Cramer Kern on Drugs

Stu's Blues—Lightning Hopkins

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Gambling with our Freedom

Plus: Letters, Comics, Drawings and MORE!
Letter from the Editor

ESAs OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER IS NOW IN FULL SWING ONCE MORE. I'D LIKE TO thank the new staff for taking their duties seriously, and I'd especially like to thank Nathan Frazier, who came up with, and implemented, the new look. Nathan has worked on the Eclectic more than any two editors combined, and for that he deserves a proportionate amount of credit. Thanks, Nathan.

One month after the fatal accident, and Princess Di still makes the front page. Apparently, evil tabloid journalism is to blame for her death. I wouldn't know. I don't particularly care. What I do know, however, is that celebrities who complain about the media attention given them are extremely annoying. In general, people who earn millions of dollars a year shouldn't whine unless someone mugs them on the way home from the bank. So you have no privacy! So what? Shut up, lock the door to your mansion, count your money, and bask in the realization that you will have no financial worries EVER unless you somehow manage to flush your mutual funds down the toilet.

Lashing out against tabloid journalism bothers me, but lashing out against tabloid journalists bothers me even more; modern society has an ugly tradition of punishing those who provide certain services, without realizing that the people who pay for those services are facilitating their existence. Tabloid photographers wouldn't be invading celebrity personal space in the first place if the numerous publications that employ them didn't have depressingly large circulations. Thus, if we truly need a scapegoat for Princess Di's death, I suggest someone take down the names on the People Magazine subscription list.

Speaking of attacking problems at the wrong levels, this issue contains a case against Affirmative Action in university admissions. The Federal Government's practice of kowtowing to special interests to compensate for poor public schools possesses the same basic wrong-headedness as the recent attacks against the paparazzi; both are essentially buck passing, dumping responsibility on those who have no claim to it, in this case colleges and universities. If disadvantaged Blacks and Hispanics receive proper primary educations, they will deserve University admission. But, as any politician could tell you, improving education in America's innercities is a difficult task, and enforcing quotas isn't.

Eliot's and Kramer's articles on gambling and marijuana, respectively, highlight what I feel are the two basic truths about American society: morality should be relegated almost entirely to the individual, and, beyond a certain point, laws always become oppressive. My only objection to legalized gambling in Louisiana is the way we legalized it, by imbuing the industry with false legitimacy through the use of the euphemism "gaming." What's next? I'm waiting for the day when someone calls murder "life reallocation" and our legislature legalizes that.

Personal freedom is as important to teenagers who want to look funny as it is to adults who want to act funny, though the Lafayette Parish School Board didn't recognize that fact when it approved the new dress code. Restricting certain types of clothing on the Lafayette High campus holds no problems for me, but telling students how long their hair can be, or what sorts of unattractive metal things they can poke themselves with, simply crosses the fine line between discipline and fascism. The school should have jurisdiction over its students for eight, not twenty-four, hours a day. In other words, you can change your clothes when you go home, but you can't grow your hair back. School board members take note. That's it. If you've read this far, you are my friend. All hail the new Eclectic!

— Josh Fiero
Ed Takes an In-Depth Look at the New Upper School Faculty

by Edward Poole

The key to understanding education is a well rounded relationship with the faculty. Students must learn to view their teachers as people instead of encyclopedias. At E.S.A. the majority of teachers desire to teach students independence. Their goal is to give the ability to think for oneself. Students often view their teachers as judges of academic performance. In actuality the faculty of E.S.A. are merely people with somewhat interesting lives. Conversation outside of the classroom is not discouraged; therefore, most students are familiar with the older faculty members. However, students may not be familiar with the newer members of our faculty.

I don’t think it is legal to sail down the Vermillion. Mr. Chrysler also says that he enjoys working with his hands in the garden or as a carpenter. He says that he is actually good at carpentry work, but then again all men do.

The various tunes of John Denver do not move many people. In fact his National Arbor Day Foundation commercial tends to make me sick. The newest member of our science staff, Mr. Cambell, worked as a tree planting foreman as a summer job. He says that it was merely a job to pay the bills. I would personally rather flip hamburgers at McDonalds than plant trees in the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Cambell loves the outdoors and even played beach volleyball at one time. The only beach volleyball he’ll find around here would be to drive to Holly Beach and play in the black sand.

For the profile of Mr. Sandrock, our new history teacher, we must search for the hidden emotions which lie in his silly dances. I doubt that Harvard offers a degree in this particular field of expressive communication. Mr. Sandrock is a patron of country music, but not modern country, only what he calls, “real country.” He is also the cross country coach. Therefore, maybe the silly dances are a sick combination of jogging and some sort of hoedown dance. Mr. Sandrock may be the only teacher who is in the right area. I happen to know for a fact that there are often trail rides in the small rural towns which he might desire to attend.

The French department has received two new arrivals for the upcoming school year. Mr. Spaniol grew up in Opelousas and thus his French has been learned as a second language. He said that he hated French in high school and never wanted to be a teacher. The lesson of never say never could be learned from the life of Mr. Spaniol. He had the pleasure of living in France for a year and teaching English. Outside of the classroom he would like to get involved in E.S.A. life. Madame Soucy on the other hand is from

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Quebec, Canada. She moved to Louisiana to escape the snow and long winters. It would appear that she came to the right place. She loves to swim and listen to various types of music. I’m sure that the French department is glad to have these two additions.

The most valued aspect of E.S.A. life is the students’ freedom. In most other schools the faculty places a wall between them and the students, but our teachers encourage relationships with students. For the students not to take advantage of this privilege would be to miss out on a major part of E.S.A. The E.S.A. staff both new and old are interesting people and I would encourage anyone to just talk to them. A teacher does not stop teaching when the period is over, and knowledge does not always come from a text book.

**Questionnaire**

_Cassie Hobbs_

**Junior Class Questionnaire**

**Who could be a sixth spice girl?**

_Matt Mahony spice, Nutria spice, Allison Kidders spice, Holly spice, Effie spice, Honey Nuts Milk spice, Mr. Chryders spice, Freddie spice, Zac Lipton spice, Andres spice, Mulligan spice, Brandon spice_

_Tying for winner were Effie spice and Freddie spice_

**Some inspiration quotes:**

_Paul Simon: “Never hit a teacher in the head with a ball.”_

_Katie de Mahy: “Whilliam looks like fogb.”_

_Anonymous: “Nutria may ice in cold weather.”_

**Upper School Questionnaire**

**Who looks best in an orange shirt?**

_Brett Melancon, Sonia Gupta, Rikki Rhoads, Lyndsey Cramer, William Barrowe ’22, Katie de Mahy, Kate Landry, Blair Langinat_

_The winner was Katie de Mahy_

_(Chase Escol, after misunderstanding the question, answered, “a pumpkin.”)"

_Suggested reading: French Chivalry by Painter_
Supporters of affirmative action protested, claiming that minorities are subject to mass discrimination and that the preferential programs should be re-instituted immediately. Opponents of affirmative action claim that this drop demonstrates that Universities accepted many unqualified minority students solely because of affirmative action. As a whole, the University of California reports one-hundred eighteen more minority freshmen than last year. This statistic demonstrates that mass discrimination is probably not a reasonable explanation for the lower numbers, for only in the higher level programs such as law did a significant drop occur. Thus, assuming that mass discrimination did not occur, one must accept other explanations such as the possibility that blacks and Latinos were not competitive with whites and others at the highest level. (Note: the number of Asians has risen in these top programs) These analysis points to a significant societal problem, but affirmative action in admissions is not a solution. Allowing a person with less impressive credentials to enroll instead of a more qualified individual simply because of race is not just. Furthermore, we know that blacks and Latinos can perform at the highest level: thousands of black and Latino professionals across the country can attest to that. Thus, we must presume that a fault occurs somewhere in the academic development of black and Latino students that causes them to become sidetracked from their educational goals.

The country must explore the reason for this problem. Numerous reports suggest that it may be linked to the high proportion of blacks and Latinos living in poverty, causing them to attend under-funded schools, where they receive an inadequate education. Other reports suggest that some black parents may not focus their kids on higher education as a definite goal as much as white parents. Most reports on the subject are extremely preliminary and are not yet comprehensive enough to form the basis for making policy, but most point to primary education as a key problem. We should respond to this affirmatively, and the country must act quickly to improve early education for minorities. If we fail to address this issue, there will be strong pressure for the universities to revert to affirmative action to increase minority representation. Unfortunately, affirmative action is only a band-aid solution to more serious educational problems that exist for minorities. If we turn back to it instead of focusing on the source of the problem, the whole country shall suffer as a result.

Gambling with our Freedom

by Elliot Scott

Recently the state of Louisiana has been confronted with an issue that has sharply divided the population. This issue is that of gaming, or gambling. Curiously, citizens have seen the lines in the war over gambling’s future in Louisiana divide allies and unite political enemies. Like so many local and national issues, gambling is clouded

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with fallacy and deceit. The bottom line is simple: gambling should remain legal under all reasonable circumstances.

Opponents of gambling are ardent in their disgust for gambling and those who operate gambling facilities. People who provide gambling centers are vilified, made into Satan’s representatives on earth, luring the poor and weak into their sleazy establishments—forcing the innocent into debt and despair. Not only is this notion entirely wrong, I know that many find it insulting—and rightly so! The bottom line is that gambling is entertainment; it is a service. Individuals enter a business, and pay a sum in return for amusement. Not only is there amusement, there is the possibility of making a monetary gain. People always retort that, “Yeah, but most people lose money.” What entertainment, besides gambling, gives one entertainment and a chance to get money? Not movies—we pay huge box office prices to see a film; that’s just money down the drain if you follow that logic. Furthermore, opponents insinuate that gamblers go out and burn money, as if they received nothing in exchange for it. Talk to any of the thousands of Louisiana casinos patrons, and they will tell you that they receive a service just as significant as that given by an arcade game. Proprietors of gambling establishments are capitalists. They provide a desired service for society—they do not force anyone to pump quarters into a machine.

I am even more infuriated when I hear fundamentalist religious zealots preaching to Louisiana about the inherent evils of gambling. Give me a break, people! We are not talking about drugs or child pornography, or even alcohol. Gambling is no more immoral than playing an arcade game, or going to Family Bingo. It’s a game that people play to play. If these moral fascists want to impose their half-baked values on themselves—fine, but when they propose outlawing gambling, I become livid. Who is the government to tell sound-minded individuals where and how they can spend their money? Just because a self-righteous minority (yes, minority—just look at the referendum results) thinks gambling is bad—should that be imposed on the whole of the state? This issue is different than abortion and drugs, because lives are not at stake. It is a question of whether or not our people need Uncle Sam to tell them how to keep their pocket books in line. If we outlaw gambling, what’s next? What if the government decides to outlaw the purchase of luxury automobiles, because they are too expensive. The next battle cry echoes ominously in my mind, “Too many people go into debt and families are starving because crazed ‘luxaholics’ go out and spend their savings on cars.” In addition, should Family Bingo be banned, too? It encourages the poor and weak to gamble away their savings on an impossible hope. Ridiculous.

I have not, and will not, go over the great benefits provided by gambling (e.g. millions of dollars for police, roads, and schools). I will not remind you that our state government has a surplus in its budget because of gambling. I think that this issue’s more important aspects are those that signify personal freedoms. It is about our freedom to spend our money how we please, without hurting anyone. This issue is about self-determination, and the threat government poses to it. I hope you join me in praying that the Legislature never upholds tyranny by banning gambling in our state.

Why the War on Drugs is Up in Smoke

by Kramer Kern

Throughout the second half of the Twentieth Century, one of the main problems concerning the order and well-being of America has been the trade of illegal narcotics, especially marijuana. From shutting down huge marijuana plantations in Central America to the removal of a few "house plants" from a dormitory of a local university, the government has spent millions of dollars and used thousands of law enforcement officials in the fight against cannabis. However, I believe that a more logical way of handling the situation is not to exhaust resources in combating marijuana, but rather make it legal and reap the many possible rewards that come with legalization. From this standpoint, one can begin to see why cannabis, considered a hindrance to society, could benefit the United States as a whole.

The first reason that the United States should legalize hemp involves its uses in the medical field. For many years doctors in states such as Colorado, where the practice is legal, have occasionally prescribed marijuana to patients who are terminally ill or experiencing excruciating pain as an alternative to stronger drugs, such as morphine. However, recent studies show that hashish could actually aid in the healing processes of some diseases, including leukemia, and might actually reinforce the body’s immune system, which would assist AIDS patients. Responding to these studies, California recently passed a truly moronic law which allows doctors to prescribe marijuana for any reason. This

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law means that, for example, a man with the right doctor could get a marijuana prescription to treat an in-grown toenail and a cancer patient with the wrong doctor could get nothing but some Tylenol and a "get-well-soon" card. Even if Congress made laws regulating what type of patients could obtain a prescription for marijuana, scientists discover more possible uses for hashish just as quickly as Congress makes regulatory laws, so the point would be moot anyway. Rather than have this sort of titanic stupidity suddenly become the norm for the entire nation, it would be much smarter to legalize hemp nation-wide and let doctors do nothing more than recommend cannabis as a possible treatment. After all, if marijuana could treat certain diseases currently thought of as untreatable, then no one could dispute the fact that hash has at least a modicum of value to it.

The next reason marijuana should become legal involves the current financial situation of the United States. There exists little disagreement over the fact that the United States government spends millions, perhaps billions, of dollars in the attempt to "crack down" on marijuana and other drugs. However, I find it frivolous to try to eradicate an industry that only continues to grow. Rather, I believe that the government should save itself millions of dollars by legalizing marijuana and taxing it (as the government does with both alcohol and tobacco). This would not only save the government money, it would actually generate income for a country that keeps falling farther into debt. The legalization of marijuana would also, like the end of Prohibition in the 1930's, greatly diminish the size of drug-related organized crime in the United States. Therefore, the legalization of marijuana could only create a winning situation for the economy of the United States, at a time when the government so desperately needs it.

The third and (in my opinion) most important reason hemp should become legal involves an idea that I alluded to several times earlier--basic freedom of choice. Although I admit that I take the Bill of Rights more seriously than most people, I believe that the freedom of an individual deciding what and what not to do with his mind and body became a basic concept after the drafting of the Constitution more than 200 years ago. I feel that, as long as one knows all of the facts about marijuana and the dangers it may bring, he or she should have the right to smoke it, snort it, swim in it, play with it, or bake it in brownies and eat it. Voltaire once said, "I do not agree with a word you say, sir, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it." This basically describes the ideas behind the legalization of hemp, for, although you or I might feel disgust toward those who purchase and consume marijuana, I find that, just because I disagree, my opinion should not automatically negate their right to choose.

Although I feel that the legalization of marijuana could ultimately benefit society and would further an American's right to choose, I also feel that with freedom comes responsibility, and the use of marijuana requires both regulations by the government and moderation by the owner. After all, if there exists one simple rule that the United States government has taught the people over the years, it is that if we give it to you, we can take it away.

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If you cannot volunteer, the shelter is always happy to receive food, cat litter, any new dog or cat toys, animal treats, serviceable animal beds, animal carriers, and, of course, money. LAA is also in need of paper towels, trash bags, and other basic cleaning supplies.

When most people visit a shelter, they look only at kittens and the puppies, and not at mature cats and dogs. The thought that older cats and dogs are sick or ‘defective’ in some way is totally false; in many ways older pets are better. Usually, they have already had their shots and have been fixed, and most are more sedate than hyperactive kittens and puppies. Older cats at LAA include: Adam and Athena, male and female white and blue-gray Turkish Angora cats, Jellybean, an energetic black exotic shorthaired cat, and Yoda, a young black domestic long-hair cat.

If you want a younger pet, LAA has many kittens, including Tom and Jerry, two beautiful male exotic short-hair kittens in an orange tabby pattern, Rascal and June, female and male short-hair gray tabby kittens; and Tee George, a personable male black kitten found at the back door of a restaurant. All of these cats would love to be adopted by anyone willing to give them a good home.

Pet Adoption Days are every third Saturday at LAA headquarters, on Noel Drive. Although LAA’s adoptions are very successful, it is sometimes difficult to gauge how an animal will react in certain circumstances. Thus, sometimes animals are returned, and these need to be adopted as well.

Lafayette Animal Aid needs all the help anyone can supply, so I urge everyone to donate time or supplies, or if possible, adopt pets.

If every one helps a little, a lot can be done. For information concerning volunteering or donations, please contact Lynn Gross (shelter director) 865-6628.

The Fashion Fascists

by Rick Miers

RECENTLY, THE LAFAYETTE Parish public schools began experimenting with a new rule, a law that the students of ESA have abided by since the dawn of this institution. The new, temporary act creates a dress code for all Lafayette Parish schools. It states that students cannot wear baggy clothing, show their boxers, wear gang related clothing and that males cannot have hair below their shoulders, pierce their ears, or wear nail polish. Furthermore, and this comes as a great blow to all males, girls cannot wear mini-skirts. This dress standard came as a surprise to most students not expecting the new rules at all. It became a law through the joint agreement of area principals and the new Lafayette Parish School Board superintendent Michael Zolkoski.

Student reaction to the dress code has been extremely negative. The act strikes fear into the hearts of many students, and so rallies have taken place protesting the rule.

My criticism for the rule remains mixed. I feel that there are some articles of clothing that should be banned, such as the attire promoting gang violence and strange piercing. In contrast, I feel Zolkoski went too far with the bans on Baggy jeans and long hair, for they do not create that much of a problem from my point of view.

I believe that the new law has its high points, but I feel that it will cause much unnecessary rebellion amongst disgruntled teens in public schools. The standard simply goes too far by forbidding sagging and/or baggy jeans. In closing, I feel the School Board should review this rule carefully before making it permanent.
COP LAND

Rating: ***1/2 (out of 4)

Produced by Miramax Films; Written and Directed by James Mangold

CAST:
Freddy Heflin .... Sylvester Stallone
"Uncle Ray" Donlan .... Harvey Keitel
Gary "Figgs" Figgis .... Ray Liotta
Moe Tilden .... Robert DeNiro
"Superboy" Babitch .... Michael Rapaport
Liz Randone .... Annabella Sciorra
Cindy Betts .... Janane Garofalo

by Cramer Kern

WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT Sylvester Stallone was making a crime drama, I immediately thought that it would be yet another horrific Stallone-against-the-world action movie in the tradition of Demolition Man, Cliffhanger, and (God help me for even mentioning its name) Judge Dredd. However, after seeing Cop Land I realized that, not only is it entertaining, it also marks Stallone's return to the realm of powerful, well-made films.

The premise of Cop Land is exceptional: a group of New York City cops work part-time for the Transit Authority in order to dodge the requirement that they live in New York. The cops all move to the small town of Garrison, New Jersey (where they are out of the jurisdiction of the New York State police), and quietly start working for "Uncle Ray" Donlan, a dirty cop connected to the mafia. A local hero named Freddy Heflin (Stallone), kept off of the police force because he is deaf in one ear, is elected Sheriff, even though it is understood by everyone that Uncle Ray controls the town.

As the film opens, a drunk rookie cop known as "Superboy" (Michael Rapaport) thinks he sees two young men pull a gun on him on the George Washington Bridge. Unfortunately for him, the "gun" is actually the anti-theft device "The Club," but Superboy accidently shoots the two men in his confusion. Realizing that his career is over, he calls Uncle Ray for support, and together they fake Superboy's suicide by making it appear as though he jumped off of the bridge. Superboy disappears, but it becomes increasingly difficult for Uncle Ray to explain to the authorities why his body was never found; thus begins a series of double-crosses, which I will not spoil by revealing.

This story alone would make an adequate movie, but writer-director James Mangold weaves many more plotlines into his complex story. Robert De Niro appears as an NYPD Internal Affairs officer who knows that Superboy is alive, and feels he is the key to ending the police corruption in Garrison. Ray Liotta delivers a fine performance as a once-corrupt cop who becomes disillusioned after the death of his partner and now wants to destroy Uncle Ray. However, the dramatic weight of the movie falls completely on the shoulders of Stallone's Freddy Heflin. In flashbacks we learn that Freddy lost his hearing as a teenager while saving Liz (Annabella Sciorra) from drowning, and lost all chances of becoming a cop as well. Embittered by his pointless job as Sheriff and remorseful over not marrying Liz when he had the chance, Freddy eventually decides that he will no longer be a

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part of a puppet government, and becomes a real Servant of the Law to fight the corruption head-on.

In anyone else’s hands, the role of Sheriff Heflin could have become nothing more than a typical cinematic White Knight that decides to fight the powerful Lords of Evil (imagine Serpico 2). However, Stallone cleverly portrays the central character with compassion and vulnerability, which he has not shown since the original Rocky. Although Heflin understands the corruption of Garrison and knows that Superboy is alive, he (like everyone else) is scared of bringing Uncle Ray’s crimes to attention. By the film’s conclusion, however, Heflin realizes that justice must be served, no matter what the cost. Like John Travolta’s career-saving role in Pulp Fiction, Stallone shows depth and talent in Cop Land that has not been seen from him for twenty years, and that should certainly revitalize his stale career. Harvey Keitel is also excellent as Uncle Ray. Keitel has long been one of Hollywood’s most dependable actors, and here he fits right into his role as the Prince of the City. Instead of playing Ray as a dark, icy crime boss, Keitel gives him more of a businessman’s attitude. Uncle Ray does not want to hurt Superboy or Heflin, but would in an instant if they were in the way of business.

If any fault lies in Cop Land, it is that, while Mangold successfully fuses the stories of the corrupt town and the disappearing cop, he never develops other plot points, such as Heflin’s alcoholism or the affair between Liz’s husband and Uncle Ray’s wife. Because of this, certain ideas seem to get tossed aside before they can bloom. Even certain characters, including Robert De Niro’s and Janeane Garofalo’s, seem truncated and oddly lacking in depth compared to Stallone and Keitel. The fault in this can probably be attributed to poor editing, for all other characters seem brisk and three-dimensional.

Although Cop Land is not a particularly stylish crime drama, it is one of the best-written and best-acted films the genre has produced. It does not need to rely on huge shoot-outs for entertainment (indeed, the violent closing scenes are mildly superfluous), but rather paints accurate portraits of people whose lives have become mired in crime and depravity. In short, Cop Land is not simply a vehicle by which Sylvester Stallone can break from the shackles of awful action movies, but rather a greatly entertaining film about one man’s broken dreams and his search for justice in a lawless place.

Kevin’s Staff Picks

Weezer, Pinkerton—Weezer’s second album, combining good music, interesting lyrics, and a touch of humor. Listen to it forwards or backwards and the songs still get better as you go.

Wizards—The story of animation in full throttle. Reminiscent of Japanimation without the clutter. Wizards depicts a post-apocalyptic battle between fairies and mutants.

Kurt Vonnegut, Sirens of Titan

The humor is immense and the logic is atrocious. I am a strong follower of Vonnegut and believe this to be his greatest work.

http://www.evil.com—Don’t be fooled by the “Happy Daisy” web page, it’s just a front. You’ll be surprised at what you find.

Eclectic Book Review

Flood Tide
Clive Cussler

by Bryan Hebert

SEX. OLD CARS. AND A hero named Dirk Pitt. Flood Tide, the fourteenth in Clive Cussler’s Dirk Pitt adventure series, stays true to these essential elements. Cussler portrays Pitt as an Air Force Major who accepts a position at the government’s National Underwater and Marine Agency, or N.U.M.A. There, he saves the world from catastrophes of every possible description, from the depletion of the planet’s oxygen to Russian mind control of the President.

In this latest book, true to form, Pitt, while recovering from his last adventure (Shock Wave) uncovers a huge illegal Chinese immigrant smuggling conspiracy, designed split the nation into three ethnic regions in less than fifty years. An evil Chi-

nese billionaire masterminds this plan, and prepares himself for Pitt’s intrusion—or so he thinks.

Pitt immediately discovers a woman, an agent for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She falls for him very quickly (thus confirming my suspicion that Dirk Pitt becomes more attractive to women in each novel). In Clive Cussler’s first Dirk Pitt novel, The Mediterranean Caper, women flocked to him, but not in the manner that they do in this novel. Personally, I think it adds much entertainment value. Dirk Pitt may be getting older in these novels, but he merely grows more direct and savvy with his middle age overextended. Just as cunning and novel as ever, Pitt shows more of his renowned “devil-may-care” attitude, apparently thinking he has less to live for and is, incidentally, invincible. Indeed, Dirk Pitt, throughout these novels, has escaped from more and stranger predicaments than Ian Fleming’s James Bond ever did.
I would like to ask Clive Cussler one question: is Dirk Pitt ever going to die? I believe the answer would involve Pitt being attacked with the nuclear arsenal of every U.S. enemy simultaneously, and his probable death (but maybe not). Though Pitt is a fantastic character, his creator nearly equals his accomplishments. Cussler dives, and heads up a non-profit organization called, by pure coincidence, the National Underwater and Marine Agency. He searches for lost shipwrecks just as his character does. Also, his eldest son's name is Dirk.

I recommend this novel and series to anyone who likes adventure or espionage novels like Ian Fleming's or Tom Clancy's. I can only hope that Cussler does not "co-author" any fiction, as Tom Clancy has done. Regardless, the masculine appeal of this novel reminds me of the original "Conan the Barbarian" series. All you males out there will love it. Flood Tide costs $26.00, but Barnes & Noble has a 30% price reduction. I recommend that you buy it. You'll enjoy it.

Stu's Blues—Lightning Hopkins

by Dr. Stuart "Blues Man" Cornell

ONE OF MY FAVORITE BLUES artists is (Sam) Lightning Hopkins. Lightning comes from a strong tradition of Texas blues guitar players starting with Blind Lemon Jefferson and including Steve Ray Vaughan and Johnny Winter, to name a few more of my idols. Indeed, Lightning's career spanned the eras of acoustic country blues and urban electric blues. Lightning mastered the art of self-accompaniment, but he knew what to do when jamming with a harp player or a percussionist armed only with a snare and brushes.

Lightning's art form featured a strong improvisational element. Lightning operated mostly within three or four different song forms: slow blues in the key of the E, boogie-woogie in the key of the E, and blues in the key of A. Lightning would make up lyrics, usually the form of autobiographical tales, on the spot. Unlike many other guitar players, lightning rarely played the same song the same way. In fact, he had only a relatively small repertoire of songs that he would ever play more than once. Check out any of Lightning's recordings on the Arhoolie label.

Lightning's music represents my first success in approximating the guitar playing of someone worth copying. It's not complicated, but it sounds good. Below, I have depicted a basic guitar phrase that represents the heart of Lightning's boogie-woogie guitar in E. All you Vaughanabees will recognize this playing in Stevie Ray's "Rude Mood" from his first album.

Hardwire the musical idea, with various...
Learn to thump out the base notes with your thumb, and play the treble notes with your index and middle finger. Watch for the hammer-ons and pull-offs to get the "rolling effect." If you have to change chords, throw in your favorite A7 and B7 chords.

If you're reading this, you are probably young enough to still have a lot of time to develop into a decent musician. Build the foundation. My own humble opinion is that you will never be able to wail like Stevie, Robben Ford, or Tab Benoit, unless you achieve some mastery of acous-
A Brief Grievance

by Kevin Brown

Thank you all. Because of you, my job is incredibly easy. I am the appointed editor in charge of the Letters Section, and I have received sum total of ZERO letters. I assume that this is due to the lack of understanding of what letters are. This is understandable since The Eclectic has never had a letters section before.

Basically, the Letters section is how you get involved with the school paper without obligation to turn in an article at least once every month. We are calling out for your opinions on any number of subjects. We want to know what you think about the chapel schedule, the A-B schedule, or even the current hot lunch program. And do not limit yourself to school subjects. Maybe you have something you would like to say about a political event, local or national.

A letter can be anything from a few sentences to a full-fledged article. If it's morally decent, we'll print it. All letters are subject to brief remarks, whether serious or comical, by myself. This means that you can treat it like a "Dear Abby" if you really want to. All remarks and all letters are greatly appreciated. No serious subjects will be taken lightly.

This is your section of The Eclectic. Make good use of it. The following are sample letters:

Dear Kevin,

Why are you such an attractive guy?

Jane Doe
11th Grade

Are you busy Friday night?

Dear Letters,

I have some serious problems with the new chapel schedule. It just doesn't give me enough time to have a music chapel for my all girl day. And, why are you so dang cute?

Doe Jane
12th Grade

Are you busy Friday night?

Hey,

The current congressional agenda has got serious problems. They just refuse to look at what's really wrong with this country. Why don't they deal with the important issues?

Sara Doe
10th Grade

Are you busy Friday night?

So there you go. Of course your letters can be much longer and they can be handwritten if you so choose. So, I'm begging you, write something and give it to me or Josh Fiero.
Wouldn't you rather be eating food?

*From the makers of Drink!