

The
Stony
Brook

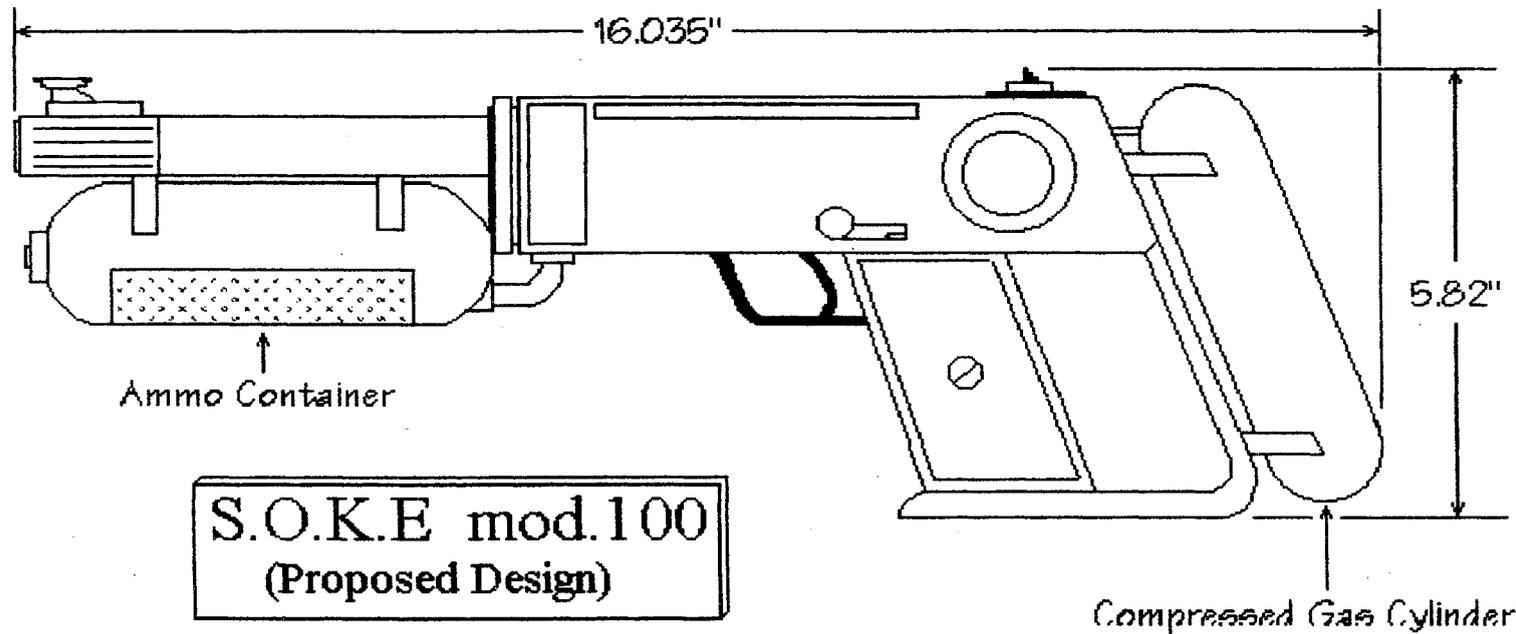
PRESS

Vol. XIV, No. XI

The University Community's Feature Paper

April 1, 1993

Marburger's Surprise Decision: Public Safety Armed with S.O.K.E



S1-D3.2

Revisions	Date	Init.
Ammo tank redesign	12/3/91	M.P.
Grip size adjusted	2/16/92	S.R.
Safety modified to standard	5/19/92	M.S.P.

Drawn by:	Michael L. Pfaeffle
Checked by:	Alexander Kneselac
Prototype dwr.:	S1-523

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BLAH.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARMED:

Marburger Makes the Safe Decision With S.O.K.E. (Stopping Offensive Kapabilities Effectively)

By Matthew Leone
Stony Brook Press Staff Reporter

"Don't move!"

The suspect asked himself the question, "Do I feel lucky?" He felt his adrenaline rush a frantic burst of fear. "I'm not going to jail."

"Put your hands on your head! Now!" The public safety officer aimed straight at the center of his pounding chest, catching his own breath as he called over the radio, "Need...back-up..."

"You've got the wrong guy!"

"Turn around! Do it!"

The suspect complied hesitantly. "I don't believe this.... You're making a mistake." He turned around slowly. The officer kept one shaking finger on the trigger as he reached for the handcuffs.

"I'm telling you, officer, you're making a big—"

He lunged at the officer. There was no time to think.

A second later, a certain thought had to pop into both their heads— "Do I feel lucky!"

The officer was alive. So was his attacker, recovering from the blast in the hospital. They would both rest easy tonight. They were very lucky indeed.

The public safety officer was armed with the latest technology developed by the S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook Engineering Department—the S.O.K.E. x47 9mm pistol. This scenario could soon become reality. University President John Marburger has announced his long-awaited decision.

The S.O.K.E. x47 (Stop Offensive Kapabilities[sic] Effectively) will soon be issued to all University Police Officers. S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook will become the testing ground for this new defensive weapon prototype. It appears that Marburger had intentionally, and intelligently, delayed his decision on the gun issue, waiting for the completion of this research and development project.

According to Stony Brook physicist Michael Pfaeffle, the designer of the S.O.K.E. x47, "The weapon is ideal for law-enforcement needs, especially in an environment such as that of the college campus." Pfaeffle believes that if sociological studies demonstrate the effectiveness of his pistol, the New York City Police Department would be interested in replacing their .38 caliber's with the 9mm S.O.K.E. However, these results will not be

determined for some time.

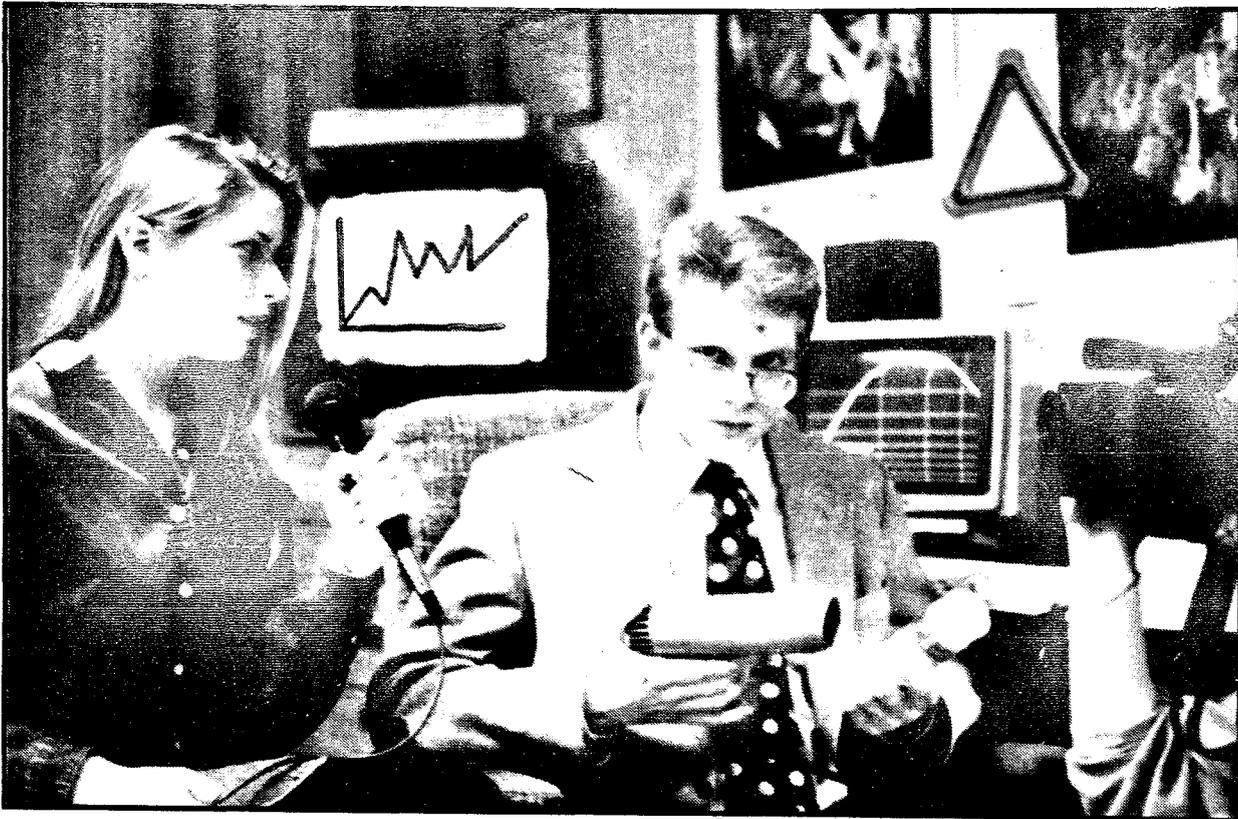
The S.O.K.E. is certainly capable of "stopping offensive capabilities effectively." But this pistol is not lethal. Students no longer have to fear being fatally shot in a tragic case of mistaken identity or being hit by stray bullets. Public Safety officers don't have to worry about shooting an assailant in a panic, mistakenly thinking they're reaching for a weapon, or killing an intoxicated student who unwittingly attacks them. Even if police "shoot the

fluid ounces of a special liquid in a stream 9mm in diameter. The S.O.K.E. has an accuracy range of over 30 feet—out rivaling any Saturday Night Special. If the force of the blast itself doesn't knock out an assailant, contact with the liquid will. Public safety officers, who tend to drink lots of coffee, will carry an extra supply of this special ammunition within them, as well as refills for the methane pressure cartridges.

Not all students are happy with the

peace activist of the left-wing Red Balloon, while burning an American flag, repeatedly screamed the slogan, "This is another attempt to use technology as a solution to a problem, rather than addressing the causes of the problem to begin with! You're not going to solve anything with the S.O.K.E.! We need to focus on the sources of conflict within society—the savage inequalities produced by our economic system and the depersonalization an individual experiences in a modern industrialized

world which is perpetuated in its nonintellectual, desensitizing, beer guzzling television culture; emphasizing sex and violence, controlled by multinational corporations removing us from nature and spirituality, chopping down rain forests, draining compassion for fellow people, crushing individuality, artistic creativity and cultural heritage, and replacing humanity with robots dressed up in suits and ties and fed ambition to work for almighty money and buy, buy, buy!" The S.O.K.E. was put to the test for the first time when Stony Brook's riot control officer opened fire, soaking the activist out of consciousness. It passed with flying colors.



Physicist Michael Pfaeffle, center, demonstrates the prototype for reporters

wrong guy," he'll still live.

Marburger candidly describes the weapon as "a phaser on Star Trek that's stuck on the 'stun' setting." The S.O.K.E. operates much like a stun gun, rendering its victim unconscious, but without a painful shock of electricity. It has a much longer range, and works without the irritating chemicals in mace. The S.O.K.E. is more powerful and more effective. At the press conference, held in the remote "Bamboo Forest" behind Kelly Quad, Marburger himself demonstrated the weapon as University police looked on, rather impressed. According to one veteran officer, "In a real heavy shoot-out, I'd rather have the S.O.K.E., even more than a shotgun. It has a better accuracy, and you don't have to worry about running out of ammunition or shooting innocent bystanders. You can use it in a crowd, the dorms, a cafeteria...anywhere."

The S.O.K.E. is a light-weight pistol made of aluminum. (Pfaeffle, the designer, claims that the original model was made from recycled soda cans from right here on campus.) The S.O.K.E. uses compressed methane cartridges, each containing 600 pounds of pressure, releasing 100 pounds of pressure per shot, to shoot a blast of 12

S.O.K.E., and a campaign has begun to disarm the now soon-to-be-armed public safety. According to one student leader, "they might be more likely to shoot us if they can't kill us." Another student asked, "What if the S.O.K.E. malfunctions, or hits someone in the eye?" Many were concerned that the S.O.K.E. could be upgraded to a lethal model. To this concern, the engineers responded, "We're still working on it."

N.Y.P.I.R.G. questioned the S.O.K.E.'s effect on the environment. According to one spokesperson, "We're happy that the S.O.K.E. is made from recycled soda cans, but it's ammunition is going to waste. We can't afford to waste our natural resources. Maybe they could recycle the ammunition too." The university denied this request on grounds that they had already used recycled toxic incinerator ash to build "the boathouse"—a new building on campus. More radical environmental groups were concerned that the liquid ammunition could seep into the drinking water, and demanded that water filters be placed on the barrels of the pistols. Engineers are currently studying the effect of such a filter device on the flow of the S.O.K.E.

At a protest held in the administration building, one long-haired militant

University Conservatives welcomed the S.O.K.E., deeming it "a weapon that can keep our defense plants open, create jobs, and maintain social control using a minimal use of violence.... We just hope they don't raise taxes to pay for it." One gentleman commented that, "It's better to arm public safety with something—even if they're not real guns—rather than developing strategies designed to 'stop the problem before it starts'. C'mon, get with it. Give me a break with public policies promoting equity... or all that education spending, especially early on in elementary schools and high school, focusing on psychology, aiding personal relationships and mental health...or worst of all, sensitivity training programs. And that 'Rainbow Curriculum' nonsense. Oh, please! This is a university. Let's use our intelligence and reason. It's up to the S.O.K.E. to stop'em! Splash'em! That's how you stop the violence!"

The administration hopes the S.O.K.E. will help bring prestige to the university. President Marburger is currently in touch with the producers of the FOX T.V. show, "Cops." A "Cops at Stony Brook" show may be in the works.

Forum On Arming

Marburger Gets Feedback from Students and Faculty on Arming Public Safety

By Greg Forte

University President John Marburger addressed questions relating to arming Public Safety during an open forum discussion last Monday evening in the Fireside Lounge.

Sponsored by Student Polity, Marburger made his opening address and then listened to comments and suggestions from a mostly student audience. Despite a low student turnout, most of the students who spoke were against arming Public Safety. Of the roughly 27 persons in the audience, many said that tighter security measures should be implemented before deciding if Public Safety should get guns.

Marburger has postponed his decision on arming until next month. In explaining his decision, he said, "I'm trying to suspend judgment until I hear from the University community, and then sit down with all the materials and all the responses and see what would be the right thing to do for our community." Marburger has asked for responses, and for people to propose what they think is the solution.

Senior Jocelyn Polony recommend, "What we need is to prevent the crime before it happens. We need tighter security on this campus, because anybody can get on this campus at any time.... Most of the trouble that occurs on this campus is because of off-campus people." Many students reiterated that they were concerned with outsiders coming on campus causing trouble and that they are the ones who inflict violence at the University.

Adam Kaminsky spoke in favor of arming. Saying that Public Safety receives more training, such as sensitivity training, and that they are more familiar with the campus, Kaminsky believes they should be allowed to carry guns. "These people are just as qualified as any other cop," he said. "If we allow cops outside of campus to be armed, why shouldn't we allow campus cops to be armed if they are just as, if not more, qualified?"

One staff member who spoke out, Joseph Hazel, told Marburger that Public Safety should have nothing. Hazel, who strongly attacked arming, was very direct with his address, saying there were too many kids on this campus, and that it was likely someone would get shot by accident. He was emotional to Marburger because he added that he too had been shot accidentally. "If one of these students gets hit, what are you going to tell their parents but I'm sorry." Hazel said that arming should be a last resort, and that there are other options available such as dogs, mace and hand-to-hand combat, to limit crime on campus.

Polity Vice President Jerry Canada said,

"Marburger should be addressing the safety concerns before addressing the issue of arming." Canada, who was a member of the Safety Council for over a year, was one of the persons involved with creating and compiling the report. Several arguments were laid out both for and against having guns, but it did not state its own position on whether or not to arm Public Safety. The council also made several recommendations to improve campus security and personal safety.



Photo: Greg Forte

These included:

- 1) Restricting vehicular access to West campus between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- 2) Restrict access to the Student Union after 9 p.m.
- 3) Improve lighting in specific areas and enhance blue light phone system.
- 4) Provide personal protective vests to Public Safety officers.



Photo: Greg Forte

5) Increase foot patrols by uniformed Public Safety officers.

6) Establish protocols for food service deliveries to campus.

Asking Marburger of whether or not any of the suggestions have been met, Marburger replied that only one had been met, and that was to purchase protective vests. However, Marburger added that the

University must try to do everything it can in addition to arming, but said that these were separate issues from arming.

One of the reasons against arming that was brought up was the fact that very few violent crimes even take place on campus. Among the 2,936 crimes reported in 1991, criminal mischief ranked first with 673. The runner up was Petit Larceny with 596 crimes reported. Students who spoke out said much of theft on campus was because of the poor security on campus.

Peter Korakis, a junior, said, "It didn't take me two years and a committee to discover that security is an issue here." He said that what should be addressed is whether or not arming Public Safety will solve that problem. He doesn't believe so, saying that there are problems with campus lighting and secure dorm rooms should be addressed first.

Marburger said that arming has long been an issue of concern for him. In his prior decision, over 10 years ago, he felt arming wasn't necessary. Marburger said he has responded to growing concern with Public Safety with the ability to respond to calls and protect themselves.

However, many cite that public concern because of the recent incidents of violence is the best way to respond to violent crime. These incidents, such as the shootings that occurred in Tabler and the Union last year, and the stabbing of one non-student behind the Student Union last year, are some of main reasons why arming was being brought up again today.

"I'm hearing a lot more people express concern about exactly how Public Safety operates without guns, and many people feel that perhaps there is something short of just having everybody carrying guns, that would take it easier for them to respond," he said. Marburger says that nationally, more campuses are armed, but that the arms aren't used very much at all.

Marburger said he was in favor of listing all types of arming. This included officers just carrying weapons on some shifts, such as in the night, or having specific officers carry guns. "It's most unlikely that I would make a decision to say that everybody should be armed, that is, that every Public Safety officers should have a gun at his or her hip. I'm most unlikely to say that. If there is arming at all, it would be in some limited form." Marburger said.

Junior Joanna Kerney said, "I think the reason why you want to arm Public Safety is because you do see a problem. But

I don't think that arming them will be the solution. I think it will just create more problems and more havoc among the students." She added that she thought there was a problem with security, including no or poor security guards checking ID's. "You have to get the students to respect Public Safety in other ways, and it doesn't come through guns."

Polity Elections

Positions up for election:

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY
- SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE
- JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE
- SOPHOMORE REPRESENTATIVE
- POLITY JUDICIARY MEMBERS
- SASU REPRESENTATIVES
- USSA REPRESENTATIVE

ELECTION TIME LINE

- MARCH 29** PICK UP PETITIONS - YOU MUST SUBMIT A PLATFORM
- APRIL 2** LAST DAY FOR PETITIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO
ELECTION BOARD
- APRIL 3-11** SPRING BREAK
- APRIL 21** ELECTION DAY

ELECTION BOARD MEMBER OR POLL WATCHERS
ARE NEEDED - FEEL FREE TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IN THE POLITY SUITE IN RM 258 OF
THE STUDENT UNION

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WILL BE VACANT NEXT YEAR:

- ~ STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD CONCERTS CHAIR
- ~ STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD ACTIVITIES CHAIR
- ~ COMMITTEE ON CINEMATIC ARTS CHAIR
- ~STUDENT POSITY ASSN. SECURITY CHAIR

Suffolk Denies Service To Disabled

County's claim of Undo-hardship Stirs Controversy

By Catherine Krupski

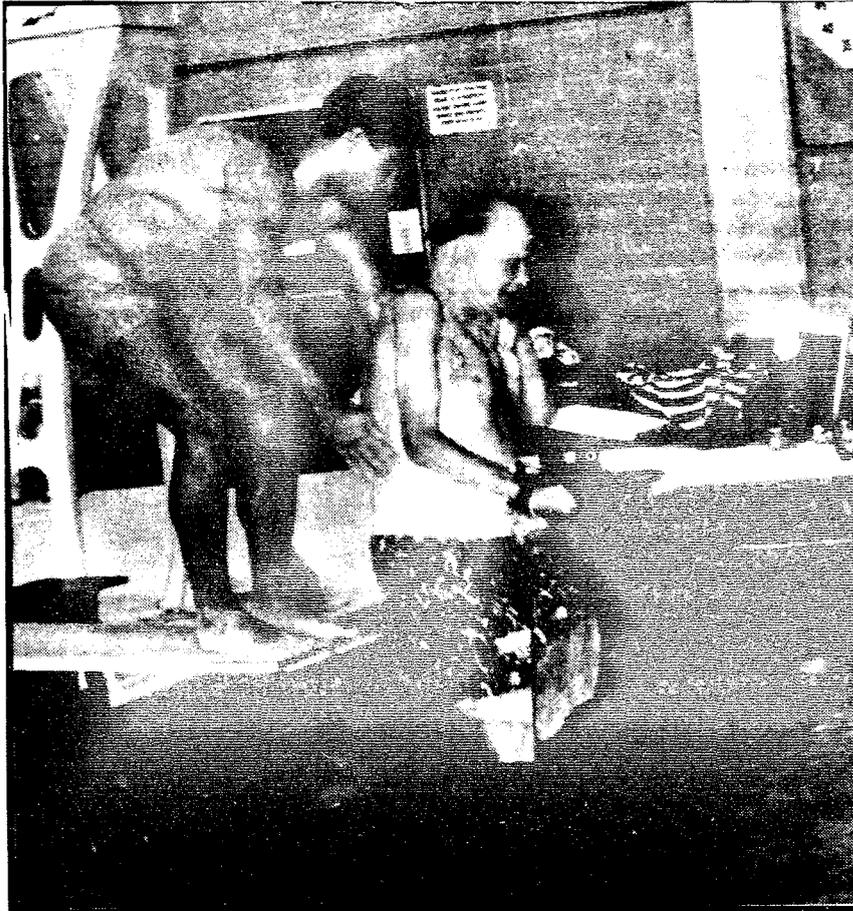
John Baker, a quadriplegic burn victim, was invited to speak to a philosophy class in response to a previous speaker regarding euthanasia. His unique situation also exposed a new loophole in the bureaucracy that discriminates against the differently enabled community.

The philosophy class first heard a tape of a burn victim, who no longer has the desire to live. Baker, who is more severely burned than the other victim, presented a totally different outlook on life. He feels that he has "work to do," that is to make people realize they should take what life gives them and work with it. He is able to freely say, "If I die here [now], I've paid my dues."

Baker's accident occurred in 1977 when he was burning leaves in a vacant lot next to his retirement home in Arizona. A miniature-sized tornado came over the mountains and caused the fire to surround him. He was engulfed in flames for twelve minutes. He died twice on the operating table. He transferred back to New York, as he was a native Long Islander. He has undergone 38 operations. Baker, now 68, now resides in a nursing home in Huntington. The accident left him a quadriplegic, double-leg amputee, 80% third-degree burn victim with contracted hands, arms and hips. But this doesn't stop him from partaking in events outside of the nursing home.

He is no stranger to the Stony Brook campus, as he has been a participant in the Adapted Aquatics Program for ten years. This class, which is free of charge to the physically and mentally disabled, is headed by Dr. Peter Angelo, Coordinator of

Instructional Aquatics and Water Safety. It allows the disabled to swim under close supervision with Stony Brook students, who will receive Red Cross certification as aides and instructors in this area. For the swim-



John Baker "jumps" from the diving board

mers, it is therapeutic both physically and emotionally. Baker says that, "I get out for half of the day, close to the end of the week, when I really need to get out." The class brings a positive interaction between the able and disabled, together.

Prior to December 7, 1992, Baker's transportation was provided by Medicaid. This provision ceased as a new bill was introduced. The Americans With Disabilities Act states that the county in which the disabled reside is responsible for the provision of transportation. This was the fastest bill to pass through Congress because the amount of money that is spent to keep these people at home almost equals the amount of money spent on defense. Suffolk County is the only county in New York state which has asked for the Undue Hardship Waiver, which states that it is too expensive to provide transportation for the disabled. *Newsday* reported that there are approximately 27,000 disabled people in Suffolk County which would require thirty to forty vans.

While it may be more convenient to keep them at home, it would become economically beneficial to provide the transportation because that will be another way of creating jobs in Suffolk County for both the able and disabled. According to Sylvia Geoghegan, Assistant A.D.A. Coordinator on campus, "Suffolk County only sees the money aspect. These people would be going to work and paying taxes instead of us paying for them. They would be an asset instead of a deficit." This will also give the disabled an opportunity to interact on the same level with many different people, which doesn't happen for very many. The option for a person to go out or not is something that able people take for granted every day. There would also be a fee for the use. Suffolk County has proposed a fee of \$3.50, which is much higher than the fee for a regular bus (\$1.50).

Baker has had his transportation reinstated, but that was only a special case because of the immense outpouring of support from the university community. The issue of providing transportation is still a case for Suffolk County to decide upon.

Photo: Chris Vasilica

Inept Event-Planners Unite: Stony Brook Wants You!

By George Bidermann

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), was laughing. Two weeks ago, the Guerrilla Girls laughed, and in early March, Barbara Ehrenreich laughed also. Even I was laughing. And while we all laughed, we were laughing uncomfortably. But why were we laughing?

Each of these speakers, featured at university events during the last month, fell victim to the Stony Brook syndrome: hold an event and it is virtually guaranteed that something will go wrong. And I was laughing in embarrassment because I was thinking of what a poor reflection these mishaps cast on Stony Brook. I can't imagine any of these guest wanting to return.

In early March Barbara Ehrenreich spoke as part of the Provost's Distinguished Lecture Series (also sponsored by *Newsday*). She spoke on a Wednesday night, just four days after the flood wiped out the Staller Center; this caused her lecture to be moved to the Alliance Room in the lower level of the Library. To begin with, there was virtually no announcement of the location switch; I saw a poster in the economics department with the handwritten message "Moved to Alliance Room" the day of the talk. Secondly, the room was way too small for the audience (about 250

people). At one point she joked, "I know you have an auditorium around here somewhere." But to compound the problem, nearly 100 members of the audience had to sit on the floor or stand due to a lack of seats. Doesn't the university have folding chairs available? Didn't anyone anticipate that they might need more seats or consider moving the presentation to a larger room?

Two weeks later, the Guerrilla Girls, who have worked for years to document and publicize the underrepresentation of female artists in the art world, rolled into Stony Brook. This time, the Staller Center was open, but Theatre Three was just too small for the audience (estimated at about 300). And that was just the beginning. Because the university didn't have a large-enough slide projection screen on hand for their slides, many people sitting in the wings could not even see the presentation. The "public address" system, microphones plugged into a small speaker, wasn't working properly, and when it finally became operational, it fed back numerous times. The room was uncomfortably hot. The slide advancer didn't work, so someone from the projection booth had to advance the slides. It put the Guerrilla Girls in a very uncomfortable situation not of their own doing, and they tried to joke it off. "It just shows that you have plenty of

money here," one of them said. It was very difficult to appreciate their presentation.

This week I went to hear Patricia Ireland speak about "Women in Politics" during Campus Lifetime. Fortunately I know when that is (Wednesday 12:40—2 PM), but many people probably didn't attend because the posters didn't say what time, just "Campus Lifetime." And the location was *excellent* for hearing a talk about politics—right in the middle of the Union, in the Fireside Lounge, as hundreds of people stream by gabbing on their way to lunch. Thankfully, after 10 minutes it was moved to a room upstairs (nice work Union officials), but the whole experience was disruptive and silly. Why hold the talk there in the first place? Sure it's a visible spot, but didn't anyone think of the noise factor?

My point is simply this: the people who plan these events should think a little more about location, equipment, and publicity. Fiascos such as these leave not just the audience with a sour taste in their mouths, but undoubtedly the guest speakers. Is it a coincidence that all of these events were related to Women's History Month? Probably not, but can you imagine the horror stories these people might be telling about Stony Brook—"Nice people, but I'll never play that dive again." Think about it

Division I? Are You Kidding?

It seems that every time the financial situation here at good ol' Stony Brook worsens, ideas about increasing efficiency or trimming down on unnecessary things (like bureaucracy) are neglected in favor of diversionary tactics, like the Undergraduate Initiative and Division One athletics.

The idea is that programs such as these will do something immediate and positive for the University by raising our reputation. This concept makes sense to us, because private companies can benefit enormously from successful public relations. The only problem is that, even if people look upon Stony Brook more positively for this kind of superficial window dressing, changes such as these won't do much of anything for the place as an academic institution. Funding is still controlled by Albany, and while Division I athletics may eventually bring in more funds, the investment which these endeavors would require will hurt the University now, while we are still reeling from Cuomo's budget axe.

Part of the job of the University President and his minions is to act as liaison

between the Stony Brook community and the State of New York. Maybe that's the reason the Administration here is so comfortable with the idea of unilateral decision-making—that's the way they interact with Albany—might as well just pass it on to the students. We always hear about the move to Division I and other spectacles for our distraction, but there is never any mention of Administration involvement in attempts to get the things we need from Albany to have a decent school. Is it possible that they simply don't care? Maybe they don't like the idea of rocking the boat and risking their cushy jobs.

Whatever the reason, we need people running this University who are willing to go to bat for us, people who see their mission as inclusive of the interests of the community, rather than the craven dogs that currently run the show.

The idea of moving the basketball and football programs to Division I status does not address the real problems on this campus. Besides, nobody goes to any of their games, anyway. We don't have the extra money to allocate for bet-

ter facilities, scholarships for better players, salaries and perks for quality coaches and staff, and the P.R. team that such a move would require. We would have to invest all of this for a number of years before we would even make Division I. And if Marburger spends his time making deals with the NCAA instead of keeping his eye on the running of the University...oh, maybe that would be helpful. In any case, who needs it?

What we do need are people with the ear of the decision makers in SUNY Central and the Governor and legislature of the State of New York to press Stony Brook's case for more funding. We need someone from around here to show them how much the academic function of this school has been impaired by the wholesale cuts of recent years. Even if they told our representatives to take a hike, at least we could feel that something was being done, that our administrators weren't sitting in their offices, comfortable in the knowledge that their jobs aren't in jeopardy, and that the interests of the students weren't the furthest thing from their minds.

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Letters

Test Your Vision

To the Editor:

If you read the Stony Brook Press' letter to the editor in its March 8 edition, you may have a lot of questions for us at Statesmen. Questions about "corruption, deceit and lies." And we're eager to answer them.

But not here, at least not all of them. We're not going to waste your time or Press space defending ourselves against every grossly irresponsible and inaccurate charge — especially when the writer and the paper don't even have the courage to name the accuser or the professionalism to check facts.

We will tell you this much: Stony Brook undergrads provide about 10 percent of our operating budget, and for that we're not only grateful, but we're willing to open our books for any and every reader concerned that we're doing you a disservice.

For you not willing to come down to our offices for lack of time or energy, these brief examples may give you an idea about how off-base the writer was.

— The unnamed "Statesman writer" says that while we claim to be student-run, the paid staff runs the paper. Truth is, only undergraduate students, as mandated by our bylaws, can hold corporate offices or editorial board positions. Students make all policy decisions, all editorial decisions, all major business decisions and are even the only ones allowed to hire and fire employees. The paper's employees do indeed perform services for the business end of the paper, but they are accountable to the student board members, their employees — just like Polity, which is unarguably student-run.

— While the writer claims our annual budget is \$400,000, we brought in less than half of that last year — exactly \$189,435.

— While he or she claims that our highest-paid employee makes \$30,000 a year, our executive director made exactly \$22,907.90 in 1992. There's only one other salaried employee, and he makes about half of that, despite the Press letter's claim that we pay at least four others nearly \$25,000. And the other full-timers are commissioned, a necessity when 90 percent of your budget comes from advertisements.

This is just a sample. As you can see, we use real numbers, not reckless estimates based on guesses. It's called reporting.

And you can do your own reporting if you want. Call us at 632-6479, or come down to room 057 in the Student Union between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays if you want to know more.

By the way, a little advice for our friends at the Press: First, do your own dirty work and check your facts. Second, it's not smart to accept anonymous letters. It exposes you to lawsuits.

David Joachim
Statesman Editor Emeritus
Editor in Chief 1990-1992
2-6479

Macedonia Reconsidered

To the Editor:

This is a reply to MACEDONIA - CLASSICAL-GREEK, by Dean Markadakis.

It appears that political propaganda, reminiscent of past cold war periods, still finds its way into the editing circles of the *Stony Brook Press*. The conflict between the states of Macedonia and Greece is truly not one between superpowers, but nevertheless, one should look at it open-minded and with objectiveness. The article by Dean Markadakis, however, contains distortions which are obvious even to the outside observer of, in the present case, Swiss nationality.

The fact is that Macedonia after the breakup of Yugoslavia was left with no choice other than to declare independence if it wanted to avert the risk of being drawn into the violent conflict which is raging less than 100 miles north of its border. What name should a nation choose whose citizens speak Macedonian (a Slavic language), whose territory is part of the ancient Macedonia, and that can trace back its Macedonian history for thousands of years. Hardly any nation declaring independence following the disintegration of the former Eastern European bloc can prevent such a 'CV.' For Greece to block international recognition of this new state and in fact to boycott it unless it chooses a name not containing the word "Macedonia" is an action taken solely with the intention of strengthening its own dominant position in the region. Under this term the state of Macedonia would not even be allowed to use

the name of 'North Macedonia,' which would be the appropriate geographical description of its territory.

To allege that Macedonia has any aggressive intentions towards Greece seems somewhat distorted when it is written in the same article that "Macedonia is the northernmost region of Greece" and "...Macedonia is merely an invention of Tito's." Whatever Tito's intentions might have been, today's citizens of Macedonia should not be made responsible for them. As if this was not sufficient demagoguery, to suggest a parallel between the intentions of the present leaders of Macedonia and Hitler's crimes during the Second World War is not only absurd and stupid but dangerous.

Since the constitution of the new state of Macedonia calls for caring relationships with its Macedonian neighbors in other countries, this should be taken as a symbol of hope in an area of the European continent where neighbors, otherwise, appear to have forgotten how to behave towards fellow human beings.

-Alain Rueff

The writer responds: The comparison to which you refer, that which highlights the similarities between "the present leaders of Macedonia and Hitler's crimes during the Second World War," appeared in the New York Times, 1945. United Nations recognition of Slavic Macedonia will only further threaten the stability in the southern Balkans. The same thing that happened in Bosnia could happen in Macedonia. Skopje should consider a name that is appealing to both Greece and the rest of the European Community.

Along the Color Line:

Clinton's Economic Agenda (part 2 of 2)

By Dr. Manning Marable

The basic political strategy behind President Clinton's new economic program rests on two key observations: that middle class taxpayers generally decide elections; and that most Americans are willing to make modest sacrifices by paying more for energy and in taxes, but want the pain to be allocated more equally across society. There's a general awareness that the Reagan-Bush years represented a massive rip-off by the wealthy, with the top tax rates falling from 70 percent of taxable income in 1981 down to 28 percent of income in 1988.

The key political architect of this approach is Stan Greenberg. In a brilliant 1991 article in *The American Prospect* magazine, Greenberg astutely observed that Ronald Reagan had constructed a "top-down" coalition of wealthy voters, entrepreneurs, and the largely white middle class. His social and fiscal policies clearly favored the well-to-do at the expense of trade unions, minorities, urban residents and the poor; nevertheless, the vast majority of white middle class people endorsed Reaganism. About two-thirds of all whites regardless of income voted for Reagan's reelection in 1984. Many middle income people believed that too much had been given to the poor and racial minorities under Democratic administrations, and that they would be better off under an administration which openly and unashamedly favored the rich.

Anticipating Clinton's 1992 campaign, Greenberg argued that the Democrats had to advocate a "new class politics," which would divide the middle class from the rich. The Democrats had to "defend and enlarge social insurance initiatives that reach the lower and middle classes rather than constructing safety nets

that protect only the poor." Thus when President Clinton calls upon the rich to "pay their fair share" of federal taxes, he's consciously appealing to the interests of middle and lower income voters alike.

This "new class politics" strategy represents a major advance over the Democratic Party's tendency to attempt to revive the old Roosevelt "New Deal" of the 1930s and 1940s. Yet this strategy doesn't sufficiently address the massive human problems which are experienced by the working poor, the unemployed and the homeless—Americans who generally don't vote in large numbers, yet who represent a major social crisis for our whole society.

For example, thirty seven million Americans—white, Latino and black—have no health care insurance at all. And according to the Congressional Budget Office, unless programs change for the funding of health care, our national health expenditures will triple by the year 2003, to an estimated \$672 billion annually. It will be literally impossible to reduce the budget deficit unless Clinton finds a way to generate tens of billions of new tax dollars. Former President Jimmy Carter's call for a new \$2-per-pack tax on all cigarettes, with revenues going toward health care, ought to be considered. But in the long run, only a comprehensive system of national health care, modeled on the Canadian system, will really address the health crisis for millions of people.

Clinton should be pushed toward a more progressive economic agenda for this country, which really reverses the legacy of Reaganomics, rather than nibbling around the edges. The taxes of the wealthy should be increased to a *minimum of 50 percent*. Most of the industrial world, after all, taxes its wealthiest citizens at much higher rates than we do. Japan's top tax rate is

50 percent; Germany's top rate is 53 percent, and France's top rate is nearly 57 percent.

Robert B. Reich, the new secretary of Labor, supports an increase in the \$4.25 an hour minimum wage, perhaps to the level of \$4.70. That's helpful to the millions of Americans trapped in poverty who have menial jobs, but it doesn't go far enough. Organized labor calls for a minimum wage of \$5.70, and more aggressive social policies aimed at abolishing hunger and poverty. Keep in mind that 26.6 million Americans, or 10.4 percent of the population, are now on Food Stamps, and that the unemployment rate of 7.3 percent in December, 1992, was actually higher than any time during 1990 or 1991.

To cut federal expenditures even further, we need to accelerate reductions in the Pentagon's budget. Clinton's proposal to reduce the number of active duty troops over five years down to 1.4 million from the 1.6 million troops that Bush had proposed is far too small. Defense costs should be trimmed by at least 25 percent. And on the revenue side, we should consider eliminating the home mortgage interest deduction, the sacred tax shelter for the middle and upper classes. Such a policy would generate about \$48 billion by 1997, eliminating a major distortion in capital markets. Clinton's "new class politics" represents a step in the right direction compared to Reaganomics, but it is woefully inadequate to address the economic problems of most Americans.

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WHY BE RIGHT?

By Sensate Mass

My open-minded leftist slumber was rudely interrupted by a letter that appeared in the March 25 issue of *Statesman* containing something to the effect that, since the liberals have finally gained some actual power in this country, they have relaxed their grip on the media. This is comforting—to believe that the organs of information are controlled by out-of-favor political interests, and to think that, after having had to live through twelve years of Republican Hell, we will now only have to listen to it. The funny thing is that I don't disagree with the author's (a surely inestimable fellow by the name of Todd M. Smith) claim that right-wing issues *have* gotten more press time lately. What I don't understand is why they are infesting the minds of college students.

It could be reasonably assumed that people get involved in politics because they wish to influence the course of events in this country and the world in some particular way. It could be assumed that people who become politically active have some or other particular objectives which they hope to further through their personal influence. And, as far as liberals are concerned, this is the case—they become active where and when they see some situation that they believe they could help to improve. They get involved because of issues: you see all kinds of liberals—pro-choice liberals, civil-liberty liberals, gun-control liberals, and what-have-you. But in the machinery of the Right, you find people deeply immersed in politics who have no definite goals, except for a generalized notion of conservatism. Sure, there are religious conservatives, supply-side conservatives, and social control conservatives; all involved in

different issues, but most of them with any specific objectives, except for the nebulous notion of a "better, stronger America."

Given the fact that no college student is completely satisfied with the way this country's business is being handled, and that there is at least one area everyone would like to see treated differently, it is an enigma that the hazy rhetoric and (purposefully?) undefined goals of the Right would appeal to any of us.

The Left usually champions causes that have making the lives of individuals better as their end, while the Right prefers to see things on a societal level. In doing so, the latter usually needs to have recourse to broadly-based theories that appeal to something other than a desire for the state of affairs which they will create. Remember Reagan's "Morning in America" spot, which promised that everyone would be better off if we let the rich decide what to do with the country's money instead of having the government attempt to distribute it equitably? We all know what happened—the rich kept the money and the rest of us lost our shirts.

When it comes to social policy, the Right's viewpoint is usually "Leave everything alone." The idea is that the country would be better off if those who have more talent, more drive, and more assertiveness take what would naturally accrue to them—more money. It is assumed that if resources are in these hands, they will be used more efficiently, to the benefit of us all. While this argument is appealing, it is basically advocating the dissolution of the social contract. What is the difference between a society that allows everyone only so much as he or she can take and no society at all?

The purpose of civilization is to make life better for everyone, isn't it?

There is an inherent inconsistency in the thinking of the Right—at the same time that they espouse the principle of the success of the fittest, they also wish to impose a framework of social and religious values upon society, thus creating a Party system of sorts in which only initiates with the proper state of mental cleanliness can attain positions of power. This system is self-defeating, because it trades in all of the "advantages" of laissez-faire policies for the dubious advantage of orthodoxy and the limited mentalities that it attracts.

The social underpinnings of the young Right are equally incoherent: groups of Young Republicans (or skinheads, or whatever) get together mostly for the purpose of creating a group identity rather than for any specific purposes. This is done in the manner made classic by religions and nationalities throughout history—the members of the group chant in unison "We're better than you!" to everyone else. Left-wingers congregate for real purposes, to get things done. Ever notice the similarities between Young Republicans and the Hitler Youth? The members of both groups are overwhelmingly white, have short haircuts, wear uniforms (in the case of Young Republicans, suit, tie, and attitude), and are vigorously trained in ideology.

The Right is quite fond of painting its liberal counterpart as having some nefarious master plan for controlling the country and the world. How? By giving everyone more civil liberties? ("Pretty sneaky, those liberals...") Actually, it is the Right that wishes to impose itself upon an unwilling populace. "We'd all be better off if everyone acted according to this strict code of thought, expression, and conduct," is the implicit message

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April Fool's! →

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Gone on Vacation

By Catherine Krupski

What's wrong with taking a break from relationships? A good breather can be just the cure for someone. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees with this notion. You may have to contend with the concept that there may be something wrong with you if you don't go and nail someone right after you end a relationship. Once you break up with someone, your friends don't want to see you single again. Of course, everyone you know decides that whoever you were with was all wrong for you and they know someone else who "would be good for you and you two would make a great couple." Of course they said that about the last person you were dating. My word of advice: When your friends say "Oh, you two look so cute together," run the other way.

Once you're free from what can be considered the binding qualities of a relationship, you are able to concentrate on the things that you weren't able

to before—like your schoolwork. Getting back into the swing of things in the classroom can help as midterms are here and there is time to make an effort and boost your grades. All of the things that you did for your significant other amounts to squat on your transcripts. Finally, you're back to the one who matters the most (#1).

You can be yourself again. Before you date someone, its OK to discuss your views and feelings, but once you start going out, you have to keep mum (acting lessons come in handy here). You don't have to hide those fundamental aspects of yourself that would normally scare the living shit out of your dearest one if they actually witnessed it. Speaking hypothetically, let's say you had this natu-

rally *evil* laugh that could bring the bravest to their knees quivering, you would rather just keep it to yourself, at least until you got to know each other a



little better. You can once again hang out with *your* friends no matter how repulsive or unusual they may be and scratch yourself and belch and have a great time, which is all those things you had to abstain from while you were dating.

Time and energy is conserved while living the voluntarily celibate lifestyle.

You can guiltlessly sleep late and not shower if you so choose. The whole procedure of meeting friends and family can be a traumatic ordeal and has mercifully vanished from the back of your mind. You get a sense of relief from not having to worry whether they told their parents and friends about you, which I think adds more stress to a relationship. You won't have to wait for them to come out of class nor will you have to carry *two* pears with you throughout the day to share with someone—you can eat them both!

The best thing about a dating hiatus is that when you are ready to start anew, there will be no hang ups or stupid preconceptions interfering with your thought process so you will be able to judge for yourself, not from the judgment of others. Overall, it's not bad to be single for a while—however long it takes you—as long as you don't wind up involuntarily celibate and manage to fuck up your friends' relationships.

"Whip Me, Beat Me, Meet My Parents"

By Dionysus Lestat

When it comes to women, I don't have a clue, much less a chance. It was only recently that the fog started to clear. Mind you, this is only a theory that I am working on... it requires more research and input than I will ever be able to put into it, but keep it in a dark corner of your brain and dig it out when you are staring at the ceiling asking yourself, "What the hell's going on?"

It all started on an ordinary Friday night. In between filling my friends shoes with tabs from beer cans, and calling 2-7448 and telling the guy who picks up the phone that his number is "2-shit." The topic of conversation turned to "The Stupidest Thing You Have Ever Done." I knew when I said it that "Falling in Love" would take some explaining, so after a little thought and a lot of beer, here it is.

Women have a deep-rooted need to be abused. I don't know if the need is psychological or biological, that is a matter for further "research." They always go for the guys who treat them bad(l-y), and even worse, they always go back for more. I may not have much to offer; I do not have the body of Adonis, I look like I was hit by a truck, and I have less money than I know what to do with, but I have a decent attitude and a good personality. In fact, according to most women, I am "the sweetest guy" they've "ever met." With those overwhelming qualifications, explain to me why I couldn't build a relationship with Lincoln Logs. By building a relationship, I don't

mean just having sex—because I couldn't get laid if I crawled up a chicken's ass, I'm talking about something between good friends and marriage (YUK!). This really puzzled me.

I decided to study the interactions of my friends and their other halves. I found a girl who isn't allowed to talk to her friends because her boyfriend of three years won't let her. I found another who's long-term boyfriend beats her until she bruises. I found one woman whose boyfriend changed her so much, then broke up with her because she's not who he started going out with. I found a whole tribe of girls who are willing to sleep with a friend of mine although he has a girlfriend. When he breaks up with his girlfriend and starts going with the girl he cheated with, she's stupid enough to think he will be faithful and not cheat on her (DUHHH!).

I haven't been able to come up with the driving force that keeps these girls with such slime balls, but I'm almost ready to go down to Personalities-R-Us and pick up the new and improved Scum Bag Kit. Perhaps they feed off of the humiliation, or maybe all women are masochists, or maybe sitting by the phone waiting for it to ring when he's out doing the Horizontal Mambo with your best friend is really intellectually stimulating. It is probably starting to sound like I'm becoming bitter, emotionally scarred, painfully obvious, or cynical. That's not the case at all, I'm just fucking jealous... Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to the mall to pick up a baseball bat and an engagement ring.

"A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little Statesman and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words, and to-morrow speak what to-morrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict every thing you said to-day.—'Ah, so you shall be sure to be misunderstood.'—Is it so bad then to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood. Join the Press."

Emerson
Self Reliance

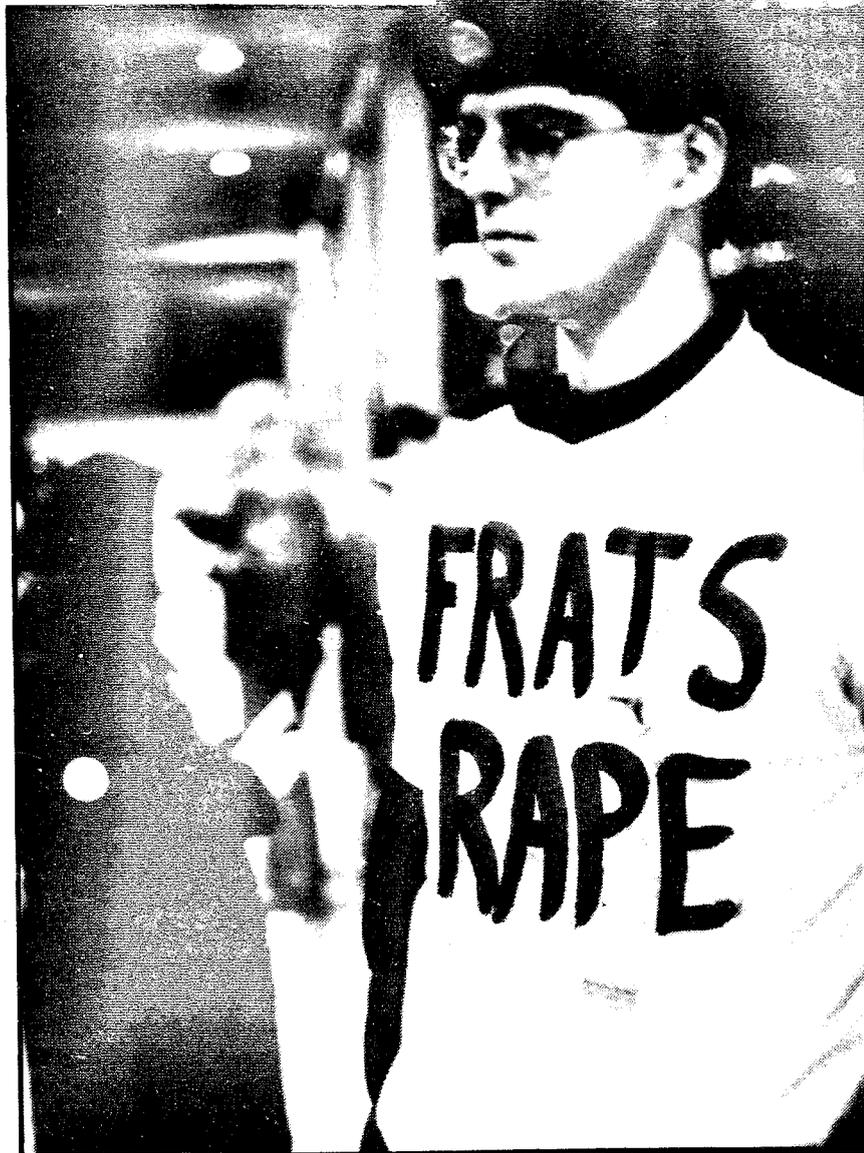
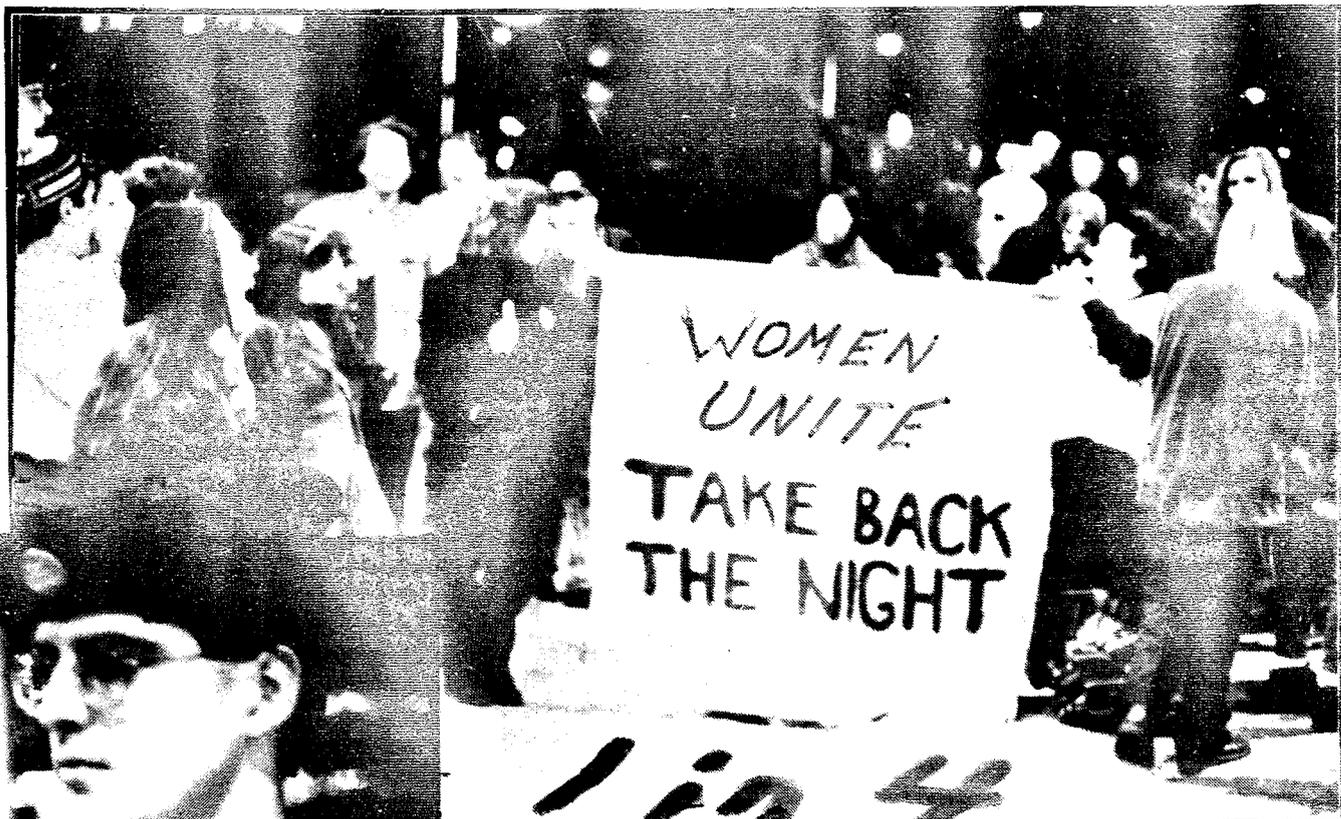
WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

By Rob Gilheany

The annual "Take Back the Night March" took place on campus Thursday. A crowd of forty-five marched throughout the campus to proclaim the campus as a safe place for women.

The march, consisting predominately women, paid tribute to the women of America who have been a victim of violence. One out of every four women are victims of violence in America. This event is to raise the consciousness of the community to the plight of women who are victim of domestic violence, rape, date rape, or attacks.

They marched through campus dor-



mitory quads and academic centers. They covered the whole main campus. When the march went through the dormitory quads, the spirit of the march drew people to the windows of the buildings. The women of Stony Brook were making their presence felt. The march was an empowering event.

Women chanted, "Women Unite- Take Back the Night" and "this is our campus, too." The march ended up at the Student Union, culminating in a candle light vigil.

The vigil was silent and formed a human circle in front of the Union. People stood silently for several minutes holding lit white candles. The spirit of the vigil was strong and somber. "The Take Back the Night March" was organized by the Center for Womyn's Concerns.



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behind most conservative campaign rhetoric, most recently in the guise of "Family Values" and homophobia. Little attention is paid by the Right to structural flaws and inequalities in the country, but rather to liberal attempts to redress them. Instead, they trumpet the inherent (?) greatness of the country and its people (except for that "dangerous element" that, on average, comprises about half of the population...), and say that things will take care of themselves—the problems we have now are due to, of all things, our attempts to improve society.

During the last twelve years, the Right has been able to claim that its hold upon the presidency, the arena in which the distinction between Left and Right is laid most open, reflects some sort of inherent superiority to their viewpoint. In a way, it does—the kind of superiority that comes from the relative ease in communicat-

ing a simplistic world-view to an undereducated populace.

The reason the Left is always at a political disadvantage is that it has a *conscience*. It seeks to provide feasible solutions to complex problems, whereas the Right is able to make do with flag-waving and two-bit slogans. The situation is similar to a fight in which one of the combatants fights dirty and the other does not. The Left actually wants to do something for people, to make their lives better. To do this properly, it must act in accordance with the real world. The philosophy of the Right is to seize power and hold it.

It is obvious then, according to this, why right-wing policies are so attractive to the youth of today. Lacking in decent educations, and always bitter about *something*, they like to espouse policies whose effects they do not know, but which appeal to their desire to have a feeling of righteousness infused into

their bigotry and hatred. There's been a lot of talk in right-wing circles about leftist idpower through (sadly, very successful) appealing to the small-mindedness of the population.

The Right is fond of claiming that liberals are completely determined by some form of ideology, as if it were carved in stone and unresponsive to the events of the world, or even that one exists. Actually, it is the Right that has cornered the market on dogma, characteristically as the belief that (your iconoclast here) has a monopoly on truth, and everyone else must conform to his/her opinions, or be prepared to submit meekly and quietly.

The only fixed tenets of the Left are: if someone is hurting, something should be done about it; the idea that everyone should have some semblance of equal opportunity for happiness and success in the world; and the affairs of humanity should be conducted according to ethical principles.

And the Winner Is.....

By Dennis O. Palmore

The Academy Awards better known as the Oscars, are the film industries biggest awards ceremony. Around the same time every year a big media blitz takes place to plug the nominated films and actors. I ask myself every year who cares, it's just another one of the many awards shows that we see annually. Most of the movies that are nominated for the best film are usually films that I'm personally not interested in. The actors who are nominated for these awards seem to be the same familiar names we see and hear about in magazines and on television. There is rarely anything new or different as far as the Oscars are concerned. Who are these people who decide what the best film is or who the best actor is? What makes them so special, why don't movie goers have a say in the decision? After all, we are the people who support the industry and the lavish lifestyles these Hollywood types exhibit. In my opinion most of the truly good films are neglected by Hollywood. What do those people in Hollywood know that I don't? The film should speak for itself, any one who sees a film is able to form a legitimate opinion about it's content. Do they see things we don't, I don't think so, this makes them no better than you or I? These awards are not a true representation of film as an art form, for the most part films are seen as a way of making money for the industries elite. Its artistic value is lost in the glut of box office money making sequels, artistic quality is replaced by the amount of

ticket receipts the film brings in. I'm sure independent film makers understand the difficulties in getting recognized without the power of the box office draw the film industry thrives on. Most motion picture companies don't know your name unless you've made them some where around \$100 million dollars!! The Oscars should honor the artistic value in the film industry, oh but wouldn't that be something new? The Oscars for all intent and purposes is just used as a marketing tool for film companies. As soon as the winners are announced a stream of advertising gimmicks and labels are placed on the winning films to reap more profits out the movie going public. This is one of the reasons why this award is not a valid representation of the real artists in the film industry. Where are the minorities and women represented in the motion picture industry? Over the past few years there has been a number of African American films or films with African American themes produced, believe it or not a few of them were even nominated for an Oscar. NO! they didn't win let's not get carried away. Films about women are still not as prevalent as they should be, and I doubt Hollywood would produce films of this nature if they did not find them commercially viable. In this, the year in which the Academy Awards dedicated the show by calling it the "Year of the Woman". I ask myself where are they coming from, is this not one of the worst years for women in film or what? Movies like *Basic Instinct*, which Sharon Stone portrays a woman who is an ice pick wielding murderer,

Single White Female is about a psychotic roommate who turns murderer, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, and *Batman Returns* in which catwoman portrayed by Michelle Pfeiffer is a woman who has no sympathy for men and sometimes even women. This is the crop of female roles that Hollywood wants to pat itself on the back about, please I think not. Hollywood is so convincing they are even beginning to believe themselves. If anything they should kick themselves in the a—for having the audacity to think that they are doing someone a favor. What about Hispanics, Native American and Asians? No, I haven't forgotten about them the way Hollywood has, but their virtually forgotten, as far as Hollywood is concerned they don't exist! Hollywood has a monopoly on what we see on the big screen, with the exception of a few independents who fall through the cracks. Usually the Academy of Motion Picture Sciences manages to have its token independent or minority film nominated in a sea of creative redundancy that's involved in developing Hollywood films. They couldn't recognize a good film if it made them money! So if you watched the Oscars this year I'm sure you've noticed how much of a useless farce they are. The only original aspect of the whole ceremony is Billy Crystal (as long as he remains the host) who doesn't seem to take them too seriously, as his comic gestures indicate. If you want to have a good laugh or waste your time rooting for the usual batch of actors, then watch the (Hollywood) Academy Awards.

Parental Guidance

By Steven J. Forster

Teething. The painful and cranky growing-up process that all people go through right up until they are twenty or so. My son is now experiencing the growth of two new molars and I truly feel for the boy, after having experienced this part of my growing pains just a few years ago.

For each child it is different, and some of the symptoms are indistinguishable from other ailments; particularly ear infections. Your child may have a low-grade fever, rubbing the ears, consistent wake-ups in the middle of the night or just general crankiness.

One of the things you need to get is a

gum soother; you put it in the refrigerator (not the freezer as it tends to rupture the plastic) and when your child has a bout with gum pain you give the soother to her and she will gnaw on. The combination of the gnawing and the cold helps to soothe the pain.

You should also keep a topical gum ointment (Ora gel, Ambesol, etc.). This stuff takes really crappy, but it works on contact. The only drawback from using an ointment is that it is only a topical solution in the mouth, henceforth, you should also keep available a bottle of acetaminophen. My wife and I usually administer the ointment then the acetaminophen;

this way when the ointment wears off the acetaminophen kicks in.

Once your child has a set of teeth in, brushing the teeth should be done with a solution of salt water. Toothpaste should not be used until about the age of four. Children don't comprehend the process of swishing out your mouth and spitting. More than likely they will swallow the toothpaste, and this could make them feel ill.

Don't forget to limit sweet snacks, encourage healthy foods and a daily regimen of proper oral hygiene, and your child can enjoy a full life with her complete set of teeth.

The power of words, song, dance,
Touch Thought Memory
It's Spring
Don't take it for granted I miss you

Why in the world are you living in a residence hall?!

Why?

I pay \$400 per month for half a room. I choose between paying \$850 for inedible food, or paying a \$208 cooking fee for a stove I don't get. I pay \$129 for a ROLM phone with extremely limited services (it will not allow an answering machine, modem, extension, or FAX). I must leave a \$200 extortion deposit 4 months in advance in order to secure a room. My furnishings include wobbly chairs, a dilapidated dresser and desk, inadequate light fixtures, and a urine-stained mattress. I pay common area damage for my hall, floor, wing, building, and quad for things I didn't break and which won't get fixed even after they're paid for. The frequent Health and Safety inspections are a blast, not to mention my RA watchdog. A strong sense of community exists between the roaches and the other rodents that parade about my bathroom. The alcohol policy (no kegs allowed) contributes to my already exuberant social life. Don't forget the free copies of *Statesman* I get under my door every week!!

I have no basic tenant's rights. I must endure frequent shortages of heat, hot water, and electricity. I am promptly kicked out of my room during breaks. If my roommate moves out, a consolidation policy forces me to either find a new roommate, pay, or move out.

I'm glad you asked!

(brought to you by Scott Skinner)

MAN SAYS NO (To Sex!)

By Sharon Stoner

University officials today disclosed that a 22-year-old male refused sexual pleasures from his girlfriend. Twice, in fact. University Provost Tilden Edelstein was quoted as saying, "Never, never, in all my years of monitoring the sexual behavior of the Stony Brook student population, have I ever seen *anything* like this" (emphasis added).

The student in question was last seen in a car belonging to a female student, Tasha Abromowicz, allowing his shirt to be removed. Tasha, now under observation in the University Hospital while recovering from shock, said, "He seemed a little shy, so I asked him if he wanted to fool around. All he could say was that he wanted to wait until he was married. I just passed out."

According to Abromowicz, who succumbed to breast fondling, her friend said that he was "physiologically willing and continued to call me 'Mommy,' swore the sheets wouldn't stick and asked that I tell him to take the garbage out until he fell asleep. "Pathologists are still baffled, since the identity of this student has been withheld by the (still quite mentally unstable) victim.

The psychology department is in a turmoil due to this unprecedented occurrence, and professors are scrambling to devise tests to quantify this bizarre phenomenon. The schedule of the annual Convention of Sex Therapists has been altered to deal with this event. Dr. Spitzenbergen, chairwoman of the convention, said, "We just didn't know this was possible.... All of the theories, all the years of work, will have to be changed. I just don't know."

The couple, who had been dating for three months, went to the campus bar with friends and returned to her dorm room with the suspect. "I even had a condom," she wept. "Ribbed, too (sniff!)."

Public Safety, who had been called immediately subsequent to the perversion of nature, had no comment, except for an anonymous "this is just too weird."

"I should have known that there was something unusual about him when our liaison began to resemble a 'Revenge of the Nerds' skit," she sobbed. "I thought that he was a regular guy who liked to kick back and kill a few beers, y'know? I mean, how was I supposed to know that he was a brain-damaged mutant who never had a girlfriend, much less a sense of rhythm."

Abromowicz went on, "When he said that he had had dreams about his left hand trying to kill him, I just thought that he was crazy. He told me was an atheist and I thought that would constitute a green light. Boy, was I wrong."

Public Safety, upon a three-week surveillance of the suspect's room, has made public the announcement that, "He does not seem to constitute a threat, but we're leaving no term unstoned. I mean, well, you *know* what I mean. We took a pool in the office, as to whether he was just congenitally stupid, or something else. We couldn't get a bet on the other side."

The department of Ecology and Evolution is trying to reach the student for dissection. A spokesman said that they would like to run tests of his genetic makeup to determine his true species, if of this planet.

In a telephone interview from his villa in Rome, Cardinal John O'Connor could only say, "So, he's retarded, what else do you want? He's wasting his youth. When I was his age..."

The student had no comment to make, except, "It's my right to abstain from sex. Look at what I've done: by not buying condoms I not only save money, but I do

Too Kool For School

Don't mean to spit grit in your pit, but I've got it, man! I've got it! Listen like cats wearing hip hats. I found a new tone without the razz.

I was walking down the slick street in the moaning mist when I heard the blue breeze blow a new note notion. I stepped out of the rain and followed the wind to the swelling thought ocean. The door opened to mingle over a cocoa conversation glow that warmed the chill. The b-bop shop called me in with thrill.

"Hello... Welcome," she said with a grin. Her subtle sincerity said she was real.

I took the seat near the sound. The sax knew the story.

"Would you like sugar with your coffee?"

"Please."

We're loosen' our rythm and mind, rhyme and soul. Complaining clatter doesn't seem to solve the persistant problematic percussion discussion. Words at war in wilting worlds jumbling our mission



vision in the eagles eye dropping tears from the sky down the city tunnel trouble. Someone's hungry someplace. The calling name, blame and shame game forgets the pain. Stop this silly race - the ego show. There's no place to go.

The Llama's Lips

Adam Kazzz

Little things mean a lot. Let's live before we rot. My attitude is like this - a drop of dew on a morning kiss.

It brings me down to see what's thrown away. Where is this new dawn promised day? Is there an answer above? I could be a hawk or a dove in this wishing world where people shout and shove. Oh! Where is the woman I love?!

These blues are heavy. But I feel the anticipation of a sweet sensation. Play that sax, man. You know what it's about.

It was late. I had to split. I left behind some change.

All I've got is this column, 300 words, and the truth.

All I've got is this column, the rest is up to you.

English Professors Cross Rubicon

by Stanley Stanislofsky

A fight broke out between English professors restoring the ancient undergraduate English student lounge on the strategic second floor of the Humanities Building. According to witnesses, the brawl began when Professor Diane Fortuna, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, objected to the color paint for the lounge proposed by Dr. Levine - purple. She allegedly grabbed one of the swords off the wall, and tried to run him through. Dr. Levine evaded her charge, and grabbed the halberd held by the suit of armor at the entrance. He took took a clumsy swipe at her head. Fortuna ducked in time, but lost some hair to the blade.

Students who were helping the with the renovations rallied around their professors. Supporters of Fortuna, dressed in red and black, duelled with the Levine Royalists while reciting lines from Shakespeare. After several hours of battle, the

opposing forces were weary and locked in a stalemate. They decided to settle the dispute in a game of chess. Unequipped with a game board, they painted one upon the Sacred Table of the Lounge. Unfortunately, it was later realized that no one actually knew how to play chess, so the conflict resumed.

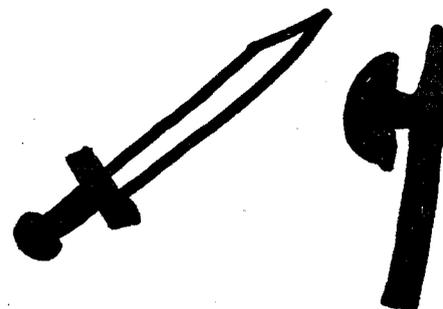
The armies started throwing paint at each other. Some of the paint that missed their targets landed on the Great Walls of the Lounge, forming murals. "A vision!," one student cried. "We must find the Grail!" The students abandoned their professors and stormed the registrar to find the time and location of a Medieval Literature class.

"Maybe we should discuss this," the professors confessed. "We should sit down and talk." Appalled at the condition of the furniture, the peace talks were postponed until it could be reupolstered. Upon the completion of the quest for the descent couch, the negotiations began. It was decided that

new curtains were needed above all else.

A great feast is planned when the renovations are completed. Students are expected to travel from far-away dormitories to hang out in The Great Lounge. As a safety precaution, all swords, daggers, and axes will be removed from the Lounge. However, the shields will remain for defensive purposes.

Fortuna claims that the Lounge shall stand "Until Burnham Wood come to Duncinane."



Dysfunctional Fables THE SPIDER & THE ARTIST

By Rachel S. Wexelbaum
(for Kerry, who wants to be a sensitive artist)

In Japan there lived an old man named Akiro Shironogi who could paint with watercolors. He lived on the highest mountain in Hokkaido isolated from his countrymen, and he had learned how to communicate with all of Nature's creatures. He could talk to the wind, the sun and the rain, too, and the villagers kept far away from him...

One day Shironogi went into the woods to paint a picture of his favorite waterfall. The little girl who liked to stop by the woods on her way to school ran away as he approached, leaving behind a pencil that fell out of her knapsack. Shironogi noticed the pencil in a pile of leaves and picked it up with the most child-like of curiosities, for he lived so far away from civilization for so long (he was very old, you see) that he had never seen a pencil before. After thoroughly examining it, sniffing it and tasting it, he wondered of what use such an object could be. He went around to all of the animals in the forest and asked them about the pencil, but they could not give him an answer. Finally Shironogi decided to go to the spider, for she was the only other artist in the forest and would have to know...

He found Spider in a tree, the dew shining on her web like fine lace. She twitched her legs nervously, as if she were in the mood to create but had no inspiration. "Spider," Shironogi called politely, "I found this strange thing in the forest. Could you have a look at it and tell me what it is?"

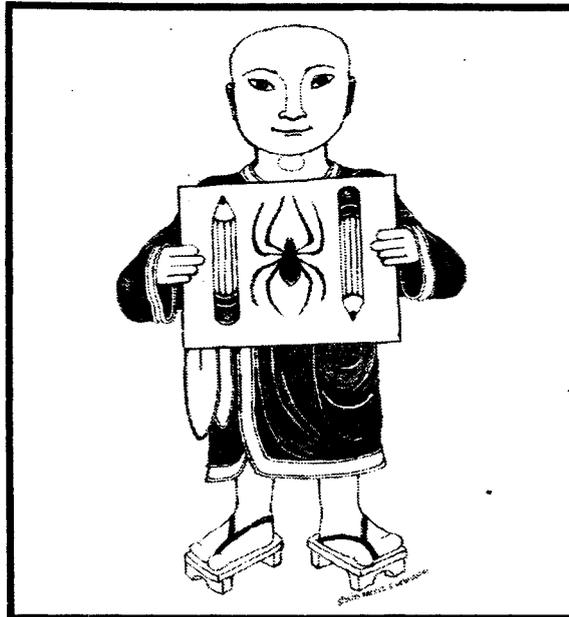
Spider lowered herself on a silken thread and studied what Shironogi held in his hand. "It appears to be a stick from a very odd tree," she decided, "and it is a beautiful yellow color like the sun."

"It is different at the tip, though," Shironogi

observed. "It even tastes different."

Spider sampled the graphite point. "It seems that you could draw with it, for it made my tongue quite black."

Shironogi smiled and stuck his tongue out in plea-



sure. "Perhaps I could incorporate this into my painting!"

"Perhaps I could use it in my weaving!" squeaked Spider, suddenly inspired. "Let's work together!"

Like two children the spider and the artist helped each other create a masterpiece which the entire forest could enjoy. Shironogi traced the pattern of Spider's web all around the tree with the pencil, and Spider wove the pencil into her web so that it looked like she had drawn it. Then Shironogi painted Spider's portrait surrounded by pencils, and stood under the tree

holding her picture for all to see. Both stood smugly as the animals tried to figure out the secret behind the duo's artistic expression, and they stood so long that each of them began to think about the pencil. Shironogi thought that he should take the pencil home with him since he found it first, while Spider believed that since she knew the magic behind the pencil she alone should control its power.

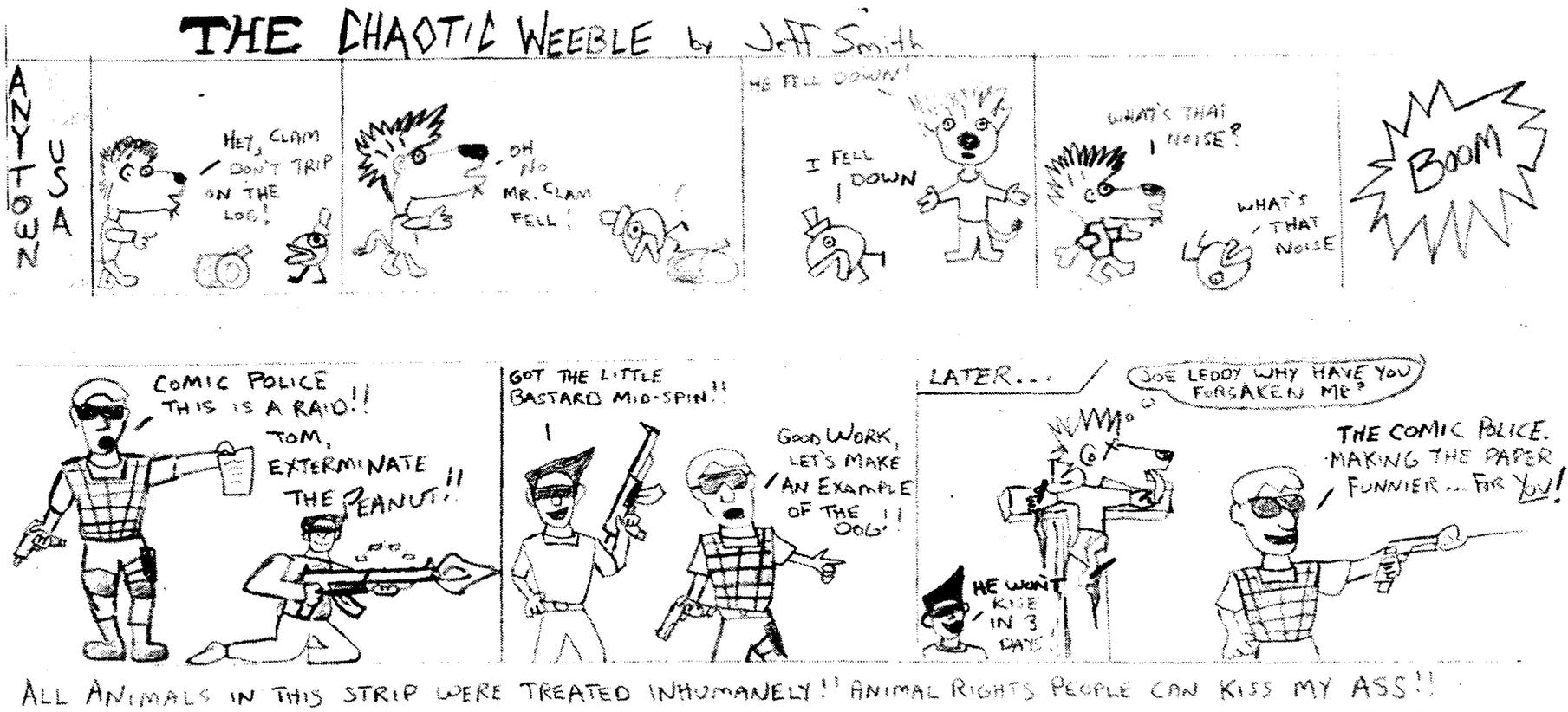
At the end of the day when all the animals went home Shironogi put his painting on the ground and grabbed the pencil out of Spider's web, tearing it with his clumsy fingers. In a rage Spider threw herself on Shironogi's face, blinding him and causing him to destroy his own painting with his clumsy feet. When he realized what he had done Shironogi grabbed Spider and tried to squash her with the pencil eraser, but she leapt back to her branch and he shattered the tainted prize against the tree's hard bark, destroying some of the webs that he had drawn. In all, Shironogi had ruined the entire day and lost a good friend in the process.

MORAL: Harmony is destroyed by greed.

MORE IMPORTANTLY: If there is only one, it is best enjoyed when shared.

not only that, but destroying artistic masterpieces for the new world order is not the way of the sensitive artist!

Comix





Photos by J Arandello Arranged by M.D.

"You're gonna get us lost again."

"Don't worry. I know the way."

"O.K. Where are we?"

"Uhhm..."

"Pull over. Now! There! That gas station."

"Are you guys lost?"

"Is it that obvious?"

"Make a right over here. It'll take you to the Brooklyn Bridge."

"Thanks, Man."

"Sure. I'm sorry, but I could use some change. I'm not making it too good."

We were late. It was 6:00 already. The sound-check was over. I hoped I could interview School of Fish after the show.

"I can see how you might get lost *in* the city. But how do you get lost going *into* the city?"

All we had to do now was find Irving Plaza. No big deal.

"Do you mind if I go to sleep now, and you just wake me up if we get there?"

"What do I ask them?"

"I don't know. Ask them about their influences, their goals...why'd they choose the name 'School of Fish.'"

We stopped at a red light. A homeless guy washed my windows.

"So what happened with her?"

"Nothing."

"Oh, no! Don't tell me you...Man! I told you - always go forward! Don't ever go back!"

We found the perfect parking place. A crowd was lining up outside. We mingled.

"Excuse me we have an interview with the band. Do you know something good to ask them?"

"I'd ask The Best Kissers in the World to prove it." She was about 16. "But I guess I should see if

they're good looking first."

The bands weren't there yet. They were at a party someplace.

"Do you mind if we have a beer."

"Go ahead, man, I don't care. Drink it all. Piss'em off."

"Do you like working with them?"

"Yeah, they're pretty cool."

"What do you do?"

"I just do the sound."

"Do you like all the traveling?"

"Well, it gets boring sometimes. We don't get to spend too much time in any one place."

It was too close to the starting time. We'd have to talk to the bands later. They were getting ready to go on stage.

"Rolling Rock, please. Oh, can I ask you something? How do you like working here? Do like seeing all the bands?"

"At first it was great, but then it got to be like any other job. You get used to seeing all the shows. But once in a while you'll see someone who is really good."

"Hi. I'm writing an article. What did you think of the show?"

She was from Israel. She didn't know the group, but she liked them. We talked more about Arab-Israeli conflict.

I got hold of the drummer of The Best Kissers in the middle of a conversation. "I'm 80,000 dollars in debt since I got into this. This big record company executive in his stuffy blue suit keeps my dick in his desk draw. I'll make the music he wants me to make...and you can quote me on that!" "They were into you, man...they think you're on your way up." "Cool...cool...oh, by the way, just don't ask us if we're really the best kissers...everyone

asks us that!"

The guitarist from School of Fish was upstairs at the party. "Hey, I really like that guitar riff on-"

"If you say 'Three Strange Days,' I'm gonna belt ya'."

"No, man. 'Take Me Anywhere.'"

"Oh. O.K. It's just that people think that's our only song."

They were on their way out.

"Hey, what's something I can ask you real quick?"

"I don't know...ask us what kind of Chinese food we like."

"Ask us 'how to solve the world's problems?'"

"How do you?"

"Bike riding. I'm serious."

It made sense to me.

Their singer added, "Less thinking, more feeling."

This made sense to0.

The band split, but Security stongman Glenn Taylor was still there. He had seen it all.

"What's the wildest time that happened here?"

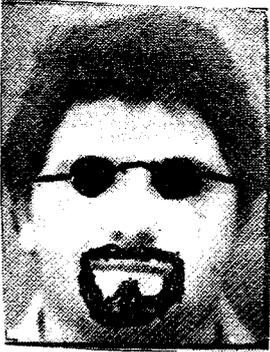
"The Morrissey show. Someone threw M-80's in the audience, and they tore the place up."

The show was over, but it was just the beginning. *Stay tuned!*

School of Fish and the Best Kissers in the World have not gotten enough credit here.. We're trying to show the show from a different perspective.

This is an indictment of the corporatization of music, making it routine instead of magic.

While the dancers savored the moment, another world went on, outside and inside.



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Don't believe everything you read. Get a grip, and grow a sense of humor. Ye shall reap what you sow. Pages 1, 2, and 15 were brought to you courtesy of *Right Wing Special Interest Groups, Inc.* and are not meant to be taken seriously. Happy April Fool's Day, and have a great Spring Break!

