



the beacon weekly

William Paterson University • Volume 69 No. 16

Monday, February 3, 2003

SAPB Hosts Winterfest Comedy Night

By Jen Sinclair
The Beacon

On Thursday, January 30th, the SAPB hosted a comedy show in the Student Center Ballroom here at William Paterson. The show was scheduled to begin at eight and, finally, at eight thirty, after a half hour of loud music, the opening act appeared.

Mike Yard, the opener, was outgoing and friendly. He immediately walked on stage and began targeting those members of the audience who were fortunate (or foolish) enough to have gotten a seat in the first few rows. Much of his act consisted of spur-of-the-moment material, inspired by the lively audience. Mike showed up between each act to introduce the next comedian and grace us with a few more of his own jokes, discussing everything from ethnic foods to crimes and current events, men, women, and sex, to different discipline methods we all encountered as children. Because of the diversity in the audience, a lot of the material in the show was ethnic related,



Comedian "Mother" Photo by Matt DeFranza

but it was all said in good humor and good taste, and gave everyone, regardless of ethnicity, a good laugh.

The first act of the evening called himself Shorty. He came on the stage full of energy and immediately leapt on the chance to verbally abuse the DJ. After making fun of the music the DJ was play-

ing, Shorty segued into comments about current hip hop music, focusing particularly on the latest news escapades involving R. Kelly. He also touched on several other topics that many college students can easily relate to, including encounters with the police, failed job interviews and opportunities, college loans and financial woes, fraternities and parties, and relationships. Most of his material were experience's from his own life. Shorty did a good job of relating to his audience, touching upon normally sensitive or controversial topics and making them entertaining rather than offensive.

The next act was Korin Green, who also opened by talking about music, particularly foreign rap artists. Korin had something witty to say about hip hop fads and clothes, money, fighting styles and language barriers. He told the audience about the start of his comic career and about his experiences being booed offstage, and booed all the way back to his car. In comparison, his act fell a little short of the first one. Korin kept jokes running too long, often getting one laugh out of the audience, then repeating the joke two or three more times, trying to get another laugh for the same thing. He also prepared no closing material, ending with "I have run out of stuff to talk about, goodnight."

The third comic of the evening was the only female performer at the show. She called herself "Mother" and has been featured before as one of the all-stars from "Def Comedy Jams." Since the DJ played music between acts, opening with talk of musical taste seemed to be a running trend. From there, "Mother" went on to relentlessly bash clubs, Timberland boots, and American Idol. She cynically reminisced with the audience about our high school days, hall passes, and school nurses who, whether you showed up with a headache or a gunshot wound, would tell you to "lie down for fifteen minutes and get back to class." Perhaps the best part of her act, however, was when she noticed Beacon photographer Matt DeFranza tak-



Mike Blackson Photo by Matt DeFranza

ing pictures in the front row. She made fun of him for his "tight shirt," and then told him in front of all of us that his fly was open and that he ought to zip it up. She continued by pointing out the idiocy of piercing and tattoos among youth: "Get a tattoo that means something. Get one on your dick that says 'Place Condom Here.'" She walked out into the audience, targeting individuals at random, and closed her show by saying, "I hope I didn't offend anybody. If I did, transfer."

The last act, perhaps the star of the show, was Michael Blackson, who appeared in the movie "Next Friday." He was considerably more angry than the other comedians, using more foul language and covering more vulgar topics, shamelessly and successfully. He swore at nearly every member of the audience, then went on to bash airport security. He, too, made fun of popular music, then went on to do an elaborately detailed skit about masturbation. Lastly, he zoned in on our photographer, Matt. He noticed his picture being taken and called Matt a member of the Paparazzi: "If you send that shit to immigration, I'll bust your ass!" It was an energized act, simultaneously angering and amusing every member of the audience.

The show lasted about two hours, and had some material to entertain every taste. It closed with SAPB auctioning off several prizes, and everyone left in a good

WPU offers "Demo to Deal" online course

Looking for a way into the music industry?

Curious about what you'll find in the recording studio, or how record deals are made? The next session of William Paterson University's "Demo to Deal: Breaking Into the Record Business" online course may answer all your questions.

"Demo to Deal" will give students an overview of the music industry, covering topics from writing a hit song to negotiating a record deal.

The ten-week, non-credit course uses "Inside Sessions," a multimedia program featuring commentary from 75 members of the music industry, from talent to executives. Dr. Stephen Marcone, coordinator of the Music Management Program, will instruct the class.

The next session of "Demo to Deal" begins on February 3, 2003. For more information on enrollment, visit: www.wpunj.edu/cedl/insidesessions.htm

This Week in Greek Senate

By Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

This week in Greek life, many of the organizations are getting ready for rush. Rush is a huge event for Greek organizations because each group's support relies on incoming members. This Thursday at common hour all IFC fraternities and Pan Hellenic sororities will have tables set up in the Student Center Ballroom. Come out and meet the Greeks.

Also in Greek Life,

Lambda Sigma Upsilon will be having a food sale in the Student center on February 4th.

The ladies of Mu Sigma Upsilon will be holding an interest meeting on February 6th which is a Thursday at common hour.

Lambda Theta Alpha is having a Valentine's Match Up on February 6th from 7-11pm in the Student Center Ballroom, a dating game which will match people up for Valentines Day.

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Roadrunners
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the beaconweekly

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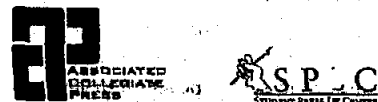
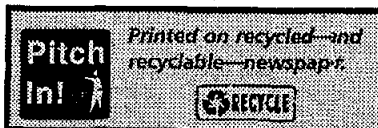
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The independent, student-run
newspaper of William Paterson
University. Published every Monday.

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The Beacon does not receive funding
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Calendar of Events

Monday 02-03

Adult CPR
Rec Center x2777
5:30 p.m.

Wiccan/Pagan Assoc.
Interest Meeting
6:30-7:45 PM SC 213

Last day to request
pass/fail or audit options

Tuesday 02-04

Spring Semester Blood Drive
11 - 4 p.m.

African Heritage Month
Opening ceremony: "Sankofa"
SC Ballroom
Common hour

Beacon Staff Meeting
SC 310
Common Hour

SGA Legislature meeting
SC 203
4-7 p.m.

Wednesday 02-05

Adult CPR
Rec Center x2777
5:30 p.m.

SAPB Meeting
SC 203
5 p.m.

Thursday 02-06

Natural Science Club
general meeting
Science 319
12:30 p.m.

WCRN Live Open Mic
10 p.m. - midnight
call Renee at x5344 for
details

Friday 02-07

Hip Hop Extravaganza
SC Ballroom
8 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Saturday 02-08

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

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

Sunday 02-09

Byzantine Mass
Prince of Peace Chapel
7:30 p.m.

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



News in Brief

By Jim Schofield
The Beacon

International

Angry Mob in Ivory Coast Attacks French Troops

In protest of a French brokered peace accord, citizens of the Ivory Coast assaulted French citizens and soldiers with stones in the Abidjan International Airport on Friday. The French civilians and other westerners were attempting to flee the country as peace talks in nearby Senegal are in danger of collapsing. The Ivorian mobs were protesting the return of Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, originally elected from rebel territory in the northern Muslim parts of the nation, who was to lead a coalition government with the intention of ending the five-month civil war. Diarra decided to remain in Senegal rather than attempt to face the riots. Popular sentiment in the Ivory Coast is that France forced Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo to sign the accord allowing this power sharing which was rejected by the Ivorian Army, several prominent politicians and traditional local chiefs as surrendering too much power to the rebels.

Protestors invaded the airport, temporarily seizing the tarmac and preventing several planes from landing before they were forced out by about 100 French troops. France, which has 2500 troops in the Ivory Coast to protect approximately 20,000 French nationals residing in or visiting the nation, urged all non-essential French citizens to flee the country.

U.S., British Planes Repeatedly Attack Iraq

Despite continued calls from eleven of the 15 UN Security Council members to allow inspections to continue and for the U.S. to seek a peaceful disarmament of Iraq, British and American planes have continued their attacks on Iraqi installations in response to alleged and unproven attacks by Iraqi Air Defense Units on planes in the southern no-fly zone, stepping up the tempo by striking as many as eight Iraqi sites for each alleged Iraqi action.

Pentagon officials have also admitted to inserting a small number of ground troops into northern Iraq without stating their specific actions; both the American and British bombings and this apparent invasion by American Special Forces could be construed as acts of war upon Iraq. Military officials have also stated that the increased air strikes are meant to reduce Iraqi readiness and ability to defend themselves for when the full invasion does occur. Many of the sites struck have been communications sites integral to Iraq's air defense system.

National

Space Shuttle Columbia Destroyed over Texas

At approximately 9 a.m. Saturday, the NASA Space Shuttle Columbia apparently broke apart in flames over Texas as it was preparing to land. Local residents reported a "big bang" at approximately the same time that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Mission Control in Houston lost all communication with the shuttle and her crew.

Columbia was carrying a crew of seven, made up of six Americans and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, his country's first astronaut. Although Ramon's presence on the flight resulted in an increase in security for both the launch and the attempted landing, NASA officials said that there was no indication of terrorism.

Earlier this week, NASA observed the anniversaries of the only other two disasters in the Agency's history: the Challenger explosion of January 28, 1986 and the Apollo fire of January 27, 1967. This accident is the first in NASA's 42-year history to occur during landing procedures.

New Jersey to Increase Public School Funding, Cut Higher Education

New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey announced an increase in state aid to public schools of \$200 million on Friday night, making public education the only part of the state budget to receive an increase. The money for the allocation will come out of the NJ Saver property-tax rebate program that returned checks to approximately 157,000 New Jersey households. McGreevey is proposing to cap at \$100,000 the gross-taxable income to qualify for the program instead of the previous \$200,000. The aid will be divided roughly in half, with \$100 million as direct aid to Jersey's school districts and \$100 million to pay for new school buildings. Administration officials will detail the exact allocation of the aid on Monday.

This comes in the wake of announcements of cuts to state funding for higher education. Administration officials announced a 20% decrease in aid to private institutions, equivalent to approximately \$20 million, and a 10% decrease in aid to state colleges and universities, including William Paterson, equivalent to about \$100 million. The cuts for county colleges will be announced on Monday. McGreevey has already warned all other recipients of state aid that cuts are in the near future for them as well as he attempts to eliminate a \$5 billion budget gap for the next fiscal year.

Bush's Medicaid Plan May Eliminate Coverage For Millions

President George W. Bush wants to give states \$12.7 billion over seven years to encourage them to change their Medicaid programs. Bush's proposal, presented by the Department of Health and Human Services, would allow states to alter, reduce or even cut benefits without first getting federal approval.

Critics argue that such a change would result in millions losing their benefits. Because this recession economy has reduced tax revenues for most states, they could and likely would use this opportunity to cut large portions of the program to save money. Bush's proposal would not affect aid for the approximately two-thirds of Medicaid recipients who receive it based on mandatory federal guidelines; it would, however, apply to the remaining 14 million who receive aid at the states' discretions.

Bush's plan will require Congressional approval; spokespersons from Health & Human Services announced that they hope to persuade Governors to lobby Congress for the changes. Some Republican Governors have already expressed their support.

Bush Plan to Drill for Oil in Alaskan Refuge Opposed

Led by Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., six of the 51 Republicans in the Senate have issued a letter announcing their opposition to a plan to attach a provision to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to budget legislation. The Republican intent to do this would essentially guarantee its passing since the budget legislation only requires fifty votes to pass (which would result in a tie broken by Republican Vice President Dick Cheney) and cannot be filibustered.

While Bush supporters and sources within the oil industry claim that drilling in the refuge is necessary to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil, environmentalists fear that the program would result in untold damage to the environment. Democrats and other opponents of the plan argue that the same result could be accomplished by increasing mileage standards on sport-utility vehicles. Bush encourages lawmakers to pass his energy plan, which includes provisions for drilling in Alaska, during his State of the Union address earlier this week.

This letter is a continuation of two years of legislative battle over the drilling in Alaska; last year the proposal was passed by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives but failed in the then Democratic Senate.

News in Brief has been compiled from the Philadelphia Inquirer Online News Reports at www.phillynews.com.

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720-2248, stop in SC 310 or email us at
Beacon@student.wpunj.edu.**

Correction

In "Pioneer Express available at 7-11" (01/27), Hospitality Services Director Tony Cavotto's name was spelled incorrectly.

A Look at the SGA

By Beacon Staff

Following the near disastrous results of the SGA stipend approvals at the end of last semester, it was determined at several layers of the Student Government that the system for approving them needed to be revised. In order to fill this need, CJR Chairman Jim Schofield drafted a set of amendments to the SGA Constitution and By-Laws that included measures that he felt would alleviate some of the problems. These measures included dividing

the vote on the stipends, with the Legislature voting on the stipends for the voting members of the SGA Executive Board and the Club "A" Presidents and the Executive Board voting on all other stipends. These votes would be in closed session before the end of the semester to avoid influence. They also included provisions for people who did not remain in a position for the whole semester. The amendments passed the Court of Judicial Review unanimously after much debate; however, members of the Executive Board

raised a number of important issues. After extensive discussion on the amendments, the Executive Board tabled the matter, charging Schofield to draft a new compromise amendment for the following week.

There are numerous open positions in the SGA for this semester. Interested students should inquire in the SGA Office at SC332. The open positions include Freshman Class Secretary and Vice President, all Sophomore Class Officers, Arts & Communications Representatives, Science & Health Reps and others.

Retired Senator Fred Thompson to speak about national security

Part time actor and former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson will discuss national security issues as part of William Paterson University's Distinguished Lecturer Series on February 4.

Thompson has held a wide range of positions, working as a lawyer, Senator and actor. Elected to the Senate in 1994 to fill an unexpired term, Thompson was voted in for a full term in 1996 and went on to serve as a member of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Select committee on intelligence. He also served as a member

of the National Security working Group, which monitors executive branch negotiations with foreign governments. In 2002, Thompson was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations; in March of that year, he announced he would not seek reelection at the end of his term.

Before his work in the Senate, Thompson maintained law offices in Nashville and Washington D.C and worked as an actor in such films as "Die Hard 2" and "In the Line of Fire." Since leaving the Senate, Thompson has gone back

to acting on NBC's "Law and Order," where he plays a conservative district attorney.

Tickets for the lecture are available at the Shea Center Box Office. To purchase tickets, please call the box office at 973-720-2371 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Prices are \$26 for regular tickets; \$24 for senior citizens and William Paterson faculty, staff and alumni; \$14 for students from other schools; and \$10 for William Paterson students.

African Heritage Month Program Calender

William Paterson University is devoting the month of February to African Heritage Month, holding a series of themed programs throughout the period. More specific information on some of these programs will be seen in future stories as we send reporters to as many as we can. For now, though, here is the schedule of events for African Heritage Month.

Opening Ceremony- Tuesday, February 4, Student Center Ballroom, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

"Appreciating Origins" Club Fair- Thursday, February 6, Student Center Ballroom, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Alumni Gospel Concert- Sunday, February 9, Student Center Ballroom, 6:00 p.m., \$4 Student, \$8 Faculty/Staff and Alumni w/ID, \$10 General Admission, \$12 At the door

Bob Marley Luncheon- Tuesday, February 11, Student Center Ballroom, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., \$1 Students, \$3 Others.

Billy Pat's Pub Night- Thursday, February 13, 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Social Issues Discussion- Tuesday, February 18, Towers Pavillion, 6:00 p.m.

Storyteller Paula Larke- Wednesday, February 19, Student Center Ballroom, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Langston Hughes Poetry & Jazz- Wednesday, February 19, Starbucks Lounge, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

African Heritage Month Mass- Sunday, February 23, Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel, 7:30 p.m.


Poetry Slam- Monday, February 24, Student Center Ballroom, 7:00 p.m.

Aids Lecture- Wednesday, February 26, Towers Pavillion, 6:00 p.m.

Unity Closing Ceremony- Thursday, February 27, Student Center Ballroom, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Movie "Imitation of Life"- Thursday, February 27, Student Center Ballroom, 8:00 p.m.

The African Heritage Month Committee would like to thank the Student Government Association (SGA), Student Activities Programming Board (SAPB), Department of Residence Life, Catholic Campus Ministry and the J. Victor Machuga Foundation for the funding of these programs.



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You Put Your Left Foot In, You Stick Your Right Hand Out...

Position is important in every part of life, but it isn't as important in anything else as it is in sex. So...I'm going to tell you about a few positions.

Now, some of you ladies have a man who just can't hit the spot. You know the one, the G-Spot. If that is the case, try the Seated Missionary position. This is a good position if your man wants to rest his elbows or feels like he is crushing you in the standard missionary position. He sits between your legs while keeping his legs spread wide. He then eases himself into your vagina by wriggling toward you and leaning forward. The limited thrusting power is compensated by the more direct penetration. In this position the male is the dominant thruster. It has minimum physical rigorousness and requires a little flexibility.

On the other hand, some of you men are well endowed and therefore don't have to worry about G-Spot stimulation. For you, there is Seated Rear-Entry. This is not an anal posi-

tion; it is vaginal. This is a low-energy position for you in which she is in control. While you sit on a chair or the edge of the bed, she squats down on your erect penis. She controls movement and penetration, which can be quite deep and pleasurable for both of you, trust me. You're free to caress her breasts and upper body. Either one of you can fondle her clitoris for an extra zing. This position is good for surreptitious sex outside of the bedroom, and you can trust me on this as well. The woman is the dominant thruster here. It has a lot of physical rigorousness but requires very low flexibility.

The butterfly position gets the highest points in sex quality and satisfaction. A couple will have to take some time to adjust comfortably for this position. You need to find a place (such as a high bed or low table) where a woman can comfortably lie down on her back so that her vagina is approximately 30 cm lower than his penis while the man is standing in front of her. Then the woman should put her legs on his shoulders and raise her bot-

tom so that her back is straight and her vagina meets the penis. The man should support her back by holding her buttocks. The penetration angle in the butterfly position is deep and such that it allows his penis to reach the G-spot and the woman has a great feeling of "weightlessness" in this position, which makes it one of the most unforgettable positions for her. Lovemaking can be either very sensual or energetic in this position.

Try these out, have some fun and give us some feedback at libidolingo@hotmail.com. That's right, write us. We'd love to know what you think or any topics you want us to cover. Ciao.

-Precious Booker

The Art of Sex

This week's topic for Libido Lingo is one that most of you should be familiar with - different sex positions. Everybody knows about the basic positions such as missionary, doggy-style and woman-on-top. This little article

will tell you a bit about a few variations of those positions, as well as some new ones you may not be familiar with.

This first one is for all the people who love the famous "69" position. It's slightly more difficult, mainly because it's done standing. Yes, I said standing. This position is not meant to be held for long periods of time, and can get painful if not done properly. The male usually hold the woman upside down, with his head between her legs. Some women can't do this mainly because the blood rushes to their heads too fast, but there are others who find that it's almost a rush of sorts. Guys on the other hand can only enjoy it if they have the strength to hold the woman there for a couple of minutes, because if you slip, and she falls, you may be half the man you used to be.

The next one also involves strength on the male side. This position is one that you may try if you like sex in dangerous places, like an elevator for example. Though not as stimulating as some other positions, you could say this

one is good for a "quickie." Again, the male picks up the woman and usually puts her back to a wall. If he angles things properly, there will be little weight on the rest of his body, allowing more freedom of movement.

The final position is definitely an awkward one. Commonly referred to as "froggy style", it resembles the more common "doggy-style" position. Instead of the woman being on her knees facing away from the guy, and the male either on his knees or standing, both members are squatting. Yes, squatting. For both people, it allows for deeper penetration, but also could do a number on the knees.

Either way if you are interested in trying out one of these positions, go right ahead. If you think you want something a little different, try checking out the famous Kama Sutra. Throw a little variation into your love life and I'm sure you will be pleased; in more ways than one.

-Matt Defranza

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Jennifer Sinclair
The Beacon

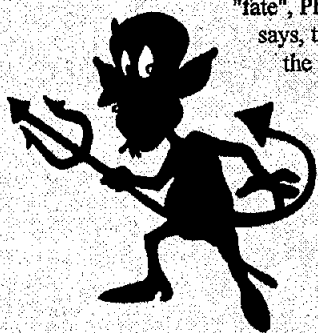
The concept of duality has been with us for thousands of years. In fact, the entire foundation of Tai Chi, some 5000 years old, revolves around the principles of Yin and Yang, always in constant shifting motion, one yielding to the other, and so on, through time immemorial.

And so it is the way with sinners and saints. We can never fully be one or the other. Impure thoughts plague the pure, as they must. And surely every ne'er-do-well has faint flashes of chastity.

Such marks the beginning of Sinner&Saint Press.

William Paterson English major Phil Donchevich and two of his friends, now co-workers, met in a writing class here just over three years ago. The English department had a dying cause on its hands with a school publication, which had traditionally been called Essence. It

seemed no one on campus was willing to step forward and complete the magazine/book of student submissions. In fact, the two years previous, Essence had not been produced at all. It was "fate", Phil says, that



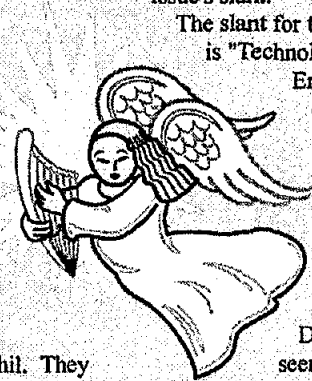
three had met then, because they "all shared the same passion for writing" and gladly stepped forward for the cause. For two years in a row they successfully published, with school allocated funds, Essence; a compilation of poetry, prose and pictures. In their time with the magazine, the guys gave Essence "a new meaning, a

focus, a slant, a style." For this they were applauded wholeheartedly by the English department and the school.

Taking that experience and knowledge, Phil and his friends wanted to do something more. And that is how Sinner&Saint began. "We wanted to start our own publication to provide a forum, not just for William Paterson students, but for anyone who had the artistic fires burning," said Phil. They wanted to form a sense of community, emphasizing local talent. To accomplish all this, they decided to begin their own privately owned and operated small-time press.

The product of this inspiration, Sinner&Saint press, will produce a quarterly journal composed of prose,

poetry, pictures and artwork, all provided by local talent—anyone who lives in the North Jersey or Manhattan areas. The journal accepts any genre, style or structure, but entries must revolve around each issue's slant.



The slant for the upcoming issue is "Technology in the Modern Era." This issue asks questions like: What is your relationship with all the gizmos and gadgets of the modern era? How does technology affect your life? Does it aid you, or seem to control every aspect of your existence? Would we be better off without certain things, or do you dream of a cyber-future? Having a slant, Phil assures us, "is not meant to discourage anyone from writing. It is meant to provide a unifying theme to our forum and help focus your

creativity. But never does the slant have to be all-encompassing in your work. Technology is rampant in every aspect of our lives, from its role in medical science to war, from the new fancy cars we wish we could afford to the big screen TV we swear we need, to cell phones, CDs, DVDs, etc."

The premiere issue, "Feeling Safe," for which submission deadlines have already passed, is slated for release at the end of January. The group will be having a release party soon at The Shepherd and The Knucklehead, just down the road from WPU on Belmont Avenue. Everyone is encouraged to show up, read at the open forum, meet the editors and authors, and pick up a copy of the issue. You can send submissions, questions, or requests for a copy of the journal to Phil at sinnersandsaintpress@yahoo.com. Most importantly, Phil invites you to consider what he says is "the eternal question." Are you a Sinner? Saint? Or both?

By Patty Kunath

Do you like meat? Like a lot of meat? Particularly pork, ribs, chicken, sausage, alligator, ostrich, sirloin and buffalo? Vegetarians beware! Seabra's Rodizio is the place to go for a taste of Portuguese cuisine and Brazilian culture. This week I decided to take a break from the usual bar review and take a more cultural route by reviewing a Portuguese restaurant. Besides the fact that I did not get a chance to go to a new bar this week and my friend invited a bunch of us to try out Seabra's Rodizio, I welcomed this change. Located at 1034 McCarter Highway in Newark, this place may not be as accessible as most and looks sketchy at first glance from the outside. Let not appearances deceive you, for on the inside, beautiful decorations line the walls that you would not expect from looking at the outside. There is a small bar in the front that leads to the main eating room. Off to the

side is an open oven that cooks the meat. The ambience is great with low lighting and two men that go around to each table that play songs on their fiddles and guitars.

The first thing I found out about this place, other than that it serves Portuguese food, is that the buffet costs about \$19 and is the most popular item on the menu. I was not even sure what was so special about this buffet that it would have such a steep price. Of course one does not have to order the buffet if expensive prices scare you, like me. I ordered the Penne tomato with shrimp, thinking I would not want buffet food. What I did not know is that the buffet is actually mass quantities of meat that is served piping hot right to your table, rotisserie style. Servers come to your table with cooked shanks of meat on metal skewers with any type of meat you could dream of. I believe Alligator to have been the most exotic. Steve did not like the alligator because it "tasted like fish," go figure.

The salad bar was massive and

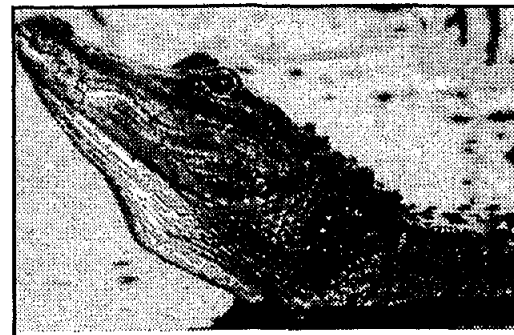
stocked with typical things like lettuce and tomatoes, as you would expect, along with Portuguese foods like fried bananas. I kept filling my plate up with all sorts of varieties of food. Fear of fried bananas forced me to skip over them, yet it would not be the last time I would be faced with the decision of eating them. No, Del had an agenda to get me to try them before the night was over. I eventually gave in as he slopped a crusty banana on my plate. It looked kind of like a dark crispy Twinkie. I bravely cut a piece off and put it in my mouth. The first thing I noticed was the scalding temperature of the banana as I spit it back on to my plate. Yet I could not give up that easily. I let it cool down a bit before trying it again. The outside a bit crispy and oily, the inside tasting of mushy sweetness. Del recommended trying it with meat and something not normally associated with sweetness. I yielded at this point, concluding that fried bananas are not for me. Yet I was happy I did at least try it and the saga of the banana was

at an end.

I think if I knew about the vast array of meat the buffet provided I would have went with that choice instead of my shrimp pasta. My entrée was very good but I filled up on a lot from the salad bar before I had a chance to touch the shrimp. I also had some ribs that I stole from someone who ordered the buffet. If you were to go to this place I would say go for the buffet. The food will keep coming until you are full. There is a block on the table with red and green sides that you use to tell the staff if you still want the food. Green side up will keep them coming, red side up and they will not come to your table.

Over all it was a pleasant evening shared with friends, a deluge of meats and pitchers of Sangria. I had not before had the opportunity to have

sangria, which is wines, fruit juices and fruits all mixed together. It tasted more like a fruit drink than wine, but there is alcohol in there. After you have emptied your pitcher you can eat the fruit at the bottom, just keep in mind that most of the alcohol in the drink has absorbed into the fruit. I would recommend trying this place out for a special event, and be prepared to pay much and tip well. Also do not forget to ask for your credit card back after you have paid, as Del learned. 4 out of 5 stars.



You could be eating this handsome animal at Seabra's Rodizio

THE GENTLEMEN'S CORNER

By Pat Bennett & Brian "Brain" Morris

Welcome everyone, to this week's Gentlemen's Corner. Last week, we told you ladies how to get guys. This week, we'll tell you guys how to get guys... just kidding. This week we will continue with Part 2 of our Valentine's Day Trilogy: How a gentleman should go about getting a lady.

Pat: The first step in obtaining a woman is to decide what kind you want. This can be very difficult, as no two women are the same. That's why you must be absolutely sure when you see the type you want.

Brain: Just like there are different types of men, there are many different types of women: the sporty type, the artsy type, the bitchy type, the Suzie Home-maker type, and the manly woman type.

Pat: The sporty type can usually be found running around the kitchen, the artsy type can usually be found painting the kitchen, the bitchy type can usually be found yelling in the kitchen, the Suzie Home-maker type can usually be found cooking in the kitchen, and the manly woman type can usually be found fixing the kitchen... just kidding again. The sporty type can be located playing sports, while the artsy type can be found creating art. The bitchy type, well, personally, I don't wanna find that type.

Brain: Now as a dude, you should figure out what type you are so you can match yourself well. The sporty types go together, and the asshole guy really compliments the bitchy chick. The Suzie Home-maker usually goes with the 'marriage material'

guy, and well, the manly woman likes men, though usually boiling in a pot.

Pat: Once you've selected your particular lady, you must now overcome the obstacle of making contact with her.

Brain: Being in college, meeting chicks gets a wee bit easier than outside. If you come across a lady who fancies you, strike up a conversation about class or a professor, whatever. Just remember from a previous Gentlemen's Corner, stay away from those guy topics like sports, drinking, bowel movements, women and, of course, the exclusive gentlemanly topic of sandwiches.

Pat: I agree, talking about class is a good way to start. Once you've developed that initial point of conversing, gradually move on to other non-guy topics. After doing this for some time, casually mention that the both of you should hang out sometime.

Brain: Ahh yes, ask her right out for tea and strumpets. I would go out to a place like a bar, or a club, some place where you can escape if the date goes sour.

Pat: You can also go out to eat. That's a good way to strike up a conversation. As much as some of you gentlemen out there don't like it, communication is vital when you want to try and court a lady. If you find it hard to pay attention, at least make it seem like you are. And always nod your head in agreement.

Brain: Remember those topics to avoid. Now, the key is to be covert with your farting. Try the cough and blast method. If it's a short and sweet one, you can get

away with it. If there is a real crowded place, you can blast the big ones and not have to worry about a thing. But then there are those situations where it's just you and her. Should you pooch?

Pat: I say pooch. If you fart and she bolts, it was never meant to be, but if you rip ass and she comes back, she's yours.

Brain: Now you definitely know you have a keeper. Handle her with care. Personally, I wouldn't rip too many in front of her, it may get old real fast. Now if she tears a bigger one, then definitely handle her with care. She's the keeper.

Pat: Yeah, you've definitely found your soul mate. But always remember, it's hit or miss whenever a fart is involved. If she's the wholesome type, you can bet she won't be amused by your ass blaster.

Brain: Sometimes I spend nights wondering why broads gotta be so damn difficult. I wish chicks could be as easy to figure out as guys. None of this code shit, if you want something you say it, no mind games included.

Pat: I agree, but that's what you gotta put up with. With dudes, they'll just come out and tell you what they basically want. It don't take a brain surgeon to figure it out. Ok, Rummy time.

The wonderful world of women is one that can make men happier than a fly in horseshit, or as miserable as a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest. When it comes to courting women, be sure to wear protection, like a cup. And if you don't like it, tough shit...

Imbolc: February 2

By Precious Booker

It is time for another Wiccan holiday. I'm a week late as I usually get these out a week before the upcoming holiday and this time the holiday was February 2. This holiday is known as Imbolc. 'Candlemas' is the Christianized name for the holiday. The older Pagan names were Imbolc and Oimeic. 'Imbolc' means, literally, 'in the belly' (of the Mother). For in the womb of Mother Earth, hidden from our mundane sight but sensed by a keener vision, there are stirrings. The seed that was planted in her womb at the solstice is quickening and the new year grows. 'Oimeic' means 'milk of ewes,' for it is also lambing season and at this time, pregnant sheep, or ewes, begin to lactate. This is one sure sign that spring is right around the corner. Imbolc, also called the Feast of Brigid or 'Brigit's Day,' celebrates the approach of spring. Although the days are getting longer, this is still the heart of winter and Brigid, the Celtic Goddess of poetry, smith craft and healing (especially the healing touch of midwifery), is honored. Her gift of smith craft comes with an added bonus: fire. At her shrine, in the ancient Irish capitol of Kildare, a group of 19 priestesses (no men allowed) kept a perpetual flame burning in her honor. This may be the reason some celebrate this day as the day of the Celtic Fire Goddess. This is a time of new beginnings and growth. At this time, think of your goals and dreams for this year that you will plant. At this time, greet the pregnant Maiden Goddess and give Her thanks for soon She will give birth to the spring.

Today, this holiday is chiefly connected to weather lore. Even our American folk-calendar keeps the tradition of 'Groundhog's Day,' a day to predict the coming weather, telling us that if the Groundhog sees his shadow, there will be 'six more weeks' of

bad weather. This custom is ancient. An old British rhyme tells us that 'If Candlemas Day be bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year.'

For modern Witches, Imbolc may then be seen as the Pagan version of Valentine's Day, with a de-emphasis of 'hearts and flowers' and an appropriate re-emphasis of Pagan carnal frivolity. This also re-aligns the holiday with the ancient Roman Lupercalia, a fertility festival held at this time, in which the priests of Pan ran through the streets of Rome whacking young women with goatskin thongs to make them fertile. The women seemed to enjoy the attention and often stripped in order to afford better targets.

One of the nicest folk-customs still practiced in many countries, and especially by Witches in the British Isles and parts of the U.S., is to place a lighted candle in each and every window of the house (or at least the windows that faced the street), beginning at sundown on Candlemas Eve (February 1st), allowing them to continue burning until sunrise. Make sure that such candles are well seated against tipping and guarded from nearby curtains, etc. And, of course, if you are your Coven's chandler, or if you just happen to like making candles, Candlemas Day is the day for doing it. Some Covens hold candle-making parties and try to make and bless all the candles they'll be using for the whole year on this day.

Other customs of the holiday include weaving 'Brigit's crosses' from straw or wheat to hang around the house for protection, performing rites of spiritual cleansing and purification, making 'Brigit's beds' to ensure fertility of mind and spirit (and body, if desired), and making Crowns of Light (out of candles) for the High Priestess to wear for the Candlemas Circle, similar to those worn on St. Lucy's Day in Scandinavian countries. All in all, this Pagan Festival of Lights, sacred to the young Maiden Goddess, is one of the most beautiful and poetic of the year.

Estrogen

What George Bush was really saying in his State of the Union Address



El Diablo hardly means what he says or says what he means...

like a highly paid faith healer.

A good point that was brought up in the State of the Union address (in theory) is that the President doesn't want boys and girls in today's society growing up without guidance. We here at Estrogen, with the help of the ladies from

Now.org, found

the translation of that statement to be hard to understand. The President wants boys and girls to grow up with guidance, yet he's pushing for women to work another ten hours a week, getting them away from their children, because he says "work is good for you." I suppose 9 months of carrying a child in your body and the next twenty years feeding, loving, and raising them isn't hard enough work according to George.

Another point Bush made that I'm having a hard time understanding is his apparent care for the education of young girls in Afghanistan. I admire his heart and

sensitivity to the matter, but schools in Afghanistan have been bombed and burned since the Bush Administration vetoed the U.N.'s effort to send additional troops into the country to protect those children. I may not be a political science professor, but one word comes to mind at the thought of what George says and what George does: hypocritical.

A good idea is a good idea nonetheless, and the President definitely came up with a plan that could work with this next point. George wants to help stop the spread of Aids in Africa by putting in \$15 billion to the cause. When I heard this I was ready to stand up out of my seat and throw away all other notions I had about George until I remembered this: the Bush Administration recently put efforts into preventing the use of condoms that would help stop the spread of AIDS around the world. If this makes no sense whatsoever to you, and your starting to notice a pattern, you're on the right track.

Who could talk about George Bush without mentioning his unhealthy obsession with Christianity? The President threw the idea on the table that the government should funnel hundreds of millions of dollars to "faith-based" organizations for discriminatory social service programs—Bush always conveniently fails to men-

tion that religious organizations already can and do receive millions in federal social service dollars—but they're not allowed to discriminate against employees or clients.

In terms of war, Bush addressed the fact that the war on Iraq was not about oil, and that a preemptive strike doctrine doesn't violate basic norms of international law. Basically, Bush is forgetting that a war on Iraq would inflame hatred against the U.S., ruin most chances of us having any allies left at all, and make us more susceptible than ever to terrorist attacks. What Bush is failing to realize is that the only person willing to go to war in this country is himself.

Bush also stated that he will now be calling "corporate criminals to account," even though his administration repeatedly looks the other way. Prime example: the Bush Administration refused to release information on bigwig meetings with the corporate thieves of Enron. Also, according to Bush, the poor millionaires of this country are suffering and are in need of tax cuts while state budgets are crashing and the jobless rates continue to grow.

There are also some points that Bush would have us believe, based on his policy proposals, but that he avoided mentioning in the state of the union address.

The first is that affirmative action for the sons of wealthy alumni is

perfectly fine, but it's an impermissible racial "quota" if it's intended to remedy ongoing discrimination against people of color—and that Bush wasn't race baiting when he called the University of Michigan's affirmative action program a "quota" system.

Another point is that embryos and fetuses should have a legal status that trumps the fundamental rights of girls and women—making life-saving stem cell research difficult. Bush also says that federal funding to family planning clinics should be choked off while giving more funding to "fathers rights" groups, that blame women for men's abuse and irresponsible behavior.

Although Bush's rhetoric is often reminiscent of "Opposite Day" in kindergarten, when teachers and children say just the opposite of what they really mean, the U.S. public isn't fooled. We know Bush's war on Iraq is wrong. We also know that Bush's economic and tax policies are both inequitable and disastrous for the economy. We know, too, that funding for education is imperiled, that quality health care is out of reach for more and more people, and that our rights—women's rights, civil rights and individual liberties—are under assault as they haven't been in over a decade.

Information courtesy of www.now.org

Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

If you watched the President's state of the union address this past week on your television, you probably know that George addressed a number of issues concerning women. Unfortunately for the women who were listening, however, there are a large amount of translations that need to be made, which is usually always the case when listening to George talk. During this time of war looming above our heads, the president is taking pains to make sure that he soothes the American public with promises, but most of the time ends up looking

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I was hired as a NYC Callgirl

Allison Chavanon
The Beacon

Editor's note: Some names and locations in this piece have been changed for confidentiality purposes.

Lately, I've been wondering about the relationship between feminism and prostitution. Some feminists look at prostitution as just another profession and don't think that women should be looked down on for engaging in sexual activity for money. However, women in everyday society however look at prostitutes as the poorest excuse for a woman and think that they should be doing something more productive with their time than lying on their back. Both sides can back their opinions with solid facts. For example, the drug usage and percentage of violence concerning prostitutes is extremely high; 70% use drugs and 90% suffer some form of abuse. On the other hand, prostitution is the oldest profession in existence and is something that is shared universally among all cultures. Why should women be forced to look at sex through the eyes of Christianity, which states that sex should not occur outside of the bonds of marriage? Though I'm an atheist, I was unsure how I felt about women and prostitution until I set up a job interview with a woman who runs one of the most expensive escort agencies in New York City.

I decided over Christmas break that I wanted to do a little Lois Lane type of reporting and go undercover into a situation like the escort business, and see first hand how it really works. I found out about the agency after I did some extensive research through phone calls and Internet surfing. Surprisingly, women run most escort agencies. Escort services are big business: rates for an escort range anywhere from \$150 to \$750 an hour, depending on the agency. New York is the most expensive city, with Boston and Philadelphia coming next in line.

After all of my research I finally found an agency that I thought

would be perfect for my story. This agency was run by a woman "Donna," and had its office on 5th Avenue in New York City. When I first spoke with Donna, it was like talking to my mom on the phone, and right away she made me feel comfortable. Donna's idea in the business is to look after the girls that work for her and make sure that she's always on their side.

She sees her customers as expendable and takes the opinions of her girls into high consideration. Her interviewing process is extensive, and I could only secure an interview with her by sending her a personal bio and pictures over e-mail.

I kept in touch with Donna over the course of a week and she slowly explained the ins and outs of the business to me. She's based out of New York City and doesn't hire professional escorts. Most of the girls that work for her attend either NYU or Columbia and are working their way through school. She said that she goes for the "girl next door" type, and has her girls dress "the way their mothers always wanted them to." Her online picture gallery of her escorts didn't lead me to believe that the girls would ever live next door to anyone--these girls looked more like they stepped off the cover of Playboy Magazine. I was definitely intimidated, and thought she would laugh at the pictures I sent her, but she approved them and set up an interview with me in the city for yesterday afternoon.

I woke up late that morning with about a half hour to get ready. The day before, I went to CVS and stocked up on makeup (not owning any myself), and I had already picked out what I was going to wear. I took a two-minute shower, piled on the makeup that I had just bought, literally grabbed my roommate and her boyfriend out of their bed while they were sleeping, and off we went.

Donna and I had agreed to meet at a coffee shop on 5th Avenue where we would have lunch and get to know each other. I learned from

the agency's web site that Donna likes to interview girls at restaurants to see how they interact with the wait staff. She likes to hire girls that treat everyone very politely, whether it is Donald Trump or a busboy cleaning dishes off of a table.

I got to the coffee shop early and sat down with some homework

"Before I left the apartment I had a new name, new hometown, and I was hired into the agency."

while I waited for her. Two chapters and two cups of coffee later I got a phone call from Donna telling me that she couldn't make it to the coffee shop, but she wanted me to come to her apartment for the interview. I panicked. If the coffee shop was only one block away why couldn't she make the trip? I automatically called five of my friends for their opinion, and after getting a bunch of "I don't know's" I decided to go for it.

It took me a few minutes to find the building (I'm essentially retarded when it comes to finding my way around NYC), but when I did get to the building my jaw dropped. This was by far the nicest building that I had ever stepped foot in, and I was self-conscious about the fact that I was wearing jeans and red Saucony's. I went to open the glass doors of the building and a doorman appeared out of nowhere, opening the door and saying "hello" before I could wrap my fingers around the doorknob. I had to check my name at the desk, and two minutes later I was in the elevator on my way to certain death or an interview.

When Donna opened the door I was surprised. She was an average middle-aged woman in a business suit, and greeted me with a warm smile. She sat me down right away

and had me ask her question after question because she wanted to make me feel comfortable, not knowing that the whole time I was mentally remembering everything that she said for this article.

The first question I asked her was about sex and money. Donna gave me a handout explaining her rules and regulations of her agency. It

specifically states that any form of prostitution will result in the termination of the girl working. Basically, this means that discussing prostitution is illegal, and that's how Donna keeps herself out of jail. Prostitution is expected from all of the clients. They're not paying \$750 an hour for conversation. Donna said that clients range from artists to NFL team members to Wall

Street businessmen, but are all regarded as a potential problem--no one is fully trusted. Donna has a code word in her agency, and if anything is going wrong or scaring the girl while she is on her "date", Donna expects the girl to call her and fit the code word into conversation.

Sex is never talked about with Donna, though. If one of the girls spends an hour with a client having sex and can't physically bring herself to go to another client directly after, she calls Donna and says that she's "exhausted". Calling Donna and saying "I just had an hour worth of sex with so and so" isn't acceptable. The name of the game is keeping Donna out of jail. While I was looking at websites and talking on the phone with different agencies, I noticed that they all do that to keep themselves out of prison. The agency says that they provide a client with "company" not sexual favors, and that if a girl wants to sleep with a client of her own free will that's her business. People just getting into the business learn quickly however, from what I've gathered, that this business is

run on regulars, and you have to establish personal clientele if you want to make any money. Most of the customers keep coming back for more, leaving the agency with the same repeating customers; new clients are handled by more experienced girls.

Just like any business, there are common problems that the employees have to face, although these problems are a lot different than most businesses. Some customer's try and take the girls cell phone to acquire the girl's personal telephone number through their caller ID. Some clients think that if a girl has been on a few "dates" with them, that that means she is their girlfriend and out of the business. As I sat there and listened to the problems the girls faced, they sounded more and more ridiculous. Were these men buying prostitutes, or were they little boys wanting a hug? Before I left the apartment, I had a new name, new hometown, and I was hired into the agency. I walked out with Donna's rules and regulations, a credit card booklet and business cards. I also felt like I was going to throw up. The interview didn't do much to sway my opinion either way on whether prostitution was ok or not, but it made me realize that I got physically ill just thinking about it.

On the train back to New Jersey, I found that it took me a while to even tell my roommate what had gone on in that 5th Avenue apartment. I felt ashamed just talking about it, even though I knew full that I was just doing it for an article. Is that a result of society or a result of my own personal beliefs? Maybe if society didn't look down so much on the idea of prostitution it wouldn't be such a taboo subject. Either way, I ended up coming home with a lot more questions than I had walked in with.

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LIFE AS A LOSTPROPHET

Joelle Caputa
The Beacon

The **Lostprophets** are full-fledged superstars in England, but can still walk around the United States incognito. They are currently back home, writing songs for their follow-up to their debut, *thefakesoundofprogress*. They'll be in Los Angeles, recording it in March with Eric Valentine (**Queens of the Stone Age**). Since I can't wait for it to come out, I thought I'd stir up some excitement ahead of time and print my interview with their lead vocalist, Ian Watkins.

You were originally a drummer, but took over singing because you couldn't find a singer for the band. Which do you prefer, being a drummer or a singer?

Ian: I like being a drummer. I wish I was a drummer. I like just getting behind the kit and playing. I like making up melodies and I like singing. But sometimes being the singer is a lot of hassle. You kind of just gotta be the guy who has to talk to the crowd and get all excited.

How long have you played the drums?

Ian: Since I was 14. Then a friend of Mike's was a drummer and we didn't know a singer. I couldn't sing for shit when we first started. I'm still learning it now.

Did you take voice lessons?

Ian: No. We just did it. We didn't care, we were having fun. I wasn't going to do sit with some vocal coach for an hour.

The band designed the cover to your CD. Does anyone have a background in design?

Ian: I studied graphic design and got my degree in it. I worked as a graphic designer for a year.

What made you want to pursue music instead?

Ian: Graphic design was always something to do in the meantime, while we were trying to make it in the band. We always played in bands, but I always loved art and design as well. So when I was in University, I was doing the band as well. Then, I graduated and started working while we played shows and stuff like that. Music was always first.

Have you considered using your position in the public eye to send out messages through your music? For example, maybe Mike would talk about the benefits of being a vegetarian.

Ian: No. Three of us are straight edge, but the whole thing comes down to personal choice. People are like, "Don't you ever get tempted?" Well it's like, if you don't like a certain food and you walk into a room full of that food, you're not going to be tempted to do it because the food sucks. I don't like it. If I was tempted, I'd do it.

Who are the three of you who are

straight edge?

Ian: Me, Lee and Mike, the two guitarists. Like I said, we're not gonna preach about it, it's a personal thing. If people want to drink and smoke, then why not? It's their choice. There's no real message other than positivity. The songs are reflective of our emotional lives and political things. There's no underlying.

I've read that you are influenced by movies, art and video games. Are there any specific ones?

Ian: We love a lot of the 80's movies, like John Hughes stuff. *The Breakfast Club*, *Weird Science*, *16 Candles*, *Ferris Buller*, all that type of stuff. All the cool 80's movies you grew up watching and being in awe of, like the *Back to the Future* trilogy, the *Indiana Jones* trilogy and the *Karate Kid*. Everything like that, which forms who you are to a certain extent. It may seem trivial to some people. But, we're that generation. We're the movie, MTV generation because that's what we grew up on. When we write music, we relate to that. I can only sing about things I know about and that's what I know about. I know about growing up watching those movies and playing video games.

Were there any movies in England that are on the same level as those?

Ian: We just had all the American movies. The British movie industry has always been every arty, very art house. It's not very good. I like *Snatch* and *Lock Stock*, which are really cool movies, but I think they are the only exceptions. The rest are just kind of boring.

I like watching the soap operas. I watch East Enders.

Ian: That's depressing, but lifting because you think at least my life is not that bad.

It's really different than American ones. English ones are more realistic.

Ian: American ones are more escapism.

I heard you guys are big Star Trek fans and recently went to the Hilton in Las Vegas to see the museum.

Ian: Yea. That was one of the coolest things we've ever done.

Is it hard to have relationships while you are on tour? Or do you bring your girlfriends with you?

Ian: No. It is kind of hard. We don't tend to bring the girlfriends out because it causes more problems, having like six girlfriends on the bus. The bus only sleeps a certain number. It's tough to live in, for the crew

as well. I'm sure the crew don't want to live with our girlfriends.

Do you stay in hotels at night?

Ian: We stay in the bus. Now and again, if we have a day off, we get a hotel. Now and again our girlfriends do come out for certain periods of time. But as a general rule, no. It's like your job. You don't take your girlfriend to work. Do you know what I mean?

Do you tour the cities you're in?

Ian: No, we just look around. We don't do specific touristy things. We just take our BMX bikes

and ride around the town, see if there are any cool shops, see if you can go for coffee, chill out and get some food.

Are there any places that you really liked when you were there?

Ian: I liked San Diego a lot. It's really relaxed and warm. San Antonio was cool because it had the Alamo and was like being in *Desperado*. I love NYC, that's always good, Chicago as well.

Do you mind when girls start viewing you more as pin-up-boys on TRL rather than musicians? Do you think they really appreciate the music?

Ian: That's the \$64,000 question. Is it selling out or is it converting people to a new style of music? We've had this in the UK, where we're in teen magazines and on TV a lot and people say we've sold out and are a crap pop band now. But our album is exactly the same. It's the same album they liked when we first started, nothing has changed. It's just that these girls can listen to the **Backstreet Boys** and have some brainless message or they can listen to us and at least have something positive or vaguely intellectual in their heads.

I guess some people don't get exposed to music until it goes main stream.

Ian: Exactly. If we're in a poster wearing a t-shirt of some underground band, chances are they'll be in the store one day and they'll see their name. Then they'll be like, "Oh, that guy on my wall has that t-shirt on. If he likes them, I might like them." Then they'll check them out. It may start from there. She may then get into punk rock or metal. She may start thinking for herself. I mean, 80% of the time, probably not. But there's always that 20% where you will open doors. You can't do that or otherwise you'd be an elitist. We didn't start a band to form barriers and say who can and who can't listen to our music.



Was it your idea to have a spot on your website for bands to submit their demos?

Ian: Yea.

Have you gotten any ones that you really liked?

Ian: Yea. We've listened to a lot, but I'm not really gonna listen to them properly until I get home because I don't think it's fair. When I'm home I can concentrate and write stuff down and actually listen to them properly. We get so many demos on the road that they just end up getting lost because you haven't got the time or the mindset to listen to them properly. When I'm home, I can because I've got nothing to do. Then I put on the demos, listen to them and see what's good and what's crap. When we're on the road, a lot of people come up to us and give us their demos and tell us to check out their website. You try to, but your mind is not there because you are too tired and you're busy touring. So we thought it would be cool if on the website we put a place to submit demos and mp3's, so when I'm home I can check it out.

What are you going to do with the ones that you like?

Ian: We're just going to try to help them as much as we can. We know a lot of people in the music industry now because we got signed and stuff. We can take them out, if they are really good, on tour. Or, we can put them in contact with people who can book them shows.

In your CD insert you thanked Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp. Was that a joke?

Ian: No. They're good friends.

Who are some of your influences?

Ian: Duran Duran, the Police, Depeche Mode, New Order, Anthrax, Annihilator, Faith No More, Jesus Jones. Weird stuff, 80's pop, 80's thrash metal.

Link: www.lostprophets.com

COMING THIS SEMESTER IN THE INSIDER....

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Oops!

Last week's pictures of The Starting Line were taken by David Appuzo! They did not come from the band's website!
So get it straight!

Get Rocked by Coheed and Cambria, One Line Drawing and The Rocking Horse Winner

Attn WPU Students:

The music dept. of William Patterson University has allowed me to organize monthly bus trips to shows at the Knitting Factory in New York City. The first show that I will be promoting is **Coheed and Cambria, One Line Drawing and The Rocking Horse Winner** on Friday, February 28.



Details:

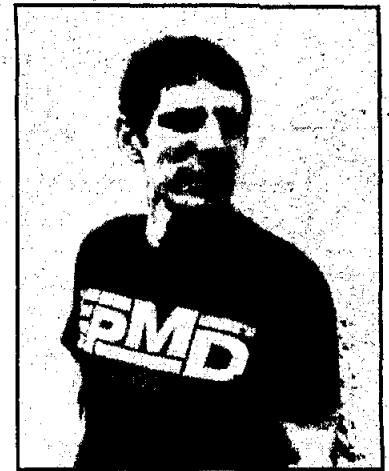
The 47 passenger bus will arrive at the William Patterson University campus at approx. 6 p.m. Cost of bus fare and price of the show is \$22. (Which is not a bad deal at all, plus you don't have to drive anywhere!) To make the deal even better, the Knitting Factory is offering 2 free hours of "tap beer" at an additional \$7. So for \$29 you can get hammered, watch some great bands, and actively participate in a rowdy WPU field trip. It must also be noted that you DO NOT have to be a William Patterson student to attend this show, so you can bring your friends. Names will be taken on a first come, first serve basis and will be compiled by emailing me at xcircumstance@hotmail.com. In the coming weeks I will be heavily promoting the show with flyers, radio station concert updates (maybe, since I don't want to break FCC Rules and Regulations!!!), and in my weekly contribution to the Beacon.

To drink you must be 21 and have a photo id handy. Money for the event will be collected at the door on the date of the show. If all goes well with this show I expect to do at least 5-6 more shows throughout the

semester. If you have any questions please email me. Please tell all your friends about the show and spread the word. These outings could be really positive for the William Patterson music scene.

For more info about Coheed and Cambria please visit: www.equalvision.com and www.coheedandcambria.com. Thanks in advance.

-Adam Gismond!



New Bands Showcase at Stone Pony

Joelle Caputa The Beacon

This past holiday season, the Stone Pony, in Asbury Park, hosted WRAT's Nutcrackers Ball. When I found out **Breaking Benjamin** was going to be there, I knew I was going to be too. What I didn't realize was that this was a new band showcase of sorts. I had assumed the other bands on the bill were all local New Jersey bands. I soon found out they are all brand new bands with major label deals. If their performances that night were any indication, you'll be hearing more from them very soon.

rock style. It's made up of guys from Philadelphia, who look like they are still in high school. If I were to judge them on their looks, I would probably not give them a chance. They have hair longer than me and look like they are stuck in the 70's.

However, once they started playing, they instantly had my attention. The closest I have come to liking classic rock is **Jeremiah Freed**, who are a fairly new band themselves. Anyway, Silvertide had a high voltage sound and a killer lead guitar player, Nick Perri. He's probably also the pimp of the band, because he performs shirtless, in tight pants and is tattooed under his belly button with the words "high voltage," which

I am guessing was inspired by the band. At one point in the show, he came down and played in the crowd. That showed they know how to interact with the audience. But, they almost lost all credibility with me when vocalist, Walt Lafty began humping the mic stand. It reeked of immaturity to me.

But they managed to capture

the attention of Clive Davis, who originally signed them to J Records, after beating out a few other labels in a bidding war.

The band's debut is due in 2003. For now, you can get your hands on their three song EP.

This was the first time I saw Breaking Benjamin live, so I was anxious to hear them. In the beginning of their set, the venue was having a sound problem. However, the band handled it professionally and kept the show going. While it was being fixed, vocalist Ben Burnley performed

a captivating acoustic version of Nirvana's "Bother." It's almost eerie how much his voice resembled Kurt Cobain's as he sang it. The band performed songs off their Hollywood Records debut and saved their single, "Polyamorous Friend," for last. This was a bit of a homecoming show for the guys. They hail from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, but this was the closest show to home they've played since return-



crazy, pushing and shoving people. I have never seen such a mean person in a mosh pit. The boyfriends of the girls he was pushing started to fight back and and all out brawl almost resulted before it was broken up.

Breaking Benjamin had a tight live show. The guys worked together on stage and had a lot of fun, which made the crowd have a lot of fun. Next up for them is the Jagermeister tour with **Saliva, (hed) Planet Earth, Systematic and Stereomud**.

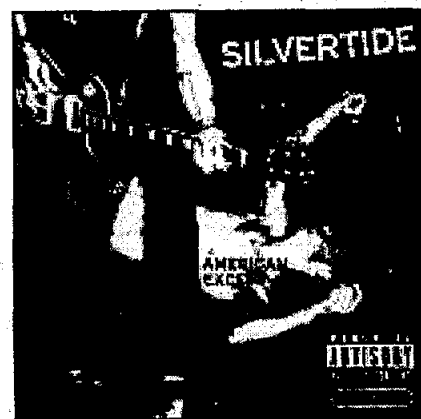
All the bands signed autographs after their sets, so that was pretty cool. This was my first time at the Stone Pony, so I didn't know what to really expect. I like how they have a bar area and tables, so you can just chill out before the band you want to see comes on. If you've never been there, you should go, even if you don't know the bands that are playing there. After all, this is where **Bon Jovi** and **The Boss** got their starts. One day, we may be saying the same about the bands at the Nutcracker's Ball.

Links: www.breakingbenjamin.com
www.the-exies.com
www.silvertidemusic.com



The first band I caught was **The Exies**, from Southern California. They just released their debut CD, *Inertia*, on Virgin Records. It features the single "My Goddess," which by now you've probably heard on commercials for the X Games. The video is also in rotation on MTV2. I don't want to give too much away because the Beacon will be doing an interview with the band in a future issue. But, I will say that they rocked and the vocalist has a voice like **Scott Weiland**.

The next band, **Silvertide**, had a classic



ing from a west coast tour.

Naturally, all their friends and family from home came up for the show. Once they got on stage, the crowd got crazy and a mosh pit started. That's when things got a little too rough for my liking. I have no problem with mosh pits, but I do have a problem with men who purposely and aggressively push women in them. This one guy took off his shirt and just went

Another Day Ruined Interviewed

Pete Markowicz
The Beacon

A certain show was supposed to happen a couple of weeks ago. It was to be Dave Smalley from All/Dag Nasty and Down by Law fame, The Fiendz, and Another Day Ruined. The show was cancelled due to snow, which bummed everyone out. Well, last Thursday the show actually went on and there was a great turnout. The show was at Connections on Van Houten Ave. in Clifton, which is basically a strip of local bars to get belligerent at. The cover charge was about twelve dollars, which no one seemed to mind paying.

Another Day Ruined in my opinion was the best band that night. I never really got into All or Dag Nasty that much; call me



crazy. Another Day Ruined is a band fresh out of the local area that blends hardcore with a melodic harmonized touch. Yella Jay is a really great singer. He belts out his screams with enthusiasm and slowly drifts into that harmonized melody I described before. Mikey Marmo rips up the bass with style with his wrist band demeneor look. Mikey even does background screaming vocals that sometimes scares the crowd. They also have Ox on drums, Graham on guitar, and Aud on guitar. Everyone brings their own good style to the band, which makes Another Day Ruined an eyeopener. Every song has a good flow. They also did a Rolling Stone cover that was fucking amazing. The last song they always do is excellent and full of energy. The song really gets the room going. All in all, you must go

see this great local band. I sat down with Mr. Marmo and Yella Jay and picked their brains about what makes this band tick.

Peter Markowicz: Who's in your band and what do they play?

Mikey Marmo: I'm Mike, I play bass.

Yella Jay: Yella, I sing.

MM: We got Aud and Graham on guitars, and Ox plays the drums.

PM: How did Another Day Ruined start, where did you get the name from, and how did you guys meet each other?

MM: Well, we all knew each other for a couple years already. I played in a bands with the drummer, Ox, and I knew Yella Jay, Aud, and Graham for a while. We just decided that we wanted to start playing music because no one was doing anything. We wanted to get a band together and we just did it and ended up coming together.

PM: Are you guys all from the general area?

YJ: Nutley, Beleville, and Clifton.

PM: Did you guys put anything out there, such as an album or EP?

MM: We're going to record in March over in Hoboken, with some dude Todd. We're going to do an EP, probably five or six songs. It should be out by April or something.

Yella Jay: It's a place called Pigeon Club in Hoboken. There's a website for it, if anyone wants to check it out, it's pigeonclub.com.

MM: We'll send them out to all the fans, probably free of charge.

PM: What's your major influences in music?

MM: We got everything, like old hardcore, Gorilla Biscuits, Sick Of It All, to some old rock and roll. We're doing a Rolling Stones cover tonight. We got some Stones, some old Who, whatever.

YJ: There's a lot of different backgrounds.

MM: A lot of difference. Some emo, some Cross My Heart and Get Up Kids. Everything is in there man. All encompass-

ing there.

YJ: It's a good combination.

MM: All the melodic and the scream and the rock. It's all there.

PM: Have you been on tour yet?

MM: No, we're shooting for it. We would all like to go at some point. It takes a lot of time and work.

YJ: Basically doing a lot of local stuff, a lot of Jersey. Hopefully, we'll get into NYC more this year.

MM: Trying to build a fan base, you know. Get all the people out.

PM: Do you have a website?

MM: Yeah, it's www.anotherdayruined.com. You can see funny photos of us with glasses and all kinds of weird shit going on.

YJ: Check out the board and whatever and come to the shows. All the information is on there.

MM: Leave messages on the message board. We'll respond to them.

PM: At the last show I saw a sudden break-out of screaming and I also heard rumors of you doing some screaming tonight. What's the deal with trying to blow out your vocal chords?

MM: Yeah, we got a little bit of screaming going on. In the future, we're probably going to go more towards the screaming thing. The last show I broke a string and had nothing else to do, so why not. Just belt it out man. You're going to hear some screams from me tonight. Keep it nice, heavy, hard, and intense. You'll hear it. It will be a good time. You could go nuts to it.

PM: Is Dave Smalley the biggest bill you've been on so far?

MM: Pretty much the biggest legend type thing that we've played with. He's a legend in my eyes. I grew up on Dag Nasty, Down By Law, and All. So, we're all psyched to be playing tonight. It's a real good show for us. I hope a lot of people come out and enjoy it too.



PM: Anything else you want to say?

MM: Just come out and see the shows. Support local music. If you don't support, it's going to stop happening. Come out and see the bands, your friends, everybody. Support the scene. Keep it going.

YJ: Keeping it real. Look for the name, Another Day Ruined. Check it out, man. We're playing out.

MM: Yeah, we'll be playing out. Check the website. We'll be playing out a lot. We'd like to see your faces there.



A new study shows that writing articles in small North Jersey newspapers about music is extremely good for your health. Even better than broccoli, vitamin c, and chicken soup combined. So, get with the new health craze:

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[illegible]



Elements top 20 Emcee's in Hip Hop



Aesop Rock



El-P



Vokul Meglua & Vast Aire



Mr. Lif



Nas

It's time to let the hate mail flow in! This is the Elements list of current top 20 emcees in Hip Hop. All of the artists on this list have put out either a full length album, EP, or single within the last year. The classifications for the list were broken down into lyrical capability, delivery and cleverness. With a few notable omissions like Black Thought, Curious and Talib Kweli, we still did the best we could to select from a very talented pool of Emcee's.

20). C-Rayz Wallz

You can spot this Detonator Records Emcee by his unique high pitched flow in tongue and cheek lyrics. Has put out a lot of singles and guest spots with acts like the "Molemen" and "Cannibal Ox."

19). Common

From trash talking, politically incorrect rapper to avant-garde hip-hop gypsy, Common has continued to grow progressive in his style and lyrics.

18). Emimem

Even though Em has made some really awful music in the past, the kid really can flow. His latest album was actually solid but his singles during his old days with Rawkus Records put him on this list.

17). Copywrite

Standout Emcee from the Cleveland Ohio group "MHZ". Copywrite "writes" intelligent and sharp-witted lyrics. His delivery needs some polishing, though.

16). El da Sensei

Formally of group "Artifacts," El now does his damage on the 7 Heads label as a solo artist. he slings words together in dope

fashion. Has a rhythmical style that gets the heads boppin.

15). Necro

Necro is the ugly kid that no one wants around when you're having a party. His propensity for blood, guts, rape, sodomy, porn and just pure perpetual violence in his albums are so graphic they seem like jokes. He is a lyrically gifted Emcee though and strings words together among the best I've ever heard.

14). Esoteric

The better half of the DJ and Emcee combo 7L and Esoteric. A strictly underground name but has the skills to hang with anyone. Eso features fast paced battle rap weaponry in his arsenal.

13). Vokul Megula

One of the two Emcees in "Cannibal Ox," Megula is a poet and has a strong consciousness to his lyrics. One of the more lyrically complex Emcees in the game.

12). Blueprint

Probably the closest thing hip-hop has to an enforcer, he is the man you don't hear much from but when you do, you remember it. Does a lot of collabo's with other talented Emcee's and is the staple act on the Weightless Records label.

11). Mos Def

Depending on whom you talk to, Mos Def is the best Emcee today. Made his mark in the Lyrst Lounge as a freestyler to a successful underground career. His style is poetic and sharp, he's a tough nut to crack in a freestyle battle. The best complete musician on this list.

10). GZA

The top 10 kicks off with probably the most underrated but talented member of the Wu-Tang Clan. His albums "Liquid Swords" "Return of the Liquid Sword" are avant-garde classics that show GZA's lyrical complexity.

9). Nas

Nas's inconstancy keeps him from being in the top 5. His from the streets attitude and gift of the golden pen have written some of the most striking lyrics ever. His talent supercedes the fact that at times he creates strictly mainstream albums that don't have any creativity and are just made to push units. With his latest album Nas shows dedication to developing his art. One of the few mainstream Emcees that underground heads accept.

8). El-Producto (EL-P)

Former front man of the legendary group "Company Flow," El-P is now at the head of the monster underground label "Definitive Jux." He has gained all kinds of acclaim as a producer and as an Emcee. El-P's off beat, unique delivery is instantly recognizable and hits hard.

7). Mr. Lif

With his EP "Emergency Rations" and Full Length "I Phantom," this Boston based Emcee is the newest comer to hip-hop's elite. Lif is a protector of the old school and his style matches up with styles of old. His delivery is clear worded and sharp. Mr. Lif is probably the most politically charged Emcee since Chuck D in his hey day and the majority of his lyrics call for socialism and the breakdown of structures of inequality. His lyrics have offended a lot of people, particularly George W. Bush.

6). Chali 2na

2na is from the popular group "Jurassic 5." His distinctive deep voice and rhythmical flow combine to make a truly solid Emcee. 2na is another of the talented Emcees on this list that has the ability to string words together in a unique way. Until he releases a solo album, though, we won't know if 2na has the stamina to produce his high-energy style over a whole album and not in short spurts. Has the best possibility to rise on this list but also the biggest chance to fall.

5). J-Live

J-Live is the best storyteller in hip-hop today. He is a modern day Groit and his clear-worded and precise style brings us back to lyricism at its purest. J-live is a former Middle School English teacher and brings this intelligence into his music. One of the few if not the only Emcee that also spins his own tracks on stage while his flows. He is a hip-hop legend waiting to happen.

4). Supernatural

The only "legend" pick on this list, Supernatural is a hip-hop nomad. He has never cut an album, single or anything. He is, in fact, the best freestyle Emcee that has ever lived. All Supernatural has ever done is battle across the globe. You can see him on hip-hop convention videos and contests ripping opposing Emcee's to shreds. Freestyled once for at least 40 minutes without stopping.

3). Aesop Rock

Aesop Rock style is complete mind fucking. You have to listen to his lyrics 4 or 5 times to totally grasp their meaning. He is among the new wave of cerebral

Emcees on El-P's Def Jux label. He often dwells on off-beat subjects and creates unique imagery with his lyrics. Basically, he's weird. His 2001 release "Labor Days" was one of the best albums on the market that year.

2). Del the Phunki Homosapien

Del is just dope. He is the perfect combination of style and substance. One of the standout members of the legendary group "Hieroglyphics," Del is so cool even his mom hates him. He has released several solo albums and his 2000 concept album "Deltron 3030" was an avant-garde classic. Del's flow is catchy and rhythmical and he can slow it down and speed it up with perfect precision. Del pushes the limits of vocal creativity and writes some of the most coolest lyrics you will hear.

1). Vast Aire

Vast Aire is the other half of the apocalyptic new wave hip-hop group "Cannibal Ox." Vast's methods are unadulterated urban poetry. He is probably the most poetic Emcee hip-hop has ever seen. Vast turns mundane daily speech into priceless pieces of logic with phrases like "I'll throw a sentence into the air and say word up" and "you were a still born baby- mother didn't want you but you were still-born". Vast has a particular consciousness and message into what he says and his lyrics often go 4 or 5 layers deep. Vast is also one of the most lyrically clever Emcee's today. Vast is soft spoken and calm on the Mic; he just gets his job done. Vast Aire's brand of vocalism is not for everyone, but if your into thought provoking messages and cleaver word usage he must top your list.

-Profit

Review of the Week



Talib Kweli
Quality
(Rawkus Records)



He's Jay-Z's favorite rapper. He's the one whose name is in the middle of "equality." He's the "other" half of Blackstar (you know, the one who's not Mos Def). He's the MC of Reflection Eternal. He's the proud co-owner of Brooklyn's Nkiru Center for Education & Culture (a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational and cultural literature for minorities). He's also one of the most slept on MCs that deserves success in this game more than most of those that already have it.

His love for hip-hop began in grammar school. As a youngster he found a way to connect to his peers by writing rhymes for some of his friends, and then eventually for himself. Later on in high school he met up with Mos Def, then called Dante Smith, who quickly clicked with Kweli and later became one of his closet partners. Underground label Rawkus Records enters the scene at this point and picks up the two MCs. On Rawkus's

Soundbombing II, one of the most amazing hip-hop compilations to hit the shelves, the two rappers can be heard throughout the album with Mos having his own song and sharing one with his younger brother in Medina Green and guesting on a High & Mighty track. Also on this album, Kweli pairs with Cincinnati's DJ Hi-Tek to produce two tracks under the name Reflection Eternal.

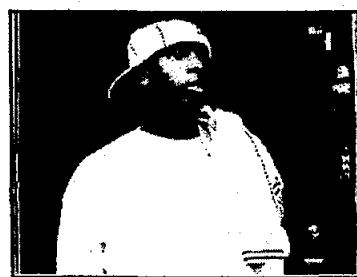
The next year after Soundbombing II's release, Mos and Kweli followed up with Blackstar, one of the most amazing underground hip-hop albums ever to be released. The album quickly earned acclaim from mainstream artists and underground heads alike.

At this point, the two MCs' careers take completely different paths. Mos Def releases another album through Rawkus and goes Gold. He then turns to acting as a conduit for expressing himself, landing himself roles in movies like Bamboozled, Broadway shows like Top Dog, Under Dog and even a hosting gig for HBO's Def Poetry. Kweli, on the other hand, hasn't had the same luck. He and Hi-Tek paired up again to produce Reflection Eternal's Train of Thought, which didn't do as well as we had hoped it to. Although Kweli was a part of Jay-Z's Sprite Liquid Mix Tour, he had the burden of playing the second stage while the more popular acts played on the main one.

If that wasn't enough, Kweli himself started acting rather unusual. CMJ New Music Monthly printed something about him complaining about how kids (white kids in particular) would come up to him and diss Jay-Z. He then was quoted as saying something to the effect of "If you don't like Jay-Z, you don't know hip-hop." This didn't come off too well in the underground hip-hop community (which has its fair share of cats without melanin). Then he was seen on TV, giving props to mainstream wack acts (I don't remember exactly who, but think of those who are on par with Nelly, Ja Rule and any wack

MC who raps strictly about ice, hoes, etc.). There was also a rumor on the okayplayer.com message boards of how he was so blunted and drunk that he actually started picking fights with his fans when he would tour in the mid-west. The straw that broke the camel's back might have been the song he did with Dead Prez called "Sharp Shooters", found on Rawkus's Lyricist's Lounge Volume II. Not only did he team up with a bunch of ignorant cats, but the topic of the song (guns) was very contradictory to the peaceful image we had of Talib Kweli. Some of us lost hope.

Don't give up on him yet. Quality, his new album, is the second dopest thing he has ever done (since nothing in the world will



beat Blackstar). I am happy to report that this album will make up for whatever disappointments Train of Thought gave you. The tracks are tighter, the rhyming is incredible (as always), the subject matter for the most part is deeper and the production is better (Sorry Hi-Tek, it had to be said).

With that said I want to point out two shortcomings this album has. The first one is this song called "Gun Song", which is a song where Kweli raps about guns (duh). He does it to such detail that before the chorus he actually goes through a list of guns. He addresses this issue on his liner notes by saying that he can rap about anything he wants, especially something so prevalent in the black community. He then says that if you have a problem with the song, it's

because you really haven't listened to all the words. I have listened to all the words and I do see where he's coming from. However, you got to admit the song does glorify guns (which may be one of the reasons they're so popular in said communities these days, but that's just my two cents). What I really don't like about the song is the fact that I like it. Hey man, it's got a really dope beat and although I don't care much for the content, the lyrics are really well done.

My second problem with the album is this song called "Put it in the Air", which is a really dope song up until DJ Quick drops his awful verse halfway through it. The beat is hot (I love those guitars), Kweli spits his shit tight, the chorus is catchy (there is even a line that refutes my previous problem with the album that goes: "Take your hand off your gat/ and put it in the air"), but DJ Quick (who produced the track) drops this wack-ass verse that sounds like it's coming from some stupid Southern white hick. In this verse he proudly displays his lack of respect for women. I won't hold it against Kweli though, only cause I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt and thinking he had no creative control over what Quick had to do with the song.

Now that that's over with, I gotta say this album has some really hot fuckin tracks. God, I could go on forever about some of my favorite tracks.

Check out "Joy," a track where Kweli rhymes about how his kids give him intense happiness. "The Proud" is another great song, where Kweli rhymes about his views on the current state of affairs. My favorite song is "Get By." Check out the production. Check out the lyrics. I have listened to this album a lot of times and still find myself exclaiming, "Oh shit!" after hearing him drop a dope bar. So if you lost hope in one of the best MCs this game has to offer, pick up this album and find yourself enlightened.

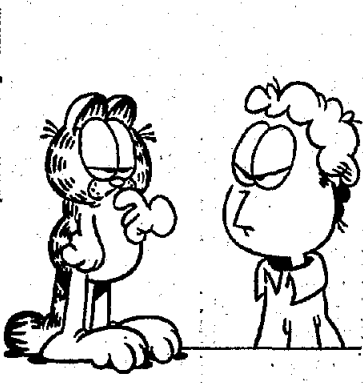
-Azev

Well Well. Whata shame. This empty space is where you could be writing about your favorite subjects, Hip-Hop, Graf, Breakin, whatever makes you happy. If topics like these interest you write for Elements! get up to The Beacon office in SC 310 or email beacon@student.edu and get your word out there. DO IT!

P.S. Yo Primo! Com-Plex wants his 20 dollars back!!!

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In a recent op/ed letter to the Beacon (27 January 2003), Steve Degennaro concludes that affirmative action is a "disservice to us all" based on a literal reading of the US Constitution. I would encourage Mr. Degennaro to revisit another key document, the Declaration of Independence, which states "all men are created equal". During the first centuries in our nation's history, people of African descent were the victims of an institutionalized racism that condoned slavery. Moreover, the most heinous acts imaginable were conducted against indigenous Americans, first by European colonists, and then by the United States government. These acts were clearly in violation of the philosophy espoused in the Declaration, and no sensible person would disagree that these were far more egregious offenses than unfairly admitting one student over another into an institution of higher learning.

Thankfully, as a society we have come a long way since our humble beginnings with regards to the inalienable rights of ALL of our citizens, be they men or women, gay or straight, black or white. Do we still have work to do? The president of the United States recently came out against a Michigan University policy that uses race as one criterion in decided admission. Mr. Bush's comments were publicized at the same time that many Americans were celebrating the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One must

question the sensitivity of such an act especially given that Mr. Bush's surname undoubtedly facilitated his admission into Yale University. In prioritizing all of the pressing matters that surely occupy the president's time, including a probable war against Iraq and a floundering national economy, why did the Michigan case before the Supreme Court figure so highly on Mr. Bush's agenda?

The whole debate surrounding affirmative action really boils down to whether or not you believe that the government has a continued role to play in leveling what began as the most uneven of playing fields. In examining the Michigan University admissions policy in a social and historical vacuum, it is very easy, and in fact reasonable to conclude that the policy is unfair. But if you stop to consider why our nation even needed to enact affirmative action legislation as part of a broader civil rights movement in the first place, I believe it becomes more difficult to condemn a policy that seeks to correct a serious wrong. I personally do not equate affirmative action policies with facile quota systems, and perhaps the specifics of the Michigan policy need to be revisited. But to suggest that a federal government responsible for so much human suffering in the past should do nothing to build social justice in the present is not only wrong, its immoral.

Tom Gundling

Ted Rall



Bush State of the Union Seeks Union of Church and State

By Jim Schofield
The Beacon

"There is power, wonder-working power, in the goodness and idealism and faith of the American people."

No, Beacon readers, you have not stumbled into a southern baptist church. The above statement was not taken from the impassioned sermon of a preacher to his flock; instead, it was taken from the words of our President's recent State of the Union address.

Surprised? "Wonder-working power" inspired by the "faith of the American people." Well, since we all know Bush is a Christian, I think we can all safely assume that he is referring to power derived from faith in Jesus Christ and his Father. Ladies and Gentlemen, the highest political figure in our country has just called us to prayer. Fall down on your knees, and praise His Name! The blessings of the Lord Jesus be upon us!

Am I the only one who is disturbed by this, what I see as the troubling continuation of this President's trend to attempt to impose Christian values and morality on the rest of us? After calling us to prayer the President, of course, goes on to urge Congress to pass his faith-based initiative, to

"transform America one heart and one soul at a time."

I beg your pardon?

Never mind that his faith-based initiative would provide direct monetary support to institutions and programs that are exempt from federal civil rights laws, allowing them to hire and fire based on religious preference or race. Never mind that this would give the government the prerogative of determining what is a religion and what is not. Never mind that charities with religious roots can already get federal funding constitutionally if they only set up secular arms that obey civil rights laws. Let's put aside all these secular concerns for just a moment and consider something else.

"Transform America one heart and one soul at a time." How dare he? I like my heart the way it is, thank you very much, and if I believed in a soul, I wouldn't want the government to transform that, either. The President refers to matters of personal choice and morality, and he has no right to inject his beliefs into my paradigm, or that of anyone else.

Let's move on in the speech, shall we? Bush felt the need to quote a man in a program of the Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge. "God does miracles in people's lives, and

you never think it could be you."

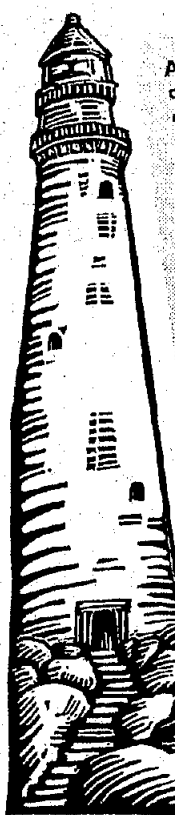
Bush adds to this the statement that "the miracle of recovery is possible, and it could be you."

I have taken the liberty of doing a little bit of research about this Healing Place Church. I was not difficult to find their website, and it gave me all the information I needed. According to their website, they are responsible for distributing almost 2 million pounds of food, holding community outreach programs and being involved in international missions to help the needy. All these are laudable goals, and I thought maybe I was wrong when I read this; maybe this faith-based initiative could work.

Then I looked up their purpose. In their own words, the Healing Place Church strives "to bring the faithless to faith in Christ and into significant, personal relationship with our Heavenly Father," "to build an authentic community of faith," and "to send missionaries out from our church family to reach the entire world with the message of Christ."

Federal funding to a Christian organization with an avowed missionary purpose. What happened to separation of church and state? What is this country coming to?

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

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The
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WEEKLY

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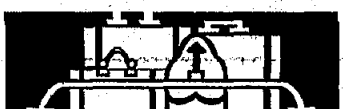
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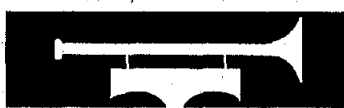
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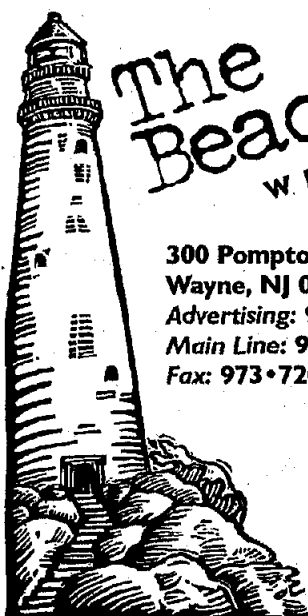
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PIONEERS FALL TO THE ROADRUNNERS

Allison Mopsick
The Beacon

In the world of sports, there is almost never a perfect season. Not too many teams can go undefeated, especially in the sport of basketball. With such an extensive schedule, the demand of wins is not always in the hands of the better team. For the men's basketball team, the season had started out a bit bumpy with a loss in overtime to Catholic University of Washington D.C., then an NJAC loss to Ramapo. After the 76-57 loss to the Roadrunners on their home court, the Pioneers seemed to find their way, winning thirteen games in row and earning a spot in the Division III national rankings. Everything had seemed to be running smoothly; little did the Pioneers know that there would be another bump in the road. A long trip down to Rowan University left the Pioneers in a bit of shock when they lost the game by a margin of twenty-four. The next game against New Jersey City University, a weaker team in the conference, gave the Pioneers the win they had been searching for, which would hopefully carry over into a rematch against the Ramapo Roadrunners.

Determined, the Pioneers took the floor at the Rec Center, Wednesday,

January 29, in a search to prove their skills and to get some revenge on the Roadrunners. It may have been the

six o'clock start as opposed to their usual eight o'clock tip-off, but for some reason, the Pioneers just could not get into the groove. Granted, the Roadrunners are the top team in the NJAC, but the boys just could not pull the upset.

Ramapo led the entire game, with the Pioneers getting within one or two points in the first half; in the second half, however, nine points was the closest they were able to get. With 9:09 remaining in the first half, the Roadrunners went on a 10-2 run almost as if sealing the deal early on in the night. The teams went into the

locker room at halftime with a score of 46-32.

Never fully giving up, the

Pioneers only lost by a deficit of eleven with a final score of 71-60. The outside shooting by the Roadrunners is what spurred the team on. Senior guard Charles Ransom connected for 19 points while junior guard Jay DeGroat added in 16 points as the duo combined for eight three pointers.

Junior guard Brandon Constantine led the Pioneers with 15 points as

junior forward Khayri Battle put up 14 points and ripped down five boards. Their record in now 14-4 while being 8-3 in the NJAC. The Pioneers take on Kean away on Wednesday, February 5 in hopes to boost their NJAC record in while looking to get back on track.



BUCANNEERS EMBARRASS THE RAIDERS

Matt DeFranza
Sports Editor

Coach Jon Gruden and his Bucs won their first NFL championship, routing the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the first matchup of best offense vs. best defense.

The Tampa Bay defense won by a mile, returning three of a record five interceptions for touchdowns and shutting down any hope the Raiders had of a late comeback.

It was especially sweet for the former NFL laughingstock, a team that lost its first 26 games after it started playing in 1976 in those garish orange uniforms. Between 1983 and 1996, the Bucs were the league's worst franchise, going without a winning season and losing 10 or more games in 13 of those 14 years.

Jon Gruden, former Raiders coach turned Buccaneers, became the youngest coach ever to win a Super Bowl at 39 and is now known as an offensive guru. This victory was with a defense run by Monte Kiffin and other holdovers from former coach Tony Dungy.

Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson had two interceptions, as did Dwight Smith, who returned both of his picks for touchdowns, including a 50-yarder to finish off

the scoring with 2 seconds left. Derrick Brooks also returned an interception for a touchdown.

Simeon Rice had two of the Bucs' five sacks as Tampa Bay romped to a 20-3 halftime lead then scored two quick third-quarter touchdowns.

That rendered futile a late comeback by the Raiders that included a touchdown on a blocked punt and 48-yard TD pass from Rich Gannon, the NFL's supposed MVP, to Jerry Rice. The game was such a blowout that Gannon didn't even resemble MVP status.

So how good was the Tampa Bay defense? The Bucs limited the Raiders to 19 yards rushing, 269 total yards and 11 first downs. Oakland had only 62 total net yards in the first half, second-lowest total in Super Bowl history. And the five interceptions of Gannon were the most he had in any game this season. He finished 24 of 44 for 272 yards and two touchdowns.

This was a glorious day for the Bucs, and quite the opposite for the Raiders, who have three Super Bowl victories but hadn't played in pro football's showcase game in 19 years. The sting of defeat wasn't really helped much by the fact that their former coach led the team that beat them.

SCOREBOARD CENTRAL

Allison Mopsick
The Beacon

As January winds down, let's take a look in the world of winter sports. On Saturday, January 25, the boy's basketball team defeated New Jersey City University 68-53 while the girls continued their winning streak winning the NJAC match 59-46.

On Wednesday, January 29, the Rec Center held the rematches for the men's and women's basketball teams against the Ramapo Roadrunners. The men lost 71-60, while the women won 71-50 after going into the second half on the losing end. On that same night, the men's and women's swim teams traveled to Manhattanville where both teams came up victorious. The men won 94-46 while the women won 103-60.

In other basketball news, junior guard Kat McPhail earned NJAC Player of the Week. She in the first Lady Pioneer to do so this season for the women's team.

Both basketball teams take the road this week traveling to Kean and Rutgers-Camden. The next home game will Saturday, February 15 against Richard Stockton. The men's and women's swim teams take on NJAC rivals Montclair State on Tuesday, February 4 at home. Make sure to keep updated on your Pioneers.

LADY PIONEERS OUTRUN THE ROADRUNNERS

Matt DeFranza
Sports Editor

Wednesday night at the Rec. center, the lady pioneers routed the Ramapo Roadrunners' chances of winning. The Pioneers (10-8, 7-4 NJAC) outscored the Roadrunners (9-9, 4-7 NJAC), 71-50.

Junior guard Jessica Ruggini scored six of her career-high 19 points during a crucial 13-3 second-half run as William Paterson finished off Ramapo, for its sixth consecutive victory Wednesday at the Rec Center.

Junior guard Kat McPhail (Sparta, NJ/Hopatcong) scored 18 of her game-high 22 points while Ruggini dropped in 16 of

her 19 in the second half as the Pioneers (10-8, 7-4 NJAC) outscored the Roadrunners (9-9, 4-7 NJAC), 46-18, after intermission. Sophomore center Adrienne Kopko (Franklinville, NJ/Delsea Regional) posted her first career-double, finishing with a career-high 14 points and 11 rebounds.

The big key for William Paterson was holding Ramapo to six field goals and 23.1 percent shooting in the second half thanks to the efforts of senior forward Jeanine Day (Green Brook, NJ/Kearny) and senior guard Katie Morris (Deptford, NJ). Day blocked four shots and contributed three steals while Morris had five steals to go alone with eight points and 11 assists.

The second-half was much different than the first as Ramapo seized a 32-25 halftime lead, turning a 17-16 deficit into a 32-22 advantage thanks to a 16-5 spurt. Senior guard Katie Arcuri (Staten Island, NY/St. Peter's) capped the run with a lay-up 4:48 before intermission. Sophomore guard Janine Cappadona (Atlantic Highlands, NJ/Red Bank Catholic) led the Roadrunners with 14 points and six rebounds while Arcuri dumped in 11 and junior guard Stephanie Pillari (Westwood, NJ) contributed 10.

William Paterson's next home confrontation will take place February 12 at 6pm, so go out and support your Pioneers.



Freshman Allison Mopsick takes it to the hoop.
photo by Matt DeFranza

PIONEERS OUTSWIM THE COUGARS

Allan Ringler
The Beacon

On Saturday, February 1st, at the Wightman Pool, the William Paterson University men's (11-1) and women's (11-3) swim team took on the Misericordia Cougars. After an intense swim meet, the men's team won 108-72 and the women's team edged out a 105-99 win.

For the men's team, some of the standouts were Steve Papendick (200 IM 2:10.66, 100 Free 50.47), Scott Goldstein (100 Free 12:44.16), Jason Schlereth (50 Free 24.91), Josh Seid (200 Back 2:16.1) and diver Chris Wirt (1m reg. 141.22, 1m opt. 119.1).

On the women's team,

some of the standouts were Mandy Foley (1000 Free 11:39.73, 500 Free 5:41.88), Jaferleen Perez-Arias (200 Free 2:03.55, 100 Free 57.50), Kristin Clegg (50 Free 26.28, 200 Back 2:13.98) and the 400m Freestyle relay which consisted of Kristin Clegg, Carrie Ann Egan, Lauren Ciulla and Jaferleen Perez-Arias.

"Going into the last race, the girls score was 94-93, winner take all. Fortunately, we won that last race pretty easily." Said Coach Ed Gurka. "The guys are on a pretty good roll. We had it won after the 500 free."

The next swim meet is on Tuesday, February 4th at 6 p.m at the Wightman pool.



Senior Scott Goldstein in the 1000m freestyle.
photo by Matt DeFranza