

The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol. XIX No. 11

Billy Idol Gets It, Why Don't They?

February 25, 1998

*A Return
to Iraq?*



WAR!



*A Return
to Ignorance?*

POLITY AND THE PIMPING OF LITTLE BOYS

By Brian Libfeld

Members of the Polity Senate apparently thought they were addressing the problem of pimping little boys at their February 18th Senate meeting, when they summoned The Stony Brook Press to speak before them.

Several senators took issue with The Press' choice to bash SUNY trustee Candace de Russy. The Press attacked de Russy for condemning a conference on women's and alternative lifestyle issues at SUNY New Paltz.

Several senators didn't seem to understand this, however, instead believing that The Press bashed de Russy for condemning the "pimping of little boys" at SUNY New Paltz.

The Press' Executive editor, David M. Ewalt, stated that "The editorial board of The Stony Brook Press does not encourage nor condemn the pimping of little boys."

The general theme of the Polity Senate meeting was expressed by Polity commuter senator, and one of The Press' main critics, Kenneth F. Daube, when he said "I don't read your paper, I think its garbage."

The dissenting Polity senators as a whole expressed no knowledge of the events surrounding the conference at New Paltz. They also expressed no knowledge of the events surrounding The Press' attack against de Russy, and no knowledge of the libel and anti-defama-

tion laws that held sway in regards to the de Russy issue.

More importantly, the dissenting Polity senators expressed no knowledge of any of the issues for which they chose to call The Press before the assembled body for a formal review.

What knowledge these senators, largely commuter student representatives, did display seems to be gleaned from overheard conversations between Oberlin students who have third cousins, twice removed, who happened to catch the report on the issue on WPIX's 4 am edition of the news.

In addition, the senate was asked for proof that if The Press were sued for violation of the laws mentioned above --laws that those self-same scared senators did not understand-- that the brunt of the legal cost would not be borne by Polity. After The Press' Executive Editor

explained that legal defense was not a problem for student media, citing the mission statement of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), a non-for-profit organization that offers legal advice and representation to student media groups, Senator Michael Mahoney attempted to force The Press to publish an apology to Trustee de Russy with the

threat of a budget freeze.

This idea was largely shouted down by the rest of the senate, most of whom did not agree with Mahoney and his Commuter Student brethren. Polity Vice-President, Diane Lopez was quick to explain the illegality of the idea to the censorship-happy senator, and discussion moved on. Unfortunately it never got far from the subject of pimping little boys.

The issue at hand is not whether The Press was right or wrong for bashing de Russy, nor is it whether or not the conference at New Paltz dealt with the pimping of little boys. The

true issue is that the Polity Senate has demonstrated that it is uninformed about what is going on both on campus and throughout the SUNY system. The problem is that these student senators, who by the nature of their positions in the senate, need to be informed to represent the student body properly. Ignorant student senators are a threat to the health of the student body.

How can the student body of a university that professes to have an open mind, supports a Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-gendered Alliance, and maintains a department for the study of Women's Studies, as well as attempts to be politically correct in all possible ways, support a student polity association that enforces censorship? Voice your opinion at your LEG and Commuter Association meetings by electing senators that represent you, not de Russy.



Kenneth F. Daube, Senator

"The Editorial Board of the Stony Brook Press does not encourage nor condemn the pimping of little boys."

The staff and editors of *The Stony Brook Press* extend their love and congratulations to

Michael Yeh

WINNER OF THE 1998 MARTIN BUSKIN AWARD
FOR CAMPUS JOURNALISM



In his position as the *Press's* News Editor, Michael has consistently served the campus community by informing and educating students. His devotion to the truth and to this campus is an inspiration to us all.

We congratulate Michael on receiving this honor, and thank him for keeping the *Press* in the winner's circle.

We also congratulate him for being a dirty little monkey.

T H E F I X I S I N

By Chris Sorochin

"We have more to fear from the well-dressed bureaucrat who formulates and enforces criminal policies than we do from the desperate man in the street with a gun."

-Philip Beriggan

Last November, in one of the largest acts of civil disobedience since the Vietnam War, 601 people carrying crosses and coffins filled with petitions to close the death squad academy known as the School of the Americas, marched in a solemn funeral procession onto the grounds at Fort Benning, Georgia, accompanied by the somber cadence of drums. I'm proud to say that I was among them, carrying a small white cross inscribed with the name of Maura Clarke, one of the four US churchwomen raped and killed by SOA graduates in El Salvador. Every cross of grave marker bore the name of a victim of the political terror in Latin America; some carried the names of entire villages that were massacred.

About a quarter of a mile down the road, we were stopped, put on buses and taken to a detention center. Once there, any political literature, buttons or anti-SOA T-shirts were confiscated so as to prevent the incitement of a riot, as were deadly weapons such as lighters, combs and pills. Someone had obviously watched one too many "Escape from Stalag 13" movies. We were all searched (at first they put people up against a wall and made them spread-eagle until it was realized that this procedure was too slow and it didn't look good to have soldiers subjecting senior citizens and nuns to such treatment) and then briefly processed. Our names, addresses, social security numbers and distinguishing characteristics were all duly noted and mug shots were taken. Then we were issued form letters saying we may be banned from the base for a year. We were never read our Miranda rights, nor did we appear before any magistrate, so the legality of these proceedings is questionable.

The letters charge us with criminal trespass. It seems that anyone can walk or drive onto the huge military reservation but you're not allowed to make a political statement there, which is what we were accused of doing, although I prefer to think of it as a moral statement. Interestingly, politicians visit such bases all the time to sing the praises of militarism, most definitely political speech, but I've yet to hear of any of them being arrested. In fact, if the authorities were serious about this policy, they'd stop every vehicle with a bumper sticker outside the gate to ensure that no political messages seeped onto base grounds.

Now, there were more than 30 among us who had participated in previous actions at Fort Benning. These folks had originally been told they were barred from the premises for a year, but were later sent a letter extending it to five years. The powers that be feel free to change things capriciously without hearing or discussion. Anyhow, these 30 plus individuals were told that they'd have to stand trial and be arraigned later that week. At this proceeding, three of the defendants pleaded no contest and were immediately sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined \$3,000, even though the letter they'd received had stated that the maximum fine was \$500. When this was later brought up, it was dismissed as a typo, but it's obvious that the imperial kangaroo court is free to change details as it sees fit.

The remaining 31 were tried January 20 in a similar Alice in Wonderland courtroom, and of

course, the outcome was prearranged. Despite a brilliant defense and many strong and moving statements, all the defendants but six who got off on a technicality received the same draconian sentence.

It boggles the mind. My good friend and mentor, Bill McNulty, retired teacher and father of five, is going to be deprived of his freedom for six months for doing, as another friend put it, what this country is supposed to be all about. The "criminals", too, are a rogue's gallery of clergy, retired people, veterans, and students.

It should be noted here that not one of the perpetrators of the Latin America atrocities has spent even one day behind bars. The judge who threw the book at Bill and the others, Judge Robert Elliot, sentenced no less personage than Martin Luther King Jr. to prison for his civil disobedience, so I guess they can at least console themselves that they're in eminent company. Elliot also pardoned Lt. William Calley, commander of the troops who committed the infamous My Lai massacre in Vietnam- although Calley was portrayed as acting independently and was a fall guy for carrying out what was essentially US policy). Elliot is also famous for leading an exodus of segregationists out of the 1948 Democratic convention and is widely revered by racists throughout the South as a hero in their backward struggle against integration and equal opportunity.

A reduction in the fine was offered to those who would vow never to set foot on the base again. To this, one of the defendants, Dr. Nicholas Cardell, a World War II veteran and Unitarian minister responded, "I won't take your bribe." To date, no one had. Another man of the cloth, Ken Kennon, of Tuscon, Arizona, added, "My soul is not for sale. I'll be back and bring others."

Three attorneys worked for the defense: Robert Gottlieb, David Grindel and Linda Belltier. Gottlieb, from Long Island, gave the opening statement indicting the actions of SOA graduates. He also moved for dismissal on the grounds that there were gross improprieties in the verification of signatures on the bar-and-ban letters. The defense further invoked the constitutional rights of freedom of expression, the right to petition the government and the right to due process. Gottlieb wound up his opening by urging the court to "do justice even though it may mean government prosecutors don't get their way."

A further tactic was the necessity defense, which posits that the violation in question is committed to prevent the occurrence of a larger evil. This resulted in the acquittal of four women in England in 1996 who had quite effectively disabled a Black Hawk fighter jet that was destined to be sold to the Indonesian military to aid them in their bloody work in East Timor.

But, as Bill said, the guilty verdicts were probably arrived at last July. The government prosecutors did get their way as most everyone expected them to. We are, after all, talking about the American version of a Soviet show trial and there's little doubt that there was considerable collusion between the prosecution and the bench. Elliot tries all these cases and should definitely excuse himself for conflict of interest.

Before sentencing, the defendants were given the floor to make statements. Here are some of the highlights:

Elliot was enthroned beneath a canopy proclaiming "Law and Justice". Bill, in his statement, remarked, "We've seen lots of law, but no justice." He thanked Elliot for convening the best peace and justice meeting he'd been to in years, but remarked that the "free will offering" customarily asked for was a little high. He said that it was appropriate that the trial was being held near the Chattahoochee River, starting point for the Trail of Tears, in which the US government ethnically cleansed the Cherokee Nation from Georgia, by means of a forced march clear to Oklahoma, during which thousands died. He linked this with the continuing policies against the indigenous peoples of the hemisphere, of which SOA is one key component.

Randy Serraglio, of Tuscon, continued on a similar theme: "Back home, rivers used to flow freely, but they've been dammed up by a society that likes to control everything around it. But there's a river running through here (Fort Benning and the courtroom) and it's going to wash everything away."

Bill Bichsell, of Seattle: "You can lock us up, but we'll be back."

Ruthie Woodring, of the Chicago Catholic Worker, who wears nothing but cast-offs because she believes in supporting the system as little as possible. In her words, "The whole system stinks."

Dwight Lawton: "When you crush dissent, you don't have democracy."

Chris Jones (student): the experience of the trial was "like Orwellian fiction."

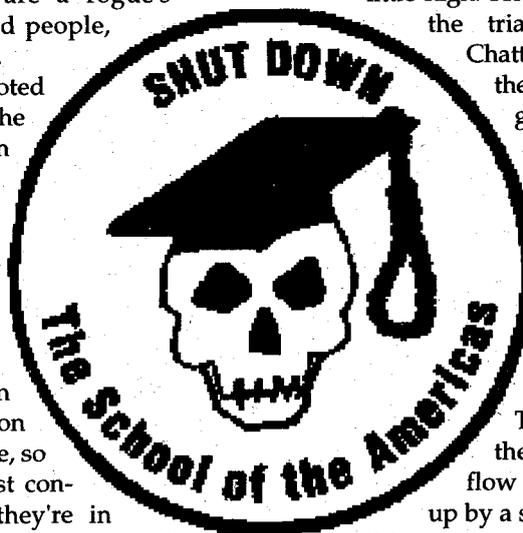
Rita Steinhagen: "Silence is complicity."

Doris Sage: We must "break unjust laws to cast a floodlight on injustice."

So, there it is. One more shining example of how our highly-touted system works. The question, of course, is for whom. The defendants are currently awaiting notification of vacancy in federal minimum security facilities across the country. At the same time, we're working to put out the word in as many places as possible.

Those of us who were first-timers are provisionally banned from Fort Benning through next November 16. The next demonstration and action is planned for November 22, so we should be able to participate. But then there's the registered letter that will tell us we've been banned for five years. Luckily, we don't have to accept the letter, which will necessitate the government spending massive amounts of time and effort to serve papers on each of us personally. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that they will do this, as no expenditure of taxpayers' funding is too great when it comes to enforcing control and maintaining the imperial structure. So we're looking for willing activists and other concerned citizens to be first-timers in next year's Big Event. I'm told that ways of raising money for transportation are being put into place to assist those who might want to do so. I'll keep you posted.

P.S.: You can begin your brilliant career in political activism Saturday, February 28. There's going to be a demonstration against war on Iraq commencing at 12 noon at the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Times Square, NYC. The last one on Tuesday evening, February 17 was massive; hundreds came out in spite of the chilling drizzle and ended by marching to the Port Authority. For further information, call the international Action Center at 212-633-6646. Hope to see you there.



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY TO CONQUER IGNORANCE

Mad scientist and self-admitted neo-Nazi Larry Wayne Harris allegedly planned to surprise the nation in a deadly bacterial blitz on the New York City subway system. Although the suspects have been apprehended, their message is clear: New York is a prime target for racial terrorists.

We often dismiss the threat of white supremacist organizations in our neighborhoods, regarding them as distant fringe groups isolated in southern rural areas. But unfortunately, bigots can be found anywhere.

Cosmopolitan cities like New York have fueled racial hatred for generations. In the 1920s, Suffolk County had the largest Ku Klux Klan membership in the state, boasting one member for every seven people. Brookhaven became the center for Klan activities, and soon the Klan dominated local politics through the sympathetic Republican party.

Although Klan membership has dropped dramatically since the Great Depression, they continue to challenge ethnic diversity on Long Island. New York State Grand Dragon Frank DeStefano (also known as "Reverend Frank"), a Mount Sinai resident, planned an "educational drive" at the Smith Haven Mall last July. There were rumors that the Klan planned their return to the public scene during the summer when most minority students from the university are not present.

This announcement sparked much debate, and many local residents held a protest at the mall. But in interviews with *The Press*, people of various ethnic groups showed very differ-

ent attitudes. Most white students felt that the Klan did not pose any serious threat to racial relations, while students of color regarded it as a clear sign of racism on Long Island. Nevertheless, almost all agreed that it is important to stimulate dialogue between ethnic groups to examine possible solutions.

The university takes great pride in the diversity of the student body, and the administration and Polity often plan events to increase awareness. Unfortunately, there is little unity among this diverse group. Many cultural events designed to "promote diversity" are often attended by members of a single ethnic group. In addition, some cultural clubs serve primarily as places for people to hang out with other people of the same descent. Even the facilities allocated for these organizations prevent interaction between groups. (For example, the Asian American Center is on the opposite side of the campus as the UNITY Cultural Center.) As a result, students are highly segregated in our social activities.

Polity leaders should encourage cultural clubs to reach out to each other and to sponsor events together. In addition, an annual global festival in which all ethnicities are recognized may help students feel less isolated and persuade them to learn more about others. The best way to celebrate diversity is to provide an environment that encourages multicultural learning instead of polarization. Only then can we be prepared to confront the inherent inequalities in our society.

It is always the best
policy to speak the
truth, unless of course
you are an exceptionally
good liar.

-Jerome K. Jerome

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Books Gone Mad

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to an article written by Jill Baron regarding "Stony Brook vs. Wallaces" in your issue dated January 28th. I agree with her questioning, "why the hell books cost so damn much." I am currently an intern with New York Public Interest Research Group and wish to inform you of a program that will aid the students of this campus to acquire books at a reasonable rate.

NYPIRG's Book Exchange Cooperative, co-sponsored by Polity is a money-saving service available to students each semester. Through our Book exchange, students save money on their textbooks because they buy and sell books from each other without the markups inherent in third-party transactions (eg. Wallaces/Stony Books.) Using the Book Exchange is easy. Students wishing to sell books fill out a Book Exchange Card and drop it off at the NYPIRG office located in the basement of the Union. Cards are then filed in the office. To buy books, students look through the Book Exchange files and copy the names of people who are selling the books they need. Then call them directly and make a deal that is beneficial to both students. The Book Exchange will only be successful if lots of students know about it and use it. If you would like to find out more about NYPIRG and the Book Exchange as well as the other projects we are working on, then come to our Student Action Meeting on Wednesday, February 25 in room 236 of the Student Union at 7:30 PM.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this program, feel free to call me at 632-6457 or come by our offices at 079 student union.

Sincerely,
Richard Mulerman
Intern: NYPIRG

Decode This

(see issue 10 for hints to code)

From: College Republicans at Stony Brook
To: Stony Brook Press

Jd jrx xztjde:

Jrfgmi ade jrx Penljdcqdx tg ndqe Axheqfen 12jr tiiqx. Jrx pdzx kfi efjrx xfin jd pefpm, ktjr jrx rxyl da Uqn Pdoijdpm fgz

Hefz Rfqiofg. Tj kdqyz flxf, Oe. Utqaad, jrfj dqe aqzfoxgjfy exfztgu imtyyi fex iyturjyn hxjxe jrfg ndqei; fajxe fyy, ndq ztz otilxxy jrx kdez "fgdgnodqi." Kx zd, rdkxsxe, rfsx idox pdgpxegi fhdqj ndqe uedii tgixgitstjn jdkfezi otzuxji fi zxodgije-fjxz hn jrx pdgjxgj da ndqe Penljdcqdx. Ade jrdix da ndq krd zdg'j mgdk, jrx idyqjtdg kfi "In a pack of midgets, is the tall one the leader? - Anonymous". Jeqyn, Oe. Utqaad, ndq fex f utfgj fodgu jrx oxgjfy otzuxji zdkg fj jrx Lexii.

Ixx ndq fj jrx Ldytjn Ixgfjx, iqpmxe!

Otprfxy Jiprql
Ijdn Heddm Pdyxux Exlqhytfgi

[The Editor Responds:
Man, are you guys dorks!]

Hooray for Yeh!

To The Editor"

Thank you for publishing Michael Yeh's article about the exhibit of my paintings at the Woodward Gallery in Soho. I liked it so much that I am going to have it reproduced and available at my next exhibit which opens at the Richard and Linda Rosenthal Gallery at the Rich Forum, Stamford Center for the Arts, on March 9.

I deeply appreciate the attention Michael paid to the work, the trouble he took to interview my dealer and his successful attempt to enter into my mind. Like all expressionist painters, I don't paint what I see: I paint what I think. No other critic has ever dug so deeply into my thought process. Neither has any other critic so well described the creative process which I have developed to express myself. I could not have said it any better.

I not only value what he said about my pictures but also was very touched by what some of my former students had to say about me. Teaching students in the Honors College was one of the most rewarding experiences I ever had in my life. I found teaching at Stony Brook so meaningful that I did so *gratis* when I was Director of the Staller Center [1979-1996]. I had hoped to spend the next few years continuing to do so but my contract ran out on New Year's Eve and my request to have it renewed was not granted.

Michael Yeh's article in *The Stony Brook Press* is the very best kind of tribute I

could have received to give closure to the Stony Brook Chapter of my life. To be so remembered by even a few students is the very best reward a teacher could have. To have a hip young person like Michael Yeh review my recent paintings as "plugged into the Zeitgeist" has fired me up to get crackin' on some new ones.

Let me take this occasion also to congratulate you on the courageous journalism which has become the trademark of *The Stony Brook Press*. I am proud to have had my work reviewed in an issue which is sure to be widely read and widely, but not universally, admired. You are clearly not discouraged by recent attempts to discredit your newspaper's stand against censorship "by throwing up a smokescreen of anti-catholic rhetoric." Censorship is hard to defend on rational grounds, although people have been trying to ever since Plato advocated expurgating Homer for student consumption. I congratulate you for defining the real issue in this and in many other controversies.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Terence Netter

Blot This!

To the Editor:

I have been in Stony Brook for the past three semesters and I have seen the same things happen over and over again with no change. Everytime I pick up a Statesman issue, I always go to their police blotter for a couple of chuckles. It makes for humorous reading, but then there are also some serious notes on there. I am referring the rash of burglaries on this campus. VCRs, tvs, computers, etc are being stolen each week with absolutely no arrests. What kind of security is this? What do these rent-a-cops do here anyway? Eat their donuts and jerk off?

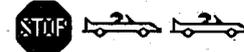
You figure that when thousands of dollars of equipment are stolen each week, there would be some kind of investigation that would result in an arrest. We are not talking petty crime here. We are talking about thousands of dollars. Is it really that hard to catch these criminals? I understand that some may get away, but catch at least one person. What's the point of having campus security when they do absolutely nothing but hassle skateboarders?

-Jian Wen





CAUGHT IN A TRAFFIC JAM



By Anne Ruggiero

As a kid, I played soccer for ten years. My coach, as coaches often do, always liked to bequeath timely lessons and profound advice to his team, but one anecdote has truly proven to be a life-lesson: "You can talk a big game, but if you can't deliver the goods, it doesn't mean anything." How true, Coach Brady, in dealing with college administrators as well as with pee wee soccer players.

Stony Brook is a state-run, red-tape infested university, and as a result, has several problems and difficulties facing its students. But by far, one of the most irritating daily dilemmas is that of parking. Any student who has stood for twenty minutes in the middle of the night on the bus platform, or has trudged in late for class because you had to circle the parking lot seventeen times, or has, after said seventeen times, snagged a parking spot of questionable legality and then been forced to pay through the nose for the administration's incompetence, know all too well of the problem at hand.

However, the real difficulty comes not from the South P lot, but from the offices of Administration. In trying to get answers for the driving public of Stony Brook, who are faced daily with the parking scourge, (not including the fat cats who can afford to park in the parking garage every day), I was faced with incognizance and avoidance tactics. After two weeks of placing phone calls that aren't returned, having to deal with the blank stares of secretaries who meekly profess that so-and-so is "out of the office, but I'll take a message and he'll get back to you," and returning to an Assistant Vice President's office for promised reports three different times and still no cooperation, I have come to an inevitable conclusion: when it comes to serving students, Administrators are uninformed, incompetent, and uninterested.

Let's start with the obvious: Doug Little, Assistant Director of Public Safety and Director of Community Relations. Mr. Little informed me that the Traffic Affairs department is no longer part of Public Safety nor of the University Police. So I trekked into the depths of the Administration Building, to the Traffic Affairs Office, where I found Arthur Shertzer, the Traffic Hearing Officer. Mr. Shertzer decides the first round of traffic appeals, and although I informed him that I would like to ask him questions, among other things, about the appeals process, he insisted that I speak with the Director of Traffic Affairs, Michael Kline. Sounds like buck passing to me, but if Shertzer says Kline is the one to talk to, I'll take his word for it.

Michael Kline is not listed in the Faculty/Staff directory. Convenient. Convenient, also, that the campus operator has no idea where to locate him. After a day of searching, I finally track down Kline's office number, and call him, and after leaving no less than four messages on his voicemail, I schlepped out to South Campus to

find his office. I was informed by an overly benevolent, and equally uninformed secretary that Mr. Kline was in the process of moving offices and his whereabouts were unknown. But I could try calling him later. (Yeah, thanks). So I left a written message with the secretary, and called again just for good measure, and looked elsewhere for information. I contacted Shertzer again, who stated that he really preferred if I spoke to Kline. In the meantime, I tried to get a hold of some traffic records.

Gary Matthews is the Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services, and to be fair, seemed like a pretty nice guy. Rank things often come in pleasant packages. While Mr. Matthews was highly cooperative on the phone, and promised me the reports I had been requesting for two weeks, he was all talk. As Coach Brady so wisely told his team of nine-year olds, it means nothing until you produce the goods. Matthews told me in detail of what the Traffic Affairs office is supposed to be doing, but when I went to retrieve the records, he couldn't, or wouldn't, supply any concrete evidence to support his claims, as he was absent from his office, and did not return my phone calls. Furthermore, in my quest for Mr. Matthews, I spoke to his assistant, Barbara Britt, who claimed that she couldn't help me with the reports, because she didn't "know what [Matthews] wants [me] to see." In spite of the fact that the student body is fully entitled to the information, the Administration may be airing only selected or edited records.

Michael Kline actually answered his phone the other morning, but he refused to speak to me, however. In spite this chickenshit cop out and his refusal to answer the questions of the people he is supposed to serve, I have some respect for Mr. Kline. At least he didn't try to cover up his cowardice with fancy stories and feigned cooperation.

Yes, folks, these are your administrators. Here to help you. Just don't try to ask them a direct question. But I digress: on to traffic affairs.

Public Safety publications show that 16 tickets were issued for parking violations in 1994. In 1995, that number jumped to 934. There are several reasons for the discrepancy. It could be a typo, it could be overzealous metermaids, it could be a mandate from a higher office to utilize a revenue-generating outlet. Who knows? Michael Kline declines to comment. What does the revenue generated from parking tickets go towards? According to Gary Matthews, the funds used to go to pay traffic officer's salaries. Essentially, they were working on commission: the more tickets they wrote, the more money went into the pool for their wages.

Matthews says that this is no longer the case, citing that all personnel is paid from a state line account, yielding several results. Firstly, the department has had to cut their staff significantly. Secondly, the money that is collected from parking fines supposedly now go to motorist-related improvements on campus. Matthews stated that in 1993, Traffic Affairs made a commitment to increase the parking spaces on cam-



pus by one thousand. According to Matthews, the department has, to date, achieved half that amount. I would assume that 934 tickets annually would buy a lot more than five hundred parking spots. Is improvement the sole outlet for traffic fines? We don't know--Matthews didn't give me the records. He also claimed that there is no definite calculation of accounts, since the traffic

department has a bad debt ratio, since not everyone pays their parking fines. Is that true? We don't know -- Matthews didn't give me the records.

Mr. Matthews stressed that he is concerned about the problems of commuters. "People think that I don't care about commuter students, and that's not true... I feel that the traffic administration has been misunderstood and maligned." Yeah, well, talk is cheap, and the traffic administration has not proven itself a great friend of the student body. If the administration cared so much about its students, then it would provide it with open information when it was requested. There have been no cost analysis sheets, no written proposals for parking extensions, proof of past improvements, no inventory listing of the types of cars that have been towed, ticketed, or booted, no breakdown of where finances are allocated to. No tangible reason why the Traffic Affairs department has split from Public Safety, and furthermore, no explanation or design for any miscommunications between the two branches. Doug Little, of Public Safety, states that he thinks that the communication between the two departments is good. I know for a fact that this is not true. Parking permits issued by Public Safety were not acknowledged by Traffic Affairs and duly ticketed. When questioned, Little claimed that the situation was being taken care of, but the fact remains that if relations between the offices is as efficient as Little says it is, then the permits would not have been an issue.

I thank Mr. Matthews and Mr. Little for (finally) responding to my repeated phone calls and office visits. For Mr. Kline and Mr. Shertzer, I can have no such gratitude. Also, gentlemen, please to do not perceive this mere expression of civility as clearance of your responsibility to be answerable to the students of Stony Brook. Parking concerns continue to plague commuter students and faculty alike, and until our own administrators are willing to take a clear look at what solutions will be best for the commuting population rather than their bankbooks, the situation will not be remedied.



STUDENTS PROTEST AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAQ

By Michael Yeh

Braving bone-chilling temperatures and pouring rain, students, faculty, and other community activists gathered in front of the Student Activities Center last to protest American military action and economic sanctions against Iraq.

Volunteers from many religious and political organizations held up banners, chanted slogans, and urged students to sign petitions for a diplomatic solution and more humanitarian aid last Monday. "Economic sanctions have kept food and medicine from the children of Iraq," said Bill McNulty, a Peace Center activist and an employee of WUSB. "To bomb a country in that condition is immoral and obscene."

Experts cite United Nations studies showing that children are suffering from the most serious consequences of the economic hardship. Last November, UN International Children's Fund representative Philippe Heffnick reported that 960,000 Iraqi children are chronically malnourished, with "no sign of improvement." The current "oil for food" deal provides 25 cents per Iraqi per day, barely enough for flour.

Yet the United States has taken on a hard-line stance against easing the sanctions, contrary to the wishes of most other UN member nations. "The most important step is [for the U.S.] to stop acting on our own as if we're speaking for the world," said Rev. Noelle Damico, chaplain of the Protestant Campus Ministry.

Opposition to military strikes against Iraq has grown considerably in recent weeks. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright faced tough questions and hecklers in a staged "town meeting" at Ohio State University, despite CNN's efforts to screen the audience and their

questions. In addition, many Christian congregations are uneasy with the potential human costs.

"I think public opinion will begin to swing against military action," said Rev. Jeffrey Geary, associate pastor of the Setauket Presbyterian Church. "The U.S. should cooperate with the UN and the international community."

On Tuesday, a second protest by members of the International Socialist Organization, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, and other political groups. Protesters marched in front of the Student Activities Center, chanting, "Madeleine Albright, you can't hide. We charge you with genocide!" Approximately one hour later, several of them took over a U.S. Marine Corps recruiting table in the Student Union Building, pasting up anti-war placards when the officers left for a lunch break.

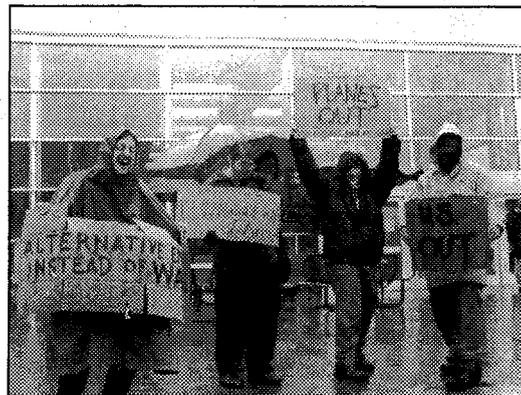
"Bullying small countries with the threat of military violence is no serious foreign policy," said Ben Hale of the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

But several spectators disagreed with the protesters, and did not hesitate to confront them. "Isn't it ironic that you're protesting against bombing a terrorist?" remarked one student, who stormed away in disgust. A visiting high school student said, "I just don't think [Hussein] is a rational person.

To many critics, American policies toward oppressive regimes reek of hypocrisy. "The government props up brutal dictators over the world, and there is nothing special about Hussein," said Hale. In contrast, the Indonesian military's mas-

sacres in East Timor and atrocities in Turkey have been largely ignored by the American mainstream media. "Saddam Hussein is a really difficult person and a very oppressive leader, but the best way to deal with a bully is not to exacerbate him," said Damico.

Ironically, economic sanctions and the threat of violence may actually be beneficial to Hussein's regime. "The solution lies with the Iraqi people themselves, and there is enough anger out there for them to overthrow Hussein,"



Students protest in front of the SAC

said Megan Behrent, who heads the Stony Brook chapter of the International Socialist Organization. "Every time America acts as the world cop, it makes things worse." Hussein takes every opportunity to blame the ills of Iraq on the U.S., thereby uniting Iraqis with a common enemy. According to Behrent, pulling out of Iraq would be "a step in the long run to get rid of Hussein and to prevent biological and chemical warfare."

"Unless the U.S. is ready to negotiate the end of its weapons of mass destruction, it has no right to force other countries to do so, said English professor Timothy Brennan. "As much as one may dislike the current leader of Iraq, one has no right to run their internal affairs."

Protesters agreed that the most important factors that influence American foreign policy are money and petroleum. "The economic sanctions are a weapon of mass destruction," said Behrent. "The real predators of the 21st century is a U.S. government that is willing to kill hundreds of thousands of people for its own interest in oil."



...for they will be called the sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)

Meal Plan Decision Approaches

By Steven Preston

Much has happened since I wrote in the *Statesman* on February 12 about the Faculty Student Association's [FSA's] Dining Services Committee. Vice President for Administration Dick Mann announced to the FSA's Board of Directors that the Administration was delegating to itself the ultimate decision on both the meal plan and the contractor who would implement it. Originally we believed that the Board of Directors would have the final decision, and the fact that Administration changed this in the middle of the process, after much work by FSA committee members, sets a disturbing precedent.

The Administration has, as this goes to press, just made its final decision on the structure of the meal plan. It will cost \$1100 and will be a straight declining balance. Students will have to spend \$500 in resident cafeterias (Roth, Kelly, H) and can spend the remaining \$600 anywhere on campus. The resident cafeterias will receive minor renovations over the summer, and funding will come from the profits FSA has collected in past years. Major renovations requiring additional funding will not be

considered in the near future. The only full meals which will be available on weekdays will be dinners. Delis will be open in both Kelly and H at other hours, and will accept "resident dollars". There will be no all-you-can-eat meals except on weekends in the dining halls.

Some likely concerns of the next meal plan:

1) People will still not want to eat at the residence halls. The locations will not improve much, and the hours will likely be less convenient.

2) Because of this, students will either be left with many unspent dollars in their residence-hall side of the plan, or they will end up trying to spend them all buying overpriced convenience items like Haagen-Daaz pints in the residence hall delis.

3) Even if resident students eat virtually all of their dinners in the residence halls, they will still probably be left over with money on their cards, and will thus have to splurge on the residence-hall side of the plan or else forfeit money to the contractor (Aramark or Marriott).

4) Residents who frequently eat on campus will have to add money to their central-campus portion while still having money left over on the residence-hall portion.

5) An \$1100 minimum buy-in for the meal plan is higher than many can afford, especially if prices on campus are significantly higher than off-campus (as seems likely, given our campus' history).

I'd recommend that you contact FSA if you have any problems with the meal plan, but since FSA no longer has any power over the meal plan, it is probably wiser to go to the following individuals who will be making most of the decisions over the meal plan:

Daniel Melucci

dmelucci@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Dallas Bauman

dbauman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Peter Baigent

pbaigent@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Dick Mann

rmann@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Fred Preston

fpreston@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Kevin Kelly

kkelly@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

FSA Dining Services Committee

foodplan@ic.sunysb.edu

It's All About Germs

By Anne Ruggiero

New York City is a global center of finance, wealth, and influence, a major urban power, and an emissary of American culture. It is not uncommon, therefore, for the major metropolis to be the target of numerous threats and terrorist intimidation tactics, and so the citizens of New York were unconcerned when, in the summer of 1996, Larry Wayne Harris announced his intention to release a deadly virus on the streets of the Big Apple. Unconcerned, that is, until Harris, of Lancaster, Ohio, and an associate, William Job Leavitt, Jr. of Logandale, Nevada, were arrested in Nevada on Friday in possession of the anthrax virus and a map of the New York City subway system.

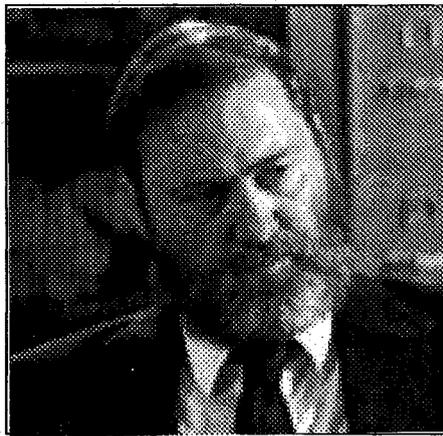
According to authorities, Harris is a trained microbiologist and a former member of the white-supremacist militant organization, Aryan Nation. Previously arrested for fraudulently purchasing the bubonic plague virus from a laboratory in Maryland, Harris is said to have created anthrax cultures from animal skins and other natural sources and collaborating with Leavitt, who owns and operates several microbiological laboratories in the United States and in Germany, and who has no previous criminal record and no known association (except through Harris) to any organized militia group. The Federal Bureau of Investigation consultant, Ken Olsen claims that a scientist of Harris' caliber, with the resources provided by Leavitt, could cultivate enough of the lethal agent anthrax in one month to annihilate 500,000 people.

Harris and Leavitt told an FBI informant that they would pay him up to twenty million dollars for biological testing equipment. Harris informed an unidentified group last summer of his plans to release deadly germs in the New York City subway system, "causing hundreds of thousands of deaths." The FBI questioned whether this was an attempt to copycat the 1995 sarin gas attack in a Tokyo subway station.

New York City officials have tried to keep a low profile on the anthrax scare, toning down the severity of the arrests at news conferences Friday morning, but Mayor Rudolph Giuliani warned residents to be on their guard. "Any place in America, any place in the free world, is susceptible [to terrorist attacks]", said Giuliani. The city has purchased a nerve gas antidote after the Department of Defense refused to foot the bill, but spokesperson Sunny Mindel would not comment on how many injections of the antidote are available or how the city would decide who would receive a vaccination. Dr. Neill Oster has said that the anthrax virus is odorless and tasteless, and that in closed ventilation system like the New York City subway, a small amount could easily incapacitate up to 250,000 people. It usually infects livestock animals, such as cattle and sheep,

but the dry spores of anthrax can be a potent weapon in biological warfare. Emergency medical advisor, Dr. Tony Boutin, told *Newsday* reporters that anthrax seldom leaves any survivors.

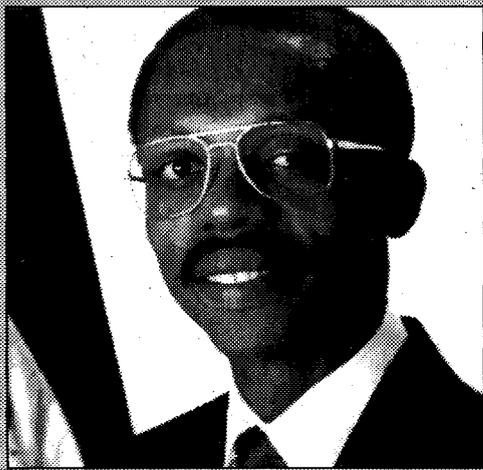
New York is one of the most volatile cities in the world, and the target of numerous terrorist attacks. As the United States prepared for possible war with Iraq, the potential for terrorist activity increases. Although the proclivity for hostile urban political attacks, such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, is from outside nations, recent terrorist attempts have been from militant organization within the United States. Radical political agenda groups such as Aryan Nation, or religious zealotry such as the Branch Davidians have forced the nation's ear on the issues of their choice, and often prove to be the most dangerous of terrorist groups, as the government and culture of the United States are their intended targets. Harris, for example, although previously trained in the insanely narrow-minded thinking of a white-supremacist organization, has, according to the Ohio police department, separated himself from the group and has aligned himself with various common-law groups. Such vigilante militants often perceive the government as a "foreign entity", and a target for violent reform, which is most likely the impetus for Harris and Leavitt's strategy.



Larry Wayne Harris

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Why You Should Beware Her "Personal Vision of SUNY's Future"

In July of 1995, SUNY Trustee Candace de Russy submitted to her fellow trustees a document entitled "A Personal Vision of SUNY's Future." In it, she detailed her ideas on raising tuition, cutting programs, closing campuses, and killing social programs. In the time since, some of her ideas have come to fruition, and others loom threateningly on the horizon. Below, some excerpts of the document that is helping to form the future of higher education in New York.

SUNY can no longer be "all things to all people," given the fiscal crisis faced by the state. As a result, we must rethink our mission and refocus our resources. Accordingly, let us:

Refocus which programs are offered at each SUNY campus, because it is not necessary that each campus offer a comprehensive menu.

Our Board should appoint a committee of eminent scholars to review the course offerings of all 64 campuses and recommends that insubstantial courses be eliminated.

Rank-order SUNY's 64 campuses as part of a review of possible campus closings and mergers.

The Chancellor and the SUNY chairman agreed to avoid and campus closings for academic year 1995-96. Ultimately, however, we need to consider whether we can sustain 64 campuses.

As a basis for discussions down the road, SUNY should rank-order all campuses based on several criteria, including, but not limited to, enrollment trends and economic impact.

Eliminate SUNY graduate programs in fields that are amply covered by private institutions within the state or region, e.g. law, medical, mental and pharmacy schools.

In its undergraduate institutions and community colleges SUNY serves a valuable role in providing solid opportunities to the middle class and the poor. Our obligation to offer subsidized graduate programs, however, is much less clear.

We should quantify how much is being spent by SUNY for law, teaching, medicine, pharmacy, and dental schools. Does the state need, for example, a SUNY law school and so many teaching colleges? After all, few would argue that New York faces a shortage of lawyers, law schools of quality, or teachers. Targeting these programs would be controversial, but these resources might be better spent strengthening undergraduate programs and meeting our costcutting obligations.

Eliminate any English-as-a-Second-Language courses offered by SUNY.

As the late and distinguished CUNY professor, Barry Gross, pointed out in an Op-Ed for the New York Times (April 22, 1995): "Why should students who speak minimal English be admitted to higher education? What other country admits to its universities students who cannot speak the language of instruction? What would a person who does not speak Japanese do at Tokyo University...?"

SUNY professors in general can reasonably be expected to carry a greater teaching load. At present, fully tenured professors teach only a few hours a week, although they are paid about two or three times the median income of the local community.

A key shoring up SUNY's credibility is finding ways to reduce the taxpayer subsidies for SUNY and related programs. This principally calls for raising tuition further, cutting nonacademic spending, and expanding privatization. Thus we should:

Raise SUNY tuition further to bring it in line with the average of neighboring states.

Although SUNY trustees raised tuition in June 1995, further increases are needed to reduce taxpayer subsidies and to bring New York in line with neighboring states. The average tuition and fees in the neighboring five states %5,051, according to the Governor's Division of the Budget. There still is room for further tuition increases:

We need to look very seriously at privatization options throughout the system. Possible targets include security arrangements, mental-health counseling, day-care, quick-printing, health clinics, remedial programs, and career counseling.

As a first step, we should vote to repeal a decades-old SUNY resolution that limits commercial activities on campus. Resolution 66-156 provides that "no authorization be given to private commercial enterprises to operate on State University campus or in facilities furnished by the University other than to provide for food, laundry, dry cleaning, barber and beautician services and cultural events."

We also should consult with the Lauder commission on privatization set up by Governor Pataki. One campus closure option is to privatize failing or non-core campuses, with due consideration of option for low-income students.

Review social-service programs offered by SUNY.

SUNY, in addition to educating students, provides a wide array of social services ranging from counseling to day care to family planning. We need to consider whether SUNY is simply trying to do too much.

Review SUNY's affirmative-action programs in the light of, one, the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Adarand Constructors vs. Pena, which newly subjects federal affirmative-action programs to a strict-scrutiny standard, as well as other Supreme Court decisions, and, two, the recent rejection by the California Board of Regents of University race- and sex-based programs.

We should review statistics on admitted students to determine if academic standards have been relaxed for members of protected classes. For example, it would be useful to know, for each campus, the percentage of students admitted on the basis of pure academic ranking, athletic ability, alumni connections, and diversity considerations.

THE TOLL OF SELF-CENSORSHIP AS BOMBS FALL

By Norman Solomon

Seven years ago, the Pentagon imposed strict curbs on media coverage of the Gulf War. American military activities in the region were mostly off-limits to journalists. Defense Department censors cleared photos, video footage and battlefield dispatches. Reporters were only allowed to travel in "pools" accompanied by U.S. military escorts.

With some grumbling, major news organizations went along with the restrictions — and then, two months after the war's end, tried to blame U.S. authorities. In a May 1991 letter to then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, the Washington editors of 15 big media outlets faulted the Pentagon for exerting "virtually total control" over coverage.

But the main problem was self-censorship. And it still is. Many journalists grow accustomed to parroting Pentagonspeak — especially after Uncle Sam's missiles start flying. That's how dead Iraqi civilians become merely "collateral damage."

In recent weeks, as the Pentagon finalized its rules of media engagement for another assault on Iraq, news outlets again seemed ready to knuckle under. Tidy euphemisms for killing returned. And, as if to stiffen American resolve, news reports warned that Saddam Hussein will use civilian casualties for propaganda purposes.

As a media theme, it's a retread. During the Gulf War, NBC's Tom Brokaw echoed the White House and the dominant media mantra when he told viewers: "We must point out again and again that it is Saddam Hussein who put these

innocents in harm's way." So, no matter how many civilians die as a result of U.S. bombardment, we can always deny responsibility.

This time around, more than ever, America's air power has been touted as the key to success. Of course, we're assured that the weaponry is new and improved. "The smart bombs of the Gulf War have gotten smarter, and there will be more of them," *USA Today* reported. Under the high-tech circumstances, Iraqi victims will be blips on screens for American TV viewers and military personnel alike.

The news is filled with footage and descriptions of cruise missiles, F-117 Stealth bombers, F-16CJ jets and other ultramodern aircraft. Their awesome technical prowess is publicized in detail.

But don't expect much coverage of exactly what happens to people when the bombs detonate. When explosions demolish vital organs. When shrapnel slices into human flesh and bones.

Above all, the mass media are able to numb us, dispensing anesthesia along with selected information. But if there were genuine confidence about the morality of firing missiles on Iraq, then presumably the euphemisms and media evasions would not be deemed necessary.

Meanwhile, media conflicts of interest are unacknowledged. So, for example, if Brokaw and his NBC News colleagues marvel at the exploits of F/A-18 Hornet jets, they don't mention that NBC's parent company — General Electric — produces the engine that goes into each one. Nor are any such disclaimers heard on CNBC or MSNBC.

When CNN aired an "International Town Meeting" on Feb. 18, all three panelists were top

U.S. officials. Only Madeleine Albright, William Cohen and Samuel Berger were permitted to make lengthy remarks. CNN anchor Bernard Shaw invited other participants to provide "a question, not a statement." In effect, CNN worked with the U.S. government to co-produce the program. Fortunately, grass-roots antiwar fervor gave the staged event a jolt.

Writing in the London-based daily *Independent* a week earlier, longtime Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk challenged the notion that there are no good alternatives to attacking Iraq.

"The world might, after all, demand that all Middle Eastern states apply all U.N. Security Council resolutions — which include an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land as well as the disarming of Saddam Hussein," wrote Fisk. "It could insist that within five years, all weapons of mass destruction in the region — not just Iraqi weapons but Syrian missiles and Israeli nuclear weapons and possibly Iranian rockets — be destroyed. It could offer a real peace in the Middle East, based on human rights, justice and a Palestinian homeland."

But instead, Fisk noted, "we are beating the old 1991 drums of war, our claims so preposterous that they bury the real viciousness of the real Saddam. For war is not primarily about victory or defeat. It is about death. It represents the total failure of the human spirit."

Norman Solomon is a syndicated columnist. His most recent books are "Wizards of Media Oz" (co-authored with Jeff Cohen) and "The Trouble With Dilbert: How Corporate Culture Gets the Last Laugh."

Iraq's Wars...

By Steve Preston

Introduction

In my arguments against the bombing of and economic sanctions against Iraq, I am often confronted with opinions which seemed poorly formed and poorly informed. This is understandable, as the debate over these issues in the major news media (in particular, the major television networks and CNN; the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*; *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News*, etc.) has been almost oppressively one-sided. You've surely noticed that the more pressing debate is frequently not whether to drop bombs, but rather on how many bombs we need; not whether to lift sanctions, but how to deal with those selfish nations which want sanctions lifted. This is true not only in Op-Ed pages, where everything is laid out plainly, but also more subtly in "objective" news stories. For example, a reporter might discuss Clinton's plan, then add that the other side favors more bombing than he does; the reporter thus neglects the common view that no bombing is needed at all. Or, as happened in a recent *Newsday* article on the demonstrations at Ohio State, an article might mention both sides of the issue but then finish the article with one militant view; the objectivity of the article thus lends support to the rationality of the militant view.

I think public opinion has been dramatically polar precisely because there are a number of facts about the situation which are simply not well-known. Thus, this article is written to provide crucial information, so that people can form and defend their opinions more rationally. It will not be uncritical of the United States, and thus some will ignore it. It will also not blame the entire conflict on Saddam Hussein, and thus many others may ignore it. However, I hope that the cautious reader will interpret my opinions as they are meant: as a view of the world which is quite popular outside the United States, and which can therefore provide a partial antidote to the US media's bias.

Now I want to say one more thing before proceeding, and that is that by all estimates, at least one million Iraqi citizens have died as a result of both the bombings of the 1991 war and the economic sanctions which followed. Innocent people are dying, at the rate of about 200 per day, because of the sanctions, and the situation will be much worse if the US begins bombing. Therefore, it is imperative that those who support the killings bear the burden of proving why they are necessary. A court does not subpoena an innocent man to ask him why he did *not* kill his wife; similarly, the pacifist is not obligated to explain why hundreds of thousands should *not* die for US interests. Bear this in mind carefully, and if you do not agree, please be sure you have a convincing reason for the murders you are advocating.

And now, a condensed history of the conflict in Iraq.

Early History

At the turn of this century, Iraq and Kuwait were both under the domain of the Ottoman Empire, as were many other Arab nations. At the beginning of World War I, many Arabs wanted independence from the Ottomans, and Britain encouraged their revolts to help destabilize the Ottomans. After the defeat of the Ottomans, the British divided up the Arab people among themselves. The borders between Iraq and Kuwait were decided by Sir Percy Cox during an emotional meeting between himself and Arab leaders; Geoff Simons wrote that "there is always the suspicion that, on a different day and in a different mood, Sir Percy Cox would have defined a different Middle East."

Britain also decided what the governments of the Arab nations would be, contradicting their promise to the Arabs of true independence. The al-Sabah family remained the monarchs of Kuwait, as they still are today. Feisal, a leader of the Syrian revolt against the Ottomans, was made the King of Iraq, and remained relatively loyal to British interests. He, his son, and grandson would all rule Iraq between 1921 and 1958, though there were many coup attempts, some briefly successful.

In 1958, a bloody military revolution led by Brigadier Abdul Karim Kassem killed the king and many of his supporters. The Ba'athist party had been formed in Iraq, Jordan, and Syria as a group that would unite all Arabs in one nation. Saddam Hussein joined this movement at the age of about 20, and one of the first things he did was participate in a Ba'athist assassination attempt on Kassem, which failed.

After several failed coups in the 1960's, a coup in 1968 brought the Ba'ath party into power; General Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr became the president, and Saddam Hussein became deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which would govern Iraq for the next thirty years. Hussein was responsible for all internal security, and his first task was to begin a violent repression of the Ba'ath's enemies. In 1979, Saddam put Bakr under house arrest and persuaded him to resign, making himself the President. Saddam's first action was to violently purge the Revolutionary Command Council of all his enemies.

At the same time as Saddam Hussein was seizing power, the Ayatollah Khomeini was leading a fundamentalist Islamic revolt against the Western-friendly Shah in Iran. The Iranians viewed Islam as the common basis for the leadership of the Middle East, unlike the more secular view of the Ba'ath party of Arabs being united against all others, including the Iranians. Iran was also ruled by Shi'ites, while Iraq was ruled by Sunnis, and Iran began inciting Iraqi Shi'ites to revolt against Saddam. Iraq and Iran had a historical dispute over the Shatt al-Arab waterway, as well. Iraq and Iran fought a series of border skirmishes, and eventually Iraq invaded Iran. Since Iran had no powerful allies to defend it, this was expected to be an easy conquest for Saddam.

However, Iran was stronger and more resilient than anticipated, and the war ended up lasting from 1980 to 1988. The US government illegally supplied weapons to the government Iraq, as well as briefly to Iran (in exchange for a promise to release hostages). The sales to Iran were discovered in 1986 (the Iran-Contra scandal), while the sales to Iraq weren't discovered until 1992. Iraq used Western-bought chemical weapons against Iran during several battles of the war, and was condemned by the UN for violating the Geneva Protocol. The war finally ended in 1988 in essentially a stalemate; both countries were devastated.

The Kuwait Conflict

Iraq not only had the support of most Western nations, but also of most Arab nations, including Jordan, Syria, as well as Persian Gulf nations such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which Iraq was soon to have disputes with. By the end of the

war, however, Iraq was deeply in debt. The country owed \$30 billion to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for war debts, as well as about \$40 billion to Western nations for arms. Saddam Hussein seems to have expected Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to cancel this debt, and demanded more money from them in exchange for defending them from Iran.

In early 1990, Kuwait decided to increase production of oil past the agreements of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC), an oligopoly of the Middle Eastern oil producers. Iraq accused Kuwait of waging "economic war", as the price of oil decreased from \$18 a barrel to

\$11 a barrel; Iraq lost \$7 billion a year. Kuwait was also getting its extra oil from the Rumallah oil field, which straddled the border between Iraq and Kuwait; Kuwait was accused of "slant-drilling" into Iraq's territory, and thus was taking an additional \$2.6 billion from Iraq. Iraq demanded that Kuwait cancel its debts and give them another \$10 billion loan. Kuwait dismissed the demands. Iraq began to threaten Kuwait

more and more openly, and moved Iraqi troops to the Kuwaiti border.

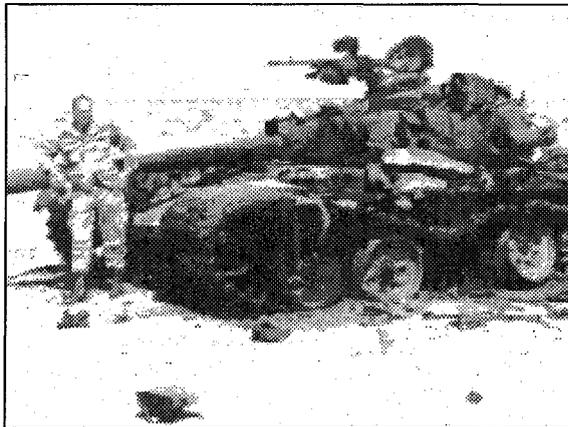
Saddam Hussein spoke with US Ambassador April Glaspie in a now-famous discussion on July 25, 1990. He complained of his problems with oil pricing and Kuwait. She agreed, and encouraged him: "We have no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts like your border disagreement with Kuwait." Saddam interpreted this as being a "green light" to attack Kuwait, and did so nine days later on August 2. The U.S. condemned the invasion immediately. Ostensibly, the change in opinion was because the rest of the world had only expected Saddam to threaten Kuwait at its borders, not to actually seize the entire nation.

The American Attack

Before continuing, it is necessary to try to understand what motivated the United States' next actions. Why was the United States so concerned about Kuwait being invaded? Surely it was not to oppose the use of aggression in the New World Order; at the time, the U.S. had just been condemned by the UN for its illegal invasion of Panama, and was ignoring recent World Court rulings demanding that it pay Nicaragua for reparations after the US's covert invasion and war.

It was partly about oil: the US has two contradictory goals with regard to oil prices. It wants low prices for oil on world markets because it makes costs lower for American manufacturing corporations, but it also wants high enough prices so that American oil companies will continue to make high enough profits on resale of oil. Thus it had to have fairly tight supervision over everything in the Middle East to ensure that prices were at exactly the right level. But there was a larger concern, which was generally unmentioned. The al-Sabah family was incredibly rich, and held about \$150 billion in assets in Western economies. Ten percent of foreign investment in the U.S. was from Kuwait. When Iraq seized Kuwait's assets, it would surely sell them quickly to raise cash to pay its debts and rebuild its infrastructure. This sudden loss of investment would possibly trigger problems in the market, which had to be avoided at all costs.

So the UN Security Council passed its first resolution on the issue on August 2, condemning the occupation of Kuwait, compelling Iraq to withdraw, and calling for intensive negotiations on their dis-



U.S. soldier poses for a photo of a wrecked Iraqi tank

Ramsey Clark, Attorney General under President Carter, called the sanctions another "weapon of mass destruction"

...and the Wars Against Iraq

putes. The next step was to freeze Kuwait's assets in foreign markets, both to prevent Iraq from using them and to keep the markets secure. Bush did this unilaterally, then persuaded other countries to do the same. On August 6, the next Security Council resolution proposed sanctions against any movement of goods or money into or out of Iraq, excepting medical equipment and "in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs." On August 13, Secretary of State James Baker declared that the U.S. would send troops into the Gulf to enforce the sanctions.

It soon became evident that the US sought a military solution. As war seemed increasingly inevitable, Iraq and other nations began proposing conditions under which Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait. On August 12, Iraq had proposed to withdraw from Kuwait if Syria withdrew from Lebanon and Israel withdrew from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The American government rejected this proposal. On August 23, Iraq offered to withdraw from Kuwait if sanctions were lifted and Kuwait yielded on its border disputes with Iraq. The American government rejected this proposal as well. Negotiations continued for the next several months; on January 2, it was revealed that Iraq had offered to withdraw if the foreign military left the Persian Gulf and there was agreement on the Palestine-Israel problem and on eliminating all "weapons of mass destruction" from the Middle East. Finally, Yasser Arafat (the leader of the PLO at that time) soon announced that Iraq would withdraw before a solution to the Palestine problem was devised, as long as there was a strong commitment in the Security Council to solve it eventually. The American government rejected this proposal also, as it had all the others. All the while it had claimed it was still seeking a diplomatic solution, though its only effort was James Baker's conference with Tariq Aziz, in which the former issued an ultimatum to the latter: withdraw from Kuwait or we will force you out.

When the US finally, inevitably, invaded Iraq on January 17, 1991, most agreed that it was more of a slaughter than a war. The bombing campaign against Iraq destroyed the infrastructure, including the electrical system and therefore most of the manufacturing and communications. Estimates were that several thousand civilians were killed, and Middle East Watch later said that most of the deaths could have been avoided (and that many of the civilian killings violated the Geneva Protocols). At one point, a stealth bomber destroyed a bomb shelter, killing several thousand civilians inside. Many of the bombs used in the war were not "smart bombs", as claimed, but standard bombs, which missed their targets about 75% of the time. Other violations of the Geneva Protocols include the killing of thousands of Iraqi soldiers retreating out of Kuwait; planes dropped bombs on trucks driving out of Kuwait on what is now known as the "Highway of Death". Bombing in Iraq continued for several days after Iraq had completely left Kuwait, and then a ceasefire was proposed. Some in the US complained that the military should have invaded Iraq and deposed Saddam Hussein, but President Bush said this was impossible because no other nation supported this.

History Repeats Itself (Almost)

One of the major terms of the ceasefire, in UN Security Council Resolution 687, was that Iraq had to submit to inspections of the entire country, to

destroy all chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons in Iraq. The economic sanctions, which were originally intended only to get Iraq out of Kuwait, would be extended until the Security Council was convinced that there were no more such weapons in Iraq. These sanctions had already been very destructive to the Iraqi economy, and human rights organizations began denouncing the sanctions as too harsh. Elias Davidsson, a human rights worker, asked, "Are we accomplices to mass murder?" Ramsey Clark, Attorney General under President Carter, called the sanctions another "weapon of mass destruction." The Security Council enacted resolutions to try to ease the human suffering, allowing Iraq to sell a certain amount of oil periodically; the proceeds were to be used partly to pay for food and medicine, partly to pay for war reparations and the expenses of the UN's inspection program. However, the amount of food Iraq was allowed to buy was only half what it was estimated to need, and thus starvation and severe disease continued, especially among children. The UN recently estimated that about 200 children under the age of five are dying every day, even with the "oil-for-food" program.

Although the sanctions were intended to last only until it was certain that Iraq had no weapons, the US had declared that the sanctions would remain indefinitely. Some have denied this contention, but there is much evidence. 1991: "All possible sanctions will be maintained until [Saddam Hussein] is gone." - Marlin Fitzwater, White House spokesperson. 1993: "It is inconceivable that Saddam Hussein could remain in power if he complied with all UN resolutions." - Dee Dee Myers, White House press secretary. 1995: "Sanctions cannot be lifted, whatever the degree of Iraqi compliance with UN resolutions, as long as President Saddam remains in power." - British Foreign Office. In recent weeks, the issue has been raised again, and Clinton and Albright have repeatedly said that sanctions will never be lifted as long as Saddam Hussein remains president. As many have suggested, the ultimate purpose is to starve Iraqi people and otherwise make them so miserable that they will overthrow Saddam Hussein themselves. It is difficult to dispute that this is the ultimate goal of the American government, as evidenced by the funding of around \$100 billion to the CIA between 1991 and 1996, in order to support the overthrow of Saddam Hussein (which ultimately collapsed because the opposition groups splintered). It should be remembered that these are *exactly* the same techniques that were used to destabilize the Nicaraguan Sandinista government in the 1980's, an action which the World Court declared illegal.

It has been increasingly difficult to justify continued sanctions. From 1991 to early 1993, Iraq was not complying fully with Resolution 687. For example, Iraq was denying that they had been able to make biological weapons, then admitting they had the technology after documents were discovered and denying they had actually produced any, then admitting they had actually produced some after it was

found. In recent years, Iraq has become very compliant, with relatively few and minor violations. In 1995, the a UNSCOM field officer said "They have done an excellent job. Our commission is convinced it's all over." In August 1995, the chief weapons inspector, Rolf Ekeus, called for lifting of sanctions because of cooperation with inspectors, but was ignored. London's *Guardian* wrote, "It is generally agreed that Iraq has already destroyed all of its weapons of mass destruction."

Occasional bombing continued after the 1991 war, and threats of more bombing were virtually constant since the end of the war. But the excuses for bombing have become much flimsier since the end of the war: the most recent threat was due to Iraq preventing access to Presidential sites, though the UN never believed there were actually weapons in these sites (contrary to the President's claims). The UN believes that all weapons have been destroyed, and they now seek only documents to confirm this. While there is much optimism that the threat of war is over, Clinton is still trying to suggest that the US will now attack Iraq with even slight provocation.

Will sanctions remain indefinitely? Some

countries have explained their support of sanctions quite clearly. For example, the output of other OPEC nations has increased to balance the loss of Iraqi oil, while the price has remained essentially the same. So naturally, if Iraq were to resume its pre-war oil production, either the other OPEC nations would have to decrease their own production, or the price on the world market would decline sharply. Either option would result in a

significant loss of revenue for all OPEC nations, as well as US oil companies. So while in Tuesday's *Newsday*, a UN official claims that the process is almost over and will probably end in 30 days, it seems likely that some excuse will be found to maintain the sanctions even longer. As many have pointed out, there is no justification in the UN for continued sanctions after the inspections are over. Their continuance up to this point, which have resulted in about one million deaths from disease and starvation in Iraq (out of a population of 17 million), is at best a violation of the Geneva conventions and UN law; at worst, it is brutal genocide.

It is hard to claim that Saddam Hussein is not a cruel dictator, especially given Iraq's history. But it is equally hard to justify Clinton's continued belligerence, regarding both bombing and sanctions. If Iraq were not the only nation which actually has to submit completely to UN resolutions (unlike Israel, Indonesia, and many other friends of the US), our government's actions might be justified. But the fact that the US has arbitrarily decided that one million innocent Iraqis must die is absolutely inexcusable.

Sources:

Simons, Geoff Iraq: *From Sumer to Saddam*
Simons, Geoff: *The Scourging of Iraq*



Corpse of Iraqi soldier along 'Highway of Death'

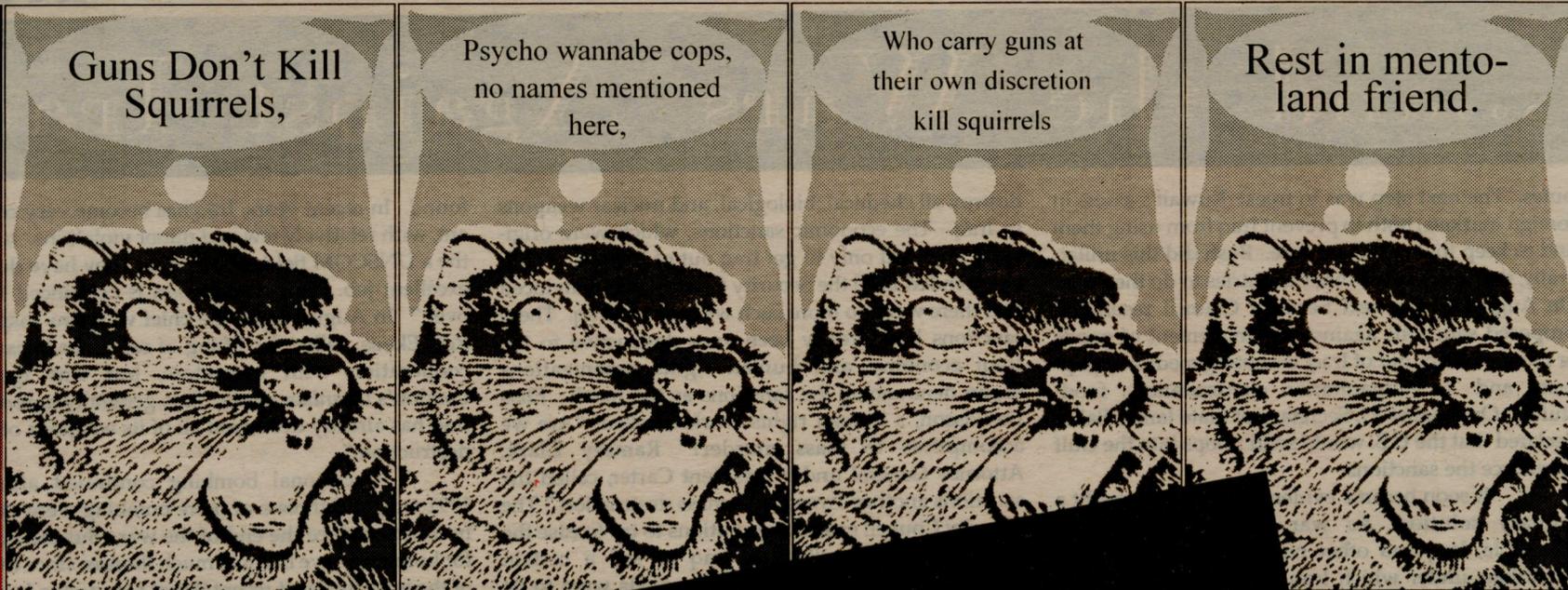
LET INNOCENT IRAQIS LIVE!

PROTEST THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

Take the 8:40 a.m. train from Stony Brook, meet in Times Square (42nd St. & 7th Ave.) at noon, then march to the United Nations! Join a discussion session at Hunter College at 5 p.m.!

For more information, call Megan of the International Socialist Organization at 246-8081

BY BRIAN LIBFELD



THE ANGRY SQUIRREL



IN "BELIEVE THE LIE"

C R Y P T O Q U O T E

1 to 1 substitution. Vowels vary by number, Punctuation by vowels. 13 words.
is is qnv

"Jgzxkpwftjvhqtjwvk tjzqrgztqngznqnw wfgzptjqqwftjvhtvkpnxkpv yygzqgd kpf tjp kplvhgjkpv zqnwkkpxqnnwk tjvhjkwv"

Strike Force Echo

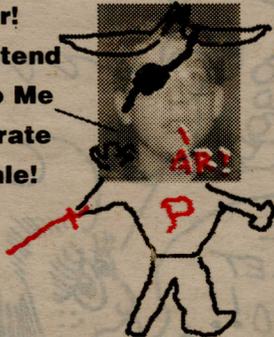
Featuring Guest Artists Heather Rosenow and Elvis Duke

by Matthew
Vernon
Xavier
Willemain

What happened to Ninja Master and Vampire? Who was Bill Gates' Mysterious Guest? Why do I never resolve the plot lines I promise to? I won't answer these questions, because this issue is in...



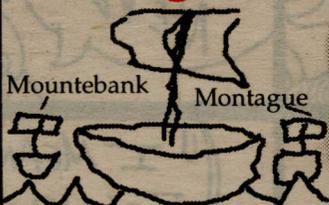
Arr!
Attend
To Me
Pirate
Tale!



I remember it well...



The Sun

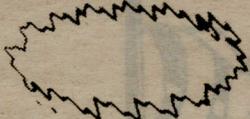


I was pirating rich waters off the coast of North Carolina...



Ar! The Fog! The Fog!
It's like the briney sea!

And there it were...the Outer Banks... upon me like the Kraken!



When I came to, I found me Piratey self in the unscurvey care of...

**ULYSSES
BURNSIDE**
Civil War Surgeon



Now that's a fork!



And That's How I Got Me Peglig. Skizzle frizzarney bloo!



NEXT
ISSUE:
EPISODE
**DOIN'T
NOBODY
KNOW!**



We have comics! The cow lives! Send us more bad comics and we'll kill you! Send good comics.

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

BY DANIEL HORNER



Fact: In 1984, First Lady Nancy Reagan had an illicit affair with "A-Team" star Mister T!

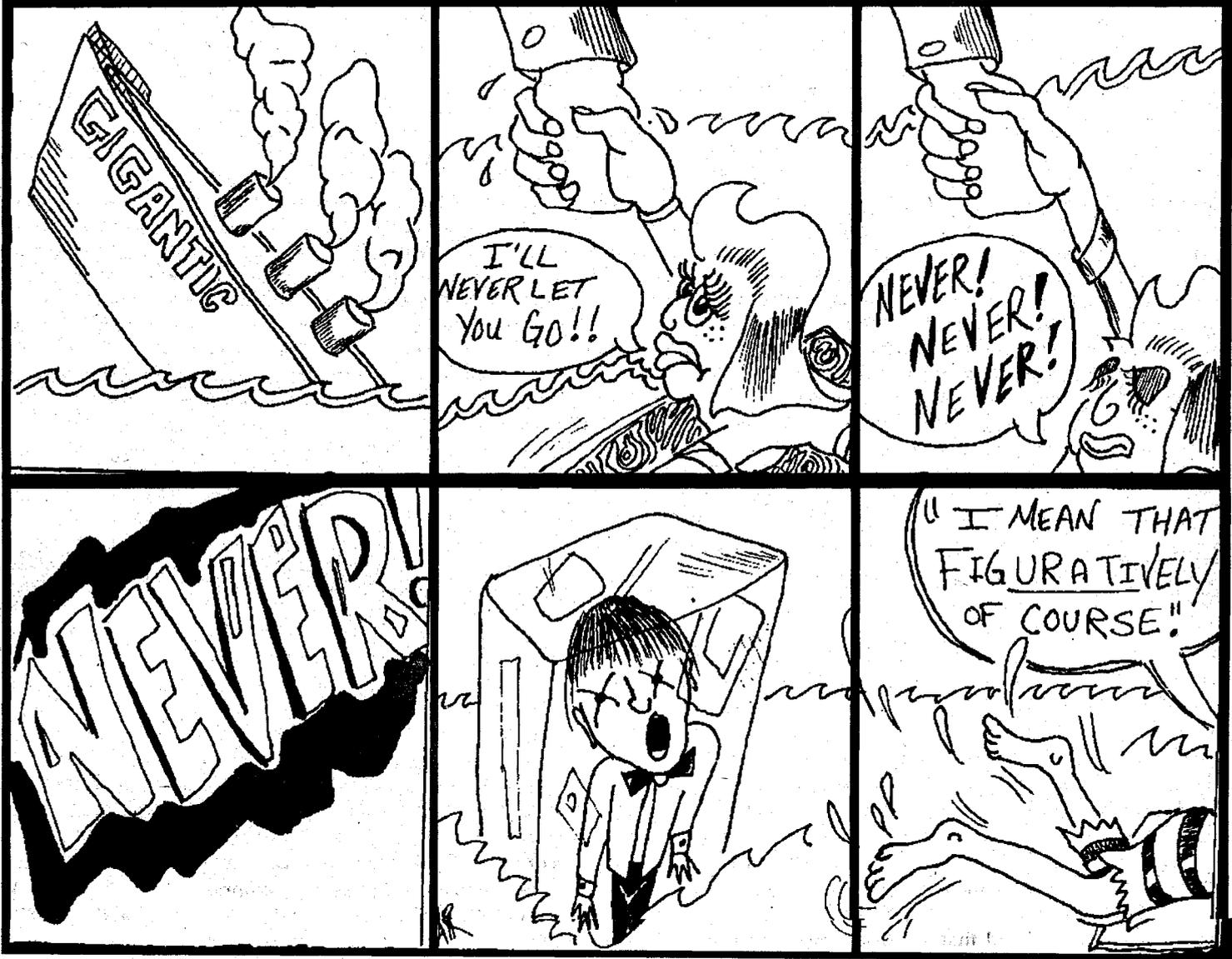
U.S.B Ninja

by: Dario Vlah



Twisted Pleasure

By Dick Fuchs



The Fashion Edge

By Amanda C. Stevens

Glamour says that burlap is the fabric that feels sensual against bare skin.



Vogue says that implants are a must in this spring to redefine your body.



Cosmopolitan says that the "Pippi Longstocking on acid look" is the only way to go with your spring hair.

I wouldn't do that if I were you, Dave

By James Polichak

Computer programs have been designed that can, among other things, generate novel pieces of music in the style of a particular composer that are virtually indistinguishable from those actually written by the composer. Others can write decent stories about betrayal. Computers can produce art, music, and stories that are interesting and exciting, and not merely because they are computer-generated. However, the question of whether computers are creating, or can ever create, "Art" remains highly disputed.

The ability to create "Art" is held by many to be the best example of what makes humans special: their ability to be creative, to produce something new. Proponents of what is called 'weak AI' (artificial intelligence) argue that machines will never be able to do all the things that humans can do, especially things like writing great literature. Humans, they argue, possess special qualities of consciousness, awareness, creativity, and experience that will never be duplicated in machines. Proponents of strong AI argue the opposite: The things we call consciousness, creativity, and so on, are, like all other mental activity, based on algorithms. Given enough computational power and proper programming, strong AI holds, we can create the mechanical equivalent of the human brain (or do better).

Both camps in this dispute include some big intellectual guns. Weak AI proponents include Martin Gardner, Thomas Nagel, John Searle, and Noam Chomsky; while strong AI proponents include Daniel Dennett, Marvin Minsky, and Alan Turing (who even in death remains the fairy godfather of strong AI).

At the risk of offending one of the heroes of the *Stony Brook Press* (go ahead, guess which of the above fits that description), it seems to me that the weak-AI view is logically flawed and that a belief in strong AI is required on the grounds of parsimony.

Weak AI proponents argue that the ability to experience the world consciously is a special ability of humans that no machine, however com-

plex, will achieve. Selmer Bringsjord, creator of the computer program that can write tales of betrayal, writes, "a person can think experientially about a trip to Europe as a kid, remember what it was like to be in Paris on a sunny day with an older brother...any such example, I claim, will demand capabilities that no machine will ever have" (MIT Technology Review, Mar/Apr 1998, p.28).

I can't see how this jump is made from asserting the existence of human subjective experience to denying it to anything else. Computers currently lack the ability to interact with and experience the world in the same way as humans. That does not mean that they never will. It seems at least plausible that a computer with a sufficiently complex sensory/perceptual system, able to move freely in the world, and to be able to recognize, label, and manipulate information about the world might have similar feelings of experience as humans. They might not, but we simply do not yet know of the limits of computational power, if any, in order to make this claim.

Proponents of weak AI also often refer to statements by artists about their creative abilities as evidence for weak AI. They point to these statements as examples of the human genius that machines will always lack. Bringsjord quotes Henrik Ibsen as understanding the essence of weak AI: "I have to have the character in mind through and through, I must penetrate into the last wrinkle of his soul" (p.28). As we all should have learned in *Introduction to Psychology*, we should be very wary of taking people's introspections as evidence for their mental processes, especially when those introspections are blatantly metaphorical and translated from another language. Though when we read Ibsen's statement we feel we understand it, that it makes sense to us, but if we actually tried to figure out what exactly Ibsen means by a "wrinkle of the soul," we'd fail. I can't tell what Ibsen "understood" when he thought of this statement and I'm familiar enough with the research on metaphor comprehension to know that no one else can either.

My argument is this: Our current state of

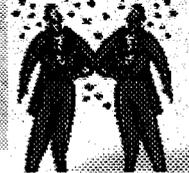
knowledge about the human brain and about the ways that information and computation work, both inside and outside of the human brain do not enable us to reach any strong conclusions about the ultimate future of artificial intelligence. We simply don't have a good enough understanding of what the brain does when it creates art, or what people mean when they refer to something as 'art' to be able to determine if what a computer is doing qualifies. No computer generated story has yet passed the Turing Test, but computer-generated music in the style of Bach has come pretty close to being indistinguishable from the real thing so it seems premature to me to pick either side of the debate. Proponents of either strong or weak AI are arguing for a particular conclusion from a position of ignorance.

However, strong AI claims are more parsimonious than weak AI claims. Weak AI essentially holds that there are at least two kinds of things in the universe, the human brain and everything else. In order for weak AI to be true, it must be the case that the human brain is distinct from everything else, that the human brain possesses some quality that everything else lacks. Since we don't know if this is true or not, and have no good reasons for thinking it might be, it is better to assume that the human brain isn't necessarily qualitatively different from the rest of the universe. This conclusion is equivalent to a tentative belief in strong AI. The burden of proof is always on those who wish to demonstrate existence of something new. Weak AI proponents must show that their violation of Occam's Razor is warranted. They must clearly define and provide evidence something that the human brain can do and offer a rigorous proof demonstrating that it will be forever beyond mechanical computation. Given the failure of the assorted past claims for the qualitative differentness of humans (we were created special by god, only we possess any language or tool-making ability, etc.), it seems unlikely that any other factor will prove to be the unsurmountable wall separating human from beast or machine.

Top Ten Things You Don't Want To See At The Bottom Of A Toilet

- 10) Dentures
- 9) Rotating knives
- 8) An unopened box of Mrs. Paul's Fish Sticks
- 7) The ghostly, disembodied head of Orson Welles
- 6) Severed feet in Kangaroo sneakers
- 5) Iggy Pop
- 4) A little version of you looking up at you
- 3) A Navy Seal
- 2) A really fat guy in China right after a big meal
- 1) A red lump





TYING THE KNOT



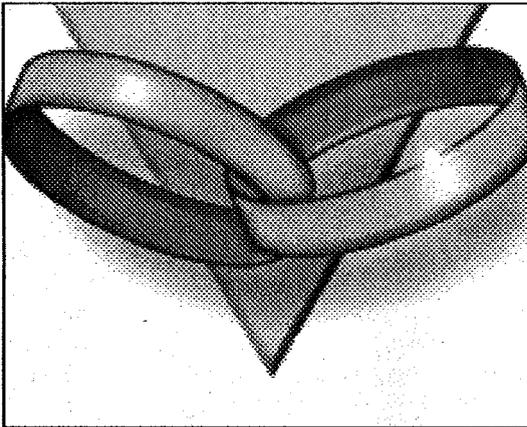
By Terry McLaren

Many people at Stony Brook on Thursday, February 12, were a little taken aback when they spotted a happy "bride and groom" strolling around the campus. Personally, I wondered what on earth had led the couple to our dreary campus on what was supposed to be the happiest day of their lives. I soon found out that the pair was campaigning for the freedom to get married.

Melanie Clemans, the stunning bride, and Alana Samuels, the dapper groom, presented my friends and I with flyers about the first annual Lesbian and Gay National Freedom to Marry Day and gave us pieces of rainbow colored yarn to tie on our ring fingers. The flyer explained that the date was chosen to signify both equality (Abraham Lincoln's Birthday) and love (Valentine's Day). It also included a quotation from Evan Wolfson, founder of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund that stated, "The choice of whether and when to marry is one of the most important personal decisions there is. It belongs to couples in love, not politicians or governments. National Freedom to Marry Day is an opportunity to help everyone understand the hardships and unfairness caused by denying lesbian and gay couples the freedom to marry."

When members of the campus community extended their congratulations to the couple, they were told that "it's not legal, if we could, we would." They were then invited to show their support of same gender marriage by "tying the knot" of yarn on their finger, or arm, or putting it on their lapel. Currently no U.S. state allows legal marriage between people of the same gender. This means that same gender couples do not get the much needed protections and benefits that come with legally recognized civil marriage. Hawaii's Supreme Court is

currently debating the heated issue of whether to allow people of the same gender to marry. If it does get approved, there is no guarantee that a couple's marriage will be recognized in their home state. Many states have already adopted legislation to ban gay marriages and others, including New York, have had proposed bills of that nature shot down. DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, is a federal anti-marriage law that denies same-sex unions the same legal recognition and protection as heterosexual married couples (for example: receiving partner's health insurance, child custody in the event of a guardian's death, and not being permitted in ICU due to their non-family status).



Cancel THIS, ABC...

The Stony Brook couple that "tied the knot" to increase awareness of the issue shared some of their experiences with me. Alana Samuels said the fact that from a distance the pair looked like a heterosexual couple created a sort of smoke-screen effect. She described a typical interaction with a person on campus as beginning with someone saying "Congratulations." Many young men seemed to assume the pair's marriage was in fact legal and real and the interaction ended after the well-wishes. Samuels said the young women they encountered were more likely to be aware of the issue at hand and discuss it with the couple for a while. Many people expressed surprise when they read the flyer and found out that gay couples can't be legally married. The couple received a great deal of positive feedback and support for their cause.

Melanie Clemans got the idea to dress up in wedding attire after receiving an e-mail about Freedom to Marry Day. The Coalition that created the day asked people to tie ribbons everywhere to show support for gay marriage: around trees, lamp

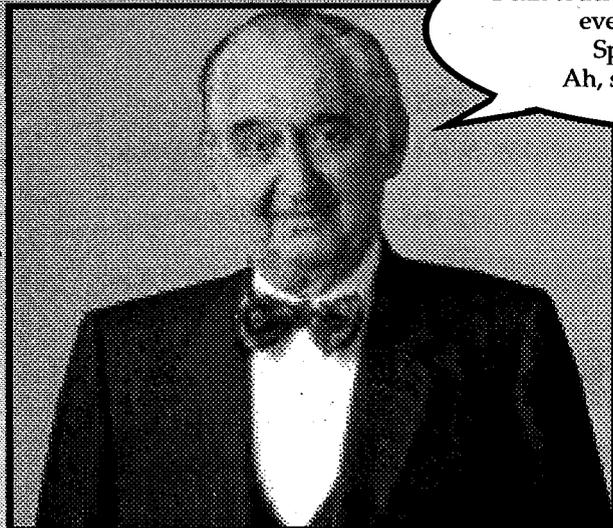
posts, door knobs and car antennae. There were Freedom to Marry Day events in Manhattan that Clemans wanted to go to, but she would be in class at USB that day. So she decided to bring the Day onto the campus. Clemans sewed her "wedding" dress and made banners for the day. She also made a cummerbund for Samuels, her "groom", who helped by making posters and the flyers the couple presented to people on campus.

On February 12, Clemans and Samuels decorated the campus with posters, flyers and rainbow ribbons, which Clemans was happy to see still up a week later. Throughout the day, the couple walked around campus visiting offices and talking with faculty and students. They even volunteered on the spur of the moment to speak in front of an Overview of Gay and Lesbian Issues class at the Health Sciences Center. Samuels said that the unplanned presentation went very well. The couple directed their thoughts and questions to students who might not have been aware of the issue previously and got a good response from them.

Clemans told me about her favorite Freedom to Marry experience. She was posting flyers that morning in North P lot when a man approached her and read the sign as she put it up. Clemans said she felt nervous at first, not knowing what kind of reaction to expect from him. To her pleasant surprise he asked her "It's not legal?" and expressed disbelief upon learning more about the situation.

Of course, not everyone Clemans and Samuels encountered were encouraging and supportive. Some people would walk away or ignore them. Others simply rolled their eyes. Happily, the couple reported they had no face to face confrontations and experienced no derision. "Everyone we talked to was polite." Clemans remarked.

Samuels recounted a pleasant incident in which the pair encountered a husband and wife. The man called out, "Don't do it!" as the couple passed by. They thought at first that he was trying to warn off a fellow man and hadn't realized he was addressing two women. It turned out the man was completely aware that they were two women and was issuing the warning as a friendly gesture.



Fyoush wants to toss your salad.

I believe I can fly. I believe
I can touch the sky. I dream about it
every night and day.
Spread my wings.
Ah, spread my wings...and
fly away.

Relax. Don't Do It.

Join The Press instead.

**For Some Smooth Bootay,
Come Down To Room 060 In
The Student Union**

Meetings Wednesday @ 1:00 in the p.m.

Legalized Gay Marriage?

Not In My Lifetime

By DH Campbell

As "National Tie The Knot Day" came and went on Stony Brook's campus I was left wondering to myself whether or not gays of my generation will ever be able to marry legally and have the full rights and privileges of marriage that straight couples enjoy. Over the course of the few days that followed "Tie The Knot Day", I began to investigate the issue and try and predict whether or not, I as a gay male, would ever be able to marry the partner that I chose to. The more that I pondered and researched this question, the bleaker the future seemed for my generation of gays. In trying to make my case as why the future looks so bleak, I tried to come up with a snazzy, William Safire like way to make my argument. Unfortunately it was hard to come up with a positive spin on such bleak results. So the only way that I can structure my theory, is by way of listing some issue that hinder our cause.

Issue One: Many gays are ignorant of legal and constitutional issues surrounding the right to marriage. It was embarrassing to read in the *Statesman* the reasons why these two lesbians believed that they should be married. (At least from a legal standpoint) I mean granted, I would love to see these two happy, but the constitutional and legal claims that they made were just plain uneducated. For example what about their statement that the "Defense of Marriage Act is constitution bashing"? Well, unfortunately this isn't exactly true. The constitution never mentions any type of marriage, gay or straight. Therefore you can't be accused of making unconstitutional claims, if the issue that you are dealing with isn't in the constitution. (See Logic 101). Further more, I got the impression that some people think that marriage is some sacred right that the states can't regulate or haven't regulated in the past. Unfortunately this isn't true either. There are many legal precedents for state and the federal government to put restrictions on the institution of marriage. For instance, it is law in many states that you cannot marry your sister. Or that a man may only be married to one wife at one time (legally,

this is true even in Utah). There are countless other examples on how the state and federal government have legally, and for better or worse, put constitutional restrictions on the institution of marriage. Thus our society and courts view the right of marriage far from being unalienable.

Issue two: The American public just doesn't want to have homosexual marriage legalized. Let me guess, you think that it is the 90's and that everything is PC and that everyone in the whole country is enlightened and open minded? Well let me tell you that, as a minority, this is far from true. And in the area of politics and political issues (like Gay Rights) the country is more conservative and closed minded than we would think. To show you just how politically conservative and old fashioned our country really is, take for example, a recent poll that asked Americans what type of person they would like to see serve as president. I bet that you are thinking that in the 90's the response would be something like: an African-American Women, who is a single mom, and is a member of one of our nations minority religions. Guess again! The poll results showed that almost 68% of the people in a random sample wanted a: White, Male, Protestant, married with two kids and in his late forties. Guess we aren't as progressive as we thought eh? So is it still a safe bet to say that in the 90's people are open minded about gay marriage because they are so progressive in their ideas about politics, politicians and political issues? Answer is: we have a long way to go. (PS- If you still need to see how far we have to go in opening up our minds talk to a certain SUNY Trustee)

Issue three: The Supreme Court is just too damn conservative. I think that this statement just says it all. The court is controlled by a conservative majority, with many of the justices being appointed by Reagan or Bush. (And we all remember how tolerant they were to gays). Therefore the chance that a conservative court would strike down DOMA as unconstitutional is highly unlikely.

Issue four: The Gay Movement is too young and too fractional. Ah, my last and most controversial point: historically the Gay Movement is still in its infancy, having only really begun in the

early 1970's. If we compare our age to any other movement, such as the Women's Movement, or the Civil Rights Movement both of which have roots firmly planted in the 19th century, we begin to see just how young we really are. Then if we compare how long it took to establish the ideas of the Women's Movement or the Civil Rights Movement (if we have at all) we clearly see that our struggle is one that has generations to mature, before any significant gains may be achieved.

As for the issue about the movement being fractional, this problem stems from the movement being so young, coupled with an issue that is so personal. Gay men rank on Lesbians, Lesbians rank on Gay men and both groups tend not to be so open minded about Bi-Sexuals. Also the issue of being Gay, Lesbian or Bi-Sexual is one that is far more difficult to define. The characteristics of being gay are far more abstract than the more tangible characteristics of race, religion, or sex. Again we can see that because of the youth of the movement we are forced to still "iron out" issues that are before us, while trying to find middle ground amongst our own. This lack of a united front only slows our movement down, and there is no clear indication that in the near future a more united front will appear.

In sum, is DOMA wrong on an ethical scale? The answer: yes. Is Gay Marriage something that should be recognized legally, because it is enlightened to do so? The answer again is yes. Though is it correct to call the right to marriage a constitutional right? Well that is left up to the debate of legal scholars but so far the general consensus is no. Finally, is our society ready to fully accept gays and lesbians and extend the legal rights that come with marriage to them? Unfortunately, pessimistically, and realistically, the answer is no. It is going to take a bit longer than 30 years to get where we want to go. But in the immediate future may I suggest that we unify, educate and begin to look for alternatives that may equate us with the norm.

When Nice Guys Attack!

By Hillary Vidair

When it comes to dating, I have always felt that I possess a severe problem. I have never been attracted to "nice guys." I always end up with the guys who don't want commitment, play mind games, and have no idea what they want out of a relationship.

Of course, not all of these men are truly cold-hearted. Many of them have personal issues and insecurities that prevent them from caring about someone. For me, this has always been a challenge. It's a chance to try and help someone become aware of the reasons they say and do certain things. One of the greatest things in the world is to try and be there for a person who wants to talk about their feelings. Unfortunately, people like this only open up like this once in a while.

Guys like this have always provided me with a certain excitement. That's why I keep going back to them. Nice guys seem boring. There's no game, no confusion about what they want from me. Basically, I feel as if I need the drama. Straight-forward guys have always put me to sleep. Until recently.

A couple of weeks ago, I became interested in a guy who is really sweet. He cares about people to the point where he forgets to think about himself. He is very understanding and is in touch with other people's feelings. I've never felt so comfortable with someone I hardly knew in my life. The best thing about him was the fact that there was no past history between us. With all of the complicated issues in my life, he seemed like the eye of the storm.

That was crazy. He wasn't like anyone else I had ever been involved with. He didn't fit the typical "type" of guy I was used to being with at all. He didn't try to be this macho man who couldn't be hurt by anyone. I was actually attracted to his sensitivity. He had a good heart and didn't want to see anybody upset. But the best thing about him was his creativity. He could take all the pain in the world and turn it into a piece of art.

So it surprised me when I found out that he too had no idea how to deal with his problems. He had complex situations just like everybody else. What made him different was that he worried about other people before he even so much as

thought about himself. Because of this, I have chosen to take a step back in the hope that he will figure out what he needs to figure out. Until then, I will be there for him—but only as a friend. I think that he needs that more than anything else. So that is what I hope to give him. After all, he has given me a lot.

He has taught me that there are people with good hearts that are just as hard to understand as all the players, cheaters, and gigolo's. They can be just as much of a challenge and sometimes much more complex. More importantly, they are far from boring. They are people who really care about how others feel. That's always been the way I am myself.

So instead of trying to be there for people who don't deserve my compassion, from now on I will save it for those who are worthy of it. Maybe I'll even give up the "bad boys" for a while and concentrate on a real challenge—someone who is there for me as much as I am there for them. Someone who wants to give love as much as they want to receive it.

TEAR THE VEIL

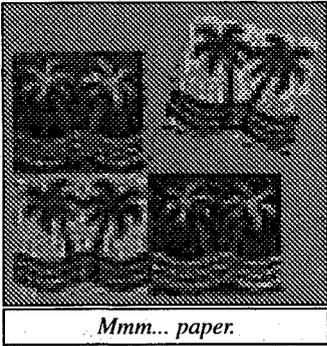
By Squirrel

In the face of heart ripping, brain imploding, hard core drugs, one friendly chemical still stands tall. Acid, Cid or LSD, whatever you prefer to call it, has enjoyed a recent resurgence in today's youth culture. Production, availability and circulation are at a level nearing those in the sixties. Due to the recent focus of the DEA on heroin, and cocaine the pressure has been pulled off the small time LSD cooks. Good for us, bad for The Man.

A few things differ between today's LSD and the product of the sixties. Mainly it's the dosage. When acid was at its peak three decades ago, most dosages were compromised of 100 to 200 micrograms of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (quite simply the basis of LSD). Today though, potency has been drastically reduced to 20 to 80 micrograms, a pale shadow of acid's former might. Not that that's a bad thing though, these lower potencies have squelched most of the fears associated with Cid. No longer do people have to worry about losing their mind (completely at least), or of scaring themselves into a heart attack.

The low risk factor and relative friendliness towards drug mixing have increased LSD's popularity with many of the drug consuming public. Recent trends in clubs/raves and music have brought the focus of drugs away from total

alien sensation to a desire for enhanced natural feeling or experience. Take MDMA (ecstasy) for example to the current drug culture, it is heralded over cocaine and speed because of its more natural feeling (which it does by stimulating the high end release of endorphins). Current doses of acid work similarly. By increasing your natural perceptions and feelings instead of crushing them and replacing them with older style LSD's overpowering sensations.



Mmm... paper.

Unfortunately just because dosages are now lower doesn't make acid entirely safe. While it may not be the most physically dangerous or addictive drug on the market the mental ramifications are quite drastic. If you're not prepared for the "trip" you're about to embark on, then you better get ready. There is almost nothing that can traumatize a person more than a horrible acid experience. When the LSD kicks in, your senses expand and flood your mind, sounds and scents are more dynamic and visual or tactile input is more visceral and potent. This assault often results in a universal paranoia and fear of sensory input. Every thing is too much, and when you're having a bad trip you want nothing except for it all to stop.

On the other hand if you check your bases before you begin, an acid trip can be quite enlightening and wonderful. Basically, until you've grown accustomed to the experience of LSD, don't attempt it if there is any fear of sensory overload. General rule of thumb, for the first few times movie level input is good, hard-

core electronica rave level is BAD. But like all tolerances yours will soon go up. So fret not my young addicts, soon enough you can be dropping 5 tabs and some E for your next Goldie concert.

Truthfully, my experiences with acid have not been all that extensive. I've dropped about 6 tabs in my life, the first two left me cowering in a corner, and the rest made me uncomfortable with my surroundings. Still there is something to be said about one of the most popular psychoactives to hit this planet. Maybe it just wasn't for me but I'm sure there was something to it, well at least a close friend of mine thinks so:

Brian Scott (that's not his real name) first did acid about seven years ago. He got it from his brother and took it with his friends. Like many first time users, they all thought it wasn't working, and so they left. Before he knew it, Brian was wandering through the nature preserve by his house and marveling at how the colors were shifting back and forth and some floating, humming brilliantly white person was approaching. "In the end it turned out to be nothing but a balloon," he confessed. "All the while the ground appeared to be covered in spiders, but the real strange thing was that that didn't freak me out." Since then Brian has dropped about 40 times, usually in one or two tabs at a time. Brian abides by the philosophy that if your suitably prepared than you should do acid, but not every one can be suitably prepared. And the scariest thing about acid, "Realizing that there exists a thin veil that lets us get by day to day with out realizing how isolated we are, and who we truly are."

The Strange Case of Dr. Fistfuck and Mr. Hyde

By Kenyon Hopkin

For the past few months, Independent Media in Huntington has been host to more than a few up and coming local talents on Long Island. Shycamp, Tokidoki, and Mood Setters have set a perfect example for what is generating in the area besides the usual commotion of party rock.

Hidden behind the grind of party rock lays its gentle cousin, known as indie pop. A relatively new genre in modern music, indie carries a modest attitude on record and on stage. While many rock bands bring an unrelenting presence to the stage to let the world know they exist, indie leaves its ego at the door, remaining subdued and sometimes reserved. Shycamp and Tokidoki, two local indie pop acts, sat down in the intimate setting of Indie Media on January 24, wooing us with their innovative melodies.

Shycamp, the one-person band of David Rapp, left his ego and some of his confidence as well, living up to his stage name. Although Rapp sometimes performs with a full band behind him, tonight he opted to go solo on guitar, accompanied only by a drum machine. A cross between Elvis and Urkel, the boyish Rapp sings ballads about girls, dating, and romance. He charmed us with works such as "Best Friend" and "Hey Heather," providing tender lyrics such as, "You say you want to live a happy life but don't know how." He wrapped up his set with a rendition of the Smiths' "Please, please, please let me get what I want," with guest vocals by Michael of My Favorite and

Peter of Tokidoki, reminding us of a band that has been one of the greatest influences of modern rock. Shycamp was a bit shaky with its delivery, but Rapp deserves the credit for standing alone in front of forty people in a small room.

The duo of Tokidoki had no problems in delivering their well thought-out harmonies and lyrics. With a miniature keyboard leading the way, their modern folk-pop ensembles were consistently strong. Keyboardist Nora McCarthy and acoustic guitarist Pete Schaefer were so delicate and poetic with their melodies it almost became intense. The first words of "Hair Spray" nearly brought tears to my eyes as they sang, "She has seven different smiles and one that's made for me." For "Julie," the sweet lyrics continued to flow with, "Julie, I know why I feel so strongly / If there were ever a time for understanding, lay it on me." Near the middle of the set, the two switched instruments, proving they are just as talented on both guitar and keyboard. "Goldfish Song" brought out more precious moments as they sang, "Goldfish die, even when you're thin and pretty." Each melody, an average of two and a half minutes, quit while it was ahead, keeping a distance from the threshold of appreciation.

To further appreciate the sounds of Tokidoki and Shycamp, 7"s of both acts are available on Harriet Records, PO Box 649, Cambridge, MA 02238.

On February 13, it was the Mood Setters at Independent Media, taking a fresh approach to the genre known as "experimental." Playing along

with videos of old films, the improvisational troupe provided a new soundtrack with inventive guitar, keyboard, bass, and percussion structures.

With Ken Kinnally leading the quarter on keyboards, he kept an eye on the video periodically, maintaining some form of connection. Similar to the rumored Wizard of Oz / Pink Floyd connection, Mood Setters laid down a completely unique audio for a drama set somewhere in Latin America, circa 1960's. Positioned somewhere between Devo and the Silver Apples, each untitled "song" of twelve to fifteen minutes was certainly psychedelic, making it a trippy sound for the film, even though I had no idea what the video was about. With three television sets playing the same movie, one of which was painted red, there was something interesting to watch instead of just the four musicians concentrating on their jam.

Forty minutes into the set, Kinnally finally added some minimal vocals, while guitarist Tom Brzezinski, bassist Ken Brown, and keyboardist/percussionist Gary Pecorino carried on the insanity. The lyrics rode with a few scenes when Kinnally sang "Driving around with the top down," and "Let's go out and have a blast, free at last."

Although it was improvised, their four years of experience playing together made it seem at some points almost rehearsed. Their CD, Stereo Realists, which actually has tracks and titles, is available at local record stores. And local, obscure bands are available on Long Island.

They're not all bad

By Sophia Rovitti

With all the bad press Aramark has received in this publication, I thought it would be worthwhile to share an experience that made me feel like there are "higher-up" Aramark employees who see their job as more than a chance to take money from college students in order to line their own pockets. The "lower-down" Aramark employees are not to be blamed for most of our gripes against Aramark. Yes, maybe some will have a bad day and be rude to us, or perhaps are just rude in general, but most of them are students, also on the advantage plan, or older women, neither of whom stand to gain much from inflated food prices.

Those "higher-ups," though, they stand to gain. They all must be evil, right? Well, this is where my little story comes in . . .

It started with a mistake. I'm a vegetarian. I found chunks of ground beef sitting in the sauce of my cheese ravioli, which, on the menu, had been listed as one of the vegetarian options (it had one of those little squashes next to it, or whatever those little symbols are). I was pissed, but at least I'm not one of those who will be made violently ill from consuming small amounts of animal, as many vegetarians are. I indignantly pointed out a large offending chunk of meat to my boyfriend, who was having lunch with me. He flicked the piece off, onto the tray with his finger. "No," I said, "put it back on there. This warrants a complaint."

I went back into the Bleacher Club, where the food had been purchased, and went up to a manager who was standing near one of the registers. His name was Robert Conway, Assistant Director of Food Services. I told him that I wanted to make a complaint. He went off to the side with me so I could explain the situation to him. With effort to remain very calm, I explained it to him, pointing to the meat which had been placed back on top of the ravioli where it had been found. Conway handled it very well. He offered to take the cost off my card and have the kitchen whip up a new batch for me. He went back into the kitchen to order the new food and investigate the error. He came out and explained that the people in the kitchen had gotten the vats of meat sauce and marinara sauce confused. He also gave me a voucher for a free lunch there in the future and some free breadsticks to go with my fresh ravioli.

This was all by the book. A friend of mine who works for Aramark later told me that this was exactly how they were told to handle such situations: take price of food off card, replace food, voucher for free food—three steps to good customer relations. But what impressed me about Conway went beyond all of these things. For one thing, he never questioned me. When I attested to there being meat on my food, he never said, "oh, are you sure?" or, "that can't be." For another thing, he took pains to make sure that I knew that he took my complaint very seriously. He found out why it

had happened and had the cooks correct the mistake. He treated me very courteously and never made little of the situation. And, in case his actions didn't say enough, he talked to me about it, telling me gravely that he understood the seriousness of this and respected people's right to eat meat-free food.

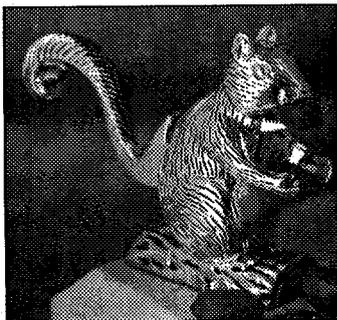
I felt that he cared about what had happened, not just about averting criticism. For the first time, I had a tangible sense that Aramark, represented through this man, cared about serving me, providing for me. It's a really nice feeling that I think many people on campus have not had the opportunity to experience. I learned something a friend of mine who works for Aramark told me a while ago: just because Aramark as a company may be corrupt, may be stealing our money, may be cutting back the hours of what had been our favorite place to eat on campus, it doesn't mean that we should target our anger at their employees. Even someone like the Assistant Director of Food Services may still care about our needs.

There are still many things I dislike about Aramark, but the employees themselves are not all bad. One former cashier told me that she was sick and tired of hearing "you mean the disadvantage plan?" after she asked "cash or advantage." She doesn't set the prices and she's a student on the meal plan as well. I can't blame her in the least for wanting people to lay off employees like her. Such comments are rude, unfair, and misplaced.

A GUILTY PLEASURE

By Amanda C. Stevens

I think we all have someone in our lives whom we commonly refer to as an "Intellectual Snob." This individual has several offensive personal characteristics. He has little else to do in life except inflict everyone around him with his superior attitude. A particular characteristic that he possesses is to view anything mainstream, normal, or wholesome as deeply offensive to him. One tell-tale sign of the "Intellectual Snob" is that he abhors television. He is commonly quoted as saying that he "never watches T.V. and prefers not to even own a T.V." The "Snob's" arguments against T.V. are multiple.



Squirrels go nuts for TCI Cable!

Among them is that television is simply the opiate of the masses. It is a device of amusement for the lower forms of life and he is far too complicated to find it satisfying. He acts as if T.V. emits powerful radiation that kills all brain cells within a three foot radius. The "Snob" has been known to refer to television as the "boob tube" or the "idiot box." He may admit that he has been forced to watch it in the company of others. However, he will usually complain that all the bright colors, split second editing, and crazy camera angles made him nauseous. As he repeatedly makes these hackneyed statements he hopes

to eventually make even the most avid watchers greatly intimidated and ashamed of their own pleasure.

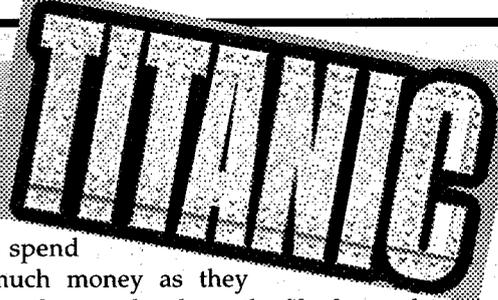
The most offensive part of the "Intellectual Snob" is that his entire life is one elaborate canard. This person lives in complete denial. As a skeptic, I do not trust many people. I have found that the "snob" simply says that he does not watch. Shakespeare succinctly said that he "doth protest too much, methinks." Anyone who states how much they hate something, instantly makes the active skeptic begin to suspect the opposite to be the truth. Remember this in your daily life the next time you bad mouth Hanson. I am almost certain that the "Intellectual Snobs" are among the most conniving of all liars. Through my own in-depth studies and detailed research of these people, I have found that they are obsessed with television. They are much like your friendly neighborhood crack addict who states that he "Doesn't have a problem." It is these people who state that they do not even own a television who in fact own two or three, all of which are programmed to tape different sitcoms from the 1970's. "Intellectual Snobs" can often be seen watching "Love Boat," "Fantasy Island" or even "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." This is their guilty pleasure. They love T.V. and cannot stop themselves.

I do not ask very much from humanity. I usually am surprised when I have a moment when

my misanthropic nature subverts itself. However, I only ask that all of the "Intellectual Snobs" please stop lying to yourselves and others. There is no shame in loving reruns of "One Day at a Time." Although there is a certain shame in watching the History Channel.

Finally, on a related issue that I believe has gone unnoticed for far too long, I would like to make a heartfelt plea for support. Almost a year ago, TCI Cable decided to drop Comedy Central from its channel line up. Cablevision, which serves the Stony Brook Campus, has apparently never carried Comedy Central. I was personally offended by these hostile policies and I have decided to be the first person to speak out. Comedy Central is like a little pick-me-up piece of Prozac for the general population. Recently it has come to my attention that one of the most popular animated T.V. shows in the country is now showing on Comedy Central. "South Park" is a giant phenomena that has permeated the suburban world. At the mall there is even a proliferation of "South Park" t-shirts. They bear cute phrases like "Oh my God, they killed Kenny." No one in Brookhaven or Stony Brook even knows what that phrase means. For God's sake, take pity on the ignorant people of Brookhaven and USB and force TCI Cable and Cablevision to add Comedy Central to the channel line up. Call TCI at 473-8900 or Cablevision at 348-6700 and tell them that you refuse to take their abuse anymore and that you want to watch "South Park." Liberate the ignorant masses from their dark cultural void and thrust them into the light that is Comedy Central.

THE DISASTER THAT IS



By Chris Cartusciello

As I sat on the train last week, heading into the city to meet some friends, I struck up a conversation with some fellow passengers to make the time go by a little quicker. The dialogue eventually got around to what each of us did for a living. One gentleman was a track coach while the other was a student, and the young lady said that she was reporter for a major television network. Being a writer myself, we began to discuss different aspects of journalism and I stated that, besides being a technical writer for a computer software company I also wrote an entertainment column for a major college publication. Now the inevitable question came, as I knew it would and has for the past several months. "What did you think of *Titanic*?"

No question in recent time has brought more debate after I reveal my answer. In simple terms, I didn't like it.

As shocking as this may be, it is true. Now I feel it is my duty to stand up and attempt to save those who have not spent their hard earned money yet and to try and enlighten the hordes who have already been taken in by an overbearing marketing campaign and heavy sentimentality.

The sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic was one of the greatest tragedies of our time. The true stories of those on board were heroic and tragic enough to fill a hundred films. Why director James Cameron felt the need to heap upon us a fictional love story is beyond me. It has been stated that this was supposed to be a compilation of the lives of all those aboard. If so, why choose one of the most overplayed stories there is? The rich girl falling for the poor boy, with her family and everyone else against it, has been the basis of countless movies. Nevermind the fact that it is totally unrealistic, it would have been nice to have something fresh from a "cutting edge" filmmaker. There was no discernible story to speak of, which goes to show why it failed to garner an Oscar nomination in the best screenplay category.

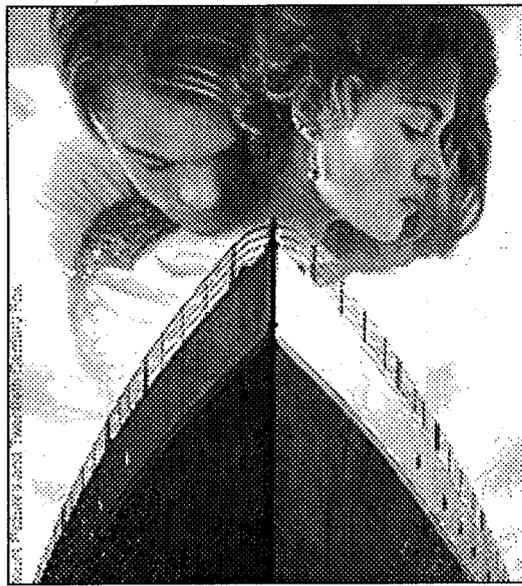
Now that the story has been discarded, let's move onto the next topic people rave about. Special effects. Sorry, maybe I've seen too many films that have impressed me, but these were far from what is to be expected in this day and age. The film looked

rushed, as if they had to get it finished for year end Oscar consideration. Now, I'm not talking about the ship itself. I will give Cameron and his crew 100% credit for making a ship that was as technically perfect as could be. The interiors were stunning and the grand scale of the work performed was quite impressive.

A nine tenths scale model was built for the production and it was exact, right down to the last rivet. I would wonder though, why not build it full size and make sort of a museum out of it? I guess that's just my practical ways showing through. The problem I'm talking about was in post production. When the ship was shown in the water you could see that the ocean was computer generated. The waves just didn't look right. At one point, the ship seemed to be moving sideways, as the wake trailed off to the right. The amount of water displaced by this massive vessel would also certainly have been more than what was shown here. Also, when we saw the sinking ship from the view of the lifeboats, it was fuzzy and unfocused. I'll allow mist and fog to play a part here, but the matte lines seemed to be visible around the people's heads, like

in the original *Star Wars* before they cleaned it up. I guess this leaves room for *Titanic: The Special Edition* a few years down the line. The part that bothered me the most, where I actually felt embarrassed for those who worked on the production, was when the ship disappeared under the water. I'm talking the final moment when you could no longer see it. The stern of the ship was so obviously a model that was simply pulled under the water I thought I was watching an old *Godzilla* movie.

So, now we have no story and poor special effects. What's left? How about believability? Now, I can suspend my disbelief as much, if not more, than the next person. After all, it is only a movie. My problem here is that this is supposed to be a believable and somewhat true story. Also, people are taking this film to heart, as if the people they are seeing actually suffered this much. The main quandary here is the water itself. While it was filling the lower cabins it seemed remarkably clear. Granted, this was 1912 and pollution was not as rampant as it is today, but this was ocean water that looked as if it should have been in my pool. Many people have agreed with me on this point, but seeing as none of us are oceanographers, we cannot prove what color the ocean water was at that time. I'll easily concede this point if someone can prove me wrong. What I can be sure of though, is temperature. As Kate Winslet is running around the bowels of the ship looking for Leonardo DiCaprio, the water is getting higher. There is no possible way she would have been able to make it to him, nevermind lift an axe over her head, before hypothermia set in. After about five minutes in that water, even if she didn't die, she would have lost control of all her muscles. Running would have been impossible and her speech would have been slurred beyond recognition. The same goes for the last great romantic proclamation of our two doomed lovers. Let's say they actually, through some miracle of fate, made it



Not to ruin it for anyone, but the ship sinks.

out of the ship alive. The two of them would have floated on the water like two mumbling idiots, not knowing who the other was or what their feelings were. The length of the film is something else to contend with. At 3:17, the movie is almost an hour longer than it took the real Titanic to sink. This normally wouldn't be a problem if something was happening during this time. Halfway through I found myself bored and hoping for the demise of the people on screen. I am normally a fan of longer films. I found the three plus hours of *Braveheart* to be exhilarating and even sat through Kenneth Branagh's four hour *Hamlet* which, except for some slight casting miscues, was brilliant. Therefore, lack of attention span is not the case. *Titanic* was a film that could have easily been cut by an hour. I guess for \$200 million you have to show something.

I've mentioned the amount of money spent on this film, and some have said it doesn't matter. Sadly it does, because it sets a very bad precedent. Producers may begin to think that they

can spend as much money as they want as long as they hype the film beyond belief and attach a sappy love song to it. When ticket prices start to rise again is when people will realize what a foolhardy practice they've endorsed.

Luckily, or rather hopefully, studio executives will not fall prey to this rampant overspending and put a short leash on directors who wish to continually run over budget. One person actually had the nerve to say to me, when I complained about the pricetag for this film, that it was all up on the screen. Impossible. You cannot put \$200 million dollars on film, unless you put it on a table and set fire to it. To put this cost in some sort of perspective, the building of

the original ship only cost \$10 million. Should a movie made about it cost 20 times more? There were no big stars with huge salaries to pay, and those on the film willingly gave up much of their pay for the sake of art. How much would this travesty have cost if they didn't?

So, why is this movie making money? Several reasons come into play here, not the least of which is timing. As they say in business, location is everything. Paramount, who has national distribution rights, planned this just right. They opened the movie against *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the latest in the James Bond franchise. Pierce Brosnan's second outing as the debonair British spy has done well for itself, even outpacing his freshman effort *Goldeneye*. This proves that *Titanic* is not unsinkable. But in the 10 weeks that have followed since its debut, there has been nothing of note released that would garner a wide audience. Many of the movies that are in the theaters right now are far superior to this waterlogged epic. Those worth seeing include, *Good Will Hunting*, *As Good As It Gets*, *Wag the Dog* and *Amistad*, which may be the most powerful movie of the year. If *Titanic* had been released during the summer, or at a time when competition was stiff, it would most certainly have been forgotten about within a couple of scant weeks. Another reason is marketing. Knowing full well that disaster movies had played themselves out, the producers decided to push the love theme. A smart move on their part, as they knew women around the country would be dragging in their significant others. While the women are wiping their tears, the men are checking their watches. Some have said that this film is this generation's *Gone With The Wind*. Those who choose to compare *Titanic* with one of the greatest films ever made have either never seen *Gone With The Wind* or are uneducated simpletons who choose to loft praise on inferior works in the hopes of being able to define their existence. I guess the so-called Generation X has lower standards than those in the past.

Now that Oscar time is coming up we have to watch and see if the Academy will do the right thing. *Titanic* has been nominated for a record-tying 14 Oscars. The most for any film since 1950's *All About Eve*. Is this impressive? Maybe, except when you realize that many of

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"Sorry, maybe I've seen too many films that have impressed me, but these were far from what is to be expected in this day and age. The film looked rushed, as if they had to get it finished for year end Oscar consideration."

CAPSULE:

CURE ALL?

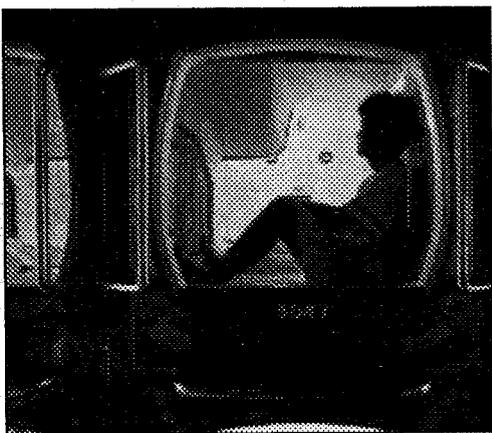
By Robert C. Borden

Multimedia tends to grab my attention. Whenever I see strange reports about the holistic medical practices of the Mayan Underground, or the satanic rituals of child beauty-queen peacekeeping forces, I allot a small section of my brain to remembering them for future use and juxtaposition. Two such pieces of trivia are the subject of this article.

Upon reading a recent article in the *Statesman*, I realized the urgent and desperate need for housing on this campus. There is a great gap between the amount of housing needed by students, and the available space in the current fleet of Stony Brook residence halls. I also noticed from the article that there seemed to be no resolution in sight. It had been suggested that we adopt a trailer-like temporary dorm facility that could serve about 200 students until the halls that are currently under renovation reopen. I am not sure anyone ever really wanted to go away to college so that they could live in a trailer park. I so decided that in this desperate hour I would offer my superior mental abilities to think of a feasible plan to save our campus — Japanese Capsule-Style Dorms!

Sometime in the past week, I was watch-

ing CBS and saw a cute little piece about the hotels of Japan and what was available to Olympic spectators in Nagano. While many of the hotels in Japan and the rest of Asia are basically small rooms with a futon, there is a new breed of accommodation that has been popping up since the late 1980s, the capsule hotel.



"I'm the man in the box."

Capsule hotels offer businessmen and tourists low-budget accommodations in a cozy setting built specifically for a good night's sleep. Guests each get a 3' x 3' x 7' cubicle complete with TV, a shelf

for personal belongings, clothing racks and hooks, and a bamboo privacy screen. Bathroom facilities are obviously contained outside, as well as lockers and a lounge where most of one's activities will take place. Capsules are usually situated in a larger room where they are stacked to save space - usually with ladders to reach the upper bunks.

While these may be a bit cramped and the experience much like a trip to the people's kennel, it seems many students actually would welcome the privacy and the back-to-basics approach to education. "I would really be comfortable in that kind of dorm. It seems like you'd have to bring less stuff, but then you really have no distractions to worry about. I think it would be cozy, and if you

want to stretch out, you always have the lounge. Sign me up!", says Kevin McMahon, a sophomore. "I go home on the weekends and stay through Monday. For a 4-day student, it seems silly for me to pay \$1700 a semester for a room I hardly use."

It seems that the progressive nature of Stony Brook and the transient nature of the student body makes it a perfect choice to be a pioneer, trying out alternative solutions to the ever-present housing shortages. For many students who will not have the opportunity to study abroad, this also offers a small taste of Asian culture. It is inevitable that some students will have business in the Orient, and this will allow them to get used to what life will be like when they go.

Considering the projected enrollment for the coming years, and the inability for USB housing to possibly catch up to the demand, it seems that the trailer-style housing, or a hastily constructed new bunch of dorms will not adequately suit our needs. Shoddy construction, although it may take less time and money, will never be able to endure the stresses of dorm life, and would be a wasted investment. Additionally, the lack of the real estate on campus, even for parking, begs for a better use of space in further construction projects.

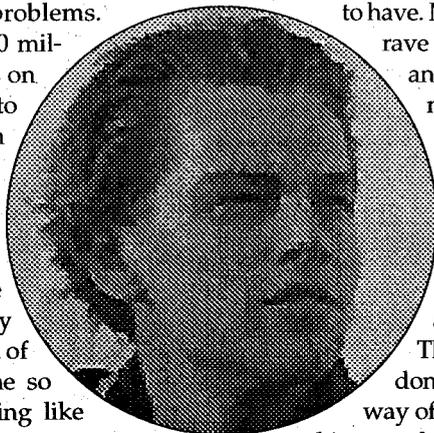
It's time for Stony Brook to - as the bumper sticker suggests - think globally and act locally. Students need to be offered varied choices and a low-cost opportunity to be educated. What better way to teach smart thinking than a school showing you it's thinking about students? I urge the Administration to seriously consider this as an option for USB. Thank you.

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Titanic's nominations come in technical categories that were not around 47 years ago. If *Titanic* does somehow steal the best picture prize from the true best movie of the year, *L. A. Confidential*, it will simply be Hollywood's way of rationalizing the huge cost of this film. What a sad way for the year to wrap up if this travesty happens.

Some of my friends say that I was against this movie from the start as for the past year I complained about the skyrocketing budget and constant scheduling problems.

Granted, I believe that \$200 million is too much to spend on any film, but I did hope to like it. I love film so much that I wish there was no purpose for me, or any critic, to write articles assessing a movie "quote" shortcomings. I would love nothing more than for every film I see to be a great work of art. That's why it hurts me so much when I see something like *Titanic* being put out and an unsuspecting public falling for it.



People want to know what would have made the movie better for me. One thing is that I would have liked to see a little more realism in the film. The inferior design and materials used for the ship were barely mentioned. How about Molly Brown? Kathy Bates played the only character with any personality and we hardly got to know her. Forget the historical inaccuracy that she was never known as Molly during her lifetime. (She was always called Margaret, or Maggie at best.) I would have liked to see her as a more central character. Show us the lengths she went through to save people instead of portraying her cowering down to the officers in the lifeboat. She didn't get

the nickname "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" for no reason. Her efforts during and after the disaster are well documented, yet fact is glossed over in favor of fiction. This is movie making, Oliver Stone style. Victor Garber, as Thomas Andrews, master ship builder of the *Titanic*, was the only one I could feel sorry for. He knew the mistakes made and wished, more than anything, that he could change them. The guilt is what killed him, not the water.

One of the most interesting side-effects of this film is the passion that those who enjoyed it seem to have. Many of the people I've come across who rave about this movie do not want to hear anything other than praise for it. If I begin my dissertation as to why this was one of the most overhyped films in the past few years they immediately shut me off. "If you're not going to say anything good about it, I don't want to hear," is the most common phrase. It's sad that some can't have an educated debate about certain things they believe in. They'll discuss politics and religion, but don't put down this movie. I believe this a way of perpetuating the fantasy they have that this was the "best movie ever." Deep down, they know that it wasn't very good, and hearing otherwise may shatter that illusion. Of those who have listened, many ended up agreeing with me and feeling silly for being duped so easily. "I guess so," or "Yeah, I see your point," are the two most oft used responses.

For those wanting a film about the unsinkable ship, they should try 1958's *A Night To Remember*. This was a movie that had heart, depth and an emotional impact that stayed with you long after the popcorn was gone.

Read this, and other articles, on-line in the Filmbuff's Forum: <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1515>

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can think of
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A SQUIRREL AND SOME NUTS

By Squirrel

It was a crisp Thursday, the 19th, as I walked with one of my fellow reporters to tackle what looked to be a rather dismal story: that of the beginning of the SNARK bi-weekly open mic poetry readings, to be held at Professor Java's. Never before had I ventured into a poetry reading; I usually had kept my work to myself or a select group and had only read a few others. As such I wasn't quite prepared for the atmosphere.

I could sense the trepidation in the faces of those to read that night, and was quite surprised at the calm of the event's organizers. SNARK Editors Carlos Hiraldo and Rod Burns were assisted in the preparation and running of the night's activities by oft-time SNARK contributor Alex Plonski, who shall hereafter be referred to as "Sir Alex Smooth." Sir Smooth took the mic and introduced the organizers and the list of readers. With a little witty banter and a sly wink Sir Smooth called each of the poets in turn to the mic to read their works.

We recited the works we had selected twice over, so as to let the audience get past the initial reading's nervousness. The general quality was rather impressive. The poets didn't resemble the stereotypical depressed skinny males with brooding eulogies on the state of life and love. In fact, in comparison to some of the better works, my otherwise original individual style of poetry felt trite and juvenile. Soon enough, I felt justified in realizing that some of the others were trying almost too hard to not be

stereotypical, an attempt that at times took away from their body of work.

Despite the shyness and jitters that permeated the words of many of the readers, all received applause, not because it was expected, but because it was deserved. The poets present showed faith in their work and skill in their ability. Though we all may have been nervous, all participants pulled off their readings very well. A few performers in particular struck me as exceptionally adept.

I was mesmerized by a fellow named Brett's multi-page dissertation of the creation of the universe and of man. Intelligently written and never awkward whilst holding deep dissection of the poem at bay with a sly, wily humor. SNARK editor Rod Burns put his lovely British accent to stupendous use when reciting the prose tale of one man's Christmas. Sir Smooth lamented quite eloquently on the state of his inner demons, and Carlos told us about his love for his dog.

Afterward, I had a chance to sit and chat a little with Rod. We discussed the state of poetry on campus and the running of the readings. "We have been running the magazine and readings for about three years, and I am quite pleased at tonight's turn out. Its pretty packed in here, probably one of the largest" he remarked on the

brimming coffee bar around us. "Unfortunately, the 'organizations future remains uncertain, as both editors are to be leaving soon," Rod stated. "We get all our funding from the Grad student organization, and the grads couldn't give a fuck

about creative writing. Even the English department has its head up its ass," I was sorry to hear. It seems that though the poetry organization on campus was quite neglected and only survived by the will of its few members. Strangely enough, they have little problem receiving submissions. "We get submissions from not only the students but from people around the world. They seem to come right out of the wood work."

If you'd like to learn more about SNARK, or submit some of your own work either write to them at: Rod Burns, Carlos Hiraldo: SNARK: A JOURNAL OF SHORT FICTION AND POETRY, Department of

English, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794. Or if you can't figure out how to put a stamp on an envelope, then come down to one of the readings. Open mic readings are every other week on Thursdays, with the next on March 5th, at Professor Java's Internet Cafe right behind the Park Bench on Route 25A.



This is not Sir Alex Smooth!

The Spot

Photo: Zoppe CIRCUS

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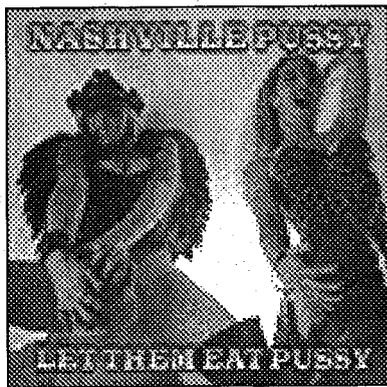
FEBRUARY 16, 1998

- 1.high llamas: cold and bouncy (v2)
- 2.air: moon safari (caroline)
- 3.hepcat: right on time (epitaph)
- 4.mood setters: stereo realists (boobophonic)
- 5.vandalias: buzzbomb (big deal)
- 6.dj spooky: synthetic fury (asphodel)
- 7.skatelites: ball of fire (island)
- 8.ani difranco: little plastic castle (righteous babe)
- 9.milhouse: obscenity in the milk (wreckage)
- 10.robert wyatt: shleep (thirsty ear)
- 11.mono: formica blues (mercury)
- 12.jesus lizard: s/t (jet set)
- 13.momus: ping pong (le grand magistry)
- 14.honeymoons: this coherent excitation (nons)
- 15.bill frisell: gone, just like a train (nonesuch)
- 16.symposium: one day at a time (infectious)
- 17.pinko pinko: traffic (nons)
- 18.unwound: challenge for...(killrockstars)
- 19.the dave chow experience: a dirty uncle's touch (tvt)
- 20.receiver: chicken milk (iron america)
- 21.dj shadow: preemptive strike (mowax)
- 22.pee-shy: don't get too comfortable (mercury)
- 23.mick harvey: pink elephants (mute)
- 24.recoil: unsound methods (reprise)
- 25.arcana: arc of testimony (island)
- 26.ted swedalla: whackin' in the basement (defco)
- 27.free kitten: sentimental education (killrockstars)
- 28.curve: come clean (universal)
- 29.kristin hersh: strange angels (rykodisc)
- 30.gaze: mitsumeru (k)

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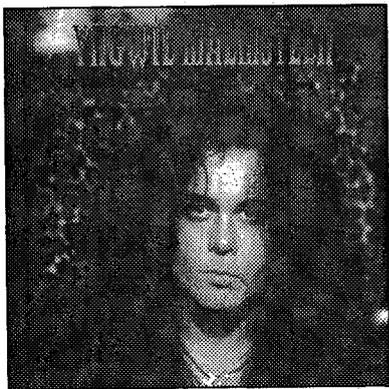
By Lowell Yaeger



Nashville Pussy
Let Them Eat Pussy
(Amphetamine Reptile)

Nashville Pussy is a great joke with a poor punchline. The idea of a superfast country-rock band ala ZZ Top (but without the guitars and beards that made them so cool) with pornographically beautiful models on guitar and bass covering Smokey Robinson's "First I Look At The Purse" has a certain amount of promise to it, I admit.

Unfortunately, the band never delivers. The collagen-enhanced hardbodies on guitar and bass, Ruyter and Corey, are competent at what they do — specifically, loud-and-fast-rules meets tough country riffage equals a punk rock barbeque, done elsewhere (and to much better effect) by the Butthole Surfers — but don't bother to try anything new or noteworthy. Drummer Jeremy is spastic and plays no better than the Zildjian spokesman at a Days Inn Sam Ash instrument show, and the "singer", Blaine, growls like a stuck pig about trucks, violence, and women cheating on him. The songs' titles, to put it nicely, speak for themselves: "Snake Eyes", "5 Minutes To Live", "Go Motherfucker Go", "Fried Chicken And Coffee". Make like a sane person lost in Texas and run, run, run!



Yngwie Malmsteen
Facing The Animal
(Mercury)

Oh, Yngwie.

Yngwie Malmsteen, for those of you who don't know, is a veteran of American hard rock's "rough patch", when metal was defined by big hair, bad make-up, and cheesy costumes. Heralded for his technical proficiency, Yngwie's dedication to the guitar gave his crap an aura of professionalism that put it turd and shoulders above the other crap. But when grunge came, everyone looked back at Yngwie, who once performed in a band named Alcatrazz, and laughed.

That didn't stop Yngwie from making music, of course, and for five years he's been America's Official "Metalhead That Time Forgot".

Check out some of these album titles: *Fire And Ice*; *Eclipse*; *Magnum Opus*; *The Seventh Sign*. Sobering, indeed.

Facing The Animal is no different. Yngwie, teamed with a band comprised mostly of no-names (Mats Leven, Barry Dunaway, and veteran drummer Cozy Powell... mmm... Cozy), rips through an excruciating hour of mind-numbingly bad metal. Some things are bad, but funny; *Animal* goes past that, to a land of swords and sorcery and playing Dungeons & Dragons at your friend's house after school because when you've got zits, no sense of style and a preoccupation with something, *anything*, to make you forget your everyday life, you just aren't out doing anything productive. The guitar solo at the end of "Alone In Paradise" should be inspirational, but all I can remember are the mingled tastes of Kraft macaroni and cheese, Dr. Pepper, and Marlboro filtereds.

This album's got it all: operatic vocal stylings, mathematically-exact guitar solos, and they even give the drummer some (I can't remember on which song; they all sound the same). The lyrics are exactly what you'd expect: on "Heathens From The North", singer Mats Leven wails things like "Dress in armour/bring your sword and shield/and your lucky charm" and "We are immortal/ever shining bright/Heathens from the north, yeah"; on the title track, he implores the listener: "I'm commanding thee/Succumb to me/set me free". These tunes would be funny if their creator didn't straight-facedly thank Antonio Vivaldi, Leonardo DaVinci, H.P. Lovecraft, and "all my friends at Pony Canyon Records (you rock!)" elsewhere in the liner notes.

In short, Yngwie J. Malmsteen is an argument for the application of denied preview (i.e. what keeps films like *Child's Play 4* from getting panned before they come out) to music journalism. I faced the animal, and he told me that although life has been tough ever since L'EGGS cancelled their "Metal Chix" pantyhose line, there's always Rite-Aid's cosmetic return policy.



Ben Folds Five
Naked Baby Photos
(Caroline)

Let's set the record straight, shall we? Ben Folds Five is one of the many bands out there being-labeled "new" and "fresh" when, as it turns out, they are nothing of the sort. I've heard Billy Joel, and I've heard They Might Be Giants, and Ben Folds Five's attempts to blend the two may have AOR radio huckstered, but not me. While the songs are catchy, and the playing is better-than-average, they aren't weird enough to spazz out with the Giants, and hey — Ben Folds is just not the Piano Man, okay?

These words may sound harsh, but rest assured, *Naked Baby Photos* — a collection of inde-

pendent singles, non-album tracks, and live recordings — is at least a pleasant listen. "Tom & Mary" and "Jackson Cannery" are rollicking little pieces that deserve a listen or two, and the improvisational pre-show (c)rap session "For Those Of Ya'll Who Wear Fannie Packs" sounds like the Beastie Boys fucking with a Steinway. The album has its mistakes, though: Folds' attempts to wax melancholic ("Eddie Walker", "Alice Childress") come across as too saccharin, and the promisingly-titled "Satan Is My Master" is a little too obvious for its own good.

Taken in the right context, *Naked Baby Photos* is an enjoyable diversion, something to stomp your feet and bob your head to. That's all.



Unsane
Occupational Hazard
(Relapse)

Everything Hazard has to offer is a development or refinement of elements Unsane has always been fond of. Chris Spencer has honed his vocal delivery from the primal venting of a Cro-Mag to the desperate shrieking of an ordinary man trying to be heard above a raging hurricane. The band certainly generates a sound that big: a wall of noise filled with Chris Spencer's distorted guitar solos, Dave Curran's bloody-knuckled bass playing, and a drum crunch courtesy of Vinnie Signorelli that perfectly replicates the sound of someone getting pistol-whipped so hard their nose cracks right off their face. The band doesn't bother to experiment with melody and harmony because the sheer block of sound would crush it outright, like a museum of glass-blown sculptures in the path of a rocket-fuel-filled semi piloted by suicidal samurais on PCP.

Spencer is mostly responsible for the lyrics, which stick to the "hardcore is as hardcore does" school of songwriting. Their general lack of imagination ("Glass cuts everything/Pain in my head/Can't see anything/Tastes like lead") works well with the musical onslaught, which doesn't vary enough from song to song to allow me to discuss any one of them individually. Though some may construe this as a bad thing, it only reinforces the album's overall blunt force trauma. Like a hatchet blow to the head, *Hazard* hurts — but there's always that cool blast of air on your brain just before the pain descends.

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