

# THE RUNKLE STANDARD ROAR

ABSOLUTELY FREE

## SECTIONALISM AT FOUR AMES

[Ed. note - Writer Mike Siemers has become increasingly bitter, due doubtless to the fact that the production of his T-shirts has been delayed.]

Over the past few terms this newspaper has covered a phenomenon which many have called "the decline of Senior House." Well, folks, the place has just about bottomed out. And it's about time that the government respond.

One significant aspect of this decline has been an increasing sectionalism among the various entries, with each entry withdrawing into its own confines, planning its own events and asserting its own identity. A rather vicious and ugly aspect has been inter-entry hatred recently exhibited by the Holman-baiter and Runkle supremacist K. Chin.

The proper governmental response to all this of course, would be a shrinking of the central government with a corresponding increase in the power of the local (i.e. entry) governing bodies.

And, so, our charge to you, the voter, is to vote for candidates who will move in the direction of smaller central government. Especially to be avoided are candidates who take the whole thing too seriously or wish to militarise the house.

Coming soon from Roar Corp., the Mike Siemers T-shirt! Get one, you'll love it!

## SENIOR HOUSE ELECTION

It's election time once again at Senior House, and as usual the Runkle Standard Roar has all the relevant information to aid you in making the right decision. We urge you to throw out your petty personal concerns and vote for the good of the house. Don't be swayed by the same tired arguments that have elected year after year of inadequate and corrupt officials. Wake up and smell the coffee!

As a public service, this newspaper is providing a list of all the candidates for office. We will also make recommendations to keep you from wasting your time in tedious research of each boring issue and personality. Don't listen to those "gloomers and doomers" who cast aspersions on our reputation. We have carefully examined all of the issues involved, and with the aid of high speed computers, have selected the correct candidate for each office. It will be best if you just listen to us and don't confuse yourself. Just play along, don't make trouble.

Here are the candidates and our recommendations:

### SOCCOMM:

Margaret Finn and Dee Hall: Formerly unopposed on the ballot, they now face stiff competition from the R305 ticket.

Ken Malsky and Aaron Sosnick: Our preferred candidate. The fact that this newspaper is typeset on Ken's computer and Aaron always

gets us high has absolutely nothing to do with our determination. Aaron knows a great deal about partying; his reputation speaks for itself.

### SECRETARY:

Roel Hammerschlag: The clear choice, this man showed great bravery beyond the call of duty last year when he defended our housemasters in front of a crowd clamoring for their blood. Whether you like Jay & Margaret or not, you have to grant this is the stuff of a house officer. Our preferred candidate.

Tom Consolo: The one man for whom it can truly be said that he "gave his life for Senior House." Unfortunately, he lives in Cincinnati studying to be emperor of Europe. We await his return.

Mike Thomas: Much as we'd like to endorse Mike, we can't endorse anyone who eats so many Altoids when other Senior House residents on Craig's campaign trail go hungry.

### TREASURER:

Charlie Fleischman: Our preferred candidate. Since this man cannot speak Portugese, we'll never have to worry about the house money disappearing with him to Brazil.

Robie Silbergleit: Does this person actually want to be treasurer? We have only Mr. Nice Guy's word for it.

### VICE PRESIDENTS:

Bill Fissell, Seth Goldstein, Jon Garen, John Mailhot: It looks like another Runkle vs.

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Holman race here, and well, this paper has always believed that the majority should rule. (Besides which, RVNKLE is far superior.) Fissell has experience, energy (natural or artificial), Goldstein stays up later than anyone else in the dorm and Garen and Mailhot widen the appeal of the ticket beyond the immediate confines of Senior House's largest entry. **Our preferred candidates.**

Mike Halle, Stever Robbins, Lenny Foner, Paul Viola: What is there to say? Mr. Halle has never been one of our favorites. (see RSR, vol. 1, issue 2 - For those aspiring to a future career in Senior House politics take note - It is unwise in the extreme to attack the Roar.) We can only speculate on what might happen if they were somehow elected.

#### JUDCOMM:

Craig Rodgers: Last year's campaign for Most Obnoxious Freshman demonstrated that Craig Rodgers has the kind of popular appeal that Senior House yearns for. A Judcomm must be someone with a backbone. There's no uncertainty about what Craig Rodgers stands for: Truth, Liberty and the United States Armed Forces (even the Squids). And now: "Ladies and Gentlemen, as JudComm I will bring all of the fine qualities of a Pritchett Lounge/Morss Hall Officer (commissioned in 1985) to Senior House. I have no interest in sex, drugs or psychedelic music, leaving my big ole' ugly head clear to consider the complex issues facing the JudComm's of today."  
Scott Braithwaite: Often seen barreling down the roads of Europe at speeds in excess of

200 kph (I just met her), Scott is well known around the dorm for his wild late-night trips to Star Market and the "Mecca in Medford", Kappy's Liquors (We just met her). Presumably the same crazy humor that prompted him to declare "Fruit is happiness" will be the dominant theme of his term as JudComm.

Lawrence "type" Kolostomy: You know him, you love him. **Our preferred candidate.**

#### PRESIDENT:

Ben Rogall: Even when he had a room here, we had our doubts about "where his head was at." Now that he's history, we find him even less qualified.

Chris Towse: We wonder whether someone who has only lived here for one term understands anything about Senior House traditions.

Rachael Berman: The Gary Hart of Senior House: she wants to preserve tradition, but remain open to new ideas. She will take the presidency "seriously but not too seriously." Like a fine wine: Complex, yet simple. Traditions preserved so far: the Mike Levine Towers party. New Ideas presented: Scones and Tea with the Housemasters.

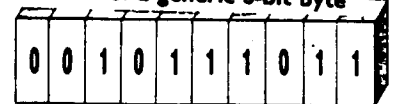
Jenny Hyman: Our own little punk-ette. We're certainly excited about the prospects for Senior House social life under her regime. We are looking forward to an androgynous first man and a cabinet of skin-heads and Fenway residents with bleached hair. Her early formative years were spent frolicking in the toxic waste dumps of New Jersey. The Gidget of punk-rock promises to "stimulate and excite" Senior House.

Paul "Mr. Nice Guy" Greenlee: Affectionately referred to as the "Grandfather of Senior House." our elder statesman

would provide stability to Senior House - something we can pass on to future generations of Senior House residents. A big sushi fan (and an even bigger sake connoisseur), he knows more Institute trivia than anyone human possibly could. A personal friend of every president of MIT from William Barton Rogers on, and 139 years to boot.

Lawrence "type" Kolostomy: You know him, you love him, he's kept you up at night with his kontinual kitchen kolostomizing. **Our preferred candidate.**

Structure of a generic 8-bit byte



#### Obituaries

##### Apostrophe - 1982-1985

Mangy dog, belonging to Stephanie "Twink" Baldwin. Wormed way into the hearts and minds of countless Senior House residents, rather like her owner. Though she managed to survive years of neglect and abuse, including feedings consisting of only tofu and minestrone, she finally "met with potato soup," under the wheels of an unknown hit-and-run driver in rural Connecticut. Police are investigating.

##### "Vic"

Vic Regan, founding member of VAMIT (Vics at MIT) and promising young Senior House musician was discovered dead by close friend and double Skip Regan. Autopsy performed was inconclusive. Mourners are advised not to use the name "Vic" in public places in deference to the memory of our fallen comrade. Renato Frimm remembered the deceased as "a funny clown."

## NEW FEMMES

There are some things which can be predicted long before they happen: other events take one totally by surprise. The Violent Femmes' latest album, The Blind Leading The Naked, is a little bit of both. I have been waiting a long time for this album to come out - it has been nearly two years since the release of their last album, Hallowed Ground. Of course it has been worth the wait; the question is, why?

The first album was pretty straightforward, a sort of mixture of punk and rock-n-roll. The music then was very energetic and fun. The second album, Hallowed Ground, was sometimes similar to that, with such songs as "Black Girls" and "Country Death Song," and yet seemed very calm and reflective in other parts. The Femmes even bordered on the religious with "Hallowed Ground" and "Jesus Walking on the Water." This conflict between the deeply soulful and the playful and carefree has not been resolved with the release of the third album.

The Femmes have teamed up with Jerry Harrison (now of the Talking Heads) to produce this album. This works well for two reasons: first, there is a common element to their music, and second, they have common roots. Harrison was a member of the original Modern Lovers, and with Jonathan Richman, created some of the most innovative music of their time. The Violent Femmes have been sort of the 80's version of the Modern Lovers, always fresh and exciting.

But the involvement of Jerry Harrison, along with the many members of the Horns of Dilemma, which started as a

brass backup trio and joined the Femmes on their '82 tour and now encompass horns, keyboards, and rhythm, has not resolved the dichotomy which is at the heart of the Violent Femmes. After all, even their name is a contradiction. They start out with a (typical) punk song, "Old Mother Reagan," which is extremely energetic and lasts 29 seconds. Then the mood abruptly changes to something quite different, as they slip right into "No Killing," which is as close to a folk song as they will ever get. It's very soulful and yet has that distinctive Femmes sound, with even a punk-esque shot at the police. This is followed by the "Faith" sing-along which was very well received on their summer of '85 tour, and "Breakin' Hearts." Just as you're about to relax, though, they come roaring back with "Special," which is more of the energetic, fun side of the coin.

And so it continues, back and forth, through 13 of the most offbeat and original songs to come out of Milwaukee in a long time. The two major influences are never resolved, but both are simultaneously incorporated into music that is both listenable and very unique. The cover of this album is also very striking in its colorfulness and strangeness. The patterns on the front seem random at first glance, but under careful scrutiny and the influence of certain substances reveal strange and disturbing patterns.

My final recommendation is two-sided: if you are a fan of the Violent Femmes already, this album is certainly a great addition. Their rendition of Marc Bolan's "Children of the Revolution" is especially good. But if you are not, you

will probably find their earlier work more accessible. Violent Femmes is a good, solid album with many danceable songs and is sure to amuse your parents for hours on end.

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## THIS TERM WITH MOSBY

Col. Mosby: The house finds itself wrapped...

Min. Von Moltke: It's more like unwrapped.

Mosby: up in the non-issues of this house campaign presently, but while most voters are swayed by issues of personality, and who will offer them the most sweet-foods, there are a number of important issues which will require resolution in the coming months: the Athena terminals, the matter of the house's relations with the Dean's Office (I can't believe that they won't be back on our shoulders again come next year) and the house's involvement in political issues with growing importance on campus (Divestment, Sanctuary, etc.).

Kondracke: Before we leave the sweet foods issue, many voters are objecting to Rodgers' distribution of food...

Hodding Carter III: As a way of buying votes.

Kondracke: Anyway, I was saying that a number of voters had noticed that Craig tries to buy votes with food every year while Scott Braithwaite has been distributing fruit for months, for the mere purpose of promoting general happiness

all this started before he declared himself as a candidate for office. They're calling it the "sincerity gap" and it could be very important in the judcomm contest.

George Will: Mort, you and I both know that a "public

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servant" doesn't just wake up one morning and decide to run for office. The public announcement is preceded by months of public preparation. I think we ought to be considering the degree of each candidate's commitment to upgrading this dormitory's basic military infrastructure, which has been allowed to slip badly under previous JudComms. Braithwaite just doesn't have the same training in iron discipline that Mr. Rodgers received courtesy of our armed services.

Von Moltke: You can't forget the mobility factor, there, George. Scott does have that experience in moving large equipment and personnel at top speeds. This could be very important in the event of a two-front war.

Carter: The Dean's Office and P.E. Grey?

Col. Mosby: Turning now to the problem of Steer Roast. There are a number of people who are worried about the competence of either of the two teams on the slate? Can Fissell really motivate and control Garen and Mailhot? Tom?

Tom Wicker: Well, I don't really see what the problem is. Both teams have the element of experience and last year's Roast was run adequately.

Will: It wasn't that long ago that people were celebrating Mr. Fissell's removal from the Desk Staff, and now you're arguing that he has the diplomatic skills needed to run Steer Roast?

Wicker: Well...

Kondracke: I'll have to agree with you on this one, George. Bill is, to the say the least, a bit on the coarse side. Besides, with him in charge of this bunch he'll be in a position to create a lot more damage than last year.

Carter: I am more perturbed by the possibility of a small Holman clique running the event; they already regularly pillage the house treasury to throw their own parties. They need to expand their ticket before I'll feel comfortable with them.

Mosby: You have provided me with the perfect segue to the President's contest. Has Greenlee been too loose with the purse-strings as Treasurer, Sam?

Sam Donaldson, ABC News White House Correspondent: That actually isn't the problem. We've all been told that the house has plenty of money in the bank.

Will: Exactly, so why are you slandering the man?

Donaldson: George, you're not letting me finish. We've all been led to believe that the house is rolling in dough, but Paul's never shown us any documents. For all we know, he might have spent the money on a Thanksgiving trip to San Francisco. I think it ought to be the responsibility of the Chancellor, er, Treasurer to back his claims with bank statements, or something of the sort.

Carter: What about this age thing? What kind of psychological statement is a dormitory making when it elects someone who is nearly twice the age of every other resident to serve as President?

Mosby: They would presumably be making a vote for maturity. The other choices are a junior who has never previously expressed even the most remote interest in house affairs, and a sophomore whose primary attraction is her child-like personality.

Donaldson: That innocent, naive personality is all an act, you know. She's actually the boss of a petty political machine up there - run on threats of violence and cupcakes.

Will: I can imagine Jenny playing tennis or dying her hair some new shade of pink, but I have difficulty picturing her discussing house matters intelligently with Dean Sherwood.

Wicker: Now that's just blatant sexism there, George. The stereotype of women spending too much time on their hair was disproven years ago. That's the kind of hogwash I'd expect to hear from some old cracker back in my hometown.

Will: I was talking about qualifications, Tom. I don't think that either of the women have the assertiveness to defend the house's interests. That has to be Greenlee's strong suit.

Mosby: A new difficulty with Rush that the President will have to deal with is the "Boring Freshmen" problem. It's been getting a lot of press lately and I think there's something to it.

Wicker: The problem is how we can attract the crazy freshpeople that we traditionally look for while still managing to satisfy the deans.

Mosby: I can't remember the upperclassmen ever being terribly impressed with the new inductees...

Donaldson: Tom I'm not sure if there's anything the President will be able to do. The Deans have certainly restricted the bizarre behavior that characterized the house in the past. Without any sort of anarchistic activities I don't believe we'll be able to capture the minds of those crazy freshpeople. The future doesn't look very bright.

Will: Do we really want psychotic freshmen? Think of the people who have self-destructed in the past. Do we want heroin addicts on the 5th floor again?

Mosby: We'll have to pick this up later.