of,” Mitch Paliga, director of the Jazz Band, said. "We have a really solid base and core of people to build off of," said the instructor.

"Clearly this road trip was not approved, and would never be approved, by Leadership and Community Involvement,” Matta Labedz-Poll, Senior Associate Dean of Students and the administrator who finished the investigation, said.

The fraternity was, however, not found guilty of hazing. "Certainly this was not intended to be malicious, harmful, or stressful,” Labedz-Poll said. "Sadly, however, it ended up [after the crash] being all of those.”

The facts the administration received, showed that the Associate Members on the road trip were not sent out with the knowledge of there being bad weather on I-80.

"No one sent them on the trip and said, 'hey let’s put them in the car,'” Labedz-Poll said. "They didn’t realize the severity of the situation... It didn’t appear the weather was bad when they left campus.”

Because they deviated from the New Member program and lied to administrative officials, the following actions will be imposed on the fraternity: one-year probation, no oral exams can be given to any student who would not otherwise be able to outside of the college microcosm.

"Dean of Students Beth Tyler stated, ‘I think that I will recommend to the College Life Committee that the alcohol policy be clarified that underage drinking is a violation of college regulations.'

Tyler also stressed that it is very important that students recognize that the administration is not trying to prevent students from drinking, but rather, "to encourage responsible drinking patterns for our students.”

Additionally, Roberts Hall, a mostly freshmen residence hall, will be alcohol-free beginning in the fall of 2004.

There are several reasons for such changes: The College’s need to adjust its policies in accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, to align with most other peer institutions; and to prevent the College from an expensive lawsuit.

On a moral level, Tyler feels that, "the residence halls that [students] live in should be a haven from these pressures [to drink], not a source of them.”

Such changes in policy regulations received varied responses from students and campus leaders. “Yes, our current policy is in tough shape,” said student government president Matt Olson. “And it’s going to anger people when it gets done, but it’s going to happen; [the drinking age] is going to have to [be enforced].”

"I think that is kind of overkill to make Roberts dry,” Olson stated. “I think that in Roberts, people have been pretty responsible [this year].”

Peer Institutions and their Alcohol Policies

On paper, Lake Forest’s current alcohol policies seem rather relaxed compared to other Midwest Conference schools. For example, most schools explicitly state that underage drinking is not prohibited on the campus. Compare this to Lake Forest’s current policy, which remains quite vague in this regard: "The State of Illinois requires that persons be 21 years of age or older to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages.”

"There is no mention in the College’s handbook that underage drinking will be punished by the administration.”

Carroll College, for example, has strict penalties regarding underage drinking: for the first offense, a student is fined $50, given a written warning, and mandatory participation in alcohol education. A fourth offense leads to suspension from the school.

Lawrence University’s policy clearly states, “Possession, use, and distribution of alcoholic beverages to persons of legal age are permitted on the campus only by persons of legal age.”

Monmouth College’s policy states: “No person under-age may possess or consume alcoholic beverages on College property.”

However, like Lake Forest, other institutions do not necessarily strictly enforce the regulations that are outlined in their policies. “Not too terribly often [do students get caught for underage drinking], but drinking is pretty popular,” said Darren McNabb, a freshman at Grinnell College.

This is despite the fact that, “Grinnell College prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or drugs by students. Grinnell College will impose sanctions on students who violate the alcohol and drug policy,” according to the College’s handbook.

Two Midwest Conference schools, Monmouth and Grinnell, also prevent the usage of organizational funds for the purposes of purchasing alcohol, a practice allowed at Lake Forest.
Rumor: Lake Forest College is interested in buying dormitories on the Barat College campus when DePaul’s contract is up in 2005.

Currently, DePaul University owns the entire Barat campus. Although Lake Forest College

Are You Kidding Me: Outrageous News Stories

William Pittinos

News Editor

The following are a few stories from the past week that I just could not believe – some are true, some are not, and they all have a little added Pittinos flair to them. Check back next week to find out which ones came from real news stories. You Dumbly...

Shakespeare told us that what seems is not always what is. The Santa Monica, CA police department has employed Officer TED – traffic enforcement decoy – to keep motorists from breaking traffic laws. Officer TED is placed on

Only in Wisconsin

A group of monks in Wisconsin spend some of their day chanting and praying, like most monks. Then comes the unique part – they sell remanufactured laser or inkjet printer cartridges over the phone and internet at Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Spring Bank. “You get quality products at a great savings. We do good work and the extra income,” one of the monks said. “Plus the monks pray

Last Week’s Answers

Unfortunately, last week I experienced what some would call a brain fart, and was unable to come up with anything creative to include in the weird news of the week. The real news stories come from the “Weird News” section in The Miami Herald.

Lake Forest College Crime Watch

Wed., Feb. 25

A student reported their college ID had been stolen and used at a campus cafe. A suspect was identified and issued a Notice of Violation.

Officer responded to a hit and run accident involving a vehicle. The offending vehicle returned to the scene. An insurance report was generated.

Thurs., Feb. 26

Officer responded to a traffic accident. An insurance report was generated.

Sat., Feb. 28

While on patrol, officers discovered three students exiting a campus cafe after hours. The students were in possession of miscellaneous food items that had not been purchased. All subjects were issued Notices of Violation.

An officer responded to a residence hall room where an unknown person had entered and done damage to a laptop computer and a plant. The investigation is ongoing.

While on patrol, officers discovered a group of students playing a drinking game in a residence hall. Notices of Violation were issued.

Sun., Feb. 28

While dealing with a disorderly student, an officer was assaulted from the rear. The offending student was identified and a Notice of Violation was issued.

The incident is being reviewed for criminal charges.

Officers intervened in an altercation between two students. One of the offenders failed to comply with the officer’s order to leave the scene. The student who refused to leave the scene was issued a Notice of Violation for multiple violations.

Officers responded to a report of vandalism in a residence hall. An air conditioner had been ripped off the wall. Facilities Management was called in to shut down the water. The investigation is ongoing.

Officer’s responded to a reported fight. The altercation was stopped and the crowd disbursed. Notices of Violation were issued.

Wed., Mar. 3

Officers responded to a full fire alarm in a residence hall. The alarm was activated by smoke from a George Foreman grill. A notice of violation was issued.

Officer responded to a reported possible break in to a college facility.

There was no evidence of any property

Sat., Mar. 6

Officers responded to a report of a possible physical confrontation in a residence hall. The confrontation was over upon the officer’s arrival. After interviewing witnesses, notices of violation were issued to 15 subjects and a group of non-students were removed from campus.

Wed., Mar. 10

Officers responded to a complaint of an unknown person attempting entry into a residence hall.

Corrections:

The Stentor would like to extend its sincerest apologies to Dr. Seuss Enterprises for the following errors in the Feb. 26 Seussentennial ad

The misspelling of Theodor Seuss Geisel’s name; his incorrect 100th birthday celebration date of March 2, 2004; dates of the Lake Forest College Library display, which will be available through the month of March; and title of his book, The Cat in the Hat.

In the Feb. 26 article, “Trustees Support Student Lounge,” sophomore Joshua Gordon-Blake’s name was left out of those who were at the meeting and organized the all-campus survey about the student lounge.

Rumor Mill: Short-term Barat Connection Unlikely

Lake Forest College has no plans to acquire any of the property. The City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest College have no plans to acquire any of the property.

Since those initial conversations, DePaul has determined that it is not feasible to operate Barat as a satellite campus of DePaul University, they will cease operations at the end of the 2004-05 academic year. The City of Lake Forest and other interested parties are beginning to consider possible options for the site in the future. At this time, Lake Forest College has no plans to acquire any of the property.

Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Spring Bank.

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New Band “Eulalia” Starts On A Good Note

Lisa Ralph
Staff Writer

Scantily wrapped in towels, senior Joe Richards and freshman Corey Howe met for the first time when Howe was picking a couple tunes on his guitar. It was from there, where the two decided to start the band “Eulalia.”

While they knew Richards would play lead guitar and vocals and Howe would back him up with a guitar accompaniment, they wanted to get another instrument into the mix. They wanted to make it different than just an ordinary group with two guitars.

“We tried to incorporate as many instruments as possible,” said Howe. That mentality motivated the two Texan boys to bring senior violinist Kristen Zanon on board.

“Kristen is a first chair violinist at LFC, and she said she wouldn’t play unless I wrote the music down for her, so I took a class last semester so I could learn how,” Richards said.

Richards, who has been playing bass guitar since he was 12, had already written 20 to 25 songs on his own before the band started, some done on the road in Paris and Mexico during his semester abroad. Zanon takes Richards and Howe’s potential songs and makes them “a thousand times better” with her extensive musical knowledge.

While Eulalia writes their own lyrics, much of their musical influence comes from Shannon Hoone, Rest In Peace, and Blind Melons. A few of their favorites include “Only Human,” “Above,” “Perfect,” “Naturally Faded,” and “Selfless.” “It’s great chill music—it’s not poppy or punk and we can just play it over and over,” Howe said.

Richards added, “We’ve just grown up around music, and this is what you get when you have two seniors with senioritis, bored musicians, and a cold winter.”

Well, if this is what comes along with endless days of snow and fifty layers of clothing per student, it is almost too bad that spring is on its way…

Eulalia is just beginning to get public exposure. They played at the Coffeehouse on campus and also performed at the Highland Park Caribou, where they packed the place and doubled their expected sales. One of their biggest accomplishments that night was to sell the entire set of 30 demos they had made—a sign listeners liked their music and appreciated it enough to buy the demo. If anyone is interested in a demo, Eulalia can be reached at eulaliamusic@aol.com. They are currently working on a webpage.
Cupid Is As Cupid Does

Improv Olympe
3541 N. Clark

This is a musical sketch comedy that involves the drama of every day, like heartbreak and friendship. It plays every Friday at 8 pm. The cost is $12 and is presented by the group “The Cupid Players.” Call the office for more information 773-880-0199. Take Metra to Davis switch to the ‘L’s purple line get off at Addison and walk west.

Sleeping Beauty

Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire
10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire

For something a little closer to home, the Marriott is performing “Sleeping Beauty” through April 24. It runs on Sunday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Check out this beloved story for $10, call the box office for tickets at 847-634-5909.

Rembrandt’s Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher
Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave.

This show features a collection of original works by Rembrandt. The collection includes paintings, drawings, and prints. The show takes you on a journey through Rembrandt’s career. This show is only running through May 9. The cost of admission is $6 for students and is free on Tuesdays. Visit their website at www.artic.edu for more info. Take the brown or purple to Adams/Wabash station.

Giants: African Dinosaurs at the Garfield Park Conservatory
Garfield Park Conservatory
300 N. Central Park Ave.

There are life-sized dinosaurs roaming around the plants at this conservatory. There are seven dinosaur skeletons which also act as garden sculptures in the conservatory’s botanical setting. If you don’t go to see the dinosaurs go at least to see this awesome conservatory where you feel like you’ve gotten lost in the jungle. This exhibit will run through September 6. Admission is $3. Call 312-746-5100 for more info. Take the brown line switch to Clark/Lake switch to green line to take Harlem w.

Mary Hitchcock

Film Critic

The crowd was lively as many blackened Ash Wednesday foregoers took seats in the sold out theater. Everyone was talking. Many people were making jokes, someone looking for a seat around me asking by me asking “what would Jesus do?” But after our two hours with Gibson’s “Christ,” there was only silence.

Gibson’s new film takes us through the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life, beginning with his prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and ending with an all too brief and out of place scene of his resurrection.

Style

There is no doubt, Gibson’s film is stunning. The first thing to strike you is the language: it’s done entirely in Latin and Aramaic. This not only lends an unrelatable realism to the film, but also just leaves you in awe at how much history we have been for all the actors to learn showing just how much passion really went into this production. “The Passion” itself is presented in a surreal and almost dream-like state, the location and characters unnamed. The cinematography is exotic and mysterious, especially in the opening scene within the garden, with calm blue light and fog permeating your skin. This is where we meet one of the most terrifying characters: Satan. Androgynous and gaunt, this figure slowly glides throughout the film, circling around any that play a part in the betrayal of Jesus, specifically Judas, his demonic child in tow. This is by far the scariest and most dauntingly upsetting portrayal of the devil ever shown on screen and will be making grown men my age want to go home. Gibson does this uniquely to add the atmosphere. Opposite Satan is, Jim Caviezel is an incredible Jesus, his voice and soft manner played in contrast to the intensity of his eyes, the eyes becoming one of Gibson’s cinematic concentrations throughout the film. Reportedly, whenever Caviezel would come onto the set, the other cast and crew members would be in awe. This is not another actor that could have been better for this role, which is perhaps one of the most difficult for any actor. His stoic portrayal is again in point. The film was shot in Latin and Aramaic, and is free on Tuesdays. Visit their website at www.marriotttheater.com for more info.

Unlocking Da Vinci: The Soul of a “Revenger”

Arie Hovenkamp
Staff Writer

The Da Vinci Code, by British author Dan Brown, is an intense novel featuring Harvard University professor Robert Langdon. The book moves at breakneck pace (like a Michael Crichton thriller) grabs the reader, and uses chiffaxer chapter endings. Its characters are, as expected, fairly one dimensional. Through the course of the book we get to know far more about their expertise in the world of art history and cryptography than their actual human characteristics. The plot itself, though intriguing and mysterious, is quite forgettable. However, what makes the Da Vinci Code the excellent book that it is neither its plot or its characters, but the way it combines the real life ideas and theories about art history and religion with an intriguing plot that pulls the reader through it. In a few words, The Da Vinci Code makes learning fun. Sure, there are plenty of skeptics who argue that almost nothing in the novel is true. There are very many real life places and ideas in the book. However, the primary characters are all based in the head of the author, making the novel officially a work of fiction. Although Brown starts out with some basic claims about the history of religion and art that are considered obvious truths, he quickly brings up some very controversial ideas regarding Mary Magdalene, the Holy Grail, and Da Vinci’s painting of the Holy Grail. It is here where Brown crosses the line from fact to speculation, and it is here where he receives most of his negative criticism.

Don’t take it as fact. Don’t read it and consider yourself to be one of the few enlightened souls who knows the truth about Christianity. Just take it as the fun ride that it is, which will further complicate your understanding of the inter-twining theories about Christian history along the way, but gives no explanation as to why the Pharisees would ever want Jesus killed, which is actually pretty obvious. It is also interesting to note that Gibson chose to remove the subtitles from the line in which Jesus graphene the cross that would lend an all too brief and out of place scene of his resurrection. However, he did not delete the scene. Although not blatant, some would argue that it is in fact a factor in the film. Gibson does, however, provide very powerful scenes involving the denial of Peter and Judas’ betrayal of Christ which counters this, proving that even Jesus’ own disciples were quick to go against him.

Gibson’s Violence

However good or bad, the central theme in this film Gibson’s showing of absolute brutality, leaving the audience wondering just what happened in his childhood to make him a creator of such violent films like this and “Braveheart.” The savage and creative torture of Jesus continues throughout the entire two hours of the film, halting only for seconds of flashes. It is literally constant. Combined with his mystical cinematography, Caviezel’s eyes, and perfect sound editing (ever thought about the sounds of a crucifixion?) the film leaves you in what can best be described as a “state.” You are not yourself; you are sick; you are moribund. You feellged yourself by the vio-

anti-Semitism

Gibson’s portrayal of the Pharisees is also cinematically brutal. He indoctrinates them around like vultures, very reminiscent of the fantastic image of the Catholic bishops in the film “Elizabeth.” But here is where we must address what remains the greatest controversy to arise out of this film: the Anti-semitism. In gener-

al, it is absent from this film except from the Roman soldiers who, as is to be expected, direct derogatory comments towards Jesus and other Jews around him. But, Gibson does justify Roman actions in great detail, describing their reasons for allowing the crucifixion, which is quite fascinating. However, he did not delete the scene. Although not blatant, some would argue that it is in fact a factor in the film. Gibson does, however, provide very powerful scenes involving the denial of Peter and Judas’ betrayal of Christ which counters this, proving that even Jesus’ own disciples were quick to go against him.

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The bloodiest aspect was the decapitated bagged head.

For comedy, the “New Kids on the Block” duo of Ambitosa and Supervacua (Megan Mallouk and Anne Masters) was witty. The scene with the Bozy Lady (created by Shira Easly) added an amusing tidbit. Memorable too was the intriguing affair between the Duchess and Spurio, her stepson (Tricia Howard and Joe Richards).

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The bloodiest aspect was the decapitated bagged head.
The first reason I am writing this letter is to regard an article recently published in the Feb. 26 edition of the Stentor about defense expert Nancy Hollander’s speech. In contrast to the opinion of the article, I feel Ms. Hollander’s speech was well received by both students and faculty. Everyone left with a better understanding of how the ICC (International Criminal Court) works, whatever their opinion about the United States’ involvement.

The ICC acts as a secondary court to prosecute and try those who break international human rights law. It is my opinion that the administration of the United States does not want to be involved in the ICC for two reasons. First, the United States does not want to lose any sovereignty over affairs in which it is involved. Secondly, the United States does not want to have any investigations look at current or past involvement in any international affairs. The decision to not ratify the ICC is part of the United States’ current trend to ignore international objections and disrespect current International Law. Recent illustration, Guantanamo Bay, where the Bush administration is holding individuals from around the world in a state of legal limbo. The detainees are not prisoners of war, nor are they given basic legal rights, such as access to a lawyer. President Bush gets around this and other legal claims by inventing a new term, “enemy combatants.”

The second reason I am writing this letter is to spark conversations concerning the current direction of the United States. The Patriot Act enables the secret searching of homes; residents are informed after the fact. The American Service Members Protection Act gives the President power to “rescue” any United States soldier held by the ICC, by any means necessary. It allows the President to withdraw support from any nation that allows an ICC investigation of any United States citizen. Clear Channel radio stations have banned Howard Stern, and his show is likely to end. I do like Howard Stern, but I do like civil liberties. If I don’t like what I hear, I simply change the station.

Take this current direction of the United States into consideration, and reflect in it your vote this November. It is difficult for me to grasp that our military men and women are fighting and dying for freedom and around the world, when less than half of those that are eligible to vote in the United States actually do so.

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The other day, I was walking to my dorm room after work, when a kindly gentleman rolled down the window of his car and started talking to me. I was filled with delight, even though I had no clue who this kindly gentleman was. “Nice to see Homos” he yelled to me as he drove away from campus. I turned and waved at him with a smile on my face. The last part of the phrase had obviously not yet registered.

When the full extent of his message was realized, I laughed and frowned at the same time, which, might I add, greatly confused my facial muscles. I laughed because I did not understand why calling me a homosexual was an insult. I know that I am not one, but if I were and someone accused me of it, I imagine I’d think, “Right... good point.” The use of ‘homo’ as an insult is comparable to the use of “Right...good point.” The use of ‘homo’ as an insult is comparable to the use of “right...good point.”

In the context of this article, though, I, or more specifically my hair would be the book, which is not entirely accurate, so a more appropriate phrase might be, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” In the context of this article, though, I, or more specifically my hair would be the book, which is not entirely accurate, so a more appropriate phrase might be, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

While I was sick, I changed in many ways. Primarily, I developed from a teenager full of angst into a person full of love. For the first time, I questioned my beliefs in trying to understand why, and it was all over, I was put in remission.

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The Stentor: Established 1886: Published Weekly

LETTERS POLICY

The Stentor is a forum for the Lake Forest College Community. Letters to the Editor are encouraged; submissions will be accepted up to Saturday by 6 p.m. Letters longer than 400 words may be condensed.

Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Names may be withheld only at the discretion of the editorial board in cases where there is a concern for personal safety or unnecessary breach of confidentiality. The Stentor reserves the right to edit all submissions for publication.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Lake Forest College Stentor is a student publication. The opinions expressed in the Stentor do not necessarily reflect those of the students, administration, faculty, or staff of Lake Forest College.

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Proposed Changes To Alcohol Policy Flawed

As we all know, the legal drinking age in the US is 21. And as clearly evidenced on college campuses throughout the nation, this law that prohibits the consumption of alcohol by minors does not and will not prevent underage drinking. The law has both legal and moral implications, and the College has the difficult position of balancing its obligations to the law and student rights laws. It is my opinion that the ICC (International Criminal Court) works, whatever their opinion about the legal drinking age should be lowered. The law is as Lake Forest College is home to nearly 1,300 students, it has a responsibility for the well-being of those students, and certain liability obligations as well. In an effort to contain the drinking culture on campus, the College has determined that Roberts Residence Hall will be substance-free beginning in fall 2004. This decision, in conjunction with several other new rules including the enforcement of the legal drinking age, an attempt to prevent, or at least limit, underage drinking, is likely to prevent, or at least limit, underage drinking, which explains my current goal of making this freshman residence hall substance-free. Providing more environments like Nollen, in which first-year students are not bombarded by the alcohol culture, will give the students the opportunity to make better choices concerning drinking. It also separates the party environment from the living/studying environment, allowing residents to focus on their primary obligation as students.

There are several positive and negative implications of making this freshman residence hall substance-free. Providing more environments like Nollen, in which first-year students are not bombarded by the alcohol culture, will give the students the opportunity to make better choices concerning drinking. It also separates the party environment from the living/studying environment, allowing residents to focus on their primary obligation as students.

The other day, I was walking to my dorm room after work, when a kindly gentleman rolled down the window of his car and started talking to me. I was filled with delight, even though I had no clue who this kindly gentleman was. “Nice to see Homos” he yelled to me as he drove away from campus. I turned and waved at him with a smile on my face. The last part of the phrase had obviously not yet registered.

When the full extent of his message was realized, I laughed and frowned at the same time, which, might I add, greatly confused my facial muscles. I laughed because I did not understand why calling me a homosexual was an insult. I know that I am not one, but if I were and someone accused me of it, I imagine I’d think, “Right... good point.” The use of ‘homo’ as an insult is comparable to the use of “right...good point.”

In the context of this article, though, I, or more specifically my hair would be the book, which is not entirely accurate, so a more appropriate phrase might be, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” In the context of this article, though, I, or more specifically my hair would be the book, which is not entirely accurate, so a more appropriate phrase might be, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

While I was sick, I changed in many ways. Primarily, I developed from a teenager full of angst into a person full of love. For the first time, I questioned my beliefs in trying to understand why, and it was all over, I was put in remission.

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I am writing in response to Dean Tyler’s “Rumor Mill” column in the February 26 issue. The elected officers do get free drinks at the Coffeehouse and this arrangement is the sole perk that Student Government officers receive. The incorrect information is in relation to how these drinks are paid for, as it is not an arrangement with Aramark, but an allotted expense worked into the Student Government budget. I can see how this may seem unfair to some, but at many other colleges, Student Government officers receive monetary compensation for their services. Here at Lake Forest College, the substance for monetary compensation is free drinks at the Coffeehouse. If anyone has any concerns on this issue, feel free to stop by my office hours on Monday from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Matt Olson
President of Student Government
Learning Time Management Skills

Dear Dr. Pat,

Extra-curricular activities are taking over my life! I need help organizing my time. Should I be focusing more on building a good resume or doing well in my classes? How can I find a balance? Help!

-Stressed to the Max

Dear Stressed to the Max,

There’s probably not going to be much of a bright future if you don’t do well in your classes. Try to reach a balance in your life. School is your priority, then, if there’s time, you can do some extra-curricular activities. There are academic support resources on campus. For example, Peer Mentors (through the Learning and Teaching Center) can work one-on-one with you on time management issues.

Dear Dr. Pat,

My boyfriend broke up with me to be with his new girlfriend. He is my best friend, and I think she’s hurting him more than he knows because she’s always putting him down and treating him badly. Should I try to talk to him about her? How can I warn him about her without pushing him away?

-Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend,

Keep your thoughts to yourself and try to move on. He likes her now, even though he may get hurt. You can’t protect him from her or from himself. He’s made his decision regarding whom he wants to be. You’re probably feeling hurt, jealous, etc. Take some time for yourself and begin the healing process.

Dear Dr. Pat is written by Pat Pohl, assistant director of the LFC Counseling Center, located in Hotchkiss Hall. Do you have a question for Pat Pohl? Email it to Opinions@lfc.edu or send it through campus mail to mailbox A3, attn: Opinions. All submissions remain anonymous.

Disclaimer: Advice offered in this column is not meant to substitute at professional evaluation. To schedule an appointment, contact the Counseling Center at ex. 5240.

Opinions
STENTOR

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That’s The Gist!

Are You Going To Be Part Of The Problem Or Part Of The Solution?

Those that know me probably know that I am not much of a partier. Alcohol has never really been my forte, although I have been known to go overboard on my coffee consumption. Of course, that’s a whole ‘nother column, my friend.

I have been known, however, to make casual appearances at such a soiree, oftentimes sitting bored in the corner, chatting to a spitting, slurring drunk about music, art, and why I don’t have a can of PBR slipping out of my hands and spilling onto my nice, hardwood floors.

This makes me sound cynical, but I do have a good time. Sometimes, it gives me a chance to relax and forget about homework for a few hours. I have had some great times during said parties.

I have also heard some pretty profound things. Seriously, get a dozen or so drunk, radical college students in a room together, put on some good background music and bring up some buzz words, like...oh, say "Marxism"! Ooh! Ooh! Or, better yet, “National Interest!” These really get the ball rolling and good conversations are bound to develop.

I’ll never forget this one party we threw earlier in the year. It was a big ‘un; we invited a few students from other schools to attend. One visiting student had a nice lil’ buzz going on and didn’t know much about him except that he was a self-affirmed Anarchist and was a wonderful speaker. Something older and funky was playing in the background, not James Brown, but something along those lines. Anyway, we were all sitting around, chillin’, when somebody dropped the buzzword “Revol-ution!” into the mix and, well, the revolution began.

“We need more people dancing out here!” this guy cried in a loosely articulate way. “We need to DANCE for the revolution! If you want to be part of the revolution, my friends, then you need to get on your feet and move! The revolution is here; will you be a part of it?”

The way he said it was as if he were giving a speech to thou- sand-s of believers and freedom fighters, men and women whose cause was more important than their lives. From my spot on the couch, his rambling about a revolution and dancing just made me chuckle and nudge the kid next to me. “Man, that guy is zonked!” What revolution?

But the reaction really amazed me: the apartment of people, suddenly cheering, squealing and clapping, climbed to their heels to spin and shout and rock out. Beers in hand, they let their hair down and danced their little toes off.

And I couldn’t help it. Suddenly, I had the overwhelming desire to fight for the cause as well, whatever this cause may have been. Now, I’m not afraid to admit that I can’t dance. It rarely occurs, especially in a social setting. But if you get the right music on and immerse me in the right crowd of people, there’s no telling what will happen. I have been known, on occasion, to rock out with all my heart.

Fun times were had by all as we each released ourselves. We stripped off our school clothes and slid into something we were not really used to wearing; but man, it fit right.

Yet, here I am, literally months later, baffled by this whole sit- uation. We danced for the “revolution.” And yet, I doubt that this revolution had any political significance (although, knowing the people I was with at the time, it definitely could have). What were we fighting and why was dancing the solution?

It didn’t hit me until this evening when, after a long week of reading and writing assignments, I had the sudden urge, once again, to fight the oppressive powers. I had the appetite to ignore what was going on in the little bubble of my life, put on a good CD, and just go crazy.

This may sound somewhat abstract, but when we danced for the revolution that night, we were revolting against ourselves. For a moment, we put our problems and worries, our needs and obli- gations aside; to do this, we had to forget about our images; each of us had to fight his/herself, which was holding each of us back.

This escape, this revolution, is the gist.

Usually, when I hear there’s a party on campus, I’ll let my friends go out there without me. There are times, however, when I feel a revolt coming on, when its absolutely necessary to pull the curtain of self-loathing out from the shed, find some comfy shoes to put on, and drown myself in the volume of a good CD. You don’t need alcohol to do it, although a black beret couldn’t hurt.

If you can’t get enough of Dane in the Stentor, check out his web-site at www.thatsthegist.com.

STENTOR
Eight-Time Winner

The Foresters claimed the women's team title for the fourth consecutive year at the United States Handball Association National Collegiate Championship Tournaments. Lake Forest fell just short in its bid for a fifth straight combined championship.

Senior Megan Mehdiou made history by becoming the first player (male or female) in the 52-year history of the event to capture both the singles and doubles titles in all four years of her eligibility.

Joe Meixell Sports Columnist

Kobe Bryant, Jamal Lewis, Jayson Williams, and the University of Colorado-Denver football program—chances are if you pick up a newspaper or surf the Internet news sites you will see numerous stories dealing with these and other professional athletes currently under scrutiny.

Rape, cocaine distribution, manslaughter, and rape again—these and other allegations have become all too common in the world of sports media. The question is, why are so many athletes implicated in criminal cases?

The optimist in me wants to say that athletes are accused of these things because they are in the public eye, that the lifestyle of the rich and famous is easily corrupted by the media and the fans, and that athletes are innocent bystanders in all these cases. We, as the fans and consumers of the entertainment product, cause scenarios in which athletes are placed under suspicion merely because of their status. They are the real victims, these hard-working sports heroes—they suffer the humiliation of criminal accusation only because they make the headlines. Yes, the glass is half full side of me wants to believe that athletes are the good guys. After all, I am an athlete, and it could have been a teammate of mine that was involved in the UC-D scandal.

However, the glass is not half full. In fact, in today’s money-driven entertainment industry, there probably wasn’t any milk in the glass to begin with. Any liquid that was in the glass, when it was half-empty, has now been drunk by someone other than me. Ah, the pessimist!

My inner pessimist believes that today’s athletes are money-hounds and spoiled brats who overindulge at every opportunity and are incapable of restraint. Raised with a silver spoon and a gold fork, athletes have now been drunk by someone other than me. Ah, the pessimist!

The truth of the matter lies somewhere between these two sides. On the one hand, athletes are celebrities just like rock stars and actors, and they are subjected to the same silly tabloid stories and false accusations by people looking to cash in. On the other hand, there does seem to be a lower standard of ethics in today’s sports world than there was in the past. Players feel more invincible and are thus more inclined to commit acts that aren’t necessarily acceptable.

Let me amend that a little. Today’s athletes don’t have a lower moral standard than the classic stars of yesteryear; today’s athletes just tend to get caught. We live in a different world, and today’s culture will not tolerate some of the acts that were overlooked, say, fifty years ago.

But that still isn’t the entire story. With the increasing exposure that comes with the Internet and TV coverage, athletes feel a greater need to showboat for attention (read: Terrell Owens and Joe Horn). While I wouldn’t say that this directly leads to the increase in criminal accusations, it certainly raises the level of celebrity associated with pro-sports.

So, why are so many athletes implicated in criminal charges? Some are victims of their own celebrity; some are victims of their own bad choices; some are out-and-out guilty of the crime. No matter the case, this much is sure: we as fans need to keep a close eye on which players we idolize.

America’s courts state that defendants are innocent until proven guilty; in the sports world, athletes need to remain squeaky-clean to avoid the controversy surrounding a trial. If they have committed a crime, then they should be punished; in today’s media, it’s innocent until proven athlete.

Joltin’ Joe: Innocent Until Proven Athlete

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