De-Regulate America
  -by Adam Young

Big government is the largest problem in America today. Almost everything that the government touches it harms, and it touches almost everything. Most Americans feel that ever rising taxes are food for a machine that is hostile toward American values. Unlike the vision of the Founding Fathers, American government is marching closer and closer to administrative totalitarianism.

Big government deprives us of self-government. We can choose who makes the rules in the country, but the rules increasingly dominate us. The government is constantly setting rules that tell us exactly how to sell our products, use our land, and what groups we give preference to. Big government puts a terribly nauseous sea of bureaucrats between us and our everyday business. Big government asserts itself into so many different places in our lives that it has no business in; at the same time it becomes less and less effective. Dominance of big government leads to the development of an arrogance of power which leads to the hallucination that bureaucrats are above the law. As big government becomes more present in our everyday lives, it becomes clearer that private industry can do better than government in anything. Big government wastes an incredibly obscene amount of money on tasks that can be willingly and better performed by private industry.

The only way that we can snatch this country from the brink of dismemberment is to greatly shrink the federal government. FDR’s New Deal began the expansion of federal government unto the monstrosity that it is today. The repulsion of the New Deal ideology is fundamental in forcing big government back into the hands of the American people.

Taxes must be cut drastically, high taxes are bad for the economy and personal

Non-Alcoholic Prom: What’s the Problem?
  -by Wallace Allen

OK, let’s cut straight to the chase.
Someone please help me understand why the “non-alcoholic” Prom after party offered by the Junior mothers was so ill-received.
Granted, this would be the first affair of its kind in ESA history, but our senior class has always prided itself as the class to go against the grain. To be honest with you, I’m disappointed with both the junior and senior classes, and it may be about time for many of us to take a long look in the mirror and make some drastic changes.

I was a bit taken when I initially heard the proposal for the “non-alcoholic” after-party, but then I thought long and hard about the situation at hand. I couldn’t help but think that it’s about time the parents finally received a wake-up call. It’s no secret that many of us get smashed at parties. While many juniors and seniors may like to say that it is the freshman and sophomores left lying on the sidewalk, we have all witnessed otherwise. I don’t mean to be a plug.

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-Ryan’s view of everything
-Final word on the lounge
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-Reviews of: G. Love and Special Sauce, The Cranberries, Higher Learning, Street Fighter, a restaurant review, and some other stuff...

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Eclectic Reviews

**Album: No Need To Argue,**
*The Cranberries.*

Reviewer: Jeremy
Rating: ****(of 5)*

I would simply say: it’s not bad. If you heard their first album, I’d find it hard to believe you didn’t, you’d truly be surprised that *No Need To Argue* was made by the same band.

For starters, and most importantly, they cut down on the whining, something prevalent throughout their first album. Secondly, they threw in a bit of grunge, giving their music a new sound. Last, but not least (not to be cliché), they moved up to a new level with their lyrics, leaving behind the stories of relationships gone bad, to make room for a variety of new topics.

Unfortunately, I can’t say that these improvements make this album great. The first time I listened through this album I thought that it was great. However, after the second and third times through it, I realized that though it was a big improvement by comparison, it still wasn’t great. So, if you liked them before, you should pick this one up. If you thought their first album was all right, then you’ll like *No Need To Argue*. If you didn’t like their first one, you should at least give this one a listen through.

**Album: G. Love and Special Sauce**

Reviewer: Charles Barousse
Rating: *****(of 5)*

“Good God! What the hell is that?” It’s G. Love and Special Sauce, one of the most innovative albums released in 1994. The element of aforementioned confusion results from the creative talents of G. Love himself. He and his band (not Special Sauce; he is the producer along with Stiff Johnson) are able to successfully combine hip hop, rap, jazz, rock ‘n’ roll, and blues. Not to say this fusion was not inevitable since hip hop, jazz, and rock are off-shoots from jazz and blues, but I was still not expecting it. I sure wasn’t anticipating such a crafty fusion.

G. Love and Special Sauce consists of a standard guitar, drum, and bass trio. However, each musician boasts great flexibility for each style of music represented. The bass, in part because it is a stand-up bass, has a jazz sound. The guitar shows off many styles, but usually has a jazz and blues feel. The drums alternate between jazz and rock beats, while the vocals are all G. Love rapping, with some backup vocals. Though it may sound odd at first listen, G. Love and Special Sauce does an excellent job of melding genres. There is nothing quite like G. Love, so perhaps listening would complete the description and do the album justice. So, go ahead and get it; fusion like this doesn’t just come along every day.

**Album: American Thighs,**
*Veruca Salt*

Reviewer: Dave Aurich
Category: Not sure, but it definitely reminds me of the Breeders.

**Breakdown**

- **Best Stuff:** “All Hail Me,” “Seether,” “Victrola,” “Forsynthia,” “Celebrate You,” “Number One Blind,” and “25.”
- **Fast Forwards:** “Twin Star,” “Wolf,” and “Fly.”

Overall Impression: A great debut!

Whoever said girls had to be nice? Well, the female half of Veruca Salt not only breaks that “rule,” but totally redefine it. This Chicago quartet’s debut album "American Thighs" is receiving good reviews from magazines like *Rolling Stone* and *Spin*, to name a few. The first cut “Seether” created such a buzz on Chicago radio stations that the band’s label, Minty Fresh, had to ask stations to stop playing it because the label had run out of copies of it! Obviously, the name Veruca Salt is taking from Ronald Dahl’s book *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. It’s also pretty obvious that Veruca Salt sounds very much like the Breeders, but with a little harder edge. The other half of Veruca Salt is bassist Steve Lack and drummer Jim Shapiro. Are coed bands the next big thing? Why not? With the success of coed bands like Mazzy Star, Hole, Belly,
and the Breeders, I would say, “Yes!” I think there is room for both man and women in music. And just because women are in music, it does not mean they have to be sweet and proper. Just look at L7, L.A.’s hard-core all girl band. Anyway, if you’ve got a sweet tooth for music, make your dentist cringe...Pick up a copy of America Thighs by Veruca Salt.

**Album: Chrome, Catherine Wheel**

Reviewer: Preston Robinson  
Genre: good question  
Breakdown:  
Rating: ****  
Best stuff: "Kill Rhythm," "Pain," and "Strange Fruit."  
Worst Stuff: "Show Me Mary."  
Overall impression: Really thick and powerful sound makes this album impressive.

Catherine Wheel, named after a torture device of the Middle Ages, came out of Britain a few years ago (this album was recorded in 1993), and the group is really...different. I can’t quite identify their sound, but I know that it’s good. I suppose they would be considered a “modern” rock band, but their sound is much more thick and full that any band I can think of right off the top of my head. At times, they may sound a little like Pink Floyd, but at other times, they sound like Dig. You’ll have to listen to the album to really understand what I’m talking about. So if you have some cash and would like to try something different, pick up Catherine Wheel’s Chrome.

**Movie: Street Fighter**

Acclaimed Critic: Mike Barry  
Starring: Raul Julia, Jean Claude Van-Damme  
Rating: *(of 5)*  
Overall impression: Play the video game, it’s more entertaining.

After botching my review of Pulp Fiction (Tarrentino’s early film was not Good Fellas, but Reservoir Dogs, which is also very good, from what I’ve heard) I was set on writing an exemplary review of the next movie I was to watch, which happened to be Street Fighter.

I was dragged into the theater against my will by Deep and Chris, who so desperately wanted to see their video idols live and in action. As I sat in the uncomfortable Mall cinema chairs watching previews without any sound, (the workers there are paid minimum wage, but I expected better service for the $5.50 I spent to get in), I noticed that most of the others in the room were older than I had expected for a movie based on a video game. Why weren’t all the kids from across the Mall at Aladdin’s Castle there? What was the lure that hooked all of us to sit through two hours of a horrible movie? Was it the lure of Van-Damme kicking booty? Or was it to see the fantastic female fighters in skimpy battle gear? Raul Julia, of Addam’s Family fame, portrayed M. Bison, a cross between Adolf Hitler and Chuck Norris. Van-Damme played Col. Guile, the hardened American leader of the international strike force out to get Bison. Other familiar fighters to appear were the elusive pair of dashing heroes, Ken and Ryu, the seedy arms dealer Sagat, and the pompous Spanish cage fighter Vega. The greatest (and perhaps only) triumph of the film was the tying of all the Capcom characters into a workable story. Aside from this, the movie failed miserably as a successful action flick. Fighting was drowned by long spaces of plot explanation, which was too complicated for the youngsters it was targeting. This film has followed in the pattern of other video-game movies such as Mario Bros and Double Dragon, making the idea of watching another feel like being on the receiving end of Van-Damme’s combat boot.

**Movie: Higher Learning**

Reviewer: David Aurich  
Director: John Singleton  
Rating: **** (of 5)  
Starring: Omar Epps, Ice Cube, Kristy Swanson

Could director John Singleton be compared to King Midas? Everything John
Singleton touches turns to gold. With directing credits in movies like Boyz-n-the Hood and Poetic Justice, Singleton is on his way to becoming one of the best directors of our time. Singleton’s new movie, Higher Learning, is set at the fictitious Columbus University. He deals with such issues as date rape, racism, and everyone’s worst nightmare, the roommate from Hell. The movie takes turns focusing on different people’s lives. From Malik (Omar Epps) to Kristin (Kristy Swanson) to Remy (I can’t remember his real name), it depicts different aspects of college life. Singleton has a flair for making his films as accurate and believable as possible. Rapper Ice Cube also makes an appearance in this film. He plays the “Senior Supreme,” a senior who has been there for six years, and still hasn’t graduated. Although his part is small, he plays it extremely well. (He finally graduates at the end of the film.)

I would highly recommend this movie to any junior or senior who is preparing for college, but also to anyone who likes John Singleton or likes a really good movie.

Movie Reviewed: The Ref
Reviewer: Preston
Actors: Dennis Leary and a cast of nobodies
Breakdown:
Rating: *****(of *****)
Genre: Comedy
Overall impression: It’s great as long as you like Dennis Leary.

One evening when I had decided that there was just no way that I was going to do any work, I went to rent a movie. The cover of the film caught my eye because Dennis Leary, comedy god, was on it. I knew it would be good because I enjoy completely unrealistic comedies sure to be filled with “foul language.” Well, The Ref exceeded my expectations. The basics of the plot—a robber (Leary) sets off an alarm at a mansion he is robbing and has to find a safe hide out. He kidnaps a woman in a convenience store and rides with her and her husband to their house, realizing on the way that the couple wants a divorce. They argue the entire time, obnoxious relatives show up, and eventually a drunken Santa brandishing a fruit cake crashes Christmas dinner. If you would like further explanation of the deranged Santa, rent the movie.

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
Author: Anthony Burgess
Reviewer: Deep
Rating: *****(of 5)

The late Anthony Burgess’ cult masterpiece A Clockwork Orange is still as controversial today as it was when first published in 1962. While predicting the future through the novel, Burgess manages to spit out a perverse statement about gang violence and brainwashing. The novel now includes a final chapter by Burgess which was allegedly edited from the original copy of the novel for “marketing reasons.” The movie version, once banned in England, is available on home video, though I highly recommend reading the book first.

Restaurant: Shangrila
Reviewer: Nikki Akkaraju
Breakdown:
Rating: ****** (of 10)
Best stuff: Buffet
No good: The salad
Bathroom cleanliness: N/A

Shangrila, originally just another Chinese restaurant, has begun to open its mind to all of the world’s fine cuisine. With their newfound variety, the buffet has established itself as one of the best buys in town. Think about it... egg rolls, won ton shrimp, teriyaki beef, and an array of all-American dishes. The staff makes sure that all of the food looks as good as it tastes. The scenery has one major flaw: the lights are just too dim-- but not so much so that one cannot read the menu. In general, Shangrila’s commitment to excellence ensures many satisfied customers.
The Philatelist Club: Not Just Stamps Anymore

by Wes Raine

In trying to decide upon an appropriate subject for an article, one of the editors suggested that I write an informative article about the famed Philatelist Club. After some deliberation, I decided that it would be a very appropriate subject, because although most people are aware of its existence, not many know what it is founded upon. The club first originated at ESA sometime around 1989 with such founders as John Hill, James Doherty, and Robert Jones. Mr. Jeff Begnaud, a newcomer to the ESA campus, embraced sponsorship of this fledgling organization. The club is literally a society for the collection and study of postage stamps, postmarks, and related items. However, the club did so much more. Not only did they keep up on postal activities, they also carried out public service by showing films on the dangers of crabs. They were not devoid of recreational activities, however. There were countless Monty Python marathons, crawfish boils, and the ever popular Toga Party. Unfortunately, with the graduation of the Class of 1990, the Philatelist Club fell to the wayside.

The institution lay dormant for nearly four years, but a group of courageous students was willing to take the reigns of the almost forgotten club and resurrect it. Preston Robinson, Charles Barousse, Ginger Courvelle, Adam Young, and I confronted the former sponsor with the idea, and he agreed to once again sponsor the club. We began by electing Charles Barousse president and capped the present membership at twenty. Within one week we were scheduling a barbecue and thinking about a Toga Party in the near future. Needless to say, the Toga Party was planned and executed on the evening of November 18, 1994, with an overwhelming response by the upper school. I was very impressed with the success of the party, not to mention the fact that everyone who attended actually wore togas. With this success, I believe that the idea of the Philatelist Club has once again been embraced by the ESA community.

So there you have the story of the Philatelist Club. What about the future of the club? I envision a future where the club never lies dormant again. Like the Roman Empire, the Philatelist Club is divine, eternal, and universal. Wherever there are people who care about stamps, there will be the Philatelist Club. In the immediate future, I see many more Philatelist sponsored events including one, if not two, more Toga Parties before the close of the 1994-95 school year. Most importantly, always remember, Pro-Utilitate-Humanum.

The Teacher Calendar: Fact or Fiction?

by Ann-Marie Cain

Calendar. According to Random House Dictionary a calendar is "any of various systems of reckoning time especially with reference to the beginning, length, and divisions of the year." Throughout most of time and space this definition holds true, except at ESA. If one mentions The Calendar in the hearing of an ESA student, he well be the witness to an odd phenomenon. The students begin to show what seem to be nervous ticks, flinches and become very sensitive if any kind of deadline is mentioned afterwards.

You see, "The Calendar of ESA" is a calendar posted in the teacher's lounge. All teachers are supposed to schedule things such as tests and major papers on this calendar to prevent more than two major assignments from being scheduled on the same day. The key words are "supposed to." To the misfortune of ESA students, what is supposed to happen is very often not what actually does happen.

More times than most of us care to remember, life at ESA has turned out something like this: We are bouncing along in our relatively happy little lives, and then we realize that we have, for example, a lab practical, a chapter test in Math, an in class essay in English, a combination oral and written French test, and both an essay and a test in History, along with extracurricular activities. In a week this workload may not
ESA News cont.

seem so bad. However, all of this work must be done in the next two days. You wonder why we're so stressed.

We, the students of ESA, realize that the faculty member's lives are as busy or more so than our own. However, all we ask is you take five or ten seconds out of your day while you are munching, copying, or resting to check that calendar and make sure that your test or paper is scheduled and if it isn't, for the general mental health of all concerned, please schedule it. We would greatly appreciate it.

tights on, but by all means, if you feel the urge to get in touch with that feminine part of you, have at it. The only thing lacking is a half-time performance, but I'm more than sure we can get Morgan and Olivia to do a football rendition of "WE ARE THE FALCONS OF ESA."

Top Ten Questions That Every ESA Student Once Wanted to Know The Answers To

-by Andon Briggs

1. Is Mrs. Mary Bouie watching us?
2. Why are the gym doors always broken?
3. How old is Mr. Herbert?
4. Why does Mr. Tutwiler always wear red socks on Friday?
5. Who is T-SID?
6. Why do we have to stay until 3:25 when other schools get out at 2:00?
7. Why did they build a school in Cade?
8. Who painted the crow on the gym wall?
9. Whose idea was it to have a carpet for a gym floor?
10. Why don't they turn on the heaters in the chapel?

Ten Statements Always Made by ESA Students...

-also by Andon Briggs

1. Do you have homework? Yea, but none that I have to do.
2. I'll do my homework tomorrow during my free.
3. I was sick so I couldn't come to school. What? Our term papers are due tomorrow? I totally forgot!
4. I'll turn in my assignment when the teacher leaves the room. He'll never know!
5. I'm leaving ESA to go to another school.
6. I bombed the test.
7. You can skip any class--the teachers don't care.
8. My computer went out Dr. White and I lost my entire term paper!
9. My shirt tail wasn't out--someone just pulled it out.
10. I'll wake up at 3:00 and study until 7:00.
Is Gossip "In" at ESA?

-by Allie Pate

After the first semester, I felt optimistic that the gossip scene had finally left ESA. Cat fights, a common by-product of gossip, seemed to be at an all-time low, while caring and compassion among students seemed to be at an all-time high. I was optimistic heading into the second semester that the trend would continue. But, after just two weeks had passed, I had heard enough gossip about "campus druggies," "freaks," and the sexually promiscuous to fill the National Inquirer for months. The spread of gossip is as disgusting as it is sad. The majority of the rumors heard around campus are not true. Even if they were true, they would not be anyone's business.

Since so little of gossip is actually true, we must assume that people make it up. I just can't understand why someone would make up stories about people they have never even talked to. What is even more annoying occurs when one claims that he is not spreading gossip, because his information comes from a "reliable source." News flash: there are no reliable sources! The only reliable source is the stranger whose private affairs (maybe) you are broadcasting. Besides, if one wanted his private affairs discussed with the rest of the school, he would have told you first. By spreading rumors, one is asking for animosity from those he or she offends.

Although it would be nice for gossip victims to be forgiving and tolerant of rumors, it is normal that they are angry, hurt, and ready to express it. So if you have noticed that some of your schoolmates have tended to shy off, you might want to retrace the pattern your mouth has taken lately. Chances are, you slipped up, as all of us do, or you were caught in the act, by someone who did not previously suspect you as "a full fledged gossip." Gossip happens every day. However, when it becomes spiteful, as it has at ESA, it is time to stop it.

If you want to stop the gossip trend, there are two things you can do about it. First of all, if you hear the gossip-friends network trying to incorporate you, politely tell them to shove it. Secondly, talk to people of all types (When I say talk, I mean sincere conversation).

If you are a gossip king or queen, now would be a good time to resign. When you spread rumors, you not only hurt others, but you hurt yourself as well. By gossiping about strangers, you are sending out an automatic signal to others, that you are not worthy of trust or understanding.

Remember, we all gossip and are all gossiped about at some point in our lives. If you don't like being a part of the gossip trend, the answer is simple: Keep your mouth shut and use your brain!

The Problem With Chapel

-by Elliott Friedman

What is the deal with the guest career speakers in Chapel this month? I have heard nothing but complaints from faculty and students about these presentations. One major problem with the speakers is that they are too long and can get very boring and repetitive.

Maybe Mr. Goza's intentions were good when he first came up with the idea of inviting career speakers to talk in Chapel, but this plan just isn't working out. Hasn't Chapel always been a place for students and faculty to make presentations? It is beyond me why vocational speakers have been asked to bore teachers and students alike, for forty-five minutes a day, for an entire month. Most students dread going to chapel now, because they do not want to have to listen to somebody ramble on about Sleepy, Grumpy, and the other seven dwarfs. If someone tries to implement a similar idea sometime in the future, he or she should remember that Middle Schoolers aren't concerned with what job they will have in ten years. Although this speaker program has basically been a total flop, it does teach us a valuable lesson; we should think ideas through thoroughly before we execute them.
Yearbook Re-printing or Re-editing?
-by Preston Robinson

Why is it that we had to return our yearbooks to the administration? True, the publisher did misspell Acadiana, and true, the pictures didn’t all come out looking great, but what was changed in the reprinting other than those mistakes? From looking at the first copy of the year book and comparing it to the copies now in the library, you can see that a lot of, well, editing was done for the reprinting. What kind of stuff was edited? Just senior quotes and dot-dots for the Class of 1994. I admit that much of the “edited” material was inappropriate for a school publication, but it should not have been taken out. The quotes and dot-dots were the memories of those graduating seniors. Our senior class has been told that we may not have any references to sex, drugs, or alcohol in our dot-dots, and we have to watch our language in the quotes. Well, I think that we should be able to have references to anything we want in our dot-dots. The school does not want people to see these references because they think it might damage the image of the school. Well, the school is wrong. If I have memories of things they don’t want me to have them of, they are fooling themselves into thinking that every ESA student is a clean-cut and all around infallible kid.

What’s the Future of ESA?
-by Preston Robinson

Obviously, we all think of ESA as a special place. If we didn’t, each of our parents wouldn’t spend $6000 a year, and teachers would find a place that pays more. But, ESA is special, and several aspects of the school make it special. Most important to our school is the wonderful faculty, and most importantly, the makeup of the student body. Unfortunately, both of these aspects of our school’s life are threatened by what the future may hold.

The greatest threat to ESA is expansion. The word itself has become synonymous with death, evil, and despair for sizable portions of both the student body and faculty. I believe that expansion will ultimately hurt the “community thing.” The senior class this year has thirty-nine students, making it the largest graduating class in ESA history. Last year a limit on enrollment was set at fifty-four students for the sixth grade class. This year, that limit is up to sixty-four. Too big.

When I came to ESA in the seventh grade, the school had a total enrollment of about 260 students. If all of the classes reach the limit of sixty-four in upcoming years (assuming that the limit stays at sixty-four,) the student body will total 428. So, what’s the problem with 428 students at ESA?

present buildings on campus can not hold that many students. The Chapel breaks fire codes with the 325 in it now. Where are we going to put one hundred more people? To take care of this problem, there is a plan to expand the Chapel. News flash: It’s an old building! If you try to drastically change it, it will fall down. Other possibilities include separate Chapel time for the Middle School and Upper School. I’m not a fan of the Middle School, and everyone is sick of the fifteen minute sixth grade honor roll list announcement, but the young kids have to see the Upper School to learn what ESA is all about. That’s how our class learned. None of the seniors have forgotten the early years of War on Waste or Students Against Garbage. We know that the senior Class plays a big role in the way the students see the school. If the Middle School is entirely separated from us, where are they going to get their ideas of what ESA should be like? After the Chapel problem, we still have no classroom space, no gym space, and no more playing field space. Which brings us to the question of the scenery out here.

As long as I can remember, people have said “It looks just like a summer camp.”
Don't change the atmosphere on campus. Being a relaxed environment is important. To make a second gym, to build more classrooms, and to move the facilities we have around like toy cars risks making us look like a school--that being a bad thing. And how much will all of that construction cost? For a school just getting out of debt, that should put us a million bucks in the hole. But, we are told that new construction will have to take place to accommodate a much larger student body, which, we are told, is necessary for business reasons. That just may be the root of all of the problems... The Episcopal School of Acadiana--business style.

Excuse me while I go off on a very necessary tangent--this is all going some place. For the sake of argument, let us assume that the student body grows, the campus changes go well, and we keep a high quality faculty (this tangent comes later). There is still a threat to ESA. A certain business orientation seems to be gripping the throat of the school, and the best examples are the most recent. How many speakers have we had in Chapel telling us about the exciting careers we could go into and make lots of money? To go further back, most of you will remember when Mr. Goza read a magazine article about the best jobs available ten years from now. Best meaning highest paying. So, does ESA educate us for the sake of education itself, or are we educated so that we can one day make lots of money? Well, it all depends on whom you ask. The role of this school should be to give us all of the tools we will need to do anything we want. Give us a foundation in the liberal arts. Give us opportunities to be anything and do anything. Don’t give us lectures on how to make money. Focus on education. From my own conversations, I know that many members of the faculty feel the same way I do.

Well, now on to yet another tangent. The faculty. This may sound stupid, but you do the hardest job in the world, you do it for far too little money, and you still get past all of that and actually care about the students. All of the members of the faculty deserve the respect of each and every one of the students. I know many students in my class who would like to be teachers, but would be afraid to because we may not be able to find a good place to teach, and we would be assured of making no money. All of the faculty members once faced the same situation and chose to teach anyway. They took a chance, it benefits us, and they deserve our respect because of it. But, if the student body increases to 428, the size of the faculty would go up too. All of the money that should go to paying the teachers more would go into building a gym or new classrooms. The faculty would also teach only one course. I’ve had Mr. Tate, Mr. Tutwiler, Dr. White, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Begnaud two times each. All of them are great teachers, and I don’t know that we could find new faculty to teach those classes as well as they do. I mean, two years of Dr. White and Mr. Tutwiler is a rite of passage at ESA. You can’t find teachers like them just anywhere. Maybe we would never find teachers to teach those classes as effectively.

Ultimately, the school is for the students. Do your financial plans and long range strategic planning, but kids come here for one reason: they hear how great it is. They hear it from our students and their parents. If you change the school, you change what people are going to say about it. If you don’t satisfy the students, no new students are coming. The only solution is better communication. When there is a change on campus that the students did not expect they will be angry. It happened this summer. New buildings. No lounge. No communication--that’s the problem. Maybe I’m wrong about expansion. For the sake of ESA, I hope I am, because it’s coming. Administrators, please be straight with the students through all of the changes. If we communicate with each other, maybe it will all work out.

My class, the Class of 1995, has thirty-nine students. I sometimes feel that I’m graduating with thirty eight brothers and sisters. We’re all very different, and we don’t always get along, but I love all of them. I know that I'll never forget any of them. I don’t know that I could say the same thing about sixty-three people. We wouldn’t know each other as well. We wouldn’t be as close. So there’s the ESA spirit. That’s what its all about. Not business. Not money. People. It’s about us, the students.
The Verdict on the Student Lounge

by Jeremy Carrier

For those of you who weren't aware (and if you weren't aware, what closet have you been hiding in?), a proposal was made for a new student lounge. Recently, a verdict was returned on the topic, but before we get to that, I'm going to fill everyone in on what you may have missed.

The idea of a new lounge was one of constant interest to most Juniors and Seniors since the old one was converted into a weightroom/food distribution center. In fact, the Seniors began work on a plan to get a new lounge as far back as the Senior retreat. A team was established to gather ideas about possible solutions to the lounge issue, and I was appointed its head. Unfortunately, minimal progress was made toward our goal of establishing a lounge, until, by some freak of nature, we were offered a trailer that could possibly suit our needs.

One afternoon, I was informed that Scott Mayer's temple had offered us an old trailer that consisted of four rooms, formerly used as classrooms, and a bathroom. The only cost involved was having the building moved to the campus. As soon as I heard this news, I had a new hope for a student lounge. Wallace, Preston, Josh, and I approached Mr. Goza with our plan to use this building as a new lounge. Fully expecting the usual barrage of questions that come along with a proposal such as this, we went in well prepared for anything Mr. Goza could ask. An issue was raised, however, that we had not put much discussion into, and that was the question of the right of all students to use this lounge. After a moment of brief thought, we realized that in all truth, both the freshman and sophomores had as much right to get out of the weather as we did, so we proposed a compromise. The building was large enough to accommodate two lounges, one for Juniors and Seniors, and one for freshmen and sophomores. The only work involved in creating such a set up would be to knock out all walls except one separating the two lounges, and to remove everything from the bathroom so that someone wouldn't attempt to use non-functional fixtures (the bathroom would be converted into an area to hold college information, etc.).

We knew that the administration was against having another lounge, considering the shape the old one was in, and we were expecting an answer that would not stop, but delay our progress towards a new lounge. To our surprise, Mr. Goza told us that he could not make the decision on his own and that he wanted us to make a proposal to the Board of Directors' Buildings and Grounds Committee. He also appointed Wallace, Preston, and me as student representatives to the aforementioned committee. In November, we were given that chance to make our proposal.

Those attending the meeting were the three student representatives, Mr. Goza, and three of the committee members: Mr. Miller, Mr. Chappuis, and Mr. Blackwell (fathers of Steve, Scott, and Gabe in case you weren't sure). For about an hour we talked with the committee members about our proposal for a "student" lounges, and we stressed "entire upper school body," including any work that would have to be done on the building, and the specifics of what we wanted to put in the lounges. Although our main interest was the lounge, we also spent some time going over the future plans of the school, and giving our thoughts on them as students. The committee members told us that they would take a further look into our proposal and that they would have an inspection done on the building (for safety reasons, specifically a possible asbestos hazard).

Two months later, a verdict was returned by the Board of Directors. To give you a better understanding of what the board thought of the idea, I'm going to include some excerpts from the letter sent to Mr. Goza from Mr. Miller concerning the lounge. To begin by giving you the verdict, Mr. Miller writes: "The matter of a junior-senior lounge was discussed at the December, 1994 ESA Board meeting. After a lengthy and full discussion, the Board decided not to accept the offer of a mobile home for use as a junior-senior lounge..."

To be perfectly honest, we were expecting such an answer. When we went into our meeting with the council we were up against one member who was firmly against the idea from the start, two members who had heard very little on the topic and were open minded about it, and Mr. Goza, who wasn't very keen on the idea, but had not discounted it. However, it would seem that our proposal was not up to standards for many reasons,
there are simply too many to go into, some of which we agreed with, and others we didn't, but mostly because of the condition of the building. In the end, though, it would seem that we were unable to convince the committee members, at least some of them, that we weren't asking for a "Junior-Senior" lounge, but a place for any upper school student to go to relax, get out of the weather, or study when he or she can't get into the library. Mistakenly, we thought we had made clear our intentions for a full student body lounge, or lounges, and were rudely awakened to find these comments in the letter: "The Board recognizes the need for a building primarily for use by our students. However, it was the opinion of the Board that time, money, and effort should be directed toward a structure that could be used by all students rather than a select group or groups."

We decided not to pursue our attempts to clarify our intentions, however, because it would have had no effect on the board's decision on this proposal.

Now, you may be asking yourself why you would really care about all this. There are two reasons. The first is an important premise in helping us to bridge the communications gap between the student body and the faculty/administration: Mr. Goza is not responsible for a majority of the changes made at ESA. Construction, the goal of the school, future plans of the campus, future plans of the student body: all of these things are decided by the board. Although he has control of just about everything that goes on in our daily lives at school, his influence on the major goings-on at ESA are only partial.

The other reason all of this matters is the effect we have had on the future plan of the construction of a student commons area. Mr. Miller says this: "The issues brought before the Board by these students have resulted in the Board being much more acutely aware of the need for some type of commons building for use by our students. I am encouraged that this will become one of our top future priorities."

Now that comment may sound like bureaucratic, issue-dodging, pacifism...and partly it is. Unfortunately, all of the official stuff (for lack of a better word I use "stuff") that comes from either the board or administration sounds that way. In all truthfulness, the plan of eventually building a student commons has been put on a higher priority, possibly beginning on it during the summer of 1996.

So, what can you do to get something done at ESA? Well, a good start is to talk to Mr. Goza. If you prepare a good proposal on an idea, he'll gladly take the time to look it over, critique it, and pass it on to someone who can do something about it if he sees it fit. The lines of communications between students and faculty/administration have worn down over the years causing frustration and anger from both parties. We need to do something about this now in order to preserve the school we have now, to prepare our younger students for the future changes, and to give the student body a greater voice in the matters affecting ESA.

I just call it the way I see it, and from what I've seen, many people have not reached the point of maturation allowing them to drink in moderation. I'd go so far as to say that some in our student body may have an alcohol dependency. It is for this very reason that the Junior mothers want to have this party. I share their concern and also sympathize with you, the students, but what is it going to take? Do we all have to go to a funeral before reality sets in? Think about it. I've heard numerous stories where someone sits in disbelief trying to figure out how they got home after a party. We've been lucky, but our luck might run out. Do you want to be the one who wrecks his car and dies, or maybe even kills someone else?

If you want to get smashed, you can find a party any weekend. Just one night, we have the opportunity to do something different: It's your choice, but if it means anything to you, I'll be there. I just hope you think about it before you close your mind to what may be a good thing.
The Prom After Party
-by Simone Chavez

The juniors of '95 have recently informed the seniors that there will be a party after Prom where alcohol will not be allowed. The second the words "no alcohol" were said by the junior mothers, everyone scoffed at the idea, including myself. The details of the party are that there will be music, gambling, food, drinks, and smoking will be allowed. This sounds as though it could be a lot of fun, but it is a big risk that the juniors and seniors would have to take. It would also take an effort by the juniors and seniors to make it fun. Possibly this is an effort we are not willing to make. I find the whole Catfish Shack after party a good idea because I do think it could be a lot of fun, but I do think that we should have a chance on whether we, as individuals, want to attend it or not. That way the people who want to be there can enjoy themselves without hearing complaints from others the whole night. I also think that we should be able to leave the party if we are not having fun, but this could cause the whole party to flop. This would not only waste money, but also cause hurt feelings. The best way to decide is to ask if both classes are willing to try to make this idea work. If the support is there, then the party could be a tremendous success, but if our classes do not support this, don't bother making further arrangements. Whatever happens, I hope the juniors and seniors will make this year's Prom one more night to remember.

No Alcohol after Prom:
That's Fine with Me
-by Scott Mayers

The latest controversy on campus is the situation concerning the after Prom party. A party has been proposed that includes a night of dancing, eating, and gambling with fake money for prizes. This sounded like a great party until everyone found out that alcohol was prohibited. This sent many of the juniors and senior into the rage that is so common when they feel threatened. I do not believe that the idea was given a chance from the beginning. I was in the initial meeting where the junior room mothers revealed the idea, and many of those present reacted in a terrible way. Many people immediately rejected the idea without even hearing the benefits. They heard "No Alcohol" and refused to listen to any arguments for the party.

I actually favor the idea of the party for several reasons. Although this new party would go against the traditional after Prom party, maybe it is time for a change. Many people did not think that last year's party was all that interesting. Personally, I thought it was boring. I believe a casino night would be a welcomed change from the monotonous trend of drinking at someone's house. We also must remember that even though alcohol is a large part of the social life in Lafayette due to the low drinking age, it does not have to be a part of the party for people to have fun. We often forget this fact.

The parents worked very hard to find a party that would be entertaining and different, and I think we should thank them for their efforts. I encourage the students to not view the issue as an "us" versus "them" situation, but one in which the parents and the students are trying to create the most enjoyable party possible. Keep in mind that the purpose of the Prom is to have fun, not get drunk, so I think we should all consider our priorities before we decide on whether we want a party with or without alcohol.

The Legal Argument
-by Ann-Marie Cain

Throughout the history of the United States most decisions of the Supreme Court and laws passed by Congress concerning the people and their rights have been based on precedents, ideas put down before, tried and proved good. However, there is one major and very controversial decision that has been passed down from the Supreme Court whose basic principle directly contradicts laws that have been in place since the formation of the colonies that became the United States. That decision was Roe vs. Wade (1973).

Before you turn in disgust from this article because of your beliefs on abortion
and the Roe vs. Wade decision, hear me out. I will not say a single word on morality, the Church (which ever one you care to name), or individual's right to choose. I will deal only in legal precedents, decisions, and legislation.

Situation: a child is conceived by a married couple, but before the child is born, the husband is killed. The child is a legal heir and when it is born the child inherits what was left for it. In this situation, the child is not yet born but, is considered the father's living and legal heir. The government acknowledges the child as alive, a living human being, able to inherit property because we all know that a non-living entity cannot inherit property. However, that same government considers the destruction of this life all right.

I believe that if the government says that an unborn child is alive, it should adhere to that word. The argument I present is that our government allows an unborn child to inherit an estate because it is considered alive. However, that same government does not allow that child to live if the mother so chooses because the child is only a part of the mother. Basically, the government must choose between countless established laws that say an unborn child alive, even if it is not yet born, and the recent decision that the child's life does not exist because it is only a part of the mother.

We must choose. The government should follow the more established path in this case because it most agrees with the previous multitudes of laws and decisions concerning the state of the unborn child. The state of that unborn child is life as stated by beau coup de laws. The taking of a life is murder as stated by law. Therefore, destroying the life of an unborn child is murder because abortion is the destruction of that life. No morals, no religion; only law and logic.

The Decline of Religion

-by Lauren Mestayer

Hundreds of years ago there was a fight over religious icons. There could never be a truthful fight like that today. The icons of the modern world are almost innumerable. From TV's, to cars, to clothes, to social status, our society puts many things in front of God. Their icons no longer consist of small statues and memorials to important religious figures. People are so self-centered and consumed in themselves, they don't have time to put God ahead of it all. Of course, this isn't the case for everyone, but is an epidemic that is spreading rapidly.

Christianity is a religion that has managed to survive hundreds of years. Unfortunately, we are pushing it further and further away causing complete alienation of our society. When will this continuing battle end? Hopefully, our morals will gradually improve and our religion will be restored. If not, the lack of a central religion, or belief, may be the one factor that begins the decline and downfall of our own country and government.

Otter Pops: The American Dream

-by William Barousse

What are Otter Pops? In a technical sense, they are little ice treats in six great colors and flavors. If you care to look any deeper, you just might see the important role these frozen delicacies have played in changing the way we view history, gained respect for minorities, and indirectly started the age of the politically correct.

Otter Pop flavor "Pancho Punch" has changed America into what it is today. You might scoff and say, "Why Pancho Punch is nothing but a frozen bag of food coloring and artificial flavors," but his message has reached the American people. For instance, say a kid saw Pancho wearing his sombrero, which, as we all know, is very common in Mexico. That little kid will want to know more about the history of the sombrero, and in his research, learn valuable lessons about
the conquest of the Americas by Spain, the war between Mexico and the United States, and maybe even NAFTA. Maybe "Pancho Punch" is a bag of ice, but his inspiration led to valuable history lessons.

Now, as I have previously stated, Pancho Punch wears a sombrero, portraying him as Mexican. Assumptions and prejudices such as anyone wearing a sombrero being Mexican are what sparked groups in America to inventing the phrase "politically correct." The lessons learned from such stereotypes has lead many Americans to look at a person beyond the physical attributes. While "Pancho Punch" is definitely not politically correct, he has portrayed Mexicans in a positive manner. Pancho shows everyone that Mexicans are a part of our pop culture, and this realization had, without a doubt, eased tensions between the US and Mexico. Again, one could say that the passing of the NAFTA agreement is partially due to the great global symbol of North American unity called Pancho Punch.

In closing, I would like to say that the Otter Pops product is one of the best inventions of all time, and certainly the best frozen treat. These snacks have eased tensions in North America without so much as a single peace conference. So, next time you want a nice cold treat, make a statement and help make the world a better place; reach for an Otter Pop.

A Serious Look At Mexico

-by Larry Simon

Approximately one year ago, the United States, Canada, and Mexico signed NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, abolishing the economic barriers separating the three nations. At the time, many economists and every living US President agreed that NAFTA would benefit the United States. However, one year later, many economists are now calling the deal a bust. The Congressional Joint Economic Committee reported that NAFTA cost Americans ten thousand jobs in 1994. Plants like the Zenith Electronics plant in Springfield, MO, continue to shut down as production moves to Mexico. Unfortunately, we are feeling the "sucking sound" about which Ross Perot warned us.

Nevertheless, not all people are suffering. Most major businesses, the US economy, and even some laborers have found NAFTA to be a welcome salvation. Free trade with Mexico has relieved our businesses of all tariffs on imports into Mexico and given them an edge on their European competitors. In fact, according the The Christian Science Monitor of January 3, 1995, United States exports to Mexico, which have averaged one billion dollars a week since May of 1994, have risen 22.8 per-cent this past year, at least twice as fast as exports to every other nation. In contrast with the report from the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, many economists feel that this increase in production and exports has produced and will continue to produce many more US jobs. For example, Lewis Alexander, the chief economist for the US Commerce Department estimates that, "there would have been 130,000 fewer US jobs in the third quarter had we not had the surge in US exports to Mexico this year." This surge, Mr. Alexander feels, is due to NAFTA. Thus, while the NAFTA jury is still out, Americans and Mexicans alike continue to feel the effects of the agreement, for better or for worse.

With or without its supposed economic benefits, because of NAFTA, the US economy is directly linked in with that of Mexico. Thus, when the peso suffered a forty per-cent devaluation last month, the United States was quick to react. A recession in Mexico could lead to a recession in the US. To prevent this, the United States has initiated a new wave of foreign direct investment aimed at boosting the failing Mexican economy. One of Mexico's primary problems is a vastly depleted foreign reserve,
as many countries have decided to cancel their investments in Mexico. According to National Public Radio, the United States responded last week by using dollars to purchase one billion pesos in an effort to replenish the Mexican foreign reserve and restore the strength of the peso. Furthermore, the International Herald Tribune of January 10, 1995, reported that the Federal Reserve spent roughly five billion dollars in small parcels in Mexico before the Mexican foreign exchange opened. The two emergency measures worked, as, by the end of the day on Friday, January 6, 1995, the peso had risen from 6.1 pesos per dollar to 5.38 pesos per dollar.

The United States continues to perform such interventions in attempt to resurrect Mexico from its recent economic failure. However, such tactics now threaten the United States with recession, for our expenditures in Mexico sent the dollar into a tailspin. Nevertheless, because of NAFTA, if we are to survive, Mexico must survive. Thus, we should keep our eyes on Washington, DC, and the policies our politicians adopt, as some of the best economic minds in the world continue their efforts to get us all out of this mess alive.

The idea of "entitlement" must be destroyed all-together. Government must help citizens in times of emergency, but current programs provide dependency, not responsibility. Public assistance must be local and temporary. Medical care should be totally privatized, instead of socialized. If people are given the option of investment, entitlement will get rid of itself; funds would be invested into secure savings, not government promises.

Racial preferences should be abolished. Someone cannot be allowed to advance upon circumstances that his or her group is the biggest victim. Many different groups in this country are racing to become the biggest victims, and at the same time blaming everything that goes wrong in the world on white men. Multiculturalism is a great destructive force that should not continue. American people must feel as if they are Americans, instead of some kind of minority. Control of education must be given back to parents. Each level of government should give parents a voucher for the amount of money it spends per pupil. The parent can then spend that sum of money at any school. The venom with which the establishment is fighting this common-sense proposal is only proof of its fight for its own corrupt interests.

Criminals must be dullest. Criminals must be forced to contend with an aroused and armed people. Decent people should be the government. Criminals should have to live in fear of decent people, not the other way around. When criminals are convicted, they should be sent to prison, and their full term must be served. If they are convicted of a second felony they should be sent to prison for life.

The above recommendations are all ways in which the opportunity for government expansion can end, and the shrinking of government can begin. Only then can the true ideals of American philosophy and tradition be effectively implicated.
Opinions

A Philosophy For the 21st Century

by Ryan Goudelocke

I have figured it out. Religion as we know it is only man’s most conspicuous attempt to actually beholden himself to a form of responsibility! We as men are fundamentally uncertain about our own motives and abilities. We don’t exactly know what, deep inside, moves us to action, nor do we know if we can withstand that primal pull. What we do know is that just outside is one massive support group called Religion. Through this institution of our own creation (funny how we can fool ourselves so well, or so badly), we can impose upon ourselves a manifest of rules, of obligations, of boundaries we must not cross. When we have chained ourselves to the tree at the edge of the cliff, we may still feel the temptation, but we are much less likely to leap off.

This has led me to believe that the ultimate salvation of mankind is nothing but PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. That’s all. Taking account of our own actions, circumspection, consideration of the repercussions our deeds will have; these are what may justify our status as higher creatures. Plato suggested that only men who possessed self-control of their minds over their basis instincts be allowed to join society. Those unable to accomplish this were fundamentally inferior, destined to become slaves of their betters. About his idea of inferiority I am not sure; weakness may not be a certain indicator. About exclusion from society and ostracism regarding normal life I am sure. Persons unable to control themselves to the detriment of others should not be in charge of themselves! Notice I say ‘to the detriment of others’: Persons acting to the detriment of themselves only are to be sympathized with perhaps, but not regarded in the same manner as those who openly degrade society.

The class of people who lack basic control over themselves has been allowed to fester and grow with aid from modern humanitarian concerns. Much as I hate to admit it, Democrat sympathy with the plight of the common man has led to the slow drain of American resources. This is not due to a flaw in the idea of welfare, mind your: unemployment and social security were created to aid only those who had contributed to the public good and were temporarily in dire straits. No social reform was ever targeted to help welfare bums and high-school dropouts with the government dole. The low standard of morals and decline of character have doomed these admirable programs to funding the decay of America’s middle class.

So, I am ready to propose a solution to some major problems facing America today, those problems regarding the decline of what the religious right calls morals, what I call personal principles. First, revive the Civilian Conservation Corps and the WPA. Give everyone a job who wants a job. Take care of workers with dependents, like teenage mothers and crack babies who need special care, as long as their parents are working. But do not tell those who do not want jobs what is to come. When the slums and ghettos, and even suburbia, have been emptied of all those who are willing to work for a living, end all welfare assistance previously aimed at those temporarily out of work. End unemployment benefits. End Social Security. End Medicaid and Medicare. Immediately you have a savings of nearly one trillion dollars. And do you have widespread rebellion? No, because your second step is to: Spin off the public labor programs into private companies. With competent handling, they can successfully compete with other companies in a global market. Remember, the government labor companies are not simply manual workers’ programs. In 1994, fifteen percent of mathematics Ph.D.’s did not have employment upon graduation. Unemployment rates for scientists of all fields are on the rise at an alarming rate. The government companies can take advantage of that by going into business in high-technology businesses, rather than having millions of formerly unemployed people building highways. The mantra here as everywhere is: work according to your education. Next, devote increased funding to universities, high schools, and elementary schools intelligently. For example, enlarge demonstrably successful programs like Head Start and computer-aided learning. At the same time, cut pork programs created by a Byzantine Congress. Promote education as the surest path to national and global success. Make our brains our greatest national treasure.