THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

Volume 18, Number 7 — The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan — Nov. 17 – Dec. 7, 1999

Supreme Court Hears Student Fees Case

BY JACOB F.M. OSLICK

"I THINK THAT WE HAVE enough justices to win," remarks Jordan Lorence, lawyer for Scott Southworth, a day after arguing the potentially landmark case, *Scott Southworth v. The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin* (U-W) in front of the Supreme Court. If Mr. Lorence is correct, the case could dramatically change how state universities throughout the country fund student organizations.

With their decision, expected early next year, the Court could overturn the decades-long practice of state universities (including U-M) using mandatory student fees to fund hundreds of student groups. However, because the U-W system works somewhat differently than U-M's, it is unclear whether the decision will affect students at Michigan.

According to Mr. Lorence, the Court will most likely "strike down the current system and tell the University of Wisconsin to go back and try again." Lorence expects a near-unanimous Court to overturn the "referendum" method of funding student organizations, whereby a group directly petitions the student body for money via a ballot proposition. Effectively, such a system lets 50.1% of the student body impose its spending priorities upon the other 49.9%, creating what Mr. Lorence declares "a tyranny of the majority." While such a system theoretically exists at Michigan, it is rarely used (Michigan students last faced such a referendum Winter '98, when the "Yes! Yes! Yes!" campaign for a student regent requested a special fee boost to fund their activities). Therefore, any Court ruling narrowly tailored to encompass only the "referendum" question will not likely affect the U-M.

However, Mr. Lorence believes that Justices Rehnquist, Scalia, Thomas, O'Connor and Kennedy favor his side, which opens up the possibility for a broader verdict. Disputing claims by the major media that Justice Anthony Kennedy leans towards the Board of Regents, Mr. Lorence argues, "There's a difference between being asked difficult questions and having the justices express disapproval" with one's arguments. Relating this reasoning to the possible "swing vote," he comments that Justice Kennedy

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A New 'Voice' Against Aff. Action

BY MATTHEW S. SCHWARTZ

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN students in favor of race-based admissions policies have always been able to voice their support via the many pro-affirmative action groups on campus, but students opposed have had nowhere to turn – until now.

If LSA sophomore Dustin Lee has his way, his new group, VOICE-AAA ("anti-affirmative action") will become the primary rallying point for students opposed to U-M's admissions policies.

In a letter to the *Michigan Daily* on Oct. 28, Lee wrote, "I would like to be the first to make the movement that I, and I am sure many others, have waited

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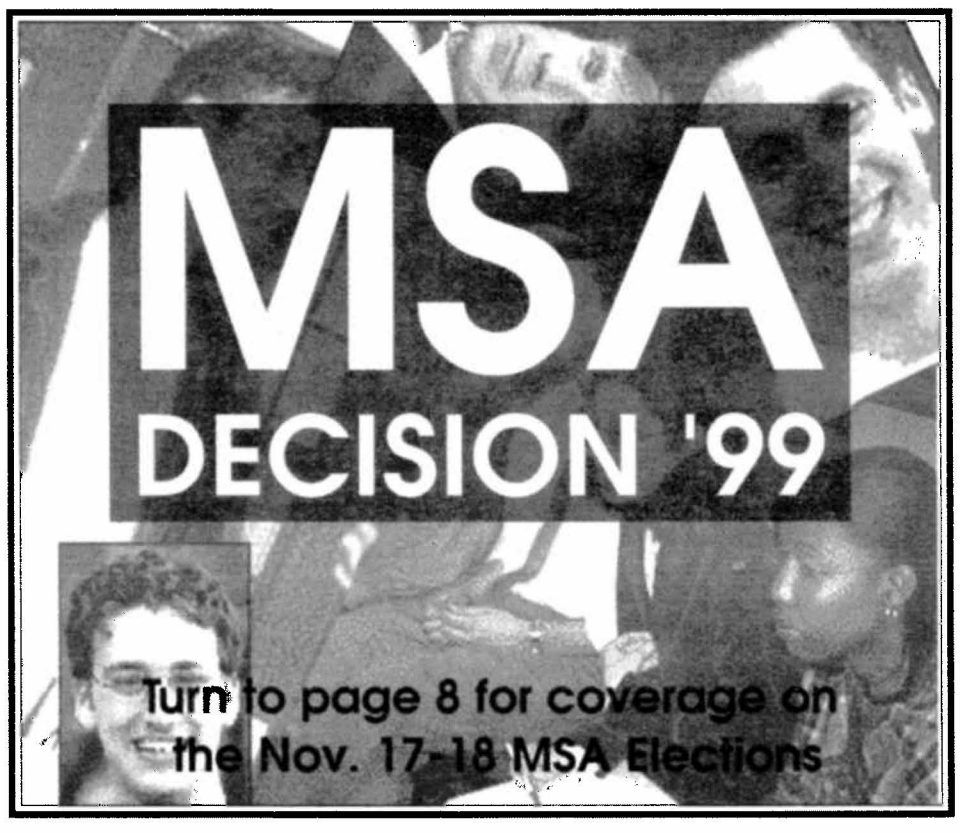
College Republicans Make Good

BY RABEH SOOFI

FOR MANY STUDENTS, THE term "Republican" is associated with all things evil: greedy, feeble men shaking fists at each other on Capitol Hill; a slew of –isms that conjure images of Nazi Germany; and of course, who could neglect the religious fundamentalism and strict moral code that frequently accompanies anyone's perception of the common Republican. Despite the pervasive nature of this stereotype among the American and U-M population, it must be said that the adherents to this specific breed of Republican ideology today are few and far between. The College Republicans have made it their goal this year to prove that right-wing ultra-conservatism is no longer the creed by which the majority of Republicans swear. Moreover, being a Republican, too, is something that is ready to take on a new image.

Rory Diamond, president of U-M's chapter of the College Republicans (CRs), has enjoyed record audiences at weekly meetings so far this year. The feature of successful Black Republicans, Republican candidates in local elections, as well as well-known speakers has brought new faces to the Republican movement on campus. Diamond attributes this to the revamped image that he envisions for the

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This issue we review the fine whines fermented by Hispanics, militant gays, DAAP, and radical feminists.

Serpent's Tooth

TOP FIVE REASONS ISRAEL wasn't featured at recent "Tour of the Middle East" exhibit in the Union:

5. Israelis invited, but told they would need to place Israeli display in the middle of a mock Mediterranean Sea.

4. Israelis invited, but told country would have be called "The facist, racist and murderous Zionist entity."

3. Jews already represented by the "Accuse a 90 Year Old Blind Rabbi of Spying Booth" in the Iranian display.

2. Palestinian exhibit kept demanding more and more of Israel's space until the latter ceased to exist at all.

1. Israeli exhibit kept getting mysteriously blown up.

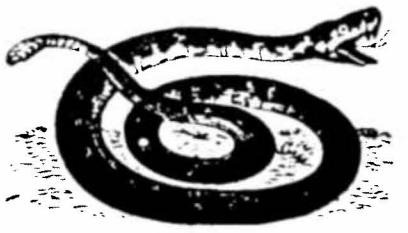
Last week, *Serpent's Tooth* were delighted to spot Bram "Rhymes with Mom" Elias, Andy "Clitorous," and various other MSA thugs and Blue Party members protesting a meeting of the College Republicans. "Ooh!" we thought aloud. "A protest by my beloved government!" In fact, we even saw the elusive MSA Rep. Peter Handler, in the flesh! He was visibly excited, and holding his big, long, hard... picket sign. We were dismayed to see Blue's little protest broken up when the other boys in blue (the ones with guns) showed up in riot gear. We were also quite dismayed that we forgot our camera in the office. Oh, if only you could have seen the look on Peter Handler's face when the authorities showed up... he thought he would be arrested for indecent exposure! *Serpent's* would hereby like to offer our congratulations to this group of delinquents, headed up by the same person who leads another group of deliquents every Tuesday in the MSA chambers. Thanks, guys, for making this soooooooo easy.

President Clinton is warning Israel not to sell military technology to Communist China. Unfortunately, Clinton made the demand not out of disgust against the Reds' brutal oppression of their own people, but with the claim that "Dammit, if someone is going to profit from the coming invasion of Taiwan, it oughta be the U.S.!"

Last Monday and Tuesday, the *Review* spent all day in the Fishbowl manning an information table and selling copies of the book *Hating Whitey*. During the fourteen hours or so that we manned the table, roughly 50 people stopped by to buy the book, ask questions, or ask to join the staff of the *Review*. We were somewhat discouraged by this low turnout, until we recognized that was about 50 more visitors than the BAMN table next to us received.

It seems that occassional *Review* contributor Chip Englander is running for LSA Student Government. We applaud his platform, which includes such overdue tasks as "improving dorm food" and lengthening the open hours at the CCRB... Too bad LSA-SG only handles curriculm issues, and has no authority in these matters. Oops.

UCLA is trying to change its mascot, Oski, claiming he's too pudgy. We



suggest that he stop hanging around freshmen girls.

Real AOL News headline: "Sources: Reich To Endorse Bradley." This is bad news for Gore, who seemed certain to win the Nazi vote.

Serpent's Special: Finding a new rating system for television

The television today seems to be an educational vacuum with a rating system serving as little more than a violence meter. As such, we as a society should rate shows by their educational value for our youth. This point is blatantly obvious due to such shows as "When Good Pets Go Bad 2." The initial warning of "due to some violent content, parental discretion is advised" is not only vague, but misleading! Because of this hasty label, the true educational value of "When Good Pets Go Bad 2" is quickly disregarded. What better educational tool is there to teach children such valuable life lessons as:

- Do not set a bull on fire and then play with it afterwards.
- Do not open up your groin to a venomous snake.
- Do not interview a lion or bear tamer on television. Ever.
- The polar bear probably doesn't want to play.
- People can be food too.
- Tranquilizer darts can be used to solve pretty much any problem.

The show even uses such friendly characters as Santa Claus to teach children valuable lessons such as "Do not encroach upon a reindeer in heat" and "Do not call for help when being gored by saying 'ho ho ho ho help!'"

It is because parents can not find good, wholesome educational entertainment for their children that American youth has in many cases fallen behind children in other countries. For example, observe the inherent educational value of watching a bull frantically fight for its life with a set of spurs embedded in its ribs, or two male horses biting and kicking each other. "When Good Pets Go Bad 2" informs the average American of their own cultural void.

This time Fox definitely has a winner, and they're not the only ones who benefit; *every* American wins. MR

There's still time to join the staff of the *Review*! Why, new people are joining us just about every week.

To partake in the excitement, simply e-mail: editor@michiganreview.com

He'll give you the low-down.

LOOK FOR OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE YEAR ON STANDS DECEMBER 8TH, 1999!

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan

*"I don't even have to give you a resignation letter... I RESIGN!"**

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Yes, we know, we know, the number of pages in each *Review* has steadily declined over the past few issues. From 20 to 16 to 12... but that does NOT mean we are going to 8 and 4 and 0 over the next few months! We've just been busy with other things, that's all. After all, it's midterm-season, and we're students too, you know. But fear not: a 20-page issue awaits!

**Fit of Rage* courtesy of former Managing Editor R. Colin Painter.

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Ethnocentrism Article Sparks Debate

IN RESPONSE TO RABEH Soofi's claim that ethnic-American organizations foster segregation ("Ethnic Clubs Promote Ethnocentrism," Nov. 3, 1999), I suggest that she is falsely manufacturing a causal relationship that does not exist. Ethnic organizations, contrary to her contention, foster interaction with other groups. These are interactions that would not take place without these student organizations she criticizes.

For example, last year the Encompass show brought together a multitude of truly diverse student groups that organized dances, songs, skits, etc. Each act was sponsored by one organization but featured students from other organizations, ethnic groups, as well. Our organization, an Arab-American one, also had African-American, Latino-American, and Asian-American individuals. The friendships began there remain today.

"Taste of Culture," which happened earlier this year, was sponsored by many student organizations and brought together 500 students of all ethnic origins. Interaction in this event happened because of these student organizations. People were exposed to other cultures, and interacted with people they normally would not.

Finally, numerous coalitions, such as the Minority Affiars Commission (MAC), bring together representatives of different ethnic groups into an active and interconnected coalition. Also, the United Asian-American Organizations (UAAO) promotes interaction between the diverse students descending from Asia — from Arabia to Indonesia — through programming that is open to the entire University.

From the perspective of someone actually active in the type of organization she criticizes, yet does not even participate in, Soofi's claims are invalid and misguided. She has the causal relationship misconstrued. She sees segregation on campus, observes ethnic organizations, and assumes that the latter causes the former. However, if there were no ethnic student organizations, students would still congregate among their ethnic peers, and all the evidence she cites would still persist.

Unfortunately, her adamant stance against these organizations prohibits her from joining any and having a realistic view into what actually goes on. I suggest to the *Review* staff in general that it is not un-American to maintain a pride in your roots without impinging on the rights of others to do so. It is American and patriotic to observe and embrace the constitutional rights of free speech and expression granted. I do not think it is fair to condemn others for "abusing" their rights when all they are doing is exercising them.

Finally, I must say that Soofi was correct in her contempt for what is a sad situation dressed up as "diversity." However, I believe that this is overcome by embracing differences rather then opposing others because of them. It is very possible to be proud of one's own background, and political beliefs, while respecting others' right to have them.

— Will Youmans
President, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee

Ethnic Groups 'Tribalize' Student Body

Many thanks to Rabeh Soofi for thoughtfully and publicly articulating what my co-chair and I have recently recognized ourselves. It is absolutely true that these organizations, in addition to all programs that seek to highlight difference instead of similarity, tend to tribalize rather than unify. We have also seen this tendency in different political organizations on campus. Liberals form organizations that use an 'us vs. them' mentality to motivate their members. This attitude does not foster rational dialogue — it allows liberals to make quick and harsh judgements about anyone that does not share their views. We feel that the majority of people are not inherently evil, and participate in certain ideologies because they think that a particular way of life will benefit all. Unfortunately, liberals do not grant us the same understanding.It's ironic that for all of their talk of diversity and multiplicity of views, all that they really want is for everyone to agree – with them.

— Elizabeth Keslacy
Gabriel Quinnan
Co-chairs, College Libertarians

Ethnic Clubs Only Separate Students More

First of all let me say that I appreciated greatly your article about the misuse of ethnic clubs on the Universtiy of Michigan campus. Being of Hispanic descent and having participated in more than one latino/hispanic student organization, I felt your evaluation was right on. You stated very eloquently what has been my opinion for the last two years here at the Universtiy. I have had many arguments with other minority students about this subject. Most of the time to be shot down and told that I had no idea what I was talking about and in some cases that I was a disgrace to my true culture. Let me tell you it's very gratifying to see another with the same feelings as mine. I feel that i am American first and a minority second. I am very proud to attend the University of Michigan, but I cannot help but feel frustrated when I see cliques of minority students refusing to associate with the "other" students. I am proud to have friends from many different backgrounds; white, black, asian, indian, hispanic, etc. I have to agree that the representation of minorities on campus is just not realistic. Furthermore I have to agree that many of the "homelands" which our grandparents and parents left behind are just not worthy of being held so close in the formation of our identities as people. I know that my family came to America seeking freedom and a better life, and America has been kind to my family. Therefore I see no necesity to shun this wonderful nation.

— Derek Arciniaga
LSA Student

Hot Dogs Stands More Important Than Women's Sports

I am tired of all the women writing in and saying that they should get a million dollars to train them to be half as good at what men can do for free ("U-M Loses $7M to Women's Sports," Oct. 6, 1999). I think we should stop funding women's sports and use that money for something useful, like getting more of those hotdog stands around school. I like those.

— Jesse Herzog
LSA Freshman

Praise for James Yeh

I really enjoyed your article on ROTC and am glad that despite your not completing the program and becoming an Officer, you were still able to learn some valuable lessons about life ("R-O-T-C: Good for You, Good for Me," Nov. 3, 1999). Thanks again for the article. It was a pleasure to read.

"Hooah!" I also loved the article written by James Yeh entitled "Remember USA's Protectors on Veterans Day." The ROTC conducted a ceremony at the VA hospital in honor of Veterans Day, and you would not believe the heartfelt warmth and joy that was shared by both the cadets and veterans. Some of these veterans were too sick to get out of bed, and although they were grateful for our visits, we as a nation should be eternally grateful for what they have given us and our children.

"Freedom!" Thanks Mr. Yeh — you're the man.

— MSG Michael Lopez, Army ROTC

More Praise for James Yeh

Just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate James Yeh on his Veteran's Day column. I'm a Somalia Vet myself and it's good to know that people like him are out there. It cracks me up how some shit-for-brains leftist yahoos just don't comprehend the fact that it is only because of people like the 18 guys who died Oct 3, 1993, in Mogadishu (six of whom were my buddies) that they are allowed to spout their anti-America drivel. On behalf Veterans everywhere, thank you Mr. Yeh.

— Branden Sanz
LSA Junior

Review Lacks Journalistic Integrity

"Further, according to the Independent Womens [sic] Forum, between 1960 and 1994, womens [sic] wages grew 10 times as fast as mens [sic] wages" ("The Laundry List of Liberal Lies," Nov. 3, 1999). Aside from being poor prose, this sentence sums up what's wrong with your "journalism." I won't go into your politics, because I disagree with them. That's not the point. You cannot use statistics from the IWF, which is a biased right-wing think tank, to support your argument — at least, not unless you look at the integrity of the IWF study.

I was also interested to see that you've apparently combined your advertising and editorial departments, as shown in the Horowitz article.

As I've said, I disagree with your politics; that's not why I write. It hasn't been until recently that I've been embarrassed to be seen reading the *Review*. I have never agreed with your viewpoints, but at least in the past you've been able to convey them through journalism. The *Review* has become a kneejerk paper with little journalistic integrity, and its poorly researched articles are of no more worth than their NWROC counterparts. Responsible journalism reports the story; your paper, on the other hand, finds "stories" to fit its agenda.

—Annie Tomlin
LSA Student

Ms. Tomlin,

You must always make sure to differentiate between news articles and op-ed pieces. The article in question was not intended as objective journalism. Rather, it was an op-ed column reflecting the personal views of the author — similar to what you might find on the op-ed pages of the New York Times *or* Washington Post.

—The Editors



Vote FRAT Party

Spunky new party recognizes MSA for the joke it is

OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY (MSA) has progressively deteriorated. Rather than focusing on student issues, last semester's MSA decided to devote more effort to lifting American sanctions on Iraq. The current version is little better. Although the Assembly has thankfully refrained from meddling in international politics, its agenda continues to steer towards lunacy. In a climate where mandatory student fees might soon cease to exist, due to a pending Supreme Court decision, MSA has taken steps towards raising them. In a world of spiraling educational costs, MSA has spent untold hours discussing an ill-advised tuition freeze. As a result of this growing irrelevance to simple student concerns, sensible MSA members have either declined to seek re-election (Rory Diamond) or resigned outright (Alok Agrawal).

We wholeheartedly endorse the FRAT Party's idea of carving "OSU Sucks" unto the moon.

The current election season offers no solutions to this problem. Rather, the varies parties and candidates play like a Twilight Zone version of CNN's Crossfire, "On the left here's the Defend Affirmative Action Party, and on the left, the Blue Party." Nor, with the noted exception of Rackham Rep. Josh Trapani, is there an impressive cadre of independants running. Accordingly, we at the *Review* endorse the following:

1) In the Rackham elections we give our wholehearted endorsement to Mr. Trapani, seeking relection for the fourth time.

2) In the other schools we hold our nose and endorse the FRAT Party. Although we recognize the FRAT Party neither cares nor addresses practical concerns, neither do they suggest anything destructive. At the worst, a FRAT Party dominated Assembly would steer towards comedy, not tragedy. On a lighter note, we wholeheartedly endorse their idea of carving "OSU Sucks" unto the moon. Specifically, we applaud the fact that any such undertaking would drain resources from the Assembly, giving MSA less money to spend on funding left-wing student groups. MR

No to Tuition Freeze

DAAP Proposal Makes for Nice Campaign Rhetoric, but Poor Policy

ALTHOUGH THE SAYING, "THE ONLY CERTAINTIES IN LIFE ARE death and taxes" does not apply for the average U-M student, a tuition hike is just as inevitable. Yet, despite the general acceptance of this necessary evil, DAAP once again tried to freeze tuition.

At first glance such a proposal sounds favorable to most students. Everyone would like to pay less for school, and students are usually strapped for cash as it is. However, upon further examination one finds that this proposal is as poorly planned and designed as any other DAAP proposal.

Specifically, at the same time DAAP wants to stop tuition increases, it demands more spending on many programs. For example, DAAP's election platform calls for increasing grants and financial aid. Similarly, DAAP pledges to continue helping the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) fight for "fairer" (read: higher) wages. Yet, if DAAP wants the University to spend more on aid and salaries, without increasing tuition, something has to give. Tinkerbell economics might work in Never-Never land, but not in a world where expenses cannot fly magically away from revenues.

What if the University did stop tuition increases? In a matter of years the University would no longer be a top drawer public institution. Even by inflation alone, an outright tuition freeze would gradually but cumulatively degrade the amount of resources the University has to work with each year. Further, the University would have less funding each year to modernize its facilities, and keep pace with other top tier universities around the country. In a matter of years, our reputation could decline toward the level of lesser schools such as MSU or Ohio State.

Nobody loves to pay more for anything. But when tuition increases, every student receives more than they did a year before. Each semester all students enjoy new programs, new buildings, and new projects. That is what tuition increases pay for: all the improvements on campus. The unfortunate fact is that stagnant tuition prices lead to a stagnant, non-dynamic university. Despite all of its flaws, this school never stops expanding. That is something to be thankful for. Thus, a better moniker for DAAP's proposed tuition freeze should be an "education freeze."

— *Ryan McClarren*

Show your disapproval with the current state of MSA "politics" — vote FRAT Party on Nov. 17 and 18!

Voice–AAA

Continued from Page 1

for." He then urged anyone who felt as he did — that any "non merit-based" factors in admissions should be eliminated — to e-mail him and become a founding member in the first anti-affirmative action group in U-M's history.

"As of now, there is no organized group against affirmative action, and we can change that," he wrote. "I want this to happen, and I want to prove there is a voice out there — a voice that can and will be heard, and a voice that will inevitably celebrate the day affirmative action falls by the wayside."

Lee received numerous responses to his letter, and scheduled the first meeting of VOICE-AAA for Nov. 10. That evening, approximately 15 undergraduate students convened in the Michigan Union to hammer out the details of the new group.

One student in attendance, LSA freshman Jessica Cash, had also contributed to the *Daily's* letters section, supporting Lee.

"The opposition to affirmative action on the campus is definitely present, but has not become a force — yet. Personally, I have always been an opponent of affirmative action as it is used at the University of Michigan."

Cash pointed out that the due to the University's high academic standards, poorly-qualified beneficiaries of affirmative action often times don't do well academically.

***"I want to prove there is a voice out there – a voice that can and will be heard, and a voice that will inevitably celebrate the day affirmative action falls by the wayside."* — LSA sophomore Dustin Lee**

"I think the whole idea is ludicrous, and an excellent example of doing too little too late to help minorities gain access to higher education," she wrote.

At the meeting, the group brainstormed ideas on how best to get their message out. They are considering a type of "Day of Action," in which they would hand out literature that describes their group, and dispels misconceptions about how affirmative action is implemented at U-M.

At the meeting, LSA sophomore John Mione succinctly summed up what the group believed. "Look at all the people who are left out of [U-M] that are deserving," he said. Mione felt that if the group could teach people about how affirmative action really works at the university, "people would be more apt to change their minds" and oppose U-M's admissions policies.

While VOICE-AAA feels that all non-merit based admissions criteria are questionable, they are choosing to focus on racial preferences.

According to LSA freshman Jon Book, the group should not attack the importance of diversity in higher education; it should attack how the University handles attaining diversity.

Book felt that diversity is very important. "Diversity contributes to your personal growth," he said, the other members nodding in agreement. "You enrich yourself in being able to know how someone else thinks."

Members of the group pointed out that just being of a different race doesn't make people different, yet the University treats it that way. According to Lee, the University should "focus on a diversity of ideas as opposed to racial diversity."

Lee explained why he named the group "VOICE-AAA."

"I tried to pick something that would be non-confrontational," he said, emphasizing that unlike the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), his would be "a non-militant group."

The group plans to have a booth at Winterfest to attract students. "This is the only group that offers alternative viewpoints," said LSA junior David Hodge. "We want to attract as many people as possible to our cause."

However, Lee is sure the group will cause conflict. "I think BAMN will target us," he said. "I don't want to be 'the group who opposes BAMN,' but I'm sure it will end up that way."

The group felt that in order to have an impact on campus, they must not only point out what they feel are the problems with affirmative action, but propose solutions as well.

"It would require redesigning the whole admissions process," said Hodge. MR

Fees

Continued from Page 1

"was clearly negative to the University of Wisconsin."

A broader decision might take issue with the other way Wisconsin funds student groups: disbursements by two student government bodies, the General Student Service Fund and Associated Students of Madison. Roughly speaking, these compare to the Michigan Student Assembly's Budget and Priorities Committee and Community Service fund. Specifically, all three of these student governments receive a block of money to allocate to student groups.

***The central challenge of funding: "Everyone agrees that multiple views are important, but nobody wants to pay for them."* — Royster Harper, VP of Student Affairs**

To prepare for any possible decision that affects U-M, Vice-President of Student Affairs Royster Harper plans to form a committee to study alternatives to the current mandatory fee system. Declining to comment specifically on new possible funding methods, calling such speculation "premature," Ms. Harper pointed out that the "range of possibilities are as many as we can think of."

Ms. Harper expects the committee to form by January and begin holding panel and small group discussions with University students. According to Ms. Harper, the committees' central challenge is that "everyone agrees that multiple views are important but nobody wants to pay for them." In general, Ms. Harper feels that the discussion itself has more value than any possible solutions the committee reaches, commenting that "the question is more important than the answer: how will we be able to do this?"

Statements like that disturb Mr. Lorence. "What I have seen at the University of Wisconsin is a very weak attempt to protect students' rights. These committees like the one you've got at Michigan offer the most minimal, begrudging changes." Accordingly, Mr. Lorence worries that such a committee might concern itself with finding a way to circumvent the law rather than engage the University's "constitutional duty to protect students' conscience."

Ms. Harper disputes this position. "A discussion of how to get around the law would be inappropriate. ... For me to do otherwise would be hypocritical."

Still, she would like to find some way to maintain Michigan's active campus student organizations. "It isn't even about financing the views, it's financing the stuff that happens in the [discussion these views create]." Hence, "your ideas influence mine. That helps me learn and grow."

Seeing the committee as one way to facilitate an exchange of ideas, Ms. Harper states that the committee might continue its work even if the Court does not uphold *Southworth*. "It doesn't matter what the Court decides; the discussion is what we need to have," Ms. Harper comments.

Still, other observers are skeptical that the Court will compel the University to change its fee system. MSA President Bram Elias believes that "there are a bunch of really big differences between their fees and system and ours. It would take a very broadly conceived decision to affect U-M."

However, Mr. Elias dismisses as "not entirely accurate" a statement the *Daily* paraphrased and attributed to him. According to the *Daily*, Mr. Elias said that the Southworth decision would not apply to U-M because MSA allows students "to voice their objections to the Assembly's funding of certain groups." This semester, the Assembly doled out almost $150,000 to hundreds of student groups, using money raised through mandatory fees. Like the system at the U-M, the U-W permits students to object to the funding of student groups. However, since all funding decisons are made on a non-political basis, such objections cannot suceed.

In general, only time will tell if Southworth will seriously affect U-M. Jordan Lorence, for his part, will carefully watch developments in Ann Arbor. If Michigan refuses to implement any part of the Southworth decision that might apply, he is prepared to use his resources to "have the courts help the University obey the Constitution." MR

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MSA Elections Quietly Arrive

BY JUSTIN WILSON

WHERE HAVE ALL THE posters gone? Isn't it election season?"

Don't worry, you're not going insane or blind; it is Michigan Student Assembly's (MSA) election season, but due to new restrictions limiting campaign advertisements, this time it has snuck up on everyone.

Despite its quiet arrival, MSA elections will occur on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The election will fill 23 empty MSA seats. Along with the incumbent Blue Party (BP) and Defend Affirmative Action Party (DAAP), the FRAT Party and many new independents have joined the race to become the next set of U-M's bureaucrats-in-training.

This year the parties participating have little in common, even disagreeing as to the fundamental purpose of the student government. Some believe that MSA, as a whole, should be a forum for social action. Others see it solely as a means to improve student life on campus. Accordingly, each party and candidate emphasizes different issues they would like to address:

Blue Party

Although the Blue Party (BP) has only one incumbent candidate running on its ticket, every BP candidate is exceptionally qualified, according to BP co-chairperson Marisa Linn.

This year the parties participating have little in common, even disagreeing as to the fundamental purpose of the student government.

Linn states that the party realizes that much of what MSA does is symbolic and has no real impact on campus. As such, the BP's platform centers on a plethora of specific policies to improve student life. The platform includes lobbying for increasing funding from the state for the university, stabilizing and ensuring the expansion of Entree Plus across campus, and improving health services on campus. Thus, "the Blue Party exists to accomplish projects that will work for the students and have an impact on campus life," Linn remarks

More state funding is one issue the BP hopes to focus on. "The U of M is severely under-funded by the state" and deserves more funding as the flagship school of Michigan, said Linn. The BP plans to lobby not only in MSA, but also in the State legislature for more funding. Linn believes that this proposal holds more promise than DAAP's recent resolution to freeze tuition. Linn, who voted against the DAAP resolution, said that it was "weak in terms of an action statement, and offered no way of getting things done. [The Blue party] will lobby the state for more funding — that is the most realistic means of accomplishing the lowest tuition possible."

The BP also has plans to strengthen and secure the expansion of Entree Plus as a payment method across campus. For example, some claim that under Michigan's strict banking laws, the University serves as a bank by hosting entree accounts. In order to solve this problem, the BP hopes to work with both the University's general counsel and the State Attorney General to "secure a final ruling from the State Banking Committee to determine [Entree Plus] legality." Additionally, the Blue Party wishes to extend the coverage of Entree Plus. "Students have found it to be very convenient," and the BP will take a vested interest in not only keeping the program in existence but expanding it, said Linn.

Besides working on the state level, the BP also hopes to improve health care on campus. Blue's platform "includes creating information centers in residence halls with pamphlets on various disorders and offering condoms and safe sex information." Specifically, the BP wants each residence hall to have a staffed area to answer questions and distribute information pertaining to health issues. Linn commented that the center would hopefully be staffed by a public heath graduate student and would stay open past UHS hours.

Defend Affirmative Action Party

After its first year of MSA representation, the Defend Affirmative Action Party (DAAP) has certainly made itself known. With Jessica Curtin chairing the party, members have proposed numerous ideological resolutions regarding affirmative action and other activist-minded causes this year, such as last semester's resolution to lift Iraqi sanctions.

As the name implies, the central goal of the DAAP is to defend affirmative action. According to party propaganda, DAAP is "bound up with building the new civil rights movement, starting with the defense of affirmative action and integration." The party cites statistics that show that higher education is resegregating and that the concept of "separate but equal" is being adopted across the country. DAAP believes that "only the power of the new social movement can reverse the [attacks on affirmative action]. DAAP aims at building that movement.

"For [DAAP], being a force on the assembly that represents and fights for *all* students' rights and interests is not counterpoised to the fact that we also *specifically* represent minority and progressive students." (Emphasis in original.) DAAP, the fighting party on campus, has consistently clashed with the majority of MSA and lost. Additionally, the party specifically indicates that it stands up for minorities and is proud that it is a totally integrated party with a majority of its candidates women.

Besides defending affirmative action, DAAP has a few other interesting platform issues. Recently, DAAP members proposed a tuition freeze, pointing out that the average school tuition in the U.S. has risen much higher than the inflation rate. DAAP sponsored the resolution in order to "maintain access to college education for students who are not from wealthy backgrounds."

DAAP also hopes to increase equal-

The Students' Party: An Obituary

BY SCOTT BEHNAN

OPPORTUNITY SELDOM knocks twice." This is one of the many revelations plaguing all former constituents of the Student's Party (SP), which less than one year ago dominated the Michigan Student Assembly (MSA). Nevertheless, the SP appears to have disintegrated, joining the New Frontier, Wolverine, and Michigan parties in the ever-expanding graveyard of defunct Michigan politicos. Over a span of one election season, SP has gone from fielding the largest group of candidates of any political party — 19 candidates in 9 schools in the previous winter elections — to a complete disappearance from the U-M political scene.

Of course, this grim outcome for SP defies what many once considered a bright future for the party. Following the 1998 winter elections, SP emerged a victor over its nemesis (now defunct) Michigan Party, with President Trent Thompson and Sarah Chopp capturing the executive slate. Although the Thompson administration introduced some modest proposals throughout the winter term, the intrusion of DAAP and its radical political agenda on to the assembly following the 1998 fall elections clashed with SP and its more student-oriented platform — and in some eyes triggered the eventual breakup of the party.

According to its leaders, the SP was formed more for winning elections than for ideological issues. However, confronted with DAAP and its cohesive leftist agenda, SP members found themselves under pressure to either remain at the center, or join DAAP in left field. Consequently, as MSA dialogue shifted from student issues on the U-M campus to international predicaments, the few conservative and moderate representatives on MSA became more disillusioned week by week. After MSA debated for over two hours last spring whether or not to "condone the lifting of Iraqi sanctions," conservative SP veteran David Burden shocked his colleagues by resigning entirely from the Assembly.

SP's troubles reached their climax as several key party leaders, including current MSA President Bram Elias, VP Andy Coulouris, and BPC Chair Glen Roe, deserted SP and founded the left-leaning Blue Party (BP) for the 1999 winter elections. Although the SP ran a diligent campaign, BP executive candidates Elias and Coulouris dethroned the SP executive branch and a large portion of its constituency on the Assembly.

As to why SP has failed to regroup and challenge BP in the upcoming fall elections, MSA representative and former SP member Joe Bernstein said, "We [SP] had only two incumbents eligible for reelection. ... It wasn't worth finding new candidates."

As to the MSA's current condition, Bernstein described it as a "terrible situation" and comparable to a "prom committee." He also criticized MSA for pushing the aforementioned non-student issues like Iraqi sanctions, and also the recently proposed "Winter Dance" solely for MSA representatives. He also criticized the BP, stating "They'll tell you about the parking ticket box, but in reality MSA has done absolutely nothing this year." Although the legacy of SP is debatable, Bernstein still asserts, "We [SP] were about practical ideas for students like cheaper books and a later Drop/Add date; not some national movement." MR

e-mail: letters@michiganreview.com

ity on campus, besides affirmative action based admissions. Its platform takes issue with the supposedly discriminatory policies of the Michigan Union and Department of Public Safety (DPS). DAAP claims that the Union misallocates rooms in a method biased against black student groups, and believes that DPS unfairly targets minorities. Although they plan to "end these injustices," they propose no means of doing so in their literature. Jessica Curtin and the other DAAP candidates refused to comment, exclaiming, "We don't talk to the *Review*. ... You're racist, sexist, and anti-gay."

But it is important to note that "a new student movement!" is oftentimes the only solution DAAP proposes. Although DAAP had identified many important issues on campus, party literature offers no concrete solutions to these issues.

FRAT Party

Being a newcomer to an MSA election is not an easy thing, but the Friends Rebelling Against Tyranny Party (FRAT) has embraced the challenge whole heatedly. FRAT is led by a rogue named Galaxor Nebulon, who will appear on the ballot as Ryan Hughes until he officially changes his name. Galaxor and the rest of the staff from U-M's official humor magazine, *The Gargoyle*, decided that some things needed to be done on campus, and they were the people to do them.

FRAT Party member Dave Guipe (Arts Editor of the Review) indicated that rumors abound about the new group. "For instance, some DAAP member thought that we were some kind of a crazy right-wing group." Guipe was quick to point out that these rumors are not true and that the FRAT party doesn't fall within the traditional political spectrum. Instead, FRAT has chosen some very specific issues to address.

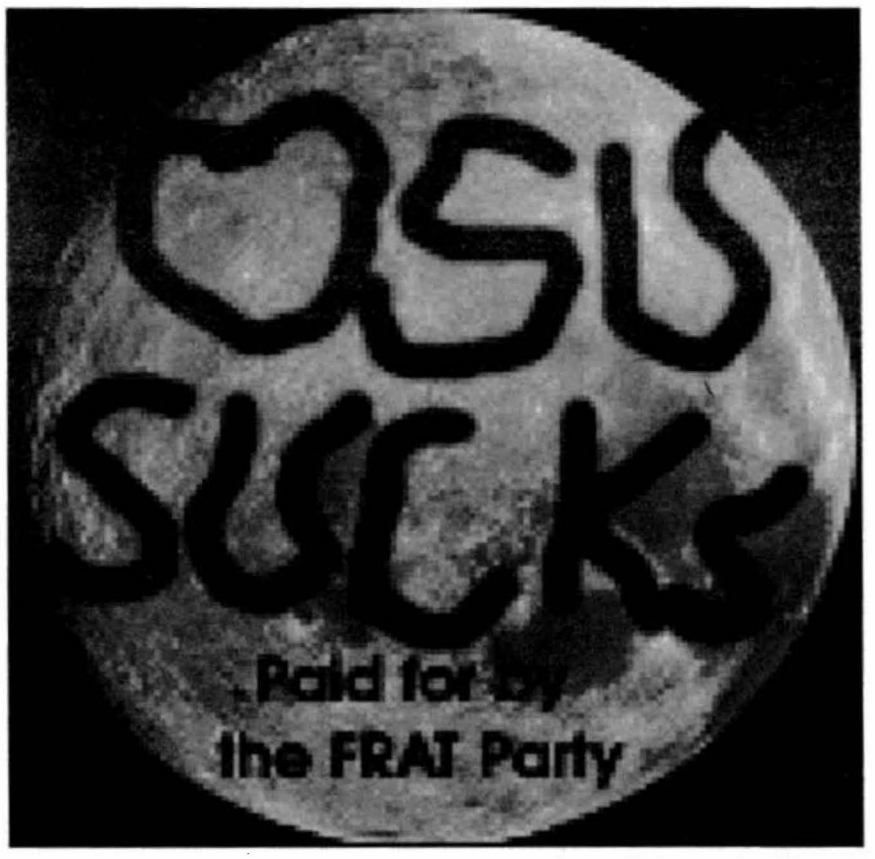
FRAT literature indicates that members are "strongly opposed to tyranny, in all its forms. To that end, we will toil ceaselessly to see that these dreams become realized: Coke in the drinking fountains, two hour recess, Pizza for lunch every day, two-hour lunch, and no more homework."

FRAT has also stated a number of policy proposals they promise to accomplish if elected. Among them include such useful resolutions as "carving the words 'OSU sucks' onto the moon, so that everyone all over the world will know what big pansy wusses they are."

FRAT also wants to abolish the Code of Student Conduce and replace it with the Morse code of Student Conduct. "[FRAT] WILL change the name of the 'Michigan Student Assembly' (MSA) to 'Brothers and Sisters Thinking About Real Democracy' (BASTARD)," states FRAT literature.

Finally, the FRAT Party will strive to "provide students with least three free condoms per day, free of charge."

"[FRAT] wants students all across the campus — nay — all across the world, to think of the FRAT party as the party of change; the party of the future; the party of hope; the party of the people; that party FOR the people; the party BY the people."



If the FRAT Party wins seats in the upcoming elections, this artist's conception could become reality within months!

Independents

With the sudden absence of the Students' Party and other incumbents in this election *(see sidebar, page 6)*, it is very likely that independent candidates will play a larger role in the election. As Linn notes, political parties on campus are more a means of organizing candidates than representing a very specific agenda. Thus, independents often play a large role both in elections, and on the Assembly. This year will not be different, despite the lack of some old faces.

Alefiyah Mesiwala

Mesiwala advocates issues such as "supporting a tuition freeze, informing the student body where exactly our tuition money goes towards, increasing the standard of dorm food, expanding dining hours in dorms, implementing more community service projects, getting more printers for the Fishbowl, bettering the workout facilities, and giving the students a short mid-term vacation during the period of September through November."

He also has a notable solution to the mandatory student fee problem MSA faces: "Students should be given the option to specify where their money should go," said Mesiwala. His proposal also mandates that each "organization would still receive an annual fixed income."

Robert Rosenberg

Although he has not been involved in MSA or any of its committees, Rosenberg feels he has some fresh new ideas to bring to MSA. He wants to fulfill the "need to incorporated a program for students with disabilities in to the University of Michigan. ... The program needs to be made more available to students, especially at the freshman level." He would also like to see the LSA language requirement reworked so that one can fulfill the requirement without taking any language courses for a grade. (Currently, students cannot take the fourth semester of their language requirement Pass/Fail.)

Zach Slates

Zach Slates is a freshman incumbent candidate who was just recently appointed to MSA. He is quick to point out that several factors set him apart from the other candidates. For instance, he currently lives in a residence hall, unlike many of his upperclassmen opponents.

If elected, Slates wants continue to serve on the Voice Your Vote Committee, which is currently working to host a forum on Gun Control on campus. In addition, he hopes to expand the hours that the Central Campus Recreational Building is open, believing that many students would like to use the facilities later than current hours allow. He also wants to expand the Entree Plus program and work to get unused meal credits to carry over to the next week.

In reference to the mandatory student fee, Slates feels that "the student fee is important: it allows many incredible groups to function. I, however, do not feel that it needs to be increased this year. If the [Supreme] Court sides with Southworth, I feel that MSA should work to establish an endowment to fund student groups."

Josh Trapani

With four years of experience on MSA, Josh Trapani sets a high bar for the other MSA independent candidates. Working on his Ph.D. and serving as the Student General Counsel, Trapani brings a lot of experience with him.

Trapani's focus is his constituents in the Racham Graduate school. "As a member of RSG, MSA, and, starting soon, SACUA, I have been able to serve my constituency effectively by promoting communication between these groups. ... I think everyone would agree that my presence on both has been mutually beneficial."

Trapani, along with other MSA representatives, has been working on a rewrite of the MSA Compiled Code for months. He hopes to continue revisions, eventually completing the new Code by mid-winter. In its current form, he said, the Code is "cumbersome and long-to-the-point-of-almost-being-obsolete."

Finally, Trapani hopes to continue his work in lobbying for a restructuring of the University's Code of Student Conduct. "Student rights are extremely important to me."

Other independent candidates have a range of platform points. Some candidates are running as incumbents, and some are completely new to MSA. Most are actively campaigning to get their voice heard, while others, like Patrick Kostun, have dropped out of the election.

Kostun explained: "I have decided not to actively pursue a position on MSA, as my conservative views would not get me elected." MR

Cast your vote on November 17 and 18!

In person: at any of the polling sites in major areas around campus, such as at the Fishbowl, the Union, or Pierpont Commons.

On the Web: at www.umich.edu/~vote

❑ *Stop Me If You've Heard This One...*

The Gweepmeister's Guide to Online Dating

I WOULD GO OUT WITH you, but you're just so damn ugly!" Yes, just one of many responses that you've received while attempting to get a date for Saturday night. You've tried everything, from wearing trendy clothing to stuffing tube socks down your pants, but nothing seems to work! You're probably ready to shoot yourself in the face. After all, it couldn't make you any less attractive, right?



El Señor Guípe

If you're feeling any or all of these sentiments right now, then you probably need to start getting out more. Right now you're probably thinking "But El Señor Guípe, you don't understand. I mean, I know that all the women must flock around a cool, happenin' guy like you. But I couldn't get a date if my life depended on it! Help me, Señor, you're my only hope!"

Well, all right, if you insist. But the only reason I'm helping you is because I feel sorry for you because you're so damn ugly. So here's my advice... there is a place to meet girls that is perfect for a guy like you. A place where you will not be judged by your morbid obesity, your huge nose, or your social ineptitude. It is a magical place, and it's called...

The Internet.

Yes, picking up girls online. It's not just a job, it's an adventure. And with the introduction of such online tools as the AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), the girl of your dreams could be at your fingertips (No pun intended. Oh, who am I kidding? Of course the pun was intended!) It seems that everyone and his brother has one of these AIM accounts, which means that finding girls on AIM shouldn't be a problem. The real trick, of course, is not finding the girls, but picking them up once you've found them. So, in order to help you, my loyal readers, better understand how this is done, I will present you with the following sample AIM conversation between an online girl and myself.

ElSenorGuipe: Hello.
Ruby1542389: Hi. Who are you?
ElSenorGuipe: Why, I am El Se• or Gu• pe, a student at... hang on, I can't get the squiggly lines and stuff to work...
Ruby1542389: You mean the tilde?
ElSenorGuipe: No, the squiggly line! Hehe, tilde... that's a funny word. • • • •Ø, d'oh! Oh well, I guess it's useless. Just call me Dave.
Ruby1542389: Umm... hi.
ElSenorGuipe: I'm a student at the University of Michigan, and writer extraordinare!
Ruby1542389: Uh.. that's nice. Are you in a frat?
ElSenorGuipe: Um, no.
Ruby1542389: Do you play a sport?
ElSenorGuipe: Does "Magic: The Gathering" count?
Ruby1542389: Umm... I gotta go.
El Senor Guipe: Wait, you wanna go out sometime?

* * * USER "Ruby1542389" IS NOT AVAILABLE * * *

Can you identify what I did wrong? That's right, I told the truth! Remember, telling the truth is the last thing that you should do when picking up girls online. Now, I'm not saying that you should blatantly lie, but there are ways of twisting the truth to your advantage. As my grandpa once said, figures don't lie, liars figure. Let's go on to another example.

ElSenorGuipe: That's right, I go to U of M.
Erin2544555: Really? You must be pretty smart then.
El Senor Guipe: I'd like to think so.
Erin2544555: So, um, what do you look like?
El Senor Guipe: Well, I'm 5'11", and I have blond hair and blue eyes.

Note that everything I told our friend Erin is indeed true. I really am 5'11", I really do have blond hair and blue eyes, and I like to think that I'm smart! Of course, this description could easily fit about ten million people, from Leonardo DiCaprio to Chris Farley. But Erin is not thinking about that. She is instead imagining herself partaking in a Night–o–Fun with this mysterious guy she's met online. Realizing that you have this girl wrapped around your little finger, you'd better make sure that you actually want to go through with this before proceeding any further. I mean, as far as you know, Erin might in actuality be a forty year old guy who lives with his mom and spends all of his free time playing "Magic: The Gathering." Or she could be some X-Files obsessed preteen posing as a college student! There is only one way you can be sure that Erin is indeed the eighteen year old vixen that she claims to be:

ElSenorGuipe: Wait a minute! You're not some forty year old guy who lives with his mom, are you?
Erin2544555: No.
ElSenorGuipe: Okay, just checking.

Now that that's cleared up, it's time to go in for the kill.

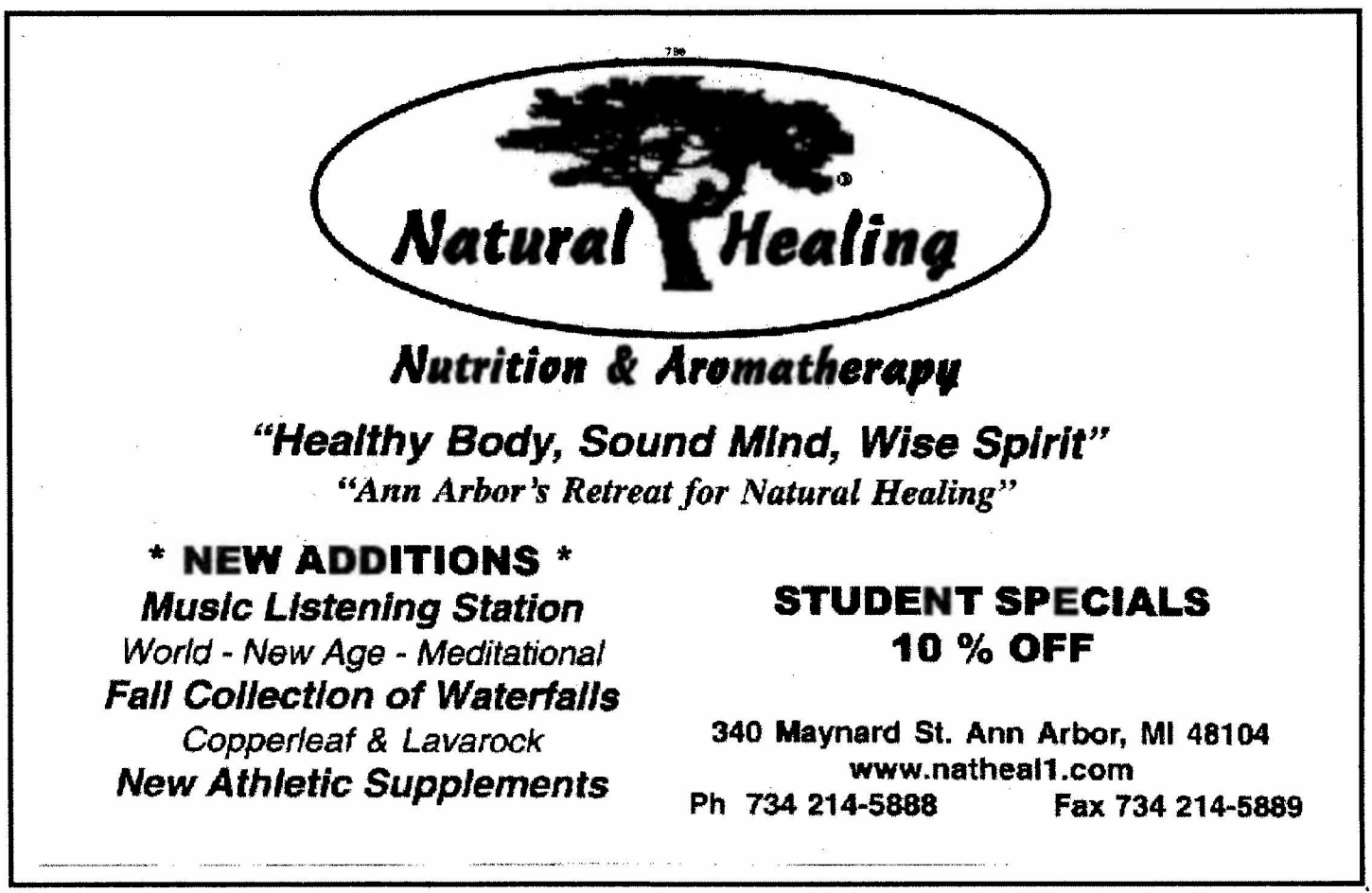
Remember, telling the truth is the last thing that you should do when picking up girls online.

ElSenorGuipe: So, how about catching dinner and a movie this Saturday?
Erin2544555: Well, you sound normal. Sure, why not?

Woohoo! *Voila* — you've got a date for Saturday night. And the best part is, once she finds out what a disgusting slob you are, it'll be too late! So go to it, and May the Force be With You! MR

El Senor Guipe is the arts editor of the Review, and welcomes any and all readers to IM him at any time. By any and all readers, he means the female ones.

While you're trying to score online, you might as well read some Classic Guipe on our web site!
www.michiganreview.com



Dr. Vedder Justifies the Existence of Sweatshops

BY CHRIS DUERR

"IN THE LONG RUN, WE'RE NOT all dead," reasoned Dr. Richard Vedder, distinguished professor of economics at Ohio University. Vedder intended this comment as a somewhat cynical response to Keynes's insistence that government policy focus only on the short-run. However, it also served as the deep-rooted justification for the pro-sweatshop labor arguments Vedder made in his recent speech at the Union. "The way to help the poor of the world is to let them work. Don't put restrictions on them by regulating their hours, their wages, or their working conditions. So-called 'sweatshops' make people rich in the long run," argued Vedder.

Analysis

The symposium, entitled "Sweating Their Way to Prosperity: Sweatshops and the Wealth of Nations," took place on Nov. 10 before a crowd of about 45 people. Funded by the Institute for Humane Studies and the Michigan Student Assembly, the talk was presented by SPEED and the College Libertarians to combat the argument used by the anti-sweatshop protesters on campus. Much to nobody's surprise, the event attracted a large contingency of SOLE members and sympathizers, who went above and beyond contributing their two cents worth. To their credit, however, SOLE kept their outbursts to a minimum and managed to wait for the appropriate time to pose questions.

Over the course of two hours Prof. Vedder articulated a very logical and economically-based argument and responded to many attacks by the opposition. Vedder's argument centered around the notion that alleged "sweatshops" are integral in the process of influencing positive economic change in underdeveloped countries. Additionally, any government-mandated programs that would interfere with "sweatshop" labor would diminish gains from and the benefits of the international division of labor.

A proponent of examining economic history, Vedder discussed the past role "sweatshop" labor played in today's industrialized and wealthy nations. According to Vedder, "America had 'sweatshops' and got rich. Japan had 'sweatshops' and got rich. South Korea had 'sweatshops' and got rich. The same is going on today in Indonesia, Honduras, and other poor countries," reasoned Vedder. The textile industry is one of the largest employers of "sweatshop" labor and, as history has shown, its movement has played a significant role in helping to industrialize nations. From England in the late eighteenth century, to the US in the early nineteenth century, to Japan in the early twentieth, to Korea and Taiwan in the mid-twentieth, most wealthy nations have benefited from the textile industry and sweatshop labor. In Vedder's opinion, no successful, industrialized nation has achieved wealth without, at some point along the way, employing the current definition of "sweatshop" labor.

The key to allowing underdeveloped nations to grow, said Vedder, is to allow uninhibited movement of goods, services, labor, and most of all, capital. As capital moves in a way so as to take advantage of low-cost wages, nations grow. This growth results in increased savings, which leads to capital accumulation. Nations become richer and more capital intensive, which allows technological innovation. The geographic movement of technological innovation is coupled with economic movement as well. As technology finally makes its way into previously underdeveloped nations, the comparative advantage of these nations shift, labor moves to other areas of production, and economic conditions improve.

Regardless of the motives of the firms that initially moved to these once underdeveloped nations to take advantage of low-cost labor, the end result is that wages and working conditions improve as more industries develop.

There remains tremendous opposition to sweatshop labor. According to Vedder, those who have something to gain by ending sweatshop labor practices (i.e. American textile workers) are ultimately the ones behind the opposition. Specifically, he feels that these opponents have wisely crafted their views to appear as a human-rights issue, and thus "take advantage of idealistic and economically naïve college students." Some audience members noticed a slight breeze in the room from all of the subsequent gasps of SOLE members, reacting to what they perceived as a personal insult from Vedder.

In the end, nothing was resolved by the night's lecture. Still, it served as a spirited forum for expressing divergent views on this controversial subject. Further, to the credit of both Dr. Vedder and SOLE, the discussion remained well-mannered throughout the night, while retaining a healthy spark of respectful conflict. MR

Pencak Silat
Self-Defense

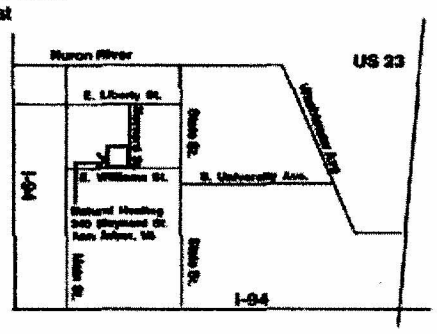
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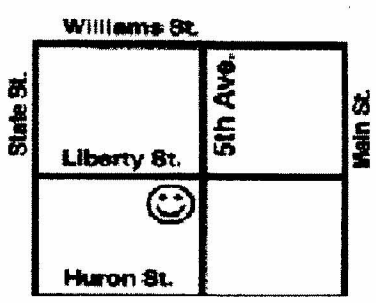


CAFFÉ INTERNATIONAL

Q: What are Gourmet Wraps?

A: An entire meal wrapped in a simple package. We bring the world to your waiting taste buds. With wraps from Latin America, Thailand, India, Mexico, Mediterranean and more. Always prepared with the highest quality ingredients available. Our generous proportions and prices can't be beat.

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Divesting in GCC Will Not Help Environment

By Matthew Franczak

THE OZONE ACTION Coalition, a group of 42 professors and some students, has recently decided to urge the University to withdraw its investments in General Motors Corp., Exxon Corp., and Mobil Corp. Showing a poor understanding of business, international and domestic politics, and environmental science as well as a conspicuous lack of research, OAC is encouraging the university to sell its shares in these companies due to their membership in the Global Climate Coalition. The GCC is a Washington-D.C. based organization representing companies that have an interest in issues pertaining to the emission of greenhouse gasses. The GCC has recently come under fire by environmentalists for opposing the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement that was designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries by 5%.

Analysis

OAC fails to realize that the Kyoto Protocol is itself inconsistent and economically unfeasible. This treaty will not affect 134 developing countries, including China, India, Brazil, Mexico, and South Korea. These exempted countries are also significant polluters and their exemption is unfair when fully developed countries are forced to make significant cuts in emissions, paralyzing domestic industry. Canada, attempting to implement the Kyoto Protocol, has already realized that compliance cannot be achieved by privately implemented technological fixes; it would require large-scale government intervention. This sort of economic damage, coupled with a loss of industry to unrestricted countries, would spur an economic disaster. Recognizing this, a bipartisan group of Senators have voiced their opposition and have already passed a resolution refusing to allow the US to participate in the Kyoto Protocol, until developing countries are included under it, by a resounding 95-0 vote.

Moreover, the companies targeted by the OAC are not even the true culprits behind the emission of greenhouse gasses. GM, an automobile manufacturer, and Exxon and Mobil, oil companies, are linked to petroleum product use. Although the use of petroleum products contributes around 40% of the amount of CO_2 emitted into the atmosphere, EPA data shows that CO_2 is only a minor contributor to global warming. The EPA has studied the harmfulness of various greenhouse gasses on a weight basis and assigned them a Global Warming Potential. The GWP for CO_2 is used as the system's standard and is assigned the value 1.

Under this scale, methane and N_2O, which have the second and third largest amounts of emissions by mass, have values of 21 and 310 respectively. N_2O emissions due to petroleum consumption form as a byproduct of the pollution-reducing processes that occur in the catalytic converter of a car account for only 7.2% of the total N_2O emissions. HFC's and PFC's have values in the thousands and SF_6 has an incredible GWP of 23,800. None of these emissions are byproducts of petroleum use. Thus, although the CO_2 and N_2O due to petroleum use accounted for about 34.1% of greenhouse emissions in 1995, when it is weighed against anticipated environmental damage, these emissions were only responsible for 0.42% of the theorized atmospheric change! Appling this number to the estimates of the same environmentalists about our oil reserves, we could use all the oil on the Earth and still not cause 6.3% of the current damage being done by other sources per year!

Despite the innocuous nature of the companies in question and the fundamentally flawed nature of the Kyoto Protocol, the OAC continues to push forward in an effort to pin the blame on the oil and automobile industries. Perennial targets of the left's "righteous hatred" on every issue from antitrust litigation to consumer safety, these companies can hardly be blamed for banding together as the GCC to oppose the various assaults they suffer from misinformed activists. The OAC has recently joined forces with the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan, a group that considers itself an "environmental watchdog," to push for the wrongheaded divestment. Despite its boost from the 100,000-member PIRGIM, the OAC still is far from affecting the regents. Regent David Brandon stated that he had not even heard of this issue before the *Review* asked him to comment on it. Regarding whether he thinks the OAC's request will be brought before the regents, he "suspect[s] it will not!" MR

Republicans

Continued from Page 1

CRs.

"The CRs are becoming a more open organization," Diamond said. "In the past, there has been a feeling that there was no place for moderates in College Republicans. My leadership style is to accept all Republicans — regardless of their political perspective. If they call themselves Republicans, they are my friends and allies."

Diamond's celebration of Republicanism of any degree has significantly multiplied the CRs' membership: a strong group of fifty now replaces the under-a-dozen weekly attendants of 1997-1998, and the rank-and-file membership has been pushing three hundred.

Dave Taub, a four-year member of the CRs as well as the current CR's treasurer, says he could not be happier with the results this change in image has brought.

"Being a moderate myself, I feel that going closer to the center is the best way to have people join you," Taub said. "There are people without a party out there: they are too conservative to be a liberal, too liberal to be a conservative, and that is what we are here for."

Diamond and the CR leadership seem to have understood the brand of Republicanism that students on campus can relate to.



"Many people have the stereotype that Republicans are cold-hearted jerks," Diamond said. "We are seeking to prove the concept of compassionate conservatism."

Accompanying this change in image is also a change in the structure of the CRs. According to Diamond, the "autocratic, top-down" leadership has been replaced by four committees that mold themselves around the membership. Freshman committee, an Elections committee, a Social/Athletic committee and a Community Service committee now act as extensions of campus and community outreach, which collectively seek to put what Diamond calls "a good face on our good ideas."

These transformations of image and ideals for the CRs have been highlighted by a flurry of activity.

With respect to the 2000 elections, the CRs have planned the ambitious goal of registering a thousand students for the elections through the 1000 for 2000 Campaign in conjunction with the Conservative Education Organization. Further involvement with the Kids First campaign, which emphasizes school choice/vouchers, and the planning of Affirmative Action debates headlined by speakers like Dinesh D'Souza has put the CRs in the limelight of campus political involvement. Lastly, the effort to sponsor a canned food drive, the adoption of disadvantaged families for the upcoming holiday season, and weekend trips to hospitals well demonstrate the CRs devotion to community outreach and social service.

All in all, these efforts have been met with nothing but success, admiration, and a new hope for the reinvented Republican movement led by the CRs. Despite these accomplishments, the CRs have ambitious plans for the future.

"I want the largest, most energized political organization this campus has ever seen," Diamond said. "We have reps in every dorm, on every student government, in every Greek house, and in every school and major. Republicans of all colors and sizes are coming out of the woodwork."

For now though, the senior members of the CRs seem satisfied enough with the overwhelming success of the group.

"I think this is the most successful we have been in four years, and this is not even an election year," said Taub. MR

The College Republicans have bi-weekly general meetings punctuated with frequent committee meetings, all of which are well-advertised on the halls of campus buildings. To obtain more information about College republicans, or to subscribe to the CRs' email group, contact Rory Diamond at rdiamond@umich.edu. *In addition, the CR web page can be accessed at* http://www.umich.edu/~umcr.

Questions? Comments?
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Dogma: A Sinfully Great Satire

Dogma Excels With Humor of Biblical Proportions

By Michael Austin

WILLIAM A. DONAHUE, Christian activist group Catholic League President, sees the Kevin Smith's *Dogma* as an attack on Catholicism, and according to him, "Catholics, and people of all religions, are sick and tired of these kinds of assaults." It is worth noting that Mr. Donahue's claim appeared in the op-ed page of the *New York Times* on June 23, 1999, almost four months before film's release. Mr. Donahue presumably has yet to see the film, since all of the material on the Catholic League's web site uses quotes from various reviews of the film. Had Donahue taken the time to catch one of the numerous pre-release screenings, he would have realized the irony in his criticism. Specifically, *Dogma* pokes fun at the very holier-than-thou mentality the Catholic League promotes.

In truth, as the disclaimer before the movie states, *Dogma* needs be taken with a large grain of salt. Many elements of the movie, such as a foul-mouthed 13th Apostle (Chris Rock) or a celestial muse turned stripper (Salma Hayak), or a Skeeball-loving G-d (Alanis Morrisette!) could be taken offensively. However, Smith uses these elements for comedic effect, not serious blasphemy. Anyone taken aback by such transgressions is too thin-skinned to realize that the purpose of *Dogma* is to entertain, not to make a serious statements about religion.

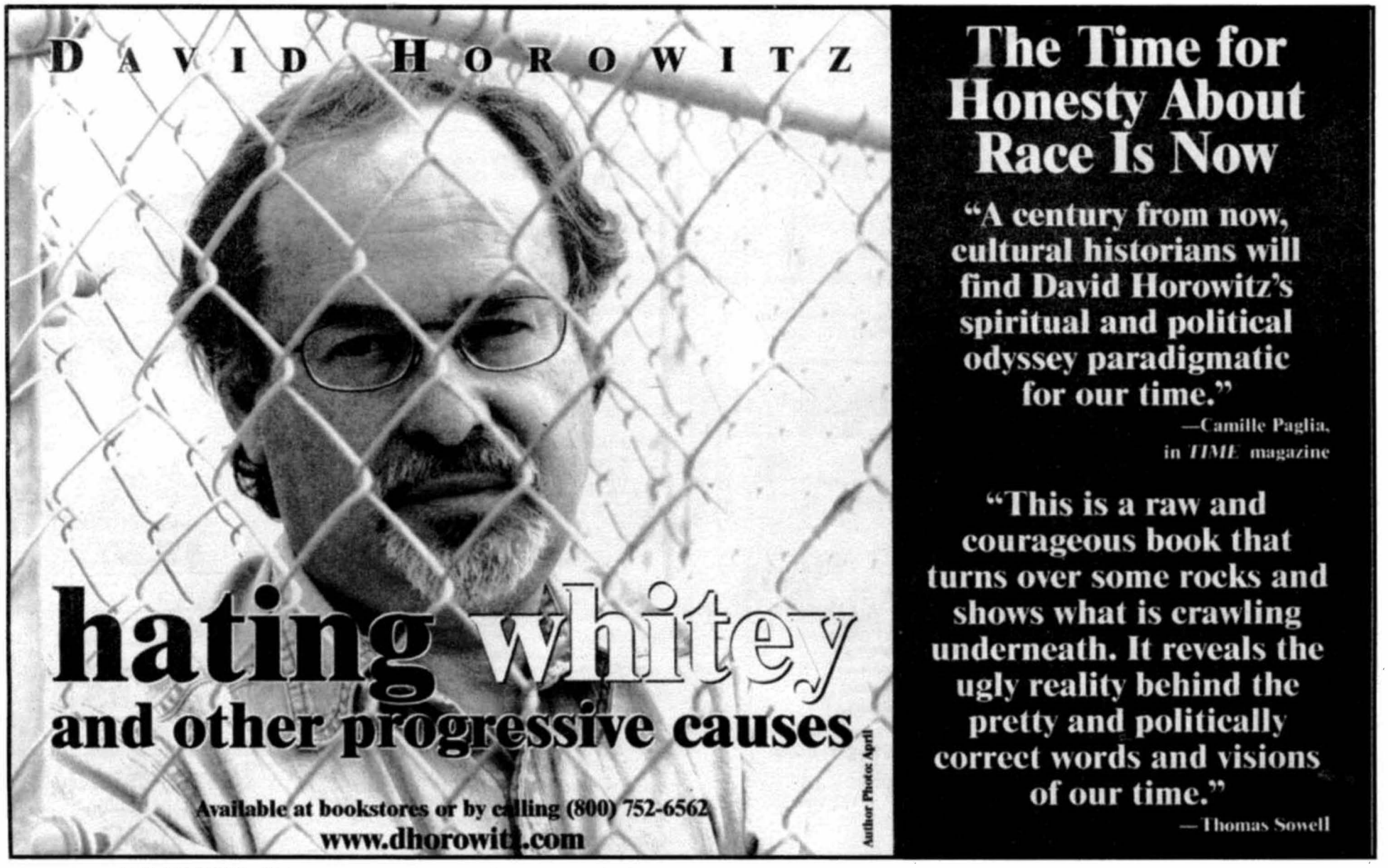
The story centers around two fallen angels, Loki (Matt Damon) and Bartelby (Ben Affleck), and their efforts to re-enter heaven by walking through the doors of a hundred-year old church in New Jersey. Abortion-clinic worker Bethany (Linda Fiorentino) is charged with a holy crusade to stop Loki and Bartelby, and thus prevent the end of the world. Jay and Silent Bob, waiting outside the abortion clinic in an effort to pick up easy women, soon meet Bethany and they set out to convince Cardinal Glick (George Carlin) to close the church. The threesome expands along the way when they enouncter Rufus (Rock), who claims that he was omitted from the Bible because he is black, and Serendipity the Muse (Hayak). Trouble comes in all shapes and sizes, from a trio of homicidal street-hockey punks to a giant turd-demon as funny as it is disgusting.

A brief appearance by Jason Lee as the demon Azrael won't be the only thing that fans of *Mallrats* and *Chasing Amy* will be glad to see. The entire movie is filled with Smith's typical brazen style of humor, as well as numerous pop-culture references such as Star Wars, Indiana Jones, and The Six Million Dollar Man. The plot moves along at a reasonable pace despite a few overly wordy scenes; the movie was actually cut down to meet its current two-hour running time. Fiorentino, Affleck, and Damon all give admirable performances, but Mewes and Smith steal the show with possibly their best performance yet of the "hetero life-mate" duo of Jay and Silent Bob. Chris Rock's comical portrayal of Rufus will appeal to his fans, but probably won't sway anyone who isn't already enamored by the man. Overall, the comical humor makes *Dogma* arguably Smith's best film since *Clerks*, and its easily one of the funniest movies to come along in the last couple of years.

As if the accusations of sacrilege weren't enough, *Dogma* has also received criticism about its excessive profanity and gratuitous violence. It's rated "R" for a reason folks, although the violence is about as serious as the aforementioned turd-demon. Independent of the four letter words and gore, however, *Dogma* actually gives a positive impression of Christianity. The only anti-religion aspect of the movie is its disapproval of all the different factions of Christianity, which is presented in a warm and fuzzy, can't-we-all-just-get-along manner. What's unfortunate is that haughty people, like Mr. Donahue, are too busy judging what is good and evil in our society to sit back and have a few laughs, even if some are at their own expense. The good news is that everyone else who realizes that *Dogma* is just a movie will greatly enjoy it. MR



Do you want to write for the *Review's Living Culture* section? If you join us before next issue, you'll get to partake in our very first boxed wine review! E-mail: **editor@michiganreview.com**



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Arizona Iced Tea...	$1.50

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Sausage & Peppers...	$8.50
Meatball Parmigiana...	$8.50
Eggplant Parmigiana...	$8.50

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Chicken Parmigiana...	$6.00
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