

*The  
Stony  
Brook*

# PRESS

Vol. 8, No. 8 • University Community's Feature Paper • Oct. 30, 1986



# SMILE

## It's Not That Bad

Photo Box



Photo by Anthony Tesoriero

Press Pix



Cover by Paco

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The Stony Brook Press is published every Thursday during the academic year and summer session by The Stony Brook Press Inc., a student run and student funded not-for-profit corporation. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy.

Staff meetings are held weekly in the Press offices on Monday nights at 8:00 pm.

The opinions expressed in letters and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of our staff.

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# Suffocation

by Quinn Kaufman

The fire that occurred on Sept. 26, 1986 in a janitorial room in the Javits Lecture Center has sparked numerous debates in regard to student, staff and faculty safety.

Marc Gunning, Polity President; Richard Drury, Director of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and a chemist; William Wiesner, President of the United University Professions (UUP); Ted Goldfarb, chemistry Vice-provost; David DeLucia, a NYPIRG investigator; and Chris Vestuto, GSO President, agree with Walter Hang, renowned Environmental chemist. Hang feels that a precautionary approach should have been taken, "there should have been extensive testing before re-occupation."

Certain unmentioned chemicals such as hydrogen cyanide, vinyl and chloride monomers were not mentioned as even possible "off-gases" of items such as plastic garbage bags, and PVC floor tiles by administration. This fact was of utmost importance to concerned parties because they believed that these possible combustion products may pose a substantial threat to health.

During the initial meeting on 10/23 given by Dr. Robert Francis, Vice-president for Campus Operations, a synopsis of the fire was handed out including some of the burned materials but yet omitting those which are thought to be carcinogenic.

Although the report included 20 boxes of Norton Red 54 buffers, 3m Scotchbright Thickline Stripping, part of a wood platform, a desk and one chair, it excluded the following present articles: plastic trash bags, ajax, plastic wiring, PVC floor tiles, and a vacuum hose. The chemicals derived from the combustion of the latter items emit various carcinogens such as formaldehyde, phenol, n-hexylamine, nitrogen oxide, cyclopentanone, acetonitrile, acrylonitrile, benzene, pyrole, and styrene. Yet the unmentioned and untested items all may produce hydrogen cyanide, pthalates, vinyl monomers, chlorinated dioxins and furans in addition to the previously listed chemicals. All are carcinogenic.

Francis claims that the reason there were no tests for these chemicals is that he "didn't think George Marshall thought they were important." Marshall, Director of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S), first inspected the scene of fire along with Dr. Francis and concluded that the environment was safe for normal activities to resume Friday classes were to be rescheduled. There was a notice by Francis advising Faculty to reschedule. Although admitting his lack of knowledge of post-fire environments, Marshall maintains, "my actions were prudent in response to the fire. People

should have been moved out." Yet, according to William Randall, the bldg. manager of Javits, "students were not moved out and on Friday classes ran according to schedule."

Presently the only reason Francis is conducting tests is "to settle the issue, of whether or not Javits was safe immediately following the fire and if it is presently safe."

Yet to the dissatisfaction of NYPIRG, Polity etc. "these test won't tell anything about what people breathe, we can't go back and recreate the past." As Drury states "tests should have been done before re-occupation. From a chemist's point of view there's a good chance that carcinogenic monomers are produced, but since the adequate air tests have not been run, we don't know what they were and they have students in there jeopardizing their health."

Admin maintains that tests were never run on the "omitted chemicals" because of the low reading of these chemicals produced by a charcoal test. At most, the reading proved that the questioned chemicals were only an irritant.

The preliminary results of 2 large charcoal tubes (200/400 mg) which were run for 24 hours had only trace result and therefore they assumed that no other carcinogens existed that would prove to pose a health hazard. Yet Gunning states that "the report Francis distributed clearly indicated that possibly by-products of a fire involving plastics that burned indicate the release of known carcinogens and mutagens such as benzene, phenols, pthalates, formaldehyde, and PVC." Gunning continues stating "we aren't saying that these were released in hazardous levels we just want the assurance that they weren't." When faced with the possibility of a law suit due to mutagens Francis responded "I have no feelings about this at all."

Francis claims that since the fire was contained in a concrete room diffusion of the chemicals did not occur. Yet according to Drury "diffusion does take place even if confined to a concrete room. The idea that diffusion would not happen because of a concrete room is ridiculous. The smell of fumes throughout Javits tells the story of diffusion on its own."

Drury states that "plastics and synthetic compounds, when they burn especially perhaps the polyvinylchloride floor tiles that wind up in the presence of phenol, create an ideal environment for certain dioxins and furans and these are two of the most toxic compounds known and are not safe to breathe in." Hang agrees, "the burning of very ordinary products can lead to the release of toxic chemicals and pose health implications."

On Nov. 1 tests were conducted on form-

aldehyde, a carcinogen which originates from the floor buffers. The test results on a NIOSW approved Miran 103 infrared mass spectrophotometer test concluded that the carcinogen existed in dangerous levels of .5-.3 parts per million. Niosh, the National Institute of Scientific Health claims formaldehyde to be a carcinogen. Yet, Francis stated on Monday 10/27, that "carcinogens may not cause cancer." Bill Wiesner commenting on this states "that cardinogens as defined are cancer causing agents."

The dangerously high level of .5-.3 ppm was thrown out by Francis on the premise that "the reading was gained using a test where the measurements of formaldehyde was interfered by the presence of phenol... Therefore the results can be misleading." Marshall agrees with this view, stating that the manufacture of the infrared device used in the Miran 103 test, Fox-Borough-Wilkes, claims that the phenol may interfere with formaldehyde results.

The badge test which was to replace the Miran 103 results produced levels of only .01 ppm of formaldehyde. The badge test which is termed accurate by Francis and Marshall because of its ability to distinguish phenol and formaldehyde levels, is deemed

inaccurate by Niosh.

According to Drury, "the peaks on formaldehyde and phenol readings are truly distinguishable, they are extremely different. One peak is a conjugated alcohol, the other a carbonate group." Drury goes on condemning the Badge test, "the Miran 103 test is accepted by Niosh, the badge test is not. Niosh accepts no passive tests. The badge is a very primitive, passive test. The Miran 103 test is much more accurate in testing air levels."

The issues remain: why aren't the first Miran 103 test results for formaldehyde levels being used knowing that it is more accurate than the badge, and why weren't more precautionary and prudent steps taken even if toxic carcinogens are not found?

Gunning states that "petitions for Francis' resignation are being circulated by concerned students." He goes on stating, "at this point, the Polity council isn't interested in a witch hunt, we just want to make sure its safe, and such a hazardous situation does not arise again."

Drury and Hang both sum up their beliefs in one sentence, "I care about people contracting cancer later in life, maybe Dr. Francis doesn't."



Photo by Ross Bartick

George Marshall, Head of Environmental Health and Safety

## Red Alert

As a courtesy following the threats of UUP, NYPIRG, Polity and the GSO to boycott classes at the Lecture Center, because of the fire on Sept. 26, 1986, Dr. Francis has ordered classes in rooms 101, 102, and 103 to be rescheduled and relocated until a general testing of fibers this week, reveals, hopefully favorable results.

Dr. Francis claims that the testing will not try to pinpoint any specific chemical, "we're going to look for anything. The Federal standards say two fibers of a certain length per million or billion unit of air, what we'll do is take an air sample to look for any fiber at all..."

Since the fire, according to Dr. Francis, all of the ceilings and desks in Javits have been washed down two times. The concrete room where the fire occurred has also been painted in order to seal in "off-gases" that became embedded in the wall following combustion. Yet, according to Walter Hang, the renowned environmental chemist, the paint may not serve the purpose of trapping toxics in walls, "as far as the walls being painted, that may not suffice for trapping and removing the wide array of compounds that may have been forced into the wall during the fire."

Although clean-up activities have been in progress for nearly a month, the debate continues between officials at Stony Brook whether or not proper testing was con-

ducted.

At the Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday at 4pm in the union, all were welcome to voice their ideas about anything they wished. To the disappointment of many, only ten students showed up.

Those ten included Marc Gunning, Polity President, Chris Vestuto, GSO President, two members of **The Press**, three members of **Statesman**, Ray Bota, and two students. The Stony Brook Council consisted of John Marburger, Dr. Sachs, Dr. Rainsford, Dr. Villar and Betty Ostrander.

In response to the crisis at Javits, President Marburger commented on the campus issue that Francis may have been negligent in conducting the correct chemical tests at the correct times. "I believe Dr. Francis' original judgement regarding the condition and safety of the room was a correct one."

Also in response to NYPIRG, UUP, Polity, and GSO's belief that a hazardous condition, because of potential carcinogens, may have existed in the past and the future, Marburger replied, "the Administration does not believe a hazardous condition exists, but out of respect for the concern of the community, tests are being continued."

There will be another meeting on Friday, 5pm in the GSO Lounge to discuss the fire at the Javits Lecture Center. All students are welcome.

— QK

## FSA Elections

by C. Kushmerick

In an open board meeting of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), Mike Fitzpatrick and Kevin Kelly were elected President and secretary, respectively, to the Board of Directors.

Fitzpatrick, an undergraduate, was the Polity Vice-president in the Fall of '85. he resigned from this position to assume the role of SAB chair person. Kevin Kelly is a graduate student in the field of Molecular Biology. He has worked extensively in the Graduate Student Lounge.

The FSA runs many operations on campus. The union bowling alley, video games on campus, vending machines on campus, the meal plan contract are all items which

F.S.A. oversees. Some of these operations make money, some of them lose money, but overall, F.S.A. is a not for profit corporation, created to serve the students needs. One of the items of discussion at Tuesday's meeting was how to increase the profit margin of certain operations in order to subsidize other, money-losing operations. In particular, the issue of the prices in vending machines around campus was discussed. Specifically, the price of candy bars might be raised 5¢, and the price of cans of soda from machines might go up to 75¢. Again, these prices, while much greater than 'cost' are creating funds to finance operations that lose money such as the union bowling alley.



# STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION

## A Nightmare ON ELM STREET 2 FREDDY'S REVENGE

FRIDAY AND  
SATURDAY  
7:00, 9:30, 12:00

*In Jacob Javits Lecture Center*  
50¢ with SBID  
\$1.00 without



### American Cinema

#### *Dracula*

7:00

#### *Frankenstein*

9:30

October 30th  
In the Union Auditorium  
50¢ with SBID  
\$1.00 without

### Tuesday Flix

#### CONFIDENTALLY YOURS

*"A crazy offbeat comedy"*

November 4th, 1986  
7:00 and 9:30pm  
In the Union Auditorium  
50¢ with SBID  
\$1.00 without

# Return to Joni Brook

by Anthony Tesoriero

A correction: In a *Stony's Brook* titled "SUNY at Joni Brook" I stated that Joni Esperian is currently employed at the University of Vermont. In actuality she is employed at the University of New Hampshire.

My hopes turned into reality this week when I finally received some feedback to my three part series *Why I Joined the Press*. The following letter was hand delivered to **The Press** offices last night. This letter is presented as received. The writer has requested the title:

## Stony's Brook

### Phoney's Brook

To the Editor:

I am writing to you because I have been greatly inspired by Anthony Tesoriero's trilogy about his exploits with the infamous Joni Esperian. I really applaud both the journalistic style of the articles as well as his unbiased investigative reporting. As a matter of fact, if he keeps this up, we may lose a fine Associate Editor to **The New York Times** or **The Washington Post**.

In continuing with my praise of the trilogy, I would like to address the issues of courage and bravery associated with fighting the "administration." Although the articles deal with issues almost a year old, I'm sure the fact that Joni Esperian left about six weeks ago had nothing to do with this brave reporter's story. The fact that she could not reply nor respond to his objective accusations was a pure coincidence, I'm sure.

I would now like to turn to the issue of allocating five pages to make this campus

aware of Mr. Tesoriero's horrifying plight against the formidable "Wrath of Joni". I for one support it completely. After all, this was obviously a major campus issue involving the student body as a whole. It really galls me that some people might actually believe that **The Stony Brook Press** would allow any of its journalists to take a cheap shot to seek revenge. This is just not their character.

As this trilogy illustrates, the author wrote the articles to address key issues and to propose some feasible constructive solutions. After reading over the articles it is blatantly clear that his point was to change the "evils" of the system and not to attack the personal characteristics of a single employee. After all, such actions are beyond the author because they just wouldn't be fair.

I believe that my preceeding statements express my true feelings. I do have just a few questions that I'm certain will be answered honestly by the author. Who is "J.C." and why can't you use his name since we all know for a fact that you were falsely charged? Who is "Radio Dave"? Are terms such as "loser RHD" and "her true form" completely objective? I only raise these minor questions because they serve to detract from an otherwise exemplary piece of journalism. I'm sure that **The Press** will print my article because we "live in a society where we are told we have the right to express ourselves freely." Once again, I tip my hat to you.

Sincerely,  
Mark Cheffo

Editor's Note: the writer is a James College Managerial Assitant.

### Back to Reality

It would be all too easy for me to disparage Mr. Cheffo's letter simply due to his poor attempt at sarcasm. Instead I will address two of the points he tries to convey.

A theme throughout his entire letter is that I degraded Ms. Esperian's character with such phrases as "loser RHD" [see part II]. While it is true that I described Ms. Esperian with those words, I did not feel that I needed to be totally objective. My story was (and is) labelled as a commentary, therefore, I can draw editorial conclusions from the facts presented.

Mr. Cheffo goes on to state that my story deals "with issues almost a year old" as this might somehow make its content less important. Really! Since when is defending your first amendment rights a year old? Anyway, this story did not reach its resolution until last summer, making it newsworthy under his time constraint criterion.

In his last paragraph, Mr. Cheffo asks "who is J.C.?" as though not knowing his identity casts a shroud of unbelievability on the events of my story. An observant individual glancing at **The Press** staff box could figure out who this mystery man is without the slightest degree of difficulty. "Who is Radio Dave?" (New Wave Dave) "Dave" identified himself to Ms. Esperian while the events were transpiring. I felt no need to state his name here.

One thing that Mr. Cheffo is correct about is that Ms. Esperian never had a chance to respond to my accounts of the whole affair. I, therefore, am sending her the back issues of **The Press** which are in question.

A final note: while Mr. Cheffo attacks my style of writing, he never defends Ms. Esperian's position. Do you know why? Because he can't. The story is true and I stand by it one hundred percent.

# Talking About Love

EROS is a student run, peer-counseling organization which provides information, counseling and referrals on birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and sexual health care. If you have any questions that you would like answered in our column, please submit your questions to our office or to **The Press** office, Room 020, Central Hall (Old Bio.). EROS is located in Rm 119 in the Infirmary. Stop by or call 632-6450.

Dear Eros:

What exactly is "safe sex" that I keep hearing about it? Who Does it apply to?

Just Curious

Dear Curious:

"Safe sex" doesn't mean no sex. It means enjoying sex without giving or getting sexual infection.

Most sexually transmitted diseases are spread by germs moving from one person to another. Semen, blood, urine, feces, and possibly saliva are good carriers of germs. Avoiding contact with these substances can limit the spread of disease. Some sexual

acts can spread germs more easily than others. Safe sex means knowing the relative risks of your sexual behaviour and acting accordingly.

Vaginal or anal intercourse without a condom can spread infections quickly, as can oral sex on a man. Use of a condom can make these acts relatively risk free. Oral sex on a woman, wet kissing, and masturbation on open/broken skin all carry some risk. If neither person has open cuts or sores on the mouth, dry kissing is probably safe as is masturbation involving contact with healthy skin. Caressing, hugging, massage and mental fantasy provide warm, affectionate and safe intimacy.

EROS

Dear EROS:

My boyfriend and I have started having sex. I've heard that a woman cannot get pregnant during her period. Is this true?

Concerned

Dear Concerned:

No. This is not the case. Under favorable cervical mucus conditions, sperm can sur-

vive as long as five days within the uterus. Therefore, it is possible to become pregnant from vagina-to-penis contact or intercourse as long as five days before ovulation. Since ovulation can occur at anytime during a women's cycle, she may become pregnant from sexual intercourse during her period.

Although this does not happen often. If a woman wants to be absolutely sure that she will not get pregnant, she should use birth control during her period. EROS offers information on various methods of birth control that can be used during your period as well as throughout your cycle.

EROS

"HILARIOUS! ONE OF THE WILDEST, WEIRDEST PICK-ME-UPS OF THE YEAR!" — PEOPLE, Peter Travers

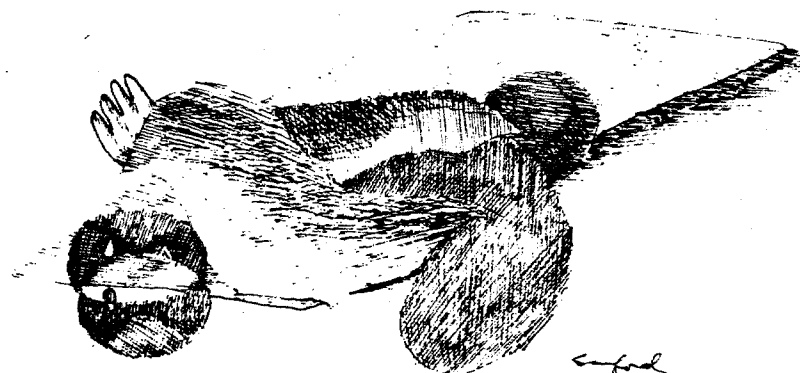
"Brilliant! A triumph! Provocative, dizzying, satisfying and, above all, tremendous fun!"

— N.Y. DAILY NEWS MAGAZINE, Susin Shapiro

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EDITED BY GARY KUMFEST  
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*Volunteer!*

- A deadly legacy of nearly 1000 toxic waste sites threatens the health of New Yorkers across the state

- A 'yes' vote on Proposition #1 would raise \$1.45 billion to investigate & clean-up the most dangerous toxic dumps, protect environmentally sensitive areas, and purchase and improve parklands

After work, before work,  
lunch hour, between  
classes, all day.

Call NYPIRG 246-7702

**Vote Yes on  
Proposition 1**

## Don't Miss It! "Bible Talks"

### Informal Discussions

11/11	Nuclear Power
11/14	Beauty
11/18	Family Trouble
11/25	Greatness
12/2	Practical Religion
12/9	Sacrifice
12/16	Loneliness

8:30pm Rm 237  
Student Union

## Philosophy Club Call For Papers

We are now accepting  
Papers (max. 12 pgs typed)  
For the Philosophy Journal  
ASCENT. Please Deliver them to  
Rm 213 Harriman Hall By Nov. 7, 1986

**General Meeting  
Monday Nov. 13 4pm  
Room 201 Harriman Hall**

Topic: Abortion and  
Existentialism

## L.A.S.O. and A.A.S.O.

Presents  
their

## "Halloween Party"

Thursday Oct. 31  
Union Bi-Level

9pm-???

*Upstairs  
Latin Music*

*Downstairs  
American Music*

**All are Welcome**

## SKYDIVE!

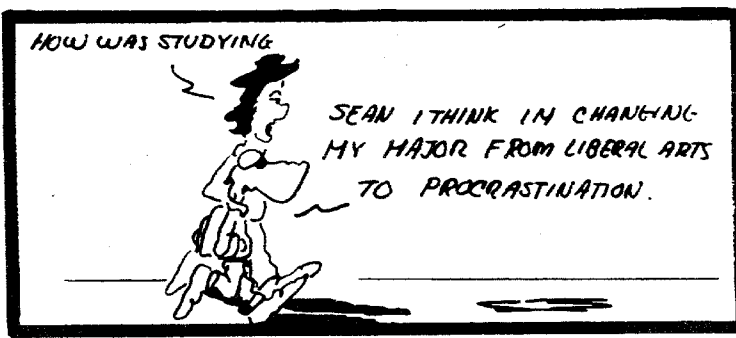
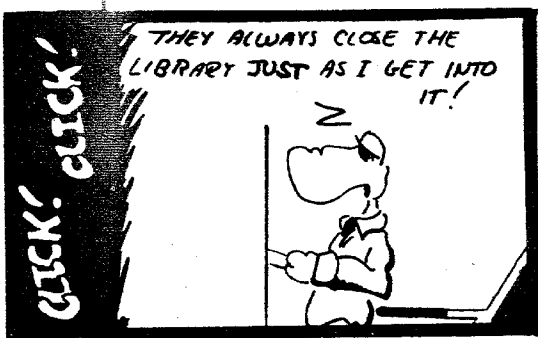
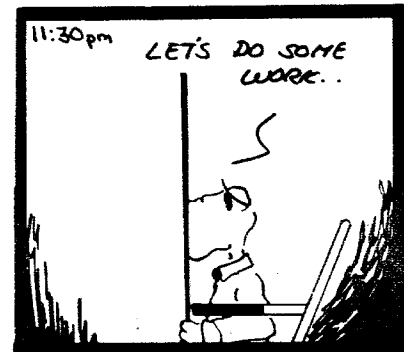
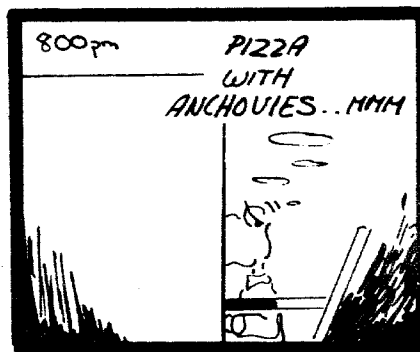
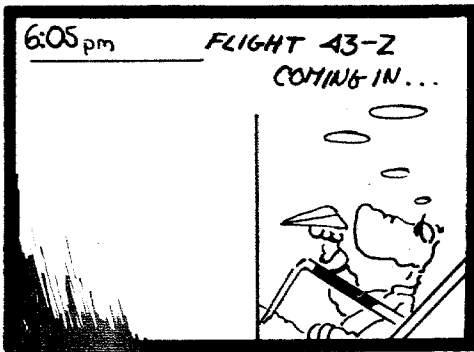
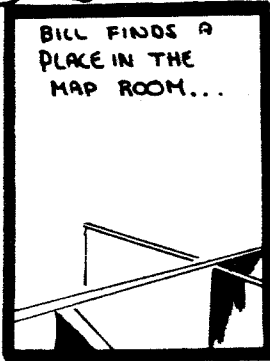
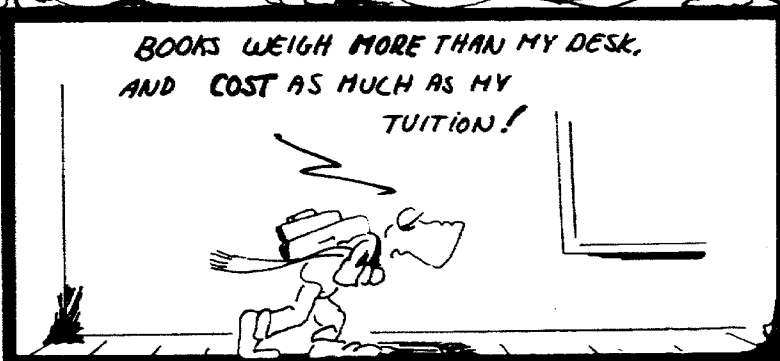
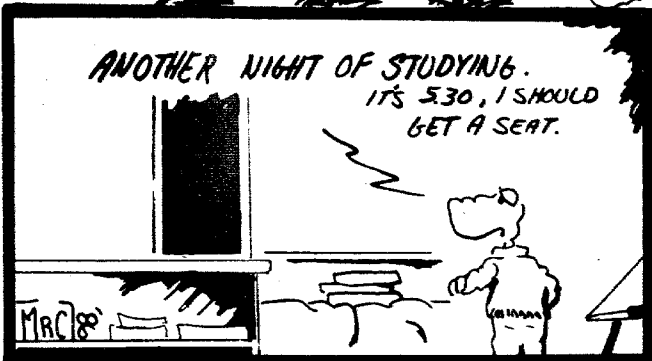
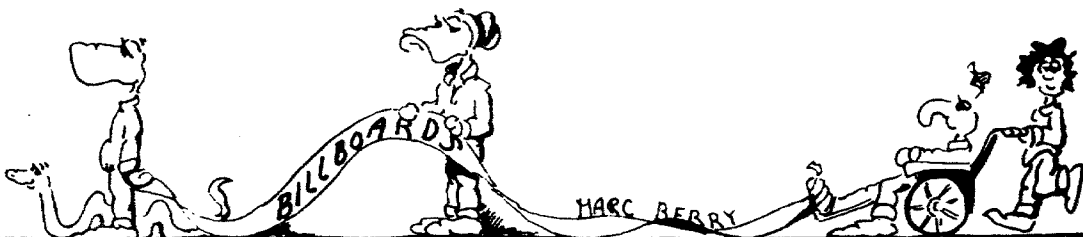
meetings every tuesday  
7:30 Union Rm 214

**Scheduled Jumps: Nov. 8**  
**Nov. 22**

**Jump out of Perfectly  
Good airplanes**

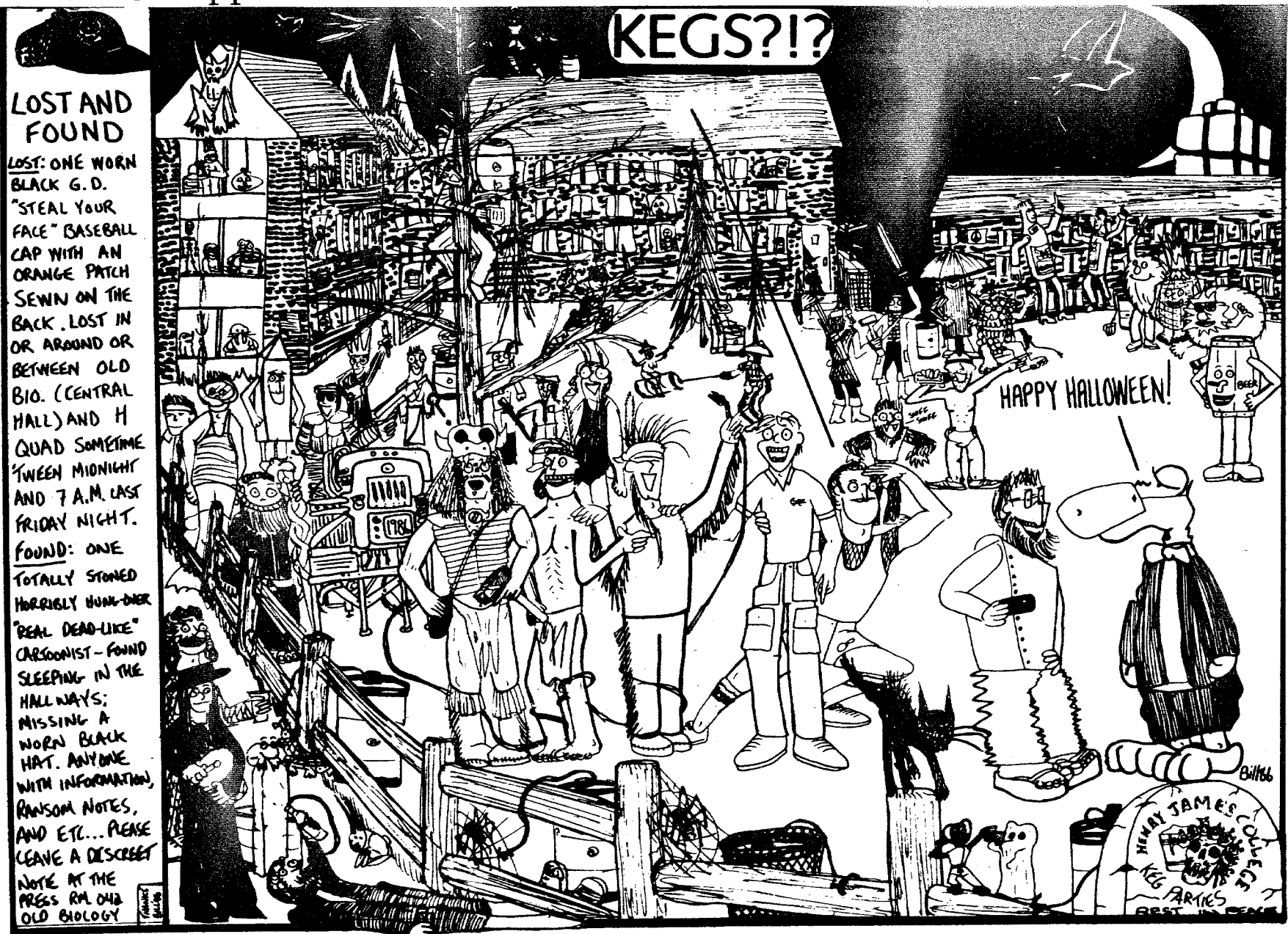
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POST  
NO  
BILLS



Time Trippers

By Bill



**LOST AND FOUND**  
 LOST: ONE WORN BLACK G.D. "STEAL YOUR FACE" BASEBALL CAP WITH AN ORANGE PATCH SEWED ON THE BACK. LOST IN OR AROUND OR BETWEEN OLD BIO. (CENTRAL HALL) AND H QUAD SOMETIME BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 7 A.M. LAST FRIDAY NIGHT.  
 FOUND: ONE TOTALLY STONED HORRIBLY HUM-DRE "REAL DEAD-LIKE" CARICATONIST-FOUND SLEEPING IN THE HALLWAYS; MISSING A WORN BLACK HAT. ANYONE WITH INFORMATION, RANSOM NOTES, AND ETC... PLEASE LEAVE A DISCREET NOTE AT THE PRESS RM. OR OLD BIOLOGY



# Asleep At The Wheel

by Craig Goldsmith

The days of glitter-rock have returned. Unfortunately, Ziggy Stardust is no longer around to guide lovers of music through the jungle mainstream music has become. Bowie was intelligent and tasteful enough to drop Ziggy after he had taken his glitter-rock persona to its natural limits. Too bad the plasto-glitter musicians today won't do themselves that same justice. The Eighties (what a stupid name for the Age of Reagan) also seem to be the habitat of the large arena concert, that muddled, sweaty mass of confusion that feeds the ego of the glitter-rockers. These musicians whack-off into the faces of twenty-thousand screaming fans, the media raves about their 'knowledge' of music, and the parents are happy because their little girls and boys are attending clean, safe, and ultimately, juvenile concert events. Occasionally, stadiums such as Nassau Coliseum and Madison Square Garden host decent performers, but quality concerts in large halls are fact becoming extinct creatures.



New York City has always been the home of what is best and what is worst in music. The Lone Star Cafe in the Village is one of the few havens of honest music left to the glitter-rock scene dropouts. The Lone Star is a bar where musicians are appreciated for their music and not the technical wizardry of light-shows and computer run synthesizers. Billed as the 'official Embassy of Texas,' the Lone Star gives New York audiences the chance to see musicians sweat.

It is not a hall populated by mainstream musicians (Jorma Kaukonen, Johnny Winter, and T-Bone Burnett are among the handful of better-known Lone Star regulars), but by Chicago bluesmen, Texan boogie bands, and backwoods rock and rollers like Commander Cody. Admission is steep — ten bucks (no minimum) but worth every penny. Food's good too.

Asleep at the Wheel, a New Orleans based country, R & B, boogie, blues band is playing the Lone Star on All Hallows Eve. These Louisiana bayou boys have been playing bars for almost fifteen years; their experience is painfully evident in the quality and spirit of their music. Asleep at the Wheel is a big band — guitar, bass, piano, drums, horns, pedal steel guitar, and electric mandolin. Players sit in as the mood dictates. Playing both covers and originals, Asleep at the Wheel plays with the confidence and savvy of natural musicians.

Asleep at the Wheel is a band occasionally accused of being a crossover band, a band that attempts to cater to varying tastes in the interest of maintaining popularity. These accusations are made by listeners who completely fail to realize that these musicians play the music that they know and love best, the music that they were raised on. Their early stomping grounds

were stuffy gin-joints inhabited by the keepers of the flame of bayou music. Partying music — Mardi Gras, hot July nights, whiskey, and the rhythms of the early morning hours, that twilight time when dreams are smashed. Asleep at the Wheel is a much needed injection of a musical sincerity and ferocity that is sorely missed in a time numbed by the white noise of synth-pop...



Artists of the highest order, they'll play until most of the City is asleep. They satisfy both their own hunger for driving boogie as well as the needs of the audience. Short sets lasting until midnight are not the forte of Asleep at the Wheel, two hour sets that leave you stumbling around in the street as the sun comes up are more their speed. Look around before the band takes the stage, put money on the fact that they are probably downing shots at the bar. Between sets is also a good time to catch them at the bar. Their music is their life, their soul, not their career. These boys don't struggle with the details of managing a fat bank account or a staff of media representatives. What matters to Asleep at the Wheel is carving out gut-wrenching songs, songs that are good not because of the technical virtuosity of the band's playing (they are damn good musicians, though), but because of the care and love that goes into every note of music that is played. Asleep at the Wheel is not a lazy band.

Although Asleep at the Wheel has put out a fair number of discs in past years, they are a band that must be seen and not just heard. They establish a rapport with the audience without appearing condescending. Asleep at the Wheel knows that their audience is comprised of lovers of good, soulful music, and they do their utmost to please the listeners.

Spend this Halloween in the City. Go to the Lone Star, it's on Fifth Street at Thirteenth. Look for the giant iguana on the roof and the Texas state flag above the doorway. Find yourself a seat, grab a beer, and check out the music.

# Six Characters

by Mary Rafferty

*Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Luigi Pirandello's play currently being performed in the Fine Arts Center (October 22-25, October 29 - November 1) should not be missed, especially by theater fans interested in seeing amusing original theater. Not only does Pirandello put forth some brilliantly interesting philosophies, but he does so in an intriguing manner.

As its title suggests, *Six Characters...* is a play within a play. An author rejects the existence of several of his characters, and they wage a battle for their survival by seeking out an alternate author.

Risking the chance of boring those viewers who have seen the play, and spoiling it for those viewers who haven't let me attempt to explain the play.

The play opens to a seemingly typical rehearsal of (what else?) a Pirandello play. In the midst of the rehearsal, the family of rejected characters materializes onstage. They begin to unfold their horrifying tale for the purpose of interesting a substitute author, and more importantly, to satiate their unrelenting desire to tell their story, to be understood, to exist.

What follows is ultimately a tragedy. It is also, however, a comedy in its portrayal of a troop of modern actors thrown together with this strange family of pseudo-characters from the nineteenth century.

What results is an amusing sort of chaos. From the director's frustration towards the family for disrupting his rehearsal, to the leading couple's indignation when their work is criticized, one does not have to have been involved in the production of a play to find the humor in these situations.

Interwoven with this activity is the family's frantic attempts at making their story a reality, but never completely understanding the limitations of the stage or the art of theater. Don't misunderstand though, this limitation is the theme of the play.

Pirandello is trying to say that our means of communication is inadequate. Our words, gestures, and expressions are all subject to products of perception, and so subject to misinterpretation. To frustrate matters even more, we talk and act differently with different people. Pirandello's explanation is that we consist of multiple selves within the essence of our true self. This makes our actions, and our words, at any specific moment virtually meaningless when trying to interpret our true selves — only our thoughts can prove valuable in our interpretation.

Getting back to planet earth, these characters entered into their author's mind and once abandoned, cannot wholly exist. From this point on, they will inevitably be judged, and so misinterpreted. They are even able to struggle for their existence. Perhaps its this struggle for meaning that ultimately makes the play a tragic one.

Integrating this level of philosophy with an element of humor can either produce disastrous results, or, as in *Six Characters...* prove to be quite successful. The audience is made to laugh at the sarcastic comments the characters direct at one another. The audience is also asked to contemplate for a moment the theories that Pirandello proposes about humanity.

Under the direction of David Shookoff, Stony Brook's production of Pirandello's most famous play comes highly recommended to all University theater-goers.

The performance opening night was of surprisingly high caliber. Surprising in that the actors handled themselves well in extremely demanding roles. The father, for instance, was playing a double role: as one of the characters, and as the author. His part encompassed the bulk of the philosophizing, making it frighteningly easy for the character to become silly. Richard Schindler has done a fine job of maintaining

"Our words, gestures, and expressions are all... subject to misinterpretation."

a happy medium and performs commendably. Other entertaining performances were given by Georgia Aristidou for her humorous portrayal as a prima-donna leading lady. The distinctively attractive Deirdre Hanbury plays the evocative step sister beautifully. Eileen Soro as Madame Pace, Nadine Griffith as the ingenue and John Schindler as the boy, also gave amusing and memorable performances, John Schindler doing so without a line.

The concentration of important dialogue in the play is worth noting. The viewer cannot be expected to follow the logical sequence of concepts and at the same time, take in all the extraneous activity going on to the left and the right of the immediate speakers. For example, the father explaining Pirandello's multiple self concept to the director is surrounded by all sorts of movement around them that only seems to serve as a distraction. Sure, players are just trying to stay in character, but this could have been done in a much more subtle, and less disunited way. Perhaps this is solely a problem with those of us who can't handle three ring circuses.

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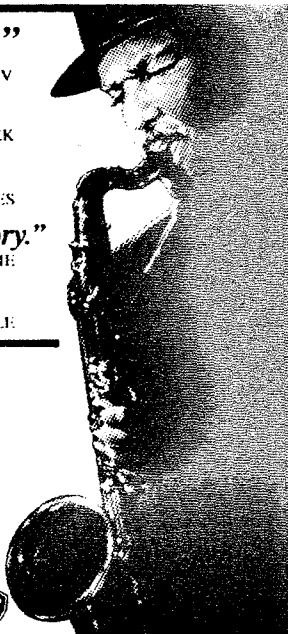
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