Bush Jr. As of today, he is the front-runner for the Republican nomination. He has a masters degree in Public Administration. As a presenter at the 25th Third World Conference, he proclaimed: “In the midst of all this—you’re talking about the problems of the world, wars, all the hatreds, the this and that, trying to solve all these kind of things—I have become a refreshing break. We are just going to have some fun and talk about some things that are connected with what you’re doing today.”


His television credits include programs for PBS and the BBC, ‘Martin the Emancipator,’ a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, ‘For Your Precious Love,’ a Mother’s Day Special, ‘The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson,’ ‘The Ed Sullivan Show,’ ‘Soul Train,’ ‘CBS Sunday Morning,’ ‘The Today Show,’ ‘Late Night with David Letterman,’ and ‘The 1994 Grammy Awards.’

Butler has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for singing and composing and is the recipient of several awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for his songwriting and publishing work, two Billboard magazine awards as a writer and artist, a CLIO Award for writing and producing a commercial for Johnson Products Company, two Humantarian Awards and several Broadcast Music Inc. awards as a writer and publisher. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, inducted into the Rhythm & Blues Foundation in 1994, and served as co-host of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation’s 1995 Awards Ceremony.

Among his many duties as a commissioner is the making of laws, establishing rules, setting policies of operation that are consistent with state and federal law, arranging finance meetings, and dealing with problems related to County government.

Commissioner Jerry Butler
25th Third World Conference March 1999

A historical tragedy
Littleton High School
by Bruce Weaver

According to the Chicago Tribune, the tragedy at Littleton High School in Colorado is the 13th in an alarming series of recent school killing sprees.

No other subject has been talked about in educational circles: teachers, students, and administrators are scared of the incident because, they believe, the tragedy could’ve happened right here.

These fears are not unfounded. What is dangerous is that the tragedy was committed, not by convicted criminals, nor crazed adults, but by the children themselves.

This is a tragedy unparalleled in American History; for the first time Americans are powerless to stop a group of students marching into a school and opening fire on helpless peers and teachers.

This story was unheard of two decades ago; there were stories about riots on college campuses and stories about the Sixties revolution, yet none on violence in public schools. If anything was reported at all about schools it was the problem of busing, which concerned itself with students getting to school, instead of killing at school.

One question that is asked is why? One question that is only linked with this is “how it could’ve happened,” and “what could’ve been done to prevent it?”

The makers in local and state governments are taking the easy way out. Illinois Governor Ryan has passed a bill to regulate the sale of firearms to minors, and other state governments have followed suit.

Other ideas have included mandatory dress codes for students, more metal detectors, more devices to punish of-fenders who bring in any kind of firearm to school. While these ideas may help stop future violence, I think it will not solve the problem at its core.

The Sixties was the first generation to practice intolerance of anything except what they wanted. They were the first ones to say that the family is no longer necessary in teaching children values.

The result is that today we have a high percentage of single-parent households, and single-parent households, and single-parent households, and single-parent households+

The “son” also rises
by Bill Olson

This is the first of an eight part series profiling the U.S. Presidential Candidates for the Year 2000.

The darling of the GOP for the upcoming presidential election is George W. Bush Jr. As of today, he is the front-runner for the Republican nomination. He has

The result is that today we have a high percentage of single-parent households, and single-parent households, and single-parent households, and single-parent households.
Who do you blame?
by Cindy Kansoer-Schneider

President Clinton is an opportu­
nist, to say the least. Upon the wake of the Columbine High School massa­
cre that devastated Denver and shocked the nation, he hunged at the chance to once again present his arguments for gun control, confront his adversary, Carlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association, divert some of the public's attention away from Kosovo, and, perhaps, make himself look good in the public eye.
Clinton is reacting instead of acting and noth­ing is accomplished without first letting everyone’s emotions settle down.

What prompted the teens in Columbine to open fire on their fellow students and then turn the weapons on themselves is multifaceted and beyond true comprehension. Since the youths are deceased, it can only be surmised what ran through their minds that led up to such a horrid act. Many be­lieve that had the weapons and explo­sives used not been available, they would not have engaged in such a survival. Thought that they were not entirely correct. If someone is determined to kill, they will eventually find some way of accomplishing this.

Granted, having automatic weapons allowed for the making of a massacre. No teen should have access to any gun, automatic or otherwise. As a civilian, I find that the only person, other than law enforcement personnel, with a legitimate reason to own a fire­arm is a hunting enthusiast. The only leg­itimate firearms would be a shotgun, rifle—not an M16—e and a small caliber handgun for surprise close en­counters with wild game. I once had someone tell me that he needed very large guns because he intended to hunt bigger game. I wonder when the last teen was that he saw an elephant graz­ing in our prairies or was charged by a rhino.

Somehow I cannot visualize someone hunting with an automatic weapon. Visualize a hunter climbing into a treetop to wait for his quarry—a buck. The buck discharges his gun, knocks himself out of the tree, and becomes lunch for the bear. You certainly could not use that type of weapon for his hunting, either: smart, spar­row, pheasant, or other small game, there wouldn’t be enough lef of the animal to bring to the table. They cannot be used for competition, unless you plan on winning by eliminating your com­petitor. The days of Al Capone are gone people—wake up!

I have no clue why Heston, or anyone for that matter, would advocate carrying a concealed weapon. This is, of course, unless you are planning on shoot­ing someone. Owning and carrying a weapon, whether concealed or not, for protection is a ridiculous excuse for ownership. Brandishing a weapon at a would-be assailant is inherently danger­ous; chances are good that the weapon will take him from you and from you and, though the attacker might not have intended to injure or kill you, s/he has now been challenged and will meet the challenge with whatever force available.

The Brady Bill and other leg­islation like it have their purpose, but they are not the answer to the escalating problem of youths obtaining weap­ons. Laws and bills keep the dishonest person honest. Those who are going to commit a crime generally are not going to obey the law. They laughed at them. What are needed are stiffer penal­ties for those who are convicted of a crime—or crimes— involving a weapon. A weapon is an essential part of a proper identification (Firearm Operator Identification, FOID) or anyone carry­ing a concealed weapon with or with­out a FOID card should have them. Anyone whose firearm is in­volved in a crime should be held directly accountable as if s/he was an accomplice unless there is irrefutable evidence that the cabinet or other facility used to guard the weapon had been broken into, the weapon taken. A firearm owner has a re­sponsibility to him/herself, his/her fam­ily, and the community to safeguard the weapon(s). To be careless with a weapon of any kind is an unpardonable betrayal of trust of all the people near and around you.

Clinton in an effort to find someone to blame, rather than seek solu­tions to the problems, believes that the parents of children committing such crimes as the Columbine massacre should be held responsible. If parents were permitted to discipline their chil­dren (I’m not talking about abusing them) with the support of the author­i­ties, then parents could be held respon­sible for what they (the parents) do as children today use the authorities against their parents every time that they do not get their way. By the same to­ken, when a child participates in unusu­ally violent activities, rather than assist the parents, the authorities choose to ignore the situation. I have had such experi­ences with my daughter; if a child gets a gun, joints a gang, and the parent cannot restrain the child from associating with the group, the law en­forcement will be happy to tell the par­ent that there is nothing that they can do to discourage such affiliations as long as the children are not breaking the law.

In other words, gang members can con­gregate in designated areas, plan crimes, and as long as they do not execute the plans, nothing can be done. Is that what happened in Colorado? The teens were known to discuss such atrocities as decapitating people, but nothing could be done to stem this type of activ­ity.

Before I knew that my daugh­ter (then 12 years old) had a boyfriend, he was climbing through her bedroom window at 2:00 a.m. I did not know that this person (19 years old at that time) existed until he threatened my daughter. They were caught in Indiana when she was driving his car radically without a driver’s license. Other than insist that she be returned to her home, I had no recourse to take. In fact, I had to travel nearly to the Kentucky border to retrieve the child. By law, I could do nothing about his being in the home that hour or by that method because my daughter consented to it. He could not be held accountable for carrying a weapon, registered or not, across the state line because, in Illinois, you are not considered a adult until you are 21 years of age. The Illinois police were glad to be rid of her so they did not push the issue of her driving with­out a license.

Not long after that incident, she asked for new bedding. When re­moving the bedskirt, a gun tumbled out. I contacted the police at once. When questioned, she denied remembering where she got the gun. The numbers had been filed off, therefore, there was no way to trace it or to know if had been involved in a death threat into and the weapon purchased it no further. Meanwhile, had the use that gun against anyone, I would be held responsible for her ac­tions.

Few villages have curfews any­more, and those who do have curfews do not enforce them. At one time, vio­lators of curfew laws were ardently picked up and their parents were called to come get them. If the parent refused, the child remained in the ‘tank’ until the morning. These tactics were more than enough to deter many a teen from late night activities. Now, unless the child is missing for 24 hours, a missing person or runaway report is not broad­cast, the kid could be halfway across the country in an hour and a half. Children today use the authorities against their parents every time that they do not get their way. By the same to­ken, when a child participates in unusu­able segment of the Hispanic vote in a state whose GOP has tradition­al­ly ignored them. As a bilingual candidate for governor, Bush articu­lated Hispanic-relevant issues, reg­istering new Hispanic voters that any Republican governor before him. In high state stages like Cali­­fornia, New York, and Illinois, the Hispanic vote could be the differ­ence.

Another leverage Bush has got is the whole-hearted backing of his party. This, in the long run, will make him a viable candidate. Bush is a smart politician. As the chief executive of a large company, he knows how to sell his product and maintain a winning team. As he is a business man, the states that are眼镜 have a better chance of winning.

And as the chief executive of a large state, his opponents would be wise not to bring credits into the debate. Bush has stated that he has never de­finitely got the requisite experience for the job.

As in any election, anything is possible. But as things stand now, George W. Bush is the man to beat in the GOP. Perhaps the man to beat, period.
The Global Village Bard

Geoffroy de Laforcade

Innovator

Monday, May 3, 1999

There has been an onslaught of news, some of it confirmed by reliable sources, about the terror and humiliation inflicted on Kosovans by Serb regular and paramilitary forces since the NATO aggression began in Yugoslavia. We have also heard abundant military briefings and witnessed an unprecedented escalation of air strikes against Serbia, as well as in Kosovo, always described as "diminishing" the ability of Serbs to resist. What seems to completely evade media analysis, however, is the larger political dimension of this still undeclared "war" against a small-majority Slavic nation in Europe. Americans often view the world in strictly geopolitical terms, as an arena of foreign policy in which U.S. interests are the primary thing at stake. The "newsworthiness" of an event is measured by its ability to illustrate that "good is on our side and "evil" on the other. I may be preaching in the desert storm, but perhaps culture and geography, religion and ideology, "politics" (in the noble sense of citizens' participation in the social contract) all provide fundamental insights into the complex social reality unraveling before us.

One of the reasons democracy is the exercise, by an educated citizenry, of informed vigilance regarding the actions of an elected government. If the networks and opinion makers of a profit-driven media now do provide us with enough depth tools of criticism and understanding, it becomes our collective responsibility to independently ascertain the facts. It is not really unreasonable for Americans to have invested so much into the 1950s in the precipitation of change in Eastern, Central and Southern Europe, to keep an eye on events in that part of the world, rather than convince ourselves daily that the designated enemy must be annihilated, we would do well to reassess the repercussions of the air war on the "new democracies" of the former socialist bloc. In particular, that superpower that we have reviled in humiliating since its political order collapsed a decade ago.

Political forces inside Russia that could agree on nothing domestically have merged in their defiance of the NATO-imposed new world order. The admission of Yugoslavia into the Russia-Belarus union, a project promoted by President Boris Yeltsin and his circle, has brought the threat of military action closer than ever before. Yet, on February 25th and March 14th, both Boris Yeltsin and his prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, publicly stated that the Yugoslav crisis is a "test" for the collective security treaty that Russia and Belarus joined in 1992, and that the treaty is "a threatening" factor for the region. This is in contrast to the statement made by President Yeltsin on March 21st, where he declared that Russia would not allow the use of force in Yugoslavia, and that the NATO bombings would not affect the security of Russia or its allies.

Meanwhile, if the media in the world's richest democracies were competent at all, every one of us would have learned of the electoral success of the pro-Kurdish party in Turkey, a NATO member that has one of the worst human rights records in the region. Ethnic polarization in that country has reached new heights over the past few months. The historic leader of the Worker's Party of Kurdistan (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan, was kidnapped in Ankara and arrested in Turkey, where he risks the death penalty for doing the same thing as "our" ally in Serbia, the Kosovo Liberation Army, fighting for the self-determination of an oppressed minority. In fifteen years of civil war, 20,000 people died in Turkey and some three million were displaced. In April the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (Hadek) captured the mayorship of Deyrakur with 65% of the vote, as well as dozens of other key cities in the south-eastern region where the Kurds are concentrated. How did this NATO member nation react to the democratic advance of the pro-autonomy movement? As Milosevic himself once did: by requesting that the Constitutional Court invalidate the local elections and outlaw the Hadek. Meanwhile, ultra-nationalists of the extreme right in Turkey also made important electoral advances that have not provoked the slightest concern among the ruling elites or their Western allies.

As Kosovans in Yugoslavia are elevated by the current war to the unenviable status of a people facing a full-scale genocide, the Turkish regime continues to deny the holocaust it perpetrated against the Armenian people and to persecute and terrorize Kurdish nationalists. And the maddening rise of racially prejudiced or "cleansing" nationalism in Europe, while recently discovered by falsely naïve politicians in Washington, continues to be ignored in Africa despite the completion of a full-scale genocide in Rwanda in 1994. If, as a society, we were genuinely concerned with the rights and well-being of Albanian Kosovans, one would think we would support the Kurdistan Liberation Party's strategic lever over Nigeria to achieve justice for the persecuted Ogoni people, whose very existence the average oil-consuming American has never even heard of.

Many of you may remember Bill Clintonpledging to his African hosts that under his leadership, the United States would usher in a new era of solidarity and cooperation with the beleaguered nations of the continent. I was all the more puzzled at the silence surrounding the release, in late April, of an important United Nations document denouncing the effects of IMF and World Bank-sponsored economic reform in Africa. It is a region of the world that has endured the bloodiest of all the Cold War conflicts, and the United Nations is the only international body that has a mandate to address the issue.

In Africa, the life expectancy has decreased steadily since the 1980s and currently stands at 54. The seven million refugees currently struggling to survive in Sub-Saharan Africa represent more than half of the world's displaced population, and whereas at the beginning of the century 5% of the victims of war were civilian bystanders, today the figure has risen to a daunting 90%. What do the United States and NATO plan to do about any of this? Are we really setting a humanitarian precedent by intervening in a European civil war that only threatened to escalate, before we initiated bombing and exposed the people whom we sought to protect to mass destruction?

It has become commonplace, in this end-of-century, to lament the passing of collective utopias and grandiose master plans for human emancipation. Perhaps this is the direction we have taken. Still, I would suggest that as individuals who are fortunate enough to live at the heart of world privilege, it is to us that the challenge of rising to the occasion of our excess fat, and feelings of ignorance when macabre policies are carried out in our name. Perhaps the cause of freedom, equity and interdependence will be advanced if we so much as pay closer attention to how we are governed, and reflect on how our self-proclaimed "global leadership" might truly contribute to a humanistic future on this planet.
Gore caters to suburban interests with “Livability Agenda”

by Bill Olso

Last September Vice President Al Gore launched a comprehensive Livability Agenda to “help communities across America grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth.” The initiative will increase the federal government’s role as a partner with the increasing number of state and local efforts to build “livable communities” for the 21st century.

The Livability Agenda is an issues-oriented initiative supported by the Vice President in order to secure the support of the voter-laden suburbs. The initiative aims to preserve green spaces, ease traffic congestion, restore a sense of community, promote collaboration among neighboring communities, and enhance economic competitiveness.

Gore advisors acknowledge that issues on the Livability Agenda are intended to appeal to suburban voters, but they say the problems he seeks to solve, such as urban sprawl, affect a broad crosssection of Americans.

The initiative is included as part of President Clinton’s proposed FY 2000 budget. Livability Agenda fund- ing will come from a new proposed financing tool: Better America Bonds. The new bonds are intended to generate $9.5 billion for investments by state, local and tribal governments. Proposed tax credits totaling more than $760 million over five years will support the Better America Bonds.

The only problem is that what good the religious right do is largely unnoticed.

My aim is not to attack Christianity; my aim is to get people thinking about the society we live in today that is the product of the Sixties. With mom or dad working at two jobs, the disappearance of arts and culture except rock-and-roll, the church constantly asking for money and teaching little of the Judeo-Christian gospel is it any wonder that a group of high school students get together and form a cult? With locks making fun of any one who does not have a spectacular physique, and with coaches pushing constant competitive deportment with “winning is the only thing,” down kid’s throats, is it any wonder that children will turn to violence? Rarely have I seen a lock at any high school say a positive word of encouragement to the underdog, they are too busy putting people down to dwell about the consequences of their actions.

Perhaps the answer to the Colorado tragedy is to be at home when kids come home from school, to lead a shoulder to cry on, to say to a kid that it’s O.K., to feel bad; but also to give them ways of overcoming it, to play good music at home that is not derogatory to anyone, to give kids a chance to listen to Beethoven instead of The Beatles, to tell the kids the difference between right and wrong. Perhaps the answer is to tell kids that money cannot buy happiness, that you can have fun even if you are very poor, there are some treasures like nature that are available to everyone; let kids see a comedy once in a while instead of ER, so that they can see their innocence and positive order for anger and frustration. I don’t have the time? I can’t be at home? I work two jobs? Maybe these are the answers you will give to the anoc-dote.

If that is the case then we as a nation better get prepared to see many more school killing sprees, for raising kids is a lot of hard work, and if we do not care about our children, who will?

Awhile back GSU had a forum about domestic violence which was fully attended by students and faculty alike.

Maybe GSU should devote a forum dedicated to this single issue; for if the slaughter of students and faculty at Colorado are any indication of the Millennium, we’d better educate and teach the populace how to care again and forget about the Sixties Hyperbole.

If we continue to ignore the threat and refuse to confront the real problem we’d better get prepared for a dictatorship. If a democracy cannot educate its citizens from slaughtering each other, a totalitarian type of government may be our only solution. When freedom is taken away, who will teach gun-toting kids anything about individual rights? Who will care?
Cruising continued from front page

many notes, so many ways you can use it, but when you start adding them together—rhythm and rhyme—somehow they all hook up."

Butler spoke of hooking people together as he referred to bands and musicians. "String players were Hungarian, Bulgarian, some from Poland, English," he said, "But when you put music in front of them, magic happened. They could interpret the music."

That is why Butler believes that music is the international language.

He reminisced about the musical greats like Willie John, Jackie Wilson, Elna James, Sunny Boy Williams, Willie Nicks, and Howling Wolf. Butler told a story about Howling Wolf.

It seems that Howling Wolf and Butler were working in Memphis one night. The owner of the establishment didn’t have enough money to pay them both. "Because I had the hit record at the time," said Butler, "he (owner) decided that he was going to pay me and not Wolf." Wolf was going to open the show. He had just finished setting up the instruments and went to get his money... because we were smart enough to know if you didn’t get paid before the show," he said, "the likelihood of getting paid after the show was slim and none and slim was usually vacationing."

Wolf’s band members asked him if he had been paid. He responded no. "We getting out of here," they said.

"His whole band jumped back in his little station wagon," Butler said, "and disappeared down the road."

"Nobody can moan like Otis (Redding)," Butler said. "He can take one syllable and turn it into a song." He said, "I can hear the final screams of an African ancestor—feel the pain—it is visceral." He also explained that having vicariously expressed healing experiences manifested in song "cuts across racial, social, and economic lines."

He said that to understand the pain of unrequited love, one must experience the pain of loving too well. "Voices from the past and voices from my generation influenced me to tell their stories," Butler explained. "So I came back home—I began to write."

When people ask him why he got into politics, he tells them that it is in extension of his music. "My first love has always been music," Butler said, "and you never leave the girl that loves you at the dance." And when asked what he will do now, he slyly said that teaching would be a good career for "somebody like me."

He sang a few bars of one of his songs and then gave the time a check. "Is time up?" he queried Muhammad. "No, you’ve got some time left," the professor stated. Butler nodded, then frowned. "You don’t even have a watch on!" he said. She laughed, he smiled, and then he sang a little more.

From THE FREEDOM FORUM

"Mankind will endure when the world appreciates the logic of diversity." Indira Gandhi

Prime minister of India 1976

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Teacher and students are
Huddled together
In darkness, fear
And trembling.
If only the firecrackers
Would cease.
The only firecrackers they
Can Hear
Are red.
Hitler’s henchmen
Storming through halls
Opening fire on helpless
Victims with machine guns
No older than boys.
“Kill the Niggers!”
“Kill the Jocks!”

Teacher and students
Huddled together
In darkness, fear
And trembling
Firecrackers explode into
Blood-stained cries
For help
Mercy for some;
Death for fifteen.
In the closet
Dark and silent,
The henchmen miss
Their targets.
“Is it over yet?”
Teacher hears
His heart pounding
So loud

It’ll wake up the dead.
Clutching his students
He knows they are scared,
He is too.
They never taught
Survival training in
Teacher’s college
What to do?
Sweat it out?
Call for help?
If only those firecrackers
Would stop exploding
He’ll never get them
Out of his ears...
Silence.
A mournful, moaning silence
Deafened by the cries of the dead
And the blood of the righteous.
Explosion down the hall.
Not safe!
Keep tight inside the darkness
Where evil cannot see.

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His heart pounding
So loud

They hear a knock
On the closet door.
Is the end so near?
Help comes.
A S.W.A.T. policeman
Get the kids first!
Out into the open,
Out into the life
Students and teachers
Faint with joy
But are internally wounded
Forevermore.

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Out into the life
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Faint with joy
But are internally wounded
Forevermore.

Are we good? Are we evil?
Time alone will tell.
Those who really know heaven
Have come straight up from hell.
Oh God! They wear
The blood of the martyrs
In the screaming, praying and dying,
Thirteen blood-well strong
The other two
Went down to Adolf,
Roasting in his
Bloody gore.
Will someone remember the children?
To whom does learning belong?
Students, teachers, all mankind
Sing a learning song?
Maybe some day we’ll
Have the answer
And peace will come again.
When we learn not to taunt
So our soul can’t turn beet-red.
KAREE AND KABORDON

Chapter One:
The Reason Why

by Bruce Hodina

This story that shall be written
Was of a day that I be sitting
And of a Knight full of love so smitten

He rides by his self this I saw true to me
He lost the lady the Queen of Karee
In battle far away over the green sea

Was under the shade of the tree away from the crowd
When the people of town begin to bow
The Knight on his steed caused the people to become aloud

The sound did so lift my head
Down the road the man tread
His outer garb was of black, the inner of red

The weapon he held was not clean nor with shine
For the War is fought by one Battle at a time
The bodies on the field did so entwine

I was to question this man on mount
Did he fight the War or Battle to what account
That's when the people rose a shout

His reply, gave he, was plain to see
Was for a lady, one from Karee
My Queen my wife my true lady

Behold and bow down the lady was the Queen
And the red of the garb was that blood that was seen
Seen is true that blood did glean, the blood of the Queen

Cry he, "She sleeps in ever
To wake not forever
My sweet Queen
Never to be seen"

For all that is left all that you touch
Is the blood under grab this not much

The blood around the sword do in twine
My Queen I join you this blood be mine

This day Love joins with the Knight
For the Queen that was lost was the Knights last site
The Shroud Of The Mind

To cast the shroud of death
Upon the living is a sign,
Go forth and show they hand
Not the mind.
For the mind is not big enough
To shroud the hand.
But the hand can hold a piece of the land.
The earth is big,
The land well be great,
But the waters that cover it
Will not abate.
For they flow like a thought in a mind,
I too well have all,
All that is mine.

-B. Hodina

WIND COLOR

Breeze blowing
Sunshine
Eyes closed
Free mind
Painted picture
Thy thought
Another day
I bought
-B. Hodina

Mother

Another Word for Love

You sacrificed part of your future,
To that I could have my own,
I did not understand it as a child,
But I do now that I am grown.

I did not always have the best to wear,
But my clothes were always clean and neat,
I did not eat breakfast eggs for breakfast,
But at every meal I did eat.

You bandaged my cuts and bruises,
And held me when I was sick,
You reminded me of a magician,
With an endless bag of tricks.

Mother I am so grateful for you,
And thank God that you are mine.
Because of your trials and tribulations,
I will make it through life just fine.

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Mr. Harper has written for the Innovator on several occasions which we appreciate. He had written the above poem for Mother’s Day 1998 and it is reprinted for our readers in honor of May 9th.

THE SHELTER

by
Elena Driscoll

Home where unknown faces find some
Random comfort under bed sheets
And steel eyes defeat leaks smiles with
Pride wrung askew, while cold mouths replete
With whiskey and beer reek forcibly
To snatch supper quickly tonight.

Home where cream paint polish washes
Brick walls hosting a clock’s incessant trick
Of deciding patterns, strategies
To eat, to sleep, to disappear.
The gears of malice turn the hands
Breaking a recess of reprieve

Before a chorus of warn feet
Laughter and hot chocolate kisses
Run from a bedroom down the block
Where mom gives best wishes
Who come to play ball games
Who queue to skip rope
Who rise to learn numbers
Who’ve no need to cope.

Home where belonging stirs up the unknown
Scattering the batteries of hope;
Home where belonging removed from the be
Mirrors places, faces, foreign to me.
These walls, halls, haphazard falls of fate
Are for some
Less home

ON THE PAD

by
Elena Driscoll

He could be three, or he could be four.
He’s closest to his mother
By the door
Who’s in a far room with his young sister
Bribing her to bedtime sleep
With dinner

He’s waiting for skilled woe for his dad
(Who left for just a minute)
On his pad
Stripped bare for the second time tonight
He discovers a rehearsed routine
He commands a shattered structure
He touches a tender touchstone
Placing the plastic
A fresh washed sheet on second
Then blanket
Smearing away life’s cruel creases
Smoothing out the weathered wrinkles
He still sees

There before him, always against him
He strips them off one more time;
Life by whim.
Thanks For The Memories

Thank you to the students and staff who have supported me as senior editor of arts & entertainment, a position which I’ve held since January 1996 as an undergraduate. Although I’ve since graduated, with my B.A. in December 1996 and my M.A. in April 1998, I have continued volunteering my services to "The Innovator," under the stipulation that I would step down when the newspaper was adequately staffed.

Over the past year, "The Innovator" has undergone tremendous change, growth and development, all because of you, the students and staff of Governors State University. As an editor, it is genuinely refreshing to see more of you taking a greater interest in your newspaper, because it is truly your newspaper. I encourage you to keep up the high level of enthusiasm and invite you to become personally involved with "The Innovator." There is a common misconception that one can’t be a journalist or English major to write for "The Innovator." This couldn’t be further from the truth. All you need is a few good ideas, a desire to write, edit, answer phones or sell ads and, most importantly, the willingness to meet new people and support the Governors State University community through your efforts! I would like to thank all of you who have written, called and stopped me in the halls to offer your encouragement, suggestions and feedback regarding my articles. It has been a genuine pleasure to serve "The Innovator," in many capacities which included copy editor, senior news writer, feature writer, Australia correspondent, senior news editor, chief entertainment critic and senior editor of arts & entertainment.

I wish to extend special thanks to Mr. Sean Carr, who graciously welcomed me to the staff as a new student in September 1995. I would also like to thank Ms. Denise Graham Zahn and Ms. Cindy Kansoe-Schneider who made "The Innovator" a nice place to work. It has been an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Walter M. Perkins, who has consistently demonstrated the highest level of competence and professionalism, as the faculty advisor for "The Innovator." Thanks for the memories.

Karen Piejko
Senior Editor Emeritus
"The Innovator"

We Wish You Well

Karen Piejko has been an integral part of this newspaper for nearly four years and in that time, she has demonstrated her expertise in more areas than there is space to list them. Her energy and drive has been an inspiration to all that have worked with her.

In addition to receiving a bachelor’s degree and a masters degree from Governors State University, Piejko’s accomplishments include being named to the National Dean’s List, a member of the Delta Phi Omega National Honors Society, holds the Kevin Pressley Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts, she has written a book manuscript, and served as floor director, senior writer, set decorator, press writer and web page author for “Food For Thought: Hosting The Diversity Dinner,” a television program/video conference dealing with racism.

Her sense of humor is well known as well as her spontaneity as one of her professors had stated: “The moment she got on top of my desk and recited the course content through song and dance, I knew that Governors State (University) had a special student.” Piejko was more than a special student; she has been an active community leader, a prolific writer and advocate for education for everyone, especially children, a leader in the Arts and Entertainment industry, and, most importantly, a special and true friend to many people.

I know that I speak for the entire staff when I say that we will miss you Karen. It is sad that this is the final time that we list your name on the header, but your many endeavors have limited your time. I suspect that soon your name will again appear on these pages, however, not as a reporter, but as a news-making artist.

We wish you well in all you do; just don’t forget us when you’re rich and famous.

Your family at the Innovator

Cernan Earth and Space Center Celebrates 25 year of enlightening entertainment by Karen Piejko, Arts & Entertainment editor

Invigorating popular music, computer generated laser art, amazing scientific discoveries, celebrity appearances, intriguing performances, illustrious displays, and out of this world, Cinema 360 wrap around films represent only a small sampling of the mesmerizing family oriented entertainment offered throughout the past 25 years at the Cernan Earth and Space Center located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, Illinois.

Originally created as an alternative to the highly congested attractions of downtown Chicago, the Cernan Earth and Space Center, nestled upon the quaint suburban campus of Triton College, has made a flashy name for itself as a full fledged entertainment complex, drawing visitors from downtown Chicago and all over the world. While many venues claim to be entertaining and educational, the Cernan Earth and Space Center is one of the few places that can honestly boast such a claim. There truly is something for everyone!

The most popular programs offered are the now infamous music laser light shows. Dubbed by the media as an "exciting sight and sound extravaganza," these shows provide top notch music, and electrifying, modern art inspired, high tech laser light shows, unsurpassed by any other. What makes these shows so great is that they are set to a diverse array of music, performed by the original artists! You'll experience different genres of music and modern computer generated art at its finest!

Current offerings include "The Leisure Light Show," featuring the greatest Top 40 hits of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s; "Zepplin Unbound," which showcases the music of the legendary Led Zeppelin; "Country U.S.A.," which highlights many of Country music's greatest performers, "Pink Floyd's The Wall," which contains excerpts from the album of the same title; and last but certainly not least, "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," featuring the Beatles' entire 1967 album set to stimulating, psychedelic images, need I say more? Tickets are only $6 for adults and $3 for Children under 12 and Senior Citizens over 55.

Are you a fan of "The X Files"? If so, check out "The X Terrestrial Files," on Sundays at 3 p.m. now through April 25. Combining fictional characters with nonfiction material makes for an entertaining, yet educational, new movie that takes you on an exciting journey into the bizarre world of UFO's. While the movie provides factual information, it is wildly amusing with it's off the wall parody of the popular "X Files" television series. Most notable are the characters of "Bolder" and "Gully!" You'll laugh and learn at the same time! Tickets are $5 for adults and $2.50 for children under 12 and Senior Citizens over age 55.

Do you dig science, but hate boring documentaries? Then check out the Earth and Sky shows "Arctic Light" and "Venus & Mars!" In perfect Cernan Earth and Space Center tradition, complex scientific topics, once considered bland, have been taken to new and unusual heights in these extraordinary, multimedia presentations!

For the kiddies, there's "Rusty Rocket's Last Blast," "Dinosaurs In Space," and "Zip Zoom Whiz," with lovable characters and lively dialogue to keep the little ones enlightened, educated and entertained! Admission to Earth and Sky Shows and Children's Shows costs $5 for adults and $2.50 for children under 12 and senior citizens over 55! You can save money on tickets by purchasing a "Friends of the Cernan Center" membership!

Information on "Friends of the Cernan Center" memberships, special lectures, classes, group tours, school presentations, and special events are available at the Cernan Earth and Space Center in River Grove and on their new web site located at http://www.triton.cc.il.us/ceman/ceman home.html. For up to the minute movie and laser show times and information call (708) 583-3100.

Even if you aren’t yet ready to delve into the films, why not pay a free visit to the Cernan Earth and Space Center. Admission to the museum is free, and you'll enjoy a variety of ever changing displays relating to intriguing topics such as air travel, astronomy, meteorology, dinosaurs, UFO's, robots, fossils and other exciting scientific phenomena. You'll lose yourself in time and space, experience magical music, come out highly educated and keep yearning to go back for more! Who says learning can't be fun! The Cernan Earth and Space Center is always a blast! Write, call or visit today!
array of perfectly blended, enchanting, inspirational music unsurpassed by any other film in recent history. Close your eyes and feel the mystical, metaphysical powers of "Beloved" in your heart and soul. Once the magic of the music is locked inside of you, it can never leave your soul again. "Beloved" is a rare, precious, musical gem!

Pearl Jam, Still Hot & Jammin'

"Pearl Jam, still reveling in the glory of their 1993 album "Vs." recent previous release a string in a hit albums, has just come out with "Pearl Jam Live On Two Legs," another sure fire hit. If you dig Pearl Jam, you'll flip for this new live album. "Pearl Jam Live On Two Legs" features four original tracks and one cover. Cameron drums, Ed Vedder on vocals and guitar, Stone Gossard, guitar right and Jeff Ament on bass. For all those Pearl Jam fans out there, this album is guaranteed to please.

John Mellencamp, Continues To Roll!

The legendary John Mellencamp, minus the "Couger" has proven even that he is still a wildcat in the recording studio. This self titled album is bursting with sensational new tunes. "Fruit Trader," "Your Life Is Now," "Positively Crazy," "I'M Not Running Anymore," "Where The World Began," and "Summer Love," are only a few of the outrages, but finely crafted cuts on this album, which was also produced by Mellencamp. Get one today!

Ladies & Gentlemen: The Best of George Michael

This seasonal all inclusive George Michael album features "Jesus To A Child," "Father Figure," "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me," with special guest, Sir Elton John, "You Have Been Loved," Kissing A Fool," "I Can't Make You Love Me," "Heal The Pain," "A Moment With You," "Cowsboys & Angels," "Praying For Time," "One More Try," "A Different Corner," "Outside," "Free As A Bird," plus more! This greatest hit compilation is sure to please any George Michael fan, who will treasure this double CD set, complete with two lyric booklets, chock-full of striking color and B&W portraits! The Prayer Cycle

Featuring Alanis Morissette & Others

For an extraordinarily uplifting, spiritual listening experience give a listen to "The Prayer Cycle," a dynamic collection of eclectic, inspiring, otherworldly music, performed by many of today's hottest recording artists. This fascinating musical endeavor features a choral symphony in nine movements, written by Jonathan Elias. Lending their talents to this masterpiece are Alanis Morissette, Linda Ronstadt, James Taylor, Salif Keita, Richard Bona, Yungchen Lhamo, Perry Farrell, The American Boychoir, Murtat Fatch Ali Khan, Mah Damba, John Williams, Ofra Haza, Liz Constantine & The English Chamber Orchestra & The London Symphony Orchestra.

Chorus.

Shawn Mullins Makes Soulful Splash!

Shawn Mullins is makes waves with his stirring new album entitled "Soul's Core." Indulge yourself in this rousing collection of eclectic tunes, including "Anchored In You," "You Mean Everything To Me," "September In Seattle," and the wildly exceptional "Soul Child." Shawn Mullins demonstrates a cutting edge knack for stimulating music, soulful performances and outstanding technical skills as the producer! Why not get to your "Soul's Core" with this engaging new album!

"Faroutfone" Provides "Far Out" Local Music

Faroutfone is a 100% homegrown local band with a new wave sound. Their recent release, a self titled, four song extended album was recorded locally at Soundhouse Studios & Startrax Recordings, Inc. of Chicago. This far out hometown band features Murphy on vocals, guitar, sax and percussion, Nate Lerohi on Bass and Donoce Nudi on drums. "Faroutfone" features four original locally written songs. "Faroutfone" definitely makes a local music statement with their imaginative and energetic songs. "Fly Paper," "Mr. Wither's," "Ole Sore Eyes" and "Happy In The End." If you'd like to find out if "Faroutfone" is your cup of tea, check them out on the internet at faroutfone@aol.com.

Dancing At The Nick At Nite Club

Perfect For Graduation Parties & Picnics!

The same people who brought you Nick At Nite television present the ultimate party album featuring some not so famous dance crazes that result in hours of laughter and fun. According to Nick At Nite, from March 18, 1961 to November 24, 1966, a new dance craze was invented every 1 hour and 46 minutes.

Rather than showcasing the typical party songs such as "Louie Louie," "The Twist," "Y.M.C.A.," or "The Macarena" this album delves into some of the more ridiculous dances that weren't always #1, but kept young adults partying, in basements and garages for hours at a time.

The best cuts from a musical stand point are "Pony Time" and "Limbo Rock," by Chubby Checker, "Shout," by Junior Walker and the All-Stars; "Tighten Up," by Archie Bell & The Drells and "The Stroll," which was actually an American Bandstand favorite.

Songs such as "The Roach" and "Georgia Slop" are so strange that they take on a unique charm of their own and are sure to bring laughs and hours of fun at any party. The liner notes explain some of the dances: The Funky Rock Cornish Game Hen is a hysterical dance where your guests cover themselves with spices, such as paprika, and stomp around like chickens! What a party dance that would be! It would have been nice to see more dance songs such as "The Bristol Stomp," "Cool Jerk," "South Street," "Don't Hang Up," "Mickeys Monkey" or "The Peppermint Twist" featured, but the idea was to feature obscure and out of the ordinary music and that is exactly what they did. This album is a great crowd pleaser, and will be a wild and wacky addition to all your summer time parties.

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18 Details
22 Bender
23 Cincture
24 Alabama civil rights city
25 Denotes three
26 Temporary money
27 No. of balls & strikes
28 Hall of Famer
29 Away from one another
31 Singer Haggard
32 Glue
34 Jackie Robinson's forte
38 Deed

Quotable Quote
"Opens in English is, in the main, just about as sensible as baseball in Italian."

...H.L. Menchen

THE POLYGON PUZZLES

Today's puzzles involve words, lines, and circles

by Dennis Lee Thom

1. It is quite easy to get from CAT to BAD by changing one letter at a time with each change producing a word. CAT-BAT-BAD. See if you can get from SHIP to DOCK

2. It is also easy to see that three lines will divide a plane into at the most seven parts.

How many parts can a plane be divided into by three circles? A: 7 B: 8 C: 9 D: 11

1. SHIP-SLAP-SOAP-SOCK-DOCK

This solution was given to me by LaTonya Holmes, a friend and student at GSU

THE END

OFF THE MARK

By Mark Parisi

THIS YEAR A LOT OF COLLEGE SENIORS WILL BE GRADUATING INTO DEBT.

Under the Army's Loan Repayment program, you could get out from under with a three-year enlistment. Each year you serve on active duty reduces your indebtedness by one-third or $1,500, whichever amount is greater, up to a $65,000 limit. The offer applies to Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and certain other federally insured loans, which are not in default. And debt relief is just one of the many benefits you'll earn from the Army. Ask your Army Recruiter.

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Thank you to those who contributed to this issue of the Innovator.

The Innovator reserves the right to edit submissions. The opinions expressed in various articles do not necessarily reflect that of the Innovator.