Silver elected new UA chair

College junior Michael Silver was elected to head the UA's executive board next year.

By Alexandra Minkovich

Senior Reporter

During yesterday afternoon's Speakeasy open-mic event held outdoors, College sophomore and event host Tahneer Oksman, center, reads selected poems. Normally held bi-weekly at Kelty Writers House, Speakeasy gives Penn students an opportunity to read their best poetry and prose. See page 7

Poetry, prose and anything goes

By Eric Tucker

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Polic Sci Dept. lands two new faculty hirings

Princeton's John Dilulio and Stanford's Jerome Maddox will begin teaching American Politics courses in the fall.

"He qualifies as a public intellectual," Preston explained. "He is somebody who publishes in scholarly outlets but also publishes in more accessible outlets."

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Student assaulted in Vance

A Wharton graduate student was assaulted Tuesday morning in Vance Hall by an unknown man.

By Laura McClure

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Rescorla wins award as teaching prof in SAS

By Eric Tucker

Psychology Professor Robert Rescorla has been named this year's Psychology Department Chair.

"I was surprised. When I was dean, I couldn't be more excited about what he brings to Penn," Silver said.

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Alcohol ban not lifted for Spring Fling

The provost-appointed alcohol task force chose not to create special rules for the upcoming Fling weekend.

By Catherine Lacey

The Daily Pennsylvanian

LCE, police gear up for weekend

University Police Chief Maureen Rush said the University's alcohol policies will be strictly enforced this weekend.

By Laura McClure

The Daily Pennsylvanian

POLITICAL, page 4

RESCORLA, page 2

FLING, page 7

See POLITICAL, page 4

See RESCORLA, page 2

See FLING, page 7
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Our success is dependent on the willingness of individuals and families coping with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder to join our study.

We’re Gridlocked Without Your Help!
ASHKENAZI JEWISH FAMILIES
are needed to participate in an important research study to understand the biological causes of Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder

Environmental and genetic factors are believed to play a role in these disorders. There is no evidence that schizophrenia and bipolar disorder occur more frequently among the Jewish population. However, Ashkenazi Jewish families provide unique opportunities for genetic studies because they have evolved from a limited number of ancestors and tend to marry within their faith. It is our hope that with a clearer understanding of the biological basis of these illnesses, new medications will be developed, preventive measures will be identified, and the stigma associated with mental disorders will be eliminated.

We are Gridlocked Without Your Help. Can you help?

1. If schizophrenia or bipolar disorder occurs in your family, you can help us turn the corner by calling us today to volunteer.

2. Please help us get the word out. It is critical that you telephone, fax, or email Ashkenazi Jewish relatives or friends who may be eligible for this study.

Participation involves: confidential interview, blood sample, no travel.

TOLL FREE 1-888-289-4095 EMAIL: gallrich@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu

By Jeffrey Joseph
The Daily (Montgomery

The annual Penn Relays weekend consists of several activities that will feature the teams: Relays, Big Ten runs and one of the most popular events on the track is the famous Hop, Skip, & Jump event of the year.

For the fifth year in a row the Biology Planning and Services Center of the Biology Interface Program at Penn Relays, an international track and field meet, has been the scene of thousands of people to the University over the weekend of April 13-15.

Last year, SPEC-TRUM brought together nearly 5,000 students to design the Relays event and provided over 100 men and women's record marks. Though she said that the acts

David Barndoff took the stage, the audience applauded in anticipation of the preliminary event of the night. Barndoff, a senior in psychology, announced, "I'd like to thank all the people who came out tonight. And also to thank all the people who came out to vote."

A screen dropped from the side of the stage and comedian Bob Saget's face appeared, marring at the size of the audience to reference his work in the sitcom Full House. Saget joked that Michelle, DJ and Stephanie make his life perfect.

Barndoff said that Mark and West want to get a national relief effort started because the group was unable to "see five people to show them a tape of fun," even though they were filming during the spring break. Barndoff then introduced the group who was on the show, 117 Mark and West...

... and the stigma associated with mental disorders will be eliminated.

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Ann E. Polich, S.D., Principal Investigator

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Stirrer Undergraduate Lounge
Lunch - 12 noon - 1:30 pm
Stirrer Undergraduate Lounge
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RESBCLLA from page 1

... and kind. Although our gratitude for SWIM, Riflery, Wood Sports, Tennis or Shop, Ropes Course, or Fiddler on the Roof is registered this year, it is still "very excited about the choices that we have."

Even so, Bullock said, "We're real-

ly pleased with the choices that we availability right now..."

Julian Peden, the 1999 student president and part of the founding team of the Inquirer, said, "I was surprised. When I was dean, I

thought about giving (awards] to my students..."

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Non-alcoholic events planned for Fling.

**TASK FORCE from page 1**

would not be served by creating a policy for just this weekend," he said, adding that any new policy "that was well thought out would not be effective immediately."

Limerick also plans to publish a book with the same title as her speech. In her speech, Limerick cited an example of a power plant built in the 1860s in Palatine, Colo., which was named Fort St. Vrain after clear plant employees or people who worked there.

And although the alcohol ban will be to place over Fling, committee members stressed that students can attend a wide array of University-sponsored events to have a fun and safe weekend.

Other events now planned for the weekend—sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Student Affairs—include a musical performance by The Daily Pennsylvanian in association with the University of Colorado's Theatre Initiative, which will be at Cherpak Lounge, Middletown; Celebration of the Japanese Teen," a lecture and discussion, led by published writers, the Ethical Society and the Episcopal tradition of faith to experience spiritual growth; and an Inspiring Group meeting, which was named Fort St Vrain after clear plant employees or people who worked there.

But the committee's main focus has been on increasing non-alcoholic programming last week, including a series of case studies, which Limerick made her argument usefully supported by students and the campus community. Whether or not the committee's resolution on the issue is approved by the Student Senate, the committee will carry on its fight against the alcohol ban on campus.

Limerick attributes the western image of the frontier to the exploitation of people and the conquest of territory, as opposed to the exploitation of land and the development of the American West to the overwhelming abundance of people who wanted to experience the West. She denied the so-called "frontier spirit" and the "frontier mentality." There is nothing more flattering than alcoholism and drug addiction, and there is less truth to the idea of a "clear conscience," she said.

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Silver, Robinson elected to top UA posts

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Hats Off To The Class Of '99!

The Graduation Goodbyes section of the DP comes out only once a year — just so you can give your friends a proper farewell with Make sure your group is part of this keepsake edition, full of congratulations from parents, professors, and group members. It will be distributed on May 14th and at Commencement on May 17th. There are several ad sizes available, starting at just $75. Deadline for submission is April 28th at 3 p.m.

To place an ad, stop by The Daily Pennsylvanian office at 4015 Walnut St. weekdays from 9 to 5 or CALL the DP at 896-6581 or FAX at 896-2050.

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The Daily Pennsylvanian's Graduation Goodbyes
**Scholar talks Mideast peace**

By Gilbert Stecklow

Though the Middle East peace process has been thrust into the me-dia spotlight, its inner workings were illuminated by a mystery, according to David Luchins, a senior advisor to the University of Pennsylvania's (U.Penn) and professor of Political Science of Wharton School of Commerce and Commerce.

In a speech entitled "Shifting World: The United States, the Israelis, and the Palestinians," Luchins told an audience of Penn students Tuesday night that "things aren't, in general, always, what they appear to be.

Citing the pre-Shabaan strike taken up by the U.S. government as a royalty in September of this year, Luchins described American aid to Israel as "the largest voluntary transfer of wealth on the planet."

"Perhaps it's very possible, for example, that the short-haired black man in his 20s, who arrived almost 10 minutes after the police chief said he was 911 on campus, is looking for the man who seemed to be an lone resident of his home," Luchins said.

"If the incident as a simple assault and we still aren't aware whether the suspect is a student, the suspect asked that all officers leave the area," the police chief said.

Police said the suspect entered the campus building through a secured lobby door. According to Wharton officials, the building is not currently open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Wharton Vice Dean Bruce Allen released a statement late last night saying the University has freed the suspect on all charges because it is the date of the incident.

**CLASS OF 1999**

**Questions about Commencement?**

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Four years spent learning nothing

L

iterates are located set aside in a specific way. This is because they are a part of the curricular framework, and the idea behind them is that they provide a broad foundation for further study. However, it is important to note that the specific courses that make up the curriculum may vary from institution to institution. The courses listed below are not exhaustive and are provided as an example of some of the types of courses that may be included in a liberal arts curriculum.

1. **Fundamentals of Biology**
   - Description: This course provides an introductory overview of the fundamental concepts of biology, including cellular biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology.
   - Credit: 4
   - Requirements: None

2. **Introduction to Psychology**
   - Description: This course introduces students to the major theories and research methods in psychology, with a focus on understanding the nature of human behavior.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

3. **World History**
   - Description: This course provides a comprehensive overview of world history, covering the major events and trends that have shaped human society.
   - Credit: 4
   - Requirements: None

4. **Introduction to Economics**
   - Description: This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of economics, including supply and demand, market structures, and macroeconomic analysis.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

5. **Composition and Rhetoric**
   - Description: This course focuses on the principles of effective writing, including the process of composing, revising, and editing text.
   - Credit: 4
   - Requirements: None

6. **Introduction to Computer Science**
   - Description: This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of computer science, including programming languages and algorithmic concepts.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

7. **Introduction to Philosophy**
   - Description: This course introduces students to the major philosophical traditions, including ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

8. **Introduction to Music History**
   - Description: This course provides a comprehensive overview of the history of Western music, including major composers and musical traditions.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

9. **Introduction to Art History**
   - Description: This course introduces students to the major art movements and styles, including Renaissance, Baroque, and Modernist traditions.
   - Credit: 3
   - Requirements: None

10. **Introduction to Social Justice**
    - Description: This course explores the role of social justice in contemporary society, including issues of race, gender, and inequality.
    - Credit: 3
    - Requirements: None

These courses are designed to provide a broad foundation for further study in a variety of disciplines, and they are typically required for all students in a liberal arts curriculum. The specific courses that make up the curriculum may vary from institution to institution. The courses listed above are not exhaustive and are provided as an example of some of the types of courses that may be included in a liberal arts curriculum.
Alcohol rules to be enforced during Fling

The provost-appointed task force on alcohol policy has made a decision that will affect the behavior of some students at Penn's annual party weekend. The group, headed by Provost Claude Newmann, will enforce new alcohol rules at Spring Fling in an effort to reduce alcohol-related incidents on campus.

In an email to students, Newmann outlined the changes, saying that they are in response to concerns raised by the task force. The new rules include a ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages at the event, and a requirement that all vendors obtain a license from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

The new rules also prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors, and require that all vendors be licensed by the state. Additionally, the event will be held in a designated area, and no alcohol will be allowed in the surrounding areas.

Newmann said that the changes are necessary to ensure the safety of the students attending the event. "We believe that these changes will help to reduce alcohol-related incidents on campus," he said.

The new rules will go into effect immediately, and will remain in place for the duration of the event. Students who violate the new rules will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion.

The provost-appointed task force on alcohol policy was created last year in response to concerns raised by the Student Government Association. The group has been working to develop new alcohol policies that will be in place for the duration of the event.

The new rules were approved by the task force last week, and will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. The board is expected to vote on the new rules next month.

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Officials signal bombing could last into summer.

WASHINGTON — NATO's air campaign in Yugoslavia could stretch into the summer, U.S. officials suggested yesterday as the first Apache attack helicopters began arriving in Albania as part of a major buildup of forces.

A Pentagon spokesman, who declined to identify the administration officials, said closed-door meetings with congressional officials, have signaled NATO is poised to continue the air campaign for several weeks longer, possibly into midsummer if Serb forces continue fighting ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

That would make it the longest conflict the United States has been involved in since the six-week Gulf War in 1991.

Pentagon rejects major shipbuilding merger.

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon yesterday rejected a merger between two defense giants General Dynamics Corp. and Newport News Shipbuilding to create a single shipbuilder for all nuclear submarines.

The proposed $3 billion deal also would have reduced competition in other sectors of military shipbuilding and any cost savings to the Navy would not justify the loss of competition, Defense Secretary William Cohen said in a statement.

It's that time of year again: Tax day is upon us.

WASHINGTON — For millions of tax payers, today marks a major milestone: the deadline to file income tax returns.

Hundreds of larger post offices around the country will be open late today to accommodate the crush, many of the biggest on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service.

Ethnic Albanian children from Kosovo race around the Pristina camp near Skagge, Macedonia, holding up two fingers in a sign of peace, crying "Joe," and holding signs that say "Thank you NATO" in response to the troops who were leaving yesterday. The refugee camps are being turned over to the Macedonian government.

Serbian-Orthodox churches in several cities have received letters urging retaliation for the airstrikes.

FBI warns of possible Serb terrorist attacks within the U.S.

Washington, D.C. — The FBI has warned the U.S. military to be alert for possible Serb-led terrorist attacks inside the United States after several threats were recently made against American soldiers, according to a memo obtained by the Associated Press.

The FBI counterterrorism division has urged military bases and other areas to remain alert. The agency said it was not aware of any specific threats.

The FBI said it had not received any specific threats from Serbian officials.

On April 9, the FBI issued an alert to military bases and other areas to remain alert. The agency said it was not aware of any specific threats.

A plan proposed by the Europeans is to bring peace to Kosovo, Germany and France are pushing for a deal that would end the six-week-old NATO-led war.

The leaders stressed "it is now up to the international community to fully accept the international demands and begin immediately with their implemenation," Schroeder said.

The US and the allies, however, say they will not accept a peace plan that does not include military action to disarm Serb forces.

NATO prepares to use military force.

WASHINGTON — NATO yesterday said it was prepared to use military force against Serbia if the country does not accept a peace plan proposed by Germany.

"The air war continues," the spokesperson for the allies said.

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While criticizing act, Starr defends own actions

Kenneth Starr said the Independent Counsel Act should be abolished but that he didn't abuse power.

WASHINGTON — Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr rebutted allegations that he abused his office as "completely false," adding that no investigation revealed any substantive violation of the law that empowered him to investigate President Clinton. While admitting that he 

"I think there are many ways in which I do not search my memory and concussions and could have done something in the way of better preparation," he said.

Starr testified at a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday to present his case for the reappointment of the former Indiana senator to the position. His GOP presidential campaign, declared his candidacy yesterday by him, is focused on rebuilding American values and criticizing his opponent. Meanwhile, Vice President Dan Quayle, trying to refurbish his image and jump-start his lagging campaign, defended his own actions while criticizing Starr.

"I am completely shut down. I will not today, or any day, ever, ever be involved in this independent counsel business," he told senators. "I don't think I did enough.

"People in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, who had written for the appointment for the independent counsel, asked me when Starr sent his testimony calling for abolition of the Independent Counsel Act.

"If you live long enough, you'll experience everything. I've experienced that with the House and the Senate. Jefferson said that and I think it's true," he said. "If you live long enough, you'll experience everything. I've experienced that with the House and the Senate. Jefferson said that and I think it's true."
After serving as Penn's main ball carrier, Finn must learn a new position for NFL
Nothing goes right for W. Lax vs. Rutgers

W. LACROSSE from page 16

No win, only two players — Traci Brubaker and Jan Brubaker — added to the board last night.

Marlboro's goal came 2:3 into the game, tying the score at one. At that point, it seemed like the Quakers had a shot at pulling off the upset, but the comeback was short-lived. The offense couldn't get it together. In fact, Rutgers would score nine times before Penn could add to its tally. "Our defense couldn't get it together," said Leisman. "We didn't do it for any reason; we just got outplayed."

Blown lead

The Scarlet Knights took control of the game, tying the score at one. At that point, it seemed like the Quakers had found some flow of their own. "I don't think that's really reflective of how I played," the sophomore said. "I just need to realize that in the way I play in the game, disappointed by both the out-

The Scarlet Knights scored nine times before Penn could add to its tally. "Our defense couldn't get it together," said Leisman. "We didn't do it for any reason; we just got outplayed."

The DP could use your writing skills.

Be a reporter!

Showdown nears for W. Tennis

W. TENNIS from page 16

matchups, "and passer tratamiento Premtrac®. Premtrac® No. 1 single player. We can't expect the crowd to be with us and we are not going to have the whole team there for support. But we are mentally strong and sort of on a roll right now. We just have to do the same things we have been to pre-

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A frank discussion with the Admissions Experts from University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine Cornell University Medical College Temple University School of Medicine Formal presentations on the admissions process will be followed by a question and answer period.

Monday, April 19, 1999

4:00 pm Program designed primarily for Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Students at the Veranda, 3615 Locust Walk

7:00 pm Program designed primarily for undergraduate premedical students at Sitterle Hall, Room 86

Students with schedule conflicts are welcome to attend either program.

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One of the top matches on Saturday will feature Penn's Andrew Girardin and Cornell's Greg Cipolaro in the 800 meters. Girardin, the indoor Hepattern champ in the 800, has consistently beaten Cipolaro in the 800 meters. Cipolaro, the indoor Heptagonals champ in the 1600, has consistently beaten Girardin. But Girardin's time last weekend (1:53.5) was 9.69 better than Cipolaro's.

"It's a good, tough race," Girardin said. "He said, 'Greg has a faster personal best (1:53.69) but I'll probably be something like this every time.'

Quakers' bats fall silent, recording no hits after the fifth inning. The Quakers were not done yet. Another multi-run inning for Penn, the Quakers scored three runs in the eighth, tying the game up at six apiece. With Gregg Mellott in to pitch for the Dragons in the top of the fifth, giving the game away. The Dragons did not score for the rest of the game.

But last summer, the Big Red and Quakers were running neck in neck. "A lot of the rivalries that were kind of snarling around from Penn last year, will jump against current members. We need to have a big year," Wreh said. "We need to be competitive this year."

But the home plate umpire called the runner out in the bottom of the fifth, giving the game back to the Dragons. After a walk to Jeff Tornabene, who came in to pitch the sixth inning, the Quakers tied the game up at six apiece. Anthony Napolitano walked and Farscht batted into a fielder's choice, allowing a run to score. After a walk to Jeff Tornabene, who came in to pitch the sixth inning, the Quakers tied the game up at six apiece. Anthony Napolitano walked and Farscht batted into a fielder's choice, allowing a run to score. But the home plate umpire called the runner out in the bottom of the fifth, giving the game back to the Dragons. After a walk to Jeff Tornabene, who came in to pitch the sixth inning, the Quakers tied the game up at six apiece. Anthony Napolitano walked and Farscht batted into a fielder's choice, allowing a run to score.

WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE: The emphasis has been on having athletes push themselves to be better, said Wreh. "We've been working hard throughout the year. The department of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics (RIAA) has been working hard throughout the year. The department of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics (RIAA) has been working hard throughout the year."

Penn's athlete-employees are on the honor roll for spring 1999. The Penn women's swimming and diving team wore pink ribbons on their warm-up suits to show their support of breast cancer awareness.

"We want to beat them because we know them," he said.
By Nicole Nordlicht

The Daily Pennsylvanian

After several consecutive races against rowing powerhouse, including Northeastern and Syracuse, the Quakers face less threatening competition this weekend. Assistant coaches Cornog and Cornell are in New Brunswick, N.J. this Saturday.

The three crew that will race off on the Harriton River are all of similar ability levels. In this week’s Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges, Penn was ranked third in the lightweight men’s and Penn and Cornell were No. 13 and 14, respectively. Assistant coaches Cornog and Cornell are both at the races this weekend.

The Quakers bring a mixed assortment of varsity and novice rowers. This is an important practice weekend for Penn as it will have the opportunity to win,“ Penn coach Barbara Cornog said. "We have a lot of young rowers who have not been competing at this level before."

This week’s practices have been very aggressive," Magg said. "We’ve been pushing ourselves harder than we have in the past few weeks. Last weekend, the varsity eight lost to Princeton by 11 seconds. On April 1, Princeton won the Dartmouth battle with a margin of 36 seconds."

The Quakers’ next opponent is MIT. "We don’t know much about them except that they are very good," Magg said. "They are a young crew, and we have a lot of young rowers."

Penn’s second varsity eight is also happy with the way it has been rowing, say, with good reason — the crew is undefeated this season."

For Jerome, the three-seat race against the Tigers is a very important event. She attributes her team’s success to "hard work and belief that we can win," she said. "We work really hard and believe that we can win." This weekend, Jerome has been pushed into the number two seat. "I don’t think it will make much difference," she said. "We’re going to try and make the best of all the positions that we have to offer."
Indians' Recker decides to transfer

PHILADELPHIA -- The Philadelphia Phillies have not announced when they will make a decision on whether to keep right-handed pitcher Luke Recker or trade him before Monday's midnight deadline.

Recker, 21, was the Phillies' second-round draft pick last season and has a 1.98 earned run average (ERA) at Double-A Reading. He was named the Eastern League's pitcher of the month for April.

Recker has been on the disabled list since May 3 with a right middle finger injury sustained in a game at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He has made one start at Triple-A and one start at Double-A in 1999.

Adrian Fichthorn, the Phillies' vice president of player personnel, said yesterday that the club is "investigating a lot of different directions" for Recker.

"He earned the right to keep stretching on theDisabled List," Fichthorn said. "We were being very careful with our 21-year-old right-hander. People said we were being too cautious, and now we are trying to find out if Luke is healthy enough to get back on the mound."

The Phillies have announced that Recker will begin a rehabilitation assignment at Double-A Reading today but have yet to determine his timetable for returning to the majors.

Fichthorn said the club was in the process of confirming Recker's status with a rain delay expected today.

The Phillies had been expecting to see Recker at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre or Double-A Reading this season, but he was not called up last season.

"It was a tough decision last year, and I think that it was a good decision," said Fichthorn, who was the club's scouting director from 1990 until 1995. "You always want to be sure when you're working with a young player that he's healthy before he makes the next step.

"We are very anxious to see what Luke can do at Double-A. We think he has the ability to be our No. 1 starter, and we need to see how he does against Triple-A."
The Pennsylvania Daily

INSIDE

The Penn men's track team travels to Cornell to face the Big Red, and a former Quakers teammate, in an important dual meet Saturday.

Page 13

SPORTS

TOMORROW

After dominating Dartmouth, the Penn men's lacrosse team will look to pick up another Ivy League victory by traveling to Brown on Saturday.

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Penn running back and 1998 Bushnell Cup winner Jim Finn hopes to be an NFL fullback.

By Marc Chodock

In a few days, what once was a childhood dream will come true for senior safety Jim Finn. Finn joined the University of Pennsylvania football team, making the cut during the tryouts. Now in his final weeks at Penn, Finn seems to have made it to the next level — the NFL.

"I always loved being around my close friends that I wanted to play fullback in the NFL. It's what I desired. I never dreamed of being a kick returner. I didn't think I was fast enough," Finn said.

In the second round of legend rushers and an Ivy League Championship, Princeton defeated the Bushnell Cup as the best player in the Ivy League. With one quest still unfinished, Finn will travel to New York this weekend with the hope of being selected in the National Football League Draft.

"It's looking like an obvious situation. Third down, short yardage, running back. Finn opted to move to the other side of the ball so he could return kicks twice that day. After a stellar sophomore year at cornerback, Finn made the move and the Quakers went 1-0.

A few games and a couple injuries into the 1997 season, however, the Quakers were in desperate need of a running back. Thus a junior. Finn states the show and finished the season with 100 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns, earning All-Ivy honors.

"This past season, the senior running back led the Ivy League in carries and yards in a season. He was an integral part of the offense, "receiving 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns. We put the ball in his hands 35 time. A great choice to make, and the success has come right now."

Along with the awards and records have come the attention — from media, fans and, of course, the Ivy League.

"I am really excited," Finn said. "I am just trying to get to the next level."

Finn's performance has not gone unnoticed. Unfortunately for Finn, coming from the Ivy League could hurt his outcome on Draft Day. "People in the NFL will down grade his achievements," said Allen Herman, Finn's father. "They normally look to downgrade a player that has played in the Ivy League because of the level of competition."

But despite the slight prejudice, Finn has other options. Several Ivy League players in recent years — the NFL.

"The Quakers return to Bethpage, N.Y., where they won last year's title.

"I think it's going to be tough, given that God has already brought us here," said Finn. "We need to perform up to our expectations to get to the next level."

Once again, spring training and defensive lapses did in the Quakers as Dartmouth (11-17) took the 20% performance from designated hitter Matt Neiber.

The Quakers (6-23), however, had the fair share of opportunities in the early innings. Dartmouth starter Mark Horgan got Penn catcher Jeff Gregory out on a bloop single to center, but Dan Boldt loaded the bases. Horgan then struck out Quakers shortstop Chris Horgan, who came into the game leading Pennsylvania with a .434 batting average and ten runs.

"We have yet to perform up to our standards this semester. Princeton, Cornell in this week's IWLCA polls.

"But Harvard is still the team to beat in the Ivy League. Their ability from the Ivy League because of their experience," said the Bushnell Cup. "They normally look to downgrade a player that has played in the Ivy League because of the level of competition."

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Shadow of a Man
The Odyssey of Yusef Kassim

inside — Chatting with a clown • Placebo on stage in D.C. • Penn Relays vs. Fling
He's not worth it

Mary Harris

My boyfriend and I were walking down Walnut Street when we heard a door slam. I glanced across the street to a quiet-looking fraternity house, where a couple seemed to have just left a party. I wouldn't have given them a second glance— if the man hadn't started hitting his cowered-looking mate.

My boyfriend and I stopped and stared, jaws slack. This doesn't happen here. Does it? The arguing couple could have looked across the way and seen us at any point since the street was empty, but the woman was too busy holding herself up protectively, and her companion was too busy tromping across the front porch to slap her some more. Then:

"We have to do something," I said. "Where's a blue light when you need one?"

I decided to sprint to 40th Street, remembering that there was usually a bored-looking Spectacguard surveying the area each night. I found one, a round-ish woman who listened to my breathless explanations and calmly repeated them into her radio, before walking back to the scene with me.

Two bike cops appeared out of nowhere, looking ready for a Grand Prix race. Then there were two more guards on foot. Then, a police car. The 40th Street guard told me to wait, out of sight, while the police talked to the couple—my boyfriend and I might have to be witnesses. But a few minutes later, she was shaking her head and sending us on our way.

"That was wrong, right?" I asked my boyfriend as we crossed the street, headed to his apartment. I was hoping my feminist mindset hadn't gotten the best of me. Maybe I should have minded my own business. He was hitting her, right?"

"Yeah, Mary," he sighed. "That was definitely wrong."

He looked across the street, at the girl who was, just minutes before, waiting for a new blow to fall.

"It's not worth it," he yelled.

I feel guilty telling this story. In a lot of ways, it's not my story to tell: I was just an observer. But I guess you could say that I'm letting my feminist mindset get the best of me. This past week, our campus held its annual Take Back the Night rally. I've taken part in a number of Take Back the Night rallies, but none of them meant anything to me until now; Take Back the Night was just another hoop that young feminists jumped through to prove that they really were legitimate members of the Girl Power generation.

Sometime during the planning of a rally, each Take Back the Night organizer faces a critical question: whether or not to include men. I've been to marches where men were forced to march at the back of the pack (a little too reminiscent of Alabama bus segregation in my opinion). Another rally advertised itself as a "safe, man-free environment" (which begs the question of when men became unsafe). This time around, Penn decided to let men participate in the "speakout," the pre-rally event where survivors of sexual violence discuss their experiences and participate in the march itself.

Normally, I'd decry this exclusion of men. But this year, I saw domestic violence rear its head—on the porch of a frat house, of all places. I've realized that, for all our academic achievement, Penn women have a long way to go before we raise any sort of equal rights victory cry. (In fact, during this year's march, eggs were thrown on to marchers from a High Rise apartment.) Perhaps we Penn women need a single-sex environment like Take Back the Night in order to strengthen our voices, so that maybe one day those voices will be strong enough to say "no" and "stop" and "I'm pressing charges." I am still uncomfortable with the anti-man war cries that typify Take Back the Night marches, mantras like "Yes means fuck me, no means fuck off:" they're unproductive and make feminists seem mean and angry rather than supportive. And I don't believe that men who want to participate are doing so to be patronizing (this year, one graduate student said, "I don't need you [men] to be there. OK? I don't need you to hold my hand"

I think that we should all be comforting each other—men and women, together. But until Penn is an environment of true mutual respect, perhaps we women need to concentrate on helping each other.

from the editor

In the unspoken world of social etiquettes, there are rules and there are rules.

The "cutest boy in the room" law mandates that said gentlemen is deserving of affection only when compared to those who share the same space. Take him to a room full of great looking boys and your attraction for him may drop exponentially.

And, of course, there is the "spoon" rule: There is always one person in a room who deserves to be bludgeoned to death with a spoon. The woman who tapers her food during the entire opera performance. The man who whines incessantly about the basketball score from three days ago.

The girl who insists on skim milk at a coffee shop.

I'm not saying these girls are bad people. Hey, maybe Half and Half is a little too creamy. And maybe two percent just doesn't cut it. But specifically asking a hustled employee for skim milk (read: white water) at a crowded coffee bar usually indicates, dare I say, attitude.

Therefore, I applaud the efforts of my two friends who have taken the higher ground. As former coffee shop employees, they purposely gave those skim milk junkies a healthy dose of whole milk in their cappuccinos. Two cheers for stickin' it to the Man.

Admittedly, during my years as a waitress, I too have opted to serve the fat-conscious people fat-filled hot fudge rather than the nonstated alternative, fat-free hot fudge. Perhaps it's our own silent rebellion against the ridiculous consumer or a denial of our own body issues, but the rule of "fat only" is specifically asking for a hasked employee or a denial of our own body water) at a crowded coffee bar usually indicates, perhaps we women need a single-sex environment like Take Back the Night in order to give us the best of me. Maybe I should have minded my own business. He was hitting her, right?"

"Yeah, Mary," he sighed. "That was definitely wrong."

He looked across the street, at the girl who was, just minutes before, waiting for a new blow to fall.

"It's not worth it," he yelled.

I feel guilty telling this story. In a lot of ways, it's not my story to tell: I was just an observer. But I guess you could say that I'm letting my feminist mindset get the best of me. This past week, our campus held its annual Take Back the Night rally. I've taken part in a number of Take Back the Night rallies, but none of them meant anything to me until now; Take Back the Night was just another hoop that young feminists jumped through to prove that they really were legitimate members of the Girl Power generation.

Sometime during the planning of a rally, each Take Back the Night organizer faces a critical question: whether or not to include men. I've been to marches where men were forced to march at the back of the pack (a little too reminiscent of Alabama bus segregation, in my opinion). Another rally advertised itself as a "safe, man-free environment" (which begs the question of when men became unsafe). This time around, Penn decided to let men participate in the "speakout," the pre-rally event where survivors of sexual violence discuss their experiences and participate in the march itself.

Normally, I'd decry this exclusion of men. But this year, I saw domestic violence rear its head—on the porch of a frat house, of all places. I've realized that, for all our academic achievement, Penn women have a long way to go before we raise any sort of equal rights victory cry. (In fact, during this year's march, eggs were thrown on to marchers from a High Rise apartment.) Perhaps we Penn women need a single-sex environment like Take Back the Night in order to strengthen our voices, so that maybe one day those voices will be strong enough to say "no" and "stop" and "I'm pressing charges." I am still uncomfortable with the anti-man war cries that typify Take Back the Night marches, mantras like "Yes means fuck me, no means fuck off:" they're unproductive and make feminists seem mean and angry rather than supportive. And I don't believe that men who want to participate are doing so to be patronizing (this year, one graduate student said, "I don't need you [men] to be there. OK? I don't need you to hold my hand"

I think that we should all be comforting each other—men and women, together. But until Penn is an environment of true mutual respect, perhaps we women need to concentrate on helping each other.

from the editor

In the unspoken world of social etiquettes, there are rules and there are rules.

The "cutest boy in the room" law mandates that said gentlemen is deserving of affection only when compared to those who share the same space. Take him to a room full of great looking boys and your attraction for him may drop exponentially.

And, of course, there is the "spoon" rule: There is always one person in a room who deserves to be bludgeoned to death with a spoon. The woman who tapers her food during the entire opera performance. The man who whines incessantly about the basketball score from three days ago.

The girl who insists on skim milk at a coffee shop.

I'm not saying these girls are bad people. Hey, maybe Half and Half is a little too creamy. And maybe two percent just doesn't cut it. But specifically asking a hustled employee for skim milk (read: white water) at a crowded coffee bar usually indicates, dare I say, attitude.

Therefore, I applaud the efforts of my two friends who have taken the higher ground. As former coffee shop employees, they purposely gave those skim milk junkies a healthy dose of whole milk in their cappuccinos. Two cheers for stickin' it to the Man.
WORD SEARCH

Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: The unused letters spell out a secret message!

WALK TALK

TOM! Your COMICS Are Always About Drugs, Beer, Sex, and Depraved Women!

YOU MAKE ME SICK!

THAT'S IT!! I QUIT!!

AH, HE SUCKED ANYWAYS

WORD LIST

ARID EXTRA
BRITISH HUMOR
BUD
CLEANING
ERASE BOARD
FLING
HEAVING
HUMPING
ICE
MARTINI
MY MOUTH
PASSOVER CAKE

THE MOUTH JAMMERS

ADOPT PCL

AND OAI

DEE GUE

GAR SHIM

HEE KID

INIC

JGO TEC

LEH SWO

MILS SHT

NY TIL

PEN EAM

RTH

THO

UDE

VAME

WEA

B Y MI CHAE EL A R ON SIL V D ER ST ERIN

WALK TALK

thomas schmid
Tovah: “good” in Hebrew, “great” on the screen

An interview with ‘A WALK ON THE MOON’ star Tovah Feldshuh

Meeting Tovah Feldshuh is a like a scene straight from His Girl Friday or any movie starring Rosalind Russell or Katherine Hepburn. Ms. Feldshuh storms into the room 20 minutes late and immediately begins making a list of things that need to be done. She is a pillar of strength and gusto with a little Stardust mixed in. Over a short conversation in between scattered gulps of a cup of steaming herbal tea. Ms. Feldshuh talked about A Walk on the Moon, acting and her rough childhood growing up in Scarsdale.

JAMIE: First of all, what is it that attracted you to this particular project?
TOVAH: It’s a very good script, a very good director and they offered me the part. A working actor works.

JAMIE: How did you find the experience of working in an independent film?
TOVAH: Well, there is less ostensible income, but it’s a great experience. Very often the product is as good if not better than the Hollywood films.

JAMIE: Did director Tony Goldwyn allow you a bit of freedom as an actor?
TOVAH: He was wonderful. We had a lot of freedom and honestly we all had a great time working on the set.

JAMIE: I wanted to talk just a little bit about the character of Lillian.
TOVAH: Well, just to elucidate. Walk on the Moon is an actor-driven piece: it’s a character-driven piece; it’s driven in a certain respect by plot structure, but it is definitely a character-driven piece. It’s about relationships.

JAMIE: I noticed in the film the strength of your character. Do you want to talk a little of where that strength comes from? Who was your inspiration?
TOVAH: It comes from my mother. She was the glue of our family. Doing this piece was a homage to my mother and to my mother’s family. It was based on my Aunt Nancy and my grandmother accurately portrays a young girl filled with the usual teen angst and caught between childhood and womanhood. And as her trapped, sexually frustrated mother, Diane Lane does a great job with the character of Pearl. The film’s only weak character link is Liv Shreiber as Marty Kantrowitz. Shreiber’s Marty is incredibly dull and boring. One doesn’t wonder why Pearl commits adultery with the Blouse Man, but why it took her so long.

First-time director Tony Goldwyn does an exemplary job of directing. In addition to his obvious ability to work well with actors, Goldwyn presents an incredibly realistic and fantastic quality of these scenes which no longer exists.

One of the film’s few flaws are the romantic scenes between the Blouse Man and Pearl. The Haroldquein romance settings and fantastical quality of these scenes seems out of place with the rest of the movie. They aren’t effective and serve only to distance us from the world Goldwyn creates. After the first love scene, which depicts Pearl and the Blouse Man consummating their lustful affair, the romance and chemistry of the two are only hurt by the later, unnecessary scenes at the lake and waterfall.

But in a time filled with effects-driven films and blockbuster vehicles, A Walk on the Moon is a welcome respite. This quiet coming-of-age family drama succeeds on all levels. It is certainly one not to be missed.

INTERVIEW BY JAMIE FELDMAN

Meeting Tovah Feldshuh is a like a scene straight from His Girl Friday or any movie starring Rosalind Russell or Katherine Hepburn. Ms. Feldshuh storms into the room 20 minutes late and immediately begins making a list of things that need to be done. She is a pillar of strength and gusto with a little Stardust mixed in. Over a short conversation in between scattered gulps of a cup of steaming herbal tea. Ms. Feldshuh talked about A Walk on the Moon, acting and her rough childhood growing up in Scarsdale.

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Sweet Woodstock lovin’

It’s not just 69 in ’69: It’s a tale of passion, innocence and commitment by Dustin Hoffman.

JAMIE FELDMAN

Produced by none other than Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman, Tony Goldwyn’s A Walk on the Moon is an incredible directorial debut. It is an intensely dramatic tale of a family’s downward spiral, set off when boredom meets lust during the summer of free love and Woodstock.

At age 17, Pearl Kantrowitz (Diane Lane) becomes pregnant by the first man she sleeps with, and she surrenders the rest of her carefree years of teenagerhood to begin her career on the way, Pearl’s husband, Marty (Liev Shreiber) gives up a chance to go to college and study science to become a tele vision repairman. During the summer of ’69, these repressed desires govern their college and study science to become a tele vision repairman. During the summer of ’69, these repressed desires govern their actions.

When the family spends the summer at a resort in the Catskills, Marty must leave during the week to work and Pearl encounters temptation in the form of the Blouse Man (Viggo Mortensen), Walter Jerome, who brings Pearl more than just a few blimsy shirts. When Pearl travels to Woodstock with her new lover and sneaks away from the rest of the family, her young daughter accidentally runs into her. Pearl’s secret is out. For the duration of the film, the family must grapple with Pearl’s adultery and must pull together as a family to move on with their lives.

A Walk on the Moon is an acting-intense film, and the stars live up to this challenge. The ensemble cast is lead by Diane Lane, Anna Paquin and Tovah Feldshuh, all of whom are extraordinary in their roles. Especially notable is stage diva Tovah Feldshuh whose Lillian “Bubbe” shows extraordinary depth and strength, mother Aida. It was a joy for me to work with Tovah Feldshuh. Feldshuh’s Lillian serves as the glue that holds this meshuggeneh family together, and she serves as the shoulder that everyone leans on. Lillian is essentially responsible for saving the family and maintaining any kind of sense of order.

Oscar-winner Anna Paquin is excellent in the movie as Allison Kantrowitz. Paquin does a great job with the character of Pearl. One doesn’t wonder why Pearl commits adultery with the Blouse Man, but why it took her so long.

First-time director Tony Goldwyn does an exemplary job of directing. In addition to his obvious ability to work well with actors, Goldwyn presents an incredibly realistic and fantastical quality of these scenes which no longer exists. His is a summer resort for working class folks from Brooklyn and the Bronx. Goldwyn accurately depicts the scene and engrosses us in a time and place which no longer exists.

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street ratings guide: *****Fling ******Orgy *******Rampage ******Spree *Binge
Never been more disappointed by a film

Drew Barrymore looks like complete trash in this movie, which, coincidentally, is also complete trash. Is she back on the sauce?

TIMOTHY BANDEN

Here’s a surprise. David Arquette is not the worst part of Never Been Kissed. No, this sad excuse for a movie has it all: poor direction, bad acting and a weak, contrived script so feeble that one wonders how the guy who green-lighted this project still has a job.

What passes for plot in this movie concerns a trashy newspaper reporter named Josie (Drew Barrymore), who goes undercover in a local high school to "get a story"—on what, we never learn. Sound stupid? Well, it is. But let's not worry too much over the premise. The film gets a lot worse from here.

Once Josie goes to high school, she is klutzy and dorky and has great difficulty integrating herself into the social scene. Why? Because it’s that funny, right? Wrong. Josie’s behavior in these scenes is ludicrous, making the audience feel sorry for her. No human being, especially a well-educated, 25-year-old woman, would ever behave so ridiculously in any environment or situation. From her absurd wardrobe to her constant, irritating and poorly executed tripping and falling, this character is as fabricated as the wardrobe to her constant, irritating and poorly executed lisp.

And there is the equally unrealistic high school environment the audience must suffer through. The usual unoriginal and unfunny jokes abound (school lunch is bad, nerds carry calculators), but Never Been Kissed takes them all to new lows. No one who remembers high school could enjoy these scenes, and they are insulting to members of the high school generation. Everyone knows high school sucks, but the students in this movie are shown to be almost sub-human in their lack of intelligence and common sense. And all of this is done for one reason: to service the poorly thought-out plot of the film.

Other bad plot developments include the arrival of Josie’s brother (Arquette), who becomes popular in a day by dumping a bucket of cole slaw over his head. The attraction of one of Josie’s teachers to her and the perfect scheme that isn’t half as good as the one in Carrie.

The only explanation for the production of this movie seems to be the popularity of the long line of high school movies that have flooded the box office in recent months. These movies are a producer’s dream—low-budget films that almost always capture a hefty chunk of the weekend box office returns. The formula is so foolproof that everyone should all be writing high school-set scripts.

Think about it: Someone actually got paid for writing a script so feeble that one wonders how the guy who green-lighted this project still has a job. Is this the kind of work that will keep an audience of adolescent boys sure to keep an audience of adolescent boys smiling? Of course not. Never Been Kissed is definitely one to miss. Go see The Matrix instead; it’s more believable.

Two Jackies? Why that’s Chan-tastic!

Double your pleasure, double your fun, double the ass-whoopings with two Jackie Chans and the coolest twins since the Olsens.

JONATHAN MAY

Hong Kong action movies don’t pretend to be something they’re not. Unlike their American counterparts, Hong Kong action movies don’t entertain any notion of plot or character development or even surprise. The theory presumably is that if you pay to see a Jackie Chan movie, you want to see Jackie Chan kicking and punching, doing back-flips between moving cars and winning fights with the sort of improbable odds that leave lesser men broken and lying on the floor in a bloody heap.

Based on these criteria, Twin Dragons delivers. Originally released in Hong Kong in 1992 as Shuang Long Hui, the movie is neither innovative in genre nor in plot twist. The notion of recently reunited identical twins in martial-arts movies was done by Jean-Claude Van Dam in 1991’s awful Double Impact.

As an American movie, Double Impact devoted a good deal of screen time to exploring the differences in the characters played by Van Dam, who has played the exact same character in every one of his movies. The three minutes Twin Dragons allocates to development isn’t enough for even Chan to break character, and his exaggeration of the roles works well in a comic film that is, in its stylistic elements, closer to The Puffy Duke Show than to Double Impact.

Plot elements are similarly brief, but not necessary for enjoyment of the film. A 15 second exposition explains the separation of twin sons at birth from a Hong Kong hospital. Well, it "explains" in the sense that the boys are separated by an action sequence that somehow causes one of the infant Jackies to grow up as Boomer, a street-smart mechanic/car driver/expert martial artist. Boomer and his pal Tyson leap from action sequence to action sequence until they run into Jackie Chan #2, now John Ma, a world-famous pianist and conductor.

Shenanigans ensue, with a pace and feel akin to a live-action Looney Tunes cartoon. Explosions leave bad guys with snot-black faces, not missing limbs. A villain is hit by a truck while standing in front of a bus, bounces back and forth between the two seven or eight times and winds up in the hospital in a full body cast.

Meanwhile, Boomer and Ma accidentally switch girlfriends, cell-phones and careers, resulting in cartoonish mayhem. Faces are changed with incredible martial arts. Everything is exaggerated: Waiters do double takes, and women faint at the surprise of seeing two Jackie Chans. And there is never more than a five second pause in the action.

When not clobbering gangsters with wrenches, Chan shows his physical comedy aptly in a series of sequences with Tammy and Barbara, Boomer and Ma’s girlfriends. Chan’s desire to be known as the Chinese version of both Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin is clearly evident here. Although the constant stream of one-liners and innuendo-filled dialogue is a bit much, scenes such as Boomer/Ma’s double romantic encounter with Tammy are very Chaplin-esque and genuinely funny.

Twin Dragons does everything it sets out to do incredibly well. The action sequences, by far the most important part of the movie, are without a doubt astounding and infused with such grace and elegance that they can each be considered miniature ballets.

The comedy is also appropriate and is sure to keep an audience of adolescent boys rolling in the aisles. One would be wrong to criticize Twin Dragons for a lack of plot or character development for the same reason it would be wrong to criticize a porno—even though they’re both movies, they are very different from the likes of The English Patient and, therefore, must be subject to different criticism. Twin Dragons succeeds because audience members will judge the film by a criteria all its own.
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Student Halfsies 2-4PM Monday - Friday (with valid student ID)

don't get even.
get mad.

Happy Hour NOW Monday - Friday 4:30 - 6:30PM
1/2 Price Food Every Night 11PM - 1 AM
Student Halfsies 2-4PM Monday - Friday (with valid student ID)

Paul Manion

There's no denying it: The Bard is bigger than ever. Well, actually, Shakespeare the man is probably a little smaller physically than he was in life, since he's been dead for over 300 years, but that's beside the point.

The point is, Hollywood, always on the prowl for fresh material, has decided that the masterful writings of every high school English student's nemesis is now hip again. Thus, we have the recent slate of Shakespearean movies which the entertainment media has written about endlessly.

Over 50 movies have been made in the last decade based on Shakespeare's body of work. Some, like 10 Things I Hate About You and the upcoming Ethan Hawke vehicle, Hamlet, transplant Willy the Shake's Elizabethan characters to our crazy modern world to herd more teenagers into multiplexes.

However, way back in 1983, two young comedic geniuses from Canada decided to exercise a little creativity with one of Shaky Roy's most famous works, the aforementioned Hamlet, and they wrote and directed one of the funniest movies of our lifetime, Strange Brew.

While many people have seen the film, or at least recognize its main characters, Bob and Doug McKenzie, from their Molson Golden commercials, few realize that the movie is actually a retelling of Shakespeare's tragedy about the tormented Danish prince.

Moranis and Thomas owe just as much to the guy from Stratford-upon-Avon as they do to Tom Stoppard. They employ the same technique he did in his 1967 play and subsequent 1990 movie, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, by making the bumbling minor characters the heroes rather than the Prince. For this movie, the former SCTV (Canadian SNL) stars stole from Stoppard, but he stole from Beckett's Waiting for Godot for his play, so why play the blame game?

While Shakespeare was undoubtedly a master of comedy, this tale of the misadventures of the Brothers McKenzie probably elicits more side-splitting laughs than any of Slick Willy's plays. In fact, the movie's brand of humor, with its emphasis on beer-drinking, yelling "hosevs," Star Wars jokes and wacky commentary on filmmaking conventions, is probably why people miss the Hamlet-like plot. No one cares about plot in really funny movies. What was Wayne's World about anyway?

Nothing. But oh yes, Strange Brew does indeed have an uncle who kills his brother in a quest for power, (played by Max von Sydow, who, while only 70 years old, has looked 104 since 1957's The Seventh Seal), and the movie has its Elsinore Brewery, which at least looks like a castle. The Hamlet role is filled by Pam, the niece of the murdered Brewmaster. Since everyone in Hamlet was crazy, some of Strange Brew's more hilarious sequences take place in the Royal Canadian Institute for the Mentally Insane, or, as the brothers call it, the "loony bin."

And of course, the McKenzie's flying dog, Horsehead, has parallels in well, nothing Shakespearean.

It is truly unfortunate that Old Bill's works leave such a bad taste in people's mouths, because he wrote some very good stories. While the actions of Baz Luhrmann, director of the Leonardo DiCaprio version of Romeo and Juliet, and his fellow Hollywood slicksters are laudable in some respects, people like Rick Moranis and Dave Thomas deserve the real applause.

Any movie that makes you laugh so hard you don't realize you're watching a Hamlet rip-off has achieved something special. Strange Brew, like so many of Willy's works, offers countless quotable lines for the ages. Compare "Hey, last one in the house is, uh, a big idiot," with the "To be or not to be" soliloquy. Who wants to be a big idiot? No one does, just like no one wants to face the slings of outrageous fortune.

If Shakespeare In Love has you wanting more, then by all means, check out the upcoming movies. But if you want some unbridled zaniness with your Willy-fix, go rent Strange Brew. Or better yet, if you still crave some hot William Shakespeare action, go read one of his plays. Nah, that's crazy talk.

Sponsored by:
Canker sores and other disappointments

Femme fatale Medea helps save the day (and the merit) for Theater Rumpus' current show.

ALLISON PODELL

With a relatively spartan, white-washed stage, the Adrienne's 2nd Stage theatre immediately invokes a sense of intimacy among its audience members. Couple that feeling with the promise of side-splitting humor and audience members know like they're in for a real treat. Yet, as attractive as all the pieces of Theater Rumpus' Canker Sores and Other Distractions look on their own, they do not make for the prettiest picture when they are put together.

First impressions make audience members surrender the high expectations they may have cultivated for the production of Christopher Durang's comedies. Directed by Domenick Scudera, the poignant and disturbing one-act sketches resonate cacophonously within the tiny playhouse. The initial comedy's repulsive content flogs audience members, each word serving as a whip. Pedestrians experiencing the frequent bitter cold and disgusting rain that plagued Philly last weekend could not be more uncomfortably than theatre-goers who watched the opening of Canker Sores...

As one pathetic actress performs her monologue, audience members may likely find themselves perturbed to the point where they feel the need for excessive restraint from actually exiting the theatre in disgust. Then again, the small size of the playhouse — which renders it nicely as a tactic to manipulate theatre-goers into staying until the end — and the fact that this experience, however initially awful, represented a piece of art, could force people to remain even if they are paralyzed by disgust. Those seized to the situation at hand are left waiting, like sitting ducks.

The character responsible for so much of the audience's anguish is suffering herself. A corpulent comedienne, her deflated self-esteem results from years of her parents' physical and mental abuse. Nevertheless, the character's problems need not compel her to make her patrons suffer through a pathetic torrent of self-disgust. Toward the middle of her skit, the performer's horrendous inability to tell funny jokes escalates to the point that it was just sad to watch.

As part of her act, the sad figure explores her problems with New York and her problems with herself. Maybe she forgets that audience members do not all hold doctorates in psychology, nor do they entertain the notion of acting as this woman's shrink. After this first act, there is little hope that Canker Sores... will render itself anything but a sheer disappointment.

But wait, the production does get better. Much better, in fact. Introduced in the next act is the "Trojan Woman," a pleasing character complete with a modern, New York-esque twist. The female playing Medea asks her audience members if they have "ever been in or seen a Greek tragedy?" Silence. She then inquires if anyone's life resembles a Greek tragedy? Hands spring up faster than a toaster expels a Pop Tart.

The modern, witty segment of the show commences and jokes about the Dalton School, husbands engaged in extramarital affairs and female empowerment explode in a whirlwind of hysterical interactions. Jason, the loathed adulterer who cheats on his wife for a cute blond named Debbie, is labotomized (Many who have yearned for the ideal form of chastisement for the boyfriend whose fidelity is about as reliable as that of a serpent will surely enjoy this scene). Three "shoop girls," who back up Medea with musical interludes and spoofs of a Greek chorus, render the sketch a complete farcical delight. Hysterical is too light a word. Convulsing in the uproarious pillows of levity is the only apt description for this pan of the show.

At the show's conclusion, a previously perturbed audience can become satisfied and impressed. The production might prove a worthwhile excursion, but not unless audience members close their eyes during some of the more painful scenes.

Wanna be a — street — editor in the Fall? If you've written for us in the past semester, make sure to come by tonight's meeting and pick up an application. They're due April 26 at 5:00 p.m.

"Scary as hell."

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street ratings guide:  ***** Fling  ***** Orgy  *** Rampage  ** Spree  * Binge
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**Clowning around**

Wynnewood, PA native Andrew Scharff spends his days touring the US with the “Greatest Show on Earth,” the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Next stop: Philadelphia.

**RANDI ROTHBERG**

At Philadelphia’s Friends Central High School, life is predictable. Seniors there wonder whether they’ll trade their high school colors for the Red and the Blue, the crimson or the navy blue and gray combination only found in Connecticut.

But 21 year-old Andrew Scharff, who received his Friends Central Diploma in 1995, “was looking for something more non-traditional.” One day his drama teacher, who knew of the interest Scharff has cultivated in performing since his eighth grade theater debut, provided the answer by sliding across the table an application to the prestigious Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College.

Following a highly selective audition and completion of a 12 page application, Scharff traded his diploma for a few wigs, some stage makeup and random juggling props, and headed south to the prestigious Florida-based academy. The Wynnewood native and approximately 30 others beat out thousands and were about to learn from the best of the best in the world of circus arts.

“That’s where I really learned a lot about clowning,” Scharff remembers of the two month training institution. “Partly I just developed a greater appreciation for it... We had this great faculty at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, and they really are what turned me onto clowning — just seeing these great artists who really took it seriously and worked hard, year after year, to become great clowns.”

A typical day for the students in the "very intensive" program consisted of morning calisthenics followed by classes in such subjects as acrobatics, skills, comedy, character development and gag writing. Free time was rarely an option, even in the evening, during which time special guest instructors were presented or classes were held.

While most people rely on their college prep coursework to soothe their transition into the world awaiting outside of high school, Scharff merely refers to his "years of confusion," during which he immersed himself into his new endeavor. He laughs, explaining that his high school yearbook quote reads "I don't get it," and that he's "always been a little on the confused side about some things."

But Scharff doesn't sound befuddled, as he speaks with confidence and knowledge when describing the circus life, of which he’s been a part for the past four years.

Following his graduation from Clown College — which is now closed and “in remission” — Scharff traveled as a clown and a juggler with the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, a smaller one-ring venue. “They do little towns all over the west, starting in Arizona and travelling to just about every state west of the Mississippi,” Scharff recalls.

Following his years out west, Scharff took his performance on a different path when he enjoyed a five week stint as a "walking talking Christmas tree" at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ. The costume was a bit difficult to maneuver, but the time was still exciting. "You just had a lot of fun with people," Scharff recalls fondly, reminiscing over the conversations he held with various international clientele.

Now enjoying his first year at the “Greatest Show on Earth,” Scharff is well-versed in the clown community, which enjoys its own segments of the show and coordinates acts with other performers.

And while he’s never had a chance to pet the tigers — a task reserved for animal trainers — Scharff doesn’t feel left out. “I really don’t want to,” he laughs. “But he quickly becomes serious, noting that the performers’ frequent separation works well for him, because Scharff is actually allergic to all of the circus animals and only parades with them when the act demands he do so.

He has his medicine in tow for the past four years.

“Everything I’ve seen, I’m very proud of,” he says. “Basically, we just couldn’t have the animals here if we didn’t treat them well. They’re not going to do tricks if they’re not happy.”

The Ringling Brothers’ Circus comes to Philly after completing the New York section of its national tour. After opening on Christmas Day, the Circus splits its time between the coasts until December 6. The venue spends "just about a week in every town," with a little more time allotted for larger cities like Manhattan.

But Scharff isn’t complaining. While on the road, the performers all live and travel in a "mile long circus train" which comes complete with separate space to accommodate the animals, wardrobes and props.

But Scharff crosses state boundaries on his own, driving his "bad 1980 Ford F250 4X4 pickup truck" which he landed in the middle of 1997 when his old car broke down and he needed a replacement to haul his trailer. Without even trying, Scharff gained a salesman into reducing the asking price by almost $4,000 for what he has learned is a "really good truck" that never breaks down.

“I call it big and bad because it’s really powerful!” he laughs, and describes the mechanical tinny kinging which has become somewhat of a hobby.

While Scharff may enjoy working on his truck, he has little time to do so. Indeed, his performing schedule is so jam-packed that he finds it hard to fit in even enough time for juggling practice.

Here in Philadelphia, see Scharff and experience the world three-ring spectacle from now until Sunday, April 25.
A shadow of a man

by Malik Wilson
photos by Jacques-Jean Tizou

May 30, 1992. After it was all over, Yusef would mark this day as the turning point of his young life. As the defining moment that propelled him away from the whirlwind of troubles surrounding him. It was a moment that would come at a terribly high cost.
Yusef Kassim’s older brother graduated from Carrol High School on May 29. The next day, Carrol threw a celebration party. Yusef attended the party with a few of his friends and his brother.

Around 11:45 p.m., a brawl erupted. In the scramble, someone ran up to Yusef and screamed that his brother was fighting. Yusef sprinted to the center of the commotion, where he saw his brother being stomped by no less than 10 young men. Before he could do any-

Yusef Kassim’s story is told in every city where young American men died in large numbers.

thing, someone snatched Yusef and slammed him roughly to the ground. Seconds later, Yusef was picked up by his friend who dragged him out of the room. They ran out of the party, chased closely by the squabblers. Yusef remembers that it was a clear brown night outside. He remembers how the noises sounded different than inside. He remembers that Peewee ran close-

to his left and Jojo dragged slightly behind to his right. He remembers Peewee screaming something incomprehensible and knocking Yusef to the ground. He remembers Peewee’s body felt strangely and fell on top of his own. He remembers the blurred screaming of voic-
ed. He remembers the liquid that began to cover his back and trickle down his neck. He re-

members the sound of pounding feet approaching him. He remembers a brief silence followed immediately by four lead explosions.

Yusef slid out from under Peewee, who was covered in blood. He turned to Jojo, who

was no longer moving. He remembers looking at his brown skin. He remembers look-
ing at his brown face turned awkwardly into the concrete. Yusef Kassim turned his friend over on his back to try and resuscitate him. Gray liquid oozed easily from his head. Yusef dropped his body, and it fell limply to the ground.

March 24, 1999. Yusef gazes out of his small window. He can see the world, but for now, he is confined to this small room. Two posters are the only decorations on the wall. A set of weights rests near the window. A small stack of books adorns his desk. Yusef has been here for four long years, but he has refused to let his body or mind deteriorate. He maintains close ties to family at home. He has had friends visit him. On this particular day, I am running late. I worry that he has already fallen asleep, but then remember that Yusef only sleeps four hours a night.


In August of 1995, Yusef Kassim entered the University of Pennsylvania. He decided to major in chemical engineering; his father had advised him to mix technical knowl-
edge with business savvy. His brother was already an engineering major at another uni-

versity. Whatever sense of social estrangement Yusef felt when he arrived at the University of Pennsylvania, he dealt with it amicably. Whenever I saw him, he was with a different group of people, walking eagerly on his way somewhere, talking with a group of class-
mates, working silently in a hidden corner of the library. What I remember most was the varied assortment of people he would be seen with. Athletes, computer programmers, socialites, dilettantes, artists, engineering nerds. His friends seem to be a cross-section of the racial, cultural and social diversity at Penn. He was always the same Yusef with all of them. Later, I would wonder about these early days.

Now four years later, I still wonder how much of Yusef Kassim I really know. I won-
ner how his life must seem like two separate entities. Distinct worlds where different lan-
guages are spoken.

College is a continuation for most of us. A new and extended version of our old lives. We join fraternities with people who have had similar experiences as our own, we be-
friend men and women whose worlds converge with ours in important, if ineffable ways. For better or for worse, there is a profound importance in knowing those who under-
stand intimately what it is means to be you. These men and women have been moved by the same complex emotions, trapped by the same temptations and have fallen vic-
tim to the same weaknesses. They are your friends, but in an important way, they also confirm your existence. They remind you of yourself. They are verifiers of your partic-
ular world of experiences.

I love Yusef for his dedicated joviality and excited seriousness, yet I wonder what he cannot say. I wonder how a person is changed by seeing too much too early. I wonder what remains unknown to those who entered his life at 18. I wonder if the Yusef Kas-

sim peering out from behind himself is the one I know.

Yusef Kassim grew up in Northwest Washington, D.C. His parents emigrated from Sierra Leone, Africa, where much of his family still resides. As a young boy, he learned from his par-
tents the importance of academic excellence. It was a lesson that would stick with him even in his wavering moments. These early years were also when the seeds of materialism were planted in his mind. It became clear to Yusef that some kids had nicer clothes and cooler shoes.

That some kids walked with a self-assured, styl-
ed gang. These kids were liked by everyone else. These kids seemed to have it easier.

To live in the inner city is either to be remind-
ed of your own poverty, or to see the poverty of others who live down the street from you. There have always been pockets of wealth in urban neighbor-
hoods. In elementary school, the de-
marcations of class are painfully evident to a nine-year-old who just wants to fit in. Yusef was among the children whose families couldn’t af-

ford nice clothes and new shoes. He was teased and laughed at by kids whose families could af-

ford them. He watched as the younger brothers and sons of people in the drug game wore Air Jordans and Guess jeans. He watched the way in which they were recognized by everyone when they walked through the neighborhood. How even at a young age, they were confident in themselves and their associations.

By junior high, things began to change for Yusef. His popularity was bolstered by his as-

sociations with various people and places. He began hanging with nearby kids who ran the streets in search of minor troubles. He started wearing Polo boots, Guess jeans and Starter jackets that were obtained by various means. He was every lady’s first choice for a boy-
friend. He was still a straight ‘A’ student, but he was often in trouble. He was a talent-
ed athlete, a bright student and a sometimes troublemaker. He graduated valedictorian of his school. But with each week that passed, he became further and further entrenched in the streets.

By ninth grade, Yusef was hanging out more than he ever had. His grades fell dramatically. His parents and family members worried. Like many 13 and 14 year-olds in D.C. and Maryland, he began traveling with a “crew” — a loose organization of young men who all grew up together, and once they became teenagers, hung out together, partied to-

ger and got in trouble together. It was a badge of prestige to be recognized as a mem-

der of the main crews. Yusef’s “901 crew” was recognized all over D.C. His activities during these years ultimately culminated in the events of May 30, 1992. The years of early ado-

cescence were troubled ones for Yusef. There were scraps with the police and squab-
bles with other D.C. crews. The neighborhood pitfalls were deep and plentiful, even for the most talented students.

Understanding Yusef’s life and the trajectory it took means understanding what hap-

pened to American cities at the end of the 80s. Yusef Kassim’s is the story of thousands of young men in every city in America. It is a story about Washington, D.C., but it is also a story about New York, about Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. It is a story told in every city where young American men died in large numbers.

These young 17 and 18 year-old men drove Saabs and Mercedes Benzes. They wore Versace and Donna Karan. They created the neighborhood slang.
The years between 1985 and 1992 were brutal ones for American cities. In Washington, D.C., just as in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta, urban communities witnessed devastating changes to their economic and social structures. The introduction of crack cocaine transformed urban culture like no drug had before. It brought with it fierce turf battles, made all the more deadly by the ubiquity of cheap weapons. In 1991, the nation's capital was the murder capital of America. That year, there were 482 homicides. To be a young man in D.C. at that time was to know the taste of death.

The drug trade was controlled by young men who lived in the neighborhoods they grew up in, 17 and 18-year-olds who made millions of dollars in a year. Rayful Edmonds, the most notorious drug kingpin of all time, is a D.C. legend. His outfit, which operated in Northwest D.C. and employed over 100 people, brought in $10 million every two weeks. There was an Edmonds in every city in America and thousands of others whose operations were only slightly less lucrative.

In order to understand Yusef's story — in order to understand the story of urban neighborhoods at the time — one has to understand the paradoxical role these men held in a community. They were both killers and protectors, destroyers and builders. They ruined hundreds of people's lives and saved hundreds of people's lives. During the late 80s, the young men who controlled Yusef's neighborhood were still of the old guard. They waited for danger in a quiet half-silence, and when it came, they confronted it without hesitation. They were the standing manhood of the neighborhood. They fought so you didn't have to. They lived inside danger so you could dwell at its outskirts. Yusef's family's car was always safe because Stephon and Cutnose Boo lived in his building. When Yusef had to walk through other neighborhoods, people didn't mess with him because they knew he knew those men. They were the nicest guys in the neighborhood. They were ruthless, cold-blooded killers.

These young 17 and 18-year-old men drove Jaguars and Mercedes Benz. They wore Versace and Donna Karan. They created the neighborhood slang. They had the women every 12-year-old boy in the neighborhood gawked at by day and agonized over at night.

The man grew angry and started yelling. He lifted up his shirt, displaying the black handle of a nine millimeter.

They were teenagers who made thousands of dollars a week. They knew every kid in the neighborhood and would talk and laugh with them. They would go tell your parents if they caught you smoking, and they would give you $20 for a good report card. They nodded politely to the adults and didn't curse when women were around. They fought for themselves, their families and everyone they knew, everyone who loved them and needed them to be strong. Their greatness breathed inside them. These were the CEOs and leaders. The tragic Supermen of a generation. The killers and destroyers of a generation. The beautiful, manly shield of your neighborhood.

They were all dead or in jail by 1993.

By the tenth grade Yusef was back on track. His grades skyrocketed, returning to their middle school level. His life began to drift back into focus. He met a girl and settled down. He began speaking to youths throughout D.C., warning them about the perils of drugs and violence. He planned for his future and sought ways to make his plans come true. By the eleventh grade, his grades skyrocketed, returning to their middle school level. His life began to drift back into focus. He met a girl and settled down. He began speaking to youths throughout D.C., warning them about the perils of drugs and violence. He planned for his future and sought ways to make his plans come true.

By 12:30 a.m., things were going along fine, as the ballroom steadily filled up with people. Yusef approached a man and said, "Hold on, I'll go get Yusef." He walked into the party and made his way toward the back exit. Once outside, he sprinted out the back door and across the football field. He ran until he saw a car belonging to a friend, crouching underneath it until he came back. The next week, Yusef needed a security guard to walk him home after school. Yusef discovered that someone had heard he was only 17-year-old. He believed that no 17-year-old should make that much money. It would be the last "Yusef" party he would ever throw in D.C.

I could tell you about his many leadership positions, his three jobs, his Mr. Penn bodybuilding title, his successful personal business and his job at Goldman Sachs. But ultimately they are only a small part of this story. There are many possible reasons for Yusef Kassim's success. The fact that he prays three times a day. His genius for completing tasks efficiently. His startling ability to impress others. His tireless work ethic. His meticulous organization skills. His blind determination. His stubborn refusal to accept second place. His insistence upon treating every person with respect. But all of this leaves out the one thing we neglect to consider.

Yusef Kassim is supposed to be dead.

While this is a story about the irrepressibility of the human spirit, about the inexorable will of the human mind, this is also a story about luck. Yusef Kassim is also here because he didn't get shot.

His story reminds us that even when you do nothing wrong, you still probably won't make it. That even when you avoid confrontation, confrontation seeks you out. This is not a story about Jojo, who was an even better student than Yusef. The troubling reality of Yusef's story is the frightening luck that has determined his success.

Where we would be without someone like Yusef?

Where are we already, with so many Yusef's we'll never know?
**Dahlia**

Boutique specializing in
one-of-a-kind, ornate, Israeli jewelry, beautiful silver pieces, Judaica, accessories, and more...

10% off w/ this ad

2003 Walnut Street, Philadelphia
568-6878

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**Drop kickin' it to mediocrity**

Tom Kretchmar

In an April 1998 interview with Double Decker magazine, Dropkick Murphys' guitarist Ken Casey promised to redouble his songwriting efforts on the Boston punk band's next release, in light of their vocalist's recent departure: "It wouldn't be fair if we handed [our new singer] a bunch of crappy songs. Everybody would crucify him!"

One year later Hellcat Records released The Gang's All Here, Dropkick's first extended effort with new vocalist Al Barr. Although Casey made good on his pledge of quality songwriting, the new singer still ought to be nailed to a cross: Barr washes out the album's meticulous instrumentation and tight musicianship with a highly affected cat-calling, best compared to the sound of an adolescent thinnoceros choking on a mouthful of gravel — except that the rhino would be less histronic.

Vaunted to the forefront of the American punk scene by the success of 1996's Do or Die (Hellcat), an album of Irish-tinged old school punk in the vein of Stiff Little Fingers, the Murphys were left without a frontman after Mike McColgan suddenly abandoned his microphone to return to his former newspaper day job. After brief auditions, the Murphys settled on Barr — then singer for the Bruisers, another popular Beantown punk outfit — as McColgan's replacement.

Irrespective of how Barr's groaning may have suited the Bruisers, it makes a travesty of the Murphys' high intensity, no-frills punk rock. Their straightforward sound meshes best with straightforward singing where McColgan's voice once complemented and highlighted, Barr's overwhelsm and smother. Ultimately, wonderful musicianship is compromised by a vocalist so worried about singing "with soul" that he ends up sounding like a complete ass.

Yet the album's not a complete loss if the listener can tolerate the new vocal sound. The songs are as solid as any previous Dropkick material, if a little stranger: "Curse of a Fallen Soul," a solid track once it picks up, starts off with an acoustic intro that can only be described as the bastard child of Don McLean's "American Pie" and Poison's "Every Rose Has Its Thorn." Furthermore, on several songs the band sounds like it's mimicking other renowned punk acts; particularly interesting is "Fighting 65th," a wonderfully unintentional Dead Kennedys tribute song. The record rounds itself out with a spirited instrumental arrangement of "Amazing Grace," replete with bagpipes and fiddles.

Rumors have been circulating that Barr's departure from the Dropkick Murphys is imminent. With no personal slight meant against him, this would be a wise move: Casey's too talented a songwriter to waste his efforts on a3s-terical, over-animated crooner who can barely carry a tune. Let alone front a punk rock band.

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**Placebo in DC**

Cla Warncke

Once dubbed "the filthiest band in the world," the London-based group Placebo looks as if it has outgrown that tantalizing title.

Seated in the cushy interior of their monster green-and-silver bus, Stefan Olsdal (bassist) and Steve Hewitt (drummer) look as shiningly cheerful as a couple of schoolboys on holiday. Missing is Brian Molko (vocalist), whose absence may be attributed to the tall, stunning girl with whom he exited the bus.

Hewitt fidgets with a pair of drumsticks; Olsdal lights a cigarette.

Just over two years ago, Placebo was coming apart at the seams, exhausted from continuous touring in support of their self-titled debut CD and excessive partying.

"You can't tour solidly for three years and drink your face off and expect to stay healthy and mentally sound," Hewitt says soberly.

"There was a lot of loneliness and confusion," Olsdal adds.

"It was this weariness and emotional desperation that gave rise to their second album, Without You I'm Nothing."

According to Olsdal, much of the album was inspired by the sensation of being "[at your] lowest point ever...on your knees." The fatigue and misery is obviously past tense, though, and they would rather not dwell on it. "It's a much happier band," Hewitt says reassuringly.

"How would they define themselves musically?" "Funky punk," Olsdal laughs. "Americans love to mosh," he adds, "we can do that."

About two hours later, Placebo struts onto the stage at Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club and proves that they are as good as their word. As soon as the lights come up they launch into a furious version of the guitar-heavy tune "Scared of Girls."

Pixie-like Molko is stunning in skin-tight black pants and shimmering pink lipstick. Olsdal, wearing a sweater that can't quite cover his long torso, is equally riveting.

They play mostly upbeat, punchless numbers, and Molko is in almost-perpetual motion — bouncing around the stage.

Back on drums, Hewitt is so absorbed he often closes his eyes in the midst of the fast passages. Ever laid-back, Olsdal smiles a lot, and keeps up with a seductive little hip-sway.

The unscripted highlight of the show occurs when a large, underwear-clad, stuffed animal is thrown on to the stage. Molko looks down, "nice panties on the bear." He pauses, then coos, "I hope they're not clean."

For all their newfound maturity, it is plain that Placebo is still just a little bit filthy. And the audience eats up every minute of it. After all, Placebo is a little naughty, a lot nice, and talented to boot — what's not to love?
Since its inception in 1993, V Recordings has released some of the most innovative drum 'n' bass tunes to ever grace a turntable. The label has evolved to redefine the genre's already eclectic sound by releasing groundbreaking 12-inch singles by such sonic innovators as Roni Size, Dillinja, and Korgis, among others. The label also took the world by storm with the release of an entire series of dubplates by a number of the scene's brightest stars, and packaged them together as the first V Classic compilation to great acclaim. In 1997, logical progression demanded that they follow up on this success, so Volume Two of the series was released. This year's massive two-disc offering, Planet V, shows a different side of the label. Instead of the usual jazzy rollers and smooth-outheadphone muzak, 20 tracks worth of sleek, space-age joints and jams reflecting the current popularity of the sinister techstep sound are presented.

Ed Rush and Optical (the darkside's current wonder twinnies), for example, contribute a version of "Funktion" to the album. In this tune, blue-shifted guitar frequencies slip and slide their way through a techy, hyper-driven drum track, creating aAp15, 1999

**music**

**Streetbriefs**

**Pump It Up**

**Spring Fling**

The Quad

It is difficult to determine whether it is sad or merciful that this event happens only once a year, but this coming weekend's two solid days of independently produced music—which typically shuffles randomly from good to remarkably bad—is a fantastic project that simply cannot be outmatched. Look for a special Saturday afternoon reunion performance by the arty-drone, indie-rock combo Taco My Taco and a deja vu-rendering Friday afternoon set by Overlord. Eh, they're fresh.

— Brian Cross

**P.I. Lam**

**Human BBQ, 4/10/99**

Now this was an interesting affair—and an insane one at that. Despite the slight concern that the day's bill of overwhelmingly un-familiar bands might have cast a lazy tone over the Bacchian debauchery that traditionally graces this annual fête, this past weekend's electro/psychedelic/experimental-oriented BBQ was, not too surprisingly, super fab. One of the more anomalous bands of the night,—Philly's own new wave, psychedelic, pseudo-garage band the Series—turned out one of the finest performances. Sure, they leaned a bit too heavily on the mod side, but at the end of it all, isn't that what the Philly music scene is all about, anyway? No comment.

— BC

**The Foundation Community Arts Initiative**

**April 15 & 21, The Rotunda, 4012 Walnut St., 8pm**

The Foundation, a community-partnership showcase for the arts of West Philadelphia and beyond, heralds its inauguration with two concerts featuring the talents of area musicians. West Philadelphia's jazz legacy is celebrated tonight with the Friends Sextett featuring Glenn Bryant—a jazz pianist who has worked with Wynton Marsalis and Carlos Santana—and the Reginald Height Trio, singing the tunes of Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett. On Wednesday, April 21, Philly's hip-hop underground surfaces with Supreem Marsalis and Mista Keys, Seeds of Evolution, the Unorthodox Kode Craquer Clique and Ruckus Avenue. If you haven't yet tired of free and not-so-free music, or if hip-hop and jazz have been sorely underrepresented in your cultural endeavors, then the Foundation provides an opportunity to check out innovative local artists close to home.

— Kate Lee

**Pearl Jam**

**"Last Kiss"**

This 1964 J. Frank Wilson & the Cavaliers classic may very well be one of the finest pop songs ever written. And despite the fact that Dion, along with countless other singers, used the quintessentially poppy melody from the chorus of "Last Kiss" long before J. Frank, "Last Kiss" is entirely unparalleled in its uncanny union of naively beautiful music and mournfully macabre lyrics. That being the case, what in the name of all that is holy has allowed Pearl Jam to record this utterly vicious, godawful version? Has Eddie Vedder completely missed the point of this song? And by that, I simply mean: has he thoroughly misunderstood the fact that this song is supposed to be good? Evidently—not to mention the fact that Pearl Jam's version of "Last Kiss" fully obliterates one of the most fundamental dynamics of J. Frank Wilson's recording, Wilson achieved such fantastic beauty singing as a young man mourning the death of his girlfriend, his version of "Last Kiss" is as disarming, disorienting, and puzzling as it is sadly beautiful. Eddie Vedder, on the other hand, sings with a melodramatic over-ethos that stupidly spells out the song's point. Yes, Eddie, it is a sad song; those are some damn fine interpretative skills you have.

— BC

**Space is the place**

**V Recordings announces the state of drum 'n' bass**

**Alex Ling**

Since its inception in 1993, V Recordings has released some of the most innovative drum 'n' bass tunes to ever grace a turntable. The label has evolved to redefine the genre's already eclectic sound by releasing groundbreaking 12-inch singles by such sonic innovators as Roni Size, Dillinja, and Korgis, among others. The label also took the world by storm with the release of an entire series of dubplates by a number of the scene's brightest stars, and packaged them together as the first V Classic compilation to great acclaim. In 1997, logical progression demanded that they follow up on this success, so Volume Two of the series was released. This year's massive two-disc offering, Planet V, shows a different side of the label. Instead of the usual jazzy rollers and smooth-outheadphone muzak, 20 tracks worth of sleek, space-age joints and jams reflecting the current popularity of the sinister techstep sound are presented.

Ed Rush and Optical (the darkside's current wonder twinnies), for example, contribute a version of "Funktion" to the album. In this tune, blue-shifted guitar frequencies slip and slide their way through a techy, hyper-driven drum track, creating a...
Online auctions are a great place to get all kinds of weird stuff — cheap.

Josh Devon

Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley, Peter Criss, Ace Frehley. All available at a starting price of $9. Bean bags of them, that is. In the world of online auctions, supply truly creates its own demand. If you put it up for sale, chances are someone’s going to buy it. The Kiss bean bags have already jumped to $24, so you better hurry up.

Are your bowels clogged? Not to worry. For a starting price of $3.49 you can buy a box of 1988 California Raisin Bran Cereal. Tired of midterms? Need to get away from it all? For a mere $259, you and a special someone can head to Venice and back on a 12 day trip, stopping off at Heraklion, Kusadasi, Istanbul, Pireus, Nauplion and Katakolon. Remember how you used to own Ultra Magnus and Omega Supreme? But then one day your mom threw them away, along with your other Transformers, when you weren’t looking. Well, now you can buy them back for $38.00 and $41.50, respectively. “Great,” you must be thinking. “Maybe I can find some My Little Pony paraphernalia, too. Where can I find these ubiquitous online auction web sites?” I’m glad you asked.

The most famous of these online auctions, the grand-daddy of them all, is eBay (www.ebay.com). The biggest advantage of eBay is that is is, quite simply, huge. eBay offers over 1,800,000 items for auction in more than 1,500 different categories, from firearms to breathalyzers to ham radios. eBay doesn’t have its own inventory, but instead provides a forum in which the online community can meet and sell items. eBay, and companies like it, make money by charging the sellers for advertising their wares online. If you’re looking for something very rare, your best bet is to start looking here. But buyers beware. Because eBay isn’t a seller of items, there is really no one to come cry to if you buy something and are not happy with your purchase. The only thing you can do is write nasty feedback letters about the person who duped you.

First Auction (www.firstauction.com), using a business model different from eBay’s, buys many eclectic items from different manufacturers and stores them in a big warehouse. Then the company sells its goods to the highest bidder.

First Auction is a well-designed site, with many easily searchable categories. They have everything from dolls to full computer systems. In fact, one recently-auctioned item was a Intel Celeron 300 MMX Computer with a 15-Inch Monitor. The initial bidding started at $9. While the bidding usually increases exponentially, it’s still cool to think that you might be able to get an entire computer for such a low price. The big advantage of using sites like First Auction is that your transactions are more secure. That is, you have someone to yell at if you aren’t satisfied, and it will (hopefully) get fixed.

Onsale (www.onsale.com) specializes in auctioning electronic equipment, but it also offers sports and fitness paraphernalia and vacation packages. Bidding generally starts very low (sometimes as low as one dollar), so you can grab some really good deals at this site.
Extra! Extra!
Space probe finds
dinosaurs on Mars

The land of Elvis, UFO sightings and living stone-age families goes online.

Seth Isenberg

While most students at Penn are content with the mass market information fed to them through the usual mediums, there are a few who know what’s really going on. These are the students who tin-foil their ceilings in High Rise North, preventing the government from putting them through their x-ray satellites and transmitting the brain waves that cause people to vote for Ross Perot or watch C-Span 2 for fun.

They also plaster the only real newspaper on their wall. Headlines such as “Rotweiller bites man’s testicles off — but the two are still best friends” and “Dingbat dad drops baby to catch foul ball” made me realize what the Philadelphia Inquirer and even our own award winning The Daily Pennsylvanian are missing on a day-to-day basis. Of course I am talking about the Weekly World News. Now this amazing news resource is online.
The Weekly World News Internet Edition is a slimmed-down version of the same paper found in supermarket checkout lines around the country. The main page sports a small scan of the front page of this underrated tabloid, exclaiming such things as “Unborn baby puts fist through woman’s abdomen — minutes after mom’s killed in bloody hit-and-run!”, which details the valiant effort of a fetus to escape the confines of its dead mother’s womb. Another feature not found in other newspapers or Internet news sites is the “Ask Serena” section. Serena is a psychic, and she could probably take out both Abby and Ann Landers in a knock-down catfight because, hey, she knows what they are thinking. When asked about a man’s past life as an alien, Serena replies:

“No, you were not an alien in a former life, but you were abducted by them. You were brought to their planet and helped with research on humans. They still speak with you in your dreams and continue to learn from you.”

Convinced yet? Then browse on over and check out “America’s coolest supermarket tabloid. And as for those other students who are already in the know: They could be watching you right now... better get that tin-foil up quick.

Gore, father of the Internet

Al Gore is on a roll. Last month, the Veep took credit for the Internet. He told CNN, “I took the initiative in creating the Internet,” which in fact was launched in 1969, while Gore was still in law school. And though many people would like a few minutes in a room with Trent Lott and a blunt object, you have to give him credit for following up with a press release claiming he invented the paper clip, explaining, “Paper clips bind us together as a nation.” Gore’s latest gaffe is the promotion of his Gore2000.org campaign site as “open source,” displaying an obvious misunderstanding of the latest industry buzzword. Maybe Gore should do something people might actually believe: admit that he’s a robot.

Gore, father of the Internet
**FLING '99**

**Friday**
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Quadrangle
Bands (see below for line-up), vendors, bounce boxing, sumo wrestling, jousting

6:00 p.m. Hill Field
Doors open for the Spring Fling Concert

7:00 p.m. Hill Field
Spring Fling Concert featuring the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Run-DMC, D Generation and Wall of Souls

12:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. College Green
Free BBQ and music

**Saturday**
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Quadrangle
Bands (see below for line-up), vendors, bounce boxing, sumo wrestling, jousting

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Hamilton Village
Spring Fling Carnival featuring a free raffle for an iMac and a TV/VCR (you must be present to win), also features casino tables, dart and pinball, card readings, psychics, body art, carnival games, laser tag and DJ music

12:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. Class of 1920 Commons
Post-Fling Pancake Breakfast

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**IC A**

Bobbi Zankel Quintet
Here is a really cool event, as a part of the ICA’s Third Thursday program. Bobbi Zankel and his group are coming to the art gallery to play their West Philadelphia Suite in conjunction with the showing of the photography exhibit of Donald E. Camp. This is so cool that he will not even rip on the fact that this suite is to West Philadelphia, which is in competition for the worst neighborhood of the city with North Philly. What about a Buffalo Grove Suite, or an Episcopal Academy Suite? Anyway, this is a cool chance to see some great contemporary art accompanied by some great contemporary music. 118 S. 36th St., (215) 896-7108

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**FLING '99**

**Friday**
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Quadrangle
Bands (see below for line-up), vendors, bounce boxing, sumo wrestling, jousting

6:00 p.m. Hill Field
Doors open for the Spring Fling Concert

7:00 p.m. Hill Field
Spring Fling Concert featuring the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Run-DMC, D Generation and Wall of Souls

12:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. College Green
Free BBQ and music

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**Saturday**
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Quadrangle
Bands (see below for line-up), vendors, bounce boxing, sumo wrestling, jousting

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Hamilton Village
Spring Fling Carnival featuring a free raffle for an iMac and a TV/VCR (you must be present to win), also features casino tables, dart and pinball, card readings, psychics, body art, carnival games, laser tag and DJ music

12:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. Class of 1920 Commons
Post-Fling Pancake Breakfast

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**Thurday**

**Kyber**

John Fahey and Lee Renaldo
This is one of the most important shows of the year in this city, as Philly continues to make itself a destination for the finest in experimental music. Fahey is a folk-avant legend, who has been producing some of the most amazing music for a few decades in anonymity. His many fans include Jim O’Rourke, who has produced Fahey’s recent work and that Gastr del Sol-Tortoise-Chicago scene. Sonic Youth’s Renaldo should add a lot, as he too has become a part of the improv scene in this country, working with O’Rourke, William Hooker and others. This should be an evening of sound and fury done beautifully.

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**The Rotunda**

Jazz Sounds of West Philadelphia
This show is brought to Penn by the Foundation Community Arts Initiative, a new group that will be attempting to foster interaction and understanding between the students and faculty of Penn and the surrounding community. This show features the Friends Sextet with Glenn Bryan and the Reginald Height Trio. Both groups have come out of West Philadelphia and its fertile jazz community. This sounds like a great idea for those looking for some traditional jazz music this week, without the lofty prices of the Redman show or a night at one of the downtown clubs. 4012 Walnut St., (215) 349-7792

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**The Germantown Auditorium**

Bruce Hornsby
For all you drugged out hippies who don’t drink and therefore have no purpose at Fling, this show is the closest you’ll get to a Grateful Dead show. Hornsby was one of six pianists in the legendary bands 30 year run, and some believe that he may have been the best for the band and Jerry Garcia. He has had a vibrant solo career for years now, creating some of the most amazing music for a few decades. He has had to deal with the destruction that marijuana spread the word about its enlightening effects: Dr. Dre, Phish fans, Cypress Hill and cancer patients. Bands like this try to show their “hipness” quotient with this funny, catchy name like Bongzilla, but try to tell that to all the families that have had to deal with the destruction that marijuana has done to their children and family. Come on, guys. It’s just not cool. 16 S. 2nd St., (215) 928-0655

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**Satuday**

**Zellerbach Theater**

Judy Collins
She is one of the singer-songwriters from the 1960s, whose politically conscious songs became part of the soundtrack for the protests that shook that decade. For me, she makes me worry more.

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**Tua**

String Cheese Incident
I should verify this with a history major, who are more intelligent and worldly than the rest of us, but I believe that this band’s name is a commemoration of a battle in our invasion of Granada. American
troops were able to defeat the entire military of Granada with string cheese, which they thought was a chemical weapon. But, it was all necessary, as Granada was a threat to our liberty and freedom. We, like this band, should be thankful for string cheese and all that it has done for democracy.
**Roxy Theater**
2023 Sansom St., 923-6699

**Analyze This** Fri. & Mon.-Thu.
7:00, 9:15. Sat. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15.
Sun. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15.

**Six Ways to Sunday** Fri.-Mon.-Thu.
7:15, 9:30. Sat. 2:30, 5:00, 7:15.

**Cinematic 3 at Penn**
3925 Walnut St., 222-5555

**Life** Fri. 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, 12:15.
Sat. 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00.
Sun. 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00.


**The Mod Squad** Fri.-Sun.
7:40, 10:20.

**Twin Dragons** Fri.-Sun.
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:10, 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:10.

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Sun. 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00.

**The Matrix** Fri.-Sun. 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:40. Mon.-Tue. 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:15, 9:45, 10:30.

**The Mod Squad** Fri.-Sun.
7:40, 10:20.

**Twin Dragons** Fri.-Sun.
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:10, 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:10.

**Sanerics**
1908 Chestnut St., 547-0604

**Foolish Fri.-Sun.** 12:15, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45. Mon.-Thu. 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 9:45.

**Life Fri.-Sun.** 12:00, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:30. Mon.-Thu. 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30.

**The Matrix Fri.-Thu.** 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15.

**10 Things I Hate About You Fri.-Sun.** 1:40, 4:30, 7:50, 10:30.

**Analyze This Fri. & Sun.-Thu.** 1:45, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30.

**Life Fri.-Sun.** 12:30, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40.

**The General Fri.-Thu.** 2:00, 10:00.


**Rushmore Fri.-Mon. & Wed.-Thu.** 12:40, 2:00, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50. Tue. 12:40, 5:00, 8:10, 10:00.

**Shakespeare in Love Fri.-Thu.** 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00.

**UA Riverview Plaza**
1400 S. Delaware Ave., 755-2219

**10 Things I Hate About You Fri.-Thu.** 1:40, 4:30, 7:50, 10:30.

**Analyze This Fri. & Sun.-Thu.** 1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Sat. 1:50, 4:50, 9:40.

**Baby Geniuses Fri.-Thu.** 1:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:10.

**Doug’s First Movie Fri.-Thu.** 12:50, 3:00, 5:00.

**Ed TV Fri.-Tue. & Thu.** 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:20, Wed. 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:20.

**Please call theaters ahead of time to confirm movie times.**

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**APRIL CAVALNAHGH’S**

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**LARGE PIZZA**
For The Price Of A Small

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**SPRING FLING**
HAPPY HOUR
10PM-Midnight

**2 For 1 Price**
Wings
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**Happy Hour**
10PM-Midnight

**Happy Hour**
5PM-7PM

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263 S. 15th
Here we are, the school year is almost over! Except, of course, for all those who partied too much and have to take classes in summer session, those poor bastards. But for everyone who didn’t party enough, two of the most exciting weekends of the year are coming up: Spring Fling, when Villanova students take over our campus, and the Penn Relay Carnival, when, according to my friend Malik, “black people take over our campus.” Fear not, fellow Pennonites, there’s still plenty for you to do! Without further ado, we proudly present our guideline to getting the most out of the next 10 days. Each event is rated using completely arbitrary words.

**Daytime Inebriation Factor**
This measures how drunk you can expect to get at each of these respective functions.

*Previous Fling* — Astronomical. In years past, Bacchus himself descended upon the Quadrangle to wreak havoc in the form of Jungle Juice and smuggled beer, leaving a wake of red fruit punch stains and broken bathrooms.

*Fling ’99* — Microscopic. With the LCE, Penn Police, smoke pot like they’re Rastafarian housewives on Relay weekend. But also, very few Penn kids take advantage of this great event, so you stumble home late at night looking for love.

*Previous Relays* — Metha-Godzilla. If you were into the whole frat party scene, this was your weekend. It was not an uncommon sight to view huge groups of people wandering from house to house, hitting at least five or six parties on the way. The experience was enhanced by the fact that hundreds of people from St. Joe’s, Drexel and the bigger brothers delivered plumes of reefer smoke make for some gnarly updrafts, and the whole second-hand tweekage can’t be beat.

**Illegal Drug Usage Factor**
This measures how many people will be doing recreational drugs, such as smoking marijuana and the like.

*Previous Fling* — High Times. As with any concert, the bands playing in the Quad or the actual Fling show provided many students with an excuse to call on their old friend, Wesley Pines. I don’t know why people like passing joints around at concerts, but my only comment is puff, puff, give, man.

*Fling ’99* — Reever Madness. The rationale is, since you can’t be drunk, why not get really stoned? It’s a few blocks away; you can lay out on the top deck when it’s sunny.

**Nighttime Party Factor**
Here we look at what you can do when the sun goes down, but before events going on that can help you have a fun time with no risk of jail time.

*Previous Fling* — Splendiferous. Good bands, fun games and tons of people to hang out with. All in all, don’t stop the rocking.

*Relays* — Optimus Prime. The Relays used to boast one of the craziest after-parties around, complete with nude relay races and lots of drunken energizers from around the country. But the lady who tried to arrest people who attempted to get on the track late at night two years ago, some of whom may or may not have been my brothers and me. (Hint: It was.)

**Good, Cheap Entertainment**
Aside from illegal stuff, there are some legitimate ways that will make your week more enjoyable.

*Previous Fling* — The Blue Lion Leg-Piece from Villanova. That’s the sorry state this campus is in now. We have to go there to have fun. It violates laws of nature.

*Relays* — The Bosstones put on a good show you can dance to, Run DMC should please anyone who’s heard a rap song in the past 20 years and tons of people will be hanging out in the Quad. Plus the Mask and Wig bit is always a weekend highlight, with their hilarious gender-bending costumes and booty-shaking cover songs. That should make up for my previous comment...

*Previous Relays* — It’s the biggest freaking track meet in the country; it’s a few blocks away; you can lay out on the top deck when it’s sunny; you can see some premier athletes in skimpy outfits who are really, really fast; and when else are you gonna see Franklin Field with 40,000 people in it? Seriously. You’re just missing out if you don’t stop by. Bill Cosby made me buy him a hot dog last year. No lie.

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GIVE ME FIVE

APRIL 15 - 22

1. CRACKWHORES WITHOUT THE CRACK

For those looking for something a little more cultural this weekend than inane conversations about summer jobs fueled by grain alcohol and fruit punch, this musical might be the answer. Quadratics’ spring musical seems like a delightfully twisted production to bring to this campus since our East Coast hookers are right out on the streets, not tucked away in a brothel. However, in this musical Penn students will get a look into a small brothel in Texas as it fights to stay open despite the efforts of police. Originally a book by Larry King and Peter Masterson, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas became an off-Broadway musical in 1978, enjoying immediate attention and raves, which eventually allowed the production to move to Broadway a few months later. The show had 1,170 performances on Broadway and was eventually made into a movie, starring Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds, which enjoyed some success because of its humor and half-naked girls. Now this musical has ended up at our dear University, and there is only one question left: Who is playing the Dolly Parton role?

2. DRUNKS AND CHILDREN

Well, for many of us, this may be our first Fling concert outdoors on Hill Field because we have been disappointed for the past two years with bad weather which has forced the festivities into Irvine or the Palestra. But just imagine how much fun it would be for thousands of Penn students to come together, slightly inebriated, to enjoy a variety of great bands and music. My hope is that such a great communal experience might bring us all a little closer to Marx's concept of a classless society. As long as we do not lose our sense of humor, singing and song choices, this year’s show, High and Dry, will feature all new kits and songs from the group, but I’m sure that a few of the classics will make an appearance too. From the amazing singing to the boisterous crowd to the occasional pledge pranks, there may not be any better or more anticipated show on Penn’s campus. Where else can you count on seeing streakers running on stage during the Arts House intermission dance performances?

3. FUNNY DUDES WHO SING

Well readers, we are coming up on that most dreaded time of year, the summer, when the live a capella stops. That’s right — four long months of your favorite CDs and bands, playing in your room or your car but not in your heart. This Penn 6 show should provide just enough excitement and memories to get you through the dark days of summer. Pennylvania 6-5000's annual spring show is the perfect way to kick off Fling weekend, as anyone who has ever seen one of their shows can attest to. The band features 11 of the hardest working men on the Penn campus, who will entertain you with their humor, singing and song choices. This year’s show, High and Dry, will feature all new kits and songs from the group, but I’m sure that a few of the classics will make an appearance too. From the amazing singing to the boisterous crowd to the occasional pledge pranks, there may not be any better or more anticipated show on Penn’s campus. Where else can you count on seeing streakers running on stage during the Arts House intermission dance performances?

4. HOT SAX

What better way to soothe that aching liver than a nice jazz show with one of music’s best saxophone players? After the furor, noise and chaos of Spring Fling, sit back and chill out to the calm, soothing swing of Redman and his quartet. His is the story of a blessed child making the most of his amazing opportunities and talents. Joshua Redman graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1991 and was to start the next year at Yale Law School. However, he went on tour with his father, the legendary jazz player Dewey Redman, and the rest they say is history. Now he is leading his own group and doing quite well critically and financially. With his good looks, classic hard-bop sound and educated manner, Redman has caught on as a pop figure for jazz, attracting new listeners to the aging music. His most recent album, Timeless Tales (for Changing Times), explores some of the pivotal music in Redman’s life. Redman’s music will be a nice antithesis to the concerts performed earlier in the weekend, as it will challenge your mind and ear with its passion and originality.

5. CONTEMPORARY VISIONS

Ahhh, National Poetry Month… is there any more festive time for English majors? For those not feeling festive, this reading should get your heart a-wantin’ a bit, as one of the most visionary and creative artists of the 20th century, John Ashbery, comes to Philadelphia for a reading and talk. Ashbery was born in 1927, schooled at Harvard and Columbia and now teaches at Bard College. He was a founding member of the New York School in poetry in the 1950s, one of the last great avant garde endeavors. He has published 17 collections of poetry and one volume of art criticism and has received a Pulitzer, the National Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. But more importantly, his poetry explores language and meaning, striving to create a new aesthetic in contrast to Modernism. His work and attitude should come as a refreshing surprise in this age of commercialization and conformity, as Ashbery has always struggled to challenge preconceived notions. Recognized by critics as one of the most important contemporary poets, he should be a great intellectual reprieve from the monotony of classes and finals.