



# The Restriction Digest

## G.S.A. Newsletter

a publication of the  
Graduate Student Association  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Volume 15

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October 2004

### GSA News

By Krishna Juluri

I would like to take some time again to update you on the latest happenings at the GSA. In the past two months we had a number of events to welcome the new graduate student class – the largest one to date at over 150 students – through a number of orientation events. We had a panel of GSA members discuss a variety of issues relevant to student life during the orientation, followed by a tour of the campus and a happy hour for new students and their big sibs. We also provided a free trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore for new students in early October and most recently we had a large cook-out for the entire graduate student community.

Last month we saw the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Office of Graduate Student Affairs (OGSA). In honor of this milestone, the GSA and OGSA held a reception in the PCTB Courtyard, in which Dr. James Hildreth (the former dean of graduate students) and Dr. Peter Maloney (the current dean of graduate students) were presented with plaques in recognition of their great service to the graduate student community at the SOM.

In the next few months, the GSA has a number of exciting events planned for the students.

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### GSA Events

#### Halloween

#### Masquerade Ball

Friday, October 29, 2004

8 pm – 1 am

Evergreen Carriage House

#### Teacher of the Year Lecture

Dr. King Wai Yau

Thursday, November 11, 2004

3 – 4 pm

Location: TBA

#### Habitat for Humanity Community Service Event

Saturday, November 13, 2004

8 am – 3:30 pm

See ad for details

Contact: Rebekah Zihn

#### Environmental Cleanup Community Service Event

Saturday, December 11, 2004

9 am – 1 pm

See ad for details (page 9)

Contact: Charmaine Dahlenburg

#### Future Events:

Wine Tasting, late November/  
early December

Ice Skating in Patterson Park,  
December

### *The Importance of Being Ernest Dowson*

Welcome back, esteemed readers, to this decidedly non-academic portion of the Restriction Digest. Two months have passed since I last rambled for seventeen paragraphs beyond where most of you stopped reading, but as the intrepid subject of Her Majesty that my English parents raised me to be, here I am again. Where are you, exactly, and, with a nod to Bill O'Reilly, what are you wearing?

Be cool; Stay in school.

Yes, two months have indeed gone by, and in that short time, the latest additions to our graduate student body have suffered through their first exams. Some, it is said, have passed. But pain belongs not to the first-years alone. Since September, not all of the upperclasspersons have enjoyed the most halcyon of days, either. How many papers have been rejected, proposals shredded, and cultures contaminated, I cannot tell. What I can tell, though, is that numerous first-years and advanced students alike are cursing themselves for letting their fathers fill out those graduate school applications and send them in—forms, essays, fees and all. It seemed like such a grand idea back then...but now?

To those of you in that unen-

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The first of these is the Alicia Showalter-Reynolds Memorial Lecture which will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October from 2:30-3:30 in the Wood Basic Science Auditorium. Our speaker this year is Dr. Cynthia Kenyon, the Herbert Boyer Professor of Biophysics and Biochemistry from UCSF. Dr. Kenyon studies the molecular mechanisms that determine lifespan in *C. elegans*. She discovered that by knocking out the *daf2* gene (which is an IGF-1/insulin-like receptor), the lifespan of the worms was doubled. This was later shown to regulate lifespan in flies and mice as well. When reproductive cells and *daf2* were manipulated, the lifespan of the worms are increased by six times. Her studies in the determinants of lifespan now include mitochondrial and reproductive pathways, the insulin signaling pathway, and caloric restriction. She is also cofounder of a company, Elixer Pharmaceuticals, which is working to identify compounds that can act on pathways involved in expanding lifespan.

The next event will be on the evening of October 29<sup>th</sup> – the Halloween Masquerade Ball – which is a combined event with the Medical Student Society and School of Nursing. This event will take place at the Evergreen Carriage House on Charles Street near Loyola College and will feature catered food, an open bar serving a variety of drinks, and DJ. This is the second year we are participating in this event and it is expected to include about 400 people from the three schools. Look for flyers and ticket sales to begin soon.

Other events include the Teacher of the Year Lecture, “My Journey as a Scientist and What I Have Learned from It” to be given by Dr. King-Wai Yau in early November. In addition look for the return of our popular wine tasting seminar in late November, which will feature wines from different parts of the world, as well as community service opportunities we will have close to the holidays.

Finally, I would like to conclude by inviting you to submit to us your ideas or concerns. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings which occur on the third Tuesday of each month at 3 PM in the 1830 building, suite 2-108. In addition, you can email us at gsa-g@jhmi.edu with any of your questions or concerns.

Sandtown Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing organization in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore with the purpose of rebuilding the vacant housing in Sandtown, increasing homeownership and improving the health of the community. By having affluent and poor, black and white, urban and suburban working together in partnership, Habitat serves to build new relationships and an increased sense of community as well as new homes. Sandtown Habitat rehabilitates and builds houses in partnership with the homeowners using mostly volunteer labor and private funding, selling the completed homes at cost to low-income families on a 20-year mortgage with no interest. Payments go into a revolving fund which in turn helps to finance other homes in the community.

## We need volunteers to help build houses in West Baltimore with the Sandtown Habitat for Humanity.

Saturday, November 13th  
8:30am- 3:30pm

Please contact Rebekah Zinn (rzinn1@jhmi.edu) if you are interested.

Because space is limited, we will only be able to take the first 10 people who contact me. Also, volunteers are required to commit to the whole day.



### *Poetry and Grants*

*By Catherine Will*

*Down to the deadline*

*Walkin' a fine line*

*Between stand and fall*

*Focus your thoughts now*

*The decision is not your call*

*Share you mind*

*Give it all to critical review*

*Just taking the chance*

*Shows you do the dance*

*Of only a courageous few*

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viable position of doubt and despair: Hang in there! Remember why you came to graduate school in the first place. Or, if you had no particular reason other than not having a job and wanting to make your parents happy, at least make up something reasonable-sounding and stick with it. You can do it! The world of science needs you! Did you know, for instance, that there's only one HIV researcher for every AIDS victim in the United States? It's even worse for so many other diseases. With your help, and John Kerry's, we can do better than that. In the meantime, allow me to refresh you with several fine pladoyers for graduate school.

1. Finances. Resist the urge to laugh; I'll explain. I know you must think your stipend a rather paltry excuse for income. But as an ancient veteran of this system, I have seen stipends rise, especially in the past decade, at rates far outstripping any economic growth. In the past four years alone, graduate stipends have risen by a cumulative 25%...and this in the middle of a recession. Has pay in any other sector of the economy enjoyed such dramatic advances? Stipends, once meant simply to keep students alive, are now sufficient for the financially savvy scientist to stay alive *and* buy a new pair of shoes every year.

But generous pay increases are not all. Consider also the tax benefits. The top 50% of wage earners in this country pay about 96% of the taxes. And guess what? Unless you are like me and harvest exorbitant sums in dividends, etc. (a perk of playing the market since 1921), you're still in the bottom 50% of wage earners. And that means lower taxes. This is especially valuable when you consider the total value of your financial aid package...tuition, fees, insurance and stipend...which, if reported, would easily place you in that top 50%.

There's much more, but I won't belabor my point. For example, I would guess that at least half of the domestic students still receive substantial (and again unreported) support from their parents (cars, rent, monetary gifts, etc.). If they were not students, and had jobs, would their parents still feel as generous? Also, consider the benefits of student loan deferment: in some cases, thousands of dollars over the typical eight-year graduate student career. Unless you can find a job paying well upwards of \$60,000, it's smart to stick around the bench.

2. Sectarian comradery. As a foreign national, I don't consider this point to be particularly salient, but I include it anyway. Aside from a political campaign, where can you find another workplace where you don't have to be bothered with different viewpoints and everyone is in complete agreement politically? Well, maybe not "complete:" there is the occasional heated cafeteria argument about whether US troops should withdraw from Iraq immediately or, instead, three months from now. A few days ago, I heard two professors shouting at each other in the Daily Grind. One of them apparently thought that \$5 trillion would be enough to ensure some sort of potential clinical application for ES cells by 2010. The other was adamant

that any politician who didn't pledge at least \$10 trillion was anti-science. So, yes, there are disagreements. But let's face it: everyone here is a Democrat or somewhere further leftwards (like me and most of my fellow internationals). Everyone, that is, except for this guy I saw in the rat tunnel last week, shuffling along with his head down and shoulders slumped, avoiding eye contact with everyone. "Why so glum?" I asked him. It turned out that he was the Lone Republican about whom I (and, no doubt, you) had heard several vague rumours, none of which I ever believed. So he does exist; actually meeting him was anticlimactic, though. He wouldn't even respond when I taunted him about Dick Cheney's daughter being gay. This retro right-winger was despondent because his adviser, he said, had just called him a wimp and an idiot for holding his antediluvian political beliefs. But what would he expect? Serves him right, right?

3. Vacation. "What vacation?" you ask. Let me tell you. If you had secured a (rare) job at a biotech firm just out of college, with your freshly-minted biology BS on the wall, how much paid vacation time would you get every year? The answer varies, of course, but typically not more than one week. Perhaps two weeks at an enlightened company, in addition to official holidays, but that's about it until you've accumulated some seniority.

Now: consider your current position. How much paid vacation time are you allowed? Interestingly (a word sadly underused in scientific publications)<sup>1</sup>, *there are no firm guidelines!* It all depends on your PI. And today's PI has just a shadow of the power s/he once had with regards to personnel decisions. I once knew a PI back in the '50s who fired a close friend of mine for taking off half a day to plan that same PI's surprise birthday party. That sort of behavior just doesn't fly today. And even if your PI gets you to leave the lab, unless you've engaged in scientific misconduct, you can stay at the university and find a more progressive adviser. Which brings me back to vacation. The PI will often cajole and tease and threaten and anecdotalize about hard-working graduate students of the past; but when push comes to shove, I see that many of my colleagues finish the year with well over a month's worth of vacation every year. This is partly due to the fact that most PIs aren't around most of the time to check up on people. In rare cases, a student will spend up to three months away in one year. And all of this is paid. You receive your stipend whether you take two weeks of vacation or two months. It's not fair, but it's true.

Conferences constitute an additional matter of interest. Is a conference work? Or is it vacation? For me and for many others, both students and PIs, it's vacation. The next time you're at a meeting with, say, 800 attendees, count heads at one of the plenary sessions. You might count 150 or 250, but rarely more (except during the keynote speeches). Often, less than a quarter of participants are present at any given time. Instead, they are at the beach, on the slopes, or in the bars.

Yes, my friends, it's a grand life, this science thing:

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# JHMI Professional Development Office Upcoming Events

## JHMI Internship/Fellowship Fair

Date: October 27, 2004  
Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Place: Turner Concourse

The Professional Development Office is sponsoring an Internship/Fellowship Fair on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The purpose of this event is to introduce our medical/graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to the wide range of internships and fellowships available to M.D.'s/Ph.D.'s in the sciences.

### Organizations that will be represented:

AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship Programs  
AAAS Mass Media Fellowships  
American Society for Engineering Education  
The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore  
JHU, Licensing & Technology Development  
Kellogg Scholars in Health Disparities  
Maryland Science Center  
McKinsey & Company  
National Research Council of the National Academies  
National Science Foundation  
Nature Publishing Group  
The President's Commission on White House Fellowships

\*NIH Office of Technology Transfer (will be represented by Heather Bakalyar of the JHU Office of Technology Transfer)

\*\*Come have coffee with previous recipients of fellowships to learn tips for applying.

Date: October 27, 2004  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Tilghman Auditorium

For more information contact the PDO at  
(410) 502-2804  
or  
jhmipdo@jhmi.edu.

## Panel Discussion: "Obtaining an Academic Job"

Date: Thursday November 4  
Time: 5- 6:30 p.m. (reception to follow)  
Place: PreClinical Teaching Building, West Lecture Hall

The purpose of this panel is twofold: to provide graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with information about different types of academic positions; and to provide advice about obtaining these positions. Panelists will represent review committee members as well as new faculty from a range of academic institutions, including: a research intensive institution, a large teaching institution, and a small liberal arts college.

## Panel Discussion: "Government Jobs for Scientists"

Date: Thursday, December 2  
Time: 4 - 5:30 (reception to follow)  
Place: PreClinical Teaching Building, West Lecture Hall

This panel will provide information about the range of government positions open to PhDs in science, as well as providing insight into how to obtain these positions. Speakers will represent a number of government agencies, including Peace Corps, FDA, FBI, CIA and scientific societies, etc.

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**YOURS FOR THE TAKING**

Who said there's no such thing as free money?

As you may recall from our introductory article in the August edition of the *Restriction Digest*, the School of Medicine Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Johns Hopkins Medical and Surgical Association work specifically with constituents of the School of Medicine. The JHU Alumni Association however, works with constituents of all eight divisions of the university. We partner with them on a number of initiatives including the ever-so-popular discount cards and the Grant Programs.

Each year the JHU Alumni Association hands out over \$40,000 in support of student programs at all eight University divisions through its Student Services and Community Service Grant Programs. Student Services funding supports campus events, activities and programs that involve all university divisions to pro-

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# SAP CORNER

## Sleep Hygiene Student Assistance Program

- ❖ Do you find yourself tossing and turning?
- ❖ Does your mind race and go through everything that happened during the day, or think about what you have to do tomorrow?
- ❖ Are you easily disturbed by night noises?

*Sleep disruption is common, especially during times when you may feel emotionally overwhelmed. Anxiety, relentless replaying of the day's events, and heightened emotions may significantly interfere with your sleep. Lack of sleep robs you of needed rest, making management of your daily routine more difficult. Bringing sleep patterns under control and working at a consistent, stable pattern is very important for your emotional and intellectual well being. You need your rest. Poor sleep habits (referred to as hygiene) are among the most common problems encountered in our society. We stay up too late and get up too early. We interrupt our sleep with drugs, chemicals and work, and we overstimulate ourselves with late-night activities such as television. Nothing is more frustrating than not being able to sleep. Paying attention to good sleep hygiene is the most important thing you can do to maintain good sleep.*

Below are some essentials of good sleep habits. Many of these points will seem like common sense. But it is surprising how many of these important points are ignored by many of us. There are several important factors that influence our sleeping patterns, among them, the two most important are your personal sleeping habits and your sleeping environment.

Some tips on healthy sleep habits:

**Fix a bedtime and an awakening time.** Do not be one of those people who allows bedtime and awakening time to drift. The body “gets used” to falling asleep at a certain time, but only if this is relatively fixed.

**Avoid napping during the day.** If you nap throughout the day, it is no wonder that you will not be able to sleep at night. The late afternoon for most people is a “sleepy time.” Many people will take a nap at that time. This is generally not a bad thing to do, provided you limit the nap to 30–45 minutes and can sleep well at night.

**Avoid alcohol 4-6 hours before bedtime.** Many people believe that alcohol helps them sleep. While alcohol

has an immediate sleep-inducing effect, a few hours later as the alcohol levels in your blood start to fall, there is a stimulant or wake-up effect.

**Avoid caffeine 4-6 hours before bedtime.** This includes caffeinated beverages such as coffee, tea and many sodas, as well as chocolate, so be careful.

**Avoid heavy, spicy, or sugary foods 4-6 hours before bedtime.** These can affect your ability to stay asleep.

**Exercise regularly, but not right before bed.** Regular exercise, particularly in the afternoon, can help deepen sleep. Strenuous exercise within the 2 hours before bedtime, however, can decrease your ability to fall asleep.

Tips on a healthy sleep environment:

**Use comfortable bedding.** Uncomfortable bedding can prevent good sleep. Evaluate whether or not this is a source of your problem, and make appropriate changes.

**Find a comfortable temperature setting for sleeping and keep the room well ventilated.** If your bedroom is too cold or too hot, it can keep you awake. A cool (not cold) bedroom is often the most conducive to sleep.

**Block out all distracting noise,** and eliminate as much light as possible. If there is a high level of noise outside of the house or apartment, white noise machines or soft music can help neutralize some of these external distractions.

**Reserve the bed for sleep.** Don't use the bed as an office, workroom or recreation room. Let your body “know” that the bed is associated with sleeping. And avoid falling asleep on the couch or recliner.

*If you have noticed your sleeping to be an ongoing problem in addition to other notable disruptions, including changes in your weight or appetite, depressed or anxious mood, or difficulty with attention and concentration at work or in your leisure activities, depression or other mental health factors are a possible source of the problem. Contact your personal physician or schedule an appointment with the Student Assistance Program for confidential help in identifying the source of your sleep disruption. For more information about this topic, please feel free to contact the Student Assistance Program (SAP) at (410) 955-1220 or visit our website at [www.jhu.edu/sap](http://www.jhu.edu/sap).*

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some of us have more paid vacation time than anyone outside of France...and when we're on vacation, we sometimes even get compensated for our expenses.

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To recap, we all want out on occasion. But we're practically trapped in graduate school, and it's really not that bad. We're in a lower tax bracket, we get lots of vacation time, and we rarely have to deal with someone who doesn't share our political beliefs.

#### Endorsements

Speaking of which, many of you have contacted me by email since my last column, inquiring as to which Presidential candidate<sup>2</sup> I would endorse in the looming election. Could it be that some of you have not made up your minds? I remind you that I, as a British subject, cannot vote and out of good taste and respect for your silly electoral process should not endorse either pathetic candidate. Fortunately for you, I do not languish under an excess of good taste. Nor do I have much respect for processes, except the procedure for getting into the House of Lords. Therefore,<sup>3</sup> I shall indeed endorse a candidate, here in this very column. However, allow me first to explain how I went about making my own decision.

I did *not* arrive at a conclusion based on science. While many of you feel that Kerry is a better friend of science than Bush, or at least talks a better science talk than Bush, I am skeptical. Anyone who claims that embryonic stem-cell research will cure paralysis and maybe even end Alzheimer's and Parkinson's when Kerry is elected (as running mate John Edwards did a few weeks ago), is a friend science can do without. That kind of talk raises expectations, and pumping up public hope is a bad thing. We all know we can't deliver on such promises. Plus, even if we could, would we want to? Science needs monumentally devastating bogeydiseases as enemies, but long-term and fairly vague strategies to fight them. This is the lucrative route, with millions per lab for an indefinite time and little pressure for immediate results. Take the search for the HIV vaccine, which has been at least as fruitless (and probably futile) as SETI. Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant: billions of dollars for the science industry; tens of thousands of free vacations for scientists. In any case, neither Bush nor Kerry can have a tremendous impact on science either way, since funding decisions (not to mention expansion of the stem cell policy) have to go through Congress anyway. This is not North Korea, where one man calls the shots. As such, I won't endorse a candidate based on science alone.

So if not science, then what? As some of you know, I was trained as a poet, wine and roses and all that, at Oxford if I want to be specific and simultaneously name-drop.<sup>4</sup> Science is more of a hobby of mine, and I've become more passionate about it as I've aged, particularly after reaching my nineties. Still, I have never quite left the world of letters behind, even though this has unfortunately not had much of a positive impact on my writing style.

In my long life, I have come to the realization that whatever you need to know about others can be found in their writing styles. This is bad news for me, of course, and demonstrates why I am bitter and lonely. But it was potentially good news for the candidate I would choose to support. What better way to separate W the Wetard and Kerry the Kadaver than by engaging in a close reading of their respective literary oeuvres? In other words, getting all comp-lit on they asses. So that's what I did.

George W. Bush

I began my literary journey like so many others before me: by taking vacation from lab and riding the train to New Haven, Connecticut, the home of a little-known but respectable school called Yale. The university is situated in the midst of a drug- and crime-infested neighborhood, so I felt right at home during my stay. Right at home, but ultimately disappointed, for my search was as fruitless as the hunt for the HIV vaccine.

"Fruitless," I can hear you saying, "because that idiot Bush doesn't even know how to write." Here you are wrong, my friend. George W. Bush is a figure of legend in a literary community of New Haven. Graduates of Yale have spread his literary fame to the four corners of the world. But in their appetite for his works, his fans have destroyed them. I was to find that his masterpiece, sadly, was too ephemeral for this sphere. Perhaps too good for us?

Most accounts place the President at "Deke" during his stay at Yale; however, this was just his cover fraternity. As my research uncovered, Mr. Bush was a member and resident of Omega Ypsilon Lambda, known better as "OYL." This until-now secret fraternity was erected by the Saudis, who also paid the brothers an otherworldly stipend in exchange for swearing unending fealty to the Saudis themselves *and* to Satan. Except in the hypothetical case where the Saudis and Satan would have diverging interests: then, the brothers were expected to toe the Saudi line. After the gravity of Saudi soul-selling and so forth, you might think the fraternity was a somber place. But it wasn't. It was the most rollicking frat in New Haven, bar none. In this family-oriented publication, I can't even mention some of the things that went on in that house of fun and oil profits.

The centerpiece of the fraternity, though, was the literary talent of George W. Bush. In the midst of each orgiastic party, whether late on a Tuesday night or early on a Sunday morning, young W would climb to the top of the oil-rig statue in the ballroom, wait for the carousing to ebb, and then from his precarious perch recite his latest lines of poetry. Some of it praised the subjugation of the environment, or of the middle and lower classes. Some of his works were bawdy, following faintly the Italian commedia dell'arte tradition. And sometimes, his poetry rose to a level of structured incoherence that only the most perceptive could pierce to find the frighteningly devilish genius contained within. At the end of each recitation, though, he would

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fling his page to the floor. Someone would pick it up and place a lighted cigarette or something more interesting against it, and it would go up in smoke, never to be heard again. And Bush would jump down, into the arms of his gleeful admirers.

What was left to salvage, then? There was one place seemingly beyond the reach of destruction where Bush recorded his muse-inspired musings: the bathroom stall. One stall in the communal bathroom was designated for the Poet Laureate of OYL. And on the back of the stall door, several hundred lines of poetry were scratched into the paint or penned indelibly onto the surface. It was an epic work, a lyric of war and smoke and fecal matter, of Rose Gardens and romance, a tale of pride and profit. Was it finished, you ask? Is a work of art ever finished? When Bush moved on after graduation, his successors at the fraternity marveled at his masterpiece. They memorized some lines, but only snatches. And as they passed their fingers over the lines, they began to disappear.

With modern image analysis techniques, I suspected that I could reconstruct the entire piece. I determined to enter OYL and, if possible, retrieve the door. I knew that the Saudi guards would kill me if they didn't want me there, but I found them surprisingly receptive to my mission. Sadly, during the previous week, a renovation team had done some work in the bathroom and had, contrary to orders, violated the sacred stall. It had been replaced with a shiny new faux-marble monstrosity, devoid of poetry and art. The poet's perch had been sent to some landfill, forever lost. The contractors, of course, were executed. But the damage was done and the epic was gone.

I am thusly forced into neutrality on Bush's writing. On the one hand, I hear of his sensitivity; boldness and subtlety intermingled in his poetry; literary greatness unrealized. On the other, so many of his countrypersons deem him an unlettered boor. And I, left without any reliable copy of his works, am rendered unable to judge.

John F. Kerry

I had difficulties reconstructing Bush's oeuvre, and have had to admit failure. Surely John F. Kerry's writings are easier to find. Kerry has a long record of public service, and before that a record as a lawyer. But there are problems attendant to compiling Kerry's works as well. A man with such power, for so long, rarely writes on his own. Anything he does publish has gone through numerous hands and exhibits the marks of multiple authorship. For example, I find it easy to scoff at one of his recent publications. As international terrorism coiled to strike, John F. Kerry published a tome meant to establish his international relations bona fides. What did he

see as the number one threat to the international order? The Japanese *Yakuza*. One could really die laughing. Then again, I realize that John F. Kerry may very well not have written that particular passage. So where can we find his own writing?

To unearth the essence of John Kerry, literary figure, I went back to the early '70s, to a time when Kerry had rich friends, but did not yet boast a staff of personal writers. It was during the time after he returned from his four-month stint in Vietnam, disillusioned with the war and wishing the US would just let the Communists be.

At that troubled time in US political life, John F. Kerry penned a little work and entitled it "The New Soldier." It consisted of a foreword and afterword, both apparently written by Kerry, sandwiching a compilation of individual war crimes charges written and contributed by soldiers and veterans of Vietnam. Actually, most of these individuals were not real soldiers or veterans, but rather professional activists, and most of the stories they tell of US crimes against the peace-loving Communists are demonstrably false. Kerry's willingness to throw in his lot with this desperate crew all by itself speaks volumes for his stature as an artist. He clearly understood the potential beauty of the lie, of futility. Give this man a point!

I score a second point for Kerry's artistic genius when I view the whimsical cover of his tract. A group of long-haired and bearded men have raised an upside-down American flag. Clearly a play on the famous World War II Iwo Jima photo of the imperialist American war criminals raising their flag atop Mount Suribachi after killing so many peace-loving Japanese soldiers, this artwork once again shows Kerry's artistic flair and his nuanced understanding of patriotic duty. Sometimes, you have to denigrate your country and its achievements. Sometimes, you must destroy your country's aims and goals so that it can recover. As noted literary critic and international relations expert KRS-One recently observed, "America must commit suicide if the world is to be a better place."<sup>5</sup>

For Kerry and his group, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), these issues were not merely academic. In a closed session in the fall of November, 1971, the VVAW made plans to exhibit their love of country by assassinating six US Senators, including the eminently disposable Strom Thurmond. In an oh-so-rare moment of weakness (and betrayal of his artistic impulses), Kerry sided against the plot, but he at least had the sense not to alert any of the capitalist-imperialist-racist authorities to the conspiracy. Kerry also showed his trademark magnanimity and tolerance by not holding his difference in proposed tactics against his comrades on

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mote the overall student experience at Hopkins, while Community Service Grant dollars underwrite student community service initiatives. Last spring alone, a total of \$22,123 was awarded to 27 of the 34 student groups who applied for funding – that’s an 80% success rate for those who took the time to do their homework and fill out the form.

Applications for either of these two grant programs are accepted in both the fall and spring, so if you miss one deadline you haven’t waved goodbye to the opportunity for good. Grant applications are submitted directly to JHU’s Central Alumni Office up at Homewood, but either Sheri Kurman or Cheryll Glab in the SOM Alumni Office is happy to review any applications prior to submission. We’re more reliable than spell check and can provide you with some suggestions that may make the difference between no bucks and big bucks (well, at least decent bucks!).

Interested in learning more? Want to download an application? Visit [www.alumni.jhu.edu](http://www.alumni.jhu.edu) and click on “Services for Students” on the left hand side of the screen. You can also feel free to contact either Sheri or Cheryll at (410) 516-3797 or [JHMalumni@jhmi.edu](mailto:JHMalumni@jhmi.edu).

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP  
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

It’s that time again to start preparing for another Fort McHenry field day. Come help us clean up debris from the wetland located adjacent to Fort McHenry National Monument and Shrine December 11th 9am-1pm. Just some things to remember:

1. Event is rain or shine
2. Registration/Release form must be filled out and faxed/mailed or emailed back to me before the event.
3. You must bring your own lunch
4. Beverages/snacks provided
5. We have a limited supply of boots and gloves. If you have your own please bring them; if not, you are more than welcome to use ours.

Thank you! I hope to hear from you soon!

Charmaine Dahlenburg  
Conservation Technician  
Pier 3/501 East Pratt Street  
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a personal level; he continued to represent the VVAW for another six months as popular support turned against the war, culminating eventually in Nixon’s signing of peace accords in Kerry’s favorite city, Paris. For his tireless work against the war, John F. Kerry was given a coveted position in the Vietnamese war museum, honored as a friend of Communism. What more could any poet want?

And yet...to be honest, I didn’t find anything particularly striking in Kerry’s writing itself. Actually, it’s worse: his writing was nearly as bad as mine. Take, *exempla gratia*, this ridiculous concluding line: he won’t return to war unless the American people “decide for themselves that we must all of us go.” So, minus two points, and BushKerry are tied.

The Endorsement

At long last, here’s my endorsement: Ralph Nader. I have become a big fan. He has written numerous books, and he writes them himself. This is because he often stays up all night, much like a good graduate student. My colleagues, Bush won’t win Maryland. I encourage you to vote your conscience. Vote Nader. (Or the Socialist candidate.)

Happy elections,  
Ernest Dowson  
[ernestdowsonjh@hotmail.com](mailto:ernestdowsonjh@hotmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> Along with “significantly,” “intriguingly,” and “ominously”...well, maybe not “ominously”, but anyway, with such drama on PubMed, why does anyone need television?

<sup>2</sup> George Bush? Presidential?

<sup>3</sup> Another common science writing word, slightly edging out “albeit,” which is not surprising considering that only 48% of scientists believe the latter is a word.

<sup>4</sup> And I do!

<sup>5</sup> I paraphrase, of course, since Mr. One’s utterance was probably much more pithy.



## HOPKINS BIOTECH NETWORK

The Hopkins Biotech Network (HBN) is an organization created and run by students to foster an entrepreneurial spirit within the Hopkins community and help bridge the gap between academia and industry. We provide a forum for our members, mostly students, to learn from leaders in the field of biotechnology and to network with industry professionals. HBN is less than two years old, and has experienced prolific growth. Our membership now stands at 1300 people and we have held 24 events. Many students, however, are still unaware of who we are and what we do. Allow me to explain briefly.

HBN was founded by two graduate students, Aditya Polsani and Joshua Groman, in January 2003 and encompassed three Hopkins campuses: East Baltimore, Homewood, and Montgomery County. In July 2004, the organization transitioned to a new leadership team consisting mostly of graduate students at the different campuses served. Our membership consists of graduate students, postdocs, alumni, faculty, and industry professionals outside Hopkins. An advisory board of faculty members and industry professionals provides support and guidance to the team of students leading the organization.

The HBN Seminar Series has presented many prominent figures in the biotechnology field including entrepreneurs, industry experts, and renown academics. This list includes Biotechnology Industry Organization President Carl Feldbaum, JHU President and former entrepreneur William Brody, and stem cell pioneer John Gearhart. Some of our most popular talks were given by CEOs, such as Craig Smith, and other entrepreneurs who share their experiences of starting successful biotech companies and offer advice to students thinking about transitioning from basic science to business endeavors. Career advice from people like Dr. Jay Markowitz, who made a drastic career transition from a transplant surgeon at Hopkins to a biotech analyst for T. Rowe Price, has also been valuable to our members. To keep abreast of the ethical and regulatory considerations of emerging life sciences technologies, we have also invited leading figures in bioethics. Dr. Francis Fukuyama discussed the governance of biotechnology at an HBN Seminar last April. In November, HBN is hosting Dr. Leon Kass, currently the Chairman of the President's Bioethics Council for the Bush Administration. His talk is titled "Ageless Bodies, Happy Souls: Biotechnology and the Pursuit of Happiness", which

should provide interesting insight into the progress of biotechnology. In addition to seminars, other services provided by HBN include job postings, industry profiles, career information, alumni interviews, and more.

Networking, Networking, Networking. We've heard over and over that this is central to building contacts and finding a job, in either academia or industry. HBN seminars provide a venue for students and faculty to interact with alumni and industry professionals in similar areas of interest. In a recent *Naturejobs* **430**, 812 - 813 (12 August 2004), HBN was highlighted, among similar student organizations at other universities, as a forum for students to learn about the industry and network among other biotech professionals.

For students interested in a career in industry, or learning how to collaborate effectively with industry from an academic position, HBN may be a valuable resource. Membership is free, and benefits include access to job postings and career information, notification of all HBN events as well as other regional biotech related events and networking opportunities.

For more information about Hopkins Biotech Network, or to become a member, please visit [www.hopkinsbiotechnetwork.org](http://www.hopkinsbiotechnetwork.org). If you are interested in getting more involved with the organization (help with events, initiatives, or be part of next year's executive board), please contact Blanka Sharma at [bsharma\\_hbn@yahoo.com](mailto:bsharma_hbn@yahoo.com).

### UPCOMING EVENT:

**Title:** "Ageless Bodies, Happy Souls: Biotechnology and the Pursuit of Happiness."

**Speaker:** Dr. Leon Kass, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of President's Bioethics Council. Other Affiliations: Addie Clark Harding Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, Hertog Fellow in Social Thought at the American Enterprise Institute,.

**Date:** November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Time:** Seminar at 3:00pm, Reception to follow at 4:30pm

**Location:** Arellano Theatre (below Glass Pavilion), reception to follow in Glass Pavilion, Homewood Campus

## THE GRADUATE AND MEDICAL JEWISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Description of group: The Graduate and Medical Jewish Student Association (JSA) organizes cultural, religious, social, educational, and political programming. We seek to present awareness of Judaism and encourage interaction between graduate and medical students from the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Hygiene, Nursing and the Homewood campus. Post-docs, residents, and faculty frequently participate in our programs. We have also started to coordinate programming with graduate students from the other universities in Baltimore.

Any student from Johns Hopkins University is welcome at our events though we tailor the advertising to the post-undergraduate crowd specifically. If you are interested to receive emails with weekly events, please contact Charles Fisher [cfisher@bme.jhu.edu](mailto:cfisher@bme.jhu.edu).

**\*\*\*Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CHALLAHWEEN PARTY**  
7:00pm-2:00am at The Camden Pub  
647 W. Pratt Street  
\$5 cover

Join the Graduate Students as we party at the Pub. Costume Contests, Karaoke, Door Prizes, kosher munchies, and Happy Hour prices. Bring all of your friends, come, hang out and begin the weekend a little early! \$2 domestic beers and \$3 import beers. This event is co-sponsored by Hillel of Greater Baltimore's Graduate Services Program and JAM (The Young Adult Group at the JCC).

Questions? contact Alison 510-516-4384 or [Alisonw@jhu.edu](mailto:Alisonw@jhu.edu). Don't forget to take home a free Challah at the end of the night!

**\*\*\*Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
12noon-2:00pm  
Lunch with a visiting professor from Ben Gurion

University, **Dr. Jeff Gordon**  
On the JHMI Campus; location TBA

### **\*\*\*New Hebrew speaking club**

If you are interested in learning how to and to practice speaking in Hebrew please contact [Alisonw@jhu.edu](mailto:Alisonw@jhu.edu).

**\*\*\*Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**JSA Happy Hour**  
Location TBA

**\*\*\*Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**David Gilbert**, Middle East Correspondent for CBS News, will be speaking about the Arab-Israeli conflict.  
7:00pm University of Maryland, Baltimore  
Exact location, TBA

For more information, please contact Alison 410-516-4384 or [alisonw@jhu.edu](mailto:alisonw@jhu.edu)

**\*\*\*Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**JSA Annual Hanukkah Party**

Join JSA as we celebrate the Jewish festival of lights at our annual Hanukkah Party. We will be serving latkies and jelly donuts, playing the dreidle game, and lighting the candles. This event is open to ALL Graduate Students, Faculty, Staff and their significant others at JHMI and JHU. Questions, Contact Alison 410-516-4384 or [alisonw@jhu.edu](mailto:alisonw@jhu.edu)

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<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/gsa/news.html>

**Next Deadline: December 15, 2004**