

**THE
STONY
BROOK**

PRESS

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• THE GULF: BETWEEN THE LINES

• Fuel For Thought
• Black History Month



Photos by Greg Forte

Signs of Protest

by Robert V. Gilheany

People all over the world have been taking to the streets in protest of the Gulf crisis. These actions have intensified since the outbreak of hostile attacks between the allies and Iraq. While methods of the demonstrators may vary from country to country, they all share one common factor - each feels strongly that the current path of war is not the best one that could have been chosen.

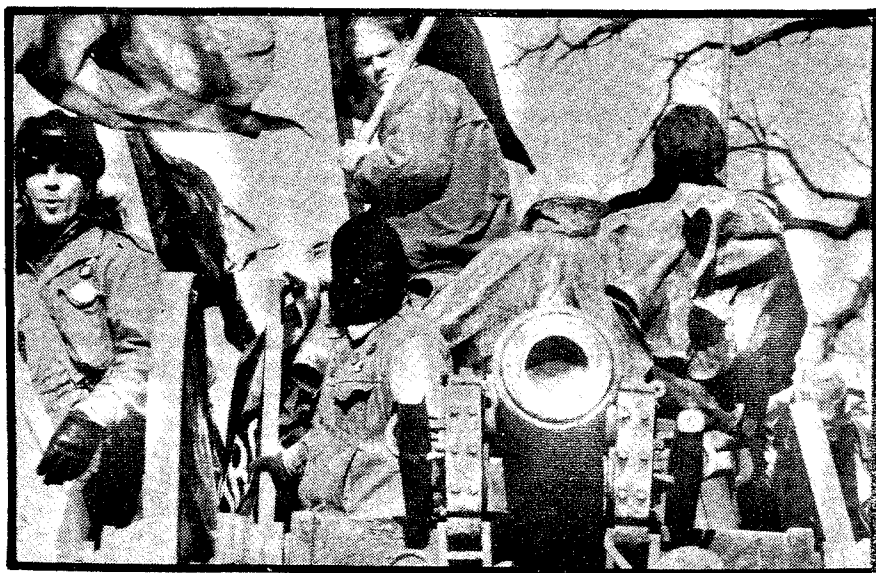
Waves of protest have swept Europe. On January 18th Germany saw 50,000 Hamburg citizens ban together in a public protest against the war, cited by the New Liberation News Service (NLNS). Among the many demonstrations in Germany, a large percentage has been high school students. On the 21st, the outside of the Hamburg stock exchange was surrounded by anti-war demonstrators who were attacked by police. This upheaval led to the facility being temporarily closed, not opening until later in the day. Nine of Germany's university campuses have gone on strike: Göttingen, Frankfurt, Marburg, Bielefeld, Siegen, Bremen, Mannheim, Freiburg, and Chemnitz. Fierce demonstrations

in France are growing in number. The Mitterand government has since outlawed demonstrations in Paris, but public pressure is making the government reconsider their participation in Operation Desert Storm. Although demonstrations have been outlawed in Paris, this banning has not been paid any heed by determined anti-war activists who have chosen not to alter their activities.

It appears that in every corner of the world, people are expressing their outrage. Pakistan and Bangladesh demonstrations echo the chant of "Americans, don't come here or we will kill you!" 60,000 Australians marched to their town hall to see Arab and Jewish activists speak. The demands of this rally called for immediate ending of the war, negotiating a settlement, and the return of Australian troops to their homeland. In Morocco 200,000 people marched demanding that that country return its troops from the gulf.

In the United States there have been anti-war protests from coast to coast. San Francisco has been a hot bed of anti-war activism with thousands of people successfully blocking bridges and tying up traffic. In addition, the federal building was blocked. On

January 17 the San Francisco city council voted to make the city a sanctuary for COs (Conscientious Objectors). One member of the Board of Supervisors was quoted as saying that the city government refuses to participate in "witch hunts" against COs and will resist a war of racism and suspicion against Arab Americans. In Olympia, Washington, 1,500 students from Evergreen State University sat outside of the capitol building for one night. Students at the University of Montana staged a die-in during a basketball game, receiving national attention. In Chicago 4,500 people demonstrated, taking over Lakeshore Drive, which runs along Lake Michigan. New York City radio station WBAI announced a demonstration at the Times Square recruiting station when the war broke out. Thousands of people took to Times Square and marched to the United Nations building, which had been sealed off by the cops. The following day marchers took over the Brooklyn Bridge. Incensed over the fact that the major media outlets are cheering on the war, not reporting civilian casualties, and that censored reports from the Pentagon are not a reliable source of information (Last year the Pentagon claimed that only 202 civilians were killed in the invasion of Panama. The present tally is close to 5,000) several hundred New Yorkers protested media bias at Radio City Music Hall.



Closer to home, on Long Island over 100 Ward Melville high school students walked out of classes on the 14th and marched to Congressman Hockbruckner's office. There have been weekly vigils every Saturday at his office between noon and one p.m.

On January 19th, a national demonstration was held in Washington D.C. where 35,000 to 50,000 protestors marched through the neighborhoods of the capitol city. Speeches were given by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Also on that same day, three to four thousand people marched in Boston. The following Saturday, January 26th, saw another, larger demonstration in D.C.. For this rally, the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace in the Middle East organized a bus from the campus to Washington. Scott MacDonald of the SB coalition reported that "The bus sold out quickly and the overflow was sent to organizers in Port Jefferson." Similar to most of the marches that have occurred within the United States, there

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How Not to Stop a War

by Jean Rousseau

On the front page of the *New York Times* of February 1st, we see two United States marines taking cover from the Iraqi artillery attack. One is lying on his stomach, his hands close to his face; the other, kneeling, presses himself on a wall. They must know that eleven of their companions died two days earlier after an Iraqi raid. At that instant, do these two soldiers pray? Do they curse their mother? Or do they feel they are fighting for democracy?

Back Home

Tuesday, January 30th, President Bush made a triumphant entry in the House of Representatives. For his second State of the Union address, the Washington political elite gave a standing ovation to the man that decided to confront the evil Saddam Hussein. George Bush responded to their expectation by delivering a speech that focused on the Gulf war and left little room for domestic issues.

The free world has won the cold war. And now Americans are fighting for the so-called new world order. Spelled out by Bush as an order "where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind: peace and security, freedom and the rule of law." (*New York Times*, 11/12/90) In these circumstances, the invasion of Kuwait on August 2nd 1990 became "a threat to decency and humanity." (ibid)

Saddam Hussein, Our Ally

The Iraqi action has unfolded a dramatic series of events. Thousands of lives are at stake. The righteousness of the American engagement cannot be judged through polls. The virtue of "the new order" must be weighed against the previous policies of the United States in the Middle East and the interests pursued.

Saddam Hussein was for the last ten years an U.S. ally in the Middle East. It did not matter that this man killed, tortured or made exiles of hundreds of thousands of his countrymen. (*Middle East Review*, Nov.-Dec. 1990, p. 41) He has thoroughly eliminated any political oppositions in ways similar to Stalin.

Perceived by many occidental leaders as a modern and secular head of state, Hussein seemed to be the only alternative that could counterbalance the Iranian regime of Khamenei in the early eighties. Still traumatized by the American diplomats taken hostages by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, American politicians tacitly agreed to the invasion of Iran by Iraq. With the goal of overthrowing the new Islamic Republic of Iran, Hussein would have become the power-broker in the region. Iraq miscalculated its force. The threat of Iranian victory and Iraq's collapse pushed the international community to provide Iraq with sophisticated weapons. The United States participated largely in this effort and provided intelligence to the Iraqi army so their Scud missiles could reach Iranian

targets. This war lasted eight years and killed 400,000 people (a quarter were Iraqi and three-quarter Iranian), and perhaps 750,000 wounded. (*MER*, Nov.-Dec. 1990, p. 20)

The United States intervened directly in this conflict when in 1987 Kuwait requested U.S. protection against Iranian attack on its oil tankers. Survival of the free world through its free access to oil, as expressed by Ronald Reagan, justified the intervention of the United States. Iraq made large use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish population and Iranian troops in April and June 1988, which allowed Iraq to reconquer some of its lost territory. The unacceptable use of this arsenal did not deter the U.S. to fully support Iraq. By mid-July 1988, Iran was willing to accept a cease-fire tailored to Iraq's needs.

The Invasion of Kuwait

The war against Iran cost a fortune to Iraq, but its economic situation was not desperate, given the country's substantial oil reserves. At the end of 1989, it has proven reserves of 100 billion barrels compared to 811.8 billion barrels for the rest of the world. (*MER*, Nov.-Dec 1990, p. 13) In late 1989, the Iraqi government announced industrialization plans and a debt repayment schedule based on an expected oil price of \$18-per-barrel OPEC had just fixed. Instead, oil prices dropped in early 1990.

Iraq accused Kuwait and the Arab Emirates of overproducing and

bringing the prices down. At a meeting of the Arab league on July 15, 1990, Tariq Aziz, foreign minister of Iraq, sent a letter "accusing Kuwait of 'systematically, deliberately' harming Iraq and undertaking economic aggression [that] is not less effective than military aggression." (*MER*, Nov.-Dec. 1990, p. 18) Another source of contention was the refusal by Kuwait to erase the Iraqi war debt of \$30 billion and to give to Iraq an additional \$30 billion. (*Village Voice*, 1/22/91) Beside these issues, Iraq complained that Kuwait was pumping oil from the Rumaila field that extends beneath their common border. There was also for Iraq, the problem of access to the Persian Gulf and its revendication of two uninhabited islands off Kuwait that Iraq would have liked to use to build a deep-sea oil terminal. On July 17, Hussein threatened military action.

As early as February 1990, United States officials knew the belligerent intentions of Hussein. But all subsequent U.S. public statements indicated that the United States would not intervene. A fact that did not escape Hussein.

On April 12, the Iraqi leader met with a delegation of U.S. senators headed by Robert Dole. Economic sanctions on Iraq over human rights abuses were discussed in Congress at the time, but Dole told Hussein "I assume Bush will object to the sanctions. He may veto them unless something provocative occurs." (ibid) Dole was stating Bush's belief that Iraq could still play a positive role in the Middle East.

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Should I Stay or Should I Go?

by Shoshanna Wingate

A Conscientious Objector (CO) is someone who is morally, ethically, or religiously opposed to war in any form. The military presently recognizes two types of CO status. The first is someone who serves in noncombatant service, i.e.; a medic, a clerk, or a driver. The second type pertains to individuals who are excused from military service but must serve two years of community service.

In addition, there are three other kinds of Conscientious Objectors that the military does not recognize. One is termed Selective Objectors. A Selective Objector is someone whose conscience would not permit them to participate in what they would consider an "unjust" war. For example, some people were opposed to fighting in

Vietnam, because they considered it unjust, but they would have fought in WWII.

Another type of non-recognized Conscientious Objector is a Nuclear Pacifist. This is someone whose conscience would not permit them to participate in a nuclear war, or what they believe would become a nuclear war. Some Nuclear Pacifists are opposed to all war because they believe that any war fought today would lead to use of nuclear weapons.

The third type of CO is called a noncooperator. This is a person whose conscience does not permit them to cooperate with draft law requirements. Many noncooperators refuse to register for the draft. Nonregistration is currently illegal. The law says that young men who do not register within thirty days of their eighteenth birthday

are subject to possible criminal penalties of up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. They are also ineligible for certain federal education and training assistance programs and civil service jobs (failure to inform the Selective Service of your new address when you move holds the same penalties).

Upon registering for the draft, there is no legal way to document the applicant's CO status. There is no box on the Selective Service card for Conscientious Objectors. One can, however, write it across the top of the card, make a photocopy and save it. This document is proof that the applicant was a CO when they registered. Again, this method of CO documentation is not legally recognized. Legally, one cannot apply for CO status until they receive their draft notice. There are about ten

days between the receipt of the notice and the day in which one must report for duty.

Because of this short amount of time, Conscientious Objectors must begin to document their feelings, beliefs and actions in their lives that would lead them to become COs before they receive their notices. Persons who believe that they are Conscientious Objectors, or that they might be, need to seek military counseling. Persons who are trained in military counseling can provide invaluable information on the process of documenting proof that one is a CO. It is a very detailed process and should be started the minute one begins to question their stance on war.

According to Hands Off!, a resistance support group, a number of Reservists who are being activated for duty, but who feel that they are Conscientious Objectors are being sent to the Gulf and told to file their applications there. When they then apply, the military tells them that they have more important issues to deal with.

The first Conscientious Objector hearings of Reservists began on January 22 in Camp Lejeune, N.C. Sam Lwin, a Marine Reservist, and others from Fox Company, refused to go when they were activated, claiming they are COs. They are being charged with Missing Troop Movement and Unauthorized Absence. They were also charged with Conspiracy although this was later dropped. The military is attempting to try them on their criminal charges before their CO hearings. This would make their CO status ineffectual.

There are members of the SUNY Stony Brook Coalition for Peace who are trained military counselors. You can reach them through the Coalition, or by calling 689-7290. You can also call the War Resisters League at (212) 228-0540.



The author is a member of The Red Balloon Collective.

VIEWPOINT

Give War a Chance

by Jerry Katz

Ask almost any of the vocal war protesters on campus: "disregarding the Persian Gulf, what do you think of the U.S.?" Most likely they will say America is a racist imperialistic power which forces its corrupt viewpoints on innocent countries. They will be quick to condemn any "wrongdoing" the U.S. does. Not once will they congratulate this country when it does something "right."

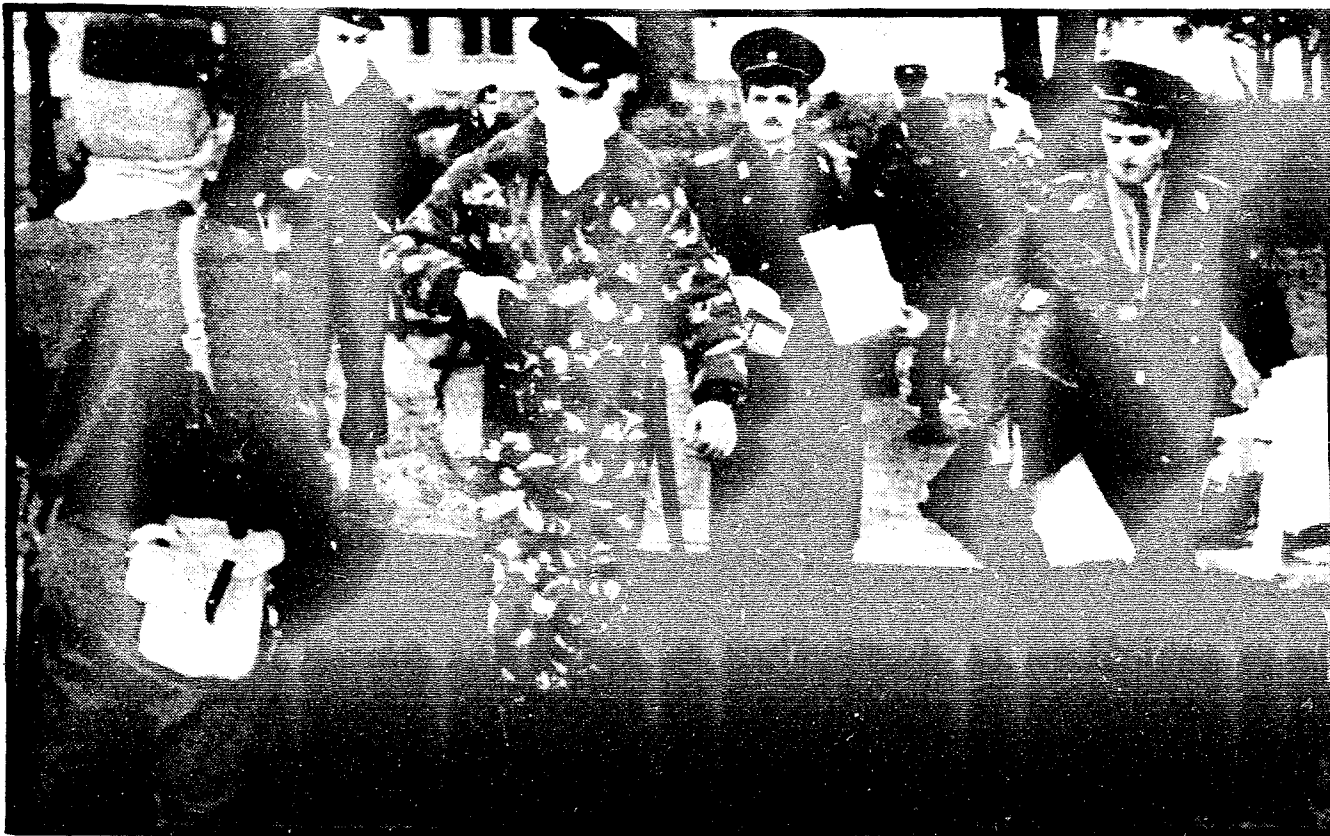
War is bad. No one can deny that, but sometimes, unfortunately, war is the only way to solve conflicts. As for Iraq invading Kuwait, let's remember that Iraq invaded a country that supposedly was a friend, considering Kuwait funded Iraq in its war with Iran, another country Iraq attacked under Hussein.

Now, a question arises that if Kuwait exported broccoli instead of oil, would the U.S. defend it? Let's look at history. We fought in Korea, Vietnam and Grenada to contain Communism in the Cold War. If one complains that we're not fighting for democracy in Kuwait, then since we were fighting for democracy in those other countries, and they don't export oil, then oil is not the only reason to fight. The U.S. invaded Panama to install a government that was democratically elected, yet it was nullified by a dictator. O.K., this justifies fighting for democracy, but what of Kuwait?

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are not democratic countries; therefore, why should we fight for them? Foregoing oil for the moment, if you complain about the U.S. invading Grenada and Panama to install a

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Back In The USSR

by Debra L. McKee

January 1991: The calm routine of a typical day for many people is abruptly broken as air-raid sirens pierce an otherwise peaceful atmosphere. Immediately, all action is frozen and everyone, young and old alike, experiences a rising fear of what the next few moments are going to bring. Although the following sequence of events is not exactly known, there is an awareness that a long-existing conflict is approaching a new level; a level of real confrontation. It is with this realization that these people prepare themselves to face an enemy who holds no respect for human beings or their rights and whose capability for brutality knows no limits.

The time period of this scenario would most likely lead future posterity as well as contemporary readers to think this is a description of the war in the Persian Gulf, and in particular, a reference to the numerous attacks on Israel by Saddam Hussein. And although this is indeed a feasible connection, it is not the only one possible. The victim of attack here is not Israel, it is the Baltic republic of Lithuania. The perpetrator of violence here is not Saddam Hussein, it is Mikhail Gorbachev. Unfortunately, due to the prominence of the Gulf War, many people are not aware of the conflict between Lithuania and the Kremlin. And for those who are aware, it is all too easy to forget as the fight in the Gulf rages on.

The overshadowing of the Gulf war on the Baltic strife is due to three main factors: the general scale on which the conflict has been placed, the degree of media coverage, and the level of outspoken opposition. The catalyst which has encouraged these factors is one of a desire for economic control. The claim of the allies who are against Hussein is that they are stopping a madman who will otherwise be uncontrollable. This concern places the Baltic crisis as distant second to the primary concern of economic superiority which essentially leads to political dominance.

The scale of events in Lithuania have inadvertently been categorized as much smaller, and thus much less important than those in the Gulf. The Baltic republic has been in conflict with the Kremlin since March of 1990, when it first declared its independence. The Soviet Union's response has been primarily military in nature, an uncontrollable obstruction to Lithuania's quest for independence. In January of this year, hundreds of Lithuanian demonstrators in Vilnius formed a human chain around the republic's television station; a peaceful protest of their refusal to yield their natural independence to the control of the Kremlin. They were met by uniformed guards carrying metal rods. What was intended as a non-violent demonstration turned into a brutal confrontation which resulted in fourteen

Lithuanians dead and over seventy injured, all at the hands of the officers. In a statement which could almost be amusing for its blatant ignorance were it not so sickening, Gorbachev insisted that the incident was beyond his knowledge. Numerous officials have stated that there is no way such a large operation could have been carried out if Gorbachev had not been directing from behind the scenes. Yet, such events are still not given nearly enough attention. In Lithuania, there is not a contest of economic superiority but rather, it is a struggle for independence. As a result, their fight for sovereignty is viewed simply as just another revolution.

Media coverage has been limited. The conflict in the Middle East has dominated the press and television. Lithuania, by comparison, has received limited attention. Articles, printed

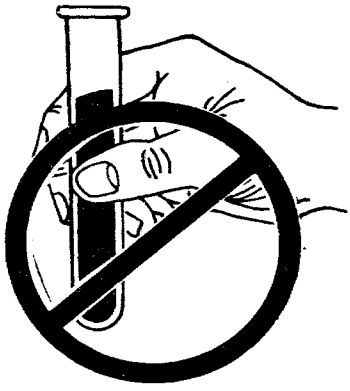
sporadically to say the least, are heavily condensed. Television news footage is rare as well. How then can outsiders to the situation express concern when they are unaware of what is really going on?

The gap between the level of opposition and the level of *outspoken* opposition has been another powerful component in the Gulf's overshadowing Lithuania's struggle. Both the NATO Alliance and the European Community have urged Gorbachev use restraint when dealing with the Baltic republic. Overall, Europe is reluctant to implement a credit cutback, which could be an effective means of action for deterrence. For Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, the hesitation lies within a fear of altering the Warsaw Pact, for all three are dependent on Moscow. As for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, he is intimidated by the possibility of jeopardizing the planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Germany. And the United States has admitted that President Bush has far more important issues to address these days than Gorbachev's field day in Lithuania.

The game whose object is to attain economic control and win political dominance has shut out Lithuania's cries for the most important inalienable rights, independence and freedom of expression. If the one of the allies' concerns is Hussein's blatant disregard for Human Rights, why is Gorbachev's trampling over the Lithuanians being swept under the carpet? Because it doesn't fit in the game being played. Geoffrey Hosking, a Soviet affairs expert at London University, admits that "Gorbachev is using the world's attention on the Gulf to get away with this." "This" is the pursuit of his own desire for stifling control over millions of people, which has resulted in deaths and injuries for many innocent people. And as long as this world bully is ignored, he will continue on his path of destruction, crushing anyone who stands in his way. Moscow News dubbed the event in Vilnius "Bloody Sunday." Protestors have carried signs making a frightfully appropriate comparison, "Hussein in Kuwait, Gorbachev in Vilnius." In short, Gorbachev is getting away with murder, free and clear.



A Severe Case of Misfortune



by John Sealy

On December 4, 1990, Philippe Valbrune and Emanuel Severe, members of the Haitian Student Organization, were arrested at a blood drive while protesting a since rescinded FDA blood policy. The two Stony Brook students face University disciplinary charges for violating six University conduct codes. Valbrune and Severe have also been charged with second degree riot charges by the Suffolk County District Court. A court date has been set for March 13. The HSO contends that on December 4 at about 11:00 am the conflict occurred at the entrance to the Alliance room of the

Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library. Severe claims he was dragged into the building by Public Safety officers, restrained, and jabbed repeatedly in the back. He further claims that PS Director Richard Young approached him and punched him twice in the face.

"We were assaulted. The result was many injuries, including a case of bruised ribs." He continued by saying that "force was necessary to stop them from coming in... We have to protect blood drives. That's our job." Later, Young added that "There will be violence when one starts violence... There was a tremendous amount of restraint on the part of Public Safety."

Young also reported that "In a previous incident, building guards attempted to tell them to leave if they had just left the room or show I.D.'s... They felt it was a racist conflict but it really wasn't."

Mr. Young is also involved in a case pending regarding former student Mark Gianotti who, when contacted by the Press in December, said that he was jumped by Public Safety in the SBS building.

Allain Moise, the chairman of HSO, mentioned that there is a history of conflict between Public Safety and the HSO. In October of 1989, Public Safety ordered HSO to leave a room in SBS where they held committee

meetings. This conflict, however, ended in an apology from Public Safety according to Moise. Young says it was a matter of the Haitians failing to produce identification and leaving the room. He also claims it was an attempt to create a racial incident when in fact one did not exist.

President Marburger's December 10 memorandum, "The Unacceptability of Violence on Our Campus," is viewed by Moise as a threat to supporters of the HSO ["In addition to legal actions initiated at the time of the incident, a complete examination of the role of participants in this incident will be conducted ..."]. The memorandum is seen by Severe as a prejudgement of the guilt of the pair arrested on December 4.

Public Safety is not the only problem that the Haitians at Stony Brook have encountered. The aftermath of the FDA's ruling, a policy unsupported by hard data and scientific facts, has resulted in something far more reaching than student arrests. A small, underdeveloped third world country, Haiti is suffering from bankruptcy because of the loss of their main source of income, tourism.

Ironically, in a December 5 press release, "New Blood Policy" the ban on Haitian blood donations was lifted. It states that "Haitian blood, thought to play a major role and, not

known to play a major one, in the transmission of HIVI or HIVII."

Eight months before a team of Haitian doctors demolished the specious argument, Dr. Emile Jean-Baptiste, President of the Haitian Biomedical Foundation (HBF) appeared before the advisory committee in April of 1990 and convinced them to vote in favor of his position and said of the new ruling, "It's a victory over the forces of deceit." Dr. Doaoo, a Ghanian intern practicing in New York State, said the charge against African blood is equally faulty. He was quoted as saying, "A.I.D.S. is less prevalent in Africa than news reports indicate." The change in F.D.A. policy followed a series of demonstrations, including one in April in New York City that involved 50,000 people.

President Marburger rejected a Polity Senate recommendation to ban blood drives on the Stony Brook campus. Marburger overruled this proposal although Nassau County Community President Sean Fanelli said that he would not allow any more charitable blood drives on campus until the FDA rewrites its ban on donors from Haiti and parts of Africa. In that same vein, Marburger squashed a University Senate resolution that would ban military recruiting from the campus due to the discriminatory hiring practices of the armed forces.

A Liberation At Home

by Walter Schneider

On January 5, 1990, this past Tuesday, our campus was granted the privilege of hearing Maki Mandela, the eldest daughter of the ANC leader Nelson Mandela, speak on both the first hand information she had compiled from living in South Africa and her personal views on what will be, what should be and what is.

Ms. Mandela made it very clear from the beginning that she was speaking as a concerned and socially active South African individual and not as a member of any organization. She told students they should avoid "hero worship" of only those leaders that the media displays, because doing too much of this down plays the importance of activism among the rest of the population. She talked, at length, of various specific cases she had dealt with as a social worker in South Africa. The Group Areas Act, instituted in South Africa in 1966, among other things, forces people to go to hospitals that are "black," "white" or "colored." Basically the government designates a person with one of the three labels and then uses this label to say where this person can go to school, where she can live, work, or be buried. Ms. Mandela said that she had seen instances where the Group Areas Act had caused hospitals to separate mothers and children. This usually happened when the mother was said to be "black" and the child was said to be

"colored." Needless to say the white health care facilities are given more money than the rest, but Mandela spoke not of a minor biased allocation of funds, but of white South Africans being

appear to not even be in the same century much less the same country. There has been much talk about the repealing of the Group Areas Act, and the Land Acts. Ms. Mandela regards the



treated at hospitals on a par with the best in the world, while black hospitals have almost no doctors but instead are run by nurses. These hospitals are ridden with cockroaches, and would

repealing of these laws as a good first step, but just that. She stated that the government's talk of eliminating apartheid has raised the hopes of black people but if there is no apparent

improvement in the quality of life for the majority of South Africans, then the repeals would simply be token gestures and the violence would continue to escalate.

During her various speaking engagements, including both a reception and a press conference, her personal opinions were displayed most when talking about the fact that she didn't have faith in the ability of sanctions to help black South Africans. One of her fears was the possibility that the companies which would pull out before South Africa became majority ruled wouldn't necessarily come back once this was achieved. Although Maki Mandela's views do not discredit the ANC's position that sanctions will be beneficial in the long term, they would appear to function as an important reminder that Americans shouldn't underestimate what has often been called the "short term sacrifice". There is no such thing as short term death.

On a related note Mandela said that she was "suspicious" of the motives of American activists (mainly whites but not excluding blacks) who have concentrated on promoting change in South Africa more than promoting equality between blacks and whites in the U.S. (not to mention Asians, and people of other ethnic backgrounds.) I've heard that there are many Africans who believe that Americans can best help Africa get racial equality after Americans achieve it themselves. Which is not to say that helping to fight oppression in Africa is a bad idea, but there may exist the danger of thinking that, since other people are in a worse situation than yours, you may become tolerant of the racial injustices that permeate American society as you read this article.

Running on Empty

by James F. Barna

Commuters to the University returned this semester to find a new fee levied against them by the University, a bus fee. The fee, officially called the Transportation User Fee was first described in a letter to students included in the University's registration packet. The letter read, "Effective January 1, 1991 all users of the Campus Transportation System will be required to pay a fee of either: \$.50 per trip, or \$10.00 per month or \$25.00 per semester."

The letter further described that "the structure of the Campus Bus Fleet and the total service that it offered to the community was not equal to the need." "The Transportation User Fee will allow us to subsidize the operation and provide SAFE, EFFECTIVE and EFFICIENT transportation throughout the campus through the 1990's" The decision to institute a bus fee was made in part by Hugh Mulligan, Director of Parking and Transportation Services for the University.

Mr. Mulligan stressed two reasons that the fee was necessary. First, the buses that were used until late last year were between seventeen and twenty-six years old, this necessitated the purchase of new buses; six have been bought, and six more are on the way. Second, the state has greatly reduced the amount it provided for transportation.

Mulligan further stated that the needs of the community will require a revised bus system. To show this he mentioned the proposed Cogeneration Plant. This plant will be built on ground that is now a faculty/staff lot. When the lot is lost the school will most probably confiscate a student lot, thus creating more bus riders.

Mulligan confidently told of the service increases that were planned for the future, weekend and evening routes will be added, as well as a hospital shuttle and two more local buses. He also said that in the fall a bus to the Smith Haven mall was possible. When asked what reaction there has been from riders, Mulligan simply said, "Look, with a fee, nobody's happy."

The reaction from students that must pay this optional fee has been muted at best. Gennero Ritienn, a freshman who rides the bus five days a week said, "It's like I hate it, but you can't blame the school." He went on to say that "it's better than no bus."

While many students dislike the fee, most are paying it because they have no alternative. One student bus driver explained that the parking problem is much worse at other schools. He said "It's just the price [of the fee] that's unfair." Asked if he's had any complaints about the fee the driver said that there were some angry faces.

The opinion of many students was perhaps summed up by a young woman who recently transferred from another school. She said that compared to all the other costs of college, "I don't mind paying twenty-five dollars more."

Press



Are you unflamed?

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FOOTNOTES

Woody's Corner

Woody Allen's most recent flick, *Alice*, continues his struggle to transcend the egotistic phalocentrism of Manhattan. Vicariously, through the portals of the saccarin Mia Farrow, the question of whether or not one can ever go back is answered with an emphatic NO!! To go back would require a flashforward into the future as in *Sleeper*, *Bananas*, etc. It is true, Alice does not live here anymore. She has withdrawn into her own didactic _____. *Alice* is playing at Loew's in Stony Brook.

Quilt to Last

Quilts as Mosaics of Cultural Diversity is on display in the Student Union Gallery in celebration of Black History Month. The colorful designs are rich in cultural imagination, making you wish your room looks like this. Faith Ringgold is among some of the artists. The show runs through February 12. Noon-5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Located on the second floor of the Union. Call 632-6822 for details.

Red Light District

The Alternative Cinema is presenting *Last Tango in Paris* on Wednesday, February 13. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, the controversial film was originally rated X, but later re-edited into a rated R version. Still, this movie about sheer sexuality in a relationship is worthwhile. But try not to get too excited in your seat. The opening reception is 6:30 PM. Screening at 7:00 and 9:30 PM, in the Union Auditorium. Price is \$2. Call 632-6136 for a helping hand.

No Sleep

The Sleep Center, located in University Hospital, is presently studying the nature and treatment of insomnia. If you are 18-65 years old, in good health and have had longstanding (at least 6 months) difficulty with sleeping, call today for a free evaluation for taking part in our study. The evaluation takes only 2-3 hours. The phone number is 444-2916. Ask for Dr. Seliger.

Boxed Away

Today at 4 PM, Astronomy Colloquium will present *The Universe in a Box* with Jeremiah Ostriker of Princeton University. All is invited. Refreshments will be served fifteen minutes before the seminar. Call 632-7880 for further info.

The Czechs Please

The Staller Center Orchestra Series is featuring The Czechoslovak Chamber Orchestra, with Jaroslav Kreck con-

ducting. *Fanfare* magazine called them "attractively bright, gleaming sound and fine resilience." Mozart's *A Little Night Music* and Divertimento in D Major will be featured. The price is \$22.50, \$20.50, \$18.50. 8:00 PM in the Main Stage of the Staller Center. Call 632-7230. Sounds pretty good.

4-F You Decide

Because the military maintains high physical and mental standards for its soldiers, many people who consider themselves physically fit could qualify for 4-F. A draft counselor can provide you with information about medical conditions which may disqualify you from service. If you believe you qualify for 4-F, it is very important to get your condition documented by a doctor. If you have a psychiatric problem or have a criminal record, you also be classified 4-F. The military considers gays, lesbians, and bisexuals "unfit for military service." If you're gay and are willing to inform military officials, this will disqualify you from military service.

-Fellowship of Reconciliation

NYPIRG's

General Interest Meeting

Organize Earth Day!
Save the Environment!
Prevent Consumer Rip-Offs!
Protect Children's Health!

February 20th 7:30
Union Bi-Level

Caveat Lector

"In recent years, the mainstream media has become increasingly conservative and pro-corporate. Mergers in the media industry have accelerated, threatening to further limit the spectrum of viewpoints which are accessible. Well-financed rightwing groups harass the media for being 'too liberal,' targeting journalists who uncover unpleasant truths about poverty, inequality, government corruption or U.S. military and nuclear policy."

Chopping off the head of the messenger that brings bad news certainly isn't a very democratic way of doing things. However, it seems that the organization that published the above quote, FAIR (Fairness And Accuracy In Reporting), has recently been proven correct. The mass media coverage of the war in the Persian Gulf has influenced what seems to be a peak of conservatism in public opinion regarding the excess - not the censorship or biased reporting of - information being published regarding the war. In a survey of 924 adults, taken by the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press (January 31, 1990, issue of *Newsday*), 57 percent "favoured allowing military officials to place additional restrictions on the war coverage in the gulf."

It seems that a desire to make the war seem less serious and more gentle is based on a genuine upsurge of patriotism and support by people who feel that this war is being fought for the sake of democracy, and that any information that might contradict this belief in and support of such a strongly felt cause may dangerously lower the morale of the nation and the troops. On Long Island alone, hundreds demonstrated their patriotism and support of the President and the troops by marching in the streets, holding mass prayer and peace vigils. There have been massive nation-wide demonstrations protesting the war - also a show of patriotism and support for the troops. There were two marches in Washington, D.C. on January 19 and January 26, at which 50,000 and 250,000 people attended - gathered to support the troops as well as considering other inhabitants of this planet that could face danger because of this war - and demanding an immediate cease-fire. In fact, there have been massive demonstrations before and after January 16, 1991, all over the world, in all of the allied countries, and since the U.S. attack on Iraq there have been literally millions protesting this war and calling for a cease-fire. Yet it seems that these demonstrations are underscored, distorted, censored and ignored by the mainstream media. One problem with the coverage of these important statements people are making is that on any given station or in any paper where you may see or hear about a story of a protest, it is usually a short clip or picture of the biggest dolt in a tie-dyed t-shirt they could find burning the American flag. Of course, placing a story covering a nationwide demonstration on page 50 doesn't help either. Actually, many of the protesters at U.S. demos carried American flags and wore countless numbers of yellow

ribbons with pride.

According to FAIR, from August 8, 1990, until January 3, 1991, only one percent of the coverage devoted to the Gulf crisis "dealt with popular opposition to the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf." This is an example of media bias.

Peter Arnett, the infamous CNN reporter, or rather, "Iraqi Pawn," as he has been dubbed, is accused of saying only what the enemy will let him say, thus spewing enemy propaganda. But does he have a choice? And shouldn't we want to hear what such an important king in the global chess game has to say? He and CNN are being held responsible for letting loose onto the world the propaganda of a madman, airing an exclusive interview with a Satanic figure and thus lowering the morale of our troops and our nation. "CNN...is essentially his ministry of propaganda. We treat our own worst enemy the same way we treat our own leader," says Ted Smith, director of a graduate program in journalism. This is a quote from an article in the January 30, 1990 *Newsday* entitled: *CNN Exclusive: News or Propaganda?* In this article the reporter, Rita Ciolli, is discussing whether or not the airing of the interview is propaganda in itself. Only one quote of Hussien's is mentioned: "(he) was heard praising the 'noble souls of the U.S., who are demonstrating against the gulf war.'" The rest of the quotes cited, five all told, are from supposed experts on propaganda and the media. Four have a decidedly biased tone, referring to the Iraqi President as despicable, manipulative, and analogizing him to Hitler. The only person that made a statement that addressed the issue, yet also asserted a universal assumption regarding the war, was Easton Jordan, a vice-president of CNN, who said that the charges made were "baloney" and that "This is a man who brought the world to war, certainly his views, whether you like them or not, are newsworthy."

"No!" The most righteously indignant person will yell. "Saddam is a Nazi, he's definitely despicable and evil!" From an entirely subjective and human perspective, he or she is right. However, the ideal of objectivity is an ethical model that true news reporting must attempt to live up to. When reporting on any dual or multi-faceted issue (like a war) the rules must stand: don't take sides, don't ignore any pertinent side of an issue and exaggerate another (if it can be helped), and don't agree with any one side. Naturally, complete and comprehensive objectivity is impossible and it is a myth. In fact, objectivity is an ideal that did not come into play in the reporting of the news until the early twentieth century. Towns and cities eventually had only one or a very few newspapers, radio or T.V. stations, naturally, as those that reaped the least were inevitably squeezed out. The people necessarily demanded objective reports of the latest facts, with viewpoints and special interest features, safely separated, thus developing a code of ethics for news reporting, and

drawing the line between news and opinion.

It is important that there still be the ethical expectation of the public to receive news from the mainstream as is, unbiased, "clean" if you will. People understandably condone and accept military censorship during wartime, but they shouldn't like it. It is, in all honesty, better to hear it all now than to put it off for twenty years until the movie comes out. If some piece of information is going to be censored, that is unavoidable. However, the role of the mainstream media should serve the purpose of providing people with as much information as possible so they can ask their own questions and draw their own conclusions about this war and about everything else, as well. Detecting media bias early can change information being censored in the future. Sensationalist images with huge, enticing headlines, on T.V. with biased commentary in the background is not what this war is. The mainstream media attempts to make the war seem safe and clean, kept under control by the highest of hi-tech, and fought for a valiant cause under a great and wise leader. War has, is, and always will be devastating and horrible, no matter how just and necessary. No "New World Order" will be able to heal the wounds this war could (and already has) inflicted, not for a very long time. It is a grave matter and must be handled seriously. Making a tabloid Rambo movie out of a major crisis is not entertaining, in fact, it is a disgrace and an ugly joke.

It seems that if the media is receiving such tremendous heat for publishing information about this war that is already being censored by the Pentagon and the U.S. Defense Department, then it is little wonder that the American public is reading, seeing, and hearing biased information. Editors, T.V. and station Directors, journalists and reporters alike feel the crunch eventually. Ultimately, an article or report must be written for the media's audience in a capitalist media in which, unfortunately, fashion

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sometimes dictates public opinion. Ultimately, the consumer decides what kind of information he or she reads about this war, but the only way a person can ask any questions at all is if he or she is presented with conflicting perspectives. There are many alternative media through which to seek more and different information about nearly any public-interest topic. Alternative sources of information could ultimately serve to considerably widen the horizons of American mainstream media consumers.





Address - President Bush

If armed men invaded a home in this country, killed those in their way, stole what they wanted and announced that the house was now theirs - no one would hesitate about what must be done.

And that is why we cannot hesitate about what must be done half-way around the world: in Kuwait.

There is much in the modern world that is subject to doubts or questions - washed in shades of gray. But not the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein against a peaceful, sovereign nation and its people. It's black and white. The facts are clear. The choice unambiguous.

Right vs. Wrong

The terror Saddam Hussein has imposed on Kuwait violates every principle of human decency. Listen to what Amnesty International had documented. "Widespread abuses of human rights have been perpetuated by Iraqi forces...arbitrary arrest and detention without trial of thousands...widespread torture...imposition of the death penalty and the extrajudicial execution of hundreds of unarmed civilians, including children."

Including children. There's no horror that could make this a more obvious conflict of good vs. evil. The man who used chemical warfare on his own people - once again including children - now oversees public hangings of dissenters. And daily his troops commit atrocities against Kuwaiti citizens.

This brutality has reverberated throughout the entire world, if we do not follow the dictates of our inner moral compass and stand up for human life, then his lawlessness will threaten the peace and democracy of the emerging New World Order we now see: this long dreamed vision we've all worked toward for so long.

A year after the joyous dawn of freedom's light in Eastern Europe, a dark evil has descended in another part of the world. But we have the chance and we have the obligation to stop ruthless aggression.

I have been in war. I have known the terror of combat. And I can tell you with all my heart: I don't want there to be war ever again. I am determined to do absolutely everything possible in reach for a peaceful resolution to this crisis - but only if peace is genuine, if it rests on principle, not appeasement.

But while we search for that answer, in the Gulf young men and women are putting their own lives on hold in order to stand for peace in our world and for the essential value of human life itself. Many are younger than my own children. Your age, most of them, doing something they believe in.

Let me tell you about one of the soldiers over there, SFC Terry Hatfield, a young man from Georgia. He sent me a Christmas card. And this is what he wrote.

"Mr. President, I just wanted you to know my soldiers and I are ready to do whatever mission you decide. Freedom as we know and enjoy had been taken from another country and must be restored. Although we are separated from family, friends, and loved ones, we will do what must be done...we stand ready and waiting. God bless you and the USA."

Terry understands the moral obligation that has compelled our extraordinary multinational coalition to make this stand in the Gulf. To look this international terrorist straight in the eye and say: no concessions. To proclaim for now and for the future: no compromises. To bear witness by our presence to the fact that aggression will not be rewarded.

Terry waits thousands of miles from the White House, yet we share the same thoughts. We desperately want peace. But we know that to reward aggression would be to end the promise of our New World Order. To reward aggression would be to destroy the United Nations' promise as international peacekeeper. To reward aggression would be to condone the acts of those who would desecrate the promise of human life itself.

And we will do none of this. There are times in life when we confront values worth fighting for. This is one such time.

Each day that passes means another day for Iraq's forces to dig deeper into their stolen land. Another day Saddam Hussein can work toward building his nuclear arsenal and perfecting his chemical and biological weapons capability. Another day of atrocities for Amnesty International to document. Another day of international out-laws, instead of international law.

I ask you to think about the economic devastation that Saddam Hussein would continue to wreak on the World's emerging democracies if he were in control of one-fifth of the world's oil reserves. And to reflect on the terrible threat that a Saddam Hussein armed with weapons of mass destruction already poses to human life and to the future of all nations.

Together, as an America united against these horrors, we can, with our coalition partners, assure that this aggression is stopped and the principles on which this nation and the rest of the civilized world are founded are preserved.

And so let us remember and support Terry Hatfield, all our fine servicemen and women, as they stand ready on the frontier of freedom, willing to do their duty and do it well. They deserve our complete and enthusiastic support - and lasting gratitude.

A National Student Response to President Bush's Letter to College Students

Student Leader News Service

CHICAGO- Student anti-war networks from Florida to Texas to California worked last week to distribute the following letter to college and university newspapers around the country. The letter was written by Nicholas DeGenova, an organizer for Chicago Campuses Against the War, and has been signed by student organizers on hundreds of campuses as of press time: [Many of these student coalitions across the U.S. were planning a national meeting for Chicago Saturday, January 19 in Chicago at Loyola University.]

If you were a college student and the president of the United States invaded your campus newspaper with a letter asking you to support this war, you might not be alarmed. And if, forty-eight hours later, he invaded your mailbox with a draft notice, and if you were told to report to the induction center in two weeks, you might wonder how this whole thing ever got so out of hand. And if several weeks later your mother received a letter and a box that couldn't be opened, the time for alarm and wonder would be past. No one should hesitate about about what is to be done.

And that is why we do not hesitate now to make clear to you our unconditional opposition to this war. We hold you responsible for what you are doing halfway around the world, and we will not be fooled by your attempt to create the fiction of popular support for this impending genocide. Neither the troops in Saudi Arabia nor the draft-age "potential troops" in this country are willing to believe your lies.

As you say, "the facts are clear." Granted, Saddam Hussein perpetrated the human rights abuses to which you refer. We are not surprised that you are very well acquainted with the details, since you supported these actions until August 1990 when you saw better use of this dictator as your newfound enemy. Apparently, such atrocities only trouble you when you find it convenient to condemn them as a means to whip up war hysteria. Your hawkish propaganda cannot conceal your own atrocious foreign and domestic policies. The irony sickens us as you send more money to Salvadoran death squads on the same day as we receive this pathetic plea for our blind faith. You want and need us to see you as good and pure, but we can't ignore your bloody history. In Chile. In Nicaragua. In Panama. In Grenada. In Libya. In El Salvador. In South Africa.

Yes, indeed, the facts are clear. As are your intentions in the Middle East.

This war is not about good and evil. This war is intended to secure the continued control of the oil resources of the Middle East by multi-national corporations. It is about the security of their profits. This war is also about the restoration to power of the Kuwaiti emir who has nothing to do with the aspirations of the people of the region; the monarchy was installed by the British colonialists. It is a cynical joke to call such regimes "emerging democracies." The war is furthermore about

the likely acquisition of permanent military installations in Saudi Arabia, which the United State has sought for decades. It is about the reassertion of U.S. military dominance confronting the decline of U.S. global economic and ideological hegemony.

You write that your concern is with the promise of a "New World Order." Here you speak candidly. Your vision of this new order, however, has nothing to do with the interests of the great majority of humanity. You seek unquestioned, unchallenged global domination which was never wholly accessible during the Cold War. Hence, you have escalated a local conflict into an historic crisis. The threat to peace comes from your relentless aggression. If we do not follow the dictates of our inner moral compass and stand up for human life, we dread to think of what you will do. You are morally bankrupt and expect us to pay your debt - with our lives.



The choice is unambiguous, indeed. We refuse to allow you to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands on both sides of the conflict. A genocidal war against the Iraqi people is inherently racist. Likewise, the racist character of the war is betrayed by the preponderance of African-American and Latino youth who now find themselves on the front lines. A "poverty draft" has driven countless poor and working class youth into the military. Let us remember all the fine men and women whose lives are in the balance, nearly one hundred of whom, along with unnumbered Iraqis, have already perished from this escapade. We must bring them home now. We are committed to resisting your war.

AN APOLOGY

On December 12th, 1990 I witnessed a demonstration held in the Administration building here at SUNY-STONY BROOK. Generally, I see campus protests as being learning experiences, rooted in the 60's tradition of change, thus preparing students for life after college. This time I saw protests for what they actually are. Protests of expressions of disagreement between different thinking people. These differences will cause some people to be affected psychologically and/or physically. For this reason, I apologize to all that have been affected by our differences in the past.

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I seek to evolve and improve the ways in which I deal with adverse situations, instead of adding disharmony to existing problems. I am apologizing for those, and to those who do not understand this principle. Yes, people would do better if they knew better.

As an African-American, I try to build from the American Experience. I search to improve and gain wisdom from the past. The 1960's and 1970's are eras that are popular. Boycotts, protests, philosophies, and even fashions have been revived from the past as being ways and solutions for the future. In this day and age I choose to advance and create constructive ideas. There is a time and place for all things, but they must be done properly and in order.

I attempt to bridge gaps and not create them. I cannot condemn anyone who does not agree with me even when I am right. I must recognize the misunderstandings of others and then try other ways that I can make people receptive. Again, I apologize to those who have suffered because of misunderstandings, and I wish everyone a better future.



Brian Greer

The author is a student-employee in the Administration building.

People fifty and older were the ones who saw the raise of the hated symbol of the separation from their families and friends who stayed on the other side. They were the ones who came to see it fall and help tear it apart. The majority of activists and speakers at the various demonstrations has also been of the age of forty and older, which you would have realized if you had been present prior to the resignation of the regime.

Far from being the moving power, students have put the action of citizens taking down pieces of the wall in a bad light. On New Year's Eve a group of drunk students climbed a broadcasting tower near the Brandenburg Gate. The tower collapsed under their weight and killed twelve people. Another group of teenagers ascended the Gate and demolished one of the horses of the Quadriga, a statue which is part of the historical monument. The act was driven by the impulse to destroy and without any political motivation.

Being a student myself, I would like to be able to support your interpretation, but it is simply not true.

Political or Consumer Freedom?

The most upset I got, was when I read the part of your article,

which you titled, "Victory for Nationalism." You are stating that, "The fact that West Germany's economic power...is being used to destroy and consume the GDR has left [you] somewhat saddened." In my opinion it is rather saddening that you are presenting your or someone else's interpretation of the political development in the reunited Germany as a fact.

I believe that the majority of the people who were involved in the revolutionary actions were interested in the freedom to consume as well as in the freedom to determine their political future. You are saying that you saw the crowded streets of Berlin in the first days after the Wall was open for everyone to travel and even leave the GDR, but you had obviously not watched the people who had come to West Berlin.

The main purpose of most of the visitors from East Berlin was to shop. West Germany was giving a gift of 100 Deutschmark to every visitor from East Germany. After receiving the money most of them went shopping - tropical fruits, chocolate, children's toys, clothes, and Walkmen. Some of them did not buy anything, because they were too overwhelmed by the variety and availability of products. Some of them cried, emotionally moved by the fact that from this point on they would be able to shop the way they had dreamed of all their lives.



Sure, it is hard for us to understand how important consumer freedom can be. We grew up in systems of constant surplus. The citizens of East Germany were daily confronted with the differences between East and West, because they were able to watch the TV channels from the other side, with their commercials of products, which these people had never seen in reality.

If you were right and the interest in the freedom to shop was only implied, then how do you explain that the visitors went back to the system of democratic socialism after the stores were closed? Why did they not stay in the country of democratic pluralism if that has been what they were fighting for? Why did so many of the "revolutionists" stop fighting for the realization of their political demands after they had been able to travel and to shop?



Janina George

VICTORY FOR NATIONALISM?

I read your article about the reunification of Germany. I am a native of the former West Berlin and I have spent the first twenty years of my life in this city. I have grown up being surrounded by the "circular crystal," "made of concrete." The Wall has hindered me to visit the rest of my family in the other part of the city for as long as I can remember. You can imagine my enthusiasm when I saw the monument of the Cold War falling down last November.

Your one-sided presentation of the historical events in East Germany and its consequences for the citizens of Germany and the rest of the world has left me rather disappointed. I wish you would have done some more serious research or you would have at least spent more time in Berlin, talking to a variety of people with different political outlooks before publishing your article. I can only hope that not too many students here, who do not know better about the political and economical situation of both parts of Germany, have read your article and formed an opinion based on the information provided by your piece of journalism.

The Role of Students

Your article evokes the impression that the moving power of the revolutionary act in East Germany as well as on the other side of the wall was personalized in the students of both countries. If you would have looked around you when you "stood...in front of the Wall," or watched the coverage on German TV, you would have seen that people of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens were actively involved in the events of last November.

Talk show WABC is Anti-American

by Steve Abraham

On Friday, January 18, I listened to a talk show program on WABC regarding the First Amendment. I was enraged at the ignorance of the talk show host who accused protesters of anti-American action against the government and the troops stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Voicing opinions against protesting is a right and can be exercised rationally through various exchanges of arguments on both sides. But to incite violent hatred toward protesters is outrageous.

How disgusting it is to mock protesters with immature babbling. It is sad that this host is so one-sided with his view on democracy. What makes this nation great is its diversity of voices. This host vehemently endangers this diversity.

Protesting during times of war does not necessarily speak out against soldiers. Sure, I agree that some protesters protest for the sake of psyched-out hysteria because "it's fun." These protesters know nothing of the purpose of protesting against war. They are in this respect naive and dangerous. But there exists protesters who are aware of political issues involved. Some protest against war in general. And some speak out against this particular war because they hold different views. Many of these protesters have their loved ones and/or friends out in the desert facing danger far more frightening than a low paycheck. Our soldiers are perhaps facing death in the hands of fanatic Iraqi patriots similar in fanaticism to kamikazi pilots of World War II. These protesters don't want the troops to come home in body bags. Is this talk show host saying that these protesters are also "mentally-ill scumbag bums?" (note: it is also a fact that a solid group of anti-war protesters are veterans). This discriminatory stereotypical accusation reveals the closed-mindedness that plagues this nation.

At one time, this host screamed to the microphone that he was so angry at the protesters yelling outside his window that he would "spray them out with an uzi if I had one." What kind of an idiot is this person to resort to this kind of rhetoric? Slaughtering students in Tiananmen Square, murdering Jews during World War II, and Hussein killing his own people because "they opposed his command" are scenes that crossed my mind when this host screeched out this childishness.

One caller voiced his opposition to protesting (coincidentally, 9/10 of the callers were against protesting and in favour of the host) by saying that the United States is not fighting for oil, but to rid Saddam Hussein, a dictator who has executed thousands of his own people and invaded Kuwait as well. I may have believed in this democratic ideological motive if the United States had acted in the same manner when students in China were butchered by its own government, or when Israel seized the West Bank from the Arabs. But this didn't happen because China's ordeal did not conflict with American economic interest and religious favoritism probably led to U.S. neutrality in the Palestinian issue. Besides, what Hussein has done to his "sons and daughters" (in fact, these people are the Kurds, enemies of Iraq) is not for us to judge or condemn. A simple reason for the U.S. offensive is that Kuwait is one of our colonies, as if this land does not belong to the Mid-easterners at all.

How about Panama and Granada? Did Iraq or other countries condemn the U.S. invasions of these countries? Did Iraq deploy its troops to Panama or Granada to restore world order? And if Iraq did commit this act, wouldn't the U.S. fight to defend their claim, also? Clearly the Bush Administration has reasons other than to restore world order. Most likely for capitalistic gain; while Bush's son is climbing the corporate ladder, poor kids who'd signed up because of economic reasons (having no

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Searching for Synthesis



by Fred Mayer

"We don't need this bureaucratic bullshit!" - heard during a recent meeting of the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace.

War has a way of changing everything. And it does so in ways which are impossible to anticipate. Many of us did not seriously believe that President George Bush would actually initiate aerial genocide on a scale not seen since World War II. Although most of us realized that media bias and U.S. Defense Department censorship would restrict the public's knowledge of events in the Middle East, no one expected that the coverup would extend into our own cities, where massive anti-war protests have been either completely ignored or reported in grossly misleading ways. Perhaps most importantly, however, is the fact that it is doubtful that anyone realized how difficult the task of building a unified national anti-war movement would turn out to be.

For myself, one image best captures the nation's response to the anti-war movement. On the night the war started, a drunk driver plowed his car into a column of protesters on the Brooklyn bridge, seriously injuring seven people. As I held the bleeding head of a young man in my hands (before police came and threatened those of us attending to the injured with arrest) it occurred to me that there had to be another way to fight our government. This notion became strengthened in my mind by the fact that the bridge incident went totally unreported in the New York Times, and quite badly reported in Newsday. George Bush's "no Vietnam" pledge was no idle threat, and the bourgeois media institutions in the U.S. have more than willingly complied with our government's desire to shield the people from the truth concerning events both at home and abroad. There should be no doubts left in anyone's mind that - to use Gil's words - "the revolution will not be televised."

Stony Brook and Beyond

The job of activating Stony Brook's campus last semester met with mixed success. The ever-present apathy among students and faculty was only mildly dented after Bush's offensive buildup following the November elections. Several rallies, a teach-in, and a few additional events helped to widen the debate on campus. During a meeting of the Graduate Student Senate held on October 10, a resolution condemning U.S. intervention was debated and passed by a 6-5-3 vote. During the last week of the semester, on December 19, a similar resolution was introduced on the floor of the Polity Senate. It was

soundly defeated by a vote of 3-6-9. Students went home, and campus closed up shop. During inter-session, the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace continued to meet, and plans were made for two rallies in Washington D.C.

New York City last fall saw the formation of a city-wide coalition of students calling themselves Students Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East (SAUSIME). Before the war started, SAUSIME struggled to increase its numbers beyond a central core of extremely active students from the New School for Social Research, Columbia University, and the graduate center at CUNY. One major difficulty for SAUSIME was the frustrating lack of cooperation provided by the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention (also known as the "October 20 Coalition"). The best example of this was the Coalition's refusal to share student telephone lists with the SAUSIME steering committee. The frustration level grew even greater when the now famous "split in the movement" developed after the December 1st meeting of the more recently formed National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. (For those who don't know, the Coalition called for a January 19th march in Washington D.C., while the National Campaign called for a January 26th march.) The lack of respect for students - on the part of the National Campaign - was well captured by the agenda of the December 1st meeting, which placed students dead last on the list of topics to be discussed. Nevertheless, an important student caucus was held at the end of the day on December 1st. During this meeting, a national student formation took shape, calling itself the Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East (SYCPME). The participants chose Sunday, January 27th as the date for a national student conference which originally was to be held at the University of the District of Columbia. I attended this conference, and I can tell you that no one who was there will soon forget the events of that day. For some reason, on the day of the meeting, SYCPME was unable to obtain the needed space at the University of the District of Columbia. As a result, a hasty location change was made, and fliers were rushed out announcing nearby Sidwell Friends High School as the new site.

A flood of student activists, numbering in excess of 1200, arrived at the high school. The halls were crowded with literature tables set up by a wide variety of political and activist organizations. Hundreds of students milled about, preparing for the upcoming regional and plenary sessions. In hindsight, it is clear that the SYCPME steering committee made some rather serious tactical errors the night before, when the agenda for the day's meeting was finalized. For some reason, it was decided that the conference would begin the day with six separate regional meetings. In all six meetings, a specific proposal regarding the organizational structure of SYCPME was introduced. All additional proposals made during the regional sessions were collected as "amendments" to this proposal. The conference agenda called for all regional items to be presented for approval during the afternoon plenary session. Therefore, when the plenary session finally got underway, well over 50 separate amendments were in the hands of the facilitators. The result of all this was that all the amendments, many of which were quite important, were not even read before the plenary session (much less voted on).

The plenary session itself was quite a struggle. There was very little respect for the chair or the floor, and in several instances the proceedings degenerated into no-holds-barred shouting matches. The process of voting was made very difficult by the fact that the organizers had decided on a one-person one-vote policy. In addition to the fact that this created a huge disadvantage for students coming from outside the D.C. area, the hundreds of hands which had to be counted made precise tallies almost impossible to obtain. The most important outcome of the plenary session was a decision regarding the

structure of the organization. It was decided that a new steering committee would be formed by representatives from all participating organizations. No requirements were placed on participating organizations regarding campus affiliations. I will say more about this later.

Organizational Excellence in Chicago

The Windy City is the birthplace of the only national student anti-war formation which is truly independent of all other formations. (Note that SYCPME is functionally an arm of the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, and is strongly influenced by the Progressive Student Network.) During the pre-war phase of the Gulf conflict, a network of Chicago area students pulled themselves together, forming an organization called Chicago Campuses Against the War (CCAW). Among CCAW's accomplishments was the takeover of the Federal Building in downtown Chicago, one of the most dramatic efforts seen anywhere in the country following the outbreak of war.

During the final weeks of 1990, the organizers of CCAW decided to expand their organization to form the National Network of Campuses Against the War (NNCAW). Bill Stant from Loyola University, Nancy Maclean from Northwestern University, and Nick DeGenova from the University of Chicago were the principle movers and shakers behind this effort. (Note that Nick DeGenova was the author of the open response to George Bush's disgusting "letter to college students.") The first action taken by NNCAW was the calling of a planning meeting in Chicago, at Loyola University, held on the weekend of January 19-20. What made this two-day meeting special was the fact that it was a delegated event, i.e., a single student from each participating campus was given the right to vote during the plenary sessions: one-campus, one-vote. I have attended a substantial number of anti-war meetings during the last six months, and none compares with the level of cooperation and organization that I witnessed in Chicago during the weekend.

Representatives from 60 colleges, universities, and high schools from all across the United States and Canada were present. Registered observers from affiliated campus and non-campus organizations were encouraged to participate as well. The result was an extremely upbeat interaction among student activists. While Robert's Rules of Order were adhered to, there was no compulsive effort to bog the meeting down with parliamentary procedures. (It's not that hard to follow the usual sequence: introduce a motion, discuss the motion, call the question, and vote.) There was universal respect for both the chair and the floor (not to mention the agreed-upon agenda).

Space does not allow me to describe all of the interesting information and ideas that flowed from the meeting. Of greatest importance, however, was the vote to approve a call for a National Student Anti-War Conference to be held March 1-3 in Chicago. Quoting from the subsequent leaflet, "Plenary sessions will feature educationals by Middle East specialists, talks by prominent anti-war activists, debates with pro-war spokespeople and discussions of strategies for building the movement. Workshops will focus on in-depth discussions of specific issues as well as sessions focusing on organizing skills. In addition, representatives from campus anti-war groups will meet to discuss how to build a dynamic, democratic student movement." The key word here is "democratic." The importance of democracy in the movement cannot be over-emphasized. I will support this statement at length in upcoming articles. Meanwhile, if you are interested in obtaining more information regarding any of the groups which I have discussed, please contact the Stony Brook Coalition for Peace in the Middle East. Until next time, don't lose hope!

WABC

continued from page 10

where to turn), are being shipped off to the desert.

It is hard to believe that the Bush Administration is not only proceeding in accord with democratic idealism but also for economic security when military spending by the end of this year will gross at least \$130 billion. Major cities and suburbia will rot as cuts in education and employment continue to bleed. And how about corruption (the number one epidemic)? The Bush Administration talks about restoring democracy elsewhere in the world while the democracy of this country is crumbling.

Vietnam taught us nothing. The Gulf War will turn into another racist war in which no one will win. Anti-Americanism increases as casualties escalate throughout Iraq and other Mid-east countries (or tribes). Like the Vietnamese, all Arabs detest American troops stationed in their land. Eventually, if the war becomes protracted, massive casualties on the Iraqi side will increase anti-Americanism - the U.S. is helping Middle East fight the Middle East (see Vietnam). Most likely Arabs will then fight endlessly to liberate their cultural regions from foreign oppression (i.e. Vietnam War). If foreign troops began stationing their military forces in America, Americans will surely resist. Our misinformed troops in Saudi Arabia are facing people who will never allow American force prevail in their holy land. Take Great Britain for a prime example of nationalism. When Nazi Germany stone-aged London with unrelenting bomb attacks, did the British give up? No way!

During the Vietnam War, the media had a great advantage because censorship was almost nil. Reporters were free to roam. This, along with protesting, are among the factors that helped led to a withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam (ceasefire). Today, this access is strictly limited by military review. Why? Is war a sports game?

Bush and Hussein are both censoring the Gulf War to manipulate citizens into their favour. These two presidents are fighting a personal battle while millions are paying with their lives for the greedy objectives of these two instigators of war.

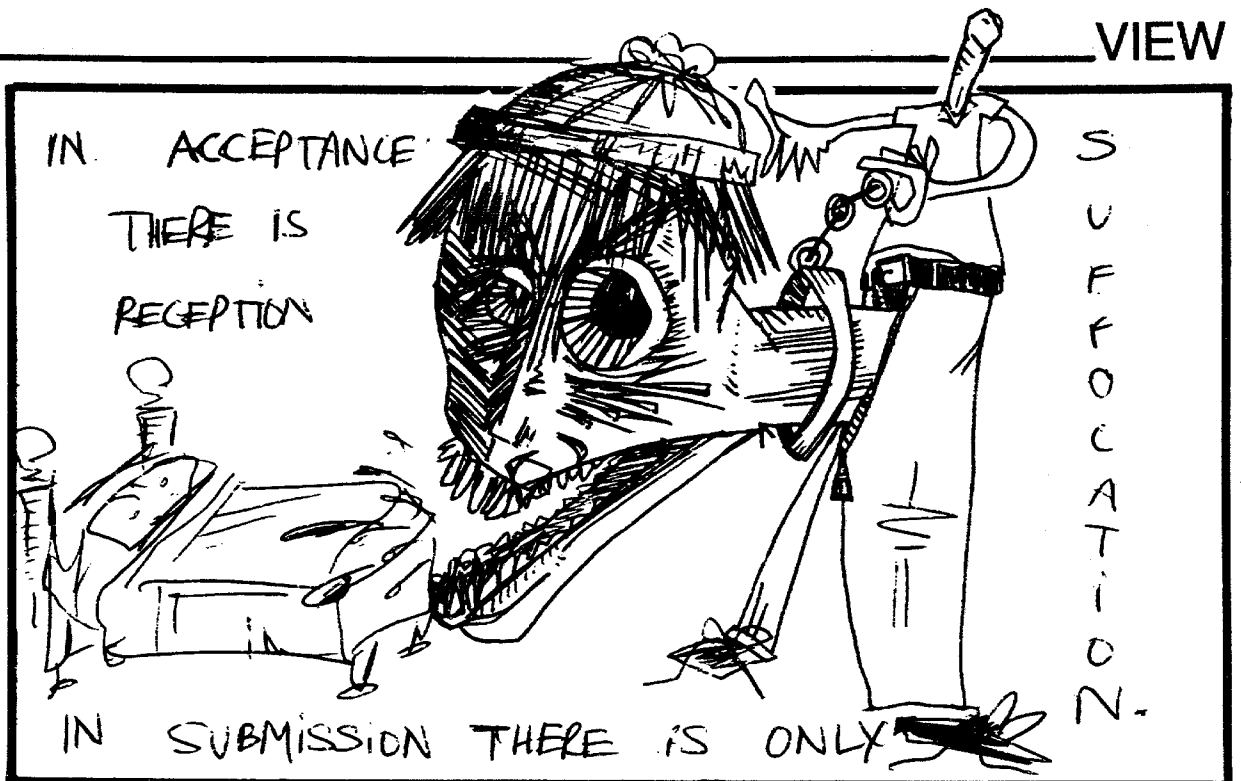
When Hussein mistreated American prisoners, Bush was outraged and condemned Hussein as a war criminal. American jets practically creamed Iraq, destroying properties and innocent lives, but this deed was considered heroic. How ironic.

Another segment of the WABC talk show led to my conclusion that the host is a complete baboon. A lawyer was on the line and specifically pointed out the rightful act to assemble in free speech. The host then frantically interrupted the caller whenever he tried to make certain legitimate points, lashing out at the caller for interrupting him - the host screamed, "Will you stop interrupting me!!" And to undermine the lawyer's intention, the host asked him several irrelevant questions to obviously degrade him. Questions concerning his age, the place where he'd studied law and his practice were aimed. When the attempt to humiliate failed (the lawyer is from Harvard), the host attacked him for having the gall to arrogantly say that he's from Harvard (as if the host didn't provoke the lawyer to answer that question).

If this host and other people are so pro-war, marching headstrong in defiance of protesters, why don't he and the rest sign up? He should get up and put on his uniform besides shouting war slogans. This host went around hating protesters who were deeply and truly concerned about the war just to make up for his deprived life, an ego trip worthy of my offal phlegm. Then probably after beating his breast a bit, walked out of his comfy little studio and into his car, then drove comfortably back home to his televised participation and midnight snacks.

Yes, this WABC host has the right to speak freely against protesters. And so, I also have the right to speak freely against this imbecile.

Chris Delvecchio



SKINNER'S BOX

HOW TO PLAY PERSIAN GOLF



by Scott Skinner

To play this game, you will need a golf ball, a club, a quart of motor oil, a package of raisins, a vine of grapes, and a blindfold.

Unlike the traditional game of golf, Persian Golf is played in a sandbox. To set up the game: 1) pour the motor oil over the sand; 2) sprinkle raisins over the muck that forms; 3) position the golf ball in the center of the box; 4) place grapes anywhere outside of the sandbox.

The goal of Persian Golf is to putt the ball out of the sandbox while blindfolded, using as few swings as possible. If you do not succeed in clubbing the ball out of the box by the third swing, then you enter the stage of the game known as "Vietnam." This phase of the game requires that you eat the oil-soaked raisins and replace them with the grapes. You are then allowed three more blindfolded swings to whack the ball out of the box. If you fail to accomplish this within the allotted number of swings then you lose: eat the grapes and declare the game finished.

Unlike the traditional game of golf, which requires spectators to be absolutely silent during game play, Persian Golf encourages spectators to make as much noise as possible. Much of the game's excitement is a result of the intense heckling on the sidelines. Bystanders often take sides, some supporting the golfer while others praising the courage and conviction of the golf ball. Most onlookers agree, however, that the fruit should not be needlessly wasted. To make this sentiment clear, some spectators shout anti-golf slogans such as, "no grape juice for golf." Riots often ensue from vocal hostilities between the pro-golf and anti-golf factions. Witness any game of Persian Golf, and you will understand why it is often considered the supreme spectator sport.

Media coverage of Persian Golf also contrasts sharply with that of the traditional game. Some critics believe that the game receives too much attention, while others insist that the present coverage is inadequate. Anti-golf factions claim that the media is biased, and that news reports tend to favor the golfer. They claim, for instance, that reporters glorify the high-tech golf clubs while taking cheap shots at the integrity of the golf ball. Pro-golf factions disagree, pointing out that the golfer is often falsely portrayed as a fruit fiend and a golfig.

Although I am no sports fan, I enjoy Persian Golf because it is best played by sports enthusiasts with no prior experience. The following uncensored tips will help all neophytes maximize their pleasure in the game. First, it is sometimes helpful to psyche yourself up for the game before you begin to play. Try talking to the raisins. Tell them that you are confident, and that you will not let the game progress into the "Vietnam" stage. You may also want to talk to the grapes as well. Tell them that they will not have to enter the sandbox, and that they have nothing to worry about. Next, it may be advantageous to soothe the sentiments of the anti-golf spectators by explaining to them that you are playing a just game of golf. As for the media, use it to your advantage. Let them take pictures of you striking the golf ball in victory, but censor cheap shots of the consumption of the fruit. Finally, be sure to call out "I whack" before you swing so as to warn other golfers nearby.

Everyone will enjoy playing, watching, and even criticizing Persian Golf. Indeed, lately it seems like everyone is an expert on game play and strategy. Just remember that Persian Golf is more fun when you use the largest sandbox that you can find, and the most fruit that you can throw in.

WAR

continued from page 3

On July 19, Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney told reporters during a press briefing that the United States was committed to militarily defend Kuwait if attacked. "Shortly after Cheney's comments were reported in the press, they were quickly repudiated by his spokesperson, Peter Wilson, who explained that the secretary had spoken with 'some degree of liberty.'" (ibid) With this statement, Cheney was committing the U.S. to war. His rebuttal was another hint to Hussein that the U.S. may not react.

At a July 25th meeting with American ambassador April Glaspie in Iraq, Hussein told her that he considered Kuwait was engaged in an economic act of war against Iraq and that it would justify an Iraqi military response. Glaspie, faithfully representing American policy, declared: "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreements with Kuwait. I was in the American embassy in Kuwait during the late '60s. The instructions we had during that period were that we should express no opinion on this issue and that the issue is not associated with America..." (ibid)

With this green light flashing in front of him, Hussein gave the order to invade Kuwait on August 2. Still, five days earlier, the CIA reported to Bush that massive troop movement at the Iraq-Kuwait border were under way and ready to attack (ibid). Bush rejected this analysis.

Three days after the invasion, the United States started to send troops in Saudi Arabia.

The Fight For Democracy

The countries that have supported the course of actions proposed by the U.S. have gained many dividends. It is very unlikely that a country like Syria, called by Bush "a terrorist state" three months earlier, joins the coalition to fight for democracy. It simply gains a respectability that it did not have. What about China which is cracking down on all source of dissents after last year Tianamen square massacre? The United States will not criticize it because it cannot afford to lose a supporting member at the United Nations Security Council. And what of the USSR that is renewing repressive tactics in the Baltic? It is unfortunate, but the support for the free ride of the United States in the Middle East has a price.

Soon after the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait, Bush said: "Our jobs, our way of life, our own freedom and the freedom of friendly countries around the world will suffer if control of the world's great oil reserves falls into the hands of Saddam Hussein." (NYT, 11/12/90) This amounts to suggesting a modern day spice war, a defense of crucial economic interest. The administration then changed its official language and Bush returned to the image of America as the defender of freedom. Oil was a factor, but not the only one. (ibid)

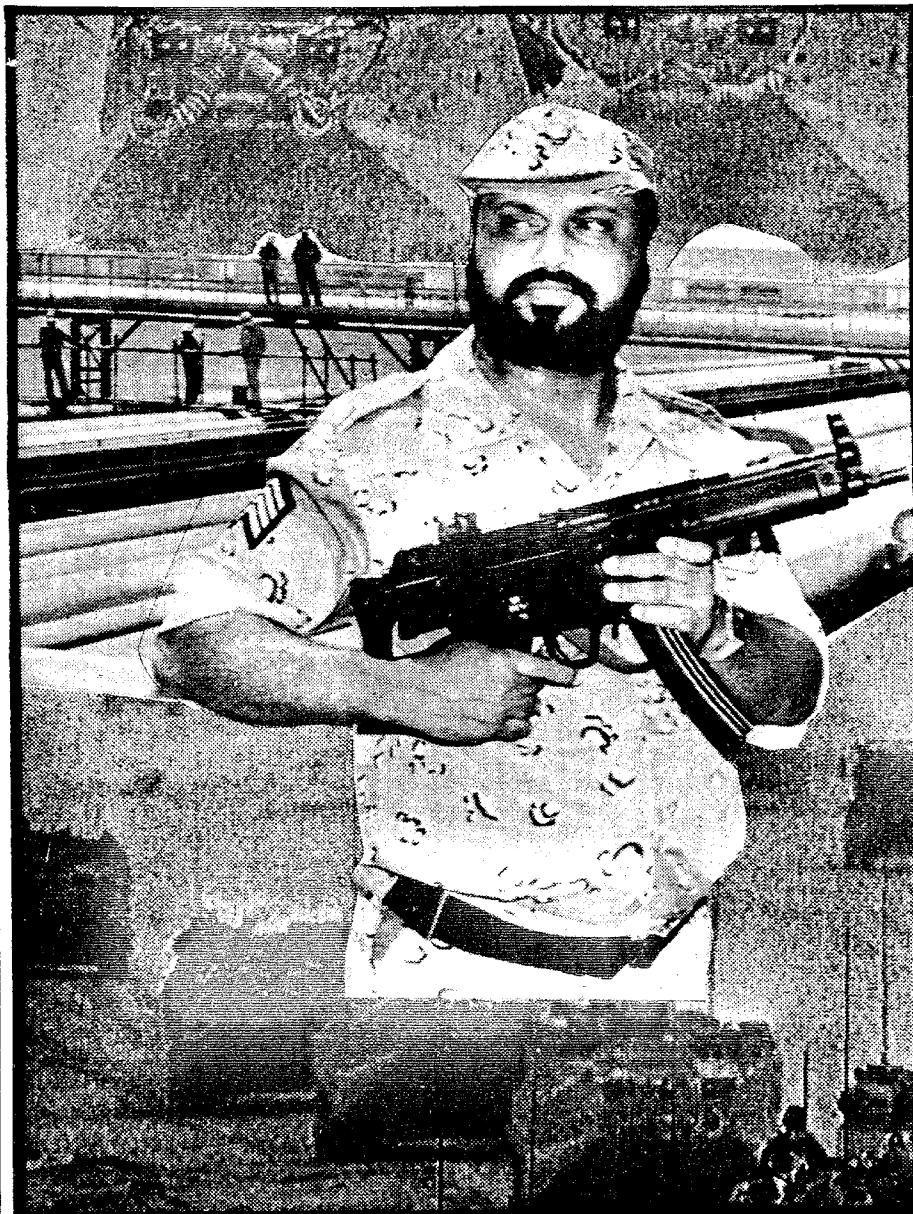
The fight for freedom is hard to swallow when one considers that Kuwait was run by a ruling family, like in Saudi Arabia. In societies where women have no rights (they cannot even drive cars) and in the case of Saudi Arabia, where slavery was only recently abolished [in 1962] (NYT, 10/31/90), what is the rule of law we are talking about?

The fight for democracy in the present war is an anachronism and it has to be downplayed. A *Wall Street Journal* article (10/8/90) took an approving look at Gulf monarchies and concluded that democracy might not only be bad for people in the region but "could work against U.S. interests." The article quoted a State Department official: "You can't expect democracy to produce toadies to the U.S."

Shift in U.S. military strategy

The Bush administration has been able to gain support for the troop deployment when it started to invoke the military capability of Saddam Hussein. Although Israel already possesses 200 nuclear warheads (*Le MD*, 1/91, and *VV*, 1/22/91), the potential threat that Iraq may pose when it would have the Bomb would be a source of instability.

The economic sanctions imposed against Iraq after its invasion were among the toughest and the most complete ever imposed against a country. (*International Herald Tribune*, 12/11/90) Given the very high import-dependency of the Iraqi economy, sanctions could have worked but we will never know. A problem with



Oil, The Vital Link

According to Mr. Van Dyk, a Democratic analyst of economical and political events, "we are engaged only because of oil, as we should be." "...You can be sure we wouldn't have a platoon on the Kuwaiti frontier if the resource in the region was guano." (NYT, 11/12/90)

Other analysts go even further. The strategic control of the Gulf is a question of the vital interests of the United States. It has to import from this region 400 million tons of oil (500 to 600 million in the near future). "The actual crisis shows what is unacceptable in international oil politics: the American pretension to use oil as an arm of domination in controlling the Gulf and then the price and levels of production..." (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, 12/90)

economic sanctions is that they did not address the military capability of Iraq.

When George Bush declared in his televised speech of January 16, 1991, that "the world could no longer wait", he recited many reasons to start a war. Waiting any longer could have fragmented the coalition, discussions about the Palestinian issue could not have been eternally postponed, the American public was getting impatient with a prolonged stay in the desert (even though it is happening), and not the least, the climatic conditions were the best for an attack.

The present war is a unique opportunity for the American military to confront the modern Iraqi army and finally test U.S. sophisticated weaponry. As an American general was saying, "There is nothing like the real thing." General Schwarzkoff went one further

when he said this week, "The best is yet to come."

The swiftness of the American deployment is a direct consequence of the shift of strategy of the Pentagon. With the decrease of the Warsaw Pact danger in Europe, the interests of the armed forces shifted to the new power in the third world such as Syria and Iraq. In a report from the U.S. Commission of Integrated Long Term Strategy, "Discriminate Deterrence, 1988," it is said that in the upcoming years many countries will possess armaments that will make difficult any intervention in regional war. This is a theme that was further developed by the President in a speech given at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, May 24, 1989. Bush declared that many countries were getting equipped with destructive arms and that the United States should be ready to go against the aggressive ambitions of these renegade regimes. (*Le MD*, 1/91)

In February 1990, Dick Cheney, approved a document facing the rules for defense policy during the 1992-1997 period where the focus is put on middle intensity conflict, as opposed to low intensity conflicts, which are wars against guerilla groups and a large intensity conflict, a full war against an enemy like the USSR for example. The middle intensity conflict doctrine was not completed in August 1990, but was sufficiently advanced to allow a huge transport of troops to the Middle East.

In May 1990, General A.M. Gray of the Marine Corps declared that if the United States still wants to be a superpower, they must conserve free access to foreign markets and "necessary resources needed by our industries." (*Le MD*, 1/91) To fight these new enemies the Pentagon will need a broad inventory of arms and equipment to facilitate a prompt and diversified response. In a context of budgetary crises, it would be hard to justify, unless a war erupts...

The American War

The present conflict is clearly an American affair. With the exception of England and France, European nations have token forces. In Europe, public opinion sees this war as reminiscent of the first World War. A war that started because of the stubbornness of the belligerent in refusing to accept a negotiated settlement. It is not even clear that the withdrawal of the Iraqi army from Kuwait would stop the war.

The United States will finally obtain a strong foothold in Saudi Arabia, a privilege which has always been denied before. U.S. troops are there to stay. They will fulfil military and economic goals. Our military-industrial complex (an expression introduced by Eisenhower) will not suffer the deep cuts that a peace economy requires.

This war could have been avoided if many short-sighted motives had not led American foreign policy. Still, this war was planned and the U.S. military was ready. There was no point in finding a negotiated solution. A war offers so many advantages. (10)

Let's Show The Pride We Have In Our Troops!

Wednesday, February 13th
Campus Life Time Hour 12:40-2PM
Fine Arts Plaza (outside)

Students/Faculty/Speakers
Followed by a "hands across campus"
to salute our troops!

Please Note:
This is not an anti-war
or pro-war demonstration -
this rally is to encourage
the spirits of our troops
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When come to the first Rugby Club
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Campus Life Time).

Where Non-Smokers Lounge, 2nd
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- Every Tuesday we have meetings in our lounge around 8:00pm.
- Every Wednesday we show Japanese Animation videos.
- Every Thursday is Video Night which starts around 7:00pm.

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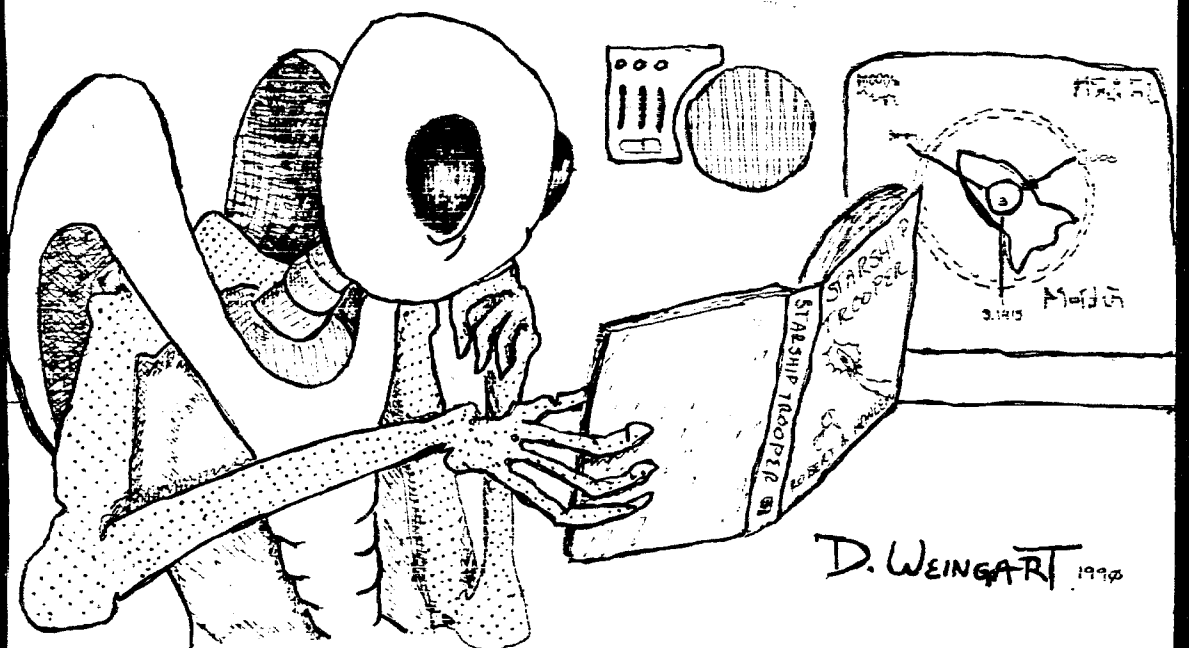
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Driving Toward Energy Independence

by Scott Skinner

You would think that the war in the Mid-East would serve as a catalyst to make energy independence our primary domestic policy. Think again. If anything, the conflict is a guarantee that petrol-powered automobiles will be the mainstay for many years to come. But what are the alternatives? While the U.S. spends money researching high-tech weaponry, other nations are cashing in on high-tech vehicles. For years, dedicated engineers and environmentalists have worked on vehicle technologies that would free us from the shackles of oil dependence. Alternative fuels are widely available and are already being utilized by other nations. Who is to blame for our lack of commitment? Is it the government, which has done little to support research in the field of alternative fuels? Is it the entrepreneurs, who cower at the thought of taking the necessary risks by producing, publicizing, and pushing alternative vehicles over conventional ones? Is it the consumers, who refuse to deal with the initial inconvenience that is necessary for the transition to alternative fuels? Or is the new technology simply not up to par with the conventional vehicle, a machine that has remained fundamentally the same for nearly a century. Henry Ford would be proud to know that, after all this time, we still haven't come up with anything better than the internal combustion engine. Or have we?

GASOLINE

DESCRIPTION: Composed primarily of alkanes (hexane, heptane, and octane), gasoline is a derivative of petroleum produced in oil refineries. Commercial gasoline blends contain additional additives such as detergents, dyes (for identification), surfactants (to reduce carburetor corrosion), and tetraethyl lead, although lead is being phased out for environmental reasons.

ADVANTAGES: Vehicles fueled with gasoline enjoy the colossal advantage of being thoroughly established in the U.S. Vast networks of fuel and service stations dot the country (Bush's thousand points of light). Gasoline also provides a greater available energy content than ethanol, methanol, and most other fuels. "Clean" reformulated gasoline promises to deliver more mileage per gallon while being easier on the environment. Consumers may choose from an overwhelming number of models, including imports and exports, at prices that range across the entire economic spectrum.

DISADVANTAGES: Nationally, consumers are at the mercy of the top seven oil companies (the Seven Sisters) who do not appear to be affected by the "law" of supply and demand. They engage in price fixing and price

gouging, and manipulate the market in ways that we can only begin to imagine. Six of the Seven Sisters occupy the top 13 slots on the Fortune 500. Exxon is number three, behind Ford Motor and General Motors (makers of gasoline vehicles). Incidentally, why is it that we pay more for unleaded gasoline than for leaded when gas is naturally unleaded? In essence, we are paying the Seven Sisters to NOT put lead into our gas (read: extortion). Internationally, our country is dependent upon unstable foreign nations for oil. Bush has admitted that oil is one of the reasons why we are currently at war (read his open letter). Oil dependency resulted in President Carter's economic problems in the 1970's, just as it is now resulting in Bush's economic problems (oil imports account for half of our

ADVANTAGES: Of these three alternative fuels, methanol (made from methane) appears to be the most promising. Shortage is no problem. Consider that the average cow belches up to 400 liters of methane a day, and our national herd numbers approximately 10.5 million. The result is 4.2 billion liters of methane a year, belching out into the atmosphere, waiting for some bright entrepreneur to harness its potential. The transition from gasoline to methanol will be painless as conventional vehicles run well on the gas with little modification. Methanol is a relatively clean fuel compared to gasoline, and is labelled a "low-polluting fuel" for its lower carbon content. The result is that consumers can continue to enjoy the advantages of conventional vehicles without sacrificing the environment.



Greg Forte

trade deficit). Environmentally, gasoline vehicles are a nightmare. Catalytic converters do little to clean exhaust, although further research in this area is being pursued. Smog-laden Los Angeles is a good example of what happens when this exhaust hits the environment. Emissions include, but are not limited to, unburnt hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides. In addition, gasoline vehicles are the third largest producer of carbon dioxide, the gas that has a bad rep for contributing to the destruction of the ozone layer threatening catastrophic climate change (the green house effect).

ETHANOL, METHANOL, GASOHOL

DESCRIPTION: Ethanol is grain alcohol, the fuel that Stony Brook students are most familiar with, as they consume it in mass quantities. Methanol is wood alcohol, the stuff they tell you not to confuse with grain alcohol because it is poisonous. Gasohol is a mixture of gasoline and alcohol (ethanol or methanol).

DISADVANTAGES: Methanol does not contain as much available energy content as gasoline, so vehicles will need to use nearly twice as much of it, resulting in larger fuel tanks and other related problems. In addition, methanol-powered cars can be difficult to start in cold temperatures. The carbon-dioxide exhaust may possibly contribute to global warming.

ELECTRICITY

DESCRIPTION: Rechargeable batteries are the principle source of electricity, although other sources include fuel cells and solar panels. The electricity needed to recharge batteries is produced by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, or natural gas) in electric power plants such as LILCO.

ADVANTAGES: EV's (electric vehicles) are far more efficient than their petrol-powered counterparts. Although power plants are the largest producers of carbon dioxide, it is still more efficient to burn fuel in the external combustion engine of a plant rather than in the

internal combustion engine of your average car. EV's do not consume power while waiting for traffic lights or sitting in traffic jams. EV's are considered environmentally safe, as they produce no exhaust gases at all. General Motor's [Environmental] Impact is the latest in EV technology. The Impact is powered by lead-acid batteries, has a 120 mile range between charges, and can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 8 seconds, with a top cruising speed of 55 mph. Other EV's offer regenerative braking, a method of producing electricity to top off the batteries whenever the brakes are applied. Future EV's will draw power directly from the road via a process of magnetic induction. Hybrid vehicles are also available, offering an internal combustion engine as a backup.

DISADVANTAGES: The performance of EV's leaves much to be desired. Even the Impact, touted as the best electric vehicle to date, does not compare in performance with even a modest gasoline vehicle. The batteries need from six to eight hours of charging time, compared with the five minute fill-up time of a conventional vehicle. In addition, the batteries must be replaced after about 20,000 miles, and are NOT environmentally safe when disposed of. All commercial EV's are currently more expensive to buy than conventional vehicles, offering various levels of poky performance and inconvenience. I hesitate to wonder what happens when my EV breaks down.

HYDROGEN

DESCRIPTION: This highly explosive gas can be used in two ways. First is to burn the fuel, using its explosive power to drive pistons much like a conventional internal combustion engine. The second approach is to use fuel cells, which combine hydrogen with oxygen in order to produce electricity. Both methods produce water as a by-product.

ADVANTAGES: The first method will offer performance equivalent to conventional vehicles, while the second method will allow EV's to obtain fuel simply by replacing old fuel cells with new ones. The cells are environmentally safe, unlike the lead-acid batteries of the Impact. Both methods produce only water as output, and are therefore the cleanest of all clean cars.

DISADVANTAGES: Hydrogen is as dangerous as TNT, and storing sufficient amounts safely in a vehicle is not practical at this time. The vehicles are extremely expensive, and don't expect service and repair from your local mechanic. Fossil fuels may still have to be burned in factories in order to produce the hydrogen, so carbon dioxide may still be released into the atmosphere.

A Still, Small Voice



by Edward DeFelippis

It was the first real September day. The heat of the summer had almost completely worn off, and though the sky was clear and the sun was shining, it was comfortably cool and breezy. It was the kind of day no one could ignore. Not the panic stricken upperclassmen who were racing about trying to figure out which classes they were registered in and which classes they needed to add. Not the wide-eyed, disoriented freshmen who could be seen running this way and that, in and out of buildings, trying in vain to locate their English or Math or History classes. Not even the instructors, harried by their apocryphal class rosters, sign-in sheets, sign-out sheets, and last minute classroom changes, could disregard the gently rustling leaves or the soft green grass or the lush new flower gardens planted all along the academic mall. No matter what his or her first-day emergency was, every person on campus at least took a minute to look about himself and just enjoy what was there.

It was indeed a beautiful day.

Bob sat out in the fresh air eating his lunch with a young man from his psychology class. Everything seemed to be working very well. The two had been talking for about half an hour now, and so far, they were getting along perfectly. Bob even liked the young man. He found him easy to talk to. The young man seemed smart, but not threateningly so, which Bob found reassuring.

-Bob, you made this lunch date for a reason.

An embarrassed tension gripped Bob's stomach as he realized that there was work yet to be done. He was a little uncomfortable about mentioning it now. When the young man had come up to him after Psychology class that morning, and started talking to him, Bob became very excited at the opportunity. But now, he wished he could just get to know the young man and be friends. Grudgingly, he resolved himself to steering the conversation over.

The two had been talking about their high schools, and Bob's mind began working fast to see what he could make out of that.

"Do any of your high school friends go to school here?" Bob asked.

"Oh, yeah," said the young man, "A few of them go here now. One of the girls in Psych went to high school with me, and I know a couple of the guys in my Theatre class. One of them I know from high school, and the other one went to the same church as my parents."

-Now, Bob! Now's your chance!

Bob was relieved that it came this easily, and he jumped right into it. "So, do you go to church often?" he asked.

The young man seemed surprised at the sudden change in subject. Still, the conversation lost none of its congeniality. The young man answered casually and Bob felt a little more at ease.

"Not really," the young man said. "Not anymore. I mean, sometimes I go with my parents, maybe, like if I'm home for the weekend and they decide to go."

"But you're not really a churchgoing person," Bob said.

"No, not really. Does that interest you much?"

"Actually, it does."

"Religious studies major?" the young man asked.

"Well, no...uh...why don't I show you."

"Show me?" the young man said. Bob noticed the first signs of uneasiness in the young man's manner since the conversation started. He tried to push this feeling out of his mind and get it all overwith.

"I wonder if you've ever seen this before," Bob said.

-He hasn't seen it before, Bob.

The young man examined the little yellow booklet Bob had handed him the cover said, "The Four Spiritual Laws." The man examined the booklet for a second and then said, "Hmmm...No, I don't think I have, actually. What is it?"

"Well, why don't I go through it with you?" Bob took the booklet and, holding it so that the young man could read it, opened it to the first page.

-Not bad, Bob. Not the way we planned it, but it still might work.

As soon as the young man saw the words Jesus Christ on the first page of the booklet, his curiosity seemed to melt away. "Oh, I'm not very religious," he said, getting back to his lunch.

-He's confused, Bob. Explain it to him.

"Actually," Bob said with a sudden sparkle, "I'm not very religious, either."

-Good going, Bob. Very clever.

The young man looked puzzled. "What do you mean," he said. "I mean, that's a Born-again Christian Book, isn't it?"

"Well, yes, it is."

-NO! IT ISN'T!!! Never say "Born-Again Christian!" Never! Never!

Bob winced. He'd made an obvious mistake, but he knew he had to keep going and salvage the conversation somehow. "But...uh...actually... what I meant was...it's not a religion to me. It's more of a relationship, a relationship with God. It's kind of a way of life."

"I...don't quite follow," said the young man.

- Tell him your story now, Bob.

"Well, before I came to Christ..."

-No! Wrong phrase! Don't use cliches!

"...Uh...that is, before I became a Christian...I really thought my life was going nowhere. At one point, I had actually made up my mind to commit suicide."

Bob noticed that this didn't seem to have the usual shock value with the young man. "Wow," the young man

said, "That's pretty wild. What happened?"

- He's going for it, Bob. Don't lose him.

"You see, one night, I was sitting in my living room at home, and I'd been dangerously depressed over the past few days. As I sat there, I decided that I would kill myself. But here's the amazing part. Just as I was thinking about that, I heard a man on television say 'Suicide is not the answer.' The television just happened to be on when I sat down, and there was a religious program on. The man on the program was giving a message about suicide. He was saying that no matter how bad I thought my problems were, Jesus Christ would make my life whole again and give me the strength to go on living."

"That is something," said the young man.

-This isn't going well, Bob.

Bob could see that the young man was uncomfortable, and trying respectfully to sound impressed. Now he felt his mind go blank in panic. Bob

could think of nothing else to do. He channeled all his effort into getting the words out.

"Then he told me that God loved me very much, and He had a perfect plan for my life. But because of my sins, I was separated from God, and so I couldn't have the kind of relationship with him that He wanted. But God did something about that. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price for my sins by dying on the cross. And now, my sins would be forgiven if only I asked God into my life and accepted Him. Right then and there, I knew I wanted to go on living."

"That's a really wild coincidence - that guy talking about suicide right when you were thinking about it."

"That was God's work, and it saved my life."

"That's really interesting, Bob," the young man said. "I mean, I've never met any Born-Again Christians before. At least none that I could really talk to. You're a lot different."

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STAGE



Talk Dirty To Me

by Captain America

Director Kevin Crowe and his five actors brought the Fanny Brice Theater to life last weekend with their interpretation of Joe Pintauro's ten short plays that fit under the title of *DIRTY TALK*. Within this world of homosexuals, flashing Madonnas, dancing nuns, gay priests, and other various characters (gee, sounds like our world, doesn't it?), the play brings out an important message: "We all have feelings." Life is bizarre - what can we say?

The actors, David Gill, Beverly Longo, Megan Martin, Andrew Strand, and Jeff Tusch, did an outstanding job. Each person went through extreme changes as they transformed right on the stage to become a different character in another piece. Kevin Crowe

took the liberty of using some characters more than once so that the performance, as a whole, was tied together.

The Fanny Brice Theater is located in Roosevelt Quad. It is run by two students, Joe Ryan and Dan Berberich. The Theater gives everybody the chance to speak out, speak up, and spread the word (whatever that may be). This fine performance of *DIRTY TALK* was only the beginning of the fine line-up that the Fannie Brice Theater has in store for this spring semester.

COMING UP AT THE FANNIE BRICE THEATER: We're All In This Together (an open microphone poetry/performance), hosted by Billy Capozzi. Also upcoming, The Vicious Beatnicks.



Run Westy Run Green Cat Island Twin/Tone

The cover art of Run Westy Run's third album, featuring a painting of Satan dressed in an American flag suit with his penis hanging out, has failed to draw flak from the religious right so far. A possible reason is that the painting by Kevin Johnson depicts the infernal one as having a very small member.

A real treat is in store once you get past Satan's schlong and into the record. **Green Cat Island** continues the Westy's relationship with REM guitarist Pete Buck. Buck, who has worked with the band since their demo days, has again been enlisted as producer and has done a superlative job.


The music reminds me of New York's Raging Slab in that both bands feature meaty, earnest rock and roll riffs with a bit of twang and the occasional tip of the hat to metal. Run Westy Run give themselves a wide palate to work with and they use it to full effect. The tunes range from "Kiss the Night," a slow ballad with pretty vocal harmonies and slide guitar, to "Could Ya Would Ya," a powerful number based on a doomy, chromatic metal riff.

"Get On" sounds like a Danzig tune and features lines like "A Halloween in Memphis felt like outerspace" that could have been written by Glenn himself. "Whada" is a Southern rock/funk workout: Lynyrd Skynyrd meets the Red Hot Chili Peppers. "Last Swallow" is a modern day sea chanty that makes me want to wear an eyepatch and raise the skull and crossbones.

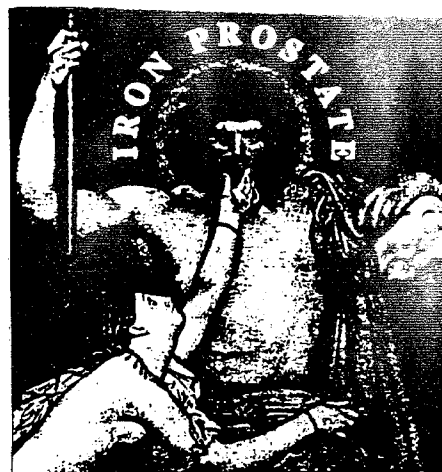
Singer Kirk Justin's vocals often remind me of Jim Carroll's in that they both share a similar "seen it all" affect and a sing/speak delivery. The similarities are most apparent when Kirk intones neo-beat lines like "probabilities come at different volosities [sic] / Knowledge of the unobserved lies in

death and sleep / and desire drives all things to constant proliferation."

The rest of the album isn't as lyrically obtuse, in fact **Green Cat Island** has some of the most intriguing lyrics that I've heard in a long while. You can spend a few hours coming up with interpretations of what these songs are about, much like you can with a good Dylan album. I had listened to the opening cut, "Johnny John," several times, caught just by the strength of the chorus. On the surface the song is about a young male prostitute on the street, but a second, hidden message is included in the lyrics. The song is also about the legendary Johnny Thunders. The clues are sly, one line goes, "This is insane home so alone." **So Alone** is the title of a 1978 album by Thunders. Another line in the song is, "Dead boys share stories of you." This reference is a little more veiled. The late Stiv Bators, former singer of the Dead Boys, recorded a song titled "Li'l Boys Play With Dolls" when he was with the Lords of the New Church. The song was a tribute to Thunders' seminal early seventies band, the New York Dolls. The next track on **Green Cat Island**, "Electrick Co.," mentions the New York Dolls and validates this interpretation.

The Westy's incorporation of a variety of styles has drawn fire in the past. Critics have accused them of musical schizophrenia, but here there is a cohesiveness, a thread, that holds it all together. If you desire a refreshing listening experience **Green Cat Island** is recommended. 

-Scott Warmuth



Iron Prostate Cassette Demo


"You'll like it, it's punk rock," said guitarist George Tabb as he handed me Iron Prostate's five song cassette. He was right.

The tape is a refreshing return to an old punk rock sound. The song writing is solid with a strong sense of humor. With locomotive sounding drums and Mosrite guitars churning out a familiar Marshall grind the most obvious comparison is the Ramones.

The band lays out their simple philosophy, "I'm getting older now / And I ain't got nothing to do / Except to be in a band / With a bunch of aging Jews," in "Iron Prostate." "Pumpkin-head" is literally about someone with a jack o'lantern for a cranium and has lines like "You've got a candle burning / Inside your brain / It's cooking out your

insides / t's driving you insane." "Gilligan" is a tale about the Skipper's little buddy gone homicidal. The song has only five lines, "I wear a white hat / I wear a red shirt / They all think I'm stupid / One day I'll kill them / I am Gilligan," and after hearing it you will never look at Bob Denver the same way again. "Hellshaft" is a twisted ballad with background vocals reminiscent of the Shangrilas' "Leader of the Pack."

The tape is a preview of their upcoming LP scheduled to be released on Skylad later this year. The album is promised to include other show stoppers from the Iron Prostate live set including "Rock & Roll Nursing Home" and "Hell Toupee."

Tabb has survived stints with Letch Patrol and The False Prophets. The band also features Scot Weiss, formerly of Ed Gein's Car, on vocals and Steve Wishnia, co-founder of The False Prophets. For more info write to Iron Prostate c/o George Tabb, 45 Carmine St. #1-B, N.Y., N.Y. 10014. 

-Scott Warmuth

FRONT 242

by Wayne Myer

Front 242 is back on the front lines! Their new album, *Tyranny For You* (Epic), has recently hit the record stores. After Front 242's last effort, *Front By Front* (Wax Trax! Records), the band went through some minor changes, although retaining their driving style of "get-up-and-twitch" music.


The album's first single, "Tragedy For You," has already made somewhat of a splash on the alternative

scene. One can hear the classic Front 242 sound in "Rhythm of Fire," "Moldavia," "The Untold" and "Soul Manager" (hint: "Soul Manager" is much longer than the reported 5:07). The speeds of the tracks range from 85 beats per minute all the way up to 150 bpm, with seven of the ten tracks in the 100-120 bpm range, making the album an excellent choice for alternative dance DJs.



Front 242's lyrics are, as usual, about off-beat subjects and presented in their rapid-fire, vacillating, fitful manner. In the music can be heard a labyrinth of short, self-created samples and sound effects, often making the background music comparable to the soundtrack for a nightmare.

Unlike past Front 242 releases, *Tyranny For You* is readily available on vinyl, cassette, and aluminum (compact disc). An added bonus is that this album was mastered in a completely digital format (DDD). The disc was engineered by Sony Music, so it lacks the major engineering and timing errors experienced on older CBS/Epic compact discs.


Tyranny For You is suggested material for anyone new to Front 242, and required listening for any fans of the band. If one has the means, the disc is well worth the price; the damage is perfect for the precision and clarity of a fully digital format. 

-Scott Warmuth



Blake Babies Sunburn Mammoth

This album makes me cringe, not like a G.G. Allin release, but in a benign way. The Blake Babies play poppy music with jangly guitars. The

songs appear to have been written by a random cut and paste method. Verses and choruses don't match stylistically and instrumental sections seem out of place. The production is beyond clean, it's antiseptic. This is music for the boy in the plastic bubble, not rock and roll fans. The trio seem overly aware of themselves and their arrangements are meticulously overworked. Squeezed dry and devoid of emotion, **Sunburn** is a very tedious listen. 

-Scott Warmuth

FICTION

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- Don't let him change the subject - keep going!

"How does this all sound to you?" Bob asked.

The young man looked puzzled again. "What do you mean?"

"How do you feel about Jesus dying for your sins?"

"Well...uh...that's interesting...that's just not really my thing, you know?"

-You're losing him, Bob. He needs Jesus! Don't let him go!

Bob hated this part the most, and the young man's polite disinterest upset him even more. He never knew how to deal with that. Bob felt as if he were plowing through barbed wire now. He just wanted to finish this conversation and get out of there. "What about it don't you understand?"

"Well, it's not that, really," said the young man. He had become defensive. Bob's question had obviously offended him. "I'm just not...you know... a religious-type person. I mean, that's cool that you believe all that. I've just never really been into it."

-Don't give up, Bob!

Bob couldn't go any further. He knew it was over, and he had failed. "Well, think about it, okay?" Bob said. "I'd really like to talk to you some more about this."

"We don't really have to talk about it," said the young man, gathering up the tattered remains of his lunch. "I mean, religion's just not my thing."

"Sure," said Bob, "That's okay."

"I'll see you in class tomorrow," said the young man.

"See you then. Take care."

-You failed, Bob.

I know, Lord.

-Bob, I've been training you for this. You just aren't trusting me.

But Lord, I...

-But nothing, Bob! I've sent you here to do my work, and all you've done is let me down.

Lord...I'm trying! It's difficult. Very difficult. You made me the way I am. You know I get embarrassed sometimes when I talk about...

-Are you saying you're ashamed of me, Bob?

No, Lord. That's not what I said.

-Bob, I chose you. You have a special job to do here. You are my spokesman to the people. It is through you that I am trying to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the people.

Please, Lord...

-Bob, you must speak my Word to the people without hesitation and without compromise.

But, Lord...they don't want to hear it. They don't like to hear it. I try to make it sound good, but they just don't...

-I've told you how to say it! I've told you a hundred times. You're not trusting me! How do you ever expect to make it to my Kingdom if you don't trust me?

Lord, I have work to do at school, too. I have class work to do, and I just don't have that much time to spend with...

- MY WORK COMES FIRST! Bob, you must always remember that! I brought you to this school to teach my Word and to save people's souls. Don't worry about anything else. I'll help you with schoolwork, if you'll just have faith in me. But remember, you are a Christian first and a student second.

Yes, Lord.

Bob opened the knapsack lying next to him on the bench. He pulled out his Bible, an old but well-cared for New International Version with a blue cover. The pages fell open to the Gospel of Matthew. Bob read silently.

"All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Bob took a deep breath. He closed his eyes and he closed the Bible, clutching it tightly in his trembling fist.

"Thank you, Lord," Bob said.

"Thank you for being with me."

VIEWPOINT

continued from page 4

democratic government, what the government thinks is the "correct" government, then it is hypocritical of you to complain that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are not democratic.

I agree that oil is a reason for the war. Unfortunately, this country is dependant on foreign oil. Therefore, it is in our best interests for those foreign oil supplies to be sold in a fair market. Remember the oil embargoes of the 1970's? Remember the long lines at the gas stations? Even then you could only get gas if you had a license plate. Yes, afterwards the country should have found better energy policies (but then you have all these nuclear energy protests), but until then, our countries existence depends in part on foreign oil. Before August 2, 1990, we were good customers for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. Though OPEC was tough, we could survive.

Hussein invaded Kuwait on the pretense of pro-Arabism. That is just propaganda. In reality, he invaded Kuwait for oil. Hussein wanted a high price for oil but Kuwait wanted a low price. Iraq sent troops to the Kuwaiti border. OPEC had an energy meeting. Kuwait agreed to a compromise, Iraq agreed that the troops would leave. The troops left, alright, right into Kuwait. Then, after another emergency OPEC meeting, Iraq agreed to leave two days later, yet another lie. Then the Arab league stepped in. Iraq was still in Kuwait. The U.S., after being asked by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to help (YES, THEY ASKED US!), worried about the oil supply, joined in the negotiations, getting the U.N. involved. The U.N. talked with Iraq separately from the U.S. Nothing. France tried. Belgium tried. The U.S. tried a last ditch effort. Hussein refused to budge. War was the only solution left. Even with sanctions, Hussein would not leave Kuwait.

Now let's look at Iraq. Iraq, under Hussein, invaded Iran. During that war he gassed his own citizens. Now, it's also true that those citizens wanted independence from Iraq and rebelled. Now, far be it from me to link Israel to the situation, but aren't the Palestinians rebelling against Israeli authority? If you condemn Israel for

killing Palestinians, you must condemn Iraq for killing the Kurds. After making peace, he attacked a country who financed him in his war with Iran. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are not democratic countries, but at least they helped provide a fair market for the oil. Having Hussein control a large portion of foreign oil is definitely detrimental to the U.S. since Hussein would not provide a fair market, and we would have more embargo-like times.

Now let's look at the U.S. Didn't the U.S. support Hussein in his war with Iran? Yes, because Iran was, let's say, rather an unfriendly country since we had recently got back our citizens after 444 days of captivity. For the sake of argument, let's say that Hussein was our friend? How can we fight him now? Easily.

Let's say you have a friend, you also own a business that requires supplies from other businesses. Now let's say your friend tries a hostile takeover of company A. You don't like what he did, but you support him because he is a friend. Say you are doing business with company B. You do much business with B. Your friend does a hostile takeover because he wants to charge high prices, even for you. Would you still be that person's friend? Wouldn't you try to stop him? Especially after he refuses your request to stop? Friends don't hurt each other.

So, big deal? What right do we have to fight for our interests in foreign countries? Let them settle their own problems, right? O.K., but we then must follow this isolationist policy in all cases. We cannot complain about China killing students. We cannot boycott Coke because it sells in South Africa. We cannot take part in the U.N. We cannot give foreign aid to poor countries. We cannot export food to a starving nation.

O.K., if we must fight Iraq, shouldn't we fight South Africa? Sure, but then you'll complain the U.S. is an aggressive imperialistic nation, which you say anyway, and we're not even fighting every country that doesn't agree with us. I agree we should not fight wars, but when all other options have failed, what are we to do, appeasement? Yeah, all Hussein wants is Kuwait, and Hitler just wanted the Sudetenland.

ART

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influenced by her own experiences with pregnancy and those of women in general, who often in our society bear the brunt of child rearing. "There is no physical experience that men have that compares to childbirth ... this world needs more fathering" she says, referring to the lack of participation many fathers have in regards to childbirth and rearing.

Her paintings have been featured at the Cork gallery at Lincoln Center, as well as an assortment of other galleries and local Public Libraries. Her work has been labelled as being blasphemous and pornographic, and she has been accused of hating being a woman. But upon meeting her one gets the impression of a physically attractive, young, insightful artist, who feels for her fellow women and wishes for a race of more protected, technologically, and socially complete beings, coexisting

with their male counterparts. She postulates that even war could be stopped as she senses a connection in that "women bleed so men draw blood," a theory which advocates reversible female circumcision, in which PMS is a vestige and pregnancy is medically supervised and technologically gestated.

Her lovely and enlightening works will be featured in a Student Union Gallery exhibit "Ceramic Sculpture and Print," April 8-18 and the opening is Friday April 8, 7-9 p.m. But don't wait until then. Make the trip to the Health Sciences Library, and see confident illusions of sphenoid sculpture and spilling anatomy.

LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS!

Famous U.S. Women's Ski Team Diet

During the non-snow off season the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team members used the "Ski Team" diet to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. That's right — 20 pounds in 14 days! The basis of the diet is chemical food action and was devised by a famous Colorado physician especially for the U.S. Ski Team. Normal energy is maintained (very important!) while reducing. You keep "full" — no starvation — because the diet is designed that way. It's a diet that is easy to follow whether you work, travel or stay at home.

This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski Team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today. Tear this out as a reminder.

Send only \$10.00 (\$10.50 for Rush Service) - to: SlimQuik, P.O. Box 103, Dept. 2R, Hayden, ID 83835. Don't order unless you want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do. © 1990

Interpretation of Scenes

MFA '91



Terminal Attire, 1990
relief print, 24 x 12"

by Rick Teng

When I saw the program book, I knew it was going to be a good show. The works seemed to be linked in a "psycho-realistic" ideal.

Bertha Steinhardt Gutman's works are oil on canvas or linen; lightly colored, loosely fresh and illustrative. Still life is the central aspect in her paintings. Although the figures and objects are placed in a randomly ordered manner, these "things" elude to a dramatic and unmistakably uneven perspective. The effect is interesting. Background details are almost minimal.

In *Resurrection*, however, still life plays a small part in this dream-like and religious theme. Clouds above, held by baby angels, reveal a vision of death, while a surgeon holds the feet of an upside-down bloody newborn baby beneath. The surgeon and his pro- or anti-abortion baby are surrounded by drapes or curtains. This is the only Gutman painting on display that has intense colorization. This Eakins-like scenery (*The Gross Clinic*) is dramatic and seminally contemporary. The prophetic vision revealed in the clouds has a soldier aiming his rifle at a

defeated mother clutching her baby. Next to this totalitarian image is a pile of dead bodies. Since the title has a religious definition, what then, comes first, the cloud segment or the surgical segment? If the surgical is the first portion of the message, then the surgeon has given birth to a child that is doomed to die. So why give birth in the first place? Either the child, along with its mother, will face "execution," or the child, as an adult, will die without a face, without name nor justice. Then the title mocks itself. If the cloud segment is the first point of the message, then my guess is that life continues after death, as indicated by the birth sequence below. Perhaps this exemplifies the salvation of humanity; we will die, and death as expressed here, is unjustified. But life goes on, with a new soul to take our place. Although many will die without achieving a thing, and the world is ultimately unjust, a newborn child gives hope for a better future of mankind. This newborn symbolizes the next generation, and through better education, the newborn may yet become a good person and better still, a good art critic. The latter interpretation could be a favorable message; the optimistic pro-life approach to life.

Sheldon Iskowitz's work merits its own show in the same gallery. His work is grotesque, alive, hideous, and most importantly, pure human comedy. In this respect, Sheldon is a social commentator. Basically all of the characters involved in either his prints or sculptures are caricatures of middle and lower class city dwellers. Gruesome faces, over-sized hands, mouths, ears, and feet create a style that crosses between Fat Albert and Van Gogh's cynical, social studies of "peasants." But Sheldon's art is his own, without a sign of pretention anywhere. One sculpture reveals a breast, a Black policewoman beating an old, Black homeless man with a billy club. This glazed ceramic piece strikes me as a sort of racism that goes beyond the color of the skin. It is racism that centers on the social status of the individual in society. Behind this, a large black and white depiction of an apartment on fire with faces screaming or staring outside each window accompanies it. The back-drop intensifies the wall-less diorama-like dramatization even more.

Terminal Attire is a colored print of a coat hanger covered by a pimp-like feathered hat, a rich man's robe and a gas mask smugly placed underneath the hat like a face. The wallpaper behind this "person" has white and yellow missiles as brick designs. Is this supposed to be funny? My first impression is that of black humour that is all too realistic and eerily sinister. Money and death. Sheldon's uses of vibrated black contour lines and bright intense colors generate a hysterical tension that transposed my eyes into a subvision of wartime during the nuclear era. An insane holocaustic portrait that seems psychotically casual at best. A day in the life of a self-made millionaire of the nuclear holocaust age? I am reminded of the war in the Persian Gulf. I think of the civilians

living in that region, particularly within the battle zones and in Israel. Is this a rendition of *The Rich Meet Dr. Strangelove*? To laugh or cry is probably the only appropriate response to this Black Light satire.


Richard Anderson's work is somewhat repetitious, despite the skillful application of this repetition. The biomorphic, undersea-like images are either serene or nightmarish, depending upon your mood. To say that it is serene is because the colors are lucid and slippery. The muscle-like curves feel very natural, and life is created or enhanced by the iridescence of blue and green. The paintings are close-ups of some imaginative inner exploration of a muscle fiber, a clearly abstract perspective. What seems nightmarish about the works is that these images look like the inside of an ear (ear drum, etc., etc.). Boy, am I really hearing it.

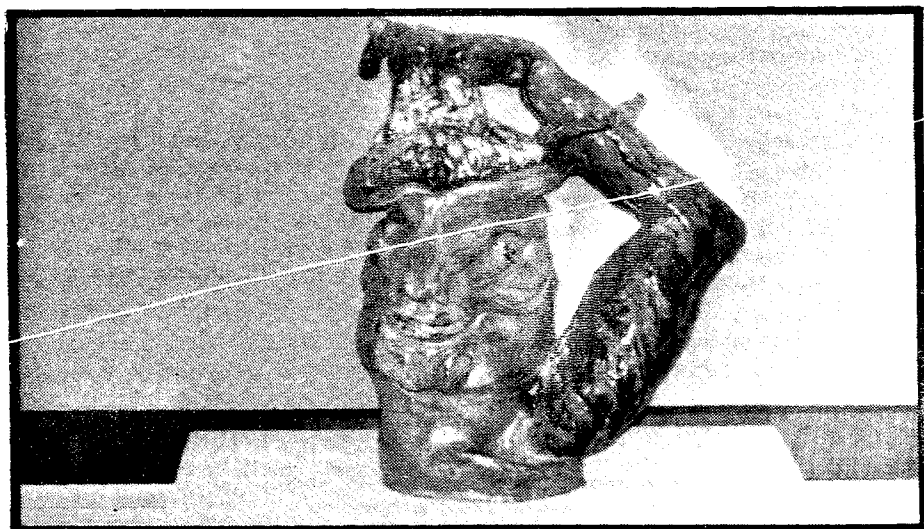
The Anderson sculptures look like underwater plants of all kinds, from floating seaweed to chandelier-like species. The problem with the sculpture presentation is that there are too many sculptures, thus injecting the observer into a cluttered and tiresome atmosphere.

Luba Andres' sculpture exhibit on the other side of the gallery is very interesting. A part of a tree, a huge ball and chain that hangs on nothing, a cart with Mother Mary (or saint) placed in

the middle are all dimly translucent. They are made by sections of dark green and blue stained glass, pieced together by cruel black metal nets. Light shines from the inside of most of the works. They look radioactive. Spirituality and radioactivity are strangely mixed together by a single light. I am inspired (or should I say, wired?). Luba's heavy sculptures remind me of medieval artillery pieces or burned Medieval torture devices disassembled and formed into war-affected objects and furnitures. But the light inside them is starting to make me glow, too.

Overall I am trying to figure out this MFA show. Remembering that the artists' works are morbid, hideous, nightmarish, radioactive, etc., I have come to the conclusion (or confusion) that recent history is seriously affecting our patterns of thought.

How can one label this show as a whole when the artists are divided in their objectives but at the same time singularly uniformed from the influence of recent political, economic, environmental, social and spatial disasters? To make art out of these issues causes me to think of Post-Modernism in the Post-Cold War manual labor tradition. These four graduate art students have worked hard for their off-the-wall and peculiarly distant serial presentations. Good show! 



MJ xii

Themes of Synthetic Pregnancy

by MJ xii

Walking past the Health Sciences Library one may have noticed a representation of someone reaching into his skull, and a colored ceramic representation of the sphenoid bone that is frighteningly anatomically correct. Are these the ravings of drug induced medical students, or perhaps renditions made by cyberpunk anatomical illustrators? Relax, they are the futuristic and fanciful "Sculptures by Con Artist" on display until about the middle of February.

The Dali-esque display which features printed text, copies of earlier

paintings, and eerily detailed ceramic sculpture, whimsically presents visions of a high-tech feminism, a world where evolution and technologies combine to resolve pressing social issues of femme and family. Con Artist believes that social issues ranging from war, to abortion and PMS, can all be solved in the future through medical cessation of menstruation, test-tube babies and father-bearing synthetic wombs.

"I think women shouldn't be baby machines ... technology is the answer to social issues" said the 42-year old Stony Brook student, and single-parent of a 10-year old daughter. She

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A Gospel Extravaganza

by John Sealy

Every year, two weeks after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Afro-American history and culture permeates college campuses and other institutions. This, an almost excluded portion of the fundamental components making up this nation, is here celebrated with pride. Brookhaven National Laboratory hosted the Tenth Annual Gospel Extravaganza in accordance with Black History Month.

The Afro-American Culture Club (AACC) presented this wonderful event, chaired by Bruce Penn (who also offered the closing remarks). In the introduction of this dynamic affair, a plaque was presented to Anna Brown of Kansas City. Dwight C. Brown, Anna's deceased son (who founded the AACC) was also commemorated.

Francis Ligon the Master of Ceremonies for the evening spoke next, but before speaking a single word, fire came from her lungs, transformed into a musical melody. This introduction, worthy only of a saint, became a nerve stimulation, activating a response from the group that can only be triggered by divine power.

"To praise the Lord Jesus," Ms. Ligon said in summation, "is the unquestionable reason for this event."

The next appearance was by the East End Choir. Wearing white shirts and black trousers, the group marched down the center aisle as if coming from out from amongst the audience, to stand out, and lift the Name of the Lord. "Hallelujah praise the Lord," sang sixty strong voices, united with piano and drum.

Four female voices came forward singing, "Ever praise His name/ God is the captain of the sea/ He is a good God/ Alpha and Omega/ the beginning and the end/ He led them to the Promised Land/ He can do the same for me and you." "Ever praise His name," was repeated in exultation.

Then one male voice rang out, singing, "When I think about what God has done for me I think how great is He." The six foot five figure thundered, "Jesus Christ is the way," as applause rose within the auditorium. A chorus, 56 voices strong, repeated, "Where is our faith in God."

Next came a break, an announcement, and Psalm 100, as Francis Ligon, one of the four female voices, introduced the Young Adult Choir from Somerset, New Jersey.

A poem was chanted in the context of Africa: "Freedom, Freedom in Africa where we are Free/ Before I would be a slave, I will go to my grave."

A skit came next coming from voices hidden by dark pleated curtains. A multitude of young and adult singers, in single file, came from the right, all clothed in black and a white bow on each left shoulder. Soft voices began, "Sing to you O lord." Before long this vocal spirit magnified to a roar. "Right on," they exploded, "no man can hinder His will in the morning!!"

Another short play began: "Get to the back of the bus, woman! Get to the back, nigger! So that this white person can sit. 'No,' she cried!"

Booker T., Malcolm X, DuBois, King and all, have cleared a new path. "I have a dream," the proverbial speech of Rev. King was next, as the choir continued, an interlude singing, "All of that is over."

Poems continued: "In 1990 Douglas Wilder became the first black governor. Dr. Ben Carson, Black, the first to successfully separate Siamese Twins joined at the head. Nat King Cole, Black, the first to host his own TV show. Then, the first time, a Black wins the US Open."

A song, soft, and almost a solo, came from the man at the piano, as the triangular choir astonished a sold-out auditorium. People dressed well as if at a Sunday service.

"I am gonna make it, I do believe I am" was uplifted as the Somerset choir in a wrap-around motion left the stage in single file to the right. To me, this seems important since disorder and discourse was not to be found here. "I'll make it" was sung by a very young Ladonna Smith. Her director Beth Davis, President Michael Pinnex, and that wholesome choir almost brought tears raining down from us.

The exciting Stephen Sisters came next, a well established group of eight. They sang, danced, hummed, drummed, and praised the Lord on the stage, then off the stage, as if the old routine was not going to do it at this celebration. I then felt that again; the Holy Spirit had a hold of them.

The fourth group needed no introduction. They, the Institutional Radio Choir, had a gold record in 1968, and the Village Voice had offered compliments for their achievements. President Bush's 1989 inaugural reception was pleased to have them, a tremendous honor for this choir. They brought a good crowd to Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden.

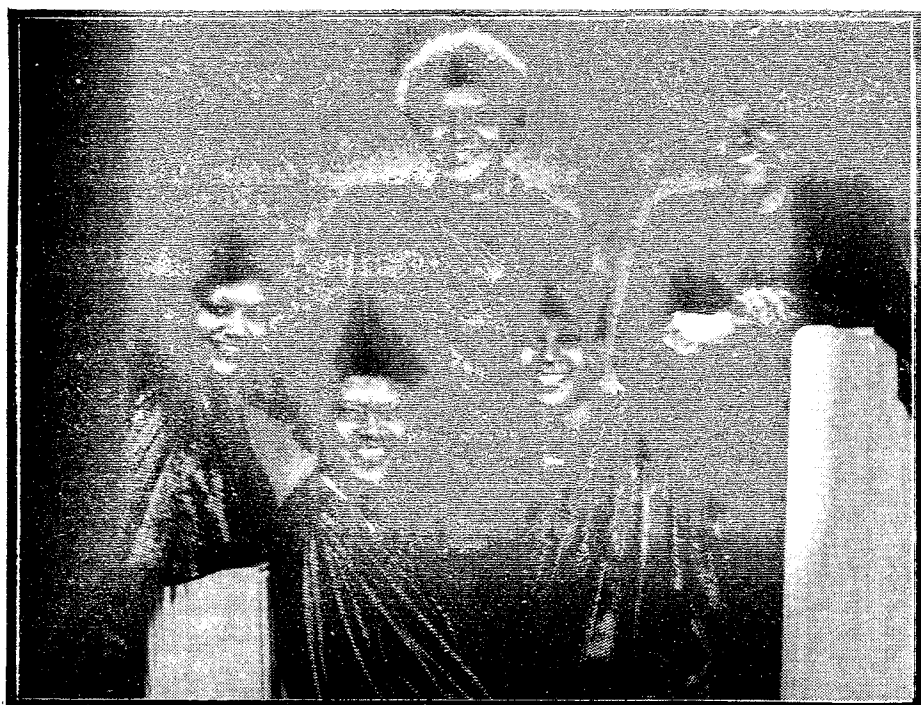
By the second sentence, the congregation were made to lovingly greet their surrounding neighbors. "I will praise Him" was preceded by a declaration from Brother Williams that his main job there that night was not to sing songs but to win souls.

"I thank you for one more day" was followed by acknowledgement from their leader that a son on drugs or in the Persian Gulf are not excluded from Blessed assurance. "We know that there is someone perpetually there and as steady as a rock, to whom we can turn to. This is Good News."

The final song was presumably intended to lift the roof off the auditorium without interrupting its splendid architecture. A standing ovation said nothing descriptive of this finale. How about opening the gates of Heaven to let us all in?

April Dunegain, for the most part, made this article possible, with her guidance and edification at this spirited event. Sister Dunegain, also the programme manager for the event, was uplifted in song for her purity of heart before God by the Dynamic Stephen Sisters.

Francis Ligon closed the event by leading the audience in the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."



Randy Weston Jazz Seeing its Roots

by James F. Barna

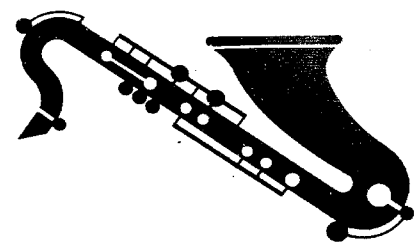
In the first concert of the new year at Stony Brook's Staller Center, the *International Art of Jazz* provided a featured performer worthy of Black History Month. Randy Weston, who appeared on February 2, brought to the stage a fine jazz performance that recognized such greats as Monk and Ellington yet interspersed traditional tribal melodies and rhythms, performing jazz that proudly showed its origin and history.

This is significant because while jazz has its origins in Africa, the tie to Africa seems lost. This is partly due to the fact that while the legends of jazz are black, its listeners are often white. Also, African culture and music has been suppressed in the U.S.

Weston, however, grew up in the U.S., learned jazz, and spent much of his adult life in Africa, absorbing its cultural heritage. Much of his music is derived from the traditional Black musicians of Morocco.

Randy Weston's trio consists of Weston on piano, Talib Kibwe on soprano, alto, and baritone saxophone, as well as flute, and Joe Gaines on conga and auxiliary percussion. It's through this trio and its instrumentation that Weston's international jazz sings.

The titles of Weston's compositions display the love he has of traditional music. The pieces he played include "African Sunrise," "Limbo Jazz," "Nigerian Mambo," and a Moroccan inspired piece called "The Healers." This piece he prefaced by telling of tribal healers who practiced their art through music. He began "We believe in the ancestors, the elders, thousands and thousands of years old...."



This piece was perhaps the most affecting of the evening. It began with a hushed melody on the piano, a melody that spoke of ancient fields in a long hot land, barren and empty. Then, with a quick change, the flute sang a melody bursting with spirit, a strong proud life, tied with nature. From this, Kibwe improvised, playing the flute and providing his own harmony through his breath.

The piece then traveled back to the U.S. as Weston shifted to a masterful bebop solo showing the diversity and breadth of the group. Throughout this Joe Gaines provided the setting through various instruments. He set the rhythm with the congas, and also provided mood with the claves, sleigh bells, the kabasa as well as the mbira.

In "Nigerian Mambo," Joe Gaines showed how versed the trio was in the music of the African Continent. He played a mysterious conga solo that contained the strength of tribal festival. He further accompanied himself in chant, building in energy and speed, and the other two performers gave responses. The solo was a testament to the reverence the Weston Trio gives to the ancestors.

Since Weston rarely appears in the U.S. this show was one of those rare musical events which remain in the memories of those who attended. There is jazz at the Staller Center and it is sweet.