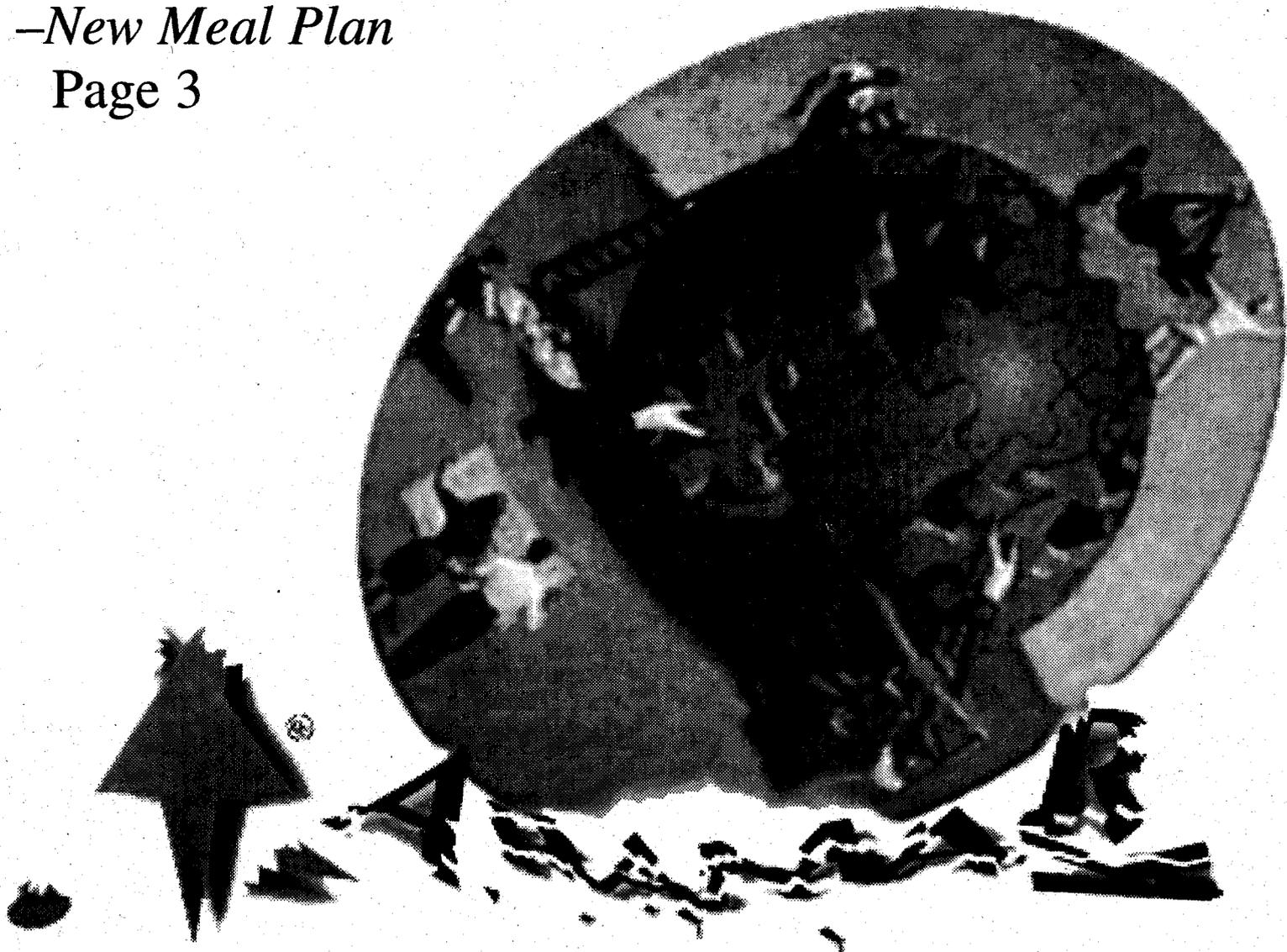


Vol. XIX No.17 Summer In America--Baseball, Apple Pie, And Flag Burning! July 4, 1998

# The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same



*-New Meal Plan*  
Page 3



# Burnt in the USA

By Jen Hobin

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

For the majority of you, getting out the matches and lighter fluid and setting ablaze a symbol of our country, the American Flag, is not an issue. But for those of you that like to add a little excitement to the annual family barbecue, better jump to it, because those days may soon be over.

An amendment to change the Bill of rights in order to make the desecration of the American flag unconstitutional is set to be voted on by Congress before the fourth of July this year. The amendment, which would give Congress the ability to outlaw the desecration of the flag, does not actually state what constitutes flag desecration. It simply states, "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." While it would surely make flag burning illegal, what about urinating or spitting on the flag? Or wearing it on your T-shirt, and painting it on the hood of your pick-up truck?

While it is not clear if you will be able to wrap the American flag around your naked body and run down the street screeching like a petrified monkey if this amendment is passed in Congress (and then ratified by the states), it still remains a hot issue. Last year the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment (H.J. Res. 54) by a vote of 310 to 114 well above the two-thirds vote needed by the House to adopt a constitutional amendment. In order to actually adopt the amendment the law must now be passed in the Senate and then ratified by the states. If the amendment is adopted it will be the first time in history that our first amendment rights have been changed.

According to information obtained from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the amendment was introduced last year by House Rules Chairman Gerald Solomon, (R-New York) and William Lipinski, (D-Illinois). An identical proposal was introduced in the Senate as Senate Joint Resolution 40 by Senators Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), and Max Cleland, (D-Georgia).

According to the ACLU the Supreme Court decided in the 1989 case of Texas vs.

Johnson, 491 US 397, to strike down a one year criminal sentence and a \$2,000 fine imposed by the state of Texas on Gregory Johnson, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, for burning the American flag outside the Republican National Convention. The court's opinion on the matter was that "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable."

Since the time of this decision, Congress debated and rejected the proposed flag amendment on two occasions: once in 1990 and again in 1995. Since the aim of the amendment will actually change the constitution of the United States, it is clear that it violates the American right of freedom of speech as it is currently laid out in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. Whether or not this is justified is another sack of ferrets.

Proponents of the proposed amendment feel that giving Congress the power to outlaw desecration of the flag will protect and sanctify the flag and all that it symbolizes. According to information obtained by the ACLU, Representative Porter Goss, (R-Florida) says "we want to be able to send to our nation's veterans--and in fact to all Americans--the simple gift of knowing that the flag that stirred their hearts, that so many have fought for, that so many have died for, will be as sacred and secure as the freedom and liberty it embraces."

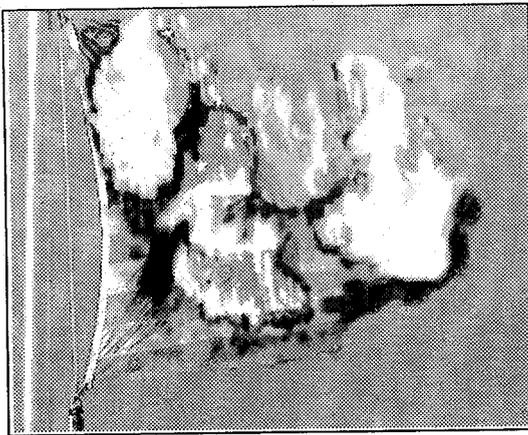
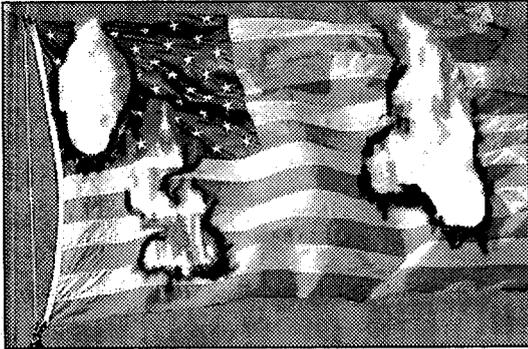
Congressman Bill Goodling (PA-19) calls flag burning "incendiary and insulting" and argues that "society already restricts forms of speech which are dangerous or lewd" and flag desecration should be categorized as such. Some people feel that desecrating the American flag is an insult to all those who have fought and died for the United States and extremists may feel that those who do not respect America and its flag should leave the country.

A pro-amendment web page that I stumbled across in researching this article went as far as to equate the right to burn the flag with the right to burn the White House down. Opponents of the proposed amendment see things a little differently. Rather than protecting the freedoms that lie behind

the symbol of the flag, some feel that the adoption of this amendment strips away the freedoms we have come to enjoy as Americans. Some opponents of the amendment argue that men and women have not fought for the flag of the United States, but for the principles it represents. One of these principles is the freedom of speech, in particular political speech. With this line of reasoning it may be more of an insult to amend the constitution on this issue than to torch the flag on Veteran's day. Additionally, opponents of the proposed amendment feel that it is a threat to not only those that want to burn the flag, but to every Americans right to free speech. If the amendment is passed does it stop there or will similar laws be passed restricting verbal desecration of the flag? In the future will we have to fear what we say about the government itself? The ACLU; which opposes all forms of censorship, states that "the flag amendment represents the urge to impose thought control on the American people, and thus threatens to turn our beloved flag into a symbol of repression.

Professor Jamin Raskin, First Amendment Counsel to the ACLU Washington office appears mystified by the need for the amendment in the first place. He states that there "is no epidemic of flag-burning in the country" and cites reports which suggest that in a nation of approximately 250 million people there have been fewer than five flag-burnings a year since the Texas vs. Johnson ruling. Dr. Raskin feels that the arbitrariness of the flag amendment is none more than a slippery slope that "will force courts to invent ever-more-delicate distinctions between flag desecration and free speech. Whether you are for or against the proposed constitutional amendment one thing is clear: If this legislation is passed in the senate and subsequently ratified by the states, not only will congress have the power to declare flag burning a criminal offense, but it will also have the power to strip you

of your First Amendment rights. This is not an issue to be taken lightly. For more information on flag burning contact the ACLU or check out their web page (where you can send free faxes to your congressman on the issue) at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).



Visit The Unupdated Press Online at  
[www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbpress](http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbpress)

# Aramark Ousted; New Meal Plan in Fall

By Stephen C. Preston

The Faculty Student Association (FSA), the organization that contracts for the food service, recently decided not to accept Aramark's bid to continue as the food provider, and chose instead Chartwells, a subsidiary of Compass Group USA. The new contract with Chartwells will take effect July 1, but major changes probably won't be seen until the Fall semester, when the new declining balance meal plan takes effect.

Under the new meal plan, each student in a residence hall must put \$1200 per semester on a meal card. The student must spend \$500 in the residence cafeterias (H, Kelly, and Roth), and may spend the remaining \$700 either in the residence cafeterias or in the SAC, Student Union, or Humanities. All food will now be a la carte, and there will no longer be all-you-can-eat meals in H or Kelly, except for weekend brunch. The FSA eliminated all-you-can-eat meals because it felt that too few people were taking advantage of them, and H and Kelly had not attracted enough students to break even.

The FSA will also be spending about \$1 million of its cash reserves on renovations to H and Kelly cafeterias, which should be completed some time during the Fall or Spring semester. H will be redesigned with a "diner" atmosphere, and will probably receive the bulk of the renovation money. Kelly will be split into the "Kelly Deli" and Taco Bell on one half, and an international food court on the other half, according to Kevin Kelly, Executive Director of FSA. The renovations will be paid for out of reserves that the FSA has collected from meal plan surpluses in previous years.

## History of the Meal Plan

Aramark had been on campus for seven years before losing this contract. Their first five-year term began in 1991, when the company replaced DAKA (which was recently bought out by Compass Group and incorporated into Chartwells). The meal plan at the time consisted of a fixed number of all-you-can-eat meals, along with a supplemental declining balance. In Spring 1996, Aramark beat out Marriott in another bidding process, and obtained a contract which was supposed to last up to six years. The FSA instituted a new meal plan, consisting of a fixed payment up front to cover all fixed costs, and a smaller portion of money to purchase food "at cost". Aramark would call this the "Advantage" plan, but students were soon referring to it as the "disadvantage" plan because many felt that they were being overcharged. (Refer to previous issues of the Press for more detailed coverage, especially the "Aramark Makes Us Nuts!" and "Missing Million" issues from Fall 1997, and the first three issues from Fall 1996.)

In Summer 1997, the FSA decided not to renew Aramark's contract and instead to open the bidding process again. This was partly due to an enormous volume of complaints from students and parents about the meal plan, but mostly because the FSA had its own problems with Aramark. These included the firing of two Aramark managers (John Rainey and Dennis LeStrange) and the introduction of new and unexperienced management; a number of violations of the contract (e.g. pricing and labeling); and especially problems negotiating the opening of the Student Activities Center (see "How the Dining Service Contract got SACKed" in the "Aramark Makes Us Nuts" issue for details).

The FSA assembled another Dining

Service Selection Committee to choose the new contractor and to design a new meal plan to replace the Advantage plan. Members came and left, but by Spring 1998 the membership had settled to a total membership of eleven. There were four Administration members (Daniel Melucci, Peter



"Ding, dong the witch is dead. . ."

Baigent, Judy Lum, and Dallas Bauman), four undergraduates (Frank Santangelo, Diane Lopez, Dina Covello, and Carla Lachapelle), one graduate (myself), and the FSA Executive Director, Kevin Kelly. After much debate, a majority of the committee agreed to have a declining balance plan, with the total cost being \$1100 per semester: \$500 for residence cafeterias, \$600 anywhere.

The bids proposed came from Lackmann, Whitson's, Marriott-Sodexo (after a recent merger), Chartwells (after a slightly less recent merger), and Aramark. Lackmann was eliminated because, just as before, it could not provide certified financial statements. Whitson's was eliminated because their prices were too high and the company itself was considered too small to run a food service as relatively large as Stony Brook's. The final decision was split between Chartwells and Aramark. Aramark was preferred by Judy Lum and all of the undergraduates on the Committee, who believed that their previous concerns about Aramark were not as serious as they had thought, that Aramark was actually not doing so badly in comparison with other schools, and primarily that the other companies seemed to be far worse. The remainder of the Committee preferred Chartwells, feeling that the problems with Aramark could not be solved and that few people still trusted Aramark.

At the end of the Spring semester, a "Best and Final Offer", including an increase in the meal plan price to \$1207, was drafted and voted on in a matter of several days. The Committee endorsed this by a vote of 9-1 (all but myself in approval). Chartwells and Aramark were presented with the Offer, and on the basis of their response, a final vote was taken. Aramark objected to a requirement to document revenues obtained from bulk-purchasing rebates, and would not spend a required \$250,000 for renovations and setting up new facilities. So Chartwells ended up narrowly winning the recommendation from the Committee by 6-4, (all undergraduates voting for Aramark, everyone else voting for Chartwells), with the final vote happening just after Spring semester finals.

Following this, the Committee was disbanded, and the FSA's Board of Directors authorized Kevin Kelly, Fred Preston (Vice President of Student Affairs), and Richard Mann (Vice President of Administration) to negotiate with Chartwells in secret. Once they were convinced that Chartwells would do everything they had asked of it, the FSA announced publicly that Chartwells had won the bid and would be starting July 1.

## The Chartwells Proposal

According to Chartwells' bid proposal, most of the campus food services will remain

essentially the same, except for a couple of brand changes (such as in coffee). The exception is Humanities, which Chartwells claims will focus heavily on vegetarian and vegan food, while also having the vending machines and prepackaged food currently there.

Chartwells was the only company to propose that catering be self-sufficient; the other four bidders each proposed that the meal plan students subsidize catering. However, there has been some concern among people who cater frequently that Chartwells has somewhat higher prices than the other bidders offered.

However, Chartwells proposed somewhat lower prices than Aramark for most meal plan items. Many of Chartwells' prices are the same as current Aramark prices, but Aramark proposed to raise most of their prices by about 2-3%. Chartwells prices will probably still seem high in the Fall, however, since with few exceptions they are not actually reducing prices.

There was quite a bit of concern about the fact that Chartwells was not very specific in its bid about exactly what it was planning to do. Some felt that Chartwells would simply say "yes" to everything to get its foot in the door, and then try to change things once it was already established on the campus. Chartwells is not a very well-known company, and does not have many contracts with large universities. Most of its contracts are with universities or colleges that had contracts with DAKA and were taken over automatically by Chartwells.

## The \$1200 Buy-In

The bids were originally required to offer an \$1100 meal plan. Aramark claimed that \$1100 was not sufficient to cover its costs, and suggested raising the price of the meal plan to \$1207. Chartwells claimed it could make a \$300,000 profit with the \$1100 buy-in, as did the other three companies. For some reason, Aramark's proposal was the only one viewed as credible by the FSA. Most members of the Dining Service Committee quickly convinced themselves or were convinced by others that the contractor would need \$1207 just to break even, and that other contractors didn't know this because they weren't familiar enough with the campus.

There was some debate about what the buy-in level should be, but the arguments of Kevin Kelly and Ken Johnson, that the labor schedules and food costs proved that the buy-in had to be \$1200, ultimately convinced a majority of the FSA Dining Service Committee, the FSA Budget Committee, and the FSA Board of Directors.

The FSA then lowered its commission, from 15% to 13% of total meal plan revenues, because the meal plan revenues were increasing more rapidly than the FSA budget. This should have enabled the meal plan to be cheaper, since the FSA needs less money from meal plan revenues; however, the meal plan buy-in was not lowered proportionally.

In fact, if we go by Chartwells budget, we find that if Chartwells receives \$1200 from every student on the meal plan instead of \$1100, and 3800 students per semester sign up for the meal plan, we find that Chartwells makes \$760,000 more than it needs to, pushing it well past \$1 million in profit. Of course, Chartwells could hardly say "no" to this when the FSA offered it to them, but why did the FSA offer it to them?

According to Kevin Kelly, the FSA still does not know how many students will be enrolled in the Fall, and therefore cannot say what sort of profit Chartwells might make. He

*continued on page 11*

# I HOPE IT'S NOT LIKE THIS ALL YEAR

Unless you've been dead recently, you've heard about some of our great leaders' attempt to pass an amendment allowing the prohibition of the desecration of the US flag. You may have also heard about Republic, MO's battles to keep a symbol of Christ as a symbol of their town. Rather than once again discuss the idiocy of these measures, let's think about the far more important issues that are being forgotten by our law-makers in their attempts to make the US safe for special pieces of cloth.

Voter turn-out in this year's primary elections hovers at about 17%. It seems that the people of this country are not interested in politics, for whatever reason. Rather than trying to increase political involvement and education, we regularly read that politicians, especially Republicans, are battling against changes that would increase voter registration and alter the current distribution of political representation. Motor-voter laws are challenged as is the use of scientifically accepted statistical sampling methods to conduct the upcoming census. Such measures would result in a more accurate assessment of the populations of minorities and the economically disadvantaged, as well as making it easier to vote.

Along with this comes the lack of focus

on education, unless you want to yank you kids out of public schools where they might learn the facts of evolution rather than flood-theology. American students perform incredibly poorly on tests of math and science (i.e., the areas of knowledge that have radically improved the human condition over the past 300 years) compared to their peers in industrialized nations worldwide. Rather than dumping tons of money into the public school system where it is desperately needed and would do the most good, our leaders argue that we should allow more open expression of religious beliefs in the classroom (because divine revelation and faith will teach people how to make the right nutritional choices).

We could, of course, go on. Americans are incredibly fat, with its health consequences; they are encouraged to think that material possessions are the most important determinants of social standing and personal wealth; they look up to actors, musicians, and athletes as gods. These are all far more severe and important problems than whether our symbols are being treated with "proper respect." Perhaps what's been forgotten is that respect must be earned. Mandating respect for the flag and the country is perhaps a confession that we know that they don't deserve such respect without the threat of punishment.

## THE STONY BROOK PRESS

Executive Editor	David M. Ewalt
Managing Editor	John Giuffo
Associate Editor	Terry McLaren
Business Manager	Anne Ruggiero
Asst. Business Mgr.	Sophia Rovitti
News Editor	Michael Yeh
Arts Editor	Phillip Russo, Jr.
Photo Editor	Brian Libfeld
Prod. Manager	Matthew Willemain
Copy Editor	Jessica LaMantia
Minister of Archives	Scoop Schneider
Ombudsman	Martha Chemas
Distribution Manager	Rob Gilheany
Mascot	Ruby Firewall

### Senior Staff

Chris Cartusciello, Keith Filaski, Lou Moran, Chris Sorochin, Ted Swedalla, Steven Tornello, Joanna Wegielnik, Scott West

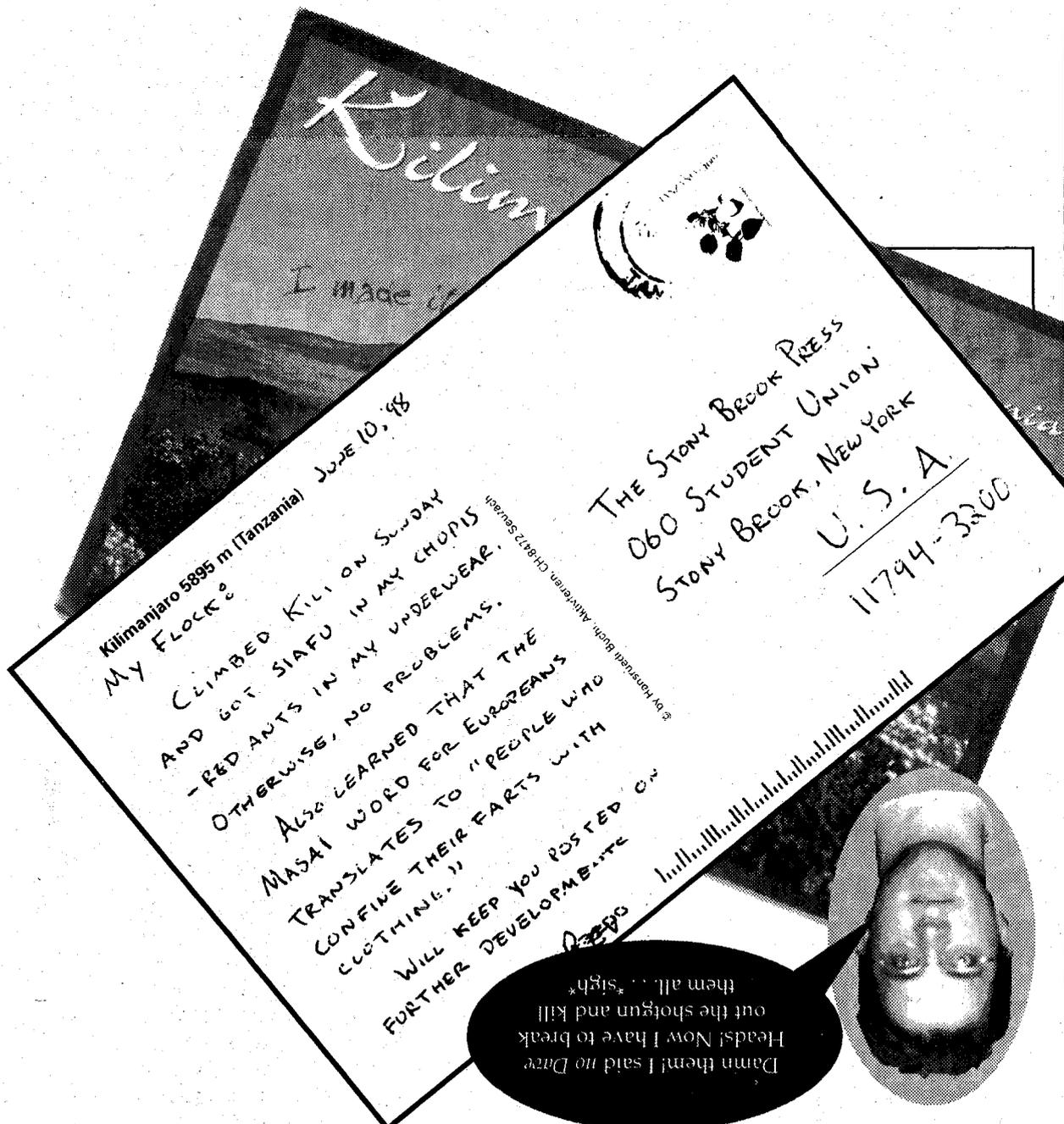
### Staff

Lisa Aviles, Ed Ballard, Jill Baron, Robert Borden, DH Cambell, D-Kline, Marlo Del Toro, Sylvester DiPalermo, Frank Fusaro, Jennifer Hobin, Cat Hui, Patrick Killourhy, The Lunatick, James Polichak, Steven C. Preston, Glenn "Squirrel" Given, Amanda C. Stevens, Hilary Vidair, Dario Vlah, Daniel Yohannes

The Stony Brook Press is published bi-weekly during the academic year and twice during the summer intersession by The Stony Brook Press, a student run and student funded non-profit organization. The opinions expressed in letters and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of the staff. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect Editorial policy. For more information on Advertising and submissions guidelines call (516)632-6451. Staff meetings are held Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. First copy free, for additional copies contact the Business Manager.

The Stony Brook Press  
 Suites 060 & 061  
 Student Union  
 Stony Brook, NY 11794-3200  
 (516)632-6451

e-mail: sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu  
 www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbpress.



## BURN FLAGS

## NAKED

## WINNER

1998 NATIONAL CAMPUS  
 ALTERNATIVE  
 JOURNALISM AWARDS

• BEST IN REPORTING

• BEST HELLRAISING

BEST SENSE OF HUMOR (1996 & 1997)

# Campus Village Dies In State Assembly

## Long Live The Campus Village!

By Stephen C. Preston

The "Campus Village" legislation, which would have allowed the University to lease land on the Academic Mall to private corporations, was not passed before the end of the Assembly's regular session, for the second year in a row. According to Richard Mann, Vice President for Administration, the Administration is giving up its hope of getting legislative approval for the ground lease, but will still attempt to build the Campus Village through other means.

The Campus Village was intended to be a retail shopping environment, with several small retail stores surrounding a large bookstore in a new building. Since the Administration did not believe it could get funding for a new bookstore building, it proposed to get a private bookstore company to construct the building. In

exchange, the company would get a University contract lasting up to 60 years, which would theoretically enable it to earn enough money to pay for the building. At the end of the contract, the building would be turned over to the University.

The State Senate passed the legislation exactly as the Administration proposed it, but the State Assembly added several amendments, due to several concerns, including: use of non-union labor in the construction project, a lack of competitive bidding for the bookstore contract, and a lack of affirmative action requirements in the selection process. The Assembly also shortened the maximum length of the bookstore contract, from 60 to 30 years. Since the Assembly and the Senate would not agree on the same version of the bill, it cannot become law.

According to Assemblyman Steven Englebright (D-Setauket), the Assembly could have passed the University's version of the bill, had the Administration provided some kind of "memorandum of understanding", stating that the University would employ union labor, bid competitively, etc., even if such things weren't written into the legislation. Englebright's office said that President Shirley Strum Kenny would not agree to such a memorandum, since she was afraid of having things in writing which might "come back to haunt her". However, Richard Mann claimed the

memorandum was not written because the Administration felt that it would not resolve the issue.

Although President Kenny is out of the country until July and could not be reached for comment, Richard Mann said the Administration is "very frustrated that the houses weren't able to come together on this." He said the Administration is hoping that the Board of Trustees will get the authority to provide ground leases, rather than the Legislature, because the Board of Trustees would probably be much more willing to grant them.

The Administration will reconvene the Campus Village Advisory Group (the "Village People") in the Fall, seeking membership from student governments as well as the University Senate. The current plan, tentative as yet, is to have new buildings

constructed: a new bookstore and a large new food court, both located on the "Academic Mall" (the area between the Administration building, Student Activities Center, and the Melville library). The University would construct these buildings through the State University Construction Fund (the same route by which the Life Sciences Annex and the new stadium are being built), and would try to get funding from whichever food service and bookstore contractors happened to be on campus.

Chartwells, the new food service contractor, has stated that it will consider providing funding for such a new building, but has not made a firm commitment. According to Vice President Mann, Chartwells was provided with a 10-year contract, about twice as long as the usual food service contract, primarily so that it would develop a strong "relationship" with the campus, and therefore be more willing to engage in such projects.

When the bookstore contract goes out to bid next year (it expires in Spring 1999, and the Faculty Student Association must open a new bidding process), the new contract will most likely also stipulate a 10-year term, for the same reason. The Administration will ensure before the contract is awarded that the contractor is open to a proposal for a new building, just as it did before awarding the food service contract to Chartwells.

The Administration says that, contrary to

earlier speculation, the Faculty Student Association (FSA) will have a large role in the Campus Village, and in retail operations on campus in general. For example, the FSA will still bid the food service and bookstore contracts, though the Administration will take a larger role in the process than it did before, probably maintaining "veto authority" as it did with the most recent food service contract.

In addition, the FSA will also have more control over retail operations on the campus. When the Student Activities Center was opened, the Administration bid the convenience store out directly, instead of having the Faculty Student Association subcontract it (the usual procedure for retail services). However, New York State ruled that the Administration had awarded the convenience store to Wallace's illegally, and now the Administration will instead award the convenience store to the FSA. It will likely be a new incarnation of the BASIX store, currently in the Student Union and scheduled to close permanently.

The Administration also continues to claim that Barnes & Noble does not have any advantage in the bookstore contracting, even though the CEO of Barnes & Noble, Leonard Riggio, has served as an advisor to President Kenny on the Campus Village for several years. The President and Vice President Mann have maintained that Riggio serves on the Corporate Advisory Board to the President only at the President's request, and that he is not at all concerned about whether his company gets the bookstore contract. Currently, the most likely candidates to run the bookstore seem to be Wallace's, who currently has the contract, Barnes & Noble, who had the contract five years ago, and the Faculty Student Association itself, which may choose to run the bookstore independently.

Regardless of how the buildings actually get constructed or who ends up in them, it is clear that President Kenny will continue to pursue the Campus Village idea. The Administration promises that the Campus Village will become less secretive now that the initial plans have collapsed. Its use of the Faculty Student Association, and its reconvening of the "Village People", should open the process to students and faculty who feel that they have been left out of the developments of the past year.

*"...New York State ruled that the Administration had awarded the convenience store to Wallace's illegally..."*

## The Stony Brook Press Welcomes Submissions From All Members of The Campus community.

Letters and Viewpoints should be under 500 words.  
Articles should be between 750 and 800 words for a half page  
or between 1500 and 1600 words for a full page,  
minus 30 to 50 words per graphic (if included).

Handwritten submissions, or those that fail to meet the word count reasonably so  
will be covered in Smurf sperm and plastered to your front door.

Send submissions by E-mail or not to the address' listed on page 3.

(Macintosh disks preferred, but we will accept work on PC disks)

Want to write for  
the next issue?  
Deadline for the  
second summer  
issue is July 25th.

# Gentrify This!

By Chris Sorochin

My friend Dave was dumfounded. "Giuliani has again managed to do the impossible—he's gotten New Yorkers to actually sympathize with cab drivers."

True enough. Normally, city residents have nothing but disdain for the intrepid pilots of the Yellow Cab fleet for a variety of reasons, ranging from recklessness and rudeness to lack of familiarity with the streets and/or the English language.

When Hizzoner decided to slap a host of severely punitive fees, penalties, requirements and regulations on the cabbies, who often must bust it long hours just to make ends meet, they revolted. They originally planned a taxi caravan from Queens to Manhattan, but Rudy's Republican Guard (formerly known as the NYPD) stopped and harassed any cab coming over the 59th Street Bridge without passengers. Refusing to be daunted, the hackeys marched the seven miles to City Hall, only to be blocked from the steps by the now-familiar platoon of police and told their representatives would be arrested if they tried to approach the building. The Uebermenschen running the Administration must have either very short memories or a truly twisted sense of irony: Rudolph Giuliani launched his bid for Gracie Mansion by cheer-leading a riot of drunken, racist, off-duty cops on those very steps.

The cabbies filed a suit against the city for breaching their First Amendment rights. They pulled a one-day strike and the great thing was that the riding public, instead of bitching and moaning, by and large supported the effort. As Giuliani's hand-picked Taxi and Limousine Commission had voted to adopt the draconian new rules, more actions are planned. Some observers (yours most sincerely definitely included) would like to see a general strike or a consumer strike, in which nobody buys anything but essentials, on the theory that they'll listen to business, if nobody else. I'm also currently incubating plans to call for a tourism boycott, like that against Colorado for passing anti-gay legislation.

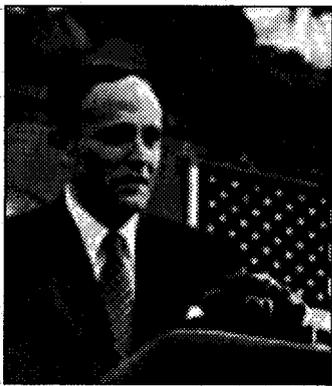
The big picture here is that war has unarguably been declared on anyone who's not one of Il Duce's pet constituencies and the list grows daily.

It is against this backdrop that I would like to relate my experiences at the Million Marijuana March on May 2. I was retroactively deputized to cover the event at the end of the year bash by our News Editor, Michael Yeh. He first massaged my ego by relating how one of the targets of my more savage muckraking projects had phoned the *Press* office and proclaimed my story a "piece of shit." While I was still glowing from this, he inquired if I had been at the Million Marijuana March and informed me that since the High and Mighty had changed the route and destination of the trek, those assigned to report on it had shown up in Central Park to find themselves left with the journalistic equivalent of seeds and stems. So what could I do but graciously offer to spew my take on things?

The pro-pot rally had been held in Washington Square Park for more than twenty years. Last year, for the first time, the organizers

were refused a permit, yet gathered anyway in what one sycophantic City Council member called an "illegal assembly." How positively Catch-22.

This year, Rudy found allies in an astro-turf organization of residents of the posh buildings that border the park. These folks thought it might be hip to live in Greenwich Village, but after a while the novelty of the funky little cafes and boutiques wore off, as did their patience with all the strangely-dressed people, most of whom didn't have 9 to 5's or IRAs or any concept of what is really important in life, like property values and getting the cubs into just the right prep school. Plus there are more and more of our kind of people who want to move in, Muffy, and wouldn't it be better if we could keep out all these scuzzy lowlifes and make it look more like, well, the Upper East Side?



"If only fascism was still cool..."

Robert O'Sullivan, spokesperson of Parents for Playgrounds (always mistrust those wholesome, family-values monikers: they hide as the song goes, "an evil mind") indicated the need for Washington Square Park to be culturally cleansed for the exclusive use of people who look and think like him. The Sineyfication is also taking the form of condemnation of the Lower East Side's celebrated community gardens, often the only exposure to nature and greenery many lower-income residents get, to put up luxury apartment buildings or, in one case, a playground enclosed in an

iron fence.

Of course, many of the real starving artists and poets fled the Village years ago when the yuppies first "discovered" it, for still-rela-

tively-cheap areas of Brooklyn. If I were them, I'd keep it a secret, because when the Gucci-loafered locust horde descends they'll be priced out yet again.

Anyway, this is my roundabout way of getting back to the Legalization March (it's a literary conceit; since this is about reefer, it's convoluted and roundabout. You should be on the floor with admiration by now).

O'Sullivan and the Parents from Hell colluded with city officials to sponsor a Family Day, in a transparently hamfisted attempt to shut out the potheads. The actual Park itself was acrawled with clowns and pony rides and balloon artists as tie-dyed pro marijuana marchers were harassed, videotaped and ejected. The marchers gathered outside the Park entrance, again surrounded by a horde of police.

Many of the protesters had signs and posters criticizing the ever-growing police presence and surveillance cameras throughout the city. One was the famous Uncle Sam with the caption "I Want You--Incarcerated." Another Uncle Sam bellowed, "Justice is a Joke. I make the Rules. You Obey Or Else." One of the best: "We've Determined What the Average Citizen Looks Like and It's Not You."

Looking way out of place among the post-hippie flower children were several besuited politicians from the Libertarian Party. One made a great speech about freedom to do as we

please with our own bodies and it not being any of the government's business. "Amen," I chorused, knowing in the back of my mind that the Libertarians also have a rather unpleasant hands-off attitude towards business, which if implemented, wouldn't be so beneficent to the majority of us. One disappointment was the relative absence of the medical marijuana contingent. I did have a very interesting conversation with a guy from Florida who had smoked for years, but now did it because he had cancer and it was the only way he could eat without getting nauseated. He told me a story of being in a demonstration Miami in the early '70s, when the cops were busting heads. He said he got clobbered and these seventy something senior citizens took him in, swabbed him off and says, "Go get 'em." They were Old Left radicals from the '30's, still doing their bit encouraging the next generation and he was doing the same, with his stepson in tow.

The march began. There were nowhere near a million of us. Giuliani's administration had implemented a misinformation campaign the previous week, enlisting the aid of, among others, that icon of pseudo-cool Howard Stern, and trying to tell folks the rally was canceled. Instead of Central Park, the march went to Battery Park, where it was no doubt estimated fewer horses would be frightened. We marched around the Village and down Broadway, past City Hall, may of the contingent lighting up along the way (I noticed to my chagrin that people don't pass it around any more. The possibility of undercover pigs may have had something to do with that.) The parade was lead by a huge paper-mache Giuliani had (authentically empty) and along the way, may chanted "Fuck Giuliani." There was a nice little cloud rising

from us and I noticed a few people pulled out and busted by the Guardians of Public Order. Some stopped to get beers, which the marshals didn't like. I discovered that a great way to thumb your nose at the stupid open container laws (laws designed expressly to give police an excuse to stop and hassle people) is Woodpecker Cider. The bottle is virtually indistinguishable from other fruit juice bottles.

At Battery Park there was the expected horde of police along with one of those huge arrest vans that now dominate the city streets, all for us, very dangerous drug fiends that we are. Several speeches were made, some I thought unnecessarily provocative to the cops. One speaker told us if we were carrying to make sure we knew how much we had on us 'cause some of it was likely to end up back on the street.

One thing I found particularly distasteful was the announcement that a limited supply of melatonin, which is legal and gives you "a real trippy high" was available at a certain table. Well, at that, half of the assembly actually charged over to the sidelines, literally crawling and stomping over one another just to get to the latest drug craze. "Great," I thought, "Just live up to that stereotype and we'll never make any progress." And as I called it, the New York Times story, which gave inordinate space to the less-than-cuddly Robert O'Sullivan, played up this image of druggo hedonists behaving like consumerist

*"There were...twenty arrests, including professors in their gowns, who were dragged out of the meeting for singing 'We Shall Overcome.'"*

continued on page 11

# Dispatches from East Timor

## Indonesian President Promises Improvements in East Timor

By Christopher Torchia  
Associated Press - Jakarta (6/25/98)

President B.J. Habibie promised Wednesday to withdraw some troops from disputed East Timor and allow its people greater freedom, a leading democracy campaigner for the Indonesian-controlled territory said.

But Bishop Carlos Belo, who met with Habibie at the presidential palace, said he and Indonesia's new leader skirted a key issue: the demand of many East Timorese for a vote on independence.

"He supports how to improve first the internal situation," Belo said after the 1-hour meeting. "The other thing ... maybe it will come later."

It was not known if Habibie agreed with Belo's account of their encounter. Habibie's office did not comment on the president's meeting with Belo, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his peaceful promotion of democracy for East Timor. Habibie has ruled out a referendum in the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesian forces in 1975. Instead, he has offered special status that would grant an undefined measure of autonomy while keeping East Timor as Indonesia's 27th province. Still, Habibie's decision to meet Belo, a longtime critic of Indonesia, indicates Habibie is more open to change in East Timor than was his predecessor, President Suharto, who resigned May 21 amid political and economic turmoil.

"He's ready, through his government, to improve the situation in East Timor," Belo said at a news conference. "Many suggestions that I presented, he supported them fully."

Belo's proposals included a reduction of Indonesia's heavy military presence in East Timor and greater freedom of movement for East Timor's 800,000 people. Habibie, he said, agreed. Belo said the troops are to withdraw "little by little" but it was not clear how large or speedy the pullback

would be. Resentment toward Indonesia runs deep in East Timor and has given rise to a small band of separatist rebels who stage sporadic, hit-and-run attacks on military patrols.

In a conciliatory gesture, Habibie has released at least 16 East Timorese political prisoners and said others will be freed in stages. But Belo said he and Habibie did not discuss East Timor's most prominent detainee, jailed rebel Xanana Gusmao.

"He's not the only man of East Timor. We are 800,000," Belo shot back at a reporter who asked about prospects for Gusmao's freedom. "Why do you ask about Xanana? Why not all the people?"

The guerrilla chief is revered by many East Timorese, who chant his name at pro-independence rallies in Dili, the capital of the half-island territory.

Belo shared the Nobel with East Timorese activist Jose Ramos-Horta for their efforts to bring peace to their homeland. The bishop is the spiritual leader of East Timor, which is predominantly Catholic. Indonesia as a whole is overwhelmingly Muslim.

### Habibie Summons Activist Bishop: Breakthrough seen as Nobel laureate prepares for landmark talks in Jakarta

by Jenny Grant  
The South China Morning Post

Nobel laureate Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo has been summoned for urgent talks with Indonesian President Bacharuddin Habibie, in what was seen last night as a major breakthrough in negotiations on East Timor. Bishop Belo will leave the East Timorese capital, Dili, for Jakarta today, secretary of the Dili diocese Father Domingos Siquera said.

It will be the first time an East Timor activist of such high standing has held talks on the territory with an Indonesian leader. Former president Suharto briefly met Bishop Belo in October 1996, during his first visit to East Timor in seven years.

He was in the territory to inaugurate a giant

statue of Christ as a gesture of religious tolerance.

But while the pair shook hands twice and took a helicopter ride together, the bishop later said Mr. Suharto barely spoke to him and did not congratulate him on the Nobel Peace Prize he was awarded the previous week. The bishop shared the prize with fellow resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta for their opposition to Indonesian rule of East Timor. The bishop spent yesterday morning with church leaders to prepare a strategy for the meeting with Mr Habibie.

Father Siquera said Bishop Belo would make a public statement after his talks with the President, and would return to East Timor on Friday.

Mr Habibie at the weekend offered a peace proposal which would give the disputed territory special status and reduce the sentence of jailed guerilla leader Xanana Gusmao to four years.

The President also said he would withdraw thousands of Indonesian troops from East Timor and grant it development funding.

Under the proposal, the United Nations, Portugal and the world community would then accept East Timor as Indonesia's 27th province. Gusmao, who last week called Mr Habibie a "buffoon", has already rejected the plan from his jail cell in Jakarta's Cipinang prison. Gusmao, who is revered by many East Timorese, has said the former Portuguese colony should be allowed to determine in a referendum whether it wants independence.

Gusmao's sister has also attacked the peace plan as a "childish stunt" designed to end debate on East Timor's future.

"It's like they are offering us a candy and saying we should obey everything they say," Armandina Santos said in Dili.

Mrs Santos rejected the offer to commute her brother's jail term. "He is not an Indonesian citizen, they never had the right to arrest him in the first place. Why should we accept this new bargain?" she said. Foreign diplomats in Jakarta said Mr Habibie was seeking a solution to the East Timor dispute to pave the way for greater international aid to Indonesia.

## NEWS THAT STILL GOES UNREPORTED: "DOLLARS PER VOTE"

By Norman Solomon

SAN FRANCISCO -- After California's primary election on June 2, news outlets across the country were quick to provide a comforting moral to the story. As National Public Radio reported the next day: "Big money was a big loser."

The winner of the Democratic nomination for governor, career politician Gray Davis, spent "only" \$12 million. He defeated a pair of wealthy rivals, business magnate Al Checchi and Rep. Jane Harman, who financed their own campaigns -- running up a combined tab of approximately \$60 million.

Although it was the most expensive election in any state's history, the media spin was reassuring about the results. Standards have sunk so low that the triumph of a candidate's \$12 million campaign is supposed to be a victory for the little guy.

We're used to seeing rich individuals and corporations give large amounts of money to winning candidates. But a lot of Americans are apt to take offense when a wealthy person tries to cut out the middleman and gain an elected position directly. We seem to prefer leasing arrangements rather than outright purchases of public office. By now, with election-year inflation so rampant, our eyes often glaze over at the sight of huge campaign expenditures. The news coverage of election returns might have more meaning if it included a tabulation we rarely see: the cost of each vote

"Dollars Per Vote" could put various cam-

paigns into clearer focus. We ought to know how much the candidates spent for every vote they received. After a fruitless search for news about Dollars Per Vote in the national election of autumn 1996, I did the math myself.

Bill Clinton's campaign spent \$61.8 million of taxpayer money to win 45.6 million votes -- so his Dollars Per Vote total was \$1.36. Meanwhile, Bob Dole adhered to the same spending limit and got 37.9 million votes -- for a "DPV" of \$1.63.

In 1996, billionaire Ross Perot accepted federal funds with a ceiling of \$29 million and captured just under 8 million votes. Perot's DPV: \$3.67.

At the same time, the man who finished fourth in the presidential balloting, Ralph Nader, opted to cap his campaign expenditures at \$5,000 and ended up with 581,000 votes. Nader's DPV: \$0.01.

In the recent California primary, the Dollars Per Vote again went unreported. But the DPV amounts were easy to calculate.

With nearly all the ballots counted in California's "open primary," the winner of the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, Gray Davis -- the guy who had spent a mere \$12 million -- received 1,885,315 votes. His DPV: \$6.36.

In second place, former Northwest Airlines tycoon Checchi -- after bankrolling a campaign of close to \$40 million -- wound up with 682,479 votes. His DPV was a whopping \$58.61.

Harman, whose family wealth enabled her to spend a reported \$20 million, came in third

with 664,005 votes. Her DPV: \$30.12.

Compare those Dollars Per Vote figures with data on the top vote-getter for governor who was neither a Democrat nor a Republican. The campaign for the Green Party nominee, Dan Hamburg, spent about \$15,000 statewide and ended up with 82,857 votes. Hamburg's DPV: \$0.18.

From coast to coast, it has become fashionable to decry the effects of money on politics. Many of us -- journalists included -- roll our eyes as incumbents in Washington refuse to take any serious action for campaign finance reform. But some media owners have a direct stake in runaway campaign spending.

Last spring, Californians watched with dismay as the contrast between docile news reporting and robust advertising grew even more extreme. Television stations gave very low priority to examining important issues -- but filled the airwaves with commercials for candidates.

Around the nation, candidates are boosting profit margins for radio and TV stations. While campaign news coverage is rarely better than mediocre, broadcast time for political ads is selling at a premium. And the entire money-mad process is likely to keep escalating between now and Election Day. All in all, quite a loss for "big money."

*Norman Solomon is co-author of "Wizards of Media Oz: Behind the Curtain of Mainstream News" and author of "The Trouble With Dilbert: How Corporate Culture Gets the Last Laugh."*

# Top Ten Creative Ways To Desecrate The American Flag

- 10) Make a new dress for Ginger Spice to wear on her solo album cover.
- 9) Use them as mud flaps for a phat, suped-up chevy cavalier.
- 8) Drink a case of beer, wrap a flag around your neck, become "Flag Man--Defender of the American Way."
- 7) Introduce a new hors d'oeuvre at your first summer barbecue; the Rupert Murdoch in a Blanket.
- 6) Candace de Russy -- Nuff said.
- 5) Do an oil painting of Elvis during his fat stage using the flag as your canvas.
- 4) Have them produced in Kathy-Lee Gifford and Disney owned sweat shops in Indonesia and South America where labor costs 10 cents an hour. Then sell them in this summer season for \$14.99 at Wal-Mart.
- 3) Piss Parties are always fun!
- 2) Three words -- America's Pride Tampons
- 1) Reenact the invasion of Iwo Jima using dressed up spider monkeys.

## The 1998 Stony Brook Summer Film Festival July 17 through August 1, 1998

At the Staller Center for the Arts

The Staller Center presents the Stony Brook Film Festival and is proud to welcome back the Long Island Film Festival as it celebrates its 15th anniversary. Join us for an unforgettable experience of diverse film entertainment at Long Island's largest and most exciting film venue (40 ft. wide screen). This year will feature 16 days of premieres, cutting edge independent features, documentaries, art, classic, foreign, animation, and the year's most highly acclaimed American and International films, including Kundun, Titanic, Butcher Boy, Love and Death on Long Island, The Boxer, Ma Vie En Rose, and many more.

New independent feature films, shorts, and video premieres from the Long Island Film Festival will be screened throughout the entire run of the festival. Newsday film critic John Anderson will moderate a filmmakers panel discussion on Sunday, July 26 followed by a filmmaker/passholder reception in the Art Gallery. Actor Cliff Robertson will join the closing night reception on August 1 where he will be honored with a Stony Brook Lifetime Achievement Award.

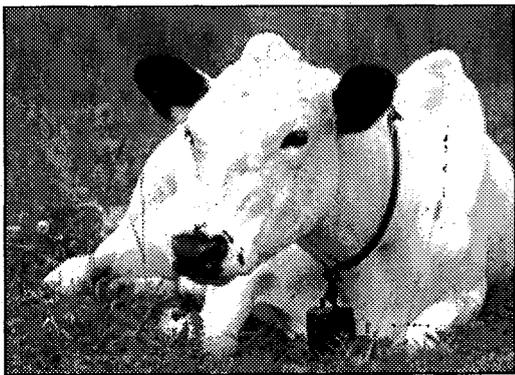
A \$40 Silver Pass gains you entrance to over 75 screenings during the festival. For \$50 you can purchase a Gold Pass which also includes an exclusive reception with actor Cliff Robertson, judging privileges, a filmmaker panel and reception where you can meet the Long Island Film Festival filmmakers and casts, and the closing night award reception with "Niagara, Niagara" guests - award winning actress Robin Tunney and director, Long Islander Bob Gosse. Individual movie tickets are \$4/\$3 seniors and students and are available starting July 13. For more information or a brochure with film dates and times call the Staller Center Box Office at (516) 632-ARTS or visit us online at [www.staller.sunysb.edu](http://www.staller.sunysb.edu) A complete schedule of all Long Island Film Festival dates and times will be available after July 13.

### Screening Schedule

Naturally Native Friday, July 17 - 7 pm <i>Not Rated</i> - (NY Premiere)	The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit Sunday, July 19 - 7 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Rated R</i> (East Coast Premiere)	Mother & Son Friday, July 24 - 6 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Not Rated</i>	The Butcher Boy Tuesday, July 28 - 930 pm <i>Rated R</i>
Kundun Friday, July 17 - 9 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Rated PG-13</i>	Wings of the Dove Sunday, July 19 - 9 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Rated R</i>	Grease Friday, July 24 - 8 <sup>15</sup> pm <i>Rated PG</i> (Walk Fm 50's Party)	Men With Guns Wednesday, July 29 - 930 pm <i>Rated R</i>
Benjamin Dove Saturday, July 18 - 5 pm <i>Rated PG</i> (NY Premiere)	The Boxer Monday, July 20 - 7 pm <i>Rated R</i>	Paulie Saturday, July 25 - 4 pm <i>Rated PG</i>	Les Miserables Thursday, July 30 - 7 pm <i>Rated PG-13</i>
Charly Saturday, July 18 - 8 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Rated PG</i> ("Meet the Moviemaker" Cliff Robertson)	Character Tuesday, July 21 - 7 pm <i>Rated R</i>	Love And Death On Long Island Saturday, July 25 - 6 pm <i>Rated PG-13</i>	Taste Of Cherry Friday, July 31 - 630 pm <i>Not Rated</i>
Mendel Sunday, July 19 - 5 pm <i>Not Rated</i> (LI Premiere)	Amistad Wednesday, July 22 - 9 <sup>15</sup> pm <i>Rated R</i>	Kicked In The Head Sunday, July 26 - 9 <sup>15</sup> pm <i>Rated R</i>	Titanic (2 Showings) Friday, July 31 - 830 pm <i>Rated PG-13</i>
	Fireworks (Hana-Bi) Thursday, July 23 - 9 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Not Rated</i>	Ma Vie En Rose Monday, July 27 - 7 pm <i>Rated R</i>	Niagara, Niagara Saturday, August 1 - 4 pm
		Somewhere In The City Monday, July 27 - 9 <sup>30</sup> pm <i>Rated R</i>	Niagara, Niagara Saturday, August 1 - 830 pm <i>Rated R</i>

By Dave Wiernicki

*This was written outside on my porch. For those of you who don't know, I wrote for the Press last spring, before taking a respite from the hell to work with my band. The band subsequently exploded, so i'm planning on a massively impressive return this fall. In order to prepare the populace for my napoleonic redux, I present a few words of wisdom prepared in my rural home: I live half a mile from my nearest neighbor, on a hill overlooking a (guess what) valley, and puny little town, and quite a few farms. I wrote this on a little toy computer I got for myself. Kinko's is paying me too much. Shh. Don't tell anyone.*



Rumination, Rumination

Sitting on the porch "getting some air"... I felt this absolute stifling in my room, which, admittedly, was rather hot, but it was something else too.. my eyes are behind my head, my brain is somewhere else altogether..

It's beautiful out here. Peeping noises. Wind. Light, light wind. Dim reality. Night is a nice thing. Darkness is underrated. "we have nothing to fear but fear itself" —a primordial instinct preventing us from enjoying a really nice thing. It's not so dangerous out there, but nonetheless, I feel "safe" on the porch but wouldn't really like being out on the grass. Despite my assertion I love the night now, I still want the door to the yellow light behind me.

There are lights I can see all over the hill, little dots, specks, different colors depending on

the type of gas used in the bulb. Yellow, blue, white, yellow. Mostly yellow and orange. But they aren't just lights; at each is a gathering of objects, whatever they do, whoever owns them. They don't know me. They don't know I'm sitting here thinking about their lights. But they're communicating with me just by existing. To them I'm one of the lights. Use me to tell if the power's out on the other side of the valley or if it's just a fuse blown down in the basement.

Cows under the lights; a lot of them are lights on farms. So the cows sit there under the lights, thinking cow things, staring at the shaky sharp mud underhoof, staring at the wizened blocks of stone holding up their barn... all entities, all alive, all self aware, I think.

There's no more reason to assume they don't think than to assume any given person I meet doesn't think. Cows don't kill other cows. They don't backstab other cows. They don't go around telling other cows they should believe in a specific way. Cows may not be very bright, but they're pretty placid. They stand there under the lights thinking cow things... and in the morning when the dark, medium, light blue creeps over and then gives way to real color of daytime, then they're still sitting there, thinking cow thoughts. When it rains and pours little rivers down that shaky, sharp



Wadda you lookin' at?!

mud, the mud chopped into alien holes by innumerable cow feet-- they stand and watch the rain seek the lowest place and ooze into the ground. They watch the water seep up the blocks of stone holding up their barn; it makes it dark toward the bottom and as you go up, in waves, it stops and gets greyer and drier. The cows watch. Only. And really, is there anything much more to life? Anything more important than watching? We try to give ourselves meaning, purpose— hey, i'm a fireman. I'm a doctor. I'm a mob hitman. I'm a student. But what we hold most precious—life— consciousness— is, in its essence, just watching. My reality is defined only by what I see. The more I see, the more I am. So maybe the cows have it right after all.

Thank you, and good night!

BITCHING AND MOO'ING

Notes From Under the Floorboards

By Fitz Fitzsimmons

*A long dead psychologist from Russia taught me to always tell where you learned your wisdom. Wise words in a time where intellectual property is stolen daily. Dr. Ouspensky, I tip my hat to you and the Work.*

The basic idea for this column was taken from a wonderful Texan Science Fiction author named Don Webb. He writes a letter once a week to "Whom It May Concern" which can be found at:

<http://www.fringeware.com/dwebb>

Go there and have the scales fall from your eyes.

This is the first of a series of columns that I am undertaking for a number of reasons. They are as follows:

- To make my readers weirder.
- To force myself to write at seemingly regular intervals in a public forum
- Simple Ego aggrandizement

It is a little spoken truth that the last of my reasons is the reasons everyone writes.

As you are reading this you are being led in a specific direction by me. Thanks to a quirk of education (i.e. that you received one) your mind has been trained to follow letters and have its thought dictated by them. In this century a number of people realized that language controls thought. This switched the commonly held belief that language simply aided in expressing thoughts. One very important person who wrote

extensively on this topic was a fellow with the improbable name Count Alfred Korzibsky. He was the founder of a field of thought called General Semantics. Korzibsky's study of language showed him that the one thing which most hinders clarity of communication was what he called "the is of identity."

A simply example of the problem that the "is of identity" has caused comes from the study of light. As anyone who has taken any course on sci-

vention, some one came in a removed the word "is" from the vocabulary of all the scientist involved in this debate. How would they be able to express their points?

Particle Mob: "With certain instruments measuring light, light behaves like a particle." Notice no shouting.

Light Gang: "With certain instruments measuring light, light behaves like a wave."

Now granted, this lacks the emotionality of the previous standpoints, but that fact is the most important. Without the "is of identity" the energy that would have been used in the endless debate can be turned back to further work. Perhaps I harbor some dreams too Utopian, but I'd rather see scientists working, rather than fighting with one another over meaningless things.

Consider how many times a day you use an "is of identity." Once you have a feel for this, attempt to remove it from your writing, speaking and ultimately thinking. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the results.

Further Reading:  
Science and Sanity by Alfred Korzibsky  
Quantum Psychology by Robert Anton Wilson

Note: A lollipop and possibly an amusing conversation for whoever knows where this column got its title form. Hint: it isn't a Russian writer, but some one who wrote about him.



"All human life is a permanent dance between different orders of abstractions" Alfred Korzibsky

ence is aware (I hope) the study of just what light is has been a mess. One side will puff up its chest and loudly proclaim, based on the studies it has done with certain instruments, "Light is a particle!"

The other side, with the same conviction, though different instruments will respond to this with great bombast "Light is a Wave!" These two sides have been fighting it out with religious zeal for decades now, and the culprit here is? Is.

Let us say that, through Diabolical inter-

# A Day At The Movies

By Frankie "The Movie Guy" Fusaro

*This being the summer and all I have decided to give out a bulk review so that all may have a choice:*

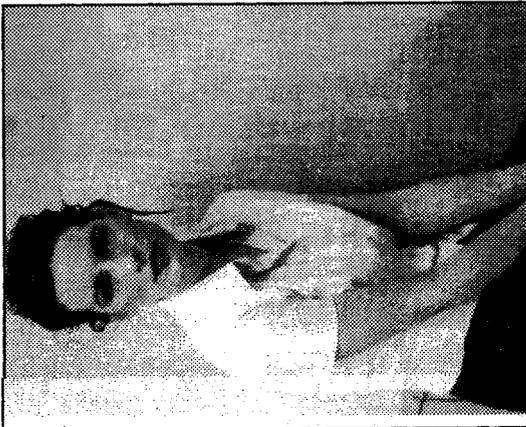
**In The Theaters**

**Godzilla** - Now to all of those who are expecting a good story be saddened, and to those who expect lots of random action and cool scenes, you're in luck. While I'll admit I enjoyed the Big G, it was no great blockbuster/epic movie. It probably would have done better with a name like *The Monster That Attacked Manhattan*, cause this big boy was no *Godzilla*. If you want to see a great *Godzilla* movie check out the Raymond Burr (of Perry Mason fame) classic black and white version.

**Frankie says:** See it at the movies, 'cause when you rent it, it will suck so much more. But go to a matinee and see it for half price; it definitely ain't worth \$8.00!

**The Truman Show** - Two words "Over Rated". It has the pleasure of having the director who gave us *Dead Poets Society* and the writer of *Gattica*, but even that doesn't make up for the hype.

**Frankie says:** See it for yourself, I may just be pissed that it wasn't as good as I thought it was going to be, or maybe I'm just a bitter person.



Kate Beckinsale (sideways)

**6 Days 7 Nights** - To quote a friend "that movie was strung together BADLY around

Harrison Ford's acting." And there really ain't much more I can add, except she's right.

**Frankie says:** Wait for it on video or even better wait for it on HBO, and of course view it at your own insistence, don't blame me.

**The Opposite Of Sex** - This puppy seemed more like Christina Ricci, formerly Gomez' little Wednesday, vying for a hasty exit from the deranged child actors guild. As for it being good, I'm split. There were some great parts, but there were also a lot of boring and annoying parts. On happy notes, Lyle Lovett was almost prophetic and Lisa Kudrow was an annoying bitch (this could be the sign of real acting talent or just a fluke, we will have to see).

**Frankie says:** View at your own risk and go for a matinee.

**The Last Days Of Disco** - One of the best movies I've seen this year, it was fun, had a great sound track, incredible characters, the works. Plus it had Kate Beckinsale from *Cold Comfort Farm*, and boy can she pull off a great American accent. Not

to mention Chloe Sevigny from *Kids*. How can one get any better? How about Robert Sean Leonard from *Dead Poets Society*? And some of the greatest conversations since *Clerks*. The story is that of friends, love 'em or hate 'em, and their disco clubbing world.

**Frankie says:** Now it might be hard to find this movie but look, it's good!

**X-Files: Fight The Future** - Incredible! Yes, it was just a really long episode, but it was cooler than cool. I even brought a friend who never "made it through an episode" and she found it to be scary, fun, funny, cool and intriguing. And while it was no shoot 'em up movie it had loads of action. Thank Chris Carter for getting this movie made. The budget was perfect for what he wanted to show us. He didn't go overboard and at the same time made it an important turning point for the show, which will still be on Sundays at 9:00 when it returns in the fall (at least that's what the Germans would have us believe.)

**Secret Info:** The soundtrack contains a hidden message, on the last track, with information that even X-Files fans don't know.

**Frankie says:** Do you even need to hear it? The first ten minutes are iffy but it works well in retrospect, so don't be late getting into the theater, you might just miss something. Go pay, it's worth it!

**Can't Hardly Wait** - If you went to high school on Long Island, most specifically in Huntington, you will not only love this picture, you will also be able to identify many of the people. This is to say they use locals, or even local sights, but the characters are darn famil-

iar. And while there are a few exaggerations it's still a great, fun, non-thinking film (if only in life it was that easy to fall in love). It's stupid to adults the way *The Breakfast Club* was in the 80's. Now I dare not say this is a *Breakfast Club* for the 90's but it ranks up there. Of course, for those of you who don't care about any of that, it's got Jennifer Love Hewitt (Party Of Five) and Eathan Embry (Empire Records). And to Hewitt's credit it's a much better film than *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (there's an hour and a half of my life I can never get back).

**Frankie says:** See it, being a friend, being many friends. It was a hell of a good time!

**Video Picks**

**Gattica** - Aside from this being an incredible film with the kind of story that might have impressed the likes of Gorge Orwell, and served as

the catalyst for Ethan Hawke to marry Uma Thurman, the cover of the tape had this cool holo/reflective sort of thing going on.

**The House Of Yes** - Stars Parker Posey, and is based on a play. Not to mention lots of JFK references. This picture ain't for the squeamish though, this is probably the sickest family since, well, the Kennedys. But it's still great.



Spooky Mulder

**Deconstructing Harry** - It was one of the strangest films of Woody Allen's life, but hey, if you're of the creative sort I think you'll enjoy it. Woody's a writer in the film but even if you're a sculptor I think the message will transcend well.

**Chasing Amy** - If you haven't seen it all, I have to say is go out and rent it, or even better, buy it. Now that was a movie. I know people who went to see this puppy around five times in the theater. I only wish I had enough money to see it that many times, because it's worth it.

**Most Anticipated Films**

**Henry Fool** - Brought to us by Hal Hartley, it was the Cannes Film Festival's winner for Best Screenplay. It started on June 19th and I know I'm looking for it, but I wouldn't suggest waiting for me to tell you something about it. It's an independent film, and by the time our next issue comes out it will probably be hard to find on video instead of in theaters.



my next job is in anime

**The Avengers** - Sean Connery, Uma Thurman, and Ray Fiennes in the big roles along with some guest spots for a few of the original players of this 1960's series. Do you need to know any more? I know I don't.

**Ronin** - DeNiro and the coolest bunch of spies since *Sneakers* hit the theaters, probably even cooler.

**Antz** - Brought to us by Dream Works and featuring the voice of Woody Allen. Need I say more?

In The Future (The Near Future) Authors of Submissions Which  
 Either Exceed The Word Count As Per The Submissions Guidelines  
 Or Are Submitted Past Deadline Will Be Subject to  
 Severe Flogging At My Hands. You Know Who You Are. You Have Been Warned  
 Brian Scott Libfeld  
 Useless Editor At Large

# Gentrify Continued

sheep.

The cops were starting to bust people for smoking and drinking. They'd come through the crowds in groups of six or seven. Someone from the stage suggested we all move in real close to make it harder for them because "they're gonna be dicks about it." That's the spirit.

A reggae band starts to play tunes like "Legalize It" and everyone grooves. A Latina in front of me with a baby carriage eyes me suspiciously and asks to see my wrist. I display it with a flourish of Liz Taylor showing off her biggest diamond because I know what she's thinking. I've been told before that I look like a cop (which is a damn sight better than being told I think like one) and she wants to see if I'm wearing the telltale green wristband. "You don't look like a pothead," she says.

"Appearances can be deceiving," I retort with a friendly smile.

"I don't mean to be so paranoid, but I can't afford to be arrested," she says, "I can't take my brother to score because he looks like a cop and nobody wants to deal with him." Hmmm, maybe this woman's brother and myself and a legion of other beefy guys with short haircuts and poor fashion sense can get together and initiate a class action lawsuit for all the mental anguish we've had to endure on account of this unfortunate situation. Maybe as a part of the settlement we can demand police officers behave in more humane and respectable ways.

As I'm leaving I see about fifty cops lining the streets and one of the undercover scumbags taking someone off to the First Precinct, telling the

guy's friend he'd be out in seven hours. "Seven hours!" "You don't like it, don't smoke," the cop said with a degree of smugness. "Is that normal or is it special for them?", I yell. "Yeah," he replies with the same arrogant smugness.

I turn around and they're busting two guys for riding bicycles on the sidewalk. They don't just get a ticket, they have to enter the jailmobile where they're run through a computer check and if there's anything outstanding, no matter how small, they go to jail. Just lovely. I go up to one officer and demand, "Do you really think this inspires respect for your department?" My theory is that those cops who use what's between their ears realize just how much extra hostility they're generating and it doesn't hurt to remind them.

He doesn't respond, but refers me to PR mouthpiece, a middle-aged African-American man in what had to be the ugliest suit I'd ever seen, sort of an orange turtleneck with a loud plaid jacket. I think he was going for the Superfly look, but came closer to Fred Sanford. He gave me some junk about how they were making the sidewalks safe for his grandmother and mine (I felt like saying that Eleanor Bumpers was somebody's grandmother) and about how all those kids are breaking the law, yadda, yadda, yadda. I believe black people refer to this type of individual as a "porkchop."

Next year's extravaganza is already being planned. They want it to be big, in-their-faces and filling Central Park with Jah's own incense.

Being a glutton for punishment, I also went to a protest outside a meeting of the CUNY

Board of Trustees on May 26. They were to vote on a measure to remove remedial classes from CUNY's four-year colleges, a move which would have the effect of excluding thousands of students, mostly from poor and minority backgrounds, from attending these schools and ghettoizing them into community colleges. It may also lead to closing some campuses. Where SUNY is under attack from DeRussyites for class content, those who want to destroy CUNY are using the old hokum about "standards."

Considering the City University system has tens of thousands of students, the protest was grossly underattended. Someone said that it was finals week for CUNY. Could that have been a coincidence? There were, however, twenty arrests, including professors in their gowns, who were dragged out of the meeting for singing "We Shall Overcome." No less personage than State Assemblyman Edward Sullivan was arrested and spent two days in jail because he had an outstanding violation from a St. Patrick's Day parade protest. It was reminiscent of Mussolini having delegates who displeased him dragged out of parliament and arrested. We were also treated to the spectacle of cops bullying kids. I told one who wouldn't let some student down the street his behavior was "disgraceful and disgusting." (Maybe they also think I'm one of them and let me be.)

So there you have it, Police State, USA. It's no longer a question of "if" or even "when." It's here and if we let it continue, it'll be everywhere before you can say "Sieg Heil."

## FUN with PLANTS PART I

By Michael Yeh

'Tis the season of beaches, barbecues, and of course, biting bugs.

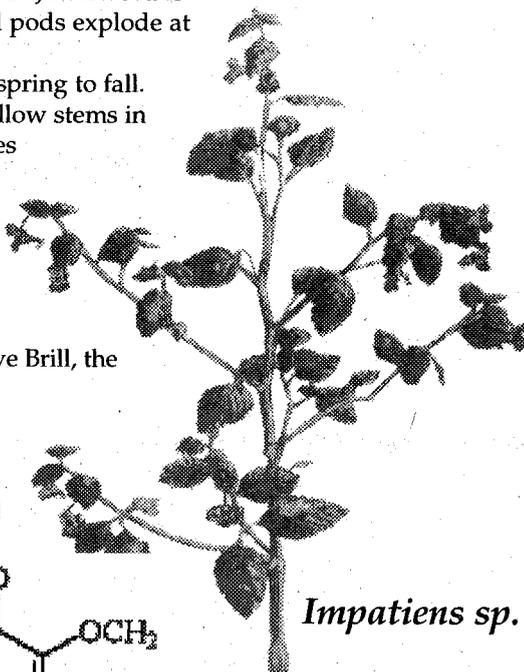
But next time, instead of reaching for your Extra-Strength Anti-Itch Wild Smurfberry Flavored Hydrocortisone Unguent, try this nifty home remedy.

Native Americans used various species of jewelweed (*Impatiens sp.*) to treat poison ivy rashes, insect bites, and other skin conditions. Jewelweed is also known as "touch-me-not," for its ripe seed pods explode at the slightest touch, scattering the seeds.

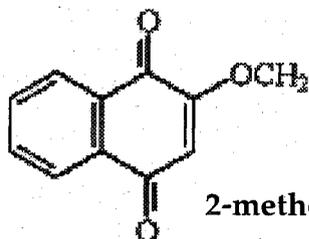
The fresh plant can be harvested from spring to fall. Look for a succulent, plant with translucent, hollow stems in wet, shady areas. The oval water-repellent leaves hold sparkling "jewels" of water after a rain-storm.

Jewelweed contains 2-methoxy-1,4-naphthoquinone, an anti-inflammatory and fungicidal compound. The juicy stems don't last long after harvesting, so one must preserve it by extracting the active compound. "Wildman" Steve Brill, the flamboyant educator who conducts local nature tours, recommends soaking the fresh stems in commercial witch hazel extract (available in drugstores) for several weeks. This alcoholic extract, which can be kept indefinitely, is applied to the skin to temporarily relieve itching and swelling.

Okay, so this takes just a little more effort than a trip to the drugstore. But homemade jewelweed extract can make a fine gift (if you're cheap), especially in an age of mania over "natural" healing!



*Impatiens sp.*



2-methoxy-1,4 naphthoquinone

## Meal Plan Cont.

was also concerned that Chartwells not be able to claim what Aramark had claimed, which is that the FSA was starving it, that it could not make a profit, and that it needed to cut services and raise prices. If the buy-in starts too high, then at least it can't be raised in the second year.

It remains very mysterious, to me at least. Chartwells can do its own budgeting, or so we are hoping. We pay them to manage a food service professionally, and they should not need the FSA to tell them that they need more money than they're asking for. The same thing happened with Aramark two years ago: it proposed an 8% markup on Advantage food, but the FSA decided that was too low, and gave them a 10% markup. But even with the extra money, Aramark still claimed it was losing money, and was still asking for price increases and service cuts. It seems that when the contractor knows that the FSA will do anything necessary to help it make a healthy profit, the contractor begins to ask for more and more.

### What the Future Holds

Now the question is whether Chartwells will be any different from Aramark. If the FSA and the Administration wish to prevent the same problems from reoccurring, they must be willing to let Chartwells succeed or fail on its own. The FSA created, with Aramark, a mentality that "When you fail, it's our fault, but when you succeed, it's your achievement," and Aramark took advantage of this. Eventually the FSA realized it was being manipulated, and ejected Aramark from the campus. But will the FSA repeat its mistakes?

Perhaps the more pressing question is: will Chartwells repeat Aramark's mistakes? We should be optimistic, of course; after all, we did get rid of Aramark. However, next year we'll know just what sort of company we've ended up with. Watch them carefully.

# Wasted, But No Longer Ignorant

By Anne Ruggiero

"You're just an empty cage, girl, if you kill the bird."  
-Tori Amos

Insight into the soul is a valuable thing. To share that insight with others who may not be blessed with such clairvoyance is even more phenomenal. We all learn lessons in life, some are more profound than others, and some epiphanies are more painfully attained. But the truly extraordinary realization is the one which can be taught to others in prevention of our peers struggling through aspects of life which we have already deciphered.

Marya Hornbacher could have been any kid coming of age in America in the early 1990's. Growing up in suburban New York, I knew countless girls like her, myself included, who were victims of society, so to speak. I suppose we all are products of our environment, but there is a special class of Americans, a small sorority, if you will, of young women of whom Ms. Hornbacher writes in her no-holds-barred autobiography, "Wasted". In this book, in this seemingly harmless little object of bound paper and ink, Hornbacher stabs painful realization into the hearts of readers who are able to identify with her experiences. By publishing her memoirs and sharing her secrets, Hornbacher is teaching thousands who suffer as she does that the spirit is stronger than the disease, and, hopefully, providing the insight needed to save potential victims.

The full title of the book is "Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia". I can practically see your eyes rolling as you think, "Gee, great-another Afterschool Special moment." Just what you want to read, right? Another tired, movie-of-the-week experience, a my-daughter-starved-her-self-but-my-love-saved-her sort of bullshit. From the opening pages of "Wasted", however you know that it's not the same dribble you've been force fed in Health Ed class.

This book was not written by a psychologist, or a social worker who recounts the behavioral oddities of eating disorder patients, nor was it composed by a lamenting, confused kid who watched her friend starve to death, or by a delusional, self-proclaimed "recovered" anorectic-bulimic who has seen the light and wants to tell her story. Hornbacher tells it like it is. She recounts in lucid detail her life before the disease, its progression from bulimia to anorexia, and poses questions as to why she suffers. There is no false security, no knowing that, sure, she was hospitalized at fifty-two pounds, but by the last page it all works out alright.

For those who think that eating disorders are a phase in feminine adolescence, or that it is an expression of vanity, Hornbacher writes of the secret side of eating disorders that don't get published in Seventeen magazine or are divulged on Oprah, but are all too familiar to anorexics and bulimics.

The spattering of blood on bathroom walls, the bruises on your back and shoulders from where the bones protrude from your skin, the frantic hiding of bald patches and rotting teeth, and the three-year-old box of tampons sitting in your bathroom because you haven't menstruated in years.

These are the truths of eating disorders. Unfortunately, our society diminishes the disease to a vain little habit of teenage girls who will grow out of it when they know better.

No one really knows where these self-mutilating tendencies come from. Hornbacher, from research and experience, acknowledges the competitive nature of anorexics. (If I can lose five pounds, then I can lose ten). The onset of an eating disorder is not usually due to financial strain, or familial abuse, or stupidity. Rather, it most likely has to do with perfection. Eating disorder victims are often exceptionally intelligent girls from respected middle-class suburban families. They come from families who try to appear perfect in everyway. (The

*"The spattering of blood on bathroom walls, the bruises on your back and shoulders from where the bones protrude from your skin, the frantic hiding of bald patches and rotting teeth, and the three year-old box of tampons sitting in your bathroom because you haven't menstruated in years."*

keyword there is "appear", for no one truly is perfect, but middle class America has certainly crucified

anyone who ever admitted it.)

Moms who juggle soccer practice and PTA with a successful career, Dads who work nine-to-five for a comfortable paycheck and dutifully mow the lawn and play golf on the weekends, the manicured garden around the three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath house on a quiet residential street in a good school district. The American Dream. We are told to want it, and if we don't want it, we are scoffed at and told that we will want it when we grow up a bit. And right there in the middle of this happy scenario are the children.

Boys play sports, they study in school, they collect girlfriends. They are pretty much left alone. This is in no way to say that growing up male is easy. I'm sure it's not and masculinity has its own pressures. However, a boy's social measure is determined by his negative accomplishments, where as a girl must move in the positive.

Translated, this means that boys start at the top--in order to be a social outcast they must screw up somehow. They have to fail that test, or humiliate themselves on the football field, or take advantage of someone.

Girls, on the other hand, are born with nothing and must prove their social worth. A grade on an exam is meaningless unless it is an A, her accomplishments in sports are ignored unless she is a stellar athlete, and physical beauty is suddenly a measure of achievement. She must work for her place in society, she does not inherit it. For boys, social prestige is a birthright. For girls, it is an acquired status.

So how does this social phenomenon affect eating disorders? The answer is relatively simple. There is one part of the perfect American dream which was not covered: the part of the perfect daughter. Cute and academically accomplished (although not necessarily smart--boys

don't like a nerd, after all), she studies, has a benign hobby (music, tennis, student council) and is patiently devoted to her all-American boyfriend.

But she is constantly reminded via magazines, television, MTV, peers, and parents, that her happy little house of glass rests ultimately on her beauty. If she, god forbid, should get fat, her life would come crumbling down around her. This message is not straightforward. No one goes around to little third-grade girls saying, "Don't get fat!! We'll all hate you then!", but it is implied in every aspect of female life.

The fat kid on sitcoms who gets tortured, stick thin magazine models, the size six corporate executive, incessant diet commercials, and the social stigma of females and food. As Marya Hornbacher ponders, why is it that it is ladylike for women to starve? Why is it that girls brag about how little they eat ("I'm starved--I haven't eaten anything ALL day") as if it were some sort of achievement. The essence of Hornbacher's book, the defining factor that separates it from other anorectic tales of woe, is that she takes all of the social pressures, the patterns, the rules, the habits, and the clandestine social teachings and screams loudly from the first page, "THAT IS FUCKED UP!!"

Marya Hornbacher does for American girls growing up in an age of plastic perfection what no one else has yet been able to do: she tells them the truth. This is the way it is--believe the garbage they are spewing at you if you want, but you may end up like me if you do. To me, that seemed to be her message. "Wasted" is not an easy read. For those who do not suffer from an eating disorder, the experiences she describes will cause you to cringe with confusion. (Why would somebody DO that to themselves?) For those who do, there will be the numbing pain of self-identification in those pages. You know why she did what she did, and you know what she thought while she was doing it, because you have done it as well. But for the first time, you're not alone. Someone out there hears what you hear, and sees what you see, and hides what you hide.

Just when I was about to give up ever understanding this aspect of my life, when I couldn't tolerate one more clinical explanation, or be told that I couldn't possibly be anorectic--I wasn't thin enough (at five foot seven and one hundred and twelve pounds on an athletic frame, I was laughed at for seeking help because I wasn't ready to roll over and croak), or listen to one more idiot tell me of the vanity of it all, and would I just grow up and eat something,

"Wasted" brought me the peace of mind to know that I may be crazy, but I wasn't beyond repair, and that others share my warped view of myself. But the words and experiences of Marya Hornbacher mean nothing to those who haven't heard them. She was generous enough to share her knowledge, so learn from it. If you are an anorectic-bulimic, you will find yourself in this book. If you're not, you might just recognize yourself as one of the others in society who contribute to the problem. Either way, education is enlightenment and we can change the world.

