



Lily Eng

INTO THE NIGHT

by Lara Jacobson

A group of students have their radios, books, sleeping bags and pillows lying all over the Administration Building. Upon walking in one cannot miss them - or the neon spray-painted signs with messages such as: "Drop the Charges," and "Why isn't Public Safety showing the tape? Do they have something to hide?" littering the walls, chairs and the floor of the lobby. They have been there since last Thursday, and they don't plan on leaving.

On April 3rd, before the sit-in began, the Haitian Student Organization staged a peaceful picket (complete with chants and bongo drums) that travelled from the Administration Building to the Student Union, and remained in the Union for a few hours. The group then went back to Administration and the protesters have camped out there ever since.

The sit-in has been organized to protest the guilty verdict that was passed down from the Student Judiciary on March 20th and 21st to two Haitian students, Emmanuel Severe and Phillippe Valbrune. The two were charged with six violations of the Student Conduct Code: Severe was found to be guilty on five of the charges and was suspended for the school year of 1991-92. Valbrune

was found to be guilty on four of the charges and was suspended for the Fall semester. In addition to the protests, the case is pending an appeal. "It's not an easy situation," says Severe.

On March 13th the two faced criminal charges at the Hauppauge District Courtroom. The proceedings were postponed until this Friday.

The four-day Student Judiciary hearing began on March 14th and was aimed at extracting the truth about what happened at the now-infamous December 4, 1990 blood drive. The Haitian Student Organization had staged a demonstration at the faculty sponsored drive to protest the Federal Food and Drug Administration's discriminatory policy restricting Haitians and Sub-Saharan Africans from donating blood. Coincidentally, the FDA rescinded the ban on Haitian blood the following day.

On December 5th the word "riot," was on everybody's lips. Severe and Valbrune had been arrested at the scene the previous day and were taken to the Suffolk County Police Department's 6th precinct. They were charged with second degree inciting to riot and were later released on \$25 bail each. Public Safety filed separate charges against the two: violations against persons, disruption of University activities, creating

dangerous conditions, interference in the rights of others, refusing to comply with official directives, and illegal entrance/unauthorized presence.

The Haitian Student Organization has been actively maintaining Severe and Valbrune's innocence. The defendants had asked for an open hearing but Public Safety refused, as in Judiciary hearings both parties must comply for it to be open to the public. "Public Safety's testimonies at the trial were full of holes and contradictions," both Henry O'Brien (Severe's and Valbrune's lawyer) and the defendants state. O'Brien was only allowed to whisper into the defendants' (Severe's) ear throughout the hearing.

Segments of the course of events were videotaped by various T.V. stations (Channel 11, Channel 12 evening news programs). The protest was also videotaped by Public Safety from the Chemistry Building. "What better evidence can you have?" asks Harry O'Brien. However, Public Safety refused to offer the tape as evidence at the hearing, because "apparently Public Safety is allowed to do this as part of the proceedings," says O'Brien. "It's very shocking that we were not allowed to view the tape...It shows the biased nature of the case."

Why did Public Safety refuse to show the tape? Public

Safety Director Richard Young claims it was because "the people look like ants. It wasn't worthy of anything." When asked about the tape, Assistant Director Joseph Verfenstein replied that "there was no reason to show it."

"It's certainly not unusual for people to say they're innocent that have been proven guilty," says Fred Preston, Vice President of Student Affairs. However, many people sincerely believe that Severe and Valbrune are more than innocent and did not receive a fair trial and, moreover, that Emmanuel and Phillippe have been victims of racial violence and police brutality. They are completely intent on making their plea for a fair trial and a dismissal of the charges heard.

On December 2, 1990 the HSO and others met with President John H. Marburger to discuss the upcoming blood drive. The Student Polity Association had asserted, along with the HSO, that the FDA ban was discriminatory and conflicted with the campus' anti-discriminatory policy, and asked that it be cancelled. Marburger said at the meeting that he could not cancel the drive because of his greater responsibility to the University Hospital, but that he would meet again with the group the next day to discuss postponing the drive and re-schedule it at an off-campus location.

The next day Marburger again met with the group and again restated that he could not postpone the drive because the importance of his commitment to the Hospital, but that the drive would be held in the University Library's Alliance Room. The group then informed Marburger of their intention to demonstrate. Marburger has since told the Press: "I don't believe in demonstrating at blood drives." He also said that he "supported their (the HSO's) position on the FDA regulations," but "that does not excuse the violence that occurred at the blood drive."

Many Public Safety witnesses, including Young, testify to there being some "uneasiness," and "fear" about what "might happen" at the protest prior to it. Richard Young told the Press that he had expressed his concern to a "friend" of his at Suffolk County Police prior to the protest and had asked him to come to the University and survey the situation.

The HSO upholds that they had always held peaceful demonstrations prior to the incident.

According to Emmanuel, about 9-15 demonstrators arrived at the site at ~9:00 a.m. Alan Moise, Chairman of HSO, says that there were 9-10 men and 4 women in this party. It was a very cold and rainy day. Severe and Valbrune claim

continued on page 3

Peace in the Middle East

Who Cares?

by Jean Rousseau

On a beautiful Monday evening, I decided to attend one of the activities of *Culture Fest '91*. It was supposed to be a lecture on Middle East relations by Professor Hussein Gam Badr from the Computer Science Department. I was taken aback to see only four more people in the Union Auditorium, including the speaker himself.

Hussein was not utterly surprised. "The interest span of the American public was limited to the duration of the American involvement, and the student body is not different." Being involved in the

the fight against communism. In the absence of threat from the USSR, Israel loses some of its influence. Moreover, Israel was just put aside in the Gulf war. The security of the Gulf region is a vital interest for the United States, and they were ready to ally themselves with Arab countries. When it comes to the safety of the area, Israel does not matter that much.

Now that Bush is certain to be re-elected, without having to count on the Jewish lobby, he could push for a negotiated settlement. The United States gives \$3 billion a year to Israel plus many sophisticated arms. In the past, it was thought that a well-armed Israel would lead Israel to be more

"Israel is the new kid on the block, and it will have to meet the Arabs half-way"

Keller International Studies program, Hussein had the opportunity to lead many discussions about the Middle East. He does not consider himself as an expert, but he has been following the situation closely for many years. He is Egyptian and describes himself as a moderate Arab. Fluent in Arabic, French, Spanish and English, Hussein's influences seem multiple. That night, he wanted to share his views with the audience. In place, I got the opportunity to talk with him about the future of the Middle East. He was very articulate, and he would carefully divide some of his arguments in subcategories (maybe a programmer bias), while sometimes launching a strong statement.

"Israel is the new kid on the block, and it will have to meet the Arabs half way." Talking of the peace process, Hussein underlined the deadlock situation in which the Israeli state finds itself. The Israeli proportional electoral system does not allow politicians to address touchy situations. There is also a cultural gap between the forty year old state and the Arab states. "Israeli talks to you in Western terms, while there is an Arab way; a sense of humor, a sense of place, a sense of friendship among Arab people that has to be discovered."

The end of the Cold War has modified the international chess board. Before, Israel was perceived by the United States as an ally in

confident and would not fear a peace initiative as much. It has only led to an obdurate Israel. Israel does not have to address the question of Palestinians, as long as they can contain them. It is only the United States that can force Israel to change its attitude.

Arab states will have to recognize the legitimacy of the Israeli state to exist, but at the same time Israel will have to give the Palestinians control of the West Bank. The cessation of territory by Israel will have to happen. Hussein considers that a solution to the Palestinian problem will arise from the control of the West Bank by Palestinians. At first it would be an autonomous Palestinian government, with a defensive border for Israel on the Jordan River. This autonomous state should have at least a veto right on the use of water. Later on, the West Bank could become an independent state. This process would necessitate that the United States guarantee the security of Israel and that a limitation treaty for conventional arms be adopted by the countries in the region.

Hussein is cautiously optimistic. He also says that many American Jews question, at least privately, the attitude of the Israeli government. There are hopes. When I told him that these are very pro-Arab comments, he did not dodge the comment. "So, I am an Arab."



Passing the Bucks

Polity Budget Discussions

by Debra McKee

Polity Senators had serious matters to consider and even debate at the last Polity Senate meeting. The issues discussed on April 3rd included consideration of placing Statesman and other groups on referendum, proposed budget cuts and possible tuition hikes, as well as the pending Polity elections.

David Joachim, Editor-in-Chief of Statesman, came that night to implore the Senate to give the paper the opportunity of being placed on an upcoming referendum. As a result, the students would vote on whether or not the "main newspaper", as Joachim dubbed the tabloid, would receive \$1 in addition to the \$2 that it already receives out of the Student Activity Fee. His arguments included the fact that Statesman has "been hit hard" by the recent economic recession, which is certainly not helped by Polity's 75% decrease in the advertising that it once placed in the student newspaper. He stressed that the publication is not just the only, but the most read, "mainstream newspaper on campus."

Polity President Dan Slepian clearly reminded the governing body before him that the paper's budget was currently approximately \$17,000. With the approval of placing Statesman on referendum, along with the surmised approval from the voting students, this figure would increase

to \$28,000 per year.

In the open discussion that followed, several Polity Senators addressed Joachim's previous mention of Polity decreasing its advertising in the paper. Pointed out was the fact that the rates charged were very high, and not within Polity's budget. Aside from the obvious monetary concerns involved, it was also brought up that on-campus organizations such as fraternities and sororities need a better method of announcing events than putting flyers on trees. At the suggestion of a contract between Statesman and Polity, Joachim agreed with the Senate.

However, after an executive session, the Editor-in-Chief was accused of being unable to offer any concrete offers or conditions and of being "vague." He responded that before he could present any valid offers, he needed to consult with the Executive Director of the Statesman, Charlene Scala.

Dissatisfied with Joachim's responses to questions considered key in the Senators' decision, they voted against placing Statesman on the referendum that would increase their budget. Slepian reminded Joachim as he departed that there still remained one option open to him; he could petition the decision and gather 2,400 signatures in support of the paper.

Also discussed was the

progress of the Polity committee on Teacher Course Evaluations. Apparently, the members involved have been met with uncooperation from the Administration. Slepian assured all present that this matter would be handled, however, the publication of the book will be postponed until an estimated time next Spring.

Strategies were discussed with regard to the newly proposed tuition hikes and incensed students' reactions. Techniques such as letter writing and telephone campaigns are still popular and successful. Most stressed was the need to remember that the actions taken by concerned students, while they are crucial on the state level, must be taken to the federal level. For while the state may agree with the students on compromise, it is ultimately the federal government that has the final say on tuition hikes and budget cuts.

The Polity elections, which are to be held on April 16, were also discussed. Naala Royale, Polity's Treasurer, announced her departure after this semester. Slepian briefly outlined the duties of the position, stressing the great responsibility that comes along with the job. Encouragement was given to those who are sincerely interested and Slepian added that among those who pursue the position, he would "really like to see those who aren't [currently] involved get involved."

Hit the Road, Jack

By James F. Barna

To students, the Stony Brook Council is perhaps the most elusive of the governmental bodies that exist on campus. This is somewhat ironic because the decisions and policies recommended by the council have far reaching consequences for the student body as well as the entire university community.

The USB Catalog gives this description of the Stony Brook Council: "Subject to the powers of State University Trustees defined by law. The operations and affairs of the State University at Stony Brook are supervised locally by a ten-member council. Nine are appointed by the governor; the tenth, a student member, with all the rights and responsibilities of the other members, is elected by the student body."

According to State Education Law the council is required to meet at least four times a year, although the meetings are usually held more frequently. The last meeting was held on Thursday, April fourth.

The meeting began some

twenty-five minutes late as various administrators and council members wandered in. The first topic of discussion was USB President John Marburger's campus report. Dr. Marburger used this opportunity to tell of the grave financial crisis which faces the university. He also reaffirmed his position on the undergraduate tuition saying, "It's absolutely essential for us to follow through on a \$500 tuition increase."

There was a question to Dr. Marburger and the Council

organizations can afford concerts run outside of the Student Union.

It was during this discussion that a group of protestors led by members of the Haitian Student Organization stormed into the council meeting to hand President Marburger a list of demands. The list promised that students would occupy the Administration building until the university's charges against Emmanuel Severe and Philippe Valbrune are dropped. Both Severe and Valbrune were

"It's absolutely essential for us to follow through on a \$500 tuition increase."

—President John H. Marburger

from Dan Slepian concerning the New Student Concert Requirements that were promulgated by University Vice-President for Student Affairs Fred Preston. He argued that many of the changes Preston made were incorrect saying "We (the students) don't agree with many of the changes that were made." He also said: "This decision... primarily hurts minority and underrepresented groups." This is because only the large mainstream

suspended from the university for allegedly causing a riot last semester.

Concerning the concert requirements, the council decided to postpone any debate until Fred Preston is present to defend his new requirements. The next meeting is in May, after the semester ends, so for the rest of the semester the requirements are law.



Lara Jacobson

Protest In Administration, April 4

continued from front page

that when they got there police barriers were set up but there was a space under an overhang where the barriers did not extend all the way to the wall. This wall led to the double doors of the Alliance Room, but the area where the demonstrators gathered to receive protection from the rain was a distance away from the entry doors. From the spot where they gathered they could be seen and heard by entering donors.

The HSO maintains that they were peacefully demonstrating and created a path, allowing the donors easy access if they chose to enter through the picketing ring.

At around 9:45 Public Safety asked them to move. The group held their ground, not understanding why it was that they were being asked to move, and where it was that they were expected to go. When Public Safety saw that the group wasn't moving, they formed a shoulder-to-shoulder line with their "billy" clubs extended out in front of them and pushed the group out, placing the barrier where the group had been. Associate Professor Leslie Owens of the Africana studies department was standing behind the group and later testified that he felt the "push."

The protesters were angry because they felt that their rights had been violated. "It was a peaceful demonstration," says Valbrune. "It was a violation of our right to demonstrate peacefully, which is enough to tick anyone off," Severe comments. The group became angry when they were pushed initially but the protest really only intensified in volume. About an hour and a half went by and the group was peacefully protesting again. They decided to attempt to enter the Alliance Room, one by one, and offer to donate blood at the nurse's table in order to have it on record that they were prevented from donating blood because of their ethnicity. Phillipe Valbrune began walking along the wall alone towards the Alliance Room entrance. Emmanuel followed behind, and two or three others behind him. Severe claims that when Public Safety, over at the barricade, saw Valbrune near the entrance, they began running towards the door. Simultaneously,

the group of protesters behind Valbrune began running. They claim that Phillipe had already gotten into the lobby, but when Severe and the rest behind him got there Public Safety met them and formed a line in front of the double doors. Severe and a few others had made it in but were pushed out immediately.

Valbrune testified that when he entered the lobby he turned to see Lieutenant Frank Parrino quickly close the double doors behind which was the nurse's table. Parrino grabbed Valbrune and held him in the corner of the lobby with his hands behind his back. He states that at that time Captain Charles Cali rushed over and violently jammed his elbow into Valbrune's throat. Cali told Parrino to arrest Valbrune, and the orders were carried out.

Severe states that, when Public Safety formed the line blocking the doors, the protesters made a linked semi-circle in front of the officers and held their ground. The students were yelling at Safety to "let Phillipe go!" The protesters claim that the officers were again holding their clubs out in front of them and violently shoving outwards. Severe says that he was on the left end of the semi-circle and that Public Safety officers were "grabbing" at the protesters. He claims his right arm was linked but his left arm was grabbed by an unknown officer and he was pulled into the lobby. He and Phillipe both attest to seeing Officer Robert Sweeney and Assistant Director Joseph Verfenstein holding Emmanuel's arms down and Director of Public Safety Richard Young coming over and punching Severe twice in the face. At that point Captain Cali came over, according to the two witnesses, and put Severe in a headlock while Young struck him in the back. Valbrune says, "At that time I told Parrino to just watch what was happening."

Severe says that Public Safety's Associate Director Susan Riseling, who has since moved to Wyoming, put the handcuffs on him. They say that they were held in the corner for awhile and were not told that they were arrested or why they had been arrested, nor were they read their rights until they were taken to the Career

Development Office, where the two were held until they were escorted to the Sixth Precinct. Outside, the HSO continued to demand that Severe and Valbrune be returned to them. That day a large group of protesters seized the President's office and refused to leave until Severe and Valbrune were back in their custody. Later, the two were released on a low bail - a fact that Young claims he is responsible for. "I interceded on their behalf and got their bail lowered."

The complaints against the two were made by Joseph Verfenstein, Frank Parrino, and Herbert During. Verfenstein was testified in his opening statement that the first thing he did when he arrived that morning at the Alliance Room was to give blood. At the hearing he states "I can tell you quite candidly that I felt uneasy laying on the gurney donating blood and listening to the chants of the protesters outside." However, Verfenstein later commented in a Press interview that he had given blood at about 8:30 that morning: one half-hour before the demonstrators had arrived. Cheryl Chambers, Assistant Director of the Student Union and Activities, later testified as a Public Safety witness that at one point the lobby was filled with demonstrators and police, but that most of the people within the Alliance Room were oblivious to all of the commotion because they really couldn't hear what was going on in the lobby.

Verfenstein did not mention anything about Public Safety forming the initial line to move the demonstrators in his testimony. When the Press questioned him with regards to the matter he said that "at one point the barriers were moved," but he couldn't say in what manner the barriers were rearranged.

Public Safety's accounts of what happened at the blood drive protest are entirely different story from the one that would be later heard from the defendants. Verfenstein was the first complainant to speak. "I am convinced that there were two factions (of protesters) from the outset," he claims. He believes that one smaller group of demonstrators, led by HSO member Patrick Pyrraneau, were

"frequently seen to be at odds" with the larger group, because the latter wanted to peacefully demonstrate while the former wished to antagonize. The smaller group began harassing officers behind the barricade, slinging a slew of obscenities in their faces. He testifies that "they were giving donors flak," and that the situation escalated. It was seen to that the officers were rotated. Verfenstein claims that the smaller group became frustrated with their failed attempts and lifted up the barrier and charged the ~30 ft. to the doors of the Alliance Room. He says that Sue Riseling, former Assistant Director of Safety, was trampled to the ground and kicked by demonstrators in the surge. He says Public Safety and the students arrived at the door at almost exactly the same time and Safety managed to push them back outside, forming a line in front of the protesters. Valbrune allegedly gained access to the lobby by pushing and shoving his way in and was subsequently restrained and arrested by Parrino. He says Severe also gained access and was restrained by Lt. Sweeney and Officer Anselome after he threw a punch at Verfenstein. He also says that Parrino also tried to push his way through but he, personally, pushed him back. Sue Riseling was supposedly in the lobby at the time and called for assistance over the radio. Verfenstein told the Press that "she may have assisted in the handcuffing (of Severe)," and that Captain Cali did assist. When asked if helped to handcuff Severe he replied, "I don't think so."

"When they were arrested, they were in the lobby at a time when everyone else had been pulled out." Verfenstein was "punched and kicked several times by an unknown person." He claims that a bookbag, an ashtray, and astray gravel were thrown at the officers along with a punches, kicks, and a barrage of obscenities and threats. He says he left that day with "my coat arm torn and my shirt covered with dried blood."

Verfenstein also states that from ~10:48-11:45 eleven fire alarms went off. "It is strongly believed that the demonstrators

were responsible."

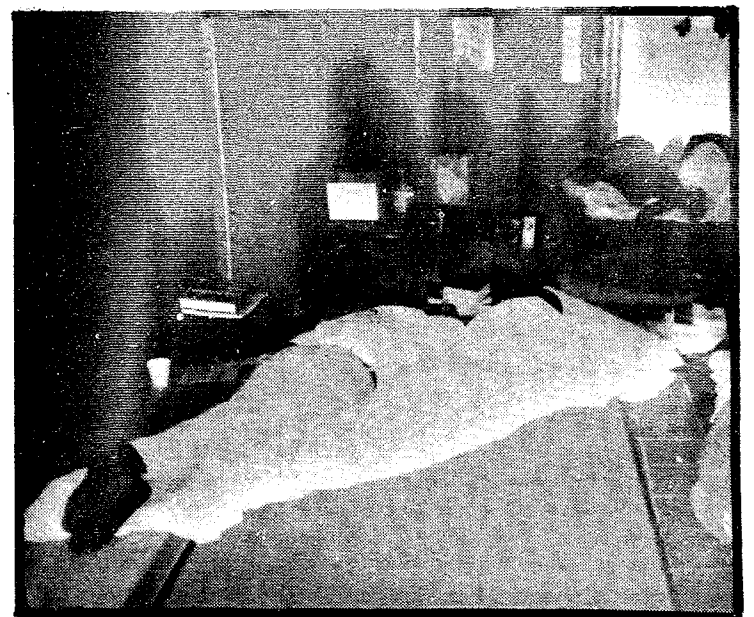
Lt. Parrino testified that he arrested Valbrune when the lobby was packed full of demonstrators, and that he was "squashed" up against the wall while holding Valbrune. He stated he got orders from Captain Cali: "He's going," or words to that affect...we handcuffed him." He said he didn't see what happened to Emmanuel Severe and does not know what happened outside. Yet he also testified that he arrested Valbrune because "people were getting pelted with stuff."

Sgt. Herbert During was fixing the alleged fire alarms. He claims that he saw one of the protesters leaving the site of various buildings in which the fire alarms had been pulled and that he followed him back to the demonstration. During insists that the barricades were knocked over by the surge of protesters. He did see Severe charge the line of officers but that he did not see him get arrested. He also attests to numerous punches, kicks, and curses. He testified that a "handful of ashtray gravel was thrown in my face...about ten seconds later I was grabbed by four to five of the demonstrators, I was pulled to the ground, and I was kicked in the stomach." When asked who it was that kicked him he replied, "I don't know." Safety pulled him back to them and shortly thereafter he went into the lobby with the accused to the 6th precinct and processed them.

Sweeney says he saw Severe push through the lines and take a swing at Verfenstein, and that he also saw Valbrune struggling and resisting arrest. Parrino, however, had stated that Phillipe was calm when he was arrested. He also says that he, personally, handcuffed Severe. He later goes on to clearly say that Riseling put the cuffs on.

Most Public Safety witnesses testified that the crowd was yelling a wide spectrum of obscenities and that they were being very violent. One black officer attested to being called an "Uncle Tom," but the rest said they were all called "racist" and many

continued on page 4



Sleep-In at Admin, April 4-5

Lara Jacobson

THE SENIOR EVENT COMMITTEE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR SENIOR FORMAL.

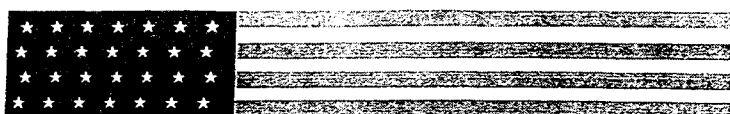


It will take place in the Clubhouse at The Colony, located on Furrows Road, Holbrook on Friday, April Twenty Six of Nineteen Ninety One, at Six o'clock in the evening.

The price of your Senior Formal is Forty dollars per person which includes, a three course meal buffet, music, dance, open bar, and transportation from and to the University.

For reservations, contact Allyson Gil, your Senior Representative, in Polity. The phone number is 632-9196 or 632-4217.

R.S.V.P. by April 12, 1991.



Desert Storm Welcome Home Rally!

Wed., April 17
12:40-1:40_{pm} Fine Arts Plaza
A Time For Thanks!

Join us in singing "Voices That Care" on the steps of the Fine Arts Plaza, giving thanks to our troops!

"Stand tall-stand proud!
Voices that care
Are crying out loud.
And when you close your eyes tonight,
Feel in your heart
How our love burns bright!"

The event will be video-taped and sent to the troops who are still serving in the Gulf.

Bring flags • Wear red, white and blue clothing • Make Banners
sponsored by Commuter Student Association



Public Safety vs. HSO

continued from page 3

other names. In fact, most of the witnesses testified to the same sequence of events: however, all but one left out a crucial element of the situation in their testimonies - the initial shove that Public Safety gave to the demonstrators when they were behind the barricade. The complainants testimony excluded it. Richard Young and Joe Verfenstein denied it ever happened when talking to the Press.

Cheryl Chambers, Assistant Director of Student Union and Activities testified that the demonstration was peaceful until Young, Riseling, "and other Public Safety officers formed a shoulder-to-shoulder line and moved themselves into the students...it was an attempt to...move the students further back and to reconfigure where the barricade needed to be...and put the barricade in place so that the students would be further away from their initial point." She later said that the officers in the line had their hands at their sides, but that Public Safety pushed and the students were not pushing back. She also stated that "as a result, the chanting did get louder." Later, when Chambers spoke to the Press, she replied "no" when asked if she did indeed see this shoulder-to-shoulder line, as she described it at the hearing.

Chambers also states that she saw a University employee named Tommy Gomez close the doors to the Alliance Room when they saw students running towards the door, when all other testimonies verify that Parrino closed the doors.

Other discrepancies are the number and gender of protesters the witnesses claim to have been there. Accounts range from 5 to 40, and Young continues to insist that the group was all male when there definitely was a female representation there.

The feeling of students on campus about this issue seems to be generally apathetic. People don't understand all of the nuances of a very complex situation and often react to the Haitians out of sheer ignorance. An 18 year-old female student of Jewish descent replied, "I think they just want to cause trouble," when asked how she felt about the protests.

Phillipe Valbrune received a message on his answering machine on April 8th from an anonymous female caller: "I just have a couple of comments about the sit-in and all that SHIT that's goin' on. I don't give a fuck about the niggers in this school they can go to hell as well as the blood drive. I bet you no Haitian out there would probably accept their blood anyway...they broke the law, they deserve the consequences and I'm glad they are not around at school like that to create riots and disturb other people who are paying quality amount of money to attend school. And please, don't disturb other people."

The HSO is organizing a "Day of Outrage" on April 19th - all day - in protest of a swiss cheese trial.

This article was contributed to by John Sealy



Librarian Has Grad Chem Student Arrested

by Josh Gazes

Rosie Chang, a forty-seven year old USB Chemistry graduate student, was arrested by Public Safety as a result of the culmination of conflicts between her and the Chemistry Librarian, Ms. Janet Steins. Mrs. Chang, also known as Yuh-loo Chang, is planning on graduating with a Ph.D. in May. She claims she was not told of her rights at the time of the arrest, nor of the charges against her, but was immediately brought to the campus' Public safety headquarters on Jan. 2, 1991. She was released shortly after being informed that the charge of criminal trespass had been dropped.

The conflict began when, as Ms. Steins claims in a letter dated December 28, 1990 to Rosie Chang, "Chang 'several weeks ago... removed a book without charging it out...' Steins felt it was a 'serious infraction' to which she responded with 'only a written warning.'" Steins continues: "However, after your irrational outburst and violent, unprovoked physical attack against me yesterday afternoon, when in response to your question I calmly reminded you of a longstanding policy concerning restrictions on the use of the library's copy card, I have decided that you can no longer be trusted to be in the library without supervision..." Steins states in the beginning of the letter that she had Chang's key card reprogrammed so in order to prevent her from gaining access after-hours.

Chang claims that on December 27th Steins raised her voice while denying Chang use of the copying card, and went on to remind her of the library rules on that matter. Taking Steins' enforcement as a personal affront, Mrs. Chang resorted to grabbing Ms Steins by the hair. Chang then left the building and Steins made a complaint about the attack to Public Safety, to which six officers responded. The incident was referred to Student Affairs when Rosie was not to be found in the building.

Chang says that in the past she felt that she was being singled out by Steins. On Dec. 27, Steins repeatedly denied Chang the copying card to the library's photocopying machine. Chang wanted to use it for personal reasons, however, it is only to be used for making department copies. One student pointed out that everybody uses the copying machine for personal reasons.

Continued on page 6

Female Politicking Legislator Postal lectures at USB



by David Suarez

Maxine Postal is a Democratic member of the Suffolk County Legislature. She visited the University as a guest lecturer on April 5th as a representative of the 14th legislative district. Postal spoke to audiences in the Javits Lecture Center and in the SBS building's Political Science Room.

A major theme of her presentation was the role of women in politics, especially in Suffolk County. Postal said that women do not receive the encouragement to enter political life that men do. The often heard comment, "These young men are our political future" reinforces Postal's contention. She gave Suffolk County Executive Patrick Halpin and Congressman Tom Downey as examples of politicians who were courted to run for office right out of college. This phenomenon doesn't seem to occur with females, says Postal.

Women have it tougher when it comes down to raising campaign funds, according to Postal, who attributes this fact to the absence of networking that men enjoy by being members of male fraternal organizations, such as Kiwanis and the Lions. Postal reminds us that it is "money which wins campaigns" over any other consideration. She cited the campaign of Sherrye Henry as an example of a woman who enjoyed networking, owed to her days in broadcasting.

Postal then switched to the subject of the "gender gap," the situation which results when women as well as male voters promote the notion that women are inherently weaker, emotionally, as well as physically. There is often the feeling, however unjustified, that women simply can't fight as hard for their constituents as men.

As she continued her lecture, she made a note that female politicians who are also mothers are handicapped. First, there is the guilt often felt by women candidates due to a double standard in our society: While it is acceptable for a male candidate to leave his young children to campaign, the same act becomes wrong when a woman is the one pursuing a political career.

Ms. Postal gave some tips about appearance for women interested in campaigning. She said suits and earrings are essential, and that these must be coupled with a personality whose impression is one of a balance between passivity and aggressiveness.

Postal shared her experiences in North Amityville, where she has developed substantial support from her black constituency. She feels this is a result of having taken public note of the disenfranchisement often endured by blacks. This constituency came into play in her victory over incumbent Victor Mimi, achieved by a substantial margin, for a seat which had never seen a woman or Democrat.

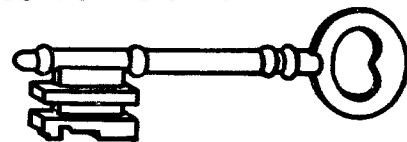
Over the next two years, she looked to "restore hope" to the community of North Amityville, and finally was able to provide youth programs it had never had before.

In a subsequent election, Postal eked out a victory which was almost lost owing to increasing numbers of whites who felt that she was too black oriented at their expense. She experienced a negative reaction from labor at that time as well.

In 1990, Ms. Postal was sounded out by a pro-labor, pro-environment organization known as "Citizen Action of N.Y. City." The organization, affiliated with the Long Island Progressive Coalition, was interested in having her run against Republican incumbent, Owen Johnson, long time holder of his senate seat in the 4th senatorial district. Postal did run, "a very good campaign" in her own words, but lost. Ms. Postal said she would like to try for Johnson's seat again, and also confessed to having an interest in a congressional seat should Tom Downey ever step down.

Listeners appeared to agree that Legislator Maxine Postal had given a most informative and in-depth presentation in which she gave not only her personal experiences in political life, but also in which she rendered valuable insights into the challenges awaiting the female who would attempt to win political office.

Popularity Vs. Power Struggle for control of U.S.S.R.



By Debra McKee

Once on the road to reform, Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev prided himself on encouraging an open forum for the diverse voices within his traditionally silent, repressed country. However, in light of new-born power struggles, Gorbachev just may be feeling that a stubborn can of worms has been irreversibly opened. Although not a republic President, Boris Yeltsin, leader of Russia's Parliament, has become a serious contender in a political face-off. On the right stands Gorbachev, father of perestroika and fearless leader; in short, the man with the power. Directly facing him from the opposite side is Yeltsin, a seemingly undaunted pursuer of republic sovereignty, making him very popular among the common folk. As conflict breeds struggles and mass demonstrations, the question of who really claims the most valuable assets in the life of politics arises. Undeniably, Yeltsin has the support of the people. Yet one may wonder if this popularity is a fair match for the very real power that is already in Gorbachev's hands.

A twenty-eight word referendum is the most recent round between Yeltsin and Gorbachev. The question posed to the 200 million eligible voters in the Soviet Union is whether or not they feel that their land should be maintained as a "renewed federation of equal sovereign republics." This presentation is a result of the uncooperativeness that Gorbachev met from the writhing republics when he proposed a new treaty, which would replace the original one that established the Soviet Union in 1922. The President's claimed intent was to redesign and, to an extent, relax the ties between the republics and the central government in Moscow. However, suspicion is often rooted deep and the republics, adamant on gaining unconditional sovereignty, were in strong opposition to this new idea of Gorbachev's. Thus, a referendum was drawn up in an attempt to challenge the fledgling democratic republics.

In light of this, one can easily see that Yeltsin has working for him his goal to decrease central government control and subsequently increase independence of the fifteen republics, placing more power into the hands of the people. However, very real obstacles may hinder this plan of implementing the self-governing process. With limited administrative power and absolutely no police force at his command, a dominant method of influence in the Soviet Union these days, the radical reforms Yeltsin strives for hit the brick wall of supreme Soviet legislature hard. The means to an

end for Yeltsin and his advocates is yielding control to the Federation Council. Only possible to form after the ceding of power of Gorbachev and hard line Communist Cabinet, this governing body would include leaders from each of the republics. Just as it is true that the people are on Yeltsin's side, they also have personal obstacles of their own to overcome before the coalition of republic leader and the republic can make a difference. While there exist sentiments of antigovernment and even anti-Gorbachev, there remains what one reporter described as a "political inertia." Despite dissatisfaction, Soviet citizens throughout all republics do have a tendency, rooted in past, long history, to accept the restrictions levied on them and succumb to economic and social despair.

At one time, Gorbachev appeared to be the long-awaited for Lazarus of Soviet politics. Implementing perestroika and glasnost was a mass moral booster and stream of hope at the beginning. Unfortunately for the Soviet people and now, it seems, for Gorbachev, these programs and their results were transient at best. At this point, there are dismal statistics falling on the Union: Predicted by the Soviet State Planning Committee, the GNP is expected to fall 11.6 percent this year, and last year, the figure saw a decline of 3 percent. In addition, industrial production will sink to a minimal of 15 percent in 1991. While it is true that in 1989 Gorbachev offered his support with thousands of coal miners on strike, lending the President his own share of popularity, even this bout of praise was an ephemeral one. The gravely dismal morale of Soviet citizens was reflected in a recent national poll. A disturbing figure of 65 percent of those questioned, "What does the Soviet Union offer its citizens?" replied, "Shortages, waiting in lines and a miserable existence."

As power and popularity, Gorbachev and Yeltsin, compete for the position of doctor for the ill, factioned country with their own individual remedies, it becomes clear that both contenders do possess both advantages and disadvantages. Gorbachev seems to be one ahead of Yeltsin for he does have a position which legally allows him to exercise his will over the people. In a system where there are three main, marginally equal in influence, divisions such as the Government, the military, and the KGB, Yeltsin seems to be facing an alliance much bigger than himself. However, the ambitious Yeltsin may be able to take heart in the fact that at one time, the very same title holding Gorbachev was actually similar to himself, a representative for the underprivileged, holding homage in their eyes.



Some straight 'A' options from EFG

Guaranteed and non-guaranteed loans. Lines of credit. Flexible budget plans. Given the high cost of higher education, it's essential to have more than one financing option to cover your tuition costs. That's why The Educational Financing Group of Manufacturers Hanover offers a straight 'A' lineup of options designed to help you achieve your academic financial objectives.

It's as easy as EFG: No one else offers a more comprehensive range of options. Because no one else understands your needs better than the Educational Financing Group. Call us at 1-800-MHT-GRAD and go to the head of the class.



Equal Opportunity Lender
Member FDIC

Educational
Financing
Group

Achievement

COURSE ID	TITLE	GRADE
EFG 1	Educational Line of Credit	A
EFG 2	Fixed-Rate Educational Loan	A
EFG 3	Monthly Budget Programs	A
EFG 4	Stafford Student Loans	A
EFG 5	Supplemental Loans for Students	A
EFG 6	Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students	
EFG 7	Alumni Advantage™ (Loan consolidation)	



NYPIRG's Earth Week Activities

-Monday 4/22, 10-4 PM in SB Union, Fireside Lounge - Energy Awareness Day; Speakers and info on energy issues; includes a panel discussion on George Bush's national energy policy.

-Wednesday 4/24, 12-12:30 PM, Staller Center Plaza - Earth Day Celebration; music, food; speakers and tables on the environment.

-Friday 4/26, 8 PM-12 AM, Union Auditorium - Earth Day Concert; tickets are \$4 students and \$6 non-students - featuring Zen Tricksters, Mighty Underdogs, and more!

April 19, 1991

Day Of Outrage!

at the
Fine Arts Plaza

**Cry Out Against
Public Safety
Brutality**

**Unjust Suspension of
Emmanuel Severe
and
Philippe Valbrune
Administration's
Attempt to Quell The
Voice of Protesters
On The Campus**

Grad Chem Student Arrested

continued from page 5

Five faculty members and 81 out of 150 Chemistry graduate students and faculty signed a statement condemning Stein's lack of diplomacy and that on many occasions she had "shown unprofessional conduct towards members of this department." The statement claims Chang to be "one of the most respected and well liked members of our department..." They also ask that Stein "stop her revengeful pursuit of Mrs. Chang..." Chang was described by Professor Fowler, the faculty member in charge of Mrs. Chang's laboratory group, to be "an outstanding person with very high moral character."

Students and faculty members were also quick to point out that Ms. Steins is an excellent librarian. Professor Lenoble, who is on the Chemistry Library Committee, points out that "Ms. Steins takes her work very seriously, and it is a very difficult job."

Rosie Chang fully realized the severity of her action and wrote a letter of apology to Ms. Steins concerning the Dec. 27th altercation, and believed the matter to be cleared up.

On Jan. 2nd, according to all of the parties and the arrest report, five minutes

after the library had closed Chang was still in the library and was consequently asked to leave by Janet Steins, which she did. Chang then went to Professor Fowler's office on the seventh floor and worked on her thesis on the office computer. Three Public Safety officers came into the office and asked Chang to step outside into the hall. She was asked if she was familiar with a Dec. 28 letter regarding her after hour privileges being taken away. She answered yes, and then had her hands cuffed behind her back. Professor Fowler had been leaving the building when he saw Public Safety vehicles and returned to his office and was witness to these events. When the Public Safety officers wanted to take Mrs. Chang to their headquarters, both she and Fowler objected. "There was no Public Safety problem at that point and time in my office with me. She was not in the library, she was not trespassing in the library, she had every right to be in my office, every right to be in this building" said Professor Fowler.

According to Mrs. Chang and Professor Fowler, the officers stated that there was a written complaint, and so Chang went, accompanied by Fowler, to Public Safety Headquarters. After being handcuffed to a desk and interrogated twice, Chang was told that the officers convinced Ms Steins to



Janet Steins, Chemistry Librarian

drop the criminal trespassing charges. Mrs. Chang was asked to sign a release form, thereby not holding the University responsible, and was then released.

Chang states that she was not informed of the charges against her until she reached Public Safety Headquarters, and was never told of her rights, including right to representation when being questioned.

On Jan. 7, Mrs. Chang received a letter from Mrs. Steins giving back her after-hour library privileges. But on Jan. 14th, Mrs. Chang received another letter, this time requesting her to appear in front of the Student Judiciary regarding the Dec. 27 incident when she grabbed Janet Stein. But with her privileges restored, and aspirations for graduating on time still very pertinent, Mrs. Chang signed a waiver, thereby pleading guilty to the charges, thus openly admitting she was wrong in resorting to violence. She is now on academic probation. Mrs. Chang, however, still feels her treatment by Public Safety was a violation of her rights. As an official of the university, however, any librarian would have the right to determine if a student posed a threat to the library in any way and could issue an official directive to take away student's privileges until due process was carried out.

Happiness Isn't A Warm Gun

"To serve and protect," is the credo of Public Safety here at Stony Brook. Indeed this motto captures the purpose of many law enforcement agencies, namely, to enforce regulations and maintain public order. Police are necessarily entrusted with a certain amount of power, which unfortunately has the potential of being dangerously abused. In fact, when any police agency abuses its power by engaging in brutality and other violent measures it is subverting its purpose by robbing citizens of their rights, instead of protecting them.

Very often, police abuse of power masquerades as an act of good faith. The "good cop" image is traditionally propagated by Eastwood-type machismo and can dangerously be imitated - the result: operating outside the law in order to enforce it.

Police brutality is often racially motivated and kept well hidden from the public eye. If there hadn't been an amateur video buff around to film the brutal beating of Randy Brown last month, who would believe him? Cops are more readily believed than the alleged criminal in brutality cases. To assume that the Brown case is an isolated incident is either voicing naivete, closet racism, or both. Dozens of police brutality reports have poured out from all over the country since the unveiling of the ugly truth about Brown.

Randy Brown - no way, could never happen here at good old Stony Brook! Wrong. Last semester Public Safety may have overstepped their boundaries by allegedly engaging in violence at a blood drive at which the

Haitian Student Organization demonstrated. They were protesting the discriminatory FDA ban on Haitian and Sub-Saharan Africans. Public Safety mishandled the situation by reacting to a peaceful demonstration as a potential riot. They treated it as such and used riot techniques such as standing in a phalanx with their arms linked with their truncheons braced at chest level. The parallel to the Brown case is uncanny, as Public Safety videotaped the incident from the University Club located in the Chemistry building. Unfortunately the camera man wasn't a student and unlike the Brown case the situation will not make national television.

There have been allegations on both sides, claiming initiation of the violence by the other. Discovering who threw the first stone is essential. It is not uncommon in cases of police brutality for the police to reverse the violence, claiming the attackee to be the attacker.

The Haitian students were justified in protesting the ban on their blood. They had been stigmatized by the ban and, moreover, the ban violated the University's anti-discrimination policy. Public Safety claims that they were protecting the students attending the blood drive. However, in the heat of their desire to protect blood donors and other bystanders, Public Safety abused First Amendment rights of the demonstrators. Every individual on this campus is guaranteed the right to free speech by the so called highest law of the land. When Public Safety curtails the rights of any student or group they are not only not upholding the law but are establishing a

potentially fatal precedent. Students who weren't involved in the demonstration tend to view the current Haitian demonstrations as an inconvenience which disrupts their daily activities. The precedent, created by role models, has aided in the spread of further ignorance and racism.

USB Students should not allow racism to blur their vision, but rather should realize that Public Safety is capable of atrocious acts - don't forget, they are human too.

There has been much debate in the past few weeks as to whether Public Safety should be given guns in order to facilitate their job. Giving a potentially corrupt police organization firearms should be seriously questioned. USB is one of few SUNY schools whose Public Safety Department does not possess guns. In fact, if Public Safety is given guns then the students should also be allowed to own guns, after all, "the right to bear arms" is constitutionally guaranteed. Perhaps nine millimeters with the USB logo emblazoned on the barrels could be hawked at the book store.

To place blind faith in agency whose conduct is even slightly questionable is pure folly. Before entrusting Public Safety with death dealing weapons one must strain their ears very carefully for even the quietest whisper of brutality.

The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor
Lara Jacobson

Managing Editor
Debra McKee

Associate Editor
Scott Skinner

Business Manager
Michelle Fleck

News Editor
Joe DiStefano

Arts Editor
Eric Penzer

Photo Editor
Greg Forte

Copy Editor
Edward DeFilippis

Production Manager
Rick Teng

Minister Sans Portfolio
Fletcher Johnson

STAFF

James F. Barna, Walter Chavez, Lily Eng, Josh Gazes, Robert Gilheany, Daniel Glasner, Fred Mayer, MJXII, Jean Rousseau, John Sealy, Walter Schneider, Stephen L. Shapiro, Dave Suarez, Scott Warmuth

CONTRIBUTORS

Jerry Katz, Wayne Myer, Laura Rosenberger, Suk-Hang

The Stony Brook Press is published bi-weekly during the Academic year and intermittently during the summer session by The Stony Brook Press Inc., a student run and student funded not-for-profit corporation. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy.

(516) 632-6451
Suite 020, Central Hall
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-2790

THE NEED TO DEVELOP HIGHER EDUCATION

To the Editor;

On March 28, The SUNY Board of Trustees approved a long range tuition policy. The Trustees' policy fixes tuition between 25% and 33% of what SUNY calls 'educational costs'. Since costs in SUNY are driven by negotiated union contracts and inflation, this proposal would raise tuition every year.

Currently, the Governor and the Legislature forge the state's public policy agenda and SUNY's role in that agenda. Tuition is considered within the context of how much (or little) the state has been able to fund SUNY, whether any funding gaps should be filled with tuition dollars, and to what extent increased tuition may inhibit access. After, these considerations, the Legislature and the Governor may give the SUNY Board of Trustees authorization to raise tuition.

What went wrong with the current policy that we must throw it away and start anew? The fact is that under the current policy SUNY has found it too difficult to raise tuition. In order to raise tuition more

easily the Trustees are now advocating that tuition rates should no longer be a result of the public policy process.

The students believe that SUNY must be accountable and responsive to the citizens and tax payers of New York State, and therefore it should remain an integral part of the state's public policy agenda. As we move closer to the year 2000, public higher education becomes an ever more important part of our economy. By the next millenium - now less than nine years away - the majority of new jobs will require one to three years of higher education and more than a third will require three or more years of higher education. Additionally, we will be challenged by the need to educate populations that have traditionally been close out of higher education. African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans will compromise at least one third of all new entrants to the work force.

The future development of higher education should be very similar to the historical development of primary and secondary education grew in the 19th century, a free public education system came into existence. Given the coming workforce needs of the 21st Century, higher education - like primary and secondary education - must be an entitlement.

The greatest challenge to SUNY in the coming years is to educate all those who the State will need as educated workers. To do that SUNY must have a better funding

base. Will raising tuition every year assure that this will happen? We don't think so, instead raising tuition every year will only give us the assurance of - well, raising tuition every year.

The current fixation on tuition as the answer to SUNY's problems is misplaced. Between 1980 and 1989, state support as a percentage of all SUNY funds dropped 8.1% while tuition's share dropped only .9%. In 1983-84, the last time SUNY raised tuition (prior to this Spring) state support dropped 2.4%. The \$300 tuition increase this past January restored little to the \$51 million SUNY budget cut. The Governor's proposed \$500 tuition increase, if enacted, will still leave a gaping \$100 million hole in SUNY's funding.

SUNY's problems stem from inconsistent state funds rather than from a lack of tuition dollars. Even if SUNY had raised tuition every year since 1983-84 to keep pace with costs, additional tuition would have only resulted in a shift of state general fund monies from SUNY to some other state expenditure.

The recession, and the subsequent shortage of state revenue, really caused the recent fuss about tuition. The argument that small yearly tuition increases will make large abrupt increases unnecessary is wrong unless someone can prove that the tuition freeze caused the recession. The real issue is that it has become impossible to guarantee stable tax-dollar support for the university. As long

as New York State does not have the money it needs to operate, SUNY's funding problems will continue - with or without yearly tuition increases.

Judith Krebs

President

The Student Association of the State University (SASU)

A Real Steal Of A Meal

To those concerned:

For the first time in about three years I ventured off to dine at the End of the Bridge located right here on the Stony Brook campus. I figured, "If I have to eat a meal on campus, I might as well be filled up with something good. I'll go to the 'fancier looking place.'" I thought that I would get my money's worth with a good many trips to the salad bar, but to my surprise the salad bar existed no longer! Bummer! Well, the cheese ravioli SPECIAL (HA!) seemed worthy of trying. It came with a salad. Sounded filling. I have never had a bad experience before at this establishment, and, didn't expect one this time. However, when the salad arrived on a teacup saucer-sized plate I began to worry. I was hungry! I'm not such a large person, but when it comes to eating....I do all right. When the ravioli

continued on page 10

April 11, 1991 page 7

Racistworld

by Jerry Katz

"You're all a bunch of nig... If you love Africa so much, why don't you all go back there? If America is too racist for you, pack up and leave, you little pieces of shi..."

Do the above words make your skin crawl? Don't you feel like punching me for writing such trash? Of course you should. How can anyone tolerate any such foul language? I sure don't. Such words make me want to throw up. My hands shook as I wrote them. They couldn't believe I could type such filth. I must wash my mind out with soap. Excuse me as I break for a lengthy shower.

Now, where was I? Oh yes, that racist paragraph sounds just like what a white racist would say. I say "white racist" because not all racists are white. What? You don't believe me? Just look at Blackworld.

First you have this Philosopher. All he ever writes about is hate; hate toward whites. Not the dirty bigoted ones who destroy the beauty of Western culture, but every single white man, woman, and child. He makes no distinction. If you are white, then you must be racist in his philosophy. Every article he writes is nothing more than an outpouring of hatred toward whites. He doesn't use the word "honkey" but it's there. He has his own little white conspiracy. The CIA created AIDS to kill of Blacks. A future president will declare Blacks a threat to the nation. The philosopher speaks no better words than those in the opening paragraph. He's just pure hate. He is a BIG piece of shi... How can they even fathom printing his trash. The only sensible explanation is that he's really satirizing white racists, but I don't see such a disclaimer. All I see is a paragraph stating that all staff

writers are responsible for their own work.

Then there's the theory on the first man. He claims the first man was Black. Let's say he's right. He then goes on to say that whites are a subspecies, like a freak of nature, not a true man, since he does not have color, not hue-man. Compare this to the Constitution before the Civil War. I stated that the black slaves are only 3/5 of a man each. In other words, they are not men but a subspecies with no inalienable rights, not human. Can you see the difference between both racist attitudes? I don't. Each one declares some group of red-blooded people not human; who gives a damn where the word was derived from. The first word for "man" was "Adam" if you are Jewish, Christian, Moslem, or any similar religion. Anyway, both statements are racist. Both claim a group superior to others. It matters not where the terms "white" or "black" are placed. Words are just names for classification. You know the meaning of racism. Oppressing whites to raise blacks is just as racist as oppressing blacks to raise whites.

Then there's the cover of the latest issue. In it, the author laments how Black women are not going out with Black men. This I can understand. In Judaism, intermarriage is shunned. We believe that a Jew should marry a Jew. Therefore, I can understand how the author wants a Black to marry a Black, but there is a difference. We want Jews to marry Jews to prolong Judaism, not because non-Jews are considered an inferior species, which they are not in the first place. They are G-d's beloved children as well. However, while the author does express the need for a Black unity, she keeps referring to the "European man" as if he was a disease. Every time that term comes up hate and bigotry and racism leap out of the page. It hangs there throughout the article. It's

most potent in the box which states, "Sisters turn away from the White man and come back home to the original man." Again this racist author says that white men aren't even men. One wonders, though, if you agree with this article, then you can accept the belief by some whites that they should not go out with the African; they must marry whites to keep the European blood pure.

In any case, the article is leading up to something. You don't know what, but you expect it to be big. Then it hits you like a freight train. The last sentence explodes in horrific racism rivaling any bigoted remark expressed by any white racist, including David Duke and Adolf Hitler. "Besides, we both know that milked down coffee does not taste so good." This has got to be the most racist statement I've heard in my entire life. It says it all. The final admittance that the staff of this paper is just as racist and bigoted as the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis. An ultimate insult that degenerates the White man because of his skin color. The Editors of Blackworld have committed the same crime which they fight so hard to avoid. Blackworld urged the boycotting of Coke because of Apartheid. Blackworld urged the boycotting of the blood drive because the FDA wouldn't let Haitians and sub-Saharans donate blood. Yet the Editors of Blackworld are all hypocrites. I'm ashamed I agreed with their opinion about the FDA and almost boycotted Coke myself. The racist Editors and writers of Blackworld seek nothing but pain upon all whites, solely because of their skin color. I feel pity to all African Americans who have disgusting people like the racists at Blackworld to defend them. It is these people who destroy the beauty of Africans just as people like David Duke destroy the beauty of Americans.

SKINNER'S BOX

Gala Grand Opening!

THE KIT KAT KLOOB

Brand Name Liquor and Beer

COME! SEE!

28 Topless Dancers

Live at the World's Largest Lesbian Bar!

OPEN 7 DAYS FROM NOON HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NEVER A COVER OR MINIMUM

THE PRESS

...room 020 Central Hall...

THE

YOU LAY FUCKS

That's right. You lay fuck. Just look at yourself. I bet that you're standing in a bathroom somewhere holding this up to a mirror. Are the other people in the bathroom staring at you? Don't you know that you look ridiculous? You're willing to go through so much trouble just to read this, and yet you won't even cast a vote on Primary election day. What is wrong with you? Don't you know that you have your priorities skewed? Voting in any election is by far more satisfying and important than listening to me bitch and moan about your quality. And don't tell me that you plan on voting because I know that you won't. You and I both know that you are too lazy to wake up next Tuesday and fill out a ballot. I know this is true because fewer than a quarter of you voted in the last election.

But, you mean I don't even know who these people are? Neither do I. Neither does anyone else. I mean how well can you possibly know anyone? Some people are schizophrenic, and they don't even know themselves. Everything that you really need to know about the polling candidates is contained within these pages. The Press asked all the tough questions. "What's your favorite color," we asked. "Come on! Out with it. What's your favorite color," Goddammit, we'll hunt you down if you don't tell us. We seek needles, and in the end, they all contained.

But, you mean it won't make a difference who I vote for because nothing ever changes? Not true, Governor Mervyn Connors promised me that if each and every moderate student voted in the upcoming Primary election then he will not raise our tuition. Not to be outdone, Fred Preston told me that if each and every undergraduate student voted, then he will jump into a moth pit and stain dance. So you see, voting can make a difference, but only if we all vote.

OK, so who are you voting for? Glad you asked! There's a 50% chance that I will vote for Stephen and a 50% chance that I will vote for McLaren, unless it rains, in which case there's a 50% chance that I will vote for McLaren and only a 50% chance that I will vote for Stephen, providing that Stephen doesn't give me the new shirt that he promised me, in which case there's merely a 55% chance that I will ignore the new 50-50 that McLaren said that he would give me if I would maintain a 75% chance that I will remain rational and coherent on alternating Tuesdays, and a 15% chance that my aforementioned percentages are off by 45%, which does not include the 30% chance to everyone on campus performing a mass statutory declaration.

Elections Lose Common Sense

by Scott Skinner

Five official candidates for the upcoming Polity election were disqualified by the Election Board Committee for allegedly violating Election Board By-laws and precedents. Keith McLaren, Ron Nehring, Steve Mauriello, Sherryann Schomber, and Ary Rosenbaum were disqualified on Tuesday, April 9, after a unanimous vote by eight of the nine members of the Election Board Committee. The disqualified candidates were all members of the Common Sense Party, a political party recognized by the department for Student Union and Activities.

According to Annette Garner, the Election Board Chair, complaints were received on Monday, April 8, by Toscanini Senator David Greene, and incumbent candidates Dan Slepian and Ken Bristow. The nature of the complaints dealt with the integrity of the Common Sense Party and its members, as well as the alleged violation of Election Board By-laws.

Greene presented the case against the candidates. "It's a matter of integrity. They led us to believe that they were recognized, and that they were registered with Student Union and Activities, when in fact, they weren't registered until much later." Greene also questioned the Common Sense literature, claiming, "It gave them an unfair advantage in that they were able to leaflet this campus from the very beginning." However, during a press conference in which members of the Common Sense Party explained the Board's decision, Ron Nehring, the Common Sense campaign manager and candidate for Senior Rep said, "My name has not appeared anywhere, in any type of literature, press releases, or any other type of material prior to yesterday."

According to Article 9, Section 7 of the Election Board By-laws, "Only stamped and/or initialed and/or numbered posters/flyers may be hung in dorm residences, academic buildings and the out-of-doors." Section 9 goes on to state that, "Any candidate hanging illegal posters/flyers may face disciplinary action by the Election Board."

The Common Sense Party claimed that merely distributing Common Sense literature does not in itself constitute campaigning. Nehring said, "No [Common Sense] candidate name was used at any time on any literature at all prior to the appropriate date...Our use of the word candidate was in conjunction with Webster's use of the word candidate...Apparently [the Board's] definitions are a little bit more flexible than that of the rest of us." Another Common Sense member asked, "Since when is it illegal to publicize the name of a club? If Polity puts something under your door, then does that mean that no incumbents from Polity can run?"

Election Board Chair Garner explained, "On one of their flyers, it explicitly says, 'On election day, with your help, we can make Stony Brook an even better place.' The majority of people who saw that interpreted it as campaigning...It was subtle campaigning." Garner also addressed the integrity of the Common Sense Party. She claimed that the meetings are not open, that the students had no say in who the executive board members would be, and that the club lied about their recognition. Garner added, "That is quite separate from their

campaigning, but it's still a question of their integrity." When asked what section of the By-laws addresses the issue of integrity, Garner said, "The rules are quite ambiguous. They're up for interpretation. I guess you can say that there's nothing really specific, but this is the way it's been done. It's not stated directly in the By-laws, but this is the way it's been done."

During a press conference, the Common Sense candidates told their account of what happened at the Election Board hearing. Nehring said, "We attempted to search through the By-laws to try to find the

Garner also claims that there was due process. "I could have just called them in and told them that they were disqualified, and just left. I gave each and every one of them a chance to tell me their side of the story."

Perhaps the most interesting account of what happened at the hearing was conveyed by Keith McLaren, the Common Sense candidate for President. "When I knocked on the door to see the Election Board, I was informed they were having a closed meeting with our Secretarial candidate. They informed me that I could not enter the room. This was a closed meeting."



Slepian Scrapes By

Scott Skinner

exact section which we theoretically violated. We also asked members of the Election Board which sections we violated. That was not disclosed. They would not tell us which specific sections were violated at first." Sherryann Schomber, the Common Sense candidate for Sophomore Class Rep added, "I was not allowed to have my campaign manager present. I was not allowed to have anyone else present [at the meeting]. Instead, I had five people telling me why I was disqualified with absolutely nothing written that they could show me."

In a phone interview, Garner explained why the hearing was closed. "First of all, Tobi [Yuden's] office is very small... very hot... we just decided to do it one by one. That's just the way we decided to do it."

Later, McLaren entered the room with a tape recorder. "We had major fights, at which point they told me that I was not allowed to tape record them without their permission...After quite a long argument, which is on tape, I did turn off the tape recorder and allowed them to continue, at which point they were very hostile toward me. They stood over me, pointing at me..." McLaren concluded his account by claiming, "All of the people at this meeting were not on the Election Board. Some of them were Senators. Some of them would not disclose who they were to me beyond their name. They would not disclose what their positions were, and they were quite hostile."

According to Garner, the hearing was in no way hostile. "Everyone thought

that we were jumping on them, and that was not the case at all. No one was yelling. Now and again it got a little exciting, but then we calmed down." When asked why the Board objected to being recorded, Garner explained, "Because that's my right. You cannot come in and just start taping. You have to ask me if you can tape me." According to Garner, no official record of the hearing was taken, although it will be "documented."

One question that is still uncertain is why Lee Wiedl, an acknowledged Common Sense candidate for Vice President, was not disqualified. When asked why Nehring was disqualified but not Wiedl, Garner replied, "You know? I don't know. Ron Nehring was much more involved [in Common Sense] than Lee Wiedl was."

Throughout the press conference, Common Sense candidates repeatedly asked why the Election Board waited for so long to bring up their case. Nehring asked, "If these people had a case beforehand, or had the slightest question, why did they not contact us?" Schomber added, "This whole time, Polity was aware that I was running. They

"I was not allowed to have my campaign manager present. I was not allowed to have anyone else present [at the meeting]. Instead, I have five people telling me why I was disqualified..."

**-Sherryann Schomber
Common Sense Candidate**

knew that I was petitioning. Today, on the day of the debate, they decide to wipe out the whole ticket. That is not choice." According to Garner, however, the Election Board must first receive a complaint before they can review cases and take possible disciplinary actions.

Due to the disqualification of the five Common Sense candidates, incumbents Dan Slepian and Christine Tracey will run uncontested. In addition, Wendy Wolman will run for the position of Secretary unopposed.

According to Nehring, Common Sense intends to appeal the Board's decision. "If an elite group of people can determine whether or not students at this University can have a choice in their elections, clearly this is a matter which must be taken to a higher authority...We would like to compel, through whatever means necessary, through the student Judiciary, or through the court system outside Stony Brook, to compel the Election Board to...state precisely why they have taken those actions, and...to have a truly objective group, institution, or body determine whether or not those rules have been violated." Nehring concluded, "This is an election process. This is supposed to be a democracy. I don't know what a democracy is when you only have one candidate running."

Music from India

The India Society is presenting a recital of Indian Classical Dance and Music on Sunday April 28, at 4PM in the Student Union Auditorium at SUNY Stony Brook. Nira Batra (Kathak), Ustad Kadar Khan (Tabla), Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) and Sukhvindar Singh Namadhari (Tabla) will perform. Tickets are \$12.50 for the general public and \$7.50 for USB students and seniors. contact S.N. Sridhar at (516) 751-1810 for more info.

Beat Phrases

Fannie Brice Theater/Capozzi presents: Life, Balance, out of "The Streetcorner Poet," hosted by Captain America!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This will be an open-microphone reading sandwiched by an acoustic and electric set by the band Life Out Of Balance. The Anowa Drummers shall perform as well. Billy Capozzi will do some new material with the electric band.

FOOTNOTES

There will be a \$2 admission fee for Stony Brook Student, Senior Citizens, Teachers, High School Students and extravagant dancers dressed in tutus and high heeled sneakers. All others must pay \$3. All readers/any age welcome. Read your fiction, plays, non-fiction, poetry, prose, sing your songs! Do your thing! Thursday, April 11, 1991, 7:30 PM, at the Fannie Brice Theater in Roosevelt Quad's Food Mall. "the music will bring us together" -B.C.

Feminist Film Theory

The Humanities Insititute Visiting Fellows Lecture Series will give a lecture on "Feminist Film Theory Revisited," with Teresa de Lauretis from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Time and Place? Wednesday April 24 at 4:30 PM in room 109 of the Javits Center.

Popular Culture

Humanities Insititute Visiting Fellows Seminar (again) will present "Spike Lee and Black Popular Culture" with Houston Baker from the University of Pennsylvania. Thursday, April 11, at 10:00 AM in room E-4340 of the Melville Library. Call 632-7765 for info.

Boat Race

Cardboard boats will anchor away in the Roth Regatta on Friday, April 26, at 4 PM. Place: Roth Quad Pond, no doubt. To qualify, boats must be made from cardboard, duct tapes, aluminum foil, rope, string, cloth, papier mache, paint, glue, wax, human skin, etc. Strictly prohibited are wood, metal, styrofoam, staples, rubber, milk crates, plastic, and human skin. Judging will be based on appearance and speed (to make it across the pond). Special award (the Roth Cup) for winners. Boats will be either speedster or yacht. A speedster is piloted by one person, whereas a yacht carries 2-4 people. Regatta Headquarters can be reached at 632-4015.

ICON-X

Ready for the East Coast's largest sci-fi convention held here at Stony Brook? Look for ICON advertisements soon to spread throughout the campus. Meet people and talk to purple martians from planet Z. Contact student coordinator Ralph Schiano at 632-6472 for complet schedule and press info. I-CON X will be held from April 19-April 21.

Hands Off!

Seventeen Marine Corps Conscientious Objectores are currently facing court martial at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. While we bathe in sunshine, casually continuing with our leisurely studies and glorifying ourselves with greed and deed, seventeen men in a shitty situation ask for your support and/or opinion. Anyone interested can write to: Building H-1 Wing A 2nd Meb, MCB Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28540-5090

AIDS

Treatment Benefit

A fashion show and brunch to benefit the AIDS Treatment Center at University Hospital at Stony Brook will be happening on Sunday, May 5 at the Bavarian Inn, Lake Ronkonkoma. The event will run from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM and will feature men's and women's fashions from Jefferson Bay of Port Jefferson, *Sophisticated Lady* of Patchogue, *Bridal Paradise* of Patchogue and couturier designer Alessandri of San Francisco and New York. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased no later than Monday, April 22. For ticket information, call Maria at 584-6490 or Margaret at 286-1012.

Music From the Staller Center

Saturday, April 13: Stony Brook Ensemble presents the opera, Julius Caesar. 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$15, \$13, and \$11 with discounts for students and senior citizens. Main Stage. Wednesday, April 17: Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players Preview presents "Six Premieres." 8:00 PM. Free. Saturday, April 20: North Carolina Dance Theater. Challenging, entertaining choreography. \$22.50, \$20.50, \$18.50. USB student ticket half price. 8:00 PM in Main Stage.

Rape Awareness Week

April 8-12, 1991

Monday, April 8 - 10-4 PM, "Rape Awareness Information Session" in the Student Union: Literatures on forms of violence against women. 8 PM - "Violence and Anger" Langmuir Fireside Lounge, Victims Information Bureau Services (VIBS) : Discussion on rape and violence against women. Tuesday, April 9 - 3 PM, "Does the Law Protect the Victim?" Union Bi-Level : Distinguished lawyer from the DA's Office will speak about how women are seen through the eyes of the law. 7 PM - "Miss or Myth", Langmuir Fireside

Lounge : Documentary on the violence of the American Dream Girl Image with discussion afterward.

9 PM - "Venom" - Victim No More! Center Office, Langmuir D-120 : Open meeting for sexual assault survivors.

9 PM - "Why Men Rape" Langmuir Fireside Lounge - Men's discussion group on why men rape. Facilitated by Don "Tres" Cummings.

Wednesday - April 10, 10-4 PM - "Rape Awareness Information Session" in the Student Union : Day two.

3:30 PM - "Lesbian Battering & Violence" Health Sciences Center - Lecture Room 2 : Lecture with Dr. Robert Hawkins on how violence against women affects the lesbian community.

8 PM - Nikki Craft "In Defense of Disobedience" Javits Room 102: Feminist/Activist uses a powerful slide show and discussion on why it is necessary to topple the empire that profits from the rape, death, and the psychological destruction of women.

Thursday, April 11, 10-4 PM - "Rape Awareness Information Session" in the Student Union : Day three.

8:30 PM - "Take Back the Night March" Begins in front of the Student Union.

Friday, April 12, 6 PM - Angela Davis, Javits Room 100 - Feminist/Activist speaker sponsored by The Woman of Color Coalition.

Refreshments served at all events. Call 632-2000 for info

Toddler Project

Children aged 18 to 30 months and their mothers are invited to participate in an interesting research project conducted by the Department of Psychology to examine various parenting styles and strategies in an attempt to discover which are most effective.

A parenting group will be offered to all mothers who participate. The parenting group will provide an opportunity for mothers to share discipline problems and concerns for handling two-years-olds. To participate in the study, each mother and child will come into the lab for one session lasting two hours or less. Lab appointments are flexible and may be scheduled at the mother's convenience. For further information, please contact Lisa Wolff at the Department of Psychology at 632-7874.

LETTERS

continued from page 7

arrived upon an appetizer plate (only four golf-ball styled ravioli) with a piece of garlic toast I got a bit perplexed. "How can anyone get full from this?" I asked myself. And, "How can the management do this to paying students (you can also use your mealcard here), and, outsiders?" I really wanted a meal, but, what I got was a two course appetizer. This sucked. "Are we paying \$5.95 for a "meal," or, what?" I only had a certain amount of time to allot for dinner, therefore, I returned to work hungry (even hungrier than when I entered because, the food was good) and ornerly. I just don't want to see others getting sucked into believing that they'll leave satisfied by ordering only one meal.

Thanks,
B.C.

BRIGHT ENERGY SAVINGS

To the Editor;

Environmental disasters like the burning oil fields in Kuwait and the oil spill in Valdez Bay, Alaska have forced many Americans to question our societies' dependence on oil. Colossal waste is a major part of our energy consumption problem, which in turn contributes to urban smog, the greenhouse effect and the inflationary impact of several oil crises. The only possible solution to this problem is to conserve as much energy as possible and efficiently use the energy we are already consuming.

NYPIRG, The New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc., is offering students two ways that they can help conserve energy. The first is by holding an Energy Awareness Day on April 22 from 10-

4 p.m. in the Fire Side Lounge of the Student Union.

The second is NYPIRG's Bright Ideas Project. By getting rid of incandescent light bulbs and using compact fluorescent lights, which provide the same illumination while using less electricity, students can help conserve energy. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL), which NYPIRG's B.I.P. offers to students at a discount price, need only one-quarter of the electricity that incandescents require and last 9 to 13 times longer. This means that an 18 watt CFL produces the same illumination as a 75 watt incandescent bulb. During its 10,000 hour life time, an 18 watt CFL bulb that replaces a 75 watt incandescent bulb will save 570,000 watts of electricity. Using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs not only will help the environment by decreasing the amount of electricity being used but it will also help consumers save money.

To produce light for 10,000 hours you must purchase 10 regular incandescent 75 watt bulbs. To operate these bulbs you

must purchase 750,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity: a total cost of \$106.20 for Long Island and New York City residents. Yet to get 10,000 hours of illumination from a CFL you only need to purchase 180,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity at a total cost of \$42.90 and total savings of \$63.30. If 5 out of 27 light bulbs in the average home were replaced, residents could save more than \$300 in 3 to 6 years that's a yearly return on your investment of 105% to 52%.

Compact fluorescent lights are not available on a retail level, however, so for more information you can stop by the NYPIRG office in the Student Union Basement, Rm.079, or call 516-822-BULB.

Craig Siegel, NYPIRG
Project Coordinator

Joyce Phillus, NYPIRG
Media Intern

Harlem Renaissance

by John Sealy

Harlem is a district of the Manhattan borough North of Central Park and along the East Harlem River. Renaissance is defined as a flowering, vigorous activity along literary, artistic and cultural lines.

The Harlem Renaissance was the transcendental movement of Black people who committed themselves to change popular negative perception of themselves.

Coming from Florida, Idaho, California, Missouri, Ohio, Boston, Washington D.C., and Jamaica, black artists and writers flocked to Harlem to begin a new decade of creativity. According to Trudier Harris from DLP 51, *Afro-American Writers*, this period began around World War I up to the early days of the 1930's. The best way to examine the relevancy of the Harlem renaissance is by focusing on artists of that time. *Afro-American Writers* presents most of the history of the Harlem Renaissance as seen through the eyes of Langston Hughes.

Mr. Hughes mentions in his autobiography that the gay and sparkling life of the Negro-renaissance of the 1920's was not so gay and sparkling beneath the surface. Carl Van Vechten, as the character of Byron in *Nigger Heaven*, captured some of the bitterness and frustration of literary Harlem that Wallace Thrumman later so efficiently poured into his *Infants of the Spring*. Thousands of whites came to Harlem night after night to see Harlemites read poetry, and sing and dance in cabarets. Some of the owners of Harlem clubs, delighted at the flood of white patronage, made the grievous error of baring their own race, after the manner of the famous Jim Crow Cotton Club. In effect, the Renaissance became

commercialized. They stopped writing and instead catered to the amusement and entertainment of white people. In so doing, the Harlemites tarnished and overcolored their own material. Nevertheless, this period stood out above all others in Black creativity.

Fire was a magazine created in 1926 by Wallace Thrumman, Zora Neale Hurston, Aaron Douglas, John P. Davis, Bruce Nugent, Gwendolyn Bennett and Langston Hughes. They decided to publish a "Negro Quarterly of the Arts" to burn up a lot of the old, dead conventional negro-white ideas of the past.

Langston Hughes, a famous American writers, took advantage of free verse, then later jazz and blues rhythms to depict the life styles of blacks, for the black audience. Though he was a young boy during Harlem Renaissance, he qualified to frequent clubs and recitations with the who is who (i.e. W.E.B. DuBois). in the Black world at the time.

At age seventeen, Mr. Hughes wrote a poem that (almost half a century later) was included in a television show "Beyond the Blues." This program was aimed at "the sophisticated mind and not the ethnic-conscious heart" (The New York Times, Feb. 23, 1964). Hughes would imitate Dunbar and Sandburg's poetic techniques until he developed his own. Here is the poem:

"When Sue Wears Red"

When Susanna Jones wears red
Her face is like an ancient cameo
Turned brown by the ages.

Come with a blast of trumpets,
Jesus!



When Susanna Jones wears red
A queen from some time-dead Egyptian
nightWalks once again.

Blow trumpets,
Jesus!

And the beauty of Susanna Jones in red
Burns in my heart a lone-fire sharp like pain.

Sweet Silver trumpets,
Jesus!

By 1967, Langston Hughes had founded theaters, wrote plays, volumes of poetry, novels and other works, until he was unofficially granted titles such as Negro Poet

Laureate and Dean of Negro Writers in America. His *The Weary Blues* (1926), and *Fine Clothes to the Jew* (1927), were written during the Harlem Renaissance. *The Big Sea* is his autobiography (and "brain child").

Though Langston Hughes played an important role in the renaissance, many others were also vital contributors. Hughes credited Jessie Fauset and Alain Locke with "midwifing" the Harlem renaissance (Trudier Harris). Besides lavish parties, well-dressed men, and a lot of galavanting, the "vogue spread to books, African sculpture, music and dancing. Names now famous became known for the first time." Langston Hughes was surely one of them.

STAGE

Concrete Anti-Christ Radical Local Author Speaks

by Josh Gazes

"I'm as evil as ever," said author Pietro diDonato, as he began his lecture on "What it is to be a writer." Di Donato, author of *Christ in Concrete*, spoke to a standing room only crowd in the Stony Brook Poetry Center on April 4, one day after his eightieth birthday.

Students, teachers and other guests were treated to a powerful and revealing narrative of diDonato's life, beginning with his childhood in Hoboken, where he could see immigrants arrive at Ellis Island. Di Donato's "no bullshit" attitude became quite clear as he related the events of his past, including the pride he held in his ancestry. This pride separated all of the immigrants of different nationalities, even those who came from different regions in the same country.

The lecture became quite emotional as di Donato remembered his father's tragic death. Holding back his tears, he spoke of the last time he saw his father, when di Donato was at the age of thirteen, and how he was then forced to support his family.

He became a bricklayer, and laid the foundation for his communist ideology. At a time when many members of the

communist party were being blacklisted and arrested, di Donato considered himself a true proletarian from years of hardship and hard work.

Other than being slightly side-tracked by the topic of sex, of which he said, "The flesh is the sacred temple, not the goddamned church, sex is what should be glorified and revered."

"The flesh is the sacred temple, not the goddamned church, sex is what should be glorified and revered."

Di Donato expressed the qualities he possessed that helped him in his writing. These included curiosity, sympathy, and empathy. His most important concern, however, was in finding out the truth. One such truth is that everything must die, a point he used to encourage his listeners to enjoy life. When someone suggested to him that even when he dies, his books (*Christ and Concrete*) will live forever. He said, "I would rather live and let the book die."

Pietro Di Donato spoke for about two hours, frequently saying something in Italian, and often commenting on a variety of topics; love, money, war, the rich, and the masses. His main concern, though, was how our lives contribute to our writing, and he said at one point to his listeners, "we are all tragedies, each and every one of you, and you are all stories, all authors."

Eastern Yearning

by Edward DeFelippis

Eastern Standard, a play by Richard Greenberg, is a moving but lighthearted story of young upwardly-mobile couples in love, whose lives become permanently enmeshed one fateful afternoon in an uptown Manhattan restaurant. Peter Kidde, played by Jason Price, has a lot on his mind during his lunch date with his sister Phoebe. Across the room, Stephen Wheeler, played by Brad Griffith, agonizes over his feelings for Phoebe while his longtime friend Drew Paley, played by Jeff Tusch, admires her handsome brother. Through an encounter with an apparently demented street woman (Rose Brown) and a spirited waitress (Valerie Clayman), the two couples are brought together to make their rocky romantic start.

The acting improved steadily throughout the performance. In the first act, the dialogue resembled machine-guns: dry, staccato, and hastily delivered. Much of the time, the dialogue was delivered directly to the audience; the characters were not making eye contact. All seemed very tense, which was understandable for an opening night performance. However, as the actors became more comfortable with their characters on stage, the performance loosened up and the dialogue flowed more easily. Conviction on the part of the actors was inconsistent at times; actions were performed on occasion without real reason. This, too, improved

during the course of the play; actors became more focused and actions became more real. By the second act, most of the bugs had apparently been resolved, and little stood in the way of this heartwarming story. The masterful direction of professor Tom Neumiller brought the entire performance to life.

The set was simple, yet very effective: a posh restaurant during the first act, wide open and simply decorated with columns and plants, and a beachfront deck during the second act, furnished with patio tables and chairs, and framed with reeds. The performance was not encumbered by complicated or unnecessary props and scenery, and every part of the set was used by the characters.

Eastern Standard will be performed at the Staller Center's Theatre Two from April 9 through 13 at 8:00 pm with matinee shows on April 13 and 14 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available at the Staller center Box office during regular hours and one hour before curtain on the nights of the show.



Courtly Manners Well Learned

Case Against the Manic

"Your Highness, Your Highness!"
shriek the peasants,
"What do you wish to be done with him?"
Head held high, the Highness snorts,
"Why hang him of course!"
Eyes open wide in horror, they foolishly dare
to question Their leader:
"Hang him, Your Highness?"
Enraged, she glares down at them and
bellows, "Why of course!"
Are you not aware of rhetoric? Dare you to
question me?"
Bowing their heads in shame, with cheeks
burning scarlet, the Peasants turn away,
their tails caught between their legs.
How easy it is to stir those emotions
which are
Manipulated by bureaucratic strings;
Nostrils flaring, countenances of sudden
fervid determination,
They cry in unison, "Onward to the evil one!"
Perched in the tower above, the Highness
looks on with deep
Pleasure as they succumb
to her iron-plated will,
Barking out the judgement
ever so logically deduced,
"Ah, yes, it is he who threatens to topple each
organization in sight!
It is he who is dangerous to every
establishment!"
Can't YOU see that wild look
in his eyes and the
Twisted grin on his dreadful face?
Can't YOU hear his high shrill voice as he
Desperately struggles to defend himself?
You grab one limb and I will grab another.
Together we can rid of this menace to
law and order.
Listen to the echoes of his freakish laughter
As we carry him off to
where we know he belongs.
Bid adieu, farewell, and good riddance to our
Friend as we carefully and purposefully hang
him.

In Defense of the Observer

Why yes, of course
I am aware that you are the
Dangerous one they have been whispering
about.
Naturally, they have been so kind as to
Inform me of your many malicious crimes.
Despite well meaning advice,
I remain independent.
Brushing off capricious threats,
I am quite amused.
Rhetoric should have told them that since it is
I who has slithered in the shadows with you,
Crept into private sanctuaries behind you,
And witnessed first hand your seizing
Of other's territories,
That more so than any of them, I am
Vividly and acutely aware of exactly
What you are capable of.
But my friend, I do believe that even you
Fail to realize the extent of my awareness.
"What you are is what you are,"
were the light-hearted
Words you carelessly flung at me one night
not so long ago.
And now, on this day of reckoning,
I return that very
Same critique, now a blackened prophesy.
Do not tell me that my trust has been
destroyed;
It is not possible to lose
what has not been invested.
Together we covertly washed
the invisible blood
That stained our hands scarlet with
incrimination.

While my sparse splatterings
were easily cleansed,
Guilt has stubbornly saturated your very soul.
Now they say that I must bid adieu to you.
Though my heart may adore you,
My dislike for you is strong.
Reality strikes hard
although vision may be clouded.
Take counsel that intent is very long and hard
to prove.

Eulogy of the Accused

"Why, you haven't got a shred of evidence!"
I screech
To the array of idiots seated before me.
Eyes darting everywhere,
shifting nervously in their seats,
They witness the startling sight before them.
As my head jerks violently to and fro, as my
Features twitch spastically,
I return their accusations.
"You sit before me, charging me with acts of
civil disobedience,
When the truth is that I am only reacting to an
Incompetent parody of a government who is
Miserably failing to carry out its
responsibilities."
Self-induced seizures
are a tool for convincencing
The masses that you are vilely disturbed.
You will be pitied by a few, ignored by many,
And endlessly mocked by most of society.
But when insanity is coupled with
intelligence,
The reality of potential is horrifying and the
Condescending ones will not be so inclined to
Shut you up in some dark corner of their
world.
Their accusations are hollow and foolish.
A handful of blind puppets stand behind
them.
Their threats are empty and ludicrous.
Intelligent subjects laugh behind their backs.
Exactly what they have chosen to hang me by
Is only manifestations of their erratic
paranoia.
One night, in the midst of unguarded serenity,
Indiscriminating madness will creep into their
Private sanctuaries,
unmercifully claiming dues
From the secluded shadows, escaping
unidentified.
Impress the image of my twisted grin in your
mind's eye,
Capture the echoes of my freakish laughter in
your ears.
My limbs may be torn now, my neck may be
hung soon.
You may bid adieu, farewell, and goodbye at
this time.
What I am will never alter, and always will I
recall
The courtesy of my unforgettably gracious
hosts.
On another day of reckoning we will meet,
Your Highness,
And you will see how well I have learned my
courtly manners.

-Debra McKee



Crows

You get so egocentric-
and then there are crows.
A little girl
clasps
her
hands
together.
Mimicking Imitation
of late.
And points.
"Look,"
she cries
with glee
watching the
big black
bird
peck and fly.

-Lara Jacobson

i stoop down in the middle of the road
i'm looking close at the space between
the yellow lines the boundry of the black
and of the yellow picking at it inspecting
the small yellow painted road rocks com
paring them with their tar covered baby
neighbors they are glued to each other

there appears to be a white bubble of dead
flesh on my heel i pick at it it's bubbly and
gummy finally it bursts and warm vinegar
pours out fermented runny skin liquid then
i peel back the defeated bubble i expose
screaming red underdermal layers the smell
of which inflicts it's rage at being woken...

yo mama" he yells and she drives mac
trucking up the stairs to her place angry she
didn't get comfort and strength when she
really needed to she got suggestions of
lewdness like lemon juice on cracker salt
caustic it eats her as she smothers her face in
a vcr in a blinking 12:00 in a snow of
incongruent cable scrambled dish soap
operas...

im bleeding" doubled over on the ceramic
cool comforting ceramic as drips of baby
dissolve in water how is it why do things go
after growing why is it love growing and after
getting crack your selling your body to a
pervert who doesn't mind your pregnant odor
you've begun to show the heartbeats the arm
twitch the legs wrap the movie stills the clock
stops the mind dies the house burns...

im calling the cops...

MJXII



To Be

I am sitting on the beach,
watching my painting on the sand
constantly drifting and re-creating
an existence of its own,
independent
of my yearning.

Even the wind and the waves
are joining in
the co-creation
of a masterpiece,
with the sun and the moon in charge
of the shading and the tone.

It is an illusion
of my composition
at the edge of the land.

It has its own destiny
beyond my vision
and understanding.

From now on,
I just let it be what it is.
It is a lesson
for my hands to draw without expectation,
for my eyes to see without projection.

-Eddie Sullivan

Suk-hang

Slamming at the Bi-level

by MJXII

"Juvenile delinquency is always rooted in adult delinquency...." A pit hastily formed as the first strains of Ministry's "So What" played over two walls of speakers. Grinding to a crescendo, the metal screams caused twenty or so punks to engage their bodies in a frenzied, twisted, exchange of life and limb. I threw myself into this pit, and bounced and slammed into a writhing mass of bone and muscle. But it was pretty much good-natured fun - I was knocked to the ground a couple times, but always someone grabbed me and pulled me up, so I wouldn't get trampled. People who didn't slam threw people who did into the pit, but no one got hurt and everyone had fun.

As I joined these punks in slamdancing to what was one of my favorite alternative bands, I thought to myself, "Gee, it's been a long time since people like this have had this much fun at a campus event." The event was last Thursday's alternative dance party, Technitium Crossfire, staged by D.J. Circuit and D.J. Slide.

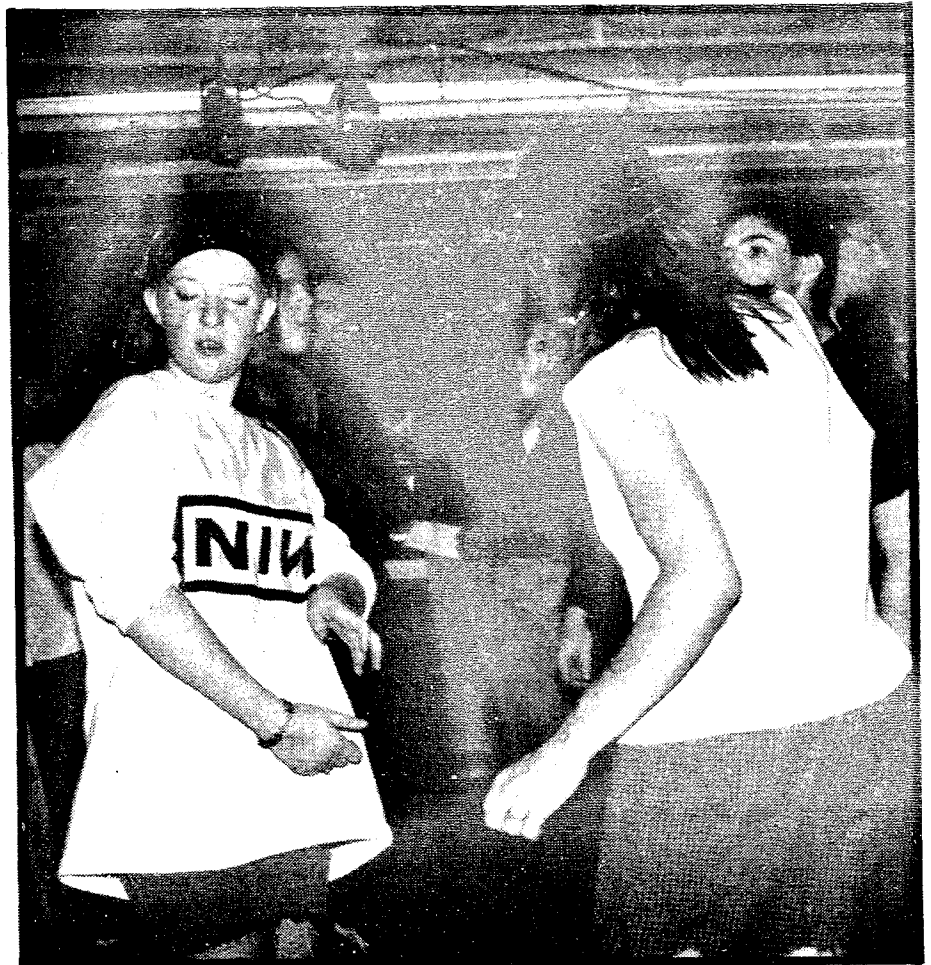
At first I was extremely annoyed at the beauracrat handling of the party (people had to have Stony Brook I.D., or be with someone with Stony Brook I.D.). So at the prompting of one of the D.J.'s, I agreed to wait on line with people who had neither so they could get in. Once in, everyone was subjected to a search, which I found degrading, but worth it. The music and

lighting were great and the people were really with it.

Some prominent campus and off-campus personalities were there that night. Jade (whose band just played the other night at the Checkmate), Brian the skater, my man with the dreads (who was wasted and going off outside the union), Charles the bassist, Don the keyboardist (who is transferring here next semester), Etc. and etc.

Hopefully this event, which featured some of the harshest music heard on campus to date, will show the administrative puppet, Vice-President of Student Affairs Fred Preston (Moses-see the Press, of March 22), that students and non-students can assemble, even aggressively, and there be no "incidents", just a really great time (isn't it funny how we didn't see any sign of the power-tripping Public Safety Clowns?-something always seems to follow them around...). Maybe Preston will lift his arbitrary anal retentive policies (which I daresay stink of racism), on the music the campus community is really interested in, and we can use the Sports Complex, which the students are paying for-all the students, for concerts, including punk, reggae, and rap.

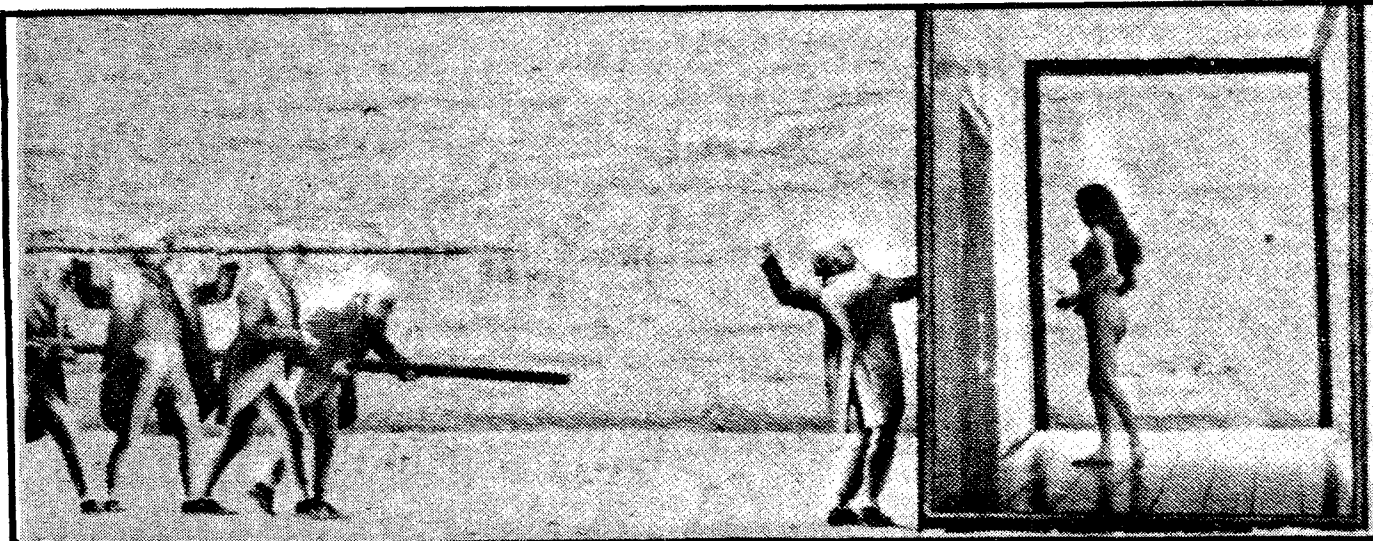
Anyway, I hope we can see the continued high success of Technitium Crossfire, and thanks and congratulations to Chris and Wayne, D.J. Circuit and D.J. Slide, for a really great party.



caught in a crossfire...

Lily Eng

FILM



L'Ange

Two from the Nuthouse

L'Ange

Directed by Patrick Bokanowski
Music by Michele Bokanowski
France, 1982 70 mins.

Rehearsals

For Extinct Anatomies

Directed by The Brother Quay
Music by Lescek Jankowski
Great Britain 1988 14 mins.

Film Forum 1

209 West Houston St.
New York, NY 10014
Box Office: (212) 727-8110
Admission: \$7 Non-Members/
\$4.50 Members

by Rick Teng

We spent a bright Easter Sunday in Film Forum 1's small Manhattan theater. *Rehearsals for Extinct Anatomies*, an English black and white film, barraged the viewer with near-microscopic images of "industrial icons" (hand-made industrial sculptures), staged within open view rooms and hallways, appearing with photo-montage-like editing, which brought life to a strange world of otherworldly light and strange aloofness. The background music was very strange but appropriate for the film's subject matter (if there was any). A very strange string section (violin, cello) instilled a strange mood for a miniature, non-verbal, alien world of eternal recurrences of rapid movements and their shadows. Split-second camera-focusings were also strikingly strange, as images revealed to us their grotesque surfaces.

There were two rapidly moving eyeballs on a papier mache skull attached to a wired limb as the camera zoomed back and forth from this image with light speed. As

this "living thing" was eyeing everything around it, a piece of hair that stuck out of the skull continued to scratch a rough bump on its head. As the focusing increased its speed, the "thing" moved its single wired arm and was also scratching and feeling its bump with conditioned curiosity, causing flickering movements. Another strange scene depicted the day-to-day life of two puppet couples in their miniature bedroom, within a diorama. Watching this strange robotic relationship in a silent routine became even stranger when the music was added.

When *Rehearsals* was over, the screen went dark for a few seconds before coming back to life with *L'Ange*, a French b/w film with surrealist landscapes and dark purgatorial surroundings. Series of images performed their abstract self-explanations in endless repetition. The music in the background appropriately accompanied this echoing existence. Sound effects were repeated noises of the mundane, such as waterdrops and footsteps, created a strange rhythm, bending our eardrums into a

mesmerized state. A scene showed us a man with a fake face washing himself in a bathtub in a violently joyful manner, splashing himself with soapwater furiously while singing and laughing like a madman. This senseless scene was absorbing and strange as several parts of the scene occurred repeatedly. The water-drops in the background turned into a crescendo of pulsating echoes.

Another scene depicted a routine day of bookkeepers rummaging through countless books in a large room of tall bookshelves. With fake faces of the cold humbug stereotype, they work mechanically. Next, they were shown running through a hellishly vast landscape of the underworld like a blood-hungry mob. At the far end, a clear box imprisoned a naked woman imitating a silent film actress in fright. A repetition of explosions burst out of the screen as we saw the men break down the wall of the box. The fate of the woman was left unknown. The final sequence of the movie led us through a room of blinding lights flickering wildly by the shifting of magnifying glasses that were producing the lights. After a while, the film ended with an orgasmic finality of lights, shadows, strange and haunting sounds, as figures were seen on a huge stairway.

Both films were very strange. Admittedly, they were meaningless when reflected upon immediately after the screening. French surreal images came into mind in both films. The nightmarish regions of the "netherworld" presented here created an interesting voyage into the evil and dark space of the unknown (or limbo, to be accurate). However, as soon as we arrived on Stony Brook campus, these films began to make sense from a USB perspective. Nightmarish landscapes and hellish images of the mundane crawl back into my brain as the toilet flushed into a crescendo of evil laughing echoes.

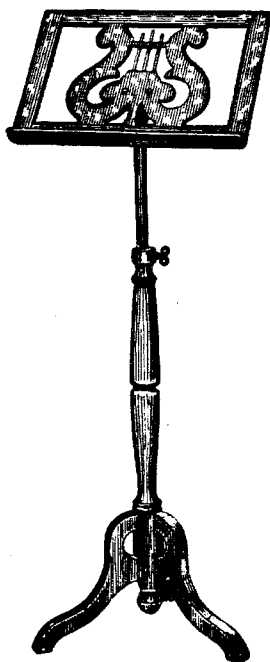
by Scott Warmuth

The most exciting CD so far this year has come out on the Arthon label. Arthon has just released the debut disc by **Barrelhouse Wiener**. Wiener is a honky tonk piano player with style and great technical prowess - despite the fact that he has no arms! Barrelhouse was one of those thalidomide babies, deformed due to the side effects of the drug taken by his mother during pregnancy. Never having had arms, he uses his feet in the way that average people use their hands. He started playing piano at the age of five and has been startling audiences around the country on his first nationwide tour. His first disc, *These Arms Of Mine*, was released in February. The title track, a boogie-woogie run-through of the old Otis Redding number, is excellent. Other outstanding cuts include his version of Jerry Lee Lewis' "Great Balls Of Fire." Barrelhouse credits the killer as his inspiration. Apparently, as a young boy, Barrelhouse saw Jerry Lee on television punding away at those 88 keys. At one point, Lewis lifted his leg and pounded out a few notes with his shoe. Barrelhouse doesn't wear shoes and his toes are more limber than the average person's fingers - and he can play! This is the best down home, old fashioned rock/blues record that I have heard this year. Do yourself a favor - run to the store now and buy it....East Northport's **Pranksters** have been turning out quality rock and roll for years. I first heard of the band through a compilation tape put out in '86 called *The Origin Of Grapefruit*. The

tape included a great number from the band titled "Bush Christmas," about holidays when the money is tight. A few years later they released their first single, "Dog Show." The B-side, a cut called "Fat Boy" is a great tune. Driven by a tuba with an oom-pah beat, singer Greg Geraci rallies against oppressive bosses and dares the listeners to quit their jobs. After some line-up changes, the band released their first LP, *Lagoona*, last year on their own Snatch-O-Matic record label. Kramer, of *Shimmy* Disc fame, helped the band get their sound down on wax. To keep the ball rolling in '91, the Pranksters have just released a new single called "Be Your Own Guru." The A-side, apparently about self-enlightenment, commands the listener to "be your own guru baby/ lose yourself and all your possessions too." The B-side, "Spaceman," begins with backwards drums like Hendrix's "Are You Experienced" and has a touch of country influence. Bass player Jim Allen keeps things a little bit funky, and the loose

guitar riffery on top makes this stuff churn. "Be Your Own Guru" is available from Snatch-O-Matic Records, P.O. Box 718, East Northport, NY 11731....The Ramones have been the inspiration for a batch of tunes by a variety of artists recently. **Motorhead** have a song about the band on their new LP *1916*. The song clocks in at under two minutes. Pigmy Love Circus have a new single out on Triple X Records. The A-side is a cover of the Ramones' "Beat On The Brat." They slow it down a lot, which gives it a much different feel. Imagine if Black Sabbath covered the tune, and you will be pretty close to what this is like. The singer has a throaty shout that sounds great. The single's B-side is a tune called "Mick Jagger Killed Brian Jones." The singer threatens, "I'll get you Mick/ I'll get you/ I'll get you for Brian." The single is pressed on attractive maroon vinyl, with white swirls. **Youth Gone Mad** does a cover of the Ramones' "Loudmouth" on a new split 7" with *Urgent Fury* on the Piggybank label. The cut features a female

vocalist, and the sleeve is a funny, cut and paste reworking of the Ramones' first album cover. **Youth Gone Mad** also have a new EP, titled *Yesterday's Innocence...Tomorrow's Insanity out on Smilin' Ear Records*. On the back of the sleeve is a message to Joey Ramone. It says, "You've been doing it a long time, now you should upgrade." The EP has an excellent track called "Ode To Darby," about deceased Germs vocalist Darby Crash. The song is hooky punk rock with a pop edge. To get a copy send three bucks to Smilin' Ear Records, P.O. Box 47655, San Antonio, Texas, 78265. **Youth Gone Mad** will have another single out in May on Vital Music Records. Vital Music has released a number of interesting singles including last year's phenomenal "Alaska" by the band Karen Black. Vital Music Records' latest release is a single by Joe Christ. Christ is known in subversive circles as the director of a film called "Holy Communion in Room 410." The film features a fat woman who cuts crosses and swastikas into her arms and breasts with a razor blade while Christ and another woman lap up the blood with bread and eat it. Nothing in the film was faked and it is very disgusting. Christ's single has Chris Spedding (known for his work with the Sex Pistols and Robert Gordon) on guitar and Chicken George of Letch Patrol playing bass. The copy I saw was pressed on orange wax. For more information on Vital Music Records' plethora of releases, write to 81 Second Ave., New York City, New York 10003.



A Most Contemporary Quartet

by James F. Bama

The string quartet is a musical form that has been avoided by many modern composers. Its structure is too rigid, and its history too deep to be utilized expressively in the eclectic styles that characterize contemporary music. Don't tell that to the Arditti String Quartet, however. The Arditti Quartet has gained notoriety by specializing

in the performance of contemporary and 20th century music.

The quartet, which was founded by Irvine Arditti in 1974, appeared at the Staller Center's recital hall on Saturday, April 6. The quartet consists of Arditti, David Alberman, Garth Knox, and Rohan de Saram. The program, which consisted of works from the 20th century gave a good indication of the Arditti Quartet's mission.

The first piece performed was the *String Quartet No. 5* by Bela Bartok. This piece, which dates from 1934, is one of driving intensity which betrays the transition that took place as Romanticism was abandoned in favor of modernism.

The second piece was a *Piano Quintet*, composed by Anton Webern in 1907. Webern is best known as a composer of small atonal pieces in which melodic fragments are left adrift in frequent silences. This piece, though more conventional, was by no means traditional. Stefan Litwin, a doctoral candidate at the university, played the piano in this quintet.

The next piece played, *Autumn Rhythm* for String Quartet, is interesting for two reasons. First, it's a fairly recent piece, having been composed in 1984. Second, it was inspired by a most unique work of art - the painting *Autumn Rhythm No. 30*, by the Abstract Expressionist Jackson Pollock.

The final piece of the evening was by Arnold Schoenberg. This piece, entitled *Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte*, is worth noting because a poem by Lord Byron of the same title was recited throughout the piece.

The Arditti Quartet played these pieces wonderfully. Their virtuosity and the excitement of the pieces themselves made for a most exhilarating evening. Stefan Litwin's piano playing was technically impressive, and tremendously expressive. Contemporary music has found a home in the Arditti Quartet.



Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants

Ed's Services
Box 3006
Boston, MA 02130

WUSB 90.1 FM

WUSB TOP 35

As Of 4/12/91

- 1) Hundley's Machine
- 2) The Feelies
- 3) TAD
- 4) ED OG & Da Bulldogs
- 5) Spaceman 3
- 6) Front 242
- 7) Dinosaur Junior
- 8) Dream Warriors
- 9) Lunachicks
- 10) Darkside
- 11) Lemonheads
- 12) Butt Thorn Park
- 13) Bongwater
- 14) Horseflies
- 15) Screaming Trees
- 16) Citizen Fish
- 17) The 3 60's
- 18) Jeff Dahl
- 19) Reality Inversion
- 20) Leaving Trains
- 21) 2 Nice Girls
- 22) Cocteau Twins
- 23) Jesus Jones
- 24) Naked Norm
- 25) Chickasaw Mudpuppies
- 26) Hallow Heyday
- 27) Southern Culture On Skids
- 28) Tony D
- 29) Dead Mutha Goose & Brothers Grim
- 30) Metal Flake Mother
- 31) Nova Mob
- 32) Naked City
- 33) Havanna 3 AM
- 34) Eleventh Dreamday
- 35) Betty Boo

Return Of The Dead



The Dead's Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Jerry Garcia, Bruce Hornsby

Eric Penzer

By Eric Penzer

Surrounded by the anticipation and intensity that usually characterizes a Grateful Dead concert, the band pulled into Long Island recently for three sold-out shows at Uniondale's Nassau Coliseum. Their Spring Tour had gotten underway 10 days earlier in

Landover, Maryland. The Landover shows (and the Albany shows that followed) saw the band in good form, and with high spirits. The one word that I would use to characterize the atmosphere surrounding the Nassau Coliseum on March 27, 28, and 29 is "anticipation."

This anticipation stemmed from different sources. First, although the Grateful

Dead have tried to break their "keyboard player curse" by enlisting the talents of both new-bandmember Vince Welnick and Bruce Hornsby, the latter was absent from both the Albany shows and the Nassau shows. Thus, many were wondering if Welnick would fulfill the role of keyboardist better than he had when he played (sans Hornsby) during several concerts on last year's Fall Tour.

Anticipation also grew around the question of exactly what the Dead would play at these shows. In Landover and Albany, the band played several songs that had not been heard by deadheads in recent years (or at all). "New Speedway Boogie," which re-debuted at the February Chinese New Year shows, had not been played since 1970. The song made its way into the first Landover show of the tour and the first Albany show. Landover also saw the debut of the Jerry Garcia Band's "Rubin And Cherise" (the song had never before been played by Grateful Dead). So, as the band made its way onto Long Island, the fans were rampant with breathlessness as to what was "up" in the song rotation.

The Grateful Dead's first concert, on March 27, began with a fairly standard first set. Highlights included a masterful version of Dylan's "Maggie's Farm" (on which the bandmembers alternated the lead vocals, even giving Welnick a verse!), and the deadhead favorite "Loose Lucy" (which re-debuted last Spring Tour after a 16 year hibernation). The set closed with "Rubin And Cherise," to the great approval of all in attendance. Set two, however, made the night much more than a concert. It is often said that you can tell how good a Grateful Dead concert is by only listening to Jerry Garcia's brilliant lead guitar work. Garcia opened the set with a version of "Scarlet Begonias>Fire On The Mountain" that was sparkling with energy (the energy being transmitted right from Garcia's fingers!). The band finished the set on much the same playing level, making the show one of the best Nassau Coliseum has ever seen.

March 28 proved to be perhaps the shortest Grateful Dead show I've ever witnessed. However, what the show lacked in length it made up for in quality. The first set was standard, featuring a very enjoyable "Bertha" opener, followed by "Greatest Story Ever Told." After a flawless "Loser," the band performed Weir's "Black-Throated Wind" (only the second New York area performance of the song in 15 years!). After a sweet "Ramble On Rose," the band closed the first set with a long, energetic "Let It Grow." The second set of the night was also very short, but featured great guitar playing on "Foolish Heart," and "China Doll." The night's encore was a surprising "Terrapin Station" ("Terrapin" had not been played as an encore since 1978).

The final show at the Coliseum began with a first set flawed by serious technical problems. During a rendition of Dylan's "When I Paint My Masterpiece," the PA emitted sounds that made thunder seem calm and soothing. The band decided not to chance a reoccurrence of the noise, and left the stage after "Masterpiece." The evening's second set featured "New Speedway Boogie," "Truckin'," and a hot "Other One" among other selections. The encore was a fitting one for the final Long Island show, the lullaby-like "Brokedown Palace."

Although the shows saw over 140 people arrested on some kind of drug charges, no arrests were made inside the arena itself (contrary to past Long Island Grateful Dead concerts where Nassau County Police pulled people out of their seats and arrested them for smoking a joint!). Aside from the tight security in and around the show, a good time was had by all present. The Grateful Dead played with great skill, and displayed a jovial disposition. In addition, they have, once again, proved that their music is built to last.

Making Love In The Sails Cocteau Twins in Concert

By Scott Skinner & Edward DeFellippis

After being concert-starved for so many weeks, we could scarcely control our jubulations at the thought of seeing Cocteau Twins in concert. Try as he might, Fred Preston was not going to stop us from attending this show.

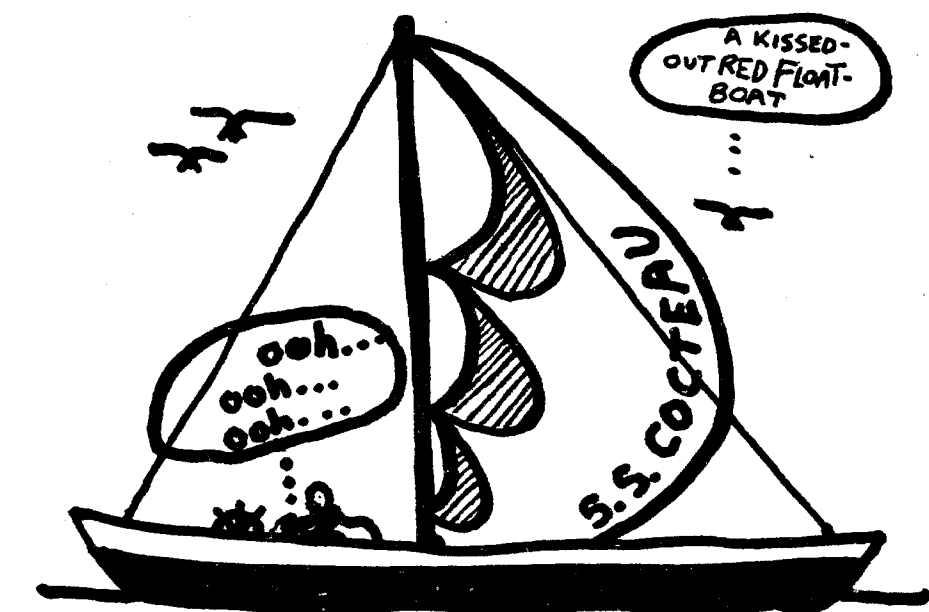
Roseland was a far cry better than the Ritz, Cocteau's previous concert site. While the Ritz was reminiscent of an ashtray, Roseland was extraordinary. The ceiling was a hypnotic array of sail-like stretched canvas, which provided a multi-faceted target for the lasers. The wide open dance floor was thoroughly accommodating, and tables were present for the weary. Overall, Roseland was a living, breathing sight of spacey elegance, an ideal setting for Cocteau.

After checking our coats downstairs, we mixed and mingled with the crowd. The general topics of discussion included sex, death, and the color black. For some strange reason, we got the impression that the bulk of the mass were newcomers. That may have been the reason why many chose to sit on the dance floor while waiting for the opening act. The oldtimers meanwhile chose to flaunt their alternative dance styles while enticing others to join them. Overall, the crowd was passive and retroflective. Although we could not see the sparks, somehow, somewhere, deep thoughts were being exchanged.

Galaxy 500 was the opening act, a neo-hippy ensemble in the classic gloomer-doomer tradition. Although they tried their damndest to depress us with their plodding twangy tunes, we were immune. After being concert-starved at Stony Brook for so long, we even found the blue coma riffs to be downright cheery. Although we didn't find anything particularly exceptional about Galaxy, we must admit that they were a good opening act.

The music of Cocteau has a wave-like chiming quality which bathes its listeners in a sonorous ocean. Elizabeth Fraser's voice does not merely soothe; it stimulates with its sensuous character. Her reciprocating warbles beckons one to passion. She appeared before the crowd with an air of confidence that was lacking at their Ritz performance. Missing was her breast-beating gyrations and manic-giddiness. Elizabeth wasted no time in weaving her first spell, "Blue Bell Knoll," with sublime clarity. The spell was cast, and the audience was mesmerized.

The set continued with the following songs: "From the Flagstones," "Lorelei," "Iceblink Luck," "Whales Tails" (Scott's favorite), "Cherry-coloured Funk," the extremely danceable "Pitch the Baby," "Road, River and Rail" (Ed's favorite), "Cico Buff," "Sugar Hiccough," "A Kissed Out Red Floatboat," "Ella Megalast Burls Forever,"

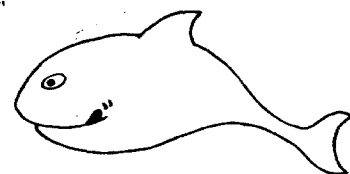


and "Heaven or Las Vegas." At this point, Cocteau abruptly left the stage, most probably for an ice-tea break. The encore featured "Pink, Orange and Red," followed by "Aikea-Guinea." Again, Cocteau took a brief recess and ended the show with "Loves Easy Tears."

Elizabeth's voice was well miked and perfectly mixed. Our main problem was that she would sometimes sing in a lower octave than was expected. Cocteau also had a slight problem with their mid-range bass, prompting a few shouted technical suggestions from various members of the audience. The sound levels hovered around 100 decibels, loud enough to satisfy without causing our ears to bleed. The light show was a beautiful complement to the band,

neatly filling in the bounds of the music without overpowering it. Softened lasers played across the stage and throughout the audience, accentuating the gentle washes of color which illuminated the background.

After Elizabeth fucked us silly with her voice, we very much desired to go home and have a good smoke. As she left the stage, we managed to catch her gaze for one brief delirious moment, a look which seemed to ask, "Was it as good for you as it was for me?"



Conversation With A True Blues Traveler

Interview Conducted By Eric Penzer

Blues Traveler's unique blend of rock and blues has earned them success nationwide. The band's self-titled debut release (on A&M Records) is rapidly growing in popularity, earning the band a cult-like following. Currently on tour in support of the record, drummer Brendan Hill took some time out of his busy schedule to talk with The Stony Brook Press.

Stony Brook Press: How would you describe your music to someone who's never heard Blues Traveler play?

Brendan Hill: I'd say it's blues influenced rock 'n' roll. Second generation rock 'n' roll, influenced by a lot of different players like Jimi Hendrix, Zeppelin, Grateful Dead, Santana, all those old groups that had that jamming style that we're really into, that improvisational style..

SBP: Why don't you tell us a little something about the band's history?

BH: We started in Princeton, New Jersey, where we all went to high school. 1987 was the first year we were all together, and that was also the year we graduated. Chan (Kinchla), Bobby (Sheehan), and myself graduated and moved to New York. John (Popper) was already there at the New School. I went to the New School for a year, Bobby went for a half a year. At that time we were all scrimping and saving, living in New York, with the occasional gig here and there.

SBP: The standard life of a struggling musician?

BH: (Laughs) Right! So, by the Spring of 1988, we started playing gigs a little more regularly. We got a regular gig at the Nightingale bar, every Monday night we'd play there. The word just got around. First, we started playing to nobody but the bartender, then we had friends from school come see us, and then word really started spreading around. We'd play for about four hours, four sets, just really experimental, all the songs we had done up to that point, and just writing new songs, going at it full-force. Then we started moving up, trying to find other gigs and make some more money. Then we moved up to the Wetlands scene in '89, in about October. We started playing there every Thursday night. By this time we'd have about four or five regular gigs, so we could fill up our month. We made pretty good money. It was about that time that a few record companies got interested in us. At that same time we got interest from Bill Graham Management. They said, if you go with us, we'll make sure you guys go where you want to go. So they helped us get the record contract, a pretty good one. And that's up to the signing point.

SBP: How long did it take you to record your album?

BH: It took about three weeks; one week to record the master tracks, one week of overdubs, and a week of mixing.

SBP: Was the change from playing to a live audience to playing in the studio a difficult change for the band?

BH: Actually, that was the one thing that we all talked about after the record was done, that it was a little bit too tight. We weren't

really putting out the energy we had live, and I think you have to do that on a record, even with our kind of music. We're not the greatest studio musicians because our main thing is live. I think the second album is going to get into the gritty performance we do live every night.

SBP: "But Anyway" has received a decent amount of airplay. Is this the strongest track on the album as far as you're concerned?

BH: "But Anyway" is a good one because it got a catchy melody. I think people really relate to that song. I really like "Crystal Flame" and "Sweet Talking Hippie." These are standards in our live show- they're all very powerful, and we change them every night.

SBP: How long have you been on tour in support of this record?

BH: Actually, since the record has been out, we've been on tour. It came out in September, we only had a couple of breaks. We did the Allman Brothers tour, 17 dates. Then we went out to Texas, Colorado, California- we've done that three times now since the records been out.

SBP: Do you feel the music has gone over as well in other geographic territories as it has in New York?

BH: Actually, we had a really good response in Colorado. We did 11 shows, and we sold them all out, which I think is about 6 or 7 thousand tickets. So I think that was great, to have such a good reaction from them. It was kind of like New York. People were dancing really hard, and getting into it, calling out tunes. And the same reaction was in Eugene,

Oregon. We had 1500 people come out there. I think it's due to a few factors, like the album, and other bands telling their fans about us, and also the Letterman show helped. I think all around the country it's pretty much the same.

SBP: Your live show has featured a lot of new songs. Are there plans for a new record?

BH: Actually, we're recording when we get back to New York. We have three more weeks on the road, then we're going to record the next album. We have about 12 songs now that we're going to record, and we have a couple of other ones in the works. We're going to take the best from those. We have been playing a lot of the new music live, so we can tighten them up for the studio.

SBP: Who are the principle songwriters in the band?

BH: Chan and John. Chan is the principle riff-writer in the band. He writes all the riffs.

SBP: Even the harmonica riffs?

BH: No, songs like "Gina," John just wrote the original riff and the words, and we all came in with the other parts. It's a very communal thing. Usually there's a riff written, and someone has an idea for all the parts. We just go through them. Then John sits down in another room and writes the lyrics.

SBP: I've heard one song based on characters in *The Jungle Book*; do the ideas for songs always come from such diverse sources?

BH: That was because it sounded like a sort of jungle rhythm. John just came up with this

up-beat melody. I don't know where he comes up with those ideas, but he does.

SBP: I was told that Blues Traveler had a small part in *The Doors* movie. What was the story behind that?

BH: Actually, it's gotten smaller and smaller. If you look really closely, you can see us in the background. We were gonna be in it; they were talking about us doing a song in it, like a groove during the San Francisco park scene.

SBP: Was that Bill Graham's doing?

BH: Yeah, that was Bill Graham. He was a major contributor to that movie, and he thought it would be really good if we were in the park. I think it just got lost on the cutting room floor.

SBP: What does the future hold for Blues Traveler?

BH: Well, we're just happy to be on the road as much as we are. Being able to go around the country and have new audiences all the time is really an asset for us. We're building our show so we can do a two and a half, three hour show. We've been doing 200-1500 seat places until now. I think next time around we'll do theaters, anywhere from 1000 to 2000 seat places.

SBP: I hope you'll keep playing the Wetlands!

BH: Yeah, the Wetlands will always be our home. I think we'll always play there.

Blues Traveler will be appearing at New York City's Roseland on April 12.

