

*The
Stony
Brook*

PRESS

Vol.6.No.2 ● University Community's Weekly Paper ● Thurs., Sept.6, 1984

Polity The Good, The Bad, and The Mediocre

The following is the first part of a two-part series on the history of the student government at Stony Brook, and the forces that have shaped it in recent years. It is of necessity, then, more judgemental than a conventional news story. Nevertheless, we have attempted to be as fair as possible in our conclusions. The Press welcomes reactions.

Part 1 is a description of the political history of the organization from 1979 to about the end of 1982.

by Paul DiLorenzo
and Joe Caponi

The student government we know today is an outgrowth of the Polity leaders of the seventies, and in particular Gerry Manginelli. Serving three consecutive terms, Manginelli created Polity Hotline and legal clinic, fostered the growth of many of the programming clubs, and expanded Polity's budget. He was popular with students, and worked well with Statesman, the only campus newspaper at the time. He also had a style of dealing with administration that was highly confrontational, but still allowed room for compromise. That style proved very hard to transplant to any of his successors.

With Manginelli gone, the seventies ended with student groups breaking breaking away from the unity they had previously had.

The 79-80 school year was a highly political one. In the fall, a group of renegade Statesman editors cut away from the paper to form The Stony Brook Press as an alternative weekly, there were two successful "Quality of Student Life" rallies held in front of the



Jim Fuccio

Administration building. Public Safety began — and then quickly stopped — making drug arrests on campus, John Marburger was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees as Stony Brook's second President, and 12 candidates ran for Polity President in the spring.

Central Hall?

EDITORIAL

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Benthos

Chains and Changes

Last week, with the start of another semester of classes at Stony Brook, veteran students, as well as professors were suddenly as lost as the incoming freshmen. Central Hall? Another lecture center — named after Javits? Where are these new buildings? Eventually, the old-timers, like the new-comers found these new nameplates on the same old buildings. The names on the sides of all of the academic buildings are surely helpful for identification purposes, although changing some of the names created confusion; Perhaps more than was alleviated.

The name changes were planned a number of months ago, but other than a few half hearted attempts by Administration to alert the campus to the changes, nothing was done. It remains unclear why in the first place the names were changed. Why bother to change the name of Old Biology to Central Hall? Especially in light of the fact that the names for Old Chemistry and Old Physics have remained the same. Also, all of the maps of campus, which are quite

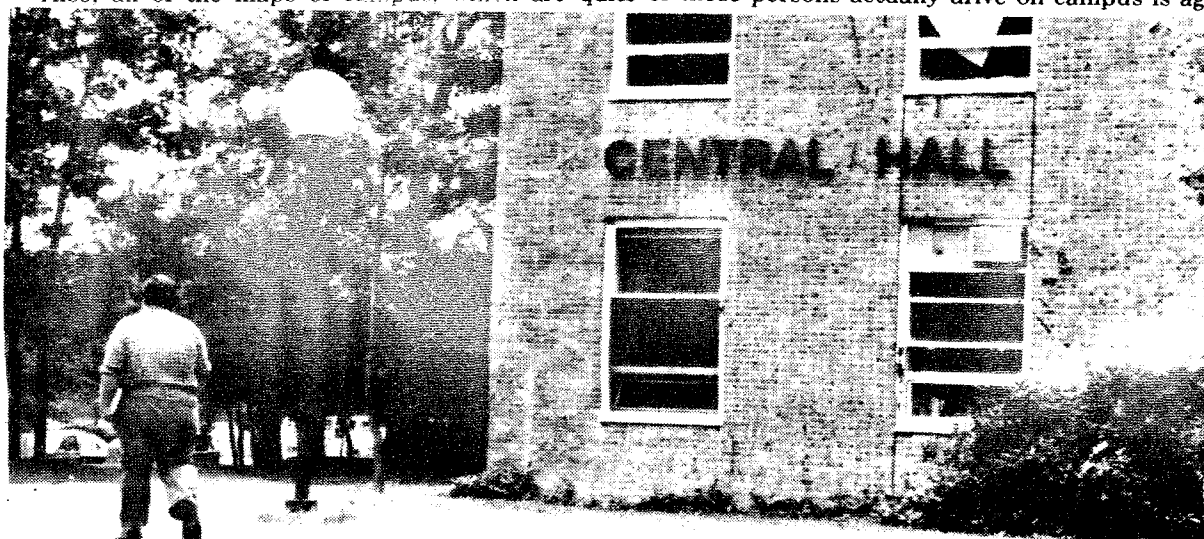
essential to incoming students finding anything on such a large campus, remained unchanged, while all of the class scheduals stated the new names, much to the confusion of prior students and professors alike.

More confusion will soon be created by Administration, this time mainly for the students. The university next month is planning to close off all but the main campus entrance between midnight and 4:00a.m. At least the closing off will not begin until signs arrive explaining the restricted hours of passage, but other than that the students have not been told a thing.

What, you may ask, is the point to closing off entrances to the campus. According to a 1983 Report On Campus Safety and Security, it would help to cut back on vandalism and crime on campus. What amount of criminals and/or vandals of this university come from off campus is questionable, and how many of these persons actually drive on campus is again

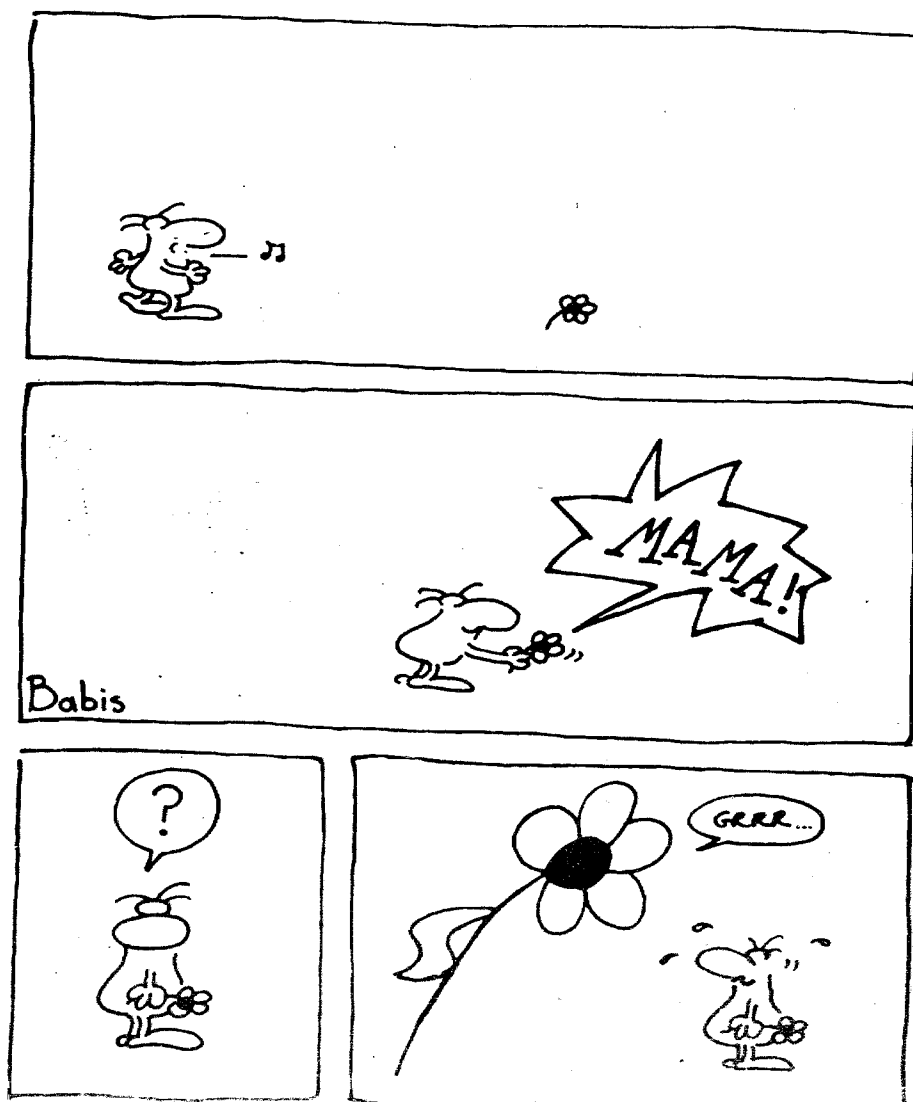
questionable. It seems apparant that Public Safety plans on monitoring the main entrance between restricted access hours, or else why bother with the chains at each entrance? There are also plans for an "information center" to be placed at the main entrance, according to Vice President of Campus Operations, Bob Francis, which being open 24 hours a day would serve as a monitoring station during the restricted hours. How does Public Safety plan on "monitoring" this entrance? Will each person be asked to furnish an ID card between midnight and 4:00a.m.? Will the brother of a sick student living in ONiel be able to visit him during the restricted hours if he is not a student? Moreover, who will be considered "safe" to enter campus by Public Safety for those four hours?

Certainly, changing the names of some of the academic buildings poses no great problems or threats to the campus community at large; But why the change? Cannot the university give some reasoning? An explanation becomes especially valuable when the student's access in and out of campus is threatened. Why the cement blocks and chains? Surely this is a drastic measure merely to sift out an exceptionally small percentage of driving, off campus vandals and axe murderers most of which could merely walk onto campus, or take a train, or enter before midnight. Before acting, effecting the campus community's lives adversely, and most of all spending those precious dollars, the administration could reason things out a little better, or at least explain them.



press photo by John Tymczyszyn

— Press Pix —



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Polity

A Long And Winding Road



continued from page 1 **Richard Bentley**

In that election, two political groups dominated: one was led by commuter Richard Zuckerman, the other by Kelly E Leg. Chair Rich Bentley. Bentley won the first election, but lost the runoff to Zuckerman.

By the time Zuckerman's term began in earnest in the fall, John Marburger had arrived on campus and began to make his presence felt. As virtually his first act, Marburger closed the highly popular Benedict Saloon and announced a three year plan to phase out all campus bars and replace them with "social and recreational areas." The Zuckerman administration stayed uninvolved in this, neither offering any opposition to the plan or recommendations to improve it. Marburger would eventually find that creating new social recreation areas was considerably more difficult than closing bars, and fortunately the three year plan was not followed up on.

In fact, the Zuckerman administration stayed uninvolved in most student activity, setting an example other administrations would soon follow.

Despite not gaining the Presidency, the Bentley group prospered in the Polity power vacuum created by Zuckerman's inactivity, gaining in particular Bentley's fellow Kelly E resident Jim Fuccio, and Press Executive Editor Chris Fairhall, and Bentley ran for Faculty Student Association President that October. Students held, and still hold, a working majority on the Board of Directors, and are all appointed by the Polity President. Zuckerman had his own candidate for FSA President, and it seemed difficult for Bentley to have a chance to win. But by putting together a coalition of disaffected Zuckerman supporters, along with faculty and Administrators, including Vice President Carl Hanes, Bentley was able to win a 12-10 vote to become President. Bentley would remain President for three years, during which time FSA would grow tremendously in financial strength, range and quality of operations, and image.

By the spring, Bentley and Fuccio's forces were nascent. Fuccio ran for Polity President and won.

Fuccio was a popular President, but his year remained relatively inactive for several reasons. The Marburger Administration devoted its time to dealing with the State, and to creating a new operating structure for the University and hiring people to fill that structure, rather than closing down bars. In place of Marburger's changes though, the educational policies of Ronald Reagan, particularly his cuts of many financial aid programs, had come to be the main enemy.

In the spring, Polity, in cooperation with Administration, faculty, and staff, staged the Rally on Cuts, the largest campus protest in over a decade. Featuring bands and speakers in opposition to Reagan's and other government policies against education, the rally attracted over 3,000 students and gained television and newspaper coverage all over the metropolitan area. The Rally On Cuts was coordinated by David Gamberg, with the assistance of Barry Ritholtz, Adina Finkelstein, and many others.

Finkelstein, who was Polity Secretary, ran for President and was elected narrowly in April of 1982.

During her tenure the student government suffered tremendous infighting and came to a grinding halt. Publicity of her academic dismissal and her subsequent readmission to school once the semester had already begun brought attention to the continuing difficulties faced by students involved in extracurricular activities, but did nothing to help the organization. An overwhelming lack of understanding from the university and many students sent Finkelstein into virtual exile from the Polity office even after she had succeeded in holding onto her position. She did not spend time in the office and was not involved

continued on page 5



Dave Gamberg

press photo by Scott Richter

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Sept 14 & 15

Polity

continued from page 3

with projects. Attention, and Polity political power turned to the rest of her council.

In the spring of 1983, with David Gamberg running for President, the campus was watching Polity with indifference. It was not affecting their daily lives, but they were aware of the failures of Adina Finkelstein's Presidency. Vice President Gamberg was the natural one to take over the helm. Gamberg was the "golden boy" of the year before. He was intense, committed, and hard-working. Everyone liked and respected him. When Finkelstein was bowing out, everyone thought that Gamberg would take over. He did not. In fact, he also abandoned the office to a great extent, do to three primary factors. First, not being President, he was not able to take control of the situation and call the shots. Second, he was suffering from burnout from the year before and the fights over Adina's position. Third, he too was suffering academic difficulties. Gamberg would never be able to overcome these difficulties as Vice President, or later as President.

Barry Ritholtz was Polity Secretary at this time, and previously had been an outspoken commuter Senator and had worked hard and played a major role in the Rally on cuts. He had aspirations of running for Polity President directly from the Senate, but Gamberg argued that Ritholtz lacked the council experience to take over the Presidency, and since Finkelstein would be graduating, this would be her last chance for the Presidency. He suggested that, in order to present a unified "Polity ticket," Ritholtz should run for the Polity Secretary position, there gain Council experience, and then possibly shoot for the presidency. He heeded this advice and became the Secretary of the Finkelstein administration in an uncontested election.

As Secretary, as in the Senate, Ritholtz was an outspoken and controversial figure. He had a knack for gaining media coverage. Not only would he make statements on any subject, but he would take strong

positions on controversial points. Keep in mind that during this period and to Ritholtz's credit, he was in the Polity office while Finkelstein and Gamberg were both on unofficial sabbatical. Also worthy of mention is that Ritholtz virtually singlehandedly found funding for, and planned Fallfest '82. It was because of him that there was a Fallfest that year and his actions helped insure that Fallfest would become the tradition that has grown into.

The Kingdoms of Polity and the Rise of Club Power

The lack of a centralized government did not really effect student life on campus. It created fertile ground for the major clubs to go about their business without any bureaucratic restraint from the Polity government. A weak Council was not the only reason, for the financial division of Polity was also in turmoil. Tracy Edwards, Polity's treasurer, abruptly departed in January of 1983 without properly training a replacement, Belina Anderson. At the same time Polity's Executive Director, Lew Levi was replaced by Robin Rabbi. Both Anderson and Rabbi entered in mid-stride and did not know all the ins and outs of their jobs. Club officers, however, had already been in place for one full semester and knew the system well. The end result was that the clubs did pretty much what they wanted to, within reason.

This financial situation, coupled with a wide array of some of the best club leaders ever to come to Stony Brook, provided the student body with a wealth of excellent programming, good activities and services. COCA, which by then incorporated all film programming on campus was chaired by Ralph Sevush. He used his expertise to provide the campus with the best assortment of films on Long Island, with quality films for every taste. SAB had probably the best concert year ever, with Dan Lupi as Chairman. They also created the dance club Toyko Joe's, managed by Ira Levi which was both popular and profitable. SAB



Adina Finkelstein

was able to purchase video equipment and make other capital investments with the dance club's revenue that would have taken much longer had Polity's financial procedures been enforced. Later, this lack of financial constraint would come back to hunt SAB.

On the political scene, Stony Brooks chapter of NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, had one of its finest project coordinators ever, Jim Leotta, who involved students in many projects on the state and local level.

But while these groups were having great years, the central core of Polity was rapidly declining, as the council became locked in struggle with another branch of the government, the Judiciary. The struggle would eat up the entire year, and require Constitutional changes, elections and impeachments to solve.

But what characterized the year in the minds of many students was not that Polity was having its worst year, but that so many groups were having their best years.

Next week the Stony Brook press will look at: the Gamberg years and the present, the rise of fiscal control, SASU, and the fall and rise of SAB.



John Marburger

READ THE PRESS

Stray of the Week

In the Spring President John Marburger Approved the use of Mace for Public Safety Officers. Now Public Safety Officers are patrolling the Stony Brook campus with Personal Self Defense Chemicals even though a great number of medical authorities are still questioning the safeness of its use

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—Letter

To the editor:

Probably most people on campus have seen or have bought the "Men and Women of Stony Brook" calendars, which have been on sale outside the Union and at both bookstores.

I have heard there's a Women's group on campus, and an academic department devoted to Women's studies. Yet neither of these, nor anyone else, seems to have raised any objections to the blatantly sexist nature of these calendars. Well, I will.

Edith Wharton wrote, "Genius is of small use to a woman who does not know how to do her hair." I hope that such a statement would jolt the women (and men) here into a 'no' reaction. After all, we must all have shown some human ability, or at least some perserverance, in order to get here. No one was admitted here on the merits of their long legs and pretty backsides. This calendar, however, portrays us as only knowing how to do our hair, or to display our bodies attractively for the male students.

At the university, we are in a unique situation, in that we are all in the process of becoming educated. Women are learning to do so much more than their fore-mothers would have been allowed. Men students, too, benefit from less strict academic and residential gender divisions.

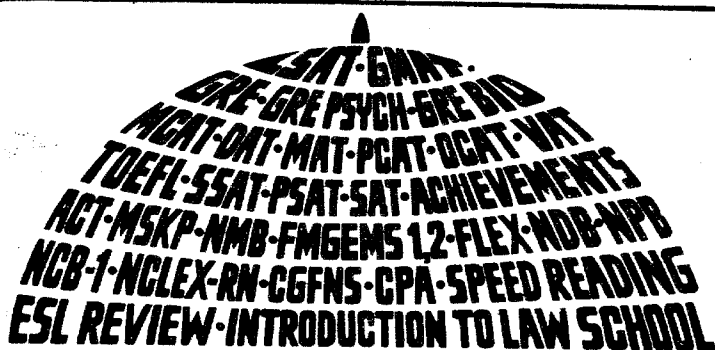
in greater academic and social flexibility. In such a challenging and dynamic setting, I am ashamed that we still cling to a bastion of ignorance regarding our popular images as men and women.

In our educating process, we show a great capacity to learn, re-learn, and challenge any idea or stereo-type—indeed, even the capacity to challenge existing power structures! We should not just meekly accept this soft porn commercialism which is passed off as being representative of us, the students of Stony Brook.

I say this calendar is a cheat; that it bears our collective name but is not representative of our real accomplishments here. Among the student body, there are plenty of men and women athletes and artists, scientists and leaders, etc. who deserve recognition. Beautiful men and women models have plenty of opportunities 'out there' for careers in sexist advertising and media. This opportunity for some recognition is more needed by men and women here who have genius or ambition, but do not know how to do their hair.

I hope this letter will provoke a response, in agreement or not, and some healthy debate will ensue on the matter.

L.G.



J
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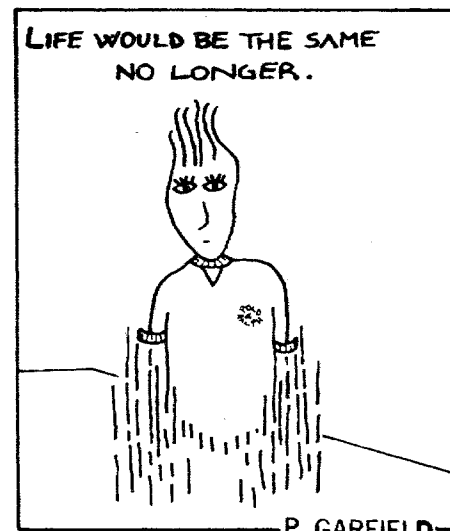
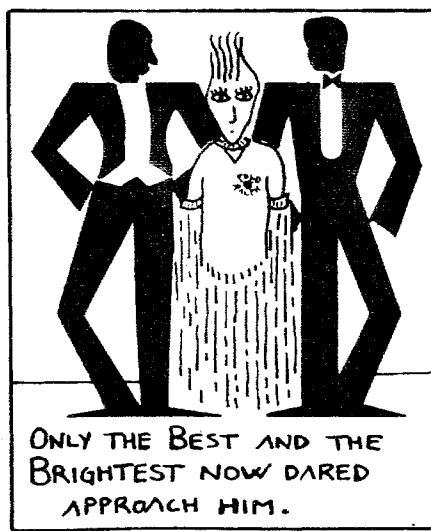
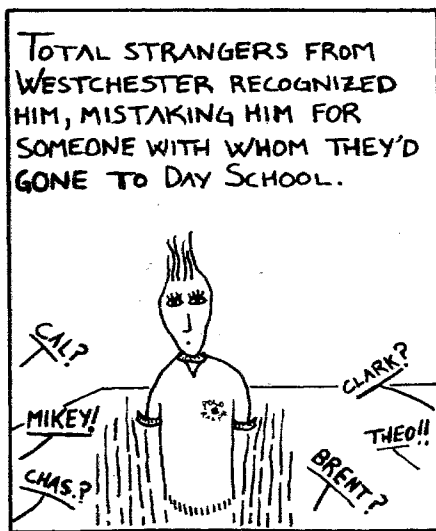
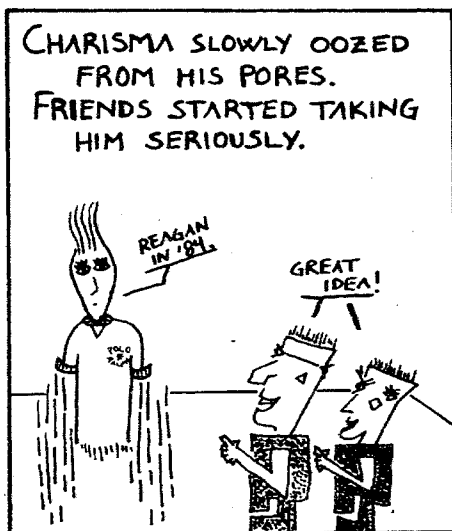
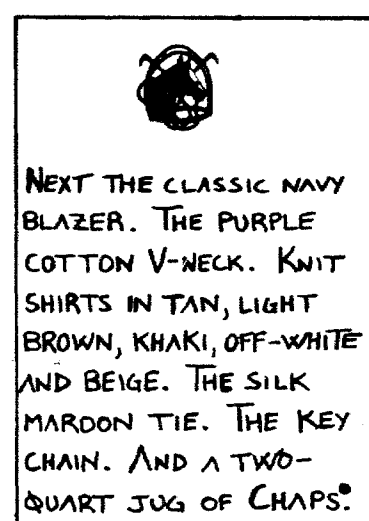
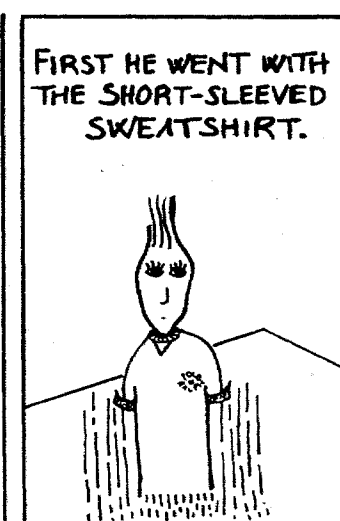
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Student Polity Association

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Petitions for Offices will be available
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Security
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Poster Hangers
COCA Clean up
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**ELECTION BOARD
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Applications for Election Board and
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All others are due Sept 17th at 4:30
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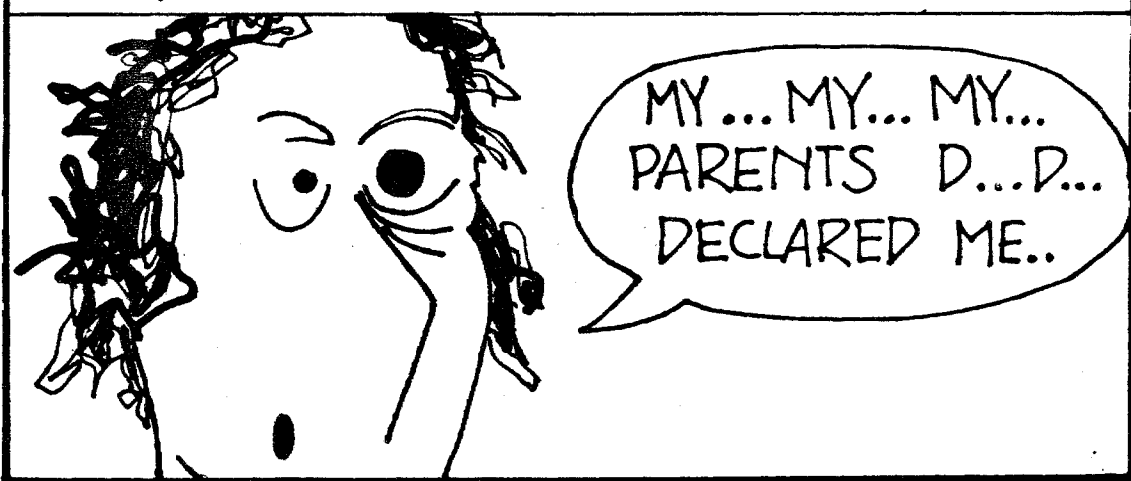
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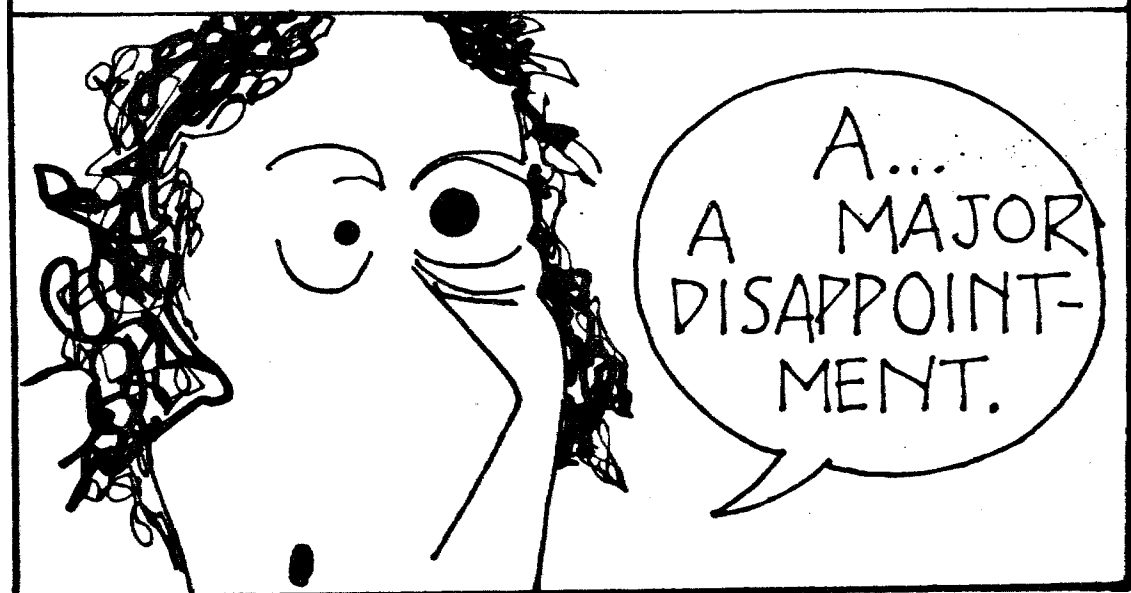
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Student Polity Association

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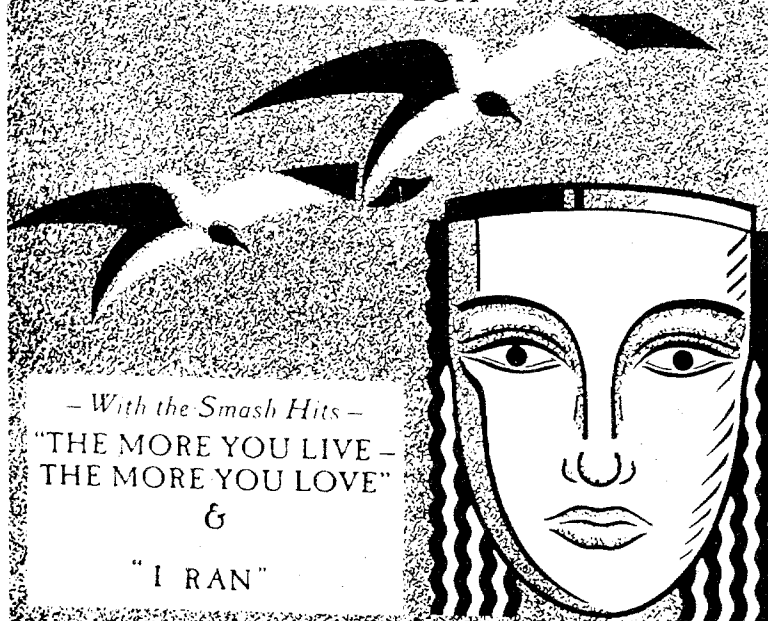
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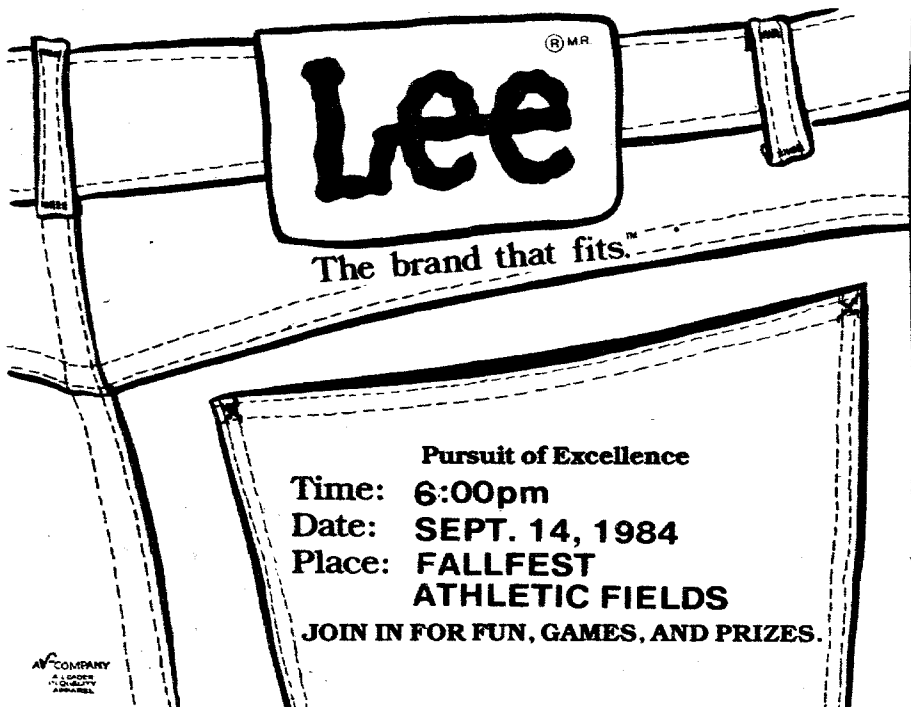
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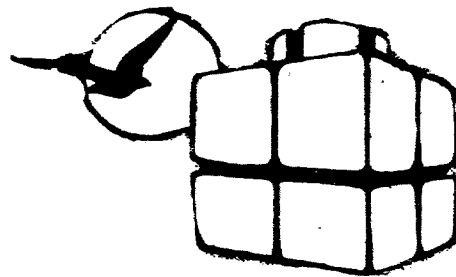
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Date

The Press



We here at the Press have been hearing some complaints about the questionable value of our musical tastes. We assume that suspect preferences in art extend to movie selections also so, let us take a moment to reflect...

Usually reliable, stable sources have suggested that the Arts department of the Press doesn't address itself seriously enough to non-commercial, less known, not massively popular bands and movies. Normally, this vicious attack would be met with disdainful silence, but a glance over the last few issues of the paper spurs the Art department to reply. We like to give a rounded picture of the musical and celluloid world. We like to give space to Adam Ant as well as King Sunny Ade, Rush as well as Romeo Void, Grandmaster Flash and Gary Glitter. On the film front, valiant Press reviewers suffer alike through "E.T." and "As the Ship Sails On" ... "Once Upon a Time in America".

In other words, we are an equal opportunity reviewer. If one week, you feel that Hollywood and major record labels are hogging the limelight, wait awhile. Other names and faces will surface. If you're really bursting with emotion about a particular record, concert or movie (or play or art exhibit or basket weaving demo) you, of course, are cordially invited to type up your ravings (double spaced, please) and bring them down to 020 Old Bio (Central Hall) Mondays at 8pm, or slip them under the door any old time. If you, yes you, meaning you who are holding this sheet in your sweaty little collegiate palms are dissatisfied with any aspect of your alternative campus newspaper, instead of bitching it up to your friends who are accustomed to hearing you blow off, why not put your opinions into coherent print? You can do it - you passed the English proficiency - didn't you? Even if you didn't, get into practice by writing a nasty letter to the editor. You're going to need all the help you can get.

The members of The Stony
Press want to wish a very
Happy Birthday
to F.S.A. President and Founding
Executive Editor of The Press

Chris Fairhall
and present Executive Editor
of The Press

Joe Caponi

Those who know Chris and Joe call us for party info.

Elton John

His Latest: "Breaking Hearts"

by Sarah Battaglia

Elton John has released his 25th album, *Breaking Hearts* and shown the world that, just as Mick Jagger can still strut a mean chicken after two decades, he can still sing a beautiful ballad. Since the former days of Reggie Dwight's pub playing in Surrey, England, Elton John's talent has endured the ol' test of time and allowed him the life of luxury. At this point, Elton's recordings are for our pleasure, not for profit.

Though New Wave of the 80's has unfortunately bowled over the one time Captain Fantastic of the 70's, he's been gone but not forgotten, with a few minor hits like "Empty Garden", "I'm Still Standing", and "I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues" to keep his name on the Top 100. A brief departure from his long time collaboration with songwriter Bernie Taupin resulted in lyrical bombs, but he's resurfaced in victory with "Breaking Hearts".

This is not to say this is a flawless work like "Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboys" or "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road", though. The album is about 50/50, good and bad—the

good outweighing the bad just enough to please the Elton John fan but possibly annoy the average listener.

The album opens with "Restless", which, after a few stanzas, leaves me just that. But it's one of the grittier tunes on the LP, and the second song presently getting airplay off the album. The first hit, "Sad Songs (Say So Much)" is certainly part of the "50" good. "Burning Buildings", "In Neon", and the title song display Elton John's smooth, sweet English accent from days of old. The latter, a mellow ballad, is effective through EJ's traditional technique of long phrases ending in short, sighing notes, with short pauses employed throughout. To tear down a slow Elton John ballad is like knocking Haagen Dazs ice cream. It's just not possible.

On the faster side, "Slow down Georgie (She's Poison)" is an upbeat song that gets better when the chorus changes key. It's about a woman whose reputation is "as nasty as the Berlin wall" (how's that for nasty?) and is lyrically similar to "Sweet Painted Lady", off the *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* album. But Taupin's always had

this thing for nasty women. Finally, to pick one of the "50 bad" of the album, I'll choose "Passengers". Its chorus has a reggae beat marred by what sounds like Scottish bagpipes in the background, if that's at all possible. Once this initial oddity is over, the musical content consists of a seemingly simple, Brady Bunch melody and tiresome backing vocals.

Three of Elton's original musicians make up the band on *Breaking Hearts*—Nigel Olsson, Dee Murray, Davey Johnstone, on drums, bass, and guitars, respectively. That's the way it should always stay. The many musicians who appeared on *Rock of the Westies* have since vanished with no great loss to EJ's music.

Being one of the original Elton fans of the mid-seventies, I feel fortunate to have witnessed the flashy decade of his concerts, his 1001 pairs of eyeglasses, his zany antics of jumping on his piano, splashing his audience with Dom Perignon, and, of course, the hypnotic alto he has retained from "Daniel" days. Elton put on some performance, with 3 solid hours of entertainment unmatched by any other as yet.

The newlywed Elton is expected to tour sometime this year with limited engagements, probably with a 22 and over crowd making up his audience. This way the devoted Elton fans will be spared the Nick Rhodes/Duran groupies and the accompanying new wave fashion show before the lights go out. Though the spectators are sure to be a bit more reserved, deep down we will be as anxious as a Jacksonite to see the chubbier Elt back onstage—not to throw piano benches or do handstands but to put on a show containing more flawless material than another hyped group making the circuit now. I won't mention any names, but Elton excludes professionalism at a cost way under \$28 a ticket. And he doesn't even wear a glove.

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WUSB 90.1 FM

RADIO FREE LONG ISLAND

Top 20 for the week ending 9/2/84:

1. King Sunny Ade - *Aura LP*
2. Gil Scott Heron - *Re-Rod 12"*
3. Love Tractor - *'Til the Cows Come Home EP*
4. Romeo Void - *Instincts LP*
5. Hoodoo Gurus - *Stone Age Romeos LP*
6. Shriek Back - *Jam Science LP*
7. Herbie Hancock - *Sound System LP*
8. Bird Songs of the Mesozoic - *Magnetic Flip LP*
9. The Bangles - *All Over the Place LP*
10. Fashion - *Twilight of Idols LP*
11. Crippled Pilgrims - *Head down-Hand out EP*
12. The Comateens - *Resist Her 12"*
13. The Time - *Ice Cream Castles LP*
14. The Newz - *Spicy Stories LP*
15. Carmel - *The Drum is Everything LP*
16. A Flock of Seagulls - *Story of a Young Heart LP*
17. Albert King - *I'm in a Phone Booth, Baby LP*
18. Rupert Hine - *The Wildest Wish to Fly LP*
19. David Van Teigham - *These Things Happen LP*
20. Men Without Hats - *Folk of the 80's (Part III) LP*

These just in: U2 12", the Drongo's LP, Summers/Fripp LP, The Swimming Pool Q's LP, Junior 12", Blancmange LP, I-Level 12", Phil Cunningham LP
Elton John
Breaking Hearts
Geffen Records

Summers Interview



The WUSB interview with Police guitarist Andy Summers, part of which appeared in last week's issue, will be broadcast on WUSB tonite at 9:00pm. The Summers-Fripp album "Parade" will also be premiered.