

PHILOSOPHICAL FLUSH

Appreciated quotes from an unappreciated place...

Page 6

SPECIAL SECTION

Perspectives from experts, a vegetarian and meat-eaters on local restaurants...

Page 4



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY

Rigoberta Menchú: the next Guatemalan president?

Page 3



BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD

No. 3 Vol. 1

19 March 2007

Bennington College

www.BeforeTheEnd.org

CONSOLIDATION OF VERMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Mary McLaughlin

H276 is facing the House Education Committee of Vermont right now. H276 is a proposal that creates a nine-person commission to plan the consolidation of 280 plus districts in Vermont. 284 districts to 63 does seem a bit drastic at first, until you consider two things: first-the last time state officials modified the state school system was in 1892, when they slashed the number of districts in Vermont from 2,500 or more to less than 300, and second that there are only about 95,000 public school students in the state. On average, that's 335 students per school. 335 students doesn't seem too terribly small, until we consider that there are schools with only eight students in the state. In fact, there are seven schools in Bennington and Rutland counties that are considered small (less than 90 students). Currently, there are several arguments both for and against consolidation of school districts. Proponents state that while, yes, cutting school costs and taxes (in reality, property taxes) is a perk of consolidation, the main goal is to share resources better. Having so many districts can cause issues for transferring students because of different policies, can cause competition for teachers (both in obtaining them and retaining them) and often puts districts at a definite disadvantage in

union negotiations. Often, it is difficult to find people with the expertise required to run a school district, especially when there are so many different systems in need of the same thing. Against consolidation is the fear of losing small schools, where children have smaller classes, thus putting students in larger systems where, parents feel, their performance may suffer. People also would prefer local control of their schools because they then know who is running the district and will perhaps find it easier to communicate wants and needs. Still another issue is transport: Vermont is a mountainous region and the winters here aren't easy. The convenience and safety in transporting some students through the terrain is a major question in the debate. Still another argument is that while the cost to turn out a Vermont graduate is comparatively high, so is the quality of the student and that the biggest schools in the state aren't necessarily the best. The state education commissioner is holding several public meetings across the state, during the month of March, to promote his stance on consolidation in Vermont. There will be one, next Tuesday (the 27th) at the Mount Anthony Union High School cafeteria.

HUNGER KILLS NINE MILLION A YEAR

by Héctor Nájera

Every day 25,000 people die of hunger.

Today 25,000 people will die from hunger across the world, a child every five seconds. Such statistics, based on reports by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, are the result of the many broken promises by the world community and political leaders to the most vulnerable of populations. In the latter part of the twentieth century world hunger dropped significantly. "From 1970-1997, the number of hungry people dropped from 959 million to 791 million—mainly the result of dramatic progress in reducing the number of undernourished

in China and India," states the UN's World Food Programme (WFP). In the late 1990s, though, the number of people who go hungry rose, and by 2002 it was up to 852 million. According to Director-General of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization Jacques Diouf, more people are hungry today than in 1996. In October of last year he called on world leaders to honor pledges made during the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome. At that time the convergence of world leaders to rid the world of hunger was historic. "The Rome Declaration calls upon us to reduce by half the number of chronically undernour-

ished people on the Earth by the year 2015 If each of us gives his or her best I believe that we can meet and even exceed the target we have set for ourselves," said H.E. Romano Prodi, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic and Chairman of the World Food Summit at the time.

That was then. Since then progress is questionable. In March 2002 at the UN's Monterrey Conference, twenty-two of the world's wealthiest countries agreed to make "concrete efforts" towards battling hunger by generating the 195 billion needed annually through

Hunger Continues on Pg. 8

FROM OUR ALBUM: FROZEN WASTELAND



Photographed by Mariela Nunez

BEFORE THE END MEETING
March 20th, 9pm
Sawtell Quad

CONTENTS

Page 2... Campus Issues
Page 3... National Campus
Page 4... Special Section
Page 5... Student Council
Page 6... The Campus
Page 7... Creative Works
Page 8... Loose Ends

WEATHER REPORT

Today



36°/28°

Tue



30°/3°

Wed



35°/27°

Thu



49°/43°

Fri



55°/35°

Sat



48°/30°

READERS' FORUM

Opinions within this section belong solely to the author and in absolutely no way represent the views of Before The End or its staff.

What? Bennington students have nothing to say? We doubt that.

This section is open to any constitutionally protected free speech. All students and readers are encouraged to submit material.

Email material to submissions@beforetheend.org

NOTE OF APOLOGY

Before The End and it's staff are deeply apologetic for having printed student names in relation to sensitive and personal matters. We initially published in the name of free speech; but found that we did so without adequately weighing the effect it would have on those named, their friends, and the community. This sort of thing will not be permitted to slip through the cracks again.

~ Before The End

ANALYSIS OF A STEP DAD

by Chris Lem

Late one night, my friend and I started thinking about how weird his step dad was. He worked at the Coast Guard, never said much, and sometimes would just do something really violent and then silently stare at an inanimate object with an expressionless face. We both thought this guy was really funny.

One day my friend's little sister was in her room on the computer. Her mom asked, "Sylphie, did you do your homework?"

"No," Sylphie replied, "I'll do it in a little while."

Casey, the step dad, walked into the room holding an orange juice. He stared at a bedpost, picked up a book and flew it on the floor forcefully, then continued staring at the bedpost. After a minute he walked from the room and mumbled, "Do your homework Sylphie."

Something funny about Casey was that he was always holding some sort

of harmless beverage or food. It was always orange juice, or apple juice, or Hi C, or a turkey sandwich. Once he was

changing a light bulb and the glass lampshade fell off and broke on the floor. He was disappointed, but when he stepped on a piece of glass he just limped away really quickly as if he didn't want anyone to see him. Then we heard something crack in the hallway and we looked over to see if everything was alright. We looked around the corner and saw him staring at the doorway, his foot bleeding, a Hi C in his hand, and a key rack lying on the ground. His face was equally passive as ever before.

Other strange things I noticed about him: his weight scale was lying outside out on the street, he asked me if I was going to join the navy really forcefully, I saw him pick up a heavy rock and put it in a river angrily, he always stands in front of the TV when it's on so that only he could see it, he loves cars, and he gave my friend a box of condoms once and walked away really quickly while blushing (I guess he was embarrassed or something).

Step Dad Continues on Pg. 8

merchants  BANK

merchants  BANK

merchants  BANK

merchants  BANK

CONTRIBUTORS:

THIS ISSUE WAS COORDINATED BY HÉCTOR NÁJERA

LAYOUT BY ANDREW LACASSE
& MARIELA NUÑEZ

ALICE BEST
ROSS DILLON
CHRISTIE GOSHE
ANDREW HOBBS
JAMAICA KELLEY
TAMBU KUDZE
ANDREW LACASSE
CHRISTOPHER LEM
MARY McLAUGHLIN
HÉCTOR NÁJERA
SABINA SHRESTHA
ELIZA SLATER
ROSE STRICKMAN
ANDREW PRZYSTANSKI

A PUBLICATION BY
ACRONYM

Before the End of the World stands for integrity and a professional approach to student journalism. In order to serve as a reliable news source for Bennington College and a medium for the free expression of an array of ideas and opinions, Before the End of the World aims to provide a meaningful journalistic experience to every one of its writers and future readers.

NATIONAL CAMPUS

Every issue Before the End has brought you a sampler of what happens at colleges across the nation in our section "National Campus." All of the following summaries were extracted from the cited student newspapers. So enjoy, and remember that The Bubble only extends so far.

CAFFEINE HARMFUL FOR THOSE WITH SLEEPING PROBLEMS

Caffeine-powered late-night studying can have adverse lifelong effects for a person's body, according to Harvard Medical School sleep expert Dr. Atul Malhotra. Already the lack of the recommended eight to nine hours of sleep has been linked to health risks.

Malhotra cited a 2003 long-term study that included more than 70,000 women. Those that slept five hours each night were more than seventy percent likely to have a heart attack relative to those who had a regular night's sleep. The same women also gained weight at a rate 50 percent higher compared to those who slept more.

Malhotra also said that staying awake for eighteen hours could impair a person's cognitive ability as much as an alcoholic drink, and that after 24 hours a person's cognitive ability can equate to being legally drunk. Those who get used to staying up late aren't adapting to less sleep, their bodies are simply picking up a bad habit by losing the ability to perceive how sleepy one is. Malhotra also said that making up for late night during the week by sleeping in the weekend isn't always enough.

Malhotra advised not to get over-the-counter drugs to aid with sleep, and that people who have sleeping problems should avoid activities which hinder sleep, like late-night eating, exercising or consumption of caffeine.

—The Daily Free Press, Boston University

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM RAISES STUDENT FEES

Last week the UC Board of Regents approved student fee increases, which has sparked a response from students across the state.

The seven-percent increase comes almost three years after the Board and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a compact to allow fee increases of up to 10 percent to maintain academic quality and keep pace with inflation. After the announcement Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi said he would work with the Governor and California's legislature to buy back the fee increase. "I think it is wrong, and the legislature and the governor have found a way to have the Regents tax students to raise the funds necessary to support the UC," he said.

In past years fee increases have been a big worry for students. Last year the California State University system approved a fee increase of its own, which the Governor bought back.

Chancellor Robert Birgeneau said the fee hike was necessary to boost funds for academic programs and diversity outreach. He added that although students are concerned that such fee increases could hurt diversity financial aid would cover the fee increase for many underrepresented minorities who are overwhelmingly concentrated in the low-income bracket.

Still many students are planning to visit the state legislature in Sacramento. Bill Shiebler, president of the University of California Students Association, plans to mobilize UC and CSU students to continue lobbying legislators to gain support for buying out the fees. "Students have a lot of energy and momentum," he said. "Just because the regents decided not to put more pressure on the state legislature, we are going to take our fight to Sacramento." Shiebler also plans to work with Garamendi and other lawmakers to pressure key legislators.

—The Daily Californian, UC Berkeley

THE LISTENING ROOM

by Jamaica Kelley

In our visually inclined society, a dark room full of people in stadium style seats brings to mind another detail: a glowing screen.

Now, each Monday at 10 pm in Tishman, Bennington students have the

chance to experience an environment where the screen is dark and what is heard is the point of focus. Michael Chinworth, '08, the creator of this weekly music event, hopes that this evening of listening may be an opportunity for students to participate in a long-lost pastime.

With a focus on concert music and sound art written within the last 30 years, "The Tishman Listening-Room" debuted on the 12th of March with a listening of Morton Feldman's "Rothko Chapel." The lights were off and those in attendance took the opportunity to stretch out on the padded benches as

they prepared to listen. The crowd of 15 were quickly put into a trance by Feldman's haunting, ethereal landscape. Chinworth commented that the piece was written to commemorate the death of Mark Rothko, the artist who designed the Rothko Chapel in Texas. Like the chapel, which was designed to be a meditative place, the music is, at points, placid and burning with energy. One could feel listeners' chests tighten in suspense and nearly explode as the ghoulish chorus of voices drifted in and out of the near silent sound palette, sometimes crescendo-ing to a nearly unbearable intensity. Previously held by a

viola, a soprano takes the solo line halfway through the piece with declarative, punching notes, no less haunting than the music before. The third and final portion of the piece brings to the forefront a lovely

viola passage accompanied by a lush ostinato on a soothing mallet instrument.

Michaela Doane, '08, reflected on the event, saying, "Taking time out of my Monday night to immerse myself completely in a piece of music was a really refreshing experience. It's a great way to check in with the world of contemporary concert music - something I know next-to-nothing about—and also to just find some stillness within my own day. I think Michael's really on to something." Lydia Brassard,

'08, added, "There were some scary parts [in the piece], but it was an excellent opportunity to be exposed to a new genre of music in a group environment." The next listening will take place today, Monday the 19th, at 10pm in Tishman, and will feature John Adams' "Shaker Loops."

MAYAN INDIAN REACHES FOR PRECIDENCY

by Héctor Nájera



Since its independence from Spain in 1821, Guatemala has never had an indigenous president or a female president. But this year Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberta Menchú will bid for the presidency in the upcoming September elections.

Forty-two percent of Guatemala's population is Mayan Indian, of which Menchú is a part of. She is the subject of a book about her life, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, which was transcribed and edited from tapes by Venezuelan-French author and psychologist Elizabeth Burgos. The book earned her a reputation as an activist for the rights of indigenous people. In 1992 she was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, and in 1998 she received the Prince of Asturias Award for her work.

Menchú anticipates a hard race and acknowledges that it could get ugly, but she isn't going to respond to macho or racist attacks. Questions have also been raised about her biographical memoir which launched her into the international spotlight, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*. David Stoll, an anthropologist at Middlebury College in Vermont published a book in which he claims Menchú changed stories about her life and used those of other people as her own. Menchú dispels his assertions.

If she wins, Menchú has vowed to revise the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which Bush hailed as a means of creating jobs and bringing Guatemalans out of poverty. "Although the agreement may have been brilliant

for specific groups (that negotiated it), the population wasn't consulted; we don't know about the agreement," said Menchú.

There is also the fear that the Guatemalan cultivation of corn may be overtaken by the mechanized methods from the United States. Menchú expressed the need to protect the Guatemalan agriculture. "The sacred maize is an ancestral food that has a dignified place in the homes of Guatemalans—I say Guatemalans, not only the indigenous population," Menchú said.

Menchú trails behind three top candidates and winning will be difficult. However, if she succeeds she will become the third indigenous president in Latin America, after Bolivia's Evo Morales and Mexico's Benito Juárez.

SPECIAL SECTION

Every now and then Before the End will feature special sections as a treat to the campus. Our first special was disguised during our first issue in December as games and articles for the holidays.

We used this issue's special section as an excuse to break our piggy banks and go around town for some delicious food. We tried to get a variety of places, so we visited Williamstown as well. In all places we had a camera ready to document any hairs we found swimming in our soup, but no such luck. But our notebook was filled with keen observations every time. We even reviewed the restroom facilities. So we bring it all to you how it happened—raw, for your enjoyment:

Izabella's Eatery

by Andrew Lacasse

Found near Four Corners, Izabella's Eatery is an established meeting and eating place for the Bennington community. Izabella's was recently bought by Joe and Lucinda Heuschkel. The café does attempt to incorporate the Bennington community by inviting local artist to display their work on one of the walls, which stays up for up to three months. The owners also make an attempt to purchase locally grown ingredients.

The owner sites reasons such as health, the environment and economics as excellent reasons to buy locally. They've bought ingredients from places as close by as Pownal and Shraftsbury. "Why buy from California when ten miles away there are better products." Local ingredients mean the food is fresh and the owners believe that makes a difference in the way their food tastes.

The Herrick Sandwich has been served since the restaurant's opening. The Emily Grace Sandwich, a sophisti-

cated PB&J sandwich, is named for the Heuschkel's four-year-old niece. The Zachary Taylor Panini, a unique ham sandwich, is named for their nephew. The Nor'easter, a bacon spinach and tomato sandwich, is named for the legendary storms that visit the community. Just as Nor'easter season passes, so do many of their menu items with seasonal ingredients.

Although the chai at Izabella's wasn't my favorite, the Figgie was a delicious sandwich of goat cheese, onion relish, fig chutney and arugula.

Izabella's also has a wide variety of desserts, made fresh daily.

Whether I suggest Izabella's or not you'll probably find yourself in Bennington's unique café. Izabella's is located on Bennington's Main Street and is open Monday-Friday 7:30-4 and on Saturday from 9-4. They are available for catering with advanced notification.

The Rattlesnake has bite

by Héctor Najera

I was told that as a Mexican, it was only natural to visit a Mexican food restaurant in the area. At first I resisted, but after a few weeks out here and away from San Diego I could no longer stand it. I just wanted a carne asada burrito, which is a burrito that made with roasted beef, fresh guacamole, and oh-so-good stuff with fresh salsa. But there aren't any burritos around here, like that so we went to the Rattlesnake Café.

The place was clean, which is always a plus when eating. We were promptly seated and the waitress was quick to take our orders. If you do go, you'll notice bright walls under dim lighting and the skull of a bull, I think. Also there is some interesting art on the walls, some of it for sale. I noticed a painting by Simón Silva, a painter from California, and some beer posters, but it was evident that the decorations didn't always come from Mexico.

Ordering was easy and the

waitress was very nice; she was good about letting me dwell over my top choices: enchiladas or burritos. One thing that struck me about the menu was the price. It wasn't exorbitant, but I was surprised, especially since in San Diego burritos are \$3.50. But I'm not in San Diego, so I got over it. Most of the things that sound appetizing are over ten dollars, so come prepared unless you feel like washing dishes.

One of our fellow reviewers, Andrew Lacasse, is vegetarian, so he paid attention to that aspect of the menu. "I would have liked more selection," he said. In the midst of my dilemma between picking chicken or beef, and then having to choose how I wanted the beef cooked, I was not able to pay attention to those kinds of details, so I'm glad he did. Andrew does think that for a Mexican restaurant they had a decent vegetarian selection and I agree with him.

When I got my food I un-

derstood the non-San Diego price: the plate was huge and it had two burritos with a side of beans and rice. Eating it all was a challenge in itself.

In short the selection was decent, since they do make an effort to offer a variety of Mexican food. They don't have too many seafood dishes but the ones they had did sound appetizing. And they offer cheaper, light fare specials, which is good.

I liked the place. It isn't terribly spacious but it is comfortable. At one point a baby began crying next to me. I decided right then that I don't like kids, so I have to rethink my teaching career—and especially where I get seated next time I come. For those who prefer a different attempt at authentic Mexican food to taco night, Rattlesnake Café is a great option. It has a good ambiance, vegetarian selections, great staff, and if you need it, the restroom is down the hall, the second door on the left.



Dehli Delight: Spice Root Restaurant

by Sabina Shrestha

Tired of having chicken wings just buffalo-style? Try the Kalomi Kabob. Want to try spicier okra? Get the bhindi masala. Or maybe just craving for a different kind of chicken fajita? Chicken Jalfrezi is your call. Whatever your palate demands, you are most likely to find it here.

Tucked between a Thai restaurant and Williams College's paraphernalia store, on Williamstown's Spring Street, is your closest getaway to India: Spice Root. This Indian restaurant boasts

an interesting menu of authentic North and South Indian food and complements it with a setting that takes you out of Massachusetts and into the heart of Delhi.

Once you walk past the green curtains at the door, a friendly smile welcomes you. The colorful décor, funky bar and soothing Indian music creates a great ambience to dine in. The service is great; unobtrusive yet attentive.

Although it enjoys the monopoly of being the first and only Indian restaurant for the

last 6 years in Williamstown, Bennington and North Adams area, the food quality seems uncompromised; the quantity however is a different story. For \$7.95 the buffet was limited to rice, daal, two non-vegetarian entrees, two vegetarian entrees, naan and pudding. Tarun Narula, the owner, explains that the price was lowered from what it was originally and is reasonable, considering the expenses of the imported spices and limited number of people that are familiar with Indian food.

However, people who tasted it once usually return for more. The lunchboxes to-go are more reasonably priced as well as the special student priced dinner combos. "Unlike American dining, Indians share their entrees with everyone at the table so that everyone gets a taste of everything. The combo meal is an attempt to present that variety in an American way. It is already very popular with students at Williams", says Narula.

This restaurant is undoubtedly different than most Indians

restaurant I've been to. The health conscious owners assure that all the food is cooked in canola oil. They even sell herbal iced teas and energy bars at the bar. The 16-ft bar is equally improvised. Their signature drinks, like Bombayrita, tamarind margarita, spice root fizz, and Kama Sutra are all concocted by Simi Narula, the owner's wife and are very popular.

For the creative Narulas, Spice Root is more than just

Deli Continues on Pg. 8

STUDENT COUNCIL: BOILED DOWN

abridged meeting minutes

3/8 - 22 members in attendance

Josh Nagle won Student Council head with 9 votes.

Lydia Brassard won secretary with 9 votes.

The council discussed the following student concerns gathered at coffee hours. This includes, flow of information between admin and student body (both directions), particularly with regard to Psych Services and Student Life. Internet problems, the plan process, sex safety and rape policy.

More money for clubs, making Bennington more environmentally friendly, budgeting/finances, student input in building design and other areas. Rumors about curriculum/first year change, questions about how different departments function on a daily basis and opening the bar earlier in the week. As well as online registration, the dangerous ice on campus, posting office hours of faculty on website, a better Visual Arts review system, more days for visitors and Student art in student center.

Council decided to form committees for the following subjects: 1) Sexual Harassment, 2) Development (campus design and beautification), 3) Meetings with Student Life, 4) Maintenance, 5) Security, 6) Admissions, 7) Financial Aid, 8) Business Office, 9) Environment, 10) Accreditation Research Committee

Josh closed the meeting with a goal of clarifying our by-

laws by the end of the meeting on 3/15.

3/15 - 27 members in attendance

Student Life:

Eva came and talked to SC on behalf of student life. Eva brought up the issue of \$1000 worth of damage to the game room. In order to keep it open 24/7, a surveillance camera will be installed. The camera will feed to a tape and only be reviewed when damage occurred. However any other offenses seen on the tape while reviewing for damage purposes would also be subject to disciplinary action.

Publications:

Council expressed a strong commitment to keeping the student body informed.

A discussion emerged about SC members writing articles/editorials in the newspapers. It was decided that members would have to put a disclaimer indicating that the piece is not representative of the council as a whole.

It was decided that each meeting's minutes, with any confidential information omitted, would be posted on SC's wiki page and could be used as a source by any publication.

By-laws:

We voted on additions to the by-laws. We voted to make SC Head a yearlong position and that voting would take place at the end of the spring term.

QUO VADIS BENNINGTON

by Ross Dillon

The Story Thus Far: The Year is 2156. The United States has collapsed and in 2100 the American Interior was declared the world's largest ecological reserve, having forcefully relocated the remaining Americans to Australia. A reporter has been sent into the interior by National Geographic to report on the level of neglect and to what extent the wildlife has repopulated the remnants of the collapsed civilization.

It is a grey day when our re-

port Steve has crossed into what was once Vermont in the last months of his trip, having started in Texas and worked his way north on his one-year backpacking and reporting odyssey.

I was going into Vermont, which had once been an idyllic farming community. I had the idea upon entering to spin the story of Vermont and neighboring New Hampshire as the post-colonial dream of

Quo Vadis Continues above ad

fuego azul

+ Legal Aliens Association

We are extending invitations to students who want to launch a performance-based cultural project or those who want to learn to perform an aspect of another culture.

Some projects scheduled for the Spring:

salsa & merengue dancing
reggaeton
modern renditions of classical music
...and much more

Fuego Azul is an Acronym Operating Group

all projects will be performed on May 5th in the Multi-cultural show: Ventana Al Verano

is there a cultural dance, performance or literary reading you have been wanting to do?

Project applications are due the 1st of April.

If you have an idea of your own we encourage you to start planning & contact Hector or Paulina. If you are interested in participating in one of the projects we will send you more info. (Although encouraged, you don't have to participate in the Spring show)

to sign up contact

Hector (hnajera@bennington.edu) OR

Paulina (pborja@bennington.edu)

www.fuegoazul.org

Quo Vadis Continues

America, and as such point out all the inconsistencies I could find. I happened upon an old ruined Wal-Mart, one of the hundreds I'd seen before. Usually I'd find abandoned homes to camp out in at night, which had led to some amusing anecdotes ear-

lier in my trip for my readers. Besides the skunk colony in Missouri, and the black bear in Philadelphia, which I did not find amusing, the shelter I took at night had been relatively event-free. I was in the town of Bennington, which was fairly typical post-industrial East Coast. I was planning on heading North for

more rustic lands, but due to the wretched weather and my weariness I decided to make tracks for Bennington College, which signs I'd overturned on the way said was not far away.

Sure enough, following the road I came to the gates. I was

Quo Vadis Continues Page 6



Card Acceptance May Vary By Location



©2006 Domino's Pizza LLC. Domino's, Domino's Pizza and the modular logo are registered trademarks of Domino's Pizza PMO, Inc. Monster Magnet - Automation Compatible - 800-255-0234

Domino's Pizza
Team Bennington
201A South St

(802) 442-5550

3108/F6293

\$13.99

2M

2 Medium
2-Topping Pizzas

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

\$16.99

3M

3 Medium
1-Topping Pizzas

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

777 \$7 each!

777

3 or More Large
1-Topping Pizzas

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

\$13.99

MK

1 Medium 1-Topping Pizza &
10 Buffalo Wings OR
Domino's Pizza Buffalo
Chicken Kickers®

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

\$11.97

L3

1 Large Pizza with Your
Choice of Toppings

Up to 3 Toppings.

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

\$9.99

MK

1 Medium Pizza with Your
Choice of Toppings

Up to 3 Toppings.

Deep Dish & Additional Toppings Extra.

Limited Time Offer

Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/10th. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase.

Mon + Tues 4PM - 11PM
Wed + Thurs 11AM - 12AM
Fri + Sat 11AM - 1AM
Sunday 11AM - 11PM

Visa
MasterCard
Mastercard
American Express

WE ALL WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

by Eliza Slater

John Lennon once said, "You say you want to revolution, well you know we all want to change the world."

The current world is wrought with inequality, injustice, unsustainable practices, and innumerable other issues that exploit and abuse the beauty and diversity of this earth—so yes, (at least I hope that) we do all want to change the world. And while this statement is exciting and empowering, it is easier said than done. To allow these issues to become second priority to those aspects of our lives that demand immediate input and result in instant gratification is easy. In response to this reflexive complacency, we can mobilize and feed from each other's energy and inspiration to counter such impulses to ignore the rest of the world. To disallow our ignorance and self-centeredness, and to create an avenue through which we can channel our thoughts and actions to impending injustices, Students for Social Justice (SSJ) has been formed. SSJ is the convergence of students all asking what we can possibly

do to alter the gross imbalances and wrongs that litter our world.

Currently in its formative stages, SSJ is examining its potential to impact certain avenues that the group has deemed significant and in need of attention. These include, but are not limited to 1) the war in Iraq, and the potentially pending U.S. conflict with Iran, 2) the genocide in Darfur, and the installation of a Bennington STAND (student anti-genocide coalition) chapter in response to this and other issues, 3) the civil war and use of children as soldiers in Uganda, and Bennington's involvement in campaigns set forth by the Invisible Children movement, 4) participation in Rebecca Tinsley's work in Rwanda and 5) on a more local level, the discouragement of military recruitment and the encouragement of other options in the town of Bennington.

SSJ will meet every Monday in the Student Center lounge at 12:45 PM to discuss ways in which to create a sustainable, effective organization, as well as ways

in which this organization can be active and operative in working for the causes that it supports. As this group evolves, input from as many students as possible is essential. Thus regardless of your political preferences (or lack thereof), your skepticism regarding the ability of a small group of students in Vermont to change the world, or any other doubts that students may have, Students for Social Justice is creating an environment where student thoughts and concerns can be addressed.

This world is plagued by wars based on greed and religion; where 25,000 poverty-stricken men, women, and children die from hunger or from related causes every day, while obesity is becoming equally endemic; where rich women pay vast sums to for unnecessary cosmetic surgeries, while children in Guinea have three-foot long worms burrowing through their flesh because they do not have clean water to drink. For those who hate these ridiculous and indefensible disproportions, and are interested in the preservation

of human rights, and in curing some of the infinite maladies that plague this world, SSJ is attempting to provide one (but by no means the only) opportunity for your voice to be heard, and then amplified through social and political activism. If you have any interest in the coalition of individuals facilitating global change and a more just world, your presence at an SSJ meeting is welcomed.

Notes:

- Several Bennington Students attended the NYC protest against the Iraq War and a future conflict with Iran this past weekend
- You may want to check out Invisible Children's Displace Me on April 28th, a nationwide movement during which individuals will voluntarily enter a simulation of an internment camp to draw attention to and rally support and aid for the many displaced peoples around the world (see <http://www.invisiblechildren.com/theMovement/displaceMe> for more info).

PHILOSOPHICAL

FLUSH

Quotes from the College's bathroom walls

Upcaf

- * The air is filled with the dreams of sleeping people.
- * Reality rocks me to sleep.
- * Life is about looking for mystery.

Game Room

- * Be your own God.
- * None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe that they are free. - John Wolfgang Van Goethe
- * I didn't know how alone I was until they brought in more chairs.

Dickinson

- * "Are you on the bus?"
- * "The short bus?" "Are you in high school?" "Are you high?"
- * Reality is a staircase going neither up nor down - Octavio Paz
- * Far enough away our sun is just another star.
- * Tommy was a good boy
- * Now Tommy is no more
- * cause what he thought was H₂O
- * was actually H₂SO₄

Barn

- * post-modernism is the crack cocaine of the liberal intelligentsia - Eileen Sculley
- * Nice ! Bennington seriously has the best bathroom wall discourse
- * The truth is in short supply; we must conserve. - Mark Twain
- * Autocracy Project
- * A cynic is someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing - Oscar Wilde
- * A cynic is a disappointed idealist

VAPA

- * A: If you treat irony ironically isn't it just sincerity again?
- * B: Yeah Totally Pffff
- * The truth is, I don't like you

Commons

- * Music comes first, lyrics are secondary
- * all communists need to learn the truth; political power comes out of the barrel of a gun - Mao
- * I wonder if Post Cereal calls their office the Post Office
- * All jokes aside, I'm excited for the future.



by Christie Goshe

Quo Vadis Continues

surprised by the size and construction of them, the logs felled must have been forty-feet high, halved, but rounded, and the tops were spiked. On the sides of these gates, which besides their height must have measured only a short twenty feet across, the campus seemed to be walled off by an iron fence. This fence was not so high, and so I crawled over the top. On the back side of the wooden

gates I saw a great horizontal bar holding the gate closed, my mind could not but help think of the American legend of a giant ape who had been brought to New York in the 1930s, and covered up by conspiracy. I couldn't recall what the gates had to do with this myth, merely that they were connected.

I started up a long and windy gravel path, which I realized at one point had been paved. Chunks of the former pavements had been broken up

to make the current path, and there were signs that also startled me, like the lack of plants sprouting on the path, which had in other places reclaimed even the broad asphalt highways. I thought the unusual place would serve as the site for my next deadline, and went up on the path coming onto a large wood-sided building. It seemed a little broken down, some of the windows were gone. The path forked, and a sign pointed to the various buildings to the

left or right:

<—Living Centers
<—Green Mountain Square
<—Tower Post
<—Facilities
Town Hall—>
Jennings—>
Fields—>

The sign must have been made shortly before the collapse, as it was well-preserved. I decided to follow the left-hand fork towards 'Facilities'.

THREE MULES FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

by Tambu Kudze

Some people await the arrival of 2008 arrival with anticipation. And that's because of marriage. In some cultures women can only propose marriage to men during a leap year, on February 29. The tradition is said to have begun in Ireland when St. Bridget had complained to St. Patrick that women could not do anything about getting married even if they were over the age of marriage. St Patrick is then said to have agreed that on February 29 women were free to look for men they wanted to marry and propose. In Scotland, this was made a law and a man who turned down the proposal was supposed to pay a fine. For the poorer men who could not pay the fine, this forced them to marry. To the Greeks, Leap Year is believed to be an unsuitable year for marriages. One in five engaged couples are believed to choose not to marry during Leap Year. For the women in Guinea-Bissau and surrounding islands having to propose marriage is customary. The girl has the privilege of choosing her husband. She prepares a fish in red palm oil and during a public ceremony gives it to the man she wants to marry. This is their way of kneeling down and saying the phrase reserved for men in Western cultures, "will you marry me". By eating the fish the man agrees to marry her. It is said that the man cannot refuse to marry her. Elders on the islands believe that this reduces the number of divorces in their communities. This might sound weird as much as the Western marrying custom might sound to the island inhabitants. This is one way diversity in world cultures is exhibited. In the European and American cultures, it is common that no one pays cash or bribes to any of the families involved in the marriage. In Nepal, Hinduism is the most common religion and the marriages are conducted according to the Hindu religion. The priest goes around the village, sees a girl who he thinks is ready for marriage, and sees a boy he thinks is ready for marriage too. He then visits the boy's family and tells them that he thinks their son is ready for marriage and suggests that he can help them look for a girl. He then

goes to the girl's family and tells them the same thing. He then goes to the boy's family with photos of the girl. The marriage celebration is then arranged and the groom and bride are married. The girl's family provides furniture that their daughter takes with them to her marriage home. As the girl grows up the family already saves for the girls wedding. Most of the population in Dominican Republic and Mexico is Roman Catholic, so their marriages are conducted as stipulated by the Church. The boy and girl meet, they date and they get married, the woman dressed in white. However, in parts of southern Mexico there still are some traditional methods of marriage. The Mixtecs, an indigenous group from the Mexican state of Oaxaca, celebrate their ceremonies without a priest. The "groom" identifies the girl he wants to marry and approaches her parents. The groom, his parents, and the parents of the girl then talk over whether the wedding will benefit both parties. Then the parents of both the groom and the bride arrange a party whereby the groom and bride meet. At the party, the groom and the bride will be advised on how to achieve a successful marriage and their responsibilities. Officially there is no dowry or bride price that is paid, but the groom may tend to bring gifts to the bride's family that can include oxen and land. This will be a way of convincing the in-laws to give away their daughter in marriage to the groom. Isn't it romantic? In most African countries, the bride's family receives a kind of payment, the bride price. In the Zimbabwean Shona culture, the boy is the one who proposes love to the girl and they date. When the couple decides to get married, the boy's family chooses a go-between, a man who can be a relative or friend of the bride's family. In all these other cultures, the men are the ones who are the propellers of marriages. So ladies, you have the choice to propose with a fish or to be bargained over with goats. But there is no denying that our world is rich in customs that illustrate the perplexity of our respective cultures.



MAN MAN

by Alicia Best

I often wonder if everyone else jumped off a cliff, would I? Probably not. But when herds of Benningtonians headed towards the Student Center on Thursday night, I blindly followed, not knowing the band, barely knowing the audience, and just wanting something to dance to. And that is exactly what I got.

CAB (Campus Activities Board) Bands brought Man Man and Icy Demons to the Student Center last Thursday. The concert started at 9pm and right away there was an energy exuding from the stage and wafting over the crowd. Something about the clanging and banging—and grown men with make-believe war paint on their faces—inspired movement. It started with small motions, people shifted back and forth a little, not as if they were really dancing but just moving the slightest bit, because they couldn't help it. And eventually, some of the movement got so big, so wild, so crazy, that one could have questioned if it were still dance at all.

Man Man seemed to be finding the balance (or at least wobbling back and forth) at the brink between

nearly poetic beauty and a clumsy dishwasher dropping pots and pans in a seemingly chaotic and random manner. Perhaps they are the thread that stitches Waits and Zappa together with the cosmos, even toying with gypsy folk, tap dancing into punk, and letting their voices rise together all at once, chant-like and haunting. The band is noisy, brutal, and wildly energetic—sure, but there is a lot of soul in their sound (or should I say sounds) as well, and they don't seem worried about taking risks.

Listening to them they were an enigma. Barely being able to see the stage I was never quite sure of all the instruments they were playing. At times it seemed that each man was playing several at once: guitar, keyboard, and saxophone, maybe an accordion thrown in the mix...steel buckets? Tin cans? Some sort of brightly colored horns that reminded me of birthday party favors from the good ol' days...and yet when all put together it wasn't a total cacophony.

It was obvious that their craziness came from a stable foundation, as if they had learned

how to play their instruments well before breaking the rules, so they knew how to play, and how to play games as they did so. And despite all the screaming, slamming, yelling, clinking, and other assorted noise (my favorite being the parts that seemed almost to teeter on the edge of do-wop...) the Man Man men really had something to say, in a well-written, interesting way.

But this is all smoke and mirrors on my part, their energy and power didn't have to do with the instruments they played, really, or the musical genres they dipped into, or even the sweat cascading down their brows, it is the passion that they seemed to harbor, and they did not present it as complaint, or as the tragically distressed, or the wounded and prideful, they presented it heroically, in their Man Man way.

So I suppose that in the end, (after four encores, mind you,) if everyone else jumps, I'll jump too...but only to the music and only if my feet will land firmly on the ground when it's all over.

CUCKOO FOR SUDOKU

We think it's a hard one.

			3	4	2
7			8	1	
9	1				
3	6		9		
	7		6	9	
			7	3	4
				8	9
	8	5			2
1	9	2			

Hunger Continues

the donation of 0.7 per cent of their national income as aid. The Conference called for the setup of a schedule by which to meet the .7 percent donation by 2015, but not all countries have set up schedules yet. Among those who have produced a schedule are the United Kingdom, France, and Spain. Those who haven't set up schedules yet include Japan, the United States, and Switzerland. Among those who have already met the goal of donating .7 percent of their national income are Denmark, Luxembourg, and Sweden.

In purely quantitative terms there is enough food to feed the 6.6 billion people in the world. However, natural disasters such as droughts and earthquakes, conflicts, lack of adequate agricultural infrastructure, and poverty have a severe effect on the acquisition of food.

For many organizations the problem is the lack of funds. The UN's World Food Programme said that in April it will begin to slash food rations for nearly 1.5 million displaced people and refugees by half because of lack of funding. The program was launched in 1963 to use food in order to meet "emergency needs" and to "support eco-

nomie and social development," which includes natural disasters, displaced people, and to help feed the hungry. Currently it is offering aid to places like Uganda.

The conflict in Uganda between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army has displaced over a million people, which has in turn left many without a reliable method of nourishment. The same is true for the Darfur region of Sudan. Regions that generally have good crops fall into hunger crisis because of conflicts. And although several organizations try to help, they cannot raise all the money needed on their own, which is why a sincere commitment from governments is necessary.

Hunger

Hunger isn't simply lacking enough to eat; it is lacking the right things to eat. Acute hunger is one often depicted by the media—where a person is so weak they can barely operate, but it only accounts for about eight percent of hunger victims. The less visible types of hunger are undernourishment and malnutrition.

Undernourishment means that a person is living on significantly less than the 2,100 recommended calories. To compensate for this the body slows down its mental and physical ability, making

it hard for children to concentrate and even play and for adults to work productively. There are people that go months without getting enough to eat.

Malnutrition is the product of an inadequate dietary intake; of people not consuming essential nutrients. The World Health Organization ranked iron deficiency and vitamin A deficiency among the top 10 leading causes of death through disease. Iron, for example, forms the molecules that carry oxygen in blood, and iron deficiency currently afflicts almost 2 billion people. Iodine is necessary for brain development, but 780 million people worldwide don't get enough of it. A UN research found that about twenty million children are born mentally impaired because their mothers didn't get enough iodine.

There is a long list of other vitamins that many people don't get, as well as proteins, carbohydrates, and fats. The failure to nourish properly, then, has adverse effects for the economy of developing countries. For example, a report by the World Bank found that poor families spend seventy percent of their income on food (an average American family spends about 10 percent). The World Bank also found that more than one

billion people currently live below the international poverty line, earning less than \$1 a day. So when a poor family isn't hungry, it is broke.

The vast majority of the hungry reside in developing countries. Over 300 million is South Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa one out of three people is hungry. The problem is intensified since the spread of HIV/AIDS in these regions impair people from cultivating their food, and the children of infected mothers are forced to look for the little they can find. There are also orphan children whose parents died from AIDS.

Hunger stems from the prevalence of poverty. In developing countries the cycle of poverty is very difficult to break, and—as has been acknowledged by the wealthiest of nations—the world must step in to prevent the spread of hunger. However, there is much talk by powerful nations on controlling hunger that isn't always met with actions. As Diouf stated in 1996 when world leaders met to combat hunger, "We have the possibility to do it. We have the knowledge. We have the resources."

With firm action there is still time to meet goals set forth by the World Food Summit by 2015. But not for 25,000 people. Not today.

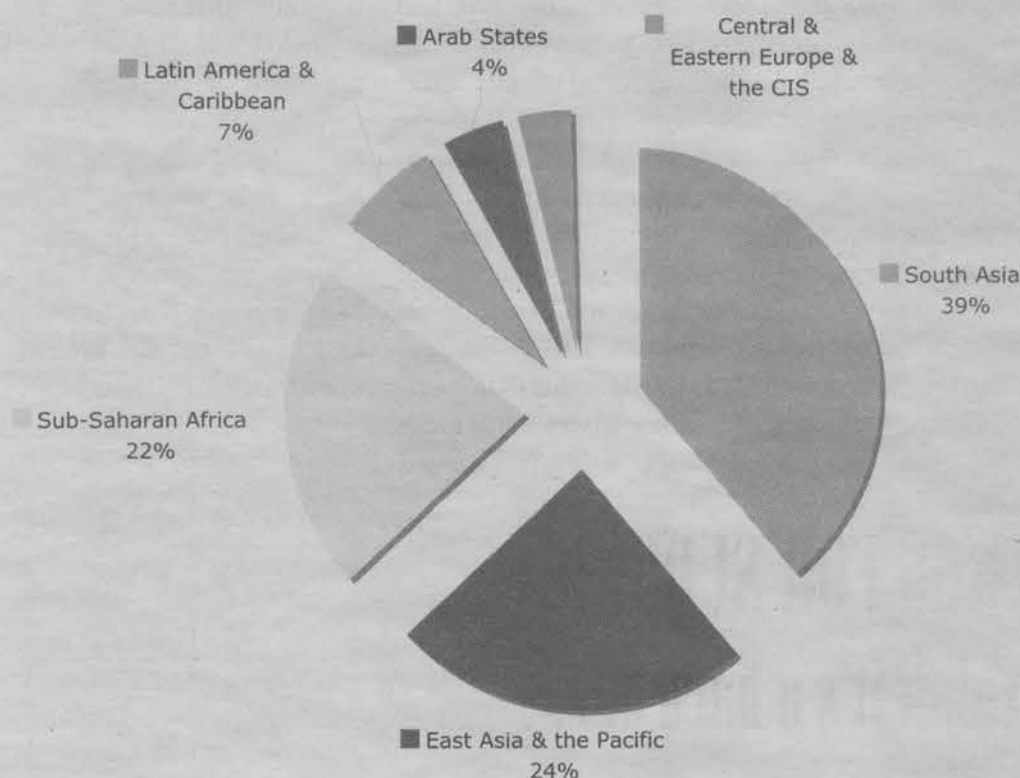
Dehli Continues

business; it is an attempt to introduce Indian cuisine to the public. So, they go out of their way (and their menu) to ensure your satisfaction. "Spicy is not hot", says Narula who feels that this misconception keeps many people from trying Indian food. Whether you are a non-vegetarian, vegetarian or even vegan, there is a wide array of choices to choose from. "If you are new to the cuisine, the servers will help you pick something to your taste but if that doesn't work, tell the chef what you like and he will prepare a special dish just for you.", he adds. Now, it can't get more authentic.

Step Dad Continues

Guys like these are my hands down my favorite. The next thing I expect to see him doing is listening to Cher's "Believe" really quietly and crying.

Location of Undernourished Population



The Gift Garden Inc.

343 WEST MAIN STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

(802) 447-7222

Flowers, Plants, Balloons,
Fruit & Gourmet Baskets,
Candles & More

TO US, COMMUNITY SUPPORT.
isn't a question.

IT'S THE ANSWER.

Chittenden

401 Main Street • Bennington • 802 442 6396
Kocher Drive • Bennington Square • 802 447 7522

MEMBER FDIC