



the beacon weekly

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Monday, January 27, 2003

Graduates celebrate success at winter commencement

By Steve DeGennaro
The Beacon

University Marshall Gary Kirkpatrick led black and orange-clad graduates into the Rec Center. As the moment they waited for drew near, many of the graduates couldn't suppress their smiles during William Paterson University's 176th annual commencement on Sunday, January 26.

"The higher you climb, the better," said Dan Mayer, who received his B.A. in history with certification to teach secondary education. "I couldn't be happier, I feel very proud."

University officials, faculty, graduates, and their family and friends were treated to speeches applauding the accomplishments of the graduating class. Throughout the commencement speeches leading up to the awarding of diplomas, graduates were urged to become life-long learners, take pride in what they have and will accomplish, and remain actively involved in the world around them.

"We celebrate your success, and through you, our accomplishments," said University president Arnold Speert. "Individuals are empowered to pursue their future with confidence and resolve."

According to Speert, the graduates will shape the vision of their family, town, state, and country, by staying informed and making a difference in their communities.

Dr. Leonard Harris, the 2002-2003 Visiting



Distinguished Scholar, gave the keynote address. Harris said learning is a life long activity that will help each person make a difference in the world.

"A person is always capable of learning and through that, constantly training," he said.

According to Harris, this kind of training will give graduates a "broad sense of life."

"You will all change our world," Harris said.

Mary Antoine, Senior Class President, spoke about hard work and dedication each graduate put into their work at WPU.

"Make excellence a habit," she said. "We are truly pioneers."

During the commencement speeches, grad-

uates were visibly restless as they waited to receive their diplomas. After diplomas were given to graduates, an elated buzz filled the Rec Center. A light snow fell as graduates left the building.

"I feel wonderful...and cold," said Sandeep Jambhaker, who received a degree in graphic design. "Good luck to everyone that is graduating. I am proud of this moment."

Lori Perlmuter couldn't contain her excitement as she received her diploma and took her seat with other fellow graduates.

"I am very excited to have graduated," Perlmuter said. "I plan to stay involved as (an) alumni. I feel very connected to the university."

Pioneer Express available at 7-11

By Larry Clow
The Beacon

Students venturing off-campus will have another place to use their Pioneer Express card. The 7-11 located on Hamburg Turnpike joins a host of other off-campus locations that accept the Pioneer Express card for student purchases.

According to Hospitality Services Director Tony Cavatto, Pioneer Express service at 7-11 should be available some time this week. Students will be able to purchase any item in the store except alcohol and tobacco products.

"Basically, they (students) can purchase anything in any location off campus as long as its not alcohol or tobacco," he said. "At Casey O'Toole's, you can have a meal, but you can't charge your beer there."

Cavatto said that merchants sign an agreement stating they will not sell alcohol or tobacco products to students using Pioneer Express.

7-11 is the twelfth local vendor to accept Pioneer Express. Other businesses include: the Belmont Grill on 868 Belmont Ave. in Haledon; Casey O'Toole's Restaurant on 862 Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne; King George Diner on 721 Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne; and Tropical Sensations Tanning Salon on 697 Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne.

"There have been many times when I've run out of something like toilet paper and would have rather used the cash on my Pioneer (Express) card towards something useful rather than just on food," said senior Cassandra O'Connor. "It also helps because 7-11...has better hours than the bookstore."

Hospitality Services is currently talking to CVS Pharmacy at 1762 Ratzler Rd. and the newly built McDonald's on Hamburg Turnpike as possible participants in the Pioneer Express program, according to Cavatto.

"There's no firm commitment," he said. "But there is some interest. This being our first year (offering off-campus service), if we do get the 12 or 13 vendors, that's pretty good."

For more information about Pioneer Express, contact Hospitality Services at 973-720-2672.

WPU student set to ship out with National Guard

By Steve DeGennaro
The Beacon

Sophomore Christi Gradwell joined the Army National Guard to help pay for school. She always thought she could be called to serve her country, but never believed it would happen. All that has changed: last Wednesday, Gradwell was called into active duty. She'll have leave family, friends and school behind and venture to a location she doesn't even know yet.

"It's a surreal feeling," she said.

Gradwell, 20, of Haddon Township, joined the National Guard in 1999 to help pay for college.

"I joined because I wanted a way to help pay for school, and also for the experience to

do something meaningful," Gradwell said. "Every soldier is aware they can be deployed, but no soldier is prepared for it."

Gradwell was aware that she would probably be called, but admits she wasn't expecting it to happen this soon. Last Wednesday, Gradwell received the call to pack her stuff and report to her unit in Lawrenceville the following Monday.

"When you get that call it's surreal," Gradwell said. "I had mixed emotions because I get the chance to serve my country, but it forces me to turn my life around."

In Lawrenceville, Gradwell's unit will go over their job descriptions, be administered physicals, receive immunizations and tie up all financial loose ends before they leave.

They will also be briefed on how to react to a

chemical or biological attack.

According to Gradwell, it is hard to pack up and leave in the middle of her sophomore year. She expects to come back in six months to a year; the most she can be deployed for would be two years, although she said this is unlikely.

A week before school began, Gradwell went through the first phase of MOBEX, a pre mobilization exercise that prepares each unit for possible deployment.

"It [MOBEX] was very stressful because there are so many things going through your head," Gradwell said. "You're being prepared for deployment, which is scary."

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the beacon weekly Produced on

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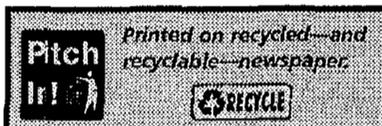
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Calendar of Events

Monday 01•27

SGA Club Presidents Meeting
4-5:30 pm. SC 203

3-point Shoot-out
Rec Center
Time TBA
call x2777

Tuesday 01•28

Beacon Staff Meeting
SC 310, Common Hour

Faculty Senate Meeting
SC 203 x2136

SAPB Poetry Jam
Billy Pat's Pub
8 p.m.

Wednesday 01•29

SABLE
first general meeting
Towers Pavilion
8 p.m.

SAPB Dinner & Movie:
"Kiss the Girls"/"Along Came a Spider"
SC Ballroom 6 p.m.

Men's basketball vs. Ramapo
Rec Center 6 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. Ramapo
Rec Center 8 p.m.

Thursday 01•30

Midday Artist Series: Jazz Concert
Shea Auditorium 12:30 p.m.

SGA Executive Board Meeting
4-6:30 p.m. SC 326

Comedy Show
SC Ballroom 7-9:30 p.m.

Friday 01•31

Casiro Night
Billy Pat's Pub 8 p.m.

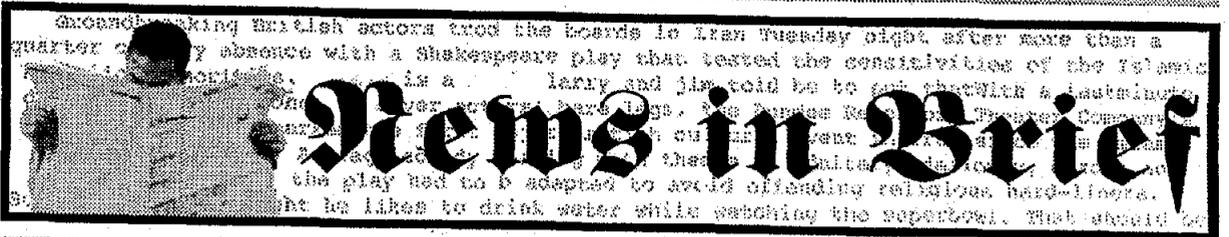
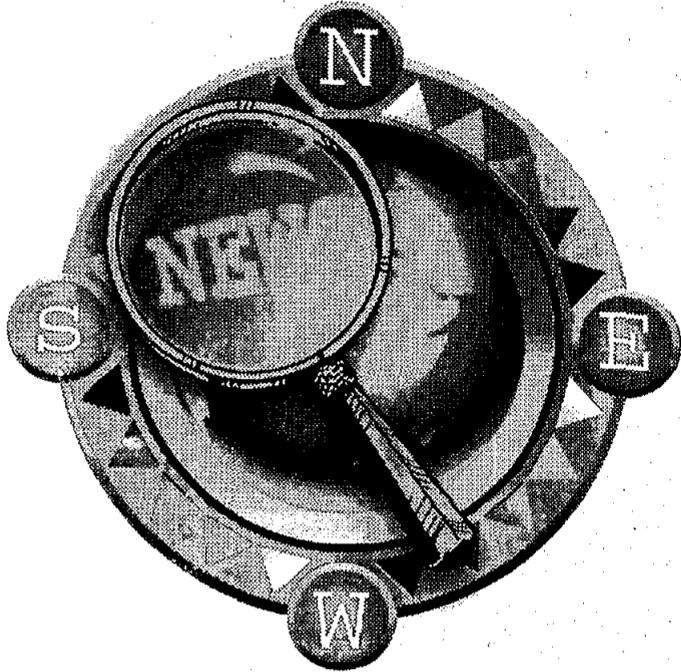
Saturday 02•01

Campus Calendar submissions are taken on a space-available basis: first come, first printed.

Submissions for calendar due
fridays by noon for following
Monday's publication.
Fax: 973-720-2093
Email: beacon@student.wpunj.edu

Sunday 02•02

Come up and check out The Beacon in the Student Center, room 310



If you are reading this, that means that you read **The Beacon**. If you read **The Beacon**, that probably means that you like **The Beacon**. If you like **The Beacon**, then you'd probably like to work for **The Beacon**. See where I'm going with this? Write for **The Beacon**. You like us, we like you.

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By Steve DeGennaro
The Beacon

International

Germany Will Not Vote for Iraq War

According German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Germany will not support a U.N. resolution in favor of war against Iraq. This move gives a clear indication of how Germany will act in a Security Council vote on military action.

"Do not expect that Germany will agree to a resolution that legitimizes war," Schroeder told a state election rally.

Schroeder has maintained this popular anti-war stance that helped him win reelection last September. Until recently, neither Schroeder nor his ministers said how Germany would vote on such a Security Council resolution.

Bush Dismisses call for more time for Iraq

President Bush dismissed calls from France and other members of the U.N. and said Iraq was not disarming and time was running out for Saddam Hussein to comply with U.N. demands that he give up weapons of mass destruction.

With U.S. and British forces being deployed to the Gulf region in increasing strength, a senior U.S. diplomat issued a blunt warning to Baghdad that alternatives to war were nearly exhausted.

Bush made no secret of his impatience with nations that want to give U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq more time.

"It's clear to me now that he is not disarming... He's been given ample time to disarm," Bush said of the Iraqi leader. "Time is running out."

For their part, the U.N. inspectors said they needed several more months to check Iraq's denials that it was developing weapons of mass destruction. Security Council permanent members France, Russia and China, whose votes will be needed on a resolution to authorize war, called for more time for diplomacy.

"This business about more time -- how much more time do we need to be sure he is not disarming," Bush said.

Russian Envoy optimistic on North Korea

A Russian envoy expressed hopes of a solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis after a rare meeting with leader Kim Jong-il, although more talks were needed.

Raising the stakes for Pyongyang, however, were U.S. suggestions that it was time the U.N. Security Council put pressure on Kim to abandon the nuclear ambitions whose scope became clear earlier this month when he withdrew from a global treaty to prevent the spread of atomic weapons.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged North Korea to reconsider its decision to pull out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and return to dialogue.

"Recent challenges to the existing non-proliferation regimes -- in particular the announcement by the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty -- raise serious concerns," he said in a text read to the annual opening session of the U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament.

Volunteer Human Shields Head to Iraq

The first wave of mainly Western volunteers will leave London this weekend on a convoy bound for Iraq to act as "human shields" at key sites and populous areas in case of a U.S.-led war on Baghdad.

"The potential for white Western body parts flying around with the Iraqi ones should make them think again about this imperialist oil war," organizer Ken Nichols, a former U.S. marine in the 1991 Gulf War,

told Reuters.

His "We the People" organization will be sending off a first group of 50 human shields from the London Mayor's City Hall building Saturday, part of a series of departures organizers say will involve hundreds, possibly thousands, of volunteers.

Nichols' planned human shield convoys are one of several such efforts around the world to mobilize activists in Iraq as a deterrent against military strikes on Baghdad.

National

Court Orders Verizon to Turn Over Name of Music Downloader

Recording Companies won a victory in their fight against piracy when a U.S. court ordered Verizon to turn over the name of a customer who downloaded more than 600 songs in one day over the internet.

U.S. District Judge John Bates said Verizon must cooperate with recording industry efforts to track down online song swappers, rejecting the company's assertion that such a move would violate customer privacy and turn it into an online copyright cop.

Verizon said it would appeal the decision. The case could set an important precedent as the recording industry asks schools, businesses and Internet providers to help them track down individuals who they believe are cutting into CD sales by trading digital songs through "peer to peer" services like Kazaa.

While the industry managed to shut down pioneer service Napster two years ago, others have sprung up in its place and have attracted millions of users.

Bush Warns Iraq on Consequences of War

President Bush said there would be "serious consequences" for Saddam Hussein if the United States goes to war against Iraq and warned Saddam's generals against using weapons of mass destruction in such a scenario.

Bush said he would prefer to peacefully rid Iraq of its deadliest arms, but is willing to go to war to do so, if necessary.

"And should that path be forced upon us, there will be serious consequences. There will be serious consequences for Hussein. And there will be serious consequences for any Iraqi general or soldier who were to use weapons on our troops or on innocent lives," the president said.

Rev. Al Sharpton Announces Presidential Bid

The Rev. Al Sharpton filed papers to run for president in 2004, and an array of politicians predicted he'd give the race a New York-style liveliness and would prod the other candidates to address traditional liberal concerns.

After Sharpton's announcement of his plans to set up an exploratory committee, Congressman Gregory Meeks, a Democrat from Far Rockaway, NY, said Sharpton will make the Democratic primary "substantive and very interesting."

"Al is going to raise issues that I don't think anybody else will raise," Meeks told reporters at Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters in Harlem.

"He is going to take positions that nobody else will take, to raise consciousness and make sure that we begin to have a more balanced discussion, not just from the right, but from the left as well."

Sen. Hillary Clinton, one of a bevy of New York politicians who helped Sharpton celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, humorously hinted that the wily minister might really stir things up in the primary.

News in Brief is compiled from Yahoo.com, Newsday.com, and Google.com news reports.

A Look at the SGA

By Lori Michael
The Beacon

On Tuesday January 21, the Student Government Association Legislature conducted their first meeting for the Spring 2003 semester.

Senior Melendy Bellevue was appointed to the vacant position of Senior Class Secretary. SGA President Tyeisha Henderson announced openings for Alumni Council Representative and Faculty Senate Representative.

Monday, January 27, will see the first Club Presidents meeting at 4 p.m. in Student Center rooms 203-4-5.

The SGA Awards Committee, chaired by SGA Vice President Takeisha McCoy, will hold their first meeting of the semester on Tuesday, January 28 at 1 p.m. in the SGA Office at SC 332.

Court of Judicial Review Chairman Jim Schofield brought to the Legislature the decision made by CJR regarding McCoy's stipend from last semester. The Legislature agreed to table their discussion on the issue until the next Legislature meeting following a motion made by McCoy to do so.

National Guard Continued from page 1

Gradwell will complete the final stage of MOBEX, where she will receive more information regarding where she will be deployed. It will also give her and other soldiers the opportunity to change their insurance or power of attorney and take care of any last minute business.

"Being asked to leave everything behind, all your friends and activities," Gradwell said. "It's difficult."

For Gradwell, it's hard to accept that she is being called upon. She likes the school and being involved. Gradwell feels she is a normal college kid, but is being asked to change her state of mind to that of a full time soldier. It will be difficult going from a soldier once a month to being a full time soldier, she said.

"It's about sacrifice," Gradwell said. "I knew there was the possibility to sacrifice my personal life to serve my country, but I'm willing to do it."

Until the National Guard called her last week, she had a routine schedule, attending drill once a month and performing her job. Gradwell is a personnel administration specialist. Her job involves maintaining files and making sure pay, insurance, and promotions are in order. She handles file requests and makes necessary changes. One weekend a month and two weeks per year, Gradwell does her job, engages in physical fitness exercises and does terrain training.

Gradwell had everything mapped out and knew what she wanted to do, but really didn't

plan or think that she would be called. Gradwell didn't really think of her personnel position as a critical job when she began, but



Gradwell waits to be shipped out
photo by Steve DeGennaro

after working, she realized that every job is intertwined and the army cannot function without all of them working in concert.

According to Gradwell, the last time the National Guard was used as a direct line of defense was during the Gulf War. In the years after the Gulf War, the National Guard was used for natural disasters. In the weeks after 9/11, their role shifted to homeland security. Now the role of the National Guard is becoming as important as the active army, she said.

"I'm not sure exactly where I'll be, it could be overseas, [or] as close as Fort Dix," Gradwell said. "They're only rumors though."

In the military, feelings are mixed regarding the war, she said. Gradwell feels that the country is rushing into something that we need more time and support for.

"We have more important things to worry about, like Korea," Gradwell said. "We need to set our priorities."

According to Gradwell, we have a strong and capable army, but we shouldn't do it alone.

Despite her nervousness, Gradwell admits that this will have a positive impact on her life. She feels like she is doing something meaningful to help her country and make the world a safer place. Terrorism has affected literally every country, she said.

"I'm serving now because when I have kids I don't want them to see another September 11," Gradwell said.

When Gradwell returns to school she hopes to continue pursuing a degree in communications and return to being a normal college kid again.

"It's difficult leaving behind everything I worked hard for in school," Gradwell said. "But college will always be here. This is a once in a life time opportunity to serve my country as a soldier."

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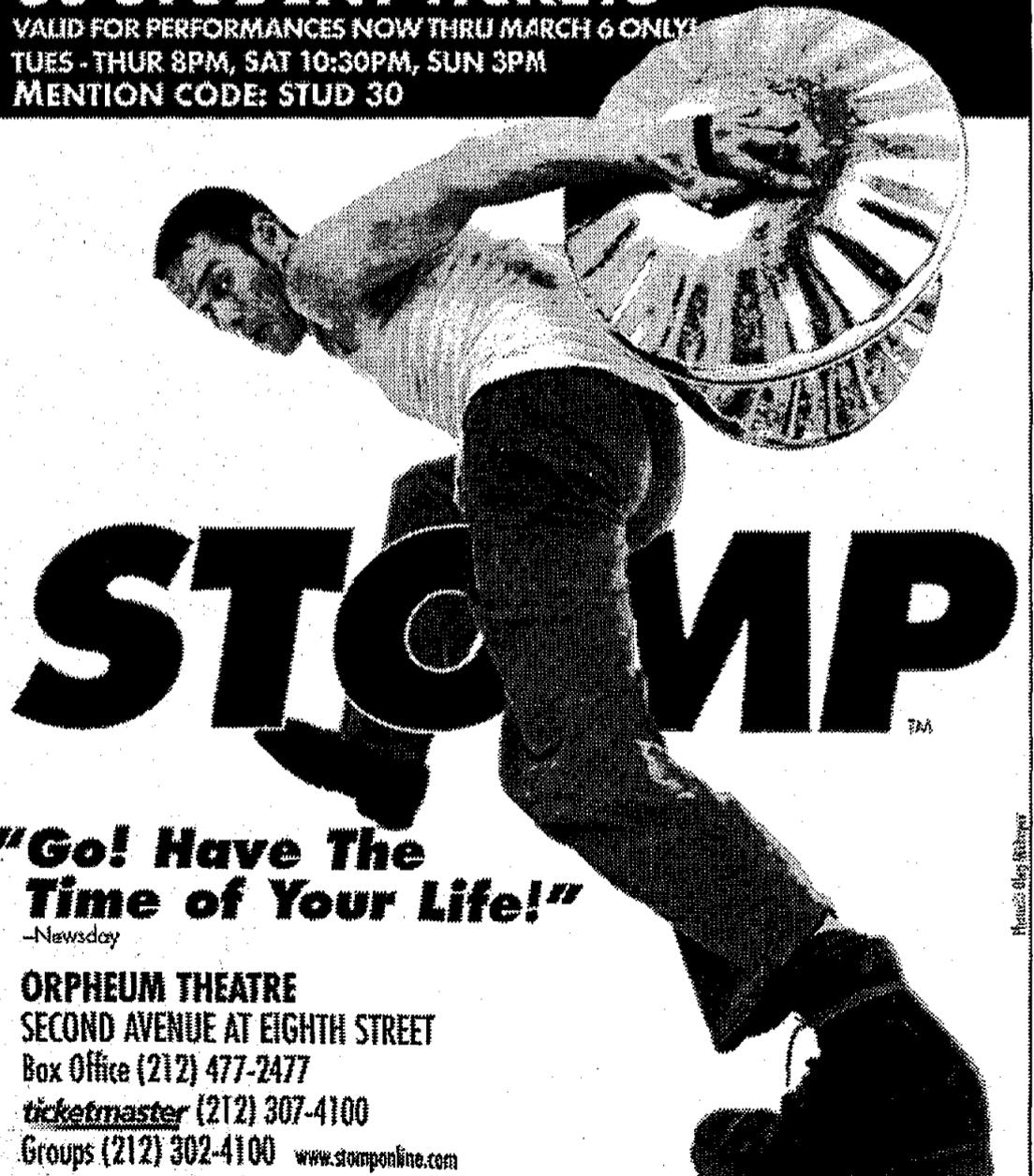
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SAPB kicks off annual Winterfest

By Jim Schofield
The Beacon

The Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB) kicked off the annual Winterfest celebration this week, beginning a week winter-themed events and games.

Winterfest began on Thursday, January 23, with the Promo Pub. Running from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. in Billy Pat's in the Student Center, this event involved the giving away of various items, such as t-shirts, with the Winterfest schedule or logo, along with the traditional activities of a pub (music, etc.). Similar giveaways will be presented at all events throughout the course of Winterfest.

SAPB also sponsored a snowboarding on Saturday January 24. The event was at Camelback, necessitating a bus trip, and ran from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

At common hour on Tuesday, January 28, students will have the opportunity to create and eat spin art cookies. Using peanut butter, chocolate or caramel cookies as a base, students participating will be able to add their own toppings to make an afternoon snack of their own choosing. Later that day, a "Poetry Jam" will be held from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in Billy Pat's Pub.

Featuring several off-campus poets, the poetry jam will also include between four and six students reading their own poetry. Students interested should bring their poetry to the SAPB Office in room 303 of the Student Center for a tryout conducted by the SAPB Executive Board at 9 p.m. on Monday, January 27.

On Wednesday, January 28 a "Dinner and Movie" double feature will be held in the Student Center Ballroom. "Along Came a Spider" and "Kiss the Girls" will be shown during and after the free meal.

"Snow photos" will be taken during Common Hour in the Student Center on Thursday, January 30. Students can have their picture taken for free with a snowman in front of a wintry backdrop. Since the pictures themselves are to be polaroids, students can leave with the photos in hand.

A Comedy Show in the Student Center Ballroom will be held that evening from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission will be \$2 at the door. The show will feature the talents of comedians "Mugga," Mike Yard, Mike Blackson and "Shorty." A pub will be held shortly thereafter, scheduled from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Because the same DJ (DJ Nix-in-the-Mix) will be performing at both events, there will be a slight delay between the end of the comedy show and the beginning of the pub while the DJ moves and sets up his equipment. Consequently, SAPB will be serving free pizza in the Student

Center Lobby during the delay. Admission to the pub will be \$1.

Winterfest will also include a Casino Night from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, January 31. Students will play such game as blackjack, roulette, craps and other games of chance to win chips, which can be turned in for raffle tickets. At the end of the evening, drawings will be held for prizes such as CD players and telephones, among others. Although this event is being held in the pub, the bar will not be open.

The capstone of Winterfest 2003 will be the Frosted Twilight Ball. It is a semi-formal event to be held from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Student Center Ballroom. The menu will include vegetable lasagna, chicken with a white wine sauce, salad, lemonade, punch and soda.

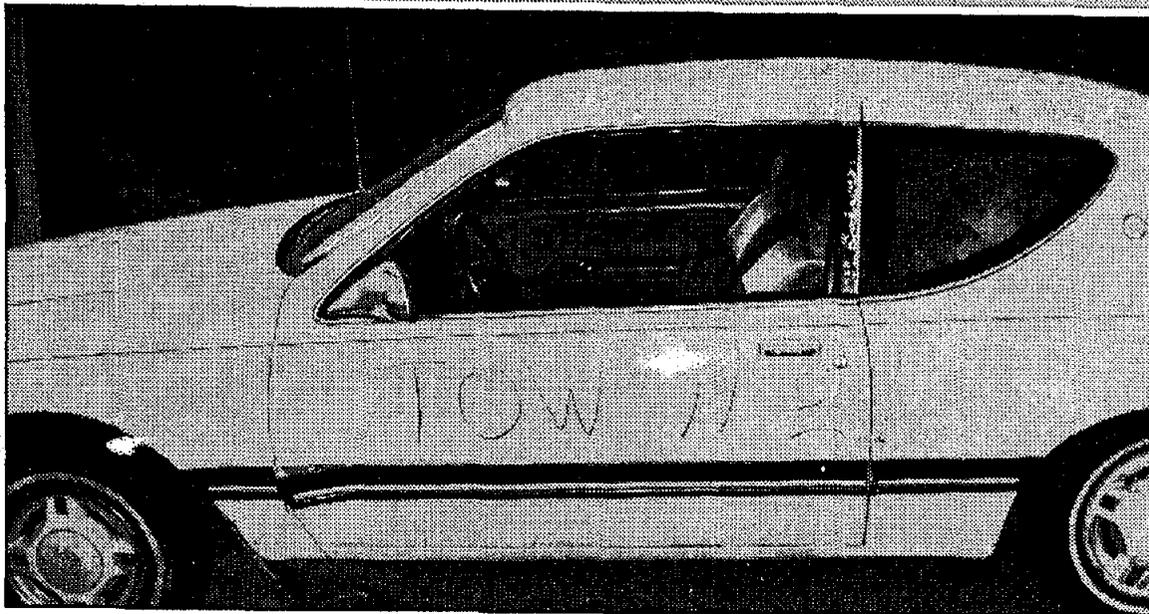
The DJ will play laid-back music for students to relax and dance to. Tickets are being sold in advance in the Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership in Student Center room 312 beginning on Monday and running until Friday or until all 144 tickets are sold. If 72 tickets are not sold by Wednesday, the event will be cancelled. Tickets will also be sold in the Student Center Lobby during common hour of all the aforementioned dates.

They will cost \$10 per person, or \$65 for a full table of eight. SAPB is encouraging individual clubs and organizations to purchase tables for their members.

"We put a lot of dedicated work into... making this week a success," said SAPB Concerts Chair Melendy Bellevue when asked what the goal of SAPB was with Winterfest. "We're looking for the students to enjoy themselves."

Planning for Winterfest began at the SGA/SAPB/Greek Senate Fall Leadership Retreat early last semester. From that initial plan, the full details of the project developed gradually over the course of the semester, even as SAPB was working almost continuously on other projects. The individual responsible for coordinating the preparations for the event was the SAPB Vice President, a post held until recently by Tia Jackson, who resigned for personal reasons. The series of events is planned so early in the semester in order "to get people back in the groove of things" according to Bellevue.

Winterfest and all other SAPB activities, including the forthcoming Springfest running from April 28 to May 3, are planned and coordinated at SAPB Meetings that take place every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Student Center rooms 203-4-5.



Take my car, please: Vandals suggest what to do with the mysterious car in Lot Four. The white car, suffering from a flat tire, broken window has been in the same parking spot since last semester. A look in the trunk might be worth a look: "Body Inside" is written on the trunk. Photo by Larry Crow

Bus service to NYC offered at 1600 Valley Road building

Transportation to New York City will be a little easier for William Paterson University Students now. As of January 2003, direct bus service from the 1600 Valley Road Building to New York City will be available as part of a collaboration with NJ Transit.

Four NJ Transit Route 197 buses departing from New York City between 6:30 and 9:30 a.m. will be directly routed to the Valley Road building. Return service to New York City will be provided by five scheduled stops at the Valley Road building between noon and 6 p.m. Most 197 buses also provide connection to other bus routes at the Willowbrook Mall in

Wayne. The service is provided during weekdays only.

The Valley Road building is also served by the No. 744 Passaic-Wayne line, which provides service to Passaic, Clifton, Paterson, Prospect Park and Haledon. The No. 744 line operates during weekdays only, with stops scheduled every 30 minutes between 7:20 a.m. and 6:25 p.m.

For more information on the University transportation system, contact the Parking and Transportation Services Office at 973-720-3301. For more information on NJ Transit, check www.njtransit.com.

LAURENCE FISHBURNE
BIKER BOYZ
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SURVIVAL OF THE FASTEST.
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BASED UPON THE BOOK BY MICHAEL GOUBIS SCREENPLAY BY JOHN HOULIMAN AND CAMARA KAMBON DIRECTED BY THERILYN A. SHROPSHIRE CAROLINE ROSS
PRODUCTION DESIGNER CECILIA MONTIEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GREGORY GARDINER PRODUCED BY DON KURT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEPHANIE ALLAIN GINA PRINCE BY THE WOOD ERWIN STOFF
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 Signature

 Date

To submit this application:

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Affirmative action a "disservice to us all"

By Steve DeGennaro
The Beacon

Does the U.S. constitution forbid or permit the University of Michigan's specific racial preference admission scheme? This April, the Supreme Court will answer that very question. The future of affirmative action in higher education may in fact lay with this decision.

The University of Michigan admission system represents everything that is wrong with modern America. Applicants are admitted based on a point system. One-hundred and fifty points is the scale on which undergraduate applications are ranked. An applicant needs 100 points to be granted admission. Twenty points are awarded to applicants that are African American, Hispanic, or Native American. Also, 20 points are increased or decreased for a full letter of grade point average (i.e., 80 points for a 4.0 average, 60 points for a 3.0 average, 40 points for a 2.0 average, and so on). Twelve points are awarded for a perfect standardized test score (i.e. 1600 on the SAT). Students

who take a difficult high school curriculum are awarded eight points. Men in a nursing program are awarded five points. Five points are also the maximum number of points an applicant can earn for a personal achievement or leadership on a national level, while a being the son or daughter of an alumnus will get a student four points. Finally, three points are awarded to a student who writes an outstanding personal essay. There are no points awarded to applicants that are Arab, Asian, or Caucasian. Instead of being awarded the most entrance points based on merit and personal achievement, students are awarded the most points, which gives them an unfair advantage, on the basis of their skin color and ethnic background. The process openly and unapologetically benefits minorities. Everyone should receive an equal opportunity to be granted admission not only to the University of Michigan, but also to any public institution of higher learning regardless of his or her skin color or ethnic background.

Affirmative action is a disservice to us all. The policy is in violation of the constitution.

The Equal Protection Clause in the 14th amendment prohibits states from discriminating on the basis of race, but the liberals are doing just that! In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights act, which further expanded upon the nondiscrimination principle in the Equal Protection Clause. The Civil Rights Act prohibits any institution that receives federal funds (i.e. University of Michigan, William Paterson University, etc.) from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Under federal law, even private colleges, if they accept federal funds, cannot discriminate on the basis of race. This is exactly what the University of Michigan and other schools are doing, and it's time for this to stop.

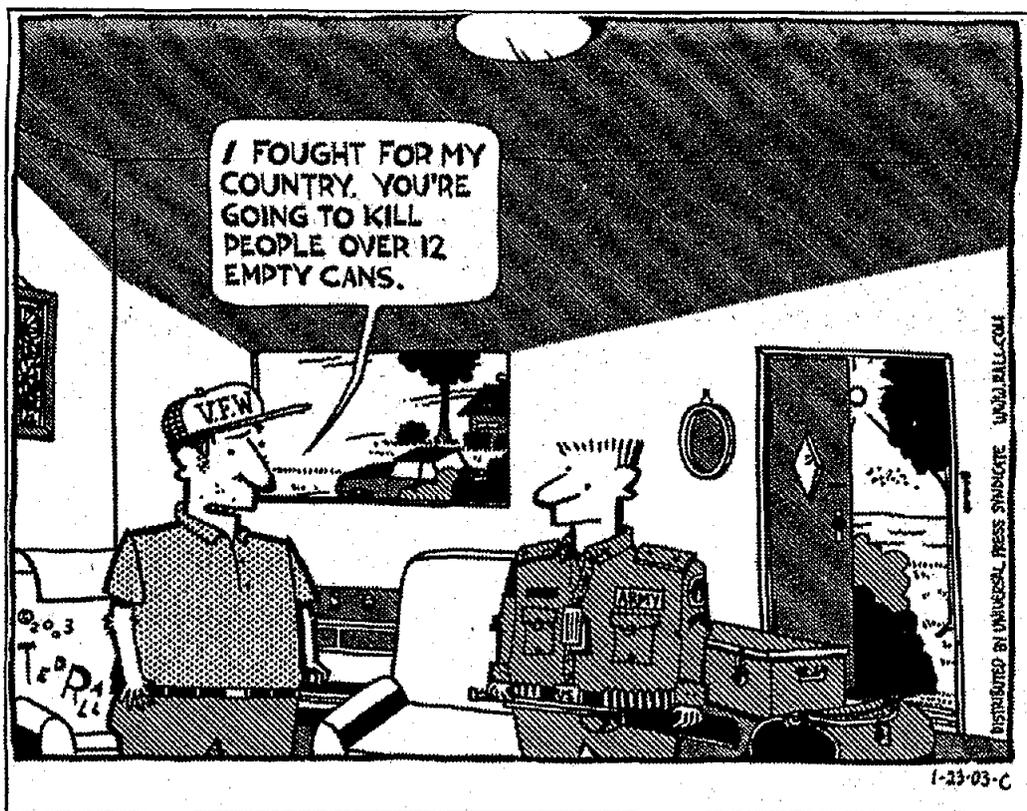
Supporters defend the affirmative action admission policy saying it increases ethnic diversity and it creates a more conducive learning environment. How is a more "conductive" learning environment created when there are students who are not there based on merit, but the color of their skin or their ethnic background after having received an unfair advantage? It is unfair to award the

most points to black, hispanic, or Native Americans and award no points to whites, Asians, or Arabs. It is just wrong and absurd to operate like that. Students who deserve to be in a school may be denied entrance because they are not black, Hispanic, or Native American. Unfortunately, most institutions of higher learning operate much like that, only the University of Michigan does not try to window dress it.

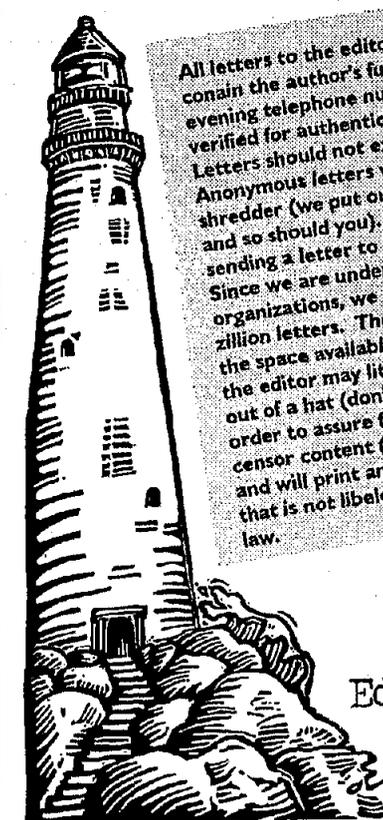
Any sensible person would agree that it is just plain wrong and unfair to admit anyone on the basis of his or her skin color, gender, or ethnic background. It is wrong to segregate our learning institutions, which are funded by taxpayer dollars, donations, and tuition. Diversity in higher education is all fine and dandy, but not at the expense of the constitution. Every person should be given an equal opportunity, not preferential treatment because they are a minority.

The Beacon wishes WPU's newest graduates the best of luck in their endeavors.

Ted Rall



Letters To The Editor



All letters to the editor must be signed and contain the author's full name and daytime and evening telephone numbers. All letters will be verified for authenticity prior to publication. Letters should not exceed 500 words. Anonymous letters will promptly be filed in the shredder (we put our names on what we write, and so should you). The best medium is for sending a letter to the editor is through email. Since we are understaffed like most organizations, we do not have time to retype a zillion letters. The volume of mail may exceed the space available for printing. In that case, the editor may literally pick letters for printing out of a hat (don't worry, it's a nice hat) in order to assure fairness. The Beacon does not censor content (see our mission statement) and will print any signed and verified letter that is not libelous or otherwise prohibited by law.

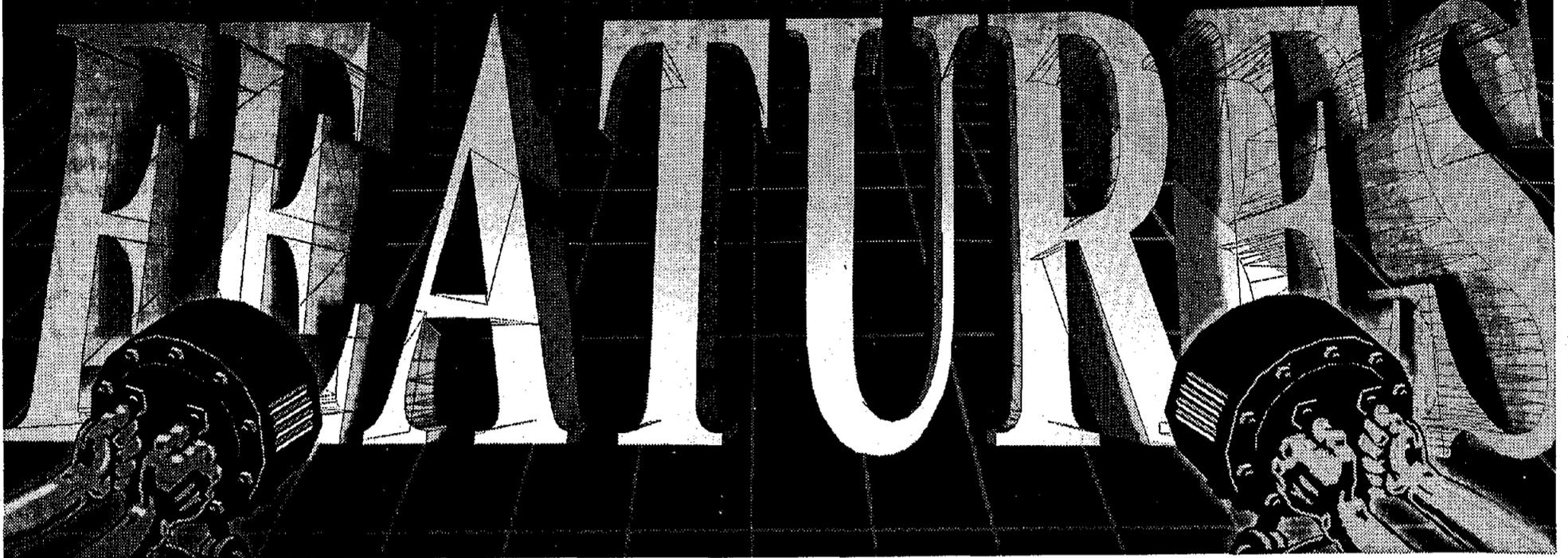
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The Gentlemen's Corner

By Pat Bennett & Brian "Brain" Morris
The Beacon

Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen, to everyone's favorite column: The Gentlemen's Corner. Since Valentine's Day is only three weeks away, we will be doing a three-part series on how dudes and chicks should go about getting each other, and we'll conclude with a column on Valentine's Day itself. This week: how a lady should go about courting a gentleman.

Brain: As the years go by, people's attitudes about dating and courtship change. Nowadays, it is perfectly normal for a lady to court a gentleman. Many factors must go into gentlemen hunting. The first step is

deciding what style of gentleman you will be looking for. This will help in where to find him.

Pat: Right. You may think there's only one type of gentleman out there, but in fact, there is a diverse mixture of dudes waiting to be courted. These include: the musical type, the artsy type, the sporty type, the Cro-Magnon type, the refined type, the scientific type, the intellectual type, the religious type, and, most important of all, the manly-man type.

Brain: Now, you have to seek out each of these gentlemen in their natural habitats. For example, one might search out artsy types at a poetry reading or art gallery, and the manly-man could be found in a number of places,

including a chair shop, a sandwich shop, tobacco shop, car show, Jets game (cause we all know real men like the Jets), Home Depot, mowing the lawn, etc.

Pat: The Jets suck. You'd have an easier time spotting a Cro-Magnon at a Jets game. The musical type can be found at a club or bar, while the religious type can be located at a church, synagogue, temple, etc. Intellectual types tend to blend in more, although you can usually spot them when a good conversation sparks up.

Brain: Now, once you have scouted these natural habitats, you may begin by learning the common beverage of that particular gentleman. I'm not going to generalize about other gentlemen's beverages, but most likely a manly-man's beverage would be a beer.

Pat: That's a given. Beer is always a safe way to go with a manly-man. Offering or buying a guy a beer is a sure way to get your foot in the door. If you really want to impress him, you should find out his favorite hard liquor.

Brain: For all intents and purposes, I would stick to beer. Going with hard liquor could be risky because many gentlemen are very particular about their hard liquor. I prefer Scotch, but not Bourbon, and I hate vodka and most clear liquors, but I'll always go for a beer. Also, stick with popular beers like Bud, Coors, Heini, and as much as it pains me, Corona. Also, try asking the bartender what the gentleman is drinking, and send him a draft his way.

Pat: When you and your specified gentleman go out, try to pick a place that he would like and have a good time at. The opera, for example, is NOT the place to take him. If you wanna go see a movie, try to avoid a chick flick at all costs. Either of these will definitely turn your gentleman off.

Brain: Sometimes, just staying home and watching a flick is a good idea. Nothing would be better than stayin' home poppin' Braveheart into the VCR or DVD player, crackin' a bottle of red wine or tippin' a few pints and sittin' in my chair watching a good

flick with a good lady.

Pat: For me, I like a lady with a good sense of humor. Nothing is worse than making a joke and having her not get it or her getting mad. A sense of humor is very important. Also, intelligence plays a big part. I don't wanna talk to an airhead. Being able to carry on a conversation is crucial.

Brain: Yes, I agree 100%. Humor and intelligence is key. Now, when a lady hooks a gentleman, be sure not to latch on too tight. Give your dude some space, and let him come to you. If you latch on too tight and call too much, you might scare him away.

Pat: Oh yeah, the psychotic caller method doesn't work too well. Ok, time for Rummy.

Dating and courtship can be difficult at times, but with proper planning you can be a champ. Of course, every lady and gentleman is different and no guide could be written for every gentleman. Just be real and have fun in the process. And if you don't like it, tough shit...

CALLING ALL LADIES!! If you would like to participate in a special Gentlemen's Corner survey, send an email with your first name and age only to Letstakeitback@hotmail.com

Libido Lingua

By Precious Booker and Matt DeFranza
The Beacon

Hey, boys and girls. Say hello to our new co-writer Matt DeFranza. We are going to start off this new writing partnership with three very interesting topics: bondage, domination, and S&M.

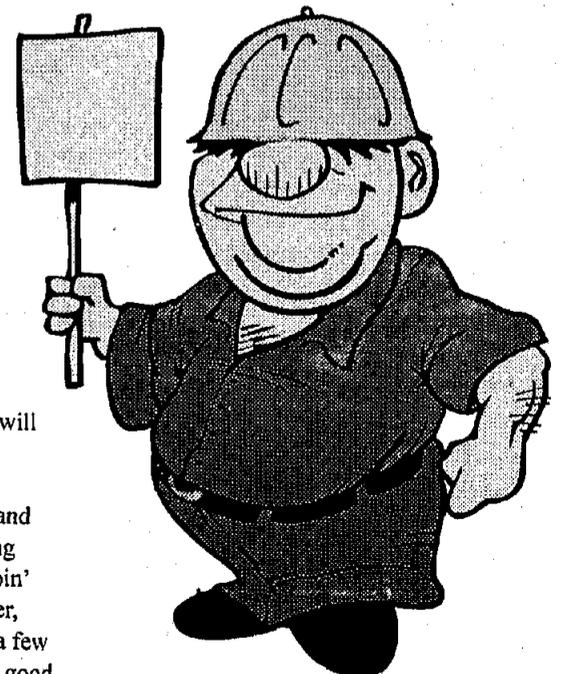
I bet you think that you know all that there is to know, but you don't. Did you know that there are two different types of bondage? There is soft-core and hard-core bondage. Soft-core bondage includes silk scarves, fuzzy handcuffs, feather teasers, and similar things. Hard-core bondage can go all the way to whips, "sex swings," gags, and rope. We recently conducted a survey, and most of you thought of some the borderline hard-core things when asked what the word "bondage" brought to mind. Your top three answers were: 1. Whips and chains, 2. Being tied up, and 3. Lots and lots of leather and vinyl. Oh Behave!

Whether you like to dominate or be dominated, bondage can add a certain something to spice up any sex life. Now, while some of you are closet freaks, according to our survey there are more of you that have participated in bondage than there are those of you who haven't. And of the people that have yet to participate in the lovely art of BDSM, there are a great many who would like to. Now as we stated before, it's not for everybody, though there is bound (no pun intended) to be

some sort of level of bondage or domination that everyone is willing to participate in.

However, some may not be able to stomach the other forms of BDSM, as the pain is just too much to bear. For example, the infamous "sex swing" is designed to simply intensify sexual pleasure and can range in styles. There is the basic hammock style which just looks cute and innocent, and then there is the more, shall we say, "painful" looking version. This version includes the partner tied with his or her arms and legs tied behind their back, bound and gagged while hanging from their bonds, facing the floor. Let's just say, seeing this type of thing on the internet in some hard-core porn gallery and actually being tied up in it are two completely different things.

If you are looking for a few good toys to add to the fun, there are plenty of sites on the net that can get you started. If you want to actually try something, Spencer Gifts can get you started on some of the more inexpensive and subtle stuff. If you are interested in becoming a dominatrix or you just want to learn a couple of things about bondage and submission, try www.bondagetraining.com. If you are looking for links to a few good pictures or videos, try www.bondagewatch.com. Look at it this way: it would make one hell of a Valentine's Day present for your significant other.



Fitness and Beauty 110-01

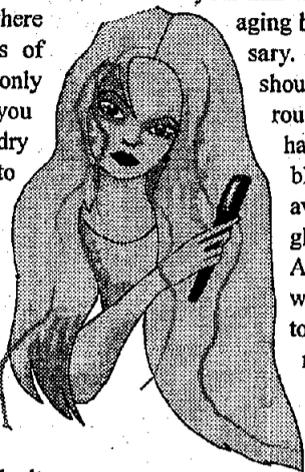
By Jessica Castellano
The Beacon

Since this December was the one of the coldest and darkest months in 67 years, there has probably been an influx in cases of depression, but our brains are not the only things that cold dark winters affect. If you noticed that your hair and skin are extra dry and flaky, maybe it's a sign that you need to nurture yourself on the outside as well as the inside.

I recently sat down with Carla D'Amico-Ford, artistic director and part owner of The Gallery Salon in the Wayne Preakness Shopping Center, as well as a Master Associate for Paul Mitchell. Carla is a regular at Fashion Week and has done numerous photo shoots and advertisements in her career, so it was difficult to get a moment with her, but Carla is generous with her knowledge and was kind enough to give me some helpful tips to keep your hair healthy and shiny all winter long.

I asked Carla for some advice on how to keep my hair from getting dry and breaking throughout these cold winter months. Carla said that hair is at its

most fragile and vulnerable state when wet, so you should never start blow drying your hair when it is soaking wet. It takes too long and your hair will be exposed to damaging heat longer than necessary. This means you should be gentle and never roughly towel dry your hair, instead squeezing or blotting thoroughly, to avoid damaging and tangling the hair follicles. Also when detangling wet hair, start from ends to root; this will minimize breakage and will keep hair from forming more tangles.



I asked Carla if there is anything special I should be using on my hair while styling it. Carla told me that it is actually very important to use the right shampoo and conditioner on your hair. This time of year, you should be using moisturizing shampoos such as Paul Mitchell's Instant Moisture Shampoo, which hydrates and revives dry hair. Also, your conditioner is very important. You want to mois-

turize your hair, but you don't want to weigh it down with a heavy conditioner. Carla recommended following up with Instant Moisture Daily Rinse conditioner. I also recommend these products as well as the Extra-Body line. I tried them and I saw immediate results. I was amazed with how much body and shine they gave my hair.

I asked Carla what to do if my hair was really dry and I needed some intensive treatment. She told me that if your hair is really in need of nourishment, you should apply a deep conditioner such as Paul Mitchell's Super Charged Conditioner to towel dried hair. Place a plastic cap over your hair and go to sleep. In the morning rinse your hair out and your hair will be renewed and nourished with beauty. Exactly what we're going for here.

I asked Carla one last question before she had a client to meet with. I wanted to know what is the proper way to blow dry your hair and avoid frizzy split ends. Carla explained that to achieve smoothness with no frizz ends, you have to seal your hair before you blow dry. She recommended Seal and Shine for blow drying hair by Paul Mitchell. She said the proper technique is to hold your blow dryer about three inches from your brush and blow

your hair off the brush. Soon enough you'll be able to say good-bye to frizzes!!!

Carla gave me one last simple moisturizing technique, but it wasn't for your hair. She said after a long day on your feet you should soak them in Tea Tree shampoo and they will feel revitalized. Then dry your feet and use Tea Tree conditioner to moisturize your feet in these cold winter months. This sounds like a great way to keep your skin from cracking with these numbing temperatures.

That was the end of my time with Carla, she gave some great advice and all the products she mentioned can be purchased at The Gallery Salon in Preakness Shopping Center. If Carla is not available to help with any questions there are many friendly faces and master level knowledgeable stylists willing to give you the advice you need to keep your hair healthy and beautiful all winter long.

Next week, I will tackle the issue of winter skin. We'll discuss how to keep your face and body glowing throughout these brutally cold and windy months to keep your body prepped for the skin baring months ahead.

Questions? Email me at Jess0359@aol.com

ALDO'S HIDEAWAY

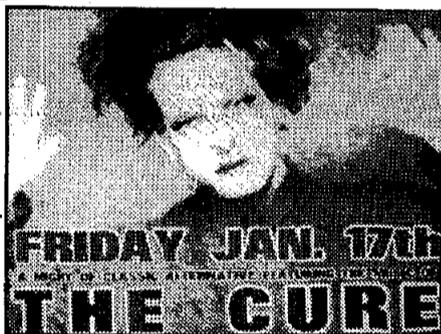
Patty's Bar-Time Review

Patty Kunath

I was Friday and I was in love... with the Cure, that is. My plan for that Friday night was to meet up with some friends and go to "Alternative Music Night" at Aldo's bar and dance club. I've been there a few times before, and I enjoy the ambience quite frankly. It reminds me of the Roller Rink I used to skate in when I was still in that awkward stage of adolescence. Everyone has memories of skating around to 80's dance songs, trying not to fall on your arse and hating those showoffs that thought they were so cool and could skate backwards. Aldo's has all that, including the flashing neon lights, except you can drink alcohol and won't be wearing roller skates. Another positive aspect of this bar is that it has special themes and discounts Thursday through Sunday. Thursdays is for the college kids: you pay a cover but you get a discount on drinks. Saturdays is like a regular club with dance music "teen night," not exactly my scene but it still draws a crowd. Sundays I hear is "depression night" which I guess is why some people call Aldo's the goth bar. Fridays is my favorite night of all. DJ Ted spins music from 80's New Wave and other alternative music. Each Friday features a different band or bands, from "Depeche Mode" to "The Go-Go's vs. the B-52's".

The Cure has always been one of my favorite bands dating back to the wee grades of Catholic Elementary school. Sure Catholicism and The Cure mix like oil and water, but that really never stopped anyone, not me! I signed up to be on the mailing list at aldodanceclub@aol.com. When I got the E-mail that the Cure would be a featured band I knew I had to be there. Another fun fact about Fridays at Aldo's is that ladies are a no cover all night long. Gentlemen, you have to pay \$5, but only after 11pm. Also all drinks are \$2 before 11. Even if you get there around 10 you have plenty of time to get liquored up! I like this deal since my usual drink is a Killians and it goes for \$4, half off isn't bad.

I brought my sister Amy and my friend Becky to Aldo's to show them the glory of the 80's in the 00's. My friends



were already there saving us some stools.

Aldo's has a main bar that will sit about 25 or more people, and stools lining the wall with ledges to put drinks down on. But believe me you probably will not be sitting for too long if you hear the music you like. Down a few steps from the bar is the dance floor. This is where the "roller rink" theme sets in.

The dance floor has benches on the sides for the weary and rhythmless sillies. There is also a bench with a pole in the middle, not generally used for pole dancing I imagine, yet Balaji proved us wrong on that one! Ah yes do not forget the flashing neon lights and the televisions sometimes showing the videos of the music playing. If you feel like dancing (and you will) there is a coat check for \$1, and tip the lady please. Off to the side of the dance floor is another bar. This one is generally less crowded if you are not the social type.

I had to say I was satisfied with the mix of music played that night. It was mostly Cure songs (Friday I'm in love, Close to Me, Lovesong, Just like Heaven...) yet he did play other 80's favorites like "Enjoy the Silence" by Depeche Mode. I requested "love cats" by the cure which they played last at 2:00 AM, just when I had given up hope. Every single one of my friends danced that night, much to my delight. I generally don't dance unless I really like the music. I was on the dance floor whenever I wasn't drinking and had a blast. The floor got really crowded toward the end of the night. There was a man dressed all in black about 54, I had seen him there before. I found out from Jim, a guy that works at Aldo's, that the man is nicknamed "the captain". Apparently he has been going to Aldo's for 30 something years and even has his own limo to take him there and back. This captain isn't shy either, he'll come right up to you and either strike up a conversation or dance with you on the dance floor, but don't worry he's harmless. Just another thing expected at good ol' Aldo's. I definitely love Friday nights at this bar, but if you like techno/dance music come on Saturdays or Thursdays. I give this bar a 4.5 out of 5



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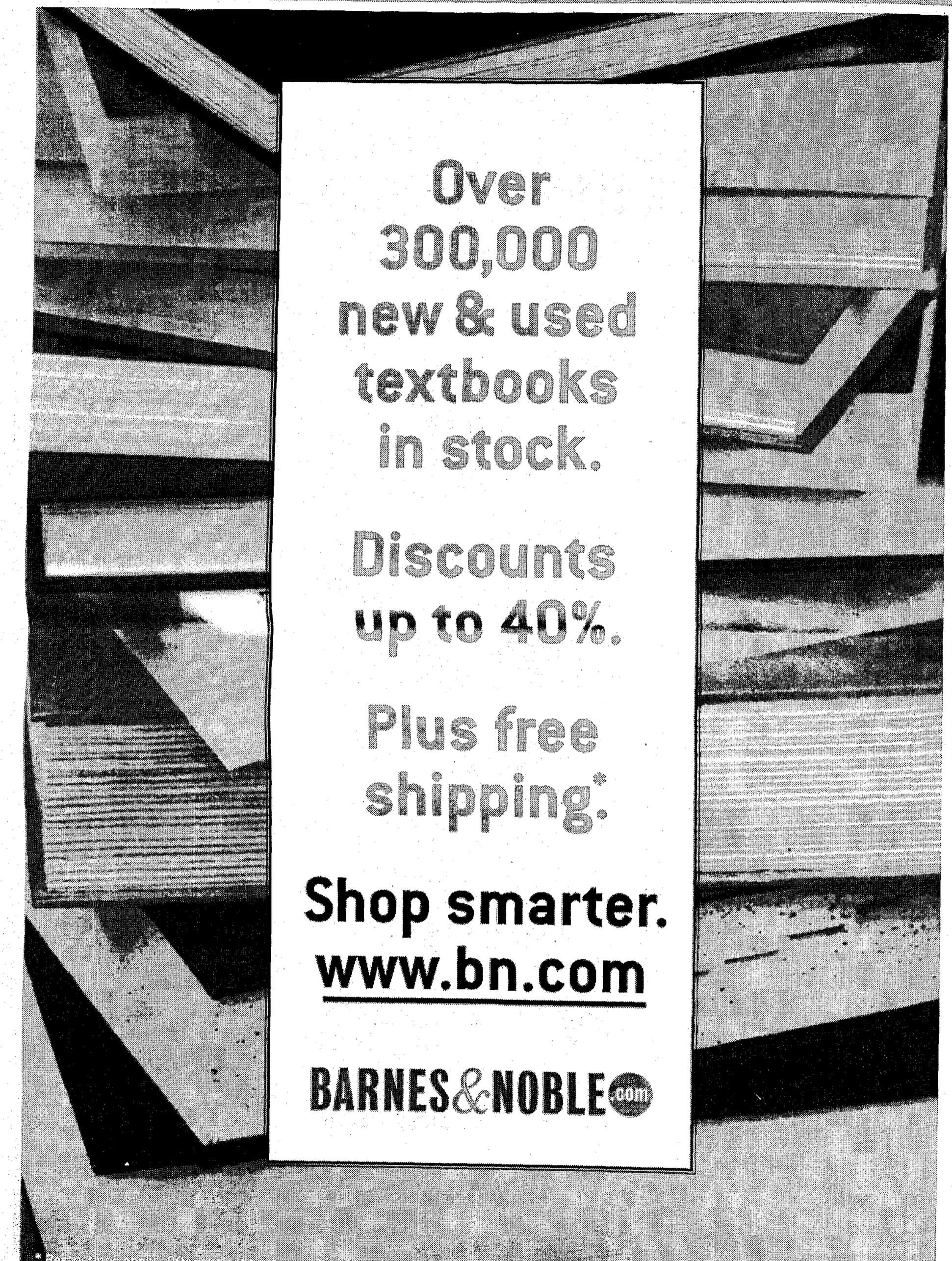
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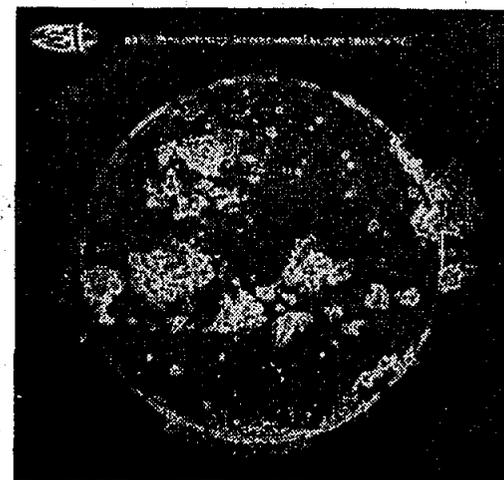
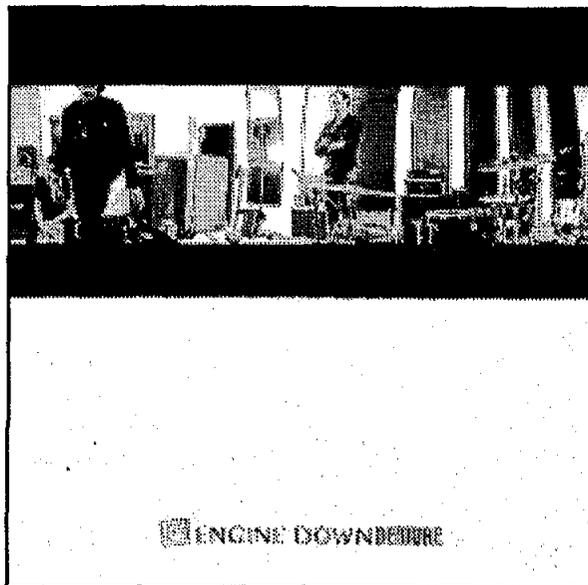
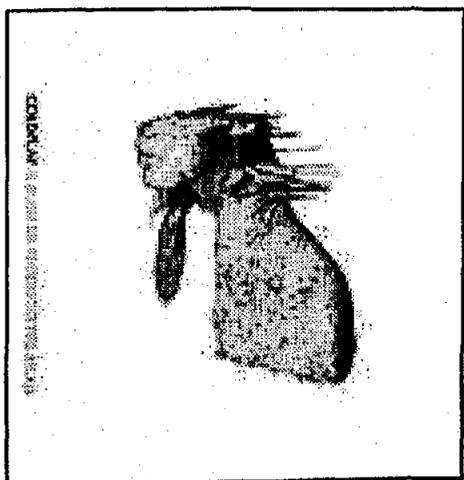
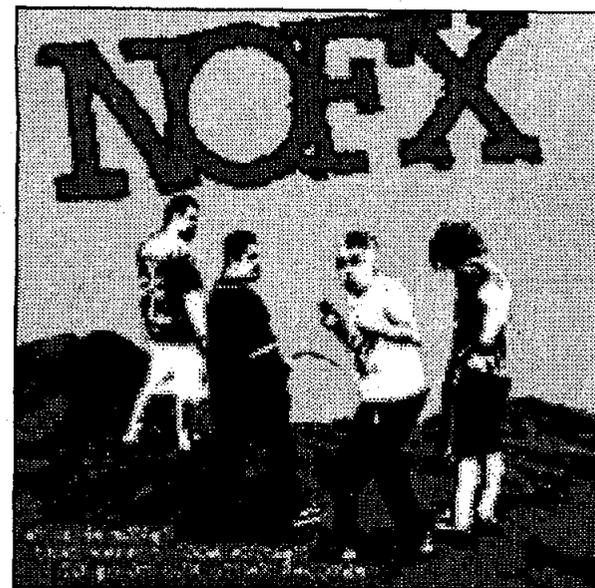
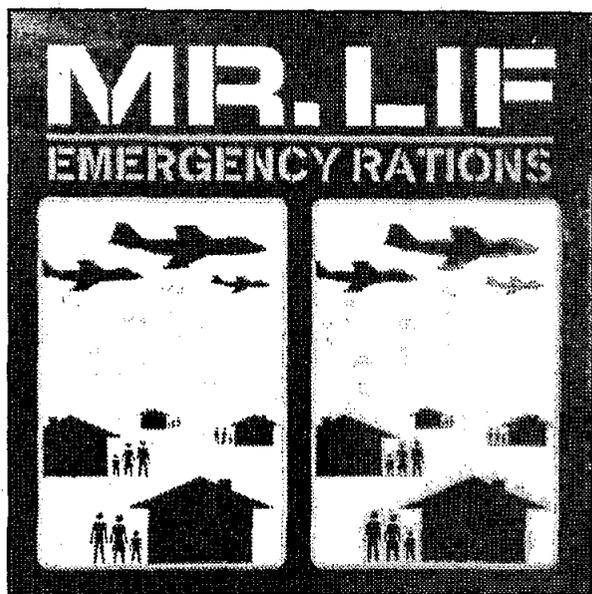
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GET YOUR HATE MAIL READY, INSIDER PRESENTS THE... TOP ALBUMS OF 2002



How Live? Soulive in New York City

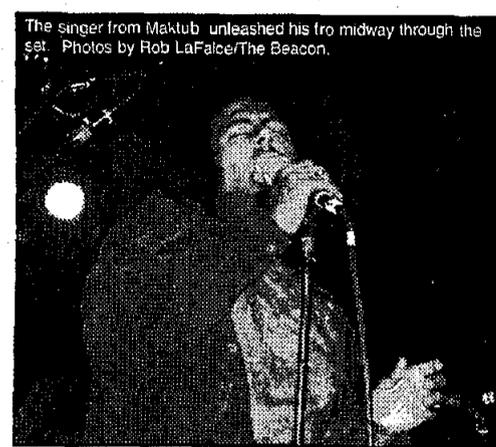
Robbie LaFalce
The Beacon

Soulive - Live @ Irving Plaza, NYC 11/23/02

'Twas the night before my brother's birthday and all through the street, most creatures were stirring (mostly because it was really cold and no one wanted to stand still). Anyway... We got there pretty early because we knew that it was all standing room and we didn't want to be at the way back because that's the pits.

We asked around to see if recording the show was ok and everyone who worked there said it was. However when we got inside the tour manager made the one guy put his stuff away because they contractually couldn't allow it being that they're releasing a DVD of live stuff pretty soon.

The opening acts consisted of the as I liked to call them "FunkCore" - Maktub and



The singer from Maktub unleashed his fro midway through the set. Photos by Rob LaFalce/The Beacon.



JLive, the midway act, spitting fire.

the rap/hiphop trio - JLive (two mc's and one dj), Maktub was amazing. I did not expect to be wowed by the opening, opening act. They played some great soulful funky stuff and then were

pretty hard rock at times. The singer's afro was quite amazing also. On to JLive. I'm not big into the hip hop thing however, I do like the Roots and some other stuff. J was very entertaining and his other MC (Wordsworth) was pretty good himself.

Anyway SOULIVE! These guys are amazing. Neal (Hammond B3 Organ) and Alan Evans (Drums), Eric Krasno (Guitar) and Sam Kininger (Sax) make up the modern jazz monster group. Each guy is a monster player on their instrument and accompanies their great licks with great

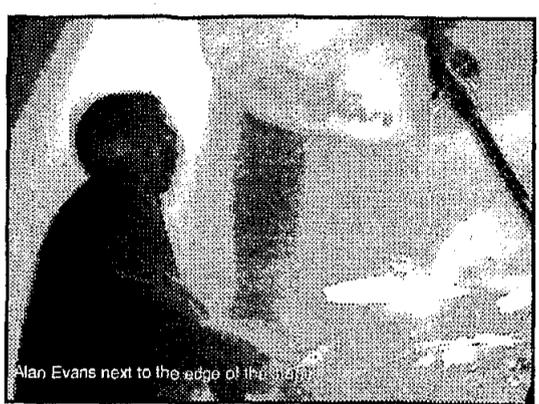
facial expressions. They began their set with a lot of stuff from their earlier albums

and even some braaaaaand new songs (newer than their new album).

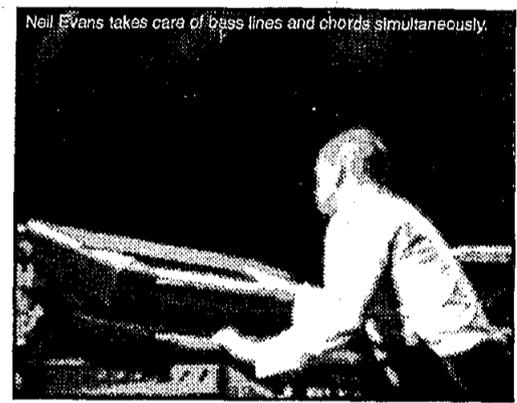
Towards the end of their set, they called up Sam Kininger (who is new to the group and wasn't present for the earlier half of the show) and played stuff from their new album, Next. At the very end of their set, Soulive began calling up members from the previous bands to come and do collaboration numbers that they said they were working on for a while. The singer of Maktub went up, JLive and even this random trumpet guy who guested for Maktub played with them also. It was a huge party on stage.

Now the great thing about Irving Plaza is that it's such an intimate setting. I was given a photo pass and a VIP pass so that I could basically go wherever I wanted to. I bumped into the guys from Maktub a few times and even Sam Kininger.

It was an incredible night. The thing that made the evening complete was



Alan Evans next to the edge of the night.



Neil Evans takes care of bass lines and chords simultaneously.

recomend Soulive to people who listen to all types of genres. Their extensive list of collaborations is enough to attract anyone, from hip hop rappers to Rn'B singers and they've got everyone on their new album, Next. Even Dave Matthews makes an appearance on it. If you don't like him it's ok because they're covering an Ani DiFranco song which is incredible! Check them out!!!

Link: www.soulive.com

Fat Music series still going strong with volume six



Don Angelini
The Beacon

Hey kids! Uncle Don is back after a healthy dose of winter break with *Fat Music Volume 6: Uncontrollable Fatulence!* The Fat Music series is without a doubt one of the best punk compilations out there. What made volume five amazing was the entire album consisted of unreleased songs, keeping fans (including myself) listening non-stop and looking forward to new Fat Wreck releases. What also carries this series is the incredible artist roster of the label.

Volume 6 lives up to all expectations with unreleased songs by NOFX, The

Lawrence Arms, Rise Against, Mad Caddies, Lagwagon, Swingin' Utters, Frenzal Rhomb, Anti-Flag, Wizo, Me First And The Gimme-Gimmes, and Strung Out! The disc is rounded out with new songs from Propagandhi, Dillinger Four, No Use For A Name, Avail, Less Than Jake, Sick Of It All (which is a live track), and Good Riddance.

Eighteen great songs for five bucks is dirt cheap! You just can't go wrong! *Uncontrollable Fatulence* is a must-have for all fans of punk or Fat Wreck bands and it just goes to show there's much to expect in 2003.

Now, without further ado, here is a list of upcoming Fat Wreck Chords

releases to make up for that ugly sweater you got for Christmas.

- Swingin' Utters - "Dead Flowers, Bottles, Bluegrass, and Bones" - Feb. 25th
- Mad Caddies - "Just One More" - March 11th
- NOFX - "Regaining Unconsciousness (EP/7")" - March 24th
- Rise Against - "Revolutions Per Minute" - April 7th
- Lagwagon - "Blaze It!" - April 8th
- NOFX - "13 Stitches (7")" - April 22nd
- None More Black (members of Kid Dynamite) - TBA - June 3rd
- Good Riddance - TBA
- NOFX - "The War On Errorism" - TBA

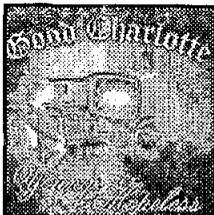
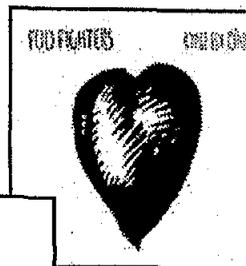


Link: <http://www.fatwreck.com>



THE TOP RECORDS OF 2002

in no particular order...



Joelle Caputa The Beacon

1. **311**, *From Chaos*- Never a dull moment. They evolve with every CD, yet stay true to their distinct style.
2. **Silverchair**, *Diorama*- Amazing, with unexpected, beautiful moments.
3. **Jeremiah Freed**, self-titled- I've listened to "Wait for Me" every morning since I got the CD in May. They have huge potential, but need more label support.
4. **Our Lady Peace**, *Gravity*- It's no surprise that they finally won America over with this one.
5. **Unwritten Law**, *Elva*- If you listened to their first CD, you would think this is a totally different band. These punks-turned-rockers are about to blow up!
6. **Good Charlotte**, *The Young and the Hopeless*- Practically every song can be released as a single.
7. **Greenwheel**, *Soma Holiday*- Energetic debut that touches your emotions on tracks like "Breathe."
8. **The Early November**, *For All of This*- Introduces emo in an easy to swallow, rock coated ear candy kinda way.
9. **The Used**, self-titled- Who knew Utah could produce such rebellious rockers?
10. **Audioslave**, self-titled- Chris Cornell's voice can lead him to success no matter what band he's leading. I never liked Rage Against the Machine, but this works.



Jacob Claveloux The Beacon

1. **Jeff Buckley**-*The Grace EPs*
Who can argue with a posthumous release from one of the greatest singers of the 90's, 2002 also saw the release of Songs to No One, Buckley's early material with collaborator Gary Lucas.
2. **El-P**- *Fantastic Damage*, **Mr. Lif**- *Emergency Rations, I Phantom*, **RJD2**- *Deadringer*
Years from now, the hip-hop community will look back on 2002 and declare it the year of Def Jux, the label that's saving hip-hop's proverbial ass for the time being.
3. **The Soundtrack of Our Lives**-*Behind the Music*
These Swedish rockers hit the big time with the Universal-distributed Behind the Music, fusing pop melody and inventive rock riffs.
4. **Foo Fighters**-*One by One*, **Queens of the Stone Age**-*Songs for the Deaf*
Dave Grohl records puts in a stellar drum performance on the Queen's stoner-metal record, takes the aggressive influence into the studio and makes the Foo's toughest and best record to date.
5. **The Roots**-*Phrenology*
The proverbial live hip-hop band ended 2001 by recruiting Philly-based rocker Ben Kenney (Supergrub, Division Group) to play guitar and spent 2002 recording and releasing the closest thing to a rock record that you are going to hear from this bunch of b-boys.
6. **Wilco**-*Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*
Wilco, the band that keeps alt-Country alive, gets a little less country on Yankee Hotel Foxtrot and ends up crafting a beautiful masterpiece of lush, melodic, guitar rock.
7. **Beck**-*Sea Change*
Beck's most personal (and best) record to date. Period.
8. **Soulive**-*Next*
A band that appeals to b-boys, jazz aficionados, and hippies alike. The only album ever to feature rappers Talib Kweli and Black Thought (of the Roots), as well as Dave Matthews belting out an Ani DiFranco song.
9. **Denali**-*Denali*, **Engine Down**-*Demure*
Keeley and Maura Davis, the brother-sister team behind Denali and Engine Down, respectively (Keeley plays in both bands), have a lot to be proud of. Both bands released incredible records this year, and both of these bands will be important to keep an eye on once the world realizes how talented these Virginia kids are.
10. **20 Years of Dischord**
A three disc compilation featuring some of the best early hardcore and punk, post hardcore, and indie rock to ever leak out of the nation's capitol. 20 Years of Dischord's amazing track list includes songs by Minor Threat, Fugazi, Jawbox, Dag Nasty, Hoover, and Shudder to Think, amongst others. Probably the best box set any punk kid could ever buy.



Robbie LaFalce The Beacon

1. **Coldplay** - *A Rush of Blood to the Head* (Capitol)
2. **Nickel Creek** - *This Side* (Sugar Hill)
3. **Llama** - *The World From Here* (Ep) (MCA)
4. **Dave Matthews Band** - *Live @ Folsom Field* (RCA)
5. **Reel Big Fish** - *Cheer Up* (Jive)
6. **Bela' Fleck & the Flecktones** - *Live @ the Quick* (Sony)
7. **John Mayer** - *Inside Wants Out* (rerelease) (Aware)
8. **Soulive** - *Next* (Bluenote)
9. **Queens of the Stoneage** - *Music for the Deaf* (Interscope)
10. **The Toasters** - *Enemy of the System* (Jump Up/Skamming/Asian Man)



Don Angelini The Beacon

1. **NOFX** - *45 Or 46 Songs That Weren't Good Enough To Go On Our Other Records* (Fat Wreck)
2. **Millencolin** - *Home From Home* (Epitaph)
3. **Thursday** - *Five Stones Falling* (Victory)
4. **Finch** - *What It Is To Burn* (Drive-Thru)
5. **No Use For A Name** - *Hard Rock Bottom* (Fat Wreck)
6. **CKY** - *Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild* (Island)
7. **Atreyu** - *Suicide Notes And Butterfly Kisses* (Victory)
8. **Thrice** - *The Illusion Of Safety* (Sub City)
9. **Hot Water Music** - *Caution* (Epitaph)
10. **Gohead And Cambria** - *The Second Stage* (Turbine Blade) (Equal Vision)



Lori Michael The Beacon

1. **Coldplay**-*A Rush of Blood to the Head*
2. **Beck**-*Sea Change*
3. **Pearl Jam**-*Riot Act*
4. **Audioslave**-*Audioslave*
5. **Red Hot Chili Peppers**-*By the Way*
6. **George Harrison**-*Brainwashed*
7. **Phish**-*Round Room*
8. **Ben Folds**-*Ben Folds Live*
9. **Tori Amos**-*Scarlett's Walk*
10. **Counting Crows**-*Hard Candy*



Tracy Calabrese The Beacon

On December 29th, I had the chance to talk to Matt from the amazing band, **The Starting Line**. They just wrapped up their tour with the **Taking Back Sunday** the night before at Birch Hill, but I caught up with them at their show at Club Krome. The list of bands for the night included Don't Look Down, Senses Fail, Brand New, and last but certainly not least, **The Starting Line**. Here's what Matt had to say.

Insider: When did you guys form as a complete band?

Matt: As a complete band, probably about three years ago, the summer of 1999.

Insider: Who are some of your musical influences? Personally and as a group?

Matt: We pretty much have the same influences as a group. Definitely Glassjaw, Jimmy Eat World, Get Up Kids, and Lagwagon. I think we all got really into FatWreckChords when we were all young and in junior high and then progressively got more into like Get Up Kids kind of stuff.

Insider: What was it like when you decided to drop everything that you were doing and make music your lives?

Matt: It was awesome that we were at a point where we could actually do that. Me and Kenny were both going to school, I was in college and he was in high school and the other two guys were working. I don't know, this has always been our dream. Just to be able to give up everything and be able to go on tour and have a record in stores and stuff like that it's just amazing. And there wasn't even a thought in our minds not to do it.

Insider: What made you change the band name from "Sunday Drive" to "The Starting Line"?

Matt: Right around the same time we signed to Drive Thru, there was a Christian vocal band from Missouri or Kansas or somewhere like that named "Sunday Drive" and we didn't want to get sued. Plus there was already a "Sunday Driver" and two other "Sunday

Drives" at that time. I don't know how that happened, but whatever.

Insider: You guys were first signed to We the People Records, but how and when did Drive Thru approach you?

Matt: Probably a year after being a band, maybe a little bit longer. We the People Records was a small indie label and we recorded a 12 song demo for them and Drive Thru ended up hearing it. They called Mike up one day at work and wanted to sign us.

Insider: I know all of you are friends with Dave Appuzo up the University of Hartford and I was supposed to tell you that I have become friends with him as well. The shows he runs are free to fans. What do you think of free shows and other venues who charge high ticket prices?

Matt: That's why college shows are awesome. They can keep the prices really

Catching Up with The Starting Line

down because there's like a budget for shows and the bands can still survive. It's really tough driving somewhere far away, like to somewhere like Connecticut, and not get paid. You need gas money and usually don't make that much on merch, but the University of Hartford like that they have that budget to pay bands pretty decent. I think free shows are awesome and it definitely brings more kids out to the show. I wish all shows could be free, but unfortunately they can't.

Insider: How do you compare the songs on your new album to older songs that you used to play?

Matt: I think we definitely matured a lot over the past year and I don't know, I like our songs a lot better. I think we all do too.

Insider: What is your favorite song to play?

Matt: I think "Given the Chance," just because lyrically I think it's awesome.

Insider: Who picks the songs that you cover?

Matt: We all decide. Me and Kenny were sitting outside of a record store and we bought some cheesy 80's CD and that's how we heard the Mannequin theme song. Then we decided to record that. And I wish we didn't, we all wish we didn't because we despise that song now, but we ended up

from www.startinglinerocks.com

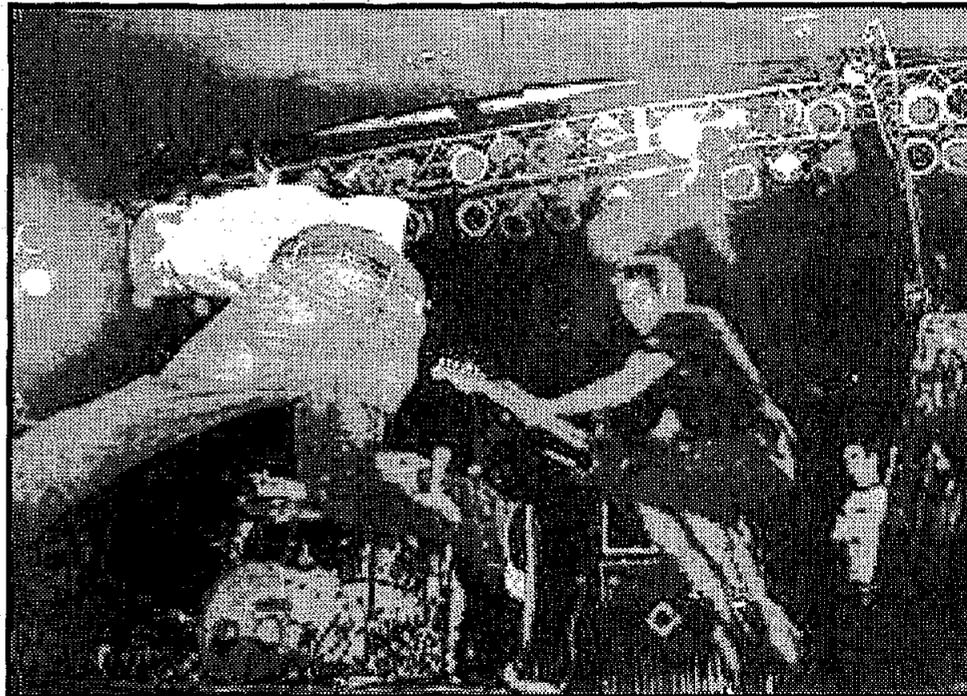


doing that. I'm Real came about when Fearless got a hold of us somehow and they were like "We're doing this CD called Pop Goes Punk, do you guys want to do a song, that would be really awesome?" And Kenny came up with the idea to do I'm Real and we all thought it wouldn't work and we thought it was the worst song ever. And the real version is by far the worst song ever recorded in the history of the world and somehow Kenny made a demo of it all by himself on guitar and drums.

Insider: It's definitely a tough song to sing!

Matt: Oh yeah it definitely is. So he brought it to us and we were like "Holy shit, that sounds awesome." So we just decided to cover it then.

Insider: How did you guys hook up with Nate from Finch and what made you decide to have him sing on Cheek to Cheek and Hello Houston on your new album?



Matt: We toured with those guys a lot and we both were signed to Drive Thru about the same time so we have pretty much grown up together. They are some of our really close friends. We all love his voice and we all love those guys. It was cool to have him on there.

Insider: Who are some of your favorite bands that you have been on tour with?

Matt: Oh there is so many! New Found Glory, definitely because they are amazing people, amazing musicians, and an awesome band. Yellowcard, Brand New, Finch, Taking Back Sunday, who we just got off tour with. They were really awesome.

Insider: Where is your favorite place to play?

Matt: I would definitely say NJ, right around this area, like northern/central NJ.

Insider: That's kind of like my next question. New Jersey seems to have a significant meaning in many of your songs.

Matt: Yeah, this is the place where we first felt at home as a band. We couldn't get shows in Philly when we first started out and I dunno we'd drive up here and people like Chris from NJ ska back in the day would hook us up with shows and we'd play random basement shows here and there and the kids were so awesome. Kids would come out to every show and they were just really supportive and we hadn't seen that before. So we kept playing here. The kids grew with us.

Insider: How have your video experiences been?

Matt: It's weird. Making a video is perhaps one of the weirdest things in the world. It's kind of like a photo shoot and that is equally as weird, but like music is playing and you are kind of like acting. I dunno it's just really creepy. It definitely doesn't feel natural. I don't think it will for a while though, but we'll see.

Insider: What was last summer's Warped Tour like?

Matt: It was amazing. Definitely like punk rock summer camp. It was the best summer I ever had in my life. We ate lunch with all my favorite bands everyday. Like Lagwagon, NOFX, NFG, Good Charlotte, and I don't know it was just awesome. I was so starstruck for the first half of the Warped Tour. Like meeting everyone, they are like my heroes. I definitely got used to it though!

Insider: How have your experiences at Skate and Surf been? Since that's such a big NJ thing.

Matt: I think Skate and Surf is the coolest show ever. That was the first time we played to a lot of kids, like 2 years ago at the first Skate and Surf. It was just overwhelming and so cool. We want to play every year. It's just the coolest show ever.

Insider: Well that's basically it, if there is anything else you want to add or anything new going on.

Matt: Awesome. Just thank you NJ. I am trying to thinkâ (not really). We are going to Japan right after this with NFG and Good Charlotte. Then we go to Europe for a month and a half and then after that we are coming back and going on tour with Sum 41 and then we are planning to take 2 or 3 months off to write our new record and hopefully it won't suck! And we will try to put out some demos online and stuff if we are allowed to. That's it.

And that was it. After the interview, Matt said he hoped I had good time at the show and he went off to get ready. I headed back out to wait to be let in again--security can be real asses sometimes. Once inside for good, I decided to hang out in the crowd. I still think the show is better that way. Don't Look Down was up first. The crowd was really not into them and I think they were glad when their set was over. Next was Senses Fail (their drummer is from my high school by the way) and it was really good to see a hometown band get such a great reaction from the crowd. Brand New also got the crowd jumping. When it was time for TSL to hit the stage, I headed up to take some pictures. And was I pissed when I got up there. There were about 20 people on each side of the stage and it was pointless to even try to take pictures. Thanks people of Krome! But all in all it was a great show and TSL rocked. I am looking forward to them returning from Europe and hopefully be on the list of bands who will be playing Convention Hall in Asbury Park at Surf and Skate.

Ben Folds Rocks The Beacon

Lori Michael
The Beacon

It was a great night for music. Ben Folds, the former front man of Ben Folds Five, performed a killer set at the Beacon Theatre on January 10. Folds' talent glistened as he pounded his heart and soul on the piano.

Opening act Duncan Sheik played to a packed audience. Sheik was accompanied by a guitarist and his collection of electric and acoustic guitars. With the exception of his hit single "Barely Breathing," Sheik's tunes were unfamiliar to me. However, I did enjoy his set very much. He finished his set with one of my favorite Radiohead songs "Fake Plastic Trees."

After a brief intermission, Ben took to the stage. "Sorry for the wait," Folds told the crowd, referring to the December 6 show he was forced to reschedule because of an illness.

He proceeded to perform nearly every song on his recent Ben Folds Live album and some classic Ben Folds Five songs, such as "Kate" and "Song for the Dumped."

During "Fred Jones Part 2" Joe Jackson from the Joe Jackson Band came out and performed back-up vocals with Folds. Later in the evening, Folds played drums while Jackson played piano

and sang some of his own tunes.

"It takes a lot of effort to get a mullet," Folds said referring to his mulletish haircut.

Before Folds played "Army" he split the audience in half. One half were saxophones and the other were trumpets. He conducted the crowd

like a choir teacher, while sharing the the origins of the story. "I told my dad I was thinking of joining the army. He said you're fuckin' high." The song began right after that moment. "I will be going into the studio after my Australian tour," Folds told the audience.

Throughout the show, the crowd was constantly singing and responding to every song. He knew how to get the crowd wanting more. When he came back on stage for the encores, he did not immediately go into the first one. Instead, he says, "there is a man in the music business who said 'Thank you Ben for doing this song,'" which then segued into "Tiny

Dancer" by Elton John. The other encores were "One Angry Dwarf," and "Brick."

"I want to dedicate this song to anyone out there who has been dumped," Folds said before he played his last encore "Song for the Dumped," which he played in "the sad" C minor chord.

Overall, this show was one of the best concerts I have been to in awhile. Those who have not seen him yet should check him out when he comes around again. You will not be disappointed.



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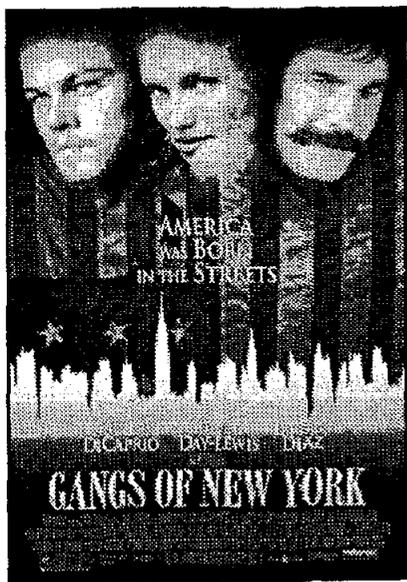
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2002: The Year in Movies

Jack Gattarella
The Beacon

The Top 10 Pictures of 2002:

- 1) *Gangs of New York*- While it drew criticism for its questionable accuracy and bloodshed, Scorsese's masterpiece is an American Epic all it's own.
- 2) *Punch-Drunk Love*- P.T. Anderson skims on the line between comedy, romance and weirdness, and pulls it off wonderfully, thanks in large part to a different turn by Sander.
- 3) *About Schmidt*- An excellent reminder of the depth Nicholson brought to his roles in the early 70's, with poignant tragi-comedic direction by Payne.
- 4) *Insomnia*- Some of Pacino and Willaims best work in a vivid remake from Christopher Nolan (of Memento fame)
- 5) *Minority Report*- A Spielberg blockbuster trip with plenty of splendid action set pieces.
- 6) *Bowling for Columbine*- Michael Moore's audacious, genius documentary on guns, violence and fear in the US, touches all the bases through dark comedy and sorrow.
- 7) *The Pianist*- Brody and Polanski triumph in a story of



pure survival.

8) *Road to Perdition*- An inspired coming of age/hoodlum story with second time director Mendes receiving a boost from Hall's photography and lead performances.

9) *One Hour Photo*- Williams plays against type and Romanek makes a great debut.

10) *Star Wars: Episode 2- Attack of the Clones*- Outside of the over-acting and the love story plot-line, it's a must see Lucasfilm, if only for the climax.

Honorable Mentions

(Films that just didn't make the 10)

The Bourne Identity (Doug Liman), *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (Jay Roach), *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (Peter Jackson), *Talk to Her* (Pedro Almodovar), *Igby Goes Down* (Burr Steers), *Red Dragon* (Brent Rathner), *Blood Work* (Clint Eastwood), *Changing Lanes* (Roger Michell); *Y Tu*

Mama Tambien (Alfonso Cuaron), *Spirited Away* (Hayao Miyazaki), *Femme Fatale* (Brian DePalma), *The Man From Elysian Fields* (George Hickenlooper), *Blade II* (Guillermo Del-Torro), *Narc* (Joe Carnahan), and *Frailty* (Bill Paxton).

Worst of the Year

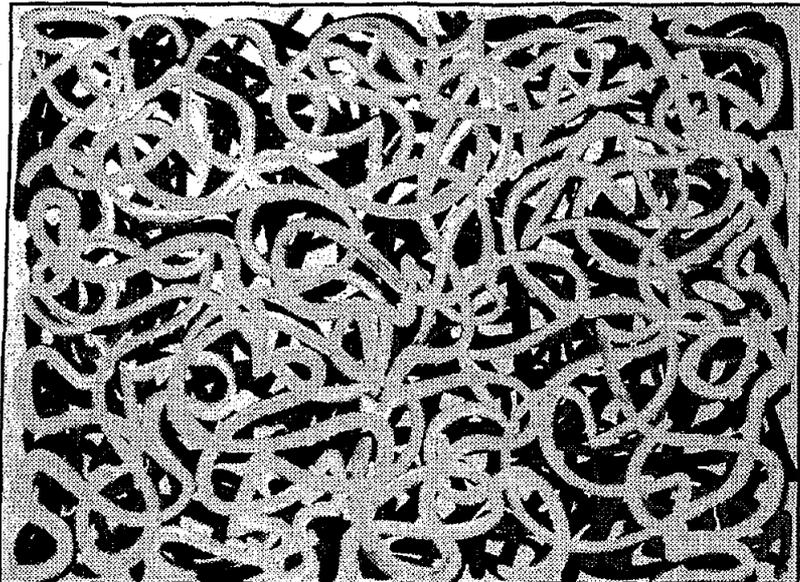
(Films with an F or D- grade)

Adam Sandler's *Eight Crazy Nights* (animated Sandler is all miss, not a hit), *The Hot Chick* (Schneider does indeed deserve to play a Stapler in his next film), *Life or Something Like It* (Angelina Jolie tripe), *Eight Legged Freaks* (David Arquette shooting spiders, enough said), *Friday After Next* (a pot-head disappointment), *Jason X* (Jason returns on a space ship, oh isn't that dandy), *Snow Dogs* (Cuba Gooding Jr. as a sled dog trainer, enough said), *Sorority Boys* (some award winning writing here, eh), *The Sweetest Thing* (Selma Blair of *Cruel Intentions* fame gets super glued to a shlong, and other gags), and *Windtalkers* (Has Cage ever been more monotoned?)

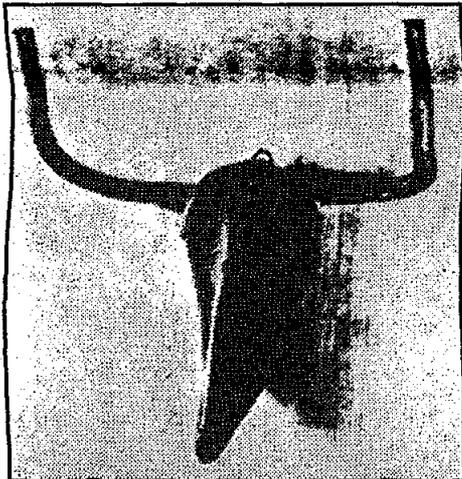


Abstracts

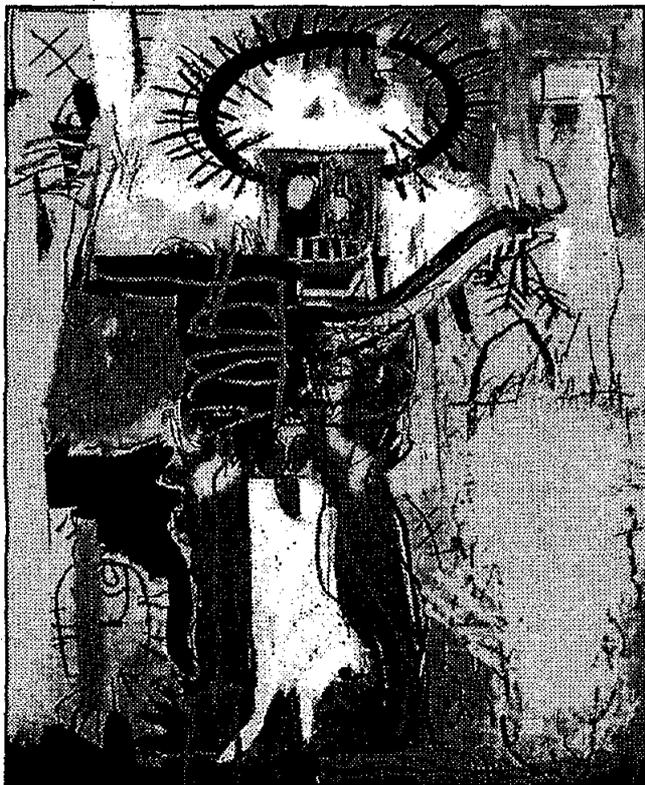
art • events • ideas • issues • whatever.....



Corey Meyers, "Delusion #4", Oil on canvas 2002
price: purchased by WPU for \$500



Pablo Picasso "Bull's head", 1943 handlebars and seat of a bicycle



Jean-Michel Basquiat "Untitled", Oil on Canvas, 1981
price: \$500,000 to \$800,000

Truth in art: Who decides on art's value?

Chris Moses
The Beacon

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines truth as: *sincerity in action, character, and utterance; or a transcendent, fundamental or spiritual reality.* Those two are the definitions that concern us in this article, particularly "fundamental reality" and "sincerity in action." We believe in fundamentals that allow truth to exist and sincerity ties in to that idea. When applied to art, the same ideals hold true. Most human beings want truth in their lives. We like some kind of affirmation that the things we experience and say are genuine; whether that be knowing grass will still be green when you wake up in the morning, or a dog instinctively going to his bowl because he knows food will be in it for him. These are innate truths about life that we all take for granted. While it may not be as transcendental as a dog knowing there will be water in his bowl, when applied to the an artistic medium, the idea of a genuine truth is still paramount and often over looked. The audience of a piece of artwork, commerce, and sociology contributes to perceptions of art and sometimes influences what we think is true.

Every individual has an independent idea of beauty and what is attractive to him or her. Although there are a few situations in which a mass does agree on universal beauty, like a world-class model or actor perhaps, a total consensus is never achieved for there is always going to be one person that doesn't agree. When we think of a universal beauty, we think of symmetry and balance. We say the most beautiful of people always have a symmetrical and balanced face. We can apply this idea to artwork when we say we look for compositional balance, clear forms, and thoughtful use of color. All aesthetic arguments aside, it's clear that we can get a decent majority to agree that DiVinci's "Mona Lisa" is a beautiful piece of artwork. It has a classicism that has

endured for hundreds of years and its truth in beauty has withstood the changes in culture over the years. It has become a rare standard of truth.

The art critic plays a pivotal role in the perception of art which influences our judgements. Art critics exist primarily to entertain themselves and other artists. The masses could really care less what we have to say about a particular piece of art. Born in the Italian Renaissance as mere descriptions of artwork and public information, art criticism grew to become an academic religion. We assign ourselves as the vessels of art where the fundamental knowledge of art is contained. I believe the information we carry is deconstructive if used in any method other than enlightenment because too much knowledge destroys the art. We do serve another structural function that I will explain later.

During the 1950's and 60's, critics Harold Rosenberg and Clement Greenberg were the definitive voices of Abstract Expressionism in New York. They created and validated the gold standard in art during that epoch and held an authoritative power that no critic should have been able to hold. The point I'm making is; wealth of knowledge has no precedence over individual truths in art. No one is smart enough to tell you what a piece of art should be. We find that on our own and enjoy these personal truths in our own way. Most people who don't have a daily involvement with art are often left out of a loop. Contemporary art, in many cases but not all, has become so lofty and yuppified, that it has risen beyond the reach of the general public. It has ceased to function as a marker of the development of artistic creativity. The art world of today is so pluralistic and expansive, that genuine talent has become sublimely difficult and nearly impossible to discern, except for the most resourced and informed of people. This wormhole plays itself out on high dollar stages. Decisions on artistic value are determined in academic circles without any regard to what truth could be and is validated by the

presence of art critics and theologians with PhD's.

How many times have we seen or heard the stereotypical story of someone going to a museum or gallery and being completely stupefied by a mass of scribbles in front of him? Then later some French elitist guy comes around and says something to the effect of "ooh... it has an intestinal beauty that reminds me of my inner most biological fragility." The "common guy" then looks back at the artwork more confused than he was before and feels small because he can't define what he's looking at. For "common guy" the art-work was not the truth, it was an anomaly; it was false. It was false to him because he did not believe in it. Without belief you cannot have truth. This is where that definition of fundamental truth applies itself. When "common guy" goes home that evening, he will find more comfort in the Vincent Van Gogh replica poster he has on the wall, than the million dollar painting he just saw for real. He hung it on his wall because he believed in its quality as a piece of art. For the stereotypical French guy, the scribble painting was the truth. Through social conditioning, we can assume the work appealed to him in a way which differs from the qualities our "common guy" was looking. Neither is wrong, neither is correct. Every individual has the right and ability to their own truth, none more valid or invalid than the other. Our reliance on authoritative voices to assign meaning to human's primal need to create, is evidence that our cognitive ability can destroy that was once innocent.

continued on next page...

The reasons these structures of art criticism and information exist are audience and commerce. Our "common guy" did not appreciate the abstract painting he saw because it was not catered to his particular taste. He looks for something more recognizable and practical as his standard of beauty. Audience is a something that is an unavoidable divider in art. Just as some people will chose to read this article carefully through, others will chose to wipe their ass with it. In a sense, I am writing this article for audience. Readers can choose to acknowledge this or to ignore it in same fashion that the commercial art world works in regard to a general public. The art world is constructed of trends and names these trends exist to sell art. "High art" has never been cheap. The market for high art is catered to those who can afford it, and that audience prefers intellectual extensions to the price tag. When an artist creates a piece, a critic or gallery director puts an intellectual stamp on to validate it and then everyone is in business. This is a reason why a simple calligraphic painting by artist Brice Marden can sell for millions of dollars. Why peddle a Mercedes Benz to a person who can only afford a Buick?

The majority of the artwork made since antiquity has been for money, so the presumption that I'm saying that every painting sold for money is phony is ridiculous. Pablo Picasso is the single greatest creative force the world has ever seen. Picasso was and still is, the most commercially successful artist ever. The significance and the sheer genius of his work outweighed his monetary gains.

I will say that there is an exploitive element to the business of art and

there are artists and galleries that feed off of the naivety of the public. At its most exploitive, these factions rely on fashion instead on substance, which is the ultimate definition of false in this article. There is a difference between selling and selling out.

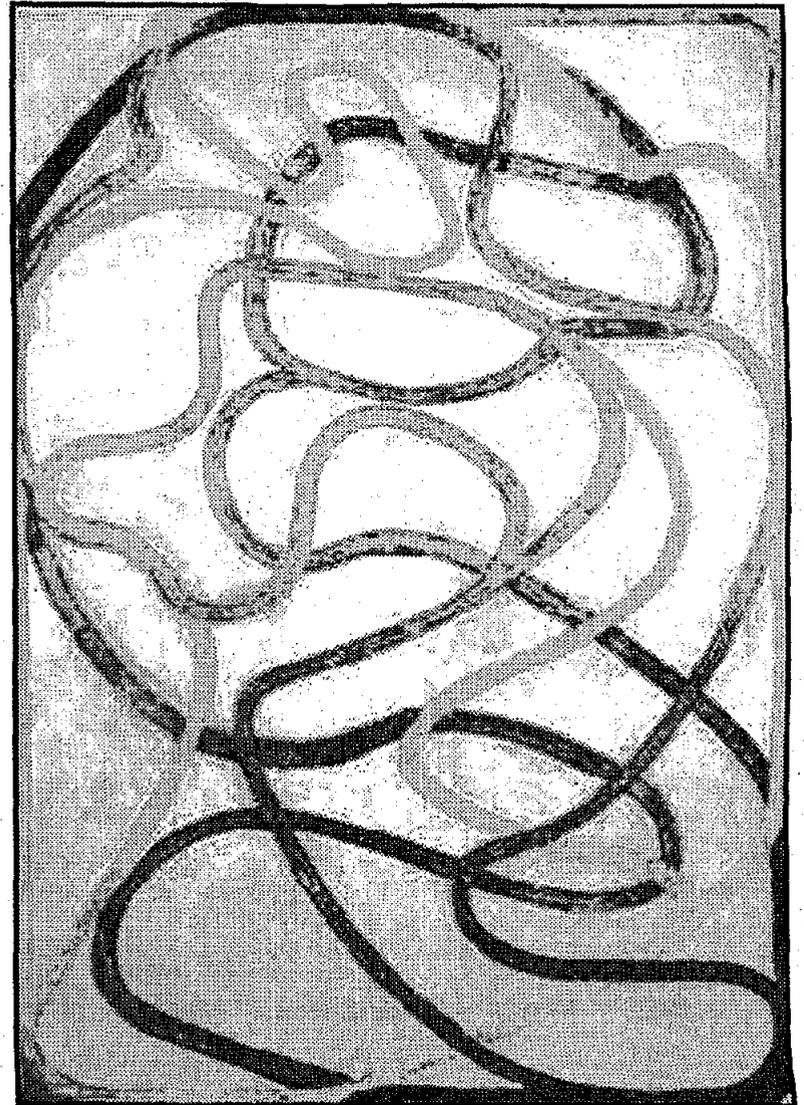
The most important idea for truth in art is sincerity in action. Qualities of form, color, space, or whatever, do not interest me as much as this ideal. I can accept pictorial qualities with absence of sincerity but it would be a tough swallow. The reason why an artist creates what he or she does is the defining factor of my truth. My idea of sincerity stems from the sensibilities of why a piece of art was created. We never like a musical band that quote "sells out" or a politician telling us lies so why assign a different set of values to art? Probably the closest thing to a "rock star" the art world has ever and will see, Jean-Michel Basquiat artwork is lined with both creative purity and lies alike. Basquiat was never classically trained as an artist; his trademark primitivism is just as much a result of his lack of formal skills than it is a focused effort to create the art that he did. The important thing is that Basquiat created without regard to opinion. In his early work, before Andy Warhol and drugs, Basquiat painted a world that was important to him and not anyone else. This sincerity of purpose makes up in meaning for any technical shortcomings critics say he had. Former William Paterson University artist Corey Myers shares this same creative quality with Basquiat. From knowing Myers personally I know he creates for himself and without regard to anyone, and this is the type of expression is the kind of sincere

value that defines truth. The fact that one of his gesture paintings like "Delusion #4" is seemingly just tangled web of lines and not the Mona Lisa is insignificant. It is one of a series of paintings done for paintings sake and that makes it pure. Myers works shares unavoidable characteristics with that of Brice Marden. On the surface they share the same playful characteristics and the same methodology. That is where the similarity ends for beneath the skin lie two very different paintings.

Marden is a million dollar painter and the owners of his work flaunt their ownership like a new Rolex watch. His work is backed by so many scholars its nearly bullet proof. Marden specifically creates for audiences that consume his work and not for the spirit of creation. this makes it false in my view. Anyone can get one of Myers paintings for just a few hundred bucks and he will tell you himself he did it to make just it look good. A simplistic idea that I think many have forgotten. Fundamentally, Myers' calligraphic paintings are just as good if not better than Marden's but you will never hear that from another artistically informed person other than I for many art critics serve the same circles that make popular artists wealthy.

I believe more in a painting by Myers than I do of Marden regardless of informed idea's, it is a personal belief of what I think is good and not anyone else's. It is my truth.

So when you think a piece of art is ugly or pretty you are correct regardless of what any critic says, where not any smarter than you, we've just read more books.



Brice Marden "Attendant 5", Oil on Linen, 1996-99, price: \$1.5 to \$2,000,000

Things to go see

Museums	Galleries	On Campus
<p>1). The Metropolitan Museum of Art 1000 Fifth Ave. & 82nd St. New York, New York "Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman" thru March 8th the first comprehensive exhibition of the drawings of da Vinci in the U.S.</p> <p>2). Museum of Modern Art, Queens 33 Street at Queens Blvd. Long Island City, Queens "To Be Looked At": Painting and Sculpture from the Permanent Collection *Features famous works by Van Gogh, Matisse, and Picasso.</p> <p>3). Whitney Museum of American Art 945 Madison Ave & 75th St., New York, NY "The Quilts of Gee's Bend" thru March 9 *a exhibition of seventy quilts made in the 1920s to the 1990s by more than forty African-American women from the small rural community of Gee's Bend, Alabama.</p>	<p>1). Keith Haring Thru Feb. 8th Deitch Projects 76 Grand/18 Wooster, New York, NY * exhibition of large scale ink drawings by this popular street artist.</p> <p>2). "The Figure in American Art", Sixth Annual Exhibition Thru Feb. 1st Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, 119 Spring NY, NY *a collection of contemporary artists paint the human form. A change of pace from abstraction</p> <p>3). "African-American Art: 20th Century Masterworks, X" Thru March 8th Michael Rosenfeld Gallery 24 W 57, 7th fl, New York, NY *a profound collection of work from Harlem Renaissance artists like William H. Johnson, Aaron Douglas, Richmond Barthe' and many more. A must see.</p>	<p>1). An Exhibition of Artist's Books: Life with Pocket Change and Other Pleasures Oct. 21 - Dec. 6 Court Gallery Ben Shahn Hall</p> <p>2) Jihad Sharrief, "Paintings" thru Jan. 30th Tuna Gallery, Ben Shahn Hall * expressive, Graffiti - based paintings by WPU student Jihad Sharrief</p> <p>3) Giovanna Cecchgio, "The Large Scroll" power art gallery, off Hamburg Turnpike * former WPU masters student Giovanna Conchetta unveils her thesis project.</p>

for info e-mail www.abstracts10@yahoo.com

Estrogen

30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade marked by rally

By Lori Michael
The Beacon

"A time to gather stones together" - Ecclesiastes. Tuesday January 22 marked the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Across the country, supporters for, as well as those opposed to abortion, expressed their views and beliefs concerning the 1973 Supreme Court ruling.

A rally in front of the Capital on the anniversary each year is a "normal" occurrence. This year's rally is even more important because the GOP now controls both the Congress and the White House.

The GOP is planning a ban of late-term abortions. Congress had passed this ban in '96 and '97, but former president Clinton vetoed it both times. Bush, however, intends to pass the ban.

Huge posters of aborted fetuses, along with many reli-

gious artifacts were displayed by the pro-lifers as they marched from the Washington Monument.

When they reached the Supreme Court, they encountered the pro-choice side. Both sides conducted their own candlelight vigil in front of Supreme Court.

"For people to understand the horror of what abortion is, they have to see it," said C. Fletcher Armstrong of the Center for Bioethical Reform. "It's just like people have to go to the Holocaust Museum here [Washington, D.C.] to see what the Holocaust was all about."

Many pro-choice people are concerned about the possible resignation of a Supreme Court judge because Bush would appoint a someone who is anti-abortion. Currently, the Supreme Court favors abortion 5-4 majori-

ty. Some states have even tried taking abortion rights out of the hands of their citizens. In

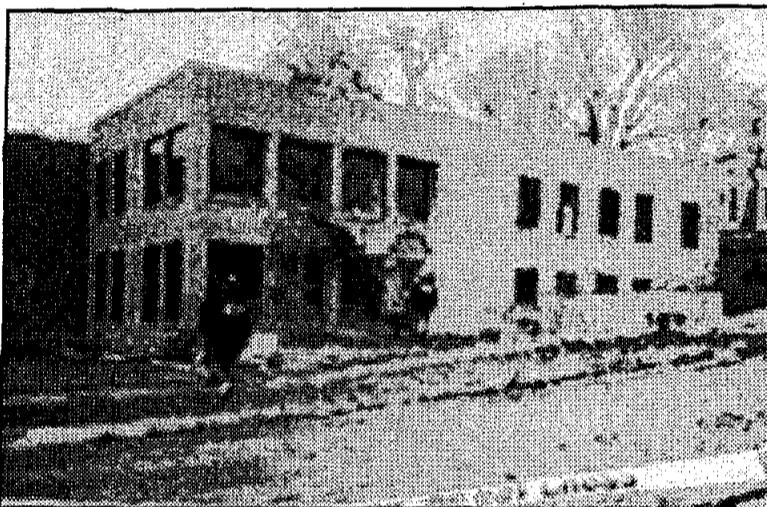
nancy abortion becomes infanticide and set criminal penalties for such cases.

Many abortion clinics

whelming number of threats. In addition, doctors are reluctant to teach medical students the procedure.

According to the Washington Post, researchers from the Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that 1,819 physicians performed abortions in 2000, a decrease from 2,000 four years earlier. In addition, 87 percent of U.S. counties do not have an abortion provider.

"In our time, respect for the right to life calls us to defend the sick and the dying, persons with disabilities and birth defects, and all, who are weak and vulnerable," said President Bush at a St. Louis rally "And this self-evident truth calls us to value and to protect the lives of innocent children waiting to be born."



Bombed abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama

Utah, a lawmaker introduced a bill to mark the 30th anniversary. It defined at what stage of preg-

have received death, bomb, and even anthrax threats yearly. Some places have closed because of the over-

Cheap mail Order Asian Brides Straight Out of California!

Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

Most college students, especially those here at William Paterson, may have felt the pain of staying up all night writing a paper you didn't want to do, on a subject you couldn't care about in the least, that you were probably just writing for a required class anyway. Another thought you may be dwelling on is, "who the fuck is reading this paper anyway." In reality, all you're really doing is writing a paper that one other person in the universe is going to read. What if you really loved your paper, nurtured it, made love to every key on your computer while you were typing it, only to have your recognition be a simple letter in red ink on top of your name?

These were the exact thoughts of the creator of www.bigbadchinesemama.com, a website started by Kristina Sheryl Wong, who thought up the website during her last year of college at UCLA. Big Bad Chinese Mama is a mock mail order bride website that smashes the Americanized view of Asian women as passive women willing to do anything for the male sex. The website includes a "harem of angst" that displays pictures of not too submissive Asian women that look more like they could kick male ass instead of cater to it. There's also a "pranks" section, a "mani-

festos" section by the creator, and an "order your bride" section where you can order not a mail order bride, but a feminist t-shirt designed by Wong herself.

Wong rips up and knocks down stereotypes associated with Asian women in her manifesto. She states that she is an "anti-geisha" and goes on to describe her "alluring" qualities as being fond of picking her nose while driving and flicking her boogers out of her car window, having gigantic size 9 1/2 feet, and an ass that needs to go to the gym.

Watch out boys, this isn't a girl that's going to ask you if you want chop sticks or not, in fact, she'll likely shove them up your ass - without question.

Wong's reasons for designing the site were simple. "With an upcoming proposal for my senior project due, I refused to write another half-assed paper that would be read by only two eyes and tossed afterwards," said Wong. "I wanted to utilize an accessible medium for audiences inside

and out of the Asian American Community."

Big Bad Chinese Mama is marketed as an Asian porn site so as to catch people looking for Asian mail order brides. People typing in "mail order brides" into a search engine will most likely find this website next to the real thing. For those that stumble

another culture. Wong says, "The idea behind my site is to catch the oppressor in the act of oppression and use my personal sense of humor as a political force. I wanted to subvert the expectations of a nasty guy in search of petite naked Asian bodies by showing him the full ugliness of "sweet Asian girls."

The perfect format for intercepting these visitors was to market my site as Asian porn."

The unfortunate problem with the internet these days is that it seems like no matter what you're looking for, be it tablecloths or hardcore Asian porn, porn sites pop up all over the place. The problem is

word "sandbox" online from stumbling onto sites such as porn sites with the words "eat my box" on it.

With Big Bad Chinese Mama the situation is reversed, bringing some good into the mix of porn and oppressive real life Asian mail order bride sites.

When in fact porn seekers do stumble onto this anti-porn website, they're greeted with a kick butt explanation of the website first thing. Wong greets her guests with the words, "Inside are contained the "demure lotus blossoms," the "geishas," the "oriental sluts" -- whatever you had imagined in your patriarchal, colonialist longings. These women will take you by storm (and will kick your ass). Yeah, you've seen mail order bride sites before, you may have even surfed over to an Asian porn site, but never in your wildest culturally commodifying sick sexual desires, have you been schooled by women (womyn) like this!"

Feminists looking for a comedic approach to the movement should definitely check out this site. If you need a break from the technicalities but necessary words of www.now.org and want a breath of fresh air, type in www.bigbadchinesemama.com and see what it's all about.



Kristina Sheryl Wong, creator of Big bad Chinese mama

upon the site accidentally, it gives Wong a chance to kick up her opinions in the face of those looking to get laid by exploiting

slowly being solved by the work of cyber nannies. Cyber nannies serve us by stopping the eight year old who is looking up the

Hang Onto Your Ovaries girls, George is on a Rampage

Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

This past week has marked the anniversary for the landmark Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court case, which allowed women control over their reproductive rights. Unfortunately, our man in office right now is trying to strip these rights and take them away from women slowly but surely, and a lot more is going on than most women know about. The ability to have control over one's own body isn't a privilege; it's a right that should never have been questioned. Imagine for a second that the President made it his responsibility to decide who you had sex with, when it was allowed to happen and the consequences that would ensue if you broke any of his rules, ridiculous, right? Well, that is how women all over the nation feel about their right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

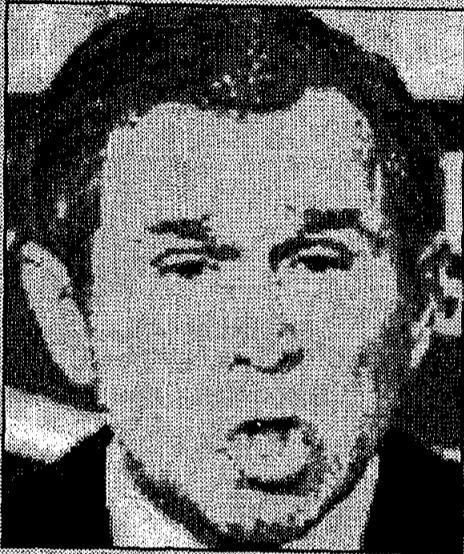
Our current President has an agenda to "establish the legal principle of fetal personhood," which consists of the following points that have either been successfully voted into action or are currently pending.

First, Bush has successfully made fetuses eligible for cover-

age under the State health Insurance Program. Unfortunately for the women that are CARRYING the fetuses, they are not covered, even for life or health threatening conditions during pregnancy. Also, Bush has included fetuses as persons monitored by the Center for Disease Control's panel regulating human clinical trials. Bush now plans to sign the Unborn Victims of Violence Act now pending in Congress which would allow an individual who harms or kills a pregnant woman to be charged with a separate offense for harming the zygote, blastocyst, embryo or fetus in her body. It seems like Bush is planning to ignore and continue to under-fund the problem of violence against women.

President Bush also seems to think that unsafe, illegal abortions are a good idea. His plan to reinstate the global gag rule is now in affect, which disqualifies any international group from receiving U.S. funds if they even mention abortion when providing medical information to their patients. Another brilliant plan that Bush now has running is to withhold \$34 million from the

United Nations Population Fund, which provides HIV/AIDS education, sterile birthing kits and contraceptive



"I'm protecting your ovaries from terrorism!"

information to poor women worldwide. The likely result of this genius plan is two million unwanted pregnancies, 800,000 more abortions, 4,700 dead mothers and 77,000 deaths among children under the age of 5 years old. Of course, ridiculous actions like that of our President can't be looked at as any big shock, because this was the man who cut off

Center's For Disease Control's sex education program because it tells parents how to talk to their kids about contraception and disease prevention. Bush is increasing funding for abstinence-only programs. That's right, Bush's answer to sex education is just don't have sex. This advice may be the most affective against STD's and unwanted pregnancy but also the least realistic. Face it President Bush, your nation is going to have sex whether you want them to or not.

Some more brilliant de-funding women's health clinics by amending Title X, a family planning program, to deny federal funds to any organization that provides abortion services with private funds, which basically translates to more than one million low-income women losing contraceptive and other preventive health care. Gee, thanks George. Also pending is an idea to deny federal funding to schools that provide their students with the "morning after pill," and to discourage emergency contraceptive use even for victims of rape or incest. Basically, George thinks it's a good idea for rape victims to be carrying around their attacker's child in their

uteri.

It's a well-known fact that George is all about military domination, strengthening our armed forces at any given opportunity, but what we don't know is that all this martial love apparently excludes the women fighting for this country. Bush has just gotten rid of a bill that allowed women serving in the U.S. military overseas to use their own money to pay for abortions at military hospitals. Now our female soldiers will have to jeopardize their health and lives by traveling long distances in foreign countries or using inadequate, illegal or dangerous local facilities should they need abortion services.

Last but not least, George Bush has just put anti-abortion activist Dr. David Hager on the FDA's influential Reproductive Health Drug's Advisory Committee. In case you didn't know who Hager was, he's the genius Christian faith healer whose advice to women with incredibly painful PMS is to pray. Aside from the fact that this idiot knows nothing about painful PMS because he's genetically incapable of it, any man who tells a woman going through PMS to pray will most likely find a fist in his face.

When Good Words Go Bad

Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

Aside from brutal instinct, the main thing that every culture on this planet has in common is language. Through their own separate vernacular, each pocket of people in every nation have their own way of speaking with one another. It seems like anything these days can spur a revolution of sorts amongst the people, or at least a minor argument at a dinner table, and language is one of those topics. Not too long ago people were laughing on one side and on the other whole heartedly fighting for Ebonics to be looked at as a new voice for the people in urban communities all over this country. I myself was one of the ignorant few laughing and pointing at politicians who were rooting for Ebonics but eventually, I'm proud to say that I learned the error of my ways.

As a feminist I can say from personal experience that its absolutely necessary, and entirely normal to make a "big deal" over something that affects you, or the group you belong to, as people. For example, feminists have their own problems with language and the way people refer to everyday objects or phrases without even realizing it. The most recent issue of "Bitch" magazine, which concerns feminist response to pop culture, has an article called "The common guy" by Audrey Bilger on the phrase "you guys" which makes femaleness invisible by referring to every group of people with the same gender stamp. Like Bilger admits, I too am guilty

of using this phrase time and time again; the idea isn't to fix it overnight or look down on anyone for using the phrase, but first to bring awareness to the fact that these things are being said.

Another example can be the words "pussy" and "ballsy". For anyone that has used these words in everyday conversation you know that calling someone a "pussy" refers to them as weak, or any other derogatory term that is attached to the word. The word "ballsy", however, is linked to a courageous action. Basically, the slang term for the female genitalia is looked at as beneath the slang term for the males.

The problem with these words and phrases is that they've been ingrained so deeply into our culture that no one thinks to worry about it, or opposition to the word usage is laughed at. In fact, through American television the use of "you guys" is being spread to other countries like Canada and Australia. Bilger also points out in her article that Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary "tells us that 'guys' may be 'used in plural to refer to member's of a group regardless of sex'." I myself would look at a dictionary as being a good source of reference. However, Merriam Webster is the dictionary that has the word "wicked" as synonymous with the word "black." It may be a stretch to call Merriam Webster chauvinistic and racist, but again, its something that should be considered a possibility.

Read My Cunt a book review

Lauren Talarico
The Beacon

"Does that really say what I think it does?" asks a blond haired girl upon noticing the book lying out on my desk.

"Cunt?" I ask. Her jaw drops and her eyes widen, shocked that I actually said such a filthy word out loud. I love her reaction.

"Yeah," I reply, smiling. She stares at me in disgusted disbelief.

"Well, I find that really offensive."

"Why?" I ask, confused. Too appalled and annoyed to even argue, she rolls her eyes and walks away.

Poor, un-liberated girl, she has no idea that the word cunt is related to words from India, China, Ireland, Rome, and Egypt; words that were titles of respect towards priestesses and goddesses. Bitch and whore too. She has no idea that it's the patriarchal society in which we live that has made these words dirty.

Cunt, by Inga Muscio, explores both the etymology of the word and the wonders of the anatomical jewel. She covers just about everything, with chapters entitled "Blood and Cunts," "Orgasms from Cunts" and "Acrimony of Cunts" just to name a few. Muscio takes this book from informative and instructional, teaching you how to keep track of your cycle by observing the moon and how to use sea sponges, to extremely personal, telling stories of her self induced abortion and the rape

of her mother. This book is an introduction to feminism like no other, written with insight, honesty, and humor.

The best part, though, is the section in the end called "The Cuntlovin' Guide to the Universe." This guide provides a list of magazines, websites, movies, record labels, and sex shops that are run by women, made by women, and are woman oriented. The guide is complete with a reading list. This book is an excellent start for anyone looking to learn more about feminism and the "Cuntlovin' Guide" points you in the right direction to further your feminist knowledge.



THE BEACON COMICS

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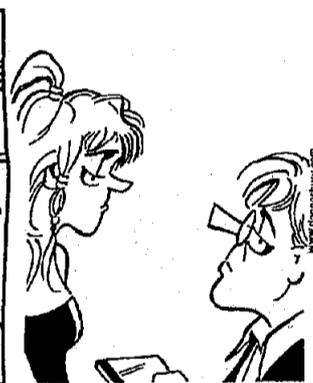


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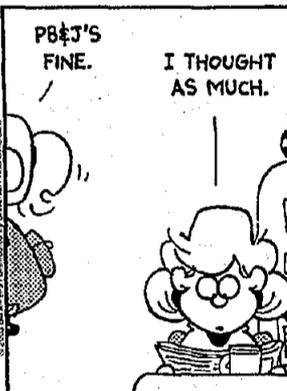
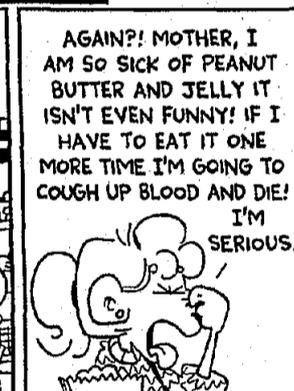


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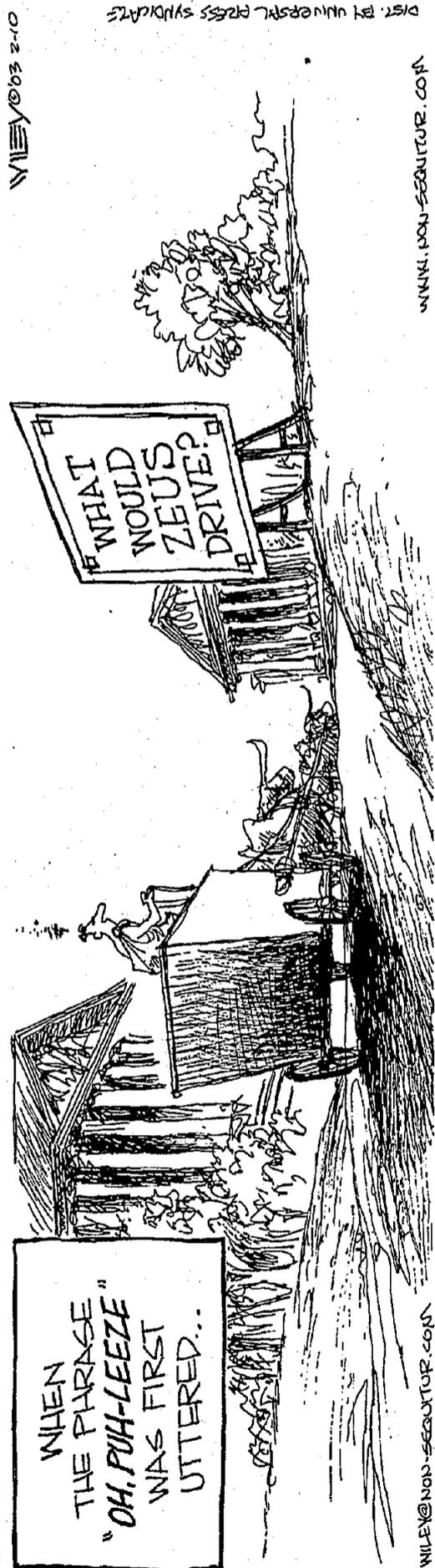
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WHEN THE PHRASE "OH, PUH-LEEZE" WAS FIRST UTTERED..



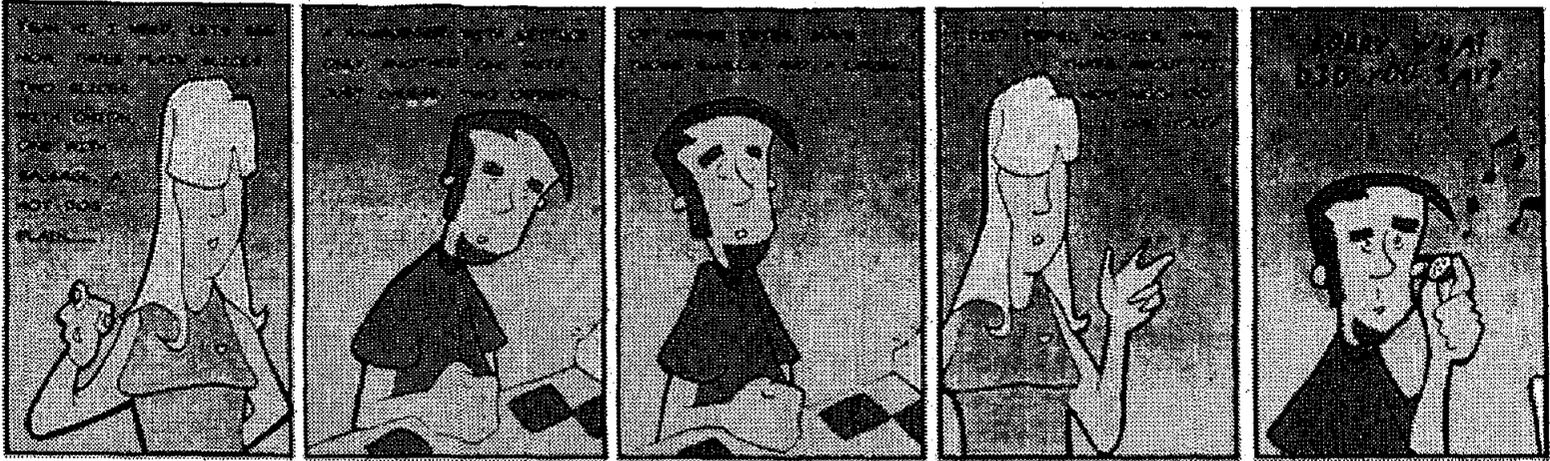
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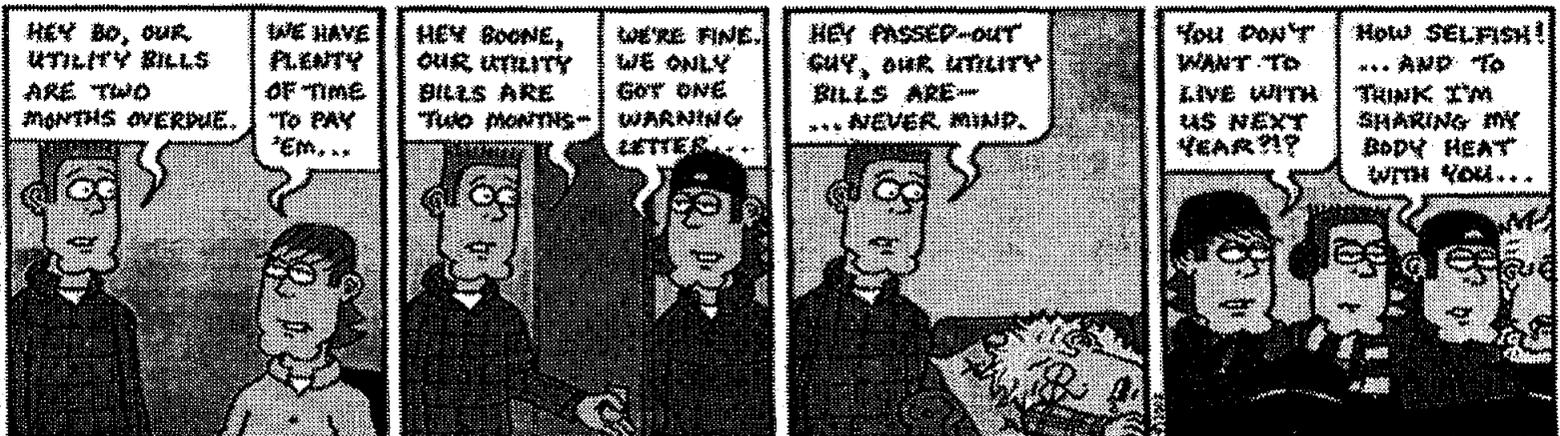
A DAY'S WORK



LEX

LEX

by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)



THE CYNIC



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SAPB Winterfest 2003 "Snowballin'...out of control"



Day 1

"Pub... Our of Control"

Promo Night at Billy Pat's Pub
Thursday January 23, 2003
9pm - 1am

\$1 Admission WPU ID ONLY
Giveaways, Music, and Fun!
Music by: Kingstone Entertainment

Day 2

"Snowboarding... Out of Control"

Snowboarding Trip to Camelback ski area in PA
Saturday January 25, 2003

Bus Leaves Lot 5 at 10 AM
WPU \$15 - Guest \$20

See Ginny Way in SC 312 for tickets

Day 3

Spin Art Cookies and Hot Cocoa

Common Hour 11-3 pm

Poetry Jam 2003

Billy Pat's Pub
Tuesday January 28, 2003

7:30 - 10 pm
Admission \$2 WPU ID only

Day 4

Dinner and a Movie

"Kiss the Girls" & "Along Came a Spider"
Wednesday January 29, 2003

Student Center Ballroom 6pm - 12am

Day 5

Slushies and Big Snowman Pies

Common Hour 11 - 3 pm

"Laughin... Out of Control"

Comedy Show Starring:

Michael Blackson, Michael Yard, "Mugga" & Shorty
Thursday January 30, 2003 at Billy Pat's Pub
8 - 10 pm - \$2 Admission WPU ID only

Afterparty

Billy Pat's Pub

\$1 Admission WPU ID only "Food and Giveaways"
Music by: DJ Nix in the Mix

Day 6

"Casino Night"

Billy Pat's Pub - Friday January 31, 2003
8 - 11 pm FREE

Day 7

Frosted Twilight Ball

Saturday Feb 1, 2003
8-12 am SC Ballroom

\$10 per person, 8 per table, *Table discount \$65
Live Entertainment by: True Essence
Music by: DJ ICE

Lady Pioneers Go Four Straight

Matt DeFranza
The Beacon

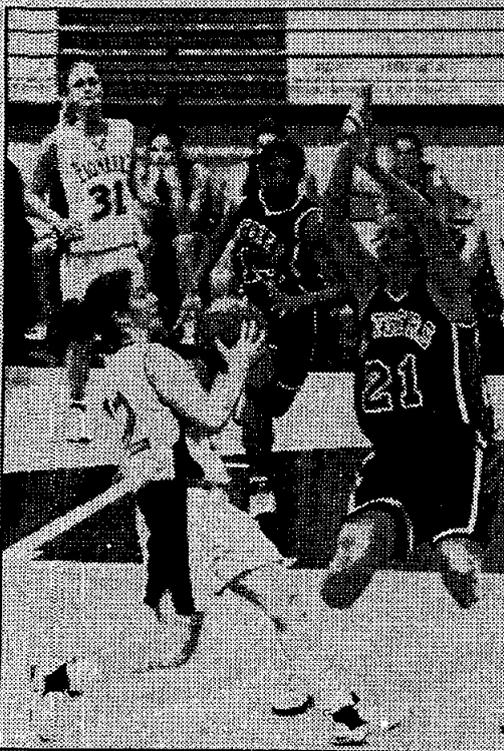
On Saturday January 18, the Lady Pioneers (7-8, 4-4 NJA) battled Rutgers-Camden Raptors (10-4-4NJAC) in a fierce competition at the Rec Center. The night was cold, but the game was red hot.

As tough as the competition was, the Lady Pioneers were only trailing by two points at halftime after coming back from a fourteen point deficit in the half. As the game continued the Lady Pioneers picked up a six point lead, only to go point for point with the Raptors in the final two minutes of the game. Tensions were high with less than two seconds remaining, when Senior forward Jeanine Day drew a foul. This put the game into overtime, with both teams tied at 73. A quick five point run put the Lady Pioneers back in control of the game. After five minutes, the Lady Pioneers put the Raptors in their place and ended the game 86-79.

Cheryl Kulesa of Rutgers-Camden leads the league in steals with 69 as of

January 12. William Paterson's Katie Morris is not far behind her in sixth place with 63 steals. Senior Kat McPhail led the Lady Pioneers in points with 26. Seniors Jeanine Day and Katie Morris also contributed 16 points and 11 points respectively, while freshman Allison Mopsick scored 17.

The women fared a little bit better against Rowan than the men did, beating The Profs 76-64.



Kat McPhail drives to the hoop against Rutgers-Camden
photo by Matt DeFranza

for their fourth straight win Wednesday night at Esby Gymnasium.

McPhail has now produced double-digit scoring performances in her last eight games for the Pioneers (8-8, 5-4 NJAC), who are .500 for the first time since Nov. 23. Senior guard Katie Morris (Deptford, NJ) finished with 13 points and eight assists, senior forward Jeanine Day (Green Brook, NJ/Kearny) added 10 points and 11 rebounds to go with five blocks,

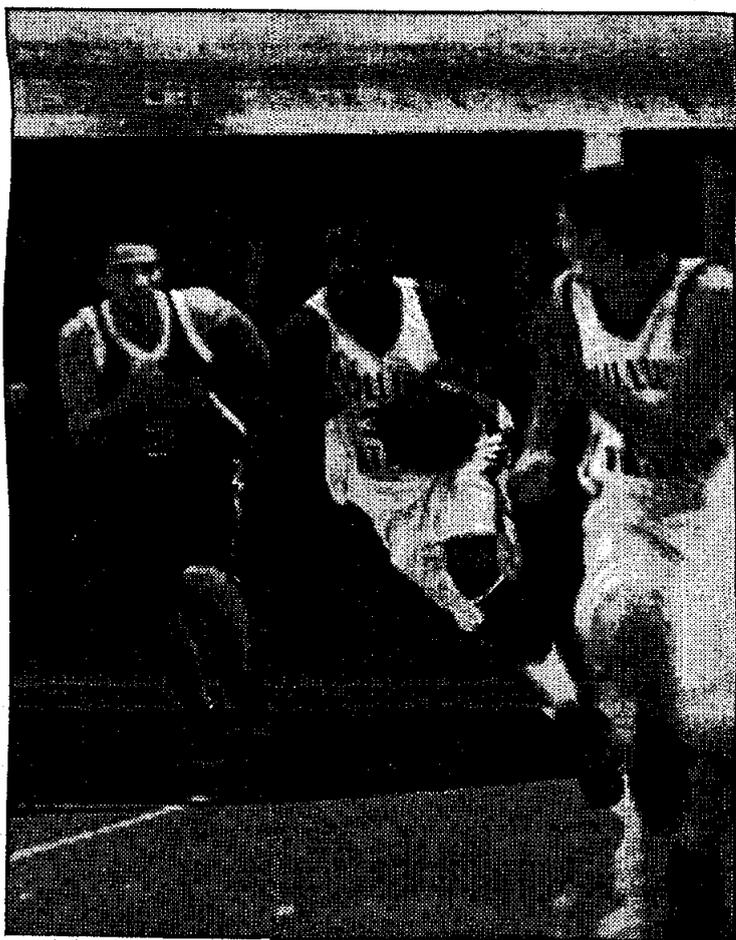
and junior guard Jessica Ruggini (Somerville, NJ) also dropped in 10 points.

William Paterson led 41-33 at halftime after using a 15-2 outburst midway through the first half to take a 35-22 lead. Sophomore center Adrienne Kopko (Franklinville, NJ/Delsea Regional) scored all nine points in the first 20 minutes, while McPhail dropped in eight.

However, Rowan battled back and held a 58-56 lead with 8:14 left before the Pioneers responded and forged a 60-60 tie. Freshman forward Meghan Ludgate (Palermo, NJ/Ocean City) knocked down a free throw to give the Pioneers the lead for good, 61-60, with 6:48 left. McPhail took over from there, sinking a big 3-pointer that made it 64-60 with 6:02 left. She also knocked down four free throws during the game-deciding outburst.

The next home game for the Lady Pioneers will be Wednesday the 29th at 8 pm in the Rec. Center. Following that, they will square off against Rowan on Saturday, February 1 at 4pm.

Men Take 12 in a Row



Khayri Battle takes control of the court.

photo by Matt DeFranza

Matt DeFranza
The Beacon

Immediately following a women's victory over Rutgers-Camden, the Pioneers Men Basketball team (13-2, 7-1 NJAC) took on the Rutgers-Camden Scarlet

Raptors (5-9, 1-7 NJAC). The Pioneers had just come off a huge overtime win against rival Montclair State (12-1, 6-1 NJAC), ending Montclair's 12 game win streak and putting the Pioneers into a position to set a new record for the longest win streak during a single season.

The Men trailed by a mere four points at halftime, only to bring it all around and take the win away from Rutgers-Camden. Junior forwards Khayri Battle (Newark, NJ/Bayley-Ellard) and Rory Caswell both scored 15 points before ending the game with their 13th consecutive win, a 62-59 triumph over a scrappy Rutgers-Camden squad Saturday at the Rec Center.

The Pioneers were one win away from tying their school record of 14 straight wins, set from Jan. 16 through Feb. 24, 1984 but Rowan shattered those dreams on Wednesday at Esby Gymnasium with a 79-55 victory over the Pioneers.

The loss ends the second longest winning streak in school history for the Pioneers (now 13-3, 7-2 NJAC), ranked No. 25 by D3hoops.com. Their last loss before Wednesday came on Nov. 26, a 76-57 setback at Ramapo.

Senior forward Terrance McNeal (Cape May Courthouse, NJ/Middle Township) scored a season-high 14 points to go with six rebounds, while senior forward Keyth Hardy (Plainfield, NJ/Middlesex) and junior guard Brandon Constantine (Teaneck, NJ) chipped in 10 apiece.

The Men's Basketball team will be taking on Ramapo on Wednesday the 29th at 6 pm in the Rec. Center. Their next home game after that will be Saturday Feb. 1 against Rowan at 2 p.m. for some retribution.

SCOREBOARD CENTRAL

Allison mopsick
The Beacon

The Pioneer winter sports teams kept the school alive over break while continuing their schedules. The men's basketball team started their break with a game against Lehman on Saturday, December 22. The final score was Pioneers 79 and Lehman 53. The Pioneers continued their winning streak defeating York, John Jay, USMMA, SUNY New Paltz, FDU-Florham, and Rutgers-Newark. Besides the York game, which had a score of 62-59, the games were not all that close. Perhaps the biggest win of the season came against Montclair when the Pioneers handed them their first loss of the season. Their record after that confrontation was 12-2. In addition to that, The Pioneers rolled over Rutgers Camden with a 62-59 victory to bring them to 13 straight wins, their second longest in Pioneers history. Unfortunately after that, the Pioneers fell to Rowan in a 79-55 loss, bringing their record to 13-3, 7-2 NJAC.

In other men's basketball news, junior forward Khayri Battle earned the weekly honor as ECAC Metro Region Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the second time. Along with

that award, Battle was also highlighted in the NJAC as player of the week.

The women's basketball team headed down to Florida the day after Christmas for the AmeriSport Land of Magic Classic held in Daytona. There, the girls took on Denison of Ohio, losing by three while defeating Washington College, of Maryland 72-62. Once back in New Jersey, the team battled with the College of Staten Island coming up short 70-63. Rutgers-Newark was the next win for the Lady Pioneers, defeating them 70-59 while defeating Montclair at home 64-58. At this point, the Lady Pioneers boasted a 6-8 record. Two more wins followed, one against Rutgers-Camden last Saturday, and the other this past Wednesday against Rowan. The scores of those two games were 62-55 and 76-64 respectively. These last four wins have brought the Pioneers up to a .500 record for the season at 8-8, 6-4 NJAC.

Make sure to check the winter sports schedule so you can support your Pioneers.

The Beacon needs sports writers. Email beacon@student.wpunj.edu for details!