

November 25, 1998

News

Campus News Briefs

Attempt Made To Charge Student Activist With Additional Crimes

Aa legally questionable attempt to speed up the trial of CUNY student activist Eric Odell, was made by, New York County Assistant District Attorney Holly Levinson, She attempted to add fresh assault charges to Odell's case and refused to turn over a written record of the prosecution's version of events and medical evidence relating to the trial until ordered to do so by the sitting trial judge.

Odell is charged with 3rd Degree Assault on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, and Criminal Misconduct, all resulting from disruptions of a CUNY Board of Trustees meeting on February 23, 1998. During the meeting, SLAM (the Student Liberation Action Movement) had organized a protest outside to call attention to the Trustees' moves to cut remediation at CUNY senior colleges such as CSI, and outbursts inside resulted in two arrests, one detention and the eventual clearing of the room. Odell was arrested when he allegedly walked on top of the Trustees' conference table.

A CUNY SAFE officer allegedly broke his wrist during the events, but information has been scarce as to the particularities of the incident. Odell was charged as responsible for the SAFE officer's injury. However, a SLAM activist from Hunter explained, "everybody protesting inside the boardroom that day took a pledge of non-violence. It's inconceivable he would have done anything beyond expressing his discontent with the Board." The District Attorney's version of the incident portrays Odell as wildly flailing and kicking at police officers once he was on top of the table, a view contested by all student witnesses.

Eric Odell was defended in court by longtime CUNY student activist attorney, Ron McGuire. Under a relentless attack by McGuire, that spanned several hours, prosecutor Levinson at one point seemed near tears in her frustration. McGuire was clearly distraught at the reluctance of prosecutors to turn over basic evidence as required by disclosure laws. In particular, what is technically referred to as "entry evidence," or material shared between prosecutors and defense before the start of the trial, X-rays of the officer's wrist, a photograph of the officer in question, and a detailed summery of events, have not been forthcoming from Levinson. In late July, Levinson said she would turn these materials over, but had thus far not followed through.

The Judge decided that the SAFE officer would have to appear to answer questions McGuire had been attempting to obtain for over six months. Late in the afternoon, Levinson turned over to McGuire a hastily scrawled statement written with a red, felt-tipped pen by the SAFE officer. It was undated and unsigned. McGuire addressed the judge by saying that he had never "in his entire career" been presented with something so unprofessional. The judge returned Odell's case to the original hearing judge, who upon hearing of Levinson's actions, held the trial over until mid-November.

After Levinson had attempted to go straight to trial, bump up the charges and turn over handwritten notes, Odell's lawyer, Ron McGuire, expressed his shock and outrage at the grandstanding maneuvers to the hearing judge. "In most cases, protesters are not brought to a full trial and the prosecutors decision to push this is exceptional." Numerous Hunter & City College students arrived at the courthouse to support Odell. Those interested in attending future hearings can find out more information by contacting Hunter based SLAM organization at 212-772-4251, or by going to the Hunter Student Government in room 121 Hunter North at Hunter College.

COMPILED BY:

Television And Radio Campaign Announced To Save Wilderness

Citizens Urged To Get Involved

Seattle, WA-R.E.M.'s Peter in partnership with the Buck, Washington Wilderness Coalition (WWC) unveiled today a television and radio campaign including a Public Service Announcement intended to educate citizens about the need to protect America's wild forests before they are "all gone". The PSA, now airing on VH-1 and CNN, features images of publicly owned forests in Washington state, showing the impacts of clearcuts and logging roads and the scenic beauty of wilderness forests. The radio PSA is being distributed by College Music Journal to 800 College Radio Stations. The PSA stresses that America's remaining wild forests have important values, including clean water, wildlife habitat, and unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities.

"It's like driving a giant bulldozer through our Wilderness. Wilderness can't be replaced. We need to protect what's left before it's all gone," says Buck in the PSA. Buck encourages viewers to get more involved by calling 1-(877) 2 ACT NOW.

The Forest Service is deciding this month whether to include the Northwest in its moratorium on logging road construction. Currently, 433,000 miles of taxpayer subsidized logging roads are in our National Forest System. WWC is working to conserve an estimated 3 million acres of Washington State's unprotected roadless areas through congressional Wilderness designation and other administrative measures.

The partnership with WWC began in September when R.E.M., Pearl Jam, and Chris Cornell (formerly of Soundgarden), sent a meeting request to Vice President Gore to discuss protection for America's disappearing forests. The Vice President's office suggested they consider scheduling a meeting later this year. To date, no meeting has been set, but WWC continues to work closely with Gore's office with the hope that the musicians will have an opportunity to meet with the vice president to discuss the current threats to their home state's National Forests.

"Peter and the other band members are helping the public to see what's happening to our remaining unprotected forests. They are being threatened

now and we must act fast before it is too late," stated WWC's Executive Director, John Leary. "At stake are millions of acres of our publicly owned National Forests - still wild and unroaded, but still unprotected from logging, mining and the destructive roads these activities require."

The PSA offers a toll-free hot line, donated by Working Assets Long Distance, for citizens to get involved. The number, 1-(877) 2 ACT NOW, will be active through December 31, 1998. The PSA can also be viewed on the Internet at www.wawild.org

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This is a NEWS release. NEWS, the National Environmental Wire for Students, is a service provided by the Center for Environmental Citizenship. For more information about NEWS, please contact Britney Bartlett at 202.234.5993 or

campusnews@msn.com or visit our web site at www.cgv.org/cgv.

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News

Richard Rodriguez On Hispanics

P. Melissa Dreznick Editor In Chief

The Williamson Theater was standing room only on Monday, November , when Hispanic author, advocate and selfproclaimed "bad boy of the ethnic left," Richard Rodriguez spoke to the students and faculty members who occupied the packed auditorium.

At the center of the controversy that surrounds Rodriguez is the fact that he is opposed to Affirmative Action and bilingual education.

"The angry white poor doesn't matter to liberals, because they are not minorities," Rodriguez said of the angry social class he feels Affirmative Action creates. Rodriguez feels that the skinhead movement is a direct result of this situation. "They are angry because they don't count," he said.

"Hispanics and African Americans are at each other's throats for jobs," said Rodriguez. This is yet another result of Affirmative Action. Jobs offered on a basis of race are limited, and eagerly sought. This desire for good jobs creates dissension between African Americans and Hispanics. "If students take classes in both

Spanish and English, they don't master either language," Rodriguez said of bilingual education. Rodriguez feels that it is more important to learn to communicate well in one language. He went on to say that in this country, the national language is English, that might as well be the language these children learn.

In fact, the first law suit against bilingualism was brought by two Black cleaning women against an Hispanic businessman. The businessman required anyone who worked in his building to speak bath. Spanish

both Spanish English. and Black The women, who spoke only English, sued the businessman, claiming this to be unfair to them. The women won.

T h i s blasting of the current system did not mean that Rodriguez isn't proud of his culture and heritage. He spoke extensively on the history of the Hispanic race and of the effect he feels they

have on American culture.

"My smooth-skinned Indian mother looked at my hairy Spanish father

and something happened. He's under the impression that he raped her; she thinks that she seduced him," Rodriguez said as an explanation of how his race began.

By the 18th century, Spaniards and Indians had completely blended into one race. The addition of African into the mix created Chinos, because "children of

> Africans and Indians look Chinese." " I n

Mexico, we did not sit in our own corners; we came to the center and made love," Rodriguez explained. This, he feels, is the cause of the diversity exists that within the Hispanic race.

Si "There is no H i s p a n i c face," said

Rodriguez. Hispanics can appear Black or White. They can be fair or dark. According to Rodriguez, Hispanic is a cultural category, not a racial category.

Two centuries later, this phenomenon of race-mixing is happening in America. The categories on most forms that ask for a racial designation no longer have enough selections. "There are kids all over this country with no words to describe what's happening to them," said Rodriguez. He went on to tell the story of a girl who refers to herself as "Blacksican" because there is no word for someone who is half African American and half Hispanic.

"We need a new vocabulary," Rodriguez said of this problem, "what's happening in America can't be contained in a Crayola box." By the year 2,000, one out of three Americans will identify himself or herself culturally instead of racially. This change will hit America, a country that has always determined people by race rather than class, hard. But this is the way it soon will be.

The author of *Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez* and *Days of Obligation* felt that this shift from racial determination to cultural determination will severely alter America's Black and White conversations. "Hispanics are going to be the complicating factors in American conversations," he said.

Following his speech, Rodriguez greeted his listeners at a reception held in his honor on the upper level of 1P. There, he autographed donated copies of his books and answered questions.

Read The Next

Issue For The

Complete Story!

Student Leader Faces Expulsion Due To Racial Incident

P. Melissa Dreznick Editor In Chief

Student Government Senator

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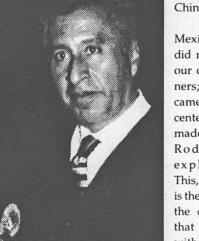
Alycia Parker, an African American student faces an expulsion hearing before the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee on December 4 due to a physical confrontation that occurred on November 18 with Olga Pozo, a White student Ms. Parker claims had been making racial slurs at her all semester.

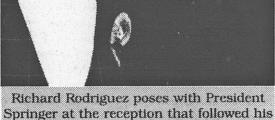
Ms. Pozo and Ms. Parker were both in the same American Sign Language class. Ms. Parker claims that Ms. Pozo had been calling her "Nigger" all semester and made other comments such as, "Maybe you'd do better in an Ebonics class." Ms. Pozo claims that it was she that was being and an impartial chairperson. The members' identities have not been released at this time.

Ms. Parker has chosen George Springer and William Wharton as her advocates, she has no attorney at this time.

Ms. Pozo will be represented by Kathleen Galvez.







speech.

harassed by Ms. Parker who she claims called her a "white bi**h".

The conflict turned physical in a ladies' rest room near the class when Ms Pozo allegedly told Ms. Parker, "Get out of my way, Nigger." It is then claimed that Ms. Parker attacked Ms. Pozo, scratching her face with keys and kicking her several times.

Ms. Pozo, who claims to have said nothing to Ms. Parker, went to the emergency room for her injuries.

The Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee, which has not met in eight years, will consist of two students, two faculty members

You May Be Eligible For Social Security Sooner Than You Think

Kenneth S. Apfel Commissioner of Social Security

For students worried about the next round of final exams or the prospect of landing a good paying job after completing their education, retirement security four or five decades down the road is probably the last thing on their minds. And, should the subject of Social Security arise, most young people would say that they don't believe the program will be there for them when they need it in the future.

However, the sad truth is that for many younger Americans, the need for Social Security could occur sooner than they think ... well before they reach retirement age. Early death, disability...each seems like a remote possibility when you are young and healthy. But consider this sobering fact: Fully one-third of all twenty-year-olds will die or become disabled before they reach their 65th birthday. Consequently, for millions of young people, Social Security is there providing valuable protection.

Younger Americans should also bear in mind the larger economic consequences of what Social Security means to older Americans of their grandparents generation—without the program, more than half would be living below the poverty line. A significant accomplishment, yes, but what significance does this have for students on America's campuses? Well, without Social Security, many middle-aged parents of today's college students would feel an obligation to help provide for their own aging parents, and there would be fewer family resources to use for their children's educational expenses.

It is true that Social Security is facing long-term financing challenges in the next century based on demographic trends, particularly the fact that people are living longer, healthier lives. Of course, this longer life span is good news for all of us. But, we must recognize that changing demographics will put a strain on America's retirement program.

The President has called for a year-long national dialogue on Social Security. Following a White House Conference on Social Security in December 1998, the President will seek bipartisan discussions with Congress early next year to seek responsible reforms for Social Security so the program can continue to meet all its financial obligations for current and future generations of workers.

We must dispel this notion that Social Security will not be there in the future. It will be there. The only question is what shape the program will take for the next millennium. But what will happen in the future is only part of the story. As explained earlier, for many young people, the future could be now if premature death or unexpected disability occurs.

Social Security can provide a buffer of economic security against such eventualities for young workers and their families. Shorter work histories, high medical expenses, lack of employer provided insurance coverage, low salaries, even poor planning—these and other reasons mean that many young workers and their families have little insurance or "extra" resources to help out if their earnings stop abruptly. Social Security can be a critical lifeline.

Here are some little known, but very important, facts about the disability and survivors insurance protection that Social Security provides for young workers and their families:

—One out of every three Social Security beneficiaries is not a retiree but a disabled worker, or a member of a disabled worker's family, or survivor of a worker who has died.

—Social Security provides survivors insurance for a young, average worker with a family that is equivalent to a personal life insurance policy worth about \$300,000. Average benefits for a widowed mother or father with two young children are currently about \$1,500 per month.

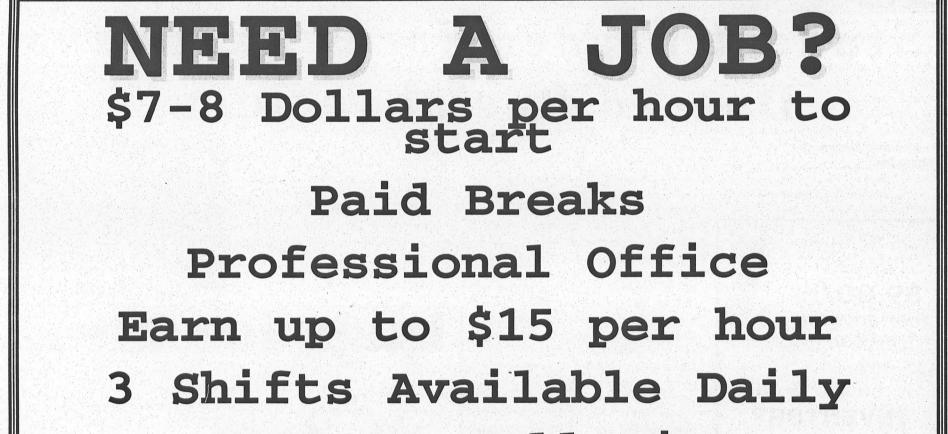
—For a disabled worker with a spouse and two young children, the average Social Security disability payment is now about \$1,200 per month. The value of the Social Security protection, including financial protection after reaching retirement age, for a young average earner with a family is equal to a long-term disability policy worth about \$200,000.

—Benefits are based on progressive formulas that take into account the fewer work years and lower earnings of younger workers. This means that, even though a worker may not have a full lifetime's earnings, the worker and his or her family still have significant insurance protection in case of death or disability.

—Social Security cash benefits, including disability and survivors' benefits, are indexed to inflation; unlike many private insurance policies, benefits increase as the cost of living increases.

—Once a disabled worker is entitled to cash benefits for 24 months, he or she is entitled to Medicare health insurance coverage.

Although the next major exam or job interview will most likely continue to be the major concern of younger Americans, they should not forget that, unfortunately, premature-death or disability could be a reality for some. Although reform is needed to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security, Social Security is indeed providing valuable disability and survivors insurance protection today for younger workers and their families.



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Commentary

November 25, 1998

BANNER Editorials

The Banner: Our Students, Our College, Our Community

Jeremy Condit Features Editor

As we shuffle our way into December and the finals season, there's an animal tension on the air of the campus. Students everywhere are tired, angry, ugly with the weight of academic tumors. But is it just me, or is everyone responding to the heavy pressures by resorting to public drug ingestion?

I open back-stairwell doors in 1C and enter a cloud of smoke that I can see, thick as cobwebs; or I'll open one of these doors to find two or three people, shock still, staring at me with red-rimmed and burning, dead fish eyes.

Ye gods, people, be careful! There are cameras everywhere. These cops are bored, and they're just itching for a chance to be authority instead of just watching those hackey

kids giggle like retarded chimps. If the campus police catch you, they'll drag you down to their headquarters, lock you in a bamboo cage and poke at you with sharp sticks, prior to booking. Once you're actually in the kennel, a lot can happen, good and bad. Mostly bad.

I spoke to one student who had been busted in the woods with a joint. "I had to go talk to a Big Guy and they took my fancy lighter because they said it could be drug paraphernalia. I think they took it because they just thought it was fancy."

What are they allowed to do to you? According to the Spring 1999 schedule of classes, "admonition, warning, censure, disciplinary probation, restitutions, suspension, expulsion, and/or complaints to civil authorities."

Not very specific; I suppose circumstances change the factors, along

with the mood of the officer picking you up and your attitude with him. It should go without saying that a certain face should be put on: apologetic, easy to assist, not being a dick in general. But no one ever says you have to "sir" a cop. Remember, you're a citizen and he's just doing his job (the fact that he may enjoy it to a psychotic degree is only incidental) Just don't be an idiotwhich starts with not being so obvious in the first place!

Shuffling around the campus, even distracted by headphones and a general heart of hate, my antennae still twitch at certain signals: the smell of strong, expensive weed hits me like a memory of pre-Guiliani Washington Square Park. A quick scan finds forms moving around the clearing on the left side of the main walk. Moving toward the north side, the same smell from a different direction. People sitting on the bench in that Molly Ringwald-esqe clearing of trees between 2S and 1P, three different sets of obvious drug use in one day is three possible arrests, three possible suspensions or expulsions.

According to the Spring 1999 schedule of classes, there were two arrests of "drug abuse" (none for liquor violation, interesting enough) Before this term, there were no arrests in that category. And these are arrests, the end of the spectrum of reprimand. If the rise of drug use on campus is as obvious to me as it is to you, imagine how many incidents are purely molestations, like our student with the fancy lighter. Think about that, if you think at all, the next time you're going to light up and get lit. Think about this: they're watching, and they know.

-The guy with the boots

Our Greatest Weapon

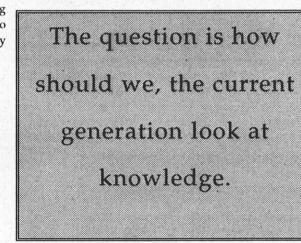
Shawn Fisher Buisness Manager

Some would say the most powerful word in the world is love, For others it may be truth. And for the greedy it's money. However if I had to select one word that I considered to be the most powerful word in the world it would be knowledge. We spend the very beginning of our lives is spen trying to obtain it without ever realizing why we need it. The better part of our lives is spent using it to wage war with one another-be it in conquest or defense. In our final days when knowledge becomes wisdom, we wish the change had come sooner. If each man was born with the knowledge of one lifetime, what kind of world would this be? Of course, there are many different ways to look at knowledge. It is, in fact, a concept and defined differently by how each person looks at it.

The question is how should we, the current generation, look at knowledge. After all, we are Generation X; aren't we just supposed to smoke pot and play Sega? But then again there was a time when the masses were duped to believe that blacks

were savage and stupid-during the time of slavery. If you have ever taken a history course, you know that slave masters taught the blacks they were good for

nothing s 0 they



could maintain control over them. Think about that for a minute, if you would. Then realize that if blacks at one time were duped by the establishment, then maybe we are being misled now. I personally can't stand pot, and Sega is a

read the more powerful I feel.

Is knowledge a tool, a chess board, a weapon or is it all of these things; to be determined by the posses-

> sion or lack thereof to the individual or masses that arecontrolled by it? For our generation, we should look at knowledge as a weapon, which has been used by the Church, slave masters, governments and industries of the world to control people throughout the centuries. You know this though,

that smaller groups have always maintained control over the masses through the manipulation of knowledge.

A mistake has been made by those who would control our generation. Greed of the establishment has caused

films to books, radio, newspapers, knowledge has been exposed to the world and now no amount of censorship can put it under. With knowledge becoming more assessable by the day, our generation is in a unique position to finish the battle our parents started in the sixties-not for conquest, but for peace and love, freedom if you will. The hippie warriors of the past generation did something never done before; they almost defeated the establishment. But they lost when introduced first to drugs then to greed.

I think we can finish what they started. I don't believe the establishment can knock us down. We can't lose because we have nothing to lose. We are the single parent families; latchkey kids who gave birth to crack babies. We are Generation Nil with everything to fight for and nothing to lose. All we need to do is to look at knowledge as a weapon, then the libraries shall become arsenals, schools fortresses and teachers as trainers of an army of hope against an empire of tyranny. Knowledge is what will turn

hours reading a book come out of it with paign of control. Knowledge has now such a high that no drug could ever become a commodity for sale. Internet achieve. Most of all though, the more I access, College tuition, books to film,

waste of my time. Though I'll spend them to make a grave error in their cam- Generation X into Generation Next.



November 25, 1998

Commentary

SSec

Shawn Fisher and A. James Larsen **Business Manager**

Associate Features Editor

Welcome to yet another session of Really Pissed Off. Since we have had mainly good reviews from the students at C.S.I we've decided to continue with Really Pissed Off (with objection from some people who take our little features article too seriously).

One thing that pisses us off is technology. Nobody seems to remember how to write by hand or do math without the aid of a calculator or computer. Good penmanship has become a thing of the past. Recently a check was received and the person who wrote it entered the amount so sloppily the check couldn't be cashed. Also during a recent visit to the bank a patron wanted to take out some money and see how much interest his

savings had accrued. The teller told him that she couldn't do that because the computers were down. He demanded that someone do it by hand and they had to get someone special

to do it because there was only one person in the bank who knew how to do it by hand.

Computers have totally taken over. People log onto the net to meet a companion. This is ridiculous. How do you know the person you are chatting with is telling the truth? At least in a bar or coffee shop you can tell at least what the person looks like and what kind of person they are. People no longer need to learn and master the art of seduction. Now it's easier than ever to meet lonely pathetic people. There are some people who feel that computers are better than women (many Banners ago, our former Editor in Chief, Michael Garafalo, wrote the top ten reasons why computers are better than women and was forced to take a women's studies course(He asked if he could take it on the computer). It was in our infamous Valentine's Day issue (which is a very rare collector's item).

Computers are going to cause

course, if that happens there will be retaliation which will be the beginning of the end of the world. Scary isn't it? Well, let us give you some signs of the apocalypse:

1) The College Voice's motto becomes The Voice...Yeah, We'll Print That!

2) Someone doesn't find Really **Pissed Off offensive**

3) Wayne Peacock decides to become a priest, again.

4) There's always a parking spot as soon as you drive on campus

5) The cafeteria served edible food at a reasonable price

6) C.S.I has spring break the same week as all the other colleges

)

8) President

9.)

10)

White Castle

becoming a

gourmet

Clinton

becomes celi-

President Dan

Hanson at the

bate

Quayle. .

restaurant

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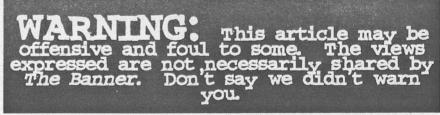
Grammy Awards. 11) Rock against Drugs commercial

12) Disco makes a comeback (again)

13) C.S.I becomes an ivy league school.

- 14) Skinny sorority chicks
- 15) Morals make a comeback
- 16) Sex is not for enjoyment but only for

procreation **Political Correctness** 17) The is nothing more than a Banner 0 band-aid created by the longer exists white, middle-class 1 8 society of our nation to Andre finally cover the shame of our gradu-

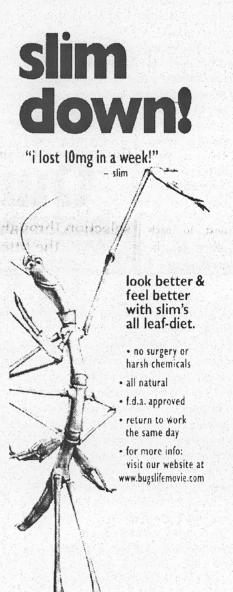


tion, but that's not the real truth behind it. Anyone who uses PC terminology or claims they are PC actually is more racist than those who are outspoken on the topic.

Political Correctness is nothing more than a band-aid created by the white middle class society of our nation to cover the shame of our forefathers. Let's take, for example, African Americans. To call the majority of US citizens whose skin is black African is a falsehood and an injustice. How do we know Black Americans aren't as culturally different from Africans as White Americans are. This, of course, is because of the centuries of enslavement in which blacks were held in this country. All white- skinned Americans came here of their free will; blacks, however, were kidnapped and sold for profit by whites for whites and were forcefully separated from their original identity throughout the course of American history. The modern black citizen was forged in a fire of white hatred, fear and ignorance. They know only the culture we chose for our young nation and have earned the right to wear the name and culture of American more so than any other group of people on this planet. Black Americans may have once been Africans but they have painfully evolved through labels like coon, nigger and property. To conform to PC terms such as African-American is to simply hide the hideous scab of hatred beneath a band-aid of words. This should be held true to all PC terms. It was the ignorance of Europeans that labeled

the entirety of the "new world' Indians instead of acknowledging the several diverse and unique nations that existed. Don't insult the remainown past we guarantee ourselves a repeat of it. Let's just admit we screwed up, apologize and move on with our °lives.

Anyway this has been another edition of Really Pissed Off. We are asking any really pissed off females to please write to us. We would love to hear from you. Until next issue.



the world to end. Most of you probably think we have lost our mind, but hear us 19) The out. The computers of the world are not equipped to handle the year 2000 and will cause glitches in all computers. Of course the government has not prepared for this. Just think, our missiles are controlled by computers and if there is a glitch in the computer system one of them might accidentally be sent to one of our targets in some country and start World War III. Even if one of our missiles don't accidentally get sent, thecom-

puter controlled radar systems in our country or someone else's might have a glitch and show a missile being sent. Of

lorelathers.

Springer Show now a Saturday morning cartoon

20) The Banner meets deadline for an entire semester.

Now let's talk about Political Correctness (PC) for a moment. To us, PC is nothing more than a disease run rampant, a plague for the 90's, if you will. To embrace it is to further widen the tear that separates our society via racism, ignorance and hate. We realize what you're thinking right now; that to be PC is not to be racist or any similar affilia-

ing refugees of these still proud peo-

ples now by trying to cover up past mistakes with pretty words. It was, after all a 19th Century American General that said "the only good Indian is a dead Indian." How would it sound if it was replaced with the PC Native American, would it lessen the hate behind it? We think that we the white portion of the nation needs to stop hiding behind convenient words and face the fact that our ancestors were ignorance and malicious towards the other races, cultures and peoples of the world. If we hide from our



Commentary

November 25, 1998

SUBTITLES FOR THE BLIND: Social commentary in the age of apathy.

THE BULIMIC FANTASY AND THE INFERIORITY COMPLEX; THE MALICIOUS CHILDREN OF AESTHETIC SOCIAL DARWINISM

Wayne Peacock Associate Editor

Beyond perfect. The impossible comparison. The finger in your throat. The steriod syringe in your ass. Try harder to become that which makes you hurt. You're still not good enough.

Image is everything in this ugly world, of that there is no question. We are prisoners to the worship of flat stomachs, broad shoulders, pretty faces, big penises, tight butts, long legs and all the beauty and bravado that money lets us buy. This is Aesthetic Social Darwinism and it has been a part human civilization longer than prostitution, drugs or dictatorships. The question remaining is, why?

Money buys placement on the social food-chain:

Dave drives a rusty Pinto. Jack drives a new Lexus truck, with sexy headlights. Dave and Jack park next to each other in the mall parking lot. When they

get out of their respective cars, a preconceived pecking order exists.

The new truck bothers Dave in a reminded-of-social-standing-way. Dave feels poor, like hehas lost. Any society naturally puts the poor on the bottom. Jack and the Lexus remind him of that.

Jack, on the other hand, feels wealthy. The truck with the sexy headlights is the badge that shows his height on the social food chain. He knows what Dave is thinking. He likes it.

Fashion is a cloth caste system:

'Clothing as an extension of the skin can be seen as means of defining the self social-1v.' -- Marshall McLuhin (I'll get to him later).

You don't know that she spent an entire week's salary on that outfit. You don't know that he works an

Aesthetic: Pertaining only to the appearance or exterior of someone or something

the fittest.

the personal justification of food chain height.

mistake of perceiving you as higher than

me. It is these internal depressive tenden-

cies which lower the self esteem and allow

same rack of dresses. One woman is 5' 5"

107 pounds, the other 5' 6" 170 pounds.

They go into fitting rooms and try on the

same dress in their respective sizes. When

they exit to look at themselves in the mir-

rors there is a quiet explosion of aesthetic

fully reminded of her supposed physical

shortcomings. She may also attach the

appropriate hypothetical benefits (e.g.,

men, attention, stares, adoration) to the

woman she sees as beautiful. She is envi-

ous of the life that goes with the appear-

Beauty is genetic fashion:

Two women are looking at the

The heavier woman is unmerci-

The skinnier

way.

Aesthetic Social Darwinism to take hold.

In women more than men, Aesthetic social Darwinism instills the bulimic fantasy, the impossible comparison to a level of beauty that borders on fiction.

Anti-fashion allows for lowend level hypocrisy:

"Clothing is a non-verbal manifesto of political upset" MM

The 'low end' of the food chain hates the 'high end' because the high end points the finger of 'You are different (lower) from me'. A reaction, from the 'low

end', to this finger pointing can be seen in the Rave or bulimic fantasy, the impossible comparison to a level of beauty that bor-ders on fiction. Punk movement. The cloths attributed to poverty (e.g., ripped

ple joining the movement assimilate themselves to a pre-conceived mentality and therefore become sheep, just like original high-end finger-pointers. A revolutionary sheep is an oxymoron that can not exist.

Is Aesthetic Social Darwinism a creation of society or a manifestation of human instinct?

"In cars, in clothes, in paperback books; in beards, babies and beehive hairdos, the American has declared for stress on sculptural values," writes Marshall Mcluhin, one of the most important, greatly overlooked, social thinkers of the 20th century. His defining work 'Understanding Media' is a manual for the age of apathy and the basis of a course taught on CSI by Prof. Bill Conte).

Sculptural values. It is this stress on sculptural values, on size and appearance, that is the basis for Aesthetic Social Darwinism, for judging and rewarding people according to appearance.

All the world's a stage and sodety only gives the very beautiful the good parts. Image is everything in this apathetic anthill, that we were so blessed to be born into, this fashion runway, conveyerbelt, that turns everything and everyone into a product. Whether you realize it or not, whether you rage against it or not- it is

reality. It exists.

Anyone who refuses to see this is like a child who belligerently closes his eyes and denies the existence of sunlight. If he doesn't open his eyes the sun doesn't exist. As long as he keeps himself in his tiny fishbowl of a world, he's right. When he opens them again, his stinging eyes assault him with the futility of denying the undeniable. Aesthetic Social Darwinism is undeniable, is the process, by which placement on the social food chain is established.

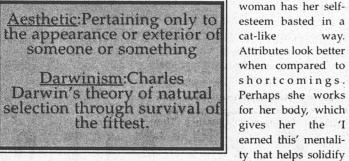
The concept of social organization according to appearance is about as fair as a slam dunk contest with a paraplegic. A good analogy for the distribution of beauty is the genetic lottery. People are born looking a certain way and society accords benefits to the lucky as if they have earned it.

Take lions for example. Appearance communicates virility and good breeding stock in the animal kingdom. Loins need to have powerful children. The environment that they live in will not nurture the weak. It is survival of the fittest (:see Darwinism). The female lion then searches for a suitable match.

A male lion that is healthy, has not lost too many fights and has control over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11





In women more than men, Aesthetic social Darwinism instills the

order.

ance

Perhaps she works for her body, which gives her the 'I earned this' mentali-

extra job to pay for that car. You just think they're rich.

Fashion allows for manipulation of class.

It represents either the possession of wealth or the illusion of the possession of wealth. Considering that you don't know most of the people that you see, what you get is their projected personality, which is formed and nurtured by fashion and trends.

Also consider the natural elements of inferiority that are in the human psyche. You meet me wearing Armani. It immediately widens the gap between us. It makes it easy to make the

jeans, thrift

store clothing, ill-fitting clothes) are worn as the uniform of choice for the movement. The physical nature of the person is also, often times, altered (e.g. died hair, pierced -face)

This is sometimes an expression of self, and other times the actions of a human oxymoron. When a movement like this builds newcomers are, often times, trying to fit in by making themselves different and ignoring the original reasons for They are becoming rebelling. chameleonized versions of that which they pretend to rail against.

This is, in my opinion, why most movements fail. The second wave of peo-

November 25, 1998

eatures

Christopher Bligh Staff Reporter

Imagine yourself as a hunter. You're chasing a quick fox and there's

snow everywhere you go. You throw a snowball at the fox, but instead you uncover the leftover wreckage of a small plane. In examining the wreckage, you find a big duffel bag full of money. What would you do with it? That



question is raised in the rural characterstudy thriller "A Simple Plan". Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton), a mildly mentally challenged individual, Hank (Bill Paxton) his younger brother with a baby on the way, and Jacob's friend Lou (Brent Briscoe) are

A Simple Plan Aspect Ratio 1.85:1



the ones that find the wreckage.

Jacob and Lou want to take the money and run. Hank goes along with the two, providing that he decides whether to distribute

> the money or dispose of it. This one event sets a change in all three of their everyday lives.

There have been a lot of well-written movies this year. "A Simple Plan" is a perfect example of that. The script is written

by Scott B. Smith and is an excellent adaptation of his novel of the same name.

Danny Elfman's musical score is perfect for this thriller with musical sounds that reminded me of the score Henry Mancini had in the sixties classic "Wait Until Dark".

The performances by all players are on the money. Billy Bob Thornton is almost unrecognizable and presents the character of Jacob with a sense of underachievement and loneliness. Both heand Bill Paxton are convincing as brothers with almost identical faces but different color

eyes. Bridget Fonda is also well cast as Hank's strong wife.

The film is directed by Sam Raimi, and it is a welcome change of pace from the B-movies that have made him a household name. His camerawork in the cold atmosphere presents many symbols and terrific framings of the performances in the Spherical aspect ratio.

In conclusion, "A Simple Plan" is simply a very good movie that's gripping from the first minute to its chilling climax and should be one of the five Oscar con-

tenders for 1998.

Cast: Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton, Bridget Fonda, Brent Briscoe

As a young boy, I will always remember Channel 2 (WCBS) showing "The

Wizard Of Oz" annually and how, once a year, I enjoyed watching the journey of Dorothy Gale and the likeable characters she came across going down the yellow brick road to Emerald City in search of the Wonderful Wizard.

Sixty years later, a brand new print has been released to theaters. I had caught it a few weeks ago and let me tell you, it is well worth the wait. All that remember the annual tradition on the small screen will find that this movie is just as visually striking and is a lot more fun on the big screen.

There is not a big difference in screen space being that CinemaScope and other wide screen processes didn't come across until 1954, and this was made before that. What is does differ from it's viewing on television is that the picture is a lot clearer and the sound is crisper.

In any case, you will be entranced by the colorful world of Oz and children of all ages as well as adults are assured to have good time at the movies.

In the next Reel World rotation: Two more reviews of movies coming to or now playing at a theater near you...



Friend

Steven Guzzi Staff Reporter

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelations 1:4).

Sometimes we get so caught up in the problems and aggravations of our lives that we tend to focus on the negative, rather than the positive things in life. As one having a relationship with God, I find that the daily aggravation of my job, school and other things interfere with what is really important in life, which is my relationship with God. But I suppose this happens even to the best of Christians at times. However, it is important to have fellowship with God in prayer and Bible reading, especially at times when we feel that the toll of life is leaving its mark upon us.

Getting Over The Negativity

through His written word- the Bible. Without communication there can't be fellowship, and without fellowship we can't enjoy our relationship with God.

It is necessary to have a relationship with God before we can have fellowship with God. If we trust Jesus Christ to be our sin bearer, who died and went to hell in our place for our sins, trusting him to save us and lead us, we will be saved from our sins, which gives us a relationship with God. It is impossible to have a relationship with a holy God if we have sin. Jesus Christ's blood cleanses us from our sin, so that it no longer has the power to separate us from a relationship with God. But when we trust him as our Savior and Lord by faith in order for this to happen. When it does happen, we have the right to approach God as his God. An unbeliever doesn't yet have access because he or she isn't in God's family; therefore has no right to call God his or her Father. "But ye are noting the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man shave not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his" (Romans 8:9) Of course we get into God's family like we would get into any one else's family, through birth or adoption. Unfortunately because we were born with a sinful nature that we inherited from our first parents, we weren't originally born into God's family through our physical birth. We need a spiritual birth on the inside, that is independent of our fleshly birth to be born into God's family, which gives us access into God's presence in this world and in the next. "Jesus answered and said unto him,

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3) It might be an exclusive way on how we get into God's family, but wasn't it exclusive in the way that we came into our earthly families, which was by birth or adoption to our own parents?

Nevertheless, let us come as we are, helpless sinners, at the foot of the cross and let Jesus give us that relationship with Himself. Then through daily prayer and Bible reading and meditation on God's Word, let us seek his face for our rest, comfort, and joy.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in your heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my bur- come and see

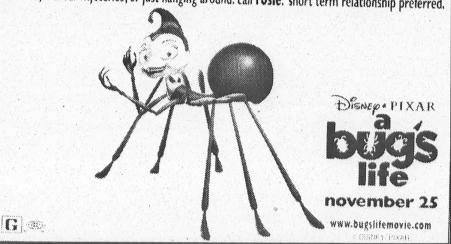
den is light. (Matthew 11:28-30) The Bible also says, "Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and application with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally,

brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:6-8)

Let us think on the Word of God and God's peace will be ours; it's available to all. Open your Bible and get on your knees to

Fellowship with God is the only thing that can offset much of the negativity in our lives. When we have it, it puts a new outlook on our problems; they all of sudden don't seem as bad, or at least they are put in perspective. If we let our problems drive our lives and forget our Creator, we Christians will be forgetting our first love, something that God takes issue with. We will certainly lose our joy and peace if we forget our first love. Thus, we will forfeit many of the blessings of God. Our hearts daily need to be tuned to the drum of our Lord. We tune them as we start our day with fellowship with God. Fellowship simply means two fellows in the same ship, which in this case is God and us. It requires two-way communication. This includes speaking to God in prayer and allowing God to speak to us

swi (single widowed female) seeks attractive (or not attractive) bw mate. likes include surfing the web, murder mysteries, or just hanging around. call rosie. short term relationship preferred.



Features



Body & mind

ADS

Melanie Goldstien Peer Educator

Remember when the only worry about sex was whether or not Mother Nature made her appearance on time? Wouldn't sex and dating be so much more simple of pregnancy was the only thing to worry about? Unfortunately there are far worse things to be concerned about while having sex nowadays. AIDS is one of them, one of the most deadly.

AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) can and will affect anyone no matter who they are. AIDS does not care whether you are straight, gay, bisexual, transgendered, young, old, married, single, or asexual, black, white, yellow, red or anything else. Unlike people, AIDS does not discriminate. Aids attacks the immune system making it hard for your body to fight off illness. Aids can also attack the brain. It is very hard to get AIDS but once you have it, it is there to stay. Developing AIDS comes from contacting HIV, (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus). The most common ways to spread the virus is through unprotected sex. The virus is usually present is semen or vaginal secretions and in blood. If you are having sex, always use a condom with spermicide (nonoxynol-9). Use only water based lubricants with the condom; petroleum jelly and oils will break the condom. Don't use lamb skin condoms either, they are porous and the virus can get through. I know everyone is tired of the safe sex lecture, but think about it, what is worth more, extra sensation during sex (most guys complain a condom takes away some sensation) or being lazy about getting a condom and or putting it on, or your life?

You can also get HIV by sharing needles if you abuse drugs. If you are abusing drugs and cannot stop, please do not share you needles with anyone else. However, if you must share your needles please clean them properly. This can be done by filling the needles to the top with full strength bleach. Leave the bleach in for 30 seconds, then squirt out. Repeat this process at least three times. Then repeat the process but this time just fill them with water and shake them while you are cleansing them. Also, never share cotton balls, cooker, or other equipment. This also includes sharing needles for other non drug related reasons such as ear piercing or tattooing.

Another way people develop can catch this deadly disease is if they have received a blood transfusion with contaminated blood, or if a mother passes the virus to her baby during pregnancy or breast feeding. However it is now highly unlikely to transmit the virus this way since all blood is tested and not all babies who are born to mothers with HIV will develop AIDS.

On a lighter note, you will not get HIV by someone breathing, coughing or sneezing. You cannot get it by sitting next to someone, touching, hugging, social kissing, sharing food, eating food prepared by a person with the virus, sharing utensils, restrooms, water fountains, phones, caring for an AIDS patient, donating blood, or being bitten by an insect.

Symptoms of possible infection include, swollen glands, night sweats, recurrent fevers, unexplained weight loss, diarrhea, constant fatigue, white spots, or unusual marks in mouth, coughing, mental impairment/confusions, and visual or hearing problems. If you have these symptoms and even if you don't, do not hesitate to get tested. We do it for free here on Campus in the Wellness Center. It is done on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 a.m. by a registered nurse, Karyn Croce from Staten Island University Hospital. All testing is confidential.

So here you have the facts on Aids. I've told you how you can and cannot get it as well as preventive measures. I have also mentioned the consequences of getting the disease and how deadly it is. Aids is hard to get and easy to protect yourself from. So use a condom with spermicide and don't share needles! It's that easy to prevent.

To learn more about AIDS, please come to our program, "Love Heals: An AIDS Education Program," on Wednesday, December 2, at 2:30 pm in the Green Dolphin Lounge.

If you are interested in learning more about other topics, please visit our Peer Drop-In Center in 1C-112. There are trained Peer Educators that will listen to you and talk about whatever is on your mind.



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Features

From China, With Love

Mary Jane Bensick Contributor

I am at the mid-point of my soulful endeavour. It took about this much time for me to consciously be present to the fact that I'm studying, travelling and working in China. I am now an active participant in the Chinese culture, rather than being a mere visitor critiquing a different society. As China reveals her rich history,

poetic philosophies, diverse geography and hospitable people, I have surrendered my preconceived ideas and general assumptions. My academic program, along with it's scheduled trips throughout China and working as a teacher has allowed me to take off my filtered glasses of "Westernism." I now see China free from judgement and no longer compare it to that of my homeland. To view China without "my" expectations and to fully accept the differences has given me the freedom to experience the many wonders that China has to offer.

Everyday I immerse myself deeper into the culture and become closer to the Chinese people. The Chinese language class I am taking at Nanjing University is teaching me the communication skills to locialize with the Chinese people. It is easy to practice speaking Chinese since the people are so friendly. They go out of their way to understand me and ask questions about the United States and my

impressions of China. China is one huge 24 hour language lab. The history and culture courses are exposing me to the ideology, customs and development of Chinese civilization. Besides the required program

courses, I am taking a calligraphy class independently. This traditional Chinese art form is not only a great practice in Chinese character stroke order and writing but as a form of self cultivation as well as self expression. It is often said that in looking at calligraphy "one can understand the writer fully, as if meeting them face to face".

To learn about China one must travel the vast country since the

geography is so diverse from one province to the other. This program understands this principal and hence, has been taking our group on coordinated trips throughout China. The excursion to China's capital, Beijing has been by far the most captivating. To walk where only the Emperor and his court could in the Forbidden City left me spellbound. The immensity of the Great Wall was awe inspiring. Yet, I could not help to feel a certain amount of sadness knowing that the people who built this structure painstakingly worked and died on this wall and that this wall symbolizes the blood, sweat, and tears of the dedicated souls of China. I took a moment to pay homage to those people and all people who put their livelihood into the building monuments that people would be moved by.

The children are our future and I have been given the opportunity to witness China's future and even contribute to it by being a teacher here at an elementary school. I teach English to fifth graders. As they learn English I learn the structure of China's educational system. To be able to work in this environment is deeply rewarding. The Chinese teachers are anxious to adopt western

teaching techniques while I pick up theirs. I have befriended one teacher who takes me to her home-town outside of Nanjing to experience traditional Chinese family life. I have also discovered that kids are kids no matter where you go. The only real barriers that exists are the limitations we set on others.

The knowledge I have collected from studying, travelling and working in China I will use long after I leave. As I learn about the art of patience from calligraphy, venture through China and teach in China's educational system, I find myself embracing this wonderfully different country rather than trying to understand it.



Mary Jane is a CSI senior majoring in Psychology. She is currently studying in China on the CUNY Nanjing University Study Abroad Program for the Fall 1998 semester.

For more information about this and other study abroad programs through the CSI, please contact The Center for International Service. Please come by 2A 206 any day or call 982-2100 for information about studying overseas.

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CTV, The Voice Of Staten Island

Lucas Garber Staff Reporter

In exchange for using public property, and operating a monopoly, Staten Island cable is obligated to supply and maintain some public access channels. CTV (Community Television) is a non-profit cable station that is used by members of the community to produce programs about issues, interests and concerns of Staten Island. The channels that they use (24, 34, 35 and 56) are non-commercial. They are funded ninety per-cent by cable (SI Cable gives \$.53 out of every cable bill to CTV), and ten per-cent from training fees. Even with all the equipment at its disposal, and its funding from cable, CTV is useless without producers. Their main goal is to "provide the average person a platform of said Lance expression," Armstrong. CTV does not produce any shows. They do sup-

and portable recording equipment. It is up to the residents of Staten Island to produce the shows that air on their channels. Anyone who is a resident of Staten Island can become a producer, director, camera operator or audio engineer. All anyone has to do is call (718)727-1414, and go to the studio in Mariner's Harbor off of South Avenue and Forrest Avenue

ply the community with a full trivia on such topics as cartoons TV studio, a van-based studio and movies, adventure games where you decide what happens next and games for children. Other interactive choices avail-Chinese able include hororscopes, a pet adoption line and learning basic sign language.

CTV will also aid other non-profit oginizations in getting crews to work on their shows. The organization can call up CTV and talk to their



They will provide the training and allow you to use their equipment.

Another way that they achieve their goal is through a TV show called "Speaker's Corner". "Speaker's Corner" gives any Staten Island resident fifteen minutes to talk about a subject that they are interested

CTV also maintains an editing facilities. interactive channel, CTVi, that upgrades should provide a betairs on channel 56, contains ter picture quality as well as a information about bus sched- more professional environment. ules, job opportunities and of course games. Games range from

Outreach Director, Lance Armstrong at (718)727-1414. They also help to publicize parades and fairs by covering and airing them.

In the near future CTV will go through some major upgrades. As soon as it's feasible they will convert to an all digital format. They are also planing to provide digital video These



Features

November 25, 1998

nook Poet's

pushed toward my room. Where a shut light and a closed door rob me of my images and lives.

And I am left to lay there alone and wonder ..

... What the hell are my parents watching? Wayne Peacock

**** Clear Gummibears

Any man can come to your door with a dozen roses And sure, that's romantic

But how much thought went into buying those roses? It would mean so much more if

he remembered that I love gardenias

And Llove chocolates more than most

But a heart-shaped box isn't as impressive to me As a simple bar of Hershey's Special Dark

That way I'd know it was not just a generic romantic ges-

Little things mean a lot This everyone knows And the little things shout far above

The whisper of cookie-cutter romance

He knows that I love Gummibears-But only the clear ones He loves Gummibears, too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

his surrounding area, has a big dark mane(a lion that isn't doesn't). The bigger, the darker the mane, the better. This is the lion equivalent to big pectoral muscles or large shoulders. The female lion is drawn to the power of the male; she is sexually attracted to his ability to produce offspring with a higher chance for survival.

Coincidingly, the lion community accords these males with the highest respect. They are the kings of their kingdoms, because they are, for lack of a better word, beautiful.

Granted, we are not lions, but another lesson from Darwin is: it's all relative.

We let beauty rise to the top of our social ladder. We

Please, TV, mama

Twelve or thirteen years ago I watched the TV and I saw a man berated by a maid.

He has strugled against a tide of opposition and he's berated by a maid. Interacial gather-ings down the hall When will archie be moving on up to an east coast apartment

in the sky high high Poor alisa Millano is chagged kicking and screaming from the heart of trash mouth F# king Brooklyn. To live in white bread Pennsylvainia, with a flat chested shrew, a skinny kid who later becomes

gay. Tony Danza is a stupid version of Bruce Willis Blair so rich, standing over middle class Natalie and Tootie. Poor Joe Mrs. Garetts little hoodie.

Small black men who don't age are moving in with rich white families. In later seasons they even

added a red headed stepchild. George Popodopolus and Philip Drummund are enthralled by cute midgets. What the hell are you talking about Willis?

Good night I love you is her phrase of damnation as I am

built this into the monolithic media that it is today, but this was a beast that breathed long before we created houses and cities to convince ourselves that we weren't animals, long before we created religion to distract ourselves from the worship of beauty, long before we ever thought about contemplating the rights and wrongs of it.

> Beauty is society's god and I'm on my knees.

This Beauty is socihas been the first installety's god and ment of a new column that will alternate I'm on my with my other one. Join me in two weeks for knees. the next installment of 'Waynes are N Peacocks are from Venus-Frontline coverage of the war of the sexes, entitled: 1 need you to love me no matter how much it hurts you-explorations into the greasy, ugly, world of obsession and stalkers, then in four weeks for the next installment of Subtitles for the blind, entitled: I was a teenage white house intern or How do I get this stain out of my dress?-The pursuit of presidential orgasms makes the pledge of alliegence a hard Bill to swallow.

But will never eat the clear ones Those are just for me He says he loves to see me smile

When he gives me the simple treasures

He remembers that I love Cute little furry creatures So he points out every squir-

rel in every tree, Every kitten on TV, every Puppy ion the street He loves the way I fuss over 0.000

The squeat of "Op-I want one!" Even if I am referring to a ma war of an ewok Especially if I am referring to a magwai of an ewok He loves the "little-girl" laugh From such a serious woman

I know that he loves me Not just the idea of love Yes, because he saves me the clear Gummibears And a hundred other things That would be meaningless to anyone else

P. Melissa Dreznick

OINK

How long does a pig's orgasm last? Muddy hogs romp in trench-es, while the boy who cries wolf falls asleep under the white picket fence. Dreaming of Roosters and

Cows and Donkey Punch. He wakes and bakes in the sun's steam. Listening blissfully to the melody of oinking and grunting and oinking. PEACEULL nioses, they were, until Miss Piggy cried rape.

After School Special.

When I was twelve I drank a bottle of wine after school. The units were working, my jobwas to cook the chicken. I walked backwards in a straight line on the tacky retro tiles of kitchen floor. In between hicups I marinated the meat. It was the best meal they ever ate. They were so proud. After supper I went to my room, listened to Anthrax, and taped myself ramble on about manifest destiny. My father banged on the door and told me my music was too loud. Soon they started taking inventory in the liquor aisle. They control;ed my being but they could never take the day I learned how to masturbate away.

Genivive Lynn

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encourage it. Just like the lions, we put our best breeding stock on pedestals.

Whether it is wrong or right to judge people according to appearance is a moot question. The inescapable fact of the matter is that this mentality exists. Always has and always will. There have been studies on infant responses to beauty that back this up. FACT: All babies respond, better to the beautiful as opposed to the plain. FACT: New born babies are born short-sighted. The only thing that they can see clearly is their mother's face from the distance of the breast. Visceral gratification is genetic.

Beauty, fashions and trends are a deep-rooted part of the human psyche. Society and the iconization of celebrities. Bye Bye now and remember a supermodel is only as strong as the pedestal she stands upon.

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