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 recurring 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 march. When asked how many of the black-clad officers 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 and onto Hereford 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 civilian casualties, were held. See Common, page 3.

Students' opinions vary on war

Matt Wider
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 President Bush's action in Iraq. Students' opinions vary as well.

Sophomore Marlyn Lopez said she does not have enough information to make a valid opinion about it, "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," Hightower said.

Students gathered on Boston Common to protest the war with Iraq, with the resounding message "not in my name."

Students' opinions vary on war

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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.

"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 to come together and reflect upon current events and try to understand the conflict. The sessions take place in Donahue 240.

"I want this to include everybody," Fisher said in her Donahue office. "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 vigil, 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, there is peace."

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 Rudowksi."Grad students," said Assistant Director of Residence Life Shannon Wemer.

"Staff," said Kristin Lamps, graduating fellow with the Student Performing Arts program.

"Daughters," said Erin Brick-McManus, graduate fellow with the Student Performance Program.

"Lovers," said senior Jennifer Schwenger.

"Our voices ignored, not taken seriously, cut-off, screaming in our heads. No more," Brick-McManus said.

"Our Voices' cast exposed," they said.

Lamps 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, Jenng 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. "Ibutilam is a bad thing," Brick-McManus said. "Talking out, sharing, exposing," they said.

"Our voices ignored, not taken seriously, cut-off, screaming in our heads. No more," Brick-McManus said.

"Our Voices' cast exposed," they said.
SGA allocates money for photography book

Student Government Association allocated $3,600 to PHOCUS, a photography club. The funds will be used to purchase supplies to open a photography studio on campus.

PHOCUS President Andi Hery said that the club plans to use the funds to purchase equipment such as lighting, backgrounds, and props. The club also plans to use the funds to hire a professional photographer to assist in the studio's operations.

The club's goal is to provide a space for students interested in photography to receive training and practice their craft. The studio will be available for students to use free of charge, and PHOCUS plans to offer workshops and classes to teach photography skills.

In addition to the funds allocated by SGA, PHOCUS has also received funding from the Student Life and Campus Engagement department and the Division of Diversity and Inclusion. The club is currently seeking additional funding to support its operations.

Gillan Reagan

Registrator, MIS are all smiles

Administrators say registration went ‘smoothly’

Gillan Reagan

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 Arni 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-An Sayed-Snider said.

“My registration 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 other 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 of 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 probability that this is possible at all,” DiGuardia said. He said SGA 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 22 and over the six minutes of registration, the most intense, he thinks everybody waits and pounces at 9 o’clock,” DiGuardia said. But he said they program “never maxed out” or had to kick students off the registration program.

“Roughly six full-time tutions 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,” Myers said, “people tend to pay attention.”

DiGuardia said.

Myers said it was a “very smooth registration process,” the work of many.

“It wasn’t just a technical thing, we needed to revamped some of our processes as well,” Myers said.

“We had orientation scholars in the labs helping students who weren’t so 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.

Students, staff donate blood

More than 25 people 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 campus and decided to take part.

“Suffolk has been encouraging students to donate blood for the past few years,” Yu said.

She said the program reminded her of an event she participated in when she was in college.

“It was one of our best registrations we’ve ever had and we’re so happy,” she said.

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 Fischer, the power of prayer is dynamic and broader than religious implications. "Prayer is a way to gather the community, to 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, Fischer had been listening and paying close attention to current events among the students to learn from one another's perspectives. Adam including "Prayer lets the community know the individuals' troubles, worries and joys."

Prayers for solace

Women speak loud and clear

Voices from page 1

It is one of the only things we as American citizens can do. It's comforting and 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 comes to talk. If necessary," she said, "I'm open to reshaping this to the community's needs."

Mike Ross - Journal Staff

Suffolk, DuGuerglia said.

She said the program reminded her of time she spent with someone... She said the woman felt that their inner thoughts weren’t being heard."

She said the program reminded her of Suffolk, "how important it is to share and learn."
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 Iraq president should be removed from power, he replied, "He killed 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,_frequency set up away from the main group of protestors on the Common. "It is not important is that I am here representing "This is your best option." In her remarks, she said, "we will not be alive because this is what he would be doing."

One of the many speakers who took the stage Saturday's rally. A group of about two dozen anti-war protestors were also standing up to be heard by the people and their effort. "It's not even the amount of people, it's the range in people," she said, referring diverse crowd.

"I find it funny that Bush can just stand up there and say that America supports this war, but we don't," Mumford said.

There were not just anti-war protestors 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," Mumford said. When asked why he thinks the Iraqi president should be removed from power, he replied, "He killed his own people," he said. "Since they are already in there, they might as well finish the job." Mumford said. Hussein has not been confirmed dead or alive since the war began.

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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 an incoherent, complaining about how my word was 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 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 destroy and defied, on Michael, even the neo-conservative hogs 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 he raised his attention that Boehm's insinuation that anti-war protesters are endangering the American people was completely wrong and in no way in jest. His utilizing of the tragedy of Sept. 11 to discred­

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 went from there. Was that educational enough, sweetie?

When I listen to what these informed people have to say, noticeably absent is any slander of Bush, nor any conspiracy theories. 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. This, however, would only continue to compromise 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 try­


Letters to the Editor

Columnists’ opinions getting stale

Dear Suffolk Journal,

It seems like a lot of the "put­

tin" 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 impas­

This, however, would only continue to compromise my principles, as I know this would be only running away from the problem at hand. Try to debate, but find that those on the opposite side of the table would sooner

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 quick­

I use the word "optimism" rather than "hope" because I do not wish to make any promises. I cannot promise that the nation will get over the war or that the healing will be quick. I cannot promise that we will not have more casualties or that the American people will not be divided for years to come. I can promise, however, that I will be open to any solutions—no matter how un­

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

I attack my credibility then my ideas and would rather insist 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 nor write a letter to the editor that will do anything but attack my credibility then my ideas and would rather insist 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 try­


Losing faith in democracy

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Sincerely,

Tim Caff

Sen

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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 the doc is going to start asking me questions about my sex life.

"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 so we're on the same page, every woman should have a box checkup done at least once a year.

I know that at that perfect moment when your legs are spread eagle on some inhuman form of equipment, you feel a bit uncomfortable when a complete stranger is medically examming your box. Well the rest of that ridiculous "knowingly immersed in my box" was, "and chicks can't see an STD because their shit is on the inside and they don't know it's there."

"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 more 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 intelligent sex, let's prove that when it comes to sexual concerns, both sexes know more than boys do.""

"As I first with whom he disagrees in an ad hominem fashion, rather than take the 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 confidently and persuasively argue his position, or even to gracefully 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 people.

"His latest article winds down with a slightly confusing yet telling sentence that I find very interesting: "I encourage Mike Dempsey to use his flair for writing and his column as means to inform and persuade through reason; and to shelf the desire to condemnc.""
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 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 Americans - or what kind of person, for that matter - could nationally 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 inclination is that the left does not so become a fallacy.

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

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

Richard Semegram

become further entrenched in a bloody guerrilla 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 their first world from the third. Therefore, I have the hope that the war will end quickly and peacefully.

Oh by the way, the death toll is steadily going to be quicker.

Richard Semegram

An idealistic vision just may do America good

Yes, this is another anti-war article. Yes, I am an 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...

James Cormier

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

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Richard Semegram

A Pearls of poetry

"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 obvious 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 cutey mom, had too much pride. Puff in her cavair; pride in her kids; in her home; in her nation. History was no match for any of these attributes.

Senior pondered. His heart began to pulse.

Voice 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 expected it to be quicker because I was opposed to the war." - Pedro Inoggia, Junior

"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
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 was 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 unvaried mix of post-grunge and all-out metal.

Lead man Sully Erna formed Godsmack after a drumming stint with rockers Strip-Mind in 1995, emerging 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 one.

The self-titled affair soon went platinum after a drumming stint with rockers Strip-Mind and the band recorded the infamous 1999 Woodstock festi-

Alliance Studios in downtown Boston and recording during their first 1999 release.

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 aggression behind the hard-hitting slices of heavy metal fury.

Gone is drummer Tommy Stewart, who left early last year, replaced by Amon kit warmer Shannon Larkin, whose presence is heard gloriously 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 the fret, "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 spacy aura of sound. The follow-up...
**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 Pangaea, 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 tempo 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/violinist 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 Pangaea began the show, playing songs from their first full-length album "Converses to a Whisper." Recover took the stage immediately after, playing several songs from their first album "Riddles 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 the entire song set, including their most recognizable songs from the album "credits 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. He 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 Charlène as his "nanny" to cover up the fact that he is letting her live with him and his two children.

In the meantime, Charlène helps Peter 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.

Charlène 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 undergoes a significant change, leading to a revised understanding of his role and the world he inhabits.

Instead of my usual trip to Blockbuster, I decided to venture to the actual movie theater to see "Breaking 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 story of Steve Martin’s 1976 film like that one.

**Michele Colameta**
Journal Contributor

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

"It was nice to see Martin’s comedy, which is what he meant to do. My last memory of him was his 2001 film "No Vacancy," which was absolutely terrible and I was shocked to see him behaving like Martin actually took film like that one.

Queen Latifah was great in her role and seemed to match with Martin. Overall I would rate it a decent movie if you like Steve Martin. He didn’t laugh nearly as much as he should have and the plot was predictable, but it was entertaining. Overall I would rate it a decent movie if you like Steve Martin.

"This is the movie I would recommend to people who like Steve Martin."

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, I think my parents might have liked it more than I did."

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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 shared 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 Nielsen, comes in as some pseudo badass whose sexual tension towards Travolta screams “predictable.”

Ms. Nielsen 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

And no I do not feel obliged to “educate” people about the Iraqi National Congress out of my commentary and not Mr. Delena’s?

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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 com­plex argument that highlights the importance of recognizing and supporting the mental health needs of veterans. War veteran who spoke in my class cau­tioned against the tendency to isolate veterans as a result of their deployment in the Middle East during this action implies an active approach; it

Many individuals who live in veterans’ hospitals or shelters are simply not yet ready or stable enough for 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

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

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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

It’s time to teach women about their own (unlikely) or lie dormant for years (like­ly).

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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War's generation gap

Poetry from page 6

Pilate. 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 prescrib ing.

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 cowardly 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.

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 going on, 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 morti.”

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.
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"I told him three times, 'Don't put that shell up to your ear! It's still got a crab in it!' So what does he do? ..."

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MEET TODD.
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HIS FIFTH "WE'LL KEEP YOUR RESUME ON FILE FOR 30 DAYS" LETTER.
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