

THE  
STONY  
BROOK

# PRESS

Vol. 9, No. 14 ● University Community's Weekly Feature Paper ● Apr. 25, 1988



**"We Shall Come into Control of an Utterly Ruined Land"**

# SUITE NOTHINGS IN YOUR EAR

The Joint Minority Statement that you see on this page is only one of the many attempts made by minority clubs to pound into the Polity Council's skulls the fact that minority clubs do, in fact, exist, that these clubs are aware of the infinite potential that Polity has to effect positive change, and that this potential is not being lived up to.

These clubs' oft maligned tactics are a reaction to the slamming of the Polity suite door in their faces. Something is wrong with Polity; that's been a common feeling of late, felt by not just the minority clubs and organizations. But when these students show some interest, some initiative in trying to change the situation for the better, they are scoffed at, they are cursed, they are told that they don't really know what it takes to write a budget.

When these people try to find out what it does take, they are told that "now is not the proper time to discuss this matter." When they ask when the proper time is, they are told, "later, after the budget is approved, we'll show you how we did it."

But when will that time come? Will it make a difference? Many clubs were told that they should have voiced their concerns at the budget sub-committee hearings, held on Polity home field, where they were allowed to grovel in front of an appointed assistant treasurer for money. We should know, the Press is subjected to the same process.

But the concern of the members of these clubs [many of which fall under the Cultural and Special Interests (CSI) sub-head of the budget] is not simply why their own budget was cut, but the entire process of recognizing and funding any Polity club. These people are outraged at the arbitrary, and often half-baked, methods used to allocate money and grant line budgets. They are even more outraged when they are cut short when questioning those methods. When

## JOINT MINORITY STATEMENT

Tonight, if certain individuals are unhappy, we will assure them that some of us here certainly are. Despite the discomfort to those who are not used to being disturbed in their haven, we are certain that this senate meeting reflects, thanks to us Minorities, the closest this association has ever come to a functioning democracy.

Let us though, get straight to the point. We are here today to relay a consensus established yesterday by the Minorities, meeting in general assembly in the UNITI Cultural Center. The primary aim of this united front, is to make it crystal clear to Polity that its policy to divide and isolate certain clubs, through the granting of merger favors, is no longer valid, and we have not come here, each club separately that is, to beg for anyone's charity. We have come here as students to participate in the redistribution of more than one million dollars of students' funds, a process which had always been the personal business of four or five individuals.

1. We ask that Polity stop making the use of digression to circumvent real debate and to cease the defilement and all defamatory campaigns undertaken against any organization, whatsoever.

2. We accuse and condemn, the utilization of agents of Public Safety, by Polity officials, to harass the students. If Polity is to be salvaged by this Referendum on the 26th of April, this can only be achieved through its ability to convince the students that it is in their best interests to fill up the coffers of this association.

3. Polity is an association of students. The internal structure of this organization, uniquely and completely, depends upon the students and we will never, before any impasse, accept a unilateral or even a compromise decision from the Vice President of Student Affairs, as it is increasingly appearing.

4. Thus, we ask Polity to not try to converge the discussion, around this latest detour, in the disguise of a proposal, nearing even dishonesty, conceived by our eccentric treasurer, Ms. Lisa Miller, and proposed by her at our meeting last night.

5. We demand a revision of the entire budget and a redistribution process following a more just and precise proportion, and that this no longer be at the mercy of four or five individuals who, depending on their state of mind and humour, decide upon the fate of all the organizations.

Thus we will be able to avoid a disgrace, a nonsense, and injustice, as has been the case for the Chinese Association at Stony Brook, the Gospel Choir, the Latin American Student Org., etc..

violently opposing the \$35,600 spending cap for all at last week's Senate meeting, these people were told that a Senate meeting was not the place or the time to talk about the budget ceiling.

There couldn't have been a better time. Everyone was there: the Council, hundreds of club members, the Executive Director of Polity, the Vice President of SASU. What excuse could the Senate possibly

have for not explaining the budget process when everyone involved was in the same room at the same time? Opportunities like that don't come often, and cutting discussion of policy short is no way to convince students that the Council is doing its job.

After last Tuesday's explosion of tension between the screaming Paul Rubenstein and the outraged members of CSI clubs, Alan Livingston, a commuter Senator and President pro tem of the Senate, chaired this Tuesday's meeting, in an effort to clear the air of the intense, and nearly unanimous, animosity towards Rubenstein. Still, Livingston had his hands full as club after club furiously attacked Polity's first attempt at satisfying everybody: a 2.5% budget cut across the board; the money (about \$8000) to be redistributed on the basis of clubs' appeals. As one club leader said, "We don't want to be fighting over crumbs."

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## About the Cover

The cover is a photograph of Dresden, Germany, taken in February 1945 after the bombing of the city by the British RAF. Dresden was not a military or industrial center; the bombing was purely for the purpose of terror tactics against the German citizens.

The caption is a quote from a memorandum written by Winston Churchill to his Chief of Air Staff Charles Portal after the bombing: "...the question of bombing German cities simply for the sake of increasing the terror... should be reviewed. Otherwise we shall come into control of an utterly ruined land. We shall not, for instance, be able to get housing material out of Germany for our own needs because some temporary provision would have to be made for the Germans themselves."

## —Letters—

### Schultz Suckz

To the Editor:

We all should commend Secretary of State George Shultz's work for peace around the world—in the Middle East, South America, everywhere except Ireland.

Shultz has presented a peace plan in the face of the killing of people by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but what about the British government's terrorist acts at Jalta and the terrorist killings of innocent civilians at IRA funerals?

A government that takes part in these actions is a terrorist government. As surely as there is a God in heaven, Maggie Thatcher will have to answer for the Irish death by British soldiers. What an awesome thought.

John Gilheany  
Bethpage, NY

### I Resign

As per my action at the Polity Senate meeting of 19 April 1988.

There are various groups of students, without any obvious discouragement from you are demanding monies from the Student Polity threatening demolition of the corporation.

satisfied. They demand the corporation to do the impossible.

Their arguments are in short, asinine. Their gossamer accusations are mindless, libelous to the corporation, probably and (despite their preaching) detrimental to the process of democracy.

Even when steps are taken to resolve the grievances of these students, in a fashion most desirable to the democratic process, through a referendum determining the will of the Student Polity and literally putting money where their mouths are, they were not

Their understanding of parliamentary procedure is highly selective, insofar as comprehension fails when it is not conducive to their cause.

How can I stay objective when such performances are presented and given credence? My charge as Parliamentarian of the Student Polity is to make objective rulings. Objectivity is an indispensable virtue in the fulfillment of such a charge; it is a charge you yourself suggest I abandon. I can no longer be objective and therefore must, and do hereby resign as Parliamentarian of the Student Polity.

I suggest that Mr Jeffery Altman replace me as Parliamentarian of the Student Polity. I hope and pray that this learned gentleman has the strength to retain his objectivity in the face of the farce that the above mentioned group is attempting to make of the Student Polity and the democratic process.

Bill Fox  
Polity Parliamentarian

### Support SASU

To the Editor:

On the behalf of the GSO Senate, I wish to inform the campus community that the Senate and the Executive Committee have overwhelmingly voted to endorse the upcoming Referendum for the State University Students Association (SASU). We believe that continued support of SASU is necessary if we are to keep our concerns and our issues alive in Albany. As a state-wide organization dedicated to lobbying the New York State Legislature on our behalf, SASU is our voice—and a most effective one at that. For example, SASU's continued struggle to keep tuition hikes at bay have benefited all of us, but especially the undergraduate population. Last year, SASU's efforts helped the SUNY system obtain much needed money for child care services. And SASU is always looking out for the rights of student residents.

On a more local level, SASU representatives work very hard to bring people together and help us fight our local battles. Their assistance and advice has been invaluable to the GSO this year. For all of these reasons, we are glad to have the opportunity to support SASU in this way. We hope you agree. Remember: Undergraduates, be sure to vote on April 26. Graduate students, be sure to send in the ballots you will be receiving in the mail next week.

For the Executive Committee,  
Sandra Hinson  
Secretary

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The Stony Brook Press is published most 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. For more information on advertising call at 632-6451.

Staff meetings are held weekly in The Press offices on Monday nights at approximately 7:30 pm.

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

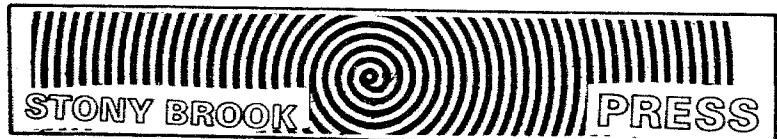
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# Where Has All the Money Gone?

## CARA Holds Out for Change

by Quinn Kaufman

The Chapin Apartments Residents Association (CARA) has opened a \$65,000 escrow account with rent money collected from Chapin residents, in a continuing protest against the poor conditions of the Chapin Apartments.

The University has proposed a 4.4% rent increase, and the rent money will not be released to the Bursar's office until the Administration comes up with satisfactory negotiating terms regarding improvement of the Chapin complex. Ramona Vogt, Chairman of CARA, said CARA has also demanded a total rent freeze.

Dr Fred Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs, told CARA he will not support the rent freeze and that he feels no pressure to act because of the strike. Vogt suggested to Preston that no reprisals be taken against students who participated in the strike. She said Preston replied that students will be responsible for their actions.

However, Steven Scofield, Secretary of CARA, said, "We don't care if he [Preston]

supports us. We want a rent freeze." CARA intends to continue striking until immediate action is undertaken into Chapin's parking and heat and hot water problems.

CARA also believes that since Preston had previously lowered the rent increase from 10% to 4.4% by subsidies there is no reason why Preston can not subsidize even more money and bring the rent increase down to zero. Strike participant Christian Kober explained referring to his sub-standard apartment, "When you buy a car and get a bicycle, you don't pay for it."

Since the strike began, the University has been prompted into action. Preston has already begun work on Chapin's inadequate parking lots. He has advised Gary Matthews, Director of the Physical Plant, to analyze new potential parking spaces and their costs.

Matthews said he plans to provide approximately fifty new parking spaces to tenants and that a new lot, behind Chapin where a VA Hospital is under construction, is being considered. According to Matthews



Chapin residents rally in front of the admin. building April 15 to protest poor living conditions.

the cost per space is \$1000. However, said Matthews, "Preston gave no deadline on the project but if the contract plans flow smoothly, the parking problem may be alleviated by September of 1988." Strike ne-

gotiation includes CARA's demand that the University create adequate parking spaces.

Until additional parking spaces are pro-

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# New Chancellor Named

## President of Buffalo State to Run SUNY System

by R. Sienna

An anonymous SUNY Central source leaked the name of the new SUNY chancellor chosen by the SUNY Board of Trustees search committee to the Times last Friday. D. Bruce Johnstone, currently president of SUNY Buffalo, was chosen by the board April 8, who will vote officially on the selection Wednesday. Of all 15 trustees, only the student trustee opposed Johnstone's appointment.

The SUNY Board of Trustees tried to call an emergency meeting April 13th—a week ahead of the scheduled board meeting—to vote on the new Chancellor of the SUNY system. The meeting failed to make quorum. The scheduled meeting, which should attract student groups from all over the state, will take place in Albany at 8:30 on Wednesday.

The Board, composed of one student (the SASU President) and fourteen Trustees appointed by the Governor, is also expected to propose that a mandatory "athletic fee" be imposed state-wide. The Trustees are not known for being particularly responsive to the students' wishes; few have graduated from any SUNY school, many are corporate heads and Cuomo campaign contributors.

SUNY hasn't had a Chancellor since Feb. 1987, when Clifton Wharton resigned. Jerome Konvisar, SUNY Vice Chancellor, has been running SUNY since that time. The Board's search committee, who chose Johnstone, is mainly SUNY Central administrators and Trustees; one faculty member and one student sit on the committee. All of the committee's considerations are confidential, but fortunately for students, not confidential enough. Student groups from all over the state are expected

to show at Wednesday's meeting to voice their concern over the Johnstone's appointment.

The Board of Trustees is also under pressure from students to vote against a proposed athletic fee that would fund varsity sports and SUNY schools. The proposal was defeated in 1984 (after being opposed by all the student members of Cuomo's Quality of Life Task Force). Arlette Slachmuylder, SASU Vice-president, said that there has been "no student support for this issue" since it was first proposed in 1982. Currently, only Buffalo State, with Johnstone's backing, supports the fee. A referendum, designed as a litmus test of student opinion on the fee, was held at SUNY New Paltz recently; the students there overwhelmingly voted against the proposed fee. That referenda is in no way binding upon the Trustees or the Administration of New

Paltz.

The proposal, if passed, allows SUNY schools to impose the fee at the Administrators' discretion. "They're not mandating it state wide," Slachmuylder said. She maintained that SUNY Central officials approve of the fee because, in their view, there are problems with the current, student-controlled funding of varsity athletics. But, "They couldn't outline funding problems as they exist," Slachmuylder said.

Students, many from Buffalo State, will also be at the Board meeting next Wednesday to protest SDI research at SUNY schools. New York State Legislation dictates that all research at SUNY schools must be made public. The SDI research at Johnstone's Buffalo Campus, for example, is confidential, effectively breaking state law.

# Worshipping the Product

## I-CON VII and the Iconography of SF



"I have a mouth and I must scream."  
author Harlan Ellison at I-CON

by Kyle Silfer

Last weekend, Javits Lecture Centre held within its carcinogenic bowels a vast, swarming hive intelligence devoted to the veneration of a peculiar subsection of popular culture. The event was I-CON VII, and from Friday afternoon to Sunday night, fans of science fiction film, television, comics, and literature filtered methodically through corridors and lecture halls to see and be seen by the objects of their adulation. Films were shown, autographs signed, merchandise bought, and egos stroked: it was, in short, a typical science fiction convention.

Panels featuring actors, authors, scientists, artists, and filmmakers broke up the general chaos with fairly coherent discussions of subjects like "Designing Alien Cultures" and "Breaking into Filmmaking." Time not spent listening to these debates was easily occupied by exploring the two dealers' rooms, watching ongoing movies,

or frequenting the various specialty booths cluttering the hallways.

The I-CON guests were, like the science fiction field itself, a contradictory omnium-gatherum comprised of differing sources and influences. There alongside widely-recognized authors like Harlan Ellison, James Morrow, Barry Malzberg, and Poul Anderson were television actors Anthony Ainley (*Doctor Who*) and Adam West (*Batman*). Comics professionals Chris Claremont and Michael Kaluta jostled for complimentary sandwiches with theoretical physicists and low-budget filmmakers. It was a thematically undifferentiated convention (effectively organized by Stony Brook graduate student Ralph Schiano and a cast of dozens), welcoming best and worst, literate and illiterate, indiscriminately.

The controversial Harlan Ellison ("A Boy and His Dog," "Repent, Harlequin" Said

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# Rent Strike

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vided to residents, CARA said Public Safety should not ticket cars in Chapin who have stickers. According to Scofield, "We are being ticketed unfairly because we have no where else to park." One Public Safety officer, who requested anonymity, said, "Officers are unaware of any ticketing restrictions. We have a set policy of ticketing and towing that rarely deviates."

CARA plans to use its bargaining power in order to get new spaces. Scofield said, "If they help us by creating new spaces, we'll help the Administration. We'll tell our residents once new spots are provided, that if you are ticketed it's your problem. But until then no ticketing."

Matthews, who is also in charge of residential buildings' heat and hot water operation said he knows "that Chapin residents are concerned about having no heat and hot water for another winter." Preston has taken action into the matter and advised Matthews to increase the speed of the ma-

ior renovations, including the installation of new insulating aluminum siding. The renovation was estimated to be completed in two years. Preston also suggested that methods be undertaken to reduce heat and hot water problems, while the major renovations are underway.

In accordance Matthews made plans to install larger hot water pumps in the mechanical room, which will increase the flow of heat. Matthews said, optimistically, "I'm almost certain that by next semester, everyone in Chapin will have sufficient heat and hot water."

Another reason CARA is striking is because they feel the new \$17 per month Rolm phone should be made optional.

The University has a seven year contract with Rolm and according to Vogt, Preston said students do have an option; they can have a Rolm or no phone. Although unsatisfied with Preston's decision, Vogt said, "This is the best we're going to do at this time."

Elizabeth Beu, Chapin Housing Assistant Director, said, "The Rolm phone issue should not be dealt with in the Chapin strike, because it's an entirely different matter."

Concerning the actual strike, Beu said, "Chapin residents have legitimate complaints, but they're not being specific in their negotiations with the Administration. They are too general." Matthew agreed and

said although striking is a drastic measure, "I respect the graduates for what they are doing. I appreciate their efforts of bringing their concerns to our attention. They've already made some significant gains. They have motivated the Administration into action. Major renovations will take place in the next two years, which would not have taken place if there was no strike. However," he added, "I don't believe in their striking method and I wish them luck."

## Clean-up Time

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Even worse, the Senate failed to make quorum (the minimum number of Senators needed to be able to vote on the budget), and so all the appeals so laboriously heard Tuesday are meaningless. The Senate was powerless to change a single item on the budget. To top it all off, after most of the appeals were heard, Parliamentarian Bill Fox, who resigned the following day, ruled that the universal budget cut was invalid because it had been passed by the Council, but not by the Senate (who couldn't pass it; no quorum). It is incredible that a governing body that refused to discuss their actions "because there's no time" wasted the time of several hundred students because the Senate didn't make quorum. Is it so difficult to show up to the most important Senate meeting of the year?

In an effort to placate the angry groups, after accomplishing nothing in three hours, the Senate passed a motion to place referendum on the Tuesday ballot that, if passed, would spend \$1.25 of each student's activity fee on CSI clubs. The money (about \$22,000, depending on the number of students paying) would be allocated by a committee comprised of reps from every CSI club. That motion does not address the minority groups' real problem: they are ignored by Polity, the campus media, the Administration, and the white majority. These groups don't need legislation, they need recognition and acceptance.

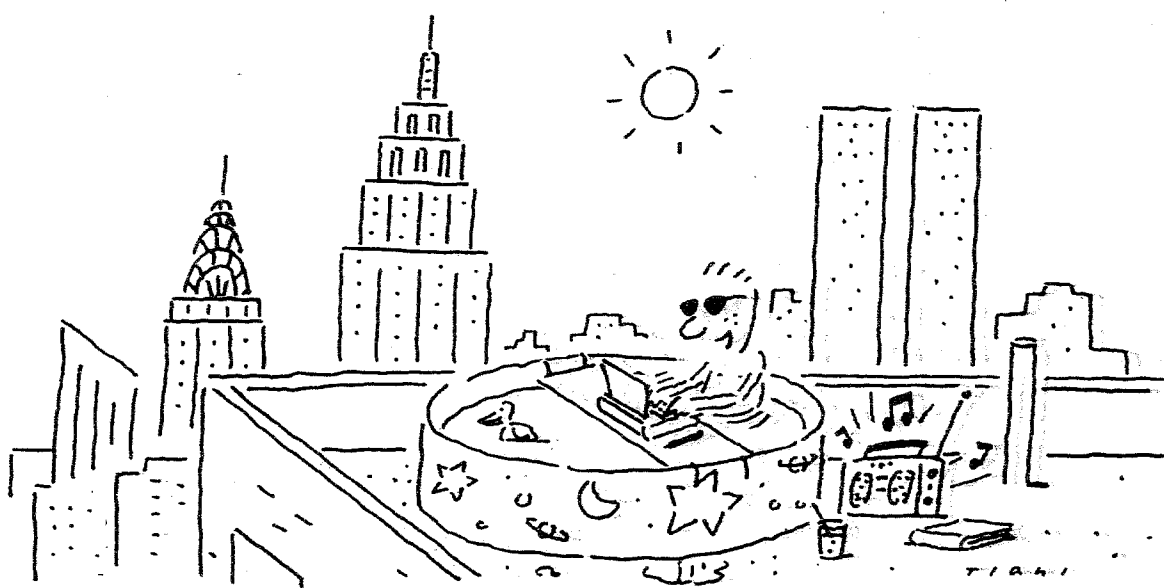
That recognition is slowly coming. These groups are making their presence known. For the first time in a long time, there is a real chance that the mandatory student activity fee referendum will be voted down. If the fee is voluntary, Polity's budget (Polity's projected budget for next year is \$1,053,400) will be slashed in a big way. If you don't have to pay, why pay? Especially when the general student body democratically voted it down. The vote Tuesday is the power to dissolve Polity completely. The end of the money.

Next year could be a barren one. Even if the activity fee remains mandatory, as it should, there is a vacuum in student leadership right now. The new council, whomever is elected, may keep the distribution channels open, but that is the smallest part of what Polity should do. Distributing money is machine work. The division on this campus right now is unbelievable. It is Polity's explicit duty to rally the students on this campus together. The polarization of student groups can not go unnoticed; it is a problem that needs to be taken seriously, not swept aside in a flurry of memos.

What you must do—that means every student—is make your presence known. Make sure that the Senator you elect in your building goes to the Senate meetings, and tells you what happened. Tell your Senator to pressure the Secretary to distribute minutes of both Council and Senate meetings as soon as possible. That way you know what these people are doing on a weekly basis.

There's power in numbers. Last year fewer than 2000 students voted in the elections. It doesn't take many votes to be a majority. If the people elected to office this year don't fill that leadership vacuum, and take Polity past the machinations of money distribution, put your own candidates on the ballot. It only takes 400 signatures on a petition to get a candidate on the council ballot, and not many more votes to put that candidate in office. Six or seven hundred votes is all it takes to make a clean sweep of the Council offices. The clout and the chance are there, use them.

A people only become a minority when they allow themselves to be ignored by a majority. Do not be ignored.



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# Primary: Pathetic Passions? Is Dukakis Really Alive?

by Bones

In the presidential contest, issues matter, but electability and elan are more important in our TV generation. Any question that can't be averted is filed under "no comment" or "I can't answer that now."

All three Democratic candidates feel the personal income tax ceiling should be re-adjusted. Jackson feels it should be raised back to 38.5%, a move that would lift a cool \$20 billion from the 600,000 wealthiest US citizens. Dukakis and Gore feel it should be raised, but "no specifics please."

All want dialogue in the Middle East. All want more jobs, more social justice, and each has a desire to improve Health Care (most European countries already have some form of nationalized health care). So what? The question is, then, who could get anything resembling a Democratic platform through the quagmire called Congress who has some personality, and a clean record.

That's why the right person to vote for in the primary was Michael Dukakis. He won. He is both progressive (with his new health insurance bill enacted in Massachusetts) and a very average, polished man (he attended Swarthmore College, won the "Peaslee Fellowship" and published an article called "States and Children"). And he served in the Mass State Leg for almost 18 years. Eight as a Representative and ten as a Governor! He has experience. His eyebrows are testament to his thinking abilities. But I've never seen him raise his voice, get mad, have an opinion, answer a touchy question, move his hair, open his eyes, or sweat. Is Michael Dukakis really alive?

He is very smart though, or at least less scary than Bush who feels, "In higher education today, the question is just as much access as it is quality—economic access." You figure it out.

Dukakis and Gore both attended Howard and Bush went to Yale (Phi Beta Kappa, of course). Jesse attended the U of Illinois on a football scholarship and finished at North Carolina A and T State. He was ex-director of King's, Operation Breadbasket, while Bush was president of Zapata Oil Company (fresh out of Harvard, a pre-made

man). Jesse has been heavily criticized for the financial difficulties of Operation Push, of which he was National President. I ask you, what volunteer humanitarian organization is sound financially?



Down home with Jesse Jackson. Would you buy a used campaign from this man? Would you let him marry your sister?

The answers to these and other questions next week...

Jackson has gone to India to study the nonviolent methods of reconciliation between master and slave. He's studied under Martin Luther King Jr. He feels "there are two extremes—one—the cost we pay for not educating our

children. Four years to a SUNY school, full academic scholarship, \$25,000 or less—the other—four years sentencing in NY \$120,000, at Attica \$160,000. It costs less to invest in teachers than jail wardens...Let us have the reasoning and cost efficiency to invest in Head Start, pre-natal and day care on the front side of life, rather than jail care and welfare on the back side."

He's ALIVE!

He's not a stone faced Gore, a squinty stone faced Dukakis or a repressed stone faced Bush. He's real. I actually saw him sweat on TV! He answers politically volatile questions, and he has an opinion! A sure sign he's a babe in politics (look at Reagan, who has corked all his opinions). Jesse's the only presidential personality who wouldn't melt if you touched him and he's the only one since McGovern who has a soul. Uh oh. Did I say McGovern?

So why did I vote for Jackson? He won't win the nomination and he could never be a running mate (remember Ferraro). Still, the Democratic Party's hope is with Jackson. (He will have accumulated about 1000 convention delegates before the National Convention in June. If he threw this weight behind Mario Cuomo, with Dukakis as his running mate, we might have a presidency). Although it might appear wiser for him to wait until '92, he should take his economic lumps during the next four years and help the party, not wait for Bush to be elected and drown the economy. This would give Jackson his best opportunity to express his powerful social and diplomatic reforms both on the Democratic Platform and through Cuomo during the campaign. And the event would be surprising and newsworthy. Jesse could even raise both their hands, be a moral pillar, and spit rainbows all over election road. This would leave us with a strong, articulate, unscathed Cuomo driving, with Dukakis and Jackson being his bumbling shock absorbers.

Fortunately though, even Republicans don't say much about Bush, including Reagan. No one wants the rest of the world to know a "man" like Bush is actually running for President of the US.

And if you didn't vote last Tuesday, don't worry, right male capitalist society can't last, it's in the dialectic.

## I-CON

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the Ticktockman") gave the panels he attended the most provocative cast. At the "Best and Worst Films of 1987" panel, only two of the five scheduled guests appeared—Ellison and WBAB film critic Dennis Daniel—but with Ellison's lead, the two left the panel's original theme far behind and launched into an extended commentary on the present state of American cinema. Daniel's enthusiastic praise of the film *RoboCop* and Ellison's vehement condemnation of its depersonalized violence initiated a fevered argument that spread through to members of the audience. Ellison, delineating the evils of "the commercial arena," objected to the reflexive marketing that successful quick-thrill cinema on the order of *RoboCop* creates. Films of similar form and content, he said, are cranked out to appeal to the same demographic demand, effectively driving all other works from the marketplace. Ellison's credits as a screenwriter lent his denunciation of the corporate mentality both weight and conviction.

Another panel later in the day reaffirmed certain concepts broached in the preceding discussion. "Breaking into Comics" featured a group of comics professionals led by Chris Claremont, writer for Marvel Comics' popular *X-Men* title. Claremont described his field as a "merciless profession," advising neophytes to keep in mind the primary goal of the two major comics publishers (DC and Marvel): steady commercial production. For prospective artists, he gave examples of work considered too idiosyncratic for mainstream use, indicating that though certain artists might be appropriate for certain publishing venues (like Eastman and Laird's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*), Marvel sought a basically homogeneous

style for its product. For writers, he said, the best method of getting in the door is the submission of a clean, efficient script featuring an existing character—not an original creation. As with popular filmmaking, marketing, not innovation, was clearly the prime mover here.

Late Saturday night, Ellison, James Morrow, Barry Malzberg, and others convened to relate "Personal Horror Stories," a concept the panel of writers took to mean injustice or rudeness visited upon them by fans, publishers, editors, and other writers. Here, again, Ellison assumed control of the panel, simultaneously attempting to play master of ceremonies and allow ample time for his many tales of terror in the literary world. As the discussion evolved, its theme slowly defined itself as the exploitation of creators by publishers and distributors.

Morrow described the pat rejection of one of his novels by both mainstream publishers—because of its fantasy element—and genre publishers—because it was "too much like mainstream: the characters have psychological problems." The fate of a book, he said, "is decided almost before it's printed," due to marketing tactics that follow set paths depending on genre—the low-risk methods employed offer small monetary reward for the work that goes into a full-length novel. "My wife has a job," he concluded, "and that's the only reason I write science fiction."

Malzberg, a veteran of the field, self-deprecatingly referred to himself as "an interchangeable genre writer" and angrily related a series of anecdotes damning publishers from the corporate bodies operating today to Bennett Cerf and his fraudulent Famous Writers' School: "They know less about business and selling books than they do about literature. And they know *nothing* about literature." He emphasized the near-impossibility of making a decent living as a writer of fiction that is pigeonholed into a particular genre.

Ellison then delighted the audience with a story of guerilla tactics against a recalcitrant publisher who refused to abide by a contractual obligation. Rather than initiate expensive and time-consuming legal action, Ellison, after his letters went unanswered, sent the publisher several hundred bricks ("...you can use them to build the shithouse I will put you in."), a graphic description of a fatal coronary (to underscore the publisher's heart condition), a Lithuanian hit-man who accosted him in the street and threatened death if Ellison's requests went unheeded, and, ultimately, a dead gopher that forced the office to be fumigated. Though his persuasive methods eventually brought success, Ellison said the blatant dismissal of a creator's legal rights is a commonplace thing, with publishers safely shielded by a general reluctance among writers and artists to spend the time and money required for court proceedings: "The artists are treated like shit," the writers "like beanfield hands."

During the convention, Ellison gave readings of two recent short stories, one—"The Function of Dream Sleep"—on Saturday, the other—"Soft Monkey"—on Sunday. Both met with thunderous approval from (often overweeningly) receptive audiences, and Ellison followed each reading with a short question-and-answer session, allowing him yet another forum to voice his opinions. Sunday, for instance, he described his experiences with Gene Roddenberry's original *Star Trek*, relating the piecemeal destruction of an original script due to budgetary mismanagement and commercial pandering ("He made me write in fucking *SPACE PIRATES*, man!"). Few men can get away with the kind of grandstanding and proselytizing Ellison perpetrates, but with years of experience as a writer and innumerable critical accolades under his belt, he has every right to shoot off his mouth: not only is he good at it, he's usually telling the truth.

The I-CON crowd was largely composed of good-natured people hustling to show appreciation of their favorite creators, but, to paraphrase Ellison, adulation is damn near the *only* thing these creators get. As the fountainhead of all novels, films, comics, and merchandise, they are—with few exceptions—allotted a position in the financial hierarchy roughly equivalent to day laborers (and in the case of the Hernandez Brothers of *Love and Rockets*, who roofed their publisher's house for pocket money, they are day laborers).

Are the convention attendees honoring the source because of the product or the product because of the source? The former is a retroactive recognition of the creator after a satisfying consumption of the product, the latter is a direct recognition of the creator's work that places the emphasis where it rightly belongs: on the process of creation, not the marketing of the result. *Star Trek* and *X-Men* are corporate products created by writers, actors, and artists laboring under the prime directive to put out commercially viable material. In embracing the virtues of corporate product, there is an implicit justification of the constricting method that engendered it. Valid literature, art, or cinema that happens to fall into the same market genre as this material is then expected to conform (or at least make concessions) to its success formula.

The undiscerning embrace I-CON offers to the field of science fiction makes for variety, but keeps distinctions blurred, thus perpetuating—in its own innocent way—the same evils so graphically described by many of its guests. In a society ruled by the market dollar, science fiction will be forever trapped within its genre prison—not by exploitative corporate publishers, but by *Star Trek* fans eager to slap down another buck for the newest novelization or action figure based on the Hit Motion Picture.

"We has met the enemy, and it is us."

## Exclusive, Recursive

by John Dunn

There's a movement in this area, a movement I can't exactly describe but I know exists. My hometown, the surrounding area, indeed all of Suffolk County is dramatically changing and only time will tell if it is for the better or worse and who really will benefit from all the changes.

Once upon a time Suffolk County was full of farms, farms that grew potatoes, cauliflowers and ducks. It was the country, far away from the crowding and pollution of the city and the suburbs. Then came WWII and the accompanying baby boom. This brought more people into the country seeking inexpensive housing away from the crowds and pollution. Real estate values soared and farmers found that it was more profitable to plant shopping centers and houses than potatoes. "Progress" began to make its way eastward from the city.

Parts of the island started to become "exclusive." First it was just a few spots on the North Shore and the Hamptons. Now it extends from the Gold Coast to beyond Port Jefferson. Soon the day will come when the exclusive North Shore will stretch from King's Point to Orient Point. Of course all this exclusiveness meant skyrocketing housing costs, especially in the past few years. Houses going for \$60,000 a few years ago now go for three or four times that amount. The labeling of a community as "exclusive" means a premium price for those moving in and it's getting carried away. While exclusive used to mean areas like Lloyd Harbour and Poquott, it is now added to such locales as Manorville.

Consider Manorville. For years it had farms, the National Speedway and Grace's Hot Dog Stand. Now it has few farms, an abandoned speedway, an expanded Grace's Hot

Dog Stand and developments being labeled "exclusive" or with words to that effect. Not to offend the residents of Manorville, but unless I'm estimating the draw of the hot dog stand, what is so exclusive about Manorville? I can see certain areas being called exclusive, but Manorville? The only thing exclusive about it is that no one has any idea where it is unless they've been there.

Basically the whole process has gone insane. The Hamptons have gotten rid of the poor by pushing them onto small little reservations, just like the earlier settlers did with the Shinnecock Indians. Oh, they'll still be welcome to work as cheap help in the summer and some caretaking of the houses in the winter but other than that they're not needed so they're getting pushed west. From the West they are getting pushed by people trying to escape the crowds of suburbia, people willing to pay a little extra for some peace and quiet. To their surprise, they find out a few years later that their exclusive development is now the crowded suburbs they tried to escape in the first place. In the meantime, they'll keep moving east trying to find peace and pushing out those who can no longer afford to live in the areas deemed exclusive.

With the combination of the two forces, this is going to leave a small area around Riverhead extending outward towards Baiting Hollow. A little homeland for the poor and elderly who can't afford to live anywhere else. Think that this is a myth? Consider the Long Island Expressway. Back-ups used to start in the 30's, then up to Route 110. Now it's up to Hauppauge and Exit 60 with no end in sight. Roads constructed for a smaller population years ago are now choking under the loads. The water is slowly being poisoned and there's no place to put the garbage. Hurray for

"progress."

Let's take a look at an area that has all of a sudden become exclusive, my hometown of St. James. For years it was a small town, not really developed. It was surrounded by lots of farms and woods and it went about its business. With the baby boom, people started to move east and the suburban expansion arrived in St. James. The woods and farms were replaced with developments and the Smithaven Mall nearby. Housing costs started to rise, but nothing dramatic.

In the 1980's a small movement all of the sudden exploded. People with money decided that St. James was an exclusive place to live and proceeded to build houses in some interesting locations. The word exclusive meant that a tract of houses on a sod farm near the railroad tracks could go for \$250,000-\$300,000. Probably the biggest load of crap I'd ever seen was an ad for a new development on the other side of town. The ad had the line "where you can be a corporate executive by day and a country squire by night." Whoa, haven't you ever heard of false advertising guys? I can see if we're actually out in the country, but we're not anymore.

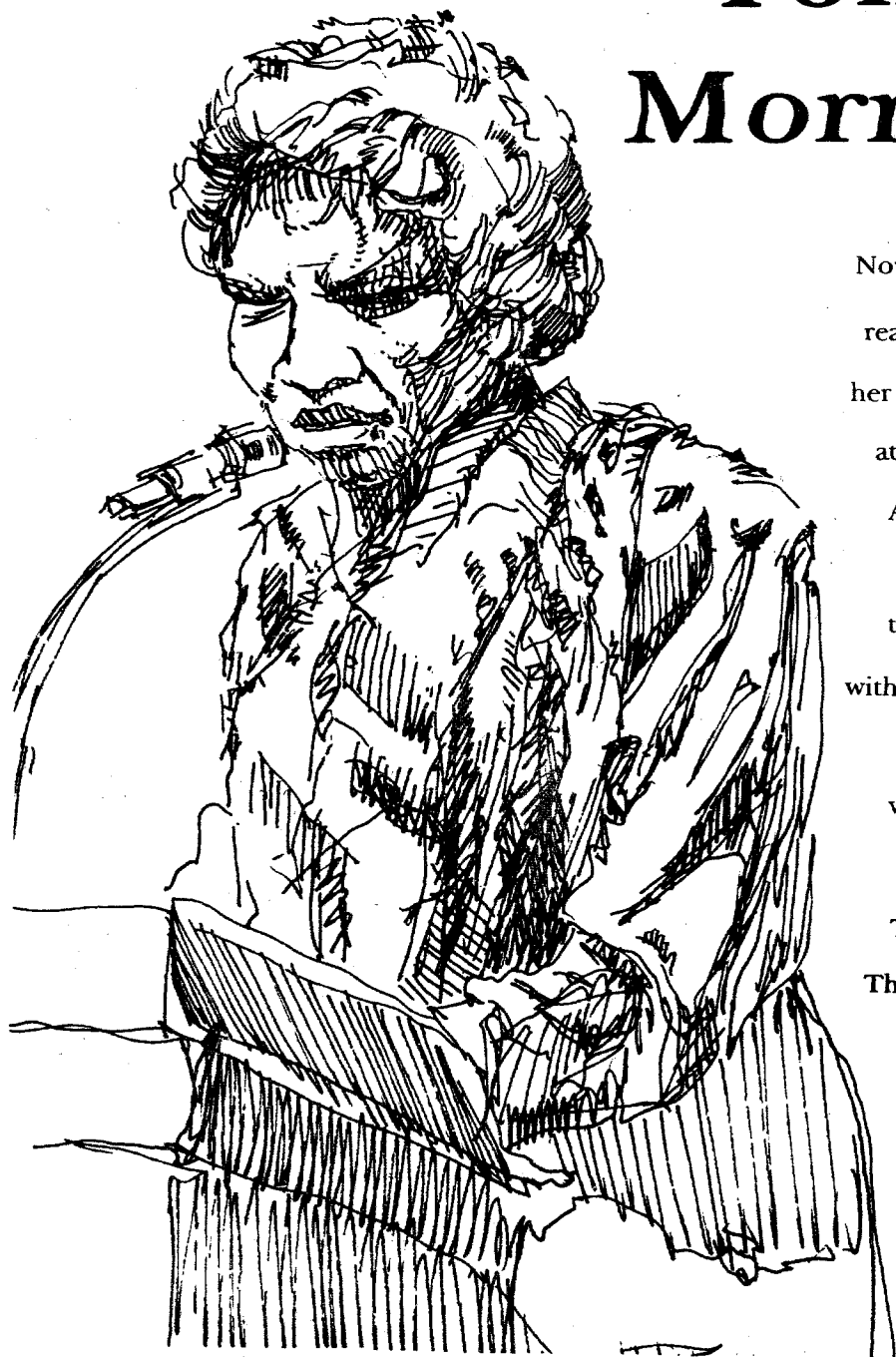
St. James used to be a little town with a small supermarket, a barber shop or two, and a few other small enterprises like a hardware store and bars and gas stations. Now in 1988, it has an enlarged supermarket; at least eight haircutters; little boutiques and a place devoted just to nail care! All this in a town of 15,000 people but with a median income of \$44,000. I guess no town is complete without a nail-care establishment.

People who moved in only a few years ago are making a

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### Viewpoint

## Toni Morrison



Drawing and Words: Sanford Lee

Novelist Toni Morrison

read a choice text from  
her latest novel *Beloved*

at the Fine Arts Center

April 14. With a deep

heavy voice, she

touched the listeners;

with the tense tranquility,

the audience moved

with the poetic prose.

Her books include

*Tar Baby*, *Sula*, and

*The Song of Solomon*.

*Beloved* recieved

the Pulitzer Prize.

## State of Welfare

by Michael Pakmel

Collectivist schmectivist! Does *anyone* out there believe people are proud to collect welfare? Can't we middle-classes see that welfare is an absolute last resort used by the victims of our society? If some of the money is going to undeserving people, it's due to the pathetic administration, not the victims.

How does a broken family, with one or more children, possibly afford even minimum food, clothing, shelter, and medical care on a minimum wage job? Look in the newspaper! Apartments: \$500, \$600 a month, most want 2 months deposit; food, maybe (one parent and two children), you could barely exist on \$350 a month. To scrape by might cost \$1200 a month, absolute minimum. A minimum wage job brings in about \$500 a month.

The most destructive myth about poor people is "Why should they get a job if welfare is paying them to sit around?" or "Gee, our system sure makes it economically attractive to stay single while raising a child." Bunk! The extreme pressures of being poor, uneducated, illiterate without the slightest hope of improving oneself is what causes families to break up. Don't blame the victims.

It's too damn easy for us middle-class or above, college youth, to take Mr. Reagan's "excess government spending" as meaning "paying for a bunch of lazy..." How can we, who have never had to worry if our children are getting enough basic nutrition, never had to sleep in an apartment infested with rats and cockroaches maybe without heat and hot water, possibly understand what someone goes through when forced to apply for food stamps?

If we middle-classes are so against handouts then let's get legislation passed to provide enough loan money for poor Americans to educate themselves into better jobs. The poorest people are trapped on their rung in our society. Do you think people like being destitute?

As for raising taxes, even if we eliminated all social programs, including student aid, we couldn't pay off the billions wasted funding wars in Latin America over the last 35 years, or even part of the trillion dollar defense budget. As soon-to-be college graduates, most of us aren't showing even a hint of insight or objectivity!

I'm tired of stale rhetoric, flag-waving, and finger-pointing we've heard for the last eight years. Instead of

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# POLITY ELECTION GUIDE

WHO KNOWS AND WHO BLOWS, ALL IN FIVE FUN-FILLED PAGES!

In case you didn't know, it is Election Day again at Stony Brook tomorrow. Elections are being held for the Council, Judiciary, class representatives, and SASU delegates.

We at **The Press** would like all you eager voters to try and make an informed decision when you vote, and with this in mind, are presenting the following information on all of the esteemed ladies and gentlemen who have taken so much time out of their busy schedules to try and get your vote.

Remember, Polity controls your activity fee, your hard-earned money. Polity directly affects the quality of life here, so no apathy this year, please. The voter turnout last year was miserable, to say the least (about 1800 of the 10,000 activity fee paying students actually voted), so if you really give a shit, stop complaining about how much Stony Brook sucks, and make an effort to do something about it.

There are positions for SASU delegates, who keep the campus aware of issues concerning students as students and as citizens of New York State. The delegate also acts as spokesperson representing Stony Brook at SASU activities such as conventions and lobbies.

Ten people are elected to the Judiciary whose sole responsibility is to the jurisdiction over all constitutional interpretations, school-wide judicial problems, and appeals from lower Polity courts.

Each class has its own representative. Duties of the class reps. consist of the delegation of power to the appropriate agencies of Polity and to promote a program of service, political, cultural and educational projects and activities.

The class reps. make up half of the Polity Council, the other half is the executive committee: President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. The treasurer is elected in the Fall.

The most important responsibility of the President is that of advocate for the student body and mediator between the students and our friends over in the administration building. The President must be competent enough to perform the basic procedural duties of the office, such as chairing Council meetings and preparing agendas for both the Council and Senate meetings. The President is also responsible for appointing people to such positions as FSA president and SAB heads.

The Vice-president is a moderator of the Senate meetings, and must be able to perform the duties of the President in case of a vacancy.

The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence, keeping track of records, and informing the members of Polity (that means the students) of all policies and actions of the Council and Senate.

Every activity fee paying undergraduate may vote for SASU delegates, Council

candidates, and Judiciary seats. Only class peers may vote for their respective representatives.

This year there are seven candidates for president: John Cucci, Alan J. Livingston, Dan Rubin, Robert Schachter, Hans "Prince" Sherwood, Joseph T. Wilson, Thomas Zbikowski. (the largest ballot in over four years). Candidates for vice-president: Stephen Gruber, Mark Joachim, Steven Rosenfeld, Kurt Widmaier. Senior representative: Rob Shapiro. Junior representative: Eric Barbella, Esther Lastique. Sophomore representative: Brennan Holmes, Brian James, Meredith Singer.

**The Press** asked the candidates a number of questions concerning themselves, their offices, and their campus to help you decide who to vote for. Unfortunately, Alan Livingston and Hans Sherwood did not answer our questions, although they received copies. Brennan Holmes and Meredith Singer were unreachable.

This election also is seeing a plethora of referenda. Below is a list of the referenda, and how much money per each student's activity fee would be used to fund an organization. Polity expects about 9,200 students to pay the activity fee next year (if the fee is still mandatory), down from last year by almost a thousand students.

- ☐ Should the Activity Fee be mandatory or voluntary?
- ☐ Student Association of the State University (SASU) ..... \$4 per student
- ☐ Cultural and Special Interests (CSI clubs) ..... \$1.25 per student
- ☐ New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) ..... \$6 per student
- ☐ United States Student Association ..... 50¢ per student
- ☐ Dorm Colleges ..... \$4 per student
- ☐ Program and Services Council (PSC) ..... 30¢ per student
- ☐ Minority Planning Board (MPB) ..... \$1.50 per student
- ☐ National Collegiate Athletic Association (varsity sports) ..... \$20 per student
- ☐ Statesman ..... \$2 per student

Now if you can digest all that, and you still want to vote, there will be over twenty polling boxes all over campus. Dorm residents must vote in their own building, right inside the main entrance. Commuters must vote in the Union. And remember, all you candidates, the election rules state that you, or any members of your campaign, must keep at least fifty feet from any polling box.

## President

### 1. Who are you, and why are you running for President?

**Cucci:** John Cucci, and I am running because I'm angry! It's time for a change in Polity and in the campus as a whole. The students are sick of being scammed by Polity. It's time for someone to come from the students to take Polity in the right direction and finally give the students what is rightfully theirs: an influential voice about what goes on on our campus.

**Rubin:** My name is Dan Rubin and I am running for President because our student government needs strong leadership and I am the best person for the position.

**Schachter:** I am a student, that's who I am. I am a person who believes that it is time for Stony Brook to go back to the students! It seems to me that every year Administration is taking more and more power away from the students. The Council that is up in Polity now is practically giving *our* power away. They are more like mini-administrators than students. We all know that there are many problems with this University and I want to do my best to fix them with the help of student input. I want more students involved with the running of our campus.

**Wilson:** I am Joseph T. Wilson, I'm running for Polity President for two main reasons: 1) as a student here at Stony Brook, I can relate to the immediate needs of my fellow students and provide some solutions with their help; 2) my future ambition lies in politics. Hence, by me serving as President at Stony Brook, will give me a political scope that could be utilized in the future.

**Zbikowski:** My name is Tom Zbikowski. I am running for President of Polity because I am tired of all the rhetoric on this campus. I feel the students of this campus can unite and make a Polity that they are proud of. I feel Polity alienates the students on this campus and as Polity

members they should remember one thing—without the students on this campus, Polity would not be in existence.

### 2. What makes you qualified to be President?

**Cucci:** Above all things my conviction. As for my historical background; freshman year I was a building Senator as well as being active in many campus activities. Sophomore year I was building Leg President and was leader of my administration's dismissing of a corrupt RHD—something Administration tried to stop but my persistence prevailed and a residence building saw the dismissal of a very corrupt individual. I also have a lot of leadership experience from the time I served in the Army and the marines where I was a leader and had responsibilities for hundreds of people's lives from the time they woke up until the time they went to sleep. I thrive on adversity which has brought me through many rough decisions affecting my life as well as others.

**Rubin:** As a first semester freshman, I was the Vice Chairman of Kelly A and I coordinated various building activities. I became a Resident Assistant the following semester and an orientation leader that summer. I was elected President of Roth Quad Council. I also founded Delta Alpha Nu, a coed fraternity/sorority. We now have over 250 members. In the Spring of 1987, I formed a Fight Back Committee to improve the living conditions in Mount College. President Marburger and other administrators came to an Open House Meeting. Several students and myself remained that summer to make building improvements. I felt that I had done much without really being in office, so I figured that as Junior Class Representative, I could accomplish even more and learn about our student government. My major project this year has been to publish a Student Course and Teacher Evaluation book, which is currently in

the works. I have been living off campus for a semester now, so I have seen the resident and commuter points of view. I have lived through heat and hot water outages, as well as a lousy bus service and potholes in the road.

**Schachter:** I could sit here and list every accomplishment that I have had since I came to Stony Brook that may qualify me to be President, but this would just waste your time. Currently I am the Activity Chairman of the Student Activities Board, and have been up in the Polity Suite for three years. During these past three years I have watched Student Polity work. I believe that I have been on the outside of all the political red tape and I have seen what has gone wrong. I know that I can now step into the political aspect of Student Polity and correct the mistakes of the past. I am an average student and realize the needs of most students. I will do my best to represent the students the way they want to be represented. I am very accessible to students right now and will continue to be next year as President of Student Polity.

**Wilson:** The qualification of a President at Stony Brook or anywhere else for that matter, lies in his intelligence and ability to provide a platform that is appealing to the "majority" of the people (students). I think I possess this qualification. For example, I'd like Administration to provide storage for students during the summer vacation for a minimum fee, extend Library hours during final examination week, install pay telephones on every floor in every dormitory, install intercom systems in all dormitories, etc.

**Zbikowski:** I am qualified because I was the Student Trustee at Nassau Community College. I was a liaison between the Board of Trustees and the students. I voted and participated in preparing nearly an 80 million dollar budget that affected the entire Nassau County. I also prepared budgets and I've done everything that Polity is faced with today.

*continued on next page*

# "It's an Eminence Front, It's a Put-On"

## President

3. As a student here, what do you see as the major problems confronting students in the coming year?

**Cucci:** There are always problems students must face however the biggest problem we must conquer next year is the growing separation of students and Polity due to apathy on both sides and an attitude that nothing can be done so why bother. This attitude must be wiped out, we must make an effort to use Polity to our advantage.

**Rubin:** One of the major problems confronting students in the coming year is price increases cropping up in many forms. These include the proposed Meal Plan increase, the Mandatory Health Fee, and possibly a Tuition Hike. Most likely, dorm conditions won't change very much and neither will the parking and ticketing problems. The alcohol policy needs a lot of work and safety and security should become our number one concern. In addition Teaching Assistants still won't speak English.

**Schachter:** There are the staple problems of lack of security, food service (DAKA), dormitory conditions, parking for student and the alcohol policy. We as students are losing more power and control to Administration. They are the minority, and we (the students) are the majority. It is like South Africa and apartheid. The minority is ruling over the majority. If the students became more active in campus life then we would have a much larger say in what Admin can and can't do. Another problem with the campus is the relationship between commuter and resident students. We are all students here and there should not be this separation. As Student Polity President, I will do whatever I can to solve this problem as well as any other problems facing students.

**Wilson:** As a student here, the major problem that I see confronting students in the coming year is high enrollment and insufficient accommodation (housing) which will lead to high dormitory fees.

**Zbikowski:** Polity's disarray has led to student apathy on this campus. This campus has the potential to be a great university if only the student leaders would take time to fight for what's right for the students of this campus, rather than join Polity for their own personal gain.

4. How do you feel about the decline of Western civilization, AIDS, and the extension granted by the Congress to illegal aliens?

**Cucci:** Stony Brook is a good microcosm of the decline of Western Civilization—student apathy, the bureaucracy, and Administration's putting down of the students are all examples of how our civilization crushes citizens and keeps all the power upstairs. At Stony Brook the students must realize that they can make a difference and this will happen as soon as a true initiative is taken.

**Rubin:** These are relevant problems, but with the condition of Stony Brook University, these are not our number one concern.

**Schachter:** Decline of Western Civilization: I think that this decline is closely linked with the decline of the Stony Brook Campus. It began when they switched Darrens on "Bewitched." Did they really think we wouldn't notice?

**AIDS:** I think AIDS is horrible and everything that can be done to find a cure should be done. There should be extensive education in the schools about AIDS. If more people

knew the facts, half the problem would be solved.

The extension granted by the Congress to illegal aliens: If people have been living and working in the USA for a few years then there is no reason they should not become citizens. These people are totally exploited and have no one to turn to. If they complain then they fear deportation. By allowing them to become citizens they are now able to make a stance and stop their exploitation.

**Wilson:** no response

**Zbikowski:** AIDS is an issue that will require a great deal of progressiveness in public attitudes before it can be handled correctly. I think it should be looked upon with compassion and understanding as opposed to bitterness and anger. There are too many AIDS victims, such as babies, who didn't have a chance to "just say no."

Being a history major, I'm glad that I was asked about the decline of Western Civilization. We're in a new era with old ideas. We need to update ourselves culturally, politically, and economically.

5. What is wrong with Polity now, and how would you correct those problems?

**Cucci:** Polity is like an ugly can of worms and all anybody has tried to do is put a lid on it. I however, am willing to open the can and take care of each problem one at a time with the help of the students. And those few in Administration who do care. We must bring the power to the students. After all they are who we are working for.

**Rubin:** Besides the fact that the whole structure of Polity needs a complete over-hauling, I will stick to problems that can be solved next year. For any organization to thrive, it needs new blood, but not in the leadership position. The Polity President must have some experience with Polity, which I do. I was Junior Class Representative this year. The most fundamental rule of running an organization is to work *with* your Vice President, not against him/her. It is impossible to accomplish anything outside of the organization if you can't even control what goes on inside. Council members must cooperate and work together. Communication was practically non-existent this year. Clubs were not adequately informed of deadlines and hearings for the '88-'89 budget process. Council members did not unite for any common project and in some cases were ill-informed of others' projects. And the most deficient area of communication was lack of accessibility of Council members to the students. This included not attending office hours and not being receptive to students. As Polity President, I would keep an eye open for these problems, and if they occur I would confront that council member.

**Schachter:** Polity is now being run by power hungry mini-administrators, who have really made no stance this whole year. There are many huge egos on the Council that need deflating. Student Polity must represent the students' best interests. When there is an injustice against students they must side with the students. The way to correct this problem is to elect people who are students and who have knowledge of Polity without being directly involved with the inner workings of the Council. I would stay in constant contact with as many different types of students as possible and would go to them if they don't come to me. I will always have what the students want first and foremost in my mind. I am prepared to revamp Polity and pump new life into it. It's time for a "Return to the Basics."

**Wilson:** There is nothing wrong with Polity. All Polity needs right now is an aggressive leader to give it the edge to the top.

**Zbikowski:** Polity is not representing the students of this campus. They do not stand up to the Administration. I was insulted that Polity did not challenge the Administration on the Academic Calendar for Spring of 1988. I was insulted as a student that my holidays were not observed (Good Friday, Easter, and Passover) as if they *never existed*. People share time with their families these times of the year, and unfortunately, they were not even acknowledged. I am ashamed of the Administration and the Polity of this campus for allowing this to happen.

I want to unite the students of this campus, rather than alienate them. I am the *only* candidate to attend the Chinese Club meetings, the Asian Club meetings, the Latino Club meetings, etc. My opponents want to unite the campus, but how can they do this without ever leaving the Polity office and going to speak to the students? This amazes me!

6. What will you do to insure the quality of both the dying dorm-cooking program and the DAKA meal plan program?

**Cucci:** DAKA is a problem we all had to deal with at least once. I'm sure we can all remember the first place we ran to when we left DAKA. If DAKA wants to raise its prices the quality should be raised. Perhaps more undergrad representation in FSA to insure the students have a voice in what food they eat. Nothing affecting your health should be imposed on you by others who do not have to do the same.

**Rubin:** The problem with DAKA is that they are not providing quality food and service. There are two possible reasons for this. They are not getting enough money (YEAH, RIGHT!) or they lack the motivation (i.e., competition) to improve. If the students had other food alternatives, like the Harriman Cafe, DAKA would be forced to improve or lose business. The problem with dorm-cooking is that students pay a cooking fee for facilities that don't work, specifically the kitchenettes on each hall. I would push Administration to use that money specifically for dorm-cooking improvements and not general clean-up of all halls.

**Schachter:** I came to Stony Brook three years ago and was forced to be on the meal plan the first year. It was not the most pleasant of experiences. I did discover an amazing new food called pizza-meatloaf that to this day still fascinates me (Yankee pot roast is a close second). Dorm cooking saved my life and I am very opposed to mandatory meal plans for buildings or even floors. All students should have the right to choose whether or not they want to be on the meal plan. Until the quality of food on campus improves you can not force students to eat it. I love dorm cooking. It's a freedom that many students need. DAKA should be monitored by the students. If there are complaints then it is Polity's job to make sure they are acted upon. There should be a quality control board of students who DAKA must answer to. I realize that it's tough to cook for 10,000 people but other schools manage to have good food. I don't think anyone should have to eat pizza-meatloaf.

**Wilson:** no response

**Zbikowski:** I hate DAKA!! I would like to open this (the food service) to competitive bidding. We did this at my old school (Nassau Community College) to ensure the best quality food and have a food service that best represents the students' needs. DAKA does not represent my needs.

7. What do you feel were the most important positive and negative changes made in the FSA during this past year? Have you given any thought to whom you would select to be FSA President?

**Cucci:** FSA has helped the students by trying, somewhat unsuccessfully, to keep DAKA costs down. Also by providing some enjoyable aspects to student life. Keeping the GSL open is another example of how FSA tries to make the students' campus life more livable. On the other hand I feel FSA is still not geared enough to the needs of undergraduates and this is something that should be corrected. Perhaps by having more undergrads as board members or some kind of check system to keep FSA from doing as they please.

## Vice-president

1. Who are you, and why are you running for Vice President?

2. What makes you qualified to hold such a post?

3. As a student here, what do you see as the major problems confronting students in the coming year?

4. What do you see as the major problems in Polity, and how would you go about solving them?

5. As Vice President, you will run the senate meetings. Do you feel that you would bring something of value to that post? Why?

6. If, for some reason, the President leaves office, you will become President for the duration of the year. Do you think that you are prepared for such an eventuality? Why?

7. Do you smoke or wear dirty underwear?

### Mark Joachim

My name is Mark Joachim, I am a political science major, and a campus resident. I am running for Student Polity Vice President because I am concerned with the state of our campus. When I first came to Stony Brook three years ago, students cared about this place. Since then, constraints such as the alcohol policy have led to a less than active campus. This is the fault of Polity. Our student government must become the vanguard of the students that once was. Rather than blaming the inactivity of the campus on the apathy of the students, it is the responsibility of Polity to give the students something to care about. In order to become involved, students must feel that Polity represents their interests. I want people to talk about this campus again like it is a fun place to be.

I have worked with Student Polity for two years now. My first exposure to Polity was as Treasurer and later President of Tabler Quad Council. I organized Tabler Cruise, a party for 500 students on the Port Jefferson Ferry. The cruise was a great success, however it opened my eyes to some problems within Polity. I found that PSC, the organization that funds many clubs on campus, was less than helpful in explaining the budget process. In pursuit of a fairer PSC, I became PSC Treasurer, and this year the Council ran more fairly and sanely than in the past, and without a deficit. I worked on clarifying PSC's bylaws and guidelines for funding, and cut down on the seemingly endless Polity bureaucracy.

In addition, I represented students on the University Senate Committee on Student Life, where issues such as dorm cooking, activity space, and parking were worked on. I worked on a committee which made it possible for Tabler Cafeteria to reopen as a programming space for students. I also represented my building as a Polity Senator, and served as an Assistant Treasurer of Student Polity.

Stony Brook's greatest problem right now, and as far as I can foresee, in the future, is security. The students deserve at least an emergency blue-light phone system. This system, which exists on most other SUNY campuses, recently led to the prevention of a rape at Binghamton and the arrest of a rapist. Administration has been extremely lax with respect to this issue. Polity, and all students, must push for real improvements in security, such as an emergency phone system and more uniformed patrols.

There are, of course, other problems facing students here, such as the decrepid condition of our campus. This includes dorms that are falling apart and roads that are crumbling. Another problem we face is a lack of ample party and study space on campus. These issues are extremely important, however security should be our number one priority.

Student Polity's major problem is that the students don't feel that it truly represents their interests. "Things" just seem to go on up on the second floor of the Union, and students are not informed as to exactly what these "things" are. I would institute some type of Polity newsletter, so that students would at least know what happens up there, and hopefully feel that Student Polity truly represents them. This is Polity's primary obligation, a fact that some Polity officials seem to often lose sight of.

Another problem within Polity, especially this year, is that bickering and infighting often cloud the issues and clog up the workings of Polity. Unless the egos of Polity officials are checked at the door of the Polity suite, nothing gets done. Seeing this problem, and being aware of its detrimental effect on Student Polity will allow me to help us move past these problems, and get on to the work at hand.

As Chairperson of the Polity Senate, the Vice President must be able to see both sides of an argument, and allow the differing opinions to be aired, so that the Senate may come to an educated decision. I hope to bring an unbiased outlook and a fair and calm disposition to the Senate, so that Senate meetings don't become shouting matches.

Yes. I have been involved with enough areas of Polity so that I understand how the organization ticks, and I feel that I'm sensitive enough to bring Polity and its clubs through a tough transition.

I wear dirty cigarettes and smoke underwear. Help me.

### Kurt Widmaier

My name is Kurt Widmaier and I am running for Vice President of Polity. The problems students must face every day are not being dealt with by Polity. I feel I have the enthusiasm and motivation not only to address these problems, but to solve them with new creative ideas.

Assistant Producer of 1986 G-Fest, Co-Vice Chairman of Gray College, President of Waterski Club.

As a student here, I see great problems with the current alcohol policy which calls for the immediate relocation or suspension of any student found in violation of this new policy. This not only hurts the students academically but socially and financially as well. As Vice President of Polity, I would propose and support a new alcohol policy which would educate and give the students a choice. This type of policy is used in many other universities across the nation effectively, but due to the lack of support Stony Brook uses a strict, nonproductive method as their solution. Also, I feel there is a problem with current mandatory meal plan situation. Again, the students have no choice. I do not feel it is justifiable that students be forced to pay DAKA throughout their freshman and sophomore years for food and service of such poor quality.

As we all are aware of, there are many problems which exist in Polity, the most crucial being the lack of communication between students and Polity. Polity is here to serve the students, and Polity leaders should do so without the counterproductive bickering and arguing within the group. I would listen to the problems which students face and address them instead of seeking out my own vested interests as past Polity officials have. Again I must stress, the real issues must be faced in order to have a productive student government.

Throughout my life, I have exhibited strong leadership qualities which entail not only effective communicative skills but group decision making as well. These qualities are lacking and severely hurting the way the Senate is being run. After attending the Senate meetings this semester, it became apparent that a new participating style of leadership is needed. I feel I can provide this type of leadership and help bring the Polity Senate meetings back to order.

The position I am running for is very serious and demanding. I am ready to meet the challenge in the event I must take over the President of Polity.

6. I will continue to provide effective leadership and will be open to all suggestions from all students and Polity members. Thank you.

### Steve Gruber

1. I am a sophomore math major living on campus. I am running for Vice President because I know that Polity can do better than it is doing now and if I am elected I am going to make sure that it will.

2. I have experience in the banking industry which has taught me the responsibility of handling money.

I am personally acquainted with the Vice President in charge of Student Affairs. I believe that we can work with Administration however, if they don't want to work with us I will be the worst nightmare that they have ever had.

3. Students are living in slums. There is no excuse for the conditions of the dorms given what we are paying. But we not only need a good roof over our heads, but decent food in our stomachs. With administration planning to force all residents to go on the meal plan, we'll all have to eat DAKA. Nobody wants that. In addition, we have to make Administration live up to its responsibilities to fill up the craters in our roads, walkways, and parking lots.

4. The first problem is that there is a great deal of personal conflict between Council members. I feel that there is a need to elect a person who gets along well with others. Polity needs someone who can build coalitions and get things done. But we need to go beyond not cutting each others' throats. We need to make a Polity that fights for student rights, not one that just grovels before Administration.

5. I am not one who tends to split people into two warring camps. I think that building bridges is an important part of the job. I have a lot of friends in the Senate, but no enemies.

6. The increased responsibility of being acting President and Vice President at the same time is too big a job for one person. That's a ticking time bomb in our Constitution. I am running for Vice President and have no desire to do two jobs poorly instead of one job well. I would propose a constitutional amendment making a chain of succession to prevent the same disaster as the past year when President Schapps resigned.

7. 1) Tobacco? No. I don't like the taste.  
2) Underwear? What underwear?

### Steve Rosenfeld

1. My name is Steve Rosenfeld, and I am running for the office of Vice President, because I would like to make positive changes in the functioning of the undergraduate student government of Stony Brook i.e., Polity.

2. I am qualified to hold the position of Vice President due to my involvement in Student Polity for the past two years, holding positions of Freshman Class Representative and currently Sophomore Class Representative. I "helped" Administration publish the numbers on where the Dorm Cooking fee goes in the Dorm Cooking Newsletter and set up booths to register on campus student residents so that they could get the right to vote in the County of Brookhaven. My participation in a managing of university committees from Administrative Review to Extreme Behavior have also helped me to gain the necessary experience and understand the intricacies of meetings with administrators, faculty and students.

3. As a student attending SUNY Stony Brook I see the looming threat of a tuition hike, a more restrictive alcohol policy on the horizon, additional fees charged to resident students due to "self sufficiency", and a decreasing number of facilities for student organizations to use for programs and events as the major problems confronting us in the next year.

4. The major problems within Polity, our undergraduate student government is, one, a lack of involvement; two, a lack of understanding of its own policies and procedures; and three, a lack of continuity from year to year. I believe that with an increased publication of its own activities, bringing back a Polity newsletter to note open positions, the issues and the student government budget is one way to increase involvement. A second would be to work on offering easier access to credit whether academic or extra-curricular such as the still developing SOAR (Student Of-

*continued on next page*

# POLITY ELECTIONS

## President

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Yes I have thought a lot about who to select as an FSA President yet I have not reached a final decision. This is not a decision to be taken lightly due to its significance.

**Rubin:** FSA did not change much this year except that they did raise the amount of money to be put towards student activities. One thing that FSA has that Polity doesn't is experienced, business-minded faculty and they should use this experience to develop the quality of life through investment in good ideas. They should give advice and be helpful, not act as a "hostile banker." As for FSA President, yes, I have given it thought.

**Schachter:** The worst thing that has happened to FSA over the last year or two was the loss of the majority of undergraduate seats on the FSA Board. This is something that has to be rectified if it can. The incident when DAKA wanted to raise the price of the meal plan was not good. The students should have been informed of what was happening. FSA must work closely with the students in order for everyone to prosper.

On the positive side FSA has accepted a bid to build the Rathskeller in the Bi-level. The undergraduates have managed to keep an undergraduate as President of FSA. This year FSA has also run a profit and doubled their programs fund for next year.

Right now I am concentrating on running for President, running Student Activities, going to my classes in order to get good grades, and maintaining a social life. I really haven't thought about *who* I would appoint FSA President. I do know that I would like it to be an undergraduate student!

**Wilson:** This is my best question so far. If I'm elected President, I will make sure that students who live in cooking dormitories pay less fees for cooking. It's unfair for Residence Life to charge them such a high price. Secondly, I think that the two ID card systems should be abolished. One should be used for both the meal card and regular ID card. This will save waste of money and management.

**Zbikowski:** Picking an FSA President is a very important job. I will look at all the choices available. After looking at all the applicants, I would pick the person most qualified for the job.

**8. How do you feel about the administration's renegging on its promises to the graduate students (i.e., failure to abide by the agreement reached with the GSO last year, the conditions of the Chapin Apartments, etc.)?**

**Cucci:** This is typical of our Administration. I support the graduate students because if Administration gets away with this now, who knows what kind of double talking we'll get in the future. We're all too sick of being stepped on by Administration.

**Rubin:** The Administration should at least have the guts not to bullshit students just to get them off their back. As Polity President, I would encourage unity between undergraduates and graduates. Polity should support the GSO and vice-versa.

**Schachter:** I think that the undergraduate students and graduate students must stick together. We are both students. I believe that Administration is not treating them fairly at all. Student Polity and the GSO must work together to make this campus better for all. The Chapin Apartments are as bad as or worse than the residence halls. There must be responsibilities on both sides. We all need a type of housing Bill of Rights. There should be a tenant/landlord relationship. Residence Life and Administration have certain responsibilities to graduate and undergraduate students. We are tenants and we all have rights.

**Wilson:** no response

**Zbikowski:** There is a constant power struggle between the Administration and the students. At NCC we worked well with the Administration because we earned the respect of the Administration there. This needs to be accomplished here. The Administration here constantly steps on the students and *this must not be tolerated anymore!*

**9. Have you ever committed a felony, when is your birthday, what is your height, weight, and what are your views on Taboo and Transgression, and the possibility that our society is a complex simulacrum without an existential referential?**

**Cucci:** Yes I did but you could never prove it. 6/14/66, 5'10", 185.

What is taboo and transgression? They are only words, completely relative to the current situation, and as we know, situations change. I could give you an answer that was taboo or even a good transgression to brighten up everyone's day, but that would be beside the point.

It is very possible that our society is a complex simulacrum without an Existential referential, but we wouldn't know it because nobody uses any language to ever attempt to analyze this society and that's the problem. It is a complex simulacrum in that "society" has the power to create the individual, when I thought individuals made up society. Again a primary example is around us in this campus and the willingness of every student to be stepped on by those who are supposed to represent them. Each of us considers ourselves an individual, yet we're so apathetic we won't even exercise one of the few rights we have—to vote. Part of that apathy may lie in discouragement, that "the system can't be beat." That's total garbage, if we can't beat our system here at Stony Brook then we're all nothing but sheep. I'm no sheep, I only smell like one.

**Rubin:** No, November, No thanks, I don't want to be registered for Physics 580, about this tall, about 5 minutes, it is a distinct possibility.

**Schachter:** Is taking your parents' car out when you are 15 without a license a felony? My birthday is April 19, 1967 (I just turned 21 last Sunday, now I can drink in my room). Taboo and transgression are OK as long as they don't interrupt my nap time between 4—6PM Monday thru Friday. When asked about the possibility that our society is a complex simulacrum without existential referential I always remember what my dad told me when I started college: 1) in math when in doubt  $x$  equals 4; 2) in multiple choice tests when in doubt pick B; 3) when you don't understand the question make up an answer and never let them see you sweat.

**Wilson:** DOB 12/23/63

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 140 lbs.

**Zbikowski:** Birthday—3/3/67

Ht—5'10"

Wt—191 (nude)

As long as it does not affect others adversely, it does not affect me (nobody ever died of an open mind!).

I have never been convicted of a felony.

**10. Do you smoke or wear dirty underwear?**

**Cucci:** I only smoke crack and I don't ever wear underwear.

**Rubin:** Smoke what? When the machines are full.

**Schachter:** I don't smoke cigarettes and when it comes to dirty underwear, when I'm out of clean underwear I either wash the old ones, buy new underwear or just don't wear any at all and hope I don't have to go to the hospital or get into any major accidents.

**Zbikowski:** I do not smoke and the only time I wear dirty underwear is when the machines in my dorm are broken!

**11. Who is your favorite author?**

**Cucci:** Larson—he says more in one picture than some books do in 1000 pages. Also J D Salinger. No one else can express the feeling of youth or its institution like the man.

**Rubin:** Douglas Adams.

**Schachter:** I am a man of many moods and I am just as happy reading a Robert Ludlum book or any of the many Dr Seuss books I own. I also love any type of pop-up book.

**Wilson:** no response

**Zbikowski:** My favorite author? Mayor Koch, because he tells it like it is!

## Vice-pres.

continued from previous page

ficial Activities Record). A third possibility is to have Council members attend leg meetings on a rotational basis to offer advice and directly inform everyone of available positions on committees and organizations under the Student Government. This possibility I have suggested should fall under the Class Representatives' responsibilities, since they still remain undefined.

The lack of understanding of its own Constitution, its own policies and procedures is horrendous. Most of the problems come from the insane developmental revisions of those documents over the years and I believe the time has come for a new constitution and a new student government to stand in defense of the Stony Brook student. I have been and will continue to work towards the acceptance of such a document.

The lack of continuity can be solved in part through the creation of a new position within a new constitution. The position of Historian, elected or appointed for a year term, who would be responsible for taking care of the old files and make recommendations to the Council and Senate on its yearly agenda.

**5.** As Vice President I plan on speaking with every newly elected leg president in order that he/she may gain a better grasp of Polity and understand the importance of good representation within the Senate. Once we have a completely devoted Senate body, I would like to develop a program of Senate "observers" who would sit in on important open University meetings and report back to the Senate, such organizations as the University Senate, FSA, RHA, GSO, etc. so that the undergraduate student Senate becomes the most well informed body within this University rather than one of the worst. I would like to see the Senate finally accept Modern Parliamentary Procedure (a streamlined well thought out version of "Robert's Rules") as its formal parliamentary procedure. This can only help the Senate function more effectively since arcane motions of Robert's Rules known only by a few cannot be used to serve against the majority. I want to know that as the presiding officer, anyone who approaches the Senate has an equal chance to speak without harassment and understand what is going on within that body.

**6.** If in the event that the President leaves office for whatever reason, I believe that I have the necessary tools to carry out the task for the duration of the year. I have a firm grasp of the responsibilities of the President and as I have noted before, I have the needed experience on the Council and in the Senate.

**7.** I do not smoke, but I'm open to anything. No, I don't wear underwear but when I have they were already colored brown so I couldn't tell.

# POLITY ELECTIONS

## Class Representatives

1. Who are you and why are you running
2. What makes you qualified to hold such a position?
3. As a student here, what do you see as the major problems confronting students in the coming year?
4. What do you see as the major problems within Polity, and how would you go about solving them?
5. If a new constitution is written next year, your office may be eliminated. How would you like to see juniors represented in the future?
6. Do you smoke or wear dirty underwear?

### Sophomore Representative Brian James

1. My name is Brian James, this year's Freshman Class Representative and voting Senator. I'm running for Sophomore Representative because I feel I'm qualified for the position due to my experience this year and knowledge of how to go about solving problems and/or difficulties on this campus (which people to consult, how to approach a problem, and come up with several solutions, discuss with these people the pros and cons of each solution and pick out the best one).
2. I already know the procedures followed in the Council as well as Senate meetings. Furthermore, many people already know me and come to me with projects or problems and I can continue to do so with the same people as well as anyone else. My two opponents have not held office and are not already established in the Council or Senate. Experience is important for anyone who wishes to represent such a large body of students. In addition, I would still be representing basically the same people so continuity will be on my side. I already know how to find out problems that my constituency has.
3. Major problems in the coming year are basically the same ones faced this year such as apathy on the part of the students. We represent the rest of the students. If any students are unhappy about the student government or have a problem, they should come to us directly and talk to us in the Student Polity Office during our office hours or call us. Only a handful of students care to come forward and do so. We as your government should try to make the government more accessible to the general student population and publicize our meetings and office hours more often. We need to hear input from the general student body.
4. Major problems within Student Polity this year was infighting. While it seemed that all of Student Polity was fighting, only two people were fighting. The rest of us were working for the students on many projects. To eliminate this negative appearance next year we should update the students regularly on projects that have just begun, are already underway, or just completed. If we keep the students informed, they should take greater interest and will dispell some of the apathy.
5. If a new constitution is written, my constituency would not be represented as one group. Each of several different elected positions would cover a few specific duties for students of any class standing. This will allow an elected official to concentrate on a few issues rather than many issues and be more productive. My constituency would be represented that way (as well as all other students). I feel that all students would be represented equally under this system.
6. Do I smoke or wear dirty underwear? We'll see what happens next year.

### Junior Representatives Eric Barbella

1. I am Eric Barbella and I am running for the office of Junior Representative. I am doing this because I see many problems with student life on this campus and I want them to be resolved. The problems range from all sides. Some deal with school pride, some with residence life, some with campus security, the bottom line is that there are many things that must be changed.
2. My qualifications for the position are the leadership qualities that I have obtained through my fraternity (Chapter President, IFSC Representative) and through high school experiences.
3. The major problems that I see confronting students in the coming year are the severe restrictions placed upon students by the Administration when dealing with both campus and residence life. Also, I see problems with how the future leaders of the student body will deal with the pressures of the Administration.
4. The major problem I see within Polity is the lack of *student representation*. The way I would deal with it would be to get out into the student body and get the students involved. The classes need leaders who will not be closed-minded. They need leaders who will be willing to listen to them and who will find out what they feel about the situations that go on around them. This is what I will try to do.
5. If the representative offices are eliminated by a new constitution, I think Juniors, as well as the rest of the student body, should remain to have the ability to be represented properly in Polity. I think the way for students to do this is to make sure that their voices are heard. The students should be listened to and not forgotten, it is our community.
6. In answer to your last question, unfortunately I do and they are both nasty habits.  
In closing, I would just like to say to all of the sophomores to get out there, to get involved within the school and vote for someone who is going to be by your side. Vote for Eric Barbella, Tuesday April 26th. Leadership for you. Thank you.

### Esther Lastique

1. My name is Esther Lastique and I'm running for Junior Representative because I have the three things it takes to improve our student government—the knowledge of Polity, the experience, and the desire to succeed.
2. I feel that I'm qualified to hold this position because it isn't the first government oriented position I've gone after. I have been serving as the Chair of the Women's Caucus of the Student Association of the State University (SASU), as well as a member of the Board of Directors for almost a year. I have been a part of high committees within the United States Student Association (USSA), which I became a delegate to last summer. I have fought numerous campaigns here at SUNY Stony Brook, including poor dormitory conditions, the mandatory health fee, and poor safety. Right now, I am in the midst of organizing a TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH, which will take place on the night of April 25th, as I serve on the Student Coalition on Safety. I have also been a student representative on several administrative committees, including the Housing Task Force, and the Campus Women's Safety Committee.
3. In the coming year, I see a barrage of problems for the student community. The most important ones I feel have to do with safety and health care. Our campus is an unsafe community. Women are raped, and afraid to report it. Men and women get beaten up and don't report it. The time will come soon, I fear, that the students will have to take matters into their own hands to end the crimes against them. Our students are going to have to start realizing that they have the power to change just by standing up and demanding that change. Blue light phones, more lighting and an escort service are only a few answers to this problem.
4. First of all, Polity has many foundation problems. A good start would be to rewrite the Constitution and either rewrite or amend the Bylaws of the Council, which is already in the works. Secondly I think a student government is only as good as the people who run it in the interests of the students, and should not be based solely on its foundations.

With eight good people on the Council next year, I see Polity changing for the better, and a bright future ahead of us. I hope to be a part of that.

The next catastrophe I see is two-fold. The mandatory health fee proposal before us now is a mask of administrative promises laced with good intentions and misconceptions about students. It is also guilty of sexual discrimination—the only prescription drug not covered by the fee is the Pill. And condoms will be covered due to AIDS prevention. The answer was that to give out the Pill is "against the moral standpoint of the University". If giving out the Pill is immoral, what about their control over another \$70 of our money? What about students requesting AIDS testing within the next year? What will we do? Suffer due to The University's morals, or treat our students? Remember, the choice can be ours, not theirs, to make.

5. I feel that representation by class is outdated. In the future, I would hope to see people representing the oppressed groups (minorities and women) as well as all students through where they live, much the way the Senate is run now.

6. no response



## Bad Attitude

by Rachel Hart Neuhaus

At 2:00am, April 12, I was helping my friend move out of his dorm room. I've known him for three years—it was our emotional goodbye.

As we hesitated to let go, two Public Safety officers disrupted our painful goodbye as they flashed their glaring headlights into our window. My friend climbed out of his 1st floor window to meet the officers as they approached us. My friend had parked his car next to the window to ease the movement of his weights and other belongings into the car.

I don't know the exact words that passed between my friend and the officers, yet they insisted that my friend move his car—immediately. I approached the officers, expressing that my friend was under a lot of pressure, and I asked them if we could finish parking the car and leave within five minutes. The officers felt that my friend had a bad attitude.

I am outraged that as a result, my friend received a summons to appear in court and to pay a \$50 fine as well as a parking ticket worth \$7.50. I feel those officers have a lot to learn concerning their role as protectors—their attitudes reflected suspicion toward us more than protection toward us. The function of Public Safety is to diffuse tension and to protect the people at the university.

Another friend of mine approached the two officers and asked them for their badge numbers. The officers felt that "the incident didn't require it." I decided to take this matter to the director of Public Safety. I ended up in the assistant director's office (Richard Young).

I voiced my friend's situation to Richard Young and I expressed my lack of trust toward the Department of Public Safety. As I expressed my fears concerning the lack of protection on this campus, I brought up the subject of rape. Richard Young's response to the subject of rape was "Don't believe what you read in the *Statesman*."

I am a twenty-one year old woman who has heard the personal horrors of rape victims that were violated on this campus. I myself have been violently attacked on this campus. The ironic reality is that I turned to my friends for help. I didn't turn to Public Safety for protection. Why? Because I didn't trust them and I felt they weren't a realistic option for protection. How many women do you know that have been raped on this campus? The reaction of disbelief is a reaction that denies the reality that rapes are being inflicted upon us, the people who are asking and paying for protection. I feel Richard Young's statement reflects a lack of concern and a lack of insight toward the realistic problems at hand. The problems I am voicing are real threats to the public safety. Denying that Stony Brook

has these problems does not prevent these from re-occurring. The purpose of this letter is to circulate the truth. I urge you to believe the harsh reality that there are human beings capable of victimizing, and they have.

We need to be aware of the problems that exist in order to overcome the problems that exist—only in this way can we achieve a safer campus. If we do not acknowledge the crimes where innocent people are being victimized, we can not prevent future re-occurrences of this degrading act. As an adult and as a paying supporter of the Public Safety Department at Stony Brook, I am disgusted at this lack of basic human understanding within the Public Safety Department.

The incident on April 12th could have been avoided if the two Public Safety officers had only differentiated between who is inflicting harm and who is seeking protection. As I said to Richard Young, "I am not out for blood." I am out to voice my concerns in an attempt to pry some eyes aware. I would like to add that Richard Young did agree with me concerning the need for improvement within the Public Safety Department. He also agreed to speak with the officers and to get back to me. As adults we must communicate. Richard Young—if you are reading this—I am still waiting for your phone-call and your response...

## Kiss the Sky

by Lisa Caiafa

"What's down there?"

"I don't know, but it's supposed to be beautiful. My mother saw it when she was young. She said it was this giant canyon with a river at the bottom, and that there was a magnificent view."

"Too bad you can't see it anymore."

Yeah, too bad."

This conversation may become all too real within the next hundred years if we continue on our present course of polluting the earth's atmosphere. A major problem, which is hardly even considered alongside other air pollution issues, is visibility. According to the National Weather Service "Median summertime visibility over most of the eastern U.S. has decreased more than 50%, to less than 15 miles." On the outskirts of large cities, the percentages are far worse.

Of course, it is quite evident that there is substantial polluting in large cities. It is disgustingly apparent on clear days when a bottom rim of grey haze can be seen across the horizon. But this haze doesn't end at the tip of Manhattan or the edge of San Francisco. It stretches out and continues on to the beautiful vistas of Vermont or Colorado. Vermont, in particular, is most heavily polluted by factories and power plants from the Ohio River Valley.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been confronted on the issue of regional haze on several occasions. They responded in 1980, due to lawsuits by Friends of the Earth and the Environmental Defense Fund, by saying "We will take on the regional haze issue later." Though some of the blame should be placed on the shoulders of the EPA for drawing out this issue for so long, in certain ways the EPA is justified in its response. The truth is that the mechanics of regional haze are not

thoroughly understood.

Though we may not know enough about the problem to devise a precise course of action, there is no reason why national policies to reduce pollutants and regulate their output should not be implemented. Right now, the EPA only mandates "that any state whose emissions may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute to any impairment of visibility is required to adopt a state implementation plan to reduce those emissions." But if one state is causing visibility problems for another state (as is the case with Vermont), the latter state has nowhere to turn.

Though many of the issues and concerns facing regional haze have yet to be addressed, at least we now understand that a problem does exist. And though the present policy is less effectual than we'd like, at least there is some sort of policy. So slowly, and with a lot of prodding, the visibility issue is finally becoming visible.

## A Long Poisoned Island

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small profit by moving out now while residents who've lived here a bit longer are moving out while they still can. As property values go up, few people will be able to afford the expenses of housing, so people wonder if they'll be able to sell in a few years from now when the house is worth an astronomical amount. This has brought about a really insane situation: people are trying to sell their houses before the property values rise even more. Why? So they can sell before the property values reach a point where no one can afford to move in and taxes skyrocket because of all the development going on.

Of course this isn't happening in just St. James, but in towns around Long Island with similar "progress" and developments being made. Has all this progress and development helped everyone or just those with some specific gain? Ever wonder why no one is trying to establish exclusive communities in places like Central Islip and Wyandanch? Will Long Island someday become an exclusive community with little reservations for the longtime residents and minorities who've been pushed out by all the development?

I don't know if I've gotten my point across, or even made one, but I think there's one in here somewhere. You keep seeing statistics that all the young people are getting off the Island. I can't imagine why. I can't afford to live here once I graduate; the roads are used at a level well above capacity; there's no place to put the garbage, which will cause even more illegal dumping (even by certain State universities) which won't help the water supply, which is already developing problems here and there. Taxes are skyrocketing as property values become downright insane.

Ever notice how well people are at noticing the obvious? We need a fourth lane for the expressway. Of course it would have helped if construction was begun ten or twenty years ago, and of course the fourth lane will solve backups

on Route 111, 112, 347,... No place to put the garbage. Brilliant. Two years from now when the landfills close they'll still be trying to figure out what to do. Maybe one of Long Island's colleges should create an Institute for Waste Management. We could always ship out the garbage by rail except for the fact that certain organizations might not want to lose the carting business.

It took a lot of brilliance to decide that Shoreham was dangerous and unnecessary *after* the plant was complete; too bad the decision wasn't made twenty years ago. With all of the eastward expansion, do you think opposition might have been less if LILCO had built the plant in Jamesport rather than in Shoreham which is closer to the exclusive suburbs? (If an evacuation plan for the Island is implausible, what does Suffolk County plan to do if the nuke plant in Connecticut has an accident?)

One vision of Long Island twenty years from now could be this: a poisoned island with imported drinking water (or maybe a dam across Peconic Bay with a desalination plant), artificial reefs off the North and South Shores made from burned garbage. The traffic problem? Oh, that was solved when the William Floyd Parkway finally found its purpose and a bridge to Connecticut was built, allowing people to live there and commute over. The only people left on the Island were those who couldn't afford to move off; the poor and working classes along with minorities and those who chose to stick it out.

Of course there wasn't much left to commute to. Gruman lost a few key contracts and laid off everyone not connected with the space program. Other companies moved off because garbage to electricity plants couldn't provide enough electricity. LIPA had collapsed when the Canadians withheld hydropower as a protest of the American government's denying the existence of acid

rain. The LIPA problems and power shortages caused by importing other people's power caused a big scandal for Governor Halpin.

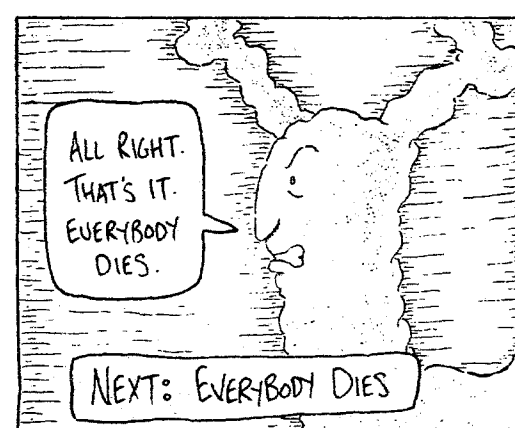
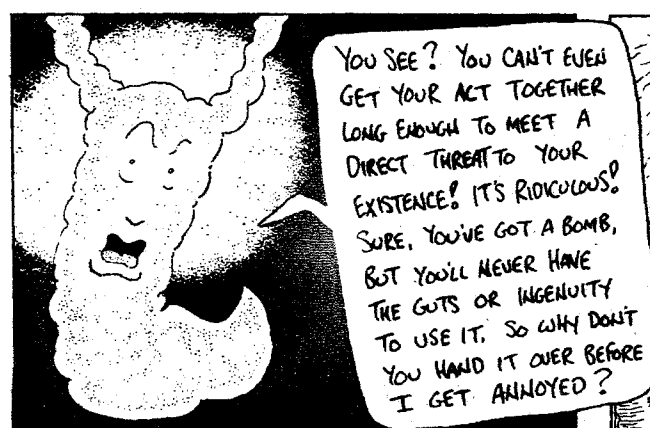
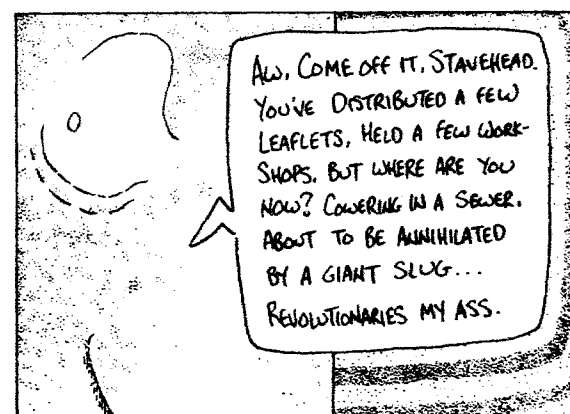
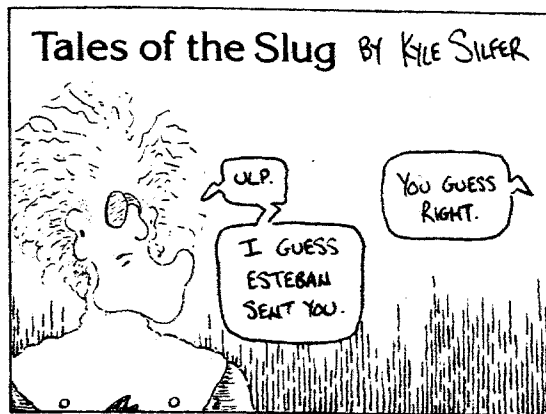
On the other hand, maybe this so called "progress" will run its course without doing too much damage. Maybe Long Island won't become one big exclusive community and one giant parking lot. Let's hope mass transit gets more attention as an alternative to expanding the highways. Let's hope so, I'd hate to see something done after it's too late. Perhaps I'm being a bit pessimistic here, but things happening on the Island makes me wonder about the future. Hmmm...

## Collectivism

continued from page 6

fixing what's wrong with our country, we've let fast-talking charismatic politicians let decade-old problems get worse. The Reagan administration has not held one of its campaign promises. How can we say unemployment is at an "all time low" if we don't count the people whose benefits ran out and are still unable to get a job, as Reagan's people have? The "new jobs" created don't even begin to make up for the high-paying industrial jobs lost during our manufacturing collapse of the 1970's. The few jobs created are low-paying, temporary "service jobs" like waiters, bartenders etc. Not only has Mr. Reagan ignored his promise to cut the national debt and trade deficit, he hasn't even slowed their growth.

If we are going to survive the next few decades without a severe depression, we must train ourselves to identify the real problems in our country and take the responsibility to counter them.



## Life Is a Carnival

*continued from back page*

recruit people with technical acrobatic skills, but to find people who are blessed with the "heart and soul" of a clown. It is the ability to evoke emotions that is looked for. You can be accepted to clown college just by the answers you give to the deep, personality-probing questions on the application. The necessary clowning skills can be developed at the college.

Clown College was founded in 1968 by Irwin Feld, who bought the circus from Ringling Brothers in 1967. At the time, the number of professional clowns in the country had diminished to 200. Feld, believing that clowning was the lifeblood of the circus, founded the college to provide a place where the art of clowning could be passed on from generation to generation.

The college is located in Venice, Florida at the historic Winter quarters of Ringling Brothers. Students go through an intensive ten week training period, taking classes ten hours a day, six days a week.

The students learn the history of clowning, work on appropriate clowning skills, and develop their own individual clown

characters. The college is tuition-free, but the students must supply funds for equipment, room and board. Equipment—make-up kits, stilts, outfits, juggling pins—costs roughly \$600. Housing is \$80-85 per week. Overall, it costs the students \$1800-2000 for the ten weeks. There is no time for part-time jobs, friends, or family.

Circus life is continuous. Six hundred shows are performed a year; each must look as new as the first. The clown works six days a week, and lives out of the circus train caravan which travels 13,000 miles a year. The pay is low, and the lifestyle is characterized by the unexpected.

It is somehow appropriate that the clowns give up so much, and spend so much time working their asses off. The work, and the competitive hiring process, maintains the proper degree of excellence. Not everyone has to be a professional clown. Despite the hard work, the job is rewarding. There is the pride which results from a performance well done, the memory of smiling faces, and new friends. And when you give your heart away, the audition leader said, "...Ohh, how it comes back."



# WANTED:

## TENT CITY PROTESTORS BY JACK AND THE D.A.'S OFFICE

Watch out! If you see these fingerprints anywhere on campus, be extremely cautious. These fingerprints belong to Tent City protestors who were arrested last year. Jack Marburger and the D.A.'s office of Suffolk County are going to try and put these dangerous criminals behind jail once and for all, even though two Suffolk County judges dismissed all the cases, stating unequivocally that the protestors were exercising their constitutional rights. If you or any of your friends see these fingerprints, report it at once to The Stony Brook Press.

Tent City Vigilante Hotline—632-6451

□ The Stony Brook Press—We Care About Your Safety □

### WUSB 90.1 FM RADIO FREE LONG ISLAND TOP 30 for April 18

1. Pixies—Surfer Rosa
2. Sgt. Pepper Knew My Father (comp, import)
3. Eugene Chadbourne—Dear Eugene
4. Bosho—Chop Socky (import)
5. Ziggy Marley—Conscious Party
6. Ruben Blades
7. Toasters—Pool Shark (import)
8. Monty Python—The Final Rip-Off
9. Renaldo and the Loaf—The Elbow is Taboo
10. Salem 66—Natural Disasters
11. Monks of Doom (a soundtrack)
12. Self Defense—Tug O' War
13. Steve Fisk—448 Deathless Days
14. Peter Nooten—Sleeps with Fishes
15. Alpha Blondie—Jerusalem
16. Billie Holliday—Quint Vol. 3
17. Red Lorry Yellow Lorry—Smashed Hits
18. Boogie Down Productions
19. Fred Frith
20. Let Their Voices Be Heard (comp.)
21. Lydia Lunch/Thurston Moore (12" import)
22. Legendary Pink Dots
23. Grinning Plowmen
24. Abecedarians
24. Phantom Tollbooth
25. Hard as Hell
26. Dry Lungs III (comp.)
27. Drowning Pool
28. Bill Laswell
29. Used and Recommended (comp., import)
30. Universal Congress

● On-air Debate: Polity Presidential Candidates ●  
— Tonight at 8:30pm —

### UPCOMING CONCERTS

#### Monday, April 25

● Tito Puente  
at the Village Gate

The Ventures  
at the Lone Star Cafe

#### Tuesday, April 26

● Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie  
at Westbury Music Fair

Sarah Vaughan  
at the Blue Note  
—through May 1

Dissidenten  
at S.O.B.'s

#### Wednesday, April 27

● Dr. John  
at the Lone Star  
—and April 28

Cecil Taylor  
at the Knitting Factory

#### Thursday, April 28

● 10,000 Maniacs  
at the Beacon Theatre

Mojo Nixon and Skid Roper  
at the Ritz

#### Friday, April 29

● The Bears (featuring Adrian Belew)  
at the Bottom Line  
—and April 30

They Might be Giants  
at the Ritz

#### Saturday, April 30

● The Godfathers  
at the Ritz

#### Monday, May 2

● Jerry Jeff Walker  
at the Lone Star Cafe  
—and May 3

#### Thursday, May 5

● James Brown  
at the Lone Star Cafe  
—and May 6

The Smithereens  
at the Bottom Line  
—through May 7

#### Friday May 6

● The Fall  
at the Ritz

#### Saturday, May 21

● John Scofield  
at IMAC

### CLUB INFORMATION

□ Apollo ..... (212) 864-0372 253 W. 125th St.	□ The Ritz ..... (212) 529-5295 11th St. between 3rd and 4th
□ Beacon ..... (212) 496-7070 74th & Broadway	□ Roseland ..... (212) 247-0200 239 W. 52nd St.
□ Blue Note ..... (212) 475-8592 181 W. 3rd St.	□ S.O.B.'s ..... (212) 243-4940 204 Varick St.
□ Bottom Line ..... (212) 228-7880 15 W. 4th at Mercer	□ Sparks ..... (516) 351-8828 134 E. Main St., 1 mile east of Route 110, Farmingdale
□ Cat Club ..... (212) 505-0090 76 E. 13th St.	□ Sundance ..... (516) 665-2121 217 E. Main St., Bayshore
□ February's ..... (516) 354-9274 1325 Hempstead Tpke, Elmont	□ Town Hall ..... (212) 840-2824 123 W. 43rd
□ Hofstra ..... (516) 560-6967 Hempstead Tpke, Uniondale	□ Tramps ..... (212) 777-5077 125 E. 15th St.
□ IMAC ..... (516) 549-9666 370 New York Ave., Huntington	□ Village Gate ..... (212) 982-9292 Bleecker and Thompson
□ Lone Star Cafe ..... (212) 242-1664 5th Ave. and 13th	□ Westbury Music Fair ..... (516) 333-0533 Brush Hollow Road, Westbury
□ Mad. Sq. Garden ..... (212) 564-4400 34th St. @ Penn Station	

# TIME TRIPPERS AND THE TIME TROOPERS

BY BILL 88

**MEKE BAG OF SHELLS BAR & GRILL**

DAG-GY! THOSE FREAKS ARE RUNNIN' ON THE TAB! WHAT! ... GET 'EM! THAT'S IT RUN... YOU RATFALED BASTARD!!

WHO IS THAT GIRL?

10098 0NCT2 5N.V.U.2

TIME TRIPPERS TIME HISTORY TRAIL GUIDE: PAGE 38 - "NEVER EVER RUN OUT ON A TAB IN A BAR ON SYNCROSH"

**ENTRANCE MEKE BAG OF SHELLS BAR & GRILL SYNCROSH**

DRINKS ON THE HOUSE FOR THE GUY WHO CATCHES THOSE F--KIN' DEADBEATS!

DRINKS ON THE HOUSE? MOVE OVER! GET 'EM LOOK OUT! YEA!

WHEN WE GET 'EM CAN WE BUST THEIR HEADS UP?

THEY CAN CHASE THE IDIOTS, LADY - WE'LL STAY HERE AND DRINK ON THE HOUSE... WHILE THEY ARE GONE. NOW THAT'S AN IDEA VINCHENEZ, A GOOD IDEA!

... SYNCROSHINS TEND TO REACT RATHER VIOLENTLY TO SUCH PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT

TIME 55 LIMIT 4 P.M.

WE GOT COMPANY!!

GO BAGGY GO!

OOH CRASH AND BURN CRASH AND BURN CRASH AND BURN!

HEY BILL, SLIP ON SOME DRIVING TUNES!

READY THAT HOWITZER, HAGS!

CHECK!

HIT IT!

OVERTIMERS!

OOH BAGGY NOT SO FAST.. BAGS! THERE THEY ARE!

WE BUILD YOU A CAR'S I LIKE THE CAR THAT YOU DRIVE! HUGOSLAVIA! HUGOSLAVIA! 5!

TAKE THAT! TEEHEEHEE

FOODMP!

BLAST 'EM HAGS! BLAST 'EM!!

BEDBULLS AND BUFFALOES! BUFFALOES AND BEG-BUOS! WATERFOWL AND WATER SPORTS! WATER SPORTS AND WATERFOWL! BOOM!

GET IN HERE RALF! YIPE!

CHARGE METER ZONE AHEAD

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH: STRANGE VISITORS ARRIVE!

WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT LITTLE SCHOLASTICIZED DEMON!

HE DOUBT- CROSSED UP!

WHO IS JOHN RIZZO?

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT FROM THE DEMON, COMPASSION?!

3RD ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

BY THOR I'M GONNA CHOP HIM INTO.... SHHH

I'M GONNA TAKE A LOOK AROUND

WHO COMES INTO JOHN RIZZO'S? THE COASTS CLEAR

EXIT

PARTY THE RAT'S CELLAR

LET'S GO!

WHO ARE THESE STRANGE VISITORS AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

WELL DUNSTAN, WE'RE NOT IN KEDLAND ANYMORE!

CANNON, NOR THE ABYSS

THANK ODIN!

SO SUNDARR, WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOT... THE QUESTION REMAINS WHERE ARE WE?

NEXT: ANSWERS

## —Big Top—

by Ryder Miller

I never thought, when I went to The Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey clown auditions that a lack of seriousness would be my downfall. "We take our silliness seriously; clowning is not just a hobby," said the audition leader, asking people to think about why they came to the audition. "One must have a genuine interest, not just a passing fancy, to be a clown. It involves intensive training at Ringling Brothers Clown College, and hard work with the knowledge that employment may not come your way. The position requires not only commitment, but also a *specialness*."

Over the length of the demonstration, the audition leader explained what clowning demands. "You must have a heart the size of Alaska, and be willing to give it away every day," he said. The list went on: a clown has to be able to communicate (without words) to a crowd of thousands; he must be able to pull a laugh out of the ten year old in anybody. Clowns shouldn't be cynical; there are plenty of cynics in the audience. Also, it is a shame when a clown smokes or utters profanities; clowns have a long tradition to uphold.

Clowning is as old as civilization itself. Throughout the ages clowns have held a variety of titles including Jester, Fool, Minstrel, and Mime. The first recorded appearance of a clown was in 2270 BC—a nine year-old Egyptian pharaoh said a clown was "a divine spirit to rejoice and delight the heart."

On April 14th Ringling Brothers sponsored their annual clown college auditions at Madison Square Garden. I took the train to Penn Station, and walked to the Garden through gloomy streets, past beggars and tired people on their way home from work. I entered the Garden through the employee's entrance, at Eight Penn Plaza. The room was filled with big guards, cops, and impatient employees waiting on line for their checks. A fat cop directed me to take the elevator to the 5th floor, and I followed the ugly brown and grey corridors, littered with garbage and empty kegs, to the Garden floor.

# Workingman's Circus

## These Clowns Are Serious



Photo: Ryder Miller

There is a special feeling on the floor of the Garden when "The Greatest Show on Earth" is in town. It's like being in a magical world, where all stories have happy endings, and the play of human emotions shine brightly within a sea of shadows. The floor was filled with rings and trampolines, all set for the 6:30 show. Clowns walked in, and among, the forty or so people who came to the audition, instructing and helping the audition leader. Reporters stood away from the action, taking pictures and asking people occasional questions. Scattered in the seats above were observers who just came to watch the audition: a secret magic event hidden in the Garden, away from the dismal world outside.

People trying out at the audition were led through a warm-up where they stretched and used the whole body to express emotions. The large group was broken into three smaller groups, and the audition leader asked for: Pain.....Sadness..Happiness.....Shyness...Joy. There was a certain energy emanating from the audition leader, who kept everybody attentive, comfortable, and amused throughout the length of the audition. At one point, when people began to lag, he said "Keep the energy level high. You're a clown. You're imbued with magical powers, you can collapse when you go home." The people trying out ran through small routines and gags; some showed material they brought with them.

The clown routines are developed with family entertainment in mind. They express a universal message which people from all walks of life can understand. Though the humor is clean, there is still a hipness to it. Strangely enough, the clowns at Ringling Brothers don't develop new gags. "There are no new gags," said the audition leader, "they're all old...Developing routines is the constant rediscovery of the old...A cave man slipping on an aardvark was the first banana peel gag."

Auditions are held across the nation, every spring. Each year approximately 2000 people apply, only 50 are accepted. Only a third of the people who finish the college program eventually get hired by the circus. The purpose of the tryouts is not to

continued on page 13

## —Vinyl—

# The Pixies' SURFER ROSA

## Between Banality and Brilliance

by Rob Rothenberg

A midst a vast ocean of bland and banal music (often classified as "good ol' rock 'n roll"), very few artists stand out. And then there are the Pixies—who just bob up and down on the surface, somewhere between breathing creativity and drowning in emulation.

Their latest album **Surfer Rosa** easily meets the quality of their previous LP **Come on Pilgrim**: both *really* good, good albums—not great, just really good.

Their songs are of a rather unique style, a combination of the typical college radio "new music" sound and groovy "rock 'n roll". The best way to describe the album is a blend of garage/punk, "up beat" dirges, and semi-organized noise, with touches of T. Rex. The lyrics are also a bit unusual—quasi meaningful silliness sung as if there were a lighthearted meaning. Although **Surfer Rosa** is not quite as good as **Come on Pilgrim**, the differences are subtle and vague. I enjoy listening to this album. The



thirteen tracks are varied enough to be entertaining yet still unified in style so that it can be listened to as an album, not just a series of unconnected singles.

The first side is more coherent than the second half, which sounds as if the Pixies' enthusiasm changed from making music to having fun, and the quality of it shows slightly. At times, it can become rather irritating, especially during "Tony's Theme", a song about a "superhero named Tony", which features many distractingly spoken drop-ins.

The better songs on the album are "Bone Machine", "River Euphrates", "Cactus", and "Where is My Mind?"—all with a sound that subtly moved me in a mellow way. Other songs with funky lyrics are "Break My Body" and "Gigantic".

**Surfer Rosa** is one of the better LPs to be released this year, and it's worth getting a hold of. It's not a musical piece of art, but an album to be enjoyed for itself. It's just "good new rock 'n roll."