

UConn FREE PRESS

the issue is not the issue

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Halloween

The White Granular Stuff

Undercover

by Bryan Murphy

Ah, Halloween. It's that time of year when jack-o-lanterns flicker in the cool night air, eerie ghosts hang from willow trees, and children blithely nag their parents into shelling out millions of dollars so they can dress up as paganistic monsters and Freudian archetypes in order to perpetuate a commercial corruption of a Catholic corruption of the Celtic festival of *Samhain*.

Wait, what?

Alright, let's go back. The end of October: The time of the year when the weather begins to get cold and plants start to die. It'd make perfect sense for a primitive people intimately tied up in their climate and geography to want to commemorate this turning point in the annual cycle. The Celts were a primitive people, they liked to have festivals with meteorological im-

plications, and they had a big festival in October to mark the end of summer and called it Samhain. It all makes sense.

Then along came the Catholics. The Catholics liked to convert primitive people, and they liked to do so by moving Christian holidays to coincide with pagan ones. (Christ had an excellent grasp of astronomy for his time, to be born on the Winter Solstice and die on the Vernal Equinox). Introducing All-Saint's Day – a time to commemorate all those Saints *too uncool* to be celebrated individually. Originally held on May 13th, the holiday was moved to November 1st in the 8th century by Pope Gregory III. Why the move? To mark the papal dedication of a newly built church honoring the Saints, obviously. Definitely *not* to compete with *Samhain*.

And what better way to show the Catho-

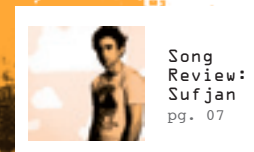
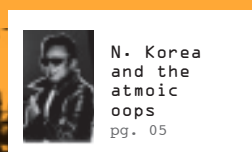
lic saints you care than by dressing up as a sexy devil or Richard Nixon and going out to gorge yourself on refined sugar?

All-right, all-right: So Halloween is a bastardized celebration and big fuckin' deal. We're used to it. Look at Valentine's Day, look at Christmas. This is America and holidays boost the economy, **pinko**. The National Confectioners' Association recognizes Halloween as the number-one holiday for candy sales, with over 85% of American households handing out sweets and cumulative sales in excess of \$2 billion. What're a handful of dead saints next to a few hundred million dead presidents?

In fact, what's the **United States government** next to a few hundred million dead presidents? Really, once you've reached the lofty economic stratosphere inhabited by today's commercial sugar producers and soda-pop manufacturers, nothing

inside issue

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Get Thee Behind Me, Satan, and into the Halloween Store

by James Randall

Down on my luck, back to the wall. All the odds are against me. I knew, one more lousy effort and I was surely going to get canned. So I perked up, summoned all of my strength and, with the will of God behind me, I set out on the most important quest of my life, a quest... to the Halloween store, in Manchester, off exit 62 somewhere.

Preparations had begun some weeks back, and it was, like, Tuesday or Wednesday when we actually decided to go. We were going to go that previous Thursday, but, you know how it is, and so we decided to go on whatever day it was that we actually went. The Yankee game was on, I remember, game two, the one that bum Mussina ended up blowing. Anyway, things happen and it was too nice of a day to let the shitty Yankees interfere with my Halloween store obligations. Plus that piece of shit Rogers was pitching game three for Detroit, so I wasn't worried.

In retrospect I should've been, but not because the Yankees ended up blowing it in four games, oh no, oooooooooohhhh no. No, I should have been worried because we were about to confront perhaps the largest black market supplier of psilocybin mushrooms and human trafficking this side of the Mississippi. And before it was all over, we would come face to face with death itself.

First of all, it took the photographer and I about 50 minutes to find the fucking place off the highway. Have you ever been down to the Manchester mall? It's fucking ridiculous! I've been to that movie theater literally five times and I still don't have the foggiest idea where it is. Put up a fucking sign, you piece of shit town! We drove by the Dick's sporting goods twice. How in the hell is that possible, we were stone sober. But Jesus was with us, in the form of that really friendly Jesus from Dogma, you know, the one giving the thumbs up, so this calmed us down a bunch. Plus, as I remarked to the photographer at the time, "don't worry, if we can't find it we'll just go into the Dick's or something and make the story about that," or something along those lines. In fact, I was starting to get a little anxious about actually even making it to the Halloween store. I figured, at that point we would either uncover a huge drug running operation, at which point I would have to go into witness protection in some

shithole suburb outside of Kansas City where half the population rides rascal scooters to get to the barbeque joints because they're too large to move under their own power, or nothing at all would happen and it would end up being really a boring story and a real chore to write. Plus I heard tale that there was a pirate. So when the photographer yelled out "there's the Petco," the Petco being next to the Halloween store, I couldn't help but feel a bit, well, ambivalent. Ambivalence being, of course, I bit lower than, say, sheer excitement, or jubilation, as one might normally expect from such an interesting, dare I say captivating assignment.

Right from the get go I knew this place was trouble. We were greeted at the door by some floor monster, who lunged at us and blinked red lights out of his eyes for a few seconds, and then when the door closed he stopped. I waved into his eyes for a solid 15 seconds, but he was done. Probably \$49.99 plus tax.

They had a bunch of shit there, man, and if any of it was made on this hemisphere I'd eat my hat, which is now, by the way, a purple fedora pimp hat (\$14.99). It's really pretty nice. They had some solid canes there, too, but what with the skulls and all I figured most ladies of the night would be, perhaps, turned off a bit if I strolled up with them at my side. I don't know.

Weird place. Only about a third of the huge, cavernous, warehousian buiding was used for the fly-by-night Halloween setup. The rest was like something out of one of those terrible Saw movies. I hate that guy. I can't wait for them to kill him off, he's such a son of a bitch. And he was there, too! Selling mushrooms, as it turned out.

Oh, and we, uh, saw a bunch of grim reaper costumes, too.

Oh, and a fog machine, and we couldn't figure out how in the world it worked. It was like magic. I put a chestnut in it!

On the way out, I told the photogra-

pher to slow down when we passed the pirate. I wanted to interview him.

As we approached, he waved his sword mightily into the air, slashing it down with a heroes might at the big yellow sign he was holding. He had a big hat, and a patch, real piratey.

"Excuse me," I said to him, "we're doing a story for the UConn Free Press, do you have a quote?"

He looked back bashfully, shoulder's shrugged and smiling, "No."

"Oh." No fucking way, I need this fucking pirate for this story, dammit. Think, James, think. "Uh, do you have a name for your pirate?"

He laughed a little. "No, uh, nope."

Success! Suc-fucking-cess! That's for damn sure a quote. I can definitely use that.

So, in the end, the photographer and I rode off into the sunset, on the majestic hillside of the Manchester mall area, back to 84. All was right with the world.



OIL WARS

ERIC DROOKER

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Halloween Undercover

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on Heaven or Earth is going to stop you from getting what you want. The *World Health Organization*? Pshhhh. When an independent team of 30 of the world’s top nutritionists gets together and releases a study advocating that added sugar should account for no more than 10% of a healthy diet, the *World Sugar Organization* has 40 ambassadors write to the W.H.O demanding the report be removed on the basis that it is doing irreparable harm to the developing world. Who would win in a fight between 30 nutritionists and 40 ambassadors?

That was not a rhetorical question. Then you have the U.S. Council for International Business, comprising more than 300 companies (predominantly among which are Coca-Cola and Pepsico.), threatening to strong-arm Congress into cutting off the United States’ \$406 million annual cash flow to the W.H.O. Then the W.H.O. pulls their study. Health: 0. Sugar: 1.

But to be fair, the World Sugar Organization has some data on their side; their trump card is insisting an Institute of Medicine report claims a healthy diet can consist of 25% added sugars. And again, to be fair, the president of the Institute has gone on record stating that the W.S.O. is misinterpreting their data. So remember, 223,675,000 metric tons of raw sugar produced annually. That’s somewhere around 493 billion pounds at about 10.5 cents per pound, and that’s what’s really important.

The most remarkable thing about this entire debate is that there’s such a controversy over restricting what was once an incredibly rare and expensive spice *to only 10% of our total diet*. (Have you ever thought of sugar as a spice?) Sugar used to be well-nigh impossible to come by and the exclusive domain of the rich and luxurious. Q: What the hell happened? A: **Disease and slavery.**

Take one set of Caribbean islands. Add in smallpox, cholera, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, a disease-susceptible native population, and the realization that the Caribbean has the perfect climate for sugarcane production. Mix rapidly, and as the native population quickly dies off replace with a few million African slaves (to work the burgeoning sugarcane plantations). By the 18th century, the Europeans were firmly addicted to sweet tea and biscuits with jam, and sugar was here to stay.

When you think “Jamaican,” do you think Bob Marley? But remember that there weren’t any blacks in the Caribbean only 400 years ago. **Bob Marley is an anachronistic relic of an imperial history** - with a sweet tooth. The next time you think “Jamaican,” think cholera-ridden Arawak and Taino Indians.

But the past is the past, man, and onto the bright *future*! In our modern era, workers on a sugar plantation

in the Dominican Republic need not fear the slave master’s whip – not when they can look forward to 12 hour work days at just under 17 cents an hour! *Progress!*

So here we’ve got all this sugar being produced under brutally inhumane conditions, and we’re **lovin’ it**. ‘Cuz that sugar has to go somewhere, and the leading suspect is Americans’ wide, slaving maws. U.S. Department of Agriculture numbers indicate we all gulp down over 64 pounds of the white, granular stuff per year. And why not? We can get more sugar in more ways now than ever before. **Gone are the bad old days of bland boring white sugar.** Why not some Demerara sugar? Why not some Turbinado sugar? Why not some high fructose corn syrup? I mean, corn is a vegetable, right? The stuff is practically good for you! Show your friends that you can fuel your addiction more fashionably and expensively than they can!

Because sugar is **addictive**, after all. Not an “I really like sugar” addictive, but more of a, “I’m going through **physiological withdrawal** because I’m not getting enough sugar” addictive. Tremors, depression, headaches – all sorts of lovely withdrawal symptoms. I mean, did you think Americans derive more of their calories from soda than any other single food product simply because soda **tastes good**? Most soda is nothing more than high-fructose corn syrup and caffeine (*another* addictive substance), with a little flavoring thrown in to give us a pretext for wanting it.

One shouldn’t be too hard on refined sugar, though. A lot of perfectly natural substances can become addictive when they’re highly processed. Sugarcane goes through *a lot of shit* to end up in those white packets at South. In order to produce refined white sugar, sugarcane is first crushed to bits to extract its juices. The resultant juices are filtered, treated with lime to remove impurities, and then neutralized with sulfur dioxide. The juice is boiled, with sedimentary impurities sinking to the bottom and scum rising to the surface to be skimmed off. Next, the syrupy liquid is cooled while being stirred, crystallizing into those brown sugar granules we all know and love, while uncrystallized syrup is removed by a centrifuge. This raw, brown sugar is precipitated by a mixture of calcium hydroxide before being passed through a bed of activated charcoal to achieve that desirable, pearly white color.

Hell, what *wouldn’t* be addictive after being put through such a grind? Take a **harmless little flower**. Crush it up filter the juices. Treat the juices with lime to remove impurities before neutralizing them with ammonia, and then filter them again. Cook the resultant liquid for six hours with an equivalent weight of acetic anhydride, then treat it with a mixture of

water and hydrochloric acid to purify the product. Add sodium carbonate to induce precipitation of particulate matter in the liquid, and finally, pass the end product through a mixture of alcohol and activated charcoal. That procedure remind you of anything? Juices? Lime? Activated charcoal? Processing sugarcane yields refined white sugar. Processing poppy flowers yields heroin.

Of course, the difference between these two highly addictive, psychoactive drugs is that only one of them is directly marketed to children by super-subtle advertising executives through bright and cheery cartoon. Start with **Pixie Sticks**, then work your way up to a line or two, kids.

In fact, maybe Little Johnny better just **start with the line**. You know, heroin causes no ongoing toxicity to the tissues or organs of the body – that is, if you don’t drop dead from an O.D. outright. Sugar, on the other hand... we all know sugar can promote obesity, especially because it causes a rapid rise in insulin levels which tells the body to store consumed calories directly as fat. But how many of the ultra-tanned O.C. Princesses ordering their sweetened iced teas at Starbucks are aware that sugar can also promote the growth of kidney stones and gallstones, while leading to osteoporosis, heart disease, personality changes and mood swings? Oh, and did you know **glucose** and **Vitamin**

C have extremely similar chemical structures? In fact, your body can really only metabolize one at a time – a blood sugar level of 120, considered perfectly average for a healthy person, can nonetheless reduce the number of bacteria your body’s phagocytes can eliminate by 75%.

And don’t even mention **diabetes**.

So back to Halloween. We’ve got clean, modern, liberated Christian parents rushing their kids off to Wal-Mart and Target to snap up poorly-made pint-size costumes of satanic monsters and **sexually repressed Cinderallas** in order that their children might enjoy a night of pagan celebration while snapping up **pure refined sugar** produced through the efforts of Dominican slave laborers. Perhaps the sugar’s cut with a bit of food coloring and cocoa butter, maybe packaged in a shiny plastic wrapper. Perhaps it isn’t. At any rate, it’s a sight to make a comic-book supervillain weep tears of **envy**.

So if you want to know what I’ll be doing this Halloween, I’m dressing up as the Joker. It only seemed appropriate. (Currently accepting applications from hot babes to be my Harley Quinn. Lithe figures, anti-social personalities, psychiatric training all a plus.)

Bryan Murphy is a first semester freshman. If this article has induced you to love or hate him – or you’re an attractive, criminally insane psychiatrist – drop him a line at cormano.wild@gmail.com

Darkness, Our Dearly Departed, and the New Year Here’s to Samhain!

by Olivia Von Kohorn

Orange leaves and autumn spices are on the changing winds. Soon, we will have one last hurrah at Halloween, before winter creeps in. Long ago, the ancient Celts also celebrated this time of year. The Celtic calendar’s equivalent to November was Samhain (pron. SOW-wen), popularly translated as “summer’s end.” A holiday by the same name marked the month’s annual beginning around Oct. 31 or Nov. 1, when Celts would hold a festival for the dead and for the final harvest.

Present-day Pagans have embraced this holiday as one of eight in their Wheel of the Year. Usually, Samhain is observed around Oct. 31 or Nov. 1. It is a time when the veil separating the world of the living and world of the dead is so thin that the spirits of the dead may easily cross between the

two worlds, in order to socialize with the living. Samhain is also a time to honor ancestors and other departed souls, and to ask for their blessings. Moreover, the seasonal shift reminds us that here, Earth is moving toward darkness and winter, themselves symbolic of death. As part of a cycle, though, there is always the promise of a forthcoming rebirth. But for now, we greet the coming winter and shifting sunlight, the beginning of a new cycle. Because of this, you might soon hear “Happy New Year!”

Want to learn more, or just chill with Pagans and people from other faiths? Visit PODS, the Pagan Organization for Diverse Spirituality! PODS meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM in Student Union Room 410.

Jailing Pregnant Women Raises Health Risks

by Ehrlich and Paltrow

In recent months, pregnant women have been arrested and jailed in South Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, North Dakota and New Hampshire, among other states, based on the claim that pregnant women can be considered child abusers even before they have given birth.

Women targeted for these arrests are usually those with untreated drug or alcohol problems.

Other women have also been arrested for endangering the fetus by not getting to the hospital quickly enough on the day of delivery and by not following doctor's advice to get bed rest. One woman who suffered a stillbirth was arrested for murder based on the claim that by exercising her right to medical decision-making and postponing a Caesarean section, she caused the death of her child.

Law enforcement officials often justify the application of criminal laws to pregnant women by claiming that the arrest and imprisonment of pregnant women will protect fetuses and advance children's health.

"We have to look at each fact to determine what the right thing is to do to protect the children," Jerry Peace, a South Carolina prosecutor, said recently.

But every leading medical organization to address this issue--including the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the March of Dimes--has concluded that the problem of alcohol and drug use during pregnancy is a health issue best addressed through education and community-based family treatment, not through the criminal justice system.

As leading public health and child welfare groups have long noted, pregnant women do not experience alcoholism and other drug dependencies because they want to harm their fetuses or because they don't care about their children.

Threats Don't Work

Medical knowledge about addiction and dependency treatment demonstrates that patients do not, and cannot, simply stop their drug use as a result of threats of arrest or other negative consequences. This is one reason why threat-based approaches do not work to stop drug use or to protect children. Such approaches have, in fact, been shown to deter pregnant women not from using drugs but rather from seeking prenatal care and what little drug and alcohol treatment may be available to them.

Health risks to women, fetuses and children--whether arising from poverty, inadequate nutrition, exposure to alcohol, drugs or other factors--can be mitigated through prenatal and continuing medical care and counseling.

For this to be effective, however, the woman must trust her health care providers to safeguard her confidences and to stand by her while she attempts to improve her health, even if those efforts are not always successful. Transforming health care encounters into grounds for prosecution and turning health care professionals into agents of law enforcement destroys this all-important trust.

Not only does the threat of arrest deter women from seeking care that could further both maternal and fetal health, but the imprisonment of pregnant women itself also poses significant dangers.

A 2005 Maryland case belies any claim that arresting pregnant women protects fetuses, children or families.

Kari Parsons was imprisoned specifically to protect the health of her fetus.

She was arrested when she was seven months pregnant because a drug test mandated as part of her probation for shoplifting returned a positive result. Though standard practice is to release people arrested for probation violations on their own recognizance until their later court dates, the judge in Parsons' case sent her to jail, citing his interest in protecting the fetus's health.

Born in a Jail Cell

Yet three weeks later, because of the judge's ostensible concern for the fetus, Parsons' son was born in conditions that put both his and his mother's health and life at risk.

Parsons gave birth to her son alone in a dirty Maryland jail cell furnished only with a toilet and a bed with no sheets. She had been in labor for several hours and had countless times pleaded for help and medical attention. The requests were denied.

The Jennifer Road Detention Cen-

ter, where she was incarcerated, repeatedly ignored her cries that she was well into labor and needed to go to the hospital. Other inmates, hearing Parsons' cries, implored guards to take her to the hospital.

Instead, guards took her out of a holding area with other inmates--who had helped to time her contractions--and put her in a cell by herself. A few hours later, Parsons gave birth completely alone, without health care or support of any kind. According to press reports, although completely healthy when he was born, Parsons' son soon developed an infection due to the unsanitary conditions of his birth.

Only last week, a woman gave birth in a Harris County, Texas, jail cell. Another inmate who witnessed the birth told local television news reporters that despite the pregnant woman's pleas for medical attention, guards refused to help her. She gave birth in a jail cell without medical assistance.

The argument that arresting pregnant women protects fetal or maternal health is squarely contradicted by another typical prison condition.

Prisons throughout the United States restrain and shackle women throughout pregnancy and during labor, even though international human rights law bans restraints under these circumstances.

Treaties Ban Shackling

When Kari Parsons began to have labor pains a few days before giving birth, she was taken to a medical facility and later returned to the detention center. She was transported in handcuffs and shackles. Although international law and treaties signed by the United States prohibit the shackling of pregnant and birthing women, Amnesty International USA reports that only two states--Illinois and California--have banned the barbaric practice throughout pregnancy and childbirth.

Besides being dehumanizing and totally unnecessary for public safety,

the use of shackles and handcuffs during pregnancy and childbirth is dangerous to maternal and fetal health.

Pregnant women in their third trimesters may already have balance problems; shackling their legs heightens the risk that a woman will fall, potentially injuring them and their fetuses. Also troubling is that the use of restraints during labor can, according to Amnesty International USA, "compromise the ability to manipulate (the pregnant woman's) legs into the proper position for the necessary treatment."

Furthermore, when doctors need to remove the restraints to provide adequate care--such as performing an emergency Caesarean--it can take five or 10 minutes to locate the keys, unlock the shackles and free the woman's legs. This delay can be the difference between life and death for a woman or her child.

In 2005 Regina Kilmon and Kelly Lynn Cruz in Talbot County, Md., were arrested and charged with child abuse and reckless endangerment when they gave birth in spite of a drug problem. The local social services director, Cathy Mols, said that such prosecutions were "helpful in protecting children and families."

Recently, Maryland's highest court unanimously overturned the convictions, concluding that the state legislature never intended its child endangerment law to be used as a basis for policing pregnancy. Such a ruling, however, should not have been necessary to persuade prosecutors and other state officials that arresting and imprisoning women is no way to protect pregnant women and their children.

This article first appeared in Women's eNews, and is reprinted here with the permission. <http://www.womensenews.org/>



Nuclear Boogie-Man Empty Costume

by UConn Worker's Defence Collective



Recently North Korea announced that it has detonated its first nuclear weapon. This is the announcement from the North Korean News Agency website.

“Pyongyang, October 9 (KCNA) - The Korean Central News Agency released the following report: The field of scientific research in the DPRK successfully conducted an underground nuclear test under secure conditions on October 9, Juche 95 (2006) at a stirring time when all the people of the country are making a great leap forward in the building of a great prosperous powerful socialist nation.

It has been confirmed that there was no such danger as radioactive emission in the course of the nuclear test as it was carried out under a scientific consideration and careful calculation.

The nuclear test was conducted with indigenous wisdom and technology 100 percent. It marks a historic event as it greatly encouraged and pleased the KPA and people that have wished to have powerful self-reliant defense capability.

It will contribute to defending the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the area around it.”

While the Uconn Worker's Defense Collective would like to commend worker's states, even degenerated worker's states, for their work to build defenses against western capitalist imperialism we deplore the North Koreans for their ineffective weapons construction. While there is little doubt that amidst great adversity the DPRK indeed detonated a nuclear device it was hardly a success.

As many of you know, nuclear weapons require extensive technology to develop. However, you may underestimate the scientific research necessary to actually put the raw materials together into a device that not only will create an awesome explosion but also be useful in deterring western imperialist aggression. You may have

seen that 80s movie “The Manhattan Project”. In this cult classic, John Lithgow develops “99.9% pure plutonium” which zany iconoclastic boy-genius Christopher Collet then steals with a remote controlled car and uses to build a super bomb. Well, North Korea ain't got John Lithgow even if they might have super-genius types at their disposal.

North Korea's bomb was by most expert opinion very much a fissile fizzle. It is very likely that the DPRK had plutonium which was close to “99.9% pure” but sadly for North Korea it should have done more research than watching “The Manhattan Project”. We know it did – Kim Jung-il's love for decadent bourgeoisie cinema is another reason that we denounce North Korea as a degenerated worker's state. What it needs to build its independent nuclear deterrent is not only pure plutonium but a very specific type of plutonium – of atomic weight 239 and not the heavier PU- 241 and PU 242 which will stifle the explosion. It is likely Kim Jung-il was expecting 5-15 kilotons of yield, however due to the incompetence and corruption that is endemic in totalitarian degenerated workers' states, he got one-half kiloton. Oops. This is like buying a 30 rack and finding a can of O'doul's inside.

To quote the arms control wonk[1],

“To close this discourse about operational confidence by noting that the United States has built a missile defense that does not work, to defend against a North Korean missile that does not work, that would carry a nuclear warhead that does not work. This is all very postmodern”

If only capitalism understood irony.

[1] <http://www.armscontrolwonk.com/1233/so-like-why-didnt-it-work>

About Women's eNews

by Women's eNews

Women's eNews is the definitive source of substantive news--unavailable anywhere else--covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy. It enhances women's ability to define their own lives and to participate fully in every sector of human endeavor.

Women's eNews became independent on January 1, 2002. Women's eNews grew out of a 1996 roundtable discussion conceived and funded by the Barbara Lee Family Foundation and hosted by the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. After additional research on the need for a media outlet to distribute news of concern to women and the opportunity to

provide women's voices to commercial media, NOW Legal Defense undertook in 1999 to create Women's eNews as an Internet-based news service for all women, with a special emphasis on being a resource for commercial media. Two years later, NOW Legal Defense determined Women's eNews could sustain its success and stand on its own.

Women's eNews editors seek out freelance writers from around the world to write on every topic--politics, religion, economics, health, science, education, sports, legislation--and commission them to write 800-word news articles for distribution each day to our subscribers and for posting on our Web site. We rely on the

best practices of journalism and have gained enormous credibility by doing excellent journalism each day. Our commentaries--distributed each Wednesday--are written by prominent advocates. We also offer a monthly column in the media, Uncovering Gender, and update our page each week with an editorial cartoon by Pulitzer-prize winner Ann Telnaes.

Women's eNews has been widely tapped by other media from coast to coast and around the globe, from such leading media outlets as The New York Times, PBS, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Buffalo News, San Jose Mercury, the Birming-

ham News, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Spokane Spokesman-Leader, NPR and MSNBC to newspapers in Kuala Lumpur and the Philippines. [Go to What Editors Are Saying about Women's eNews page]

Women's eNews launched in April 2003 its Arabic language version of Women's eNews. The site has drawn rave reviews and attracted the attention of the New York Times business section.

Check out Women's eNews at <http://www.womensenews.org/>



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Song Review: Sufjan's

by Chad “Bourner” Denton

There was a period of two-or-so years, following the 2003 Greetings from Michigan album release, when Sufjan Stevens was the single most prolific musician in the independent realm and simultaneously one of the most revered. Having therein begun an openly-declared mission to produce an album for each of the fifty states, Sufjan moved on to Illinois (Come On! Feel the Illinois,) and all the while nursed a number of unrelated albums into fine form. Most remarkably, the mass of b-sides he accumulated along the way included some of his most profound work, which he felt warranted releasing the entire collection in album form. This, however, is where Sufjan's luck with the public eye took a turn for the worse. Upon airing The Avalanche (outtakes from Michigan) Sufjan came under critical fire, and in the face of disapproval he seemed unconvinced of his own readiness to capture the essence of each state. While The Avalanche earned song-by-song praise in the online blog networks, published music writers generally considered its release an indiscriminate use of excess material on the artist's part. While The Avalanche was valuable as, if nothing else, a respectably sincere and risky disclosure of the artistic process, its damaged reputation raised doubt as to Sufjan's ability to build on early success in the face of criticism. For some time Sufjan made no gesture to signal he was moving forward, until he unveiled an as-of-yet unpublished masterpiece in live form on September 29 – “Maj-



esty Snowbird.”

Reportedly the song is the end-result of a concept Sufjan has been churning in his head for several years, and the sheer volume of consideration he has given to it is reflected in its fullness throughout an epic span (about ten minutes.) Though the basic theme repeats, there is no weak point in the performance and the foundational melody grows ever-more intensely beautiful as it resurfaces. Sufjan has long performed with a small orchestra at his side, and “Majesty Snowbird” allows every facet of the company to shine as rarely before, with the horn and percussion sections highlighted particularly brightly. “Triumph” is the first word that comes to mind as the song picks up, and I find myself pictur-

ing Sufjan as a tuxedo-clad conductor performing in glory for the first time since a stint of creative stagnation. The classical-composer image falls away in the final two minutes, however, when he steps forward with an electric guitar; in trademark Stevens fashion he spikes his steadily-paced march through identifiable musical traditions with a fierce cry for individuality, this time by driving a line of distortion into the heart of the melody. The ultimate effect is timelessness, as Sufjan pushes classical themes and nostalgic folk-Americana to indie's cutting edge.

Much of the circumstance surrounding “Majesty Snowbird” is a mystery, and it is safe to say that no one who witnessed the performance

saw it coming. Sufjan's next scheduled studio release is a Christmas EP, which seems an unlikely fit for the song. The possibility of its appearance on the next installation of the Fifty States Project has led fans to speculate over what U.S. territory might be home to this elusive snowbird and all its majesty, but the man in charge has kept his peace on the matter. What is clear, however, is that Sufjan Stevens is back - if he was ever gone - and he wants us to know it. You should find this song online at the Hype Machine (hype.non-standard.net), and if you are by some chance new to Sufjan's work be sure to look up “Chicago” and “For the Widows in Paradise, For the Fatherless in Ypsilanti” as well – the triple crown, if you will. Enjoy the odyssey.

(aint it feeling just so)

anonymous

moving like mind motor light,
this 3 am feeling is feeling right!
im in deerp wrist thinker fink in articulate
endocrine modulators of shower curtain stall
moving like he was moving books down the hall
i cant move
the stink bug on the bug screen hunting with pride
as time just slides on by
its no longer july
mists and skinny trunks reaching reaching
im slender will somebody pull me off?
the fender's tender buffed and scoffed
retouched with the cloth, of her
weeping as a well of rose petals,
and my mother's old drawing stares out from
frames of black and red, people on fishhooks
and the fish frowning...

ridicululous
like nothing
feeling bliss
following light with physical manifests
spaceships to sun, and gardens to glass to mars
of destiny, souls crying
for we orbit ourselves with dying of the light,
the borne creation made
for love, here and now
flexing back into a framework
of names places and things
and a billions strings stretching from
butterflies to sun evolving into the perfect from the perfect

Murky Water

by David Huck

The continuing popularity of bottled water has created a \$100 billion dollar a year industry, but very few individuals know exactly what they are drinking. Is it really just pure, crisp, natural, water?

There seems to be a small revolution taking place where soda and other high fructose beverages are being replaced by a healthier alternative: bottled water. It's cheap, easy, and everyone's doing it.

It is clear that brands such as Coca-Cola and Fiji "Natural Artesian Water" use packaging tactics to make bottled water more appealing. There are blue tinted plastics, enticing pictures of tropical settings, and of course the picturesque enchanted forest and mountain streams.

The water in all of these bottles are not the same, nor are they as clean, pure, and healthy as you are led to believe.

In 1992, as Poland Spring was becoming a household name, there were suspicions of whether or not their water was really spring water. To settle the critics, the company sent six geologists into the pond that was fed by Poland Spring and confirmed that the source was spring fed.

It wasn't until 1995 however, that the Food and Drug Administration agreed that water from boreholes (holes drilled that tap into the groundwater as it's flowing toward the spring's opening) were acceptable sources and could be called "spring water."

In 2002, to investigate a class-action suit against Poland Spring and their claim as "natural spring water," four geologists were hired to bore holes into the pond of Poland Spring, still not convinced that the 1992 study the company did was credible. All four of the geologists stated that the boreholes were not providing "natural spring water," according to FDA definitions.

Additionally, another source used by Poland Spring five miles away—Garden Spring—was determined to be manmade.

Again in 2003, the Connecticut Superior Court filed a lawsuit against Nestle, the owners of Poland Spring. The plaintiffs contended that Nestle was using false advertising, stating that the original Poland Spring hadn't flowed since 1967. They claimed that the water was coming from sources up to 30 miles away, including an area surrounded by asphalt parking lots. Additionally, the two plaintiffs were concerned about Poland Spring using groundwater and a source near a former garbage dump. Poland Spring settled by handing out discount coupons.

Similar cases were filed in New Jersey and Massachusetts.

A four-year study by the Natural Resources Defense Council that looked at 103 different brands, found that one-third of the water did not meet state or industry safety standards. Some of the samples contained traces of contaminants like arsenic and carcinogenic compounds. The World Health Organization says that "some micro-organisms, which are normally of little or no public health significance, may grow to higher levels in bottled waters," as they are generally stored for longer periods and are at higher temperatures compared to water distributed in pipe systems.

In hopes of making huge profits off Mother Nature, many bottling companies look to over sea sources, where many countries do not have the resources or the expertise for safe water standards and guidelines. Many of these countries may be prone to water contaminated with hazards such as lead, arsenic, benzene, bacteria, viruses, parasites, *Vibrio cholera*, hepatitis A, and even trace amounts of glass chips

or metal fragments.

In 2004, nearly 200 bottling plants were shut down in India, due to plants not submitting water test reports. Many of these plants were operated by the Coca-Cola Company, which bottles under the label Dasani. Additionally, as many as fifty nearby villages complained of water shortages.

While there are international guidelines, which are recommendations and not mandatory, set forth by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for natural mineral water, there are currently no universally accepted standards for bottled and packaged waters other than mineral water, which comes from a strict source and has no further treatment. The WHO, which recognizes Codex, is seen "as representing the international consensus for consumer protection."

Furthermore, according to the NRDC, many of the FDA's rules regarding bottled water in the United States exempts nearly 60 to 70% of the bottled water sold. The guidelines, which can be found in section 165.110 in the Code of Federal Regulations, leave many loopholes for bottling companies to pass on potentially unsafe water to consumers.

The marketing strategies that bottling companies use to sell their product as a healthy alternative to tap water is clearly a myth. For example, many city water plants must test for *E. coli* bacteria 100 times or more a month, while bottling plants can get by with only once a week. City tap water must also meet strict standards for certain toxic and cancer-causing chemicals such as phthalates (a compound used in the plastic bottling that has been shown to cause damage to the liver, kidneys, lungs, and testes); bottled water is exempt from these regulations. City water supplies must also be tested by government certified labs, some-

thing bottlers are not required to do. Cities also required to release annual reports to citizens telling consumers what is in their water, while bottlers do no such service.

We are part of a global community in which 14,000 people a day die due to water-related diseases, the leading cause of death in the world. As Americans who have become subjected to a trendy bottled water culture, we should become more conscious of the products we buy and who they have affected.

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INDUSTRY VS. NATURE

ERIC DROOKER

DROOKER.COM

Intelligent Design Isn't

by Bryan Murphy

One might have hoped that the dead horse of Intelligent Design had finally taken out the plastic fangs, dropped the Transylvanian accent, and decided to stay down. But nope, no way, and especially not with mid-term elections coming up. Republican candidate for the Governor's office of Michigan, Mr. Dick DeVos, has brought Intelligent Design back into the spotlight by saying that he thinks it should at least be given a fair airing in the classroom. Now, this is somewhat tiring. How many times must the courts rule that Intelligent Design, Creationism, and the like cannot be taught in public schools before our putative elected officials get the message? Darwinists may need to try a whole new strain of garlic to vanquish Intelligent Design. While we're at it, let's be frank: Intelligent Design is Creationism with a make-over. You fight one, you fight both; both must be disproved simultaneously. We're gonna need garlic and a stake for this affair.

The story thus far is that most Darwinists have been largely content to concede that creation is pretty complex – but not so complex that it could not have arisen through natural selection. Yet why not play that record backwards?

Backmask Warning, Intelligent Designers: Instead of arguing that creation could have arisen randomly, why not argue that it couldn't have arisen intelligently? Creation is often pretty sadistic, evil, and, frankly, stupid. It seems the overriding theme of our world is a cacophony of nonsensical pain and misery, unavoidably punctuated by the terrible rimshot of mortality. This isn't a newflash. You've got John Stuart Mill saying, "If there are any marks at all of special design in creation, one of the things most evidently designed is that a large proportion of all animals should pass their existence in tormenting and devouring other animals." It's hard to imagine our schizoid world was deliberately designed, least of all intelligently – and if it was, the designer was pretty sadistic.

To be fair, one can't deny that nature has its moments. The human body has at least 25,000 genes, 206 bones, and over 60,000 miles of veins, arteries, and capillaries, and it seems hard to think all of that could have been put together at random. To trot out an old Creationist analogy, imagine shaking a box containing a jumbled up 25,000 piece jigsaw puzzle – what're the odds you'd ever assemble the puzzle?

Excepts whoops, evolution is actually nothing at all like a jigsaw puzzle, because the current human form is no more preferred by nature than any other random iteration of 25,000 jigsaw pieces. A more accurate question to ask would be, if you shook a box

containing 25,000 Legos, what are the odds you would get any random assortment of Legos? Pretty good, probably. Sure, some of the random assemblies would be ugly, but in Darwinian terms, those ugly assemblies would die out - in much the same way 99% of all species which have ever lived have gone extinct. If there is an intelligent designer, it apparently does like to play dice, though it prefers playing for the fates of entire species over our mere mortal chips.

And even when a species doesn't go extinct, there's no guarantee everything will be coming up roses for its individual members. Life can be, and for most creatures, is, nasty, brutish, and short. Ask your next hamburger if it thinks the world was designed intelligently by a benevolent being. Ask the one in four European peasants struck dead at random by the Black Plague if they thought the world was put together in a sensible manner. Next time you catch the flu, ask yourself between sniffles if an intelligent designer would strike his own creations down at random – it doesn't seem very intelligent to me. When Toyota designs robots to weld doors on cars, you can be sure they aren't programmed to arbitrarily lie in bed for a week every now and then slurping chicken soup and drinking orange juice. Does Toyota know something our intelligent designer doesn't?

Pain serves a useful purpose when it tells you to pull your hand away from that open flame, or lie down because your leg is bleeding and broken; in short, when it offers some prospect of useful remedy. But when pain can serve no purpose, that's simple sadism. Take the case of a cancer victim with a brain tumor in the middle of their cerebral cortex. What purpose does their pain serve then, other to insure that their last days on earth are spent in unending, incurable agony? Darwin noted this quandary of suffering, the seeming incompatibility between an intelligent creator and a vicious world. "I cannot persuade myself," he said, "that a beneficent and omnipotent God would have designedly created the *Ichneumonidae* [a species of parasitic wasp] with the express intention of their feeding within the living bodies of caterpillars". Our intelligent designer is shaping up to be quite the capricious fellow.

And somewhat silly fellow, too. Men have nipples but don't lactate; whales have hip-bones but not legs; emus have wings but can't fly. Silly, sadistic; sitting at his drawing board, our intelligent designer must have decided to spontaneously abort 2/3rds of all homo sapiens ever conceived. Conception being the resource-intensive process that it is, our designer certainly didn't have economy in mind when he

green-lighted our flawed reproductive system. Nor was he apparently thinking of theology, for if babies that die before baptism float about in Limbo for all eternity, then it seems Limbo has twice the population of Heaven and Hell combined.

However, to be fair, Intelligent Design advocates are careful never to mention God in their arguments. The intelligent designer, therefore, could be anyone. From our evidence, it seems quite likely that the intelligent designer might well be some unreliable evil alien struggling to get his G.E.D.

Though the thought isn't exactly comforting. Me, I'd rather not be the plaything of a designer who gives hip-bones to whales and breast cancer to old women. I'd rather be the product of my ancestors, the sublimation of millennia of evolution, standing on my own two legs and making my way through the mutable world of my own accord. There's something downright American in that.

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The Bible



Well, in my book of knowledge, the Alpha stands for quit questioning God, and the Omega stands for play your horn or those two fingers are going up your fudgehole.

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Refusing to Wear the Costume on Halloween

by Katy Laguzza

Halloween is a time of disguises and trick playing, of secretly toilet-papering houses and smashing family jack-o-lanterns: in short, a fun time for everyone. Surprisingly, the government of the United States has decided not to celebrate Halloween this year. Instead of wrapping itself in a colorful costume, it is taking the opposite route by publicly unveiling itself of the disguise adopted shortly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

This unveiling process is a complicated one, and is not being done entirely willingly by the government. In November 2005, news came out that the CIA was using government approved “enhanced interrogation techniques” to question the detainees in the War on Terror. A rather infamous list describing the six enhanced techniques was circulated through the media; some defined them as constituting torture. People began to wonder: is the United States government really supporting the use of torture as a valid interrogation technique? The government said no.

Then, in December 2005, John Bellinger, a state department legal advisor, admitted to the press that the Red Cross does not have access to all detainees in U.S. custody—a right that is guaranteed internationally to all detainees. The assumption was then logically made that the United States was keeping a number of detainees in secret prisons across the world. People began to wonder: is the United States government really supporting the use of secret prisons about which even reputable international aid agencies are uninformed? The government, again, said no.

People are, by nature, nosy and persistent creatures, and within the span of a year, the unveiling was well underway. The President recently gave public acknowledgement to the existence of both the “alternative set of procedures” used to interrogate detainees, and the secret prisons which are now no longer secret or in operation.

This raises questions, however, about government accountability. Who determines what constitutes torture in detainee prisons? Who determines what information should remain secret, and for how long? Bill after bill is being passed through Congress addressing these very issues. This is now a very public debate.

The Geneva Conventions prohibit torture and inhuman treatment, including the humiliation or degradation of prisoners. It also provides access to the Red Cross—for all prisoners. It does not require a debate to realize that the United States, in its recent treatment of detainees, has violated these Conventions. The Geneva Conventions, however, refer only to prisoners of war. Interestingly enough, its fifty-year old definition of “prisoners of war” does not apply to terrorist groups. According to the Conventions, and to the government of the United States, prisoners of war must be a group affiliated with a State—terrorists may or may not fulfill this requirement—and must wear a “distinctive sign recognizable at a distance.” Since terrorists generally rely on anonymity to carry out their attacks, they do not openly mark themselves or wear uniforms. The Conventions further specify that prisoners of war must “carry arms openly”; in short, the Geneva Conventions apply only to the

conventional sort of warfare that occurred at the time of its creation, and not to modern terrorism.

Today, times are different and wars are different. Especially the War on Terror—which is not so much a war on a state or even on a group, but on a broadly interpreted state of being. According to the Military Commission Act of 2006 (which is a new bill awaiting approval from the White House), a captured terrorist is not a prisoner of war. Terrorists fall into the group of “unlawful enemy combatants,” meaning that they do not belong to a state, they do not clearly mark themselves as a group, and they do not follow the laws of war. The only problem with this label is that there is no pre-established law in the United States that applies to the treatment and legal status of “unlawful enemy combatants.”

The government of the United States is currently making a public effort to create such laws. The Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 is one such law. It states that no one should be subject to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and punishment, and specifies that detainees who are not citizens of the United States have no claim to the rights provided by the United States Constitution. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 goes more in depth, providing detainees with the right to be deemed innocent before proven guilty, and the right against compulsory self-incrimination. It also specifies that any information drawn from the detainee under unlawful treatment (as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said to the press, no one is perfect) cannot be used against him or her in trial.

Trials of the accused detainees will

be under newly established military commissions, which will be convened by the Secretary of Defense. The accused will be informed of his or her charges “as soon as practicable”—elsewhere in the bill it states that “unlawful enemy combatants” do not have the right to a speedy trial—it is therefore unclear what effect this aspect of the bill will have. The records of these trials may or may not be made public out of respect for national security. The bill also leaves the President and the Secretary of Defense a certain amount of room to interpret “cruel and unusual” and gives them the power to determine the maximum punishment of the guilty.

In short, what has been a well-kept government secret is now being brought into the public atmosphere, becoming a topic of public discussion. In times like this, it is important to participate. Democracies do not exist without dialogue, and especially with the current War on Terror, it is crucial that democracy—true democracy, of and for the people—be upheld.

The Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 and the Military Commissions Act of 2006 can be read at the Library of Congress’ website: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

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The Bitterness Behind Each Bite

by tara kurland

Children think of Halloween as a sweet and scary holiday. This is the one time of the year that they are allowed to indulge in all of the chocolate that they want. Pretty much every American family buys at least one bag of candy during this holiday, which amounts to huge profits by the chocolate corporations. While these American children are busy filling their bodies with sugar and scaring each other with witch and ghost costumes, children in the Ivory Coast are facing a situation far more bitter and far more scary. The chocolate that American children are enjoying has come at the cost of the pain of the child slave laborers on cocoa plantations. Something that is really frightful is seeing your friends being beaten, seeing your own blood leak from your innocent flesh, seeing no future.

The University of Connecticut brought a speaker and photographer, Robin Romano, to speak about the human rights abuses on cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast. The Ivory Coast produces 43% of the world's cocoa. It is a country that is highly indebted due to structural adjustment policies. In recent years its poverty has doubled and its literacy rates have

been cut in half. Spending on social services have been greatly reduced. Its economy depends on the chocolate industry, and the cheap labor of the children. All powers are against these innocent ones. Both the government and chocolate corporations want to suppress any protest.

The poor economic situation of the Ivory Coast and surrounding countries sends children out of the home in search for work since their parents cannot support them, and since education is an expensive option that few can afford. The child is often lured in by a trafficker who offers them the opportunity for lots of money. The naïve child and often family are encouraged by this prospect, and do not suspect negative consequences. Children are often taken across the border from Mali into the Ivory Coast by traffickers, who then sell the child to the cocoa plantations for a low price. The children find themselves far away from home, in a strange place tucked into the woods, where there are no roads out, and no opportunity of escape.

One of the first things that they are shown are the sights where they will be buried if they try to escape or protest. If the child refuses to work they may

be beaten to death or have their feet sliced off. One child had his feet cut off simply because the overseers felt he looked too strong and needed to be debilitated in some way. The children are left in hopeless situations. They have very little food, and no clothes. If they are sick, they won't be treated. Yet even while they are malnourished and ill, they are expected to have the energy to work all day long. To keep them passive, they are drugged up with fermented cocoa juice.

While the corporations are making huge profits off of the slave labor of these children, the farmers are still just getting by, and the country is falling deeper and deeper into despair. To prevent this exploitation, Romano urged us all to avoid buying chocolate from major corporations such as Nestlé, Hershey, and Mars. Instead you should buy fair trade chocolate. This sets a minimum wage that laborers must be given as well as standards for treatment. One of the most well known fair trade companies is Equal Exchange, and it can be found at many local stores such as the Willimantic Food Coop. U.S. consumers have a lot of economic power. Corporations only stay alive through our purchas-

ing of their products. Therefore, I urge anyone who cares about human rights to boycott products made by abusive corporations, and support ones that are trying to promote human rights.

The University of Connecticut indirectly supports child slavery by selling only Hershey's chocolate in the cafes. As an institution that boasts its great human rights department and ideology, it ought to not be supporting companies that do not adhere to such practices. Students can do their part by pressuring the administration to break their ties with corrupt corporations.

On top of this, as Halloween is approaching, when you go out to the store to stock up on sweets for your parties, please think about more than the instant gratification of the taste, the allure of the packaging, and the price. Always think about the story behind the products you buy. What went into the production of this product? What social and environmental ramifications are involved? Uconn students are privileged Americans and can afford moral consumption. Halloween doesn't have to be as bitter and scary as it is for the anonymous children who suffer to satisfy our sweet cravings.

GOTV: A Scary Acronym that Subverts Democracy

by Damon Yakovleff

I think I first saw "GOTV" used during the 2004 elections on some progressive blog. I was mystified until I stupidly put it together: "Get Out the Vote". Our party bosses, blogosphere autocrats and co-conspiratorial comrades have spoken. We leftists have been given our standing orders in their execution of the vast left wing conspiracy to take back control of the US government. It's all lovely and makes you feel warm and fuzzy inside until you look at who they're not only asking us to vote for but asking us to get other people to vote for. I'm sorry but it is very hard for an idealistic person to campaign for the less-than-evil Democrat Party line without looking like a complete jerk. I say, fuck evil, even less-than-evil. If you are a leftist in the United States, voting for anyone's party line is futile because there's no coherent left party line anymore. I think the best we can do is to look beyond the Democrat Party, to Greens and the most green-socialist wing of Democrats. There are rare, rare cases where anyone else is worthwhile. Personally, I hate taking orders from any of those pushy Democrat party machine sellouts who are paid to try to get you to canvass for them. If you are a progressive please look at all the candidates and make up your mind about who reflects your socialist values. Hell, vote Republican if they're the most progressive candidate.

So, what are the progressive choices this time around? Sadly, this election you don't have too many candidates to choose from. I've got to assume that

almost all of you are like me and live or at least vote somewhere in Connecticut's second congressional district. You've got a choice for the US House of Representatives between the Democrat Joe Courtney and Republican Rob Simmons, nobody else. Given that each candidate is a liberal on social issues and fiscally conservative I'd say don't even bother even voting for this one. Leave the lever be.

If you live anywhere in Connecticut you can vote for some slightly more exciting races. One example is the race for Governor for whom you can select Democrat John Destefano, Republican Jodi Rell, or my favorite, Green Clifford Thornton. It's really sad that Destefano is such an ass that he conspired to keep Thornton out of the gubernatorial debates. Thornton has a lot of articulate messages and has great appeal, especially to students. Examples of his awesomeness include his passionate arguments for ending the current drug prohibition that kills so many and wastes so much money every year, fully funding state tuition for Connecticut residents, and full Universal health care to name a few. I think it's clear that to the vast majority of Uconn students Thornton is the only reasonable option. Let's not kid ourselves: it's in our interest to eliminate tuition and legalize drugs!

The green party is also running candidates for other elected positions in Connecticut that get lamentably less media coverage than they deserve. If you are a fan of our radio station WHUS, then you're probably famil-

iar with Mike DeRosa's "New Focus". Well, DeRosa is running for Secretary of State as the Green Candidate. Susan Bysiewicz, the Democrat incumbent, has had this job forever and let's face it, our state's business community is not exactly the most well regulated. Nancy Burton's Green candidacy for Attorney general should be supported for the same reason: Richard Blumenthal has been in FOREVER. Also, Burton would go after polluters with far greater zeal. As students, we have a duty to make sure our state is safe not only from Islamists abroad but from cancer causing pollution at home.

Another more interesting race is for senate. I know that you probably have read a lot about it already and already know that it's the most interesting race ever in the history of Connecticut politics. The main candidates are Democrat Ned Lamont, Republican Alan Schlesinger, Green Ralph Ferrucci, and Connecticut for Lieberman Party (a one man party – lame ass!) Joe Lieberman. For college students the only really good choice is Ferrucci, not only because the Green Party platform is most in line with our interests but also the senate is supposed to be especially concerned with US foreign policy. Ferrucci takes a far more even-handed approach to foreign policy than any others, especially in solving the Middle East conflicts and is the only candidate who says he would do so – thus he almost earns my vote. I wish I could say that Lamont was pretty decent too but I'm afraid he's got some terrible status-quo moder-

ate ideas except that he's opposed to the war in Iraq. Because Lieberman is ahead in the polls and since out of all the candidates Lieberman is the only one to support continued military involvement in Iraq and everywhere else, I'd say this is the one of those rare times progressives should suck it up and vote for a lame-o. To have the sensible vote split between the three other non-evil candidates would be a shame. Hold your nose or whatever, but you should probably pull the Lamont lever.

Come November 7th, election day, I say go out and vote but don't get out the vote. Electoral politics are not a reasonable way to reform the system – that's something you need to do every day, least of all on election day. Realize that party bosses are bosses all the same and are out for their own power and benefit. Sure they'll offer you concessions to work for 'em and all but don't sell-out. You're subverting democracy when you do and hurting yourselves, America, and the ideals you stand for. I'm voting this time for some moderates because some very scary people will be elected otherwise. However, I hope you will join me in making plans now for what to do next time. We should lay the groundwork now to kick out these moderates and throw a wrench in the party machines, finally making progressive changes possible for our country and the world.

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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events

Mondays	8:30-9:30 pm	Between Women - for women who love women.	Women's Center
Mondays	7pm	Movie Mondays	Rainbow Center
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
Oct 24	6 - 7:30 pm	SOS - Guided Meditation	Women's Center
Nov 1	6 pm	Charmain White Face, and others.	Student Union Ballroom
Nov 7	All Day	Election Day	Everywhere
Nov 7	5pm	“How Black Public Intellectuals are Failing Black America”	Dodd Center, room 162
Nov 7	6:30 pm	Fundraiser for the Willimantic Radical Lending Library	Oobah's Deli. Willimantic