

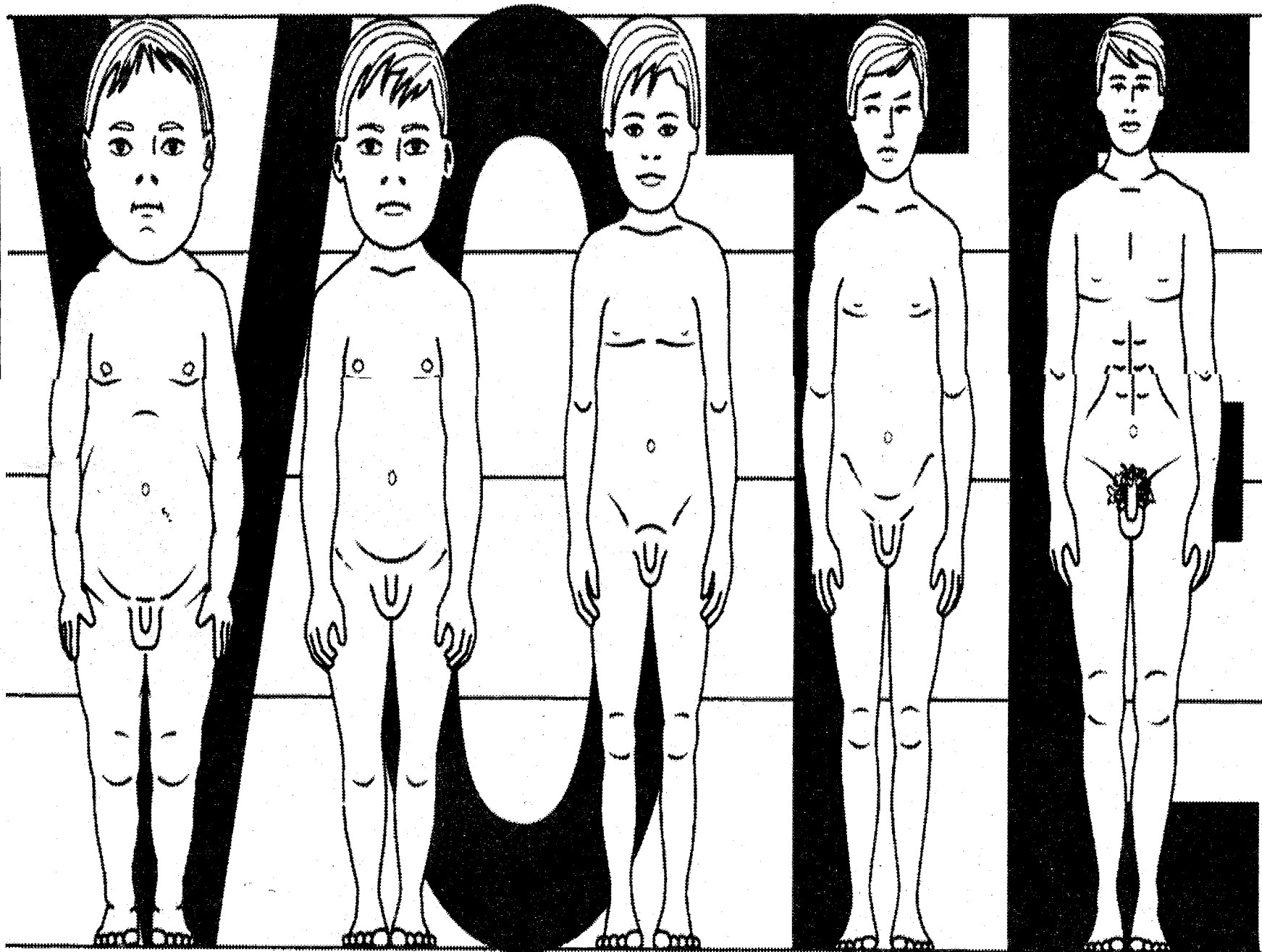
THE STONY BROOK
P r e s s

Vol. XX No. 3

"Sounding our barbaric yawp since 1979."

October 7, 1998

They Take Our Money



Who Knows What They'll Take Next?

GET OFF YOUR ASSES AND VOTE

By Jill Baron

In less than a month, there's going to be a really easy way to let hundreds of politicians and policy makers know that you can't afford to pay any more tuition. It's called voting. Maybe you would also like to see better professors and less graduate students teaching your classes, and maybe you would like to get a \$65 textbook credit. Perhaps you would even like a tuition decrease. All these messages can be conveyed on Tuesday, November 3rd, by walking into a voting booth in the Student Union and pulling a few levers.

Most students don't realize what a huge potential Stony Brook has to sway elections, even up to the congressional level. With approximately 20,000 students, Stony Brook represents a huge voting block. If everyone on campus voted, it's perfectly feasible that we could oust many of the SUNY foes that are in or vying to get into office. The problem is hardly anyone does. In fact, most

"This governor needs to be given a clear message that SUNY is disgusted by what he has done with state education."

students aren't even registered to vote. According to data collected by the Suffolk County board of elections, only 700 of the 6,000 residential students at Stony Brook are currently registered to vote on campus (this doesn't include students who are registered at their parents' residences). Since the only qualifications to register are being an American citizen and reaching the age of 18, most of us have no excuse.

Almost immediately after coming into

office in 1995, Governor Pataki called for a doubling of tuition at SUNY to \$4,650. The State Assembly Majority was able to resist the onslaught but, regrettably, Pataki was able to push through a record-breaking \$750 tuition increase that year. The Governor also vetoed a proposed \$65 textbook credit that would have cut book expenses for nearly 254,000 full-time SUNY and CUNY students. The Governor also vetoed a \$5 million increase for Aid for Part Time Studies; a \$4 million increase to child care centers for students at SUNY and CUNY; a \$12.6 million increase in opportunity programs (such as EOP); and a \$16.3 million increase for 300 new full-time faculty members at both SUNY and CUNY. In the past two years, SUNY has lost nearly 1,600 full-time faculty, while CUNY has lost 600. Forty-five per cent of the instructional staff is part-time at some SUNY schools. At CUNY, 60% of the faculty is adjunct.

According to a report put out by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), SUNY's tuition has increased 154% between the academic years 1989-90 and 1995-96. According to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1989, tuition costs equaled 4.64% of a typical New York State family income.

By 1995, a typical New York family had to dedicate 11.25% of their household income to pay for one person to attend college at a 4-year SUNY institution. College payment plans were further complicated for New Yorkers with changes in the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). In 1995-96, New York state imposed a "cap" on TAP awards to public college students at 90% of tuition.

If you are a SUNY student, or are the parents of one, these facts should alarm and anger you. That is why it is imperative that everyone get

out and vote on election day. "Students at the Stony Brook campus, if motivated, have been able to affect congressional races. Students have to voice their opinions loud [sic]. This governor needs to be given a clear message that SUNY is disgusted by what he has done with state education. Very

"If you care about the future of your education, you must get out and voice your opinion on Tuesday, November 3rd."

soon in New York, if we continue along these lines, there will be no public universities, and maybe that's what the governor has had in mind all along... so thinking along the lines of the governor, the best thing to do would be to have only private universities for only rich people to go to school. I think most people at SUNY would think that's blatantly false, and they have to voice their opinions on election day, Tuesday, November 3rd," said Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Stony-Brook alumnus (1990) and chief of staff for State Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket).

There will be a polling site in the Stony Brook Union bi-level on election day. Now all we have to do is get off our duffs and walk over to the Union to vote. There are no more excuses. If you care about the future of your education, you must get out and voice your opinion on Tuesday, November 3rd. If you aren't registered, you can do so until Thursday, October 8th through NYPIRG, or if you have any questions about voting, candidates, or the election process in general, please feel free to contact NYPIRG, located in room 079 in the basement of the Union. or at 632-6457.

**The Peace Studies Center, University at Stony Brook
and The Paine Foundation of the Three Villages**

Joyfully Invite you to join us in extending a warm

Welcome Home

Bill McNulty

As most of you know, Bill and 2,000 people from all over the United States assembled peacefully last November 16th at the main gate of the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Ga. Of the 601 arrested for walking in solemn funeral procession to deliver thousands of petitions calling for the closure of this school, 31 were repeat offenders, having marched on the school the previous November. For this act of conscious, 25 served six months in prison and paid a fine of \$3,000. Bill is now back home to continue his work to close the School of Assassins whose graduates have been responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America. Please join us as we welcome Bill back!

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m.

University at Stony Brook, Main Campus, Javits 105

Food and refreshments will be served.

For more information call Maryann Bell at 632-7107

Biomedical Research Enters A New Era

By Michael Yeh

Biomedical researchers at Stony Brook will be the envy of scientists across the nation when the Center for Molecular Medicine opens next year.

The centerpiece of this venture is a \$40-million cancer institute that will house research labs and offer specialized clinical services, announced by Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Representative Michael Forbes (R-Quogue) on Saturday, September 26.

"Cancer is a disease in which there is a great deal of public interest," said Gail Habicht, Vice President for Research Affairs. "There are many problems in basic biology that help us understand it better."

This is a particularly sensitive issue on Long Island, which boasts some of the highest rates of breast cancer in the nation. Experts predict that up to 50% of deaths in the U.S. early in the next century will be due to cancer. Despite these disturbing trends, there are currently no specialized treatment centers dedicated to serving our local communities. "Too many people leave Suffolk to go to the city for treatment," said Norman Edelman, Dean of the School of Medicine. "There are three or four [cancer centers] in the city, but in my opinion, they don't really serve the Island."

"We want to develop a comprehensive center that will emphasize basic research, clinical research, public health, and community outreach," said Edelman.

The research center, to be called The Cancer Institute of Long Island at University Hospital and Medical Center at Stony Brook, will initially receive \$2 million and an additional \$500,000 over the next two years from the federal budget. The university will also construct a 60,000 square-foot building adjacent to the University Hospital to house the institute.

But the proposed cancer institute is only one part of the university's effort to bridge the traditional gap between basic science research and development of medical applications. Until the cancer center building is completed, the institute will occupy two floors in the Center for Molecular Medicine, a research annex to the Life Sciences Building scheduled to open next year.

Although government funding for scientific

Stony Brook's Research Efforts To Be Advanced Significantly With New Life Sciences Annex

research has declined in the last few decades, Congress has recently passed legislation to double the budget for the National Institutes of Health over the next five years. Time is ripe for more investment in the life sciences. But as biochemistry department chairman William Lennarz puts it, "you can't hire people when you don't have laboratories for them."

The Center for Molecular Medicine will house institutes for the study of infectious diseases, structural biology, cell and developmental biology, and basic cancer research. Research teams on each floor will share common "open lab" space in which there are no dividing walls. "We want to group researchers whose work will benefit by interacting with other researchers," said Habicht.

One of the most urgent areas of biomedical research today is the study of infectious diseases, which have proliferated dramatically in the latter half of the century. Infectious agents constitute the leading cause of death worldwide, and rank only behind heart disease and cancer in the U.S., despite many breakthroughs in treatment and prevention.

But ironically, microbiology students in the last few decades were often told that they were entering an obsolete field of study. "In the 60s, it was considered not really a problem," said Eckard Wimmer, Chairman of the Department of Microbiology. "Since the 60s, the incidence of infectious disease has gone up in spite of antibiotics and development of vaccines."

Today, microbiology and immunology are hot topics once more. Much public interest is fueled by the fear resulting from the development of antibiotic resistant

bacterial strains and the possibility of widespread epidemics of new pathogens. "There is concern that infectious diseases can become the number two killer in the U.S., surpassing cancer," said Wimmer.

The Institute of Infectious Diseases at Stony Brook was originally designed as a center for the study of emerging pathogens. But some people were concerned that the scope of the research would be too restricted. As in the cancer institute, basic science research in infectious diseases will be multidisciplinary in nature, and more closely linked to clinical activities. "If there were only a center for emerging diseases, some of the best people in infectious diseases will not be a part of it," said Wimmer.

The rapid development of medical advances in this century can be attributed to new understandings of basic biology. Structural biology, which has taken off with the development of sophisticated imaging and computer modeling technologies, is another exciting frontier in medical research. Molecular imaging techniques such as X-ray crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and computer graphics as well as advanced microscopy methods will likely play a major role at Stony Brook.

Many researchers currently in the Life Sciences Building, especially those involved in developmental genetics, will move into the new building next year. As a result, there is room for the creation of new research teams.

"I envision the creation of a yeast molecular biology group that will occupy the vacated space," said Lennarz. The common baker's yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, is suitable for investigating cellular processes. Yeast and mammalian cells share many similar characteristics that are not found in other easily cultured organisms like a bacteria.

But such plans depend on the availability of funding, which is often unpredictable. "First, we have to find resources to modernize the [old] building," said Lennarz.

Financial pressures have forced the university to change the plan for the new building several times. A pedestrian overpass across Nicolls

continued on page 8



JESUS SAYS:

"In this issue of the *PRESS* You'll find a wonderful selection. There is cancer research and the new life sciences annex (page 2), wife beating (page 5), books that are burning (page 6), 'Brains!!! Unqagh... 'Brains' (page 8), chicken that has gone bad (page 9), Squirrel's twisted views on family values and the movies (pages 10 and 13), the top ten metalist

pick up lines

and

the

Angry

Squirrel

(page 14), the

ravings of

the

Lunatick

(page 15),

Fuckin' Ted's genitalia

'Dr. Fistfuck, and

Spanish Landscapers

(pages 18 and 19), Cows

and bulldozers (page

20), The madness even

I can't cure, Dave

Wiernicki (page 21),

music of the spheres

(pages 22 and 23)

and some naked guys

on the back. More

than even dad could

make in a week."

PRESS

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- FIRST PLACE IN SENSE OF HUMOUR (1996 & 1997)

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MOVE OVER SEAWOLF

At some point during my freshman orientation, after we'd all been shepherded into the sports complex for a bizarre social ritual, we were informed of the university's glorious change of mascot. The Stony Brook Patriots were now the Seawolves. Mutterings of "What the fuck's a seawolf?" rippled through the crowd. Then we just shrugged it off. There was a mild attempt to get us to sing some horrible fight song and then we were released.

I have since found out that besides being a mythical creature *The Seawolf* is a novel by Jack London. So I figured the seawolf wasn't that bad a choice. At least our half-mammal/ half-wave symbolic representation has some kind of literary basis. Since we're forced to have one of these things, the Seawolf seems like a better choice than the generic patriot.

However, I couldn't help wondering what the Seawolf really stood for. What kind of ideology are we espousing by cheering on the Seawolves teams, selling Seawolf memorabilia and hugging that person in a furry costume? I mean, at least patriots show love for their country, or campus. That's pretty much a good thing. Meanwhile, the Seawolf is our nation's latest nuclear submarine, which is currently housed

in nearby Groton, Connecticut. (see Vol. XX No. 2, page 12).

We at the *Press* propose another mascot change- to the angry squirrel. He has been our furry friend for a over a year now. He has served us well and we believe he epitomizes the Stony Brook attitude. He's crude, funny, and obnoxious. Anyone who's had the dubious honor of spending a long period of time on this campus will agree that those are the qualities you will encounter most.

Squirrels are also much cuter. They're also nut-gathering vegetarians, which is bound to please all those wacky non-meat eaters. The Seawolf, presumably a member of the greater wolf family, must tear the flesh off a previously live creature in order to survive. Barbaric!

We do, however, want to appear tough on the athletic field though, and what inspires more fear than a rabid squirrels? Or, even better, a pack of rabid squirrels? Certainly not a blue wolf with a tail made of water.

Students should make their voices heard and, as we prepare for Division I, demand a mascot that *really* represents our tough-as-nails, yet soft and furry personality. **Squirrel good! Seawolf bad!**

In Our September 23rd issue, we mistakenly said, in the article entitled "Campus Business Bites," that local book merchant Stony Books was closed from 5p.m. Friday through Monday morning. This was untrue. Howard Schwartz, of Stony Books, called us here at the office and told us that they were in fact open from 9a.m. till 5p.m. on Saturday and from 9a.m. till 7p.m. on Sunday. They did in fact close at 5p.m. on Friday. We apologize for our mistake.

Letter To The Editor

On Election Day Remember... Pataki Sucks!

Dear Editor:

Regarding *The Statesman's* Monday, September 28th cover story which attempted to examine Governor Pataki's policies towards the SUNY system, I must point out an oversight or two. How short our collective memories must be! Remember Pataki's first budget proposal, a mere three years ago, when he attempted to gut our Tuition Assistance Program funding as well as opportunity programs such as SEEK and EOP? That same year, Governor Pataki tried to cut SUNY's operating budget baseline support by 30%! Adding insult to injury, he mercilessly proposed the doubling of SUNY tuition to \$4,650.

That same year, when Governor Pataki was faced with thousands of peaceful student protesters, he posted half-a-dozen armed State Troopers at every entrance of the State Capitol. Pataki refused to meet with student leaders from across the state (SASU, NYPIRG, USSA, NYSSA, etc.) to discuss his callous attacks on SUNY.

Now that it's an election year, the Governor would like students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni to forget his animosity towards SUNY.

But how can we forget the appointment of SUNY trustees who are so adverse to the needs of the State University that they refused to recommend (in this \$1 billion surplus year) that a single dollar beyond last year's allocation be spent on SUNY? How can we forget their proposal to privatize all the SUNY hospitals, or their

siphoning of millions from the University Hospital at Stony Brook to backfill the gaping holes Pataki created in the overall SUNY budget? How can we forget the Governor's veto this year of \$15 million that the Legislature had allocated to restore SUNY faculty lines?

In contrast, the New York State Assembly, particularly its committee on Higher Education of which I am a member, has led the effort to vigorously resist Governor Pataki's adverse actions towards SUNY. We were forced by the Governor to hold up the entire State Budget in 1995, until the Governor backed away from his proposal to double tuition, gut financial aid, and cripple SUNY's operating budget. When re-elected, I will continue to fight for budgetary and program restorations, new faculty positions, and tuition rollbacks for SUNY students.

Don't be fooled by the Governor's minions at SUNY Central attempting to put a smiley face on his sardonic grin: It's nice to have new buildings, but where does Pataki hope to get the students to fill them, or the faculty and staff to operate within those buildings? Your support is essential in helping me continue to work on behalf of our common objective of preserving the mission and goals of the State University system. You can assist this endeavor by helping get students registered to vote by Thursday, October 8.

This is the first statewide election where there is an on-campus polling site in the Student Union Bi-Level; please spread the word to your fellow classmates, faculty, and staff that their votes make a difference. Remember to send a message to Governor Pataki that a SUNY education matters to you: Vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Steve Englebright

State Assembly, 4th District

Lecturer of Geosciences SUNY Stony Brook

STOPPING VIOLENCE AT ITS SOURCE

By Terry McLaren

"If violence against women were violence between countries, we'd call it war. If it were a disease, we'd call it an epidemic. If it were an oil spill we'd call it a disaster. But if it's happening to women, as far as some men are concerned, it's just an everyday affair"

-Men Against Violence Against Women

An armed student at Montreal's Polytechnic College entered a classroom on December 6, 1989 and ordered all the men to leave. He then proceeded to assassinate 14 female students. The shocked nation was forced to see the extent of violence against women in our society.

Thankfully, this tragedy was followed by action. An awareness campaign started by a group of concerned Canadian men addressed the issue of men's violence against women. Men and boys were encouraged to wear white ribbons and take a pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women.

Most violent crimes against women are not committed by anonymous gun-toting strangers; they are carried out by fathers, grandfathers, boyfriends, husbands, and brothers. With each crime comes a code of silence and victim shame, which helps keep the vicious cycle going. This must stop.

Intimate violence does not just happen to "other people" as we'd like to believe. It affects people of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic groups. Domestic violence includes every aspect of physical, emotional, and economic abuse, and is used to control and dominate the victim.

In the U.S., 4 million people are victims of violence and more than 95% of the victims are women. Children in violent households are abused and neglected. They also adopt the violent patterns of their parents and repeat them in their relationships. In Nassau County 40% of homicides are directly related to domestic violence. It is an issue that needs attention before more people die as a result.

Women have been struggling to end violence against women for years, but none of their work can be successful if men aren't supportive and involved. Men are the major cause of domestic violence and therefore need to become part of the solution.

One Long Island group has helped bring this issue to our attention, and offers men a way to be part of the solution. Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) began as an outgrowth of the Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. These men realized that "since men are in positions of authority and most men view domestic violence with indifference or with equal blame, this pervasive affliction will never end. Men of conscience must step forward and speak out against all violence."

MAVAW has brought issues of domestic violence to the Nassau County Legislature, demonstrated with NOW (National Organization of Women) against rape, and delivered hundreds of letters to representatives in Albany supporting pending domestic violence legislation. Now they are calling on the Stony Brook community to join them in the White Ribbon Campaign for the week of October 19th through 26th. Members of the Center for Womyn's Concerns will be giving out white ribbons in the Student Union on

Wednesday, October 21 during Campus Life Time. The White Ribbon Campaign is a "grass roots effort by men to heighten the public's awareness of the need to combat violence against women."

Men are asked to wear white ribbons to show that they will not tolerate or take part in violence against females. By doing this, they will demonstrate their love and respect for all women. Men are also asked to use this week to speak out against violence.

Many men already realize that without their involvement the domestic violence situation will never improve. But the word must be passed to all men that when one man abuses one woman, the entire community suffers. Every man should be involved in promoting the safety of women. It's the only way the hateful, and unacceptable actions of some men will not reflect badly on all men.

Every man can help eliminate violence against women. MAVAW suggests a few ways: Examine your own attitudes about women; challenge men who tell sexist jokes that degrade women; speak out and oppose sexual harassment and abuse in society; eliminate abusive behavior, such as controlling attitudes and actions, unwarranted criticism, derogatory remarks, and physical force.

If you are a man, chances are a woman you are close to has been a victim of violence. It is as much your responsibility as it is theirs to see that this tragedy does not continue. If you are an abused woman in need of help, call the Victim's Information Bureau of Suffolk County (VIBES) at (516)360-3730 or the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (516) 542-0404. Men Against Violence Against Women can be reached at (516) 579-4275.

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Censorship Causes Blindness

By Terry McLaren

Little Red Riding Hood condones the use of alcohol. According to censors, Shel Silverstein's book of children's poetry *A Light in the Attic* "glorified Satan, suicide and cannibalism, and also encouraged children to be disobedient". *The Lorax*, by the much loved Dr. Suess, was denounced for criminalizing the foresting industry. The justification for challenging *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown? "If there is a possibility something might be controversial, then why not eliminate it."

Happy belated Banned Books Week! It was September 26 to October 3 this year. I first heard about this celebration of literature and free expression two years ago. My local Barnes and Nobles hosted a marathon reading of Stephen King's macabre masterpiece *Salem's Lot*. Many volunteers and staff members took turns reading aloud in half hour shifts, and we got through a good portion of one of my favorite horror books.

Besides celebrating great written works, Banned Books Week tries to get to the root of the evil that is censorship. It examines the sources of ignorance and intolerance that lead to censorship of the arts and literature. Book censorship is a common occurrence and is not an issue that is relegated to the past.

In Prince William County, Maryland, school officials are planning to review three books from the school system's summer reading list after a parent complained. The books in question apparently contain profanity (like children aren't exposed to that every day at school) and explicit sex scenes (ever watch *Melrose Place*?). The works were *Go Tell It on the Mountain*; by James Baldwin, *Nightjohn*, by Gary Paulsen, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s *Slaughterhouse Five*. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Slaughterhouse Five* are no strangers to controversy, they have already been challenged or removed by schools in various parts of the country.

Last year, Maya Angelou's autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* was taken away from a ninth grade English curriculum in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. It was then returned on the condition that teachers warn parents of its contents. The portion of the book people objected to was when Angelou describes her rape at age eight by her mother's boyfriend.

While the subject matter in this portion of the book is a bit delicate, it is right to say that students shouldn't read it because it deals with a disturbing topic? Life is painful at times and Angelou's story shows young people that traumatic experiences can be survived and that people can triumph if they stay strong.

A favorite target of red-pen-wielding censors is literature that discuss gay and lesbian issues. Last June, a "no promo homo" bill was introduced by a Republican state legislator. The bill would make it a felony to provide a minor with material that "condones or advocates alternate lifestyles" without the minor's parents giving written consent. The bill's sponsor did not define "alternate lifestyles," but a

parent testifying in favor of the bill said he was appalled that *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Leslea Newman was available at area libraries.

According to an American Civil Liberties Union of Texas poll of 875 school districts, 220 titles by 142 authors were challenged, including the classic story about a horse, *My Friend Flicka*. All in all, 73 titles were banned

controversial, or as portraying life's unpleasant realities.

The ACLU website (www.aclu.org) states "Censorship today comes in many forms, from challenges to school reading lists to emerging issues of library filtering and blocking of the Internet. Whenever a school board or any other government entity limits your right

"Shel Silverstein's book of children's poetry *A Light in the Attic* 'glorified Satan, suicide and cannibalism, and also encouraged children to be disobedient'."

from libraries in 30 school districts, and 11 books were removed from 10 school districts' curricula. Among reasons for challenges were "objectionable language" and "descriptions of abuse." Judy Blume, R. L. Stine, Christopher Pike and Robert Cormier were popular targets. It's ironic that Blume and Pike are very popular with young adults, and Stine's *Goosebumps* is being praised by some parents for getting previously disinterested children to read.

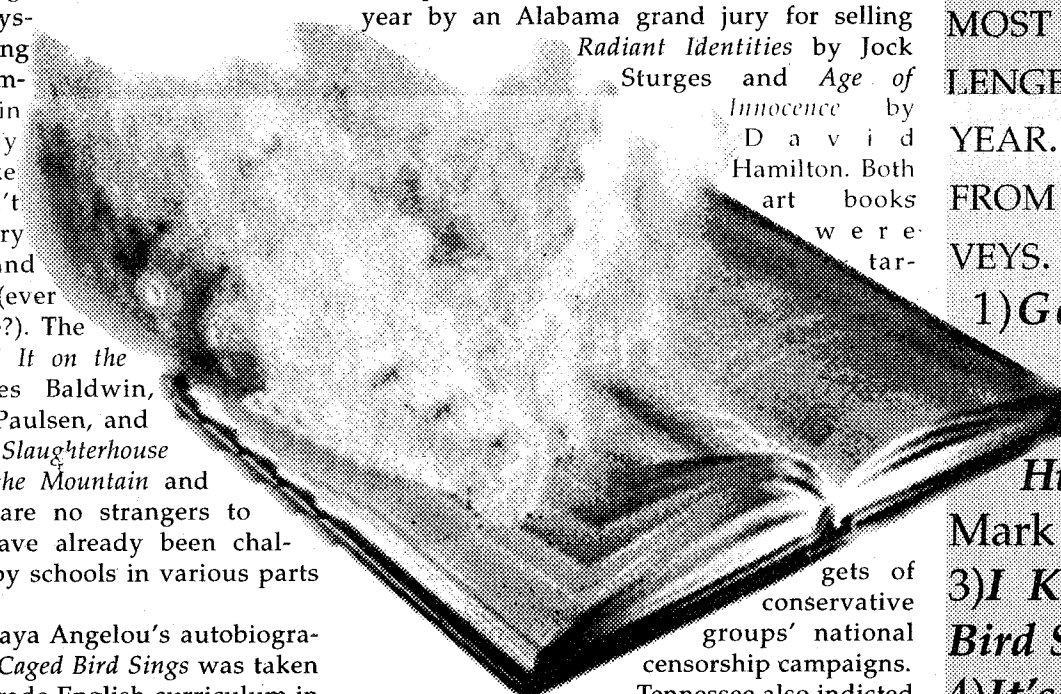
Bookstores can also be victims of censorship. Barnes and Nobles was indicted this year by an Alabama grand jury for selling

Radiant Identities by Jock Sturges and *Age of Innocence* by David Hamilton. Both art books were tar-

to decide what you want to see, hear or read, that is censorship."

THE FOLLOWING LIST WAS COMPILED BY THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION IN 1997. IT IS A LIST OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED BOOKS FROM THAT YEAR. THE DATA IS GATHERED FROM NEWSPAPERS AND SURVEYS.

- 1) *Goosebumps Series*, R.L. Stine
- 2) *The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
- 3) *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
- 4) *It's Perfectly Normal*, Robie Harris
- 5) *The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier
- 6) *Catcher In The Rye*, J.D. Salinger
- 7) *Bridge To Terebithia*, Katherine Paterson
- 8) *Forever*, Judy Blume
- 9) *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier



Barnes and Noble on similar charges regarding the works. The store agreed to display the books wrapped in plastic and only on high shelves. The case in Alabama is still in the courts.

Meanwhile, back where the first amendment still carries some weight, attorneys general in Louisiana and Mississippi and a district attorney in Pennsylvania have declined to press charges over the sale of the books in question. They apparently did not find the photographs obscene.

The right for an individual to choose what they see, hear and read is one of our fundamental freedoms. Our taste in art or literature does not need to be dictated by the government.

If restraints are allowed to be put on literature, the path is readied for further attacks on all human expression that might be deemed

This is Your Brain on fMRI

By James Polichak

Scientists are developing techniques to allow them to examine living human brains as they process information. One of the researchers involved in this work, Terrence Sejnowski, gave a lecture on September 28, discussing the history and applications of brain imaging research. Sejnowski, of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, focussed his lecture on the different levels of function in the brain and on research techniques that allow scientists to study the brain's function across these levels.

Sejnowski began his talk, entitled "Independent Components of Functional Brain Imaging," by likening the brain to a set of Chinese boxes: each level of brain function is composed of smaller units with their own ways of working, from the level of the entire central nervous system, to smaller systems like the limbic system, through neural maps and networks, down to individual neurons and the molecules they are composed of. Sejnowski said that the challenge for his field, computational neuroscience, was to develop techniques that can help unify models of processing from different levels of brain function, so that larger systems and their interactions can be understood.

Sejnowski went on to talk about how computational neuroscience has begun to answer two questions: What does a single neuron encode? How does the brain represent complex stimuli? In visual perception, a complex stimulus — the environment — must be broken down into meaningful parts and reassembled in order for a person to make sense of the world. The eye and areas of the brain that process visual information contain cells that respond to highly specific features of the environment. For example, a cell might fire in response to a line at a 45 degree angle, but not to one at a 75 degree angle. The properties of individual neurons can be studied relatively easily in organisms other than humans. Though quite time consuming, researchers can record the firing of single neurons as they respond to different kinds of stimuli (as Hubel & Wiesel did in their Nobel-prize winning research on vision). Single-cell recording is too invasive for use on humans, and other methods of analysis must be devised. Sejnowski discussed a new statistical method, independent component analysis, that may be used to achieve a fine resolution of the workings of the human brain. Techniques for the non-invasive study of the human brain have difficulty achieving fine detail and determining which neurons are responding to a stimulus. Signals are recorded from various parts of the brain and are filled with noise from movements, metabolic functions, and so on. Independent component analysis filters out the signals coming from various parts of the brain by

breaking down the signals according to an algorithm that weighs parts of the signal in different ways. From analyzing the differences in the signal that result from the different weights, researchers can determine which parts of the signal came from which part of the brain, which are responses and which are random noise, thereby obtaining a detailed map of how the brain functions in response to a particular stimulus.

Sejnowski also discussed computational neuroscience techniques for understanding the brain's response in a more complicated situation, the Stroop task. The Stroop task requires a person to

independent component analysis is useful again: it can be used to filter out from the overall recordings which parts of the signal are coming from which area of the brain, distinguishing the rhythmic signal of the blood pumping through the arteries from the signal that results from the processing of the Stroop task. Sejnowski reported that such analyses have found that the cerebellum, a part of the brain usually thought to be responsible only for low level functions like control of movement and breathing, is active during cognitive tasks like Stroop, even when all signals due to movement of the body are filtered out of the fMRI recording.

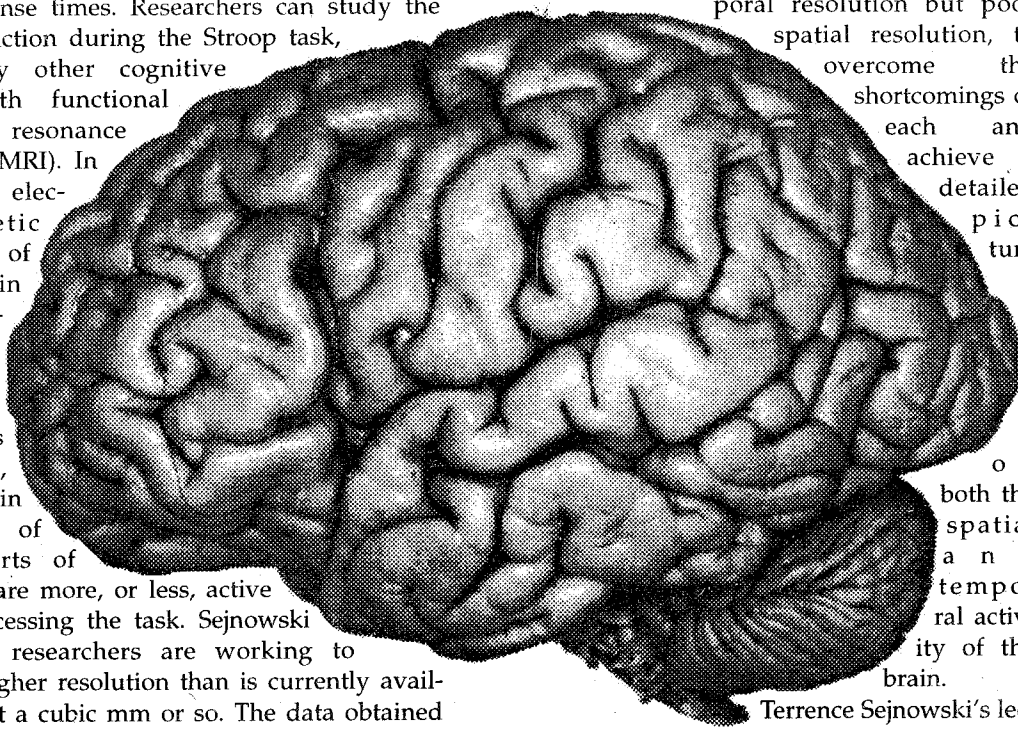
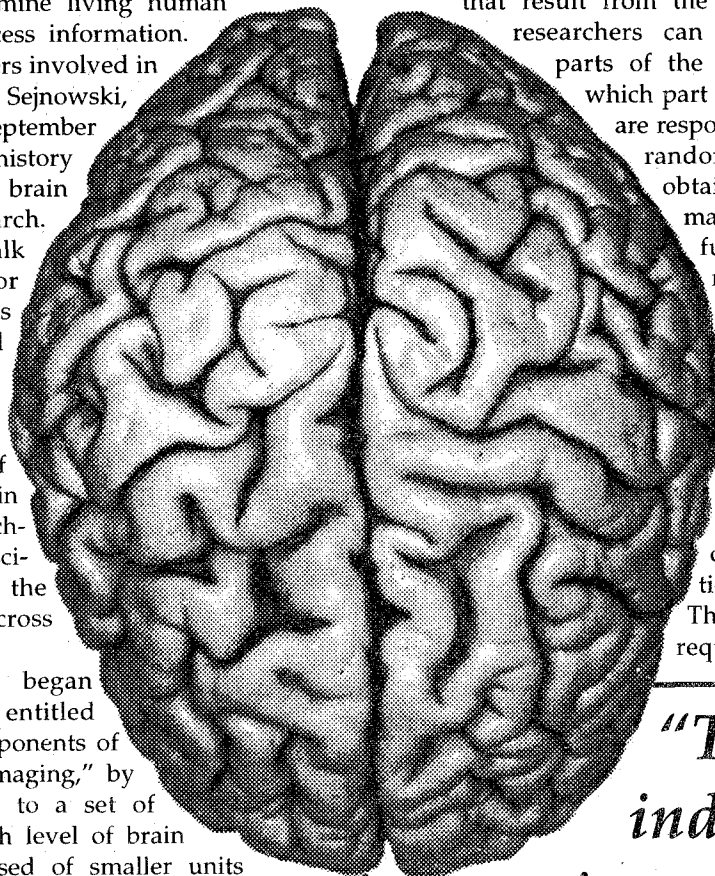
Techniques like fMRI and independent component analysis are allowing scientists to create ever finer pictures of the human brain as it processes information. Researchers can study how the brain responds to visual stimuli and language, or which areas are active during sleep. Sejnowski noted that the CIA is interested in using such techniques in developing better methods of lie detection — a person may be a good actor, but if there are parts of the brain that fire differently during lies than during truth-telling, then acting skill probably won't help. On a more benign note,

"Techniques like fMRI and independent component analysis are allowing scientists to create ever finer pictures of the human brain as it processes information."

name the color that a color name is printed in (for example naming the color of the newsprint in the word "red.") When trying to do this, a person must work to avoid reading the word rather than naming the color it is printed in, resulting in errors and long response times. Researchers can study the brain's function during the Stroop task, and many other cognitive tasks, with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). In fMRI, the electromagnetic responses of the brain that coincide with a task are measured across time, resulting in a map of which parts of the brain are more, or less, active while processing the task. Sejnowski said that researchers are working to achieve higher resolution than is currently available, about a cubic mm or so. The data obtained from fMRI is also quite noisy, like that obtained in lower level research. Since fMRI records at a time scale of about a second, a participant's movements, extraneous thoughts, and metabolic functions can create a lot of noise over the relevant signal. Here,

Sejnowski said that work is progressing on combining the information obtained from fMRI, which has a high spatial resolution but poor temporal resolution, with that from Event Related Brain Potential (ERP) recordings, which have fine temporal resolution but poor spatial resolution, to overcome the shortcomings of each and achieve a detailed picture of both the spatial and temporal activity of the brain.

Terrence Sejnowski's lecture was sponsored by the Schwartz Fund for Computational Neuroscience and is part of a series continuing throughout the year.



It's a month into the semester and pretty obvious that our new meal plan provider, Chartwells, is going to surpass all our most horrid expectations. After all, allegedly poisoning and hospitalizing 12 students in a span of two weeks, raising the meal plan by \$150, cutting dining hours and food quality campus wide, and the rehiring of the (recently terminated) Director of Dining Services, Dennis Le Strange is no small task.

But when we're talking about food prices across campus, you have to give the brain trust over at Chartwells a little credit. They are both relentless and artful in ripping into the students' wallets.

As an avid eater of chicken, I will share with you my recent adventure at the Bleacher Club in the Stony Brook Union. I eat at

same price." At Pudgies over in Smithtown, one piece of chicken is \$2.69. Mike Scaturro, the manager over at Pudgies in Smithtown was startled. "Wow! I thought we were high. I can't let the owner hear that, we'll have to start raising our prices," he said. "It's certainly not a meal... I think it's time that [Bleacher] change their menu."

On Sept. 17, while sitting and eating my very expensive piece of chicken, I signaled to Robert Conway, the manager over Bleacher, and pointed out the price of the chicken to him and asked if he thought the price was ridiculous, considering Boston Market's price. He agreed with me that the price of the chicken was high but emphasized that a committee made the prices. I then asked him to print out a receipt for my order to which he complied, but then asked the nature of my concern.

received the phone call.

I then paid a visit to Bleacher a few days later looking for Mr. Conway. When I came up to him and asked him about the phone call, he was startled and immediately took me to see Bob Kelly. Mr. Kelly explained to me that it was all a pricing error, and that someone named "Bill" from upstairs, was responsible for the pricing. He said that that he would be glad to refund me for the difference of \$1.02. But when I asked him to multiply that by the more than 100 students per day that come to purchase rotisserie chicken, he sighed, and couldn't give me an answer. When I asked him to provide all receipt records for chicken purchases, he said, "he would look into it, but doesn't know if it's possible." He assured me, however, that the price of the rotisserie chicken was always sup-

"How Much Is That Chicken In The Window?"

By Ben Varghes

Bleacher quite often just to get away from the heart clogging grease and mystery-meat lo mein over at Roth Quad. Now, Bleacher has a dining section called "Market Carvery" where they serve Rotisserie and Fried Chicken every day, along with a variety of side dishes. Now, granted that Chartwells has set up a meal combo, where you can get chicken, rice, and vegetables for at a certain price, but God help you if you decide to substitute the Mac & Cheese instead of the rice. On numerous occasions this semester, I took the dare and got Mac & Cheese instead, and was charged mercilessly for it. It turns out that if you don't get the meal exactly as stated on the menu, the cashier will charge you for every item on your plate individually. Now let me ask you a question: how much would you pay for ONE piece of rotisserie chicken? Not two, but one? Say, a breast or a thigh? \$2.00? \$2.50-max? Well, at Bleacher, you get one piece of chicken for only \$4.07! Now, don't all of you go rushing there at once.

So as I waited on line to be rung up, the two elderly female cashiers, who seem to be veterans at their job, and being motherly as they were, always warned me not to buy the chicken separately because as they say, "it was \$4.07 for each piece of rotisserie chicken," which comes up as "market carvery" on the receipt. I decided to keep tab on that magic number for a few weeks and call a couple of off-campus eateries and compare prices. Laura Conte, the manager over at Smithtown's Boston Market, was appalled. According to Conte, one piece of rotisserie chicken at Boston Market is \$2.29. "It's ridiculous. I would never pay \$4.07, you could get a whole chicken here for almost the

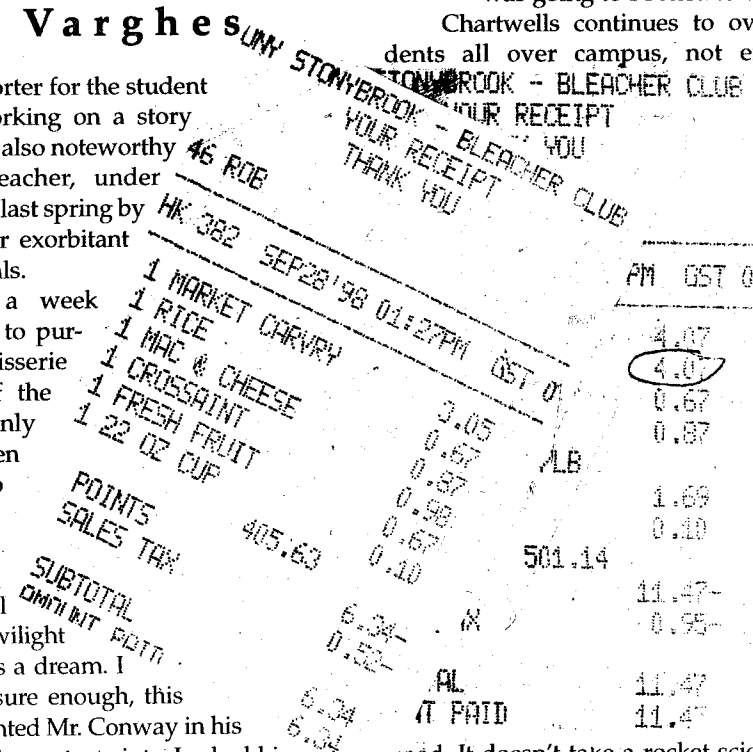
I told him I was a reporter for the student media and I was working on a story about food prices. It is also noteworthy to mention that Bleacher, under Aramark, was blasted last spring by the *Statesman* for their exorbitant prices for chicken meals.

More than a week later, as I got on line to purchase my usual rotisserie chicken, the price of the chicken suddenly dropped to \$3.05. When I asked the same two cashiers, they said they never heard of the price, \$4.07, for rotisserie chicken. I thought I was in the twilight zone. Or maybe it was a dream. I pinched myself, and sure enough, this was real. I then confronted Mr. Conway in his office and started pulling out receipts. I asked him the reason for the price discrepancy and when he couldn't give me an answer, he looked over at the other manager across for him hoping he had an explanation. The other manager just shrugged his shoulders looking baffled. Mr. Conway told me that he would discuss this with his boss, Bob Kelly, and that he would give me call later that day. I never

posed to be \$3.05 and that the cashiers would be trained again if necessary and that a big meeting was going to be held to discuss this.

Chartwells continues to overcharge students all over campus, not exclusively at Bleacher. If students remain apathetic to these constant rip-offs, then Chartwells will continue to take advantage of the situation. Even after raising the meal plan by \$150, they still feel they have the right to overcharge students on

road. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what's going on here, people. To put in the worst possible light, Chartwells is committing theft. So the next time you're on line at Bleacher or anywhere else on campus, keep a close eye on what exactly you are being charged for and always ask for a receipt. If you're not happy with a price, let your voice be heard. Besides, it's your money.



Road and an auditorium were trimmed out of the design. And it is still not clear where the university will get money for custodial service and routine maintenance.

"Although the state has provided the resources for the building, we are concerned about the infrastructure," said Lennarz.

Much of the funding for the new institutes will come from partnerships with private corporations. Critics point out that allowing market forces to infiltrate academic work creates a Faustian bargain in which scientists are influenced to focus primarily on potentially profitable research.

But Lennarz sees no contradiction between academic research and the biotechnology industry. "As we develop new methodologies, it's of great interest to the industrial companies to adopt these," he said. "The end product is different, but the mechanism for getting that product is the same."

Habicht agrees, but she stresses the importance of proper oversight: "There tends to be a mutually beneficial relationship when it is managed carefully, and conflicts of interests are avoided."

Cancer Center—from page 2

Despite the apparent abundance of vacant lab space in the Life Sciences Building, the university is expected to shut down the biology library to make room for a neurobiology research group. Citing high maintenance costs, Dean of Libraries Joseph Branin released a plan two years ago, outlining the consolidation of all branch libraries on campus. This controversial plan, which calls for the biology collection to be split between the Health Sciences Center Library and the Melville Library, has caused several faculty to cry foul. "We've got all those fancy new labs, but they're saying we don't have money for books," said one professor who requested anonymity. "Brilliant, isn't it?"

Another feature that is often viewed with skepticism is a wing reserved for undergraduate laboratories and classrooms. In the past, undergraduate biology classes and offices have frequently been moved around to make

room for researchers. "We've been kicked around repeatedly," said George Hechtel, former director of the undergraduate biology major. "We were relegated to the dungeons, and when they decided they needed more [research] room, they kicked out undergraduate bio. If you want my cynical opinion, by the year 2000, they will take away that little wing."

But Habicht claims that these fears are unfounded. "I think that having [undergraduate biology] in this nicely defined space will make them easier to protect, in a sense," she said.

There is still much uncertainty about how the Center for Molecular Medicine will operate with respect to cutting-edge research and classroom instruction. Nevertheless, Habicht is optimistic for the future. "We have a number of research programs that have grown well," she said. "I think it will be a unique opportunity for us, and we want to make the most out of it."

GOING HUNGRY: NEWS THAT REALLY MATTERS

By Norman Solomon

Two days after many TV networks aired every moment of Bill Clinton's grand-jury testimony, several members of Congress teamed up with researchers and activists for a dramatic forum about "economic human rights." The independent hearing focused on matters of profound importance—and the big news media ignored it.

The gathering took place on Capitol Hill, right under the noses of the Washington press corps. And the media establishment stayed away in droves. Not a single TV camera was there. In fact, hardly any journalists showed up.

"Thirty million Americans are hungry," notes the Institute for Food and Development Policy, also known as Food First, which helped to organize the Sept. 23 forum. Somewhere between 5 million and 7 million are homeless. "More than 40 million Americans have no health insurance. And the country has the highest rate of child poverty among the industrialized countries."

The institute emphasizes that "hunger is not an accident, in the U.S. or anywhere else. There is no scarcity of food in the world. Certainly there's no shortage here in America." Yet, "the number of hungry people in America has increased by half since 1985."

While we keep being told that the nation's economy is robust, inequities continue to widen. "Sure, there are more millionaires than ever in the U.S.," says Food First. "But for every new millionaire, there are countless new hungry people for whom \$100 or \$200 a month in food stamps is the

only safeguard against malnutrition, even starvation."

So, why don't we hear more about hunger in the United States? A key factor is the media industry's fixation on demographics. "Because the mass media is aimed at the people with the highest disposable income, we see pictures of hunger overseas, but not our own," Food First observes. "Perhaps that's a reason why the growth of the Hunger Class has been ignored politically."

The forum on economic human rights included testimony from scholars. But there were also firsthand accounts of being hungry in America. "It isn't that I never worked," said a grandmother named Katherine Engles. "I worked since I was 14 years old. The jobs that are out there—you are not making enough in order to live. Mothers go hungry at night so their children can eat."

In the glazed-over eyes of editors in Washington, her words were not significant. But they remain: "When you are hungry, it's really hard. Sometimes, I would psyche myself to a cup of tea and try to make myself feel as though I just ate a full-course meal even though I didn't. Sometimes, I would roll bread up into little dough balls to try to fill myself up. It gets to a point where you kind of get used to it. Till today, I can't eat no more than one meal a day. It's what I am used to, and even today it's about all we can afford anyway."

And, she added: "I keep looking at the bigger issue. What's ahead for our children, our grandchildren? What is ahead for them?"

Engles was one of 200 people, many of them poor, who filled the room in the Rayburn House Office Building to support a "Fairness Agenda for America." The media odds were stacked against them—and not only because of the frenzy over President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.

Major media outlets have usually stayed away from efforts to challenge economic disparities. Traditional news judgment dictates that journalists tread lightly on the subject of who really wields the economic power—and at whose expense—in the United States.

(Although media gatekeepers blocked the recent forum in Washington, plenty of information is available—at www.foodfirst.org and www.net-progress.org—on the Web.)

People fighting for economic human rights have always had an uphill battle for space in the mass media. Now, the media terrain is tilted against them more than ever.

Can you imagine what would have happened this year, if the news media concentrated on hunger in America with the same fierce determination that has pervaded coverage of sex near the Oval Office? By now, life would be much better for a lot of children who will go to bed hungry tonight.

Norman Solomon is co-author of "Wizards of Media Oz: Behind the Curtain of Mainstream News" and author of "The Trouble With Dilbert: How Corporate Culture Gets the Last Laugh."

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YOU WANT FAMILY VALUES? I GOT YOUR FAMILY VALUES!

By G. Avery Kerbs

We approach a new millennium and are beginning to ease into our third century as the "American" culture. In light of these milestones, and seeing the pathetic state of our "culture," I believe it's time to change the patterns of oppression, neglect, and violence that exist in our society. We speak of cultural enlightenment as we cast a blind eye to the abuses in the American household. We talk of societal awareness as we beat the different into conformity. We lie, we kill, we cheat and we steal, and it all starts at home.

The concept of traditional family values is outdated. The lessons of masculinity and femininity taught by GI Joe and Barbie have no place in this

Treat children like the human beings you hope they'll one day become. Respect their ideas, and wishes

world. Parents cradle their children 'til high school and then send them off to South Oaks when little Timmy thinks for himself. When sweet Jenny can't pass her courses, I guess it's time for that old family aid, Ritalin (lets call them mommy and daddy's little helpers). Lets stroll through happy magical 1975-85-Dr. Spock-ADD-Repressed Sexuality--Therapy-Land. On second thought, let's not. That family is dead.

Long live the family. Not the family for the nineties, or the zeros or the next millennium. It's the family that learns and grows together. A family that works. This family treats their children as human beings and not as objects. The family that respects its elders for their wisdom. It gives its children the time and space necessary for growth. The family discusses its problems and works together to overcome them. This family sees the world clearly and never sugarcoats it. It can exist, but first the old family must accept its faults and change accordingly.

Fault the First: Mommy's Fault? Daddy's Fault?

Hey kid. You're gonna grow up to be your mom and dad, or worse. Parenting styles aren't learned through manuals and seminars, they're from years of experience as a child. The things that shut you up as a child are gonna shut your children up too, and your grand-children, and your great grand-children, and so on until the day we die. This seems a little unfair, doesn't it? Perhaps even a little ignorant? Well then don't do what worked on you. I'm sure you aren't totally happy with the way you were treated as a child. So why would you do that to your kids?

It's a fact that punishment is far from the most effective way to affect change. It suppresses problems, but never eliminates them (take for example the current prison system and the number of repeat offenders it helps create). I'm not saying that all problems can simply be explained away. Hell no! Our minds are not willing to change based on simple explanation. For effective and long-term change, one must look to the combination of experience and rationale. Kids know that you say drugs are bad, but they won't believe it unless they find out themselves (be it experimentation or proximity).

You want your children to respect you as more than just a money-machine? You wish to be treated like you have a say in their lives? Then treat them like the human beings you hope they'll one day be. Respect their wishes and ideas, learn why

they act and think like they do. Realize that your children are closer to your youth than you are now. And know that the freedoms we as adults have are equally applicable to the young. We speak freely, act freely and fuck ourselves over freely.

Fault the Second: they grow up so fast.

You may not realize that children grow faster than you think. By my (probably biased) experience, kids have the mental faculties necessary for rational, mature, judgement at approximately the age of twelve. The only reason that a child would make a stupid or otherwise illogical and dangerous decision is if a child was severely limited in the amount of control he/she had over his/her own decisions. If allowed to make decisions for themselves, I believe children would

learn to place value on those decisions. In other words, "to mother your kids is to smother them." If, as they aged, our children discovered that all actions have consequences, and that they must be responsible for them, then perhaps their moral, ethical, and logical judgement abilities wouldn't be so crippled.

"If a child burns himself, he learns the pain of fire" so to speak. Now don't confuse this with endangering your child physically. I speak of letting a child face his/her own demons and tackle them. Allowing them this freedom promotes independent thought and trust in one's own capabilities. Thought and faith in oneself is the nemesis of peer pressure and ignorance, two of the most destructive social forces.

Fault the third: Did I forget to mention...

I didn't hear anything about sex from my parents until six months after receiving my first blow job, needless to say: too little too late. Why can't parents tell children about sex, death, and practically anything else relative to how the real world functions before the child seriously "screws" himself over. Not to contradict my second point, but to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Kids don't want mom's and dad's rules for right and wrong washing their brain; they just want a glimpse at the reality of the situation from which they can begin to formulate their own judgements.

Show them love, sex and death early. Don't fill their heads with birds and bees, mythical after-lives, or false assurances that love conquers all. Help them prepare themselves for the inevitable first brushes.

If you sugar coat the world that your children have to one day enter, then you're setting them up for quite a shock when reality bites them in the ass. It is important to identify and tackle the major concerns of life early on. Once the words can enter their vocabulary, the concepts should enter their head. And knock off this Santa Claus shit: the promise of treats should not be the way to entice children to behave.

Fault the fourth: TV rhymes with mommy

A day doesn't pass without hearing some whack job perpetrating crimes against humanity and claiming, "But I saw it on TV" as a defense. You think there's violence and explicit sex on television? Then don't drop your kids in front of the idiot box each night to shut them up. If you are going to be a TV-household, then watch it as a family, where every one picks something to view.

It's not the media's job to care for your child, so don't go pestering them to censor their work. If there is an objectionable subject that raises its head, don't freak out and punish the child — who probably had nothing to do with it— instead discuss the subject logically and rationally. By the time a child can recognize sex and violence he/she should already be formulating his/her own judgements on the subject.

Alternately, don't keep your child from media input. He/she still needs to realize that an entire world of fucked-up shit exists. Only by recognizing, as a family, what is 'good' and 'bad' in society can a parent hope to see their child grow up to be a responsible, intelligent individual. Media provide us not only with a window into the sick and perverse, but also into expressions of culture and individuality we might never come into contact with otherwise. Through these experiences and the discussions that follow; you and your children should come to some rather mature decisions.

Portrait of the Ideal Family

I have yet to offer any alternatives to the current "American" family. Well you want one, you got one. It's the Addams Family. More the shows and movies than the original cartoons. But without question the most functional, level, on the ball family I have seen is The Addams Family.

Look at the evidence.

They treat their children with respect and trust. And low and behold the children are both respectful and worthy of trust. They are allowed to freely express themselves and, as a consequence respect mother and father when they tell them that some thing their doing isn't necessarily wrong, just not right at the moment.

If any TV children have a healthy outlook on the realities of life they're the Addams children. They acknowledge, revere, and embrace sexuality, death, and life in all its forms (freakish or not). I doubt I am as well adjusted to the harshnesses of life. There is no TV in their house. The family explores culture through literature and participation (though I'm relatively sure they would have the Internet were the show to be fully updated to the nineties).

The Addams children have to be quick to

The lessons of masculinity and femininity taught by GI Joe and Barbie have no place in this world.

survive; they'd seen it all by the time they were five. As such, they know what to look out for, when to duck and when to run. Decisions are not made in haste and all options are explored in the decision making process.

While the prospect of the Addams Family as a model household is not entirely realistic, the ideals behind their family structure are perfect. Seek to eliminate the gap between adult and child, and your family will find understanding.

Debbi Dallas Needs To Act Now!

By Hilary Vidair and Sarajeon Cole

The hypothetical situation:

Late one Thursday evening, 17 year-old Debbi, a freshman, decided to check out a campus fraternity party. She had a few too many drinks and met a cute guy named Happy Fred, who offered her tickets to a Kraftwerk concert in exchange for sexual favors. She consented, and they had wild, passionate, unprotected monkey sex for a total of twelve minutes. Unsatisfied, Debbi walked back to H quad.

A few weeks later, Debbi found out that Happy Fred had also slept with Lucy Lipps, who is known for her promiscuity. She wanted to go to the gynecologist to get checked out, but unfortunately, she would need her parents' consent because she was a minor. There was no way she could tell her parents that she was sexually active. Her mother is a nun and her father owns a belt that stings like a bitch.

Debbi went on for weeks and weeks without getting tested. As a result of this procrastination, she ended up having an incurable case of gonorrhea.

The real situation:

If Congress passes a bill requiring minors to obtain parental consent for gynecological examinations, then a story such as Debbi's could occur.

In the near future, Congress is planning to ban minors from receiving any form of gynecological services at Title X clinics without their parents' or the courts' consent as part of the FY99 spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. HIV screening, contraceptives, treatment for sexually transmitted

diseases (STD's), routine gynecological services, and cervical and breast screening are among the few options minors will no longer have readily accessible to them. Studies report that if women under the age of 18 must have written permission from their guardians, they will avoid seeking clinical and family planning services. This will ultimately cause an increase in the number of unwanted pregnancies, STD's, and HIV infections among teenagers. If we are to maintain health options for young women, we must act now and oppose this legislation.

Many major medical groups, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Woman's Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics oppose required parental notification for seeking necessary health services. Moreover, passing this provision means nullifying laws in 22 states that allow minors themselves to consent to medical attention. This would also discontinue a teenager's right to confidential testing and treatment.

The truth is that most teenagers are already sexually active before going to a Title X clinic. In fact only 14% of teens came in for testing prior to physical relations. Over one-third decided to seek treatment solely on the hunch that they might be pregnant. In addition, the average teen is engaged in sexual activity for 11.5 months before seeking services. If this bill is passed, the statistics will drastically change, and not for the better. It will not prevent minors from having sex, but rather it will further prevent from acting responsibly.

Currently Title X counselors are trained to advise teens to openly communicate with their families. The results of this advising have been mostly beneficial. For those who choose not to involve their parents even after counseling, the passing of this part of the bill still will not change their position. Instead, being required to obtain permission will only reduce the amount of teens seeking services.

This will cause many problems. For example, teenage women will no longer be able to independently get birth control pills. Although condoms can be bought in any drug store, many people do not use them. This is especially pertinent to monogamous relationships. If minors can not get on the pill, they may resort to the rhythm method. This will result in more pregnancies.

Pregnant teens will not be able to have abortions without telling their parents. This could cause young women to resort to unsanitary procedures, such as those of the 70's. It will also lead to an increase in children raised in poverty, hostility, and neglect.

Minors could not be tested for disease on their own, either. This will cause many to go around unhealthy and ignorant. More diseases (including AIDS) will be spread amongst teens than ever before.

In order to defeat this bill, we must take the initiative to fight for our civil liberties. We must protest any attempts to make parent or court consent mandatory in order to receive gynecological services. To oppose the efforts of this provision, e-mail your New York Congressman Michael Forbes at ny01.forbes@mail.house.gov or fax him at (202)225-3143. Act now to make a difference!

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FEATURES



cast (from L to R): Billy Connolly, Tony Shalhoub, Lili Taylor, Campbell Scott, Stanley Tucci, Oliver Platt, Allison Janney, And Steve Buscemi are keeping it real in *The Imposters*

By Glenn "Squirrel" Given

There's one thing missing in film today, and that's a good farce. Not the gross-out comedies or frat boy movies of the past few years but an old fashioned farce. Perhaps it's been so long since you last saw one that the meaning of the words escapes you. To put it plainly a farce is a slightly unrealistic comedy, based on an off-kilter cast of characters and their often convoluted relationships. Best described as madcap, the action rarely lets up and the humor doesn't wait for the audience. Laurel & Hardy, and Buster Keaton were masters of this comedic form but each failed in their own ways. Keaton was the same character in each film, where Laurel & Hardy may have played varying roles but always reached the same outcome.

For a long time, farce has been left to the stage. When it is brought to the realm of film, the results are spotty at best. Perhaps because one of the funniest things about stage farce is the speed in which it is executed. Quick changes and furious antics become the calling card for a theatrical comedy, and sadly feats such as those are accomplished all too easily on camera.

Knowing this, I was skeptical at the prospect of viewing what was dubbed as "a madcap farce". At first glance *The Imposters* appeared to be a sad follow up to *Big Night*, Stanley Tucci's directorial debut. Nonetheless, the tickets to the screening were free and it was a beautiful day to spend in Manhattan. So onwards I went.

I was quite pleased to find *The Imposters* rolling with laughter. We meet Arthur (Stanley Tucci) and Maurice (Oliver Platt), two out of work actors holding out for the perfect job. When their improvisational attempts to scam a baker go awry, they end up being wrongfully accused of assaulting the most successful and talentless actor in the world, Jeremy Burton (played by Alfred Molina). They stow away on a cruise ship to escape the law.

Castaways on a cruise liner of madcap miscommunication, Maurice and Arthur must use their acting abilities to avoid the host of crew and passengers who are after them. Hunted by the sadistic Head Steward Meistrich (Campbell Scott) and his cohorts, as none other than Burton himself, the duo must duck, dodge and disguise their way out of a multitude of tight situations. Only with the help of Lily the Head Stewardess (Lili Taylor) do Maurice and Arthur uncover the hidden plots of the guests and crew, and hopefully save their dignity, careers and lives.

Funny is not the word for a film like this. More like classic-hilariously classic. I've been waiting for the film community to open its eyes to its roots. Tapping into the early styles of Hollywood cinema, Stanley Tucci crafts a masterful comedy. Rife with crazy antics and clipped pacing, *The Imposters* brings to the screen a sophisticated humor that is severely lacking in the current film realm.

Stanley Tucci's *The Imposters* can currently be seen in select cities and opens area wide on Oct. 2nd.

In addition to the screening, my Editor and I attended the following press conference with Tucci, Billy Connolly (who plays a gay Scottish tennis pro), and Hope Davis (who plays the melancholy Emily). The press right off the bat noticed the similarities between *The Imposters* and early American comedies. Tucci replied that "although inspired by them, I didn't want the audience to be able to predict the action" which is so easily done in many farces. Tucci's basic approach on how to make a funny film was simple: have fun on the set "if you're having a good time the audience will have one too."

In any film you can see the mood of the production, and nowhere else have I seen a sense of "pure hysteria," as Mr. Connolly described it, than in this film. No matter how much fun the production is, it still is a hell of a lot of work. Writer/Director/Actor/Co-Producer Tucci describes

the process as "Horrible. I thought: 'I can't do this.' I got huge anxiety attacks cause I didn't wanna let anyone down." Still, with a cast that has a shared history, the work tends to go a little easier.

Right from the outset, the film was written with certain actors in mind. "I wrote it [Emily's role] for her [Hope Davis] cause I knew she could do the part," said Tucci. Though Ms. Davis wasn't initially thrilled at her role: "I was appalled. The character was described as homely and I haven't forgiven that yet." Billy Connolly was simply "very excited to be gay," for once.

The Imposters is a film that impressed and a cast that showed true faith and concern for their work. And finally, a film that captures the glory of early American cinema, with the comedic flair of the nineties. Tucci added "See it. It's funny. And I need money." I, on the other hand, think you should see *The Imposters* because it shows us how funny films used to be, and can again be.

Send Me Tickets

By Glenn "Squirrel" Given

I'm cooler than you are. "Why?" you ask? Well, because I had the pleasure of hob-nobbing (in a fashion) with the famous. The Press' own Arts Editor and I were given free passes to see a press screening of *The Imposters*, the new film by *Big Night* director Stanley Tucci. So thrilled was I at the concept of meeting and greeting one of the people (Tucci) with whom I hope to one day have the pleasure of working that I threw my classes to the winds and ventured into the wilds of Manhattan.

The review of the film and the highlights of the Q&A session that followed have been detailed above, so let me get to my point: We need more of this type of film, or any type of arts, publicity. Not only for my own manic desire to be in the same room as the prestigious, but to add to the credibility as a whole of student media. When will major film studios realize that they may not reach their target audience through TV and trailers alone? By inviting prominent student/alternative media organizations to screenings they increase their advertising audience without large expenditures of capital.

I can understand the fear that some film corporations may feel when the concept of advertising in student/alternative media is raised. But even bad press is good press, as the adage goes. With a simple glance at the content of many alternative publication film reviews, one sees that they are just as intelligently written and comprehensive as any mainstream media publications, often more so.

I myself view film with a critical eye built from years of interest and study in journalism and cinema. Unlike mainstream media reviews alternative/student media tend to look deeper into the quality of the films they report on. Their reviews are specific, and convey more of the feeling of a film than whether the reviewer thought it to be good or bad. Alternative/student reviews more often than not present their reviews not as judgement but as trailers in a sense, that show what is most interesting about a film. This tactic is more effective in enticing people to view for themselves as it invites the reader to take the opinions presented and go see if he/she agrees or not. Far more convincing and effective than "four stars good", "one star bad."

In addition, many student/alternative publications may reach audiences that the mainstream media do not. You may not believe it but not all people watch prime-time television or even pick up the *New York Times*—least of all students. May I remind you that students make up a large portion of the target demographic for most wide-release films? Independent films you say? As far as I know the only people who take the time out to see them are either people in the film industry or those studying film.

I encourage those reading to get in touch with the films and art community and convey this obvious oversight in potential advertising. If per chance those reading this are involved in any aspect of press relations or advertising explore the possibility of promoting through student media.

Top Ten Mentalist Pick-Up Lines

- 10) "Gaze into the hypnotic power of my evil eye."
- 9) "Focus! Focus on the gentle swaying of my genitalia."
- 8) "When I snap my fingers, you will have sex with me."
- 7) *SNAP* "...Aww, c'mon!"
- 6) "Feel the roofies. Roofies is your friend."
- 5) "Nothing is more exciting than a woman who's convinced that she is a chicken."
- 4) "And now, if you'll allow me to reach into your panties, I'll tell you your birthday!"
- 3) "I've guessed your age, now can you guess what I like?"
- 2) "There is nothing up my sleeve, but my pants are an entirely different story."
- 1) "Yeah, Kreskin could bend spoons, but I'll show you a real trick."



IN "OF SEAWOLF AND SQUIRREL"

THE LUNATICK'S RAVINGS: THE ADMINISTRATION ZONE

By The Lunatick

So, student life (or lack of same) aside, ever wonder why this is the second most miserable university in America? Well? Any ideas out there? The next thing you may think of is the sucky food, but hey: the e-coli seems to like it. How about this: the administrative offices and the red tape, and incompetence associated with them.

Now don't get your girdle in a bundle just yet, Shirl. I'm not saying everyone employed at this university is incompetent, but you may want to hear some of these horror stories. Picture it if you will: you're driving down a deserted road and you make a left turn at a glowing sign. You have left the real world and entered a place devoid of intelligence and common sense. You have entered the Administration zone.

Submitted for your approval: the favorite whipping boy of the students, the traffic department is filled with pathetic little people whose lives have been given meaning by handing out parking tickets. How desperate are these people to fulfill their purpose. Well after polling seven (yes only seven) people I have these horror stories. A person was given a ticket over the summer for parking in a faculty lot that had only three other cars in it. These cars also had tickets because they were commuters as well. OK, this was a violation of the letter of the law, but of common sense? Why should commuters have to park in the South-P during summer session when half the faculty lots are empty??

Next, a person got a ticket for being three inches over the line. First of all they actually give tickets for that !? Second, if you have seen most of the lines on this campus you have better vision than most. I don't think they have been repainted since the university opened.

So now a simple story: A person who got a ticket for parking in the "H" lot. Simple right? WRONG. This person had an "H" permit. The traffic

department "officer" never actually looked for it.

And finally there are the stories of two people who went to renew permits. Simple enough again, but not so simple. The first person was told that he didn't have a parking permit. The person told the traffic office administrator that for the past three years he had to register their car every year (this was before fall of 96, when they introduced multi year permits), and even gave the person at the desk his permit number. Well I think you can figure out where this goes. The poor student had to go to the end of the line that he had waited on for a half hour to fill out a registration form for his car. The other person who went to renew a permit, was informed of unpaid parking tickets. When asked where they came from and out came the infamous printout. On it was a list of all the tickets this person had ever gotten during his sentence at this university. The only problem was that the license plate of the unpaid ticket didn't match the student's. That didn't matter: the ticket had to be appealed or paid. UM, HELLO?? Why do you have to pay a ticket or even appeal one that wouldn't stand up in any other court?

OK, I'm done beating up on the traffic department (but they are an easy target). It's time to move on to other departments. Let's reach into our bag of assorted complaints and the winner is....the Office of Records YEAH!

Submitted for your approval: the story of a friend of mine. This friend submitted and paid for a request for transcript form. Because this friend was familiar with the incompetence of the SB staff he asked them to send the transcript to his home. One week passes and two. He decides to check the status of his request on SOAR. Guess what it said. He had no transcript requests in. He calls the office of records and after a lengthy conversation with my friend telling them he had his receipt in hand and that he had submitted the request two weeks ago, they decided to put him on hold and look for the request. After ten minutes of being on hold the

sheepish employee (who had spent ten minutes telling him that he was "mistaken") picked up the phone again to tell him they found the request. It had fallen between two desks. The employee then asked if the transcripts were important and if they could wait. No I'm sorry for the error. No we will get these right out. God forbid that these people work any harder to correct a mistake, they want to know if they could wait. Can you imagine if he had the transcripts sent direct? They might have never gotten there. Hire the civil servants, they are fun to watch.

So now my final nightmare of misadministration: a story of the student health services. A student submitted his health form directly to the desk attendant because he didn't trust the campus mail with something time sensitive. Well he shouldn't have worried about the mail. Student Health Services put it in a pile of other paperwork. One week into this student's classes, he was told that none of his paperwork was on file. So after a call to Student Health Services and the typical lengthy conversation and period of time on hold, his paperwork was found. In a pile of paperwork that should have been filed but they were "a little behind." Well them being a little behind, almost got a student tossed from school.

We pay tuition here; the staff should be here to assist us. When we have to deal with a problem of their making, they should take an attitude of assistance not of, oh god I actually have to earn my overpaid salary and benefits (believe me: the only thing better that state benefits out there is federal benefits). Maybe that is something you should work on, Shirl. Instead of trying to make the look of the offices more inviting by replacing windows with walk in offices, you may try to work on the staff being more helpful. What do I know though. These are just the ravings of The Lunatick.

THE 1998 STONY BROOK PRESS LITIGATION SUCKS CONTEST #3



The premise of this contest is that we live in an increasingly litigation-obsessed day and age, where concepts like satire and fair use are increasingly ignored. In order to combat these abhorrent trends, we hereby reprint, without permission, a syndicated and copywrited work of art.

This, technically, is illegal.

We at the *Stony Brook Press* feel confident that the author of this strip, an obvious squirrel lover, would not harass a simple group of college students, much less sue them.

The contest:

Fill in the caption on this classic *Bizarro* comic. Whoever has the funniest caption wins a quarter page, to do with as they see fit, in our December 2nd issue. Send or drop off your entries in our office; Room 060, Student Union.

The Stony Brook Press reserves the right to edit winner's prizes. We also realize that you don't make friends with salad, but hey!

Seawolves Mania!

Homecoming '98

Come out and cheer our mighty **Stony Brook Seawolves** as they battle the Albany Great Danes
Saturday, October 17
1 p.m., Football Field

PARADE AND STREET FESTIVAL

After the game, stay around
 for great food, fun, and
 fireworks!

9:00 p.m. **Carnival**
 10:15 p.m. **Parade**
 12:00 a.m. **Winners
 Announced**



BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST!

Show your spirit and win a
 great prize! Commuters and
 Residents are encouraged to
 enter the Bulletin Board
 Contest. Applications are due
 Monday, October 12; Boards
 must be on display by Campus
 Lifetime, Wednesday, October
 14. Applications are available at
 the Commuter Student Affairs
 office and for Residents at your
 college office.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

**AppleFest and Homecoming Kickoff
 Celebration**, Student Activities Center Plaza,
 12:00 noon - 2:10 p.m. Celebrate the Opening of
 Homecoming with a variety of apple treats,
 prizes, and a WBLI 106.1 FM live remote.

"Swallow This," 7 p.m., Stony Brook Union
 Auditorium. This show is a theatrical
 performance written, created, and performed by
 USB students, featuring hilarious yet sensitive
 student choices and their ramifications, which
 are explored through vignettes.

Homecoming King and Queen Contest,
 Student Activities Center Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
 Presentations given by all student contestants.
 Judges will select King, Queen, and their Court,
 to be announced during Saturday's half-time
 show. Free Admission. For contest rules, contact
 the Office of Student Activities, Suite 219,
 Student Activities Center, 632-9392.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

SAB Tokyo Joe's Dance Party, Stony Brook
 Union Ballroom, 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Building Homecoming Parade Floats
 throughout Friday and Saturday in assigned
 locations. For more information, call the Office
 of Student Activities at 632-9392.

**5th Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture
 Series/Award Presentation and Luncheon**, The
 School of Health Technology and Management,

Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 2, Level 2,
 East Campus, 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

Midnight Madness, Kickoff event to celebrate
 USB Men's and Women's Basketball season.
 Laser light show, T-shirt giveaways, and fabulous
 prizes, including a chance to win a car and tuition.
 Sports Complex Arena, 10:45 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Alumni Games: Football, Lacrosse, Women's
 Soccer, on the practice fields behind the Sports
 Complex. Come cheer our alumni as they
 recapture the magic. Alumni Reunion Tent with
 hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, and refreshments.
 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Homecoming '98 Football Game, on the
 Football Field, Stony Brook Seawolves vs.
 Albany Great Danes. Kickoff, 1:00 p.m. Half-
 time show featuring the Brentwood High School
 "Green Machine" Marching Band, pictures with
 the Seawolves mascot, and the crowning of
 Homecoming King, Queen, and Court. Come
 cheer our mighty Seawolves on to victory!

Post-Game All Campus Celebration Buffet.
 Bring your football game ticket for free entry to this
 extravaganza of food, friends, music, and dancing.
 Meet with USB's head football coach Sam
 Kornhauser and help us cut the Homecoming 1998
 Celebration cake! End of the Bridge Restaurant,
 Stony Brook Union, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"Za Ondekoza" Drummers of Japan. Staller
 Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m. Inspired by nature,

their folk music is visual as well as aural. A
 spectacular performance for the whole family.
 Tickets for USB students and alumni with ID are
 \$12; general admission, \$26.

Homecoming Street Festival. Student Activities
 Center Drive and Plaza, 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
 Featuring a carnival with games, rides,
 magicians, jugglers, photo buttons, sand art,
 washable tattoos, and DJ's playing music.
 Grucci Fireworks will light up the skies at 10:45
 p.m. Parade float, banners, and bulletin board
 winners will be announced at midnight.

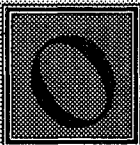
Homecoming Parade, 10:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.,
 starting at Roosevelt Quad and continuing along
 Student Activities Center Drive to Old H lot then
 back to SAC Plaza. Come cheer on your clubs,
 sororities, fraternities, athletes, performers, and
 more. This year's parade will feature
 Homecoming Grand Marshals, Bill Knapp '78
 and Jane Knapp '78, the Homecoming Court,
 and spectacular floats.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

**Stony Brook Alumni Association's 10th Annual
 5K Walk & Run for Scholarships.** Race will
 begin in front of the Stony Brook Union, 10:00
 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Immediately following the race
 will be a Pancake Breakfast, SB Union Ballroom.
 Six categories of awards and a grand prize will be
 given to First Place Winners. \$10 registration fee
 for students; \$15, community, faculty, and staff;
 \$18, day of race. All pre-registrants receive a free
 towel. Join the Seawolves mascot as he races
 toward the finish line.

**STONY
 BROOK**
 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

For the latest information regarding Homecoming, call the Voice of Student Activities, a 24-hour services, 632-6821; the Department of Student Union Activities, 632-9392; the Office of Alumni Relations, 632-6330. Information is also aired on WUSB-1630 AM Radio. Visit us on the Web at www.sunysb.edu for the latest updates. If you need a disability related accommodation, please call 632-9392. The State University at Stony Brook is an AA/EO educator and employer.



On Friday, October 2nd, a university far better known for its high-quality scientific research was visited by an emissary of the supernatural. Robert Channing, the *soi dissant* "World's Greatest Metalist," materialized in the SAC auditorium from the far reaches of New Hartford, CT, to demonstrate his wondrous abilities.

PREPARE TO BE ASTOUNED

By James Polichak

Channing, whose fluid speaking style and bearing reminds one of oh-so-many hucksters and televangelists, promised not to bore his audience with the "psychology" behind his amazing abilities. Rather, he would impress us with numerous "psychic experiments" that would convince us of his abilities.

Channing's psychic experiments, however, were not particularly impressive. His act contained a lot of the usual mind-reading — using his knowledge of commonly given answers to the questions he has asked thousands of people already and trusting that people won't remember that he's asking them for far more information than he's telling (always questions, never statements). He also amazed us with his ability to read paper while (at least supposedly) blind-folded — presumably trusting the audience not to realize that the print on US currency is raised, and that when they wrote their names and dream vacations on pieces of paper similar indentations are left. For this trick, which occupied a long segment of the show, Channing went so far as to tell us to print our answers, ostensibly because it's what we learned first and has a more direct link to our psyches, but actually because it's far easier to read. To the disappointment of even skeptics in the audience, Channing's other demonstrations of his psychic abilities were variations on these ancient parlor tricks — describing an object while blind-folded, "knowing" who it belongs to, and so on. Most impressive was that he supposedly wrote down, months before, the answers an audience member would give, placed them in a sealed envelope, and mailed them to Stony Brook, where the contents were revealed on stage. Of course, Channing's answers matched the audience member's, and the show closed with a bang. On a minor disturbing note, however, "psychic" Robert Channing had the wrong date for his Stony Brook appearance in the sealed envelope. Apparently, he hadn't known he would have to have surgery and delay the show. Surgery sounds like something you'd want to predict if you were a psychic.

As someone who's studied supernatural claims and psychology, I was disappointed with the low quality of Channing's attempts to amaze the audience. He relies on his audience's lack of

experience with simple magic tricks to pretend he's the "Master of Mind." He was almost entirely in charge of the show, constantly directing people's attention and providing fluent, rehearsed responses throughout the hour. The sole moments of audience resistance to his manipulations came at the start when Channing asked an audience member how much change he had in his pocket. Another member suggested that the psychic tell, rather than ask, but was dismissed by Channing. Unfortunately, people like Channing depend on constantly asking questions, knowing that people generally will give away the answers, and not

remember that they provided the information, not Channing. Nor will they, in the constant barrage of Channing's speech, realize that he guesses wrong quite a bit. Here's an example: Channing asks if there's someone named Ana (I'm not sure of the spelling) in the room — a woman named Ana. A man stands up in the back — this is Ana. Nice work, Dr. Mystic. Next time, he should tell people to write an M or F next to their names.

You'll get far better magic tricks from people who make no claims to supernatural powers or who have dedicated much of their lives to exposing psychic frauds. Skeptics like James Randi and Penn and Teller (appearing on campus later this year) not only do tricks that fool the senses, but take the time in many cases to explain why the senses are fooled by these tricks. This kind of magic promotes both critical thinking about the claims of others and a better knowledge of our own perceptual and mental abilities. Channing has chosen the alternate route: Lying to his audience, and just possibly himself, about the source of his abilities. Psychic abilities in all likelihood do not exist — thousands of years have gone by without any reasonable evidence accumulating while thousands of failures and frauds have been recorded. Those who claim to be psychic capitalize on people's too ready willingness to believe their senses and unwillingness to think that they might be fooled. Unfortunately, our student government decided to bring someone who promotes superstition and gullibility to a setting that should be devoted to pursuing truth and rationality. And they didn't even get someone who's particularly good at it.

Those who would like to learn more about investigating supernatural claims and belief systems might check out issues of *Skeptical Inquirer*. Martin Gardner has also written a number of excellent books on these topics. A good social psychology class will also tell you a lot.



He fought 76 years for the right to vote. Most of us just had to turn 18.

Vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd

Join *The Press*. We're always willing to let you make a popular TV personality turned gubernatorial candidate into a pointless house ad. Sometimes we even let you write articles.

"Some voices got treble, some voices got bass, they've got the kinda voices that are in your face!"



A STORY FROM FORMER EDITOR "FUCKIN' TED"

Give 'Em Enough Rope

By Ted Swedalla

This afternoon the *Press* called. Instead of the usual prank at two a.m., or the incomprehensible series of Ewalt/Yaeger noises, it was a call for help.

"Please send us a story and we'll put you back in the staff box," the call went. How could I not respond? Any blatant attempt of bribery always

tured the forgettable "Wanted Photo Editor" blank cover. But I figured I made up for it with the next issue and my first experience with the word "defund." The February 6, 1995 issue could be summed up in one word: genitalia.

The issue's cover was covered by a painting of a naked woman, the word genitalia appeared in every story, house ad, editorial and—if that wasn't enough to rile up the bitches in the Bursar's

old editors, mainly because most of them had fallen off the face of the earth we created.

Take for instance the issue devoted to Gillian Anderson. The issue was 20 pages, but a full 3 of those were devoted to pictures of the sexy Agent Scully. The top ten lists? A convenient way to kill a 1/2 page every issue. "Dilbert" and "Life in Hell": there goes another full page we need not worry about. Beer Fest, The Shirleys, I-Con coverage? Three great excuses to kill 2 pages with one story. And the house ad could be of any size, from 3/4 of a page down to two square inches at the end of the letters section.

More than a few times, a story was held back from one issue so it could be trimmed to 16 pages, instead of wondering which saintly staff member would come up with 3 more pages of stories to fill a 20 page issue. Very early on in my *Press* career, the feeling was "if it was written in any language—including Phoenician cuneiform—and it could be re-typed we would run it." Slowly, as the staff expanded, it became an absolute pleasure to have extra stories, or the freedom to cut something that sucked.

So I called the *Press* to find what they needed. "About 12 more pages to fill the 24 we have planned," they told me. Here is a tip. Cut this issue to 16. Trying to come up with three pages' worth of new stories with one day remaining in production is darn near impossible (12 would be out of the question), unless some of the editors happen to be tripping on acid. If that is the case then you can get an unlimited number of pages AND a full 90 minute TV show for 3TV, in just one sitting.

I am not calling the new editors of the paper slack-asses, or anything. They are probably as devoted to the paper as I was, although I dare any of them to spend more time in the office during finals week than I did my senior year. Out of 168 hours in the week I logged over 110 hours in the office. It's just that my staff and the staff that last year's editor (Dave Ewalt) had were special. The same things cannot be expected from the current staff. It's like anything you do, don't try to copy what came before just because it's what's expected. Do what is right, and what works, at that moment. If you can't fill 24 pages, don't try.

When the standards are so high, it's tough

"I had to help them, even though I hadn't worked with a single current Press member. I would also be hard pressed to choose any of the editors out of a police line-up filled with Chinese junkies and Spanish landscapers."

works on me. Plus the chance to see my name in print again... oh lord, I almost lost control.

I had to help them, even though I hadn't worked with a single current *Press* member. I would also be hard-pressed to choose any of the editors out of a police line-up filled with Chinese junkies and Spanish landscapers. Because my only exposure to them was the *Press*'s 19th birthday celebration, which, for me, was clouded by an abundance of THC in my blood stream.

My first thought was to go back and dig up an old story written for the *Press* before any of the current staff joined and submit that. If it had been closer to springtime, you would be reading my story on Cadbury Creme Eggs instead of this rambling; this would have saved me countless time and energy. Hell, I could have plagiarized an old 'Oceansize' column and nary a person would be the wiser.

Instead, I decided to do the next best thing: go back and remind myself how tough it was to fill the paper with stories and what the new people must be going through. Which is obviously why they called me.

I remember how I had to call staff members at one-thirty Monday morning, when production had ended five hours previous, to ask where the hell their story on the crumbling English department was. Trying to find that perfect font size that wouldn't make the story look too big, or searching for that extractable quote to highlight in the all-powerful, black/gray rectangle we called a quote box. And when the shit really came due, to crank out another house ad that praised the *Press*'s continuing advancement of drinking & smoking in campus buildings and how you would be cool too if you joined us.

I dug out the first issue I was involved in as a staff member. Vol. XVI, NO I, September 12, 1994. And there it was, a picture of the whole staff (all 6 of us) on the front cover. Inside the huge twelve page issue were two pages of house ads, a complete page describing where to smoke on campus and half the back page was devoted to "The Adventures of Joe Freshman." A side note about Joe Freshman: until the day I die I will always think that it was the best student-written strip ever to be viewed in the *Press*.

Next I went on to the first issue where I was executive editor (January 23, 1995) which fea-

Office—in 60 point wide Latin font on page 11, the

words "Dr. Fistfuck" made their first appearance. To me, this



notice. It was clearly a defining moment in how the

"The issue's cover was covered by a painting of a naked woman, the word genitalia appeared in every story, house ad, editorial and—if that wasn't enough to rile up the bitches in the Bursar's Office—in 60 point wide Latin font on page 11, the words "Dr. Fistfuck" made their first appearance."

paper was going to run during my tenure—in content and freedom. God knows it was probably the worst technical paper I helped produce: the date on the cover was wrong (by a year), we mixed up the volume and issue numbers, and the copy-edited version of the paper was not the one that was printed.

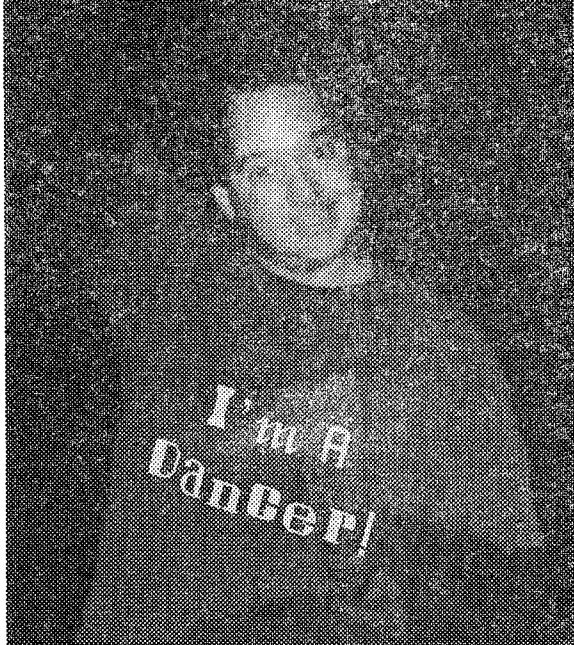
Back then, it was easier to fill the paper, mostly because to that early staff, 16 pages was equivalent to *War & Peace*. Slowly, I dug further into my supply of old *Press* issues to see what we did when ideas were slim. We didn't go around calling

to see that the easiest way to reach loftier heights might be to reconstruct the base on which you stand, instead of just piling on top of what's come before because it's much closer at that moment and that seems to be the easiest route. So, you, the new staff should not try to compete with the previous incarnations of the *Press*, just take what we've laid down and build on it. Take what's been given to you and apply it in new ways that will do justice to those who have come before.

Flashback-1994: Ted Swedalla



AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS, ROBERT V. GILHEANEY, WHO HAS BEEN A STAFF MEMBER, PAPER BOY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, MANAGING EDITOR, MAN OF THE YEAR, AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE IMAGINABLE, HAS RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY. LONG LIVE GILHEANEY! DO-DO-DO-DOOOO! HAPPENING DANCER!



Dr. FISTBUCK

TRUNKBUTT DOES DIETS

By Christa "Trunkbutt" Weber

Hey there! Enjoying that grapefruit? That small salad looks mighty satisfying. Coffee and cigarettes! Is that on the recommended meal list from the American Heart Association? Is your idea of fine dining a trip to the scarf-and-barf café? Hey, nowhere in eat, drink, and be merry does it say vomit.

Well, I'm here to tell you about the newest and most revolutionary diet and weight loss system ever created. I, Trunkbutt, used to weigh upwards of 180. I was 5'1" (if even) and felt miserable. I tried all-fruit diets, and all veggie diets, even all Hostess diets. Nothing seemed to work, I just kept getting bigger. I felt like Violet in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, except I wasn't blue. When it looked absolutely hopeless and I was ready to give up, I hit upon the ultimate diet plan:

The Trunkbutt Diet

Before we begin, we should get some things straight, girls: We can't all look like anime babes in zero gravity; and we can't all have hips like the devil. Some of us are just plain ugly. All the diets in the world aren't going to fix that nose. Let's accept that Kate Moss is an alien placed carefully in our society to aid in world domination. We all have to realize sooner or later that no guy is worth losing twenty pounds for. Regardless of what they might idolize in the media, no guy wants to be impaled by your protruding hip bones while he sleeps. And the last, and most important point: Dress for your size; no one likes ten pounds of sausage in a six pound bag. Don't ask me if you look fat, baby; you know you do.

Now, how many times have you felt actual guilt for eating that second cookie, or that second three cheese omelet? Let me tell you something. Food is not our enemy, but food shouldn't be our best friend either. How many times have you cried over soft-baked chocolate-chip cookies because he just didn't understand you? I thought so. We shouldn't be asking how many calories are in this, or in that. Food is here to keep us alive, and amused, and to give us something to do on

dates other than talk.

Calories are not out to get you, even the ones that come from fat. Neither one donut nor even one box of donuts is going to automatically attach itself to your thighs once it has passed your lips. You need fat to live, but don't let it rule your life. It should enhance your everyday living experience.

"OK, Trunk, I'm in control, so what now? I am still a heifer!"

Put down that cookie, spheroid, and listen up. Maybe we should discuss activity levels. We all hate exercise, I know. Some of us do an hour of aerobics per day and some of us type very vigorously. Alternative forms of activity are just fine, but please match your activity level to your caloric intake. The average woman burns about 2200 calories in one day, without adding any other activities.

Take a look at the calories burned for some typical workout activities:

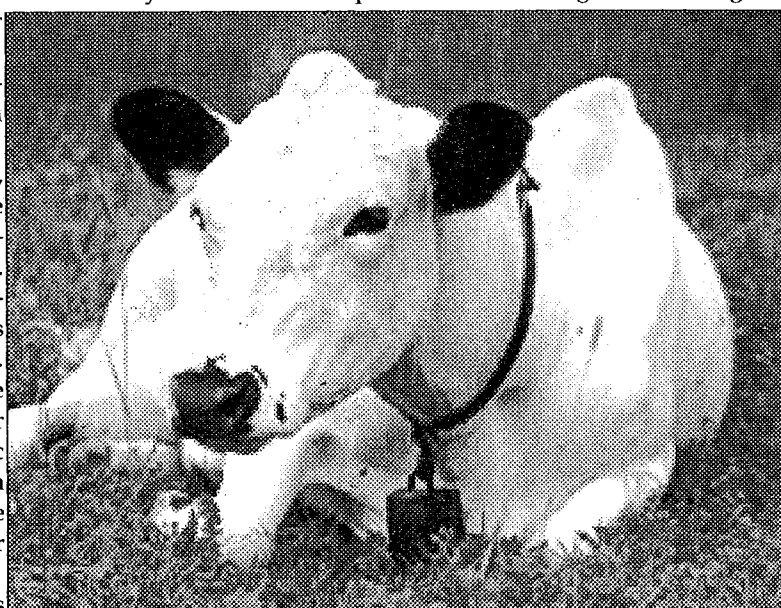
Vigorous Aerobics-	350 cal/hr
Gang Fighting (violent)-	400-600 cal/hr
Sex (active)-	165 cal/hr
Standing-	45 cal/hr
Breathing-	12 cal/hr

Basically, any activity that raises your pulse and increases your breathing works just fine. I like doing workout video tapes. Sure, I look like a real ass doing them; so what? Here is the catch: you have to actually get up off the couch and shake that ass. Activities that do not work towards your weight loss goal include: Extreme tanning, the couch olympics, and church attendance (unless you are a holy roller, in which case one sermon burns a whopping 500 calories).

You'll feel great about eating those thirty spring rolls because you decided to Sweat to the Oldies that morning. Nothing will be off limits. For those of you who are overwhelmed by such

blinding, dazzling freedom, I have a short nutritional guideline that I live by. I can assure you that it will help you, too.

For dieters who find it hard not to snack between meals, a full box of macaroni and cheese with a couple of added sausages makes a great



high energy treat. If you have a penchant for sweets, I have two words for you: Donuts and Butter. Toast lightly in bagel fashion, and spread butter. When you have no time to cook a home-made meal, the all you can eat buffet is a great source of vitamins and minerals. The staple of all diets is diet soda. So what if it causes cancer. So does Long Island water. Breakfast is always better with brownie batter. Hot dogs are thin, you want to be thin! Need I say more? And remember:

- Food eaten after midnight has no calories.
- Food eaten during foreplay has no calories.
- Alcohol has no calories.
- Food consumed with a good girlfriend has no calories.
- Ice cream never had any calories.

Enjoy my tips ladies! Thin may be in, but fat is fun. Remember, life is like a paycheck: a generous figure is always welcome.



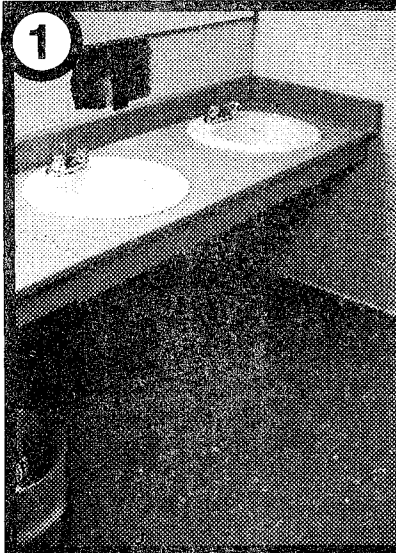
By David "THE ANGRY BULLDOZER" Wiernicki

stories of campus maintenance

or "here's where your goddamn money is going"

By David Wiernicki

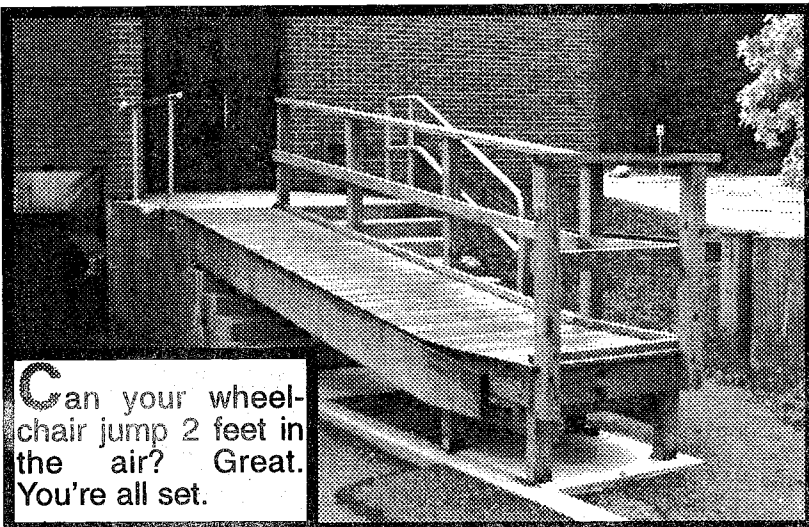
If cleanliness is next to godliness, our campus is in Dante's fifth circle. When I got here for my orientation, I noticed a huge pile of trash behind the Roth woods. Apparently, they decided it was fine not only to leave trash outside, but to lead droves of new students right by it. Maybe they were trying to warn us: a few months later, piles of trash had given way to a Kuwait-highway-esque burned out car in a Roth parking lot. It stayed there for a good two or three weeks. I guess they couldn't ticket it because the windshield was broken and they didn't have any place to put the notice. At last, therefore, I'm putting my journalistic money where my mouth is, and showing everybody what I've seen in the past few weeks. Let's hope I'm not mysteriously clobbered by a Physical Plant truck after this goes to print.



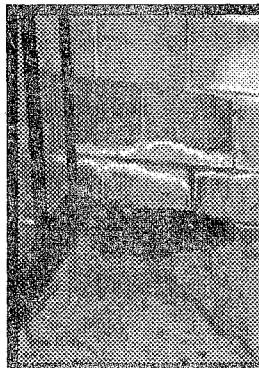
Ok, so they need to do some electrical work. Let 'em chop a hole in the wall. Let 'em get plaster all over the floor. I could understand if they did this for a day and fixed it—but do they need to leave it this way over the weekend without even bothering to sweep up? Let's give 'em a big hand, folks. And I thought frats were bad.



Want to get some fresh air while you study? You're in luck-- open air facilities are all over campus to help you concentrate on that tough homework while you enjoy Long Island's unforgettable ambiance. See how many different car siren types you can hear in any given hour!



Can your wheel-chair jump 2 feet in the air? Great. You're all set.



Bird watchers, your day has come. Forget those annoying moving birds—at USB, you can enjoy birds that quite obviously haven't moved for months and months. They're even inside campus buildings! Guess which one and get a cookie.

Maybe it died of starvation? Maybe it pounded itself to death trying to get out.



It's probably been there for quite a few months.



That's the skull. Eww.

Here's a challenge for the authorities: this bird is somewhere on campus. Find it. Eliminate it. How long can it take? Get your best men on it. Hell, that's what we're paying for.

SLIM CHINKY

BY COME WHORE

MEKONZ
TOUCH AND GO RECORDS

"Late in the evening, you pull on your bra, watching and counting and sex and tv. I know I really am the best at what I do. I'm hot, and I've hit the jackpot, again. In apartment below children play fur on end. Chicken chicken chicken and spice. Afraid to be nice. Frayed my clothes are fucked. It's so hard to forget sexual experience, sexual chain reactions, gin + it. If it wasn't for me it wouldn't exist. Come and have a go if you think you're hard enough. Good monkey2 to fuck and fuck. Pretty monkey2 to make me come. This is how it should be. As far as it can go-on-on. Number2 with no words are offered up. It's just like watching Brazil. Far sub dominant. Whiskey sex shack: it's a response to the love shack. I have such unconditional self regard. I tongue myself beautifully. Hey, I'm so goood. Belly to belly."

The new Mekonz album makes about as much sense as my life does right now. And the Mekonz name the album 'Me'. Fuckin' weird.

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH CHIN SLINKY.

LOWELL YAEGER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WRITING OF THIS ARTICLE, BUT ANY READER OF HIS WORK WOULD HAVE ALREADY REALIZED THAT.

MAD CADDIEZ

DUCK AND COVER FAT RECORDS

"Monkey2 watch out for them monkey2 those crazy big guys drinking downtown monkey2 watch out for them monkey2 they'll knock you right off your feet onto the ground they'll take pleasure being hormonally insane they'll find solace knocking you right upside the brain"

All this with trombone and trumpet that don't just sda, but also carnival. Not to mention the guitar, bass, beat, and even a banjo. 'nuff said.

LOZ 2MUGGLERZ: GROWING UP 2MUGGLER (A TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY LIVE ALBUM)

IMPOSSIBLE RECORDS, 1+2 RECORDS, LOOKOUT! RECORDS, MINT RECORDS

shit, dewd. This little platter here proves positively that they have garages in Spain. These twenty cuts of sheer fire raucous R-N-R were all recorded alive at the world famous EL SOL CLUB in beautiful downtown Madrid. Loz 2muggerz' brief attempt at pop punk, '96's SELLING THE RIZZLE, luckily failed. Who wants to sing for fat records, not I. This new piece of wax is so hot it took four different record labels to put it out.

Loz 2muggerz are named after a seafood restaurant called the 2mugger. I shit you not. Just like the best of the 60's high school garage rockers stuck with nothing but a misnomer and social life so miserable that they'll try anything, even picking up a guitar and risking embarrassment on stage, to get a date. Sometimes it works. Loz 2muggerz are that time. Rock 'n' roll was never this fun.

The album kicks off with a cover of the leather upperz, 2mokin' monkey, baby. Yeah! It doesn't let up through eighteen other songs, most of them 2mugger originals, until it gets to the dictatorz classic. Dictatorz forever, forever dictatorz. Franco would've been proud. Stay with me, baby, yeah!



Graduate Student Lounge

Open Wednesday through Saturday with live music

Wednesday 10/7—Pete-less, Probable Cause, THE

Thursday 10/8—The Cogs, Kenn Morr Band

Friday 10/9—Gate, Big Honey

Saturday 10/10—Sounds from the Islands (Haitian/Carib)

Wednesday 10/14—The Truth, Meg Kelly

Thursday 10/15—Black Jelly Bean, Rod McGreal Band

Friday 10/16—Comedy Night

Saturday 10/17—Music Latina with Joe (WUSB)

Wednesday 10/21—VIBES Benefit, Porch, Basals, & more...

WUSB Top 30

1. Soul Coughing—El Oso
2. PJ (no periods) Harvey—Is This Desire?
3. Sunny Day Real Estate—How It Feels
4. DJ Spooky: That Subliminal Kid—Riddim Warfare
5. Blonde Redhead—In An Expression of the...
6. Love Spirals Downward—Flux
7. Hooverphonic—Blue Wonder Power Milk
8. Phantom Surfers—Skatehater
9. Jeune—This Afternoon's Malady
10. John Zorn—Masada—Ten
11. Soul Clique—Only One Division
12. Sloan—Navy Blues
13. R. L. Burnside—Come On In
14. Marshall Crenshaw—The 9 Vol. Years
15. Apocalyptic—Inquisition Symphony
16. Stanaphetic—3/1
17. Jack Drag—Dopebox
18. Bis—Intendo
19. 11 Soundtrack
20. Madeski, Martin and Wood—Combustion
21. Mercury Rev—Deserter's Songs
22. Meat Beat Manifesto—Fictual Sounds and Voices
23. Belle and Sebastian—The Boy With the Arab Strap
24. Church—Hologram of Baal
25. Yalsura—Stain by Yalsura
26. Knig Missile III—Failure
27. Bell—Boo!leg
28. EC&OR—World Beaters
29. Elliott Smith—AO
30. Nada Surf—The Proximity Effect

MISSING PERSONS

By D-Kline

Missing Persons played the L.I.B.C. sometime back in March. This piece was just transcribed off of notes I wrote on beverage napkins. Something must have set me off before Dale Bozio even took the stage. Maybe it was the retro promoter, maybe it was the clueless crowd.

The first song starts, and I'm wondering what the point is. By the second I'm desperately trying to find something to latch onto, something to make this event significant, something to justify us all being here. All I notice is that whenever lead singer Dale Bozio isn't singing into her microphone, her lips are still moving, she's still talking. I'm desperately trying to figure out what she's saying. Perhaps she hates this as much as I do.

It's only two songs into the set and already she's introducing the band. I'm bored. Apparently so is everyone else since no one applauds.

It's now the third song, and now I'm thinking that the only way to keep rock and roll on track is to kill the promoter of this show. Song 4 and I'm listening to it at home, at the back of the club, in the second row—it makes no difference. At the end of this song my friend says, "she's bugging out." I've found one thing interesting.

Can you say self-destruct on stage? "Did I tell you the story I was going to, or did I forget?" I can name five newer bands with something to say, all desperately trying to get on the stage that she's occupying, and she's too thick to get out of the fucking way. Dale should learn to get out of the fucking way. If you're stuck in the past, at least when the future shows itself be nice enough to get out of the fucking way.

She doesn't matter. This doesn't matter. The songs certainly don't matter.

Though the slight technical difficulties, she shows herself to be a trouper. Then she mentions WLIR and how innovative they are. Now she's talking about Another World. She's talking about a soap opera. I didn't think she'd find it this easy to prove me right. Missing Persons don't matter. She tries to gain credibility by telling us that her son is into Metallica. Her son doesn't matter either.

But the between song banter... whatever she says is saying a lot more than she could ever have expected it to. "We're trying to represent these songs to the best of our ability," she actually said this. And this: "The balcony... this is my only support team."

The same people that brought this, and Bow Wow Wow, to Long Island are also bringing Simple Minds here. I don't know, Bow Wow Wow was fun, but I can't picture Simple Minds being all that interesting. I mean four guys on guitar, post Nirvana... that's about as important as the lead singer of INXS killing himself.

"Hope you've all had a good reminiscence while listening to the songs."

And now I get it. The confirmation. The Bar-Mitzvah. It's actually wedding music. And she's just walked off to the Mezzanine and given the mic to someone from the wedding party, to his embarrassment and everyone else's cheers.

D-KLINE'S

SCHIZOPHRENIA



I consider reunions to be a complete waste of time. I'm not talking about High School reunions, nor family or friend reunions; this is a music column. I hate when a band that had previously broken up decides to reform and go out on tour without anything to offer.

I started forming this opinion two years ago when I was toying with the idea of seeing the Sex Pistols tour. This opinion was solidified after seeing an ill-fated Missing Persons tour back in March. After being tested by the Bauhaus reformation tour last month, this opinion was driven home.

I remember first being asked if I was going to go to the Bauhaus concert. The reply was easy, "I hate reunions." I should have stuck to my guns, but it wasn't that easy. I had just that day purchased Wire's *On Returning*, and was listening to some of the material on it from 1979. It sounded so much like Bauhaus. It just reminded me of how bands influence each other. In this case, I figured that Wire was an influence on Bauhaus, and of how influential and important Bauhaus was. I decided then and there that if a band mattered, or at least mattered in its time, that I would make an exception.

The night of the show started out interestingly enough. The train ride featured freaks of all kinds drinking and having fun. It turned out that there were four reunion shows going on in NYC that night. Pearl Jam, the early-to-mid-nineties powerhouse that never broke up but does seem to have reformed, was playing the Garden. Slayer, the late-eighties thrash metal band, was playing the Roseland Ballroom. Subhumans, the early-to-mid-eighties punk band, were playing the second night of a two night stand downtown at Coney Island High. And Bauhaus, the early-eighties pre-goth band, was playing its second night of a two night stand at the Hammerstein Ballroom.

The diverse party this offered was fun. Bauhaus was not. The only good thing that I can say for the show is that it was Bauhaus in the sense of its art. That is to say that it was minimal and featured function over form. However, it was not exciting.

But what makes a live show exciting? Generally, I find it to be when a band is not just playing the songs, but rather playing the emotions behind the songs. My other choice for entertainment that night would have been to go downtown to see the Subhumans. That show probably would have been just as boring, or maybe not. I didn't go. There is one important difference, most of the band has continued to convey similar ideas as Subhumans did, but in a different form (other projects). They therefore could have been able to successfully play the emotions in the song, rather than just the songs.

But as a rule of thumb, it seems that whenever a band gets back together to do a show, they are doing it just to play the songs. I don't mean that this was the reason they got back together, I mean that this is all they want to do. When an artist creates a song, and then plays it live, a lot of times what you will see live is the performance of the emotion or idea within or behind the song. Five or ten years later, usually all that is left is the song. If a band reforms ten or fifteen years later, that is usually all that they can perform, the song. The original intent, what the song was meant to convey, is lost to time.

The Sex Pistols reunion was probably the

best example of this. Aging middle-aged icons living in California could not possibly make the same music as four lads, in working class

London, in 1975. The same feelings couldn't be there. And the Sex Pistols were open about why they were reforming. They flat out said that they did it for the money. Some people thought it was cool that the Pistols were so open about this. I took it to mean that it was a given that the concert would suck. They weren't there to use the songs to portray any emotion or desire or idea (except for the idea that a swindle could still be perpetrated), they were just in it for the money.

Sometimes the audience doesn't even care to hear the feelings behind the song. They just want to hear the song that they remember from a particular time in their past. This seems to describe the Missing Person's concert perfectly. And all the band delivered was lackluster versions of those songs.

If a band gets back together and creates new art, that's perhaps another thing; but, why they don't just come up with a new name. Those earlier songs are of a time, let them stay there.

The Specials did this. However, this new group doesn't even feature two of the more important original members; so, why even use the old name. Perhaps the new stuff is great, then why make it a reunion and reunion tour. If it is new band with new songs, why live off of the past.

Jello Biafra, is constantly faced with the possibility of reforming the Dead Kennedys. He knows better. He couldn't be bothered. He'd never live off of the past. He has a new career as a spoken word artist/lecturer/guest vocalist.

And Lydia Lunch constantly resurfaces. But she is always doing something new. Her philosophy is that you create something, you perfect it, you document it, and you move on. Currently, she is on tour performing pieces from her new book of prose.

You've gotta play it like ya mean it. Play it like it matters. You can't live off of the past. A musician floating around the metro area constantly refers to his old band when telling people who he is and about his new band. He got this reply from me: "From the 'Not so Modern English' file:

Modern English? This is 1998!!! Quit living in the past. Okay so you finally quit that band, get it the hell off your resume. Everyone I know who has met you says that you introduce yourself by connecting yourself to that old group. No one I know cares. And, ooh yeah, the obligatory Webster Hall Industry Showcase Gig. Unlimited guest list. They use the band to help bring people up to the third floor to drink. Bands kissing the ass of record industry people instead of just making great ORIGINAL music and playing it like they mean it.

Sorry, I think I'll pass. Just no longer looking for rehased Beatles and Stones (Verve). Hope you get signed and have your second little one hit wonder because that'll be the quickest way to be through with you."

Live for today and always look toward the future. and think about it, what reunion was good?

KRAFTWERK! They were before their time. It would certainly be interesting to see them in their time. And it appears, with the large influx of electronic music, that their time has arrived.

So reunions are basically a waste of time because they rarely offer anything new, so they are stuck in the past. This is an issue I feel is important. However, I can't debate the truth that any press is good press, so I've probably helped out their cause more than not. The best I can now offer, is to ask you to rip up this article, and go out and check out a new band.

The Stony Brook Press' Literary Supplement

Showcasing the Poetry, Prose, Art and Photography of
the Stony Brook

Submission Deadline is October 23rd

Bring Submissions to rm. 060 in the basement of the Student Union

What a sweet girl, how she says the world. When did
you break you word. Sweet Fool, you make a Sweet Fool

Chairman Mao.
Chairman Mao.
Where are you now,
Chairman Mao?

Spinning, spinning,
The midgel whizzes around.
His bald head gleaming,
Smooth, mellow, round.

Spinning, spinning,
The midgel whirrs about.
Fudgy fingers flailing,
Joints inflamed with gout.

Spinning, spinning,
Twisting like a screw.
His little brain bathed in blood,
His wrinkly face is blue.

Funny little midgel,
Why must you turn?
Vile little mutant,
Burn, midgel, burn.

Have I not human hands?

Have I not human hands?

Have I not human hands?

Have I not human hands?