

“ALL STORIES UNVERIFIED”

Students Rally in Support of Strike, Declare “We Love Rebates”

By Aaron Margolis
 STAFF REPORTER

When Carmen Grenucci '05 came to Yale two years ago, he fell in love with the scenery, the people, the classes—but there was one thing he did not love. “I hated the dining hall food,” he said. “I wanted to go out to places like Ivy Noodle and the burrito cart, but I had to eat at the dining halls instead. Now I can go to any restaurant I want, from A1 to Zinc. Well, not really Zinc, because it’s too expensive, but you know what I mean.” When the unions went on strike, Carmen responded by founding Students for the Strike, known by its acronym SFS. “We’re just like SDS, but our goal is culinary, not revolutionary,” he joked.

A crowd of approximately two hundred undergraduates gathered for the first SFS rally on Tuesday at Beinecke Plaza. The demonstration was in support of binding non-arbitration. “Basically, we want them to agree to disagree for as long as possible,” explained Grenucci. The students shouted, “What don’t we want? Contracts! When don’t we want them? Forever!” as they marched in front of President Levin’s office.

Many of the protesters said they did not spend all of the \$130.00 rebate check each week. “My friends and I can split a pizza for less than five



ARYEH COHEN-WADE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officers in riot gear monitor a SFS rally. Students engaged in civil disobedience in support of binding non-arbitration.

bucks a person,” said Michael Cabin '06. “And it tastes better than dining hall food, too.” Cabin also noted that his bathroom was still getting washed: “it’s cleaner than ever. I never realized that scabs could be so sanitary.” Asked about any negative impact of the strike, Cabin replied, “I don’t like the strikers waking me up at eight, but in a week or two I’ll probably be so sleep-deprived that I won’t even notice.” Other students simply looked forward to having

some extra spending money. “It’s like I’m getting a paycheck,” said Harold Pierce '04, “but for not eating crappy food instead of working.”

Grenucci is not surprised by the rally’s success. “We are what we eat, and we don’t like being whatever the human equivalent is of dining hall food.” He considers the controversy to be symptomatic of a greater societal problem. “People do too much thinking with their brains and not enough with their stomachs.”

Majority of Nation’s Scientific Knowledge Comes From Snapple Bottle Caps

By Aryeh Cohen-Wade
 STAFF REPORTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A study released today by the National Science Foundation states that most of the average American’s comprehension of science originates from “Real Facts” printed on the underside of Snapple bottle caps. According to the report, the quirky facts, which appear under the caps of all Snapple and Diet Snapple drinks, have quickly eclipsed news reports, television documentaries, and even high school and university classes as the primary source for the nation’s understanding of scientific truth.

“In a survey of the American public, less than half of the respondents were able to positively identify a diagram of the periodic table, let alone articulate the concept of an element,” said Roger Flanagan, a Presidential Science Advisor and the study’s author. “However, fully 87% knew that giraffes have black tongues, as stated in Snapple Real Fact #22.”

One of the study’s strangest findings was that Snapple Real Facts frequently provide supplemental knowledge about topics that the average American can often barely comprehend.

“An overwhelming majority of the population recognized the accuracy of Snapple Real Fact #117, which states that ‘Saturn would float if it were placed

in a gigantic bathtub,” said Flanagan. “This is true, of course, because the gas giant has an average density that is less than that of water. However, we were surprised to find that only 9% of Americans could identify Saturn as a planet in our own solar system. It turns out the other 91% believed that the Real Fact was referring to the car.”

Reaction from the scientific community has been mixed. “Science is not a purely theoretical field—it affects our everyday lives in a number of ways. It’s alarming that most Americans don’t know simple scientific facts that affect their personal health,” stated Sandra Vorhaus, a molecular biophysicist at Johns Hopkins University. “On the other hand, I suppose that there may be some practical value in knowing that termites eat through wood two times faster when listening to rock music. That’s #52, by the way.”

Mitchell Goldberger, CEO of the Snapple Beverage Corp., praised the study’s findings. “Our company is proud to fulfill a valuable civic function through our Real Facts program,” he said. “Thomas Jefferson famously wrote that ‘a well-informed populace is the best defense against tyranny.’ How better to fight tyranny than with a little of the ‘best stuff on Earth’?”

Senate Votes to Indefinitely Extend Daylight Savings Time

By Nathaniel Drake
STAFF REPORTER

Washington, D.C.—In what is being hailed as “a gutsy move” by many political insiders, the United States Senate has passed a bill which will forestall the usual turning back of the clocks this fall. Instead, the U.S. will continue on Daylight Savings Time for the duration of the year, possibly indefinitely.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), the bill’s sponsor, explained the proposal’s rationale: “By refusing to fall back from Daylight Savings Time, the U.S. accomplishes two things: first, we gain an hour on every other country in the world, giving us ample time to react to any pertinent threat against our interests at home or abroad—and providing American businesses with an important edge in global markets—and second, we show the world that America will not ‘fall back’ before anyone.”

Uproarious applause ensued for fully five minutes.

The bill passed easily over the mutinous screams of those opposed. “But—” Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) was heard to utter before being silenced by a tide of reprobation. The sheer zealot-like ferocity of

the bill’s supporters had many incredulous onlookers feeling that they had witnessed something historic. “I think it’s great what they’re doing,” said Senate page and patriot Bobby Scoles, “This way we’ll have the jump on any kind of johnny-come-lately seditionist.”

Apprised of the news, Alcorn, Ohio, florist Dolores Kahn agreed: “What a perfect idea! Now even if I miss the train I can make it to my sister’s on time. And thank goodness, because does she ever go off if I’m a minute late.”

Overall response to the bill has been positive. There may even be a groundswell to push the U.S. still further ahead. “I’m just worried that an hour may not be enough,” reasoned Aaron Culpepper, a Milton, Oregon, homeowner, putting into words what many Americans could certainly be thinking. “I think we ought to just spring forward to December. We’d have a three month head start on everyone! Think of all the disasters we could avert, all the wonderful things we could learn from the future. The possibilities are just limitless. Plus, Christmas would be coming right up.”

Local Survivalist Shows Softer Side

A Yale Daily sNews Human Interest Piece

By Andrew Kau
STAFF REPORTER

Ever since he was a small boy in the 1950s, Joe “Muskrat” Musgrave has been predicting the apocalypse. From the Cuban Missile Crisis to the Blackout of 2003, Nostradamus to the Bible Code, this grizzled mountaineer has unfailingly communicated his dire warnings to the few family members, acquaintances and journalists that are still willing to listen. But as the Cold War began to wane and *glasnost* became the order of the day, the drifters and troubled teens who had been Joe’s loyal minions stopped paying heed to his shrill, improbable prophecies. Finally, even the man from the *Weekly World News* stopped coming around. But, unlike so many of my predecessors, this reporter decided not to write yet another let-we-incivilized-society-further-alienate-the-dangerous-weirdo-until-he-goes-on-a-murderous-rampage piece. No—I set out to uncover the man behind the wild-eyed lunatic. As we at the *Yale Daily sNews* like to say: from the most sainted, patient administrator to the most low-down, ungrateful striker, everyone has a story.

Dateline: late September, high in the New Haven hills, where Muskrat Joe’s ramshackle hovel-cum-bomb-shelter illegally occupies a scrubby copse atop East Rock. Clambering over a poorly-constructed split-rail fence and through some rusty chicken wire, one reaches Joe’s trash-strewn abode. In the grand tradition of sociopaths everywhere, Joe

initially runs out with a twelve-gauge shotgun and hurls curses at you and your family while firing over your head. Assuming, however, that Joe was of the Lenny/Boo Radley/Elmer Fudd school of misunderstood but ultimately genial crazies, this reporter fearlessly advanced, only to be driven behind a large rock by another, more accurate, round of shotgun blasts.

Thanks to flattery and some outright lies, I persuaded Joe to grant an interview. Once his obscenity-laced tirades and outrageous predictions began to flow, I got the impression of a sensitive soul trampled by a hurtful world that had passed him by. Joe insisted that he “wasn’t one of those nutcases who believe in pseudo-sciences like phrenology or ‘evolution.’” As he spoke, I realized, who are we to judge? If you ignore his decision to live a reclusive lifestyle in the mountains, build a squatter’s shanty from scrap metal and twine, devote himself to astrology, and catch squirrels and raccoons in crude home-made traps in order to flay and eat them, why, Muskrat Joe is just as human as you or me. Dare I say—more human?

After all, can any of us sincerely declare that we have never had the urge, as Joe puts it, “to emerge from the rubble of the civilization-ending cataclysm and use carefully honed skills to lead a roving band of hardy fighters in the post-apocalyptic new



JAKE JARMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“Muskrat Joe” emerges from his shack for a rare photograph.

world order?” Muskrat Joe’s hermetic existence and rambling monologues obviously speak to a deep urge in the human psyche. While his theory linking alien abductions and the Shroud of Turin is a bit confusing, the basic message is indisputable: a devious alliance between Jewish media interests and the Roman Catholic Church *does* shape American foreign policy. And this common thread of humanity should go a long way in reminding all of us that gun-toting survivalists on the margins of society like Joe Musgrave are people too.

Weather

Today: Meh.

Tonight: Still meh.

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