

# Halloween: Weekend filled with burlesque delights

Continued from page 11

Bond's is Terpsichor's Daughter, a burlesque dance troop. The "Forbidden Halloween in Red" begins at 9 p.m. and costs \$5.

Halloween edition of its Sunday night Broadway Revue. Featuring burlesque dancers and vaudeville, the show starts at 10 p.m. and the cover charge is \$5.

John Henry's is hosting a special

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by Jack Heifner

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### ■ Book review

# 'America (The Book)' delivers the epitome of political satire

'The Daily Show' team of comic writers backs up prose with astuteness

BY RYAN NYBURG  
PULSE EDITOR

Political satirists must often ask themselves why they even bother anymore. No matter how cynical one becomes about the American political system, something happens such as the Watergate scandal, which shows that things are actually much worse than expected. You think you are at the height of edgy political satire when you make fun of the billions spent on useless military projects, and then you find out that a group of political cronies are operating a shadow government and selling arms to Central American death squads. But until the U.S. government proves once again that it is run by a pack of greedy, cannibalistic child molesters, "America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction" will stand as the definitive statement on modern politics in this great country of ours.

Written mostly by staff writers of "The Daily Show," "America" is formatted like a high school civics textbook, right down to the library check-out stamp. The structure allows the writers to systematically satirize aspects of government such as election campaigns, bills, judges, the role of the media and even the effectiveness of political satire.

Much of the book's effectiveness is based on the writers' political astuteness. These people actually know how not just how government is supposed to work, but how it actually works. For example, in the book's description of what positions make up the president's cabinet, the necessary qualities for a Secretary of Transportation are summed up as: "Driven a car before? Seen an airplane? Hispanic? Good — put on this tie."

The book is cynical to its core, but



The 'Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction' uses mixed humor to attack American politics.

COURTESY

this is not cynicism born of hopelessness, but of righteous indignation. This book is pissed. Anyone who saw Jon Stewart's recent appearance on "Crossfire" should know that both he and "The Daily Show" writers are passionately angered by the system they mock every weeknight. It should come as no surprise that the chapter on the media is the most scathing. In a timeline covering the major media highlights of the century, the discussion of Watergate is, "President brought down by investigative journalists. Investigative journalists declare 'nice work' and take rest of millennium off."

Throughout the book's 242 pages, the tone of a civics text is maintained and heavily iced by layers of sarcasm. The book directs its assaults not only to the corruption of the systems it describes, but to the myths that hold them together. "Consider this remarkable fact: The United States of America, the greatest country in the

history of the world, would not exist had England simply been less stingy with the chamomile."

With a sharp sense of humor, a keen eye for the absurd and the hard-earned cynicism of a veteran political journalist, "America" gleefully cuts through layers and layers of pompous B.S. about the political systems we work under. However, the scattershot approach, mixing every kind of humor imaginable into an attack on just about everything political in this country, might make the whole thing a bit hard to take in one sitting. But textbooks were never meant to be read in one go. Standing alongside the work of The Onion and David Rees (of "Get Your War On" fame), "America" cements the "Daily Show" team's writers as some of the best modern American satirists. Let's just hope that means something for a while.

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## LIVE AT THE McDONALD THEATRE

<p>CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH</p> <p><b>MICHAEL FRANTI AND SPEARHEAD</b></p> <p><b>SUN OCT 31</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>SOLD OUT!</b></p> <p><b>SLY AND ROBBIE</b> The RIDDIM' TWINS</p>	<p><b>SAT NOV 6</b> ALL AGES 8 PM DRS</p> <p><b>HELL'S BELLES</b> WITH MECHANICAL DOLLS I CAN LICK ANY SOB</p>	<p><b>SUN NOV 7</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>GEORGE GANTON</b> <b>PARLIAMENT</b> <b>FUNKADELIC</b></p>	<p><b>SAT OCT 30</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>ETTA JAMES</b> QUEEN OF THE BLUES</p>	<p><b>TUE NOV 2</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>JIMMY EAT WORLD</b> A THORN FOR EVERY HEART RECOVER</p>
<p><b>FRI NOV 12</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>RYAN CABRERA</b></p>	<p><b>DE LA SOUL</b> NEW ALBUM!</p> <p><b>THE GRIND DATE</b> US TOUR with Butta Verses</p> <p><b>TUE NOV 16</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p>	<p><b>CALI COMM TOUR 2004</b></p> <p><b>TUE NOV 23</b> ALL AGES 8 PM DRS</p> <p><b>DELTA</b> <b>FUNKY</b> <b>HOMOSAPIEN</b> ACEYALONE <b>ABSTRACT RUDE</b> <b>MIKAH 9</b></p>	<p><b>FRI NOV 5</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>COLONEL CLAYPOOL'S</b> <b>BUCKET OF BERNIE BRAINS</b></p>	<p><b>WED NOV 10</b> ALL AGES 7 PM DRS</p> <p><b>JOHN PRINE</b></p>
<p><b>SAT NOV 13</b> 21+ 8 PM DRS</p> <p><b>ELEVEN EYES</b> LIVE IN THE LOUNGE!</p>				

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