



The National College Magazine[®]



Look Ma — I'm Alternative!

When mainstream America embraces the cultural fringe, what's left?

PLUS: PROTECTING MOTHER NATURE, A DESERT ROUTE TO THE IVY LEAGUE, NINE INCH NAILS INTERVIEW

WHAT TO TAKE FOR YOUR NEXT ALL- NIGHTER.

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HOW'S THAT FOR AN EYE-OPENER?



IF YOU DON'T GOT IT,
GET IT.SM

U-Mail

Positive portrayals of black men needed, too

I would like to commend *U. Magazine's* article on Latifah by Rob Hooper [January/February 1994]. It is rare that one sees such an insightful and humanizing portrayal of an African-American woman in a nationally published magazine. While that was refreshing, it would also be refreshing to see a humanizing portrayal of an African-American man in your magazine every once in a while.

This is not a matter of political correctness, but rather a matter of equity. **Amiri Kudura Barksdale**, sophomore, Dartmouth College ◀▶

Get off your cyberhorse

I am writing to address a letter to the editor written by John Patrick in the January/February issue of *U. Magazine*. I am a fellow cyberenthusiast who "jumped on the bandwagon" a little over a year ago. I wonder, am I "old" enough in cyberears to share your precious main? Your attitude, Mr. Patrick, is elitist and annoying. I look forward to an increase in users of this electronic-reality. As user load increases, the demand for faster processors will be met.

Cyberspace is going to grow until everyone has access, whether you like it or not. **Joshua Bradshaw**, sophomore, Wichita State U. ◀▶

Worthwhile spring break

It's so refreshing to see that there are some college students who will devote their spring break time to something other than booze, parties and the beach. ("Giving Others A Break," January/February 1994); who want to take the time to give to someone less fortunate and maybe learn something valuable in return. This article brought the necessity for volunteers to my attention and showed that one person really can make a difference! **Krista A. Coyne**, junior, Indiana U. of Pa. ◀▶



Jeff Wilson, *The Daily Orange*, Syracuse U.

Give us a break

Your stories about spring break only give the impression that all college students want to do is get a tan, spend money, get laid and drink alcohol to excess. I do know that you did spend half a page on volunteering over spring break, but it was overshadowed by the remaining two and a half pages on a "typical" spring break. Why don't you treat college students as something other than overgrown kids? **Julie Harty**, graduate, U. of Oklahoma ◀▶

How dare you print in your rag that students seeking a low budget spring break stay in homeless shelters ["How To Break Broke"]. To suggest that party-seeking breakers save money by leeching onto a shelter is no laughing matter. It may be possible that Mr. Kaiser is unfamiliar with the plight of the homeless, but this is not an excuse. The majority of homeless shelters are strapped as it is. If the only option one has in ensuring their vacation is to take the food from those without, maybe no home is the best place for you. **George L. Fillar**, senior, Wayne State U.

Political story makes the grade

I was very informed about the political parties presented in your story, "Who Makes the Grade?" I thank you for doing what so many journalists think comes last, informing the public. The parties presented were very interesting and I now have some ideas of what is available for me in the political spectrum.

Again, thank you and continue the solid reporting. **Joe Medina**, freshman, New Mexico State U. ◀▶

Political story deserves an "F"

U. Magazine's January/February article on national political groups reminds me of Hillary Clinton's health care commission: a bunch of liberal-leaning paper-pushers, meeting in secret, presum[ing] to judge its subjects after a few interviews and inquiries. Who decided what groups deserved an "A" and which merited a "D"? Nothing was mentioned about the composition of this grading panel, and a partisan slant is certainly reflected in the results. I am deeply insulted by your characterization of the College Republicans as nothing more than a bunch of partisan whiners. With our national leadership, this organization is committed to student activism and democratic ideals. Perhaps that attitude of greater openness and fairness should be extended to the news division at *U. Magazine*. **David Marks, junior**, College Republicans president, U. of Maryland

Reality Bites doesn't need to define us

So *Reality Bites* isn't the defining film of Generation X, and neither was *Singles* or *Slackers* ["You talking 'Bout My Generation?" March 1994]. Who cares? Why does any generation need a movie to define itself?

The reason nobody's made a defining movie about our generation is that it can't be done. Stop trying. **John J. McGurk**, senior, Indiana U. of Pennsylvania

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Opinion Poll

PREVIOUS POLL RESULTS

Do you feel safe on campus?

NO

52%

YES

48%

"Yes, because we have security guards that are around at all times, and even though we recently had a shooting on our campus, they have increased the security tremendously." **Vannessa Ford**, senior, Norfolk State U.

"I live in the dorms and during the day the campus is very safe but [not] in the evening. If I need to go to the library or the parking lot, I have to use the escort

service or bring my Mace." **Wendy Balka**, sophomore, U. of Massachusetts, Lowell

"Yes. I might be biased because I work as a dispatcher for the UCLA police department. I think that though we live in [Los Angeles] and people think it's very dangerous, the campus is very safe thanks to the department of community safety, which escorts women to their cars every day of the year until 1 a.m." **Selby Arsenia**, senior, UCLA

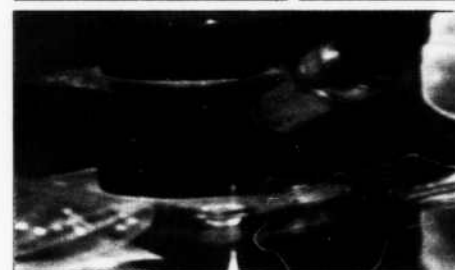
"No, I don't feel safe on campus. I don't feel our universities are being honest with us about incidences of sexual assault. I think they're trying to protect the victims, but in doing so they're putting the rest of us in jeopardy." **Kimberly Humphreys**, junior, U. of North Colorado

"I feel very safe upon my campus, but as soon as I step off I get really scared and I notice where I am and start looking behind my back a lot, because it's a dangerous area. But on campus it's absolutely safe." **Charles Chao**, sophomore, U. of Southern California

"Yes, but that's because I'm a male. I think females probably have a tendency to feel unsafe on campus because of the police reports that they read in our local paper." **Phillip Kraft**, sophomore, U. of Arizona

"No, as an openly gay man I do not feel safe. One in four gay men are physically bashed. Although I am big enough to take care of myself, my grandmother of all people bought me a stun gun just in case." **Steven Collingsworth Jr.**, graduate student, The Ohio State U.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION



Should marijuana be legalized?

(800) 6 U-VIEWS ext. 64

*The U.-Views Opinion Poll is a sampling of comments from college students across the country. The toll-free number invites responses to questions posed to students each month in the pages of *U.* The poll is not scientific, and percentages are figured on verbal responses received each month.

PAMELA WRAY DE STEFANO, THE REVIEW, U. OF DELAWARE

U., with an audience of 6.5 million, is the most widely read interactive lifestyle and entertainment magazine among 18- to 34-year-old college-educated adults. Editorial content focuses on the diverse interests, activities, attitudes and concerns of students attending four-year colleges and universities. U.'s editorial fellows, selected each year from top graduating seniors, read campus newspapers, commission articles and photograph by the best student journalists, and maintain an ongoing dialogue via the Internet and U-Views line with students at hundreds of campuses nationwide.

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Sumo wrestlers bump big bellies for beer

Two really large women wearing blue Lite beer diapers opposite sides of the mat, from the ponytailed announcer moves into the ring.

"Ladies anmnd gentlemen — let's get ready to ruummbble!"

No, this isn't the World Wrestling Federation's "Ladies' Night" super heavy-weight championship.

It's Sumo Wrestling Night at GatorMeisters (a Gainesville bar) where every Wednesday students compete at the ancient Japanese sport of belly bumping for a free bar tab while sucking down all the quarter beers they can swallow.

Two petite women, representing the U. of Florida and Santa Fe Community College, have strapped themselves into heavily padded, flesh-tone "fat suits," put on black-haired helmet wigs, cast disparaging remarks at each other and become Gainesville's first sumo wrestlers.

Want to settle that lingering dispute with your roommate once and for all? Has your date been acting like a putz?

Then maybe a sound thrashing is the answer.

"It's the ultimate in body contact without having to wear a



"I must break you." Get fat, get wrinkly and pummel your sumo opponent.

full body slam onto the unfortunate losers, who can do little but lie there whimpering like turtles stuck on the backs on the interstate.

Naturally, the owners require that contestants sign a look like pancakes for the rest of the semester.

But even that fails to deter students.

"Every Gator has gotta try this," says Florida senior Ricky Valenzuela. "It's the best way around to beat the hell out of your friends without getting injured." ■ **Pat Fox, Independent Florida Alligator, U. of Florida**

Lost serpent on the Gogh

A three-week crisis sent shock waves across the U. of Florida, when a hungry fugitive took the campus television studios hostage. Students referred to the escapee as a "snake." Authorities called him Van Gogh.

"Van Gogh is still at large in our building," warned Ralph Lowenstein, dean of the College of Journalism and Communications, during the height of the crisis. "We're still waiting to see if any of our smaller students disappear to help us determine his whereabouts."

Van Gogh, a two-foot baby Colombian boa constrictor, escaped from its owner, sophomore Jennifer Stanton, when she was working in the building during winter break.

"She was very lonely, so she brought her 8-month-old boa constrictor with her," said Lowenstein. "While she was out of the office for a minute, Van Gogh disappeared."

Three weeks later, Stanton was preparing to shut down the power in the master control room of Weimer Hall when she found the beige reptile huddled in the same room where he first escaped. The crisis had come full circle.

Stanton explained that her surrogate snake-child was stressed out from shedding his skin and probably from malnutrition too.

"He gets an attitude [when he sheds]," Stanton said, affectionately stroking the half-pound snake. "He didn't want to leave. He was comfortable."

Telecommunications Chairman Gerald Smeyak said he was disappointed that the boa constrictor was discovered so quickly, especially since it meant the end of Dean Lowenstein's periodic snake updates.

"I'm a little saddened that they found him," Smeyak said. "Just think if in 10 years students were still talking about a snake that roams the halls of Weimer, occasionally picking off a student." ■ **Megan Palmer, Independent Florida Alligator, U. of Florida**

Nerds fight the power

With pockets protected, pants hiked up and glasses taped, nerds fall prey to quick judgments from passers-by. But thanks to Randall Osborne, a self-proclaimed nerd who teaches psychology at Indiana U. East, traditional views toward nerdness may be changing.

Osborne uses the recurrent theme of the nerd in his "Seminar on Self Concept and Self-Esteem" class, and uses his own textbook, *A Word From the Nerd*, to examine the development of self-esteem and ways to improve it.

"Nerdness, as any nerd can tell you, is not something that comes and goes," he writes in his book. "It is a potentially debilitating ailment and must be treated as such."

Proof of nerdness is not necessary to enroll in the course, and students include jocks and housewives as well as psychology students. Osborne often uses role-playing, demonstrations and humor to get his message across, despite what he calls the seriousness of his subject.

If they take nothing else away from the class, students will at least remember Osborne's nerd theme, a call-to-arms for nerds everywhere. Printed in the back of his book, it reads:

Nerds the world over rejoice 'bout who you are! Analyzing your praises everywhere both close to home and far; History reveals your wisdom and success rings true and loud; Tell the world around you, of your nerdness you are quite proud. ■ **Robyn Holtzman, Indiana Daily Student, Indiana U.**

Freshman binges for big bucks

Going to the cafeteria with Orié Ito can be quite a spectator event.

A recent dinner with the Williams Baptist College freshman demonstrated what friends call her "very large stomach." In a mere half an hour, the 21-year-old consumed half a chicken, three plates of spaghetti, a bowl of Cocoa Puffs mixed with Special K, a serving of green beans, a salad, an ice cream cone and a glass of iced tea. (Ito also mentions that an hour earlier, she ate a large hamburger at a fast-food restaurant.)

Most people with this propensity for eating would be worried about the freshman 1,500. But for this 4-foot-11-inch, 105-pound student, eating is not only guiltless — it's profitable.



Orié Ito demonstrates her digestive prowess.

MARABETH L. LEDUC, WILLIAMS BAPTIST COLLEGE

Ito's voluminous appetite has won her more than \$5,000 — plus prizes.

Strangely, Ito doesn't think her appetite is all that extraordinary. "Everyone else thinks it's a bigger deal [than I do]," she says.

Green Corps turns graduates into environmental leaders

Three years ago, Parker Blackman was green. He was developing an interest in the environment, but didn't have a lot of experience in the field.

Then the 1990 graduate of Stanford U. found out about Green Corps. Now, after graduating from the corps, he's working for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Green Corps, an environmental field school founded in 1990, trains recent college graduates to work toward improving the environment.

"What college graduates find is that they don't have the skills to work with environmental groups. Green Corps tries to fill that gap — we are seeking to train the next generation of environmental leaders," says Kelly Wark, Green Corps' lead organizer.

Each year, Green Corps receives about 1,000 applications for 20 one-year positions. After a month of class-

room instruction, corps members are placed in field training at sites across the country, where they work on various environmental campaigns. As part of the campaigns, they meet with members of Congress, work with the media and educate the community.

Last year's campaigns focused on such issues as preservation of the ancient forests and the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. This year they will also work on issues of energy efficiency and lead paint poisoning.

"With more people educating, you are one step ahead in motivating and activating the public," Wark says.

Member Gregg Small, a 1992 graduate of Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, says, "Environmental issues are especially strong with young people... but there is also tremendous concern among citizens in general."

At 19, Ito started entering contests in Japan and reigned undefeated for almost two years. She came to America to study in 1993, and last October, Ito competed in a hot dog-eating contest in New York. Ito faced down Mike Devito, a 200-pound New Yorker, and lost by a mere two hot dogs. (She says the hot dog buns were too filling to make for good contest results.) She did, however, down 16 dogs in 30 minutes and take home \$500 for her digestive feat.

Unfortunately, Ito says that she's retiring from contests because she is getting older and not able to eat as much as she once did. After buying a motorcycle with her winnings, she has settled down to her studies, eating for sustenance and recreation only.

Ito did mention, however, that "If the money was big enough, retirement would end." ■ Marabeth L. LeDuc, *The Torch*, Williams Baptist College



Green Corps helps its graduates find jobs by writing letters of recommendation and serving as a data base for positions in the environmental field. Some recent graduates have found jobs with Greenpeace, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.

To receive a Green Corps application, call (215) 829-1760 or (617) 426-8506. ■ Yvette Cabrera, *The Occidental*, Occidental College

Now 19, Day is tired of labels — genius, intellect, child prodigy. "I'm a normal person, a normal college student," says Day, a microbiology and history major.

She has been interested in microbiology since her father, a microbiology professor at LSU, came to the university in 1979. But the early age at which she began her research into *pseudomonas aeruginosa* brought some skepticism from her elders.

"A lot of kids are undervalued by adults," she says. "Nobody's going to take you seriously because of that stigma attached. Creativity and initiative are stifled."

Day has opted to pursue a career in research instead of practicing medicine, and plans to earn a doctorate of philosophy or a medical degree, and to "broaden out" her research pursuits.

"I have the feeling that anyone can do what they want to do," she says. "It just depends on whether you're interested. You have to like what you do." ■ Jim Radosta, *The Graphic*, Pepperdine U.



Carolyn Day is tired of being called a genius.

SALEM CHENAFI, GUMBO MAGAZINE, LOUISIANA STATE U.

Research, poetry, music — all in a Day's work

Why can't you be more like Carolyn Day?

When you were 13, refusing to mow the lawn and sitting too close to the television, the Louisiana State U. sophomore began researching a potential treatment for an infection that kills most cystic fibrosis patients. At 17 she found it, and scientists are studying her discovery in clinical tests.

"I was lucky in that I came to my research with little background knowledge on the subject," Day says. "So I didn't realize I was moving in a direction that scientists, because of their previous findings, were saying would not work."

In her spare time she gets around to cross-country running, Civil War re-enactments, antique book collecting, singing professionally, playing guitar, reading a book each night and writing poetry.

"I absolutely detest being bored," she says.

Short Takes & Updates

AND NEXT, "DOGS PLAYING POKER..."

UNIVERSITY PARK, PENN. — Wine and cheese at the opening of Pennsylvania State U.'s new art exhibit? Try Cheese Whiz, Spam hors d'oeuvres and red dye punch.

This was the menu for the black velvet paintings exhibit, on display recently at the Zoller Gallery. Titled "The Art We Love to Hate," the exhibit included renderings of John Wayne, Elvis, family pets and Jesus. "We had people in here who had never been to the gallery before," says Cindi Morrison, gallery director.

As for the exhibit opening, Morrison mentions, "We did have some fruit too. We weren't totally bad."

COUCH POTATOES FOR HIRE

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA — The first school of video game programming will begin reviewing applicants in June for its September opening. DigiPen Applied Computer Graphics School will accept high school graduates and/or college students for its two-year program.

But the school is looking for more than stoner Nintendo addicts — courses will include algebra, algorithms, probability and statistics.

DigiPen will review applicants on the basis of an entrance exam, reference letters, grade transcripts and work experience. No mention was made of reviewing their high scores in *Mortal Kombat*.

BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS — After finding what they believed to be a bomb in an arts building, the U. of Houston canceled classes and called in a bomb squad. But they found that the "bomb" was nothing more than a discarded art project created for a sculpture class.

According to university spokesperson Fran Howell, the creator was fulfilling an assignment requiring the creation of a tool. "He decided to do tools of a revolution as opposed to a hammer or something," Howell says.

The student was issued a student life referral for the incident. "He had quite a bit of contact with people in uniform as a result of this," Howell says. "The police want people to realize something like this is taken very seriously."

HERE'S ONE FOR YOUR TRANSCRIPT

CORVALLIS, ORE. — Oregon State U.'s Food Science and Technology department offers an overview class titled "The Maraschino Cherry," which will be "a focal point for demonstrating the roles of the many disciplines intrinsic to food science and technology." The class is worth one credit and will meet 10 times.

Professor Ron Wrolstad comments: "In the first day of class, we had two professors emeritus come and talk about the history of the maraschino cherry and how it developed. I think the students were just awed to have these professors there."

continued next page

More Short Takes

HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!
NORMAN, OKLA. — Professor Robert Shalhope has always brought his Civil War musket to his history class at the U. of Oklahoma. But he may think twice about it from now on.

In February, after several people reported seeing a man with a gun in Shalhope's building, word got out that a sniper was on campus. Shalhope was unaware of the alarm until he returned home. "I was at home watching Jay Leno when [a newscaster] came on TV saying there was a sniper in the building," he says. The professor called off the alarm.

"I guess I should have realized as a historian that times have changed and people are a little more jumpy about guns these days," he says.

CONTEST WINNER CRIES FOUL

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. — Florida State U. senior Bill Dills could hardly believe it when he sank what he thought was a half-court shot for a promotional contest at a December FSU basketball game.

But the biggest shock came when officials for the Tallahassee Ford/Powerade Hoop and Holler Contest told Dills that he would not receive the \$10,000 prize. Officials say a videotape shows that Dills shot from in front of the half-court line.

Dills isn't sure if he was ahead of half court, but he still thinks he's entitled to the prize, and he's considering suing the university and the car dealership. "[The shot] was still about 44 feet away. It's not like that's a shot even Michael Jordan can hit regularly," Dills says.

PULLED OVER: The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile, a 23-foot-long hot-dog-on-wheels [*U. Magazine*, January/February 1994], in Los Angeles for allegedly failing to display a front license plate. But no ticket was written, and according to driver Chad Gretzema, the policeman was mostly interested in getting a closer look at the mobile frank.

"We do get pulled over an average of once or twice a month by officers who just want to see the Wienermobile," Gretzema says. "They want wiener whistles or something."

RETROGRADE

U. Magazine wishes to correct information in its story "Who Makes the Grade?" [January/February 1994].

Lead...or Leave: The membership grade was raised from a C to a B, as Lead...or Leave has 180 campus and community chapters, not 100 as was originally stated.

The funding source grade was raised from a C to a B; with the exception of a \$12,000 donation from Ross Perot, Lead...or Leave has taken no money from politicians or political groups.

The level of activity grade was raised from a C to a B. Therefore, the overall GPA was raised from a C+ to a B-.

Third Millennium: Since Third Millennium takes only private, non-politically affiliated donations, their funding grade was raised from a B to an A. Therefore, their overall GPA was raised from a C- to a C.

U. regrets the errors.

Dressing for success: Students raise produce and college funds

A new salad dressing goes on the market this month, and if you buy some, you might help a high school student go to college.

It all started after the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, when a couple of residents saw two seemingly unrelated problems they wanted to tackle.

"Youths in Los Angeles felt a lack of empowerment and a lack of ownership," says Melinda McMullen. "And the city was suffering from a lack of fresh-grown food."

McMullen and her partner, Tammy Bird, a biology teacher at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, set out to solve both problems with Food From the Hood, a program designed to teach high school students to grow and



High school students turn home-grown produce into scholarship money.

sell their own produce. Their goal was to give students a sense of achievement while earning money for college.

The first year, Food From the Hood sold 75 percent of the produce they grew and gave 25 percent to the needy. Although they made a profit of \$600 and fed 300 people, the money didn't put a dent in the scholarship needs of inner-city students.

Then, with the help of West Coast salad dressing guru Norris Bernstein,

Researchers defend use of cadavers in auto crash tests

Before leaving your body to science, you may want to ask what it will be used for.

At the U. of Virginia, the Medical College of Wisconsin and Wayne State U. in Detroit, human cadavers donated for "medical research" are used in crash tests to perfect auto safety. And the families don't always know about it.

For the tests, cadavers are strapped onto metal sleds that crash at speeds of around 35 mph.

"In order to build a [crash test] dummy, you need the data to make one," says Albert King, director of the Wayne State Biomedical Engineering Center. King views the tests he conducts as legitimate and necessary.

For every test done with a cadaver, hundreds of computer simulations and dummy tests are performed, says U. of Virginia Public Relations Director Louise Dudley.

Nonetheless, these tests caused some controversy after

the Roman Catholic German Bishops' Conference protested the crash research at Heidelberg U. in Germany.

"It's no different than any other testing. It's far more destructive to dissect a body one strand at a time as in anatomy classes," King says.

But there has been some question as to whether families should know what the bodies are used for. Each of the American universities has handled this issue differently.

At the U. of Virginia, Dudley says, "If a particular cadaver is suitable, the people in our lab contact the family to tell them specifically what it will be used for."

At Wisconsin and Wayne State, families are only informed of the specific use if they ask. Wisconsin lists this research in its informational brochure on the anatomical gift registry.

As a result of these tests, not only have more realistic dummies been designed, but better seat belts, interiors, air bags and other safety devices have emerged.

According to King, "It's the only injury prevention methodology that's really working." ■ **Liz Washburn, Daily Trojan, U. of Southern California**

Student's trip back home fit for a king

When Emory U. doctoral student Anthony Ephirim-Donkor went to visit his mother in Ghana last fall, he got an unexpectedly enthusiastic welcome.

Ephirim-Donkor was in his mother's home when it was surrounded and seized by the locals. They paraded him through the town and took him to a secret location, where they placed him on a throne three times, symbolizing he had become king of Gomoa Mprumem, a small farming community of about 1,000 people.

Being crowned king has always been a possibility for Ephirim-Donkor, whose royal name is Nana Obrafo Owam X, because he's from a royal family. But, he says, "I've been trying

to avoid it for years because it takes away personal freedom."

As king, Ephirim-Donkor will be expected to observe certain rituals. He must never walk alone or speak to an individual in public, he must always use an interpreter, and when outside he must never allow his bare feet to touch the ground.

"When a vacancy occurs," Ephirim-Donkor explains, "the queen mother and the elders of the community come together to find who is the best candidate from the royal family. They then get input on the candidate from the people." Being seized by the people is the last step in the coronation.

Although he was hesitant about becoming king, he plans to take his

position seriously. "It's a sacred office," he says. "I am accountable to those who made me a king and my predecessors."

Ephirim-Donkor's responsibilities range from making everyday decisions, such as deciding who can build houses, to long-term planning, such as implementing ideas for elementary and secondary schools.

But for now, he has returned to the United States, where he originally came 11 years ago to become a minister, and he plans to stay and work here indefinitely in the Methodist Church. In his absence, Ephirim-Donkor says he has entrusted elders in Gomoa Mprumem with his kingly responsibilities.

"I will go home when I have to go home," he says. ■ **Marcy Lamm, The Emory Wheel, Emory U.**

local manufacturer Sweet Adelaide and investment bankers Luther, Young and Small, the group concocted their own brand of salad dressing to be sold in local grocery stores. McMullen projects \$100,000 to \$150,000 in profits for the coming year.

"We're learning how to run a real business, and we're getting a real advantage over most other high school students," says Mark Sarria, a senior at Crenshaw and chairman of the company's board of directors. "We're still

learning after school is over." Food From the Hood awards scholarships to participants based on their academic achievements and their efforts in the business. For those who fall behind in the classroom, tutoring and counseling are available.

"Sometimes I can't get these guys out of the classroom," Bird says. "They see college as a reality." ■ **Drew vanEsselstyn, The Breeze, James Madison U.**

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Abortions added to student insurance

Tina Cardinale is considering leaving her university's health plan this fall because of a \$3 increase in her insurance fees.

The extra money, of course, is not the real issue. She is upset because the fee increase will provide abortion coverage in Northeastern U.'s student health plan. "I would be opposed to paying for it even if it was a nickel," says Cardinale, an MBA student and a member of Northeastern Students for Life.

Northeastern, Louisiana State U., the U. of Florida and Florida State U. have recently joined an increasing number of schools which are expanding student health insurance to include abortions. Both moral and financial concerns have surfaced as a result.

At Northeastern, for example, the Women's Law Caucus spearheaded the movement to offer students coverage for elective abortions. The coverage began last September, but the insurance fee increases won't take place until this fall. "We feel that it's part of reproductive health care for women," says Susan Cieutat, a third-year law student and a member of the caucus. "The idea that a woman should pay for it herself is a punitive attitude. We don't have that type of attitude about other medical needs that college students have."

But opponents at Northeastern object to paying insurance fees for a procedure they morally oppose. "It's not the amount that bothers me, it's what it's for that bothers me," Cardinale says. "Paying for something that is in my mind the act of committing murder, that's the problem."

The same coverage has been available to faculty and staff for almost a decade. It will cover up to \$250 for an abortion, which would be performed off campus. According to Planned Parenthood, an average abortion in the first trimester ranges from \$200 to \$400.

Because of the moral significance of abortion coverage, some schools have made more insurance options available. At Harvard, students who object to abortion can deduct the coverage from the cost of the plan. At the U. of Florida, students have two options: a \$96-a-year plan which only covers basic infirmary services or a \$507 comprehensive plan which includes up to \$300 abortion coverage.

But for many colleges, no moral debates are necessary; their schools can't afford the added cost of elective abortion coverage. At the U. of North Florida, for example, only about 150 out of 9,000 students purchase the school's insurance package, making the added coverage prohibitively expensive. ■ **Kimberly Chrisman**, *The Stanford Daily*, Stanford U.

The Mojave Desert north of Death Valley, Calif., is not your average college town. There are no bohemian hangouts, no ivy-covered buildings and no football stadiums amidst the vast desert and local wildlife — it's not the kind of place you'd expect to find a prestigious college.

But that's exactly what mining mogul Lucien L. Nunn intended when he created Deep Springs College in 1917.

This all-male school, located on a ranch with monastic conditions, operates on Nunn's vision of "removing the nation's brightest males from the temptations and distractions of civilization and providing them with an abundance of heart."

It has been described as one of the nation's most unusual academic experiments.

Twenty-six mostly middle- and upper-middle-class members of the nation's academic elite attend Deep Springs in almost complete seclusion. The students possess a couple of radios and one television that doesn't work well, but they have discussed getting rid of even those distractions.

A strict isolation policy forbids students from leaving the 2,500 acre ranch while school is in session. Rarely, exceptions to the policy are granted. One student needed to have his braces tightened every two weeks. Another wanted to attend Catholic Mass on Sundays. They were given permission, but only after the entire student body agreed.

Attendance at the two-year college is free — all acceptances come with full scholarships. The only requirements: exemplary academic achievement and a desire to transfer to an Ivy League school.

"There's no one thing that is attractive about this college," says second-year student Hank Hancock. "The best way to describe this place is with our name for the program. We call it the 'Deep Springs Experience.'"

As a crucial part of the experience, students spend about 20 hours a week doing assigned duties on the ranch such as milking cows and pitching hay. Hancock, a Houston resident, is responsible for washing pots and pans. On the rare occasion when there's free time, he and his classmates hike and go mountain climbing. The rest of the time, students delve into the liberal-studies curriculum that they help to devise.

Hancock stays in touch with friends from high school who went on to more traditional schools, and he says, "I think the education is a lot more here. I'm more satisfied with what I'm getting."

One way Deep Springs maintains fresh ideas is by frequent faculty turnover. The college president's term is limited to three years and faculty



Deep Springs students Noah Hamm and Damon Rich help with the annual potato harvest.

En route to the Ivy League Desert college recruits academic elite

By Phillip W. Browne, *The Daily Titan*, California State U., Fullerton

members may stay a maximum of six.

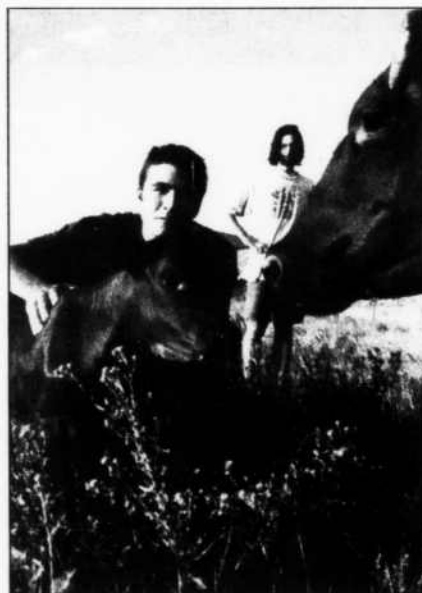
First-year student Noah Hamm says Deep Springs places more of an emphasis on the learning process than other colleges. Recently, one of his teachers received a call from an alumnus who had moved on to an Ivy League school and complained that he couldn't get good grades unless he simply memorized material. "The problem the Deep Springs alum was having was he was trying to learn too much," Hamm says. He compares that to the way Deep Springs students are encouraged to challenge ideas: "The learning here doesn't stop. It's not just in classes."

Pat O'Connor, dean of the college, says, "There is a certain type of psychological consciousness which brings students here. Some want to be cowboys, some like the rural atmosphere, some like the communitarian aspects of the campus — and some just don't know exactly what attracts them."

About one-third of Deep Springs' funding comes from an endowment of \$4.5 million. The other two-thirds come from donations. "The college is substantially funded by alumni, so alumni are very important to us," O'Connor says.

These days, though, the alumni are pushing for some radical changes at their alma mater. "A large number of them would be very happy to see us go co-educational." Maintaining financial stability could cost Deep Springs its 77-year policy of not admitting women. "If not, our sources of funding may dwindle," O'Connor says. "As an alumnus myself, I wish this college would have been co-ed in 1975, but I'm only one voice. This would be a wonderful experience for both men and women."

The Board of Trustees will decide on the issue of co-education in May. If they rule in favor, the first female class will be admitted in July. Now, O'Connor says opinion is divided on the issue. "The grounds are really rocky among contributors and the trustees, but the campus will live on if and when this happens," he says. "When it happens, a new era will begin." □



Students work the ranch 20 hours a week.

Low Impact Adventures

Go ahead and party with Mother Nature, but don't trash her house

What's out is in. From rock climbing to scuba diving, everybody is rushing to join the latest extreme sport — but it might be more than the great outdoors can handle.

According to environmentalists, if uninformed enthusiasts aren't careful, they can do serious damage to land and water.

For example, as rock climbing gains popularity, it also disturbs cliff-dwelling birds and animals, destroys ancient rock art, uproots plants and litters ledges with trash and human waste. As a result, some national parks have already placed restrictions on climbers. Joshua Tree National Monument in Southern California, for one, has banned the use of steel bolts to anchor ropes. Other parks are considering rules such as keeping people off unexplored faces.

Because knobby-wheeled bikes stir up soil, mountain biking can contribute to erosion and disturb wildlife. According to Mark Featherstone, a senior and president of the mountain biking club at the U. of Utah, many trails are already trashed.

"We try and stick to well-worn trails to keep erosion pretty minimal," he says. "It really comes down to paying attention to wilderness areas and not biking where you now you're not supposed to."

Campers and hikers can also scar the environment by trampling vegetation, scorching the earth with their campfires and leaving behind human waste.

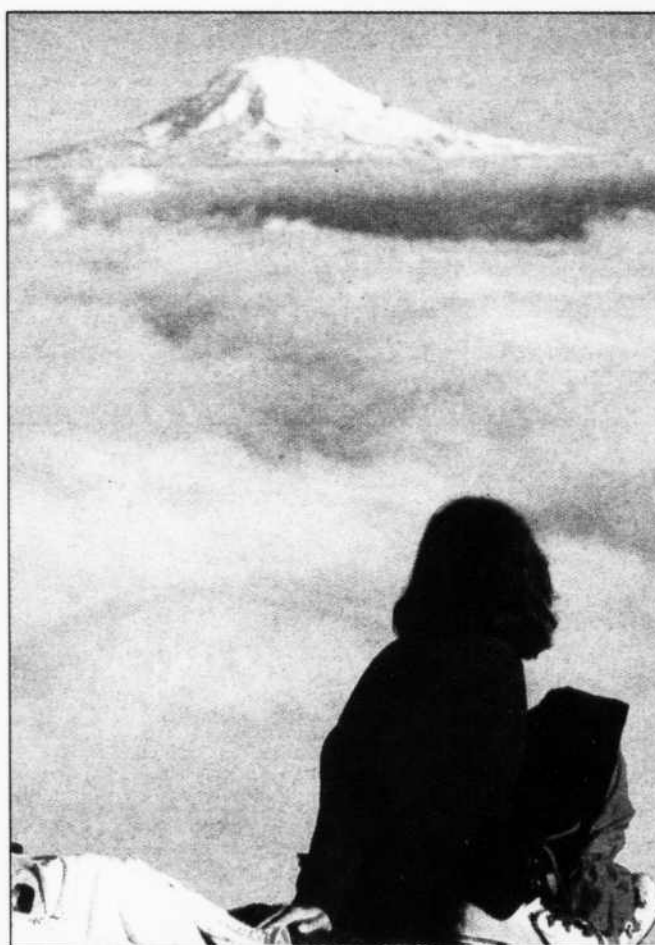
Even small decisions like wearing sunscreen can upset the environment.

Chris Cantonis, a senior and president of the scuba club at the U. of Florida, says he has to explain the delicate balance of coral reefs to novice divers.

"I have to tell them, 'Please don't wear sunscreen, please don't step on the reefs or pick anything up,'" he says. "Even touching bottom stirs up sand that lands on the coral and kills it."

Other water sports like boating and skiing also affect wildlife, most notably manatees, aquatic animals that live in warm coastal areas such as Florida. Michael Kenney, a regional director for the National Wildlife Federation who coordinates student outreach programs, says he's never seen a manatee that wasn't scarred by a boat's propeller. Manatees also entangle themselves in fishing line.

"There have been some improvements lately with propeller guards and no-wake zones," Kenney says. "And for the most part sports enthusiasts have a greater appreciation for the environment. There are very few people who just don't get it."



Some parks are putting restrictions on mountain climbers.

David Garcia, an environmental science major at Texas A&M U., says, "We tell our [outdoors club] members to 'take only pictures, leave only footprints.'"

According to the U.S. Forest Service, wilderness visitation peaked at 15 million in 1984, and after a time of decline, recent numbers seem to be increasing.

"You want people to experience wilderness to educate and gain appreciation, but at the same time use is detrimental," says Chris Ibsen, William and Mary junior and former Student Environmental Action Coalition president.

In an effort to get the word out to sports enthusiasts, nonprofit groups like the Izaak Walton League of America and Leave No Trace promote environmentally safe outdoor recreation through pamphlets and in-the-field training. Leave No Trace offers 10 principles for sports enthusiasts:

Leave No Trace's Top 10 Suggestions

- Plan ahead and prepare before you go
- Concentrate impact in high-use areas
- Spread use and impact in pristine areas
- Avoid places where impact is just beginning
- Minimize horse impact
- Use campfires responsibly
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Properly dispose of what you cannot pack out
- Be considerate of others
- Leave what you find



Climbing can disturb local wildlife.

"People are hungry for this information," says Leave No Trace outreach coordinator Rich Brame. "Recreation and preservation are not necessarily at odds with each other. Education is the answer."

And Brame warns that destruction has its price. "Where education fails, regulation enters," he says. "The country is filled with parks that have been closed due to overuse. Sometimes it's just to allow recovery time, sometimes complete revegetation must be done. It doesn't matter if you set aside all the land you want if you love it to death." □

viewpoint

He said the end was at hand. He predicted that, in time, the gap between hungry mouths and the limits of agriculture would result in mass starvation.



The year was 1798, the man was Thomas Malthus, and today there is more food than ever before.

Malthus was the first in a long line of environmentalist doomsayers with a cloudy crystal ball. More recently, in 1968, Paul Ehrlich predicted that we would run out of clean water by the 1970s. Unembarrassed by this and other failed prophecies, Ehrlich continues to proclaim the apocalypse, which is still imminent unless we mend our ecological ways.

No doubt most environmentalists are sincere in their convictions. But they don't seem to make good prophets. That is because environmentalists make the mistake of denying the hierarchy of life. Environmentalists routinely place the interests of people below those of lower creatures. Witness the recent battle over the spotted owl, when the Environmental Protection Agency placed millions of acres off limits to logging, putting the owls' livelihood ahead of people's. Out on the fringe, some environmental groups wreck construction sites and put spikes in trees that injure loggers in the service of "protecting the earth."

The simple truth is that some creatures are higher than others. Plants are superior to inanimate matter, animals are superior to plants, and humans are superior to animals. Rebellion against this concept is a denial of reality.

We see the unique character of humanity all around us, but we don't often take stock of it.

Unlike animals, humans do many things that aren't related to eating or reproducing. Religion and art, the summits of the human experience, are totally unnecessary to physical survival or producing offspring. We need to step back and see ourselves in contrast to the universe. Why do we do what we do? Who are we, anyway?

Merely discussing this point proves that humans are radically different than animals. For a human to ask, "What is man?" is not unusual, but squirrels do not, as far as we know, ask, "What is squirrel?" Lower creatures do not ask why; they simply are.

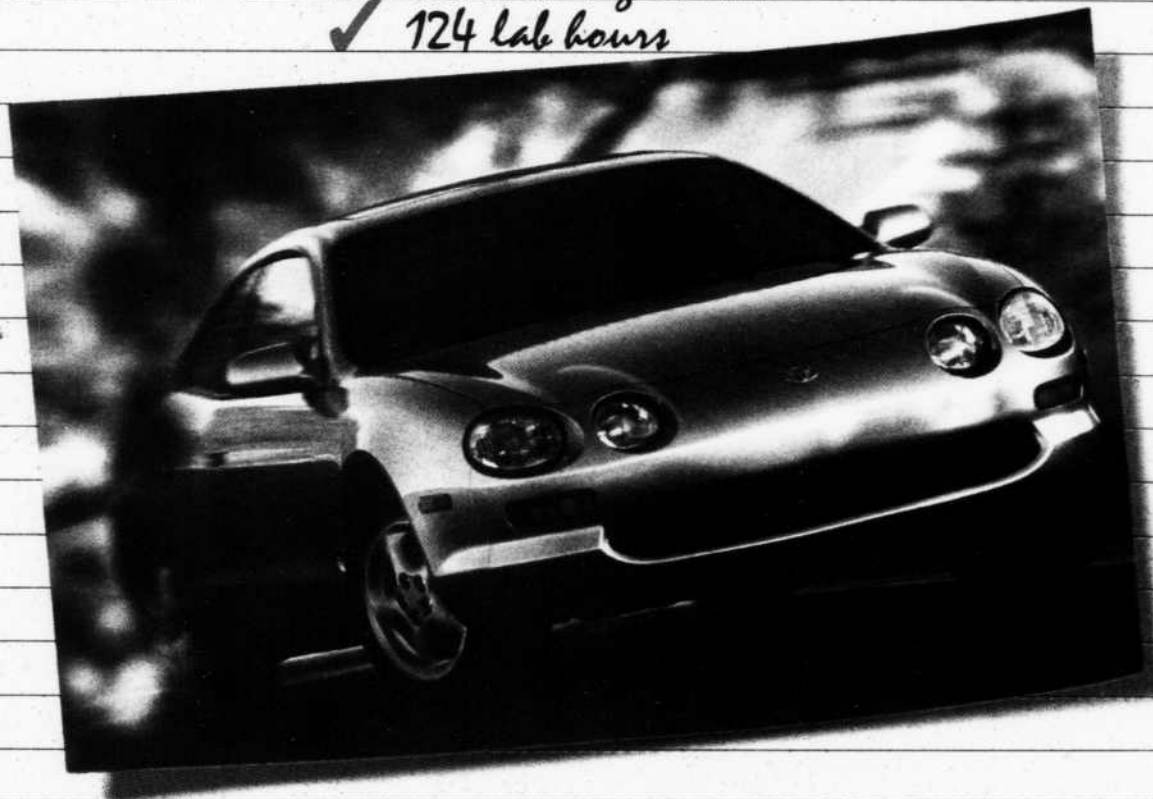
With our intellect comes a certain amount of control over our surroundings. Humanity has the freedom to choose what it wishes to do with the earth, and we must therefore choose what is right.

How do we know what the "right" path is? We can start by eliminating any philosophy which rejects the hierarchy of life. Such a creed cannot give us any useful answers, and cannot guide us toward a better understanding of our precious world. ■ Eric M. Johnson, *The Breeze*, James Madison U.

"Environmentalists routinely place the interests of people below that of lower creatures."

By Jenny MacNair, *The Flat Hat*, College of William and Mary

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It's Not Easy Being Green

Tip No. 1: DON'T BUY WHALE

WHEN SO MANY PRODUCTS MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS, HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHICH ARE BOGUS AND WHICH ARE FOR REAL? WE ASKED THE EXPERTS HOW STUDENTS SHOULD NAVIGATE THE SUPERMARKET AISLES, AND THEY HAD A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

THE EXPERTS

- **Laura Brown**, managing director of Co-Op America, which publishes the *National Green Pages*, a green business directory
- **Norman Dean**, president of Green Seal, a national nonprofit environmental labeling organization
- **Jim Dougherty**, vice president and general counsel for Green Seal
- **Carl Frankel** of Green MarketAlert, which publishes a newsletter on green marketing
- **Amy Kostant**, vice president of education and communications for Green Seal
- **Don Lotter**, author of *EarthScore: A Personal Environmental Audit and Guide*
- **Marketing Intelligence Service**, research firm

THE BUZZWORDS

Recyclable. Ozone safe. Biodegradable. Environmentally friendly.
 The number of new products bearing these types of labels has jumped from 2.8 percent in 1988 to 12.8 percent last year, according to Marketing Intelligence Service.
 But not all of these "green" products are living up to their labels. "Watch out for general [environmental] claims," says Frankel of Green MarketAlert. "The more abstract the claim, the less likely it is to be true."

THE REAL THING

"All consumer products have an impact on the environment," Green Seal's Kostant says. "The trick is to identify and purchase those products that cause significantly less damage to the environment than others."

LOOK FOR

Water-saving shower heads, which save energy and money, author Lotter says. They force air into the water, maintaining water pressure while reducing water consumption by up to 70 percent, according to *The Real Goods News: A Journal of Independent Living*. These are available in hardware stores.

AND DON'T FORGET THE...

Compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last 10 times longer and use one-fourth the energy of regular light bulbs, according to Lotter. These are available in hardware stores.

Alkaline rechargeable batteries. They have no cadmium, which creates a serious toxic waste problem, Lotter says. These batteries can be found in hardware stores and some supermarkets.

SO, HUSTLE ON UP AND GRAB SOME...

Chlorine-free, post-consumer, recycled paper, which helps reduce deforestation, helps protect biodiversity (the natural variety of plant and animal species), produces more oxygen in the atmosphere and reduces the contamination of chlorine in our water supply, according to Co-Op America's Brown. Earth Care Paper Co. and Ashdun Industries manufacture this paper.

AND FOR STANKY SOAP SCUM...

Look for **mild/organic cleansers** to reduce the amount of toxins in the water system. Arm & Hammer Baking Soda, Bon Ami Polishing Cleanser and Citra-Solv Natural Citrus Solvent are examples.

SAVE THE CORN FLAKES

"Think about it," says Dougherty. "If someone says **corn flakes** are dolphin-safe, it doesn't really mean anything."

RECYCLABLE

DON'T

Buy products or packaging that can't be recycled in your local community. "The term recyclable doesn't mean anything if you aren't able to recycle the product," says Green Seal's Dean.

TIP Don't think that paper marked "recyclable" is any greener than the rest, says Dougherty of Green Seal. "Any paper can be recycled," he says.

RECYCLED

IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL

"Be skeptical of any unspecific claim regarding recycling," says Dougherty. The portion of recycled content can vary.

ESPECIALLY WITH...

Paper, because there's a difference between post-consumer and pre-consumer waste. Any company can claim to use recycled paper if they use scrap material generated during manufacturing, but only post-consumer waste contains paper collected from recycling programs.

GREEN, EARTH-FRIENDLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE

ONLY FOOLS...

Believe that any product is beneficial to the environment, Dean says. "No product is truly environmentally friendly."

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Call Green Seal (202) 331-7337, the Council on Economic Priorities (800) 729-4237 or Co-Op America (202) 872-5307.

BIODEGRADABLE

DON'T

Think everything marked biodegradable will end up as part of the soil. "If it's going to end up in a landfill, the claim is meaningless," says Dean. "Landfills are made to keep things from degrading." To prevent leakage and runoff, landfills create an anaerobic environment that inhibits degradation.

DO

Purchase items in **glass or aluminum packaging** rather than plastic because community recycling programs are more likely to accept these items.

By Jo Lynn Ewing, *Indiana Daily Student*, Indiana U.



Foul Play

Universities struggle to deal with athletes in trouble

As student-athletes move from the sports page to the front page, the headlines depict an alarming trend of crime and scandal.

For example:

In January, sophomore Tyrone Williams, a defensive back for the U. of Nebraska football team, allegedly fired several rounds at a car being driven by another student.

Also in January, Robert Glanton, a running back at Northwestern U., withdrew from school after allegedly entering several women's rooms late at night, watching and sometimes touching the sleeping residents.

Auburn U., U. of Notre Dame, UNLV and a host of other schools have experienced lawlessness among student-athletes in recent years. Even at Pennsylvania State U., which traditionally has boasted a squeaky clean program, five football players were arrested on charges including felony theft and selling cocaine in 1992. As a result, schools are asking some difficult questions: Why are these athletes getting into trouble, and what can be done about it?

The reasons behind the headlines

Those who supervise student-athletes have struggled to find common factors behind these crimes.

Arizona State U. has been searching for answers since a nationally publicized wave of scandals hit the campus in 1991-92. During a 14-month span, 19 student-athletes were named in criminal complaints ranging from burglary to aggravated assault. As a result, ASU moved into the national spotlight of athletic controversy, and university President Lattie Coor responded by ordering two studies to investigate the situation. Both studies concluded that the isolation of student-athletes was a problem.

According to one of the studies: "If we were to cite a single complaint concerning the lives of student-athletes, particularly those in the major revenue sports, it would be that these young men and women are isolated from the academic and social community."

Mike Sertich, hockey coach at the U. of Minnesota, Duluth, says, "A lot of kids want to go out and be part of the mainstream, but because they are recognizable, they can't. Consequently, people may take advantage of them, pursue them and push them a little bit. When alcohol and egos get involved, trouble starts brewing."

Sertich and others say the spotlight burns brighter because athletes are public figures. But is it fair that they find

By Jason Wilde, *Badger Herald*, U. of Wisconsin
and Jake Batsell, *State Press*, Arizona State U.



"The system is somehow broken, and we have got to fix it. And fix it we will."

themselves on page one every time they get in trouble?

Not in the opinion of U. of Wisconsin Athletic Director Pat Richter, a former Washington Redskin.

"The athlete is not only given very little chance within the press to have the whole story come out, but because of the coverage, their case is much more closely scrutinized," he says.

But most agree that whether the attention is fair, it comes with the territory of being a public figure.

"Most athletes that are competing in sports at NCAA institutions are role models," says Kathryn Reith, director of public information at the NCAA. "Unfortunately there do seem to be, from time to time, a few athletes that

don't [set a good example]. And because they're athletes it probably will be on page one. Whether it's the right thing or a good thing or not, that is what's going to happen. Athletes need to understand that."

Fixing the system

The community responded to ASU's situation with disgust. In one poll, 70 percent of those surveyed in the Phoenix community had a negative view of ASU as a result of the scandals. Even *Sports Illustrated* berated the "bedeviled Sun Devils."

"The system is somehow broken, and we have got to fix it. And fix it we will." ASU's Coor said during the crisis.

Coor ordered background checks on

all ASU athletes, appointed a team to investigate unlawful acts related to ASU athletics and called for a student-athlete conduct code. Since the conduct code was devised, no ASU athlete has been linked to a major offense.

"I think [the code] helped... because here's our set of rules, and we have to follow by it, rather than the rules that society says," says senior Toby Mills, former starting center for ASU's football team. "The rules we follow here are tighter than society's."

Athletic Director Charles Harris says he received requests for copies of ASU's policy from between 40 and 50 schools, including Auburn and Syracuse U.

Last fall, Syracuse also developed a strict conduct code for athletes. According to the campus paper, *The Daily Orange*, last year's arrest of a basketball player charged with vandalism prompted Chancellor Kenneth Shaw to call for the new code, which is 33 pages long and reads in part, "You will be held to a standard of ethical conduct and behavioral expectations which may well exceed those of non-athletes."

In Shaw's opinion, the restrictions of the new code are balanced out by the perks it establishes, such as counseling and development programs specially designed for student-athletes.

"As I see it, a good university doesn't treat everybody alike," Shaw says.

And at ASU, although things have improved, Coor plans more changes. One of the studies he ordered issues 27 recommendations, including recruiting stronger students, monitoring their progress more closely and pairing athletes with non-athlete roommates.

According to the NCAA's Reith, measures such as these aren't intended as penalties, but as a way to integrate athletes into the student body by removing unnecessary privileges such as athletic dorms, which will be phased out at all NCAA schools by 1996.

"The philosophy of the NCAA is that the athlete is an integral part of the student body," she says. "The athlete is a student first and shouldn't be treated as another being." One of the themes of the next NCAA convention will be the ethical conduct of student-athletes.

As universities look toward the future, Coor says, "Those who study the natural phenomenon of the Earth note that fires, as painful and damaging as they are, are therapeutic to the longer-term ecology of the area. I think we should all learn from misfortune."

Sally Kuzemchak, *The Daily Collegian*, Pennsylvania State U., and Shaun Rachau, *State Press*, Arizona State U., contributed to this article.

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Area of Specialization (check one) Vocational College Prep Grade Point Average _____

COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE School Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Year Graduated 19 ____ Degree Received _____ Major _____ Minor _____ Grade Point Average _____

COLLEGE GRADUATE STUDIES School Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Year Graduated 19 ____ Degree Received _____ Major _____ Minor _____ Grade Point Average _____

COLLEGE DOCTORATE School Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Year Graduated 19 ____ Degree Received _____ Major _____ Minor _____ Grade Point Average _____
OTHER DEGREES EARNED _____ Foreign Languages Spoken Fluently _____

LIST BELOW YOUR MAJOR COURSE TITLES THAT BEST DESCRIBE YOUR SKILLS/SPECIALIZATION. (attach separate sheet if necessary)

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Where (City) _____ (State) _____ Position Held _____
Awards (list) _____
Special Accomplishments (list) _____

What _____ Mo/Yr _____ - Mo/Yr _____
Where (City) _____ (State) _____ Position Held _____
Awards (list) _____
Special Accomplishments (list) _____

JOBS HELD TO DATE:
(attach separate
sheet if necessary)

Company _____ Mo/Yr _____ - Mo/Yr _____
Supervisor _____ Position Held _____
Duties/Skills (list) _____
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Supervisor _____ Position Held _____
Duties/Skills (list) _____
Special Accomplishments (list) _____

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THE COLLEGE GUIDE

ENTERTAINMENT

A black and white portrait of Trent Reznor, the lead singer of Nine Inch Nails. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. He has long, dark hair and is wearing a dark, possibly leather, jacket. The background is dark and out of focus, with some vertical lines and light spots.

The Reluctant Icon

A candid conversation with Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor

INSIDE: THE ALTERNATIVE GONE MAINSTREAM, THIS MONTH IN FILM, NEW RELEASES IN MUSIC



Eric Stoltz and Mary-Louise Parker try to balance their careers and romance in *Naked in New York*.

Celebrity ensemble casts seem to be the theme this month. Here are some that might be worth a \$5 tub of popcorn:

Naked in New York (Fine Line)

Eric Stoltz stars as Jake Briggs in a romantic comedy about a recent college grad trying to have a career and a serious relationship. After graduation, Jake finds himself in the enviable position of having his first play produced off-Broadway. His aspiring career, however, is causing his love life to suffer, as Jake's romantic interest Joanne (Mary-Louise Parker) gets left behind in his search for success. The film is based on the life of director Dan Algrant, who was also co-writer of the movie. The cast includes Ralph Macchio of *Karate Kid* fame, Kathleen Turner and Tony Curtis.

The Paper (Universal)

The cast alone is enough to make big news in this movie directed by Ron Howard. Michael Keaton, Glenn Close, Robert Duvall, Marisa Tomei and Randy

Quaid headline in a flick about a common day in the life of newspaper editor Henry

Hackett (Keaton). Of course, a common day includes dueling with his managing editor (Close), dealing with his pregnant wife (Tomei) and contending with a rival newspaper that wants to hire him. Oh, and did we mention he can free two innocent young men charged with murder if he can expose a major scandal for the morning edition? *The Paper* promises to be an intriguing, if a bit overly glamorous, look at newspapers with cameos by real-life journalists.

Serial Mom (Savoy)

This month Kathleen Turner stars as the heavy in yet another dark comedy. Director John Waters' script portrays the

typical perfect suburban family. What the kiddies don't know, however, is Mom (Turner) takes time out from buying the groceries to become a serial killer. (Don't mind the bloody knife in your cereal bowl, junior.) Talk show host Ricki Lake shares the screen as Turner's boy-crazy daughter in this off-beat comedy. Just hope the kid doesn't bring home any potential boyfriends Mommy doesn't like.

House of the Spirits (Miramax)

Every month needs at least one serious release. *House of the Spirits* is April's let's-get-reflective flick. Based on the best-selling novel written by Isabel Allende, *House of the Spirits* follows the life of the Trueba family from the sleepy 1920s to the 1970s. The transition from flappers to bell-bottoms is re-enacted by an all-star cast including Meryl Streep, Jeremy Irons, Glenn Close, Winona Ryder, Antonio Banderas and Vanessa Redgrave. Bring the tissue box for this one.

Jimmy Hollywood (Paramount)

Joe Pesci's back as an out of work actor who — no joke — starts a vigilante group to combat Hollywood's rising crime. He does Brando, he does Cagney, he takes hoods hostage in his girlfriend's bathroom. *Jimmy Hollywood* also stars Christian Slater as his hapless sidekick. Slater plays William, a character the actor describes as "out there." Does Slater take any other type of role? Word on the street is that Slater steals the show.

Major League II (Warner Bros.)

As with all successful movies, a sequel is born and the cast reunited for another (they hope) financial jackpot. Rick Vaughn (Charlie Sheen) has exchanged his funky-out 'do for Armani suits while cleanup hitter Pedro Cerrano (Dennis Haysbert) has traded his voodoo religion for Buddhism. Other than the superficial changes, look for a similar story line and goofy hijinks that made the first *Major League* somewhat of a cult hit on college campuses.

Four Weddings and a Funeral (Gramercy)

In what may be the sleeper of the month, this romantic comedy centers around a thirtysomething British bachelor, Charles (Hugh Grant), who finds himself surrounded by women yet unable to commit to any of them. Will Charles finally settle down when he meets American beauty Carrie (Andie MacDowell)? He has to make it through four weddings and a funeral, hence the title, before he actually decides. Directed by Mike Newell (*Enchanted April*), *Four Weddings* follows a recent succession of British films garnering critical acclaim.

Here are some other movies you might want to check out this month: *Cops*

and *Robbers*, Chevy Chase's chance to revive his career; *Surviving the Game*, starring Ice-T; *Holy Matrimony*, starring Patricia Arquette and directed by Leonard Nimoy; *Clifford*, with Charles Grodin and Martin Short; *The Favor*, with Harley Jane Kozak (*Parent Hood*), Elizabeth McGovern and Brad Pitt; and *Color of Night*, with Bruce Willis. ■ Danita Arbuckle, *Ball State Daily News*, Ball State U.



on the set

■ Paramount is wrapping up Harrison Ford's *Clear and Present Danger*, which was filmed in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Mexico. It has an all-star cast including Anne Archer, James Earl Jones and Willem Dafoe; look for this action-thriller this summer.

■ The highly anticipated *Interview with the Vampire* is shooting internationally in Paris, London, New Orleans and San Francisco. As we all know by now, Tom Cruise will star as the vampire Lestat in Warner Bros.' big-screen version of Anne Rice's novel.

Neil Jordan (*The Crying Game*) directs a hunky cast including Antonio Banderas, Brad Pitt, Stephen Rea and Christian Slater.

■ Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte have teamed up for *I Love Trouble*, to be released this summer by Touchstone. A film about two rival reporters working at a Chicago paper, *I Love Trouble* is shooting in Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Wisconsin.

■ Also in the works: Fox's *It Happened in Paradise*, slated for a year-end release. The film stars Nicolas Cage, Jon Lovitz and Dana Carvey. And Universal's *The Little Rascals*, scheduled for a summer release, is shooting in Los Angeles.



The fugitive goes CIA this summer.

video calendar

April releases

Fearless (Warner Bros.) 4/6; **The Age of Innocence** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/6; **A Bronx Tale** (HBO/Savoy) 4/6; **Malice** (New Line) 4/13; **Cool Runnings** (Buena Vista) 4/13; **Carlito's Way** (MCA/Universal) 4/13; **The Saint of Fort Washington** (Warner Bros.) 4/20; **Another Stakeout** (Buena Vista) 4/20; **Tout Le Matin du Monde** (Buena Vista) 4/20; **Flesh and Bone** (Paramount) 4/20; **Mr. Jones** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/20; **Ruby in Paradise** (Republic) 4/20; **Josh and S.A.M.** (Columbia/TriStar) 4/27; **Ernest Rides Again** (Monarch) 4/27

quotable

"In a lot of movies, you see relationships and people falling in love in slow motion and everything's perfect. But in this film... you see our characters struggle and bicker and make mistakes."

— Eric Stoltz on *Naked in New York*

JOE
PESCI

BRENDAN
FRASER

MOIRA
KELLY

PATRICK
DEMPSEY

JOSH
HAMILTON

If you want
a degree
go to Harvard.

If you want
an education
go to
Simon Wilder.



WITH HONORS

OPENS APRIL 29TH

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

SPONSORED BY  **SONY**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Green Day, <i>Dookie</i> (Reprise) | 6. Ramones, <i>Acid Eaters</i> (Radioactive) |
| 2. Jawbox, <i>For Your Own Special Sweetheart</i> (Atlantic) | 7. Cocteau Twins, <i>Four Calendar Cafe</i> (Capitol) |
| 3. Tori Amos, <i>Under the Pink</i> (Atlantic) | 8. Meat Puppets, <i>Too High To Die</i> (London) |
| 4. Alice In Chains, <i>Jar of Flies</i> (Columbia) | 9. Shonen Knife, <i>Rock Animals</i> (Virgin) |
| 5. Pavement, <i>Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain</i> (Matador) | 10. Slowdive, <i>Sowvlaki</i> (SBK) |

Chart solely based on college radio airplay. Contributing radio stations: KALX, U. of California, Berkeley; KCR, San Diego State U.; KCRN, Ohio U.; KNAP, U. of Arizona; KRNU, U. of Nebraska, Lincoln; KTRU, U. of Houston; KTSB, U. of Texas; KTUH, U. of Hawaii, Manoa; KUCB, U. of Colorado; KUOM, U. of Minnesota; KWVA, U. of Oregon; WSBF, Clemson U.; WTUL, Tulane U.; WUTK, U. of Tennessee; WUVT, Virginia Tech; WVUM, U. of Miami

Key: ★★★★★= CD ★★★★★= Cassette ★★★= LP ★★= Reel to Reel ★= 8-Track

Pavement *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain* (Matador)

★★★★★
Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain is basically your average Pavement record, which is sort of like saying *Hamlet* is your average Shakespeare piece. With a sound that is frenzied and surprisingly catchy, Pavement moves through styles as varied as jazz and country.

Pavement's strong suit is their ability to walk that thin line between innovative rock and pretentious loud crap. There are a few tracks that require patience, like the messy "Hit the Plane Down," but with near perfect tunes like "Range Life," there are enough hooks to make it all come together.

In the closing minutes of the album, Pavement proclaims "Goodnight to the Rock & Roll Era." Welcome to the future. It's *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*: too good for obscurity and too complicated for radio. Buy it anyway. ■ Eric Geyer, *The Daily Texan*, U. of Texas



Prong *Cleansing* (Epic)

★★★★★
Power meets subtlety. Anger meets melody. With *Cleansing*, their third full-length, major label release, Prong musically transforms full-throttle rage, ignoring mainstream heavy-riff style. This power band layers its crunchy, machine-gun-quick guitar lines with understated samples via John Bechdel and steady, smooth rhythm lines courtesy of drummer Ted Parsons and bassist Paul Raven.

The tracks "Broken Peace" and "Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck" are funkified grooves with intermittent blasts of power. Few "hard" bands can cross genres like Prong, from the forceful "Cut-Rate" to the droney, melodic "No Question." Guitarist/vocalist Tommy Victor changes vocal gears, delivering rough growls alongside clean vocals. *Cleansing* proves Prong dodges mediocre thrash without sacrificing force. ■ Aaron Cole, *The Union*, California State U., Long Beach



Soundgarden *Superunknown* (A&M)

★★★★★
In the Bible, when Sampson's hair was lopped off, he lost his strength, thus ensuring his doom. With Soundgarden's frontman Chris Cornell, this action seems to have had the exact opposite result.

Superunknown slams 15 tracks in a powerful and diverse mix of pain, reconciliation and regret. *Superunknown* reflects a group stretching past the limitations they had set for themselves, as members' side projects have brought new ideas and energy to a band stereotyped by grinding guitars and glass-shattering vocals.

Though *Superunknown* is a band album, it is the intensity of Cornell's vocals that separates SG from copycats. On "Fell on Black Days," Cornell cries out, "How would I know that this could be my fate?" Few vocalists can combine poetry and rage with such conviction.

For anyone who has watched Soundgarden's growth and transformation, the fate of *Superunknown* would have been obvious. ■ Rantz Hoseley, *The Daily Evergreen*, Washington State U.



Morrissey *Vauxhall and I* (Sire/Reprise)

★★★★★
Pop drama connoisseur Morrissey delivers his latest batch of primal suffering with sheer finesse. *Vauxhall and I* finds the ex-Smiths vocalist in his usual somber mood, but in this case the music matches the sentiment. And that's not such a bad thing.



This time around, Morrissey has given in to the lush pop arrangements that perfectly suit his voice — without turning into some new age guru. Producer Steve Lillywhite simply helps to guide him down a more cohesive path. This repackaged, all-embracing Morrissey is even lyrically "coming out" of his shell. "Spring-Heeled Jim" weaves a tale of gay fatalism while "Billy Budd" touches on job discrimination due to homophobia.

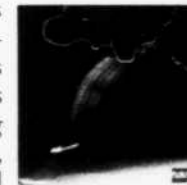
Is Morrissey ready to take his music to the masses? If this album doesn't do it for him, the only thing left would be a Smiths reunion tour. ■ Rob Hooper, *University Times*, California State U., Los Angeles

Rollins Band *Weight* (Imago)

★★★★★
"I hate press bios with a ton of adjectives," Henry Rollins writes in the press release accompanying his new album, *Weight*. "All you need is the facts. The rest is boring filler."

With *Weight*, Rollins again proves that music doesn't have to be gloss and filler, either. The addition of jazz bassist Melvin Gibbs is the perfect complement to the thundering backdrop behind Rollins' savagely honest lyrics — helping make *Weight* the Rollins Band's strongest album to date.

Don't let Rollins' mainstream attention throw you, though. Yes, *Weight* is more accessible than previous albums, but that comes from playing more than 150 shows a year — not from compromise. In his candid and unique way, Rollins delivers an aggressive, direct punch into the societal pressures that he finds so shallow and pointless. ■ Troy Fuss, *State Press Magazine*, Arizona State U.



in the studio

■ Veteran rocker **Alice Cooper** is taking his time with his latest effort. After the lukewarm response to *Hey Stoopid*, he's undoubtedly learned that there's no such thing as being too careful.

■ After a successful union during last summer's WOMAD tour, it's a pretty safe bet that **Peter Gabriel** will be showcasing his talents somewhere on **Sinead O'Conner**'s next effort, anticipated in early 1995.

■ Just about the only Seattle band who's been quiet lately, **Queensryche** is all hushed lips when it comes to their late summer release. We did learn that the follow-up to 1990's *Empire* is not expected to be a concept album.

■ The melodic fires of poetry and hip-hop are melding as **Me Phi Me** and **Arrested Development** prepare their sophomore efforts for respective spring and fall releases.

■ Just when you thought you'd heard the last of "I Will Always Love You," **Whitney Houston** is working on a greatest hits collection for an early fall unveiling. ■ Paul Gargano, *Marquette Tribune*, Marquette U.



Alice Cooper

CDs on parade

More releases we didn't have room to review

Sister Machine Gun (Wax Trax) 3/15; **Phish** (Elektra) 3/29; **Pink Floyd** (Columbia) 3/29; **Infectious Grooves** (Epic) 4/1; **Anthrax Live** (Island) 4/5; **Danielle Brisebois** (Epic) 4/5; **G. Love** (Epic) 4/5; **Milla** (EMI) 4/5; **Stevie Nicks** (Atlantic) 4/5; **Aphex Twin** (Warner Bros./Sire) 4/12; **Hüsker Dü Live** (Warner Bros.) 4/12; **Primal Scream** (Sire) 4/12; **Stanford Prison Experiment** (World Domination) 4/12; **Swell** (American) 4/12; **Jimmy Vaughan** (Epic) 4/12; **Nick Cave** (Elektra) 4/15; **Pato Banton Collection** (I.R.S.) 4/19; **The Dylans** (Beggars Banquet) 4/19; **Indigo Girls** (Epic) 4/19; **King Missile** (Atlantic) 4/19; **M People** (Epic) 4/19; **Violent Femmes** (Elektra) 4/22; **David Byrne** (Luaka Bop) 4/26; **The Pretenders** (Sire) 4/26; **Smithereens** (RCA) 4/26; **Randy Travis** (Warner Bros.) 4/26

quotable

"It's the same album you liked a year ago, but now it's popular, so it's not cool anymore."

— Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor, on the curse of mainstream success

CHARLIE
SHEEN

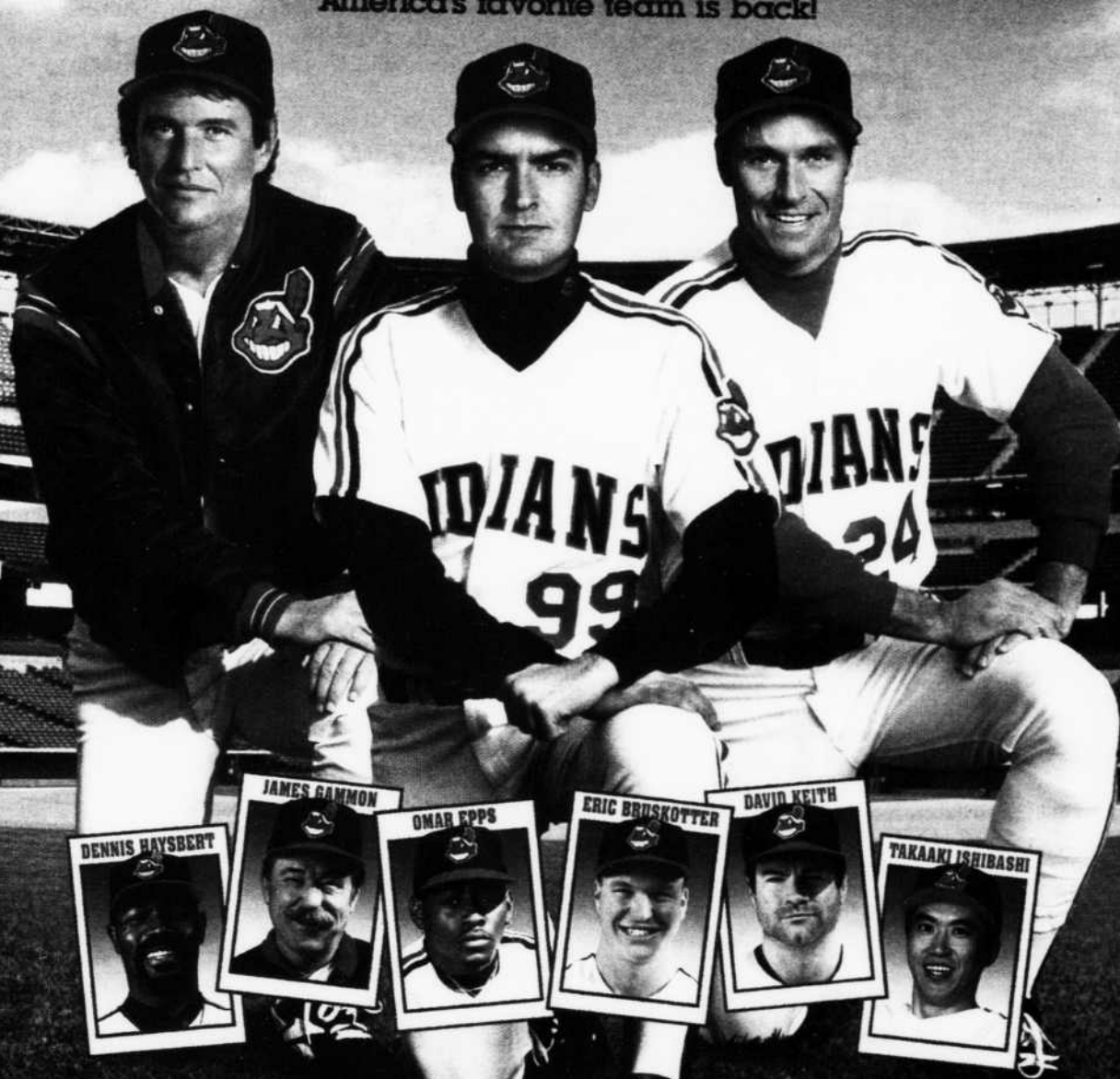
TOM
BERENGER

CORBIN
BERNSEN

Major League II



America's favorite team is back!



A Morgan Creek Production A David S. Ward Film Charlie Sheen Tom Berenger Major League II Corbin Bernsen Dennis Haysbert
James Gammon Omar Epps Eric Bruskotter Bob Uecker David Keith Alison Doody Michelle Burke Takaaki Ishibashi
And Margaret Whitton Music by Michel Colombier Executive Producer Paul Seydor Director of Photography Victor Hammer Post Production Stephen Hendrickson
Executive Producer Gary Barber Screenplay by R. J. Stewart And David S. Ward Story by James G. Robinson And David S. Ward
Produced by Morgan Creek Entertainment Inc. Directed by David S. Ward

OPENS MARCH 30TH EVERYWHERE

America adopts the fringe, leaving us with...

NO ALTERNATIVE

By Glenn McDonald, *The State News*, Michigan State U.

From James Dean to J Mascis, the weird and sullen ratty-looking kids have always been cool. They're the loners, the hepcats — the outsiders. Sure, they have attitude and they dress great, but they don't have many friends and grown-ups hate them.

So what in the hey is going on these days? Supermodel Kate Moss in flannel and boots? Smashing Pumpkins and The Breeders in Billboard's Top Ten? Films like *Slacker* in heavy-market rotation coast-to-coast?

It's 1994, and the outsiders are in.

Alternative culture is a phrase that, even 10 years ago, had little meaning. Yet in a Zen-like way, this essentially meaningless phrase has become the most fashionable marketing term of the day — a media-bite full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Like the ridiculous Generation X tag, it's a term that presupposes some sort of common agenda which simply doesn't exist. Put a San Diego surfer and a New York thrash-punk in the same cafe and see if they get along. Don't let MTV play you — there is no Alternative Nation.

Still, if alternative culture has any real meaning, it's that it isn't mainstream. Or wasn't, at any rate. That's what alternatives are supposed to be all about.

So how do we cope with an (ostensibly) alternative band like Pearl Jam on the cover of hoary old *Time* magazine?

Since distrust of power and authority is the gospel of alternative, it's ironic that it's being co-opted by Time Warner. But that's the way it's always been, says Jack Nachbar, professor of popular culture at Bowling Green State U. in Ohio.

"If an alternative culture is perceived as a threat, the threat is neutralized by absorbing it into the mainstream," Nachbar says. "Jazz used to be 'slumming music' until the young beatniks caught on. Now it's high art. Rap was extremely underground initially — now it's in the Top Ten. So for Eddie Vedder to be saying, 'Oh my God, I'm selling out' — wake up. This is what happens."

Rob Creighton, a junior at Loyola U. of Chicago and program director at WLWU, says he doesn't buy the idea that the mainstream is embracing alternative culture. For Creighton, the changing styles in music and fashion have less to do with alternative culture than youth culture. It's a matter of growing up, with all the inevitable compromises.

"For a while I ran around with a shaved head and a nose ring," he says. "Now I'm older, and I don't. As people, we're growing into the mainstream, and so is the music we listen to."

Alternative, hazily defined as non-mainstream, has become mainstream. It's like growing up to be your parents. It's icky.

And it's not just happening in music, although that's where the 'alternative' concept began. Cameron Crowe, screenwriter and director of some of the bet-

DON'T

ter youth films of the last decade (*Say Anything*, *Singles*), says this transition is entirely natural in any form of entertainment.

"Pop culture just sweeps along and takes everything with it," he says. "Granted, it will only enter the mainstream if it's profitable, but that's the nature of the mainstream."

LET

"Still, recently in film, real issue-oriented stuff is more prevalent than in the '80s. There are more films about real people. Take *Reality Bites*. I liked it. It jokes about TV and music and pop culture. It's funny."

MTV

In American literature as well, many authors were markedly "counterculture" in their origins. "Allen Ginsberg is now a great American poet, instead of the filthy beatnik he was in the '50s," Nachbar says.

PLAY

Hell, even Thoreau was considered a spacey granola nut while he was alive.

YOU

With media terms like alternative and Generation X stumbling about, you have to wonder — how much of what comes across on TV, radio and film is accurate, and how much of it is pre-chewed, marketable catch-phrasing? Is the media simply reflecting popular opinion — or is it pacing it?

THERE

"I think there's a little of both," says Brad Hubbell, the 32-year-old co-owner of the recently opened store Gen X, an "alternative media" shop in East Lansing, Mich. Hubbell's store sells comic books, 'zines and cult films like *Blue Velvet* and *She's Gotta Have It*. "In the past few years, public opinion has definitely moved towards the idea that one view of something is not quite right," he says. "It doesn't have to come out of Hollywood to be a good film. It doesn't have to be a Time Warner publication to be a good magazine."

NO

"On the other hand, every time a generation comes up, the generation before has a tendency to want to put a tag on it. Like with Generation X — it defines a certain age group, maybe, a certain experience in growing up, but that's it."

ALTERNATIVE

A hard-core cynic might point out that, in that case, naming your store Gen X smacks more than a little of condescension and opportunism.

NATION.

Hubbell's perspective: "For us, Gen X is just the name of the store — something to say hey, there are some different things inside here."

Well, yeah... OK. Hubbell's a businessman — those who dismiss him are probably just angry they didn't

think of it first.

And he has hit on a rapidly growing market. Tens of thousands of 'zines are being published in America — small, underground publications often designed on personal computers and printed at the local copy center. In addition, innovations in electronic communications allow people from all over the world to exchange information, via computer modem, at cyberspeed, and people are finding they don't need to rely on traditional media sources.

"Mainstream media are appropriating and pillaging youth culture — and giving nothing in return," says R. Seth Friedman, publisher of *Factsheet 5*, an index and guide to 'zines.

"More and more, though, alternative literature is... becoming accessible. Places like Tower Records are stocking 'zines now. Through computer technology, 'zines are looking slick and costing less."

David Moodie, a 1993 graduate of Syracuse U. and editor of *Might* magazine, is also attempting to promote alternative media. His publication, recently released through national distributors, is attempting to find a middle ground between regional 'zines and full-bore mainstream rags.

Moodie and his fellow editors, David Eggers and Marny Requa, want to ensure that their magazine and others like it can maintain editorial integrity in the ultra-slick world of mainstream pop culture magazines. "*Details* is a phone book," says Moodie. "Every damn product you see in that thing has a phone number or address where you can buy, buy, buy."

The point remains — even though Hubbell and his partner are banking on it, and even though *Details* advertisers are targeting it — there still seems to be no actual, cohesive, alternative culture.

"The term 'alternative,' in music at least, has lost all significance," says Austin music critic and *Rolling Stone* writer Don McLeese. "Alternative is as much packaging as content. It's become a demographic term."

"There's a local artist here in Austin, Allahandro Escovedo. He's great, and his music is certainly alternative to the mainstream, but he will never be embraced as an alternative artist. He's 42; he's Hispanic.

"Alternative marketing is getting in the way of alternative music."

So what if we break down the word 'alternative' into its component parts? What about the myriad fringe groups, sub-sects and pocket cliques? Cyber punks. Retro-hippies. B-boys. Riot grrls. Even at this level, there's no real viscosity. Jane Student is likely to go to a Dead show Friday, tell her e-mail pals about it Saturday, and unwind with the new Beastie Boys CD Sunday.

And this isn't even considering historically dispossessed groups — what about contemporary black culture? What about gay culture, feminist culture? Do they fly under the alternative flag?

How about fundamentalist Christians, for that matter? They're certainly outsiders with the media and current administration. If you're really looking for an alternative culture, why not try Nepalese Tantric Shavism?

The cruel truth is, alternative and mainstream lost any sort of meaning years ago — maybe when Kerouac met Burroughs, maybe when Dylan met the Beatles.

"It's almost on a personal level now," says Jamie DePolo, a 1993 graduate of Michigan State U. "Be true to yourself, to what you believe in. I remember when I first heard The Clash on the radio. I ran right out to get the album. That's alternative."

Alternative culture is whatever you want it to be. It's your in-jokes with your roommates, your junior-high poetry, your Uncle Hank's elephant jokes. Whatever. **U**



Brad Hubbell sells counterculture in his new store.

"For Eddie Vedder to be saying,
'Oh my God, I'm selling out'
— wake up. This is what happens."

— Jack Nachbar, professor of popular culture



MATT RAGLAND, DAILY NEXUS, U. OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Your guide to the immortally swanky:

Clumsy labels like mainstream and alternative will be forever tossed around like snowballs, but there are some things in this world that (according to me) are objectively, abidingly and forever cool. Conveniently, they're listed below. You might find it ironic, after all this yammering, to provide such a list. But that's okay, because irony is cool, too.

Wraparound sunglasses: Lou Reed, the coolest guy ever to grow old, wore them all the time when he fronted The Velvet Underground, the coolest band ever to die young. Instant hipness.

Aretha Franklin: The undisputed Queen of Soul, Aretha has more cool in F sharp than most people have in an octave.

Bugs Bunny: Especially in that one cartoon where he outsmarted the hillbillies with a square dance song. The smirk. The carrot. The true definition of grace under pressure. Subversive, too.

The beatniks: These cats were all about cool, and everything they touched turned hip. If it weren't for the beats, every coffee-house philosopher you know would be just another morbid-looking poet with a bad goatee.

The Star Wars movies: Everything you ever wanted from escapist entertainment in two hours of filmmaking genius. Bomb-out space battles, scary villains, Harrison Ford and a dash of eastern mysticism.

Ayn Rand: Author of *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*, this 20th century writer/philosopher made it OK to be cold, calculating and selfish. Plus, she inspired the first three Rush albums. All right!

Nostalgia: In the last 10 years, '60s nostalgia has given way to '70s revival to '80s retrospection. At this rate, we'll be nostalgic about April by May. The Good Old Days may not have always been cool, but reminiscing about them is.

Japanimation: Who remembers *Battle of the Planets*, the coolest weekday cartoon in history? Thank the genius of Japanese animation for that one, along with *Akira*, *Bubblegum Crisis*, *Vampire Hunters* and *Voltron*. Go, Speed Racer, go!

Vaudeville: You'll never find a better example of comic timing than an old Abbott and Costello routine. Vaudeville was cheap, easy entertainment with no pretensions of art and what's more, it's the origin of TV sketch comedy.

Guys named Eddie: Eddie Albert, Eddie Murphy, Eddie Haskell, Eddie Munster, Eddie and the Cruisers, Ed Norton and um, Eddie Vedder.

Surf Music: The Beach Boys, Jan and Dean, and sometimes even The Cramps. Surf music drove Annette and the kids wild at those midnight clam bakes. "C'mon, gang! The waves are super!"

Premature Cynicism: This single phenomenon has fueled everything from punk rock to the Reagan Administration. It's a powerful tool — choose your pose wisely. And remember: When in doubt, pout. ■ Glenn McDonald, *The State News*, Michigan State U.

in Poll Question

ENTERTAINMENT



THIS MONTH'S IN QUESTION
What's the defining show of our generation - Baywatch, B.H. 90210 or Saved by the Bell?
(800) 6 U-VIEWS ext. 65

PREVIOUS POLL RESULTS

Who's the most obnoxious daytime talk show host?

1. Geraldo Rivera
2. Ricki Lake
3. Phil Donohue
4. Richard Bey
5. Sally Jesse Raphael

"Montel Williams. He's very loud and doesn't care what other people think." Janise Dybalski, senior, Wayne State U.

"Geraldo. Transvestite nurses - need I say more?" Larry Minton, sophomore, U. of Tennessee

"Sally Jesse Raphael. The way she exploits the legions of the lamebrained and the sexually dysfunctional for money is sickening. The entire lot of them should be sterilized." Dinah Imamba, graduate student, U. of Arkansas

Look for the College Year in Review photo section in U.'s May Issue - On campuses April 18



Cliff Twister: Gettin' vert with the classic game, these climbers make the most of rappelling.



Sand Dune skiing: CU Boulder students get some practice at Great Sand Dunes Nat'l. Monument.

CORRECTION: January/February's issue mistakenly identified one of the "Capture the Nike Spirit Contest" winners. Timothy Dittmar is from Western Michigan U., not U. of Michigan.

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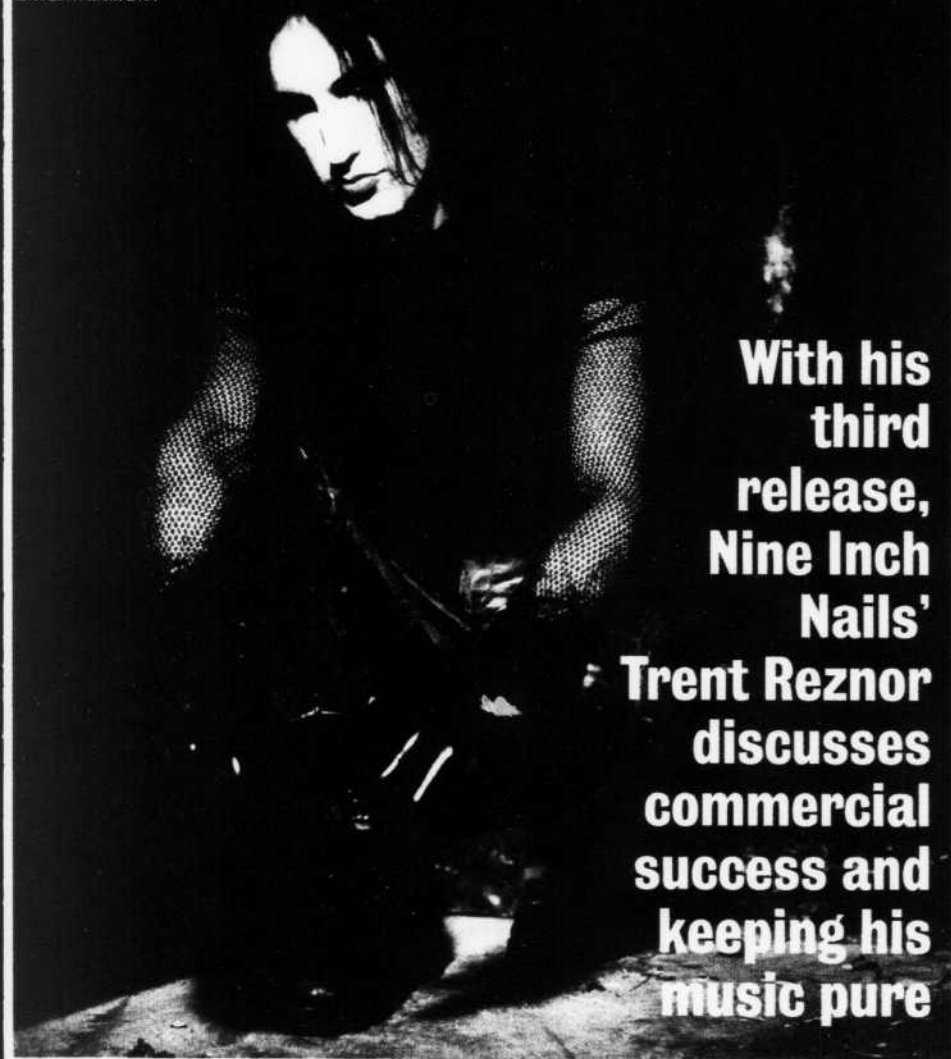
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With his third release, Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor discusses commercial success and keeping his music pure

Reluctant Icon

By Rob Hooper, *University Times*, California State U., Los Angeles

inappropriate and would make the music impure."

His frustration with the music industry provides the prevailing theme on *Broken*. The six-song collection, which was recorded without TVT's knowledge, also showcases Reznor's newfound interest in making his music as abrasive as possible. Less dance-based than *Pretty Hate Machine*, the EP sounds more like a guitar-oriented wall of sound.

Ironically, Reznor received a Grammy award last year for the track "Wish," an honor he's quick to dismiss as meaningless.

"The best thing about it," he quips, "was that it's the only song to ever win a Grammy that says 'fist f**k' in the lyrics."

Sarcasm aside, Reznor says he's come to terms with his hatred of the music industry. Most of his energy for the past two years has gone into making the recently released 14-track opus *The Downward Spiral* (Nothing/TVT/Interscope). It's a project that he says turned him into a workaholic.

"This album literally sucked the life out of me," he says. "I found it a difficult process... because when I went into the studio, I knew that I didn't want to make *Broken* again. I saw that as a trap I could easily fall into. When I write music, not everything comes out really hard and mean like those songs.

"On the same token, I didn't want to go about making *Pretty Hate Machine* over again. So I tried to experiment with different forms of intensity rather than just use loud guitars and drums. Ten hard, fast songs don't have nearly the intensity of spacing the different emotions out along the entire album."

While *The Downward Spiral* does contain some obvious musical mood swings, it also gives Reznor a chance to express some of his political concerns. "Big Man With a Gun" addresses misogynist attitudes in gangsta rap, whereas "Heresy" blends themes of sex and religion.

"I was trying to explore some of the paranoia I have as a sexually active person in the age of AIDS," he says of "Heresy."

"I guess I feel cheated for not growing up in a more liberated era. At the same time, what gets me mad is the way the right wing has used the 'convenience' of this epidemic in helping to promote their own agenda."

Reznor admits the issues brought up on the album may not exactly be Top 40 radio material. "The first people who heard it outside my immediate camp thought the album was commercial suicide," he says. "I'm not doing music to make millions of dollars, though. Every record I've put out I thought was risky at the time.

"My main goal was to broaden the scope of NIN a little bit. I'm tired of trying to second-guess what other people are going to like. It may not be the most obvious career move for me, but if you give the album a chance, it may produce something for you that you didn't expect."

The most unexpected element of *The Downward Spiral* is on the final track, "Hurt." Although Reznor usually revels in his nihilism, the song's ending conveys a surprising amount of optimism.

"I questioned whether or not to put that on there," he says.

When reminded that the music overpowers the vocals so that his lyrics are almost indecipherable, Reznor smiles.

"I do that sometimes," he says. "When I'm scared, I just turn the vocals down." U

Trent Reznor sits in the corner of a hotel bar and slowly sips an iced tea. He seems at ease for someone who is homeless at the moment.

"I think I've moved every six months for the last 10 years," he says. His last residence in Beverly Hills, the infamous site of the Sharon Tate slayings, was recently demolished by its owner.

"I have a certain degree of newfound maturity," he continues, "and it makes me desire some kind of permanence like having a home. But now I'm faced with getting on a tour bus for at least a year. And as great as that can be, it's ultimately a rather shallow existence."

Shallow is not a term many people would associate with Reznor or his music, a project he calls Nine Inch Nails (NIN). More of a solo venture than a group effort, NIN enables Reznor to vocalize the sense of displacement he feels in his own life. The result is as disturbing as it is provocative.

"I've never written an outright happy song," the 28-year-old admits. "If I did, then I doubt it would fit into the context of a NIN record. And I don't really feel inspired to write about happy s**t anyway. When I'm happy, the last thing I feel like doing is torturing myself with my notebook in hand."

Reznor's anger and tortured-artist image attracted a cult following after he signed with TVT Records in 1988.

When his debut album, *Pretty Hate Machine*, was released the following year, the popularity of NIN began to rise so rapidly that Reznor says he found it disconcerting.

"It was cool to see that record do well on its own merit because MTV and commercial radio didn't embrace it until later," he says. "But at the same time, it was really weird going from being a fanzine level band to outselling Jane's Addiction in merchandise sales at Lollapalooza.

"The bigger the stakes, the more uncomfortable and out of control it starts to feel. It's cool to be the underdog, but when you start rising to the top, there's more people ready to drag you down any way they can."

Reznor is speaking of his relationship with TVT Records and its owner, Steve Gottlieb, who paid little attention to NIN until sales from *Pretty Hate Machine* began to skyrocket. A battle ensued over rights to NIN's next album, with Interscope Records finally stepping in to release the 1992 EP *Broken*.

"It came down to a simple thing," Reznor says of the struggle that almost ended his career. "What I'm most concerned about is that the record you get in the store and the way you perceive NIN is the way I want it to be perceived. I don't want it to be diluted by some marketing plan that's completely

IN REVIEW

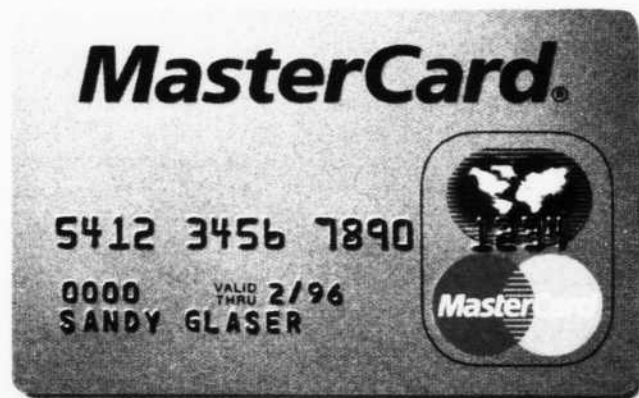
★★★★ through 14 tracks that assault the listener with their sonic extremities.

Who says misery loves company? Nine Inch Nails rests on the idea that frustration is born of isolation. It's a formula that serves Trent Reznor well, especially on *The Downward Spiral* — the full-length follow-up to 1989's *Pretty Hate Machine*. "Mr. Self Deconstruct," a song that progresses much like the title suggests, sets the tone for most of the album. Reznor plays the fiendish tour guide

While his focus has taken on a harder edge, the new material has some accessible moments. "Closer" is sure to be a dance hit with its quirky electronic beats and blasphemous chorus. "Hurt" offers layers of circuitry that brilliantly compete with Reznor's wavering vocals. *Spiral* is not easy to digest. Reznor's hook is that his intensity lives up to his ambition.

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