

U-VIEWS

Add it up

Since when are secondary application fees for medical school only about \$10 ["The Price Isn't Right," Nov. 1995]? I sent secondaries to 12 schools which cost me almost \$900. Still, thanks for bringing up the issue of the cost of becoming a doctor.

*Kim Blumberg, senior,
Penn State U.*

I've recently been accepted to medical school and in my quest for acceptance, I spent only \$575 — about one-third of the projected amount in your story. I think the biggest waste of money is the MCAT. A prep course is not needed — even the MCAT guide says taking one won't make much difference. And taking a second shot at the MCAT shouldn't be needed if you've studied and do well on standardized tests. The moral is: If you're trying to get into med school, don't let this story scare you.

*Erica Eblers, senior,
Northern Michigan U.*

Swallowing responsibility

I take issue with the "Campus Shots" photo [Nov. 1995] of a person assisting another person in drinking directly from a keg. It implies that your magazine condones this type of potentially abusive behavior. I am questioning the journalistic responsibility of your magazine printing the photo, particularly since alcohol use and abuse has been a past cover story in your magazine.

*Steve Brown, Assoc. Dir. of Student
Development and Career Services,
Mercer U., Georgia*

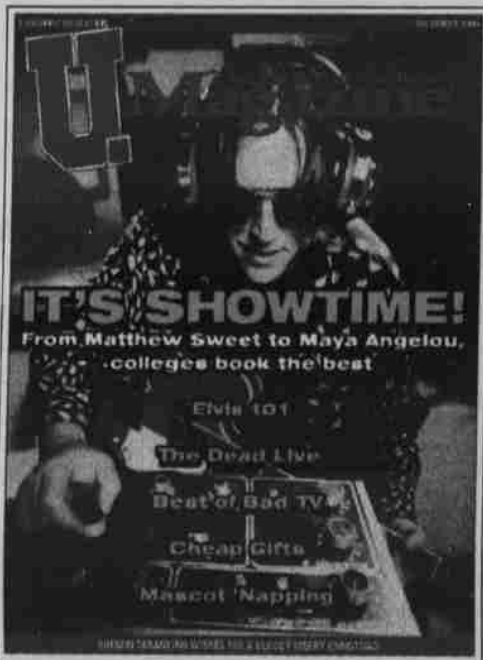
We've got you covered

I notice in many of your issues that the stories, letters and various other columns focus on the Big Ten or elite universities. Why don't you include more stories and articles from students at smaller universi-

ties? We at smaller universities do have fun like the "big boys" at the "city-like" universities, and a little coverage would be nice.

*Marc Pearson, sophomore,
Troy State U., Alabama*

I'm a regular reader of your magazine and I find the information very interesting and helpful. However, as a student at



a historically black college, I feel that your magazine never gives light to life at historically black schools. You only mention the achievements of African Americans in rap music or sports. Why do you insist on portraying this '90s stereotype? Please consider doing positive stories on black colleges every so often.

Kenji J. Gardner, sophomore, Howard U.

Your stories portray a bad stereotype of Greek life. The Greek system is changing rapidly. Open availability of beer at parties, an increase in community service and an increase in the importance of academics are all current trends in the Greek community. These are the types of trends that should be addressed.

*Bradley Holman, President of the
Theta Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi,
U. of Michigan*

I must commend *U. Magazine* for promoting the stereotypical image of homosexuality ["Campus Shots," Dec. 1995]. I especially enjoyed the sophomore caption beneath the man in drag (A little more rouge...). Perhaps the time you spent pondering what humorous comment you could put beneath the photo to promote ignorance could have been spent writing an article that deals with the very real issues of homosexuality and homophobia on college campuses!

*Kevin Kovalcik, senior,
U. of Rhode Island*

Poll sigh

How could your magazine pretend to write about politics ["Poll Vault," Nov. 1995] and not mention the painful Republican cutbacks in student aid and the massive shift to block grants for other programs that will put pressure on states, in turn, to cut their higher education budgets?

*Kirby Farrell,
professor of English,
U. of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Dead or alive?

I am eternally grateful for the article, "The Dead Will Never Die" [Dec. 1995]. However, you were too quick to confirm the passing of the Dead phenomenon after the death of Jerry Garcia. Saying "Jerry made the Dead" is a bit naive. The Grateful Dead are, and always have been, more than Garcia's backup band.

*Benjamin Nauman, junior,
Iowa State U.*

Take it off

With pleasure, I read your article on stripping ["Stripping for Dollars," Nov. 1995]. I recommend the profession for any student trying to balance school, living expenses and tuition. With pay varying from \$150 to \$1,500 a night, I only work two shifts a week and can concentrate on studying. However, it's not all glamour. It's a physically exhausting job. And dancers must be able to handle the highly competitive atmosphere as well as the reactions of friends, partners and family.

Anonymous, San Francisco State U.

"Posing With Honors" and "Stripping for Dollars" [Nov. 1995] convey the message that female college students want to take their clothes off for money. I don't blame these women, but I do feel sorry for them. Pornography, prostitution and stripping undermine women's gains and put us back in our proper place: the bedroom. We must reclaim our integrity and equality rather than seek refuge in these sexist institutions.

*Rachel Kramer Bussel, senior,
U. of California, Berkeley*

What's your damage?

In "*U. Magazine's* Magnificent Seven" [Dec. 1995], your choices were interesting, but what about *Damaged* by Black Flag? Also, you need to check the dates of a couple of your albums: *It Takes A Nation...* was released in '88 not '89 and *Warehouse: Songs and Stories* was released in '87 not '85.

*Bruce Harrison, sophomore,
California State U, Chico*

Sports funding — too much or not enough?

Too Much: 67%
Not Enough: 20%
Other: 13%

I think it's a question of who makes the decision. Students need to have input into how those decisions are made. *Liza Kessler, grad student, U. of Wisconsin, Madison* • With the amount of money athletes bring in, they should be able to have a life that allows them to eat properly, pay rent, pay bills, take their girlfriends out to dinner and put gas in their cars. *Jennifer Peabody, senior, UCLA* • There's too much funding. It should be an honor to play for your school. *Larry, grad student, Texas A & M U.* • Teams bring in a lot of money for the university and therefore, they should be given their fair share of the pie. *Robert Santoro, grad student, Florida State U.* • Here's an idea. Big-time athletes who get full-ride scholarships then take off for the pros and sign multi-million dollar contracts should be required to pay back their scholarships. *Collin Arnold, senior, Pacific Lutheran U., Wash.* • We're at college to learn, not to play sports. It puts down my intelligence to know that the school spends more money on hockey than it does on me getting a good education. *Marisa, sophomore, U. of Vermont* • The simple fact is that schools can get away with setting the athletes up with only tuition and eats — a small price to pay not only for sports revenue, but for recruiting power. Greater funding for athletes is needed and deserved. *Jason Robert Nefs, senior, U. of Wisconsin, Madison*

Do you believe in aliens?

Yes: 88%
No: 12%

Our entire suite believes in aliens. Not like green space creatures but the large almond-eyed creatures. *Alma Robledo, junior, Yale U.* • I really strongly believe that they're out there somewhere. Sheesh, they're out there man. *Pablo Gutierrez, freshman, U. of Texas Pan American* • I'm a product of an inter-planetary relationship. My mother was abducted by aliens and taken advantage of by horny freaks. And thus began my extremely abnormal life. *Robert, freshman, U. of Alabama* • The universe is too small for intelligent life to exist only on Earth. *Payne Seal, senior, Mississippi State U.* • Only the kind that sneak across the border. But Scully is cute. *Scott Giles, senior, U. of Georgia* • Even if you believe in God, you have to think that maybe God was smart enough not to put all of his eggs in one basket with the human race. *Sean Boynton, law, U. of Florida* • In the millions of galaxies that exist in the universe, there must be a higher evolved civilization that is observing our world. *Citalli McBee, sophomore, U. of Memphis*

U. Polls

Do you expect to get a job in your major?

Do you still want your MTV?

800/6U-VIEWS
(688-4397)

More polls at
<http://www.umagazine.com>

Whiners and Losers

Complaining — it's the hot new spectator sport.

What better way to forget about your own shortcomings than to point out an athlete's flaws?

"He gets paid \$3 million a year to catch the ball, and what does he do? He drops it. Give me \$3 million and I'll catch a ball. I'll tell you that right now. And another thing, what's up with these basketball players? They spend their whole lives in a gym, they get their college paid for and they still can't hit a free throw, for cryin' out loud."

A trade is always a good target for quality complaining. Whenever your team trades a player, it's your duty to say, "That's the stupidest thing they could have done." Then rattle off statistics (true or not) about how good the traded player was or how bad the incoming player is, and recount the team's last five trades, all of which were "dumb as hell."

Let's say your team just won the World Series. It was a sweep. The pitching, hitting, fielding and umpiring were impeccable. Even the announcing was witty and insightful. Don't fret. Simply calm down, focus, and belittle the scrubs. Like this:

"How do you like that? The guy sits on the bench the entire year, maybe gives a couple of high fives or pats on the butt, and now he's got a World Series ring and a nice fat bonus. I'll get paid to sit on the bench and watch people play baseball. I'll give high fives. I'll pat people on the butt for money."

Note: A noisy bar will always quiet down right before you yell the last sentence, so be careful.

Have fun, and remember, as that lousy, no-good, overpaid catcher, Yogi Berra, says: "It ain't over till there's nothing left to complain about."

Shad Powers, Assistant Editor

ILLUSTRATION BY PAT LEWIS, PENNSYLVANIA STATE U.

