THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

Volume 16, Number 4 The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan November 19, 1997

MSA Candidates Battle for Positions

BY BENJAMIN KEPPLE

WHILE NOT AS HEATED as the combined Executive and Representative elections for the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA) that take place each winter term, this term's MSA Election, being held on November 19 and 20, is shaping up to be a drawn-out battle between five major parties and a slew of independents who have thrown their hats into the fray. And given a record turnout of 15 percent last term among the student body, thanks in part to the availability of on-line voting, it appears that a growing number of students will be casting their votes.

THE ESTABLISHMENT

The incumbent Students Party, which is fielding 8 candidates in LSA, 3 candidates in Engineering, and 1 candidate each in Music, Business, Rackham, and Medicine is facing a tough battle this election, what with increased competition from the three "outsider" parties, but also its traditional rival, the Michigan Party. Current MSA President and Students Party Chair Mike Nagrant said that although there are Assembly problems, the Students Party is still the most viable election alternative.

"We pared down operations funding by 2500 dollars, we are bringing [students] a coursepack store, and we made a concerted lobbying effort through email and petitions to keep tuition at the rate of inflation," Nagrant said. When asked about recent funding problems with the Budget Priorities Committee, Nagrant characterized it as an Assembly miscue.

"I wouldn't blame the Students Party for the problems we encountered with BPC this year. Sure, a Students' Party member, Karie Morgan, is the chair, but a Michigan Party member, Mark Dub, is the vice chair. This is a problem we are all in together as an assembly. BPC tried a new system that they thought would make the process more expedient for student groups, and clearly it did not work. By January this process will have been reviewed and changed to benefit students.

"MSA still needs more accountability. I'll admit it, there are some resume stuffers on the Assembly. I'd like to find a way to get rid of them and to weed the assembly so that the hard working dedicated members do not have to be hindered by the negative impact of a few," Nagrant said.

The Michigan Party, chaired by current MSA representative (LSA) Dan Serota finds itself in the strange position of being the Assembly's main opposition party. The Michigan Party is running 8 candidates in LSA, 2 candidates in Engineering, and 1 candidate each in Business, Medicine, Public Health, and Kinesiology. While Serota did not return the *Review*'s request for comments, many members of the Michigan Party were willing to explain their reasons for running.

"I think going to the MSA meeting after [the MSA] had announced the decisions of the BPC where [student group] representatives all came to complain solidified my decision to run for the Assembly. It seemed like a very inefficient, haphazard way for the Assembly to interact with the various student groups, who should be the people most important to the members of MSA," said Bianca Frabotta, Michigan Party candidate in LSA.

"One issue I would like to address is the problem of faculty tenure. Too many bright, young, and respected professors are being denied tenure and punted away. This must stop. I want to work with MSA, SACUA, and the Provost's office to assure that we put the best teachers — and not necessarily the best researchers — in the classroom. For upwards of $20,000 per year [out of state tuition], Michigan students deserve the best," said current MSA (Engineering) representative Mark Dub.

STORMING THE GATES

However, the remaining three parties are considerably upset with what they see as an Assembly that is ineffective and uncaring.

"The Liberty Party is the only party of principle. The other parties' candidates are running because of ego and the desire for power. The Liberty Party's candidates are running because we want to serve the students of the University of Michigan. We see a void in opinions on the MSA and we want to bring new ideas and a different prospective on various issues to the table," Martin Howrylak, Liberty Party chair and LSA candidate for MSA, said.

"The Liberty Party believes that the MSA should spend most of what it receives directly on the students. Way too much is being spent on administrative functions, lobbying, and so on. Less than 50 percent of MSA's expenses go to fund student groups. This is down substantially from the year before. The Liberty Party will work to ensure that at least 75% of MSA's revenues are spent on funding student groups," Howrylak said.

In addition, the Liberty Party opposes a citywide income tax, the state deputization of the Department of Public Safety, and promises to eliminate the wasteful spending of money currently spent on lobbying in Washington and Lansing, Howrylak said, denouncing the current state of the Assembly.

"The bureaucracy of MSA is titanic. Almost no one makes it through alive! The Liberty Party will eliminate various layers of the bureaucracy and make it accountable to the students. Currently the MSA is run in the same fashion as a big city government. Students are elected mostly because of ego and a desire to be in power. They are shortsighted and closed minded. They aren't innovative because of it and the students suffer ... "

The Liberty Party is running 5 candidates in LS&A, 2 candidates in Engineering, and 1 from Rackham.

The United Rebels Front is also annoyed with the current state of MSA. Although the URF currently has one representative and one commission chair, party chair Pak Man Shuen said that the URF was able to "inject a new angle of thinking in the MSA ... bearing in mind that there was only 1 MSA rep and 1 Commission Chair that were members of the United Rebels Front."

"We dare to speak the unpopular for the sake of debate. [There is] no fuzzy warmth found in our debates, and in our opinion the more venomous the debate, the healthier the democracy." Shuen said.

"As we are not sending out a full slate [of candidates], it would be great if we were included as one of the choices [by voters]," Shuen said. The Rebels are fielding two candidates each from Engineering and LS&A, and one from Rackham.

"We feel that a constitutional overhaul is needed, especially in the election system ... A proportional representation system could be put in place whereby every member of the University Community could vote for their favorite party no matter which school. For if MSA is supposed to represent

See **ELECTION**, Page 3

INSIDE!

• Campus Affairs Editor **Lee Bockhorn** examines what the University means by diversity, and what others do — see page 3.

• Editor–in–Chief **Benjamin Kepple** goes on a rampage and takes aim at your friend and mine — BAMN. See page 5.

• Managing Editor **Matt Buckley** explores the ramifications of casino gambling. See page 8.

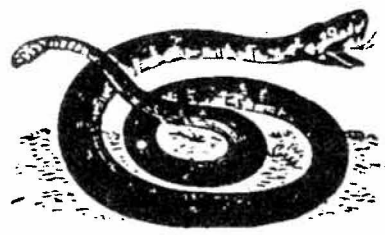
• Copy Editor **C.J. Carnacchio** takes on the lies and half–truths spread by homeless advocates. It's another essay to get you either thinking, or incredibly irate.

• Staff Writer **Maureen Sirhal** reviews Dinesh D'Souza's latest work: a criticially acclaimed biography of Ronald Reagan. See page 10.

• Sports Editor **Rob Wood** takes a look at Detroit sports. See page 13.

• And Music Editor **Chris Hayes** goes all out with an interview with **Juliana Hatfield** on page 14. Chris's normal distilled musical wisdom is bottled and dispensed for you on pages 14 and 15.

❑ SERPENT'S TOOTH



Is there anyone else out there who thinks that if Louise Woodward had been an American *au pair* in Britain, the British would have thrown her into the Tower of London for a good fourteen years or so?

More fun with the BAMN people: BAMN has attacked the Republican Party, calling them "hypocrites" and "demagogues." It is interesting that BAMN appeals not to one's logic, but to one's emotion — the epitome of demagogism. What, BAMN? Who are the hypocrites?

BEST CAMPAIGN POSTER SEEN THIS MSA ELECTION:

Rory Diamond's, of the Liberty Party, for the gratuitous use of South Park's Cartman for no particular reason on his posters.

Sent from our friends in Washington, D.C.: The President of a local United Way realized that the most successful lawyer in town hadn't donated any of his wealth to charity. Hence, he had one of his representatives call the man up. After a while of talking, the United Way rep got so flustered he blew up at the lawyer. "You made over a million dollars last year and you haven't donated one cent to charity!" said the United Way rep.

"Well, did you know that my sister has been saddled with debt and a mortgage and has to take care of three kids ever since her husband died?"

"No, I didn't," the United Way rep said, sheepishly.

"And did you know that my poor mother was stricken with a horrible disease?!"

"No, I ... " the United Way rep said, stammering an apology.

"And did you know that my gardener has come down with cancer and can't afford any of his medical care?"

"No." A whisper.

"And if I didn't give any of my money to them, "the lawyer said, "why should I give anyof it to you?"

Tom Goss and Lee Bollinger said that Steve Fisher was dismissed from being coach because they wanted a coach who was more in line with the values of the University. Since when is losing to some penny ante team like Western Michigan — *Western,* for God's sake — a value of the University?

WORST CAMPAIGN POSTERS:

Dan "The Poodle" Serota's, who is so boring he re–used his own campaign posters, not to mention accomplishments, from last year. MSA Times indeed. Boy, there's an accomplishment for you, two sheets of paper stuck together with a staple, with that vast twice a year frequency. And how about those bageling tables? And Dan, it is impressive how one could accomplish so much, yet do so little over the past 3.5 years. Oh dear.

Defining Diversity

BY LEE BOCKHORN

THE PENDING LAWSUIT against the University's affirmative action policies is useful, if for nothing else, to illuminate how the modern liberal mind works. For many years affirmative action was justified as a measure of recompense for groups which had been disadvantaged by oppression and prejudice. (Recall Lyndon Johnson's statement that "you do not take a person who for years has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say, 'You're free to compete with others,' and justly believe that you have been fair.") However, given that a growing number of whites are not even old enough to remember Jim Crow laws or segregation (and thus less inclined to feel guilty for the sins of previous generations), liberals are now scrambling to find new justifications for racial preferences. This can be seen in the recent defenses of affirmative action given by the University; we are now told that affirmative action's *raison d'etre* is its usefulness for achieving the almighty goal of "diversity." Implicitly we are led to believe that without affirmative action our campus would look like some thing out of an episode of "Leave it to Beaver," and thus it is absolutely necessary to achieve a diverse student body.

In light of recent events, the word "diversity" has become worn from overuse, much like a favorite pair of blue jeans. Unfortunately, many who use the word have apparently expended little mental effort considering just what "diversity" should truly mean. As the U–M community faces the divisive question of affirmative action's legitimacy, we would do well to examine what is, or should be, intended when we extol the virtues of a "diverse" campus.

For the U of M and other elite universities, "diversity" is intended to describe an ethnically mixed student body. As one Ivy League affirmative action officer admitted, "We're after diversity. We ideally want a student body where racial and ethnic groups are represented according to their proportion in society." Two justifications are given for this notion of diversity. First is the liberals' belief that in a just society, ethnic and racial groups should obviously be proportionally represented on college campuses. (Of course, administrators fall silent when asked why two different standards of admission are needed to achieve this.) The second justification for campus diversity is that a well–educated person is one who is exposed to many different ideas and beliefs, and that an ethnically diverse environment provides that exposure. Unfortunately this reasoning requires an incredible leap in logic: the belief that a person's opinions and life outlook are primarily determined by their race (i.e., that there is a "white" or "black" way of thinking), and consequently that being in an ethnically diverse environment means one is exposed to other ways of thinking. This line of thought ought to be seen as patronizing, but it is tolerated because it is done with the best of intentions: achieving "diversity."

The falsity of the notion that ethnic diversity equals intellectual diversity is easily demonstrated by my own high school experience. I attended a California high school with a highly diverse (by liberal standards) student body; about half the students were white, with another forty percent being Asian and the remaining ten

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan

"They camped outside the office? Good God!"

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Benjamin Kepple
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Sang Lee
MANAGING EDITOR: Matthew Buckley
CAMPUS AFFAIRS EDITOR: Lee Bockhorn
ARTS EDITOR: Kristina Curkovic

EDITORIAL STAFF

MUSIC EDITOR: Chris Hayes
SPORTS EDITOR: Rob Wood
ILLUSTRATOR: Astrid Phillips
COPY EDITOR: C.J. Carnacchio
COMPUTER CONSULTANTS: Jesse Kepple, Ben Rousch

STAFF WRITERS: Nate Boven, S. C. Einspahr, Craig Garthwaite, Andrew Golding, Doug Hillhouse, Jacob Oslick, Maureen Sirhal, Jamie Smith.

BUSINESS STAFF: Matt Fogarty, Steve Snabb

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT: Tom Jolliffe (Madrid)

EDITOR EMERITUS: Geoff Brown

The *Michigan Review* is the independent, student–run journal of conservative and libertarian opinion at the University of Michigan. We neither solicit nor accept monetary donations from the U–M. Contributions to the *Michigan Review* are tax–deductible under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The *Review* is not affiliated with any political party or university political group.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board. Ergo, they are unequivocably 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. We welcome letters, articles, and comments about the journal.

Furthermore, we find it somewhat annoying that we, students at the University of Michigan, unlike every other student in the nation, do not get some kind of fall break. What kind of sick, sadistic people work in the scheduling department? It makes you want to throw up. Geez, I could go on for YEARS about this, but anyway...

Witty commentary was sponsored by the letter X, the letter M, and the number 3.0135 x 10^17.

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

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

Copyright © 1997, by The Michigan Review, Inc.
All rights reserved.

The *Michigan Review* is a member of the Collegiate Network.

Love us or hate us, write us.

The Michigan Review
Letters to the Editor
911 N. University Ave.
Suite One
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

or email with subject "Letters to the Editor": mrev@umich.edu

MSA Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

every student equally, why can't a LS & A student represent the need of a SNRE student as well as a LS&A student? Why not let the SNRE student have more choices?

"I [also] propose that a term of service be shortened to half a year or every members term ends at the March and November elections so as to allow re-election but most importantly, apart of the few subsidized bagel tables and a few odd posters here and there, there is a complete void of communication between MSA members and the constituents. If the only time they speak is during the elections, then make more people run more frequently," Shuen said.

The final party running is the Defend Affirmative Action Party, which has but one plank in its platform. You guessed it, defending affirmative action. They are fielding 7 candidates in LS&A, one in Engineering, and one in Music. Party Chair Jessica Curtin said the following,

"First of all, I think our strong pro-affirmative action stance will help us to get elected. Our constituency is the students who usually don't vote because they think MSA is a joke. They are right. I want to make a fundamental change in MSA—to make it into an organization that actually fights for students' interests—in this case, for affirmative action. MSA should be leading the fight to build the student movement that can defend affirmative action—educating, calling organizing meetings, demonstrations and marches. It should be contacting other student governments to form a national movement to defend affirmative action. If we can build such a movement, our chances of success are very good."

THE RACES

The MSA race itself should be quite close this time around, with heavy competition in Engineering and LS&A, not just between the Students Party and the Michigan Party, but also look for an increased turnout on behalf of the three other parties as well. It is unlikely that this race will be as one-sided as last year's Presidential race was, where the Michigan Party and Students Party ran roughshod over their opponents, and the United Rebels Front placing a distant third. In the LSA race itself, students can choose from between a total of 37 candidates: 7 Independents, 2 from the United Rebels Front, 5 from the Liberty Party, 8 from the Students Party, 8 from the Michigan Party, and 7 from the Defend Affirmative Action Party. Engineering is similar, with 2 independents running, 2 URF candidates running, 2 Liberty Party candidates running, 3 Students Party candidates, and 2 Michigan Party candidates.

The MSA representative seat in the School of Dentistry is again open for any write-in candidate, as no Dentistry student bothered to run. Candidates running unopposed this election are Felicia Ordaz (Defend Affirmative Action) in Education, Jeff "Superfan" Holzhausen (Michigan Party) in Public Health, and Brad Holcmann (Michigan Party) in Kinesiology.

Social Work will be a battle between three independent candidates, Jim Gorman, Tom Laird, and Bryn Poultron.

Two candidate, one seat races are taking place in the following schools: Andrew Serowik (Students Party) is facing Jeremy Hazan (Michigan Party) in the Business School race; David Rhodes (Michigan Party) is running against Joe Paunovich (Students Party) in Medicine; and Shaila Guthikonda (Students Party) is running against Alex Ruthmann (Defend Affirmative Action) in Music.

Rackham's three seats are up for grabs by two Independent candidates (Mike Pniewski and Josh Trapani), one Liberty Party candidate (Douglas Friedmann), one Students Party candidate (J. Foster), and one United Rebels Front candidate (Chih-Mao Hsieh). **MR**

Interested in writing about Campus and National Affairs? Want to expose injustice and wrong-headedness on campus? Want to improve your writing skills?

You should join the Review.

Stop by our weekly staff meetings each Tuesday night at 7:00 pm in our office on the 3rd Floor of The Michigan League, or e-mail **mrev@umich.edu** for more details.

Diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

percent consisting of black and Hispanic students. Yet, the stew cooked in this melting pot wound up tasting pretty bland; most of these students came from middle to upper middle class homes, wasted time at the mall, watched MTV, and headed off to college. To a great degree, they all generally thought very similarly, even though some may have returned home to eat hamburgers and others to eat fried rice; there was not a tremendous amount of intellectual diversity among them. We see the same scenario at Michigan; for all its racial and ethnic hodgepodge, most of the student body is primarily middle class, and gives little thought to much of the mindless postmodern drivel they hear in their lectures.

Instead of blindly pursuing racial diversity, the University ought to concern itself with achieving the intellectual diversity needed to make the college experience worthwhile. Many university administrators view colleges as institutions which should attempt to ameliorate the problems of society at large (hence the neverending emphasis on racism, intolerance, etc.). However, if they really cared about the future of American society, they would worry more about educating students who are intellectually aware and critical thinkers, which can only happen when students are exposed to a variety of opinions and ideas. This becomes especially important in a mass democracy like the United States, where citizens are constantly spoon-fed their thoughts by the mass media. As DeTocqueville warned in the 1830's:

"In the United States, the majority undertakes to supply a multitude of ready-made opinions for the use of individuals, who are relieved from the necessity of forming opinions of their own. Everybody there adopts great numbers of theories, on philosophy, morals and politics, without inquiry, upon public trust..."

It should be the goal of our universities to provide the means for this inquiry by pursuing an intellectually diverse student body and faculty. Unfortunately the narrow focus on proportional racial representation distracts us from this pursuit. The new intolerance of the left known as political correctness has not helped, either, as any ideas which are perceived as threatening to the holy trinity of the PC movement — tolerance, diversity, and multiculturalism — are promptly quashed, as demonstrated by the recent thefts of student newspapers on many campuses by leftist groups.

There is another, more utilitarian argument made for diversity on campus, which is: in an increasingly interconnected world (the "global community", and all that), a person must learn to get along and work with people from other cultures. This argument also stumbles upon closer scrutiny. A person who can work well in this foreseen global community will be someone who does *not* see others in the context of their race; however, racial preferences have the exact opposite effect by perpetuating our unhealthy emphasis on race, which inevitably leads to tension and resentment.

Unfortunately, the U-M administration has declared that it will spare no expense to defend its erroneous notion of diversity; their fear of the imminent end of racial preferences at Michigan now borders on hysteria. Recently University President Bollinger expressed concern that if the lawsuit against the University is successful, it could start a trend towards the "resegregation" of America. Someone should inform him that the ethnic groupthink and separatism that persons like himself are encouraging by their blind devotion to "diversity" are already doing that job quite nicely, thank you. **MR**

http://www.umich.edu/~mrev

The WWW site of The Michigan Review. Back in business, with added surprises. Check it out.

❑ FROM SUITE ONE

Unite Against Aff. Action

HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, AS AT MANY OTHER universities, the issues of race and affirmative action policies have been important topics for discussion. With the impending lawsuit against the U—M's affirmative action policies, however, the conversation has raised to a fevered pitch. The campus is now awash in exchanged allegations of reverse discrimination, racism, preferential treatment, and race–baiting, as well as some degree of honest, earnest discussion of these most divisive subjects. Unfortunately, between the ill–considered rantings of State Representative David Jaye and the hysterical tirades of the aptly named Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), it has been difficult to have a more serious, reasoned discussion of these issues. To make matters worse, most of the University's administration, faculty, and student "leadership" supports affirmative action, and given the general climate of political correctness which pervades the University's intellectual discourse, many of the numerous students and faculty members who disagree with the University's racial preference policies are often afraid to voice their opinions.

This is a dangerous scenario for the University. For the U–M to have a truly honest, open dialogue about the continued legitimacy of affirmative action at Michigan, the opposing viewpoint must be heard. Given the trend of recent court decisions, it is very likely that the days of racial preferences at the U–M are numbered; this makes it even more crucial that the U–M community hear reasoned, well–considered arguments against racial preferences, to demonstrate that there are valid and important philosophical reasons to end affirmative action. Affirmative action supporters must be shown that those who oppose racial preferences do so with noble, not antagonistic, intentions. One of the most unfortunate circumstances that affirmative action opponents labor under is the perception held by affirmative action supporters that anyone who does not support affirmative action is by definition a racist.

This, then, creates a problematic situation. It is difficult for the opponents of affirmative action, when confronted and outnumbered, to be able to present an opinion when they are shouted down, denounced as racists, or otherwise silenced by their opponents. It is not conducive to debate, nor is it a situation that should be allowed to continue. But when conservatives and libertarians unite against affirmative action, they are able to present viable opinions.

In this time of discussion, then, it is important for the conservative and libertarian communities at the U–M to unite. As the administration attempts various efforts to gauge student opinion about racial preferences at Michigan, they should be made aware that not everyone at U–M has blindly accepted the notion that admission standards must be lowered for some groups for the purpose of social engineering. They must hear from the great silent majority at Michigan who believe that it is time to abandon old policies which are more cosmetic than substantive, and which do more to assuage the guilt of white liberals than truly help the plight of minorities and women. When some fanatical member of BAMN writes one of their typical diatribes for the *Daily's* editorial page, don't just let it slide by; write a well–argued response and have the courage to send it in. When someone in one of your classes starts ranting about how the "evil oppression" of America makes affirmative action necessary, don't just sit quietly by; stand up and suggest that if they think America is so oppressive, they should try living in China or Iraq for a while and reconsider their statement. When you are confronted by a professor who tries to convince you that you should feel personally guilty for the prejudice of previous generations of whites, stand up and say that you will not be forced to bear guilt for the sins of the past, and that guilt is a terrible justification for public policy.

While the question of affirmative action's future at the U–M will ultimately be decided by the courts, the battle in the court of public opinion is just as important. If the U–M is to survive in a post–preferences era, those who support affirmative action must, at the very least, be convinced that those who oppose the use of racial preferences do so with morally and philosophically justifiable arguments, not with arguments based on resentment. Those who oppose affirmative action on principal must not allow liberals to continue to equate racial preferences and quotas with "civil rights," or to convince others that only racists desire to do away with affirmative action. The time to speak has come for those who long for the day when Martin Luther King's dream of a society where people are judged by the "content of their character" is truly realized. To make that dream a reality, we must have the courage to argue for a return to King's original goal — a colorblind society. We owe that much to ourselves, our fellow students, and especially to the future of race relations at the U–M. **MR**



❑ COMMENTARY

U.S. Watch MidEast Power Plays

WELL, HE'S AT IT AGAIN. THAT OLD THORN IN THE UNITED States' side, Saddam Hussein, has started acting up again. This time, he has decided that the American members of the United Nations weapons–inspector teams are really spies for the CIA, and that he must shoot down American U–2 fights over Iraq, in order to maintain Iraq's national security.

Despite numerous problems from within and without Iraq, Hussein still must rattle his saber to make a show of defying "American imperialism" to the rest of the world.

Hussein, however, has never even made the smallest attempt to lead his nation. He has built a government on war and oppression that has created conflict not only with smaller nations such as Kuwait but regional powers such as Iran. Granted, Iran is no shining example of peace and good will, but for the most part, they are good neighbors. They keep to themselves and all, when they aren't trading weapons and hostages with the Russians and Americans.

In the process of carrying out this aggression, Hussein has run Iraq into the ground. He has bombed and gassed his own countrymen (the Kurds) and has ruined both his country's economy and its ability to determine its own destiny, by making petty wars on his neighbors and challenging the most dominant country in the world to "battles" that turn out to be prisoner–taking frenzies by the opposition. The fact that the Iraqi people have not revolted against Saddam is a sociologist's puzzle.

So what if the CIA really is spying on the Iraqi plants capable of producing weapons of mass destruction? What has Hussein got to hide? If these weapons are being produced, the world could be in for a hell of a mess. Saddam has demonstrated, time and again, that he's willing to use such things, just for the self-aggrandizement value alone.

The CIA has said, time and again, that they do not use assassination as a method of preserving American national security. However, in this case, it might be a useful tool. Who would really mind if they did assassinate Hussein? Would anyone except the low–lifed thugs Hussein's "government" employs really grieve for the man's death? The world would be rid of another petty dictator. However, it would be wise for the United States to also keep a watchful eye on Iran while keeping Iraq's troublemaking to a minimum. Compared to what country would dominate the region (Iran) if Hussein's relatively powerful (for that area of the world) regime toppled, he is really not so much of a worry. It is just a case of choosing between the lesser of two evils in relation to the U.S., and Iraq serves as a powerful check on Iranian aggression. The headaches Iraq causes for the U.S. could pale in comparison to what Iran would do, if they could fill the power vacuum left by a dead Saddam Hussein. But admittedly, if that were to happen, there would be smiles on the faces of many people, Iraqis and Americans, alike. **MR**

— Rob Wood

❑ LOST IN THE EIGHTIES™

The Chief Conspirator Speaks

BY BENJAMIN KEPPLE

I MUST SAY THAT I HAVE actually gained a measure of respect for the often–bashed (admittedly, by myself and my organization) Women's Issues Commission of the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA). As this goes to press, the Affirmative Action Symposium sponsored by the Women's Issues Commission, along with a variety of concerned student groups, is just beginning, with all the attendant bells and whistles. I've been privy to a small part of the planning, and I must say that the Commission's intentions were actually above board, and that they did a great deal of hard work in planning the whole shebang. Of course, they are at the tender mercies of a Michigan Student Assembly whose sick machinations would, instead of funding something useful to the student body, fund numerous lobbying trips to Washington and Lansing and God knows where else on the North American continent ("Ooooh, look! A student government leadership conference in Puerto Vallarta!" "Gosh! Everyone will be there ... and we can do so much information sharing ... hook us up!").

But as usual, I fear that the Affirmative Action Symposium shall fail to do any good. While there are some on the Assembly who have the unthinkable arrogance and gall to assume the student body "knows nothing about" affirmative action — you know who you are — there are others who generally care and would like to hear what the student body has to say. However, since the Assembly, as (do suppress the urge to vomit) "the official student voice on campus," has already decided to support the University's affirmative action policy, they will most likely suppress this strange urge to listen to the student body. It is no surprise, for it would be rather embarrassing for a referendum to occur on affirmative action completely refuting the Assembly's position. I would not be surprised if this same denial of a referendum on that issue will be carried out in the manner affirmative action was supported: with a weak–willed resolution typical of that vacillating, spineless, no–account so–called governing body. MSA, which has again proven itself to be the embodiment of mediocrity, and which was elected by a vast 10 percent of the student body, would do well to keep silent on the entire issue, lest they be accused of not only being irrelevant, but also be barbecued alive by sharp–tongued pundits and activists from within *and* without the University.

So if the affirmative action symposium fails to bring true debate, and the Michigan Student Assembly has no debate, who then shall be the standard bearers of the affirmative action debate? Who shall lead the assembled armies of activists and propel themselves, *a la* South Park, against the very buildings housing the evil and corrupt belligerents on the opposing side?

BAMN MEMBER: We shall defend affirmative action *by any means necessary*! WE SHALL TOPPLE THE WHITE MALE PATRIARCHY! FREE MUMIA! The people shall feast upon the bones of the evil right–wing racist conspirators! The blood shall flow with the streets of the unbelievers!

REVIEW EDITOR (outside office): I'm sorry?

BAMN MEMBER: AHA! You're one *of the conspirators*! (to other BAMN member) Look! He's one of the conspirators! Quick! Give him many pamphlets and stand outside the door of the *Review*'s office! We can watch as he opens the mail! He must be doing something evil! OH NO! He has a copy of ... *The American Spectator*! They get it in the mail! You FASCIST BASTARDS!

REVIEW EDITOR: Hey! Keep it down out there! (to phone) I'm sorry, you were with ... Roasted Spleen records?

This is what it comes down to, really. Angry, irate opponents of affirmative action on one side, with angry, irate proponents of affirmative action on the other. Of course, the failure of the proponents to present a coherent argument free of logical flaws is somewhat troubling. After all, we don't want the arrogance of MSA representatives to prove correct, even when we are dealing with a great many students who do support affirmative action. However, for those of us who are gleefully cheering on the Center for Individual Rights in their lawsuit against the University, it is somewhat pleasing. Allright, *immensely* pleasing.

And given that, let's take off the gloves. There are rather a lot of annoying half–truths, outright lies, and other muck circulating about affirmative action, and ninety–eight percent of it is floating around in the form of weakly formulated defenses of affirmative action. Let's examine some these, shall we?

ONE. The latest defense for using race in admissions is that *"it is one of a variety of factors."* This is supposed to, ladies and gentlemen, make it all better, but I digress. Have you ever noticed how *no one ever mentions what weight is given* to these variety of factors? And furthermore, aren't GPA and SAT/ACT scores also factors?

In fact, when you look at the patently illegal (declared so last year, dear readers) "index" system that the University now uses to deny students, you will find that race is given **by far** more weight over curriculum or alumnae status. It is given so much weight that those little extras matter nothing when it comes to admittance. So what does this do? It creates a newly–formulated grid system, in which lesser qualified minorities are admitted over more qualified whites. This has been shown. The University documents prove it. Need we say more? Just because you substitute one form of racism for another does not somehow justify it. However, affirmative action proponents would have you believe otherwise, and I might add that it is somewhat hypocritical for an affirmative action supporter to support racial bias as long as it isn't directed against him or her.

TWO. *Scrapping affirmative action will lead to resegregation of higher education.*

Oh, for God's sake.

First off, how anyone that defends a system embracing racial quotas can somehow then turn around and claim that rampant resegregation is going to occur is simply mad. They are off their rocker. Their elevator doesn't go to the top floor. Quite frankly, when we do scrap affirmative action, the one group that will gain the most will be the Asian population of the nation. In fact, at many of the major California universities, *more qualified Asians were rejected in favor of less qualified whites and other minorities* when affirmative action programs were in place. Would the affirmative action proponents kindly explain how this is going to somehow solve racial discrimination, when Asians have arguably endured as much or more of it during the post–Civil Rights era?

Furthermore, black and Hispanic students are not going to be shut out of the realm of higher education. Qualified individuals should have nothing to fear, no? Every few days now, there is some kind of news story about how Virtually No Minorities are entering this law school or that graduate program. However, where are they entering? Just because they don't enter Harvard doesn't mean that they are suddenly forced into the Working World, now does it? No one seems to look at the numbers of minorities enrolling in second and third tier schools where they will receive a fine education as well — and probably a better education, given the degenerate teaching that occurs in many of the nation's most prestigious schools nowadays.

THREE. *The evil right-wing is conspiring against people.*

There is also a lot of disinformation being spread about those of us who support affirmative action, and I am going to hope that people aren't believing any of it. To proclaim that those of us who happen to support racial equality through the universal application of merit to collegiate admissions are some kind of Nazi spawn bent on restoring a fascist system of higher education, not to mention in society itself, is absolutely ridiculous. I truly hope that no sane–minded, free–thinking individual would believe such utter bunk.

However, affirmative action supporters, those people who would deny future applicants a spot at a University based on their race, are willing to use a slanderous brush to paint their opponents whatever words are in their minds necessary to somehow brand them as evil. Not a minute will go by without affirmative action opponents being branded as racist, sexist, fascist, homophobes bent on wrecking the idyllic racialist paradise that has been set up here.

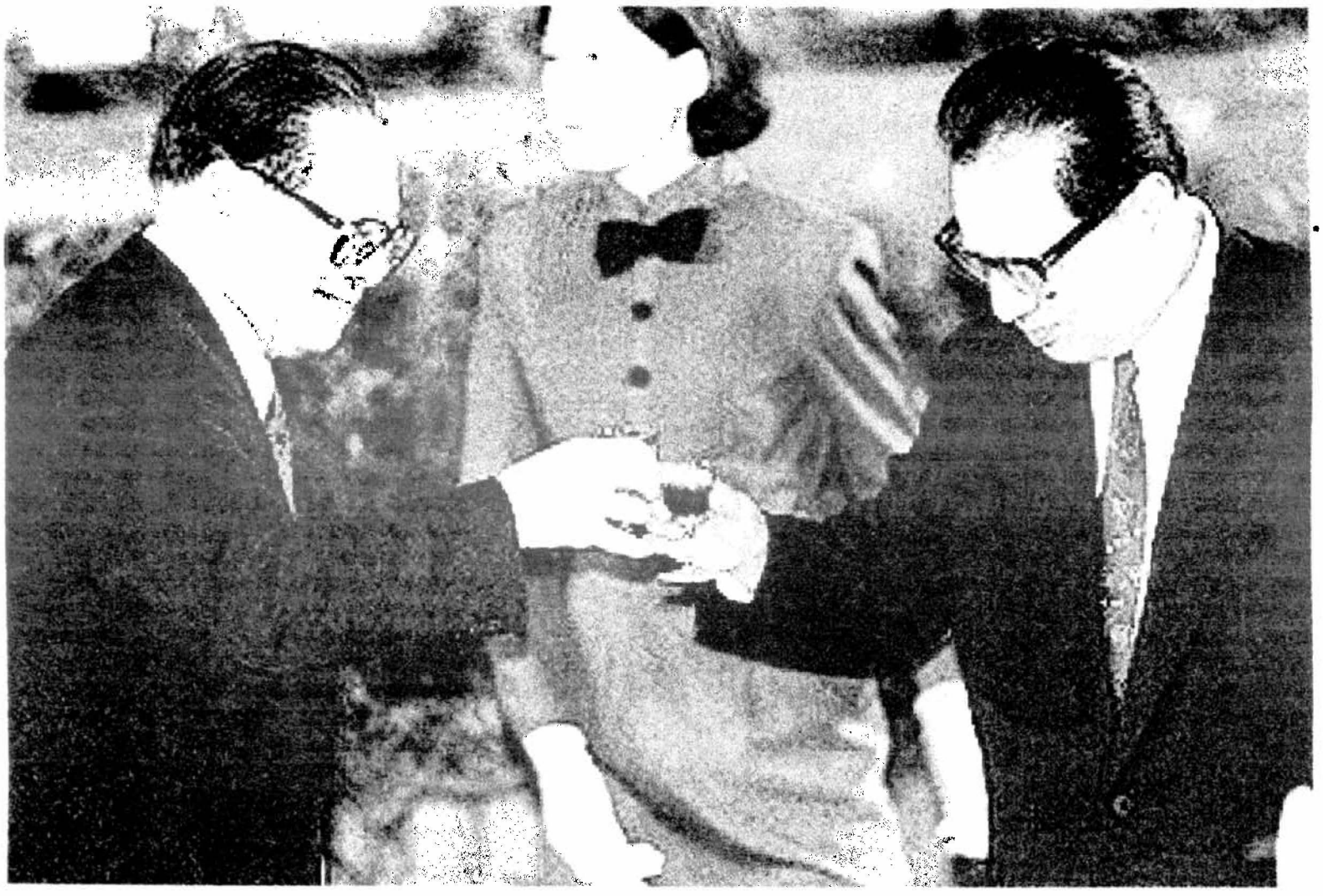
So now that my two cents have been thrown into the realm of public debate, I hope it will at the very least cut through some of the carbuncle and rot being perpetuated. Whether this will do any "good" is a matter for debate of course, but that, along with every other subject known to man except for affirmative action, seems to be a debate that can be argued in a civilized manner. **MR**

Benjamin Kepple is Editor-in-Chief of the Review. *He is a Senior majoring in History. You can e-mail your praise or nasty, snide remarks to him personally at bjkepple@umich.edu, or praise and/or complain about him to the* Review *at mrev@umich.edu.*

SOUND OFF!

Let us know what you think! Write a Letter to the Editor at mrev@umich.edu, or send it the old fashioned way, to:

The Michigan Review
911 N. University, Suite One
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



"A toast to the new building contract from the U of M."



Stop this from happening
by voting for us.

United Rebels Front
For Michigan Student Assembly

❑ CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Starr Parker Shatters Stereotypes

BY CRAIG GARTHWAITE

WHEN THE GENERAL public thinks of prominent conservative speakers, they picture old white males who speak about what is best for the poor without ever having lived the life of the poor. On Thursday, November 13, Starr Parker destroyed this image in the minds of the seventy students that attended her speech. Parker, a black women and a former mother on welfare, spoke about welfare reform, the modern educational system, and racial politics. Her speech, entitled "Pimps, Whores and Welfare Brats," was a dynamic speech powerfully delivered.

Parker was brought to the campus by the Students for America (SFA) and the Michigan Student Assembly. Business School junior Nicholas Kirk, the head of SFA, said that "Starr was brought to campus to show that Republican ideals of low taxes, free government and the virtue of hard work cut across racial lines." Parker also fit into the goals of the SFA, which are to promote free markets, low taxes, fiscal conservatism, strong national defense and traditional character virtues. The group attempts to do this by inviting prominent and diverse conservative speakers to campus. Mark Fletcher, who originally created the group, is now Vice-Chairman of the College Republican National Committee. He spoke before Parker and discussed the intent of SFA. Fletcher said that SFA slogan, "Liberals beware: your ideas will no longer go unchallenged," expresses the group's goal of having a diverse group of conservative speakers brought to campus. Kirk, who introduced Parker, commented that he was pleased to see such a diverse set of political beliefs present in the audience and he hoped that everyone would allow Parker to express her views.

Parker's life story is a testament to her belief that no one who wishes to avoid poverty is doomed. Parker was a welfare mother who depended on government support for seven years. Attempting to free herself from welfare, Parker started a local magazine that gained a devoted following until her advertisers had their business burned in the Los Angeles riots of 1992. Parker then turned towards public speaking and policy issues. She started the Coalition on Urban Affairs, a public policy institute located in Los Angeles.

Since the loss of her business, Parker has become a regular on the conservative lecture circuit. She uses her speeches to present her beliefs on the need for less government intervention in the economy and the lives of the people. Parker feels that we have two distinct economic systems operating in this country: "capitalism for the rich, and socialism for the poor." She argues that this socialism for the poor is crippling the free market system and destroying any hope of America retaining an entrepreneurial spirit. Using herself as an example, Parker asks why someone would want to work when they can make as much or even sometimes more money going from one public assistance office to the next.

Parker also believes that the minimum wage law has hurt the poor by setting an artificial minumum that they can be paid. She feels that the poor would be better served by a minmum wage that is determind by the market rather than by an arbitrary bill.

"Starr brought up many good points that if followed would lead to a road out of poverty."

LSA FRESHMAN BEN POWERS

Parker states that the welfare system flaws lie in its "one size fits all" method of dealing with problems. She feels that the more tailored "block grant" system that was started last year will be the future of welfare. The bloc grant will allow individual states to use its welfare money as it sees fit.

Parker also travels the country working with welfare mothers in an attempt to show them that there is life after welfare. Her seminars, entitled "Life After Welfare: What are you Going to Do Now?," stress a variety of ways that people can pull themselves out of poverty. In her speech, Parker highlighted four ways that people bring themselves out of welfare.

The first way is for the person to start a business. Parker feels that welfare has killed the entrepreneurial spirit, something that she values as one of the most important assets for lifting one out of poverty. A second way is to go back to school. Many of the problems that welfare recipients encounter are due to a lack of education. Parker spoke of graduating high school barely literate and thus incapable of truly advancing in the job market. She applauds the advantages night school, which she used to attain a college diploma.

The third way is for the person to get a job that they might consider demeaning. Parker feels that the negative stereotype of working at restaurants such as McDonalds is a true hindrance on the road out of poverty. According to Parker, over 10% of America's workforce started in these lower income jobs, and even that figure does not account for people that stayed in those professions and now own franchises. The key, Parker said, is to take that job and work harder then the person above you. In that way you can be assured of advancement. Parker feels that "someone will only get stuck in a minimal job if they want to." Take that job, Parker argues, and try to turn it into a career. A final method Parker mentioned to begin the road out of welfare is marriage. Parker feels that the combined income of two people would help to bring both people out of poverty. LSA freshman Benjamin Powers commented "Starr brought up many good points that, if followed, would lead to a road out of poverty."

"I think that Starr had answers to the all questions that were asked. She never showed any ambivalence in her answers."

LSA FRESHMAN MATT BIENIEK

Parker also attacked what she feels is the harmful monopoly on education in America. The government operates public education, a system which Parker notes is failing dramatically in the inner cities due to a lack of choices involving private education. She supports a school voucher system which would allow parents to pick which school they want their children to attend. Given such a system, Parker feels that children would be able to rise out of poverty.

Parker ended her presentation with a question-and-answer session with the audience. At this time some audience members became unruly. Throughout the speech select audience members could be seen openly laughing at the ideas that Parker presented. In the question and answer session these same audience members began to ask questions about Affirmative Action, a subject that was not covered in the speech. The audience was surprised to learn that Parker did not oppose affirmative action, a program that in her view involves informing minorities of the opportunities that are available to them. However, Parker did say that she opposed racial based quotas. This assertion brought even more of an unruly outburst from some members of the audience, who proceeded to talk over Ms. Parker.

Jessica Curtin, the president of the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary, was in attendance but she had no comment about the speech or the outbursts the were made by the audience. LSA Freshman Matt Bieniek, a member of SFA, noted that regarding the outburst, "[o]n a campus as liberal as the University of Michigan it was to be expected. I think that Starr had answers to the all questions that were asked. She never showed any ambivalence in her answers. It was a refreshing change to see a cut and dry responses from a speaker."

Many members of the audience approached Parker after the speech to apologize and profess their embarrassment at the conduct of their fellow students. An educational institution is supposed to be a place where people can learn about many different viewpoints, and from these make informed decisions. However, the constant interuptions and outburts made it difficult for audience members to concentrate on Parker's points. The comments also destroyed any chance for true meaningful discussion about the issues. Select audience memebers preferred to shout over Parker rather than listen to and comment on exactly what she was saying. By doing so, they degraded the image of the University as a place for meaningful dialogue.

Regardless of these interruptions, Parker's speech exemplified the diverse nature of conservative viewpoints. LSA freshman Rabeh Soofi commented that "I think that a lot of times students feel that lawmakers are people who run the affairs on Capital Hill are stereotypical white bald men that are out of touch with reality . . . I thought that Starr Parker dispelled these myths. She was dynamic, motivational, and very classy." Parker represents a continued effort by conservatives on campus to show the diverse nature of their movement. MR

❑ NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Detroit Gambling a Risky Proposition

BY MATTHEW BUCKLEY

EVER SEEN THE MOVIE *Broadcast News*? One of that movie's comic high points occurs when Albert Brooks argues that if the Devil really did roam the Earth, he certainly would not sport a pitchfork or horns. Instead, the devil would be useful and helpful, using his display of good traits to later encourage a loss of standards in society.

Brooks was talking about the dangers of letting men with little intelligence flourish in the world of television news. However, it would behoove Michigan residents to take his point and apply it to current plans to open several large casinos in Detroit. Proponents of metropolitan gambling are not showing you a picture of hordes of addicted gamblers and morose drunks losing their savings on pre-programmed slot machines. They are instead showing you visions of bliss funded by tax revenues off gambling profits.

Detroit mayor Dennis Archer led a high-profile, highly-financed campaign in support of casino gambling, using the potential of "urban renewal" as a selling point. As of 1994, an estimated $329 billion was gambled each year, with legal gaming organizations like casinos earning about $30 billion in gross gambling winnings. Archer's "Proposal E" won over voters with its emphasis on an 18% winnings tax for net casino profits. With that tax, even a moderate establishment like Casino Windsor would rack up nearly several million in annual tax revenues.

The Detroit plan, of course, is for far more than a Casino Windsor. Archer's most recent plan calls for three huge casinos to compete against a larger casino set to open in Windsor early next year. Projections of future tax revenue are similarly enourmous, and casino proponents argue that the tax funds will help Detroit thrive.

Before one gets too optimistic, note that there is tension between the ideas of "urban renewal" and casino gambling. Urban renewal implies renovation of neighborhoods, and the improvement of the lives of inhabitants of those neighborhoods. The tax revenue from casino gaming, however, depends on casinos winning money (with odds favoring the house) from gamblers. If gamblers were mainly rich people with money to burn, casino gaming might well act as a net redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. This redistribution might do some good.

However, examine who is gambling in Windsor. Windsor gambling is not the jet-set's passion. Chances are that the gambler you see there, eyes glazed while staring at the video poker monitor, is not particularly wealthy. Thus, the lofty goal of redistribution seems to fall flat.

Note that the counter-argument to this is that the casinos will provide tourism, i.e. Detroit will get money from *out-of-town* suckers. Yet most gamblers at Detroit casinos will be from ... Detroit. We can probably assume safely that casino winnings from Chicago or Minneapolis residents will be negligible. Thus we see that most of the gamblers will come from metro Detroit, and will not be part of the wine-and-cheese crowd. Tourist money is unlikely.

Even if it was assured, the ability of tourism to stop urban decay is empirically questioned. Case in point, Atlantic City. According to William Eadington, professor of economics at the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada-Reno, casino gaming was no magic path to aiding the city's poor. After almost fifteen years of legalized casinos, bringing in 30 million visitors annually, Atlantic City still suffers from atrocious problems of "urban blight." The ability of Atlantic City to attract the tourism it gets has become increasingly jeopardized by the development of rival casinos, meaning that now even potential tax revenue is jeopardized.

It seems clear that much of the tax revenue Detroit will get from the casinos will come from Detroit residents. Suppose, however, that the casinos really do attract tourism, and provide a significant amount of money to Detroit's coffers. This is still only part of the problem. What economists consider, and what Detroit needs to face, are the total social costs which gambling imposes on a locality. On this count, there has been a wealth of research which suggests that establishing casino gaming is in fact a societal negative.

What sort of other costs are there? For starters, it seems clear that the creation of gambling establishments leads to an increase in compulsive gamblers. A study in Iowa studied the percentage of the population classified as compulsive gamblers before and after the introduction of riverboat gambling. The authors found that the occurrence of compulsive gambling jumped from 0.1% of the population to 1% of the population. While this is one isolated case, the conclusion seems fairly intuitive ... people get hooked on gambling and lose their self-control when opportunities to gamble become commonplace.

This 1% figure may seem negligible. Yet Earl Grinols, a professor of economics at the University of Illinois, points out that the social cost of each pathological gambler may range between $15,000 to $30,000 a year. Since the rest of society pays these costs, the result is a drain of over $100 per adult. Grinols, who has studied the effects and costs of gambling for several years, argues that this $100 figure is probably too low. He estimates that the social costs imposed on non-gambling adults are over $200 per year.

Grinols, who has studied the effects and costs of gambling for several years, concedes that people get satisfaction from gambling. He takes the step, however, of measuring this benefit. Analyzing the relationship between the distance someone lives from a casino and the amount of money the person spends in the casino, Grinols calculated the approximate benefit the average person feels from having a casino nearby: about $80 per adult. Adding in the amounts which society gets from tax revenue (about $15 per adult) and the profits earned by casino owners (another $15), Grinols finds that the social benefits of gambling are only about $110 per adult. On cost-benefit terms, gambling is a losing proposition.

This lumping of gambling's advantages and disadvantages into monetary terms perhaps gives gambling too much credit. The $110 figure is a rough attempt to lump together a diverse array of gambling's harmful consequences. For example, studies show a positive correlation between gambling and suicide, as well as between gambling and child abuse. Links between crime and gambling are also mixed into that level of social cost. While Grinols' measurement is quite useful as a broad measure of the gambling's effects, one should note the variety of clear social wrongs which gambling seems to cause.

Studies also suggest that casinos depend upon those compulsive gamblers for much of their revenue. A University of Minnesota study examined betting patterns among gamblers and found that 1% of gamblers provide nearly 50% of the amounts gambled. Casinos depend on compulsive gamblers for their existence, as these compulsive gamblers lose much more than the average person to casinos.

That compulsive gamblers matter so much to casinos makes sense when we consider another economic factor. Without the option of gambling, potential gamblers would either spend their money on other things as discretionary income or devote it to savings. If the money is spent on books, clothing, or other goods, it still creates jobs and some government revenue through sales tax. If the monies derived from gambling are discretionary income, then it is money which would be going to arguably more productive ends. More importantly, this discretionary income would find its way into the market regardless of the presence of gambling.

Gambling's ability to claim income which otherwise would be saved is the secret of its relative ability to generate revenues. Certainly a difference in relative taxation rates makes a difference here, but it seems clear that compulsive gamblers are those who are most likely to dip into their pocket farther than they should in order to gamble. In getting them to spend money they would otherwise save, casinos promote an inefficient use of resources (to say the least).

It is these compulsive gamblers, incidentally, who seem most prone to committing crimes like child abuse. Ironically, linking the taxing of casino profits to education funding sets up a situation in which children's schools may be made better, but in which child abuse at home occurs more often.

Perhaps Detroit avoid these problems, perhaps not. This would pose no problem if Detroit could simply reverse course after several years. Yet linking social services to increased tax revenues from gaming makes this unlikely. Getting that first dose of increased tax revenue will lead to radically higher expectations by bureaucrats. As schools reap their benefits, gambling revenues will be seen as less of a bonus and more of an obligation. Opponents of gambling will then be forced to explain how they will provide for a decrease in education funding and whether or not they "care about our children."

Opponents of casino gambling note that similar proposals allowing casinos failed on four seperate occasions. In 1996, Proposal E passed after its proponents outspent opponents by an enormous ratio. Yet while Detroit's collective mind seems to be fickle on the issue of casino gambling, now there is almost no way to turn back the course. Given that the effects of casino gambling are resoundingly negative, should Detroit be taking this chance? **MR**

❑ NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Homeless Advocates Must Face Facts

BY C.J. CARNACCHIO

BACK IN THE 1980s, HOMEless advocates were often fond of telling their media lapdogs that there were anywhere from two to three million homeless in the United States. However, both The Urban Institute and the U.S. Census Bureau estimate the number of homeless to be in the neighborhood of 300,000 to 600,000. Despite this hard evidence, many Americans still believe that there are millions of homeless, and that consequently there is a "homeless crisis" in the U.S.

Liberals and homeless advocates have succeeded in manufacturing this so–called crisis not only by exaggerating numbers but also by distorting the truth about the roots of homelessness. The media has served as an all too willing accomplice in the advocates' Machiavellian charade. In his book *Rude Awakenings*, Richard W. White, Jr. points out that "homelessness became a crisis to most Americans after the media introduced the term and labeled it a crisis. Before then it was not a crisis or even a problem." Reporters never questioned the statistics or claims of the homeless advocacy's propaganda.

Both advocates and the media portray the homeless as simply ordinary Americans down on their luck; victims of cruel economic forces and a housing crisis. But the pure down–on–my–luck group is relatively small; about 15 percent. They are highly visible in media stories about the homeless because advocates learned long ago that this group elicits the most support for their cause.

Ignored is the prominence of substance abuse, criminal behavior, and mental illness which plagues the majority of the homeless. Advocates and the media neglect to tell us that seven out of ten homeless have been institutionalized at one time or another - this includes mental hospitals, detoxification centers, and prison.

Advocates and the media always argue that external forces lead to homelessness. Personal responsibility is never an issue. They place the blame on faceless corporations, evil Republicans, and society.

Consequently, many homeless have become more offensive and even violent in their behavior as they have come to believe that everyone who passes them owes them something. They used to believe that their plight was their own fault but, as White observes, "[n]ow, because of what they [homeless] hear in protest songs, read in newspapers, see on television, hear from advocates, or learn from the social system, they think that their condition is someone else's fault. Some act as if they are morally superior to people who work and raise a family." The fact is that in the majority of cases, the homeless are to a large extent responsible for their plight.

Advocates refuse to acknowledge that there is a certain percentage of homeless who CHOOSE to live that way, who are not willing to assume the responsibilities associated with maintaining a job and a permanent residence. They prefer the mythical "freedom" of the streets and turn down shelter even when its offered to them.

Next, current estimates indicate that roughly a third or more of the homeless are drug addicts or alcoholics. Homeless advocates argue that substance abuse is a result, not a cause, of homelessness. They reason that such substances are used by the homeless to help them escape the reality of their wretched lives thereby absolving them of any responsibility or blame.

However, as White points out, "In Los Angeles' inner city, Paul Koegel and M. Audrey Burnam found that nearly 80 percent of alcoholics in their sample of homeless adults 'reported that their first alcoholic symptom occurred before they were first homeless' and that in 57 percent of the cases this occurred at least five years before their first episode of homelessness."

Substance abuse is the result of individual choice, a willingness to sacrifice everything in favor of getting high. Human beings are capable of both good and bad decisions, but no matter which road is taken, responsibility must always be assigned to the individual making the choice.

Many homeless advocates fail to see that aid programs have perpetuated substance abuse. As Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, a clinical and research psychiatrist, pointed out, "When one is addicted to alcohol or drugs, the highest priority is to save as much money as possible to feed that addiction. Present homeless policies ... have probably exacerbated rather than relieved the problem of homeless substance abuse." Free services coupled with the homeless' panhandling incomes (and in some cases welfare benefits) allow them to fund their self–destructive habits and perpetuate a cycle of dependency.

The frequency of criminal behavior is another aspect of the homeless population that advocates fail to mention. In his book *Without Shelter: Homelessness in the 1980s*, Peter H. Rossi found that 42 percent of the homeless, catalogued in 16 studies, spent some amount of time in prison. Again, advocates argue that desperation forces the homeless into criminal activity. But a 1986 study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that 61 percent jail time amongst the homeless occurred before their homelessness and even "suggested that [unsuccessful] crime leads to homelessness."

Experts also estimate that one-third of the homeless suffer from severe mental illness. While this is not the result of bad individual choices, it is still a problem confined to the individual and not society's fault. Advocates argue that the stress of homeless life causes mental illness. But, in the book *Homelessness, Health, and Human Needs*, the Institute of Medicine found that severe mental illnesses "are unlikely to result from the trauma of homelessness." Few psychiatrists subscribe to the notion that mental illnesses such as schizophrenia can happen to anyone given the right environmental conditions.

The mentally ill homeless should either be institutionalized, put into the care of family members or legal guardians, or forced to take the medications necessary to control their illness. But groups like the American Civil Liberties Union oppose these measures, claiming that they would infringe upon the civil rights of homeless people.

But, as psychiatrist/columnist Charles Krauthammer retorted, "For the severely mentally ill, however, liberty is not just an empty word but a cruel hoax. Free to do what? What does freedom mean for a paranoid schizophrenic who is ruled by voices commanded by his persecutors and rattling around in his head?" The ACLU is more interested in defending their right to sleep in parks than actually salvaging their lives. This is precisely the kind of thinking that has led to the idiocy of the "homeless rights" movement.

People who pay taxes to support the streets and parks ought to be able to enjoy them in relative safety and comfort. But Supreme Court decisions such as *Papachristu v. United States,* which declared vagrancy laws unconstitutional, and a New York City judge's protection of panhandling as a from of free speech have taken away the ability to maintain order. Public places have been surrendered to people who take no responsibility for themselves. New York columnist John Leo observed the result: "Sandboxes become urinals. Swings are broken. Every park bench seems to be owned by a dozing schizophrenic. When the cycle is complete, the community withdraws, serious druggies and criminals move in."

Contrary to popular belief, it is not selfish to demand the unharassed use of public facilities. The exercise of individual liberties in public places is not unlimited, but contingent upon the maintenance of public order. Others must be free to enjoy the commons in peace. But, groups like the ACLU have shown little interest in relating rights to responsibilities.

As William Donohue stated in his book *The New Freedom,* "Push one person's rights too far and the result is the emasculation of someone else's rights. Elevate rights to a status of an absolute and the result is the destruction of other values." Rights must always be balanced by responsibilities; individual liberties with the commonweal.

One last point that homeless advocates and the media fail to mention is that much of the homeless population is a testament to the failure of government housing policies. These so–called reforms have destroyed the majority of the single–room–occupancy–hotels or "flophouses" the homeless used to live in.

While these places sometimes lacked bedding, heat, and water and were not very comfortable, they did provide a night's shelter for a very low cost. Sociologist Ernest van den Haag summed up the reforms' results: "Politicians, bureaucrats, and bleeding hearts waxed indignant about the deprivations people suffered in cheap lodgings which lacked amenities. Their solution? Get rid of these cheap lodgings. The former customers, unable to afford more expensive lodgings, now have to sleep on the streets. In effect the government decided that it was better for people to have no roof over their head than to live in places that do not have hot water."

All things considered, the Left has no real interest in an honest discussion about the true roots of homelessness or the role of personal responsibility. Why should they? The homeless provide them with living political symbols of what they claim is the failure and injustice of capitalism coupled with the cruelty of the wealthy. Such images fuel feelings of guilt in many voters who consider themselves well off by comparison. This guilt translates into calls for increased State action. By all accounts it is to the Left's advantage that the homeless stay homeless. Compassion indeed. **MR**

Books

D'Souza and Reagan: Perfect Match?

BY MAUREEN SIRHAL

"REAGAN," AS MARGARET Thatcher put it, "won the cold war without firing a shot." In the minds of liberals, this greatest of feats never distinguished the record of the Reagan presidency. For years, the critics panned Reagan as a simple-minded, B-movie actor who got lucky.

In his latest book, American Enterprise Institute Scholar Dinesh D'Souza sets out to detail what liberals consider the mystery behind the success of the Reagan administration in *Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became and Extraordinary Leader* (Free Press, $25).

How did Reagan pass the largest tax cut in the early 80s? How did this man, a C average student in his college years, procure the most powerful office in the world, and change the course of 40 years of progressive policies with the notions of smaller government? Decades earlier, Barry Goldwater tried to accomplish the same thing in his run for the Presidency, and critics branded him an extremist. Certainly, the controversial advertisements of Johnson played a role, but as D'Souza comments, the "old testament" style of Goldwater came off as "hard" and "combatively edged." By contrast, "Reagan projected a warmer public persona than Goldwater; He was philosophically conservative but temperamentally genial."

D'Souza recounts how Reagan burst onto the political scene with his run for Governor in California in 1966. The years he spent working in General Electric molded his conservative ideals, where meeting average, working Americans, he came to espouse their concerns. "Indeed what Reagan heard in the course of countless conversations formed the basis of a philosophy that was in touch with the sentiments of mainstream America and utterly opposed to the conventional wisdom of elites at the time." His mantra was simple: Government had become too obstructive with heavy taxes and arbitrary regulations in the lives of hard working citizens. Reagan summed up his contempt for these problems, as D'Souza points out, in the following one-liner: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

With these notions in mind, Reagan went on to win in California, beginning a trend toward a conservative approach to government. Though faced with a Democratic legislature, Reagan rolled back taxes in California, soon discovering the foundation to conservative Republican politics: Give voters a tax cut and they will vote for you. However, Reagan not only promised tax cuts, he adhered to them.

Reagan accomplished much in his early years with the largest tax cuts in history, but certainly his first term was not as glorious as some wish to believe. D'Souza diplomatically addresses these issues. He was confronted with a strong majority of Democrats in the House, and a slim majority of Republicans in the Senate. Former House Speaker Tip O'Neill greeted Reagan's wholesome appeal for a friendly and productive working relationship with a snide comment that he had now entered the "big leagues" where things would be different. Nevertheless, with his natural affability and personality, Reagan overcame.

Perhaps Reagan's greatest asset was the willingness of his opponents to underestimate his abilities. Though the Washington establishment was on the opposite side on many of Reagan's revolutionary ideas, their condescending attitudes and prevailing notions of the forthcoming failures of his ideas did not hinder him in the least.

Though Reagan approached his office with the same relaxed style as any working man, it did not diminish the weight of his impact nor effectiveness in office, argues D'Souza. Indeed, he has a point. Perhaps Reagan's model for elected office is what the Founding Fathers had envisioned, instead of entrenched politicians working late into the night passing duplicitous legislation that merely complicates all aspects of American life. The 1981 tax legislation, which reduced taxes by 25 percent across the board, was met with disapproval from Congressional Democrats. Unruffled by the obstacles, Reagan merely took his case straight to the voters, urging them to make Congress "feel the heat." This tactic was met with an overwhelming response.

However, D'Souza depicts the shortcomings of the Reagan administration with equal criticism. The biggest fault was his lack of ability to cut spending. Though defense spending increased to the pleasure of conservatives, Reagan did little to decrease the discretionary spending of Congress, which created a soaring deficit.

Naturally liberals and Reagan critics seized upon this increasing problem with delight, calling the 80s the decade of greed, characterized by the yuppie enclave and films like Wall Street, in which its main charter, Gordon Gekko, proclaimed "Greed is good." D'Souza carefully lays out the pros and cons of the Reagan years with a diplomatic approach. He does not present a wholly biased view of the administrative initiatives that Reagan undertook, but willingly broaches the subject and explains it in the context of the times. True, Reagan did face gargantuan obstacles in a Democratic Congress, but he certainly needed to show a stronger commitment to the principle of less government spending.

Foreign policy proved to be the hallmark of Reagan's accomplishments. His greatest contribution to American history will forever be ending the cold war. The consistent commitment to ridding the world of communism altogether became a Reagan trademark, having described the Soviet Union as the "Evil Empire." The launching of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) became the straw that broke that camel's back. Though opponents dubbed the missile defense system, Star Wars, it ironically resonated with the tone of good versus evil in the context of the movie.

SDI was an important factor in the reduction of arms. In a frank exchange during the Geneva Summit, Reagan defended SDI after Soviet leader Gorbachev insisted that SDI be dismantled for a continued peace process. Reagan's response was telling: "We won't stand by and let you maintain weapon superiority over us. We can agree to reduce arms, or we can agree to continue the arms race, which I think you know you can't win."

Reagan's sheer confidence in his own approach to peace negotiations and arms reduction displays his genius in foreign policy. His idea was simple. He truly believed that the Soviet Union bypassed all moral obligations in pursuit of its own backwards view of social justice encompassed in the cause of socialism; and that all reasonable measures should be taken to stop the spread of it. He proved the effectiveness of this approach repeatedly with Grenada's invasion and the support lent to the Nicaraguan contras, though at the costly expense of the Iran Contra scandal. Reagan knew the importance of containing communism. Indeed he evoked powerful sentiments when he stood at the helm of the Brandenburg Gate proclaiming: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Yet at times the D'Souza approach to the Reagan aura is pure idolatry. It is not hard to see why some critics contents that this biography is a glossy one sided version; the liberal equivalent to books detailing the greatness of Lyndon Johnson. However, the D'Souza idolatry serves an important function: it reveals why so many Reagan administration officials religiously adhere to the conservative philosophy.

Reagan's popularity can be attributed to several ideas. In his role as average citizen his person resonated with Americans everywhere. He had, as D'Souza describes a warmth and personal charm about him that naturally drew everyone to his persuasion. Reagan was no intellectual. He knew that. However, Reagan appointed smart individuals who knew how to do their jobs and that is exactly what he let them do. He took complicated policy issues and translated them in the term of average working Americans. Though constant allegations that he catered to the rich are consistently laid at his feet, Reagan stood by the principles that all should be able to work hard and get ahead without Big Brother looking over their shoulders, taking their money, and misspending it.

As Reagan's former speechwriter Peggy Noonan illustrated in her book, *What I Saw at the Revolution*, Reagan believed in Americans. He trusted them and never thought himself above them. The man behind the office was a genuine as he appeared to be by all counts. D'Souza, like so many of the other Reagan officials, illuminates these notions. In fact, he credits them with much of Reagan's success. Everyman savvy helped Reagan achieve his goals. Not many conservatives presently wish to turn back to Reagan's examples. The "pragmatists" and the ideologues of conservative politics divisively have cut the Republicans. All too often Republicans want to dismiss Reagan's methodology with the excuse that his approach no longer works. Indeed D'Souza himself acknowledges that "another Ronald Reagan" is not an option. What they do not understand is that Reagan's approach is timeless.

Yet, the formula of this biography, in the face of so many, provides insight into one of the most enigmatic figures of the twentieth century. Forever, Reagan will be a nemesis to some, and idol to others, but undoubtedly he will remain on the forefront of history. **MR**

❑TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Virtual Success

BY KRISTINA CURKOVIC

ONE OF JAPAN'S HOTTEST teen stars is Kyoko Date, a 17–year–old singing sensation. Her single, "Love Communication," is a hit. She collects sneakers and likes Christian Slater. She's the topic of several web sites around the world, and her sexy look has made her adored by males.

She's one of the most popular stars that never was.

As the mastermind of HoriPro, a Japanese music promotion company, Kyoko Date is a synthetic teen idol specifically created to fit into and dominate the niche filled by currently–popular teenage female singers in Japan. The company began in 1995 with the idea of creating a character from scratch — a computer–generated, animated "virtual idol" known as DK (Digital Kids)–96. A team of professionals from HoriPro's various departments were faced with the task of designing a character whose traits were only limited to those that could be considered commercially feasible. Eighteen months and a lot of money later, Kyoto Date came into being. Ingenuity and creativity made way for assembly–line marketability: Kyoko is a typical cute teen idol, busty and leggy, crazy about computers and boys. HoriPro has even created a past



Think she's cute? Too bad she's not real.

for Kyoko, including the information above and details of her family, love-life, extracurricular activities, and body measurements.

The realistic–looking Kyoko is composed of some 40,000 polygons; her lips and facial movements are synchronized with the voice (supplied by a real, though certainly not as popular, singer); she wears trendy shirts and hot pants. Although she is already featured in on–line interviews and music videos, her creators hope to someday manipulate technology enough to have her participate in live television shows and star in movies, interacting with real people.

The creation of the first "virtual idol" has opened a brand new avenue for the entertainment industry. Capitalizing on the popularity of the internet, characters like DK–96 will inevitably become a popular part of that culture, and perhaps the new darlings of the entertainment world. No longer burdened by the unpredictability of human behavior, production companies like HoriPro will be able to manipulate these cyber–actors and singers in a most precise, marketable way. Cyber–suicide could be a way to boost a lagging popularity; cyber–love affairs and marriages could be designed, as on soap operas, to keep fans interested and on–line. And if there weren't enough fans, they could simply be created too, and base success on subsequent bandwagon popularity.

The idea of a virtual idol isn't necessarily a new one; creations like Kyoko Date are very reminiscent of cartoon characters in their manipulation and copyright. However, there is a crucial difference: while cartoons like the X-Men and Smurfs were designed to transport their viewers into a fantasy world, DK–96–type characters are designed to fit into and interact with an existing reality and, on the part of their creators, hopefully to dominate it.

Granted, the world has already seen the synthesizing of music groups, like The Monkees and the Spice Girls, and the development of actors and pop stars based on their marketability and popularity. Politicians build careers and campaigns on populist opinion. With virtual idols, creators are just starting the process a little earlier, from the very birth of their brainchild. The line between reality and internet culture is already fuzzy; virtual idols will help blur that line even more. MR

The Practice: Law in a New Light

BY KRISTINA CURKOVIC

LAWYER DRAMAS HAVE been big television hits for a long time — ever since the advent of *LA Law*, the public's fascination with the world of law has been insatiable, culminating in John Grisham–overload and a race to come up with new, dramatic cases every week for intense courtroom scenes. Some shows obviously outperform others; for instance, *Law and Order*, with its combination of pavement–pounding detectives and courtroom drama, has been a successful NBC production for years.

A unique style is important when coming up with new lawyer shows, and ABC's latest, *The Practice*, comes pretty close to creating a style all its own. Granted, the intensity–thick courtroom has been intensified before; the unique and unheard–of cases have been tried in front of other television judges. *The Practice*, now in its second season (having first aired during spring 1997), while unsurprisingly rife with such generally accepted motifs, has promise in its genuinely interesting cast composed of some new faces and backgrounds.

Kristina Curkovic is a senior majoring in English and Linguistics, and is the Arts Editor of the Review.

The show is headed by the handsome and well–cast Dylan McDermott (*Steel Magnolias*; *In the Line of Fire*) as Bobby Donnell, a savvy lawyer who gets the job done any way he can. His firm is composed of a well–rounded group, including Steve Harris as Eugene, a black man with a brilliant cross–examination style and Camryn Manheim (*Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion*) as Ellenor, whose smarts make up for her looks. After struggling through financial burdens during the first part of the season, Bobby and his team have finally set up a promising practice that is known for taking on the cases everyone else is afraid to touch.


The Practice considers taking on UM's affirmative action case.

And for very good reason. While many lawyer shows have been forced to come up with creative cases to keep the audience interested, *The Practice* goes a step further by tackling sensitive issues like race, physical appearance, and religious morality. These are cases that aren't clear–cut issues of who did or didn't do it, but rather of complex, contradicting beliefs of right and wrong. For instance, one episode finds Elenor being sued for dumping a blind date whose looks didn't appeal to her; another show has Jimmy Berluti (Michael Badalucco) as the lawyer for a man who has been fired from a job because he "looks like a monkey."

While sometimes such cases are the source of some amusement, they also draw on the emotions of the actors. Most lawyer shows base their audience's catharsis on the lawyers' winning or losing; *The Practice* draws heavily on its characters' emotions and inner struggles. Eugene often finds himself facing a case that deals with race; Ellenor's looks are often a source of her disappointment and pain. Fine acting from all the actors and incredible writing creates a usually believable atmosphere of personal dramas.

The details that makes the show unique sometimes cause it some problems; it takes itself too seriously at times, the courtroom language sometimes is too intense, and its drab coloring and lighting is more reminiscent of Anne Frank's attic than of downtown Boston. Yet, *The Practice* has made a terrific start and a strong entrance into the world of television courtroom dramas. *The Practice* has promise; not only as a source of challenging courtroom debate, but also as a drama revolving around the interaction of a fascinating set of characters. MR

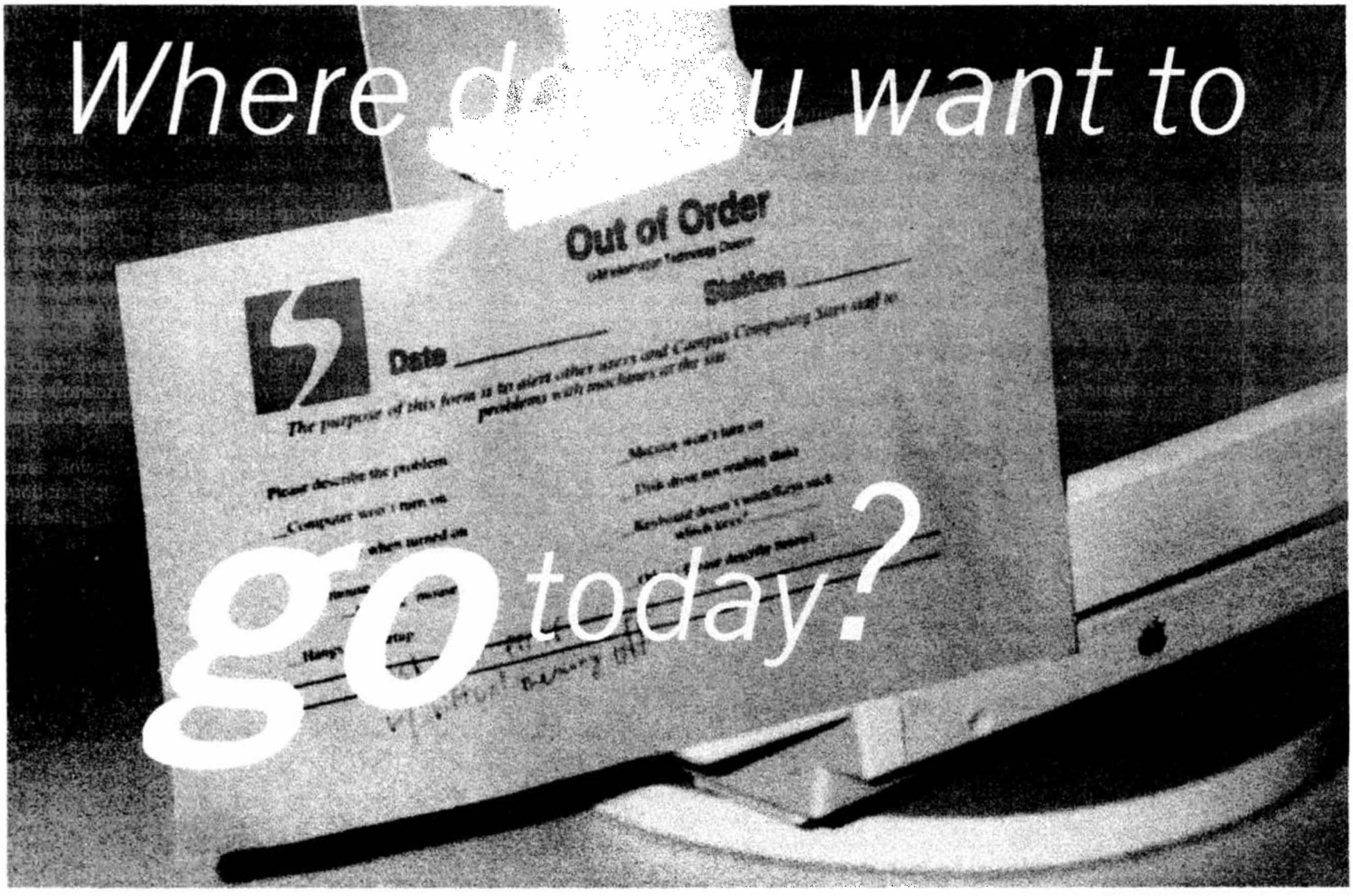


He's a Dreamer.



He's a Rebel.

Do you dare to Dream? Do you dare to Rebel?



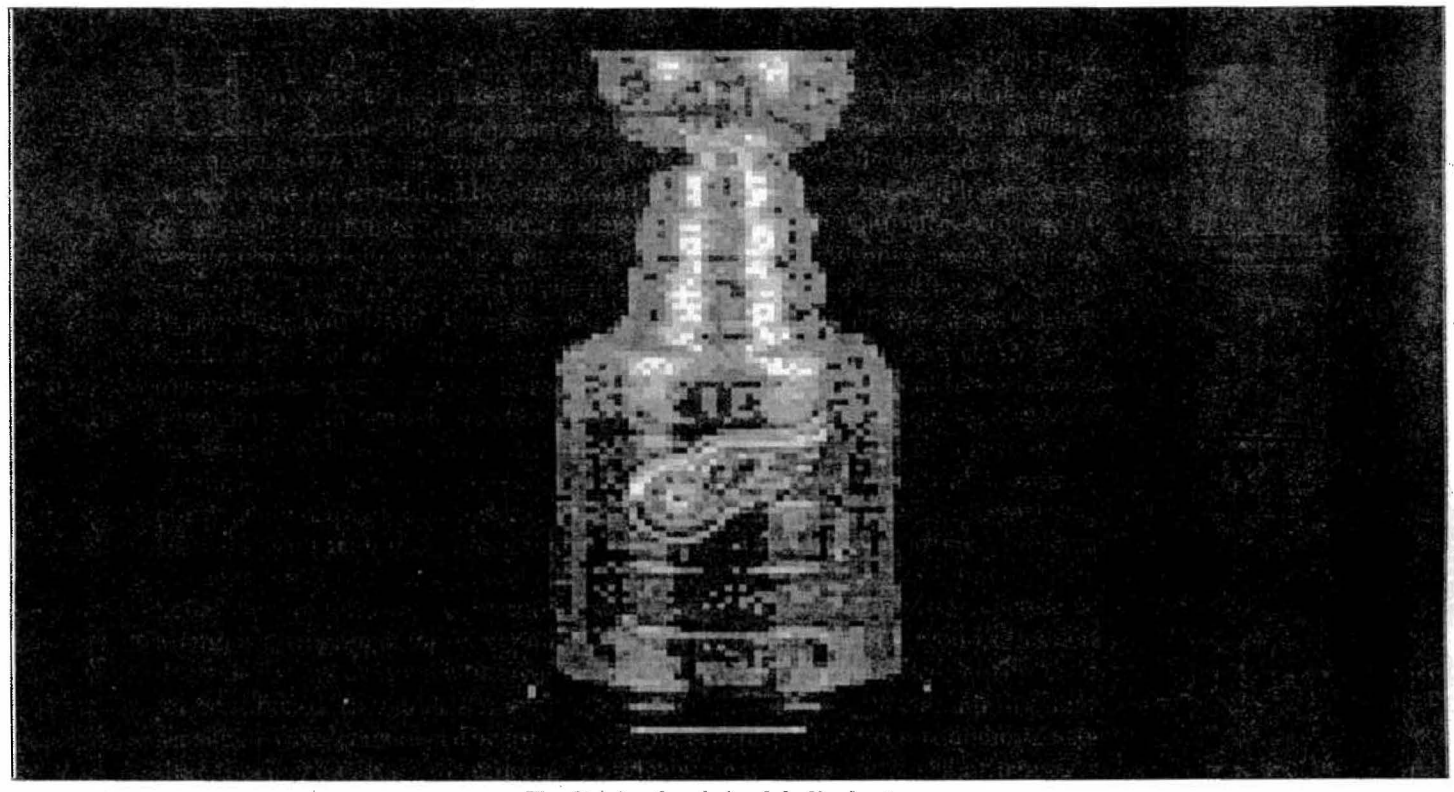
United Rebels Front

For Michigan Student Assembly

❑ SPORTS

Detroit: Where the Big Boys Play

BY ROB WOOD



The Stanley Cup is back in Hockeytown.

THE NATIONAL TITLE RACE is heating up in college football. The Wolverine basketball team is rolling. The hockey team is putting up respectable numbers. Michigan seems to have its affairs in order, and while reading (and writing) about their electrifying performances can be a profound experience, there are performances just as moving on a daily basis, just a few miles down 94-East, in Detroit.

As your local, friendly neighborhood in-state student will tell you, the Lions, Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons rule this area of the country. Their collegiate brethren certainly get there proper respect, admiration, and devoted fans, but make no mistake: Detroit is the sports capital of Michigan.

Granted, there are really only two teams to speak of out of the Motor-City right now. It's been awhile since the Lions and Tigers have had inspiring seasons. However, both teams are on the right track to recovery.

Take the Tigers: they went from a 53-109 record in the 1996 season, the year after their long-time manager, Sparky Anderson, retired, to a 79-83 record in the 1997 season under their new commander-in-chief, Buddy Bell. That's a 49 percent improvement! With stars like Brian Hunter, Tony Clark, and Travis Fryman, their play can only improve. Look for the Tigers to be a legitimate contender for the division title, and to make the playoffs as a wild card team in the 1998 season. They have the drive and talent to make the summers around these parts as exciting as the winters, even with all their gridiron glory.

And what about football in Motown? Do the Lions have the talent to make the playoffs this year? Their play has been extremely inconsistent. They can beat a team like Tampa Bay or Green Bay one week and lose to teams like the Saints or Bears the next.

To be fair, they were (until recently) being coached by the utterly inept Wayne Fontes. Silver-and-Blue blooded fans everywhere breathed a sigh of exasperation when he was brought back for the 1996-97 season, while a titanically talented linebacker, by the name of Chris Spielman was allowed to slip away to the greener pastures of Buffalo. They breathed another sigh though — this one of relief — when William Clay Ford finally let Fontes go after the Lions finished out of playoff contention last January.

Ford then brought in Bob "Happy Little Trees" Ross to take over the reigns. Ross came to a team whose only remaining offensive weapons were Barry Sanders and Herman Moore. Scott Mitchell's ability at quarterback is, at best, questionable. He has a rifle of an arm, but no field sense or leadership ability. He is also quite deficient in the accuracy department, throwing more interceptions in one day than Evander Holyfield throws punches in twelve rounds. On defense, the Lions' only asset is Robert Porcher, who can barely pull his own weight.

In short, Coach Ross is going to need at least two or three more years to get any kind of good, stable play out of this Detroit Lion football team. His best bet at this point in time would be to completely gut both the offensive and defensive lines, and replace them with younger players and college stars. He should then draft Michigan's entire secondary, first- and second-teams, and tell his current players to try their luck in Green Bay. At least then, the Lions could make a run at the Black-and-Blue Division crown. Wayne Fontes really left a mess to clean up, here in Detroit. All the Detroit area can do is just hope that Bobby Ross can do what the man of the same name from TV's "The Joy of Painting" always did: take what looks like a mess and miraculously transform it into a masterpiece.

Back in 1989 and 1990, the Detroit Pistons owned the National Basketball Association. With players like Vinnie Johnson, John Sally, Rick Mahorn, Bill Laimbeer, and of course, Isaiah Thomas, there was no team in the league that could touch Chuck Daly's team. Then, a few years went by, and Mr. Daly left. So did just about every other star on the team, either by being traded, being picked up by expansion teams, or retiring. The only starter left from those championship teams was Joe Dumars. The Pistons were in sore shape. Then, they brought in a new coach, Doug Collins. He had the dynamic personality and coaching style to inject some fuel back into the Pistons' cylinders. He also drafted Grant Hill from Duke, and brought in Terry Mills (for a little while, anyway). This new turbo-charged Detroit team has made the playoffs the past two years and has a chance to go to the third round or so, this year. That is, of course, if Bill Laimbeer keeps teaching Grant Hill how to be a little more nasty.

Just as in the NBA, Bill Laimbeer owned the patent on nastiness, so did Vladimir Konstantinov in the NHL. The Detroit area's euphoria over winning the Stanley Cup this past June was shattered when Konstantinov and team masseur Sergei Mnatsakanov received critical head injuries in a limousine accident. Since that night, the Wings have tried to cope and move on. They returned much of last season's championship team, with the notable exceptions of Konstantinov and Sergei Federov, who has been a contract hold-out for the past month. While the Wings are still struggling to find a skilled enforcer to solidify their defense, they have been sporting the NHL's best record all season. Federov had better sign soon, unless he wants to be released. All in all, the Wings look like a good bet to repeat in their Stanley Cup-winning performance, but the season is still young and the real season doesn't even start until April, with the playoffs. Stay tuned.

Detroit has had championship teams an average of once about every three years, over the past 13 years. The Lions are the only major, professional Detroit team not to win one over that time period. That total rivals just about every other U.S. city, save perhaps New York. It is called "Hockeytown" and the home of the "Bad Boys". It has also been called the "City that Drives the World". Add "...of Sports" to that last one. That should be just about right. **MR**

Rob Wood is Sports Editor of the Review. *His favorite sport is actually backgammon.*

Interested in writing about Sports, the Arts, Music, or more? Contact Rob Wood for Sports, (woode@engin.umich.edu), Kristina Curkovic (kdcurkov@umich.edu) for Arts, and Chris Hayes (chayes@umich.edu) for Music. Or stop by our weekly meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in our office on the 3rd floor of The Michigan League.

Music

Juliana Hatfield: An Honest Rocker

BY CHRIS HAYES

JULIANA HATFIELD HAS been the antithesis of what a rock-and-roller is expected to be. She doesn't thrive on attention nor does she ask for stardom. After her two full–length albums, *Become What You Are* and *Only Everything* on Atlantic, as well as a track on the *Reality Bites* soundtrack, gained a fair amount of recognition and favorable reviews, Juliana took a step away from the limelight of rock and roll because of the negatives that came with it.

Now Julian Hatfield is back with *Do Not Disturb*, on Bar None Records. The six songs that make up the album are her best collection to date. It is more reminiscent of the honesty and personality that made *Become What You Are* such a success.

"On *Only Everything*, I felt like I had to take a step away from what I was saying on *Become What You Are*," Juliana admitted to the *Review* in a recent interview. "Some journalists can just be so cruel without any consideration of what they are writing. It is very difficult for me to take negative criticism, especially about my music.

"I am not a very open person and my songs are very personal. But they are more than that. It is some subconscious stuff that I am not aware of until it is in a song. So it is hard when journalists write something, especially when it is comes from someone who writes with such idiocy and has no idea what he is saying. Criticism can be stifling.

"So when I did *Only Everything*, I concentrated on experimenting with the music and getting away from the personal aspect. *Please Do Not Disturb* is getting back to what I did with *Become What You Are*."

What comes across on her latest effort are frank, honest lyrics, as well as a great diversity in song writing. The new album shows an amazing maturation in her songwriting ability. Every song possesses its own soul in exact accordance with the lyrics and vocals that show a glimpse of the performer.

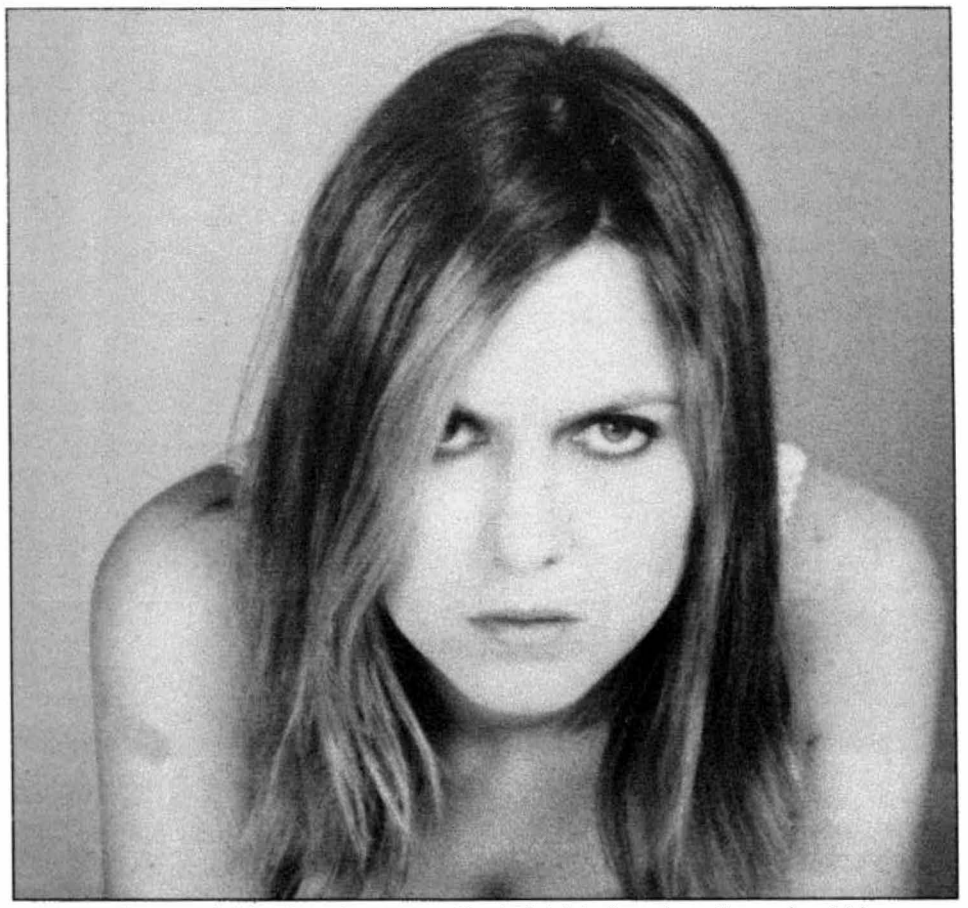
Do Not Disturb has its rock-and-roll moments, reminiscent of *Only Everything*, with electric guitar–based rhythm sections on tunes like "Sellout" and "Give Me Some of That." The other side of Juliana Hatfield is shown with the simple elegance on the remaining tracks like "Trying Not To Think About It."

"This was written after a friend drowned. I was trying to express the pain of his passing; it's nagging horribleness during every waking hour."

Juliana sings "How can I shield myself from the things that I hear?/ I want to close my eyes and sleep for a year/Tell me that it's only a dream/ That's it's only a nightmare/Trying not to think about it." Other issues that are addressed on *Do Not Disturb* are clinging in love, the end of the world, and seeing people with families while you have nothing.

"The songs are definitely a step back into myself. They all have been recorded in the last year or so, in and out of touring and stuff. These felt like the right six songs to put on a mini album."

The beauty of this album comes with Juliana's newfound ability to write a song that truly expresses a feeling or an emotion lyrically. It shows Juliana Hatfield's talent and capability to take the positives from her last efforts and expand them into a memorable group of six songs. MR



Juliana Hatfield will perform at the Magic Stick in Detroit on November 20th.

Wig Releases *Wireland*



Wig members Schurgin, Clark S. Nova, John Burke, and Fran Falls.

WIG HAS COME A LONG way in the last couple of years. If any of you are local music connoisseurs, you will remember them and their deal with Island. Well, they are still with Island, now living in California, and have their second release, *Wireland*, under their belt.

Wig is a bit hard to explain, and *Wireland* is no easier. Both are rock and roll, with a taste of metal and ambiant, and a vocalist (Clark S. Nova) who sounds like Ozzy Osborne at times. On *Wireland*, Wig creates a sound spectacle that is not through with the listener after one listen. It ranges from straight forward heavy rock tunes like "California Poppy," to a more textural and intense sound in "Negativeland," that has a beginning strikingly similar to Peter Gabriel's "Games Without Frontiers." Each song on *Wireland* has its own personality, while Novas vocals and the driving guitars attempt to link them together.

However, *Wireland* lacks a cohesiveness that should bring the album together. While variety and diversity are better than an album full of banal tracks, Wig has not planted their feet firmly enough into a sound for *Wireland*. This may be due to the band's choice to record in several different locations with several producers. However, the album is not boring, and has a way of pulling you in, no matter how jolting the ride may be. MR

– Chris Hayes

Film

Eve's Bayou Features Young Talent

BY MATTHEW BUCKLEY

A KEY RULE IN ANY SORT of writing is to get your audience hooked from the very beginning. Kasi Lemmons, the writer and director of the new film *Eve's Bayou*, apparently knows this rule and follows it. The movie's second line quickly snags one's attention: "The summer I killed my father, I was ten years old."

The Batistes are a prosperous, middle–class African American family living in the lush Louisiana backwoods. Louis Batiste (Samuel L. Jackson), is the town doctor with a philanderous bedside manner. His wife, Roz (Lynn Whitfield), holds down the homestead, well aware of her husband's infidelities. With their three kids, the Batistes live like most middle-class families; yet, while on the outside everything seems amiable, under the surface lies a different reality.

The film begins with a party at the Batiste's residence, during which young Eve (Jurnee Smollett) spies her father and another woman in a passionate interlude. When she confides this to her sister, she is met with angry resistance. Cisely (Meagan Good), an attractive and overly sophisticated fourteen–year–old, thinks the world of her father.

When Mozelle (Debbi Morgan), Louis' psychic sister, fortells that a vehicular accident could claim the life of one of the Batiste children, Roz demands that all the children stay in the house. As would happen with most families, the group gets sick of each other, and young Eve brashly confronts her mother with the realities of Louis' strayings. In the interim, Cisely begins waiting up late for her father to come home from work, and comes dangerously close to becoming a Lolitaesque target of her father's affections.

Nobody wants to confront these harsh truths, at least not in front of the children. As revelations build on revelations, Eve acts against her father in a variety of ways that inevitably weave their way toward the preordained conclusion.

Lemmons makes a strong directorial debut. The film is admirably full of subplots and interesting scenes, yet comes in at only an hour and fifty minutes. The ability to keep a film short while avoiding a rushed feeling is something that seasoned directors find problematic, and Lemmon's ability to wrap things up is refreshing.

She also does a great job with the actors. Granted, Jackson does not need much work to be a great actor. Though Louis is only a walkthrough performance for Jackson, he still fills Louis with an emotional resonance. Lynn Whitfield isn't half-bad, either. Also note that if you look fast, you'll also catch jazz great Branford Marsalis in a small role as one of Mozelle's husbands. Diahann Carroll vamps it up a bit much as Mozelle's psychic competitor, but this doesn't detract from the other performances.

Where Simmons works wonders, though, is in the portrayals of the two girls. Whereas the young son Poe is largely irrelevant to the film, Eve and Cisely are crucial characters who both require significant range. Smollett and Good are amazing as the girls. As Eve, Smollett defines being a ten-year old. The irreverent curiousity, the testing of the limits of parental control, the overwhelming initial faith in one's father — as Eve, Smollett runs the gamut without a hitch. As Cisely, Good perfectly expresses the confusion of a fourteen-year old girl dealing with the problems of adolesence. Both actresses display amazing depth, particularly Smollett. If the Academy sees fit to give Anna Paquin a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for the whiny brat in *The Piano*, let me suggest Smollett ought to be a juvenile prize–winner as well.

For that matter, why not suggest that *Eve's Bayou* could be up for a lot of awards this year. It mixes a compelling story with excellent acting, great scenery, and a strong performances from a new director. Passing up *Eve's Bayou* for some recognition would be a shame. **MR**

READ THE REVIEW!

A Glimpse of a Great Band

BY CHRIS HAYES

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME the word "Pixies" passed through my musically naive ears. I was sitting at home and my brother's friend had brought a tape of the group performing "Planet of Sound" on a late night talk show. A month later I saw them opening for U2 on the Zoo TV tour. My brother and I went to see U2; but I knew a large number of people who didn't care a rat's ass about U2 and went to see the Pixies. At the time, I didn't understand what the whole deal was with this band from Boston.

Since then, I have gained a much stronger appreciation of music, a far cry from when I thought Bon Jovi and the Bangles were the coolest. I look back and smile at that Zoo TV tour, partly because I was able to see U2 before they decided to play the Silverdome, but mainly because I was able to see the Pixies before they broke up a year later.

The Pixies sported the likes of Black Francis on vocals and guitar (who later put out solo records as Frank Black), Kim Deal on vocals and bass (also in the Breeders), Joey Santiago on lead guitar, and David Lovering on drums. The Pixies' music has become a major influence in today's alternative scene. Nirvanas' "Teen Spirit" would never have been without the Pixies influence. Kurt said it himself. The Pixies epitomized spontaneity in rock, and still made sure to keep their rhythm section in tempo and playing smoothly.



The Pixies in their prime.

Earlier this month the Pixies released a double disc entitled *Death to the Pixies*, encompassing much of their career. It highlights both the Pixies' recorded achievements and their live shows. The first disc spans their five albums, including classics such as "Debaser," "Wave of Mutilation" (the original, not the cheeseball version on the *Pump Up the Volume* soundtrack), "Planet of Sound" and of course "Here Comes Your Man." The disc's seventeen tracks only add up to around forty-five minutes, which is a bit lame for a "greatest hits" album. There is room for other tunes like "Space (I Believe In)" and "SubbaCultcha." All and all, the collection shows the Pixies' talent as well as their lunacy, and shows their influence on today's rock.

Disc Two, a live performance from 1990, makes this double disc worth owning for Pixies fans. For me, it brings back their opening performance for U2, and allows me to better appreciate that show now. It has a few repeats from the first disc, but overall, it plays true and has integrity all its own. The release of the entire concert gives the disc a flow and wholeness. It plays like a Pixies show, and not like redundant live versions of their best songs.

Although *Death to the Pixies* will be considered a greatest hits collection, it does not replace the need to own at least a few Pixies albums, like *Doolittle* or *Trompe le Monde*, because this new compilation does not contain all of the Pixies' best work. **MR**

Yeah, you like music.

So do we. Yeah, you've got opinions on music. So do we. The only difference is that we review music *and* talk to the people that make it all happen – the artists themselves!

You can, too. Join the *Michigan Review*. Just email us at mrev @umich.edu, or our Music Editor, Chris Hayes, at chayes@umich.edu.

tíos

AWARD WINNING MEXICAN FOOD

333 E. HURON, ANN ARBOR

761-6650

LARGE MENU

OPEN ALL WEEK · 11A.M.—2A.M.

250 HOT SAUCES & SALSAS

LARGEST SELECTION IN MICHIGAN
FREE TASTINGS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

EAT IN OR CARRY OUT

WE DELIVER!

Limited delivery area — $5 min. order for delivery
Open 7 Days 11am - 1am
Late night deliv. Wed.- Sat. 1-3 am

VOTED BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT BY CURRENT READERS 1996

VOTED BEST MEXICAN FOOD BY MICHIGAN DAILY READERS 1995

GRAND PRIZE WINNER!
Chile Pepper Magazine's Fiery Food Challenge, Hot Salsa Division

Vegetarian orders available on request

HOT & TASTY!

VALUABLE COUPON

$2 OFF

ANY FOOD PURCHASE OF $10 OR MORE

With coupon. Not valid with any other offer.
Must mention coupon during phone order or invalid. Expires 12/31/97. MI RVW