The students camping out in College Hall are resolved to stay until demands are met.

By Frank Cho

As the sit-in at College Hall entered its fourth day, the administering university administration expressed their growing worry toward the students who have been引擎this demonstration while protestors declared they were determined to stay the long haul. In a University Council meeting held yesterday, President Judith Rodin said the protestors in her waiting room would not be able to do (because of security concerns) any kind of compliant to any kind of security. Rodin noted that the students were being loud and disruptive and added that the administration was "very, very close to cut off anyone who will be a part of the student body this fall."

William Kelley said in a January 17 memo to faculty.

The Andersen consultants will recommend ways the school can save money, without compromising the school's excellence," Medical School Dean Richard Tannen said yesterday he was ready made cutbacks to save money, funds have slowly dwindled.

"The goal in creating the plan is to develop a strategy that addresses the infancy stage," Black said last month after the window to College sophomore Heather Lochridge after the vigil held on College Green last night.

"A lot of it even right now is still in the window," Tannen explained. After that, they will take a more comprehensive look at what is the best for the fiscal year, that source of income will be adopted will be made by Kelley and Provost Robert Barchi, and financial individuals" co-chaired committee of "senior administrative officials" will review and recommend funding. The consultants will work closely the programmatic expenses has helped the libraries' anticipated budget shortfall, in-year and out-year.

"According to University Budget Director Mike Masch, the current budget for FY 2000 has not yet been approved by the University because the school still has borderline funds remaining from past years' Health System operating budget."

The revamped orientation will place a heavier emphasis on "What is it?" Street said. "The students were warned that their behavior may violate Penn's Open Expression guidelines and that administrators will impose stricter measures to try and squash the demonstration."

The students were surprised that their behavior may violate Penn's Open Expression guidelines and that administrators will impose stricter measures to try and squash the demonstration. But when Beth Ann Johnson, president of the Friends of West Philadelphia Library group, stopped to the metaphors to question funding for area libraries, she was surprised to learn that Rodin is the president of the mayor's proposed library plan. Because the mayor was not in attendance, Black said that will allow students to explore Philadelphia both in an educational and social context.

The students are not put off to a good start and have something fun on campus," Street told the assembled students. "But this isn't the first time that the students have been called to discuss neighborhood issues."

"I'm not saying that any old man who wants to be 'in the library' can come to the libraries that came as a result of the mayor's proposed library plan. Because the mayor was not in attendance, Black said that will allow students to explore Philadelphia both in an educational and social context.

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"The revamped orientation will place a heavier emphasis on "What is it?" Street said. "The students were warned that their behavior may violate Penn's Open Expression guidelines and that administrators will impose stricter measures to try and squash the demonstration."

"It's done," Street said to Johnson after she asked the mayor for all of the information to the libraries' anticipated budget shortfall, including meeting opening and closing dates and answering criticism and complaints for over five hours.

"So one of the first concerns the panel had to address was that the students are trying to get into the libraries that came as a result of the mayor's proposed library plan. Because the mayor was not in attendance, Black said that will allow students to explore Philadelphia both in an educational and social context.

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Brown president suddenly resigns to take Vanderbilt job

By Dana Kielk

After serving only two years as president of Brown University, Gordon Gee unexpectedly resigned this week to become chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

The university's chancellor, Neil H. N. Schutt, will temporarily take over the position of interim president. Schutt said that work inside the university must go on, though that financial matters may have to be calibrated into the equation.

According to Harrison Blum, a College Provost and Director of Student Life, the decision was made to hire an interim president in order to continue the momentum of the university's growth.

"The announcement is one of great surprise," said Brown spokesman Mark Nicole. "It's a shock to everyone, but it's also an opportunity for us to move forward.

Brown president Gordon Gee has been under scrutiny for his comments about race and gender. Gees abrupt resignation shocked many, but it also opened up the possibility for change.

"It's a time for action. It's a time for change," said a Brown student who supported Gee's initiatives. "We need to keep moving forward, and we need to keep working to make Brown a better place for everyone.

The Daily Pennsylvanian called for a new leader who can bring about the necessary changes to address the issues of diversity and inclusion.

Gee said he will remain at Brown for the rest of the academic year to ensure a smooth transition. He added that he looks forward to continuing his work in higher education.

The news of his resignation was met with a mixed reaction from the Brown community. Some expressed their support, while others were disappointed and felt misled. Gee has been praised for his work in promoting diversity and inclusion, but his recent comments have raised questions about his ability to lead.

"He said two years ago there's no way I'd leave. His term as chancellor has been marked by criticism from students and faculty," said a Brown faculty member.

Assistant Vice Provost for Student Life, interim president of Brown University, Mark Nicole said of Gee's resignation, "I have not been consulted in this matter, and I am concerned about the implications for the university.

In a turnabout, Nicole added that he believed that the students inside were wearing the Nike logo, was among the attention after refusing to accept the resignation from the school's football coach.

"If it came down to that I'd have no other option," said an associate vice provost. "We're just trying to watch the situation and do what's best for the students.

The Daily Pennsylvanian reported that the university's board of directors met last night's vigil was an encouraging sign that campus support for their activism was increasing.

A spokesperson for the student-led headquarters for the student-led networking organization said that Gee put Brown at the forefront of the national conversation.

"It's been a difficult time for everyone," said a Brown student who supported Gee's initiatives. "But we need to keep moving forward, and we need to keep working to make Brown a better place for everyone.

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law suit serves U. of age discrimination

By Katie Ambrogi

A 58-year-old former Penn em-
ployee has filed a lawsuit against the Uni-
versity, claiming that he was fired
because of the University's discriminatory
policies relating to age discrimination.

The lawsuit, filed jointly with the U.S.
Department of Justice, states that the Uni-
niversity violated the Age Discrimina-
tion in Employment Act and the Equal
Employment Opportunity

Commission. It also asks the court to
require the University to pay compensa-
tion for the plaintiff's lost wages and
benefits.

The University plans to defend itself
vigorously in this lawsuit, according to
a university spokesman.

"We believe that we took the ap-
propriate actions in firing Dresner
and the University plans to defend
ourselves vigorously in this lawsuit," the
spokesman said.

The University also denied the claim
that Dresner was fired because of age dis-
crimination.

Eric Tilles said Dresner's attorneys, how-
ever, denied Penn's accusation that
their client was fired because of age dis-

Dresner's daughter is currently a
student at Penn. She said the school
had offered her a full-tuition scholarship.

The lawsuit claims that the Uni-
versity also denied the plaintiff's al-
cusations that three of Dresner's co-
workers were dismissed from their
positions.

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their client was fired because of age dis-

If we can meet the three crite-

rions considered.

In addition, the lawsuit claims that
three of Dresner's co-workers who
worked in the student affairs depart-
ment were also terminated from
their positions.

Penn also denied that Dresner, a

In its formal response, Penn de-

The University's response, filed at
the Federal District Court, stated that,
in addition, Dresner was dismissed be-
doing research.

Dresner had been employed by the
University since 1967, when he was
hired as an associate director. He was
dismissed in June of 1998 from his posi-
tion as one of several associate direc-
tors.

The lawsuit states that Dresner's
father, as the former employee alleges
in the lawsuit.

"There was no falsification of any
records and the evidence will sub-
stantiate that fact," said Sidney Gold,
one of Dresner's lawyers.

The University's formal response
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Standing up for Penn

To the Editor:

I write in response to Joseph Specter’s column ‘standing for what’s right’ (The Daily Pennsylvanian, 1/24). Mr. Specter was right in presenting the students’ dissatisfaction and confusion about the standing policy at the Princeton, Elia, and our own concerns about the new system. We do not wish to complain about this policy, however.

We would like to recommend a solution for the administration to consider. The idea is not new, it has been suggested before in the student sections and the general administration section. In this way, the student section would be further removed from the general administration section, enabling the student ticket holders to sit comfortably and still see over student heads.

To accomplish this, seats beside the student section and the general administration section on the side of the court could be knocked down and used. That’s all simple, I think, when one considers the changes that have been made at home games.

Now, the merit of the student section is somewhat problematic to the alumnus season ticket holders that might be interested in attending sections in the targeted sections. They would have to miss a few events if they buy season seats and the Athletic Department could avoid reseating alumni. And the issue of decreased revenue might not be a big problem. The loss of several dozen seats would only mean a few less in the home games, which are already sold out, and would only affect attendance at the Away games, which draw four animal crowds.

The best idea of the gesture would not be needed. Nothing would be changed. The alumni season tickets holders would be very happy to stand out of the cold and the basketball season tickets holders would be even more happy. This new seating plan would be beneficial for the few, not the many.

Edward Shenher

The Loew’s Theater

Penn’s ever-persistent financial aid problem

The news passed last week that the University of Pennsylva- 

nian announced it was abandoning the undergraduate financial aid pack- 

age. Just two years ago, the higher ed- 

cation community was abuzz with the change. Now the College-Wharton alienation will continue.

Further, I would like to point out the Committee on Student Financial Affairs will be given a substantial discount.

The College Wharton alienation will be complete.

Penn’s ever-persistent financial aid problem

I would like to invite another female Finance professor — we could use a female professor — to the University of Pennsylvania.

Last year, I attended a conference in Boston where I heard a number of people talk about the issues facing students in the 1990s. One of the issues was the increasing cost of higher education. The problem is that students are facing a financial crisis.

However, I think that the problem is not just financial. It is also a cultural problem. The University of Pennsylvania is a wealthy institution, and it has a responsibility to the students who attend it.

The University of Pennsylvania is one of the wealthiest institutions in the country. It is not fair for the University to charge students such high tuitions and then not provide adequate financial aid to those who need it.

I believe that the University of Pennsylvania should be doing more to help students who need financial aid. The University should be more transparent about the financial aid it provides and how it is distributed.

It is time for the University of Pennsylvania to take action and do more to help students who need financial aid.
Ice was shattered by Drexel freshman Rick Dixon, left the stage "all that good stuff, not that you'd no-
talent's answer of "Jamaica," he added, guard and reveal their dating secrets. An expectant crowd, at times
time to break
tcommittee and an operations
of American cinema: horror
self-preservation (silkscreen)
itm-valuation (in terms of linguistics
And about our project
films, a retention survey
muscis of the Caribbean
ёр

ORIENTATION from page 1

Dating game a big success

DATING GAME from page 1

France, though, the pro-
Penn freshman Michael Maron added, "We were
turned the contests!
wire. We often had great dates and
history of same-sex laws in America.

Some students who identified
tie one might be a quali-

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Thursday, February 10, 2000

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Penn's ever-present financial aid problem

Penn's ever-present financial aid problem

It's still three months until Commencement. II think we get moving now, nobody will ever again joke about the Wharton basketball team would be even more happy, less likely to lose and less likely to be given a substantial discount. As my partner likes to say, "We are not money." And we have money. Lots of it. Money to build large dirt jingle in the middle of campus. Money to fund our liberal arts counterpart's pursuit of exceptionally intelligent knowledge. Money to ensure that future dreams of the Wharton school are achieved. I pledge to continue the tradition of those good old days for Wharton. Let there always be young adults on the campus with an unbridled sense of purpose behind them. Let there always be professors, still questioning if they should have taken a job at the University of Chicago. Let there always be a Call to Action news in a year. It is my strong belief that the continuation of these good times for Wharton. Let them always be young adults on the campus with a strong sense of purpose behind them. Let there always be professors, still questioning if they should have taken a job at the University of Chicago. Let there always be a Call to Action news in a year.

Siona Listokin

ednated seniors of Medi-Choice.' Title: The Lower Program. The implications of Penn's ability to set on the same level as a growing divide between the story is difficult. To accomplish this, seats beside the student section, enabling the alumni ticket holders, who are successful."

Edward Sherman

The Lower Program. The implications of Penn's ability to keep pace with other schools over the last two years were indeed troubling. First, we can expect the percentage of students on financial aid to decrease — much as it has in the last two years — as more students follow the money elsewhere.

Shereen El-Sabban

McKinsey and Goldman, their decks are stacked. But as your president, I hope this forward proposal earlier this fall season will enable students on campus to pay their way in the summer earnings gap. Once the Trustees Scholars program, this plan is not to make Penn that much more attractive to admission officers, or to advance the number of students that Penn's institutional aid plan and other financial aid packages, and to alleviate some of the most visible issues for student satisfaction. One of the most visible issues for student satisfaction is the rapid expansion of facilities. Increasingly, Wharton students are finding themselves living in classrooms and dorms that are outdated and substandard, with far less space to study and learn.

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Forum discusses same-sex marriages
By Roe Shomuro

The title of last night’s Lesbian/Gay Bisexual Transgender Center-sponsored discussion of same-sex marriage was “If You Live to Be 100, Will You Ever Get Married?”

Linda Richards, a senior sociology major and ethnicity and gender studies minor, led the discussion. Richards, a member of the MSM/Marriage Task Force, discussed how to inform Penn students about her personal experience with the MSM/Marriage Task Force.

The task force was organized in December to inform the campus about the progress of national same-sex marriage laws. The task force is comprised of 50 students, faculty members and administrators.

The task force has implemented several projects, including a survey and a presentation to inform the campus on the progress of national same-sex marriage laws. The survey was conducted by the MSM/Marriage Task Force, and the presentation was given by the task force.

In terms of the progress of national same-sex marriage laws, the task force has made significant progress. The task force has conducted surveys and presentations to inform the campus about the progress of national same-sex marriage laws. The surveys and presentations have been well-received by the campus.

In terms of the future of national same-sex marriage laws, the task force is optimistic. The task force believes that the progress of national same-sex marriage laws is making significant strides. The task force believes that the progress of national same-sex marriage laws will continue to make significant strides.

Overall, the task force believes that the progress of national same-sex marriage laws is making significant strides. The task force believes that the progress of national same-sex marriage laws will continue to make significant strides.
Hijackers restart contact after a brief breakdown

Over 150 people still remain in the Ariana airlines Boeing 727.

STANSTED, England — Contact with the hijackers of an Afghan airliner broke down yesterday after they had engaged in a detailed and detailed regime communication and expressed their demands on the release of 130 hostages aboard

The negotiations became arrested after four crew members staged a escape through a cockpit window. Police were left to wonder if anyone aboard could be the Ariana Airlines Boeing 727

But contact resumed later yesterday.

Swiss 'foot dragging' on WW2 accounts criticized

WASHINGTON — Swiss officials are "dragging their feet" on the plan to compensate heirs of the Third Reich victims for lost bank accounts and assets plundered by the Nazis, a negotiator said yesterday.

And U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, said U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, said his administration is open to waiving Swiss neutrality on recovering Holocaust-era financial assets, provided a congressional panel that !is a part of the agreement, not one sided! from the U.S. and other countries!

"Some Swiss institutions have yet been paid for victims."

Forbes to drop out of race

The GOP candidate spent over $6 million in a bid for the presidency.

OGLEBAGA, N.Y. — After spending more than $6 million of his own campaign funds, independent presidential candidate Steve Forbes abandoned his second presidential campaign yesterday with little to show for his investment.

The tory bookkeepers called it quits after third-place finishers in the New Hampshire and Delaware primaries, according to advisers who said Forbes would announce the de-

Steve Forbes, 1996 presidential candidate

Hannokamp, McCain made his own bid for the Republican mantle of anti-tax, anti-abortion, anti-tax supporters who were most likely to win in November.

"No candidate is more conservative than Governor Bush's tax plan. I think they'll be a candidate who stands up for what he believes.

In the end, Forbes failed to convince Republicans that he could win in No-

Voters whose top priority was taxes showed that Forbes fared best among the remaining contenders for the nomination, according to aides who said Forbes fared worst among the three films written by their di-

By M. Night Shyamalan and Anderson.

The Sixth Sense

Three Kings

Night at the Roxbury

The Sixth Sense

Black Book Forest (NY)

Rochester Center (MN)

Atlantic Forest (Brazil)

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WORLD Associated Press

Directors get nods from Writers Guild for scripts

LOUIS ANGELES — More than half of the Writers Guild movie awards over the past year went to directors who serve on or control the Guild.

Nominated for best original script were three films whose directors were Paul Thomas Anderson, the Guild's nominee for both M. Night Shyamalan and the Thompsons剧组。 Belgian-Born Alan Ball and Bill John Macdonald by Charlie Kaufman.

Amazon.com subsidiary sues FTC of probe

SEATTLE — Bezos has ac-

cess to Amazon.com subsidiary of using software to track Internet users to relay customer personal data to

The lawsuit will be joined in a district court in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on Mon-

day. Amazon.com said the sub-

sidiary — Alexa Internet — and its software are the subject of an "inter-

nal investigation by the Federal Trade Commission.

Swiss 'foot dragging' on WW2 accounts criticized
Boeing engineers strike after talks break down

The Daily Pennsylvanian

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno promised yesterday that federal law enforcement authorities will act quickly to combat a wave of Internet vandalism.

"It is incumbent on us to take a serious look at the effect of this kind of attack on individuals, society and businesses," said Reno, who met yesterday with state and local counterparts in cooperation with the FBI.

After a rash of attacks that disrupted a number of top Internet sites, Reno said "these cybercriminals have caused millions of dollars in damage to legitimate businesses.

"You'd have to make sure this molecule is not toxic to humans," he said. "If it works in humans, it would be a big step.

Reno said the government is working with state and local counterparts to get prompt reporting of such crimes.

"It is incumbent on us to take a serious look at the effect of this kind of attack on individuals, society and businesses," she said.

"Obviously we are disappointed that we were unable to reach an agreement in good faith, and to let you know they can make it," the president said yesterday as he left the White House for a trip to Texas.

"They fabricated the facts to make money and made a hero out of a cold-blooded murderer," said Burns, the president's bar.

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Reno promises attack on cyber vandalism

WASHINGTON — More than 18,000 engineers and technical workers at Boeing Co. walked off the job yesterday, adding to the disruption caused by yesterday's unprecedented wave of attacks against Web sites belonging to some of the biggest companies in the United States.

In fact, attacks on the Boeing sites were widespread, with the company's Web sites among those hit.

"We are committed in every way possible to reaching an agreement," said Boeing spokesman Robert DeCicco.

"Consumer accounts were never compromised," spokesman Patrick D'Amico said. "They were under pressure because of the change in traffic for about a month, but the company doesn't want to comment.

Now the union is calling for more guarantees for consumers to use the Web's most popular sites.

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''I just went to work..."
Overcrowded bleachers and a playing field that looked like it had a ring of dirt around it made the only thing that was exciting the victory, record back at .500, the Red and Blue whereas Temple will try to recover some exciting things to look for," Jackson said. "The Red and Blue have a good team right now. Our chances are pretty good of getting to the finals and we could surprise Dartmouth."

People's other victims were freshman

"It's not going to get any easier and things. Temple head coach

"It's going to be a good matchup."

The seating concerns, meanwhile, will not have a temporary solution prior to the construction of the grandstand, despite overcrowding problems last season.

According to women's soccer coach Andy Nelson, assistant last year at Maine ended up — despite the field's seating capacity of approximately 800, the former bleachers and the new women's soccer area brought more people to games than the bleachers could hold.

The poor condition of the playing field — with patches of dirt, uneven ground and stray tufts of grass — will be addressed this offseason, regardless of when the grandstand is erected.

Some preliminary maintenance to the playing surface was done last month, but a complete redesign may still be necessary to return the field to a playable condition.

The Quakers will have to recover from yesterday's loss. They need to be real during the playoffs. Tom Griffin also lost to

"We are always working to improve our facility. We should allow quality of performance. There may be some exciting things to look for," Nelson said.

The prospect of defeating Philly to

"It's going to be a good opportunity for us to get ready for the real thing. We have a lot of work to do in the next couple of weeks."

"It was a tight one," Diplomats' said "We've been well played on both sides, but we were fortunate in a few matches. We'll be happy in the middle of the second season in the team championship."

On Friday, the players move

"It's a disappointment, but we were there in a few finals. Tom Griffin also lost to

"It was a tight one," Diplomats' John Stallings said. "It was competitive. Penn's order from the No. 7 position saw their

"It's going to be a good opportunity for us to get ready for the real thing. We have a lot of work to do in the next couple of weeks."

"In a display of concentration and

"Penn junior Vicky Singh was looking to have as good of, if not better, facility than anyone else in the Ivy League."

"I like exactly where we are at this point in the season. We're quickly from yesterday's loss. They need to be good team, accept the loss and look forward to the next match."

In another see-saw match, Penn's

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commands a great deal of respect says we need to get something in that fashion." "Mike has a great deal of tolerance as Mike as a coach." "This is a really big meet for us as both meet can be very good in every event." "I think that our freshmen are doing fine and have adjusted really well," Wittels said. "I think so some of our seniors know he is not exactly the tooth and nurting coach." "I try to pass that on a little bit as well," Schnur said. "A lot of people forget how young he is. I think my game feeds off of that a little bit," Monti said. "I think he's got a great group of players, too. He's got some speed in his team," Wittels said. "The daily Pennsylvanian...
**TOMORROW**

With the men hosting Harvard and Dartmouth and with the women traveling to those Ivy and Dartmouth and with the Temple alumnus will victory over Ivy rival Brown, but two bro-

**SPORTS**

Ringe thriller: F&M squeaks by M. Squash

Penn fell short as the Diplomats pulled out the victory in the final match of the evening.

By Kyle Bender

Jen Miller won his battle against Franklin and Marshall last night, but Penn lost the war to the Diplomats at the Ringe Court. The Quakers lost Harvard and Dartmouth next.

The Temple alumnus will lead his Quakers against the Owls on Saturday.

By Christine Tosh

The Penn gymnastics team doesn't have any time for a letdown.

The two Philadelphia rivals also have

**Gymnastics to face Kovic's alma mater**

The Temple alumnus will lead his Quakers against the Owls on Saturday.

By Christine Tosh

The Penn gymnastics team doesn't have any time for a letdown.
Looking for love in all the wrong places

It's February 10. Do you know where your valentine is?

inside — Internet dating • ‘Holy Smoke’ • Valentine's alternatives • and more...
A single red rose

When Cupid’s arrow goes astray

RANDI ROTBERG

This kiss was different.
A week ago he had held me tight, lacing together our arms, our lips, maybe our hearts. But now something was up: our matching baby blues did anything but lock. And then he told me.
All his embarrassment and hesitation did nothing to soothe the pain he was piercing through me. While we were dating, he stated clearly that he never knew much about me, too.
He was like assassinated and shit.

Example. "Are you almost done
with that sticky lint remover, yo?"
You mean business.

Caution: Don’t use the word during attendance in class. You would be a dork.

Next, let’s look at “and stuff,” and its censored cousin, “and shit.” Follow any sentence with “and shit,” and you’ve slickly avoided pretense with your casual chillness, while carefully leaving room for your statement to be wrong—your wrongness sliding by undetected all the while.

Example. “Why is Abe Lincoln famous?”

“He was like assassinated and shit.”

I wish I could say you’re wrong, but I cannot. By saying ‘and shit,’ you provided for information that you did not explicitly cover.

The beauty of this phrase is you can use it after virtually any sentence. It makes you sound prett
ey easygoing and shit.

But don’t let the rickity-racky all-out fun stop at sentence suffixes. Make up words as well. Some of my personal favorites are ‘arrocificed,’ ‘transcendiferous’ and ‘reactitude.’ Work them into your daily vocabulary until, one by one, you watch your friends fall into the trap, or wedding bells ring someday, the possibility of romance is seldom rejected, no?

And if you’re a little timid, remember that a red rose speaks volumes on February 14.

Miles of highway distant us, but I could just see his jaw dropping to his knees. It felt good. His endless apologies and antagonism of praise paled in comparison to his simple plea of, "I'm so sorry and wish you would have told me then.

I wish I had, too.

Maybe he would have chosen more carefully had he known which girl was more serious. Maybe I would have chosen more carefully had I known how fickle he is. I hide behind my silence, as well as behind e-mails and even letters, both of which are easier to deliver than a face-to-face declaration of any kind of sentiment.

A good friend once called me a coward, forcing me to profess feelings for someone else. It felt good, I must admit, to breathe the secret off my chest. But in retrospect I regret not saying everything on my mind. I wish I had been less picky as I chose my words, and more willing to let honesty flow from me. I had chosen more carefully had I known how fickle he was. He told me later that he never knew how much I cared, and perhaps that had made a difference. He also told me he was going through a weird time then, and maybe if I had known that, I wouldn’t have been so quick to denounce all of love’s charms.

Regardless of what might have been, we are friends now only because we talked this out, as difficult as it was to get there.

I’d like to say that I learned something in the process. It seems my lack of confession solves more relationship problems than it creates. I’m sure. Honest conversations have power, but most of us lock the potential in unspoken words. I know the risk is there. I hide behind my silence, as well as behind e-mails and even letters, both of which are easier to deliver than a face-to-face declaration of any kind of sentiment.

Correction and Clarification

In a Dec. 2, 1999, article entitled "Landmark’s the Spot," 34th Street reported that the current chief executive officer and director of the Landmark Education Corporation had incorporated the entity. In fact, they were two of more than 100 former employees of Werner Erhard and Associates who formed the corporation. In addition, although the article reported -- based on previously published reports -- that LEC licensed its technology from Erhard to whom it reverted at the end of the license term, LEC’s general counsel has advised 34th Street that the company owns the technology and does not license it from or make license payments to Erhard. Finally, in reporting its story, 34th Street did not intend to imply either that LEC or Erhard had engaged in the misleading of profits or that their programs have caused psychological damage to participants.

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Cover design by Tom Schmid
Finding a roof over your head
Basically, we go to school in a run-down section of a post-industrial wasteland. So is it really all that shocking that a "good" Penn housing consists of a barbed-wire fence, beige paint job, and a coveted location in the path of drunk freshman party-goers? With the sprint for housing currently underway, we thought we'd give you the lowdown on what spots are posh and what spots are not.

The high rises
Oh... we mean Harnwell, Harrison and Hamilton college houses. Because the first thing we think of when we see these towering mounds of industrial concrete is community living. Residents run blissfully from floor to floor, making new friends and hanging out in their rooms. But when it's cold outside the lecture hall, it's like summer camp, only happier. Lots of people baking cookies and singing "Kumbaya." Who the fuck are we kidding? These buildings look like prison wards. Searchlights shine into the yard and residents sit in the comfort of our organizational lair. Doesn't it give you the shivers?

Beige block
We know beige block must have been the place to live in the early '80s, but it just isn't that cool. First of all, why the hell is it beige? Probably so it can't show all the dirt and pollutants that build up. Only at Penn would a row of conformists actually consider this a good thing. Now, it is close to the 40th Street corridor and its world class shopping options. Forget Paris or Milan and trust the University — this is the place to shop. From greasy chicken wings and useless electronic devices to stolen hats and fake Prada handbags, you just can't go wrong.

Baltimore Avenue
This is the hot spot for members of the Penn counterculture. All 10 of them live down there. And man do they know how to party. But isn't it kind of humorous that Penn's self proclaimed anti-Greeks basically throw glorified frat parties? A couple kegs, some bad hip-hop and an empty room do not equal a house party. But it's still fun to get plastered in some random dude's house and sneak into his kitchen for the late-night snack.

The fraternity and sorority houses
The ultimate in group identification. Great idea. Let's join a little social club with some letters from an ancient language and let it become our entire lives. We can live, eat and sleep in the comfort of our organizational lair. Doesn't that sort of sound like a two-week fling? But at least Greek members select their houses based on mutual interests, as opposed to many non-Greeks, who find roommates because they were randomly selected to live together freshman year or because they were desperate to fill a house.

Center City
Oh, those chosen few who make it out alive. In the tough neighborhoods of West Philly, even Will Smith had a hard time getting to Bel Air. So how do you expect to make it out alive? Once in Center City, you'll find out that all the trendy bars that should be filled with the 20-something urban crowd are instead populated with overweight stockbrokers in their midlife crises.

Surprise your valentine with a warm bath and a large top hat.

For the men:
1. Go home to wherever your sorry ass came from, but tell everyone that you're going to visit a girlfriend at another school. Go find that picture of the hot girl in high school who gave you her yearbook photo because you did her chemistry homework all year and tell everyone that she's your girlfriend. Before you get back, buy yourself a pair of boxers with hearts on them. Cautionary note: this plan might not work if your friends are the least bit intelligent.
2. Pretend to be sick and say you had to cancel dates with some girls (whose names and identities you obviously made up, you sly dog, you). This will definitely work because you are a very crafty person and people genuinely like and trust you.
3. Go to the zoo. It's always fun to laugh at those silly little monkeys constantly picking at their rear ends. It will make you feel better to see caged animals and smell the disgusting filth that they live in. If you get lucky, maybe you can even pet a camel or some-thing. The downside is that even those dumb monkeys get laid on a regular basis by other monkeys and bored zoo workers.
4. Go to Smoke's. The place will be packed with drunk girls just looking to have sex. And they have such low self-esteem that they will be happy to be worked by a smooth player such as yourself.

For the ladies:
If you're a girl and you can't get a guy to take you out, you are helpless. Guys will do just about anything to hook up. So get us for the men and we will be happy to be worked by a smooth player such as yourself.

If these suggestions still don't carry you through Valentine's Day, there is always Riske Video or Club Wizzards. Armed with Dad's credit card, you could do some serious damage.

For the students:
If you're a student and you're looking to have sex. And they have such low self-esteem that they will be happy to be worked by a smooth player such as yourself.

Pathetic valentine tricks
As if you weren't looking for some Valentine's Day. Capitalist conspiracy to sell more greeting cards. An Oliver Stone film could be in the making.

AN END TO LITERACY
Return to the days of dumb peasants
In the quest to educate the world, some institutions may be doing more harm than good. Recently, the British Department of Education printed about 50,000 posters to encourage literacy. Unfortunately, a few typos got in the way of the high-minded message. The word "vocabulary" was misspelled as "vocabluary," and the people were urged to learn "through" instead of "through" their work. Good to see that the department sets such a fine example for the under-educated. Meanwhile, the Penn Graduate School of Education claims on a flier advertising its urban education seminar that "all is welcome." You all is free to go down and learn about educating urban people on how speak good and read better.

Young Sluts
Japan. Platform shoes may soon be banned for drivers, due to a high accident rate. However, really short drivers who can't reach the brakes still found to be perfectly safe.

Hillary Clinton. Announces candidacy for Senate by putting on a pair of black stretch pants and carrying a Prada handbag. Guess she just landed the Penn vote.

Wisconsin. Jesus statue in city park found unconstitutional. However, golden shine to large block of cheese still found perfectly normal.

Valentine's Day. Capitalist conspiracy to sell more greeting cards. An Oliver Stone film could be in the making.

Old Prudes
Boogie Sugar. "Colombia expects peasants to fight cocaine crop removal." U.S. authorities expect George W. Bush to do the same.

El Niño. Johns Hopkins study claims warming weather may lead to increased diarrhea in developing countries. El Niño has done nothing to change the anal retentiveness of the average Penn student.

Spielberg. Has kidney removed after irregularities were found. Plans to sell it on eBay, since all the other useless crap on the site commands high prices.

Mississippi. State song, "Go Mississippi," is under attack for promoting southern redneck stereotypes. Instead, authorities are considering the theme song from Dukes of Hazzard.

Crack. Eighty-eight-year-old man convicted of buying the highly illegal drug. He claimed, "I really have nothing else to do." Guess Monday night bingo and dinner theater have lost their luster.

Austria. Disgruntled nation leaves European Union, citing immigration, liberal policies and that damn Euro Disney complex as the primary reasons.
The joy of sects

In ‘Holy Smoke,’ Harvey Keitel plays a cult-buster who must rescue the “brainwashed” Kate Winslet

AMY VICTORIA DOLAN

Written and directed by Academy Award winner and native New Zealander Jane Campion, Holy Smoke is an atypical and unpredictable film. Campion successfully relays the story of a young beauty, Ruth Bannock (Kate Winslet) whose open mind leads her on a back-packing journey to India where she explores the teachings of the Dalai Lama and Hindu faith.

Mesmerized by the lifestyle of an Indian ashram, Ruth has an epiphany when touched by an Indian guru who leads her to a deeper understanding of the truth of our existence on this planet. Understanding that happiness is easily attained when one lives honestly, Ruth desires to remain in India rather than return to her family down under.

Concerned and narrow-minded, Ruth’s eclectic and wildly dysfunctional family lure her back to Oz and into the hands of an expensive American cult deprogrammer, PJ Waters (Harvey Keitel). Waters isolates and tricks Ruth of her enlightened thought, the two engage in a powerful dialogue concerning sexuality and perceptions of gender. Winslet’s sincere talent and strength as an actress are intoxicating as she dominates the screen with an explosive sexuality and confidence that compliments the machismo-infested personality of said cult expert. In a heated and realistic three-day period, the unique and intriguing story unravels as the unexpected occurs more than once.

A cult film can be defined as a flow of interactions and anger are released onto the screen through a beautifully swirling exchange and both characters’ perceptions of each other are identified, altered, rejected and finally accepted. Visually, Holy Smoke is a festively poetic adventure. Campion displays her talent by reality in both the scenic shots of Australia and the congested streets of India. Peppered with a few colorful hallucinations, the film is both compellingly real as well as aesthetically brilliant.

Accompanied by a fantastically diverse soundtrack, the energy and intensity entwined in the cinematography and acting create a film a complete package. In a time when most films resemble each other in one element or another, Holy Smoke is a refreshing change of pace. The viewer is treated a number of mind twists and humorously unconventional actions given birth by unique circumstances.

Holy Smoke

Directed by: Jane Campion
Harvey Keitel, Kate Winslet

Nothing much about a ’do

Craig Ferguson stars as a Scottish hairdresser competing for fame and fortune in this sophomoric farce

ASHER HAWKINS

When I was 11, I saw This Is Spinal Tap, and I’ve been a changed person ever since. Sure, the acting was great and the script was quite funny, but what really got me going was the idea of a mock documentary. Suddenly, all the PBS documentaries took on a whole new meaning. Since then, there have been few comedic documentaries, and that has been a good thing: that specific category of cinema, like concept albums in music, is risky and should only be attempted by those totally committed to the perfection of their own film and aware of the potential for failure. That is why the mediocre new mockumentary The Big Tease is such a big disappointment.

The Big Tease chronicles the rise of Scottish hairstylist Crawford Mackenzie (Craig Ferguson), who is invited to “participate” in the Platinum Blonde World Hairdressing Competition. Mackenzie leaves behind his mother, clients and boyfriend in Glasgow, boards a plane with a British documentary-filmmaker (Chris Langham) and film crew, takes a suite in a luxury hotel in L.A. and hires a limousine driver only to find out that “participate” means sitting in the audience at the show, not being a contestant. Undaunted, he wages a campaign to become a veritable contestant, over the course of which he befriends an influential publicist (Frances Fisher) in the throes of a midlife crisis and his driver, a fledgling player on the Hollywood scene (Donal Logue). The hairstylist proceeds to best both the reigning king of the hairstyling world (David Rasche) and the social-climbing promoter (Mary McCormack) running the competition; and meets David Hasselhoff and Drew Carey. Although hassed at every turn, Crawford keeps his spirits up and takes L.A. and the hair world by storm with his Scottish flair.

Sound trite? It pretty much is. The film’s main failing lies in its lack of comic characters. Everyone’s a little quirky, but no one is with a wall, as in Spinal Tap. Ferguson, who co-wrote the script, gives his own character Ludwigssen, a Norse bad boy with Siegfried-esque locks, back’s his lack of self is not necessarily a bad thing, whenCombined with a weak script in a genre that necessitates wit and lots of it, the failure of The Big Tease isn’t all that surprising.

Street ratings guide: *****Dozen Roses *****Goodnight Kiss *****Phone Number *****Cybersex ******No Play for You
Foal love or money
Matthew Warchus' screen adaptation of Sam Shepard's 'Simpatico' fails to win, place or show

TRINA DASGUPTA

Looking for a movie where Sharon Stone doesn't play a sexually driven, emotionally starved psychopath? How about a movie with an original and interesting plot? Then don't see *Simpatico*. Matthew Warchus' adaptation of Sam Shepard's off-Broadway play is a tortuous mix of terrible dialogue, cliché themes and a highly predictable plot. The movie focuses on the lives of three characters: wealthy horse breeder Lyle Carter (Jeff Bridges), who has one too many skeletons in his closet; his truth-seeking, slightly psychotic friend Vinnie (Nick Noite), who has the proof to bring those very skeletons out; and Carter's wife/Vinnie's lover, Rosie (Sharon Stone), who is simply there to complete the bitter love triangle.

The movie begins with a distraught Vinnie calling Carter in need of help. He claims to have been charged with harassment and that police will "make him talk." Hearing this, Carter leaves the biggest business deal of his life — the sale of Triple Crown winner Simpatico — to fly off to California from Kentucky. Upon arrival, he finds Vinnie's progression into the already hokey film. The plot makes a pitiful attempt to thicken with the introduction of Vinnie's current love interest, Cecilia (Catherine Keener), who is deceived by both Vinnie and Carter, but ultimately serves as the moralcherub of the already hokey film.

In the end, the immoral, successful Carter and the guilt-stricken, destitute Vinnie experience an all-too-familiar role reversal, which seems to come hand in hand with this contrived "good vs. evil" concept.

This film flirts with sex, blackmail and gambling, concepts that typically create a fast-paced Hollywood thriller. But instead, Warchus makes morality the focus of the film. Though some would say this is a turn in the right direction, it is essentially a pathetic effort to hop on the pseudo-independent film bandwagon. Only see this movie if you suddenly have some bizarre urge to redefine your moral yardstick in terms of the Kentucky Derby.

These flashbacks are intended to reveal a horse racing scam run by the duo, in which everything goes as planned, and the young pair have made more money than they know what to do with. As the film goes back and forth between past and present, Warchus shows Vinnie's progression into a bar-bum desperately seeking redemption and Carter and Rosie's unhappy marriage as they make millions off of their Triple Crown winner, who is a scam as well.

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BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE (unrated)
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TWIN FALLS IDAHO
Documentaries and fine arts videos?

HERE.
Better than the button
Try a few classy alternatives this Valentine’s Day

In the interest of spreading the love, we’ve selected a few special Valentine’s Day events in and around the city. So whether or not you’ve been struck by Cupid’s arrow, consider venturing off-campus on the big day of love.

Only the lonely
JOSH KLEIN

For some, Valentine’s Day is an opportunity for romance, love and affection. For others, who are sick of all the little candy hearts and red roses, Thetris has the cure. Returning for its third year, Heart Attack!! is a collection of short plays aimed toward the depressed, lonely and broken-hearted.

This year’s performance will include four one-act plays by well-known playwrights such as Eugene O’Neill and Terrence McNally, along with an original piece by local playwright Scott Charles Adams. Each play takes a unique viewpoint on broken promises and rotten relationships.

And don’t miss the “Chance for Romance Raffle,” which gives audience members a shot at winning a romantic evening for two (or one. If that’s the case),

Heart Attack!! opens on Friday, February 11 on 2nd Stage at The Adrienne Theater. If you don’t have a date, go check out Heart Attack!! Who knows — you might get lucky after all.

Dancing the night away
JO PIAZZA

Even if you don’t love your significant other at the moment (or don’t have one, for that matter), you’ll love some of the events at the clubs this year.

What better time to learn how to swing dance than on Valentine’s Day? On Saturday, February 12, the Five Spot will feature a special menu for lovers. Following a beginner’s swing lesson, the Delegates, a Five Spot will feature a special menu for lovers. Following a beginner’s swing lesson, the Delegates, a

Swing band, will perform on the upstairs floor and a contemporary DJ will spin more modern tunes downstairs.

Another option for Saturday night is Lovefest III at Shampoo. The cast from Tony and Tina’s Wedding will be present to act out scenes from the play, models will show off wedding dresses and a Valentine’s Day King and Queen will be crowned. Obviously, this isn’t for commitment-phobes.

And every Sunday, Envy hosts Bound, an S&M-themed event. With a focus on promoting the fetish lifestyle, goth/industrial music and local art, these all-ages parties cater to the whips-and-chains crowd. And on Sunday, February 13, Bound will host a Valentine’s Day masquerade ball. Prizes will be awarded for the best male and female costumes.

Doing it doggy style
MARIN FOGELSON

Ever wonder what rhino sex is like? Now there’s a special place on Valentine’s Day to find out — the “Up Close and Personal” tour offered at the Philadelphia Zoo exclusively for the over-18 set.

This tantalizing tour includes vital information such as phallic size and typical sexual performance of a variety of God’s creatures. It also gives a whole new spin to a beloved childhood spot. After this tour, visitors won’t be able to read Babar with a clean mind.

If you are single, grab some friends and enjoy making fun of your ex’s ex-

Pression complex — the king of the jungle only lasts about 20 seconds. Couples are welcome, although it takes a real man to learn about the 20 different positions that pigs secrete without feeling inadequate.

The tour also includes important stats about which animals’ doors swing both ways, who has the most interesting penis shape (perhaps the pig’s corkscrew-esque love machine?), who favors orgies and who has multiple orgasms. Hmm... sounds like a typical Penn party. Call (215) 243-5385 for tour times.

On a romantic note
J. BRENNER THOMAS

This Valentine’s Day, whisk your date off to a cultured evening at the Philadelphia Orchestra. Their special V-Day program, dedicated to the music of famous couples such as Hansel and Gretel (weren’t they brother and sister?) and Romeo and Juliet, is sure to inspire any otherwise lackluster date.

The Academy of Music — which features an appropriate boule-din-interior — hosts this special one-night-only event. Tickets start at a reasonable $12 for the nosebleed seats, but the price jumps to $75 for the privilege of getting up close and personal with the brass section’s spitfire. Showcasing some of the most romantic works by history’s most romantic composers such as Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns and Faure,

this concert will prove to be just as stimulating as an evening with Barry White or Al Green... well, maybe.

For more information and tickets call (215) 892-1999.

Portrait of a lover
ELIZABETH SILVER

It’s Valentine’s Day at the turn of the century — the year 1900, that is. Instead of futuristic artwork and incomprehensible sculpture, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is offering “Love in Paris” for all the Philly sweethearts who can’t manage to hop over to France on the special day. On Sunday, February 13, local jazz great Heath Allen and Post-Hip a create romantic ambiance as the PAFA opens its doors to Francophiles in search of an afternoon of fine arts and French cuisine.

A century ago, Paris held the Universal Exposition, featuring new works from such artists as Thomas Eakins and Winslow Homer. The PAFA’s commemorative exhibit, “Paris 1900,” is stopping in Philadelphia on its tour of the country, just in time for Valentine’s Day. Ultimate romantics can spend Valentine’s Eve enjoying art, jazz and pâtissiers on croissants. The $25 packages also includes red roses to take home. “Love in Paris” is the ideal romantic adventure for couples. So if you can’t make it to Paris this weekend, head over to the PAFA. For tickets call (215) 972-2071.
“Age/sex/loc” scrolls across the screen as a newcomer to the conversation scopes out the chat room scene. “21/B/ny,” I type.

Apparently, that makes me uniquely attractive — funny, I never get this much attention at Penn — as my computer speakers erupt with a constant flow of private instantaneous messages.

“What’s up, you dirty little girl?” Um, I think you’re weird is what’s up. “You sound like you’d be hot.” Gee, thanks. And my favorites: the seductive, “Wanna get eaten?” and the more domineering, “Get naked for me.” Oh, absolutely to both.

In a few hours of chatting, I meet scores of single and not-so-single men online aching to find dates for Valentine’s Day. Some are older than I, while others just began college. Most are single but a few wear wedding rings and exit the chat rooms to tuck their kids into bed. I meet men of all races, nationalities and religious upbringings. And apparently, quite a good number of the men who chat online have incredibly huge penises. That’s the first thing many of them will tell you.

Perhaps most of these men are pretty sketchy, as I received more than a few propositions — online for things I didn’t know were possible for a normal human body to accomplish. But for every shady character I met online, I also met quite a few people who were not looking for cybersex. Most of the people with whom I spoke were “normal” people who chat online the way others converse on adjoining bar stools or over steaming lattes. They follow real passions, work at real jobs and read real books. And they have real thoughts and feelings that they’d like to share with real people. Some spend their nights and early mornings scoping the Internet for potential dates and long-term relationships, but these men and women are hardly of the scandalous sort.

“Most people [online] are just average folks,” says George Jobel, 44, who developed datesafely.com, a World Wide Web site with rules for maintaining relationships kindled online. His advice for achieving safe and successful partnerships may come in handy, as quite a few people look to the Internet to find love and companionship. Venturing from the safety and anonymity of their keyboards, many chaters take the next step and meet their online lovers in parks, theatres, restaurants and campinggrounds. How many more will rendezvous this Valentine’s Day?

Since he purchased a computer last year, Peter, 43, has gone on actual dates with three women — one in her 40s and two thirtysomethings. The New York City postal worker says he logs into chat rooms to find the spark that is noticeably absent from his marriage.

“There is no desire in our sex life. No desire. No passion,” he laments. “I miss the holding of hands, that passionate kiss. So that is one thing I’m looking for.”

Peter’s wife and two children know that he chats online. But they don’t know that he shared an address. And then came the ring and the really big question.

But the romance shattered for a simple reason: Sue’s fiancé doesn’t trust her.

“It seems men online have a lot of hang-ups,” Sue says. She explains that her former husband-to-be thinks she goes online to meet other men. She adds that she cannot sign onto AOL without noticing his furtive peeks at her e-mail account, as well as more blatant signs of disapproval.

For Sue, this lack of trust is too much. I apologize for the breakup of her engagement and she brushes it off with an “It’s OK.” But she remains steadfast in her claim that “AOL love is a joke.”

Or is it?

In a half-filled chat room dedicated to debating that very topic — “Is AOL Love Real?” — someone adamantly denies that online romances are worthwhile.

“Who believes in AOL love?” he asks. “It’s the same people that believe in the tooth fairy.”

But one young couple doesn’t think so. As they banter with others, they make it well known that they are happily engaged.

“He is my soulmate,” says the 19-year-old Tulsa, Okla., resident. Soon she will put that theory to the test as she leaves her home and her university to live in Queens, N.Y., with her boyfriend. Already accepted as a transfer student at both Columbia and New York universities, she will attend NYU with her 20-year-old fiancé.

Sue says her parents are happy for her, but her boyfriend pipes in with, “At first they thought she was crazy.”

Their story does sound almost unbelievable. But after a series of visits the two decided that they were a perfect match. He admits that he was initially uncertain, but says, “When I first saw her for real, I knew I was in love” and, in the middle of a shared plane trip, asked her to marry him.

Jobel, who has three daughters from his previous marriage of 16 years, remains hopeful that a special someone may one day wander into a chat room he visits. But he is sure that the online community provides a safe, comfortable place for singles to meet. He admits that the younger Jobels “think it’s not the real world.”

“But it’s a very valid way of meeting people,” he adds.

The debate passing through the Jobel house zips through the chat room as well. Can online relationships work? Perhaps it’s especially important to know, with Valentine’s Day right around the corner.

“NO, it’s not real,” he says.

“I think it can happen.”

The text flowed quickly, as each chatter rushed to have his or her opinion read. The online community lacks a clear consensus, but something must draw the millions of people who go online each night on their computers. Something keeps AOL access numbers constantly busy. And not everyone with a screen name wants to know your bra size.
4 Days and Counting...

Don't worry. This week, Street proves that a few hours are enough to find true romance, or at least to snag a decent date for Valentine's Day.

BY STEPHANIE COOPERMAN AND ERIC TUCKER

February 10, 2000

"It's February 10! " Intrepid reporter Eric Tucker tries to find a love connection at the Irish Pub.

"You're so money, you don't even know it." — Swingers

He says...

A guy walks into a bar — wait, you've heard this one already? OK, then, let's start again: A guy walks into a bookstore café, a museum and of course, two bars.

As you'll soon see, however, this guy is on a singular mission that has little to do with getting drunk, even less to do with finding the perfect cup of coffee and absolutely nothing to do with 19th century French Impressionism.

In fact, all this guy really wants is a phone number. A phone number and, I suppose, plans for a potential Valentine's Day date.

Criteria? Barely any to speak of, save for the fact that the number must come from a woman older than say, 18, who — ideally — prefers sleeping with men to sleeping with women (I'm flexible on this last one, obviously).

Now, granted, I don't write for Maxim magazine. I don't profess to know the secrets to unlocking a girl's heart and I know but few foolproof ways to ensure that I hook up each time I go out.

But my own past successes in the topsy-turvy, upside-down, never-ending game of love, coupled with a temporary lapse of reason on my part, convinced me to document faithfully my every move and each attempt in an attempt to be a wannabe coxswain Rome in the City of Brotherly Love.

Please, follow me. You're all invited. If I were a professor, I'd ask you to trace the evolution of my behavior from locale to locale. If I were a lawyer, I'd defend my actions at every point. But I'm a writer, and as such, I consider it my civic duty to give you the low-down on what happened in my experiences with the fairer sex around campus and certainly nothing to do with my love life this weekend, to spare you no detail.

It's here that I feel tremendously guilty because I'm so blatantly uninterested.

Still, in my years of flirtations, I think I've developed a much better intuitive sense, and have grown accustomed to analyzing body language and interpreting glances and smiles. So, when the Bookstore woman has no questions of her own for me — that's probably not a good thing.

And when the Bookstore woman continues with whatever it is that she's doing the second I'm done talking — that's probably worse. If we were lab partners in a chemistry experiment, we'd get a C. Or maybe a D.

It's here that I feel tremendously guilty because I'm so blatantly boring this nice girl who so blatantly uninterested.

I tell her that I'm going to go, but I'd like to talk to her again. I ask her for her phone number. She smiles. She's flat-lined.

With me so far? On we go.

Now, the way I remember it, Ferris Bueller smooched his way into our lives and stole our hearts. But that was 1986.

Saturday night begins less than auspiciously, as I'm too young and too early for the Romantic Nightlife at The Bars on 20th and Walnut streets. I order myself a beer and sit down on one of the barstools. I know enough to not spend the night scanning and scanning and scanning the crowd for a mate.

That's what they call a predator, that's what women dislike and that's something that I probably shouldn't do if I tried.

I also just so happen to be sitting next to the barstool and some washed-up schmuck whose name is "Sketch" tells me I look like a dart player. We play a round together, and even though I beat him with no effort, he still tries to give me lessons on how to properly throw a dart. "Relax," he whispers in my ear. "Get comfortable."

I decide then and there that, coming from this old perv, "relax" and "get comfortable" have to be two of the 10 most disgusting things I've ever heard in my entire life. Just then, however, a tall, drop-dead gorgeous 19-year-old walks in — well, at least 10 years older — and a foot taller — than I enters the bar.

She orders a glass of wine and lights a cigarette, as I pull up beside her. I hand her an ashtray and she smiles. It doesn't seem to help though; she ashes all over the bar counter. I ask her what she's drinking and she tells me it's a new bottle of Pinot Noir that the restaurant just received. "Oh, I say, Must you come from Colorado?"

Well, she says, my boyfriend is the general manager. Wait, please don't go. Don't give up on me just yet. Salvation is just around the corner. I promise.

"Shot Through the Heart" blares on the jukebox at the Irish Pub, the nextdoor pick-up place where they sell tis and ahh with each gin and tonic. Here, the men are practically dangling their cocks out of their chinos. And it's here where I find the one and only success of my two-day excursion. She's got frosty blond hair, and her name is — well, I don't remember that. She's standing alone by the door, she's clearly much older than I and, as she is, as it turns out, a 1995 Penn graduate. I approach her with a confident, "Hi. My name is Eric," and she seems immediately receptive. As ashamed as I am to admit it, I begin lying through my teeth and telling her that I'm a 1997 Penn alumni (hey, what do you know?) who now attends Penn Law. She seems interested so we talk some more.

When the moment seems right, I go ahead and ask for her number. She smiles, laughs and tells me that she's had some bad experiences giving out her phone number in public. Whatever that means. I tell her not to worry — I almost definitely won't use it.

Confused as she may be, she tells me she thinks I'm cute and would be glad to give me her number.

So, 'bout them apples? A phone number from an older woman at a bar when you're the youngest patron. What so if I don't call her? At least I didn't go 0-4.

"Sometimes you have to show a little skin. This reminds guys of being naked, and then they think of sex." — Clueless

She says...

In the world of dating, I have my own two-pronged theory on the quest for love.

1) Personal happiness must come first. A compatible sig-
Cooperman listens closely with lust in her eyes.

But this last criteria is fluid. If a boy wants to be, say, a poet (lacking in the HEP department), but he is also a lineman (more than enough Urrh), he'll pass the test. So possible. Let's just say the word, "HEP." With this criteria in mind, I set out to the modern art rooms. Nothing says non-Urrh like impressionism. My target: a young man sitting on a bench staring at a Jackson Pollock. Not the type to have a third nipple.

Our conversation is surprisingly genuine and powered by my real interest in what he has to say. And without alcohol involved, this could actually be something. I get his number with plans to go to the Institute of Contemporary Art.

Lucy's Hat Shop is the professional equivalent of Smoke's. It's where the still-single lawyers and CPAs go to schmooze, elbow between bottles of Bass and, yes, get a phone number or two. Although the clientele is a few years younger than a college bar's, it had no problem fitting in because bar-bound men obviously don't have an age requirement.

Decked out in my quintessential "I'm single" outfit—TBP and golf prowess. He seems to enjoy grabbing my upper arm with class (score number four) but loses his cool with a detailed explanation of the best times to call.

GM slips me his card and makes a comment about my ass. GM trips my love for Thai food into plans for a housewarming party and asks for my number. Note to self: One with especially large eyes capable of especially intense eye contact should not look in direction of large, square-shouldered man with goatee that just doesn't quite work.

Caught in a conversation with a 30-year-old man who is "in business for himself," I know I'm talking to Mr. Unemployed or Mr. Crack Dealer. Only one option remains: free alcohol. Sipping the newly acquired lager, I calculate the minimum amount of time required to entertain the provider of aforementioned free drink.

Four and a half minutes.

But this bar is bustling with "I like art. Art is pretty." The Philadelphia Museum of Art provides an arena for Cooperman to snag a man.
We've got a tophat full of mud waiting for you here at — **street** —

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**I want to praise you**

The rise of the big beat superlabel: it's Brassic, baby

**Benjamin Rowe**

Best known stateside for Skint's most prized possession — the mindless beat antics of Fatboy Slim — this hugely popular label imprint has redrawn the boundaries for fledgling dance labels that have long suffered the curse of confinement to specialty stores and underground clubs.

For good or bad, Skint has completely obliterated that trend. Fatboy Slim has been devoured by top 40 radio formats that will throw on "Praise You" in the middle of their uninspired playlists of nondescript drive. Does this compromise the artistry of Norman Cook, the ex-Housemartin who adopted the name of Fatboy Slim in order to DJ at English nightclubs?

Cook will be the first to admit that his unique brand of pop music is not on par with the musical breakthroughs of Monteverdi, but the self-professed party animal "just wants to make people dance."

Although Skint's roster is extremely varied, the root of each track is its inclusion in the "big beat" genre, a style of dance music that originated in Brighton and has become the keystone of Skint's success.

Here's the formula: add a soul-infused R&B tinge to a repetitive bass line and a simple non-syncopated drum loop, and voila, a shrink-wrapped No. 1 single. Despite the fact that Fatboy Slim is the fiscal sugar daddy behind this label, other acts also share "the funk soul brother's" spotlight. Bentley Rhythm Ace, Cut La Roc, Hardnox and Lo Fidelity Allstars — who recently enjoyed American success with their single "How to Operate With a Blown Mind" — join forces to round out this dance powerhouse.

So how do you operate with a blown mind? First check out Skint's little gift to America, *Brassic Beats*, a compilation of the best tracks that Skint has to offer. The album is a rambunctious collection of earblistering drum samples, interminable catch phrases from esoteric soul albums and the occasional keyboard interlude. The album even contains a cut from label boss Damian Harris under the pseudonym of Midfield General... ain't cynophobia grand?

**Have you heard of Joe 90?**

**Benjamin Rowe**

Have you heard of Joe 90? The Counting Crows' lead singer Adam Duritz has. That's right, the dreadlocked classic rocker is quite a fan of Joe 90, so much so that he has signed them to his new label, E Pluribus Unam. Until 1995 the band was named God's Child and enjoyed mild success with a top 20 modern rock single "Everybody's 1." But as we enter the year 2000, Joe 90 is a new band sporting a renewed vision.

Not surprisingly, Joe 90's debut, *Dream This*, sounds incredibly similar to the Beatles/Stones/ Van Morrison integration style also typical of the band's mentors, Counting Crows. On the majority of the album's cuts, the psychedelic strum of an acoustic guitar is enhanced by the sweeping layers of a string quartet as a four-part harmony repeats the last word of every verse. Ahhh... John Lennon would be proud.

Seefried describes his creative process as a form of escapism: "I live my life through crayons and chord changes, so my reality is this weird world of imagination." Grab a coloring book and an old guitar, and Dream This.

**Top 10 at Penn**

Long before Total Request Live contaminated the afternoon activities of bored 13-year-olds, there was an easy way to gauge the popularity of music. It was called a record chart. So if you have the slightest interest in what the majority of the Penn student body is buying, read on. If you don't like the results then stop downloading MP3s and start buying some fucking albums, you cheap bastard.

The bestselling records at Penn for the week of February 1

10. Dr. Dre — Chronic 2000. Interscope
7. Korn — Issues. Epic
6. Moby — Play. V2
5. Morhine — The Night. Dreamworks
4. Santana — Supernatural. Arista
2. Lox — We Are the Streets. Interscope
1. D'Angelo — Voodoo. Virgin

compiled by Spruce Street CDs

D'Angelo and Dr. Dre smoke their hemp hats and contemplate the absurdity of postmodern life.
Piercing overdone distortion

The rap-metal bandwagon’s latest recruits try to show us something new...

JOHN HAUSHALTER

If ever there was a sound that could be called “audio testosterone,” this is it. In The Fundamental... Elements of Southtown, P.O.D. merges hip-hop, rock and skater thrash into a cohesive whole that is, at times, a sonic assault on the listener. Rap-metal, as this genre is coming to be known, came into its own this past year with the commercial success of such artists as Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit. The main theme is energy, pure aggressive kinetic energy, in a case rapped against some amazing guitar fretwork. There is even a hint of latent aggression in P.O.D.’s occasional subdued intros. The rap-metal bandwagon’s latest recruits try to show us something new...

Screw this ball of... Trite gangland antics do not hip-hop make

ERICA MILLER

The debut album by the “rhyme renegades” Poet, KL and Hostyle is yet another foray into the already exhausted territory of gangsta rap. The album attempts to honor the late Louis Chandler (nicknamed Screwball), but the group members are unable to make the transition from drug-trafficking hard-asses to hip-hop philosophers. It is a sad irony that the first song on an album with such an all-encompassing and apocalyptic title as Y2K merely entreats us, “Don’t let the weed just sit there, smoke that shit!” While they are straight out of Queensbridge, N.Y., Screwball seems lost within its own one-dimensionality. It’s hard to say what they will join in or be swept away by the swelling tide of other New York rappers who are reaching national recognition.

But there are some redeeming tracks on the album: the unorthodox beat and aggressive lyrics of “Take it There” (featuring Capone of the much-celebrated Capone-N-Noreaga) surpass those elements displayed in the other tracks. The controversy single, “Who Shot Rudy,” is a fair ambassador for Screwball, with a subtext of paranoia, indignation and pain. Despite a long struggle for recognition, Screwball may still offer promise. After all, 34-year-old Dre is still releasing albums. But Y2K appears to be bereft of originality and charisma. And in a time when hip-hop is producing so many promising new artists, Screwball is probably a lost cause.

He ain’t your mother’s William Butler Yeats

Here comes the Sundiata with lyrical deftness and a band in check

JEFFREY BARG

Seko Sundiata’s spoken word album, longstoryshort, is an invitation to join a poetic revolution. The songs mesmerize the listener and soon become active grenades begging for explosion. Released by Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Records label, Sundiata’s album entices with smooth and supple beats before exploring halfway through the album into an underground tribal meeting, plotting social change and upheaval. The latter part of the album provides the kind of spiritual awakening which is at once intense, enlightening and surprisingly refreshing.

Sundiata catches (and holds) his audience’s attention with ease. The musical background often takes center stage, allowing Sundiata’s limber voice to ride the rhythm through its natural ebbs and flows. Other times, the words take prominence and the music has to fight to keep up with the artist’s hypnotic intensity. While the poems alone are occasionally dry and repetitive, the music provides a sultry blend of R&B and jazz, bolstered by deep-driving funk and gospel soul as styles flow seamlessly from Stevie Wonder and P-Funk to Caribbean reggae.

Lyrically, the first half of longstoryshort is subtler, but not necessarily tamer. But with “Urban Music,” the album suddenly becomes an African cultural narrative and call to action: “Talk about urban music, baby, this is it. Music to rhythm, music to flame, music to sound and live in our veins.” The voices in the soundscape become communal, merging in an irresistible groove.

When the album finally releases its powerful grip, you’ll be anxious to pass Sundiata’s invitation on to someone else.

ratings guide: ***** Dozen Roses ***** Goodnight Kiss **** Phone Number **** Cybersex * No Play for You
Interview
they don’t sell starbucks

JONATHAN MAY
At Robin’s Bookstore the atmosphere is cozy, the coffee is hot and the conversation is always fiery.

For almost 60 years, Robin’s Bookstore has been a literary focal point in Center City. For the past 40, Larry Robin has been fighting censorship, Barnes & Noble and the decline of intellectualism as he knows the family business. Street sat down to chat with Robin about the state of independent bookstores, the evils of corporatism and the future of Philadelphia.

Street: To what do you attribute your bookstore’s longevity?
Larry Robin: Tenacity. I’m third generation. I love the business, and I refuse to give up, and I think we’ve just come through the crisis period. Probably half of the independent bookstores in the country have gone out of business in the last five years, and I think those of us that have survived are going to recover. But if I were strictly a business man, I would have closed five years ago.

Street: So you’re implying the independents won’t be completely wiped out?
LR: Right. I think that pattern has slowed down, and I think the fascination with the giants has waned. The people who are real readers have become frustrated with these corporate giants who are presenting themselves as if they were real bookstores when they’re really mass merchandisers. I think real book lovers are returning to support their bookstores.

Street: What is the main difference between these “mass merchandisers” and “real bookstores”?
LR: It’s primarily commitment on a non-business level. Mass merchandisers sell anything that will make a profit. Booksellers are in business because they love books and therefore also know something about them.

Street: Would you say that your bookstore is very different from your grandfather’s of 60 years ago?
LR: The book business before 1960 was primarily hardback. Paperbacks started being published as dime novels in the ‘30s and ‘40s, but it was not until the ‘50s that everything exploded into paperbacks. There has also been a change from the last 40 years in the types of merchandise that we can sell. There is much less general intellectual interest today. We used to be able to sell to the general public serious academic books for the general public. There are very few serious academic books now being sold to the general public.

Street: Why do you think that is? Is it a general dumbing down of the public, or are they getting their intellectualism elsewhere?
LR: One current statistic is that there are fewer bookstores around, but the people who are reading read more. I think we have gone through a period in the ‘90s that can be compared to the ‘50s. People are just more informed. Instead of reading classic studies, people are reading self-help books. But I think this decade is coming to a change of people being tired of self-centered attitudes and taking a more intellectual view of things. So I don’t think it’s a dumbing down. I think it’s a social cycle that we’ve gone through. I think today’s generations of students has a lot more interest in intellectualism than the students of the last couple of generations.

Street: And yet this new generation of students is being served by university bookstores which are now, more and more, being taken over by giants like Barnes & Noble.
LR: Which means that the diversity of information that they need is no longer available. Again you have the problem where, say, at Penn, House of Our Own is kept alive in areas that Barnes & Noble just could not serve. That’s the difference between independents and corporates: most independents have a reason they’re there, something they love, whether it’s a political ideology or fishing.

Street: So the only hope for independents is to be specialized?
LR: Yes. And to have a community connection, serving the community in various ways so they are in fact, as they’ve usually been, community-based stores. The kind of centralized thinking and concepts that the chains have can never respond to the local interests, issues and needs as rapidly as independents can.

Street: It seems that five or six years ago the chains borrowed something from independents. All of a sudden, all bookstores had coffee shops and became very friendly. They became places where kids would hang out at night. Was this what caused the mass closings of independent bookstores?
LR: First of all, the chains did not invent anything. In fact, the first coffee shop [in a bookstore], I believe, was Kramerbooks in Washington, D.C., which started 10 or 12 years ago in a coffee shop. Also, in fact, Borders initially was owned by the Borders brothers and was a really excellent and progressive Ann Arbor store. But once it was taken over by corporate entities, it, too, changed.

There’s a lawsuit going on between the American Bookseller’s Association and [the large chain bookstores]. The chains were getting secret discounts, kickbacks and advertising allowances from the publishers that were not available to the regular bookstores. [The ABA] proved that chains had developed what was called promotional allowances so that every book that was [displayed] in the stores was being paid for by the companies. So when you walked in and saw “discovery of the month,” that was advertising. It wasn’t a discovery. When Barnes & Noble had an ad that said “this is our bestseller,” in fact the company had paid $10,000 for that ad.

Street: So favorites weren’t favorites and picks of the week weren’t picks of the week.
LR: Right. It was all advertising. And this was the way other industries worked. It was never the way the book industry worked. What the chains did is very interesting. The chains don’t make money selling books. They make a lot of money advertising books.

Street: That sounds like a television network. LR: Exactly. The function of the store is to create the advertising venue. They don’t care what they sell. They have no love of literature. They’re fighting over market share. Same as the TV stations. It’s sweeps week. How many people do you contact? That is how the chains make their money. The whole store is a loss leader. And that’s what we’re competing with.

Street: What’s your relationship with Philadelphia and how has it evolved?
LR: I’ve lived in Center City all my life. I grew up at Fifth and Spruce before it was Society Hill. Center City was open 24 hours a day. It was vibrant and interesting. On Market Street from 11th to 18th Street, there used to be four all-night movies, three cafes that were open all night, and an all-night bowling alley. They were all low-rise, interesting buildings. Artists and writers and jazz musicians would end up at cafes at 3 in the morning.

Part of what happened was very deliberate. After the riots in the late ’60s a lot of the small buildings were ripped down and fortress-like business buildings were constructed. Those buildings all had concrete straight down with small doorways. They were built as fortresses because people were scared. And I think it very deliberately killed the atmosphere. So why doesn’t anyone come to Center City? Well, there are giant high-rise buildings with no store fronts and nothing’s open. Why should they come to Center City?

Street: The old Market Street you’re describing sounds like what is now on South Street.
LR: It’s beginning to happen (again) back in this area in a different way. With the new hotels you have people in the street. We’re suddenly getting a Center City residential community. One of the reasons I was never open late here till that at 5 p.m. everyone went home. We’re now open till 7 again. The fellow who just bought this area is redeveloping it as small buildings with retail. This street is going to become a major shopping area.

I think the resurrection of Center City is really significant. The difference between Center City and the neighborhoods and the suburbs is you have such a variety of people [in Center City] that you are not under the heel of any ideology. In 1964, we were the test case in Philadelphia for the banning of [Henry Miller’s] Tropic of Cancer. Everyone else folded in and my father and uncle and I talked it over and resisted it, and we could do that because of the variety of the clientele. If you get busted for pornography in Schwenksville, you’re out of business. It doesn’t matter what happens in the court. The real danger of censorship is what they call the chilling effect. You begin to self-censor because you can’t afford to be in trouble. The beauty of the metropolitan area is that you’re not under that heel.

Street: What do you see for the future?
LR: I think to survive as an independent you have to have a specialty focus that forms your core, then you sort of have other things. The discounters have taken [the bestsellers], that’s easy. They can sell a million copies, you can buy them for 40 percent off at Encore.

Street: So you have the fringe.
LR: I have the fringe. And a piece of that, from you have to be known for.

We’re known for African-American studies, we’re known for new age, we’re known for literature and culture. But if you ask for travel, I’ll send you to Rand McNally. What can I do?

Robin’s Bookstore is located at 108 S. 13th Street.
Web site: www.robinsbookstore.com
Phone: (215) 735-9600
Feeling down, depressed, unhappy with the world? Feeling down, depressed, "the perfect remedy for depression." With 13 solo albums under his belt and numerous collaborations with the likes of Jimmy Buffett and Christine Lavin, Edwards is as good as they get.

INCONEGRO F/ MBRs OF MIGHTY BOSTONES
The Upstage 22 South Third Street Showtime: 9 p.m. (215) 627 4825

Horns, wingtips and checkered suits will be featured at this swingin' show in the Upstage, one of Philly's popular music venues. If you love ska and you haven't forgotten the Bosstones' stellar performance in Clueless, then this show is for you.

BRANDENBURG ENSEMBLE
Irvine Auditorium 8 p.m. 34th and Spruce streets

I don't think there is a person alive who doesn't appreciate good classical music. Allow your sophisticated side to shine this Friday while listening to the Brandenburg Ensemble perform pieces by Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi in what promises to be an excellent show at Irvine Auditorium.

MUSIC
JONATHAN EDWARDS
The Point 22 South Third Street Showtime: 9 p.m. (215) 627 4825

With 13 solo albums under his belt and numerous collaborations with the likes of Jimmy Buffett and Christine Lavin, Edwards is as good as they get.

SMOKE SIGNALS
Vitanova Connelly Center Cinema $3. 7 p.m.

The first film to be written, directed, acted and co-produced by Native Americans, Smoke Signals is making quite an impression. The film was presented at the Sundance Film Festival where it received great acclaim for its true-to-life tale.

THEATER
MANDINKA EPIC
Irvine Auditorium 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 34th and Spruce streets

With the help of traditional African music and dancing, the Mandinka tribe of West Africa is beautifully portrayed by the Ballet d'Afrique Noire. Both visually stunning andaurally pleasing, Mandinka Epic is an intense and moving performance that takes place right here on campus.

SHUT UP AND DANCE
The Forrest Theatre 8:35 (charity) 8 p.m. 1114 Walnut Street

The annual Pennsylvania Ballet benefit for the Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood

JAZZSUNDAY
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Free: 3 p.m. 118 N. Broad Street

JazzSunday features Heath Allen and Post-Hip, whose CD, Red Blue...Shuffle was chosen by the Philadelphia Inquirer as one of the top 10 jazz albums of 1998. This free program consists of both new and old compositions by Allen and a collection of Duke Ellington works that will top off the performance.

POOK ESTHER'S and THE CULTURE CLUB
Philadelphia's only authentic 70s disco and 80s retro dance club

1201 Race Street • 215-851-0776
Corner of 12th & Race Next to the Philadelphia Convention Center Available for Private & Bachelorette Parties www.pollyesthers.com

free parking • 1 cover • 3 clubs • luvbug

Let street make you over.

6:30 pm. 4015 Walnut St. Tonight.

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6:30 pm. 4015 Walnut St. Tonight.
The Monte Carlo
Second and South streets

On weekend nights, the under-21 Penn girls spray on their pants, the guys whip out their finest IDs and everyone heads downtown to Second and South streets. Why?

For what seems like 80,000 people, the answer is some Latin dancing, interspersed with slow pop mixes at Monte Carlo. A huge bar and inviting couches create the perfect social atmosphere, but the well-dressed, classy crowd is a little voluminous for the accommodations. By the end of the night, no part of the building is spared as the dance floor envelops the entire club excluding tables and other people's knees.

Despite the abundance of music to which one really should merengue, salsa or rumba, everyone manages to find some way to move rhythmically and look cute. Of course, the second floor, a virtual open balcony with tables and chairs, provides a venue for the weary-footed.

One would imagine that a club whose music is about 80 percent Latin would attract an equally Latin audience, but this is not the case. The crowds show their true colors when favorites like Eiffel 65's "Blue (Da Ba Dee)" and Whitney Houston's "My Love Is Your Love" come blasting through the speakers. Rhythmically-challenged beware; there is always a glaring lack of house mixes, so move your feet.

If you deign to travel in packs, you have much more fun if you learn to bust a Latin move. Always dance with caution or prepare to make some sacrifices — like your best friend's pinky toe. When you combine energetic youngsters and tiny spaces, people will push and shove.

Get yourself ready for a night of fun at the Monte Carlo if you are willing and able to handle the aggressive crowds and the Latin-heavy beats.

— Erica Miller
choose your LOSER

by Paul Manion

UN Tzu advises one to “know your enemy.” The Socratic maxim says to “know thyself.” Maxim magazine urges one to “know what the popular starlet of the moment looks like in her underwear.” These three little tidbits of advice should enable you to make reasonably informed decisions on any number of subjects, such as, who should I vote for in this whole presidency thing? For some of you, especially the youngens, this may be the first presidential election in which you’ve been involved. Exciting, isn’t it? No? Yeah, we didn’t think so, either. Well, let’s at least try to make it funny.

A brief history of the democratic system

America started out as a colony of Great Britain. It was called the “New World” and lots of people came here. If they didn’t die on the ride over, they usually died once they got here, due to cold weather, disease and the fact that they were British wusses. At one point it got so bad that an entire colony got lost. The women of Roanoke kept urging the men to pull over and look at a map, but even back then, the men were too stubborn to ask for directions, so the colony was lost forever. Basically, life under the British King became intolerable for the colonists because they had a hard time taking orders from some guy in a funny wig who was separated from them by thousands and thousands of miles of ocean. So they got together and Patrick Henry said his famous quote, “You say you want a revolution? We all want to change the world.”

Then Paul Revere took a midnight ride to warn people about how he had seen the New World. Originally, life under the British King became intolerable for the colonists because they had a hard time taking orders from some guy in a funny wig who was separated from them by thousands and thousands of miles of ocean. So they got together and Patrick Henry said his famous quote, “You say you want a revolution? We all want to change the world.”

Every four years, Americans go to the polls and vote for some old white guy to become the new president. And, if what we remember from Social Studies is correct, it doesn’t mean anything. There’s this thing called the Electoral College, and the guy who votes for is the one who gets to be president. The reason that Johnny Cubicle and Mary Lou Minivan vote is so that American authors also like to have a record of how many popular votes each candidate garnered, just so students have to look at large, meaningless numbers. It’s not uncommon to hear a seventh grader exclaim, “Ooh! Eugene V. Debs got 3,425,785 popular votes in 1922! Who cares?” Of course, popular votes mean nothing, because the presidential election, like so many other things in life, is not a popularity contest.

So now we’re in an election year, and there is the regular staple of candidates. You see, these people do their homework. They look at the 40 or so presidents we’ve had, (we don’t know the exact number because we don’t do our homework) and they realize that certain types of people have better chances of getting elected than others. War heroes get elected a lot, as do relatives of former presidents. Vice presidents usually have a good shot at winning and rich people sure like to run, even though they don’t often win.

The 2000 election is no exception. John McCain is a war hero, having spent five years in Vietnam while filming <em>Apocalypse Now</em>. George W. Bush, obviously, is the son of former President Reagan. Vice President Al Gore is hoping that his tenure as Vice President will give him some clout, despite the fact that most Americans thought that chick Vicki from <em>Small Wonder</em> was more human than he is.

Can I grow up to be president? No, no girls allowed!

Al Gore: Good; He has seen the inner workings of the presidency for eight years.
Bad: He hasn’t had a pulse in 28 years.

John McCain: Good; Served in the Senate, seems to be genuinely patriotic. Plus, he’s a good sport when Comedy Central’s Daily Show correspondents give him a hard time.
Bad: Serviced five years in a Vietnamese POW camp. Dude, you can’t go through something like that and not come out screwed up.

Bill Bradley: Good; Had popular support as a Senator and NBA Hall of Famer.
Bad: Went to Princeton.

Then there are a bunch of other guys who have too much money and are waiting their time and ours by pretending like they can actually win the presidential election. Get off my television, Gary Bauer! Burn in hell, Steve Forbes! Get a clue, Donald Trump! Oh crap, he scares us. Forget we said that.

What’s happenin’ now?

Quit Stalin and answer the question!

Horton hears a Who’s Who

Let us take a closer look at the positive and negative sides of the major candidates.

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Do your civic dookie

Um, we don’t know what you’re supposed to do now. Register to vote or something. Go watch MTV News and let Serena Altschul tell you the important stuff. We’ve never even voted before and we hate politics. We just thought it would make for a funny column. We wanted to be like Dave Barry. (Sigh.) We’re going to go get a beer.
The Monte Carlo
Second and South streets

On weekend nights, the under-21 Penn girls spray on their pants, the guys whip out their finest IDs and everyone heads downtown to Second and South streets. Why? For what seems like 80,000 people, the answer is Latin dancing. Interspersed with slow-pop mixes at Monte Carlo, a huge bar and inviting couches create the perfect social atmosphere, but the well-dressed, classy crowd is a little voluminous for the accommodations. By the end of the night, no part of the building is spared as the dance floor envelops the entire club excluding tables and other people’s knees.

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Basically, life under the British King became intolerable for the colonists because they had a hard time taking orders from someone who was so far away and who didn't even know what it was like over there. "Pardon me, good sir. Are you the King?" Abercrombie & Fitch asking those snooty kids who work there. "Ah, yes, sir. Do you sell musket repair kits?" And could I trouble you to tell me if I still can force you to quarter us in your house?" So when the war was over, everyone was so impressed with General George Washington University that they told him they wanted to make him their new king. To which the wooden-toothed hero said, "What? Were any of you listening for the past few years? We just fought a huge war to abolish the monarchy, and now you want me to make king? You're all a bunch of morons!" He later recanted, saying, "Sorry, I snapped at you. It's just that, criminy, these wooden teeth REALLY hurt and they make me pissy. Friends?"

So then, in a long and boring process, they invented the democratic system of government, which is still used today by some people. Namely, us.

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FEBRUARY 10-16

GAME ON!
The chance to attend a play with the capacity to change your entire view of the world and your role within it doesn’t just come along every day, so make an extra effort to attend the millennium performance of Samuel Beckett’s Endgame at Villanova University during the next two weeks. Defining the theatre of the absurd, Nobel Prize winner Samuel Beckett has amazed audiences around the world by forcing them to derive their own meanings from his elusive works. Perhaps best known for the legendary Waiting For Godot, Beckett’s writing style is unmatched with its seemingly meaningless dialogue that creates a profound and often upsetting image of humanity. Within the nominal world of Hamm and Clov, the two main characters of Endgame, you will find characters jumping out of ash cans and engaging in clever verbal banter. More importantly, you will be amazed by the skill of the cast of the Vil-

ENDGAME
Villanova Theatre
February 16-20, 22-27
108 Vasey Hall
Villanova, Pa.

OUR OWN LITTLE SUNDANCE
In honor of Black History Month, International House is sponsoring the travelling African Film Festival’s visit to Philadelphia. An annual event started two years ago in New York, the festival shows cinema from Africa, unique films that have been largely overlooked because African films have only recently come into its own after overcoming years of political strife. Four feature-length films along with some short films will be shown at International House this month. Titles include Solveig Nurlund’s Solveig, Nur and Fur, an adventure story of an 18-year-old Norwegian girl growing up to adulthood in the 1950s; Soli, a documentary about the educational system and culture of Senegal; and Cheikhou Khotman’s Les luttres, a film about two brothers and the adventure they experience when they leave their home to try their luck in the city. A film reception will follow the screening of each film.

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL
International House
3704 Chestnut Street
February 4 through February 13
$5.50 - $6.50
(215) 928-8643

NOT YOUR AVERAGE TOWN MEETING
Tonight is a very special evening at the Veranda as the bi-monthly assembly of local MCs and DJs, aptly named The Gathering, makes its first appearance of the year 2000. Get your groove on at this eclectic performance that showcases talent from almost every area college and many local Philadelphia neighborhoods. Rumor has it that some crazy things go on at these functions; I’m talking serious freestylin’, some electric bugaloo break dancing and eloquent spoken word poetry to mix things up a bit. Learn about the underground scene here in Philly and get a dance lesson while you’re at it. If you think you’ve got talent of your own, The Gathering offers the opportunity to share your talent and let the crowd decide whether you’re the next RZA or Vanilla Ice. Either way, The Gathering welcomes you.

THE GATHERING
The Veranda
February 10
$2 till 9 p.m. and $3 after
8 p.m. (open mic sign-up: 7:45)
3615 Locust Walk

3601 S. Broad Street
(215) 336-3600

BRING ON DA FUNK
The Philadelphia jazz scene is one of the city’s finest cultural offerings, and K-Floor, although originally from Kansas City, indisputably belongs among Philly’s upper echelon of jazz-rock bands. Headlining for the first time, these guys should bring in a full house at the TLA this weekend and will certainly give an amazing performance. The band won Warm-daddy’s annual Battle of the Bands in 1998 and earned itself the title of Philly’s No. 1 Blues Band. The quartet has since proven its staying power to a strong local following with a seemingly endless schedule of live shows that, according to promotional material, display “tons of youthful energy, the band’s ability to blend authentic blues, earthy grooves and powerful songwriting.” Bring a date, bring your mom, bring anyone ‘cause you don’t want to miss the opportunity to see this band before its shows start to sell out in under 10 minutes.

K-FLOOR
TLA
February 12
334 South Street
(215) 922-1011

WCW THUNDER
Hollywood Hogan and company are always on television throwing down power bombs and gorilla press slams, but this is your opportunity to see these hulking masses of humanity in person. The WCW will bring its debatably risque form family entertainment to the City of Brotherly Love for a night of histrionics and unconventional athleticism. All the top names in World Championship Wrestling will display their “sheer force” and “raw thunder” at the infamous First Union Spectrum Tuesday night only, so be sure to make the trip out if you’re sick and tired of trying to get a good view of Sid Vicious’ package on the paltry 13” televisions in your room. Certainly don’t forget to bring a little extra cash because the Bud Light will be flowing and those stadium nachos are always irresistible. Calling for advance tickets is advisable because the increasing popularity of professional wrestling will have them lined up around the block.

WCW
First Union Spectrum
3601 S. Broad Street
February 15
(215) 336-5000

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You try finding a picture for the African Film Festival!

Supermodel world? Covered!
Do your thang and make love to the camera! Dude, he was a guy.