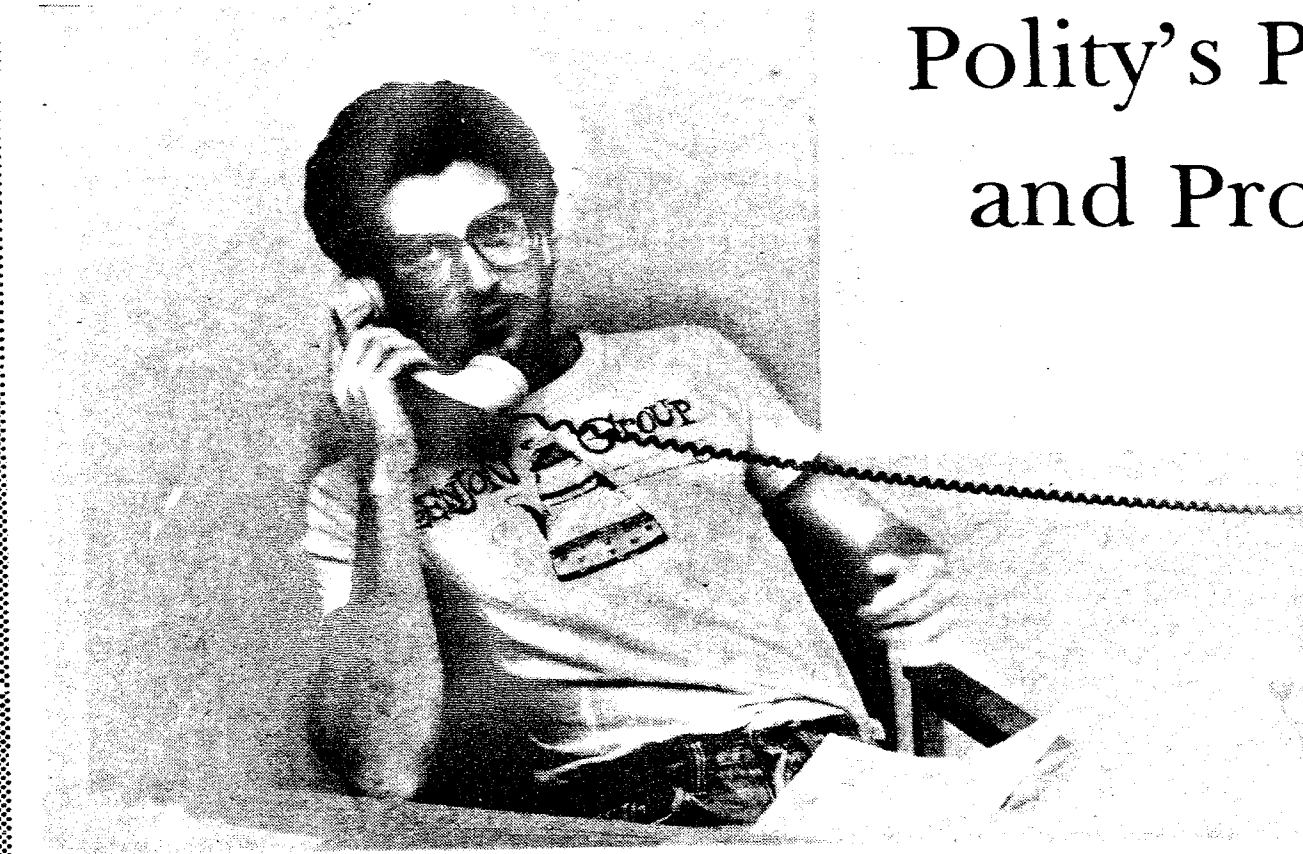


The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol.5 No.14 University Community's Weekly Paper Thur. Feb.2,1984



Polity's Progress and Problems

p. 2 p. 3

Lawsuit

p. 5

Truth and Nicaragua

p. 8

The Real Pretenders



p. 16

—Fourth Estate: Editorial— Fix It—Again

A year and a half ago Polity was in bad shape. The Council was battling with the Judiciary over the legality of Adina Finkelstein's Presidency, elections were being invalidated, Polity's credibility was at a low, and the student government was doing nothing to help the students it was elected to serve. "Just wait," we were told, "Once we get rid of the people causing the dissention in Polity everything will get better."

Well, all the people causing dissention last year are out of Polity now, and the streamlined, unified body in power has proved to be just as ineffective at providing leadership as last year's divided one.

In the November 11, 1982 Press editorial "Fix It", we said,

"Without a unified student government to insure that the quality of life on this campus is the best it can be, each student is reduced to one against the whole of Stony Brook. No student leadership means no student betterment. In its current state, Polity is not functioning as a government that represents its people. The longer it stays in this condition, the less faith the campus community will have in it. A loss of faith is the one thing any government, large or small, cannot withstand.

This is as true now as it was then, but the stakes have become much greater. Several fights will arise this semester that Polity has to win just in order to continue to operate in anything like its ideal fashion. The mandatory activity fee will be voted on April 10, and its passage is necessary for the survival of virtually every Polity club and service, including the

Polity Hotline, Ambulance Corps, SAB, WUSB, and the newspapers. The additional passage of an increase in the fee is necessary for much needed improvements in Polity's operations. Given Polity's lack of support for last semester's proposed fee increase, their chances of winning this semester are far from assured.

The 21 year old drinking age fight, while on a much broader scale, is also one that will be essential to win, and is perhaps the one issue this semester on which Polity could regain a good reputation among its constituents, if it continues to handle it well. On this issue, unlike most, Polity has been moving strongly. The "Stop 21" campaign, organized by Polity Vice President Barry Ritholtz, Paul DiLorenzo, and SASU Coordinator Troy Oeshner, has succeeded in gaining more letters from students to Legislators and the Governor than those of any other SUNY campus, and plans are in the works for a bus to lobby in Albany on February 21. But where is the leadership at the top? President David Gamberg has avoided this issue entirely, playing a little part in the development of its strategies. But it is only the Polity President who can successfully consult with all the other New York State student governments, making sure that they all do their part, so that Stony Brook's efforts are not wasted.

Other problems here at home also demand Polity's attention. The intercession resignations of two of Polity's most experienced officials, SAB Chairman Ken McKenna and Junior Rep. Dominic Seraphin demonstrate that Polity is itself suffering from its own internal problems that must be solved by the current leadership before we can expect it to become effective in outside matters. Both resigned because of academic and financial pressures that forced them

to choose between what they did at Polity and what they did for the rest of their lives. Unless Polity can create some much needed ways for involved students to be adequately rewarded for what they do, Polity will continue to lose its best people and fail to attract any new people to continue the organization.

In July, the Council proposed to the Faculty Student Association that the James Pub be closed and that the money saved from that go into developing a rathskellar to be used by the whole campus community. The first half of that was quickly enacted, but progress on the rathskellar to date has been nearly nonexistent. Instead of waiting for organizations like FSA or the Administration to lead the way on a rathskellar, Polity should be in the forefront of the fight to create this much-needed campus service.

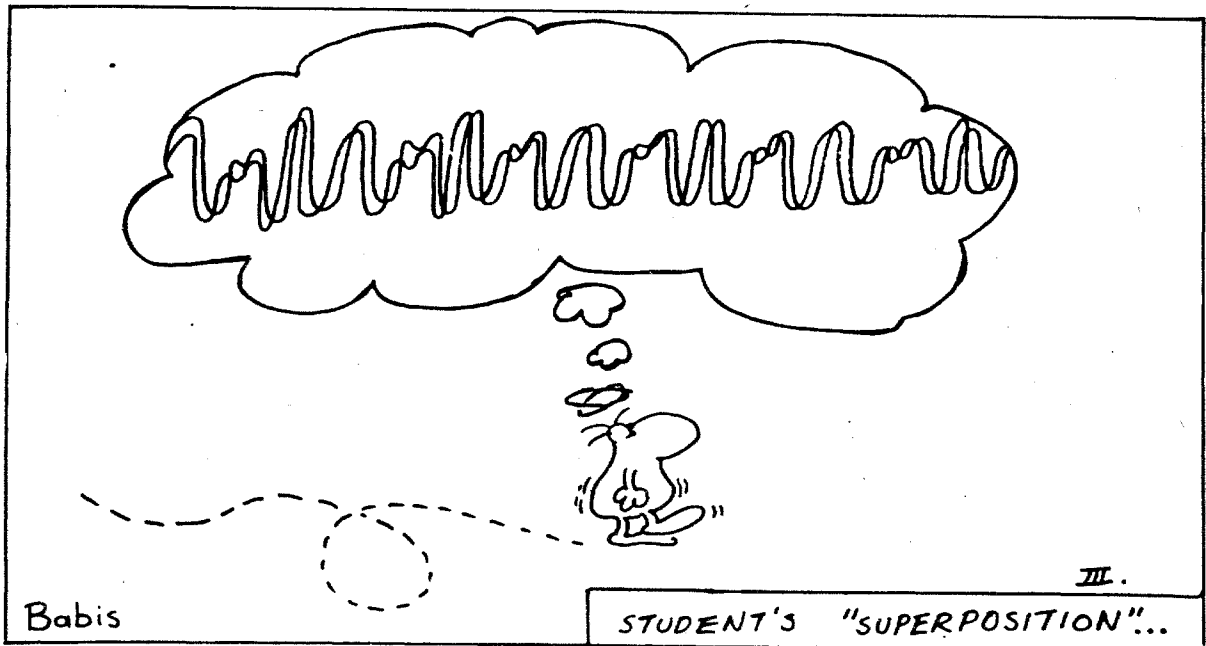
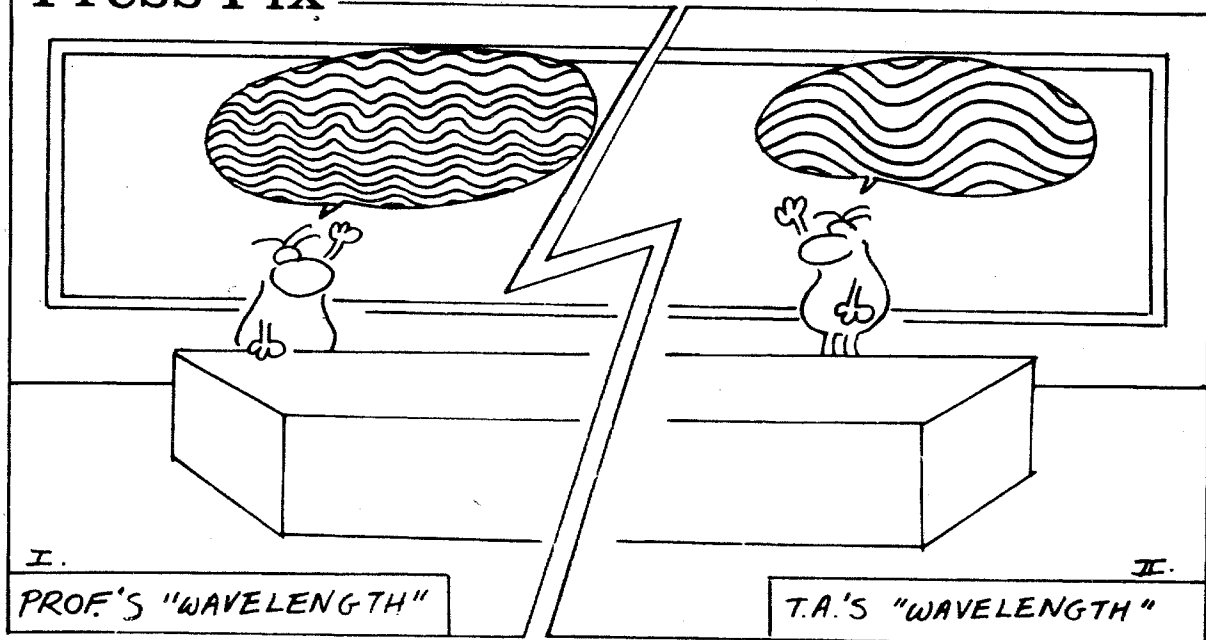
Along with FSA, Polity must use its influence to stop the State's utility fee from rising by its expected rate of over 40% next year. FSA pays the utility fee, and were it to increase by so much, student services would be devastated, some would have to close, and others would suffer severe cost increases.

What is needed in Polity is a renewed commitment among its officials to doing the jobs that they were elected to do. The Stop 21 campaign, and the efficient processing of vouchers through the Treasurer Brian Kohn's office are the only things that Polity can look back on this year so far and be proud of. David Gamberg said in a September Press interview,

"My goal in Polity is to rejuvenate and rebuild the organization so that students are participating more, they're more educated, they have a greater say and a greater stake in what's hap-

Continued on Page 15

Press Pix



The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor Joseph Caponi
Photo Editor John Tymczynyn
Arts Editor Kathy Esseks
Arts Director Daniel Hank
Business Manager Pamela Scheer

News and Feature: Belina Anderson, Al Bosco,
Brian Cameron, Eric Corley, Brian Ehrlich,
Lorna Francis, Dave Goodman, Patrice Jacobson,
Brian Kohn, Ken Kruger, D. J. Zauner.

Arts: Michael Barrett, Greg D'Auria, Philip Garfield,
Hubert Moore.

Photo: Albert Fraser, Scott Richter, Mike Shavel,
Haluk Soykan.

Graphics: R. Gambol, Charles Lane.

Production: Egan Gerrity.

Office Manager: John Tom.

The Stony Brook Press is published every Thursday during the academic year by The Stony Brook Press, Inc., a student run and student funded not-for-profit corporation. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy.

The opinions expressed in letters and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of our staff.

Phone: 246-6832

Office:
Suite 020 Old Biology
S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York 11794

Polity Budget Reveals Problem

by Ken Kruger

The Treasurer's report on Polity, prepared by Treasurer Brian Kohn and released this week shows some serious financial problems facing the organization next year.

The problem facing the Student Polity Association is, of course, funding. According to Kohn, there is simply not enough of it to meet growing demands from the clubs and colleges so there'll be cutbacks in next year's budget.

Clubs will be hit the hardest. On the average a club will have its budget request cut 35%-45% and many will have their funding cut below this year's already low levels.

Also raised in the report is the possibility that some clubs might not receive any funding at all in order to fund others at reasonable levels. In his report to the Polity Senate Kohn said "I propose to you that it is a far better thing to have some groups adequately funded and others not funded at all rather than underfund all groups so that nothing operates adequately. We must be brave enough to say that we do not have the funds to fund this group even at bare minimal operating levels so we will not fund it at all."

Kohn also stressed the importance of funding activities with a broad appeal to get the most out of Polity funds. "We must centralize our programming in order to achieve the greatest impact per dollar, or we shall fail to serve the students at large."

The reason for these cuts is clear, according to Kohn. It is the lack of an increase in the Student Activity Fee. While clubs have been forming and growing every year and activities and services such as the Polity Hotline, SAB, and COCA have expanded, the activity has not.

While athletics and NYPIRG did benefit from specific fee increases decided by referendum but the last general activity fee increase aimed at expanding Polity's budget took place more than three years ago.

Polity requested its first activity fee increase since last October. In the words of Polity President David Gamberg the increase was "...defeated overwhelmingly." At that time Gamberg also said that Polity didn't make it clear what the increase would be used for. "...Polity should have done more to educate people on the reasons for the increase."

This semester Polity again plans to ask for an increase in the activity fee to respond to increased requests from the colleges, clubs and athletics. Cultural and special interest clubs alone are requesting three times the amount of funding they are currently receiving for 1984-85.

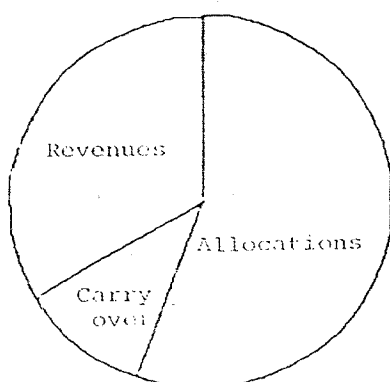
The amount of the increase has not been decided on yet but Polity plans to make sure people know the reasons for the increase well before the referendum. "We're trying to do a lot more to let people know about it" said Kohn. "We want to make sure people know what it's for so they won't say 'oh, they just want more money'."

Also coming up this semester is a referendum on whether or not the activity fee should remain mandatory or become voluntary. Kohn says that if the fee becomes voluntary, "Polity will close. There will be no activities, nothing," but is sure that the fee will remain mandatory.

The report also reveals some other problems involving Polity funding, the most important of which concerns the colleges.

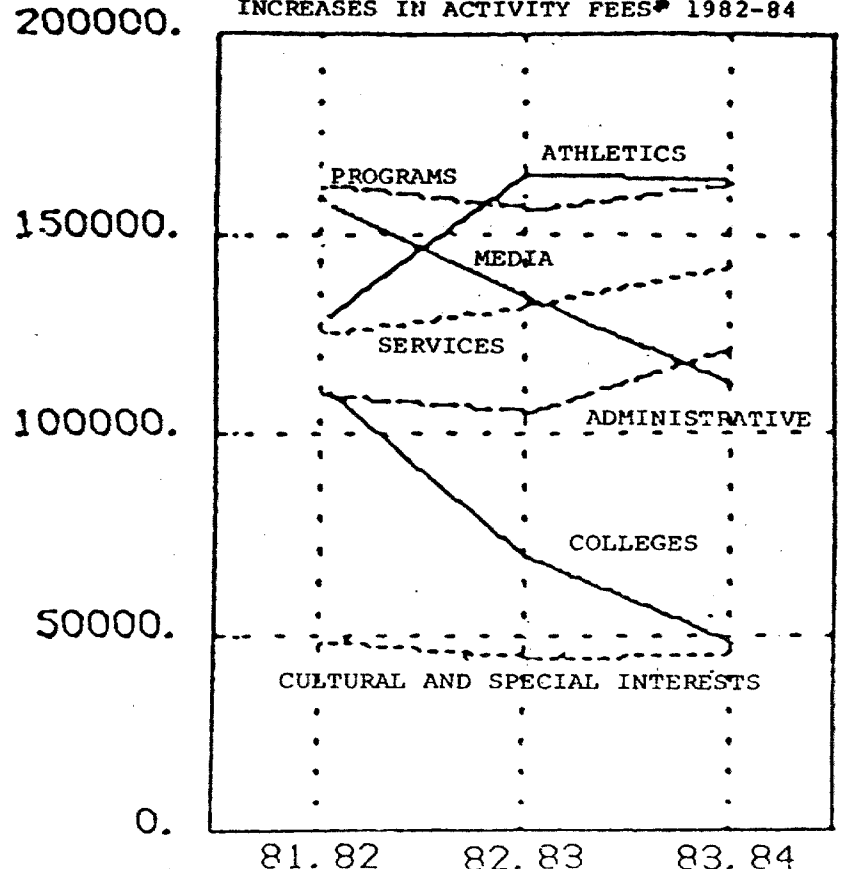
Continued on page 5

Where the Colleges get their money:



Charts courtesy / Brian Kohn

COMPARISONS OF ALLOCATIONS BY DIVISION ADJUSTED FOR INCREASES IN ACTIVITY FEES* 1982-84



Women In Government Conference

Five prominent women who currently head commissions or hold other, prestigious positions in and affiliated with New York City and State Government will be guest speakers at a one day mini-conference sponsored by W. Averell Harriman College later this month at the State University at Stony Brook.

Slated for Saturday, February 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., "Women in the Public Sector: Opportunities and Experiences," will discuss the career paths of Karen Burstein, Commissioner of the State Civil Service Commission; Ann Mead, Commissioner of the State Public Service Commission; Alair Townsend, Director of New York City's Office of the Budget; Elinor Bachrach, Special Deputy Controller for New York City, who is responsible for monitoring New York City's fiscal position, and Claire Haaga, Associate Director of the Vera Institute of Justice, a non-profit agency devoted to research and advocacy in criminal justice. Panelists for the conference include seven female graduates of Harriman College currently employed in the public sector.

The W. Averell Harriman College for Policy Analysis and Public Management is a graduate-undergraduate college within the University that offers a Master's program for students who are training to be analysts and managers in the public

sector. According to Dr. Suzanne Rinaldo, a faculty member at the College and conference organizer and president, "The purpose of the conference is to show women the opportunities that exist in the public sector, and to give them a chance to talk one-to-one with the speakers and panelists, as well as visiting Harriman College." She explained that the agenda includes a morning session in which each of the speakers will discuss how she came to where she currently is in her career, followed by a 90 minute buffet luncheon which will afford

an opportunity for participants to speak with the panelists, and an afternoon session concerning current and future employment and career prospects.

The conference is open to the public, and will be held in the Old Physics Bldg. Auditorium (137) at the University from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For registration and luncheon reservations (\$5 prepaid), contact Rinaldo through Harriman College by calling (516) 246-8280 or Anne Forkin, Stony Brook Conference Coordinator at (516) 246-3323.



Alair Townsend

**Stony Brook
Speakers**
present
**General Hospital's
"Scorpio"**
Tristan Rodgers
April 1 8:00pm in the Gym

AMATEUR RADIO of Stony Brook

will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in Union Room 2133 Anyone with an interest in ham radio or becoming a ham operator should attend. If you enjoy radio electronics and communication, or speaking to people worldwide, come on down. No previous knowledge is necessary. For more info, contact Adam Cutler at 246-7838. All undergraduates & graduates and faculty interested are urged to attend.

TALK TO THE WORLD
from Stony Brook Radio Club

Come to Cardozo College FEB 6-10 for an entire week of activities designed to help you select a career and get **THE JOB THAT'S MEANT FOR YOU!**
Monday 2/6 1:30-3:00 Resume Writing
Tuesday 2/7 9:00-11:00 Job Interviewing
Wednesday 2/8 7:00-10:00 Career Fair
Thursday 2/9 4:00-5:00 Resume Writing
7:30-9:00 Minority Women in the Workplace
Monday-Friday 2:00-5:00 and 7:00-9:00 Resource Center
For more info, call 6-7116 or stop by Cardozo

STONY BROOK RUNNERS CLUB

will hold its first meeting on Thurs. Feb 2 and 9:00pm in the Stage XII Fireside Lounge. All runners are welcome.

The Tradition Begins
Come Join

KELLY A
in our

MASS EXODUS
In the Union Ballroom!
Featuring DJs Studio 007
Thursday, Feb. 2
Admission: \$3 with 3 free drinks
5 beers or sodas for \$1
Proof of 19 yrs. required

HAIR

In the Union Auditorium, On Friday at 9:00, and Saturday and Sunday at 8:00. Tickets on sale in the Union Box office or at the door. **DON'T MISS THE EXPERIENCE**

Budget

continued from page 3

colleges. Although allocations to the colleges have been cut almost in half since 1981 the fact remains that most colleges end up with surplus funds at the end of the year, funds that weren't spent on activities or parties. This year surplus funds totalled nearly ¼ of the money allocated to the colleges from Polity. Combined with the large revenues colleges earn from parties, video games and soda machines this amount represents a tremendous amount of money that isn't being fully used.

Similar mismanagement also exists among the many Polity clubs. Nearly ¼ of them had their accounts frozen or restricted for not following Polity budget regulations.

Of the 49 clubs funded under PSC (Program and Services Council), 13 haven't spent any of the money allocated to them, and \$5,000 of the \$17,000 PSC allocated to clubs for use on events for last semester wasn't used.

In his report Kohn said "Some people may be shocked at my desire to see money spent. Let me assure you, this is not the case. With PSC clubs money is allocated for specific items for events. If the money doesn't go out, that means the event didn't go on. Money was held, possibly from another club's use, for an event that wasn't held."

College	Balance
Commuter	8,178.78
ACRA	678.00
Ammann	1,391.76
Gray	1,456.35
Irving	2,023.88
O'Neill	3,401.98
Benedict	2,405.88
James	2,606.80
Langmuir	2,666.74
Cardozo	2,010.43
Gershwin	1,541.20
Hendrix	1,420.56
Mount	505.81
Whitman	1,701.70
Douglass	1,403.66
Dreiser	1,687.61
Hand	1,308.95
Sanger	1,641.45
Toscanini	2,145.49
Kelly A	1,373.43
B	900.69
C	1,820.89
D	1,210.05
E	1,430.32
Stage XIIA	1,360.00
B	2,054.59
C	1,841.78
D	1,604.51
Totals	53,829.34

From Brian Kohn's address to the Polity Senate

After spending over eighty-five hours neck deep in accounting records, I have emerged with a clear vision of Polity and its finances: past, present, and most importantly, future. I have drawn the following conclusions. Every year clubs request increases, fixed costs go up, money gets tighter. This year you and I will have to cut the average club's budget request 35-45% or you and I will have failed our mission. Essential services and fixed contractual line budgets cannot be decreased (indeed many will literally require increases). This means that many clubs, services, programs, colleges, cultural and special interest groups will have to be cut possibly, as incredible as it may seem, below this year's levels. We must do this: Not to serve our own interests, not to fund non-essential administrative branches, not to reserve funds. No not for any of these reasons: Just because we have to in order to satisfy our task.

We base our budget on the sub-committee and its reports. But that is not enough to yield a workable product. We must have other criterion. I propose to you that it is a far better thing to have some groups adequately funded and others not funded at all rather than to underfund all groups, so that no-

thing operates adequately. We must be brave enough to say that we do not have the funds to fund this group even at bare minimal operating levels so we will not fund it at all. We must trust ourselves and our constituents must trust us to make sound decisions that are for the good of the student body as a whole, not only for small groups. We must centralize our programming in order to achieve the greatest impact per dollar, or we shall fail to serve the students at large.

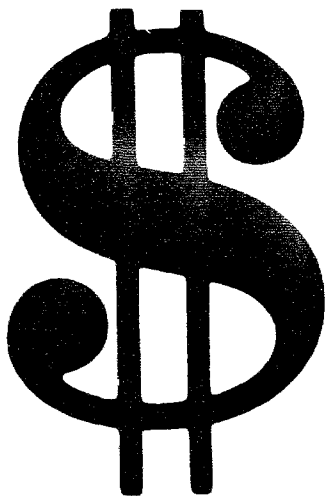
Two very important votes will be taken this spring. The mandatory activity fee referendum, and an activity fee increase referendum. should the first not pass. Polity closes. There is no need to emphasize the importance of this vote. The activity fee increase referendum is paradoxically similar in importance. Polity will exist but the way it is viewed will deteriorate. Clubs just won't be able to operate with the severe budget cuts that will result every year. We must secure an activity fee increase for the budget process. It has been over three years and we are at the end of the rope. This increase must pass; but it can't unless everyone in this room, and everyone active in every club doesn't vigorously campaign and vote for it. I have two projects this semester. This is one.. I will spare nothing except academics to see this referendum pass.

Polity, Press and Statesman Sued

The undergraduate student government and two campus newspapers, along with individuals in each of these organizations, earlier this week were named defendants in a \$1 million law suit.

Polity, Statesman and The Stony Brook Press were each served a summons and verified complaint alleging that the organizations defamed Ira Levy, a former committee member of the Student Activities Board. Entered in State Supreme Court, the summons alleges that the groups and certain of their members defamed Levy during his tenure at SAB, and that Council resolutions and newspaper articles "were and are false and malicious and were made with the intent to injure" Levy.

Also named in the suit were Polity President David Gamberg, Polity Executive Director Robin Rabii, and Statesman editors Mitchell Wagner and Geoffrey Reiss.



Brian Kohn

Press photo by Scott Richter

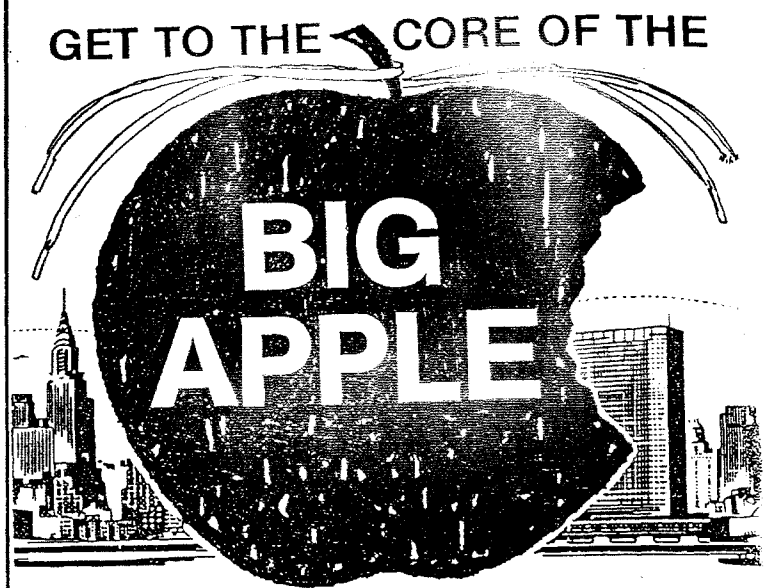


Stony Brook's most popular video dance club

Coming Soon!

**The Press
welcomes
your
letters and viewpoints.**

**This is your paper.
Use it.**



HOW TO ENJOY THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA
INEXPENSIVELY AND IMAGINATIVELY

Talk By
HOWARD GOLDBERG
FOUNDER, ADVENTURE ON A SHOESTRING

Union Ballroom
Friday, Feb. 3
12:00 Noon
Free

● THE "MEN AND WOMEN
OF STONY BROOK"
CALENDARS ARE HERE!
LOOK FOR THEM IN
UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORES
NOW!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
BUCKY
AND
WOLF**



FROM SUITE 110



**Village Natural
Foods**

We're Not Just Vitamins

Full lines of Cosmetics, Vitamin & Mineral Supplements, Gourmet
Teas & Coffees, No Nitrate Meats, Yogurt, Juices, Whole Grain
Breads, Vegetarian Foods, Low Sodium & No Sugar Products and too
much more to fit on these lines

732 Route 25A
Setauket, N.Y.
689-8268

We're just a short walk
or bike ride from campus!

Mon-Sat 9-9
Sun 12-5

<p>With coupon only ROASTED CASHEWS \$3⁹⁹ lb. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only TURKISH APRICOTS \$1⁹⁹ lb. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only PEANUT BUTTER 99¢ lb. Good to 2/12/84</p>
<p>With coupon only COLD-PRESSED IMPORTED ITALIAN EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL \$2⁹⁹ 1/2 lt. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only SCHIFF[®] ROSE HIP C-500 \$3⁹⁹ 100 Tabs Reg. \$5.11 Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only MILL CREEK KERATIN SHAMPOO/ COND. \$4⁴⁹ Both Good to 2/12/84</p>
<p>With coupon only NATURE'S GATE TOOTHPASTE WITH FREE TOOTHBRUSH DEAL \$1⁷⁵ ea. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only \$1 OFF ANY NATURAL VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only NATURAL PISTACHIOS \$3⁹⁹ lb. Salted Good to 2/12/84</p>
<p>With coupon only SCHIFF[®] NATURAL VITAMINE -400 \$8⁹⁹ ea. 100 Caps Reg. \$11.11 Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only BULK RAW UNCOOKED HONEY 89¢ lb. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only SCHIFF[®] L-TRYPTOPHANE \$6⁹⁹ ea. Reg. \$9.11 Good to 2/12/84</p>
<p>With coupon only BULK BROWN RICE 49¢ lb. Good to 2/12/84</p>	<p>With coupon only HONEY DIPPED PINEAPPLE \$1.99 lb. Good to 2/2/84</p>	<p>QUIZ QUESTION: WHAT IS CLUTCH CARGO'S DOG'S NAME? 20% OFF BILL FOR CORRECT ANSWER.</p>

Coming Back

by Brian T. Ehrlich

Well, the fun and excitement of winter vacation is over and now it's time to concentrate once again on your academic studies and cultural discipline. What a bunch of crap! Everyone knows that the first few weeks of school are just an extension of the vacation, and it isn't until the second week of February that you begin to take school seriously. However, you better be careful; the professors have a clever habit of convincing you that the courses are easy, and then once add/drop is over, let you have it with both barrels.

For starters, in courses that are held in large classrooms there exists a high probability that you'll know at least three or four people. Using this to his advantage, the professor will discuss in the first week about how important it is for you to familiarize yourself with others around you and how all of you interact in society. What this really means is that you'll have to work in groups of four on a research paper about twenty pages long. A similar tactic is when he says, "I see that there's a fair amount of men and women in this class. I think it's important that you each..."

Furthermore, there's the professor's most efficient and lethal weapon: the syllabus. With this simple, innocent

looking slip of paper (in some cases it runs as long as ten pages), he controls your destiny and ultimately, your grade. It's about time we students became acquainted with this tool of destruction.

A common feature is the office hours. Ninety percent of the time they are held the same time you have other classes. The other ten percent they're given at a time before the sun rises. As to whether or not the professor's ever there is another question.

After a brief (three-page) introduction, there's a list of books you'll need for the course. If you were thinking of buying that new Porsche, forget it. The books are divided into three categories: required, recommended and supplemental.

Required books are those you have to buy--there's no question about it. The major part of the course and the tests will be based on the readings done in these books. Books recommended are usually study guides and other aids that accompany the texts required. The difference is that when you go to sell these books back all you get is a big laugh in your face. However, they are helpful in understanding the required books, which can only be understood if you've read these books.

Books that are listed as supplement-

tal are additional readings that coincide with what you've read in the required books, except that you don't need to know these. Books under this heading range, from twenty to thirty and are usually placed on reserve in the library. Although the readings aren't necessary they help you better comprehend the recommended readings--which are a must before you read the required books. One note, though; the required books consistently make reference to other readings which just so happen to be listed as supplemental readings. This is known as the Syllabus Cycle.

Once you've made your way past the list of books, you quickly scan the reading assignments. Most professors just list the chapters, thinking it looks less tedious and more convincing to the students. What we don't know is that the chapters are about one hundred pages long. Two or three chapters a week begins to add up after awhile. Naturally, your professor assumes that your other classes are easier, which is why he assigns so much. Unfortunately, that's what all your other professors think.

What this all adds up to is that a syllabus is to the professors as the constitution is to the American people. On it is listed every rule, regulation,

and right they think they have and are allowed to enforce on the students. The only thing missing at the top is the opening line, "We, the professors, of AMT 231..."

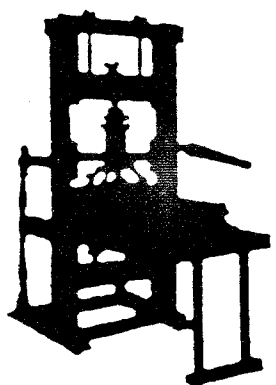
As to the requirements for the courses, most just demand you memorize everything for a midterm and final exam. Sometimes you have to write...I mean, type (professors are too busy to read handwritten papers) research papers, but not more than two. Then there are the extreme cases where you have multiple exams (disguised as quizzes), and/or oral as well as written tests. Doesn't this sound like fun? Of course it doesn't, but it's worded so well on the syllabus that you aren't even aware of the workload until it's too late.

So what does this all mean? Well, after looking over the syllabus and attending a few classes, you decide whether you'll keep the class or drop it. But you can't drop it, because even though you have to buy twelve books that cost a total of \$150, there's four tests and a final, two papers, and an oral presentation, the class is part of your major and it's about time you finally gave some thought to fulfilling your major's requirements. After all, you ARE a graduating senior!

POLITY PRINTING ASSOCIATION

ROOM 002, STONY BROOK UNION BUILDING
(516) 246-4022

PPA



PRINT SHOP

STATIONERY
INVITATIONS
RESUMES
NOTICES
FLYERS
POSTERS
FORMS
TICKETS
BROCHURES
JOURNALS

A SERVICE AVAILABLE ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS

AT The Lounge THIS FRIDAY



You'll find me, Robin Rabii, Executive Director of Polity. After a whole day of dealing with Brian Kohn, I like to go over to The Lounge and relax with an ice cold Amstel Light. And this Friday you can too. I'll be serving Amstel Light at a special price of \$1.25 between 5:00 and 7:00pm.

So come down to The Lounge and meet me and my favorite beer.

The Lounge Rm. 133 Old Chem.

Nicaragua

by Brian Cameron

In the past five years, the tiny countries of Central America have been embroiled in turmoil. Revolution, political unrest, and social change have swept across the sub-continent. While these countries struggle to maintain stability amidst tremendous destabilizing pressures, it is essential that the Reagan Administration form a clearly defined policy promoting the interests of the United States in concurrence with the interests of the Central American nations. A policy based on understanding and cooperation is necessary to insure that the revolutionary changes will improve and not destroy present social, economic, and political conditions in Central America. In order for such a policy to be formed, the present Administration must understand the changes in the region. This is where the difficulty sets in, for it is the interpretation of these events which will determine whether a positive or a negative policy will be formed. The Reagan Administration has thus far misconstrued recent events and consequently has failed to establish a well-defined, meaningful, and constructive policy.

The problem is complex and its roots run deep. The goal of the United States' Latin American foreign policy in the last century has been to maintain tranquility. When there is friction in the region, the American solution has been to intervene, silence clashing parties, establish a democratic government, and then leave. Our government placates Latin and Central American military leaders so that they cooperate and thus facilitate the implementation of democracy. We then arm the government of that country, restore tranquility, and leave them to grope in the dark for political, social, and economic identity and direction.

"Democracy is the most mature form of government. It . . . cannot be established with a lick and a prayer."

But there are always problems with these democracies because they lack a solid foundation. Democracy is the most mature form of government; it takes years to solidify and cannot be established with a lick and a prayer. Thus, the judicial systems are hardly just. Corrupt, underpaid judges are often bribed. The executive branch can hardly ever adequately check the military because a military leader is usually made president or at least appointed to a very important political position. The legislature usually has little influence over the president. Masses of impoverished citizens are not well represented because only wealthy landowners can afford to run for office. Because of the widespread corruption which goes unchecked, millions of dollars in economic aid never reach the outreached hands of the needy. The gears of democracy do not work. After being oppressed by these corrupt pseudo-democracies, the people rise in revolt and the cycle begins again.

Evidence of U.S. intervention will litter any American History textbook. Since 1900, there have been 17 U.S. military actions in Central and Latin America alone. Five in the Dominican Republic, five in Nicaragua, three in Cuba, two in Honduras, and one in Guatemala and Haiti. Ironically, our most infamous failure in Latin American foreign policy—the Bays of Pigs

invasion—is not considered a military action since the U.S. only supported and did not perpetrate the operation.†

I was indirectly exposed to American intervention during the five years that I lived in the Dominican Republic. Being an American in a foreign land, I was an easy target for American sentiment. I often heard "Go home, Gringo" and "Fuck you, Yankee." After repeatedly being attacked with these slogans, I came to understand that they were not directed at me, but directed at the U.S. government through me—an American. Although I befriended many Dominicans, it was nevertheless obvious that they still deeply resented the U.S.'s most recent intervention in 1965.

"Republicans and Democrats are equally guilty."

It is essential that I make one point clear. Republicans and Democrats are equally guilty of interventionist policies. The most notorious are Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy for the Bay of Pigs, and Lyndon Johnson for fueling our fiasco in Vietnam.

The United States has tried since the turn of the century to keep the lid on a big, black pot boiling with the desires and needs of people to change their miserable conditions. Every so often the lid of the pot bursts off because of the pressures for change building up inside. But every time, with more determination than before, the U.S. forces the lid back on. This suppression of self-determination does not reflect the democratic ideals which we so nobly stand by and so ardently support. Can we blame the Central Americans for mistrusting us and our coercive diplomacy? Our history does not give them many reasons to trust us.

The U.S. can no longer shelve the Central American issue and turn to other problems. The Nicaraguans have introduced a viable force into the region; the U.S. must finally deal with the Sandanistas directly, openly, and honestly. This is the crux of the policy problem because President Reagan absolutely refuses to recognize the Sandanistas as the government of the Nicaraguan people.

When the Sandanistas assumed power, they promised complete social reform and elections—that was four years ago. Since then illiteracy has been greatly reduced and national health has improved. Hunger problems are slowly disappearing. The torture, rapes, and executions of civilians which occurred under Anastasio Somoza-Debayle (as reported by the Roman Catholic Church in 1977 and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 1978) no longer exist.†† The Sandanistas are widely supported by Nicaraguans, while Somoza, the U.S.'s ally, was widely opposed.

On the other hand, the Sandanistas have restricted freedom of the press and have yet to hold national elections. Although they declared the restricted press was a temporary condition and promised national elections, they have yet to give a significant sign that they are heading in that direction. Also, the Sandanistas are helping to export war to El Salvador. There are more peaceful ways to effect change than supplying guerillas with arms. They could organize a Central, Latin, and South American boycott against El Salvador. They could organize international support for the now defunct land redistribution program which was promised to the Salvadorans.

Exportation of war is not the solution; well-organized political pressure will force change in a more peaceful way.

The President's view of the situation is only partially distorted. He is right when he says that the Sandanistas are not the answer to Nicaragua's troubles, but he is ten times wrong when he insists that the anti-Sandanistas, pro-Somoza are the answer. The Sandanistas are not a *completely* acceptable government, but they certainly are an improvement from the murderous, immoderately corrupt Somoza dictatorship. However, Reagan has been unjustly hostile toward the Sandanistas. The presence of U.S. troops in Honduras and off-shore Nicaragua will intimidate a peanut-sized nation like Nicaragua. The Administration has convinced major American banana companies to reduce or cease production on their Nicaraguan plantations. The U.S. constantly bombards Nicaragua with political propaganda. Is this policy in our best interests? The answer is an emphatic no because the more the U.S. isolates Nicaragua, the more the Sandanistas must rely on Soviet and Cuban support for mere survival.

We are left with a problem—how do we stifle the spread of Soviet and Cuban influence? The problem has two options, but only one answer. One option is to invade Nicaragua and force the Soviets and Cubans out. However, a military solution is not only undemocratic, contrary to the American principles we preach (not the ones we practice), and in violation of the treaty of

Organized American States, it is nearly unattainable. The Nicaraguans, fearing a U.S. invasion, have used Soviet and Cuban help to modernize their forces, train their army, and organize a large, well-developed militia. Nicaraguans, most of whom avidly support the

"The oppressed . . . want more than wooden houses with tin roofs . . . and a hole in the ground for a toilet."

revolution, fear an American invasion and are ready and willing to defend their homeland. If the U.S. did not learn anything else in Vietnam, we learned that a small army that fights with conviction will stall and eventually defeat a larger, more sophisticated, less committed one. (The Soviets are slowly learning this harsh lesson in Afghanistan.) Nicaragua has many untraversable jungles like those in Vietnam and Americans are not well trained to fight guerillas in that terrain. We cannot defeat the Sandanistas without paying a dear price politically and militarily. We can "squeeze the pinkos out of Nicaragua," but the more pressure the U.S. applies on the Nicaraguans, the more the Nicaraguans *must* depend on Soviet and Cuban aid if they ever hope to defend their land.

The other option we have is to work with the Sandanistas—this is the course we should follow. We should promise to extricate ourselves from Nicaraguan affairs and provide them with aid. In return they would stop helping support war in El Salvador, ease press controls, set a target date for national elections, and relax pressure on domestic political opposition. The process could be subject to the auspices of the United Nations or an unaligned country.

By helping the Sandanistas we will be better able to moderate their pro-marxist qualities.

What Are The Goals Of U.S. Involvement

The U.S. does not need the added tension of a second communist force in its backyard- in this President Reagan is right. By cooperating with the Sandanistas, we will reduce their dependence on the Soviet Union and Cuba. At the same time we will ease the mounting and dangerous tensions between them and us.

The U.S. has the greatest mobilization of resources in the world. We have the most sophisticated technology, the greatest wealth, the best teachers, and the best leaders. If we use our resources wisely we can effect greater change than any other country in the world. Japan and West Germany's reconstruction is a shining example of the ends we can achieve if we set out to help people. We should help the Nicaraguans in the same way and set an example for other countries. The Soviets can help Syria,

Cuba, Vietnam, etc. arm themselves, but only the U.S. can effect a sweeping economic, political, and social change as in Japan and West Germany after World War II. In thirty short years we changed complete destruction into brilliant economic success. The Soviet Union lacks the resources to effect such change.

It must be remembered that the Sandanista revolution, as countless others, began as a social revolution which then snowballed into a complete political revolution. The oppressed in Central and Latin America want more than wooden houses with tin roofs, a diet of *plantanos* and water, holes in their shoes, and a hole in the ground for a toilet. By demonstrating to Nicaragua that we are willing to accomodate them in their struggle for economic improvement and social equity instead of

pressuring them to accomodate our almost century-old policy, we will attract their business, support, and friendship.

We must be constructive and help the Nicaraguans help themselves as they are so eager to do. We must change our policy, open our minds to new possibilities, and stop clinging obstinately to antiquated policies. We must not force the lid on the pot again. The pressures to change are far too great to be denied this time. If we do subjugate the Central Americans again, the next time the lid bursts off the pot, we will surely be scalded.

† 1982 World Almanac and Book of Facts

†† Ibid..

Letter

Stopping "21"

To the editor:

During the winter break, the political process of the State legislature continued to move forward on the question of raising the legal drinking age in New York to 21. Much new information has come to light during this period - some of it good, some bad.

The bad news is that Governor Cuomo has placed this legislation amongst his top ten priorities. He prominently mentioned it in the State of the State speech. Cuomo even went as far as to proclaim that "Drinking is evil".

On the brighter side, however, there have been several developments which appear promising.

First, Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink has stated firm opposition to the 21 proposal. It seems that the current 19 year old drinking age was a compromise between the "Pro-21" and the "Pro-18" legislators (including Fink) in the Capitol. With the Speakers opposition, the Assembly is the most likely target area for defeat of the bill.

Secondly, the atmosphere in the Capitol has dramatically altered. The relationship between the Governor and the legislative branch has soured. Assembly Speaker Fink and Senate Majority Leader Anderson, both furious over Cuomo's budget proposal, seem very ready to "take the Governor to the mat" in several legislative areas. The so-called "honeymoon period" between the executive and legislative branches is over.

Further, there seems to be rising opposition in the Senate also. The sponsor of the bill there, Senator Frank Padavan, was originally adamantly opposed to the addition of a "grandfather clause" to his proposal. He now supports one. This rapid change of position could indicate a greater than expected opposition in the Senate and the Senator is now scrambling for votes.

The best news received to date came from a tip from a member of the committee on taxation and in-

vestigation which is handling the bill. There was a fear that the bill would be out of committee by the first week of January, however, it is now believed that it won't be voted on by the committee until late February. This means:

a) The Governor's support is weak

b) The committee sincerely wishes to consider all the arguments

c) Grants anti-21 forces an opportunity to apply more pressure between now and the end of February.

Between now and February 25 leaves 4 solid weeks to work with. What can be accomplished in that time is dependent upon the time and effort those of us interested in Stopping 21 are willing to commit. Polity has several options:

1) Local Lobbying visits - most legislators are in their home districts several times a month. Appointments can be made and visits of 3 to 5 students arranged to present our ideas on this matter to the legislators directly and in person. This is the most effective and influential lobbying technique.

2) Albany - a busload of students could visit the Capitol and again lobby. This demonstrates an organized effort on our behalf to actually visit legislators where they work. Organized efforts also mean organized voting; politicians are aware of this and respect it.

3) More letters - key individuals should write a very personal, detailed letter explaining why they are opposed to the 21 year old drinking age and how it would adversely affect your constituency (i.e. club, buliding, class standing, ect.) This could be copied letter quality on the new machine and bulk mailed to committee members, and key assemblypersons.

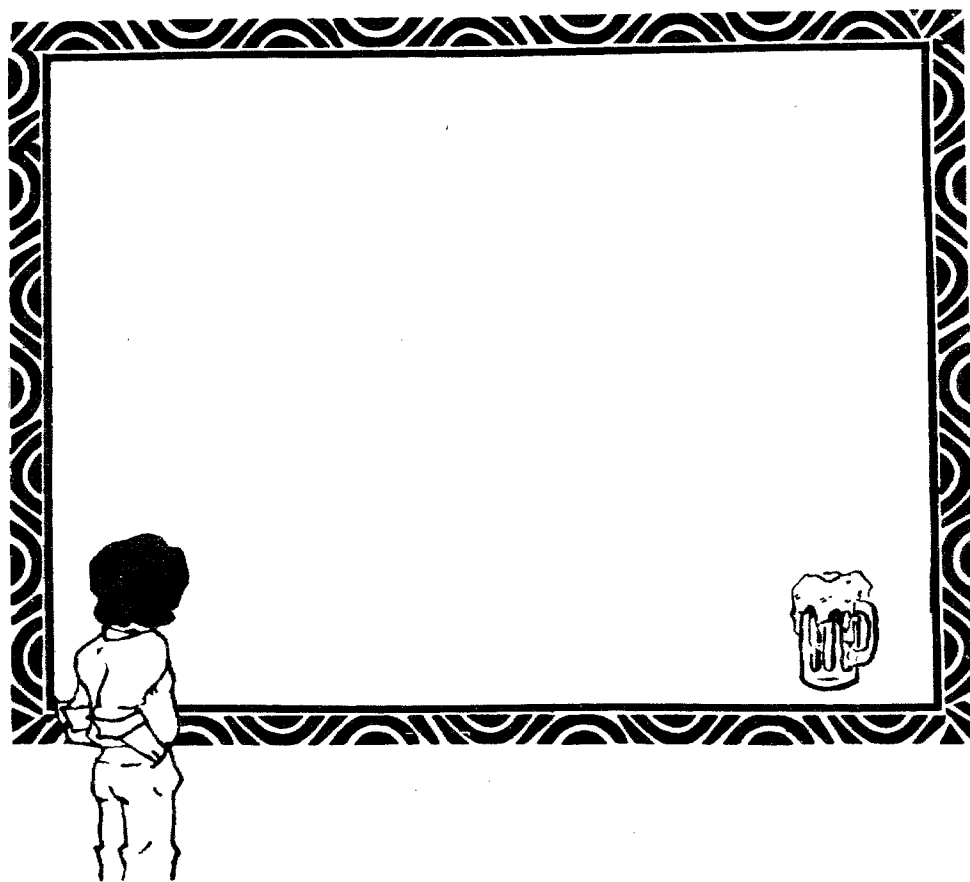
To date, things have been run-

ning well. Out of 14,000 letters statewide, Stony Brook has contributed 3,000. Thanks goes to the many people who have really come through with their time and effort. SASU has also done a very profes-

sional job, both on the campus (Troy Oeschner co-ordinated most of the activities) and in getting information out of Albany to us. With a little more work we can Stop 21.

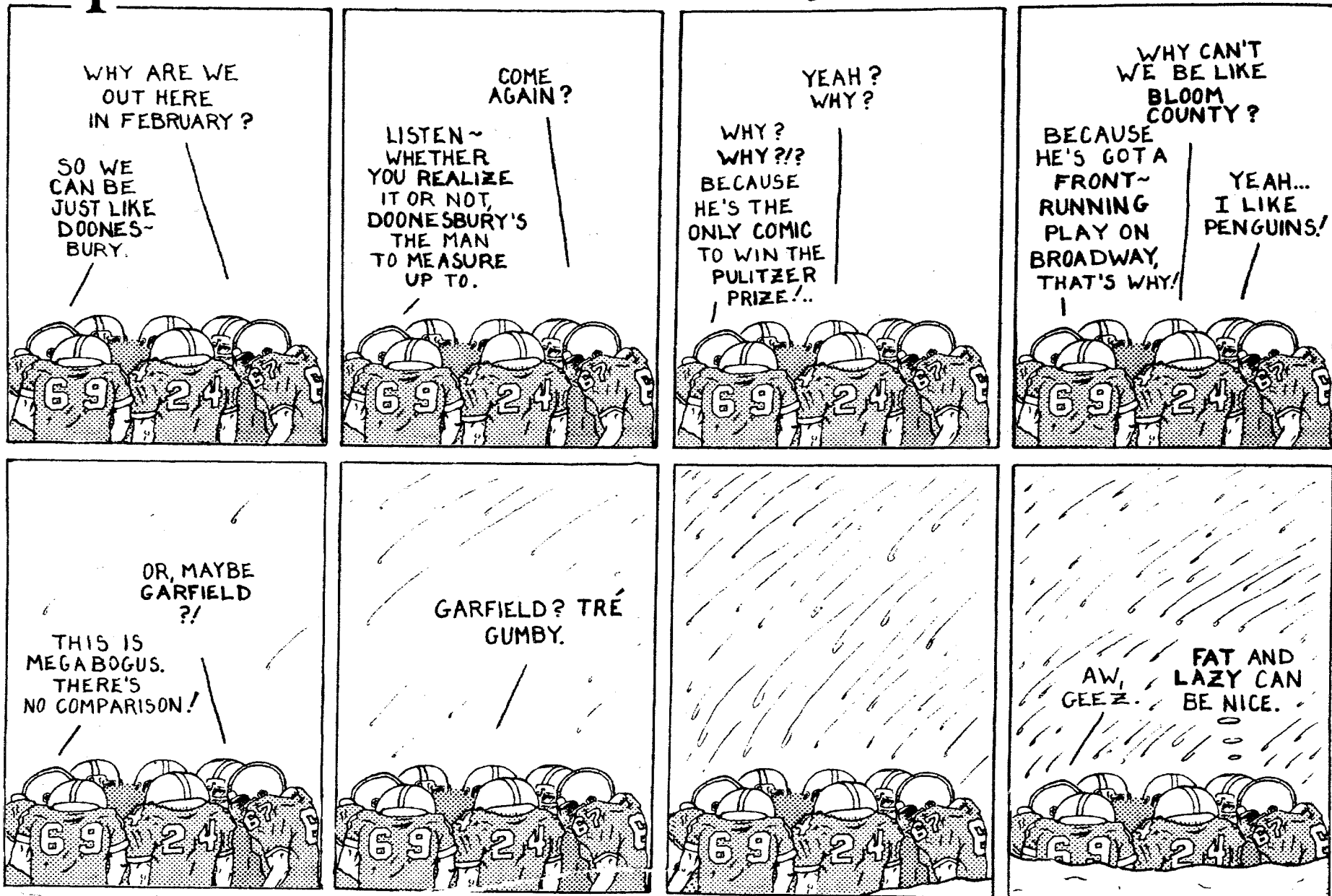
Barry Ritholtz
Polity Vice President

Press Pix



MINIMALISM: 1. EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED IN ART, AND LESS. 2. THE ART OF GOOD GOVERNMENT. - R. GAMBOL

Up The Brook *by P. Cambol*



21?

A Panel Discussion on Issues Surrounding the Drinking Age

Monday, Feb. 6
Union Auditorium
8:00 pm

Holiday at Hunan's

by Barry Ritholtz

One day, according to Chinese legend, twelve animals gathered together for a great race. Folklore has it that the rat, being fleet of foot, outdistanced all the other animals, finishing first. The others finished in the following order: The Bull, the Tiger, the Rabbit, the Dragon, the Horse, the Goat, the Monkey, the Dog, the Rooster, and lastly the Pig. And so the Chinese people, being very impressed by this competition, renamed each of the next twelve years after the animals who had participated in the great race.

The first year was the year of the Rat, the next the Bull, then the Tiger, and so on to the Pig in the order in which they finished. When they ran out of animals, they simply began again.

Today is the 449 time that cycle

has begun again. It is 4861, the year of the Rat.

While most of China is celebrating this with a festival of Dragon Dances and fireworks (this frightens the evil spirits away), a small group of friends and I were enjoying a sumptuous evening of Szechuan cuisine fit for Chinese Royalty.

Hunans is a small, pleasantly decorated restaurant located in the Smithhaven Mall (next to Pathmark). Under the able direction of Chef Chang, Hunans serves the most authentic tasting Szechuan and Mandarin dishes (at very reasonable prices) in this area, if not in all of Long Island. In fact, you could spend considerably more at many a Chinese restaurant and still not achieve the level of culinary delight

available here.

We began our New Year's Eve meal with the Subgum Winter Melon Soup. The base was pleasant, salty sweet stock, rich with ham, crab, chicken, and shrimp. This potpourri of flavors was complemented by vegetables such as Baby corn, peas, carrots and of course, winter melons. It is quite out of the ordinary, and quite good.

The Hot and Sour Soup is tasty, but sometimes too thin for my liking, while the Wonton is rather bland.

The appetizers are a varied array of both hot or cold, and spice or bland items. We tried the steamed dumplings - Sui Gull which are pockets of scallion flavored pork wrapped in a soft noodle blanket, served with a deliciously fiery ginger and soy sauce.

The eggrolls were also sampled and satisfied all with a crispy, ungreasy shell filled with fresh shredded vegetables. The New Year's menu

boasted items not normally served during the year. Each of the dishes we enjoyed outdid the previous one with a flavorful delight. Gently seasoned lobster and shrimp in a ginger and scallion sauce arrived first. Flavored with just a touch of garlic, the large succulent pieces of lobster were simply delicious.

Tender pieces of lightly battered and dried chicken arrived next, with sweet peppers and scallions; all were battered in a tangy sweet garlic sauce. Bearing the chef's name, (Chef Chang's) chicken was heartily enjoyed.

My personal favorite arrived next, the Hunan Sizzling Steak Kew. Large, firm pieces of filet mignon were subtly seasoned and fried with a light tasty batter; snow peas, bamboo shoots, and ample amounts of mushrooms added a

Tsau San Tsien, a chicken, shrimp and beef, comes with a mild flavorful sauce. One can also balance out the spicy Szechuan dishes with a portion of Yan Chow lo mein, a bland but enjoyable chorus of chicken, pork beef, shrimp and vegetables with filling lo mein noodles.

Do not neglect the Kung Pau chicken. A spicy combination of tender chicken strips, scallions, and peanuts, seasoned with chili peppers, and sesame oil. Even if you aren't silly enough to eat the peppers, be sure to have plenty of cold water on hand. The only way to enjoy this is H-O-T!

A delightfully different way to end the meal was a dessert of Honey Bananas. Luscious fried chunks of banana are bathed in a warm caramel-honey covering, which are then tossed into a bowl of ice water beside your table. Cooling the outside gives you a hard candy shell with hot soft bananas inside. Sesame seeds add a nutty flavor with other (perhaps lemon?) seasonings completing the taste. Sweettooths beware--these are highly addictive even at \$3.25 per 2 person serving.

The only criticism voiced by all are the noodles--which taste like they are imported by the bagload from Pathmark. Some finer restaurants serve Thick Brood Noodles freshly fried in their own kitchens. This would be a welcome change from the stale brand so common in take-out places, and unfortunately Hunan.

The service is courteous and quick; attentive waiters make sure glasses are promptly refilled, and tea is served piping hot. Even a defective fortune cookie (no fortune) was quickly replaced. Prices range from the lunch special (see side bar) to specially prepared duck or lobster (\$19.95). Most dishes are between \$5.95 and \$9.95, and the portions are generous. Reservations are suggested for weekends, where the line is usually 20 to 45 minutes long. The phone number is 724-3656. Enjoy.

湖南

wonderful dimension to this dish.

Another favorite was the crispy shrimp--succulent and tender, these mouth watering darlings were delicately fried then served resplendent in a bright flavorful sauce. It's too bad this dish isn't offered more often.

If you visit during other days besides yesterday and tonight, there is still plenty to enjoy. General Chings Chicken is a spicy combination of Baby Corn, Broccoli, chicken and snow peas. (order it HOT)

THE STONY BROOK INN

2350 Nesconset Highway
STONY BROOK
689-8282

MONDAY NIGHT IS COLLEGE NIGHT

● pizza and beer night ●
all the free pizza you can eat
at our skylight room

ALSO:

□ Tuesday 2/14/84 Valentine's Day WBLI, WBAB, and Reif Boritz Publishing Corporation presents Miss Stony Brook University Contest (featuring the 12 Women of 1984 Stony Brook Calendar) With guest bartenders Mark Rossi and Tony Lupino from E.O.B.
□ Monday 2/20/84 Kronenbourg Night. Free "T" shirts from the #1 bottle beer in Europe □ Every Tuesday is Ladie's Night

FREE ADMISSION ON MONDAY COLLEGE NIGHT. PIZZA AND BEER NIGHT. ALL THE FREE PIZZA YOU CAN EAT.

BRING THIS COUPON AND 19 AND OVER COLLEGE ID DOWN TO:

THE STONY BROOK INN
2350 NESCONSET HWY
STONY BROOK
689-8282

If you think it's good at Stony Brook...
It's even better in the

Bahamas

College Week during Spring Break,
March 10-17

Just \$299 for Nassau

For more info call Julie or Ann
246-4625(6)

Student Polity Assn.

SUPER DANCE '84
is February 17-18, 1984
Register now with your building representative
Loretta 246-5618

**POLITY
HOTLINE**
WILL BE HOLDING
GENERAL MEETINGS
ON WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 2 AT 9PM
IN UNION ROOM 223
and THURSDAY, FEB-
RUARY 2 AT 9PM IN
UNION ROOM 237.

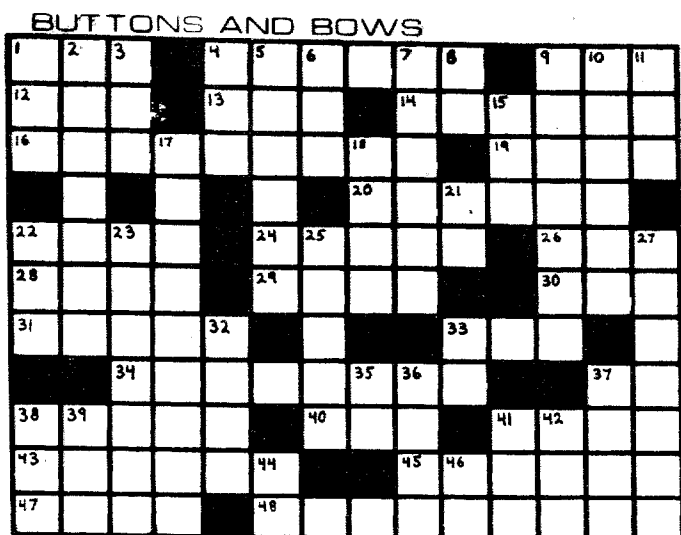
Stony Brook Concerts

presents
An Evening With
Joe Piscopo
FAC Main Stage
March 2, 1984 8:00pm
Tickets on Sale soon at the
Union Box Office

**An Unusual
Evening with
CYNDI LAUPER**
Sat. Feb. 25 @ 9:00pm
SB Gym
Tickets on sale soon

Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Open House - Tonight!
8:00pm Union Room 223
For more info, call 6-7943
Everyone Welcome



Crossword

by R. Gambol

37. ____/PT
 38. HANDED OUT
 40. DISTANT (POET.)
 41. ATTRACT
 43. SPREAD-____
 45. FIRST ACT
 47. WITH FUS, A FRENCH
 MILITARY OFFICER (HIST.)
 48. HIGH POINTS

32. GIVE OR TAKE, WITH RE- OR DE-
 33. LETTER AFTERTHOUGHT
 35. BUSINESS ABBR.
 36. FASTENER
 37. LOOSEN
 38. DEGREE IN EDUCATION
 39. LENDED PART
 41. NASA AUTO
 42. ONE (COMB. FORM)
 44. PLACE, WITH PLOY
 46. MAIL OFFICE ABBR.

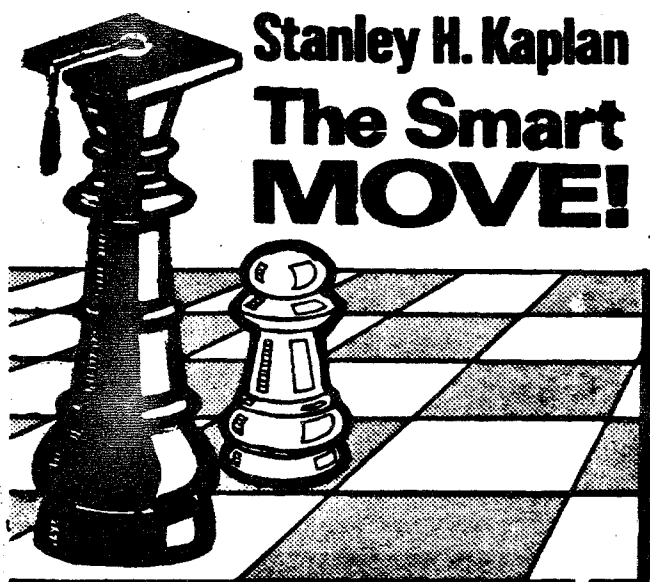
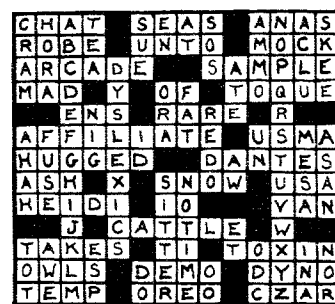
ACROSS

1. POSSESSES
 4. HOLDS TIGHTLY
 9. TREAD LIGHTLY
 12. CHEM. SUFFIX
 13. BIO. DECODER
 14. OPEN
 16. FROM THAT POINT ON
 19. SATAN, TO D.M. OR NORSE
 20. PLEASING (MUS.)
 22. SOL'S FATE
 24. DECREE
 26. OBSERVED
 28. GLUTTONY, FOR ONE (2 WDS.)
 29. ADAM'S THIRD
 30. ENGLISH WT./SQUARE INCH MEAS.
 31. BARBRA ROLE
 33. STARLET/MODEL ZADORA
 34. PINS

DOWN

1. NOT MINE
 2. FATTY TISSUE
 3. 100th OF A RUPIAH
 4. BEFORE, COMB. FORM
 5. FREES, AS A ROPE
 6. HURRAH, FOR LONG
 7. BALL-LESS WONDER
 8. TIN
 9. ITALIAN MAGISTRATE
 10. ANNIE'S, FOR SHORT
 11. HOME, FOR SOME
 15. DENTIST HOLIDAY
 17. LACE TYPE
 18. CORRECT
 21. MILITARY RANK (ABBR.)
 22. AYE OPPOSER
 23. AGE
 25. TARRY
 27. TIMES TO BUNDLE UP

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle



PREPARATION FOR:

**APRIL
MCAT**

on the
STONY BROOK CAMPUS



Scholarship
Opportunities
for Financially
Disadvantaged
Available

AT LAST...CLASSES AND TAPES ON CAMPUS!

THURSDAY
EVENINGS

THUR. 2/9 5:30PM	THUR. 2/23 6:00PM	THUR. 3/6 6:00PM	THUR. 3/22 6:00PM	THUR. 3/29 6:00PM	THUR. 4/5 6:00PM	THUR. 4/12 6:00PM
------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

*Session 1 only begins at 5:30 PM to assure ample time for registration.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY CLASS IF THERE IS
NOT SUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT.

**NOT AN OFFICIAL
UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION**

For Further Information, Call:

Huntington — 421-2690
 Roosevelt Field — 248-1134



who is John Tom?

Seems like everyone wants to know about the mysterious John Tom. It also seems that very few people actually are familiar with this fascinating man. The obvious question, however, is how can you find out about John Tom.

By joining the Press.

You see, Press staffers learn a lot more than mere trivial skills — writing, editing, photography, art and layout. They learn exciting things. They learn about John Tom.

And you can, too.

The Press meets Monday nights at 8:00 in the basement of Old Bio. Be there.

Get to know the Press.
Get to know John Tom.

Breaker Morant

by Rory "Hawkeye" Aylward
*Yet we bequeath a parting thought
of sound advice for such men
Who came across in transport ships
to polish off the Dutchmen
If you encounter any Boers
you really must not loot them
And if you plan to leave these shores
for pity's sake, don't shoot them
Let's toss a bumper down our throats
before we go to heaven
And toast a trim set petticoat
we leave behind in Devon*

Harry "Breaker" Morant

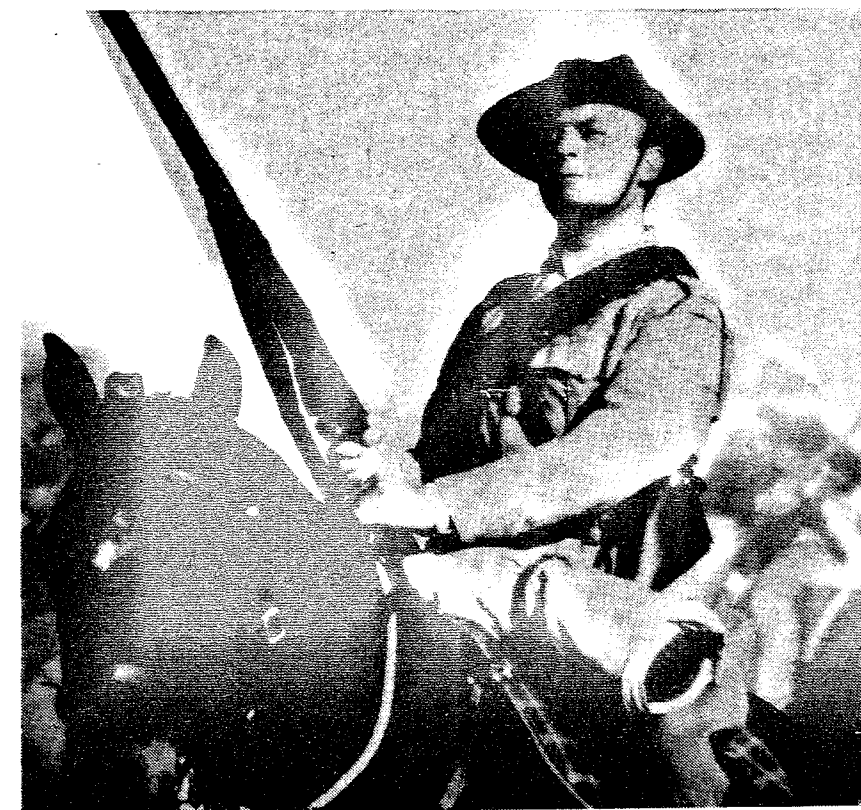
Undoubtedly, a good many people will pass up this Friday's COCA movie because they never heard of it. This is unfortunate, since **Breaker Morant** is a fine movie almost anyway you look at it. Perhaps its only drawback is that its subject matter is unfamiliar to most Americans. Set in 1901, this 1979 movie concerns the trial of three Australian soldiers accused of murdering Boer prisoners during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.

The Second Anglo-Boer War (they had clashed once before in 1881, with the Boers teaching the British some valuable lessons on modern warfare that they chose to ignore) saw the British fighting the Boers for the economic wealth of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, which are now a part of South Africa. (This is a gross oversimplification but this is a movie review, not a history lesson)

The Boers (transplanted Dutchmen) fought in a hit and run style that the British found difficult to deal with. In response to this; they formed a unit called the Bushveldt Carbineers, whose orders were to employ whatever means necessary to control Boer raids on the High Veldt, and this they did. They also received orders not to take prisoners, which they generally did not.

As the war dragged on, however, the British began looking for a way out. Boer complaints of British atrocities were holding up the peace negotiations, and the British elected to sacrifice these three officers as a gesture. The Australians are charged with murder for executing Boer prisoners.

Breaker Morant is a true story of how



soldiers are the victims not only of war, but of peace. Anyone that might have helped plead the Australian's case is sent to India, and even the brilliant defense of their lawyer cannot save them from their pre-determined fate.

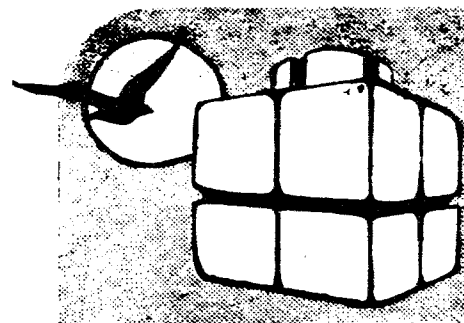
The acting in **Breaker Morant** is nothing short of outstanding. The cast is headed by Edward Woodward as Harry Morant, who is called "Breaker" for his skill in breaking wild horses. He was also a poet, and the poems in the movie and at the top of the story are his. Woodward's performance captures Morant as he changes from avenging soldier to reflective victim. Jack Thompson won the Cannes Film Festival award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the amateur lawyer assigned to the Australians who puts up a stunning defense in a lost cause. John Waters and Bryan Brown are also excellent as the other Australians on trial.

Director Beresford keeps the film moving through the use of flashbacks,

which illustrate the events leading up to the case. Although it's a film about war, the actual scenes of war are few, though and the battle scenes are well done, with none of the gratuitous violence we have come to expect from American films. Most of the film takes place in the courtroom and in the prisoners quarters. The script is intelligent, without the overdone pretenses of some message films. The message here is clear.

Perhaps a note of warning is in order. **Breaker Morant** is not a light-hearted film and you won't leave the movie chuckling the way you leave a Monty Python flick. It should, however, make you feel something inside, which is a far greater achievement for a movie these days. Although it's a foreign film, set in a distant land many years ago, this does not mean that **Breaker Morant** has no relevance for Americans today. The themes are not only universal, but are perhaps especially relevant to a nation just now beginning to look back on her recent past to see what might be learned from it.

The Stony Brook Press is accepting trainees for staff and editorial positions in news, arts, photo and production.



Come to Old Bio, Room 020, Monday at 8 PM.

Editorial

Continued from page 2

pening. What's going on is a microcosm of society and they must be responsible as a citizen of this community to these things. They can't be oblivious to it."

This lesson must sink in within Polity. Students currently see little coming out of Polity so they see no purpose in contributing anything to it.

With elections coming this semester, some Polity officials who haven't done anything to date will probably rouse themselves long enough to run for reelection or for a higher post in April. But students will be able to see which of their elected officials are working for their constituent's benefit and which are working for a line on their resume. But unless those people do something, their resumes may end up reading that they were in important positions of responsibility the year Stony Brook became a dry campus, the year Polity was voted out of existence, the year the cost of student services went up unbelievably, the year students were reduced to numbers at Stony Brook.

The Pretenders Are Back

by Jean Marie Pugni

Pretenders
Learning To Crawl
Sire Records

It seemed like forever, but at least the Pretenders are back with a new album entitled **Learning To Crawl**. Over two years have gone by since the release of their last album, **Pretenders II**. During this silence the band temporarily fell apart. In June 1982, James Honeyman Scott their lead guitarist, died a drug-related death. Only two days before this, their bass player Pete Farndon was fired from the band primarily because of his drug habit. Then in April 1983 Farndon also succumbed to drugs. One ray of sunshine managed to burrow through though. Lead singer/guitarist/songwriter Chrissie Hynde, gave birth to her daughter Natalie in January 1983.

By December 1982, the two surviving members, Chrissie Hynde and drummer Martin Chambers, had recruited guitarist Rob McIntosh and bassist Malcolm Foster to form the present day Pretenders. This is a band that plays with fierce, biting assurance, and with the help of their producer Chris Thomas, manages to keep the original Pretenders sound intact.

On **Learning To Crawl**, Chrissie Hynde deals with some rather solemn topics. "Middle of the Road", one of the best rock and roll songs to come out in awhile, contemplates aging. She realizes that time is beginning to catch up with her and frantically spits out, "Don't harass me, can't you tell/I'm goin' home, I'm tired of sellin'/I'm not the cat I used to be/I got a kid, I'm 33." Still dwelling on time and immortality is "Time the Avenger." With its raw, primitive sound, it impolitely intrudes and reminds us, "Nobody's permanent, everyone's on loan here."

Two songs reflect on mother-child relationships. "Show Me", a touchingly tender flowing song, sees a newborn

The First Pretenders

baby as a resurgence of life for its mother and says, "Welcome to a special place/In a heart of stone that's cold and gray/You with your angel face/Keep the despair at bay, send it away." "Thumbelina," a three minute plunge into rockabilly, is a lesson for the daughter about what really matters—love. Both maternal love, "What's important in this world/A little boy, a little girl," and romantic love, "What's important in this life/Ask the man who's lost his wife," are mentioned.

Again on the subject of love (romantic), with its relationships and inevitable fighting, is "I hurt you, cause you hurt me." "Thin Line Between Love and Hate," done just as convincingly here as when the Persuaders originally did it, is another song about a troubled relationship. A man who pushes his luck too far by always coming home to his lover at 5:00 in the morning. By the end of the song he is "in the hospital,

bandaged from foot to head," recovering from his lover's "touch."

On a somewhat lighter side, "Watching the Clothes" takes a frenzied little spin and tells of a waitress who struggles to make ends meet, and spends her Saturday nights "watching the clothes go round." "2000 Miles" gets carried away with its lightheadedness. It's a cheap Christmas song that I tried very hard not to like—but failed. The melody, which is pleasantly haunting and a little hypnotizing, saves it. The bell sound effects and subtle baroque-like guitar riffs give it a Christmassy feel. But with mindless lyrics such as: "The snow is falling down/It's colder day by day/I miss you/I can hear people singing/It must be Christmas time," my only regret is that the words aren't all Greek to me.

During the time warp between bands, Chrissie Hynde and Martin Chambers recorded "Back On The

Chain Gang" and "My City Was Gone" with two guest musicians. Both of these songs appear on **Learning To Crawl**. "Back On The Chain Gang" is a very pretty song written in remembrance of James Honeyman Scott. Unlike most of the Pretenders songs, there are no rough edged sounds here. Everything is smooth and polished, including the guitar solo interludes that just glide along. In "My City Was Gone" Chrissie Hynde lives up to her reputation of being a witty and often angry person. She goes to visit her childhood home in Ohio. Everything has changed. Her favorite spots are "reduced to parking spaces," and her "pretty countryside was paved down the middle, by a government that had no pride." With frustrated sarcasm she comments, "A.O, way to go Ohio." It's little tidbits like this that make me revel in the fact that the Pretenders are back!



Spanky's

by Sarah Battaglia

Finally—a local dance club! This past Tuesday I trudged through the slush with two friends and three free passes (compliments of Commuter College) to Spanky's, the "new music video dance club," formerly the Mad Hatter—and a refreshing replacement, indeed. Though your first impression upon arrival through the club's "convenient" back-door entrance leads you to believe this place is afraid to let their Tuesday and Wednesday night clientele be seen by passersby, it is soon dispersed by the friendly employees.

The change in decor from the Mad Hatter to Spanky's is similar to the transformation of Kansas into Emerald City. What was once a rowdy rock club catering mostly to heavy metal and local band fans is now a white carpeted retreat for a different crowd. The once-elevated dance floor is now sunken in,

and the barrel chair that only 5 months ago put a hole in my spandex pants has been gently replaced by carpeted benches. Videos play continually on two televisions mounted over the bar though most everyone ignored them in favor of the music. The "vidiot" syndrome remained back home with MTV but the desire to dance definitely came for the ride. *Everyone* was moving!

D.J. Fingers of WBAB is the man who spins the records for those who love to dance. When asked what he thought of Spanky's, Fingers said the club had the potential for attracting big crowds. Though most requests are for Top 40 dance songs, such as Michael Jackson and Culture Club, he does get requests for R.E.M., New Order, and the like. He plays them, too—the diversity of songs he played throughout the night really made the place rock. One minute Fingers is playing "Talking

In Your Sleep," next he's spinning "That's Good" for the Devo devotees; later on it "White Lines" for up and coming breakers, and finally a classic B-52's number bounces off the walls, bringing out the maniacal "Rock Lobster" boopers.

The night was fun—everyone was having a great time in an atmosphere we've all waited too long for. Spanky's saves the synth-pop crowd of the '80s from driving to Spit in Levittown or waiting for the weekends to go to the Peppermint Lounge in New York. Spanky's time has come for those who know that Our Daughter's Wedding is not in church.

So drop by on a Tuesday night (\$1.00 bar drinks all night for ladies; 8 to 11 for men) or Wednesday night (\$1.00 drinks 8 to 11 for all). It's \$5 and well worth it. Dance on over to Spanky's and bring Your Gang.

**READ
THE
PRESS**