



PRAVDA? Πραβδα?



The official(?) newsletter of the KGB

An open editorial policy
Editor : Jason Grosman(*grosman@andrew*)

Price : Free(We're commies, remember?)
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Editor's note

I'm very impressed with myself. *Pravda?* is now in it's second semester, and I think the response has been very positive. I'm very unhappy with the amount of submissions that I have received. To the people that have sent in stuff, I give you my eternal gratitude. I can't do this without submissions, and that's a fact. This is not begging or pleading, but if the membership of KGB wants this newsletter to continue, then I have to start receiving enough to fill an entire issue. Don't look at your neighbor, this includes you.

Please talk to me if you would like to submit something, but don't know what to do. I'm happy to help in brainstorming for ideas. I know this is CMU, and I know that nobody has time, but there's the tradeoff. I'm putting a lot of time into *Pravda?* because I think it's a good thing™. I got the impression that the membership of KGB thought so, too. A little bit of time in exchange for the newsletter is all I ask. I'm putting this forward to every person who's reading this issue right now.

I'm serious. I have a really busy schedule this semester, and there is no way I can come up with an entire issue each month without more submissions.

Please see me if you're interested in any aspect of *Pravda?*. My email address is *grosman@andrew.cmu.edu*.

I don't like having to do this, but I don't want this to die. I like it, and I think a lot of the KGB membership feels the same.

Ok, I believe more than enough has been said on that topic.

Welcome back to another fun-filled semester at CMU with KGB. I think it's going to be a good term. Some of the things that I know are on tap. I'm going to be organizing a Live Action Chess game in Kirr Commons. Details as soon as I have them. Of course, we have booth to work on.

Continued...

This year, KGB booth is going to kick ass, and we would love all the help we can get. It's a lot of fun, and you get to work with power tools. Noon, Saturdays, in the Margaret Morrison Cage. Talk to Bryan Nagy for details. I think I heard that KGB might try taking the fence sometime in the near future. Keep your ears peeled for that. Plus, I'm sure we'll still have old favorites, like Get Board/Get Carded and Movie nights.

That's just what I remember. Talk to Deanna if you have any ideas for what KGB should do this semester. Trust me, she would **love** to hear from you.

Before I forget, congratulations to Jason Riek for finding a way out of the CMU gravity well, and sympathies to Chuck Werner for taking the job of first vice president. Good luck to both of you.

Elections for next year's officers is going to be here sooner than we think. If you have any interest in being part of the ruling class, come talk to an officer. Come to Exec, Tuesdays at 4:30PM near the KGB office(UC 318C).

I think that's it for this editor's note. I hope you enjoy the issue and tell me what you think. If you want this to continue, try to find the time to contribute to it. I'll be happy with whatever you can do, large or small. I just want to stop feeling like I'm shouting in the dark. Until next issue...happy new year!!!!

Meetings
Day : Monday
Time : 4:30 PM
Place : Breed Hall (MM 103)

The Waste of Sanity

By Kevin Shiue

I look, up into the sky,

And I wonder about it.

My destiny is there

Awaiting,

Patiently, as I sit, and wonder,

When the next spaceship will come

To pick me up...

And take me...

Through the rinse cycle...

Again.

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Various Weirdness

Chelsea Clinton orders Koran commentary?

TEHRAN (Reuters) - An Iranian newspaper said on Monday that U.S. President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, had ordered a 20-volume commentary on the Muslim holy book, the Koran, from the Islamic research center in Iran.

The daily Tehran Times quoted the head of the center, Kamal Faqih Imani, as saying Chelsea Clinton "had applied for a copy of the English version of the Koran exegesis...which was sent to her." He did not say how Chelsea had ordered the book.

Hunger strike over leaf-blower ban

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - It's hardly a cause most people would consider dying for, but 11 gardeners in Los Angeles feel so strongly about a city-wide ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers that they have gone on a hunger strike.

"What keeps us going is that we have justice and truth in our society and we are here for a righteous cause," Adrian Alvarez, one of the strikers, told reporters Monday.

The 11, most of them Mexican immigrants who make a living tending the gardens of the rich and sometimes famous in Los Angeles, have taken nothing but liquids since Saturday.

Aliens speak Croatian -- who'd have thought?

ZAGREB, Croatia (Reuters) - A peasant farmer chatted in Croatian to four aliens who landed in his field as he tended his cattle, Vecernji List daily has reported.

Jako Vrancic, a pensioner living near the coastal town of Sibenik, said the four extra-terrestrials landed quietly in an iron-shaped spacecraft next to the spot where he was working.

"I felt no fear, as I had previously seen things like this on TV," said the pensioner who is well liked in his village and described as an honest and down-to-earth man by his friends.

Vrancic said the aliens were quite short and had the frame of a child.

"We had no problem communicating as they spoke a broken form of Croatian," said Vrancic, adding that he had offered them ham and dried figs, but they refused and said they were not hungry.

Vandals decapitate Little Mermaid

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (Reuters) - Police divers were hunting on Tuesday for the head of the Little Mermaid statue on Copenhagen's wa-

terfront after vandals sawed it off overnight.

Police said the city's best-known landmark was decapitated with a grinding machine in the early hours of the morning and they had sent divers into the harbor in the hope of finding the head.

The Little Mermaid statue, based on a fairy tale by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, is visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists every year.

Since its erection in 1913, it has been daubed with paint several times but has only had its head removed once before, in 1964.

McFarlane's creation at Image. His name is Spawn, and as a character he has "spawned" numerous spin-offs, toys, and even a movie. But who draws Spawn today? Greg Capullo. Todd hasn't done Spawn since issue 25 and Spawn is getting into the 50's. Rob Liefeld alone has created over 10 new titles for image. Most of them have died before reaching 20...some of the most successful (ie. not dead yet) are Supreme and Youngblood. He has gotten a reputation of drawing a few issues, maybe just covers, and then leaving to start something new. He has no regular book.

I don't want to single out just these two guys. Many great comic book artists of our time (even some writers) have disappeared into either private projects or the marketing of their creations. As a writer Neil Gaiman is superb (Sandman, Books of Magic) but he has not written most of the books that still ride of the fame of his earlier work in a few YEARS. (he has a new comic, Stardust, out which is a wonderful project with Charles Vess drawing... it's beautiful)

So my advice to you fanboy (or fan-girl) is to get out there and read the good stuff...as always, but make sure that you are buying the work of genius and not some poor attempt to sell mediocre material in it's guise.

Thank you.
-Chairman of the Pulp Committee
Johnmeier

Who draws comics anymore?

Does anyone know that name of Todd McFarlane? How about Rob Liefeld? They are two comic book artists of high renown and have similar pasts. Both of them started out at Marvel Comics (big name, largest of the comic book fat cats) on small projects and worked their way up to work on regular books. They both worked on the best selling Marvel title groups: X-men books and Spiderman books. They brought life and a sense of pride back to these falling books... but what do they do once they are popular enough. They leave. Along with a few friends (mostly ARTIST and hardly any WRITERS) and start a new independant company, Image.

You might have heard of Todd

KGB Nothings

- Baba Yagá, accent on last 'a'
- for just \$5 homemade nut bread
- Shawn - SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP - love KGB
- "Bend over and I'll show you."
- No comment
- Nothing
- Kan't Grow Brain
 Kinda Green-Bluish
 Krazy Glue Bites
 Kapitalism Goes Boing
- Es gibt hier keine KGB-Nichten.
- Cool Party Activity : Find younger brother or sister with Tamagotchi. Kill it, dip it in oil, and deep fry it. When they ask you why their pet was deep fried, say that it was because their nutritional value

outweighed their love. Wait for them to discover the contradiction.
- Life is pain or maybe it's a jelly doughnut. What's the difference?
- Help, I'm Drowning in Fish.
(Reverse and upside down)
- Seven years of highly destructive KGB.
- ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE TO WORSHIP ROB SLATER'S ASS!
We love you
- KGB Nothing of Deja Vu
- "High Explosives and Snow Shovels do not mix."
- obray say ayway oolcay
- Shall we indulge in Rishathra?

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From the files of KGB:

The KGB Story (Part 2)

Circa 1993

In KGB, they don't need to live up to anyone else's standards of what they should be-- they are the clowns, and can behave exactly as they like. In an environment with as high a level of stress as CMU has, this is desperately needed.

"I think there's something very necessary about an organization dedicated to silliness, because of the CMU mystique," says Mike Gelman, KGB's current president, "There's a lot of pressure here, and its an important safety valve."

Jay agrees "[Forming KGB] was a chance to get together with people who were different, who didn't take everything at CMU so really seriously. It was just a chance for silliness."

KGB gives its membership a means by which to redirect their stress, however, sometimes this, too, can be destructive. For the first three years of its existence, one of the main goals of KGB was to participate in Spring Carnival.

During Spring Carnival, student organizations are encouraged to build game booths for the midway. These booths are then judged, and the winning booths get an awards.

The first year that it competed, KGB took fifth place and received the "Chairman's Choice Award," given to new organizations.

In its second and third years, Tom Strong, was a driving force behind KGB's booths, "The general idea [during the second year] was, 'Yeah, KGB should build a booth.' That became the temporary goal of the organization, 'To build booth and win,' and we built a booth and we won, I think a fraternity beat us by one point.

"Too many people wanted to try to do it again...enough people wanted to do it again that they formed a booth committee [the next year] and started the ball rolling. As opposed to what it had been before, when most of the organization was in favor of building it, it had started to become just a slight majority who were saying 'Yeah build it,' and not even all of them wanted to help.

Jim Zalenka also worked on the

third KGB booth. "When it actually became time to build the booth, many of the people who had made commitments before, who had expressed opinions on what booth should be like, and how it should be built, failed to show up to building session, which left the building in the hand of people who didn't agree with what was being done. There was a lot of resentment over that."

Tensions were running high. Friendships were strained and sometimes broken. General Meetings of the membership, which had, before, maintained an upbeat tone of restrained silliness, became grim and angry. Long debates over trivial or silly orders of business followed. These culminated in a forty-five minute debate over whether or not to buy a piece of computer equipment which would drain the entire treasury of its assets, making it impossible to complete booth. A number of people walked out angrily during the debate. In the end, it was determined that the equipment would actually cost more than the contents of the treasury, so the entire debate (which originally started as nothing more than a joke) had been for nothing.

Carnival came and went. An effort was made to finish booth, however most members lacked the enthusiasm of previous years. As a result KGB came in second to last. KGB had depleted its treasury, members of the booth-committee were over-worked trying to find time to both build booth and do their school work, and, for the first time in its history, KGB had become divided.

It was decided not to do booth again. The friction within the group was not worth the effort.

I talked with Mike Gelman about the period following the third booth, "A lot of what we did was focussed towards carnival. A lot of what we did in terms of more serious things, like fund-raising, was focussed so that we could have enough money to do booth. A lot of the drive went away, then booth became less important, so we've lost sort of a tangible goal and have gone to a more general goal of being a social organization.

"One of the things which we are trying to do now is supporting many things that, although its unlikely that one

person will want to go to all of them, there will be something for everyone.

"The direction which I want to see KGB going in, is back to the roots. We're doing this because we're funny people. We entertain ourselves and we entertain the world at large. We enjoy being funny, so we're going to be funny."

"I think the organization has changed radically in the last two years. I think its going to change radically in the next two years. I think that when we come back for our twenty-fifth reunions, and we go to see if KGB is still meeting, I think it'll still be there. I think the core idea of KGB is that we're here to have fun. That will always be with us. Even if KGB as an organization ceases to exist in the distant future, there will always be a KGB, even if its not called KGB."

With that he pauses for a moment, and then looks up, "Wow, that's mystical," he says with a smile.

KGB BEHIND IN SECRET SOCIETY WARS!!!

By : *****

(Note: All '*'s refer to terms deleted for security reasons.)

PITTSBURGH - ***** reports that KGB is behind in the secret society wars. "In fact," ***** says, "KGB isn't even in the rankings this year."

This comes as a suprise just weeks before the secret society awards. "For one thing, KGB's status as a recognized organization has really hampered their position this year." ***** cites that ***** and ***** ***** , members of KGB, have actually been working for the *** and ***, respectively.

Critics, however, have different ideas. ***** of the ***** Press, hypothesizes that the KGB is planning on a big bash at this awards ceremony. "It fits perfectly into their profile," he says. "What better to apex their career as a secret society than some complex plan for the awards ceremony?"

***** ***** , member of the CMU-based organization, declined comment. "Don't worry about it, we're taking care of everything," ***** said. "Trust us."

Continued...

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Give us thirty minutes, and we'll give you the weird.

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Your essential KGB calendar

Submitted by : Barbara King

Birthdays

January

- 1 - Helena McGahagan
- 2 - Isaac Asimov
- 3 - J.R.R.Tolkien
- 4 - Jacob Grimm
Louis Braille
- 5 - Umberto Eco
- 6 - Sherlock Holmes
- 8 - Elvis Presley
Stephen Hawking
Ross Knepper
- 17 - Ben Schmidt
- 19 - Edgar Allen Poe
Shafeeq Sinnamohideen
John Meier
- 21 - Todd Zimnoch
- 25 - Lawrence Solomon
Jo Flasher
- 27 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- 29 - W.C. Fields
- 30 - Jarrett Carberry

February

- 2 - Carrie Schutrick
- 7 - Charles Dickens
Lorelei Laird
- 8 - Fred Zeleny
Jason Grosman
- 11 - Thomas Edison
- 12 - Abraham Lincoln
Charles Darwin
- 14 - Joy Appel
- 15 - Kevin Vicklund
- 18 - Marc Gabriele
Mark Twain

Events

January is National Yours Mine and Ours Month

- 1 - Season of Chaos begins (Discordian)
- 2 - Run it up the Flagpole and See if Anybody Salutes it Day
- 4 - Get out Your Boxer Shorts Day
- 6 - Mungday (Discordian)
- 7 - Sekhmet
National Pass Gas Day
- 9 - Virgin Sacrifice Day
Play God Day
- 10 - Peculiar People Day
- 12 - Show and Tell Day at Work
National Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friend Day
- 15 - Procrastinator's New Year
- 16 - National Nothing Day
- 21 - National Hugging Day
- 22 - Answer Your Cat's Question Day
- 28 - National Blueberry Pancake Day
- 30 - Yodel For Your Neighbors Day

2nd week in January is Someday We'll Laugh About This Week
Last week in January is International Green Week

February is International Twit Award Month

- 5 - National Chocolate Fondue Day
- 7 - National Run For Your Life Day
National Hangover Awareness Day
- 13 - Dump Your Significant Jerk Day
- 16 - Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 18 - Chaosflux (Discordian)

2nd week in February is Love May Make the World Go 'Round, But Laughter
Keeps us From Getting Dizzy Week
3rd week in February is National Condom Week

The submitter claims no truth to any of these events and days.
However, I did not make any of them up.
Source: <http://www.dailyglobe.com/day2day.html>

