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and truly  
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## WHAT'S UP:



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worthy!

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# Experts: Black on Black crime a fact of life

by BRIAN MARSHALL  
uR-I Correspondent

Students attending a recently held forum in the McDonel Hall Kiva may not have come away with a new understanding of the problems of crime in the black community.

But the forum, sponsored by the Black Caucuses of Holmes and McDonel Hall last Thursday night, exposed many people to differing opinions — opinions they might not have heard before.

The discussion was titled "Black on Black Crime: Are We Our Own Worst Enemy?" A panel of six was smoothly moderated by Shaul Turner, who hosts a show on minorities at WLNS-TV in Lansing.

The six personalities from the Lansing area were Lansing District Court Judge Jack Davis; MSU criminal justice Professor Zolton Ferency; Greg Kelly, State Department of Corrections officer in Lansing; Milton Austin, one of the driving forces behind the Lansing 4-H Program; Cleveland Henry, who works with the Community Coalition of Lansing and Ernestine McMullen, the woman behind the Southland Center for Drug Abuse in Lansing.

Though the panel was brought together to discuss black-on-black crime, the discussion often turned towards the plight of the black community, and how to bring power

and unity to that society.

Judge Davis said there is obviously a problem with black crime when 20 percent of his jurisdiction is black, but 60 to 65 percent of his cases involve black defendants.

Davis also said, "By and large, the statement we are our own worst enemy is probably correct."

Ferency said he feels that there is more black crime than white because a higher percentage of blacks live in "high crime areas."

He said high crime areas are created when certain circumstances — poverty, poor health care, bad schools, lack of employment, and poor family relations — combine in a community.

"Black crime goes with the territory," Ferency said.

Kelly said blacks do have a problem with crime in our community.

He went on to blame the widespread use and addiction to crack for much of that crime. He said crack pits people against each other, either for money, for drugs, or while under the influence of the drug.

Austin said people are products of their environment, and that they must find themselves within that environment.

He also stated that "Now, you have an opportunity to think. Once you're in the work world — you're set in what you think, and it's almost impossible to change."

Austin said he thinks that the growth in black-on-black crime could also be attributed to the fact that black communities have changed.

He explained that in his youth, if a man insulted a woman, not only would the woman slap him, but anybody who heard the remarks would rush to her defense.

"There's a higher tolerance for that today," he stated.

Henry reinforced the argument made by Ferency that crime is "where you are." Henry often spoke

See EXPERTS, p. 2

a limited number of last week's uR-I special report *State of State: Race relations at MSU*, is still available. stop by our Gunson Street offices to pick one up. other back issues are available.



Experts discuss the problem of Black on Black crime at a recent forum in the McDonel Kiva.  
uR-I photos/BRIAN KACH



From EXPERTS, p. 1

of "the gates" between the inner-city ghettos and the middle class. He mentioned that education and community "networking" were two of the only ways to survive and pass through the gates.

Turner next posed this questions to the panelists: "Do you feel today's society is conducive to progress by minorities?"

In response, Austin responded, "Society is ready to deal with minorities. Minorities are accepted by the upper and middle class."

However, he mentioned that this acceptance is due to the economic values of those classes, not their views on minorities.

Ferency disagreed, saying, "The conditions blacks endure are suffered because of life in a racist, even supremacist society."

He cited Northern Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland as other examples of supremacist societies where similar conditions are tolerated.

Turner then posed the question: "Whose fault is all this crime? Is it ours (the black community's)? Why?"

Judge Davis said there are more blacks in jail because there are more things that were against the law for black people.

"For instance, if a white boy drives without a license in Lansing, he only gets a warning. When there's a black driving that car with no license, he goes to jail.

"When whites take mopeds and couches and burn them, the police department says, 'Boys will be boys,' " Davis said. "But when a few blacks fight over a girl, they call it a riot."

Ferency said the United States was divided into two societies: The affluent society, which is essentially white, and the poverty stricken society, which is composed largely of minorities.

"The laws are designed for the large affluent group," Ferency said, "but they feel the impoverished don't belong. So why are the minorities judged by the whites' rules?"

McMullen said every time the black community is poised to "rise", a new obstacle arises, and that these obstacles and those who cause them are to blame.

Questions posed by the audience rarely dealt with the problem of black

on black crime, but with the problems with black society as a whole.

One of the larger points dealt with the lack of investment by blacks into their own community.

Judge Davis explained, "It's not that we don't have the money, we just don't think about how we use it."

The group, as a whole, observed that blacks seem to invest most of their money in goods produced by the white society that suppresses them. Drugs and gold chains were mentioned often as examples of this statement.

Henry said many are too weak to get through "the gates" and to success, and that they just become more obstacles.

"Hurt for them, but don't get caught up in others' problems so much that you impede your own progress," Henry said.

Ferency cited the breakdown of social controls as a reason for the black community's "decline" since the late-1960's. He noted that controls such as the family, church, and schools have had smaller influences on the behavior of black communities.

"Now we substitute the law for these lost social controls," he explained.

McMullen posed this bit of advice for the 50 students on hand.

"The worst thing we can do to ourselves is do nothing," McMullen said. "When you let your spirit die, you might as well be dead yourself."

Austin agreed, saying, "Above all, you have to believe that you can do whatever you have to do to succeed."

"We are now in a stage where we can't be destroyed unless we destroy



Students listen to the panel of experts.

uR-I photo/BRIAN KACH

ourselves," he said.

It can happen for you — you can do it. If anybody tries to slow you down, he is your enemy," Henry said.

Kelly stressed the importance of three qualities: Self pride, the ability to communicate, and the ability to network within the community.

Ferency explained his position, saying, "White society must change. They are coming to the realization that they can't warehouse minority's problems anymore."

One audience member, Lamar Sanders, a computer engineering

sophomore, left the Kiva with a new feeling about the issues discussed.

When asked what was the one thought he left the discussion with, he responded, "Education. Everyone has to be educated about everyone else. Until we have that understanding about each other, it's going to be tough."

Henry offered a closing statement. "When I look around me tonight," he said, "I realize that all of you are the solutions."

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# Page Three

The Second Front Page

## A Bear of a summer

by MEG EHR  
uR-I Correspondent

For most college students, the term "summer job" brings thoughts of offices, fast-food restaurants, malls and the occasional amusement park or summer camp.

But Nancy Hawtof's summer jobs have had her seeing stars — the Hollywood variety.

Hawtof, an English writing senior, spent the last two summers working in the publicity departments of two major movie studios. In 1988, she worked as an intern at United Artists, and in 1989 she moved to Tri-Star.

At UA, Hawtof worked on several movies at once, while her major responsibilities were with the film *The Bear*, which opened nationwide on Nov. 3.

It may seem like quite a stretch for a student from Michigan to find a job with a studio in California, but Hawtof said it wasn't that difficult.

"I wanted to write scripts, so I called story departments in various entertainment corporations and asked if they had internships," Hawtof explained. "Basically, I called up and

they took me. I had to call a few times, but it wasn't difficult. You just have to be a little bit aggressive."

Hawtof's persistence and aggressiveness paid off, and she got an internship UA. Unfortunately, she reached California to begin her 11-week internship just as the Writer's Guild went on strike. Luckily for Hawtof, the company found her a place in the publicity department.

She went to work managing the break department, which she assures us has nothing to do with coffee cups and ashtrays. Rather, it was her job to gather any information in newspapers, magazines, etc., that involved a UA production or any associated personalities such as actors or directors. She made sure everyone knew what was going on with all aspects of the movies.

While at UA, Hawtof worked on films such as *Rainman*, *Child's Play*, *Pumpkinhead*, *Roadhouse* and *Betrayed*.

One of the perks of her job: attending the *Betrayed* premiere, also attended by stars like Howard Hesseman, Judd Nelson and Raquel Welch.

Although she enjoyed her job at UA, Hawtof decided to make a change this year.



Nancy Hawtof bears all!

uR-I photo/STEPHANIE MILITIO

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"I didn't want to go back to United Artists because I wanted to try a different company, meet more people and make more connections," she said.

Hawtof contacted a woman at Tri-Star who she had met previously. The woman needed an assistant, and Hawtof fit the bill.

Although her job lasted only five weeks, it was more concentrated than the work Hawtof had done at UA. Her work centered almost exclusively on *The Bear*.

*The Bear* is a French film that chronicles the relationship between an orphaned bear cub and a wounded male Kodiak. There is almost no dialogue — the movie focuses on the bear's-eye view of the world. It smashed records in Europe, where it was released earlier, and is now

taking the United States by storm, earning rave reviews.

Because of the film's success in Europe, Hawtof's position was very important.

"The woman that I worked under was in charge of publicizing the movie now that it was coming to America," Hawtof said.

Her responsibilities included setting up screenings of the movie for critics; contacting magazines, radio and television stations; choosing stills, slides and other art for magazines and assembling press kits and trailers which are seen as previews at movie theatres nationwide.

The movie has such a wide audience appeal that Hawtof found herself contacting magazines ranging from Family Circle to Sports Illustrated to GQ.

"The movie is geared toward any group of people," Hawtof said. "It's not a children's film or an adult film — it's for everyone."

Although the movie does focus on animals, Hawtof said it is not a typical animal movie.

"It's not a Disney film, it's not a documentary. It's an adventure, it's a love story, it's a comedy, it's a thriller. It's magnificent."

Hawtof said there was no part of her job that she didn't like. She especially enjoyed hearing positive feedback from people who had seen the movie. After putting in all that hard work, Hawtof found positive reviews were really rewarding.

She said she also learned something about herself from these jobs.

"I think I'm not capable right now of writing a script. I hope to someday, but for now, publicity is the perfect setting for me to make contacts and learn something about the business."

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# Op:

## Verdict on judicial elections: Contemptuous

Last week's contest to fill the newly-created 54-B District Judge seat did more than place David Jordon in a position he has sought for years; it confirmed something that we have asserted for years — judges should not be elected.

The 54-B race between Mr. Jordon and barrister James Heos was a textbook example of why our judges should be appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate, rather than subject to election-time whims of the sometimes fickle and oftentimes short-sighted voting public.

That is not to say that we do not have confidence in the democratic process; rather, we vehemently assert that voting for public officials is the most precious and crucial element of the American system and a cornerstone of our society — one we would never advocate forsaking or tampering with.

Yet, judicial contests are a horse (or in this case, horse's ass) of another color.

Seldom is there much of a meaningful track record to distinguish candidates. Judging future judges on a few prior cases is short-sighted and hardly indicative of overall future performance. While endorsements are an aid to voters, rarely do bar organizations deem a candidate unfit for office. Their ratings are often favorable to most candidates, and only

confirm that a total bum has not been placed on the ballot. In a nutshell, lawyers look after their own.

Moreover, and unfortunately in this case, contestants try to stake out unique ground through campaign promises. We find it abhorrent that a judge would make promises on issues sure to come before him. In this country, and presumably in this town, cases are judged on their particular merits.

And while we see the rhyme and reason behind expressing a hardline, anti-crime stance, it is almost inconceivable that a candidate for the bench would run on a soft-on-crime platform.

To assume the ridiculous and use it in making a point, a soft-on-crime judicial candidate would surely find himself with campaign bills, leftover garish yard signs and a gavel-less future on the Wednesday following the first Tuesday of November.

Now to the specifics of this campaign, for, unfortunately, it is not necessary to use a hypothetical argument to prove our case.

Obviously, much coin turned over in this race, as Heos and Jordon signs filled East Lansing lawns and fliers littered our homes. While we do not believe either of the candidates would have proven themselves susceptible to bribery, a judge who has assumed his place behind the bench only after great personal expense may find a

bribe an attractive offer. Also, this leaves the "poor" lawyer, or poor-client lawyer (usually a public defender) at a marked disadvantage when considering or mounting a judicial campaign.

There was also a considerable amount of mud-slinging and hired-gun politics in this district judge race. At the end, Heos was found desperately seeking Lava soap and gallons of water to get the mud off his hands while Jordon's associate Mark Grebner made a campaign-eve push to quell talk that Mr. Jordon's \$400+ payment to him for consulting services effected the political consultant's endorsement in his latest guide to the candidates.

Shame on you Mr. Heos, and we're not buying Mr. Grebner.

You surely did not perform with the dignity we would expect of one seeking the title of "Your Honor" Mr. Heos, and Mr. Grebner, you should have refused what you call a nominal fee or skipped an endorsement in that particular race. At least you could have been up front in your candidates guide, which many of us see as an excellent resource and honestly reliable aid at election time.

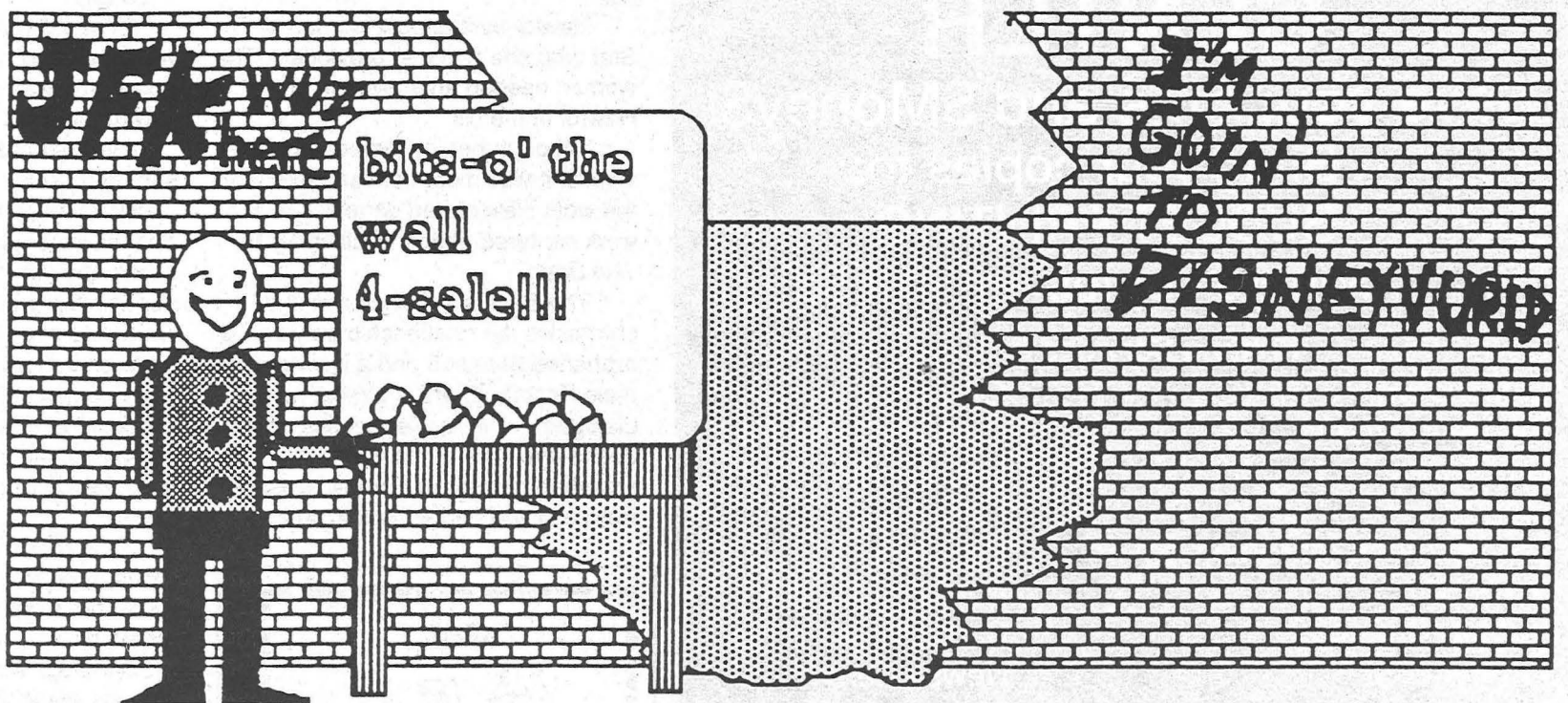
Again, we must reprimand Mr. Heos. It has come to our attention that in your door-to-door canvassing, you brought Judge Houk with you to talk to potential supporters. The pandora's box this opens frightens us — no, it terrifies us.

Such alliances put judges in a position where their rulings could be questioned should a lower-court ruling by an allied judge come before them for review. While this might not happen with the judges in their current positions, an ambitious judge could later find himself in a new, higher position owing a favor to a judge directly beneath him. Let's face it, judges are not the grandfatherly men we see on television; they hate to be reversed as much as the rest of us.

There are many other questions and issues we could discuss, but we feel these are reasons enough to put the power of selecting judges in the hands of a higher and more scrutinizing authority, subject to the review of a body of other elected officials. Perhaps judicial appointments made by the governor would make our state Senate work a little harder in reviewing appointments. In a recent example, Commerce Director Larry L. Meyer's appointment was met with hardly a pertinent question or thorough examination by our senators.

But that's another story altogether. In this case, we believe a change is in order. We have no further witnesses and no more arguments to make on the matter.

Court adjourned.



uR-I artwork/ERIK GOODELL

### the university Reporter-Intelligencer

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The Reporter-Intelligencer is published weekly and distributed without charge to the MSU community and environs. So there.



Provoc's long-lost relative shows up for a jawin'

HEY GUYS!!!

Why the Provoc be the only one blowing off anonymous steam in your mag/tabloid/pamphlet?

Why can't the university's fabulous ground crew wait for a decent hour before picking up leaves, sawing defenseless trees, or mowing lawns *right outside our windows?* (Especially on Friday mornings when our headaches could kill a lesser being). If we're paying an outrageous amount to attend classes, being clubbed by overzealous goon "John Laws" and getting suckered on parking tickets and MIP by DPS (which can't even find somebody to answer their phone most of the time), don't we deserve a good night's sleep?

Why can't inbred fools on bikes stay off the street at night while they're wearing dark clothing? The sidewalks are there for a reason, pal; why don't you try 'em sometime? You might like 'em?

Why can't lame asses who take it upon themselves to graffitize various rest room walls make up something original? I'm getting sick of of the Lesbians are Cool/Lesbians are Satanic arguments, the "ladies please remain seated for entire performance" type stuff.

Why can't the insidious over-40 crowd leave us innocent, naive college girls alone at local watering holes and find someone their own age to play with? Or at least find a good brand of breath mint...

Why can't *The State News* come up with some decent headlines for their *profound* articles? The best was: "*Carmen* in English; still tragic." Hilarious.

Well, thanks for this little op. Oh, yeah, one more thing. Does WDBM have any tune by Siouxsie and the Banshees besides "Cities in Dust?" Just asking...

Your Friend,  
MaryJane Sunshine

Privatize MSU!  
reader viewpoint

by ART HARGER

As an employee of MSU from 1955 to 1957 and a student on and off from 1958 to 1984 I have observed the discombulation of a once viable university into an institution of 5,215 contiguous acres impose a load upon the State of Michigan and United States of America that is untenable to those two debt-ridden entities.

It's time to privatize public universities 100 percent. And since I know more about MSU than any other entity of higher education — including Oregon, where I received my B.S., and UCLA where I received my M.S. — and its staggering assets (i.e., the Ingham County Land above mentioned) and its staggering deficiencies (i.e., attempting to support three medical schools with their built-in high costs — vet, human medicine, osteopathic).

How to do it?

Make the legal owners of MSU, the duly-elected Board of Trustees, an offer they cannot refuse:

First, MSU stripped to its core is a non-profit, Michigan corporation albeit its shares must belong to the State of Michigan. (In 1973 I was an officer-director-shareholder of a for-profit Michigan corporation that was jointly sued by the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and MSU in a civil action instigated by the Attorney General of the State of Michigan so I have insight into the legal entities lurking behind those "megauniversities.")

Second, an offer they cannot refuse? Yes.

A. I would advocate to the Board of Trustees they leave the Federal Land Grant status through voluntary resignation (Kansas State University did it with no harm done).

B. Offer the State of Michigan a total buyout of all invested improvement monies (i.e., buildings, landscaping, fixtures, furniture and land, etc.) at

the currently appraised value (yes, a costly appraisal by at least one certified appraiser is needed).

C. Based on that figure issue the state a bond for the aggregate amount bearing the going interest rate for high grade bonds on the day of closing. This isn't as unheard of as it seems as the University of Pittsburgh went from a non-profit, private Pennsylvania corporation to a non-profit, public Pennsylvania corporation in the space of a day). So reversing the trend, MSU would be a Pitt in reverse.

Third, literally condominize the assets of the new, not-for-profit, no-share corporation borrowing a page from the book of the late William Zeckendorf, a legendary New York real estate developer who pioneered the seperation of a single building into three basic components.(i.e., the land, the improvement or the building and the air rights ... so synergistically what was one value becomes three separate legal entities). The basic corporation, say Spartan University, would retain the land momentarily while it sold off the obvious money makers, such as Olin Health Center, the preschool, Kellogg Center's 191 rentable hotel rooms, the power plants, the laundry, the food stores, the auditorium, Fairchild Theatre and Spartan Stadium, etc...).

A basic axiom of real estate is that no one knows what a real property (i.e., the Union) is worth until it's sold. But as a simplification of this, my alma mater, Oregon, has a faculty club (circa 1962) that rented upstairs rooms to single and visiting faculty and had a public parlor for the faculty to congregate downstairs. I would turn Cowles House into an on-campus faculty club with lunches and dinners for the faculty like UCLA's on-campus faculty club and buy the new Spartan University president a house in a walk-to-campus range in the family neighborhoods surrounding MSU.

So zippo, the newly formed faculty club for both non-tenure and tenured faculty with the public rooms open to all of them free of charge with the private upstairs rooms going for a nominal \$20 per night paying the mortgage Spartan University would

extend at the then going interest rate at the then appraised value of the house.

Fourth, the greatest intrinsic asset MSU has, in my opinion, is the hydra-headed Forest Akers, twin 18-hole golf course of which one could be reserved for nominal-fee usage for all students, faculty, staff and retirees general public of the new university corporation's sale-off to a non-profit cooperative at say \$1 a member. The other 18 could become a private country club corporation for progit and sell memberships at say \$1.5 million apiece, on installments, to those wishing the best country club in the world complete with a wholly-owned jetport/heliport/V-tol port to the adjoining unimproved farm land.

So we reach the nitty-gritty bottom-line: How much are the bonds issued to the State of Michigan? A ballpark guesstimate would be \$1 to \$2.5 billion. (I stress that literally no one knows what real estate is worth until it's sold). And how much would Spartan University (only a suggested name) yield from its triple sell-off of land, improvement and air rights at the optimum realistic price in hopefully a high-wind economy, (another strictly personal guesstimate), between \$3 billion (i.e. \$100,000 an acre for the land or about \$500 million, \$1 billion or thereabouts for all the improvements, \$3 billion from 2,000 country club memberships at contract face value to be accrued as income over 30 years without interest) and \$6 billion (a high-velocity reading on Kellogg Center's 191 rentable rooms, say, could bring \$400,000 per room or about \$38 million from that one, relatively minor asset alone) bringing the newly-formed university a new endowment of between \$500 million and \$2.5 billion yielding conservatively \$50 million upwards in revenue bringing within reach a private university education at the same price (about \$44 per credit hour) as a public education for all (state residents and non-residents) and with no registration fees, no credit loan minimums, etc...

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There will be no more for-our-eyes-only letters; we are not here to act as your pen pals. What you have to say should be something all our readers can see and respond to. So be forewarned — if you send it, we'll print it. Keep 'em coming, pardners, we'll be here...



# Swain helps us learn by his mistake



M.L.  
Elrick

Thanks, Monty; you've taught us a valuable lesson. You see, Swain screwed the pooch. His careless use of an expression deemed objectionable by most open-minded people put several inches of Hush Puppy down his throat, and while he isn't the first to let a stupid remark get him in trouble, he is the most recent. And he surely won't be the last. But we get ahead of ourselves. The scenario: Swain, an accounting 202 prof who is wrapping up his televised Monday class (which has an enrollment of

several hundred) tells the attentive students he will not be dismissing them early because (and we paraphrase) he doesn't want 'to Jew them out of their tuition money.' Oy! Immediately, Swain realized he was chewing on a sizeable piece of shoe leather, and before someone could administer the Heimlich, he changed his statement to "Gyp," and aptly told the class he said a stupid thing. Without a doubt, a major understatement. To keep to the original point, however, I guess we can overlook the fact that "Gyp" could be construed as offensive to Gypsies (and therefore no better than "Jewling" or "Japping" students out of a few precious moments of accounting), and cut to the chase — some people still feel that it is OK to be insensitive or derogatory towards certain ethnic, religious, racial, or cultural groups. And that stinks. From published reports it sounds as if Swain truly slipped and meant no harm, falling back on an expression learned in a less

enlightened period of American history. He has apologized, been talked to, and, we assume, been reprimanded. But that doesn't erase the fact that others use such terms without out a second thought. Far too often in our society, even the most forward-thinking or "liberal" people hide their prejudices deep within themselves — only to inadvertently reveal their true hang-ups at a time when they feel secure or have allowed their guard to slip. It seems the synapses are too fast to stop our true selves from coming out sometimes. And while this is embarrassing and can put us on the firing line Swain found himself on, it is a time to learn and grow. A time to deal with something we need to eradicate and eradicate without delay. Facts being facts, everyone is prejudiced in some way. Ever laugh at an off-color joke? Ever imitate the stereotypic way a black person talks? Ever scream at a "lady driver"?

Guess what pal, you're prejudiced. But there is hope. How we deal with our prejudices is what prevents everyone from being a bigot or racist. That does not mean, however, being more cautious about slipping or shoving the hate deeper inside. Dealing with prejudice is the only known cure, and oftentimes shows us how unreasonable or stupid we are with our hang-ups and snide remarks. Ignoring or justifying ourselves only worsens the problem. And far too often, people are willing to let us slide. Monty Swain **did** screw the pooch. But he did us all a favor and reminded us that we are all prone to expose our prejudices and that the best solution to to face the music and purge ourselves of these evils. And while we can't thank him for this lesson, we can learn by his mistake and thereby make the world a little better.

# Berlin Wall *not* a terrible thing to waste



David  
Stearns

Where were you when they breeched the wall? It's a question many people will be asking themselves 20 years from now after last weekend's startling developments in Berlin, Germany.

Not East Berlin. Not West Berlin. Just Berlin. For thirty years the Berlin wall has stood as a symbol of a city divided. A people and country divided. A world divided. But a whirlwind of events over the last two months has brought the wall crashing down into a pile of rubble, a heap of stones signifying the magnitude of the changes occurring with dizzying rapidity in Eastern Europe. Years ago, Soviet kingpin Nikita Kruschev justified the construction of the wall by saying "the blood was running out of our veins." It kept right on running anyway, Nick. It's dramatically ironic that now we can look back and say that opening the wall perhaps has done more to save East Germany than building it in the first place.

The Detroit Free Press reported this weekend that nine out of 10 East Germans using their exit visas and entering the West returned to the East. It just goes to show, if you love somebody, set them free. But despite the significance, the excitement, the utter euphoria surrounding last weekend's events, the metamorphosed political situation is not set in stone. It may not last. It is, no doubt, a very unstable situation and one that must be dealt with with the utmost vision and caution. The possibility of unification has been raised. This would indelibly alter not only the geographic face of Europe but the world's economic and political structure like nothing ever before. Will NATO be scrubbed? What about the Warsaw Pact? It's a concept most people never thought they would be considering 20 years or even three weeks ago. The bottom line is that the

symbolic elimination of the wall is a far step from a final peace between East and West. The wall may no longer serve any practical purpose, but American nukes remain pointed at Moscow, Prague, Budapest and Warsaw. The same holds true for Russian arms aimed directly at Paris, London, Washington and Amsterdam. The wall served its purpose. It kept people from traveling freely to visit family and friends. That *purpose* apparently has failed the desired end that the leaders who stood behind it intended. The only purpose for advanced thermonuclear weapons is destruction, death, pain and fear. Who cares what the experts say. There can't be any *sane* purpose behind them.. Let's hope they await the same fate as The Wall. It's seen its last day. Knock on wood.



## Geek of the Week

Sorry Ed McMahon, but we didn't win the million clams like you promised — apparently you're hoarding it for when your wife gets that divorce settlement. And, for your avarice, you've earned geek o' the week honors. Yes, for years you've laughed at unfunny jokes, fondled future stars, and teased us with promises of wealth. In short, you stink in a huge way, fatso. Best of luck with the dog food commercials, chum. Guess you'll need the money worse than us afterall, what with the alimony and support and lawyer fees and court costs and prostitution fees. Oh, watch those Clydesdale ples!



## Ralph Heibutzki

Due to a top secret uR-I mission Lash has been assigned to this week (namely searching for our missing President DiB, who was last sighted skinny-dipping in Hawaii with a giant toothbrush and trying to floss with a scented lai), his column will not appear in this space.

In his stead, he has asked his great-grand-nephew-cousin Ralph Heibutzki to fill in. Heibutzki, whose column appears sporadically in the uR-I, graciously consented and has this to say... (Take it Sir Ralph)...

## HOLY DRUG WAR, BATMAN! Caped crusader enters Bush's fray

*(We found this unsent letter among President Bush's personal effects following his May Day '99 assassination by an aggrieved grandson of Democratic Presidential loser Mike Dukakis.*

*(The man, all allegedly "homeless, homosexual, needle-sharing, flag-burning invalid friend of Willie Horton" by Republican spokesmen, stabbed Mr. Bush with a swordcane disguised as an American flag. He currently shares a room with notorious Presidential stalker John Hinckley, Jr.*

*(We offer this letter in a public service spirit, noting it was written on Sept. 5, 1989 ... the night Mr. Bush unveiled his controversial drug plan to America.)*



Office of the President  
White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Caped Crusader,  
Now that you're finished playing yourself in that wonderful movie starring Mr. Nicholson — the CIA says that creep Keaton's been hitting on teenagers on the Sunset Strip with Rob Lowe, best keep him in line — it's time you thought about public service.

You could help me with my two biggest headaches: the drug war, and the Contras.

This letter should ease your shyness. Hell, you don't get letters from the President every day! And relax, I could care less if Lloyd Bentsen were under that mask.

Let's level with each other, man to bat. I'm rewriting my drug speech tonight, polishing my makeup, nagged by one thought. My "drug war" is a joke, just like Ronnie's, only I don't even have Mr. T batting for me.

Colombian enforcement's like Ronnie's memory — nonexistent. Coast Guard patrols won't get back their funding cuts (unless the Commander allows me access to his foxy wife). Prisons are only car washes for criminals; think how Catwoman, Joker, Penguin and Riddler kept you so overworked. Our educational system's gone to hell because Ron and I like lilly-white private schools too much to care. That means a lot of Willie Horton's produced, the same kind I

bashed Dukakis with last fall.

Now, as your sidekick would say, "Holy state of emergency, Mr. Bush! Where do I come in?" I'll make you an offer you can't refuse, Caped Crusader. You decide if I'm real or not. Whether you cut Robin in or not, that's strictly up to you. But I need a rabbit out of a hat, or else my prospects in 1992 are screwed. And even Commissioner Gordon in Gotham City will probably wonder if you're up to snuff, so we're on the same side, right?

First, I want to declare martial law for the entire United States. You can appear with me at my next anti-drug speech to show your support. Nobody would mistrust Batman, right? Then I can scrap the Bill of Rights, and you can help my Secret Servicemen strip-search those liberal weenies who give me so many headaches! I'd like to see Dukakis' nuts between your Batfingers.

Second, I'm choosing you and an elite squad of anti-drug ninjas to lead a Colombian invasion. We'll repossess Colombia, kick those cigar-chomping narco-barons off their ill-gotten estates and turn them into "War On Drugs" theme parks. As a concession, I'll give you any third of Colombian territory you want, and you can turn President Barco's residence into a Batcave model — for your next flick, of course.

Third, let's convert every American home into a jail cell, which can be used any time Dear Hubby is arrested and Bat-strip-searched. (All those

"Bat" prefixies drive you nuts, don't they?) I could really use your expertise in this area. Let's put dead-bolt locks, bars and surveillance robots, complete with jars for families to pee in (when they surrender their samples, voluntarily, of course).

Since you helped Warden Creighton design the Gotham State Pen's maximum-security section, and the Batcave, I think your expertise in this area is necessary and appropriate. I figure my home-into-prison conversion wouldn't cost more than the \$50 million I'm giving each state to build several hundred of them.

Fourth, and last — once we've kicked Colombian ass, let's kick Cuban and Nicaraguan ass, too. Why should the Commies get off the hook? We can split up the Cuban baseball teams between us once we repossess both countries. With your international connections, funneling money to our Contra friends should prove a cinch. Ronnie and I got into such trouble over this, I don't want any slip-ups like last time.

If anybody on my team was foolish enough to blab everything to Sam Donaldson, your intimidation skills would prove wonderful. After a guy in a bat suit visits them, their lips would be sealed, right?

You've handled the Joker, so you can handle any psycho on my staff, and that includes Lee Atwater. I'm confident America's drug war would rest well in Batman's hands.

And you don't have to contribute to my campaign in '92, or even sit next to Dan Quayle. I only need the PR push that your biographical movie packs. The rest is up to you. By the way, check into Mike Dukakis, would you? That little wimp gave me the most hideous stare when I addressed the Governor's Convention — like Manson, on acid. We'll have him in a labor camp soon, but break into his house and see what you can find.

Do you think Superman's available to deal with the Iranians? Just kidding, Caped Crusader, we'll deal with 'em in good time. In the meantime, think carefully over my offer, and God Bless.

Regards, George.



The Provocateur

*Well, well, well. If it isn't you again, herringbonehead. That's OK, though; if I failed to offend sufficiently last*

*week, this week promises to get your cockles raised higher than the state's new sales tax — but that failed, too, didn't it?*

Speaking of that horrible mistake the voters made in rejecting the sales tax increase proposals — which would have improved the K-12 system and a lot of the crappy lunches I have to choke down — the Provoc must say he's had enough of poor kindergarten facilities.

Hell, if I could just get a decent nap and some real clean school undies I'd have a lot sweeter disposition now, wouldn't

I? Right, froghead!

I went to one of those right-to-life-as-I-see-it-you-heathen-bastard rallies in Lansing last Saturday. Besides having to miss the latter half of my cartoon agenda, I got drenched to my little still-forming bones.

Some said the water was God's tears.

I think he was just pissed off.

That brings the ole Provoc to a serious note for a moment, folks....you stink.

Thought I was getting soft for a while didn't you, you squeebyish crawdads.

Fact is, the only soft spot is between my cranial plates. I just hate it when people make those let-me-sharpen-my-pencil jokes. Yeech!

Here's a special steamer to all you purveyors of filth — that's right — my loyal fans. To answer all of your questions:

1. No, I don't find Sally Perles attractive.
2. Yes, I am engaged. To Keishia Knight-Pulliam (from The Cosby Show, dork.)
3. Yes, she is better in the playpen than Lisa Bonet.
4. To Mary Jane Sunshine, my maiden-in-waiting. Keep waiting. You don't have what it takes to change my diapers, babe.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## PERSONALS:

LIFE IS a series of choices, decisions, choices, and decisions. So leave me alone, willya? — Wylie.

IT'S LIKE MY DAD ALWAYS SAYS: Life is a shit sandwich, and the more bread you have the less you taste the shit.

SHELLY AND JENNY — I wasn't hallucinating (although I can't remember your real names). You do have twins on this campus. Brian (alias Raj from "What's Happening") and I look forward to another chance meeting on our wall across from the Riv. Hasta Luego.

## SERVICES:

ESPRESSO ROYALE now accepting applications for energetic individuals willing to work hard with and for fun people! Evening and night positions. Serious applicants only.

VIDEO POSTCARD — If it isn't on video tape, it didn't happen. Wedding, personal, party, sports, music, events. 15 percent student discount. 517-339-0509.

WANTED: PRACTICE SPACE for band, two days/week. Do you have an unneeded basement or garage? Want to make some

See Dick buy an ad in that other paper...  
See Dick stuck with that paisley ski hat...  
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SOPHISTICATED SCRIBBLERS! Now accepting submissions for a new quarterly magazine. Send SASE for guidelines to: Way Station, P.O. Box 6250, East Lansing, Mi, 48826.

NEED BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION? TIME FOR YOUR YEARLY EXAM? CONCERNED ABOUT UNPLANNED PREGNANCY OR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS? PLANNED PARENTHOOD HAS THE ANSWERS. CALL 482-1500.

CASTELLANI'S MARKET offers a wide variety of gourmet and international food, and deli sandwiches, too. Stop in for a snack or a meal.

NEED YOUR COPIES done fast and cheap? Go to Budget Printing. See our advertisement elsewhere in the uR-I.

CHOW DOWN at the Crossroads Cafeteria. We're located in the International Center. See our ad in the uR-I.

JAM THE HOUSE with a selection from Too Hot Records. This live store has just what you need for your next house party. See our advertisement in the uR-I.

CASTELLANI'S MARKET has the exotic groceries and atmosphere you've sought for so long! See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

SEE STUDENT ART displayed now at Faruk Art Gallery, in the Campus Town Mall. Also available are T-shirts, incense and a variety of literature. See our ad in the uR-I.

IT'S THE EAST LANSING renaissance at Renaissance Hair, for all of your hairstyling needs. See our ad in the uR-I.

COPIES, COPIES and more copies. If

you want 'em, Paper Image has them. See our ad in the uR-I.

GARY'S CAMPUS Hair Salon offers reduced prices for hair cuts. See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

RECEIVE \$3 OFF your next visit to Clearwater Spa's hot tubs with our coupon elsewhere in the uR-I.

IT'S TOP DOG for chili fries, nachos, hot dogs and other late-night munchies. See our advertisement in the uR-I.

THE LANDSHARK: where you won't feel like an uncool fish out of water. See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

SPEEDY PRINTING DOES it faster and better than the rest. See our ad in the uR-I.

CAPUCCINO? PASTRY? Espresso Royale on Abbott Road offers unique international coffees and other delicacies. See our ad in the uR-I.

NEED A NEW LOOK? Come to David Zumberg, hairstylist, for your beauty needs. See our ad in the uR-I.

MARIA'S offers the best full-service beauty care in the area! See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING puts ease and convenience at your disposal. See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

BUY TODAY AND PROTECT YOURSELF TONIGHT with a personal alarm. See our ad elsewhere in the uR-I.

**BIG BABY DOG BOY** BY C. BURNS © 1988

AW... POOR DOG BOY... HE'S EXHAUSTED, BUT HE JUST CAN'T FALL ASLEEP... HE KEEPS THINKING BACK TO THAT... THAT FATEFUL DAY!

THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS... THAT'S HOW MUCH THE DOCTOR TOLD ME A NEW HEART WOULD COST...

THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY... I BARELY GET BY AS IT IS!

READ ALL ABOUT IT! GIANT EYEBALLS SIGHTED!

HUH... MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK THE CLASSIFIED ADS...

IF I COULD ONLY FIND A BETTER PAYING JOB, THEN... HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THIS?

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tion.



# Out & About

Each week the uR-I strives to keep you hot on the scent of new and exciting activities, via our **Out & About** section (the very thing you've turned to, Magellan). If you know of anyplace we should be including in this section, please hip us to that particular groove, man. We just aren't always as cool as we seem.

House parties are fair game, but we must know about your party the Thursday before the paper comes out. And please, don't tell us if you're having beer; we hate to be the invitation for John Law.

If you have anything you want to tell us, please contact our **Out & About Editor Joe Schmidt** at our Gunson Street Offices, 351-4899.

## EAST LANSING

### 208 Bailey St.

Nov. 18: *Gone Dog*, with the Need (from Flint and featuring former members of Dissonance).

### BoarsHead Theater

Nov. 16 - Dec. 10: *Lion In Winter*, Center For The Arts. 8 p.m. Call 484-7805.

Nov. 29: *Macbeth* (a staged reading). 484-7805.

### Classic Films

Nov. 16 & 17: *Malcolm X* (documentary) and Charlie Chaplin's *The Cure*.

Call 355-0241 for locations and info.

### Connxtions Comedy Club

Nov. 15-18: Ronnie Bullard (also appearing: Rickie Beechum & Eric Kirkland). Info: 482-1468.

### The Green Door

November schedule: (all shows begin at 9:30 p.m.)

Mondays: Blue Avenue Delegates. \$2.

Tuesdays: Capital City Band. No admission

Wed.-Sat.: Toys. No admission.

Sundays: Uptown Band. No admission.

### Hill Auditorium

Nov. 17 & 18: *Life With Mother*, performed by Lansing Civic Players. Call 484-9191

### Kresge Art Museum

Nov. 19: Pashami Dancers perform traditional African dances. 3 p.m. Call 353-9834.

### The Lansing Center

Nov. 17: *A Taste of House* featuring Sybil. 9 p.m. \$8 in advance.

### The Landshark

Nov. 17 & 18: *Souvenir*.

Nov. 21: *The Hold*.

Nov. 24 & 25: *Spinaker*.

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### MSU Fairchild Theater

Nov. 15-18: *Noises Off*, by MSU Performing Arts. 355-0148.

Nov. 30: Just Kidding presents their national tour, "Where's My Thermos." 7 p.m. Call 353-5255.

### MSU Auditorium

Nov. 20: *Bop* (harvey), with guests The Front, and Third Estate. 7:30 p.m.

\$5, available at Wharton Center.

Nov. 27: the B-52's.

### Odeon Theatre

Nov. 15 & 16: *The Second Animation Celebration The Movie*, featuring Bill Plympton's newest film, "25 Ways to Quit Smoking."

### Rick's American Cafe

Nov. 15: *Water 4 the Pool*.

Nov. 16: *Sea Cruisers*.

Nov. 17: *Trinidad Tripoli*.

Nov. 18: *The Hannibals*.

Nov. 19: *Jerry Sprague*.

Nov. 20: *Skor*.

### Riverwalk Theatre

Nov. 15-19: *My Three Angels*, based on 1955 Humphrey Bogart movie, "We Are No Angels." Call 483-1623.

### Sensations

Nov. 15: Ann-bee-Davis, with The Front

Wharton Center— call 355-6686

### for any information

Nov. 15: Jazz Band II. 8 p.m., Festival Stage. 8 p.m., free admission.

Nov. 16-17: Les Grands Ballets Canadiens presents *Coppelia*. 8 p.m., Great Hall.

Nov. 17: Gerald Glickstein, guitarist, guest recital. Festival Stage.

Nov. 18: Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Great Hall. 8 p.m.

Nov. 18: *Ebony Reflections 1989*, by Akers Black Caucus. Festival Stage. 8 p.m.

Nov. 20, 21 and 22: *Cats* Call 355-6686.

## ANN ARBOR

### Blind Pig

Nov. 15: *The Jazz Butcher*.

Nov. 16: *Map of the World*.

Nov. 17 & 18: Tracy Lee and the Leonards.

Nov. 21: *Young Fresh Fellows*.

Nov. 22: *Eek-a-Mouse*.

### Blondie's

Nov. 17: *Sepulturaa*

Dec. 12: *Nuclear Assault*

### C.J. Barrymore's

Nov. 15: *The Tubes*

Nov. 29: *Mark Famer*

### Hill Auditorium

Nov. 17: *Squeeze w/ Katrina & the Waves*

### Michigan Theater

Nov. 18: *Ebony Fashion Show*.

Nov. 19: *Warren Miller Ski Film*

## DETROIT

### Detroit Institute of Arts

Ansel Adams photography exhibit continues until Nov. 19.

### Fox Theatre

Nov. 15: *Eurythmics*.

Nov. 17: *The Judds*.

Nov. 25: *10,000 Maniacs*.

Nov. 26 & 30: *B-52's*.

Nov. 29: *Jean Luc Ponty*.

### Latin Quarter

Nov. 22: *Red Hot Chili Peppers*

### Majestic Theatre Center:

Nov. 16: *Bo Diddley*

### Royal Oak Music Theater

Nov. 18: *Canadian jazz group*

*Yuzeb*, and *Larry Coryell*.

Nov. 21: *Billy Squier*.

### St. Andrew's Hall

Nov. 15 & 16 *The Pixies w/ The Zulus*.

Nov. 17: *Buzzcocks w/ Grievance Committee*.

Nov. 18: *Lies, Cheaters, and Thieves*.

Nov. 21: *King Diamond*.

### Miscellaneous

Association of Chinese Americans, Young Professionals Group. Social organization. For more information about activities call 351-7403.

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# Reviews...

## Soundgarden delivers the goods

DETROIT — At most rock shows, you get shoved around a lot, sweat buckets, see some silly hairdos, and — if you're lucky — rock out fairly hard.

At most rock shows you *don't* get all these things plus the frenzied spectacle of half-naked band members throwing their bodies around and simulating male fornication with a roadie.

But then, most shows aren't **Soundgarden**, folks.

Sunday night's show at **St. Andrew's Hall** proved to be much more than great rock. The all-ages show filled the house, encouraging some really creative stage-diving. I've been in some swell human meat grinders before, but this was really exceptional. None of that stupid sissy feet-first stuff, but plenty of jack-knives, back-flips and a few Nestea plunge-style dives.

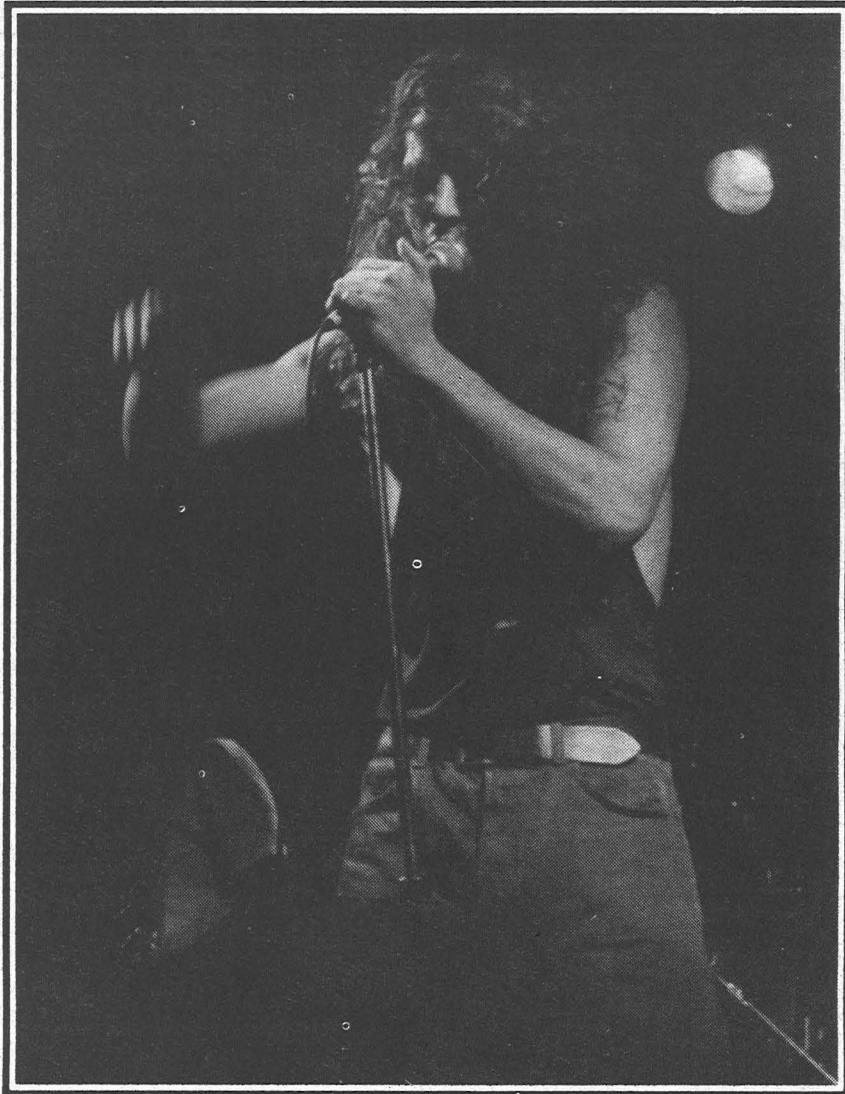
Ann Arbor's **Big Chief** opened, putting on a hard-rocking although sadly short 20-minute set. Lead vocalist **Barry Hensler**, truly larger-than-life, loomed above the audience like **Meatloaf**, **Mama Cass** and **Janis Joplin** all rolled into one lovin' load. What more could anyone possibly ask for?

Soundgarden hit the stage with "Ugly Truth," from their new album *Louder Than Love*. Lead vocalist **Chris Cornell** added rhythm guitar on stage to many of the tracks from the new album, including "Gun" and "Get On The Snake."

Midway through their set, Cornell launched into a macho and rather self-indulgent rock medley of "American Woman/Come Together." At this point, the stewing audience slowed down considerably.

Sorry guys, guess the covers just don't cut it.

— BETH CARTER



uR-I photo/BETH CARTER

## Rising stars sighted at EL Bones gig

Last Tuesday the crowd at **Rick's American Cafe** was treated to a fine performance by a band that could be next on the road to superstar status. Although this road is surely long and certainly rocky, Capitol Record recording artists **Fetchin' Bones** have already begun their trek.

The Bones' one hour and fifteen minute performance was well worth the \$4 cover, as was proved by the well-receiving listeners. The band's up-beat music had many dancing through the entire set.

Although their individual musicianship was nothing extraordinary, **Fetchin' Bones** worked well together. The music is nothing really new. However, the selection of several different pop-music styles was rather unique. One moment they played songs with fast, thrash-like speed. The next, they would fly into more radio-worthy tunes. The band's North Carolinian roots.

See **BONES**, p. 11

### GOOBER!

don't forget the uR-I benefit at B'ZarNov. 20!  
see p. 12 for details

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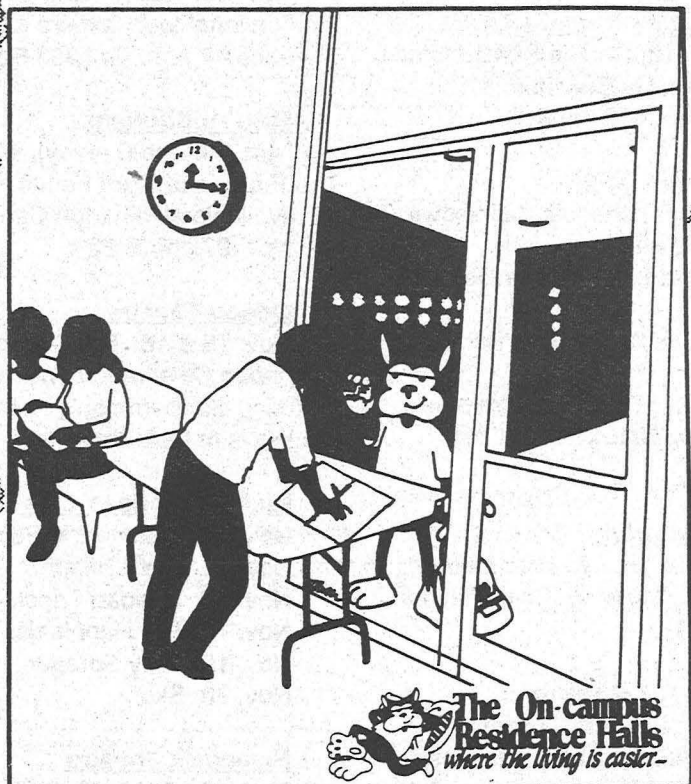
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# A quick look at the E.L. cinema scene — for Madge's sake

by CHUBS MAHOY  
uR-I Cinema Critic

So there I am, with my girlfriend Madge, watching a little television. I'm trying to make the moves. The situation looks good and I head for first. Madge pushes my puckered face away. I lunge toward her again. She's too strong for me. I'm pushed away again.

"Awe shucks Madge, what's the problem?"

"I wanna go to a movie," she squeals.

After one last desperation lunge, I'm calling theatres. First, I call the Meridian 6 theatres.

"Okay Madge, here's the deal. We've already seen *When Harry Met Sally...* and *Parenthood*. How about *Sea of Love*?" I ask.

"I already seen it with my Uncle Shirley."

I go through some others. "*Communism*?"

"What's that?"

"It's got Christopher Walken...something about aliens."

"Gross!" my honey says.

"*Phantom of the Opera*?"

"I don't like scary movies... yuck!"

"Okay then sweetie-pie," I exclaim, "how about *Dad*? It's got that guy from *Cheers* that you like."

"Is it a serious one?" she belts out.

"Kind of, but it's got..."

"I'm not in the mood to think serious right now," she interrupts.

"The only other movie is *Gross Anatomy*," I respond. But it's to no avail.

"If you wanna see that blood and guts crap, you can go by yourself."

"Maaaaadage, it's a comed..."

"I'm serious."

So I call the Meridian East theatres. "How about *Black Rain* with Michael Douglas? It's supposed to be pretty exciting."

"That's one that you should see with your 'guy' friends," declares the insightful Madge.

"Well, there's *Shocker*, but I know that you don't want to see that."

"I'd have nightmares," she whines.

"Arggh. There's *Second Sight* with the guy from *Night court*, John Larroquette and the foreign guy from *Perfect Strangers*," I say hesitantly.

"Balky!" she cries. "Let's go."

"Awe Madge, that's gonna be out on video in a month. Let's see what else there is."

So I pick up the touch tone and get on the horn to Meridian West theatres. I fail to mention *An Innocent Man* with Tom Selleck playing the part of a jail bird. Madge is a firm believer that he was cheated out of an Oscar for his performance in *Magnum P.I.*

*The Fabulous Baker Boys* is supposed to be really good," I say enthusiastically.

"Isn't there any thing with Patrick Swayze?" she bellows.

"Geez, Madge, there is but he plays a hillbilly."

"Oh please, let's go see it! What's it called?"

"It's called *Next of Kin*... but there's got to be a movie that you would rather see."

"I don't think so," she sings.

"Listen, they've also got *Staying Together*," I counter. "It's a serious one but it stars Stockard Channing and I know she's your favorite."

"Oh, I'll never forget her as Rizzo in *Grease*," she says with tears in her eyes, "but still, I'd rather see the Patrick Swayze movie."

"Before we settle on one movie, shouldn't we try some other theatres besides the ones in the mall?" I plead.

"That's stupid. Why see a movie if you can't go to the mall?"

What logic. How could I ever argue with such a clever girl. If it's Patrick Swayze she wants... then it's Patrick Swayze she'll get.

Halfway to the mall, I glance over at Madge. An idea! I stop the car.

"Get out!" I exclaim happily.

As I drive into the darkness alone, I feel a sense of pride. How great it is that we Americans can see any movie we want providing that it's playing nearby and we have the green. I can see whatever movie I want. Madge can see the movie she wants to see. And you can see whatever you want to see. Even a dirty movie. Oh, to be free!



uR-I photo/DAN FRIEDMAN

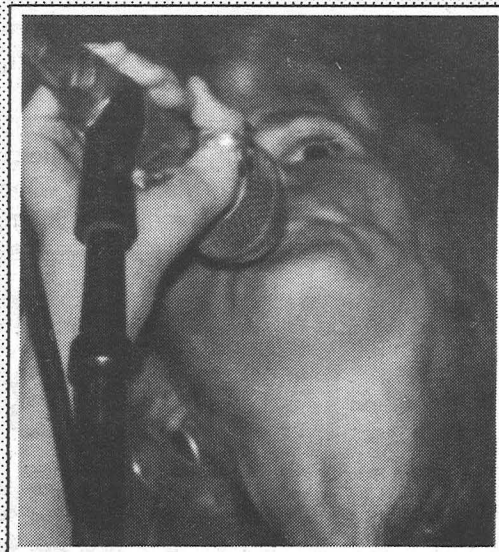
## From BONES, p. 10

were mirrored in some songs that contained a bit of southern rock.

The vocals often sounded garbled, although otherwise the sound was mixed well. It is important to note that mixing sound in a club atmosphere can be an extremely tedious task considering the poor acoustics. Fetchin' Bones sound technician did a commendable job.

Overall, the music and style provided for a fun evening. Fetchin' Bones are fine performers on the club circuit. Now that the band has its foot in the door, it will really need to begin impressing people. Lead singer Hope Nicholls performed directly toward the crowd. The remainder of the band will need to do the same. This could be a major determining factor in album sales and eventual success.

— DAN FRIEDMAN



Song distorts the normally lovely face of Fetchin' Bones' lead siren.

uR-I photo/  
DAN FRIEDMAN

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# Entertainment

## The Pixies: Ordinary folk playing cool tunes

by ANGIE CAROZZO  
uR-I Music Correspondent

The Pixies have a very unique sound, but they're just a regular band playing stuff that they think is cool.

Originally, they're from Boston and that's where they started out as a local band. They opened up for **Throwing Muses**, who they'd never even heard of at the time, and that was their first step.

"Gary Smith (Throwing Muses' producer) was there the night we opened for Throwing Muses," said Pixies bass player Kim Murphy. "Throwing Muses manager, Ken, listened to it and he liked it. So he sent the tape to 4AD and said 'Ivo (4AD Records owner Ivo Watts Russell), look at this band. They don't have a manager, they don't have a record company. Do you like this Ivo?' Ivo liked it. So that demo tape became our first album, and that's how we got our manager."

Presently, the Pixies are signed with the U.K.'s 4AD Records on a five year/five album contract. Licensing and distributing in the United States is done through Elektra Records. Now the Pixies are 1989's number one college band. But they aren't what they seem to be.

"We have really standard album collections," Murphy said. **Led Zeppelin** and **The Rolling Stones**,



and all the classic rock. I'm sure they've influenced us, but I don't know how that shows in the music."

The Pixies jump from harsh, intense songs like "Vamos" to goofy songs like "Tony's Theme" without looking back. Their latest album,

*Doolittle*, is their most extreme example of this, with songs ranging from "Gouge Away" to "La La Love You."

"I don't know how we do it," Murphy said. "We just do it. They're all good songs, right? It just comes out like that. We don't say, 'OK, we've got

six mean ones so now we have to counter-balance that with four nice ones.' We don't do that at all.

"Usually Charles (a.k.a. **Black Francis**, the lead singer) will come in with a chord progression in a state of done-ness and we just mess around with it and go, 'Oh, that sounds good, do that again,' or 'Oh, that sounds like shit, don't do that again,' and that's what we do."

It doesn't really matter how they get the sound as long as the sound is good, right? And plenty of people think the sound is definitely good. There are even local bands coming out now that are trying to copy their sound.

"I don't mind other bands trying to sound like us," Murphy said. "We sound cool, so there'll be other bands that sound cool," she joked.

The Pixies hope to release a new record next year. But when asked if the Pixies think they'll break into the pop scene, Murphy said, "I can't imagine us being on the Billboard Top Ten."

They also plan to do more touring, which includes tomorrow night's show at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit.

And what's the coolest thing about seeing the Pixies live?

"I would go just to hear the songs," Murphy said.

With songs like "Debaser," "The Holiday Song," and "Monkey Gone To Heaven," this is not a show to be missed by any Pixies fans.



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