

THE TERRAPIN TIMES

“Informing, Not Conforming”

March 2004

Nader. Independent. 2004. Oh yeah, baby.

Volume 2, Issue 6



Conflict of Interest at University College?

Officials answer questions about tuition and financial aid ethics.

Read the story on page 9

MaryPIRG or MoneyPIRG ???

MaryPIRG is the fourth-highest paid SGA-funded group with over \$40,000 of YOUR money this year alone.

Read the rest on page 3.

Sometime After Seven: Local Band Feature

Read the stories on pages 6 and 7



A co-founder of the Peace Forum weighs in about the state of the movement

Read the column on page 11

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Special Features Available Online: www.theterrapintimes.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letters represent the views of their respective authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff of *The Terrapin Times*.

Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Abortion: Which Term is Accurate?

I picked up your January 2004 issue, and was quite impressed with the letter written by Andrew Gorman. He eloquently stated how I have felt about abortion for decades...it is not the first solution, but depending on the circumstance, may have to be the last.

I support a woman's right to choose how to deal with an unwanted pregnancy, but it doesn't mean I am *pro*-abortion. Adoption is always an alternative, but few organizations seem to offer that as an alternative.

Certainly the so-called "pro-lifers" don't seem to care what happens to the baby after birth...they just think it is going to live happily ever after in a home in which the mother doesn't want it or is too young to care for it. Let's come up with some alternatives and stop this emotional ping-pong.

Also, the rhetoric on this sensitive issue has shifted...the media always refer to those who oppose abortion as "pro-life" instead of "anti-abortion." We would also like to change the rhetoric from "pro-abortion" to "pro-choice."

Darlene M. Iskra
PhD student, Military Sociology/
Gender, Work and Family

Dear Sir:

Andrew Gorman's letter of the January issue of The Terrapin Times ["Pro-Choice But Not Pro-Abortion?"] shows an unreasoned abortion position and an inconsistency of thought. To note, he writes that "no sane person on this planet is pro-abortion. Abortion is a necessary evil."

Let us begin with the acceptance of the idea that abortion is evil. While I applaud Mr. Gorman for taking this first step into the light, I wonder whether it is a heart-felt belief or empty rhetoric. Presumably, the only reason that he would classify it as evil is

that he recognizes one or both of these central facts about abortion:

1. Abortion is the murder of a pre-born child, as identified by separate brainwaves, heartbeats, and DNA from that of his or her mother.

2. Abortion leaves dramatic emotional scars on women as has been made clear by the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

If Mr. Gorman recognizes these, and still believes that abortion is justified, than his is a weak-kneed belief. Contrast abortion with murder and emotional abuse. No one would say "I think murder is wrong, but I'm for the

right to kill" or "While I would never abuse my child, it's ok for my neighbor to do so."

Having established that one cannot truly be pro-choice and against abortion, the remaining option is to be pro-choice and for abortion, that is to say being pro-choice is to be pro-abortion. Should Mr. Gorman oppose abortion for other reasons, to say something is evil but not act against it is to stand for hypocrisy.

In support of this, I quote Debra Harry, a former abortion worker interviewed for the film, "Meet the Abortion Providers," who said, "The counselor at our clinic would cry with the girls at the drop of a hat. She would find their weakness and work on it. The women were never given any alternatives. They were told how much trouble it is to have a baby."

"Never given any alternatives." Some choice.

Sincerely,

Stephen Braunlich
The College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, Va.,
William and Mary Standard:
Editor In Chief,
William and Mary Students for Life:
Treasurer

"We make a living by
what we get.
We make a life by
what we give."
- Winston Churchill

Special Terrapin Brief: Dr. Lynne Cheney Participates in Brody Forum

by FRANCISCO GONZALEZ
The Terrapin Times Managing Editor

On Feb. 29, Dr. Lynne Cheney, wife of the vice president of the United States, was the honored guest in the Brody Forum's "Policy Watch" program, part of the School of Public Affairs.

In a conversational/interview setting at the Colony Ballroom in the Student Union, in front of cameras from media outposts such as CNN, C-SPAN, and UMD-TV, commentator Doug Besharov asked Cheney about her role as the wife of the Vice President and her own career as a distinguished scholar.

Dr. Cheney, who received a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin (in nineteenth century British literature), spoke about how difficult it was for her, as a woman, to find a job in academia in the early 1970s. She said that though women like her were discriminated against, she remained determined to succeed.

She used her skills to become a writer. She was a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. And, she has written or co-authored seven books. In addition, she will have a new book later

this year about the first President called, *When Washington Crossed the Delaware*.

Besharov asked her how she has managed to continue her scholarly work while also fulfilling the role of being the wife of the vice president. Her life changed in 2000 when her husband accepted the nomination as vice president. Despite the increased security presence around her and the many duties that fill her time, she said it has been an incredible experience.

"It's a front row seat to history," Cheney said, "It's an amazing privilege."

Cheney, who has in the past led the battle against the political correctness and multiculturalism that has permeated universities, spoke about how she believes U.S. history should be taught, written and remembered.

"We teach [American history] as a series of problems, rather than as challenges overcome," she said. "We've become a better and better country and I think that's a narrative that most people can agree on." In addition, she stressed that "the human stories are the key to making history attractive."

About 350 people showed up to the event. The majority of the crowd was

composed of elderly adults associated with or interested in the Brody Forum series at the College Park campus, while about fifty students attended.

Members of the audience asked questions by writing them down on a card, and a handful of the questions were read to Dr. Cheney by the host. While this format kept the scholarly, mostly non-political discussion civil, a few students in the audience made outbursts.

One asked Cheney about reparations to slavery. Despite the interruption, Dr. Cheney candidly answered the question, saying she did not support reparations. After the discussion ended, and the cameras were off, another student yelled, "What do you think about gay marriage, Mrs. Cheney?" and then made a remark concerning Dr. Cheney's gay daughter. Dr. Cheney didn't appear to hear the remark. But, University Police officers did and



Dr. Lynne Cheney is the wife of Vice President Dick Cheney. She appeared on campus Feb. 29 to participate in the Brody Forum.
(Courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov)

they escorted the misbehaving students out of the room. Besharov thanked Dr. Cheney for making the on-campus appearance and the rest of the audience, which included President Mote and his wife, expressed their gratitude with a pleasurable ovation.

NEWS ANALYSIS

THE FISCAL WATCHDOG

STUDENT FUNDING OF MaryPIRG

by MEGAN McILROY
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

This year the Student Government Association allotted the Maryland Public Interest Research Group \$43,375 from the student activities fee, a sum less than only three other groups on campus (Student Entertainment Events, the Undergraduate Legal Aid Office and the SGA).

MaryPIRG, a campus group that supports issues like environmental protection and relief from hunger and homelessness, is granted a sum higher than most other student groups because they have a full-time faculty advisor, and because they have to pay a sum to MaryPIRG state organizers in Baltimore, according to Alden Gross, the vice president of finance for the SGA.

Although Gross says it's his job not to have a personal opinion about the amount of money MaryPIRG receives from the SGA, he says if the budget gets approved, students must be satisfied with the work MaryPIRG is doing.

"The way we allocate funds is, if the student body thinks the group is doing a good job, they will get the money they ask for," Gross said.

But not everyone agrees it's fair that MaryPIRG gets so much money.

"For the amount of money they are getting, I haven't really seen or heard from them that much on campus, they should be more out there," said Tabatha Cuadra, a counselor at Help Center, the peer counseling center on campus, which received \$7,902 this year.

"I'd like to know where all the money MaryPIRG gets it actually going," Cuadra said.

"We get what some consider a lot of money because we are a different organization than most," Karla Pippa, MaryPIRG's full-time faculty advisor at the university, said.

"We are one of the only groups on campus allowed to fund staff, but the benefit of having me on campus is that I had been trained, and I have the resources and networking to connect our interns to lobbyists, other campus groups, and the media. I help them execute the plans they have," Pippa said.

Pippa said MaryPIRG is "one of the most productive groups on campus."


Pippa works until 10 p.m. most weeknights. Her pay is slightly less than \$20,000. The rest of the salary allotment in MaryPIRG's budget goes to the MaryPIRG executive director.

According to SGA budget documents, MaryPIRG gets \$33,475 for salaries; \$4,965 for outreach and awareness, which includes office supplies and space rental; \$3,300 for environmental awareness; \$1,355 for their annual hunger concert; and \$280 for conferences.

Interns at MaryPIRG are supportive of Pippa's role and the money the organization is allotted each year.

"Karla's role is essential," said Kristina Gawdry, a sophomore MaryPIRG intern. "She is not a student on campus, her job is to make sure everything goes smoothly."

"As a group, we do ask for money, but when you put it in perspective, we don't ask for that much money. We ask for very specific things, we think about exactly what we are going to do and ask for those events exactly. All the money that we do get goes to something



productive, we don't just get a huge chunk of money that just sits there," Gawdry said.

"It just seems kind of unfair," Andrew Napier, a sophomore government and politics major said about MaryPIRG's allotment.

The SGA Finance Committee is responsible for approving student organizations' proposed budgets. Each year, the vice president of finance selects a committee to read each line of an organization's budget and determine if the funding they are requesting is legal and legitimate.

by CHRIS WEED
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

"Since this is state money, a lot of legal issues comes up when we decide if we can give an organization what they are requesting," Gross said.

For the 2003-2004 school year, Gross selected a finance committee with 11 members from different sections of campus life, from athletes to members of cultural groups.

"My goal is to make sure the entire student body is represented by the finance committee, that way a diverse group can decide how to allocate the funds," Gross said.

This year MaryPIRG, which has been at Maryland for 30 years, is taking on five campaigns led by Pippa. They are lobbying for causes like clean energy, hunger and homelessness relief, the National Legislation Trust Fund Act and Campus Green, which tackles environmental policies on campus, like recycling and stream clean-ups.

MaryPIRG is part of a conglomerate of PIRGs from every state, which together make up U.S. PIRG, a national lobbying office that tackles the issues MaryPIRG does on a more local level.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

STUDENTS RALLY FOR LIFE

by FRANCISCO GONZALEZ
The Terrapin Times Managing Editor

Jan. 22 marked the 31st anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion. Traditionally, hundreds of thousands of pro-life activists gather for the March for Life on the National Mall. I decided to meet up with the Students for Life group from the University of Maryland who joined with the Catholic Terps for an early morning event at the MCI Center before the annual March for Life.

The reason I decided to write this story as a "personal experience" is because I have to admit I'm biased. As a pro-life Catholic myself, I ventured down to the MCI Center not simply to report on a story for The Terrapin Times, but also to attend the Youth Rally for Life and a Catholic mass.

When I walked into the arena, I was truly amazed. Normally, people think of the pro-life movement as one filled with adults, even the elderly. This event changed even my own perspective. Students from around the country – many from our own region – filled the MCI Center. Over 17,000 seats were taken, including seats that filled the floor.

By 9:00 a.m. – yes, 9:00 a.m. – thousands of young people, the majority in high school and college, along with some parents and clergy of the Catholic Church (A cardinal, over twenty bishops and hundreds of priests and nuns) had filled the arena and brought it to life in a concert-like atmosphere.

COMMENTARY

AMERICAN IDEALS

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

by CHRIS WEED
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Our modern civilization is the glory of the Enlightenment. The material rewards the United States and Western Civilization have experienced from the resulting industrial revolution have created a society of inestimable wealth. While the intellectual atmosphere of the Enlightenment has long since passed, the technological advancements resulting from this "age of excitement" continue today.

There is one group of individuals that is the heart and soul of this triumphal march, the engineers. They combine the creativity of art with the practicality of science to design and produce every device we own. They are the consummate inventors, who also require the knowledge of science and the humanities as their library. This may seem self-aggrandizing, being an engineer myself, but consider the implications of the electricity flowing into New York City being shut off permanently last summer, instead of temporarily. The skyscrapers of the city would be less than worthless.

Unfortunately, conservatives and liberals alike look to this march of progress with contempt and disdain. Conservatives see modern culture piped into our homes through the Internet and television as a threat to "traditional values" and desire to restrict it. Liberals see technology as a threat to "living in harmony with nature" and secretly desire to turn back the clock to a more primitive existence. Sadly, both groups also feel guilty about the resulting material wealth, mistakenly attributing it to God's blessings, privileged advantage or luck. For most people in our "land of opportunity," they earned what they have and thus deserve it. It is their just reward and not something of which to be ashamed.

Unlike modern prophets who predict a technological cataclysm, I think technology offers humanity a brilliant future. We've already built some of the highest towers that reach the heavens and we're known around the world for them. We just need the intellectual spirit to proclaim, "Nothing is impossible" and build the next one higher, because we can.

Christian rock singer Steve Angirisano, along with the Who Do You Say I Am band, and a rapping priest, Father Stan Fortuna, brought the crowd to their feet by proclaiming not just an end to abortion, but also a celebration of life. This is what was so different about this crowd. The rhetoric on and off stage was not that abortion was wrong simply for its own sake, but that we need to redirect our way of thinking that transcends abortion: we need to start celebrating life. Whether that life is unborn, or your living brother, sister, parents, children, or simply the person sitting next to you, we need to all cherish how valuable life is.

Sierra Correa, a senior graphic design major and the president of the Students for Life group said despite being a pro-life activist every day, the

Continued on page 10, see RALLY

THE TERRAPIN TIMES

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NEWS ANALYSIS

CREDIT CARD COMPANIES TARGET STUDENTS

by MATT KINNEAR
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

At every Terps basketball game, hundreds of students apply for University of Maryland credit cards. What college student wouldn't? You get a cool Maryland basketball shirt, and I don't even need to mention how cool a credit card with Testudo on it looks in your wallet. However, many students soon find out they got more than they bargained for.

Credit card debt has become a huge problem for college students. Many college students find themselves graduating college with a huge burden of debt on their backs. The average student is in the red \$18,900 after college. A large portion of this is due to credit cards, according to financial provider

group Nellie Mae. Another alarming figure is that by senior year in college, an average of 31 percent of students carry a credit card debt of over \$3,000.

But why are college students so susceptible to this debt?

Many credit card companies offer deals focused at college students. They are packaged in a way that makes them seem better than they really are, and the contracts use ambiguous language the average consumer cannot understand. Students do not realize what they are getting involved in. Ask your friends what their interest rates are. I'm sure you will be surprised how many people are clueless of what interest rates are.

Most of the debt comes from unnecessary purchases; years of charging pizza and alcohol add up.

However, rising tuition costs are also adding to the problem. The most cost-effective solutions to pay for college expenses are federal student loans. However, these loans take hours of paperwork and numerous trips to the bursar's and financial aid offices. The credit cards seem like an easier choice, but nothing easy comes cheap.

Students are bombarded with credit card offers all over campus. Should they bite?

Credit



The Terrapin Times Express

Simply put, credit cards are for people with money, and most college students fall into two categories: unemployed and under-employed. They do not have the job security to live on borrowed money because their income is not stable.

Although many abuse credit cards and wish they had never used them, credit cards can be very beneficial. Using your available credit wisely can teach about the benefits and shortfalls of borrowing money. College is a time to learn, and borrowing on credit is a good start in learning about personal finance. As with all things, borrowing on credit should be used in moderation. More importantly, responsible borrowing will establish a positive credit history. Coming out of college, it is hard enough to go out on your own two feet. Trying to purchase a home or a car with bad or no credit certainly doesn't help.

There are many signs that you are not using your credit card responsibly. If you are exceeding your limit constantly, using one card to pay off another or find yourself needing to work extra hours to pay off your debt, it may be time to re-evaluate your finances.

Next time you're applying for that card with your favorite football team's logo on it, or you're dying to get that free T-shirt, seriously think if the responsibility that comes with it is worth the risk.

Got an interesting story
idea that *other* papers
just ignore? Let us know:
news@theterrapintimes.com



REAGANITES CELEBRATE 93rd BIRTHDAY

by LAUREN JACOB
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Among paintings and sculptures of elephants, fans of Ronald Reagan celebrated in his honor on his 93rd birthday Feb. 6 at the Ropewalk Tavern in Baltimore.

The event was one of many in the area, including one at Towson University and several in the District.

The Tavern offered free food and cake, as well as drink specials. It was decorated with pictures of the "Gipper," and the Tavern sold T-shirts with Reagan's picture on them.

Though it was a cold, rainy night, and the streets were empty, the tavern was warm and full of activity.

Two years ago, Reagan passed in age John Adams and Herbert Hoover to become the oldest living former president in US history.

Governors in 16 states, not including Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, declared Feb. 6 "Ronald Reagan Day."

NEWS

PEACE CORPS BRINGS HELPING MESSAGE, OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS

by SARA BLUMBERG
The Terrapin Times Copy Editor

From establishing a library in the school he taught in to showing his host family the meaning of having an American Thanksgiving, university alumni Ken Cousins has thousands of stories to tell from his days as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia.

Started in 1961 by John F. Kennedy, the Peace Corps's main mission is to place American citizens in a country where they will learn to teach and work with others. The organization also promotes learning about and embracing diversity. Since then, the Peace Corps has grown steadily from 122 volunteers to thousands of people in more than 75 countries.

To foster such an ideal, volunteers agree to live in another country for two years. "The program is very grassroots. Volunteers become immersed in the culture in which they live in ... they learn how to react with others around them," Bill Varrettoni, the Peace Corps recruiter at the University of Maryland, explained.

"Growing up in the Midwest, I didn't know much about the world ... I felt like I couldn't grow more with my career, that's why I joined the Peace Corps," Cousins said.

With more than 800 university alumni having served in the same volunteer program, Varrettoni is working hard to educate students on the mission and ideals the Peace Corps stands for.

For years, UMD has been a top contender when it has come to Peace

Corps recruitment. In 2003, Maryland ranked 20th on the Peace Corps's list of the top 25 schools with the largest recruiting statistics. With a total of 49 current volunteers, UMD has moved up two spots from 2001.

Still, with such a high turnout, UMD Peace Corps recruiter Bill Varrettoni is eager to see the numbers get bigger. "It's such a big campus, it's sometimes hard to get to the word out, we need to foster more communication," he said.

According to Cousins, a Maryland alumni, applying is a long process. "I remember my application taking nine months," he said.

In fact, the usual application process can range anywhere from four to nine months. Upon being nominated, the applicant is assigned a job, which can be anything from teaching English to coordinating community development.

The logo of the Peace Corps.
(Courtesy of www.ndu.edu)



Upon receiving a nomination, a volunteer spends three months training in his or her host country — one not necessarily of the volunteer's choosing — learning the ways of their new culture.

While two years is a long time for most people, the experience is one that lasts a lifetime. "The clichés are true, this is the toughest job you'll ever love," Cousins said.

Varrettoni says with graduation just months away and with so many students not sure what to do next, the Peace Corps is a great way to start a new chapter in one's life.

Senior sociology major Anna Lucas is considering the Peace Corps because she wants to see something new. "To be immersed in another culture, where their outlook is different, is a good growing experience," she said.

For more information on the Peace Corps, visit www.peacecorps.gov. Bill Varrettoni can be contacted at 301-405-9585.

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NEWS

BEYOND CODE ORANGE

How Homeland Security is ensured in and around College Park

by PATRICK GAVIN
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Many in the media have been quick to make fun of The Department of Homeland Security's color-coded threat level scale.

It's true, when the threat level increases from yellow to orange, many people ask themselves what it means to them personally. Most simply continue their daily routine regardless of whether the threat level has been bumped to orange, red, teal, indigo, or jungle green.

What many fail to realize, however, is that for the most part the threat levels are not for the average citizen.

Federal agencies and police departments across the country, including the University of Maryland Police Department, react drastically when the threat level is changed (the threat level is currently at yellow).

"We increase our staff during Code Orange and increase our visibility," said University Police spokeswoman Maj. Cathy Atwell. "We increase our patrols in certain places and look for certain things. During Code Orange you can expect to see officers engaging people more to evaluate a potential risk more quickly."

As would be expected, policing was forever changed after September 11, 2001. The University of Maryland police, like those in other departments across the country, knew they might be the next terrorism targets.

University police prepared by developing protocols and investing in resources to ensure that if disaster struck, they would be ready to properly handle a crisis.

For example, University Police purchased equipment to help handle a potential chemical spill. The Department of Homeland Security provides some funding for vital purchases like this that may be outside a usual police budget.

Protocols for terrorist activities came in handy during the recent Anthrax scare. University Police received numerous calls from frightened individuals about "suspicious white powders."

Each time, the powders turned out to be nothing to worry about, simply chalk more times than not. But protocols to handle such scares are essential.

Not all preparation is reactionary. Much effort goes toward making sure terrorist attacks will not occur in the first place.

"Early identification is one of the things we learned from 9/11," Atwell said. "As a result, we have implemented things to enable us to identify more quickly if there was a threat and to evaluate the seriousness of that threat."

Police preparation regarding terrorist threats includes the education of officers, protocols

and procedures for how to handle potential threats and sharing resources and news with other jurisdictions.

"You can't work alone with this stuff," Atwell said. "Terrorists work across jurisdictional grounds...we have to work with the county and work with the state."

Teamwork across jurisdictions is invaluable in all police work. Suspects were identified in the D.C. Sniper case because a uniformed officer in Baltimore City reported on two individuals sleeping in their car.

"It's the uniformed everyday cops who have the most potential to interact with these risks. That's why training them is so important," Atwell said.

Most terrorism safeguards are not as obvious as the cameras installed last year at university entrances. Protocols and procedures are far less visible.

Police often do not want to go into too much detail about what exactly they are doing so that potential terrorists will not be tipped off.

"We speak in generalities when it comes to emergency preparedness," University Police Chief Kenneth W. Krouse said in an e-mail. "[The press] should not receive information from us that would compromise our security plans."

So what is the public's role?

"Police always say, 'Call us if something's suspicious.' Well what's suspicious?" said university student Brett Friedman.

Suspicious activity is anything that makes you stop and think; it's anything or anyone you deem unusual, Atwell said.

The importance of calling the police when one sees something out of the ordinary cannot be overstated. The police are there to make you feel safe.

"Bad guys pick easy targets and easy targets are places where people don't confront them," Atwell said.

FEATURE

INSIDE THE SGA

by SCOTT EVAN GOLDBERG
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

The Student Government Association last month voted to eliminate compensating its members from money that now can be used to fund students groups. In the past the SGA set aside about \$40,000 of its \$1.3 million budget to distribute at year's end as an honoraria for members who fulfilled certain standards. Although the amount only equals 3% of the total, all the money from the student activity fee will now be given to student groups for the sole use of their programming. This is something very interesting to note, but the most important matter at hand is textbooks.

After I was elected, I felt if there was one issue I wanted to get to the bottom of, it was textbook prices. To pay over \$1,000 for textbooks in a given year is not uncommon for many students. Talking with other students led me to the conclusion that something had to be done.

So why are textbooks so expensive? In my quest to find a way to make textbooks cheaper, I was given the opportunity to meet with many people. I met with Provost William Destler, the associate vice-president of Academic Affairs, the general manager of the University Book Center (UBC), the director of the Student Union and various other players in the process. I even was interviewed by a reporter from Rolling Stone Magazine about why textbooks cost so much. Everyone I spoke with was very forthcoming with information. After a few months of research, I came up with a solid thesis of the underlying causes that increase the price of textbooks you and I purchase each semester.

There are two main sources behind the ballooning cost of academic writings: publishers and professors. Publishers have devised creative ways to destroy the used book market and try to make us all buy new books every semester. Through these tactics, the two most infamous of which are called bundling and new edition releases, publishers have managed to inflate the price of textbooks at the expense of the average college students.

Bundling is taking a textbook and selling it with a CD or study guide. Most of us never use these CDs and study guides anyway, so why are they there? Publishing companies have salesman that come on campus and sell professors on the idea that these study guides and CDs prepare students better and allow them to learn more and including them won't increase the cost of the textbook. What they don't tell professors is that through the ordering process using ISBN codes and the whole bureaucratic mess, the textbooks their students currently have are rendered obsolete by a computer system because they don't have a CD, and the students will be stuck with these worthless textbooks when next semester the bookstore will sell the same book with a study guide. So semester after semester students are forced to purchase new books and are not able to sell their old ones. This is one way students get shafted.

Releasing new editions is a more conspicuous method that publishers use to inflate textbook prices. Every few years or so, authors and publishers decide that a new version needs to come out and make it very similar to the old version except to change some minor details. This creates a situation in which the old book has no value because a new edition

exists, and students have to pay top dollar for the new edition because there are no used editions in existence. Doing this every few years circumvents the used book market completely and undermines the student population's right to an affordable education.

Our own faculty creates higher prices as well. Take the spring semester for example. Professors have to submit their booklists by Dec. 1, as mandated by University Senate law. About 50 percent of professors on this campus submit their booklists in time, but what about the other half that just broke a university law? Nothing. The University Senate Resolution provides no enforcement or penal mechanism.

Let's get back to the booklists that have been submitted. The UBC is now tasked to obtain the required number of books for the spring semester. They get books from three different places: new books from publishers, used books from national wholesalers and student buy backs. To get large quantities of a book, it takes time to find the book and ship it so it arrives in the bookstore before classes start. The UBC would have about seven weeks to find, buy, receive and stock the tens of thousands of books needed if every booklist was submitted on time. For the booklists the UBC has on time, they know to buy back student books at 50 percent of what it would cost to buy a book if it were new, and if they need more of a specific book than what they get from students, they can buy them, and in turn sell them inexpensively through the wholesale market.

Now we get to what happens when the bookstore receives no booklist for a class offered in the spring. The UBC won't buy a book back if it isn't going to be used the following semester. If a professor teaching a spring course hasn't turned in a booklist when students sell back their books, the bookstore offers you either nothing or \$1 for your book. When the bookstore finally does get the booklist sometime in the winter, there may not be any used versions of that book on the wholesale market, and even if there are they might not arrive on time. So at a certain point, the UBC makes a decision to buy new books from the publisher, forcing students to buy these new books as well. Long story short, the student who just finished a course is stuck with a perfectly good textbook that the bookstore is offering no money for and the student taking the class in the spring is stuck having to pay the price of a new textbook of which a used copy is probably sitting at the bottom of his next door neighbors closet.

The solution is not simple. The easiest remedy would be if professors compile and submit their booklists well before the Dec. 1 deadline. To do this, the University must undertake the task of educating professors about the consequences of their inactions and continuously remind them of their duty to help students save money. If a professor fails to submit a list without good cause, some sort of punishment has to be enforced, otherwise our faculty will continue to disregard the system that their colleague faculty members have created in the Senate. Dealing with publishers is an even more difficult task. Professors, universities, and even politicians must enter the fray and lean on publishing companies to make concerted efforts to keep the cost of textbooks down. With only a few more months left at the University of Maryland I doubt I will see the benefits of my labors, but be assured that I will pass on all that I have learned to those who come after me so that one day students will notice a significant decrease in the price of their books.



The system of determing threat level as provided by the Department of Homeland Security.
(Courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov)



FEATURE

COLLEGE PARK BAND HAS ITS EYES ON THE BIG TIME

by NATHAN BURCHFIEL
The Terrapin Times Layout Editor

Sometime After Seven rises into local stardom

S o m e t i m e After Seven's unique folk, blues and rock sounds, and inspiring messages set them apart from the majority of college bands. "We don't do the angst thing," pianist Jeremy O'Roark said of the band.

The young College Park band is in the middle of finding itself thrust into popularity.

As it embarks into Emergenza, the international battle of the bands, Sometime After Seven is realizing its roots. And perhaps more importantly, it's remembering them.

The seven-member band combines traditional instruments, like drums, basses and guitars, with less popular ones, like the mandolin, violin and piano, to form a sound unique to the band.

The band's beginnings trace back to early 2001 at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, where guitarist Ryan Luce held jam sessions on Friday nights. The regular attendees became the members of the present band.

Sitting in traffic on a road trip to Colorado in the summer of 2002, O'Roark, Luce, vocalist Kenny Takata and mandolin player Lindsey Jones made the decision to turn the group of friends into an official band.

The excited foursome phoned percussionist Stephen Lynerd, who immediately agreed to join the project. The group asked session regular Ellen Baumann to sign on as the violinist. Within a few weeks, bassist John Akers was invited to join, completing the septet.

Then came perhaps the most

difficult challenge for any band to overcome: naming the group. During a brainstorming session, someone mentioned practices were always scheduled for "sometime after seven," and with such a ring to it, the name was set. "Sometime After Seven" was also a convenient name for the seven-member band.

The band in its near-current state started practicing regularly in September 2002. They also played weekly worship accompaniment for a campus Christian fellowship, InterVarsity. They released their first album, "...And Sometimes Why?", in April 2003.

Following the album release, drummer Stephen Lynerd left the band to pursue other options. Current percussionist Mike Quinn replaced Lynerd after a few months of temporary drumming.

Lead singer Kenny Takata grew up as the young star of church musicals and choirs. He experimented with several garage bands during his teen years in Gambrils, Md., but says, "The difference between those bands and Sometime After Seven [is] talent."

He said his favorite thing about Sometime After Seven is the band's teamwork. "Everyone is easy-

going," he said, "everyone gets along." The teamwork, he said, contributes to a very collaborative writing process.

Takata graduated from College Park in May 2003 and currently works for DeWalt power tools in Philadelphia, Pa.

Takata isn't the only member distanced from the roots of the band in College Park.

Pianist Jeremy O'Roark graduated from College Park in May 2001, worked in the DC area during the band's initial stages, and currently pursues a master's in English at Penn State, three hours away from most of the band.

O'Roark has played piano since he was seven years old. He is also occasionally featured on the flute.

But his forte is most definitely his passionate piano playing, reminiscent of Ben Fold's rocking style. His other inspirations

include the jamming abilities of Phish and the honky-tonk blues of Ray Charles.

Many of the band's members began playing their instruments at very young ages. Baumann first picked up a violin at eight years old. She started teachings lessons in 2002.

Baumann is one of four band members still in school. Baumann, a junior psychology major, researches a newly developed dream interpretation model when she's not a featured member of Sometime After Seven.

She said she has stuck with the band because the people she plays with "have become the people that I enjoy most in my life, both when we're playing music and when we're not."

She said the band's strength comes from the fact that each player is so different. "Each person brings his or her own talent and personality to the band," she said, "and each person gains strength from the other talents and personalities."

"This makes the band incredibly unique," she said, "because ... we utilize our

individual abilities so much more fully when we're in the group."

Jones agreed. She said, "It's pretty fun to see how the different styles mesh."

"We all generally like the sound that comes out and we all can generally appreciate each other's music," she said. When the band members hit a creative wall, they always manage to work through it with compromise, she said.

The mandolin is one of the most interesting sounds in the band. Jones's six years of experience with the mandolin offer listeners an intriguing journey into the bluegrass side of Sometime After Seven.

Jones studied piano and guitar from a young age, so the transition to the mandolin was quick for her.

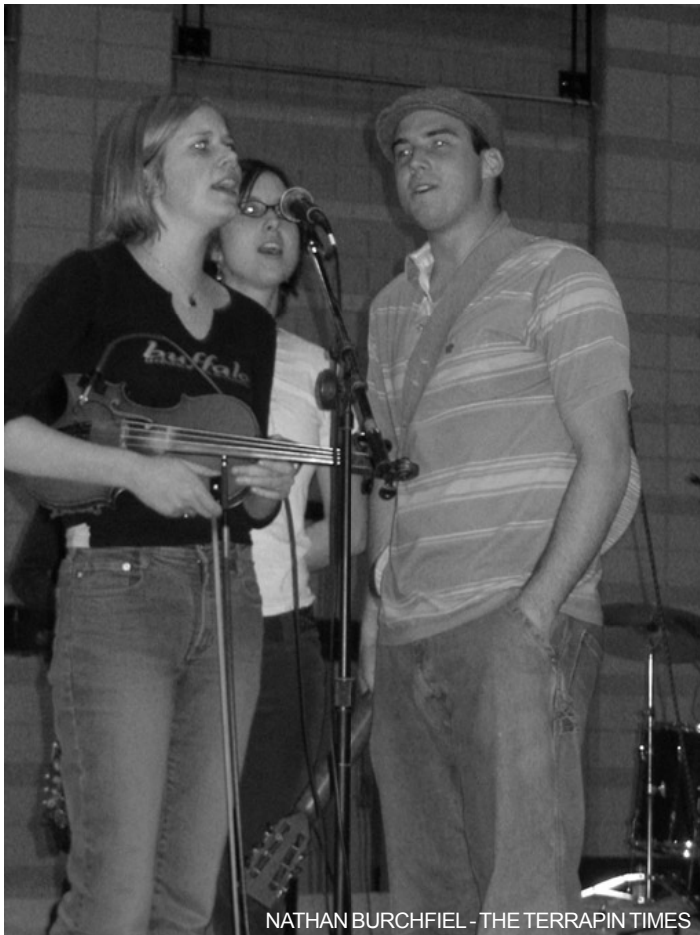
Jones's skills with the mandolin have also led to the occasional use of her Irish bouzouki. The bouzouki is similar to the mandolin, but is tuned one octave lower and features a slightly different body shape, which contributes to a different sound.

Jones's mandolin beautifully complements the skillful hands of Luce on the guitar.

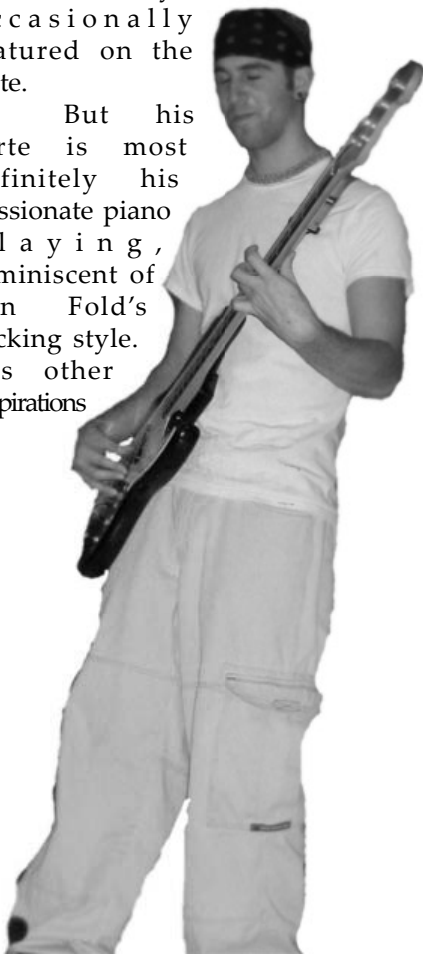
Luce claims to have stopped learning other people's music - including that of inspiration Stevie Ray Vaughn - in ninth grade. "I used to learn every radio song that I liked, but I found that by the time I learned the song I had heard it and butchered it so many times in a row that I hated not only the song, but it actually



NATHAN BURCHFIEL - THE TERRAPIN TIMES
Sometime After Seven performs in the basement of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house (#8 Frat Row) during a recruitment event. Bassist John Akers (center, back) is a SigEp brother. The band plays frequently for on-campus events.

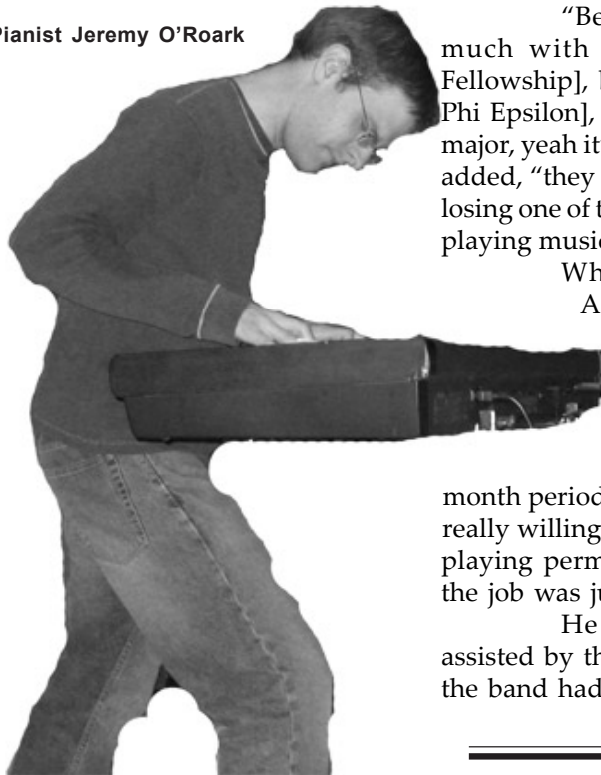


NATHAN BURCHFIEL - THE TERRAPIN TIMES
Left to right: Ellen Baumann (violinist), Lindsey Jones (mandolinist) and Ryan Luce (lead guitar) come together as back-up vocalists at a concert in Ritchie Coliseum.



Bassist John Akers

Pianist Jeremy O’Roark



“Being in a band, doing so much with [InterVarsity Christian Fellowship], being a brother in [Sigma Phi Epsilon], and being an engineering major, yeah it’s hard,” he said. “But,” he added, “they all add so much to my life, losing one of them would be hard. I love playing music....”

While Akers is Sometime After Seven’s youngest member, junior Mike Quinn is its newest. Of his shaky joining Quinn said, “It was strange because there was a few month period where nobody really was really willing to say if I was going to be playing permanently in the band or if the job was just temporary.”

He said the decision was assisted by the fact that “[members of] the band had actually become some of

my closest friends before I even joined....”

All seven members say they’d love to see Sometime After Seven “make it big,” but they’re all having fun doing what they do. The consensus among the musicians is to continue on their current path.

Takata jokes he’d like to see Sometime After Seven playing the Super Bowl halftime show next year.

Luce, the band’s resident marketing major, says of the band: “I don’t think you could hand pick a better group of musicians and friends to market ... We’ve got the boy-band front man, two hot girls that play their extremely original instruments very well, the self-proclaimed ‘cute’ punk-rock bassist, and three other dudes that do all of the behind the scenes stuff to juice up the ‘behind the music’ story.”

O’Roark explained they “realize that the chances of making it are

slim even for bands that live like starving artists and pursue their music full-time for years,” much less for a band whose members have other priorities like school and full-time jobs.

He promised they’re all “determined to keep making music that’s great and different and that people enjoy.”

Luce added that Sometime After Seven is keeping focused on the short-term, “looking forward to a summer with a ton of shows.”

As for another album, Takata said, “If the money comes an album will come.”

The band is hopeful Emergenza will provide some of that “motivation.” The winner of the worldwide contest is awarded a recording contract. In the meantime, however, Takata suggests fans send \$5 toward a new record.

Sometime After Seven performs with a guest vocalist at the Dance Marathon on Friday, Feb. 20 in Ritchie Coliseum.



NATHAN BURCHFIEL - THE TERRAPIN TIMES

made me want to put down the guitar,” he said.

Luce said his favorite Sometime After Seven moment was the band’s performance at the Birchmere in Alexandria, Va. “The feeling when the crowd erupted after we finished our first tune,” he said, “was unbelievable.”

Also unbelievable is the talent of the band’s youngest member, bassist John Akers. Members of the band claim they invited him to practices because he seemed to be a prodigy.

Akers denies the prodigy label. The humble bassist says that the prodigy label is “a complete lie to make me ... sound better. I am not that good at all,” he says.

Akers began playing the bass at age eight, when his pianist father held jam sessions with the Akers boys.

He went on to play with his brother in the house band at Joe’s Place in Baltimore.

Akers’s influences include Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist Flea and Incubus bassists Dirk Lance and Ben Kenney.

At 19, Akers is Sometime After Seven’s youngest member. His biggest struggle, however, isn’t his age. It’s his schedule.



Lead-singer Kenny Takata

MORE INFO:

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UMD’s First Friday

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For other band information, including how to order

“...And Sometimes Why?”:

www.sometimeafterseven.com

SOMETIME AFTER SEVEN IN EMERGENZA

Band takes Round 1 victory at Velvet Lounge

by FRANCISCO GONZALEZ
The Terrapin Times Managing Editor

On Jan. 29 more than 80 university students ventured to the Velvet Lounge to watch a College Park band compete in an international battle of the bands contest.

Just before Sometime After Seven opened its set, the College Park crowd was more than vocal in the D.C. venue. One fan of both the band and Terps basketball shouted out, “Terps are winning at the half,” referring to the Wake Forest game the Terps ended up losing. That was followed by a group chant of “Let’s Go Maryland!”

“What are you doing?” lead singer Kenny Takata shouted to the crowd in embarrassment as the band was setting up.

His fans were simply caught up in the moment, proud to be associated with the College Park scene as their favorite local band was ready to take on other acts from around the area with hopes of facing bands from around the country and potentially the world.

One student, junior Lindsey

Feigenbaum, said she had already seen the band perform dozens of times at a variety of venues, including coffee shops, the Birchmere in Alexandria and at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house. She says she keeps coming to see them because they have “such an interesting sound and different kinds of songs.” She especially likes Lindsey Jones’s mandolin.

Despite an already prominent local fan base for Sometime After Seven, the emcee on hand at the Velvet Lounge said the worldwide Emergenza contest is “a great way to get people to see your band who haven’t before.”

Between January and March, the Velvet Lounge is playing host to the first elimination round of the American bracket of Emergenza. Over 80 bands are performing in this round at the Velvet

Lounge, with hundreds of other bands playing in cities from Paris to Chicago. Each night about three or four bands are chosen to move on, while the rest are eliminated.

On this night, Sometime After Seven was the clear standout, as they ripped through their four-song set for old and new fans alike. The

band’s mix of blues, folk, rock and funk combined with spiritually inspired lyrics earned it a score of 72.

To add some perspective, as of publication, Sometime After Seven earned the highest score of any other Washington, D.C. area band. The next highest scoring band at the Velvet Lounge earned 53 points. The average for D.C. bands is roughly 35 points.

The unique sound of this group combines popular instruments like drums, bass and guitar with the more exotic sounds of the mandolin, fiddle, bouzouki (similar in look and sound to the lyre) and the occasional flute.

On this night, the band made sure to showcase all its talents. At some point during the set, each of the seven members had their own solos.

Takata’s vocal talents were showcased in the unreleased song “A Place Called Faith,” but one was left wondering what a better sound system could do to enhance the listening experience.

“Guilt Trip,” an upbeat song from their debut album “...And Sometimes Why?,” hyped up everyone in the house and served as the perfect closer to a great performance. At the end of the set, when the emcee asked how many people in the audience wanted to see this band move on to the next round, the decision was practically unanimous.

Sometime After Seven will play in the second round of the Washington, DC contest at club Five May 8.

A breakdown of the international battle-of-the-bands called Emergenza. The winner of the battle will receive a record and touring contract. Thousands of bands worldwide participate; only one band will win

REVIEW

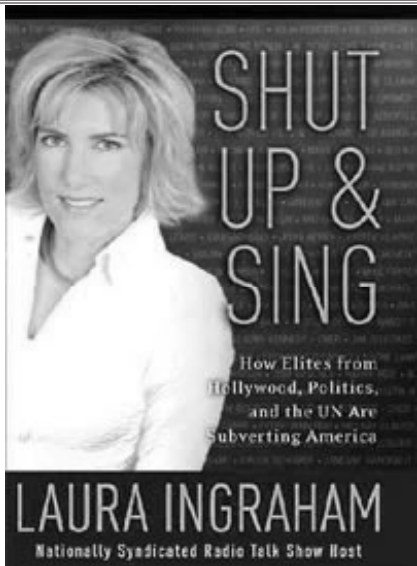
SHUT UP AND SING

Laura Ingraham joins the ranks of radio hosts turned authors

by MIKE BANDOBLU
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton can freely shoot her mouth off to the liberal media, hoping for an ignorant American public to accept everything that she says as (gasp) – the truth? Or do you want the real facts and statistics surrounding film producer Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine*? Nationally syndicated radio talk show host Laura Ingraham has all the answers in *Shut up and Sing – How Elites from Hollywood, Politics, and the UN are Subverting America*.

Ingraham's primary argument is that "power-hungry left-wing elites ... think we're stupid. They think our patriotism is stupid. They think our churchgoing is stupid. They think our flag-flying is stupid." She explains that they are actually the ones who are attacking the fundamental democratic principles of this country. She continues, "Whenever a top entertainer has a political bone to pick, he or she has an instant platform ... unless, of course the celebrity is pro-life and wants to publicize the horrors of partial-birth abortion." Among the list of Hollywood elites who believe that attaining national popularity automatically qualifies their political dialect as law: Susan Sarandon,



Laura Ingraham's "Shut Up & Sing: How Elites From Hollywood, Politics and the UN Are Subverting America" is available on amazon.com for \$19.57

George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Alec Baldwin, Cher, Martin Sheen, Madonna, Richard Gere, Barbra Streisand and Mike Farrell.

By no means does Laura stop there. Modern politics have their share of egotistical elites as well. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) accuses President Bush of putting himself above the law by "unilaterally" invading Iraq. Teddy's minor automobile problems on that infamous bridge back in the summer of 1969 must slip the big guy's mind when he steps foot on the Senate floor. Or how the other Massachusetts senator (John Kerry) is on the presidential campaign, crying over taxation on the middle class when he has virtually made his entire living feeding off the wealth of multiple heiresses. Ingraham reports all the hypocrisies of such people with valid facts, justified reasoning, and above all, an hysterically quick wit.

Furthermore, she explains how "non-partisan" organizations such as the ACLU have suddenly made it shameful to practice religion in the United States, regardless of your faith. Our Hollywood friends Madonna and Michael Moore, both of whom the American public should be ever so gracious to have speaking for it, would have you believe devout, religious citizens are just bigoted, gun-loving zealots, completely incapable of making their own moral decisions, or even worse: holding a position in the federal courts ... Miguel Estrada. In this sense, Laura explains that the Hollywood elites instantly associate organized religion with irrationality, deterrence to learning, and damaging to a "secular" society.

Shut up and Sing is not only an entertaining read, but it also makes a convincing statement as to how political elites are subverting America's fundamental values. More importantly, as a former law clerk for the United States Supreme Court, Laura Ingraham's arguments are

always well supported with a wide variety of facts and resources. Whether it's religion, military, big business, higher education or illegal immigration, your favorite issue will undoubtedly be addressed, both humorously and persuasively in this must-read for any political junkie. If not, you might be stuck counting on Hillary Clinton for honesty.

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NEWS

DC++ SHUT DOWN

RIAA and Project NETHics team up to stop illegal sharing

by MIKE SILVESTRI
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

After the file sharing service Direct Connect had its campus hub shut down earlier this month, administrators of the hub and others like it have understandably tried to keep the issue

"under the radar" for the time being. Any coverage or news of the situation can be viewed as bad, because in order for DC++ to continue with its file sharing service, it must avoid future run-ins with legal and administrative representatives worried about ethical Internet use.

The campus daily, The Diamondback, had "unflattering coverage of the situation," making administrators of the service wary of staying out in the open. Many students reacted negatively to The Diamondback's coverage, which caused a main initial source of information on the issue to be withdrawn. A Web site run by Joe Barrett (<http://wintermute.student.umd.edu>) provided basic information to users as to why service was suddenly stopped

and encouraged them to continue sharing.

Senior Pavel Beresnev was cited as the man who brought the hub to the attention of the Recording Industry Association of America and Project NETHics. Angry students posted numerous flyers containing his address, phone number, email and AIM screen name around campus.

It is essential to illustrate that the idea of a "file sharing service" is not illegal. File sharing can be a great asset to students by providing a channel for homework help and allowing them to avoid missing the latest episode of their favorite TV show.

The RIAA simply is interested in preventing people from illegally stealing

copyrighted material. Downloading copyrighted mp3s is stealing; one would have to buy the CD to legally own mp3s of the songs in the album. Larger problems occur when people use services like DC++ to create and sell music CDs illegally, making a profit for themselves off of other people's work.

Project NETHics is a campus-run program encouraging ethical use of the internet. The University cannot stand for those people who "in order to get work done quickly and conveniently...justify making and using unauthorized copies of software." This can better create an environment where "the pursuit of higher learning can flourish," in accordance with the growing and improving technology in today's modern world. Project NETHics has a Web site at www.inform.umd.edu/NETHics/ that goes more in-depth and detail about its policies and guides to ethical internet use.

Beresnev could not be interviewed for this article, though he said he was considering working an interview into his busy schedule with at least three other newspapers.

On Joe Barrett's wintermute Web site, it was said that Beresnev himself often used the service. However, it was assumed that Beresnev's motivation for getting the service shut down was the RIAA's CDReward program. The CDReward program was created in 1999 and offers up to \$10,000 to any individual providing information concerning sites of illegal CD manufacturing.

If students who use the Direct Connect service can continue to provide support for it, administrators will surely respond by making attempts to keep the service running. They do not want users to be frightened away from using it after the recent publicity. As time passes and administrators are able to let their guard down some, more information on the issue will become available.

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NEWS

OFFICIALS RESPOND TO ETHICS CONCERNS

UMUC president “has done everything above board” Heeger stands to benefit financially from the arrangement.

by ROBERT GARNER
The Terrapin Times News Editor

The president of the University of Maryland, University College has reduced his role with a student loan company to dispel perceptions of a “conflict of interest.”

Gerald Heeger, UMUC’s president since 1999, owns stock in Global Student Loan Corp., an organization that provides the “only comprehensive education loan for international and distance learning students that does not require a U.S. co-signer,” according to its Web site.

Some are concerned that Heeger stands to gain financially from tuition increases because of his GSLC investments, as the company provides loans to some UMUC students.

The (Baltimore) Sun reported on Feb. 19 that an ethics commission first questioned Heeger’s involvement with Global Student Loan in April 2002.

As a result, Heeger resigned an unpaid board position he had with Global Student Loan, David Freeman, the vice president for communications at UMUC, said.

“He also put [his] stock in trust,” University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. Kirwan said in an interview Feb. 25.

Heeger told The Sun he has “no engagement in the day-to-day operations” of the company.

The Sun article said the Board of Regents gave Heeger an exemption from a state conflict of interest law in July 2002 with a provision that “allows research faculty to profit from their findings.”

The law normally “prevent[s] any university employee from having a financial interest in outside companies” anyone associated with the university might do business with, Kirwan said.

“The [Board of Regents] has the authority to grant exceptions [to this law] ... in order to promote economic development,” Kirwan said.

Regents decided when they exempted Heeger that EduFund International Inc., Global Student Loan’s parent company, is “‘engaged in research or development’ and that Heeger’s role with the company is ‘necessary to the success of EduFund’s research or development activity,’” according to The Sun article.

Freeman said: “EduFund was developed to research the needs and the existing financial infrastructures ... so that an overseas student could get a student loan either to come here to study in the states or even a student loan in their own country. That was sort of the vision and mission of EduFund. That was what the research and development activity for them was, as far as I understand it.”

Heeger was a co-founding member of the company, Kirwan said.

According to The Sun, some wonder how essential Heeger’s role is to EduFund, especially since his involvement in the company has been reduced to his ownership share.

Freeman said Heeger is “considered an expert in higher education for adults.”

“He is also considered an expert in international education,” Freeman said.

“That sort of put him in a position to be important because of his knowledge of those two areas,” especially international education, Freeman said.

Kirwan said, “It’s difficult to see from the board’s perspective where there is any conflict of interest.”

Kirwan said the board feels it is “appropriately managing any appearance of conflict of interest. ... The board would not allow there to be an actual conflict of interest.”

“When Heeger was told by the Board of Regents that there was no conflict, he essentially accepted their ruling that there was no conflict,” Freeman said.

When asked what possible action the Board of Regents could take to deal with any conflict of interests, Kirwan said, “Whatever was creating the conflict of interest would be eliminated.”

Heeger was unavailable for comment, but Freeman said the university viewed The Sun article as “somewhat imbalanced and misleading.”

He said the article suggested a number of things that were not the case. “I think it suggested ... that the student loan company does business with the university – it does not.”

Freeman also said the article suggested, “Dr. Heeger is a major shareholder.” Freeman said Heeger owns 6 percent of the stock.

Kirwan said, “Jerry Heeger has a very minor holding in a very small company.”

The Sun said Heeger owns “roughly 50,000 shares.”

Keith Jepsen, who is listed as the president of Global Student Loan on Hoover’s Online, would not go on the record about GSLC’s earnings nor how company earnings related to shareholders’ profits.

Jepsen said that Heeger did not own 6 percent interest in Global Student Loan, but declined to say how many shares Heeger does own, calling the information “proprietary.”

Hoover’s Online (<http://premium.hoovers.com/subscribe/>) is a database with information on 12 million companies and detailed information on 40,000 of “the world’s top business enterprises,” its Web site says.

Hoover’s lists Global Student Loan as an international student loan agency with six to ten employees and a sales range of \$750,001 to \$1 million.

The Sun said GSL lists Heeger as “chairman of the advisory board.” As of publication of this article, Heeger’s name is not mentioned on GSL’s Web site.

The site does list Donna H. Cunninghame as a senior adviser. According to the site, Cunninghame was once the commissioner of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and had previously served as the chief financial officer for the University System of Maryland.

According to the site, Cunninghame was once the commissioner of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and had previously served as the chief financial officer for the University System of Maryland.

UMUC’s Web site says Cunninghame was named the senior vice president for finance and the chief financial officer of UMUC in August 1999. Cunninghame was replaced sometime prior to the publication of the 2001 to 2002 UMUC undergraduate catalogue.

A biography of Heeger on the UMUC Web site said Heeger took the post of president at the school in August 1999.

Freeman agreed people who feel there is a conflict of interest between Heeger’s roles as a GSLC stockholder and as University College’s president believe

Freeman said last year at the Adelphi campus of UMUC: “Out of 36,000 [students] ... 22 students took 32 loans through EduFund. That’s the real ratio we’re talking about. All of them initiated those loans on their own and then brought them to the university.”

Kirwan said, “In any case, the point is, it is an insignificant number in relation to the total number of students at University College.”

When you combine that with the fact that last year UMUC raised its tuition 2 percent ... there isn’t much there,” Freeman said.

Heeger has little involvement in matters of tuition policy, Freeman said.

“The tuition policy is established in the [chief financial officer’s] office here,” Freeman said, “It’s approved by the president, but it’s also approved by the Board of Regents.”

Freeman provided a letter to The Terrapin Times by Clifford A. Kendall, the chairman of the Board of Regents.

In the letter Kendall said, “As chair of the regents’ Tuition Task Force, President Heeger did not review financial aid policies, as implied in The Sun’s editorial. The task force’s purview was limited to USM tuition policies.”

“I quite frankly have some difficulty understanding why [The Sun] is taking such an issue,” Kirwan said. “I just feel that [Heeger] has done everything asked of him and has behaved in a totally ethical manner,” he said.

Kirwan said: “Jerry Heeger disclosed [his GSLC involvement] before coming here. Jerry Heeger has done everything aboveboard. He disclosed it, he asked for guidance from the board. The board said that he should not be on the board of directors of this company, which he is not, and that University College



University of Maryland University College President Gerald Heeger
(Courtesy of www.umuc.edu)

should have no relationship with the company.”

“There’s not any kind of relationship between University College and EduFund,” Kirwan said.

“It’s important to note that the university is not promoting EduFund or Global Student Loan Corporation in any way,” Freeman said.

UMUC is not listed on the EduFund/Global Student Loan Web site. UMUC’s Web site contains no references to EduFund or GSLC.

“I think there was a time when ... there was on a Web site an extensive list of financial aid search engines or financial aid companies that could help students find financial aid. And in a long list of such companies, EduFund appeared,” Kirwan said.

“Because of the concern of the perception of conflict of interest, [Heeger] took any listing of EduFund off of the Web page of University College, so it no longer appears and has not for several years,” Kirwan said.

Kirwan also said when EduFund was on the UMUC Web site it “was not in any way identified with President Heeger or with the university.”

SPORTS COMMENTARY

THE ACC IN MARCH

Could the ACC boast a seven school showing in the tourney?

by STEVE DeCLUE
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference has returned to the glory days, with as many as seven teams headed to the NCAA Tournament in March.

The ACC has never had more than six teams invited to the big dance in one season. This year could certainly change that.

Duke, North Carolina, NC State, Georgia Tech and Wake Forest are all but guaranteed a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Maryland and Florida State believe they can both sneak into the field as well, giving the ACC a record seven teams.

Duke has pretty much locked up a number one seed with their balanced play at all ends of the floor.

North Carolina has struggled at times with their lack of depth and inability to lock down defensively, but has arguably the best starting five in the country.

NC State has emerged as a bit of a surprise, playing very solid basketball. They play great defense and shoot well from the line.

Georgia Tech has shown it can get up and down the court with the best teams in the country, blowing out then

number one ranked Connecticut in the Preseason NIT.

Wake Forest is widely regarded as the deepest team in the conference and has shown its prowess in a win over Cincinnati and a win over North Carolina in triple overtime.

Maryland is considered a bubble team, but wins over so many highly ranked teams will certainly help them. Wins over then number one Florida on their home court, Wisconsin, and North Carolina should propel the Terps into the tournament.

Florida State has dominated on their home floor, beating the likes of North Carolina, Georgia Tech, Wake Forest and Maryland. Their big wins will present the selection committee with a team they can’t simply overlook.

All of these teams are helped by their number one conference rating, and that many of their losses have come at the hands of teams within the conference.

Not only do these teams have a good shot at making the tournament, but several teams hold aspirations of winning it also. The Blue Devils, Tar Heels, Yellow Jackets and Demon Deacons all feel they have the talent to go all the way. NC State may not have the talent of most championship teams, but they seem to play very well together and could make a run as well.

If the bracket sets up right and the ACC receive seven bids from the selection committee, don’t be surprised to see four or five teams from the conference in the Sweet Sixteen and two teams in the Final Four.

EDITORIALS

Editorials other than the "Our Take" column are the opinions of their respective authors and may or may not represent the views of the staff of *The Terrapin Times*

EDITORIAL



Gay Marriage Debate



IS MARRIAGE A CIVIL RIGHT OR SACRED INSTITUTION?

by CHRIS WEED
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Marriage is the union of two people in a "consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law". It is a legal partnership that "confers many rights, protections, and benefits — both legal and practical." Currently in most states, marriage is only available to two people of opposite sexes, because Conservatives, such as President Bush, claim, "Marriage is a sacred institution between a man and a woman." However, there is nothing unique to marriage that requires it to be limited to different-sex partners. Many might point to a same-sex couple's inability to bear children as a stumbling block, but many "traditional" couples are unable to conceive and must also adopt children.

Marriage being a "sacred" union implies a religious context in which it has a spiritual foundation and benefits. Our nation was created with a secular government, which is prohibited from acknowledging, supporting or regulating religious ceremonies. Marriage from the government's perspective is a non-religious event that is available to anyone regardless of his or her spiritual

RALLY, continued from page 3

March for Life day is still special to her. "It's different because you finally get to see everyone that agrees with you," Correa said. "It makes a huge statement and just ties everything together."

The electric atmosphere of the youth rally was "contagious" for Correa. "It reminds you why you're here," she said.

The Rally for Life was followed by a Catholic mass that was open to anyone. The Catholic Church has taken a hard line stance against abortion worldwide. About 40 students from the University of Maryland, mostly those belonging to Catholic Terps, made the trip. While venturing on a bus to the MCI Center, Catholic Terps members, led by the Rev. Bill Byrne and the Rev. Garreth Jones, spent their time on the bus praying the Rosary, a meditative prayer to the mother of Jesus.

The Rev. Robert Panke of the Washington, D.C., Archdiocese, who gave the sermon at the MCI Center, reminded the audience of the biblical passage in which God said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). His message was that God has a special plan for each of us — God values our uniqueness and asks that we all value the lives of each other.

As Catholics and as human beings, Panke stressed we each have a responsibility to speak up for the unborn — they cannot speak for themselves. This idea is reminiscent for me of what Jesus told his disciples, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). Panke also told Catholics and other believers the most important way we can end abortion is through prayer. He also told women in

perspective. Conservatives, ignorant of cultures outside of the Judeo-Christian tradition of Western Civilization, fail to realize that marriage has existed throughout history with no regard to religion. There are plenty of cultures that do not know or follow biblical teachings that have been marrying people for ages.

Having the government acknowledge same-sex marriages does not require churches to do the same.

Civil Right

Churches may choose to convey or revoke any special religious status on these marriages as they see fit. So, why are Christians so threatened by same-sex marriages? It is because, when they read their religious scriptures, it says how God has defined marriage. Defining it any other way is an affront to them, saying that we don't acknowledge God's wisdom or authority.

The further idiocy of this issue is conservatives' plan to encode divine law in our constitution with an amendment that limits marriage to only different-sex couples. Clearly, this is a perversion of the separation of church and state that encodes Judeo-Christian tenets that would be an affront to people of differing faiths and no faith.

the crowd who had already had abortions that "God forgives you."

The religious service set a tone for the day. Pro-life activists are not here to judge those who choose to have abortions or those who are firmly pro-choice. Instead, they must continue to articulate their points, educate others, pray for changes of hearts and carry on the celebration of life to every relationship they have, not only to the unborn.

Sen. Zell Miller (D-Ga.) recently converted from being pro-choice to pro-life. In his recently released book, *A National Party No More*, Miller said many pro-lifers finally convinced him abortion was wrong. He encourages pro-lifers to continue spreading their beliefs. "I think the more discussion, the more troubled [abortion rights advocates] may become, until they finally come to the same conclusion that I came to," Miller said.

I have personally been opposed to abortion since I was educated on the issue, and I have often been troubled by the fact that many people my age seem to be pro-choice. However, witnessing thousands of high school and college students at the MCI Center on Jan. 22 was incredibly inspiring. Even more inspiring was their optimism and commitment to educating others. A recent statistic states that 10 years ago, 67 percent of our nation was pro-choice. Today, that number is down to 54 percent. After sizing up the majority of the people who attended the rally and the march, the numbers may continue to swing in favor of the pro-life movement.

No law can be established outlawing abortion until we have changed the hearts and minds of "the people." It seems the youth are leading the way. Lauren Black, a teen from the

by SARA BLUMBERG
The Terrapin Times Copy Editor

President Bush has received quite a backlash since he announced his support of the FMA, a Federal Marriage amendment that would not only define the institution of marriage, but also make gay marriages illegal nationally. For a man who receives so much criticism for doing his job, I see his stand as just. I see the amendment as something that needs to be passed.

Why do I see

this ban as a good thing? The main reason is many people in the United States are scared and uncomfortable with the idea of two males or two females having the same privileges as hetero-married couples.

Wake up America! Democracy was created on the idea that everyone votes to elect an official. We elect a person to the presidency because we expect the president to look out for the best interests of the country. This is what Bush is attempting to do. If people are uncomfortable with the idea, why legalize it and cause more outrage?

In no way am I preaching that homosexuals should be denied the right to have a relationship — all citizens have the right to privacy. According to the FMA, courts are allowed to continue arranging civil unions. Through this, gay couples still have a way to consummate their love. In addition, the bill helps

protect state's rights by allowing each state the option to grant unions.

On another note, let's talk

about the religious aspect of the United States. While I agree separation of church and state is important and should always be upheld, more than half of U.S. citizens hold strong Judeo-Christian beliefs. A *New York Times* article said 86 percent of Americans are married in a religious ceremony (Peter D. Hart Research Associates poll, summer 2003).

People also forget that

Republicans aren't the only people who propose such sanctions. In an interview with Fox News, democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry said, "Marriage is an institution between men and women for the purpose of having children and procreating." This brings me to my next reason for such an amendment, the American home. Children need to be guided and nurtured until they reach adulthood. A coed married environment is the best place in which this can happen because then children grow learning from a man and a woman. In a same sex home, children loose access to the values of the other sex. Growing up with only one notion of males and females may cause kids trouble functioning in the real world.

Bush needs to be able to do his job and protect the best interests of all Americans, even if some don't agree with it.

St. Louis area, attended the event. She told the Catholic Standard, "Our generation is being killed and we need to do something about that." It looks like the youth are doing something about it. And for this life-long pro-lifer, that is incredibly motivating.

EDITORIAL

DISTRICT'S COMMUTER TAX

Mismanagement:
Washington, DC style

by HARRISON HUNT
The Terrapin Times Editor Emeritus

Washington, D.C. — Taxation Without Representation.

If you recall, this is the slogan displayed on the license plates of some residents of the District. This motto, if Mayor Anthony Williams has his way, will soon become an expensive reality for those residents of Maryland and Virginia who commute into the city each day. Mayor Williams wants to establish an income "commuter" tax on non-D.C. residents who work in the capital. After all, somebody has to pay for Mayor William's bow ties, right?

The proposed tax could net the nation's capital \$1.4 billion dollars a year. I suppose this is to be expected from the city that charges 9 percent tax on a hamburger. For the record, \$1.4 billion equates to over \$2,400 collected per resident of the District. I suppose the head of the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for D.C. could use a new BMW right about now — the 2001 model is clearly outdated.

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a little bit?

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EDITORIAL

ABORTION AND THE DEATH PENALTY

Do the left and the right contradict on the issues?

by MARION "TEE" TALLENT
The Terrapin Times Staff Writer

Arguments over abortion and the death penalty have been centerpieces of American politics. Despite this, not much has changed since they first became issues, except the recent partial birth abortion ban and occasional death penalty moratoriums. Taking the pragmatic arguments aside and only looking at the moral ones, both arguments are very similar: both issues deal with the loss of life.

The moral argument against abortion is that by having an abortion, you are preventing someone from living a full life – that you are essentially committing murder. You are taking a person's life away. It is universally agreed that no person has the right to end another's; it is the reason that murder is the worst of all crimes. The power of a woman to create a unique life has been the most heralded gift and miracle throughout history. It is one of the very many things that make women special.

The central argument in support of abortion is that an unborn child is not a life. Yet consider the facts: A child's heartbeat is detected after 22 days. After six weeks, its own brain waves are distinguished. By week eight, all organs have been created, and by week seventeen, REM sleep is detected. No, an unborn child is very much a life. An abortion stops a heart; committing an abortion is no different than committing a murder. It is a child, not a choice.

The moral argument against the death penalty is almost one and the same. A murder is being committed. Just because you cannot point the finger at

one individual for it does not mean it's ok. A life is ending; there is no doubt about it. As said before, it is universally agreed that no person has the right the end another's life.

The other problem with the death penalty is that it's human. Humans are the judge, jury and executioner. Humans can also be wrong. And if one innocent person dies – just one dies because of the death penalty – then the ultimate of all injustices has been committed.

The argument in support of the death penalty, and it does have truth behind it, is that these are guilty people. Some of them have committed the worst of crimes and they absolutely deserved to be punished; in fact, they deserve to die. But in sentencing someone to die you are taking that person's right to live. Two wrongs don't make a right.

What is even more interesting with these two arguments is the stance of the two national parties. The Republican Party is against abortion but very much in support of the death penalty. In fact, the central issue for the Christian Right (essentially the grass roots of the Republican Party) is that of abortion. At the same time, just about every Christian denomination is also vehemently against the death penalty. Inversely, the Democratic Party is supportive of "choice" but against the death penalty. The Republican stance is understandable to a point – save the innocent while killing the criminals; destroy the evil per se. The Democratic stance – kill the innocent while save the guilty – is a complete mystery to me. It seems there are some inconsistencies in thought that are just too great to comprehend. 🐢



Washington, D.C.'s license plates display its "Taxation Without Representation" slogan. The District, however, wants to tax commuters who have no representation in the city government.

If indeed this tax initiative becomes law, this would be the largest hypocrisy since the Bill Clinton deposition. The District would be taxing thousands of people who have absolutely no representation whatsoever within its borders. The last time I checked, this was the definition of "Taxation Without Representation."

Perhaps D.C. is doing this to be smart-alecky. I don't believe, however, that the government of D.C. is creative enough to come up with such a fine case of Socratic irony.

For those folks who wrote the D.C. commuter tax bill, "Socratic irony" can be defined as feigned ignorance, and feigned belief that one's interlocutor knows the truth about something, in order to provoke discussion and advance the search for truth.

For the record, an "interlocutor" is someone who explains the views of a government and also can relay messages back to a government.

and simple. Done and done.

This slogan, which was put forth by the disgruntled employees of the DC DMV (knowing D.C., these employees probably total 95,000 strong – only about 1,000 of which are living – seriously, this city has a record for that kind of thing happening), may turn on them and make them look as ignorant as, well, James Earl Carter – although, I believe they attained that status a long time ago with the election of the aforementioned Marion Barry. That is, of course, if the bill becomes law.

This is where Maryland and Virginia get the last laugh – almost every judge agrees that a) if Ted Kennedy is having "one of his days," they would not pass Senate confirmation, and b) since the District of Columbia is not a state, it has no legal precedent to tax real states. If you check, this is the same reason why D.C. is "taxed without representation."

One last thing, D.C., as long as you have your dictionary out, check the definition of "haha." 🐢

And, "ignorance" can be described as: James Earl Carter

This is, after all, the same government that, at one point, was run by Marion Barry – although, to Mr. Barry's credit, he probably didn't know he was mayor half the time.

What Washington is trying to do is suck every last penny out of the pockets of hard-working people to feed a hungry, self-serving bureaucratic monster. Plain

GUEST OPINION: PEACE and JUSTICE OR REVOLUTION and ANARCHY

A Peace Forum co-founder weighs in

by MARK GUBRUID
Graduate Student - Physics
Co-Founder of UMCP Peace Forum

EDITORIAL

I was asked to comment on the relationship of Peace Forum to "radical political ideologies." I can't speak for Peace Forum, which has few specific positions, but I'll speak for myself about what I see happening in the peace and justice movement.

To take the most obvious issue, the movement is united in calling for an end to the United States's occupation of Iraq, but people disagree about how it should be ended.

If Condoleeza Rice were to phone me tomorrow and ask how I thought the United States should get out of Iraq, I'd have to say it's a hard problem. We don't want to leave behind a repressive theocracy, a new dictator, a bloodbath, or all of the above.

I join the protest lines because it doesn't seem like getting out of Iraq is even on the agenda. Instead, it seems that doling out huge contracts to Bush and Cheney's corporate cronies, privatizing the Iraqi economy and oil, building military bases for a permanent occupation, and trying to install a puppet regime have been the priorities.

As a result, no progress has been made toward jump-starting a genuine Iraqi democracy. The various factions have begun to assert incompatible demands, and to prepare for civil war. As more Americans die, the US may eventually do what some activists would tell Rice without hesitation: just haul out.

But Condi isn't calling; nobody asked for our advice. So there is always a question of what we think we are doing. This is where serious differences arise.

Some of us like to think we're still living in a democracy, where the people are supposed to be sovereign - and not just at election time. From this point of view, the American system doesn't make sense unless our elected "representatives" are willing to listen to us. With jet travel and instant communications, there is no reason why citizen participation in decision making should be impossible within a republican form of government.

Even 200 years ago, presidents had to pay attention when the people protested en masse. But today, George W. Bush ignores all manifestations of public sentiment - including the largest

antiwar demonstrations in world history - and relies on the corporate-controlled media to hush up about crimes that he commits in full public view.

The people will have their say on election day - provided the voting computers haven't been hacked. But that's not enough. Many of us feel it is important to participate in the democratic process between elections, even if only to register our protests against Bush's outrages. If the government won't listen, the people will, and if the media won't carry our message, we'll bypass them.

It's important to go on record. We said the Bush gang was lying about Iraqi WMD and connections with al Qaeda. We said invading Iraq was going to create more terrorists and anti-US sentiment. We said occupying Iraq was going to be bloody and costly, and that Iraqis would resist.

Now our troops are dying at a steady rate, losing limbs or taking their own lives; and our treasury is bleeding while Halliburton and a thousand littler piggies feed at the trough.

Remember all this when America asks you The Question in November.

That's my view of what the movement is doing. But there are some who feel that calling for reforms and for different policies is not going far enough, and that participatory democracy is a sucker's game. For them, street protest and movement organizing is a prelude to upheaval, which will usher in some solution to all of our problems.

There are two main "radical" tendencies: Marxist and anarchist. But any attempt to classify all viewpoints is doomed; on some issues, it is not even clear which views are "conservative" or "liberal." People have many different ideas about what is wrong and how to fix it. Each group is off in its own direction, and claims by some to represent "the vanguard" or the further-left are just rhetoric.

Some groups are aggressive. If a group tries to dominate by deception, manipulation, unfair control or violence, I will oppose them. But this would apply to most political parties and governments. Politics is often a dirty business (then again, so is business).

Those who see by ideology are blinded by it. Those who focus on specific problems tend to be more pragmatic. There is no one solution to everything. Because people are imperfect, the struggle against darkness, toward the light, can never be finished.

I happen to think any talk of "revolution" or "anarchy" is worse than foolish. And yet Marxists and anarchists, along with pacifists, feminists, Baptists and other kinds of ists, have all made important contributions to betterment.

Everyone has a right to participate in democracy, even those who want to change the system fundamentally. I have faith in democracy - its strength and resilience, its ability to self-correct, to absorb new ideas, to create new institutions and adapt.

For anyone to be worried about "subversion" in the 21st century is silly - just as silly as any notion of overthrowing, instead of reclaiming, our system of government. 🐢

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SATIRE AND OTHER HUMOR

DINING SERVICES LAMBASTED FOR RACISM

Segregation cookie causes stir in black community

by NATHAN BURCHFIEL
The Terrapin Times Layout Editor

Campus minority groups are firing on the Department of Dining Services for its apparent support of racist policies through its products.

Dining Services, says groups like the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), is promoting old-fashioned, bigoted policies of segregation, effectively perpetuating racism across campus.

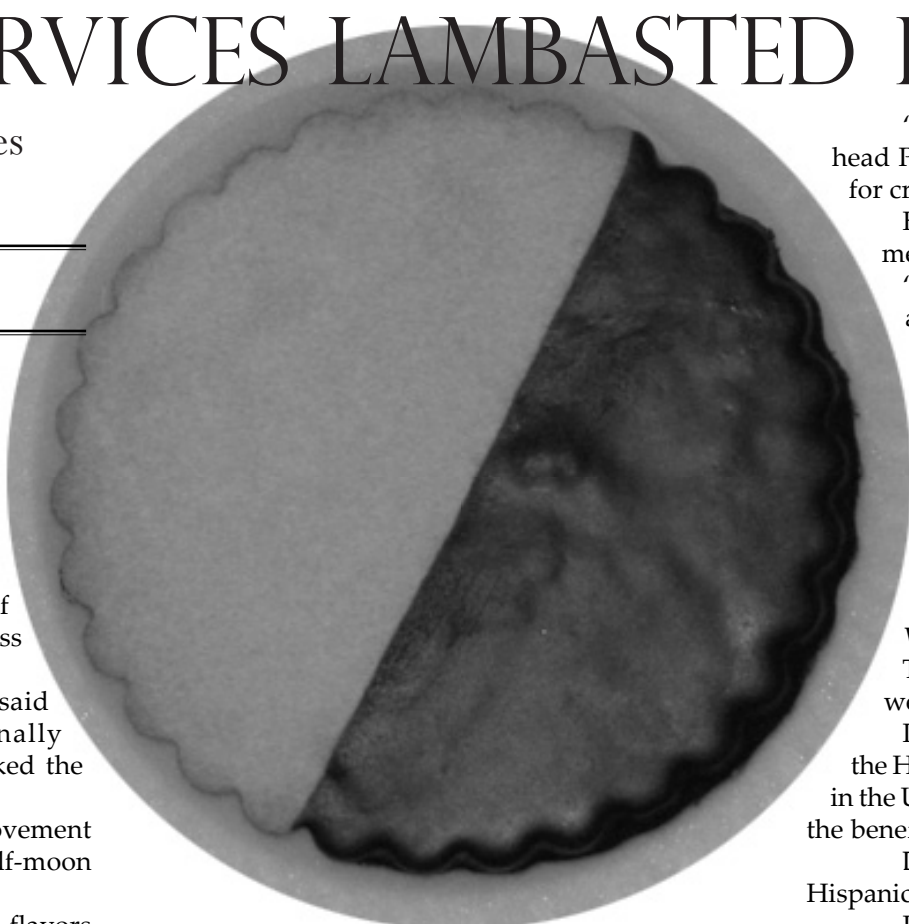
"The so called 'half-moon cookie'," said spokesperson Kathleen Danlin, "subliminally supports the segregationist policies that sparked the civil rights movement."

Danlin and other supporters of the movement to censure Dining Services have dubbed the half-moon cookie the "segregation cookie."

The half-moon cookie incorporates the flavors of a plain cookie with the flavors of a chocolate-covered cookie, divided directly down the middle. And the division is what is troubling the minority groups.

"We find it completely unnecessary to divide the white and black sides of the cookie," Danlin said. "The only purpose it serves is to propagate the division of whites and blacks on campus."

"Plus," added one student, "they made the white side taste better than the black side. That's even more blatant racism right there."



The "segregation cookie" has created severe tensions between Dining Services and the black community. There are no plans to marbleize the cookie.

The Black Student Union has proposed several possible changes to the menu to remedy the situation, including marbleizing the cookie to integrate the colors.

Dining Services adamantly denies the allegations.

"It's absolutely absurd," claims department head Patricia Higgerns, who said, "it's just a cookie, for crying out loud!"

Higgerns says there are no plans to change the menu at either dining hall.

"The cookies will remain the same," she said in an official statement. "We will not marbleize the cookie; we will not sell the cookies as two separate pieces; we will not change our menu because a few people are idiots."

The Black Student Union isn't pleased about the decision.

"The refusal of Patricia Higgerns to take this serious matter seriously is an insult to the entire black community...of the entire world," BSU spokesperson Gerald Witherspun said.

The Hispanic Heritage Coalition is also weighing in on the segregation cookie.

President Tommy Maren asked, "what about the Hispanic population? We're the biggest minority in the United States; I don't see a cookie that addresses the benefits of the Hispanic community."

Dining Services has said it has no plans for an Hispanic cookie.

It has also outwardly rejected the request of the Feminist Majority to start selling a cookie shaped like a vagina. Their request was made after feminist complaints that the éclair is nothing more than a symbol of male dominance in a penis-shaped pastry. Complete with cream.

Submit your humor, satire or cartoons to
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Still Crappin'

Josh Eiserike

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That Chica

Steve Wass

