

## The Fourth Estate: Editorial

## **Return of The Referendi**

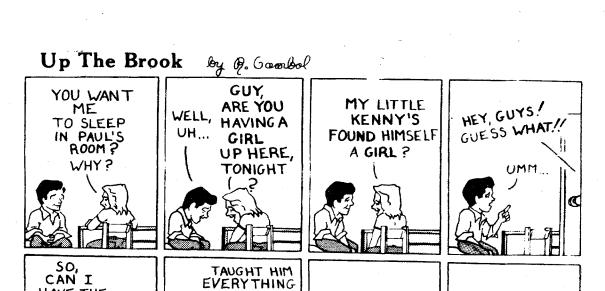
Tuesday's election will not only feature the normal candidates running, but also two very interesting referendums. The first of these is Statesman, a once Polity funded organization that lost its funding due to a dispute with the Government. The second is the Student Association of the State University (SASU). The way in which both these organizations presented their cases to the student body has highlighted a major problem with referendum funding. Namely that there is no manditory mechanism to insure that the student body is fully knowledgeable on the issues they are requested to vote upon.

In a political race there is usually more than one person running for an office. During a campaign those viing for a position present what they think are the important issues on campus and how to address them. A voter than can compare these stances and decide which candidate holds the best opinion on the issues. Unfortunately, when organizations apply for referendum funding they are not usually opposed. by another organization. The end product is that students only hear one side of an issue. Naturally, the organization is only going to present how wonderful they are, and they usually can do this in a very persuasive manner. Each constantly bombards the capus with propaganda in defense of their cause, but there is no forum for what the issues truly are.

Statesman for instance seems to want to have the campus believe that they have been unfairly treated in their recent falling out with Polity. They claim that without referendum funding the operations of Statesman will be severely curtailed. They will have to cut back from three issues a week to only one, and that will not be able to publish the newspaper for free anymore. Only referendum funding can end this terrible financial situation Statesman currently indures, helping us on issues like arming the University

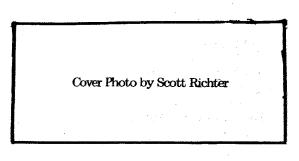
the full story. Stateman is suffering its current truly going to sympathize with us. financial headaches because it refused to follow lines. also were less than truthful when they claimed students to make intelligent decisions on what that the money on the referendum would not they are being required to vote upon. raise the student activity fee. It will simply because they money Statesman would have been alotted has already been given to other clubs, so if the referendum is passed students will have pay \$2.00 more than last year.

SASU has also done a masterful job at making themselves appear as a good sound investment for student. For just \$1.50 a year they will help insure that our student rights are not being violated. They will assist in organizing ourselves into a student movement. And they will help us on campus issues such as fighting against the arming of the University Police. This seems like a great deal and something we shouldn't pass up. What most of us don't realize is that this campus is much further ahead than most in student rights. Most of the things SASU is fighting for on other campuses we already have. As far as helping us organize ourselves into a student movement this has not been historically a Stony Brook problem. Some would even venture to say that we wrote a few chapters in the book of organization. A stateorganization is also going to have a hard time



which, of course, Polity is responsible for. This Police because the Police on some of its member may all be true, however, it is not by any means campuses are already armed. So how are they

What is clear is that some sort of organization Polity's financial guidelines. These guidelines, should be done on who should be eligible for which all Polity funded organizations follow, referendums and under what conditions. It is stipulate that Polity can look at the organiza- rediculous to have organizations such as Statestions financial records. Statesman claimed that man circumventing the student government by due to the fact they are an independant corpora- applying to referendums especially if they can tion they do not have to follow Polity's guide- receive funding through Polity. Some sort of Statesman neglected to mention in its forum should also be provided for students to appeal to the campus community for referen- receive a non biased view of what are the true dum funding that they could follow the finan- assets of indorsing an organization. If such cial guidelines and get their funding back. They a forum is not provided, it will be impossible for



## The Stony Brook Press

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## Wall Rebuilt ···· In spite of Administrative Bickering

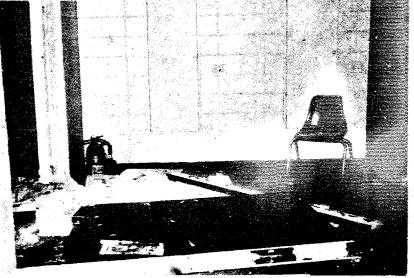
#### by Kate Bode

Remember a couple of weeks ago when Gray A-3's cinder block wall turned into cinder block dust, Alan Ripka was living in an indoor/ outdoor room, the Union's walls were cracking, and the Health Sciences Center's blocks were dropping? Health Sciences Center suffer still, Mr. Ripka is living somewhere else, thanks to the recent rains which flooded his room and brought a condemned notice to its door, and A-3 just got their wall. Yes, they partments should work together. did, but not until the administra- so they agreed to assist Physical tive departments involved, namely Plant in an investigation. **Residence** Life and Physical Plant, bickered away some of their petty time.

Physical Plant, explained his side her department's surprise when Mr. of the situation. "I was willing to Matthews simply changed his mind, put the wall up over Easter Break, said nothing to Residence Life, but Residence Life told me to and told the male residents of A-3 wait." The incident was felt, by all that he would give them a new wall. administrators involved, to be a clear case of vandalism, since, in know who had knocked the original the words of Mr. Matthews, "walls wall down. Karen Krusell (ADRLdon't fall by themselves." Accor- ICOO) explained that they are tired ding to him, Residence Life ordered of cleaning up after students and a halt to repairs before they even that they want people to start began because they wanted to taking responsibility for investigate the situation. On this actions. past Tuesday he was notified not Matthews not to fix the wall, which by Residence Life but by A-3's didn't sit too well with A-3's resi-RA, Ron Isaacs, that Residence dents. Without the wall, the lounge Life, although they had never couldn't have a stove, since if a fire actually investigated anything, or should start there, it would have answered any of their questions, nothing to act as a barrier to the had decided that Physical Plant rest of the hall. Without the stove, could go ahead with the wall. So all students who cook were forced he did, and by 8:00 that night a to use facilities on other halls, and sheetrock wall blessed A-3's lounge. this also inconvenienced the resi-

Krusell, Assistant Director of Residence Life In Charge Of Operations (ADRL-ICOO), Mr. Matthews' version is not entirely correct, and she finds it "very interesting". She explained that he, after first seeing the crumbled wall, had told the Department of Residence Life that it was obviously a case of vanda-Well, the Union and the lism and that until the culprits owned up and forked out the money for repairs, he would not fix the wall. Residence Life, according to Ms. Krussel (ADRL-ICOO), feels that administrative de-"It's Gary's operation and the dorm cooking budget, but we were glad to help." She continued her ver-Gary Matthews, Director of the sion of the affair to emphasize

But Residence Life wanted to their So they told Gary However, according to Karen dents of those floors. But Resi-



Gray A-3's wall just after it bit the dust.

what at is not so clear.

According to Ron Isaacs, no one from Residence Life came to the hall to question students, or in any other way carry on an investigation until Monday night. At that time Karen Krucell (ADRL-ICOO) met A-3's residents to inform them of her department's views. She said, basically, that Residence Life wanted to know who was responsible. She also brought the surprise news that the wall was going to be replaced in the near future which. although it was good news for the hall members, certainly didn't do her department's much for objective.

Why this decision was made, or who in fact made it, still is not clear. Mr. Matthews, however, was certainly not involved in the decision, since not only was he surprised by the information on Tuesday morning, but when residents

dence Life persevered, although just asked Ms. Krusell (ADRL-ICOO) if they were going to get their stove back, she replied that she didn't know because she hadn't spoken to Gary Matthews. One hall member observed that, for a department which had just stated their advocacy of cooperation within administrative departments, this lack of communication seems contradictory.

Getting back to Gary Matthews' point of view, he confirmed the immediate replacement of the wall and imparted the information that 'as soon as the new wall is up, a stove will be installed." He also summed up the situation. "There is a definite problem between Residence Life and Physical Plant's communication." Or, in the words of one of the hall members who met with Karen Krusell (ADRL-ICOO) on Monday night, "it's the same old Stony Brook song and dance."

## Commentary **Majority Rules The Draft?**

by R. Gambol

The concept of a military draft runs contrary to the principles on which this country was founded. and the ideals which the creators of they would be able to prevent their our constitution held in great interests from being outvoted and respect and which were reinforced' so ignored. 'Ine smaller states made

ones, or pass bills weighing particularly heavily against the economies of the smaller states. As a special interest group, these smaller states lobbied strongly to see that, at least in the legislative branch,

smaller states into larger adjacent hold themselves distinct and apart. and so be heard and respected.

> Our constitution also provides for religious freedom. This is to make sure that while they may or or maynot want to communicate their views to others, as political parties do, cultural minorities can be protected from single-party pressures to conform or to appear to back a system of beliefs or practices which are contrary to their own. Two examples of our tolerance and of a group's resistance to acculturation are the Hasidics and the Amish people (Pennsylvania Dutch). Less obvious examples of groups which hold themselves religiously distinct can be found in the many other minority religions in Hindus, Catholics, America. Moslems.etc.

the customs of their homelands. rather than have them lost in our historically famous "melting Pot", (ex., Indians, East Indians, Greeks, Irish, and Italians), and those groups which establish new subcultures by creating sentiments of unification and separatism from the main population, as the Black Moslems grew out of the black drive for unity in heritage and political aims, and in some ways as the gay community in Manhattan can be said to have a consolidated political voice in the Gay Rights movement, and its own cultural identity. In American society today, we have a conflict between the majority and those who for political, cultural, and religious reasons defy the majority stand. The majority states,

in the Bill of Rights.

The U.S. Senate was organized on the basis of equal representation for each state. The placement of the Senate above the H of R and the per-state basis for the organization of the Senate were very careful decisions. At the Conventhe tion, the representatives of smaller states were afraid that without these measures, the states of larger population would get a permanent upper hand, could have voted in a block, and absorb the themselves a protected minority.

We have a multiple political party system so that political minorities can hold themselves apart from the majority party, and so always have a political voice. The alternative is for a minority viewpoint to be buried in the workings of a single-party system-- ignored because the majority sets internal policy, and determines the official party line, or platform. The multiple party system insures that minority viewpoints are permitted to

Likewise, there are countless cultural groups desirous of preserving

(continued on page 5)

I OIILY I	ositions
Pres, V.P., Secretary, Senior I ciary, NYPIRG Board Reps.	Rep, Jr. Rep, Soph Rep, Judi-
VO	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Tues. April 26 Commuters	10 AM-8 PM Library, Lecture Center Union
Residents	In your own dorms!
VO'	TE!

Do you favor raising the Student Activity fee 75¢ per student per semester to join SASU (the Student Association of the State University) and become a member campus.

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# PBS

## Public Broadcasting or Petroleum British ?

#### by Camille Spano

Public television is a mixed bles-Its educational possibilities sing. are limitless and, besides being commercial-free, it belongs (supposedly) to us. Yet it is a system that hasn't responded to community needs in the way we might have anticipated; at least not in the way implied by a system defined as "public".

The Public Broadcasting Service has been dubbed the Petroleum British System because a disproportionate amount of programming is purchased from the BBC and funded by oil companies like Mobil. PBS has been accused of shunning the needs of certain minority groups because its BBC serials attract a mostly white, upper-middle class, well-educated viewership. Blacks, in union with other minority groups, would like to drop many of these British programs and replace them with local productions. Some of these programs - "Afro-American Perspectives", "Presente", and "American Black Forum" - focus on issues of concern to specific ethnic/racial communities. "Up and Coming", a series which made its debut on

Channel 31 in December '82, is a blend of comedy and drama featuring a black family that surprisingly, is not the stereotypical farce you might expect.

According to the FCC, the commonly agreed upon role of noncommercial television is to provide an alternative that serves the vaguely defined "educational needs of the community" while not duplicating the offerings of commercial channels. Unlike Britain, where the publicly controlled broadcasting system (the BBC) established a relationship with its audience long before commercial broadcasting was allowed to coexist, America's public television - somewhat late in arrival -- was dismissed as a collection of dull documentaries. Commercial TV is still the primary attraction, and the majority of viewers seem content to accept its bland formulae. Those of us who won't should realize that independent programming cannot be produced without substantial financial backing.

Public TV's search for alternative funding is a seemingly endless one. Last year, underwriting grants from corporations provided only \$25 million of the \$700 million total for its budget - cer-

lot of us don't realize is now much with the production being aired. the underwriter influences what This is obviously the company's programs are aired. The reason: intent, and it usually brings posicorporate money, unlike funds tive results. If corporations are from other sources, is set aside for indeed funding these programs as specific productions. Because cor- an alternative to buying comporations tend to favor non-con- mercials, public TV may have betroversial programming, the sub- come an attractive medium for ject matter of the programs they advertising, even though the conchoose to finance had better not cept behind the system has never be threatening. As a result, creatiin production has been goods. vity strained. Many projects have been discarded because they dealt with unsettling topics - ones which would not have reflected the desired corporate image of a potential underwriter. Since the program content will influence the public's view of the corporate image, subject matter is steered safely toward what stations think the underwriters will buy. Corporate grants for public affairs programming are scarce because of potentially controversial topics; federal government support for. programs expressing viewpoints on heated social issues could bring political interference.

Underwriting grants have recently been referred to as "corporate advertising" since the public television audience has been found to

tainly not a major portion. What a associate a corporation's name been the promotion of consumer

> Inadequate funding has forced program quality to be pared down to bare essentials. Competition from cable TV has left PBS stations with little optimism for their financial state. While membership donations are desperately needed, little opportunity is offered for viewer feedback. If the public could express its opinions or make its needs known, we might be able to avoid having a BBC rerun house for a public TV system.

> Let's face it - cultural and racial extremes exist in the media and arts just as they do in society. To suggest that public television strive towards a homogenous audience would be unrealistic. The ideal public television system will serve and be representative of diverse types of people.

## Draft Resistance Should The Majority Rule?

#### (continued from page 3)

that if the minority disagreed with the stand, it should not have voted for the elected officials who set forth the policy (or worse yet, it asks the minority to go elsewhere, to another country, to establish its viewpoint in a more tolerant political system.)

In this case, majority's stand is pro-Draft Registration, and its basic principles defy heavy precedent in the democratic process and the freedoms outlined in our constitu-The Draft is a system in tion. which the majority sets policy, and imposes its decision on the minority. Rather than extending: individuals the freedom of deciding their personal courses, deciding w whether they feel justified about participating in a war, the majority in our huge political sytem would deny a minority's members the freedom of choice to decide their Fates, and indeed denies them their freedoms to determine for themselves a moral system drawn constitution

The conservatives rejoinder may be that we are permitted those personal freedoms which cannot down Main Street, U.S.A. today. support a military institution", or, "We value our right to selfdetermination, and 'so will not defense";

Draft, or wars in general, or wars in set of nations with the same or particular, or many moral grounds. Let's explore the most common of these, to see if it trulyjeopardizes the defense/security of our nation, and therefore jeopardizes the liberties of other Americans.

from religion, culture, and political conservative opinion is that Pacibelief-freedoms contained in the fists would be asking for treaties and summit meetings until we had tanks (not the foreign kind attached to foreign cars) rumbling But infringe on the freedom and well- what reasons do the conservatives being of others in America. But have for believing the Pacifists look at their reasons for burning aren't cagey enough to see unstopptheir draft cards a decade and a able hostilities mounting? What in half ago and for not registering, the moral code above prevents the They say "We cannot existence of a standing army, geared for defense? Nothing.

"self Second, the phrase, What is self defense? give it up to the Draft board." What is meant by self - the indi-The minority objects to the vidual, the family, the nation, or a nearly the same political system? This question must be answered by the individual, as should the question of going to war. If, as the conservative say, Pacifists would not go to war even as the "True Americans" (?) dug foxholes in their front lawns, then yes, the Draft should be. But this is not, will not be the case. The term "self-defense" is not applied by Pacifists in the selfish sense.

Pacifists, as all altruists, think beyond themselves. Anyone who has the courage to speak out against a belligerent majority because of his moral beliefs is almost certainly courageous enough to fight for the system which supports his guaranteed freedoms. Certainly, the code extends to the boundaries of our nation.

"Self-defense" is a term which can be, and almost always is, extended to the limits of encompassing any nation in which Democracy is the highest ideal.

In conclusion, I feel as I believe the writers of the constitution felt, that it is our duty to protect the freedom to act, the freedom of selfexpression, and the freedom of selfdetermination, especially in the cases of our political, cultural, and religious minorities. If we lose sight of these principles in our goal of national security, then we have left nothing worth defending.

believe that The Pacifists violence, meaning war, is justifiable, "only as the last resort to selfdefense"

First, the phrase, "last resort"; The first resorts aren't stated. The

Remember, "I may not agree with what you're saying, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

## The Third Estate: Viewpoint-End Of The Road Public interest takes on Insurance

by Mel Goldberg NYPIRG attorney and Jim Leotta **Project Coordinator** 

Over the last 15 years the consumer movement has taken on the auto industry, banks, pharmaceuticals, and supermarkets, to name just a few. One of the industries which has, by and large, escaped major challenge from public interest advocates is the insurance business. This is curious given the enormous size and power of the industry and the general lack of adequate regulation. A few statistics help to illustrate.

According to Federal Trade Commission staff analysis, around 12% of consumers' disposable income (income after taxes) is spent on insurance. This is a phenomenally large portion of a typical family budget, rivaling and surpassing in many cases heating bills, transportation costs, and food. Over \$200 billion each year is handed over from the public to insurance companies for various lines, such as Health, Life, Auto, and Home, This is equivalent to the entire Defense Department budget. Peanuts it ain't.

In fact, the 20 or so largest companies are behemoths. Even Exxon and GM pale in comparison to a Prudential or Metropolitan Life. Not only do the large insurers have greater assets, but they are relatively free to do what they like with that money. Exxon must drill a well now and then to show the public it deserves the profits it is making. GM tears down a Detroit neighborhood to sink some of its assets in a new Cadillac plant.

handed over from the public to insurance companies, such as Health, Life, Auto and Home. This is equivalent ti the entire defense is equivalent to the entire defense budget. Peanuts it ain't.

Insurers, on the other hand, play with their assets in pretty much whatever way appeals to them. Right now commercial real estate has caught their fancy. Thus there is plenty of money around for large Manhattan office buildings and hotels or for shopping centers in Arizona. On the other hand, the interest that insurance companies used to show for residential mortgages has gone down considerably, since 30 years at a set interest rate isn't nearly as enticing as the prospect of a joint venture on a new 60 story office tower, where rents can be raised over short time frames. As a result of this mania for buildings, the insurance industry has the dubious distinction of having one of its members owning the tallest building in practically every city. In Boston, John Hancock and Prudential fight it out over who can build the tallest edifice. In Chicago, Sears (alias Allstate) seems to have won for the time being with its collossal Sears Tower (the tallest building in the world) making the John

Hancock there look like a poor cousin in comparison. In New York City, the Empire State Building is owned by an irsurance company, as is the Pan Am building. The World Trade Center appears to be close to being put on the butcher's block, and only a few overseas national banks and the larger insurers are mentioned as having enough money sitting around to buy what will certainly be the largest real estate deal in the history of the world.

Not only are the companies making billions, they're keeping a lot of it. According to Forbes Magazine, only broadcasting and electronics are more profitable industries (but they are puny in size, compared to insurance). Of the 31, economic sectors, Forbes has insurance come in third in profitability, whereas banks-very simi- industry, then is left primarily to the lar financial institutions-come in 18th.

With little or no justification for insurers to make such high profits, the question must be asked, why are they allowed to? The answer is complex. First, the amount of regulation of the industry if far less than for other industries. Federalanti-trust laws were specifically amended in 1947 to exclude insurance from their coverage. When the FTC tried to investigate the life insurance industry in 1978, the wrath was forceful and immediate; the industry simply went to Congress and got provisions written into the FTC appropriation bill to prohibit FTC activity in insurance issues.

What little regulation there is of the industry, then, is left primarily to the states. And state regulation's weak, at best, as will be shown below.

Finally, competition has not been effective either in regulating the insurance market. The products are too complex, the sales force too high-pressure, and the level of consumer understanding too low for a Milton Friedman approach to be effective.

NYPIRG, with the aid of Ralph Nader's Over \$200 billion each year is National Insurance Consumer Organization (NICO), is beginning the battles needed to reform this bloated industry. Our victories will not only translate into lower premiums for consumers, but will mean a less central role in the economy for the insurance industry. This should mean a continuation of some modicum of competition in the capital markets, which could be threatened--with drastic results--if the insurance industry continues on its present course.

NYPIRG and NICO have identified two major ways in which consumers have been ripped of by the insurance companies. First, they are making bundles by investing policyholder premium dollars. This in itself may not be bad, but the benefit of these investments is only to a very limited extent being figured back into the rates charged consumers. As a result, New Yorkers have paid hundreds of millions more for their auto and other insurance than can be justified.

ing without the rates going down to reflect this major source of insurance industry profit.

What is needed is to establish a target of return that the insurers will be allowed to make-similar to what is done with utilities by the Public Service Commission. At the present, the state must approve auto insurance rates before they are put into effect -- and state law does specifically require that when rates are approved. investment income must be considered.

What little regulation there is of the states. And regulation is weak, at *best*...

Life Insurance: Another major area where consumers have been taken for a ride is in life insurance. Because the policies seem to be designed to be as confusing as possible, billions of dollars more are spent for coverage than would be the case if consumers were adequately informed. Bad policies sell as well as good ones, costing New York consumers alone hundreds of millions extra per year.

At first glance life insurance may seem like an area where competition alone could work. Instead, rates are not regulated as they are in auto insurance. But anyone who has tried to buy life insurance knows that the companies make it sound as if there are literally hundred of different kinds of policies which are not comparable. Past efforts at providing intelligible cost comparisons, such as the New York Life Insurance Guide put out by the State Insurance Department, have been fundamentally flawed because two separate cost indexes are used which in many cases give conflicting answers as to which policies are cheaper.

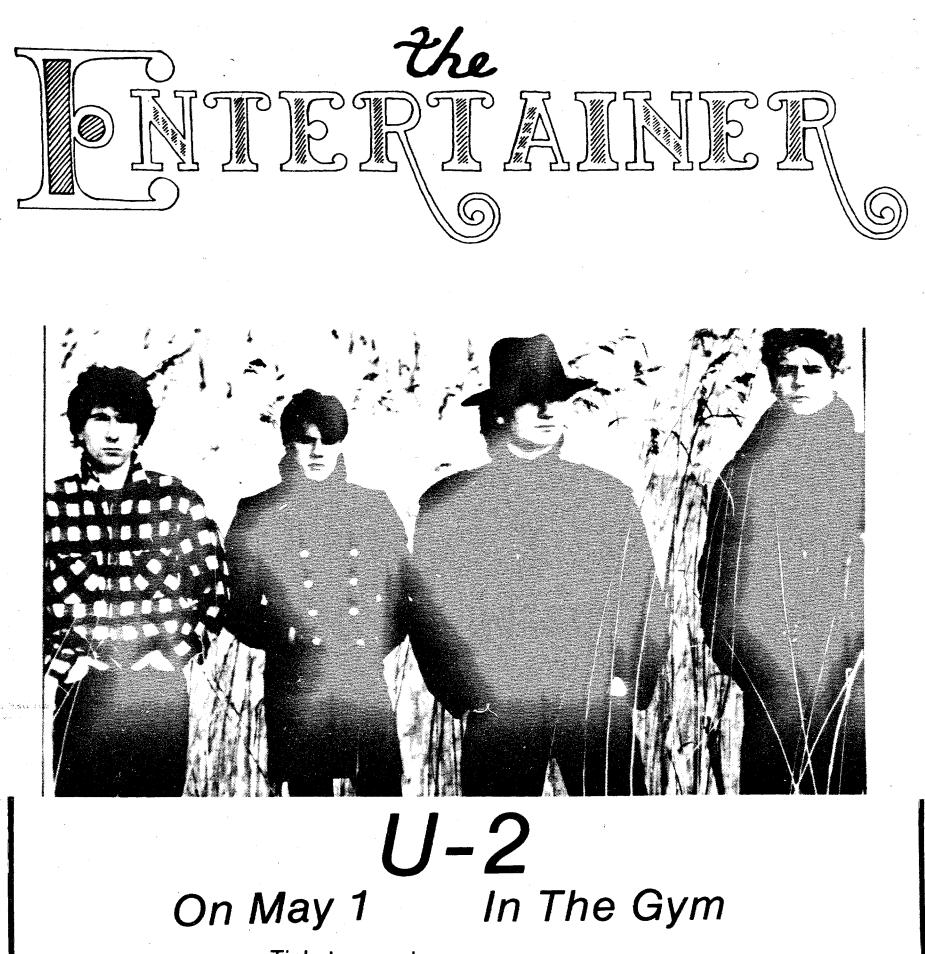
The net result of all this is that confusion reigns, consumers get bilked, and the companies line their pockets. What is needed is a N.Y. regulation useful which requires cost information to be given at the time of the actual sale of the policy. If this were mandated, the bad values would be driven from the market in short order, just as no banks can survive that pay the prevailing rate, within a 1/4% margin, for deposits.

Last year a report was prepared by a commission appointed by Governor Carey (you remember him) to make recommendations to the state on insurance related reform. The commission was made up entirely of executives of the insurance industry. The report called "ev thing the insurance companies ever wanted but were afraid to ask for till now" was printed and paid for by taxpayers. The focus of the report was to convince legislators to remove the very little regulations that do exist from the law books. Legislation pending in Albany will divert much of the time spent by consumer groups from making necessary reforms to holding on to the threads we have. Gov. Cuomo's recent appointment of an Insurance industry lobbyist to head the Dept. of Insurance may not be the most optimistic of signs, yet by holding firm this year, we can make the much needed reforms in the ones to come.

The second major ripoff going on right now is in the form of they very bad deals many consumers are getting on life insurance policies they buy. With virtually no effective cost information being provided consumers, hundred of millions of dollars are being wasted.

Investment Income: As explained above, the insurance companies are extremely profitable enterprises. There is no compelling reason why the industry needs to be making these very high profits, but neither competition nor regulation has to date been effective inlowering the rate of return of the companies to a reasonable level. Investment income has simply continued grow-

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#### Tickets on sale ... (reserved seats sold out)

Welcome back to that terrific tabloid The Entertainer. A large number of people have been trying to con our editorial staff into allowing them to write some rubbish about campus events. In the spirit only one event which do you of fast approaching finals, and to show you how difficult this job is, we present The Entertainer Quiz .

event in order to avoid confusing the simple minded in the reading audience

Assuming you write about 2) chose?

- A) the Polity elections
- B) the concerts because you want to get on the guest list

but they're better than the Expos

- D) they drop acid
- E) they are internationally known innovators in the theater
- they are internationally F) unknown innovators in the theater
- D) short for incredible con job what tarzan said after being E) incarcerated
- the most fantastic science-F) fiction convention since last year
- 6) What's going to be at I-CON? A) fantastic feature films s.f. writer and artists inclu-B)

1) If there is more than one activity on campus you:

- A) write a paragraph about each of them and try desparately to invent some transitions. B) write a paragraph about each of them disregarding transitions in the spirit of "gonzo" journalism.
- C) drop acid for inspiration D) write nothing and blame it on the Stony Brook Press. E) wake up and smell the coffee  $\mathbf{F}$ ) write about one and only one
- C) "gonzo" journalism
- D) your music T.A.'s graduate recital (to avoid failing; E) dropping acid
- F) the Theater Sans Fil production of "The Hobbit"
- Which statement about the 3) Sans Fil is not true?
- They work with giant rod A) puppets
- B) they are appearing in the Fine Arts Center this Sunday at 4p.m.
- C) they come from Montreal,

- A performance of Theater 4) Sans Fil is a lot like:
  - A) A live version of the muppet show without the pig
  - B) I-CON
  - C) dropping acid
  - D) giving blood... without the Lorna Doones
  - D) a Polity election
  - F) "gonzo" journalism
- 5) What's an I-CON?
  - A) A relic of a saint
  - B) the con before I-CON
  - slang for dropping acid C

- ding Isaac Asimov
- vendors of many worlds C)
- D) conventioneers dropping acid
- Robert Blalack, oscar win-E) ning special effects wizard of Star Wars
- F) all of the above and more!

And you thought it was going to be easy. Submit your answers to The Entertainer so we can ignore them. Better yet come down to so we can The Entertainer office ignore you in person.

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# I-Con is Coming!

L.I.'s Biggest Convention of Science Fiction Fact and Fantasy

## May 6 - 8 in the Lecture Center

Featuring:

ISAAC ASIMOV + J.O. JEPPSON

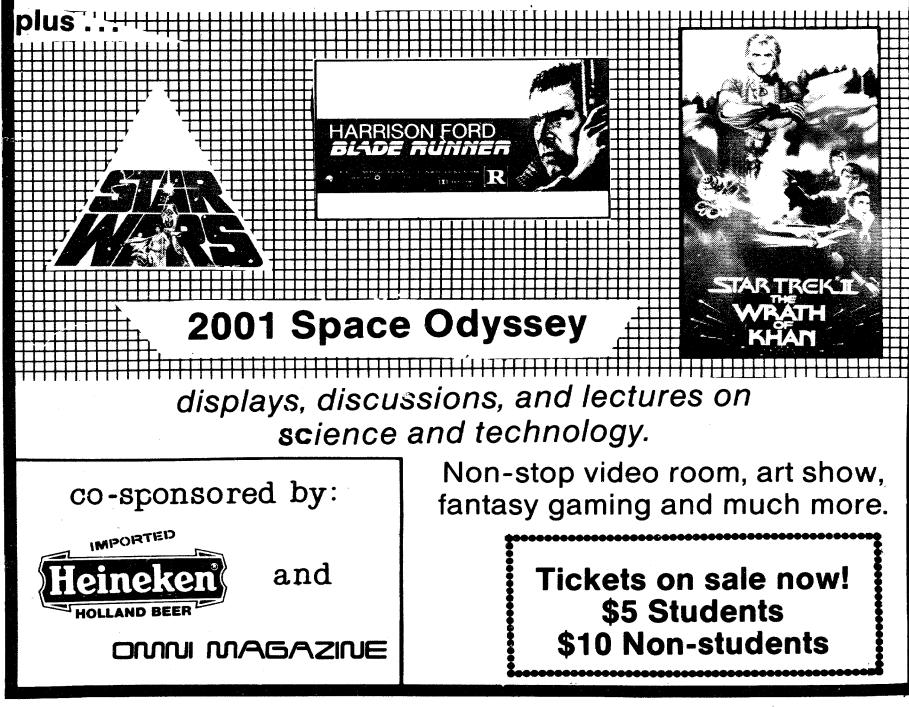
Special Guests:

Robert Blalack

Acadmy Award winning special effects wizard "Return of the Jedi" George Takei

Mr.Sulu of Star Trek

With over 20 writers, editors, and artists from thw world of Science Fiction.



# **G-FEST** More than a weekend -

# **A TRADITION**

## Fri., April 22nd - Sat., April 23rd

G-QUAD PIT **FEATURING** 



## SATURDAY AT 3:30 P.M.

Playing CLASH - Duran Duran - Flock of Seagulls Joe Jackson — Stray Cats & Originals

Have a beer for the University's 25th Anniversary

#### **Two Nights** Friday, April 22nd

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **Battle of the Bands** Part I

## **BATTLE of the BANDS**

Sat, April 23

6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. **Battle of the Bands** Part II 10:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Outside "Surprise Movies" Inside "Video DJ"



## 8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. **Parental Guidance Suggested** playing U-2, Stray Cats, Clash, Billy Idle 10:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Outside "Horror Movies" Inside "DJ Bob"

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## The Third Estate: Viewpoint

# Why Arm Now?

#### by Mitchel Cohen

Why now?, I ask myself. The amount of violent crime at Stony Brook hasn't increased, and it still remains far below that in the offcampus areas. All the arguments mustered against guns on campus in any capacity, whether locked away for only limited use or not have been so overwhelming: 1) that guns for cops mean guns for many students, who'll feel the need to protect themselves; 2) the level of crime - and of hostage taking! increases dramatically, as criminals arm themselves in order to off-set Security's arms; 3) the ineptitude of Security; 4) the racism of Security, and the already hostile situation towards minorities; 5) the single accident or "mistake" that can never be taken back, because someone's dead; 6) the conditioned instinct to respond to a crime through the gun - as in the bebee gun incident; if police had guns, Langmuir residents would have looked like Swiss Cheese; 7) the transformation from Security to the macho roles of Public Safety, and then to the University Police, and what this does to the psyche of the cops themselves; 8) the creation and rapid escalation of incidents where none or only a minor incident existed previously; 9) simply not wanting a community with guns around; 10) the transfer of students (as testified to at the hearings) out of the university if Security gets guns; 11) the more militarized the police force, the more difficult for civilian control, keys to get into all sorts of offices,

and the more it becomes a force unto itself, not responsible to the University Community; 12) the individual members could have taken another job if they'd wanted guns; they knew the situation when they came here, and nothing dramatically has changed on campus to warrant such a major change in policy; 13) the tendency, with guns, to shoot first, ask questions later, and make up stories to cover vourself.

So, why now? Two members of Security testified at the hearings that they stood outside a door while a girl was being raped !!! They should be fired immediately! What would they have done with a gun, shot the guy in the back and risk hitting his victim, too? Or perhaps he would have taken his victim hostage in order to escape that's one response to expect if Security gets guns. How dare the cops do nothing but stand there as they themselves testified? (I think they were lying; they were not really there at all, but then, that would be perjury, and they should then be fired for lying to the panel — hence, the new "gag" rule). Why didn't they pull a fire alarm, blow a whistle, do something to make the guy run away? Or did they forget that their primary purpose should be to interrupt a crime of this nature? You can worry about catching the culprit ("apprehend the perpetrator") later!

As it is, Security already uses its

and steals stuff. It's nothing new (unless you believe that welltrained rats from the Psych department have been set loose all over campus re-arranging furniture, leaving things amiss at night, and eating quantities of everything from notebooks to lightbulbs). But imagine if they had a gun, and someone saw them sneaking into an office. Blow'm away, zap, make up a cover story later ...

So why now? Robert Francis wants them to have guns to protect the money moving through campus. According to Robert's Rules (Francis that is), cops need guns to guard money! Human life is secondary. Remember Kent (where Francis was)? Remember Brinks? Cops get guns, others get them too, just to even things out. Instead, why not just stick dye, like they do in banks, in the money bags so that should they be stolen, the bills become marked, as does the thief when opening the bag? It's too simple that way, too dull. Let the fucking thief take the money and run. You'll catch'm later, better'n having Hollywood shoot-outs and people dying - even the robber.

So why now? Why indeed? The Real Reason:

Because Security wants a 20-year retirement plan like the real police have, and you can only get it (asopposed to the Civil Service Employee's Association's 30-year plan) if you're on a dangerous job, and under constant stress. Presumably having or "needing" to have a gun is proof that your job is stressful,

and therefore makes it that much easier to retire 10 years earlier on the taxpayer's money. That's all it's about. It's hard to believe that Security would use such a volatile issue this way to gain a quicker pension plan, that it would hold an entire campus hostage, but it's true. That having a gun might actually cause the stress, and not just be a response to it or an indication of it; that it might alter a relatively safe job (there are more injuries among janitors, construction workers, nurses, groundskeepers, and students on campus than among Security personnel), and make the job unsafe in actuality, and create an unsafe environment for all, well, these are secondary considerations when compared to the possibilities of early retirement with 34 to full pay after 20 years!

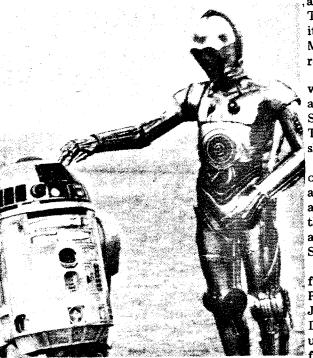
Not only don't we need guns; we don't need cops on campus, of any kind, either! I say: change University Police back to Campus Security; better, change the label - and the role – to "peacemakers", "mediators", and "student helpers". Get rid of the shiny cars and macho pretensions. Fire the perjurors, or the ones who stood around and twiddled their thumbs while someone was being raped! You want us to give that kind of person a gun?!!! No! Give each of them an enema, not a gun. Wash all that shit out, now, before it explodes and someone gets killed. (The writer is a member of the Red Balloon Collective.)

## I- Con II Science Fiction Hits Stony Brook

#### by Nick Meyer

As Reagan spouts "STAR WARS" defense systems, "E.T." breaks box office records, and science fiction/fantasy novels top the N.Y. Times Bestseller list, Stony Brook is gearing up for I-CON II.

Science ficition is reaching new heights of popularity and critical acceptance in contemporary literature and art. Aside from the commercial succes of s.f. films, books, t.v. shows, etc. (ad infinitum), the most unique evidence of this new popularity is the growth of "Cons". "Cons", short for conventions, are a phenomenon unique to science fiction fandom. They allow professionals and amatuers, artists and connoisseurs, and Idols and acolytes to gather on common ground... to party as equals. I-CON which is short for Island-Convention, was first established at Stony Brook last year. The Science Fiction Forum, SAB speakers, and COCA worked together to produce a successful two day event that featured Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek, as well



as many other writers and editors in the genre. The Con drew over 1,000 people, distinguishing it from past conventions at Stony Brook (like MudCon and BrookCon) which are generally remembered as disastrous affairs.

I-CON II, billed as "Long Island's largest convention of science fiction, fact, and fantasy", is again being produced by the triumverate of SAB, COCA, and the Science Fiction Forum. This year, however, the planning committee is shooting for something a little different.

By including displays, lectures, and discussions n science and technology, I-CON II will offer a dimension in s.f. conventions that's not available elsewhere. "We're trying to make the fact that this is a university con work for us, not against us, " said Gary Halada, president of the Science Fiction Forum.

By having such notable Stony Brook professors as Max Dresden, Thomas Liao, and Emil Piel in attendance, as well as NASA engineer Jesco von Puttkamer and the world renowned Dr. Isaac Asimov, I-CON II promises to be a unique experience for those interested in science fact.

(continued on page 13)

## Spring Tennis Tournament

The Coed-Women's Intramural Office is having a Women's Single Tournament

## Date: April 24th Time: 11:00 a.m.

Entry Deadline: April 21st (Bring to Women's Intramural's Office) Finals Held: April 30th

> \*Double Elimination Round \*Intercollegiate Rules Used

## **Polity Elections On Tues.**, April 26th

## VOTE

From 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Residents: Near Your College Office Commuters: Lecture Hall and Union

## VOTE !

### **Caribbean Student's Organization**

Meets every Tuesday

Everyone please try to attend. Plans for Caribbean Weekend are being finalized.

**CASB Roller Skating Party** at The Great Skates (used to be USA)

Date: Thurs., April 21, 1983 **Time:** 11:00 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

> Advance Ticket: \$1.50/person (Includes Skates)

> > At Door: \$2.50/person

Car Pool: Meet at Union Bus Stop at 10:45 p.m. on Thursday night.

For more info call: Allen 6-4184; Cindy 6-4367

For those who have a car, please contact Allen.

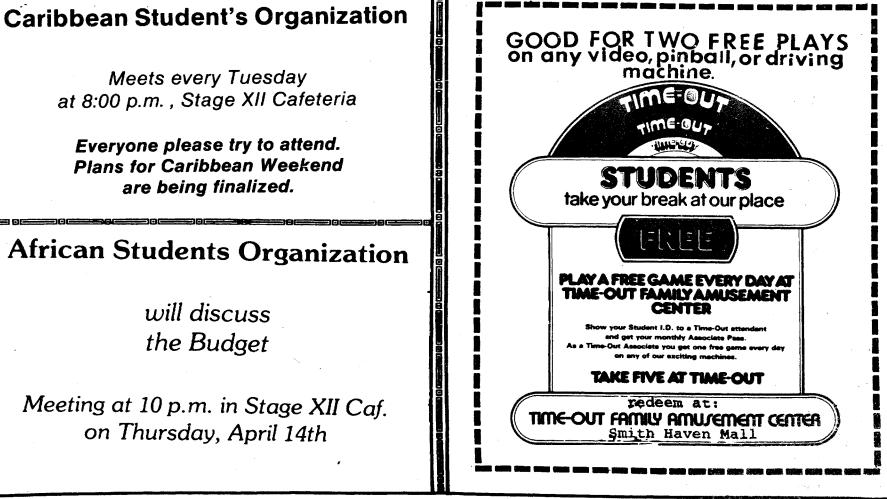
## THE IRISH CLUB

Will be holding a General Meeting to Elect New Officers

## Wednesday, April 27 at 8:30 p.m.

In the Union room 223

All Persons Welcome T-Shirts will be available



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# Booted

## "We Don't Want Your Kind"

#### by Jeff Zoldan

The other night, I was asked to leave the Microforms section section of the Library. The day before, I was asked to leave the Student Union Building. On both occasions, I was neither unruly or drunk. Yet, Union officials and a librarian with an officious attitude, who was begging to be hit in the mouth, saw fit to ask me to leave.

To be perfectly straightforward, it wasn't really me that they were all bent on having ejected from their respective domains. It was Satch who they didn't take a liking to and wished to bade farewell. Satch is my inoffensive friend who hardly ever speaks and it came as quite a shock to me when we were ejected from these buildings. He did nothing to provoke anyone's ire and it was very frustrating.

Satch is new to Stony Brook, having arrived at the beginning of this semester. To him campus is a large, labarynthian array of tall buildings. It's easy for Satch to lose his way, so I make sure that he follows me wherever I go. If he was to lose his way, it would be very difficult for him to communicate since he speaks no English. Chances are he would be taken in by some official agency and housed temporarily with others of his kind until someone came to vouch for him. That would be a traumatic situation for him and given Satch's frail temperament, we'd both like to prevent this from ever occuring.

I came across Satch late last December. He was an orphana and very much in need of food and shelter. My heart went out to him immediately and I took him in. I made sure he was given all the things he lacked in the time before we met, with a visit to the doctor for his health and a long bath and manicure for his looks. Satch responded immediately with all the warmth that a love-starved, neglected orphan could muster. It was especially rewarding to me to be able to supply Satch with the few creature comforts that had managed to evade him for interminable length of time, a perfect embellishment to a holiday season.

At first, it was a little awkward for Satch and me to understand each other since we had no common language. With a little time, we came to a mutuall understanding of each other's ways and Satch quickly learned several key words in English. Soon I came to realize that though I had taken Satch in and given him a home, he was still a little distrustful of my intentions. I was free and it was only natural for Satch to be suspicious since I had not made any demands of payments for the many material and intangible things I had given him. Resolving this obstacle in our friendship, we began to forge a deeper relationship.

As soon as intersession was over, I told Satch, we'd be heading out to Long Island, a much different place from the Bronx. The thought of moving away from the only home he every knew frightened Satch at first, but soon the images of pretty girls on campus and rolling acres of land by my house became very enticing. We loaded the Volvo and we were on our way.

When we got to Mt. Sinai, I opted for Satch to occupy himself at home. I had to get a lot of things together in school before I would have enough time to start showing him around. He didn't mind too much as there were dozens of things to keep him busy. Little did we know that by the time I would be ready to show him what college life was all about, he would be a persona non grata.

The first time Satch was asked to leave was in in the Union. A building manager came over to to me and asked if he was with me. Sure, I told him, has he done anything wrong? He's new in these parts, I thought, god only knows if he did anything that might upset the locals. No, the manager told me, he didn't do anything wrong, but he had to leave the building. The manager had a job to do and that was all. If it was up to him he wouldn't care if Satch stayed or not, but rules are rules. I couldn't maintain myself too well so the best course of action at the time was to comply and leave. Better to obey than to start something which could take me places I didn't want to go.

Later in the same week, Satch and I walked through the library. It was a short stroll on the way to the microforms section on the second floor of the reference room. We stopped along the way to chat with several people, all of whom were immediately taken by Satch's outgoing personality and charm. I could tell that Satch was coming into his own on campus, quickly making new friends wherever we went. When we got upstairs, though, an obnoxious librarian asked Satch to leave, setting the non-comprehending Satch back weeks of adjustment time in this new, strange world. I asked the librarian why he had to leave and she just said that it was

inappropriate for him to be in the Microforms section. I assured her that Satch would sit quietly by my side and that he wouldn't bother anybody so why was it inappropriate for him to be there. Ms Janet Stein, the surly librarian of which I speak, snottily answered she didn't have to explain to me why. All of a sudden the library had become a very oppressive atmosphere with this Evita Stein in charge, not even having the courtesy to explain her actions. Rather then fight the issue with her, we chose to leave peacefully hoping to forget the incident as quickly as possible.

Looking back on these incidents, it beguiles me why our society still reacts with horror when elements such as Satch enter buildings regulated under State auspices. When people don't wash regularly or fart in public, we don't ask them to leave. Sure, we might walk away from these kind of people but their rights to be offensive is extended to the tips of our noses and until they actually touch the little piece of cartilage at the ends of our proboscides, their rights to be left alone are protected.

But not my friend Satch. He's a foreigner in our world at Stony Brook and is welcomed virtually nowhere. Not by the people, mind you, but by the institutions that regulate our lives here, the same institutions that allow for offensive people to roam freely so long as they don't commit crimes. Maybe it's time we reexamine these regulations that forbid Satchmo, my faithful Golden Retriever-Collie, from accompanying me on campus. His unassuming, loveable personality is a lift to every one who encounters him and in this pressure-cooker university we need to encourage these things. It still escapes me why the blind adherents of illogical regulations will come down on inoffensive Satch, who is much more amenable to obey commands than even the librarian or Union building managers that shoo him away. I suppose itLs always much easier to come down on the feeble and simple minded.

Nevertheless, if given the choice, I'm sure most people on campus wouldn't mind seeing happy-go-lucky dogs like Satch roaming around on campus with their owners nearby making sure thay they don't cause any trouble. If you've ever met Satch, you'll know exactly what I mean. So if you ever see him or any other dog on campus, stop and say hello! It'll make both your days a little brighter.

## Stony Brook's I - Con

#### (continued from page 11)

Those of you only interested in science fiction and fantasy, though, have nothing to worry about for Dr. Asimov's fiction is as

room t.v. shows (like the Twilight Zone and Star Trek) projected on a large screen, surrounded by monitors.

with continuous playing of movies and as anything in the northeast," said Mike Botwin, of the I-CON executive committee. "We put last year's convention together in a month," COCA chairman Ralph Sevush said. "Wehad little time Media guests will include George Takei- Mr. for advertising and we still drew a thousand people. There's obviously an audience here, we just have to reach them."

acclaimed as his non-fiction. And he won't be here alone. Over 20 writers and artists will be in attendance offering an art show, panel discussions, slide shows, readings, and lectures on a wide variety of topics in the genre. Also, an author's party will be held to allow for an informal gathering of fans and guests, held together by a bond of mutual respect and unlimited Heineken.

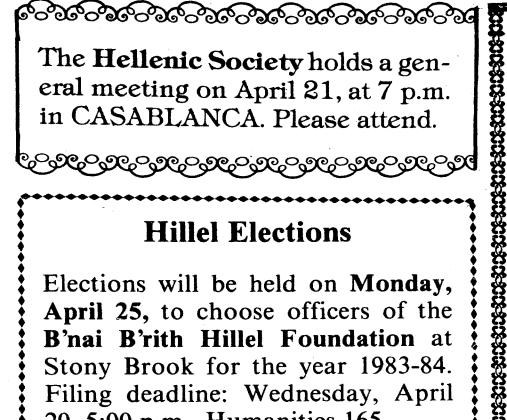
This year's I-CON will have a strong emphasis on media. Their first-rate film program includes Star Trek II, Bladerunner, 2001: A Space Odyssey, and at least a half dozen other s.f. classics. This will be augmented by a video-

- ver sag

Sulu of Star Trek - who might reveal the secrets of Star Trek III. Also, special effects artist Robert Blalack will offer a presentation on  $\ensuremath{\mathcal{M}\textit{ovie}}$  Magic , to be followed by the film, STAR WARS, for which his work won an Oscar.

This three day event, running May 6-8, is an expensive proposition. Last year, I-CON was funded mostly through a Polity Senate allocation. This year, the convention is being paid for by Stony Brook Concerts and Speakers (SAB), and COCA, and they are counting on good ticket sales to close the gap between how much they have and how much they need. Yet, they don't seem worried. "It's going to be as big

At this stage, with about two weeks to go, "reaching them" has become the focus of the I-CON committee. With flyers, posters, banners. newspaper ads, radio spots, and a t.v. commercial (during Star Trek on Channel 11, May 4) in the works, I-CON II is trying to ride the crest of science fiction's recent mass acceptance. "We're trying to build a tradition here, something for Stony Brook to be proud of," Mr. Sevush said. "I'd like to come back in 10 years for I-CON If I-CON's success continues to match its ambition, he might just make it.



The Hellenic Society holds a general meeting on April 21, at 7 p.m. in CASABLANCA. Please attend.

## **Hillel Elections**

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Elections will be held on Monday, April 25, to choose officers of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Stony Brook for the year 1983-84. Filing deadline: Wednesday, April 20, 5:00 p.m., Humanities 165.

A typewritten platform is required for all candidates. Platforms will be read Thursday, April 21. Polling is Monday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Humanities 165.

Undregraduates at SUSB who are Hillel registrants are eligible to run and vote.

## Haitian Weekend

Thursday, April 21 Speaker - Dr. Frank Larangue Professor at CCNY. Topic: **Actual Political Situation in** Haiti. Reception. Time: 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Place: Stage XII cafeteria Fireside Lounge

Cultural Day - Haitian Food, Friday, April 22 Haitian Music, Salsa, Reggae. Art Exhibit. Time: 10 p.m.-6 p.m. Place: Union Fireside Lounge

Sat., April 23 Soccer Tournament. Time: 10 a.m. 6 p.m. Place: Athletic Field. Drama Night, Poetry, Songs & Dance. Time: 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Place: Union AuditoAn Experiential Workshop In Jewish Ethnotherapy:

# **Explore How Being Jewish Affects** Your Choice Of Lovers And Friends

Group led by Nina Klebanof, Psychotherapist practicing in Manhattan

#### Sunday, May 1, 2-5 p.m Humanitites 157

– What stereotypes do you have of yourself and others? Learn how you may be limiting your ov n choices.

- Do you find "shiksas" and "shaygetzes" (always, sometimes, never) more attractive?
- Would you never consider dating a non-Jew?
- Do you always date non-Jews?

- Can interfaith relationships work? What's involved?
- What "shoulds" have you swallowed? What "shoulds" have you chosen?

Join A Group Workshop Where Your **Own Feelings About Yourself** And Others Will Be Explored.

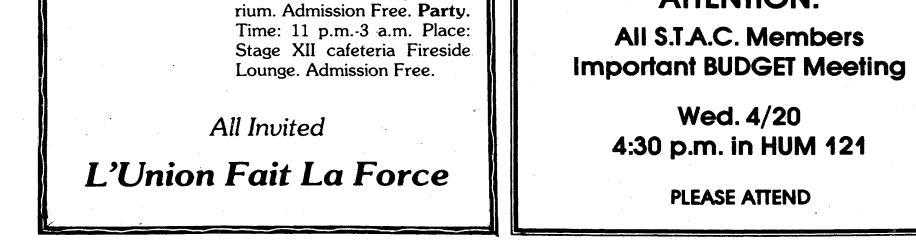
The Group Is Limited To A Maximum Of 15 People You Must Pre-Register To Be Included.

Call The J.A.C.Y. Office At 246-6843 To Reserve A Space

FREE OF CHARGE

## **Club Budget Hearings**

The last chance for Polity Clubs to have a hearing for a Line Budget for 1983-84 is Monday, 4/25/83. Come to the Polity Office to sign up for a hearing.



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## Johansen Live at Joe's

#### by Kathy Esseks

JISIC

As a change of pace from synth-pop and African rhythms, David Johansen energized Tokyo Joe's last Monday with his party-time bar-band rock'n'roll. The union ballroom wasn't as stiflingly crowded as it sometimes is, and enthusiastic dancer took advantage of the additional echoing space. Since Johansen is the type of guy who develops a loyal following and is a time-tested fave with SAB, the crowd was cheering, jeering, and singing along right from the moment a white spotlight picked out Johansen's back as he lunged into "Here Comes the Night".

Johansen ran down his greatest hits plus some welcome unanticipated numbers. The signature hat fetish made its appearance with "Funky But Chic", but hats were changing heads with lightning speed all evening. "Poet's Cafe" was a well-received preview from the upcoming album, and his rockinroll version of "Pass the Duchie" in the middle of "Melody" was an inspired joke. By the time the band hit the opening bars of their breakthrough hit, the Animals' medley, the crowd had worked itself up to full-participation pitch. stomping, and singing into a proffered microphone.

The encore included a cute salute to the cheap and plentiful beer-- Johansen swallowed a cupful and announced "This is the worst beer I ever had ... -- and a frenzied screaming-andyelling rendition of "Personality Crisis". Real, true, honest-to-God Johansen fans would probably turn out like clockwork even if he played every week, but even for the less devout an evening of "that old time rock 'n' roll" can do wonders for those Monday blues.



## Film The Outsiders... A Manufactured Tearjerker

by Blair Tuckman "The Outsiders' directed by Francis Ford Coppola Screenplay by Kathleen Knutsen Rowel

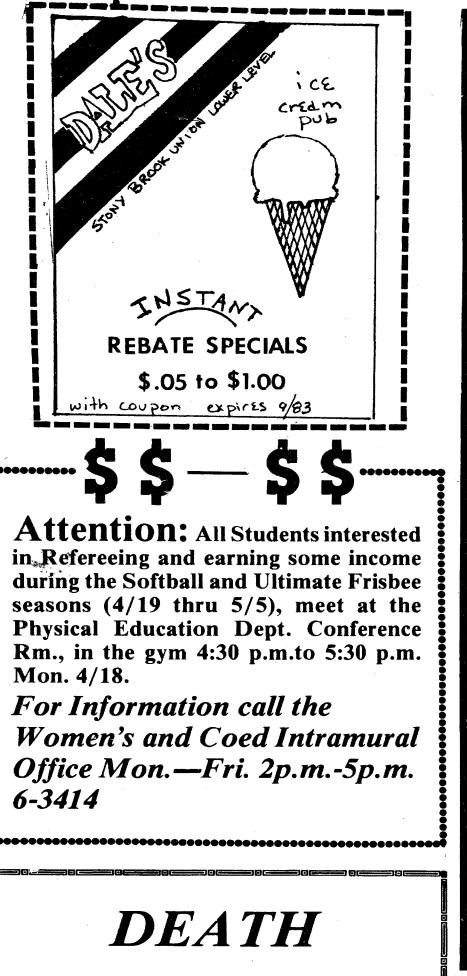
While watching The Outsiders, I was struck by the fact that I was crying. Now that in itself is not surprising, considering the movie is what one could call a "tearjerker", but I realized that I did not want to cry. My tears were manufactured ones. Coppola pulled out all the stops and, it must be noted, did this masterfully to manipulate his audience into feeling rather than greasers save small schoolchildren interpreting what was unfolding before them. The above attitude was especially evident in the cinematography and choice of background music. The movie opened with a sweet ballad sung by Stevie Wonder and later drifted into a lush, dreamy score composed by Carmine Coppola, the director's father. Blazing sunsets sweep the sky as one of the characters quotes Robert Frost to another, and at one point Coppola even zeroes in on a rabbit: a soft, furry, innocent creature. The

message here is clear: let's emphasize the beauty of nature and the simple goodness of existence, and contrast all this with these poor boys' rough, violent world and unhappy, unfulfilled lives and poof! you've got a movie. Not quite.

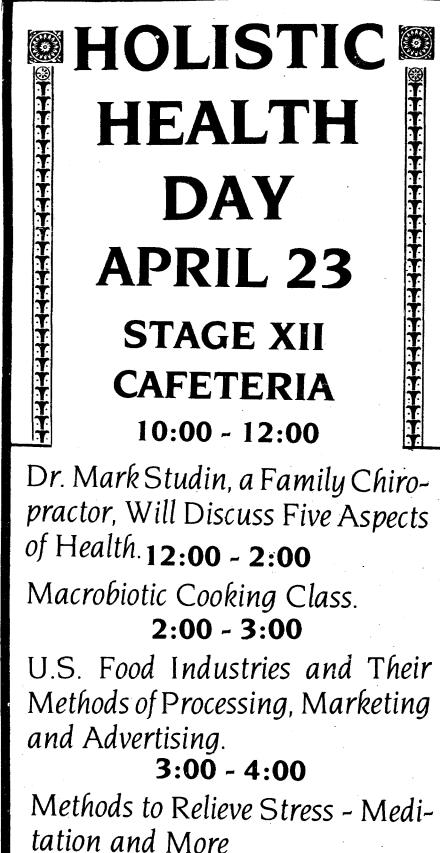
The screenplay is developed from a novel of the same name written S.E. Hinton. Set in Tulsa, bv Oklahoma, circa 1966, the story revolves around a group of troubled adolescents, "greasers", who are in constant rivalry against the "socs", affluent kids from the right side of town. During the course of the film there is a knifing, with a greaser killing a soc in defense of his friend, a fire in which three from almost certain death, thus putting their own lives in jeopardy, and a rumble between the two One almost expected to gangs. hear the opening strains of "When you're a jet" etc. This series of events may have been creditable in the book, but transferred to the screen they lacked plausibility. The actors all did very well with the material they had to work with. Most impressive was C. Thomas Howell as Ponyboy, from whose point of view the story is told. Emilio Estevez was also note-

worthy in the part of Two-bit, a rough greaser with a sense of humor. Matt Dillon played Dallas (a greaser), the most fucked-up, misunderstood one of the lot, who ends up getting gunned down by the police after freaking out over the death of his friend Johnny (Ralph Macchio) and robbing a grocery store. Dillon's characterization only occasionally transcended adequacy. Perhaps I'm getting bored of seeing Dillon play the same role over and over (Tex, My Bodyguard), but the "tough, sensitive hood", Dillon's trademark, has become cliched at this point. The only thing one can say about Macchio is that he was very one-note, but then Johnny is one of those "good-asgold" characters, like Melanie Cherry is saying things like "Bob Wilkes in Gone With the Wind was different, he was special", one (which Ponyboy reads out loud to has to wonder a bit. I mean, really Johnny; it is elevated to some sort now, who cares? of symbol, though of what I couldn't quite figure out). Diane films and his reputation, I must say Lane plays. Cherry, who is the I expected more from him. No, the murdered soc's girlfriend. Cherry movie wasn't terrible but it could seems to be an attempt to close the have been better. Yes, Coppola gap between the two groups, but as needed a commercial success after this is done by her spying on the One From the Heart and probably socs and reporting to the greasers, he has found it in this film. I'll which can only get her into trouble pass though, and wait for his if caught, it is difficult to compre-, next one.

hend just how this goal will be ac complished. Lane is really the onit female in the film (save for Cherry best chum, who basically doe nothing but giggle into her pop corn in the opening scene, set in  $\pm$ drive-in), and Lane has nothing  $\leftrightarrow$ do, except look pretty and have Dillon's character pant over her. In one scene she meets with Ponyboy. whom she seems to have taken a shine to, to report the socs' activities. He urges her to go visit Johnny, who is in the hospital near death, and she breaks into ar impassioned speech about Bob, her dead boyfriend. Since Bob is killed in the first fifteen minutes of the movie, and has practically no lines (we do see him slugging liquor out of a flask alot, however) and now Judging from Coppola's previous



As a celebrated english actor said on his death. bed "Dying is easy... Comedy is hard." We here at the P.I.T. know a lot about dying, but we know a lot about comedy too. Granted, not as much as Groucho Marx but even still. I mean Groucho has probably forgotten more about comedy than we here at the P.I.T. ever knew. And we here at the P.I.T. would be the last to deny this great comedian an ounce of the credit he deserves. But he is dead. And so is the celebrated english actor mentioned earlier. We here at the P.I.T. are Not Dead Yet, but we are in rather desperate need of a transfusion. New Female Blood is particularly welcome. Come on down to Lect. Hall 108 Wednesday at 8p.m. or call Mike Barrett at 246-4632.



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