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The University Community's Feature Paper

September 29, 1999

Giuliani: Arbiter of Art?

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What's New at SBU

M E M O R A N D U M FROM PRESIDENT SHIRLEY STRUM KENNY:

Call for Volunteers/Nominations — Five Year Plan Task Forces

I am pleased to invite volunteers and nominations for task forces for the Five Year Plan of 2000-2005. This year, as we complete the goals of the Plan for 1995-2000, we need to identify our next steps toward establishing Stony Brook as a national leader among research universities. The planning process is an opportunity for us to join together to determine our future by setting priorities and identifying specific actions we need to accomplish. Once we chart this course we will follow it. Each year, I will provide an annual report to the campus community documenting the progress on each Plan objective.

Please respond via the web using the form on the President's Office website (<http://notes.cc.sunysb.edu/Pres/presdocs.nsf>) by September 30..

The task forces will convene in October, and complete their work by the end of the semester. In the spring, a Coordinating Committee will synthesize the task force reports into an action-oriented Plan listing specific goals to be met, a timetable for meeting them, and the administrator responsible for their completion.

Thank you for giving this opportunity your careful consideration. Persons selected for the task forces should realize that membership will mean commitment, time, and energy. I believe you will find the work rewarding, for the Plan will play a crucial role in shaping the future of this great institution.

S t o n y B r o o k S y m p h o n y O r c h e s t r a

October 2nd, 1999

On Saturday, October 2, the Stony Brook Symphony orchestra, conducted by guest artist, Markand Thakar, will perform on the main stage at the Staller Center for the Arts. Saturday's concert features concerto competition winner Renaud Dejardin, performing Schumann's *Cello Concerto*. Also on the program are Copland's *Suite from Hear Ye, Hear Ye*, and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 3* ("Scotch"). The concert begins at 8:00 p.m. on the Main Stage of the Staller Center for the Arts. Prior to the concert, you are invited to attend the free pre-concert lecture given by Mark Lederway at 7:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

Tickets are available at the Staller Center Box Office, 632-ARTS (\$12, students and seniors: \$6). Join us for what promises to be a most exciting evening of music at Stony Brook! For more information, call the Music Department (Contact: Robin Pouler-McGrath) at 632-7330.

The Spot

Graduate Student Lounge

presents...

"Get Out of the Kitchen"
by Franz Xaver Kroetz
October 7, 8, & 9 at
8:30 p.m.

starring

Paul Kassel as Tony
Laura Conroy as Martha

Directed by
Michael Zelenak
Dramaturgy by
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Located on the Second
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Osama bin Laden:

Distinguishing Between Myth and Reality

By Arif Rafiq

Osama bin Laden. The name spears images of blown-up buildings, dead bodies of innocent civilians, and evil bearded men who find a certain joy in creating such horrific events. Looking beyond the hype, beyond the rhetoric thrown around on the news shows, and beyond our own current stereotyping of Muslims and Arabs, there needs to be a critical analysis of Osama bin Laden, his relation to the United States, and his supposed involvement in the bombings of the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Osama Unplugged: In His Own Words

In an interview with ABC News, bin Laden reportedly said, "We predict a black day for America and the end of the United States." He went on to deny a role in the Khobar Towers barracks bombing in 1996, which killed 19 U.S. military personnel, but said it was "a great act in which I missed the honor of participating."

Of the United States he says, "Throughout history, America has not been known to differentiate between the military and the civilians or between men and women or adults and children. Those who threw atomic bombs and used the weapons of mass destruction against Nagasaki and Hiroshima were the American. Can the bombs differentiate between military and women and infants and children?"

In an interview with CNN in March 1997, Mr. bin Laden stated: "We declared jihad against the US government, because the US government is unjust, criminal and tyrannical. It has committed acts that are extremely unjust, hideous and criminal whether directly or through its support of Israeli occupation of the Prophet's Night Travel Land (Palestine). And we believe the US is directly responsible for those who were killed in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. The mention of the US reminds us before everything else of those innocent children who were dismembered, their heads and arms cut off in the recent explosion that took place in Qana (in Lebanon). This US government abandoned even humanitarian feelings by these hideous crimes. It transgressed all bounds and behaved in a way not witnessed before by any power or any imperialist power in the world."

In other words, Osama bin Laden believes America's aggression and support for aggression must be met with equal means. He resents American support for sanctions against Iraq, which have claimed the lives of over one million civilians, its support of the state of Israel, whose treatment of Palestinians violates interna-

tional human rights treaties. He also referred to the Israeli bombing of a UN refugee camp in Qana, Lebanon, which claimed the lives of over a hundred innocent civilians and UN peacekeepers. Shortly after the embassy bombings, Osama bin Laden spoke to local journalists in Afghanistan and denied any involvement in the embassy bombings.

What the American Government Says About Bin Laden

The State Department, the Clinton Administration, and the general public has essentially "proven" bin Laden guilty in a shoddy "trial by absentia". The American public and the world in general has never been provided with conclusive evidence to directly implicate Osama bin Laden in the bombings of the American embassies in Africa. We have been told that the evidence must be kept secret in order to protect national security, and all we have seen are the arrests of several supposed bin Laden accomplices.

So in this era, in which the importance of rationality is purportedly indoctrinated in all Americans through the education system, we have concluded that these men are in fact accomplices of Mr. Bin Laden, and were involved in the embassy bombings, only because they are Muslim and have more facial hair than the average American. The dynamics and due process of this "public trial" were amazing. The bomb goes off and CNN is of course the first to be there. The "Dream Team" of President Clinton, Sandy Berger, Madeline Albright, and William Cohen all appear on television. Before they make an appearance, most Americans have made the assumption that it was a Muslim or Arab who was responsible for the bombing. But now our "leaders" give us a name and face - the infamous Osama bin Laden. One would think that the American public would be able to discern between the truth and a modern version of an old Western "good guy vs. bad guy" movie.

Lack of Evidence To Implicate bin Laden

Over 100 agents from the FBI are all over the world collecting information on the bombings in East Africa - yet a top FBI official is quoted as saying that "we can't tie the bombings to him (Osama bin Laden) yet." There have been confessions from several supposed bin Laden accomplices, but the circumstances of these confessions are not known. These men are not permitted to speak to the press and their trials are secret. Under these quite unusual circumstances, we do

not know if these men have been compelled by physical and mental torture to "confess to being involved in a bin Laden plot to bomb the embassies".

The United States and bin Laden: Former Lovers?

Osama bin Laden was a key organizer and financier of the 1980's Mujahideen struggle in Afghanistan to end the Soviet occupation of that nation. He helped bring thousands of Muslims to Afghanistan to fight in that cause, and

financed the endeavor with his vast fortune. The Mujahideen were supported heavily by the United States (financially, militarily, and with intelligence). This CIA proxy war helped the United States "win the Cold War". We may wonder if there was a relationship between the CIA and bin Laden at this time and what its nature was.

One Court Has Declared Him Innocent

The Taliban, the Islamic group that controls most of Afghanistan, where bin-Laden is currently in hiding, held a three week inquiry into charges that the Saudi millionaire was involved in the bombings of the African embassies. "If anyone has any evidence of bin Laden's involvement in cases of terrorism, subversion, sabotage or any

other acts, they should present it to the court before Nov. 20," said Abdul Har Muttman, a spokesman for the Taliban. He said, "If by then there is nothing, we will close the case and in our eyes he will be acquitted".

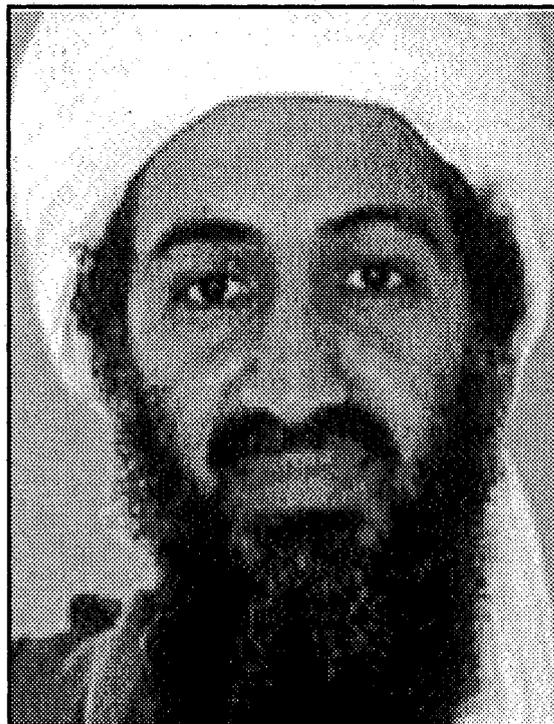
Following the passing of the deadline, Afghanistan's Supreme Court Chief Justice said, "It's over, and America has not presented any evidence." He went on to say, "Without any evidence, bin Laden is a man without sin....He is a free man."

Possible Intentions of the United States Government

In his famous farewell address to the nation on January 17th, 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned the American public of what he called the "military-industrial complex". He stated: "...conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry which is new in the American experience. The total influence - economic, political, even spiritual - is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave inclinations. Our toil, resources, and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence; whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must also be alert to the danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite. It is the task of statesmanship to mold, to balance, and to integrate these and other forces, new and old, within the principles of our democratic system -- ever-aiming toward the supreme goals of our free society."

The relevance of President Eisenhower's statement to the bombings of the East African embassies is that his fears have perhaps become a reality and the military-industrial complex may be the rea-

cont'd. on pg. 7



Osama bin Laden, courtesy of F.B.I.

...the general public has essentially "proven" bin Laden guilty in a shoddy "trial by absentia."

GIULIANI AS ART CRITIC: WHERE DOES IT STOP?

The Brooklyn Museum of Art found itself in a cultural standoff last week with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in its decision to show, "Sensation," a controversial exhibit featuring contemporary British art. The exhibit, scheduled to open this week, features several pieces that have drawn the wrath and criticism of New York City's premiere art critic, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The particular piece Giuliani took offense to is a collage of the Virgin Mary decorated with cutouts from porn magazines and breasts molded out of elephant dung. Other contentious pieces include a display of a pig cut in half suspended in a tank of formaldehyde, and a sculpture of a man's bust made of nine pints of his own frozen blood.

Giuliani has called the Virgin Mary piece "sick stuff" and "anti-Catholic." He has publicly threatened to cut nearly \$7 million in city funding to the museum and vowed to take over the museum's board of trustees unless it cancels the show or removes the "offensive" pieces. During his weekly radio show, Giuliani stated that "public taxpayer dollars should not go to aggressive desecration of national and religious symbols of great significance and sensitivity to people" adding that, "when it comes to Catholic bashing, this kind of thing is never treated as sensitively as it sometimes is in other areas."

Threatening to deprive a major museum of public funding because of art he personally found offensive was not enough for Giuliani; he went one step further. During a recent press conference, the Mayor defined exactly what he considers art, "Anything that I can do isn't art. If I can do it, it's not art...if you want to throw dung at something, I could figure out how to do that."

The notion of a public official deciding what is and what isn't art is ludicrous (the definition of what is art is a debate that has been raging for millennia). The idea of the Mayor, or anyone else for that matter, reserving the absolute right to decide whether or not a controversial art exhibit is fit for public consumption based on its perceived "offensive" nature is even more ridiculous.

Who made Giuliani the moralist of our time? The public has a right to make its own judgments.

The question is where we draw the line. If Giuliani succeeds in his latest crusade, what's next? Controversial lyrics in music? "Anti-Catholic" sentiments in literature? The New York City Public Library contains volumes of works that could be perceived as anti-Catholic or anti-Jewish or anti-anything. Is the Mayor going to cut funding to libraries because he finds particular books "offensive" and "anti-Catholic?"

Another issue to consider is Giuliani's ongoing Senate campaign. Is the Mayor pandering to the conservative Roman Catholic constituency, many of whom have expressed shock over the exhibit in question?

Dr. Arnold Lehmen, the director of the Brooklyn Museum, vows that the "Sensation" exhibit will go on despite the Mayor's constant threats. In a recent interview in the *New York Times*, he explained why it is absolutely essential the exhibit be shown. "It's part of the challenge that artists of our time present us with, because they all seem to abhor complacency and they look at the world differently from you and me...they either have better hearing, or they have better eyes, or they have better vocal chords, or something, and that sensitivity is what's so important. It's those antennas, which may not be receiving the same things we receive, but they receive important messages. And they put it down in books, they put it down on canvasses, they put it down in musical scores. They should be, I believe, the primary protected species of the human race."

Artistic expression is protected speech under the First Amendment. The concepts of freedom of speech and expression, however, become meaningless unless they protect material that is controversial. Whether the disputed material in question is a collage of the Virgin Mary or a book about masturbation is irrelevant. The point is that "The Holy Virgin" painting has just as much right to be displayed in a museum as a Picasso or Van Gogh would.

PRESS

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ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NO BIG DEAL

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Correction

In our September 15 issue, we mistakenly printed FLAN instead of FALN on our cover. The article, "Clinton...Tolerance for Terrorism?" written by D.J. O'Dell, described the clemency deal arranged by President Clinton for the FALN, a Puerto Rican nationalist group. The mistake [FLAN] was not intended as a joke about the Spanish dessert and was not meant in any sort of derogatory manner. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

East Timor Update

By Joanna Wegielnik

Military Aid to Indonesia Challenged In Congress

Several members of Congress are questioning the wisdom of continuing US military training for the Indonesian army in light of recent events unfolding in East Timor.

"Congressional leaders suggest that East Timor shows the futility of more American training for the Indonesian forces," reported the *New York Times* last week, "some of whose officers armed and backed the anti-independence militia in the territory." The majority of East Timorese voted for independence in a UN-supervised referendum on August 30th. Militias opposed to independence unleashed a campaign of terror in East Timor after the UN announced the results of the ballot.

Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) and Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vermont) are cosponsoring a bill that would permanently freeze President Clinton's suspension of military relations with Indonesia until "East Timor is safe, refugees have returned to their homes, and the Indonesian Army has ended its support for the militias and withdraw," according to the *Times* article. Helms, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, along with other Congressional leaders, is questioning the Pentagon's assertion that this military training is essential to countries like Indonesia because it educates officers on the principles of democracy and respect for human rights.

"There is no way that the American military can argue today that going through military exchanges turned these Indonesian officers into human rights paradigms," said Sydney Jones, Asia director of Human Rights Watch, the NYT piece. "It was a mistake on the part of both the State Department and the Pentagon to argue that exposure to the West, especially the United States, would have significant impact on how these people would behave, completely ignoring the particular role of the army in Indonesian society."

Amnesty International Reports Displaced Refugees are at Risk

Amnesty International released a report today (9/24) stating that thousands of displaced East Timorese refugees who have fled to other parts of Indonesia are at serious risk of severe human rights abuses throughout the Indonesian archipelago.

"The situation of the East Timorese people forcibly displaced to West Timor and other parts of Indonesia is becoming more critical everyday," AI said. "We should be celebrating the birth of an independent nation, but instead we are witnessing its baptism in blood."

The report, based on eyewitness reports and refugee testimonies, documents a systematic pattern of human rights violations committed against thousands of East Timorese who have been displaced and forced to flee to West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. The report says that the forced displacement of the refugees "appears to be part of a deliberate policy of forced deportation by the TNI (Indonesian military forces)."

"In a climate of rising xenophobia, East Timorese are easily identifiable for discrimination and attack," says the report. "The security of the East Timorese displaced, often forcibly, to other parts of Indonesia has seriously deteriorated. [Refugees] in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Flores and Bali are facing serious intimidation, threat of arrest, constant military surveillance and are unable to leave...many believe they are on 'lists' held by the TNI and militias."

The report calls on the international community to pressure Indonesia to allow intervention by outside groups, humanitarian aid agencies and the like, to act on behalf of those in danger.

Journalists Under Attack, Aid Agencies Complain

A Dutch journalist was killed and mutilated by uniformed Indonesian soldiers last Tuesday according to a dispatch that first appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* last week. Friends of Sander Thoenes, a Dutch national who worked as a correspondent for London's *Financial Times* and the Dutch weekly *Vrij Nederland*, was found shot dead, his body mutilated and battered. "The attackers, allegedly Indonesian soldiers, who murdered Sander Thoenes," according to the *Herald*, "cut off his ear and took it away as some sort of bizarre souvenir."

Earlier during the week, an American journalist who has sharply criticized Indonesia of its involvement in East Timor and US support of the Indonesian regime, was deported to Singapore, Malaysia by immigration officials in Kupang, West Timor. Allan Nairn, a writer for *The Nation* magazine, was arrested in the East Timor capital, Dili, two weeks ago and held in detention for several days in Kupang. Nairn was blacklisted by Indonesian authorities last year "after he accused the Pentagon of training the special forces unit (Kopassus) in violation of a congressional ban on working with Indonesian forces," according to an AP report. Nairn, along with Amy Goodman of Pacifica Radio, were badly beaten by Indonesian troops after witnessing a massacre of civilians during a funeral procession in 1991 and have been deemed "security risks" to Indonesia since that time.

The recent attacks on the press and international observers underscore the larger problem faced by East Timorese, who have lived under the brutal Indonesian occupation for more than twenty years. Secretary-general of the UN, Kofi Annan, announced in a statement: "This tragic and unnecessary death is only the latest in the chronicle of horror and bloodshed to which the people of East Timor themselves have been subjected to in recent months."

"What happened there is devastating -- there are no words for it," said the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, in an interview in the *Financial Times*. "It must strengthen us in the conviction that the abuses there have to be brought to an end in the shortest time possible, and that we must do everything to ensure that a good and rapid inquiry happens."

Since the international peacekeeping force was dispatched to East Timor last week, most of the international press corp has returned to Timor en masse. This has prompted several aid agencies to criticize the Australian authorities for giving journalists priority in access over medical workers. "Aid agencies 'Doctors Without Borders' and 'Medecins Du Monde' claimed journalists were receiving priority over medical workers for seats on flights into Dili," according to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 9/23. "The groups criticized the Australian Defense Force for allocating 24 seats yesterday and on Tuesday to journalists when doctors were ready to go in without military protection," said the report.

Is East Timor Really "Out of Control?"

FAIR Action Alert

9/15/99 - A front-page *New York Times* article about the precarious situation in East Timor (9/12/99) began by reporting that Indonesian "Gen. Wiranto, conceded Saturday that he had lost control of elements of his military" that were operating on the island. The article's headline, "Jakarta Concedes a Loss of Control," echoed this view.

The assertion that Wiranto-Indonesia's top commander-was unable to control the violence in East Timor went unquestioned in the first two-thirds of the article. Then, in the article's twenty-ninth paragraph, an unnamed official travelling with the visiting U.N. delegation in East Timor flatly contested this account:

"I don't see any reason to think they are having difficulties controlling the situation. Look at today and look at election day when everything was brought under control with the snap of a finger. This is such a coordinated and planned campaign-evacuating towns, assassinating moderate leaders, moving huge numbers of people into forced exile-that it could only have come from the top."

This approach is typical of the mainstream media's recent coverage of the East Timor crisis. *NBC News* introduced its September 14 coverage of East Timor with a large logo reading "Out of Control"-even as anchor Tom Brokaw told viewers that "government-backed militias are reportedly carrying out systematic assassinations of those who support independence for that province."

A September 14 article in the *Washington Post* reported that an American general recently told Wiranto that the "United States expected

Indonesian forces to reestablish control in East Timor." The *Post* presented without challenging the view that the Indonesian command was unable to stop the violence.

But who has ultimate control in East Timor is very much a contested question. The Indonesian military-and its supporters in Washington-claim the violence is being directed by armed militias working together with rogue elements of the Indonesian military over whom the top commanders have no control.

Critics, however, suggest that the violence in East Timor is not the result of "chaos" or the occupied nation being "out of control," but rather the intended consequence of a plan from Jakarta to punish the East Timorese for asserting their independence. Nobel laureate Bishop Carlos Belo, a Timorese leader, has said he believes the killings are being "orchestrated by the Indonesian top general in Jakarta in order to stop this historical event." (*Agence France Presse*, 9/10/99)

An investigation by the *London Observer* (9/12/99) reported that the campaign in East Timor was planned months in advance, citing "satellite telephone conversations between senior officers in Dili and Jakarta" intercepted by Australian intelligence agencies in March. In these conversations, Indonesian military officials planned a "scorched earth policy" if East Timor were to vote for independence.

An Australian opposition spokesperson has said that Australian authorities "had an intelligence assessment that showed that ABRI [i.e., the Indonesian army] could easily control and apprehend that process but was not doing so." (*AFP*, 9/15/99) Australian intelligence sources told the *Melbourne Age* (9/11/99) that "the lack of any vigorous action by the commander of the Indonesian armed forces, General Wiranto, to rein in his forces implied he was at least turning a blind eye."

Journalist Allan Nairn, who was recently arrested in East Timor by Indonesian military authorities, has written not only that "the militias are a wing of the TNI/ABRI, the Indonesian armed forces," but that last April a high-ranking U.S. military official gave Gen. Wiranto, the Indonesian commander, what Indonesian officers interpreted as a "green light to proceed with the militia operation." (*The Nation*, 9/27/99)

During the Kosovo conflict, reporters did not take at face value Yugoslav government assertions that atrocities were being committed only by "out-of-control" paramilitary forces. Likewise, reporters need to remember that U.S. and Indonesian officials have their own interests in shaping how the East Timorese crisis is portrayed, and that their views should not be relayed without questioning. The facts uncovered by investigative reporters need to be incorporated into the ongoing coverage of the crisis.

Critics, however, suggest that the violence in East Timor is not the result of "chaos" or the occupied nation being "out of control..."

War of the Giants

By F.L. Livingston

I may not be qualified to discuss the battle between the U.S. Justice Department and the tobacco industry. Why? Because I have never

smoked a cigarette. Honest. Never even tried one. So I'm probably not the first person you would turn to for an analysis of the situation.

"Back up a minute," you may say. "Never smoked a cigarette? How is that possible?"

Easy. My father was one of those doctors who believed early on that the cancer research that vilified cigarettes was correct. He drummed that idea into our family's heads long before the theory was actually proven. True, he and my mother allowed guests to smoke cigarettes in our home (there was no concern about "secondhand" smoke at that time), but such guests did so at the risk of having to endure one of my father's impassioned lectures on the harmful effects of this habit. And every time a cigarette commercial came on the television or a character "lit up" during one of the shows (two common occurrences back then), he would shake his head, grunt in disgust, or, perhaps, depending on his mood, launch into another one of his diatribes against the product. What the average person today hears once in a while, I heard as a child almost every day.

Add to that the fact that my paternal grandfather, who continued to smoke despite my father's dire warnings, suffered for years from emphysema (another lung condition often caused by cigarettes) and a hacking "smoker's cough". Is it any wonder that I had no desire to smoke?

So, I am not exactly an authority on cigarette smoking. Nor perhaps on the issue at hand. That issue is the fact that the Justice Department is suing several tobacco companies, including Philip Morris Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co., Liggett and Meyers, Inc., American Tobacco Co., and an industry group known as "the Tobacco Institute, Inc." They are suing them for billions of dollars in an effort to recover money spent by the federal government to benefit people with lung cancer and other smoking-related diseases. The companies are furious and vow to wage an aggressive defense.

I confess that I do not have a strong personal position on the subject, but because of that I may be more objective. If I were a current or former smoker with cigarette-related health problems, I might champion the government all the way regardless of the industry's arguments. If, on the other hand, I were one of those few smokers who had been puffing away for years but still enjoyed robust health, perhaps I would feel that the Justice Department was coming down too hard on the tobacco companies. Or if I were one of those people who had quit smoking easily, I might now declare, "It's a personal choice. If I gave it up, so can you..." But as it is, I am none of those. And it is most likely for that reason that I can see both sides of this particular issue. And that I can also see when either party is "reaching" for a point.

In fact, I have to admit that I often get a kick out of observing a struggle between govern-

ment and big business. Two huge, bureaucratic organizations plagued by red-tape and ulterior motives, battling one another. It's kind of like being the "little tailor" of fairy-tale fame, except that instead of promoting the fantasy that you

killed "seven giants in one blow," you get to watch for real as two giants pummel each other (and, thankfully, no one is "beating on" you).

In this case, the Justice Department has dealt some rather strong blows. They insist that because the smoking-related health costs were brought about by the use of cigarettes, the tobacco companies should be held responsible. The supposition is that this is especially true

since the companies' advertising lends appeal to an unhealthy activity and often targets impressionable minors. If the industry has deliberately promoted an activity that has damaged people's health, why shouldn't they foot the bill? As both President Bill Clinton and Attorney-General Janet Reno have indicated, the taxpayers certainly should not have to do it. These are powerful arguments that I believe it will be difficult for the tobacco companies to fight.

Moreover, the allegations permit the court total access to the companies' documents about poor health effects and about what they have done or not done to alleviate them. Possibly another serious blow to the tobacco industry.

Beyond that, the sale of cigarette stocks has plummeted since January when plans for this lawsuit were first announced. Bad for business, but better for our health.

The tobacco industry has come out swinging as well. For example, they plan to seek full disclosure of government records that show how much the politicians knew about the health risks and the extent of the companies' efforts to lessen or eradicate them. These documents also may offer information as to how much -- or how little -- the government has done to improve the situation. Some federal agencies or officials could come out looking as bad as the tobacco companies. Ouch.

But, with all due respect for the seriousness of the issue, the "wild punches" thrown in this fight are quite entertaining. One is the charge made by Philip Morris' attorney George C. Little.

He insists that the allegations against the industry have "...no basis in fact..." and that they are politically motivated.

Right. Sure. As if nobody ever really

became ill from those little white sticks. And if they did, there were no health care costs associated with it. Like the whole point of this lawsuit is for Democrats to impress the "anti-smoking block" or win over the "sickly smokers vote".

Hey, if there were such a constituency, this lawsuit probably would influence their voting patterns -- but even so, that would not be the sole purpose of the litigation!

The Justice Department is guilty of a couple of "wild swings" of its own. Its members claim that the tobacco companies deceived the government for years as to the ominous results of smoking. They also exclaim in horror at the alleged discovery that the industry sought the patronage of minors even while denying the effort.

Oh, come on. Like the big boys and girls in government haven't known for years that cigarettes are hazardous to one's health. Don't they listen to their own Surgeon General? (Then again, maybe not. Can it be that I knew more about these risks as a little girl than they do as grown men and women?)

And like they really believed it without question when the tobacco companies reported that they did not direct advertising at minors. These politicians who pick each other apart over every "scandal", large or small, real or imagined.

These government figures, some of whom concern themselves with such details as whether or not a candidate used marijuana, etc., during his college days (Oh, the shock!) along with hundreds of others in his generation. These people didn't realize that the cigarette "pushers" might not be totally honest about whom they were "pushing" their product on?

On second thought, perhaps they didn't. Maybe they were too busy checking out each others' pupils, taping each others' private conversations, and tracking each others' illicit hugs with suspected mistresses -- too busy to pay attention to what was going on in the society that they are supposed to govern.

Okay, I admit it. I am exaggerating. And I'm mixing up categories of government officials and lumping them together shamelessly. And, yes, I'm having fun. It's hard to help it.

Seriously now, I firmly believe that the federal government should go ahead and try to make the tobacco industry pay for the damages they have caused. At the same time, I understand

that it is normal for the companies to defend themselves. After all, they "are not in business to lose money," etc. But they can both act with dignity. Nor is there any point in throwing punches that veer far from the mark, and I hope that they do not waste any time on

such nonsense.

It is fun to watch the giants duke it out, though.

If the industry has deliberately promoted an activity that has damaged people's health, why shouldn't they foot the bill?



Like the big boys and girls in government haven't known... that cigarettes are hazardous to one's health.

China Presses On

By Shari Goldsmith

As October approaches, China closes in on their half-century mark under Communist rule. In pure dictatorial tradition of "modern" China, the government had its Propaganda Department devise slogans that would be deemed appropriate and in accordance with Communist ideology, to carry the country into another 50 years of government autocracy.

October 1 marks the 50th anniversary of the country's initiation as a Communist government. The Chinese people have been spared the trouble of innovating personal resolutions for their future: in celebration of the People's Republic, fifty slogans have been approved to help remind the country exactly how much interest the government takes in what the people have to say. These messages are literally the only statements allowed to be chanted and posted on banners in a very well orchestrated celebration, according to Erik Eckholm's Sept. 15 article in the *New York Times*.

The Chinese government has made every effort to ensure the success of this well-orchestrated celebration. They want the festivities to represent a perspective that will carry the appropriate message into the future. The government has actually rehearsed the event, with fireworks and all. Chinese officials have assured themselves of a positive outlook on the part of the people, by hand-picking a limited number of individuals granted the honor of being the only people allowed to partake in the official ceremony, set to take place in Tiananmen Square.

This year marked another event that the government would rather forget. This past June 4 was the 10 year anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, where the government unleashed full military force on a student protest. It seems crude and awkward to be celebrating the

adoption of Communism, in a place where that government created such a tragedy. China has refused to permit any recognition of the event or its victims.

China has used the upcoming event as an excuse for a nationwide crackdown on any signs of political dissent. They have gone to great lengths to put down discussion of the independence of Taiwan, Tibet, or Hong Kong. The government is seizing on this event as an opportunity to denounce Western ideology. The official Xinhua news agency has noted that this is all being done in the interest of "social stability and safety," according to *The London Independent*.

America has no right to be self-righteous in this situation. More than 200 CEOs from some of America's top corporations are expected to take part in China's half-century Communist celebration, according to A.M. Rosenthal's editorial in the *New York Times*. The companies to be represented include Time Warner, the owners of Fortune, CNN, NBC, and Calvin Klein. It's somewhat fitting for corporate America to be included in a festivity honoring the ongoing manipulation of a vulnerable people. We've taken full advantage of China's "third world" status and exploited its underclass for a cheap, expendable labor force. As a result, we've infiltrated their culture with a superficial American culture without the underlying democratic system. American corporations have to

secure their investment in China's oppressive culture.

China's culture is cherished worldwide and is being popularized in America. From medicine, to philosophy, to food, we've grown very attached to a country so far away geographically and politically. It's natural for each country's culture to infiltrate the other. Unfortunately, this is one of the main goals of Communist ideology. China's government doesn't seem to want to give in to any of the surrounding colonies' attempts at independence.

Metaphysical theory would have us believe that as a people, the Chinese can withstand a certain amount of repression, before giving in to human nature and exploding into revolt. The government has no intention of presenting any impression other than one that ensures Communism's survival for another 50 years. This includes crafting the perfect propaganda event to epitomize the country's oppressive, dictating nature. Crushing tendencies towards initiative and individuality is rather what this anniversary celebration seems to be illustrating. Their government wants to acknowledge the voice of the people, by directly force-feeding exactly what they want echoing through the streets.

China has squeezed, choked, and gagged the people long enough; eventually the people will get sick and purge. I pray that the stains and pains left by the Tiananmen Square tragedy haunt the government with shame.

We've taken full advantage of China's "third world" status and exploited its underclass for a cheap, expendable labor force.

Osama bin Laden continued

son for the East African bombings.

America's top military buyer is Saudi Arabia, bin Laden's home country. Since 1985, the U.S. government has approved over \$40.6 billion in foreign military sales to Saudi Arabia. In addition to this high level of government-negotiated sales, U.S. arms manufacturers exported an additional \$1.7 billion of arms to the Saudi regime during 1985-1996.

Bin Laden is against the ruling establishment of the nation because of its corruption and immorality. So if the ruling establishment is thrown out, along with that goes America's best customer. America's economy depends on the success and stability of the military industry and as evidenced from

above, this does not involve petty money. The "bin Laden threat" maintains and spurs other military contracts with rich Gulf states, which means more petro-dollars for America. It is possible that the United States government could have manu-

factured these bombings implicate bin Laden to them (who has denied involvement) and therefore take away legitimacy from his struggle (take into consideration that there are hundreds of political prisoners in Saudi Arabia).

The United States has manufactured threats before. Former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles stated in 1949, "I do not know of any responsible high official, military or civilian...this this government or any other government who believes that the Soviet [Union] now plans conquest by open military aggression." These words

coming from a man who was a major architect of United States cold war policy. War brought America out of the Great Depression, and it prevented it from World War Two in which the United States military was involved.

Another example of a created threat is Iraq. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark's book, "The Fire This Time," gives ample evidence of how the United States planned in the early 80's to support the rise of Saddam Hussein so that he

would balance out the rise of his neighbor, Iran, and eventually become a perceived threat to the region at large. He himself would be brought down through the Gulf War. His nation is immensely poor and is on the brink of famine. Conveniently, Osama bin Laden has risen to take his place as the personification of an Evil Empire.

Any Man is Innocent Till Proven Guilty

Finally, the definition of innocent till proven guilty from Black's Legal Dictionary is as follows:

"Presumption of innocence: A hallowed principle of criminal law to the effect that the government has the burden of proving every element of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt and that the defendant has no burden to prove his innocence. It arises at the first stage of the criminal process but it is not a true presumption because the defendant is not required to come forward with proof of his innocence once evidence of guilt is introduced to avoid a directed verdict of guilty.

Presumption of innocence succinctly conveys the principle that no person may be convicted of a crime unless the government carries the burden of proving his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt but it does not mean that no significance at all may be attached to the indictment. *US v. Friday, D.C. Mich., 404 F. Supp. 1343, 1346.*"

Therefore, by the laws of the United States, Osama bin Laden is currently an innocent man.

Conveniently, Osama bin Laden has risen to take his place as the personification of an Evil Empire.

Screw the Union Bridge

By Rene Molnar

It was in the spring of this year that this story began. A lone workman trudged through the early-morning dew underneath the Union bridge and proceeded to mark little spots on the ground with the traditional orange spray can. I soon realized that the previously meter-less Union bridge parking area would change forever.

Life underneath the bridge sure was different prior to the arrival of the meters and parking space lines. Before, there was always the assumption in my mind that there was an unspoken rule of courtesy when it came to parking under the Union bridge: Don't make it your garage away from home and you'll be fine. What an idealist!

They don't scrimp on the parking tickets over here at Stony Brook! "Forty-five dollars next time," one traffic officer sneered in a gruff voice as I backed up -- avoiding the sting of her weekly quota. But all that changed with the arrival of the parking meters.

No longer does one have to wait for the traffic officers' mandatory 1-2 a.m. rest period to comfortably park and grab a sandwich from the Union Deli. Nope, now the happy Stony Brook motorist can pull up under the Union bridge whenever they please. Oops...spoke too soon! It seems that there's a wonderful new trend going around that involves everyone and their evil twin brother parking under the bridge for profusely long periods of time. It has become customary to park and then initiate a two-day camp out, car-centered block party, or mosh-pit revival.

It used to be that you had to have GUTS to park under the Union bridge! There had always been that constant threat of the ticket waiting for you when you got back...it was great! Now, however, it seems that anyone can park there based simply on their ability to turn on their hazard lights and wait out those already parked or circled around the campus, even if it means waiting until their tanks reach "E".

I, in my infinite wisdom, have come up with some solutions for those that would care to show their love for the "good old days" of parking under the Union bridge.

The gutsiest thing that a person can do is to park in the metered spaces and blatantly refuse to put change into the toll. A prime example of this would be the motorist that pulls

up, slams their door shut and proceeds to smack the toll in a blazing act of defiance of Stony Brook and its excessively high prices! One step above this would be to put a used Waldbaums (supermarket is optional) shopping bag onto the meter and only then proceed to smack the meter in a

blazing act of defiance!

For those who choose to voice their dislike of the fees imposed on students in a less risky fashion, there is the art of stereo blasting. This skill, known as "booming," obviously involves the initial installation of a stereo that has the ability to draw attention to oneself. Next, it is required that a person find the proper "hits" to boom on their way in (assuming you even get a spot) and out from under the Union Bridge. As with the initial example, booming can be carried one step further: a person can blatantly choose to leave their car and stereo on, full volume, while they spend time chatting with friends, grabbing some lunch, or attending a class. Couple this with a refusal to pay the meter and you have yourself a truly hot-blooded individual!

The sad news is that there are very few who are game for doing the dastardly deeds that I have described. Sad, but true. Instead, the average Stony Brook motorist seen parking under the Union bridge continues, in increasing numbers, to follow an intriguing new trend of silliness. A trend that will ensure that we will never see the "good old days" of parking in the now-metered spaces under the bridge.

Through the tears of my sad realization, I came to see the truly pathetic nature of the parking situation under the Union bridge and found myself characterizing the various groups of motorists that exist right under our noses!

Let us start our analysis with the group known to me as the "infinite loiterers." Instead of using the parking spot they have obtained to protest exorbitant Stony Brook parking fees, the typical person parking under the Union bridge has with them the entire rolled-up quarter holding of their respective bank. They greedily use these quarters to ensure that their sacred parking space shall never come under the ownership of anyone other than themselves.

The most pathetic of the Union breed? I lovingly refer to them as the "vultures." Luckily for these people, most of the roads on the Stony Brook campus form some sort of circular pattern. The vultures take it upon themselves to snake around the roads of our fair campus with the single-minded intention of driving by the union bridge until they see an empty parking space. Beware: vultures are known to be part boomer and can cause quite a ruckus passing the bridge for the eighth or ninth time when tempers (and volume knobs) get flared!

Impatience reigns supreme in the vulture clan and I have found more than one set of burn

marks from tires of vultures that have realized that their quest for a parking space was futile.

As already typified, there exists a class of motorists that take a tremendous amount of pleasure in blaring loud volumes of music from their respective vehicles. I had earlier discussed the use of a loud car stereo. Rocking to the good songs is one thing, but boomers can be observed taking

this art to next level. In grand trailer-trash fashion, they can be seen stopping at the Union bridge stop sign for unnecessarily long periods of time for the simple reason

of attracting the gaze of their future love interest with the money that they have spent on their car and stereo.

Then there are the "scouts." These are individuals randomly selected by their "friend" to observe the exact time and place a car is leaving from under the bridge. Their mission is to then IMMEDIATELY (no sleeping on this job!) put their body in the way of any vehicle brazen enough to assume that they have found a spot to park. These people really should get paid for this as one can imagine the potential for a fist-fight ensuing over holding a parking spot for a car that may or may not finish circling Stony Brook within the next half hour.

It would be unfair to people in general to go through the various personalities that one may find under the Union bridge without paying consideration to the "typical" motorist. Aside from the people that may stop under the bridge so as to grab a snack before going home (a lost breed), the remaining commuter student that one finds parked there seems to have nothing better to do but to feed the tolls with their never-ending supply of quarters. It must be great to have a spot right next to your class, but is it really worth when everyone knows how much time was wasted or knows of the pathetic pursuits that one has to endure to get that spot in the first place? There aren't many that can claim to hold the position of "permanent valet person" for their own car...impressive.

There is a solution to all of this madness. I propose that all of the spots under the Union bridge be made off-limits to the average commuter. Each of the spots should be clearly labeled, categorically for those individuals mentioned above (stereo boomers, infinite loiterers, vultures, scouts, human sloths, insipid buffoons, etc.). so as to clarify for the general public that this is a place where the motor-challenged reside in their bountiful spare time.

To all the commuter students swamped in school work or just bored with life in general, I invite you to take a drive by the Union bridge the next time you head home. Take a second to feast your eyes on those that don't know what to do with their spare time.

...I came to see the truly pathetic nature of the parking situation under the Union bridge...

The average Stony Brook motorist seen parking under the bridge...continues to follow an intriguing new trend of silliness.

W U S B 9 0 . 1 F M P R E S E N T S . . .

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New York State Traffic Laws: A Critique

By Arthur Heyman

New York State traffic and parking laws intentionally criminalize reasonable, safe, and common driving behavior for the express and cynical purpose of taxing citizens; this serves to undermine the moral authority of the state and is an abuse of the police, courts and populace.

These laws are at best paternalistic (in a way counter to the appropriate use of government in a free society), and at worst abusive and unproductive in a wide variety of ways.

Drivers come to resent the police (people we pay to protect us, not prey upon us) and come to see the courts that try traffic offenses as unjust -- as their function is largely to find "offenders" guilty so that funds may be raised. These laws are an unfair and arbitrary method of taxation which selectively penalize efficient and time-pressed citizens, continuing a trend toward the punishment of the productive middle class in New York, a process which has already driven out thousands of jobs and businesses.

Disputing these unjust fines is a time consuming nightmare with the (intended) result that most people don't bother to fight the tickets. When one does fight, one is confronted with an often incompetent bureaucracy which cares little for the time it wastes. As the people in this bureaucracy produce nothing of value, they can't see that they are wasting the time of people who need to be productive.

Speed laws:

We are all familiar with roads on which the speed limit is set 20 to 30 miles per hour lower than a safe speed. On these roads the vast majority of drivers always exceed the speed limit, and thus drive constantly under the pressure of being stopped and fined, resulting perhaps in the loss of their license and very likely in an increase in their insurance rates. This is as true on "30 MPH" roads as it is on major highways.

I suggest here that the intent of the state is not to make for safer conditions, but to create as many lawbreakers as possible.

If the state and county cared as much for our efficiency and freedom as they care for taking money from us, these limits would be raised. While the state already takes far too much of our income in direct and hidden taxes, the primary destructive aspect here is moral.

We rely on the state to FAIRLY enforce rational and fair laws; this is one of the few proper functions of the state in the first place. Here we know the state is unfairly enforcing unfair laws. What then becomes of your sense of the fairness and trustworthiness of the state?

The policeman giving you the ticket knows it to be a scam, and often hides this fact from himself by directing greater anger at all "speeders and lawbreakers", as I was once told. Judges know this too, and the ones I have talked with hide behind the idea of the state needing to protect us from ourselves. We are too incompetent to drive uncontrolled, one judge told me.

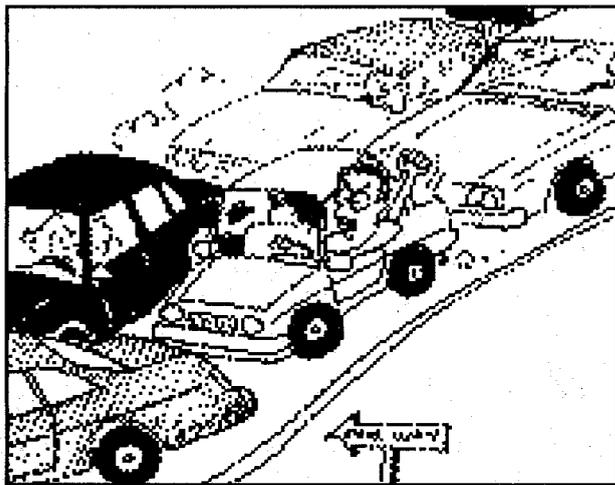
To a degree the situation is as simple as the state criminalizing and taxing, for example, breathing. If that were the case though, we would all stand a roughly equal chance of being fined. Rather here it is the middle class who suffer, since

the poor don't own cars and the wealthy can easily absorb the fines and higher insurance rates.

The common justification for these laws, that they are necessary for our safety, is nonsense.

The vast majority of us drive at what we feel at the moment is a safe speed; we wish to avoid the hospital. Those of us less concerned with arriving in one piece are not likely to be held in check by the fear of a ticket. The primary effect of these laws is only to punish a large number of safe drivers who were unlucky enough to be seen by policemen, even if they were doing something reasonable -- again, this is what the state intends. Recent studies show drivers maintaining similar speeds regardless of changed limits up or down, demonstrating the obvious: we know how to drive and don't need a policeman behind us. I have observed traffic in New Delhi and Paris and Mexico City and Setauket, and I always observe people taking great care not to ruin their neighbor's paint job, as it would mean the ruin of their own.

Traffic laws and their enforcement reflect larger issues in our political culture at this time. If we are adults in a free society, we should demand of our government that it treat us as adults. We know ourselves to be safe and responsible drivers, but many of us suspect that our neighbors are not, and this justifies restrictive laws. This runs counter to ideals of freedom and the social contract, which suggests that you should be as free as possible, only restricted insofar as you impinge on another's rights. To maintain our freedom, we must trust our neighbors, as we demand to be trusted ourselves. One maintains a



free and responsible citizenry not by coercing what is deemed to be proper behavior; rather by maintaining the freedom that led to a responsible, mature

and sophisticated culture in the first place. Various western states have high or no speed limits. The argument that they are sparsely populated (and so fast driving is safe) can be refuted by considering Germany, which is very densely settled, but has equally high limits. I believe that New Yorkers drive as well as Germans. The argument that more people would be injured in traffic accidents is answered, in part, by suggesting we all stay home in bed, which is very safe; but be sure you don't smoke or leave your electric blanket on while you drink your tea. Or perhaps the state should lower the limit to 5 MPH, fine away all of our money and take good

care of us.

Stop Signs:

You approach a stop sign in a car. There's an intersection, and you slow down to look both ways, as you don't wish to spend your next paycheck in an autobody shop or a doctor's office. The road's clear, and you make your turn. Most of the time you never stop your car fully, and we know it to be perfectly safe. You do this a hundred times, or a thousand, and then do it with a policeman behind you in an unmarked car. He's behind on his ticket quota, and even though he likely drives in the same way himself, as surely as most judges and state legislators do, he pulls you over and fines you.

Again, you are bright and mature enough not to need a sign to tell you to stop. You need a sign informing you of an upcoming intersection, and nothing more.

Replacing these signs with something like "Upcoming intersection, slow down, be prepared to stop, look both ways, let the other guy go first if he got there before you," would be expensive. Perhaps we could leave the signs as they are and just rationally deal with problems resulting from people who really do abuse the situation (like going through the intersection without slowing enough to avoid an accident).

At the least, there is no need to enforce the stop rule obsessively; it is only a silly excuse to take money from us.

Parking:

Parking fines run along the same lines. In New York City especially, but all through the state, these rules are designed to make people break them. Parking rules are obscure, vary wildly, and essentially harass drivers. The city uses the power of the state to extort money through garnishing wages or threatening to seize the car. As with driving "offenses", redress is a time-consuming nightmare. Most people don't bother to fight the tickets. When one does fight, one is confronted with a stupid and incompetent bureaucracy, which cares nothing for time it wastes. As the people in this bureaucracy produce nothing of value, they can hardly understand that they are wasting the time of people who need to work.

In these ways and many more, the state is abusing and preying on its citizens, not assisting them. One effect is that I, a man with numerous New York City parking fines have largely ceased driving to that city. While I miss the theater and museums, I hope they miss my disposable income. All this has been one more small but real part of the process in my plan to take myself and my business out of New York. If you think I'm foolish for being motivated by such small issues, ask yourself why the state has lost hundreds of thousands of businesses and productive people over the last thirty years. Perhaps these issues were part of a broader sense of abuse these people felt.

If the state wants more of your money, it should take it openly. It should raise taxes, not try to hide it, and not ruin our relationship with the police and the courts in the process.

...these laws are intended not to make for safer conditions, but to create as many lawbreakers as possible....

Keep Your Pinky Extended

By Chris Sorochin

Last summer the university held a "War on Alcohol" confab involving local bar and convenience store owners, campus health coordinators and many, many law enforcement officials. The thrust of this retreat was to discuss ways to prevent students from getting their sweaty little paws on a cold one.

At the time I wrote a blistering attack on this latest holy war and I would like to think that (in the tradition of the sacred mockery of the druidic bards), my spell, woven of equal parts derision and outrage, found its mark and the Authorities came to their senses. That, and the fact that if they make it too hard for you to get beer, you can always turn to pot, cocaine or Ecstasy.

And barring those, there are always the poor man's cheap and dangerous highs of airplane glue, paint thinner and other industrial delights.

Anyhow, the back-to-school issue of *Statesman* carried a splendid admission of the defeat of this "jackboots" approach and the news that colleges across this great drunken land of ours are actually trying—a flourish of trumpets, please—a more sophisticated and enlightened

approach. Yes, they've finally gotten embarrassment by bombarding you with messages that most students don't drink "excessively" (whatever that is) and that getting shitfaced and behaving like a cretin with any frequency will mark you as a loser.

The most delicious part of this is that they've actually admitted that they can't eliminate alcohol consumption and now have to learn to concentrate on cultivating a sense of responsibility in student culture. One way they could do this, of course, is to stop insisting that you hide behind closed doors to drink, which would make it less like a criminal act and more like something that's open to community scrutiny. But I know I'm asking for the moon here. In the meantime, I'm calling on all my fans and disciples to do what they can to make drinking here at Phony Brook a civilized and genteel activity. Who knows? If students demonstrate their ability to "Party Smart," the Authorities, in a frenzy of administration at your maturity and savoir faire, might just be inspired to relinquish their tight-assed campaign to render you children while at the same time exhorting you to behave as adults. Don't bet any more than the cost of a '40 on it, but hey, you never know.

Much as I applaud this evolution in the thinking of policy makers, I'm skeptical of its effectiveness on those people who really have problems. Those who habitually use substances, or engage in any other sort of addictive behavior, have deeper psychological issues than mere self-control. I would theorize that these mainly have to do with the old catchall, lack of self-esteem, accompanied by difficulty in interpersonal relations. Let's not leave U.S. culture out of the equation. I do a lot of popping off about how other countries have more reasonable alcohol and drug policies, but the fact is that way too many Americans think that "socializing" means obliteration of consciousness. I blame the dumbing down of U.S. society that has to some extent always been extant in our anti-intellectual country, but is accelerated in certain periods, most recently in the turn-of-your-brain miasma of the Reagan years.

This summer saw much editorial hand-wringing over the riotous behavior at Woodstock

'99, with all the predictable whining about the pernicious effects of drugs and sex, while conveniently forgetting that the original Woodstock was both massively awash in drugs and sex and remarkable for its lack of violent incidents. What was the difference? Now I do NOT mean to suggest that the 1960s were one big love-in or that the youth back then never behaved like assholes, but it's clear that hedonistic behavior is not necessarily a precursor to violence and destruction. I do think that our collective consciousness, still housing Puritan demons, has never managed to sever that link. So we get the self-fulfilling results we expect.

In the *Statesman* article, one student referred to the need to "break out." I found this issue of a prison metaphor quite interesting. What is it, I wonder that makes so many people look

I'm calling on all my fans and disciples to do what they can to make drinking here at Phony Brook a civilized and genteel activity.

upon their lives as cages to be temporarily escaped from? The Woodstock generation had economic security that is difficult to imagine

today. They also thought that they were leading the way to a newer and better world. How many students today believe either that they're going to change the world or that they'll be justly awarded for their work?

I was fascinated by one aspect of the new effort at curbing substance abuse: called the curriculum infusion program, it offers stipends to faculty to "relate alcohol and other drugs to course material." The article gave an example of an economics professor discussing how alcohol affects business, I guess in missed workdays and lower productivity. I'd love to know how much this stipend is and if anyone can pay to have their favorite topic written into classroom lectures like a Budweiser product placement. My cohorts at the War Resisters League would be most interested, I'm sure, in slipping a modest sum to economics professors to mention that militarism and arms spending is actually bad for the economy!

In another example, English profs would assign works dealing with recreational substances. Here's where both the fun and the gravy train really start! Imagine picking up a nice little something extra in your pay envelope for covering the oeuvre of Charles Bukowski! Those more traditionally minded can invoke the boozy breaths of Hemingway, Fitzgerald, O'Neill...great scribblers and guzzlers all, not to forget the highly eclectic drug use (and necrophiliac incest) of literary sicko Edgar Allan Poe. Whole seminars could be constructed on the socioeconomics of Benzedrine in *Last Exit to Brooklyn* and the aesthetic role of hash brownies in *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*. *Confessions of an English Opium Eater!* *Trainspotting!* *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas!* The possibilities are (forgive me) staggering.

Unless, of course, there's a list of "approved" literature featuring cautionary tales on the evils of mind alteration. In which case everyone will realize they're being spoon-fed some Sunday school and tune out. The mock ad in *Statesman* for Binge Beer is praiseworthy for its appeal to students' intelligence and even borderline amusing, but I can see it being subverted into a mockery on the order of the "This is your brain

on drugs" fried egg. How long before the makers of Jolt Cola are inspired to actually market something called Binge Beer that pseudorebellious little party animals nationwide will rush out to purchase with their fake I.D.s?

There's a charm offensive underway by University Police to reach out to the student body and gain their confidence. There's also a report that last year they screwed some student over pretty badly for possession of weed and a pipe. With the new laws mandating loss of federal aid for any student convicted of a drug offense, the screwing could be even bigger.

Therefore, as a public service, I've concocted a modest bit of armchair activism that even the most THC-addled individual can perform. I would actually favor a mass smoke-in and civil disobedience in the Fine Arts Plaza, but let's face it, people today just won't turn out for it and it would only work if large numbers came out, preferably at colleges across the country. A letter writing campaign might work, but some just can't be bothered. So I've taken the trouble to compose a letter for you. If you feel like writing your own, by all means, please do. For those of you who lack the literary imagination of Hunter S. Thompson or Irvine Welsh, though, I've thoughtfully composed a short note to be clipped and sent in to Doug Little, c/o University Police, SUNY at Stony Brook, 11794.

I don't really recommend signing your name or putting a return address on the envelope because you just never know if they'll consign it to the circular file or one more permanent. It is crucial, however, that they receive many of them.

Dear Guardians of the Peace:
 We greatly appreciate your concern for student safety and we heartily welcome your efforts to improve relations with the campus community.
 Many of you know that among college-age people, use of alcohol and other drugs is both common and accepted. Perhaps many of you (if you're statistically normal) had your first drink before you were "legal" and maybe even more than a few have used substances designated by the government as "illegal." If so, you are no doubt aware that such activities do not reflect on the moral or intellectual makeup of an individual, nor are they necessarily predictors of violence or other antisocial behavior.
 Therefore, if you truly wish to be looked upon as friends rather than foes, as protectors rather than persecutors, as "pals" rather than "pigs", you'll respect the standards of the community and refrain from arresting, or otherwise harassing, those who engage in such recreations, especially if they're being discreet and not bothering anyone. Just because the law is mean-spirited and unreasonable doesn't mean its enforcers have to be.
 Yours most cordially,
 A student

From Russell With Love

This Week's Target: Stan Lee

By Russell Heller

Stan "The Man" Lee, what words can describe such a giant among men? Stan Lee, co-creator of some of the best names in comics history. Stan Lee, whose characters teach us valuable lessons about our lives. Stan Lee, whose characters and art have been friends to the friendless. Stan Lee, who has shown us that with a little team spirit, females can do battle with criminal masterminds, despite being drawn with disproportionately large breasts that would be incapacitating to ordinary women. These images are not just empowering to women. To the unlovable geeks of the world, who are too young to buy porn, and are shunned by real women, comic females are an invaluable fuel for many a late-night foire into the realms of auto-erotica.

Stan Lee has either created, or played a major part in creating the following masterpieces:

The Incredible Hulk: Dr. Bruce Banner (David Banner on the TV series, because Bruce has homosexual connotations),

an ordinary scientist who is exposed to a high dose of gamma radiation. Thereafter he turns into a massive engine of muscle and fury any time he gets ticked off. So watch out: there is nothing more fearsome than Lou Ferrigno in the midst of a green-skinned hissy-fit.

The Fantastic Four: ordinary humans, who are exposed to a spatial anomaly (gamma radiation as well -- they were big on Gamma radiation) which irradiates and transforms them into super powered crime fighters. Flame on!

The X-Men: the epitome of mutant outsiders, metaphors for discrimination and acceptance. All genetic mutants, the X-Men teach us that birth defects aren't the horribly deforming, crippling misfortunes that the "good" people at the March of Dimes make them out to be. Many of the X-Men have wonderful physiques, large breasts or the ability to manipulate objects with their minds. As a matter of fact, birth defects don't even have to keep you from battle against super-villainy. So let that be a lesson to the nubile youth of today: start resting your gen-

itals on the microwave and sucking down thalidomide pills like they were Tic-Tacs and who knows? Your "special" children might just save the world one day.

The Amazing Spiderman: Peter Parker, a high school student bitten by a radioactive spider who, rather than dying of leukemia, ends up with the proportional abilities of a spider. Thank goodness he wasn't bitten by a radioactive dung beetle, or a radioactive Joel Schumacher. Spiderman is the only super hero I can recall whose first impulse upon receiving his powers was to sell out and try to make an easy buck. Unfortunately that plan fails when his uncle is murdered, and the ensuing guilt complex drives Spider Man to say, "With great power, comes great responsibility," more times than I care to remember.

Aquaman: this guy's super power is that he can talk to fish. Pretty lame. Stan Lee had NOTHING to do with Aquaman.

This wealth of characters more than earns "The Man" some disturbing mail. So sit tight, True Believer: without further ado, let me present my letter to Stan Lee.

Dear Stan Lee,

Hello. I am a student journalist and a big fan of your work. I am also terminally ill and I was wondering if you would indulge the one fantasy I have had all of my life: to have the great Stan Lee make a comic book character modeled after me. Well, to be more accurate I would like the character to be modeled after my pimp alter ego, Ruby Dice-Teeth!

Check out the character's origin: there's this ordinary, run-of-the-mill pimp, named Silky Betamax. One day he accidentally does some blow that has been irradiated by some gamma (-hydroxybuterate?) rays. This leaves him glowing in this weird funk, and later that day he goes to check up on his bitches. He finds out that some "John" was roughing up one of the 'hos and what's worse, refused to pay! Naturally, Silky goes after the guy to kick his ass. Silky finds the guy and tries to pimp-slap him, but he misses! The radioactive backhand flies past the guy's face and hits Russell Heller, mild-mannered college student!

Russ is imbibed with all of the powers of a Super-pimp. He need only have the slightest lustful stimulus, and changes begin to take place (not THOSE changes, pervert). His hair grows rapidly into a monstrous Afro. His lapels and pant legs widen whilst his shoes grow a five-inch platform. His teeth sparkle, each one encrusted with tiny rubies, in the patterns of casino dice. He suddenly becomes absolutely fluent in every dialect of Jive. An ethereal funk/pimp music soundtrack accompanies every step he takes, striking fear (and rhythm) into the hearts of his enemies. He wields the Mighty Pimp-Stick of the Ruckus Beat-Down, and becomes...Ruby Dice-Teeth!

So, what do you think, Stan? Does my dying request have any chance at seeing life in the Marvel Universe? You owe me, Stan; the 2009 series was pretty awful, but I still poured my parents' money into it. Make this happen for me and I promise that my last word will be Excelsior! Until that fateful day comes, make mine Marvel.

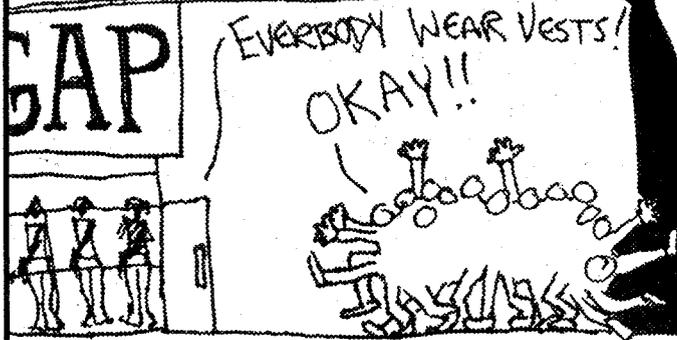
True-believer,

Russell Heller

Manicdotes

By The Artist Formally Known as Deborah Sticher

AS I GO BACK TO STONY BROOK FOR MY THIRD YEAR, MY SENSES ARE YET AGAIN ASSAULTED BY THE PERVADING LONG ISLAND/NEW YORK FASHION MANDATES.



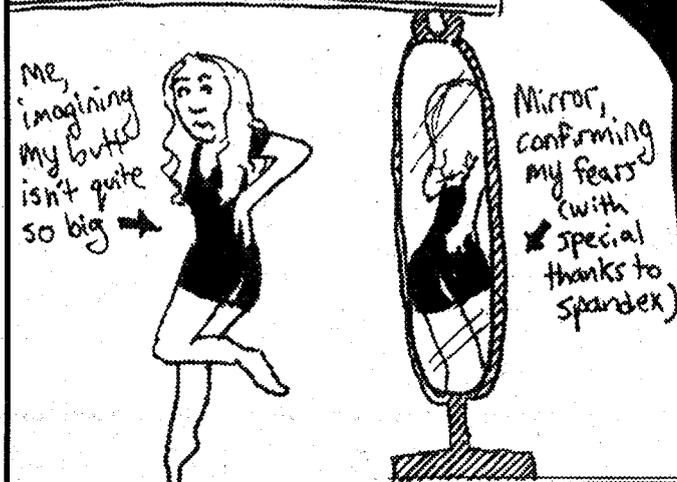
I SAT IN EGL 205, THINKING:

All we need is a strobe light and a beat, and well have a club!



This year's proliferation of tubetops, headkerchiefs, and capris pants

WHOEVER CAME UP WITH THESE SHRINK-WRAPPED OUTFITS-NEEDS TO DIE.



I WANT NEED TO GET LAID AS MUCH AS THE NEXT PERSON - BUT I LIKE TO LEAVE A LITTLE TO THE IMAGINATION



WHY CAN'T MEN BE CONTAINED BY LYCRA IN SUCH A MANNER?



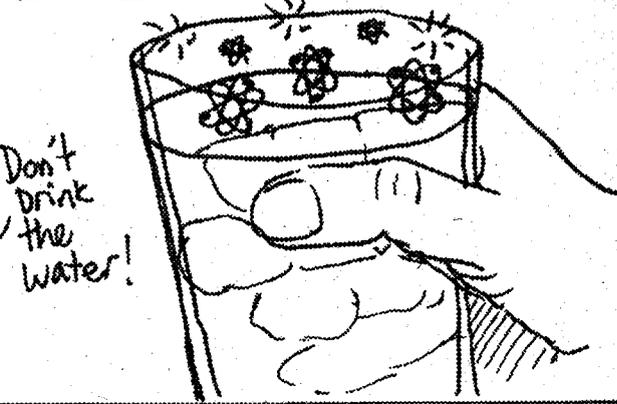
OR FOR THAT MATTER, WHY CAN'T MEN TRY ON FOR SIZE THOSE THREE INCH PLATFORM SHOES?



WHEN I FIRST CAME TO LONG ISLAND, I WAS ASTOUNDED BY THE MONSTEROUS SIZE OF THE GIRLS AROUND THESE PARTS.



AT FIRST, I THOUGHT MAYBE BROOKHAVEN NAT'L LABS MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT...



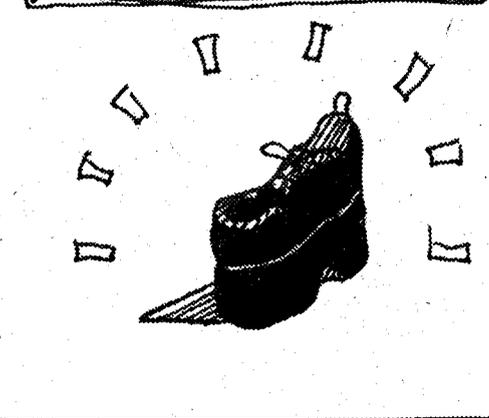
BUT THEN I JUST REALIZED THAT THE BIG GIRLS JUST WORE BIG STEVE MADDENS.



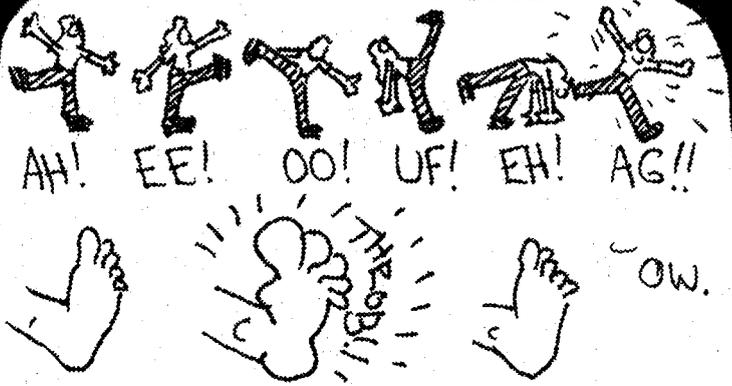
MY CURIOSITY PIQUED, I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT MYSELF A PAIR. WHEN IN ROME...



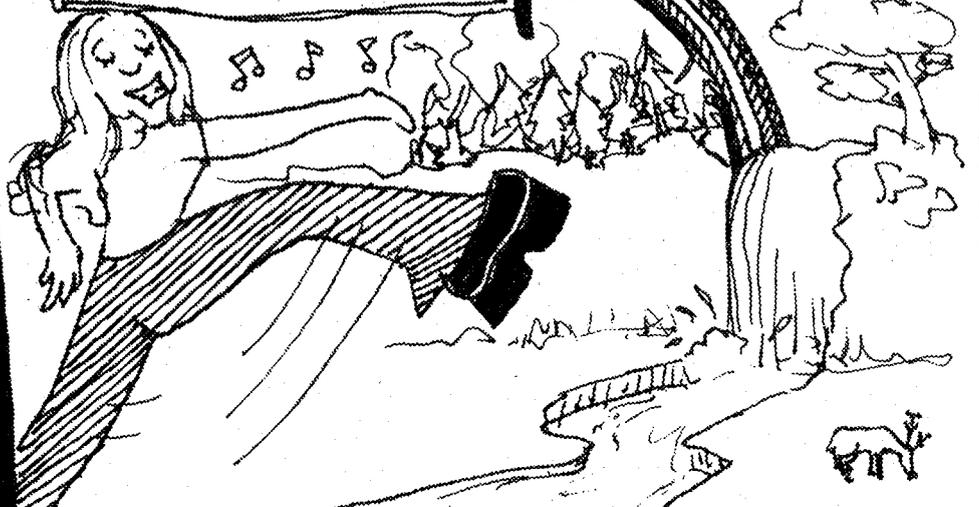
THEY WERE BIG, VERY BIG. AND THEY WERE NOT VERY PRETTY. THEY COST \$50 ANYWAY.



THEY ALSO HAD THIS NEAT FEATURE OF PROPAGATING MASSIVE BLISTERS ON MY FEET WHEN I'D WEAR THEM.



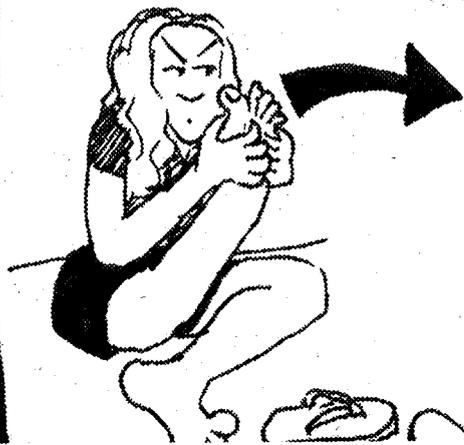
EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, THE PAIN SUBSIDED...



AND I BECAME AS BIG AS THE MONSTER LONG ISLAND GIRLS...



ONE DAY, THOUGH, I NOTICED SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT MY TOE.



Generalized weirdness about my toenail...



SO I WENT TO THE INFIRMARY TO GET IT CHECKED OUT...

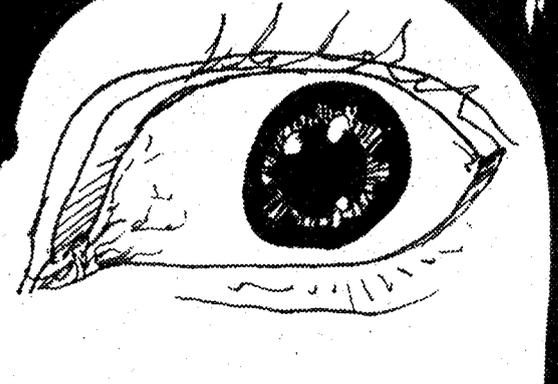


AND FOUND THAT I'D BEEN INFIRMED BY MY OWN SHOES

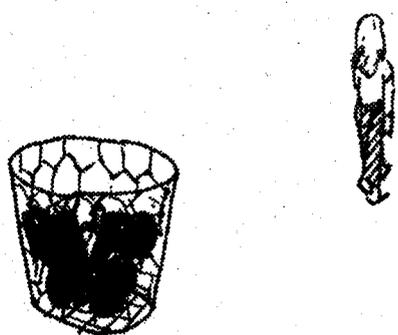
The strange angle at which your foot was positioned put too much pressure on your big toe and caused...



TRAUMA



NOT ONE TO SUPPORT THE RESURGENCE OF CHINESE FOOT BINDING, I TOSSED THOSE CLUNKERS ASAP.



AND HAVE SINCE RESOLVED TO AVOID THIS PHENOMENON OF DRESSING LIKE A PEACOCK



IT'S A GOOD THING TOO. I HEAR IT'S GOING OUT OF VOGUE - I READ IT IN COSMO.



EVERYBODY WEAR PINK EVERYBODY WEAR FLATS EVERYBODY WEAR 3/4 SLEEVED SHIRTS...

We're sorry that last week's Top Ten was so wack-ass.

Top Ten New Slang Terms for Female Genitalia

- 10) Bloomin' Onion
- 9) Chicken of the Sea
- 8) The Pit of Sarlacc
- 7) Fresh Samantha
- 6) Your Holiness
- 5) Slot B
- 4) Crocodile Mile
- 3) Roast Beef Curtain
- 2) Bearded Clam
- 1) Cum Dumpster

Top Ten New Slang Terms for Male Genitalia

- 10) Weeny Zucchini
- 9) Ol' Milwaukee
- 8) Tongue Depressor
- 7) Astro Blaster
- 6) Baloney Pony
- 5) Tab A
- 4) The Commissioner
- 3) Meat Missile
- 2) The Big Kielbasa
- 1) Mini Me

In and Out and All About

By D.J. O'Dell

Hotter, taste it. Harder, touch it. Faster, feel it. Wetter, suck it. See it, lick it, grab it, fuck it. Are you hungry? Are you waiting? Does your skin burn with desire? Let it go. Tied up or tied down? Tell me what you want. Tell me what you need. Show your world to me.

It's about time our culture stopped being so damn anal (retentive, that is) when it cums to sex. Let's talk about sex, baby. Let's share our secrets with the world. Fortunately, I'm surrounded by friends who aren't afraid to express their sexual nature and tendencies. Unfortunately, I look around myself every day and see hundreds of people who are still living in repression. The sexual revolution, in my opinion, is far from accomplishing its goal.

For example, how many people are there who are willing to tell their lovers what they want in bed? Not many in my experience. O.K., scenario: He's going down on you. Slowly he kisses your nipples and from there moves on to your stomach. He seems to spend an eternity teasing you. Now closer, now farther. You're burning. You can't take it any more. What should you do? Lie there and wait to see what happens next?

HELL NO!! If you can't bring yourself to say, "eat me now," the least you can do is push his head a little farther south. Don't worry, he'll like it. He's spent fifteen minutes trying to drive you crazy, the least you can do is let him know he's done a fabulous job. Trust me, he'll eat it up (and then some).

Be active, not passive. I love it when I'm with someone who's willing to ask for what they want. And nothing, I mean NOTHING, turns me on more than someone telling me how much they're enjoying my handi-work. Have you ever turned to someone during the height of passion and whispered with panting breaths, "I want to make you cum?"

If not, what the hell are you waiting for? Triple XXX-Mas to beat you to it? I'm not suggesting that you should allow words to usurp time reserved for tasting, licking, biting and sucking, but if your mouth is momentarily free, let your partner know how much they're turning you on. If you can't verbalize, you can certainly moan ... louder ... louder.

And don't forget jelly-beans, that there is so much more to sex than a cock and cunt (sorry if

you're offended by my choice of words, but I like the alliteration... how it rolls off my tongue). Skin, people, skin. We all know, for example, how sensitive the ears, neck, nipples, and crooks of the arms and legs are, but how many of you know where your partner's special spots are? From my experience,

everyone has their own little spot (or spots if their lucky) that will drive them crazy. I was with a very attentive lover recently who introduced me to my own erogenous zone, one I never knew existed. I swear to God I have

never moaned and groaned so loudly in my entire life (and I'm pretty vocal)!

In short (or long), we need to stop acting like giddy little school-girls and boys and start living it up. Do you want to have sex or do you want to have the best sex humanly possible? I vote for the latter.

As a sidenote, if you can stomach getting a genital piercing, the orgasms are MORE (so incredibly more) than worth the money. Trust me.

**"I want
to make
you cum."**



—Jack and Hil came up the hill, quite prepped to assist students' sex lives, two weeks later, no email came, the students were too busy 'bating.

So boys and girls, from your non-existent response to our plea for questions, we must assume that there ain't nothing goin' on in your sex lives. So, we decided to start with the basics:

Masturbation and Communication

JACK:

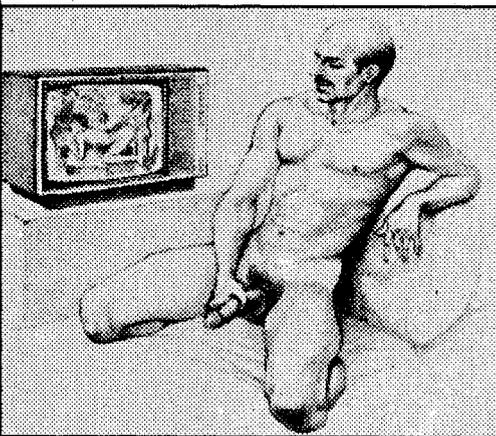
My first memories of discussing masturbation are from Boy Scout Camp. I was a counselor-in-training, and while all the legit counselors were off getting drunk, I had to police the campsites and make sure that all the troops were set for the night.

On my first night out, I came upon this campsite with 2 adult scoutmasters and an older scout. All of the younger scouts had gone to bed. When I arrived, the conversation quickly turned to what each preferred while masturbating: so-called dry masturbating or wet (lubricated) masturbating. I got the fuck out of there after one of the adults started rubbing my shoulders, but the anecdote raises the age old question: to lube or not to lube.

The short answer is: do whatever you like. The long answer involves different lubricant types (i.e. soap, vaseline, baby oil, water-based, etc.) and an analysis of their interaction with the environment of masturbation. (Yes, I have thought this through). Water based lube washes away in the shower, but quickly becomes a sticky nightmare in most "dry" environments. Vaseline just never goes away. Soap cleans as it stimulates (a plus for some of our more smegma-contaminated males).

How often do you masturbate? For many men, it is a daily, or near daily ritual. Others only need it once a week. One friend of mine swears that he has never masturbated (but admits to leaving photographs of his penis near the local gay bar). How often you masturbate doesn't matter. You are going to Hell, right after you go blind.

Therapeutic masturbation can assist young men in increasing their stamina, style, and stimulation (3 S's). Therapeutic masturbation benefits include but are not limited to stress relief, forearm exercise, eliminating premature ejaculation (tee-hee), "learning to love your body" (seriously), and ensuring daily blood flow to the penis so as to avert physiologically-based impotence in later life (today it's free, tomorrow it's Viagra). Did I forget ORGASM? You can learn good rhythm, improve the style of your ejaculation, and the grace of your face when you bust that nut (as they say on the "street"). The ladies never fail to point out that you can never get a girl pregnant by masturbating. The health nuts like to say you can't get a disease from yourself (except, poison ivy (for frame of reference, please see above Boy Scout anecdote). I can sleep at night knowing that if you can't lick 'em (and some men can [their own, I mean]), beat 'em.



Both pictures on this page courtesy of "Sex For One: The Joy of Self-loving"

(Homosexuality is another that will be addressed in the next issue).

So why is masturbation so pervasive, yet taboo? Well, the histo-religious anthropologist would say that in ancient times, when the world was less populated and infant mortality high, wasting the "magical seed" would be unconscionable. True that, true that. But today, as we fast approach the six billion mark, we don't need no mo' babies. In fact, were I a Superbeing trying to control the population of an out of control species, STD's would make perfect sense. As abstinence is now a thing for nuns and (some) priests, rampant masturbation would appear to be a rational solution.

HIL:

I was inspired to write about masturbation after reading the book "Sex For One: The Joy of Self-loving" by Betty Dodson, Ph.D. I quickly found out, however, that this article was not meant to be a "do-it-yourself" piece, but a written account of recent epiphany concerning women's lib.

I was mesmerized by the book's description of Dodson's Bodysex Groups. Her original purpose for these workshops was to "do body movements including yoga and kung fu exercises, discuss food and health, perform genital examinations, share our masturbation histories, and describe our orgasms (or lack of orgasms)." Dodson would also demonstrate orgasms through pantomime. Sounds interesting, as well as informative, right?

Well, one day, a woman in the group asked to see a "real climax." Both Dodson and her lesbian partner decided, right then and there, to masturbate with their vibrators in front of the entire group! The women loved it because many of them had never orgasmed or been sure if they had; therefore, they didn't know what one "looked" like.

"We were moving past two thousand years of sexual repression in one afternoon."

Eventually, Dodson had the entire group sit down and masturbate at the same time. The "Guided Masturbation Ritual" involved dildos made of vegetables, electrical massagers, and one woman at a time receiving pleasure from everyone else in the room. "We were moving past two thousand years of sexual repression in one afternoon," Dodson wrote. "We were bringing masturbation out of the nuclear family's dark closet and placing it back into the Priestesses of Avalon's Temple, where ancient sexual rituals were dedicated to the healing arts." Erotica.

I was so enthralled by this book that I decided to share it with friends. I asked them whether or not they would feel comfortable in a workshop like that. This resulted in a group discussion, starting with masturbation, and ending in, well, let's just say complete and utter sexual madness.

What was really wonderful, though, was that this book could be used as an icebreaker to communicating about very personal subjects. I found that as we talked, I became completely comfortable discussing my past experiences and sexual desires.

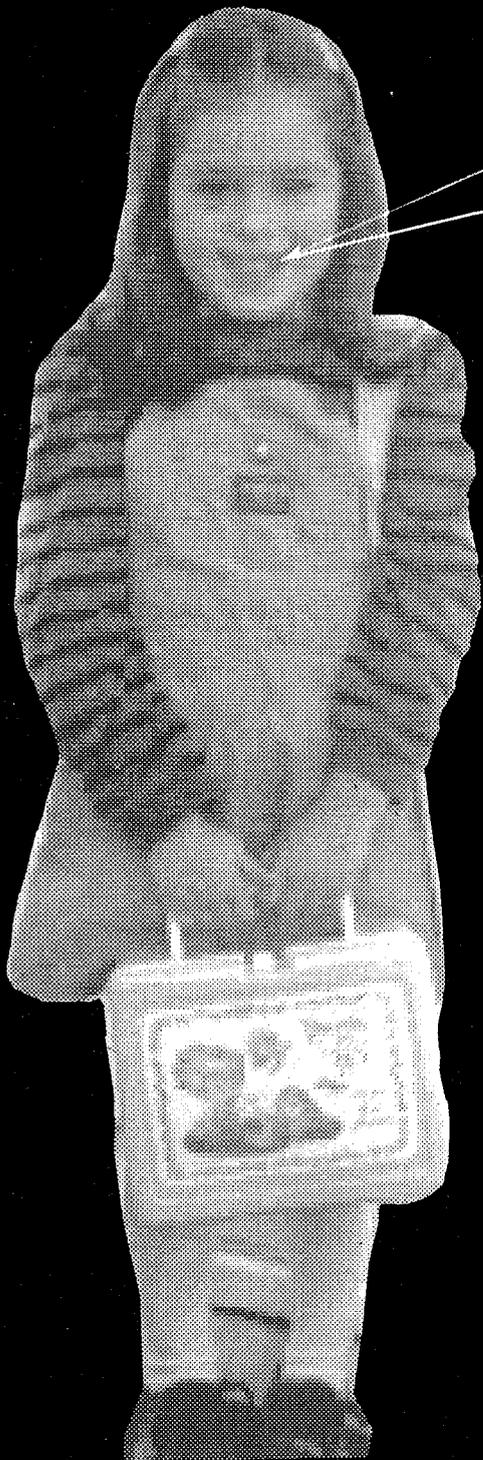
In addition, I felt sexually liberated. I decided in the middle of the conversation that if we were being verbally open, we should be physically open as well. I expressed this to the group and then proceeded to take off my shirt, very aware of the fact that I was braless underneath. After the initial few seconds of shock (from both others and myself), I realized how wonderful it was to hang freely in my living room amongst a fairly large group of friends, both male and female, gay and straight. No longer did I have to hide behind my womanhood, whether it be due to shame or keeping in the reins of society.

Finally, I was able to express myself fully, really living from moment to moment. Let's just say that I got what I wanted, which was a purely physical, no-strings-attached experience. It was breathtaking, involving myself, my partner of the moment, and modern electronics. I felt like I was breaking out of heavy chains, leaving behind any inhibitions, both my own and those of women across countries, time zones, centuries. Right there in my bed was the reinvention of the sexual revolution. When I came, it was for womankind.

Your homework is to 1) try shamelessly masturbating, and 2) talk about it with your friends. Next time, we will move on to some of your issues. Submissions need not be signed; most all sexually related questions will be answered. Submit now.

Email to sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu

Have you seen this little girl?



My
mommy
dresses me
funny.

We regret to inform
you that she is
currently being
held captive in the
basement of the
Student Union...

Oh wait, she's the
Managing Editor of
the *Press*...

Won't you come and throw
her some scraps?

Meetings every Wednesday at 1PM
Room 060 & 061 Student Union