



Chile study abroad trip

Faculty member misused student money

Students file complaints about costs of study abroad trip

by SETH VINCENT

Students who paid more than \$3,000 in spring quarter of 2008 for a program-related trip to Chile feel faculty member Jorge Gilbert misused their money.

Students Basil Weiner and Rebecca Moorman, among others who were enrolled in *International Policy and Business: Latin American Reality*, filed complaints with The Evergreen State College. They reported, first, that the airline tickets Gilbert bought with their money turned out to be invalid and, then, that Gilbert required them to pay more than what they determined was most likely the trip's actual cost.

Four of the 15 students bought their own airline tickets. The remaining students directly paid Gilbert for their airfare — \$1,056 each. In a statement he submitted to Evergreen police concerning ticket purchase, Gilbert said he wrote a check for \$12,636 to Maria Ligia May to pay Buena Vista Travel for 12 tickets. He deposited the check in May's account in the Olympia Westside branch of Wells Fargo Bank. Four students got actual tickets and the remaining seven students received "e-ticket information via email and were told to pick up tickets at the airport," Gilbert said.

Moorman said she started to worry when the email forwarded by Gilbert, containing the itineraries for the group's flight, had her name misspelled and did not include a ticket confirmation number. After asking Gilbert for help and not hearing back, Moorman says she went to the Buena Vista Travel agency.

To her disappointment, she

discovered the agency had booked tickets with Alaska Airlines but not paid.

"When I called Alaska about the tickets, they told me to report it as fraud," Moorman said.

Seven students had to buy replacement tickets. The college paid directly for tickets for two of the seven and reimbursed another two students. Students and Evergreen, altogether, paid over \$10,000 for the replacement tickets.

When Moorman and her mother went to Buena Vista to find out about the original tickets, Buena Vista's May told Gilbert in an email that the agency "experienced a major cash flow problem with our financial support which caused us undue delay in our ticketing... We feel deeply sorry about this situation, and we will make it up in any way possible. We can assure you that there was no ill intent, or attempt to defraud these children and their families. We will make it up to them in every reasonable way."

However, Buena Vista did not make it up to the students and not much later declared bankruptcy.

In the meantime, academic dean Ken Tabbutt asked Gilbert by email to produce a detailed statement about the money students gave him and the purchase of the tickets so police could file a fraud report. Gilbert complied.

Moorman's concerns continued even after she and her fellow students arrived in Chile.

Before leaving, students gave Gilbert money to pay the \$70 a day they were told would be needed to cover food, lodging, and transportation.

Once in Chile, as students learned more about the prices of everyday necessities like meals, a place to sleep, and bus fares, they started questioning why they had to pay \$70 a day. And they wondered exactly what was their money being spent on.

"It didn't really feel like we'd gotten what we paid for," said Weiner.

The activities, travel, food, and lodging costs of the study abroad trip were questioned by the

see **CHILE**, page 4



STUDENTS VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS AT THE GSU FORUM, IN THE HCC

OLGA PETRUS

Rifle purchase proposal forum

by MADELINE BERMAN

On January 20, the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) held a forum in the HCC to discuss the proposed rifle purchases by the campus police services. This allowed the students a chance to ask questions and discuss their feelings about the proposal.

No representative of police services was present at the forum. This was due in part to some students feeling unsafe expressing their opinions in front of an officer. Another reason—according to GSU

representative Alexander Chateaubriand—was that police chief Ed Sorger did not want to put his officers where they could be harassed.

A variety of viewpoints were presented at the forum, including "This money could be used for earthquake response," and "It's obvious they want [guns] so that they can have more control over the campus and how people act."

see **RIFLES**, page #

Lost passes, old dates

by KRISTINA WILLIAMS & JASON SLOTKIN

Parking Services is trying to re-obtain several STAR Passes, a special bus pass for temporary college employees, that were issued to students during the 2007-2008 school year. The department is now charging late fees to students from that school year who have not returned a pass.

To get these passes returned, the department started charging a \$20-a-month fee to students who hadn't returned their passes from the aforementioned time period. The application, accepted by Parking Services required students to sign under a statement which read, "If I do not return the card, I understand I will be assessed

\$20.00 per month for every month remaining until June 30, 2008."

For many students, their temporary employment status ended after the date to which the fee applied. Regardless, Parking Services began calling students and different departments in the school informing them that fees would be imposed if STAR Passes were not returned.

STAR Passes were issued to students who were employed on-campus over the summer and were not enrolled in classes. The STAR Pass is a separate photo ID that allows students to continue to ride the bus for free, even while not registered for classes. These passes were issued under the condition that they be returned at the end of employment with the college, or when classes started

in the fall. Students who were issued a pass signed a form that said they agreed these conditions.

However, several of these passes were not returned to Parking Services, the office that issued the passes. There are currently over 1,000 passes unaccounted for, and Parking Services is trying to get the approximately 74 unaccounted passes from the 2007-2008 school year returned.

Susie Seip, director of Parking Services, said she would talk personally with students who object to fees because of the out-of-date form, but she is concerned with collecting the passes to maintain the program.

"I don't want to stop the program or be forced to stop [the STAR Pass Program]," said Seip. Before charging the late

see **STAR PASS**, page 5

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Budget Forum Summary

vox pop



cpj

What are your thoughts on proposed rifles for Police Services?

by MIKEY J. BADGER AND JAKE SALZAR



"What the hell do they need rifles for?"

Ellie Loggins

Senior

Spain and the Americas



"I would say I am against the cops having these weapons..."

Tyler Magnuson

Sophomore

Work and the Human Condition



"I don't see much of a problem with it. I mean, they're not going to start shooting kids left and right. I mean, they are there for our protection."

Charlie Kruger

Freshman

Work and the Human Condition



"I think it's really dangerous. And I think something needs to be done about it. It doesn't seem that it's very organized right now."

Maddy Stevens

Freshman

Decolonizing the Mind

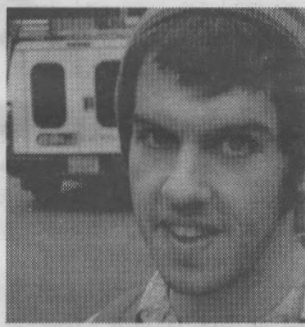


"We need to be looking for alternate solutions that would promote prevention rather than response."

Tasha Glen

Senior

Experiments in Text



"I don't really know anything about it."

Mark Yates-White

Junior

Independent Learning Contract

Have a Vox Pop question you'd like to ask? Email cpj@evergreen.edu.

Student Group Meeting

5 p.m. Monday

Find out what it means to be a member of the student group CPJ.

CPJ Forum

1 p.m. Wednesday

Discussion on issues related to journalism.

Post Mortem & Issue Planning

5 p.m. Thursday

Critique the last issue of the CPJ and help plan for the next one.

All meetings are held in CAB 316

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Free business workshops and Bainbridge Island trip

by BEN ANDERSON

The mission of Center for Sustainable Entrepreneurship (CSE) is to provide a student-run resource center supporting sustainable entrepreneurship in the community. We meet on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in SEMII A2109.

We invite business owners and entrepreneurs to our meetings to talk about why and how they started their own businesses. They also discuss any struggles they went through and aspects of their business that make it unique. They also answer questions from aspiring entrepreneurs, giving an opportunity for students to ask questions that they may have regarding entrepreneurship. In the past, we have heard from people who were tired of working for other people, wanted to provide fair trade products to a market that supported unfair labor practices, and others that are just passionate about their particular field.

The last Wednesday of every month for the next five months (with the exception of March) CSE, in cooperation with the Economic Development Council and Small Business Development Center, will be providing a free business plan workshop. Each session will be geared to build on itself, but also each session will also provide information about the business plan that can stand on its own, so that people attending can choose to come to the sessions in sequence, or only come to a few sessions. The dates of the workshop will be January 28, February 25, March 11, April 29, and May 27. Topics discussed at each session, in order, will be Product Development and Market Research, Business Structure and Basic Financial Statements, Marketing Plan, Operations Plan and Staffing, and Budgeting and Financing.

If you have an idea for a business or a product, this is a great opportunity to make your ideas come true. Learn what it takes to bring that idea or product to the market.

CSE is also planning a trip to Bainbridge Graduate Institute on Bainbridge Island, Washington. This is tentatively planned for February 7. BGI specializes in offering Masters in Business Administration and certificates that "prepare diverse leaders to build enterprises that are financially successful, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable." We will be attending their info session titled "Sustainable Saturdays." That info session will include a campus tour; an informational overview of the program; sitting in on two classes, one from the Entrepreneurship & Intrapreneurship track and one from the Foundations of Sustainable Business track; time with Gifford Pinchot, BGI Co-Founder, and a free lunch with the students and faculty.

CSE has funds for a 12-passenger van and has only a few seats left. The trip and events are free and lunch is provided. It will be a long day. We will leave at 7 a.m. and get back at 7 p.m. (tentatively). To reserve a seat in the van, please email CSE at cse@evergreen.edu. Also, feel free to contact us regarding the business plan workshop or for more info about CSE.

Ben Anderson is a junior enrolled in Advanced Foundations of Successful and Sustainable Business.

Voices of Color

Spanish and English: bilingual identity

by LIZA RENDON

There is a generation of Mexican-Americans who don't speak Spanish. It's a double edge really. Our parents—mine were born and grew up in Texas—were told by their teachers, "Don't speak Spanish; Spanish is bad." Even Mexican-American teachers who were fluent in both Spanish and English had to tell their pupils "Don't speak Spanish," and these teachers were also reminded by their peers not to speak Spanish.

Later in my parents' life, they would again skate on the double edge when their employers enforced "No Spanish Spoken" policies. These policies went so far that the state of Texas mandated a law that forbade Spanish to be spoken in the workplace. Yet the law wasn't enforced at the bank at which my mom worked, when they needed a translator. My mom wasn't paid extra

for her Spanish skills, and her employers never asked her if she would translate; it was a given that she would. My father, a cop in Texas, often was asked "Hey Joe, can you translate to this Mexican?"

Why am I writing this? Well, the other day I was riding the bus and somewhat paying attention to various conversations, when I overheard this young woman say, "Yeah, but she doesn't speak Spanish."

Now, she could have been talking about something unrelated, but the context I took it from was: For those who are "Hispanic" and don't speak Spanish, we too skate on that edge. Spanish-speakers sometimes look down on us. Their eyes and tone change from a bonding, "yeah were in this together," to "oh, you think you're too good" and sometimes to "how embarrassing—you don't even speak Spanish!" or my least favorite, which I heard in 2003 from a young man, "how can you call yourself a Latina? You're not a real Mexican."

Does this younger generation know how much its grandparents' generation gave up,

how much our parents compromised, how much they still compromise? Compromise to fit in, to be accepted.

When I asked my mom, "Why didn't you teach me Spanish?" I heard, and more so felt her answer: "Hija, I didn't teach you Spanish because I didn't want you to be held back; I didn't want you to grow up with an accent like me and be treated differently. I didn't teach you Spanish because when I was growing up, Spanish was 'bad.'"

To those "Hispanics" who do speak Spanish, remember how far we have come in just one generation. I'm thankful that my younger half-sister, a 15-year-old, is fluent in Spanish and English. I'm thankful my community and some parts of America see the value of being multi-lingual. To this day, I don't speak Spanish, but that doesn't make me less of a Mexican or more of an American—it makes me a product of what was and isn't my past.

Liza Rendon is on staff at The Evergreen State College and KAOS radio.

Evolution: what we're all about

by ZACH LIGHT

The student group Evolution has been created to help put pride, integrity, sensibility, and responsibility back into Evergreen and its students. There are many of us at Evergreen who feel that not enough has been done help the student body as a whole on many different fields. Evolution is here to change that. Evolution is about moving Evergreen forward; we won't settle for being mediocre.

We have two primary goals. Our first goal is to create unity among all students. Yes, it is impossible to have everyone and everything on the exact same page, but we feel it's worth attempting. There is simply too much separation, even hatred between groups of students, that we wish to solve and eliminate.

There are many ways to help bring the students of our college together. Evolution will hold events for the student body that no one has yet to offer. School dances, fundraisers to help the school, and live events are examples of proceedings that would require teamwork, friendship, and trust—important factors that will help us make this campus friendly.

A concept we wish to eventually introduce to Evergreen is the Open School Forum. Some schools have football; we can have debates. And we all know Evergreen loves

to debate issues. The forums will be open to any and all topics that can be discussed. Students will be offered the opportunity to come forward with their views on any topic, and will be able to debate with other students who may or may not agree with their views. This can be very helpful and enjoyable for anyone's college experience, while being educational at the same time.

Our other primary goal is to improve our standing within our local community. A lot of damage has been done to our reputation as a school to our local community because of last year's troubles. Evolution will lead Evergreen in mending broken bridges. It is our job as students to better the reputation of the school. Working with local charities, business, and public events will strengthen the bonds of friendship and trust with our community members and give us prestige and respect.

While evolution is about helping change occur, we will do so in a respectable way. Evolution is all about Evergreen setting high standards and taking leadership roles in the community. There will be no needless publicity stunts that portray us in any negative manner whatsoever. This is NOT and will never be an activist group. We will do many great and wondrous things in an active manner, but we will do so legally and honorably. By working with the other student groups, and most importantly, with

the administration, we will move Evergreen into the future. We want to work with other student groups, because so much can be accomplished if we all work together.

The founding members of this group are excited and itching to begin working with you. Everyone who wants to make a positive difference at Evergreen is more than welcome to join us. There are many great minds here who can contribute greatly to our new organization. We hope to have as many people as possible join to help us move Evergreen forward. We are the students here; we have the power to do many great and amazing things here. To quote our new president, "yes we can"—a beautiful phrase that should have everyone here excited.

We can do this, together. But Evergreen does need to go through some change for sure. Hence the choosing of our name: Evolution. Webster's definition is "a process of continuous change from a lower, simpler, or worse to a higher, more complex, or better state." The world we live in is constantly changing. Evergreen cannot afford to let it pass by. Evolution is the solution. And the Evolution begins now.

Please come and join us, and become part of the future of Evergreen.

Zach Licht is a sophomore enrolled in Russia and Eurasia: Empires and Enduring Legacies, and the co-founder of Evolution.

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Wildcat sighting!

COUGAR SPOTTED NEAR CHILDCARE CENTER

A cougar was spotted near the Evergreen Childcare Center at approximately 9:30 a.m. January 15. Eduardo Rivera, who works at Central Power, first saw the large cat and reported what he saw to Police Services.

Police Services immediately notified the Childcare Center and sent Officer Lana Brewster to check out the area. Casey Birdsall, Childcare Center director, responded by bringing all of the children inside until later that afternoon when the police notified the center that the cougar was gone.

Part of the children's play area is wooded, so the adults went to the forested areas before the children were allowed to play and made loud noises, since, according to Birdsall, "cougars don't like loud noises."

This is not the first sighting of a cougar near the Evergreen campus. Bruce

Sutherland, Emergency Response Planning Coordinator, said that "around two or four months ago two students from Capital High School were treed by a cougar" at the Grass Lake Refuge, a park just east of campus. While cougar sightings around this area are pretty rare, Sutherland said that as population and development in the area increase, cougars have fewer places to go.

Students who see a cougar are strongly advised not to run away, walk towards, or look away from a cougar—just try to make a lot of noise. If the cougar attacks, fight back! Anyone who comes in contact with a cougar near campus is strongly encouraged to call Police Services at either (360) 867-6832 or (360) 867-6140.

~ BRIAN FULLERTON

CORRECTION:

On page 5 of the January 15, 2009 issue of the CPJ, Andy Rosenberg's article on the Gaza Teach-in incorrectly stated the Funeral Procession in Downtown Olympia as being sponsored by SESAME. The event was actually sponsored by the South Sound Gaza Campaign, not SESAME.

"It's great! You can just pull out your student ID and ride free!"

*Kat Van Hollebeke, Student at
The Evergreen State College
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CHILE, from cover

Student money misused

students even while they were in Chile.

"I thought we were going to do stuff every day," said Moorman, "but we didn't."

According to Moorman, there were about 12 activities throughout the month, and a few lectures and classes with Gilbert. The activities included visiting college campuses, museums, and wineries, and having guest speakers.

"We knew we weren't going to do something the next day, so we just got really drunk," said Weiner. "I had a great time, made friends in the neighborhood. It was really fun, but it wasn't school."

For three weeks the group stayed at La Contraloria, where meals were provided. La Contraloria is a government-owned resort, and theirs was located an hour outside downtown Santiago.

Because there were few activities, said Weiner, "we wanted to go into Santiago and explore."

The group had to pay bus fares into downtown, said Weiner, which they didn't expect. Students also had to pay for their own meals when they traveled into downtown Santiago.

For one week the group stayed north of Santiago near a town called La Serena. Students were excited for this new location, Weiner said, and a chance to cook their own food. After one grocery trip, Gilbert cancelled the home-cooking, and the group then ate solely at restaurants, Weiner said.

Though Gilbert paid restaurant bills, he encouraged students to leave generous tips, according to Weiner.

"That was one more thing that was probably a cost that should be covered," said Moorman, "but it wasn't."

"We ended up spending more money out of pocket," said Weiner, more money than if the students had been allowed to continue to cook for themselves.

The cooking prohibition wasn't the only thing at La Serena that students questioned. Gilbert required students to pay for the gasoline for vehicles used for some day trips, Moorman said — another unanticipated cost.

Before the trip, Weiner says, Gilbert assured students that he disliked what Weiner characterizes as financial surprises, which led students to believe there would be little out-of-pocket spending.

But then, "When someone complained about the class, he became very defensive," said Weiner.

Students talked to Gilbert about their surprise and frustration over the unexpected spending.

Weiner said that Gilbert told him, "Sometimes I am Pinochet."

"That's the same Pinochet who killed thousands of [Chilean] activists and exiled Jorge Gilbert," said Weiner.

Unexpected costs of the trip equaled about \$270 per student, according to Moorman and Weiner.

"As individuals none of us really felt like speaking up to him about the trip, because our credits could be jeopardized," said

Weiner. As the students realized that they shared frustrations, Weiner said, they also realized that as a group they could confront the problem.

While still in Chile at the end of their month-long stay, each student received a receipt from Gilbert for \$2,150 that only listed the words "food, transportation and lodging," without further description of those items, said Weiner.

"He gave us a receipt from Disal, the South American Honeybucket," Moorman said, referring to the Chilean company that a Lacey business called Field School to Chile contracted with for services during the study-abroad trip.

In the accounting to Evergreen's police and in reference to the airline tickets, Gilbert said he deposited money from students into the Field School to Chile bank account. State records list Renee Bourbeau as the nonprofit business's agent for the field school; other web records list Bourbeau as a relative of Gilbert's.

The address for the business matches the address listed by the U.S. State Department for Gilbert as honorary consul for Chile.

A draft Evergreen auditor report says, "Funds were collected directly by the faculty member from the students in violation of cash handling policies and deposited into a personal account, opened without the college's knowledge by a faculty member."

While Disal may be known at Evergreen as a Chile study-abroad service provider, in Chile the company is known as a porta-potty supplier, according to Weiner and Disal's website. The website lists Disal's services as portable toilets, transportation of solid waste, liquid waste transport, waste management, environmental consultancy, and managing treatment plants.

Just after students received the receipt from Gilbert in Chile, 12 of the 15 students signed a letter asking him to provide a more detailed, line-item receipt, Moorman and Weiner said. But they could not reach him and the letter went undelivered.

After the study abroad trip, said Weiner, "some students took it into their own hands to look into—apart from Jorge—how much things cost, specifically about the price it would cost the average person to stay where we were staying."

Moorman worked with a friend to inquire about the price of a bed at La Contraloria and discovered that it would cost 10,000 to 12,000 pesos a night per person, she said.

That—Moorman points out—equals about \$16 to \$20 a night.

By Moorman's, Weiner's and others' accounting, that leaves thousands of dollars unaccounted for.

"If there's any question about whether Jorge or the school will be returning money," said Weiner, "I'm going to be there. I'm going to be demanding it."

Seth Vincent is a senior enrolled in an internship with the Cooper Point Journal about website development.

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RIFLES, from cover

Rifle forum

While the GSU had intended the forum to be a safe space, many felt the meeting to be a threatening environment and approached representatives individually during and after the forum.

"It seems like mob mentality, that's all that they are," someone commented in reference to those who spoke against the purchase.

"It is consistent with forums at Evergreen that there is a single opinion presented and it is imposed on the rest of us," said another forum attendee. "No one is willing to challenge the groupthink presented at the meeting."

"Almost everyone that I've talked to that is for the guns assumed this was not a safe place and I could not convince them otherwise," said

GSU update

The Geoduck Student Union (GSU) reviewed and discussed their January 20 Rifle Forum at Wednesday's meeting.

"I was impressed with how civil the dialogue was," said GSU representative Randall Hunt. A few other representatives, including Xandre Chateaubriand, echoed this sentiment.

However, Chateaubriand and representative Jake Mixon both expressed that the representatives did set the tone to the forum, by being very active in the discussion.

Both commented on GSU representative and facilitator at the forum, Patrick Walsh, drawing attention to a petition at the end of the forum.

During the discussion, Representative Tez Stair,

Chateaubriand.

Once the two hours of discussion had ended, a petition against the purchases was made known. Because GSU representative Patrick Walsh was the one to bring attention to it, some felt that this stance represented all of the GSU members' opinions, which was not the intention of the GSU, which has no official standpoint on the issue.

The GSU asked students present at the forum to fill out a survey about how they felt the forum was run and the rifle purchases in general.

Madeline Berman is a sophomore enrolled in Image and Sequence.

requested the audio recorder be turned off. The ensuing discussion involved the GSU's official policy on whether or a meeting must have an electronic recording of it.

Chateaubriand mentioned that they may be legally obligated to have a record of the meeting. According to RCW 42.30.200, a student government can be held to the same open meetings laws as any other governing body.

During this meeting, Tasha Glen was appointed to the Police Services Community Review Board.

~ JASON SLOTKIN &
MADELINE BERMAN

Background to proposed rifle purchases

by MADELINE BERMAN

Evergreen Police Services issued a proposal for the purchase of three rifles to be used only in the event of an active shooter on campus. An active shooter, as defined by Police Services, is an individual who has gone into the campus community and started shooting. The incentive for this purchase originated from Police Services when completing a campus safety survey that was created in response to the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007.

The cost of this purchase would be \$10,000. This amount would cover the initial cost of three rifles, protective gear for the officers, and annual training for how to respond to an active shooter and use the guns. The money for this purchase will come from the Police Services equipment budget, meaning that it has already been allotted and cannot be transferred to other types of purchases or training.

"The dispatch center isn't upgrading, [and] we wanted to change the uniforms to distinguish us from Thurston county...but we backed off" says Police Services chief Ed Sorger. "It's a matter of prioritization."

Two of the rifles will be kept in patrol cars and secured with electronic/manual locks. The third shall be secured in a locker at the Police services office.

The policy regarding how the rifles will be used will be finalized pending the final decision of whether or not to buy the guns. Until then, a rough draft exists in order to give the campus community a general idea of what the policy would look like.

According to Sorger and sergeant Tim Marron, there are numerous reasons that police services wish to buy these rifles, gear, and training. One reason is all other four-year public colleges in

Washington State equip their officers with rifles and train them for active shooter situations.

Another large incentive for police services is that it is extremely difficult to predict human behavior.

"We carry our side arms because we don't know," says Sorger. Police Services worries not only about the potential of unstable individuals on campus—students, staff and faculty included—but the surrounding areas of Olympia and Lacey as well. "With the reputation of Evergreen, there are many that are not thrilled with the school."

Police Services is ultimately responsible for the safety of the campus. According to Sorger, "these officers are the first to take the risk of [responding and confronting an active shooter]. Is your police officer willing to die for you? Absolutely."

Police services sees the purchase as a form of risk management. If they do not purchase the rifles, they will be held responsible for not stopping damages, were a shooting to occur. Sorger and Marron want to make sure they do everything within their power to prevent campus members from being injured or killed in the case of an active shooter.

A review board is in place in order to make the purchase process transparent. Evergreen is unique in this respect. It is not a legal requirement to have this board and at most campuses; the vice president of student affairs would directly make the decision.

For more information regarding the proposal, or to view the rough draft of the policy, visit <http://www.evergreen.edu/policeservices/responseproposal.html>.

Madeline Berman is a sophomore enrolled in Image and Sequence.

People's summit, march on capitol draws record crowd

by ABI HOUSEMAN

By 9 a.m. January 19, St. John's Episcopal Church was crowded with people for Olympia's third annual Martin Luther King Day People's Summit and March on the Capitol. Over 500 people listened to speeches about predatory lending, health care, immigration, and housing, talks that were given by Washington citizens who are currently struggling with those issues. Afterwards, Nancy Amidei of the Civic Engagement Project led a training on how to have an effective meeting with your lawmaker.

Among the Summit's sponsors were sponsored by Washington Community Action Network (CAN), Thurston County Tenant's Union, Statewide Poverty Action Network, Parents Organizing for Economic Rights (POWER), OneAmerica, and Real Change. It cost \$10,000 to hold the event, according to a Washington CAN spokeswoman. This included childcare, vans, and lunch for all those registered.

Congress recently opened for the 2009 legislative session—a "long" session that will last 105 days, during which time

they will pass the budget for the 2009—2011 biennium. The purpose of the People's Summit, according to POWER's newsletter, is to ensure that the voices of poverty action activists are heard and taken into account while congress is voting on the budget.

"President Obama can't do it without us, so we're having a show of force," said Olympia resident Teresa Landreau.

After the speeches, coffee, and snacks, participants split up into groups by district. Each district group found out what time they were going to meet with their representative, and decided who would talk about each issue during the meeting. District 22, which includes Olympia, had a meeting arranged with Representatives Karen Frasier and Brendan Williams.

Once plans were set, everyone marched six blocks to the capitol steps. A band played Bob Marley hits and civil-rights era freedom songs, while Jeffrey Carrol, Marcelos Owens, and Marcy Bowers led chants.

Abi Houseman is junior enrolled in Sight & Incite.

STAR PASS

see STARPASS, from cover

fees, Parking Services enlisted help of Housing's Student Facilities lead C Caitlyn Felling to get ahold of students who had not returned their passes. According to Felling, she collected a majority of the passes issued to students in housing and brought the passes back on November 15, the determined deadline Parking Services gave students to return passes without being charged. Felling requested and was granted an extension for retrieving the STAR Passes that were authorized by housing that she had not already collected.

According to Felling, she discovered the forms were outdated when a student delegated by director Susie Seip with the task of contacting students implied Housing should have been more mindful of the forms' expiration, even though Parking Services had accepted the outdated forms.

Parking Services has updated the form students must sign to receive a STAR Pass. Seip does not want the date to be used as a "loophole" to avoid responsibility for not returning the pass. "If they noticed [the date], they should have asked about it."

Kristina Williams is a junior enrolled in Political Economy of the Media: US Historical & Contemporary Realities.

Jason Slotkin is a senior enrolled in an independent learning contract.

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WHERE: SEM II A2109 The Evergreen State College

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Session 1: Product Development & Market Research—Jan. 28th
Session 2: Business Structure & Basic Financial Statements—February 25th
Session 3: Marketing Plan—March 11th
Session 4: Operations Plan & Staffing—April 29th
Session 5: Budgeting and Financing—May 27th

CSE **shac** **EDC**

Be a part of it, Evergreen!

Olympia community connections

by HILARY HACKER

Looking for ways to be involved with your community? Wondering how you'll be able to put theory to practice once you graduate? Searching for opportunities to be a part of the movement for a more fair and just society? Visit the Center for Community-Based Learning and Action (CCBLA), located in SEM II E2125. Help us to build stronger community partnerships while meeting the needs of our community!

Be a part of it—our community is asking for your help!

Action Days

- Saturday, February 21 we will help the Thurston Conservation District put on their annual Native Plant Sale. Stay tuned for more information!

- Saturday, March 7 we will be spending the day at the Fertile Ground Guest House doing permaculture gardening and getting things ready for the spring season. We'll even get to make pizza in their cob oven!

Community Requests

- Mason County Literacy and Thurston Bookends Literacy are looking for volunteers to serve as ESL and Adult Basic Education/GED tutors. Tutors would have the opportunity to work with adult learners in Shelton, Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. Learn new skills, gain valuable experience, and feel good by giving back to the

community. The next training for ESL tutors will take place January 23 and 24 at SPSCC. The next training for Adult Basic

city in Olympia. Be a friend of the camp by stopping in and saying hello. Bring a prepared meal by the camp. Help brain-



THIS COULD BE YOU! HELPING OUT! IN THE COMMUNITY!

NICK FARNHILL

Education and GED tutors is scheduled for January 31 in Shelton from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We also have other volunteer opportunities in graphic design, database management, and childcare. Internships, contracts, and work study positions possible. Please contact Maria Garner at (360) 426-9733 or mgarner@masoncountyliteracy.org for more information. You can also find them online at www.masoncountyliteracy.org.

- Camp Quixote is an independent tent

storm fundraising opportunities. Sign up for a three to four hour hosting shift at the camp once or twice a week.

- The Family Support Center is looking for volunteers to help with winter shelters and case management. Contact Phil Owen at owen.phil@gmail.com.

- Gateways for Incarcerated Youth is seeking men to become Challenge Partners to tutor youth at Green Hill and Maple Lane Detention Centers in Lewis County. Find them at academic.evergreen.edu/g/groben09/

- The Birth Attendants is a nonprofit organization working to restore health and justice into communities in western Washington State. The Prison Doula Project provides pregnancy, labor, and postpartum doula services and popular-education style childbirth education classes to women incarcerated in Washington State. Their Community Education Projects link their vital work inside prisons to the greater issues surrounding incarceration. They work toward creating pathways of knowledge for Western Washington communities regarding incarceration and its effects. They are accepting application for internships for the spring, summer and fall of 2009. Find them on the web at <http://www.birthattendants.org>.

G.I. Voice is looking for interns or volunteers to work at its recently-opened internet café, Coffee Strong, located in Lakewood within blocks of Fort Lewis.

Coffee Strong is a G.I. coffeehouse owned and operated by recent vets; it is the second G.I. Coffeehouse to open since the Vietnam War. In addition to coffee, computers, and free WiFi, they hold concerts, events, and movie nights. There are also resources for active-duty soldiers, their families, and veterans facing service-related issues such as deployment, PTSD, sexual assault, and command grievances. Coffee Strong serves as a safe space to discuss issues such as the war, deployment, PTSD, and the hardships of life in the military. They are seeking interns and volunteers to help with outreach, promotion, fundraising, and to work as baristas. If you are interested, please contact Seth Manzel at (253) 228-8912 or sethmanz@hotmail.com. The faculty contact for contracts is Zoltan Grossman (360) 867-6153 or grossmaz@evergreen.edu. More information online at www.givoice.org.

- Stonewall Youth is committed to working within a social justice framework and see themselves as part of a larger movement of social change. They are currently searching for interns and volunteers to support with a variety of their annual projects, such as the drag show and their winter retreat. Regular volunteer positions include group facilitator, drop-in hours support person, appreciations volunteer, winter retreat chaperones, and Stonewall Activism Summer School host home.

Volunteer positions are flexible and can be adjusted and negotiated to fit your needs. There is also possibility to create your own volunteer positions if you have other interests, ideas or special skills you would like to bring to the Stonewall community. For more information on how to participate contact Katrina Stern at events@stonewallyouth.org.

Students in Service is an AmeriCorps program and a way that students can be rewarded for their time spent within the community. Email sis@evergreen.edu for more information.

While striving to better address these needs, CCBLA would also like input from the student body. If you have ideas about Action Days or interests in particular organizations and would like to see them represented in this column please feel free to add your thoughts by contacting Hilary Hacker at hackerh@evergreen.edu or call (360) 867-6137.

Hilary Hacker is an AmeriCorps VISTA and an Evergreen alumna.



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Discipline

The isolation of independent learning contracts

by ERIN GRAY

This quarter I am doing my first individual independent learning contract. It is all me all the time, and as narcissistic as I may be, I am beginning to become frustrated with myself. I had no idea that I had such little discipline.



It is not that I am not excited about the material—I wrote the contract—but if the option is between reading for school or watching old episodes of “Arrested Development,” I hate to admit that I am well-versed in Gob’s illusions. I spend my day doing nothing. At the end of the day I feel horrible that I have achieved nothing, and I feel a little like a sack of potatoes because I have just been sitting on my duff all day.

People suggest that I go someplace other than my apartment, with all of its temptations, but in public places I have the attention span of a Shih Tzu. Every time someone walks by I look up, if anyone talks I cannot help but listen, and when someone sneezes I am there to say *gesundheit*. I end up paying \$4 for coffee and watching people when I could have stayed at home and achieved as much for free.

So now I have to find some discipline. At first I thought I could make my boyfriend my academic warden but I doubt that would be healthy for our relationship. My next idea was to give myself “class time.” I would pick times that would be devoted to homework. Then if I skipped, it would be like skipping class, which I never do because my mother has built in such a powerful guilt complex about school that I am tormented if I cut class.

I hate to admit this, but I think my curse is that I have too much time. I have time to do all of my work and still have time to play, but I let myself play and never do the work.

I am going to make my kitchen table into my classroom. It is a large table with hard, uncomfortable chairs. That is the recipe for quality learning, since every classroom is always like that. And my kitchen, although filled with food, is the most boring room in my apartment. I think this may work: a place and a time with a specific goal of what I must get done for the day—this should be sufficient motivation.

I do have a backup plan. I will develop a split personality. One part of me will be the warden while the other part of me is the student. Between the two of us, I should get something done. The split personality may occur from my isolation, though, since I am now spending so much time alone.

It is only week three, and I am very annoyed with myself. As great as it is to really focus on something I am interested in, I am not sure I will do another contract alone. I miss seminar; it is kind of lame to stumble upon a great idea and to have no one with whom to share it. And I do also miss general human contact.

Erin Gray is a senior enrolled in an independent learning contract.

Electoral madness

by TRAVIS GREER

“The state is to preserve the existing social system.”—Omali Yeshitela



World poverty is growing faster than the world population. An Indonesian female Nike worker receives 80 cents a day, wages which leave up to 70% of the Nike labor force in that area of the world malnourished. A CEO earns more than 1,000 times the average worker’s wage.

Meanwhile, in today’s dominant political discourse, the word “capitalism” is absent. The very economic system that fundamentally shapes our society is completely missing! In the current U.S. electoral discourse, the imperialist institutions are not being questioned, since without them, where would politicians like Barack Obama stand? Corporate and statist capitalism is so entwined with commercial interests that it is a mockery of democracy. By many definitions it can be considered fascist. The governments and corporations of today are united against the interests of the people.

For 30 years Western nations and corporations have invested trillions in the rest of the world, which is becoming increasingly impoverished while the ruling investors (the top 1 percentile) profit gluttonously. As the dominant discourse unfolds containing dialogue surrounding various issues, the fundamental socio-economic system seems to elude conversation, rather conveniently for the powers that be. The plutocratic rulers and corporate tyrants are not questioned, mentioned, or exposed for what they are.

Omali Yeshitela, chairman of the African People’s Socialist Party, explains the truth about our presidential elections and the state of our fraudulent democracy. He breaks down how the people in control, these ruling-class tyrants, further their interests through the electoral system. They use their accumulated capital from the systematic exploitation of workers and land. “In this country, and countries like America, the electoral process is just a non-violent way that different interests in the white ruling class fight for control of the government, so that they can advance their own economic interests.”

THESE PEOPLE HAVE ALL FOUGHT AGAINST POLITICAL DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

He explains the white ruling class as “powerful elements who spend a lot of money supporting these candidates, and they support candidates based on what they are going to get out of it.”

Throughout time some of these ruling capitalists were the Rockefellers, Morgans, Harringtons, Bushs, and Cheneys. They are investors, global bankers, and CEOs. They are the new aristocrats, slave-holders, land barons, and merchants. These people have all fought against political democracy and social democracy, against equality and justice since these things are not necessarily profitable.

“Some have interest in oil, in energy, some have interest for example in production of war machinery, some have interest

in finance capital, some have interest in what we see now suffering, in mortgages and other kinds of things. There are different kinds of interests that are there. These forces are now fighting with each other about who is going to control the state and government that would make it easier for them to advance their own interests. There are laws, trading laws, banking laws, regulations etc.” These rulers are fighting for control of a corporatist state that will grant them economic advantages; they want the wealth to continue stratifying in their benefit. In this context Barack Obama represents “very important white capitalist interests,” “a certain sector of white power,” the millionaires “who put the millions and millions and millions of dollars into his campaign,” this is an investment based on “what they can get out of it, not on what you need.... The same forces do the same thing for Clinton and others.”

When a small sector lives by exploiting the labor and resources of the larger sector, police, courts, jails, prisons, and armies, all become part of a violent state apparatus that upholds the interests of this small wealthy exploitative minority. This dynamic is true from the micro to the macro, from the global to the local.

Note: The writer sourced “Chairman Omali speaks on the current crisis of U.S. Imperialism and the Presidential elections.” The Chairman explains how Barak Obama’s run for U.S. presidency is essentially another case of “White Power in Black Face.” This speech can most easily be found on YouTube or at UhuruNews.com

Travis Greer is a student enrolled in an independent learning contract.

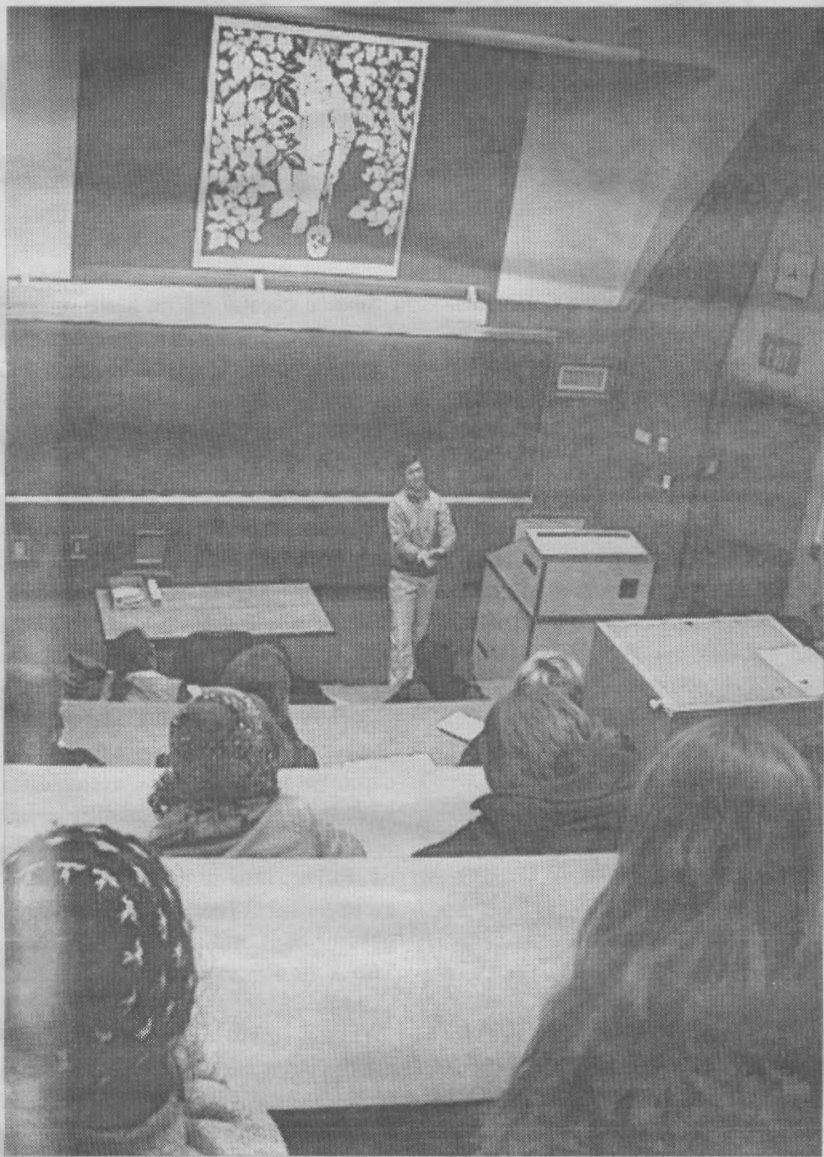
There’s a lot happening around here:

budget cuts...

police attaining high-powered rifles...

people spontaneously catching fire...

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SIMONE FOWLER

**NIKKI MCCLURE
SUCCESS CUT FROM PAPER**

Local artist Nikki McClure gave an intimate talk, Q&A session, and slideshow of her past and present work in Lecture Hall 2 on Wednesday night.

McClure uses the unique medium of paper-on-paper, largely black-and-white, to create vivid pieces with subtle holistic messages. What began as a small-scale yearly calendar project has exploded into a full-blown livelihood. Organizations such as Rock the Vote and companies like Patagonia have used her images, and she has been showcased across the country in venues like Chicago's Museum Of Modern Art.

Despite her success, McClure remains humble, candid, and soft-spoken, sticking to the themes and values that permeate her artwork: activism, sustainability, family, food, and the life cycle. Her talk focused on her creative process and method, creating new economies, art as a tool for the community to use, and making it as an artist.

~ SIMONE FOWLER

KAOS RADIO 89.3FM

Top 30 songs for the week of 1/21/09:

1. Alice Russell – Pot of Gold
 2. Ben Bedford – Land of the Shadows
 3. Kokoura – Anitie
 4. Carline Doctorow – That Changes Everything
 5. Chris Stuart and Backcountry – Crooked Man
 6. Kim Field and the Mighty Titans of Tone – Blue Smoke
 7. Larry Stone – Dreams Die Hard
 8. Medeski Martin and Wood – Radiolarians 1
 9. Roxy Perry – In My Sweet Time
 10. Various Artists – Juxt Like Heaven: A Tribute to the Cure
 11. Animal Collective – Merriweather Post Pavilion
 12. Cotton Jones – Paranoid Cacoon
 13. Pawnshop Diamond – Learning to the Sun
 14. Belle and Sebastian – The BBC Sessions
 15. Courtney Chambers – Bigger and Brighter
 16. Madlib – Beat Konducta, Vol. 5-6
 17. Garaj Mahal – Woot
 18. Guy King – Livin' It
 19. J. Tillman – Vacilando Territory Blues
 20. Joy Harjo – Winding through the Milky Way
 21. Kelleigh McKenzie – Chances
 22. Kesang Marstand – Bodega Rose
 23. Low Red Center – Self-titled
 24. Derek Trucks Band – Already Free
 25. Gary Louris and Mark Olson – Ready for the Flood
 26. Midnite and Youssoupha Sidibe – For All
 27. Charles Burton Blues Band – Everybody's Talkin'
 28. Peggy – self-titled
 29. Ricky Gene Hall and the Goods
 30. Runaway Train – No Breaks
- ~ NICKI SABULU

Mixtape review: Stat Quo – 'The Bailout'

by YONATAN ALDORT and
produced by HIP HOP CONGRESS

Atlanta hip-hop artists had a good year in 2008, with strong releases from Killer Mike, T.I., Young Jeezy and Ludacris. But below the mainstream radar, another talented Atlanta MC, Stat Quo, was finally released from a frustrating contract with Shady Aftermath. After several years with nothing more than scattered singles and various guest features, Stat finally managed to split from the label and quickly dropped "The Bailout" mixtape.

Although the mixtape is extremely compact, running about 40 minutes long, Stat manages to fit a lot of great material in. Contrary to what his name suggests, Stat is far from ordinary as a rapper, and sounds markedly different from many of his ATL brethren. What distinguishes Stat from many artists on the market today is his approach as an inspirational storyteller with little personal involvement in the things he rhymes about. Stat has his own unique swagger and braggadocio, but his lyrics are largely absent of loudmouthed claims to gangster-ism or street cred. Instead, he offers a clear and poignant picture of his own experiences with street life tinged with hunger and sadness. "I rap for my niggas/rap to the rhythm of the screams in the prisons, or the fiends on the curb that's addicted to the system/What-

ever drug you choose/I rap to get high like astronaut shoes," Stat rhymes on "Different Kind of High." Overall, if comparisons are to be made, Stat is much more Little Brother than Lil' Scrappy; an unmistakably Southern artist with slightly East Coast lyrical tendencies.

"The Bailout," which dropped in late November, stays true to its title as Stat examines the government bailout of various floundering corporations and compares it cynically to his own life. On the mixtape's title track, Stat asks the world "who's gonna bail me out" in the hook and accuses politicians of "bullshittin' for green." The track points out astutely that while millions of poor Americans struggle to get by, the rich are rewarded with massive bailouts. Shedding further light, the mixtape includes a short skit in which Stat dialogues with someone about the current economic crisis and how it came to be.

What really works about Stat's rhyming

style is that while he addresses many troubles in his life or his community, he mixes such observations with uplifting inspiration. On "I Am Hip Hop," Stat rhymes; "When you fly off at the mouth they try to clip the wings on your back and ground you, and

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STREET CRED**

poison those around you/But they can't stop what they don't understand/So they can't stop me, I am what I am." Also, on "Another Level," Stat calls for the uplifting of both the black community and hip-hop. He raps emotionally about carrying on hip-hop's traditions and his hope that it will be alive and well when his son is grown.

Of course, the mixtape also has various other strong points. On "The Illest" and "What's Happenin'," Stat showcases his swag and flow over catchy snap-driven beats. "Never Ending Cycle" and "I'm Innocent" are excellent examples of Stat's storytelling capability. On Never Ending Cycle: "He ponders, upon the future, the hood,

the drama/Circumstances got him selling work to comma/Cops arrest him, now he got a record for possession, and his whole family got suggestions/McDonald's won't hire him all cause of questions/Nineteen/Damn, what a fucked up lesson." Finally, the mixtape closes with a smooth ladies-oriented track featuring Little Brother ("G. R.I.T.S."). G.R.I.T.S. in this case stands for Girls Raised In The South, and has Stat, Phonte and Big Pooh professing their love for southern ladies and even talking of marriage.

The mixtape's production comes from a variety of sources, with the most notable being Just Blaze. Pretty much all the tracks are catchy or melodic, so the album is not lacking in good beats. Altogether, it is a very well-rounded project with no skip-able tracks outside of the skits. And though you won't find it on the shelves of any big retailers, it is available as a legal free download. Just search for "Stat Quo the Bailout" in Google and several results will come up. Take the time to get it, because Stat Quo is definitely an artist worth familiarity, and ain't no price better than free. Consider it a bailout for your music library.

Yonatan Aldort is a junior enrolled in Decolonizing the Mind and a member of Hip Hop Congress.

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COMICS

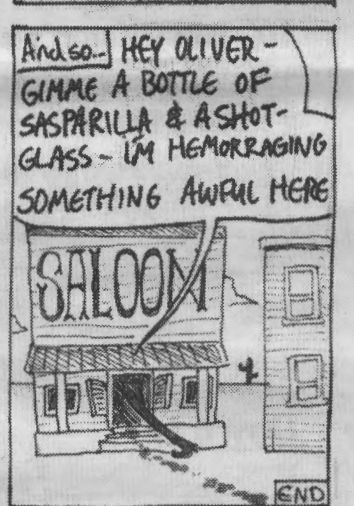
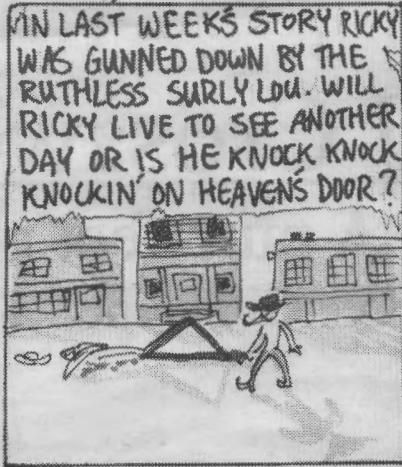


Broccoli Obama '09

by Will A. Raisl

RICKY, THE WORLD'S TALLEST COWBOY

Madeline Berman

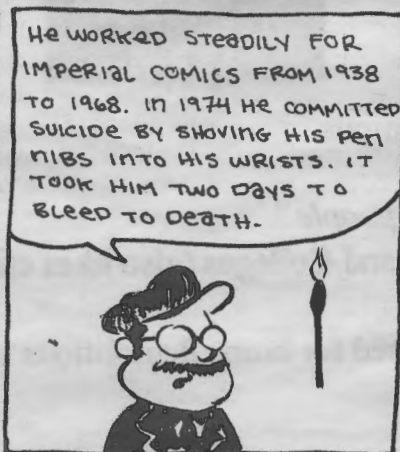


by Madeline Berman

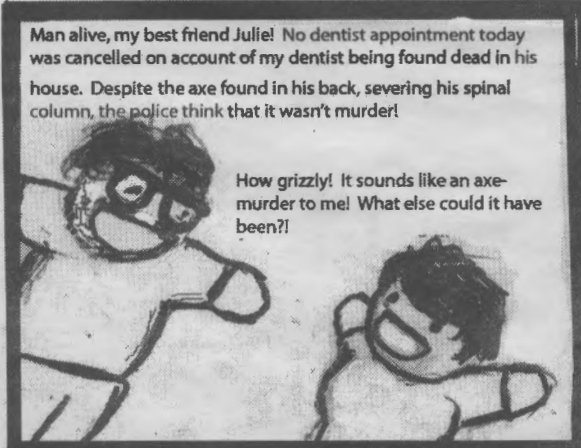
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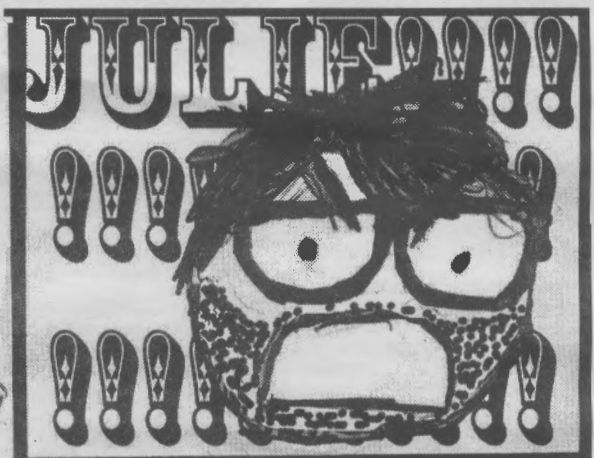
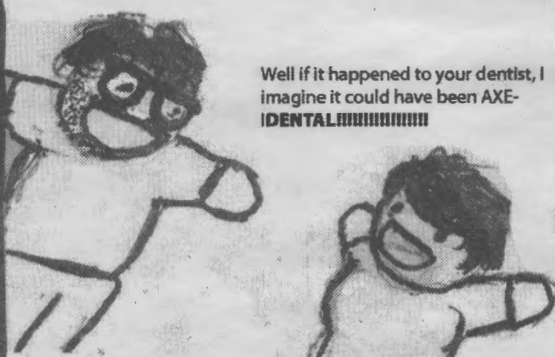
by Ryan Buck



BRIAN AND JULIE.... BEST FRIENDS!!!!!!



Well, my beloved Julie -



by Brian Fullerton

The CPJ Crossword:

This week: "A purr-fect puzzler"
by Lee Gillentine

Across

- 1. "That's a nice pussy ____"
- 4. With its claws, this animal can hull aluminum tubes for uranium enrichment
- 6. Animal who's urine can glow in the dark
- 9. Occasionally consumed by boa constrictors
- 10. Bill Clinton's was named Socks
- 12. Drop the "n" in "can't"
- 13. Ben Franklin proposed these animals to be used as the US currency
- 14. Children's book: "____ in the hat"

Down

- 1. "____, _____, and more cats!"
- 2. Worshipped in ancient Egypt
- 3. "Where the cat ___?"
- 4. Four-legged pet
- 5. A large one of these has been sighted on campus
- 6. Mouse-eater
- 7. "There are dog people, then there are _____ people"
- 8. Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools, and Colleges (also likes cats)
- 9. A commonly used word
- 10. This brand of construction equipment is used for home demolitions in the Palestinian Occupied Territories
- 11. Popular nickname for Katherine
- 12. Longest-running Broadway play

