

The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

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Culture Shock

by Ron Ostertag

A distressing void in cultural education has been found recently by numerous independent organizations and committees, who have been seriously critical of American higher education.

Last fall a report by William Bennett, then chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, charged that few college students "can be said to receive there an adequate education in the culture and civilization of which they are members." Last week, at his first press conference as Secretary of Education he observed "most colleges promise to make you better culturally and morally, but it is not evident that they do." The Association of American Colleges also noted last week in a report that schools are becoming less sure about their curriculum's content and purpose, and claimed that faculty are concentrating on research rather than teaching while administrators have adopted a "misguided marketplace philosophy." Even the Carnegie Corporation has created the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy, during a time they say "of a major national reexamination of American education at all levels, a process involving large numbers of national, state, and local groups in a widely dispersed

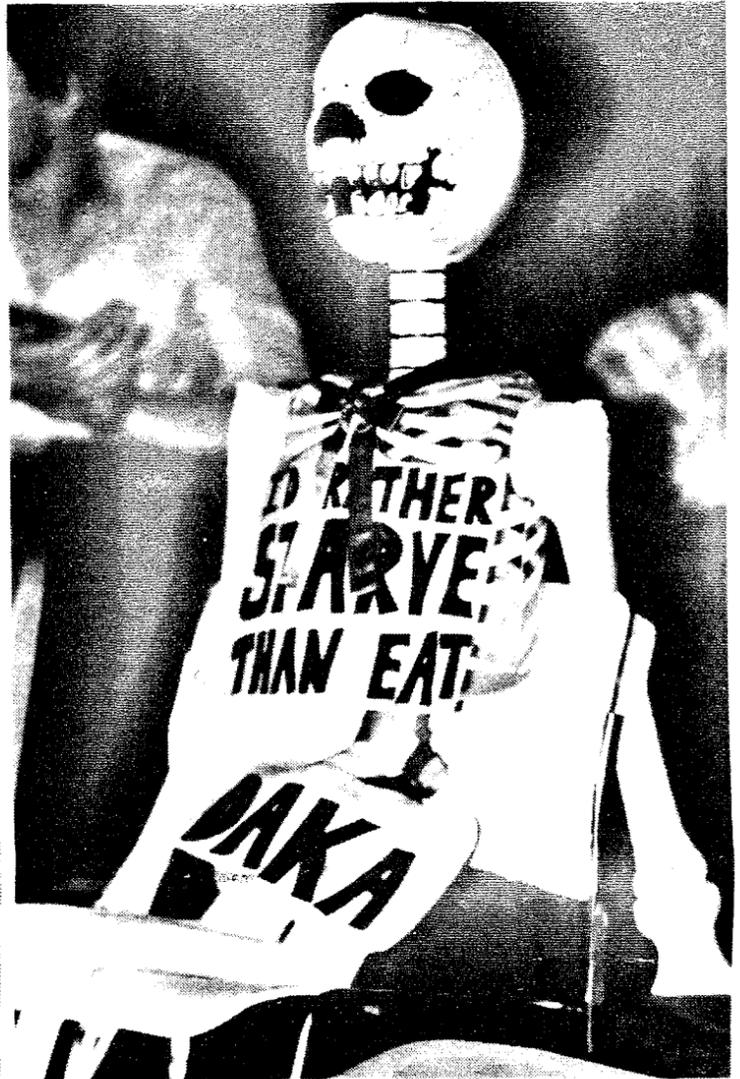
effort to upgrade educational quality."

College Humanities Study

The Bennett report on Humanities in Higher Education was a humanities endowment endeavor investigated by a study group comprised mainly of professors and administrators from a number of colleges and universities across the country, with one representative from the American Historical Association and from the Los Angeles Times. The group sought the answers to three essential questions: "What is the condition of learning in the Humanities; why is it as it is; and what if anything, should be done about it?" Bennett added that "the study group was convened at this particular moment because the time is right for constructive reform of American education."

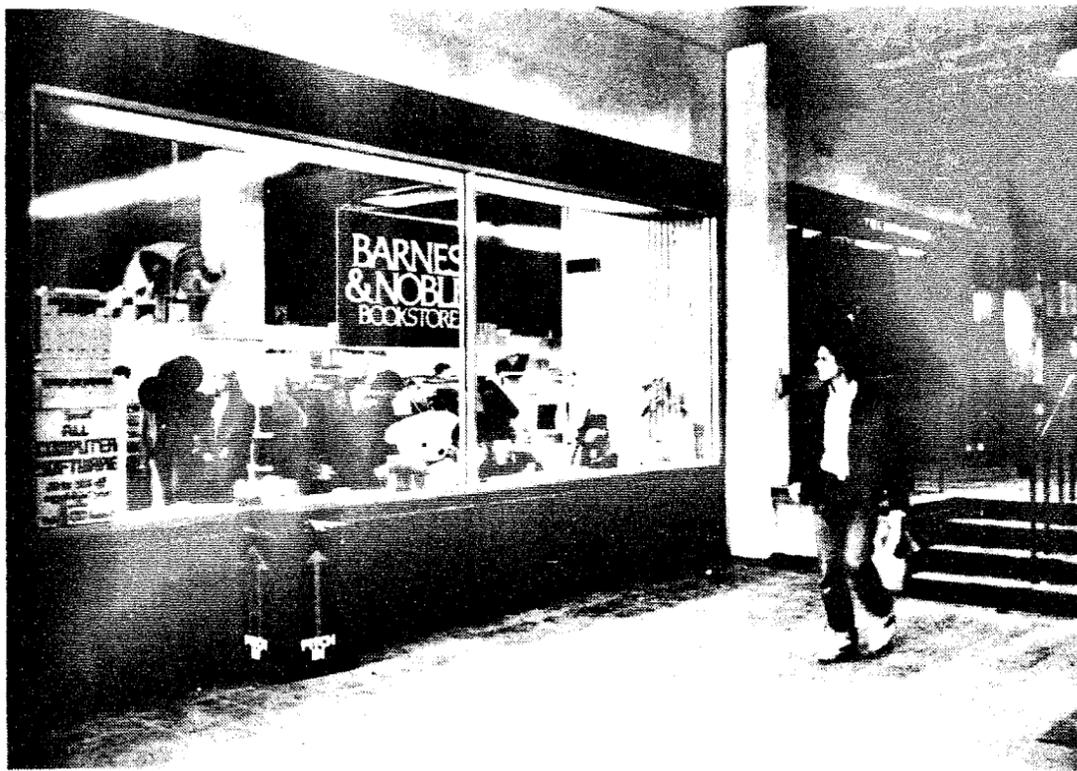
The Bennett report claims that today's American college graduates are frightfully undereducated in the humanities—an observation which he also shares with much of the faculty at SUNY Stony Brook. History, literature, philosophy, and the heritage of Western society are disciplines which are not properly taught today, and are missing from their once central place in the undergraduate curriculum. A number

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Students And Administrators Talk at Town Meeting

by Joe Caponi

Last night's Town Meeting featured both students and administrators frustrated by powers beyond their control, ranging from the SUNY budget to the weather.

The meeting, held in Kelly cafeteria, attended by about 150 people, and moderated by Polity Junior Representative Eric Levine, gave students a chance to question administrators on the dorm cooking program, the University's alcohol policies, and the continuing lack of action on repaving the Pit hockey pit.

University President John Marburger, Vice President for Student Affairs Fred Preston, Residential Physical Plant Director Gary Matthews, and Director of Residence Life Dallas Bauman answered questions at the two hour meeting. Also present were the Polity Council, GSO and FSA President Dave Hill, and SASU Vice President for Campus Affairs Tom Swan.

In an opening statement about dorm cooking to a crowd consisting of many Kelly residents whose buildings are losing their dorm cooking rights, Marburger said that he'd been talking about dorm cooking problems for a couple of years, and he knows the reactions to admin's proposals. But he's committed to the program and sorry about the inconveniences, but it is the only way to respond to the serious problem of deterioration in the dorms.

He followed that by discussing the politics behind the governor's budget, and the lobbying that he and other administrators have been doing to increase Stony Brook's share of state money. Marburger called the budget "disasterous," and said that if money could not be put into it by the governor's staff by the weekend, it would be necessary to ask the legislature to do so before the budget is passed, on or before April 1.

Then, alluding to an issue that many felt will become of great importance in the next year, Marburger discussed the concept of dormitory "self sufficiency," stating that "the state has been trying to unload responsibilities for the dorms for years." If the dorms were made self-sufficient, i.e., if dorm revenues from rent equalled the amount of money spent by the state on the dorms, then the dorms could be run much more independently than they currently are. Marburger expressed reservations about the concept of putting self sufficiency into effect immediately, saying "we're doing our utmost to make sure that the state picks up the bill for repairs to the dorms caused by the state having let them run down so much, before self sufficiency comes about."

Stony Brook Council student member David Gamberg complained that dorm coking mismanagement has been responsible for the deterioration of the program. "Before any building is put on a mandatory meal plan, we have to make sure that dorm cooking money has been spent wisely, and know how it

is going to be spent." Gamberg said that he would be investigation dorm cooking's history and would report to the Council on Alternatives to the Mandatory Meal Plan.

Residents from Kelly A, one of the four buildings that is to become mandatory meal plan in the fall, presented an alternative plan to alleviate the problems of breaking up suites and halls because of the lack of dorm cooking. They offered a counterproposal in which half of the halls in the buildings

Rep. Danny Wexler, Marburger said that the dorm renovations promised to the mandatory meal plan buildings will go ahead despite the problems with the state budget, adding "The situation in the dorms is at the top of our priority list."

Relating the dorm cooking issue to that of self-sufficiency, Polity President Rory Aylward asked, "If students are going to pay fully for the dormitories why shouldn't they get to decide whether they are going to cook there or

how they would pertain to smaller events such as hall and suite parties. Preston added that he would be issuing an interim policy on the keg limits for parties that some RHD's and Quad Directors have set for their buildings, until the Alcohol Board decided on the issue. Defending the rights of students to drink responsibly, Preston added "I'm a beer drinker too, and one wants to be able to have at least a reasonable chug-a-lug."

Asked about renovations on the Pit

"The state has been trying to unload responsibility for the dorms for years"

John Marburger

"I'm a beer drinker, too, and one wants to be able to have at least a reasonable chug-a-lug."

Fred Preston

would be mandatory meal plan and the other half would remain open for the next year. Thus, students would, at the worst, merely have to move to another hall in their own building, rather than another building. Preston responded by saying that the idea might be possible, but possibly only if it was expanded to all of Kelly this year, as it was no longer possible to wait to improve the buildings. Undergraduate admissions applications are down 15%, according to Preston, largely because high school students are aware of the condition of Stony Brook dorms. Preston said he would get back to Kelly by next week on his opinion of the plan, and Marburger agreed, saying "It sounds like a good idea-we will look into it."

In response to a question about the implementation of those rules and

not?" No answer was immediately forthcoming.

Discussion then turned to the new campus alcohol policy, and its affect on students. David Hill asked Preston whether the passage of a 21 year old drinking age law, as has been proposed in the legislature for the second time, would result in administration making the campus alcohol-free. Preston replied that it would be necessary to see how responsible for enforcing the law the university would be held before such a question could be answered.

Asked by Aylward about the stipulation that Daka be the only entity that could serve alcohol at parties, for which money is collected, Preston explained that an Alcohol Beverage Advisory Board he made to decide on the

Hockey pit, Gary Matthews explained that the weather had to warm up before the asphalt company could open up and pave the pit, but that the work would probably be finished by the beginning of April. He said that the money necessary had already been appropriated, and that there would be no delay once the company reopened.

In a closing statement, Preston condemned outbreaks of anti-semitism on campus, and the occurrences of vandalism, particularly in Kelly quad, where there was \$8,000 worth of broken glass windows alone last year.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Levine announced that a second town meeting will be held next month, probably in Roth cafeteria.



Press photo by Scott Richter

POLITY

DANCE

DANCE

DANCE

All Night Long To The Sounds Of
New York City Swing
 at the Michelob / Douglass
Mardi Gras

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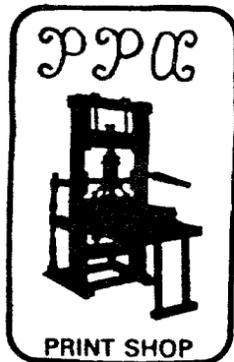
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 bad, it's that sudden
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SKYDIVING

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Go For It!!!!!!!



50¢ with ID
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Moving Out

Bookstore Will Leave Union For Library

by Enoch Chan

Sometime during the late March of this year the Barnes and Noble bookstore in the Student Union will move to the library.

According to Mike Hennelly, the Store Manager, the new Barnes and Noble will be located on the ground floor of the library, with its entrance on the Bridge to Somewhere facing the Student Union.

Although not immediately, many added features will be expected of the new store. Primary attraction, however, seems to circle around the store's expanded computer department and turning the area directly under the bridge (now encircled by red fencing) into a 15-minute parking lot. Barnes and Noble, as of March 1st, shall be an authorized Epson dealer, and shall sell a full line of hard and soft ware.

In addition to this, they shall open a sheet music department in which a large majority shall be classical and jazz, but, as Hennelly points out, there will be some pop. Also, for academic reasons, they shall begin selling tapes and records, but these too will be mainly classical and jazz selections. There will also be additional departments pertaining to games, hobbies and Stony Brook authors, and, because the new store shall be larger, they will have more room to house a greater reference arena.

There are several reasons why Barnes and Noble is moving, the main one being that, while they signed a new ten year contract last April with Stony Brook, the University pointed out that they needed the area in the Union back



Future Bookstore Parking Area

for further development.

The Union Advisory Board, according to Bill Fornadel, Director of the Union, recommends that the upper level become a quiet and comfortable lounge with programming space for lectures. The reasoning behind this is simply that the Union, presently, does not possess a lounge which is both quiet and comfortable, and in addition, the main lounge, which is periodically

used for lectures, is like a corridor. This lounge may also have an exterior entrance to permit night study.

The lower level will also be put to good use. This may become a recreation room complete with video center, T.V. room, vending machines, and a window to the Rainy Night House.

So, when will all this be completed? Fornadel chuckles, "Well, we still need funding, but we hope to get something

done by the end of the summer."

Along with all these alterations on campus, Barnes and Noble will also be responsible for opening a small sports supplies shop named the Locker Room in the Gym. Finally, although Barnes and Noble shall undergo many improvements in the near future, Hennelly mildly points out that they are just becoming even more of a service oriented bookstore.

Press photo by Haluk Soykan

Balance Sheet

Gov. Proposes \$0 to Hire Three Officers

by Ken Kruger

This year Stony Brooks department of Campus Operations, which controls the physical plant and the campus' maintenance and safety asked N.Y. State for 4 additional employers to join the approximately 110 people working for Public Safety. This was part of the University's 1985-86 Budget Request, and a few weeks ago a reply was received from the Governor's office.

Public Safety received 3 of the 4 new positions asked for, which isn't bad considering all of the gloom and doom surrounding Governor Cuomo's 1985-1986 Budget proposal. Last week both University President John Marburger and University Budget Director Dan Melucci estimated that over 100 jobs would be lost at the University due to the \$1.3 million in personnel funding cuts proposed in the Governors budget. Campus operations seems pretty lucky in this light until you discover how much Albany allocated to pay the salaries of these future additions to Public Safety. Campus Operations asked for a budget increase of \$96,200,

\$56,200 of which was earmarked for the salaries of the 3 new employees. What it received was \$0, nothing!

It was reported that the reasoning behind this move was that the salary would be paid out of current Public

Safety overtime. Although no overtime figures were available, both Gary Barnes, Director of Public Safety and Vice President for Campus Operations Robert Francis denied it. Barnes said there was no way is assign an average overtime salary because "some people don't work overtime and some will make as much money as they can."

Barnes did explain that no new employees had been hired, and said that the money to pay for three new positions didn't exist in Public Safety's current budget, but both he and Kenth Sjolín, Assistant Director seemed mystified about where the money would come from.

Vice President Francis did do his best to explain what was going on.

"In N.Y. State before you hire anyone or even advertise a position the salary for that person must be there" Francis said.

Dr. Francis also pointed out that the Governor's budget was just a proposal and not final, but until money is allocated the proposed positions remain numbers on a balance sheet.



Gary Barnes, Director Public Safety

Editorial

Dorm Control

(continued from page 2)

needed service rather than being viewed as SUNY's special police by their peers. It will put the RA's in a much fairer position with their peers, resulting in RA's receiving the increased respect and gratitude they deserve. It will also allow for students as consumers in the dorms to determine the avenues of learning they wish to pursue in enhancing their living experience.

The operation of the dorms should fall under the auspices of FSA's or a similar structure. The Board of Directors which would govern the dorms must be made up of at least 51% selected by students. The Dormitory Authority would set a flat rate to charge each corporation to pay off the debt service and utilities. This would be substantially lower than the current rate.

The corporation shall be responsible for the campus life staff, dorm directors, and RA's these people shall become employees of the ASC's. This type of structure will enhance the efficiency, flexibility, and autonomy of the dormitory and will be able to interlock with existing services on the campuses run by FSA's (laundry, food, vending, etc.).

The Stony Brook Press publishes letters and viewpoints weekly. They should be no longer than 800 words respectively. Hand written pieces will be burned.

Letters

To the editor:

This letter was approved by the Hendrix College Legislature by a majority vote of: 24--9.

We, the members of Hendrix College feel that various grievances were placed at your attention, that do not reflect the general consensus of our building. These grievances were placed to your attention in a said petition; sent to Residence Life, Student Affairs, and the Stony Brook Press on February 7, 1985. Being that these grievances do not reflect our general opinion, and the fact that it was released through much misinterpretation and misunderstanding; we would like to retract the said petition and all its implications stating Hendrix as its promoter.

Scott Thurman
President

Hendrix College Legislature

To the Editor,

The following is an open letter to the campus community. We the members of STAC (Students Toward an Accessible Campus) are writing because of the conditions after the recent snow storm which endangered the safety of both the disabled and non-disabled alike. We understand the position of the University in that the snow removal is a difficult and expensive task which is complicated by a lack of equipment and inadequate staffing. However, the university has both a moral and legal responsibility to meet the needs of the students.

The disabled encountered many and diverse problems due to the snow. Because the paths were not cleaned, the blind and visually impaired became

disoriented and found negotiating the campus to be extremely hazardous. People in wheelchairs followed normally accessible routes only to find that their way was blocked because paths were not cleaned wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through. Curb cuts, stairways and handicapped parking areas also were neglected making it difficult, if not impossible, for many of the disabled to get around campus. Icy conditions existed throughout much of the campus causing travel to be treacherous. Many students were forced to miss classes on that day and also on subsequent days, before the problem was solved by the warm weather.

By writing this letter we hope to make the campus aware of the ob-

stacles encountered by the disabled, but we also would like to emphasize that the nondisabled also faced unsafe conditions as well. In the future we hope that all those involved in maintaining the campus will take this into consideration when plagued with a similar situation. The administration has a responsibility to allocate sufficient funds in order to keep the campus functioning in a safe manner. The safety of the students and staff should be the overriding concern at all times.

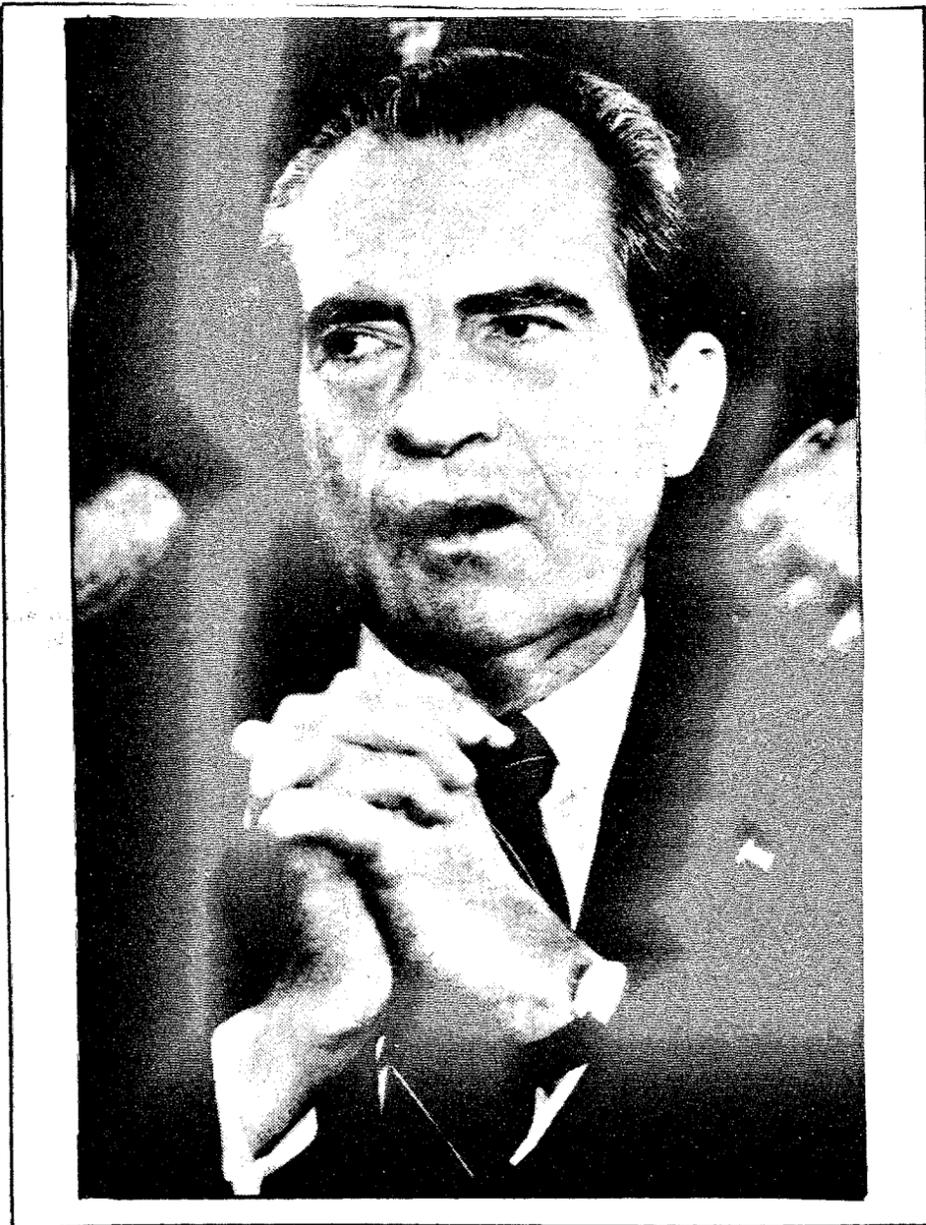
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
The members of STAC

The Professor



HELP SUPPORT POLITY CLUBS.



Had this man joined
a Polity club,
he wouldn't be looking
for a job today.

THEY ARE THERE FOR YOU.

Culture Shock

Curriculum Reform In Progress

"of trends and developments in higher education," of which the "study group was disturbed" included:

- Many of our colleges and universities have lost a clear sense of the importance of the humanities and the purpose of education, allowing the thickness of their catalogues to substitute for vision and a philosophy of education.
- The humanities, and particularly the study of Western civilization, have lost their central place in the undergraduate curriculum. At best, they are but one subject among many that students might be exposed to before graduating. At worst, and too often, the humanities are virtually absent.
- A student can obtain a bachelor's degree from 75% of all American colleges and universities without having studied European history, from 72% without having studied American literature or history, and from 86% without having studied the civilizations of classical Greece and Rome.
- Fewer than half of all colleges and universities now require foreign language study for the bachelor's degree, down nearly 90% in 1966.
- The sole acquaintance with the humanities for many undergraduates comes during their first two years of college, often in ways that discourage further study.
- The number of students choosing majors in the humanities has plummeted. Since 1970 the number of majors in English has declined by 57%, in philosophy by 41%, in history by 62%, and in modern languages by 50%.
- Too many students are graduating from American colleges and universities lacking even the most rudimentary knowledge about history, literature, art, and philosophical foundations of their nation and their civilization.
- The decline in learning in the humanities was caused in part by failure of nerve and faith on the part of many college faculties and administrators, and persists because of a vacuum in educational leadership. A recent study of college presidents found that only 2% are active in their institutions' academic affairs.

Stony Brook Humanities Reform

Recommendations in order to reverse this decline included curriculum reform "based on a clear vision of what constitutes an educated person, regardless of major." Stony Brook University is currently involved in an extensive curriculum reform process, with a number of persons working with it aware of Humanities education deficiencies here. Last year's university Senate President Joel Rosenthal, at the end of a year when the first concrete curriculum reform initiatives were taken in the Senate, stated in his farewell comments: "I think that the University has taken the first steps towards the most important re-thinking and re-structuring of our basic liberal arts curriculum in the twenty years that I have been at Stony Brook. I think that we might realize some success in the challenging task of raising our student's level of cultural ap-

preciation and in enhancing their understanding of the inter-relationship between the earth's various peoples and between human beings and the natural world, as well as of the inter-connections between the apparently disparate and fragmented nature of academic inquiry."

In the area of humanities within Stony Brook's curriculum reform, the only change thus far initiated is a new year long course. This course will be implemented this fall, and will, according to Herman Lebovics, Chairman of the History Department and of the committee which was charged by the University Senate with inventing a "core course in Humanities," "introduce students to a cultural tradition that has been lost in our curriculum." According to Aldona Jonaitis, Associate Provost for Arts and Humanities, this course will allow Stony Brook to answer "yes" to a question which Bennett poses to all academic communities: "Does the curriculum on your campus ensure that a graduate with a bachelor's degree will be conversant with the best that has been thought and written about the human condition?" The course will be taught by four professors from different humanities disciplines, and will satisfy three Social Science credits, and three Humanities credits towards distribution. It will be a 100 level survey course, which according to Lebovics "makes the study (in other humanities, social sciences, and even science courses) coherent." "We hope that they take it...It's their experience that we are trying to enrich." Theodore Goldfarb, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate studies (a position brought about through curriculum reform) further explained "our culture is not a culture that derives merely from western routes...and this course attempts to show students how this came about."

The entire curriculum reform movement at Stony Brook began with the start of the Curriculum Review Committee two years ago, headed by Dean Robert Neville. The "first phase" of this movement originally was scheduled to begin this past fall, with

stricter writing requirements where students are now required to pass either a basic English Composition course, EGC 101 with at least a C, or a higher level writing course. The second phase to be implemented next fall, 1985 will require all Freshmen to pass an entry level mathematics exam, which they can retake upon failing or they must pass a course equivalent to Mathematics 11 which will not be a credit course.

New distribution requirements which had been recommended to be implemented this fall, are currently being considered by the University Senate to be implemented a year later, September 1986. This will require all students who enter as freshmen to full-fill 27 credits distributed equally among the Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Physical, Biological, and Mathematical sciences. These distribution requirements are summarized by a Provost's report as follows:

- 1) The new distribution requirement in Arts and Humanities for all students entering the University as freshmen shall include a total of at least three credits of new interdepartmental courses designed to provide a coherent introduction to the Arts and Humanities. Six additional credits of courses designated to satisfy the Arts and Humanities requirement shall consist of any three-credit course that focuses on the development of skills of interpretation and analysis specific to the Arts and Humanities and any three-credit course consisting of an in-depth study of a specific figure, event, period, or movement.
- 2) The new distribution requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences shall include two courses (six credits) chosen from a restricted list of interdepartmental introductory courses and departmental courses. An additional one-semester course shall introduce students to the methodological approaches used in one or more of the social and behavioral sciences.
- 3) One three-credit course in either the Arts and Humanities or the Social and Behavioral Sciences must come from a list of courses designed to introduce

students to the culture, social and political institutions, and value systems of a nation or region in Africa, Asia, or Latin America.

4) The distribution requirements in the sciences shall include six credits of courses that introduce students to the important ideas in the biological, physical or mathematical sciences. The courses are designed to introduce students to the ideas, methods, and structure of science. An additional three-credit course shall be required that has at least a one-semester science prerequisite and examines that science in relation to other aspects of human knowledge and culture.

The process of curriculum reform was described as a very slow one by both Jonaitis and Provost Homer Neil. "There has never been a curriculum reform that has gone into effect in less than two years," according to Jonaitis, "...it's a very slow process." She added that this entire process at Stony Brook will probably take about another ten years.



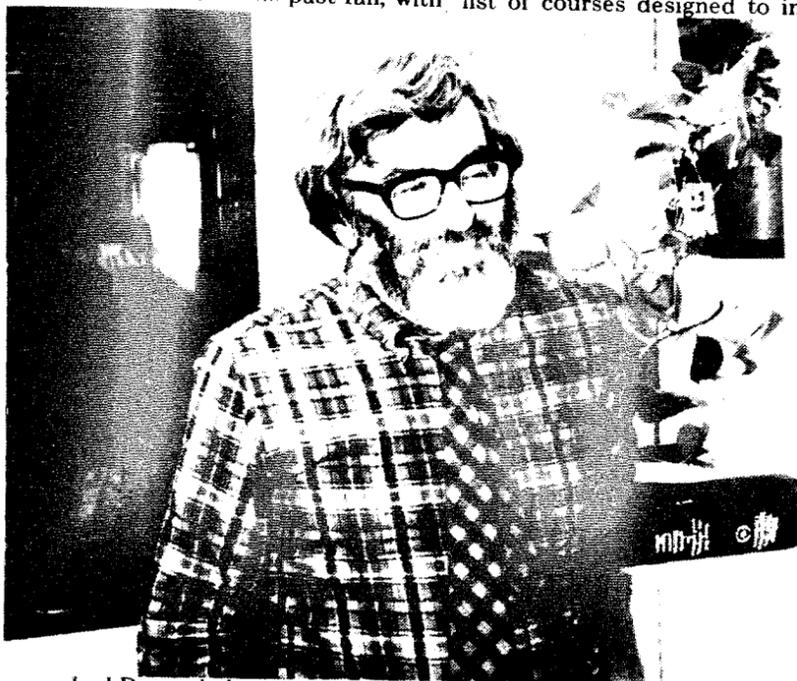
Homer Neil

With this reform, in the next few years according to Goldfarb, "a bunch of new courses will have to be made up." He added that all "future courses satisfying distribution will employ a set of core themes." These six themes include: Global Thinking, Cultural Perspectives, Western History and Culture (in the light of World History and Culture), Future Society, Implications of Science in Society, and Implications of Technology in Society. Additional priorities of curriculum reform include further improvements in writing and mathematical skills, as well as computer literacy.

Katy Bar the Door

The association of American Colleges report explains nine "experiences" which make up a "minimum required curriculum covering intellectual, aesthetic, and philosophic experiences" which are necessary to an educated person. These include: 1) Inquiry, abstract logical thinking, critical analysis; 2) Literacy: writing, reading, speaking, listening; 3) Understanding numerical data; 4) Historical consciousness; 5) Science; 6) Values; 7) Art; 8) International and multicultural experiences; 9) Study in depth of a discipline or a group of disciplines. Stony Brook is looking towards this type of liberal arts education, according to Goldfarb "by improving the general education curriculum." He adds that with the growth of higher education in the 1960's, "the mission of

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Joel Rosenthal

Press photo by Haluk Soykan

Apathy and Principles

by Rory "Hawkeye" Aylward
Polity President

Its 4 AM, and I still don't know what to make of last evening's Town Meeting. I mean, all the right people were there from the Administration, the Council was there, and even Dave Gamberg invited himself to sit on the dais with the Administrators. Still, the big question remains: Was it a success?

Well, it seemed to run well enough, in the sense that it was organized, orderly and smooth. Eric Levine and Danny Wexler did their usual thorough job of bringing the event off. In that respect, all was as it should be. So what was the problem?

The problem, I think, is the same one that has plagued the student government since I can remember: APATHY!! Of an undergraduate population of some 10,000, less than 200 showed up to air their grievances on the issues of dorm cooking and the new alcohol policy. At best, this is less than 2% of the student body. Not exactly an impressive statistic any way one looks at it.

Of that less than 200, the majority seemed to be from Kelly A (looking very homogenous in their white football jerseys), which is not

surprising since Kelly A is one of the buildings targeted as cooking free. What was surprising was that, when the discussion on dorm cooking ended, Kelly A vanished with but few exceptions. Of other campus issues they wished to know nothing. Their reason for coming to the meeting was strictly parochial. Of issues that affected the entire campus they were unconcerned.

And that, my friends, is why the Administration has been able to act with a virtual free hand as regards to student affairs. Until students care enough about each other, until they are willing to spend the time on issues of principle that may not effect them directly, then they should expect very little in the way of results. As in so many other things, you get out of it what you put into it.

The evening was not without its bright spots, however, chief among them being the fact that several Kelly A residents had put together a counter-proposal to the presidents plan for implementing the changes in Kelly. What will come of it at this late stage is questionable, but the fact that it was done at all is encouraging in its own way.

So what's next? Unless something is done

soon, the new Campus Alcohol Policy will be rendered meaningless by the proposed 21 year old drinking age. While this bill was defeated last year in the legislature, the sad fact of the matter is that the stakes in the form of Federal aid for highways, are much higher this time around. Unless students meet this challenge, Fall 1985 will find Stony Brook a very dry campus.

For those who don't find this an agreeable prospect, the opportunity to make one's views known are plentiful, if one is willing to invest some time. You can:

1. Call or write Gov. Cuomo or your Senator or Assemblyman
2. Join your fellow students in Albany on Monday, when we will be sending two busloads of students to lobby in the State Capitol

Details for any of these projects can be obtained at the Polity office.

Call 246-3673 and ask to speak to Mark Cantales of SASU, or any member of the Council. Its easy, painless, and you will actually be defending your Civil Liberties. It's worth a try, and it might even make you feel good. I'll probably be doing all of the above, and I'm 23, so don't let your age stop you. Remember: It's the principle of the thing that counts.

Playing With Numbers

by Jeff Leibowitz

The writer is a Statesman news reporter who, during his investigation of a February Statesman news story on smaller classes and alleged dramatically improved grades derived from this different setting in popular classes such as MAT 125, etc., found a number of inequities and misinformation behind the story. He explains his opinions on what he terms a "fraud" within the mathematics department in this viewpoint.

A serious compromise of academic standards in the mathematics department has been indicated by Barry Fox, the director of the mathematics learning center who just recently had the guts to speak out. Dr. Paul Kumpel, the undergraduate program director is claiming a dramatic increase in student ability and performance, which he is attributing to the recently instituted smaller classes in certain popular courses which were previously held in a large lecture hall setting.

Vice Provost Dr. Graham Spanier has said, "the results are dramatic evidence that smaller classes pay off." The results that Dr. Spanier is speaking of are as follows:

*Failure rates were previously 50%, and with the new classes the failure rate fell to 19%

*A's increased from 3% to 24%

In piecing together that article I was overwhelmed with the need to express my opinion on the subject. In short, it's a fraud. The department's figures were ludicrous and they knew it. Would it be fair to students who had previously taken the course if they had simply lowered their standards? Of course not.

A student has called these classes an "alibi for the math department." I agree. Small classes are great in that they allow for better student-teacher interaction and encourage attendance; but this incredible new concept could not possibly have created these figures. An 800% increase in A's? A more than 60% decrease in F's? I have nothing against good grades or better performance, but these figures are an insult to

previous calculus students who had not passed, as well as to those who have passed although they really did not deserve to.

The program coordinator at the time was Dr. M. Dusa McDuff. The program coordinator is most responsible for the decision as to where the cut off points will be for final grades. McDuff, who is now on leave, is most responsible for these unrealistic figures. McDuff was in charge of the grading meeting which the math department holds near the end of the semester. At this meeting opposition was voiced to the leniency that she was proposing, yet the standards were lowered. Kumpel, who told a reporter that grading standards were not lowered, didn't attend this meeting. How he comes to his conclusion is beyond me.

The smaller classes seem to have been well received. Students seemed pleased with their new academic prowess. An editorial was published in Statesman stating that the money could not have been better spent, and also we have these wonderful new statistics to boot. What people fail to see is that while the tests are of the same difficulty as they had been previously, and student quality has not dramatically improved. The new T.A.'s are less qualified than the original faculty, recitation classes were dropped so classes are meeting less frequently. Kumpel called the use of the T.A.'s "a trade off." He then caught his tongue, fixed his tie, and proceeded to tell me, "but no, I mean, well, quality hasn't suffered."

Fox said, "I don't buy it." I don't buy it either. I think it's an outright lie. Students interviewed told me that they received grades that they did not deserve. Teachers told me that they were forced to give out grades that were not earned. Where do Kumpel and Spanier get the gall to claim that better performance has created these figures? These statistics were not created by students. They were created by the Math department.

I'm told that a reporter from a major newspaper has seen this story and is putting together an article on the effectiveness of smaller classes at Stony Brook. As a reporter I wasn't supposed to put my opinion in that article. However I refuse to let this type of figure fondling be misconstrued by the public.

The grades last semester were fixed. Fixed to create the statistics you are now reading about. Everyone runs into a little political bull now and again, but this is really a cute one. I mean, who is going to complain? Students get better grades. The system appears to be working so the teachers are happy. The department gets the extra funding it needs because of the great success. And, we still have these pretty numbers to show the press, so even Admin. gets a bask in the sun.

I think that this is wrong. Before you go sign up for the Math department's magical new classes ask yourself a question. If you do pass and you really did not deserve to, who is really going to suffer because of it? In a subject that builds upon itself as much as math does that C or D that should have been an F is only the math department's way of telling you that they don't care if you know the material that you should know, and this will show. It will show in Economics where Calculus MAT 125 is a prerequisite, it will show in other science classes such as physics and eventually it's going to show in upper division math courses. That is unless...

It takes guts to take a stand on something that you know won't be well received. I give Fox credit for doing that. Now before you pick up that pen to tell the world how wonderful your small calculus class is, remember that class size is not the issue. Everyone seems in favor of the smaller classes, but no one who has a shred of honesty left in him can attribute these figures to the smaller classes. To the math department you're just a number, and numbers are what make up statistics. Aren't they, Dr. Kumpel?

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Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures:

"Grass, Doblin and De Coster: Three European Writers in the Modern Tradition of the Epic Novel"

A lecture by Dr. Helmut Pfanner from the University of New Hampshire.

February 25-at 12:30pm, in Library room N3063. Everyone welcome!

Womyn's Center:

"Your Right to Choose Abortion"

A talk with Mona Orange from Planned Parenthood Monday, Feb. 25, at 7pm at the Womyn's Center, Basement of the Stony Brook Union.

University Distinguished Lecture Series:

"Broadcast Journalism and the American Political Process"

A lecture by Bettina Gregory, ABC-TV Senior General Assignment Correspondent.

February 26 at 8:00pm, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Open to public, free admission

Office of Veterans Affairs:

Open Meeting

A meeting open to all interested in veterans' affairs concerning benefits, services, and affirmative action programs affecting disabled or Vietnam Vets

February 26, 5-6, room 226 in the Stony Brook Union.

Fine Arts Center: Stony Brook

Wind Ensemble/Concert Band

Performing Ballet Music, for free tickets call 246-3401.

Wednesday, February 27 at 8:00pm on the Fine Arts Center Main Stage.

Kelly A College:

News, Views, N Booze

A comprehensive program examining alcohol related issues. Drinking, Alcoholism, Drinking-Driving, The Buddy System, and the Brewing system all will be discussed including presentations by Suffolk County Police, Public Safety, Gary Matthew Director Residential Physical Plant, and Anheuser-Busch Spokesman. Beer will be served, with a breathalyzer present.

February 28, 8:00pm in the Kelly A Basement Lounge. Produced by Peter Rajkowski-246-4072.

HOLA:

U.S. Nicaraguan Relations Forum

A forum featuring a talk by John Gerrasi, professor of Political Science at Queens College, and a short film "Americas in Transition". Sponsored by HOLA, a group of students and professors, and the Red Balloon Collective.

February 28 at 7:00pm in the Union Fireside Lounge.

Campus Women's Safety Committee:

Labeling Women Deviant

A one day conference including speakers and workshops designed to explore the attitudes and assigned gender roles which lead to labeling women deviant. Cost is \$1.00 advance registration, \$3 at the door for students, \$8 advance and \$10 at the door for faculty, staff, and community members. More information contact Antonia Booth, 246-5940 or Kathleen Paulsen, 444-2502. Saturday, March 2, Stony Brook Union.

Whose Stomach Is It Anyway?

by Steve Sieroki

At last night's Town meeting in Kelly cafeteria, Fred Preston made two things perfectly clear. First, he really didn't give a flying case of indigestion just how many people opposed the imposition of a mandatory meal plan in 4 buildings. Second, any promises for "Building renovations to be completed before implementing [The mandatory meal plan]" have about as much value as what one finds lying around cow pastures.

In relation to the first point, one student asked the crowd of approximately 150 students how many people supported a mandatory meal plan; the response was overwhelmingly supportive. Dr. Preston's response was nothing short of belittling the student body as a whole. When he said, he "[did] not need to win a popularity contest to know what was in the better interest of students." I'm sorry Fred but it is one thing to "win a popularity contest" and totally another thing to pass off your interests as those of the students. It seems strange that students

can decide the leadership of this country and decide their career goals, but the Vice President for Student (?) Affairs doesn't think that students have enough common sense to decide how they want to feed themselves. In addition, Dr. Preston and Dr. Marburger assured everyone that this decision had nothing to do with making money for the meal-plan and that money was not an issue. I wonder about the students that can't afford the \$700 at the beginning of the semester for the meal plan, and will eventually be forced to decide whether or not they can afford to attend Stony Brook if dorm-cooking is eliminated. Whose better interests are being served then, especially when money isn't an issue to the person making the policy.

In relation to the second point, Dr. Preston was asked if the building renovations had not been completed as promised, would these buildings be allowed to retain dorm-cooking. His reply amounted to nothing more than no. If it doesn't matter that the building renovations be completed before implementing [the mandatory meal plan] then why did Dr. Preston bother in-

cluding that clause in his proposal. I wonder how many students angered at losing dorm-cooking were placated by the prospect of getting the work done in their building that should have been done years ago. I wonder whose better interests are being served for the students who return to find only half of the "renovations" they expected and/or woken up by crews at 8:00am.

It is a wonder that more students aren't up in arms since their interests are being so thoughtfully considered. Unless of course, you consider that Fred Preston's idea of student input is 'putting it' to the students. The bottom line is that only students can determine the better interests of students, and, unless we voice our opinion, people like Fred Preston will continue to think they know our interests better than ourselves.

Q: Whose better interests are being served when we allow ourselves to perceive our interests don't count.

A: (clue: not students)

Viewpoint

Residents And Residence Life

By John Higgins

1/27: Hendrix College passes 23-0-3 a resolution calling for reformation of alleged Residence Life malpractices and abuses. This is later heavily criticized for use of strong language and irrelevancies & trivialities.

2/13: Hendrix College overturns the resolution passed 1/27. Although motion to overturn was made by a non-backer of the original bill, a great moral victory has been won by those hit hardest by the resolution.

Let it not be said that in defeat I am bitter. Rather let it read that "I gave my best shot," and having lost, am more disappointed in my own inability to relate my personal outrage than in the mobility of others to perceive a slap on the face to American values when dealt.

But also let it not be said that having lost a battle, I have lost the cause.

Perhaps known by now for my overly passionate views on subjects such as tenants rights and the principle of self-determination, I feel none-the-less compelled to change that which must be changed, rather than to brood over what might be. I maintain, much to the protest from its employees, that Residence Life administration is totally "out-of-control," i.e. has lost sight of that which it must forever be dedicated to: the healthy growth and maturing of a society of people with rights of their own, not to be discarded for the attainment of ulterior motives. Residence Life's Pat Love expressed at the meeting 2/13 that Residence Life's main function was one of instilling "discipline." However, its function should be one of instilling dignity: dignity of the human spirit dignity in the aspirations this spirit strives for, and above all dignity and pride in the traditions of free expression, independent thought, and independent action that is in the vault and arch of the great American society.

A Residence Life Administration which actively abominates these values by minimizing the right of the student body to direct its own activities teaches the budding youth of America the cynical reality that rights are only for the Martin Luther Kings, the Desmond Tutus, and the Bernadette Devlins of the world: those who have the will and strength of character to buck the systemized denial of rights, rights every man and woman is entitled to. Indeed, Residence Life is an organization that repudiates the very foundation of what we must make the new American democracy: that the black as

well as the white, the meek as well as the strong, and yes the young as well as the elders shall stand on equal footing and with the assumed natural superiority of none.

The policy of drinking rules, whereby elder elite Quad Directors & RHDs from Res Life arbitrarily and without uniformity on campus institute policy for the many, and to whom I amongst the many must plead for a magnanimous gesture from omnipotency, gives evidence to authoritarianism and a void of common decency and good will that I feel characterizes the Residence Life administration's concept of its role on campus.

And not necessarily noble is the seemingly clandestine actions of Residence Life in Roth Quad to actively engage in the compilation of apparently secretive reports on individuals. These "incident reports" quite often contain incriminating, or apparently incriminating material on an individual. Highly offensive is that most often the individual involved is not informed that such a report exists and is therefore unable to refute, clarify, or dismiss the contained accusations. Particularly, I was not aware of the existence of such a device used by Residence Life for covert character subversion until late last December when such files were to be used as the basis for the threatened judicial action by the Roth Quad Director Pat Love against over a half dozen residents of Hendrix College. Residence Life administration has apparently taken the stance that not only do students give up their rights to govern their own actions when they take up residency on campus, but likewise voided are our most sacred rights as individuals and citizens of the United States of America. While many may excuse the actions of the CIA as necessary and proper to preserve a governmental system of justice, I cannot excuse the Residence Life administrators bent on using these forms as a device to strengthen their authoritarian grip on campus life.

And nowhere more evident is campus life held captive to Residence Life administrators than in the basement of Hendrix College. Where during the fall of '83 the basement quarters were open, after intercession in January '84 a room was constructed sealing off 1/3 of the basement quarters without consultation of the Legislature. It was not until four months later that Residence Life made an overture to the Leg as to its exact in-

tentions. At that time it was found that the RHA desired to use the room for meetings (Hendrix Leg minutes 4/14/84), a motion that was granted. In Fall '84 it was not only discovered that the RHA had intended upon using the room as a permanent office locked off from Hendrix residents, but that Res. Life had plans, since dropped, to seal off the entire basement, save a horizontal corridor from a stairwell to an exit. (Hendrix Leg. has sent a letter authorized 12/11/84 opposing the RHA's conversion of the room from use for meetings to use as an office).

That Res. Life administrators feel that it may dispose of the public facilities as it wishes is obviously of little doubt. Similar instances in Kelly Quad concerning a Res. Life expropriation of a study lounge for their personal use constitutes a strong analog to this case in Hendrix. But so must be lumped together in conspiracy is the RHA, an organization which ironically proposes to work out differences between tenant and landlord. Thus the RHA, conceived from the mind of Residence Life (not granted Polity funding) as a tool to deal with and mold its tenants shows the same abysmal level of regard for tenants rights as does its advisory organization, Residence Life. And I unfortunately feel it is as helpful and in tune with the tenants of Stony Brook as are the official government unions of Poland helpful and in tune with their laborers.

But that the rights entitled to each member of the campus community, and to the campus community as a whole, are being actively assaulted by the Res. Life administration is of little doubt in my mind. And in that it commands only so much respect as it is willing to afford the residents of Stony Brook, and that it deserves only so much subservience as it is willing to be subservient to the will of the tenants of its buildings, it gathers neither my respect nor my submission. And in that my duty lies not so much in criticism as it does in active and decisive steps to compel constructive reformation, I propose first an attempt to bring about a more responsive Polity, one that will back our rights and contentions, one more deeply rooted in the colleges and with the common students. Through this revitalized organ of the student body, skewed down to the college level, may we begin dealing with the many continuing travesties of students rights presented by the Residence Life administration.

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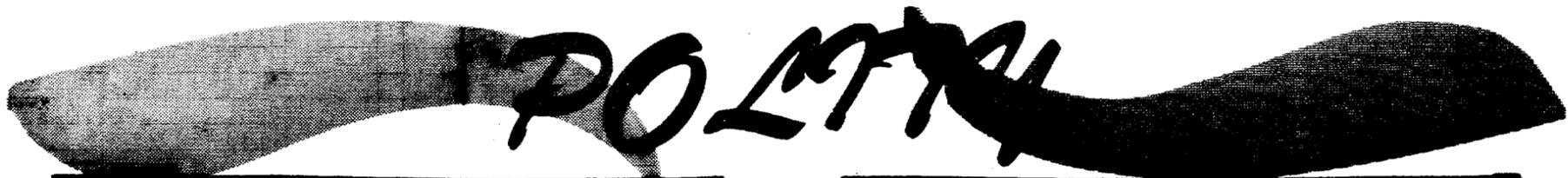
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Curriculum Reform

(continued from page 8)

the university had become much broader and an enormous increase and occurred in the external funds flowing into the universities.” This lead concentrated interest in research, while students took more general courses. According to Jonaitis, “during the ‘60’s curriculum got much more fluid.” Today’s curriculum reform is an attempt to build upon a more general educational core, while improving the curriculum and cultural literacy of all.

While the management and integrity of College Curriculums has been severely criticized by numerous independent commissions, the administrators behind the curriculum reform at Stony Brook are confident that their solutions to this problem will correct any inequities not only in the general education of students, but also in the disciplines within the Humanities. Once this reform is implemented, Jonaitis is confident that all graduates from Stony Brook will “be conversant with the best that has been thought and written about the human condition.” While we can’t force physics onto the philosopher, nor philosophy onto the physicist, a happy medium might be arrived at. Jonaitis hopes, however, that “in ten years...there will be a renaissance and they (students) will take humanities courses on their own will.”

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this week	last week	artist	title
1	2	Various	Nuggets Compilation (4 LP's)
2	6	The Bluebells	Sisters (LP)
3	3	Los Lobos	How will the Wolf Survive?
4	5	Van Morrison	A Sense of Wonder (LP)
5	24	The Nomads	Outburst (LP)
6	14	Flash and the Pan	Early Morning Wake Up Call (LP)
7	4	Penguin Cafe Orchestra	Broadcasting from Home (LP)
8	1	Laurie Anderson	United States Live (LP)
9	12	The Smiths	How Soon is Now? (12")
10	13	New Pulse Jazz Band	Boogie Man (LP)
11	7	David Sanborn	Straight to the Heart (LP)
12	15	Arthur Blythe	Put Sunshine in it (LP)
13	9	Sade	Diamond Life (LP)
14	10	Android Sisters	Songs of Electronic Despair (LP)
15	11	Aswad	Rebel Souls (LP)
16	*	Elliot Easton	Change no Change (LP)
17	*	Velvet Underground	VU (LP)
18	23	Roomful of Blues	Dressed Up to Get Messed Up (LP)
19	18	The Stranglers	Aural Sculpture (LP)
20	25	Ini Kamoze	Statement (LP)
21	16	John Fogerty	Centerfield (LP)
22	27	Toure Kunda	Live (LP)
23	29	James Newton	Echo Canyon (LP)
24	31	Malcolm McLaren	Fans (LP)
25	17	The Bronski Beat	Age of Consent (LP)
26	36	The Drongos	Small Miracles (LP)
27	22	A Drop in the Gray	Certain Sculptures (LP)
28	37	Apsarus	Apsarus (LP)
29	*	Frankie Paul	Pass the Tu-Shu Shem Peng (LP)
30	19	Linda Thompson	One Clear Moment (LP)
31	33	Jeff Lorber	Step By Step (LP)
32	*	John Fekner City Squad	Idioblast (LP)
33	21	Guadalupe Diary	Walking in the Shadow of the Big Man
34	34	Bunnydrums	Holy Moly (LP)
35	40	Linton Kwesi Johnson	Reggae Greats-Greatest Hits (LP)
36	*	Milt Jackson	The Jazz Skyline (LP)
37	28	In Tua Nua	Take My Hand (12")
38	*	David Matthews	Ice-Fuse One (LP)
39	*	Dizzy Gillespie	The Dizzy Gillespie Story (LP)
40	*	The Monochrome Set	Jacob's Ladder (EP)

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 Whoopi Goldberg LP; Andreas Vollenweider LP; Pablo Moses LP; Fela LP; The Chieftans LP; The Smiths LP; Husker Du LP; Ry Cooder LP; A:t Ensemble of Chicago LP; Gismonti/Vesconcelos LP

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Rain Parade

A New Sixties Band

by Larry Daniels

Listening to the music of the Rain Parade, a relatively unheralded ensemble of musicians from Los Angeles, is a bit like entering a time warp. The neo-psychedelic strains emanating from the speakers recall the acid-drenched music of the late sixties. **Emergency Third Rail Power Trip**, the band's debut album, is an intriguing melange of imaginative melodies backed by some very interesting instrumental accompaniment. The band's influences are many.

What She's Done To Your Mind recalls the Fifth-Dimensional period of

the Byrds, with guitar interludes similar in sound to those Roger McGuinn once produced on his twelve-string Rickenbacker. The drifting, meandering nature of most of the pieces here are also reminiscent of early Pink Floyd or Brian Eno (albeit synthesizer), but beneath the intricate instrumental textures lie pleasing and often haunting melodies. *Carolyn's Song*, for example, sounds like a mutated Leonard Cohn composition.

Part of the originality and freshness of the group's music stems from the use of sitar and violin in addition to the usual staple of rock instruments. Other

numbers range from the churning hypnotic spell of *Look At Merri* to the more structured (commercial?) *Talking In My Sleep* and *This Can't Be Today*.

Whether or not the Rain Parade has a promising future or hope of being acquired by a known record company is uncertain, as the band has unfortunately received very little exposure (although they recently completed a series of dates at Folk City in the Village).

However, I whole-heartedly recommend this high caliber debut album to anyone having an affinity for the styles or influences mentioned here. The

band provides a number of interesting and original embellishments to music obviously rooted in the psychedelic era of the late sixties. It is certainly well worth the unavoidable effort necessary to find a copy. Great cover too.

Mardi Gras Madness

by Maureen Andreassi

Yes folks, Douglass College is at it again. Last semester they brought back Air Jamming; one of the hottest parties on campus attended by over 1,000 students. This semester, on Thursday, February 28, they plan to join 600 other U.S. cities in the famed New Orleans celebration of the Mardi Gras. Literally translated from French, Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday. It can, however, be extended to mean several other things. The students of Douglass College offer the following interpretation: great jazz music as played by New York City Swing, a band that is constantly increasing in popularity and just recently played in Benedict College, a costume contest with a first prize of \$100, free Michelob, Michelob Light and soda, and as many partying people as Tabler Cafeteria can hold. There is an entertainment fee of \$4 at the door. This saves you plane fare, hotel accommodations and food costs if you were planning on going down to New Orleans. Yes, it's true, Mardi Gras Madness will occur right here on campus, so why don't YOU come down and check it out, s'il vous plait?

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