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the bard free press Annandale-on-Hudson, NY - 19 November 2004



Volume VI – Issue 3

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Exciting Jersey Recipes

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Largest International Free-Trade Bloc Meets in Chile

Bush attends Pacific conference, surfs the free-trade wave

by kiernan rok

Over the past week heads of state from 21 countries have met in Santiago, Chile to hammer out the latest details of APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. APEC is currently the largest international trading bloc in world history, whose member states comprise over one-third of the world's population. Unknown even to many veteran globalization activists, APEC transforms the Pacific region into the largest free trade bloc in world history, incorporating far-flung nations of Asia, North America and South America into a single, common Based on much the same principles of more notorious free trade agreements - NAFTA (North America Free Trade Agreement) and the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) - APEC seeks to remove protective tariffs and dismantle mentalists, students, intellectutrade regulations, encouraging economic development, privatization and the free flow of capital across international boarders.

Ironically, like NAFTA and FTAA, APEC has generated the most resistance from those

populations whom it claims to serve. In countries around the world, workers, farmers, environbusiness interests, whose only

the local population to foreign have been far from impressive. interest in a country is its abil-

free-tradists as Latin America's glowing neo-liberal success story, frequent conflicts between the state and various social actors allude to the high social costs associated with the free market agenda. In the south of Chile indigenous people are violently evicted from their land to make ancient forests accessible to foreign loggers. The national public university system, historically among the strongest in Latin America, is being privatized; two-

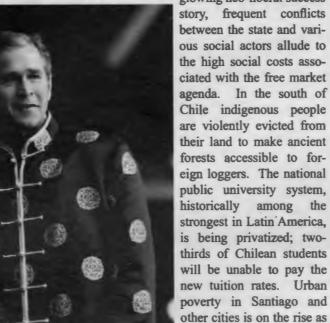
rural populations emigrate ity to facilitate the accumulation in search of employment and create massive shantytowns on the outskirts of cities, plagued by crime and a lack of social order. Similar developments are occurring in nations across Latin Amer-

article continued on page 3

mobilized

armies to fight

In Chile, hawked by



of capital. While proponents of als and grassroots organizations free trade argue that "first world" have articulated opposition to foreign investment in "developneo-liberal free trade agreements like APEC. They claim such ing" nations is a sound economic policy for alleviating poverty trade agreements are anti-democratic, because they shift control and improving social welfare, its results in these countries of a country's resources from

NEWSBITES

Following weeks of increasing unrest in central China tens of thousands of farmers staged violent protests over the Pubugou dam project in Sichuan province. They were dissatisfied with the compensation they were being given for the dam project that would flood their homes and towns. Figures show that protests such as this in China are growing in size and frequency as the gap between rich (centered in the urban areas) and poor (in rural, central China) widens, and people express frustration with local corruption. At least one person was killed, and thousands of paramilitary police were deployed.

An FBI informant set himself on fire outside the White House last Monday. The informant, Mohamed Alanssi, has been providing the FBI with information on terrorist financiers in Yemen for several years, and was a witness in several federal cases. After approaching two secret service agents outside the White House with a letter for the President, Alanssi pulled out a cigarette lighter and set his clothes ablaze. Alanssi was apparently distraught with the FBI and the Bush administration for not allowing him to return to Yemen to visit his ailing wife, who has stomach cancer. He also said the FBI had not kept promises it made to him. He is being treated for non-life-threatening burns.

43 Cuban dancers and musicians performing in a Las Vegas musical revue filed for asylum. The Cuban government allowed the performers to come to the US after accusations that they were hindering international culture exchange. Supporters inside the US, including Kevin Costner, were also helpful. The performers cited monetary reasons for defection, saying they would not be allowed to make a living performing if they returned. It is estimated they will make considerably more money performing in the United States.

House Rebulicans changed an 11 year old party rule to protect Marjority leader Tom DeLay. Established as a guideline for party members, the rule has no legal standing, and stated that any party leader indicted would temporarily step down from his or her post. The change follows two admo-

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Apocalypse News (A Plague of Biblical Proportions)

locusts!!!! by liv carrow

American news media is abuzz with presidential politics and the war in Iraq. Meanwhile, a locust infestation in West Africa, "the worst invasion of these voracious pests in more than 15 years," has reached truly biblical proportions, and almost a dozen impoverished nations are abuzz with the quick, merciless destruction of their farmland by swarms of these prehistoric, finger-length insects.

Locusts begin as regular green grasshoppers, which live alone and eat a relatively small amount of vegetation. However, conditions in West Africa have become wetter in recent years, ironically favorable to agriculture as well as increasing the birth rate of grasshoppers, causing them to crowd together. This crowded communal living triggers a change in the grasshopper's bodies which makes them larger, hardier, hungrier and able to fly up to 500 miles a day.

One locust can consume its own weight (2g) of plant matter in a day. A small portion of a swarm can eat as much food in a day as 2,500 people. A female locust can lay up to three batches of 90 eggs in her 3-6 month lifespan, and the wingless baby "hoppers" 'can devour crops as voraciously as their flying elders. With these facts in mind, it makes perfect sense that a locust swarm spotted recently in Mauritania



was more than 40 miles long and as thick as a stormcloud. These swarms not only eat everything green in their path, but create general chaos wherever they go. A swarm can completely block visibility for people and animals, and leave exoskeletons and carcasses in great numbers in their wake.

Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Morocco, Mali, Guinea, Algeria, Tunisia, and the Cape Verde Islands are being severely affected by locusts. All countries bordering these countries are also at risk, since locusts swarm according to wind changes and can basically survive wherever there is greenery.

Farmers in West Africa are virtually helpless to defend their crops when a swarm descends. Most farmers cannot afford enough pesticide to dust their entire crop, and these countries cannot afford enough pesticide to dust even half of at-risk farmland. To illustrate the severity of the economic situation, the president and cabinet of Mali agreed to go without pay to help buy more pesticide for farms. Several wealthier nations have lent crop dusting planes to the affected nations, but no donor nation has agreed to contribute enough money or supplies to actually stop the plague. Senegal and Mauritania, among other nation, have

locusts, with military planes droppesticides ping on massive, dense clouds of them. Farmers who find nests of eggs can bury the "hoppers" before they sprout wings, but once a swarm descends there is no saving the plants in their path. A small swarm of locusts can descend out of nowhere in a day and consume an entire farm in less than a few hours

while laying eggs in the soil. Though locusts are always present in Africa and often swarm in small numbers, their presence has been increasing over the last year. Experts at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization have been sounding the alarm for months, warning that a locust plague would wipe out agriculture for the year and threaten millions with famine.

No wealthy nations came forward with preventative aid, and the cost of stopping the plague is currently quoted

article continued on page 2

Locust Storm, cont. from page one

at \$100 million, only \$40 million of which has been recieved from donor nations. This figure is far more severe than the initially requested preventative funds (less than \$10 million) and will continue to grow as the locusts reproduce and swarm farther and farther across the continent.

This infestation has serious implications for the food supply and economic wellbeing of Africa, namely because this region is one of the most agriculturally productive

the continent and its economy is almost completely agrarian. More than 50% of Mauritanian crops have been eaten by locusts in a country where 80% of the population subsists through agriculture, and now farmers are simply trying to keep their livestock alive. The estimated loss of the entire region so far is 25% of the total food supply for the year.

Farmers are also facing the question of whether or not to plant winter crops and risk losing them to another locust swarm. If

farmers decide not to plant, the food supply will dwindle even more in the coming months and the farm labor workforce will be unemployed. Some experts are concerned that a migration of unemployed farmworkers into cities with food shortages looking for jobs will create serious social unrest that the broke governments are not prepared to contend with.

The World Bank has stepped in with an offer of \$12.5 million in loans, as part of a long term credit towards the Africa

Emergency Locust Project, which is a modernizing development project intended to establish a better safety net for African agriculture against the threat of locusts. A \$12.5 million loan will not, however, make safe the economies of this region, especially if crop yield is destroyed before the loan even takes full effect next January. Preventative measures have been implemented in surrounding North and West African countries while pesticide bombs

and early harvesting are in action in the infested regions. There is no limit on the length of a locust infestation as long



as they keep finding vegetation to consume, which includes wild grasses, trees and plants as well as agricultural plantings.

Museum of Modern Art, New York Reopens November 20

Art has always been big business, but as the big bucks are being spent on art, even bigger bucks are being spent to build spaces to house and exhibit them. No New York based art institution is free from the "keeping up with the Joneses" syndrome, although

and you have the money, show it. The trouble is, innovative architecture often proves

ill-suited for displaying art. The Guggenheim in New York, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is simply a terrible place to show art, with severe restrictions as to

others. What it comes down to is, if you have the collection, by Frank Gehry, is a secular

some do it more tastefully than what can be shown. The Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain, designed spectacle that competes with the art for attention. It boasts, "the largest gallery space in the world", home to a massive, permanent Richard Serra sculpture.

The Dia Foundation's opening of its permanent collection to the public last year is one of the most successful art exhibition spaces. It shows off a spectacular collection without distracting from the work. Like its predecessor, Mass MOCA, this building is a relatively lowbudget conversion of an industrial warehouse, with extensive square footage and wall space

(although the Dia Beacon boasts a Robert Irwin-designed garden.)

So the new Museum of Modern Art, New York boasts the best of all worlds. The new building is part of an \$858 million capital campaign. It is six-stories with 125,000 square feet of exhibition space and a 21,400 square foot, and is designed by the Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi. Other buildings by Taniguchi are said to be conducive to showing art. So it sounds all right. We'll see when the space opens on the 20th.

The extensive use of glass and reconfigurable walls

allows the museum to show the collection in different ways, and to show more of it. "We are able to see the collection in a new light," MoMA chairman Ronald Lauder said. But the museum still only shows a fragment of the 150,000 objects in its permanent collection.

They say, "Manhattan is Modern Again," but Manhattan has always been modern. Queens is merely a little less modern now. P.S. Keep an eye out for the opening of the Diller + Scofidio building in Boston.

Inside Iraq - Blog Watch

by katie jacoby

No one can truly tell us what is going on in Iraq. We Americans are most sure of this fact. Our military dictates most of what we learn about US forces in Iraq, while we idyllically go through our days waiting for a wasted war to wrap itself up. But what if we could know and had the desire to see what the realities of war are actually occurring?

Dahr Jamail is an independent journalist currently based in Baghdad, and one of the only independent, unembedded journalists in Iraq right now. On his website, DahrJamailiraq.com, he keeps a blog and a database of his published articles for news outlets like the Inter Press Service News Agency. His dispatches use both text and image to describe the reality of life in Iraq. More importantly, his daily interactions with the men and women of Iraq become amplified as he gives their words space to be voiced.

On November 17th he reported, "This afternoon at a small, but busy supply center set up in Baghdad to distribute goods to refugees from Fallujah, the stories that the haggard survivors are telling are nearly unimaginable. 'They kicked all the journalists out of Fallujah so they could do whatever they want,' says Kassem Mohammed Ahmed, who just escaped from Fallujah three days ago, 'The first

thing they did is they bombed the hospitals because that is where the wounded have to go. Now we see that wounded people are in the street and the soldiers are rolling over them with tanks. This happened so many times. What you see on the TV is nothing-that is just one camera. What you cannot see is so much". These realities must become imaginable because they are real. Are personal blogs the way to make people realize reality? Doubtful - but until Americans find some sort of spark to pursue knowledge, we will always be confounded by the truth and complicit with immoral action.

The Bard Free Press

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All articles in the Opinions and xtra sections reflect the opinions of the author, not necessarily those of the Free Press staff. Responses to Opinions articles are welcome, and can be sent to freepress@bard.edu

Canada Welcomes Frustrated Americans

...the American Way by zak kitnick

The Canadian immigration website usually gets 20,000 hits a day. The day after the election the website got nearly 200,000 hits. Immigration lawyer

Rudi Kischer plans seminars in Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles for Americans who have had it with the fanatical Christian agenda of the Bush administration and fear what the President will push through the legislature now that he does not have to appease moderate republicans or worry about re-election.

Vancouver-based company, Communicopia, has set up the website www.cananian alternative.com so that "forwardthinking Americans" can "explore the richness and diversity of our regions." The website suggests Canada for those concerned with constitutional bans on gay marriage or for anybody (who doesn't live on a college campus) who thebardfreepress.vol6.issue3

hasn't established a reliable drug dealer. The grass is greener, and more potent, on the other side.

Another Web site urges Canadian citizens: "Open your heart, and your home. Marry an American. Legions of Canadians have already pledged to sacrifice their singlehood to save our southern neighbours from four more vears of cowbov conservatism." [Notice the "creative" way our Canadian friends spell neighbor.]

But really, is Canada a real Utopia? Can a Utopia even exist? You decide! Canada has universal health care, gay rights, abortion rights, strict gun-control laws, opposition to the Iraq war, a long-time ban on capital punishment, and ethnic diversity is almost as high as Wesleyan (although Canada, like Bard College, is not heed blind.)

Everybody's doing it. Canada includes an estimated 1 million American immigrants.

"I just like their way of life a lot better, and with everything the Bush administration has done -- for the American people to give him their seal of approval, it's basically the last straw," says Ralph Appoldt, a resident of Portland, Oregon who is selling his house and moving to Canada. "Canada's basic population is much more intelligent, polite and civilized. I like their way of government a lot better. Their tax dollars go to helping those who need it, instead of funneling money back up to the wealthy and feeding this huge military-industrial machine."

But wait! The chief executive of Communicopia is sending us mixed messages. "We strongly encourage Americans to stay and build a culture in line with their values," he tells us.

We can't all go. The strong must stay behind and fight. Send the women and children.

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Historian, Author Iris Chang Dies at 36

by jomar giner

Iris Chang, one of the most promising young historians of our generation, was found dead in her car, on a remote country road near Los Gatos, California, on November 9, 2004. Authorities have confirmed that the fatal gunshot wound on the author's head was self-inflicted.

Chang was best known for her book The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II, in which she documented the brutal war crimes of the Japanese troops in the northern Chinese village of Nanking. A controversial 1997 best-seller, The Rape of Nanking raised a world-wide movement committed to pushing the Japanese government into paying reparations to the war victims, making a public apology, and correcting present-day history books which neglect to document the massacre of 300,000 civilians—a death toll exceeding that of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.

Chang's friends and family describe her as a passionate activist who usually got emotionally involved in her work. Born in Princeton, New Jersey and raised in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Chang would later earn a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois and a graduate degree in writing from Johns Hopkins University. She then moved to the San Francisco bay area, settling in San Jose, where she decided to raise a family while she continued a successful writing career.

When she was found dead, at age 36, Chang was researching the experiences of American WWII veterans who were held in Japanese POW camps in the Philippines, another well-known site for many Japanese WWII atrocities. Chang's other works include Thread of Silkworm, published in 1996 about the Chinese missile developed

by an American-educated scientist, and The Chinese in America, published in March 2004, documenting the 150-year history of Chinese immigration to the U.S.

Although criticized in many circles, especially among right-wing Japanese publications, Chang, who was once described by the late great historian Stephen Ambrose as "maybe the best young historian we've got," will be remembered in most of the world for her commitment to justice. Her

passionate voice, heard through countless lectures, interviews, books, and articles, will remain an integral contribution to the Asian-American community, whelming support throughout her career, and to the world at large. Chang is survived by



her husband and her two-year old son. Those of us for whom Chang served as a role model celebrate her life and are forever indebted to her immortal contributions in the fight against world injustice.

nitions that Mr. DeLay received from the bipartisan House ethics committee. "Indicted" carries a higher burden of wrongdoing than "admonished." Republicans originally enacted the rule in order to appear stronger on ethics than Democrats, several of whom were in legal trouble at the time. The Democrats have announced plans to strengthen their rules indicted party leaders.

At least 30 members of the Student Action Collective met in the basement of McVickar Wednesday night. It was the first S.A.C. meeting in the new space. One of the largest clubs on campus, the poltical action group had been meeting outside and in Olin since their last space in the basement of the Old Gym was condemned. B+G, along with student workers, recently renovated the space. The new space will also house the Root Cellar student-run café and the Info Shop library. The space has previously held Film Deparment rooms and the bookstore.

A city council race in Florida was decided by the flip of a coin last week. After three recounts both Richard Flynn and G.P. Sloan received 689 votes, and Florida law dictates that candidates "draw lots" to determine a winner in the event of a tie. Mr. Flynn called "Heads." It was tails. G.P. Sloan will be the next city councilmen from Groveland, Florida.

all newsbites reported by brenden beck

and military hegemony, especially contentious in the wake of the recent election. As free trade continues to ravage the societies of the global south and U.S. bombs continue to fall on civilians in Iraq, the dynamism of the APEC demonstrations in Chile, as well as the level of corresponding state repression, will set a precedent for the growing international consensus against four more years of U.S. imperialism.

Emerging STD prevention: A Vaccine for HPV

by parris humphrey

This week's The Lancet reports that a vaccine against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has successfully emerged from a randomized controlled trial, where its efficacy at preventing infection was 91.6%. The vaccine was able to stop 100% of persistent infections, while being, according to the recently published research article, "generally safe, well tolerated, and highly immunogenic.", If brought to term, this would be the first licensed vaccine against a common sexually transmitted disease. HPV-16 and HPV-18, the target strains of this vaccine, are the most common strains in the population. They also happen to be the HPV types most prevalently associated with cervical cancer.

Oncogenesis as a result of infection is said to be responsible for up to 70% of cervical cancers. Further statistics cited in the research article state that the global scope of cervical cancer infection is estimated at 470,000 new cases and 230,000 deaths every year. Roughly 80% of incidents occur in developing countries, where it is the predominant form of cancer among women. Cervical cancer is also the leading cause of yearsof-life-lost in women in south central Asia, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. This results in a greater reduction of a woman's life expectancy compared with AIDS, tuberculosis, or maternal conditions in Latin America and Europe.

This study constituted a phase 2 trial using just over 1,100 participants. These results are coming to us after 2.5 years of clinical trials. Larger scale trials and long term follow-ups are the next steps in ensuring this vaccine's emergence into the market.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the world's largest producers of vaccines, was the primary source of funds for this study. Ten of the sixteen

authors of the paper issued a conflict-of-interest acknowledgement at the end of the article, making clear that they were all affiliated with corporations who stand to gain from the production and distribution of the vaccine. While it remains to be seen whether plans for the vaccine's distribution will cater to regions having a disproportionately high cervical cancer rate, the results of this study indicate that reduction of cervical cancer rates is possible using this type of vaccine.

for info on clinical trials and the FDA, start with http://www.fda.gov/oashi/ clinicaltrials/default.htm

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, cont. from page one

ica, as well as in Asia, as a result world, dissatisfied with the results of the conditions imposed by a

neo-liberal free trade economic agenda. And so, as they have for many years, people across the APEC summit and the visit of



of these destructive economic policies, continue to rise up.

In response to the

U.S. President George Bush, massive protests planned have been in Santiago, Chile's capital city and home to one-third its popula-The ostensibly democratic state has responded by deploying heavy security forces throughout the city in an effort to control protests: The BBC reports that on Wednesday, November 17 during a national student march police fired tear gas and water cannons on demonstrators, and detained between 120 and 500 individuals in the streets of downtown Santiago. The government has declared Friday, November 19 a national holiday in an effort to reduce chaos associated with a major nationwide protest against Bush, expected to draw up to 10,000 people. In addition to protests, dozens of concerts, forums and anti-APEC activities are taking place around Santiago. General resentment toward Bush and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq runs deep in Chile, as it does in most other countries around the world. Bush's appearance at the APEC summit, with this year's special focus on counter terrorism, is the symbolic embodiment of U.S. economic

Police Use Tasers on Two Kids in Two Weeks

by zak kitnick

On November 5, Miami-Dade police officers used a 50,000-volt Taser on a 12-year-old girl. Two weeks before, Miami-Dade officers used the same nonlethal weapon on a first grade boy. The two incidents are now under investigation and Miami-Dade police are reviewing their policy on Tasers.

But the best part is why these two little punks got the shit shocked out of them. The 12-year-old girl was escaping, from the boilerroom atmosphere of her 6th grade classroom for a more relaxing day of drinking and smoking in a swimming pool.

When confronted, she began to run into oncoming traf-

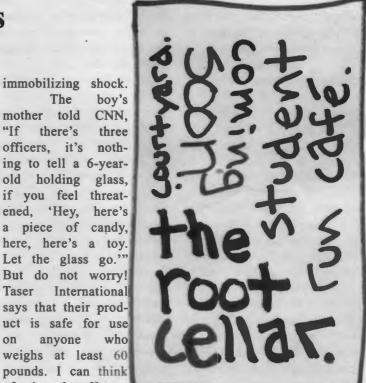


fic before the officer Tased her 'for her own safety.'

The first-grader is reported to have broken a picture frame in the principal's office (there were no bottles around) and used the shards to cut himself under the eye and on the hand before threatening to cut his leg (very close to the aorta?) open. The police decided to intervene, instead of watching the boy slice himself to shreds.

Parents of both children were upset by the Tasing. The girl's mother claimed that she had difficulty breathing. The boy's mother claimed that he vomited after the of a lot of stuff over

The boy's mother told CNN, "If there's three officers, it's nothing to tell a 6-yearold holding glass, if you feel threatened, 'Hey, here's a piece of candy, here, here's a toy. Let the glass go." But do not worry! Taser International says that their product is safe for use anyone on who weighs at least 60 pounds. I can think



The Bard Prison Activist Coalition in Kingston

one of many active students writes on the goals of prison activism and outreach in nearby communities by nick kapustinsky

Saturday November 13, about a dozen Bard students. myself included, tabled for the Prison Activist Coalition (PAC) in Kingston. The aim of the project was to educate people in the town of Kingston about issues pertinent to the prison system (the prison/industrial complex, inmate labor, voting rights, and discriminatory drug laws) and to encourage positive action and edification in the community. The students set up in and around urban areas of the city that consisted primarily of minority and low-income families. The activists, with donuts and cider, provided pamphlets containing articles and facts on the issues as well as information as to how one should go about getting involved in ending the policies and actions that PAC perceives to be an egregious repression of rights and a harsh example corporate exploitation.

The information was extremely well received by the community who, from what I saw, has been severely affected by the prison system. Nearly every member of the urban communities with whom I spoke had either been to prison themselves or had suffered because of the incarceration of a loved one or family member. They were all opposed to the system that

had caused them so much pain but generally had no words to articulate their argument. The general sentiment was that they simply did not have a chance in a society that profited from of their incarceration. I came to understand that these are people trying to make their way in a system where all odds are against them, not outlaws and violent criminals. Indeed only 14% of prisoners in this country were convicted of a violent crime; only 3% percent actually injured another party. How then does the U.S.A have more people incarcerated than any other country on earth? And why is it so overwhelmingly minorities who are affected?

I joined the PAC partially as an activist who had recently become interested in the prison/industrial complex and partially as a prospective tutor for the Bard Prison Initiative, an affiliated group that allows student to teach prisoners toward a GED and other forms of higher education. What was so disheartening about my recent trip to Kingston was the realization that the prisons are a self-perpetuating system of oppression. A young black man with a father in prison and a mother and siblings to look after cannot support them on a minimum

wage job. He turns to petty drug peddling and is caught and incarcerated during the years of his life that should be spent in pursuit of an education leaving the family behind with any hope for a future outside of crime. An education is nearly impossible to find in prisons at present. Pell grants which once gave money for education in the prisons has been taken away and prisoners in some states now have to pay money just to access the prison library, and money is not easy to come by. In prisons inmates work approximately 40 hours a week for about 40 dollars a month, little short of slave labor. In addition in most states convicted felons cannot vote, thus they cannot even voice opposition to the system that repressed them. Finally once they are released felons are subject to the same racist drug laws and law enforcement that criminalized them in the first place.

So why is the system this way? Are the goals of prisons not to rehabilitate convicts and produce productive members of society? Would you not want to educate prisoners then? Would it not be a bad idea to disenfranchise them in such a brutal way? The truth is that there is a lot of money in the prison system and it

is going to big corporations who fall all over themselves for these sorts of contracts. From building materials to security equipment, when a prison is built there are plenty of contracts to distribute. The best part, labor is provided by the convicts themselves, so there are no employees to pay. Even the phone companies are getting in on this cash cow providing long distance service to inmates and charging many times the normal cost.

So what's the good news? That in this particular field education really can change the system. Not only education about the issues themselves but also schooling. Research has shown time and again that prisoners educated in prison leave better equipped to get a job, support a family, and become productive members of their communities. So why not take the process a step further and encourage education from the beginning? Hopefully by developing a relationship with the community members we may encourage that sort of a change in the manner in which the next young person faced with a tough decision in our area will act. The Prison Activist Coalition meats Monday nights at 9 P.M. in the Campus Center upstairs.



The North Will Rise Again

by michael knight

In all seriousness, I was unable to write an article genuinely endorsing civil war. Well, actually I wrote one when the results of the election had just come out, but I was raving like some drunken bloodthirsty televangelist. I couldn't even write an article that honestly supported secession, though tempting at this rotten hour, because I in truth believe it would ultimately lead to much worse problems. Laziness got us into this, but it's not going to get us out. We need to think this through, but more importantly we need to work as a community.

Look, it's not the end of the world yet. I'll admit, things seem rather grim, but there is no point in mourning the death of democracy before the death of those who continue to make a mockery of it. As individuals, it would be impossible to accomplish anything; but at the risk of sounding a little "gay" here, I think that if we come together to find a way to fix this awful system, we can make a difference. First, however, we must get over our teenage selfishness, our generational laziness, and our one-sided and inflexible attitudes towards the conservatives in this country,

I saw a sign showing disgust at the amount of people (80) who voted Republican at Bard, which I sympathize with, because I think bush and his cronies must be stopped, and the

fact that 80 people who went to Bard would support such racist/classist going ons, or at least ironically do so (or at least according to an inferior Bard Publication. They can keep the money; credibility is fine by us), is semi-appalling. However, the sign threatened violence on these people, and at the risk of sounding like That Kid (you know who I'm talking about), these people have the right to their opinion, as incomprehensible and blatantly wrong as they may seem. We cannot fight to support our right to do what we want and at the same time suppress another group. That would make us bigger hypocrites than Bush, Reagan, and Bush Sr. combined. What we must do is use our ability to reason to convince people that this administration is taking advantage of them, which shouldn't be too hard as there is plenty of evidence supporting this statement. Unfortunately, our snobby intellectualism and quasi-Ivy League snootiness has only helped to expand the extreme divide in not only our country, but in our school's microcosmal social infrastructure aparently! In all seriousness, many people in this country have been manipulated; brainwashed by media. must wake them from their selfendangering state. Unless they are white-power nationalists, they shouldn't be that hard to try to see eye to eye with. One easy way

is to treat them to plane tickets

to anywhere outside of America.

There is a way that I think we can get it through to the "other half" that this country is better off without Bush and his lousy Cheney. First off, try to see things from-their point of view. Abraham Lincoln told us that "a house divided will not stand"; he also told us not to "swap horses in the middle of a stream." People aren't all stupid and/or cruel, a lot of them are just scared, something understandable to anyone who has watched a TV anytime in the past three years, and these ineffective conceding democrat bitches aren't going to save you; anyone with eyes can see that. They are just as money-hungry, self-serving, and financially bloated as Bush or Botstein. They still believe that the sixties was when the music mattered for fuck's sake: sadly they've forgotten/abandonned their ethos. And I will not "go along with" some shit who was in Skull & Bones with boy George. We just need to meet these conservative kids on their own level and show them that bush got us into this mess, but he doesn't seem like he's ready to get us out until all the foreign Christ-hating devils are massacred (genocide anyone?). I'm not saying that all Christians are bad, far from it (see Danielson Famile), but an isolated group of extremists are going to get the rest of us all killed over here. Innocent people, American and Iraqi, are already being slaughtered in this horrible war that never should have been, and at this pace a counterattack is inevitable.

When people say that there is no conclusive evidence linking Iraq to 9-11, they sound like the tobacco companies saying that cigarettes may cause cancer. What we need to tell people is that THERE IS NO LINKAGE WHATSOEVER BETWEEN IRAQ AND 9-11. Osama is SAUDI, and Sadaam Hussein, though not a great guy, is an IRAQI and was an ENEMY of Al-Quaeda. Even if Iraq had been hypothetically responsible, 2,752 civilians (and mysteriously dropping...) killed in the 9-11 attacks compared the 14,429-16,579 (it's inconclusive at this point, as it rises hourly) civilians killed in Iraq is NOT FUZZY MATH. We have already killed more than 6 times as many innocent people in response to the 9-11 attacks, and THEY WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE.

Then consider this fact: many people in the current administration have ties with oil companies. The Middle East is notoriously known as a rich source of oil. But recently rumors have leaked out that there is little oil left in Iraq. Hmmmm... This would explain why the uncharacteristically humanitarian Donald Rumsfeld and his contemporaries recently abandoned ship. They

know that the cash cow has been milked and that Bush is eventually going to get the old Mussolini treatment. Face it: real or not, the election was a scam. With either clown we would have gotten the same thing, practically. Sure, Kerry is a lesser of two evils, clearly, but why settle for that? Why be so lazy, spineless, and innefficient? It seems that the administration is weak, and a frightened bush is left alone (except for deathbed cheney, to continue his terrifyingly ridiculous crusade. What we need now is a strong organization (it's NOT going to be the democrats; get serious) of concerned Americans to come in and take over, try its best to make amends with Iraq. and support all Americans in spite of race, religion, gender, skin color, sexual orientation, sexual preference, body type, financial income, origin of birth, or beliefs. We're here, we're complicated, get used to it. Some may not see through this administration's lack of concern for human life, but I do. That

Democracy, Bitches.

send responses and articles to freepress@bard.edu. If you feel like we could be better, make us better; we'll publish what you send us.

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Hello Gonzales

by jesse crooks

For many of us who would prefer a president to a Führer, the recent election might be a sign to pack our bags for a four-year vacation to Canada. For those of us resolved to suck it up and fight the good fight against the Bush regime, it's time to meet the US Constitution's new enemy, Alberto Gonzales. We probably all breathed a collective sigh of relief when Ashcroft resigned, but Bush's selection of longtime ally Alberto Gonzales to fill the position of Attorney General vacated by Ashcroft is a clear indication that the Bush administration will continue with its disregard for the Constitution and international law.

As the Bush's chief legal council, Gonzales was responsible for controversial memos that claim the Geneva Convention to be "obsolete" and give a legal justification for torture. One of the reports, dated on March 6, 2003, begins by defining torture according to domestic law as any "act committed by a person acting under the color of law specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain," and that "the statute requires that severe pain and suffer-

ing must be inflicted with specific intent." The report then cites an example of a crime lacking specific intent: a man robs a bank at gunpoint and purposefully gets himself

arrested so that he can return to jail and be treated for alcoholism. Though he purposefully committed this crime, his specific intent was not to deprive the bank of money, but to help himself. "Thus, even if the defendant that knows severe pain will result from his

actions, if causing harm was not his objective, he lacks the requisite specific intent even though the defendant did not act in good faith. Instead a defendant is guilty of torture only if he acts with the express purpose of inflicting severe pain or suffering..."

So what exactly is torture?

Gonzales' convoluted lawyer speak basically asserts that it is torture if you are hurting someone for the hell of it, but it is not torture if hurting someone to get informa-



tion. In the same way that a man might rob a bank to get treatment for alcoholism, it's okay to hook a prisoner up to a car battery to get some information (to use an example from Abu Ghraib). It's clear that whether or not Gonzales shaped the administration's policy on torture and the treatment of prisoners, he certainly won't deviate from the administrations current unconstitutional and anticonstitutional trajectory.

But this isn't the first

time that Gonzales has schemed to undermine international law. In 1997, when Gonzales was chief legal council to then Governor Bush, Gonzales argued that international treaties ratified by the United States didn't apply in Texas, because the State of Texas itself was not a signatory. If he had stopped to read the US Constitution, he might have noticed that Article VI states, "all Treaties made, or which shall

be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby." Again, Gonzales has demonstrated his complete disregard for international law and the US Constitution, but Bush still wants him to run the Justice Department.

Furthermore, there has been some discussion that Bush may attempt to appoint Gonzales to the US Supreme Court as soon as a vacancy arises (in fact, Bush had appointed him the the Texas Supreme Court when he was Governor). If this is the case, appointing him to the position of Attorney General might be seen as a strategic move to gain support for his future appointment to the Supreme Court. He may look friendlier than Ashcroft, but don't be fooled by his demeanor; Alberto Gonzales is the new smiling face of fascism, and we all better call, fax, and email our state reps (and take any other appropriate action) to make sure he doesn't get appointed.

The memo on torture: http://msnbc.msn.com/id/5167080/ site/newsweek/

More fun info on Gonzales: http://slate.msn.com/id/2102416 http://www.americanprogress.org/ site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=24 6536

Rove v. Democracy: Round II in the Battle for the Empire

by kate crockford

Do you remember how you felt the moment you realized that the emperor would reign for (at least) another four years? Yes? Were you outraged? Depressed? Did you think about Iraq? What about Vietnam? Did you wonder if you could possibly stay in this country if it continues to barrel down this path toward unbridled totalitarianism and dictatorship?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please read on. This article is the first in a series that will attempt to systematically explore allegations of voter "irregularities" (to use the oft-repeated euphemism of the day), and to wake us all up to what is happening in this country, right under our noses. While the bombs trickle down from billion-dollar American warcraft onto the innocent in Fallujah, we in the land of the free-to-consume have a responsibility to look back, toward the election, so that we may look forward and see something other than another four years of that man.

I say "something other than" because four more years of Bush is not necessarily what our future holds. That is, it doesn't have to be. I am of the opinion that, at the very least, we should only allow him to rule us if all of our legal options are exercised. In other words, if we are to go down ("go down": another euphemism; this one for the privatization of social security, four more wars (Iran? North Korea? Syria? France?), the complete rejection of women's rights over their bodies and lives, further media conglomeration, etc.), we should go down with a fight.

There is hope: some people are doing the fighting on our behalf, attempting to preserve or struggling to reclaim those democratic elements this regime destroyed in its second wave of election trickery. A number of Congress members are pursuing an investigation

into election theft, and David Cobb, the Green Party Presidential candidate, is suing the government. But why? Is this some sort of far-left conspiracy?

(The 'evidence' portion of the article will cover three means of election theft: electronic voting machine tampering or hacking, voter intimidation and misinformation campaigns, and voter disenfranchisement.)

Part One: Electronic Voting Back to the future: evidence of electric theft?

Any sensible person has been concerned about the viability of electronic voting machines without paper trails since the idea surfaced as a real possibility a few years ago. The owner of Diebold---the largest of the nefarious companies producing these machines--- is a man by the name of Walden O'Dell. O'Dell is not only a decided and vocal Bush voter; shockingly, he is what the Bush campaign calls "Pioneer," a supporter who pledges to donate or round up donations of at least \$100,000 for the campaign. O'Dell infamously wrote in an invitation to a Bush fundraiser that he "was committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes for the President" (my emphasis). The Diebold C.E.O., whose company built and operated 75,000 machines nationally in the 2004 election, later expressed "regret" over his word choice.

But Diebold is not the only company that produces the electronic (or 'touch-screen') voting machines. Danaher Controls Inc. makes the ELECTronic 1242, an older touch-screen

voting model. The ELECTronic was used in Franklin County, Ohio, which happens to be the site of enormous "irregularities" that alone warrant a full, national investigation.

According to Robert Parry of Consortium News, "Ohio elections officials said an error with an electronic voting system in Franklin County gave Bush 3,893 extra votes in suburban Columbus, more than a 1,000 percent more than he actually got. Records indicated that only 638 voters cast ballots in the precinct and that Bush's total should have been recorded as 365." Again: these problems alone justify a national, Congressional investigation into the relationship (or lack thereof) between the candidate voters actually chose on November 2 and the candidate who received a mark on his tally.

It is possible, and perhaps even probable in light of other vote theft during the election, that this case is only one of thousands that have yet to be discovered. According to Parry, who wrote a book on the art of election thieving and is somewhat of an expert on military technologies, "cyber-warfare" presents the administration and the Pentagon with just the right tools to steal an election without getting caught. The military has been interested in hacking since it invented the Internet thirty years ago and in the mid-1990s published a pamphlet called "Information Warfare for Dum-

Again, Parry: "The primer said traditional information warfare would target an enemy's battlefield commandand-control structure to 'decapitate' senior officers from their

fighters, thereby 'causing panic and paralysis.' But the primer added that 'network penetrations' -- or hacking - 'represents a new and very high-tech form of warfighting." While the Pentagon seems to have been a bit apprehensive to acknowledge publicly the extent of their info-war power, Parry quotes the booklet asserting the unlikelihood of ever getting caught: "[these types of] intrusions can be carried out remotely, transcending the boundaries of time and space...They also offer the prospect of "plausible deniability" or repudiation...Due to the difficulty of tracing a network penetration to its source, it's difficult for the adversary to prove that you are the one responsible for corrupting their system,' the primer said. 'In fact, viral infections can be so subtle and insidious that the adversary may not even know that their systems have been attacked.""

While many argue that no hard evidence exists to demonstrate this administration and its corporations' theft of the election through electronic voting machines, the above statement reinforces my support for thinking outside of the box on this issue. If this administration, ruled by Karl Rove in the dark, lied to Americans and the world about clear air initiatives, leaving no children behind, and a war that has destroyed Iraqi and American lives and livelihoods, why wouldn't they manipulate the vote to serve their interests? If no proof exists to support their claims of honesty, why not consult history and consider their track record? If the means exist, I would argue, Karl Rove is unscrupulous enough to engage



Ol' Dirty Bastard No Longer With Wu-Tang, No Longer With Us

by brel froebe and zak kitnick

11/12/04: Continental Airlines Theater: MUTHA-Arena FUCKIN' WU TANG CLAN LIVE Reunion Concert: Method Man: "Y'all might have noticed that one of the Clan members is missin' tonight." Crowd: "ODB, ODB, ODB!" Method Man: "Tell Ol' Dirty Bastard [a.k.a. Dirt McGirt a.k.a. Big Baby Jesus etc.] that we the Clan are his family and tell him that his family misses him. Come home soon." Crowd applauses. Method Man: "Ain't no one man bigger than the Clan!" [Brel: I liked all the white boys wearing FUBU with shaved heads, glasses, and Wu t-shirts who knew every word to every song who were quick to throw up the "W". It was a very multicultural event.]

11/13/04: Breaking News:

Rapper ODB Dead at 35: Ol' Dirty Bastard never followed convention. He was one of the 3 founding members of the Wu Tang. He did lots of drugs. He fucked lots of ho's. He was fucking awesome. He created ground breaking obtuse near insanity retard brilliant lyrics (about drugs and ho's). He said, "Wu Tang is for the children." We respect him. He stole a pair of Nike shoes when he was rich. His illegitimate children could form a small army. [Zak: If I ever have slaves I will have to spoon feed them ice cream because they will be working all the time.] Once, when he was recording a song in the studio, he was having doggy style sex with a girl and banged her head on one of the studio drums, and the sound was recorded in the song. And in case you forgot - he was recording a song when he did that shit! He did it for the love of music. He did it for the money. He was the rapper in the game that didn't give a fuck. The simple sound of his voice was the most recognizable in rap music.

And now we have some conspiracy theories: At the aforementioned Wu Tang concert, Zak distinctly noticed Ghostface Killa say, "If you see him, fuck him up." And Method Man said, "Naw, we don't mean that. If you see him tell him to come home soon." Notice that Ghostface Killa's name has the word "Killa" in it. We think that Ol' Dirty Bastard heard the message and got really sad. Then he smoked twice as much crack as he does on a regular day. Then his heart "medically" failed. And as he was dying he asked to be moved to the recording studio so that his body could be



found in the recording studio. All the facts point to this scenario. [At this point in writing, Brel thought it would be a good idea to shave an Amish beard in solidarity.] You have to be objective in this kind of situation. Normally it's good to react with your feelings, but this involves someone dying, so this involves the law. And in the law we look at the facts. ODB's mama: "To the world he was Ol' Dirty Bastard, to me he was Rusty. He was a great father, uncle, but most of all son." Lots of people are going to miss him.

It's ok to cry infrequently. C.R.E.A.M.

Q: Are you keeper of the scared heart?





Wrangler Brutes (left) and USAISAMONSTER (above) both played recently at the SMOG

recipes. !!!

Wifey's Special Peanut Noodles

Despite the fact that peanut noodles are almost the cheapest thing on the menu at Golden Wok, I took it upon myself to find an even more bobo method of getting my fix. The obvious answer: use Ramen! For the sauce, I collected ingredients from the labels of various brands of purchased Spicy Peanut Sauce and consulted master chef Bill McColloch about his famous Peanut Sauce. The following is my personalized concoction, but there are many ways to make good peanut sauce. Use your own judgement.

Ingredients (for one or two servings)

1 packet of Top Ramen noodles or comparable noodle variety (discard flavor packet)
1/4 to 1/3 cup peanut butter (or like, three big spoonfuls)
1 tbsp soy sauce/tamæri and/or Bragg's Liquid Aminos (I used both)
capful of rice vinegar or some other vinegar (not balsamic)
a healthy dribble of sesame oil
ground ginger or powdered ginger
a pinch of sugar
sesame seeds

Boil Ramen as directed. DO NOT USE FLAVOR PACKET. Mix up the rest of the stuff (adjust measurements as needed, this is not an exact recipe.) Mixture should be pasty but not as thick as peanut butter and taste a little too salty. Drain the Ramen. Plop peanut mixture on top and mix well. If it tastes too salty still, add some more peanut butter or sugar. If not salty enough, drip some more soy sauce on there. Sprinkle entire thing with sesame seeds (or crunched up sesame sticks, or chopped peanuts, or whatever) and eat it out of the filthy pot you cooked it in or your favorite ramen bowl. Bon Appétit!

South Jersey Trashy Heritage Fruity Dump Cake

This recipe was given to me by a 3rd generation Southern New Jerseyan woman named MaryAnn. "It's called Dump Cake because you dump it all in together and then you don't have to do nothin' else," she explained to me. I have made this cake dozens of times, and the only thing that ever goes wrong is not cooking it long enough, so make sure you don't get impatient.

Ingredients (2 cakes)

1 box plain yellow cake mix (use dry, do not prepare)

l can cherry pie fillng

l large can crushed pineapple

1 stick of butter (Earth Balance or margarine works just as well and is less horrifyingly fattening.)

chopped walnuts

2 round 9" cake pans

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease cake pans. Drain most of the syrup off the pineapple, then divide it between the two pans and spread on the bottom. Next, knead lumps out of the bag of cake mix (big lumps won't bake in well) and use 1/4 of the cake mix for each pan, sprinkling evenly over the pineapple. Divide cherry filling between two pans and spread over cake mix. You should now have three layers: pineapple, cake mix, cherry. Sprinkle remaining cake mix evenly between the two pans. Now, cut pats of butter evenly on top of the whole thing until all the butter is used (that's half a stick for each cake, mmhmmthatsright.) Now sprinkle walnuts as desired over the top, and put these babies in the oven for an hour. If an hour does not yield a well-done, browned top, give them longer. The liquid ingredients and melting butter will boil up through the dry cake mix, mixing it all together as it bakes, giving you more free time to file your nails and watch QVC. Cake will probably be gooey when it's fresh out of the oven so let cool before serving.

Dump Cake is excellent cold, and goes great with vanilla ice cream, screwdrivers, cigarettes and baloney sandwiches.

Sufjan Stevens Interviewed: Michigan Man Comes to Bard

Sadly, our interviewer was unable to review the concert in Manor, because he couldn't squeeze in to the back of the room. Thanks a lot, Vassar.

by matt garklavs

Singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens has gained a significant amount of exposure for the releases of Greetings from Michigan: The Great Lake State and Seven Swans. Both of these albums were consistent in their composition as well as their lyrical substance. Aside from being an eclectic musician (he played virtually every instrument on each album), Stevens is a prolific songwriter who explores the suffering that is brought upon people who are abused by the inefficiencies of society. However, this sense of pessimism is counter-balanced by an emotional undertow in his music that transcends the solemnity of the realities that he exposes. This sense of cohesiveness is also reflective of the personal, endearing accomplishment that underlies Stevens' music: the harmonization of his talents with faith (as a Christian) in response to his frustrations. Stevens' music does not necessarily provide us with a remedy to the social ills that he exploits. Nevertheless, in reminding us of these realities, he also consoles the weight of empathy that is placed on our conscience with the subtle allure of his music. A long-time, devoted fan of Sufjan Stevens' music, I had the pleasure to sit down and conduct a brief interview with him prior to his performance (with the Michigan Militia, his touring band) in the Manor Lounge.

Q: Your music is very unique in the sense that it is both traditional and progressive; it synthesizes elements of music with experimental ambience. I find it similar to how you described the band Stereolab in your interview with Pitchforkmedfa.com: "at times they were really balancing all these different types of music, creating a hybrid sound that was really exciting, and as emotionally interesting as it was technically interesting." Do you try to apply a similar aesthetic in your own music?

Sufjan: Yeah, I suppose I do. I'm a craftsman more than, probably, an artist or a visionary. I don't think I'm a visionary. But I'm very interested in craft and technique and skill, being skilled on an instrument. I think there's kind of a balance you have in songwriting that kind of has the catharsis of song; the emotional environment of the song with the technique of the song. I think that Baroque music is technically interesting and sophisticated, but emotionally often a little strained and a little dry. Whereas Wagner or the Romantic composers, the French Romantic composers are all drama. They sometimes compromise sophistication of technique for that. I think that punk rock, which is the even, further on the other end, is just all rebellion and all energy and no sophistication. So I think that for me, I'm kind of interested in finding out how to find equilibrium

between all of that and create a song that encompasses all of that. Which is sophisticated but also very lively and encompasses a lot of energy as Does that make any sense?

Q: Well, actually what you were just saying is relevant to another question I have about how the structural technique of your music is emotionally evocative.

It refers to specific transitional periods on your Michigan album. For example, "Upper Peninsula," which is somber song that speaks from perspective of a man who has suffered (mainly because he is a victim of unemployment), is followed by "Tahquamenon Falls," a subtle chiming instrumental that consoles our empathy. This is also similar to the versatility of the song "Detroit, up your weary head." On the surface we hear this upbeat,

optimistic melody that drifts into an ocean of ambience. However, lyrically you are addressing a series of random social issues and the anguish of its victims. Was it your intention to have these transitions function as a device that juxtaposes suffering to sublimity?

Sufjan: Well I guess I'm pretty in tune to the trajectory of the song and of the record and all of its parts. You know like a sonata has many movements, it starts with an allegro and then there is something that is more relaxed afterwards. I think there's a reason for that. It kind of has an emotional waveform that allows one to get into the enthusiasm and then provides a 'cleaning of the pallet' through something that they call an adagio that's slower and quieter. I think you can do that when writing albums. You provide space; a meditative space that is more ambient. Its really just allowing the listener to digest what just happened. To stop and mediate and think it through or just relax. I think its kind of how we live our daily life as well. You know you eat a meal and then you have to digest it. The blood goes to your stomach so that your brain doesn't have much blood. So you don't' have the capacity to think as acutely as you can with an empty stomach. Then you through physical activity: You go to class or you might do to me so I find that kind of intriguing. your work. And then of course you need eight hours of rest. But yeah, I think a lot of songs and albums do that as well.

Q: Your Michigan album serves as a brochure that explores a number of cultural mythologies or realities that may appeal to people who are not natives of the state. You've even expressed in



previous interviews that your shows in Michigan are treated more as a novelty act, while, at your shows in distant places like Europe, people are extremely intrigued by the "cultural mythologies" that your music embellishes. Do you think that foreignism allows for a better appreciation of your music?

Sufjan: Well yeah, I think that's just about proximity. Whatever that is unusual or foreign to us, we find that more mysterious and intriguing. Once we know something well and have a relationship to it, we demystify it in some sense. When I go to Michigan and return I look at the people I know there and my family or I go back and see the geography and the landscape it is a process of demystification because the record is mythologizing a place that is really grounded more in my imagination; in my own vision and less in an actual place. So I think it's the same thing with foreigners finding interest in what I'm doing. They're interested in strip malls, trailer parks and snowmobiles because that's kind of unusual for very normal to see those things. Oh I don't, I'm trying to think of something unusual in Europe to me besides the cars that are driving on the wrong side of the road. I mean those things are unusual

Q: About your live shows, can you tell me about the "Michigan Militia" uniform? Do you think your performing outfits will vary in future tours?

Sufjan: Oh, of course yeah. Well these two weeks we'll be in the Michigan Militia outfits because it'll be the last run of the Michigan shows. We'll be working on a new record. I want to come up with a new outfit that's military in style but that's more generic so that I can use it for several states. It'll be more of a national militia uniform. It'll have little symbols that could represent what I'm doing and then will have little buttons and badges or metal pins that go on for each of the states. So as we go through each state we could add those. That would be more economical that way we won't have to keep making the uniforms.

Q: Some of your songs are built upon complex layers of sound and loops, involving different instruments. In a review of your album, Greetings from Michigan, a critic stated that the album was "impossible to recreate" in a live performance. Did you find it difficult to translate some of your music into a live performance?

Sufjan: Well it's nearly impossible because I play most of the instruments, so it's me overdubbing. I mean, to find a drummer to play like I drum is very unusual because I'm not a drummer and I play left handed and I play in way that is not technically sound in terms of percussion. So the drummer kind of has to adapt for that. The live shows are not so much a compromise but it's a huge modification of the record. I mean there's songs on there I don't' eyen know how to play. Like the "Detroit" song I've never played live.

Q: What would you like to tell our readers about your newly rereleased album, A Sun Came? What do fans of Seven Swans and Michigan have to look forward to?

Sufjan: Well I think that album has a sense of humor. It's a real gong show assemblage of songs that I had done on 4-track when I was in college. I'm interested in it just because of how unusual and unpredictable it is. It kind of has varying strengths and weaknesses that are not always flattering. I don't think that my singing is as good but the energy and dynamic behind it kind of appeals to me. It's them whereas for me in Michigan it's a pretty aggressive record. There's a lot more distorted guitar. It's much more playful than subsequent records.



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True If Destoryed s/t Franklin-/ Ed Walters

Recall old Bard: Specifically shows that surfaced on any given night when there could have been a multitude of indie rockin, booty shakin bands descending upon the Old Gym and all its glory. This album is pure nostalgia to what once was a diverse little show scene called the Red Room. In remembrance, I choose to review this album in terms of Bard bands past. Thus, True If Destroyed rekindles the delicate vocals of the Dry Spells, replacing the violin for, say, a keyboard, and, unlike Lions and Tigers, mingles sensual vocals of female persuasion with charming badass scream(o). Their musical style is something I feel hasn't come out of Bard rock in a long time - though perhaps this nostalgia hints at a history past, and perhaps will only bring us back to destruction. Download the album on DC++, support the artists if you can and inspire your musical tastes to take a different direction. (katie jacoby)



Fireballs of Freedom Greasy Retrospective Wantage USA

Sweaty 100-degree basements and PBR beer showers packed. Fireballs of Freedom embody the night you almost remember in said environment. Sweaty as fuck. After existing for over a decade they totally deserve a testament to their history. When you listen to the songs on this album you begin to feel warm, hot, jumpy, liquored up and ready to rock in a timeless sort of way. You feel like you've been cooped up in a beater going 85 mph with the windows up going west through summer Montana towards the Pacific Ocean stopping only at trucker stop bar runoffs along the way. On the other hand you might listen to this album and be like, "What is this rock song that isn't all that catchy and has those weird guitars making all that noise without more neato riffs?" If you are one of these people you may not like this album that much. But if you like cramped spaces and loud sound and a feel good feeling in vour stomach because vou are FUCKING SWEATING you will like this music a lot. But if you aren't convinced, there is a video on this CD that is worth every penny. Absolutely sucked in. If you still aren't convinced, listen to "Welcome to the Octagon." Then you will love this band, solid foo. (brel froebe)



Mouse on Mars Radical Connector Thrill Jockey

In recent years, Mouse on Mars has gained a reputation for making dance music of a very unorthodox nature. Instead of catering to a specific genre, their music tends to evade uniformity. Despite the unpredictable nature that this may pose towards their listeners, they have always managed to remain versatile and innovative among such obscurities.

On Radical Connector, their latest album, the German duo departs from their experimental tendencies. The album is generally composed of beats that are more stable and less sporadic. In fact, when you deconstruct the separate components of each song it seems pretty formulaic: acid synths, dissected vocal modulations, thick bass lines and concrete compressive percussion. Although this album doesn't have the same underlying merits of their moresophisticated and complex records, one can label it as an experiment, as they were testing the waters of more conventional dance music. For Mouse on Mars, this album just serves as another field in their catalogue of musical excursions. (matt garklavs)



To What End? The Purpose Beyond Crimes Against Humanity / Stonehenge

Give it up for Swedish hardcore. This excellent release features ex-members of Bruce Banner, Wolfpack, Sunday Morning Einsteins, and then some. If you're into sludgy melodic crustcore with song titles like Empires Fall, Forljugen Varld and Bye Cruel World - their lyrics scream socially conscious but they pull off sounding brutally heart-wrenching. Probably on account of the male/female vocal thing again. Probably best for fans of Tradegdy and that spacey Kylesa shit. Its not quite devastating but crushing none the less. (katie jacoby)



Kill the Man Who Questions Industry Document: Singles, Live and Unreleased Cheap Art Records

Hung-over and hungry, I'm taking in this long awaited discography. This CD contains revamped tracks and extended dance versions of songs found only on rare vinyl, or unreleased compilations. KTMWQ takes us through their 7"splits with Del Cielo, MK Ultra and the Shoplifters, their EPs on Bloodlink, Cheap Art Records, and various other live treats. Overall, this album is produced very well. Remastered tracks come off sounding fuller, re-energized with a spark of malicious clarity. Their 20 page booklet contains absurdly intriguing stories about getting sick on tour and anecdotes of band turmoil throughout their recording history. With the exception of track 14, "BLEEEEE-AAAUUUGRRRGGG: medley", I feel that all of my Kill the Man vinyl has been rendered useless, just by virtue of this single CD. However, they do include bonus video footage of their last show, filmed in Philadelphia, something I would otherwise never have seen. (katie jacoby)





Top Ten Thanksgiving Movies

- Planes, Trains and Automobiles
- Home for the Holidays
- The Ice Storm
- Hannah and Her Sisters
- 5. Scent of a Woman
- The House of Yes
- The Daytrippers 7.
- Avalon
- The Last Waltz
- 10. What's Cooking?

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SAT Nov 20 **PM Showers** 46°/38°

SUN

Nov 21

52°/42°

MON Nov 22 **Partly AM Showers**

TUE Nov 23 **Partly Cloudy** 49°/36°

Cloudy 54°/33°

WED Nov 24 Scattered T-Storms / Wind 58°/35°

TUESDA NOV 30 th

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THU Nov 25 **Partly Cloudy** 40°/28°

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Nov 27 Show-



Porn Review II

Aunt Peg: Your Aunt Was Never Like This

What are they talking about? My aunt is exactly like this. I was always under the impression that all women liked getting their "pussies" sucked. In fact, it is my guess that the reason Juliet Anderson (who plays Aunt Peg) entered the world of adult entertainment at ripe age of forty is because she likes that shit so much. As I watched, I hoped that she was really as sexobsessed as she seemed, or else she would be completely exhausted at the end of a long, hard... day.

Peg Norton is film producer in Hollywood, which in combination with her vivid flashbacks provide many clever ways to have no less than two couples fucking at a time. While legend John "Biggest Cock in the Game" Holmes is on the set doing some shit that might make your preteen sister say, "I wonder if that sexual position has a name," Pam makes her PA cum in about two seconds, proving once and for all that Hollywood PA's cum in two seconds.

As things appear to be slowing down, the phrase, "Anal hurts, but I love it," reclaims the viewers' attention followed by an "ass to mouth" which in skater terms has the rawness equivalent of a 520 back-flip with a "shove-it." If this "sex-move" were a restaurant, it would have a very low rating from the health depart-

Aunt Peg has a One-Track-Mind! She seduces her brother-in-law with a strip show, and in true 1979 fashion asks an African-American waiter, "Is it true what they say about black men?" before putting his plus-sized package in her mouth.

This is a real feelgood film. It's full of compliments like, "your tits are so firm," "I really like your nipples pussy," and "you have very soft pussy hair." I guess it's nice if you like hair at all.

Part of the lameness of this review has to do with the lameness of the film. The only really good part is when Aunt Peg goes down on her sixteen-year-old niece in the back of a muscle car while she screams, "No, Aunt Peg! This isn't right."

More interesting is the true life story of Juliet Anderson. After quitting the biz-nas in 1984, she moved to a small town in the Sierras, where she managed a bed and breakfast, studied the "healing arts," and opened a massage therapy office where she created a unique type of massage called "Tender Loving Touch."

You want to be tenderly, lovingly touched.

thebardfreepress.vol6.issue3



Kinsey

This film is based on the true story of Doctor Alfred Kinsey, son of a strict preacher who switches from collecting gall wasps to collecting sexual histories. Witnessing the widespread myth and misinformation surrounding sex in the 1940's, Alfred Kinsey decided to gather a team of young men and began collecting sexual statistical data in order to look at sex from a purely scientific standpoint. He became the first person in America ever to do so, and began a revolution in the way in which society viewed sex, attitudes towards sex, and so-called sexual normalcy. With the repressed, conservative attitude of the time, he had many,

many troubles along the way. The film follows Kinsey's life from childhood to the later years of his project, when, after a brief period of scientific success and acceptance, he once again struggled to gain funding and respect for his taboo studies.

What makes this film great is the superb acting and the fascinating story - because really, who doesn't want to watch a movie about sex. Liam Neeson blows us away with his multi-faceted portrayal of a flawed but passionate and good-hearted man, who needs a science of sex to bring him back to the murkier matter of love. The supporting cast includes such talent as Laura Linney, Chris O'Donnell, Peter Sarsgaard, Timothy Hutton, and John Lithgow. Although there is nothing that stands out about the filmmaking (except for twenty minutes near the end of the film where focus seems to have flown out the window to wander around in the woods) there is a subtle harmony between the camera and the events it captures. Director Bill Condon (of Gods and Monsters fame) actually makes a few questionable decisions with regards to depicting the passage of time, and the unnecessary length of transitional scenes over meatier moments, but this does not keep film from being an admirable portrayal of a remarkable

- Farihah Zaman

controversial film produced in Hollywood, it has to be of some high caliber to warrant the distribution of such touchy subject matter. This is not the case with Nicole Kassel's The Woodsman. Wrought with bad Little Red Ridinghood metaphors and weak scripting, this

uneven, uninteresting portrait of a pedophile trying to get his life back together after completing his jail sentence, and facing the challenge of trying to hide his past mistakes, plays out like an after school special that makes "Degrassi: Junior High" look like Solondz's

Happiness. Kevin Bacon plays the ex-con, Kyra Sedgewick his plot-wise useless girlfriend and Mos Def his probation officer in one of the biggest wastes of talented acting since Jason Lee was cast in Dreamcatcher.

- Michael Lerman



The Woodsman

There is a common misconception among many of today's filmgoers that when a film is controversial, it is also automatically good. Perhaps this is because people believe that in order to get a

FESTIVAL

Tropical Malady

The latest offering from director Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Tropical Malady, is the story of an inexplicably profound love between two men in the Thai jungles: Tong, a simple country boy, and Keng, a toughened soldier. Now, so far the story sounds like well-traveled ground, but there are several touches that separate it from similar homoerotic fare.

First of all, there is the lush, hot, mesmerizing, suffocating setting, more than befitting of the title. The way in which the movie is filmed makes the audience feel the atmosphere's sweaty presence at every turn. Simple actions and events

seem to take on a kind of urgency in the pregnant claustrophobia. Then there is the powerfully undramatic way in which the story unfolds - two men meet, they are together, and then love happens. It seems easy, but not considering how love in film usually centers on conflict. With both of these decisions, Weerasethakul distinguishes himself from the crowd a little bit.

The second half of the movie is really the kicker, though. Suddenly the naturalistically told love story, gentle and subtle, transforms into its mythic counterpart, an old Thai fable about a man and a shape-shifting shaman who takes the form of a tiger. The two begin a hunt for one another,

initially for survival, but then out of an obsession neither can explain. For some time you wonder when the story will go back into the earlier narrative, making all of the connections for you. Then the symbolism, regardless of how obvious it originally seemed, really starts to take root in the mind. One sees the love story in a whole new light, understanding that what was experienced earlier was merely the surface of things, and that this is the pulsing heart of the matter. Through this film, Weerasethakul shows that love is complicated, cultural, dangerous, and magic. This may be the kind of movie that takes a long time to resolve your feelings



towards, but only because the storytelling is so bold and challenging.

- Farihah Zaman

House of Flying Daggers

Those disappointed by the amount of unused CGI potential in this season's Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow may want to take a look at Zhang Yimou's House of Flying Daggers. A follow-up to Hero - not a sequel, but the second

in Yimou's samurai trilogy - Flying Daggers plays a lot like a 60's Shaw Brothers picture with better technology. The story of a blind woman (Zhang Ziyi) being tracked by the police because she may be the head of a secret rebellion fighting against the empire (sound familiar?), Daggers

is as ludicrous as it is engaging. Unlike the heavy handed Hero, this film plays with a silly plotline and well-timed fight scenes, proving that digital graphics can be incorporated into a truly cinematic experience. Yimou embraces the absurdity of his plot and even parodies it. The double-crossing

revelations are frequently laughable and the audience is in on the fun. Also, unlike Hero, which Miramax butchered to create a "faster pace," Daggers will be released this December in its full two hour form.

- Michael Lerman



Woman is the Future of Man

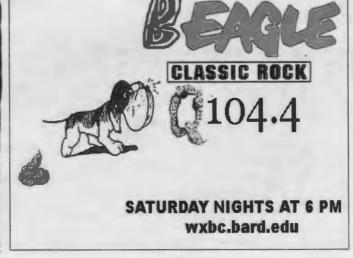
Veteran director Hang Sang-Soo sits in front a small group of people at a New York Film Festival press conference for his new film, Woman is the Future of Man. Someone asks him about the music he uses, whether it was written for the film or added later. Through his broken English, he mutters something about not wanting to tie the scenes down, letting them shape themselves. Ironically, this represents his entire theory of filmmaking. Working with 40% improvisation and 60% scripting, Hang pieces his films together as if they are puzzles welded out of thin air. If it were up to him, he might work from scratch, praying for miracles of visual metaphors to come out of his naturalistic style. And they always seem to do just that. In his latest film, characters trace back through their steps in fresh snow to show that they are moving back-



wards through their lives, enter the film coming up a hill and leave it going downhill, and this is all just a coincidence - or so he says. It's in the editing room that Hang does his real magic, piecof two friends and their beauty. sordid affairs with the - Michael Lerman

same woman over the course of many years. The time structures, though disjointed, flow so perfectly they look as if they were scripted. Was he lying to us? Who cares? Because of his style, the conversations in his character-based pieces - most notably the film in question and his previous film, Turning Gate - ride a fine line between normalcy and awkwardness. He makes the simplest things uncomfortable, and ing together, in a most the most uncomfortable things simple, while jumbled way, this story everything in between resonates with a subtle









Riding the success of Verbinski's remake of Nakata's The Ring, Sony Pictures Classics hires

Takashi Shimizu, director of Japanese horror hit Ju-On: The Grudge, to remake his film into English with Hollywood talent that includes the likes of Sarah Michelle Gellar ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") and Bill Pullman (Spaceballs). A

moody, old-fashioned house in Japan is haunted by the curse of a spirit who was murdered out of rage and misdirects revenge at anyone who comes

those of you who have not seen

the original Donnie Darko, it is

basically a story of mythical time

travel disguised as a comedy/

drama about a troubled Holden

Caulfield-esque suburban teen

who grapples with hallucinations

and questions about God,

authority, and loneliness.

With its experimentally

narrative plotline, fantastic

acting from the likes of Jake

Gyllenhaal, sister Maggie

Gyllenshaal and Patrick

Swayze, and emotional

cult classic.

As a brief introduction to

into contact with it. Fans of the original might miss the multiple subplots of the long chain of murders, as Ju-On compresses its exposition

> into five quick minutes. But the paring down in American script smartly allows for more screen time for a criminal investigation headed up by Japanese actor

Ryo Ishibashi (Audition). That's not all. Sony was also very smart in letting Shimizu make the film as stylis-

The Grudge

tically Japanese as possible, perhaps even more so than Ju-On. The colors are darker and moodier, unlike the Americanized sitcom lighting and color schemes that he used the first time around, and the structure for the multiple plotlines is confusing but thought provoking. Unlike other American-made remakes that are little more than imitations that come force fed with a silver spoon, The Grudge holds onto its roots, suggesting a more promising direction for Hollywood remakes in the future.

- Michael Lerman

A new kind of film for Team America dynamic duo Matt Stone and Trey Parker, in which they mock - well

released people seemed to debate whether or not it was blatantly left wing or right wing, but I found the fact that this undifferentiated spray of criticism generated so much



cal statements to the media, and many more. Think an ambiguously political action flick version South Park, with puppets. Team America is the story of a secret government group trained to wipe out terrorists of every race and nation, even if it means having to blow up the Eiffel Tower, the Egyptian Pyramids, or what have you in the process.

their

- anything and anyone they possibly

can without abandoning their make-

shift plot altogether. This includes

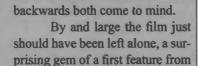
The film is moderately amusing in its combination of undirected biting social satire and unabashedly cheap potty humor, but does not really go much further than that. When the film was first

discussion somewhat incomprehensible. And although peppered with the kind of winning musical numbers you would expect from the people behind South Park, such as the energetic "America, Fuck Yeah," and the tenderly romantic 'Pearl Harbor Sucked Just a Little More Than I Miss You," the film pretty much goes in one ear and right out the other. Not even what was probably the raunchiest love scene ever performed between two consenting puppets could make this film little more than election season

- Farihah Zaman

Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut

seemed beautifully complete, and to second guess it was an act of artistic cowardice. His additions in the director's cut range from short deleted scenes to weak subplots to digital effects. Some of



an unknown director. Most of the

over the scene where time moves



truths that cut you to the core, Donnie Darko became something of an overnight The first words that came to mind after watching the director's cut, this masturbatory massacre of a good film, were "if it ain't

broke, don't fix it." There are a few cases - Apocalypse Now Redux, for example - in which using improved funding and technology to modify the original work is a creatively fruitful activity. More often than not, however, directors should realize that once a work has been released and mass distributed, it is what it is, including the changes created by various limitations. These changes make the film an entirely new entity, sometimes for the better.

Even if Robert Kelly's original cuts were the result of pressure from his producers, the end result the changes, such as music substitutions in certain scenes, were fairly innocuous, and some, like the increase in the number of telling family interaction sequences, were actually positive. For the most part, however, the additions seem so haphazardly placed or so self-consciously slick that they either ruin once-subtle plot points with over explication or break up the emotional thrust of the film into unrecognizable pieces. The newly included overlaid chapter headings from The Philosophy of Time Travel and cheesy 80's throwback grid and fireworks

changes here highlight a lack of experience that was miraculously missing before. If you happen to be a fan of the original, I'm sure that no review can quell your curiosity regarding the updated version (unless it's the comprehensive list of changes at but if you are new to Donnie Darko and simply excited at having a second chance to see it in theaters, be warned that this is not the same movie that gained all that praise and loyal following.

- Farihah Zaman

Fresh off the success of About Schmidt, director Alexander Payne, the genius behind such great social commentaries as Citizen Ruth and Election, returns with a touching portrait of two friends who set off on trip through Northern California wine country in which they find out what they hold to be truly important. Sideways showcases the acting talents of Paul Giamatti as the "loser" middle school teacher with a taste for fine wine and a festering unpublished novel, and Thomas Haden Church as the ex-TV star who, on the verge of getting married, is looking for a couple of last flings. The audience watches as their characters spiral into an oblivion of alcohol and selfloathing. As Church finds a torrid love affair predicated on lies with Sandra Oh, Giamatti grieves over his divorce while violently fighting

Sideways his attraction to Virginia Madsen.

The film rides along with hilarious dialogue and fantastic performances as revelations are discovered on all sides. But the truly amazing feat in Sideways is that Payne is closer to realism than he ever has been in any of his other films. He has always walked a tight rope between goofy, dark sitcom caricatures and more realistic character arcs. In Sideways, he has almost let go of all the stereotypes that the character of Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon in Election) represented. Now if only he could go the extra mile by putting trust in his cutting and his writing, and releasing himself of his cheesy musical montages, Sideways could be a great film. Close enough for now, but maybe the next one will be perfect.

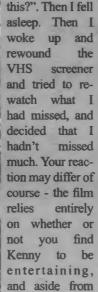
- Michael Lerman

in the film, and the style in which it's filmed - all close-ups and shaky handheld - makes it impossible to

tell where you are in space. It's ostensibly about a cantankerous old diner-owner named Kenny in Village Greenwich and his struggle with the trial of being closed down and having to set up shop elsewhere.

None of this comes until extremely late in the film, however, and the lack of any kind of coherent exposition made it so that in order to write that synopsis as cleanly as I did, I had to lift it off

the film's website. For the first half hour or so of the film, I just stared at it, wondering "What the hell IS



a few exceptions, I didn't. The scene from which the film takes its namesake, in which Kenny talks about enjoying killing flies, could have made an entertaining short minutes), and he does have one brilliant line explaining the reasoning behind his self-taught adventuryer dick in the wrong hole...there's sexual friction to putting the wrong ingredient in a dish"), but he's rarely eccentric enough to be an hour's worth of mindless entertainment. The sad part, of course, is that I doubt Mahurin intended it as mindless entertainment. I suspect that Kenny's story was meant as a parable about either the gentrification of the Village, or the disposability of mom and pop operations,

I Like Killing Flies or something, but it never comes

through in the film. As I watched it (for the second time), I was blessed with enough energy to be cogent while Kenny summed up the failure of the film to find any hidden meaning in the flotsam and jetsam of its parts. Mahurin treats us to a number of shots of boxes of candy at the counters in Kenny's restaurant. Turning the camera on Kenny. he asks "What's with the candy?" Kenny looks at him like's he's sprouted antiers, and then deadpans back: 'People buy candy. Oh, is this a 'documentary small-question, big-answer"? Go fuck yourself." I couldn't have said it better myself, Kenny.

- Jason Michelitch

When I got done watching the documentary I Like Killing Flies, I was already writing the first lines of my review in my head, something really elitist about the increasing accessibility of digital filmmaking technology bringing the amateurs out of the woodwork. Little did I know at the time that the director. Matt Mahurin, is a seasoned music video professional, having illustrated songs by the likes of REM,

Tracy Chapman, and Metallica. I was dumbfounded. I had assumed that Flies was the work of some seventeen year old getting his hands on his first camera, editing on his high school library's iMac. Put bluntly, the film is just not very well made.

People are introduced without introductions so that you have no idea who they are or what they're doing (and by short I mean MAYBE five ous cooking style ("It's like putting



