

*The  
Stony  
Brook*

# PRESS

Vol. 9, No. 4 ● University Community's Feature Paper ● October 22, 1987



## Hot Seat

The 1988 Yankees will begin their season with a new manager, Billy Martin. The ever colorful George Steinbrenner has decided to put Martin back into his pinstripes, replacing Lou Pinella as skipper of the bombers. This will be the fifth time in 13 seasons that Martin has found himself in that position.

It all started back in August of 1975 when Martin began a three year term, winning 279 to 192 losses that year and capturing the American League pennant in 1976 and 1977. Towards the end of 1978 Steinbrenner forced him to resign after scuffles with Reggie Jackson and King George himself. He returned for most of the 1979 season but that stay ended when Martin slugged a marshmallow salesman and his players began to get worried. Steinbrenner called him back for the 1983 season, Martin finished third but his players hated him so George canned him, only to call him back again in 1985. Martin finished second but got loaded and began to punch people including Yankee pitcher Ed Whitson. George had no choice but to fire him.

Now he's back, it's unbelievable and irrational but expected, why should George change? It seems that he and Billy have a secret pact making it as difficult as possible for the Yankees to play effective baseball. They make it equally as difficult for New Yorkers to become interested in American League baseball. It will be hard for both the fans and players to approach the 1988 season with an optimistic outlook when George and Billy are calling the shots. For fear of reprisal no one has come out and publicly expressed discontent with Martin, however when he returned in

1985 both Don Mattingly and Dave Winfield made no bones about the fact that they were extremely annoyed. There is also an ongoing saga between pitcher Dave Righetti and Martin. Martin, wants Righetti to start, Righetti wants pitch in relief, Martin is stubborn, and Righetti is almost a free agent, bye Dave.

In addition the team as a whole was extremely happy playing for Lou Pinella. They were comfortable because he worked with his players, a style of management that Martin can't seem to comprehend.

Lou will now be the General Manager for the Yankees. He has absolutely no qualification for the job but now George can keep his strings attached for future manipulation. Lou is no fool though, he'll certainly take George's money but when George turns the heater on, Lou goes out to lunch.

Back to Billy Martin, on top of everything else the man has a drinking problem, there are no two ways about it. This is not to belittle him as a person, some of the best people are lusers. The difference is that he gets drunk and swings at anybody who reminds him of the time he struck out to end the game way back in '55. This could be dangerous to both the Yankee image and its players.

This change as well as all Yankee blunders, stems from Steinbrenner's inability to realize that you cannot order a player to do well. Martin is a disciplinarian, he expects 110 percent performance from all his ballplayers at all times. This is normal among major league managers, Martin however thinks that unless he instills this notion ballplayers won't do their job.

He cops the attitude 'they may not like me but they respect me,' they won't and neither will the fans. This is the attitude that keeps promising free agents from signing with the Yankees as well as creating a huge division between what should be a cohesive team.

This is indicative to how Steinbrenner wants a team run. He badgers his superstars when the team is losing, forgetting about his weak pitching staff or other factors which might contribute to a less than perfect year. He feels that because he pays *big bucks* he can keep a baseball team competitive in the A.L. East. He's wrong, and just about everyone tells him so, repeatedly. But George will be George and he feels that this is the reason he is in the position to call the shots, regardless of any sense of good judgement. Time and time again Steinbrenner has shown fans that absolutely nothing good comes from any situation he involves himself with. He is a spoiled brat who has enough money to get his way, which is the reason he rehired Martin. 13 seasons after Martin first became manager of the Yankees, Steinbrenner must feel that he will get exactly what he wants, control.

It is not inconceivable that Martin might pull a pennant out of his hat next year, he's done it before. In order to do so he'll need to take his collection of superstars and form them into a team. To do this he will have to swallow a lot of his pride so his team feels like they have a manager not a watchdog. Most importantly he has to shield himself and his players from Steinbrenner, a couple of words from George can kill the moral needed to win a pennant. It will be interesting to see what happens or in keeping with recent Yankee tradition who it will happen to.

*The Press welcomes your letters and viewpoints. Please mail them to The Press, room 020 Central Hall, or drop them off at the office.*

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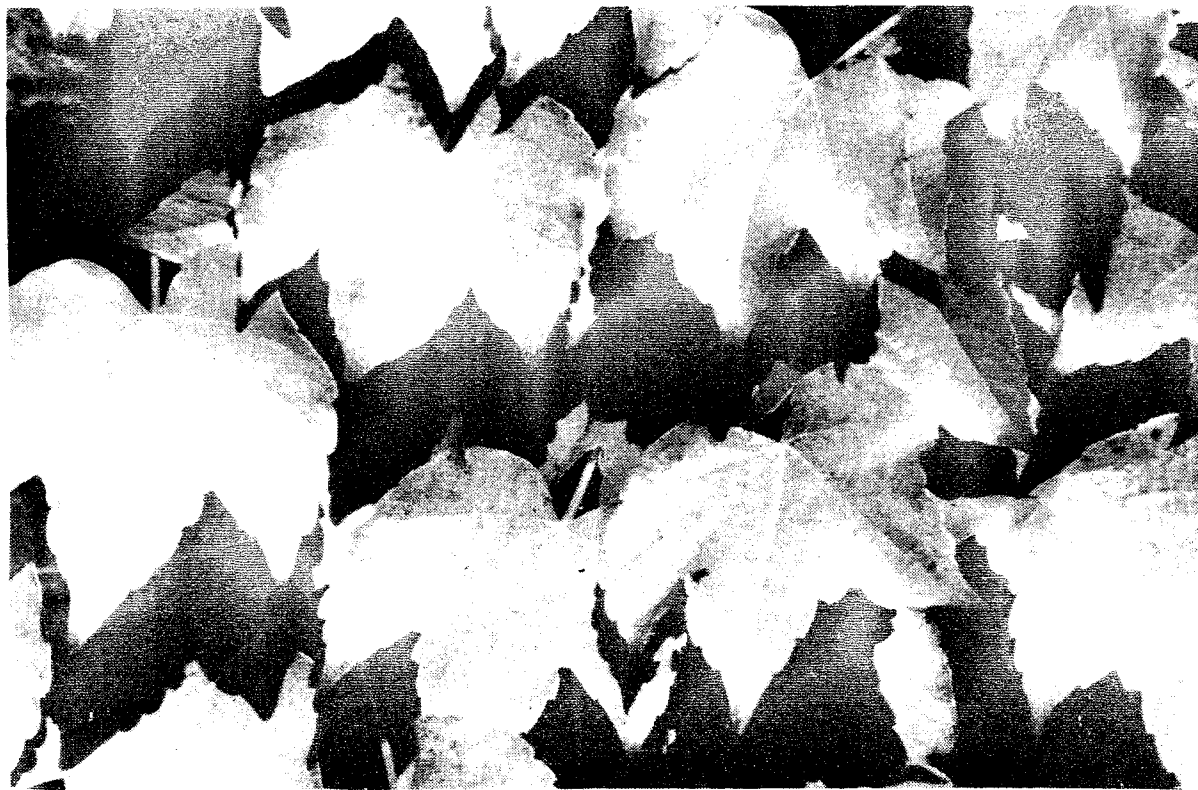


photo by Greta Guarton

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**Arts:** Joe Castelli, Karin Falcone, Mary Rafferty, Robert Rothenberg, Kyle Silber

**Graphics:** Alex, Artemis, Marc Berry, Gwen Burda, Ryder Miller

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Phone: 632-6451

Office:

Suite 020 Central Hall (Old Biology)

S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook

Stony Brook, NY 11794-2790

# Concerts 101— Vaccaro Quick on the Rebound

by Ryder Miller

Good news folks! More concerts are coming to Stony Brook. Frank Vaccaro, former SAB activities chairman along with other Stony Brook students has started a new club Concerts 101, which holds as its purpose, the promotion of live concerts of any kind. The first meeting took place in James Lounge last night, and some students from WUSB, SAB and SCOOP were present. There was a strong feeling of optimism that Concerts 101, working in conjunction with SAB, could dramatically improve life on campus.

**The prospects for Concerts 101 look good.** They have received strong support from Polity and the Commuter College. They plan to take advantage of all possible locations for shows on campus, such as residence halls, Tabler Cafeteria, etc...which allows less risky endeavors. And since alcohol is a low priority, more doors seem to be opening for them.

The big question is how will Concerts 101 deal with the problems that SAB faced, such as low attendance, even when the acts are of high quality. In the last month, Jello Biafra, ex-lead singer of the Dead Kennedys didn't sell out the Fine Arts Center, and Urban Blight, a New York ska band didn't sell out the ballroom. Is there really a

market at Stony Brook for no-name bands?

This remains to be seen, but there are many reasons for optimism. There are seventeen chairpersons, which means there are seventeen people running around putting up posters, whereas some of the aforementioned events failed due to not enough publicity plus Concerts 101 has chair-positions for Publicity and Advertising.

Another question is, will Concerts 101 like so many college organizations suffer internal political problems. The Constitution contains checks and balances, in which the president and the four concerts chairs can be overturned. The discussion stressed teamwork.

It should not be thought that Concerts 101 is an attempt to fight SAB. Hopefully these two groups will be able to work together to enrich Stony Brook life. Concerts 101 wants input from Stony Brook students and still needs dedicated people. Working with Concerts 101 will provide tremendous experience for anyone interested in the entertainment field. It is also a place to go if you want to see more music on campus. The next meeting will be at James College Lounge, 10 pm, Wednesday October 28th. Election for chair positions will be the following Wednesday, November 4th, in James Lounge at 10 pm.



STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
STUDENT UNION

State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York 11794  
(516) 632-6460

TO: The Council

FROM: Frank Vaccaro, Acting SAB Activities Chair

RE: My Resignation

DATE: October 15, 1987

I hereby resign from the position of SAB Activities Chair. I have no intention of protesting your decision to dismiss me last October 5th, nor would I like to see the Polity Senate protest that decision. I will remain active until Friday, October 23, 1987, or upon the appointment of a new chair before that date.

I found your apology curious and self serving. What function does a formal apology serve when a political organization acts in the best interests of its constituents? Indeed, if you like writing formal apologies stay on your present course of having unfocused objectives and unclear allegiances in this matter, then you will be able to draft a formal apology to all of the Activity Fee paying students of this university next April. Please discuss and determine clear goals and objectives for SAB in the future as all of your appointments will have a direct effect on the quality of campus life.

I want to thank Lisa Miller for not participating in this event.

FV/bjb

XC: Paul LaMantia  
Judi Segall  
Bill Fornadel  
Ed Quinn  
Carole Friedman  
Alan Inkle  
Irene Agostino  
Marcia Feldman

Frank Vaccaro's resignation.



## Senate Stuff

by Josyf Hayda

October 20, 1987—Polity Vice President Paul Rubenstein announced at a Polity Senate meeting tonight that the third round of Presidential elections will take place this coming Thursday and that a constitutional amendment will be included on the ballot.

The amendment, called for by Jeff Altman, proposes a new procedure be taken in the event of the vacancy of the presidency. It stipulates that in the event of an empty presidential office, the Vice Presi-

headed by Commuter College Senator Brett Kessler. The board, in concert with University officials, will attempt to rectify what students see are outdated buses, lack of adequate parking and bad roads.

"I've lost shocks on these roads," snapped Kessler, "these roads suck." The Senator also commented on the lack of adequate parking and the old buses. The campus buses are "older than the combined age of everyone in this room," he joked to the group of about forty.

### "I've lost shocks on these roads..."

## Letter

### Idiot

To the Editor:

Brian Wilson has to be an idiot. I don't care what you are protesting, be it against apartheid or the oppression of Soviet Jewry, you don't let yourself get run over by a

train.

I don't know about most people, but if I was laying down on a train track, and saw a train heading my way, I would move. It kind of seems obvious to me, especially since the person would get hurt more than the train.

So, I would like to remind all protestors: **Do not lay down in front of speeding trains.**

Richard S Cisak

dent would assume the presidency and elections will then be held for Vice President. The proposed amendment is an attempt to prevent what has happened this Fall from occurring again.

Vice President Rubenstein, who has been acting president since the former chief Gerry Shaps resigned said that holding both offices is both a conflict of interests and a huge burden.

In other action, the Senate decided to create a campus transportation board

Other items on the agenda included: A discussion on making available equal opportunities to all groups that wish to program events in the Union or Tabler cafeteria; Student Activities Board Chair's midsemester report and preview of upcoming events. Among them: —Jazz Artist Stanley Clarke this Saturday at the Fine Arts Center —Dance Band Lovin' Rocket on November 7th —Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait on December 5th —The Alarm on December 5th.

# Cruising Thru a Marine Science Cruise

by Joe Caponi

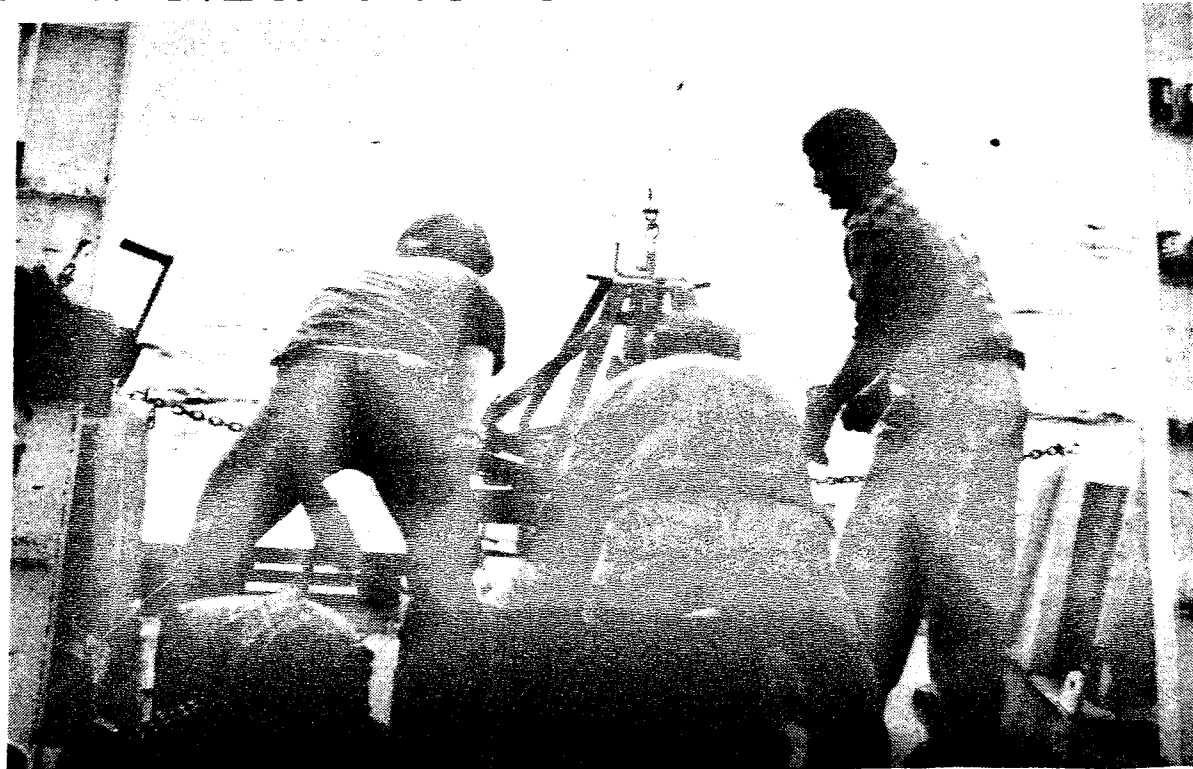
The bottom of Stony Brook's Marine Science research vessel, the *Onrust*, does not extend very deeply into the water. It was designed so the ship could operate in shallow seas. On sunny, windless days, such as last Thursday, this is not a problem, but when the wind and waves kick up in Long Island Sound, the *Onrust* will bounce around like so much balsa wood.

Such were the variety of conditions that students of Marine Science 101 were exposed to over the course of a week's worth of lab work. Through ten half-day cruises, groups of students collected sediment and marine organism samples from the bottom of the Sound.

Only a fortunate turn of events moved me to the Thursday morning cruise (calm, beautiful weather, the best of the week) from my originally scheduled Monday morning cruise (massive, hellish waves of sea-sickness). There were simply less people scheduled for Thursday. Several times in between, conditions were so poor that the *Onrust* was unable to venture into the Sound and instead did its research in the more sheltered waters of Port Jefferson harbor, where the *Onrust* is docked.

Organized by grad student Eric Hince, the cruises were led by the two co-professors of MAR 101— Bob Cerrato and Henry Bokuniewicz. On Thursday morning, Cerrato explained the procedures and goals of the sampling as the *Onrust*, captained by Christian Stuebe, motored out of Port Jefferson harbor.

Using a Smith-Mac sampler, a weighty metal device whose two halves close together when the sampler hits the sea floor and is pulled on a hoist, hunks of the bottom of Long Island Sound are pulled up onto the vessel. First, a sample of the raw sediment is saved, to determine the composition of the material, the amount of sand compared to the amount of mud, and to compare other samples taken at different locations. The *Onrust* visited a number of spots



**"Monday morning:  
massive, hellish  
waves of sea-  
sickness."**

from outside Port Jefferson all the way to the shore of Shoreham. Second, the sand and mud are washed away to concentrate the shells, fish, and animals that live there, so that the specimens may be studied.

In recent years, concern about the ecology of the oceans and coasts has increased dramatically as the results of their abuse has mounted. Pollution, the decline and disease in fish and shellfish populations, and their resulting effects on people have increased as an understanding of the importance and resources of the ocean has grown.

Even in a frosh-level Marine Science course, the effects of humans on the sea was evident. Cerrato pointed out that in last year's cruises, many clams had come up in the samples. This year, there were almost none, a result, Cerrato thought, of the overharvesting of the clams by Sound fishermen.

Even more seriously, Cerrato pointed out the layer of darkness in the air over Connecticut and the New York City area, pollution normally invisible except from the water.

Also that morning, MSRC researcher Sarah Horrigan took some water samples and measurements as part of a larger study of the Sound's characteristics. Part of this involved checking the oxygen level in the water. In many cases, pollutants and sewage can result in a large increase in the amount of phytoplankton in an environment, some times to such a degree that there is little or no oxygen left in the water for the use of fish and other larger organisms. Such conditions have already devastated marine environments in other areas of the United States coast, and Horrigan's measurements were part of an effort to determine the extent of the problem in the Sound.

On the ship, people quickly became accustomed to the gentle rocking of the waves, and any fears caused by the horror stories of cruises earlier in the week quickly dissipated. People concentrated on taking samples and having a good time. Even the shallow bottom of the *Onrust* wasn't a problem.

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# Dunn's Delaware Dispatches

by John Dunn

Hello, it's me again! You all didn't think that going to a university outside the state was going to prevent me from writing for the world's foremost feature weekly, did you? For those of you who weren't here last year, I'm attending the University of Delaware under the auspices of the National Student Exchange.

UD is located in Newark, DE and that's New-ark, not Nerwk as in New Jersey. It has about 15,000 students and is situated right in town, not isolated like USB. UD has one of the more bizarre team nicknames around: the Blue Hens. Not simple chickens, but **mean** chickens. To explain it briefly, the nickname came from the Delaware units that fought in the Revolutionary War, the same way Stony Brook received its nickname (Patriots for the uninformed) except that UD's is more, ummm, interesting.

My dorm is located on North campus which, you guessed it, is located north of the main campus. For \$1940 for the year (which includes free housing during winter session), I have myself a 10'x 12' single. It comes with carpeting, my own ac/heating controls (which actually work!) and other neat stuff including my own outside entrance. Being on the fourth floor (the top one), I have a high ceiling and a nice view of the trees from my balcony. Of course it doesn't have some of the features that Stony Brook has like lack of heat/hot water, cockroaches and lax security. Hey, ya can't have everything! In fact, the problem in my dorm is some of the rooms are too hot!

I knew that Delaware was going to be a bit more conservative than Stony Brook. I attended UD two years ago. However, I don't think that totally prepared me for my return. We're talking a place with ROTC. Is it me, or can the rest of you see people in military uniforms (and not as a fashion statement) walking around Stony Brook? Here it's Army ROTC that tents out, not protestors. I've also seen people wearing t-shirts supporting Ollie North. This is DuPont country, folks, and people follow that line of thought. (In fact, DuPont just gave 1.7 million to the university, 1.1 million of it for chemical engineering.) There is some alternative thought, however. One person here on the student newspaper wrote some liberal thoughts in a column which brought in some interesting letters. A classic sentence from one letter: "I opened the opinion page of the **Review** today and for a moment I thought I had picked up a copy of the 1968 **Kent State Review**." The column in mention had the audacity to criticize the ROTC people and the new university President's "Project Vision." The letter writers would probably put half of the **Press** staff in jail for writing subversive material.

The school's one and only paper, **The Review** is rather lame when compared to the **Press** and **Statesman**. The main reason to pick it up is to read Bloom County and the Far Side along with the personals. Between their executive editors, news editors, assistant editors and various other editors, they have more editors than the combined **entire** staffs of the **Press** and **Statesman**. I know of some colleges that have daily papers with staffs smaller than the twice-weekly **Review**. One doesn't write for the paper unless one

is taking the courses connected with it and they do things quite orderly/uppity. A look at the office door of the **Press**, let alone what's behind it would probably give them coronaries. It's a dull paper with no life, direction, or good writers.

Fortunately the campus radio station, WXDR (FM), is everything the **Review** is not. A month after I returned, I'm back on the air, Saturday mornings 6-8 am. (Well, I gotta start somewhere after taking a year off and it's not as bad as it sounds.) My first two shows have gone well with even **people calling in complimenting me on my show. Not bad for a Saturday morning!**

There's quite a few fraternities and sororities here (actually a lot worse than the fraternities at Stony Brook).



Newark, Delaware. At night.

have their housing. I won't say anything else about them other than I'm slowly working on an article relating greek life here to where it could go at Stony Brook, which should be intriguing given the housing proposals for greeks just made at Stony Brook.

I've heard a few things about Stony Brook thanks to having the campus papers reach me. Bob Francis resigned just as I predicted four months ago in the May 14th issue of the **Press**. (I know, it's just a coincidence.) Is it possible for Polity to go more than a few years without having the **elections mess up?** (remember, this is a campus that once elected a dog to office!) Of course some things never change at the Brook.

I saw that some scum decided that it would be fun to torch Tent City along with some other places. Glad to see that the grad students didn't let that stop them. People in Delaware couldn't believe what had happened at Stony Brook, including the Exchange people from around the country. Protests are unheard of at their campuses. I showed them back issues of the **Press** and **Statesman** so that it wasn't just my opinions coming across. The graduate affairs department at UD know of Stony Brook along with its protests.

Maybe this is just the thing the Administration can use as a promotional item to attract students to the University! Most of the grad students at UD receive tuition waivers with stipends starting at \$7,450 and going upward. Some of the rest get tuition waivers with all of the students on contract receiving free health insurance with the capability to add on their spouses/family for a relatively small fee. Compared to Stony Brook, very few of the grads actually teach courses, most are teaching or research assistants although you'll get them heading up lab sessions and working the math and writing centers.

Anyway, some of you may wonder why I returned to Delaware. It's not because a Public **Safety** hit squad was after me because of my last few articles, but because I wanted to get in a major not offered at Stony Brook and to take courses not offered at Stony Brook. Currently I'm a history education major (yeah, I'm history!) and am taking two education courses and a geography course, something SB doesn't exactly offer. I'd like to expand my horizons and have a more diversified background in education and the social sciences, so that's what I'm doing. For those of you who are curious, I'm also taking microeconomics and Spanish. Basically I'll be able to take all the courses I want and still only graduate Stony Brook a semester behind. Yes, I am considering a return to the Brook, surprise! Why, some of you are asking, after all that you've written criticizing Stony Brook, why would you come back? Well, it's kind of hard to turn down the chance to attend Stony Brook for free as opposed to paying thousands of dollars down here. After all, the teaching profession is where the big money is. A few people I know at SB have suggested that I'll end up on the Stony Brook faculty. I don't think so since I intend to be a teacher, not a researcher. It's the Administration I'm not overly fond of. I do feel that my department (History) is quite competent. I'll admit that I made a mistake in criticizing Helen Lemay of the department in my May 14th article; she's a very nice person. (No, I'm not saying this because I might be coming back. Read my articles, I'm not that type of person.)

I could probably write more, but I better leave some more for next time. I wonder how all the people attending Stony Brook from other schools under the National **Student Exchange** feel about the Brook. Hmmm, there's even a guy from UD who'll contradict everything I've said about it. Ah well, such is life. What do I miss about Stony Brook? The **Press**, Stony Brook Pretzel Service (Hello Lisa!), the Tent city people, the cost and one or two other things like the people I knew. On the other hand, not having to drive on Long Island and courses I can't take at Stony Brook help balance things somewhat. Now if only Stony Brook Pretzel gets into the mail order business...

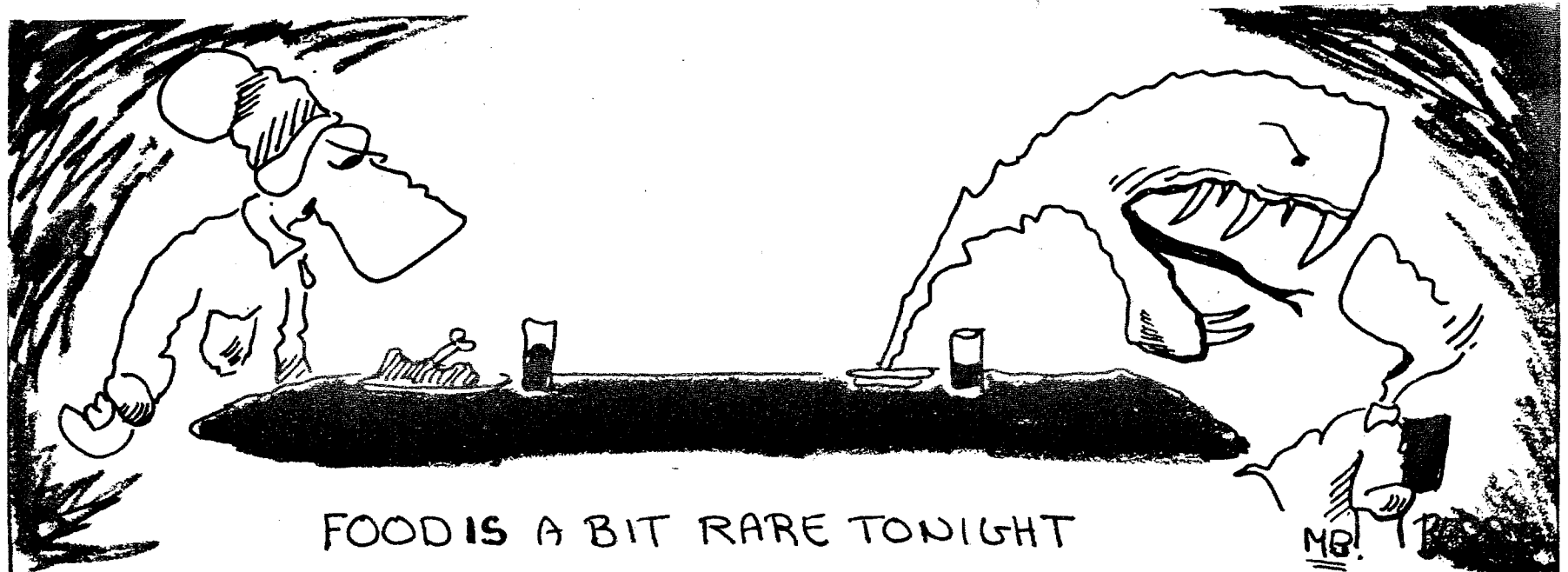
P.S. Feel perked up enough to write me a letter?  
Don't let my being at Delaware stop you.

I'll appreciate the mail!

John Dunn

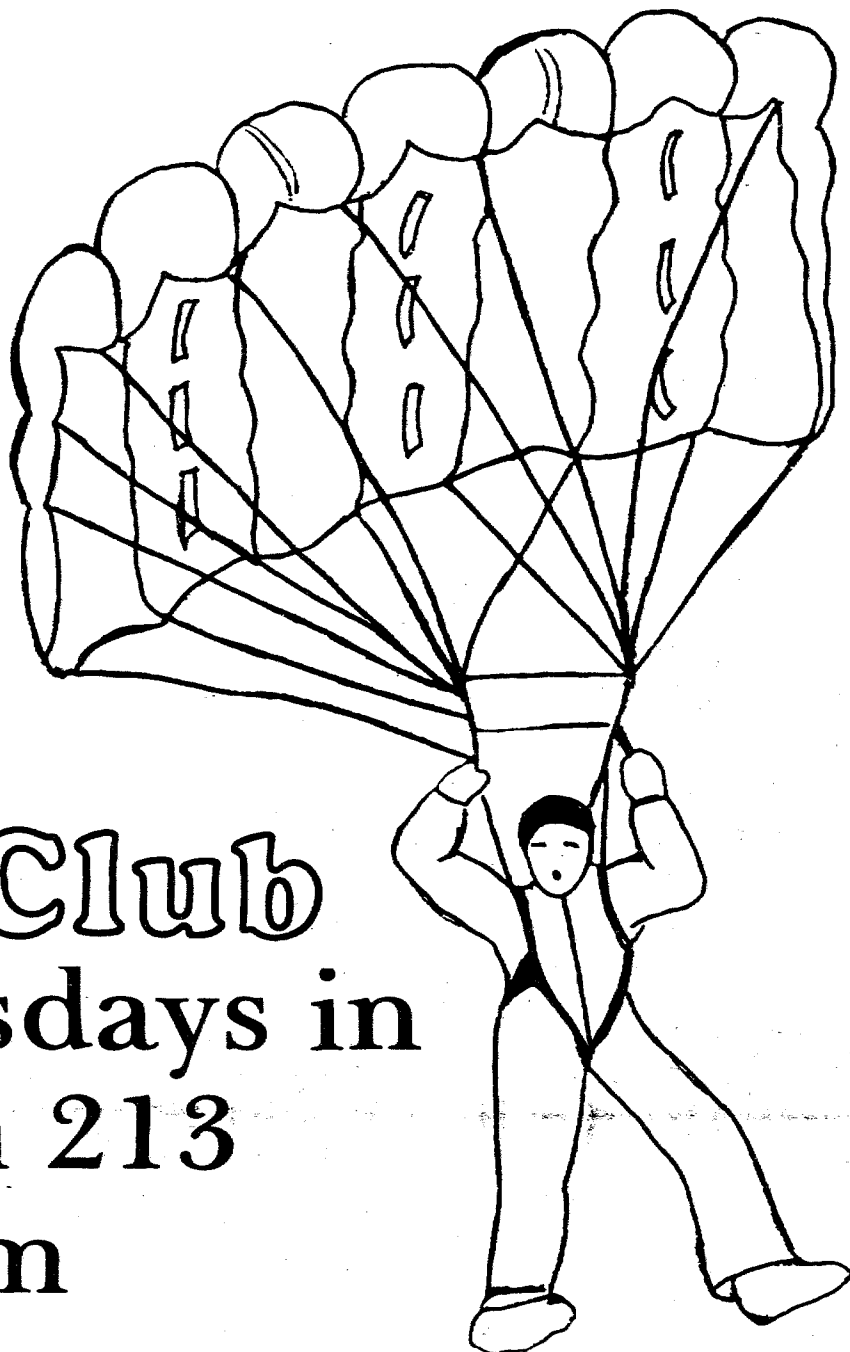
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## —Concert—

by Alexandra Odulak

For those of you who couldn't catch Suzanne Vega at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post last Monday (and I know you're out there), you shouldn't have missed it. Especially if you like a concert that's low-key, and somewhat mellow. Vega was introduced by Pere Fornatelli (WNEW-FM), who noted how she's been around for the past five years as a regular on a folk show aired on Saturday mornings. When I used to listen to that show I wondered why she wasn't on top of the charts. I assumed the music was too good.

Vega opened with "Tom's Diner", an instrumental, which set the mood with a cool, pleasing voice and dark lights. She followed with "Straight Lines", "Small Blue Thing", and "Cracking". The drummer kicked in more power for "Cracking", seriously funk up the tune. Later she played "Undertow", where the drummer outdid himself again, by knowing just when to put in an extra fill. He made "Undertow", a song about being sucked in (by what? I don't know...), sound almost danceable.

My other two favorites are a toss up between "Gypsy" and "Calypso", both from the second album. The story about "Gypsy" is about a radical from Liverpool that Vega meets while they're both camp counselors. In exchange for the song, Vega received his bandana. The song was done with only her acoustic guitar and her amazing voice. After that, "Calypso" came on which describes Calypso's point of view when Odysseus decides to return to his

wife; yeah, after seven years.

I still can't understand how a band can be so subtle, yet keep it so intense. Oh yeah—the band: Anton Senko on synthesizer, Mike Veseglia on bass, Steve Ferera on drums, Mark Schulman on guitar, and Shawn Coven on back-up vocals. Coven seemed kind of lost at times, but it wouldn't have been the same without her input, especially on "Gypsy" and "Iron Bound/Fancy Poultry".

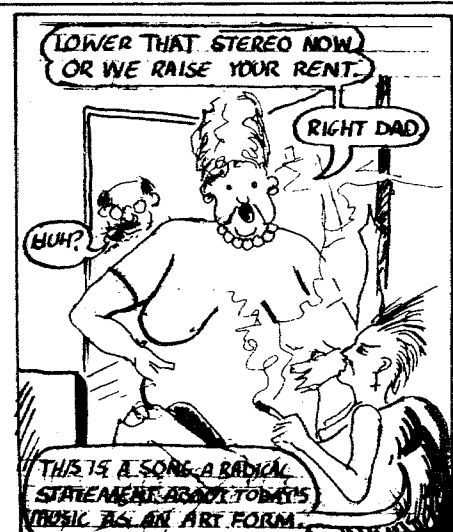
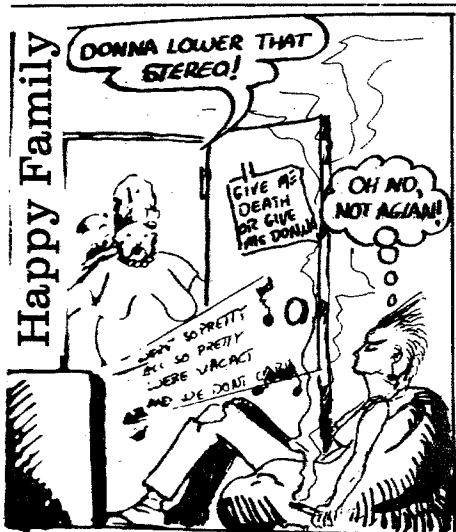
The other songs she played were a mix from both albums. The ones from the recent record though, were done with more of an upbeat tempo, the earlier songs kept rather mellow. And yes, she played "Luka" and "Left of Center", and yes, the crowd got excited.

Vega also did "The Soldier and the Queen" (with a backdrop of clouds on the screen that were a nice touch, slightly corny, but not overdone), "Solitude Standing", "If You Were to Kill Me", "Neighborhood Girls", and as the encore, "Marlene on the Wall".

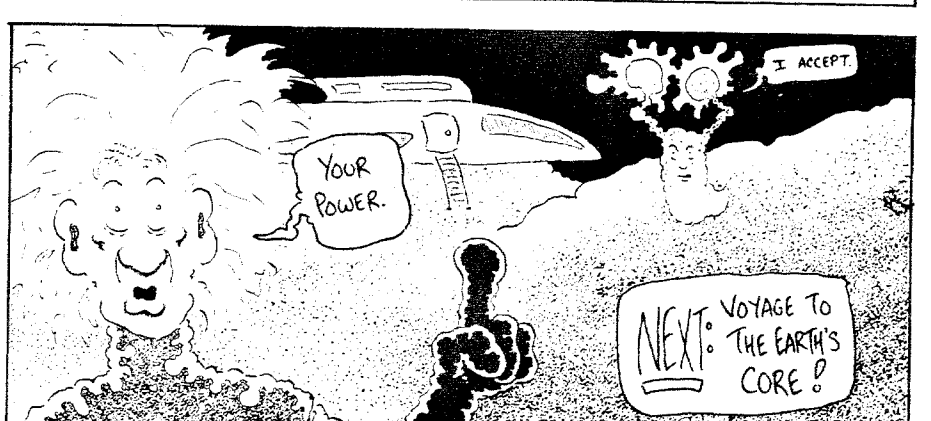
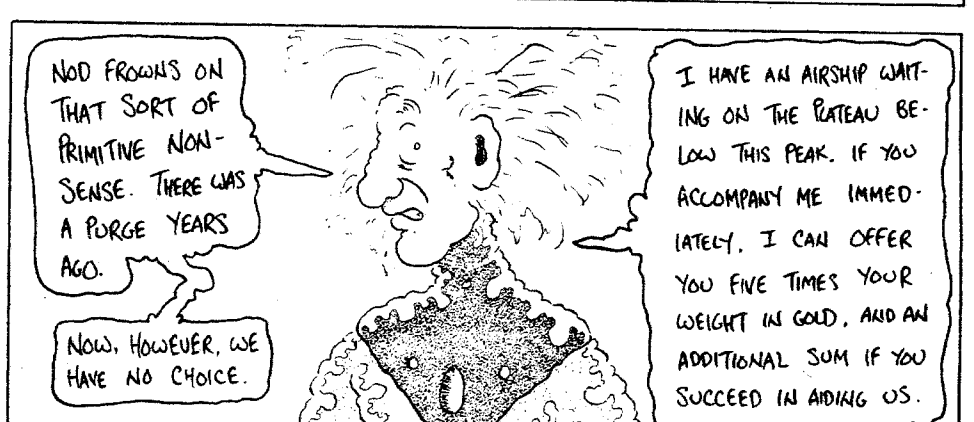
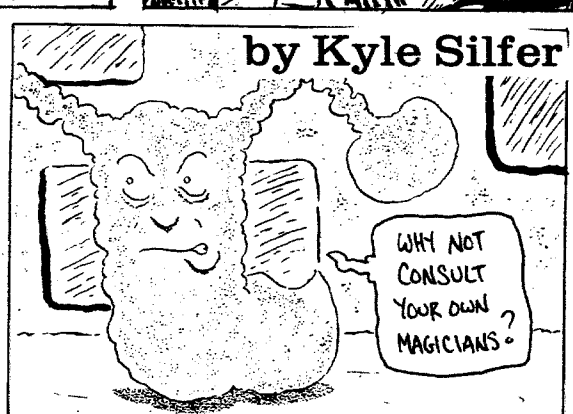
So if you haven't seen Suzanne Vega yet, get her albums, all two of them, and catch her next time around.

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## Tales of the Slug



## Concert

by Karin Falcone

Urban Blight, the New York based ska band rocked a partying Union Ballroom on Friday night in a concert broadcast by WUSB. No one missed Tokyo Joes for a minute.

The seven piece band came out late to a moderately sized, chemically altered crowd, ready to party. Gene, the lead singer, looked like a well-scrubbed cross between Max Headroom and Sting. His surprisingly rich voice poured over the packed dance floor. People writhed and hopped and there was even a little mock-slamming. A baseball cap flew around a bit, and a sweaty guy wearing drab colors nearly stole the show with his fluid, slow-motion dancing. In my own chemically altered trance I found my body doing all kinds of strange things—its own poor excuse for dancing. But every one was having so much fun that I stopped worrying about how stupid I looked.

The band had fun, too. They were celebrating the birthday of their guitarist, who told a nifty little ditty of their East Side roots and a jogging suit over a strong dance beat. It was such a good story that everyone cooled down to listen, til the next song when Gene started wailing and the crowd started thrashing again.

The brass section was great. It offered the welcome novel punch that most Stony Brook ears are unaccustomed to. The band's New York background made them sound as much like the Fleshtones as Madness, but it was their mastery of the kind of percussion that moves your feet for you which made the entire thing the blowout it was. I was simply too trashed to analyze the joyful noise they made. There was no beer served, so caffeinated bubbly was had by all interested parties. It only made my knees shake more during the raucous encore, a blistering number called "Escape from Reality." It made up for the Saints abusive,

# URBAN BLIGHT



photo by Ed Bridges

four song pseudo-set of a few weeks ago twice-over. I had an amazing time.

I guess I loved the show because Urban Blight is so good at getting everyone

partying, and unlike Tokyo's trash, their music had a semblance of originality and a U-Haul load of good taste. All the meat market trappings of Tokyo's went home on

the 4:18. If you missed them on campus, by all means see Urban Blight. Wear sneakers and clothes that the sweat won't show through.

## On Film

by John Gabriel

How does True Love triumph over the Cliffs of Insanity and the Pits of Despair? Although that's what **The Princess Bride** is purportedly about, you won't learn the answer there. The Cliffs, for instance, are just cliffs, rather easily climbed, and not the same Cliffs of Insanity most modern lovers are familiar with. The Pits are just pits, and the True Love is vacuous. But its fun to watch, and it almost works on its own anachronistic storybook level.

Rob Reiner has a reputation for making good, not great, films. Modesty is part of his style; he never overwhelms you. In **The Princess Bride** he plays modestly with anachronisms—Wallace Shawn's "Wiz-zini" cites a list of classic blunders which includes, "Never get involved in a minor level war in Asia"—but he never takes the final step that might overwhelm; he never brings True Love up to date.

Here it is a G-rated version of love that not even eight-year-olds believe anymore. The princess falls in love with a farmboy who never says anything but, "As you wish." Why? Does she like slavish men? And when she learns that he is still alive, though she thought him dead five years, it never bothers her that he didn't send a note. The point is there's no friction—no spark—between them, and if one is left with an "Is that all there is?" feeling at the end, perhaps it is because one can't imagine what their later life will be. Their idea of love, despite all the action in the film, is like David Byrne's Heaven: it's a place where nothing ever happens.

The minor characters are the ones who bring this film to life, probably because they have better lines, especially Wallace Shawn, Mandy Patinkin, and Andre the

# Princess Bride



Giant as the brigands who kidnap the princess. Andre the Giant can't act, but he's a likeable presence, Mandy Patinkin has an enjoyable flair and Wallace Shawn is a royal pisser as their leader. He's like a weird cross between Billy Barty and Henry Kissinger, and he shows a surprising relish for scumminess that I didn't think he possessed, worthy of **Taxi's** Danny DeVito. It's a pity he gets killed off so early.

Frankly, I don't know why Billy Crystal is receiving so much praise for his cameo as Miracle Max. It's merely his Old Jew routine with heavy make-up, but Peter Cook is wonderful as a befuddled clergyman. He moves with the slow, overformality of a bureaucrat and his mouth hangs agape in an otherwise deadened face; he looks like a surprised corpse.

For a Hollywood fantasy film, the special effects and the action sequences are amazingly low-key. At times you can almost see the edging of the matte overlays, but that's O.K.; it's a perfect complement to the film's let's-make-believe storybook tone. Virtuosic sword fights and melodramatic grandeur might have weighed the film down too much. After all, as Steve Martin said, "Comedy isn't pretty." There's a lot of ineptness in the special effects, costuming and editing, but it's occasionally redeemed by some really hilarious ugliness, like Carol Kane's make-up.

The truth is **The Princess Bride** doesn't really work on any level it attempts. It attempts so much, though, that it wins the audiences' good-will anyway. If you're in the mood for a great film, and can't find one—there being an atrocious scarcity of great films lately—you might want to consider **The Princess Bride** as an enjoyable substitute.

go down  
walk around  
talk last

and talk fast  
move by  
on the fly

pass go  
no show  
can you read

can you feed  
know less  
or read The Press