

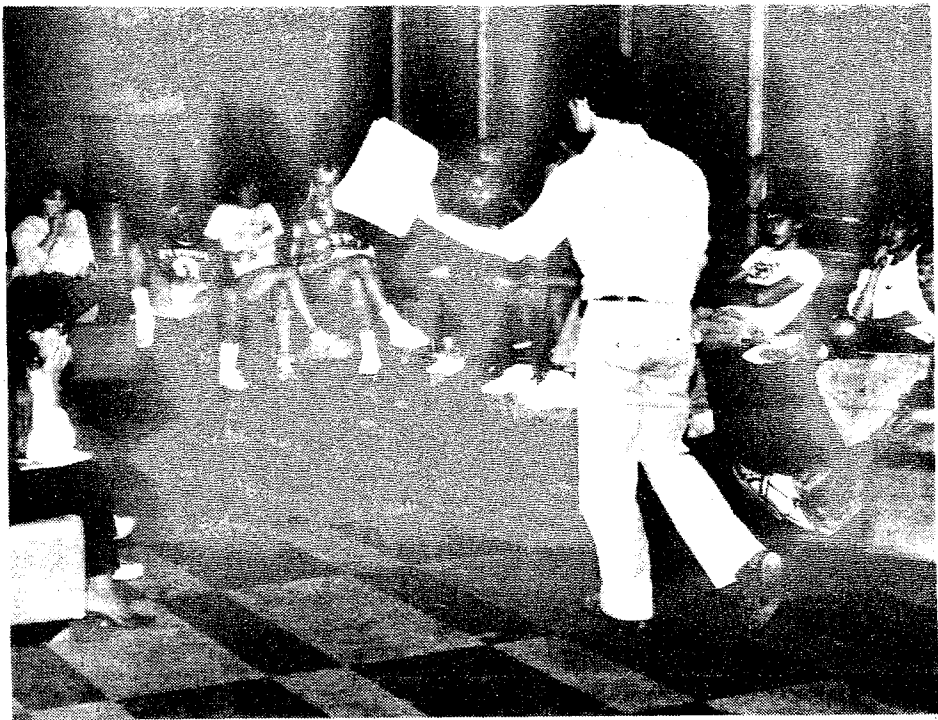
The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol. 6, No. 7 • University Community's Weekly Paper • Thurs, Oct. 15, 1984

FSA Fight

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Suicide Squad

Preppies Protest Nuclear War

by Ron Ostertag
and Joe Caponi

Students at Brown University last week voted to stockpile cyanide tablets for use in case of a nuclear war, in a referendum which drew national media attention. The referendum, which passed in that school's elections 1044 to 687, was heralded by students as their statement against nuclear weapons proliferation. Although the resolution, which called for cyanide tablets to be stored in the school's Health Services "for exclusive use in the event of nuclear war..." did pass, the school's administrators vowed that "we are not in the suicide business...We will never stock suicide tablets." How did Brown's undergraduates feel about this? We went to Brown University last weekend to find out.

Brown University's student government and student newspapers are quite deserted on Saturdays, so, lost in the middle of Provincetown R.I. we called the president of the student government Beth Grossman, who referred us to one of the author's of the resolution Chris Ferguson. Unbeknownst to us, at the very same time that we were attempting to contact Mr.

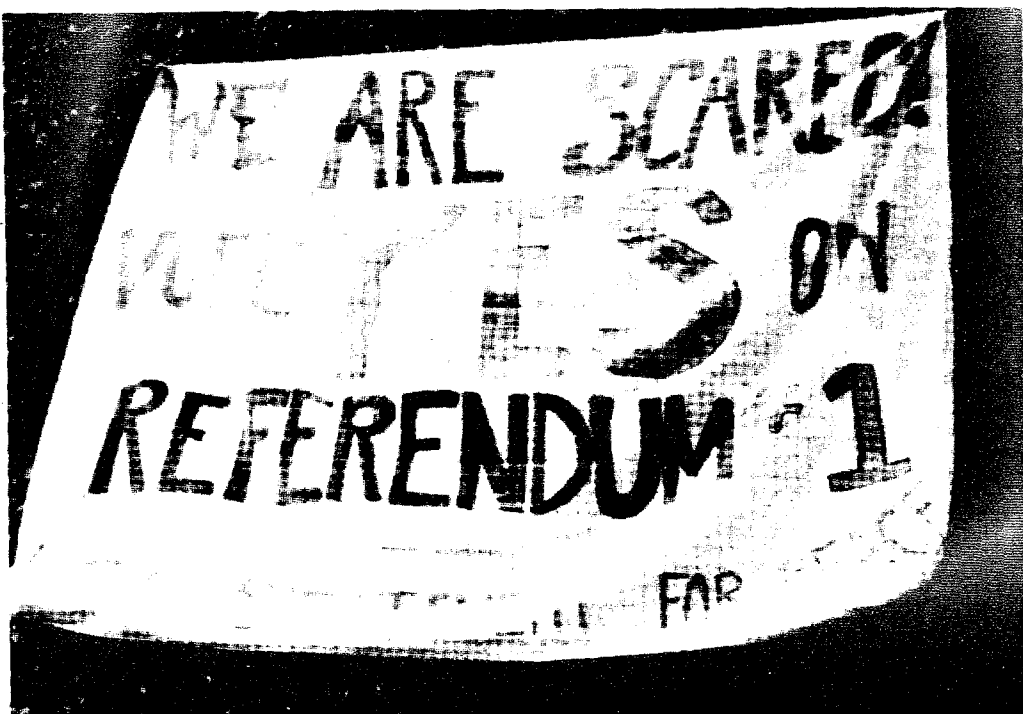


photo courtesy Brown Banner, by David Tockman

Ferguson, Brown's homecoming football game was starting. Unable to contact Ferguson, or any of the people involved with the resolution, we proceeded to Boston for bowls of clam chowder. We left, however, with masses of information--well, actually a

couple of pages--concerning the referendum. All of this and the double circle roadways of Provincetown, which do not lead to the only entrance for the thoroughway aside, we found that the students of Brown were quite happy

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Power Play

Stony Brook students have moved quickly to condemn University President John Marburger, and his unprecedented action to give the university administration effective control of the Faculty Student Association.

In a blatant effort to rob students of their input at FSA, which operates or subcontracts virtually all campus businesses, Marburger has proposed that the multi-million dollar corporation changes its by-laws in such a way that an alumni can never be elected to the Board of Directors; that the position of President be reduced to that of Chairman of the Board; and, that the Board not be able to effectively supervise the management of FSA. According to numerous parties involved at FSA, these changes will effectively remove student input from all key decision-making processes.

Students within the university as well as throughout the State are concerned about Stony Brook's Faculty Student Association for several reasons:

FSA subcontracts the meal plan vendor, and its current by-laws allow students to have input concerning prices, quality of food and hours of operation at all dining facilities. Marburger's by-law changes will rob students of this input.

FSA subcontracts, among other services and businesses, the soda, candy, pinball and video machines on campus; it also operates the Bowling Alley in the Student Union, and the Pub in Whitman College. Under its current structure, FSA allows students to have a say in what these businesses provide the campus community. Marburger's changes will effectively end this system.

FSA is perhaps the most important organization in improving the quality of student life at Stony Brook. Since Marburger came to Stony Brook, the quality of student life has deteriorated in numerous areas. Even though it endangers students, for example, the university has cut back bus service; it

has closed the Benedict Saloon, the Henry James Pub and Baby Joeys, and has done nothing to provide alternative recreational areas; it has allowed dorm cooking equipment to deteriorate to an abysmal state; and, the list goes on. Clearly, we do not want an administration which has effected these policies to take control of FSA.

When FSA at Stony Brook was run and controlled by the administration, it chalked up hundreds of thousands of dollars of debts. Worse still, it provided less services than it currently offers. With an increase in student initiative and input, FSA turned around, and has clearly attempted -- though it has not always been successful -- to improve the quality of student life. To place FSA in the hands of the administration will be a leap backwards.

When the Faculty Student Association at SUNY Binghamton was run by the administration, it lost tremendous sums of money, and did not provide effective services to the members of that university. When student input at Binghamton's FSA increased, the university president there shut down the FSA. Marburger's actions clearly parallel those taken at Binghamton. SASU, the Student Association of the State University, a statewide organization which lobbys the Legislature and SUNY Central on behalf of SUNY students, fears that if Marburger succeeds in taking over Stony Brook's FSA, that a domino effect will occur throughout the entire SUNY system.

Stony Brook students understand the magnitude of the situation, and have voiced their contempt of Marburger's actions. Numerous student legislatures have condemned the proposed by-law changes as a power-play, and scores of students have gotten their peers to sign petitions requesting that the administration abort its effort to take control of FSA. These

(continued on page 5)

The Stony Brook Press will not be published next week. Our next issue will be the fabulous fifth birthday issue, on Thursday, Nov. 1. See you then.

Due to an editing error, a rather large piece of Mitch Cohen's viewpoint, "The Death of Curiosity" was deleted from the Oct. 11 Stony Brook Press. The article actually began as follows:

I dreamed last night of strange sexual encounters with my mother. I had never dreamed that before. When I woke up, I wondered if that could really be in my unconscious mind as desire. After much reflection, I decided that I had been reading Freud all week for a course and, having never thought about the Oedipus Complex before, that it was equally possible -- perhaps even more reasonable -- that my dream simply reflected what I had been reading. Freud, in devising categories of our inner worlds, actually brought them into being where none had existed before, as people read his work and it enters into our minds and collective experience!

—Graduate student in Philosophy,
SUNY at Stony Brook

...and then continued with what was printed. Readers who don't still have last week's issue, and who want to put the whole piece together, can pick a copy up at the Press office.

Cover photo by Haluk Soykan

The Stony Brook Press

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Bobis

The FSA Factor

Legislatures Oppose FSA Changes

by Joe Caponi

At least six College Legislatures on Tuesday night passed resolutions which oppose the actions that University President John Marburger is taking in connection with the Faculty Student Association.

Legislatures in Kelly A, Kelly D, O'Neill, Ammann and Gray colleges passed resolutions which condemn the university administration, and its attempt to gain effective control of FSA, which operates or subcontracts virtually all campus businesses. About two weeks ago, University Business Manager Paul Madonna, the university's chief liaison to FSA, drafted changes in FSA by-laws. The changes, which have not been adopted by FSA, would give effective control of the multi-million dollar corporation to the university administration, according to student members of the FSA Board of Directors.

The Kelly D Legislature, which two weeks ago took the lead in opposing the administration's proposal for new alcohol policies, resolved that the administration should establish a timetable by which it and FSA can determine mutually agreeable changes which will enable FSA to better serve the university community. At a meeting of the Polity Council last week, Madonna said that by-law changes in FSA would need to be made during the next several weeks.



press photo by Scott Richter

Chris Fairhall, President of the Faculty Student Association, reached late Tuesday night said he concurs with the Kelly D resolution. "A lot of people are upset, and the proposed changes deal with very substantive issues," Fairhall explained. "It seems pretty clear that this will not be resolved in a few weeks or a few days."

According to both students and administrators, FSA needs to make technical changes in its by-laws to conform with SUNY-wide regulations. During the summer, Fairhall

drafted changes which would enable FSA to do this. However, the university administration, which must approve changes in FSA by-laws, said it would not approve Fairhall's changes, and subsequently drafted its own revisions.

While the Polity Senate at its first meeting of the year on Monday night did not pass a resolution in connection with FSA, it has scheduled an emergency meeting on Wednesday night to deal with FSA.

Students in O'Neill College,

however, passed a stinging resolution on Tuesday night. It reads, in part, "We, the students of O'Neill College, recognize that the quality of student rights have deteriorated here at Stony Brook. . .

"We lay the blame for this on John Marburger's door. . . His move to eliminate equal student representation on the FSA Board" is another example.

Less pointed, the Kelly D resolution, which was written by Andy Koff, a former Vice President of Polity, recommends that the university administration seek a waiver for the problems that FSA has with its by-laws. [According to Fairhall, FSA has been granted waivers, per the request of Stony Brook administrators, for the last three years.]

The Kelly D resolution reads, in part, that Marburger should "request an emergency waiver for the SUNY Stony Brook FSA. . . that in this time a by-law change committee will be set up by the FSA Board of Directors" to work out changes which will be amenable to all parties. The resolution said that the committee should consist of two students, two faculty and two administrators.

By the time these resolutions were made, it was too late for the Stony Brook Press to call any university administrators at home for their comments.

Master Planning

Students Give Opinions On Dorm Cooking Reductions

by Scott A. Richter

In a meeting dominated by administrators last Tuesday night, about ten students heard the key features of the Dorm Cooking Reduction Proposal. The Dorm Cooking Program, as we know it, does not have much life left in it, and Vice President for Student Affairs Fred Preston is currently developing and implementing a plan, to be fully implemented by Fall 1986, which will drastically reduce the number of people cooking in their dorms.

The Food Service Planning Group, from which Preston requested the solicitation of student input about his own dorm cooking proposal and the recommendation of an implementation plan, had sponsored this the first of three meetings. The meeting was held last Tuesday night in the Roth Cafe, where Preston, Bob Francis, V.P. for Campus Operations, Gary Matthews, Director Residential Physical Plant, Paul Madonna, University Business Manager, Dallas Bauman, Director of Residence Life, and Charlie Thrasher, Daka District Manager aired their views on the topic of Dorm Cooking. Preston felt that "the time frame is not set in stone," for the implementation plan. He added that "progress and action has to take



press photo by Scott Richter

place...and we're not going to have a year in which nothing happens." Commenting on the current state of the dorm cooking facilities, which have been deteriorating for some time Preston also stated that "the institution pays the price for what we have now."

Preston argued at the meeting, that "the State Dormitory Authority has been vociferous, very vociferous in getting rid of it (dorm cooking)." With pressure from above being as such, this proposed plan to reduce dorm cooking was created:

I. All Freshman and new transfer stu-

dents living in residence halls shall be required to be on the meal plan for a period of at least one year;

II. One quad shall be designated as a low density dorm cooking community;

A. Kelly Quad most appropriate

B. One dorm in quad shall offer dorm cooking option

III. One quad shall have equal representation of dorm cooking and non-dorm cooking residence halls;

A. Stage XII Quad most appropriate

B. Two dorms shall offer the dorm cooking program

C. Two dorms shall be non-dorm cooking buildings

IV. Two quads shall be designated high density dorm cooking communities;

A. Tabler and Roth Quads most appropriate

B. At least one dorm in each quad shall be a non-dorm cooking building

V. Dorm Cooking improvement action program to be instituted;

A. Dorm cooking incentive program

1. community upkeep standards

2. evaluation structure/vehicle

3. below standard penalty--3 year loss of dorm cooking program

B. Appointment of a group to study/recommend how to improve dorm cooking--particularly suite sites

Additional meetings will be held by the Food Services Planning Group, one today, Thursday October 18 in the Stage XII fireside lounge at 7:00pm, and the last one on Monday, October 22 in the Ammann Fireside Lounge, at 7:00pm. Students are urged to attend the meetings. Ideas from those unable to attend the meetings should be sent in writing, by October 24, to the Food Service Planning Group, c/o Paul Madonna, University Business Manager, Administration, 2nd floor.

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9:00 in the Gym**

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Running Out

Supply Shortages Increasing

by Ken Kruger

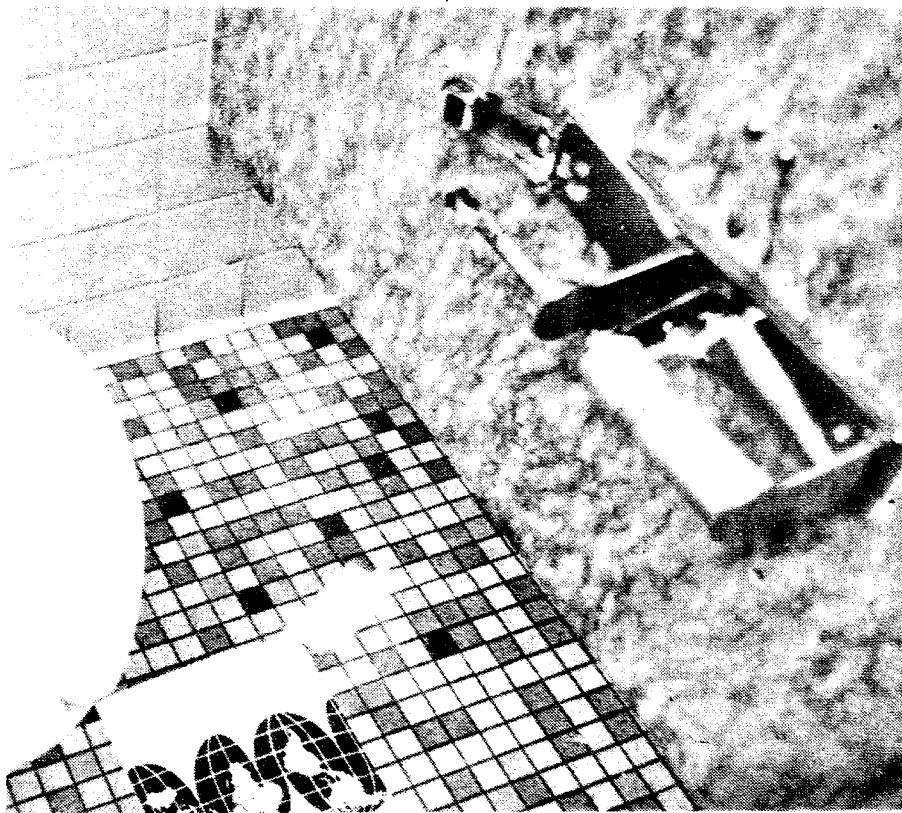
Current shortages of toilet paper and lightbulbs in G and Tabler Quads are indicative of a more serious problem: Stony Brook is running out of money this year for basic materials and supplies. While students would most likely be most directly affected by the number of missing or burnt out lightbulbs in the dorms and Academic buildings, the University is also running out of electrical and plumbing parts.

"We're running out of money to buy lightbulbs, toilet paper and hand towels, those are the things the students and professors would notice," said Robert Francis, Vice President for Campus Operations, "Classrooms will be getting unevenly lit — hallways will get dark spots, etc. We're also running out of money to buy gasoline (for University vehicles) and maintenance parts, things like electrical materials, plumbing fixtures, and carpentry supplies."

Currently the shortages aren't very serious, but as the semester progresses they'll be felt more and more.

"Right now we're getting spot shortages — we've been receiving complaints on lightbulbs," Francis continued.

The cause of the shortage is, as usual, money. The allocation for supplies and materials in this year's budget was not enough and is now nearly dry. "We



press photo by Scott Richter

still have money in an account for the heating system," Francis said. "We can afford to be without hand towels but we need heat."

While there have been shortages in past years, none have ever been as bad as this one may turn out to be. "We've never run out of materials so quickly

with so little hope of replenishing our supplies."

Francis also said that near the end of the fiscal year (March 31) there might be a chance to reallocate money for supplies but the difference between the academic year and the fiscal one would be a problem.

Many of the shortages have hit G Quad first but are spreading to the academic buildings and will eventually affect the entire campus.

"In the early part of an outage, the first place hit is fairly random," Francis explained, "It just depends on whose stockrooms empty first."

Outdoor lighting, already inadequate in the view of many people concerned about campus safety, (see lighting viewpoint in this issue) should not be affected by the scarcity in indoor light bulbs. Outdoor bulbs remain in stock.

The materials problem is not, however, the cause of the large number of broken elevators on campus, but this too is caused by money.

"It's partially money and partially manpower."

Money is allocated in the beginning of the year for a maintenance contract. At the present time the University spends over \$100,000 a year on Elevator Maintenance but this only puts one mechanic on the job.

"To hire another mechanic would cost about \$50,000 altogether," Francis added, "We have only one mechanic for 73 elevators on campus. In office buildings the ideal ratio is one mechanic for 25 elevators. As you can see we have only a third of the manpower we should have. The elevators are being fixed, but it takes time."

Editorial

FSA

(continued from page 2)

student actions are particularly impressive because Polity has been in the process of formulating its strategy to deal with Marburger, and has not yet organized a student effort.

We strongly endorse the actions taken by dormitory legislatures and individual students, and hope that Polity drafts a resolution which reflects how angry and upset its constituents seem to be. We further hope that the university administration realizes that it should think before it acts. But, we also realize that hopes and desires, despite how good or well-intentioned they may be, can not by themselves change this situation.

With this in mind, we look to the resolution passed by the Kelly D Legislature at its meeting on Tuesday night. In essence, it highlights several issues: FSA could provide better services to the campus; the administration has no right to take control of FSA; and, the administration and FSA should follow the lead of Polity, and think about what needs to be changed. It is sickening to think that the administrators at an institution of higher education feel they can create and pass substantive and technical changes in a multi-million dollar corporation's governance structure with less than two or three weeks worth of work.

In conclusion, we would like to make several points: students are upset with Marburger's proposals, and they should be; While FSA is not the greatest organization, attempts by the administration to take it over only serve to further damage the quality of student life at Stony Brook; and, we hope that students will continue to express their concerns about FSA, and that the administration thinks about what it is doing — especially before it starts to do it.

Anderson Will Continue Quest For Vice Presidency After Recount

by Neal Drobenare

After the ballots for Vice-President have been counted and re-counted, former Polity Secretary and VP candidate Belina Anderson continues to assert that the election is not valid, and that winner Joyce Yearwood should not be recognized as Vice President.

On Thursday, October 4, preliminary Polity election results gave the VP victory to Yearwood by the margin of 11 votes, out of nearly cast. Refusing to concede the contest, Anderson asked for and got a restraining order from the Polity Judiciary forbidding the election board from certifying a winner until a recount was done. The Election Board, headed by Tina James and Danny Nonez, conducted a recount the following week. The final election tally then had Yearwood winning by only two votes, 890 — 888. The election board certified that result, making Yearwood the official Vice President.

The Election Board refused Anderson's request to throw out the results of the election because of a number of voting irregularities, including alleged electioneering by pollwatchers and running out of ballots at Dreiser College before the election. But the primary irregularity is the fact that the Election Board counted 13 more ballots than there were signatures on the voter sign-in sheets.

The Polity Judiciary has been asked by Anderson now to meet and investigate the election irregularities and decide on the legitimacy of the results. She has also hired outside counsel to pursue the matter further if the redress she seeks within Polity is not granted.

According to Yearwood, she does not object to an investigation, into the election, but is confident of any outcome. She strongly objects to attempts to interfere with her doing her job, and noted that most people within the Polity government and outside it now view the matter as closed. Since her election, she has been involved in negotiations with Administration concerning the Faculty Student Association.

At this point it is uncertain whether or not the Judiciary will hear Anderson's case. Anderson resolves to continue the matter until she is convinced justice has been resolved, while Yearwood intends to simply continue doing her job.

Public Safety Dance

"Coincidences" and the Men in Brown

by Jeff Leibowitz

Mr. Gary Barnes
Director of Public Safety

Dear Mr. Barnes,

I am very pleased with the way our discussion went today. I learned a lot about the unorganized, unqualified, under-educated people that are a part of what we are all ashamed of, "public safety." Your ignorance and utter unawareness of campus affairs was well disguised by both yourself and your puppet Doug Little. Your five minute investigation gives the Stony Brook community just one more public safety screw-up stories, a common Stony Brook passtime.

So lets try and put the pieces together. On September 22nd, 1984 I walk out and discover my car is missing. I call up public shit for brains and they proceed (after about ten tries) to get a nation-wide bulletin sent out through the computer. I am informed that my car is "probably in Puerto Rico by now" by officer Kevin Paulkner. Later that day as I am searching for the car on my motorcycle I am pulled over by a public safety truck. By coincidence, Kevin Paulkner is the driver of the truck. He gives me two tickets and tells me that I intentionally got in his way of "catching a speeder." This is untrue.

Three weeks later my motorcycle has a flat and I am traveling at a rate of three miles per hour propelling myself

with my feet when a public safety truck almost causes me to crash by driving directly at me lights and sirens full blast, guess who? You got it good ol' Mr. bust-your-chops himself Kevin Paulkner.

How does he help me fix the flat, well the same way any red blooded Stony Brook should, he impounds the motorcycle and is generous enough this time to give me four tickets. While waiting for the tow truck to arrive, Paulkner decided to pose a few questions to me. "So how much money do you have? Does your father have a lot of money? What does your father do for a living?" Maybe it's just me but somehow I just feel these questions are none of his business, or perhaps it has become a business for Paulkner.

Two days later I decided to visit the impound lot and see what type of condition the motorcycle is in, and guess what I find in the impound lot? No not Kevin Paulkner but my "stolen" car. I know, I know, coincidence. What's even more of a coincidence is that my motorcycle in a lot of about fifty cars decided to park right next to my car. Of course this is only coincidence, maybe they just wanted to be together. Later that night I decided to go back to the impound lot and take a picture of the two of them together. I asked one of the idiots that worked there if I can walk in and take the picture, they say yes so I proceed. One of the public idiots asks me my name when I answered them I

am asked another question "how would you like to be arrested?" I said I'd rather not today and left, only to be chased for three blocks.

The next morning the car of my friend who drove me there (John Auld) was impounded, that too was a coincidence.

At this point I felt I had sufficient reason to give public safety a call, maybe they could help, after all, that's what they are here for, right? The phone was answered by someone who identified himself as "Kirby." "Kirby" was very cooperative. he told me to hold on. So, I held on for about fifteen minutes at which time I thought I would call "Kirby" back and ask him why he was acting like that. I guess "Kirby" didn't feel much like talking as he promptly hung up on me. However "Kirby" did manage to say, "I don't know about you or your car." click.

Tuesday morning my friend and I decided it might be a good idea to pay the hot-shots of public shitheads a visit. The Director of Public Safety, Gary B. Barnes, started out to be pretty nice. He really did. He said he would conduct "an investigation." Well, I'll tell ya when Gary B. Barnes does an investigation, he doesn't kid around because he concluded his investigation in five minutes. He said that my car was discovered in Roth Quad parked illegally on October eighth, and was impounded. I guess it never occurred to

the officers at the scene to check the car to see if it was stolen. Nor was there any attempt to contact me and tell me about it. So what we wind up with is a nation full of police officers searching for a car that is sitting in the Stony Brook impound lot.

I owe the university some money for last years parking tickets. I was told that after I paid them they would be as kind as to release the car to me. Maybe someday I'll get to see my motorcycle again...after it gets rained on a few times. Officer Mason told me that when motorcycles get rained on they "get wet." At least we agreed on something.

They will undoubtedly respond and state that I do not have a motorcycle license, only a motorcycle permit and regular drivers license, and they are correct. I guess that's a coincidence on my part.

Maybe Doug Little was right. Maybe I'm "picking straws out of a hat," but I wonder what they will do when the University senate passes a proposal at their next meeting to create a body that will monitor public safety's behavior. Maybe some people will become very nervous. Maybe they will conduct themselves in a more professional manner. Maybe I'm crazy, or maybe we have a potentially dangerous situation on our campus that should immediatly be dealt with. Then again maybe it's just a coincidence.

—Viewpoint—

In The Dark

Hotline Lighting Survey

by Barry Elkayan

Hotline Special Project Director

Polity Hotline, the student advocacy, information and research center, has recently conducted a survey of campus path lighting. Overall, campus lighting is marginally better than our last survey. Still, dangerous areas are still evident.

The academic mall has several broken lights causing patches of darkness. Most noticable among these is the Zebra Stripes, the ECC Lab office Plaza and the Psychology Bldg. Plaza. The ECC Plaza is used to go from Humanities, SBS and the Lecture Center back to Stage XII and Kelly. As such this should be remedied quickly.

At Stage XII, there is a large dark area by the South Drive Entrance to the parking lot by Stimson. Despite the fact that there is relatively little pedestrian traffic in this area, what traffic there is walks in darkness.

Roth Quad has the worst lighting on campus. There is no lighting on the path in front of Gershwin

B wing and behind A wing. The path behind A wing is the primary route from the parking area to the D wing. There is also a lighting problem between Mount A wing and the Pond. The most severe lighting problem is in the woods between Roth and the Academic Mall; just one broken light causes a very dangerous situation. This area should be continuously monitored by Admin. and repaired daily if possible. At the time of our survey two areas were completely dark.

This administration has made a commitment to campus safety. With the installation of a new lock system in Irving/O'Neill at great expense, one would hope that there would hope that there would be enough money to keep the basic security apparatus working. This survey is preliminary for an extensive campus security project to be undertaken early next semester. Hopefully, by then Administration will have taken positive action on these problems.

Carousel

(continued from page 9)

to say that I idolized him — our respect for each other was mutual — but he dealt with a difficult situation in a way that was both noble and evoked sympathy from those around him. He was unique — we are all unique in our own ways, no two alike, but I use unique here because Travis was a personality that stepped outside of the general populace, and was comfortable there. He feared no reprobation for his actions or words — in fact he welcomed it as a sign he was getting through, no matter how negative the reaction.

His only fear, and I use "fear" lightly, was of offending me, and this only because of our mutual respect for each other. As much as Travis sought my approval, I would seek out his, because we both knew inside that we had only to please ourselves and each other. Because of this respect, our friendship grew — a friendship that was, as I said, like no other.

And now it is almost November again, and again I'm reminded of Travis as I sit here watching the kids go by on the carousel ride. The young ones hang on with a fearful grip, their eyes hardly wandering from the focus of their hands on the handlebars. The girls for the most part sit quietly, patient and ladylike as they twirl around. The boys are more adventurous, standing up and occasionally laughing, except for one who is older than the rest — he sits there with a bored look on his face, counting the seven rotations as his mother waves each time he passes. Travis would have liked this one — he reminds me of Travis's quiet acceptance of the events of one's life, and the positions we find ourselves forced into occasionally.

From the carousel ride to the mass of shoppers to the world outside — all of us wait for the end of the circle.

Off The Koff

Andy Koff is the former Polity Vice President and currently represents Polity on the Food Service Planning Group, and is a Class A member of FSA. He will be writing a regular column in the Press about people and issues which affect students and the campus.

by Andy Koff

A phenomena is currently racing through the SUNY system, and it is known by the name, "The Quality of Student Life." Before I begin discussing this issue it might be advisable to define the terms in the title. Quality is indicative of how good something is. Student life, on the other hand, means whatever you are doing right now. It is an accepted fact that student life is an animal which never shows its face at Stony Brook on weekends, if at all. Onto the meat of the discussion.

Clifton Wharton, the ex-officio esteemed leader of the majestic SUNY system has devised a vehicle to insure the improvement of the quality of student life. His committee got together and made a wide-sweeping policy (wait until I discuss that). But Wharton wasn't the only one contemplating the issue of student life. Our glorious administration was also hard at work on this issue. Even more, the middle States accreditation team, and Stony Brook's self study commented on the lack of quality in student life.

I would like, at this time, to introduce a question. If student views of student life conflict with any of these reports and findings, who will be judged correct? Have you been to concerts, movies, speakers, clubs, opening week activities, dorm legislatures, parties, the Union arcade, and the many other things that make up our own 'student life?' Well it appears that Clifton's committee believed that a big impact on the quality of student life could occur if we increase athletic funding through the use of a mandatory athletic fee, and give control of the whole amount to administration. In dealings the Polity Council had with the Stony Brook Administration, this thought would be echoed many times. The proposal was to either charge students a separate fee for athletics (which goes to the 'Pig' of New York, the Division of the Budget) or to take the money directly out of the student activity fee and give it to administration. (You see, SUNY is afraid of D.O.B. also.) The money for all athletics would have no longer been under student control but would have been operated by an athletic control board set up like FSA. (Look

at the problems with FSA, lately.) The athletic fee issue became moot last month, when the SUNY Board of Trustees refused to go along with it, but the incident shows that some of our administrators, like "Jack" Marburger, and Wharton, think that these kinds of fees can solve our problems.

What do you think will make student life better? Do you feel (I know I do.) that student life is virtually non-existent on the weekends? It seems residents enjoy imitating commuters twice a week. Certain people I respect in administration and I will never agree on what represents improvements in student life. Dallas Bauman, a person who I respect and admire, will not agree with my ideas, but then again, I do not agree with his, so we are even. But just as a point of information, I would like to say that Dallas has a job to do, and this should be understood by all dealing with him, but he is not as nasty and tough as he might seem. Get to know him, and I think you will be surprised. He is an OK guy.

Back to the issue at hand. In general, student life and the quality thereof, is a little bit above mediocre. Perhaps there are ways to improve it. An idea that has partially led to the reduction in dorm cooking is the idea that cooking in your dorm lessens student interaction, and hence hurts student life. The key movers in this theory appear to be Marburger and Fred Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs) on the recommendations of the self study report. (If you wish to talk to Dr. Preston about this or any other subject I would advise going directly to his office and see him, say "Hi" and tell him what you think.

I've been on the meal plan for 5 years now, and I and most of the people I know do not meet new people on the meal plan but usually eat with our friends, or hall-mates. Student interaction is increased in the sense that you are now eating with these people and have a chance to talk to them, but I also know quite a few people who are on the dorm cooking program who shop, cook, and eat with their friends, also. Sorry guys but this is reality. What the accreditation report says is worthless when dorm cooking is knocked for not bringing students together. It can only be knocked on the premise of the state of the dormitories.

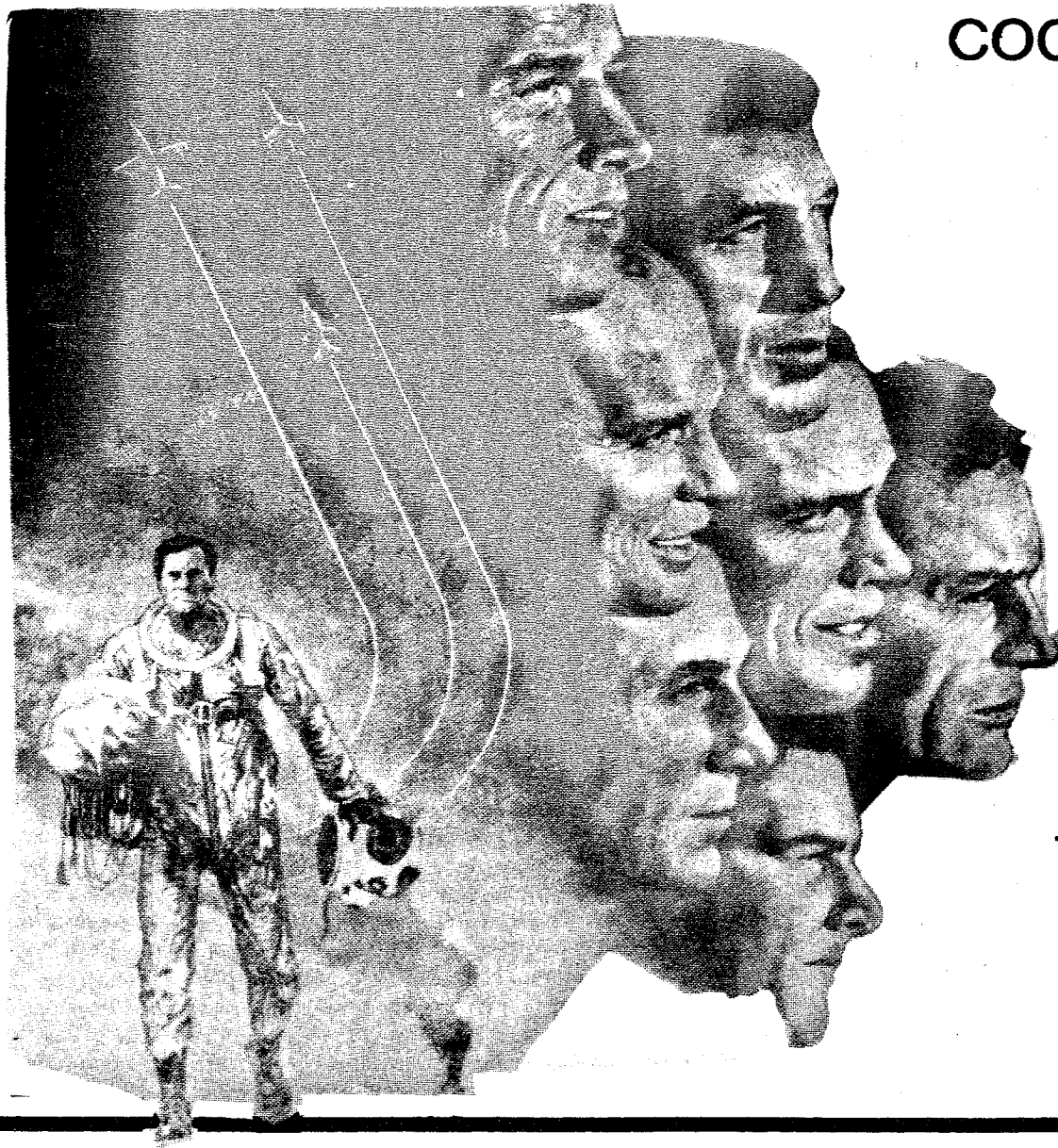
Student life also has another important impact. Bauman will agree with me when I say the dorm conditions are mediocre. Perhaps if the state, under pressure by Jack, decided to reappropriate the \$1.3 million targeted for renovation of the athletic fields, and the planning of a fieldhouse, to fixing the dormitories, improving the commuter facilities so that they could remain on campus overnight or on weekends, or just even building true social and recreational areas the quality of student life just might take a quantum leap forward. The reason I bring up social and recreational areas is that in 1980 in his infinite wisdom of the way SUNY operates said that he would phase out all bars in the dorms and replace them with social and recreational areas. Our leader did not realize at the time that social and recreational areas are expensive, and that, without condoning or supporting the presence of bars, they aren't particularly expensive or elaborate meeting places. A social/recreational area, on the other hand, involves putting things into the space, maintaining the materials placed there, and having people keep an eye on the whole operation. There is a major difference in cost. The \$1.3 million could be spent on it.

While I believe that athletics is important, I feel you get much more for your dollar in a social/recreational area than in a new fieldhouse or reconditioned intramural fields.

Now, as a challenge to you, the reader, what would you do to improve the quality of student life? It is advisable to communicate these ideas to Dallas because I'm sure he is interested, and to Dr. Preston, because it is his job to do these things.

Show the grandiose administration that we can decide what is good for student life, as students, and that yes, even administrators can be wrong about some things that they haven't been involved in for some time. The point is, that whatever is decided, we are the ones that have to live through it, so act now, or we might see mandatory fees to ensure our athletic program is happy, and pardon me, but NCAA involved athletes and their fans (including myself) do not nearly constitute a sizeable minority on this campus, while those involved in club and intramural sports do.





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Voting Decision

Stony Brook Left Out

by Ellen Browne

Last week a federal judge struck down as discriminatory a section of the state constitution allowing election boards to make it difficult for students to register to vote in the areas where they attend school. This led to the New York State Board of Elections advising all local boards of elections to abide by the judge's ruling. Because thousands of students had been affected by the discriminatory practices of the boards, the ruling received much celebration here and throughout the state as a tremendous victory for student rights. But, the victory has turned out to be an incomplete one for us at Stony Brook. The Suffolk Board, which is not bound by the decision, refuses to change its stance to allow students to register from their campus addresses. It is incredible that what has been declared unconstitutional in other parts of this state continues to be practiced on Long Island. Students are being treated unfairly and denied their right to vote.

The fight against the denial of student rights is not a recent development. Voting rights has been an issue in the student movement since the movement began in the 1960's. At that time, students in greater and greater numbers began to protest and work for social change. Outrage over the violation of civil rights, including rights of students, peaked. Out of the anger and frustration that marked the end of the 1960's grew the "PIRG" movement.

Student activists in the early 1970's looked back at their predecessors and saw that students could make a difference, but the desperate search for quick solutions had to be replaced with a steady long-term presence for student activism. Ralph Nader's concept of Public Interest Research Groups (PIRG's) addressed this need. The idea was to pool the resources of students across the state to create a statewide activist presence

year-round. The combined resources would allow the hiring of a professional staff of lobbyists, researchers and scientists to work with students to train them as skilled, informed activists. Through PIRG's, students could develop citizenship skills and enhance their educational experience, while working for social change.

Since the first PIRG was formed in 1970, PIRG's have been established in over 20 states. With a presence on over 150 campuses, PIRG's have trained countless student leaders, while passing a tremendous number of laws for consumer and environmental protection, government accountability and corporate as well as student rights.

In 1972, the New York Public Interest Inc. (NYPIRG) was formed. NYPIRG has since become one of the largest PIRG's in the United States, with chapters on 18 campuses across the state, and the largest consumer and environmental lobbying group in New York State. NYPIRG now has a staff of over 100, many of whom are experts in their fields. In the past 11 years, NYPIRG students and staff have worked to pass over 50 pieces of major legislation.

An example of NYPIRG's work is the success in passing the Truth in Testing Law, which allows students to get their SAT's, LSAT's, MCAT's and other standardized tests back. This opened up the testing industry for the first time, allowing students to find out if their tests have been correctly, and making the industry accountable to students. As a result of the Truth in Testing Law, the testing companies were put under tighter scrutiny as several students found gross errors in the way the tests were produced and administered. In one highly publicized case, 150,000 students had their scores adjusted because a student found that a question had two correct answers.

On the Stony Brook campus, as on 17 other

campuses in the state, NYPIRG continues to work to empower and develop students while working on issues that affect them as students and as citizens. This year we will continue to work on the toxics issue, to strengthen laws for the clean up of toxic dumpsites which threaten our drinking water and our health. Students will also lobby and advocacy work on the Toxic Victims Access to Justice bill, which would allow victims of toxic substances to sue for compensation. In addition, students will run a Small Claims Court Action Center, to assist people who want to sue in Small Claims Court.

Also, following an enormously successful voter registration drive, we will be working on voter education, to provide written, non-partisan materials and to present candidate forums. The climax of NYPIRG's Voter Registration/Voter Education efforts this year will be the Get-Out-the-Voter Conference. This huge, political event, bringing together hundreds of students from across the state, will feature including Stanley Fink, the Speaker of the NYS Assembly, entertainers, including Tom Chapin, workshops on issues and getting-out-the-vote tactics, and much more. The Conference will be at Hunter College in New York City on October 26, 27, and 28. All Stony Brook students are invited to attend what promises to be an exciting, informative, fun weekend. A bus will be going from Stony Brook on Friday afternoon and a small fee will be charged to help cover the costs of transportation, housing and some meals which will be provided.

To sign up for the Conference or to get involved with NYPIRG, please stop by the NYPIRG office in room 079 in the Union, or call 246-7702. It's up to us to work for the changes that are needed.

On The Carousel

—Fiction—

by George Bidermann

In the shopping mall a few miles from campus, the carousel turns merrily round. As parents watch in quiet clusters, the children maintain a careful grip on the handlebars of various fire engines, motorcycles, and sports cars that carry them around and around, seven times for a quarter. The vendor straps each of them in by pulling a rubber strap across the opening of each car, and then pushes the stick which sets the ride in motion.

It is here, to the carousel, that I come whenever I feel the oncoming pangs of a holiday depression or the usual insecurities about my life and role in this world. I sit on a bench, sometimes for hours, studying the faces of parents and children. In time I release the frustration I feel and allow it to spread throughout the mall, diffusing into the spirits of the many people rushing by, unaware of what's happening to them. It is here, at the carousel, where I gather my strength for another round, and here where I first met Travis. It was right around Christmas about three years ago; I was suffering from the pre-holiday depression that psychologists say is not uncommon, and walking through the mall was not helping me at all. It was less than a week after Thanksgiving, yet the mall was decked out as if it were Christmas Eve. Rows of garland and Christmas balls covered paper signs advertising "special" sales, and children and parents were standing in half-hour lines to pay \$5.95 for three snapshots with Santa.

Making my way through the crowded aisle, I felt the pressure build inside me — a deep seated revulsion

for the business class, and consequently a sort of hatred for everyone in the mall for contributing to the farce. Even the most innocent of shoppers could not escape blame — right on down to the red-coated teenagers of the Salvation Army, ringing bells and opening doors for a few measly quarters.

As I headed toward my customary bench, which faced the carousel, I was pained to see that someone else was sitting there, staring ahead as the kids flew by and the parents stood to the side, holding their shopping bags and beaming approval each time their respective offspring came around. I recognized the face — the pensive stare which seemed at once both studied and far away — and imagined that I looked much the same way to people passing by when I sat there.

There was room on the bench — I wasn't afraid of that — yet I hesitated, not because I felt uncomfortable, but because I almost didn't want to intrude on the space this person was occupying or disturb the solitude of that empty bench by sharing it with him. But the need to quiet my restless soul would not be denied, so I walked over and sat there as quietly as possible, so as not to disturb his train of thought.

He hadn't looked over when I sat down at the end of the bench, but after a few moments his head turned to the right, accepting my presence.

"You'd never think that one day these kids will grow up," he said to me, as if we had already been talking.

"The funny thing is I never thought I would, either." He said, "Sometimes, I believe they put these

rides up to remind us how far we've come, or to taunt us with the knowledge that we can never go back . . . But I like to think they failed there, because I get nothing but joy out of watching the kids going around and around, holding on for dear life," and a friendship was born right then and there.

It turned out we both were university students, though given the size of the university, it's easy to see why we had never crossed paths. Still, I wasn't sure, but I thought I had seen him once or twice before. From that day on, Travis and I formed a friendship like few friendships anywhere. It's strange looking back now, because we really didn't have that much in common on the surface, other than the fact that we both wore glasses and had longer-than-average length blonde hair. But over time, we accepted these differences and developed our friendship based on the feelings that were common inside both of us. Most of all, I learned to cherish the day—the moment of here and now, without any regard for the morrow.

You may have seen him walking around the university back then—he walked with a determination in his stride unequalled by anyone save a sheriff heading to his last big shootout in the center of town. Perhaps you turned your head to the sound of Ives or Beethoven — Travis constantly walked with a miniature cassette player, which was easy to handle and played his favorite classical music without causing the annoyance created by the large 'ghetto blasters' preferred by some.

In many ways, Travis was a hero figure, which is not

(continued on page 6)



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Cyanide

(continued from page 1)

with their administration's verdict.

The resolution for suicide tablets to be stocked by the university was drafted by two undergraduates, Jason Salzman and Chris Ferguson. Asked if he actually expected the pills to be stocked if the referendum passed, Salzman was quoted as replying: "We're not fools, the primary purpose of this was to get people thinking and talking, and it's worked. You know, older people who see today's carefree happy youth thinking about suicide, it makes them think twice about stockpiling nuclear bombs." So Brown students actually weren't serious about keeping suicide tablets, unlike the media's given impression with their focus on suicide rather than the issue of the students making a political statement, a fact which disturbed the student organizers. Leaflets which were strewn about the Brown University campus in the form of a letter from Timothy Wohlgenant, another undergraduate and backer of the resolution stated the actual intentions of it: "Alright, taken solely by itself, the above may appear a little radical. No-one believes it is wise to let the students have the ready option of killing themselves...the University will never hand out cyanide pills, presently the Health Services won't even issue aspirin...We are voting less for the reality of cyanide here than for the symbolic statement against nuclear suicide."

Two years ago, Salzman formed a group Students Against Nuclear Suicide. This group is one of the many political action groups at Brown, which

include: Brown Disarmament, Students Organizing for Peace(STOP), the Brown Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador(CISPES), Students Organized Against Reagan (SOAR), and Students For Suicide Pills, all of which supported the resolution. Another resolution, also in this election called for the university to become a sanctuary for refugees from Central America. It passed 1096 to 537, although the university administration had prepared no comment, having been overwhelmed by the cyanide referendum.

"We can start something here...we have momentum," said Salzman in a statement. The organizers had never expected to get cyanide, the school Health Services had reiterated that it was illegal, unethical, and frivolous nonsense, and that the students understood. But they made a statement. Brown University President Howard Swearer in a prepared statement agreed that "this nation should move towards an informal and constructive discussion of nuclear weapons policy...we must move beyond consciousness raising." What's next? The organizers hope that other colleges will follow their example, as others already have. Students Against Nuclear Suicide will sponsor a rally Nov. 2 at Brown, and will attempt to involve other campuses (It's only 200 miles through N.Y. City to Rhode Island). Salzman is also quoted as stating: "We're in a position now to make a statement for the nation. College students have been shamefully silent on the issue of the arms race."

Hi!



I'm F. Scott Fitzgerald. If I wrote for the Stony Brook Press, I would fill these pages with incisive news, exotic features, and provocative art and music reviews. But I can't because I'm dead; so *you* have to.

The Stony Brook Press meets every Monday night at 8:00pm in room 042 of Old Bio. (basement of Central Hall). Get involved.

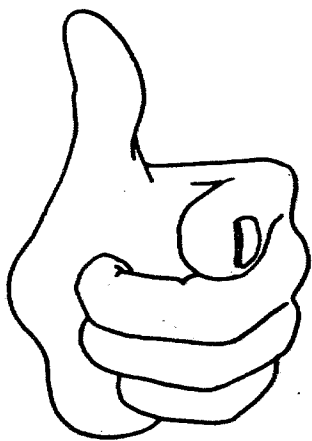
The Finger

by Malcom Murphy

The more I think about it the more it feels like 1977 all over again. Just to refresh your memory that year was the beginning of the so called "NEW WAVE". When all kinds of bands appeared with strange names playing music that was different than most people were listening to. Bands like the Ramones, Blondie, & Talking Heads released albums with a different point of view, making music with roots in the 60's instead of the mellow sounds of the 70's.

You probably know all this but I can sense some parallels between then and now. The Thompson Twins remind me of some of Fleetwood Mac. Who's to say that today's Prince isn't tomorrow's Peter Frampton. I mean how many of you own Purple Rain & Frampton comes alive?? The problem once again lies on the shoulders of radio. You the listener, usually only know what they feed you. If you heard Echo & the Bunnymen once every four hours, instead of Zebra and 10 year old Zeppelin songs, you would probably like them all equally. I appreciate the music of Duran Duran and Billy Idol years before your local 14 year old discovered them on Empty-V. But only because I searched them out. I'm still searching for the new and different, but now they have names like APB, Crippled Pilgrims, and The Go-Betweens.

The point I'm trying to make here in a round about way is that the "NEW WAVE" or whatever they're calling it this week is dead. New music is all types of music, rock, blues, reggae, acoustic, jazz, and electronic. Most



radio stations ignore all but a few major label releases or the latest imports from England. There are thousands of musicians making good music today. Some are the stars of tomorrow. I can only suggest that you open your ears a little wider if you want to hear them today.

Some News, Some Notes: The Apple, WAPP, has changed its format to top 40 or Contemporary Hit Radio (CHR). This means instead of playing the Police and Rush they now feature Lionel Richie & Culture Club. Big deal. There are now 4 CHR stations in NYC, PLJ, Z-100, & the recently changed KTU round out the group, which is 2 too many.

Yellowman & Run-D.M.C. have been recording together. Sounds like a hot combination.

Finally, it seems that the Scorpions are a little pissed at the makers of that very funny spoof, THIS IS SPINAL TAP. The band went to see the movie and thought it was a little to biographical, and left in the middle. Sometimes fiction is stranger than truth.

Oktoberfest Tradition Continues

by Are Kaye

Well, the middle of October is rolling around and to Stony Brook veterans that can mean only one thing, "OKTOBERFEST". This year's Oktoberfest is quite special in that it is Tabler Quad's 15th annual event. It will be taking place this Friday and Saturday night (the 19th and 20th) in the Tabler cafeteria and it will feature 2 top Long Island bands; Spectrum (Friday night) and Eccentrix (Saturday night). Spectrum, as many people know, are quite famous for their excellent renditions of Bruce Spingsteen while Eccentrix features a female singer who can keep the action going. For the beer connoisseurs in the crowd, Oktoberfest will have 150 kegs of beer including such popular imports as Molsons, Heineken, Moosehead, Becks, and of course, Budweiser. The organizers of Oktoberfest are also

planning a cameo appearance from the Moosehead moose who will come to share in the Oktoberfest spirit. There will be a raffle for many beer promotional products. Ron Kraminer, president of the Tabler Quad council said to me, and I quote, "This year's Oktoberfest is going to be the best ever. We have had so much cooperation from student activities and administration is making everything for us a lot easier. Anyone that has been to an Oktoberfest knows it is something they will remember for a long time. And with Fallfest getting rained out it makes Oktoberfest Stony Brook's biggest party of 1984." So don't miss this Oktoberfest this Friday and Saturday night. Doors open at 9:30, tickets are available at the door or at the Union Box Office. It will be an experience you will never forget!!

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