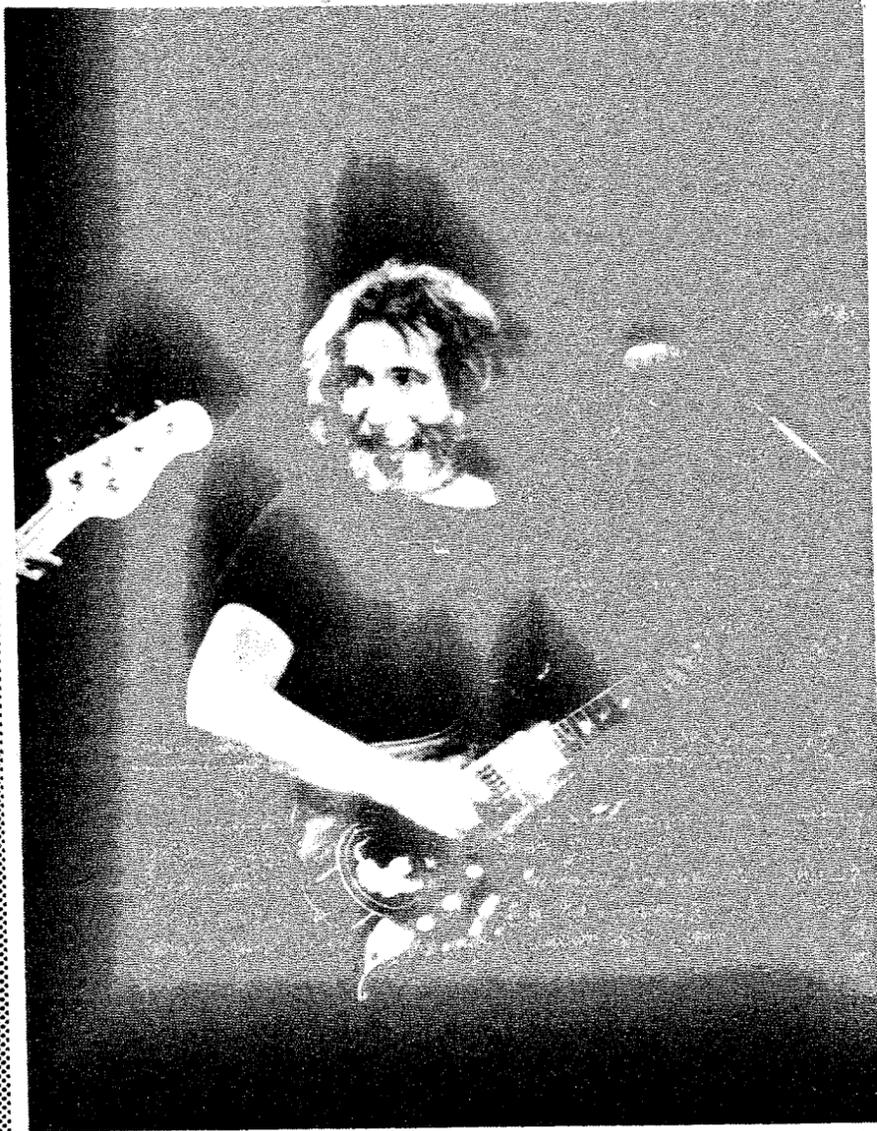


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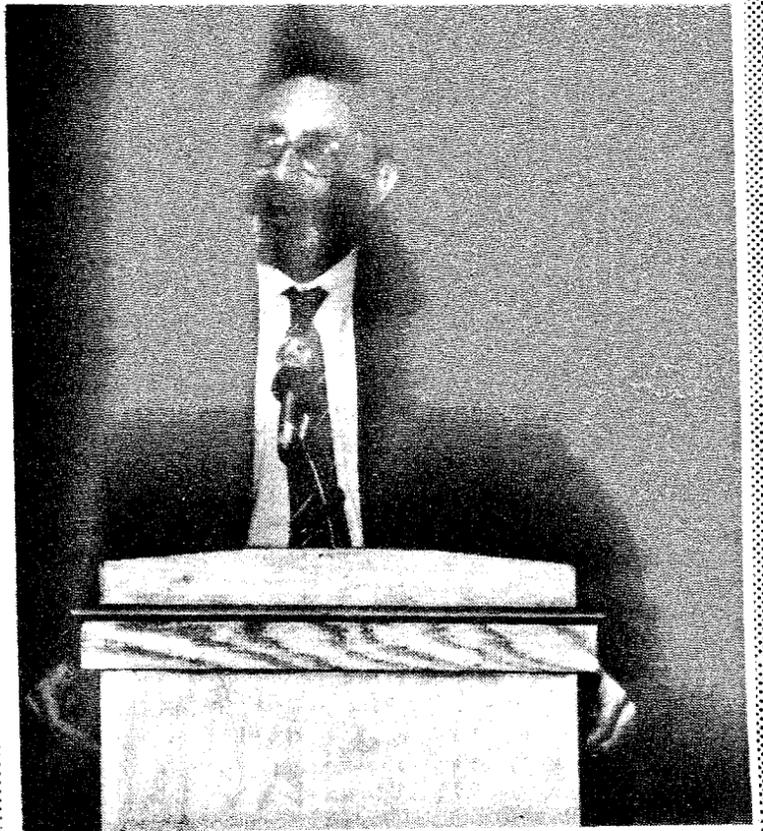
PRESS

Vol. 5 No. 11 University Community's Weekly Paper Thurs. Dec. 8 1983

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Politics and Political Scientists

The controversy over Professor Ernest Dube's course "The Politics of Race" has been raging since the summer, and every time it seems that the matter has been settled, a new group enters the fray, clouding the question and continuing a problem that should have been settled long ago. That these groups include a pseudo-terrorist bunch calling itself the Jewish Defense Organization, and a headline-seeking, pseudo vice presidential candidate like Governor Mario Cuomo, is not surprising, but that the Stony Brook Political Science Department would begin steps to drop its cross-listing of the course strikes us as a singularly irresponsible act, coming at the terrible time it does.

Over the summer, Africana Studies Professor Dube was accused of equating Zionism with racism and Nazism in the class, AFS/POL 319. Like any other controversy over an academic issue, the question went to the University Senate. The Senate Executive Committee, after a quick investigation, stated on August 17 that Dube's teachings did not violate the bounds of academic freedom, and that decision was seconded by the full University Senate in mid-September. About that time, Academic Provost Homer Neal and University President Marburger

each issued reports agreeing with what the Senate had decided.

The controversy persisted though, particularly when Governor Mario Cuomo attacked Stony Brook University for what he called its "silence" in not condemning what Dube taught, even though it is not at all clear that Dube taught what Cuomo said he did. That Cuomo would say something like this without investigating the matter at all is only understandable when one realizes that Democratic presidential candidates like Mondale, Glenn, Cranston, and Hart, all from western states, are fishing around for a prominent eastern Catholic Democrat who can get the "Jewish vote" to fill the vice-presidential slot in the next year's elections.

Then last month, Mordechai Levy, from the Jewish Defense Organization, came to campus, demanding the firing of Dube and threatening to hold an armed demonstration on campus. Again, enormous amounts of attention ensued, as Levy was roundly denounced and demonstrations held to protect Dube.

Last week, though, it was revealed that the Political Science Department is in the process of dropping its cross-listing of the course, claiming that they have no control over cross-listed cour-

ses. While a department has every right to decide what courses it will and will not sponsor, making this decision now can only help but fuel the attacks from off campus about this course. If members of the department are unhappy about any aspect of "The Politics of Race," their proper response would be to call for a reinvestigation by the University Senate, but by making highly political decisions arbitrarily they will only feed into the hands of those people who don't care what is taught here at all, but are merely trying to get media attention and political points by hitting an easy target.

Decisions regarding subjects like the content of Dube's course should be made within the university, by an informed consensus of the students, faculty, and administration. Once such decisions are made, departments should not try to circumvent them, as this decision seems aimed at doing.

The Political Science Department should have considered the implications of divorcing themselves from University policy more thoroughly before they announced this decision. It will only serve to make things more difficult, and extend the time before Stony Brook can get back to the business of learning.

Letters

Editor:

The complications of the Dube controversy seem to be compounded almost daily. A recent ingredient in this hideous Stony Brook stew is the invention of "facts" which leads to a willful recreation of the historical record. A case in point is Professor Leslie Owens' serious misrepresentation of the remarks I offered at the Senate meeting of 12 September. By abusing the facts Professor Owens has damaged my reputation and his credibility. My comments at the meet-

ing were clear and reported accurately in the Senate Minutes. My position was and remains that because members of the Executive Committee did not know what occurred in Professor Dube's classroom, they could not offer a judgment. The Executive Committee was in no position last summer to decide that Dube did or did not exceed the boundaries of academic freedom. The only first-hand report the committee had was Dube's own statement. I suggested that the professor's statement might be ac-

(continued on page 5)

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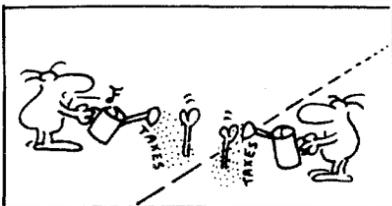
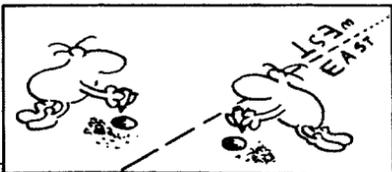
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Press PIC



Babis

Sex Appeal

Class Action Suit Returning to Court

by Lorna Francis

The decade-old Sex Discrimination suit filed against Stony Brook University will be going back to Federal Court in January, 1984. The women involved lost their first class action suit in August after a six year battle in court.

Since October 1973, twenty-eight female professors and non-teaching professionals have charged the University with sex discrimination in hiring, promotion, tenure practices and salaries. During that year, the University's Equal Opportunity Committee reported on a study it had conducted that showed wage and employment disparities between men and women, and blacks and whites at the University. The report found that white males predominated, particularly in the higher ranks, and a male-female wage differential existed at every NTP (non-teaching profession) and faculty rank. In May 1976 after the necessary waiting period, the class action was filed in Federal Court, charging sex discrimination in hiring, salary, promotion, and other terms of employment at Stony Brook, in violation of Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The actual trial began in March of 1982, with both sides compiling large amounts of hiring and salary statistics to prove their claims.

In its pre-trial statement, the University claimed that if, "any discrepancies do exist between men and women with regard to hiring, placement, rate of promotion, rate of tenure, salary or other indications of employment, they are not sta-

tistically significant and reflect valid differences in qualifications and differences in duties and responsibilities."

But in a statement made after the women lost the suit, the plaintiffs said, "In his decision Judge Pratt acknowledged 'that Stony Brook's work force is 'sex-stratified,' in that women are distributed primarily in lower-level, and hold relatively few upper-level, teaching and administrative positions." According to Judith P. Vladeck, attorney for the plaintiffs, "Judge Pratt seems to have concluded that if a discriminatory practice began before the statute outlawing it went into effect then institutions have no obligation to rectify the injustice subsequently. This seems to us to be a terribly flawed argument, not at all what Congress intended when it passed the Civil Rights Act and subsequent amendments. He seems to be saying that the sex discrimination which exists at Stony Brook today was the result of historical social and economic conditions which were once deemed legal and that, consequently, the University has no obligation to correct them now." Even though the judge decided against us, it was worth an appeal, and the lawyer felt even more strongly about it than we did, stated Judith Wishnia. Joe Garcia, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs said "I feel comfortable with the case, I don't feel it is a long shot, because it's worth appealing." Garcia added, "The judge applied the wrong legal statements in evaluating the process."

According to Wishnia, "the appeal is going to cost us between ten and twenty



photo by Landa Calcano

Judith Wishnia

thousand dollars, and we have raised about six or seven thousand of it. Most of the money came from the women themselves, the union, United University Professions and private donations." She went on to add, "We never filed the suit for ourselves, we did it to end discrimination in the University. We feel that we have helped end discrimination to a certain extent because the University no

longer hires on different salaries anymore, and they are much more active on affirmative action." "We feel that we won those victories, in a sense, at least, and we made the University more conscious of the problem", stated Wishnia. Whether the government will agree there ever was a problem is yet to be finally determined.

Grad Union Grows

May Join National Union

by Ken Kruger

In the works of Media Director Rick Eckstein, the G.S.E.U. is now a "reality." With legal proceedings coming to an end and an expected positive decision on its legality approaching, the Graduate Student Employees Union has launched a membership drive and is considering an affiliation with one of the nation's most powerful unions.

The drive began last night with a party in the Lounge and despite a smaller turnout than expected its organizers were still positive. "We should have waited until the beginning of next semester but we really wanted to get the drive going." Eckstein commented.

By far the most important issue discussed at the meeting was a possible affiliation with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—one of the largest unions in the country with 1.7 million members nation-wide and 500,000 in N.Y. State alone.

Not only will an affiliation with AFSME to be decided on by a vote of the members give a G.S.E.U. a tremendous bargaining power boost but it will enable the G.S.E.U. to

use AFSME's considerable resources, including organizers and equipment. The G.S.E.U. expects to receive an immediate grant of \$250,000 for AFSME and an annual income equal to that amount.

Dues for the union if it joins AFSME will be about \$72 a year but 70% will be coming back to the G.S.E.U.

In past developments the union's constitutional convention and delegate assembly at Binghamton in October this year was a success. A constitution involving the rank and file in major decision was ratified and statewide officers, including Stony Brook's Kevin McHale, now statewide Vice President, were elected.

Proceedings are being wrapped up with the state's Public Employee Relations Board.

"PERB has just recently received a list of R.A.'s from the State University system under subpoena. They now have 9/10 of the information they need to decide on a formal hearing," Eckstein explained.

PERB will check names on interest cards against the lists received from the State University

system to decide if there is enough interest from legitimate Grad Student employees to warrant a formal hearing. A decision is expected in January.

The cards were signed earlier this year to express interest in forming a union among Grad Student employees. "We need a 30% show of interest to get a formal hearing. We're sure we have over 40%," Eckstein continued. "At the hearing they'll decide if the G.S.E.U. is a legal bargaining unit. Right now they're deciding if they should have a hearing. We're confident that if we make it to the hearing we'll be recognized. It's not a shoe-in but we're confident. Once we're legally recognized the state will have to talk with us."

"Right now the main goal is to get members," Eckstein stated. "Hopefully local officers will be elected early next semester, and only members can vote or run for office. The Steering Committee at Stony Brook, which handles the day to day chores, meets Wednesdays at 12:00 in the G.S.E.U. office (Old Chem 131). Anyone can be on the committee; just come down. Some people have the idea that unions are

run by an exclusive group of elitists but we're not like that. We want as many people to come down as we can get."

State wide, the Executive Committee will meet once a month to discuss union policy. The committee consists of four state officers and two delegates from each university. The members are elected statewide Delegate Assembly and the next such meeting will be held in May or June. After that they'll be held once or twice a year.

At Wednesday night's meeting a variety of additional topics were discussed, including the constitution. Kevin McHale explained that contracts and other important decisions would be decided by a rank and file vote to avoid any charges of union leaders making "deals." Votes would be taken by secret ballot so that members could make up their own minds without being pressured by others. Other issues discussed included the need for the G.S.E.U. to reach all the various departments, as there has been very little response from several, and the need for liaisons between the G.S.E.U. and the departments must exist.

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Ehrlich On The End

A Look At The Post Nuclear World.

by Joe Caponi

Nuclear war, as a friend of mine would say, is a V B T—a very bad thing. Just how bad was explained this Tuesday by Dr. Paul Ehrlich to a nearly full house at the FAC Main Stage. Put simply, it could quite possibly mean the end of the human race.

So much for winnable nuclear wars. The ecological aftermath of a full-scale nuclear exchange would be enough to wipe out everyone in the Northern hemisphere who managed to avoid being blasted. It could very possibly kill everyone in the Southern hemisphere, too, Ehrlich explained.

Ehrlich, Bing Professor of Population Studies at Stanford University, along with other population and atmospheric scientists, studying the problem realized that, "a wide range of possible effects of a nuclear war had been ignored." They noted five specific consequences of the explosion of a few thousand megatons of nuclear weapons, the amount currently stockpiled by the US and USSR, weapons that would radically alter the earth, even after the bombs themselves had stopped.

First, and most immediately obvious to those lucky survivors, would be a massive dustcloud over the northern hemisphere, caused by enormous upheavals of dirt into the upper atmosphere, lasting for weeks or months. The cloud would effectively plunge those below it into pretty complete darkness, with the obvious deleterious results on any remaining plant life.

The dustcloud would also absorb the incoming solar radiation, cooling the world, dropping the temperature to 40 degrees below zero within a few days. Surface water could freeze to two or three meters deep, causing severe water shortages.

High levels of radioactivity would cover the ground, and Ehrlich estimated that at least 30% of the Northern Hemisphere would be exposed to over 500 rads in the first 48 hours, a lethal dose for most people.

Fourth, a smog of incinerated plastics and hydrocarbons would cover the northern hemisphere. Ehrlich said that the best spot to be at to avoid the smog would be the north pole, which would only be as bad as a terrible day in Los Angeles. The rest would be much worse.

And, finally, once the clouds and smog cleared, the ozone layer in the atmosphere would be gone, letting the ultraviolet light from the sun in full force.

The Southern Hemisphere, site of much fewer nuclear targets, would avoid the full force of the effects described, but would nevertheless be hit by them to one degree or another. Ehrlich said it would be unlikely that the people of the Southern Hemisphere would die right away, but that there would be no guarantee that they would not, due to lack of food and other essentials now largely supplied by the Northern Hemisphere, dwindle gradually away to zero.

Of course, the way to avoid this grim scenario is to avoid nuclear war. The mutual deterrence that currently protects the US and USSR is growing steadily more unstable, as military men and politicians talk of "winnable" nuclear wars



Dr Paul Ehrlich

press photo by John Lynczyzyn

and European based missiles which can reach Moscow in 10 minutes with great accuracy are installed. According to Ehrlich, "The Soviet's computers are much less accurate than ours, and ours still give us reports of false attacks all the time. Now we're asking a dangerous and

paranoid enemy to make the correct decision on such a report in only ten minutes, when they couldn't make the correct decision on whether to shoot a commercial airliner in 2½ hours."

Ehrlich ended by calling for an immediate, mutually verifiable nuclear freeze,

and a new United States leadership less belligerent, and more eager to negotiate with the Soviets. Ultimately, though, Ehrlich said, the only way to be certain of avoiding annihilation is to eliminate war as a means of settling conflicts altogether from the world.

(continued from page 2)

curate, but it required corroborative evidence before anyone could reach that decision. Indeed, I said Professor Dube would deserve an apology if his report of the classroom situation was found to be accurate. For these reasons I urged the Senate to reject the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Senate Minutes accurately summarize my concluding point as follows: "Levine said that it was still unclear whether Dube was a propagandist or a serious scholar-teacher." In his essay, "The Dube Controversy: A Black Perspective," (26 October 1983), Owens writes: ". . . Professor Dube was using his position to propagandize the Soviet line on Israel and nothing more."

In a case where facts have been so difficult to uncover the introduction of fictions can serve no good purpose. While I am sure that some who read his essay will automatically accept Professor Owens' fabrication, I am confident that the Senate Minutes will prevail for the best of all reasons: they are accurate.

With the hope of correcting his misrepresentations of my statement, I met with Professor Owens in his office on 16

November (the day after I read his first essay). Our conversation was cordial but fruitless: Professor Owens stood by his revision of the historical facts. He would not even concede that the logic of my argument would make his version of my concluding point a non sequitur. He dismissed the Senate Minutes as simply incorrect. It is ironic that Professor seems to agree with my premise for he employs it several times in his essay, i.e., that no one who has not had "direct contact with Dube's teachings" can arrive at conclusions about them. Precisely the argument I invoked at the Senate meeting! The fact remains that without evidence one cannot condemn or praise, indict or pardon, or even argue that there was or was not a violation of academic freedom.

Richard A. Levine

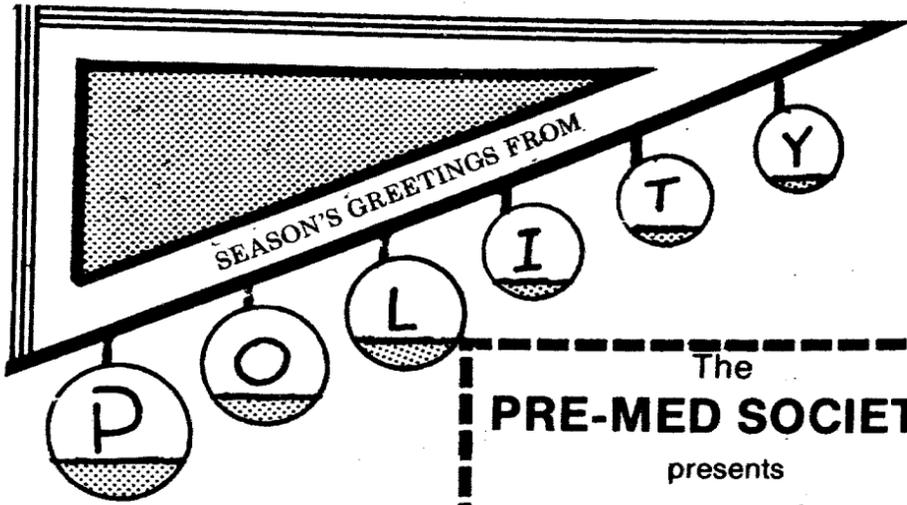
Stony Brook Press
Room 020
Old Biology Bldg.

We are coming upon another New Year and with each New Year we make certain resolutions to live by. This year I am asking that you join me in an important resolution that may save your life. The resolution

I am speaking about is the use of safety restraints while driving your vehicle. The National Traffic Safety Administration estimates that as many as 60% of highway fatalities and serious injury may be avoided if there are universal seat belt usage. The frightening facts are, Suffolk County shows very low usage of seat belt restraints, about 7.7% county-wide. In 1981, 42,800 traffic accidents occurred in our county. As you can see, the facts are clear the use of safety restraints can save your life. The most unfortunate part of any law enforcement official is to see the grief caused by serious injury or death of a loved one which may have been prevented by the utilization of a safety device. Will you please join my family and I this year in "Buckling Up for Safety". This resolution we can all keep. It is not time consuming nor difficult and it can be a habit we can all live with, also please encourage all family members to do the same. Have a healthy and safest New Year.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Barnes
Director
Dept. Public Safety



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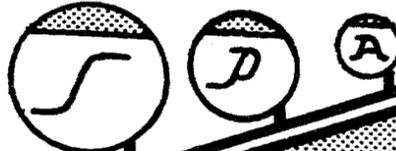
Monday, December 12
through
Thursday, December 22, 1983

Location: Stage XII Cafeteria, 2nd floor
Time: 7 PM - 12 Midnite

Coffee and donuts
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finals week,
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thru
Thursday, December 22.

**General meetings are held Thursdays
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For more information call 6-7943
or come down to our office in
Union room 045-B**



Stop 21

a SASU position paper

Senate bill S1569, introduced by Senator Frank Padavan (R-C, Queens), would raise the legal drinking age to 21 if passed and signed into law. At this time it has been printed and sent to the Committee on Investigations and Taxation, chaired by Senator Roy Goodman (R-L, NYC). It has not passed out of committee and it does not have a companion bill in the Assembly.

According to Senator Padavan's staff, the bill will most likely be acted on during the regular session, which begins in January. Senator Padavan's argument in favor of the bill contains three points:

- 1) by raising the drinking age to 21, alcohol will be less available to high school age persons,
- 2) by raising the drinking age to 21, New York will stop underage persons from neighboring states from traveling into New York in order to purchase and consume alcohol.
- 3) to reduce the alcohol related auto crashes and deaths among 19 and 20 year-olds.

SASU's research on the issue has resulted in the following findings:

1. Alcohol is a widely available, socially accepted drug. As long as it is available to the general public, attempts to limit legal access to alcohol especially by age will be largely unsuccessful.

RATIONALE:

- a) A study performed in 1977 by Jessor and Jessor revealed that in states with widely varying legal drinking ages, the effective drinking age, that is the age where most individuals begin to drink outside the home in social settings is 16 (1). The researchers concluded that the effective drinking age was determined more by sociological factors than by legal limits.
- b) The United Nations World Health Organization and other researchers have concluded that no matter what the legal age limits for alcohol consumption are, underage individuals will still be able to obtain alcoholic beverages through parents, legal age friends, or through unwitting sellers. (2)
- c) 1982 police record reports (3) indicate that those who wish to drink and drive will do so even if they are underage. If we examine actual records of 1982 alcohol related auto accidents as a percentage of all auto accidents, we find that 17 year olds had an alcohol related accident rate that was only 25% less than 18 year olds, who legally drink in 1982. If we continue this assumption to current 18 year old age brackets, alcohol consumption will be reduced only 25% as a result of raising the legal drinking age.

CONCLUSION:

Legislators and other supporters of raising the drinking age assume that alcohol-related traffic accidents and other related mishaps will be ended in the affected age groups merely by raising the drinking age. The above information indicates that this assumption is fallacious and that those who wish to drink and drive will only be slightly deterred by a raise in the legal drinking age.

2. Raising the drinking age does not necessarily lower alcohol related traffic fatalities and accidents. What does seem to work universally is education coupled with strict enforcement, publicity and rehabilitation.

RATIONALE:

- a) There exists hundreds of studies on the legal drinking age and its effects. (7) Most of the

studies concerning the legal drinking age and its effects on driving conflict. Each side of the issue will cite their own statistics, but based on the evidence, there is no undisputed proof that raising the drinking age necessarily results in fewer alcohol related accidents.

- b) In New York State, there exist a number of legal and social activities that have run concurrently with the move to raise the legal drinking age. These include public awareness programs, such as stop DWI, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and RID (Remove Intoxicated Drivers) and include greater publicity and awareness surrounding New York's strictly enforced, toughened drunk driving laws. When many concurrent efforts are made to reduce drunk driving generally, these efforts must be considered separately from the issue of raising the legal drinking age.

- c) There exists virtually universal agreement on one component of the overall argument; that strict enforcement of existing drunk driving laws coupled with education and publicity is the best possible deterrent of drunk driving. (8)

CONCLUSION:

Currently, despite contrary claims by those who support raising the drinking age, there is a wide disparity among the evidence concerning whether or not raising the drinking age will necessarily significantly reduce alcohol related accidents. There does however, exist significant agreement that heightened public awareness, certainty of apprehension and increased efforts at rehabilitation do greatly reduce the risk of alcohol related traffic accidents.

3. Over 99% of all 19 and 20 year-olds who hold drivers licenses are not involved in alcohol related traffic accidents. By raising the drinking age to 21, over 99% of the affected group would lose a privilege that they have used responsibly in order to reduce the number of alcohol related traffic incidents that are created by a tiny minority (.6% of the affected group).

RATIONALE:

- a) Based on actual police reports compiled in 1982, 99.4% of 19 and 20 year old drivers were not involved in alcohol related accidents. (9)
- b) Raising the drinking age to 21 would probably reduce the percentage of drivers in alcohol related accidents based on the methodology explained in 1(c). This would reduce the number of drivers in the affected groups from .006 to .0045 compared with the amount of people who

would be losing the privilege in total.

- c) An analogy that might be appropriate is: We could save hundreds of lives each year if we banned people from the streets of New York City. That would be unfair, most would reason because it isn't the fault of the people on the streets that often leads to loss of life, but rather, it is autos ignoring traffic laws, murderers and other illegal activity that lead to loss of life. The answer would be to enforce existing laws to save lives. There would still be some risk, but the more effective the law enforcement was, the more lives that would be saved. And people could still walk the streets. New York's drinking age dilemma is much of the same. The individuals who are trying to raise the drinking age are trying to save lives. But just as it is impractical to clear the streets of New York, raising the drinking age will deprive more than it helps, will create new problems that haven't been fully examined and will be ineffective in achieving its major goals.

CONCLUSION:

Legislators and other supporters of raising the legal drinking age never mention that over 99% of all 18, 19 and 20 year olds are not involved in alcohol related traffic incidents, instead, they point out that these ages have an alcohol related accident rate which is greater than older age groups. While this is true, the facts point out that the overwhelming majority of licensed drivers in the affected age groups do drive responsibly and should not be held responsible for problems created by a statistically miniscule number.

4. 18 year olds are eligible to vote in local, state and national elections. They are old enough to marry, have an unrestricted driving license, own a business and be held responsible for contractual agreements. The privilege of drinking responsibly should be extended to those legally considered old enough for the responsibility of other duties and privileges.

RATIONALE:

Societal obligations imply many duties and responsibilities of the individual to society. Among these are the responsibility to obey the law and to participate in the democratic process by voting. Certain privileges are granted upon reaching legal age. It is logically inconsistent not to include alcohol as a privilege to those who are otherwise considered fully adult.



Irving residents writing letters protesting the 21 year old drinking age law.

press photo by Scott Richter

Oxygen

We believe that a good newspaper should be as important and useful to its readers as oxygen. And that's why we do what we do.

The Stony Brook Press is the University's weekly feature newspaper. We're dedicated to informing, investigating, and analyzing our complex community. Promoting progress and inciting debate. And having as much fun as we can while doing it.

The Press is pro-student. Editorially, we're not out to railroad anybody, but whether it's advocating improving financial aid or opposing new Residence Life regulations, the Press's goal is always the improvement of the educational and social system at SUNY Stony Brook.

In our news coverage, instead of merely telling you what happened yesterday, the Press looks deeper into things, and tries to find out why it happened. And what might happen tomorrow. Because of this, it's no coincidence that Press writers have

won the University's Buskin award for Excellence in Journalism the last two years running.

None of this is easy, but it is fun. Running around the University, covering concerts, climbing over linear accelerators, and staying up through the craziness of production nights requires commitment to do well, but the satisfaction of watching the newspaper roll of the presses on Thursdays makes it all worthwhile.

So if your idea of investigative journalism is tearing copy off an Associated Press machine, and handing it to the typesetter, then the Press is probably not for you.

But if your interested in kicking ass, telling the truth, and having a great time, then the Press is the place for you.

And the Press wants you here. We meet every Monday night in room 042 of Old Biology, at 8:00 pm. Come on down.

Capitalism on Parade

What The Balloons Are Selling

by Michael Barrett

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade: 9 giant balloons, 17 major floats, 12 marching bands and over 2,500 Macy's employees. It's an American tradition, and The Stony Brook Press was there.

We arrived at 6 am.

The effigies of eight cartoon characters sculpted in helium-filled rubber lied bound to 77th Street by nets weighted with sandbags. As we moved in for closer examination and a few pictures, our progress was impeded in the first of many cases by New York's finest and their bright blue barricades. Luckily for us, the forces of law and order were poorly organized at this early hour and we soon penetrated the restricted area.

Bob Kemp of Kemp Balloons was supervising the final inflations (Olive Oyl's nose for example) and he agreed to answer a few questions. It was from him that we learned of the fate of the missing balloon Mickey Mouse, (1974), grandson of the first Mickey Mouse balloon (1934) who had lost an arm. Apparently, the arm decided a few brief moments of erratic free flight was preferable to being tied to a Macy's salesperson for three hours.

Bus loads of clowns arrived from the Herald Square Macy's (make-up and costume headquarters) and emptied in an endless stream into the sidewalks of Central Park West. The hour of the parade was approaching and we needed information. Armed with only a few important names and a Stony Brook Press I.D. we went off in search of that cornucopia of facts, The Press Kit.

We had always assumed that the inane comments broadcast into our living rooms Thanksgiving morning were extemporaneous observations made by the television "co-hosts" sprinkled with information from a few fact sheets. This illusion was shattered when we were handed the 92 page Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Press Kit.

"The 40 balloon handlers skillfully guiding Yogi Bear down Broadway are his most ardent fans. Since imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, they're dressed in similar-looking coveralls of bright Christmas green with stiff white collars and festive yuletide plaid ties. The cut-out, whimple-type headpieces are furry brown hoods with adorable bear-like ears topped with that unmistakably squashed Yogi hat."

It pains me to think that somebody got paid a good deal of money to write that drivel. What is worse is that somebody else got paid even more to read it verbatim over the air.

But this was not the only seaminess casting a slime over our



press photo by Dan Hank

Thanksgiving. During our conversation with Bob Kemp, he had mentioned that all of the Thanksgiving balloons belonged to Macy's. The

Press Kit indicated that Hanna Barbara had "sponsored the Yogi balloon and the Jellystone Park float. The notion that anybody who

wants a lot of advertising can buy into the parade seems to conflict with the statement "There have been 93 balloon characters created . . . many balloons reflect story book, fantasy, or seasonal themes; they are designed especially for the children's identification and enjoyment."

On the other hand, we did ourselves. The thousands of clowns who would revert tomorrow to the obnoxious sales help that ignore you throughout the Christmas season were happy and energetic if not terribly funny. When we weren't shouting with excitement at the sight of Bullwinkle careening off buildings and trees, we were reading The Press Kit aloud to other parade goers who weren't blessed with Press status.

As Santa and his sleigh pulled into view, we reflected on the commercialism of Christmas and how Thanksgiving had been commercialized through the Thanksgiving Day Parade. The parade no longer symbolizes the celebration of the cultural backgrounds of Macy's employees embodied in the first floats 57 years ago. It seems to be more of a media event created to remind people that the season of gift-giving is neigh.

As we pressed along with the throng of former spectators to the nearest subway station, visions of turkey legs danced in our heads. Turkey! is really what Thanksgiving is all about. Not just having a good meal with family and friends but appreciating it.

Vital Statistics

KERMIT THE FROG

Kermit soared over London's Hyde Park and greeted Queen Elizabeth and thousands of children when he was invited to England to celebrate the International Year of the Child in 1979. This was the first time any balloon had made an appearance outside the United States. It's no wonder he was asked, since Kermit is the popular host of TV's THE MUPPET SHOW. Loveable Kermit is celebrating his seventh season in the parade. In 1977, Kermit was aerodynamically engineered and made into his present proportions. This inflatable, sponsored by Henson Associates, is six stories tall, 24 feet wide, requires 5,220 cubic feet of helium and air, and is carefully managed by 25 balloon handlers.

MR. SMITH

Although Mr. Smith, star of the NBC comedy series that bears his name is making his first appearance in this year's Parade, he is certainly no stranger to show business. This four foot tall orangutang is a veteran performer who made his mark in such films as "Tarzan The Ape Man," "Any Which Way You Can" and "The Cat People" before moving on to television.

His numerous television credits include appearances on THE TONIGHT SHOW, HILL

STREET BLUES, T.J. HOOKER, THE FALL GUY, MORK AND MINDY, AM LOS ANGELES, 20/20, and ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT. This role in MR. SMITH is as a super-intelligent talking ape who works in a government-funded, Washington-based research institute.

A native Texan, Mr. Smith was born in the Dallas Zoo to non-show-biz parents, but he showed an early talent for acting and by the time he was two he was already appearing in television commercials. From the start he established himself as a unique performer with a flair for comedy as well as drama.

Mr. Smith's curriculum vitae states that his hobbies are sunbathing, bicycling and gymnastics.

MACY'S PIRATE SHIP

As New York is home to some of the world's great harbors, it is only fitting that a Pirate Ship set a course from Central Park to Broadway in Macy's 57th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Macy's Star is a three-masted yar whose tallest mast towers five stories high. Its colorful sails, real rope rigging, crow's nest and familiar skull and bones might make tender hearts quake, but landlubbers need never fear, the ship is crewed by the friendliest of shipmates.

Granada

By Mitchel Cohen

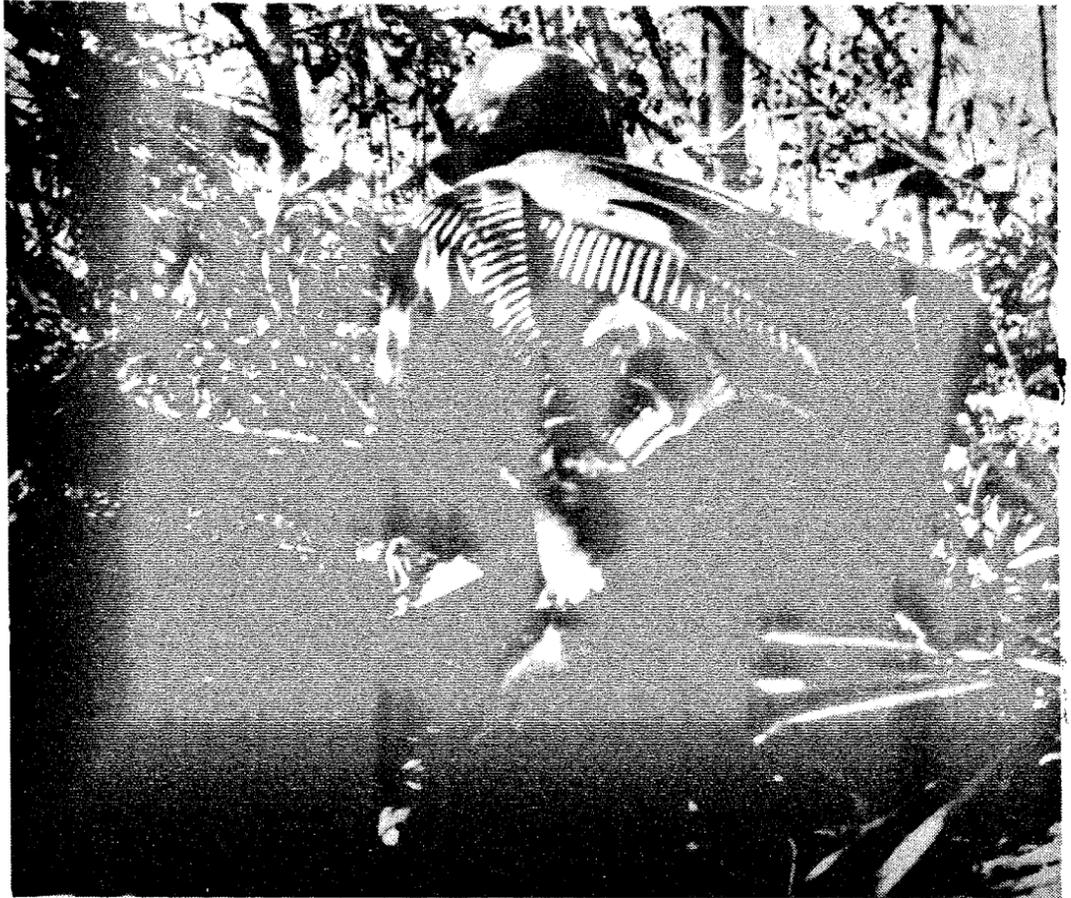
"First, of overriding importance, to protect innocent lives, including up to 1,000 Americans whose personal safety is, of course my paramount concern," said Ronald Reagan, Oct. 25, 1983. White House Spokesperson, however, had said the day before the invasion, Oct. 24, that there "was no indication of danger to Americans. After the invasion he said that they had been in danger. He stressed that the airport on Grenada had been closed on Oct. 24th, thwarting any possibility that the Americans, mostly medical students, could be evacuated peacefully. This proved to be false, Mr. Speakes acknowledged Monday, after witnesses had said the airport opened Oct. 24 and that at least four charter planes had left that day . . . In addition, Administration officials initially did not disclose that during the days before the invasion both Grenadian military officials and the Cuban government repeatedly provided assurances that Americans on the island would not be harmed and could leave if they wanted." (NY Times, Nov. 6)

On Monday, Oct. 24, the U.S. embassy in Barbados received a note from the Revolutionary Military Council in Grenada. It said that "Americans on the island were in no danger and would be permitted to leave if they wished. The State Department chose to ignore." (Time Magazine Nov. 7) The Grenadian authorities even offered to fly the American students off Grenada at Grenada's own expense, an interesting item as the U.S. government is billing the students for their flight from Grenada to Charleston South Carolina. Still, the State Department turned it down. The School's vice-chancellor, Charles Modica, in New York City, sharply criticized the invasion, "contending that his students had not been in danger before it began." According to Modica, it is true that some of the students feared they would be taken hostage, "although the Grenadians and Cubans had never made a move to harm them. They apparently ringed the school (during the invasion) in a defensive stance," protecting the students, with great risks to themselves. (Time)

It is not hard to understand that, in a nation short of medical care - - although all care, under the revolutionary Bishop government, was free to all - - medical students were needed to help provide necessary training and aid. People simply don't choose to shoot their doctors, especially when care is free.

But the U.S. government desperately needed the hostage scenario in order to win the support of the American people - - all too emotionally involved with the events in Iran - - for the invasion. American hostages would provide perhaps the one excuse that would win support for military action. As Dennis Bernstein and Connie Blitt write in a column in Newsday (Nov. 11, 1983): "Long before the killing of Bishop, the Pentagon began planning the invasion of Grenada. Just look at naval exercise 'Ocean Venture '81', which took place on the island of Vieques off Puerto Rico. There U.S. soldiers rehearsed invading an island code-named 'Amber', a part of the 'Amberline Islands.' Well, Grenada is part of a small chain of islands called the Grenadines, and a portion of Grenada is actually named Amber. In the words of a senior White House official, 'What good are maneuvers and shows of force, if you never use them.'"

Alexander Cockburn details the 1981 maneuvers in the Village Voice (Nov. 2, 1983): "The focus of the Caribbean phase of the maneuvers was Cuba - - code-named 'Red' - - and the fictitious island of 'Amber and the Amberdines,' labelled 'our enemy in the eastern



Caribbean." This barely disguised reference to Grenada and the Grenadines shocked and angered Grenadians, especially since the war game scenario called for "Amber" to "seize American hostages" and be invaded by the United States after 'negotiations' with the Amber government break down. As U.P.I. reported on August 2, 1981 (17 years to the day after the Gulf of Tonkin):

The Allied forces mass aircraft, troops and ships in the Caribbean, preparing to 'neutralize' the eastern bloc's surrogate nation in South America. The first wave of airborne troops invades the country on August 10, followed by amphibious and air assaults. The battle lasts 17 days. Quietly, an 'unconventional' force of Army Rangers, Navy underwater demolition teams and other special forces - - 'the guys that do the dirty tricks,' said the navy captain Dale Lewey - - move to free the hostages on Amber Island. . . .

"The U.S. carried out a full dress rehearsal of this mock invasion at Vieques Island, the U.S. base off Puerto Rico. Under the direction of Rear Admiral Robert R. McKenzie, commander of the Florida-based Caribbean task force, paratroopers were flown in from California for a dawn parachute drop into Vieques. Other combat troops trained for mountainous terrain provided support, followed up by 1000 amphibious marine units and air assaults.

"After rescuing the 'hostages' and seizing power, according to the fictional scenario, the American troops would stay on Amber Island 'to install a regime favorable to the way of life we espouse' and 'opposed to the previous 'unfriendly' Amber government. (From Grenada: The Peaceful Revolution, published in 1982 by the Ecumenical Program for the InterAmerican Communications and Action (EPICA))

The hostage scenario was crucial to the U.S. government's plans to invade Grenada. As such, it should come as no surprise to find C.I.A. agents among the students at the medical school

for months before the invasion. As Newsweek Magazine, in anotherwise terrible glorification of the U.S. military, puts it: "At the Grand Anse campus, an older student named Jim Pfister assured everyone that help was on the way. (How did he know this?) Pfister was a thin man with a mustache, probably in his late 30s, and even his fellow students found him unusual. He claimed to be a West Point graduate and former Foreign Service Officer, a U.S. consul in Laos during the Vietnam War, who had quit the State Department to go to medical school. Once the invasion started, he was in constant short-wave radio contact with the advancing troops and seemed to know their moves in advance. Before they arrived, he instructed the other students to prepare for evacuation by putting on long pants and running shoes. He also told them to tear up sheets to make white arm bands. As he barked his orders, the students gave Pfister a nickname: "Field Marshal von Fritz." (Nov. 7, 1983)

On October 28, the Denver Post states that a "Democratic senator said he received information that CIA agents were among the passengers on a plane-load of 70 American medical students flown out of Grenada Wednesday." He said his information came from the CIA and the Pentagon. When Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.) was asked about the CIA activities on Grenada he would only say there is "nothing I can talk about." What does he fear to reveal?

The New York Times (Oct. 28) reports that Mark Baratella, a medical student on the island, had sent "cryptic, coded responses about troop movements" over his radio. The question begins to loom large: Besides facilitating the assault by military units, did the CIA use the medical school as a cover for its operatives, and did it attempt to destabilize the Grenadian government long before the invasion took place.

There is much other evidence to show that the medical students were in no danger, and that instead, the U.S. government wanted them there, to provide an excuse for invading Grenada when the time was ripe. Cockburn reports extensively on an interview with Peter Bourne, former Carter appointee, whose father is the dean

Pirates of the Caribbean

of St. George University's School of Medicine on Grenada. Bourne reports how, on Monday (one day before the invasion), General Austin of Grenada opened the airport and relaxed the curfew. "A few students left by charter, as did other visitors, contradicting the Reagan administration's claim that it was impossible to get off the island. Ten percent of the students indicated in a vote that they wanted to go home, and parents in the U.S. pleaded with Reagan not to invade." In fact, almost all the medical students and their families sent telegrams to Reagan just one or two days before the invasion, telling him not to invade, that they were safe. Only now, after being briefed extensively by the CIA and the U.S. military, do some of the students "kiss the ground" and talk about how they "thought they were safe but the government convinced us otherwise." Nothing in their own direct experience indicates that they were not safe. Only the propaganda mechanisms of the U.S. government have convinced some of them, looking back, that they were in danger and didn't know it.

But not all the medical students left Grenada! More than 100 stayed behind, volunteering to work in hospitals to tend the wounded. These students are the real heroes of the invasion, along with the Grenadian people. And yet, nothing in the "free press" about them, not a word.

For the past few weeks, the lies leaped at us fast and furious. Warehouses of modern Cuban and Soviet weapons - a lie! Thousands of Cuban soldiers - a lie! "Hospital bombed? What hospital?" - that lie lasted a week. Mass-graves? - a lie! Slogans were thrown at us: "Marxist murderers"; "brutal group of leftist thugs", and more. Slowly, the real picture emerges, a shameful, disgracing picture. And still, even while knowing it was all a lie, we said "right on!" to Reagan. "Let's get in there and do the job!" "It's a chance to prove what we're made of" - and to hell with the truth!

Grenadians, under the overwhelmingly popular leadership of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, are no different than other people trying to break free of colonial domination and build up their country according to their own desires. Although legalistically freed from Britain's colonial domination in 1974, and taking a giant step forward in 1979 when the New Jewel Movement brought its revolutionary government to power in a bloodless revolution, the U.S. government made Grenada's rebuilding program very difficult. It blocked any grants in money by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank under the Carter administration; it cut off all economic aid to Grenada (under both Carter and Reagan), while finding no moral dilemma in funding fascists in Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Somocistas trying to overthrow the legitimate revolutionary government of Nicaragua, and the apartheid regime in South Africa. Maurice Bishop pleaded for U.S. aid. Several times, including his visit to the U.S. just a few months before he was murdered, Bishop tried to meet with Reagan or other high U.S. officials, to no avail. Even Republican Lowell Weiker (Sen., Ct.) condemned the arrogance and stupidity of the government in failing to treat with Bishop, whom it condemned as a "Marxist dictator". Once Bishop was killed, however, the U.S. seized the opportunity to claim Bishop as something of a moderate, a "firm and dedicated leader" against the "new hardliners backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union," (a total lie in itself, at least as far as Cuba goes. Cuba denounced the murder of

Bishop, who was like a son to Fidel, and declared three days of national mourning, while beginning to pull its personnel out of Grenada). As Sen. Weicker put it on ABC News: "I am not proud of what happened in Grenada. What happened in Grenada could have been avoided if Reagan did not slam the door in Bishop's face when he came here in the summer of 1983." What Weicker cannot understand is that the sector of the ruling class that Reagan and Weicker represent do not view what happened as a tragedy at all, but as a victory. U.S. imperialism wants Grenada, and created the opportunity to get it, just like it is trying to do throughout the Caribbean, Central America, and indeed the rest of the world.

Yet, even in spite of U.S. hostility to little Grenada - a country that was led by a government with socialist ideas, but which had not yet developed the material basis for socialism, thus remaining a national capitalist but radical country - the revolution in human terms in Grenada proceeded. In four years, the illiteracy rate dropped dramatically, as schools and tutorial programs were set up all over the country. The unemployment rate fell from 50% to 12% in four short years. Medical care, education, and other necessities were provided free: they were viewed as basic human rights, not privileges of the rich. The Richmond Hill Hospital - made habitable only following the revolution - had as part of its program, a free mental health unit, at which students from SUNY Stony Brook, like many others, worked in exchange programs, serving the people and participating in the building of the first English-speaking socialist society (as it envisioned itself) and, very crucial to the U.S. government's opposition, the first socialist society in this hemisphere not only in an English-speaking country, but in one that is Black.

On the first day of the U.S. invasion of the island, the hospital was bombed by the U.S. - "accidentally" - and dozens of innocent patients were killed, an event denied for a week by the U.S. government. The attitude, which can only be called racist, on the part of the U.S. government that allows for such atrocities to be brushed aside, is further exemplified in a statement by Larry Speakes, spokesperson for the White House, who views the Grenadian people as heathens. "I am told," Speakes spoke, "there is a religious custom that the Grenadians bury their dead very soon after they die," trying to figure out where all the bodies from the alleged massacre were. He later said that the practice "may not be religious", an insult to the majority of Catholics on Grenada, and scandalous when contrasted with the very Christian way the U.S. went about its bloody business there.

It is a tribute to the democratic longings and aspirations of the American people - like people everywhere - that the government feels the need to lie to us. Without the lies, the government (and the forces behind it) would not be able to win the support of the American people to fight for interests we would otherwise oppose. But it is no tribute to the people that we fall for the lies so easily.

A people nurtured on sit-coms and 3-minute news reports followed by two minutes of commercials has a short fragmented memory when it comes to history as well. And a people that has such a short memory is easily lied to. To wait for every lie to be exposed once the general contours have been established before we are able to act, keeps us docile and impotent, forever pushing the boulder of complacency up the eternal incline of mental masturbation.

What are the contours? The U.S. has just invaded another country, which happens - oh

strange coincidence - to be Black. All its reasons and emotion-packed justifications, as exposed herein, have turned out to be lies. With the exception of a handful of U.S.-backed puny dictators, the whole world has condemned the U.S. actions. Hundreds of thousands of people in Western Europe alone have stormed U.S. embassies in their rage against what the U.S. government is doing in Central America and the Caribbean. A coven of brazen imperialist hypocrites are orchestrating our emotions and response in order to trap us into supporting policies that benefit no one except those in power.

C.L.R. James, in writing about Toussaint L'Ouverture and the revolutionary abolition of slavery in what is now Haiti, expressed the inherent understanding colonized people have of their oppressors, who always couch their aims in the most wonderful-sounding phrases, to lure the fly into the honey.

"It is Toussaint's supreme merit that while he saw European civilisation as a valuable and necessary thing, he never had the illusion that it conferred any moral superiority. He knew French, British, and Spanish (and we might add, American) imperialists for the insatiable gangsters that they were, and there is no oath too sacred for them to break, no crime, deception, treachery, cruelty, destruction of human life and property which they would not commit against those who could not defend themselves."

(CLR James, The Black Jacobins)

Now, the machine guns in Grenada are quiet. The hearts that beat so fiercely as if at a football game, that thrilled orgasmically to the rape of Grenada, have to crawl back like snails into their horrified shells, hoping to hide. The emotions drawn out of the American people allow the U.S. ruling class to crank up the unwieldy gears of the Pentagon, prepare new invasions, discover and subjugate better terrain for investments, cheap labor, and natural resources.

What happens when Grenada happens to Nicaragua? How will we act? Will we have learned our lesson from Grenada? Will we once again wait for all the lies to be exposed, and for the bones of the dead to be screaming in the night for justice, justice!, to consider acting? And what happens when Nicaragua happens to the U.S., as those who see through the lies begin bringing the war home, as occurred on a tiny scale with the bombing of the Capitol last week? Must we wait until our young sisters and brothers come home from the wars looking like swiss cheese before we change our lives, plan our course of opposition, and move on it? What a bloody price to pay, by not learning our lesson until then.

How easy to allow and encourage others to shoot holes in people. And for what? How distasteful it becomes when people start shooting back, how downright inhospitable!

One lesson of Grenada is that the people of the world, as they already know, need to prepare themselves to resist armed invasion by the U.S. imperialism before millions more are slaughtered in its mad greedy quest for profits. For Grenada - at least for the time being - it is too late. The liars have won. The bodies are already festering in the noonday sun, and the maggots crawl into the bullet holes as the life spills out.

HAIR

Dear Stony Brook Players/Hair Cast,

Thank you for sharing a celebration of love with us, in motion and song. I entered that theatre to be held and caressed in a universe all encompassing through your unique interpretation of "Hair"—through your collective talents.

I saw the people in the audience shirking off their sorrows and moving to the beat of your energy. I heard them sighing deeply with relief in the realization that—Yes!, there is an alternative reality created by giving, talented artists striving to surpass their physicality and express the spirit, in all its glory. Yes!, there is hope that we, human beings, are capable of deflecting our egos to become One, in verse, at least.

All the songs and skits were incredible in their energy; in their eagerness to offer balm; in their range of expression and in their intensity of feeling. To try to choose which song was the "best" is impossible; as is trying to decide which performer was more superb than the others. Each member of the cast tempered their character with their own respective talent, yet, for me, the communal feeling of the '60's was best presented by the force of the production, cast, lighting, sound effects and music composing a brave, new world for our benefit; for our enjoyment.

My personal theory of what constitutes a beautiful drama presentation is that your guests, the audience, should walk away from your play feeling more alive and more in love with the world than when they first entered the theatre in anticipation of a new experience. If you can accept that theory then hopefully, you will realize that all of you succeeded in brightening and touching your guests in lifting them to heights beyond their conscious thoughts and thus, gave a hell of a performance!

To be a witness to the finale of your presentation of "HAIR" was to be part of an event; a "HAPPENING" of which the '60's were famous for and which you successfully recreated and presented as a Reality. I saw people dancing to their heartbeats, singing out their souls and swaying to a Supreme force that probably transcended your initial reasons for choosing this particular production at this time.

There were so many moments when I wanted to be up there with you all, moving with your beautiful, expressive and graceful bodies. It was a night of grace; of a limb extending into a poem; of a voice reaching into another's mind and of a collection of people uniting in the "groovy"! feeling of Love.

The seventeen of you surpass any past experience I have had with a troupe of artists. I am amazed in how confident you all are in your talents and thus, your lack of childish, ego conflicts shine through in your acting. It is obvious that "HAIR" was more than just another play for you—it appeared as if this drama reflected a long, thoughtful culmination of your shared times and of your support for each

other. I doubt if I will ever discover another cast actually living and exploring the life of communal support proposed in the '60's as I gratefully happened upon when entering the Stony Brook Theatre, the night of Friday, December 2, 1983.

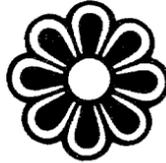
I felt people entering as embryos in a cocoon, taking courage through your offerings of peace, love and celebration and taking flight on silken wings. Please give us more nights, long with joy.

Thank you, once again, for inviting the student body of Stony Brook to put their feet up, to let their hair down and to take a break from one reality to enter an alternative existence where Love is the message.

Sincerely,
Pamela B. Caruso



"Claude"—Christian James



"Mary"—Mary Kelleher



"Shiela"—Deirdre Hanbury

R. GAMBOL

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COMPLIMENTARY EXAMINATION OFFERED.

OR ARE YOU?

Chocolate

A Closer Look

by Julie Hack

As Americans have become increasingly health conscious over the years, frozen yogurt has replaced ice cream, joggers have multiplied by leaps and bounds, tofu sales have risen, and, oddly, chocolate sales have dropped. Typically referred to as "junk," "poison," or "crap," chocolate (with nuts) has been erroneously deemed "unhealthy" by the masses. Spurious statistics and medical propaganda have grossly underrated, if not completely ignored, the importance of chocolate (with nuts) to our physical and mental well being. The myth of chocolate (with nuts) as a fattening, non-nutritious stimulant is just that—a myth.

The lack of chocolate can actually be hazardous to your health. A study conducted by Stuart Sweettooth at Sugar Nursey School and Orafix Old Age Home has determined that the death rate of those who consume no chocolate is 99 times higher than that of those

who eat at least five bars of chocolate a day. (In an attempt to disprove these findings, doctors have pointed to the fact that the chocolate consuming group included only children aged three to seven years. This, however, is mere nit-picking. How far will some people go?) Despite evidence such as this, however, misconceptions about chocolate abound.

Contrary to popular belief, chocolate is a potent source of nutrients. A chocolate bar (with nuts) provides you with carbohydrates, fat, sodium, and even protein. When eaten with a glass of whole milk, six slices of toast, ten slices of bacon, three eggs, and a gallon of orange juice, a snickers bar makes a complete meal—much like a breakfast cereal.

It has also been said that chocolate (with nuts) is an addictive stimulant. Granted chocolate is stimulating, but so is a Shakespeare comedy. The assumption that chocolate (with nuts) is addictive is false. Many people have switched easily from chocolate to cotten

candy or jellybeans without displaying any symptoms of withdrawal.

Dieters would benefit greatly from incorporating chocolate (with nuts) into their daily menu. The consumption of chocolate, say four or five pounds, at mid-morning, would surely motivate the dieter to skip meals for the rest of the day, perhaps for the rest of the week. Thus, chocolate is a terrific aid in weight reduction.

The value of chocolate is not limited to its nutritional properties. Used as a dental diagnostic tool, chocolate would eliminate the necessity for expensive and health-endangering X-rays. By simply chewing on a chocolate bar a patient could locate his cavities quickly and accurately. If chocolate became a weapon of war, armies could significantly enhance their offensive capabilities. By injecting liquid chocolate into enemy food, the military could start devastating, pimple plagues which would sabotage enemy morale. Government officials would be wise

to include the cost of chocolate in the military budget.

The most important thing chocolate has to offer us is relaxation. It is always enjoyable to munch on a Mars Bar, but nobody unwinds over a grapefruit and cottage cheese. Serving chocolate (with nuts, of course) for breakfast, lunch, and dinner saves you the trouble of cooking meals. This practice is especially relaxing for the cook in a large family—chocolate, then, is an extremely tranquilizing food.

Medical reasons aside, the consumption of chocolate is a theologically sound practice. God created cocoa beans, therefore they are meant to be eaten. It is more natural to eat a chocolate bar than an apple. Anybody who has ever bitten into a worm would tell you that.

So all you "health food" nuts and chocolate lovers out there, stop battling with your conscience and listen to your body. Chances are it is screaming for chocolate. And if it is, give it the good food it deserves.

VP THE BROOK, B.C.



Unnatural Ingredients

Fosse's Flick Flops

by Haluk Soykan

STAR 80

Directed by Bob Fosse
with Mariel Hemingway, Eric Roberts
A Ladd Company Release thru
Warner Brothers

After seeing powerful pictures like "All that Jazz," and "Lenny," your attitude towards a new Bob Fosse picture would most likely be extremely positive. At least, that's how I felt while waiting on the ticket line for his latest work, "Star 80." But now I'm sure about only one thing: I'm totally confused.

There is something very wrong with the plot of this film. I feel uneasy saying this because we're talking about a filmmaker of the depth of imagination of Fosse, but nonetheless, the plot is in the bare skeleton stage.

The movie is the true story of 1980 Playmate of the Year Dorothy Stratton (Mariel Hemingway) and her "pimpy" boyfriend Paul Snider (Eric Roberts), who later becomes her husband. He gets her to the top, or at least to Playboy's centerfold, but gets himself nowhere. And that's where the trouble starts. While I'm not particularly old, I'm sure I've been exposed to this plot more than a hundred times, in one format or another. There is nothing wrong with using a plot that has been used before as long as you can renovate it or add a different dimension to it, but this is what Fosse fails to do.

Dorothy is a humble girl who starts off in a fastfood restaurant, and dreams of being a star. Snider is her boyfriend, in the local bar



and women business. His dream is to create a star, and most probably own it. Snider leads Stratton into the story by sending nude snapshots of her in to Playboy, which eventually responds. But as she climbs her way to stardom, Snider's role in her life slowly fades away. . . and Snider, being the finder and lover of Dorothy, reacts. Snider is the maniac type of person that this star system creates.

The storyline is a widespread one that Hollywood has already exploited many times. But instead of adding anything new to it, any con-

cepts or ideas, Fosse concentrates on movie technique. The technique is powerful, though, and makes one follow the movie closely, largely because you won't know what's going on if you don't. Interviews with Dorothy and others interspersed in the action try to add a touch of realism, as Fosse did in "Lenny", but cannot be compared to the strength

of that movie's interviews. In "Star 80", Fosse uses the interviews to cover-up flaws in the movie, while in "Lenny" they reinforced the intensity of the action. Eventually all the flashy techniques just look cheap.

Mariel Hemingway, surgically redesigned for the movie, is beautiful, walks beautifully, poses beautifully, undresses beautifully. . . and not a great deal else. She is, however, a powerful way to attract an audience. Roberts, as Snider, draws the most attention in the film. It may not be great acting, but he at least gives his character a personality.

"Star 80", like many films, portrays today's social state. But as a piece of art, I hope it is not portraying the artistic death of Bob Fosse, as it so poorly portrays the brutal death of Dorothy Stratton.

Read
the
Press

African-American Students, Blackworld, LASO, Phi Beta Sigma,
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KWANZA '83

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

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A Kwanza Ceremony

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New Disks

Soft Cell, Monte Video, Let's Active

by Kathy Esseks

Soft Cell
Soul Inside
Sire Records

The music world was shocked and titillated early last summer by the news that Marc Almond of Soft Cell fame was giving up the business. Almond's fit of pique was passed as quickly as a thundershower, and he and Dave Ball were soon busily at work on a new Soft Cell album. Would that Almond had maintained his stance and not decided that he and we couldn't live without that Soft Cell sound. *Soul Inside*, Soft Cell's latest offering, is an extended foray into a self indulgent, slough of despondency.

Listening to the record, one finger plugging up my more sensitive ear and eyes squinting at the blood red lettering on the cover, I had to restrain myself from tearing the skin off my face in mental agony. Maybe that's the reaction Ball and Almond are looking to achieve. Cute, self congratulatory cover notes shed light on each flawed stone. "You Only Live Twice (007 Theme)" is allegedly "the full throttle of the swingin' ball synth sound and the icy vocal treatment from Mr. A." What prose, what style. Ball's machine sounds like it's begging to be put out of its misery as is Mr. A's plaintive voice. "Numbers" is an awe-inspiring piece wherein Almond counts in manner that would bring tears of joy to the creators of Sesame Street. He sullenly bemoans the faceless legions of lovers that have passed through his life, it's all so depressing that the only recourse is to write a very long song about it. The title cut, a nearly twelve minute salute to chalk being slowly dragged across a blackboard, is described as "a wild celebration the extra trauma mysteria-mix. Tear at your hair by the root in this explosion of emotion." Whew. Tear at your hair is right, but not in ecstasy at Soft Cell's painfully honest incisive insights into the human condition as they would have you believe. More like tearing your hair as a prelude to stomping the sheen off the vinyl.

Ball's electric skill produces five melodic variations on the same funeral dirge. Almond's lyrics tell of the horrible alienation endemic to modern love: lovers who flit through your life leaving a bad taste in your mouth and memory, the numbing roudelay of making and breaking relationships, and the emotional barriers we all erect. The man's view of life is unrelievedly dismal, and though while I enjoy pessimistic poetry as much as the next disaffected person, the sound of a breathless, despairing voice mechanically uttering the same phrase again and again while the music keens in the background is too much to expect a person to bear.



The duo who gave us "Tainted Love" the first mass appeal synth-pop hit, Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret and Non-Stop Ecstatic Dancing have now created Non-Stop Oppressive Noise. *Monte Video* must be a reference to the atrophied condition of Almond's and Ball's collective brain components.

Monte Video
Monte Video
Geffen Records

You'll probably never hear this seven-cut mini-album on your favorite radio station, and that's a crying shame because *Monte Video*'s eponymous venture into vinyl-land is a completely happy experience. *Monte Video* himself is a man without a past and possibly without a future: the album has that hard to define air of a one-shot quasi-novelty deal which is all the more reason to scour the streets till

you find it. What's the rush? I probably can't find words to describe the joy that floods through me every time I hear "Shoop-shoop, Diddy-wop, Cumma-cumma, Wang-Dang" but the pace is brisk, the lyrics are playfully suggestive drivel, and the cumulative effect is vastly superior to Valium. You could bottle it and make a fortune. No nasty side effects either. "Who's Calling" is an eerie tale of telephone mishaps told with a fearfulness that reminds one of Men at Work's "Who Can it Be Now?" minus Colin Hay's annoying pop-slop whine.

The man winds up again for "All Night Long": where else can you find "she's got the power, she's got the stamina all night long?" "Hypnosis" has a captivating rhythm and "You Can't Stop Me Now" mixes a dance club beat with a Broadway musical delivery. It's not relevant to the state of the world, it's neither profound nor experimental, but *Monte Video* is a sustained euphoric high.

by Kathy Esseks

Let's Active
afoot
I.R.S. Records

Just last spring people were lamenting the demise of the guitar amidst the proliferation of the new post-punk synth pop bands. While the synthesizer club mix masters excel at what they do, the legions of weak-kneed imitators who flooded the airwaves with monotonous, computerized blips and scratches have set the stage for a resuscitation of the guitar sound. *Let's Active*, a trio of musicians from North Carolina, is staking a claim in the back-to-basics territory of new music. Along with bands like A.P.B. and Big Country, *Let's Active* attempts to combine the best aspects of futuristic synth beats with fundamental rock 'n' roll.

On their debut mini-LP *afoot*, guitarist/vocalist Mitch Easter, drummer Sara Romwebber, and bassist/keyboardist Faye Hunter spread the good word yet again about love and heartbreak. The difference here is the bluesy framework of *Let's Active*'s soft but serious rock. That everlasting disco pulse is absent but not sorely missed. Easter's guitar is bright and adept, chopping away at riffs that hook you the second time around. The brassy percussion and restrained bass line combine with the melodies to produce a busy, positive atmosphere—a garage band with '80's sensibility and polish. "Every Word Means No" and "Make Up with Me" highlight melodies that pause for breath and then gallop for the finish line.

The choice cut is "Room With A View" whose chorus keeps popping up in your mind. *Let's Active* proves that creativity plus a guitar is still a valid route to a fresh, vigorous rock sound.



- Concert

Jerry in the Gym

The Garcia Band Satisfies

by Philip Garfield

Sunday night, the Stony Brook gym was the place to be. Close to three thousand fans figured this out and were in enthusiastic attendance as the Jerry Garcia Band bestowed upon them almost three hours of Borkum riffs and mumbo jams.

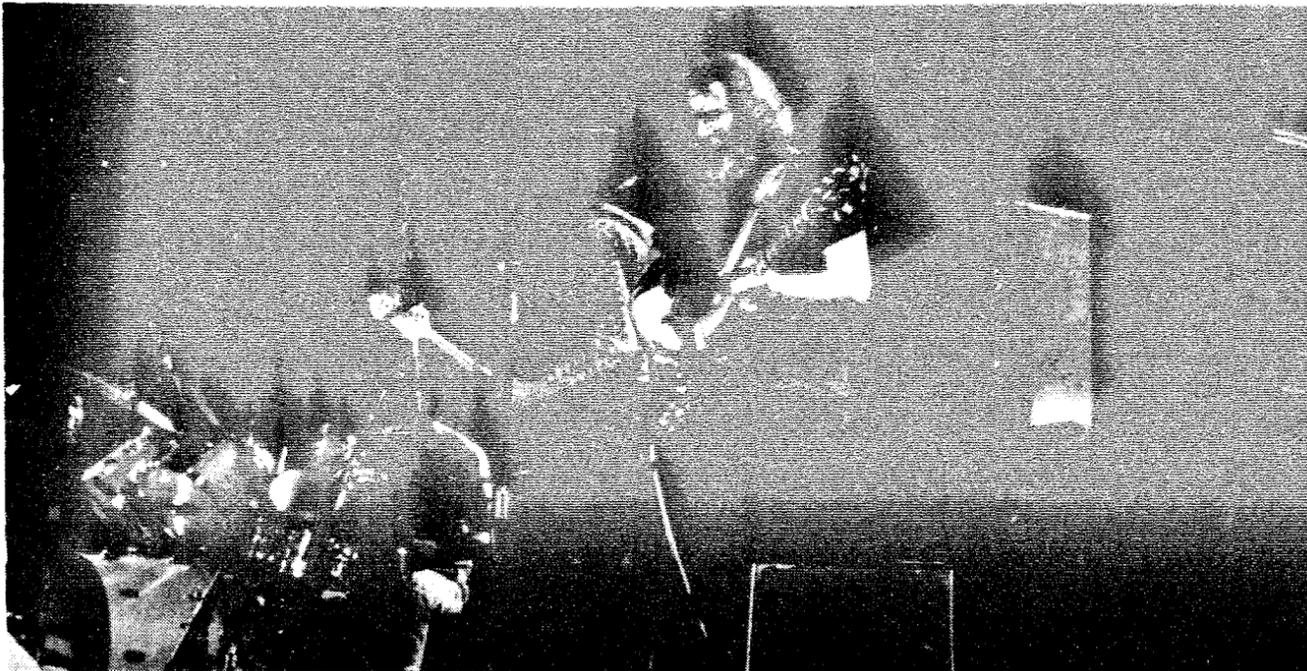
It was quite the pleasurable Head rush, hosting Jerry on our own campus and, for sure, Jerry and the band were in exceptionally fine form. His voice was clear and shining, and the guitar riffs, most definitely Borkum. Joining Jerome John were his long-time friends and accompanists, John Kahn on bass, and Melvin "Melvin" Seals on organ and synthesizer. Drummer David Kemper, a new member on this tour, verged on the New Wave, but was admirably strong and imaginative. Mr. Garcia always has with him a pair (at least) of back-up singers, affectionately known to Garcia-enthusiasts as Jerryettes: on this tour, Dee Dee Dickerson and Jackie La Branch complemented Jerry's vocals and movements in the most funky of laid-back manners.

Chubby and furry, the forty-one year old guitarist/tripster opened a cranking first set with "I'll take a Melody," moving on into a hopping, progressive version of "The Way You Do The Things You Do." Done up in Garcia's brand of reggae, Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" came next, followed by title cuts of the JGB's last two albums, "Run For the Roses" and "Cats Under the Stars."

After the last tune of the set, Jerry assured the audience that he and the other band members would be back after a short break. As the band left the stage and the house lights came up, a somewhat less-than-authoritative voice asked that the audience please remain in their seats for, as this voice said, Jerry would be back out, "in ten minutes." This announcement was met with laughs from veteran Dead Heads, who understand the true meaning of "a short break" in Jerry/GD terms, and with audible groans of disenchantment both from novice attendants who had hoped to purchase the beginnings of a Grateful Dead wardrobe and from those of us who needed to use the Gym's other facilities.

Some three-quarters of an hour later, when the audience was fully primed for more of that which is truly Borkum, Mr. Garcia and his band lashed-out the nastiest of "Mission in the Rain's." The JGB was in the highest of cosmic spirits as the reached back to the "Cats" era and delivered a "Rhapsody in Red" which couldn't be beat.

But it was with "Hold Me Tight and Don't Let Go" that the show, whose momentum began in the first set and was picked up at the start of the second, really went stellar. The tune evolved into a



Jerry Garcia and band

major mumbo jam—escorted into space by the Jerryettes' chanting, ".dune leggo, dune leggo. . ."—executed with Garcia improvisation and precision.

The jam somehow made its way into a "Deal." A number of the audience responded to this song with some degree of disappointment, expecting it would be a standard Dead show ending, (or, a "Deal ending"). However, Jerry is never one to let down his kids. The "Deal" fell through into a delicious treat, in the form of a totally juicy "Tangled Up In Blue," a definite Jerry specialty. Here, the Jerryettes added their well-humored and most palatable refrain of, ".Tangled up, tangled up, tangled up in the blue-hoo-hooze!" Their hand-claps and boogeyings led the trippers in the gym to unconsciously hopping in identical movement.

Stony Brook Concert and the SAB are to be commended for securing the Jerry Garcia Band date and, primarily, for the way in which reserved seats were sold. All too often die-hard Dead Heads sleep out for first choice of tickets, only to be met with contrary information regarding ticket availability, abuse from box office personnel, and general hassles surrounding the beginning of the line. Last month, in the early morning of the day tickets were to go on sale, more than seventy-five loyalists compiled a list of those actually on line: this list was honored by both those on line and the Union&SAB managements, the latter opening up the auditorium and handing out numbered cards to those waiting, allowing them to wait inside the heated building. Also, once readied, tickets were then sold to those with the numbered cards sometime prior to the box office's posted hours. -Very considerate, indeed.

Jerry's kids SAB, and certainly the Jerry Garcia Band, all shared in one ultimate goal: an enjoyable evening of some of the finest music around. All are richer from the successful achievement of this goal.

The Dead Patrol

by Al Bosco

The Jerry Garcia concert didn't have as great a turnout as SAB had hoped for, but nevertheless the gym was still filled with 2200 of the weirdest people to hit Stony Brook since Mitch Cohen.

Recognizing the clear and present danger of such a gathering, the Department of Public Safety organized a special "Dead Patrol" to defend Stony Brook against the encroaching menace. Fifteen undercover officers anyone of which certainly would have won a contest for the best-dressed Dead Head were on the job. Decked out in varying arrays of leathers, denims, and fatigues with accessories that ranges from beads to spikes, the only common element in their attire were lit-

tle red pins neatly tacked to each officer's lapel. These provided them with instant recognition.

Lead by Captain Charles Cali, the Dead Patrol blended in with the Garcia groupies quite well. The only difference was in where eyes were being focused, since the Public Safety guys never looked at the stage.

Police action was limited to where only about half a dozen arrests were made. Those involved mostly drug dealers, who's volume of business far exceeded that of the T-shirt vendors. But under the circumstances, all in all, security for the event was handled almost admirably by both S.A.B. and Public Safety. It's all in the threads, man.

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