



The Anchor

May 6, 1996

Free

Rhode Island College

International organization accused of cult-like activities sprouts campus group

by Chris Greene
NEWS EDITOR

A recognized student organization on campus is affiliated with an international organization which has been accused of cult-like activities, and has even been banned on several college campuses.

Campus Advance is a student organization recognized by Student Community Government and is affiliated with the Providence Church of Christ (COC). That group is part of the larger International Church of Christ.

Larry Nichols, the Protestant Chaplain on campus, who has written a book on cults entitled *Cults, Sects, Religions, and the Occult*, said the COC has been banned on many other college campuses. "The Student Union at the University of Toronto, and Tufts University in Boston, have banned them from recognition because they have recognized that as an organization their interests are not to serve the college, but to self serve, and recruit students for their organization. I don't know if Rhode Island College's interests are best being served by an organization who is not here to benefit the College, but is here to benefit their own growth."

The group had a club on Boston University's campus that was banned officially and legally on the campus. An awareness pamphlet created and distributed on BU's campus by students in cooperation with Rev. Robert Watts Thornburg, Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, explains why the Boston Church of Christ was banned from campus. "All religious groups on campus promise to work and witness under certain simple but clear guidelines set down by the Religious Life Council. They promise to be clear and truthful in their publicity, to not denigrate other religious groups on campus, to not harass students, and to not recruit those who are already active in other religious organizations. The BCC abides by none of these practices."

Tim Thorp, President of the Campus COC, said, "Members are people who have made a decision to be followers of Christ. It's a decision that people make, that Jesus will be the lord or their life. They make that decision out of their own heart. It has to be true. For me personally I made that decision because I believed it, it wasn't something I did to please the Church or the club. I know that as I go through life I'm going to treat my life as a Christian, as a

disciple."

Vincenzo Iacobucci, a former member of the Rhode Island Church of Christ explains says that he was coerced into joining the Church by other students from the college who are members.

"When I came to RIC, I didn't know people here, and I wasn't very close to my family. I was a very isolated person. One of the things I was looking for was community, and companionship," said Iacobucci, who claims that the COC members

their own life. If you're encouraged (to do something) it doesn't mean you're necessarily going to do that. You have to decide what's going to make you happy about yourself, and what's going to make you in pain. It's not our focus to become an exclusive environment, or pull people out of friendship's. The best example is Jesus, (who) was the friend of tax collector's and sinners. People can view encouragement as control. Member's can leave anytime, they're free to go."

tioning things, questioning the things that you were taught, so there's a lot of loneliness and anxiety here."

Nichols says cult members will "love bomb" a student. "They will love bomb a student, in other words, they will play on a sense of belonging, 'Hey, you're important here, we want you to be a part of us, come and join us, we have a weekend retreat.' It usually turns out to be a Bible study of some sort, and a student starts to feel, 'Gosh, I'm important here, I feel a sense

At first what I was doing felt extremely right, as time went by I was asked for more, they asked me not to be intimate with my girlfriend... It started discreetly, and then got more controlling.

Vincenzo Iacobucci,
former member of the
Church of Christ

used his weakness to lead him into their organization.

Iacobucci says that COC members approached him as friends, and once friendly relationships were established with the members, they began to ask Iacobucci to attend Bible studies. "At first what I was doing felt extremely right, as time went by I was asked for more," said Iacobucci, adding, "they asked me not to be intimate with my girlfriend."

"It started discreetly, and then got more controlling," said Iacobucci, who says he was also asked not to spend time with friends who were homosexuals. "That was a big no-no as far as the Church was concerned," said Iacobucci. He claims he was told by other COC members if he wasn't going to try to "save them," then he shouldn't associate with them at all.

Thorp said the purpose of the COC organization is to learn about faith, and to make a commitment about having faith in God. When asked if the COC encouraged new members to stop spending time with old friends who are not interested in joining the Church, Thorp said, "That's not the focus of the group."

"If someone comes from a background where they're doing drugs- say someone's passing around a joint, that would be a temptation for that person, and you've got to make a decision as a person about who your going to hang out with. The thing I would love to stress is that people make decisions about

Asked if the group welcomed people of diverse sexual orientation, Thorp said, "In our campus club there are no homosexuals. In the Church I know homosexuals, but the thing is, they've decided to live moral lives." Thorp said he would like to make clear that those who have joined the Church as homosexuals are, for all intensive purposes, no longer homosexuals. "A lot of people like to think that once you're homosexual, you're homosexual forever, like it's genetic or something. I know a man in the Church who was a homosexual, but he went through an experience of changing that. But either way he is accepted as a person, but it's a life-style that's not godly," Thorp said, adding that the Bible says "Hate the sin, not the sinner."

Rebuking the idea that the group dominates its members time, Thorp said he has done research on COC members on campus, and claims to have found a dramatic increase in the GPA's of the majority of members, since they have joined.

Nichols describes how a students who are new to the College environment are targeted as prospective cult members. "The average age for joining a cult is eighteen to twenty five," said Nichols.

"Cults particularly prey on students," said Nichols because they have left home, they've left the comfort zone of the family their on campus they're away from home. "It's a new world, you're questioning life, ques-

tioning things, questioning the things that you were taught, so there's a lot of loneliness and anxiety here."

Iacobucci said that the COC encouraged him not to deal with political things, and told him that the world is not a place to worry about fixing things, because there can be no universal peace on earth. He claims he was told that the only thing a Christian should worry about is 'saving' themselves, and as many other people as possible. Iacobucci said that he began to "have a lot more faith in God, than in myself."

"I began losing myself, losing my own control. I started to look down upon my friends, and homosexuals," Iacobucci said, adding that they asked him not to be with his girlfriend, "to the point where I couldn't kiss her, because according to them (COC members) what I was doing was putting her before God... they encouraged me to remain within the Church, as far as all my relationships go."

Iacobucci also claims the COC used fear and guilt tactics to keep him within the Church. He said, "A lot of times they would feed me with the fear of hell, and the fear of being condemned." Iacobucci said that COC members told him that he owed God, because it was God that saved him, and it was God that made his life a lot better.

According to Nichols, the pervasive power of a cult can be so powerful that some members leaving cults must have exit counseling. While counseling a member out of a cult on another

See COC, page 3

Geography class gets up close with trip to Boston's "Big Dig"

by Jessica D'Ambrosia
STAFF WRITER

A field trip to Boston, Massachusetts, gave twenty students the opportunity to explore the workings of America's largest public works plan, Boston's Central Artery and Third Harbor Tunnel, site of the "Big Dig."

On April 11, Dr. Mark Motte, Assistant Professor of Geography, and twenty of the twenty-two students enrolled in his class, *The City in the 20th Century*, loaded a bus and set out for a day of education and fun.

The Boston Central Artery is the new name for Interstate 93, which is being constructed to run beneath downtown Boston. The number of lanes on the interstate today is 6. The new Central Artery will have 8 to 10 lanes and is estimated to cut, on the average, the commuter's travel time by 15 minutes at the cost of about \$8.5 billion. The total miles that will be constructed underground is 3.5. The project will create more than 150 acres of open space, according to the May 1995 issue of *Central Artery/Tunnel Project: Fun Factors*. Such space includes 33 acres of public recreation space along the Charles River, 7 acre-expansion of East Boston's Memorial Stadium Park, and a "green way about 2 miles long, consisting of biking, jogging, and walking trails," according to Motte.

The Third Harbor Tunnel will be, "a compliment to the Callaghan and Sumner tunnels," according to Motte. The tunnels will run from South Boston to East Boston and Logan Airport. "It should relieve major congestion that is present now with only two tunnels," added Motte.

This past September started Dr. Motte's first days here at RIC. Before coming here, he was a professor in the graduate program of community planning at URI and Assistant Director of the URI Urban Field Center in Providence.

His current course is aimed at teaching students about the changes in American cities both in physical layout and economic functions from 1900 to the present. The ultimate goal is, "To build an interest amongst students for the city. The city is overlooked by students, professors, and colleges much too often. It is important for the students to

become involved in making the city a better place to live," said Motte, adding, "especially for the low income families because they are most prominent in the cities."

Motte said he would like to see graduates take on professions that include urban planning, public policy, and applied public research, all dealing with improving the quality of living. "RIC does a good job with their nursing and education programs there's no question about that," said Motte. But, "I would like to see the school pay more attention to the areas of social and economic needs of people in the city. I would also like to see in the future, the geography and urban programs brought back up to scale here at RIC," said Motte.

Once in Boston, equipped with hard hats and orange reflector vests, Motte and his students went on a tour of the actual construction site of the Big Dig. Bill Lincourt, senior, Geography, said, "It was good to see the action of the construction in person rather than in the classroom."

After being a chef for 20 years, Paul Pinault, freshman, decided to come back to school and earn his degree in Career and Technical Education. "It was an exciting trip with an inventive bus driver," said Pinault adding, "It was great to see the expansion and growth of the city."

With the construction costs estimated so high, Bill Cavanaugh, senior, General Education, said, "It's a lot of money for a big hole." He admits it was enjoyable and educational to see how the Big Dig is being built but, "it just seems to me like it's a lot of money for 15 minutes of convenience." On the other hand, Jack Gormely, senior, Secondary Education and Social Studies, thought the trip was an "outstanding educational opportunity that more professors should attempt to make available to their classes. It was the highlight of my RIC career."

Aaron Perkins, sophomore, Social Science, said he learned things about Boston he never knew. "If you look at a map of when Boston was originally established, it's now twice the size as it was then."

Currently interning for the Mayor Cianci Vacant Lot

See DIG, page 3

MAY 1996

SUN

MON

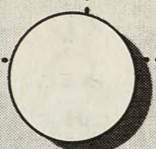
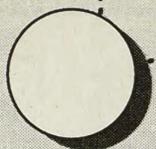
TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



Swimming for the Terrified
10-10:45 am
Beginner Swim Instruction
3-3:45 pm Rec Center Pool
sponsored by Aquatics x8227

Interview Workshop
12:30-2pm CL 054
sponsored by Career Development Center x8031

3rd Annual Latin American Festival
12:30-2:00 pm
@ the Quad in front of the New Gym
sponsored by LASO x8285

Senior Week Events!
Tickets on sale @ SU Info Desk
for more info call x8148 or x8034

Resume Workshop
9-10 am CL 054
sponsored by Career Development Center x8031

Moon Rocks and Lunar Regolith Samples
12-2 pm Adams Library, Level 2
presented by: Maj. Len west, PhD.
sponsored by: Civil Air Patrol & Rhode Island College
for more info contact: Frank Nakajanni x9604

Advanced Swim Instruction
1-1:45 pm
Rec Center Pool
sponsored by Aquatics x8227

"To The Bat Cave" End of the Year Dinner
4 pm Hors d'oeuvres
4:45-7 pm Dinner Buffet
Donovan Dining Center
Admission: Plan A&B - One Meal / Plan C&D - \$7.50
College Community - \$10.00
sponsored by Residential Life & Housing, DDC, Graphics Dept
and Campus Activity Center x8034

Job Search Workshop
3-4 pm
sponsored by Career Development Center x8031

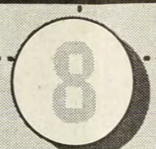
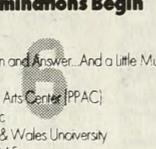
Red Sox Trip to Fenway Park
Red Sox play the Toronto Jays
Tax \$25 includes game and transportation
for info call x8400. Tickets are limited
sponsored by RecCenter

Classes End

Groundwex Dance Theatre
Rhode Island Dances Series
8 pm Roberts Auditorium
\$4 Tax for RIC students
sponsored by Music Dept. x8244

Examinations Begin

Billy Joel
An Evening of Question and Answer... And a Little Music
7 pm
Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)
\$23.50 General Public
presented by Johnson & Wales University
RIC Programming x8045



Examinations Ends



Senior Week

Medieval Manor
bus leaves SU loop @ 6:15 pm
\$23 Tax per person @ SU Info Desk

Senior Week

Bay Queen Cruise
bus leaves SU loop @ 6 pm
\$25 Tax per person @ SU Info Desk

Senior Week

Senior Semi-Formal
6:30 pm
Providence Ballroom
\$20 Tax per person

Senior Week

Six Flags Adventure
bus leaves SU @ 7 am
\$18 Tax per person @ SU Info Desk

Graduate Commencement

Senior Week

Senior Brunch
10 am Donovan Dining Center
\$8 per person

Senior Slide Show
12 pm
Student Union Ballroom
FREE

Undergraduate Commencement

HAVE



A



GREAT



SUMMER!!!



International organization accused of cult-like activities sprouts campus group

COC,
continued from page 1

campus, the exiting member was told by other members that Nichols was the "devil incarnate."

After five months as a COC member, Iacobucci's girlfriend, family and parish priest helped him out of the COC. During his time in the COC, Iacobucci said he, "found himself feeling guilty, and praying for forgiveness. He began to question his every thought, wondering if it were good or bad," he said.

On leaving the COC, Iacobucci said he "felt like they tricked me, and sort of pulled me in. They were not up front with me, they didn't tell me what I had to do."

When asked if The COC organization was up front with prospective members, Thorp said, "Yes, absolutely. It would be really dishonest for people to find out they're required to do something after they've made a commitment."

"It's a great club," he said, adding, "A lot of people see the Bible as boring or oppressive, but it's really a lot of fun." Thorp said that this semester the whole COC campus club volunteered for Hope World Wide, and did an immunization project with that group in Providence, and raised money for the poor and needy. Thorp said The COC members raised between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for this purpose. "It was great, we spent the whole day going from door to door in South Providence and educating

parents about the need to immunize their children, and offering vouchers for kids to go in and get immunized for free," said Thorp.

The Church has also found its way into some classrooms. Another student, Ed Hardeman, wrote in a paper he submitted for a class, that an instructor in a Business Writing class lecture said that the International Church of Christ is, "the fastest growing church in the world," and that the reason for this growth is that, "most people are looking for a meaningful purpose in life... Jesus Christ provides these."

The Chaplain's Office encourages students who have questions about any campus religious groups to contact them for more information.

Geography class gets up close with trip to Boston's "Big Dig"

DIG,
continued from page 1

Program are Peter Leddy and Kerry O'Brien, two more of Motte's students. The program works to identify and clean up vacant lots throughout the city. Due to the many years that some lots have been vacant, hazardous, toxic chemicals have been accumulating from companies carelessly dumping. Leddy and O'Brien help map out vacant lots and characterize the amount of damage done to

the lots and in a joint effort with the city of Providence, SWAP (Stop Wasting Abandoned Property) is working to restore these lands. Other internships that students are participating in include: Housing Needs Assessment of Woonsocket, COZY (Children Opportunity Zone), and Historic Neighborhood Plan Central of East Greenwich.

The City in the 20th Century class will not be offered every semester. "I am guessing it will not be offered again until spring

of '98," explains Motte. "That decision is not in my power rather, it's in the hands of the administrators," he added. Motte will be teaching two classes with an "urban" flavor, which will be offered in the fall: The Geography of Urban Housing and The New Global Village: The Future of the World's Great Cities.

Students who are interested in these classes should contact Motte in the Department of Anthropology and Geography at 456-8378.

RIC athletes honored at banquet

by Eric Sardinha
Sports Editor

On Sunday, April 28 in Donovan Dining Center, the RIC Athletics Department held its annual awards banquet. The event, whose purpose is to recognize RIC's student-athletes and their achievements, was hosted by RIC alumnus Jodi Johnson.

There was a new addition to this year's ceremonies, and that was the presentation of the first Dana Bazar scholarship. This scholarship was special because it was founded in memory of the eighteen year-old Bazar, who was a friend to many RIC alumni and current students, and emcee Jodi Johnson. Bazar was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1992. There were heartfelt words spoken by Johnson and some of Bazar's relatives who were in attendance for the pre-

sentation of this award. Pauline Feldhus, a freshman from Pawtucket, manager of the Women's Softball team, and an employee in the Athletic Department, won the scholarship.

The night started out with Chaplin Jim Montavon giving the invocation before a classic Donovan buffet. All-conference certificates and 3.0 club members were announced. The Hunt Award is given to a senior female student-athlete for outstanding performance on the field or court and in the classroom. The award was given out this year with two winners instead of just one. The co-winners were Pam Prendergast of the Women's Tennis Team and Audra Plante of the Women's Basketball team. It's appropriate that they be co-winners of this award, as they were co-captains of their respective teams.

Prendergast is in the top ten of four major RIC records, while Plante played in eighty-four career games and maintained a 3.82 grade point average.

The Heatherman Award is given to a male senior student-athlete who is an excellent representative of the school in competition and in the classroom, basically a male version of the Hunt Award. Andy Kaufman was the recipient of the honor. He is a fourth-year cross country runner for RIC.

After going through three hours and fifteen minutes of being in Donovan, on top of all of the time that I had spent there earlier in the day, it was definitely time to leave. The athletes were then instructed to go to the New Gym and picked up their free "RIC Athletics" sweat-shirts, to end the night.

Brown seeks to keep athletes out of frat houses

(CPC) Calling fraternity membership a problem for pledging athletes, for their teammates and for their neighbors, the Office of Residential Life at Brown University has declared its opposition to high percentages of athletes in the Greek system.

"It's been our practice and advice for the past two, three or four years to discourage large groups of athletes from joining fraternities," said Director of Residential Life and Associate Dean of Student Life Arthur Gallagher.

"It's not a formal written

policy," Gallagher added, "but it's based on negative experience in the past in certain houses, when fraternities with predominantly athletes have been a problem for their neighbors."

Matt Lucke, senior, president of Theta Delta Chi, a fraternity that will return to Wriston Quadrangle next year, expressed outrage in response to Gallagher's comments.

"Are they saying that because they're athletes, they're animals that haunt their neighbors?" said Lucke, who is the place kicker for the Brown football team.

Delta Phi President Dan O'Keefe, junior, added, "We've always known that they try to keep [athletes] out of fraternities."

O'Keefe said Residential Life offers some athletes special housing options during pledge time to keep them from joining fraternities.

"The coaches have made it pretty clear that people would get a certain suite if they didn't join a fraternity," he said.

"I know nothing about that," responded Associate Director of Residential Life Donald Desrochers.

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THE ANCHOR

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SCG elections decided by special interest groups and back room deals

An open letter to the college community:

A while back, *The Anchor* published a commentary about Student Community Government. How Student Community Government was just a mini version of real politics. As a political science major, I did not agree with Melissa Lawrence's commentary. As a member of Student Community Government, I did not think that our organization was anything like that. I had always thought of our achievements as noble and honorable. The members of Student Government as full of integrity. (sic)

However, the elections of Parliament was (sic) an eye opening experience for me. I watched how special "interest groups" and lobbyists made deals with those in power. I noticed that almost all of Parliament's seats were filled immediately before the election. Who were they filled by? Members of the Debate club, WXIN and the Anchor. Why would these organizations fill out petitions for Student Government? Because their interests were questioned this year. Because the Finance Commission was not about to sit back and let money flow from the student activity fee, as usu-

al. The scratch my back and I'll scratch your back was not called into routine this year.

I spoke out against certain organizations this year at the budget hearings—thereby incurring their wrath. I voiced my constituent's concerns about the Anchor, and how terrible certain aspects of it were. I later apologized to the Anchor for being too brutal in such a public forum. Yet their understanding of the Student Government, would not stretch further than what Student Government could give them. Politics. Trading favors. Backroom deals.

I watched as the candidates

who were the most qualified, and had the majority of votes from the current Parliament, lose to candidates who were supported by the "special interest groups." I noted the abstention from the ballot of a student who challenged the status quo this year, challenged the allocation of sizable funds to the "special interest groups," and made waves with innovative and controversial proposals. That same student was asked to run for president of Student Government by prominent faculty, but declined.

Last year, when I was a relatively new person on Parliament, I asked to be on the Finance Commission for the 1995-1996 year. One executive board member told me that if I voted for Julie Silvestri for president, I would be guaranteed a spot on the Finance Commission. That episode sickened me, but I thought it was the evil mechanisms of just one person.

This year I realized however,

that the elections are fixed and rigged. I honestly do not know if I want to be part of an organization that operates in that fashion. While some may look at the signature on this letter, and cry sour grapes I assure you, I am not. (sic) I was ready to decline my nomination as Treasurer, before the election meeting, because I had heard that the same "special interest groups" were working against my candidacy. I convinced myself to hold fast because I knew I had the backing of the entire Finance Commission, and many current Parliament members.

I do hope that all the people who filled out petitions this year stay on Parliament this fall. Then they might realize what a difficult job members of Parliament have to do. How hard it is to balance the meager resources among many competing interests, and ensure that all student voices are heard. (sic) But I sincerely doubt it, and if they do, it will be to further thier(sic)

own organizational interests. Politics. Trading Favors. Back room deals.

If I do stay within Student Government this year, it will be to work on the bylaws of Student Government to guarantee that this type of election rigging will not take place in the future. I am saddened that the students of Rhode Island College have a Student Parliament that is such a mirror of unfair, special-interest oriented politics. But the thing that I wish most of all is that there was some honor left in the world, and in Student Community Government. That elections would be held to determine who is the most qualified candidate, not who has the most friends, and do not sink so low as to rig elections in their favor. (sic)

Sincerely,

Toni J. Drowne

Former SCG President comments on "tumultuous" times

Editor,

In DEFENSE of SCG

Democracy: 1. government by the people, either directly or through elected representatives; rule by the ruled. 2. the acceptance and practice of the principle of equality of rights, opportunity, and treatment; lack of snobbery. *Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*

Student Community Government (SCG) elections have passed now. A new executive board, a new group of student leaders, has been elected to govern the student organizations of RIC and oversee the responsibilities that come with collection and disbursement of the Student Activity Fee. Not to sound like Warren Harding, but it's a hell of a job. I know, I've been there. And it is such because it's demanding, challenging, rewarding, and wrought full of experiences that anyone with the perception to realize them, can take into the journeys that life will bring. It is a veritable training ground for life in public service.

It is public service that I want to speak a little about in this missive. In recent months, things at SCG, both within and without, have been nothing less than tumultuous. It's a shame really. There didn't seem to be any need for it all. But nonetheless, things just happened that way. Some felt so compelled, that they wanted to have their thoughts shared with the college community via the Anchor (not a bad medium by the way.) As a result, these thoughts and postings have left more questions unanswered than answered. Some of these I'm sure originated with the best of intentions, others I'm not so sure. Regardless, it has compelled me to try and put some of these questions into perspective, and to perhaps provide some answers and insight from my unique perspective (that of a former Member of Parliament (MP), Speaker, Vice-President, and President).

Student Community Government's two primary roles are to fund student organizations and to provide a voice for the needs and concerns of all the students of RIC. It says so in SCG's charter provided for the State of Rhode Island. Nevertheless, in doing so, Student Government becomes a very important and influential liaison between the college administration and its students; and more importantly, between the student's money and the students (You know, that Student Activity Fee thing again.

The \$40. full-timers and \$5. per credit part-timers pay each semester.) So as I'm sure you can tell, a lot of power comes from such a situation, and with great power must come great responsibility. Unfortunately the latter is all too often forgotten in the final analysis.

Responsible use of power involves being fair and consistent, and decisions must be justifiable to all involved. All too often people believe that their actions are just, and in the best interest of the organization. But it ends there. I'm sure that those who acted so swiftly and sweeping, believed that they were doing the "right thing," according to themselves anyway. What I believe failed to happen, was that no one bothered to take into account the feelings and positions of those they were affecting. Some may even go so far to say that, that was completely purposeful. Maybe, maybe not. Nonetheless, public organizations such as SCG must always avoid being arbitrary and capricious. Unfavorable things can happen to those who are. And, in light of what has unfolded during the recent SCG election, it seems that unfavorable things did indeed happen, depending on your point of view. As a result, a lot of anger has stemmed from those on the losing side. Here's how it all started:

SCG's Finance Commission (its fiscal arm) cannot be faulted in any way for being arbitrary. They were certainly very consistent in what they chose to cut and who they chose to cut. However, whether or not the following was actually the case, they can certainly be pointed to for being capricious in their actions. Again, whether or not that was actually the case is academic. It was the perception of those actions, which were fueled by the lack of communication and dialogue between the Commission and the organizations it was taking such drastic measures against. Purposeful or not, it fueled the negative perception of capriciousness leveled on the Finance Commission. And perception counts. As anyone in the public service can attest to, perception is nine tenths reality.

Another issue which surfaced its ugly head is that of stipends. Let me assure you that stipends are very much within the goals of the Activity Fee. They help to get students involved. Stipends also help tremendously with organizations that need larger memberships, with more

spread out responsibilities, to function effectively. The Anchor and WXIN are good examples of this. Within these organizations are many responsibilities that must be spread out amongst dedicated members. These dedicated members are compensated, in a very small way, for responsibilities they must carry out in order to make a newspaper and radio station function. They are not just clubs, they are quasi-businesses, much like SCG itself. Other clubs and organizations such as the one mentioned in the letter to the editor do not have to cope with deadlines, advertisements, FCC regulations or the like. That's not to say what they do is not important or time-consuming. It is. But it's an all together different animal. It's also been said that stipends amount to \$40,000. annually. That makes up approximately a mere 1/18 of the total revenue of SCG, Inc. Only 1/18.

Though many of the projects accomplished this year were started in the previous year, many new achievements came out of this year as well. And as well they should have. New accomplishments should come every year. They are SCG's responsibility. They represent needs that must be addressed. Therefore I do resent a little, the implication made that this year's, '95-'96, executive board was the most active ever. Perhaps active in fighting each other at times, but if you want to see activity and more importantly unity, '94-'95 was the place to be. A veritable Camelot.

Nonetheless, another reason for the problems with the recent budget battle stems from the way the Finance Commission chose to go about it. They just did what they wanted, with no warning, and not much listening to the concerns of the organizations whose fate they were deciding. Little explanation was given for those actions as well. And there was certainly no apparent effort to work with those same organizations to bring thinking closer together. In fact just the opposite happened. No evidence of compromise was to be found, just division and a sense of snobbery from the commission itself which was unfortunate. Again and again arguments came up about proper management and spending of money. Again, as stated before, the money should be spent on and by students. It should not be withheld from students and or-

ganizations for seemingly capricious reasons. It is morally irresponsible of Student Government not to allocate and find reasonable ways to spend student money for students. Again, SCG is not a bank, but a public organization dedicated to public service. Students pay their fee with the expectations of having that money turned around and spent on them to enrich their quality of life on this campus.

This year it seemed that the Finance Commission and some MPs were more interested in antagonism rather than sound and beneficial compromise. Needless power struggles came to the forefront and each side dug their heels in deep. Again, how unfortunate.

Changing gears a bit...

Though even better, is a letter that has recently circulated making ridiculous allegations about the recent Parliament, the executive board elections, and SCG as an organization. In it, the author states that she is a Political Science major and does not agree with the wonderful commentary Melissa Lawrence, of Anchor fame, wrote in the Apr. 22nd issue. Melissa makes the assertion that SCG is a mini-version of real politics, though this year seemed more like 'real politick' (power politics). The author opposite disagrees, stating that she thought SCG was more noble than that. Well perhaps she missed the class on political theory in which cogent and enlightening discussions of such obscure figures as Plato and Aristotle were brought to light (I too was a Political Science major). You see, SCG by its very nature is political and very democratic to boot. It has a constitution, procedures, meetings, votes, policies, elections, its own political system, the whole nine yards. And Mr. Plato and Mr. Aristotle assert that politics is in fact a noble profession, perhaps the most noble. And since Aristotle was the father of logic, let's complete the syllogism: Politics is noble, SCG is political, therefore SCG IS noble.

The author also writes in disgust about interest groups, and attributes them to her loss in the recent election. Well as any Political Science major would know, interest groups, pressure groups, whatever you want to call them are a natural by-product of any current democratic political system. As Alexis deTocqueville (another obscure political theorist) noted, people

organize. They organize around an interest and assert it. If you alienate them in any way, they will come out 'en masse' and protect their interest. It's no wonder the election turned out the way it did. The new Parliament represents interests that were callously challenged, and they answered abruptly. Capricious behavior and snobbery by anyone will get you the same.

Then the author goes on to make ridiculous allegations of "trading favors" and "back room deals." These allegations are ridiculous, slanderous, and have no proof. They're simply whinnings with no basis in fact. She goes on to mention that she was among the most qualified of candidates. Says who? There's a subjective statement if I've ever heard one. I would argue that the new executive board is extremely qualified and well suited for the task at hand. Apparently the Parliament agrees, and voted, democratically, to elect this new executive board.

She also mentions something about innovative proposals by the past Finance Commission. Looked more like muscle flexing and capriciousness on this end. Then goes on to purport that a member of a past executive board, presumably '94-'95, said that if she voted for a certain person who was elected to this past executive board, she would be placed on the Finance Commission in exchange. That's the most ludicrous thing I've ever heard. No such thing ever happened, and the comment itself borders on libel. "Evil" indeed. Did the author fail to realize that all the candidates for the '95-'96 executive board ran unopposed? Why then would such a request ever be made? Ramblings, ramblings, ramblings.

And of course, no letter of discontent would be complete without accusations of election rigging. Well, where's the proof? Everything at that election happened by the book. Every member of Parliament gained their seat via the proper processes. Nothing but democracy at its best occurred in those chambers. She claims to have had backing. Obviously not, if she lost. Perhaps the losers of the recent election fail to realize that it takes a certain skill and a lot of stamina to hold a coalition together. However, it's very easy to get a coalition to act against you. It seems as if the latter has happened and with a vengeance. She also accuses this Parliament

of treachery and claims that they will not stay on and work hard for the students, or if they do it's because they want to further their own interests. Seems like a lose/lose situation, huh? However, the statement is fallacious; bold, but fallacious. There is such a thing called Conflict of Interest, which SCG enforces to prevent MPs from unethical behavior. You are not allowed to vote on matters directly involving your organization.

I do however, agree with the author on one point she makes. This one she can at least prove. SCG's job is a difficult one. All MPs work hard and must dedicate a good portion of their time, and in my opinion, it's worth it. However, her assertion that we have "meager" resources with which to work is fallacious too. SCG's resources are far from meager. Each year SCG collects approximately \$700,000. That's nearly 3 quarters of a million dollars. Meager indeed. Believe me when I tell you, that leaves a sizable nest egg in the final analysis for spending, responsibly of course, by SCG for the students it represents.

So in conclusion, if you've read this far, I hope you enjoyed yourself, and I apologize for the length. But, being this the last issue of *The Anchor* for the year, I was not able to segment the commentary which probably would have been more appropriate. The attempt of this commentary was to answer some of the unanswered questions and to put to rest some vicious statements and falsehoods which have recently circulated. It is my sincere hope that the new executive board of SCG, Inc. will learn from the mistakes of their forefathers and perhaps take from those forefathers who preached openness, dialogue, unity, understanding. It is my hope that they will work together along with the new Parliament to better the interests of students at RIC. And most of all, I hope they will learn to put whatever differences they may have, if any, toward each other aside for the good of the organization. Abrasive egos are counter-productive. And remember these words of wisdom from the great Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil, "From 9-5 you do business. After 5 o'clock you go home and you're all still friends."

Jay Carreiro
President, SCG, 94-'95;
Current Student
Parliament member

The Anchor

Only group new Parliament members are "specially interested" in is the RIC student body.

Editor,

Attention Toni J. Drowne: on page 14 of the April 15, 1996 issue of *The Anchor*, bottom half of the page is an advertisement. I don't know if you've seen it, but I'll just assume that you haven't, (based purely on your "Open letter to the college community"). Forgive me for quoting, but I really must. "If you don't feel Student Community Government truly represents your interests, Please take out a petition!" Isn't that interesting? SCG says that they want people to get involved and places an advertisement urging people to do so, and you, Toni, get upset when it happens.

I'd like to point a few things out to you that you seemed to miss in the whole goings on

between WXIN, The Anchor, and, SCG (Primarily the Finance Commission), because I feel that they are of great importance. Your letter blatantly states that "back room deals" have occurred, and will continue to happen because the new people on Parliament are only there to further the organizations to which they currently belong. You are wrong. Dead wrong, and in making such a comment you have showed that you have very a shallow view of student activism. The WXIN and Anchor members that ran for Parliament did so because they did not like the way things were being done. If you want things to change you have to work for them; this fact they know well, as they come from small student

organizations that have to fight to achieve very high goals every year. They are people who fight for the things that they believe in, and stand behind the things that they say. These are the type of people that you should be happy to see showing an interest in Student Government. Labeling those students that want to get involved as "special interest groups" is wrong. I, personally, know the people to which you refer, and I can tell you that the only group that they are "specially interested" in is the Rhode Island College student body.

Sincerely,

J. Patsfield
General Manager,
WXIN

Alleged election rigging unfounded and misconstrued

by Melissa Lawrence
ANCHOR EDITOR

Under normal circumstances, a simultaneous rebuttal to Toni Drowne's letter to the editor would be a violation of editorial privilege. However, seeing as how Drowne thought it wise to publicly post her letter as "an open letter to the College community," I feel justified in making my retort.

Drowne's claim that she disagreed with my assessment that Student Community Government was "fetal politics at its best" (*The Anchor* 4/22/96), I began to suspect that not only did she fail to reread my commentary, but that she may have actually failed to reread her own. Anyone who can spend a page and a half raving about all the dirty deals going between Student Community Government and the phantom "special interest groups" would be have to be mad if they then tried to suggest that student politics are anything but the pre-placental cheese wizz of Capitol Hill.

In her letter, Drowne suggests that the May 1st Parliament elections were "an eye opening experience." Well, such are the ways of the world. Drowne's commentary would not have struck such a nerve if she had shown the professionalism which her fellow Parliament members did in the weeks following the infamous Budget Hearings. Drowne did not apologize to *The*

Anchor as she suggests in her letter, in fact, aside from her performance at the hearings, most members of the *The Anchor* couldn't pick her out of a police line up.

Contrary to her statement, the Parliament elections were not fixed. The candidates elect awaiting to assume office are all worthy students for the job. Drowne's attack on the integrity of her opponents is unfounded and aptly ironic, seeing as how this type of campaign slander is common in "real politics." The achievements made by this years Parliamentary body are notable. And I am confident that the consensus of the student community (both the conscious and the semi-conscious) is one of satisfaction. Certainly, the work of outgoing President Julie Sylvestri, President elect Tony Impagliazzo and even Alan Tenreiro is worth mention, not to mention all the other members of Parliament who served terms this year.

Drowne loss in the election to Shannon Hinton was not because of back room deals. Come on, Shannon Hinton in any back room? Give me a break. The Parliament elections welcomed a number of new voters this time around, and their impact certainly played a role in the election's outcome. However, Hinton is approachable, confident and above all conscientious of her responsibility to the students she represents. Her preelection speech and campaign platform

was solid, and alas, she succeeded in winning the post. As far as Chris Harrison and Sam Citola's appointments to office, there is no evidence which suggests that either of these hopeful officers-elect will do anything but perform their jobs with integrity. I imagine that Amie Bergin would have done a fine job as well, but unfortunately, things just didn't work out that way.

And what "favors" are we trading? Funny how Drowne proudly states that if she decides to stay with Student Government, she will immediately take up cause on the by-laws committee to make sure that big changes, like we've seen in Parliament in the last few weeks, never happen again. Yup, that's the voice of objectivism, commitment and representation if I've ever heard it. I don't see the student body at large storming the Student Union to protest the election results, so who would Toni Drowne really be representing? And this is not "real politics?"

I intend to complete my term as a new Parliament member. Contrary to Drowne's commentary, my participation went beyond the localized details of the election. I'd like Toni Drowne to stand behind her allegations and prove to me, a concerned student and Parliament member that the elections were rigged. Rigged by what, the results of a popular vote?

other writers respond to it. This is the case because the letter submitted to *The Anchor* was also distributed to other organizations and individuals on campus late last week. The authors responding to the letter did so after reading copies of the letter they received from other sources.

To make it perfectly clear: had this letter been submitted only to this office, no responses would accompany it.

John Valerio
Executive Editor

Why I was fired from the Student Union with two weeks to go

Editor,

I would like to present the top 5 reasons I was fired from the Student Union just two weeks before the end of the semester.

#5. I tried to get a computer for my department by going to Student Community Government. Last summer I asked the Student Union for money to purchase a new computer for Graphics. I was turned down. So I went to Student Community Government and with Alan Tenreiro, their treasurer, reworked our agreement so that part (25%) of the \$6,000 they give our department annually for art supplies could be used to purchase computer equipment. Earlier this semester I again went to Student Government, this time I asked for money to purchase a new computer; they approved the purchase at \$1500. The next day Kristen King and Mark Paolucci (Director of Student Activities and the Director of the Student Union respectively), vetoed the request, saying that it made them look bad for a student under their supervision to go outside the Student Union for money. I told them I was unaware of any problem, since all the money came from the same place (the students) and went to the same place (the students), but I apologized and assured them I wouldn't do it again. They were, after all, my bosses.

#4. I tried to get a computer for my department by making money. There are nine part-time designers in the Graphics Dept. and only two computers, and I was determined to get another computer for the dept. Since the Student Union wasn't giving me any money and Student Community Government was off

limits, I decided Graphics could earn the money for a computer on its own. And we did. Graphics earned over \$1,200 this past year, more than it ever has in the five years I've worked here, and with the 25% of our budget for non-art supplies we had over \$2,000 to purchase a computer. But anytime I tried to get Kristen's approval for the purchase, I got the run around. I was told to submit a written proposal, that she would look it over and that we would meet about it. The semester is over and Graphics still doesn't have a new computer.

#3. I talked to the Anchor about the new key system in the Student Union building. After an article ran in the *Anchor* in which myself, the head of WXIN, and the head of the yearbook all expressed unhappiness with the new, \$600 each, electronic lock system, Kristen King told me that she considered my comments a "slap in the face" and I showed disloyalty to my supervisor and the Student Union.

#2. She considers everyone dispensable. In a conversation during which I told Kristen of my plans to make Graphics more self-sufficient, and how I saw the potential for the department to win student awards and become a "feather in the college's cap." She told me that my plans didn't really matter because as she put it, "I would like to think that I make a difference around here, that without me the department wouldn't run as well. But the reality is that this place could run fine without me. Because we are all dispensable."

#1. I wasn't in line with the wants and needs of the Student Union and my supervisor. (Official Reason) As expressed to me, over the course of the year, the wants of the Student Union are for the students to do their job with an aim towards mediocrity. No one can stand-out or excel in a way not approved by Kristen King or Mark Paolucci. Don't push for things to advance, don't try and change things, because there are people who have been treading water for years and they'll be damned if a student is going to make waves. I may not be the kind of person who gets along with everybody, especially not vacant eyed status-quo worshipers like Kristen King, but I did my job damned well, and she knows it. I am not dispensable, never have been, never will. By firing me at the end of the semester, Kristen shows her petty vengeance. Why fire someone, who has done everything you have asked him to do, two weeks before the semester is over? When the department's work is done and you don't have to deal with him anymore, anyway? Could it be because Graphic's work is done, that since she doesn't need me anymore she can just get rid of me without repercussions? After all, I'm a student, who can I go to that will side with me against her? She's been here for almost ten years, and will most assuredly be here for another hundred; I graduate next week. So Kristen assumes victory, but she should be warned, I don't give up so easily.

Jacob Saariaho
Ex-supervisor of the
Student Union
Graphics Department

Campus is in need of wider spectrum of idea exchange

Editor,

The International Socialist Organization has an ideological monopoly in *The Anchor*, as well as on campus. This is, however, no fault of their own. I applaud ISO for making a great effort to spread their ideas to others and becoming so active on campus. The theories of Socialism are not only welcome to be discussed, but are essential to understanding our own political beliefs and reinforcing them.

Nevertheless, it is unhealthy to have only one side of the political spectrum expressing their ideas. We desperately need to have a wide range of ideas, in good taste, circulating throughout campus. And, these ideas have to be respected by the body of students in order to have a prudent and meaningful impact.

In the past, we have not seen much in the way of conservatively written letters or

commentary. However, I give much praise to Kathryn Geary's letter to the editor, which was very well written and perfectly stated. Personally, I do not know if Kathryn is conservative or not, but her letter certainly suggests that she is. Her letter addresses the problem with our loss of community to the materialistic lures and philosophical laziness of society today. We need to take time and reflect upon our own beliefs to help enhance our understanding of the world around us. If we do not, we will continue on this steady course towards a society that is shallow and unsociable.

I believe the pro-life advertisement in *The Anchor* sparked a poor reaction from ISO. Yes, it is their right to disagree with the pro-life position on abortion, but to paint it as "disgusting" is going a bit too far. The advertisement was in very good taste, reflecting heart-warming stories and

interesting facts. Being pro-life myself, I found it to be very refreshing and informative; perhaps it changed the heart of someone who was pro-choice. To deny that advertisement from being published would be an injustice to pro-life students, as well as keeping a balance of pro-life and pro-choice ideas. That is why I think their has been a flurry of letters to the editor regarding this matter.

Hopefully, this may spark more conservatively-prone students to write to *The Anchor*. The voices of the Socialists are being heard loud and clear. Now it is the time for others to join in and share the freedom of speech. We should not wait for the reaction of others to express our ideas. Rather, we should take advantage of expressing our views to others.

Gregory H. DePardo
From the Right

Letters policy clarified

The Anchor's policy on Letters to the Editor is that no letter will be replied to in that same issue of the paper, by a member of the staff or editorial board. Also, the letter will not be made available to any outside sources for comments. The only comments made in that same issue would be in the form of an editor's note, which is only used to correct a factual error or when the author has raised an issue or question that needs to be clarified by the Editorial Board.

On these pages, a letter appears and three

Seinfeld special about 30 minutes too long

by Michael Messier
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, May 2, I saw one of the worst episodes of *Seinfeld* ever. Yeah, it could have been worse, but this really was annoying. A show that once delivered endless pleasure had turned sour, like milk left out in the sun. Allow me to explain.

First we must realize this was an hour long episode. Now, *Seinfeld*'s a great sitcom but no sitcom has ever survived (that I can think of) using a one hour format week after week. One hour episodes are saved for holiday episodes, wedding episodes and those giddy flashback episodes that some shows, like *Family Ties*, breathe on their last few years. Even serious sitcoms like *M*A*S*H* and *All in the Family* stuck to the half-hour format, saving longer storylines for two or three parters. The famous tag line "to be continued..." tells us that the sitcom has failed to solve everyone's problems in thirty minutes, tune in next week and we'll see what we can do. Like good puppies, we are rewarded with the biscuit of solution after patiently begging for the whole week.

So, who the hell does Jerry Seinfeld think he is breaking with convention? The episode I saw last night was absurd, as *Seinfeld* always is, but truly unfunny, as *Seinfeld* hardly ever is. Even the laughtrax seemed restrained. Why did the show

fail? Allow me to explain.

The episode had four main plot lines. First, Elaine, Jerry's ex now just platonic girlfriend, was to go to a John F. Kennedy auction on behalf of her boss and bid as high as \$10,000 for a set of golf clubs. Elaine brought her steady date, Jerry, along to the affair and the two confronted a snobby woman who had words with them. I guess I've must have not seen some Must See TV as I had no idea if this woman was a recurring character. As could be expected, this woman auctioned against Elaine, who finally won the bidding with a bid of \$20,000. Now the hijinks can begin, right? Wrong.

Then my personal favorite, George Castanza, got into a bind with his boss. George was given a huge "project" by his boss, but doesn't know what it is because his boss was in the restroom when the assignment was given. Jerry asks George why he doesn't simply ask his boss what the heck the assignment was, but George can't (for the sake of comedy) bring himself to do that as he's already been chastized for not listening. George spends the rest of the hour searching for clues as to what "his project" is.

In an interesting setup, Kramer and Neuman - who I always see as just a poor man's George - get into a big scheme concerning returning bottles in Michigan which pays ten cents instead on New York's five. In one of the funniest moments last

night, Neuman believes the consumer has to pay to have his bottles recycled *not* the other way around. Kramer asks him what he thought hobo's were doing. "They're psychopaths" he responds.

Now with all this commotion, our hero Jerry needs an angle. Normally, the show would just have some bimbo with some type of neurosis pursue the comedian, but this week Jerry has car trouble thanks to Kramer and Neuman placing groceries under his hood. Jerry engages in a power struggle with his mechanic, who eventually kidnaps Jerry's car which now has JFK's \$20,000 golf clubs in the backseat. More predicaments.

The show seemed to move at even a faster pace than usual, odd considering the extra half-hour. The long, ridiculous circular conversations that I love between George and Jerry were nil in existence and importance. Kramer's wild interruptions through Jerry's front door were also markedly absent. Now I know breaks from tradition can be exciting, such as the infamous parking lot episode, but this show was disorienting. The characters were all off in their own worlds with not much connecting them.

Late in the show, Kramer and Neuman are on their Michigan fantastic voyage, when Kramer spots Jerry's car driven by the mechanic. Now Kramer is usually self-centered but he

drops off all the cans, bottles and eventually Neuman in an effort to lessen the weight of the truck and catch the culprit mechanic. Neuman finds himself at a farmer's house who is very hospitable but warns "Don't touch my daughter." The country vixen is enamored with the portly Neuman, supporting the theory that *Seinfeld* is a way to make Jerry and his friends feel like studs. C'mon, Neuman? When a nun fell in love with Kramer, it was funny, but this is beginning to be too much of an ego rub.

The glory of a sitcom comes from heavy personalities confined to a small area interrelating with each other. I cite *Gilligans Island* and *Whoops!* as examples. *Seinfeld* is becoming too big for its own good, the writers are trying to show us the individual lives of each character. We don't really need Neuman, let alone a Neuman love scene. A show like *Friends* works because the characters stay in those two apartments and Central Perk. *The Cosby Show* went for months with out leaving the comfy Huxtable compound. *The Brady Bunch* often had entire episodes without a non-family member, excluding Alice. Sometimes Sam was their only link to the outside world.

In the future, *Seinfeld* would be wise to stick with what got him to the dance: tightly wound shows about daily obscure annoyances like the Soup Nazi and your girlfriends strange rash creme, instead of far-fetched episodes like last week's disaster. We don't need to know every character trait of Jerry, George, Kramer and Elaine, all we need to make us chuckle is them yelling and screaming at each other in their predictable but lovable manners. Leave the circus to the flying arrow woman, Jerry, just give us our bread.

Rock's 1,000,000 pack-a-day habit

by Benjamin Jones
ANCHOR CONTRIBUTOR

"But he can't be a man/ 'Cause he doesn't smoke/The same cigarettes as me." The

ages to share, why this dirty, filthy habit? Why are popular musicians linked by a chain of coffin nails?

You may point out that rockers are not exactly

MUSIC

Rolling Stones

"I'm so tired, I'll have another cigarette/And curse Sir Walter Raleigh he was such a stupid git." The Beatles

"Time smokes a cigarette." David Bowie

"Smoke a cigarette and lie some more/Cuz conversation kills." Stone Temple Pilots

"And what it all comes down to/Is that I haven't got it figured out just yet/Cause I've got one hand in my pocket/And the other is flicking a cigarette." Alanis Morissette

Rock 'n' Roll Heaven is difficult place to picture, but we know one thing, the smoking section is enormous, and the non-smoking section is tiny. It would be even smaller but for the fact that Elvis likes to practice karate there. Other than him, it's basically just Karen Carpenter and Boogie Down Productions' Scott La Rock.

It will continue like this for the foreseeable future, as straight edge punks will flock to non-smoking, of course. So will Jonathan Richman and Morrissey, far as I know. But they will be dwarfed by the huffing, puffing legions of the lit-up.

Why should this be? Of all the things for rock stars through the

choirpersons in general. True, but there are a lot of vices to choose from. For one to predominate so totally, there must be larger forces at work.

The addictive personalities theory won't hold up either. Look at REM. They've never had any apparent problems with alcohol or illegal drugs. They haven't blown all their royalty checks on underage whores. Dick Gregory has never had to tell them, "You don't need the fudgicles, man. The strength is all in you." And yet Michael Stipe has been described as a chain smoker in several articles. Interesting. My theory is this: Where does rock 'n' roll come from? The blues. Also, a little from country. Now, many of the early legends in these forms did hard time. (LeadBelly, for example.) Others jumped railway cars. Some undoubtedly did both. So when music ultimately rises from the culture of prisoners and hoboes, it's only natural that their economy is transferred to it. Said economy being based on...

The next time you hear a band interviewed on the radio, and you hear that the singer's voice has a husky rodeo clown quality despite the fact that he sings like a eunuch (this means you, Ax1), you'll at least know why.

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The A.G's and Sinkhole: quality summer cookout music for you and your loser friends

by Ted Rao
ANCHOR EDITOR

Last issue of the semester, RIC community! I really shouldn't be writing this now; instead, I should be studying, but my undying commitment to you, the beloved member of the RIC student body, puts petty

otherwise.

Indeed, throughout my tenure as keeper of the second to last page of the Anchor (usually), I have spoken out against certain bands that were covered over the semester—thereby incurring their wrath. I voiced my punk rock constituent's concerns about these crappy bands, and how

majority of fans from the current scene, lose to bands that were supported by "special interest groups," groups such as big record companies and professional, back-scratching promoters. You might contend that that's part of democracy, **But clearly, I know better.**

(Umm, that was a poor attempt at local satire, and Swift-esque social commentary. If it made zero sense to you when you just read it, don't worry. It made even less sense to me the first time around.)

Moving on, I'm going to tell you about one of the greatest pop-punk bands that the world has ever produced. They came out of the great state of New Hampshire, and pretty much didn't get recognized until they were long gone; isn't that always the way? Yes, that's right, I'm talking about the A.G's! Current guitarist for Sinkhole, ex-member of the A.G's and head of Ringing Ear Records, Jon Clark has recently compiled the band's discography onto a single CD, entitled *This Earth Sucks*, so that you, the almighty consumer, can

possess the entire A.G's back catalog on one economical punk rock unit. Why, you ask? Because it's one of the best albums ever. Few bands have ever really captured the Descendants-meets-the Knack-meets-Motley Crue-meets the Angry Samoans-sound as well as these guys did during their relatively short existence, from around 1987 to 1991. In that time they recorded several EP's on various labels, then following a 15,000 mile cross-country trek of the United States with then-unknowns NOFX, recruited one Tommy Brosnan to take over lead vocals in replacement of the departed Bryan Mussulman (if that's his real last name, then he's pretty cool), then recording their amazing *Circus Berzerkus* LP on Forefront Records. One more tour was attempted, yet unfortunately for the A.G's, they made more splashes than dents in the punk scene of the day. "We came to the realization that no matter how hard we tried, or how bad we wanted things to work out, it just wasn't going to happen for the A.G's," stated Clark and bassist Thatcher

Ulrich in the album's excellent liner notes, and they soon broke up as a result of inner-band conflicts and otherwise general frustration. Minus Brosnan as singer, the remaining members later formed Sinkhole, who just released their new LP, entitled *Core Sampler*, also on Ringing Ear Records. The sound of Sinkhole is basically like The A.G's, maybe not quite so sophomoric with a little touches of Superchunk thrown into the mix. Basically the same deal, only now they seem to have moved beyond writing tunes like "I Like Boobs" or "Whippits." Now, whether that's a good idea or not will depend on your point of view. I personally prefer the A.G's brand of snotty pop-punk over Sinkhole's more grown up approach, yet they're both great listens, as are Sinkhole's other releases, such as their *Groping for Trout* and *Space Freak* LP's, and their excellent *Donkey* EP, also on Ringing Ear, which contains an excellent cover of Eddie Money's "I Think I'm In Love." All releases are available at either In Your Ear, Fast

Forward, or Tom's Tracks, and uhh... well, *I happen to think* that the average citizen would benefit greatly from sending three bucks to this address: Ringing Ear Records, 9 Maplecrest, Newmarket, NH, 03857-1401... because said citizen would then look in his/her/it's mailbox sometime in the near future and find a CD entitled *Flex Your Specs: The Ringing Ear Records Sampler* sitting there, just waiting to be played, enjoyed, trusted and treasured. It's an eleven-song disc with tracks from various bands on the Ringing Ear roster, including such notables as then-aforementioned Sinkhole and the A.G's, Doc Hopper, New Sweet Breath, Bender, and Huffy. To quote Eddie Murphy from one of his various comedy albums: "Wotta Bargain!" It allows you to... test the waters, perhaps? Personally, I think that it's great that there's a label that services bands from all over, yet is based in New England. Yeah.

Have a summer, and if it at all behooves you, you might care to support the scene!

SOUND ADVICE

concerns like my grade point average at the back of the bus. Yes! Let it be known here and now that I have **nothing** but the absolute best intentions of the RIC community at large when I formulate my now internationally renowned band rant, and at **no time** do I or any members of my entourage (both of them) submit ourselves to any sort of smoke filled, shady backroom exchanges of sexual favors, male, female or

terrible certain aspects of them were. I later apologized to these groups for being too brutal in such a public forum. Yet did they get wiped off the face of the planet? Did they stop making horrible music? Most importantly, did the club owners take heed of my concerns and stop booking them, therefore giving my ears a break? Hmmph! I watched as the bands who had the best songs and stage presence, and had the

If your girlfriend reads this column, marry her tonight

by Michael Messier
STAFF WRITER

So how'd you like my column last week? Pretty informative,

on all three of their opponents. They won the memorial "Bruiser Brody/Mad Dog tag team of the week" award for their sickening savagery. Kimona Wanna-

broken Hart, saying he's still the real champ.

Vince must be smashing his head against the walls in Titan Tower. These fans squell like the fat guy in *Deliverance* for Shawn to win the title, then when he does, it's suddenly not (big daddy) cool. Well, expect a rematch between Shawn and Brett with Brett regaining at *SummerSlam* unless the British Bulldog gets the job done first. The Bulldog, who happens to be Bret's real life brother-in-law as Bulldog is married to Diana Hart Smith, started a feud with Shawn at *IYH* by claiming Shawn made sexual advances to the lovely Ms. Diana. Bulldog, Diana and manager Jim Cornette confronted Shawn on *Monday Night Raw* the next night, which ended in a brawl. I can see the WWF easily flipping Shawn to heel and Bulldog to face in this feud, as those are the roles the two men are most comfortable with anyway. How can you really boo Davey Boy Smith anyway? Don't you remember Winston and Mathilda, how cute they were?

Also on *Raw*, Sunny came out to ringside and distracted the Godwins and the New Rockers in a match where the winning team was supposed to get a title shot with Sunny's team the Boddydonnas. Well, no winner, no title match! Sunny gets this weeks "manager of the week" and "POA of the week" awards.

In other riveting WWF news, Fatu is on the verge of turning bad and rejoining Samu and Tonga Kid in a Headshriker/SST reunion. Steve Austin will degrade himself by fighting Savio Vega in a strap match at the next In Your House. There was a rumor that the IYH pay-per-view would soon be on USA for free, but no signs of this happening right now.

Now onto WCW where the big news, literally McMahon, is that The Giant pinned Ric Flair on *Nitro* to win the WCW World Title. Jimmy Hart manages the Giant meaning Hart has now managed three WCW champs:

Flair, the Giant, and the great white tiger, Hulk Hogan. After winning the belt, the Giant gave a very Andresque interview, challenging anyone and everyone to fight him. It probably won't be Hogan, who's going to take most of the summer off to make a new film hopefully not *Mr. Nanny Again*. Look for Sting to dethrone the Giant at *Battlebowl*, WCW's next ppv.

Battlebowl features those crazy mixed up tag teams facing each other in wild and predictable matches. Look for the Public Enemy to dethrone Chris Benoit and Kevin Sullivan, Lex Luger and Road Warrior Hawk to beat Road Warrior Animal and Booker T, and Eddie Guerrero and Arn Anderson to upset Ric Flair and Randy Savage. Flair will most likely turn against Savage causing him to be pinned by Arn or Eddie. Maybe Eddie will use this as an opportunity to join the Four Horsesmen becoming the first minority Horsesmen. Flair, Anderson, Guerrero, and Benoit? Hey, it's better than Terry "don't call me chicken" Taylor.

Brad Armstrong is reported to have won the cruiserweight championship tournament. *Congratulations, Brad*. Kevin "Every other AFC team loses the SuperBowl, why shouldn't we" Greene of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Steve "yeah, I'm Shawn Michaels" McMichaels are scheduled to face Ric Flair and a partner to be named at the June ppv Great American Bash from Baltimore. Look for Greene to make Flair submit to a figure four, followed soon by Flair's "retirement." Read: a switch to the WWF.

Now on to the mail files... I have a grand total of one letter here, so due to default, I'll print it.

Dear Mad Dog,

How could you make fun of Hulk Hogan's thinning hair? Male pattern balding is a serious problem that affects many men, including some of the faculty members here at RIC.

To make it up to him, I think

you should write a column about all of his great accomplishments. You can talk about his won-loss record; he did beat Andre the Giant. He was only pinned fairly by one man, the Ultimate Warrior, the second greatest wrestler of all time. Personally, I think Hulk let him win, he wanted to be nice to a confused man who wears makeup. Two things: who is this Raven guy, does he wrestle on public access? And I've never heard of Ric Flair, is he supposed to be good?

Finally, how can you pick on someone who had such cruel parents; they named him Hulk. Think of all the teasing he had to endure when he lived in Venice Beach. Please don't pick on him any more.

Hulkamania Forever,
Marky Mark Bollea

Well Mark, I could make fun of Hogan's hair or lack thereof in a number of ways. I could laugh about it's color which switches regularly from white, to off-white, to orangey white. I could laugh that he has more of that strangely colored hair now than he did ten years ago. I could have a hearty chuckle that the official WCW dolls portray the mini-Hulk with a headband... anatomically correct dolls would be an embarrassment.

Hogan's great accomplishments? Okay, how about how he crushed the neck of the fearsome Richard Belzer, that wily comedian and star of *Homocide*, in 1985 a few weeks before *WrestleMania 1*? How about when Hogan told Arsenioooooo... Hall that he never did steroids only to admit that he did in fact use them a few years later at McMahon's steroid trial. How about the time he called the WWF World Title a stepping-stone to the Japanese IWGP title while he was WWF champion. Of course, this can be excused because Hogan was in Japan at the time and he didn't want to offend those mighty Japanese. (Did somebody say World War 2?) Hulk Hogan-

Real American. "No, no, no, no, no, no, no. That's dedicated to Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham." I am a Real American, fight for the rice of All-Japan.

As far as the Ultimate Lawyer, enjoy him while you can. He'll be back in Arizona faster than Public Enemy (the rap group not the formerly cool ECW tag team). Raven is the current ECW World Champion not to be confused with Draven who wrestles for the NEWA on Rhode Island Public Access. Mark, you might remember Raven as Johnny Polo, the manager of the Quebecers, three-time WWF tag team champions.

As far as Ric Flair being as good as your precious Hulkster let me offer this analogy. Ric Flair is spending the day with the girl of your dreams with a wallet stuffed with cash, and a car full of gas. Hulk Hogan is having diarrhea all day with a plugged up toilet.

Finally, I do sympathize with Hogan's childhood. I can't imagine being the half-brother of Brutus Beefcake, or excuse me, the Booty Man. I guess Hogan takes out all his hostilities on bullies like Vader and Belzer. By the way, the Hulkster was recently accused of sexual harassment. I guess he had one of those giant foam fingers somewhere it shouldn't be. Thanks Mark.

Well since I got jobbed last week, this week the column goes on forever! Now here's the first of what I hope is many Live Wrestling Reports...

On Saturday, April 27 at the Johnson and Wales Culinary Gym, the New England Wrestling Alliance stormed into town and tore the roof off the joint. It seemed to be about one hundred fifty there, and the crowd was an older wrestling educated group. The Triprider wrestled a scrub in the first match and delivered the \$27,000,000 move, a Rocker dropper which "paralyzed" his opponent. Then Bad-

See **OBJECT**, page 8
May 6, 1996 • 7

If your girlfriend reads this column, marry her tonight

OBJECT,
continued from page 7
boy Billy and Thrasher came in and attacked the ref and Tripri-der. The stage had been set for a night of extreme wrestling.

Next was a midget high chair match between former partners Tiny the Terrible (face) and Half-Nelson (heel). These are the best midgets in the business and their match was an all out war! Nelson is especially entertaining, much better than any Dink. After a brutal war where the high chair was used wonderfully, Nelson put Tiny in the chair, ending the battle. Long live the midgets!

Later, the match of the night took place as Blacktop Billy and

Thrasher defended their NEWA tag team championship against two teams; the Original Gangstas and Draven and El Diablo. Three heel teams in anything goes, elimination "extreme" match. The highlight was when Bill smashed O.G. Old Dog's head into a baby's leg! The mother of the baby was irate and began threatening the NEWA promoters! Hey, this is pro wrestling not Kinder Kare. Leave the brats at home!

Old Dog used my Pepsi can to smash Draven in the head, crutches and chairs were used, basically this was an ECW quality brawl. The Original Gangstas were the first ones eliminated and O.G. Hollywood blamed

this on a conspiracy of the other two teams. Billy and Thrasher went on to pin El Diablo and retain the belts. After the match, I threw up the ECW set which angered Draven. He invited me into the ring for an impromptu inter-federational brawl. Now Draven, you'll have to wait your turn. First I have to get rid of Kevin Lee Roth.

In the main event, Jim "the Anvil" Neidhart was pinned by Morgan the Maniac, the NEWA champion. This match really sucked as it was nothing but kicks and punches. Neidhart has lost some weight and looked good in his hot fuchsia Anvil pants. He tried to recruit me as his new partner and Johnny Ve-

lour as his new manager but I told him he'd have to get a decision over Morgan first. No wimps allowed.

The biggest loser in NEWA, this huge fat guy lost to Gorgeous Gino Giavanni when the Reverend, the fat guys manager turned on him and joined Gino. The huge fat guy joined the battle royal later in the night when two-thirds the field was already eliminated. Tough man all of a sudden! No, I can't remember the huge fat guys name, it was probably the Deadweight, or the Fat Lard or something appropriate. Yes, the fat guy won the battle royal last eliminating Gino. Those two then brawled for a while.

A radio and wrestling match took place earlier in the night between Kix 106 and 92 Pro Fm. This was a big brawl with just about everyone at ringside. Some crazy old, Fritz Von Erich looking guy was on the 106 team and he kept beating up Gorgeous Gino. Gino, for some reason, kept getting "egged" by the 106 people. Hey, I thought this was *the North*.

Antonio Adams also successfully held onto the TV title by beating the Pretty Boy. How come all Pretty Boys in wrestling are really damn ugly? Adams had a goofy Vietnam guy manager who should be dropped from the NEWA.

After the matches, I was able

to talk to a few of the wrestlers. I had a great interview with Hollywood of the Original Gangstas which I would like to publish in some forum in it's entirety. Perhaps in the summer edition of the anchor. Hollywood had some "extreme" statements about pro wrestling and these statements deserve concentration and consideration which I cannot deliver right now in my current state of mind. Don't worry, Hollywood... you're voice will be heard. Ah, I just remembered, Hollywood's partner Old Dog returned under a mask and lost a match to Battelstar. These guys flew Mysterio style! For this, I give wrestler of the week to Old Dog, for his pulling a Mad Dog... wrestling three matches in a night. Tag Team of the Week? Sunny, of course.

I also spoke to Blacktop Billy who basically threatened me when I asked him where he'd like to wrestle next. I suggested Billy try to hook up with Col. Rob in WCW but Billy insisted he's happy with Thrash in NEWA. Hey, they're right... when you wear the ten ounces of felt, why wrestle anywhere else?

Well, allow me to open real wide and thank some people who helped make the Foreign Object the number one weekly (sometimes) pro wrestling column in the Anchor. First, thanks to John and Jim for their acceptance of the column. Also thanks to "Cannibal" who encouraged me early in the game with his Jimmy Snuka stories. Thanks to MOTS, Amazin Jay, The British One and anyone else who provided me with information about wrestling I might have used in the column. Thanks to the wrestling hardcores the Four Horsesmen who know what time it is. Thanks to PLWs Tom Degan and Maniacal Mark for letting me, Johnny Velour and Killer into their league giving me "the insider's edge." Thanks to Ted, Eric and the rest of the Anchor that taught me how to use these damn computers (they did an excellent job). Alright, allow me to spit. Thank you, the readers for your undying support!

Alright, one last plug for Power League Wrestling. We are on the Interconnect Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. Our next two shows are on June 9 and June 28. Both shows cost only three dollars! The first show is at the North Providence Boys and Girls Club and will benefit that worthy charity. Already scheduled is a title defense for champ Amazin Jay and a dog collar retirement match between Kevin Lee Roth and yours truly. Kevin and I have a lot of unfinished business, watch me tear into his owl loving soul with that bloody chain! In fact, I guarantee BLOOD on the 9th! The 28th show is *Powerfest*, the annual SuperBowl of PLW. It will benefit the Cranston fireworks committee. For more info on that show, watch PLW or better yet attend the show on the 9th. Not only will you get to see a world title match and find out more on *Powerfest*, you'll get to see the end of a truly mediocre career... Kevin Lee Roth's.

That's all for now and remember *wrestling is real, life is fake!*

Mad Dog Mike Messier signing off....

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GET OUT!!!

A LIGHT LOOK AT THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

by James Braboy
MANAGING EDITOR

"Learn the words, you might sing this"

Tuesday May 7

What a fun week this will be: finishing up those papers, cramming for exams and for you dorm students, packing up and getting out of this place. Not like we'll miss you, but hey, we'll



Bloodloss will be at the Met Café on Tuesday night.

leave the lights on, ok.

Tonight make yourself walk or run. Or maybe just jump in a friends car. The go to **The Met Café** (130 Union St.; 861-2142). Why, you may ask? Well, besides getting a great view of **City Hall** and **Haven Brothers** you can check out the sounds of **Bloodloss** (with **Mark from Mudhoney**). \$5 is the price unless they decide to inflate it. Over at **The Living Room** (23 Rathbone St.; 621-1547/521-5200) **Energy** with **DJ Venom** (he likes coffee with a lot of sugar I think) and **Myth**. Go and make it last. Become one with the floor, the wall, and he who's hair is still of the two colors. Hey Jerry, we love you man. (No, you are not getting his B** Lite.) speaking of **Jerry Live Dead** happens at **The Call** (15 Elbow St.; 421-7170/421-7241). Go ahead, it's a groovy experience. And here is something that I may check out: **Crazy Ladies Night** at the **Ocean Mist** (895 Matunuck Beach Rd.; 782-3740). Just the whole theme can make you wonder. Almost forgot this show. At **Lupo's** (239 Westminster St.; 272-5876) **Sunvolt** illuminates the stage with **Gillian Welch** price for this one is \$8.

Travel to Newport this evening. At **Salve Regina University** (Cecilia Hall; 847-6650 ext.1283) the **Newport County String Orchestra** will give a **Spring Concert** at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday May 8

Woo Hah! I got you all in check. Yeah, I can only take so much of that particular **Busta Rhymes** song. But hey, it's music isn't it.

Tonight step on down around the corner from PPAC and stroll

The Anchor

on over to **Club Babyhead** for **Mutual Kind**, **Bodice Ripper**, and **Ian Faith**. Kind of cheap, only 4 duckets and hey you'll have some money leftover for donuts and frozen yogurt, yummy! "What Time is it?" **Morris Day & Time** jams it up at **The Strand** (79 Washington St.; 272-0444) hardcore TAFKAP fans will enjoy seeing if it's the original lineup. What you didn't see **Purple Rain**. Well that movie only scratched the

sounds for you to get your shuffle on. Can't go wrong, it's only six bucks. Over at **The Strand** those fellas called **Itchy Fish** perform and they have a new set! Whoopee. Tickets are only \$6 for this fun night on Washington Street. At **Lupo's** it's rocker **Buddy Guy**, with **Big Band**, and **Alvin Youngblood Hart**. This one is tad higher priced \$20, but hey it's almost summer. Need something else, then It's **The Call** for you and your friends. Check out the great stage and listen to **Steve Smith & The Naked**s. You could watch them to.

Hey, have a little performance with that dinner. **South Pacific** is what they are serving up tonight at **City Nights Dinner Theatre** (27 Exchange St.; 723-6060). Food and merriment begins at 7 p.m.

surface of **Morris Day's** talents. Tickets are \$15.50 in advance. Over at **The Met Café** it's **The Meteors** with **Candy Snatchers**. \$6 for that show. **Lupo's** brings the volume up with three bands. **Local H**, **Limblifter**, and **Stanford Prison Experiment**. \$5 is the cheap price ok.

Thursday May 9

Today point your web browser to URL http://www.atlantic-records.com/Junior_MAFIA/fulton.html. It's a site that takes you on a mission observing a particular music group. Check it out and follow the links if you can find them. It's a clever set up.

This afternoon check out the **Waterfront Business Expo** in blissful **East Greenwich**. (Water St.; 885-0020). There will be free business seminars and business after hours. It's being hosted by the **Blue Parrot Cafe** and **Harbourside Lobstermania**.

Tonight at **The Met Café** it's two bands **Scarce** and **Grifters**. \$6 is what you must pay to see them. If you don't like the shadow being cast by that light, walk a block over to **The Strand** for **God Lives Underwater** with special guest **Far**. Tickets prices are the same even though the music may be a bit different.

Friday May 10

The week is almost over and you may be one of those poor souls who still have exams, oh well everyone must suffer once in a while.

Tonight skank on down to **Club Babyhead** for some Ska! **Stubborn All Stars**, **Johnny Too Bad & the Strike Out**, and **Sgt. Skagnetti** provide the

Saturday May 11

Ok, take a ride in your car and jump on the **Block Island Ferry**. Participate in the annual **Beach Clean Up** (Corn Neck Rd.; 466-2982) and do something for your environment. (Cough, cough.)

Well last night the **Ska** show was at **Babyhead**, tonight it's over at **The Met Café** with **Bim Skala Bim**, **Rug Cutters**, **The Agents**, and **Mud Wams** and the fee for this show is six dollars. That must be a popular number. At **Club Babyhead** **Mixyplex** is the headliner with special guests **Comic Book Superheroes**, **Scarab**, **Johnny Orange Peel**, and **For Chameleon**. Only five for this one. **Lupo's** is the location for **Dada** with special guests **Gren** \$8 to get in.

Sunday May 12

If you want to purchase a new canoe or kayak, but want to test it out first, then head on down to the **Kayak Centre** (Wickford Cove, 9 Phillips St.; 295-4400) and take advantage of their **Kayak & Canoe Demo Day**



Son Volt will be at Lupo's on Tuesday night. They are (l to r) **Dave Boquist**, **Jim Boquist**, **Mike Heidorn** and **Jay Farrar**.



Stanford Prison Experiment (l to r) **Mario Jimenez**, **Mark Fraser**, **Davey Latter** and **Mike Starkey** will be at Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel on Wednesday.

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can test paddle the finest. Even if you don't plan on purchasing one, **Wickford** is good this time of year.

Don't want to travel away from the city. Then this afternoon go to the opening reception for two shows at the

Providence Art Club (11 Thomas St.; 331-1114). In the main gallery works will be on display from **Vivien Jones** and **Lisa Goddard** over in Dodge House **Dean Richardson**. Reception begins at 3 p.m. and continues until 5 p.m.

Tonight check out **Sunday School** with resident DJ's **O'D** and **Venom**. The sound will take you over the threshold and you won't want to return to the barrier.

Monday May 13

So the week begins once again and you are free of the responsibilities of papers, presentations, and other school related work. Now what are you going to do. Summer job? Summer classes or summer fun. Just **Choose Wisely**.

Tonight at **The Met Café** it's **The Kaiser** and **Neanderthals**. Sounds like a good lineup to me. Call the club for prices and any last minute changes. **Club Babyhead** has **Into Another**, **Garden Variety**, and **Shift**. Wow, a Monday night show. \$7 in advance is what they want. At **Lupo's** you can get your swerve on with **DJ Buck** as he rips it up on the one and twos. **Madd Mondays** keeps on happening baby!

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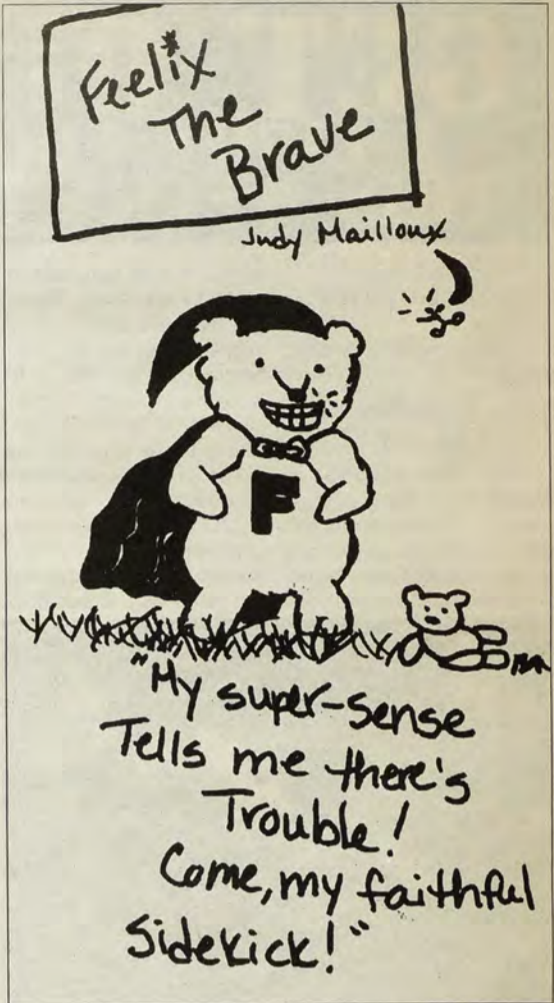
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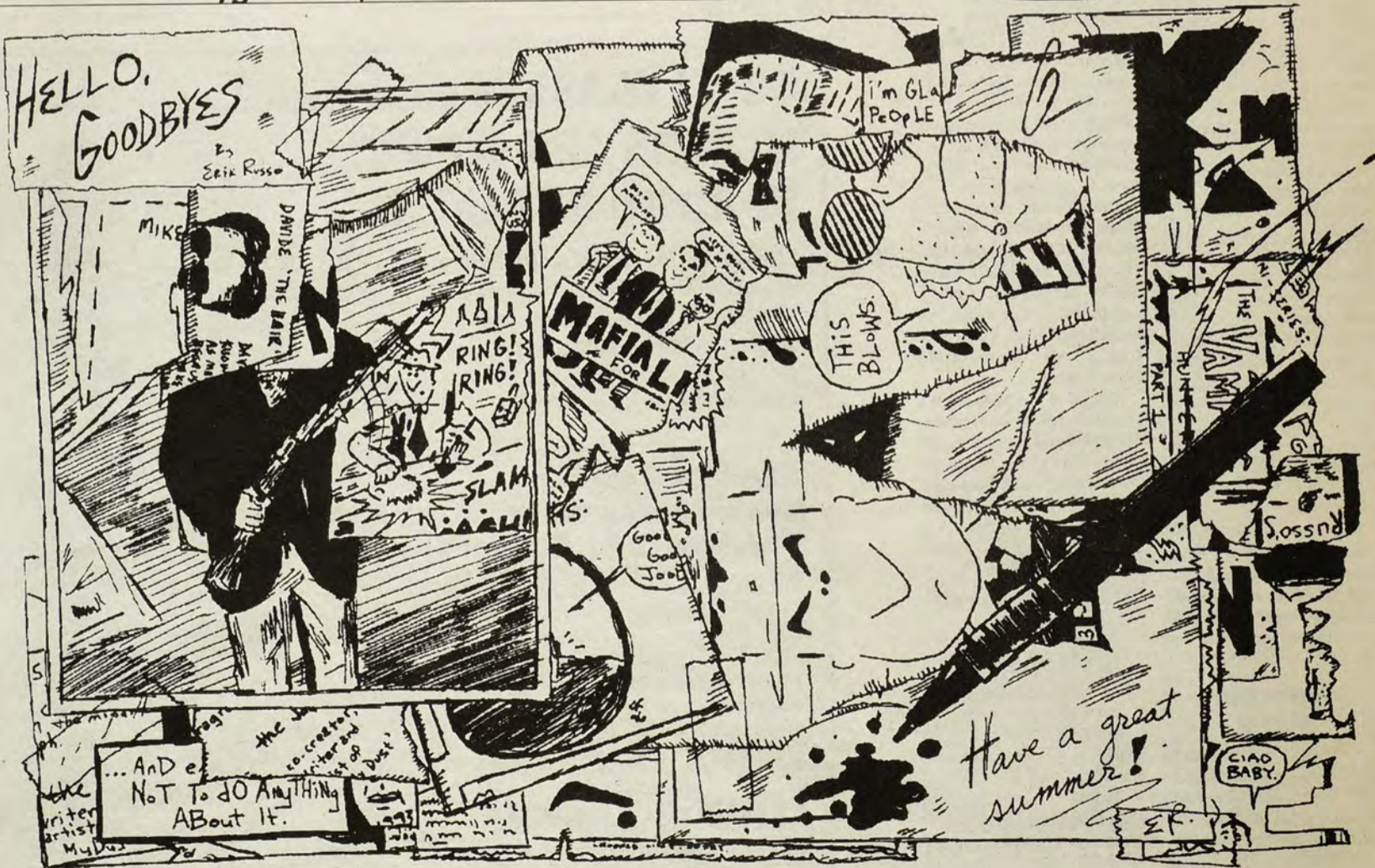
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SCHTICK
 Don't you hate those crazy SOCIALISTS? I mean, I'm a Social guy, am I SOCIALIST? Socialists sounds like a list of people you're social with not a bunch of commies who want to share your stuff! I mean, do they share every-thing? your wife? your dog? your last Deawut Mand M? your weed? your Donovan Points? How come all those Socialists are middle-aged bald guys with beards? What, do they donate their hair to Lenin's grave to keep the old guys corpse warm? I mean, you know... Ask a GOMMY for half his money, see how Social he is then!
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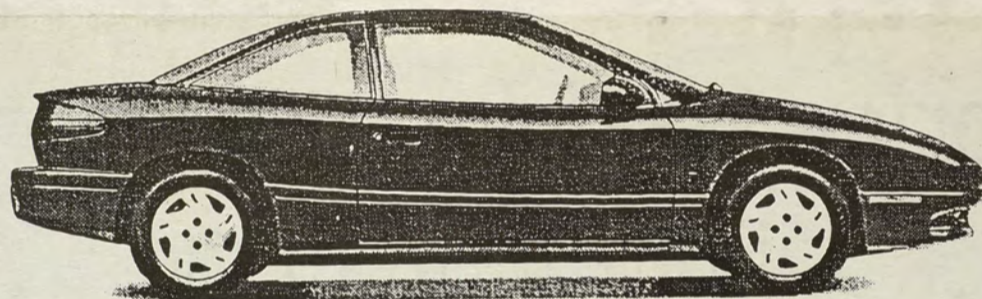
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f n. Ancho .

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The Anchor is already preparing for the 4th Annual Commencement Magazine!

This full-color magazine is given to every senior on Commencement Day.

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feels embodies your time at RIC.

Send submissions to: Commencement Issue, The Anchor, SU308, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI, 02908.

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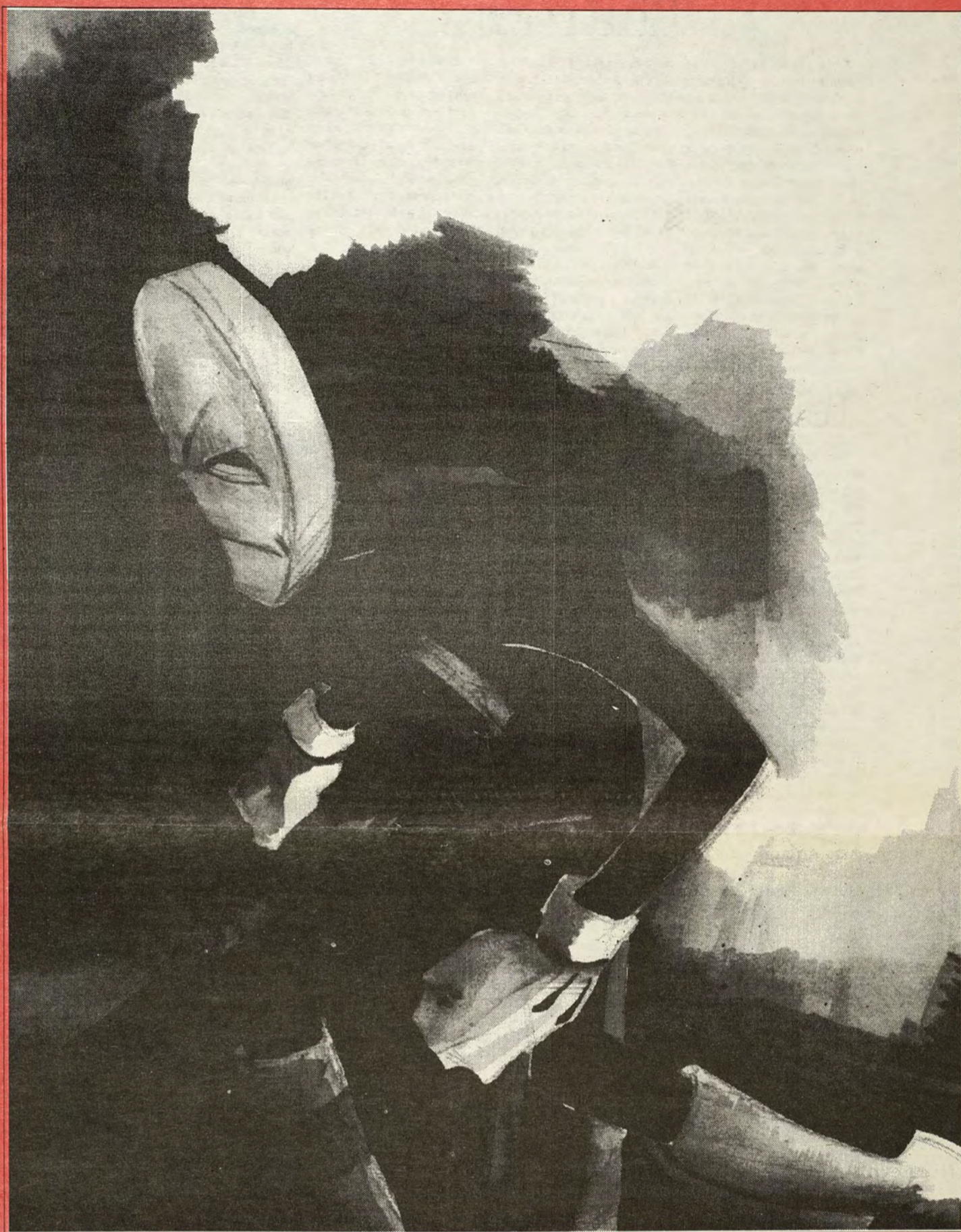
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SIAM

The Anchor

May 6, 1996

Section 11

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Thanks

Well, this is it. The submissions in this week's issue didn't make the official deadline for the last issue, but instead of holding on to them until next semester, we decided to run a special couple of pages to finish off the season. Thanks again for all the submissions. By my calculations, the SLAM project was pretty damn successful. And as far as that goes, most of the credit should go to everyone who took the time to contribute. I'd most especially like to commend everyone who helped get the first few weeks going; Brian Wentworth for the graphics (I know that I owe him

more than a pound cake), Mark Retarde Lambert for busting my chops enough to keep me running on spite when everything else went flat, Chris Greene for being my best friend, Billy Ray for the pix, S.B. for refusing to submit but never forgetting to be around, Anthony and Charles for the goodies and Tom Cobb for whatever it is that he does/doesn't do.

And if you didn't get a chance to check out the student reading last week, I'm afraid you missed one hell of an evening. The turnout was most excellent. I'd like to thank Sean Gilooly for taking care of the music, Jessica

D'Abrasca for taking care of business and Sheila Harvey for taking care of me.

The next time someone tries to tell you that there's nothing going on around here, tell 'em to shut the f*@k up. I think that in the last few weeks, we've proven that there's a hell of a lot more going on besides *Melrose Place* and *Riptide* reruns. Besides, we've got Mike Messier. What more could you ask for?

In any event, I look forward to next season. Have a good one.

melissa lawrence
SLAM EDITOR

Tell it on a mountain

I am breaking away from the norm, rocking the boat, marching to my own beat on someone else's drums (don't ask). Rather than write a critique on one piece of art (like I do every week) I have decided to write about the setting, mood, and the horses of a different color, at last week's Slam poetry reading.

The electric blue carpeting of the Alumni Lounge off set the dim lighting just beautifully while the yellow (if you can call them that) couches and chairs, provided comfy squats for those extra long readings. Nervous, unexpected, anxious, calm, and the indifferent, were all present. Offered up to set the "poetic" mood for the evening was Jane Monaghan and Sean Gilooly singing their own powerful version of "The Lady of Chaland."

Words, words, and more words were tossed through the air for two hours. A courteous and attentive audience welcomed Chris Greene, with "splashes of red" as the night's first reader. Offering an original version of *Masterpiece Theater*,

Chris and his co-star, Sheila Harvey, performed a scene from a short story written by Chris, *The Mind of the Beholder*. Sheila didn't stop there though. She enticed us all, with wonderful words welcoming to ears eternally encumbered by pitiful prejudice.

Other images, tossed to the electrifying fog that hovered over the lounge, were those of a lonely (but beautiful) leaf in the world of Jason Peters. Taking us on a race against time, Mark Lambert told us of two individuals who needed a whore for 250 big ones (points). The only thing standing in their way was that damn Golden Cow and a frozen fish.

Realizing sour cranberries are nothing like cake, Melissa Lawrence confronted her late friend and her all too real and alive emotions, while a Porcelain Doll is given life by one Jayson Mello. The life of a retard and the one and only friend he obtains (and later loses) tugged at my heart strings, with Charles Bibeault as the puppet

master. Lifting the mood a bit to a finger snappin', toe tappin', guitar jam was Larry Marshall. Confiding in us the turmoil, joy, and head scratching times of a relationship, Anthony Lofreddio bared all. Last but certainly not least, the "debonair" man himself, Mike Messier, took time out of his busy schedule to share with us the Age of... (no, not Aquarius) but the Age of the Man.

To those of you who may have missed the reading, much of what I wrote will read like stereo instructions. Not to worry, another reading is rumored to take place next year- don't miss it. However, for all of those aspiring (talented might I add) poets and musicians who shared in the electric fog, will know exactly what I am talking about. To all of you, I say thanks. Thanks for the chance to hear your souls and for listening to mine as well.

jessica d abrosca
SLAM STAFF

On May first, I attended the Slam poetry reading in Robert's faculty lounge here at Rhode Island College. The reading featured contributors to the Slam, a literary section that comes out in *The Anchor* about once every other weeks. Melissa Lawrence, the talented young lady who's in charge of Slam hosted the event.

I arrived a few minutes early and found myself walking behind Larry Marshall, the young beat guitarist who I had lunch with earlier that day. I had reviewed Larry's music for *The Anchor* that week. Seeing "The Deputy" twice in one day must have been a sign, but of what I did not know.

Then I sat down in the faculty lounge and had a conversation with Mark Lambert. Mark and I share Adolescent Literature, a class here. Mark also started a propaganda campaign against Schtick Man, my popular(?) cartoon in *The Anchor*. Mark and I put politics aside and discussed how we planned to fail our class.

Then came in Scott Lefevere, a suitemate and sometimes friend of mine. In a rare act of agreement, Scott and I decided to commander the couch at the front of the room. Soon, Melissa began to introduce the show and I looked around for the wine and cheese. There was none to be seen.

My friend Jane and one of her hippie friends sang a very nice Celtic song to begin the festivities. I was shocked by how good they were, Jane and the unknown hippie can really sing! Then the hippie and another guy sang a Beatles song which was pretty good. Then they dragged Scott to the front of the room and after a long winded intro he sang a few songs with his guitar accompaniment. I've got to admit, Scott did well, he even impressed me and I don't impress easy.

Let the poetry finally begin! Actually, it wasn't just poetry, but an open invitational read. Highlights included Lambert's story about two boys on a scavenger hunt who will earn 250 points if they bring in a live prostitute. The hooker they find turns out to be that human arrow girl from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Lambert's story was long but it was peppered with comedy. It seemed like his story took twenty or thirty minutes. It made me wonder if Mark realized he wasn't the only poet that night scheduled to perform.

One guy read "The Porcelain Doll" a story I had read in Slam. I believe his name was Jayson Mello. He read very well and he seemed like quite the college poetry guy, but I didn't get a chance to meet him. He was loud and articulate which was good considering the large room and lack of microphone. I had no trouble understanding anybody but I wondered about the people in the back of the room, who may not have heard everybody. Some people mumbled and Lambert suggested glasses of water for the poets but this was never done.

Another guy with a big wooden cross dragging down his neck went up and read a story about co-workers Mike and the mentally retarded John. This was a very touching story but I was annoyed that the character John always said "me" instead of "I." This seemed to be an easy way of representing retarded people.

Finally, it was my turn at the mic. Melissa gave me a long and crazy intro, saying I was the creme de la creme of the evening. This was probably just because I was last and she wanted to keep people from leaving early. I went up and read selections from the book "Styling Your Face" by Way Bandy. I got a good pop from the crowd and I put on my TV face. I didn't want to read my own work because I didn't feel like having myself judged any further by people at RIC this semester. So, I copped out, but Larry and Mark said they enjoyed it so I guess all is forgiven. And that's the way it was on May first, 1996.

mike messier
SLAM STAFF

Dearest Mike: FYI, the crazy hippie was Sean Gilooly, who's really not a hippie at all, your introduction was arguably most appropriate and the wine and cheese happened later on at my place, but you just weren't invited to that. Maybe next time, 'eh bub? - Melissa

Credits

Cover art by Dan Larson

Layout & Design by John Valerio

African panhandling

Don't we have a grain belt?
When will the bumper crop finally come?

Must we perpetually panhandle
When the fertile fields beg of cultivation
When solar energy is an African gift?
When abundant precipitation is also an African gift?
Where is our irrigation?

Look at Ethiopia
Look at Sudan
Look at Somalia

We are our own responsibility
Independence must be through.

The proud lion won't panhandle
The swift cheetah won't panhandle
The elegant giraffe won't panhandle
Even though there will be a drought.

by stephen mends

Poetry

death of a popular professor

odd
they all said:
dead.

sudden
heart
stopping.
you didn't know,
at first.
abstracted from
the world
like him.

by rma

African Prayer

Some people want
Dem no get

Some people get
Dem no want

We, want
We get o
Help us God.

by stephen mends

Wishing you were here with me

Sitting on my porch
This cold, lonely winter day
Feeling lost inside

Feeling so lonely
Wishing you were here with me
We could share our dreams

I hear a car stop
I look up towards the driveway
And see you step out

I smile and stand
And saunter up to greet you
You see me and grin

You laugh with delight
As I pull you close to me
And kiss you warmly

I am so happy
That you came and broke the spell
Of my loneliness

My blues are long gone
You made them yesterday's news
When you came to me

I love you truly
You are my one and only
Now and forever

by m.h.p.

Fixin' what ain't broken

Hey Ginsberg,
I've been howling your name all night,
kitty crawling along the ocean rails
and tossing my spit down into the waves

wandering, wondering
about the crumbs in my pocket,
the succulent lisp of the h-bomb
baby-

tossing cassidy cards and kerouac cake
to the fool in the village who knows

'that chicks shouldn't get so squeezed-
cause when they do
there jus' ain't no compensation'

so do I bend and break,
flatten my breasts against their lips
and kiss,
or let the frothy milk of a death drop impending
come up and wash me away.

junky girl
pony pumped until spring vacation ends
and then they send me back to school
with the ache in my belly, you know Allen,
that ache, the one that no food will fill.

by a.e.l.

Untitled

Feeling like I gave up today,
Like I could have tried harder
After all these years I just stopped
Stopped thinking about your feelings,
your dreams, your love.
Everything has stopped.
There is a permanent silence
between us
A silence that weighs heavy in my
heart
A heart once filled with an
unconditional love
Now filled with guilt
Could I have kept going
Going on loving you, not knowing
if you really loved me.
Love blinded me from a cruel
reality
Your one true love was many
Love is said to be patient,
Kind, and forgiving.
Forgive you, I have
Still there is silence between
us.
If I kept on going would we
speak now,
Feeling like I gave up today
Like I could have tried harder
Today I lost my love
Who was my good friend.

by e.b.

Roetry

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African wildlife conversation

Why, oh why?
Just because of your piano key
An ivory laden elephant must die

Just because of aphrodisiac
A solemn horned rhino must die

Just because of your encroachment,
Our lion, our giraffe, our gorilla, our cheetah
Our chimpanzee, our wildebeest, our gnu,
Our impala, our Zebra.....alas
must die

We kill only what we eat
We eat all that we kill
You don't even like elephant meat
You just kill for sport and for money

You decimated your bold eagle
But that is o.k. with us

Where is the swift passenger pigeon I never saw?
We need our wildlife so
Stop poaching.

When will stop killing the chinchillas?
When will you stop killing the civet cat?
When will you stop killing the alligators?

Living in harmony with innocent animals
Will bless you.
Stop poaching!

by stephen mends

Untitled

I forget to mention the leaves in the bedroom,
the way they have piled
like coffee grounds, swirling in the bottom of my cup.
I will leave them for summer, to burn in the fire

to swell in the moist air of the after shock

when you will shake
like trees
in the tremor of night,
reaching into the cool space
of cotton linens,
your limbs twisting into fleshy knots

nothing
no one
to pull into the breeze.

And I will cry those tears of triumph,
clearing away the breakfast dishes,
pouring the old, sour coffee down the sink,
watching it swirl away
with an ocean of egg shells
and warm soapy water

washing my hands

by m.a.l.

no more miles to go

Loyal
sad dog licks
eyebrow icicles
whines
then
leaps,
bounding home.

by rma

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I stood staring at the statue,
A clean milk-white porcelain figure.
An aster in one hand,
a scroll in the other, raised to heaven.
His posture perfected, just as
The Father told me when I was a wee one.
Legs, not too straight,
bent and slightly apart

His
arms (beautifully
crafted),
straight
by
his
porcelain
side.

Interesting: His eyes gouged out:
(kids on gang trips do some
great things in seemingly holy places
as their teaches become blinded by the beauty of art).
I had though I was gazing upon some pragmatic philosopher,
or [perhaps a great mind of science,
an inventor of some monumental,

technological machine.

(A Member of the Manhattan Project?) No, No.

As I found out He was a great American leader, Yes,
"a hero,

one who protected out great
land from terrible enemies
a lover of democracy and freedom".

And that was inscribed on a bronze sign
hanging above his lustered head.

Now that I knew for certain what he was,

I noticed his mouth was drawn in a stoic look of determination,
like a soldier ready to die for a blind, red, white and blue cause.

(I wish I had known his eyes before the tragic scape with fate).

Just then man of great wisdom stepped up from the low shadows of the room,
the pin on his lapel greeted all with a gaudy:

"HELLO,
my name is Jim".

His head high he whispered:

"You see, my son, this man did great things for our country.

Drove those dirty injuns out of our land, they wouldn't move you know.
Hung niggers up on trees. Let them dangle so they would know their sins.
Let jew bastards fry in ovens overseas. (You know how now he protected our
fragile economy!) BY NOW HE WAS LIVID! Shouted

out:

Stuck japs and chinks in California prisons. They presented threats to his
security.

And of course, we can't forget about commies, faggots and
gooks too. He took care of them all. A national gentleman for all
Seasons!"

And so somehow ole' Jimmy had
procured a soapbox during his speech
And jumped on top (Screaming now, I think)

While museum patrons silently
watched and listened so

intently to the session
about this mans life
and all his American
accomplishments.

heroic as they were
and they clapped good
and you would too. Because MY FRIENDS
you do every time you sing of
star spangles banners.

by robert kelly

Untitled

Yesterday your eyes,
Dancing with joy,
looked deeply into mine
And we embraced for what seemed like hours
even if only for moments.

But now,

The clouds of a stormy day fill them
And the reflections of dancing
appear only as long as a flash of lightening,
and with the frequency of the sun
peeking through the November clouds.
Your anxious smile of before,
which reflected the sun,
is now grey as the air of London.

Have you fallen so from the heights of joy
to the depths of despair?

Did you ever give of yourself so freely
that the greed of many claimed the pieces
without ever replacing a shred of your being?

Or have the misfortunes befallen you such
that your strength could not lift you above trouble?

And here I am

With presumptuous arrogance abound
offering myself.

Take freely of me, I expect nothing in return,
For no matter how you drain me

I will again be full

When I see joy in you eyes once more

by ed hardeman jr.

What is love?

Love Is

A warm feeling in your
Heart that you have never felt before.

Love Is

Like a wish upon a star
for all is happiness when you find love.

Love Is

Having someone you trust hold
Your hand when you are in doubt.

Love Is

Having someone wipe
Away the tears when your heart is broken.

Love Is

Knowing that you can count on
Each other for support through good or bad times.

Love Is

Being with someone who could
Always make you smile when you are sad and insecure.

Love Is

A feeling of walking on the air
When you share a soft tender kiss.

What is love?

It is a feeling deep within
Your heart that only you will know when
someone comes into your life and shares
With you the meaning of love.

Love Is

Something nobody can tell you what it is,
But when it happens...
Listen to your heart and you will know.

(to lucky)

by sarah

Poetry