



# THE MOON

## PORTRAIT OF A MEDIA CIRCUS

### How the Confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice Turned into a National Spectacle

by Peter Rubenstein '95

This was exactly what was *not* supposed to happen. The nomination and confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice was supposed to be accompanied by pomp and dignity. The President of the United States was to pick the most brilliant, respected, and qualified legal scholar in nation; the Senate of the United States was to give its "advice and consent." Instead, America witnessed the most bizarre and sordid proceedings ever to accompany a man or woman into higher office. Just days before Judge Clarence Thomas was expected to be easily confirmed to the highest court in the land, Professor Anita Hill burst out from seemingly nowhere to bring a soap opera atmosphere with NA17-rated dialogue to the usually staid functions of the Senate.

Hill, 35, is a professor of commercial law at a small midwestern university. More importantly to the national dialogue, however, she worked directly under Thomas for three years, first at the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights from 1981 to '82, then when they both moved to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission where they worked together until 1983. On these points both Hill and Thomas were agreed, but on almost every other particular their stories diverged dramatically. Hill claimed that Thomas, the candidate Bush hoped would win through on the strength of his character, had sexually harassed her during the entire period they had worked together. Thomas angrily professed not to have the slightest idea what she might be talking about.

One of them was lying. There could be no doubt about that. Thomas did not admit to the slightest slip on his part that could have been misunderstood, nor did Hill's accusations lend themselves in the least to such an interpretation. Graphically and unflinchingly, she related to the Senate Justice Committee exactly how Thomas had mentally abused her: "He talked about pronographic materials depicting... various sex acts... Thomas told me graphically about his own sexual prowess." Thomas, who said he didn't watch Hill's testimony, could only vehemently

repeat, "I have not said or done the things Anita Hill alleged." She claimed he had asked her out 5 to 10 times during the course of their working relationship. He maintained he had not done so even once.

It simply came down, then, to a question of credibility. Unfortunately for those trying to ferret out the truth, both Thomas and Hill were nearly unimpeachable. Thomas, 43, had always had a reputation for integrity and courtesy, *especially* to women. Dolores Rozzi, who worked with him for seven years at the EEOC, testified that the Thomas she knew would never even listen to a dirty joke, much less tell one. Janet Brown, who worked with him as on the staff of Senator John Danforth,

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# DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN

by Pete Rubenstein '95

In Tel Aviv, Israel, a Palestinian driver ploughed a van into a group of Israeli soldiers. Two were killed, eleven more injured. Jewish extremists moved into six houses and apartments in East Jerusalem to demonstrate the indivisibility of that city as the Israeli capital. Meanwhile, Syria expressed its refusal to discuss water rights, disarmament, or environmental concerns with Israel until the Golan Heights were turned over to it. The Syrian ambassador also stated that he would refuse to shake hands with his Israeli counterpart. For its part, Israel sent four F-16 fighters to check for remaining Iraqi scuds through the airspaces of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. Could these people make it any clearer that they do not want to talk to each other?

In a related piece of information, Yasser Arafat, chief of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, was quoted as saying, "None of the Palestinians inside or outside the territories can move or talk without PLO approval." One wonders exactly what form of government he has in mind for the Palestinian state.

Dictator update: Saddam Hussein was quoted as saying (I swear I'm not making this up), that Iraq would wage "the mother of all battles" against the United Nations sanctions. Fidel Castro, that lovable cigar-toting Cuban totalitarian, went on record calling western-style democracy "complete garbage" and vowed communist Cuba would never change its system.

At the same time, in that part of the world where they have recently decided to adopt Western-style democracy, trouble is brewing. The Ukraine has declared that it will not sign the economic accord which would have been the major reminder of the days when Eastern Europe and Northern Asia were part of one political entity. On a disturbing note, however, Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the archives of the early Soviet Communist Party to be sent to an American institute *as soon as possible*, suggesting that it may not be possible at all for much longer. Western analysts suspect a second and more dangerous coup may be brewing in the army's second tier. The Yugoslav Army launched an all out attack on Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina declared sovereignty from them both.

NATO solidified the unilateral arms-cutting trend in the West by agreeing to slash its arsenal of nukes by eighty percent and troop size (from the U.S.) in Europe by half. Suspected Sikh separatists killed forty-one people in two bombings of northern India. One-hundred-forty were injured as well in the attacks on a Hindu festival and hospital. Zaire's President Mobutu signed a decree forming the nation's first opposition led government, ruled by Prime Minister Tshisekedi. British Prime Minister John Major plans to unilaterally sponsor a Western write-off of two-thirds of the debt of the world's poorest Third-World countries. As Neo-Nazi youths continue to become more active and numerous in united Germany, the government there is considering the placing of foreign refugees in ghettos—for their own protection, naturally.

On the Home Front, Congress rebounded from the Thomas proceedings by rejecting a ban on thirteen domestic semi-automatic "assault" weapons, one day after twenty-two were slain by a killer with such a weapon in Killeen, Texas. President Bush jumped to make political points from the confirmation debacle by proposing a change in Senate confirmation procedures—oddly, he made no mention of Presidential candidate selection procedures.

With the world's fragile psyche still recovering from the loss in recent weeks of Dr. Seuss and Miles Davis, it was in no shape to take yet a third blow—Redd Foxx is gone. He died of a heart attack last week at the age of sixty-eight. The supremely talented star of TV's *Sanford and Son* from 1972-77 and numerous movies, including *Harlem Nights*, finally had the big one. He's coming to join you Elizabeth.

Sources: *Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Jerusalem Post*.

## THE MOON

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# L E T T E R

## HUEBERT PROPERLY CHASTISES RUBENSTEIN AND SIMPSON

Dear Mr. Rubenstein and Ms. Simpson:

Every year I witness a seizure of my school paper. Invariably, a handful of people take up pens like swords and bloody *The Moon* with debate over the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This year has been no different. The only change has been the warriors—the two of you. After reading these

letters for four years I am no longer surprised that the Middle East is the scene of such a passionate and senseless war. Your letters are filled with the same sort of senseless dueling—only you duel with words. Your words show no attempt to understand each other's position. They are a wholly useless reiteration of your own positions. Instead of directing at each other insight-

ful statements aimed at solving the problem, the two of you are still bickering over who caused it.

This is *not* dialogue, this is two people shouting at each other from soapboxes. Your way of "responding" makes for bad seminars and very bloody wars.

J. Elizabeth Huebert '92

## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S UNITE!

by Daphne Blumenthal '93

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, a meeting was held to which all female students and tutors were invited. Its purpose was for us to voice our thoughts about "what it is like to be a woman at St. John's." The meeting was initiated by J. Huebert and Mary Welliver. Writing about this meeting is no easy task; the discussion was haphazard, due to the (surprisingly) large number of people in attendance, and the limited time. No consensus was reached about anything. The reason for this is that few people are able to answer even to their own satisfaction the question that underlies any discussion of women's issues, namely, what is "feminine," what is "masculine," and what is just plain human?

Two main issues emerged: male-female interaction in class and the abundance of misogyny and lack of female role models in program books.

There was disagreement concerning whether or not class time is generally dominated by men. Ms. Buchenauer stated that more women than men speak to her of their frustration at getting into the conversation, and she suggested that the more confident women teach the less confident ones techniques of self-assertion. People did seem to agree that women generally speak with less confidence than do men, and often begin their speeches with an apology. There was also mention of the fact that what a woman says in class tends not to be taken as seriously as it ought; one woman in fact admitted that she used to respect the opinions of men more than those of women, but has been ridding herself of this prejudice. Concern was also mentioned over women who do not speak

at all, many of whom end up leaving. As Heather Giles said, "This should be a place where everyone can be listened to".

Then the assumptions which make me cringe a little began to rise to the surface. Many of the women who spoke seemed to feel that the self-confident assertion of one's ideas is a masculine trait, and that listening to what others have to say is feminine. There was even the suggestion that the very act of writing down one's thoughts in a directed and focused way is masculine. To this, Ms. Huebert replied "am I then getting my full \$60,000 worth?", to which the answer came back that perhaps women were getting more out of the program than men, in that they are getting to learn the male perspective, which men know naturally. I can only wonder why women who believe that focused, rational thought is masculine are students here. Surely we are not studying the Great Books in an attempt to become other than what we are (e.g. masculine)! No consensus was reached concerning the question of whether or not women and men reason differently.

Concerning women in the Great Books: the opinion was expressed that since women are generally no longer held to be lesser beings than men, we can ignore any opinions to the contrary found in program books. Laura Hunt replied that the books are on the program specifically because the ideas they contain are held to be timeless. Ms. Drew spoke against the "Tabloid Feminism" which is sometimes brought into seminar. Her opinion was that we need to concentrate on the books without imposing our opinions on them. Another person said that this points to the problem with

bringing "feminism" (and please, let's be careful with that label) into seminar. For if, in our search for truth, we are restricted by the book at hand, and if that book makes assumptions about women which we cannot agree with, perhaps we had better ignore the subject of women! Ms. Buchenauer agreed that this is a problem, but mentioned several female examples of strength and courage on the program, namely, Hester Prynne (of *The Scarlet Letter*), and Antigone. (Incidentally, the women's literature study group intends, at some point, to hold discussions about women in the Great Books; contact Laura Hunt if you wish to suggest a specific topic.)

I got the feeling that on the whole women students do wish that the taboo on "feminism" in seminar be lifted somewhat. Granted, we need to focus on what is timeless in the books, but do we do an author justice by dividing his work into "good" (e.g. considered true today) and "bad"? The works and the thought processes are each a whole and we should not altogether ignore what we don't like.

Ms. Huebert closed the meeting with the suggestion that more meetings of this kind take place in the future. Although I left more confused than enlightened, one thing became apparent to me: that while we spend four years here trying discussing what it is to be a great-souled man, many women are privately asking themselves what it means to be a great-souled woman.

## Campus Planning Committee Update

by James Papiano '92

Plans are underway for the construction of a new dormitory. This long-awaited project should be completed within the next 2-3 years. (More specific dates have not been set.) The program (use-value design for the architect), has not been decided. Speculation on the design hovers around the idea of suite living for up to 80 students with some apartment units available for tutors. The dorm will probably stand in or around the corral and meadow, beyond the upper dormitory parking lot.

Funding for this project will not come from the fledgling Capital Campaign. Rather, the money will be borrowed for construction and then repaid by the college within a decade after its completion.

The Campus Planning Committee is presently concerned with several projects which will eventually be funded by the Capital Campaign and presumably, other sources. The following is a list of projects and their status. Most of these are in limbo until the money is in hand or at least promised.

**CONSOLIDATION OF OFFICE AND MAIL SERVICES** is a long-range project for the college. Mailboxes are to be united with the mailroom and Office services in order to cut down on lost mail and open up more space on campus. One possible location for this consolidation is the basement of the Peterson Student Center. Until a minimum of \$100,000 is found, all of this is on hold.

A **NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM** has long been needed. This Chris Burke fantasy will hopefully become a reality within three years, perhaps with the Mail and Office Services consolidation. One estimate for the cost of the new system is \$100,000.

**THE BOOKSTORE** will eventually move to the space presently occupied by the Conference Center. The Campus Planning Committee will be discussing the bookstore this week. The cost for this project is currently estimated between 20 and \$70,000, which is not exactly laying around on the floor of the copying room.

**THE TOWER DUNGEON** has already been put to good use in the creation of faculty offices and the relocation of the Career Planning Office. Long range considerations for the remainder of the space include the Mail and Office Services consolidation, as well as a computer center, and of course, more faculty offices.

**CHAIRS FOR THE GREAT HALL** are on the way. A new design has been selected, though the Campus Planning Committee is still undecided about the color. When all of the details are finalized, the chairs will be purchased 50 at a time until *toutes les chaises ancienne* are replaced.

**THE COFFEE SHOP** is in need of improvement, as many faculty and students agree that it is not as inviting as it ought to be. The Campus Planning Committee is considering ways in which to make the fireplace area more livable.

**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION.** The campus may get some new landscaping. The scope of this project has not been determined.

The Campus Planning Committee would like to hear students' suggestions with regard to these projects. Of special interest is students' ideas about the type of landscaping (i.e. Southwest flowers and trees exclusively, or something else), the coffee shop, the bookstore, the kitchen, and the dormitory. In general the committee is interested to know what is most important to students. What do students care about most? Members of the committee are John Cornell, Dana Densmore, Torrance Kirby, Hans von Briesen, Linda Wiener, John Agresto, Kathy Mizrahi, Bryan Valentine, and Stephen van Luchene.

## STUDENT INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

*Monday 7 October*

Attending: Seniors: John Laufer, James Papiano, Taeko Onishi, Luke Warren, Mary Welliver; Junior: Ron Scrogam; Sophomore: Bill Blais

The issue of membership was reintroduced. Since most of the SIC members are seniors, there is a concern that the committee will not continue in subsequent years. Formal membership, such as by election, was rejected on the grounds that the SIC should comprise only those members who sincerely want to be involved and would be so if elected or not. The consensus was that the SIC would continue as long as students perceived a need for such a committee to address academic concerns at the college. It was agreed that more juniors and sophomores should be encouraged to be involved.

Concerning the recent informal polls of students regarding preceptorials and the art tutorial, it was noted that there seemed to be a reluctance to be forthcoming in offering opinions. There was concern that there is not a free flow of opinions by students regarding the academic program. Speculations abounded as to why, including the possibility that students are intimidated by not having yet completed the program or are professing an ignorance that prohibits formulating an opinion.

There is now a room in the Meem Library for tutoring that cannot be comfortably done at the Student Tutoring Center desk. Also, it was announced that weekly Greek review sessions have begun for sophomores. The balance of the meeting was spent drafting a letter to the Faculty Instruction Committee regarding preceptorials, the junior/freshman writing period, and the art tutorial.

# POLITY MINUTES

By Simon G Bone '92

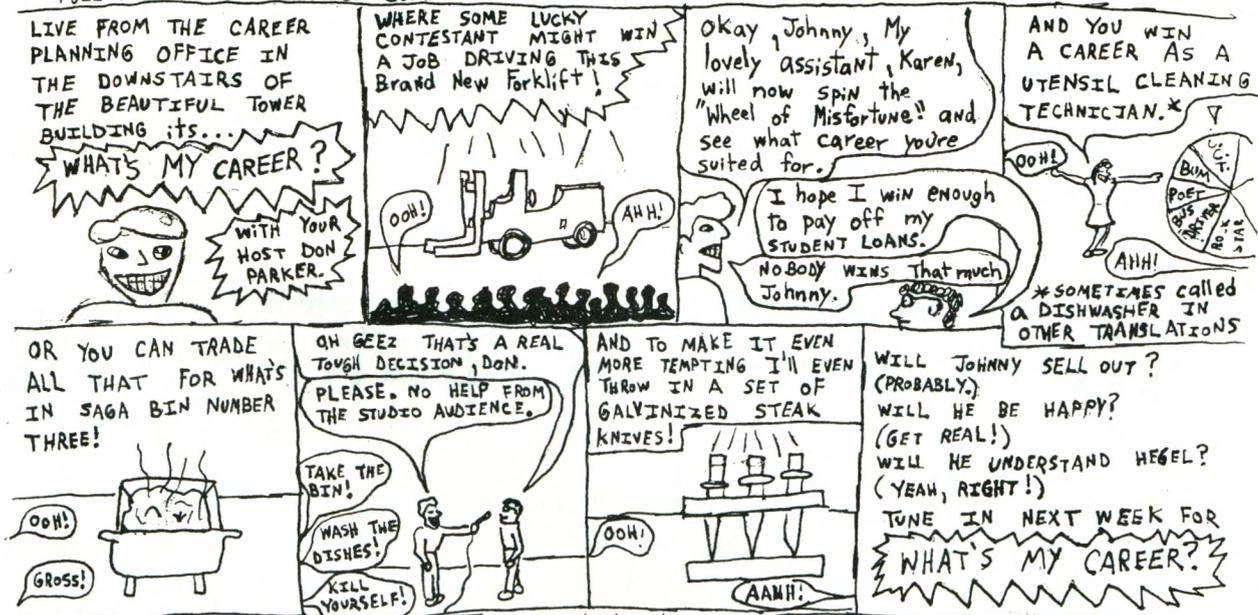
Present: Lila Kerns, Chair; Michelle Griest, Vice Chair; Josh Cohen, Treasurer; Simon Bone, Secretary; Steve Jablom; Crispian Smith; Angela Junk; Joanna Cooney; Cobalt Blue; Brooks Jones; A. Ritter; J. Huebert; Todd Fahrner.

First on the agenda: Todd Fahrner and me. We ask the Polity Council for a pledge of \$2000 toward the purchase of a modern Macintosh-based computing facility. This would include seven computers, with software, networked to a laser printer. The money would augment \$5000 the computer committee has that would otherwise go toward purchasing 286-based command-line machines and adding hard disk drives to the aging Tandy computers in ESL. Instead, we'd like to get Macs, which were preferred over MS-DOS machines by nearly nine to one in a recent campus survey. We'd like to buy them outright, to avoid the fiasco of the Annapolis computer society, which leased its machines. The motion for \$2000 is passed unanimously.

Next, Cobalt Blue wants money for microphones. We were just given a mixing board, which is very handy, but apparently there is some reluctance on the part of the Powers That Be to lend us their microphones to plug into it. Cobalt talked to Barbara Lewis and Jeff Morgan, but to little avail—they told him that they'd had mikes go missing in the past. So, Cobalt wants \$600 to go shopping for five microphones, five microphone stands, and a dolly. A dolly? Yes, a one-hundred-fifty-seven-dollar dolly. It can go up stairs! It slices! It dices! The secret is the extra large hopper... "We have an elevator," Brooks reminds Cobalt. After a couple seconds of contemplation, Cobalt rebuts that there are places on campus not served by the elevator, like the Thorpe Room. Brooks rebuts that he could build one, albeit without the stair-climbing ability, for much less than \$157. Time marches on, and we get to the core of the matter: is this worth talking about? We ask Cobalt to come back with a detailed proposal next week, and we table his arcane proposal, 10 in favor, Cobalt opposed, 1 abstaining.

It's J. Hübert's turn to want money. The junior-senior party is coming up, and the GI's are supplying beverages. J. reckons it's our duty to provide the food. As we worry about the possible Nebraska sensibilities of what exactly Ms. Hüèbert means by "food"—Vienna sausage? fruit cocktail? Chikin'-in-a-Biskit? runzas?—she tells us she wants a reasonable \$150 for it. Or to be precise, "one-fitty," if we take Lila's creative pronunciation as a guide. There aren't any sweeping philosophical ideas to debate within the scope of J.'s proposal, although there is self-interest—the underclassfolks don't like the idea as much as the members who will actually get to eat the food. Fortunately, the youths are outnumbered, and we give J. her money, 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstaining.

FULL MENTAL JACKET BY Cobalt Blue



DEDICATED TO Cobalt who is okay even for a schizophrenic.

# P A R E N T S

## Registration

Thursday and Friday 9 am-5 pm

in the Graduate Institute/Parent Program Office (tower building, rm 106)

Saturday 9:00-10:00

Late registration, Lobby, Peterson Student Center (building next to pond).

## Thursday 24 October

8:00-10:00 pm

Visit evening seminars

## Friday 25 October

Visit daytime classes

4:00-6:00 pm

President's Reception at the home of John and Catherine Agresto. Shuttle buses leave from Visitors' Parking circle starting at 3:45. (Do not take your car due to limited parking.) Your student is welcome to join you. An opportunity to talk with college administrators.

6:00 pm

Join Students for dinner in the Dining Hall (ground floor, Peterson). Our treat.

8:00 pm

Diana Halprin, viola

Peter Pesic, piano

Concert in the Great Hall (upstairs, Peterson)

## WIN A LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT AGRESTO!

### A CHANCE OF

The college has just started a newsletter for parents of undergraduates which will be published once every fall, spring, and summer. It needs a name.

The winning name will be announced at the Saturday brunch during Parents Weekend, October 26. Two suggestions so far, to get your brains working, are "In Loco Parentis" and "Parenthesis." Think of puns using conventional newspaper names, classical allusions, titles having to do with parents, let your imagination soar. A newsletter name I particularly like is the Women's Health Service newsletter

## Saturday 26 October

9:00-10:00 am

Late Registration (Peterson Lobby)

10:00 am -12:00 pm

Brunch-for parents, their students, tutors in the Great Hall (second floor, Peterson). Parent Child Look-alike contest, Who Came the Furthest Distance Contests

12:30-2:00 pm

Parent Seminars on Plato's *Republic* (Books VI and VII). Come ten minutes early to Peterson lobby for classroom locations. All students encouraged to join in!

2:00-3:00 pm

Meeting of parents who wish to start a Parent Association. Refreshments (Junior Common Room, second floor, Peterson)

6:00 pm

Take your student (and a friend or two?) out for a restaurant dinner. Reservations advisable

7:00 pm

Film Series Movie in the Great Hall (upstairs, Peterson)

9:00 pm

Waltz Party with the Santa Fe Little Big Band  
(gentle to the ears!)  
(Dining Hall, ground floor, Peterson)

## Sunday, 27 October

Free time with your student.

### JUST NAME THE PARENTS' NEWSLETTER!

#### A LIFETIME!

called "Hot Flash." Another clever local name is that restaurant called "SantaCafe." I hope you can come up with something equivalent. Parents have also been invited to join the contest.

Submit your entries in writing (remember to include your name and phone number) to the Graduate Institute/Parent Program Office by Friday, 25 October at 9:00 am.

# MR. THOMAS GOES TO WASHINGTON

STORY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

described Thomas as the most sensitive friend she had known during a time of personal crisis when she had been sexually harassed. Anecdotes abounded about Thomas' lack of tolerance for sexism or harassment in any form. Thomas pointed, too, at his record while working for the EEOC, where he staunchly urged the Justice Department to back the commission's sexual harassment guidelines before the Supreme Court. He had also taken strong retributive action whenever incidents of that nature appeared in his department, although there remained a questionable episode in which he apparently did not follow through with his own recommendation for firing a harassing employee, instead allowing the man to retire. Nonetheless, all who knew Thomas described him as a model of integrity and decency—all, that is, except Anita Hill.

But neither could Hill's testimony be dismissed. She, too, was described by all who had been her associates as having always been honest and conscientious. Her background was just as inspiring as Thomas'—both had overcome poverty and racism to rise to their current positions. Not once did she hesitate or contradict herself while giving her testimony, and she could fall back on the very persuasive argument that she had absolutely nothing to gain, and indeed much privacy to lose, were she fabricating her charges. Thomas and his backers did their best to portray her as the dupe of the political interest groups arrayed against him. Thomas speculated that "some interest groups" had produced Hill's story "specifically to destroy" him. Others questioned Hill's emotional stability, or implied that she was acting in revenge for her feeling of having been jilted by Thomas. John Doggett, an acquaintance of both Thomas and Hill, told the committee of a time when Hill had rebuffed him for "leading on women and then letting them down," when he had never expressed interest in her. Hill denied she had ever said anything, or even thought about Doggett in that way.

As Thomas rightly complained, he or anyone else is "incapable of proving the negative." Thus the case (the hearings had indeed become a trial despite the stated wishes of all participants) was reduced to a contest between the consistency and specificity of Hill's charges and the impassioned fervor of Thomas' denials. "I am not given to fantasy," she said. "This is not something I would have come forward with if I was not absolutely sure of what I was saying." Thomas' voice broke with emotion as he said, "This (process) is not American, it is Kafkaesque." Questions arose as to why Hill had followed him to the second job, why she had remained in contact (albeit distant) over the years; but some observers interpreted these as classic signs of the guilt and confusion of a victim of harassment.

Only on the process itself could all agree—something had gone very wrong. Hill had been tracked down by the staffers of staunch Senate opponents of Thomas' confirmation (among them Senator Edward Kennedy). They had found her by interviewing every person who had worked in contact with Thomas during his years at EEOC. Hill maintained she would never have come forward had she not been contacted, and indeed she had been reluctant to do so even then. She wanted her name withheld and for the matter to be investigated quietly. Later in the hearings it was revealed the one of the staffers had even told her that simply bringing her allegations to the attention of the Senate committee would cause Thomas to withdraw his nomination. However, the Senators felt that it would be unfair to take her charges into consideration

without giving Thomas a chance to face his accuser. Neither did the all-male committee display much enthusiasm, in either party, for examining the charges at all. On September 27 the committee voted 7 to 7 and sent the matter of the confirmation to the main floor without recommendation either way. Hours before the final vote was to come up there was still not indication that there would be any sort of delay to look into the charges. It was only because another staffer had leaked the FBI report on Hill's charges to the press and a national outcry was raised that Thomas was forced to call for a delay to defend himself, and the hearings began anew. Thomas decried the entire 105-day process as a "high-tech lynching for uppity blacks."

Thomas was finally confirmed on Tuesday October 15, by a vote of 52 to 48. The defection of a number of Southern Democrats proved as usual to be the difference. There was some talk of giving Thomas "the benefit of the doubt" or even confirming him to atone for the horrible process he had been through. In the end, though, it was nothing more than another show of partisanism. Although Thomas had said that the scars of the ordeal would be with him forever, he appeared with his wife at a press conference the day after the vote beaming and cheerfully calling for everyone to put the matter behind them. Hill expressed her hope that the result would not discourage other victims of harassment from coming forward and reporting their incidents. Womens' groups came away the most nervous, however; they wondered what the effect of this bitter ordeal would be on the opinions of a man who had claimed not to have "made up his mind" about certain pivotal womens' issues, including the right of women to have an abortion.

Sources: *Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Albuquerque Journal*.

## *Juniors, Seniors, and G.I.'s*

*Please Come*

*to a*

## **PRE-PRECEPT RECEPTION**

*This is an opportunity for Undergrads and G.I.'s to get to know one another before Preceptorials.*

*Thursday, October 24*

*After Seminar*

*Junior Commons Room*

**GOOD FOOD! GOOD DRINKS!  
CHARMING CONVERSATION!**

# NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

*Just Say No to the War on You*

AL DECKER '95?

*"Cut off their Heads."*

—William Bennett, Former Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

Politicians are always looking for a bandwagon to jump on, and they thank their lucky stars for THE WAR ON DRUGS. Our leaders have told us that a dirty and mysterious power has declared war on America. Ugly gangs of Latin immigrants run uncontrolled through the streets forcing crack on young girls. Mongolian hordes tripping on PCP are sweeping through the country raping and pillaging in search of their next fix. Whispers abound in dark alleyways of an unholy alliance between Fidel Castro, the Medellin coke cartel, and Ted Kennedy. To our relief, George Bush has chosen to follow the righteous footsteps of his predecessor and has declared a Holy Crusade to fight this menace. Unfortunately, the war on drugs has failed miserably.

William Burroughs said, "The greatest threat to this country is a fascist takeover through the war on drugs." Far-fetched hyperbole? Perhaps. But I am more likely to believe that than the foul insane bullshit President Bush belches out daily. New World Order? That was one of Hitler's slogans. Although a true democracy in America is still a pathetic dream, we still have one of the best constitutions and theoretical governments in the world, and the danger to our political system cannot be overstated in light of the prevailing winds of change.

Prohibition opened up America to organized crime, government corruption, and social unrest. The fact that the campaign to rid our

nation of drugs coincides with efforts to make abortion illegal, segregation legal, and the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution a memory is no coincidence. Former Drug Czar William Bennett, conjuring up images of Caligula, has proposed medieval punishments such as beheading drug traffickers. But all is fair in love and war, as a wonderful article posted on a door in Evans Science Laboratory reminds us. The headline reads, "U.S. Army Buried Alive Thousands of Iraqis," and details how the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division used plows mounted on tanks to break through 70 miles of Iraqi defensive trenches. Although the maneuver went against Army doctrine, Col. Anthony Moreno said, "For all I know, we could have killed thousands... What you saw was a bunch of buried trenches with peoples' arms and things sticking out of them... I'm not going to sacrifice the lives of my soldiers—it's not cost effective." Interestingly enough, reporters were banned from this attack.

Dr. Tom Vernon, Director of the Colorado State Department of Health, recently called for a debate on legalization. Ultimately, the only way to effectively deal with drug abuse is legalization, but a good first step would be to *decriminalize* recreational use. In 1976 the Netherlands decriminalized drugs so that users and small dealers are not subject to prosecution. Has that country been taken over by crazy heathens covered with track marks, slinking through the boulevards toting AK-47 assault weapons? Actually, marijuana use by teenagers has actually fallen by one-third, the Netherlands has the lowest esti-

mated number of hard drug addicts in Western Europe as well as the lowest proportion of AIDS patients who are addicts in the industrialized world.

Although the concept of decriminalization or legalization of drugs may be as threatening to some Americans as Saddam Hussein or homeless people, many decent citizens support this idea, such as writer and political pundit William F. Buckley (although he's still a repressed, conservative schmuck), economist Milton Friedman (University of Chicago Libertarian guru), and Wavy Gravy (1960's cultural icon who said, among other things, "Let's burn the White House, but let's build a Green House."). I've heard arguments against legalization such as, "Imagine if we had as many stoned drivers as we have drunk drivers," or "if drugs were legalized, shooting galleries and crack houses would spread all over the country." I propose that these scenarios are a reality in America.

Our society has to accept the fact that we will always have a certain number of drug users ranging from social drinkers and cigarette smokers to crack and heroin addicts. Interestingly enough, alcohol and tobacco are the deadliest drugs in America. According to Dr. Vernon, "Alcohol-related diseases kill 100,000 Americans nationwide and tobacco-related deaths account for 350,000 deaths, while [other] drug-related deaths account for only 10,000 deaths." Washington's crime and punishment mentality only exacerbates the problem, creating a violent and resistant criminal un-

*continued on page 10*

# A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Please do NOT remove any of the pianos from the classrooms or practice rooms in the Fine Arts Buildings. If you need one for use in the Student Center please let B & G know and they will move the Astin-Weight for you (kept in the Senior Common Room). The practice room pianos are needed by students and their practica. If there are any problems with these instruments or with the sound equipment please let me know at once.—Peter Pesic, Tutor

The next algebra test is scheduled for Saturday 2 November at 10:00 am in the dining hall. The test is required of all sophomores who have not passed, but open to freshmen as well. Copies of previous tests are available in my office or in the student polity files in the library. Don Cook will review old tests on Wednesday 30 October and Friday 1 November at 4:00 pm in SFH 106.

**Caveat Lector:** Three lines of a poem by tutor Jorge Aigla printed in the October issue of

*Crosswinds* were omitted by the editor. The omission was after the line "of conquest, brutality," and before "without hatred." The meaning of the poem without these three lines may be unclear to readers. Anyone who wants a copy of the complete poem should contact Jorge Aigla.

## Sign Language Class Still Open

"This is great! I'm psyched!" —Mel Keohohou. American Sign Language (ASL) is an authentic language with its own grammar, usage, evolution, and native speakers; it's not just English coded into signs. The ASL class being offered now on campus is a wonderful opportunity in at least three respects.

First, it's a chance to learn a gestural language which is beautiful, expressive, and fun to "speak"; it opens communication with a segment of the population you will no doubt come into contact with from time to time; and it's

useful to be able to talk to your friends without disturbing people studying or when there's too much noise to be heard.

Second, it is our good fortune to have as instructor Susun Slatky, a talented and delightful professional interpreter and sign language teacher with a master's degree from Gallaudet University. Finally, we are using state-of-the-art course materials which provide a total-immersion environment. This leads to a high degree of comfort with using the language; it actually gets into your body.

The class began October 15, but late joiners can be accommodated for a limited time with special catch-up sessions. If you want to join, or for more information, contact Dana Densmore right away.

Times: Tuesdays 6 - 7:30. Cost: \$5 per class. Course materials: Book and video \$40 which can be shared by participants.—Dana Densmore, Tutor

## JUST SAY NOTES

*continued from page 9*

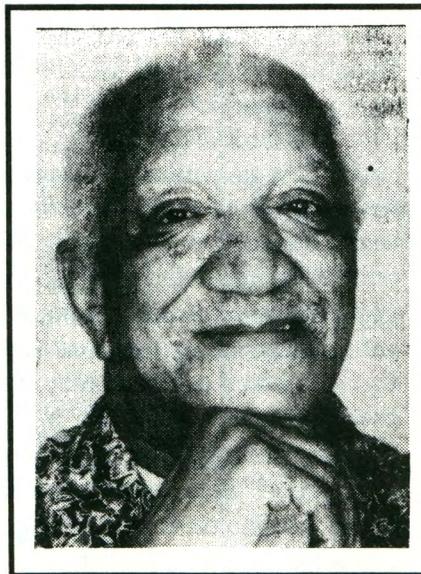
violent and resistant criminal underground, as well as contributing to the third highest prison population per capita in the world (behind South Africa and the Soviet Union, or perhaps we should say Russia and its neighbors). Legalization, although inconceivable with the current administration, would be an overwhelming success for several reasons: 1) The Columbian coke cartels, who have killed in the last decade a leading presidential candidate, 220 judges and court employees, two newspaper editors, a justice minister, an attorney general, and hundreds of soldiers and police officers, would be instantly out of business, as well as their American counterparts, 2) The 8 billion dollars a year used to fight drugs could be put to better use in education and treatment programs, 3) Drugs could be taxed, licensed, regulated, and unavailable to minors, generating millions of dollars for government usage, instead of the billions lost to illicit sales, 4) Our nation's political integrity would not suffer from a situation similar to

Prohibition, in which millions of dollars end up in our government representatives' pockets for selling out to crime, an especially important concern in light of our present government's totalitarian bend.

Washington's Holy Crusade is a shameful bipartisan political farce. Unfortunately, our politicians will not face reality and speak out against this ill-fated war because, as with the recent excursion in the Middle

East, the media and the opposition party will characterize them as dope fiends, anarchists, and card-carrying communists (or worse, card-carrying ACLU members). However, the War on Drugs has drawn fire from a few conservatives and liberals who recognize it as a farce and are willing to speak out, perhaps because our prisons are overflowing, the legal system has become unmanageable, and the crack plague has hit inner city dwellers so hard that some folks think of it as a form of genocide on America's permanent underclass. Legalization or decriminalization is the only realistic way we can save our country from the drug epidemic. Either option would help remove the illicit trade from criminals, lighten the corruption spreading through all levels in society, and perhaps put food in the hungry stomachs of Third World farmers, many of whom can't survive by growing anything else, thanks mainly to American agricultural policy.

*Res Ipsa Loquitur.*



*Redd Foxx, 1922-1991*

The story so far:

After a solid week of consistently grueling practices, those nefarious fiends of footballery, the St. John's College soccer team, embarked this weekend on yet another road trip/tournament. This time their destination was Colorado, their latest stop in their pursuit of victory and undying glory. John Kochendorfer '95 was quoted as saying, "I'm totally stoked for this tournament!" Tune in next week to see if this utterance was validated.

### SOLID, JACKSON, SOLID!

In the slanted world of tennis, Paul Deppler '95 and Jeremy Berlin '95 held another "unofficial" match, this time Deppler emerging triumphant 6-3. Berlin promptly released his shock, anger, and humiliation upon the unsuspecting Peter Rubenstein '95, former sports editor, archival, and sometime partner to the tune of 6-4, 6-3. Brutal, Juice!

For any and all interested, Mark St. John is currently organizing an SJC tennis tournament. See him in SAO for information and sign-ups or contact *The Moon*. This tournament is open to players of all skills, experience, and shoe size.

Near tragedy struck the basketball courts on the eve of October 18th. Aaron Fredrickson '95, in a heroic display of athleticism, wrenched his knee on a patch of loose gravel. After several hours at the hospital, he emerged with a pair of crutches and a sour expression. When asked how he felt, he responded, "I feel okay, but I'd feel a lot better if I had a Cherry Coke and some Choc-O-Diles." Any sympathy or production of the aforementioned delicacies would be greatly appreciated by Mr. Fredrickson.

To all baseball fans swirling in the pallid vacuum: the World Series is upon us! At 8:29 pm on Saturday October 19th, the Atlanta Braves will meet the Minnesota Twins in the cavernous, awful, Metrodome (some day *The Moon* hopes to write a page-long diatribe on the evils, ill effects, and various vices of dome stadiums with artificial turf on the ballplayers, the integrity of the game, and the already delicate economy of Malaysia. Until then, mind the grass). The Braves, after defeating the Pirates of Pittsburgh 4-3 in the National League Championship Series, will start the aging but solid Charlie Liebrandt in Game 1. Jack Morris, another rheumatic star, will go for the Twinkies, who cakewalked (no pun intended) over the hapless Blue Jays 4-1. Tune your radio, warm up your TV, or bail and hitch to Minnesota; this is one not to miss.

And so, until next time, *Viva le gato con cuesol*

## SOFTBALL UPDATE

by (the none-too-pleased) Michael Layne '95

On Wednesday, the 16th of October, the junior and freshman classes faced off in what was sure to be an exciting and memorable game. But once again, the freshman class showed their enthusiasm and dedication by turning up only four people for the game. One may ask what the big problem is in getting nine people out of a class of one hundred to play the traditional game of softball.

Anyway, enough juniors and other students turned out so that two full teams eventually got to play. Van Cunningham led his team of juniors to a commanding 17-4 win over the hapless freshman team of four and others. Dan Myers turned in a respectable performance as pitcher for the juniors with his wicked back-spin slow pitches. Myer's glory was not lessened by his confusion in one inning, when he was picked off between first and second base as he tried to liken himself to Rickey Henderson.

The big question now is if the freshman class can redeem themselves and turn out a full team for this weekend's doubleheader, to be played against the sophomore and senior classes. Based on their previous track record, though, it doesn't look good.

## POLITICAL UPHEAVAL AT THE MOON CONTINUES

by Jeremy Berlin '95

Hola! Greetings and all that from your newest sports editor. Peter Rubenstein crossed the line once too often, we're afraid. You'll not hear from him on this page again. He has been relegated to Layout, the proverbial Siberia of *The Moon*. I have taken over that position. I hope in due time you may come to love and respect me as much as you did the aforementioned sports ed. This would truly make my day. If not, well, suck on this (Mr. Berlin had better watch it, lest he soon share his predecessor's fate—ed).

A new part of this column that I hope to include in later issues is something like a Q&A section. If you have any questions, trivial or otherwise (these latter being preferred, actually), please write me (see box).. If I can't answer your question, well, serves you right. Until next time, *Viva le patria feo*.

## Q&A

Dear Jeremy, Who was Kareem Abdul Jabbar before his name change?—Extremely Confused

Dear Extremely Confused, He was the same person he is now, of course: John Agresto!—JB

# E P H E M E R A

## Tuesday 22 October

### 4 pm in the Moon Office in ESL

*Moon* meeting. Live entertainment and dancing. Well, not really, but lots of fun anyway. If you have any leads for some interesting stories, please come to this meeting, as *The Moon* wants to continue to entertain you. In fact, the *Moon* editor is almost sorry that the Israel/Palestine debate is over, because it was *The Moon's* only controversial issue this year. Said editor is even thinking of writing an article and saying lots of offensive, politically incorrect things she doesn't even believe just so that people will write angry articles and letters, a controversy will arise that will fester and increase, friendships will eventually be broken, some people will be made to think, some won't, but that's okay. (Every year this happens in *The Moon*, so what has the editor done wrong?) But alas, said editor doesn't have time, as she, a senior, is currently knee-deep in a puddle of Millikan drops and must wade her way out. So she can only throw out some ideas for potential controversies, with which the polity can do what they will: sexism on the St. John's Campus, the presidential rat race, the (no-) alcohol/party policy, the seminar list, AIDS, American policy in the Middle East, and so on. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject submissions.

### 8 pm in the Junior Common Room

Charles Bell's *Symbolic History Through Sight and Sound*:

20th Century: World Melt

## Wednesday 23 October

### 2:30-4:00 pm in the SCR

G.R.E Study Group. This session's focus: the verbal section.

## Thursday 24 October

### After Seminar in the JCR

Pre-precept Reception for juniors, seniors, and GI's.

## Friday 25 October

### 4:00-7:00 pm in the Upper Commons

Nabla, where the Great Conversation continues in a more casual setting. An opportunity for students and tutors to talk on and off the books.

### 5:00 pm

*Moon/Ephemera* Deadline. Not 5 pm Saturday or Sunday, but 5 pm Friday. Submissions after Friday night will incur a dirty look from the editor. Ephemera announcements submitted after Friday will be printed with the dates and times all wrong and the names misspelled.

### 8:00 pm in the Great Hall

Peter Pesic, pianist, will perform some of Mozart's earliest compositions: K. 1 and 3, written at age five, and the Sonata in G (K. 283), written at age 18, studied in the sophomore music tutorial. Mr. Pesic will also perform Beethoven's "Bagatelles" (Opus 126), Schönberg's "Six Little Pieces" (Opus 19), and Ravel's "Miroirs" (1905; five tone paintings).

## Saturday 26 October

### 4:00 pm in the Great Hall

*The Naked Eye*: a play written and directed by Cobalt Blue. Free admission, but donations will be cheerfully accepted.

7:00 pm in the Great Hall

*Arsenic and Old Lace*

## Sunday 27 October

### 9:00 pm

*The Naked Eye* by Cobalt Blue. If you miss the Saturday matinee performance, attend this one. Free admission.

Tuesday 29 October 1991

### 8:00 pm in the JCR

Charles Bell's *Symbolic History Through Sight and Sound*: NOW, Alpha (of Self), first of a triple show.

Note that the G.R.E. study group has been moved from 4 pm-5:15 pm to 2:30-4 pm on Wednesday afternoon (listed above). The group meets in the SCR. Contact Jenny Smith or Thomas Cogdell for details.

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