

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

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The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan

September 18, 1996

Festifall to Recruit New Members

BY GEOFF BROWN

ON SEPTEMBER 20, THE University will be sponsoring Festifall, a gathering of student groups on the Diag.

The event will be held from 11 am until 4 pm. The *Review*, various Greek organizations, sports clubs, student publications, and other social groups will be among the organizations recruiting new members at the event.

The event was originally scheduled for September 13, but was cancelled due to rain. In the event of inclement weather this Friday, the event will be relocated to an indoor location.

Festifall was created several years ago at the U-M to provide students with a chance to learn more about campus groups. Students at the University are often loaded down with busy class schedules and other concerns, and thus do not usually have the time to research every student organization on campus and decide which is worthy of their time to join, and which isn't. Festifall provides students with an opportunity to investigate all of the available groups in one convenient setting, and attend the meetings for groups they wish to join.

Festifall is by far one of the most well-attended events the University sponsors throughout the school year. Many students value the opportunity to find extracurricular activities. However, for those students who miss Festifall, the University sponsors another event, typically in January, known as Winterfest. Though smaller in scope, Winterfest provides an opportunity for those who may have missed Festifall to become involved outside the classroom. **MR**

U-M Enacts Religion Policy

BY EVAN KNOTT

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN students should expect a copy of the *New University of Michigan Policy On Religious-Academic Conflicts* to arrive in their mailboxes in the coming weeks. Through the hard work of Hillel governing-board member and University student Anthony Scaglione, along with several other key University administrators, a policy was finally hammered out this past summer.

The policy, protecting the rights of Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Eastern Orthodox, and other observed religions on campus; outlines steps in which students can work with faculty and administrators to avoid academic conflicts in times of religious holidays. Several key parts of the policy confirm that the University of Michigan is committed to diversity, should not penalize students for missing a class, examination, lab, or paper due date on religious holidays, and is expected to offer students a reasonable alternative to making up missed class assignments. The policy also states that students are expected to give professors and other instructors reasonable notice for upcoming religious holidays, and are responsible for making up any and all missed work. As a safety net, the policy also outlines measures that should be taken in the event that students continue to face conflict.

In detail, the policy in its entirety reads as follows:

"READ THIS: Information for Students Regarding Religious-Academic Conflicts. It is the policy of the University of Michigan to make every reasonable effort to allow members of the University community to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty. Absence from classes

or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments shall be offered an opportunity to make up the work, without penalty, unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any aspect of this policy, parties involved should contact the department chair, the dean of the school, or the Ombudsperson."

According to Scaglione, he recognized religious-academic conflicts to be a problem three years ago. He and other religious group leaders discussed the problem with Vice President for Student Affairs Maureen Hartford, who in turn encouraged him to work on a potential proposal addressing the matter. Scaglione received his chance this past summer attending the Leadership 2017 internship during last May through August. The program, which attracts 16 campus leaders and university officials, provided Scaglione with the environment to shape the final policy. Along with co-author and Associate Provost Susan Lipschutz, a final draft was finally agreed upon. With the approval of Hartford, Provost Machen distributed memos to university faculty informing them of the new policy.

Suggestions and advice were solicited by Scaglione and others during

the six-week drafting period. Prior to these efforts, the university possessed no formal policy by which conflicts of this nature could be resolved, which, according to Scaglione, became the biggest source of students' problems. "There was literally nothing before this provided for students, although the Provost's office would disagree. Without a formal policy, students would have no knowledge about avoiding these situations, they were always handled on a case by case basis in the past," he stated.

According to Michael Brooks from the University of Michigan Hillel Foundation, faculty members in general are very supportive to accommodating students' requests to observe religious holidays while avoiding academic conflicts. "Most faculty go out of their way, but there is always 1 or 2 people who bristle at the notion at being told what to do," Brooks stated. "The question is regarding what kind of compromises do students have to make." Brooks cited a recent incident in which a major chemistry course exam was scheduled for the night of Yom Kippur and could not switch the date due to space and scheduling constraints. As a result, some students had to take the exam during the day and consequently missed the chance to go home for the holiday. Brooks, who works with students from all religious backgrounds, stated that this policy will directly inform students about dealing with these issues, where in the past only faculty received a memo encouraging cooperation.

Scaglione had mostly positive things to say. "Don't give up, it's all about persistence. Make people understand why your goal is important." In response to a fairly critical *Michigan Daily* editorial, Scaglione feels the writers are misinformed and simply do not realize what an accomplishment this is. **MR**

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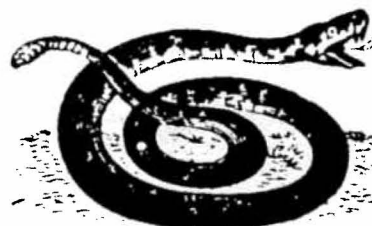
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SERPENT'S TOOTH



Tragedy befell the Clinton Campaign last week. Tired spin-doctors, trying to arrange the Conservative Clinton, the Liberal Clinton, and the Radical Clinton accidentally sent them all to the wrong luncheons. He subsequently dropped 30 points in the polls when the Conservative Clinton told the Democratic Party's Workers of the World Adjunct that he would end all welfare, and the Radical Clinton, dressed in drag, told the Christian Democrat Coalition, that he planned to become a woman so that he could "exercise his right to a partial birth abortion."

Entity, a group of artists with interests in multimedia, shocked the world with their brilliant hoax Saturday in which they projected a flashing "12:00" for thirty minutes onto the sides of the (clockless) north campus bell tower. Not wanting to be outdone, U-M officials are reportedly planning a hoax in which the central campus bell tower will feature the *correct* time for

thirty straight minutes.

Sources close to the Dole/Kemp campaign have informed Serpent's Tooth that the pair, trying to appeal to the younger voter, have launched a new ad campaign in which they will appear dressed as the infamous Dynamic Duo, Batman and Robin. Later, Hillary was seen chasing the president around the White House in a Wonderwoman suit, attempting to ensnare him with a golden lariat, and Ross Perot has signed on as the star in Disney's latest animated blockbuster, a remake of the classic "Dumbo."

In a freak tragedy, *Review* editor-at-large Geraldo Armando-Ruiz was shot on the Diag yesterday, while sponsoring a "burn the Code" protest. As he hobbled towards the medical center, an enraged Mary Lou Antieau chased after him, waving her fist and an AK-47, and shouting, "I am the Law!!!"

In a show of force, all participants in

East Quad's Residential College were arrested by DPS officials at gunpoint yesterday, and await charges for "being a bunch of damned hippies." In related news, a warrant has been issued for the arrest of "all active MSA members," on charges of "inciting a rebellion against the M-State," but to date no arrests have been made.

Recently, MSA President Fiona Rose declared that her victory with 32 percent of the 8 percent voter turnout was "an obvious mandate." On hearing this, all non-Michigan Party members of MSA formed a plurality to "prevent any more damage."

The Spelling Entertainment Group, pleased by the success of "COPS", is apparently planning a new show for the Fox prime-time lineup. "ATF" will have the theme song be "Who Can It Be Now?" by Australian rock group Men at Work. First locations: "ATF in Waco", followed by "ATF in Idaho", to attract an angry rural audience.

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHER

by Lisa Wagner

How do you pick out a freshman?



Jason Wantuck
Junior, LSA
Major: Film/Video
"With tongs."



Matthew Jakubkowski
Senior, LSA
Major: Creative Writing
"Indiscriminately!"



Jon Keyes
Senior, LSA
Major: Film/Video
"I like to thump them and give 'em a squeeze...check for ripeness!"



Wendy Glickman
Junior, LSA
Major: Film/Video
"They travel in herds, that's how you can tell."

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

The Campus Affairs Journal of the
University of Michigan

"Taco. Nacho. Pronto."

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Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board. Ergo, they are unequivocally correct and just. Signed articles, letters, and cartoons represent the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the *Review*. The opinions presented in this publication are not necessarily those of the advertisers or of the University of Michigan (and in the U-M's case, aren't). We welcome letters and articles and encourage comments about the journal.

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□ LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Review

Welcome to the *Review*! For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, the *Michigan Review* is a campus affairs journal of moderate conservative and civil libertarian opinion. The *Review* has a little bit of everything in it, and should have something to interest just about everything. Our news coverage not only informs readers about campus, local, state and national events, but provides a more thoughtful and well-developed analysis of these events, something a daily paper just can't offer on a regular basis. We offer interviews with campus officials, local, state and federal leaders, and anyone who might have something of interest to say to the student body as a whole. Our editorials deal with relevant issues both on the campus and national levels, and are sure to provide food for thought no matter what side of an issue you are on.

On the more leisurely side, the *Review* offers our Living Culture section, headed up by Arts Editor Tom Jolliffe. Living Culture offers readers reviews of the latest books, movies, and music, as well as interviews with

musicians, authors, and films personalities. Living Culture isn't satisfied with providing the same tired reviews of the big-name books, films, and music, instead focusing on lesser-known media that offer a more thoughtful and artistic message.

Sports fans can also find something of interest in the *Review*. Sports Editor Mel Myers and his sports writers provide in-depth, issue-oriented sports essays, taking a more analytic look at athletics. You won't find mere recaps of games and statistics in SportsScene. You will, however, find well-researched, thoughtful articles dealing with the issues that affect sports fans and athletes alike.

For those of you who like a more personal perspective on campus and national issues, my own column, "Roll Up for the Mystery Tour," offers a light-hearted (at times, somewhat ridiculous) view of campus and national issues; I like to highlight the absurd-but-true facts about the issues and provide my own somewhat unique spin on them. While I tend, at times, to have an underlying serious theme, I hope to make the reader see

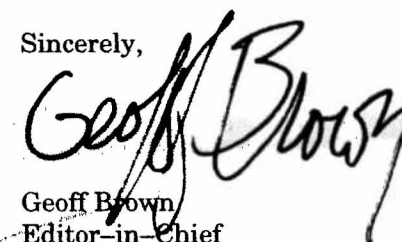
the humorous side of life. Our other columnist, Ben Kepple, offers a slightly more cynical view of national and campus events in his column, "Lost in the Eighties." Whether he's bashing Pat Buchanan, pointing out the inane practices of MSA, or providing his opinion on the MCard, Ben is guaranteed to make you stop and think about the issues which concern us most. You may laugh, or you may get insanely angry, or you may do both; whatever your reaction, you can rest assured that you've read a well-considered essay.

Many of you may be reading the *Review* and asking yourselves, "I wonder how I can get involved?" Well, that answer is easy: just give us a call at 662-1909, or an email at mrey@umich.edu, or stop by our office on the Third Floor of the Michigan League (our Staff Meetings are Tuesday nights at 7 pm). We're always looking for good writers, copy editors, photographers, and especially editorial cartoonists and business staffers. If you want to join, let us know via phone or email, or in person at one of our staff meetings, or at one

of our upcoming Mass Meetings on September 21 and 22 in the League.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and all of the issues to come. We'll continue to provide thought-provoking articles that should satisfy all of your interests, plus we plan some entertaining special pull-out sections that you likely won't want to miss! If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, critical or otherwise, feel free to send us a letter at any time via U.S. Mail: Editor, The *Michigan Review*, 911 N. University Ave. Suite One, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109-1265, or send us email at mrev@umich.edu, and be sure to include the words "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" in the subject line. Keep in mind that we do reserve the right to edit your letter for space or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Geoff Brown
Editor-in-Chief

□ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Truth About LSA-SG

While Benjamin Kepple, in his article "Welcome to the Warzone," may well be correct that the University of Michigan campus is more liberal than conservative, I strongly disagree with his characterization of LSA Student Government (LSA-SG) as being "dominated by liberals." I also strongly disagree with his lumping LSA-SG (for which neither the Liberty Party nor the United People's Coalition fielded candidates) with the very different Michigan Student Assembly. LSA-SG, the student government for the College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts (LSA), deals with issues that defy the liberal or conservative label. These issues include extending the drop/add deadline, reforming the language requirement, expanding the number of ROTC courses that receive academic credit, and increased student input on University commit-

tees. The three major parties ran slates that not only concur with these goals but included both liberals and conservatives.

I am pleased that Kepple is as interested as he is in the College's curriculum (ref. "History Department Revisionism, Summer Issue, 1996—Ed.) and I welcome his call for conservatives and libertarians to help staff our student government. I think they will find much in common with the liberals, moderates, and, yes, conservatives who are already involved. Everyone is welcome and free to join LSA-SG as an associate member. Our meetings are at 7 PM on Tuesdays in the LSA Building, and I can be reached at pbs@umich.edu.

—Paul Scublinsky
President, LSA-SG

Do You:

- Think families should be responsible for morality, and not the Government?
- Feel that the Regents should not go trying to improve upon the Constitution, due process and the judicial system with its Code?
- Think MSA is a bunch of opportunistic weenies in search of a neat line on their résumé instead of a smart way of spending our \$250,000.00?

If you said yes to any of the above, we bet you'd enjoy a subscription to the *Michigan Review*.

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□ FROM SUITE ONE

Banish Apathy From U-M

THERE ARE MANY ISSUES ON CAMPUS OUTSIDE OF THE classroom that directly affect students. The University of Michigan, at one time, was a center for student activism and to some extent, continues to be. However, a certain apathy has gripped the campus in recent years. Of late, students have neglected to become involved in events and issues that should be of utmost importance to them.

For instance, last year's implementation by the Regents of the new Code of Student Conduct went all but unnoticed by the majority of the student body. Such a grievous breach of civil liberties should have attracted the outrage and protest of most of the University community. While many students did actively work against the Code, many more did not even know what the Code was, much less what it stood for. Most people don't realize that the Code can suspend or even expel them based upon scant evidence and tribunals set up on shaky procedural foundations. Many students also feel that since they don't "do anything wrong," that the Code won't affect them and that they should just leave well enough alone. However, any affront to civil liberties should be cause for alarm even to the most law-abiding citizen.

Another good example of student apathy is the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA). MSA receives \$250,000 annually, all derived from our tuition and fees. MSA is given almost free reign to spend this money however it chooses. Some of it is distributed to student organizations who legitimately need it. The largest amount of money, however, is retained by MSA for its own internal funding. MSA ends up spending most of this money on inane activities such as "fact-finding" trips of dubious significance to student interests and funding for refreshments at committee meetings, a purpose that, incidentally, MSA does not allow student groups to use MSA funding for. These sorts of things go completely unnoticed by students who seem uninterested how MSA spends such a large amount of their money, and even less interested in the fact that most of this money does little to benefit them. The custodians of this large amount of money are elected in an election that has turnouts of a mere nine percent of the entire student body. Current MSA President Fiona Rose claims to have a "clear mandate" to spend our money and make policy to her choosing, despite only capturing 32 percent of the vote, a number that doesn't warrant a claim of a "clear mandate" in and of itself, and which is made less significant when one realizes that 32 percent of the nine percent turnout equals a mere three percent of the student population. Clear mandate, indeed. However, MSA is empowered to represent the students in several policy-making decisions. They are also the official student liaison to the Board of Regents. However, MSA's past incompetence and internal political bickering along with low voter turnouts has served to all but discredit MSA and thus students in the eyes of the Regents. The Regents feel that they have a free hand to pass whatever policies (like the Code of Student Conduct and tuition hikes) because Students have demonstrated a lack of concern for these issues. They don't listen to MSA because nobody shows up for elections, thus demonstrating to the Regents that MSA can't possibly claim to speak for all or even very many students. Add to this the bevy of politicians that fill MSA hoping for a flashy line on their résumés and it is easy to see that our interests are not being protected when dealing with the administration.

We can combat this. We can stand up for our rights and be heard. We can make MSA and the Board of Regents more accountable to the student body. What is needed is for students to get up from behind their desks, computers, and televisions and go out and get involved in campus affairs. There is no end to the campus organizations one may join. Groups exist for all interests and political leanings. One unfortunate fact is that at the University of Michigan, most students can't see past their desks and their schoolbooks, and find themselves "too busy" to get involved in things that affect them a great deal. We have some advice: put the books down and take charge of your lives. It won't be the end of the world if you get a B+ instead of an A in Organic Chemistry. You have more to learn from real life and being involved in campus and national issues than from any book. Learn more about the things the administration does that affect you. Form an opinion. If you don't like what's happening, do something about it! Vote in the MSA elections. Get some people in there who know what they're doing, and who will make the Regents take them and us seriously. Mark Twain once remarked, "I never let schooling get in the way of my education." Truer words have never been spoken. Activism not only preserves our rights, but serves as an education in the ways of the "real world," which many of us will be forced to live in in a few scant years. There is a world outside your dorm room and library doors. Go out and find it. **MR**



□ COMMENTARY

U.S. News Unfair to U-M

ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, *U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT* HAS issued a ranking of America's colleges and universities that is founded on questionable criteria and clearly biased against public institutions. The time has come to call their bluff.

Only three public universities made the list this year (up from two the previous year). Not one of these schools made it into the top 20 spots on the list. The University of Michigan (24) was joined by the University of Virginia (21) and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (25). Missing from the list were the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The reasons for this blatant exclusion can be traced back to the flawed methodology of the survey. While each of these schools ranked in the top 20 of a category called "academic reputation", they were all hurt by other factors including student-faculty ratio, freshman retention rate, graduation rates, and the percentage of alumni who donated money to their schools.

Consider this last measure as representative of what is wrong with the *U.S. News* process. The University of Michigan was not in the top 100 schools in the country in the percentage of alumni who donated in the previous year. This ranking comes despite the fact that the U-M has just recently completed a mind-boggling \$1 billion alumni drive over a year ahead of the five year schedule that fund-raisers were planning.

Alumni donations are not a legitimate factor in evaluating a college anyhow. *The Gourman Report*, an independent college ranking survey conducted by a former professor from the University of California system, recognizes the importance of considering alumni. Instead of considering the money that alumni give the school though, *The Gourman Report* ranks the success of alumni. This factor is derived by the number of students placed in positions in industry or graduate education in the field that the student graduated in. The University of Michigan is ranked third overall in the most recent *Gourman Report*.

The obvious bias towards private liberal arts schools by *U.S. News* would be much less troubling if it were not for the fact that millions of high school students, parents, and counselors look to the results of the survey to decide which school is "the best." *U.S. News* has decided what they consider to be a good school. Those schools that do not fit their model are made to seem less important.

All schools and all students are not created equally. Big schools have advantages and disadvantages that small schools do not. It is not the role of *U.S. News* or any other media source to decide which approach to education is more appropriate. That is for the student to decide. **MR**

—Pat Eskew



COMMENTARY

The Freedom of (Electronic) Speech

WITH THE RECENT DECISION BY CHINA TO BLOCK THE FLOW of objectionable internet data across its borders, and the renewed press attention to concepts such as WebTV which hope to bring internet access to the mass market, the issue of internet decency and censorship in the United States must also receive renewed attention.

In the past decade, personal computers transformed from an ineffectual luxury toy of the elite electronics aficionados to the mainstay of diverse forms of productivity, education, and leisure, and a commonplace sight in homes of all kinds. Likewise, the internet grew from an all-but-unknown government project into a mammoth, free-flowing enterprise that intermingles commercial, not-for-profit, government and private services, and crosses international borders almost without recognition of their existence. The initial guidelines of the internet were made without any response for these immense changes, and no one has not come up with a coherent answer for the question, how must the internet change to accommodate the new demands placed upon it?

Clearly, many people are greatly interested in using the internet for commerce. To this end, private sources, such as Netscape have contributed great leaps in the provision of secure means of transferring data such as credit card numbers. These companies have made this concern a non-issue.

On the other hand, there is a great controversy over the censorship of objectionable data, such as erotica. While private groups have provided effective products to combat this problem (such as Surfwatch), the government nonetheless chose to attempt the now-defunct Communications Decency Act. The public response has been a clear: whether or not such censorship is acceptable in Germany or China, it is not here. Likewise, other government initiatives such as the "Clipper Chip" are largely hailed as unconstitutional attacks on privacy.

Clearly, the government must have some method of protecting Americans from crime that is conducted over the internet, similar to such provisions for phone conversations. However, a clandestine and pervasive system such as the Clipper Chip is unacceptable. E-Mail and other internet communication is no different from telephone conversation; the government should not be able to intercept any form of private communications without a court-issued warrant.

In the case of indecent material, the abundance of privately-operated methods for blocking indecent material from minors is clearly sufficient to allow concerned parents and guardians to protect their children, and the government must recognize the right of adults to censor themselves. Computer manufacturers and service providers must not be dragged into any sort of involuntary censorship, which is harmful to them both economically and in principle.

This country is based on an unequivocal affirmation of the freedom to communicate. In practice, this is restricted to protect the public. However, the American people do not need a big brother, a big father, or an Uncle Sam to control the flow of information that is not for the express purpose of crime. The American people, in such cases where they see the need for such control, are capable of implementing it on their own.

—Mohan Krishnan

FROM THE BRANCH OFFICE

Revise Foreign Policy

A COMMON THEME THAT MANY CRITICS OF UNITED STATES foreign policy have in their objections is that US foreign policy has a lack of focus, is full of indecision, and does not adequately represent American interests abroad. Indeed, a major problem with the United States' foreign policy is exactly that: it is *not* clear and concise, does *not* finish the job, and does *not* adequately represent American interests abroad. This must be changed, not only in order to begin salvaging the reputation of the United States globally, but to ensure that American interests are adequately protected.

In order for the United States to maintain its reputation as a global power, the nation must have a foreign policy that appears not only powerful but determined. In future situations, the United States **must**:

- Ensure that we take adequate planning and clearly define our goals and interests in a conflict area before jumping in with both feet.
- Take an "all or nothing" approach to foreign policy, especially in a situation that may potentially lead to warfare. Limited action has proven to be either disastrous or mostly ineffectual in these situations, including Vietnam, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf.
- Eliminate the United Nations and other foreign powers from consideration when it comes to planning or implementing foreign policy. The United States must finally look out for itself first and other nations later.

The United States should not allow a recurrence of the Somalia debacle, during which policy makers decided to switch from distributing food to chasing after Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid. Not only were they unsuccessful in their repeated attempts to capture Aidid, they seriously compromised the original purpose of Operation Restore Hope and in the balance, lost the lives of many soldiers. In this situation, the US should have been content to carry out the original mission and simply aid the delivery of food and other goods to relief agencies instead of attempting a botched manhunt.

A similar situation is present in Iraq as well, where Saddam Hussein still maintains a grip on power. The Iraqi people are being choked by UN economic sanctions that are obviously not working. Yet Saddam Hussein was still able to rebuild his forces, this past week essentially re-capturing northern Iraq and fortifying his position there. This whole situation is largely the result of weak US foreign policy. Five years ago, when the United States launched their offensive into Iraq, they were able to easily crush the Iraqi outer defenses and paralyze the country. However, after freeing Kuwait, they stopped. It would have made more sense in the long run for the United States to support Shi'ite rebels in the south and Kurdish rebels in the north of Iraq, and to overthrow Hussein and install a provisional government in Baghdad. Such a move would most likely have been more costly in men and equipment, but would have greatly reduced Iraqi power in the region. Instead, the United States stopped its' offensive, promised the rebel forces help and assistance, and then abandoned them to face the Iraqi army alone. And with little opposition to Iraq until now, it is no surprise that Hussein has been able to rebuild most of his forces and equipment; a clear cut case of the United States not following through on a job.

Had the United States stuck to its guns, as it were, in Somalia and Iraq, it is reasonable to assume that many of the problems we faced, then and now, could have been avoided or scaled down.

However, the United States must also eliminate using the UN as a tool or banner to use to carry out its foreign policy. The UN has enough trouble attempting to carry out its' own misguided foreign policy initiatives, which usually involve sending token forces from a third-rate power into a combat zone, where they then proceed to hole up and be used as target practice by hostile local fighters. If US interests are at stake, turning operations over to the United Nations or allowing American soldiers to fight under the inept leadership of that body would be a major mistake. The United States must make sure that foreign policy goals are met and secured before allowing the United Nations to take control of a situation. The United States must also eliminate the United Nations from consideration when making foreign policy decisions. The current U.S. involvement in Bosnia, which has resulted in US casualties, is due to the failure of the United Nations and Europe to effectively address the problem.

In short, it is time that the United States begin to look out for the United States and its interests, but also to do so with a sharp eye out for what needs to be done, and how it gets done. When we begin to do this, we will see an improvement in not only the results of foreign policy, but in the reputation of America worldwide. **MR**

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Students Begin Code Training

BY BENJAMIN KEPPLE

THE CODE OF STUDENT Conduct is not exactly one of students' favorite policies at the University of Michigan. However, this did not prevent 30 individuals from taking the first step to becoming Code panelists. By doing so, they joined the pool of students that may someday preside over a Code arbitration hearing, acting in a combination of roles as lawyer, judge, jury, and executioner.

The ten-hour long training session appeared to be taxing on some students, and near the end of the session, some were looking quite fatigued: holding their heads, rubbing their eyes, and generally looking less bright than at the beginning.

Mary Lou Antieau, Resolution Coordinator for the Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR), a subdivision of the Office of Student Affairs, was in charge of the training session, and assisted by various members of her office. The panelists-in-training were selected by various members of campus student governments, most coming from the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) and the LSA Student Government (LSA-SG). Many students also volunteered to join the panelist pool. It is interesting to note that out of 49 new students invited, that only 30 actually came to the first portion of training session.

The training session began with a speech from Maureen Hartford, Vice President of Student Affairs. During her speech, Hartford stressed that "one of the things that makes a University Community is discipline," with the Code being "the beginning of discipline," with academic guidelines imposed by the various colleges as a continuation of that discipline. She also made note of the fact that such a process must be fair, and quoted the Magna Charta to that effect: "To none will we sell, deny, or delay the rights of justice." She ended by thanking the students for participating in the training process.

The training session went on to cover various aspects of the skills necessary to be effective Code panelists. First, Sean McCabe-Plius, a 3rd year doctoral student and graduate intern in the Office of Student Affairs, explained the need for diversity throughout the Code process. He stated that the Code process "involved diversity at every level," and defined diversity

as "the state or quality of being different, not alike." He also stated that due to the backgrounds of the people involved in the Code process (and not just the panelists), that it was very likely everyone would see things in a different light.

Secondly, Barbara Olender, former assistant to the Resolution Coordinator, discussed many of the terms used and the information available to the Code panelists during the Code process. She stressed the importance of being able to identify just what the main issues were in a case. She said that the panelists could expect "potentially interesting situations" and that overall, working on a case could sometimes be "extremely complex and challenging."

The terminology used under the Code is rather simple. The person making the complaint is known as the *complaining witness*. The person who the complaint is directed against is known as the *accused student*. A *witness* is any person who can provide information in regards to the case; hence, since the person filing the complaint may be also to provide information, he is known as a *complaining witness*.

Students charged under the Code, if they and the complaining witness do not choose to have their differences settled via a mediator (or if the situation makes mediation impractical or impossible) may choose to have their case settled by either a Resolution Officer (RO) or a Student Resolution Panel. During such an arbitration by the Student Resolution Panel, the Panel will be assisted by an RO, with information being provided and submitted by the Resolution Coordinator. Both parties involved may have legal assistance and a legal advisor present, but not legal representation.

Olender stressed that panelists must be prepared, neutral, thoughtful, and courteous to the accused student(s) and the complaining witness throughout the arbitration hearing. In relatively straightforward cases, panelists would be given three days to examine the "case file" of a case going to arbitration. In complex cases, more than three days would be given. If a panelist could not view the files, it would be their responsibility to contact the OSCR so that a new panelist could be assigned. A case file would usually contain the complaint, the response to the complaint by the accused, letters from the University to the accused, witness statements, and various reports (police, medical, incident, etc.). Such a case file is kept in the OSCR and is confidential.

Olender also told the participants to be vigilant in their search for bias. The panelists were told of the need to ask probing but courteous questions in order to cut through any irrelevant information. Panelists were also told that if they felt uncomfortable about a case or a decision, to let the office know and they would find a new panelist to take their place.

Next, Susan Eklund, Associate Dean of the Law School, spoke to the students about how to formulate questions for a Code hearing. She emphasized the need to be fair, and strongly advised against acting as if one is Perry Mason. She continued to state that a panelist should not cut off the witness, should not joke or be disrespectful, and should not put words of the mouth of a witness, hoping to trip them up or catch them in a self-contradiction. A panelist also should not use leading or embedded questions when questioning a witness. Eklund advised panelists to ask questions using Emily Post as a standard: ask questions with dignity and respect. She also strongly advised panelists to use open ended question and to ask questions designed to get as much relevant information as possible.

After lunch, Antieau again spoke, this time on the determination of responsibility, facts, and truth. She pointed out that facts do not make truth in itself; but rather that facts must be presented in the case that supports the panel's belief as to what is true. In order to state that a violation of the Code took place, the panel must subject their belief to the clear and convincing standard. The "bottom line" of this standard, is as follows:

- it is highly probable that it (the charge) is true.

- the facts are clear and unambiguous and that a violation (of the Code) took place.

- one is more than 51% sure that a violation occurred.

But for one to be found responsible under the Code, the *entire* panel of students must agree that a violation took place. This is in contrast to most colleges, where only a majority of students must agree to find the accused guilty.

The last major part of the day involved McCabe-Plius speaking on the responsibility of the panel when it came to actually sanctioning a student. He stated that the sanction must fit the violation, and that the sanction must be reflective of the University Community. Panelists should try to distinguish between the act and the accused.

McCabe-Plius continued to say that sanctions should be positive, instead of negative, and should be used to educate the student to show him what he did wrong. While he admitted that an "educational sanction" seemed like somewhat of an oxymoron, he felt that a sanction should be used to "re-educate" a student and to teach him what he did wrong, instead of punishing him.

At the end of the day, Antieau reminded the panelists of their responsibility that they were taking on, and explained that in the extremely unlikely case that a disaffected student would sue the individual panel members of the Student Resolution Panel, they would be provided with free legal representation and the University would pay any damages levied against them — *if* the panelists followed the Code and the procedures outlined in it.

One student, David Finkbeiner, an Engineering sophomore, "felt that (the training) was adequate. Without a doubt, the most valuable part (of training) will be the mock arbitration." He went on to say that he didn't feel prepared but that "he needed a chance to practice."

Another student, Mike Pniewski, an Engineering senior, agreed that the mock arbitrations would be helpful. He was pleased that "It's not just a majority anymore," that is able to decide guilt or innocence, but that the whole panel must agree.

As the students filed out of the Kuenzel room at around 5:45 that night, many of them looked relieved that the long training session was done. The next step for the panelists would be to sit through two mock arbitrations on either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the following week, and after that their training would be complete.

Throughout the training session, each speaker told the panelists to ask questions if they were confused, of the availability of supplemental training if trainees felt they needed additional resources, and of the availability of resources and staff at the OSCR if they had any questions. Antieau indicated that the new training session was designed using the feedback of many of the students who had gone through the old training program, and that the training session was improved from previous times.

While the Code is still despised by civil libertarians as infringing on the rights of students, it seems that if the Administration has realized that if they have a Code, they are now going to have to follow it to the letter. **MR**

Benjamin Kepple is an LSA junior and the National Affairs Editor of the Review.

□ ESSAY

School Choice Desperately Needed

BY EVAN KNOTT

THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL campaign is careening further and further away from substantive issues as election day draws nearer. Should one manage to catch a glimpse of the important issues beyond the mudslinging this fall, one may find that some candidates are trying to take a serious look at public education reform. President Clinton has carefully tiptoed around the modest agenda of publicly accountable charter schools, while Republican challenger Robert Dole has tried to aggressively embrace the more ambitious idea of enacting full school choice plans through tuition vouchers. The need for substantial public education reform poses a crucial election-year issue like few others. It is imperative that voters challenge the failed practices plaguing our nation's schools and implement positive change for our children.

The direction our public schools are heading is terrifying. Today, more than 45 million young people, or three-fifths of all Americans under the age of nineteen, attend one of 85,000 public schools. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), six out of seven eighth-graders are not "proficient" in American history, and 57% of high-school seniors registered "below basic" in this subject. The California state university system in 1994 has reported that half of the entering freshmen required remedial instruction in reading, math or both—the fifth straight year in which this number has increased. These alarming figures represent only one survey; other research in this area has turned up even more disturbing results.

This sad reality hit even harder here in the state of Michigan. Recently, the state released a report displaying the performance of high school juniors on basic proficiency tests in such fundamental subjects as mathematics, reading, writing, and science reasoning. According to the results, fewer than 40% of all Michigan high school juniors managed to demonstrate minimum levels of proficiency in these subjects.

Our nation's public schools have performed even worse in providing quality education for minority students. While two out of five fourth-graders fail to read adequately, two out of every three African-American

and Hispanic youngsters are unable to meet minimum levels of reading proficiency. With so many of our nation's minority students locked into inner-city school districts unable to acquire the necessary staffing and funding integral to a quality education, it is hardly any wonder that these students constantly face an uphill battle in making a better life for themselves and their communities.

The increasing degradation of our public schools obviously was not the cruel intentions of our founding fathers, but rather the unfortunate result of the federal government and teachers' unions gradual takeover of school management. The word "education" appears nowhere in the Constitution, thus the responsibility was certainly reserved for the states. Even John Locke, in the classic *Second Treatise of Government*, wrote "The first part then of paternal power, or rather duty, which is education, belongs so to the father..." However, the progressivism of the 1920's joined and extended the "mental-hygiene" movement, promoting not informed and skilled students, but students with healthy personalities. The system further deteriorated after World War II as the federal government enlarged its role in regulating standards and requirements. By the 1970's and 1980's, a growing army of teachers' unions and other special interests infiltrated the system, thus imposing 1,000-page federal education statutes. In fact, in 1992, the U.S. spent 7% of its gross domestic product on education, while educationally superior nations such as Japan spent only 4.8% of its GDP on similar investments. Clearly, our educators have not yet mastered proper management and productivity. Today, our schools are up to their necks in irreversible operating procedures, making real change almost impossible.

Several courses of action exist that will permit us to take back our nation's schools from the bureaucrats. First, we need to cut the strings from which teachers' unions are able to manipulate our policymakers. Whereas unions like the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers once had bona-fide grievances to argue about, such as poor pay, bans on marriage for female teachers, and race-based hiring; they are now actively engaged in filing lawsuits against students for attempting to enroll in charter schools. At other times, they are busy defending the perverse teaching of revisionist, anti-American accounts of his-

tory and the further balkanization of American culture and society. To put it mildly, today's teachers' unions have become a malignant and pernicious evil in the face of real educational reform.

Secondly, we need to reinvest in the machinery vital to the educational process. This entails upgrading teacher-training programs, stiffening graduation requirements, installing modern technology, revamping reading programs, reducing class size, monitoring teacher performance (or lack thereof), and making schools more productive. The manner in which these ideals are best achieved is through permitting parents to choose the school that is best for their child.

President Clinton, whose own daughter attends a prestigious private school, and who himself is the product of parochial schooling, refuses to acknowledge the successes of various charter and voucher school programs throughout the country. For example, voucher plans in Milwaukee and Cleveland provide parents with public money to pay for private schools and some other forms of charter schools in 25 states running independently from district regulations are attracting more than 1.2 million students annually. Instead, our nation's leader, with the teachers' unions in his back pocket, has attempted to appease the American public by proposing ridiculous schemes such as mandatory uniforms and curfews in place of real structural changes. On the other hand, Dole has unsuccessfully promoted a strong school voucher plan, and for good reason.

America seems to be on the brink of shaking up our nation's schools. The combination of tax revenues redi-

rected toward tuition vouchers and the determination of our nation's parents, companies, and investors can certainly rise to the challenge of creating academically excellent and autonomous schools for our children. Already, a number of Wall Street firms have sponsored conferences for investors eager to take part in these reforms. Several major corporations are launching ambitious plans for privatizing education.

A large segment of our population has decided to abandon this failure. The rising enrollment of students into charter, private, and parochial schools should be telling our legislators that alternatives to education are not only much needed, but also perform above and beyond the status quo. Last year, 269 charter schools enrolled more than 70,000 students, while plans for the creation of another 350 are still in the works. Private school enrollment has risen faster than public enrollment for that past five years; Catholic schools have arrested their long-term slippage; and home schooling is even on the rise.

The facts present a strong case for the need for school choice. Mr. Dole, at the Republican National Convention, proclaimed that "if education were a war in America, the teachers' unions would be losing it." Whatever your political affiliations may be, these words simply cannot be denied. As former Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander recently stated, "The lack of school choice is the Berlin wall of domestic social policy, and it's all going to come down." We can only hope that our policymakers will tackle this reality in the spirit of those who have already worked so hard for positive change. The future of our nation's children is depending on it. MR

Why do you go to college? Is it to work some day in one of the high-paying jobs in the crowded job market? Is it to try to get an MBA for an edge over other workers? Is it to work for four hard years, slaving away over Engineering Fortran programs, working your fingers to the bone to write a program THAT NO ONE IS GOING TO EVER USE?!

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□ CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Leftists Protest the KKK

BY MOHAN KRISHNAN

FOR A MOMENT, CAMPUS felt like a politically charged, unstable, and potentially disastrous bomb. Of course it passed — that's not the point. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) rally at City Hall this summer was a brief moment of raw, primal social revolutionism.

This is not to suggest that anyone actually heard a word the Klan said. Indeed, far more interesting than the scary men in white hoods were the mobs of protesters who were roused up by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) and the National Women's Rights Organizing Coalition (NWROC) to throw rocks and drown out the KKK. The two groups united in front of the Michigan Union and marched to Ann Arbor City Hall shouting mantras like:

"Black and White
Unite and Fight
for Youth Liberation!"

The NWROC/RAIL "counter-protest" was, of course, like an enlarged (there were attendees) communist rally. Indicting the government, the bourgeoisie, the police force, and the white populace as conspirators complicit in the oppression of the poor and minorities, the groups' speakers pointed to the Klan as just one part of a large social problem whose solution

the protesters on a march through town, carrying signs proclaiming such slogans as "No Free Speech for Fascists" and "Create a Worker's Militia to Crush Fascism." At City Hall, the group was met by supporters from area unions, striking newspaper workers, and other groups such as the Revolutionary Workers' Organization. They were also joined by local high school students — Keisha Thomas of the Black Student Union at Huron High School proclaimed, "I am ready



The NWROC/RAIL protesters march to City Hall

to stand side-by-side with you to fight," and Nicole Smith, another high school student, pointed out, "We need to let them know that we ain't joking."

Other area leaders emphasized the groups' belief that protests are an effective method of fighting the Klan — a speaker from Active Transformation of Lansing, identifying himself as Chris, said, "I hear a lot of people say the best way to fight the Klan is to stay home — I think that is a really stupid idea." Kevin Kerry of the Workers' World Party concurred, saying, "It's time for people of color in general to join together and smash the Klan."

The speeches at City Hall continued to link the Klan to the government and to capitalism. Kerry continued by saying, "Last year the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms] had Klan members in it; it still does today." Barb

Plisko, of the Industrial Workers of the World, reading a statement from the organization's secretary, stated, "Racism is a tool to divide the working class and take our focus away from who the real enemies are." She also stated that, "Once you've put on a Klan robe, you've defined yourself as an enemy of the working class — and that will not be tolerated."

Denouncing a member of the crowd who was wearing a Confederate Flag shirt as a "Nazi," part of the group then chased him away from the protest. This was the same incident

that caused police intervention and was later iconized by the news when a local woman (who was black) used her body to shield him from the other protesters. The protesters' views on the violent response were mixed. A local citizen, Tom, endorsed the crowd's violent attitude, saying, "Ladies and Gentlemen, what we did right there is what we need to do today." Others chanted, "Die Nazi scum" and "The Cops and the Klan work hand in hand." However, others warned that the incident could be a ruse designed to separate a group of the protesters from the main body and urged their comrades to return to the main contingency.

At this point members of the crowd began to randomly link others with the racism and violence characterized by the Klan — one participant said to an observing street preacher, "Hey, Homie with the Good Book! You can't make up for hundreds of years of slavery with that."

After the main group of counter-protest speeches, the rally quickly degenerated into a halfway state between a picnic (it was one of the nicest days of this summer in Ann Arbor, weatherwise) and a freak show. Perched on the roof of City Hall with inadequate amplification systems, the Klan members seemed like a preposterous caricature, a bunch of angry white men (and women and even children) shaking their fists and shouting epithets which no one could really hear. Of course, the little snippets one could hear here were the standard tripe that one expects from people like the KKK.



Scores of police, many in riot gear, guard City Hall and the KKK

The whole thing smacked of a publicity stunt. In that sense, it worked for both groups. The Klan must realize that they could never expect to face Ann Arbor, the most liberal and tolerant town in the universe, without having their teeth and limbs forcibly removed from their bod-

ies. So, in hiding behind police protection, they seem like the oppressed minority. They also present the unjustifiable illusion that the police and the government support them (in fact, a good number of the police officers guarding the Klan were



DO NOT TOUCH THE FENCE OR YOU WILL BE MACED

Afroamericans ... but the list of ironies became infinite long before I noticed this). Faced the the absurd, fascist, racist intolerance of the men in white, the leftists had more evidence for their claims of social injustice and more protests to spur a revolution than they could have asked for. Swarming city hall like a huge World War II Russian infantry, the proletarian army drowned out the police and the Klan and seemed indefeatable.

Something about this bothered me. The Klan is an unjustifiable, worthless pile of smelly trash. They are a gang of surly imbeciles devoid of any virtue and masters of every vice. They defy arguments of conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats, Capitalists and Socialists. They are the bubonic plague of idiocy. No man, woman, or child without a serious mental problem supports them. So why is it that the only groups to organize a protest are leftist radical organizations who still pine over the fall of the Soviet empire and the looming deaths of communism everywhere else? Why were there no Republicans or Libertarians or even Democrats out there to show that they hate the Klan as much as everyone else?

NWROC and RAIL deserve credit for organizing an opposition to the KKK when

no one else bothered to do so, but things should not have been this way. It is disappointing that, in the brief moment when I felt at the center of political activism bigger than anything else I'd been in since I came to Ann Arbor, I was completely surrounded by leftists. **MR**



The group of protesters at City Hall was formidable

was revolutionary adoption of communist policy. Linking the violent acts of the Klan to conservative attempts to reform welfare and other government policies, one organizer said, "we have to begin to fight for a civil rights movement now for you." Encouraging revolutionary concepts, the organizer declared that "there is a new movement," and encouraged the formation of a "militant black civil rights movement to drive out skinhead recruiters."

Urging participants to "lay siege on city hall," NWROC and RAIL led

□ NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minimum Wage Support Misguided

BY MATTHEW BUCKLEY

IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT when election season comes, political principles often fall on the altar of political expediency. President Clinton's waffling on several issues has been a Republican plank during the campaign, yet the GOP should be wary. Recent congressional legislation concerning the minimum wage shows that Republican ability to change positions may well match that of the President.

H.R. 3448, signed by Clinton on Aug. 20, will bump the federal minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 by September of next year. The bill passed by wide margins: in the House by 414-10; in the Senate, 74-24. Though raising the minimum wage is usually a Democratic policy, the bill's sponsor is House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer (R-Tex.), who represents what the *Almanac of American Politics* calls "possibly the most Republican district in the nation." Bipartisanship seems to be the word of the day.

Yet on the minimum wage,

bipartisanship is not the answer. On both economic and political reasons, it makes no sense for the Republicans to support this bill.

The economic argument against the minimum wage is painfully simple. Market forces create an equilibrium price for labor dictated by supply and demand. The result is an efficient (though not always perfect) market price. If the government sets a "floor" that an employer cannot breach in terms of wages, then if the equilibrium price is below this floor, employers would have to pay more than the market rate for the labor.

If the government gets involved with a minimum wage, it disturbs that market equilibrium. Obviously, many more workers will want to work at that wage: but as for employers, they will not only hire fewer people at the higher rate, but will in fact fire workers to cut costs. Minimum wages grant workers a better standard of living, but also reduces the number of workers.

A recent study by David Card and Alan Krueger, both economists at Princeton, proved the point, though

ironically. The study claimed that a 18% minimum wage increase in New Jersey increased the number of fast-food restaurant jobs (a typical minimum-wage industry), in comparison to Pennsylvania, which kept its minimum wage constant. Krueger, a member of Clinton's Labor Department, touted the study as proof that the minimum wage was effective for job creation.

Alas, for the Card-Krueger study, the devil was in the details. Based on telephone polling, the study overlooked more accurate indicators of actual employment: employers' payroll records. With this data, economists David Neumark (Michigan State) and William Wascher (Federal Reserve) showed that the minimum wage increased actually lowered fast-food restaurant employment by 4.6%. Economic theory 1, minimum wage zero.

Theoretical hits keep coming. Since it is poorly paid workers whose wages rise due to the minimum wage, they are the ones who are cut when the minimum wage rises. The victims are disproportionately the young, minorities, and the less-educated. A study by Texas A&M and University of Chicago economists showed those groups suffered after the federal minimum wage increases of 1990 and 1991. Economic theory 2, minimum wage zero.

Finally, remember the increased demand for employment? That higher wage is a higher incentive for people to work, including young high-school students. Another Neumark-Wascher study indicates rising minimum wages tempted more Americans to

leave school to enter the workplace, abandoning education for higher wages. Hat trick, economic theory.

In spite of economic theory, Republicans decided overwhelmingly in favor of the bill. For the conservative Archer to be calling for the bill is bizarre. It's all even more bizarre considering that after the 1994 elections prominent Republicans like Representative Dick Armey (R-Tex.) were claiming that talk of a minimum wage increase were dead in the water.

What do the Republicans gain from voting for the minimum wage? Nothing. The only possible gain they get is a recognizable gesture aimed at the lower-class, who are a solid Democratic constituency and are not going to vote Republicans off this issue. Since this was bipartisan, both parties will get the "credit": there is no Republican gain. The GOP ran scared from possible Democratic ads pinning the failure of a minimum wage bill on the Republicans.

This is a serious problem. It illustrates that given the choice between putting forth a real argument on issues where the party is right, and turning tail and hiding in the face of scare tactics, the GOP leadership will take a powder. It illustrates that the GOP finds the contours of its policies located squarely in the middle of polling data. Given the willpower, the GOP could've put forth a solid, convincing, and compassionate case against the minimum wage; instead, it has decided to roll with the electoral year tide. Sounds exactly like the GOP's complaint list for the sitting President. MR



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□ CAMPUS AFFAIRS

U-M Center of Statewide Debate

BY ERIC GRINNELL

JUST AS THE STATE OF Michigan is the center of attention for Presidential campaigns, the University of Michigan is also the focus of the Michigan Republican Party. At the Michigan Republican Convention on September 6 and 7, every issue and every candidate was handled and voted on in record time, and without hesitation. Included in these issues, the Republican Party voted for support of Congress in banning partial birth abortion, called for a ban of physician assisted suicide, eliminating duplicative government services and waste, and called for a prohibition on U.S. servicemen from serving under foreign commanders. The Republican Party showed themselves to be a unified body, without dissension, and truly indicative of the "Big Tent" discussed so thoroughly at the national convention in San Diego.

Then there was the University of Michigan. To those of us who are students at UM, it should come as no surprise that if there is going to be a debate, or an airing out of opinions,

the University of Michigan can be counted on to play its part. However, there was a great surprise at the state convention, and it came to the Michigan Republican Party in the form of Mike Bishop, a Michigan alumni and dark horse candidate for one of the open seats on the U-M Board of Regents.

Many of the Michigan Republicans did not see the conflict coming. Deane Baker, a long time member of the Board of Regents had just unanimously been nominated to run for reelection on the Republican ticket, and many felt that the nominations for the second seat would go just as smoothly. There were some eyebrows raised in regards to Mike Bishop, the young 28 year old real estate lawyer from Waterford, Michigan, but mainly because of his very short campaign. Mr. Bishop, running against a well financed and long standing campaign from opponent and fellow Republican Judy Frey, started campaigning for the office of Michigan Regent only three days before the September 6th opening of the State Convention. As such, his sweeping victory came as a

great surprise.

However, surprise turned briefly to confusion when Governor John Engler took the podium. There were several procedural questions that needed to be addressed, and the Governor also took the opportunity to speak in support of Judy Frey, mentioning the importance of having another female member on the Board of Regents, and calling for support of the Republican dedication to the party of the "Big Tent." Tempers got hot, voices were raised in debate, and ultimately a re-vote was called for, in order to be procedurally in-line. "The University of Michigan is a very high priority for us as a party," said one voting delegate present. "[along with] having the best and most concerned leadership as possible." "How the future leaders of our state and nation are educated is of the utmost importance, and we are very concerned."

The concern spoken of was rather observable, as delegates returned to their Congressional District areas once again to regroup and revote. While the voting on all other issues had been conducted and concluded in a matter of minutes, the revote for Bishop vs. Frey lasted longer than two hours. Opinions heard by the delegates were as varied as the delegates themselves, and right up until the last District posted returns there was no decisive leader. Frey had carried Governor Engler's support a long way and to great advantage. At the end, Mike Bishop led by only 11 votes out of more than 1800, and the remaining District, the Third, was Judy Frey's home territory. Many thought the election as good as done. However, the members of the Third District were not among them. Unable to reach a

decision, a secret-ballot was called for. In the end, Mike Bishop was shown to be the winner by a narrow margin.

After the returns, the Republicans were unified in support for Mike Bishop, all the way from the Governor to Judy Frey. Mrs. Frey spoke in support of Mike Bishop, saying that the democratic process had been fair and reflective of Republican concern for the University of Michigan. She did not rule out the prospect of running for Regent again, and expressed no regret or contention with the elections, except the she "regrets not having the opportunity to work for the students of the University of Michigan."

Mr. Bishop's speech in accepting the nomination was heartfelt and showed strong dedication to the University of Michigan. He spoke of his pride at being a U-M graduate, and how he looked forward to serving the University as one of its Regents. He stressed the need for the strong Republican unity to continue, thanking Frey for her kind words, and reaffirming his support for Governor John Engler. Bishop further addressed University issues, stating that he wanted to continue the trend of keeping tuition increases lower than any time in recent memory, maintaining fiscal conservatism, and making the University of Michigan a more enjoyable, life-changing experience for its students. In closing, with spirit and intensity rarely seen outside of Michigan Stadium, Mike Bishop showed his true colors with a shout of "GO BLUE!!!"

Of all the things said that day, this was without doubt the most universally agreeable, as well as the most important. **MR**

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AND

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Vice Presidential Candidate of the Libertarian Party

*Ms. Jorgensen will be speaking at the U Club in the
Michigan Union on Thursday, October 10, from
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.*

If you have any questions please contact Martin Howrylak at 763-2901.

We're sure you haven't missed all the subtle and non-subtle messages scattered throughout the issue about joining the Review. Considering this, isn't it about time that you, sitting over your iced mocha while you relax at Cava Java, jumped up and said, "WHY, YES! I WANT TO JOIN THE REVIEW!" What? "Well, not as such?" OK. But consider joining. It'll make a difference not only in your life on campus, but for that of others as well. Ain't altruism great?

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Hillel Center for Jewish Activities

BY EVAN KNOTT

THE UNIVERSITY OF Michigan is home to students from a wide array of religious backgrounds, and in particular to a rather substantial number of Jewish students. With so much of Michigan's student population coming from the homes of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Jews, Hillel plays an integral part in servicing the needs of these students. As the center for Jewish life on campus, Hillel's mission is twofold. The organization first serves to enhance the quality of Jewish life on campus. Secondly, Hillel contributes to the overall campus community through inclusive cultural, social, and religious programming and education.

Founded in 1926, The University of Michigan Hillel Foundation is the third oldest chapter in the country. Located at 1429 Hill St,

The Review would like to extend its appreciation to Anthony Scaglione for his helpful contributions to this feature.

Ann Arbor, the building provides both a cultural and administrative center for the many Jewish groups that operate through the organization as well as a campus synagogue. Today, the U-M Hillel Foundation serves as an umbrella organization by funding and facilitating over 25 student organizations spanning a broad range of interests and activities. Some of these major sub-units of Hillel include United Jewish Appeal and Volunteers in Action, which provide community service to the area; The Jewish Learning Center; The Annual Conference on the Holocaust; and campus publications such as *Consider* and *Prospect*. Hillel also sponsors many Israeli interest groups, including Israel Michigan Political Action Committee, Progressive Jewish Collective, and the American Movement for Israel. Other special groups connected with Hillel include the Jewish Feminist Group, Jewish Law Students Union, Jewish Organization for Business Students, Jewish Medical Student Association, and Ahava: The Jewish Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Collective.

Amazingly, on any given day at least two or three Hillel sponsored events take place in its building or somewhere else on campus, whether it be a performance by Kol HaKavod, a Jewish a capella group, or a meeting of the Hill Street Forum. Many students will be surprised to learn that Hillel contributes to many other campus-wide activities, as demonstrated in its role in bringing people like Oliver Stone and Adam Sandler to campus.

Currently, the U-M Hillel is busy preparing for several Jewish holidays, including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The group has a firm commitment in seeing that Michigan's Jewish students are able to observe important Jewish holidays without academic conflict. Hillel Governing Board member Anthony Scaglione has recently played an integral part in implementing a long-overdue University policy permitting the observance of all religious holidays by students. Hillel hopes to build on its accomplishments in the future through expanding the availability of meaningful cultural programs, educational opportunities, and religious

services for all University students.

Although Hillel has no formal membership, the organization encourages any member of the University community to attend or participate in Hillel programs and activities. The organization maintains an impressive mailing list of over 4,000 Jewish U-M students and professors. For further information about specific events sponsored by Hillel, or to simply learn more about what the organization has to offer students, interested students should call the Hillel office at 769-0500. **MR**

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Don't Cut Off Legal Immigrants

BY MIRANDA WEST

YIELDING TO POLITICAL pressure, President Clinton signed a bill that will overhaul the welfare system and subsequently save \$55 billion in Federal spending over the next six years. The decision to sign the bill would seem an appropriate political move during the reelection period to aid in the much sought after balanced budget as well as to appease welfare opponents. Yet, as the Congress celebrates, many Democrats are calling Bill Clinton a traitor to the party.

The way the new bill will work is to relieve the Federal government of welfare implementation by giving states the burden of administering many of the programs. The federal government will assist by allocating block grants to the states. Many states, unfortunately, are not prepared to assume the burden of directing welfare policies.

The signing of the bill is a reversal of policies established during the New Deal. With the bill, the government has rejected the promise of guaranteed help to the nation's poor. Among the specifics of the bill is the

denial of Food Stamps and Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) to most, if not all, legal immigrants.

Republican Governor George W. Bush of Texas agrees with the difficulty in carrying out this new policy and is opposed to cutting off legal immigrants from government aid. Because this new welfare legislation directly targets legal immigrants, Texas will be one of the hardest hit states. The bill seems to be a concession to the anti-immigrant groups who incorrectly blame immigrants for the draining of federal funds. By next summer, when the new bill goes into full effect, more than 32,000 legal immigrants stand to lose the Food Stamps benefits they depend on to survive. Many of these immigrants are not citizens for the simple reason that they cannot afford to pay the application fees.

The bill will also bar future legal immigrants from most welfare assistance. In order to obtain a job in the United States it is necessary for legal immigrants to possess the necessary paperwork, including working papers and a social security number. The process for obtaining these could take up to three months. Without a job and

without any government assistance, these people will be unable to provide shelter or food for themselves or their families.

The border area of the Rio Grande Valley in Southern Texas would be the hardest hit area in the nation by the new bill. In the Valley, one in every seven people is a legal immigrant and more than 42 percent of the people live below the poverty level. One of the poorest areas in the country, the welfare bill threatens irreparable harm to the 187,000 immigrants in the Valley who receive Food Stamps and depend on them for survival. In addition, 22,000 will be cut from welfare, and all 53,160 elderly and disabled immigrants that currently receive SSI will be cut off.

President Clinton announced that the signing of the bill was "a historic chance to make welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life." The implications of such a statement are that the bill will give welfare recipients that necessary "push" to find a job and become self-supporting. There is little chance, though, of the bill actually achieving the intended effect in the Valley where the unemployment rate is 18.6 per-

cent. In an area where jobs simply do not exist, no amount of welfare cuts will assist in decreasing unemployment.

The new law has also left many of the Valley's residents confused. States have been granted up to one year to carry out a complicated process of "recertification" of legal immigrants to determine if there are extenuating circumstances involved in each individual case that may allow immigrants to continue receiving benefits. Probably the most confusing factor in the bill is in its definition of work. According to the new law, if 25 percent of the state's welfare recipients are not "working," the block grant the state receives will be cut by 5 percent. Each year the grant can be reduced if more people are not "working." Yet how the bill counts training, education, and job hunting as work are questions that remain unanswered.

While Bill Clinton uses legal immigrants and the welfare system as re-election pawns, legal immigrants are caught in the cross-fire of politicking. By adding fuel to the xenophobic fire, President Clinton has further factionalized the Democratic Party and the United States. **MR**

CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Bishop Surprise Regental Candidate

BY ERIC GRINNELL

ON NOVEMBER 5TH, THERE is going to be a very new choice on the ballot for the University of Michigan Board of Regents. His name is Mike Bishop, and what makes him so different is that he actually remembers what it is like to be a college student. The young Hartland lawyer was himself a Michigan graduate, and received his Law degree in 1993, only three years ago. With such recent memories of the concerns and challenges of being a college student at the U-M, it would seem that Mr. Bishop would indeed be a voice of change and student concern on the U-M Board of Regents. Said Bishop, "Being young, I feel I am in a unique position, because I still have the memories in me about being a student. I know what their concerns are—much more, I think, than any other person on the board. I will be a great asset to the student body."

And there is no reason to doubt him, if judging by his past record. A history and psychology major that graduated in 1989, Mike Bishop was an active campus leader during his time at the University of Michigan. Politically active on campus, president of his fraternity, and member of the prestigious group Michiguama, Mike truly has a concrete grasp of the issues at hand here at the U-M. This was demonstrated time and time again as he discussed the issues, making comment on student housing issues, on what's wrong with the Code of Student Conduct, and calling for a halt to

the tuition hikes of the past. On tuition, Mike Bishop said, "I don't think it's necessary for any school to raise tuition beyond the rate of inflation. If they have to do that, they haven't done enough on their own side. Once you start [raising tuition] it's too easy to forget what you're there for, and that's to keep tuition affordable."

Mike Bishop's candidacy was a surprise to many, especially in the GOP. He could be considered a political outsider, never having held or run for political office. His motivations seem anything but political, being as he ran for Regent against an opponent endorsed by Governor Engler. Mr. Bishop's concerns are for maintaining the integrity and reputation of his alma mater. The candidate agrees with this perception, saying, "Those who know me know that I don't want to hold any political office. That's not the direction I want for my life. I just want my children to be able to attend just as good a school as I did." When asked up front why he is running for the Board of Regents, Bishop said, "I came out on a platform of fiscal responsibility. I believe that if we are fiscally responsible, we can go farther with the school and serve the students much better." In related conversation he adds, "I am sick and tired of the way my government spends my tax dollars, and one of the ways I'm going to stand up and say, 'Hey! I want a say,' is to run for the University of Michigan Board of Regents."

Mike Bishop's stand on the issues seems very in tune with student con-

cerns. In addition to low tuition, he is very strong in stating the need for student freedom. He has great trust in the student body of the University of Michigan, believing that "The University of Michigan has the cream of the crop students, and by the time we get them here they already know how to deport themselves. We don't need the guidance of the Code of Student Conduct to guarantee that."

"The Code of Student Conduct is just another way the University sticks its nose in the business of the students," said Mr. Bishop. "We as a University have no business imposing more restrictions on free speech than the Constitution itself. . . . Likewise, we are guaranteed freedom from double jeopardy as well, and if that's going on it needs to stop. We know what's expected of us, and we should rely on ourselves to marshal ourselves."

Mike Bishop is supportive of having a student voice on the Board of Regents. He said, "I personally think that the student body, whether it be the college President or some other student elected by the student body,

should have at least an advisory position on the Board of Regents, to voice the view of the students. They deserve it. I think it would be a great addition to the Board." Bishop also wants to free students from paying for the University's political agenda. By funding certain issues of political choice and counseling on such issues, the cost of running the University rises and students ultimately absorb the cost. Said Bishop, "I don't believe that the University should fund and counsel in support of either side of issues of personal choice. They are decisions best left up to the individual, and the University should not impose itself."

Ultimately, when talking to Mike Bishop, the one impression a person can feel assured to come away with is his commitment to the University. "My proudest moment was when I graduated from the University of Michigan. It is the greatest asset I have." In describing himself and his motivations in regards to this race, he said simply, "Above all, I am a Wolverine." If he can remember that, it will be of great benefit to us all. MR

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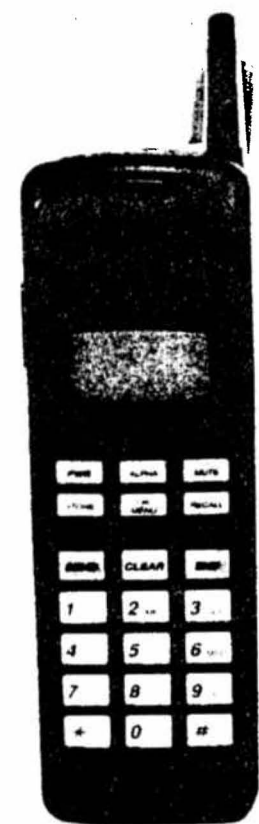


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□ ROLL UP FOR THE MYSTERY TOUR

Job Hunting Made Easy?

BY GEOFF BROWN

HERE WE ARE AGAIN, back to the start of another fun-filled academic year. Woooo-ha. This is now my fourth year as an undergrad student at this fine University, and so my main goals now consist of: (a) finishing up graduation requirements, (b) filling out arduous medical school applications, (c) learning how to deal with medical school rejection letters that consist entirely of the following:

"Dear Mr. Brown,

We of the admissions committee of [INSERT NAME OF MEDICAL SCHOOL HERE] have reviewed your application, and have made the following determination:

WAHAHAHAHAHA!!!! You thought you were getting in *here*?? WOOWOO!!!! That's a good one!! We almost peed ourselves laughing when we saw that pile of tripe you call a transcript! What a cretin! Thanks for the laughs! Sincerely,
Raoul Q. Spankwell
Director of Admissions,"

and (d) wondering just what it is, exactly, I am going to do with my life.

These are, of course, some fun things that the majority of you don't seriously have to worry about yet. However, after three years at this august institution, I feel as though I can reflect back on my days here at the University with some wisdom and provide genuine insight and advice on life, both on campus and off. However, I'm not going to do that. That would require several minutes of actual thought, for God's sake, and that's just a bit much to ask, don't you think? So roll up for the magical mystery tour. It's dying to take you away. Next stop: right here on campus.

Wandering around campus recently, I've had time to reflect upon campus events. This is the time of year, I've discovered, where seniors like me are scrambling to find jobs and grad schools and instant gratification (okay, this isn't just seniors) and whatever else. I'm a biology major, which, as you all know, means: either (a) I want to be a doctor, (b) I want to teach biology, or (c) I want to spend the rest of my natural life in

graduate school working on a PhD. I picked option (a), way back in high school, even. It's still my main career choice. However, since I have an IQ greater than that of a wildebeest, I recognize that for every one spot available in any given medical school, approximately twelve billion people have applied to fill it. So, being realistic and all (for once), I've managed to consider the following alternate career options:

• **BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING.** Well, I am a biology major, after all. They're doing some really cool things with microcircuits and human tissue, and bionics can be a really beneficial treatment for those who have lost the capac — oh, alright, I admit it. The truth is that I just want to be the first real Bionic Man. I mean, you've all probably seen that '70s TV series featuring Lee Majors as an astronaut who was reconstructed with all kinds of bionic implants, and know he can run faster than hell, and can lift large objects with one hand and see things five miles away. I want to be that guy. Think of it: I could kick *everyone's* ass! Man, nothing would stop me: "Hey, Mr. T!! Come back here, you pantywaist, over-jewelled freak!!" That would be cool!

• **JOURNALIST.** With my experience at the *Review*, I might be able to trick someone into thinking that I was a journalist, and get a job that way. In reality, my tenure at the *Review* has consisted of a couple valid journalistic writings and editorials, but mostly of writing vindictive satires (and now humor columns) about government waste and other silly things, leaving me free to develop my Department of Bob government reform plan and make jokes about President Bill "God, Am I Glad that Susan McDougal Decided to Go to Jail Rather Than Tell the Truth About My Criminal Activities!" Clinton. In fact, even after I became managing editor (and now editor-in-chief) those duties never changed all that much, except for preventing the occasional "Kepple Extravaganza."

• **SENATOR.** This would be a cool job to have. You get to sit around all day, and collect campaign donations, and make laws and stuff. Plus you can engage in sex scandals pretty much with impunity, not that I would do that. I'd probably be much more careful and not let them slip to the public. Plus, I figure it would be a good stepping-stone to the Presidency, where I can do neat stuff like order the Ma-

lines to invade New Jersey and also I could implement my visionary plans for government reform.

As I continued my walk around campus, I noticed many signs recruiting for various campus organizations (CHEAP PLUG: JOIN THE REVIEW!!!). You can find groups relating to almost any interest you can imagine, including the College Republicans (MOTTO: "Well, Pat Buchanan may be a racist, egomaniac, overbearing slimeball, but, uh, well, we don't think he's that bad"), the College Democrats (MOTTO: "Even though we're at an ultra-liberal campus where we should have lots of influence without even trying, we've managed to still screw up to the point where we're virtually a non-entity!"), fraternities and sororities (MOTTO: "WOOWOOOOO!!!! LET'S GET WASTED!!!!"), the legally-plagued National Women's Rights Organizing Committee (NWROC) (MOTTO: "Join NWROC. You'll get friendship, camaraderie, and liability of about \$1,000 for that fine Ann Arbor slapped us with!"), and many more. But there can always be more student groups. Thanks to my various contacts in the office of Student Activities, who shall remain forever anonymous due to the fact that they do not, to address the matter truthfully, exist, I have managed to get a hold of some possible new student groups.

• **THE C-TEAM.** This would be like the A-Team, except it would consist of commandos trained to free people wrongly imprisoned under the Code. You cannot contact them. But if you've been done an injustice, and you need their help, they'll be there to help.

• **THE U-M HISTORY DEPARTMENT REVISIONIST CLUB.** Have you always wanted to study history, but you don't exactly like the way it turned out? Have no fear! The Revisionist Club is here for you! Chock full of liberal professors and history grad students, they will take any time in History, trivialize the most important events and discredit every figure in history as being racist, sexist oppressors! Don't like studying World War II? No problem! You won't even talk about fighting! At the Revisionist Club, you'll discuss gender equality issues and all sorts of things that probably had no real impact on history at the time! And you get to bash white males, too!

• **THE MICHIGAN STUDENT AS-**

SEMBLY. As far-fetched as it sounds, members of this group would get to squander large amounts of our tuition money on meaningless events, and send themselves on trips around the globe. They would also get to bicker incessantly amongst themselves and get nothing of value done. They would also have the complete contempt of the Regents, to the point where — Hey, wait a minute... This one exists already! My God! Someone should do something about them! I gotta sit down.

We can't forget about classes, now, can we? They can be interesting, but in general tend to intrude upon educational experiences relating to the real world. That notwithstanding, I am actually taking some pretty cool classes. Of course, biology classes are almost always cool. I'm taking a microbiology class, where we get to learn all kinds of neat and interesting facts about organisms that are really really teeny that could nonetheless kill you. We also get to do a lab with these things. You can just bet there will be no arguments in *that* lab ("Oh, you think so, huh? Well, we'll see how you feel with these *malaria cultures packed up your nose!*") (For those of you readers who happen to be Professors Mann and Osgood, I'm just kidding). There are all kinds of classes you can take here at the University. However, being the diverse campus we are, there are always some new classes coming about, including:

• **HISTORY 591.** "Bashing White Male Racist Classist Oppressors from 1700 to 1865."

• **UNIVERSITY COURSE 666.** "The Code and You. Who Needs Civil Rights?"

• **POLITICAL SCIENCE 464.** "Social Programs: If We Just Heave More Money into the Bureaucracy, All Our Problems Will Go Away"

• **HISTORY 678.** "Revisionism Seminar. How to Trivialize Major Events and Turn Trivia into Major Events."

Well, like I said, it's the start of another new year. For me, it's apt to be an exciting one. It can be for you too. Get off your duffs and do something. It's not the end of the world if you only get an A- in Organic Chemistry, dammit! Live a little! Experience what campus has to offer. Question authority. Fight the Code. And when I run for U. S. Senate, be sure and vote for me. **MR**

Geoff Brown is an LSA senior majoring in biology, and the editor-in-chief of the Review. He hopes this column will inspire you to laughter, or anger, or something. You can email him at gmbrown@umich.edu

□ LOST IN THE EIGHTIES

In November, Think Ideas Over Men

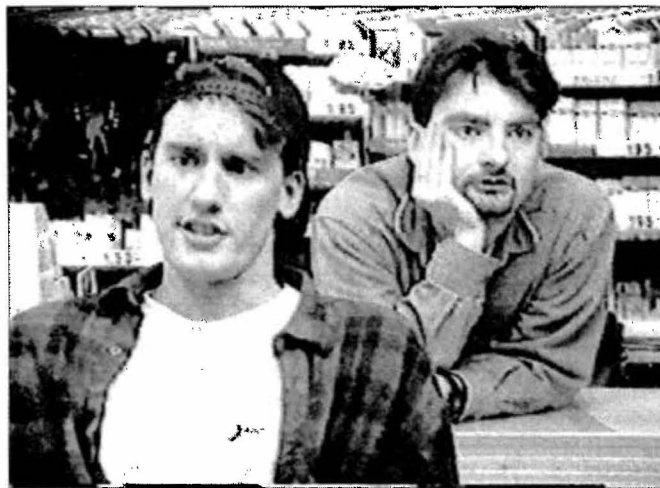
BY BENJAMIN KEPPLE

TRY TO REMEMBER THAT you're voting for more than just a candidate when you pull the lever on Election Day. This bit of wisdom may keep you from becoming nauseous as you read the list of candidates on the ballot for President. It's more than just choosing a candidate; it's really about choosing how we want the government to function in our everyday lives. Each candidate has his own Nifty Plan that describes in vague detail how he is going to Solve America's Problems. Bob Dole is going to Fight For What Is Right, and give us all a tax cut, except he doesn't explain how he'll cut spending or somehow create a major economic upswing. Bill Clinton is going to Save American Families and Workers, yet he continually proposes policies that would do just the opposite; the only thing saved would be Modern-day Liberalism. Ross Perot's kicker is that you can solve everything by not having a deficit, but he doesn't really get into saying how he's going to cut things to make that a reality. All he has are graphs, and according to the latest survey, 15% of high school seniors and 22% of high school teachers are unable to comprehend them.

The advertisements put out by the state and national parties, not to mention interested third parties, are insulting to the intelligence of the American public. Since Michigan is an up-for-grabs state, just like my quasi-homestate of Ohio, these things have been cranked out faster than bad supermarket romances. I'm sure you've seen them; they're *horrible*. The typical Republican ad goes something like this: "Bob Dole. Tax Cut. Fifteen Percent. Bob Dole. Fighting for What's Right. Bob Dole. Listening. To You. Bob Dole. Jack Kemp. Bob Dole. For America. Bob Dole." During this voiceover, we see background pictures of eight interesting events: 1) Bob Dole at the Convention. 2) The happy family on the Sunday drive. 3) Bob Dole at the Convention. 4) Bob looking intently at angry citizens. 5) Bob Dole at the Convention. 6) Bob Dole and Jack Kemp at the Convention. 7) The American Flag. 8) Bob Dole at the Convention, with balloons and streamers flying everywhere.

Of course, the typical Democrat

ad is more effective, and more negative: "Bill Clinton. Working for America's families. Working to protect American workers. Saving widows and orphans. Raising the Minimum Wage. BOB DOLE WANTS TO ENSLAVE YOUR CHILDREN TO



Dante and Randal are displeased about the elections.

EVIL MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATES AND GIVE TAX BREAKS TO THE RICH. But Bill Clinton said NO! BILL CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT!" During this voiceover, we see background pictures of: 1) Bill Clinton's face, looking imperious and terrible, imposed on the Washington Monument. 2) The happy family going to school. 3) The productive blue collar workers at the factory. 4) The senior citizen who played "Your Poor Old Mother/Grandmother" in those AFL-CIO "Save Medicare ads." 5) More productive workers. 6) Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich (in black and white), laughing evilly while sitting in a smoke-filled room. 7) Bill Clinton, standing on the steps of the Supreme Court. 8) Bill Clinton imposed on the American Flag.

This concerned observer is anticipating a counterattack by the GOP that goes something like this: "BILL CLINTON WANTS TO RAISE YOUR TAXES AND TAKE ALL YOUR MONEY FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHILE CODDLING ILLEGAL ALIENS AND ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL DRUG USE (for a background, a black and white scene with an evil looking, bloated, Bill Clinton looking somewhat miffed, sitting in the Oval Office impatiently while Harold Ickes gets him coffee; accompanied by deep, haunting, evil music). But BOB DOLE will FIGHT! FOR WHAT IS RIGHT! (cut to Bob Dole at Convention). BOB DOLE FOR PRESIDENT!"

None of these candidates have a solid and working plan as to how to reshape government to the point where it will "work" in a reasonable, common-sense fashion providing the

services that the people truly want. All of the major parties have engaged in political games so offensive and so disgusting that we will probably have the lowest voter turnout in history. But as responsible voters, we have to climb above the layer of political grime

and actually look at what each party is proposing we do, as the candidates really aren't all that inspiring. By supporting different parties, we support the ideas of the party that we vote for, and this election is far more about ideas than about candidates. Why else do you think that so many people are going to vote for Bill Clinton, anyway? It's because he's going to work for their interests. They don't care about Whitewater.

During this political season, we need to focus more on the ideas of the party rather than the actual candidates. The Democrats, being subject to their core constituencies, such as federal employees, will steadfastly refuse to cut government to a manageable level. They will have the support of a) those who actually, truly believe that the State has a role to play in personal and business affairs, and b) those who will be benefited by a continuation of the current role of government. The Democrats will try to convince you that it is in your best interest to vote for them. When you do, they will then ignore you for four years. Then they will return and proclaim they are the Saviors of Affirmative Action and College Financial Aid and Welfare and Canned Beer, and then go away for another four years.

The Republicans, unfortunately, while saying they are a devout friend to liberty, tend to use governmental programs to force unwanted social legislation on the general public. Since the party is rather under the yolk of very conservative, often fundamentalist, Christian voters, many planks of the Republican platform are at odds with the thinking of most Americans. While the GOP convention may have showcased their fun-loving moderate side where everyone is happy, and where everyone cheers when Bob Dole finally speaks in the first person, many of their positions are still very much those of the conservative Christian right. While this is unfortunate, the GOP has a genuine desire to unshackle business from the chains of

overburdensome regulation, and to reduce the burden of government somewhat, by cutting taxes and hopefully cutting spending. They're more honest; they'll try to win you over, but they really aren't all that concerned. It's not as if the GOP doesn't know very few college students vote for them.

The Libertarian Party, while lucky if they will get a million (or half a million) votes this election, has a desire to change government from its present role as Benevolent Despot over the citizenry. Unfortunately, they also want to cut defense spending to the point where Albania could put up a decent resistance to our armed forces. And while it is a nice idea, "non-initiation of force" really isn't going to work well against evil terrorists and annoying militants attempting to destroy the American way of life and using sneaky tactics such as plastic explosives, kidnapping, and bad daytime programming. However, it is very unlikely that they will be a significant player in this election.

The Reform Party, which was stuck in first gear and is now stalling, will fall apart once Ross Perot loses interest in the whole thing. It's bad enough that this party is controlled by not only a despot, but a really weird one at that. If he were sane, his catch phrase repertoire wouldn't include "crazy aunt in the basement," "babies born without a brain," or "look here at this graph." But their positions advocate a "common sense" government, that somehow is in love with protectionist trade policies, and "saving" almost all forms of entitlements. While common sense government is something that should be applied everywhere, their other proposals seem to merely address problems without really dealing with them. Window dressing, as it were.

The choice we have here is *hard*. Will the person we vote for do what he says when he is in office? Does he really mean what he says? Are his positions practical? He's on the ball in most places, but his position on (issue X) just **sucks**. What to do, what to do, right? It's a very tough decision.

So where does this leave us? It leaves us at a crossroads, with the future before us. Hopefully, everyone out there will take the time to make an informed decision and make the best choice that they feel they can live with. Come November, it may not seem like we are voting for a way of life and government as opposed to a candidate, but the two are increasingly going hand in hand. Scary, but it's true. **MR**

Ben Kepple's disillusioned with life. If you don't believe us, hang around the office with him. If you don't like Ben's essay, you should write the Review at mrev@umich.edu.

SPORTSCENE

Pay-for-Play in College Sports?

BY JAMES E. DELANY

THE WELFARE AND development of today's student athlete is central to the administration of Big Ten intercollegiate athletics. Providing opportunities for young men and women to mature in a wholesome and healthy way are of critical importance to our universities. A commitment exists at all levels of our universities to the principles and provision of resources to support the welfare of all Big Ten student athletes.

The Division I membership at the 1996 NCAA Convention last January debated a number of issues related to financial assistance for student-athletes. Limitations on "Pell Grants," stipends awarded by the Federal government for educational purposes, were removed. Discussions took place and continue to occur on ways to liberalize rules on earning money from work done during the off-season. Around the same time, the NCAA Executive Committee increased the annual funding of the Division I Special Assistance Fund from \$3 million to \$10 million.

Big Ten institutions provide more than 6,400 young men and women opportunities to play on 250 intercollegiate teams. These young people receive in excess of \$42 million annually from Big Ten institutions in grant-in-aid (tuition, room and board, books). While receiving the opportunity for a world-class education, they compete with and against some of the finest amateur athletes in the country.

Needy student-athletes in the Big Ten may receive up to \$2,000 annually above the value of their grant-in-aid via federal aid and are eligible for cash payments from the NCAA Special Assistance Fund for items like clothing, emergency trips home and other special needs.

Big Ten universities also assist student-athletes in identifying summer employment opportunities, career placement, catastrophic insurance plans, and \$1 million insurance plans that guard against serious injuries to student-athletes with professional sports aspirations.

Today the system that served so many so well and for so long is being called into question by critics in the media, the public and even between some coaches and student-athletes.

They assert that some student-athletes in football and basketball should be paid for their participation. They believe that the market forces that drive professional sports or any other private sector activity should provide the controlling principle for the relationship between the student-athlete and the university.

This issue of financial assistance for student-athletes is critical to defining and examining the relationship between intercollegiate athletics and higher education as we approach the 21st Century. While we must be open to novel approaches and new ideas, paying student-athletes to play is not supportable within the context of Big Ten intercollegiate athletics — now or in the future.

In my view revenues derived from intercollegiate athletics are the sole property of the institution and should be expended in support of the broadest array of men's and women's educational and athletic opportunities. Thus, revenues are earned in private-sector activity and spent within the confines of the university for appropriate educational purposes.

Some critics of college athletics cite the economic and educational exploitation of the student athletes who participate in our major revenue sports as a major flaw in the system. We believe the educational and the lifetime economic benefits associated with a university education are the appropriate quid pro quo for any Big Ten student athlete regardless of sport.

For many decades Big Ten intercollegiate athletics has been funded largely by revenues from men's basketball and football programs. This situation is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. Our institutions have sponsored sports programs that enabled outstanding athletes such as Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas, Red Grange, Archie Griffin, John Havlicek and Dick Butkus (the list is endless) to obtain an education and play their sport, in turn, providing resources for educational and athletic opportunities for such people as Suzy Favor, Jesse Owens, Mark Spitz, and Jack Nicklaus. Under this system people like John Wooden and Gerald Ford played alongside student-athletes much less famous but equally deserving of an intercollegiate athletic experience.

Intercollegiate athletics has and will continue to provide opportunities for social mobility through education for future generations of young men and women. We must ensure that all young people admitted to our univer-

sities are prepared to compete academically so that the overall student-athlete academic outcomes are compatible with their peers within the general student population. Recent efforts to raise NCAA initial and continuing eligibility standard are attempts to counter the argument that unprepared student athletes are being admitted and then exploited for their athletic contributions.

Some seven million fans annually attend men's basketball and football events and well over 300 million Americans watch these sports on TV. Ticket and television revenues derived from these sources are shared among our members so that each university can sponsor the most broadly-based nationally-competitive sporting opportunities in the country. Federal law requires equity of opportunity; fairness and common sense compel the same result. While the source of program revenues will continue to be predominately men's basketball and football, the expenditure of these revenues will continue to support multiple and varied educational and sporting opportunities for young men and women student-athletes.

We should not object if young athletes prefer to go directly from high school to the NBA, NFL, NHL or some version of professional sports. If they choose to attend a university for a year or years, we should not attempt to restrain them from moving into professional leagues. In fact, after making the best possible case for the value of an education, we should eliminate any and all obstacles to such access. In short the college community should provide educational and athletic opportunities then get out of the way so those talented individuals

interested in pursuing their sport on a professional basis can do so.

While acknowledging the commercial activity attendant to the presentation of some of our sports activities, we do not similarly accept the premise that our athletes are professionals. Ours is a unique system that has fostered social and educational good by supporting a broad array of opportunities for thousands of young men and women. Additionally, if forced to decide between adopting or adapting to the professional model, I am confident our institutions would forego the revenues and take steps necessary to downsize the scope, breadth and activity of these historically-vibrant programs. While these decisions would be difficult and sad, this would be the ultimate choice of the presidents, faculty and boards of trustees of Big Ten universities.

Whatever marketplace arguments may exist on behalf of pay-for-play, they are far outweighed by the athletic and educational value of the experience provided by our institutions in the name of intercollegiate athletics. A news story in the February 8, 1896 edition of the *Chicago Daily Tribune* reported that a faculty representative meeting of the Western Conference (former name of the Big Ten Conference) was scheduled to discuss "a firm stand for purity in athletics and the eradication of professionalism." While the pay-for-play issue affects only a minority of student-athletes in the Big Ten, its ultimate resolution will lay the foundation for the 21st Century paradigm for intercollegiate athletics just as its resolution in the late 19th Century laid the foundation for the 20th Century experience. **MR**

Do You Like Sports?

Write for the Review's SportsScene!

Call 662-1909 and ask for Mel or Lisa.

James E. Delaney is the Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference. His article appears courtesy of ESPN SportZone, <http://ESPN.SportZone.com/>

IN THE MICHIGAN LEAGUE, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996
 A DECLARATION OF CODE INDEPENDENCE
 BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MICHIGAN REVIEW
 IN GENERAL DISMAY ASSEMBLED

WHEN IN THE COURSE OF CAMPUS AFFAIRS, IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS TO DISSOLVE THE UNNECESSARY BONDS which have Connected them to the University, and to assume the rights of the common man, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of the United States of America entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of Studentkind requires they should Declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident that all Students are created equal, that they are endowed by the Constitution certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of the opposite sex (or whatever) — that to secure these Rights Administrations are empowered by students, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of Administration becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the Students to alter, or to abolish it, and to institute a new Code of Student Conduct, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to be literate, coherent, and able to attain some level of legal validity. When a long train of abuses and Incompetence, pursuing invariably the enslavement of Students evinces a design to place them under absolute despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, it is a helluva lotta Fun to throw off such a Code, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the impatient sufferance of these Students, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to change the Code of Student Conduct. The History of the present Queen of the Code, Maureen Hartford, is a history of repeated injuries and Incompetence, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these Students. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a Candid campus.

- She has refused her assent to Code drafts most Wholesome and Necessary for the Common Good.
- She has assembled Code panels unusually, unannounced, and distant from the dormitories of students, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with her measures.
- She has dissolved Code workshops repeatedly, for opposing with Noble firmness her invasions on the Rights of Students.
- She has after such dissolutions caused others to be hired whereby the Voice of the students, incapable of expression, has been unable to participate in the construction of the Code.
- She has made jurors dependent on her will alone, for the interpretation of the Code, without regard to the Words of the actual document.
- She has erected a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass the Students and eat out their substance.
- She has witnessed the rendering of the Department of Public Safety independent of, and superior to, local, state, and federal Governments.
- She has neglected to realize, whereupon one should set upon the Sole Task of sitting around and consuming Cheese crackers, that, dammit, no Law shall abridge such actions.
- She has combined with the Knight Commander of the Order of the Code Mary Lou Antieu to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, unacknowledged by our laws, and contrary to Common Sense; giving her approval to their acts of Pretended legislature.
- She has extended her jurisdiction beyond Campus, causing Students to be tried for Inane offenses.
- She has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. (Well, not as such...)

In every stage of these oppressions, we have Petitioned for redress in loud and obnoxious terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Incompetence. A Queen whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Vice President for Student Affairs.

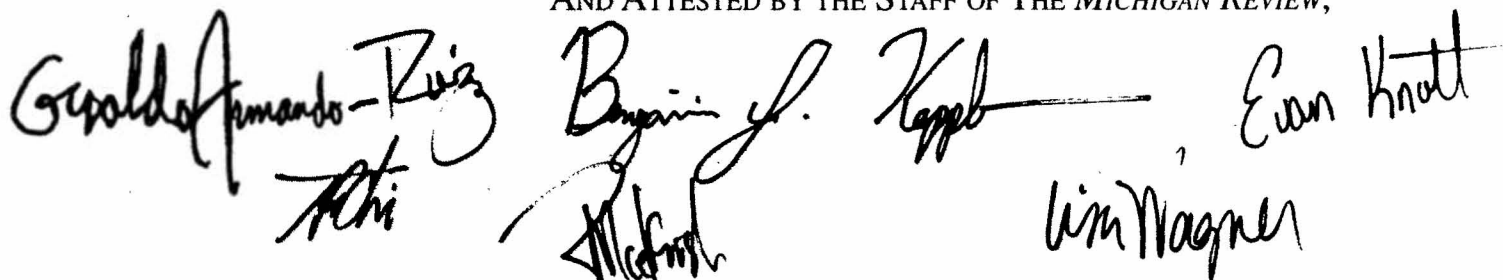
We therefore, the Representatives of the *Michigan Review*, in general dismay assembled, do hereby declare our independence from the Code of Student Conduct. Whereas the necessity to provide for the safety of Students has been demonstrated, we declare that such legislation should be written by the Students, for the Student, and with some semblance of Logic and Coherence. We declare that the Students are fully independent citizens of the United States of America, and having discharged the responsibilities of said citizenship are due all rights granted by it. Whereas evidence of the aforementioned charges has been levied, we hereby declare ourselves free of the barbarous tyranny of the Code of Student Conduct.

SIGNED BY ORDER AND IN BEHALF OF THE *MICHIGAN REVIEW*,


 MOHAN KRISHNAN
 EDITOR EMERITUS


 GEOFF BROWN
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AND ATTESTED BY THE STAFF OF THE *MICHIGAN REVIEW*,



ON SEPTEMBER 18 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY SIX



Music

Taj Mahal Blows Roof Off Festival

BY PAT ESKEW

WANTED: ANYONE WITH information as to the whereabouts of the roof of the Michigan Theater. The roof disappeared the night of September 13 when Taj Mahal and his Phantom Blues band blew it off.

The performance by the group was the kick start to this year's Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Fest. The event is in its fourth year since being resurrected from two decades of absence. This year's lineup of performers is headlined by jazz greats Maceo Parker and Pharaoh Sanders, and, of course, Taj Mahal.

The night of great blues was begun by local, acoustic blues man Robert Jones. Jones, who was a last minute replacement for the scheduled warm up act, delighted the crowd with his story-telling and soft sided blues. He appeared comfortable with the crowd despite having arrived at the theater fifteen minutes before his performance began. His part time job as a Saturday morning radio show host in which he performs the same mentioned "Lovin' in My Baby's Eyes." To end the show Taj Mahal pulled out his most recognizable song

type of songs helped him bring the steadily growing crowd into the mood.

The audience received Jones warmly, by the end demanding an encore. His hour long set consisting mostly of covered material, was more than enough evidence that he was among the finest blues musicians in Michigan.

The night had only just begun by the time Jones left the stage. Taj Mahal, who had been performing solo for the past few years, arrived in Ann Arbor this year with an entourage called the Phantom Blues Band. In addition to rhythm guitar, base, drum, and keyboards, the band had a horn section of tenor sax and trumpet.

The tone of the evening was changed as soon as Taj Mahal walked onto the stage. He came unannounced and wearing a panama hat, sunglasses, and the loudest shirt in the building. His outfit said what the rest of his performance would avow; this was the blues at its most confident and unapologetic.

A majority of the songs played over the course of the evening were off of Taj Mahal's latest album "Phantom She Caught the Katy" which was the theme in the movie "The Blues Brothers." By the time the last note died

tom Blues." The album features songs that are representative of those generated during a blues career that spans more than thirty years. Tracks ranging from the classic blues sound of "Love Her with a Feeling" to the soulful and rhythmic "Lovin' in My Baby's Eyes" served notice to the versatility of this blues great.

For his more devoted fans, Taj Mahal included several songs from previous albums including the graceful "Further On, Down the Road" which came off of a 1969 album.

Perhaps the most delightful moments of the night came when a barely intelligible, robustly arrogant Taj Mahal launched into soliloquy between numbers. Criticizing everyone from gangster rappers to the Steve Miller Band, the theme of most rantings focused on the injustice that "good music" (i.e. blues and jazz) does not get the respect it is due. At one point in the show, the singer said he would leave the performance of such good music up to "the professionals." Later, he identified the professionals to be the band Soundgarden.

The band, like their leader, was out, the roof was long gone, blown somewhere far away. This was a night of sounds that served to let all those

magnificent. Jon Cleary on piano and organ was excellent when he was unleashed to jam and Johnny Lee Schell on guitar took over admirably after Taj Mahal stopped playing lead halfway through the show. The intangible addition of a horn section with Joel Sublett on tenor sax and Darrell Leonard on trumpet rounded out the band's sound. Versatility was also not a problem. The performance jumped from hard edged blues to near-reggae in its course through the night without a hitch.

The only downside of the evening was the limited time these musicians were given to jam. Taj Mahal allowed each only the amount of time to solo that it took him to dance around the stage like a sixty year old version of James Brown. Nevertheless, what glimpses the audience was given into the musicality of the band members was testament to their collective and individual talents.

Unfortunately, the night had to end. As Taj Mahal and his band returned for an encore of two songs, the roof was jangling by a thread. The first song played was the previously who came in on a secret; when it comes to music, nothing in the world can beat the blues. **MR**

The First Oh Blympiad

BY CURTIS ZIMMERMANN

THIS SUMMER AS MICHAEL Johnson and Tom Dolan were racing their way into Olympic glory, a record of, well, let's face it, no real comparison was set right here in Ann Arbor. The location was Krazy Jim's Blimpie Burgers on Division St. and Packard. On July 31, Roderic Collins, a sales representative at Rampy Chevrolet-Nissan recaptured his coveted title of most hamburger patties eaten in a single sitting. On this date during an event known as the Oh Blympics, Collins ate 37.5 Blimpie hamburgers. This is approximately 3.75 pounds of beef as well as two Kaiser rolls, an order of grilled onions and a generous helping of cheese.

The story of the Blimpie record has now reached near legendary status. The unofficial record of 28 burgers stood for well over 20 years. This was first challenged about two years ago

when Jay Howell, then a student at Huron High school ate 30 hamburgers. A few months after this feat, the record was again broken by Rob



Before...

Scuster who was then attending Pinckney high school devoured 31 hamburgers.

Scuster's record stood until last May when Collins, upon being coerced by his co-workers, attempted the record and surpassed it by consuming 32 burgers. At the time this was the subject of much media atten-

tion in Ann Arbor. Soon after this Frank Loderesto, a member of the U-M wrestling team, shattered Mr. Collins' feat by eating 34 burgers during a summer wrestling camp. After this Mr. Collins realized that he would have to regain his title. With this in mind proprietor Rich Magner then called up all of the previous record holders in order to set up the Oh Blympics. He did this because he doesn't want to encourage this sort of eating behavior; he wanted to stop all attempts at breaking the record for at least four years.

On July 31 only Roderic Collins showed up at this event. He then went on a rampage, this time he had 40 hamburgers in front of him. When Mr. Collins was finished dining there was still some beef left

on the table. This was then weighed, and it was determined that he had

consumed 37.5 patties. According to Magner, Roderic seemed much less enthusiastic than the last time. Collins was unavailable for comment. Despite his apparent lack of enthusiasm, this record still stands presumably until the next Oh Blympics are held four years from now. Until then, it will be interesting to see whether or not Collins' astonishing record can



...And after.

stand the test of time or if it too will be shattered. **MR**

Music

Sandbox Explodes Onto Scene

BY CHRIS HAYES

SANDBOX IS A LUCKY band. They may have fallen onto something good if all pans out. They have jumped into the pop scene just in time to have their power-pop debut *Bionic* given a chance. Released over the summer in the US, *Bionic* is starting to get air time on national radio stations.

Sandbox, however, has not come from nowhere. Before being signed to Nettwerk, these Nova Scotians spent three years touring heavily in Canada, pitching tents and sleeping at camp grounds. During this time they recorded and released a six-song EP, *Maskman*. First available in a limited area along the east coast, *Maskman* gained popularity and topped the Canadian independent charts, staying there for six months. This has some merit when considered that Sloan was at the same time gaining mass popularity in the same area.

Sandbox
Bionic
Nettwerk
Records

Over the next few months, they entered a studio for Latitude/Nettwerk to record *Bionic*, which is a collection of strongly written pop tunes that at times carry a hard edge that shakes with power and also waver in the other direction of ballad songs.

Sandbox doesn't try to hit on any new or uncharted territories in rock, but provide an album that is a collection of excellent examples of current pop music. The band's two songwriters and guitar players, Mike Smith and Jason Archibald, write separately and then bring the rudimentary parts work out into rehearsal. What comes out on *Bionic* is a diversity of songs that for some odd but pleasing reason gel together for an album that rolls along without too sharp of contrasts in the music style.

Bionic begins with an excerpt of "Whose Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" from the vintage cartoon "The Three Little Pigs." After an announcement of "Now on with the show," it breaks into the first single to

hit radio, "Curious." Typical of most radio tunes, "Curious" swings with a driving yet tame guitar track accompanied by singer Paul Murray's distinct yet sometimes whiny vocals.

Sandbox, when successful, write some of the most catchy pop songs up to date this year. "Lustre", a song of a relationship that is doomed by changing and maturing personalities, breathes with a soft acoustic guitar



Sandbox: Invading the US from Nova Scotia with Power Pop

backed by the driving electric and bass guitar to keep the pace moving.

"Flux", the most rocking song on the disc, screams with attitude and

power that is accomplished by a strong drum track piercing through the edgy guitars that create the basis for the mood that the lyrics describe. "I swallowed my feelings/ but they were hard to digest/ And as I try to connect with what's in my head/ I am taken over by the things that were said/ Flux...growing inside of me/ Flux...Flowing out of me" Murray's vocals ring with attitude and a sense of frustration that makes it difficult not to sympathize with his state of emotion.

Bionic is also mellowed out a bit with slow-tempoed, acoustic songs like "Three Balloons and a Trapdoor" and "Weatherman." Luckily, these songs are well written and do not take anything away from the album.

While it is a strongly written and recorded album, *Bionic* may be too late for a pop scene that it would have fit into so well a year ago. At times, *Bionic* seems too concerned to fit into the popular mass than to let loose and be comfortable. This album hopefully will create a name for Sandbox and allow them to concentrate more on song writing. **MR**

Film

Scottish Smack Culture

BY TOM JOLLIFFE

IN DANNY BOYLE'S *Trainspotting*, the young narrator Renton (Ewan McGregor) explains how a sociopath named Begbie (Robert Carlyle) "gets off on his own sensory addiction"; Renton's

Trainspotting
Directed by Danny Boyle
Featuring Ewan McGregor
At the State Theatre

words also aptly assess Boyle's distressing film. Reveling in visual and sonic extravaganza, *Trainspotting* delineates with gut-wrenching candor the depraved hedonism of Scottish heroin addicts. The film assaults the senses with conceptually inventive scenes of wretched abuse, underscored by an eclectic soundtrack reflecting the extreme highs and lows of the heroin life.

These young junkies are articulate and cynical commentators on post-modern morality, deliberately jobless and quite enjoying it. But our

appreciation of their nimble wits is soured when we consider how these perceptive kids are slaves to the needle. Take Renton, an otherwise likable fellow – were he not predisposed to theft, sexual relations with minors, and what he calls "a true and sincere junk habit." Renton chooses heroin as the preferable alternative to accepting society's imposed norms – among which he includes "human relationships." "Relationship" in Renton's world is just the rapport of addicts at their dealer's apartment, where forearms bound by leather belts play pincushions to filthy needles. A humorous but disgusting sequence portraying a night of dancing and debauchery shows just how screwed up Renton and friends become in social settings outside their sphere of smack. Renton's friends are a mixed lot, from the dapper philosopher Sick Boy (Ewan Bremner) to the bespectacled, gangly-junkie Spud (Johnny Miller) to the high-strung and frightening Begbie to the junk-free and principled Tommy (Kevin McKidd). But even Tommy proves fallible, as his recent breakup with his girlfriend

brings him to Renton requesting a dose of "the ultimate hit." One of *Trainspotting*'s more amusing scenes shows the derelict Spud intentionally botching a job interview. "I'm all about pleasure, and other people's leisure!" he explains to employers in thick Scottish brogue. Thus he satisfies both the unemployment offices (for at least attempting to find work) and his own antisocial tendencies. As for Sick-boy, Bremner's off-hand manner suggests a skagged-out kid that can do no wrong. Unlike Renton, Sick-Boy can go cold-turkey on heroin at the drop of a hat, but sees more opportunities in the chemical life. Unlike Renton, Sick-Boy suffers none of heroin's negative effects, and, unlike Tommy, Sick-Boy isn't destined for tragedy. In this film, Boyle certainly intends to show the tragedy of heroin, but Sick-Boy's condition leaves a seam for different interpretation.

Nevertheless, Boyle's film has striking atmosphere. The drab urban squalor of Edinburgh underscores Renton's dead-end existence; Renton and friends run through gray streets beneath a gray sky, robbing and steal-

ing to support their junk habit. Renton's hallucinatory withdrawal is both feverish and ludicrous; fortunately Boyle emphasizes the terror of this experience more than the jaded humor it yields. When Renton cleans up for a legitimate job in London, Boyle indulges us with a sunny montage of familiar landmarks, street signs, and double-decker buses. That Renton will succeed in this bustling, thriving atmosphere is reinforced by the glossy, high production pop score that accompanies this segment. However, nobody escapes heroin Scot-free. Dread returns with the arrival of Sick-Boy, Spud, and Begbie in London, and for once we pray for Renton's soul.

Trainspotting, like other imports, is interesting if only as a window to another culture. The accent, pubs, soccer references, and music are unfamiliar to American cinema. Its soundtrack features a variety of tunes from Iggy Pop, Lou Reed, and Primal Scream. Still, this film is disturbing, despite the tongue-in-cheek panache of its protagonists. The graphic, sordid texture of *Trainspotting* makes for a taxing session on the nerves. **MR**



The Wrens: Bringing You Rock and Roll

BY CHARLES OTTMAN

THE REVIEW TRIES TO STAY hip with what is going on in the music scene. Every now and then, for some reason, a band like the Wrens slips us by. Their second release for Grass Records, *Secaucus*, came out last Spring and, lo and behold, we didn't hear it until a few weeks ago. Nonetheless, it is one of the best records I have heard in a long time. They dabble in some Pixies, XTC and Police but, all in all, the Wrens have made an excellent, diverse and ultimately unique record. Hell, even though their tour completely bypasses Michigan, you need to know about them. I had the great fortune of talking to guitarist/vocalist Charles Bissel about their un-rock and roll rise to rock and roll.

"We've been around for about six years but, originally, we got together to be a cover band. There was no music scene in Secaucus (not only the name of their most recent record, but also the Wren's original home town). It's sort of a tourist town, so cover bands really flourish there. There is only one club you can play as an original band. For the first few years we were a cover band, so we played the Stones, the Beatles, the Smiths... we'd play our own songs for about half the set."

They eventually decided that life as a house cover band, even on a local ferry, was not what they wanted. They made a 7 inch single in 1993 and sent it around. Soon enough, Grass Records gave them a deal. In 1994, the Wrens released the self-recorded and produced *Silver*.

"I've only listened to the first record once since we made it," says Charles. "In retrospect, it isn't as concise as I would have liked. There were 25 songs on *Silver*, and some of the songs shouldn't have been there. A lot of problem was with the fact that we were asserting ourselves as songwriters. 'You are putting that song on there? We'll I'm putting this one on there.' The pressure recording our first record didn't help either."

Two years and a few tours later, the Wrens gave us *Secaucus*, also self-recorded and produced. The 19 song album features all the rock and roll you could possibly want. From the poppy, XTCish "Joneses Rule of Sport" to the melancholy and minimalist "I've Made Enough Friends" the album has

a wide array of tempos, rhythms and sounds.

"Naturally our albums are going to be fairly diverse. We have three singers and three song writers. Even if that weren't the case, we like albums that are really diverse."

And there doesn't seem to be a problem of too many Chiefs and not enough Indians.

"When you are working with 20 or so songs on an album, it's easy for everyone to be represented. You don't have this insane loyalty to a song. It's not a big deal if everyone says, 'This chorus isn't that good.'"

Why are the songs on *Secaucus* so well well-written? The answer is simple.

"One of the responsibilities of being in this band is to keep up with the other guys. I'll often say to myself 'Wow, he wrote a really good song, I have to make sure mine is good.' It motivates you to come up with ideas."

Don't think that *Secaucus* is a bunch of indie rock. I asked Charles about "Jane Fakes a Hug," which sounds more like a vocal version of some John Williams score than any rock and roll band I've ever heard.

"Without sounding too pretentious," Charles confesses, "that song is based on a Bach bass line from one of his orchestral suites. There are about 22 chords in it, so we thought it would be cool to write a song around it."

Song writing aside, even the sounds on *Secaucus* are interesting on their own. Piano, organ, tons of percussion and weird noise interludes make *Secaucus* a great album to listen to on the headphones. Yet it was recorded in the Wren's basement. They seem to be a band that want to do it their own way, even if they don't have a lot of time and money to work with.

"I don't want to work with a producer who will become a fifth band member. I wouldn't mind working with someone who can competently record though. It would take a lot of stress off of us."

So what's in the future for the Wrens?

"I don't know what we are going to do," says Charles. "Technically, we are not on a label right now. Our next



Clockwise: Charles Bissel, Greg Whelan, Jerry McDonnel, and Kevin Whelan

record is definitely not going to be on Grass, our contract was for two records."

And the fact that they don't have any indie-rock hang up with being on indie labels keeps a lot of doors open for the Wrens.

"I could see ourselves being on a major label. Everyone hates them but ends up being on one eventually. Being in a band is hard. You have to have a job that allows you to take time off to tour. So of course you aren't going to have a high-paying job. So it is even harder to buy a guitar or pay the rent. The money that comes with a major label is hard to pass up."

The pop element of the Wrens is definitely conducive to selling records. And they aren't ashamed of this.

"If you don't think that your songs could be on the radio because they aren't approachable enough, a major label is probably not the place for you. We've worked really hard to make these songs sound different than other people would do them, but I could hear these on the radio. If you really want to analyze it, radio listeners really notice the melody and maybe the rhythm. You can get away with a hole of weird stuff in the middle. That's what we've tried to do." MR

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Charles Ottman is the Review's premiere music columnist. He is quite well-known and well-liked among the indie-rock community.

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If you can't make those, call the Review at 662-1909, e-mail us at mrev@umich.edu, or just stop by our weekly staff meetings every Tuesday night at 7:00pm in Suite One, on the Third Floor of the Michigan League.

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