LETTERS

A FINE BALANCE
Re “Left Out of Affirmative Action” [March 19-25]

Nat Hentoff’s portrayal of the Asian American Legal Foundation’s brief opposing the University of Michigan’s admissions policy as the definitive Asian American voice is irresponsible and exploitative. He conveniently fails to mention that 28 national and local Asian Pacific American-based groups endorsed an amicus brief supporting the university. Many Asian Americans support affirmative action because they understand that diversity in the classroom better prepares students of all races to succeed in the workplace and the community, where glass-ceiling issues and exclusionary business opportunities are still a concern.

Finally, Hentoff simply misstates facts. The University of Michigan does not require that a fixed number of minority students be admitted—that would be a quota system and unconstitutional. The university also weighs the benefits of admitting applicants who are not mentioned in policy, like Asian Americans.

Karen K. Narasaki
President and Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
Washington, D.C.

Kudos to Nat Hentoff on the article about affirmative action and the Asian American perspective will be more balanced. Karen K. Narasaki

A SEPARATE PEACE
Re Daniel King’s “Fire Music” [March 12-18]

While I often lament the scarcity of the revolutionary spirit that first attracted me to jazz during the ’60s, in much of the music’s contemporary expression, I find it even more deplorable that the issue is being used to generate divisiveness in a genre whose focus on self-expression necessitates a diversity of approaches. In trying to frame a complex issue in black and white, King’s article may construct the popular controversy that sells periodicals, but it fails to consider the gray area at the heart of the matter.

For better or worse, jazz is becoming an institutionalized music, and institutions are by nature conservative. So jazz at Lincoln Center’s centrist focus should not be surprising, and its attempt to explore the subject of “fire music” is laudable. The attempt to denigrate that music is not. Not all socially and politically conscious jazz was avant-garde (“not swinging”). Art Blakey recorded “Freedom Rider”, Elvin Jones “All Deliverate Speed”, Charles Mingus “Reverend Rockefeller at Attica.” Bill Evans’s “Peace Piece” and Horace Silver’s “Peace” are indisputably anti-war anthems—just as Ornette Coleman’s Peace is.

Jazz’s history of activism is an especially important subject during these times, but using it as fodder for infighting makes about as much sense as Bush waging war on Iraq to bring peace to the Middle East.

Russ Musto
Cision Point

ARE YOU THERE, GOD? IT’S MY GORGE!

Daniel King replies: I am not arguing for relaxed standards at Jazz at Lincoln Center—I am arguing against revisionist history there. The SEA finds Mr. Marsalis’s promotion of jazz culture—not to draw its parameters based on handed-down definitions he lifts unintelli-gently from Albert Murray’s Stomping the Blues. And while we can debate to no end what counts as jazz culture, you’ll have a difficult time convincing educators that that activist aesthetics don’t.

IF THE SHOE FITS
Re Melissa Maerz’s “Mome Rath Outrage” [March 5-11]

The recent Lightning Bolt review should have been titled “How To Be a Big Fat Poser.” The new homosocial embrace of LocoSoc, Lighting Bolt, etc., is for a few who have recently become experts on cool tennis shoes. There have been many bands doing this sound, and doing it better, but when taken to the post-punky, indie-boy/girl, lowest-common-social-denominator, crowd it becomes “revolutionary.”

Lightning Bolt is for people who write/read the emptiest form of print over—weekly newspapers.

Will Betts
Chicago, Illinois

SEARCH AND DESTROY
BY TED RALL

IF AND WHEN I—OR ANOTHER BOSS—CALL, YOU’LL DO THE WORK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED, OR I’LL HAVE YOU SHOT.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS BLANK CHECK ON YOUR LIFE, YOU’LL BE PAID THE PRINCIPAL SUM OF $23,000 A YEAR.

EVERYONE LOVES ME!

LOVE, RESPECT, NAME SIGN HERE!

ARMS FORCES RECRUITING STATION
535749

MARVELOUS MARVISE
Re Frank Owen’s “Magic Carpet Ride” [February 26-March 4]

How sensational this story was! That he was able to include drug dealing, money laundering, the Mafia, double-dealing, arson, the FBI, and Puff Daddy all in one story makes it more worthy of the New York Post’s Page Six than of the Voice. I found it to be unusually and irresponsible.

Owen’s story holds no verity, especially if the rumored FBI investigation fails to materialize. As a former employee of both Marvis and Peter Gatien, allow me this: I could find and fill an entire nightclub with former promoters and employees whom Gatien has fucked over. Gatien has left a negative stigma on nightclub owners and on the entire industry for years to come. While Marvis at his worst is just a pain in the ass, he is still a man who has earned my professional love, respect, and best regards.

Dennis Sanabria
Lower East Side

AWARDS

The Voice congratulates staff writer Tom Robbins, who has won the 2002 IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) Award, recognizing outstanding investigative reporting. His series “The Lust Life of a Rudy Apointee” took top honors in the Local Circula-tion Weekly category.

Letters should be brief, and phone numbers must be included. All letters are subject to editing for clarity, legal, and space considerations. Send mail to: Letters to the Editor, Village Voice, 26 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003. Or fax to 212-475-8984 or e-mail to colinb@villagevoice.com. E-mail letters must include phone numbers.

SCHLOCK ‘N’ ROLL
BY WARD SUTTON

ARE YOU THERE, GOD? IT’S MY GORGE!

DEAR GOD, MY FAITH IN YOUR SUPREME GOVERNING IS SHAKING. THERE IS NO LIFE IN TIME WHICH ISERN’T STORMY TIMES. THE TIMES THAT ARE RAISING. I PHONE YOU IN MY HEAVEN IN 15 MINTUES!

I ALLOWED YOU TO FILTER OUT AND GIRLS VOICE, ALL THE TIMES THAT I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE. YOU FILTER OUT THE POPE REQUESTS A MEETING.

IT GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO ROLL CAREFULLY ON THE TIMES THAT I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE. THE TIMES THAT I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE.

IT’S ME, I FROZEN, I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE. YOU FILTER OUT THE POPE REQUESTS A MEETING.

AND IT GAVE ME THE RESOLUTION TO RUN THINGS MY WAY, WITH DELAYED, RELAXED, DRINK-FREE THINGS WITH NO ATROCITY FROM AN INTERESTING LUXURY.

IT’S ME, I FROZEN, I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE. YOU FILTER OUT THE POPE REQUESTS A MEETING.

THE TIMES THAT I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE.

BEST OF ALL, I KNOW MY DECISIONS AREN’T THE BASH ESSENTIALS. THEY’VE BEEN ADDED, RELAXED, INDECISION FAILURE WITH NO ATROCITY FROM AN INTERESTING LUXURY. WHEN I KNOW.

LIFE YEARS LATER! IT’S ME, I FROZEN, I’M ELUMINATED IN YOUR LIFE. YOU FILTER OUT THE POPE REQUESTS A MEETING.

HIS ESSENTIALS THINGS ARE PATHETICALLY GATTING!

AND IT GAVE ME THE RESOLUTION TO RUN THINGS MY WAY, WITH DELAYED, RELAXED, DRINK-FREE THINGS WITH NO ATROCITY FROM AN INTERESTING LUXURY.

IN 15 MINTUES!

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