

The U-M's New Admissions Policy: Race Counts More than SAT, Service, Essay Combined

BY BENJAMIN ROUSCH

EVERY YEAR THE OFFICE OF Undergraduate Admissions (OUA) receives about 19,000 applications from students hoping to attend the University of Michigan, and only admits about 5000 of those students. The lawsuit filed by the Center for Individual Rights (CIR) on behalf of Patrick Hammacher and Jennifer Gratz questions the methods which were used by the U-M in 1995 and 1997 to choose which students were admitted. This year, the U-M abolished the old "grid system," and the students applying to the U-M for fall 1998 are being evaluated based on a new "point system." The U-M claims that the new admissions policy

"is a streamlined version of the 1997 system" implemented because the "use of different grids had become cumbersome." And indeed, the new point-based admissions policy is easier to understand and interpret than the grids used in the past.

A quick look at the policy (see graph) reveals that it is split into two general parts: Academic Achievement and Other Factors. In the academic portion, points are given to a student based on GPA in certain high school courses, the quality of the school attended, the strength of the high school curriculum taken, and the ACT or SAT scores. In the other part of the policy, points are given for a student's geographic location, alumni affiliation, one-page essay, personal

achievement, leadership and service, and "miscellaneous." Whether or not an applicant is admitted is based on how many points he scores in the above categories. The maximum number of points is 150, but applicants only need 100 to be automatically admitted. A score between 90 and 99 will allow applicants a place on the infamous waitlist, and a total of less than 90 points most likely gets applicants a rejection letter.

The category with the most potential for acquiring points is GPA. With a 4.0 GPA, an applicant gets a full 80 points, practically assuring that the applicant will acquire enough points to be admitted. Even a modest 3.0 GPA gets an applicant 60 points, more than half of the total he needs to be admitted. An applicant can also get a small fraction of the points by attending a tough school, but only two Michigan schools will get you eight

points here - most aspiring Wolverines will get between two and six points. And applicants may think that suffering through a rigorous curriculum filled with nightmarish honors and AP courses will net them a bunch of points. Not really; the most points an applicant can get from his curriculum is eight, with the average U-M applicant getting between two to six. You can even get negative points if you didn't take any honors courses.

"But wait!" some applicants may be thinking. What about the ACT and SAT - surely we can get tons of points for these stressful standardized tests? Well, a perfect ACT or SAT score will get you 12 points, but most people will get about 10 or 11. Ten points isn't a whole lot, but it can go a good way towards achieving 100. This is the end of the academic portion of the

See **ADMISSIONS**, Page 5

Ward Connerly Stares Down U-M



Students turned out in droves to see Ward Connerly: the man behind Proposition 209.

INSIDE!

- Benjamin Kepple rants for the *Second-To-The-Last-Time™* in his latest installment of *Lost in the Eighties™*

- Cartman's father revealed! OK, we're kidding. April Fools.

- C. J. Carnacchio slams MSA with a pair of verbal jimmy sticks in his latest installment of "Send Lawyers, Guns, and Money."

- Ward Connerly stares down the U-M and its hordes of irate student radicals!

- Even more of your letters!

MSA Pres-Elect Thompson Denounces Allegations

BY BENJAMIN KEPPLER

MICHIGAN STUDENT Assembly (MSA) President-elect Trent Thompson has gone on the offensive, vigorously defending himself against charges that he improperly solicited votes at a fraternity party held at the beginning of the recent MSA election.

Asked whether he did any campaigning within 50 feet of a computer having the MSA on-line voting site up and running, Thompson forcefully responded, "No, I did not. That's what I told (*The Michigan Daily*) again and again."

Thompson also denied allegations made by an anonymous source in a Tuesday, March 24 article of *The Michigan Daily* that he improperly solicited votes, saying, "I never said, 'Can you vote for me?'" Thompson maintains that all he ever asked partygoers at the closed fraternity party was simply whether they had voted yet.

"The only people that voted were my friends," said Thompson, who also denounced a report in *The Michigan Daily*, again made by an anonymous source, that he was hawking votes like a "businessman."

"I was not in there all the time. I was not acting like a businessman. I was having fun ... it was just a way for my friends to vote if they wanted to at (midnight)," Thompson said. He estimated that the total number of people who voted at the laptop amounted to, at most, fifteen persons.

Thompson also questioned the decision of *The Michigan Daily* to run the story. The front-page article's only sources were only two anonymous individuals that were present at the party, and the coverage has garnered a great deal of criticism from those in and near the Assembly. Some Assembly members have even called for the

See **ALLEGATIONS**, Page 8

SERPENT'S TOOTH

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We'd like to congratulate MSA President-suspect, er, elect Trent "Hop on Chopp" Thompson for his record-breaking time of 3.8 days in achieving negative press for the Assembly! This handily beat the previous 5.1 day record set in 1996 by then President-elect Flint Wainess! Congratulations! Your plaque will be in the mail!

Recently the *Daily* in a stroke of editorial incompetence that surprised even us, ran an editorial demanding that minority authors be included with the ranks of dead white men in curriculum. Unfortunately, the *Daily* apparently hasn't even read those, considering that they said that **JOHN STEINBECK'S "The Grapes of Wrath"** was written by one "Ernest Hemmingway." In addition, the *Daily* also thought people had read "Stickwick Stapers" by Charles Dickens, and "Rarnaby Budge" by Darles Chickens, and "Great Expectations" with four M's and a silent Q!!

Thank you, thank you, Monty Python.

In other MSA news, students recently passed a fee increase that will tack on \$4 for the next three semesters to pay for an attempt to get Ye Olde Student Regent, apparently because every other Big Ten school has one, and so should we. We're looking forward to having the next U-M student regent/MSA politico hack talk about the importance of whiteskin privilege and helping wretched laborers in Indonesia and Nicaragua when they face the Regents for the first time with voting power!

The next National Day of Inaction has been set for: April Fool's Day! April Fool's Day! Are they always this stupid, or do they purposely play into our hands every single time they do something?

Today's new Latin slogan: Veni, Vidi, Vichy: "I came, I saw, I surrendered to the Germans."

Recently, MSA Pres candidate Ferris Hussein said that victorious Students Party candidates Trent "Hop On Chopp" Thompson and Sarah "Storms Are Brewing In Your Eyes" Chopp owe them a gift basket for diverting votes away from Ryan Friedrichs and Al Garcia. What can we say? We owe Sarah and Trent a gift basket for making Serpents fodder so very easy for this upcoming year.

Paul Serilla, in a recent installment of his vomitous column, said that Americans flat out do not get art. Actually, Paul, the true fact of the matter is that Americans do not get you.

Undoubtedly, Trent Thompson is going to feel a little stabbed in the back this issue because he was told by the Editor of this fine publication that we generally gave the candidates three weeks of breathing room, that we wouldn't rag on them before they took office. April Fools ...

We'd like to thank University Housing for being **SO** very much **ON TIME** this year with the re-application materials and handling the matter **SO** professionally! Thank you, University Housing, for being our friendly landlady with the slippers, curlers, and pink bathrobes who won't let us play loud music after 8, smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol in the privacy of our own rooms! What's next? Security cameras in the hallways? How about a police sentry on each hallway so we don't hurt ourselves?

In other campus journalism news, the *Daily* has announced that they will no longer rely on sources willing to go on the record, but instead run with anonymous sources and base stories completely on hearsay. According to *Daily* Editor Laurie Mayk, "we can't compete with other news sources the old-fashioned way, so we're going to try it like Matt Drudge and see what happens. Instant turnaround, baby!"

Furthermore, why does the *Daily* editorial staff insist on putting the fact that alcohol was served at a party in every single bloody news story they do? In their latest gaffe, they proclaim about how alcohol was served at a party — they don't even say "allegedly," surprising for them — but the story had nothing to do with alcohol. It was about the recent MSA campaign allegations. What, does the *Daily* also feel it necessary to insinuate that gullible sorority girls would also get yummy rum punch in return for voting for Trent Thompson? Good God.

As it turns out, El Nino, the weather phenom wreaking havoc across the world, is in fact a student at the University of Michigan. He was tracked by meteorologists to a recent BAMN rally, where an unusual

amount of hot air was present. According to BAMN spokespeople, El Nino was granted admission to Michigan over the traditionally "white" weather phenomena, such as blizzards and tornadoes, who are now suing the University, demanding that they are more qualified than El Nino to cause chaos and devastation throughout the State of Michigan. Stay tuned for more updates, tonight at 11 ...

We were really surprised to see that President Clinton was mobbed by hundreds and thousands of people in Accra, Ghana, on the first stop of his African tour. The man causes trouble everywhere he goes, doesn't he? In an unrelated incident, President Lee "Mophead" Bollinger had a total of 13 students appear at his latest Fireside Chat and felt "stifled and nauseated" at having to be with so many students at one time in such close quarters.

Reprinted from *National Review's* The Week page: Bill Clinton's Actual Sworn Response as to what he told Monica Lewinsky about testifying in the Paula Jones case: "And I said that you—all might call every woman I ever talked to and ask them that, and so I said you would qualify, or something like that. I don't, I don't think we ever had more of a conversation than that about it, but I might have mentioned something to her about it, because when I saw how long the witness list was, or I heard about it, before I saw, but actually by the time I saw it her name was in it, but I think that was after all this had happened. I might have said something like that, so I don't want to say for sure I didn't, because I might have said something like that ..."

A Classic Reprint from *Serpent's Tooth*, February, 1990:

"Betsy Esch and Amy Harmon sure know how to go out in style. In their final days as *Daily* opinion page editors, the pair capped off their reign with an article containing so many inaccuracies that it elicited a response from President Duderstadt, Regent Power, and Dr. Amnon Rosenthal, Chair of the Board of Student Publications. The dynamic duo also printed a fake letter from Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, knowing that his signature had been forged. Way to go, ladies. We hope you get real jobs now."

Well, the *Daily* certainly has improved since then. We think.

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan

"No, kitty! That's my pot pie!"

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Dooby, dooby doo ... unlike a certain Other Publication here at the University of Michigan, the *Review* always takes pains to get somebody on the record before we go wild and start bashing heads in as evidenced by our mature and professional treatment of the infamous Dick Jerk fiasco last year. In other news, we really don't think — OK, Ben doesn't really think — that the allegations are all that serious given that not only are they based on hearsay by some sorority lush who probably had too much rum punch that night, but also that it didn't involve Trent voting six times for himself or having dead students vote. But that's just his opinion. The rest of the staff doesn't seem to like MSA much anyway.

Please address all advertising and subscription inquiries to: Publisher c/o the *Michigan Review*.

Editorial And Business Offices:
911 N. University Avenue, Suite One
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1265
EMAIL: MREV@umich.edu
URL: <http://www.umich.edu/~mrev/>
Tel. (313) 647-8438 Fax (313) 936-2505

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The People's Review
Letters to the Editor
911 N. University Ave.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers Praise Golding, Criticize Carnacchio, Revile Kepple

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Due to the volume of mail received regarding Benjamin Kepple's Jan. 22 "Worst of Winter" column, we regret that after this (April 1st) issue we shall not print any more letters about the subject. We will, however, do our best to put them up on our WWW site. Yes, we know what you're thinking: "Boy, I wish they did that over at the *Daily* with all those affirmative action letters." Ha, ha! But in all seriousness, we feel that the Letters page is best served by printing timely letters. We really appreciate your letters and we will do our best to either print them or put them up on the WWW page, or both. So keep those letters and flaming arrows coming. — Eds.

I WISH I HAD TIME TO PICK out every ill-conceived notion that ol' Ben has written down here, but he must have his head up his ass most of the time. Especially since a good deal of Ralph Williams' lectures are on the various forms of oppression in societies past and present.

MICHAEL JOHN GALLOWAY
LSA

We're definitely not doing a picture regarding this one. — Ed.

Eds. Should Tone Down Rhetoric

I AM A RECENT CONVERT TO *The Michigan Review's* cause. After reading the *Daily* for six months, I happened to come across a copy of your newspaper, and I was pleasantly surprised. I was not aware that such a movement could or does thrive in a campus environment. You seem to hit every issue head-on, as shown by the recent editorial by C.J. Carnacchio entitled, "President Lacks Character." It was nice to finally see my image of the President, i.e., an embarrassment that reflects on all of us, written down on paper.

However, I would like to make a suggestion to the editors regarding the editorial angle. Essentially, while the vicious, sarcastic, take-no-prisoners approach may turn heads, it does nothing to help garner the re-

spect that the conservative movement needs and deserves. To attract readers, you may need to be outrageous, but to keep readers, you need to be reasonable, presenting real problems and attainable solutions. Also, personal attacks don't hold up in logical arguments. If you disagree with a specific individual's politics, use the intelligence that your collective staff clearly possesses to make valid arguments. Words like "stupid" and "stultifying" directed at other's viewpoints may make you look clever and witty, but uninformed. Seems like a cop-out to me. Just a few thoughts — do with them what you will.

AVI DERROW
FRESHMAN, LSA

Carnacchio Needlessly Demonizes Opposition

C. J. CARNACCHIO'S "THE Politics of Fear and Ignorance" is an interesting case of someone making some good points (against an admittedly easy target, to be sure), and then, in a needless attempt to demonize the opposition, so overstating things as to nearly succeed in making the 'bad folks' look pretty good.

One mistake Mr. Carnacchio makes is to list together "[s]treet demonstrations, burning newspapers, chanting slogans, threatening violence" as "methods militant campus groups employ" and examples of "the politics of the ignorant and vulgar." My knowledge of American history suggests that demonstrations of various kinds, in and out of the street and with or without chanting slogans, are part of our democratic traditions. These tactics have been well and nobly used by unions, civil rights groups, people opposed to wars, and a host of other causes on both the left and right. To conflate them with threats of violence or burning newspapers, both of which are highly undemocratic, is a foolish rhetorical turn that ill-serves Mr. Carnacchio if his point is that groups like BAMN are in no small sense purveyors of fascism, an opinion with which I would agree. But other groups who would and do use time-honored and fully legal tactics of protest should not have to wonder if they are being spoken about by the no doubt genteel Mr. Carnacchio; he appears to prefer that his protesters

stay politely in the background, leaving the political process to the professional politicians. His claim that the "fate of affirmative action, as with all public matters, must be decided by the courts and legislatures, not by angry mobs" sets up a false dichotomy that ignores the necessary input of opinion from the people that representative democracy is supposed to serve.

If some people are vulgar or rude about how they make their opinions known, that is a matter for Miss Manners to 'tch, tch' about; it is not a basis to deplore legal protest. When newspapers are burned or speakers blocked from expressing ideas, no matter how unpopular, than I join Mr. Carnacchio in decrying such anti-democratic actions.

Political correctness is an easy target because it tends to be rigid and humorless, as well as puritanical, excessively judgmental, and unforgiving. Mr. Carnacchio runs the risk of doing something similarly doubtful by suggesting that Edmund Burke's statement about irritatingly noisy crickets and cud-chewing, silent cattle should warn us to be like the latter beasts. Personally, given those two choices in the world of politics, I stand with the former. But, of course, the real world rarely comes down to only two possibilities. Perhaps those of us who believe that democracy thrives on the active and vocal participation of its citizenry can find some other political beast to emulate.

MICHAEL PAUL GOLDENBERG
EDUCATION

Golding's Reporting Great

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE Andrew Golding on his fine coverage of U-M basketball this season. Golding constantly interests me in the nuances of the game, and amuses me with his on the side "Basketball Notes." His reports of the often overlooked aspects of the game offer a unique look inside the world of basketball.

"Rave reviews" to *The Michigan Review* for their extensive basketball coverage. I have enjoyed Golding's columns, and look forward to his take on UM's NCAA Tournament run. Keep up the good work!

LAURA LAYFER
LSA SOPHOMORE

U-M Gives In to Thugs at Connerly Speech

THE EVENTS SURROUNDING Ward Connerly's speech Wednesday night at the Michigan League have caused me to take a very pessimistic view of the social and political environment at the University of Michigan. I'm not sure which is more disgusting: the behavior of some of the affirmative action supporters, or the blatant abrogation of responsibility by those in charge of public safety at the Michigan League's ballroom.

Certain supporters of affirmative action may have claimed to have come for a debate, but when it came to hearing Mr. Connerly's position, it was obvious that they were not interested in engaging Mr. Connerly's mind. Instead, the typical interchange consisted of a question, an attempted response by Mr. Connerly, followed by an interruption by the questioner or the audience as soon as it became apparent that Mr. Connerly's answer wasn't agreeable to them. That these interruptions typically consisted of a mere rephrasing of the original question demonstrated the arrogant intolerance of such affirmative action supporters: to them it was inconceivable that Mr. Connerly could be so absurd and insolent as to disagree with them.

The abrogation of responsibility by the security officers and administrators consisted of their allowing a mob of affirmative action supporters to block the ballroom's only exit during the speech and in their eventual capitulation to the mob's chants "No one in! No one out!" i.e., unless the protesters were let into the ballroom (which was already filled beyond capacity), the protesters were not going to let anyone out of the ballroom. As the mob pushed against the door so as to pin me between it and the door frame, one of the two campus security officers guarding the door looked at me and asked "What do you expect us to do?" I suggested that he call for

See LETTERS on Page 10

□ FROM SUITE ONE

National Day of "Inaction": Part Two

NOT SATISFIED WITH confusing (or amusing) the campus community the first time around, irate students are planning a second National Day of Action on April Fools Day. And just like the first National Day of Action, students are requested to skip class and join in undoubtedly enjoyable activities such as rallying and marching to defend affirmative action. But it seems rather pointless, and to be an empty gesture on the part of the pro-affirmative action forces, for even well-meaning students to protect what they see as their right to go to class by ... not going to class. Indeed, one would think that if these students truly appreciated the privilege granted to them, they would go to class as normal and participate in rallies and what not after class ended for the day.

Sadly, this will most likely not occur, and the vast majority of the student body will attempt to go to class, listen to their professors, and learn as normal, only to have their day interrupted by the shouts and rhythmic chants of protestors who, unwilling to accept the need for rational discussion over the issues, will proceed to disrupt the lectures and discussions of people who truly want to learn. How ironic that the people who are so adamant about defending their right to learn at one of the world's most prestigious Universities would deny that right to others by chanting and shouting to disrupt those opportunities.

That the leaders of the movement to defend affirmative action would impede the learning of other students boggles the mind, especially when one considers that, at least in theory, the whole purpose of the affirmative action movement is to allow students who might not have all the opportunities in the world that others do a chance to learn. But then again, campus has become used to the pointless and childish activities of the self-appointed campus leadership of the pro-affirmative action forces. These are the same forces that proclaim in one of their flyers advertising this event that "on March 18th, we exposed the disingenuous, self-contradictory and shallow arguments of Ward Connerly and the other opponents of affirmative action and made a declaration that we are prepared to stand up and fight." Considering that these same people never gave Connerly a chance to respond to one of their hysterical, feeble-minded outbursts during his talk, who then is being disingenuous, self-contradictory,

and shallow? Who then is being disingenuous, self-contradictory, and shallow by advocating a strike from class so that they can feel self-important by attracting as many students as possible to one of their petty rallies? It simply doesn't make sense. The battle over affirmative action is going to be decided, like it or not, by either the ballot or by the court. It will not be decided by a bunch of semi-independent children who decide to parade around on the Diag for a few hours on select dates, as if they were attending a convention. It will be influenced by the arguments put forth by the opposing counsels, not influenced by the feeble-minded rants of student protestors who are viewed as just that by the entirety of the outside

world — student protestors, not a powerful group nor one to take seriously. If these students and the core of this affirmative action movement would follow in full the action of the 41 Law students who are putting themselves at risk (of at least some tangible loss) by asking to be placed alongside the University as defendants in lawsuits facing the University, then perhaps they might be viewed with a modicum of respect by their supporters and detractors alike. However, their infantile and churlish behavior, which usually consists of shouting down the opposition when it doesn't agree with them, will gain the admiration of no one.

We would ask that students refrain from embarrassing themselves

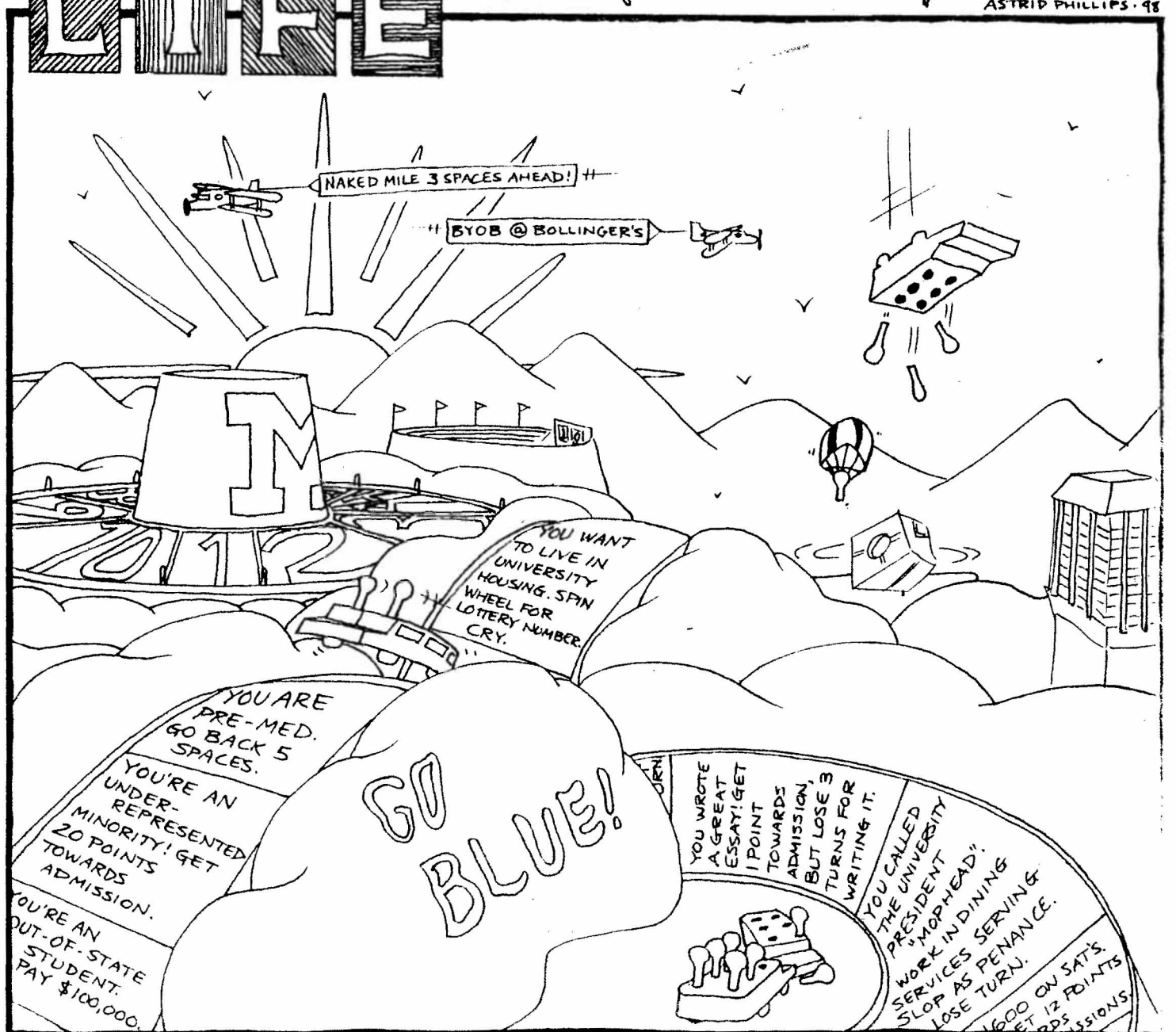
and also refrain from supporting the hard-core, self-appointed despots of the pro-affirmative action movement, and hence not attend the rallies, marches, mass meetings, or teach-ins that are sure to coincide with the National Day of (In)Action. Instead, regardless of one's position on the issue, we would ask that all students calmly work towards fostering rational discussion of the affirmative action issue. When we begin to talk about the matter in a rational and calm manner, as has not yet been able to occur on campus thanks to the self-righteous proselytizing of the pro-affirmative action lunatic fringe, then it is entirely foreseeable that we will begin to clear away much of the racial tension that exists on campus. **MR**

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FOR AGES 17-117

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Admissions

Continued from Page 1

point system, let's take a look at the "Other Factors."

Most people have heard that it is easier for a student who lives in Michigan to be admitted than one who lives out of state. In fact, an applicant gets 10 points just for living in Michigan, and an additional 6 points if he lives in an "Underrepresented Michigan County." Living in Michigan counts about as much as an applicant's ACT or SAT scores, and more so if an applicant comes from an Underrepresented Michigan County. If an applicant lives in an "Underrepresented State" he gets two points, not much compensation for being one of the few Alaskans or Hawaiians on campus.

The controversial Alumni category is not nearly as significant as Geography. If one of an applicant's parents went to the U-M he gets four points, or if one of his other relatives was a Wolverine, he gets one point. These small point totals are not much of a help towards the 100, which is why most people don't complain about Alumni admissions as much as certain other criteria.

But remember that essay you slaved over, making sure the phrases were politically correct and that there were no misspelled words? Applicants this year will find their essay was diminished in value from previous years. If the admissions counselor thought it was outstanding an applicant gets one point; otherwise he gets nothing. Additionally, an applicant can get points for "Personal Achievement" at the State (1), Regional (3), or National (5) levels for their performance in academic competitions, art, athletics, music, professional theater, or science. An identical ranking system exists for "Leadership and Service."

Now we'll examine the "Miscellaneous" category - and applicants can only get points for *one* of the following situations. 1) If you're a male and plan on going into Nursing you get five points. 2) A scholarship athlete gets 20 points - that's 1/5 of the total needed to be admitted - for his/her dedication to a sport. 3) The provost can give you 20 points at his/her discretion, but this is only used in exceptional circumstances such as someone who "runs (his/her) own business, (has) written and published a book, (or) has a patented invention, etc." You can also get 20 points for being socioeconomically disadvantaged.

4) You get 20 points for being an underrepresented minority. If you are a minority living with socioeco-

omic hardships you do not get 40 points; you only get 20. So the minorities who really get these 20 points are the privileged minorities, and they get a significant fraction of the 100 points *solely because of their skin color*. Having a different skin color is considered by the University as being on par with a scholarship athlete - who has to at least work for his/her points - or a high school student who designs the next Intel chip!

A white or Asian (a non-underrepresented minority) and a minority student who attend the same privileged Michigan high school, have taken the same courses, and are essentially *exactly the same student*, except for the *color of their skin* will hence be scored differently using the point system (see graph). The non-minority student is outright rejected because he did not get good enough grades or test scores to get in to the U-M. The minority student who had exactly the same credentials - save the color of his skin - gets outright acceptance to the University. The second example (see graph) is of two students - one minority, one not - who attend the same non-Michigan school. The non-minority has better grades, took harder courses, got better ACT and SAT scores, and had a higher GPA. He is put at the bottom of the waitlist and left with the stress caused by uncertainty, while the *less-qualified* minority is outright admitted.

Why should minorities get bonus points? The common answer is, "to make up for past wrongs committed against them, and to combat discrimination rampant in modern society." Most of the minorities who receive these bonus points do not have to endure hardships as a result of "past wrongdoings." The minorities who receive the 20 points are not living in slums and do not attend inner-city schools - if they did, they would get the socioeconomic hardship bonus points. They live in the privileged suburbs and do not feel the plight of the truly "repressed minority."

If the lawsuits against the U-M are won by the plaintiffs, the University will be forced to remove race from the admissions process. Although OUA says it would find some other way to ensure diversity, it will be forced to be not as obviously race-based as the past and current admissions policies. Whether they will need to do that we shall see, but the University is certainly not backing down from its use of race in admissions just yet. **MR**

Write us: mrev@umich.edu

Office of Undergraduate Admissions Point Sources

Academic Factors			Other Factors	
GPA			Geography	
GPA	Points		Residency	Points
2.5	50		Michigan	10
2.6	52		Underrepresented MI County	6
2.7	54		Underrepresented State	2
2.8	56		Alumni Status	
2.9	58		<i>(Assign only 1 option)</i>	
3.0	60		Status	Points
3.1	62		Legacy <i>(parents stepparents)</i>	4
3.2	64		Other <i>(grandparents, siblings, spouses)</i>	1
3.3	66		Required Essay	
3.4	68		Essay Quality	Points
3.5	70		Outstanding Essay	1
3.6	72		Not Outstanding Essay	0
3.7	74		Personal Achievement	
3.8	76		<i>(Assign only 1 option)</i>	
3.9	78		Level of Achievement	Points
4.0	80		State	1
School Factor			Regional	3
Quality	Points		National	5
0	0		Leadership and Service	
1	2		<i>(Assign only 1 option)</i>	
2	4		Level of Achievement	Points
3	6		State	1
4	8		Regional	3
5	10		National	5
Curriculum Factor			Miscellaneous	
Difficulty	Points		<i>(Assign only 1 option)</i>	
-2	-4		Criteria Met	Points
-1	-2		Socio-economic Disadvantage	20
0	0		Underrepresented	20
1	2		Racial/Ethnic Minority	
2	4		Identification or Education	5
3	6		Men in Nursing	5
4	8		Scholarship Athlete	20
Test Score			Provost's Discretion	20
<i>(Assign only larger point value)</i>				
ACT	SAT I	Points		
1-19	400-920	0		
20-21	930-1000	6		
22-26	1010-1190	10		
27-30	1200-1350	11		
31-36	1360-1600	12		

Privileged Non-minority vs. Privileged Minority at Same High School and with Same Curriculum

Category (Score)	Non-Minority	Minority
MI Resident (Yes)	10	10
Outstanding Essay (Yes)	1	1
Above-Average School (3)	6	6
Curriculum Quality (0, no honors courses)	0	0
ACT (21) or SAT I (1000)	6	6
GPA (2.9)	58	58
UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY	0	20
Total Score	81 = rejected	101 = accepted

□ SEND LAWYERS, GUNS, & MONEY...

Down with MSA

by C.J. CARNACCHIO

WELL, YET ANOTHER Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) election has come and gone. It does not matter who won and who lost for these elections are always contests between Tweedle Dumb and Tweedle Dumber. The only consistent loser in these electoral fiascoes is the student body.

With the recent election barely even a week old, our new president and even the MSA itself have found themselves embroiled in scandals and controversy. Frat boy President-Elect Trent "Hop on Chopp" Thompson stands accused of allegedly violating the MSA Election Code by turning a frat party into a polling site. It is bad enough frat boys use alcohol to improve their social lives; they must use it for political purposes as well.

The MSA could find itself in hot water for allegedly violating the Michigan Campaign Finance Act of 1976 by using public funds (the new four dollar student fee increase) for a political campaign (lobbying to put the student regent question on the November ballot). I wonder if Ken Starr needs some extra business?

After enduring four years of MSA elections, with their corresponding scandals, corruption, and seemingly endless parades of egomaniacal cretins, I have arrived at the perfect solution to reform student government: Abolish the MSA! So simple and yet, so inspired.

Let's face it, the MSA is a maggot-infested, bloated corpse masquerading as a political body representing students' interests. MSA has all the prestige of a high school prom committee and the effectiveness of the United Nations. Its meetings are usually filled with empty rhetoric, endless bickering, and mental masturbation. To paraphrase humorist P.J. O'Rourke, giving money and power to the MSA is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

The only students who ever run for office or get elected are either self-serving, resume-packing, political hacks (i.e. Probir "Funk Lord" Mehta) or leftist twits looking to impose their backward ideologies on the student body (i.e. Jessica "Miss White Liberal Guilt 1998" Curtin). During the election, *C.J. Carnacchio is the Managing Editor of the Review. He would like to congratulate frat boy President-Elect Trent "Hop on Chopp" Thompson on his shady victory. His win proves that the beer-swilling, slack-jawed, knuckle-dragging cretin vote is alive and well. Cheers, Trent!*

tion, they all promise to fight for students' rights and proclaim themselves to be the humble servants of their constituencies. But once elected, they either cozy up to University administrators in search of letters of recommendation or they begin demanding the release of all political prisoners in [insert your favorite Third World nation here]. The Greek playwright Aristophanes described the MSA politicians perfectly when he said, "You're an expert in tripe. You're vulgar, loud-mouthed, low - just what you need for a career in politics ... Exactly: scum. Just right for public life."

During the election I overheard one of the presidential candidates,

MSA has all the prestige of a high school prom committee and the effectiveness of the United Nations.

who shall remain nameless, chatting with a young lady about how he was running for MSA president and he was quote "the real deal." He told her to get all her friends to vote for him and all of her friends' friends. His pitch had all the political savvy of a high school clique. After listening to his politicking for a few minutes, I immediately washed all exposed areas.

If we cannot abolish the MSA right away, then we should at least demand that all MSA members sign a legally binding pledge stating that they will never put their service in student government on any future resumes or seek letters of recommendation from their new administration buddies. This should be helpful in weeding out some of the resume-packers. If a candidate is truly concerned about the student body over his own future career interests, he should have no problem signing the pledge.

Machiavellian politicians aside, MSA's funding of student groups, through compulsory student fees, is perhaps its most insidious function. Granted, the individual fee is miniscule in monetary terms, but as a matter of principle it is a gross violation of students' liberties. Students should not be forced to contribute money to groups of which they are not members or which they may have political and/or religious objections to. It is morally reprehensible to ask the politically conservative student

to contribute to the leftist Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action by Any Means Necessary or to ask a devout Christian student to fund the Queer Unity Project. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical."

The market alone should dictate which student groups thrive and which die out, not the pork-barrel system of a corrupt student government. God only knows what kind of backroom deals are cut between student groups and MSA hacks. We have all seen the corruption of Congress by special interest lobbyists. Whenever money and power mate they usually give birth to the bastard child known as corruption. No good can come of student groups lobbying for funds mingling with power-hungry MSA politicians. If student groups want funding let them collect dues from their members or earn money from actually providing a service or selling a product. It is time to stop the gravy train.

By now some readers are prob-

The market alone should dictate which student groups thrive and which die out, not the pork-barrel system of a corrupt student government.

ably whining, "But if we dissolve the MSA, who will represent the students?" Let me ask you this: Has the MSA done anything of substance to halt rising tuition bills? No. Has the MSA done anything of substance about the abysmal parking situation on campus? No. Did the MSA stop the implementation of the draconian Code of Student Conduct? Did the MSA defend the rights of upperclassmen when University Housing exiled them from traditional dorms? No. So, is the MSA representing students' interests? No.

When there is a problem at the University a student's first thought should not be, and usually is not, "The MSA should do something." Students should be thinking, "Hey, I'm paying for this, damn it! I'm a customer and I want service!" Students do not need a political body representing them. The University is not a nation-state.

Students are neither its subjects nor citizens. Bollinger is neither a king or a "real" president. Students are customers. Bollinger and all the other administrative lackeys are our employees. With the average student making at least a \$50,000 investment in the University, they should be attending to our every need.

If students really want the administration to be responsive to their needs, they have to hit them where it hurts; their wallets. The University's leadership is relentlessly driven by pure greed and that is their Achilles' heel. The University basically views students as a herd of cash cows which they gleefully lead to the slaughterhouse. Students should be looking to bring the power of the market to bear upon the administration. The economic power of an angry consumer beats the empty political voice the MSA hacks are supposed to be giving the student body.

Students need to start appealing to alumni donors who mindlessly throw gobs of money at the University every year. These alumni need to be informed about campus issues such as the liberty draining Code of Student Conduct and the sheer stupidity of University Housing. Students, as future alumni, should start signing pledges stating that they will never give a penny to the University until it starts responding to students' needs and respecting their rights.

Students could also appeal to parents to take action when necessary. Hell hath no fury like a mob of disgruntled parents. Students could also inform the press as to certain University actions which oppress students and make great headlines. Nothing scares the administration more than bad press. Did you notice the sweat glistening off Housing Director William Zeller's head when reporters interviewed him about the upperclassmen housing debacle a few months ago?

To conclude, abolishing this unholy institution we call MSA is the only real way to save the campus from further tyranny and incompetence. Let's just review some of the benefits of abolition: 1) No more annoying campaign posters littering the Fishbowl and tormenting our poor janitorial staff. 2) No more slimy candidates trying to kiss the student body's collective ass. 3) No more unjust student fees to finance campus groups. 4) MSA operating fees and expenses cut to zero. 5) No more MSA coverage in any campus newspaper.

All that is left to be said is, "Down with MSA!"

□ LOST IN THE EIGHTIES™

Oh, Enough With the Protests, Already!

BY BENJAMIN KEPPLER

IT WAS NICE SEEING THE civilized discourse and fruitful exchange of ideas at Ward Connerly's speech this past March 18. Here we have Ward Connerly, a successful businessman and University of California Regent, face-to-face with students, and the student contingent acts for the most part like a gaggle of whiny brats. Even worse for the students on hand that *were* trying to listen to Mr. Connerly, this same collective of morons proceeded to act like three year-olds with regards to possession of the sole microphone for the crowd.

CONNERLY: Can I finish my ...

STUDENT: AND POINT NINETEEN! We hereby demand that the University of Michigan take action against opponents of affirmative action! We demand that the University administration Plunder their Seas, Ravage their Ships, Burn their Townes, and Take the Lives of their People!

CROWD: YEAH!

CONNERLY: Now look, I ...

STUDENT: Connerly, you sell out, how dare you come to the University of Michigan and spread your lies and deceit! How dare you come to Michigan and try to divide my people! At least I'm not the one working for white pay masters!

CROWD: YEAH!

CONNERLY: If I can...

STUDENT: Mr. Connerly, I'd just like to stand up and say how ashamed I am of you and quite frankly, you make me want to vomit.

CONNERLY: Hey, that's...

STUDENT IN CROWD: YOU SUCK, CONNERLY!

CROWD: YEAH!

The quality of discussion by the general members of the crowd was also pretty shabby:

STUDENT ONE: So you see, if Connerly weighs as much as a duck ...

STUDENT TWO: ... then he's made of wood ...

STUDENT ONE: ... and therefore ...

STUDENT TWO: A WITCH! BURN HIM!

CROWD: YEAH!

As the *Detroit News* pointed out in a nice editorial on Saturday, March 21st, students at this University

Benjamin Keppler is Editor-in-Chief of The Michigan Review. A senior majoring in History, he plans to be an American expatriate and hence cruelly oppress Third World nationals, preferably in the Caribbean.

were not exactly open to a reasonable discussion of the issues when Ward Connerly showed up. But that statement deserves qualification: the *noisy* and the *irate* and hence the *visible* students are the ones who oppose a rational, thoughtful discussion of the issues. In the week leading up to Connerly's appearance, people on the far Right and the far Left — and every point in between — were calling for a rational discussion of the issues. Of course, this didn't stop the protestors at the speech. Those callous and unthinking individuals who jeered Connerly did so because they feared and hated his message. Allowing Connerly to speak meant allowing students to make up their own minds — well, God forbid *that* happen. We've got to protect affirmative action!

They're going to protect it as long as they can, regardless of law and regardless of society.

But this is not to say that everyone against affirmative action is angelic, either. Now, opponents of affirmative action are advantaged in that those of us who argue against the subject generally do the following:

- act respectful to the views of others and allow for people to make up their minds
- present facts and figures, showing the very real consequences of affirmative action
- try to present a rational argument, arguing for equal and fair treatment for all

Unfortunately, opponents of affirmative action in Michigan are disadvantaged by the fact that we have State Senator David Jaye (R-Macomb County) "on our side," for he does none of the above very well, and generally ends up antagonizing or somehow offending the very people he is supposedly trying to convert.

Now, my readers, I realize, may be a state of apoplexy. *What what what?! you're thinking. That dolt is actually (gasp) attacking a fellow conservative?! What's wrong with him!?!*

As Ward Connerly pointed out, just because someone happens to be something does not mean they think in lock-step with everyone else in that group. The same thing certainly holds true for conservatives. And Jaye, unfortunately, hasn't exactly learned how to approach this whole idea of "rational discourse" or "respectfully disagreeing when you are in a public forum" yet. I've seen Connerly speak when he was allowed to finish — he is quite the speaker. I've seen in person or watched on television William F. Buckley, Fred Barnes, Mort Kondracke, Phil Gramm, Newt

Gingrich, Bill Paxon, Armstrong Williams, and a host of other prominent conservatives, and *they* got it down pat. Why can't this guy?

Recently, I had the honor and privilege of speaking at the Detroit Country Day School — for those of you who don't know of it, it is an elite private academy in the Detroit suburbs (in Beverly Hills, Michigan, believe it or not). Their student council held a symposium on the affirmative action issue, and actually invited me to debate a fellow U-M student on U-M's affirmative action policy.

Now, despite warnings from my fellow editors here at the *Review*, who were convinced the deck would be stacked against me, so to speak, I gleefully accepted the invitation to speak. (As one of the other speakers was Michigan Association of Scholars President Richard Cutler, an exceedingly nice man, it was worth it to meet him!) My skillful and wily opponent from the (deep breath) University of Michigan Academics for Affirmative Action and Social Justice (social justice, here we go again), the UM-AAASJ, would be debating me in two sessions of approximately 45 minutes; one before the keynote speakers, and one after. The keynote speakers were, on the "pro" side, one Melvin Hollowell, an attorney for Butzel, Long P.C. (the University's general counsel, no surprise there). On the "con" side, was, well, who else, The Right Hon. State Senator from Macomb County, Mr. David Jaye himself.

My first session went exceedingly well. From the opening applause, I estimated that about 30 percent of the audience was with me at the beginning. After my remarks, which were delivered in about 20 minutes and actually got a few laughs out of the audience, there was a good, hard applause from the entire crowd — they may not have agreed with me, but at least they respected my opinion and my effort. Even better, my opponent was late and this helped my cause even more. *Oh, good*, I thought.

Then we had the keynote speech. Jaye, who apparently thought so much of the event that he wandered in about ten minutes after Hollowell began speaking (I don't care if he is a state Senator, he can be punctual like the rest of us), spoke bombastically and angrily. Within two minutes he had proceeded to insult and anger the very speakers who had gone before him (not professional in any arena) and within ten minutes of ranting, screaming, and looking as if he was going to burst an artery, I saw all that I had accomplished in my previous

session ruined. The question and answer session that followed was even more of a disaster for the collective opponents of affirmative action. The students left that auditorium *furiously* but then again, I suppose I would be too if this imperious dolt had come into my school, insulted it, the people running it, and a good portion of the student body.

The only consolation for me was that the people from the UM-AAASJ (they had four people there. One was invited. They came in a bloody convoy.) hogged the microphone for about five minutes, which also annoyed all of the students. It was *their* question time, after all, not time for some leftist graduate student to harangue David Jaye when he won't listen anyway.

Needless to say, my third session was not nearly as good as the first. Polite applause drifted away to nothing after an abridged session. And even worse, at a combined question and-answer period where for some reason *three* of the UM-AAASJ people felt it necessary to be on the panel, I opposed to my lowly self (all the other conservatives left in disgust, I guess my opponents would babble on about *social justice* and *class inequality* and get *cheers*. I went from disgusted to bit worried. *Oh, God*, I thought. *Jaye pissed them off so much that my opponents are going to begin going on about the importance of oppression in everyday life, and start quoting Foreire Pedagogy of the Oppressed and Marcuse's Repressive Tolerance*, and the whole crowd is going to go to college and scream about socialism and plan National Days of Inaction. No*

My only consolations for the day were knowing that the courts would strike down the affirmative action laws, and that I, an American, knew more about Canadian politics than my native Canadian graduate student opponent. My only hope as I left was that those students would be open to new ideas and new thinking, and that maybe David Jaye would learn at the very least tolerate those in the public, so more disasters waiting to happen could be averted. **MR**

* Two of the four books that make up the ideological canon, if there is such a thing, of the modern far Left are many sociology departments in modern Universities. The other two are Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks* and Franz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth*. All aspects of the ideology of the modern far-Left can generally be traced back to one of these four books. Kinda neat, huh?

Allegations

Continued from Page 1

Daily reporter, Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud, to be sacked from his MSA beat.

"I think the *Daily* was looking for a story with teeth when there were no teeth there ... they were looking for a story and they forgot about the truth," Thompson said. Along with noting that the sources' decision to remain anonymous "certainly hurts their credibility," he had no idea why the *Daily* thought it necessary to mention that alcohol was at the party.

"There's going to be alcohol at a party," regardless of where or who is holding it. Thompson said.

Students' Party member Brian Reich also supported Thompson's version of events.

"Trent was the only one at the party," Reich said. "There were rumors that Sarah [Chopp] and Mark Sherer were at the party, but they were at East Quad and West Quad."

While Reich defended the *Daily's* coverage of MSA, noting that "the editors have been absolutely wonderful," he sharply criticized the report-

ing of the *Daily's* MSA beat reporter, Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud.

"He was harassing our people. He was trying to put words in my mouth," Reich said.

Daily Editor-in-Chief Laurie Mayk declined to comment on the issues surrounding the story, saying that the *Daily* had not yet taken an official position on the story yet.

Josh Trapani, Chair of the MSA Rules and Elections Committee said that depending on the violation, Thompson could face either a penalty (for campaigning within 50 feet of a polling site) or expulsion (for unduly influencing voters).

"[If] ... Trent campaigned with 50 feet of a polling site, [that] has a penalty of 3 demerits. That, by itself, would not result in anyone being removed from the election," Trapani said. A total of 5 "demerits" is required to bring about expulsion from an election. The greatest possible penalty for violating Paragraph 41.62 of the MSA Compiled Code is 5 demerits.

"I only want to emphasize that we are trying to conduct a thorough but

fair and unbiased investigation of what went on. I also want to emphasize that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, and that even if we do decide to file a complaint or levy a penalty, it is up to CSJ to make the final decision," Trapani continued. **MR**

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MSA Election Results

MSA PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

CANDIDATE	POINTS
Trent Thompson	1710
Sarah Chopp	
Ryan Friedrichs	1625
Albert Garcia	
Elizabeth Keslacy	318
Michael Enright	
Ferris Hussein	239
Nick Pavlis	

BALLOT PROPOSALS

STUDENT REGENT:

Question One:	Passes
Question Two:	Fails
Question Three:	Fails

LSA REPRESENTATIVES: (top 9 win; votes received)

Vikram Sarma	4482
Sumeet Karnik	4045
Mehul Madia	3444
Ellen Friedman	3443
Heidi Lubin	3383
Erin Carey	3289
Peter Handler	3218
Mark Sherer	3107
Damian de Goa	2999

ENGINEERING:

Jon Malkovich	774
Sandeep Parikh	356

RACKHAM:

Carol Scarlett	130
Olga Savic	130
Aaron Flag	121
Douglas C. Friedman	97

ART:

Ksenija Savic

ARCHITECTURE:

Nathan Tracer

PHARMACY:

Matt Curin

LAW:

Neeraj Verma

MEDICINE:

Avninder Dhaliwal

NURSING:

Mike Bates

SNRE:

Sam Ellis

Basketball

Continued from Page 12

they lose too many they lose too many weapons, have too few remaining, and do not gain enough talent with Young as the only recruit to date, though two more unnamed newcomers are on the way with the inking of Ellerbe, according to Athletic Director Tom Goss. If a new coach had stepped in, and suffered through a difficult season — as can be expected with or without Bullock — the obvious public reaction would have been negative.

On the other hand, with Ellerbe U-M takes a chance on a low-profile coach with limited head coaching experience. But Goss likes him: he operates cleanly and professionally in the murky NCAA world, and is not attracted to the media and bright lights. "He comes without a name," Goss said. "I think in the years to come, Brian Ellerbe will make his own mark."

Ellerbe may carve an identity at some point, but it will likely not happen next year. In his first full season as head man, he will probably maximize what he has, as opposed to shaping and sculpting the talent he inherited this year.

Obviously, he has his work cut out for him. **MR**

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Ward Connerly Speaks at Michigan

BY JAMES CHRISTENSEN

ADMITTEDLY, THE MICHIGAN League Ballroom was probably not the best choice for having one of the most prominent voices in the initiative to end affirmative action speak. Even without the activism of the local pro-affirmative action groups, Ward Connerly was sure to draw a crowd. Those individuals who arrived a little late and waited outside the doors, however, quickly went from being a crowd to an unruly mob. Between chants of "Let us in!" and scattered yelling about violated rights, the persons gathered outside the Michigan League Ballroom presented one of the worst images a visitor to our University has ever seen. There are some questions about just whose rights were being violated when the crowd screamed at Mr. Connerly every time the doors opened. It seems difficult to believe the persons stuck outside were wronged, particularly when one erstwhile attendee loudly suggested "pull the fire alarm and end this now." Political involvement has long been a tradition for students here, but it appears that rational discourse is becoming less and less common when someone's views differ from your own. To that end, the unruly, ignorant mob continues to be a successful tool for pro-affirmative action.

The Department of Public Safety showed evidence of intelligence when they refused to allow additional people into the already overcrowded ballroom. It was unfortunate that a young lady in the front could not match this intelligence, as she berated an innocent reporter who was trying to get a story. It appears that since she couldn't get in, she felt that to be fair, no one should be allowed in, whether they were a reporter who would allow a much larger audience to share in the event, or not. It was also unfortunate that so many of the attendees arrived with such prejudice against Mr. Connerly that they were no longer interested in what he had to say, only in the event itself as it afforded another opportunity to present themselves to the media. This time, they certainly did present themselves, just not the way they were looking for. **MR**

James Christensen is a freshman in LSA and a staff writer for the Review. He was one of the approximately 100 students barred from entering the League ballroom for safety reasons; therein he was smacked in the head with a baseball bat and force-fed uncooked chicken.



An unruly student mob stares down police at the Michigan League.

Students Rant and Rave at Speech

BY BENJAMIN ROUSCH

BEFORE HIS ACTUAL speech began, Ward Connerly asked the audience to listen to him before shouting him down. A man who had obviously been in the position of speaking before hundreds of angry persons before, Connerly started off the session with a short fifteen minute speech and then proceeded to a question-and-answer session that took up most of the evening.

Connerly started off with a history of himself. He told of how he was discriminated against as a boy in the South, and recounted the hardships he endured because of the Jim Crow laws in Mississippi. He described how these experiences have shaped his life and how he thinks about the world. With respect to the racism he has experienced in his life, Connerly explained that he asks himself three questions: "How long should I be angry? At whom do I direct that anger? And, most importantly, what good does it do me?" This was met by a volley of boos and incoherent yells by the obviously upset crowd.

A key point of Mr. Connerly's speech was his views on affirmative action. He described how the term "affirmative action" is used to describe a huge number of programs and ideas from Outreach programs to racial preferences. He explained that he does not want to end *all* affirmative action

programs — just those that give special privileges based on the color of one's skin. Connerly made a point of emphasizing this. He explained that he wants to eliminate the morally wrong aspects of affirmative action, but keep in place the programs which benefit all people who need help, not just those of a certain skin color.

After his short introductory speech, Connerly turned the event into a question-and-answer session. A microphone was set up on one side of the room (it happened to be the side where the majority of affirmative action supporters had staked a claim) and people were given the chance to ask questions Connerly.

The event went downhill from there as many questioners hurled insults and harangued Connerly. Many did not even ask questions but instead proceeded to rant about various obscure subjects (including the oft-repeated lines about organizing a mass, militant civil rights movement). Questioners repeatedly asked Connerly how he, as a black man, could want to end affirmative action? As Connerly tried to explain repeatedly the difference between racial preferences and other affirmative action programs, he grew increasingly exasperated. After enduring a few pointed insults, Connerly threatened to leave if his right to speak was not respected. And numerous times, pro-preference students booed and shouted Connerly down so no one could hear what he

was saying. Nevertheless, Connerly continued to attempt to answer questions, although his irritation grew as the end of the evening approached. One woman, who appeared to be close to hysterics, shouted incoherently about alcoholic white women and said "you didn't know what you were getting into when you came to Michigan."

All in all, the evening showed that Michigan student radicals rank right up there with other campus radicals across the nation when it comes to forming an unruly mob incapable of listening to any opposing viewpoint. They also proved that our pro-preference forces are able to shout and chant like children with the best of them. **MR**

Are you illiterate, incompetent, unethical, or just plain stupid? Then go write for the Daily.

Do you think the Shopper's Weekly Gazette exemplifies journalism at its finest? Then go write for the Independent.

Are you unemployed? You must work for the Gargoyle.

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□ ESSAY

Starting Anew?

BY JULIE JESCHKE

The buzz around campus is that it's cool to recycle! Here are some Recycling tips that will help you to be COOL!" As I sat in my residence hall's dining room, eating some wonderful, over-priced institutional food, I had to laugh at the little sign on the table that was meant to promote recycling. Obviously, its message was worthwhile, but the strategically placed bees used to illustrate "buzz" seemed to go too far, and the language sounded painfully juvenile. I could not believe Waste Management Services would employ such a tacky slogan! And what's this? We can all win an ice cream party if our hall improves the most from last year's recycling trends?! As much as I desired to jump on the bandwagon, I had to sit back and consider what my eyes had just beheld. Ice cream? "Cool" to recycle? How gullible did they think we were? Why was I being bombarded with all this environmental gibberish? Then I realized that dining halls are nothing more than souped-up cafeterias, except we get to use real plates instead of trays with squarish compartments. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that for the entire year, I had been treated like I was still in high school. The "ecolympics" appear to relegate us to elementary school, and I am told that it only gets worse!

Soon, the similarities between now and then made themselves completely obvious to me — why did not I realize it before!? Resident advisors pick up where our childhood camp counselors left off. We used to join clubs and get involved so we would have things to put on our college applications; now, we are merely interested in beefing up our resumes. Sororities and fraternities offer the same opportunities for deep, meaningful friendships as the cliques in high school did. Free pizza was an effective motivator in high school, and sadly, it still is. There are still dances to go to, except they are now referred to as "mixers." The only distinguishing characteristic between the two is that now, the people who would not dance with you are total strangers, whereas at dances, they were people you knew. We still have stupid rules (i.e. the Code), and we're still being forced to take pointless required classes in order to broaden our horizons (yawn). The parallels do not end there.

Julie Jeschke is the Copy Editor of the Review and is a freshman majoring in English.

Much like our high school days, fashion trends run amok on campus. I must confess that if I see another person wearing a puffy North Face parka or a peacoat with flared pants, I might vomit. Thankfully, winter is over (knock on wood) and the parkas have been packed away, but I am still somewhat apprehensive about the fashion horrors that Spring and Summer have in store for us. More cute little tank tops? Oh boy! Sundresses? Hooray! Regardless of what will be "in," I'm sure everyone with a Visa card will be pleased as punch to jump on the bandwagon and spend, spend, spend. Are not we all supposed to be individuals, here? Why, then, this uncontrollable urge to conform?

The recent MSA elections also reminded me of the good old days — seeing the stairwells in Angell Hall plastered with mindless slogans sure brought back memories. While the "vote for me or the monkey gets it" approach might have won Johnny Prom King the class presidency in high school, that kind of thing could never happen in college, could it? No...! Never! Alas, it just did last week. I don't know about you, but I feel rather insulted by having a president who was elected based on a Dr. Seuss book — and riding on the coat-tails of his vice presidential candidate, no less! "Hopp on Chopp with Trent?" How did we let that happen? At least in high school, everyone voted, even if they only wanted to keep geeks out of office. We all should have voted, if only to keep *Greeks* out of office; it's nice to see that Trent got votes from his purchased friends.

If we have to have the negative elements from high school forced on us (i.e. those things we would rather forget), why can't we have some of the benefits, too? Free textbooks would be nice, as would easy classes, the occasional snow day, and the absence of the infamous freshman (insert number here) weight gain. I am not saying I am not happy where I am, but haven't we earned the right to be treated as adults? Aren't we paying enough? I suppose all the money and power in the world will not necessarily earn us respect. Just look at Bill Clinton. Just look at our student government. **MR**

"The political and commercial morals of the US are not merely food for laughter, they are an entire banquet." — *Mark Twain*

Read the Review. We'll be your fork and spoon.

Letters

Continued from Page 3

additional police officers as the force of the throng pushed me back into the ballroom. After a few minutes of negotiations by administrators who used walkie-talkies to communicate between the doors, those of us who wanted to leave the ballroom were allowed to exit with all the dignity of released hostages: walking a gauntlet of thugs who counted aloud the number of each departing attendee. I didn't stay to see if the campus security officers and administrators honored their promise to let in one protester for every exiting attendee.

It is a humiliating lesson in pragmatism for an individual to back down upon confrontation by a mob of thugs who threaten to initiate force; it is a moral outrage, however, when officers of the law, those to whom we've entrusted the right to use retaliatory force, decline to use it while witnessing an individual being threatened. Peaceful sit-ins are one thing, but for protesters to shove and forcefully block a means of egress constitutes an initiation of force that must not be tolerated in a civil society. Such a capitulation by the administration is a symptom of and contribution to the erosion of the liberal principles of toleration, free expression, and the renunciation of the use of physical force as a means of dealing with people.

Unfortunately, capitulation to the initiation of physical force is not new to this administration. Witness President Bollinger's unprincipled response to the Latino protesters who stormed into and disbanded the reception he was holding for student government leaders last year. Rather than demand that the trespassers cease their disruption or face forcible removal by security officers, the reception was cut short and certain of the thugs were rewarded with a personal meeting with President Bollinger weeks later.

In Wednesday's *Michigan Daily*, associate provost Lester Monts said that Ward Connerly "should know that his ideas may not be well-received at the University of Michigan." Mr. Monts' statement, made in his capacity as an administrator, is a sad commentary on the intellectual climate at this campus. Perhaps in addition to warning future controversial speakers, Mr. Monts will also warn would-be attendees that the administration places higher value

on mob appeasement than on their physical safety.

CURT WEIDLER
LAW

Kepple Funny, Writes Well

THIS LETTER GOES OUT TO Benjamin Kepple. When I got to Michigan as a freshman, I was immediately shocked and actually a little worried when faced with a campus paper that was literally brimming with so much vomitous rot. Of course, I'm talking about our *Daily*. A few long weeks later, I was really quite excited when I found the *Review* which was indeed a refreshing change. Then, you decided to misinterpret a pro-affirmative action letter I wrote to the *Daily*, and I stood slack-jawed and mouth agape as you proceeded to raze my letter to the ground. That's beyond me now. Getting to the point finally — I read your "Class Selection" bit today, and laughed mightily. No, I'm not going to criticize. I will say this though: you're a funny bastard. I may think that some of your ideas are the self-important stylings of an old-school nincompoop, but please — keep on writing. You're very good. I enjoy it, and I agree with you often. I'm sure many others do as well. Good luck the rest of this year.

PAUL BHASIN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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SPORTS

Taking On the Next Mountain

BY ROB WOOD

WHILE THE REST OF THE campus still dons its National Championship gear from the end of the 1997 Michigan Football season, Head Coach Lloyd Carr and his band of new and veteran gladiators must prepare for the next series of gridiron battles not too far on the horizon. The first phase of the team's preparation is over. They have been in the weight room, training like madmen for the chance to reclaim the glory awarded them for their performance last season. The upperclassmen have worked to build upon their granite foundations, while the underclassmen and new recruits have been working to make the transition from the high school level to the college ranks a bit easier.

Spring practice is now in session. The players are still working out, but are also shaking off any rust they may have accumulated since January, and working themselves back into the juggernauts they were last season. During this phase of preparation, day-to-day improvement is the goal, and progress is measured in seconds, inches, and ounces. "I'm not concerned about who's first-team, second-team. That has no concern to me at this stage," explained Coach Carr at a March 19th press conference.

While Tom Brady currently holds the number-one quarterback position, his and his comrades' performances in practice and in the team's scrimmages could possibly change who leads the Wolverine offense when fall rolls around. According to Carr, "He's got to solidify that position. There's always competition at every position."

As of this point in time, however, Coach Carr has picked his man at QB. There is only the standard competition between starter and backup for this coming year's team. "[Brady] threw the ball very, very well. He throws the ball deep well. He has command of the offense. He's gained the confidence I think is necessary to lead the team. He's very smart, and he's put himself through hard work. And has the concentration. I think he's to a point where he can run this offense."

When asked how he is reacting to the media's optimism regarding the upcoming season, Carr replied "We've been listening to all the accolades that have been thrown our way, but you have to be mentally tough to un-

derstand that that championship is gone. It's over. It's time to look forward ... I think it's a challenge for every guy in this program; coach, player, anybody that's associated with it.

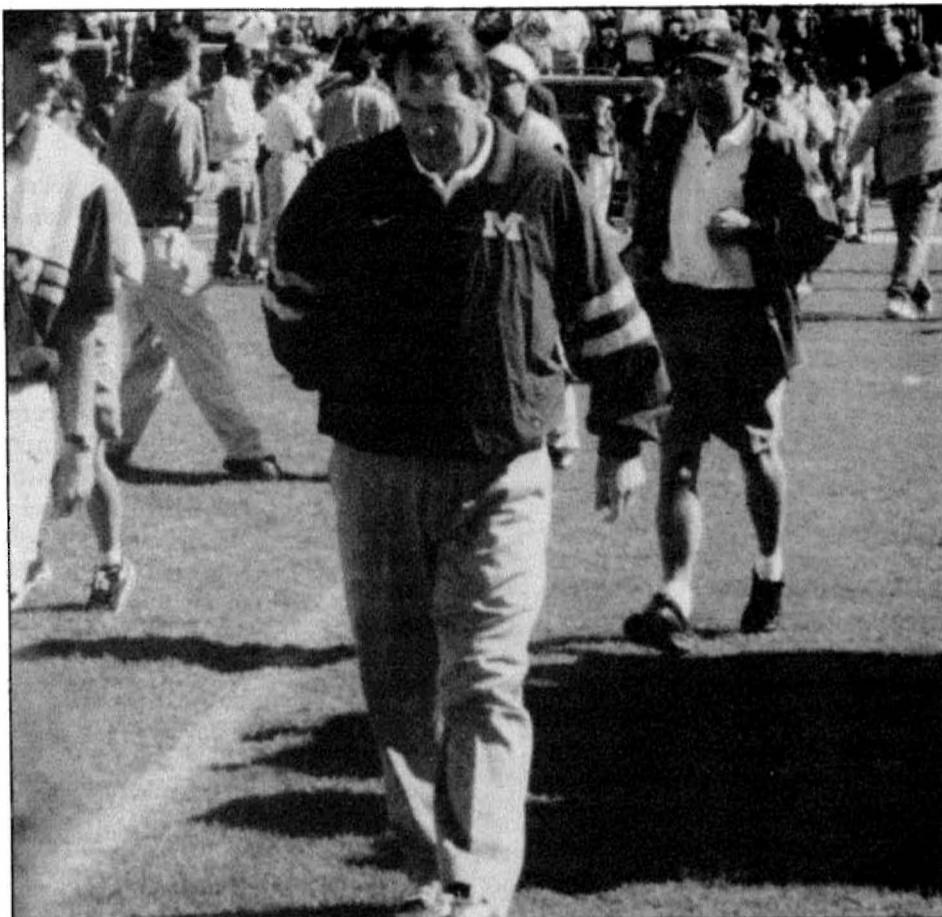
"... A year ago ... it was important for us to understand that we couldn't allow all the negative things that were being said about this program to affect our confidence and our belief, in terms of what we could do in 1997. I think the same thing is true in 1998. We can't allow ourselves to listen to all the good things, because, you know, if we didn't listen a year ago, why would we listen now?"

In regard to the likelihood that Michigan will be ranked at the top of the national preseason polls, the Coach scoffed "I think, if the coaches didn't vote us number one last season, I see no reason why they would be crazy enough to vote us number one now ... We just lost the Heisman Trophy winner. We lost one of the three or four best quarterbacks in the nation. We lost the best fullback in the nation. We lost an All-American defensive tackle. We lost the most underrated tailback in the nation ... We lost great leadership; guys that were mentally and physically tough people, and so I think there's no way we'll be ranked high."

Of course, when you still return a majority of the offense and defense from a National Championship team, you have to expect a wee bit of optimism on the part of the public. The '98 Wolverines will include guys like Dhani Jones, Tai Streets, and Anthony Thomas, to name a few. To rephrase Microsoft, what do you want to demolish today?

The AP Poll was not the only place Michigan Football ended up being number one. Practically every reputable news publication in the country picked Michigan's as the top recruiting class nationally as well. Coach Carr's reaction: cautiously optimistic. Is he worried that the media's hype of his exceptional recruits will have them all demanding immediate playing time? "Well, I'd be a lot more worried if they weren't considered a good class, but the reality of it is ... the guys that are recruited all have the ability to play here, the physical talent. That's the easiest thing to judge. The question is: do they have the mental stamina that's required to make a long-term commitment, because that's what you have to do in college athletics. It takes intense concentration over a long period of time."

Two players who have proven that they have the mental stamina to play



Will Lloyd Carr and his team look this good in 1998?

with the big boys are returning running backs Clarence Williams and Anthony Thomas. Williams is definitely the senior of the two. Actually, as of this coming season, he is a senior. Last season, however, Anthony Thomas was a major threat to opposing teams on the offensive side of the ball. Thomas appears to be the man to bet on for this coming season, too. Obviously, anyone who looks as good as #32 did last season as a freshman is going to dominate the opposition more and more as a sophomore. If he avoids injury, he will be an absolutely terrifying back in his junior and senior years as well.

Also suiting up for the Wolverines this coming season will be incoming freshmen Walter Cross and Justin Fargas. Will these guys get the same opportunity to shine, as Thomas did, last season? If Coach Carr has his way — and being the Head Coach, he generally does — they will. "I like to play freshman running backs, because I think the sooner you get him in, the more comfortable and the more confident [he is], and the sooner you get him in ... if you can get him in to play a role for you early in the season, he's only going to get better. Then ... if you have injuries, or whatever, you've created a role where he can help you late in the season, with the championship and all that on the line."

Are the Wolverines going to be battle-ready enough to repeat? No-

body really knows until the battlefield is honored with the blood spilled on it by its combatants. Do they have the desire, the hunger, to do it? Absolutely. As further motivation, however, that championship tie was like kissing their sisters. It was a disrespectful and insulting thing for the coaches to say that Michigan was a weaker team than Nebraska last season. This season, it will be time to make a statement to those coaches who decided that if it were to mean their job, they would rather play Michigan than the Cornhuskers: underestimation kills. MR

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Rob Wood is the Sports Editor of the Review and senior in aerospace engineering.

□ HOOPS DU JOUR

This Year Over; On to the Next

BY ANDREW GOLDING

SAN ANTONIO — AT VARIOUS times during the men's basketball season, junior center Robert Traylor declared the Wolverines were on their way to the NCAA Final Four, taking place this weekend in San Antonio, Texas. Well, many people are here, but the largess Traylor is not among them.

Obviously, Traylor is not a great prognosticator.

Three weeks ago, after Michigan defeated Davidson in their first round NCAA Tournament matchup, Traylor stated he would likely return to U-M if interim coach Brian Ellerbe were retained as the permanent head coach. On March 20, days after losing to UCLA in a second round contest, Ellerbe was signed to be U-M's head man.

Exactly one week later, at a news conference at Detroit Murray-Wright High School, his alma mater, Traylor announced he was going pro, entering the professional ranks after three sea-

sons on the collegiate circuit. Obviously, Traylor is not a man true to his word, at least in this case.

The 6'8", 300-ish Traylor's loss, largely influenced by financial considerations for his family, he said, will have a tremendous impact on the U-M team, instantly transforming them from a preseason top 25 team to a team likely absent of any preseason notice. U-M returns leading scorer Louis Bullock, guard Robbie Reid, and developing Brandon Smith and Josh Asselin from a team which finished 25-9, 11-5, won the inaugural Big Ten Tournament, and won a game in the "Big Dance" for the first time in four years. Lost from the burgeoning end-of-the-year squad are the aforementioned Traylor, guard Travis Conlan, and solid forwards Jerod Ward and Maceo Baston. Only the addition of 6'10" forward Chris Young from Detroit Catholic Central High School allows U-M to fill out a solid starting lineup. Otherwise, 6'11" sophomore project Peter Vignier — who scored six points this season, thing was going to happen.

MR: Are you afraid of simply being known as "That band from *Swingers*"?

Kurt: We are doing the music we want to make. It wasn't like the people at label said "We want you to do this—and—that because that is the way it appeared in the movie." We got to go in and do exactly what we wanted. I think the movie was our video calling card.

MR: Because of the movie, *Big Bad Voodoo Daddy* is leading the mainstream revival of Swing. Are you comfortable with that?

Kurt: It makes me a little uncomfortable because I know there are other bands, like the Royal Crown Review, who have been out there; we inherited our spot at the Derby from them. Those guys are the masters. They are incredible musicians. I would feel more comfortable if we were just a band down here playing swing, and if people like us, so be it. We're just doing the same thing those other bands are doing. I think we are just really fortunate.

MR: If you had the chance to go back and touch up or change something on the album, what would it be?

overall — may have been forced to abandon his end-of-bench status and log quality minutes for U-M next season.

Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Bullock, a junior, has apparently considered applying for entry to the NBA Draft, an obvious mistake based on his demonstrated difficulty in finding his own shot. Bullock is an excellent shooter, a marksman from three-point range, but only an average penetrator. He averaged 2.9 assists this year, a career high, and is not able to consistently create a shot for himself or others. What position he will play in the professional ranks is another question mark on his resume. He is not a point guard, based on his ball handling and passing ability shown to date, and is too short and wiry to handle larger players at the shooting guard position. His father, Louis Bullock, Sr. recently discounted the notion that his son would leave Ann Arbor in an interview published in local newspapers. "I just talked to him a few minutes ago. He's in school

now and he'll be in school next September," he said.

Without Bullock, and the confirmed absentee Traylor, the team would be in serious trouble, devoid of any proven scorers, low-post presence, or creative players besides the often reluctant to drive Bullock, and in short flashes, the 6'7" Smith. Thus, how obvious and cruel to name Ellerbe to the head coaching position, a gift and yet a punishment at the same time.

By signing Ellerbe, and not a bigger name such as Seton Hall's Tommy Amaker or George Washington's Mike Jarvis as had been widely rumored, Goss and U-M essentially buy a year of tranquility from U-M fans, as opposed to the response if a new coach had taken over. Undoubtedly, next year's U-M team will not match its record or performance of this season;

Continued on page 8

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

CONTINUED from Page 14

MR: How did you land a spot in *Swingers*?

Kurt: We had a slot at the Derby every Wednesday for two and a half years. When John Fabro was writing the film, he used to come in for swing lessons. That is how we met him. One day he gave this script to Scotty and said, "I'm working on this film and when I get enough money together I want to make it. I'm scraping up, but when I get enough money I am going to make this film." We read the script and told him we would like to be in it too. So he offered us that spot. I think we got paid a hundred dollars for it.

MR: Did you think, even for a second, that the film would help spark your career?

Kurt: I remember taking a ride down to San Francisco with the band thinking that when this movie comes out as an independent film, it may be picked up by a major studio. If that happened, it would be distributed across the states and could be really influential. At the night of the premier, Miramax bought it for five million bucks. Then we thought that some-

Kurt: I honestly think the album is great how it stands. It represents what we do live. The art work on it is amazing. We were really happy with the packaging. So I don't think I would change anything. The first week the album came out it was number sixty-four on the Billboard Charts. That is the first time in fifty years that a swing band has been in the top hundred on Billboard. I haven't checked where it is at its fourth week, but things couldn't be going better in my opinion.

MR: So what is the next step?

Kurt: Right now we are working on a few new songs. They are going in the same direction, but we were just in New Orleans, and I think the new album will have a lot of that in it. It will also be more of a rip-roarin', guitar-oriented record. I think this record we have right now is a big horn and drum fronted record. Scott is such a good guitar player that I think we are going to have songs that are a bit more guitar driven with that New Orleans influence. It is still really hard to say because we are just now finding our voice. The band couldn't be playing any better. When we get a song that Scott has written, it comes in one way and comes out of the Big Bad Voodoo Daddy machine a totally different animal. It's kind of hard to say what the next record will sound

like, but I'm not worried about it. I'm not worried about living up to any expectations. I know it is going to be really good.

MR: How do you see *Big Bad Voodoo Daddy* fitting into a musical era where everything is supposed to be moving towards the electronic? Are you making a statement by sticking to the traditional?

Kurt: I am a big fan of that stuff. DJ Shadow is really one of my favorite artists. Scott and I are really big fans and we listen him a lot on the road. We are not reacting to that. We are playing music that we want to play. I can't speak for the record-buying audience, but I can say that we are not going to play music that a record company will want to shove down people's throats. We're playing music that we want to play and I hope we are giving an alternative to some of the music that is being shoved down people's throats. **MR**

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy plays Clutch Cargo's Mill Street Entry on Saturday, April 11th.

Review Music

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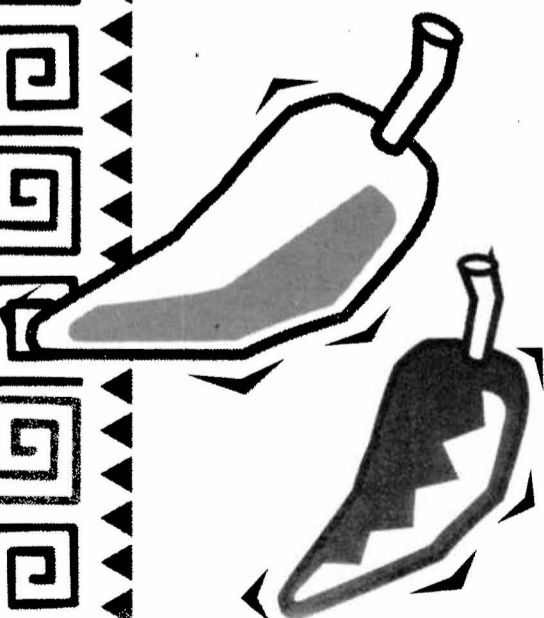
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J Music

Big Bad Swing Revival

BY CHRIS HAYES

BY NOW YOU SHOULD have heard about the craze in Swing and Big Band music. If you haven't seen the independent hit film *Swingers*, you are out of the loop. If you have never seen *Swing Kids*, you haven't had a girlfriend long enough to force you to watch it. In short, a revival of Swing music has been on the move for the past few years. Every bar and club seems to have a *Swing Night* or give swing lessons—which packs the kids in, daddy-o.

One of the bands that is currently in the spotlight is **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**. If the name does not ring a bell, they were the energetic, high intensity swing band featured on the *Swingers* soundtrack as well as in the movie.

The band has currently released their first major label album on Coolsville Records/Capitol Entertainment. Melding traditional Swing and Big Band with a nineties intensity, *Big Bad Voodoo Daddy* show they are not rehashing what has been done; they are using their surprising talent to create something familiar, yet fresh. The Review had the privilege of speaking to percussionist Kurt Sodergren about their music, success, and the Swing scene.

MR: So where did you guys just roll into?

Kurt: Right now we are in Baltimore at a small bar called Fletcher's. They have lots of pool tables and a really loud speaker right over my head. Upstairs is the club.

MR: What size clubs have you been playing at?

Kurt: The average capacity has been about a thousand, but we have gone to twenty-one hundred. This club actually is the smallest one so far. We have sold everything out.

MR: Nice.

Kurt: Yeah, this place is definitely a lot smaller. It reminds me of the old days when we would travel in this crappy Dodge Ram with all our equipment in a trailer and everyone would help set up. It was like guerrilla warfare.

MR: How long has Big Bad Voodoo Daddy been together?

Kurt: This incarnation of the band has been together for about two and a half years. That's since we've been playing at the Derby. Scott Morris (vocals, guitar and song writer) and I started the band in '91 as a trio and we started adding horn players in '93 and put out our first album in '94.

MR: What label was that on?

Kurt: That was on our own Big Bad Records. We did everything ourselves. We made the records, sold them at shows, sold them through mail order and our home page. We sold about twenty thousand and then we stopped. We decided that we would sell twenty thousand and then hopefully get signed to a label that would let us do our own thing but have a wider distribution. We found Coolsville Records as our home. It is a great label.

MR: How did Scott and yourself get started in '91?

Kurt: We were friends and we used to go see bands together. He is a really great guitar player and I had previously played the drums. After I met Scott I got really excited about his guitar playing and bought myself a drum set and took some lessons. We started playing in a trio that was a Jimi Hendrix- and Tom Waits- influenced blues band. Shortly after that we decided to go for more of the Big Band sound. My grandfather used to play Big Band for forty years. Scott also grew up listening to that kind of music and decided that was the kind of music he wanted to play. Not that we weren't fans of Alice in Chains and Nirvana and all the music that was happening at the time, but this is what he wanted to do and I backed him up a hundred percent. So we hired some horn players and a piano player and just started doing it. We came out with our first record and have been doing it ever since.

MR: What do you think sparked this big interest in swing?

Kurt: We started doing this in Ventura where there was absolutely no swing scene at all. Ventura is kind of a small coastal town about an hour out of Los Angeles. There are a lot of bands playing this kind of music, like the Royal Crown Review, Squirrel Nut Zippers and Cherry Poppin' Daddies. I think bands like that are like us. They have been playing original music that is helping the scene go. That is only four bands. And for these four bands, there are about a hundred



Style aside, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy puts the hip back into traditional swing.

other bands doing the same thing. I think it is an underground thing that's still word of mouth. The movie *Swingers* really helped. When that movie came out on video, it went across the United States with vengeance. It kind of represented what is going on in LA. But it also represents what is going on in Wisconsin, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Portland. That movie could easily be any of those towns. I think we are just this big cast of characters who are playing this original nineties swing music.

MR: How would you categorize "nineties swing music" as opposed to simply regurgitating what was being done in the forties?

Kurt: I think those bands that were playing jazz in the thirties and forties were playing original music. They were stepping out on a limb because jazz was the forbidden music of the time. If you were cool you would see them. Bands like us grew up on punk rock. While we know we could play that music too, we decided to do it originally. So we write an original song. While we are based in the sounds of the thirties or forties, our own influences definitely show through. We are not trying to rehash swing music and we are trying to use our influences to write new, original songs.

MR: Would you say your influ-


ences are Nirvana and Alice in Chains?

Kurt: I am definitely a big fan of those bands but I don't think what we are playing is punk rock by any means. Scott and I don't have traditional jazz training so the songs we write might break the traditional jazz rules.

MR: I agree. The people who first listen to your music are going to say "These guys are playing Swing or Big Band." But I think the heart of it still screams rock and roll more than Glen Miller.

Kurt: I really admire those players of the forties and they are a huge influence on us, but I think we are breaking the mold of traditional music. We throw a lot of energy in there and make it sound a little more contemporary. I would say that is where it all comes in. We are not punk rockers and we're not trying to play it. We grew up listening to it and are influenced by it, but we are playing Big Band music. It is original with all those influences, including Stevie Ray Vaughn. It has Count Basie, Black Flag, it has everything. We aren't following any step guidelines or rules in the songs that we write.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

 Film

Colorful Politics

BY MATT BUCKLEY

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING creates conflict for Henry Burton (Adrian Lester) in Mike Nichols's screen adaptation of Joe Klein's *Primary Colors*. Burton is a smart politico who is tired of viewing victory in terms of forcing the other

Primary Colors

Directed by Mike Nichols.

Featuring John Travolta, Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates.

side to veto — he wants to make real changes in policy right now. In short, he decides, he wants to win.

With a job offer from Southern governor Jack Stanton (John Travolta), Burton finds himself whisked away semi-voluntarily into the Stanton campaign. In the early primary stages, nobody gives Stanton or his wife Susan (Emma Thompson) much of a chance, but as little victory by little victory mounts up, Burton finds himself hooked. Jack's almost bone-headed optimism and penchant

for caring (or, at least, providing the illusion that he cares) seem endearing to a weary public. Susan's hard-nosed political skills seem to be paying dividends.

But of course, this is America, and the primaries are focused not on substance but style — not on issues but mud. But the mud-slurping works both ways, and Stanton always seems about to be soiled. He's a draft-dodger. He apparently slept with a hairdresser back in his old Southern haunts. And when an unexpected pregnancy pops up, Stanton's candidacy looks set to derail. The revelation of such scandals and the campaign's responses is the heart and soul of *Primary Colors*.

While this story is nominally about the lives of the Stantons, we see it more through the eyes of their campaign staff. Richard Jemmons (Billy Bob Thornton) is the wacky political strategist with a knack for tactics. Daisy (Maura Tierney, *News Radio*) handles the press. Burton finds himself in charge of political organization. Last but not least is the dustbuster Libby Holden (Oscar-winner Kathy Bates, *Misery*), a foul-

mouthed longtime friend of the Stantons, charged with digging up the dirt on the Stanton's political foes.

The movie's obvious point is that Jack Stanton is Bill Clinton. Susan is Hillary. The real life analogy extends to some of the campaign staff: Richard Jemmons is James Carville, for example. Amusingly, several of the actors involved, notably Travolta and Thompson, have spoken as if this was just another movie.

The facts of *Colors* belie this argument. Klein wrote the book as a spoof on the Clinton campaign, and it got its status as a #1 bestseller because of that. Travolta is on the cover of *Time* because of the similarities. In fact, the biggest plot departure of the movie (it comes at the very end — I won't spoil it any further) makes the parallel between Stanton and Clinton even more explicit.

There is a lot to be said here about the film's portrayal of political primaries — they are issue-free and dominated by smears. But even beyond that, *Primary Colors* is a fascinating story about political campaigns, the people that live them, and the moral

dilemmas they face.

Many movies try to raise such problems, but few have done it this well. Director Mike Nichols does a great job working with his actors and bringing a scene to life, and it must have helped to have perhaps the finest ensemble cast we will see this year. *Primary Colors* responds to last year's *L.A. Confidential* with Travolta, Thompson, Bates, and Thornton, and an excellent performance by relative newcomer Adrian Lester. Thompson and Bates in particular look like decent shots for next year's Oscar bids. The only poor casting was Stacy Edwards, (amazing as the deaf victim of *In the Company of Men*), in an essentially throwaway role as a Stanton campaign lackey.

Primary Colors is a movie about America's politics, its promise and its excesses, all handled intelligently and thoughtfully. I confess to being a political junkie, so perhaps the movie was just aimed at people like myself. However, I suspect otherwise — the film moves you to thinking without yanking you around. It's the sort of movie we ought to appreciate. **MR**

A 16th Century Call Girl

BY KRISTINA CURKOVIC

DANGEROUS BEAUTY chronicles the life of one of Venice's most famous courtesans, Veronica Franco, a real-life woman brought to life on the screen by Catherine McCormack (*Braveheart*), who portrays the 16th century call girl as a pioneer feminist, an intellectual, and a stunning charmer.

The film takes us back to the extravagance of the city with gorgeous settings and costumes. In this beautiful city, extravagance and luxury extended to courtesans — beautiful "companions" of rich men trained in the arts of love. Courtesans were among the few women in Venice who — although not popular among women's social circles — had the freedom and sophistication to read and write, and to discuss (and even influence) politics.

At the beginning of the film, innocent Veronica Franco plans on marrying the handsome Marco (Rufus Sewell, *Cold Comfort Farm*); however, despite the fact that they clearly love each other, Marco is forced to tell Veronica that he is expected to marry a woman of higher station. Veronica's mother, Paola (Jaqueline Bisset), sug-

gests that Veronica can still have Marco — if not as his wife, then as a courtesan. Veronica is unconvinced, until she is introduced to the world to which the Venetian courtesan is privy, grandly epitomized by a library full of books from which ordinary women are barred. Thus begins Veronica's



Veronica (Catherine McCormack) challenges society in 16th century Venice.

marvelous career as one of Venice's most popular courtesans.

The movie progresses quickly from that point, demonstrating Veronica's quick rise to riches and

power, Marco's jealousy, his marriage, and the ominous cries of religious reformers on the edge of their heyday in the Inquisition. The film deftly deals with issues of equality, and of early feminism; McCormack's Veronica, with the quick-witted tongue of a poet, asks and answers all

the questions the audience has about station, rights, and justice in this city's most illustrious era. McCormack shines in this role with her winning smiles and her convincing looks of

longing for Marco, offering a range of emotions that gives her a good chance at an Oscar nomination next year.

The climax of the film deals with the Inquisition that sweeps across Venice as "an answer to the Plague," as one of the characters puts it. Veronica's long-standing feud with a fellow poet-turned Inquisitor comes to clash in the halls of the church, where she is accused of witchcraft, and where the audience is left to anticipate what fate awaits their heroine in a cleverly-crafted scene.

The film has powerful emotional appeal with a theme of true, lasting love made believable by the exchanges between McCormack and Sewell. Their affair is full of teasing, turmoil and unsatiable love that are irresistible and moving. The screenplay also contributes to the film's beauty, especially the fast-paced poetic duels between Veronica and Maffio, and Veronica's monologue in front of the Inquisition toward the end of the film. While the unceasing, swelling music may go a little over the top in contributing to the film's romance, *Dangerous Beauty* captures the hearts of the audience just as courtesans like Veronica Franco captured the hearts of Venice 400 years ago. **MR**

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