MAHFUZ ANAM: i thank you

all for joining this discussion meeting. Today we'll discuss on 'Politics, Politicians and Student Politics'. We want you

to share your opinions with our

readers. Let's pay attention to what Mahbub Shafique has to

Joseph High School); I am in favour of student politics. But the way student politics is now directed to by our political

leadership, I am against that.

The prevailing trend of using

the students as weapons to

terrorise political rivals by our

leaders, must stop. The

widespread use of arms among

the student fronts of Bangladeshi political parties is a

must bring back the glorious

tradition of our student move-

ments, if we want to ensure

the well-being of our future

generations. The years 1952,

'62, '69, '71 and '90 have wit-

nessed the power of our stu-

dent movements to uphold the

will and desire of the people.

Students proved in the past

that they were the most con-

scious and sacrificing section

in our society. They always.

have come to rescue the nation

when situation demanded. So.

it is only a matter of time

when students will again come

out of this grim situation and

fight for the rights of them-

selves and their fellow coun-

trymen. I'm sure, the negative

trend we are now witnessing is

Bidyalaya): A student's first

priority should be to study. But

we are now seeing, specially at

the university level, a large

their primary duty and engage

themselves in politics. I am

against this trend. What I want

to say is that the trend among

a large number of students, to

give priority to politics over

tors were involved in student

politics, they upheld certain

ideologies. But now our broth-

ers and sisters who are in stu-

any such ideology. This lack of

ideology has led our student

politics to a dead end. I hope.

our political leadership, edu-

cationists and civil society will

guide our students so that they

can bring back ideological

commitments into student

(Dhaka College): First, 1 want

to say a few words on our

politicians. When elected to

power, our politicians forget

ments to the people. They be-

gin to work for themselves.

This lack of political honesty is

a well known fact to all of us. I

think hypocrisy, dishonesty

and lack of commitment to the

country among our national

political leadership played an,

important role in corrupting

our student politics. Our stu-

pre-election commit-

SABIGH BIN MASOOD

dent politics, do not stand for

Besides, when our ances-

education is very damaging.

umber of students forget

ANUPAM DAS (Udayan

MAHBUB SHAFIQUE (St.

The Daily Star-Students Dialogue on National Politics

STUDENT POLITICS

For the Cause — Yes, for the Trend — No

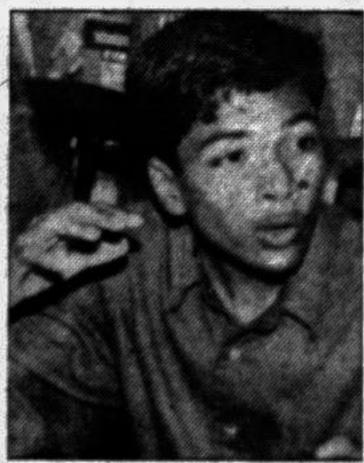
dent organisations involve in political activities under the guidance a of national political parties. When the national leaders cannot help themselves being corrupt and when party loyalty among them is on the wane, ideology, idealism, commitment to the nation very unhealthy practice. We and/or interest of the people become mere phrases to the students. So I think the main cause of the prevailing negative trend in student politics is the failure of our political leaders. The student politics is only following the track of our national politics. It is the national leadership

who failed to live up to our expectations. The rampant violence and sharp decline of morality in students are only a manifestation of the failure of our national politics. Students must realise that they must start their own politics based on their own ideologies and idealism to break this vicious circle of political underdevelopment.

1 mean students should direct their politics around their own issues such as, modernisation and upgrading the curriculum, pressing demand house for the solution to accommodation problem in the residential halls, etc. MAHFUZ ANAM: But these

things can easily be done by college or school students' unions. Why do you have to involve yourselves into politics to solve your education-related problems when you can easily solve it through the students' unions? I think I must clarify what we mean by student politics. I am talking about the involvement of students in the politics and about their affiliaions to the student fronts of various political organisations. i.e., Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League, Chhatra Union etc. am asking you: do you think this is desirable? Do you support the involvement of students in national politics? And if your answer to the question is ves, then tell me, from what level? Do you think student politics can be allowed from the primary level? Or at the higher secondary or at the university level?

SHAFQUAT RABBEE (Dhaka College): My answer to your first question is yes. I think students should be involved in national politics. Because ... who will lead the nation in the future? Definitely the students of today. There is a phrase in cricket Big match temperament', you cannot play at the highest level without building



Arupam Das

In the second of the three discussion meetings with our young citizens, The Daily Star asked the invited students to come up with their views on national politics with emphasis on student politics. The meeting was conducted by The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam, assisted by Ekram Kabir and Fakrul Islam Chowdhury. Following are what they said List of Participants

Joy Alamgir (Notre Dame College)

Sabigh Bin Massud (Dhaka College)

Sharmin Khan (Holy Cross School)

Shafquat Rabbee (Dhaka College)

Arupam Das (Udayan Bidyalaya)

regard, I want to add that stu-

dent leaders of today have re-

sponsibilities on their shoul-

ders. I am optimistic about the

future of our student politics.

Given our student leaders can

reject the path of terrorism.

JOY ALAMGIR (Notre Dame

College): Student politics as a

part of education should be

Shafquat Rabbee

encouraged but students

should not be allowed to par-

ticipate in political activities at

crease tuition fees and should

also grant scholarships to stu-

dents for education. The sys-

tem should be like this, if any

student engage him/herself

into national politics, while a

student, the scholarship would

be withdrawn. The students.

entertaining the total of joining

national politics, will be forced

to give up the lemptation, and

this way, our universities can

be free of student politics and

SAKIB HAMID PRATYAY

Government Laboratory High

School): I don't agree with Joy

Alamgir. I'm in favour of stu-

dent politics. Because it gives

the students an opportunity to

work as a pressure group to

press home their demands.

Where student politics exists

the authority cannot exercise

absolute power over the gen

eral students. There always

exists a platform from where

our voices can be raised. From

where we can fight for our

rights. In the institutions

where student politics is not

allowed, the authorities can,

and in some cases really act, in

The universities should in-

the national level.

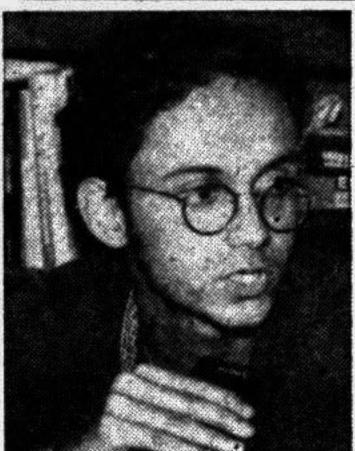
terrorism.

we have a great future.

Imran Karim (St. Joseph's High School)

Mahbub Shafiqu (St Joseph's High School)

Tasin Uddin Ahmed (Notre Dame College).



Sabigh bin Massud

your 'big match temperament'. You must go through a period of apprenticeship before qualifying for the big games. Same is true in politics. If our students are to lead the nation in the future, they must prepare themselves properly through student politics. Involvement in politics in the student life will make them mature enough to confront national problems in the future. And to answer your second question. I will say, students should be allowed to engage themselves into politics from class VIII.

I think so because if the students are allowed to involve themselves into politics from class all they will be able to judge the political ideologies.

and positions of different political parties. But to ensure that we need to educate them from Class VIII about various political ideologies like Marxsm, democratic capitalism. autocracy etc. If we can educate our students from such an early stage they will be matured enough to reject the prevailing negative trends in student politics when they enter into universities. IMRAN KARIM: (St. Joseph

High School): But I think if a student of Class VIII is exposed to such influential ider ologies, they will not be able to digest those ideologies. I am afraid what Shafquat is proposing will backfire.

JOY ALAMGIR (Notre Dame College): I think it students at this stage of their life are in troduced to political litera tures of autocracy dictatorship, or fundamentalism they will form their opinion corresponding to that particular ideology. And if they come in touch with Marxism first chances are high that they will emerge as diehard Marxists. And if you teach them about democratic ideologies at this level, they will definitely be influenced by democratic ideology. What I am trying to say, at such an early stage of life of a student we must not bring him or her in contact with any such ideology If we do so, it will do more harm to their mental development than

we can imagine. IMRAN KARIM: 1. want to say that it will be very difficult

Sakib Hamid Pratyay (Government Laboratory High School). that ideal politicians will an autocratic way. Say for exemerge from the present genample. Khulna University. The eration of politicians. Chances incidents that followed the are very slim. Some one new rape of one female student of has to come forward. In this Khulna University are known

> to all. The authority acted against the interest of the general students and gave punishment to the students who protested against the rape. If politics was allowed in Khulna University. I don't think the authority would have dared to take such ac-

But I don't think students should be allowed to be involved in politics at school or college levels. Because they don't have the maturity to judge the political ideologies at those stages.

MAHFUZ ANAM: Then we all agree that student politics should only be allowed at university level? All of you share a common view, the tradition of our student politics. It inspires you all. Now tell me, where has this glorious tradition led us

There are many developed countries where students were never directly involved in the national politics. But it did not hamper their progress. On the other hand, in your opinion. we have such a glorious tradition, still we are in the middle of nowhere.

SHARMIN KHAN: In nineteen fifty-two student politics made it possible for Bangla to become our state languages. Student politics played a major role in 1962, '69, '71 and even in 1990. It is we, the following generation, who could not maintain that momentum. We have failed to live up to the expectations of the nation. The glorious tradition of our student politics always lived up to the expectations of the nation.



Imran Karim



Joy Alamair

MAHFUZ ANAM: I am not saying that it was not worth it to come out in the streets when the country needed its young people. Students played the major role many times, no one is denying it. But these situations occur in a nation's history only occasionally. I am sure if our motherland requires, all of you will come out from your classroom and fight for our country. But what I am asking is that, are the present trends of students being involved in politics under a party flag, propagating party politics, meeting party interest, good for our country?

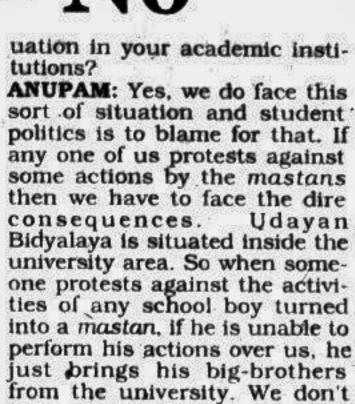
IMRAN KARIM: In the USA, if students have any problem regarding their curriculum or if they feel some changes are required in the education system, they can always talk to the authorities. Government and the authorities of the academic institutions ask the students from time to time if they had any suggestions. So, the students can make their voices heard through existing ways. But in our country there is no such way. So, students are sometimes forced to join in politics to make their voices heard.

MAHFUZ ANAM: Then now we have consensus on two points. First, we are not in favour of the student politics that is now prevailing in our country and second, we all have agreed that some failures in our education system sometimes force the students to be engaged in politics.

TASIN UDDIN AHMED (Notre Dame College): I want add something. We must make our national politics free of corruption and nepotism otherwise student politics will not be free of the prevailing negative trend.

Our society does not seem to pay due respect to law and order. This tendency must change. Politics should be people-oriented. We must assure that the influence of black money and arms will be uprooted from our political arena. MAHFUZ ANAM: Thank you

Tasin. Now I have another question for you. Do you agree that a few mastans are reigning over the majorities? Do you personally face this sort of sit-



have spell out to make you un-

derstand what follows next.

MAHFUZ ANAM: Do you think that the tendency to join this sort of unhealthy stream of student politics among the general students is increasing? SABIGH : Yes, it is. Because of the greed. Greed for power and greed for money. These two have been successfully exploited by the politicians to trap the general students into this sort of unhealthy stream. If I join any particular party, the Baro Bhai will make sure that I can have my burgers today and my Cokes tomorrow and my birianees the following day, all free of cost.

MAHFUZ ANAM: But can't they understand where to these activities are leading them?

SABIGH: Yes, they can understand. But I think, like smoking, it's an addiction.

SHARMIN KHAN: I think the approach of our teachers and guardians must change. They always tell us that the purpose of good education is getting a good job or being established in life. Education has become a means to accumulate wealth in our society. We have lost the true spirit of it. Education does not enlighten our souls any more. So, when a student knows that by becoming a mastan he can also accumulate wealth and make himself established in the society, he never hesitates to become one. MAHFUZ ANAM: Are you

willing to do anything about it? IMRAN KARIM: If we try to do anything, the first obstacle we have to overcome is our parents. Because our parents never want us to face any dan-

MAHFUZ ANAM: Then, are you saving you are all living a terrorised life?

PRATYAY: Yes, we are terrorised. In our school, when was in class IX, one of my friends brought an arms in the school one day. This particular student is not studying in our school any more but there may



Shakib Hamid Portau

Sharmin Khan be others like him. I feel really

insecure. MAHFUZ ANAM: Why didn't you try to make him understand that what he was doing was wrong?

PRATYAY: We failed to make him understand. Because the big-brothers were always there to influence him.

JOY ALAMGIR: I don't think it's worth the risk. If we try to make a terrorist understand that his way of doing things is wrong it will certainly take time to persuade him. And I also have my doubts about the success of such an effort. Meanwhile chances are high that he will be able to influence some other boys in the institution to follow his foot-

Can we afford to put some other boys' lives in risk, in order to reform just one terrorist? Is it worth it? I don't think so. I want to say, the authority should take strict disciplinary actions against him



Tasin Uddin Ahmed and just throw him out of the

institution. MAHFUZ ANAM: Throw him out to where? You may throw him out from the institution but can you throw him out . from the society?

SABIGH: Could you say that we should just throw him out and forget about him if he was your own brother? We must be more sensitive to the needs of the students who have chosen the wrong path.

MAHFUZ ANAM: Then, we

now have two conflicting opinions. Some of you are suggesting that strict disciplinary actions should be taken against those students who terrorise others and walk in a wrong path. Others are saying that we must be more sensitives to the needs of these students and try to make them understand that what they are doing is wrong. You are suggesting to try to bring them back in the mainstream. My last question is to those of you think that being sensitive to the needs of the students who have chosen a wrong track may bring them back to mainstream - are you yourselves willing to take this responsibility? 'yes'? Well, then let us end on this positive note. Thanks to all of you for participating in this discussion.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Sunday 9th June

(All programmes are in local time. We recommend programmes printed in bold. There may be changes in the programmes).

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement Al Quran Programme Summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Cartoon: Woody Woodpecker 3:45 Re-telecast of weekly Drama 4:00 News in Bangla 4:45 Marami Folk Songs 5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Sports Programme 6:00 News in Bangla 6:30 Maader Jannyo: Health Programme 7:00 News in English 7:05 Open University 7:25 Tagore Songs 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Janmabhumi 8:30 Amar Desh : Introducing Different Districts 9:00 Film Series: Akbar The Great 10:00 English 10:30 Shasthatatha: Health Programme 10:35 Chhaya Chhando : Film 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Monday's programme 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 India Business Report 7:00 BBC World News 7:25 This Week 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:30 Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Britain In View 11:00 BBC World News 11:25 India Business Report 12:00noon BBC World News 12:29 This Week 1:09 BBC World Headlines 1:05 Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Film '96 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The International Festival of The Sea 4:00 BBC World Headlines 4:05 Everyman 5:00 BBC World News 5:20 Face To Face 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:05 The Tourist 7:90 BBC World Headlines 7:05 Breakfast With Frost 8:00 8BC

World News 8:30 Time Out: Top Gear 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:20 Earth Report 10:38 Time Out: More Rhodes Around Britain 11:00 BBC World News 11:20 On The Record 12:00mn **BBC World News 12:20 Window** On Europe 1:00 BBC World Head lines 1:05 Under The Sun 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Nature 3:80 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Haurs 5:00 BBC World News 5:15 The Money Programme

CHANNEL V

Ride VJ Trey 10:00 Pantaloon. Fashion Police 10:30 The Best of Ek Ke Teen 11:00 BPL Ove! 12:00 Sansui Mangta Hai 12:38 First Day First Show 1:00 Speak Easy 1:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 2:30 Videocon-Flash Back 3:00 Asian Top 20 VJ Nohie 5:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 5:30 Top of The Pops 6:30 Classic Rock 7:30 Timex Time Pass 8:30 Indian Top Ten 9:00 Launch Pad VJ Sophiya 10:00 The Ride VJ Trey 11:00 Rewind VJ Sophiya 12:06 Asian Top 20 VJ Nonie 2:00 By Demand

6:30am Voltron 7:00 King Arthur 7:30 Classic Cartoons 8:00 Terry Toons 8:30 T-Bag 9:00 Eek The Cat 9:30 India Business Week 18:30 The Road Show 11:00 Amul India Show 11:30 Keiker! 12:30 The Fall Guy 1:30 Vegas 2:30 Best Sellers: "Act '0f Will" 4:30 The Love Boat 5:30 World Around Us: Ancient Prophecies 6:30 Amul India Show 7:00 The Road Show 7:30 Snowy River "The McGregor Saga" 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Picket Fences 10:30 Burkes Law 11:30 21 Jump Street 12:39 Star Trek The Next Generation 1:39 India

7:00am Nonie Vision 9:00 The

Akbar the Great on BTV. Tonight at 9:00 Business Week 2:30 Amul India Show 3:00 The Oprah Winfrey And Away 5:00 The Sullivans

VJ Trey 3:00 Frame By Frame

STAR PLUS World Motorcycle Championsho

Show 4:00 Hard Copy 4:38 Home,

STAR Sports

7:30am Hogh 5 III 8:00 1996 Omega Sailing Magazine 8:30 The European Tour English Open Day 3 12:00 Live ABC Champions Cup 1996 3rd & 4th Place From Manila

2:00 Live ABC Champions Cup 1996 Final From Manila 3:00 Inside PGA Tour 3:30 Live 1996

French Grand Priz From Paul Ricard, France 7:00 Live The European Tour English Open Final Day 10:00 Prime Boxing Fight TBC 12:89 Inside PGA Tour 12:30

That Kickbexing 1:30 A-Z Of Memorial 3:38 ABC Champions Cup 1996 1st Semi-Final From

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Family: Quiet Victory 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Family The Christmas Martian PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:00 The Movie Show 11:30 Comedy: Doctor in Clover 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Sunday Classic Western Western Union 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Sunday Show Time Pee Wee's Playhouse Ep 11 & 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 4:30 Sunday Show Time: Cannes '96 A Complete experience (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Sunday Matinee Family Double Feature: The Brave Little Toaster G (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Sunday Matinee Family Double Feature: A Message From Holly (Hindi Subtitles) 9:00 The Movie Show 9:30 Gold: Drugstore Cowboy 18? (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Based on a True Story Seven Alone PG (Arabic Subtitles)

1:38 Film Club Crystal heart 18

(Arabic Subtitles) 3:36 Comedy

Bill And Ted's Bogus Journey 15

(Arabic Subtitles) 5:38 Thriller

Best Seller 18 (Arabic Subtitles)

ZEE TV 5:30 Inforamment (TMM) 6:00

The News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 Bhajans 7:30 Maa 8:00 Mythological HFF: 10:30 Aap Ki Adalat 11:00 Galaxzee 11:30 Lakme Khoobsurat 12:00 Filmi Chakkar 12:30 Bournvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Namaste India 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:30 Hindi Feature Film. 5:00 Daak Ghar 5:30 Insight 6:00 Colgate Gel Yoodlee Ae Oo 6:30 Gaane Anjane 7:00 Ad Mad Show 7:30 FLU 8:00 Tumhare Live 8:30 Suno Suno Tring Tring 9:00 Nirma Aaha 9:30 9 Malabar Hill 10:00 The Zee Horror Show 10:30 The News and Business Roundup 11:00 Index 11:30 Philips Top Ten 12:30 Gopaliee 1:00 Mr Minto 1:30 Basna kya scene hai 2:00 Duniya 2:30 Infotainmest (TMM)

PTV

8:00am Tilawat

Aur Tar

juma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia 9:25 Khat Farmaish 9:40 Sports Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30 English Film: Darkwing Duck 10:55 Mest Mast Sanyo 11:00 Khabrain 11.10 Sports Hour 12:05pm Biscop '95/Qasmi Hahani 12:55 Quran e Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Aaj Di Kahani 1:49 Aaj Di Shaam 2:00 Kinara 'Ep 33' (Brama Serial) 2:55 Ghost Writer 3:55 Karabar 4:15 Aducation 5:25 Riazi for 9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindegi (Drama Serial) 6:25 Alou Courses 7:00 English News 7:30 English Film : Star Trek Deep Space Nine 8:20 Hewwa Ki Naam 9:00 Break for Headlines News

9:20 Sur Tasver (Pakistani Film 1947-95) 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 11:00 Pezwaan 11:35 Home Victime (New Serial) 12:35 Music Masters-Raag Rang 1:99 Khas Khas Khabrain

SONY ET

8:30am Jai Bir Hanuman 9:00 Yaadon Ki Baarat 9:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 10:00 Hindi Hits Songs 10:30 Jadugaar 11:00 10 Civil Lines 11:30 Sunday Ki Sun-

day 12:00 Hamse Barker Koun 12:30pm Audio Video Premier 1:00 Good Shot 1:30 Pehchan 2:00 Hum Se Barker Gong 2:30 Mere Massage Men Geet 3:00 Nave Taranee 3:30 Gaane Jaane

6:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh 6:30 Aahat 7:00 Cine Classics Hindi Feature Film 10:00 Buddha 10:30 Audio Video Premier Show 11:00 Good Shoot 11:30 Cine Prime Hindi Feature Film

Maane 4:00 Dekh Tamasa Dekh

4:30 O'Mana 5:00 Jane Kaha

Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 5:30 Ghaav

DD 7

7:40 Harekrakamba 8:20 Binodon 8:45 Banijya Lok 9:00 Geetmalay

Orama Sambad

EL TV 00:30 Mohd Rah Special 01:30

9:30 Bangla Cinemar Romantic

Jun 10:00 Light Music 12:30 Amitabli Bachchan Special 03:30 Dhitang Dhitang Bole 1:30 Mar Dance Dance 04:30 Jugal Jodi zada (Serial) 2:00 Prabah 2:25 05:30 Mohd Rafi Special 05:30 Uru Katu Madna (Serial) 3:00 Nasii Hussain Special 07:30 Irsha 4:30 Bengali Feature Film Amitabh Bachchan Special 08:30 5:30 News 7:20 Binodon 7:38 Fronti Its My Choice 9:00 Atco Bangla Sambad 8:00 Darshaker Rubaru 09:30 Fat Or Fit 10:00 Darbare 8:25 Ek Tuku Basha 9:30 Foltene Chalo Cinema 10:30 Song 10:30 News/Bengali

Yatra 11:00 Moov Usha Uthup Show 11:30 Liberty Public Demand 12:30 Sorry Meri Lorry 1:00 Zaike Ka Safar 1:30 Dance Dance 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Instinct

Nasir Hussain Special 02:30

Purosh Kshetra 4:00 Zandu Balm Dance Mania 4:30 Ortem Hit Thi Hit Har 5:00 Peoples's Club 5:30 Jugal Jodi 6:30 R D Burman Special 7:30 Sansani 8:00 Godrei Storwel Filmi Chaat 8:30 V3 Plus 9:00 The Music Show 9:30 Shatrani 10:00 Atco Rubaru 10:30 Ghungroo 11:30 Jeeven Ke Rang



by Jim Davis



Garfield ®







