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Protestors rally in Boston

Mike Ross
Journal Staff

Approximately 25,000 people gathered on Boston Common on March 29 to protest the war with Iraq, with the resounding message “not in my name.”

Over a dozen Suffolk students participated in the protest. A large group of students from Wellesley College, Emerson and MIT were also present. Peace groups from cities across New England assembled in the park to voice their opposition to President Bush’s action against Iraq.

Boston Special Operations Officers arrived at the park at about 11 a.m. in preparation for the crowds. When asked how many of the black-clad officers



Mike Ross - Journal Staff

Pro-war demonstrators flank an anti-war march on March 26.

were on the Common that day, one officer said, “we don’t give out the exact numbers.”

A march from Boston Common, down Beacon Street to Hereford Street and onto Boylston Street began at 1:30

p.m. and looped back to the Common.

Several “die-ins,” in which protestors lied down in the streets for five minutes at a time to represent Iraqi civilian casualties, were also held. For more see **Common**, page 3

Students’ opinions vary on war

Matt Wilder
Journal Staff

The United States and coalition forces have been at war with Iraq for almost two weeks and just about everyone has an opinion about it.

According to a recent Washington Post poll, 71 percent of Americans support action in Iraq.

Students’ opinions vary on

campus.

Sophomore Marlyn Lopez says she does not have enough information about the situation to form an opinion against or in support of the war. “I don’t want it. I don’t like it,” Lopez said.

Similarly, sophomore Jessica Pappas felt as though she was uninformed.

“I don’t feel as though I have enough information to make a

valid opinion about it,” Pappas said.

Junior Anthony Hightower said he supported troops fighting in the Middle East.

“I support the guys who are over there, because that’s their job,” he said.

“They’re closing down five schools in Boston and we are going over there to fix problems. We have to get our priorities straight,” he said. For more see **Students**, page 3

Finding peace:

Chaplain hosts sessions for reflection

Adam D. Krauss
Journal Staff

Suffolk students and faculty have been seeking different ways—from demonstrations to acts of civil disobedience—to deal with the war in Iraq.

University Chaplain Amy L. Fisher has taken a different approach. Since March 24, Fisher has been hosting a “daily gathering of the Suffolk community at 1 p.m. to pray for our loved ones, for the strangers we do not know and for an end to this conflict,” she said.

“It’s not ordinary times right now,” Fisher said. “I’m going to keep doing this until the semester is over or the war is over. People see the need not to just have events as usual but to stop for a moment and see that something is going on in the world and to admit that things are not as usual. Things have changed.”

Fisher said she is not trying to get people together to pray for peace. She said the service is an

opportunity for people with concerns about the war in Iraq to get together and reflect upon current events and try to understand the conflict. The sessions take place in in Donahue 540.

“I want this to include everybody,” Fisher said in her Donahue office. Though the number of attendees varied over the past week, Fisher said she wants the daily gatherings to affect people who cannot attend.

Citing emails from Suffolk community members who said they cannot attend the prayer services, Fisher said people have told her that, as a result of her invitation to the vigils, they “will stop and reflect on the need for peace.”

She said people have been sending in prayers, some were submitted by United Methodist Church.

One prayer read at a recent service was from the Tao Te Ching, representing the Chinese religion of Taoism. A segment of it reads: “If there is to peace in the world, it must be sought in the hearts of men.” For more see **Prayers**, page 2

Women ‘Voice’ intimate tales

Gillian Reagan
Journal Staff

Eight women dressed in black stepped onto the stage, surrounded by black curtains in the Donahue cafeteria. “We are all Suffolk women,” said SOULS service scholar and senior Heather Vuylsteke. The performers followed Vuylsteke’s statement with a chorus of voices, each saying a sentence or a phrase.

“Students,” said freshman Emily Ruskowski.

“Grad students,” said Assistant Director of Residence Life Shannon Werner.

“Staff,” said Kristin Lampros, graduate fellow with the Student Performing Arts program.

“Daughters,” said Erin Brick-McManus, graduate fellow with the Student Activities Office.

“Sisters,” said Lyndsay Agans, graduate fellow with the Women’s Program Initiative.

“Lovers,” said senior Jennifer Schwenzer.

The performance was “Our Voices,” a collection of monologues written and performed by

“Our voices ignored, not taken seriously, cut-off, screaming in our heads. No more.”

‘Our Voices’ cast

Suffolk students and staff about women and life on campus. Monologue subjects ranged from deaths of mothers to heartbreak.

The program was sponsored and organized by the Women’s Program Initiative and the Student Performing Arts Program. The groups collected monologues that were submitted anonymously in boxes scattered around campus.

Suffolk staff and students were speaking loud and clear on March 26. “Our voices ignored,” Brick-McManus said. “Not taken seriously, cut off, screaming in our heads. No more,” said the women in a call-and-response chorus. “Tonight we open our personal diaries,” said senior Andrea Warchol. “Speaking out, sharing,

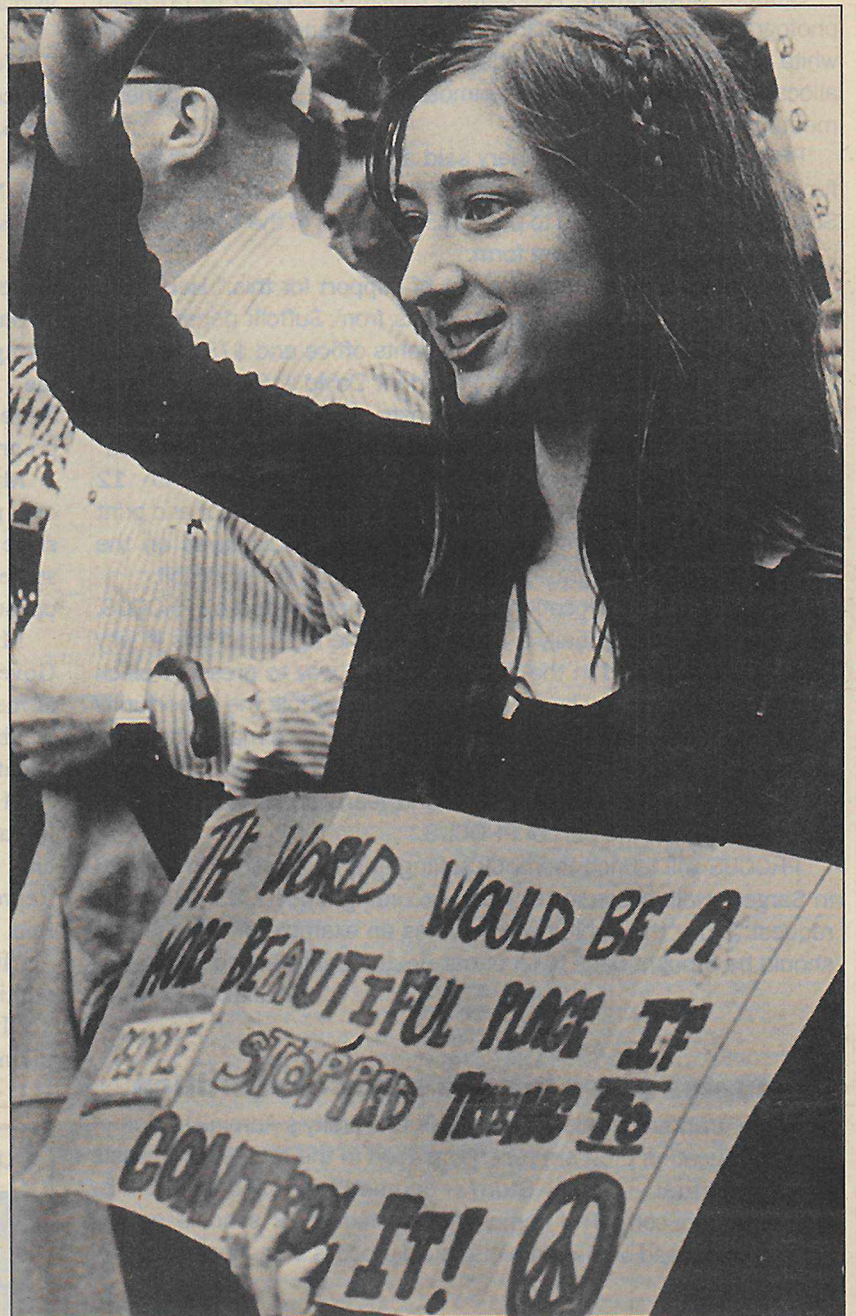
exposing,” they said.

Lampros read a monologue about being a freshman in the 150 Tremont St. dorms to start off the program. She listed details about staying up late in the night with her roommates playing Truth-or-Dare Jenga and rules about living in a nine-person suite, like “keep the drama on your TV and the sex in the bedroom.”

Other monologues had more serious tones like “Breathing Lessons,” a monologue about building “walls” to emotionally protect oneself, performed by Werner. The character in the monologue was journaling in Davis Square in Cambridge. She was “unable to accept love and therefore unable to truly give it,” Werner said.

Brick-McManus read “Candy-Coated Death Threat,” a monologue about struggling with bulimia nervosa.

The story follows a girl after she took laxatives to purge her binge. “Thinking how good it feels for me to feel empty,” Brick-McManus said. “Bulimia is a battle.” For more see **Voices**, page 2



Mike Ross - Journal Staff

Sophomore Heather Mumford, a member of Suffolk Students for Peace and Justice, marches in a peace rally on the Boston Common.

NEWS Briefs

SGA allocates money for photography book

Student Government Association allocated \$3,800 to PHOCUS photography club to print 125 Suffolk student and faculty black and white photographs in a book titled "Abrase Los Ojos." The motion to allocate the money passed unanimously on April 1 at SGA's general meeting.

PHOCUS President Andri Hery said all proceeds for the book will fund a photography program and a darkroom at Dorchester High School. It will cost \$7,290 to publish 500 copies of the book, according to the allocation request form.

"We have a tremendous amount of support for this," Hery said. PHOCUS received co-sponsorship funds from Suffolk departments including \$125 from the dean of students office and \$75 from student activities office. Hery said President David J. Sargent offered \$2,200 to help fund the publication costs.

The book is the culmination of a semester-long "Abrase Los Ojos" (Open Your Eyes) project. PHOCUS members worked with 12 Dorchester High School seniors to teach them how to shoot and print photographs. The high school students' work is displayed on the fourth floor of the Donahue building for the Unity Week exhibit.

According to the allocation request form submitted by PHOCUS, "Photography is essentially a historian for the ages and this is why PHOCUS was started in the first place: as a way to preserve black and white photography by giving everyone in Suffolk the opportunity to be taught this craft. Publishing this book will give many photographers the exposure that they have worked hard for. It will also work to encourage more people to use and learn about the darkroom process and become part of PHOCUS."

PHOCUS will launch the book selling at an exhibition on April 28 in Sargent Hall, according to Hery. According to PHOCUS' allocation request form, "this exhibit will serve as an example of why the arts should be brought back to all of our Boston public schools."

- GILLIAN REAGAN

Graduates place in case study competition

Three graduate students in Suffolk University's Administration of Higher Education program recently placed in the top seven finalists in a Virtual Case Study competition sponsored by StudentAffairs.com. The competition included 28 schools nationwide and focused on the administrative process of higher education.

SOULS seeks Good Person Award nominees

On April 11, the SOULS Community Service Center will award one staff or faculty member and one student the Good Person Award. Qualified nominees for the Good Person Award include people who go above and beyond to improve the lives of others, are considered role models to students and staff, demonstrate involvement both on and off the Suffolk Campus, have a positive rapport with others on campus, demonstrate a passion for social justice, or are unsung heroes through generosity to others. Please pick up a nomination form in the SOULS Center in Donahue Room 409. Nominations are also available at www.suffolk.edu/studentact/serviceday.html.

Prayers for solace

Prayers from page 1

world, there must be peace in the cities ... If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart."

For Fisher, the power of prayer is dynamic and broader than religious implications. "Prayer is a way to gather the community and let the community speak its voice, both individually and as a group," she said. "Prayer lets the community know the individuals' troubles, worries and joys."

At the prayer services, Fisher has been encouraging conversation about current events among the students to learn from one another's perspectives. Adam Pantazelos, a sophomore who attends Bible study with Fisher, said, "It's nice to have people offer

their views of the world."

"It provides me with a peace of mind," said sophomore Lyndsay Strait.

"It's one of the only things we as American citizens can do. It's comforting and I think it helps to talk to other people. It gives you another perspective. Prayer is a way of supporting our government and leader," Strait said.

"Prayer is an important tool both for looking into ourselves and outside for answers," Fisher said she encouraged all Suffolk community members to attend the services.

"Everybody is welcome any way, shape or form the community wants this to take. If necessary," she said, "I'm open to reshaping this to the community's needs."

Registrar, MIS are all smiles

Administrators say registration went 'smoothly'

Gillian Reagan

Journal Staff

More than 4,290 students registered for fall 2003 classes with the SAIL academic internet program over the past two weeks and Managing Associate to the Registrar Aeri J. Myers said it "was a very smooth registration process this time around."

Students had to register for spring 2003 classes by going to the registrar's office in November 2002 after the SAIL program crashed.

Myers said there were no serious problems with registration since March 24, when graduate student online registration opened.

Myers attended the Student Government Association's general meeting on April 1 to ask for feedback from board members about the registration process.

"I actually thought it was really easy this time. I didn't have any problems," Class of 2006 Representative Kerri-Ann Snyder said.

"It went so fast. I was done within five minutes," she said.

"I didn't hear one person complain," said Class of 2005

Representative Danielle Parent.

Class of 2003 Vice President Simon Ding asked if the registration program's "time-out" process could be lengthened. A student trying to register may get kicked off the system if their registration session is taking too long. Ding said some computers are slow and need a longer time to load pages, so the "time-out" sessions should be longer.

Robert D. DiGuardia, director of administrative computing in management information systems, said the "time-out" system is used because the program can only have a certain number of students registering at one time. He said "time-outs need to be balanced" so if a student walks away from a computer while in the registration process, they won't "occupy the space that many people are contending for," DiGuardia said.

SGA created a committee last semester to help the registrar's office understand student concerns with registration.

According to a resolution passed by SGA on April 1, "the Registrar's Office and members of the Management Information Services department met with members of the Student Registration Committee; and the appropriate departments worked overtime to ensure that the electronic services were in place for

student registration."

"We have updated our systems in probably the most efficient way possible," DiGuardia said. He said MIS put "new brains" into the system to increase its power and speed.

He said 405 students registered in the first four hours of senior priority registration on March 25. "The first six minutes of registration are the most intense. I think everybody waits and pounces at 9 o'clock," DiGuardia said. But he said the program "never maxed-out" or had to kick students off the registration program.

"Roughly six full-time tuitions paid for the upgrade," DiGuardia said.

He said MIS was happy to work with SGA on registration. "Sometimes when the voice comes from a voice like this, then people tend to pay attention," DiGuardia said.

Myers said "it was a valuable experience."

"It wasn't just a technical thing, we needed to revamp some of our own processes also," Myers said.

"We had orientation scholars in the labs helping students who aren't as savvy with the registration process," Myers said.

"It was one of our best registrations we've ever had and we're so happy," she said.

Ouch



Mike Ross - Journal Staff

Students, staff donate blood

More than 25 people donated blood on April 1 in the Reagan Gymnasium. Freshman Suzanne Yu said she decided to give blood when she saw signs advertising the drive on her way to class in the Ridgeway building.

SOULS Service Scholar Heather Vuylsteke, who helped organize the event, said the day went well. "Nobody passed out," she said with a laugh.

- MIKE ROSS

Women speak loud and clear

Voices from page 1

tle and it's not one you get a medal for."

Warchol read "Like One of the Guys," a monologue about being a female in an all-male police department. "I'm a threat because I am a confident woman who will defend them and back them up," Warchol said.

"How does a penis-filled department accept the penis-less one?" Warchol asked. She said it takes time and "the men with the penises realize I have a set of balls."

Vuylsteke read a biting mono-

logue that got the crowd laughing and clapping called "Love Blows." "Love is a wound," Vuylsteke said. "It scars you like a splinter cut from a piece of glass ... It hurts and it stings like hell ... It's a soul hurt, a real gets-inside-you-and-rips-you-apart pain," she said. "Men are like roses; you always have to look out for the pricks. And those pricks, they can make you bleed," Vuylsteke said. "And that's the reality, that God gave men both the brain and the dick, but not enough blood to work them both at the same time."

Ruskowski read "Get a Grip," a

monologue about lesbian and "fat" stereotypes. "They (women) are thick and beautiful and take up space like all women should be able to," Ruskowski said.

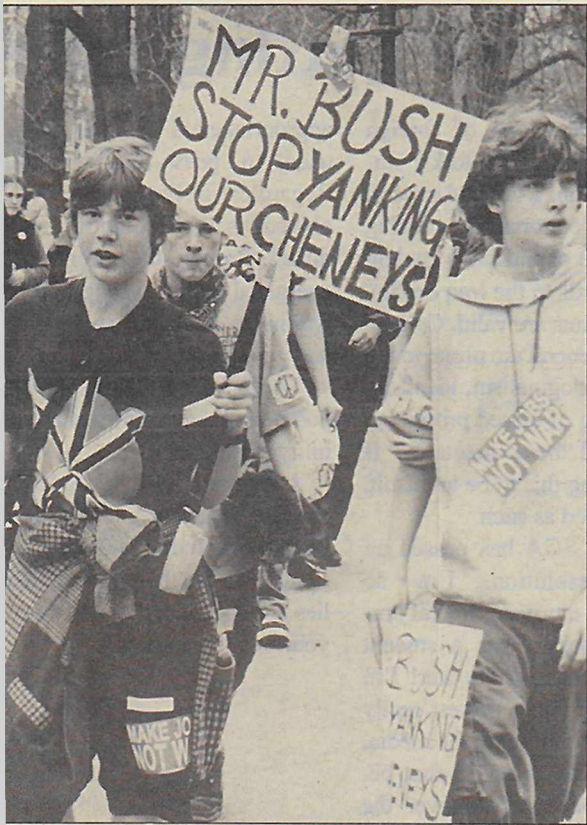
Katy Lucid introduced the program at the beginning of the night. Lucid said she came up with the idea for "Our Voices" when she was working with women afflicted with anorexia nervosa in 1998. She said the women felt that "their inner thoughts weren't being heard."

She said the program reminded Suffolk "how important it is to share and learn."

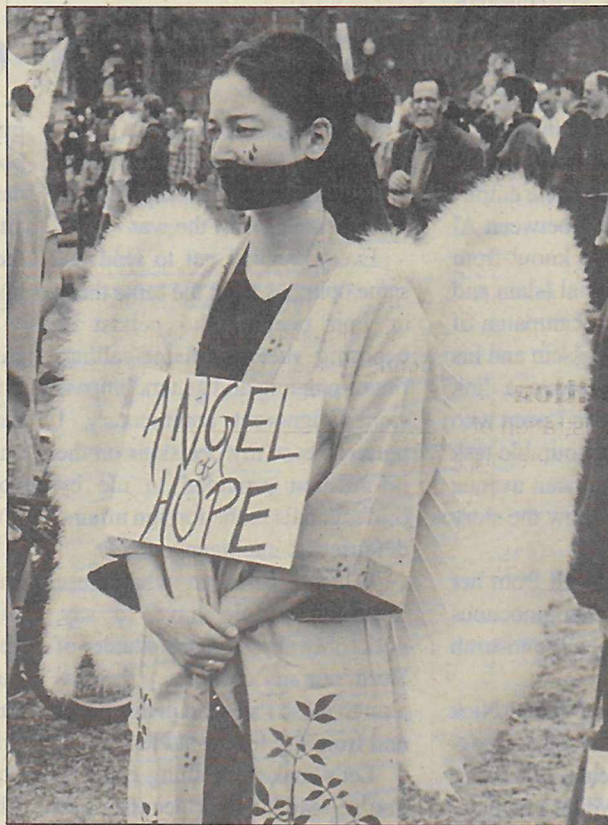


All photos by Mike Ross - Journal Staff

(left to right) Freshman Rich Semagram, sophomore Rob Laurent and senior Michael Dempsey participate in a "die-in" in which protestors lay on the ground to represent civilian deaths. This "die-in" took place on Boylston Street.



A young man holds up a sign while marching on Beacon Street.



An "Angel of Hope" stands on the Boston Common to participate in the peace rally.

Common protestors march Boston streets

Common from page 1

ies, commenced throughout the day. A Franciscan monk sat alone by a small table he set up away from the main group of protestors on the Common. "It is not important what my name is or where I am from, what is important is that I am here representing the pope's position of peace," he said. "My teacher is Jesus Christ. I'm here alone because this is what he would be doing." One of the many speakers who took the stage, located by Beacon and Charles streets, was MIT student Anne Scarborough. She said the ROTC program recruits students for the military. Scarborough said the elimination of affirmative action "throws" those who would benefit from the program into the military by saying "This is your best option." In her closing remarks she said, "we will not be part of the war machine!" to which the crowd cheered. Suffolk Students for Peace and Justice

member Heather Mumford said she was impressed with the people and their effort. "It's not even the amount of people, it's the range in people," she said, referring to the diverse crowd. Signs at the protest read slogans from "Grandma for peace" to "Republicans against the war" and were carried by young and old protestors. "I find it funny that Bush can just stand up there and say that America supports this war, but we don't, not all of us," Mumford said. There were not just anti-war protestors at Saturday's rally. A group of about two dozen pro-war demonstrators were also standing at Boylston and Arlington streets to let their voices heard. All of the pro-war demonstrators taking part in the march and standing on the streets were flanked by police officers. One officer said that he was there to "keep things from getting out of hand, not because I think there will be any violence."

Students worry about troops

Students from page 1

ties together," Hightower said. Hightower himself could have been on the front lines if he decided to join the U.S. Marines two years ago. He later decided the military was not for him. Some students support the war and Freshman Nick Silva is one of them. "It seems like the only thing that is going to take Saddam out of power," Silva said. When asked why he thinks the Iraqi president should be removed from power, he replied, "He kills his own people," he said. "Since they are already in there, they might as well finish the job," Silva said. Hussein has not been confirmed dead or alive since the war began. MTV.com, a website that usually attracts young people, is currently running an unofficial poll on its web site. According to the poll, 78 percent of those who have responded believe that Saddam Hussein is still alive and has not been killed during the U.S.-led bombing campaign in his country. A handful of student organizations have taken a stand on the international issue. Suffolk's Students for Peace and Justice asked the Student Government Association to take a stand on the war in an anti-war resolution proposal more than three weeks ago. Eight members of the SGA voted in favor of the resolution, which stated that the majority of students were against (the then possible) war with Iraq. SGA Vice President Dave Rodrigues defended the SGA position at the meeting. "We are chosen by our peers to represent their class ... I believe in the responsibility of this board to take a position," Rodrigues said. Many students know someone who is fighting in Iraq. Pappas is one of those students who has a friend there. "I'm nervous that something is going to happen and he's going to get hurt ... I just hope for the best," she said. According to The United States Marine Corps, the average age of a man or woman fighting in Iraq is 19 years old. As of April 1, 72 coalition deaths have been reported and seven military individuals are listed as prisoners of war. Nineteen are missing in action. As for Iraqis, 47 people are reported dead from the invasion of the country by coalition forces but that number was not confirmed by Pentagon officials. President Bush said that the end of this war is not near. "This war is far from over," Bush said. "There will be a day of reckoning for the Iraqi regime and that day is drawing near." Experts say coalition forces are expected to enter the Iraqi capital of Baghdad soon.

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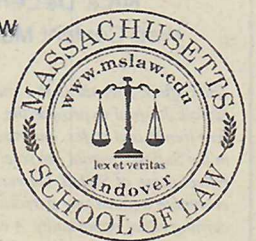
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Dempsey responds

Michael Dempsey

This is a column in response to a letter written by Michael Gerskovich. See page 6 for the letter. This is not an editorial.

It was long overdue for a fellow Ram to submit a diatribe complaining about my, how was it phrased, air of "intellectual and moral superiority."

I could retort that I could not have said it better myself, but I do not hold myself to be superior, mentally or morally, generally speaking, so the effort would be trite. I do not know enough about Mr. Gerskovich to say whether or not he is deficient in these categories. I only have what he wrote and am content to work with that. Yet I distinctly recall Gerskovich agreeing with me when I sarcastically said that according to his logic, the United States should bomb, invade and occupy the many countries it has helped destabilize and defoliate. Come on, Michael, even the neo-conservative blimps have yet to go that far.

His objection to my demeanor at the SGA symposium is that I attacked the character of my opponents instead of attacking their arguments. He cited my denunciation of Ryan Boehm's attempt to equate Al Qaeda with Saddam Hussein as "stupid" and my description of Kristen Powers as "sulky." Granted, the latter adjective could have been omitted and the point would have sufficiently obtained. Yet, when I am accused of being against democracy and against truth by someone who knows nothing about me the line between the personal and the political vanishes as if it never existed to begin with.

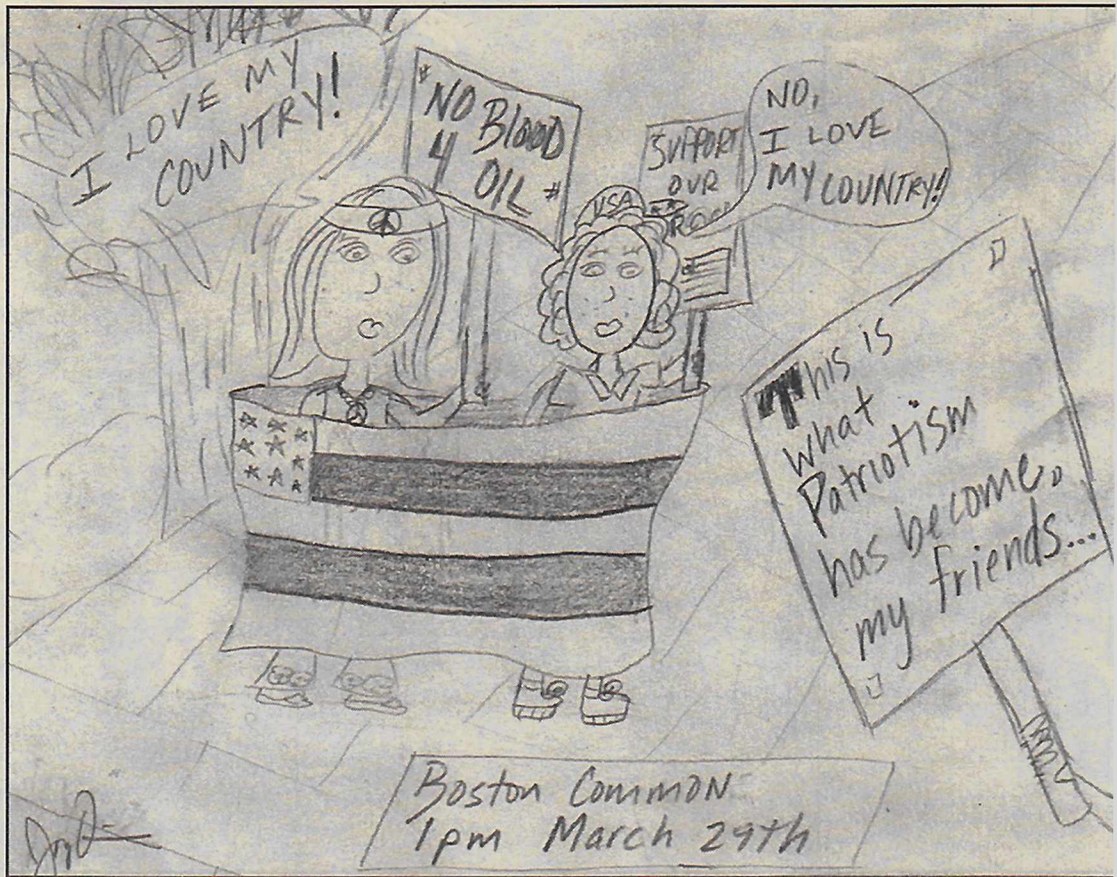
Maybe it evaded his attention that Boehm's insinuation that anti-war protestors are endangering the American people was completely serious and in no way in jest. His utilizing of the tragedy of Sept. 11 to discredit his opponents and justify using the Iraqi people as specimens in some neo-conservative experiment of Fed-Ex style democracy exportation is dangerous. And stupid. If Gerskovich does not quite grasp why this is then perhaps he is more of a sycophant than I initially took him for.

Applying the standards of reason Gerskovich portends to have such a firm grasp of on there has not been a single strand of believable empirical evidence to emerge to date adumbrating a connection between Al Qaeda and Hussein's government. There is, as he would know from reading my columns (much thanks), a link between Ansar al Islam and the Iraqi secret police. Ansar al Islam has been waging a campaign of destabilization against Kurdistan much to the delight of Hussein and his moral kin, the Turkish junta. This does not however prove a link between Al Qaeda and the Baathist regime. It was in fact Bin Laden who beseeched the Saudi royal rats to bestow upon him the honourable task of attacking the Iraqi infidel, effectively avoiding the American avenue altogether. The Saudis declined the offer and we all know how the story goes from there. Was that educational enough, sweetie?

As for Kristen Powers, who is more polite than I adduced from her remarks, my "ad hominem" reference to her as sulky was innocuous compared to her smear against my comrades and I as being anti-truth and anti-democracy.

It is conspicuous that Gerskovich did not subject my friend Nick Delena to his self-righteous scorn for writing that she possessed no "cognitive abilities." Was this not an indictment of her intellectual character? And is not the intellectual inseparable from the moral? Would I be para-

see **Writer**, page 9



Letters to the Editor

Columnists' opinions getting stale

Dear *Suffolk Journal*,

It seems like a lot of the "pundits" who write into *The Suffolk Journal* are against the war.

Every week, I get to read the same opinions from the same three or four people who persist in exposing rhetoric, name-calling, finger-pointing and general impassioned, ignorant commentary. I prefer to base my decisions on the information provided to me by professionals in the foreign affairs, defense and intelligence fields.

When I listen to what these informed people have to say, noticeably absent is any slander of Bush, nor any conspiracy theories akin to those I've read in this paper and from my fellow students.

Let's make one thing clear: if you're searching for accurate and

informed evaluations of foreign policy, look not to Suffolk's student population. I've read several articles and editorials discussing the ignorance of Suffolk's student body in regards to the Iraq debate.

These claims are valid. College students in general are prone to the influence of dogmatism, idealism, the preaching of biased professors and a general "herd" mentality. If you're reading this to be an insult, it was intended as such.

Now, the SGA has passed an anti-war resolution. I'm so shocked that a private, liberal university in Boston has a student body that is against the war! I'm sure that this paper protest really grabbed the attention of the media, voters and the powers-that-be. There has been debate over the

appropriateness and the method used to pass this resolution. Regardless of the validity of such objections, the resolution was produced through the efforts of energized interest group operating within an apathetic student body and government.

So do I hold this resolution possessing any significant credibility or weight? No.

I urge all Suffolk students educate themselves about the real issues surrounding this war.

Ignore the hype, speculation and sloganeering and come to your own conclusions.

Sincerely,

Tim Caffrey

Senior

Losing faith in democracy

Dear *Suffolk Journal*,

If you had asked me a few weeks ago, I probably would have expressed optimism about the fate of our country. Now, however, I find my faith eroding at a quickening pace as I watch politicians and citizens alike slowly euthanize the idealism of this country's founders. I used to believe in freedom, but I see less people today striving for and protecting it. You might think that the protests around the country would revitalize my hopes, but the jeers of those on the sidelines only fuel the fire burning it down.

I find myself wishing I had the opportunity to leave this country, which I'm sure would draw cheers from those taunting my fellow dissenters. This, however, would only continue to compromise my principles, as I know this would only be running away from the problem at hand. I try to debate, but find that those on the opposite side of the table would sooner

I used to believe in freedom, but I see less people today striving for and protecting it.

attack my credibility then my ideas and would rather insult my education in place of my logic.

I cannot pull myself from the very thing that promises to be my downfall. I can't turn off the TV or put down the paper, hoping fruitlessly to hear or read those words that will once again make the glass half-full. I can't stop trying to discuss, vainly looking for the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

Democracy promotes the free exchange of ideas, but differing ideas are becoming an increasingly offensive proposition. Every person jeering a protester is another nail in the coffin of the Constitution; every comparison of a protester to a communist a hand-

ful of dirt on its grave. Last checked, blind faith was only required by church, not state, the line is being continually blurred. As the day's go by I slowly coming to grips with the grim reality of the situation: the experiment with democracy is failing. The failure does not however stem from a flaw in its principles but in our lack of desire for Democracy requires too much effort both in education and practice. We are too lazy for upkeep. We would rather so one tend to it for us, thus destroying its intended purpose.

I fear that the time may be drawing near that I should pull a chair and toast to the end of an era while democracy's eulogy played over the loudspeaker. Orwell, I think, put humanity about 20 years ahead of schedule but we're finally catching up.

Sincerely,

Chris Stasci

Junior

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Opinion

Sex in the University

Beating about the bush



By
Jennifer
Schwenzer

Last week, I wrote a column on men and STDs. It reminded me that it was about that time to schedule my favorite of favorites: a trip to the box doctor.

So off I go into the examination room where they hand me a paper towel gown and blanket and give me the heads up that they expect me to be naked and in position by the time they get back.

So off into a position I'm sure wouldn't be bad with the right guy and in comes a doctor who sees more vaginas in a day than most guys do in a lifetime. Ladies, tell me you have no idea what I'm talking about? I'm sure you know that you need to see a gynecologist a year after you start having sex and before you turn 21. You knew that, right?

Now ladies, we all know how ignorant and occasionally cocky men can be, but just because we are the superior sex doesn't mean we are immune from sexual disease as well.

I know that at that perfect moment when your legs are spread eagle on some inhuman exam table it's kind of awkward to ask about important stuff, but in all actuality, it's the best time to ask. Would a nice, romantic dinner with your boyfriend not be the perfect time to say "I love you?" I would prefer to tell him over a hot dog and beer, but that's another column. So what better time to ask a doctor something like, "What's (your sex-

ual concern here)?"

Maybe you just need an icebreaker. I use them when I'm feeling awkward. Yes, even a ballsy sex columnist such as myself can feel a bit uncomfortable when a complete stranger is medically examining my box. Once I said, "Come here often?" and the doctor just looked up at me and said, "every day." Once I'm comfortable with someone and bonus points if I make him or her laugh, I can say anything.

You know that overused cliché, "women are so complicated?" Yeah well, let us just say we have a few more things to worry about than boys do. I know I attacked men last week, but this week, ladies, it's your turn. We are just as capable of attracting an STD as men are. I'm going to go back to stupid boy's quote from last week about being able to see an STD because your dick just hangs there so you can see if anything is on it. Well the rest of that ridiculous "knowledge" that spewed from this kids mouth was, "and chicks can't see an STD because their shit is on the inside and they don't know it's there." If that isn't enough reason to write back-to-back columns addressing the issue of STDs, than I don't know what is.

So let us clear a few things up ladies. While we tend to be the more mature and intelligent sex, let's prove that when it comes to sexual concerns, both sexes know what the hell is going on. You know condoms? Yeah well, they're pretty important. They protect you, but not 100 percent, from a list of sexual diseases. Herpes? Go ahead, wear a condom, but it won't help, because herpes can hide in all kinds of places a condom doesn't go like the scrotum or inner thigh.

Then there's HPV, 75 percent of women have it and don't even know it. Different strains can cause herpes or cervical cancer see **Sex**, page 10



Letter to the Editor

Writer should inform, not insult

Dear *Suffolk Journal*,

Last weeks "Uncommon Sense" column was an example of what happens when an individual's passion for an issue, and their frustration with those who disagree with them, leads to inappropriate and unbecoming results. Columnist Michael Dempsey was clearly frustrated last week and that frustration brought about several unfortunate responses on his part. Not only did he manage to personally attack several students who had written letters to the editor, but he also demonstrated just how highly he thinks of himself and how much he despises many of his fellow students.

As I first with whom he disagrees in an ad hominem fashion, rather than take the more difficult and apparently less appealing route of attacking that person's actual argument.

In last week's article for instance, he called an argument made by Ryan Boehm during the debate "stupid" and Kristen Powers "sulky." He said some members of SGA prefer "idiocy" to seriousness, and labeled a letter written by Sean Flynn as "dribbling." He described my own letter to the editor as a "feeble, facile screed." What became clear to me after hearing him speak at the debate and after reading several of his articles, especially his last one, is that Dempsey apparently believes himself to be above most of the student body and certainly above those who disagree with him on any given issue.

He apparently sees himself as their intellectual and moral superior, which is why he treats them with such personal vitriol and is so quick to dismiss their arguments and attack their character.

All of this is of course unfortunate. Dempsey apparently believes that this weekly column is best used not to confi-

dently and persuasively argue his position, or even to graciously inform those who read it about the myriad topics that he himself is so well informed on; but rather to use it as a public podium to bolster his own image and personal sense of superiority by degrading those he disagrees with and speaking down to everyone else.

His latest article winds down with a slightly confusing yet telling sentence that I think demonstrates how he feels, not only about those who believe that arguing over the war in the confines of the SGA is futile, but also about those toward whom he feels intellectual and moral superiority. "These people would be elated to live out their days in a Six Flags theme park," Dempsey wrote last week, "riding roller coasters and sinking their faces in clouds of cotton candy, blowing each other for pre-empting the disappointment of defeat by choosing a life of never ending idiocy instead."

What could have been an opportunity to persuade, convince and inform those Suffolk students who care less and know less about the war than they should was wasted, because Dempsey would rather insult them.

Instead of informing those students about a particular relevant issue on which he is well informed, like the Iraqi National Congress perhaps, or appealing to their reason in the hopes of convincing them to at least become informed about the war, Dempsey decided that they are perhaps too idiotic to make it worth his effort.

I encourage Mike Dempsey to use his flair for writing and his column as means to inform and persuade through reason; and to shelve the desire to condescend.

Sincerely,
Michael Gerskovich
Senior

Peace demonstrators disservice Boston

This weekend there was a rare but beautiful sight in the center of Arlington. As a communist satellite of the People's Republic of Cambridge, liberalism and anti-Americanism is par for the course in Arlington. It is this fact that makes the sight

Ryan F. Boehm

of hundreds of American flags and yellow ribbons being paraded around the center of town by citizens of all walks of life all the more surprising and promising.

The group that assembled in a municipal parking lot and marched to Massachusetts Ave. included veterans from World War II, Vietnam and the Gulf War, as well as parents and siblings of current servicemen and women, senior citizens and young children, police officers and firemen to go along with your everyday proud American.

The rally was pulled together by a member of a public service community, and spread via voice and e-mail, displaying that networking can work on both sides of an issue.

The signs that the demonstrators carried ranged from "Support our troops! Honk!" to "Land of the free, Home of the brave" to "Support President Bush and Our Troops"

to "Support the USA Patriot Act." One of the most moving things to see was the brother of a soldier overseas holding a framed picture of his loved one in full Marine uniform.

I was overwhelmed with a great sense of American pride as car after car blared their horn, passenger after passenger gave us the thumbs-up and person after person thanked us for doing what we were doing.

Unfortunately, ignorance and hate had to show its face. While I give much credit to those who are against this war (or more accurately, this president), it baffles and enrages me that someone would be so hateful as to give the middle finger to a young child holding an American flag in one hand and an "I love America" sign in the other. A rally bathed in red, white and blue and showing solidarity and thanks for our brave men and women should be the last things to elicit such a response. Unfortunately, behavior like this does not surprise me anymore.

While the pro-America rallies were taking place in Arlington, Mashpee and Melrose, a march was taking place on the streets of Boston. While the organizers of the rally I attended purposely kept the numbers of participants low to eliminate any expense to the town, the organizers of the demonstration in Boston did no such public service. In fact, most of what they did was a

public disservice. For all the talk from these people about needed resources being diverted from domestic programs to fight this war in Iraq, these demonstrators are just as guilty, if not more so.

Massive amounts of money are needed for police officers to protect the public's safety; money that the cities and towns could be spending on other more important, and meaningful endeavors. During these times of heightened alert, law enforcement officers could better serve their communities by being allowed to do their job, instead of having to baby-sit a bunch of disaffected youth in danger of inciting anarchy on the streets of Boston. The war against terrorism is global in scale, but a significant part must take place at home.

While all Americans are encouraged to be vigilant in this fight, it is the job of our law enforcement community to be our first line of defense. They cannot be effective if they cannot be focused. I think Americans should use a very critical ear when listening to the rhetoric from the protesters. If they did this, they would see that there is no focus for their arguments. They run the gamut including "No Blood for Oil," "End Israeli Terrorism" and "Bush is the terrorist."

Unorganized messages are coming from the anti-war protesters, showing that this is

not about war, but leftovers from the 2000 election. I think that issue was put to rest by the midterm elections of 2002, if not in the decision by the Supreme Court.

I am a firm believer in the First Amendment and I am not questioning the right of the protesters to criticize their government during wartime. But I question the appropriateness of such actions. American men and women are dying overseas, some in obvious violations of the Geneva Convention. One of the best images that a soldier can go into battle with is that of a unified nation, knowing that the people at home are doing their part to support the war effort.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is under way, and the coalition of the willing will be victorious. While the troops will be able to celebrate the immediate victory, the Iraqi people will be the true winners. They are the ones that will be reaping the benefits of regime change for years to come, not the oil companies as some would have you believe, and they will be thankful to us, if not tomorrow, then in time.

It is my hope that the American troops will not meet the same fate as those that served their country during the Vietnam War when they returned home. Let's make the effort now to make sure the soldiers know we hold them in our hearts and prayers.

Supporting the military

I've used the word "propaganda" more often than I can stomach over the past few weeks, but its relevancy is undeniable. To pass an official resolution that does nothing but tout a purely academic form of support for American troops stationed in Iraq is a

James Cormier

redundancy, whether it is enacted in the Massachusetts General Court or in the Suffolk University Student Government Association.

Heartfelt though these sentiments may be, they too often play into a biased political scheme; namely, that of the Bush administration. The issue of support for the American armed services has consistently been used as a right-wing weapon to attack

the political left, incredible as it may seem. What kind of American - or what kind of person, for that matter - could rationally ignore the well-being of hundreds of thousands of fellow citizens?

Pro-war and anti-war factions can unite in this concern. Supporting our troops is a simple, moral imperative, not a political question. With that said, the conservative insinuation that the left does not do so becomes a fallacy.

But this does not change the fact that most of those who proclaim support do so impotently and fail to actually engage in the matter.

Last Thursday a veteran of the 1991 Gulf War spoke in one my classes, bringing personal accounts as well as informed political insights that impressed upon me truth offered by an insider with first-hand knowledge. **Support**, page 10

Uncommon Sense

Pearls of poetry



By
Michael
Dempsey

"No, this cannot be true," thought junior. "Well, it is," shouted senior. But senior said with even more certainty the point that was so obvious to her: "War is peace."

"No," junior shouted back. "War is not peace any more than an apple is an orange."

Senior cleverly retorted, "They are both fruits." Junior complied on this but remarked, "The respective taste of each is very different, one being more sweet and one being more sour. But these analogies will take us nowhere."

Senior had a grasp on something junior

did not: reality. She was, after all, his elder and what lowbrow would deny that wisdom is the concomitant of age? The only seer worth listening to is old and bears the title "expert."

So junior resolved to unleash an offensive arsenal of history. Fact upon fact, coupled with the obnoxious precedent or two, were deployed in the senior's direction.

Yet she managed to deflect almost every bullet with bombast and absorb every wound the only way the truly tested could do. This senior, this cutesy mom, had too much pride. Pride in her caravan; pride in her kids; in her home; in her nation. History was no match for any of these attributes.

Junior pondered. His heart began to palpitate. **Poetry**, page 11

An idealistic vision just may do America good

Yes, this is another anti-war article. Yes, I am anti-war. I am a pacifist (don't worry, if Saddam was coming at me, my mom and my goldfish I would defend them). The very notion of war at this point in modernity, however, is offensive and pathetic. As we

Rich Semegram

become further entrenched in a bloody guerilla battle, my stance becomes further validated.

The sense I have gained from people is that the whole "all's fair in love and war" is actually coming as a shock. Iraqi militia would actually go about their city without uniform, ready to attack? Ruthless battles, the likes of the famous "Black Hawk Down" example, are beginning to unfold in Iraqi cities? Fanatics actually use civilians as human shields? People blindly defending

their homeland will stoop to less than admirable war tactics? Perish the thought, right? Never have such tactics been employed in history, right? Who needs history?

Generally, the pro-war contingent tries to convince me they do not actually support war, because nobody wants war. But of course they tell me in the current war is a necessity for our safety.

If any friend of mine returns home in a body bag, I will find it difficult to accept the necessity of his or her condition. Furthermore, I cannot envision how dead Iraqis will comprehend the benefits of American imposed democracy, nor will dead Americans understand how they saved the first world from the third.

If they do, I hope they can be satisfied with their enlightenment for all eternity. There have been nobler times with nobler deaths.

Oh by the way, the death toll is steadily

mounting.

Excuse my hackneyed worldview, but if everybody made the effort to peacefully resolve their conflicts, I just do not think war would ever be warranted. People tell me that "those sand diggers," the entire Middle East populace, according to some, are not at this point in their "civilization" and will not be able to work things out.

However, fighting back against the school bully does not work no matter how uncouth he may be, despite what happens in the movies. Even if he will not leave you alone my personal experience dictates that fighting back is not the solution. Furthermore, we are certainly not those being bullied in any way.

I will also mention that intolerance of other cultures was, is and will continue to be unacceptable, regardless of how alien another's ways may seem.

But those who cannot see past such issues as race will eventually understand

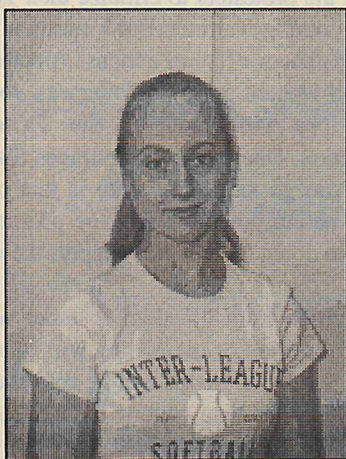
that war is unnecessary. Right.

I believe in idealism. Since this war thing first reared its ugly head, I have observed a severe deficit of idealism in our society. Webster defines idealism as "behavior or thought based on a conception of things as they should be or as one would wish them to be: idealization." Obviously, I recognize that the world will never be close to perfect. I simply do not comprehend why modern Americans are so opposed to trying. Our country was indeed founded on idealistic notions of democracy and peace. The bombarding media constantly send us ridiculously idealistic lives. And yet many people remain convinced that such pursuits are futile.

Perhaps if our country stopped being bitter about the immutability of the world and accepted the potential for change and peace through discourse and joint sacrifice, we would not be involved in this juvenile exercise of phallic, I mean military, pride.

Voices of Suffolk

Q: Is the Iraq war progressing as you expected?



"Yes. I also think the media is portraying the war like a movie, as opposed to an actual war."

Amelia Pollard
Senior



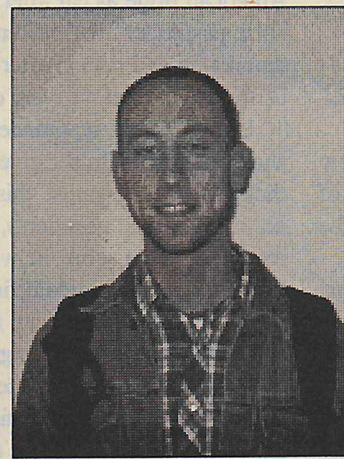
"No. I hoped it was going to be quicker because I am opposed to the war."

Pedro Ingoglia
Junior



"Not really because I thought it would be over by now."

Troy Irizarry
Senior



"No. I expected a much swifter resolution."

Mike Esser
Junior



"No. They haven't freed anyone and it seems like they're just there to take up space like in Vietnam War."

Stephanie Fougy
Freshman

Photos and interviews by Jenn O' Callaghan

Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

The Suffolk Journal

7

Local heroes Godsmack *face* up to the metal

Chris Dwyer

Journal Staff

While the breeding ground of heavy metal is consistently being pushed off into new but not necessarily original ventures, it is comforting to see an act sticking with a formula that works.

Beantown's Godsmack have seen the light of success over the past few years, mainly due to their unrivaled mix of post-angst grunge and all-out metal.

Lead man Sully Erna formed Godsmack after a drumming stint with rockers Strip Mind in 1995, cranking out a record at New Alliance Studios in downtown Boston and shopping a deal with Newbury Comics for exclusive sales.

Local rock station WAAF started spinning the track "Whatever" and soon the band saw themselves selling over a thousand copies a week of their DIY record *All Wound Up* out of car trunks and bedrooms. Universal Records came calling and quickly inked the band to a deal.

The New Alliance Studios-recorded disc was remixed and repackaged with new artwork, solidifying the collection as an honest debut.

The self-titled affair soon went platinum as Godsmack toured with OzzFest and played the infamous 1999 Woodstock festival.

The follow up *Awake* hit in late 2000 to firm critical reviews and the satisfaction of the band's ever-growing following and achieved the double platinum mark almost a

year later.

Faceless picks up the riff-heavy torch of *Awake* and engulfs it further, fueling the anger behind the hard-hitting slices of heavy metal fury.

Gone is drummer Tommy Stewart, who left early last year, and replaced by former Amen kit warmer Shannon Larkin, whose presence is heard thoroughly on the new disc.

Opening track and current single "Straight Out Of Line" plays with guitarist Tony Rombola's down-tuned crunches and Erna's melodic organization of ire, "Straight out of line, I can't find a reason why I should justify my ways. Straight out of line, I don't need a reason, you don't need to lie to me."

Producer David Bottrill leaves a residue of his work, as most of the tunes on *Faceless* are garnered with a spacey aura of newfound soundscapes.

"I Fucking Hate You" redefines Godsmack's contentment with anger. Rombola provides a rambunctious riff that spins with mosh-pit delight as Larkin drums with Tommy Lee-esque grace.

Title track "Faceless" hits like a fist to the chin with versatile wah-wah'd riffage and bassist Robbie Merrill's fat, low endings. "Lie to me, you're faceless," screams Erna.

The Grammy-award nominated "I Stand Alone" off of "The Scorpion King" soundtrack is thrown in for good measure.

"Changes" and "Realign" show some progression on the front end of Godsmack's



Photo courtesy of Universal Records

Boston's Godsmack reach new heights of metal on their third release, *Faceless*.

guitar work, as the tunes venture into more grungy territory as opposed to beat-driven bounces.

However, tracks like the autobiographical "Releasing The Demons," which Erna credits with a piece of life evaluation, boomerangs with a centerpiece of growling bellows and palm-muted, alt-metal glory.

"It's taking me all of my anger, it's taking me all of my hate, to learn how my life came together, releasing the demons again," cries Erna with animosity.

The epic double-piece "The Awakening" and "Serenity" follow in vein of Godsmack's traditional Wiccan influence.

Bongos and chants pepper "The Awakening," leading into the latter near-ballad.

"Where do we go when we just don't know, and how do we re-light the flame when its cold? Why do we dream when our thoughts mean nothing, and when will we learn to control?" questions Erna on *Faceless*' most deviant and ambitious track.

Godsmack have proven themselves as a substantial rock act with their Boston-based attitude intact.

With that said, *Faceless* isn't meant to redefine the alternative metal genre, it's merely here to preserve it.

Pinpack bring pop, groove to Boston crowd

Gillian Reagan

Journal Staff

San Diego-based Pinback perfected home recording with their recent release, *Blue Screen Life*. Bassist Armistead Smith IV and guitarist Robert Crow Jr. built makeshift studios in living rooms, bedrooms and garages to record a personal collection of lo-fi, post-rock pop songs.

So it was no surprise that Pinback seemed just as comfortable and at-home live as they did in their recordings during their stop in Cambridge on their month-long U.S. tour.

Perfection began with Smith and Crow's complimentary call-and-response vocals in the Middle East's smoke-filled basement on March 26.

Though the band may have made a mistake by starting out with laid-back, keyboard-laden songs like "West" and "Tres" to kick-off their set, they picked up the pace with the poppy, up-beat "Concrete Seconds." The music was tight, accurate and fun. As the danceable beats came on, a few show-goers in the crowd bobbed their heads and swayed in the pale

blue and red lights.

With "Chaos Engine," "Tripoli" and "Hurley," Pinback took the audience back to their more experimental days in their first 1999 release, *This is a Pinback CD*. It seemed like the young band desperately wanted to introduce the lead vocalists' distinct, solid tones and ignored the flat, repetitive guitar and keyboard sounds on the album.

Their performances of the songs were precise, keeping loyal to slightly country-sounding guitar riffs in "Hurley" with lyrics just as tragic and melancholy.

Crow's falsetto vocals brought Camden and The Promise Ring to mind, but Smith's highlights included more aggressive, upbeat versions of "Offline P.K." and "Penelope" from *Blue Screen Life*.

The crowd cheered as the band played the off-time guitar riff and quirky opening percussion of "Offline P.K."

A few concert-goers called for "Penelope" earlier in the show and the song's guitar-picking, acoustic riffs, groovy bass line and hand-clap drum beat brought the show to its energetic peak. Pinback played "Penelope" in double-time from the album version, with

Crow bouncing around stage right and Smith concentrating on playing bass.

Pinback's stage line-up include drummer Tom Kinser and brothers Tom and Brent Asbury, who played keyboards, guitars and cued computer samples.

It was obvious that Smith and Crow wear the pants on stage, but the disconnected hierarchy made it seem like the band wasn't communicating. Crow was the entertainer while Smith seemed to take the concentrated, aloof bassist role. Crow seemed to be the only band member who was having fun on stage by bantering a bit with the audience.

Smith didn't need to do much to impress the audience other than glide his gyrating fingers across the bass guitar's fret. Crow, between sips of Guinness in a plastic cup, told "knock knock" jokes and jammed with the drummer to fill time while Smith tuned between almost every song.

Though Pinback's unique tuning is one source of their original sound, the breaks between songs lulled the crowd into boredom and by Pinback lost their momentum by the last leg of the show. But Crow kept the crowd interested by



Photo courtesy of Ace Fu Records

Pinback's *Blue Screen Life* is featured at their March 26 show.

telling random stories from their trip to New York and complimenting Boston's "walkable" city landscape.

Pinback played three songs including an aggressive "Seville," an originally subdued soft-voiced pick from *Blue Screen Life* for their encore. They will be out on the road until mid-April, then return to the West Coast.

After releasing several EPs,

Pinback will release their next album with Touch and Go Records, joining respected rock recorders from Blonde Redhead to Brainiac, Steve Albini's Shellac to J. Robbins' Jawbox.

Pinback is on the heels of greatness. It's a marvel to witness their accuracy and talent live.

One can only look forward to bigger and better things from this fresh-faced band.

Taking back punk, pop at Takeover Tour

Susana Gutierrez

Journal Staff

Taking Back Sunday, a band that manages to escape specific categorization, played to a sold-out crowd at the Worcester Palladium.

The Long Island natives performed along with Breaking Pangea, Recover, and From Autumn to Ashes.

Impossible to classify as any one type of music, Taking Back Sunday is a five-member band that seems to perfectly embody the sub-genre of rock that inevitably is called "emo."

A fine blend of hardcore, punk and emo, Taking Back Sunday create a uniquely energetic, infectious sound.

Although their roots stem from pop-punk, the band combines the use of chunky guitars, overlapping vocals and push-and-pull tempos

for a sound that is becoming increasingly popular.

The lyrics, which are honest, occasionally undecipherable and often melodramatic, are written and performed by singers Adam Lazzara and guitarist/singer John Nolan. The dueling back-and-forth exchange between the two lyricists is incredible and their energy and emotion are fully exploited on stage.

The Takeover Tour began in Philadelphia in mid-March, and reached New England on March 27.

Taking Back Sunday headlined the tour, with support from several other bands including Coheed and Cambria, Recover, and My Chemical Romance. Breaking Pangea began the show, playing songs from their first full-length album *Cannon to a Whisper*. Recover took the stage immediately after, playing several songs

SHOW REVIEW

► Bands:
**Taking Back Sunday
From Autumn to Ashes**

► Date:
March 27

► Venue:
The Palladium

► Rating: (out of 5 stars)
★★★★☆

from their first album *Rodeo and Picasso*.

After a brief intermission, From Autumn to Ashes took the stage, and the crowd seemed to come alive.

From Autumn to Ashes, also from Long Island, played an eight-song set, including their most recognizable songs from the album

Too Bad You're Beautiful, including "The Royal Crown vs. Blue Duchess," and "Chloroform Perfume."

When Taking Back Sunday finally took the stage, the crowd went wild. The floor was immediately flooded with eager fans and cheers and applause resonated throughout the hall.

The band opened with "Bike Scene," a track from their first major-label release *Tell All Your Friends*.

Before the second song was over, a mosh pit had formed by the stage, and it became obvious that Taking Back Sunday have acquired a loyal and vigorous fan base that is happy to show their support.

The band played every song on their album including "You Know How I Do" and "Great Romances of the 20th Century." Singer Adam Lazzara dedicated the song "The

Blue Channel" to his audience and then proceeded to stage-dive into the crowd.

He did this repeatedly, each time evoking a chorus of screams as the girls in the audience fought for the chance to touch the front man.

When the band finally played "Cute Without The 'E' (Cut From The Team)," the breakthrough song that has already been placed on regular rotation on MTV2, the crowd erupted into cheers, and began to sing along in a scene reminiscent of a Dashboard Confessional concert.

Taking Back Sunday finished the show with "You Know How Do" and promptly left the stage ignoring their fans' pleas for "one more song."

The Takeover Tour is now headed to Canada, where performances will be held in Toronto and Montreal.

upcoming concerts

Concrete Blonde
The Roxy
279 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.
Wednesday April 2
7 p.m.

★

Joe Jackson Band
Paradise Rock Club
969 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, Mass.
Friday April 4
9 p.m.

★

All-American Rejects
The Axis
13 Lansdowne St.
Boston, Mass.
Saturday April 5
6 p.m.

★

They Might Be Giants
The Avalon
15 Lansdowne St.
Boston, Mass.
Saturday April 5
7 p.m.

Godspeed You Black Emperor!
The Roxy
279 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.
Sunday April 6
7 p.m.

★

Boy Sets Fire
Hope Conspiracy
The Vaux
Silent Drive
The Palladium
261 Main St.
Worcester, Mass.
Sunday April 6
6 p.m.

★

The Dillinger Escape Plan
Every Time I Die
End of the Universe
The Axis
13 Lansdowne St.
Boston, Mass.
Monday April 7
7 p.m.

★

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe
Paradise Rock Club
969 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, Mass.
Tuesday April 8
9 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Peter Sanderson (Steve Martin, left) – aided by his best friend Howie (Eugene Levy, right) finds perfectly ordered life turned upside down when Charlene (Queen Latifah, center) enters his world.

Laughable in Latifah's 'House'

Michele Colameta

Journal Contributor

Instead of my usual trip to Blockbuster, I decided to venture to the actual movie theater to see "Bringing Down the House." I am a fan of Steve Martin and of comedies in general so I figured it would be a nice escape from schoolwork and making resumes.

This movie brings to life the problem with meeting people over the internet. Peter Sanderson, played by Martin, is a tax attorney and he chats with Queen Latifah over the internet. She sends him a picture of her and what Martin doesn't realize the tall blonde reporter in the picture is not the woman he is talking to. Instead, Charlene, played by Latifah is standing in the background being arrested and escorted into a cop car.

Being a convict she didn't receive many photo opportunities so that was the only picture she had of herself. Peter invites her to

dinner at his house where he quickly realizes she's not the woman he thought she was. She takes the opportunity to use Peter's skills as a lawyer to open up her case and prove her innocence.

What Peter doesn't realize is that he is about to begin the journey of his life. Joan Plowright plays Peter's billionaire client and Peter uses Charlene as his "nanny" to cover up the fact that he is letting her live with him and his two children.

In the meantime, Charlene helps Peter try to get his ex-wife back, played by Jean Smart. His daughter, played by Kimberly Brown, gets into trouble when she sneaks out of the house and heads to a club.

Charlene uses her tough-girl image to get her out of trouble and sends the family on the ride of their lives when the FBI is after them for housing a convicted criminal. In the battle to prove her innocence, Peter goes undercover

to get a recorded confession and gets himself into deep trouble.

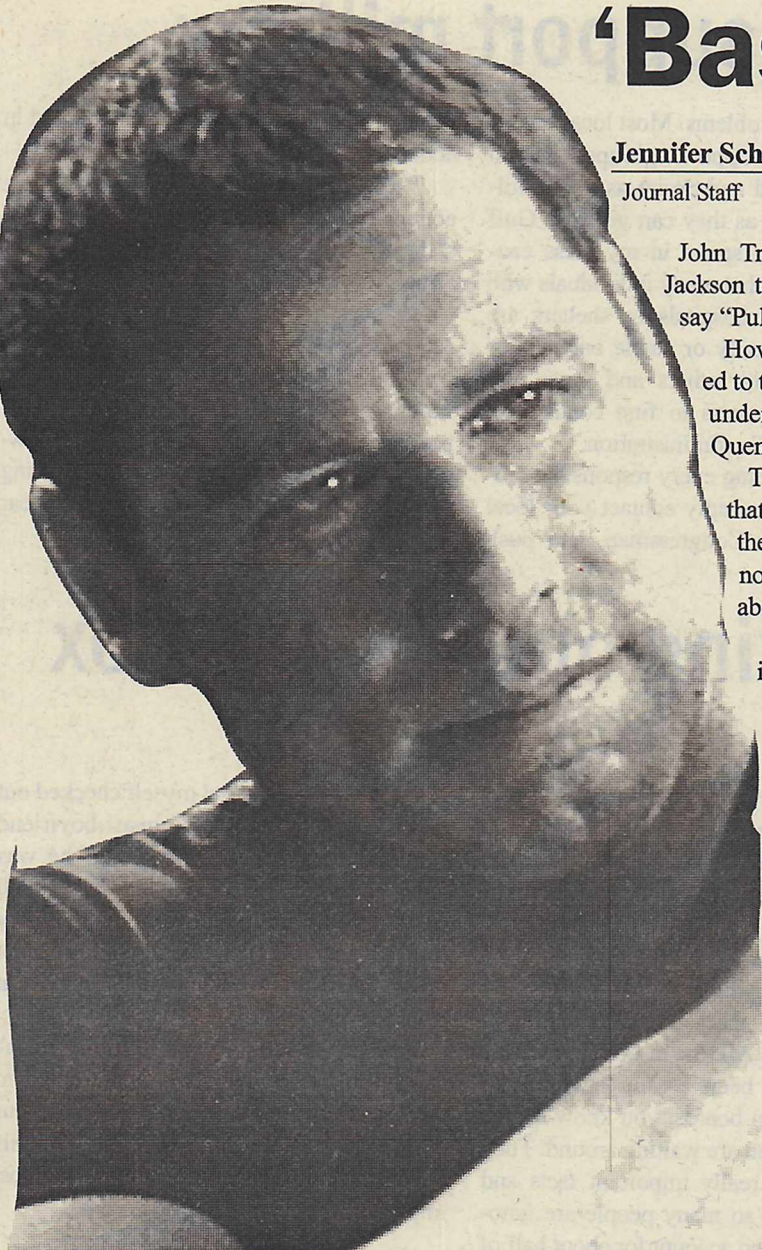
In the end I thought the movie was alright. I thought it would be a tad bit funnier than it actually was. It wasn't terrible at all, but I think my parents might have liked it more than I did.

It was amusing to watch Latifah attempt to perfect the hip-hop language Latifah pulls off so naturally.

It was nice to see Martin in comedy, which is what he's meant to do. My last memory of him was his 2001 performance of "Novocain," which was absolutely terrible and I was shocked that a star like Martin actually took a bad film like that one.

Queen Latifah was great in her role and seemed to match up well with Martin.

Overall I would rate it a decent movie if you like Steve Martin. I didn't laugh nearly as much as I had hoped and with the price of movies nowadays I'd say it's worth the wait until it hits Blockbuster.



‘Basic’ banks on banality

Jennifer Schwenzer
Journal Staff

John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson together, again. Can we say “Pulp Fiction”?

How can you not be attracted to the duo that once shined under the direction of a Quentin Tarantino film?

This is one of those films that kind of looks cool in the previews but you’re not really sure what it’s about.

You see the cool shots in the previews like John Travolta pressing some guy’s face to an airplane propeller and you’re like, “whoa, this shit’s cool.”

So off you go, dragging that one friend who is unsure of the film’s coolness but tags along, reassured by your mounting support, “But, there’s this scene where John Travolta...”

So the movie starts, and then it

ends, and this is where you can absolutely confirm that the movie blows and your friend keeps whining about \$10 and how many beers that is, when you try to confirm some redeeming social value the movie had.

But get this: there is none. So, now you’re bitching about your \$10 and how movie previews are packaged propaganda giving the false pretense of anything even remotely interesting.

What’s “Basic” about? Honestly, I have no clue. John Travolta used to be an Army Ranger but now he’s a DEA and he’s hired by the Army (illegally) to interrogate an Army Ranger who’s suspected of killing half his platoon.

Sound stupid? It is. My favorite is when Osborne, played by Connie Nielson, comes in as some pseudo badass whose sexual tension towards Travolta screams “predictable.”

Ms. Nielson and Travolta go back and forth between the two alive Army Rangers, a very wounded Kendall, played by Giovanni Ribisi and the other guy (name irrelevant for he hasn’t starred in any movies I give a shit about), and they give varying stories about what really happened.

Ribisi says he was a victim of a homosexual-fueled hate crime and the other guy uncovers a secret cocaine smuggling operation out of the Panama

Canal. Next up is Harry Connick Jr. who plays some doctor who gives out pain killers and used to have an affair with Osborne.

She’s horrified that she slept with such an animal and he goes to prison. Make sense yet? It gets worse.

So, Ribisi bites the big one and the Army sergeant important guy is supposedly the real crooked one and tries to kill Travolta but is saved by the Osborne chick.

Oh yeah, and then there’s this scene where Travolta and Osborne have a mock fist fight out of nowhere, and then that’s it.

So bad guy down, Travolta and Osborne now have a real love connection, because nothing says “I love you” like blowing off the guy who was going to shoot the guy you want to sleep with. You know, Hollywood style.

I could give away the rest of the movie, but that’s impossible because this film lacked acting, a plot and coherence.

For the next 8 weeks it’s going to sit at No. 1 at the box office and a bunch of freaks are going to wage a campaign about how these “corrupt military” movies ruin the morale and visage of our own blessed military.

But please, since when did people believe everything they see in Hollywood?

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Writer responds to letter

Writer from page 4

noid in deducing that maybe there is something ad hominem inherent in his singling out of my commentary and not Mr. DeLena’s?

And no I do not feel obliged to “educate” people about the Iraqi National Congress and my support for them. I am under no obligation whatsoever to educate per se. Such a voluminous endeavor would demand much more space than the tiny plot I am allotted. And furthermore I do not portend to be qualified enough to educate anyone about what they should and should not think. I am busy enough with my own education, thank you. I am scratching polemic, not drafting curricula.

As for my alleged superiority complex, I think the charge is better phrased as follows: do I think I am right? Absolutely. If I did not think I was right I would not pick up a pen or open my mouth as often as I do. Instead I would probably listen to the advice of Timothy Caffrey and, I quote, “base my decisions on the information provided to me by professionals in the foreign affairs, defense and intelligence fields,” and live out my tenuous days as a couch potato. Come

on, Michael, if this is not feebleness then what is?

I wish that the SGA meeting would have been more serious and less silly. But there was no escaping the obvious and dismaying truth that the majority of people on the board would have preferred not to be there. Thus, it was rather difficult to engage in reasoned argument with people who in the first place did not think there was anything to argue over. I remind him that he was in this category. This “preference for idiocy,” as I phrased it, is not as venomous as he might think. For the etymology of the word “idiot” is one who refuses to partake in public affairs. Vitriol or no vitriol, in the case of SGA, my description was accurate.

I believe in the virtue of open argument. I make it a point to have at least one good argument a day, be it friendly or hostile.

So I invite Mr. Michael to debate me on the issue of Iraq or any other topic of his choosing. We can do it in front of an audience or over a friendly drink. I’ll promise to labour ardously to shelve the condescension if he promises to devote an equal amount of effort to can the crap and get serious.

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Compelling, intelligent ways to support military

Support from page 6

edge that war is as much a political construct as a human conflict.

This veteran, who asked to remain anonymous, presented a concise but compelling list of things anyone can do if they would like to take an active approach toward making a difference for the men and women who have been and will be deployed in the Middle East. He was kind enough to allow me to feature some of his ideas for this article.

One very compelling and somewhat unexpected action you can take is to contact

the American Red Cross, easily done at their website (redcross.org) and inquire about volunteer services, donations and other ways in which you can help troops and the civilian population of Iraq. The Red Cross maintains a policy of non-involvement in American imperial endeavors and thus their deployment in the Middle East during this conflict is by no means assured.

Local Veterans Associations are another forum for support and activity. Fifty-one percent of homeless people in the United States are veterans, many of whom suffer from psychological, medical and drug and

alcohol-related problems. Most local organizations hold support groups, which undoubtedly need and desire as much volunteer assistance as they can get. The Gulf War veteran who spoke in my class cautioned, however, that many individuals who live in veterans' hospitals or shelters are simply not yet ready or stable enough for direct contact with others and urges any prospective volunteers to first contact the respective shelter's administration.

Lastly, something every responsible citizen can do is to simply contact your local representative or Congressman, and push

for their public support both in name and in action of U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

These are but a brief survey of simple actions that each and every citizen can take if they truly want to "support" the American armed forces.

Support implies an active approach; it cannot be passive. Passing resolutions is all well and good, but to actually engage and back up your bullshit takes force of will. Do not sit back and passively vouch for a viewpoint, found your principles on something worthwhile. Otherwise, I don't want to hear it.

Thinking outside the box

Sex from page 5

so pap smears are really important and botched pap smears are even more important to investigate. HPV can go away on its own (unlikely) or lie dormant for years (likely).


If you read last week's column in which I mentioned chlamydia and gonorrhea, you'll recall that these diseases can go without symptoms. Even AIDS can go unnoticed. I hope you have been paying attention to those information boards, you know by the elevator when you are waiting around. They point out some really important facts and information that so many people are ignorant about. Women account for about half of

HIV infections.

I don't just go and get myself checked out every year, I go after each quasi-boyfriend that enters my life. I don't care if he was some chess-playing Harvard geek, he still poses a threat and while we remain to stay embarrassed and shy about talking about sexual health, they will continue to spread at record levels.

Alright, so this week's column wasn't much fun, my apologies. I just wanted to take the chance to call our attention to our most important assets, T&A. So take this opportunity to schedule one of the most important appointments in your life.

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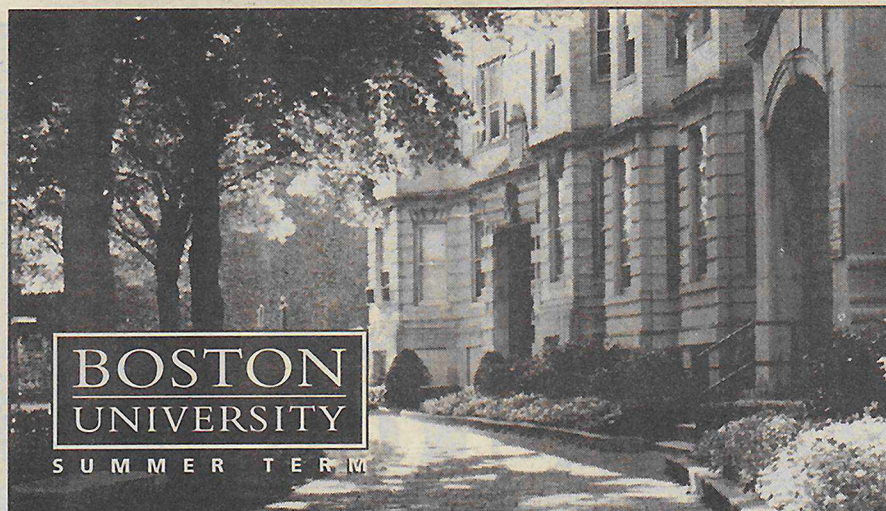
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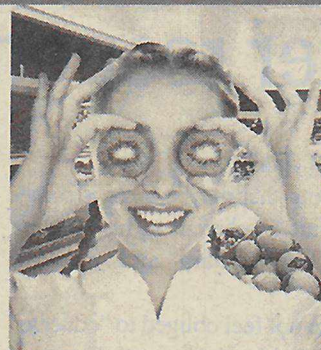
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War's generation gap

Poetry from page 6

pitate. It struck him. Poetry! Poetry always works. People like poems. They sound nice. Junior understood that poetry has a way of making the vulgar seem valorous, through a combination of words and the polite

rhyme scheme about flying birds. Owen came to mind. And watch the white eyes writhing in his face, his hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin; if you could hear, at every jolt. Junior thought he had her now. She was simply deaf to the truth of what she was advocating, of what she was prescribing.

He began to recite verse from Owen's poem about the nightmare of the trenches. Before he could get to the marrow of the poem, senior unleashed, "Poetry? So what! I could find you a poem that agrees with what I'm saying!"

Junior understood in that moment Americans, like senior; hard working, committed, middle class, could not be assailed for hating history any more than they could be charged with loathing poetry.

The truth is that they just deny that both of these disciplines exist. And when they acknowledge history and poetry, it is only to castigate the former as an act of intellectual sodomy and the latter as giving the dead a conduit voice. After all, what could be more violating than molesting the dead out of their comfortable memorials and more preposterous than the muted dead able to whisper in the ears of the proud who live?

But senior was right, junior admitted.

"Anyways, just because you can recite a poem, you know, you're still junior. And this is America. Everybody is entitled to their opinion."

So long as they don't express it! Politics, literature, poetry. Superfluous. This is America. We are free. We possess freedom.

Fuck it. We own it.

Junior thought to himself that the "everybody is entitled to their opinion" line is what the myth of American individuality is all about. Ironically, it is a position touted by everybody. Thus the myth of American individuality is the reality of American conformity.

Junior smirked to himself. His mind clearer and focused, his heartbeat quieted. He composed a new addendum to his favorite poem by Wilfred Owen:

"To Patriots ardent for imperial glory, shield your eyes from what is gory, and share with your

Young sons your learned wisdom and hard earned story, but in the name of the nation, never

Let them hear: Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

Death is its most fulsome in the form of war - its truest life form on earth. Death is not, as Donne would have us think, the slave of war. War is death's most healthy diet, some survive, many more die. Disease and car wrecks make for lavish desert.

Junior left his discussion with senior confident and composed. He would be a senior very soon.

University Dateline

**For more information for getting your event listed in Dateline
contact the Student Activities Office at (617) 573-8082.**

Wednesday, April 2

SOULS Supper Club, 5 p.m.
The Paulist Center

Thursday, April 3rd

The Co-op Summer Job Fair, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Regan Gym, Ridgeway Building
Sponsored by the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education

Buddhist Meditation, 1 p.m.
Donahue Bldg., Interfaith Center

Yoga, 1:15 p.m.
Regan Gym, Ridgeway Bldg., \$5

The Career Doctor, 4 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Sawyer Lobby
Sponsored by Career Services

The Greek Festival, 5:30 p.m.
Donahue Cafeteria
Sponsored by the Hellenic Club
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SOULS Supper Club, 5 p.m.
St. John's

Friday, April 4

Women's Celebration Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Donahue Café
Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program & The Women's Program Initiative
RSVP required: lyndsay.agans@suffolk.edu

Saturday, April 5

IEEE Robot Competition, 9 a.m.-11a.m.
Sponsored by The Suffolk Chapter of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers

Sunday, April 6

Graduate Student Awards Brunch, 10 am
Tremont Boston Hotel
Free for award recipient and a guest

Tuesday, April 8

CAS SERIES, 1 p.m.
Siberia, Russia: Two Sociological Approaches to Studying A Society

McDermott Conference Room, Donahue Building, 1st Floor
Speakers: Maureen Norton-Hawk & Robert Topitzer, Sociology Department

Wednesday, April 9

Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness, 3 p.m.
Presenter: Edward Hallowell, M.D.
Donahue Building, Psychology Department, 6th Floor
Sponsored by Department of Psychology Colloquium Series

Day of Silence Project, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Career Doctor, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Sagan Lobby, Donahue Building
Sponsored by Career Services

Higher Education Career Panel, 5 p.m.
Sawyer Building, Room 1121
Sponsored by Career Services & The Graduate Student Association

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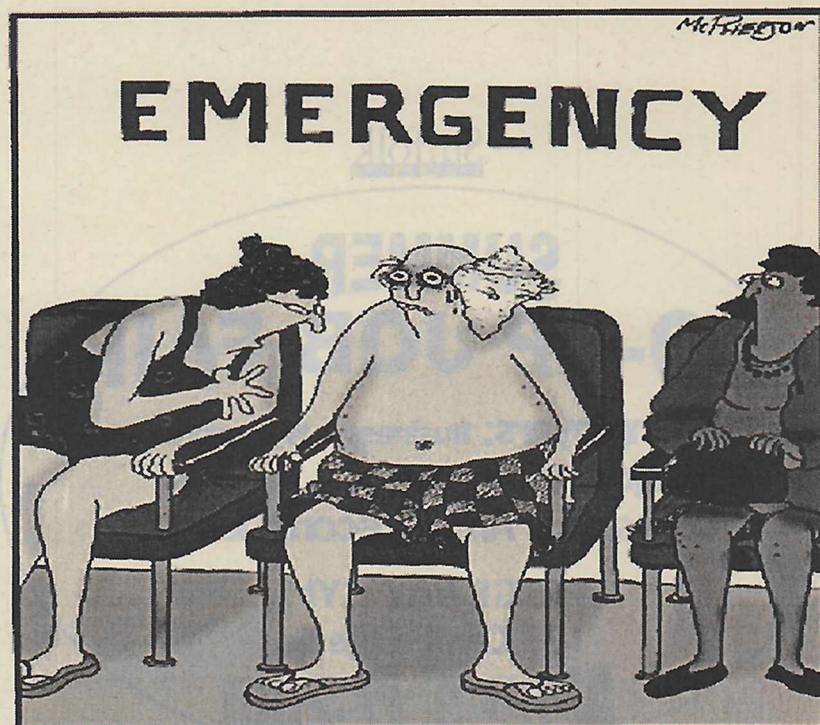
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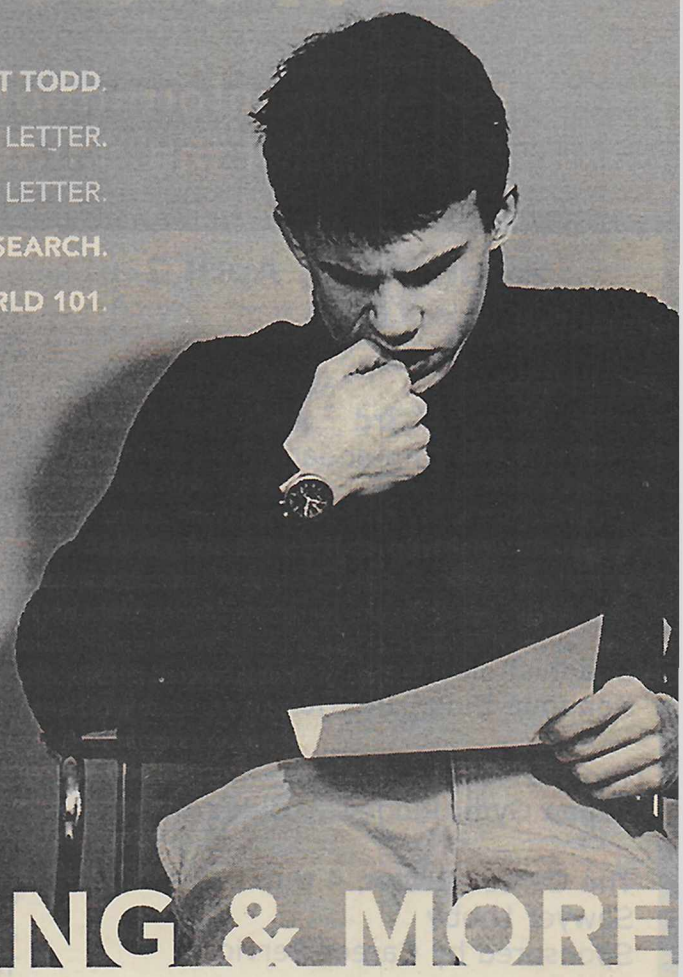
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