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## WELCOME BACK

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# RSP Golf

by Shadia Sachedina

The time is 1:30, the place is the Residential Security office in O'Neill College. The phone shrills loudly. "Yeah," an impatient male voice comes over the telephone, "is your cab service working tonight? I wanna ride from Hendrix to Dreiser, and I need the car, my feet hurt." This is just one of several incidents that the Residential Security Program has had to contend with ever since the golf carts were introduced.

The Residential Security Program, or RSP as it is popularly called, has been in effect for approximately eight years. The program is designed to improve security around campus, and to provide a walk service to anyone who feels uncomfortable walking by him- or herself in the dark hours of the night. The summer of 1991 brought a huge change in the walk service system. Campus Residences purchased a golf cart to help out with the walks. This summer another golf cart was purchased. The success of these carts has been phenomenal. The carts have been responsible for taking up to 60 walks a night and have made RSP much more popular with students.

However the new "asset" to the program might very well have backfired. A number of students around campus have taken it upon themselves to use the cart as their personal "limo service" to get them from one end of campus to another.

One of the students who wanted a ride from the Union to Whitman was reported to have told the RSP employee that "the bus cost 50 cents, why should I take the bus when I can get a free ride?" Often students will call for a walk and ask if the cart is being used. If the cart is not working they very often hang up, just because they wanted a ride. At 9:45 pm one night a person requested a ride from O'Neill to South P Lot. "On the way there," an RSP employee remembers, "the commuter bus trailed right behind us heading toward the same destination."

When asked what he thought of students taking advantage of the service, Scott Law, the director of the

program, says, "the point of Walk Service is to provide safety and security. We can never really ascertain what the motives of the person calling may be. Whether it is for a free ride or not is not the issue. Ultimately it boils down to providing security. The students are paying for this service, therefore it is only right that they get what they paid for." Law did agree that students using the cart's

**"Hello, is your cab service working tonight? I want a ride..."**

services for reasons other than concern over their security was a realistic problem.

When asked what steps RSP might be taking to prevent incidents like that from occurring, Law said that walks that involved short distances would be done by a foot patrol. Longer walks, he maintained, would be done with the cart. "The cart has definitely helped the program," said Law, "it has cut down on waiting time for students who need a walk, and it has also allowed the patrol units to patrol the quads and secure the buildings around campus, rather than do walks."

Lisa Tracy, the coordinator for Roth and Tabler quads, was asked whether she thought the cart was more of a curse than an asset. "An asset most definitely," she says. "The amount of walks it has been able to do in one night is fantastic. However we are never going to be able to distinguish between which walks want to be walked because they want to be walked, or which walks want a ride because it saves them time, therefore we take all walks and we take them seriously."

Thus the cart goes out every night. "I wish every patrol unit had a cart," one RSP employee was heard to have mentioned wistfully. "Who knows? Maybe there will be one if RSP continues to enjoy the success it seems to be having [in keeping students safe]. Regardless of their motives and their lack of concern for their safety, we know that we have kept them safe."

"I think that getting the cart has been the smartest move RSP has made," says Tom Varghese, a resident of Hendrix College. "I think that they should extend their hours. The cart is really convenient. If you're drunk and you don't want to drive, the cart will definitely make sure that you get home safely."

Whatever the time of night, be it 3:00 am or 8:30 pm, Walk Service is in effect, and wherever you might be or wherever you want to go, RSP will get you there.

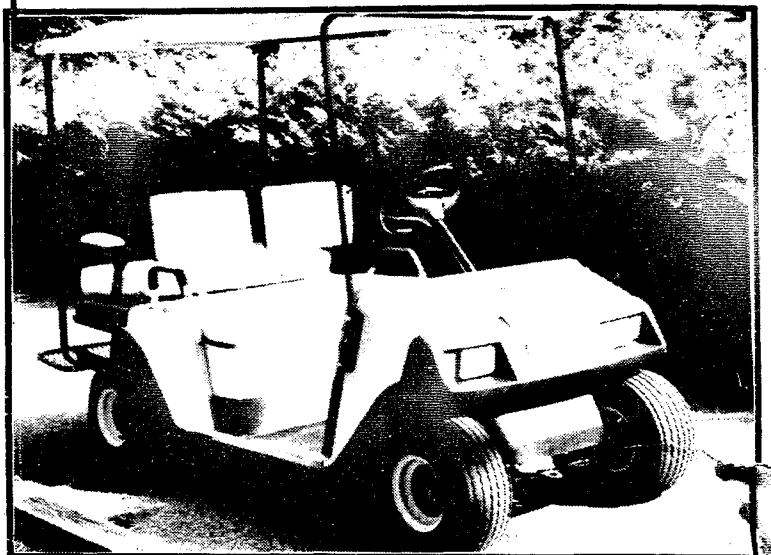


Photo: Jeni D

## Union Now, Union How?

By George Bidermann

By now most graduate student employees have heard that they actually *are* employees and are eligible to vote in a fall certification election for the Graduate Student Employees Union. The unanimous decision in July by five judges on New York State Supreme Court's Appellate Division ends an eight-year odyssey and establishes an important precedent for graduate students seeking to unionize at other universities. If the GSEU receives a majority of the votes cast by SUNY's teaching and graduate assistants, it will have unionized the first state university system in the country.

It hasn't been easy. Since December 1984, when the GSEU first sought recognition before the state's Public Employment Relations Board, SUNY has squandered hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal assistance, research, and lobbying efforts in order to delay the inevitable. At times, the small core of graduate students committed to fighting for a union has almost disintegrated as inertia set in. Lobbying and activism seemed to have no effect. At one point (1988-91), over three years passed before "pro-labor" Governor Mario Cuomo appointed new members to the deadlocked PERB board hearing the case. PERB's unanimous ruling last October should have settled it, but SUNY appealed again. Ten months later, the Supreme Court made SUNY cry "Uncle!"

SUNY now grudgingly admits that it will recognize graduate employees as state workers covered by New York's civil service law, and pledges neutrality in the upcoming certification election. If the GSEU wins, SUNY will be legally bound to come, even if it comes dragging its feet and pleading poverty, to the bargaining table. This process will lead to the first-ever contract for graduate student employees in the SUNY system. And if SUNY and its bargaining agent, the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER), refuse to bargain in good faith, an outside arbitrator can be brought in to settle the issues on which a compromise cannot be reached. That arbitrator's decision will stand, with both sides bound by law to accept it.

No wonder SUNY fought so hard and for so long. Believing and arguing that 4,000 employees should be denied decent wages, health insurance benefits, and job security just because they are students requires a monumental stretch of the imagination. It also requires a flexing of paternalistic muscles. SUNY administrators have no trouble using them to smother undergraduate students, but it's been much harder keeping graduate students in line (witness the 1987 strikes at Stony Brook, Tent City, Chapin rent strikes, grad students fasting for unionization, shutdowns of SUNY Trustees meetings). SUNY will now have to let go of its charges—whom it once compared to prison inmates, saying

employment status was secondary to incarceration, or registration—and watch as they decide, *democratically*, if their interests are best represented by a union.

Let's face it, the only reason SUNY fought against reason for so long is money. Not just the money it will cost SUNY to grant wage increases and health benefits now that these workers have a right to collective bargaining, but the money SUNY *saved* by delaying the inevitable for all these years. Graduate student employees completing their dissertations now, after five or six years of hard work, have been robbed of decent wages and health care—not to mention guarantees regarding length and conditions of employment—for the duration of their studies. SUNY has used that money to balance its budgets, grant raises to its administrators, provide free housing to its campus presidents and top officials, pay for shrubs and sod.... Grad students should not feel guilty about demanding fair wages and health insurance in a tight budget year.

Membership in the GSEU is growing by leaps and bounds as word of the upcoming election continues to get out. GSEU organizers at SUNY Albany signed up 85 new members—over 10% of Albany's total grad employees—in one day as grad employees picked up their first paychecks. At Stony Brook, the GSEU's organizers and coordinating committee have signed up almost 100 new members since orientation. Once graduate student employees have heard about the GSEU, its

platform, and its answers to key questions regarding strikes (not allowed under State law for civil service employees), statewide structure (four-member exec and two delegates per university center), and affiliation (with the Communications Workers of America), most are willing to sign pledge sheets, vote for the union, and wait to see how strong a contract the GSEU can deliver. Members will have to ratify the contract, again by a majority vote, before it becomes valid. Given this second "election," a union sure looks better than surviving on Ramen noodles and praying for a line next year.

The GSEU will be working in each department: to distribute information, sign up members, and answer questions before the election in late November. Graduate student employees must educate themselves about the benefits (and drawbacks, if any) of collective bargaining through the GSEU. When the ballots are sent out, graduate employees will have three choices: refuse to participate; vote "no" and fend for themselves; or vote "yes" and hope the power of the union will bring concrete improvements in their working conditions and compensation. For more information or to schedule a meeting with a GSEU member, call the GSEU at 632-7729 (office) or GSEU Vice President Marianthi Lianos at 928-4087.

*George Bidermann received his Masters' degree in English last May and is currently a GSEU organizer.*

# Conservatism: What Does it Mean?

by David Yaseen

Through the history of politics, when decisions must be made regarding the future direction of a society, two main divisions of opinion generally obtain—liberal and conservative. The difference between the two has to do with ideas about the role of government and the attitude of the leadership toward change. On one side, there are liberals, or progressives, who feel that as times change, so should the character and policies of the nation. On the other, there are the conservatives, who do not feel that change is necessarily a good thing, and that the interests of the state are best served by stability. They are in favor of the self-regulation of citizens instead of government social initiatives, either through privately held traditions, religions, or lifestyles.

This characterization is overly broad, however. There are at least four major separate types of conservatism in this country, and each of them has its own constituency, goals, and beliefs. In presidential elections, in which the candidates are chiefly distinguished by their differences along the axis of liberal vs. conservative, the two positions tend to become blended together within the persons of the candidates and in the platforms of their parties. Because of this, it is important to know how the party is divided, and from what influences the tendencies of Conservatism are drawn.

**1. Political conservatism**—Basically this refers to the idea that government should be as small and unintrusive as possible.

Solutions to the nation's problems should be implemented through mild government action upon the forces of the society and economy, not by direct governmental intervention (i.e., agencies and domestic spending programs). Whenever possible, the governmental guidance upon the society is through subtle, unrestrictive legislation and feeling (generally some mild form of patriotism or nationalism) that improves the "character" of the nation and the efficiency of its people and enterprises through some democratic will of its own. Our political problems are, to a conservative, the result of the deleterious effect of misguided intervention that has misspent the country's money and sapped the ideals that work naturally in a less-governed people.

**2. Economic conservatism**—Nowadays the idea of supply-side economics, a kind of reverse communism, tends to be at the core of conservative economic thinking. Keynesian ideas, for instance that stimuli can be applied to the market from the federal treasury to insure growth and strength, are at the center of their policies. While the idea that less government is better is the standard conservative line, reducing the involvement or scope of the federal banking and insurance agencies is not among their priorities. Regulations upon business are seen as bad because they reduce investment and make it more difficult for companies to make money. For this reason, conservatives often oppose regulatory bills that aim at conserving or improving the environment. Conservatives

believe in the good of technological advancement, and generally still feel that we are advancing toward the ideal state through better living.

**3. Foreign policy conservatism**—The maintenance of global stability is of utmost importance, and it should be more or less actively sought. Military aid to countries that we favor is freely given. Usually, our foreign policy is guided by the principle of protecting stability through balance of power. Especially of late, with the influence of James Baker, we have tried to be "value-neutral," more and more rejecting humanitarian concerns as a rationale for action in favor of the economic or other "vital interests." Our influence upon world affairs is maintained best by a strong military. Although the Cold War is over, the United States' government investment in other countries has not declined much, if at all. Diplomacy is active and systematic, with recourse to military action to preserve the "new world order."

**4. Social conservatism**—This once meant that people were happy with the way that things were, and that influences that are "nontraditional" or "disruptive" should be actively worked against and their ways of doing things promoted. In the United States today, however, the conditions espoused by social conservatives are not those of the present, but those that they remember from the past. Listening to them, one might think that not only were those "values" (a charged term that invites confusion) the ones according to which actions were judged, but that things were better because people actually adhered to them. They wish for some form of social retrogression because they believe that the shift of values in this country is responsible for our problems, and not an effect of them. Basically, the idea is to increase governmental control over presently discretionary areas of life, such as sexuality, abortion, and drug use, based largely upon what they consider to be Christian ideals.

In political campaigns, conservatives usually appeal to the public's fear of change and the unknown. Through limiting changes of philosophy or governmental tendencies, they believe that nature will take its course (and perhaps God will do his duty) so that we will be better off. They champion the case of the capitalist as the center of the economy and the wellspring from which all wealth flows. The word "God" is thrown about a lot, because Christianity is central to social conservatism as the system upon which our morality and conduct should be based. Conservatives make themselves the party of nostalgia as well; social conservatism appeals to older voters with images of "the good old days," and down-home (neighborhood, family, etc.) values. Finally, they make sure that the military is good and strong because being powerful can be very useful.

Conservatism as a national political phenomenon is an agglomeration of these individual kinds of conservatism. People who consider themselves to be

conservatives generally have strong feelings in one of the above-listed areas of policy, often disagreeing with the party line on other issues. For example, many people who disapprove of governmental involvement in the lives of citizens do not agree with the social conservative idea that people should be coerced into at least lip-service to the old values. However, through the influence of the rhetoric of past campaigns and the ways of thinking that they have fostered, people who identify themselves as being on that side of the political spectrum often bow to political expediency by accepting those of their party's positions with which they do not agree to get their candidate elected.

Alone, these different kinds of conservatism are internally consistent and, to a large degree rational, ways to deal with and explain political problems. Combined, they present problems of coherency of policy. Economic and political conservatives try to reduce spending and taxes while the foreign-policy and social segments push to increase funding for their programs.

The rich, who rightly perceive that they stand little in need of the protection of the government, and who are the major beneficiaries of business and the market, are naturally in favor of political and economic conservatism. Because their economic interests are often tied to events in other countries, they are often proponents of conservative foreign policy as well.

Many middle-class and poor working folks do not interest themselves overmuch with the workings of business, except to recognize that what is good for the companies that they work for is generally good for them. So, while the interests of business are not likely to be among their passionate concerns, they can be convinced to put their votes in that direction. They are not naturally interested in the ideals of political conservatism, except for the idea that less government means less taxes. The primary interest of middle-class conservatives is in social conservatism. Large segments of the middle class in this country are very religious, and many have been adversely affected by the economic changes that have occurred in this country in the last few decades. In addition, most of them do not begin to understand the mechanisms that are working to their financial detriment, and identify their lower standard of living with the more visible cultural changes that have taken place from the 1960's to the present.

Since the changes that they see seem negative to them, they favor anything they think will foster stability, as represented currently by older ways of doing things, the paternal influence of religion, and tough, punitive law enforcement. Because ignorance and prejudice are easy standpoints from which to attack complex problems, lifestyles and sensibilities that are not anchored to tradition can be derided as "weird" and "dangerous." Anyone who points to the problems of this country and calls for major changes can be labeled un-American and anti-patriotic. A

belief in the underlying goodness of America is a favorite doctrine of conservatism.



Those at the head of conservative politics in this country are mostly business and religious leaders, each with reasons for his/her political orientation. Those in business like economic and political conservatism because their policies will lower taxes for companies and give them more freedom of action. The churches like social conservatism because they believe that government sponsorship of their positions will give them greater influence. What most political conservatism amounts to is not ideological in principle, but is rather a play for political and economic power.



# U.S. Government

## Part One:

The war and genocide in Bosnia has finally forced American public opinion to focus its attention to a region whose history and culture have previously been completely obscure even to the otherwise Eurocentric American intelligentsia. As an ironical consequence, in addition to being exposed to horrible sufferings, the South Slavonic peoples have also suffered through a thorough denigration campaign by the mainstream media in this country. With all due respect for the critical reasoning of an average Stony Brook Press reader, it is reasonable to assume that, in the absence of other sources, he has not detected the misrepresentations contained in the ad hoc history lessons delivered by the omniscient columnists and popular "experts" of various provinces (from Henry Kissinger to George Will). In consequence, if this article started in medias res, it would almost certainly be dismissed as just another conspiracy theory—what else could possibly be expected from an author unable to introspect his own "blindedness by age-old hatred"? In order to neutralize such an effect, it seems pertinent to begin this article with quotations of some of those very few and isolated voices in American media that express opinions not based on simple transmissions of current stereotypes and indulgence in feelings of cultural and intellectual superiority.

Strobe Talbot, the Time Magazine, 8/24/92: It is tempting for Westerners to regard the barbarism they see on the front pages as something all too natural in far-away countries of which they know little. The breakdown of the public order can happen in the West too. ...In the Balkans, more important than the legacy of ancient quarrels is recent experience: 45 years of intercommunal harmony in Bosnia, where Serbs, Croats and Slavic Muslims lived together in close to a model of tolerance and pluralism. What ruined it all was arrival on the scene of an essentially external force: Greater Serbian imperialism.

Patrick Glynn, The New Republic, 8/31/92: Bush has pursued a foreign policy at odds with that of his predecessor. At the heart of the contrast is the role of ideology or principle in American foreign policy. ... Bush has returned instead a value-neutral managerialism in the foreign policy reminiscent of the Nixon-Kissinger years (the policy toward Bosnia, for example, has been heavily shaped by two former Kissinger aides, national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger). The watchword of the administration has been "stability", and in the avowed service of stability the moral principles have been all too obviously sacrificed. The most conspicuous examples were the reluctance to penalize China for the Tiananmen Square massacre, the resistance to aiding Kurds slaughtered by Saddam Hussein's army after the Gulf War, and the refusal to differentiate between emerging democratic

and despotic forces in collapsing Yugoslavia. The ironic consequence is that in none of these cases, particularly Iraq and Yugoslavia has the objective of stability been served. (Author's note: This is the differentia specifica, or the crucial distinction, of Kissinger's ultimate pragmatism or neopragsmatism, as opposed to classical pragmatism.)....The devaluation of ideas and principles—those vital intangibles in Democratic foreign policy, has had three consequences for the administration. First, it has led to serious miscalculation—most conspicuously in the Balkans, where Bush tilted toward aggressive Serbia until such a stance became preposterous.

But it was the war in Bosnia that changed the game. Bosnia was a natural issue for Democrats. Democratic thinking about foreign policy has always tended to be driven more by principle than by pragmatic calculation (or miscalculation, note of the author). In a sense, Clinton's stance on Bosnia is in tradition reaching back to Franklin Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.... Clinton's Bosnian stance has enormous electoral value.... It also forecloses the kind of campaign that Bush used so effectively against Dukakis... Gore has played a pivotal role in the transformation....As long ago as last winter, Gore prophetically accused the Bush administration of pursuing "appeasement" vis-a-vis Serbia. Gore most perfectly embodies the Democratic evolution away from the Vietnam syndrome.

Jeri Laber (executive director of Helsinki Watch, the US-based human rights group), interview on the nightly "The World Today" program, CFRB, Toronto, 8/12/92: ...everything in our reports is carefully documented; we don't spend a day finding out about something, we spend weeks and weeks.... What has been hard to do is to get the world to focus... on the enormity of crimes that have been perpetrated in that area.... In Croatia, when the conflict was at its height, I heard over and over again "well, it's an ethnic struggle, what can we do, these people have been fighting each other for years and we just have to let them fight it out between themselves." Well, that just isn't true. Number one, it isn't true that they've been necessarily fighting each other for years, they've all lived close to half a century in relative peace and harmony, and number two, it hasn't been an equal struggle of one group against another,

it has been a carefully calculated attempt, through propaganda and manipulation, by the president of Serbia and his cohorts, to stir up ethnic hostilities, fears, angers, and to set off this kind of explosion that we've seen, which, after a while, really... becomes virtually unstoppable.

...although we have found serious abuses by all parties to this conflict, the Serbians are by far the greater offender, according to our research.... we identify nine people: we start at the top, with Mr. Milosevic, and we also name the head of the (Serbian, note of the author) army, both the former head

and the present head, the heads of several (Serbian) paramilitary groups who have been active both in Croatia and in Bosnia. We also ask that the Croatian (local) authorities, who are responsible for a massacre of at least 23 Serbs in the town of Gaspic in late 1991, should also be investigated as war criminals. so that we are calling for an investigation by both sides in the conflict.

...Well, as a human rights organization, it's beyond our mandate to dictate or even suggest how these things should be accom-

plished...But if the UN has to face it, it has to face it squarely. It has to stop beating around the bush, refusing to acknowledge, even suppress, information about what has happened. ...Well, I would suggest that if the United States government — God knows we testified before the Congress, we made those suggestions, we made them years ago—had faced up to what was happening, at the time that it first became apparent, the things that they're doing now — if they had been done years ago—might have had some deterrent effect. We were advocating more than a year ago that there be an embargo on Serbia, a severe trade and arms embargo, but by the time the embargo was finally placed, it was in effect too late. The problem is that, speaking of the United States government now, it held on to the belief that Yugoslavia had to hold together no matter what. And long after it became clear to most of us watching the situation that it wasn't going to hold together, the US government was still trying to support the federal government in Yugoslavia (Eagleburger's and Scowcroft's adherence to Kissinger's neopragsmatism) and trying to discourage human rights criticisms (The federal government was under almost complete control of the Serbian government, and essentially served only the purpose of legalizing Serbia's attempts

to topple the governments of other republics and abolish their autonomy). We, at that time, were trying to hold the federal government responsible along with the government of Serbia, that people in the province of Kosovo (Albanian majority) were being viciously suppressed under martial law by the Serbian army, but no one wanted to talk about that at that time. Suppose there had been a trade embargo then, suppose that all credits were cut off—then maybe Milosevic would have gotten the message that he couldn't get away with this. But instead, nobody did anything, nobody did anything in Croatia, and by the time Bosnia came along it may very well be too late to use many of the peaceful measures that could have stopped this violence.

Sun-Sentinel, 8/15/92, page 12A: US intelligence reports have concluded that thousands of Muslims and Croats throughout Bosnia were being summarily executed or dying from beatings and other atrocities by Serbian forces.... "there is no question that there have been horrible atrocities, thousands of deaths", a US official said.

...These conclusions were passed on to Bush in his daily intelligence briefings, an official said.

...But the administration has withheld details of its findings, portraying its reports from the Balkan conflict as anecdotal and inconclusive, often no more complete than news reports from the region. ...Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, could not be reached to explain why Bush did not speak out on Serb atrocities reported by the intelligence community. ... While Secretary of State James A. Baker III at one point had referred to the "humanitarian nightmare" neither he nor other administration officials in public had turned the world spotlight on Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic and the extent of the atrocities.

## WHAT SHAPED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION?

The sharp contrast between the sources quoted above and the mainstream media can be seen already in titles like "Lesson in history of torture and hatred" (Newsday, 8/10/92) and "Bedeviled by ethnicity" (George Will, Newsweek, 8/24/92). This flood of a priori consistent, uniform, relatively simple (and often simplistic) presentations is, of course, to a considerable extent merely a reflection of an already existent firm belief on the part of the American public opinion that wars in Croatia, Bosnia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia have all broken out as a consequence (exclusively!) of a sudden release of ethnic passions and hatreds accumulated during the period of the communist rule.

Thus it is natural to ask the question about the origins of this theory and whose interests it serves best. In this connection, the obvious first step would be a comparison of the interests of the administration and of the Democratic opposition. The next step would be, clearly, an analysis of the



# Role in Bosnia

initial reactions to the chaos in the East (more precisely, in Central and Eastern Europe) expressed in the statements of various officials and political leaders. Finally, it would be desirable to carry out the very complex, virtually impossible, analysis of the links between political establishment and media, and to examine whether it was possible for a political party to plant its own (mis)interpretation of events in the East. (It goes without saying that this last task is far beyond the scope of this article. However, it is not unreasonable to conjecture that the party in power at the time of explosion in Yugoslavia (June last year) was more influential in shaping the American public opinion; it should be born in mind that at that moment the same party was also generally considered much more likely to remain in power.)

It is undeniable that it was in the administration's interest for the dominant bedeviled-by-ethnicity-theory to be promoted: according to this theory the present chaotic situation in some Eastern European countries was an inevitable undesired side-effect (of a local character and thus relatively small importance) of the all-important American "victory in the cold war". (The very term "victory" is clearly intended to ascribe in a subtle way even the merits for the fall of communism to the present and previous administrations. It certainly has served this purpose, regardless of how preposterous it sounds when spelled out.) In consequence, this theory is perfectly consistent with the assertions of a perfectly conducted foreign policy and optimal promotion of American strategic interests in these fateful years.

As for the initial reactions of prominent politicians to the war in Croatia and Bosnia, suffice it to say that in one of his first public comments on this issue (or the very first, to the best of the author's knowledge) in June this year (that is, precisely one year after the ethnic cleansing and genocide started in Croatia!!) the American President spoke of "age-old ethnic hatreds", and that last November Mr. Eagleburger explained to the audience of McNeil-Lehrer News Hour that Serbians and Croats have been fighting each other for centuries, and that they are again "intent on killing each other", so the West should just wait until they become exhausted.

## THE MISINFORMATIONS UNDERLYING THE "BEDEVILED-BY-ETHNICITY-THEORY"

Of the five wars raging presently (with variable intensity) in Central and Eastern Europe, at least two, namely the Serbian-Croatian and the Serbian-Bosnian war, can not be explained using the theory so persistently perpetuated and elaborated to perfection in American and, fortunately to a significantly lesser extent, in British and French media. Bearing in mind that those two wars are the fiercest ones, and that it was the Serbian-Croatian war which inflamed the whole region, it becomes clear

the only useful purpose of that theory could be a cover-up for the incredible blunders, which resulted from the applications of the (above mentioned) Kissinger's curious version of pragmatism in the vacuum created by the fall of communism.

In order to refute the consistency of the ethnicity theory, it suffices to point out how drastically distorted its underlying historical premises are. (Incidentally, the objective facts are not even controversial, at least those regarding the pre-WWII history. The simplest way to verify them is to leaf through Encyclopedia Britannica.)

The present day antagonisms in the Western Balkans are by no means age-old hatreds. On the contrary, the past antagonisms have, by coincidence, turned into present-day alliances, and vice versa. (The readers not interested in the distant history and prepared to take this assertion on faith should probably skip most of the remainder of this section.) Although the boundary between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism indeed separated Serbians from Croats and medieval

Bosnians (who, most likely, had the Croatian identity), the two religions coexisted in relative harmony—there have been no major Serbian-Croatian wars before the twentieth century. Actually, the Bosnians gradually abandoned Roman Catholicism and accepted a peculiar Christian heresy ("bogumilstvo" — literally in Slavonic "God-pleasing religion") under the influence of their eastern neighbors. (According to some authors, the bogumil tradition was later transferred to Bohemia and played the role of a precursor to protestantism.) This provoked crusades against Bosnia (principally by Hungarians, not Croats!) just prior to the Turkish invasion, and this in turn resulted in an en masse conversion of Bosnians to Islam when the Turks appeared on their borders. Consequently, the recent far fetched exaggerations in American media of the Catholic — Orthodox antagonism are totally unfounded. (Interestingly enough, their only possible source in literature could be the scribblings of the completely marginal Croatian fascist ideologues. It seems that the only comprehensive Croatian history translated into English is such a book written by S. Guldescu. Being a Croatized member of a very tiny Romanian minority in Croatia, he spends an enormous effort in the introduction to prove the assertion that Croats

are a mixture of various, but exclusively non-Slavonic (sic!), peoples, and thus their linguistic similarity (almost identity) with Serbians is just an unfortunate irony of history. It is quite possible that for many American pseudohistorians this pseudo-book is the principal source for Croatian history!

The principal antagonism in the past was naturally between Muslims (Turkish, Albanian and Bosnian) and Christians in general (both Catholic and Orthodox). (By contrast, these days, as the reader is probably aware, the Orthodox Serbians are waging war against a loose coalition of Catholic Croats and Muslim Bosnians.) For a few centuries, there existed even an informal Croatian-Serbian alliance in the incessant wars against the Turks: while a small Croatian army took part in the fateful Kosovo battle on the Serbian side, the Serbian refugees (the ancestors of Serbians in Croatia) contributed about half of the population of the "Croatian military border" (Hrvatska Krayina) towards Turkey and thus contributed greatly, although not deci-

sively, (as alleged by modern day Serbian nationalists) to the successful defense of Croatia. The skeptical readers (who might ascribe this claim to the author's education in the "brotherhood and unity" spirit in communist Yugoslavia) will definitely change their mind if they read the booklet "Ribanye i ribarsko prigovaranye" ("Fishing and Fishermen's Tales") written by 16-th century Croatian nobleman and famous poet Petar Hektorovich from the Croatian island of Hvar. (Besides organizing the defense of the island against the Turks, Hektorovich was also one of the founders of the Theatre of Hvar — the first European theatre since the ancient times.) The poet spends a week with two fishermen while they sail among the Dalmatian islands and records their conversations on various topics: from fishing techniques to folk songs. For our purposes the most valuable testimony is that of the fishermen singing the Serbian folk epic (besides similar Croatian epics, of course) "Kraljevich Marko i brat mu Andriyas" which celebrates a famous Serbian hero in the war against Turks. The sense of solidarity in the common existential struggle against the Turks is also seen in the fact that the fishermen were able to reproduce the epic in pure Serbian language, although their Croatian dialect was essentially different. (In other

words, Serbian was for them a distinctly foreign language, although intelligible.

The careful readers with firm convictions about the credibility of the President's argument regarding age-old hatreds will probably say at this point: even when one accepts that in the past Croats were not waging war against Serbians, but rather against their present-day allies, namely Bosnian Muslims, there could still remain the Serbian-Muslim antagonism as a constant of the Balkan history. But a careful analysis would show that the ancestors of precisely those Serbians which are now, for the second time in this century, mercilessly slaughtering and cleansing the Muslims, for three centuries served in the Turkish armies along with Bosnian Muslims in the bloody wars against Croatia. (At the same time the Serbian on the other side of the Croatian-Turkish border took part in the defense of Croatia, as mentioned before.) Indeed, the heaviest concentration of Serbians in Bosnia is, paradoxically, in the Western part, close to Croatian border. Before the Turkish invasion this region used to be an integral part of Croatia (which then had a much more logical shape). The Turks gradually conquered that mountainous area in fierce battles against Croats, who greatly slowed down the Turkish advance in Europe. (This conquest lasted 70 years!) In consequence of these battles and conquest, there was a huge exodus of the Croatian population from this area (mostly to NiederOestereich and Burgenland; if there had been no assimilation it is estimated that the number of Croats in Austria would be about 2 m, just like the number of Serbians in Bosnia). Since at that time the principal Turkish enemy were the Roman Catholics rather than the vanquished Orthodox Christians, the Serbians were seen as reasonably reliable subjects, and in consequence they were brought to the depopulated region, which was organized into the "Bosnian (or Turkish) military border" ("Bosanska Krayina") towards Croatia. Half a century later (after 1578), the Croats organized their military border after the same model, and many of the Serbians in Turkish service switched sides and took part in defense of Croatia. It is interesting to note that in Bosnia in the first two centuries of Turkish rule Croats were more severely prosecuted than Serbians (for reasons explained above), so that their number was reduced to only 20,000 in 17th century. Thus the theory of an age-old animosity between Serbians on the one side, and Croats and Muslims on the other, does not square with, and is even diametrically opposite to well-known historical facts.

*Darko Mrakovcic is a graduate student in the Department of Mathematics of SUNY Stony Brook, and is a native of Croatia.*

**PART 2 OF "THE U.S. ROLE IN BOSNIA" WILL RUN NEXT ISSUE.**

# The Fourth Estate:



Welcome back, Stony Brook. Although I would much rather be sitting on a beach on the South Shore overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, three beautiful women gently fanning me with big palm leaves, sipping from a cool Guinness beer...where was I, oh welcome back. For you freshman, relax. Although the campus may be big, you have four years to explore it. And for all you super-seniors, hey...this could be the year. Before you spend all your money at the EOB and the Checkmate, there are a couple of things we have to consider for the fresh start this Fall.

Think about this: What are the three most important things President Bush has done for you the last four years? He is surely not the education President, although he does have a education. He is not the environmental President; that much we learned in Rio. He has certainly not done much for the war on drugs, unless the Iraqis were planning a huge opium factory instead of a nuclear bomb. Lastly, he is surely not the one to get us out of this recession with his "secret plan." Gee, where have I heard that before?

Speaking of elections, the race for New York Senator is pretty easy. Although the official democratic nominee will be chosen next week,

I'll vote for any person besides Al D'Amato. Although I prefer Liz Holtzman over the others, it really doesn't matter that much; D'Amato needs a break from public life. When you vote this year, vote for the candidate that will help you. Not voting at all because both choices are utterly despicable is not a solution. If you were on a desert island, and really thirsty, and the only choice you had was a prune juice shake or Diet Chocolate Cow real imitation chocolate drink, you would still choose one of them.

A little closer to home, let's start thinking about our own Stony Brook government officials. Let us be calmly reminded that our own Student Polity Association officers raised their stipends this year, while the rest of us were on the beach. Those except for Jerry Canada, that is. Try to attend a Polity Senate meeting this year to see the action live.

We have yet to see the aftershock of the budget cuts. Let's hope that the tremors don't rattle us too much.

And let us also hope that the raise in our Activity Fee does not get wasted on other people getting private funds for better living. Let us make sure that there are some concerts this year, unlike last spring. That money belongs to you. There is

no reason why at the end of the year, all club accounts should have their remaining unspent funds taken away and put into a general fund, to be lost forever in the bureaucracy of Stony Brook. If the general fund is supposed to be spent by you, the students and club members, then just keep it in the clubs' accounts. How much more direct can that be.

Also think of this: The renovation of Hendrix looks very successful. Jimi would be proud. The dormitory is the first of its kind, and a role model for the others to follow. At the rate of one per year, it will only take 23 more years for complete renovation. Let's have a campus where we can be guaranteed cold water in the summer and hot water in the winter, not the other way around. By then, they'll be driving Winnebagos to the moon.

Of course, it takes a lot more than consistent dread of the issues for any thing to get done. It does, however, take involvement. Get involved in what's going on campus. How do you start. First, you read this paper. Winner of the first annual Charles Montgomery Burns Award for Achievement in the Field of Excellence. Vote in the November election, either from campus, your home or by absentee ballot. Make things happen this fall.

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## LETTERS

Dear Sir,

The most important of issues has received scant attention by the press and only lip service from Bill Clinton. It has been obfuscated by George Bush. That issue is the inequitable distribution of wealth in the United States.

The proximal cause of this inequity is a tax system where the top income tax-bracket is the same rate for a person making \$50,000 per year as it is for a person making \$50,000,000 per year. The top tax-bracket for families making over \$50,000 per year is 34%. But why is it bad for an athlete, entertainer or executive earning \$1,000,000 dollars per year to pay the same income-tax rate as a family that is just able to pay a mortgage?

Families making \$50,000 per year can't significantly invest in America. We need investment from those making millions of dollars. George Bush correctly notes that if we reduce capital-gains taxes (i.e. taxes on proceeds of business ventures, profits from the stock market, etc...) which also stand at 34%, then the wealthy people in this country will have an incentive to take some investment risks as opposed to buying risk-free treasury bonds. But the net result of this is that the wealthy people will end up paying a lower tax-rate than middle or perhaps even lower-middle class Americans. Is this fair?

In 1980, Reagan began reducing taxes on the wealthy—the top tax bracket was gradually reduced from 70% to its current rate of 34%. In the decade of the 1980's 77% of the wealth generated over the decade went to 1% of the families. I think there is a correlation. This also appears to be a major cause of our federal deficit, inner-city poverty and those crimes of apathy and frustration that Bush has brilliantly camouflaged as a "drug problem"—nothing could be further from the truth.

A more fair solution to the problem, and one that would decrease the federal deficit (rather than increase it), would be to gradually increase the tax rate on income in excess of \$100,000 per year. I think a 40% tax rate on income over \$200,000 and a 50% tax rate on income over \$500,000 would be quite equitable. It would produce an incentive to investment in that a capital gains tax rate of 34% becomes attractive to those who can most afford to invest.

While this seems obvious to me, the populace appears to be totally ignorant and/or apathetic to the problem. When I suggest taxing the rich, people often say that it wouldn't raise that much in taxes. But it would raise at least hundreds of millions of dollars, particularly when one considers all the Fortune 500 company executives that pull in salaries ranging from \$10 million to \$80 million dollars per year. People then respond by saying that

the rich will find loopholes. Then let's change ONLY the incremental tax rate for incomes over \$100,000 and nothing else. The rich (like us) are already taking full advantage of any tax-relief that they can get; let the IRS do its job. But then, everyone tells me that wealth will flow out of the US. (It almost seems that some magical public relations company has brainwashed the populace of the U.S. into a love-affair with the wealthy!)

But will the wealth leave the U.S.? Wrong!! The top tax-bracket EVERYWHERE else in the industrialized world is higher than the U.S. It ranges from 50% to 80% in Western Europe and Japan. A 50% top tax-bracket is still a bargain and the 34% capital-gains rate now becomes a super-bargain—an excellent incentive to spur job-creation. The wealthy can find lower tax-rates only by taking the higher risks, e.g. of political turmoil, associated with developing and third-world nations.

But is it FAIR to tax the wealthy more? Consider the best-concealed and most hideous legacy of the 1980's—the Reagan-Bush catastrophe. That legacy is the fact that American taxpayers PAY TAX TO THE RICH, each year and every year, in the current amount of \$360,000,000,000 per year. Yes, that figure is correct: \$360 BILLION dollars per year, from us to the rich. That figure reflects our current annual interest payments on the total federal deficit which is at \$4 trillion dollars

and rising. Nearly all of this deficit was produced during the 1980's (all but about \$0.3 trillion); during the time when taxes on the rich were dramatically cut, during the time when 77% of the wealth generated in the U.S. went to 1% of the families. So now you and I and 120 million other taxpayers pay 360 billion dollars each year to the rich, to those people who own treasury bonds and bills. Were people in the U.S. capable of doing simple math, they'd realize that this works out to each of us paying about \$3000 per year to the rich people to the rich people in this country; perhaps to maintain their yachts for a few months. If students here at Stony Brook learn nothing else this fall, I hope they read and understand this letter. Because we're all going to be paying hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes to the wealthy people in this country for years and probably for decades to come. We need to take action now.

Donald M. O'Malley, Ph.D.  
p.s. I can be reached at 2-8690 or via mail to Don O'Malley, Dept. of Neurobiology, SUNY at Stony Brook.

## Along The Color Line:

## Bottom-Up Democracy

In the land of "free enterprise" and consumerism, citizens can freely express themselves in every avenue, except for politics. We can choose between a dozen different brands of toilet tissue at the supermarket, but we are stuck with two "brand Xs" when we enter the voting booth. As the recent collapse of the Ross Perot campaign illustrates, efforts to challenge the system from the outside are difficult to organize. Yet can we really claim to be a "democracy" when an entrenched political class is able to reelect itself from special interest contributions, and when the alternative views of millions of people are suppressed by archaic, oppressive election laws?

Despite Perot's failure, other more progressive challenges to the system are continuing. In Vermont, a political revolt has been brewing against the two-party establishment for more than a decade. In 1981, independent socialist Bernie Sanders won election as mayor of Burlington, the state's largest city. After four terms as mayor, the popular politician ran for Congress and was only narrowly defeated. But in 1990, Sanders triumphed over the Republican incumbent by 16 percentage points. For the first time in four decades, an independent progressive outside the bipartisan mainstream was sent to Congress, and stands an excellent chance of reelection.

Sanders' success has led to other progressive victories in Vermont. Peter Clavelle, another independent progressive, has been elected as Burlington's mayor. Two other progressives who had been serving on Burlington's city council were elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1990. This ferment on the left has am was sent to Congress, and stands an excellent chance of reelection.

Sanders' success has led to other progressive victories in Vermont. Peter Clavelle, another independent progressive, has been elected as Burlington's mayor. Two other progressives who had been serving on Burlington's

city council were elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1990. This ferment on the left has crystallized into a movement for a new statewide party. Last January, a steering committee was formed which hopes to launch the "Vermont Progressive Party" in 1993. The new party-in-process promises to fight for "universal health-care reform, progressive tax reform, public commitment to jobs, women's rights and environmental issues."

We have to be willing to reform the electoral rules in order to increase our political alternatives. And the best method of increasing our alternatives is through "proportional representation." In this country, we usually have "winner-take-all" elections, in which the person who receives 51 percent of the votes receives the electoral seat. What about the 49 percent of the voters whose views aren't being addressed or even heard?

In a proportional representation election, voters could rank the candidates according to their order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.) and the top candidates would be elected. We could consolidate Congressional districts into multimember districts, which would greatly increase the probability of electing more women and people of color. Politically divisive runoff elections would be avoided under the proportional representation (PR) system. And countries which use the PR voting system have much higher voter turnout rates.

The chief impact of adopting proportional representation would be to promote the rise of new third parties, challenging the Democrats and Republicans. The key reason is that the threshold of victory in a three-member district would be much less than one-half of the total vote. Lowering the threshold for election would mean that progressives and the black and Latino communities which have become disillusioned by the two-party system would have a much easier time getting their candidates elected to Congress.

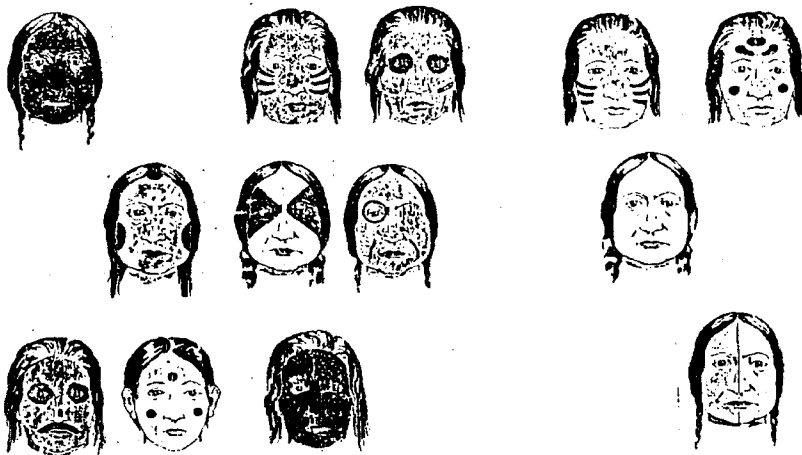
PR is sometimes criticized as being too time-consuming to tally, and too complicated for the average voter to comprehend. But optical scanner equipment, like that used to check prices in supermarkets, could quickly record PR votes. And PR would create a powerful incentive for millions of new voters to turn out for the first time.

The most outstanding African-American example of independent politics is provided by African-American leader Ron Daniels of Ohio. In his "project New Tomorrow," Daniels has brought together a wide range of Black and progressive formations, dedicated to the goal of constructing "an independent third force in American politics, utilizing an independent presidential campaign in '92 as a major catalyst." Daniels is campaigning for President on a progressive platform, to challenge the reactionary politics of Bush-Quayle and the increasingly conservative politics of Clinton-Gore. By traveling across the nation, speaking at hundreds of community centers, churches and schools, Daniels reminds us that politics can be energized, bringing thousands of new voters into the process with a sense of empowerment. Although largely ignored in the national media, Daniels' progressive effort is important for maintaining the social justice perspective which was the heart of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns of 1984 and 1988. Ron Daniels and others show us that political action can contribute to the struggle for "bottom-up democracy."

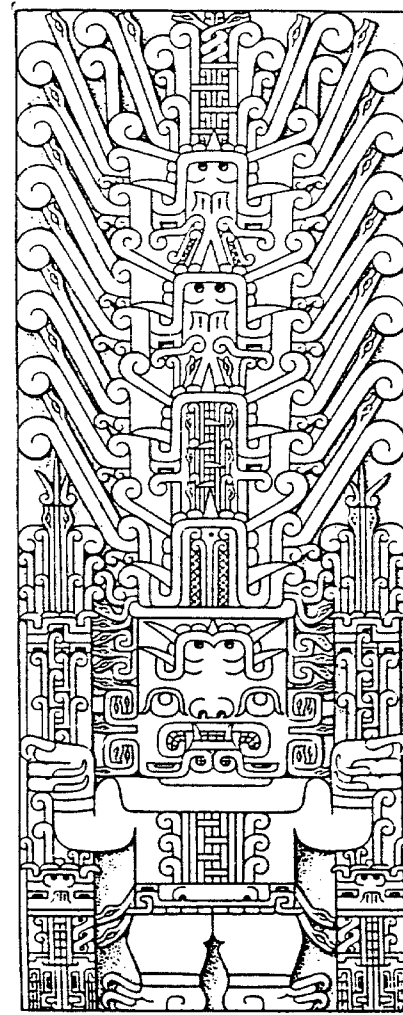
*Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado, Boulder. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 200 publications, and is broadcast by more than 50 radio stations internationally.*

## The Stony Brook Press

is seeking submissions of artwork, poetry, and essays regarding Columbus, the encounter/invasion/discovery of the Americas and the native nations of America for a special supplement to be published by *The Press* on the week of October 12.

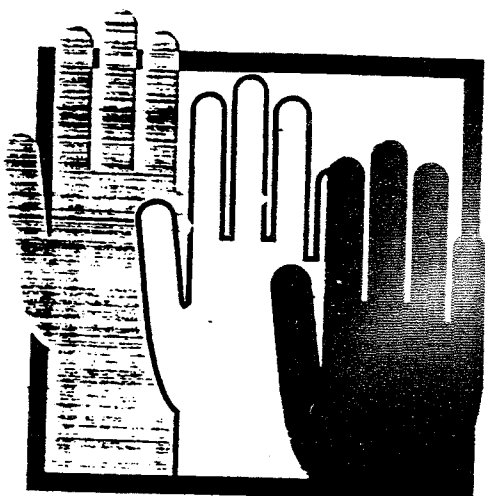


**The Deadline is October 9th.**  
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TALK ABOUT IT,  
VOTE ABOUT IT!**

Students Are Voting Everywhere



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TALK  
ABOUT IT  
VOTE  
ABOUT IT**

VOTE AMERICA

Join Polity in the efforts of the Vote America Foundation and USSA's **SAVE CAMPAIGN** to promote voter registration, participation and education.

The SPA encourages any person or group who is participating in voter registration for 1992 to contact the Polity Suite Attn. Crystal Plati. We have the resources available to assist you.

For more information please call:

2-6460.

**FINAL REMINDER**

**STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE  
WAIVER APPLICATIONS ARE  
DUE SEPT.16, 1992 IN POLITY  
SUITE.**

**CONTACT FRED BAPTISTE AT 632-6478 IF  
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

Student Polity Senate is  
having its first meeting on  
Wednesday, September 16,  
1992 at 6:30pm in Rm. 237 in  
the Student Union.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO  
ATTEND!!**



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You wanted it exciting  
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TOP QUALITY**

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**Stony Brook at LAW'S  
1st Annual LAW DAY  
10 Law Schools will give  
information to prospective  
Law Students. Wed.  
Sept.23rd in the Union  
Ballroom. 11am-4pm**



# Can you pass Beerology 101?

by John Dunn

*This reprint of John Dunn's original Beerology article is the first of this semester's seven part series covering the never-ending saga of beer. John Dunn was to write an update of the series, but unfortunately, he was too hung over from the intensive research he put into the article the night before to make it to work that day. We now present the continuation of this former Buskin award winner's scholarly treatise on the art and consumption of beer.*

Welcome to Beerology 101. During the semester, we'll be examining all aspects of the course topic: beer. Everything from reviews of new products to how to brew your own will be covered. Exams are optional, so there's no need to P/NC the course.

Although there is no required text, two books are recommended: *The New World Guide to Beer* by Michael Jackson (not the chimp owner) and *The Gourmet Guide to Beer* by Howard Hillman. You might find an older edition of Jackson's work in the USB library; the current one is better. There are a wide variety of books and publications dealing with beer, some of which will be discussed in future columns.

Like any course, we'll start at the beginning: what is beer? To be brief, it is an alcoholic beverage made from a fermentable cereal grain, a fermenting agent, and water. The famous German purity law issued in 1516, the Rheinheitsgebot, mandates that beer can be made with only four ingredients: Barley/wheat, hops, yeast, and water. Different cereal grains and other additives can affect the taste as can the type of hops and water.

Beer falls into two categories: top fermented and bottom fermented. During the brewing process, yeasts tend to float to the top (ales) or sink to the bottom (lagers). To create a common vocabulary for the course, here are some basic definitions of beer varieties. Where possible, alcoholic content and calories will follow brands in parentheses. Naturally, we'll be taking a closer look at the different varieties in weeks to come.

## Lager

**Rock/Dopple:** A full bodied, malty, hoppy beer that is fairly sweet to syrupy in taste. It has a dark brown color from the use of roasted malts with a minimum alcohol content (classically—in NY state laws drastically limit the alcohol allowed in beer) around 6%. Dopplebock ("double") ranges from 7-13% alcohol. Formerly a seasonal beer, it can now be found all year. Although uncommon in the U.S., Scheling now produces Christian Moerlin Bock while Samuel Adams recently brought out its Double Bock.

**Dark:** A richer, maltier, sweet, full-bodied, aromatic brew. Color and flavor come from roasted barley or malt. Cheaper versions use non-maltose caramel or roasted barley malt extract.

**Light:** In America, a low-calorie, low-alcohol, low-taste beer. In Europe, the term distinguishes it from dark lager (i.e. Beck's Light/dark). American brands vary in alcoholic content and calories (80-150).

**Non-alcoholic:** also known as "near-beer." It is required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be less than 0.5% alcohol for it to be labeled as non-alcoholic. The alcohol is removed by evaporation boiling or by a mechanical centrifuge process. Most varieties have an alcohol content around 0.1% and 50 to 70 calories.

**Pale/Pilsner:** Clear, crisp, dry, light tasting beer that is golden in color. Generally, this is what people think of when they think "beer." The name "Pilsner" comes from Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where the product was first produced in 1842. The brewery is still in operation, producing the well-known Pilsner Urquell. Budweiser,

Miller, and most other popular American beers are Pilsners.

**Malt Liquor:** It comes in different varieties with a common theme—a relatively high alcohol content. American brands concentrate on quality in the bottle rather than in the beer. Names of malt liquors generally play up the alcohol content: Maximus Super, King Cobra, Colt 45, Crazy Horse, etc. Alcohol content of U.S. brands range from Miceys Fine (5.71%) to Haffenreffer (6.62%). We'll look at the controversy surrounding malt liquor in a future column.

## ALE

Ales can be found in a variety of types: bitter, brown, cream, India pale, mild, pale, Scotch, and Trappist. We'll be looking in depth at a variety of ales in future columns, but here are a few quick definitions.

**Alt:** A clean tasting beer with reasonable maltiness and a noticeable hoppy flavor. Generally reddish-brown in color with a moderate alcohol content.

**Barley wine:** a bittersweet flavor with dark brown color; alcohol content approaches that of wine. Produced by microbreweries in this country, particularly Anchor and Sierra Nevada.

**Porter:** dark, full-bodied and moderately hopped. Well-roasted barley gives it the dark color and coffee-chocolate taste.

**Steam:** actually a combination of ale and lager brewing styles, the name is protected in the U.S. by Anchor Brewing of San Francisco. Steam beer is a full-bodied beer, golden in color with a hoppy taste—America's contribution to the beer world.

**Stout:** darker, fuller-bodied, richer, maltier, hoppier, and more bitter even than porter, stout varieties include sweet, oatmeal, dry, and imperial. Alcohol content is relatively low in spite of the beer's reputation. Guinness Extra Stout contains only 4.27% alcohol, less than Piel's Draft Style Beer (4.54%).

**Wheat:** Although similar to lager, it is a top-fermenting beer. Often referred to by its German names: *Weisse*, *Weissbier*, or *Wizenbier*.

## REGIONALS IN REVIEW

Each column will examine a different regional brewing company and its products. This week it is the Latrobe Brewing Co. of Latrobe, PA. The company has been in business since 1893, and is the ninth largest brewery in the country, controlling 0.37% of the market. In 1990, Latrobe sold 715,000

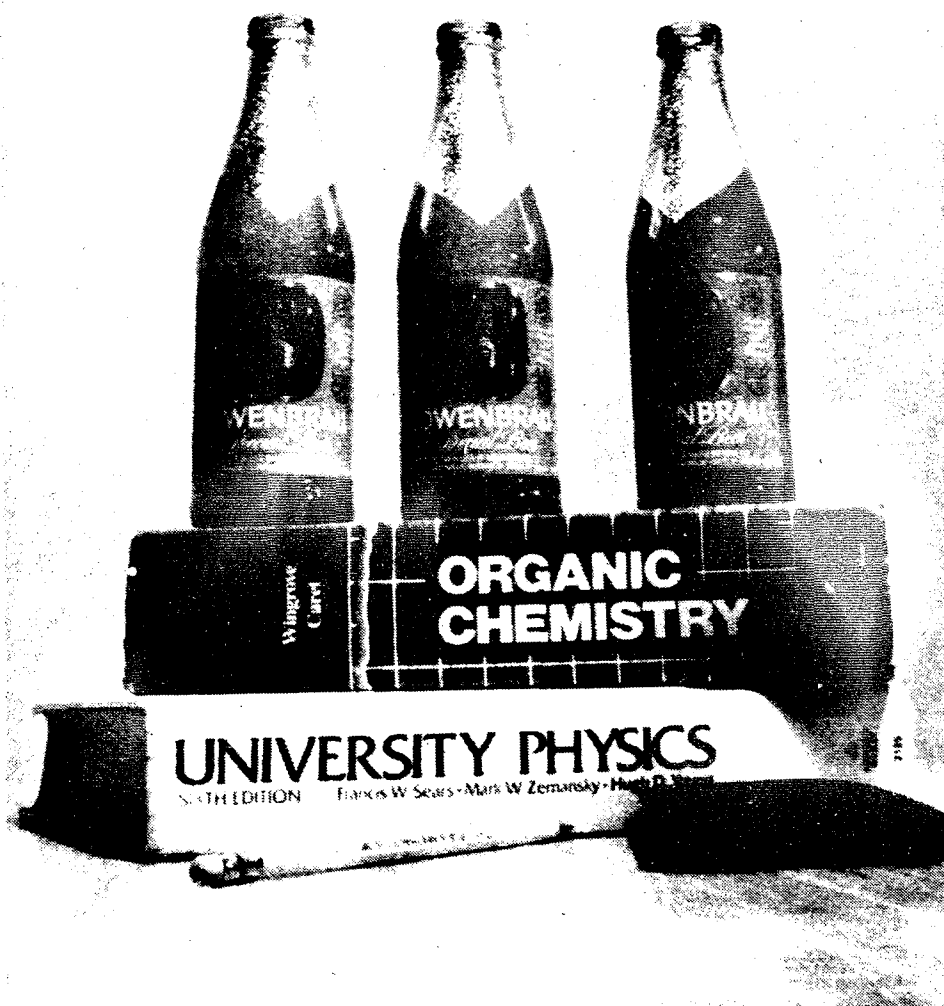
barrels, a 10% increase over the previous year. Throughout the 80's, Latrobe had a 10 to 15% increase in production every year/

The company's best known product is Rolling Rock, a clean-tasting lager that has a cult-like following, particularly in college towns. Although available in cans, it is the familiar green bottles with the painted lettering that enhance the beer's image, particularly the longnecks. The "Box of Rocks" capitalizes on a new packaging method which allows the consumer to add ice directly to the six-pack itself to keep the product cold.

Adding to the Rolling Rock mystique is the number "33" on every can and bottle. The question as to exactly what "33" stands for will generally bring a variety of suggestions from Rolling Rock drinkers. The most common idea is that it stands for 1933, the year Prohibition ended. The slight problem with this theory is that the number appeared on Latrobe products before Prohibition. When in doubt, remember Latrobe's slogan, "Same as it ever was."

Attempts to diversify the company's line have not met with great success. Lite n' Low, a low alcohol lager, was introduced several years ago, but did not sell. The company knows enough not to tamper with its main product, but does produce Rolling Rock Light.

The company is now owned by a subsidiary of Labatt's, the Canadian brewing giant. No major changes are planned, only to continue the widening distribution of Rolling Rock, "Imported from Latrobe, Pennsylvania."



# The Beauty Contest

by Rachel S. Wexelbaum

Due to the mass deforestation of the planet, the animals had to learn how to live together.

Some never lived in The Forest before, while others could boast that their families had lived in the same home for generations. The newcomers tried to make a good impression with the natives and thought it wise to follow the same traditions and customs that they did, not to mention celebrate their holidays.

Of course, you do realize that it was quite amusing to watch the Brazilian python participate in the Autumn Harvest Nut Roll...

Anyway, every year the animals held an annual beauty contest to celebrate the rites of spring. All the animals, from the tiniest ant to the largest water buffalo did their best to enhance their appearances, and with any luck, attract potential mates to continue their species. However, the animals who judged the beauty contest were all parrots, ducks and peacocks, and though they had a tasteful sense of aesthetics, they always chose animals of their own kind as winners. At first the other animals thought this wasn't fair, but as they tried to avoid squabbles over trivial matters, all of them

began to dress themselves in feathers. In this way the judges began to give prizes to animals other than birds at the annual beauty contest.



Of course, you do realize how ridiculous the warthog looked in a cockatoo's plumage...but somehow the chief judge, a budgie from Australia, thought him absolutely exquisite and gave him first prize. The warthog had never been so popular, what with the most beautiful ladies of The Forest offering themselves to him as love slaves. Finally he chose a charming boodie bird to spend the evening with him.

When they entered the burrow that evening the warthog refused to take off his lovely plumage, for he was afraid that his warts and bristles would frighten the boodie boodie bird away. He grew so flustered that he began to cry, and she noticed what beautiful eyes and long eyelashes he had-quite unlike any boodie she had ever seen. She convinced him to take off his plumage, and from that day on they shared a wonderful relationship where they discussed rock paintings and the supposed intellectual superiority of humans.

After a while the other animals caught on, and the annual beauty contest turned into a talent show.

MORAL: Everyone is beautiful in their own way.

MORE IMPORTANTLY: Beauty without brains is no prize.

## THE NEW OLD PORT DINER

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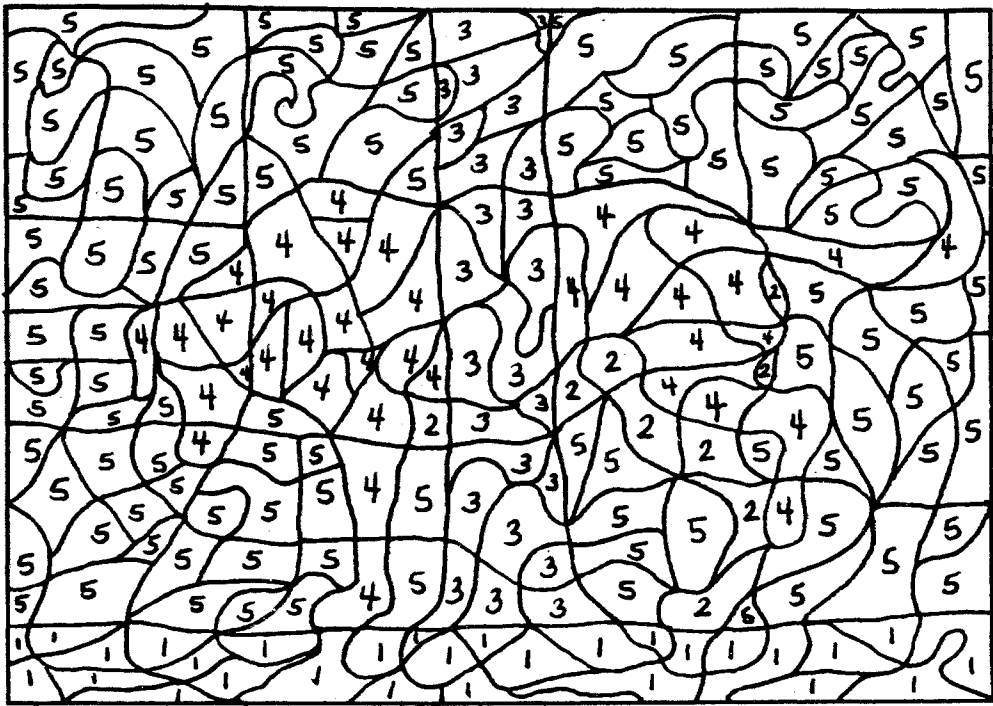
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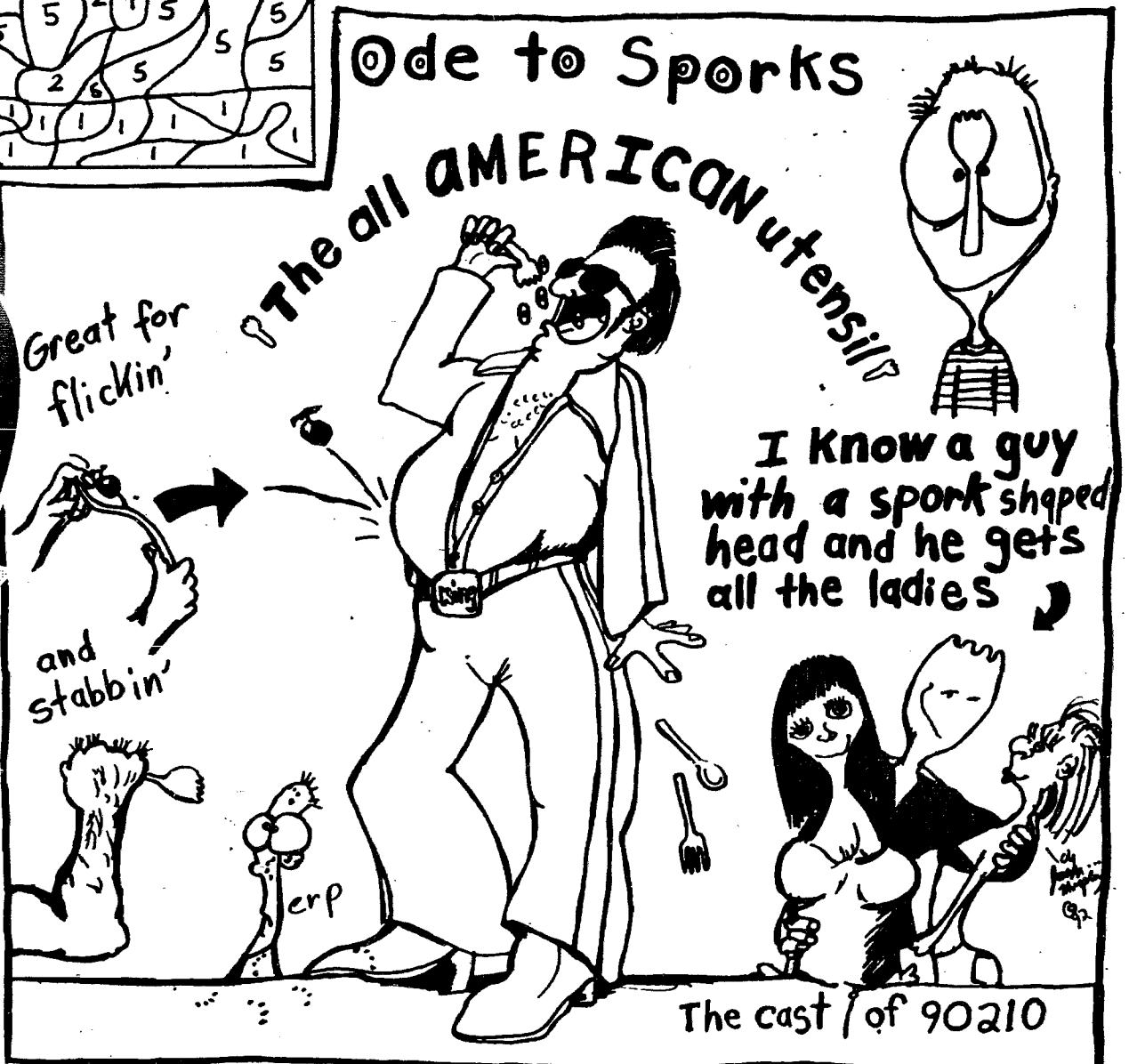


## And What's In The Box, Boys And girls?

Got any artistic talents? Do you worship the minor deities Dali, Haring and Van Gogh?

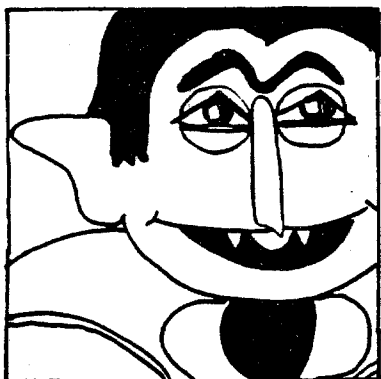
Here's your chance to wield crayolas, oils or body fluids in order to walk in their footsteps. Color this picture and send it to The Press Office, Room 205 in the second floor of Central Hall. If we think it's good (good enough to hang on the refrigerator but better than something to hang in the bathroom) we shall contact you and give you a half page of space in our paper for anything you wish—a piece of your own artwork, a comic strip, an ad or a bitch and moan poem about all the world's problems.

Please be sure to write your name and telephone number on your entry, because who knows—you may be a winner!



### MY STREET

Brought to You By the Number 13.



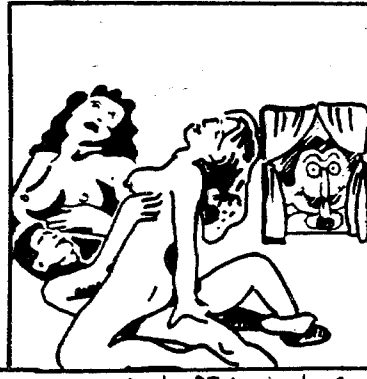
I LIKE TO COUNT. THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME THE COUNT. I COUNT EVERY DAY AS MUCH AS I CAN.



I STALK SESAME STREET AT NIGHT IN SEARCH OF OPEN WINDOWS. CAN YOU COUNT HOW MANY OPEN WINDOWS THERE ARE?



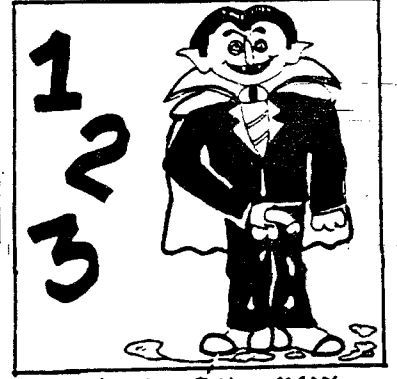
IF YOU SAID THREE, YOU ARE CORRECT.



I LIKE TO FIND OPEN WINDOWS WHERE PEOPLE ARE HAVING SEX INSIDE. CAN YOU COUNT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HAVING SEX INSIDE?



IF YOU SAID THREE, YOU ARE CORRECT.



CAN YOU COUNT HOW MANY STROKES IT TAKES FOR THE COUNT TO ACHIEVE ORGASM?



JENI D.

"Moving Through - Nothing"  
by Robert Birmelin, 1991, Acrylic on canvas

delights-the porno theaters. Alas, there is something for everyone in The Big Apple.

In fact, the untouchables have a special place in this exhibit. Although not inspired by Manhattanites, Camille Billops' ceramic statues fit right in with the denizens of urban hell, always glancing at each other with mischief in their eyes. "Moving Through-Noticing", a painting by Robert Birmelin, captures what a typical pedestrian sees while avoiding eye contact with those who disgust yuppie sensibilities. Since the mind can only process pieces of each thing while trying to absorb all surrounding stimuli, parts of bodies and blurred images are basically all that one can see.

At first Birmelin's image could be mistaken for a city in a Third World nation with its cracked, littered pavement and a lone street vendor selling appliances on the corner. This brings to light the variance of the economic continuum and the painful contrast between those who live on the right side of the tracks and those who live under them.

But New York City is not all bad. There are parts of the city which do make one forget about the Marxist/nihilistic dialectic occurring past the opulent terraces of Fifth Avenue, and make one remember how the world used to be. These things keep city lovers there. Ralph Fasanella's three playfully-colored canvases depict people trying to make do with limitations of space:

ghetto children converting an old gas station into a playground, baseball being played on one of the quickly vanishing dirt lots of Manhattan. There is also a display

of photographs by Jan Staller, who celebrates the foreign elements of nature in the metropolis. Staller changes any previous perception that the Goddess is dead in an urban environment by depicting artifacts of the city while the colors in the sky are most dramatic.

Varied artistic techniques also make the exhibit fascinating. Backstrawn Downes' two paintings of The Holland Tunnel entrance are absolutely brilliant. The panoramic views and exactness of every fine detail make them appear like a photograph. Also Red Groom's "Manhattan Over Mondrian" gives the Dutch artist's familiar colorful squares a three dimensional twist by turning them into an outline of Manhattan. Bobbi Mastrangelo's two monoprints of manhole covers support the environmental conservation movement by using paper made of coffee grinds and recycled coffee filters. Her other work, "Con-Ed Maintenance", is a manhole and pavement all cut out of non-biodegradable foam.

This exhibit features all of New York that you would want to see. The exhibit runs until October 24 and is worth seeing, although to me New York City is just a smuthole where slime crawls out on Memorial Day Weekend and slithers back in on Labor Day. To get the best picture of the city is to create your own-spend the money for train fare and walk around the circus grounds. You will be drawn to it again and again by its eccentricities, diversities and unlikely philosophers begging for quarters out of cardboard boxes right outside the art museums.

# City Views: A Double Image Of New York

by Catherine Krupski

The current exhibit on display in the Staller Center for the Arts is entitled "City Views". It features the various aspects of New York City by ten artists. The director, Rhonda Cooper, tries to present a description of urban life by using a wide range of mediums. The arrangement of art in this exhibit is set up to represent what is good and bad about New York City.

When you first walk in you will be overpowered by the most unappealing things, but do not despair; you will see a brighter outlook on the other side.

The famous Sony screen is the eye catching feature in Yvonne Jacquette's "Times Square Triptych II". On the three canvases, the advertisements of Panasonic and Aiwa represent the most technologically advanced forms of entertainment in our society. However, they are surrounded by more primitive

"Art locates, detaches, and represents experience. Experience is implied order subdued by chaos." Thus says Karl F. Kneis, creator of "Visinotional Autopsy", on exhibition at the Library Gallery until September 17.

The exhibit itself is overwhelming. From the moment one steps inside, one is bombarded from all possible angles by images: popes, dogs, children, war, sex, life, pain, death, reality, imagination—chaos; chaos confined to one room, one soul. According to Mr. Kneis, we are surrounded by this chaos at all times, but like suckling babes, we cling dearly to what sense we can make out of, what order we can bring to the world. "Visinotional Autopsy" then—literally, visual notions dissected before us—is a look at the everyday, lifelong blur that has touched one man, and a chance to touch him ourselves. In viewing this exhibit, we become part of it, and begin to fill in the blank pages strewn across the floor.

There is also required reading for this show. Following is an excerpt from an essay by William S. Burroughs entitled "The Fall of Art."

The essay in full is available for reading in the gallery and facilitates a deeper understanding of Karl's work.

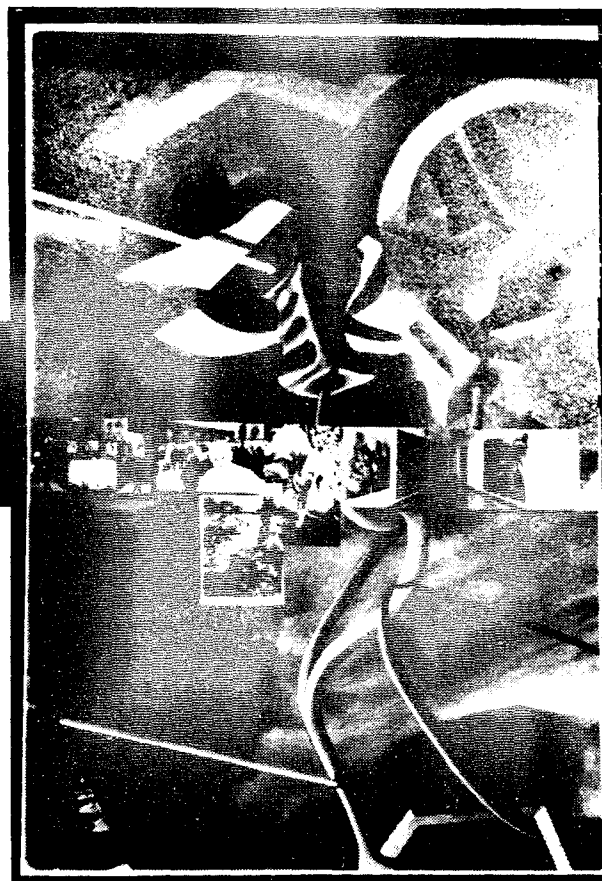
"What we call 'art'—painting, sculpture, writing, dance, music—is magical in origin. That is, it was originally employed for ceremonial pur-

## Now Showing...

by Garrison

poses to produce very definite effects. In the world of magic nothing happens unless someone wants it to happen, *wills* to happen, and there are certain magical formulae to channel and direct the will. The artist is trying to make something happen in the mind of the viewer..."

Something does happen, and it is profound and magical. It is a chance for souls to brush briefly together, through image. Remember, that as you leave the exhibit, your image is being projected onto the world from within Karl's soul.



GARRISON