

The
Story
Brook

PRESS

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THE ELUSIVE IT

Where It Is No One Knows

Last semester, in the final symposium for Professor Kennedy's class on Vietnam, those in attendance were privileged to hear the words of Allen Ginsberg.

In a closing statement he summarized the final symposium, the course and perhaps the root of all major problems facing our college community today; that being an unwillingness to learn. Ginsberg stated that he lives his life in complete confusion, walking into every new experience without any previously acquired knowledge that would distort what can be learned by exposure to this new stimuli. It is only through this ignorance that we can ultimately acquire knowledge.

As college students we have begun to reach the climax of our education. We have obtained the knowledge that comes from two decades of life and almost as many years in schooling. This is perhaps a drop in the bucket of what is to come in the future, however, it is still an adequate amount of time for us to feel confident enough to openly display our views and ideas. It is when one begins to believe these views and ideas as undisputable fact that problems begin. These problems breed arrogance, inflated egos and the inability to be open minded. There is no greater impairment to learning.

Everyone to some degree thinks he/she knows where *its* at. It, being the knowledge that justifies one's rationale, conclusions and ultimately his/her lifestyle. This justification is needed for a feeling of purpose that lays you down at night and gives you the desire to wake up in the morning. This knowledge should never leave this place in one's head. It is here knowledge grows with new information that is extracted from all situations encountered during the day.

One of the most interesting situations we can find ourselves in is the discussion of contrasting theories. This can only be rewarding if both participants enter the discussion personally removed, as a bearer of facts with the purpose of making both theories a little clearer in the minds of both parties.

This forum is abused by people who see it as a chance to inflate their already enlarged egos by completely rejecting the other person's thoughts for the sole purpose of winning, what has now become an argument. They will find a way to elevate themselves above their *opponents'* views because they, of course, really know where *its* at. They will see everybody else in the world as either a friend, one who agrees with their belief, or a foe, a person who is inferior enough to

disagree. This is a form of mental masturbation in which a person will disregard all other thoughts and legitimate ideas of their *competitor* for the sole purpose of making their ego feel good. They will bring in personal background, age and other irrelevant points to make sure this fragile ego is not shattered. The only way to deal with this type of experience is to avoid them entirely for its no fun watching someone stroke his psyche at your expense.

However, if we do find ourselves in this situation and since we must benefit from every situation, learn the concept of pity. Pity these people for they will always be on their guard and learn only what will reinforce their self-righteous attitudes.

Ginsberg concluded his closing statement by presenting the idea that life is a series of brief encounters all of which are given to us to learn from. Life is too short and these encounters too few to waste by entering them with predetermined knowledge. This concept may never be more useful and practical than here at Stony Brook. Each day brings our departure from this University closer. It is up to you to make the best of these days. Remember, the only thing that separates us from the fools who think they know where *its* at, is our ignorance.

The Press Welcomes Your Letters And Viewpoints

Cover art by Kristin Rusin

—Photo Box—

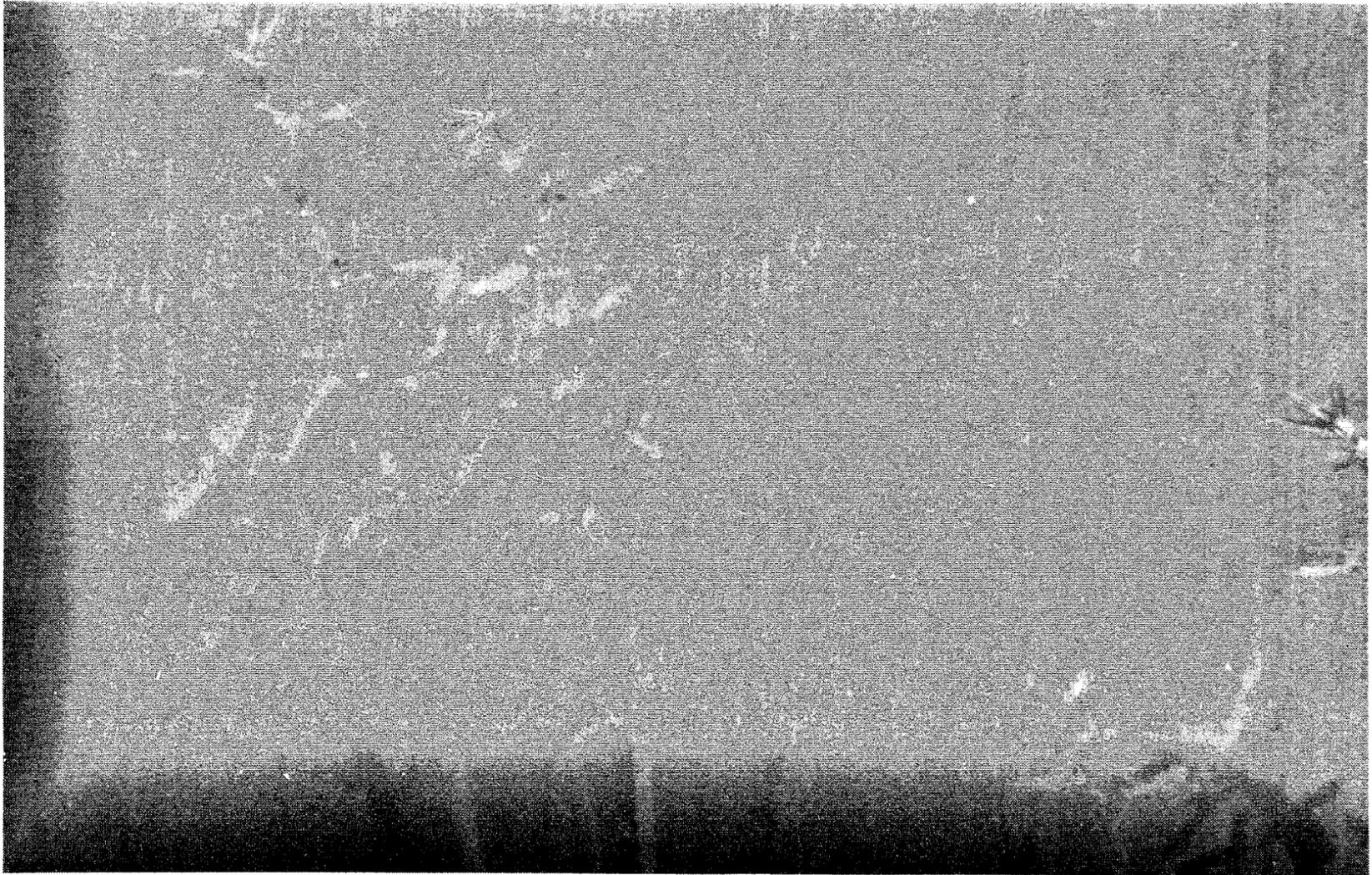


Photo box by Lauren Shepherd

GSO Resolution: We Demand Respect!

by Lauren Shepherd
and August March

The Graduate Research Initiative (GRI) is a recent proposal developed by the Chancellor's office (with virtually no faculty or graduate student input) in response to perceived deficiencies in the graduate and research programs of New York State's public universities. Basically, by spending more money in these areas, SUNY hopes to make its University Centers competitive with institutions such as Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin. GRI, in its first year, proposes to distribute \$10 million (reduced by Cuomo's office from \$16 million) statewide. Most of the money is presently planned to be spent on the creation of new programs and the expansion of existing programs.

Since GRI was unveiled, graduate students throughout the state have voiced dismay over administration's disregard both for their input and for what they perceive as

their urgent needs. Particularly, they are upset that the people who put together GRI have not addressed the question of the severely deficient quality-of-life of SUNY graduate students.

As GSO President Chris Vestuto stated before the Stony Brook's University (faculty) Senate, "if you want to improve graduate and research programs at SUNY we feel that the most cost effective and humane way to do this would be to treat SUNY graduate students better." With this in mind, the Graduate Student Organization presented a resolution to the Senate this past Monday, the text of which follows:

We propose that 50% of the money allocated to Stony Brook through the Graduate and Research Initiative be spent to improve the current quality of graduate student life at this university. Three areas of primary concern are:

1. **Wages.** Full time graduate student employees (teaching assistants, graduate assistants, research assistants) should receive a minimum wage of \$8,000 per academic year, excluding tuition awards.
2. **Health Insurance.** Affordable and adequate health insurance should be provided for graduate students immediately.
3. **Child Care.** Graduate students should be provided with adequate and affordable child care.

In an accompanying position paper, the GSO expanded on their resolution's three target areas. For example, in terms of wages, graduate students here at Stony Brook receive base pay of \$6000 for an academic year. This is dramatically lower than at many other public universities (University of Illinois pays a minimum of \$10,364 for eleven months; at UC Davis, TA's are paid \$9585 for nine months, and RA's are paid \$12,390 for twelve months), where the cost of living is almost always lower than it is on Long

Island.

Regarding health care, the GSO suggests that after paying insurance premiums and all other health-related costs, graduate students should not be spending "more than 10% of our meager incomes on health care." The GSO suggests that a state-wide, subsidized plan be made available. Many other state universities already provide such plans (Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan).

Regarding child care, the GSO estimates that spending about 2% of Stony Brook's proposed GRI allocation would "free child care for all full-time graduate students currently utilizing campus day care facilities." Presently, the new fee schedule would have a single graduate student parent paying over 30% of her/his income to enroll one child. At the same time, Stony Brook advertises their fine day care services in graduate student recruitment.

In his presentation before the University
continued on page 5

Parked Minds

by John Isbell

Are there enough parking spaces on campus? Albany and the Administration think so. According to the formula used by Albany, Stony Brook requires only 6200. This same formula Dr. Francis, Vice Pres-

ident and head of Campus Operations, describes as "worthless". Currently, Stony Brook has 6700 parking spaces. In comparison, in 1986 there were over 20,000 cars registered. Of the 20,000 plus cars registered, approximately 1700 were commuters; 3200

residents; and 15,000 faculty/staff.

John Delaney, the Associate Director of Inventory and Space Analysis at SUNY Albany, explained this formula algebraically: $A = L(0.25F + H)$, where A is the number of parking spaces needed; L, the location factor, equal to 0.25, 0.30, 0.35 for urban, suburban, and remote areas, respectively. Stony Brook is classified as a suburban campus. The variable F is the number of full-time students, known as FTE. Not all students are equal to FTE: undergraduates taking 15 credits, graduate students taking 12 credits, and doctoral candidates taking 9 credits. Any doctoral candidate taking fewer than 9 credits is considered to be $\frac{1}{4}$ of a FTE, meaning that if

to work in most cases," but also admits that it "doesn't solve the problem of the location of the parking." Still the formula is required because "there has to be a standard upon which to requisition the budget for additional parking."

South P-Lot is such a problem. It contains approximately 1500 of the campus' 6700 parking spaces, leaving 5200 within walking distance for most people. Francis said, that although "Roth Quad may have a few problems" with parking, forcing some Roth residents to park at Tabler, other "resident students have enough parking spaces now."

More spaces have been constructed between the Social Sciences building and the Life Sciences building in preparation for

Dube Denied Tenure Again

by Karen McMahon

Last week in a highly unprecedented move, former Chancellor Wharton simultaneously awarded and denied tenure to Professor Dube. The former Chancellor offered Dube tenure at any SUNY college or university except Stony Brook University. While Professor Dube, whose tenure has been a matter of controversy for some time, has been denied tenure at Stony Brook, he has been accepted as a qualified tenured professor anywhere else in the SUNY system.

Dube is a professor in the African Studies department, a native of South Africa and a member of the African National Congress. His battle for tenure began two years ago.

The process began normally. The African Studies Department voted in support of Dube's tenure and forwarded their recommendation to the official campus-wide committee. The Personnel Policy Committee (PPC), consisting of tenured faculty members from each division of the Arts and Sciences, reviewed Dube's credentials. This committee reviews all recommendations for promotions and tenure. The PPC decided to recommend tenure for Dube at Stony Brook. President Marburger and former Provost Homer Neil overturned the committee's decision. An adequate explanation was never presented.

Dube appealed for a second review by the Chancellor's committee. This committee consisted of a faculty member chosen by Dube, one chosen by Marburger, and a third chosen by the two selected members. After reviewing Dube's credentials, the entire committee including Marburger's designee, unanimously recommended Dube for tenure at Stony Brook. Wharton disregarded the recommendation stating that information had been



leaked, and there was a breach of confidence, thus the whole process had to begin anew.

Yet another committee was set up. Members were again chosen by Dube, Marburger and their two candidates. The new committee again recommended Dube for tenure in November of 1986. Up to this point every committee that reviewed Professor Dube's credentials, recommended that he be awarded tenure at his home campus, Stony Brook. Last week, after Chancellor Wharton's resignation had already become effective, his decision to overrule the committee and to deny Dube tenure at Stony Brook was revealed.

Neither the decision nor an explanation for it have been officially released as of yet. Dr. Marburger's office, however, has released a preliminary statement, saying "I think ex-Chancellor Wharton's decision is a thoughtful one that acknowledges the high standards of scholarship that Stony Brook sets for its faculty. It also acknowledges the responsibility the university has to protect its faculty from inappropriate external influences."

Unfortunately, President Marburger was unavailable for comment.

"Others interviewed have told stories of accumulating over \$150 in tickets during the semester, yet they continue to park their cars without stickers ..."

four doctoral candidates were each taking fewer than 9 credits, the total FTE for the four would be equal to that of three full-time students. H is the current or projected number of FTE students attending the SUNY school.

Although the number of faculty is not included in the formula as a separate variable, Delaney believes that the faculty is somehow included "in the whole general mix." He also said that research personnel are not included in this formula, and that there seems to have been an increase in the past few years. Now the formula is being readjusted with allocations of enough parking for seventy percent of the research personnel. One hundred percent could not be considered as a basis for the number of needed spots said Delaney, as no one "could ever sell that" to SUNY.

Delaney maintains that this formula "seems

the field house which is to be erected in the gymnasium's parking lot. The 320' X 220' building will encompass about 75% of the lot, about 172 spaces out of a total of 230. Francis said that building the field house in the gymnasium's parking lot "is the only practical way," and that "it makes good architectural sense to put it there."

One problem with the construction of the new spaces is the great cost — an average of \$1500 per space. This mammoth amount covers levelling the ground; laying the base rock, the flint rock, and the curbs; installing the storm drains and the lights; and the line-stripping. The State University of New York prefers the more expensive parking garage over such free spaces, as the former will pay for itself. The average prices for a space on the first, second, and third floors are \$2500, \$3500, and \$4500, respectively,

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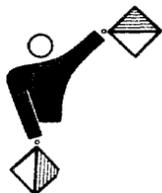
**S.A.I.N.T.S.
Fundraiser Party**

Date..... Friday, February 6
Place..... Roth Cafeteria
Time..... 10:00 - ?

*All proceeds go to Scholarship Fund!
 We need your support!!*

Interested in any of these positions?

Election Board Chairperson



Polity Hotline Coordinator

Public Relations Advertising Chairperson

*Polity is running a search!!!
 Pick up applications in the Polity Suite.
 Deadline for all applications is 2/20.*

Polity Receptionist Needed!!!

Various hours are available
 see Barbara in the Polity Suite
 Work study students -
 We need you!!!

ATTENTION OFFICERS OF THE FOLLOWING CLUBS:

Ambulance Corps	\$	Printshop
Polity AV	\$	SAINTS
Peer to Peer	\$	STAC
Dorm Business	\$	Hospital Volunteers
EROS	\$	College Bowl
Hotline	\$	ACUI

If you plan on obtaining a budget for the 1987-88 year, you must sign up for a budget subcommittee hearing by Monday, February 9, in the Polity suite, 2nd floor SB Union.

**SENIORS
 LAST CHANCE FOR YOUR
 PORTRAITS
 SIGN UP NOW
 IN THE UNION**



*Wed & Thurs, Feb 18th & 19th
 Or, call now: 632-6453
 Office: Rm 026 Central Hall
 (for club photos ask for Brian)*

SAB Committee Meeting
 Monday, Feb. 9, 7pm
 S.B. Union

All members must attend, and new members are welcome.

Come down and get involved
Tokyo joes **S. B. Concerts**

see office for more details, or call 632-6454

STONY BROOK CONCERTS

P
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Paul Young



in concert

Sun., Feb. 22, 8pm
 The S. B. Gymnasium

Students: \$14 reserve \$12 G. A.
Public: \$16 reserve \$14 G. A.

Tickets in the Union Box Office and Ticketmaster.

**STONY BROOK
 - WOMEN'S -
 RUGBY CLUB**
 Welcomes New Members
 For Spring '87 Season!!
 Informational meeting
TONIGHT,
THURS, FEB. 5
7:30pm, Non-Smoker's Lounge
2nd floor S.B. Union

Golden Bear Opens Tuesday

— Munchies and Movies —

by Quinn Kaufman

The ribbon-cutting grand opening of The Golden Bear Cafe will take place on Tuesday Feb. 10 at 8 pm, in the basement of O'Neill College in G-Quad.

Gerry Shaps, Polity Vice President and founder of the "mini club" said that The Golden Bear's agenda at present has changed dramatically since its original plans from last semester.

When Shaps and the Polity Dorm Committee first planned the Bear's format, it's eating menu consisted of only munchable snacks and soda. Now The Golden Bear,

along with the support of FSA and Scoop, has a healthier menu consisting of pizza, pop-corn, calzones, sausage rolls, candy, Haagen Daz ice cream, almost every kind of non-alcoholic beverages, and much more.

The cafe will maintain a flexible schedule, opening every night from 5 pm - 2 am, except Monday and Thursday.

It is entirely run by 17 students, hired at \$3 an hour sans taxes, which isn't bad considering that a Polity Hotline workers only make 75¢ an hour during the evening hours. The Bear has a manager, an executive director for financing, not including Gerry

who considers himself the "producer of the show and not the director."

The Bear is equipped with a juke box, video, two pool tables and ping pong table. Most of its kitchen facilities have been donated by campus groups and individuals.

Fred Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs, graciously donated part of a microwave. Yet The Bear [a not-for-profit except for student-profit organization] wishes to raise some money in order to maintain a cafe with goods designated to fit the needs of those students who wish to just go somewhere and hangout.

The Campus Committee of Cinematic Arts (COCA), the organization that shows you movies on campus in Javits and the Union, hosted a fundraiser Wed. night in the union auditorium entitled "American Cinema's salute to The Golden Bear Cafe." COCA presented *The Wall* and *The Kids are Alright*. All proceeds go The Golden Bear Cafe.

Similar to the GSO Lounge in Old Chem. The Bear, Shaps says, 'is going to be a real homey type of atmosphere and all the money that's made will keep going back into replenishing The Golden Bear.'

Quality-of-Life

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Senate, the GSO President stressed the importance of faculty and graduate students standing together on these crucial, quality-of-life issues. Faculty who spoke up in the ensuing discussion seemed uniformly supportive. One dissenting note was struck when Bob Lichter, Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies (head of the Graduate School), tried to move that the language of the resolution be changed; specifically, he asked that all references to "wages" and graduate student "employees" be stricken. The GSO refused to accept this as a friendly amendment to their proposal. "We consider ourselves as employees," Vestuto responded. Sandy Petrey, President of the University Senate, pointed out that as an ex-officio member of the Senate, Dr. Lichter doesn't have the formal power to make a motion, and asked if any faculty member would introduce the Vice Provost's amendment for him; none would.

The GSO considers this significant. "Many faculty members thought the suggestion itself was rather absurd," said GSO

Vice President Sandra Hinson. "Symbolically, this means a lot," she continued, "faculty is being very supportive of our efforts to unionize." As for the GSO resolution itself, it was passed unanimously, amidst much applause. GSO Secretary Rick Eckstein said, "we are overwhelmed by the faculty's support. This sets a precedent." Vestuto agreed, adding "and it is good to see so many graduate students at the Senate meeting. Now maybe the administration will know that we are not just three or four gadflies writing press releases in an office somewhere."

Senate Vice President Joel Rosenthal expressed similar sentiments. "GRI as presently constituted focuses on political and economic concerns, not on academics, and we're running the risk of becoming a third-rate MIT." When asked if he was pleased that the Senate endorsed the idea of 50% of Stony Brook's GRI money going to improve graduate student quality of life, he said "Absolutely...and faculty and graduate students should be involved in the decisions about where that money goes."

Grateful Dead Tour Dates

Date	Location	Price (mail order)
March 22, 23, 24	Hampton, Va.	\$16.25
March 26	Hartford, Conn.	\$17.25
March 29, 30 31	Spectrum, Philly	\$18.25
April 1, 2, 3	Centrum, Worcester	\$18.25
April 6, 7	Brendan Byrne	\$19.25

For more info call (201) 777 - TOKE

Parking Problems

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with the average price increasing in \$1000 increments for each level thereafter.

Since the cost per space is so great, the University renovated about 200 parking spaces last summer, at a cost of approximately \$15,000, which was taken from the Physical Plant's budget. Half of these renovated spaces are located behind the computer center, with the balance lying in the Union lot, in engineering, in the Commissary located next to the Physical Plant, and in the lot next to the Math tower.

New spaces were also constructed in Tabler and in front of Satge XII. One lot was built in back of Sanger and Hand got a double row in front of it while the Stage XII cafeteria got a new parking lot. The actual number of parking spaces cannot be computed as the new lots are gravel and not yet completed.

With all these parking spaces being constructed or renovated, it is the commuter who is most ignored. The parking situation for commuters "is inadequate," according to Polity President Marc Gunning. He said that the commuters might feel as if they were being "shipped out of town," having to park in South P-Lot. "It's a pain in the neck during the winter," continued Gunning as the commuters have "to rely on the campus bus service."

William Wiesner, President of the United

University Professionals, believes the parking to be "inadequate", but he also admits that he doesn't "know what to do to fix it." He believes "all parking garages should be free." Wiesner also would like to see "reserved parking for certain individuals," such as the elderly and the invalid. However, Wiesner does "sympathize with admin," as he doesn't "want to pave over campus" either. The UUP President ended the interview with praise for Dr. Francis, saying that "the campus parking situation has improved" since Francis' arrival.

Said Shaun Horne, a Langmuir resident, "I feel neglected, being a freshman, getting a job to get a parking sticker and the availability of parking spaces isn't real bad, though sometimes it's a little tough to find a spot." "Regardless of parking policies," continued Horne, "any freshman who needs a car on campus is going to bring it anyway."

Others interviewed have told stories of accumulating over \$150 in tickets during the semester, yet they continue to park their cars without stickers. "People just don't care," said Herb Petty, co-Assistant Director of Public Safety. It is this apathy which enables the parking enforcement officers, known as "the men in blue", to ticket an average of 130-to-150 cars per day during the semester. The revenue gained from ticketing is used in the operation of the traffic enforcement division.

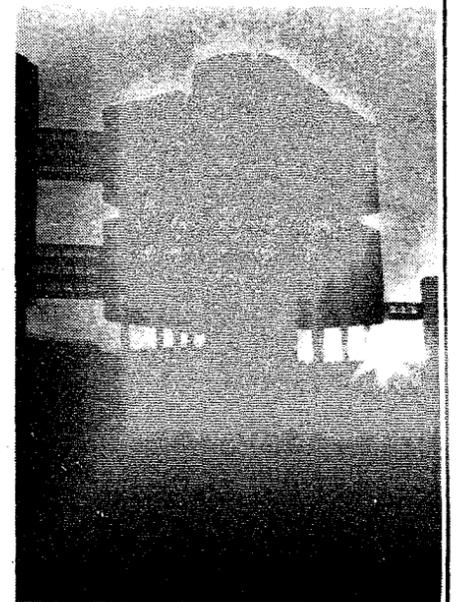
Bloody HSC

by Karen McMahon

Three days ago, it was suspected that the Health Science Center (HSC) was mixing potentially pathogenic materials with its municipal waste, in violation of State law. Yesterday, NYPIRG revealed that personnel at the HSC was mixing wastes and allowing it to be dumped at the Brookhaven Town Landfill. According to Rich Drury of NYPIRG "It's illegal to landfill blood and blood products as well as surgical materials and wastes because these products can result in transmission of disease, such as Hepatitis and an array of various other bacteria and viruses."

The University Hospital's illegal actions were uncovered this past Monday when an anonymous caller from the HSC alerted the media. At the same time, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was notified by Brookhaven Town Landfill inspectors that blood contaminated and potentially infectious waste had been found. The DEC ordered the HSC to halt all waste disposal pending further investigation. Last Wednesday, the Hospital contacted the DEC claiming that they would make a "good faith effort" to keep the infectious waste separate. They made no promises, however, to change their disposal practices. The DEC granted approval to resume landfilling the waste without conducting an on-site investigation.

NYPIRG students investigated the Hospital loading dock late Wednesday night. Blood and bloodied surgical gauze was found in some of the 900 bags of accumulated garbage. State law indicates that blood and



blood products are to be disposed of by incineration or some means of sterilization in order to minimize transmissions of disease. Any other disposal method must be authorized by the Department of Health (DOH). It seems unlikely that the HSC has received any such authorization.

Landfills are not designed to contain pathogenic waste. Usually located in populated regions, care should be exercised as to what we put in our landfills and strict penalties should be imposed on those who break dumping laws. Drury assures that NYPIRG is working to get the DEC to force the Hospital to dispose of its waste properly.

Where It Is, My Friend

**Friday
February 6**

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- **A Black History Month Presentation:**
A tribute to Robert Nesta Marley in the Union fireside lounge. Includes: music by Bob Marley, Reggae music, food, poetry, art and a Rasta rap session.

6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

- **In the Union Ballroom:**
Reggae video's, live Reggae music — 6 bands! — Donations — \$4.00 or \$2.00 with an SUSB I.D.

Movies:

- **Ferris Bueller's Day Off**
Starring Matthew Broderick as a high-school wise guy trying his best not to go to school on a beautiful, sunny day. If you're in a mood to laugh, go see it 7:00, 9:30, and Midnight showings in Javits Lecture Center 100.
- **Pink Flamingos**
The story of the filthiest people alive, their loves, their hates, and their unquenchable thirst for notoriety. A sure one for Dynasty Devotees and Colby Culters. 12:30 a.m. in the Union Auditorium.
- **That Fatal Glass of Beer**
W.C. Fields stars in an absolutely ridiculous comedy, set far in the north, in the domain of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Movie will be shown after Pink Flamingos in the Union Auditorium.

**Saturday
February 7**

Movies (See Friday for more details):

- **Ferris Bueller's Day Off**
7:00, 9:30, and midnight in Javits Lecture Center 100
- **Pink Flamingos**
and
- **The Fatal Glass of Beer**

Fine Arts Center - Main Stage

- **Kalichstein - Laredo - Robinson Trio (classical chamber group)**
‡ Haydn Trio in E major
‡ Mendelssohn Trio in C minor
‡ Schubert Quintet in A major (The Trout) with two faculty: John Graham on viola; Julius Levine on bass.
Tickets: \$17.15 and \$13.00 — \$2 student discount — All remaining tickets sold after 7:45 for \$3 w/I.D. card.

**Sunday
February 8**

Movie:

- **Méphisto**
Won academy award for best foreign film. True story of a small town actor's gradual betrayal of political and moral principles in return for professional power and advancement in NAZI Germany. 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Union Auditorium.

**Monday
February 9**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- **Art Print Sale** — Union Fireside Lounge

Israeli Folk Dancing — Union Ballroom at 8:00

**Tuesday
February 10**

Movie:

- **Méphisto**
Won academy award for best foreign film. True story of a small town actor's gradual betrayal of political and moral principles in return for professional power and advancement in NAZI Germany. 12:00 p.m. Union Auditorium.

Golden Bear Cafe

Grand Opening!
8:00 p.m. O'Neill College

The Art of Photography

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Union Rm. 231
Slide presentation and display by Melody Davis.

Flix:

- **Romeo and Juliet**
Zefferelli's cinema version of Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed lovers is sweet, somber, and deeply romantic.

Womyn's Center

- **Rap Group**
8:30 p.m. Union Basement

GSL Back Room:

- **"No Pasaran"**
Award winning documentary on events in Nicaragua. An excellent movie! 7:30 p.m. in the GSL back room.

The Depth of Judaism

Weekly class by Prof Shlomo explores the hidden spiritual realms and relates them to everyday life.

**Wednesday
February 11**

Mid-Day Entertainment:

- **Michelle**
Pop music on electric piano/synthesizer.

NYPIRG Issues Forum

- 7:30 p.m. Union Fireside Lounge
Students will be speaking on how to make a difference cleaning up the environment, fighting racism, improving childcare, banning food irradiation and counseling consumers.

Poetry Reading with Louis Simpson

- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Center, Humanities 239
Simpson is an eminent American poet and scholar.

Art Box

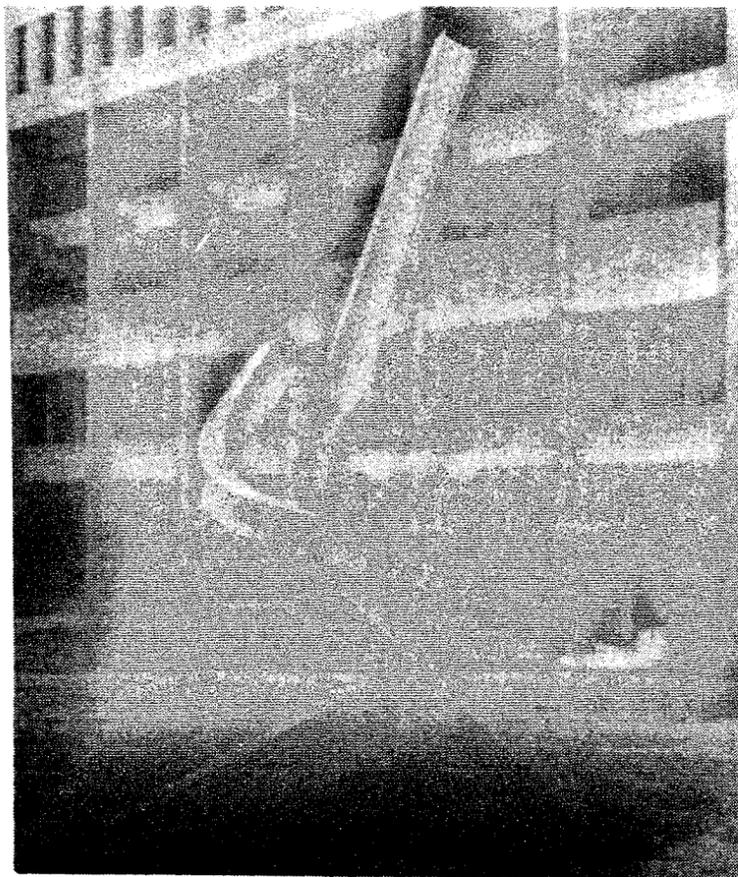


Photo and Text by Lauren Shepherd

"A curve related to another curve in space creates a positive volume between the two." — This is how sculptor James Kleege describes his aluminium sculpture residing near the main entrance of the library. Kleege was awarded a grant in 1980

allowing him to pay students to work on the sculpture, although \$3000 of his own money was spent to finance the project. When asked if it had any particular "meaning" he said, "No, it's there to occupy space as a landmark."



The Stony Brook Press wishes to
commemorate the birthday of

Bob Marley
this Saturday, February 7

Rhinestone Consumption

Lost Vegas Life

by Quentin Busterkeys

Born Wladziv Valentino Liberace in West Allis, Wisconsin. His mother taught him piano lessons from the age of four years. Riches, rhinestones, and Rolls-Royces appeared with the glam motion of his ring-worn fingertips: "Don't wear one ring, wear five or six."

Carefully poised on crystalline palaces of wealth, carrying his diamond studded candleabra, Liberace floated on stage with suspended transparent grandiose pianos performing minimalized condensed classics being sure of eliminating anything dull. A modern hero paying the strictest of attention to the subtleties of his methods of attraction. Shining, glimmering face appearing like a king in his regal robes, attempting harmony among the orchids.

Thousands of golden spotlights emanated and hung from his unburdened shoulders. An enigma above society and abstracted from its daily cares and hustling controversies; purified by the filth of money, and becoming an image next to God's.

Wandering around lost/awaiting his lifetime of glamor. Waiting and playing he was summoned by an audience and he answered with *Three Little Fishes* and he "really shook 'em up" and audiences responded, showering him with money. Time progresses and the money grew. Las Vegas beckoned. Hollywood moaned.

Inspirations grew within the hearts of Elvis and a million Elvis impersonators. One can even say he influenced the likenesses of Bowie, Eno, or Ferry. But the persona of Liberace, that glam-ridden, scandal-immune shape that costs so much



1919 - 1987

and is free from concern, is undeniably pure, unassuming and consumed in self-awareness and self consumption.

Liberace's enigma always seems to float above what can be considered to be common reality — the pain and suffering inherent in getting on with one's life and achieving one's goals — he performs in elegant flourishes, he shimmers in sparkling patterns of unpretentious showmanship. This personification of cold cash and jewels that is the image of Liberace is a modern myth and folk hero of our consumer society; a child of the television and media age that thrives on kitsch-culture and conspicuous consumption. Although there has never been and probably won't ever be, generations of people who want to be like Liberace (that is, the image of Liberace) he is still representative (through the mass demand to view in "real life" his image) of a life — the easy life free from the hassles and hustles of having to "get on with it" — that has been a central focus of the media's post war mythology of "America".

Like everything in nature, images are living things: mercuric and spiritual that exist as blendings of good and evil characteristics and effects. Escapism has its positive and its negative aspects as does life behind a mask. But one must ask what that glitter is to find the truth of its dual nature.

Liberace himself said that to be an entertainer is to create a persona or image: an image that is to glow. The brightness of the glow is the measure of who will see you. Liberace was a man who glowed and will continue to glow in the hearts of a great number of fans.



GOP Trying to Buy Credibility

by Lauren Shepherd
and Chris Vestuto

Dour as we both are, when we first heard about the Iran/Contra affair, one of us — never mind which one — danced (like a coked-up Jonathan Richman) on the low table in the living room — you know the kind; the one you're not supposed to put your feet on when you're sitting on the couch. For the first time in a while we actually looked forward to the A.M. arrival of **The New York Times**. Finally, we thought, the American people will see the Reagan Administration for what it really is.

So many questions!

Did Reagan really listen to verbal briefings about memos he signed without understanding their content? Probably, but then again, hasn't he always had a learning disability?

Could Reagan really believe that giving arms to Iran would help end the Iran/Iraq war and, at the same time, claim that he wasn't giving them enough arms to make a difference? Hard to swallow? Maybe, but doesn't he also believe that abolishing minimum wage will help poor people?

Can Reagan really reconcile violating the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986 with his own Justice Department's prosecution, under the same law, of individuals who've sold arms to Iran? We guess he must be able to; after all, haven't more Reagan appointees left office under the suspicion of wrongdoing than appointees of any other President within living memory? And hasn't he also repeatedly refused to accept the World Court's jurisdiction over his Administration's actions?

Should we wonder that Reagan doesn't understand that

trading arms for hostages encourages hostage taking? We've always wondered, instead, why everytime he steps off a plane Nancy has to whisper in his ear before he can answer a reporter's question.

Is it such a surprise Reagan helped arm a nation that he says was responsible for the bombing of our Marine barracks in Lebanon? Perhaps not, when you remember that he himself is directly responsible for acts such as the mining of Nicaraguan harbors and the publication of an assassination manual for his Nicaraguan "freedom fighters."

And didn't **The Times** recently report that American flight crews covertly ferrying arms to Nicaraguan rebels were also "smuggling cocaine and other drugs on their return trip to the United States." Not to mention numerous allegations that the private Contra aid network is heavily funded by South American cocaine syndicates. Doesn't Reagan watch his wife on T.V.? Why doesn't he "just say No?" Beats us, but it doesn't surprise us.

We could go on and on (and on) about things that didn't surprise us. But maybe it's time to talk about a few things that did. There are disquieting domestic aspects to this scandal. We read that profits from the Iran Sale were kept in a safe in Colonel North's office, and handed out to Contra leaders freely. Colonel North was involved with several right wing political organizations in funding TV commercials used against Democrats in the recent election. Millions of dollars in Iran profits, and millions from the Sultan of Brunei, were "laundered", mob-style, through secret Swiss bank accounts, dummy Panamanian corporations, and various shadowy Iranian, Saudi, and Canadian arms merchants. No matter how trusting one is, one must realize

that the only reason for "laundering" money is to hide what it's being used for.

All that this does is raise the embarrassing question of whether the College republicans, both nationally and at Stony Brook, got money from the Iran deal. They do seem obsessed with defending the Contras, and all over the U.S. College republicans are busy selling buttons depicting Colonel North (out of gratitude?). The Stony Brook College Republicans seem to be unusually well funded from unknown sources. One of their leaders once offered the **Press** \$20,000 to become, in effect, a Republican paper on campus. Also the College Republicans brought in a Contra leader — presumably from Miami or Washington — to speak on campus, and have offered to bring in other contra leaders from out-of-state for campus events.

It appears that the Republican Party thinks the only way to gain political legitimacy is by purchasing it. Oh well, when you feel that way, you probably aren't all that concerned where the money comes from.

Still, so many questions.

People's memories can be short, though, and maybe we'll never know all the answers. Neither of us dances on tables anymore. But we do still want to see the **Times** tomorrow morning — hope you do too.

*Note: The article was solicited some time ago as an "Alternative Viewpoint" by the erstwhile publishers of **The Patriot**, a College Republican sponsored newspaper. The first issue of this newspaper has yet to appear, however, and we wrote this piece over three weeks ago. Instead of waiting any longer we are submitting it to **The Press**.*

I'm Straight and Commercial, How 'Bout You?

By Stephano Lepre

Since the beginning of last semester, my views on the Stony Brook campus media have undergone an evolution. From viewing it as something perfect (due to the fact that the national media seems so), but is not, it has received fewer and fewer criticisms from me as the semester went by, and as my knowledge of the problems faced by the campus media increased.

I found out that the people who work at our campus media, be it WUSB, **The Stony Brook Press**, or the **Statesman**, really try their best to give us information. Because of this, we should not criticize them for a few faults that occur every now and then, either in the paper or on the air. What are a few spelling errors, or a few utterances caused by an emotion (or by having nothing to say) while one is on the air? We shouldn't criticize our media for this, because nothing and nobody is perfect. I'm sure that this happens on other campuses too! Our attention is focused on the media, so it is easier for us to criticize them, than it is to do something about it. As time has passed, I've come to admire those students who give up most, if not all, of their free time for their paper or radio station. We all know that they are proud of it, and that because of this they may form a sort of fraternity among themselves. They are the only ones who have a right to join this proud group of people. The pressure of deadlines, of school, of being on the air, of missing classes due to lack of sleep after production night, is really tremendous ... so we should curtail our criticisms.

In class THR 291 our "guest speakers" enlightened us about the problems of the press, and one of their most serious troubles is that they are understaffed. Many people give it a try, but when it gets hard, they cut out, leaving only the few "afficionados" to do the work. If I am not mistaken, **The Stony Brook Press** was published by 2 or 3 people for quite a few issues. To countermeasure this, recruitment efforts should be intensified and pursued throughout the semester with the same "violence". This would effectively coerce people and make them join the media. Notices about meetings should be put in all of the dorms and in other strategical places (Union, library, etc.). I've seen very few of these until now. Ads seeking writers and material should be kept apart from other ads where they get lost and are hardly ever read, because the party on Thursday is of a more immediate concern. The ads should also be big and eye-catching (like the ones in **The Stony Brook Press**). From what I've heard in class, most campuses have the same problems. So wouldn't it be better if a competent representative from each campus met each other somewhere? I'm sure that a collective brainstorm would find some solution to the problems of recruitment.

Another problem is the lack of funds (which is typical of most college media organizations), a worry without which

the media would function much better! So instead of asking for a small raise in the activity fee, why doesn't the media ask for voluntary donations? I'm sure that many students who appreciate the work done by the media would be willing to give up some of their money in small donations, even more than once a year. With these higher funds, I'm sure that the quality of the papers and of the broadcasts would improve (in part due to modern equipment which would surpass the antiquated, inefficient machinery used by **The Stony Brook Press** and the **Statesman**). In the long run, new equipment would mean that a smaller staff is needed for production, methods are more efficient, and more time and energy are available to ponder editorial worries, such as whether an article is fit to print, or whether it may be offensive to the readers.

Most of the students I know read **The Stony Brook Press** or the **Statesman**, but few listen to WUSB, our campus radio station (many don't even know it exists!). To increase its audience, it could put more ads in the campus papers, and it could also break certain broadcasting rules. It

"On campus, most students are out of touch with the real world ..."

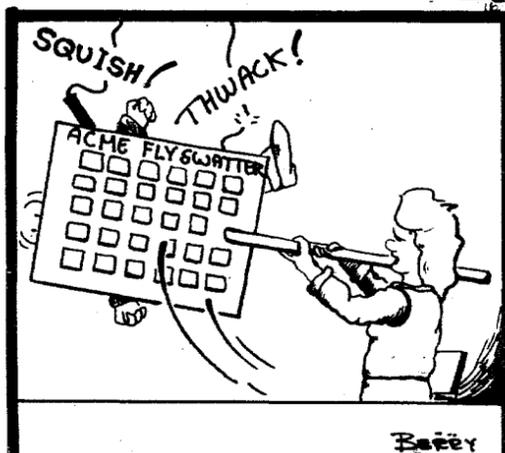
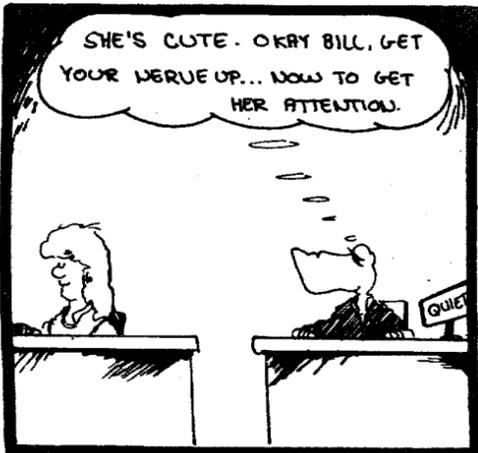
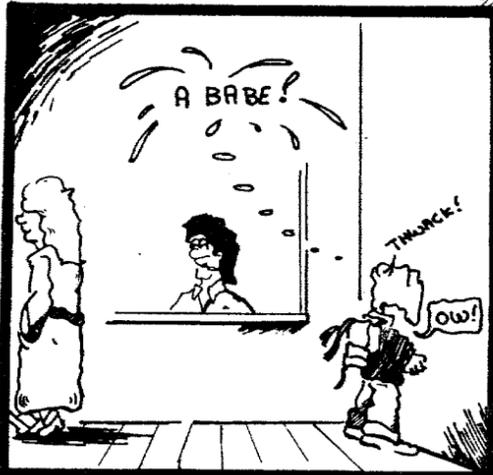
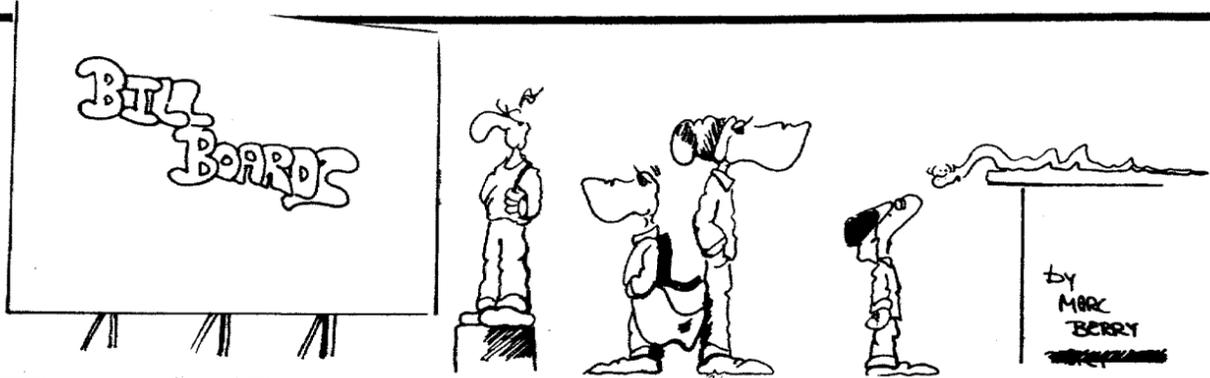
could start playing top 40's every now and then, as this is the kind of music that most students like. Few of us are into classical music (most of the people on my hall hate it!). At night, for example, other genres of music should be played. Many students like heavy metal, new wave, punk, and rock, and even these tastes in music should be respected. To catch such a potential audience (as the campus holds), campus radios should change their music policies. Why is it that once a group reaches the top 40's it is automatically cut off from campus radios? Why is it that once Simple Minds reached success they were not played any more (one example among many)? The group may have reached popularity, but what is wrong with that? It seems that campus radios snub popularity because they love their small worlds, or is it that they don't want to spend all the money needed for all these new records, that won't last for a few seasons (at the most)? If the campus radio changed its philosophy it would become popular to a broader audience that exists both inside and outside of the campus.

On campus, most students are out of touch with the world. They live on a different time scale, which ends when finals are over. But in the mean time, they often lose track of "real" time, and of what happens in the "real" world. Although many students have a television and/or a radio, few are in contact with the outside world, and only major news fact break the "school-time" barrier. To prevent this, the campus papers should have a page or two dedicated to worldly news, whereas the radio station would have only to keep up the good quality of its news broadcasts.

By listening with attention to all the discussion in class, and by interacting with the guest speakers, I got the impression that our news media is doing a great job, patching up with goodwill and effort that which it lacks technologically. The media keeps the students informed (maybe a bit too much) on campus issues, and does a fine job in covering them. It is really hard to improve this situation because a the few people involved have obvious limits, so I'm led to think that the only way to have substantial improvements is to fund and draw upon the technological resources of our media.



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Platoon

Rejoice O Young Man in Thy Youth

by Craig Goldsmith

Already the winner of two Golden Globe awards — best dramatic film and best director — *Platoon* is easily the best of the Vietnam war movies that seem to be vogue in Hollywood these days. Capitalizing on the increased interest that the twelve-year-old conflict has been receiving, these movies range from the pathetic *Rambo* and Chuck Norris shoot 'em up flicks to films of a more serious vein such as *Apocalypse Now* and *Deerhunter*.

Platoon, however is unique among the films that have been based on the Vietnam war. The personal sentimentality of *Deerhunter* and the surrealism of *Apocalypse Now* are left behind in favor of a much bloodier, albeit more realistic vision. Coppola's film, indubitably brilliant, is more akin to a Dali painting than any real glimpse at what Vietnam was really like; Cimino's film centers around the personalities involved so much that the war fades into the background.

Platoon is not the story of heroes or legends or acid induced hallucinations, it is a moving, upsetting look at American soldiers, clearly out on a limb, in unknown territory, fighting an enemy that they cannot see, trying to absorb what is happening to

them. They are not in control of their situation. Survival is the goal. No good guys, no black and white antagonists, only shades of grey, men who have been stripped of their humanity, of any reference points. "There ain't no such thing as a coward here..." remarks one soldier.



Writing home, the narrator, portrayed by Charlie Sheen, tells his grandmother that he worries about his sanity as much as his own life. He is a young soldier through whose eyes the war is seen. And I mean seen. The viewer is right in the middle of it, from close-up shots of dying soldiers to the

warped sight of an opium-tainted night off. *Platoon* plays almost like a documentary rather than some fictionalized, glorified account of battle.

Outraged at the atrocities that he sees the Americans as well as the VCs committing, Sheen is very much a naive boy. The lines blur quickly though. The green soldiers fresh from boot camp are not even called by their names; the chances are high that they will be killed within a few weeks, and none of the veterans of the platoon want to make any real contact. The pain of loss would be overwhelming. No sooner has the audience made some identification with a character, than the character is shot, or blown up, or stabbed. It's a painful movie. No rewards for being a decent human being, no happy ending (or sad ending, really), only death, and defeat, and the loss of sympathy. The audience winds up feeling as burnt as the soldiers. Pass the whiskey and cigarettes, please.

Through all the chaos, however, director Oliver Stone (himself a veteran) manages to raise some serious questions, all of which remain unanswered. Rich white boys with an education are fighting alongside poor brothers from the south. Not necessarily a

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Woody Allen's Radio Days —

The Lighter Side of Nostalgia

by Mary Rafferty

I went to see *Radio Days* Friday night. I loved it. I wasn't by any means suprised, though. In my eyes Woody Allen has had twenty years to write and direct a flop. So far, so good. He hasn't come even close.

Radio Days proves just as original as *Take the Money and Run* or *Sleeper* or any of Allen's flicks for that matter.

Although it doesn't hold company with Allen's extensive list of laugh-till-you-hurt gag movies, it is by no means inferior, just different. *Radio Days* is a nostalgia piece about the forties, a Jewish family, a young woman trying to make it as a singer and the role radio plays in their lives. These elements are all interwoven as memories of the narrator, Allen himself.

Once again, Allen makes a superb choice in using Mia Farrow in the comedic role of Sally the cigarette girl, struggling to make it as a singer. Again she displays her incredible versatility and ability as an actress. Viewers will come across many other familiar faces from Allen's films: Peter Castellotti from *Broadway Danny Rose* here plays double roles as the mobster that helps Sally out and the burglar that wins on "Name that Tune". Dianne Wiest from *Hannah and her Sisters* plays as Aunt Bea, whose sole purpose in life is to get married. Wallace Shawn who, among other roles, appeared in *Annie Hall*, portrays the le-

gendary Masked Avenger. Jeff Daniels from *Midsummer's Night Sex Comedy* appears as Jackpot Emcee.

Diane Keaton also does a cameo as a singer at a nightclub — my only complaint about the movie. I would have liked to see more of Keaton and for that matter Allen himself, for only his voice is heard.



Perhaps this complaint only serves to support what makes Woody Allen's films so incredible. The only problem that any audience could have with Allen's films is that the audience is left wanting more, whether it be telling us what's in store for Woody Allen's protagonists in films such as *Annie Hall*, after they have been left by their lovers or merely developing such characters as

Diane Keaton's singer.

Radio Days is another brilliant Woody Allen film — one that that particular generation will no doubt get misty-eyed over but that other's will find just as entertaining. Allen's humorous treatment of the family and the memorable character of Sally and the intriguing events of her life make *Radio Days* timeless.

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