

## News Briefs

compiled by Addie Tschamler

◦ Several thousand troops entered Haiti Monday to restore democracy after Haitian leaders decided to back down. Although the invasion is meant to be peaceful, President Clinton warned that there are still risks involved.

◦ Judge Lance Ito ruled Monday that evidence against O.J. Simpson in the murder of his ex-wife and one of her friends would be admitted in the trial. The evidence is considered crucial to the case because prosecutors will rely heavily on such data since there were no witnesses to the murders.

◦ Hearings that will eventually examine US Air training opened Monday to aid investigations of US Air Flight 1016 that crashed near the Charlotte airport in July and of US Air Flight 427 that crashed in Pittsburg on September 8, killing 132 people.

◦ A recent study from London indicates that smoking kills six people every minute. The findings from the worldwide survey are published in a book Mortality From Smoking In Developed Countries 1950-2000. Scientists began publishing the book on Tuesday at Britain's Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the World Health Organization, and the American Cancer Society.

◦ The first deaf Miss America was crowned Saturday night in Atlantic City, N.J. Heather Whitestone, Miss Alabama, won the crown. Whitestone's platform centers on telling young people that anything is possible.

◦ William Scott Barnes pleaded guilty to accidentally shooting his best friend, Todd Stewart, at a fraternity party near UNC-Chapel Hill. Barnes will serve five years' probation and do community service.

## Trial by Jury gets hanged

For several weeks I was anxious for the movie Trial by Jury to open. Finally, it came to Pleasant Valley Cinemas on Friday, September 9.

The next night, I eagerly waited for Trial by Jury to begin. Loaded with popcorn and a large drink, I sat nervously on the edge of my seat.

If only I had known that instead of food, all I needed was a huge pillow.

Heywould Gould directs this less than thrilling thriller. It started off slow and only got slower.

The casts consists of Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, a single mother who gets called in for jury duty.

Armand Assante plays Rusty Parone, the hard-core killer on trial.

Gabriel Byrne is the over zealous plaintiff, Graham, who will stop at nothing to convict Parone.

William Hurt plays the crooked cop who begins falling for Valerie.

The plot of the story takes much to long to develop. Parone threatens Valerie that if she will not help to acquit him, he will kill her son. To prove his power over her, he rapes her. Scared to death, she convinces the other jurors that Parone was not guilty because it was all circumstantial evidence. The jury is hung and Parone is released.

Kimberly Zucker

Movie Review

However, the "excitement" has only begun. Graham goes after Valerie because he realizes that Parone has threatened her. Determined to stay out of it and protect her family, Valerie denies his accusations. When Parone finds out that Graham is trying to talk to Valerie, he tries to have her killed.

However, Hunt rescues her but loses his life. Having nowhere else to go, Valerie goes after Parone herself. To save you money and a good nap, she kills him!

If for some reason this sounds interesting, trust me—it's not. These two hours seem to take days! Most of the movie is filled with boring court scenes and arguments in the jury room.

Witnesses testify that give the audience no sense of what Parone has done because most of the witnesses have made a deal with the police. The rest of the time is spent with 12 people arguing about Parone. Anyone who has ever been on jury duty knows that there is no excitement in that.

The characters were as boring as

the plot. They were flat and no one's personality was fully developed. It seemed as if the director just scratched the surface and left the rest to the get involved in anyone's life because the audience didn't really get to know the characters.

Even as Valerie was the victim, we never got the chance to see how she felt inside. She kept all her feelings bottled up. Plus, she was portrayed as extremely weak and easy to take advantage of. Her character seemed to have no depth.

Also, the settings were often dark and dull. Most scenes took place in the courtroom, a dark bar, or Valerie's apartment. The lighting was terrible throughout the movie. The colors of the rooms and clothing were often dark and bland. While all this was probably intended to make the movie seem more suspenseful, it only depressed me.

If you really like long and pointless courtroom scenes, jury discussions, and taking good naps, then Trial by Jury is the movie for you. However, if you are looking for a suspense thriller, the only suspense you will experience in Trial by Jury is when it is going to end.

## How-to relieve stress with self-time:

by Christina Peoples

◦ Find a special place where you feel comfortable. Try to pick somewhere with few distractions, so that your thoughts won't be interrupted with your roommate asking you to clean the bathroom. On Meredith's campus, you can sit beneath a tree near the amphitheater. The small chapel is also available 24 hours a day for you to sit and think. If a quiet place is not what you are looking for, beat your frustration out to the tunes from the Rolling Stones' latest album in the privacy of your own room.

◦ Treat yourself to some time with things or people that make you laugh. Laughter is theraputic and can put a smile back on your face after a gloomy day. Sit down and

laugh with your friends in the residence hall parlor. Relax and unwind with a half hour or so of your favorite sit-coms. (After watching George's problems on Seinfeld, mine never seem to matter.) Reading the comics section of the News and Observer can really make you feel good. (I love to laugh at Calvin's zany pretending and Cathy's worry over her weight.) Anything that gives you that free feeling that laughter supplies, do it!

◦ Read a book or magazine of your choosing. It may sound crazy to you after all of the reading you are expected to do for your classes, but having the freedom to choose can be very relaxing in itself. Reading a novel about a far-away place and time or riding the coattails of the stars on the pages of a magazine can take your

mind off the real world and your immediate stress.

◦ Spill your emotions across a fresh page. You can write a poem about your feelings in a form that you feel is appropriate. A journal is a daily, creative method of releasing your stress at the end of the day. Writing a letter to someone who cares about you can remove a burden from your shoulders through sharing what has happened that day.

◦ Lie down in a dark, quiet place without disruption. You can go to sleep, but you don't have to. Lock your door, take the phone off the hook (if it is important, they will call back), and adjust the blinds to let a minimal amount of light in. Close your eyes, curl up in a blanket, and just breathe in and out over and over again until you clear your mind.