

## A Transmission Error on WQFS

◆ Nabil Ahmed forecasts a brave new world of steel and flesh and rock stars, total rock stars

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If you had turned on the radio to 90.9



Hook up to the Life Support System every Thursday from 10 p.m.-midnight.

PHOTO BY SARAH GIVENS

last Thursday night at about five till midnight you would have heard Wagner

uniquely combined with Roni Size. "It's an example of a transmission error," says DJ Nabil Ahmed, "like getting NPR and a jungle station at the same time."

"Transmission Error" is the name of his show, broadcast on WQFS every Thursday night from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Ahmed, who originally comes from Bangladesh and has lived "all over," is the sole DJ of the show—a diverse combination of music that defies labeling. He plays what he likes, exploring the intricacy of music, opening people's ears and perhaps their minds.

Woven into the mix of "crazy things" Ahmed plays are his original creations, created on his computer and the drum sequencing machine he brings to the studio. The music, mostly drums and bass, is Ahmed's way of "dealing with where technology is going and finding an artistic voice in all that technology." Life Support System, the

name Ahmed attributes his work to on the air, is "music for music's sake."

Ahmed, who is also program director of WQFS, began DJing just last year, during his first semester at Guilford. Now he lists the studio as "pretty much my favorite place at college," and spends hours on his music. "He's really got a flair for music," says senior Allison Strizak, and many listeners apparently agree.

One such listener is Happy, an otherwise anonymous fan who periodically calls Ahmed during his show. She never makes requests, he explains, just calls to say she is listening and really likes it. "There are some crazy people who listen," he notes. "If you play strange, alien music you get strange responses."

Can Happy and her cohorts purchase their own Life Support System? Not yet, although it is in the works. Ahmed and two friends are in the process of starting an independent record label, which may or may not be called "KGBBeats."

The tentative title humorously reflects Ahmed's political views, which have a "radical leftist bent" without being communist. Ahmed takes inspiration from existentialists, early anarchists and Latin American revolutionary movements. Not too surprising perhaps from a philosophy/religious studies double major who claims that "arguing is good for the soul."

"He has a brilliant mind," says fellow philosophy major Amanda Printz, but Ahmed describes it as "a good head on my shoulders." Trusting intuition and personal experience is his philosophy of life and he moves toward the future with that in mind. "I do what I feel—I guess I kind of have faith in myself of some sort; I want to play music."

And so far, he seems destined to do just that. Ahmed is packing up his drum sequencer to leave the studio when the next show's DJs come in. As he walks out the door, they give an unsolicited opinion. "He's such a rock star, a total rock star."

## Carter and Morscheck Go to the Movies

◆ This Week: *Primary Colors* interesting politics but mixed reviews, now playing at Janus

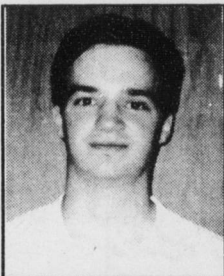


PHOTO BY BECCA LEE

even want to run for President? Like real life, the movie has no easy answer for either question.

The movie presents the presidential campaign of Jack Stanton (John Travolta), seen through the eyes of campaign aide Henry Burton (Adrian Lester). It's like a course on political campaigns: the characters are constantly ill from work and stress, they travel so frequently they don't have time to pack luggage, and they get almost no sleep. The relationship between Jack and his wife Susan (Emma Thompson) is mechanical; they think only of the campaign and not their personal lives, so even when Susan finds out about Jack's affairs she stands by him because the goal is all that matters.

Ultimately the movie is about morality in politics; people get so wrapped up in the

I believe it was President Franklin Pierce who first inquired why anyone would want to be President. The movie *Primary Colors*, poses that question and another: why would anyone

campaign that they forget they're doing it because they want to make the country a better place. Unfortunately, the message is lost during the events of the film so when it is examined at the end it doesn't have much of an impact.

Although the plot and characters are strong, they don't always hang together the way they should. Some people disappear awkwardly towards the end of the film and others are characterized unevenly. One of the first scenes of political strategist Richard Jemmons (Billy Bob Thornton) establishes him as a pervert, but that never comes into play later and is never even mentioned again.

While the movie is based partially on Bill Clinton's presidential campaign (a southern governor runs for President and is accused of having affairs), it has many fictional elements. Actually, Travolta's Clintonian exterior obscures his unique character, so we always see him performing Clinton instead of being Stanton. The movie would have benefited by not making any homages at all.

*Primary Colors* could have had value as both a story and a lesson on political campaigns, but its uneven plot prevents the straight storytelling that would have been necessary. Still, it shows the reality of politics, something that should interest certain people.



PHOTO BY AMY ROUSE

What drives people to politics?

Is it possible to get elected to national office without sacrificing your morals to do so?

To what lengths will a wife go to publicly protect her cheating husband even while she's emotionally dying inside?

Based on the recent book by "Anonymous," which was itself inspired by the 1992 Clinton campaign, *Primary Colors* asks these questions and more.

Alternately a satire of Clinton and poignant political drama, it tells the story of "Jack Stanton" (John Travolta), a southern Governor seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, through the eyes of Henry Burton, an idealistic young campaign worker.

Burton and long-time Stanton friend Libby Holden (Academy Award winner Kathy Bates) struggle between their wishes to see Jack reach the White House, and their discoveries that even he, whom they had believed in for so long, is tainted.

The sad realization that even the best of persons is flawed and there may be no such thing as an ideal leader is the film's sobering, but very real, point.

Gripping performances are given all around, with standouts Travolta, who has Clinton to a tee, and Emma Thompson (*Sense and Sensibility*) as very human wife Susan Stanton.

Billy Bob Thornton (*Sling Blade*) is hilarious as a redneck strategist, and Bates has the line of the movie: "I'm a gay lesbian woman; I do not mythologize the male sexual organ" (said while threatening to, umm... forcibly remove said organ).

Better (albeit different) than *Dave* and *The American President*, *Primary Colors* is the first truly great film I have seen this year.

The only reason I won't be seeing it again tonight is, well, I'm going to the prom.

Seriously folks, even if you don't groove on politics, give this one a try.

Not only is the story of the highest quality, it raises some important issues and manages to be very humorous in the process.

Give this one a chance, and if you miss the prom, this film would be a good excuse.