

**A LAFAYETTE** featuring **AUGUST TENTH** 067 **JONATHAN DAVID THAYER**

I HAVE TO SAY THAT I WAS SURPRISED AND DISMAYED BY MY FAILURE TO BE SELECTED WITH NINE OR TEN OF MY PEERS AS A FINALIST FOR THE PEPPER PRIZE. I WAS HOPING MY EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (ESPECIALLY IN THE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS), MADE, AT LAFAYETTE, BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN

MY FAMILY LEFT ME AT EASTON HALL IN LATE AUGUST 1984, WOULD BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PEPPER PRIZE 'FINALS'. MY DISAPPOINTMENT WAS PARTIALLY ALLEVIATED WHEN I SAW THE EVIDENCE OF OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES AND THE REMARKABLE PROLIFERATION OF

Greek-political-financial-charitable-athletic-and-personal ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THOSE WHO WERE SO RECOGNIZED; MY ADMIRATION AND CONGRATULATIONS ARE HEREBY DELIVERED. HOWEVER, I PROPOSE THAT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR LAFAYETTE COLLEGE THAT WE TEST FOR THE OXYMORONIC QUALITIES

OF TERMS SUCH AS "the Lafayette Ideal", AND THAT WE NEED TO APPLY THE PHYSICAL AND VIGOROUS ATTENTION NECESSARY TO OBLITERATE THE SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL OBSTACLES WE DISCOVER INHIBITING OUR COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE IDEAL.

MEANWHILE:  
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IF YOU FOUND MY ORANGE (IN-WEAR) CAP, I'D LOVE TO HAVE IT BACK. I LIVE IN MCKELVY BUT YOU COULD PROBABLY SEND IT TO BOX 6462 \*\*\*\*\*  
RAISING ARIZONA TO-MORROW; THAT FUNNY TELLING FILM \*\*\*\*\*  
IF YOU SEE HER WISH MAY A HAPPY BIRTH-DAY ON SUN-DAY \*\*\*\*\*  
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Murph, a physical comedian, will be headlining the last LAF event, Thursday, May 5, at 10 p.m. in the Main Dining Room of Marquis.

# "Casual sex" and AIDS

It is rare that a first attempt at something accomplishes the level of success desired in an ideal situation. If this maxim is accepted, the film "Casual Sex" finds itself immediately off the hook. "Casual Sex" is the first film, in what will undoubtedly soon become an overflowing genre, to tackle the sensitive subject of AIDS. This is not a great film, but the fact that Hollywood has acknowledged the AIDS crisis is truly great.

The claim that this film "tackles" AIDS is admittedly misleading. "Casual Sex" is a comedy about two young women struggling to modify their sexual behavior in deference to the overwhelming threat of AIDS. It does not, thus, "tackle" this health disaster in a profound or far-reaching way. This film is about coping and adapting, without exposure to the disease, and employs humor to make its various points. Perhaps this contemporary plague will only truly be "tackled" when William Hurt sucks weight to portray a dying AIDS patient.

As we join our protagonists, Lea Thompson and Victoria Jackson, they are in the midst of making the obvious social

changes necessitated by AIDS. [God, I hope by now they're obvious] Neither has engaged in sex for months — fearful of the death sentence today's sex can carry. These women are turned off by the hazards of sex, but are also turned off by being turned off. Adaptation is necessary, and "Casual Sex" is about this difficult, discomfiting process.

The film's approach is informal and straight-forward. As the house lights go down we immediately encounter the disarming pair, standing before a black backdrop, simply introducing themselves. Their monologue immediately engenders the feeling that "AIDS is a horrible, overwhelming situation, but we all have to face up to it — so why don't you watch us try."

Much of this "trying" occurs at a health-spa type resort. The women have chosen the site for a much needed vacation. They will, however, spend much of their leisure time grappling with the uncertainty which now pervades their existence. They will meet a wide variety of men, find themselves in a wide variety of social/sexual situations, and soon discover that, in the age of

AIDS, there are no easy answers.

Of the many people our heroines meet, none leaves as lasting an impression as "Vinny," a stereotypical Guido. The "Vin-Man" is the unheralded star of this film, and the source of much of its humor. He is overbearing, egotistical and the absolute definition of this ubiquitous social persona. Vinny also, by a lack of qualified competition, becomes the most accessible character to male viewers of the film.

The accessibility of Vinny, however, is largely attributable to one of the film's significant weaknesses. Due to its limited character perspective, "Casual Sex" cannot help but come off as a film by, for and about women. This condition makes "Casual Sex" look more like an all night girl's slumber party than a thoughtful contemplation on the AIDS crisis.

"Casual Sex" is bold and socially relevant. It is not a great film, but the fact that Hollywood has begun to acknowledge the impact of AIDS is indeed great. Save your money on this first attempt. Someday, someone, will do it right.

# The straight edge — the presidential race

Every year the Nile floods. Every 17 years locusts devastate the landscape. Every four years presidential candidates swarm over America and refuse to leave until they fail in the primaries, run out of money, or Donna Rice's appointment book has an opening. Now that most of the presidential hopefuls have dropped out or suspended their candidacies, American voters are forced to consider which candidate they will be voting for in November. The choice is limited at the moment to George Bush for the Republicans and either Michael Dukakis, Jessie Jackson, or JoJo the Dog-faced Boy for the Democrats. In the interest of helping my fellow students to better understand the qualities they should be looking for in the presidential candidates and how they are officially chosen, I would like to dedicate this column to the upcoming presidential race (which is now entering its seventh year).

The first step in selecting the party candidates is nearly over — the primaries will end on June 7th and Miss Rice's calendar is filled through next year. After June 7th, the parties will hold their conventions. During these wild and crazy political gatherings the Republicans will nominate George Bush and the Democrats will nominate Michael Dukakis. Of course, the Democrats will have to allow Jessie Jackson to have some kind of influence. After all, Jesse Jackson does make a passionate plea for the homeless and against drug abuse. He also is the first candidate to propose cutting the federal budget by slashing military spending to the point where the Soviets will invade America and then rebuild our economy like they are trying to

rebuild their own. Finally, Jesse Jackson has a great support among liberal Democrats because he is the only candidate who has expressed support for Fidel Castro and Che Guevera and hugged Yasser Arafat.

Why, you might be asking, is one candidate elected over another? The answer is quite simple and can be expressed in three words: Experience, Issues, Advertising. One of the main reasons voters are likely to vote for one candidate over another is the level of experience in government the candidates have. For example, George Bush has been Vice-President for the past seven years. Michael Dukakis is Governor of Massachusetts. George Bush has been head of the CIA. Michael Dukakis is Governor of Massachusetts. George Bush has served in Congress. Michael Dukakis has served as Governor of Massachusetts. George Bush lives and works in Washington D.C. Michael Dukakis works in Boston (he's the Governor of Massachusetts). Such are the experiences which the two contenders for the presidency bring to the campaign.

As far as issues are concerned, there are always several to be addressed. Trade balances are important. Drugs will probably be a large issue in this election. Finally, there will be the issue of what was George Bush's role in the Iran-Contra affair. Personally, I hope that Bush stands up and says, "Hell, I had a great deal to do with it. If Congress doesn't care to get the Soviets the hell out of our Hemisphere, I do. If Congress doesn't care to get American hostages back from the Middle-East, I do. I'll break the law and have lunch with Satan if it makes America

safer and promotes freedom in the world." There are many people who would support such integrity and such opinions. I am one of them.

Finally, advertising is important in getting elected. A boring unappealing candidate must work to improve this image. One of the reasons that Walter Mondale lost the 1984 election to Ronald Reagan (aside

from the fact that Reagan has done a very good job as president) was that he had the personality and appeal of oatmeal. Also, he had to convince people that Geraldine Ferraro was qualified to be Vice-President. Mondale could do neither and lost. In this election, Bush has to shake his "wimp" image and Dukakis has to convince voters that he is capable of more than running a

state whose political power has been declining since the Federalist Party died out (pity — that was a good party). Well, I don't think a Naval Aviator twice decorated for bravery in World War II will have too much trouble shaking his "wimp" image. A man who's claim to fame is running an entire state for several years might have a

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