

CHP Reflections on Virginia Tech

Words do not come easily at a time like this, but for a tragedy of this magnitude, it is important to take a step back and observe the world we live in.

On Monday, Apr. 16, 2007, 33 people lost their lives on a campus a lot like this one, 2,700 miles away at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Their loss is a tragic one, and we at *City on a Hill Press* put our support, our condolences, and our deepest sympathy out for our brothers and sisters in education, their families, and the community that will never be the same.

Apr. 16, 2007, a day that now marks what has been called the deadliest shooting in American history, is a day of suffering and sorrow. It is also Holocaust Remembrance Day, and just four days before the eighth anniversary of the Columbine massacre on April 20.

This is a time for all to reflect upon our own lives, to tell our friends we love them, to honor our parents and family, and to be grateful for those things in life that it takes a tragedy for us to appreciate.

This is not a time for politicking. The vultures that are circling, waiting to take their turn at spin, would do well to wait. Already we hear the rising crescendos of the pundits, each with a story to tell and an axe to grind, ready to milk this tragedy for every salty tear and heart wrench they can dig up.

We at *City on a Hill Press* have chosen not to follow suit. We have chosen not to sensationalize the stories of these students, invade their privacy and harass a quote from them, simply to hype a point or sell ads. We feel that it is the people's right to know what happened, and it is our responsibility to tell. We will perform these tasks with the proper respect for this tragedy, reporting on controversy and political effects as national trends shift and legislation rolls out of Congress. But, for now, we will afford the Virginia Tech community every shred of dignity entitled to them, by giving them the only thing we can at this point: time.

Over the following days, weeks, months and years, there will be more than enough time to look at the issue, and seek some insight into the minds and the hearts of the people involved.

For now, this is a time to grieve, and the people of the Virginia Tech community should be given the space, the respect, and the freedom to spend these next solemn days in peace, with our support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

send letters to the editor under 250 words at:
editors@cityonahillpress.com



Dear Editor,

I write to you in regard to a trend I have noticed over the last several issues of *City on a Hill Press*, which I, despite being a male of average sensibility, find obtrusive. I refer, of course, to recent American Apparel ads, most, if not all of which, feature young women clad scantily in solid colors. Although American Apparel undeniably promotes solid business practices in a consumerist wasteland ridden with child labor and sweatshops, I cannot help but feel much like a small child in front of whom some mega-corporation is dangling its intricate market plan disguised as a lollipop (a very attractive lollipop . . . available in many solid colors). Now fending off vicious marketing schemes, that I can deal with – after all, I am an American and I get beat about the face by various advertising [campaigns] on a regular basis. But what prompted the keystrokes of this correspondence was an event that occurred the other day after class. I had just picked up the latest CHP and while examining the index, I was blown away by the full-page American Apparel ad set directly opposite, featuring a topless model with a header that claimed something about tights. She didn't care, it was obvious that she was uncomfortable and so was I. I have no problem accepting the feminine form but I felt tricked, deceived and more subtly insulted. I have no use for tights. I don't wear skirts, nor do I wear any of the other products featured in the American Apparel ads that clearly appeal either to a misogynistic construct of beauty as being half-naked and only for women, or to men, but only on the hopes that guys everywhere will let the lower half of their body drag them into stores to see what all the excitement is about. I understand that CHP does not have as much control as it might like over the content of its sponsor's ads, but I hope that there are those out there that feel the same as I do, and can perhaps take steps to correct this flawed ideology and ad campaign.

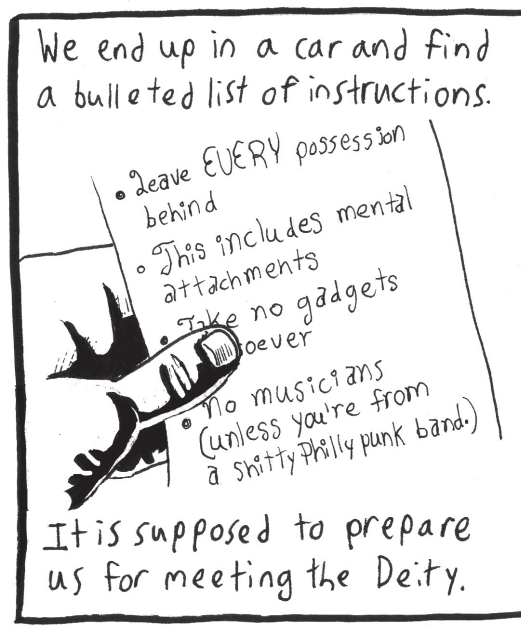
Your Concerned Reader,
Max McDaniel

Dear Editor,

Stephanie Foo's review of Levi Goldman's show "The auto-erotic man," is fine, even brilliantly executed, except for one line: the one line in which she calls Levi ignorant. As a friend of Levi, I'd like to speak out in his defense. Stephanie really hurt his feelings. He is not ignorant, and calling him ignorant was terrible. Levi is partially deaf. Seen the hearing aid he wears? That makes him a part of deaf culture. Not only is he visually literate, he also comes from a totally different cultural framework. Don't know what I mean? Do a wikipedia search on deaf culture, and read about American deaf culture. That will clue you in. Stephanie gravely misunderstood Levi, and I think she should make amends towards him by writing an article about deaf culture, as well as writing a personal and public apology to him.

Yano Rivera,
Member of the Auto-Erotic Man show
Friend of Levi Goldman

HYPNOSTRIP • a dream comic



by Ruji Chapnik

Dream submissions welcome! hypnostrip@gmail.com