

The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol. 5 No. 3 University Community's Weekly Paper Thurs. Sept. 22, 1983



Dave Gamberg A Press Interview

As Polity Council President, Dave Gamberg oversees a \$750,000 budget. As a public service Presstaffer Katie Bodie visited with Gamberg in our musty albeit non air conditioned office, and solicited his opinions on communication with students, the creation of a paid public relations job, and his effectiveness during his fourth year in the Polity Court.

GAMBERG: I think that students have to take a greater role in the policies that are affecting them, that your life here at Stony Brook does not begin nor end in the classroom. Polity has the ability to offer practical experience to students, and it also has the responsibility to offer the leadership within all of the possible areas you can imagine. I'm talking about food service, to Public Safety, to RA's and MA's, etc, etc, down the line, up and including academics. When you say academics, I think there's too little being spoken about the academic environment here at Stony Brook. . . . there's not enough questioning going on, there's too much acceptance. I really don't think they are questioning their whole education and the process by which they're being educated here. And I think that alot of faculty would agree with this. They probably see this lack of participation in the committees.

PRESS: The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS)?

continued on page 6

Van Crackdown

page 3

Morals and Dorm Cooking

page 2

Graham Parker

page 12



Food, Freedom and Money

"What!? Another increase in the cooking fee? How can they do that? I'm not getting my money's worth now and I'll have to pay more for the same service? Incredible. What gall! How dare they?"

The news of a proposed 37% increase in the Dorm Cooking fee is surprising only by its size. With the increase, expected by springtime, the year long cost of not being on the meal plan will rise to \$270 for people in the halls, and \$180 in the suites. If the cost increase seems appalling to you, you're right.

At the \$100/\$65 level for the fee, the entire Dorm Cooking Program brings in about \$700,000 a year, which, conveniently, is about what it spends. So why an increase?

The University wants to add to the program a number of charges and fees that previously did not exist in order to jack up the cost of the program. In increasing order of unreasonableness, these include: additional fees to pay for the structural damage caused to buildings by dorm cooking, and additional fees to pay for the carting of garbage from the dumpsters off campus. (This despite the fact that they would have to cart the garbage off campus even if there were no dorm cooking.) The last and worst fee is a quarter of a million dollar increase resulting from adding a utility fee to hall end-hall lounges

and suite rooms, to be paid for by the Dorm Cooking program.

As if this wasn't bad enough, they just put into effect a restriction on the size of refrigerators for freshman, and by next year everybody will be limited to a ridiculously small 2½ cubic feet of refrigerator space. In addition, suites, particularly Hand and Dreiser in Tabler, have no suite furniture, and none is forthcoming. The administration theory goes that dorm cooking creates grease which damages suite furniture, so why buy any? , which is sort of like the scene in a MASH episode where an equipment officer won't give the doctors one of his three incubators to use because, if they broke it, he'd only have two.

What is apparent in all of this is that the University is making a systematic effort to make Dorm Cooking as difficult as possible, in an effort to get everyone they can on the meal plan. Increased fees, no furniture, and limits on refrigerator size all make it increasingly difficult for students to exercise the simple, basic right of feeding themselves.

Last year, in spite of the costs and inconveniences that it entailed, 71% of Stony Brook resident students elected the dorm cooking program over the meal plan. If Admin really want to get people on the meal plan, they should seek to im-

prove it, and not destroy dorm cooking, which is what they seem to be trying to do.

The worst aspect of this situation is that administration does not want people on the meal plan because it is cheaper or more efficient, but that they see it as somehow morally better for us. John Marburger has said that he feels that dorm cooking is the greatest inhibitor of social life on this campus. Dallas Bauman want us to all eat the same food, at the same time, in the same place, in the same way. . . You get the picture.

But they are wrong. Stony Brook is one of the few universities with a dorm cooking program. It is something the university should be proud of, and not try to destroy through fees and hassles. John Marburger lives in University housing and doesn't have to eat DAKA. Why should we?

Letters

Journalistic Integrity

Dear Editor;

It's about time we addressed the issue of journalistic integrity at Statesman. I've been a student here for five years, and I have yet to read a Statesman article that really took their subject seriously enough. The paper does well enough on reporting SUNY related issues, as well as disseminating alot of advertising, but they fall apart when writing about national or international topics.

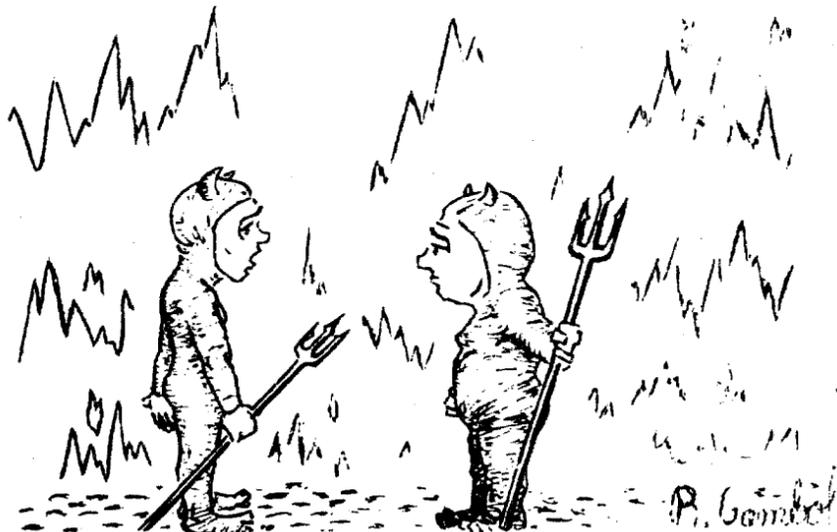
First of all, the articles seldom get beyond the sheer reporting of facts. We already have Newsday for that, and besides, they do it better. I distinctly get the feeling that the atti-

tude of the Statesman staff is, "Golly gee, isn't it neat to put out a college newspaper," and, "Boy, this will sure look good on my resume." Sorry, kids, but this is heavy stuff you are dealing with.

In the September 14 issue of Statesman, in an article dealing with a demonstration on campus by Korean students against the shooting down on Flight 007, Statesman quoted a student who was angry about the demonstration as saying, "They're going to start WWII." This student was grossly misrepresented. I know, because I am that student. As soon as campus secur-

(continued on page 3)

PRESS PICS



"Judgement Day came and I forgot my Section Number!"

The Stony Brook Press

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Van Calamity Admin. Halts Vehicle Usage

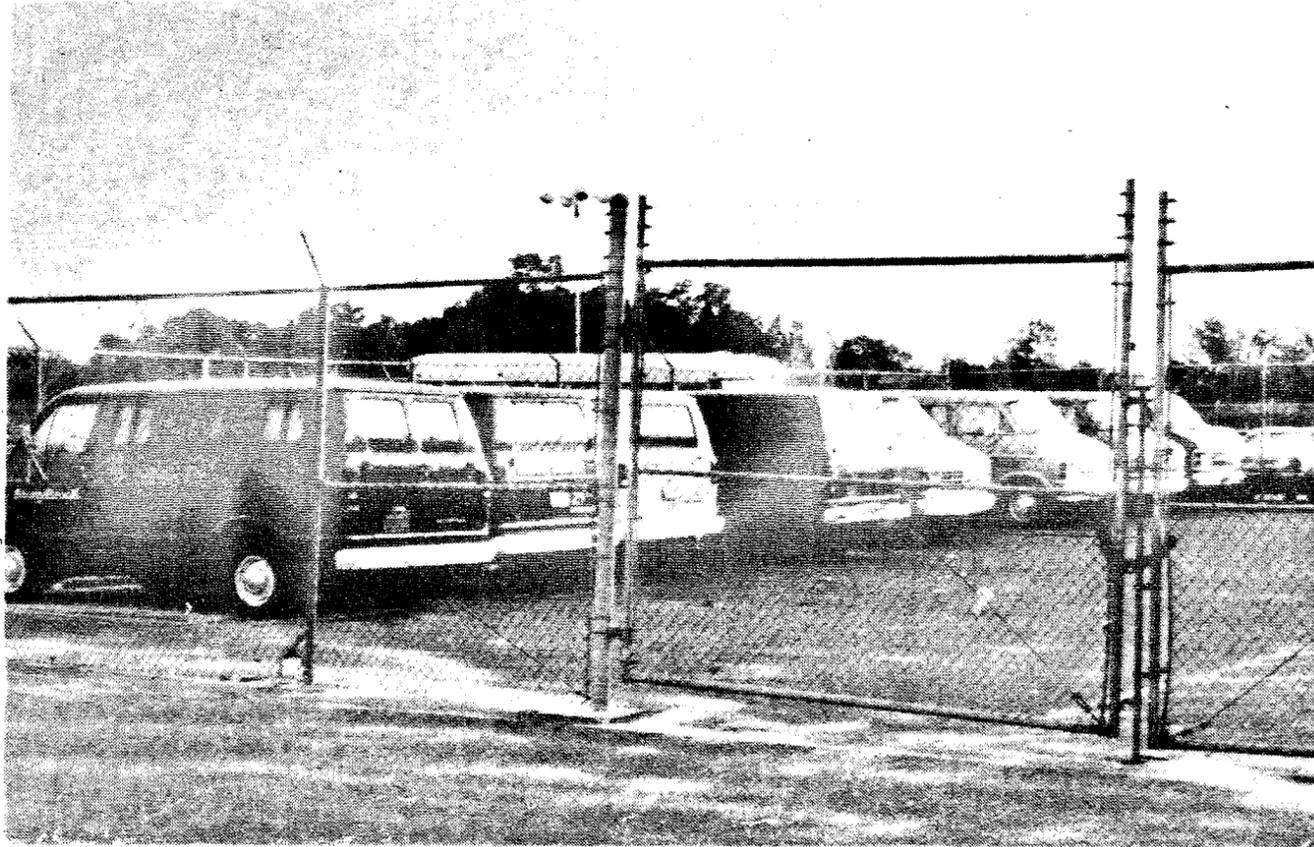
by Joe Caponi

Since late August, the ability of Polity clubs to rent University vans and cars has been squeezed down to the point where it no longer exists. Dave Thomas, assistant Vice President for Campus Operations and Director of Transportation Services has taken this move in response to what he described as a "Prostitution" of the old system through its abuse by undergraduates.

"We were forced to revert to a strict interpretation of the rule which states that undergraduates are not privileged to drive state vehicles unless under academic or athletic auspices," he said yesterday.

Previously, state owned vehicles were available, with the authorization of the Polity executive director, for a variety of purposes: clubs used them to go to events, Polity Council members used them to attend SASU meetings and to lobby in Albany, The Press and Statesman used them to cover stories.

Thomas was not specific when asked what the abuses involved were, saying, "It's not my prerogative to point fingers," but it is known that one incident which led to the crackdown occurred in late August, when, returning late at night from a SASU conference, Polity Vice-President Barry Ritholtz, a SASU board member, was given four tickets by Public Safety, and had the state van he was driving impounded. Ritholtz attributed the tickets to his own error in not carrying his driver's license, and overzealousness on the part of Pub-



lic Safety.

To Polity Executive Director Robin Rabii, however, all this is a moot point. Saying that he had kept in touch with Thomas about any problems, but was not informed that the vans would be unavailable, altogether (Thomas says he is in the process of drafting Rabii a letter). He criticized the action as unreasonable. "If a faculty member misused a state vehicle, his whole department wouldn't be barred from using them, that one

person would. In each case where there was a clear picture of misuse of the vehicles, disciplinary action was taken, and the individuals involved were banned from using the cars and vans anymore. And Dave Thomas has all those individual's names on file in his office."

Meanwhile, the ones hurt most by the ban are the clubs that had become used to the service. The parachute club, for instance, last week had to spend \$400-nearly a third of its budget for the entire

year-just for car rentals to go to their jumping grounds. State vehicles, with a low per-mile charge, would have represented a significant saving.

Ritholtz, who has apologized for the problems caused by him in August, and Rabii, both plan to meet with Thomas in the near future to try and reach an agreement by which state vehicles can again become available. Thomas, for his part, has said he would welcome a way to do that.

Letters

(continued from page 2)

ity pulled me and the Korean students apart, Andrea Rosenberg, a Statesman reporter, grabbed me. I made the mistake of talking to her. I'm sorry I did. I said many things, and I made many connections between all my thoughts. When I read the article, I got a picture of a stereotyped radical chanting mindless slogans. That was not where I was coming from. Not only did the article make me seem ludicrous, but it did not even scratch the surface of the complexity and deepness of the problem, not to mention the delicateness of it. When I complained to Mr. Traverina, the editor of the Statesman, he said that there was nothing wrong with the article, because I had in fact said what I said. The fact that it was taken out of context meant nothing to him. This example is epidemic of the way Statesman handles world affairs. If you can't handle the teletype, get out of the newsroom.

On a more local level, I find that Statesman's coverage of on campus politics is lame at best. I feel that they make mention of the relevant

facts in such a way as to cause the reader to say, "It's really no big deal." It makes me wonder how much control the administration has over the Statesman. I could almost see Gary Matthews or Gary Barnes saying, "Sorry, guys, but we can't let you say it that way." On an issue like the bottle bill, which really deals with ecology and resource conservation as well as with the superficial problem of street litter, Statesman has reduced it to a sort of fun game called, "Let's get some student opinions and ask the deli owner what he thinks."

On the editorial page was an illuminating essay on how unfair it is to make students pay for staff salary increases and such. Granted, it does seem unfair, but where is the problem dealt with at the root? The editorial in question reiterates a point that has been dealt with many times before. Does Statesman bother to think of a new angle? Does Statesman try to delve a little deeper into the reasons why this situation exists? No. It doesn't even hint at the possibilities.

Statesman is a one dimensional rag. Statesman is a parody of itself. Statesman is a tool of the administration. After all these years, Statesman is still a kind of a light-hearted musical comedy echoing none of the outrage and anger and frustration of the world around it.

In conclusion, get serious, Statesman, or get the hell out!

Nik LeFleur

Good Press

Dear Editor;

Please allow me to congratulate you and the staff of The Stony Brook Press on your outstanding edition of August 15, 1983. In particular I want to thank you for the interview with Ron Kovic and the review of "Staying Alive." Both were excellent. (I should point out my prejudices. I'm what's usually referred to as a bad-attitude, anti-war Vietnam Vet who doesn't

want anyone to forget. I come out of a radical 60's background. I do the traditional music show on WUSB, and I hate capitalistic commercial pop culture and the non-political pop materialism of "the younger generation.")

I have only one regret regarding your August 15th edition. Coming right at the end of the summer session, it is probably your least read edition of the year. It seems to me that a good number of what Ralph Sevush calls "the pubescent mall rats" are undergraduates at SUNY Stony Brook. I'd really like to see them confronted with articles on the shallowness of big-time commercial culture and on the humanity and intensity of old-time radical activism. Wake them up before they all find themselves in El Salvador!!!

Sincerely,
Stephen N. Sanfilippo

(continued to page 9)

SAB Concert Film Series

PRESENTS



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Programming Schedule

Friday, September 23rd: 3:00 - Carnival * Beer/Wine/Italian Ices * Food Vendors * Hot Air Balloon Rides * 4:00 - Almost Anything Goes Olympics * 6:30 - Fashion Show * 9:00 - Bon Fire * 12:15 - Movies * 1:00 - Food/Beer/Wine/Carnival Ticket Sales End * Saturday, September 24th: 12:00 - Beer/Wine/Italian Ices * Food Vendors * Flea Market * 1:00 - Skydivers * 1:00 - Almost Anything Goes Olympics * 1:30 - Square Dance * 2:00 - Carnival * 9:45 - Fireworks * 1:00 - Movies * Carnival/Food/Beer/Wine Ticket Sales End * Entertainment Schedule * Friday, September 23rd * 3:30 - Northern Star * 8:00 - Resonance * 9:30 - Masuo and T.M. Stevens (MTM) * Saturday, September 24th * 12:30 - Back Roads * 3:30 Mystic Faith * 5:00 - Rhythm Rebels * 7:30 - Immortal Primitives * 8:30 - Gallo * 10:30 - Red Rockers * Claudia Jacobs, Guitarist

-REMEMBER-

Bring Stony Brook I.D. or 2 Other Forms of Identification
No Bottles, Cans or Coolers Allowed on the Premises
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The Third Estate: Viewpoint

Making Class Better

Change the Courses, Calendar

Editor's note

Alfred Goldhaber, Professor of Physics and former President of the University Senate, distributed a letter earlier this week outlining his proposals to improve undergraduate academic life. It's rare enough when the quality of academics is seriously considered here, and rarer still when the suggestions are as good and practical as Goldhaber's.

by Alfred Goldhaber

During the past couple of years the topic of curriculum reform has been a center of attention at Stony Brook. Such discussions are essential for the continued vitality of any educational institution, and I certainly applaud the ongoing efforts here. However, by its very nature curriculum reform is a difficult, slow and often frustrating process. Without commenting on the substantial issues of curriculum reform, I would like to suggest some technical changes which could enhance the atmosphere for learning at Stony Brook regardless of the eventual decisions on substance.

The two problems I want to address are academic advisement and academic pressure. Guidance on proper choice of academic program is always difficult, but the weakness of such guidance at Stony Brook has been notorious for many years. Despite laudable efforts to improve advisement, especially by the staff of the Undergraduate Studies office, it remains inadequate especially in the most critical period before a student chooses a major. The problem of academic pressure is the other side of one of the best aspects of Stony Brook. Our 15 credit, 15 week semester means that at least theoretically we offer our students more than the most well-known elite educational institutions in the United States, institutions whose average student is much higher rated by standardized tests in both aptitude and preparation for university courses. If lecture for lecture we provide the same amount of substance as our colleagues in other institutions, then for each course we are giving about 10% more material. In addition, the total course load is at least 10% greater here. Finally, the length of our teaching semester precludes any significant time for reading and reflection and composition at the end, as well as sufficient time to recover from one final examination before taking the next. Thus, unless the other institutions are seriously shortchanging their students in their academic offerings, we are offering and demanding far more than we can reasonably expect most of our students to achieve. I believe that the practical effect of this is mostly that our students do not absorb as large a portion of what we try to convey as is true elsewhere,

and also to some extent we "dilute" our offerings.

Since all of the above points have nothing to do with the actual content of our courses, the remedies need not impinge on that content either. My first proposal is that we reduce our teaching semester from 15 weeks to 14 weeks without altering present durations of individual class sessions. The days so released should be used either or both to create a genuine reading period and to space out the present final examination schedules. This would still mean that we would have as much or more teaching and as little or less breathing space than the other institutions. According to my understanding this change could be accomplished routinely as part of the next review of our future academic calendar.

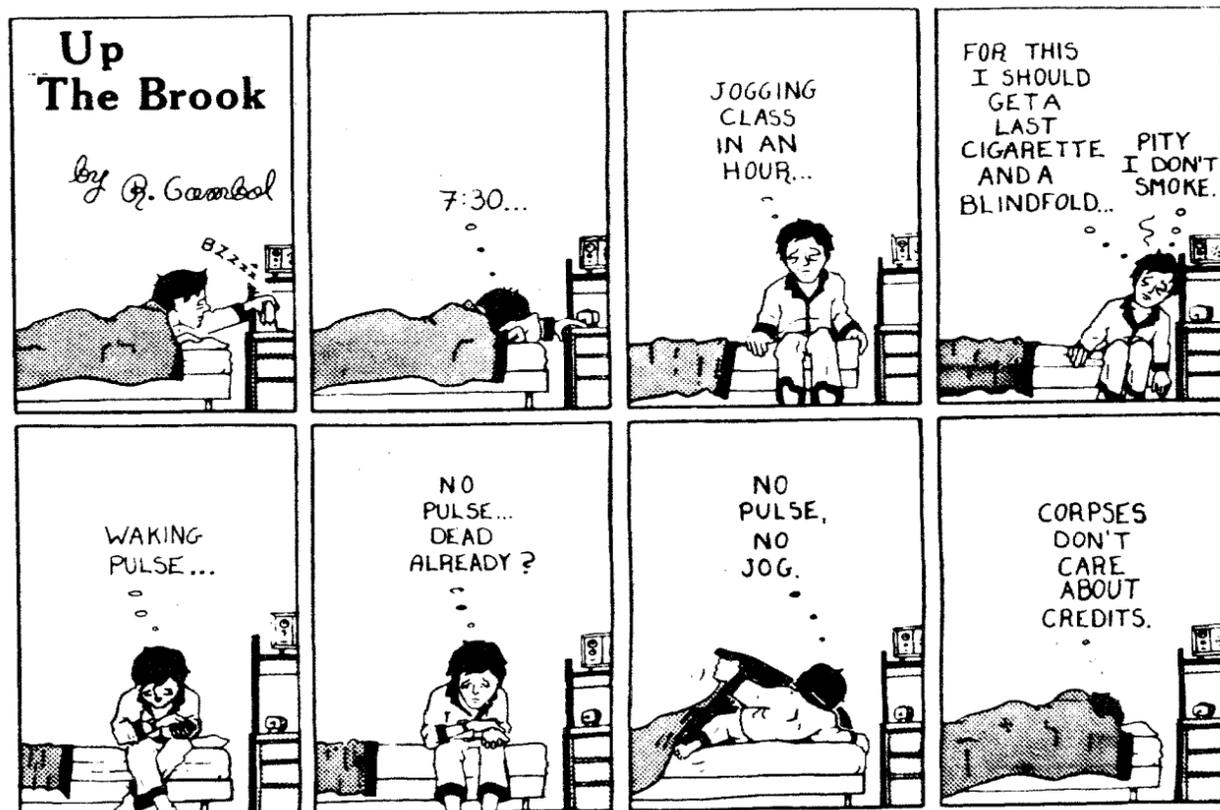
My next suggestion would require no change in policy, but only a change in tone and emphasis on the part of curriculum committees and academic departments. The proposal is that in courses which require of students a substantial amount beyond attendance at lectures and some reading, the 3 hours of formal lectures per week should be supplemented by a recitation section which could be led by a faculty member or a teaching assistant. In course with problem sets, this recitation section should be used to go over solutions to the problems. In courses with large amounts of writing required, the recitation section could be used to review papers, letting all the students hear the especially good examples, as well as to discuss methods of writing to an extent perhaps greater than appropriate during the formal lectures. While in different fields the recita-

tion sections might be used in different ways, the purpose would always be to give extra guidance and reaction to the work being done in the course. Courses supplemented with one recitation section per week would now be assigned 4 credits instead of the present 3. Laboratory courses now receiving 4 credits, when supplemented would be increased to 5 credits. Thus the number of credits granted (and the contact hours) in each course would begin to reflect more accurately the department's and the instructor's expectations of the student. The result would be that a student could arrange to have a program which was either "light" - meaning all 3 credit courses, or "dense" - meaning all 4 credit courses, with obvious flexibility in deciding how to apply their resources most effectively. Of course, just as now, exceptionally able and energetic students would be able to take overloads and therefore learn as much or more than they could at the moment.

Increased availability of 4 credit courses is bound to create a place for 1 credit courses to fill out a student's programs. Many people have anyway been talking about the idea of a one credit tutorial course which could serve as a way of giving students already in departments, or students who have not yet chosen a major, the opportunity to get some general guidance on exploiting the University's many academic opportunities. Such a tutorial could be very flexibly organized with some group meetings and some individual sessions with the instructor, allowing a special theme for discussion, reading and writing, plus time for academic advisement of each stu-

dent enrolled. My experience with incoming students seminars and informal seminars leaves me enthusiastic about the idea of informal contact between faculty and students, giving a chance for guidance as well as more human interaction than in some of the larger classes. However, these seminars (which have been either 3 credits, or 1 credit in a third of a semester) seem to meet the needs of a fairly limited student audience. They also have attracted only a minor fraction of the faculty. I feel that a format of one credit throughout the semester, with no final exam and a pure S/U grading system, has the potential to attract a very large number of students and faculty. Furthermore, it represents such a minimal requirement on students and demand on teachers that one could imagine it would eventually become something expected rather than merely available. At least in that case, the advisement could be connected with registration in such a way that students would be compelled to speak with faculty members before choosing their programs before each semester.

I believe that the technical changes outlined here would go a long way towards relieving the weakness in academic advisement and the sense of overly strong academic pressure that now interfere with education at Stony Brook. Furthermore, these changes would be quite compatible with any rearrangement of the curriculum. I would appreciate comments sent to me, to College Curriculum Committees, to the University Senate Executive Committee, and to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies.



Polity President Speaks Up Rathskellers, Communications, Polity, and Stony Brook

(continued from page 1)

GAMBERG: CAS is a top one but it extends beyond that.

PRESS: Are you including requirements for the major, and distribution?

GAMBERG: I think the whole academic environment is really being shaped by the administration and to a lesser extent by the faculty. I think the students have to play a greater role in that, the academic environment. We have a right to make decisions for the residents, any policies that affect lifestyle within the dormitories, into food service and meal plan. Refrigerator size is an issue right now that's being shaped and the response that Polity is giving is not as great as it should be. I believe that we have an opportunity to work through the channels of FSA and through the various committees that we have set up internally, and university-wide committees can really bring these issues to the floor and have students respond in an affirmative way, in an aggressive way, in an educated way. Another issue I can name right away is the video machines, the revenue from those machines, where it goes, how it goes back to the dorm.

PRESS: But in those areas, the food service and video machines, FSA manages those?

GAMBERG: In those few things, FSA is a critical area and I think that that's going to be a major concern of mine as president; to see the right people getting involved in FSA, through the appointments that I will make, and have these people really voice the concern of the students. Bring it up at meetings, right where the administrators are sitting. And point blank tell them what they think about the refrigerator size being limited.

PRESS: What other campus issues are you concerned about?

GAMBERG: In the dorms and Residence Life, RA - MA selection, the whole structure of the legislatures, what they are doing and what they aren't doing. What they're allowed and what they're not allowed to do viz a viz the RHD's. A leg. constitution is supposed to set the parameters of what a leg. does. A leg. is a local unit of Polity.

Our ability to exercise our will is at a low

Our ability to exercise our will with an educated student body is at a low, and it's been declining. My goal in Polity is to rejuvenate and rebuild the organization so that students are participating more, they're more educated, they have a greater say and a greater stake in what's happening. What's going on is a microcosm of society and they must be responsible as a citizen of this community to these things. They can't be oblivious to it.

PRESS: How do you feel Stony Brook compares to other universities concerning freedoms and rights that SB students have and their perception of their rights? For instance, in the RA - MA selection, students don't realize that at SUNY Albany there are no student representatives on the selection committee.

GAMBERG: That's the kind of thing that should be brought to their attention. And if I were to view comparatively Stony Brook with other schools, I think SB is leaps and bounds

ahead in the decision making processes that affect us. We're involved (Polity) in all these areas, and have a million dollar budget that most other places don't have. Our ability to act freely with that million dollar budget is greater than at most other SUNY schools. Stony Brook is one of the few and the leading universities with the ability to totally control its student government budget.

PRESS: Can you give me some specific things you want to do?

GAMBERG: This is the game plan for Polity from my perspective, the strategy that Polity will follow, and it is my responsibility to lead in this respect. To use a football analogy, you have to establish the run before you pass. That means that before you can address some complicated issues that require a lot of education, you have to build the support and the confidence of the student body. The best way to do that is through a series of services that we never fully exercised.

PRESS: What kind of services do you propose?

GAMBERG: Services that offer students money-saving plans, discounts from various local businesses.

PRESS: Do you have any specific plans, besides the services, of ways to reach the students, to inform them about Polity, what Polity does, how Polity can help them, that Polity is not a separate organization, but an organization of the students?

GAMBERG: It is clear to all of us that we're going to need to find somebody, a communications person, a public relations person, that's going to be able to invest the time and energy into taking what we say and making people aware of it through speaking at leg. meetings, newsletters. A person to be in charge of ads for the newspapers, communications.

PRESS: Is the public relations position a paying one, and can't you get Statesman to write an article on whatever you're doing whenever you want? Aren't there enough channels, such as announcements on WUSB, viewpoints and letters in the Press and Statesman to make your position and/or objectives known without hiring another person at the students' expense to communicate for you?

GAMBERG: Polity needs a person that would be responsible for artwork design, newsletters, flyers, banners and the task of getting our message across to students. This person also could be a resource for the clubs.

PRESS: Well, what are you doing with all of your time? Shouldn't you and the Council be concerned with communicating to students?

GAMBERG: As President, I can't afford the time to be coordinating a public relations campaign. We are busy meeting with faculty, students, and administrators. If I weren't, I would appreciate the opportunity to pull together one select area of the organization—just concentrating on getting the message to people. If we pay someone, that guarantees the job will be done. We should be out there speaking to legislatures, meeting with RA's and MA's. We have to make policy decisions and be concerned with organizing and leading the various committees. With a coordinator, people will notice the vast amount of output Polity can produce. I don't think we can ever put out too much information to the students. Maintaining the organization, administering Polity takes up a great deal of time. It becomes difficult to keep a tab on everything.

PRESS: So why don't you have assistants that can take care of certain areas without having to pay them?

GAMBERG: We're moving towards having assistants. And there's a need to coordinate the committee seats, someone that can let them

know that the committees are playing crucial roles in the objective of voicing student concerns. A communications director would get whatever we have to say across.

PRESS: How much emphasis do you place in this position?

GAMBERG: I want to place a tremendous amount of emphasis on that whole area. Because that's critical. Setting the word out, on what Polity is, is essential. We can have all this bottled up on minutes or inside our minds, within the office. It doesn't mean a damn thing unless people out there are understanding you, and hearing

certain things, and if they're not met, we'll then go back to this public and say, "Now they've done this, you've got to react to this by doing that."

PRESS: So you see Polity as an intermediary?

GAMBERG: As an advocate, for students. The elected people are charged with the responsibility to lead the students to represent.

PRESS: What about the proposed rathskeller?

GAMBERG: We're forming a committee to deal with that and we'll have some results in a few weeks. But the likelihood of that coming about is greater now than ever before.



you, and seeing something. That's why again. It gets coupled with delivering services, and building support. When you get people on your side, they're willing to listen. Until you get to that point, they're less likely to really pay attention. They'll say, "What can you do for me to make it worthwhile for me to listen to you?" When you can at least say, "Did you receive that thing in the mail today from Polity?" then they're at least listening, and once you're at that point, you begin to further explain what you're all about, and once they know that and who you are, you start addressing the issues.

PRESS: Could you say in a few sentences what Polity is and what are its main objectives?

GAMBERG: That's very hard. I try constantly to explain to people what Polity's all about—and I've certainly been there long enough to witness the gamut of its functions—Not in a few sentences. On the one hand, you can look at it as dispersing the activity fee, but then you have to take that a step further and realize what you are doing when you are in control of this activity fee and that you are making decisions as representatives of the students. There's also something political there. You're trying to establish support so you can look into the issues. There are issues that Polity works on. We don't just distribute the activity fee and then go to classes, come back and then just do the budget process. We're obviously trying to look at our lives here, the commuters, the dorm residents, the handicapped student, the black student, every kind of student that attends Stony Brook and we're trying to say, "We're here to represent you, we're here to serve you, we're here to take your interests and further them." Through our eyes, our ears and our voices, we are trying to take what you say and bring it to the people that have to be spoken to. And then upon speaking to them, we may make certain demands, we may ask for

PRESS: Who's involved in the planning of this rathskeller?

GAMBERG: FSA. The decision to close James Pub, which was losing a great deal of money, came only after we demanded a serious commitment to building a rathskeller. And by serious, I mean the sum of \$48,000 being set aside by FSA and a committee being established immediately, to begin work on choosing a location.

PRESS: Who will be on the committee?

GAMBERG: Three representatives, from Polity, two from FSA, one from residence life, one from facilities planning (the architects and engineers who would plan the construction), one from the student affairs office and one from the Union Advisory Board, because of the potential that the rathskeller may be connected with the Union businesses.

My goal in Polity is to rejuvenate and rebuild

PRESS: Would there be only one rath?

GAMBERG: I think in the future there could be more than one, but for now, plans are for just one.

PRESS: What is the difference between a rathskeller and a pub?

GAMBERG: Part of the charge of the committee is to look into the theme of a rathskeller. It could be a place that sells beer only, or food only. We have to design what it's supposed to be. In other places, Albany for instance, the rath. is

a large area that had a snack bar, and featured bands, and was a central meeting place for the students. A rath. is bigger than a pub.

PRESS: But it will differ from the concept of a college pub?

GAMBERG: We don't know yet. But we think it will have a better chance of surviving financial problems similar to the ones the James Pub faced. Because the drinking age has been raised, we have to be concerned with the practicalities of serving people, in terms of losing money.

PRESS: Is this going to affect the Rath.?

GAMBERG: Well, not if it's located in a place where you have people who are above the drinking age that can be served by the place. The utility fee is a real killer on a place like the James Pub, or Baby Joey's. They just couldn't develop the management or stop the giveaways enough. I think the chances are better in the raths.

They will be a realistic place where students can get together and do their thing. The idea is that it has to be here, because if it isn't, people are going to do other things that are going to be less desirable, drive off campus, or whatever. It's a matter of Polity seeing it through FSA.

PRESS: Over the summer, Polity worked with the University Affirmative Action office in hiring. Are you going to appoint a person to work with the Affirmative Action office for the year?

GAMBERG: We have a committee that oversees the hiring and works with the AA office. It is composed of people that expressed a strong interest in working on it.

PRESS: This will be your fourth year on the Polity Council. What can you accomplish this year as President that you couldn't accomplish over the past three years?

GAMBERG: That's a good question. Being President will allow me to fulfill some goals I set even as a freshman and haven't accomplished yet. I have realized that Polity is a good mechanism to allow students to take control of their own lives, on issues such as the drinking age, dorm cooking, refrigerator size, for example. I think this year can be a turning point as far as increasing student involvement in their campus environment, and making changes.

PRESS: When is Polity going to take some action? You could spend the entire year organizing and not taking action.

GAMBERG: As I said before, prior to tackling issues, we have to build a foundation among the students and within Polity itself. Four months of this administration have already gone by, and we've tried to build up Polity internally during that time. I think it's going to be a matter of only the next couple weeks. With the Senate elections coming up, things should be moving along quite rapidly. I'm going to be talking to leg. meetings to generate interest for the students, get people curious about their environment and issues that can affect it such as refrigerator size. I will explain that as a student you should question not only your profs., but how your environment is run, too. Polity has a little time to get organizing before we start attacking the problems.

We're becoming an organization that can address issues in a professional manner

PRESS: What's going to make this year different from the past years as far as getting positive results for students?

GAMBERG: Last year, Polity wasn't strong enough internally to present a clear formula to the students on how to get things done, on how to look at problems. Just now we're becoming an organization that can address these issues in a professional manner and be successful. I don't feel I'm wasting my fourth year here in an organization that won't produce results. For instance, it's only a matter of time until the point where faculty will respect student participation on committees in a manner they will not now.

Stray of the Week



Garbage: The Wrath of Kohn

Brian Kohn, Coordinator of the Dorm Cooking Program, today announced his implacable opposition to a 37% rise in the cooking fee and denied rumors that Vice President for Campus Operations Robert Francis was really his father.

Regular Classroom Horrors

by Brian Ehrlich

Isn't it really great to attend a university that starts two weeks before everyone else does? What's strange is we still finish the semester the same time as they do. The one good thing about this is while your outside friends complain about their schedules, you can laugh because you've already gone through all the problems. You know what those problems are: early classes, closed sections, and classroom locations.

First of all, as any Stony Brook student knows, you never sign up for a class in the morning (before two o'clock). Therefore, one of the cruelest nightmares is to receive your final schedule and find you've been switched to a section that meets every day at eight-thirty in the morning. After you've regained consciousness, you can gasp in horror, since you don't even go to sleep until six. What are you going to do?

The weakest choice is to say, "Oh, I'll just go to sleep earlier on the nights before my class." Forget it. True, five-thirty is earlier than six, but it won't help. You'll find excuses to stay up late anyway.

("I just got to stay up and see this movie. You never know if it will be on again."). But when it's time to wake up for the class, you'll find yourself doing what everyone else with an early class is doing.

When the alarm goes off you abruptly sit up in bed, wondering what the hell that sound is. Once you realize it's the alarm, you'll either smash it with your chair or throw it out the window. Then you'll go back to sleep. An hour later you'll suddenly remember why you had to wake up early, and then you'll wonder what happened to that new alarm you just bought. By now you have about ten minutes before your class starts. Mechanically, (since you're still asleep and look and act like a zombi), you get dressed, putting your shoes and socks on in that order, grab your pen and notebook, and head for class-- only you don't remember where it is. In your comatose condition you go to where you might think it would be held, except it's not there. Even in your dreamlike state you were using an infrequent thinking process known as logic, but you failed to realize that at Stony

Brook logic is a taboo and very rarely used. So there you are, standing in front of the library, trying to figure out what you're going to do. Don't worry, the other two thousand students with early classes are there also, trying to guess where their classes are.

Wouldn't you think it would be logical to have classes in buildings which correspond to the subject? If you answered yes, then you're either a freshman or a transfer student. At Stony Brook, classes are assigned building via the "Dart Distribution Method". What that means is one person calls out a course while another person throws a dart at a board with all the buildings drawn on it. Wherever it lands, that's where the course will be taught. Determining a classroom is easier; the hotter the weather, the higher the classroom. Now you can understand why a class like English is held in Old Bio, and Biology is held in Engineering, and Engineering is held in Physics, and Physics is held in Humanities, where English should have been in the first place!

So far we've been concerned with those that already have classes; but what about the students that

have been closed out of courses they pre-registered for? Especially the seniors who need that one last, challenging course (PSY 101) to graduate. What will they do?

For starters, you go by to the Administration building with you Add/Drop form. If you don't know which building it is, look for the long line of students. You should be able to see them by Earth and Space.

Although it isn't meant to be, college can be loads of fun. Just the first weeks alone provide hours of entertainment, and you haven't even had the chance to really get to know your professors. In time, you'll learn how strange and bizarre most of them are. A Biology professor wrote on his resume he ad conducted extensive research on the human anatomy. What he failed to mention was he had served time at San Quentin for the infamous Albuquerque Axe Murders. But as the semester goes on the excitement will begin to taper off. Fortunately, it picks up again, usually during the wild and uninhibited time known as mid-terms, but that's another story

Letters

NYPIRG

Dear Editor:

Student activism has by no means fallen by the wayside in these times of so-called "student apathy". In recent years there has been a resurgence of progressive-minded student groups across the country that have been making it very easy to disprove this myth.

One very simple and yet effective way for students to get involved in issues that concern them is through the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). As a state-wide organization with a chapter here at Stony Brook, NYPIRG has been very successful over the past 10 years in working to educate and involve students in the political processes of New York State. Through a proven track record of working to pass over 50 laws during the past decade, and a legacy of former members now working for many organizations across the country, NYPIRG has shown that students can make a difference.

Witness the "bottle law" (a piece of legislation we're sure most of you are familiar with), the Truth-In-Testing law (so we can see whether our SAT's, LSAT's, GMAT's and MCAT's have been graded properly) and the State Superfund law (wherein corporate polluters are made financially liable for the toxic wastes they generate). All of these

laws were researched or lobbied for by student volunteers and interns involved with NYPIRG. And that's not to mention the skills (such as writing, public speaking, organizing and leadership) that are learned outside the classroom.

But here's the best part. Not only have other students effected some serious social changes in New York, but so can you. The Stony Brook NYPIRG chapter is holding a GENERAL INTEREST MEETING on September 22nd, at 7 PM in the Union Fireside Lounge, so that the campus at-large can get a good look at the different projects that'll be done this semester. Walter Hang, a NYPIRG staff scientist whose research on the Port Washington landfill received nationwide attention on a CBS 60 Minutes segment, will be a guest speaker.

Whether it be toxic wastes in our drinking water or a Small Claims Court action center that you're interested in, we urge you to check out the meeting and get involved with NYPIRG. It's time we put to sleep the myth that students don't want to be bothered by anything except our classes.

Steven Romalewski
NYPIRG State Board Rep.
Mike DeMartino
Chairperson NYPIRG
Chapter at Stony Brook
246-7702

The Few The Proud



The Press

Will Powers

(continued from page 12)

"Will Powers supporters" on a record that both satirizes and, in an odd way, effectively restates all the cliches of personal success and right thinking.

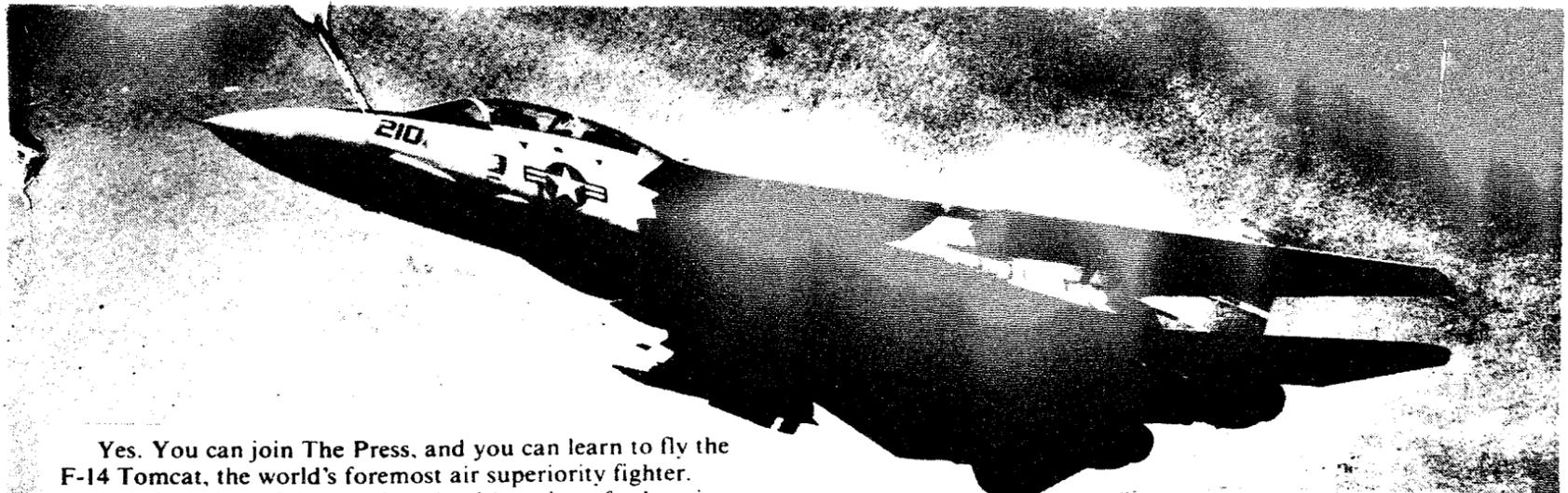
The minds and personalities behind this self-improvement disk include Ian Hunter, Todd Rundgren, Nile Rodgers, Sting, Meat Loaf, Robert Zimmerman, Steve Winwood and a zillion more. The single from the album and the song you might possibly have heard is "Adventures in Success," a little pep talk on how to become, yes, a success. It's simple; "The power to do anything you can imagine is within you when you discover your real self by practicing a few simple laws of success." An impressive statement, backed up by simplistic, but familiar advice: take inventory of your assets, write a description of the person you'd like to be, and concentrate on a mental image of this person. The concept comes off like a bestseller self improvement text, but it's a lot more fun to own because it's also a riot to listen to. Hearing all this trite advice done in a disco/Phil Spectorish style adds depth to the serio-comic stance of the album. Novelty songs are transient, lonely, little souls, but *Dancing for Mental Health* packs four, can't-turn-'em-off tracks onto side one and at least one especially

unnerving piece on the flip. In "Happy Birthday" a guy looks for sympathy by complaining: "I just turned forty and for the last few months, I've been feeling like it's all over, as though life had already passed me by. It feels like I'm dying," and the narrator snaps back with "That's right, you are dying." The idea here is that the time you spend complaining can be better spent trying to improve things. "Opportunity" claims that the greater your problem, the greater your opportunity for change. Testimonials include Donna from the Bronx, "I never worry about money cuz I'm a hairdresser and someone always needs a haircut," Miguel an ex-con, Sophie from Philly, none of whose children or grandchildren want her to live with them. The most immediately useful song, "Kissing with Confidence" addresses such kissing concerns as: will I be able to prolong the kiss and still breathe? and will our braces lock? These are valid concerns and Will Powers has just the answer.

Taken too seriously all this advice and good will could lead to severe depression, but the right dosage of the Will Powers program and enthusiasm can give you a positive external image (see "Smile") and a chance to bleach the sacrificial chicken blood out of your sheets.

The Stony Brook Press publishes letters and viewpoints weekly. They should be no longer than 250 and 800 words respectively. Hand written pieces will be burned.

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So come. Meet the Press staffers, Monday nights at eight, in the basement of Old Bio. (They can't fly either.)

The F-14 and the Stony Brook Press: Your best weapons in today's world.

—Concert

Graham Parker Live Thursday Night Rocks

By Kathy Esseks

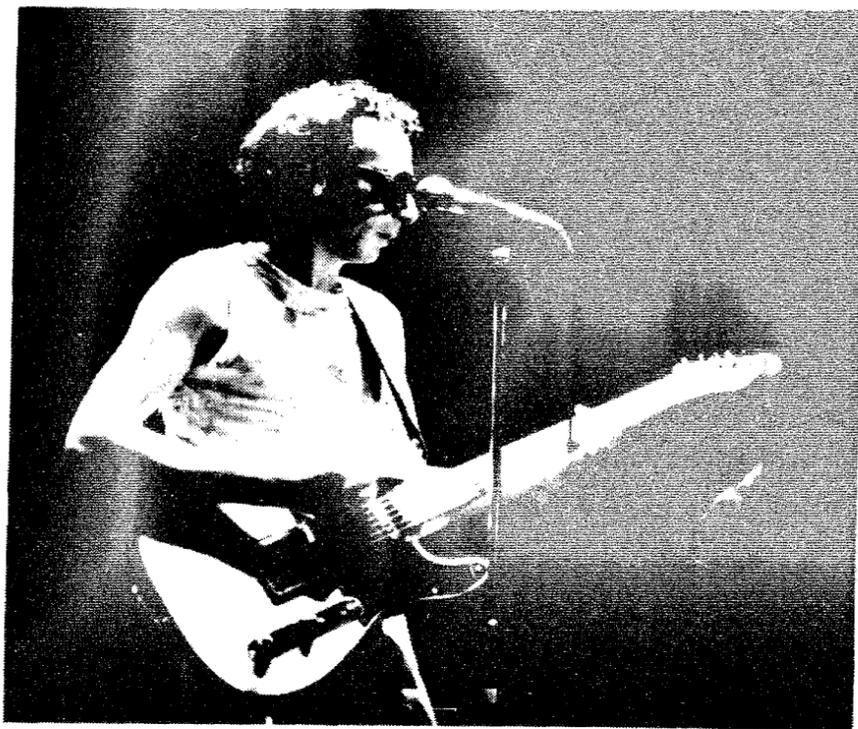
Last Thursday night I felt my indifference towards Graham Parker change to surprised pleasure. You missed out if you didn't see the show, but I admit that when I heard that Graham Parker was Stony Brook Concerts' kickoff to the new season, I felt that it was going to be a long dull year. I didn't really know anything about this act and I wasn't falling all over myself to clear up the lack. A friend who was horrified by my ignorance, briefed me on Graham Parker: the singer who made waves in the stagnating, pre-punk music scene with his notable back-up band, the Rumour; a bona-fide angry young man who though less angry now, and, in fact happily married, is nonetheless sincere in his messages; the pub-rocker who combined the bar-party sound with personalized lyrics that never turned into silly love songs.

Regardless of the hype, the bottom line at a concert is whether the paying public is having a good time or not. Graham Parker and company provided an intensity of music and an electric, no-frills stage presence which overcame the lack of the ballroom's usual dj-and-drink setup and proceeded to work the mostly non-student crowd into a gratifying frenzy.

The show highlighted Parker's latest LP, *The Real McCaw*, and dipped heavily into 1979's much acclaimed *Squeezin' Out Sparks*, the last album cut with the Rumour. Parker blasted off with "Just Like A Man" and set out to prove to everyone that he could be serious about having fun and say intelligent things at the same time. A small, wiry guy in mirrored shades and a muscle shirt, Parker projected a no-nonsense, let's get into the music image—no synth-pop fashion

plate here, this was a resolute rock and roller. I think that any band playing the ballroom always has a vague air of "this is Thursday, so this must be Stony Brook," but Parker actually seemed to have his mind on the show, on his music, and on the audience, rather than wondering how soon he could get away.

The audience was an appreciative collection of fans who had shown up with the express purpose of see-



ing Graham Parker, instead of just wandering in, and were grooving to the music even without a lot of cheap alcohol floating around. High praise for a band in my book.

Everyone was clapping to "Fool's Gold," and by "Love Gets You Twisted" the place was rocking to Kevin Jenkins' throbbing bass which underscored Parker's warm, rough vocals. Parker and the Rumour, which included minor cult guitarist Brinsley Schwartz, parted

ways after putting out *The Up Escalator* in 1980, but Schwartz was back with Parker for *The Real McCaw* and was burning up all kinds of energy on stage. Ex-Squeezer Gilson Lavis on drums and keyboardist George Small complete the current line-up.

As if to emphasize the fact that he doesn't write pea-brained songs about girls, cars, and true love, Parker introduced "Passive Resistance" from the latest album as a bit about

station of the college paying you to appear or the station that's introducing you, but he should've just stayed with the original, unqualified statement that contemporary radio programming is leading us into slow, studied brain death. I applauded the sentiment however much he hedged on it—sincere statements about the Real World are becoming awfully rare in popular music—and the crowd gave a roar of approval after "Passive Resistance's" slightly anthemic delivery.

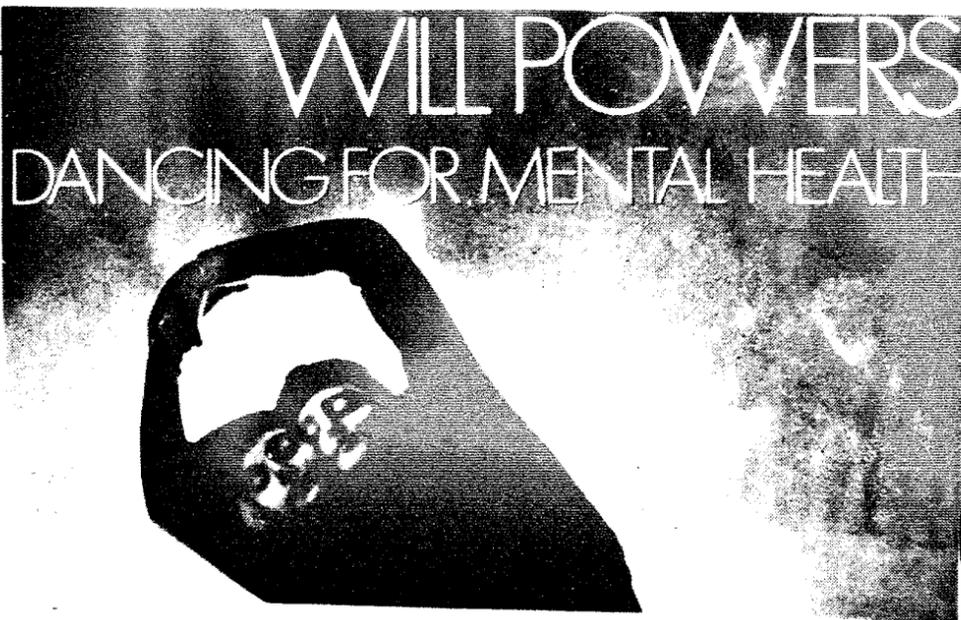
The material from the new LP was well received considering people probably didn't know it as well as the older material. Starting with "Local Girls" Parker did a mini feature on Squeezin' Out Sparks including "Protection," "Saturday Nite is Dead," and "Discovering Japan." This series brought things to a boil with select members of the audience detaching themselves from the main crush in front of the stage to dance madly around in circles.

When Parker wrapped up "Discovering Japan" and said Good Night, the audience wouldn't have any of it. They shouted, whistled, and stomped until they were treated to two encores which wound up, cutely and appropriately enough, with "Last Couple on the Dance Floor." Graham Parker exuded both a serious dedication to his brand of R and B influenced rock and roll, and raised consciousness in lyric content. He sings about personal failings successfully overcome ("Just Like A Man"), warns against assuming too much in a relationship ("You Can't Take Love For Granted"), and still displays his newly acquired, happier persona in "Life Gets Better." Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't, but after the lights go out and your ears have stopped ringing, and that's what it's all about.

The Powers of Will Album Offers Music, Advice

By Kathy Esseks

For years people who are allegedly concerned for our mental welfare have been screaming and moaning about the "satanic messages" in certain rock songs. However, the detrimental effects of heavy metal have not been satisfactorily proved, unless the National Enquirer is your idea of the final word in investigative journalism. You may have been peering at your friends, feeling uneasy as your friends turned to zombies, after staging an all-night Black Sabbath retrospective on your turntable, or wondering if all the messages will suddenly take effect during an interview for that



dream job at IBM making you foam at the mouth. If these thoughts terrify you, but you're not ready to switch to Barry Manilow, or even if you don't buy all that subliminal message crap, you should know that there is hope. A record exists that promises to make you think good thoughts and become a nicer person.

Sounds too good to be true? Don't worry, they've anticipated your disbelief and explain the philosophy of the Will Powers Institute throughout the *Dancing for Mental Health* LP.

Rock journalist Lyn Goldsmith has assembled an impressive slew of

(continued on page 11)