

THE
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BROOK

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Morality

Dear Press

Your recent editorial "Terminated" Mar. 30, was a rather depressing reminder of the same shoddy reasoning we always seem to hear from the pro-abortion crowd. You certainly have the right to your opinions. I just wish you would think them out a little more. It would do wonders for the level of the current debate.

Whenever the issue of abortion is argued, we always hear that old chestnut that the government cannot legislate morality. It sounds wonderfully libertarian and sophisticated. The problem is, if one gives it a moment's thought, one quickly realizes that every meaningful law which is on the books does exactly that. Consider laws against murder, child abuse, child molestation, and robbery for example. Why are they illegal? Because essentially all Americans agree that they are just plain wrong. Why are we told that we need social programs to feed the hungry, educate the ignorant, and give opportunity to the disadvantaged? Because it is the right thing to do, so the argument goes. Why do we have a tax system which tries to redistribute wealth? Because it is not right that so many starve while a few are rich, is the standard response. Hmmm...sure sounds like someone is trying to legislate morality here. Whether we like it or not every society sets up rules of conduct. These rules are an expression of that society's morality. I am not equating law and morality, but I am saying that they are inseparably linked. To try to separate morality from the law is, at best, to make it irrelevant to human needs. At worst, such a separation will make the law inhuman.

What do our current laws say about human life? Well, once a child is born, it is entitled to the full protection of the law. But before this point, a human can be cut up, dismembered by a vacuum cleaner, or burned to death by saline solution. So what our society is basically saying is that people do not matter, even before they are born. How can we hope to build a society which respects and cherishes people if we do not do it even in the first nine months of life? And if we can not cherish members of our own species, how can we expect our society to be any more loving to the other species which share our planet? The answer is evident. Our society will have no such commitment. The evidence is everywhere. Ask Lisa Steinberg. Take a pleasure cruise into Valdez, Alaska.

I am not arguing that our society is wonderfully just or loving. It clearly is not, and permissiveness about abortion is one of the fundamental ways in which we harden ourselves to the sanctity of all life. If one sees an aborted fetus as just a "big tadpole sleeping in someone's uterus," why should one care

whether seals get clubbed to death in the Arctic, or soap gets tested on the eyes of helpless rabbits? If we cannot treat our own with respect, we have no hope of treating anything else any better.

You make another point in your article which is rather curious. You say that we will have to let the state decide when a fetus is human. You can not really mean that. If you do, what is wrong with defining Jews, Slavs, gypsies, and homosexuals as unhuman? Sounds like a familiar line of reasoning. Where did we see that practiced last? The South African state has decided that blacks are not human enough to be responsible citizens. I would think we do not want to concede to the state the right to define who is human. A genocidal abyss lies in that direction. The only alternative I can see is to give fetuses the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps err on the side of caution, lest someday we find out that our group has been judged unhuman.

Your article also charges that the pro-life movement does not care about children after they are born. That statement is not only untrue, but you give no real evidence to back it up. I would be glad to show you evidence against your assertion. Of course, the argument is largely irrelevant, since your pro-abortion movement deprives us of 1.4 million chances to prove otherwise each year.

Maurice B. Aufderheide
Graduate Student
Physics

The Press replies: The laws you mention ("against murder, child abuse," etc., and those enforcing "social programs") are designed to protect citizens from harm—a pretty basic function of any long-term civilization, "moral" or otherwise. Pro-lifers argue that fetuses are citizens, and, hence, due that protection. Pro-choicers argue the opposite. The debate is a philosophical one. Either way, to quote from the editorial in question, "A fetus is a human being when the state says it is. Period." The only opinion that matters, like it or not, is the one enforced by law.

Power

Dear Editor

S.R. Zeeve reveals far more than perhaps she(?) realizes in her response on 3/9 to the writer's "Sign Here, Please" of 2/16. First is that her response involved mostly personal attacks against me ("Neanderthal," "insensitive jerk," "obnoxious and unattractive," "sleazy," "fragile ego," just to name a few). I presume this is designed to intimidate any man reading it, and also reveals the weakness of her arguments.

But, more importantly, note that the contract recommends egalitarian alternatives which involve no sexual commitment, and then it not only gives sexual control to a man if he pays for dates but also to a woman if she pays for

CLAMP DOWN

The Quincy Troupe case has dragged a lot of things out in the open that don't normally get the spotlight treatment. Because a female white student accused a male black student of raping her, we're getting a good look at something that's been kept quiet, almost without exception, within the boundaries of the university.

Rape is bad publicity, and a sticky topic to boot. Nobody likes to talk about it, least of all college administrators. If it's possible to hush things up until everyone forgets, so much the better. No media representatives nosing around on campus, no lurid headlines, no sudden drop in attendance, and no loss of revenue. That's the ideal way to handle rape.

Quincy Troupe seems to be the object of just such an operation. If Troupe's lawyer can be believed, Suffolk County Police pressured the rape victim into making an identification, and once Troupe was in jail, USB officials tried to make sure he'd stay there by vouching that he had "no roots" in the campus community. If Troupe was from a less influential family, we'd probably never hear of him or the rape ever again, and that would no doubt suit the university just fine. But, if C. Vernon Mason's allegations are true, they decided to railroad the wrong black guy.

Both his campus community (in which, you'll remember, he has "no roots") and the media have come to Troupe's rescue, ensuring, at least, that he'll be granted a full investigation. His treatment at the hands of the police is, at best, suspect, and accusations of racial bias appear to bear some weight. What white boy, charged of a similar crime on similar evidence, would be required to cough up \$10,000 cash money to avoid spending the night in jail (particularly a white boy with—ostensibly, at least—an airtight alibi)?

Whether Troupe did it or not—and this is something the courts have to determine—the question remains: Why did it take \$10,000, C. Vernon Mason, student demonstrations, and full-tilt media coverage to keep Troupe out of the slammer and in school—after five years of exemplary behavior—during his senior year at Stony Brook? Standard operating procedures, say USB and Suffolk County. Racism, say Mason and Blackworld. And both sides have their points, but the bottom line is that though Troupe has been nailed to the wall, perhaps justifiably, still no one feels safe to walk the campus at night.

The Stony Brook Press

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Roy U. Schenk

Speaking Out

Campus Support for Troupe

by David Alistair

C. Vernon Mason, attorney for USB student Quincy Troupe, spoke to a crowd of approximately three hundred students at the UNITI Cultural Center on Thursday, April 6. On one point he was especially adamant: "I would not, do not, represent a rapist," he said. "...as a matter of fact, I may introduce him to my daughter."

Accompanied by Malik Sigma Psi founder Larry B. Martin, Quincy Troupe himself, and Troupe's parents, Mason explained his



Image: Rachel Elkind

client's side of the story.

According to Mason, the victim "said that she scratched [the rapist] and he had a deep scar on his chest area. The day before yesterday I asked Quincy to take off his shirt. He doesn't have a deep scar." Mason also

said the victim described her attacker as having an earring and being "very, very muscular," neither of which he pointed out, is true of Troupe.

In light of his client's alibi—in which he claims he has witnesses to verify that he was in New York City before, during, and after the alleged rape—Mason asked, "Why is [Troupe] going to drive—and he does not have a license and I can testify that he cannot drive...Why is he going to leave Harlem, come all the way up to Stony Brook...having an hour-and-a-half to think about it...going to put on his jacket that is going to identify him as a member of a fraternity that has thirteen members...[and] just so happen to be at that door...?"

Mason also criticized Suffolk County Police for improper investigative procedures, claiming Troupe's alibi was not verified: "I don't understand a police officer whose hands are so paralyzed they can't write, they can't push on a tape recorder, they cannot pick up a telephone..."

In addition, he said—according to one of the victim's friends—police pressured the victim into making an identification. "She said she told the police, out of this group photograph of Malik, that it was either *this* one, *this* one, or *that* one," Mason explained. "Then the police said, 'That won't do. You've got to pick one.'"

"That," he said, "is not an identification."

"But I know," Mason affirmed, "that everything that [the police] did in this case was not to get the person who did this, but to get *anybody*."

He then requested of the victim: "Why don't you come forward and say that they manipulated you, just like they manipulated [Troupe] and his family?"

Rev. Calvin O. Butts of the Abyssinian



Image: Rachel Elkind

April 5, Student Union

Students are vocal on the topic.

Church in Harlem also spoke, urging the university administration to open a dialogue with its students. "The president of this university," he said, "ought to humble his high and mighty self and be here to speak to you about justice," a call that Mason echoed.

Later, Troupe and his father and stepmother—Quincy Troupe, Sr. and Margaret Troupe—were introduced, to a standing ovation, and each took the podium with a brief word of thanks for the students present. Troupe himself spoke briefly: "Thank you...for all the support that you've given, but it's just unfortunate that these circum-

stances have to bring us together like this. Let us make sure that next time will be under more pleasant circumstances."

Malik Sigma Psi chapter president Joe DeJesus followed with a statement of support and announced that proceeds from the upcoming Malik basketball tournament will be given to the Troupe family.

Mason concluded by saying, of the university administration and Suffolk County Police, "Whatever we got to do to make certain you will not do this frame on this brother, we're prepared to do it. That is not a threat, it's a promise."

by Christopher Chen

A hearing for Quincy Troupe was held on April 6 at the Hauppauge District Court. The hearing lasted about five minutes and was attended by approximately 300 supporters, mostly black USB students. Over 150 supporters packed the courtroom, with an approximately equal number standing outside. The five minute hearing came after an hour delay in proceedings.

C. Vernon Mason, Troupe's lawyer, thanked the crowd for the strong support and said, "He [Troupe] is innocent." Supporters of Troupe have said that Troupe's case was mishandled by the Suffolk Police and that Troupe was suspended from the university without just investigation. Mason said that he and the district attorney's office have worked out a postponement of court proceedings until May 10, allowing District Attorney Turner to "investigate the case from beginning to end, from A to Z."

This was Troupe's first appearance after his arraignment and he looked dazed before the throng of people pressing toward him. Troupe said, "I just want to thank you for all the support you've given me." The crowd responded with calls of "We love you Quincy" and "We're behind you Quincy."

Troupe's stepmother and father were also present, thanking the crowd for the strong turnout of support for their son. Troupe's stepmother said they are sorry for what happened to the girl but know that their son is innocent. Troupe's father described "the trauma and confusion our

Hearing the Case



Image: Ed Bridges

younger son Porter is going through" over the proceedings.

USB president John Marburger, in a telephone interview from home, said the original suspension was "completely justified" and was not a judgment of Troupe's innocence or guilt. "The executive suspension," Marburger said, "is something that is normally used when there is a strong suspicion of physical violence. In this case, there was a very positive identification." The president went on to say that the suspension was an "immediate response to a critical situation precipitated by a very clear, unambiguous request" and was intended to provide a "cooling-off" period.

The executive suspension is imposed for a period of ten days, during which the suspension can be appealed. The treatment given to Troupe was nothing different than normal procedure, Marburger said. The president said he is "aware of at least seven instances this year when the executive suspension was invoked."

Troupe was suspended the evening of Monday, April 3. He appealed on the morning of April 4 and an appeals hearing was held later that afternoon. The terms of the suspension were modified, and Troupe was allowed to return to classes under conditional terms.

"The temporary suspension is not meant to cut a judgment of right or wrong," Marburger stated. "That decision is in the hands of the courts."

Returning Student

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Cost: Free, but you must sign up!

Place: Union Ballroom

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The Stony Brook Press

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Saturday, April 15th
at
7, 9:30, and 12
in
Javits 102

Tickets:
\$1.00 w/ID, \$1.50 w/o

Buy tickets in advance at Union Box Office.
Tickets also available at door.

Sixteen Years After March on D.C. for Women's Rights

Rob went to the NOW march for ERA/abortion rights in Washington, April 9. This is what he saw.

by Robert Rothenberg

The bus was 30 miles from Baltimore when I woke up—having little recollection of getting there, just that I caught the ride Sunday morning at a time when Saturday night usually ends for me. Others began to stir then, and after experiencing aimless anticipation and staring out the green windows, either fell back asleep or wielded magic markers and hypnotic creativity on colored posterboards. The bus continued with many others from around the country towards "designated parking" at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, eventually encountering the very long line of buses that crept into the lots, carrying Pro-Choice, Pro-ERA people there for one of the biggest rallies Washington has seen for a while.

The distance between R.F.K. Stadium and the Capitol being many times that of South P-Lot and main campus, we were forced to use the Metro (D.C.'s subway system, a surreal Disneyland ride with armed attendants). The local police inconvenienced us by blocking the Metro entrance for ten-minute crowd control intervals. By then, the two GSO busloads melded into the rest, some deciding to foot the way, convinced the walk was two miles. "You don't want to do that—it's seven miles," a policeman informed the hesitant.

Arriving somewhere near the Smithsonian, we made our way amid Cherry Blossom tourists and other marchers looking for the actual march, which seemed to have no starting point, a haphazard sea of people making its way from wherever to the Capitol, like a primeval blob attracted to the stimulus of amplified voices emanating from the huge stacks vaguely that-a-way.

With two friends I hadn't yet been separated from finally engulfed into the flow, I drifted alone through the parade of middle-aged women in traditional-suffragette bridal-white garb of designer Perrier and Coca-Cola sweatsuits with mass-produced signs (in surprisingly abundant numbers), punks and hippies in respective stereotypical outfits, as well as large quantity of relatively normal-looking people. Onlookers stood on the sidewalks and gawked as protesters took over the steps and lawns of various governmental buildings, such as the Archives and Federal Trade Commission. A few Pro-Lifers with "Abortion is Murder" and "Choose Jesus" signs stood isolated.

The marchers (about two-thirds women) marched, carried banners and signs, and chanted a little as they made their way towards the unintelligible voices in the distance, guided by NOW (National Organization for Women—which organized the march) "facilitators" wearing easily recognizable yellow sashes. The theme was coat-hangers, which were worn or displayed in a variety of ways. By their presence (according to NOW, over 600,000 people; the of-

ficial government number is half that) they achieved their short-term goal of attention. Many sat on the nearest lawn or in the street and attempted to decipher the echoing voices, socialize with neighbors, or idle lazily on the grass or nearby statues. They

"The theme was coat hangers, which were worn or displayed in a variety of ways."

already knew why they were there and what issues they were for (the right to safe, legal abortions and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment); the speakers were merely there to give those who were close enough something to listen to, to incite and

inspire them, and to attack and accuse the Right to Life movement and its allies.

I made my way through the dense crowds towards the Capitol, at first in the direction of the sound system (a voluminous set of black speakers), which is what many were watching, but eventually got behind the official press stand where I could see the heads speaking at the tiny podium distance. It was difficult to keep listening when each speaker (such as NOW prez Molly Yard, Gloria Steinem, Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Jesse Jackson who I was unable to hear—, Whoopi Goldberg, Sybil Shephard, and many others) saying the same thing in different ways. Participation in collective activities such as singing "Amazing Grace" was a bit tedious for my tastes.

I escaped to the back as police on motorcycles beeped toy motorcycle horns and the crowd forward to clear the way. The march was to end within an hour, but I was hungry and out of film. On my sea of food I accidentally found the mock tarty set up by the Right to Life opposition. A fenced-in lawn with little white crocheted trees or just standing, looking full and pitiable as a few people sit in front of it, which they took quite confronting anyone, just taking it.

Slanted Sources

by Robert V. Gilheany

Maybe the free press ain't so free after all. At least, that was the theory Wednesday evening, April 5, at the Old Chemistry Lecture Center. Columnist Alexander Cockburn and City Sun managing editor Utrice Leid spoke on the role of the media in misreporting the news in a forum co-sponsored by the Red Balloon and Blackworld. The purpose of the event was to expose racism and a right-wing bias in the corporate press.

Cockburn explained why corporate bias exists in the major news networks and papers. "Publishers and editors," he said, "like the society that made them publishers and editors." He went on to explain that those organizations are capitalist in nature and owned by large corporations. Cockburn explained how the bias in foreign reporting works by stating: "Suppose you are a reporter for The New York Times in Nicaragua. You know the slant of your newspaper. Are you going to write about the government's polio vaccine drive? Or are you going to talk with known anti-Sandinista clergy?"

He demonstrated the methods the mass media uses to frame debates. "Bogus parallels," "bogus choices" and "the imaginary audience" are three points he made reference to. "A bogus parallel is 'Extremist violence has killed thousands of El Salvadorans in recent years.'" He went on to say that if you looked at who was getting killed, like labor leaders and human rights advocates, it is clear that the violence is coming



Image: Rachel Elkind

Alexander Cockburn

from the right.

Cockburn employed sarcasm to illustrate the "bogus choices" the media uses in presenting what the issues are. He illustrated this via the issue of cannibalism. "On one side we have the free-market view on cannibalism...[and on the other side you have]...the opposing liberal view which would like to regulate it. At the end of their 'show' they will bring on someone who is totally opposed to the consumption of human flesh.

Mr. Burton Russelsprouts, who looks ridiculous, was questioned if he was opposed to the consumption of human flesh. He answered 'Of course.' Yes, thank you very much."

The "imaginary audience" Cockburn referred to is a method the media uses to signal that the public is conservative. They call it the silent majority. "Like there are six million fascists in Grand Rapids, Michigan," Cockburn said. "If you talk to people you find that there are a wide range of opinions people have, but if they are talking then they are a vocal minority."

Cockburn pointed out that the format of presenting points of view came about in the mid 1970s. He said, "at the time, people already decided that there was one side of the issue: Vietnam was murderous, politicians were a bunch of liars, and businessmen were crooks."

Cockburn suggested that public affair programs are deliberately produced as boring. "You can turn on MacNeil-Lehrer Report and your eyes drop out of your head."

He also spoke of how reporting from the third world reinforces racist views that Americans already have. "I always see small articles about bus plunges in the third world. These stories are fillers, but if you look at the larger issues of defective buses, bad roads, misdirected funding for third world countries, you could write an interesting piece about the political economy of a bus plunge, but instead you have filler that suggests that those silly brown people can't

drive buses. And [to me] that is racist."

"You see a lot of stories about crack drugs in the black communities, but do we see stories about black women going to keep drugs out of the neighborhood? These words were spoken by Utrice Leid, managing editor of The City Sun. She pointed out other stories that seem to have a racial bias. She said the Tawana Brawley case became a story about the persecution of a black girl and not about the "It [the case] was presented as who going to believe—this fat, loud, obnoxious black man [Sharpton] or this nice, able, family man [Abrams]." She said New York State Attorney Robert Abrams of acting illegally in predetermining the outcome of the Grand Jury. Cockburn, Leid, leaks to the press were in the jury's findings, "word for word."

Leid commented on the issue of whether or not the black community wants to identify itself as blacks or African-American. She described her response to The New York Times, she said, "Any community been forcefully uprooted has to take time to consider how they want to define themselves. The Jewish community too! consider if they wanted to be referred to as Hebrews, Israelites...[and]...they use the generic term Jews. Our community should have the same opportunity pointed out that the story was presented if the black community could not do what to call itself."

Waiting for the Sun

by Craig Goldsmith

For those of you who may have stopped keeping track, next year will be 1990, a new decade. The last decade of the Twentieth Century. The end of the Second Millennium. It may also be the Twilight of the United States as a world leader, at least as far as being the cutting edge in the active pursuit of new modes of human existence.

All this sententious, pretentious ruminating *does* have a point. I was recently given the privilege of viewing the Sunraycer solar-powered car at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The Sunraycer is currently making a display tour of the country, ostensibly to promote the value and feasibility of solar-powered transportation. The tour also takes the form of a slick, high-tech advertisement for General Motors, the company that carried out most of the development for the vehicle.

Now, although I am not a fan of obnoxious videotapes and GM reps loudly proclaiming the talents of GM engineers, of GM talent, of good old American know-how, both the display of the car and the tooting-its-own-horn attitude of GM are important. Solar power needs all the attention it can get.

Recent times—especially since the election of George Bush—have seen an absolute gutting of solar power research in the United States. Carter, for all his faults, instituted a great number of incentives—from tax breaks to out-and-out grants—to prod American companies to begin developing cheap, feasible methods of generating solar power (he was also the chap who tried to put anachronistic America on the metric system, which every other country in the world uses, but Reagan promptly cancelled that program). The value of solar power is ridiculously obvious: free, infinite energy (the Sun is not about to explode) and no pollution.

We are now destroying the Earth with noxious fumes generated from automobiles and power plants. And the oil is running out. It may not run out until we are grandparents, but oil is a *finite* resource.

In the face of what seem like fantastic reasons for going all-out on a plan to develop reasonable solar energy generators, Reagan and Bush have been drastically cutting programs designed to push research in these areas. The reasons given are that the deficit needs trimming, and that solar research doesn't pay off quickly enough. That's so absurd, it's frightening.

Granted, most large American firms (the ones capable of conducting extensive high-tech research) want to see profits this year; they don't want to wait ten years to see a return on their investments. But this is not the time to be short-sighted. And this is not just idle idealism and a "Save the Earth" mentality: it's a matter of pure economics and American pride (something that American companies and American politicians understand).

The Japanese are in the middle of an unprecedented effort to develop—over a period of ten or twenty years—solar cells that would rival, in manufacturing costs and efficiency, fossil fuels. All of the large electronics and research firms are working hand-in-hand with the government to carry out this goal. And they will be successful; if you actually doubt it, compare American automobiles with Japanese automobiles.

American companies whine about how Tokyo has cornered the international and domestic markets with their efficient, well-constructed automobiles. Big deal. Although Detroit and Washington would hate to admit it, the days of gas-powered cars (thankfully) are coming to an end. And it is the countries and companies that are planning for that

“Forget any science fiction you’ve read, this is real.”

day right now that will corner that future market. Personally, I don't care if it's American companies or Japanese companies that throw affordable, solar-powered cars and generators on the market. But I would be more than happy if it was the Americans, and that is also something Washington understands: an Us or Them mentality.

The Sunraycer proves that solar-powered transportation is really possible. Forget any science fiction you've read, this is real. The Sunraycer was developed by GM for an Australian solar car race: 2000 miles across the outback. The Sunraycer not only won by 200 miles and two days, it was also the sleekest looking car of the lot. Style and function are the two necessary elements of any car, as far as I'm concerned.

Shaped like a long, low tear-drop, the Sunraycer has 72 square feet of solar cells that generate enough electricity to power the car at speeds up to 60 miles an hour, solely with sun power, and up to 85 miles an hour with the aid of batteries. The batteries also hold a residual charge to power the vehicle during periods of shade.

Riding on 20-inch bicycle tires, and weighing in at 380 pounds (minus driver), the Sunraycer is mechanical simplicity at its finest. No transmission, just a variable speed electric motor connected by a belt to the drive wheel. The motor is about as big as a toaster, a super-magnet marvel developed by a German electrical firm. And it's quiet: no internal combustion vibration, no noise, no muffler. No fumes, no emissions system. And it's completely street-legal, registered in the state of California (the home of smog).

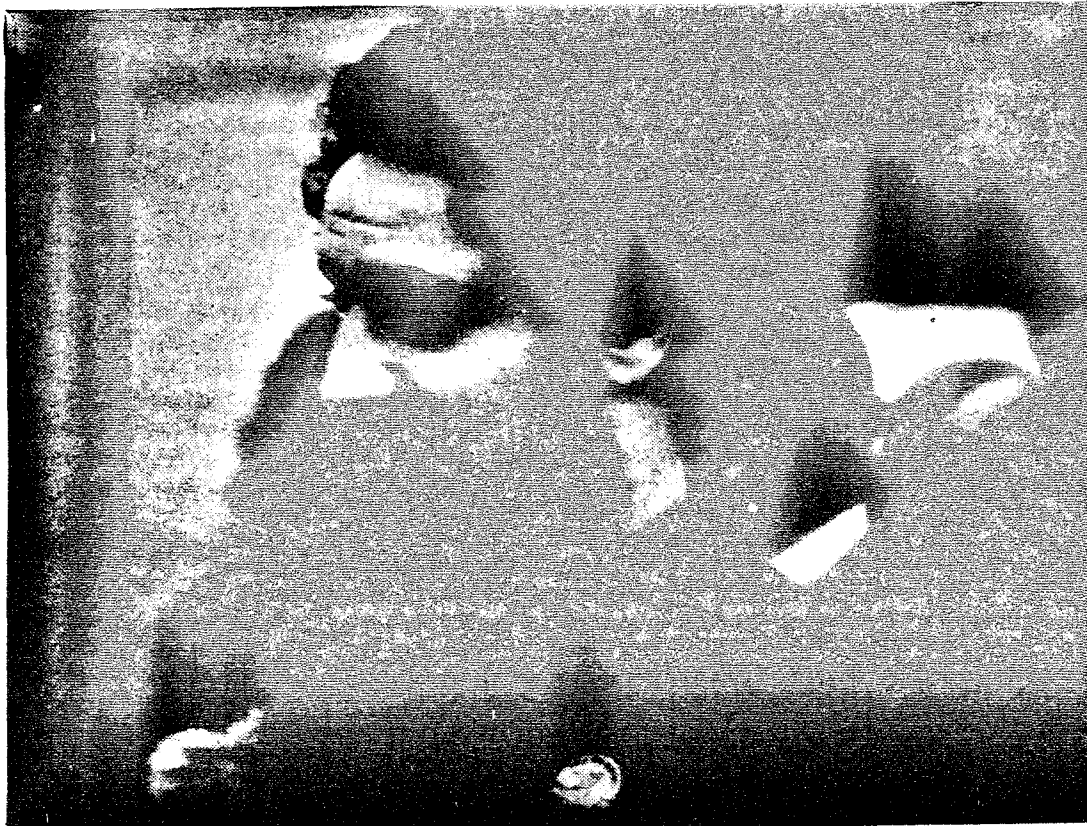
Another firm—also an American firm—has developed solar cells that provide pure 110 volt AC electricity for home use. The firm reports that its cells are now “as cheap as the most expensive methods of fossil fuel generation.” In real terms, the new cells are comparable to an oil generator using the most expensive fuel at the worst efficiency. That may not sound like God's answer to power needs, but the feasibility is there. Give it ten or fifteen years, and the costs will even out (especially because the Arab oil producers have re-organized themselves during the past six months: oil prices will begin to rise again).

Well, this may all sound fine and dandy. But what is going to happen as the American firms and the American government bow out of solar research is that the Japanese will take all this innovative research that the Americans have done, and then improve and refine the manufacturing techniques to make it cheap and efficient. In twenty years, the Japanese might corner the world market in solar energy. The sun just hangs in the sky; it doesn't cost anything. But the technology to extract the energy from that ball of fire *does* cost, and Japan might well monopolize that technology.

There are only two firms in the country still actively working on solar research, and only GM has any real resources. GM is really hyping the Sunraycer's win of the Australian race because GM doesn't want to be out of business in twenty years. Government backing of solar research in 1990 will be about zero, and American firms don't seem to have the foresight to conduct this sort of research on their own (they won't see a profit until 2001).

It's a classic American economic policy: make money this year. Forget about the fact that when solar power comes into its own, all the big American auto manufacturers will be hard-put to stay in business. Actually, what would probably happen is that reactionaries would impose such ridiculous-

continued on page 13



One of our most colorful, spunky, energetic, funny, and insightful radicals passed away last night. Abbie Hoffman was found dead in his Pennsylvania home at age 52.

Hoffman agitated for civil rights and anti-US military oppression of people at home and abroad.

He started his activist career in the early 1960s by exposing the abusive actions of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), a house committee established to keep tabs on left-of-center activists. His work led him to organize against the "US War Against the People of Vietnam." Along with Jerry Rubin, Phil Ochs, and others, he put together the Youth International Party, which was involved in the Chicago 1968 "Festival of Life" at the site of the Democratic Convention.

When Chicago police rioted and beat the demonstrators, Hoffman and seven others were selected to be tried for conspiracy—an event that became known as the "Chicago 8" trial. The defendants used the trial creatively as a forum and counter-culture show, and were eventually acquitted.

Hoffman became a fugitive on drug charges and went underground for eight years. He later surfaced and spent a year in jail. His most recent work centered around US military involvement in Central America. His autobiography, *Soon to Be a Major Motion Picture*, is part of the core curriculum of the sixties.

—Robert V. Gilheany

no frills polity election section

Here they are, kids—the latest batch of Student Polity election candidates. The pickings are a little slim for some officers: only one choice for SASU/USSA delegate, six out of the ten needed for the Judiciary, and none at all for the non-Polity position of Stony Brook Council student member. (Write-in candidates, start your engines.) In any case, a glance over the following pages will reveal who's running for what, and what they have to say. (Fair warning: candidate responses have been printed unedited and unexpurgated, grammatical errors and all.) The big day is April 17, so get reading and start taking bets on who gets charged with electioneering first.

President (1): is the advocate for the student body and a mediator between students and the administration. The President must be able to handle procedural duties such as chairing Council meetings and preparing agendas for both Council and Senate meetings. He/she also appoints all the members of Polity committees, with a few exceptions.

Vice-President (1): moderates meetings of the Senate and must be able to perform the duties of President in the event of a vacancy.

Secretary (1): responsible for all forms of correspondence, keeping track of records and informing students of all actions of the Council and Senate.

Class Representatives (3): delegate power to appropriate Polity agencies and promote a program of service, of political, cultural and educational projects and of activities.

Judiciary (10): has jurisdiction over all Constitutional interpretations, school-wide judicial problems, and appeals from lower Polity courts. The Supreme Court of Stony Brook.

SASU and USSA Reps (1 each): keeps the campus aware of issues concerning students as students and as citizens of NY state. The delegate also acts as spokesperson representing Stony Brook at SASU activities such as conventions and lobbies. One rep is the SASU rep, the other the USSA rep.

SB Council (1): "...the operations and affairs of the State University at Stony Brook are supervised locally by a ten-member council. Nine are appointed by the Governor, one is elected by the student body. The student member has all the rights and responsibilities of the other members."—USB Catalogue.

President

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Sorin Abraham

I am the average student and have seen the good and the bad from an average student's point of view. My experience on the university senate and the college of arts and sciences senate have given me insight about the process of polity. Also I am a Hare Krishna and have achieved a higher level of consciousness.

Brian James

I was last year's Freshman Class Representative and this year's Sophomore Class Representative. I am the only person to be a member of both Councils. I was also a senator for both years and this year I chaired the Student Polity Senate ROLMphone committee (the only subcommittee which met regularly since the beginning of the year), which handled problems with the system as well as the unfair mandatory phone fees. Through both of these years I have remained current on all issues and have thoroughly learned the duties and responsibilities of the Council. If elected I will not have to learn the duties of President. Instead I will be able to immediately start working on solving issues throughout the summer.

Esther Lastique

I'm running for Polity President because Student Polity is the core of student existence and representation. I have been involved for almost three years working on issues like campus safety, ROLMphones, and student control of activity fees. I've held positions with SASU and Polity—chair of the SASU Womyn's Caucus and member of SASU Board of Directors and Junior Representative of Polity. My experience has taught me that you can only change things after you've learned how.

Michael Lutas

I'm running because Polity is too concerned with distributing Student Activity Free spoils and too little time on the important issues students face: universal mandatory meal plan, a lack of campus security, towing, parking, Common Area Damage, and maintaining the dorms. I've served as Whitman College Senator last summer and this year as a Commuter College Senator. I

would have to say that my most important qualifications don't come from the posts I've held. They are my willingness to go out and help individual students with their problems and my commitment to make all of Polity do the same.

2. What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Sorin Abraham

Apathy, because only a small group of students are involved. Mobilization is possible as we were shown by the rally for Quincy B. Troupe.

Brian James

Many people would answer this question by citing specific problems and issues. Through my experience, however, I know that each of these issues all are related by the same fact. Campus safety, need of foot patrols by Public Safety, Common Area Damage, ROLMphone's mandatory fees and many other issues are all specific problems. They are all linked together by the same fact: administration does not often consult the students before implementing new policies thus creating tension and problems. If we, the Student Polity Council, were contacted and voiced the student's concerns and opinions, we would not have to fight for our rights after the fact. Therefore, the Council could direct their energies to other areas. If this one aspect were handled by the council, all the other areas which affect the students would be that much easier to handle. As Student Polity President I would see to it that the administration would not only hear our voices and opinions but would listen to them as well.

Esther Lastique

Many students, both resident and commuters, have a general feeling of powerlessness concerning their environment. It's going to take the mobilization by Student Polity and all the organizations under the Polity umbrella to make the student body aware of their power.

Michael Lutas

I see the campus bureaucracy as the number one problem facing students today. Red tape allows incompetent administrators to hide, keeps bad public safety officers from being fired,

and, in general, keeps students disorganized and impotent.

3. What do you see as the major problems within Polity and how would you go about solving them?

Sorin Abraham

Not enough people walk through the door! I would like to see some new faces. Towards this end I intend to use the Press, other advertising and word of mouth.

Brian James

The President must see to it that each of the Council members should be working on projects as well as increasing the amount of communication among students. In addition, the Student Polity Senate must be more productive. Its subcommittees must produce results and each Senator must be more active in alerting his/her constituency of issues being handled in the Senate as well as the Council. Also, I would like to start programs which would integrate commuters with resident students to incorporate all students into a truly unified student body.

It has been said time and time again that the students at Stony Brook are apathetic. Next year's Council must give the students reason not to be apathetic. They need an effective Council and Senate. Once the students see an active student government, they will care more about this university. Morale will pick up and we will be a truly united student body which is a force that cannot be ignored.

Esther Lastique

One of the major problems within Polity is a lack of continuity in the organization. For the past several years, Polity officials have been elected and had to learn from scratch all about the system. Experience is the result of leadership development, and without it, Polity suffers. It should be the highest priority of Polity in the future to initiate a leadership development program that will provide experienced student leaders.

Michael Lutas

Polity has two major problems. First we still do not require vouchers for all Polity accounts. In other words we don't exactly know where all the money goes. Secondly, when we get a new Polity government they spend quite a lot of time figuring

no frills polity

out what's going on. I would institute a training program that would teach all polity officers what their duties are and how to do them. I would no longer allow this practice to go on and would sign an order requiring Polity to keep strict financial oversight.

4. Many people, particularly women, view this campus as unsafe. What can be done to rectify this situation?

Sorin Abraham

Polity and Public Safety are in the process of drafting a letter bringing attention to the fact that there are only four officers who patrol the campus at night and that we view this as a crime. This letter will be signed by students, Public Safety officers and officers of the Suffolk County Police Department. I intend to allocate one thousand dollars at the first council meeting in order to have this letter and a full account of Public Safety's activities forwarded to the parents of every student.

Brian James

For starters, the campus Walk Service can be expanded to provide wider coverage. Stations for the Walk Service should be located in the lobby of the library, central to each quad and in the Student Union. This will allow quicker service as well as an increased amount of security on this campus. Their duties should also include routine patrols when they are not escorting people from one place to another. Also, many people complain that their building's exterior doors either do not lock or cannot be opened by their keys. A far more common problem is that exterior doors very often are propped open. The people who do this do not realize that doing this severely decreases security if not eliminating it entirely. In addition, the security desks in each building must be staffed (I have seen several that are not regularly staffed). Also the hours that these desks are staffed must be increased. They should start earlier and, if possible, end later. Furthermore, the four so called "Blue Light" phones on this campus are not true Blue Light phones. With Blue Light phones, the user simply picks up the phone and is directly connected with the security force. With these few phones that we have, the user must dial Public Safety for help. If they are being chased, they will not have time to dial for help. They should install dozens of true Blue Light phones—not just four—and current lights should be fixed as well as installing more lights to increase the safety on the campus walkways. Lastly, the student body must be made aware of the security problems on this campus. In any issue an increased awareness is the key to getting students unified and to be more cautious. No information should be "hidden" from the students. They should know that problems exist and must be handled. Next year's Council must force the administration to increase security and also make strides to so on their own.

Esther Lastique

I've been working on the safety issue for almost three years. Physical improvements, like increased lighting and emergency blue light phones are a necessity. Right now, our Administration is putting ROLMphones on the outside of academic buildings with fluorescent blue lights and they're calling them "blue light" phones, which they're obviously not. There are still no lights in Tabler Quad, and not enough uniformed Public Safety footpatrolling the residence halls. We also need a more powerful escort service, one that is done by two people, a man and a woman, and advertised better. We need Awareness workshops to stress our safety problems, especially for first year students. We must put pressure on our Administration and SUNY Central to prioritize safety.

Michael Lutas

We need to institute student foot patrols on campus. Public Safety is unwilling to work with students to make these patrols a reality. They would rather have extra (expensive) officers walk a beat...when they aren't walking to 7-11.

Polity has to remember that the first thing that it needs to do is to ensure the safety of all students. It hasn't been doing that. If I am elected it will.

5. What is your birthday?

Sorin Abraham

My birthday is a day to celebrate what I've done in the past year, plan what I will do in the next year, and hopefully remember all of it the next morning.

Brian James

October 18, 1969.

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Esther Lastique

12/31/68

Michael Lutas

12/17/68

Vice President

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Brett Kessler

I am running because I am sick of seeing Polity never take a stand on the issues that are affecting our campus. It isn't even talking about how to solve these problems. I'm running for Vice-President because I feel that after being a Senator for 1½ years (Spr. '87-Spr. '88), being College President for the past year, and going to Stony Brook for 4 years I think I've seen a lot of mistakes done by both Polity and Administration. I feel with this experience I have the know-how to get Polity to tackle Administration for us, the students. I am also the Chairman of P.S.C. As chairman I have tried to fund as many clubs and events (such as I-Con VIII and the Cultural Festival). As Vice President I would find more events.

Frank Oliveri

As a past commuter and now as a resident, I've seen the problems of this campus from both sides of the spectrum. Not a day has past where I've not heard at least one complaint. Because of these many issues that are in dire need of attention, I feel that it is necessary to take the initiative, and have an active role in improving the quality of campus life here at Stony Brook.

Dan Slepian

I am running for Vice-President of Polity because I feel I can make a positive contribution to the students of Stony Brook. I am presently on the council as Freshman Rep. Through this position, I have been able to view a variety of problems on campus. Some of the issues I will work on are racism on campus, Public Safety, rather lack of Public Safety, DAKA, while I continue to work on community events.

2. What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Brett Kessler

Right now security is our Campus' major problem. Administration should increase Public Safety's patrolling of the campus. Polity should also work with Administration on ways to improve campus security.

Frank Oliveri

The most common complaint that has been brought to my attention by both commuters and residents is that there is a lack of large scale campus functions, i.e., social activities. Many students feel that Polity funds should be allocated towards more social events, thus the integration of residents and commuters, and an altogether happier campus atmosphere.

Dan Slepian

I believe that the single major problem is that the students here are divided. Due to some of recent incidents, and even before that, there have been opposing forces. This month, I proposed and organized an Emergency Task Force on Rape and Racism. As Vice-President, I would continue programs such as these and work to push for a more unified student body.

3. What do you see as the major problems within Polity and how would you go about solving them?

Brett Kessler

Incompetence is Polity's major problem. Polity doesn't know what to do or how to start to do things. The Executive Councils of the past few years have shown that the majority of our officers get into office, say they're going to do something, and then do nothing for students and at times do things only for themselves. This is not what our paid officers should do. I would sit down with my fellow officers and each of us would assume responsibility for an aspect of student life and work on them with the Polity Senate.

Frank Oliveri

As I've stated already, polity funds are not being allocated efficiently. As a Polity officer, I would pay closer attention to

the budget and make certain that the completed budget does in fact comply with the interests of the student body as a whole.

Dan Slepian

Being on the Council now, I see the single major problem in polity is elitism. I would like to see a more diverse Council and Senate. To do this I would attempt to make the Senate more enjoyable, so more people would attend the meetings. In addition, I would be available at any time, in my office or room, for questions, comments and concerns.

Secretary

Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Michelle Brasch

I am currently the Acting Polity Secretary and was previously the Polity receptionist. This gave me a great understanding of the way Polity operates. I am running for secretary because I enjoy organizing events and being involved to plan events for students.

Heidi Wasm

Some of my credentials are: Gershwin College representative for Roth Quad council currently, Secretary of Hillel religious organization for the two last semesters.

What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Michele Brasch

Safety. Students and Public Safety need to unite to make our campus safer and encourage more students to stay here on the weekends. We need to gain some respect for our University.

Heidi Wasm

The biggest problem confronting both resident and commuter students is the strong notion that their problems, both academic and administrative, will go unnoticed. The problem has festered into student apathy on a large scale.

What can the secretary of an organization do to increase interest and participation in that organization?

I contemplated this question for a while starting during the time put in to my endorsements to be on the ballot.

People usually want to participate in activities concerning school morale, not to mention their annual activity fee. Sometimes, however they need a push and always a great deal of positive advertisement. Stony Brook has the volume of students to get the job done.

The few central figures of the student Polity government and her executive counterpart are the engineers who have the hardest job, of rallying morale from this great student body.

A secretary should have the motivation to make students privy to the goings on of the higher-ups in this university, a primary reason being the monetary interest of each individual.

Enough ideology—pragmatically speaking, as a secretary, I have input at the deciding table concerning student life. I can do the job of student Polity secretary, and better, let students air their ideas and grievances to the student government proper, through me.

Senior Rep

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Seth Cohen

I want to be the Senior class's representative to Polity. I have been a Senator from Cardozo College to Polity for the past two years where I chaired the Internal Affairs Committee (IAC) and sat on the ROLMphone committee.

Daniel Jones

I am running for this position to help unify the Senior class. Over the past two years I have worked closely with Polity as head of security for concerns and other student run activities, and currently am commissioner of Pit Hockey—the most active club on campus.

Shaireen Rasheed

As a foreign student from Pakistan and being a philosophy major I find that I have experience in dealing with diversified people. And I'd like to help them get an introspection into their lives as students. I've held position of President in high school.

election section

Also, head girl of my school.

Carolyn Sucato

I am running for Senior Rep because I don't feel the students have enough say in campus organization. There are changes which I feel could benefit the campus and I would like to bridge the gap between students and administration to get these changes in motion. I feel I am qualified because I'm very responsible and well organized. I am currently a T.A. for ECO 348, which exemplified my ability to hold a responsibility. I am also the vice president of Theta Phi Alpha. This position has given me experience in researching the options of whatever I am working on, and getting things done.

2. What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Seth Cohen

Administration does not listen to the needs of the students. The students need to have a strong voice to Administration so as not to jeopardize students' rights.

Daniel Jones

There are a number of problems confronting students on campus but I feel the most important issue today is safety. There is not enough lighting on campus walkways and few Public Safety patrols at night. The commuters are forced to wait at open bus stops with poor lighting while, at the same time, residents walking back to their rooms are using dimly lit paths. As a student body, our goal should be to eliminate these problems so we can once again have a safe and trouble free campus. If elected I will work to the best of my ability to make sure we obtain a safer campus.

Shaireen Rasheed

Due to the vast capacity of the campus and faculty there is no fixed or focused interrelationships between the students and [illegible] and the goals and aims of people—students are confused yet have to cope with major dilemmas with no advice.

Carolyn Sucato

I think the single major problem confronting students is their lack of input into campus organization. Campus services and activities do not accurately reflect the needs of the students (for example, the library closing so early). I would like to see things formed more closely to the best interests of the students.

Junior Rep

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Devi Enerio

I am running for the office of Junior class representative because I want to get involved in student Polity, and help initiate necessary changes that need to be made in many aspects of this university. I am a concerned student, who cares about what's going on in Stony Brook, and I intend to make sure that changes will be made for the benefit of the students. I know that I can successfully uphold this position because of my experience with student government organizations, committees, and clubs. In comparison to my distinguished opponents, my concern, diligence, and determination will ultimately ensure my success as your Junior class representative!

Hooman (Andy) Khorram

I am hoping to influence the experience of life on campus a more productive and pleasant one for us all. My previous experiences in high school board activities will be a great help to me.

Michael Lapushner

I am running for the reason that I am thoroughly disgusted with apathy going on this campus. I'm appalled that my class is not being represented the way it should be. It is time to get something done, not from a bureaucratic point of view. Because if all of us can remember this school was not made for the administration and the faculty, it was made for us, the students and it is about time we get it back. And I'm the person to do it. I am not an elitist and I have not been corrupted by politics and bureaucracy. I never had to bullshit people the way a politician does. I see things from the students point of view, because I'm not above them. I don't hear complaints, I hear views, because I'm an average student and that is what this school needs.

Tony Matranga

I am running for council office because I feel that there are important changes that need to be made in order for polity to effectively and efficiently function as a student government. These changes include stopping Polity corruption, and ending Polity incompetence. My qualifications include being senator for Kelly A. Senate secretary, a member of several clubs and organizations on campus, and having a sincere desire to serve the class of '91 and the rest of the campus community.

Thomas Norton

I'm running because I want to get involved in student gov't here at SB. I can make a difference for the students. I don't want to watch, I want to do. I realized this during my high school career while working in student affairs. I helped to plan various school trips and activities while busy with track and tennis, too. All students should get involved if they have time.

2. What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Devi Enerio

In general, one major problem confronting both residents and commuters is the lack of unity and pride among the students. This problem is clearly shown in the turnout of sporting events, cultural, as well as, social events, and the lack of a "feeling of belonging" among students, all stems from this one factor. I believe, that "We," as students must first exemplify the feelings of pride and unity in order to alleviate problems of segregation and apathy on this campus. Once we have overcome this obstacle, then we can all have something to be proud of...

Hooman (Andy) Khorram

The lack of new and varied activities and a general absence of a positive sense of awareness among students results in their present apathy and our so-called "suit case" campus. To resolve this I suggest breakthroughs in communication between students and the administrative body, followed by visible results.

Michael Lapushner

Without a doubt one can say there is a marked complacency within the school's population. Many are simply comfortable with the life that they live. Although they love to complain they can offer no new alternative, something ambitious enough to inspire the many, something as revolutionary as my beliefs and plans for action as Junior Representative next year. Students need to get involved, but it takes something positively powerful to do that, we need to create good vibrations by sponsoring activities of a highly productive and attractive nature, something to stir the soul, something righteous.

Tony Matranga

The single major problem confronting students is an administration that doles out policy without considering student interest. Policies such as ROLMphone and Common Area Damage work against students in an unfair and arbitrary manner. Commuting students have also been affected in having to deal with an administration that seems dead set against expanding parking facilities on a campus where almost half the students commute. Polity needs to become more vocal on student issues in order to get the administration to pursue more reasonable policies.

Thomas Norton

There is the ever-existing problem of boredom and mischiefousness. Most students don't study all day. They need things to do in their spare time and the school needs efficient ways of letting them know about activities, including commuters. Many commuters don't feel a part of the school. Time-fillers are especially needed for students not old enough to drink and those that don't go home on weekends.

Sophomore Rep

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Thomas Pye

The reason I'm running for Sophomore Rep is to create a better way for students to make an input towards the decisions Polity makes. As Sophomore Rep I want to have a clearer perspective on how we as Sophomores feel on various issues. My experience stems mostly from high school where I was the student government President. Presently, I'm an Office Assistant in Langmuir, which has helped in my organizational skills.

Lee Wiedl

I am running for Sophomore Class Rep because we need honest and effective representation in Polity. My qualifications include: Polity senator, club president and I have been a long standing activist in student government.

2. What is the single major problem confronting students, both residents and commuters?

Thomas Pye

few people I've come to semi-conclusion. Most of things people mentioned dealt with the lack of campus community and spirit.

Lee Wiedl

The single major problem confronting students is the need for effective leadership in Polity and putting an end to the bureaucracy in the government. With your support, our future will be a better one.

SASU/USSA Delegate

Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Glenn Magpantay

For the past 2 years I have been working on issues that concern students, through Polity, SASU and various CSI groups. I have committed myself to working for change, some of the issues that I want to change is to making this a safe and comfortable campus for people of color, women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and all oppressed people.

Judiciary

1. Why are you running and what are your qualifications for office?

Davie Leung

More than anything, I feel I can offer a sound voice based on reason and fairness—something this campus seems to lack at times—as evidenced through the present turmoil surrounding the rape. I make no promises except a commitment to do my best in helping our campus.

Matthew Manza

I have been interested in law for the past few years and wish to pursue a career in the field. I feel that it is important to fully understand the workings of the judiciary system. I also wish to become a member of the judiciary so that I can expand my knowledge of law through actual experience. The judiciary system is an important part of the university and as a member I will give my full effort and make my best possible contributions.

Todd Martin

I am interested in law and feel I am very open-minded. I will try my hardest to be fair and just when it comes to making decisions. I would also like to broaden my knowledge in the field of law.

Shari Sacks

[Shari was the only Polity candidate who didn't turn in a questionnaire.—Ed.]

Keith Schenker

For over 3 years I have been interested in law and the judicial process of our country. I see the student judiciary as a sample of the way in which our governmental system works. By working on the judiciary, I will become more familiar with our judicial system. I have been on judiciary for 2 semesters now as a non-executive member, and feel I know the workings of judiciary.

Otto Strong

Basically I am running out of personal interest. I work well with people and I am a good problem solver. I believe both of these attributes make for a better candidate.

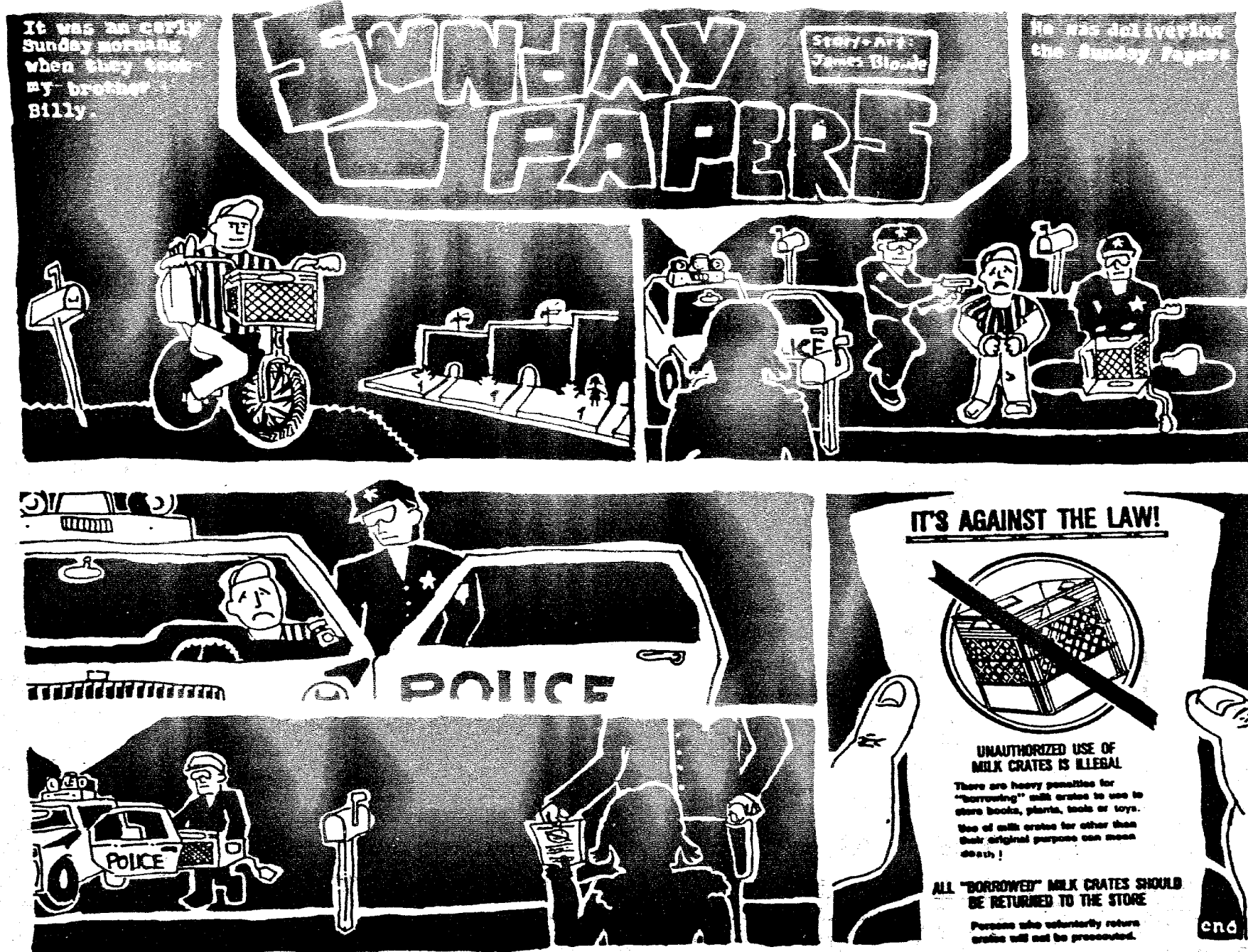
Stony Brook Council

Vote YES

...on the Mandatory Student Activity Fee referendum. Because if it doesn't pass, there will be no funding for any Polity-sponsored activities. That means no COCA movies, no SAB concerts, no radio station, no newspapers, no intramurals, no SCOOP businesses, no EROS, no yearbook, no cultural clubs, no Commuter College, no resident legislatures, no anything that exists through Polity funds.

If a campus devoid of extracurricular activities appeals to you, then, by all means, vote down the SAF. If, however, you use or appreciate any of the above-mentioned organizations, vote YES on April 17. No joke.

April 17



Footnotes

ON CAMPUS

You Reeka

The URECA (Undergraduate Research and Activities) Program, with a little help from the Office of Undergraduate Studies, is sponsoring the second annual URECA symposium on Saturday, April 15, from 10AM to 5PM in the Staller Center for the Arts. The symposium will feature the projects of USB undergrads who will strut their higher education stuff in a series of different sessions (including the dance piece, *Present Passage*, by Mary Hechtel, with a score by Sue Doherty, previously performed at the American College Dance Festival at Temple University). For additional info, call Grace Scaros at 632-7080

From Out of the Ozone

Is the greenhouse effect getting you down? Well, truck on over to Earth Day, Stony Brook's first celebration of the annual event (this makes no. 19), which will be observed on "college campuses nationwide" (or so says NYPIRG, who'll be organizing the event here). The aim is to widen students' and community members' minds on environmental problems, including local issues and global ones (like ozone depletion). Festivities include (aside from the organizing and publicity) "coalition building...information booths for visiting environmental organizations, musical entertainment, speakers and poetry readings," etc. April 22. Be there (Where? Who knows? Call NYPIRG at 632-6457 to find out.)

Lady Oracle

Margaret Atwood, activist, critic, and bestselling author (most recently *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Cat's Eye*) joins the Distinguished Lecture Series roster with an evening of reading from (and commentary on) her works. Mark this one on your calendar, kids, because the woman can write. The festivities start at 8PM, April 13, in the Staller Center Main Stage, and, like other priceless things in life, it's free.

Miscellany

"Vanities," a Student Theatre production about God-knows-what, directed by Jim Calvechie, will hit Theatre III in the Staller Center now through April 15 at 8PM. If that doesn't tickle your fancy, then maybe the April 22 Poetry Center blowout with Cornelius Eady, author of *Boom, Boom, Boom* and *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze*, reads at 7:30PM in Humanities 239. For this latter, call 632-7373 for the hard dope.

OFF CAMPUS

Pie in the Sky

The Planetary Society, a non-profit organization that "encourages the exploration of our solar system" is setting off its 1989 scholarship competition. The society's news release tells all: "For a healthy space program to continue through the coming decade, a well-trained cadre of planetary scientists and engineers must emerge from future generations of college students..." To that end, undergrads may apply for fellowship awards and/or the Mars Institute Contest (which awards \$1000, plus an "all-expenses-paid trip to a major Mars conference in the summer of 1989" to the best essay employing Antarctic research to prepare for Martian exploration). If that sounds like your kind of thing, then write: The Planetary Society, 65 N Catalina Ave, Pasadena, CA 91106. Or, hell, call: (818) 793-5100

CLUB CALENDAR

Thursday, Apr. 13

Gang Green
at Downtown

Urban Blight
at SOB's

Violent Femmes
at the Beacon Theatre
—and Apr. 15

Friday, Apr. 14

A House
Go-Betweens
at the New Ritz

Big Twist and the
Mellow Fellows
at the Lone Star Cafe
—and Apr. 15

Dave Valentin
at Mikell's
—and Apr. 15

Elements
at the Metropolitan

Token Entry
Rest in Pieces
Wrecking Crew
Affirmative
at Sundance

Saturday, Apr. 15

David Grisman
at IMAC
Levon Helm
Rick Danko
at the Lone Star Roadhouse

Third World
Wailers
at the Palladium

Wygals
Raw Youth
Shams
at Downtown

Zebra
at L'Amour Brooklyn

Sunday, Apr. 16

David Crosby
Firetown
at the New Ritz

Henry Rollins
Richard Hell
at Maxwell's

Indigo Girls
at the Bottom Line

Monday, Apr. 17

O'Jays
at the Beacon Theatre

Tuesday, Apr. 18

Sidewinders
at Downtown

Wednesday, Apr. 19

Charlie Sexton
at the New Ritz

firehose
at the Knitting Factory

Mikey Dread
at SOB's

Thursday, Apr. 20

firehose
at Maxwell's

Friday, Apr. 21

Eddie Kirkland
at Village Gate
—and Apr. 22

Cro-Mags
Destruction
at Sundance

Hiram Bullock
at Mikell's
—and Apr. 22

Pasadenas
at the New Ritz

Steps Ahead
at the Metropolitan

Temptations
O'Jays
at Westbury Music Fair
—and Apr. 22

Saturday, Apr. 22

Lazy Lester
at Stephen Talkhouse

Living Colour
De La Soul
at the New Ritz

MOD
at Downtown

Screaming Trees
at Maxwell's

Tuesday, Apr. 25

Burning Spear
Mighty Diamonds
at the New Ritz

Compiled from the WUSB Concert Billboard

TOP 35

WUSB 90.1 FM

1. De La Soul
2. Robyn Hitchcock
3. Pixies (ep)
4. XTC
5. Gravediggers
6. Loop
7. Indigo Girls
8. Keith LeBlanc
9. Les Thugs
10. Rhythms Chatham
11. Flaming Lips
12. Bruce Cockburn
13. Live Skull
14. Washington Squares
15. Neville Brothers
16. Shockabilly
17. New Model Army
18. Also Used and Recommended by
19. Guadalcanal Diary
20. Yo La Tengo
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33. Burning Spear
34. APPLE
35. Legendary Pink Dots

AS OF APR. 4

Dear EROS

Dear EROS,

Last week, Dear EROS said that withdrawal is a bad birth control method. I've been using it for years—so far, so good. My question is: What's wrong with it?

-Confused

Dear Confused,

No birth control method is 100% effective, but different methods have varying degrees of effectiveness. Withdrawal is not the best method of birth control for the following reasons: (a) The pre-seminal fluid that comes out of the penis after it becomes erect contains enough sperm to cause pregnancy. The man has no idea when this fluid is being released. (b) The man can't reliably pull out quick enough to avoid contact with the vagina and vaginal lips. (c) The man must keep in control and therefore cannot relax. When used over a long period, withdrawal may lead to premature ejaculation. (d) Withdrawal can cause a bad sexual experience because the woman has to worry if the man will withdraw in time. (e) The failure rate is 60%.

One's birth control method is a personal choice, but not all methods are equal. After reviewing the facts, EROS feels this is a poor method.

For more information, contact EROS. EROS is a confidential peer counseling organization located in room 119 Infirmary (632-6450). Letters to DEAREROS can be dropped off or sent through interoffice mail to 119 Infirmary, or placed in our mail box in the Polity Suite in the Union.

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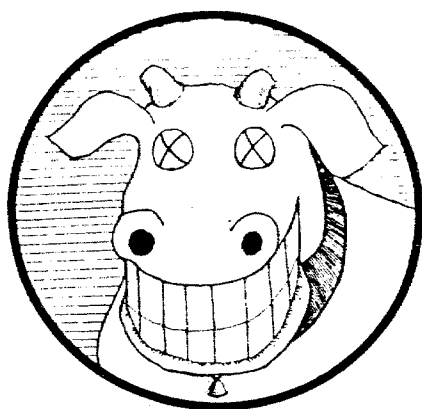
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Dead Milkmen Beelzebubba

Enigma

A slightly more socially acceptable spoof-punk spinoff than their previous albums, *Beelzebubba* is a shade higher than low humor. It'll still make you laugh, or at least chuckle. The Dead Milkmen continue to push their "We all live in a hicktown" theme. Fun stuff.

—Robert Rothenberg



Live Skull Positraction

Caroline

This disc sounds just like every other pseudo-experimental noise band. Live Skull has become another generic-second-

generation-polished-late-'80s-avant-garde-heavy-garage-rock-noise-etc. band aiming for MTV. Nothing sounds very original on this lp. Each song blends into the others, spiraling into the muddled sameness of their genre. If Siouxsie Sioux sang for Sonic Youth...

Caroline Records, 114 W 26th St, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

—R.R.



Black Sun Ensemble Lambent Flame

Reckless

Retro flourishes and searing guitar swells mark this album as pure rock and roll, a disappointing follow-up to the ensemble's last, self-titled, release, which explored the avant-garde with distinctly American influences and tasteful gusto. Jesus Acevedo, on "acoustic and electric peacock feathers," leans closer to the '70s British rock side of the fence this time out—even vocals on "Lilith" have that Robert Plant slur. Flute straight out of Traffic adds to the general, heady, pseudo-mystical feel, and song titles like "Celestial Cornerstone" and "Levia-

than Song" give away BSE's intentions none too subtly. All the way through, a good listen, nonetheless.

Reckless Records, 1401 Haight St, San Francisco, CA 94117

—Karin Falcone



Syd Barrett Opel

Harvest

A collection of rare tracks, now officially remixed and released—a "third" album for EMI to reap profits from (with a fancy double sleeve, copiously detailed liner notes, and prints of the master tapes' labels). This is great stuff, perhaps the best from the man who influenced Robyn Hitchcock. Opel captures Barrett's sloppy, care-free guitar playing and features the bizarre psychedelic poetry only Barrett (ex-lead

singer of Pink Floyd) could have written.

The lp includes many songs commonly available on bootlegs, demos, and different takes, as well as less-common rarities like "Dolly Rocker," "Lanky" (a live track with unknown musicians—very Floydish) and a version of "Octopus" backed by the Soft Machine.

—R.R.



Brazil Classics 1 Beliza Tropical

Fly/Sire

David Byrne compiled this album of, in his words, "real seductive ear openers." An array of lushly-produced and sophisticated, yet basically catchy, pop songs from Brazil, spanning the last two decades. The opening selection, "Ponta de Lanca Africano (Umbabarama)" by Jorge Ben, will stick in your head for hours. The duet by Maria Bethania and Gal Costa (two women—an innovation unheard of on this continent) is gorgeous. I only wish the translated lyrics were included. Instead, we get essays by Byrne and Arto Lindsay, the latter of which is a detailed history of Brazilian music. Though the extra tracks on the tape and CD might better have been left out, this highly recommended compilation has broad-based appeal—its tropical sounds should grace everyone's ears this summer.

—K.F.

Know-How

continued from page 6

ly high tariffs on Japanese solar cars that American companies would be able to remain solvent: while the rest of the world converts to clean, quiet methods of energy production, we will suffocate in our own noxious fumes.

I would be really happy if Bush and the prominent members of Congress could see this article, realize that this is plain common sense, and begin backing solar research as much as possible. But I know that won't happen. However, education is the beginning; voters do have a say on election days. All revenues, appropriations, and expenditures are approved by Congress, and you have a great deal more influence on your Representatives and your Senators than you will ever have on the President.

Use that influence. Rep. Tom Downey of Islip and George Hochbrueckner—Rep. for the Three Village area and SUSB—are both big-time supporters of such environmentally and—even more importantly in the political game—economically attractive programs.

It would be great if America could grab a nice-sized chunk of the solar technology pie that is now baking in the oven. We could make piles of money and stick it to the Arab oil magnates who have been giving us the shaft all these years (Uh, sure Mr. Sheik, we'll sell you a solar generating plant; that'll be ten billion dollars please... Oh happy day!). But this is all a dream, I'm sure...in twenty years I'll be buying a Toyota Sunraycer, not a GM Sunraycer. And for those readers who are business and economics majors, I have a tip for you. Find out which Japanese companies are performing the most solar research and buy lots of their stock. You'll be rich in twenty years.

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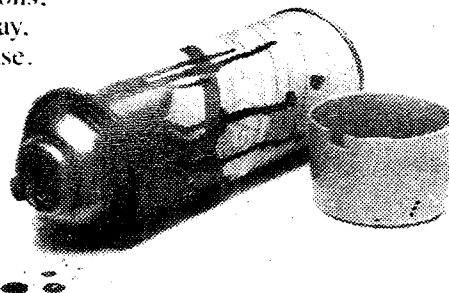
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All the Standard Diversions

continued from back page

Carlson offered a compressed and entertaining review of the facts—in distinct contrast to the amiable myth-perpetuation going on in many of the surrounding lecture halls.

Following this thematic path, I checked in later that evening (eschewing competing attractions like "Star Trek Bloopers" and, yes, the "Creating a Mythology" panel) for a double-header of speculative thought: two panels moderated by writer Barry Malzberg entitled "A Pessimistic Look at the Future" and "An Optimistic Look at the Future."

"Pessimism" featured writers Pamela Sargent, James Morrow, and Joe Haldeman along with scientists Charles Pellegrino and —back for more—Elof Carlson. Each was allowed an opening speech outlining his or her basic thoughts on the topic. Carlson opened with a lengthy account of the potential boons of genetic research, particularly prenatal diagnosis to allow "elective abortions" for fetuses with genetic disorders. Though the prediction was far from pessimistic—and for this Carlson apologized—Malzberg postscripted it with a different perspective: that such eugenic tampering could be "highly discriminatory and perhaps very dangerous."

Haldeman envisioned a grim future from AIDS proliferation and environmental collapse, and Morrow focused on the nuclear arms race, something he said has become "sort of a passe source of despair." But, he added, "I don't want to tell my children, 'Well, I got through life, but your future is

bleak.'"

Scientist/writer Pellegrino, both by interjecting comments during the statements of his fellow panel members, and in his own moment before the podium, formed a



Image: Steve Schmitz

weirdly compelling fantasy of interstellar paranoia. Terrestrial inhabitants, he said, might best refrain from sending energy of any kind into space—including stray broadcast signals, exploratory spacecraft, or the detectable aura resulting from an as-yet-

hypothetical anti-matter engine—because, "You never know what might be listening." In fact, he warned, even *listening* to deep space signals could be hazardous—a computer virus or similarly destructive information might very well be broadcast from some hostile extraterrestrial source. "Looking at the earth and looking at our own history," he concluded, justifying his fears of other intelligences, "we can only assume the worst."

Sargent summed up briefly: "Any future in which you can imagine humans existing in any way, however abysmal, is, by definition, optimistic."

For that reason, perhaps, the following panel was largely a water-treading session. Writers Hal Clement, Barry Longyear, and I-Con Guest of Honor Frederik Pohl bandied words, more or less desultorily, with Drs. James Powell and Sheldon Reaven (and Charles Pellegrino, again) on the good things we might expect from the future. Pohl, who peeled a (non-biodegradable) styrofoam cup into a single long ribbon near the panel's conclusion, perhaps hit the nail on the head when he described the essentially non-optimistic goals of science fiction: "Science fiction," he explained, "is in the business of trying to prevent bad futures"—a function optimism, apparently, is less than effective in fulfilling.

Later that night, I-Con's only X-rated film, *Flesh Gordon*, drew heavy attendance, but the crowd's interested in the much-touted sex farce flagged in direct proportion to the number of minutes they spent actually watching the thing. Flopping pen-

ises and droopy boobs aside, decent Ray Harryhausen-style stop-motion animation was pretty much the only amusing thing about it.

The last day of I-Con I spent zipping from panel to panel—including the "Film Trivia Contest" (fun: stay) and "Humor in Comics in the '80s" (boring: leave)—until finally winding up at a selection of short films, including fan-favorite "Bambi Meets Godzilla."

I-Con is basically an in-crowd thing for the fanatically-minded, but, despite that, the latest incarnation offered plenty of diversion for even the casual attendee. At six bucks a pop (the price for a three-day student pass), you can't go wrong. That is, as long as you can stand all those goofy white guys.

RAPE

continued from back page

pectively. Valerie Clayman, as the medium, lip-synchs a mean samurai ghost—in one of the most technically impressive scenes, her face painted white, she moves to the sounds of the swirling abyss and the result is hypnotic, almost hallucinatory.

If you can stomach any more about rape, and don't mind a little moral confusion, I strongly recommend that you see *Rashomon*—if only to see that tree. (Performances tonight through April 15).

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1:00 - 2:30	Lunch & Student Gov't Address
2:45 - 4:30	Aids Workshop & Film (<i>Rashomon</i>)
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Equally Odious

by Steve Galt

There's no escaping rape these days. As an issue, it looms over our collective shoulder, providing a seemingly inexhaustible supply of news-fodder, as well as an abundant source of pamphlet-filler. In the midst of all this, last Thursday a play opened, innocently enough, in Theatre II of the Staller Center, that just happens to deal with—you guessed it—rape. Call it the coincidence from hell.

Rashomon is the story of an unsolved, perhaps unsolvable, rape/murder. The story, set in eleventh century Japan, centers around a priest and a woodcutter who are troubling over the trial of a bandit named Tajomaru, who is accused of the murder of a samurai and the rape of his wife. The two meet up with a grave-robbing wig-maker—a cynical realist who insists on hearing all the testimony from the trial, including that of the bandit, the samurai (summoned from the dead by a medium) and his wife. Thus, through the use of flashbacks, we are shown all the versions of the crime as described by those involved. Conflict arises because all the versions differ considerably—Tajomaru's version is one becoming the image of a daring and courageous bandit; he spares the life of the samurai and sends the wife back to her husband, though she had succumbed to his inexorable masculinity and fallen in love. The versions given by the samurai and his wife are similarly distorted and self-serving. At the end of the first act, the audience is left with a sort of ambiguous disquiet: nothing is resolved, all three ver-



Image: Steve Schmitz

sions are equally odious.

Now, I don't want to beat a dead horse, but it seems unavoidable that I draw some parallels between the play and the drama—it could hardly be called otherwise when C. Vernon Mason enters the picture—of the

current rape case on campus.

It was Mason, with his undeniable genius for publicity, who brought the case to the front page of *Newsday*. In a case like this, the individuals get caught up in role-playing, be it harassed and oppressed black

student or honor-bound samurai, and in the common legal tactic of image-building, we lose sight of the fact that they are human beings.

Rashomon addresses this when, in the second act, the woodcutter reveals that he witnessed the rape. In his farcical version, the characters are shorn of all their honorable traits and reduced to characters in a comedic soap opera. Here, the wife instigates a fight between the two unwilling cowards for her honor.

All moral issues aside, I liked the play. The set, centered by a surreal simulation of a tree almost worth the price of admission to see, lent an appropriately exotic tone to the action. The portrayal of the different accounts of the rape demanded a lot of versatility from the actors and actresses, and all rose to the occasion. Kenshaka Ali plays a strong Tajomaru, varying from a boastful fighter who would be feared on the streets of Harlem to a comical coward, and Terri Kent showed similar range, playing the samurai's wife in degrees, from a feminine dainty enthralled by a butterfly to a bitch who might teach Joan Collins a thing or two. Leonard Pinna, as the samurai, was spared from dialogue for a good part of the play, but was not to be outdone by Ali's antics during the zany, cowardly sword fight in the second act.

Bill Capozzi's lively and animated wig-maker—if perhaps a bit overplayed—provided a good foil to James Lahey and Threadwell Campbell, who were both a tad stiff as the priest and the woodcutter, res-

— continued on page 15

—Spotlight—

Lair of the White Guys Hanging Out at I-Con 8

by Kyle Silfer

From past experience, I've deduced that the best way to weather I-Con—"the east coast's largest convention of science fiction, fact, and fantasy"—is to present a constantly moving target: never stay in one place for too long, leave if it gets boring, and, for God's sake, stay away from the Astro Cafe. With these tactics in mind, I managed to enjoy—rather than endure—a decent sampling of the offerings at I-Con VIII, held the weekend of March 31-April 2 in the Javits Lecture Center and the Student Union.

All the standard I-Con diversions were available: endless showings of films, television shows, and cartoons (including some of that swell Japanimation stuff); autograph sessions; sundry panels and lectures; and other, less readily classifiable, events. Horrified by the prospect of facing all that stimulus at once, I lingered on the outskirts of I-Con Friday night with a viewing of the vastly underrated sci-fi flick, **The Hidden**, in the Union and only dared creep towards Javits near midnight, when things had settled enough for me to slip unobtrusively into the Japanimation room for an episode of **Vampire Hunter D** (a slick and violent rehash of the traditional vampire canon, clearly influenced by such adolescent fave-raves as Michael Moorcock and Robert E. Howard, if you're into that sort of thing).

The next day I managed to scope out some of the more hardcore action. After a



Image: Steve Schmitz

Joe Haldeman and Barry Malzberg talk Pessimism

cursory inspection of the dealer's rooms (overpriced, understocked), I finally made it to an interactive event: Stony Brook's own Eloy Carlson on "The Effects of Radiation on Biological Systems" (one of the "science fact" portions of I-Con).

Paraphrased roughly, Carlson's lecture was a warning against the dangers of basing socio-political opinions and actions on "mythical" information. Public knowledge of radiation effects, he said, is largely derived from cultural myths possessing either positive or negative connotations. Wide faith in the benign power of the atom, for instance, allowed early exploiters of atomic radiation to fan pointless and hazardous public demand—at this time, for instance, General Electric was able to initiate a campaign encouraging "fluoroscopic" shoe fitting in order to clear up a backlog of X-ray equipment, and family planning centers used X-ray blasts to induce temporary sterility in men unwilling to wear condoms. Though men like Herman Muller (a politically-persecuted geneticist who eventually vindicated himself with a Nobel prize) were working to determine the "biological effects" of the lecture's title, health risks were rarely considered—and then only in the negative myths of post-apocalyptic genetic mutants and radiation-powered bug-eyed monsters.

Doing his part to prevent modern propagation of this twisted information,

— continued on page 15