



## Planning the future of WPU



Assistant softball coach Vanessa Lenoir examines suggestions regarding WPU's athletic fields at last week's Charette. Approximately 450 students and faculty attended the event.

What do students want? More buildings, more parking and renovations costing millions of dollars, according to WPU Master Planning Committee's "Charette"

By Larry Clow  
The Beacon

Imagine this: you drive through Entry 4 near the library, passing the William Paterson University Visitor's Center. A tree-lined road, starting where Row A in lot 5 used to be, leads you around campus. You pass the new residence hall behind Century and Hillside and speed by the Rec Center, now nearly double its original size. The road brings you to the new four-story parking garage behind the Student Center. You park, catch the elevator, and walk into the heart of campus.

This could be the WPU of the future, based on suggestions and comments obtained at the

University Master Planning Committee's "Charette," held last week in the Student Center.

"We've come a long way as an institution over the last couple of decades," said Arnold Speert, university president. "... We need to take stock of who we are and what we're doing."

Over the course of two days, the Student Center Café housed building blueprints and sitemaps of the university, as members of the Master Planning Committee and consultants from The Saratoga Associates, a group of architects, engineers and planners, consulted with students, compiled suggestions, and drew up plans for the future of the university.

Students were encouraged to walk through and write suggestions on the maps as well as answer a series of 13 questions, with topics ranging from "What do you consider the heart of campus?" to "What is your most memorable experience

at William Paterson?"

Over 300 students, staff, and faculty signed up for the event, while approximately another 150 walked through and participated, according to Bob Bennett, assistant vice-president of capital planning for WPU.

The culmination of the Charette was a two-hour presentation of new concepts to the campus community.

"We don't have any answers," said Michael Rudden, a member of the Saratoga Associates. "What we do have are emerging concepts."

### Land rich, site poor

Those emerging concepts include the upcoming Wayne Hall/Student Center expansion; extensive renovations to the Science Building, Rec Center, and Shea Center; a new residence hall; and the relocation of several university departments.

Continued on page 6

## Parking problems continue, but solutions are near

By Steve DeGennaro  
The Beacon

Mention the word "parking" and chances are William Paterson students will cringe in terror. Full lots, too many reserved parking spaces, 30-minute waits for spots—it's no surprise that parking provokes strong reactions from WPU students.

"Sometimes vehicles are parked in two spots at once," said one WPU senior. "Other times, you can wait an hour for a spot and someone will drive up out of nowhere and steal it from you."

According to one student, the best time to find a space is to arrive 15 minutes before classes start.

"The only way to find a spot is to come when classes are getting out," she said. "If you go early, you wind up waiting."

The chief complaints that commuter students have echoed over the years has been the lack of parking on campus.

Commuters who arrive on campus anytime after 8 a.m. will find Lot 5, which is opposite Wayne, White, and Matelson Halls, in a state of gridlock as students circle around the lot or line up and wait for other students to walk to their cars. Most students are forced to either arrive hours before their class is scheduled to begin, or park in Lot 6, which is near the Rec. Center and make the hike to the academic buildings.

Many students claim the university has done nothing to alleviate these problems, but that's not true, according to top university officials. For the last few months, the administration has been working hard to address the commuter-parking issues.

According to Police Chief Michael Horvath, the campus has 3,422 spaces on campus that students are allowed to park in. Lot 5 has 1,049 and in Lot 6 there are 942. If a student arrives at school by 7:30 a.m., Horvath said he or she can see that Lot 5 is nearly filled with resident student's vehicles.

"Parking has gotten worse since I got here," said junior Josh Viera. "There are less spots every time. I have to get here at 7 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. class."

A new parking lot, which can hold 275 vehicles, has been completed at the Valley Road campus. Students have not yet had a need to utilize that lot as of yet, Horvath said.

"As more and more classes are scheduled at [Valley Road] it should free up space at the main campus," Horvath said.

According to Steve Bolyai, vice president of administration and finance, the Master Planning Committee is in the middle of a process to look at the facilities and infrastructure of the campus. The University has hired an engineer to look at the traffic patterns as part of a larger master plan.

"There will be no radical changes [made to parking] until we get findings from the traffic engineer," Bolyai said.

Continued on page 4

## Essence holds Langston Hughes poetry night

By Jim Schofield  
The Beacon

The poetry of Langston Hughes and a jazz trio served as a backdrop for Essence Magazine's open mic night on Feb. 19.

The first hour of the event was dedicated to readings of Langston Hughes' poetry by Essence President Lori Michael, James Suit, Christina Cummings and Andrew Visconti. Following this, students were permitted to come to the mic and read their own poetry, tell stories or perform music, all staples of Essence events.

The event was "well attended" according to Michael.

During the readings of

Hughes' poetry, Essence provided a trio of jazz musicians with flute, drums and keyboard to provide background music to accompany the poetry.

"He is one of my favorite poets because his whole style is different than anyone else's," said Michael. "He set the stage for many poets to follow."

Essence holds a number of open mics and poetry nights throughout the year with a variety of different themes. Essence also puts out a yearly literary magazine. Submissions can be sent to: essencepres03@yahoo.com anytime before February 28.

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"Above Black" reviewed  
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# the beacon weekly

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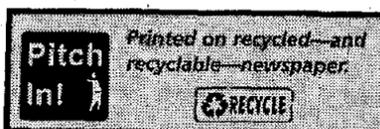
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## Calendar of Events

### Monday 02•24

Mass  
Prince of Peace Chapel  
12:30 p.m.

SGA Club Presidents Meeting  
SC 203  
4 p.m.

Poetry Slam  
featuring MUMS  
sponsored by SAPB & NAACP  
SC Ballroom  
7 p.m.

### Tuesday 02•25

Majors and Minors Day  
SC Ballroom  
11:30 - 1:30

Mass  
Prince of Peace Chapel  
12:30 p.m.

Beacon Staff meeting  
SC 310  
Common hour

### Wednesday 02•26

SAPB Meeting  
SC 203  
5 p.m.

SABLE Meeting  
Towers Pavillion  
8 p.m.

"Jake's Women"  
Black Box Theatre  
8 p.m.

### Thursday 02•27

SGA Executive Board Meeting  
SC 326  
4 p.m.

Spotlight Series  
Center Cafe  
6 p.m.

"Jake's Women"  
Black Box Theatre  
12:30 and 8 p.m.

### Friday 02•28

Entries due for Essence  
Magazine  
email:  
essencepress03@yahoo.com  
for details

Mass  
Prince of Peace Chapel  
5 p.m.

"Jake's Women"  
Black Box Theatre  
8 p.m.

### Saturday 03•01

Sister to Sister Conference  
SC Ballroom  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pioneer Basketball vs. Stockton  
Men: 2 p.m.  
Women: 4 p.m.

"Jake's Women"  
Black Box Theatre  
8 p.m.

### Sunday 03•02

Mass  
Prince of Peace Chapel  
10:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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.

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



## Chickens are newest US defense strategy

By Jessica Lancellotti  
The Beacon

The possible war with Iraq will feature some of the most sophisticated military weaponry seen on the battlefield; however, U.S. Military forces will be using slightly less complex equipment for chemical defense: chickens.

Operation Kuwaiti Filed Chicken (KFC) is a highly sensitive defense mechanism of U.S. military strategy in Iraq. As part of the operation, Kuwaiti chickens (called Poultry Chemical Confirmation Devices by the soldiers) are caged and mounted on the Hum-Vees of U.S. troops to detect the presence of deadly biological and chemical weapons. If chemical weapons are present, the chickens will die, signaling to the soldiers to don their gas masks. Military officials are concerned that pollution from destroyed oil fields might inhibit

the efficiency of this "sophisticated detection equipment."

However, chickens won't always be present, in which case troops will engage in the process of "selective unmasking" to detect chemical weapons. During "selective unmasking," two soldiers of varying size and race will remove their gas masks while remaining troops observe the skin and pupils of the unmasked to determine if chemicals are still present.

Kuwaiti cocks are no strangers to international conflict. During the Gulf War, previous poultry generations were drafted by the United States for their sensitive biological and chemical detection systems.

Compiled from Google.com and Time.com news reports

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# News in Brief

By Jim Schofield and Kari Mozian  
The Beacon

### International

#### Philippine leaders respond cautiously to combat roles for US Soldiers

The US is sending roughly 350 special operations troops, primarily composed of Army Green Berets, to assist the Philippine soldiers as they fight against Abu Sayyaf rebels. While responding to Washington's disclosure of the deployment of these troops, the Philippine leaders were careful with their wording.

"I am categorically saying that anything that they say that contradicts the constitution and the laws will not materialize," states Defence Secretary Angelo Reyes. When asked if the US troops would have combat roles he replied, "That is a matter for lawyers to decide." This matter is controversial due to recent decisions by the Philippine Supreme Court which have interpreted certain clauses in their Constitution as prohibiting foreign troops from fighting on Philippine soil in the absence of a formal treaty.

This conflict differs from the usual way that the United States participates in joint efforts with the Philippines. In this war effort, the US is fighting along side the Philippine soldiers in direct combat, when in the past, the Americans were there largely as advisors.

The US became involved in this conflict last year when it was discovered that the Abu Sayyaf rebels and the Jemaah Islamiyah, an Indonesian extremist network that has ties to Al-Qaeda, are associated with each other.

#### Turkey to Receive \$26 Billion for Military Assistance

Turkey will receive \$26 billion in aid for assisting the US in the establishment of military operations within the country. Turkey is a necessary ally for any northern invasion of Iraq because of their strategic location. Top Turkish officials said the deal will clear within the next couple days.

The money given to Turkey will come in the form of \$20 billion in loans and \$6 billion in grants, neither of which will need to be repaid.

The only other Security Council members that have opened their doors to military action are Bulgaria and Spain. The greatest opposition to the war effort comes from France and Germany; Russia, China and Syria, however, have also questioned the necessity of war. France, Russia and China are all permanent members of the Security Council and would have "veto power" over any resolution regarding Iraq.

### National

#### National Governors' Association hopes for increased federal funds to states

In a four day meeting that began on Saturday, the Governors of all 50 states and four territories attempted to put aside their differences and create a cohesive plan to present to the federal government which included a request for aid to ease struggling state finances.

Democrats offered scathing criticisms of Bush's current budget proposals and even many Republicans were questioning some specific aspects. Pennsylvania Governor and former head of the Democratic National Committee Ed Rendell, also criticized the President's earlier tax cuts, saying that because of them "there's no money."

Generally, the National Governors' Association produces a consensus statement signed by all participating states and territories in the hope that all the Governors acting in united in the spirit of bipartisanship can effectively influence federal policy through the President and Legislators.

#### Environmentalists express concern over dumping snow in rivers

Following the massive amounts of snow dropped in the Philadelphia and New York Tri-State Areas during the recent Snowpocalypse (see page 7), the snow removal capacities of several municipalities in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania were stretched to their limit. This led to the dumping of excess snow into waterways throughout the two states. Philadelphia officials dumped over 400,000 pounds of snow into the Schuylkill River. The depositing of snow in rivers is illegal in New Jersey, however, Governor McGreevey temporarily lifted the ban after declaring a state of emergency, allowing dumping in several municipalities on a case by case basis.

The Pennsylvania Director of Clean Water Action has suggested a clean alternative: the use of snow melting machines. New York City, which instituted a ban on dumping snow in rivers after the blizzard of 1996, owns and makes use of ten snow melting machines; Philadelphia currently owns only two. In New Jersey, most of the small municipalities do not have any machines. Environmentalists have expressed concern over the affect that road salt and other chemical substances present in the snow will have on the ecosystems of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey waterways and drinking water.

#### Random searches of vehicles at airports instituted

"In response to threats and intelligence information," the Transportation Security Administration ordered local police on February 8 to begin random searches of passenger vehicles approaching airports. While the agency asserts that it has both the mandate and the constitutional authority to do so, civil rights groups and legal scholars have questioned the legality. Several major airports have refused to comply with the directive, while others did so only after consulting legal scholars and independent agencies. Airport officials in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco contacted ACLU officials for their opinions on the policies before deciding whether or not to implement them.

#### Democrats crowd the 2004 primary with candidates

Eight candidates have declared their intentions to run for the 2004 democratic primary and five others are publicly considering it. At this rate, thirteen candidates could be running against each other for the Democratic nomination, adding to a public image of a party that lacks a coherent sense of itself.

Although Bush's practice of ignoring or marginalizing domestic concerns while implementing controversial foreign policy have caused his approval ratings to drop, the Democrats could still loose the 2004 election if they fail to present a united front behind a single candidate with clear policy initiatives other than an "anti-Bush" sentiment.

The current declared candidates in the 2004 Democratic primary are Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Missouri Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, Ohio Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich, Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, and the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York. Those who have publicly stated that they are considering it include Florida Sen. Bob Graham, Delaware Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., former NATO commander Wesley Clark of Arkansas, Connecticut Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, and former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart.

News in Brief has been compiled from the Philadelphia Inquirer online at <http://www.phillynews.com>.

## Enforcement key to solving parking problems

Parking, from page 1

Dean of Students John Martone said the Master Planning Committee has discussed solutions to the traffic congestion problem, as well as effective utilization of the shuttle service.

"One of the goals is to run the shuttle with dependability so students can count on it every 20 minutes," Martone said.

According to Martone, enforcing the parking regulations involves notifying students of the rules and making sure the rules are enforced through ticketing and towing cars. Martone said enforcement will send a clear message.

"If you don't do what you're going to do, you won't have something that's viable," Martone said. "If we have rules on the books, we need to enforce them, if they are reasonable."

Although freshman dormitory students are not allowed

to have cars on campus, Horvath said they often break the rule. In an attempt to enforce the policy, commuters would need to be issued parking decals. As it stands now, many commuters do not have decals, because they haven't been distributed for the past two years. Horvath urged commuters who do not currently have decals to register their car with the department of Public Safety.

According to Horvath, moving residents from Lot 5 to Lot 6 is another solution. He hopes that through working with Resident Life, this can be put into effect by the end of March.

Martone hopes the Facilities Master Plan will address a number of issues, such as where more parking is needed, which roadways need to be reworked, and whether or not a parking garage is necessary.

Martone admits everything is still in the discussion

phase. The administration has to look at it as a cohesive plan and not a temporary solution.

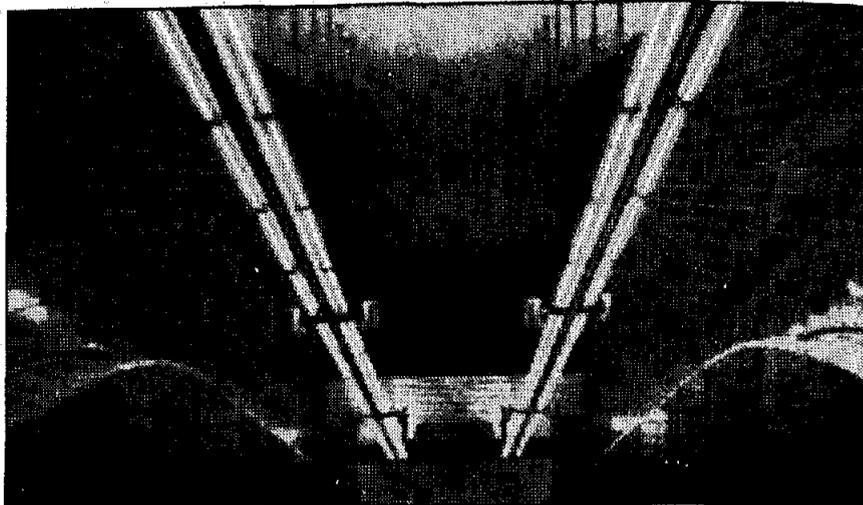
"The long term has to be looked at," he said.

Sophomore Brian Morris remains skeptical of the proposed plans.

"What other parking solutions can they think of that aren't long term projects? Construction is definitely not an issue because this is a problem that has to be solved now," he said.

Possible solutions were suggested by students at the University's Master Planning Committee's Charette last week. Utilization of parking spaces at Valley Rd. and a potential parking garage were some of the concepts presented by the Saratoga Associates consulting group at the conclusion of the Charette.

"Students need to tell us what they want," Martone said.



## "Exposed" at Power Arts

By Chris Moses  
The Beacon

Students, faculty, and friends all converged on the Power Arts gallery the evening of February 20 for the reception of "Exposed," a collection of student photography curated by Robin Schwartz, a photography instructor at William Paterson. The participating artists, Jennifer Baum, Jessica Castellano, Esti Herman, Lukas Kwiatek, Joseph Miller, Patricia Mulrahny, Angelica Munoz, Clifford Pagliara, and Paola Rached were all students in Schwartz's advanced photography projects course last semester.

Each of these artists submitted 10 pieces to the show to form a highly comprehensive evaluation of a semester's study and work.

"(The exhibition) gives the students a

chance to display their work in a professional atmosphere," said Schwartz. "The students put a large amount of work into their pieces and I only wish that the work gets to be seen and acknowledged, plus it will help them with the senior thesis projects."

Schwartz did not have to worry about the work going unseen; at least 60 to 70 people gathered in the gallery space at Power Art Building to see the exhibition. The attending crowd actively engaged the artwork on the wall, as well each other in dialogue, creating an atmosphere that can only benefit the participating students as some of them embark on professional careers as artists.

This exhibition can be seen at the Power Arts building until March 8.

# WPU Student Government Association

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# Bad weather, renovations, didn't stop laughs at "Jake's Women"

Review by Liz Fowler  
The Beacon

Upholding the tradition of "the show must go on," neither snow nor theatre renovations prevented the opening of Feb. 21 of the play, *Jake's Women*. Although it was only their second dress run, the cast gave an impressive performance at the Black Box Theatre.

Written by Neil Simon and directed by Jerry Beal, *Jake's Women* stars Chris Holle as Jake, the neurotic frustrated writer who's current relationship with his wife Maggie (Carol Greski) is quickly deteriorating. When his imagination runs amuck, the mind games begin.

Jake is having difficulty functioning in the "real world" so he makes up conversations in his mind. Jake confides in his nutty sister Karen (Lisa Nicholas), but when she goes off on a mother's

guilt soliloquy, Jake harnesses the psychologist Edith (Houda Razouki) who helps him realize that he has never overcome the death of his first wife, Julie (Jennifer Lengares). His imagination brings back Julie as she was in the beginning of their relationship. We are then introduced to his charming preteen daughter (Tiffany Groglio) who blossoms into a young woman (Danielle Jarensky). Fast forward to six months later, Jake is still separated from Maggie and more confused than ever. In the real world, Jake is dating Sheila (Graciela Gonzalez) whom he hopelessly tries to prove his sanity to. Jake then questions his life by asking "What if I married someone else? How would my life be different?"

At the end of the play, he summons up all the women and then Maggie from the "real world" walks in. It gets pretty predictable

from there.

Though the plot was rather repetitive and depressing, it was saved by a few humorous one-liners, excellent direction, and the cast's energetic performance. The minimal set allowed the actors' raw talent to shine through. Chris Holle gave a strong performance as the disenfranchised writer and many of the actresses displayed comedic talent.

The show runs Wednesday through Saturday, at 8 p.m. with an additional show at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. Tickets can be purchased for \$10, \$6 dollars with a William Paterson Student ID.

# University to host sixth annual "Sister to Sister" conference

A conference that will teach females how to achieve both academic and professional success will be held at William Paterson University on March 1.

The sixth annual Sister to Sister Conference, "The True Essence of a Woman: Strength, Dignity and Excellence," will be held in the Machuga Student Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free. Breakfast and lunch are included.

"The primary purpose of the conference is to give female students a safe environment in which to share ideas and beliefs and to discuss issues related to personal success," said Georgia Daniel, assistant dean, office of enrollment management, and conference chair. "We want students to leave from the conference with a greater sense of self-commitment to personal growth, and academic and career success."

Additional conference objectives include empowering students with knowledge of today's world, enhanc-

ing understanding of self, and identifying and respecting the importance of community and unity through interactions with diverse groups.

An opening ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. followed by a series of morning workshops. Topics to be discussed include self-esteem and respect; financial responsibilities; academic success; sex and health education; career and professional opportunities; and voter registration.

After a break for lunch, Montique Greenwood, author, former editor-in-chief of *Essence* magazine, journalist and motivational speaker, will present the keynote address, "Having What Matters." She is the co-founder and national president of the Go On Girl book club, and is the owner of a bed and breakfast inn. She has received numerous honors including the Points of Light Award for community activism, awarded by President George Bush.

For additional information, please call Georgia Daniel at 973-720-2929.

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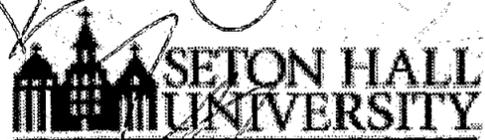
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# Charette offers students chance to plan future of campus

Continued from page 1

Using information compiled from students and faculty during the Charette, Rudden suggested that the first step for the university is to examine projects with short-term goals. This includes maximum utilization of the classrooms at the Valley Rd. building, landscaping and signage improvement, rerouting College Road, and completing overdue building upgrades on campus.

"We want to turn this campus back to what it was when it was brand new in 1950," he said.

Turning back the clock will cost close to \$63 million for construction alone, according to Rudden.

"It's actually a low number, because that only includes the cost of construction," said Steve Bolyai, assistant vice president of administration and finance. "There's another 30% in additional costs that would cover the architects and engineers we'd have to hire...the figure is closer to \$100 million."

Keeping the current buildings in repair is more important than new projects, according to sophomore Valerie Heruska.

"They should improve the old ones (buildings) before building a new one," she said. "If they can't maintain an old one, how will they maintain a new one?"

The university must also address the space needs of both academic and support services. According to Rudden, the solution is not to build, but to find a "strategic allocation of existing space." Possible changes include moving the admissions department to Morrison Hall, with the Bursar and Registrar's offices relocating to the bottom of Raubinger Hall.

"There is a genesis for a pretty good game of musical chairs without building," he said.

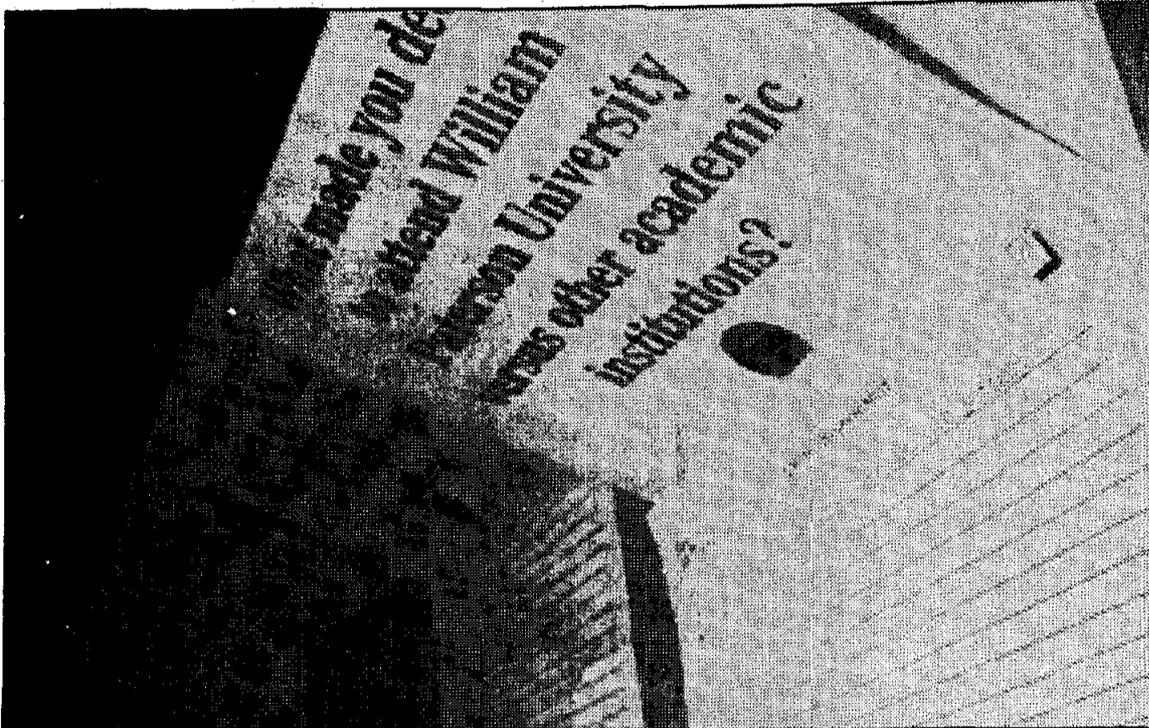
Major building projects will also create more academic space. Extensive renovations and a 30,000 square foot addition to the Science Building were proposed, along with the construction of recital and academic space in Shea Center.

"I think they need more space for a lot of the sciences," said senior Nick Malato. "We need more lab rooms, too."

However, Rudden pointed out that building projects on the main campus are difficult due to steep hills.

"You are land rich and site poor," he said.

The first major building project will be the renovation and expansion of Wayne Hall and the Student Center. Bolyai said work on the Student Center is slated to begin this summer. The projected completion date is the fall of 2005.



Long line of questions: Students and staff participating in the Charette were encouraged to answer a series of 13 questions pertaining to life at WPU and the future of the campus. photo by Larry Clow

"We anticipate if all goes well, we'll be starting the steel and foundation work this summer," he said.

Next on the list is the rerouting of College Road around the university water tower and the construction of a new residence hall.

"Rerouting College Road is necessary to do a residence hall," Speert said. "Demand has been tremendous (for more rooms)...so it's not a short range project."

Changes to College Road will create what planners are calling a "loop road" around campus. This road will be used to lead visitors around campus, with the construction of a "Welcoming Center" to be located at Entry 4.

Also on tap: moving classes and athletic programs out of Wightman Gym and into the Rec Center. Rudden said that the planners received no clear suggestions about what to do with Wightman Gym, but indicated that it could be a valuable asset in the future.

"Five, seven, ten years from now, you're going to be awfully glad you saved it (Wightman Gym)," he said. "Think of it as a tremendous site for other uses."

## Parking problems and solutions

Perhaps the most common complaint received from students during the Charette regarded parking at the university.

"It isn't a student problem, it's our problem," said Rudden.

With approximately 5,300 parking spaces across campus, the problem isn't the lack of spaces, but the utilization and location of those spaces, 305 of which are reserved for faculty and staff.

"People prefer Lots 2, 4, and 5 to Lot 6," he said.

According to Rudden, peak demand for parking occurs between 5 and 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, with an average 3,600 spaces occupied.

Possible solutions included paid parking lots, reserved parking areas for residents and commuters and staggered classes.

Another proposal called for relocating maintenance and campus security in order to develop the area into a multi-level parking garage with a possible 1,500 parking spaces. Such a structure would be on level ground with the rest of campus and would bring parking closer to academic buildings.

"That's the most valuable piece of property you have on campus today," Rudden said.

Some said the parking concerns were unfounded.

"I've been to other colleges, Princeton, North Western, Minnesota...this place is a parking paradise compared to them," an audience member said.

However, students maintain that parking is a major concern.

Parking is the university's biggest problem, according to Heruska. However, she does not think a garage is the answer.

"It's (the garage) a bad idea,

because you know they're going to charge for parking," Heruska said.

## The cost of the future

Though the university is facing severe budget cuts, Speert said many of the suggested projects are feasible.

"The parts we have to do...we have to figure out how we do it in what is a very tight fiscal environment," he said.

Costs for the Student Center/Wayne Hall expansion will total approximately \$40 million, while costs for the College Road project are estimated at \$3.5 million.

Money for the improvements will come from a variety of sources, ranging from donations to state funding. According to Bolyai, some of the cost for renovations to the Rec Center, Student Center and Wayne Hall will come from student fees.

"We had saved some dollars over several years to cut down the cost of borrowing," he said. "We also used a couple million the state gave us to do some of the work in Wayne Hall."

The remaining balance will come from the student center fee, Bolyai said. That fee was raised partially last year and will be raised each year for the next few years.

However, final estimates for many of the projects have not been prepared. According to Bolyai, the Charette was the first step in the master planning process.

"The advisory committee will

work with Saratoga (Associates) to come up with a definitive list (of projects)," he said. "Once that list is up, we'll put numbers together. It's too premature to calculate all of the costs...that'll come forward in the next few months."

Once the master plan is finalized and estimates are compiled, university fundraisers will use the document to solicit funds.

"You identify projects, then you have a working document...you can present to potential funding sources," he said. "I'm sure there's going to be millions of dollars worth of projects."

As university administrators search for money, many students said that they would not mind an increase in tuition for capital improvements.

"If it means better learning conditions, sure," Heruska said.

## Looking to the next decade

University administrators are optimistic about the suggestions obtained during the Charette.

"I think this works and will continue to work because there's really been a good group of people that want to participate in this," Bolyai said.

Implementing these changes will take money and time, however.

"This is a five to ten year project," Speert said. "The Student Center and Wayne Hall (expansion) and residence halls are the first priority."

However, Speert said he hopes improvements to the Science Building will happen soon, along with renovations of the practice space in the ground floor Shea, which he called a "rabbit warren." Physical improvements are not the only area planners are focusing on. According to Rudden, many of the suggestions at the Charette dealt with beefing up the university's renowned music program.

While the Charette is the first step in the master planning process, the prospects for the the campus have made some administrators hopeful for the future.

"I see it as a major vibrant, exciting regional, and with certain programs, national university," said Dr. John Martone, dean of students. "If they (students) feel it's a vibrant campus, they'll want to stay. Word carries."

# Take part in the future of your campus!

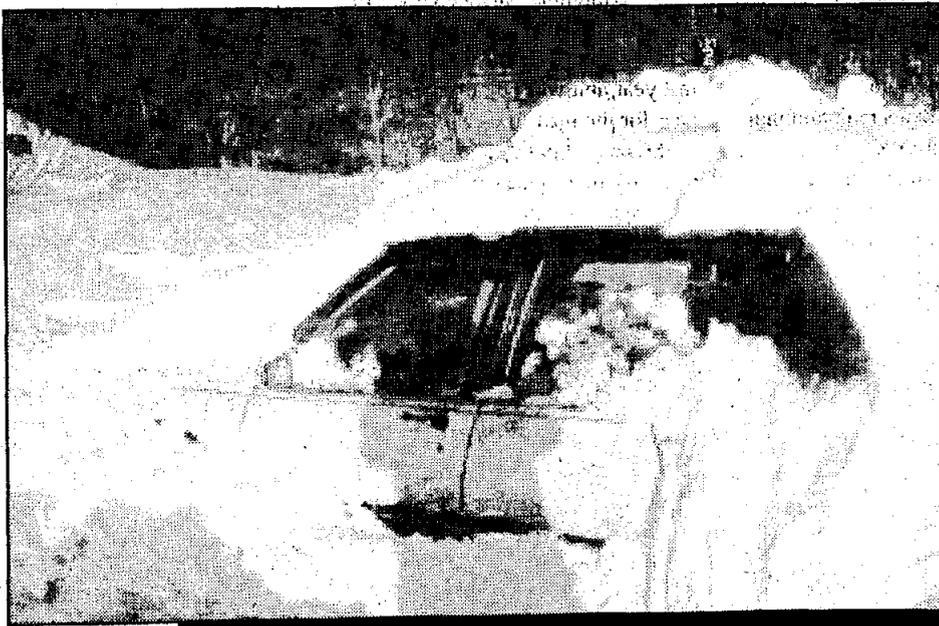
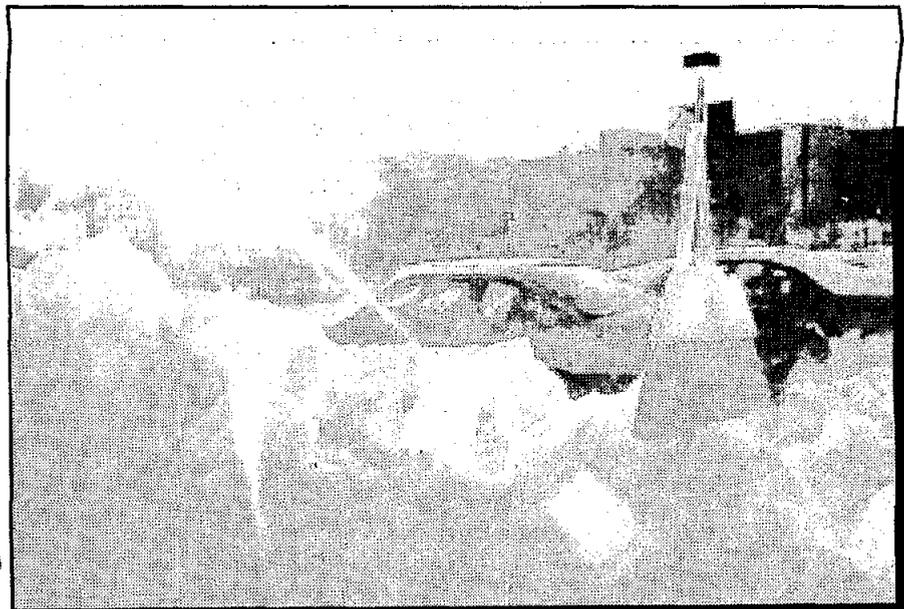
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# SNOW-POCALYPSE 2003

Last week's blizzard dumped almost two feet of snow on William Paterson University. Classes were canceled, roads were closed, and cars were buried as students lived through the frigid terror and icy horror of "Snow-pocalypse 2003." Here's what The Beacon saw the morning after the storm.

Photos by Larry Clow, Tim Walsh, and Matt DeFranza.



"Snow-pocalypse 2003" courtesy of Frank Simini

## Doing it right...

Commentary by Larry Clow  
The Beacon

The "Charette," a two-day session of information gathering for the University's Master Planning Committee held last week, was a rarity: a comprehensive, interactive event that involved the entire campus community.

Why was the event such a success? It was due to a simple combination of effective advertising and pro-active involvement by the Master Planning Committee. During the two weeks leading up to the Charette, ads were placed in both campus newspapers and on WCRN; flyers were posted in conspicuous locations in nearly every building; and emails were sent out to every student. At the Charette itself, members of the Master Planning Committee actively encouraged students to come in and make suggestions. Students walking by the door to the café in the student center were told, "Come in, sign up, and

take a look around. Give us suggestions on how to make your campus better." Surprisingly enough, over 300 people signed in to the Charette, with approximately another 150 coming through without registering. The majority of those who attended were students, according to Bob Bennet, assistant vice president of capital improvements. Not only was it a pleasant surprise to see that there are some students out there taking an active interest in where this campus is going, it was also good to see the university actively involving students in the process.

The planners and consultants at the Charette were more than happy to speak with students and faculty about their concerns and suggestions regarding the future of the university. Students and administrators working together to get things done—what a wonderful idea. Here's hoping that more events like this take place in the future.

## ...And doing it wrong

Commentary by Larry Clow  
The Beacon

Who is the office of residence life really working for? The answer certainly isn't students, as was evidenced by the inflexible, illogical behavior exhibited by the residence life staff in the apartments during the recent snowstorm. The name in the following story has been changed for the purposes of anonymity.

On the night of February 17, "George", a resident of Heritage Hall, requested a guest pass for a friend who had been in an accident while trying to leave campus. Due to poor road conditions and damage to the car, George offered his friend shelter for the night. When they got to the building, George asked the desk assistants if it would be possible to obtain an over-night pass for his guest, despite the fact it was 9 p.m., and over-night passes are not issued after 8 p.m. The desk assistants said to ask the RA on duty; the RA on duty told George to check with the resident director on duty. The resident director informed George that no guest pass could be issued and that he'd simply have to sign his guest in and face the consequences.

"Can't you make an exception due to the circumstances?" George asked.

"No," the RD said, "if I do it for you, I'd have to do it for everyone," adding that "everyone knew about the storm for two days," and should have made arrangements.

So, George signed his guest in,

and the next day, his and his guest's IDs were confiscated. When George went to the Apartment's office, he was told that the two IDs were missing and could not be found. George was told to fill out a report so that it could be confirmed that the IDs were lost.

Is this a system friendly to students? No. In George's case, an exception could have easily been made given the circumstances. Instead, the residence life staff decided to act in its usual, heartless, robotic way, all in an effort to enforce rules that students don't even agree with. Residents are treated like prisoners in their own homes with the ridiculously stringent guest policies that are enforced. Why should residents be forced to leave their ID and their guest's ID at the desk? The desk assistants should write down the information on the IDs and that should end the matter. Confiscating IDs is an ineffective, time-wasting policy that only inconveniences the resident and their guest. It doesn't prevent damage or promote safety in the dorms; instead, the policy makes residents hate and resent the residence life staff.

Residents pay nearly \$2,500 a semester to simply live in the apartments; that amount is slightly less for residents in the other dorms. It's time the residence life office recognized this and started treating students with respect that they deserve.

Relax the policies, hire capable, polite staff members, and, most of all, play nice.

It's that simple.

## Rhetoric of containment will not work

By Steve DeGennaro  
The Beacon

On Feb. 15 the terrorist solidarity movement was out in full force as hygiene-ignorant hippies, socialists, and liberal assclowns converged on cities across the country to protest the coming war. President Bush only dismissed the protests, which were led by left-leaning media whores such as Susan Sarandon and Danny Glover. The protesters carried signs and chanted: "He's trying to finish what his father started"; "Allow the inspections to continue"; "Containment works"; "Wars kill innocent women and children"; "Avoid unilateralism and wait for UN approval" and my personal favorite "No blood for oil".

Four years ago, Slick Willy went before the nation—and the world—and explained his authorization of non-U.N.-approved missile strikes against Iraq, using some of the very same arguments and rhetoric that President Bush is advancing. The silence from the left was deafening. What has changed between 1998 and 2003? The rhetoric is nearly the same. Clinton called for a regime change, were there cries from the left calling Clinton a terrorist? Nope.

"Earlier today, I ordered America's armed forces to strike military and security targets in Iraq," Clinton said on Dec. 19, 1998. "Their mission is to attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and its military capacity to threaten its neighbors. . . . Saddam Hussein must not be allowed to threaten his neighbors or the world with nuclear arms, poison gas or biological weapons."

On Jan 28, President Bush said, "Year after year, Saddam Hussein has gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks, to build and keep weapons of mass destruction. But why? The only possible explanation, the only possible use he could have for those weapons is to dominate, intimidate or attack. With nuclear arms or a full arsenal of chemical and biological weapons, Saddam Hussein could resume his ambitions of conquest in the Middle East and create deadly havoc in that region."

Recently the History Channel ran an interesting series of programs on life in Iraq. Men are unwillingly drafted into the army while their families are held at gunpoint. Defectors and political dissenters are routinely tortured in acid baths. When Hussein took power he eliminated his opposition by having them dragged out of the Iraqi parliament on live TV and shot out side while he sat and smiled. Make no mistake about it; Hussein is a murderous thug. In 1999 Americans rallied behind their President when he ordered air strikes against Yugoslavia. The ethnic

Albanians and Serbians were killing each other in Kosovo. Where were the protesters then?

Calling this a war for oil is a piss poor argument. If we were hell-bent on Iraqi oil, we would lift the sanctions in exchange for fat oil contracts. Hussein has suggested this in the past. Despite what the peaceniks think, America has no interest in fighting a war for oil. France on the other hand, desperately wants "peace for oil." France has been bought off. In exchange for opting out of the no-fly zones and denouncing the pain and suffering inflicted by Iraqi sanctions, Hussein has consistently rewarded the French with lucrative contracts through the oil-for-food program. An American-led war would end that. Perhaps Grounds Keeper Willie said it best on the Simpsons when he referred to the French as, "cheese eating surrender monkeys."

According to the opposition, if we contain Hussein he'll leave us alone. It really worked in the 1990s when we contained Bin Laden. Where were the protesters when "impeachment" missiles were fired into Afghanistan and Sudan? We appeased the North Koreans in 1994 and now that is coming around to bite us in the ass. Containment and appeasement do not work. What will it take for people to realize these facts, another 3,000 dead Americans in our streets?

Six weeks ago, Saddam Hussein announced that he would no longer cooperate with the United Nations weapons inspectors called UNSCOM. . . . Their job is to oversee the elimination of Iraq's capability to retain, create and use weapons of mass destruction, and to verify that Iraq does not attempt to rebuild that capability," Clinton said in 1998. "Iraq has failed to turn over virtually all the documents requested by the inspectors. Indeed, we know that Iraq ordered the destruction of weapons-related documents in anticipation of an UNSCOM inspection."

Sound familiar? It should.

"The dictator of Iraq is not disarming. To the contrary, he is deceiving," President Bush recently said. "From intelligence sources we know, for instance, that thousands of Iraqi security personnel are at work hiding documents and materials from the U.N. inspectors, sanitizing inspection sites, and monitoring the inspectors themselves."

The protesters are saying give peace a chance, but in the end, what they are doing is giving tyranny a chance.

### The Beacon wants to hear from you!

Send all letters to the editor/commentary inquiries to:

[beacon@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:beacon@student.wpunj.edu), attn: editor

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As the president of the Accounting Society, I completely agree with your opinion of how the SGA is being run. I must, however, disagree with you on a few points. Maybe the fault does not lie on the students. Could it possibly be the fault of the people who run the student organizations? How many flyers are put up for when the elections are held? Where in student publications does it say how to contact the student representatives and who they are?

It is sad to me when I hear people talk about how pathetic this school can be. It is not that the students do not care. I know they do. My friends complain everyday. It is that the students do not know how to contact those in positions of authority to let them know that they do care. The Beacon Buzz in the February 17th edition of the Beacon proves that. If you use that as a cross section of the student body, 60% of the student body does not know that Arnold Speert is the president of the school that they are paying thousands of dollars to attend. I find it amusing that despite the fact that no one knows that name of the SGA President it was not printed. For the record, it is Tyeshia Henderson.

However, you are not one to criticize. The publication you run does not do its job either. It has no section for clubs, no section for ongoing activities, no reporting on wrongs that the student body deals with everyday. Sure, you have a campus calendar. I noticed last week that does not even work. I put in a form in January to have my club meetings included in it. In the February 10th edition, there was no

mention of the Accounting Society meeting in Valley Road on Thursday, February 13th. How do you choose what clubs get to be noticed? By the way, our next meeting is February 27th at 12:45 in Valley Road 1024.

I offered my assistance in writing for the paper. I was turned away by you personally. I wanted to write a column about the problems on campus. Not some petty thing like a book is missing from the library. I wanted to write about things that truly bother the student body. For example, my best friend has been a commuter here for four years. I can name at least ten times last semester that she missed classes because she could not find parking. Why are issues like these not addressed? The Beacon is one of the few ways to communicate with the faculty, staff, and students at the same time. The writers and editors must remember that.

I realize it is not entirely the paper's fault. Students are nervous to write their opinions and send them in. What would other students think? Well, I did it. I hope I will start a trend.

Well, I am done bitching for now. Please be expecting future letters.

With much sympathy,

Kari Mozian  
President, Accounting Society

*Editor's note:*

*The ever-popular issue of parking is addressed in this week's Beacon. Any students, staff, or faculty wishing to express their opinions or share ideas with the Beacon are welcome to write a letter to the editor or come to The Beacon office in Student Center 310.*

-LC

Dear Editor,

Something about Valentine's Day seems to really upset people. That's why it was so heartening for me to be at the anti-war rally in New York on February 15th. It was awe-inspiring and beautiful to see so many people banding together with a positive message less than 24 hours after every single person in the country vowed that if they saw one more sappy message, they'd puke.

Millions upon millions of people worldwide are speaking up against the impending war on Iraq. We've had enough bloodshed to carry us until the end of the world - what we need to work on now is peace. War, and the death that follows, is not the only option. If the best solution we can come up with is to kill hundreds of thousands of people, then I for one think that we need to go back to the drawing board.

No one is going to disagree with the assertion that President Saddam Hussein is a bad, bad man. He has done some terrible things. However, the United States absolutely does not have the right to go into another country and kill people until we can set up the government we want. Current plans are for a U.S. general to govern Iraq for at least 18 months until we can put someone "appropriate" in power.

Dear Editor,

Last week the Beacon featured an editorial by Mr. Steve DeGennaro criticizing "leftist hippies" who have "vague emotional reasons" for opposing war in Iraq. Although the substance of the editorial was a mix of sarcasm and sensationalism, I take the issue of war seriously and so I am willing to respond to Mr. DeGennaro's request for "a real argument about why we shouldn't go to war."

The main argument President Bush has used in his campaign for war has been to declare "Regime Change" in Iraq by military force to be the only way to provide security in America. He also suggested, in response to the rallies on February fifteenth that those who attended would rather that nothing be done about the threat Saddam Hussein poses. I do not agree with either of these points. Furthermore, I oppose war with Iraq because I believe it would ultimately make our nation less secure.

Saddam Hussein is obviously a barbaric dictator. Each day that he remains in power is a tragedy. However, a U.S.-lead military invasion, unapproved by the United Nations, would cause this single problem to metastasize into many more. Alternative, peaceful solutions have not been explored because of President Bush's "You're either with us or you're against us"

What gives President Bush the right to decide who is fit and unfit to rule another country? Iraq is a nation, not a target for our misguided and outmoded colonial tendencies.

The proposed \$200 billion for this impending war is an unfortunate and unnecessary consequence of those tendencies. There are people dying en masse of AIDS in Africa, school music and performing arts programs are being cut across the nation, our very own William Paterson University just received a 15% budget cut, and I'm willing to bet that given time I could come up with four hundred better uses for our tax dollars.

The anti-war movement is growing exponentially, but it can't succeed without everyone getting involved. The war effort relies on the apathy of people who know better; please speak up. There are so many ways you can help. Go to [internationalanswer.org](http://internationalanswer.org), or email me at [kahng@student.wpunj.edu](mailto:kahng@student.wpunj.edu) and I'll be more than happy to get you moving. This is my plea for your support, your sympathy, and your active participation.

-Greg Kahn  
WPU Peace & Justice Coalition

rhetoric. But the idea of a quick, clean victory, free of consequences is not realistic. War never goes as planned. Why would this one be any exception? What are the possible complications and why haven't they been publicly discussed by the Administration?

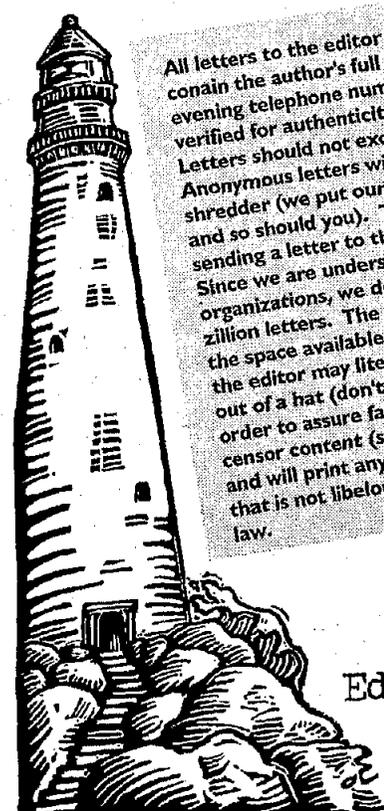
I attended the rally in New York on the fifteenth. I can tell you first-hand that neither I, nor the speakers, nor anyone else I saw waving a sign or chanting "No blood for oil" had any sympathy for Saddam Hussein. The sentiments expressed were of entirely humanitarian concerns: concern for innocent Iraqi civilians, concern for our own long-term safety and concern for American troops sent to fight and die for the wrong reasons. It is a soldier's job to follow orders without question. It is a civilian citizen's job to question those orders.

In a way, President Bush is a role model for me. Everyone loves to make fun of him, but he has been very successful as a legislator. For this reason I don't mind being called a "leftist hippie" or a "liberal menace" since I know that it won't stop me from speaking my views or organizing against this war.

Thank you Mr. DeGennaro for this debate.

Andrew Shantz  
Class of 2003

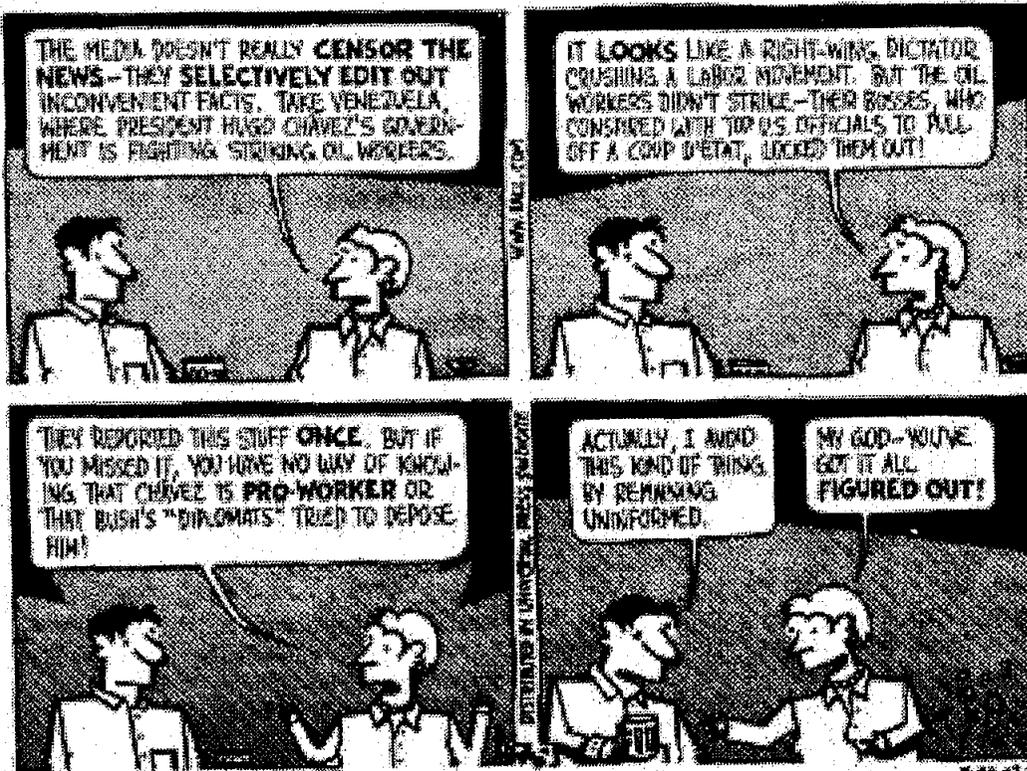
## Letters To The Editor



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.

Larry Clow  
Editor-in-Chief

## Ted Rall



# City of dissent: William Paterson students protest war in NYC

By Jackie Clark  
Contributor

After attending several rally's and protests this past year, I would have to say that the protest on Feb. 15 was by far the most rewarding. The event showed me the impact that the people of New York City, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont and everywhere else can make when unified.

I am sorry to say that I probably should have left New Jersey earlier but I will have to admit that I am one of the luckier ones. A group of us associated with the newly formed Peace and Justice Coalition on campus left from the Path in Hoboken around 10 a.m. thinking that we would have more than enough time to walk over to 1st Ave and 49th St. Emerging on 6th Ave. and 33rd St., we were greeted by some not so friendly cops but more importantly, a swarm of protestors also trying to make their way across town.

We were immediately caught up in a feeder march making the trek to the rally site. The further up-town we walked, the more feeder marchers we caught up with, entire families dressed up as bombs cleverly made out of black poster board and signs worn by women saying "The only Bush I trust is my own."

It never ceases to amaze me how clever some people can be. I myself take the less flashy approach to protests, never having

anything too original to say. I always assume that the spirit I carry says it all.

By the time we made our way to 2nd Ave., I realized that this was looking more and more like a march even though NYC did not grant United for Peace and Justice (the sponsor of the rally) a permit for such a thing. After waiting on 2nd Ave. and 62nd St. for about an hour, I began to notice that we weren't moving anywhere due to police barricades. It seemed as though the NYPD was not expecting such a large turn out and their biggest problem became traffic control. I almost felt bad for the cars that were waffled in between protestors on all sides. But I couldn't extend too much sympathy because I felt like our purpose was too great to be ignored and shuffled onto sidewalks. What about all those people stuck on 3rd Ave. and Lexington Ave.? While I didn't make it to the actually rally site, I came a lot closer than those people did and I have to give them kudos for staying, for the most part, patient and calm in such a frustrating situation.

That Saturday afternoon reminded me of one particular scene in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. After Thompson's first night in Vegas, he sits down at dawn to type some kind of record of events (kind of like I am doing now) set to The Youngbloods's "Get Together". He talks about the 60's, the rejuvenation that exploded all over the country



Protesters clash with police in Manhattan on Feb. 15. Photo by Devin Asch, courtesy of NYCIMC.org

and how beautiful it was to be a part of such a humanitarian movement, which is what this rally was about for me. We say no to war in Iraq but isn't there a bigger picture that we are forgetting? Isn't it about making an impact and changing the way that we live and trying to find a better way, in general? That scene makes me realize how wonderful it is that there is again such a movement that I can be a part of, that we all can be a part of.

Once I made it out to 1st Ave. and saw the

huge screens, the trucks parked with sound systems and the masses of people, hundreds of thousands, one of the hundreds of thousands of people chanting "ain't no power like the power of people cause the power of people won't stop," I thought to myself, "Jackie, this is what it's all about".

## "Whose streets? Our streets!"

By Eric Keifer  
Contributor

This is no longer a protracted war of opinion and subjective reasoning. This incipient war on Iraq, this unjustified and biased war driven by the winds of capitalistic profit, has spilled its oil-based impositions on the very rights we hold implicit to our hard-fought Constitutional rights as Americans. The obstructions to the Feb. 15 war protest in New York City should be seen objectively for what it is: a thinly veiled attack on the first amendment right to political dissent, the most vital right to any so called "democracy". This right to free speech, one of the last provisions of the Bill of Rights unmolested by our un-elected President/Commander in Chief, is now more vital to the anti-war effort than it has been in the last twenty years.

Despite a virtual shunning by the mainstream media, the mobilization of the masses is brimming with hope and activity. Grassroots campaigns conducted by organizations such as International A.N.S.W.E.R. have been sweeping the nation since the Bush war-dogs have begun barking their anti-Iraq campaign. People are relying on word-of-mouth information to spread the message of resistance throughout the beleaguered cities of post-9/11 America, and contrary to the intrinsic properties of mainstream media, the message has now become the medium.

The Feb. 15 protest is indeed disheartening in many ways, but in analyzing this rally gone wrong, there is hope apparent.

I arrived in the city with my WPU cohorts at roughly 1 p.m., an hour past the planned noontime launch. The scene was disarrayed and confused, which would prove to be the theme of the rally. The police directing traffic fed our line of cars like a snake through the Manhattan streets. We ended up about fifteen blocks from the U.N. building, the planned rallying point.

Immediately, we were gobbled up by the mass-protest Leviathan, fed indirectly, I suppose, by the "terror alert" madness of post-9/11 New York.

The freezing February air of the Manhattan wind tunnel was our first and most persistent opponent. But as much as the cold became an enemy, it also gave the protest a distinct desperation; as masses, there was a sense that there was some invisible and monolithic enemy to fight and that metaphor extended itself into the bureaucracy of the New York City police. Their poor attitude was immediately apparent.

Protest signs, the mainstay of spirit and humor among activists, were limited in themselves. Police, acting on some vague itinerary for crowd control, informed us that the use of sticks and other "solid" objects to hold up our signs were illegal. One block from our car, I saw two cops forcing an ethnic looking woman to remove the handle of her tattered American flag. This woman was over fifty years old, and no reasonable person would classify her as a minor threat, let alone a crowd agitating blood-drinker. What was she going to do with the thin wooden stick of her

flag, lead an assault against the riot gear laden cops? The stick to her flag was removed, leaving it a limp and useless symbol of democracy. This is how the American system of oppression operates; by taking away the backbone of our ability to display our opinions, the hastily erected flags of dissent can't be seen over the din of the crowd.

The police under order by Mayor Bloomberg, had erected an impossibly intricate system of blockades and fences around the U.N. building. By the time we arrived, it extending for dozens of blocks, creating a labyrinth of nightstick wielding "enforcers of the peace", a dubious title at best considering the officers' arrogant attitudes towards the protesters. We were rats in an aluminum hedge maze, lost on the streets of the city, looking for the piece of cheese at the end of the tunnel. With the streets leading to the U.N. building blocked off, the majority of the protesters had no way to know how to get to the rallying point. If one of us should dare to ask a cop how to get to the rally, we were given a standardized and well-practiced answer: "I don't know... please step back from the barricades."

This is how Bloomberg and the New York police state ensured that the rally itself would be practically devoid of numbers. Despite the refusal of the city council to issue a marching permit to the event's organizers, the streets were filled with peace-marching patriots (100 thousand by police estimates, over 500 thousand by organizers). The authorities couldn't prevent the people from gathering under their first

amendment rights, but they could prevent them from getting to the same rallying point.

This tactic created a problem: it filled the streets with freezing, frustrated activists, blockaded and corralled like cattle, but we were not going to go down like sheep ready to be sheared. That was the consensus. With our paths blocked by wooden gates, police vans and cops on scooters, the protest's location became spontaneous. The rallying point changed from the U.N. building to wherever we stood. The police were not prepared for this turn of events, and responded accordingly.

Protesters who had climbed up on top of phone booths to get a view of any opening in the police barricade were yanked down to the cold hard pavement by the cops. People forced into city intersections by the confused and meandering crowd were charged upon by horseback police, time and time again. Mounted cops charged full-speed into the surprised and terrified throng of activists, narrowly missing bystanders and avoiding a tragic trampling. Hastily constructed protest signs went flying as their wielders dove for cover from the police/cavalry.

It was this reckless endangerment of human life that amazed me the most. Of course there were the expected arrests and beatings and to be fair, some antagonizing and unthinking "protesters" deserved what they got, in a sense. But to subject innocent patriotic dissenters to these dangerous and degrading conditions is a direct violation of our cherished first amendment right

to assemble peacefully.

The street-rally culminated with an impromptu emergency gathering in Times Square that I regrettably did not attend. But the march to the neon consumer Mecca of America was all I needed to see. My cohorts and I chose to follow a crowd of rowdy Jewish students for peace in a march down 49th Ave. Banging drums and gongs, and with the rallying cry of "WHOSE STREETS? OUR STREETS!!!", we drove ourselves down the street, right into a line of police, wielding batons and staring us down. When it became apparent that they didn't plan on moving out of our way, our crowd of about 50 was faced with the decision of whether to risk a violent confrontation. The crowd dissipated around the police, forming again on the other side of them, giving the police a false sense of victory. "OUR streets." grumbled one cop as we passed but when the group reformed on the other side of the cop line, we gained about 50 more heads. The next line of police, seeing the gumption and increased numbers, was forced to make a decision: let the herd pass, or stop them with force.

They let us pass.

Whose streets are they? Ours. Who is this war for? Them.

What the extent of the deconstruction of our civil rights by the Bush administration will portend for basic American freedom of expression remains to be seen, but one thing is certain:

They are our streets. And we refuse to give them up without a fight.

# Insider

Music • Film • Television • Drama • Web

## Hot Rod Circuit Interviewed



Meet Fixer  
and  
The Rocket  
Summer



# Catch Fixer While You Can

New York based band is on the verge of breaking out

Joelle Caputa  
The Beacon

Around just about every corner there is a band struggling to make its big break. Some bands focus all their effort on their style or promotional items, while others send demos to every label under the sun. Then there's **Fixer**, an explosive rock band and an A&R rep's dream, who thinks that selling itself to labels has become "too much of a political game" and simply focuses on live performances until the industry knocks on its door.

For most bands, an attitude like this would not be very promising. Fortunately, the guys in Fixer know how to stand out, and if 2002 was any indication, their strategy is working. They've won three major battle of the bands this past year, the first of which was in July at the Downtime in their hometown of New York City, where they beat out over 50 other bands.

Next came the Musicians and Emerging Artists of New York Festival at CBGB's. The judging criteria for bands was based on "outstanding musicianship, songwriting and

the most potential to have a successful career in the music industry." Out of hundreds of bands, Fixer, along with three bands, were the chosen victors. Their prize was the opportunity to play the show "New York Rocks the Hall" at the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Sam Ash Future Rock Stars Competition in Long Island was Fixer's most recent success. After competing with 96 bands for three rounds, Fixer won \$12,000 worth of equipment.

During 2002, the band also found time to record two EPs, *Hell* and *Bend*. Filled with airwave friendly songs, the disks have been played in NYC and Long Island and are also on rotation in Germany and the U.S. Army's base in Japan. They've even gained fans in Spain and Indonesia.

The four song *Bend* EP was recorded with Jason Corsaro (Queen, Soundgarden, Buckcherry). It kicks off with "Bend Over Backwards," a seductive track led by vocalist Evan Saffer belting out "She snaps her fingers I come/She cracks her whip I run/She bites my lip I'm done." The closing track "Senseless" is an anthemic ballad that can give Guns 'N Roses a run for its money.

Although the band says "we don't like to compare or compete" one can't help but associate Saffer's vocal prowess with Axel Rose. In fact, GNR fans would be better off getting their fix with

the *Bend* EP, than waiting for *Chinese Democracy* to be released.

Bill Aucoin, former manager of Kiss and Billy Idol says "The return of Rock 'N Roll, hot riffs, great hooks, a sexy look and an out of this world front man make Fixer's show a must see."

Saffer and his bandmates,

Wilson (guitar), J (bass) and Tim Newton (drums) have a made for the masses stage presence. J describes their music as "face melting, melodic hard rock." Combine that with three part vocal harmonies and lyrics about desperation, bitterness and hope and you have a formula for success.

Fixer is on the verge of breaking into the big time, so catch them before they're not so local anymore.



To order CDs: [www.fixermusic.com](http://www.fixermusic.com)  
Watch: Fixer on WPBN's *Jammin'* (showtimes at 2:00 p.m. Thursdays) [www.jammin.tv](http://www.jammin.tv) for more info.

## Get your fix:

2/22 Grape Street Pub, Philly  
3/29 CBCB, NYC  
4/11 Clarksburg Inn, Millstone, NJ  
5/28 The Kings Club, NY (Fixer will be opening for Stephen Pearcy of RATT)



# One Man Band: The Rocket Summer

Tracy Calabrese  
The Beacon

The term one-man-band doesn't sit well with many people. It may bring to mind the image of an old guy in a powder-blue suit with a drum attached to his stomach, a horn, and a cheesy kazoo. But this one-man-band is far from that.

Bryce Avary is **The Rocket Summer** and his debut album, *Calendar Days*, is something to talk about. Avary, a Dallas native, was only 12 years old when he became interested in music took up playing the drums and guitar. He spent time in and out of bands that did not work out and shows that never went on as planned before he had the idea to begin his own project, **The Rocket Summer**.

He played solo shows and released a self-titled EP when he was 16 years old. He played all the instruments and produced the EP by himself. He even shipped out about 1,000 of the finished product from a mail-order service he ran from his bedroom. The CD also appeared in some small, local record shops and eventually made its way to record stations, where people kept calling in to request his songs because it was the only place where they could hear them.



Avary, then 17, still had not played with a full band under the name **The Rocket Summer**, but he did gather some of his instrument-playing friends and have them fill in for stage performances. After he graduated from high school, Avary spent a year in his room creating his debut album, *Calendar Days*. He borrowed money from his father and laid down all the tracks in six weeks. In addition to producing the album, he played drums, bass, guitars, keyboards, piano, per-

ussion, and provided vocals for every song but one. On "What We Hate We Make," he had a girl's choir group help him out.

Soon, there was a buzz within the record label industry. Major and indie labels started to take an interest in this not so typical, one-man-band.

He was eventually signed to The Militia Group, a California label based out of Huntington Beach that is the home of **The Lyndsay Diaries**, **Copeland**, **The Beautiful Mistake**, and **Rufio**.

Although *Calendar Days* is due out on Feb. 25, I had a chance to listen to an advanced copy and it blew me away. It's not the type of CD I would normally be drawn to but Avary's melodic voice is very easy to listen to. Every time I hear the CD, I am amazed by the knowledge that he played every instrument. He has definite mainstream potential. Unfortunately, **The Rocket Summer** is not scheduled to play in our area anytime soon. Until he is, I encourage any music love to check out this CD.

## Links:

[www.therocketsummer.com](http://www.therocketsummer.com)  
[www.themilitiagroup.com](http://www.themilitiagroup.com)

# Hot Rod Circuit Talk Music and Marriage

**Joe Wilson**  
**The Beacon**

Interview with Drummer - Mike of Hot Rod Circuit  
February 12 @ Maxwell's in Hoboken, NJ

I got to meet up with the guys in **Hot Rod Circuit** before they kicked off their headlining nationwide tour on February 12 at Maxwell's in Hoboken, NJ. Mike and the guys were a little under the weather that night, but they put up with my questioning and picture taking like a bunch of champs. Head on over to [www.feelingleftout.net/makebelieve.htm](http://www.feelingleftout.net/makebelieve.htm) for more pictures and an in depth interview with Andy of HRC conducted at the same show.

**Joe - How long has the band been around for?**

**Mike -** I joined about three years ago, but I guess the band's been together since '97. It started as 'Antidote' in Alabama. I guess Hot Rod's been around for about four and a-half years.

**Joe - Why did you guys choose to move to Connecticut?**

**Mike -** Well, Andy and Casey were living in Alabama and they were playing with the original drummer Wes. Andy's wife came up to visit her mother and she called Andy up and said, 'you guys should think about moving up here, it's right in the middle of Boston and New York, and you guys have pretty much played everywhere you're gonna play down south and the scene's pretty good up here.' So a week later they packed up and just moved because they had a free place to sleep



on Andy's mother-in-law's floor. I dunno, they just picked it because it was close to NY and close to Boston. It just seemed like there were more things going on up here than down south.

**Joe - How long after that did you join, and were you guys accepted up here in the north-east?**

**Mike -** I joined a year after they got up here. They've been up here for about four years now and I joined three years ago, actually this month. I dunno, it's gotten a lot better. We used to tour the east coast a whole lot like just mostly doing east coast weekends and things like that. That's where we still do the best, is on the east coast. It seems to have worked out, ya know, I can't complain.

**Joe - Who was the first tour with?**

**Mike -** I don't know who the first tour was with. I think the first couple tours they did by themselves, like just going out and paying their dues.

**Joe - I noticed that right next to the record**

**label on the Hot Rod CD's there is a little symbol for Montalbon Hotel, is that another label?**

**Mike -** Our booking agent Andrew, it's his label. He used to put out records. He actually kinda stopped but he and Fred from Triple Crown are best friends and Andrew books us so he wanted to kinda put in on our records too. He put out an old garden variety/jeune split 7" that is the one popular one he put out.

**Joe - How come "Been There, Smoked That" came out on Triple Crown rather than on Vagrant?**

**Mike -** Just because we wanted to do something for Fred and just put one more record

out with him because he's helped us out so much and we wanted to try and give him one last thing even though our contract is up with him and because he's one of our best friends. He was interested in doing it and we wanted to do something nice for everybody involved.

**Joe - Was there a big request for the 'Antidote' stuff that appears on the CD?**

**Mike -** There actually is, we still get a lot of emails from

kids asking if we can burn them the Antidote CD so we figured put the best five songs or six songs or whatever and throw it on a CD so kids can just have it.

**Joe - How many members of the band are married?**

**Mike -** Andy and Casey are married, I'm getting married, and Jay's single.

**Joe - When are you getting married?**

**Mike -** May of next year. We were gonna get married in November but we pushed it back for uh... financial reasons.

**Joe - Has that affected**

**touring at all?**

**Mike -** No, not really. Our band and the whole organization of our band is pretty much like a family ordeal. So everyone's pretty accepting. Our families are pretty accepting of what we do. Andy's wife came out for a little bit of the last tour we did and Casey's wife has been out for a whole tour, before when we were on the bus like the Vagrant America tour and stuff. My fiancé is selling merch for us this tour. It's fun when you get to have your families be apart of it.

**Joe - I know you like to record bands in your free time. Do you run your own**

**studio?**

**Mike -** I don't run it per se, but I rent out people's studios and record bands, and produce.

**Joe - What do you like more, performing or recording bands?**

**Mike -** I like them both the same, when we're not on the

road that's what I'm doing. I'm home just recording bands and whenever this is all over that's what I'll be doing. That's what my... I love playing music but my real love is just producing and ya know, helping to shape other bands... I dunno it's just something that I enjoy.

**Joe - Have you guys ever recorded anything that you've produced?**

**Mike -** Umm, Andy and I recorded our new demos that we've been working on umm, and then actually right before I joined the band when they had the temporary drummer I recorded that Anniversary split 7", I recorded that. I dunno, I wouldn't ever wanna sit down and fully produce one of our records, I just wanna sit down and play drums on it, and just put my input in on it.

**Links:**

[www.hotrod-circuit.com](http://www.hotrod-circuit.com)  
[www.vagrant.com](http://www.vagrant.com)



Photos by Joe Wilson/  
The Beacon



Photo by Amanda Pastenkos/The Beacon



**Looking for a good time?**  
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## Useless I.D. takes "No Vacation From The World"

Don Angelini  
The Beacon



Haifa, Israel has its own piece of the punk universe that really knows how to rock. Useless I.D. is back with "No Vacation From The World", their promising follow-up to 2001's "Bad Story, Happy Ending". With this album, the boys continue to please fans worldwide with their unique melodic sound. Although the lyrical topics and songs may sound generic to some, Useless I.D. proves they haven't limited themselves to the boundaries of the genre even throwing in the occasional cello and moog keyboard. I personally loved the change from fast to medium-tempo to slow with an acoustic track ("Diary", one of my favorites on the album, was very well written) and minor reggae parts.

"No Vacation From The World" is also the best the band has sounded in the studio thanks to production and songwriting ("Stuck Without A Ride") from No Use For A Name's Tony Sly and vocals from Lagwagon's Joey Cape. You can really hear the influences musically so No Use fans take note because you will definitely dig that.

At times, I almost thought Tony jumped in to sing lead vocals. That's how similar Sly and frontman Yotam Ben Horin sound. Overall, each song has its own element to fit the album together nicely. However, definitely check out "The Worst Holiday I've Ever Had", "Bring Me Down", "Jukebox 86", "Too Late To Start Over", "End", and "Diary".



That's not all! "No Vacation From The World" is also an enhanced CD with links to Kung Fu Records and their band page, photos, and the video for "No Time For Me To Be A Teenager" off of "Bad Story, Happy Ending". With tight well-harmonized vocals and a very diverse sound blended with catchy riffs, Useless I.D. possibly has one of the best punk albums of 2003.

<http://www.kungfurecords.com/uselessid>

## Battlefield Ska

Jennifer Sellers  
The Beacon

A Hunterton County local "NOT pop-punk" band, Customer Service, nervously prowled Birch Hill anticipating their 9:40 p.m. set. It wasn't until that morning at 10 am, at the time of check in, that they discovered they were to play immediately after the surprise guest, Catch-22. I was able to hang around the band most of the day, killing time, talking and laughing with them as we watched some of their "competition". Customer Service is a six-member band who have pretty much been friends since high school. They've been together for about five years. Playing gigs from café's, outdoor fundraisers and The Stone Pony, they have just begun to perfect their ska-punk sound. A favorite in their county, they're looking for exposure throughout New Jersey.

Being one of the winning bands at the Birch Hill's Battle of the Bands was something Customer Service saw as an opportunity to get their name out there. Nervous excitement flew through the stale air. Steve, the now trombone player, used to be bassist of Customer Service, was about to pass out only hours before the set. He was taking a "power nap" as he put it. Chris (trumpet) and Dave (bassist), smoked packs and packs of cigarettes as they waited, thrilled to play.

Steve and I had a conversation about the fact that when they started the band, there were not many ska bands out there and even less now. However, he stands by the fact that SKA WILL MAKE A COMEBACK!! When it came time to play, much of the Catch-22 audience stuck around after Kevin (lead singer of Catch-22) made a special announcement. Customer Service took the stage with confidence and gave an incredible performance. The energy and crowd reaction was at most, what anyone could ask for. As they were all winding down, I asked Chris what the plan was after the show. They had to stick around until midnight to hear the announcement of the winners, while the only thing Chris knew for sure when I asked him was "I'm getting drunk..." -where? - "I don't care!"

Keep your eyes peeled for Customer Service flyers. They will be playing February 24th in Bound Brook at the Hamilton Street Café around 7:00 and then again, very close to William Paterson, at Skater's World with other local bands on March 8th, 8:00. Definitely check these guys out. They'll make it worth your trip. -P.S.-Be sure to get to the next Skate and Surf battle on March 15th at

Birch Hill and check out th Insider's own Rob LaFalce and his ska-rock band, the Miasmics.

## The Best "Teen" Movie You've Never Seen: Over the Edge

Erik Weber  
The Beacon

Better than *The Breakfast Club*, *Sixteen Candles*, *Can't Hardly Wait* and possibly any other contender you can think of, *Over the Edge* (made in 1979 and directed by Jonathan Kaplan, who directed *Brokedown Palace*) comes in as possibly the best, most unknown and under appreciated teen angst/youth in revolt movie made to date. Of course we all know and most of us love the cute little neurotic John Hughes "Brat Pack" films of the Eighties, but don't expect to see much in the line of conservative upper middle class students from the Chicago suburbs in this one.

The film, based on actual events, takes place in the planned desert community of New Granada, where the parents have neglected to build anything for the kids to do (a quarter of the town is under the age of 15) - with the exception of a rec center, which closes every night at 6pm. The parents are more concerned with bringing outside money into their wishfully utopian town, even if it means scrapping plans for things like a drive-in and bowling alley in order to build factories and generate more money. There's nothing but tract houses and empty fields for miles around the town, so the kids discover their own entertainment - vandalism, various acts of violence, and drugs.

The main characters of the story, Carl (Michael Kramer), Ritchie (Matt Dillon in his first movie role) and Cory (Pamela Ludwig),

are (or were at one time) generally good kids from varied backgrounds who have nothing better to do but participate in the growing unrest against how the juvenile population of the town are brushed aside and targeted by an overzealous police regime. We watch through Carl's point of view the descent of the town into tragedy and heightened violence as communication lines between the kids and the parents become all but nonexistent. Part of the movie's greatness comes from the fact the awkward reactions and situations the kids (all the actors were local teens who had little or no previous acting experience, as was also later done in the film *Dazed and Confused*) are involved in feels authentic to actually being 14 again.

Why have you most likely never even heard of this movie? In 1979, when it was originally released, the film was mis-marketed as a horror film, pulled from release, then put in limited art house re-release around 1981 or 1982, but by that time its window had passed, and a great piece of cinema slipped through the cracks of time (along with an incredible soundtrack - *The Ramones*, *The Cars*, *Van Halen* and *Cheap Trick* to name a few). Luckily, HBO began airing the movie around the same time and it has since gained a cult following. Richard Linklater, director of *Dazed and Confused* (which owes this movie a lot), has stated he was greatly influenced by this film (along with his own experiences) in making his movie that uses the same basic themes but to a lighter degree.



Kurt Cobain admitted he identified with the character of Claude and was once quoted as saying, "[Over the Edge] pretty much defined my whole personality. It was really cool. Total anarchy." His original vision for the "Smells Like Teen Spirit" video was supposed to be a tribute to the film. Cameron Crowe (*Say Anything...*, *Almost Famous*) has the movie on his top ten list. Marilyn Manson also states it to be his favorite.

*Over the Edge* is currently not available on DVD, and your best bet in getting a VHS

copy is going on either eBay or half.com and getting a new or like new copy for around \$10. Should you want to see the movie before purchasing it, please feel free to contact the Beacon or email me directly at [HeathenClerk@yahoo.com](mailto:HeathenClerk@yahoo.com), and I can see about arranging a public on-campus screening, possibly through the Student Film Association.

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# Estrogen

## Female golfer Annika Sorenstam to play event on men's pro golf tour

Chris Moses  
The Beacon

In May, female golfer Annika Sorenstam will be the first woman to compete on the men's PGA tour in 58 years at the Colonial, a featured event on the PGA schedule. Sorenstam, who is arguably the best female golfer to ever compete professionally, has dominated the women's tour over the last three years and now wants to test her skills against men. Sorenstam will play the Colonial in May through a sponsor's exemption because she is not a regular member of the PGA tour. The golf course she has chosen to compete on, Colonial Country Club, measures at only 7080 yards. This relatively short distance for a professional golf course will allow Sorenstam hypothetically to compete on the same level physically with the men, since a golf course that short puts a premium on precision shots and golf IQ over brute force. Sorenstam is one of the most accurate golfers on earth, male or female, so with these factors in her favor, technically, we can presume she will perform fairly well against the men in May. But the question that gets raised in this issue is not whether Sorenstam will be able to compete with the men—in the format of the course she plans to play she can—but the issue of female athletes desiring to define their accomplishments by male standards. In the past, female athletes that attempt to com-

pete with men on a professional level have only come away embarrassed and I feel it is unnecessary for women to need to define their abilities by male standards because it leads to degrading attitudes towards women if they fail. Male standards are set sociophysically by men and women should not feel a pressured need to measure their own unique abilities by them.

The best male golfer in the world, Tiger Woods, is quoted in an interview stating that "it can be only be good for female golf if she plays well." I particularly agree with this statement for if Sorenstam does play poorly it can have a disastrous effect on women's golf. The LPGA, the tour Sorenstam currently makes her living on, is having difficulty drawing spectators and fans for their events and a poor showing can damage the tour even more because she is the best player on that tour. Sorenstam will be competing against the best golfers in the world and I fear the risks of taking a challenge of this sort will damage women's sport in the short-term future. Since this event will be a high profile media frenzy, a poor showing can damage women sports in general by further fueling ignorant minds and causing misogynists to widen the gender gap and disintegrate the egalitarianism female athletes have worked hard for over the last 25 years. The chance of this groundbreaking phenomena becoming a laughable charade, like the Betsey King battle of the sexes tennis match in the 70's, is a reality. Sorenstam will

be competing against Tiger Woods and other elite male golfers, not the middle aged out of shape loudmouth King pummeled.

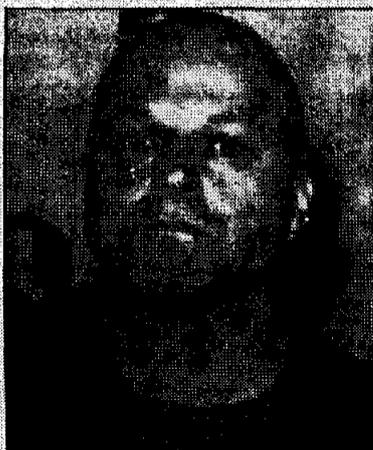
On the flip side of a negative showing by Sorenstam, a female directly competing with men on this high of a professional stage can do wonders for the promotion of women's golf and golf in general. Many people in and out of sports, and even some women, have no awareness of Sorenstam and she is one of the greatest female athletes in the world. Most will know her after this event regardless of how she performs. All eyes in the sporting world will be fixed on this event the weekend of May 17th and the chances of the next Annika Sorenstam seeing the event on TV and picking up clubs are great and exciting. The LPGA Tour will receive a boost as well for interest in other female golfers and the sport will undoubtedly increase. Sorenstam has repeatedly stated she is not on a quest for



Annika Sorenstam

any female cause by playing in the Colonial; she is only doing this to test herself and her abilities and is not trying to open any floodgates. Sorenstam is a unique talent that is in a unique situation when she can do great harm or good for herself and the sport she represents. Annika Sorenstam playing in this event I believe will ultimately be for the good. But whether she is aware of it or not, she is carrying the legitimacy of an entire professional sport on her shoulder and it can only be hoped that she does well.

## Fox Networks thinks rapists and police officers should join forces



Michael Chiklis from The Shield

Allison Chavanon  
The Beacon

These days with all the coverage of the pending war on Iraq it's pretty hard not to be caught up in the news. Up until the 9-11 tragedy I hated the news, finding it to be

proof of our failure as people to live together peacefully, and proof that people will fight or cause disturbances over the most minor things that shouldn't cause them to blink an eye, let alone take out a high school full of kids with guns and hand grenades. Basically my point is the news is everywhere, and from my standpoint the news can either be an informative program or a glammed out publicity stunt for shows like American Idol. Fox news is one of these programs, and unfortunately, the Fox network follows suit in this pattern of bad TV.

Often, groups of people that have strong stances on factors of political agenda are looked at as nitpickers, people who will find any section of society and freak out over nothing. For example, Jesse Jackson and the movie Barbershop, Bill O'Reilly and Ludacris, etc. Every now and then however, a group of people have a reason to protest that is well defined and obvious; a reason that

can be regarded as an outrage to the people that group is trying to protect, or fight for.

At the end of January the corporate morons at Fox decided it would be a good idea to show the attempted rape of a woman by a police officer on one of their highest rated TV shows, The Shield. The website [www.oneangrygirl.net](http://www.oneangrygirl.net) is suggesting a boycott of the network, and gave the following explanation of what the plot of the episode is:

"The show portrays a "strike team" of police that live outside the law; beating up people with Mafia-style threats, coercion, blackmail and generally every other thing that the police are supposed to stop.

This particular show finds the main character, Vic, shot after a gun battle with a criminal and his partners in an uproar over his wounds. Vic grabs one of his partners and says to him something like, "You take care of this. Take care of him." Vic's partners head over to the

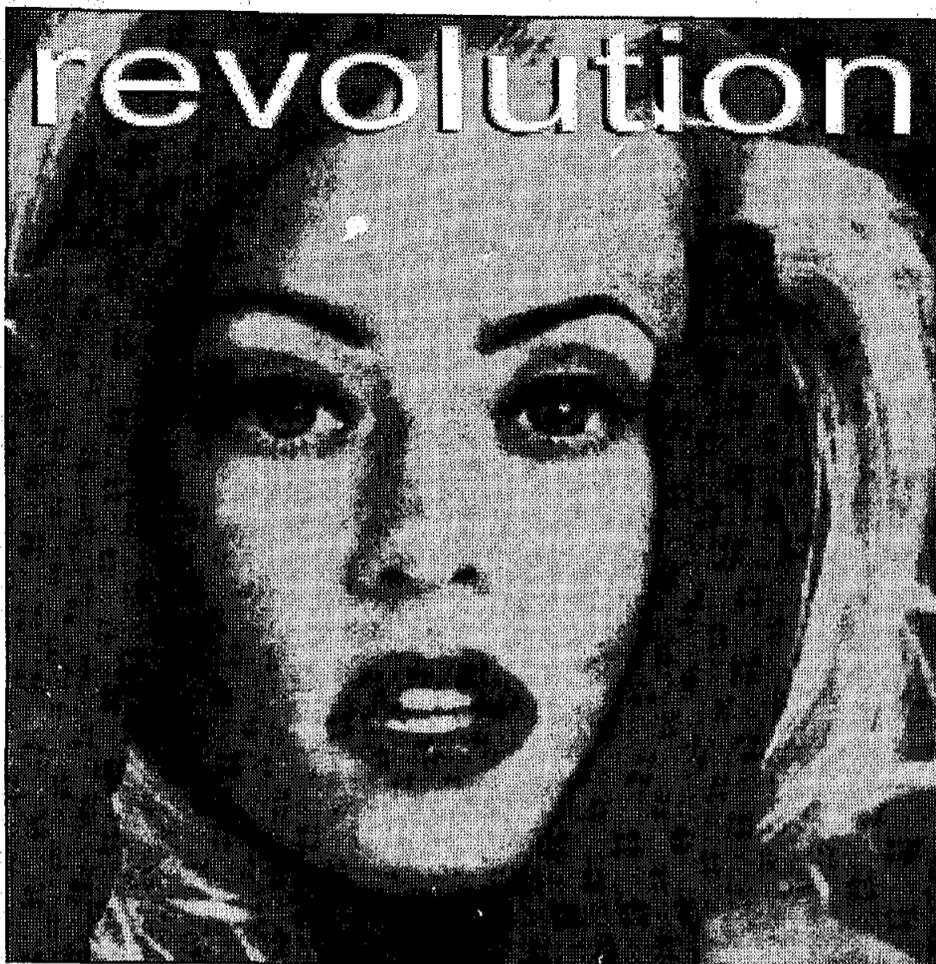
criminal's house and find his girlfriend packing a bag for him. They shove her around a bit and demand to know where the criminal has gone. In typical gun moll fashion she tells them to get out, she ain't tellin' them nothin' and so on. One of the cops shoves his fellow officers out of the room and locks the door. He grabs the woman and throws her face down on the bed. He pins her arms behind her as she kicks and screams.

When she still won't tell him where the criminal is, he begins to unbutton his pants and starts to threaten her with rape. She cries, screams "no" and begs for him to stop. He continues to undo his pants and keeps threatening her, kicking apart her legs. Finally, she tells him what he wants to know and he gets off her. As she remains on the bed, crying, he tells her she lost out and blows her a kiss."

When I read this I was horrified. First the depiction of police officers

in this episode is one that could severely affect public opinion of police officers that are actually out there, risking their lives for us everyday. Secondly, the named "good guy" of the show forces himself on a woman and attempts to rape her? The plot seems conveniently ass backwards to me. I wonder how Fox explained it to the rape victims that watch their network; how they might have felt when they watched that episode. I don't know how much I can stress that TV makes some situations a reality. I don't care if you're five years old or 55, people are impressionable, and the last thing the American public needs to be exposed to is police officers that use rape as a means of interrogation. Fox and Fox News have been looked at as trash for a long time, but this time I think they've gone too far.

# Should porn shoulder responsibility for violence?



Porn Star Jenna Jameson

By Alli Chavanon and Jim Schofield  
The Beacon

Alli: This is my main problem with porn- a popular opinion on the subject is that women should agree with and support the porn industry, because it's the ultimate liberation. Women using their bodies for sex are supposed to be free of society's stereotype that sex should be contained in the bedroom and that using it for money is just a sin against the population. I agree with this to an extent. Yes, the women who are partaking in the movies may be liberated. They may be doing what they want and making money despite what the rest of our culture says about them. In gener-

al, porn is a big fuck you to the Bill O'Reilly's and Rush Limbaugh's of our time and I think that's great. Unfortunately, with every liberation and freedom that people earn comes a responsibility, a responsibility that's often ignored. Porn stars need to realize as women that what they're doing may be good for them, but may be detrimental to every other woman in the country. Porn makes a stereotype a reality, and gives men a view of how sex "should be" carried out.

Jim: I'm afraid that I must disagree with you on a few key points, Ali. I feel very strongly that pornography is a symbol and tool of women's liberation; as you pointed out, the use of a woman's body for money is a slap in the face to the Christian

movement; indeed, by diverting the resources of close minded (read: conservative) groups to anti-pornography campaigns, they are helping the feminist movement in a practical way.

Alli: Saying that porn isn't a viable fantasy for many men is assuming a fact that can only be proven by intense surveying of an entire gender. Unfortunately, the extreme points of porn aren't the only aspects that are hurting women. Common points in porn that have become a staple of the movies are the major problem. I just feel sorry for the women who, while having sex with her husband, are surprised at the end by a load of semen dripped on her face; so much for romance.

right and the moral majority, two groups of people whose points of view could not be further away from me. That being stated, I must disagree with your other points. Pornography is a fantasy, and not even a viable fantasy for many men. I have seen quite a few pornographic videos containing acts that I wouldn't even contemplate, and I'll try just about anything. I don't think that the actions of the porn stars cause significant damage to the standing of other women or the women's

Jim: OK, I concede that the common (indeed, almost universal) ending to a pornographic episode, that being a woman getting a load of semen shot on her face, is a little much. Personally, if I ever did that to a woman, I think that she would be well within her rights to slap me. However, I feel that this falls into the same category as any sexual act- it should be discussed between partners. If the man wants to try this, then let him ask and have the woman say "What?!? Have you lost your mind?" So, though I agree that what you have pointed out is a problem in the porn industry, I consider it more of a stylistic issue than a feminist issue. If any husbands or boyfriends are actually stupid enough to try emulating this act with their partner, then they deserve what's coming to them. As I mentioned, seeing something done in a video does not necessarily give one the desire to emulate it.

Alli: Speaking of "getting what's coming to them," another popular act that I've seen in porn is the TOTAL ABSENCE of condoms. Sure, they're used occasionally, but so are sex toys, and I can't ever imagine comparing the two on planes of relevance. It's a fact that sometimes people copy what they see on TV, and if porn is saying that unprotected sex is ok, then our society has a really big problem. Sure, sex with Jenna Jameson may be one man's ultimate fantasy, but I don't think any guy would take the plunge into that girl without a condom, and if he would, he has a death wish.

Jim: Well, I sure wouldn't sleep with her without a condom, so you're right on that point. However, again, we come to the realm of personal choice. I am sure that any conscientious men and women in the porn industry are tested regularly for STDs. If those women choose to allow their co-

stars to have sex with them without condoms, that is their choice; I am sure alternative methods of birth control is being used. Again, I reiterate the issue of STD testing- without it, I am sure that the entire porn industry would long ago have collapsed from plague. However, you do bring up a practical point- the not entirely unrealistic scenario of people emulating this specific aspect of what they see in the porn videos. Unlike the ideas of people copying such acts as shooting a load on some woman's face or other acts in videos, this one is somewhat more dangerous and, I'm sure, widespread. However, men not wanting to use condoms is already a widespread problem, and always has been. The solution, in my opinion, is in two parts and relatively simple- education about condoms, and women asserting themselves. If men don't want to use them, then don't have sex with them. Not that difficult a concept; I don't think that the porn industry causes a significant increase in the number of men who desire sex without condoms.

Alli: Again, STD testing is great for the people involved in the film, but unfortunately that's only two people, the end result is still there. People who go into a porn shop and buy a tape aren't buying a documentary on how the porn stars were tested, they're buying sex, period. Pornography doesn't even provide it's viewer's with a disclaimer that casual sex should be protected. Over ten years ago George Michael got slammed for his "I want your sex" video and lyrics, and had to put a disclaimer in the video claiming that it was a video about monogamy, not casual sex. If that happened so long ago why hasn't someone slammed the porn industry with the same complaints? I'm not saying get rid of porn as a whole, I'm just saying that the business as a whole should shoulder some of the responsibility in educating its

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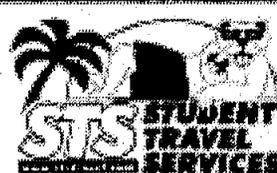
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# Weird Books on the Internet

John Findura  
The Beacon

You can practically buy any book ever written through one internet site or another. Is this a good thing? Well, in most cases, yes. I'm sure 90% of you have surfed onto Barnes & Noble.com or Amazon to at least pick up textbooks and whatnot. But there are other places out there, selling very different books... some strange, some not so strange. In the next few weeks I will be discussing some cool places to look for underground writers as well as take you through a tour of the weird stuff cluttering my bookshelves.

I'm not even sure how I first heard about it. I think it was mentioned in passing on one of the internet jazz lists I subscribe to. Someone had read a book -- "A good laugh," I think he called it -- about some guy he knew who had been part of a government conspiracy involving aliens. The title of this book, *Above Black Project*

alien. I immediately googled the title and in a few minutes had my very own \$12 copy on the way.

The first thing I noticed was that the authors name did not appear on either the front cover or the spine. Perhaps government censors had warned him about releasing this sensitive information to the public. "Insider Account of Alien Contact and Government Cover-Up" was written across the front cover. Yes! Nothing beats a good alien cover-up. I knocked out the 147 pages in less than three hours. The print was actually larger than the title on the cover. I'm sure they could have squeezed this thing in at under 80 pages, but that's just me complaining.

Where do I even start with this... Well, the story goes like this: Woman is abducted in the 60s, aliens do something to her while she's carrying, years later her son, now an Air Force sergeant is tapped by the National Security Agency to participate in a covert government operation. It seems as though the aliens have give him the ability to telepathically communicate with them. Excellent. I have a cousin like that.

Dan Sherman, the author, is admittedly not a writer. He just has a story that he hopes will "encourage other insiders to do likewise." While I am not an expert on the subject, I have read a lot of conspiracy theories and alien cover-ups. The story Sherman spins is one that I have not run into. Is it bullshit? Is it real? I don't know. I do know that it's not that well written and except for the multitude of abbreviations and the fact that Sherman actually was in the Air Force, it seems like anyone in a diner could have come up with this story. But there's always that chance that maybe, just maybe, this guy is for real. I can only hope.

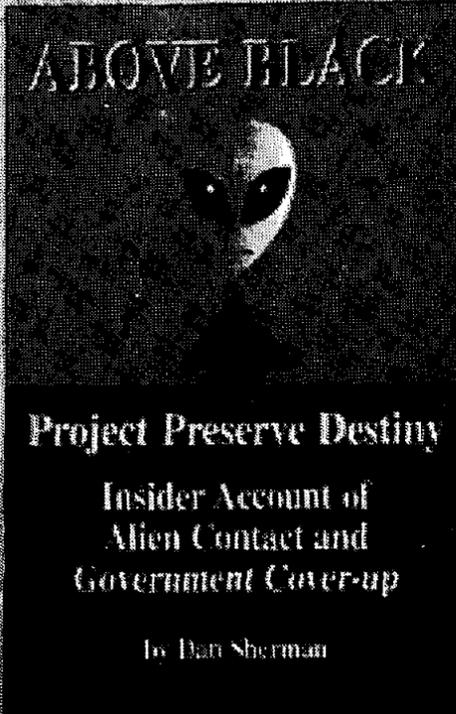
A much more legitimate website, Small Press Distribution ([www.spdbooks.org](http://www.spdbooks.org)), is a fantastic

place to find excellent small press books. If you're tired of B&N and Waldenbooks, check out this site. It houses thousands of books that are practically unavailable everywhere else. It is the only place I was able to find Sam Truitt's amazingly dense collection of poems *Anamorphosis Eisenhower*. If they have that book, just imagine what else is there.

With over 500 independent presses supplying them, SPD will have something that you have never heard of but absolutely, positively have to have. The website allows easy searches in poetry, fiction, cultural writing, Latino, African-American, teen, gay/lesbian, music, art and picks from their staff. I often just enjoy browsing through their collection.

For them being a home for independent writers, SPD also carries books by some big names on small presses. Just today the home page offered *Goof Book For Jack Kerouac* by Philip Whalen, friend of the Beats and the San Francisco Renaissance. Also featured is *Rules of the House* by Teotimo Wangma Dhempa. Who is Teotimo Wangma Dhempa? I have no idea, but I doubt I can find that book in the Waldenbooks in Wayne Hills Mall.

new authors and books, and an even better place to find some really weird things. Check out [www.spdbooks.org](http://www.spdbooks.org) and feel free to check out [www.aboveblack.com](http://www.aboveblack.com) for more info on Above Black and the first few chapters. If you know of



# Lit

book reviews

## Samaritan

by Richard Price

Knopf

John Findura  
The Beacon

Richard Price is not only the author of the novel *Clockers*, but he also wrote the screenplay for *The Color of Money*. I think a great many writers would be satisfied with those under their belt, but *Price isn't done yet*. *Samaritan* may very well be his most interesting story as well as his best written: The dialogue snaps, the characters seem to really be alive and the narrative just flows.

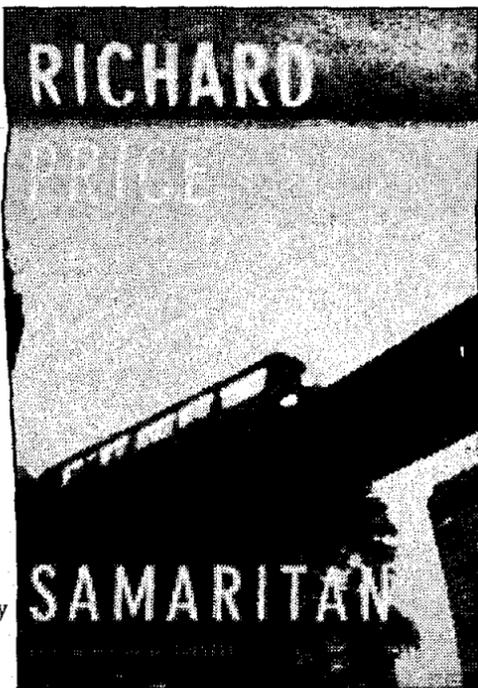
The story centers on Ray Mitchell, a TV writer who goes back to teach at his old high school in the fictitious New Jersey city of Dempsey (which I think is very similar to Newark-Jersey City-Elizabeth). Ray ends up in a hospital, his skull having been cracked in his apartment. Ray even knows who did it. So it would seem easy for Ray's old acquaintance, cop Nerese Ammons, to find the attacker if it weren't for one small problem: Ray's not telling.

All too often I happen upon excellent plots, but the writing makes me ill. Then there is the opposite, where the writing is beautiful but that's all it is: writing.

There's no story, nothing interesting happens. I'm all for good writing, but unless there's a reason to read it, a 400-page novel is only good for a doorstop. Richard Price doesn't need to worry about this book ending up anywhere other than my bookshelf.

The two strands running through *Samaritan*, one following Ammons'

investigation and the other following Mitchell, are tightly woven together, but both are left with enough room to breathe. Price just writes the story, sparing us from forced pity for the ex-coke-head Mitchell. There is no clear "right and wrong" here, just a slice of urban life set before us to take in and understand.



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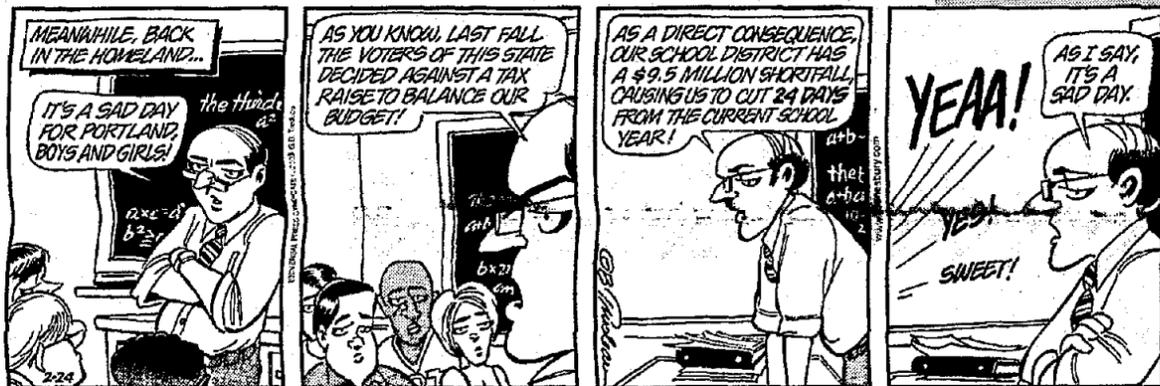
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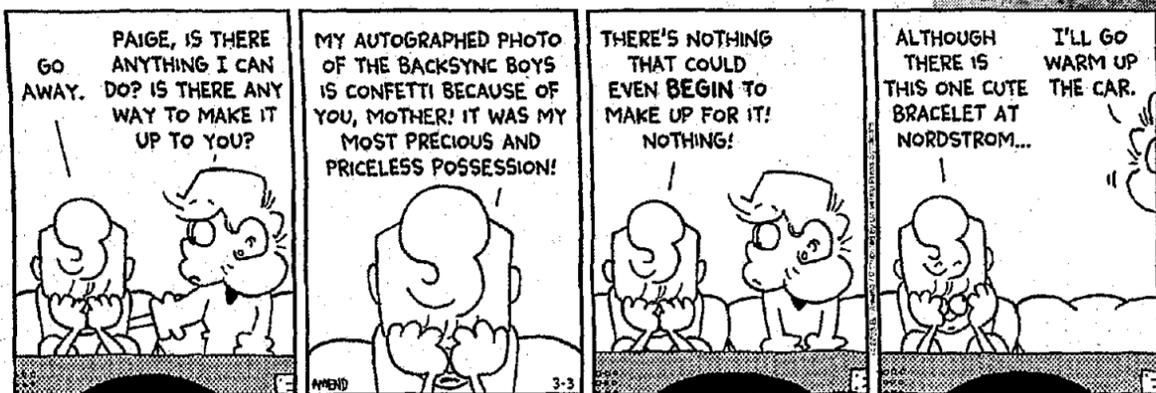
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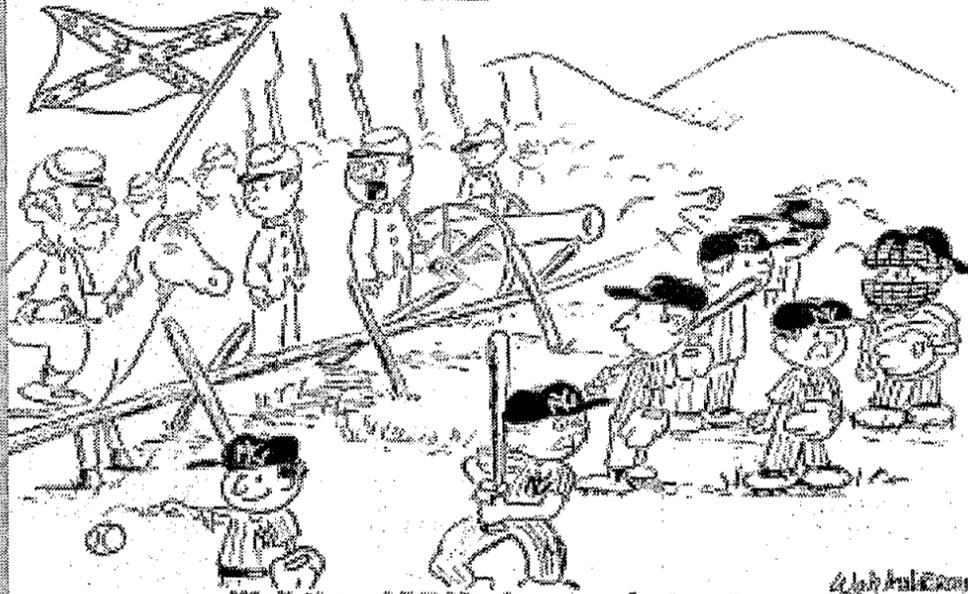
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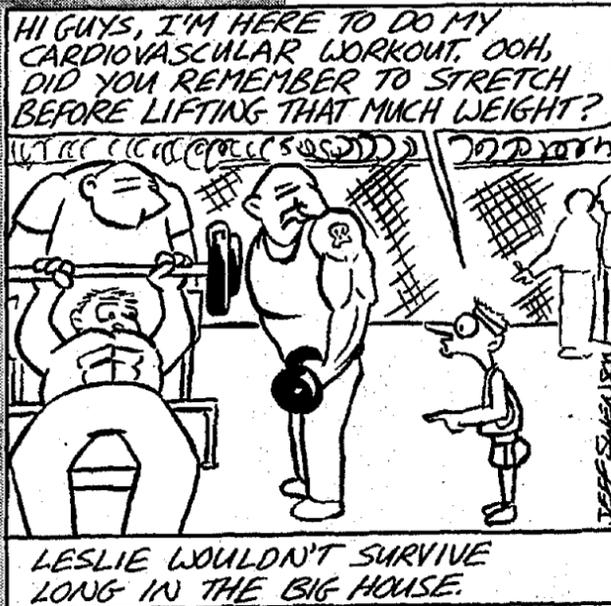
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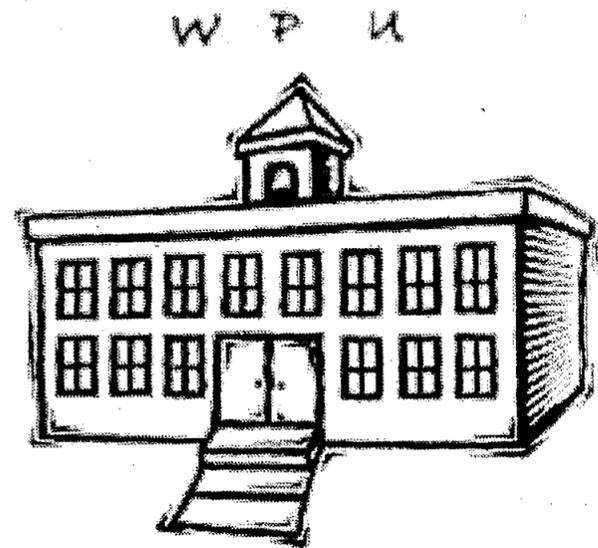


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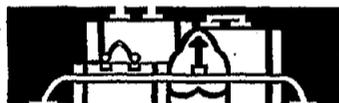
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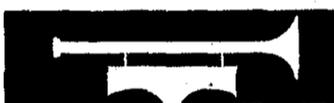
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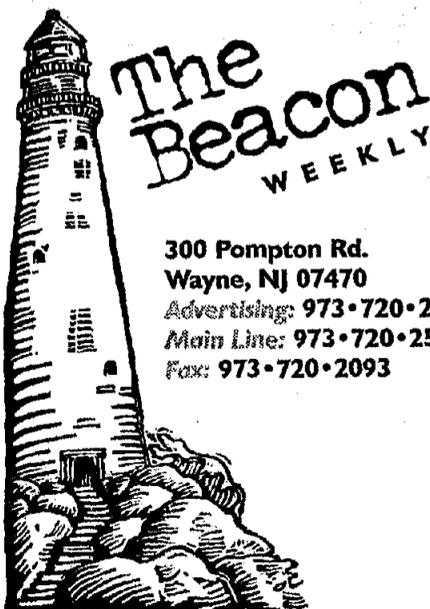
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# Hacky-Sack: The Insomniacs Sport

Kari Mozian  
Contributor

What do you do at 11:00 at night? Well...if you were up and walking around by the Towers, you would have heard or seen the William Paterson University Footbag Association. The club had its first practice on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at the Towers Deck. At 11:00, the night looked like a wash. There were only about six members present and less than half of them were eager to go outside and play. That, however, did not discourage the avid hacky-sack players. Outside they went to start the first official hack circle of the season. The night continued with new people coming in and by 1:30 in the morning, the circle had grown to about ten people with more than that passing through from time to time...not bad for a cold night and snow on the ground.

The heart of the WPU Footbag Association started in the Fall 1999 semester when it was an informal nightly gathering of inhabitants of the Towers and friends of the residents. The reg-



Members of the WPU Footbag Association and some onlookers.  
photo by Matt DeFranza

ulars of this group were extensive and they came to be known as the "Tower Rats." Over the years, most of the members have come and gone but the heart of the group is still there. Near the end of last semester the current president, and original member of the "Tower Rats," decided to make this thing official. Hence, the Footbag Association was born. Last week it became an official club of William Paterson University and there is already talk of hosting an event at the beginning of next semester.

The current roster consists of over fifty members. At this time, it is one of the most culturally diverse clubs on campus. Hacky-sack seems to see no color, religion, etc. They take on everyone who feels like playing and occasionally people who did not even know they were playing. Those who walk by at the time of a circle fre-

quently find themselves suddenly kicking a little round cloth bag filled with some seeds into a circle of smiling faces. This is how many people come to be a part of this group. It drags people in.

The co-presidents, Michael Arp and Todd McHugh, are very excited about the club this semester. Both of them are avid hacky-sack players and after seeing them play

last night, I believe they are some of the most talented players on campus. But this sport is not just for boys. Many girls are in the group and some of them surpass the guys in skill and amazing tricks.

The WPU Footbag Association have many things planned such as trips to other schools to play their teams. Yes people, this is a competitive sport. Right now the club is setting up its meeting times and events. The first meeting is this Tuesday during common hour in the Student Center. Unfortunately, the room has not yet been established. Please call Kathryn Pierce at (973) 720-5346 for more information.

Thank you to the "Tower Rats," now known as the William Paterson University Footbag Association for introducing a sport on campus anyone can play anytime of the day.



Todd McHugh outside the Towers.  
photo by Matt DeFranza

## From the ice to the ring: Tanya Harding takes on boxing

Matt DeFranza  
Sports Editor

Former figure skating champion Tanya Harding took to the ring last Saturday against novice Samantha Browning. In her boxing debut, Harding lost after four rounds in a split decision.

Though the fans sure seemed to love the match, it seemed to be more stumbling than punching. Both boxers fared rather well, especially for being novices, but Browning proved to have a little bit more skill than Harding. Harding stated

to reporters, "It's not like I expected at all," Harding said. "This was much, much harder than I ever figured. But it only makes me want to work that much harder."

An outcast from figure skating because of her role in the 1994 attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, Harding has survived on the periphery of the sports spotlight ever since. The 1991 national skating champion, she made most of her headlines for run-ins with boyfriends until she beat Paula Jones in a celebrity fight last year which set her boxing

career in motion.

There were no sequins or gold blades for Harding as she entered the ring at the Pyramid. Just a black sports bra and black trunks. Instead of a panel of nine judges dissecting her every jump and spin, she had to impress three judges focusing only on her ability to punch and avoid being hit. Browning won by 39-38 and 39-37 on two judges' cards, while Harding won 39-37 on the third card.

## WPU Basketball heads to Montclair

Allison Mopsick  
The Beacon

A trip to rival school Montclair State on Wednesday, February 19, left the Pioneers speechless. Going into the game tied for second in the NJAC, the Pioneers needed a win in order to get home court advantage in the post-season tournament. Scoring only 10 points in the first half and a total of 31 for the game, the lowest in almost 20 years. The defensive efforts of both teams kept it a low scoring game for as the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard of the Panzer Gymnasium read 45-31. The two teams first meeting ended in a William Paterson overtime victory with each team nearly doubling their score of the second match up.

Senior forward Keyth Hardy led the team with 8 points and 10 rebounds. As a whole, the Pioneers shot 12 of 49 from the floor while only making 4 of 21 shots in the first half. Senior guard Shawn Blakewood came off the bench to chip in 8 points. The Red Hawks were led by Michael Gluck who had 14 points and Pierre Mitchell who scored 13 points.

Rowan, Montclair and William Paterson are now in a 3-way tie

for second place with records of 12-5 while Ramapo is ranked number one in the NJAC as well as number 14th in the country for Division III schools. Junior guard Brandon Constantine is ranked #5 in the country for free-throw percentage with it being at 91%. Junior Khayri Battle is tied for steals at #25 with 2.6 per game.

The women's team finally broke a four game losing streak prior to the mens loss. The Lady Pioneers came up victorious while defeating Montclair 63-30. Junior guard Kat McPhail continued her strong scoring efforts while putting up 23 points as senior guard, Katie Morris chipped in 19 points to secure a 5th place ranking for the Pioneers in the NJAC. Senior forward Jeanine Day ripped down 11 rebounds for William Paterson.

The Lady Pioneers went into the second half with a 6 point lead. The Pioneers led throughout the second half but as time began to wind down, things were getting too close. Morris hit 2 free throws in the final minute of the game to cap a Pioneer victory. The future of the teams season is still undecided, but for now the Lady Pioneers sit at an even .500.

## Scoreboard Central

Allison Mopsick  
The Beacon

As the regular season came to a close for the winter sports teams, let's take a look at how they did. On Saturday, February 15, the mens' and womens' basketball teams hosted Richard Stockton as their last regular

season home game of the season. The women lost by a score of 68-64 while the men defeated Stockton 67-50.

On Wednesday, February 19, the basketball teams traveled to Montclair. The Lady Pioneers snapped a four game losing streak by winning 63-60. The mens' team lost 45-31.

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