreed with Malino and added that the Beacon was misinformed in what they had written.

The discussion of the Beacon's content occurred before the vote on the new policies. The Board also discussed the January 27, 1997 cover story "Despite obstacles club sports thrive at WPC." In a subsequent letter to Beacon Editor in Chief, Yoni Greenbaum, SGA Executive Vice President, Jennel Cooper asked that the Beacon clarify statements made in the article by SGA members so as to "uphold the Student Government Association's integrity."

The guidelines received a split vote which was broken by Malino, allowing it to pass.

While the changes are allegedly to effect all publications, the Beacon is the only publication mentioned in the guidelines.

"I am greatly disturbed that these decisions were made at a meeting where the Beacon was criticized for editorial content," said Greenbaum. "It is clear to the paper's staff that these policies were calculated to effect the ability of the Beacon to speak freely on

issues such as SGA misconduct."

Under the current proposal, changes in advertising rates must be approved by the SGA Finance Committee after being approved by the appropriate publication board. SGA clubs and activities must also be given a rate advantage with all advertising prices, which must also be approved by the Finance Committee.

The policy regarding salaries and commission may also place restrictions on student-staff members of college publications. The new policy states that "no more than one SGA salaried position per student," meaning that any paid position of a publication cannot further assist with the selling of ads, since earning commission would entail a second SGA paid position.

Another stipulation in the salary policy is that no SGA paid position can work more than twenty hours. For a publication, such as the Beacon, where it is imperative to keep longer hours to maintain that all necessary stories are covered, twenty hours limits the amount of work time that can be devoted to a story.

The proposed commission policy is a multi-faceted resolution. Commission can only be earned for ads that have not run during the previous fall and spring semester and is paid at 10% for the first five runs of the ad. These stipulations are based on the fact that the advertiser receives a non-SGA advertising rate and proof of payment for the ad.

As a result of the commission policy changes, McDonough, an outspoken critic of the SGA, will not be able to receive commission on advertising he sells.

"It is sad that they have decided to lash out at me this way for just trying to raise a question," said McDonough.

According to Beacon Copy Editor and Receptionist, Tracy Bodoff, these new poli-

cies are unprecedented. "I have spoken with many different publications and their advisors," said Bodoff, "in nearly every case the SGA's policies go against the practices of the industry."

A 60 year old publication, the Beacon has had a rocky financial history in part because it receives no money for its operating budget from William Paterson College, the SGA or WPC students. However, according to Greenbaum, the paper is currently in good financial condition.

"Every year we get better," explained Greenbaum who is in his second year as Editor in Chief. "The improvements have been the result of a combination of tight financial policies, conservative spending and aggressive advertising sales. The new guidelines are not necessary and will only hurt the paper."

He explained that if implemented the new policies will erode the papers advertising base, possibly forcing the Beacon to request funding from student activities fees as allowed in the SGA Financial Guidelines.

"The change in commission policy definitely takes the incentive out of getting repeat advertisers," explained Beacon advertising director and sales person, Danielle Gabriele. "There is a lot of effort that goes into getting an advertiser to repeat their ad, I think that a sales staff should be compensated for that achievement."

The paper's current commission policy is 10% every time an ad is placed in the paper. Even with the aggressive selling that Greenbaum talked about to date the Beacon has not paid out more than \$1,400 in commission. For the three sales people, Greenbaum, Gabriele and McDonough at most that translate to \$150 per week.

see POLICY page 17

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

the Beacon

A NEWSPAPER THAT'S CLEARLY FOR YOU

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Jamie Westervelt
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Dana Romatowski
Staff Photographer

Melissa Storms
Designer

Danielle Gabriel
Advertising Director

George Robb
Academic Advisor

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

THE BEACON

PAGE 3

Anniversary of Title IX reflects success but still more to come

By Matthew Halpern

Women have historically received second-class treatment when the issue of athletics is addressed. Many of the reasons behind the discrimination go back to myths about women -- about their body, their presence. The introduction of Title IX 25 years ago was a huge turning point to eliminate some gender bias in the education system.

Meryle Kaplan, Coordinator of the William Paterson College Women's Center, says that Title IX was designed to ensure equality in an educational environment. The law does much more than maintain equality for women in the sports venues, but it has had its greatest impact in this area.

"Title IX is about equality, not just about athletics and sports," said Kaplan. "The purpose is to end discrimination in all aspects of education, such as sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, counseling and Financial Aid."

Women have to be given equal athletic opportunities, added Kaplan. There is no requirement for equal numbers of teams, but equal opportunity must be given in relation to funding, resources, facilities and equipment, she said.

As Kaplan sees it, women face the difficult issue of dealing with the stereotype that female athletes cannot be strong and feminine at the same time. Arlene Holpp Scala, WPC Women's Studies Department, explains that this is a result of a societal mindsets that affect the way women are perceived.

"Our secular-social stereotypes state that females are too weak and don't have the same endurance that males do to succeed in athletics," said Scala. "Women are socialized to be smaller, as it can be seen as inappropriate for a female to have large muscles."

As Americans, a lot of emphasis is placed on gender appropriate behavior, she said. Female athletes must prove that they are feminine, using make-up and suitable clothing. It is also perceived that women should not take sports too seriously, Scala added, though males athletes can be very serious about their athletic activities.

In order to provide a visual aide about the inspirational stories of female athletes, the WPC Women's Center sponsored a performance of "How She Played the Game," performed by the New Jersey Women's Theater Cooperative. This presentation accentuated the fact that women may have had to deal with discrimination and stereotyping, not only from their gender but from their racial or religious background, and have still been able to win the race, finish the game and be victorious.

The production highlighted the lives of five historic female athletes who had to overcome extraordinary obstacles to reach excellence in their sports. The lives of Eleanor Randolph Sears, Althea Gibson, Gertrude Ederle, Gretel Bergmann and Mildred "Babe" Didrikson show how

women had to endure harsh discrimination to be victorious in the sports arena, each one being extremely successful in their own right.

"How She Played the Game" is another means by which people can see the way in which female athletes have been treated differently. Virginia Overdorf, WPC Movement Science Department, feels that there are many more similarities among all athletes, though society presents male and female athletes as two different species.

the past, what goes on today, and the implementation of Title IX and the changes that occurred from that. In the spring semester, the department offers a course called "Self-Defense for Women," designed to help women remain strong and give them the ability to defend themselves.

According to Overdorf, Title IX, part of the 1972 Education Amendment Act, was never intended to affect athletics as much as it has. Though great strides have been made, there is still some descent concern-

school must meet one of three requirements: "athletic opportunities must be available to both female and male students in proportion to their respective enrollments; "continual expansion of athletic opportunity for the underrepresented gender; "showing that a school "fully and effectively" meets the needs of the underrepresented gender.

Recently, this issue was heard in court when Brown University, known for its large female athletic program, decided to cut four sports, two male and two female. A U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that by doing this, Brown was not meeting any of the requirements stipulated by Title IX.

Sabrina Grant, WPC Assistant Director of Athletics, stated that WPC has taken an active stance in assuring that womens' athletics meets the needs of female athletes. At colleges with football programs, such as WPC, equality between the genders is not gained in number of participants but in equal funding and other benefits.

"Probably the most tangible example has been the development of a womens' soccer program, to meet the needs and interests of women on campus," said Grant. "The number of athletes in women's sports has grown dramatically."

The athletic world has become a very big numbers game, said Grant. There is no equality in numbers, because the football program consists of eighty to one hundred players, a limited number so that the proportionality is not completely thrown off, she added.

"With our womens' athletic programs, we used to have trouble fielding a competitive team because of low numbers," Grant said. "Now our coaches are strongly involved in recruitment to maintain strong numbers."

Another concern is that of female coaches. Studies show that the number of female head coaches has decreased 8.5% since 1978, when Title IX was enforced in all schools. Grant admits that it is difficult to attract women to full-time coaching positions.

"We are about fifty percent regarding women coaching female athletics," she said. "Womens' basketball, field hockey, softball and womens' volleyball are coached by females; womens' soccer, womens' swimming and womens' cross country and track and field are all coached by males."

At WPC, salaries, uniforms, equipment, facilities and expense monies are fairly equal, Grant added. "Because of this, female athletes feel they are treated very well."

Women athletes see things changing, but understand that there is a lot more that is needed before athletic equality is achieved. Equal respect for equal ability is a concern that is continually addressed.

"As a woman athlete, I feel we don't get the same respect as male athletes," said

see WPC page 15



"Title IX is about equality, not just about athletics and sports," said Kaplan. "The purpose is to end discrimination in all aspects of education, such as sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, counseling and Financial Aid."

"There are probably more similarities amongst all trained athletes, but the obstacles for female athletes are so much greater," said Overdorf. "Being athletic and strong is expected from men, not so much from women, though."

Every school year, the WPC Movement Science Department conducts classes dealing with women and physical activity. The fall semester class, entitled "Women in Sports," examines the issue from a historical perspective, what has gone on in

ing women being allowed to participate in collegiate football.

"Schools with football are attempting for non-compliance with Title IX because there is so much money and numbers (of players) involved in it," Overdorf said. "The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and coaches have attempted to get football out from under Title IX jurisdiction and that has not held up."

In order to comply with Title IX a

FEBRUARY 3, 1997

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ON THE COVER -Title IX successes on the court have helped to make the WPC Women's Basketball Team a top contender in their division and have brought more respect to the arena of women's sports.

Dana Romatowski/The Beacon

SGA Conduct Committee comes under scrutiny

After nearly removing one of it's own legislators on questionable grounds, the SGA is going back to the drawing board to look at the way the Conduct Committee is run and what it does.

By Matthew Halpern

After an alleged miscommunication of information, the William Paterson College Student Government Association (SGA) is considering an overhaul of the SGA Conduct Committee.

According to John McCormack, SGA vice president and Conduct Committee chairperson, the SGA Conduct Committee is a means to enforce the attendance and behavior policy for SGA legislative and committee meetings. As a penalty, SGA board members are assessed points for violating the code of conduct.

"The committee sees that everyone is in attendance, not talking out of turn and addressing the other legislators with respect," said McCormack. Legislators accrue points for unexcused absences, tardiness and inappropriate behavior at SGA meetings, he added.

The recent situation involved a legislator who had earned too many points, was dismissed from a legislative position on the SGA Board and then appealed the dismissal. During the appeal process, an excused absence that was previously not known about appeared. The attempt to

dismiss the legislator had to be removed.

The current point system assigns four points for an unexcused absence from an SGA Legislature Committee meeting and two points for an unexcused absence from any other SGA Committee meeting. Points for tardiness are assigned based on a sliding-scale and any points assessed for inappropriate behavior is determined by the committee chairperson.

All points earned accrue together throughout the year. A legislator cannot earn more than nine points in any semester, said McCormack, and not more than 12 points in an academic year. Each person is granted two excused absences from Legislature and committee meetings, he added. All appeals dealing with conduct are heard by the SGA Court of Judicial Review (CJR).

"What happened was that an absence should have been excused and was done so after the fact," said McCormack. "That point total went under the limit of nine for a given semester and the dismissal request was withdrawn."

However, upon investigation by the Beacon, the minutes from that meeting were only found in partial form, with the page containing the attendance records missing, not backing up the excused absence for the member in question. SGA Office Manager Kali Protosaltis was unable to find any other attendance records for that Executive Meeting, nor could she explain why the page in question was missing from the master file.

When the Beacon attempted to ask Alex Malino, SGA president about the missing page, he refused to return phone calls. Malino had claimed that the absence was recorded in the minutes, but the excuse was not noted in the meeting minutes. In order to avoid this situation again, Malino said that the Conduct Committee will be evaluated so it can be run more efficiently.

"CJR is now looking at a new structure for the Conduct Committee"

-Malino

"The CJR is now looking at a new structure for the Conduct Committee," said Malino. "The CJR hears an appeal, the the Conduct Committee, so there needs to be an evaluation of the Conduct Committee

to see how it can be more effective."

The current SGA Constitution does not have a provision stating that legislators must be notified about any points earned as soon as they are accrued, said McCormack. This is something that needs to be looked at if the committee is reconstituted, he added.

"The Conduct Committee has to be reconstituted as a result of this," McCormack said. "To make it a more perfect democracy, it might help if the recording secretary also issues points for the meeting, as well."

Points are always distributed to legislators at the end of the semester, said McCormack, and particular attention had been given to that this year because quorum at meeting had "fallen off." Usually, one or two people are dismissed from the SGA Legislative Committee during the first semester, for various reasons.

"That happens because situations change or a person becomes overcommitted," said McCormack. "When we over-extend ourselves, it becomes evident in everything we do."

Both Malino and McCormack agree that the committee needs to be run as efficiently as possible. Future changes to the committee structure and responsibilities may reflect this.

"We want the committee to be run more efficiently," said Malino. "That idea will be reflected in any constitutional changes."

Pizza delivery service has arrived at WPC

By Matthew Halpern

Since the arrival of Sbarro's at William Paterson College, the rumor of an on-campus pizza delivery service has circulated. After a semester of situating themselves within the college community, Sbarro's is prepared to begin delivery service to WPC resident students today.

Through the combined efforts of WPC Auxiliary Services and WPC Food Services, Sbarro's will offer delivery service from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with the same price list available in the Student Center commuter cafeteria. Tony Covatto, Director of WPC Auxiliary Services, felt that the need for an on-campus pizza delivery service was evident.

"When we decided on an Italian restaurant, we knew there was a market for delivery in the evening," said Covatto. "We just needed the time to start it."

In trying to establish Sbarro's as an integral part of the commuter cafeteria, both the college and Sbarro's were not prepared to offer this service to resident students, said Covatto. The establishment needed time to settle and situate themselves right after it opened, so they just could not handle this from the beginning, he added.

"Sbarro's has now established themselves and can branch out into this area,"

Covatto said.

Pizza delivery at WPC comes at a time when Sbarro's has recently extended its night hours of operation. According to Roe King, Catering Manager in WPC Food Services, delivery service will be offered at the same time as the walk-up/pick-up option, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Prices will be the same as those in the fast food spot.

Orders will be placed through an on-campus extension and paid for using Pioneer Express, said King. Students will give their Social Security number over the phone and the money will be automatically deducted from the account, because no orders will be accepted using a cash payment, she added.

"The money will be debited from the account," said King. "When the pizza arrives, the student must sign the receipt; if the pizza is not to their satisfaction, they do not sign the receipt and the money is not taken from the account."

Some students are concerned about the prices and competition, though the availability and speed of pizza will be a benefit many students will appreciate.

"Pizza delivery on campus is a good idea because no freshman has a car and it's good to have that luxury," said Andrea Barkley, a communications major from Matawan.



Sylvana Meneses/The Beacon

After a semester of availability only in the Student Center Commuter Cafeteria, Sbarro's pizza is now offered through an on-campus delivery service. The service, available to resident students from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., can only be utilized by students with Pioneer Express.

Other students are a little more skeptical about the situation. Helen Chmelowitz, a freshman from Mays Landing, sees competition as the biggest factor.

"I think it's a good idea, but I'm not sure how well they will do because of other competition," said Chmelowitz. "The pizza might get to you faster, but I think the price will be everyone's concern."

According to King, right now, only Sbarro's pizza and soda will be available for delivery. Hopefully sandwiches and other menu items will be added, she added.

"We saw that other colleges have pizza deliver on-campus and there was a big call for it, so we decided to start it," King said.

Incentive grants improve library

By Christine Damasceno

With renovations completed in 1995, the William Paterson College Sarah Byrd Askew Library is making more improvements after receiving several incentive grants.

Norma Levy, Interim Director of the WPC Sarah Byrd Askew Library, said that the library received grants in the amount of \$145,000 from the office of the Provost during the fall '96 semester. A proposal was submitted by the library staff in June of '96, and the funds were put in to use in the beginning of the fall

semester, she added.

"In terms of the library budget for books and materials, the grant was very critical because our book budget was falling way behind," Levy said. "We weren't able to purchase any significant amount of books, but these grants gave us an opportunity to increase our collections."

According to Levy, \$100,000 of the grant funds was used to purchase library materials and books. An additional \$30,000 was issued for periodicals and journals, targeted towards graduate students, and the remaining see LIBRARY page 17

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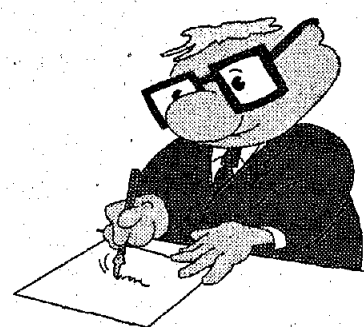
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the Insider

THE BEACON

FEBRUARY 3, 1997

WAYNE, NEW JERSEY



(left) One of WPSC's student DJs pauses for the camera, while (above) WPSC Station Manager, John Kiernan, takes a break from repairing a piece of the stations equipment.

Sylvana Menses/The Beacon

WPSC: Real experience for the real world

By Michelle Mielko

For years, college radio has been defined as alternative rock, targeted toward the college students themselves. Recently, many college stations have changed their format, directing the music to the audiences outside the college gates. William Paterson College's WPSC (88.7) is no

exception to this trend.

A year and a half ago, the station changed its format to meet the requests of older listeners in the 18-49 demographic category. The station now plays hits from the '70's, '80's, and '90's and today's hot adult contemporary hits. Though most people want to hear alternative rock from a college station, John Pordon, program

manager for WPSC, feels that alternative rock wouldn't attract listeners outside the college.

He also feels that the format restrictions helps prepare the students working at the station for getting a job. "We're run like a real station," Pardon states. "At Ramapo or Rutgers, they can do whatever they want; we are more disciplined."

He is correct. Max Gilbert, program director for WRSU (88.7), the radio station at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, says that the disc jockey's choose what songs they are going to play. They offer a variety of different types of music. They serve the campus as well as the thirty mile radius from Trenton to Newark. Music styles include Blues, Industrial, Hip-hop, Rap and Indie Rock. Despite the variety, in a recent poll taken by the Rutgers University newspaper, *The Daily Targum*, only 5% of the students actually tune into the station.

WPSC claims that they are the best radio station in Northern New Jersey. Pordon says the station lives up to these claims because "we play songs that most people want to hear. We have the best local news in the area, and almost 2 million listeners per day."

The students at WPC feel differently. "They play some good songs," said Juan Urbina, freshman, "but it seems more directed toward adults."

Another WPC student, Steve Karaefthimoglu, stated, "I used to listen to the station before they changed the format."

A station somewhat similar to

WPSC is 90.7, WFUV, from Fordham University. Similarities lie in the format based upon a 25-49 demographic. They play "adult album alternative" music. They program basically to people who have grown up to Bob Dylan, Sting and the Grateful Dead. They also play '90's music, such as Counting Crows, Natalie Merchant and Sheryl Crow. Their format is decided by the music director. Like WPSC, WFUV broadcasts outside the campus to the whole metropolitan area.

Student response to the station varies. Unlike WPSC, the station is run by professionals, which doesn't give communications majors that vital hands-on experience advantage.

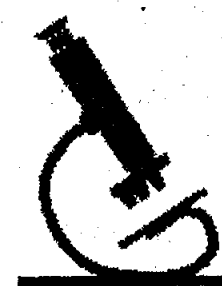
"Some students are mad because they can't participate," said Ben Soper, assistant music director at WFUV, who is not a university student. "The faculty considers the station another department, like the French or English department. Thirty students do work at the station doing various things, like the news."

Soper claims, "College radio in its regular form is very good at giving a first break to up and coming bands, something that commercial radio doesn't have the option to play because of commercial restraints to make money and keep listeners. That is the great strength of college radio, but that is also the great weakness."

He also feels college stations should play more familiar songs so listeners don't tune out. Their station's list-

see RADIO page

Under the



Microscope

Bjork
Telegram
(Elektra)

Every once in a while, you come across an artist who you've heard of in the past, but never really sat down and listened to. Well, this is one of those singers who has never had a spin around my CD player, and I think I've been missing out on one of today's most talented female musicians.

Telegram is the latest release from Iceland's own Bjork. It contains eleven tracks, some new and some remixes of older material. Her little girl-sounding voice and child-like persona is unlike any other on the radio today. It lets the listener into an alternate world full of mystery and majesty.

In on "My Spine," the former singer of The Sugarcubes speaks of the solo sexual experience every male goes through, although not all confess to. "All those boys with fascinating fingers, working creative, touching their tools, gives me always a pretty rash down my spine." One can almost hear her blushing with a smile on her face.

Not every song on *Telegram* is a winner, (most are) but each one varies from the last. This one is a must for anyone looking to expand their musical horizon.

(EE)

see MICROSCOPE page 8

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

from MICROSCOPE page 7

fluf
Waikiki
(MCA/Way Cool Music)

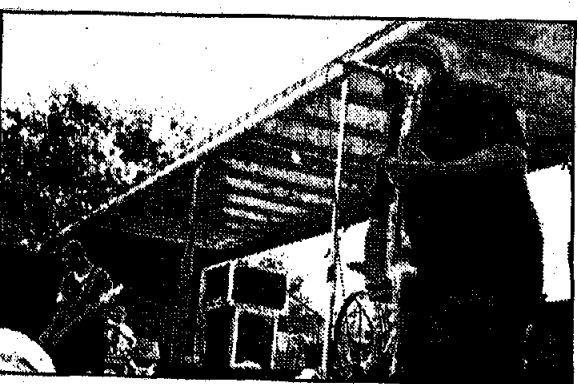
First off, album aside, what is with the publicity photo? I don't know who this is a picture of, but it sure as hell isn't fluf. Whether this is a product of guitarist/vocalist O's warped sense of humor, or a marketing ploy by MCA remains to be seen. Regardless, the second picture is what the members of fluf really look like.

Now, on to fluf's major label debut. *Waikiki* is everything that is great about fluf - O's melodic baritone vocals over a huge guitar soundtrack with swift changes within the same song. The changes are as drastic as going



(above) Fluf publicity photo. Keith Stannin/MCA

(below) Fluf in actuality. Tim Bornemann/The Beacon



from vocal screams and crunching guitar distortion, to beautiful harmonies with very little accompaniment in a matter of seconds. New bassist Josh Higgins proves to be a tighter link than previous one Johnny Donhowe and drummer Miles Gillett is hitting harder than ever. Mark Trombino has turned all the knobs to the right position and this results in the tightest production work fluf has captured.

The highlights of this album are the songs that focus on the lighter melodic side of fluf. "Pushing Back Days," with its swirling guitar noise and tight rhythm is the stand out on this collection. The chorus of "Pushin' back, pushin' back, pushin' back days." Never thought I was in a haze. is impossible not to sing along with. Other gems include "Pipe Bomb," "Bump," and "Sweet Dough."

The only bad thing about this album is that it seems destined to go under appreciated. fluf pioneers such a unique combination of sounds, it seems very possible that the genius of this album may simply get lost in the shuffle. Radio stations are not known for trying out new styles. This is one of those special album's, however, that deserves every chance possible.

fluf delivers with *Waikiki*. The album symbolizes what fluf has been about all these years. And who knows, if they put those guys in the phony publicity photo in a video, maybe they'll become teen heart throbs. To sum it up, a clip from the beginning of the song "Chooser," "Welcome to the fourth fluf album called *Waikiki*, you ass munching pig" (TB)

Deana Carter
Did I Shave My Legs For This?
(Mercury)

Deana Carter's single "Strawberry Wine," which has topped the country charts for weeks, may be the reason many people picked up her debut album *Did I Shave My Legs For This?*, and they were not let down. But with a singing voice reminiscent of Faith Hill and moving melodies, like Reba McEntire, it is no wonder.

The album offers a few fast-paced dance tracks along with a wide variation of ballads which many would find easy to relate to. The strong ballads which country music is most known for are easy to pick out on Carter's first album.

The first track of the LP "I've Loved Enough To Know" immediately grabs the listener and the beat keeps playing over in your head even when the song has ended. But if the beat of the music isn't enough, the lyrics are sure attention grabbers. Songs like the title track "Did I Shave My Legs For This?" and "We Danced Anyway" offer a sense that the songs were written from true experiences.

Deana Carter said in a recent interview "Music should be like a roller-coaster ride. It should take you from start to finish and then make you want to ride it again." Well, with this album Carter definite-

ly fulfills this ideal and with hits like these, there is no way she could go unnoticed.

(DLR)

Enormous
Busman's Holiday
(A&M Records)

Enormous was an enormous waste of my time. The album is full of slow depressing ballads. Not that that's a bad thing, but the lyrics lacked any emotion and an overall general sincerity which quickly wears down the listener.

Eden Unger, lead singer, has a monotonous voice which makes J. Mascis seem like he has range. The music is reminiscent of the 80's power pop band Grubbs. The guitars seemed no better than average, and the lyrics are somewhat basic.

Individually all the members play their part, but the resulting product lacks cohesiveness. This pseudo-indie rock band could have seemed inventive five years ago but now falls well within the boundaries of the MTV crowd, but not necessarily with the M2 crowd. Only time will tell.

This e pluribus unum recording is actually part of A&M, and is just another example of how a major tries to make themselves respectable by attaching themselves to an indie. Anyway, this album was enormously disappointing. The band lacks any stylistic vision. Most of the songs are slow and soft at the beginning, and somewhat pleasing, which quickly ceases when the overbearing guitars inevitably come in at the end and ruin the entire song. "Lifetime," "Choked," and "My My Mine" are all examples of how they consistently ruin their songs.

This group sounds like they're trying to get rich off the recent popularity of female-fronted bands. But the band falls short on most of the tracks, and

see MICROSCOPE page 9



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UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

from MICROSCOPE page 7

hardly moves the listener. Until the band gets some personality, they're really not worth listening to.

(DR)



Face to Face
Face to Face
(A&M)

Face to Face's self-titled album is a standard pop punk album full of potential and disappointment. The lack of emotion makes it seem like recording this album was a chore for Face to Face. The energy of their live performance is lost and replaced with over-production. The resulting recording just sounds way too slick and professional.

The whole theme of the album is fairly morbid and gloomy. The common attitude of "Life sucks, and there's nothing I can do about it" is once again being championed. The members of Face to Face were never asked to change the world, so as to why they chose to sing about and dwell upon that burden remains a mystery.

The structures of the songs themselves have potential. The typical Face to Face guitar work with a tight bass and drum barrage is second to none. But it needs to sound as if there was some shred of

emotion in it. The way they left it makes it sound like it was recorded in a sterile operating room. Maybe next time they'll get it right.

(TB)

Guided By Voices
Sunfish Holy Breakfast EP
(Matador)

Just about everyone who has heard a Guided By Voices record would agree that a hi-fi, studio production of their songs would be better. It wasn't until last year's longplayer, *Under The Bushes Under The Stars*, that the four-track was dismissed for a studio-savvy recording effort. But the sound captured seemed to imitate their previous, shoddy sounding four-track recordings that have trademarked their sound.

Sunfish Holy Breakfast is no different. The songs are poetically deep and the band sound, as a whole, is both pretty and intense at the same time. The recording style is mostly, however, that of a low-fidelity sound. The EP contains ten songs, two of them ("If We Wait" and "Stabbing A Star") previously released and none of them being throwaways.

While "Heavy Metal Country" and "Winter Cows" both portray the mellow side of Robert Pollard, Tobin Sprout and company; others like "If We Wait" and "Cocksoldiers and Their Postwar Stubble" show the lyrical and musical tightness of Guided By Voices. And still others like "Stabbing A Star" are overwhelmed with the usual treble-based, fuzzed out guitars.

It is safe to say that whether or not GBV cross the line into big studio production with their next full-length, or remain as the gemstones of traditional, indie-rock, four-track recordings; the band's sound probably will always be at the forefront for pushing for the mass appeal of indie-rock.

(JG)

Patti Smith
Gone Again
(Arista)

Putting in this disc and turning on track one, "Gone again" the title track of the CD, definitely leaves an impression... The impression that this is going to be a very bad C.D. A straight up lame rock song, that lasts about three minutes, and is basically disinteresting for about, all of the song, "Gone again" is a song that should just be gone forever.

Moving on through the next few tracks is no compensation. The songs become longer and the tempo

begins to slow down till you pass out wherever you may happen to be. *Warning: do not listen to this CD while operating heavy machinery.*

The songs become more and more acoustic, keep the slow tempo and beat, and begin to resemble Mazzy Star a bit. In fact every song on the album is a slow acoustic song except, "Gone again" which is evil and "Summer Cannibals" which sounds evil but isn't. On the contrary, it was such a surprising change, it got my toe to tap a bit.

The reality is that Patti Smith is probably not that bad of an artist. A lot of people may in fact, like Patti Smith, and listen to her all the time -- those people probably sleep a lot. I do however recommend the C.D. to people who suffer from insomnia and people who don't dance.

(AG)

Trailer Bride
Trailer Bride
(Walt Records)

Country music! The essence of crying in your beer, southern accents, and a smooth, slide guitar wrapped in a tear-jerking melody. Trailer Bride's sound lies somewhere between this and folkabilly, indie-rock. Melissa Swingle and her quartet carry the heart and soul of pure slide "geetar," foot-peddle organ, acoustic guitars, harmonica and even a little jews harp all on the band's first full-length and Walt Records' first LP release, *Trailer Bride*.

Everything on the self-titled release is precisely unveiled and quickly appreciated. From the organ and slide guitar-driven "Maudlin" to the opening, foot-stomping swagger of "Sorry Times" Swingle and company's "swamp-country ballads" are instrumentally swank and lyrically charming. At times depressing is the aura of "Mardi Gras" and at others like where the country balladry is as evident in "Let Mama Drive" or the hint of a generic alternative sound of "Sway."

Sweet are the sounds of Trailer Bride's ballads, regardless if the fine lines of indie-rock and country are interwoven; let a precedent be set, Trailer Bride's self-titled is heart-warming, if nothing else.

(JG)

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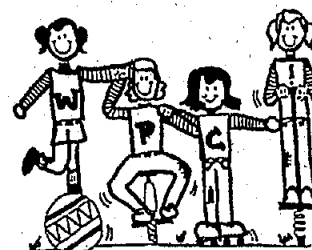
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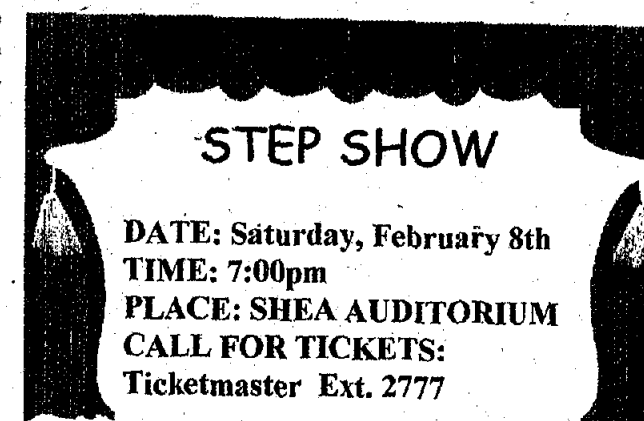
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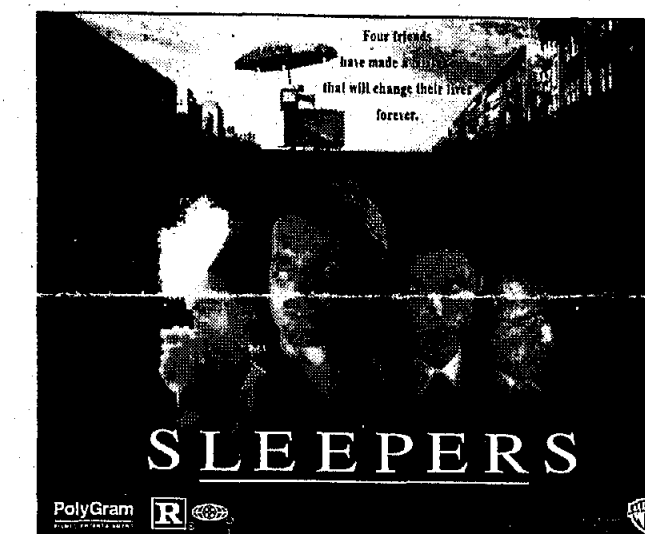
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From the Turntable

(Seven-inch Reviews)

Silkworm: *Never Met a Man I Didn't Like/ You Ain't Going Nowhere.* Two songs by the Pavement-sounding Silkworm. The Dylan cover of "You Ain't Going Nowhere" is excellent, while "Never Met a Man I Didn't Like" settles for mediocrity. Silkworm has been capable of better recordings. (Matador Records: 676 Broadway, NY, NY 10012)

Guided by Voices: *Plantations of Pale Pink.* On clear orange vinyl are the lo-fidelity sounds of Guided by Voices. It's a modified change from last year's *Under the Bushes*... in that the recordings are fuzzier. Standouts include "The Who Vs. Porky Pig," and "A Life in Finer Clothing." (Matador: See address above)

Beezus/Braid: *Split 7".* Sort of a mismatch here. While Braid's distortion and angst is revealed on "Fire Makes the House Grow," Beezus' "Shy" is female-fronted pretty pop. Both outfits reveal the quality that Mud Records has to offer. (Mud: 905 S. Lynn St., Urbana, IL 61801)

bis: *Atom Powered Action!* It's techno for the indi rocker! Well, sort of. Considering that "Starbright Boy" is full-blown techno pop, "Cliquesuck" and "Wee Love" are lighter versions of power pop. In any case, the songs are peppy and fun! (Wijja Records: PO Box 9333, London NI IXJ U.K.)

On Stage

Reel Big Fish @ Tramps NYC

Opening for Reel Big Fish was the Blue Meanies. I among many others it seemed, walked in not knowing what to expect from them. With a sold out crowd the Blue Meanies took stage and began their set. Their unique punk and occasional ska style kept the audiences interest from the start.

Barely pausing at all between songs, the band, including a nice horn section, all played very tight. It was very impressive, till about three quarters through their show. The band slowed their pace down and began to become sloppy. They finished their set and the strange screaming bunch made their way off stage.

About twenty minutes later, Reel Big Fish took the stage. Botching up their first song "Nothin," the band regrouped, restarted the song and took control. Keeping the crowd skanking through most of their songs, Reel Big Fish played a long

impressive set. They played most the songs off their album including crowd favorites such as "beer," "everything sucks," and "She has a girlfriend now." Quirky, sarcastic, remarks between the songs showed why they get paid to play music and not perform standup.

The band included some cover tunes including Operation Ivy's "Unity," and Ah-Ha's "Take on me". The bands whole set just left a room full of skanking smiling faces.

Maybe the best part of the show was after Reel Big Fish's set, a special movie was shown. The movie was about twenty minutes long and was about the band Sublime. It paid tribute to the band and paid respect to it's bands singer, the late great Bradley Nowell. Groups of punk's from inside gathered round the projection. All watching the rare footage of the band and interviews with the members. The unexpected film drew, bradleyand the bands fans all out to watch.

(AG)

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Don't go looking for new U2 music

The bubbling, electronic sound of U2's hotly anticipated new song, "Discotheque," has been all over the radio and video channel airwaves since its debut three weeks ago.

But fans who want to buy the disc are out of luck - until Feb. 11.

It's an odd marketing technique - imagine advertising a refreshing drink yet not stocking it in store coolers on a hot summer day - but not an unusual one in the hype-driven world of popular music.

"What this is about is creating a bigness to it, trying to create a sort of event," says Stephen

Dessau, president of Track Marketing Partners, a music marketing firm.

At the HMV music store in midtown Manhattan, however, store manager Mohamed Fazel isn't too excited. He estimates about 150 customers have asked about the single and he's had to tell them he doesn't have any for sale.

Some of the customers walk away angry and others don't believe him, he says.

"I would have liked to have had it," Fazel says. "It would be a great sales boost. U2 - they sell records."

Island Records, and the indus-

try as a whole, hopes that is true. After music sales remained essentially flat in 1996, the industry is looking to the popular Irish rock band to help lift the business out of the doldrums.

Not only is U2 one of the few megastars with a loyal audience, but the upcoming "Pop" album is said to experiment with some of the hypnotic dance sounds that some in the industry believe could be the next big popular genre.

"Pop" is scheduled to be in stores March 4.

The four-week lead period on "Discotheque" is partly logistical: It requires some time to

make sure the disc is in stores all over the world. Island wanted to avoid leaks, and didn't want some radio stations to begin playing the song before others and angering their competitors, says Hooman Majd, Island's executive vice president.

But Island also wants to create a sense of anticipation, so when the record finally does go on sale, it will be snapped up quickly - and make a splashy debut high on the charts.

The bandwagon effect can then be counted on to create even more sales.

"If they're playing it, we'd rather have the record in our hands," says John Wheat, head of marketing at the Virgin Megastore in Manhattan. "But it builds up the hype so it blows out of the store when it does come in."

Mercury Records tried the same thing with John Mellencamp's "Key West Intermezzo (I Saw You First)" last fall. And Fazel recalls receiving complaints about

George Michael's last single being on the air before being in the store.

The sneak previews can work for established artists with loyal fans, but not young musicians. Record companies don't want to risk alienating interested customers when it's a new artist trying to build an audience.

U2's lead time seems a little longer than usual, especially since most of their fans will likely want the album, not a single, Dessau said.

But there's been a lot of talk about "Pop" and some delay: Island initially wanted it in the stores for the holiday season.

Majd says Island hasn't had any complaints about the unavailability of "Discotheque." Many retailers accept it as the way business is done, says John Sullivan, spokesman for the 482-store Trans World chain, who's also unaware of complaints.

"The really hard-core fans tend to know early on when the release date is," Majd says.

Sans Scarpetta, Cornwell still up to snuff

The Charlotte, N.C., police department is plagued by a serial killer who targets single men in rental cars. The victims are found with a symbol that resembles an orange hourglass spray-painted on their genitals.

That's the major event in *Hornet's Nest* (Putnam, \$25.95) by Patricia Cornwell, who takes a break from the series of novels about Kay Scarpetta, Virginia's state medical examiner.

But there's also the daily grind of noise complaints, a bus holdup, a missing child, domestic abuse, parades and the like.

Charlotte's police chief is Judy Hammer - chic, married to a wealthy man who does nothing much. One of her deputies is Virginia West, devoted to her job and to her cat. And there's Andy Brazil, a novice reporter for *The Charlotte Observer*. His father, a policeman, was murdered, and Brazil wants to become the newspaper's police reporter. He gets to ride on patrol with West.

Brazil is young, good-looking and idealistic, and people mis-

take him for a sissy. The paper's music critic is gay and often leaves flowers on Brazil's desk. Brazil lives with his mother, who, since her husband's death, has devoted herself to booze and television.

Police detail ranges from traffic control on the day when a parade and a funeral cortege are on a collision course to the final showdown with the serial killer.

The killer has no name except Punkin Head and is referred to as "it." It spends its time holed up in "an '84 Ford cargo van, dark blue, 351 V8, which it was especially fond of because the van had windows only in front." It's incensed that the public thinks the symbol it uses is an hourglass when it is really just the figure 8 to remind Punkin Head that eight murders in one community are enough. After that, move on.

Parts of the book are delightfully funny. The characters all have hangups, which makes them human. It's an up-to-snuff whodunit.

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Unanswered questions still lurk in abortion issue

By Norman DeFilippo

In 1973 Norma McCorvey, other wise known as Jane Roe, won for all women living in the United States the right to choose to have an abortion, in the controversial *Roe v. Wade* supreme court case. While the *Roe v. Wade* decision is still a very controversial topic today, people see different causes for that controversy.

Meryle Kaplan, coordinator of the William Paterson College Women's Center, said, "there are a lot of different controversies we have heard: issues of if a woman has been raped [and], if she is ill."

Considering having an abortion involved answering many questions, continued Kaplan. "There are different variants on when should women have an opportunity to make that choice: How long into the life of the fetus? Should they

never have that opportunity? How do we see fetuses? Do we see them as babies, as infants from day one?"

"Abortion relates to many things going on in our society," said Kaplan "but, finally I think it comes back to issues about women: how we see women and children, and women and sexuality."

Arlene Scala, WPC Women's Studies department, believes there is a different cause to the controversy. "Anti-abortion laws were really based on religious principles, and the reason why I think the law is so controversial is because it is at odds with those religious principles," she said.

Scala also believes "there are political implications of the law in terms of the US economic system. Capitalism is in need for masses of workers and, I think there is a political reason connected to economics, as to why big business has often founded

antiabortion right movements."

The controversy has been a source of much anger and frustration on both sides of the issue.

Scala explained that, "you have some people who have actually gone into abortion clinics and have murdered. Doctor Peter Gun, who was a doctor who performed abortions, was murdered by an anti-abortion rights activist."

Another way one may see forms of this frustration is through certain propaganda.

"The anti-abortion rights people," said Scala "are trying to appeal to people's emotions. They typically have images of an infant and claim that abortion is killing babies. They appeal to emotions by showing pictures of a baby so that people feel a sense of 'oh my gosh this is a person being killed.'"

On the other side Scala explained, "The pro-choice movement also uses emotional appeal. I have seen a display of a cemetery depicting women who have died when seeking illegal abortions."

"But in terms of other appeals," Scala continued, "I think the pro-choice move-

ment acknowledges the right to carry a pregnancy to term if that is her wish or end a pregnancy. I think it is a much more intellectual approach."

One problem facing women seeking an abortion today is that of privacy, one of the principle issues in the original *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Kaplan explains, "If one is going to go to a place where abortions are terminated it is very possible that in walking in the door there are going to be protesters around looking at them. Those people may not know who they are by name but, they are prying into their personal business."

Although, there may be no end in sight to the controversy produced by the *Roe v. Wade* decision Arlene Scala feels the controversy will become less visible.

"I think the introduction of RU487," says Scala "what has been called the abortion pill, is going to make a huge change. It is going to be very difficult for anti-abortion people to interfere with girls and women who are seeking an abortion early on into their pregnancy."

Extended hours, better services result from incentive grants

from LIBRARY page 5

\$15,000 is being used to increase library hours until the late evening.

This year is the first year that the WPC Sarah Byrd Askew Library has offered extended hours. The library is now open Monday through Thursday, 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.; on Friday, the library hours are 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. For weekend hours, the library is open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The increase of library hours was in response to students needs, according to John Gabry, WPC Vice President of Information Technology and Library Services. The grant

money designated to extend library hours will be used to pay for part-time employees who work in the evening, Levy added.

"We're extremely pleased that we're able to increase our hours," she said.

The improvements will provide better services for WPC students. "This allows us to provide additional materials that assist students and it also enables to provide an enriched learning experience for William Paterson College students," added Gabry.

WPC students are pleased to see that the grants are being used for the purchasing of books. They are also glad their concerns about library hours was

addressed and dealt with.

"Their books were ancient; they needed new books," said Jan Santos, a sociology major from Belleville, NJ.

For students such as Joanne Skrivansa, a nursing major commuting from Cliffside Park, NJ, the increase of library hours was critical. "I do most of my studying at the library, and they needed to stay open later."

Using money allocated within the college for special needs, the Provost office was able to award the library with the incentive grants, after reviewing their proposal. "We're very hopeful that the money will be available to continue to better fund the library in the future," Levy said.

Staff of Beacon concerned about future of paper

from POLICY page 2

"I have heard this characterized as a greed issue," said Greenbaum. "I don't understand how working hard to earn \$150 a week to pay your health bills or tuition can be about greed."

Additionally, the new advertising policy limits the sales staff in their ability to negotiate with clients. "Sales reps must have flexibility in dealing with clients," said McDonough, who worked at an advertising agency prior to coming to the Beacon. "Sometimes, a big contract may come down to a few dollars. Additionally, the periodic specials that the Beacon offers help to boost at times, sluggish sales."

Under the proposed policy, the staff must stick to the published rate or get prior approval from the SGA Finance Committee for any deviation. If they do not, they forfeit their commission.

"Sales people don't make that much money to begin with," said Greenbaum. "How are we going to hire more (sales people) when we're offering them less. If anything, we should be offering them more."

At other college papers, such as the *Montclair*, the *Rutger's Observer*, and the *Signal* of the College of New Jersey, students receive commission for all advertising and they may hold more than one position — something prohibited by the new guidelines.

According to Greenbaum, the prohibition against multiple positions would have hurt the

paper last year when the paper's bookkeeper unexpectedly quit.

"We were lucky that, then advertising director, Dan McDonough, Jr. offered to take over," said Greenbaum. "Under the new policy either he would have had to do the work for free, or the position would have remained unfilled."

The policies surprised the staff of the Beacon. A plan to reorganize the paper has been in the works for the past year and a half. At the January meeting of the WPC Board of Trustees, Chairperson Fred Gruel charged the finance committee with the responsibility of addressing the reorganization of the paper and said some decision would be made in time for the Feb. 25 board meeting.


"I was under the distinct impression that they [the SGA] was not going to make any implementation since the Board was going to be making a decision shortly," said Greenbaum.

According to SGA Financial Adviser Barbara Stomber, the changes will go into effect following their approval by 2/3 of the SGA Legislature at their meeting this Tuesday.

As of press time, calls to the SGA President, and Treasurer, Jasmine Lopez were not returned.

"If the policy is approved by the SGA Legislature," said Greenbaum, "I am really not sure what people will be able to expect from the Beacon — if anything."

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OPINIONS & REVIEW

SGA makes moves to silence Beacon

On Thursday, January 30, 1997, the Student Government Association Executive Board adopted a financial policy that will financially cripple the Beacon. The SGA financial policy (See Story on page 2) was adopted after members of the SGA Executive Board severely criticized the editorial and other news stories that appeared in the January 27, 1997 issue of the Beacon. This action by the SGA strikes at the heart of the Beacon's First Amendment freedoms. It is without dispute that it is vital to a free society that its press operate in an environment that is free from tyranny of government. The SGA's actions on January 30, 1997 represent a terrible blow against the free press at William Paterson College.

The Beacon prides itself on its editorial freedom from the SGA. This editorial freedom is directly fostered by the Beacon's financial independence from the SGA and WPC. The Beacon, through ingenuity and hard work, derives its yearly operating budget from advertising revenues. Not one dime of your student activity fees is directly paid towards the Beacon's yearly operating budget. This financial freedom allows the Beacon to operate free from editorial influence by the SGA and the WPC administration.

The SGA Executive Board's financial policy is ill-conceived and is specifical-

ly designed to limit the ability of the Beacon to speak out against the SGA. The financial policy was drafted by the SGA Finance Committee under the direction of the SGA financial advisor, Barbara Stomber, with absolutely no disclosed research of the policy's impact upon the Beacon, the SGA and the student body. The financial policy seeks to place strict and unprecedented limitations upon the Beacon's ability to pay students commissions for the sale of advertisements and effectuate advertising sale policies. By limiting the Beacon's ability to effectively sell advertisements, the SGA will ultimately force the Beacon to be dependent upon the SGA for monies to fund its yearly operating budget. With the Beacon financially dependent upon the SGA for monies, the SGA will be in a position to directly impact upon the Beacon's editorial policies.

Furthermore, the SGA policy will force the student body to pay for the Beacon directly through student activity fees. The Beacon has saved the students of WPC hundreds of thousands of dollars over many years by remaining financially independent of the SGA. The Beacon seeks to remain financially independent of the SGA so that we may be able to provide you with a window to your college each week at no direct expense to the college community.

What makes the SGA's policies most egregious and unlawful is that they were adopted at the same meeting where SGA leaders publicly criticized the efforts of the Beacon staff and the Beacon's editorial content. Last week's Beacon editorial illuminated the abuse of some SGA positions by certain members of the SGA Executive Board. In response, the SGA Executive Board, in an unprecedented move, publicly lashed out against the Beacon by approving oppressive limitations on the Beacon's ability to seek advertisements and thus, publish.

It is of critical importance that the WPC community put a stop to the SGA's oppressive actions. You have your chance to speak out against the SGA policy. Under the SGA Constitution, the financial policy must be approved by two-thirds of the SGA Legislature. The Legislature meets to consider the financial policy tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. in room 2-3-5 of the Student Center. If the SGA Legislature is made aware of the devastating financial impact the policy will have upon the Beacon as a free voice at WPC, its members will vote against the financial policy. Hopefully, the Legislature will do what is right for the Beacon, William Paterson College, the members of our community and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Mailbag

Graduation Day Was A Mixed Blessing

To the Editor:

As a recent participant in the graduation that took place at William Paterson College on Jan. 19, I wish to comment on the ceremony.

This day was long awaited and was to be an occasion of great joy, but instead it proved to be a mixed blessing.

On Dec. 2, 1996, my mentor of five years, a highly respected and much beloved woman by classmates and faculty alike, died suddenly.

On behalf of the counseling department, in which Dr. Leonore Hummel was Chairman, I felt it was appropriate to write a formal letter to the Commencement Committee requesting to speak at the graduation ceremony on behalf of the good work she has done. The request being denied, I then asked if one minute of silence could be observed in her memory. That too was denied. Although my attempts to talk with President Speert were thwarted, a spokesman returned my letter with a hastily written note that said, "In light of this being a time of celebration, your request is inappropriate."

I would ask President Speert how appro-

prate in light of this woman's passing, was it to expect us to "celebrate" when the accomplishments of a team effort between student and teacher was overlooked and the person in large part responsible for our being there on this day was not even men-

"How Appropriate, In Light of Dr. Hummel's Passing, Was It To Expect Us To 'Celebrate' When The Accomplishments of A Team Effort Between Student and Teacher Was Overlooked?"

tioned? How appropriate was it that a woman who has for thirty plus years given sacrificial service on our behalf and was Head of a Department, could not have been honored? How were we to be joyful when en route to being handed our diplomas, we passed the chair left vacant by her

passing?

How "inappropriate" that Mr. Speert in his message to the graduating students felt it appropriate to mention the name of three retiring faculty members yet leave out hers. After all, death is a final retirement - is it not?

In response to the President's promise that something will yet be done down the road in honor of her, I would impress upon him something which our beloved professor taught us. In order for the grieving process to occur, without complication, there needs to be a proper closure, which generally is immediately following death. To hold a memorial six to nine months down the road is not acting in the best interests of those who lament her passing, and is in fact, acting inappropriately as grief counselors would validate.

As a student whose love for her went beyond the realm of lip service into the very depths of my heart, I felt cheated, as did others, of a privilege that was ours by way of this being "our" graduation. Our final tribute to her could be summed up by these poignant words which she loved and respected:

"To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die"

Deborah Van Alstine

VIEWS OF THE NEWS

Rusted Root Live at "William Patterson"

Scott Carlson



Take one building which we affectionately refer to as the WPC Rec Center and the adjacent parking lot which we unaffectionately refer to as Lot 6. Add several thousand neo-hippies, few old enough to apply for driving permits and many adorned in backless spaghetti-string tie dye tops despite the near single digit temperatures. Throw in the beer bottles, hallucinogens, and cheap parking lot T-shirts normally associated with large rock concerts, and you've got Rusted Root, appearing live at "William Patterson College" (misspelling quoted from the band's newsletter).

For the first time in as many years as I've been at WPC, the college has played host to a major concert, complete with tickets sold through TicketMaster and at least a small amount of outside promotion. This event would serve as a test of the facility as a concert venue for Metropolitan Entertainment. Many WPC administrators were present for the same reason I was - to see how well this could work.

Although there is no smoking permitted in the gym where the concert was held, it was apparently OK to smoke if the security guard next to you was smoking.

Specifically, it was really OK to smoke marijuana as nearly everyone present did. Those who got the munchies were pleased to find \$1 pretzels, popcorn and soda sold by the lovely folks who swipe your college ID for entrance to the fitness areas. Apparently, WPC administrators haven't attended a concert since The

The Opening Band, Who's Name Escapes Me, Proved That Loud, Incoherent Noise is an Accepted Form of Art or That I'm Getting Old

Who's first reunion tour, or they would have known that concert vendors could get ten bucks for the worm at the bottom of a tequila bottle (this is not a complaint, just an observation).

The opening band, who's name escapes me, proved that loud, incoherent noise is an accepted form of art or that I'm getting old. The break between bands was

delayed by rowdy fans who insisted on crowd-surfing, the currently preferred mode of transportation for those who are too young to drive. When finally Rusted Root declared the crowd sedate enough to play, they opened the show with a song from their latest album, a live performance faux pas made by bands that are too eager to sell their new release. That was followed by another new song, and another new song, and so on. Between new songs, the band members took turns reminding the fans to buy the new album.

Perhaps the best laugh of the night was provided by the attempts of the concert-goers to all exit Lot 6 at once, which resulted in everyone turning there cars ninety degrees from their original parking spaces and once again turning them off. Nothing moved, people got mad, T-shirt swindlers made a killing. I walked to the pub, but a girl I'd brought to the show was denied entry as a non-WPC student. As we walked back into the cold, I thought it was odd that for twenty bucks a head, the Rec Center would anxiously usher in the Age of Aquarius yet my friend, a classical flutist, was not allowed to legally have a drink in the college pub. So, after spending a night pondering the bizarre fascinations of the modern hippy, I was returned to my more frequent contemplation of the college, its members, and its policies - stranger yet.

The Roe v. Wade Decision is Diluted in 1997

BY MARDI BERGER

The recent finding that the U.S. abortion rate has fallen to its lowest point since 1976 has left many scrambling for an explanation.

We at Planned Parenthood hope that increased access to sex education and family planning services have helped to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, perhaps moving the nation toward President Clinton's goal of making abortion "safe, legal and rare."

What we fear, however, is that we may be seeing the cumulative effect of decades of violence, daily harassment of clinics, and onerous legislative maneuvers on the part of religious political extremists.

Just this month, two incidents of harassment hit clinics in New Jersey. Close to 100 protesters blockaded the entrance to Metropolitan Medical Associates in Englewood on the same day as two bomb threats forced the evacuation of Options, an abortion provider in Iselin.

This is an important issue to discuss on the 24th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide, acknowledging the right of all American women to control their own reproductive destinies.

But the power of Roe has been diluted in 1997. While American women still have the right to choose safe, legal abortion, many of them have no way to exercise that right. In fact, 84 percent of the counties in America don't even have a doctor available and willing to perform the procedure.

There are humane, compassionate, legal ways to reduce the number of abortions.

As President Clinton begins his second term and the Congress begins a new session, we propose that he and the Congress adopt the following positive, common-sense agenda to truly make abortions "safe, legal and rare."

1. At least double the funding for preventive family planning services. Federally funded family planning services prevent half a million abortions each year. Yet, currently, half the women at risk of unintended pregnancy are in need of subsidized family planning services.

2. Encourage policies that would require private insurance coverage of birth control methods.

3. Eliminate the absurd welfare reform requirement to teach abstinence-only sex education as part of the maternal and child health programs. Abstinence is, of course, one healthy option. But the women in these programs are often pregnant or have recently given birth. Better to use that rather astonishing mandated \$50 million-a-year for abstinence-only education to initiate programs that take a more realistic approach to pregnancy prevention. Begin with a new effort aimed at teaching young men about sexual responsibility.

4. Reassert the U.S. leadership role in international family planning. Again, the way to prevent abortion is to prevent unintended pregnancies. While Congress already has appropriated much-needed funds for international family planning assistance, the money is being withheld at the insistence of extreme anti-choice members. Ask the new congress to release these funds.

5. Maintain the integrity of the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. This campaign will not succeed if it is being held hostage to religious political extremists who want to establish ineffective abstinence-only initiatives. What's needed is the kind of responsible sex education that includes discussion of

abstinence but also provides sexually active teens with accurate information on how to prevent unintended pregnancy. Reducing teen pregnancy is a critically important building block on that bridge to the 21st century.

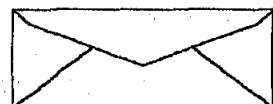
Planned Parenthood stands ready to help our legislators and community leaders achieve these goals. For more than 80 years, our staff and volunteers nationwide have learned the value of standing up on behalf of the fundamental rights and health of Americans. Working toward the agenda we have outlined for the president and the Congress in the current political climate will require courage and a real commitment of time and resources. But it will be worth the effort.

If the president and the new Congress truly want to put families first, they will work to make these goals a reality for future generations of American women. This can only be achieved if children are born wanted and loved and if women are recognized as moral decision makers — the very legacy of Roe v. Wade.

— Mardi Berger is director of media relations for Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey, Inc.

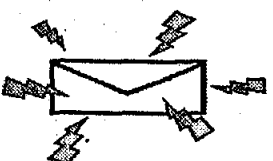


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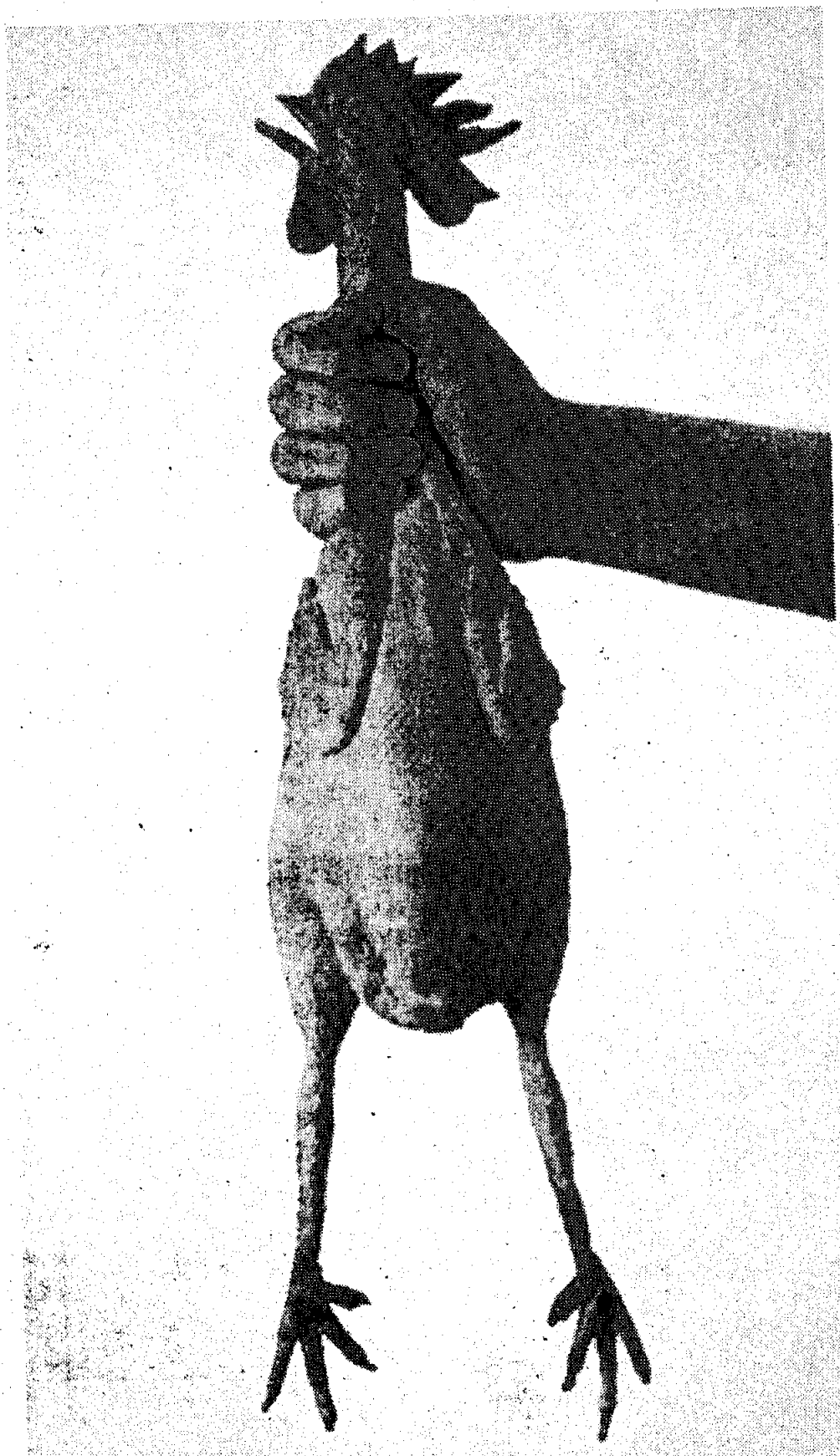
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