

The Decree

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
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Crime penetrates into sports world

By the time this issue comes out Olympic fever will be over. The Icegate affair can finally be pushed to the side except for the upcoming legal affairs. The entire affair says more about American society than many may have realized.

Connie Chung made an interesting comment during the Olympics about the whole affair. She made the comment that the reason the whole affair has affected American society in the manner it has is because the whole affair brought the number one issue facing the American society, crime, into the usually safe world of sports.

What people fail to remember in this account is that crime has spread into the sports world over the past years. It was not the Harding affair which opened the eyes of people. Need we forget the attack of Monica Seles last year? She has not yet returned to competition and may not this year either.

The same week that Icegate rushed to the spotlight a NBA basketball player was attacked in his home near Baltimore. Police said that it was clear that the attackers knew who they were attacking.

Crime is not a new problem for America. There has always been crime in some nature since the beginning of time. The fact that it is now moving into the conceived safe haven of sports should not be surprising.

Sports have become a big business in America. What should bother people is that someone would attack their competitor to gain an edge. It is not surprising that extreme competition has spread even into the sports world — even to the point that this competition leads people to attack the athletes themselves.

Ask any professional athlete and they will tell you the horrors of living in the spotlight. Many of the superstars travel under assumed names and stay at different hotels from the rest of the team, all because of the increased media and fan attention and safety concerns.

If people have become so involved in the Icegate affair maybe we can finally work on solving the issue of crime. Unfortunately it speaks badly of society if it takes something like Icegate to open our eyes to the problems of society. If this is the case, then we are in bigger trouble than many think.



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AIDS robbed us of his talent

A caring reporter is gone

By DR. STEVE FEREBEE

Meanwhile, back in the real world, Randy Shilts died — *really* died — of complications due to AIDS. Probably no tender bedside kiss for him as the credits rolled.

You may be having two reactions: "There he goes again about AIDS; other people die, too." Or, "Who is Randy Shilts?"

Several years ago, I was in D.C. for a fundraiser, where I talked to a bearded, curly-haired, soft-spoken, bespectacled, pudgy guy who asked me about growing up as a military brat. I remember talking quite a bit more than I usually would to a stranger. He listened intently, and then we wandered away from each other. Just a moment in my life.

Not long afterwards, I read

Dr. Steve Muses

And The Band Played On, a detailed and readable account of the politics that kept AIDS funding so low and research so difficult and controversial in the 1980's. I had been involved in AIDS at a minute level, just a solitary worker ant trying to move boulders. But having felt the lack of hospice funding and having listened to blitheringly stupid politicians and having watched the health care system lick its corporate chops, I recognized the importance of the book.

I went to the library to find some reviews and some inter-

views with the writer. One had a photograph. Wasn't that the guy I had talked with at that fundraiser? I couldn't believe it. My brush with fame and I didn't realize it.

And the Band Played On did become an important book (recently a movie with Matthew Modine, Richard Gere, and others). Shilts was an openly gay reporter (the first) for the *San Francisco Chronicle* when AIDS started, and he reported on it early and open. He called it an epidemic, and he warned people about casual sex. He knew that "people I cared about and loved" were sick and dying. So he reported straightforwardly and honestly.

The articles for the *Chronicle*

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Overseas study was beneficial

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you again in retrospect about my semester abroad and also to enlighten you as to how beneficial it can be. Also, this letter poses a plea to the administration to enhance such study abroad programs, giving all students the opportunity to see and experience the ever so diverse world that surrounds us.

Looking back on my experience abroad I sometimes feel a little misty-eyed. This statement may sound blasphemous, but the

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experiences I have incurred and the ultimate knowledge I have learned abroad is unobtainable in the U.S.

When I first arrived in France, my gravest fear was to overcome the language barrier. I had taken French for 5-1/2 years (four years

in high school and three semesters in college), but not until I was forced to communicate solely in French, was I ever able to speak fluently.

Sure I could say "Bonjour!" and such, but nothing of too much merit. I would have to think and translate to say the most simple things, such as, "May I have a cup of coffee?" or "Do you have a light?" Such phrases I need not think twice about saying in English. As a result of this language

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