



cooper point JOURNAL

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 5, 1996

Editorial

Why do we get all the weirdos?

January 17, 1980

-A editorial response to the critics of the Cooper Point Journal, written by Lawrence Stillwell, the Editor-in-Chief.

SEVENTH FLOOR BECOMES NEW NATION

November 13, 1980

The citizens of the seventh floor of "A" Dorm unanimously agreed to declare their independence as a protest to developments in the United States Government. Rumor has it that Secret Service agents quickly reclaimed seventh floor for the United States and stole all of their beer.

Parking violators may suffer less?

December 6, 1971

Parking officials consider the use of "lock-in-place" in-pound devices instead of the traditional impounding of cars to a downtown lot. After much consideration, this was instated in the summer of 1996.

Computer Services

June, 1972

Despite their late start, Evergreen greeted the technological age with open arms by installing their only computer "Hewpie". According to experts it primarily used for computer games, although DOOM wasn't installed until quite a few years later.

'Possessed Gypsies' abduct small plastic man

May 14, 1992

A local actor/artist know as "Small Plastic Man" was abducted from his workplace/home at Java Junkies by a group of "drunken angered conspirators." The return of this 3 inch tall hunk of a man was requested at once.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Getting Screwed, but Were Afraid to Ask

February 19, 1981

Jim Lyon was a little bit pissed off at the legislature when he wrote the letter to the editor that ran with this headline.

Sun deck proposed for 'A' dorm

February 28, 1980

Yes, my fellow readers. Housing was seriously considering building a Sun Deck on the top of "A" Dorm to prevent students from climbing onto the roof. Maybe this is an idea that should be revisited?

CPJ looks at 25 years of Greener history

BY HILLARY ROSSI

The Cooper Point Journal decided to run this feature for the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Evergreen State College this week, because tomorrow our school newspaper turns 25 years old. On December 6, 1971, the first student run paper came out at Evergreen, three months after the school opened its doors to students. Since we started on this project a few weeks ago, Gary Love, the photo editor, Cristin Carr, the calendar editor, and I have been on a rampage through the CPJ archives in the basement of the Campus Activities Building (several times), and have come up with some interesting facts about the history of the school.

We first set out to only find the first edition of the Cooper Point Journal. It turned out to be named "The Paper," a title the editors chose so it would not be offensive to anyone. There were six original staff members: Marvin Wright, Mike Mason, Don Martin, Bruce Brochmann, Chris Ness, and Lester Leahy. "The Paper" had no Advisor at the time.

When I talked to Wright a few days ago, he told me that the 1971-1972 newspaper staff worked as a collective, so no one person was in charge of the paper and the process was all volunteer. It was an "ad hoc attempt to make something happen" as Wright puts it.

The Paper started, according to Wright, by these six students going up to the Services and Activities Board and asking for the money to put together a newspaper. The S&A Board was reluctant, Wright explained, because they wanted to spend their money to build a bowling alley in the CAB as part of Phase II construction.

The S&A Board decided to give them a little money to start, Wright continued. He then asked me if the bowling alley was built yet.

According to Wright, the

The Paper

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Olympia, Washington 98505

December 6, 1971



BUY A USED BOOK FROM THIS WOMAN? The presence of Sarah Calaf behind the Bookstore checkout counter is reason enough to take advantage of the special sale extending through this week.

front page photo was taken because the photographer, Leahy, had a crush on the girl it pictures and thought her photo on the front page would impress her. Wright said that he and Mason did not like the idea of the girl's photo being on the cover page. He said they stole the original before it went to print, and hid it in a refrigerator in B-Dorm. Leahy then came from the Mods, found this original, and sent it to press himself.

Wright then asked me if the Mods were still at Evergreen, because back in 1971, they were only temporary.

Well anyway, now I was curious about the 1971 plan for Phase II of the CAB building. I explored further. Fortunately, Gary had photocopied an article from the orientation issue of 1974 called, "Campus Changes," and it explained everything that had been worked on since the school had opened.

The Phase II of the CAB building never came about, according to the article, because they could not settle an on going dispute about what to do with student fees. By that time,

the S&A Board had decided to allocate fees for the bowling alley to the Campus Recreation Center. The bowling alley obviously never happened.

Lab I, Lab II and the Communications Building were still in the works by the fall of 1974.

Since we were going back this far into Evergreen's history, we might as well go all the way. And after digging a little further, Gary and Cristin came up with an article which was concerned with the history of the school.

The article was in the first issue of the school paper that was actually titled *The Cooper Point Journal*.

The school was built from a miscalculation on anticipated new college students in the early 1970s, according to the article called, "The History of Evergreen". Evergreen had been approved by the Washington state legislature during 1967, but did not get accredited until 1972.

The governor at the time, Daniel J. Evans, appointed five Board of Trustee members for Evergreen, but they did not name the school Evergreen until a few months later. In the meantime, a few names were tossed around. Some brainstormers included Thurston County College, Washington State College in Thurston County, and Mudbay University.

Dr. Charles McMann was Evergreen's first president, appointed by Evans. The Board of Trustees decided on the school mascot, the Geoduck, in 1970. The school was inaugurated April 21, 1972.

I found that at the time of the school's opening, the CRC and the CAB weren't structured yet. Only the library building was up and running, but wasn't complete. Since Housing wasn't finished by the fall of 1971, students lived all over the Olympia area at the beginning of that school year.

Since Gary and I wanted a photograph of the layout of the school at the time of its opening, he went back to the archives and dug out several photos of the school. It didn't quite look like our school, but that stands to reason it was about half the size it is now. In the middle of all this, we found hilarious articles about different extracurricular activities.

According to a 1972 article, the S&A Board was selected by a computer at random, and the eight students served one to three month terms. The student activities included quite a few jazz groups, a bus going to and from Olympia that was paid for by students, and a yacht club.

KAOS had just improved to ten watts of electricity to run their radio station (KAOS started in winter, 1972) as reported in a 1974 article. While very exciting then, ten watts can cover only Housing at Evergreen, says John Ford, the 1996 director of news and public events.

Anyway, that first edition of the Evergreen school newspaper had an article in it that explains the mission of a student run publication at Evergreen. The Paper originally promised "actually communicating with others and thus preserving and strengthening the sense of community at TESC." Have we done our job over the past twenty-five years?

A stroll down Geoduck Lane



Photo by Gary Love

The "dragon stairs" down the library stairwell was painted in March 1971, and took three months to complete. It was painted by the Man and Art program, and it instigated the funding of student painted murals by the S&A Board in the 1970s.

In 1971, a group called Firesign Theater produced its third album, "Don't Crush that Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers." A lyric from it was "More sugar." A couple of students liked the lyric, wrote it on a wooden sign and hung it from the trees outside the dorms facing the A Dorm parking lot. About twenty years later and ten feet higher (the tree has grown), the sign is still there.



Photo by Gary Love

The Clock Tower was built with the original Library Building. They were both completed November 1971, says Rita Sevchek, who has been in the President's Office since the school opened.

ARTWORK BY BRYAN FRANKENSCHEISS THEISS

Professor reflects over twenty five years at Evergreen

BY TREVOR PYLE

When Chuck Nisbet first came to teach at The Evergreen State College, Red Square had yet to be completed, classes were held at a Girl Scout camp, and everything was an experiment.

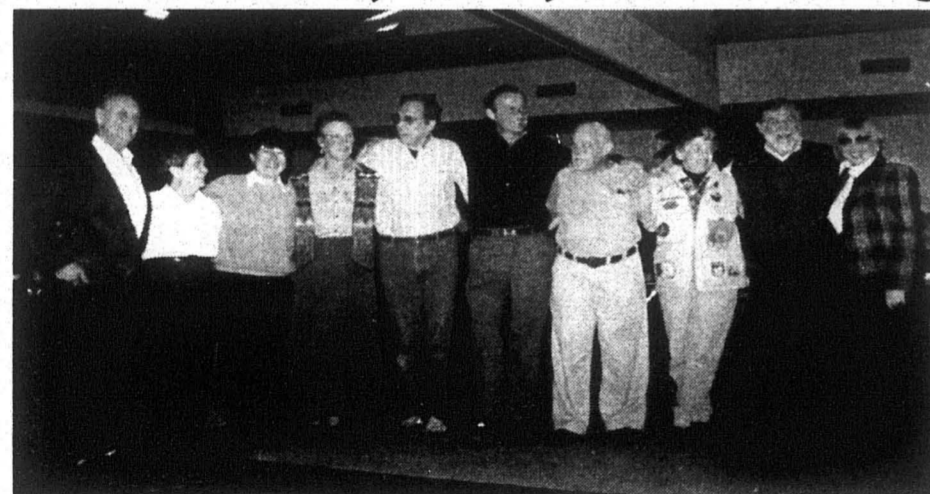
The school has changed after twenty-five years, but the experimenting goes on.

Nisbet, who is a faculty member of The Vanishing Father, came to Evergreen during its first year. He taught at UCLA the year before, where classes were overpopulated and impersonal.

"I taught there [at UCLA] for four years," Nisbet says, "and during that whole time I didn't learn one student's name." He also didn't like L.A., describing it as a "carnivorous environment" for his three children. So when Nisbet got a call from Evergreen's dean of social sciences, who was a family friend, he decided to relocate to the Northwest.

Evergreen itself was also part of the attraction. Nisbet was interested in the freedom in curriculum, the lack of a class system between faculty and students, and the concept of seminars.

The first class Nisbet taught at Evergreen was called Environmental Design, and he still remembers the first day. The students showed up in the classroom (which doubled as Nisbet's office) with sleeping bags and backpacks. Construction was being done on the library building, and the class stayed at a nearby Girl



After twenty-five years at Evergreen, veteran teachers pose at the 1996 Employee Service Awards

Scout camp for a week.

"It was like getting ready for a field trip," Nisbet says.

The sleeping bags and backpacks were appropriate, because Evergreen's first years were an adventure for everyone.

"That first year, I don't think we had a lecture. Not one," Nisbet says. "We didn't have that, because that's what they did everywhere else."

What they did have were seminars. Because of the construction, these seminars were held in faculty's homes, in churches, and in one case, in a Girl Scout camp. One teacher was known for taking all the chairs and tables

out of a room before holding seminar.

There was also less writing than there is now, and a heavy emphasis on student conferences. In Nisbet's class, he met with each student once a week.

"It was a positive time," he says of the early years. "[The students and faculty had] such a sense of expectation."

After twenty-five years, Nisbet thinks a lot has changed, not all for the better.

"There used to be a lot more diversity in teaching here," he says. "If you went and looked at the books in the bookstore the first year and the books in the bookstore this

year...there was a much broader range of ideas. You can't get hired unless you conform to a gender-race-class approach. Teachers aren't hired for their experience or talent. They're hired for their point of view.

"The diversity among teachers has gone down, while it was gone up for students," Nisbet says, making scales out of his hands. He also believes that at least one of Evergreen's departments has weakened over the years. "We don't have social sciences anymore," he says. "We have race-class-gender. And the tragedy is the students don't know it."

Despite his opinions about Evergreen's problems, Nisbet still believes the school has made improvements over the years.

"I have a computer now!" He says, smiling, then adds, "We know how to teach core programs much better now. We can teach writing better, the seminars are more refined...we've also improved team-teaching."

Chuck Nisbet moved his children over 500 miles to a school that claims a geoduck as its symbol, a school where teaching is treated differently, a school that has gone through a lot of changes in twenty-five years. He mentions that Evergreen has improved its team-teaching, but they must have been right that first year; out of the four faculty of Environmental Design, one, Larry Eickstaedt, retired last year. The other three—Nisbet, Carolyn Dobbs, and Phil Harding—are still with the college.

Students to display art pieces throughout campus next week

BY JENNIFER KOOGLER

Once again, The Evergreen State College is about to be adorned with art.

The students from the academic program Sculpture in Time and Place are working on a group of artistic pieces to place around the campus, both inside and out, starting Tuesday, December 10. They will stay up throughout Winter quarter to soothe our tired souls during the cold, gray months.

Jean Mandenberg, professor for the program, says that the six different pieces will be set up on Red Square, on the path between the CRC and CAB, inside the CAB, and even on the Evergreen beach.

The assignment called for groups of three or four people to work collaboratively to make site specific projects for the campus. Mandenberg wanted students to have a "conscious relationship for different places," taking into consideration the function of the site and how passersby interact with it.

Beginning around mid quarter, students have worked in the Arts Annex wood and metal shops, forming their creations out of wood, metal, concrete, wire, plastic, and various other materials. Their projects range from a huge electrical cord coming out of the middle of Red Square, stretching out from the pavement and plugging into an outlet on the side of the Lecture Halls to weaving together the trees lining Red Square with different materials.

Ned Beebe and Becky Figel, both seniors, are constructing a floating sculpture to be displayed at

the Evergreen beach. Originally, Beebe envisioned the piece consisting of large floating rafts covered with grass, but the idea did not prove feasible. Therefore, he and Figel, who wanted to work with floating rafts for a long time, brainstormed and sketched a design and are now laboring to make it come to life. Beebe says that they would like to keep the exact look of the finished sculpture a secret, so interested students will just have to make the mucky journey down the beach trail themselves.

Previous assignments had the class making wearable sculptures, including masks, jewelry, and a suit of armor designed entirely out of bottle caps. Groups also designed alternative signs for the campus, a sort of prelude to the larger project, that included a comedy and tragedy mask set on a music staff for the Communications building and the large red X's that dotted the Library loop.

Leann Drake, another student in the class, is illustrating a map of the different sites where the art will be displayed, allowing Greens to give themselves a self-guided tour. The map will include the location of her project, which she describes as "things in the trees" beside the CAB building in between the clock tower and the path to Housing. Maps will be available by Tuesday, December 10 in the Bookstore and at the Circulation desk of the Library.

Mandenberg hopes that the projects will inspire the average person who walks by to "see familiar spaces in a different way."

Housing Community Center vending machine vandalized

BY MELISSA KALLSTROM

Half-way through Thanksgiving break, vandalism forced the public area of the Housing Community Center to be locked for the remainder of the vacation.

Someone tried to pry open the back area of the branch's back door, they also ripped off the two panels of the candy vending machine and stole the bottom two rows of candy, said Erik Ordway, auxiliary lead.

"If places such as the Housing Community Center are vandalized, and we are not able to fix it immediately and believe further vandalism might occur, then we close down the building" he said.

This is the first time the Housing Community Center was vandalized this year.

During holidays, access to the laundry room, phones, restrooms, and vending machines normally remain open, but they will probably close around December 20 for Christmas break, said Chuck McKinney, assistant director of residential life.

As a result, Housing residents will have to use the A-dorm or MOD facilities during break.

The damage to the vending machine was estimated at \$100 dollars.

Former student robs bank, commits suicide

BY LEIGH CULLEN

A man who attended The Evergreen State College from 1979 to 1984 shot himself on Thanksgiving day after allegedly robbing a bank on Wednesday.

Former Evergreen student William Scott Scurlock was believed to be the bank robber police nicknamed "Hollywood." The nickname originated from the elaborate disguises the robber wore during the bank robberies.

Scurlock was found dead in a camper in a Seattle backyard after he apparently shot himself during a shoot-out with police, according to articles in the Olympian last week. Officers had a warrant out for his arrest for a failed bank robbery that occurred on Wednesday.

At 5:20 p.m. a Northeast Seattle branch of Seafirst Bank was robbed of over 1 million dollars, the Olympian articles said. Police chased a white van, while suspects shot at officers from the van. The van finally stopped and three men fled. Two men were wounded by police while fleeing from the vehicle, according to the Olympian. The pair have since been charged with the crime. Police believe the third man, who got away, was Scurlock.

Police and the FBI also suspect that Scurlock was responsible for 14 other bank robberies in the Seattle area and two in Portland, according to the Olympian.

NEWS

Deadline for the 1997 students of color anthology approaching

BY RYAN KEITH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. is the DEADLINE for submissions for the 1997 Students of Color Anthology. The Anthology crew is seeking poetry, short stories, artwork and photography by the students of color at Evergreen.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Anthology, this will be the fourth annual edition. In 1994 the Students of Color Anthology series began with *Bridges and Windows*. It was followed by *No Explanations*, *No Apologies* in 1995, and last year's edition was titled *Killing Kolombus and Other Love Stories*. Each Anthology is produced, laid-out and compiled by the Students of Color Anthology crew. The collective series contains the artistic voices of a small but strong and diverse body of students enrolled at Evergreen. For three years it has provided a rare outlet for voices presently, and historically, under-represented in the dominant culture and society. All Students of Color at Evergreen (that includes the Reservation-Based Program, the Tacoma Campus, Individual Contract students, in short, any student of color enrolled at Evergreen) are encouraged to submit their work.

The Submission Criteria for the 1997 Anthology is: the *Written Format* must be 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 12 point type, double-spaced. *Poetry* should not exceed two pages. *Short Stories* should not exceed three pages. *Artwork* can be either black and white or color. There will be fewer color pictures chosen so you may want to include some black and white as well. Photos, drawings, paintings, and three dimensional artwork are all usable. The *Number of Submissions* per person is five, and they should be ranked in order of your

preference. The *Submission Format* is: type your submission in Word or Wordperfect (Macintosh or PC) and save it on a 3 1/2" disk with your name and phone number written on the disk. Also submit a paper copy of your submission with your name and phone number typed on it. For *Artwork*, most sizes of art are usable. Call the office if you are uncertain of the dimensions. Negatives will be needed later for selected photos.

If you wish to submit your work, take it to the Anthology Office on the third floor of the CAB in the Students Activities area with your name and phone number attached. You may also take it to the First Peoples' Advising Services office on the first floor of the Library building (the office is next to KEY Student Services and Career Development). Written submissions will not be returned, but artwork and disks can be retrieved in the Anthology Office after publication. All submissions will be selected for printing by a selection committee.

If you are not able to bring your work to the office, you may mail it to: The Evergreen State College/ CAB 320, Students of Color Anthology Office/ Olympia, WA 98505.

If you are interested in helping and want to find out when the next meeting is, if you'd like to check out (or buy) a previous Anthology, or if you just have a question, call the office at (360) 866-6000 x6143.

Remember the *Deadline* is FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1997 BY 4:00 P.M.

Submission Criteria taken from material printed by the enormously dedicated and talented Students of Color Anthology coordinator Naomi Ishisaka

In a recent edition of the CPJ we misspelled Alex Trebek's name. It's important that we apologize for this because he's the host of Jeopardy.

In the first three issues of the 1989-90 school year, the staff of the CPJ increased the volume number each time they increased the issue number. This was a mistake.

We would like to apologize on behalf of CPJ staffs for last seven years for misprinting our volume numbers. We would like to thank photo editor Gary Love, who noticed that the CPJ is on its 27th volume during Evergreen's 25th year. He has a keen eye.

We will not start labeling the CPJ as volume 25 unless we can come up with a plan to reduce confusion with the volume 25 printed two years ago. The following proposals have been made:

- Labeling this year's remaining CPJ's "Volume 25a."
- Hand correcting all remaining issues of the CPJ from the last seven years.
- Continuing to run Volume 27 and correcting it each issue in the Errata.

COOPER POINT JOURNAL

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Affirmative action alive at Evergreen

BY DAVID SCHEER

November's affirmative action debate gave audience members a feel for the issues surrounding the controversial program. Still, many students left without a clear picture about what the program means at Evergreen.

Affirmative action is intended to ensure equal rights employment and education opportunities. At Evergreen, it's meant to protect groups typically affected by prejudice, called "affected groups," which include women, people of color, people with disabilities, and veterans.

Despite the present national backlash against affirmative action, the program is thriving here, says Paul Gallegos, the Assistant for Equal Opportunity on President Jane Jervis's staff. Gallegos, who heads affirmative action at Evergreen, believes it has had a positive impact on the school.

Evergreen affirmative action is similar to affirmative action efforts across the nation, says Gallegos. In fact, the program here is based originally on Washington's state programs. In a job search, Evergreen's affirmative action happens after anti-discrimination and equal opportunity mechanisms have been applied.

First, Gallegos helps hiring authorities develop a clear picture of what they want in a candidate. In doing so he hopes "to eliminate some of the preconceived notions about what an applicant should look like," said Gallegos. He also tries to keep education and experience requirements to a reasonable minimum, hoping to reduce needlessly cutting the applicant pool.

"People of color have been shut out, have been disadvantaged disproportionately in the education system," Gallegos said. By "inflating" the education requirement, the college excludes people from different backgrounds; these are people he feels can succeed.

Gallegos makes sure that advertising for job positions targets a variety of communities. Hiring authorities must post positions in major newspapers as well as contact community

organizations, women's groups, ethnic advocacy groups, disability support and advocacy groups and some state services. "It's about casting a broad net," said Gallegos.

When the applications come in, they are screened for minimum requirements. Those that do not meet those requirements are dropped.

Then affirmative action begins. Gallegos reviews the applicant pool to make sure that it includes affected group members. If certain groups aren't represented, he may require that more time and effort be put into advertising. When the applicant pool is accepted, applicants are cut through one of two processes.

For an exempt position, a committee reads all the applications and selects a number of applicants for interviews. Gallegos compares the number of affected applicants in the interview group with statistics to make sure that they are reflective of the labor force. If they're not, he may question why some applicants were excluded. A few more qualified applicants may be added to the interview pool by the committee to help correct the problem, says Gallegos.

For an exempt position all applications are scored according to a scoring key which is reviewed by the Washington Department of Personnel. Applicants with the top seven scores get interviews. If there are fewer than three affected applicants in the top seven, then affected applicants with the next highest scores are added until three are granted interviews.

After the interviews and the final recommendations are made, Gallegos reviews the committee's decision to ensure that they had reasons for disqualifying any affected applicants.

Overall, affirmative action is aimed at raising the numbers of affected group members in Evergreen's work force to reflect their numbers in the state's labor market, says Gallegos. For instance, if women comprise half the police and custodial labor force in

Washington, then the college would like to employ women in at least half of their police and custodial positions. After they reach that goal, affirmative action for that affected group stops for those jobs, says Gallegos.

Evergreen has reached a number of these goals but still falls short in many areas. Ensuring that Evergreen's work force fully reflects the labor market is a very difficult task, explains Gallegos. The school has been working at it for 20 years. Ironically, says Gallegos, if Evergreen's affirmative action was a system of strict quotas, which may force the college to make unqualified hires, "we would have been done in five years," Gallegos said.

Evergreen president Jane Jervis, who is ultimately accountable for oversight of the program, believes that it has some drawbacks. She feels it is an effective and necessary tool for achieving diversity, but that Evergreen's "moral and philosophical commitment that goes beyond the commitment of affirmative action." "Even if we meet all of the goals [of affirmative action] we would still strive for diversity," said Jervis.

In at least one case, however, Gallegos has cut back the goal of Evergreen's affirmative action. Because women compose 80 to 90 percent of the labor force for what the state defines as clerical and support staff positions, this is the percentage that Evergreen would normally hope to reach.

Gallegos has instead set Evergreen's goal to roughly 62 percent. He believes that the labor force numbers are high, due to past practices of keeping women out of higher positions. He defended this position to the State of Washington.

Other alterations, such as adding sexuality orientations to Evergreen's list of affected groups, would be more difficult to defend, says Gallegos. "Affirmative action is statistically driven," said Gallegos. One of the problems with adding orientation to affirmative action is that there aren't accurate numbers in the labor market, says Gallegos.

Affirmative action debate divides opinions

BY TERRANCE YOUNG

On November 21 Evergreen State College invited Tim Wise and Dinesh D'Souza to debate this resolution: "Forces in the US. maintain and encourage inequity based on race, ethnicity, gender, and disability. Affirmative Action is necessary to correct the effects of these forces." Wise argued in favor of Affirmative Action, D'Souza against it. Joye Hardiman moderated the debate.

In his 10-minute opening statement, Wise said two forces are maintaining inequity: Overt and ongoing bias and institutionalized racism. Of the two, he said, institutionalized racism is the more harmful. He supported his argument with findings from the Glass Ceiling Commission appointed by Bush and Dole. The commission found that although white males constituted only 43% of the work force they occupied 97% of the top managerial positions.

"It is not racism but merit that is creating this inequality," responded D'Souza. He attributed Asian success to family structure and work ethic. He cited a statistic that said Asian students on average study 12 hours a week compared to eight hours for whites and four hours for blacks and Hispanics.

D'Souza closed saying that ultimately we cannot be a fair country unless we offer people this promise—not equality of result, but equality of rights. Wise finished by telling the audience they have a choice, "You either resist injustice or you are collaborating with it."

Although the Evergreen community in general supports affirmative action students gave views that varied in emotion and content. For Craig St. Clair the debate was the first step towards learning more about affirmative action. "This is an issue that I'd never considered. Had it not been for this debate, I would never have considered it in depth. This really put both sides of the issue right there. It's time to figure out where I stand."

Others already know where they stand. "Debating affirmative action may be valid but to invite a conservative ideologue like D'Souza legitimizes his racist, sexist, and homophobic views," said Alice Zillah.

Either way, there can be no doubt that the debate brought the affirmative action issue to the forefront of peoples' minds.

Copious notes contributed by staff writer Reynor Padilla.

NEWS

Holiday fund drive

It is once again time for the annual Holiday Fund Drive at the Crisis Clinic. In order to reach those that find the holidays to be a difficult time of year, the Crisis Clinic of Thurston/Mason counties needs financial assistance. This monetary support will sustain a 24-hour Crisis Intervention hotline, Information and Referral services, after-hours access to mental health services, Child Protective Services and the Emergency Housing Network program.

Over 35,000 calls were responded to last year alone. To help these people, mail contributions to: The Crisis Clinic of Thurston/Mason Counties PO Box 2463 Olympia, WA 98507 Or for more information, contact the Crisis Clinic's business office at 754-3888.

Ghosts of Christmas past tour returns

The City of Olympia, Olympia Heritage Commission and Bigelow House Preservation Association are sponsoring their annual "Ghosts of Christmas Past" historic home tour on Saturday, December 14, 1996 from noon to 4:00pm. The proceeds will go towards the acquisition of historic furnishings and provide support for visitor programs at Bigelow House. All houses will be served by an Intercity Transit shuttle bus which is free with the ticket purchase. The bus is handicap accessible. For more information call 786-5745.

Scholarships for Study Abroad offered

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) is offering scholarships for students interested in studying abroad. NSEP provides Americans with opportunities to study in regions critical to US interests. This excludes Western Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. To be eligible, all applicants must be undergraduates at an US university, college or community college. The scholarship competition is based on merit and is available to those wishing to study abroad during the summer and fall of 1997, and the spring of '98. The awards go up to a maximum of \$8,000 per semester or \$16,000 for the entire academic year.

For applications, write to: National Security Education Program Undergraduate scholarships Institute of International Education 1400 K Street NW Washington, DC 20005 or call toll-free at (800) 618-NSEP or (202) 326-7697.

Nutcracker ballet planned in Olympia

Ballet Northwest, of Olympia, is presenting the Nutcracker for the holiday season. The performance dates are December 13-15 and 19-22 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia.

Ballet Northwest is a community based, nonprofit organization dedicated to dance as a performance art. Founded in 1970, Ballet Northwest produces performances that feature local dancers, sponsors touring dance companies, offers educational opportunities for both performers and patrons, and promotes the art of dance in Washington. Tickets for the annual performance are \$10 and \$14 and are currently on sale at the Washington Center box offices. Or call at 753-8586.

Scams target students

The Federal Trade Commission in Seattle has announced the discovery of several scams directed towards college students. These include free scholarship promises and a high paying job with no experience needed. Students are advised to be on the lookout for such scams and to contact the Commission if anything seems like it may be phony. For more information on these and other scams, call Pat Leigh or Chuck Harwood at (206) 220-6350.

Local poetry contest

The Olympia Poetry Network is offering a contest for local and new poets. The contest is limited to previously unpublished poets from Thurston, Lewis, Mason or Grays Harbor counties. The prize is for the five best entries and includes a \$50 cash prize. The deadline for entries is February 15, 1997 and winners will be announced in April.

The Olympia Poetry Network is a nonprofit organization that has been sponsoring literary activities in Olympia for five years. Prize money was donated to the Network. For more information and the complete set of rules, contact the Olympia Poetry Network at: OPN Contest PO Box 4368 Tumwater, WA 98501 or call (360) 352-1355.

Eco-feminism nature walk

A nature walk and eco-feminism workshop is scheduled for December 8 in CAB 110 at 2:00 pm. This will include a discussion with Emily Andrews. The event is sponsored by the Women's Center and is free of charge. For more information, stop by the Center or call 866-6000, ext. 6162

Security Blotter

by Cameron "Large Polish Woman" Newell

November 17th 0022 Paper burnt in a malicious fashion in G. 0212 "Contraband" narcotics reported. 0903 For those of us who didn't notice, the CRC now screams "DANZIG". 1145 Due to insecure door, one bike removed from T-dorm.	November 24th 1759 Random person reported to be following a Library employee.
November 18th 0235 Stolen vehicle recovered! Justice triumphs once again! 1502 Bike removed from location near I-dorm. 1544 Criminal trespass citation handed out regarding Pet policy. 1653 Random dog spotted leashless in K. 1900 Disruptive individual found interfering with traffic near the parking booth.	November 25th 0949 Stolen vehicle recovered in F lot. 1250 Vehicle towed from Mods. 1303 Vehicle towed from F lot. 1650 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 1750 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 1755 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 2005 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations.
November 19th 1558 Items stolen from vehicle in F-lot.	November 26th 1358 Fire alarm in A due to very well done foodstuffs. 1545 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 1645 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 1700 Boot placed on vehicle to enforce regulations. 1710 Yet another vehicle towed. Parking sure got into the holiday spirit... 1813 Random Dog spotted running amok in Modland.
November 20th 1113 Jump-start completed. 1438 Jump-start completed. 1444 Jump-start completed. 1546 Jump-start attempted. 1657 Jump-start completed. 2029 Jump-start completed.	November 27th 0901 Violence done to the Community Center's vending machine.
November 21st 1309 Subject arrested for "disorderly conduct, among other things." 2216 Another Criminal Trespass citation delivered.	November 28th 1620 Happiness and love fill the world. A pink light infuses campus.
November 22nd 0842 Fire in N due to candles. Housing policy makes sense after all. 1739 Backpack theft from Community Center. 2220 Yet another CT citation administered.	November 29th 0029 Suspicious person spotted in A-dorm. 1605 Random canine spotted running amok on Red Square.
November 23rd	November 30th 1645 Individual found hunting at Organic Farm.

Sarvey Wildlife Care Center seeks monetary donations, materials and volunteers

VIEWPOINT ▶

BY LIZ ELLIS

The Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, located between Arlington and Granite Falls, WA, needs your help.

The Wildlife Center runs entirely on private funds, which have been dwindling; the Center is in the red by about \$2,000 each month. If funding doesn't improve, the center will have to shut down. Its animals will hopefully be transferred to other wildlife rehabilitation centers; if not, they will be put down.

Kaye Baxter, Director, has been a wildlife rehabilitationalist for 20 years and has operated the Center for the past eleven years. A wildlife

rehabilitationist takes in injured wildlife and treats them until they are able to return back to the wild. The Sarvey Wildlife Care Center covers five acres and is filled to capacity with wildlife. Eagles, deer, bobcat, coyote, finches—nothing except bears are turned away (if necessary they will keep bears for short periods of time). The release rate runs 40-50%; many of their nonreleasable birds of prey are used for educational purposes in various communities.

The Center needs donations of money, materials and volunteers. Interested in an internship? The Center may be able to provide you with one in return for your services. Going home to Everett for the holidays? Want to spend a few hours working with birds of prey?

If you have questions or any donatable materials that you cannot transport yourself, such as old clothing, old blankets or towels, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry supplies, light bulbs, 3x5 cards, batteries or food such as pet food, rabbit food, horse grain, eggs, fruit, bird seed, meat parts, fish or Karo syrup, please call Liz Ellis at 866-6320 or drop the donations off at dorm apartment C303.

If you would like more information, contact the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center at: P.O. Box 2083 Everett, WA 98203 (360) 435-4817

If you are interested in an internship, ask for Kay or Kaye or send a resume

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What Does Jesus Mean To You?

COMMENTARY ►

By GREG SMITH
CAMPUS MINISTER WITH EVERGREEN STUDENTS FOR CHRIST
"Who is Jesus?" I frequently ask Evergreen students this question. One, answered, "Jesus is whoever you want him to be." Other answers from a variety of sources and perspectives followed. Jesus is a mushroom, Son of God, metaphor, Messiah, first-century religious revolutionary, very God - very man, misrepresented rabbi, and Jewish

John, one of Jesus' disciples, described Jesus in my favorite way. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (tent) among us." The eternal and powerful Truth (Jesus) became flesh and tented with us. Living in a tent gets you really close to earth where we all live geographically, but it locates you physically in a highly vulnerable and fragile condition. We are at the mercy of not only the elements of nature, but in a personal paradigm of so many of the elements of our human nature which we

	Non-Sages	Sages
Those who do not claim to be the God the Bible talks about.	Ordinary folks like us	Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Moses, Lao-Tzu, Black Elk
Those who do claim to be the God the Bible talks about.	lunatics liars	Jesus

carpenter. For the graphically oriented learner the accompanying chart might prove helpful in explaining who Jesus is and who he isn't. For the not so graphically oriented, the chart intersects two different groups of people. One is an absolute category - those who claim to be the God of whom the Bible speaks. One either claims this or they don't. Transcendent, creator, savior, judge, full of grace, and compassion, are a small sampling of the biblical God's actions and attributes. The second category, sagacity, is a relative one with several attributes. First, the attribute of wisdom which gives insight into matters of the human heart and character beyond the superficial layers seen by most of the populace. Second, a great openness of heart exemplified by compassion and humility. Third, sages are creative thinkers and can't be easily classified in the normal categories of their culture.

do not understand and cannot control. Into this campground called humanity, Jesus pitches his tent and reveals God's compassion, integrity, and self sacrifice. He also reveals our spiritual disease - pride, self obsession, callousness, and rebellion. Fortunately, he reveals the path of God's forgiveness and our repentance. Who is Jesus? Well, he's no front man for Santa Claus and Wal-Mart. Jesus is the only good news in the universe telling us in word and self-sacrifice that God loves us and is calling us into relationship. (The idea for the chart came from Between Heaven and Hell: A Dialogue Somewhere Beyond Death with John F. Kennedy, C.S. Lewis, & Aldous Huxley, by Peter Kreeft.)

The Evergreen State College Lacks Ideological Diversity

COLUMN ►

BY CRAIG ST. CLAIR
It is an obvious fact that this campus knows nothing of conservative thought. Conservatism on this campus is always equated to Republicans, Republicans to "the Right," and "the Right" is inherently racist, fascist, evil, wrong, and probably many other epithets that I have yet to encounter. I think it is very difficult to attain any understanding of anything if one objectifies and dehumanizes a subject (i.e. "the Right") and has also demonized it with various epithets. The conservative movement of the last 50 years is a complex movement of often opposing and conflicting ideas. I am more concerned with conservative intellectual history, rather than political history. For ideas are the genesis of action, and if actions are to be understood, then the ideas behind them must be understood as well. With this college's heavy emphasis on things political, ideas are often neglected. Our own Prof. Ken Dolbare published a little book in the early 70s entitled *American Ideologies*. It gives an apt description of the primary divisions within the conservative camp, applicable still today. He draws two distinctions among conservative thought: individualist-conservatism and organic-conservatism. Within conservative ranks, George H. Nash's *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America* draws similar distinctions. He depicts three branches of conservatism: libertarian, traditionalist, and anti-Communist. Since communism is not the threat it was in the earlier part of this century, I think it fair to deal with the libertarian and traditionalist branches, which correspond to the individualist and organic

conservatism that Dolbare describes. It is these different aspects of conservative thinking that need to be understood in order to properly understand the nature of conservatism in America. The individualist/libertarian conservatives are strongly influenced by the classical Liberalism of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. They largely draw on the beliefs in a free market system of economics and individual freedom. These conservatives believe a truly free market, which would enable men and women to be truly free, then all of our social ills would be alleviated. Dolbare cites Milton Freedman as being a primary spokesman for this aspect of conservatism, while Nash cites F.A. Hayek, the more influential of the two within conservative circles. Both men are economists, and both believe capitalism to be the way to attain freedom in a society. Any restrictions from outside sources, especially government, are viewed as dangerous to freedom and precursors to socialism. The organic/traditionalist conservatives draw largely from classical Conservative thought

which appeared in the late eighteenth century with the thinking of Edmund Burke. Classical Conservative thought has a strong social orientation. It emphasizes society over the individual, for it is society that sustains the individual and society that will remain when the individual has passed. These conservatives believe that civilization and culture have come about through centuries of human practice and deliberation. Such a society derives much of its life and understanding from this past practice and custom. Abandonment of this practice is unhealthy for a society. Change is something that must happen slowly, for collectively, human beings need time to adapt. Russell Kirk is the foremost conservative of this type and has been most influential within the conservative movement. Many American conservatives tend to display a little bit of both of these differing aspects of conservative thought. It is my experience that the defining difference between the two depends on where one puts one's emphasis. Russell Kirk, to give an example, believed in a free market, yet abhorred the inhumane effects of industrial capitalism. Many "conservative" politicians,

Status Quo REPRINT*

COLUMN ►

By VAUN MONROE
Blood was shed in order for the United States to come into existence. The Revolutionary War was fought to break free from tyrannical English rule. The Declaration of Independence was the mission statement written to protect the rights of individuals. One man, one vote. Democracy.

The Declaration of Independence had no ideological room for enslavement of Black people (labor) and extortion of Red people (land) so new laws were created to make room. New laws that protected the rights of wealthy white males! For people of color these laws helped create a perpetual underclass. For white people, the results were a culture infected by white supremacy. No matter how 'white' they dressed or acted there remained some separation. But in a white supremacist culture we always had people of color that yearned to be white. So they kept on trying.

Meanwhile some white people started feeling kind of bad about their ill gotten gains. A new law was created to try and offset the roadblocks to opportunity. The roadblock of racism. The new law was called affirmative action. Some minorities have made gains but the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action have been white women. Yet, when proposition #209 was on ballots in California 70 percent of white women voted to abolish affirmative action. Where were our white sisters?

White Supremacy combined with greed to create a mindset that allowed some white people to ruthlessly exploit people of color. More and more people both white and of color continued to pour into the United States to repeat the cycle. Many of the white immigrants were allowed to merge if they

adopted the ways of the new country. I wonder if revolution has become impossible in the United States. In a democracy this large it is easy to convince yourself that one vote doesn't matter. The infighting amongst special interest groups dilutes voting power even more.

For instance, if an Italian American marries a German American and they have kids, what is the designated race? White American. Status quo. If a Black American marries a Native American and they have kids, what is the designated race? Biracial. Status quo. Because the child is non-white. What happens to the blood percentages established by the government to decide who is Native American? If whites mix people of color, the child is biracial.

Loss of status. Status quo. Divide and conquer. Black vs. Asian. Men vs. Women. Straight vs. Gay. Christian vs. Left. All smokecreens to prevent us from seeing the war we should all be waging.

Poor vs. Rich. There is enough wealth in this country so that every citizen could live comfortably. But we don't. How can this be? Our situation looks like a poorly written, Machiavellian science fiction novel. But it works. 97 percent of CEO's at fortune 500 companies are white males. In a democracy of increasingly individual individuals can we think about something other than self long enough to change the status quo?

"We do not live for ourselves only, but for our wives and children, who are as dear to us as those of any other men" — Abraham Lincoln
* Due to computer and editor error, Vaun Monroe's column was misprinted last week. I apologize for the error.

Sincerely,
Trevor Pyle
Letters & Opinions Editor



EPIC Heats Up

VIEWPOINT ►

By STEPHANIE GUILLOU
As a transfer student, I was trying out different groups, trying to meet people, get involved, etc. I attended an EPIC meeting and haven't missed one since. Regardless of its past, which I hear wasn't as active, EPIC is moving and shaking now. The mission statement is to gather people together that are committed to gearing society and our resources towards more social, human, and ecological ends rather than the goals of production and profit that dominate this corporatist world. The group is interested in changes of the broader social structures and focus on awareness and action to bring these ideals to the community.

These are high-falooting goals, but the exciting thing about this group is how they implement these goals into actions. Primarily, they provide a space for organization and education, incorporating as many people as are interested. This year, getting more support to and from the community in Olympia and further out is an already-successful ambition. EPIC has worked with groups in Seattle, the Community in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and the Nike campaign out of Portland. EPIC sponsors a great many events that you may be aware of since the super-week when every day there was a new issue and a new speaker. Many of these events are co-sponsored with other groups around campus. EPIC worked with Latin America Student Organization (LASO) and MeCha to bring El Salvadoran speaker Francisco Calli on the Day of the Dead. Working with campus groups

on issues that overlap is also a major concern and goal this year. They are hoping to conglomerate on a winter film series.

In the first seven weeks of this year, EPIC has sponsored six speakers, raised money to send a corn grinder to the women of war-torn Chiapas, Mexico, shown over six films, and is currently working on several campaigns. They are targeting Disney and Nike's exploitation of workers in the third world, American prison issues, Shell Oil's horrendous policy in Nigeria, and the invasion of East Timor. Within the group there are numerous sub-committees that form if there are two or more people interested in an issue. Many of the issues are international ones, but possibilities are limitless and up to the initiative of anyone with an idea for an action or information to share.

The directions that EPIC concentrates on are active ones, and successful actions require a good deal of organization.

The directions that EPIC concentrates on are active ones, and successful actions require a good deal of organization. Through the group's meetings maintain a consistent 20-25 members, the more people involved, the more work can be done. EPIC meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., and all are welcome to join and share ideas, listen to others, contribute time or help, or merely absorb the multitudes of educating information that flows through.

Reader Decries D'Souza

COMMENTARY ►

By TUAN TRAN
I am writing this article in response to the debate between Tim Wise and Dinesh D'Souza on affirmative action at the CRC on November 21. As an Asian-American, I am offended by Dinesh's arguments against affirmative action. First of all, I resent this notion that Asians are superior to others, including white people, on academic achievement. Dinesh cited the test score on the math section of the SAT as an example of his position. What he failed to realize is that most Asian immigrants do well in mathematics because it is a subject that is not dependent on the knowledge of the English language and the American culture. Furthermore, as a matter of economic survival in this racist country, Asian immigrants are forced to go into technical fields such as math, computer science, or engineering in order to get a job after college.

Second, I wonder how much money the conservative Republican party is paying Dinesh to betray his own people? As an immigrant from India, I am sure he must be aware of the historical fact that India was colonized and exploited by the British empire. Not only is he offending the memories of his great countryman, one of the most revered civil rights leaders in this century—Mahatma Gandhi, Dinesh is a "sell-out" to the Asian community of which he is a member. To group the white people together with the Asian people against other minority groups, Dinesh is playing into the "Divide and Conquer" strategy which the British used against India, and the white dominant culture is using against the minorities in this country.

Third, the stereotype that Asians are successful in this country is not true. Asian-Americans come from a diverse social, educational, and economic backgrounds. If it is true that Asians are successful, then why do so many Asian-Americans live in the poor areas of the city, along with African-Americans? During the Rodney King riot in Los Angeles, Asian stores were being looted because most Asian-Americans couldn't afford to do business in the more expensive white community. Furthermore, the looting of Asian stores during the Rodney King riot is a clear example

of the division within the minority groups that white America has successfully instigated.

Fourth, Dinesh's idea of "Rational Discrimination" is nothing but an attempt to rationalize discrimination. I presume Dinesh is good in mathematics since he is Asian. Then why did he fail to realize that the statistics used by insurance companies are inherently discriminatory since it penalizes people with good driving records for belonging in a minority group, such as men under 25 years old. The reason insurance companies can get away with it is that they are one of the richest and most powerful industries in this country.

Fifth, without any evidence to substantiate his arguments, Dinesh resorted to name calling in his debate with Tim Wise, using terms such as: "Under-whelming," "Slow learner," and "Uncle Tom." The phrase "Uncle Tom" applies to an individual of the oppressed group who identifies with the oppressor. I think Dinesh was referring to himself when he called Tim an "Uncle Tom."

Sixth, on a more personal note, as an Asian-American and a graduate of the Teacher Education Program (MIT) from The Evergreen State College, I am unable to get a teaching job at most school districts in this state. My application and placement file are not being screened by anyone who is in the position to hire new teachers. A secretary at the Evergreen School District in Vancouver was blatant enough to tell me that if I wanted to get hired, I should have contacted the school principals. I wonder how many school principals in this state are Asian-Americans? Thus, I am not able to get a teaching job for which I am qualified because I am not part of the "old boy's network."

Finally, I have encountered overt discrimination remarks, such as being called a "gook," and a "chink" by white guys driving by while I was walking along Harrison street, in Olympia, about eight years ago. Even then, I didn't know that people discriminated against me for being an Asian. I wanted to assimilate into this culture so much at the time I thought I was white. I hope one day Dinesh will look at himself in the mirror and see his true reflection.

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One of the funniest comedies of the decade—and you've never seen it
The Stupids is coming soon to a video store to you

BY BRYAN FRANKENSEUS THEISS
There are plenty of tasks less intimidating than trying to convince people that a poorly marketed, unpopular comedy starring Tom Arnold is an absolutely hilarious, must see masterpiece. But sometimes a cause is so noble that one must ignore the obstacles, look straight ahead and proceed without fear.

The comedy in question is *The Stupids*, a very unconventional and intelligently written film that should appeal to fans of *The Simpsons* or *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*. It floundered in theaters for about a week last summer, but it's coming to video December 10th.

The first thing you need to know about *The Stupids* is that it's not what you think. Despite the trailer, it is not a Tom Arnold vehicle. Arnold is great as man-of-the-house Stanley Stupid, but he's not any more important than co-stars Jessica Lundy as his wife Joan, Bug Hall (Alfalfa from the modern *Little Rascals*) as his son Buster, or Alex McKenna as his daughter Petunia. There are also appearances by Christopher Lee and Bob "Captain Kangaroo" Keeshan, and even walk-ons by respected Canadian directors like David Cronenberg and Atom Egoyan. The cast is rounded out by the Stupids' dog Kitty and cat Xylophone, done in stop-motion animation by *Killer Klowns From Outer Space* creators the Chiodo Brothers.

Having the word "stupid" in the title seems to have made people compare the film to *Dumb and Dumber*, something it has very little in common with. Director John Landis (who directed one of the greatest comedies of our time, *The Blues Brothers*) intended it as a children's film as opposed to an adolescent film. As he pointed out in an article in *Cinefantastique*, "...there's not one scatological reference, there's not one sexual innuendo; there's no farting or vomiting." Aside from making the film funnier, this

approach is also faithful to the film's source material, the series of children's books by Harry Allard and James Marshall.

When Landis first came across the project its script was apparently a conventional comedy vehicle. He threw the script out and hired Brent Forrester, a writer from *The Simpsons*, to start a new one. It is Forrester's brilliant writing that makes *The Stupids* one of the funniest comedies of the decade.

So now let me explain the concept. The Stupids are a family who, for no discernible reason, are completely devoid of common sense. They're a loving family and they try to be normal, but they just don't know how. They cannot stop themselves from horribly misperceiving even the most common everyday events. In the opening scene, *The Blues Brothers* discovers that the family garbage can has been moved from the curb and emptied, so he assumes that his garbage has been stolen. Stanley and Joan discuss how they will get new garbage until they get back on their feet, but Stanley is outraged and doesn't want to let people push him around

anymore by stealing his garbage week after week.

In a more conventional comedy, this would be a throwaway joke. But in *The Stupids*, it's the beginning of a hilariously complex plot. Stanley goes searching for the garbage thieves, and before the movie is even a third of the way over he's gotten mixed up with aliens and arms dealers, his kids think he's been kidnapped and his wife has abandoned her car on a busy street to run from police who aren't even looking for her. Misunderstanding after mis-



graphic by Bryan Frankenseus Theiss

understanding weaves into a complex imaginary conspiracy. The fact that the conspiracy does not exist is irrelevant; the Stupids' skewed perception of the world becomes its

own Stupid reality.

Perhaps because of its writer's background, the comedy is more similar to *The Simpsons* than anything else. In a way it's almost like *Homer Simpson: The Movie*. You have a whole family of Homer Simpsons who, miraculously, wind up being able to take care of themselves despite their supremely

defective brains. The jokes are in rapid-fire succession like *Airplane!* but they never stoop to parody—the humor comes almost entirely out of the ridiculously long series of idiotic mistakes.

At times, Stanley even stumbles into big action scenes, with renegade soldiers trying to kill him because of their own Stupid-esque misinterpretations. These scenes are a lot of fun, though they could have used more of the anarchic excessiveness Landis demonstrated in the epic car chases of *The Blues Brothers*. The real-life villains responsible for these shootouts and explosions are the weakest element of the film. Landis seems to have lost some of his visual flair over the years; the genuine threat in these scenes could have been played to more effect with some grim, dramatic *Die Hard* style photography. Still, the villains are funny and the only scene that really doesn't work is a cameo by *Singled Out* hyperbabe Jenny McCarthy, who actually isn't very convincing as the star of a *Baywatch*-esque TV show.

But the few misses don't matter; the other jokes are so funny and in such large quantity that Forrester could have sold them in bulk to every other comedy that came out during the summer and still had plenty left over. There are long stretches of the movie that had me laughing continuously, and I was not the only one in the theater buckled over with tears streaming from my eyes by the end of the Christopher Lee scene.

There really is no other movie like *The Stupids*. If there was, the stomachs of America would be in danger of tearing from too much laughter. We're talking comedy on the level of *The Jerk*, just a tier or two below *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*. If you're not willing to give it a chance on video, then, let's face it, you're stupid.

Resistance to the entertaining *Star Trek: First Contact* is futile

BY JENNIFER KOOLGER
Once upon a time, I wanted to see a new movie called *Ghostbusters*. My father being in a prominent position to obtain tickets for the preview, I spent days dreading of floating green blobs and slinky laser beams. Unfortunately, by the time we arrived at the theater near us, the crowd had overrun the event. Alas, we were forced to view Bill Murray in all his slime splendor at a later date, but in exchange we were snuck into *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*. Upon leaving the theater, I knew that I had found a new love. Exploding starships, sneaky aliens, and advanced levels of intrigue (at least for an eight year old) soothed my *Star Wars* deprived soul.

Several years later, the eighth film in the series has arrived at our local movie house. I met *Star Trek: First Contact* with plenty of silly bubbling enthusiasm, as it lived up to my expectations. *First Contact* is surely the most entertaining of the *Trek* stories to grace the big screen.

First Contact marks the first *Star Trek* film without any of the original television series cast present. That's one of the reasons I was particularly drawn to this film as opposed to *Star Trek: Generations*. I enjoy a good spin around the galaxy with Captain Kirk and crew just as much as the next *Trekker*, but really people, it's over. While it was appropriate to have Kirk usher in the new crew into the motion picture realm, it would seem just a tad extraneous to have them horn in on every film. Bouts of nostalgia for the original series (like the recent sweeps month, where *Deep Space Nine* characters time travel back to the

Tribbles episode), are humorous and perhaps poignant at times, but become trite if overused.

Anyway, back to our story. *First Contact* uses the time-tested-time-travel twist to plummet Jean-Luc Picard and the rest of the regular *Next Generation* cast (including Lt. Worf, played fabulously, as usual, by Michael Dorn, who arrives from his *Deep Space Nine* duties in true Klingon fashion) back to the mid 21st century. They follow the Borg, everyone's favorite cube-traveling villains, to thwart the alien's plans to conquer and assimilate Earth before humans had space travel capabilities.

The crew tumbles through some sort of subspace field (unlike the "slingshot around the sun" method used in *Star Trek IV*) and find themselves in constant combat with the crafty cyborgs throughout the film. The Borg attempts to assimilate the crew of the exceptionally swank new Enterprise E, but as you can guess, they aren't ready to give up without a grand and glorious fight. Crusher (Gates McFadden), Picard (Patrick Stewart, who according to my mom is "hot" and "buff" in this film), and Worf log in some spectacular action scenes attempting to destroy the seemingly unstoppable Borg from ruining a perfectly good starship and its crew.

Meanwhile, Riker (Jonathan Frakes, who also directed the film), Troi (Marina Sirtis, who has an actual role to play rather than just standing around sensing things), and Geordi (LeVar Burton, sporting new cybernetic eyes in a fetching shade of blue rather than the standard bland banana clip) hobble about down on the surface in search

of Zephram Cochrane, the man who designed and piloted the first warp driven ship and made the "first contact" with an alien species, ushering humans into the space era. Cochrane (played by James Cromwell, who was also Farmer Haggott in *Babe*) suffered damage to his ship when the Borg attacked Earth, and the Enterprise cohorts must lend him a helping hand to get the ship back in shape in time for history to happen. Cochrane finds out about his fate through countless violations of the Prime Directive, and ends up a reluctant hero, which Cromwell portrays quite convincingly.

Alfre Woodard plays Lily, Cochrane's colleague in warp technology, who ends up on the Enterprise and develops a friendship of sorts with Picard. Her exchange with the Captain as he sorts out his true drive behind his desire to conquer the Borg (remember, he was captured and made one of them in the 1990 two part episode *The Best of Both Worlds*, which you can borrow from my mom if you haven't seen it) marks the dramatic high point of the film. She and Patrick Stewart take time out from kicking Borg ass to flex their cerebral muscles, a necessary and enjoyable component of any *Star Trek* film.

Despite the compelling Borg action sequences and humorous exchanges with Cochrane, the real stars of *First Contact* are Brent Spiner, who returns as Data, and Alice Krige, who plays the Borg "queen." This may be just a personal weakness of mine, but I will never cease to be amazed by Spiner's portrayal of Data. *Generations* introduced him to the emotion chip (which apparently

he can turn on and off now), the use of which he continues to explore in this film as he wrestles, both verbally and physically, with the Borg queen as to the question of individuality vs. collectives (among other things). I found it particularly interesting that two non-humans ended up arguing the finer and duller points of humanity. The late founder of the *Star Trek* universe, Gene Roddenberry, often used aliens to reflect human nature (ex: Spock). I was glad to see that producer Rick Berman and the others in charge of his vision have preserved this tradition.

First Contact joins the list of *Star Trek* films directed by cast members. Frakes takes the helm and maneuvers the film quite smoothly over its elaborate special effects shots and patchwork storyline. The story, which could have been confusing given the time travel and switching back and forth from different plot twist, runs together coherently. I also admittedly know very little about film and directing and such, but some of Frakes' camera shots were astounding.

Though it did not feature Malcolm McDowell (a personal favorite since *A Clockwork Orange*) like *Generations* did, *First Contact* wins hands down over its *Next Generation* film predecessor. I vote that the next one be directed by LeVar Burton, who has directed many episodes of *Voyager* and *Deep Space Nine*, and feature a cameo by Wil Wheaton as Wesley Crusher, just for old times sake.

And so, my *Star Trek* enthusiasm gushes on. *First Contact* is a stellar film which should awaken the *Trekker* in us all.

Three intriguing issues of new comics coming soon

BY ED WARD

One of the most wonderful capabilities of fiction is its occasional ability to produce characters that do not exist, but seem absolutely real to the reader. By the end of this month there will be new issues released of three comic books that all do this exceptionally well. The three are: Terry Moore's *Strangers In Paradise*, Martin Wagner's *Hepcats*, and Donna Barr's *The Desert Peach*. If you want some new imaginary friends hanging around your house, check out any one of these series.

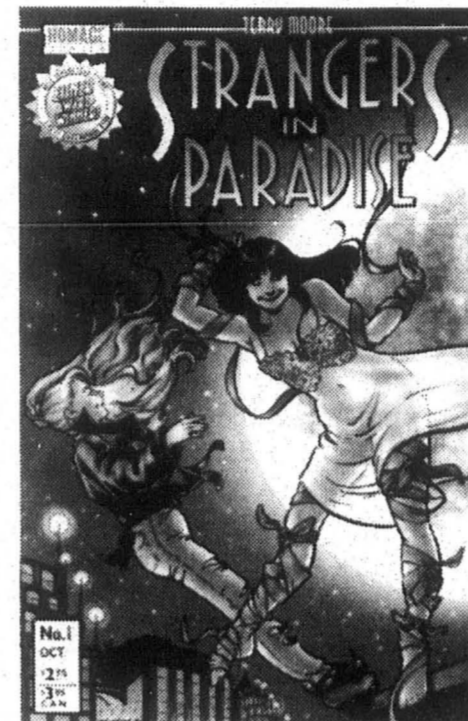
Strangers in Paradise is the most mixed bag of the three. It is primarily the story of three friends, named Kachoo, Francine, and David. Where the series focuses on its leads, there are very few books out there that can match it, as he obviously knows them very well. Their facial expressions and body language are consistent, and their actions, while often surprising, always make sense. Moore's greatest strength as a cartoonist is his ability to capture a moment in a facial expression.

Unfortunately, almost all of the characters outside of the leads are aggressively one-dimensional. This creates something of a strange contrast when the two styles of "people" are forced to interact. Generally speaking, the caricatures work well with the characters for comedic purposes, but seem miserably underdeveloped when used for dramatic

purposes. Kachoo, Francine, and David are enough reason to check this book out; if only the rest of the world around them measured up. Still, you can't entirely hate a world whose grocery stores stock Bjork Flakes.

Hepcats is another slice-of-life style title about a group of friends; in this case Arnie, Erica, Joey, and Gunther. The first major story-arc entitled *Snowblind* (still in progress) is primarily about Erica with all of the other characters relegated to supporting parts. On its most basic level it's the before and after story of a failed suicide attempt. What *Snowblind* is really, though, is a character study showing what made Erica who she is, and an attempt to see what she might become. It also seems to be a place for Wagner to experiment with the stylistic storytelling options open to him in the comic book format. The narrative shifts from first-person, to third-person quite often, and the composition and pacing of the panels show his background in both film and daily strips. Insightfully written and beautifully illustrated in black-and-white, *Hepcats* is worth the effort of seeking out.

The final comic for this column is probably the most difficult to explain. *The Desert Peach* is about a grave digging battalion for the German Army stationed in Northern Africa during WWII. *The Desert Peach* takes on issues of sexuality, friendship, perception of others, the military mindset, and patriotism in ways that I've never really seen them addressed before. It also has



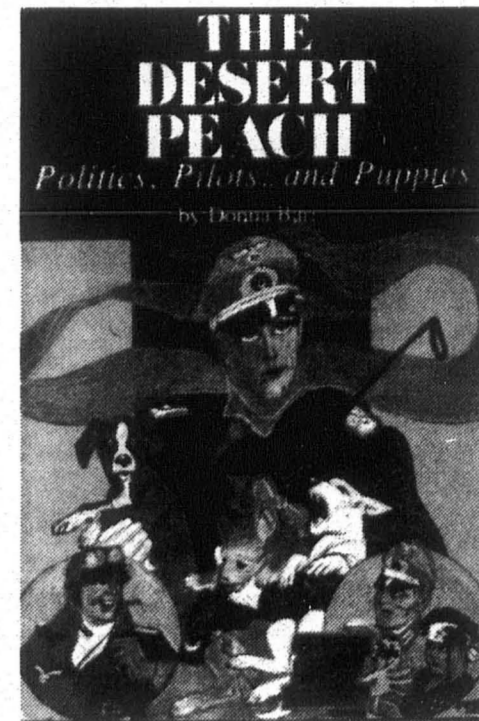
This is the cover of the first issue of the third volume of *Stranger in Paradise* by Terry Moore

Due to an unfortunate psychic snafu, *Claire Voyant's Cosmostology* will not be seen this week. However, Carmine Rau asks us all to prepare our brains for next week's end of the quarter special edition. Thank you for reading the CPJ once again.

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This is the cover of a compilation of *The Desert Peach: Politics, Pilots, and Puppies* comic by Donna Barr

possibly the largest and most complex casts of characters in contemporary comics. Every character in this series has been used as a symbol for at least one thing, but they never seem confined to these roles as symbols. Somehow, Barr manages to continue producing intelligent comics that juggle a huge cast of characters, that always have a finite story in every issue, and that always manage to develop organically.

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