



Source Photos by Clare Rowland

on the Rise

The Woodlands Housing Projects Become Home to Sustainable Community Project

by Clare Rowland

The Woodlands Housing Project, set in the heart of the poorest part of Algiers, LA, is the Common Ground Collective's most recent and largest project. Malik Rahim, co-founder of Common Ground, sat down with us on a Saturday afternoon to discuss plans for rebuilding both the physical buildings and, more importantly, the community that resides within and around the 300 unit apartment complex. In the spirit of Common Ground's mantra, "Solidarity, not Charity!," Rahim and partner, Sharon, moved into a Woodlands apartment, Rahim hopes that his physical presence in the complex will demonstrate Common Ground's commitment to enacting change. As we sat with Malik in his newly painted living room, the vision for the Woodlands Housing Project came to life.

Before Katrina devastated New Orleans, said Rahim, the "[Woodlands] community

was a community that could have been nothing but what it was; it was a community that was completely inundated with crime." Algiers had ten times the national average of murders, and most of the murders were committed somewhere in the Woodlands neighborhood. There was a 70% unemployment rate, and the largest economic anchor in the community was the drug trade. According to Rahim "For the last six years, Algiers has been in a drug war; a drug war much larger than the city would ever admit to, because they thought it would be bad on tourism. Also, it was mostly ex-offenders killing ex-offenders, and most of them were black."

Understanding the severity of the situation, Rahim and other visionaries have developed a comprehensive, community oriented plan. Within four miles of the Woodlands is the highest concentration

of poor children in the greater New Orleans area. Of utmost importance, Rahim noted, is helping these children overcome poverty. Thus, the first project taken-on by Common Ground has been to provide a daily breakfast program coupled with a bi-weekly community event entitled, "Unity in the Community" in which neighborhood children and parents are invited to enjoy a barbeque and entertainment. According to Rahim, "by making the Woodlands Housing Projects the nucleus of the community, it becomes possible to address problems with a holistic approach." Knowing that the future of this community is in the hands of its youngest members, Malik spends most of his days talking with young people, discouraging drug and gang activity, and promoting and exemplifying civic responsibility. Additionally, a program has been set up which takes teens on prison

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Dear Abbie (Hoffman)

Licensed leftist psychic mediums channel Abbie Hoffman's responses to your sociopolitical woes.

Send questions to Abbie:
uconnfreepress@gmail.com

Dear Abbie,
I keep hearing all this stuff about torture being "wrong", but if Jack Bauer has a hostage that knows the location of a bomb about to go off in a big city some time in the next 24 hours, shouldn't he be allowed to do whatever it takes to get the information from him?
- Absolutist Asole

Dear Absolutist,
The scenario that you describe has not only never happened, but most likely never will. It is simply absurd to base laws which will be acted on constantly upon such an extreme and unlikely event. The reality of anti-torture legislation is two fold. First, there must be some degree of international understanding (Geneva conventions?) as to what constitutes fundamentally unacceptable and inhumane suffering. Second, there must be an internationally understood standard for the way in which WE will treat prisoners and therefore expect our soldiers to be treated. If not, then aren't we just asking for heads to be chopped off? If you want to wait until Jack Bauer has a hostage with vital and time sensitive information, then please do so while being water boarded. And be sure to note all the pigs flying over a frozen hell.
- Abbie

Dear Abbie,
This may be out of context but President Bush said "It is unacceptable to think..."
Is irony dead?
- Tender Viddles

Dear Tender,
Irony is hardly dead, even if the Bush administration isn't quite as 1984 about things anymore. Just last week

the "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, a man who has spent his life working with and trying to raise awareness and caring for animals, was killed by a stingray's barb through his heart. Now there are reports that people in Australia are killing stingrays by the dozens, obviously not what the good hunter would have wanted. Also vegans around the world drink Silk soy-milk which is owned by Dean foods, the world's largest dairy producer. So every time they buy Silk they are giving money to a company carrying out widespread factory farming and animal cruelty. Irony still pervades our day to day lives, you just have to know where to look. You can't expect a "hug the tar-baby" to fall into your lap everyday.
- Abbie

Dear Abbie,
Why do the voices tell me to start fires?
- Daisy Whoopsie

Dear Daisy,
Probably because you're subjected to so much mental insanity on a daily basis. We live everyday walking literally shoulder to shoulder, yet no one knows one another and will do anything in their power to ignore each other. We consume, waste, sit idly, react, allow ourselves to be herded and proselytize our G-ds, all while tens of thousands of people die every single day. Every single day. Is that mentally sound? Hardly. Need a little more convincing?
Head on,
apply directly to the forehead.
Head on,
apply directly to the forehead.
Head on,
apply directly to the forehead.
- Abbie

Death Imitates Fashion

At Least In New York, At Least For Spring 2007

by Dora Wilkenfeld

First and foremost, I wish not to die of peritonitis. (Incidentally, also Edith Liddell's fatal illness.) I just got home from my monster ten-hour workday not more than thirty minutes ago, expecting to devour my dinner in peace. But I think I might have accidentally ingested some of the miniscule shards after dropping one china plate on the floor and shattering it (out of mental feebleness brought on by exhaustion, I expect) and then eating the food thus spilled on the floor anyway (because I am disgusting). So if I don't live to see next spring in my own person, I hereby will all of the following to my next of kin.

Nathan Jenden's pom-pom dress with stripy shoes would be perfect for spring picnicking in the Elysian Fields (where I hope to go after my peritonitis runs its deadly course).

On the other hand, what if I was to go the other way? Vena Cava's diabolical velvet number would be sure to keep me looking chic as my entrails are torn out by hideous birds with women's heads.

I admire Zac Posen's willingness to risk his immortal soul for fashion. Most of the items in his spring show would look ideal on a human figure, but one gown stood out from the rest of the mortal crowd. This gown was clearly designed expressly for the devil's wife. Can't you just picture that train on the giant ass-bow dragging unsinged through the red-hot coals of deepest Dis?

I hope that when I die, someone takes a memorial photograph of me

stretched out in my coffin in my funeral splendor... like, for example, Zac Posen's fantastic silver and cream satin suit. I think it really says, "Whatever foul sins I may have committed, je ne regrette rien."

Meanwhile, for swanning around with a harp and feathery wings, Erin Fetherston's angel minidress looks a treat.

Nothing says, "I've attained the furthest reaches of infinity" like the crazy mathematical properties of a fractal. Either I was channeling a faint premonition of my own shard-spurred demise when I had a brief craving a few days ago for some of the Mandelbrot set, or I have some sort of hive-mind with Threearfour, and was thus mentally forewarned of their fractal-heavy collection. Threearshivemind?

If I somehow escape death only to linger on in a permanent persistent vegetative state, I'd like to specify in my will that my handlers maneuver me into dresses by Mr. Mukherjee Sabyaschi. Asexuals everywhere (myself included) rejoiced at the big black-framed glasses and clompy masculine shoes Mr. Sabyaschi's stylist chose to pair with his man-get-thee-back spinsteriffic outfits. Nothing says "I'm asexual, hold your fire" quite like this fetching combo. (In the interest of full disclosure: I wear outfits like this basically every day. Hence why I'm constantly battling off the menfolk with a giant lead pipe.) Once my world has narrowed to the strict confines of my own sickbed, I'd like to continue on in my accustomed style.



New Orleans

continued from page 1

tours in which inmates discourage illegal behavior. Another program takes them on tours of positive employment possibilities, such as the town hall.

To address the broader economic problem, Common Ground plans to build a self-sustaining business community within the complex. Though there are 350 units, only 250 will be available for rental. The remaining 100 units will be used for small businesses and social programs. Already up-and-running are a construction cooperative and a landscaping cooperative.

The construction cooperative facilitates sustainability by combining classroom and on-site training to its employees, as well as putting them to work. Thus, after participating in the training program, Woodlands residents will be skilled and semi-skilled laborers. Specifically, one hour each work day is devoted to classroom training, involving tool identification, measurements, fractions and construction techniques. The other five hours of the day, employees work on-site to rebuild their city.

The landscaping cooperative was started by six individuals residing in the Woodlands Housing Project. Common Ground showed their support by financing the purchase of riding lawn mowers, and by offering the landscapers their first contract: mowing the thirteen acres of Woodland property. Additionally, Common Ground is promoting sustainable business practices by educating the cooperative on the basics of business management, including applying for small business grants. The grants will go to purchasing tractors that will allow the

cooperative to take on more contracts and eventually, more employees.

Though the Woodlands Project is still in its first stages, Rahim informed us about the many cooperatives that he expects to sprout up in the coming months and years. All programs and businesses will be based on the needs of the community, and will be engineered to bring positive economic, individual and community growth. A pest control cooperative is in the process of being started. A radio station and recording studio will serve the purpose of expression and skills training. These media centers will also attract hip-hop and up-and-coming artists, which Rahim believes will make the Woodlands more attractive to the community, thus increasing its “nucleic” quality. There are also plans for a community grocery store and security cooperative. As Rahim said, “anything that the development needs, we intend to train and hire residents to resolve and satisfy those needs.”

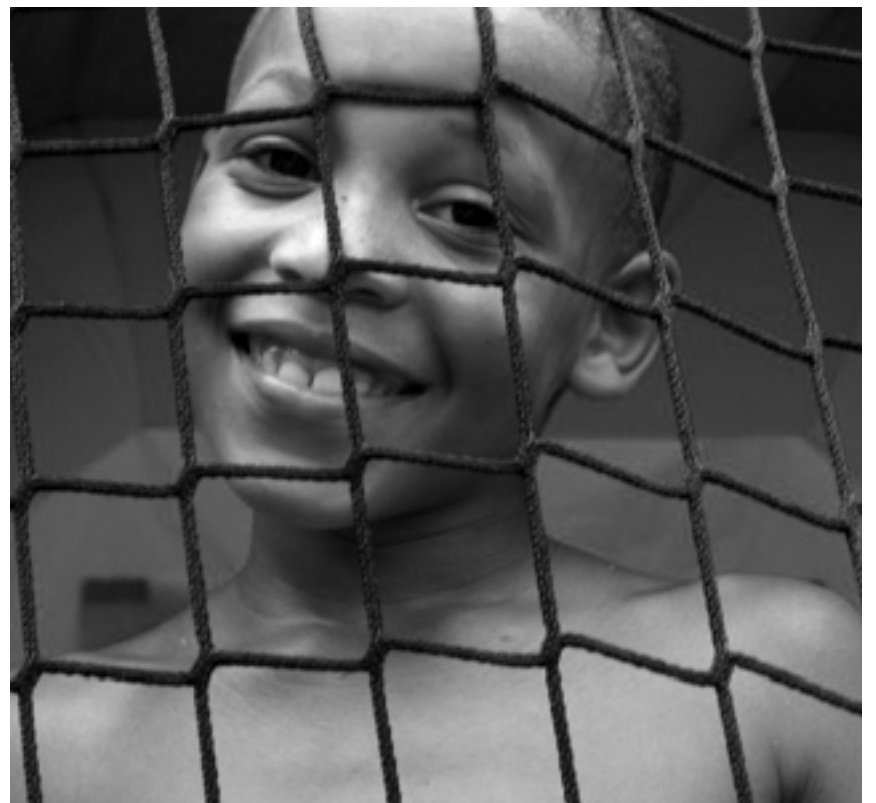
A myriad of social programs are also in the works in order to serve the needs of the Woodlands community. Two units will be devoted to a Women’s and a Men’s center for homeless individuals. A drug treatment program will be set in place to help community members with substance abuse difficulties. In addition, a mini health clinic will be built to provide basic health care.

After our time with Rahim was through, we walked out into the New Orleans heat and joined the “Unity in the Community” festival. Swarms of children jumped in the inflatable castle, smiles stretched across their

sweaty faces. Others gathered as one volunteer brought in boxes of blue crabs he caught on Bayou Chauvin. Still more children assembled around the cooler, playing in the ice to cool down. A little girl announced that a band was about to play, and soon eight teenagers stood in the shade of a tree and lent some great New Orleans jazz to the Saturday afternoon festivities.

As we prepared to leave, a young man of about seven jumped into our car and begged us to take him home with us. The reality of the situation hit us hard. However, reaching back

to a few hours before, I remembered Common Ground’s vision. “This is my home,” Rahim had said, “and when we rebuild, I would like New Orleans to be a greater city than it ever was, one that every person, regardless of skin color, or craft, or educational background are offered the same opportunity.” Though the Woodlands is not there yet, these young people are at the heart of Common Ground’s operation, and may someday enjoy the many fruits of a sustainable community.



An Algiers boy plays in the summer heat.

Photo by Clare Rowland

Gay Blood Ban Continues Third Decade of Discrimination

by Joshua Faucher

Blood screening procedures, like many modern medical practices, originally consisted of components reflecting both science and superstition. For instance, blood was not originally categorized by the various antigens present on the donor’s cells, but by the race or religion of the person it came from. Those practices were (grudgingly) abandoned about half a century ago, but anyone who has donated blood recently won’t find it difficult to remember the multitude of questions they were required to answer beforehand.

The Blood Donation Eligibility Guidelines at redcross.org list 50 different categories that must be considered before blood donation can be allowed, including everything from the method by which a piercing was received to what sub-Saharan countries one has been visiting recently. Also running the gamut is a plethora of questions related to STIs (sexually transmitted infections.)

Mr. Blood Donor, “have you had sexual contact with another male, even once, since 1977?” If the answer is yes, then you’ll be shown the door, and most likely not be allowed free cookies or orange juice. Former partners of IV drug users or fans of illegal steroids, however, will be let right in, provided the sexual contact occurred at least 12 months ago.

Assuming these individuals at “high risk” for HIV are being honest about their sexual histories, it’s not difficult to see the hypocrisy of the FDA’s ban on blood from male homosexuals, which has been in place since 1985. Gay men in committed, monogamous relationships, who use protection and have been tested and shown negative for HIV, are automatically excluded from donation for the rest of their lives. Alas, people who engage in much riskier behavior, such as having sex with heroin addicts, are clear after 12 months without showing signs of infection. Something’s rotten at your

local blood bank, and it’s called homophobia.

Adding insult to injury is the fact that all donated blood is screened for STDs before it ever reaches the trauma-room fridge (that is, if we trust that an agency recent fined millions by the FDA for screening violations is doing its job.) The FDA justifies it’s screening by pointing out that sex between men accounts for the majority (38%) of HIV infections; but that statistic does not refer to how many male homosexuals actually have HIV.

The ban is based on inherently prejudiced ideas that gay men are promiscuous and unhealthy by default, and the promotion of these ideas by a governmental body discourages homosexuals from coming out in society. This in turn means that obtaining an accurate figure reflecting the true percentage of gay men with HIV is impossible, and the ban continues.

The FDA has discussed changing the policy a multitude of times of the

past decade, and the Blood Products Advisory Voted (BPAC) met to discuss the issue in September, 2000. The ban was upheld by one vote, but numerous advocacy groups for gay rights are petitioning for a change to the policy. Citizens writing to the FDA, telling others about the situation, and campaigning for a change stand the best chance when it comes to changing the vote in favor of reforming the policy when the BPAC votes again.

As someone who was born with a heart defect, and would not be alive today if donated blood hadn’t allowed corrective surgeries to be completed, I would like nothing more than to repay the debt I owe to the blood banks. The gay blood ban does not make sense when we hear everyday about how blood supplies are dangerously low. In the end, however, the restrictions society puts on its members don’t always make sense, and all that I and many others can do for now is wait.

Got Law?

by David Crouse

Did you know that it is illegal to sell milk in a one-liter bottle in the State of Connecticut? Chapter 752, Section 43-23 of the General Statutes of Connecticut (revised to January 1, 2005) lists all of allowed bottle-sizes for the sale of milk in the state: none of them are metric.

Whether to find silly laws or to determine whether one is violating the law, knowing how to look up laws can be useful. Although more useful, annotated resources are available in the library, most laws in the United States may be found online. A logical place to begin is with the law of the land: the US Constitution. Original copies may be viewed at the National Archives in Washington D.C. For those who do not want to make the walk, a scanned copy, along with amendments may be viewed online at the National Archive's web site: <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>

The next logical step in the jungle of U.S. law is federal law. Where a federal law is to be found depends upon the type of law and how recently the law was enacted. Initially, all laws passed by Congress appear as unbound pamphlets called "slip laws". Though piles of these slips may be found hiding within the bowels of many libraries, the government keeps an updated list of all current slips online at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>

After the end of each congressional session, all of the laws passed by Congress get put together into the latest release of the Statutes at Large. The purpose of this publication is simply to show all of the laws from the last session of Congress; it is not to arrange the laws in any readily searchable manner. Given the number of laws passed in a year, the Statutes at Large can be huge. While all editions may be found at Federal Depository Libraries, the latest edition of Statutes at Large may be found online at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/statutes/about.html>

At this point, one must differentiate between the two types of laws that Congress passes: private laws and public laws. Private laws only affect certain people. For example, a private

law might be used to grant a specific individual citizenship who otherwise would not have been able to attain it. The Statutes at Large is the last step of publication for private laws, which makes finding old ones rather difficult. Public laws, however, go on to be incorporated into the United States Code. The United States Code contains the current status of the amended laws from Congress and is published every six years. It is arranged by subject, which makes it one of the best places to start looking for federal laws. It may be viewed in Federal Depository Libraries and online at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>

At this point, one might think that the expanse of federal laws has been covered, but besides laws specific to Congress itself, there is another place where federal laws are published. The executive branch has a limited lawmaking power independent of Congress. For example, the president can issue executive orders, and individual agencies, for instance the FAA

and FCC, can regulate many things without direct approval from Congress. This is also an area where the legal waters become murky, since not all laws here are public. For example, the president has the authority to issue secret executive orders. However, even finding non-secret laws passed by the executive can be somewhat difficult. The place to start looking, however, is in the Federal Register. A list of publications of the Federal Register may be found online here: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/publications/>

After leaving the dreadful jungle of federal law, one makes their way into the endless bog of state regulations. These can vary greatly. In general, the publication of state laws takes place in a manner similar to the federal system. For example, in the State of Connecticut the analogue to the United States Code is the Connecticut State Statutes. This is the place to start looking, when pondering the legality of milk containers. The statutes may be browsed or

searched: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/Statutes.asp>

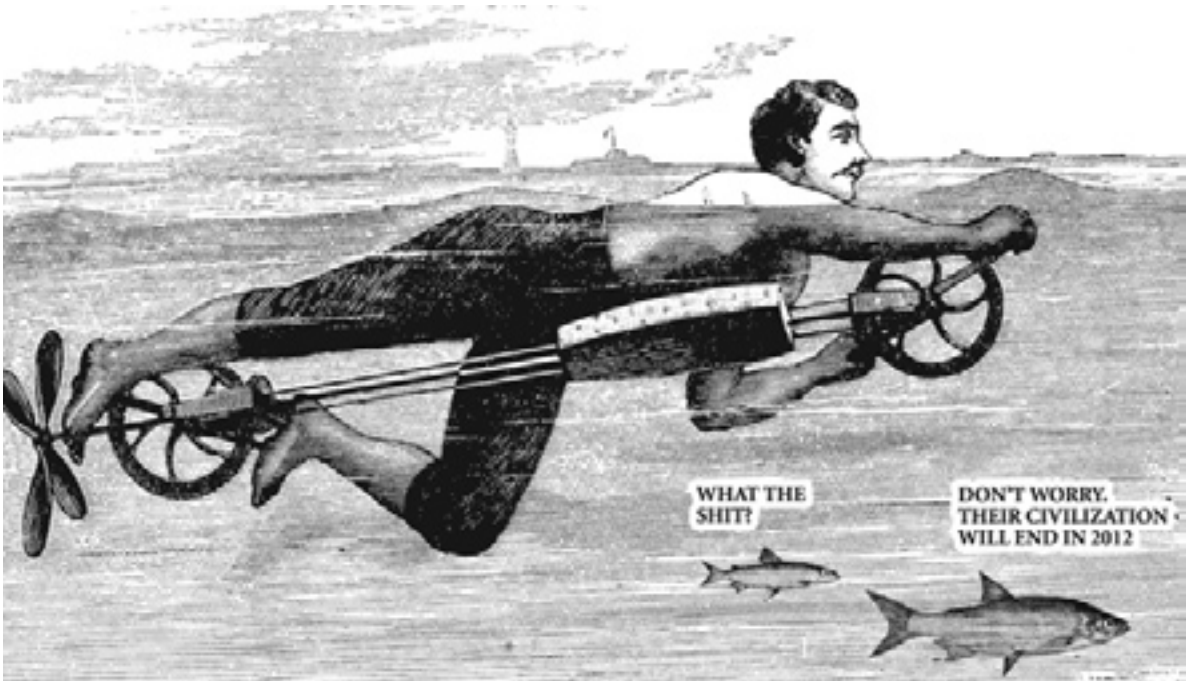
Below the level of state laws are local laws. The best place to look for them is in the relevant town hall. Not all towns have published their charter and ordinances online; however, the town of Mansfield has. Links to relevant documents are in the right column of the town's web site: <http://www.mansfieldct.org/>

By going through the resources above, can one find all of the laws, rules and regulations that might apply to a person living in Mansfield, attending the University of Connecticut? The answer is no. Aside from secret laws in the federal executive branch, there are many more places where regulations may be found in states and towns. However, more importantly, federally, and in all states except for Louisiana, there is also common law. Common law is law that is derived from judicial precedent rather than statute. That does not simply mean that common law is a de facto law due to a judge's interpretation of a written statute. Many common laws were inherited by the colonies from Britain, and are not based on any original document, nor are they enumerated in the United States Code, or other, similar catalogs of law. One example of a common law is the State Secrets Privileges, whereby the government may put a stop to any court case if it deems that, if the case were to go forward, it would reveal secrets of national security. An article on a use of this privilege this year maybe be found online in Wired, "Feds Go All Out to Kill Spy Suit": <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/security/0,70785-0.html>

So, dear reader, if you are still awake, you can see that knowing what the laws are in the United States can be a daunting, perhaps superhuman task. Thus, one should always consult a lawyer, or perhaps a small army of lawyers, before attempting to do anything shady, or perhaps before doing anything at all.



"Censorship" Eric Drooker. drooker.com



MARRIED TO THE SEA. A daily comic by Drew and Natalie Dee. marriedtothesea.com

The UNEDITED Student’s Rights Guide

If you live in a residence hall on campus, you were probably given a “students’ rights guide” in the very recent past. If you are not living on campus, you can access this guide online at www.dosa.uconn.edu. The students’ rights guide which was compiled last year, although detailed, is not comprehensive. There are some important issues left that the general student body should be more aware of.

The issue of free speech on campus has long been assumed a non-issue. Along with free speech ‘zones,’ the University grants students the right to association, the right to classroom expression, and the right to dissent. However, these rights come with stringent limitations.

Long live the rumor of free speech zones. Apparently, the Attorney General is still deciding whether or not to allow UConn students the right to free speech everywhere on campus. If it is decided that there are free speech zones on campus, this implies that there are certain areas of campus where the ‘right’ to free speech is not upheld. Perhaps UConn officials should re-read the Bill of Rights before making their decision.

On March 31st, 2006, the Building and Grounds committee discussed instituting a “speaker’s corner” near the lawn of the Student Union. One committee member made a remark regarding free speech zones, and questioned whether these zones existed around campus. John Saddlemire, VP of Student Affairs, agreed to check in with UConn’s Attorney General, Paul McCarthy, and would report back to the committee. In all succeeding meeting minutes, there is no report back mentioned.

The university has policies on the books, but the literal meaning of these policies are better explained as misguided. They are misguided figuratively and literally. Literally, these “rights” are not included in the new students rights guide in their true sense. And figuratively, it is a misguided idea to accord students the same rights as chickens. The true meanings of UConn’s students’ rights are better described by these “Misguided Rights.” So with that...

MISGUIDED RIGHT #1:

UConn students have the right to free expression of speech, thoughts, and ideas in special designated areas. When choosing to express undesired opinions and thoughts, it is imperative that students remain within these areas. Should a student choose to express themselves outside of a designated ‘free speech zone’ the University Police and administration may use any means necessary to forcibly silence and remove the student from said location. If all else fails the university can remind students that UConn has no official policy on the right to freedom of speech.

Students are allowed to involve themselves in any student organizations they

wish and the University is obliged to recognize all groups regardless of their nature. However, we are not allowed to make policy decisions regarding student organizations. It is noted in the student rights guide that students have the privilege of suggesting alterations to these policies that govern us.

This may not seem to be an important thing, but it speaks volumes about the way the University treats students. Students are expected to act like adults but are not accorded the same rights that come along with this responsibility. Administrators make decisions that affect the education and wallets of students everyday, and they do not even grant us the ability to govern the policies that affect our own student groups. Not to mention, students are not allowed to use classrooms with computers without a faculty member present.

MISGUIDED RIGHT #2:

Students have the right to join any group they wish. They do not have the right to challenge policies and decisions affecting those groups. Administration assumes full responsibility for governing the groups which students are said to run.

Interestingly, there is no explicit right to free speech on campus. There is a strange right to dissent that, when broken down, says nothing about nothing. Students have the right to ‘picket’ but only if this is ‘orderly,’ and to demonstrate only when it is ‘peaceful.’ What does orderly mean? Peaceful? Who decides what is orderly and peaceful and what is not? (HINT: it depends on what is being picketed). It is also important to note that the university restricts this right to the outside of university facilities.

The University can restrict the entrance of certain people to university facilities. The language in this policy allows for police and other officials to interpret as they wish. “The presence of unauthorized persons in such areas after due notice to vacate has been given, orally or in writing, is not permissible, and it may be regarded as interfering with or obstructing a University activity.” Again, it is important to ask, who fits into this category of unauthorized? Who decides which persons are unauthorized to enter certain buildings?

From these questions one can gather that the policy and administration are the ones making these decisions. They are able, because of the very specific and carefully chosen language used in writing these policies, to make these decisions subjectively. They are able to apply these restrictions to whomever they wish, whenever they wish, without having to answer to the question of why.

MISGUIDED RIGHT #3:

Students have the right to dissent. Dissent includes drawing attention, but not

in a way that will actually draw attention – because that distracts from the learning environment. Students are also encouraged to utilize the outside for their dissent, as buildings are not included in the dissent policy. When outside and engaging in the act of dissent, students are reminded that these activities may only take place in designated free speech zones.

UConn has the standard non-discrimination policy on the books, though they are hard pressed to actually follow it. Examples will prove this better than analysis. UConn claims not to discriminate on the basis of gender but how many of the top level administrators are women? One out of five. UConn has never had a female president. The directors of all of the cultural centers are women, a fantastic feat. But their boss is a male. The board of trustees has four women, one of which is the secretary, out of twenty trustees.

The Daily Campus, a student run paper, has repeatedly refused to print letters to the editor submitted by the Rainbow Center staff. UConn has been proven to not follow up on discrimination complaints filed based on sexual orientation.

The University police have been documented time and again for targeting black students on campus. When I was a freshman on campus, there was an infamous occurrence at the African American Cultural Center. The police showed up, with drug sniffing dogs and pepper spray, to a school sponsored get-together. This same incident was seemingly ignored by administrators (and students) on campus.

Although these incidents are not publicized and may not even seem like a big deal to some, they are clear indications of discrimination. The overt and institutionalized discrimination against women, blacks, homosexuals, and other minorities on campus is shameful. But the university would prefer to ignore these problems and focus on the graceful wording of their anti-discrimination policy and on making flashy posters that include pictures with a woman, a black person, and a person of Asian descent.

MISGUIDED RIGHT #4:

Students have the right to be free from discrimination from the university. The university is not responsible for other students discriminating against their peers. Nor are they responsible for the views of organizations which they allow on campus. Sexual minorities are not included in this policy. Nor are black students, nor women. The university police, the ROTC program, the Daily Campus, and university administration are exempt from following this policy. In fact, the university also reserves the right to preach this policy without actually implementing the practice of anti-discrimination anywhere on campus.

Exerpts from the official UConn Students’ Rights

Freedom from Discrimination

The University affirms the right of each student to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. It abides by the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, other existing Federal and State laws and executive orders pertaining to equal rights, and the University President’s Policy on Harassment.

Freedom of Association

The University recognizes the right of any group of students to form a voluntary organization for any purpose not forbidden by law.

The facilities and services of the University may be reserved for use by registered organizations for their meetings and programs based upon policies governing such use (e.g. staffing, maintenance, financial resources, hours of operation, etc.). Where applicable, responsibility for costs related to such services will be determined prior to confirmation of the reservation.

All registered student organizations shall be given notice of University policies that govern their activities. These policies shall be provided by the Department of Campus Activities upon request.

All registered student organizations have the right to petition the University for redress of grievances. In addition, they shall be accorded the opportunity to submit suggested amendments and/or modifications to University policies and regulations that may affect them.

Freedom of Expression and the Right to Dissent

The right of expression includes the right to dissent. The University recognizes a fundamental obligation to protect this aspect of free expression on campus.

Dissent may involve expressions or actions designed to capture attention in an effort to dissuade persons from embracing a perceived prevailing viewpoint. Orderly picketing and other forms of peaceful demonstration that do not hamper access to or disrupt the normal functions of teaching and research are generally permitted outside University facilities and other areas specifically designated for University activities.

Entry into University buildings may be restricted to those persons engaged in the normal and scheduled activities being conducted therein. The presence of unauthorized persons in such areas after due notice to vacate has been given, orally or in writing, is not permissible, and it may be regarded as interfering with or obstructing a University activity.



Five Tons of Flax!

fnORD Ignotum Per Ignotius.

by Episkopos Scott Hastings POEE. LDD. KSC. PoD.

Did you know that God’s name is Eris and that He is a girl? Well she is... Look around you. See the chaos? The discord? The base level of confusion? These are the work of Eris, the Greco-Roman Goddess of Chaos, Confusion, Strife and Hodge-Podge. Upon first encountering His High Reverance Malcypse the Younger she introduced herself thusly: “I am chaos. I am the substance from which your artists and scientists build rhythms. I am the spirit with which your children and clowns laugh in happy anarchy. I am chaos. I am alive, and I tell you that you are free.” And so like no other religion Discordianism espouses an ideal of happiness. For only the most disorganized of organized religions can cope with the chaos of the world, allowing you the freedom to live your life without fear or obligation.

Remember:
King Kong Died For Your Sins

YOU! Yes YOU! Are a genuine and authorized Pope. You were yesterday and now that you know it you can feel free to carry on in the same manor, confident in the knowledge that you can invoke infallibility at anytime. Furthermore you have the authority to redefine the Erisian church as you see fit. This includes but is not limited to appointing Saints and excommunicating, de-excommunicating, re-excommunicating and de-re-excommunicating yourself and others.

Καλλιςτι

To guide us in life Eris has given us the Sacred Chao At first glance it appears to be the Taoist ying-yang. In Discordianism one side represents Hodge and the other Podge. Instead of

a bit of Hodge in the Podge side there is a Pentagon, which represents An-eristic forces of order, and rather then a bit of Podge in the Hodge side there is a Golden Apple, which represents the Eristic forces of disorder. Thusly when viewed as a whole it encompasses all which is worth knowing, with anything unworthy of knowing being symbolized in the empty space all around.

It is my firm belief that it is a mistake to hold firm beliefs.

So do not lament at the disorder that is found around you! Do not despair when you enter your room and gaze upon the mess therein. No! Merely utter a “Hail Eris!” and get on with life. Feel free to order the world as you please but never feel obligated to do so! For order is merely a state of mind. We may be trained to see

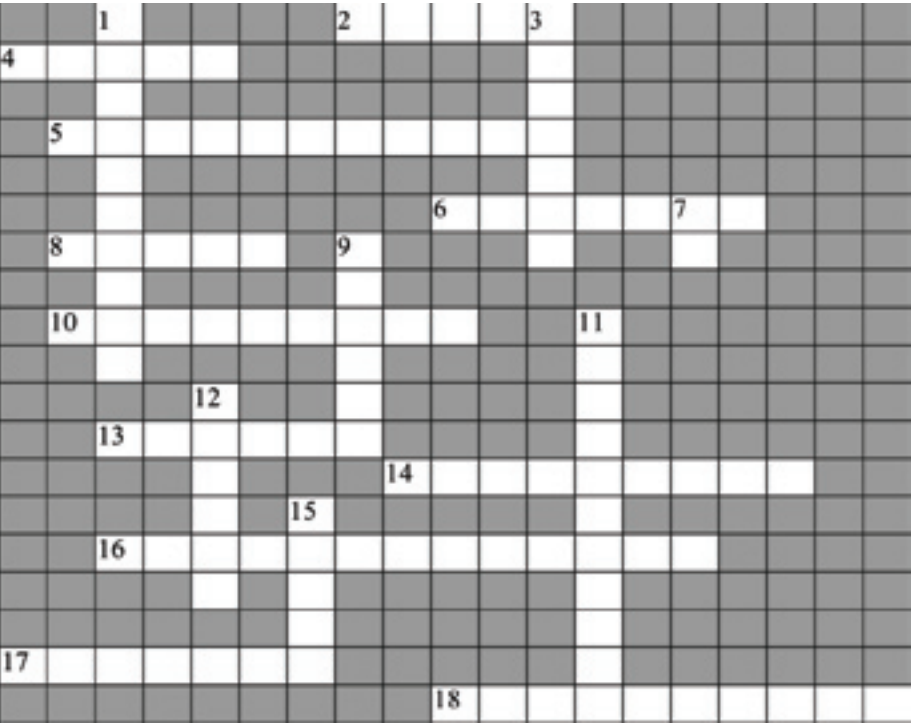
pictures in the stars but the constellations are nothing more than arbitrary order imposed on chaos. Reality is the original Rorschach.

This article provided on behalf of:
The Bureau of Eristic Affairs and The Adminis-try for The Unenlightened Eristic Horde
House of the Rising Hodge
Paratheo-Anametamystikhoo of Eris Eso-teric

Much material blatantly stolen from “Principia Discordia or How I found the Goddess and What I Did to Her When I Found Her” and <http://jubal.westnet.com/hyperdiscordia/>
All of which are “ All Rites Reversed – Reprint What You Like”

HAIL ERIS!!!! ALL HAIL DISCORDIA!!!!

UConn Free Crossword



ACROSS

- 2. Most Famous victim of Torture
- 4. Christians, native to Lebanon
- 5. Senator; Tortured in Vietnam, Voted to legalize torture by Americans
- 6. 7th President, Beat would-be assassin with cane
- 8. Sang, “If you go where the Huskies go, you better not eat that Yellow Snow”
- 10. Government Sponsored Kidnapping
- 13. Newspaper Heiress, Urban Terrorist for the SLA
- 14. The French Pox, Suffered by Al Capone, Howard Hughes, Idi Amin, Chairman Mao and Columbus
- 16. The White Plague, Consumption, Wasting Disease, Flourishing in Russian Prisons
- 17. Disease, rumored to have killed Osama
- 18. Cuban Bay, American Prison Camp

DOWN

- 1. Called Out the Devil at the UN
- 3. Grants cartoon sailors immense strength, but might give you E. Coli.
- 7. If the Glove Don’t fit, You must acquit
- 9. Bombed out city; Popular Party Game
- 11. Roman Method of torture/execution
- 12. Spicy green horseradish
- 15. Slang, for money10. War Crime, committed in secret CIA prisons
- 14. 12th president; Died of arsenic poisoning



gapingvoid.com



asofterworld.com

Artist Profile: Asobi Seksu

by Chad “Bourner” Denton

If you’re looking for a song or two to walk you off the beaten path, allow me tell you about a band that has thrived in obscurity. I am talking about a quartet by the name of Asobi Seksu that has somehow won passionate support in its own small realm and otherwise flown under the radar. Despite its name (Japanese for “playful sex”) the band is almost wholly American and rooted most firmly in the New York indie-club scene. Frontwoman Yuki Chikudate is the clear Japanese influence, a fact that the band decided to play up on its 2006 album release Citrus. Her role comes through most clearly in frequent lyrical jumps between languages, and there is a strongly exotic vibe underlying the rock overtones.

Putting Asobi Seksu’s sound into words is pretty tough, which speaks well of their originality. They are often tossed into the “Shoegaze” genre, but the fit isn’t quite right there. By origin “Shoegaze” is a late-eighties British phenomenon, generally marked by the work of the My Bloody Valentine and now considered a bygone. Asobi Seksu’s transcends the genre by running

an inimitably oriental current through their work - essentially reworking a style that is, in itself, a reworking of western rock. Even before you consider the Japanese lyrics, Chikudate’s vocals take James Hanna’s distorted guitar to distant heights and set a relatively standard backbeat apart from the mainstream.

Citrus is also a work of “Dream-pop,” in light of its quick catchiness and ethereal lightness. While calling a group of indie rockers “pop artists” is generally not complimentary, it makes sense to think of the title in terms of Andy Warhol’s pop art. Even when it was all about Campbell’s soup cans, it was an outsider’s play on the mainstream. On a not-too-unrelated note, the band has crafted an impressive visual aesthetic to match their presence. It is a finishing touch worth noting. Asobi Seksu is 100% art, 100% vision, and never the pusher of cookie-cutter work.

It is important that you dive into these guys right. “Lions and Tigers” and “Thursday” are catchy tracks and

definitely a good place to start. From there the peak moments of “I’m Happy But You Don’t Like Me” and older tracks “Goodbye” and “Walk on the Moon” will burn more brightly. Finally, give the epic “Red Sea” a thor-

ough listen. For me Asobi Seksu is all about the feeling that I’m running free through a city somewhere on the other side of the globe. Hopefully the vibe lands you somewhere just as fresh.



A Radical Perspective on Abortion

by Cyborg Yakovleff

I want to propose a radical solution to the well publicized ever popular abortion debate. I contend that we rational thinkers have not considered all the options. This complicated moral dilemma has needlessly polarized the USA at a time when we have many more important issues to deal with. We need to be able to find common ground, a solution based on conservatives' and progressives' mutual self interests. Since either side's position is inherently mutually exclusive of the other's, finding common ground means satisfying both camps through a third way. In this case, I think our third path is through the conscious investment in certain technologies. The "safe alternative" as I see it is the prospect of artificial uterine technology.

In the coming years, humans will find more and more ways to enhance themselves and transcend the constraints of their biological existence. It is probable that one of the first advances will be the use of these "artificial uteri" in order for infertile women to avoid the need for surrogate mothers. Shortly following this advancement will there will come genetic selection for "best" offspring which will be available to "normal" women who wish to avoid the agony of childbirth. Parents can abort "sub-humans" such as those fetuses with genetic abnormalities. Eventually, I think all children could be born this way.

Just because we can perform these "miracles", should we? This political question has sent philosophers into a tizzy. Many progressives like me have beef with the fact that if social conservatives really cared their culture of life they wouldn't be willing to spend such large sums on military technol-

ogy that effectively does nothing but end it. Conversely, conservatives have beef with people who call themselves progressive and support human rights, but are ok with a narrow definition of who gets to have those rights. Like it or not, technologies are on their way which will challenge us to expand our definition of humanity, and we need to consider their moral implications in the abortion debate of today. If our concept of "human" does in fact need to be greatly expanded then I'm sorry to say that eventually we will need to consider human embryos part of our definition - if and only if there is a safe alternative to normal gestation and delivery.

The debate over the morality of abortion generally comes down to the definition of "human". Defining what is considered to be human is important but never easy. The slippery slope of this definition led to such widely denounced practices as chattel slavery in the USA and genocide in Nazi Germany. The United Nations stepped in after the holocaust and defined the rights of humanity, but not what humanity is. It is critical to know this in order to correctly apply these rights. For now, the most agreed upon definition is that humanity consists of the set of individuals with human DNA who've been "born" - that is, who've left their mother's uterine and encountered sensory stimuli in the air breathing world.

The problem with drawing the legal line between infanticide and legal abortion at "air breathing" (or in some cases, slightly before) is that it is inflexible in the face of the future evolution of technology. For example, what if a machine could so successfully simulate a human being that it was

completely indistinguishable? What about so-called "human-vegetables" that cannot even breathe on their own? Are "human vegetables" more human than a hypothetical "human robot" or even a fetus? What about people who've incorporated Cyborg technology (such as Cyborg Yakovleff) to such a great extent that they are more machine than organism? What about the possibility that people will be able to "upload" themselves to computers and exist in total sentience as a computer program? Would they still retain their "human rights"? These questions have a high degree of relevance to the real problems of human societies today.

I propose that congress pass a bill which requires abortion to be a legal option up until the point where an independent scientific body recognizes that artificial uterine technology has advanced to the point where it presents a clear, superior alternative to abortion. In order for the technology to get to this state of readiness as quickly as possible I propose a "war on abortion" in which massive amounts of public resources are directed into the field of cybernetic research. Given how passionately the majority of congress feels on the issue they'd be hypocritical not to. Once the technological feat has been accomplished it should be recognized a legal duty of the state to nurture and raise in some sort of kibbutz-like communal system all "unwanted" humans. From there they can enter into service to the state, for example for military service as in Sparta. Possibly, they could even be incorporated into mainstream society, and given that they'd be raised according to the most advanced developmental psychological principals of the day

they would be as well adjusted as you and I - if not more so.

Before you jump on my back about how "inhumane", "idealistic", or "expensive" it is to support a measure that would increase the human population of Earth it is important that you consider the overall moral imperative to seek technology which improves humanities lot in life. The goal to better humanity is consistent with both socially conservative Christian values and with progressive liberal values. First, it is a mortal sin to murder oneself or others - and that's exactly what's going on through the lens of Christianity when it views either abortion or military spending - especially when there is massive deprivation of resources society needs to increase duration and quality of human life. Non-investment in Transhumanist artificial uterine type technology is tantamount to suicide and thus the gravest of sins in the eyes of the Christian god. Furthermore, progressives who value human rights and their own rational self interest should recognize the moral imperative to develop these technologies. The seemingly intractable abortion issue will fall by the wayside of the ever-improving status of humanity in the context of its further evolution at its own technological hands. Whether God's will or not, it's up to us to build a better world - for ourselves, and for our species. I for one will be thrilled to live in this brave new world that with such people in it.

Editor's note - Alternatively, we could provide better planning & birth control so people don't end up in the situation requiring an abortion in the first place. (Cyborg Yakovleff scoffs at such a suggestion, because "the puny humans are obviously terrible planners")

Artists in the Country Musical Showcase

by Tara Kurland

Hidden in the woods of Northeast Connecticut, lies a space that gives artists, musicians, and other performers of all ages, a venue to share their work with others, and a place to develop connections and a community. It is called "Artists in the Country". In Mid-September they hosted an art show that exhibited the art and music of local artisans, and raised money for the Eden Institute's camp for children with Autism. This event attracted over 1,000 people looking for a setting that allows for creative energies to flow. On October 15th, this family-owned estate, will be hosting another event, this time the focus is less on visual art, and more on giving people an environment where they can listen to loud, vibrant music, and get up and dance.

This is Artists in the Country's third Musical Showcase. It will be an all day event, running from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

This festival will be featuring the talent of local Connecticut bands. The event will start off by getting the audience energized with music by "The Electric Trains", a group from Willimantic that sings train songs. Next, "The Black Burns" who are also based in our neighboring town of Willimantic, will bring us back in time with some classical rock, which will have the audience singing along to some of their old favorite songs. "The Black Burns" will be followed by some San Francisco Blues, jump swing, which will be played by "The Kingpins". At the end of the day, ev-

eryone should be on their feet, and ready to get tired out, as they dance Ugandan style, to "Echo Uganda", a band that plays traditional folk music from Uganda (although these "Ugandans" are far from traditional). Lastly, the "River City Slim and the Zydeco Hogs", a Hartford band, will be performing music that brings you all of the way from Africa to Southwestern Louisiana.

The Artists in The Country Musical Showcase, costs \$18 if you buy the tickets ahead of time and \$20 at the door, and children under 12 are free. I know that this is expensive for most college students, but you get a full day of festivities, and you get to support your local musicians in a beautiful, outdoor setting. Artists in the Coun-

try is located at 52 County R. West Woodstock, CT. For more information about the place or the event, you can go to www.artistsinthecountry.org.

Anyone who follows these bands should be sure to continue to stalk their music by joining us there. And those who haven't heard of these bands at all, as I'm sure is more of the case, as people are rarely exposed to music that isn't played on mainstream radio, this is a great time to get introduced to new styles, and to support the work of those around you. You can spend the day with your friends, lying out on the lawn, eating a picnic, sipping a Hosmer soda, meeting new people, and discovering new talents. Be listening to WHUS, the week before this event to win some free tickets.

The Facts behind the Most Magical Place on Earth

by David Huck

It is no secret that most college internships end up being menial work with little exposure to the real-world experience students seek. Flashy posters and outlandish claims often disguise the truth. An internship should be a chance to become immersed in an environment that is an additional component a student’s three or four years of sweat and labor. It should not be a low-paying job with a couple of perks, stamped internship.

The Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida is one of the largest entertainment employers in the United States. Year round, students jump with the opportunity to be a part of the “happiest place on earth.” Since 1981, the Walt Disney World College Program has employed over 45,000 students.

This is the story of one student. Presented with a standard-issue Power Point presentation by a recruiter from Orlando who traveled to New Haven where she attends school, Christine was given an overview to the program (produced by WDW, not the recruiter; the same one is shown to all students.) Along with the “countless benefits...for the future” and the “lessons you learn while participating,” remarks Al Weiss, President of the Walt Disney World Resort and President of Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, come the rewards. These included free park admission, 50% off resorts, 30 to 40% off merchandise, and access to Cast Connection, where Disney workers—known as cast members—have access to highly discounted Disney merchandise that is unfit for sale.

Christine, a 21-year-old communications major at Southern Connecticut State University, was part of the program for the minimum 4 months from mid-January of this year to the end of May. She decided to apply for the WDW College Program, believing the interaction with guests would expose her to the experiences she was after. Walt Disney’s affiliation with ABC and ESPN, located in Bristol, CT, also offered the opportunity to have professional connections. Christine remarked, “...knowing I’d be affiliated with such a well-known, powerful, and global company was my biggest selling point.” And sold she was.

But Christine was in for something quite different from what she imagined. Upon arrival, Christine was immediately disappointed. She had applied for a position working in one of the resort lodges, but instead worked a turnstile—collecting tickets and greeting guests at the park’s entrance. When she found out she would be doing this for all four months, she said she was ready to pack up and leave, feeling embarrassed and upset. She was troubled by the fact that she spent a full

semester’s time and money working at a turnstile rather than working on credits toward her major back home in Connecticut.

A normal workweek for Christine was 25 to 30 hours at \$6.00 per hour. She was working up to 60 hours a week during the busy vacation periods in February and April. Christine was not provided with meals at work, forcing her to grocery shop for meals both on the job and at home. She recounts having to often ask her mother to deposit money into her account because she never seemed to have enough to buy the even the necessities, due to the constraints of her paycheck.

Each week, a total of \$83 was taken from her check in order to cover the rent of the apartment she lived in. Her apartment was part of a complex specifically for students involved in the College Program. With its private pools and a lake, finely manicured landscaping, the complex looked more like a lavish living community for the active elderly.

Christine walked away from the program feeling that part of her experience was sugarcoated. “I think they use the perks in order to pin us and have leverage in order to keep kids coming back...because the jobs simply suck...hours suck.” She is sorry she never took advantage of all the opportunities surrounding her, such as visiting beaches or going to Universal Studios or any of the water parks, due to over exhaustion. The lifetime friends she created all feel the same way: exhausted, cranky, and wanting more money.

It wasn’t all such a sour ending. Christine felt honored to have worked on Main Street U.S.A., part of the most frequented theme park in the word. She learned a lot about herself, just as the program promised. She learned to read people and how to approach specific situations involving the needs of guests.

It was a sad day when I learned that the company that had produced so many memories, inspired many

dreams, and made us wonder about the world in our youth, had manipulated some of the same people years later for use as second-rate labor. If the program intends to use the same practices with its college students, then the name must be changed or a clear understanding of the system must be more available. It should not be a dull program that robs students merely to fill positions with low wages, all to keep the most magical place on earth shining.

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“Jay Babcock” by May Babcock.

Mistaken Claims of Anti-Semitism Stifle Debate

by Alexander Kobulnicky

Most liberal people would agree that everyone throws around claims of anti-Semitism much too loosely these days. The basic causes of all this anti-anti-Semitic talk are pretty easy to see. The US is at “war” with traditional enemies of Israel, and the ideological component of the war is naturally going to evolve into a pro- or anti-Israel conflict. Of course, this has evolved in a ridiculous way, so even suggesting that Israel overreacted to Hezbollah provocation gets people shouting that you are against the Jews, want Israel to be pushed into the sea – what is it with that metaphor? -- etc.

The people who react to these essentially harmless remarks with such horror are the victims of a vicious circle. When anti-Semitic remarks are effectively censored from polite society, this kind of thing is bound to happen. Consider: Person A says “kill all Jews”. The opinion-makers react with justified horror, and Person A will never work in this town again. Person B, taking the lesson of Person A, says something more mild, e.g. “imprison all Jews”. This is also not a decent opinion, and Person B is also shut out of public discourse. But moreover, people assume that Person B

means “Kill all Jews” but is afraid to say it because of what happened to Person A.

This continues with Person C who, taking the lesson of Person B, says “register all Jews”. Likewise, people assume he means “kill all Jews” or “imprison all Jews” but is just afraid to say it. We can continue inductively to Person Y who says “Israel should not bomb civilian targets in Lebanon.” Now it may be the case, and it probably is, that Y merely means, “Israel should not bomb civilian targets in Lebanon.” However, since this is currently on the fringes of acceptable discussion about Israel, it may be the case that Y means “kill all Jews” but can’t get away with saying anything stronger in public. You can’t tell, and that makes people nervous. So next time the debate on Israel starts up, the edges of the debate will be pushed back to Person Z, who says “Israel should not deliberately kill Lebanese civilians,” or something like that. And so on forever.

This is kind of ridiculous. More importantly though, I don’t see what you can do about it. We definitely do want to exclude A, B, and C from public debate. They aren’t helping. But it doesn’t seem

like we can ostracize them without inexorably ostracizing Z. This is a pattern that happens in all kinds of controversial topics: race, sex, homosexuality; anti-Semitism is just the most important and obvious right now. I’m not sure how you break the cycle.

An important thing to note is how mild all the anti-Semitic discourse actually is. I don’t want to defend any race-baiting, but you seldom hear anything more preposterous than “Jews control the government” (world banks, the media, the UN). To be sure, this is dangerous rhetoric, in a way. It fosters resentment against Jews. But it is a long way in conceptual space from A’s demand to kill all Jews. Compare: “Christian conservatives control the government.” This is a statement I think everyone would agree with (except perhaps those who think Jews run it), yet demands for outrageous violence against conservative Christians have not followed. Maybe demands for violence against particular Christians, George Bush or Dick Cheney, but never (as far as I know) against evangelicals in general. That some people believe Bigoted Idea 1 should not suggest that lots of people

believe Infinitely-More-Bigoted Idea 2. I can honestly say I have never heard anyone express a desire to kill all Jews.

I know someone is reading this and saying, but Alex, you’re ignoring the history of grotesque violence that Jews have suffered. Pogroms and holocausts seem to suggest that there is something about Western society that expresses itself in spontaneous outbursts of Jewish murder. That has definitely been a pattern, although it doesn’t seem to have held up for the last 60 years. There are lots of reasons to think that things have changed. Increasingly open societies, lower levels of religiosity (especially among liberals), the memory of the Holocaust which is not likely to fade anytime soon, and the accompanying shame, all argue against any more huge outbreaks of anti-Semitic violence in Western society. There will always be nuts of course, but nuts can only do so much. So can’t we just have an open conversation? A, B, and C won’t even show up, and nobody’s going to get hurt; I promise.

Profile of a Student Union: Quebec Federation of University Students

What is a student union?

A student union is an organized association of students, analogous to a labor union, which advocates at the institutional and governmental levels on behalf of the interests of students. Student unions differ from student governments in that the latter are quasi-governing bodies which pass legislations affecting students within pre-defined boundaries. For example, a student government divides student funds among various student organizations on campus. It does not lobby on behalf of students to stop tuition increases. Student governments typically make only those decisions that are not already dealt with by more powerful bodies. They are thus very limited.

On the contrary, a students’ union fights actively for student interests before, during, and after their university education. Students’ unions work on issues pertaining to affordability, accessibility, accountability, quality, and diversity in higher education. The power of a union is in its numbers. When organized, students seldom lose a battle over policy.

What is the Quebec Federation of University Students (FEUQ)?

The Quebec Federation of University Students (FEUQ) developed in opposition to the lifting of the tuition freeze in Quebec in 1989. It consists of 17 member associations and more 140 000 student members, and defines as its mission “to defend the rights and interests of students with governments, education stake-holders and civil society actors.”

Its objectives include:

Representing Quebec university student associations and their members in relevant decision-making bodies in order to promote their positions;

Favoring and facilitating the academic progress of Quebec university students and files capable of improving the quality of teaching and supervision offered;

Making accessible to Quebec university student associations and their members the most complete information possible on current files and issues, and available means of action, so as to better their living conditions;

Promoting the unity of the Quebec student movement.

Its primary areas of concern are Quebec policy, health and security, tuition fee freeze, and issues pertaining to international students. In addition to addressing areas important to current students, the FEUQ focuses on the interests of recent graduates. For instance, the Federation performs research on the integration of university graduates into the regional job market.

How does FEUQ work?

The most important decision-making body of the Quebec Federation of Students is its annual general assembly, which determines the major goals of the Federation each year, and elects the body’s executive council. All decisions are voted by 2/3 majority in a congress, although unanimous consensus is preferred where possible. The FEUQ consists of three commissions, University Affairs, Sociopolitical Affairs, and Institutional Affairs. These deal with issues of education quality, policies/financial issues, and internal/organizational issues, respectively. The Quebec Council for Graduate Studies of the Quebec Federation of University Students (CNCS-FEUQ) discusses

issues pertaining to graduate students, namely subsidized research, the status of student-researchers, and so on.

What has the FEUQ done for students?

In 2004, the provincial government in Quebec converted \$103 million in tuition bursaries from grants to loans, in effect doubling the debt burden endured by Quebec’s poorest students. Students immediately began to lobby parliamentarians to reverse the decision. In February and March 2005, over 200,000 students from universities and CEGEPs (two-year pre-university or technical schools), outraged by the government’s attack on university affordability, declared strike and demonstrated for the reinstatement of the grants. After five weeks of often militant protest, students negotiated with Quebec’s government an agreement that the government would reinstate the funds in full, and additionally invest \$482 million in financial assistance programs.

The strikes in Quebec were organized through students’ unions, and FEUQ was a central force in the fight.

Students United

A new organization named Students United has formed at UConn to address issues close to home for students. The group, which hopes to expand to become reflective of the university community, has organized around ten key principles, which form the charter of the Democratizing Education Network, an emerging, loosely structured national coalition:

- 1) Full Public Funding for Public Higher Education
- 2) Free Access to Higher Education and Abolition of Tuition
- 3) Affirmative Action to End Institutionalized Racism and Sexism
- 4) Full Recognition of the Right of Students and Workers to Organize
- 5) Democratic Self-Government of Higher Education
- 6) Service to the Public Welfare, Not to Corporate Profits
- 7) Free Speech and Academic Freedom
- 8) Debt Forgiveness of Student Loans
- 9) Civic Education for a Democratic Society
- 10) Education, not war. Schools, Not Jails.

Tuition has nearly tripled in the past two decades. In terms of real wages, average family income has actually declined during this time. According to Measuring Up's National Report Card on Higher Education, which gives Connecticut an "F" for affordability, the percentage of annual income required to cover the net cost of college at UConn is 85% for the poorest fifth of CT residents.

Cost affects diversity. Administrators love to talk about "campus climate" as the reason for sub-par minority retention rates. Climate is important, surely, but it is a small piece of the puzzle. Says Nellie Mae, the nation's largest non-profit student loan provider, 69% of black students nationwide who do not graduate cite mounting debt as their reason for leaving school, as opposed to only 43% of white students. With each tuition increase, the university perpetuates a not-so-subtle form of institutional racism.

In 1991, state support constituted 50% of UConn funding, a figure which will decrease to 35.4% in 2007. The burden created by the steady dismantling of public support for higher education has been placed squarely on the backs of students, who now provide

nearly a third of the university's budget, as opposed to just 17% in '91.

Those who govern the institution are neither elected nor accountable. The university's highest decision-making entity is the Board of Trustees, and is comprised primarily of CT business leaders appointed by the Governor. The Chairman and former CEO of the Aetna Corporation, John W. Rowe, serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The chief executive of GE Capital serves as Chairman of the Joint Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board. And so on. These individuals are beholden neither to the university community nor to the taxpayers of Connecticut, but rather to the bottom-lines of the financial institutions they lead. Their interests are not hidden. For example, in November 2000, before he was appointed Trustee by ex-Governor and convict John Rowland, Nayden decribed his company's intentions for UConn's E-Business Lab: "GE Capital associates working with UConn students and UConn faculty on real live, every day, e-business projects that will come out of this facility that we're going to implement in my twenty-eight companies." He added in the UConn Advance, "GE Capital will benefit from

the projects and we hope to take advantage of the direct talent pipeline to tomorrow's e-business leaders."

The university community, comprised of students, staff, and faculty, should run the university in the public interest through participatory democratic processes.

Students United hopes to become a broad-based association that provides a mechanism through which students can organize to exert pressure on institutional leaders and government officials. If you are concerned with the direction of higher education - even if you are just outraged at the campus parking situation and your inability to affect it - get involved.

STUDENTSUNITEDUCONN@GMAIL.COM

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Rally for Darfur

by Katy Laguzza

September 17, 2006, was the official date of worldwide rallies urging the United Nations (UN) to send peacekeepers to Darfur. The African Union (AU) has peacekeepers already in Darfur, but they are required by their mandate to leave at the end of September. Rallies urging UN intervention were held in London, Cairo, Paris, Kigali, Phnom Penh, Melbourne, Seoul, Toronto, and several other cities around the world. In New York City, tens of thousands of individuals swarmed into the East Meadow of Central Park. They crowded themselves around the rally stage sporting blue hats (representing the blue caps of UN peacekeepers) and "Save Darfur" T-shirts. There were chants ("One Two Three Four, Stop the Genocide in Darfur!") and homemade signs ("200,000 Innocent Civilians Have Died in Darfur—Who Will Die Tomorrow?").

The speakers included Madeleine Albright, Samantha Power, Chris Smith, Joey Cheek, and Mira Sorvino, representatives of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, as well as leaders of national Darfuri organizations. The entertainment included Nsen-giyumva & the Vang'Inanga drum troupe, as well as bands such as Citizen Cope, Big and Rich, and O.A.R.

Shortly after these worldwide rallies, but not necessarily because of them, the AU lengthened its mandate so that its peacekeepers can remain in Darfur until 2007. The

government of Sudan has reluctantly supported this mandate, as long as the UN does not interfere with the functioning of the AU. The UN has also expanded its mandate in Sudan, and is still considering acting on its August resolution to send 17,000 UN peacekeepers to Darfur, an action to which the Sudanese government is strongly opposed.

According to the speakers at the rally, this move by the AU and UN is a significant step towards ending the genocide in Darfur. Yet, how effective will these peacekeepers be if they are not allowed to fire back? Surprisingly, this issue was not discussed at the rally.

The rally speakers, when they were not discussing the necessity of UN peacekeepers in Darfur, explained

that the situation in Darfur must be seen as a humanitarian issue, not a political one. They spoke in the very simplistic terms of "common humanity" and of "good and evil." Yet, all of the solutions they proposed were complex political solutions, which they did not attempt to describe in depth: the involvement of the UN, increased pressure on China, broader sanctions on Sudan, and the insistence that Sudan comply with the International Criminal Court.

Why would these speakers, who are informed on the issues pertaining to the genocide in Darfur, refuse to share their knowledge with the people at the rallies, people who clearly wish to be involved? Why would they choose to speak to the people in such broad, simplistic terms?

Rallies are not about education or complex ideas. Rallies are about gathering and reinforcement. They are useful to a certain extent, but must not be viewed as the tipping point in their targeted issue. If change is to come, it must be able to function on the political level. Rallies provide recognition of a necessary support group, but political action must derive from the organized motivation of individuals.

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"Music vs. Military" Eric Drooker. drooker.com

UConn Free Press

UConn Free Press is an alternative student-run newspaper. We are an anti-profit weekly publication serving the university and local community. We are dedicated to carrying out the tradition of participatory democracy through staff consensus in all matters concerning the paper. Open meeting times are available on the website. We welcome article and art submissions via www.uconnfreepress.org or uconnfreepress@gmail.com. Consider, criticize, and debate.

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Cyborg Yakovleff

Damon Yakovleff



Untitled, by May Babcock.

events

Mondays	8:30-9:30 pm	Between Women - for women who love women.	Women's Center
Oct 9	thru Oct 13	Clothesline Project	Student Union
Oct 10	6:00-7:30pm	SOS - Aromatherapy	Women's Center
Oct 11	1:30 - 3 pm	“The Face of Gay Puerto Rico”	The Rainbow Center
Oct 11	7 - 8:30 pm	WRAAP: The Political Process	African American Cultural Center
Oct 11	7:30-9:30 pm	Sex(ism), Identity & Intimacy in a Pornographic Culture	Student Union Theater
Oct 12	7 - 9 pm	The Political Process...	African American Cultural Center
Oct 13	thru Oct 15	Worker Co-op Conference. www.usworker.coop	New York City
Oct 16	12 - 1 pm	Confronting the Myths of Domestic Violence	CUE Building, Storrs Campus
Oct 17	6 - 7:30 pm	SOS – Massage	Women's Center
Oct 18	All Day	9th Annual Love Your Body Day	Everywhere
Oct 19	4 - 5 pm	Hidden Narratives: The Black Freedom Movement ...	Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library
Oct 19	7 - 8 pm	Movie – CHISHOLM ‘72: Unbought & Unbossed	Women's Center