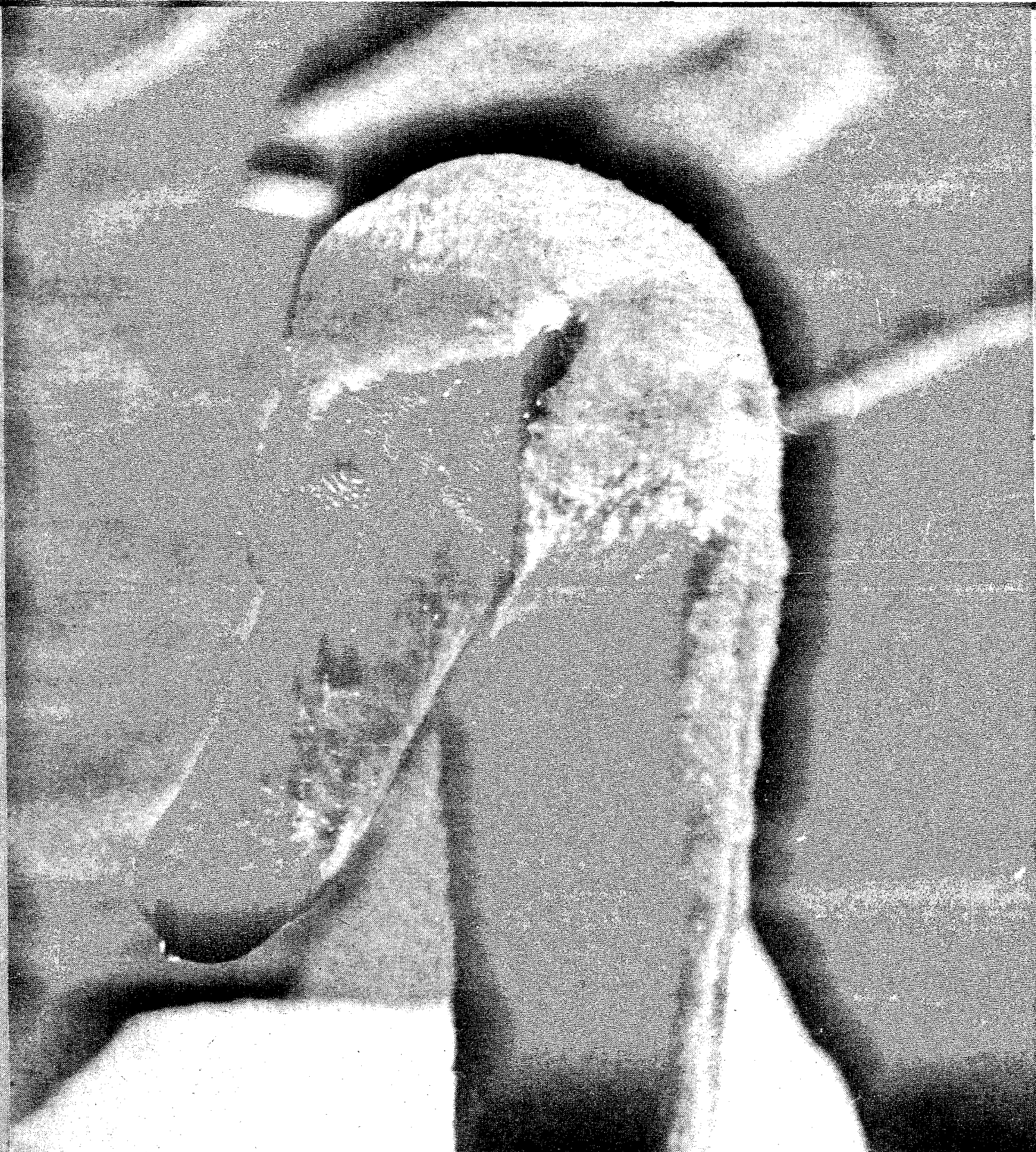


*The  
Stony  
Brook*

# PRESS

Vol. 7, No. 13 ● University Community's Feature Paper ● Aug. 13, 1986



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# Man or Jellyfish?

It's important not to have a jellyfish as Polity President. Had someone like Eric Levine or Hawkeye Aylward been in charge when the administration made their grab for control of the activity fee, we could have kissed student control of our own money goodbye. Illustrating from their past actions, the administration lackey approach to student governance, these so-called leaders would have given up the fight before it even began. Time and time again they gained an understanding of the University's position only to buy into it at the expense of the interests of the constituency that they were elected to represent. If these "leaders" had bought the administration line outright, as was the tendency at times instead of listening to student advisors, they would have gone to the bargaining table with no bargaining chips. They would have hoped that the administrators, being reasonable people, would hear the student position, recognize its validity and move toward a compromise.

To actually believe this requires a great leap of faith, a great naivete about power, or incredible stupidity. Perhaps all three. In general, administrators are not bad people, but they are a different class of people with distinctly different interests than students.

They are the rulers and we are the ruled. When dealing with administrators it must be remembered that we are a research institution and short on funds. Students are seen as a necessary evil that must be tolerated in order to get to the real job — research. We are to be dealt with by the minimum possible expenditure of money and effort. As bureaucrats, the administrators by nature are always seeking to make their jobs easier. As rulers, they are sure they know what's best for the ruled, and will seek to do what they consider the best for you whether you agree or not.

It is for those reasons that the administration tried to take over the activity fee. It's easier for them if they control it. That way they don't have to worry about anyone doing anything that would be contrary to our

policies or would in anyway inconvenience them. Thinking that they know what is best for us, they see nothing wrong with having a say over how we spend our money.

There are some that believe the battle was won by rationally talking to admin. They are wrong. As Jack Marburger so readily admits, this power grab was in the planning for quite some time, just waiting for the right moment to be sprung. It would be presumptuous to think that any student official could have changed admin's mind simply by pointing out how responsible students have been and how hard it would have been for Bill Fornadel to be the Director of the Student Union and Polity's Cash and Disbursement agent.

The rallying of donation-making alumni against this change along with strong support from the student media and other student organizations made life difficult. It was only after students had rallied together, plastering the campus with anti-admin insignia and pulling the alumni in behind them, did admin agree to a compromise. Our present student leaders should learn from this.

It is especially vital that they learn this lesson quickly. It is an age-old bureaucratic ploy to snatch victory from defeat; when the opposition is strongest one should seem to cave in, delay until the opposition is weak and then pounce. This is what the admin is doing. This is the trap Marc Gunning is falling into.

It has been weeks since the alumni and students rose up in fury at admin's presumptuousness. Preston seemed to agree to a reasonable compromise but to nothing yet on paper. Gunning is falling into the trap of talking to admin with no support behind him. With nothing to inconvenience the admin with, they can jerk him around until the alumni and students have quieted down and then institute most of the policies they originally wanted with nearly no one noticing.

We hope Marc doesn't let this happen. His only

hope is to close this matter as soon as possible. Vital to this is to bargain with admin from a position of strength. Admin is the government of this University, they hold all the power and most of the cards. Students only have the power of numbers, the power to make life so hard on the administration that they feel it is not worth their effort to take away students' rights. Marc, don't try to be a leader without any followers, don't try to be a general without an army. Even if you're talking across the table from admin, keep up the activism, the alumni phone calls, the mass meetings, and any of the dozens of other tools open to activists. This pressure will force them to deal with you seriously.

The best example of this occurred two years ago, during admin's take over attempt of the Faculty Student Association. Polity President Hawkeye Aylward had made no progress with admin despite literally months of meetings. However, pressure from other students led him to hold the famous "FSA-busters meeting" with about 75 students, including the Polity Senate. Marburger attended the meeting, and, when he saw that students were in fact greatly concerned, it multiplied the strength of Aylward's speech a hundred fold. Compromise was reached the next day, and Marburger was quoted in both The Press and Statesman as saying that it was that meeting which changed his mind.

When in doubt remember this old Gerry Manginelli story: When trying to get proper laundry facilities on campus Manginelli ran into a brick wall with the then admin-controlled FSA. In response he held a "wash-in" where over a hundred students did their laundry in the admin building. All of a sudden after the demonstration, administrators started moving on providing proper facilities. One admin member of the FSA board said, "Gerry, why did you do this? We were working so well together, our talks were progressing so nicely." Gerry just smiled.

## Photo Box



## The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor ..... Eliz Hampton  
Associate Editor ..... Anthony Tesoriero  
Managing Editor ..... N. Todd Drobenare  
Editor Emeritus ..... Ron Ostertag  
Past Editor ..... Joe Caponi

Staff: Ed Bridges, Mike Ciunga, Paul Gondzal, Stephen Coyne, Michael DePhillips, Albert Fraser, John "Guppy" Gutbezhal, Jeff Knapp, Mike Shavel, John Tymczyn, Fran Westbrook

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Phone: 246-6832

Office:

Suite 020 Old Biology (Central Hall)

S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook

Stony Brook, New York 11794-2790

# Priorities Set by SASU

By Joe Caponi

SUNY student tenant and voting rights will be among the top priorities of the Student Association of the State Universities (SASU) in the upcoming year.

Five priorities were chosen for special attention by the statewide student group at a Board of Directors meeting held here at Stony Brook last month. The others include Campus Womens' Safety, SUNY Budget and Tuition issues, and Activity Fee guidelines.

SASU is a statewide organization of about twenty SUNY colleges designed to lobby for student interests in Albany and assist students in fighting for issues on-campus. Stony Brook has been a member for a number of years.

With the implementation of dormitory self-sufficiency, explained SASU Communications Director, Adine Shuman, SASU will be concentrating on obtaining for students full legal tenant rights in the dormitories, including protection against room searches, greater say in RA/MA and RHD selection, fewer restrictions on the use of common areas, and greater remedies against the state when such services as heat and garbage collection are not provided.

Hand in hand with tenant rights will go SASU's continuing struggle to insure students voting rights in their campus community. Supported by Governor Cuomo, a voting rights bill was passed in the Assembly last session, but was not acted on by the State Senate, and so must be re-introduced this year. Currently, students are generally not permitted to register to vote from their campus addresses, and must travel home

on election days (which are not school holidays) if they wish to exercise their rights. Thus, they are effectively shut out of participating in local decisions that may strongly affect themselves and their schools.

For several years, Women's Safety has been a SASU priority, and the establishment of Presidential Women's Safety Task forces on each campus was considered a major victory in that effort. This year SASU, under the supervision of SASU's Women's Caucus Co-Chair, Maureen Doebbler, will be monitoring the progress of the Task Forces to insure that they meet their mandates of providing greater service and safety to women.

SASU's Access and Quality campaign is aimed at keeping a SUNY education affordable and valuable. Among the goals of this campaign are maintaining a freeze on tuition costs, fighting for increased federal financial aid, lobbying for staff and support funds in SUNY's state budget, and the recruitment and retention of minority students. Currently, the twin pressures of increasing college costs and reduced financial aid are putting an education beyond the reach of many students.

SASU's fifth priority is fighting to give SUNY Community College students the same legal protections in the budgeting and expenditure of their activity fee money that the State Colleges and University centers already have. But, according to Shuman, that is just a part of an increased SASU effort to maintain the independence of Student Activity fee money statewide. Referring to the situation at Stony Brook, where Vice President for Student Affairs,



Photo by Ed Bridges

Fred Azcarante, SASU V.P. for Campus Affairs

Fred Preston tried to take control of the student activity fee last month, similar to occurrences at other campuses, Shuman said, "individual schools and administrators are playing some nasty tricks one after another," that will have to be fought by SASU on a wide front.

SASU's Board traditionally chooses six priorities for each year, and is expected to

announce the sixth at its next Board meeting. In addition, SASU's Women's and Third World Causes each choose one priority for the organization to work on, and it is also expected that they will be decided by the next Board meeting. According to SASU President Everett Joseph, specific steps toward the achievement of each of the goals should begin by early in the fall semester.

## FSA Renovations

By Joe Caponi

In preparation for the upcoming fall semester, the Faculty Student Association is busy renovating many of their familiar on-campus services. In addition, they are supervising the opening of the new Stage XII cafeteria, and are working on construction of the campus rathskellar, scheduled to open in the spring.

The Stage XII Cafeteria, being renovated by the State, is opening to accommodate the numbers of new students forced onto the meal plan by the Dorm Cooking Reduction program. "It's really beginning to take shape, and we should be open and operating on September 2, the first day of school," according to FSA Director Ira Persky. The construction, which is "winding down," according to University Director of Facilities Engineering Mitch Gerstel, is currently a couple of weeks behind schedule, but it is not anticipated that the delay will affect student service once the school year begins.

In the basement of the Union, Dales's Ice Cream moved out at the end of spring, and that space is to be replaced by Lifestyles, a shop selling jewelry, clothing and cosmetics that should open by the start of school. The haircutting salon, formerly run by Cal Cutters, has been awarded to the Von Jons Corporation, which should be open in the next week.

A serious renovation of the bowling/amusement area is being planned by FSA, according to Persky, which will involve moving the pool tables into the space currently occupied by four of the bowling alleys, and

increasing the number of video games, and moving many of them back into the area currently occupied by the pool tables. This shift reflects the relative financial strength of the operations. According to a memo to the FSA Board of Directors by Persky, the bowling and billiards operations have lost \$39,000 so far this year, and the amusement games area has made a profit of \$38,000. The renovations will commence when the state workers can get to the job, according to Persky, and will hopefully be done between the fall and spring semesters.

The main desk and Loop Kiosk are both being renovated at a combined estimated cost of about \$14,500, which will include building more storage space onto the loop.

Currently, FSA officers and employees are meeting with architects on plans for the Rathskellar and cafe to occupy the former Barnes & Nobels space in the Union. Opening is scheduled for the beginning of the spring semester.

One factor that relates to both the opening of the Rathskellar and the possible re-opening of The Graduate Student Lounge, is the availability of liquor liability insurance. The Lounge was closed in the spring when affordable insurance was not found for the operation. According to Persky, "the situation still has not freed up enough for us to be able to buy the coverage we need, but there's supposed to be some light at the end of the tunnel," and insurance rates should drop by October or November enough to make alcohol feasible in the Rathskellar and to open the Lounge.

## Conduct Code Changes

By Eliz. Hampton

Beginning this fall, students will find new additions to the student conduct code. In June, Vice President for Student Affairs Fred Preston proposed revisions of the code to President Marburger to "to upgrade the quality of our already excellent campus student judiciary system and enhance student understanding of the conduct code."

Along with minor revisions to clarify certain points, there are major revisions that if enforced will alter many students' lives. A new section (II A, 1 i) added is the use of identification cards. "Students are required to carry and present valid identification when requested to do so by University Officials." This is to aid in emergency identification when a student is injured or ill. It also may be requested for entry onto campus events, and if requested it must be presented.

A new rule concerning overnight guests has been written into the books. "A guest may only remain overnight in a room or suite if she or he has the written permission of all assigned occupants of the room or suite. Completed guest permission forms must be on file with the building Residence Hall Director. (Guest permission forms are available in residence hall and quad offices.)" This section was modified to insure that consideration be given to the privacy of roommates and suitmates before a guest is allowed to remain in a room overnight.

The accumulation of excessive garbage or filth in lounges is prohibited behavior. Other examples of prohibited behavior include: setting fires, changing electrical wiring, using or installing air conditioners, using or installing antennae, failing to evacuate during a fire alarm, installing lofts/loft beds not approved by the Division of Residence Life and the department of

Environmental Health and Safety, installing water beds, using weights/weight benches in student bedrooms or suitrooms and placing mopeds in the residence halls or parking same within 25 feet of the building.

For the late night parties, beware, any noise producing activity which can be heard beyond the resident's bedrooms or suitrooms is prohibited. This was added to stress the importance of maintaining an atmosphere in the residence halls conducive to study and sleep.

Another change in the code is the ability of the President to request that a student submit to a medical review process, where if the student is found to be a serious threat to the health or safety to himself or others, could lead to changes in campus residence and involuntary withdrawal.

A totally new section has been added to deal with arguments between roommates/suitmates who are not charged with a violation but are involved in a conflict. They may submit their argument to a mediation group who will assist in reaching a written agreement to solve the dispute.

Three written warnings from a university official accumulated within any three consecutive semesters will result in a one year suspension from the residence halls. Summer terms equal one semester.

After five years the Vice President for Student Affairs will consider written requests for the removal of notations of disciplinary action from students' academic records.

While these changes in the student conduct code are deemed by some students to be just another step by the administration to take away more student rights, others believe that the new regulations are moderate and fair. Who is in the majority? We won't know until September.

## Read the Press



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# Looking Back Where do they all go?

By Anthony Tesoriero

Although not participating in Stony Brook's Commencement, again, I sat there watching everyone go through the motions of graduating as my way of saying goodbye to all of my friends in this year's class who are leaving this place without me. Senior class speaker, Craig Dean made one remark that stuck in my mind. He quoted alumnus Scott Firestone, "A friend from high school is just a friend from high school but a friend from college is a friend for life." I thought about that for a while...

I met Tim McLaughlin in tenth grade. We started to hang out together because our older brothers were good friends, but it was a typical high school friendship. We would socialize with the same people and go to the same parties. Soon we got jobs together at the same place. We always had a great time.

By the time we were high school seniors we were really close. Tim was a member of the student council. Not at all a typical Senior Class President. He would not associate with the losers who are usually involved with that type of activity. We would sneak beers into Tim's office and drink during our free periods. He even missed the senior trip (it's like a three day party) because I could not attend.

Something happened that summer. We split apart, slowly at first but then almost totally. I never quite figured it out.

What has happened after five years? I have not figured that out either. I see time only very rarely now. He's a New York City cop, working when most normal people sleep. I guess I can still call him a friend, though it is not the same. However, one thing is for sure: It's good to know that your friend can carry a gun while Public Safety can't.

It's a shame that the only time campus is attractive is during the two summer terms when nobody is out here to see it. Trees have green leaves, no mud on the walks, pre-freshmen to remind you were once that naive. It's great! It's a time to party, a time to get an "A" in that really difficult class and a time to get to know new people. For me, summer session is the time I got to know Mike Riggio.

*Background story.* In almost every area of study at this school there is a sequence of introductory courses that every student must take before going on to the more demanding electives. Through these semesters the faces of most people trying to gain entry to the major become ingrained in memory. In the courses of my major one of those faces belonged to Mike Riggio.

## Stony's Brook

over there on an extra mattress which he procured, and have a grand old time in general. It sounded reasonable to me!

*Back to summer 1983.* Mike and I became very good friends. We cruised through 120. We were the curvebusters of the class. Actually, I was the curvebuster and helped him out, but that is a different story. We had a great time. Worked on the assembly code during the day; partied up a storm at night. On some nights before big assignments were due, we would just go out of our minds and do things that are only done in that condition: driving to Smith's Point with a case to catch the sunrise, falling asleep on the beach, waking up to realize that the assignment is due in four hours and we didn't start it yet. Ah, the good old days.

This was the summer when Mike determined that I was a brilliant computer scientist. Of course I'm not, (as proven by my academic record since then) but Mike thought I was.

friend told me he moved to California, not to be heard from by anyone.

I received a letter in the mail a few weeks ago. When I opened the envelope a business card fell out and on it was printed:

Michael J. Riggio  
Associate Engineer  
Product Automation  
McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Corps.

The letter began:

Stony;  
So how's it going? Are you out of Stony Brook yet?  
No, Mike. I told you that you were wrong.  
However, Scott Firestone was right, at least Mike's trying.



MSC 201 instructor Chipper Brown was in good form that year

"It's a shame that the only time campus is attractive is...when nobody is out here to see it."

Anthony "Stony" Tesoriero is Associate Editor of The Stony Brook Press and will be graduating in December.

I first began associating with Mike in computer science 201. He seemed like a mellow guy: he said he didn't drink much, had a steady girlfriend at home, and was just trying to get through SBSCS.

One day that semester I had just finished one of the more difficult programs of 201. Mike was debugging his but could not get one procedure to work. Since he seemed like a cool guy I said to him, "Just copy my code."

[To anyone else this would not seem like a big deal but in 201 each program was compared to every other program by a processor that would spit out any similarities to the professor. He would then accuse both of you of cheating.]

Mike did not want to copy my code though, so I suggested, "Write it iteratively instead of recursively." He was unsure of what I had in mind so in five minutes I had new code in his hands that worked in the first run.

The next day there was a knock at my door. I opened it to find Mike carrying two six-packs of Saint Pauli Girl beer. We sat down and had a few and that is when I knew that this guy was really cool.

A few weeks later Mike informed me of plans to enroll in summer session. He said that he would be living on campus, Langmuir A-319 to be exact, and that he was taking only one class: computer science 120. When I decided to register also, he said that I could stay there, party up with him, sleep

In all our later semesters at Stony Brook he never let me forget it. I was going to get a better job; I was going to be his boss, he almost had me believing it.

And then there was Nancy. Nancy was, and probably still is, a very beautiful girl. Mike was dyspeptic between summers I and II since his long time squeeze dumped him to marry his former brother-in-law. I considered the situation and figured that Mike needed to meet some new beautiful women. The solution seemed too obvious. Even though I was very fond of Nancy I introduced her to Mike. They quickly became a steady item and this has become a topic that Mike could poke at me through our future semesters at the Brook. Only in jest though. Of the circumstances I thought, what are friends for?

I tried in vain to persuade Mike to move to H-Quad in the fall. He wanted to stay in the suites. I went to visit his suite and found the reason for his affinity for Tabler, Pikey Recording Studios, Inc., the euphemism for his partying suite. Decorum and law prohibits listing the activities conducted there so I will not continue, but it's no wonder he didn't want to leave.

The next year Mike joined the ranks of the university alumni and the unemployed. He would visit when he came out for interviews. I didn't blame him for our losing contact since he lived quite a distance from here. One day a mutual

# Join The Press

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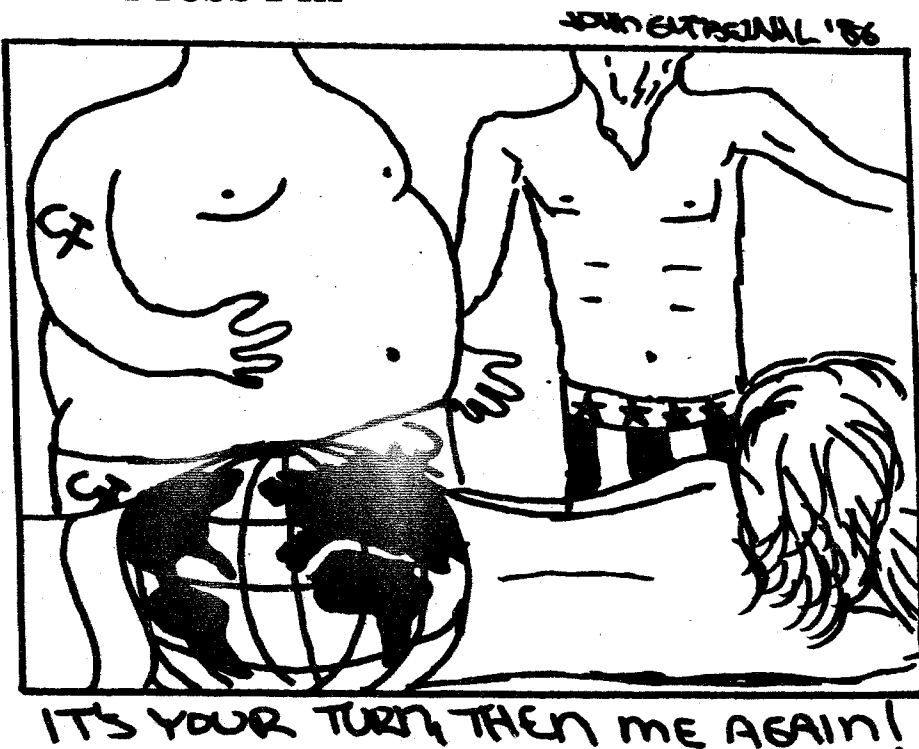
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# Fundamental Rights

*The authors are members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.*

On July 4, 1986, while over 15 million people celebrated Independence Day in New York City, over 8,000 gays, Lesbians and supporters of freedom gathered in Greenwich Village to rally for liberty. The rally came as a response to the Supreme Court's decision that laws against sodomy — oral and anal sex — were constitutional.

On June 30, the Supreme Court of Amerika released their decision in the Hartwick v. Georgia case. The catalyst for this occurred on August 3, 1982, when a police officer arrived at Hartwick's home to serve him a warrant for failure to pay a fine. The officer was let in by a friend of Hartwick's and was told that he could find Hartwick in the bedroom. The officer found Hartwick performing oral sex with another man and promptly arrested him. The Georgia law stipulates a twenty year jail term for sodomy.

As a result of Hartwick's challenging the constitutionality of this law, Amerika has had a glimpse of the darkest side of the High Court: It's bigotry. While the Georgia law applies to both hetero and homosexuals (as it does in 21 of the 26 states that have such a law), the Supreme Court directed its ruling at homosexuals only. Such bigotry, such contempt for Amerikan "liberty" has not been seen since the infamous Dred Scott case of 1857, when the court ruled that Blacks were not citizens.

Justice White, writing the majority opinion, states that the constitution does not extend "... a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy." Yet the court found no problem in extending the right of abortion to women, although it too is not a "fundamental right."

Justice White continued to display his apparent ignorance of the concepts of liberty and justice, by stating that homosexual rights are not "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty." Are the rights of heterosexuals implicit? Justice White, accompanied by Justices Burger, Powell, Rehnquist, and O'Connor seems to fail to grasp the true meaning of liberty. As Justice Blackman wrote in the dissenting opinion: "the Constitution embodies a promise that a certain private sphere of individual liberty will be kept largely beyond the reach of government." Additionally, Justice Blackman wrote that "... The Court... has refused to recognize the fundamental interest all individuals have in controlling the nature of their intimate associations with others." Big Brother has entered the bedroom.

The Court directed its attention strictly toward the morality of homosexuality. Their bigotry is well illustrated in White's belief that "it would be difficult... to limit the claimed right to homosexual conduct while leaving exposed to prosecution adultery, incest, and other sexual crimes even though they are committed in the home." The Justices have undoubtedly given legitimacy to the ignorant belief that homosexuality is a crime, comparable to incest, etc... Homosexuality is a lifestyle. The High Court fails to see reality in this matter, and thereby reject the claim that "All persons are equal."

As Justice Blackman explained in his dissenting opinion: "We protect those rights not because they contribute, in some direct and material way, to the general public welfare, but because they form so central a part of an individual life."

The five "Moral Justices" insist that this ruling, against homosexuals has "ancient roots." True, homosexuals have always been, and continue to be oppressed, exploited and slaughtered. Yet slavery also has "ancient roots" shall we

bigotry and the establishment of Nazi-ism Germany. Amerika has begun with the Sodomy Law, in Germany it was the Nuremburg Laws, which limited the liberties of Jews (first) and then were extended to gypsies, Blacks, Gays, etc... But why? What goal could be reached through the "purification" of Amerika? Stability at home, for war abroad, homogenizing the nation? Eliminating those who would rebel is the first stage a nation must go through in preparing for a major war.

Our liberties are being eroded, the voices of opposition — of freedom — are being suppressed. Americans must awaken to realize that the man who pledged to "get big government" off the people's backs — Ronald Reagan — has been the most prominent in creating the foundation on which a fascist nation dedicated to the eradication of civil liberties, opposition, free speech, and ultimately free thought, could be built.

The Supreme Court has proven it's bigotry and growing intolerance toward personal freedom. Americans must realize that there exists no inherent defense against total-

**"Justice White continued to display his... ignorance of the concepts of liberty and justice by stating that homosexual rights are not 'implicit in the concept of ordered liberty'."**

reinstated that? Laws against abortion, contraception, interracial marriages and women voting all have "ancient roots", as does the practice of feeding Christians to the lions. When will these practices be reinstated and held constitutional by the court?

The 8,000 people who marched into Battery park, opposite the Statue of "Liberty", on July 4, were not just calling for Gay Rights. They were calling for an end to the ignorance that has swept Amerika. Direct parallels exist, yet are ignored, between this recent wave of conservatism and

itarianism in our nation. We are in peril. For once, the oppressed minorities of Amerika must pool their resources, their energy, and not allow the ruling class to drive their wedge between us. United we shall overcome.

We must all bear in mind the story of Pastor Martin Niemoller: "he was silent whenever the Nazis came for others, until they eventually came for him."

Bear in mind:

First the Gays: Then the Jews: Then the Blacks: and then YOU!

## Letter

# Oh, God! Book II

Once again, The Press has received a letter from Mr. Eugene Changey, who claims that he is the Son of God. We originally received a letter in March and ran the letter in the April 21 issue. In April, we spoke to Mr. Changey on the phone. After we received ambiguous answers to our questions, he informed us that he would mail us more information. The following is the letter that we have received in response. Unfortunately, it does not answer any of our questions and is in the style of a form letter. The punctuation is his own.

To the Editor:

Time has not left My Son and I destitute...as once again, We try to make humanity adhere to the Truth that I, YOUR Living GOD, Am Alive and NOT dead, as some mongrels would like to believe.

As the HOLY GHOST in My Son Eugene's Body, I Dictate this Holy Letter through Him. Many mortals are mystified as to how We communicate...being TWO SPIRITS

second-born Son, Eugene. They are ONE and the SAME SPIRIT. My HOLY SPIRIT was Transformed into His (Eugene/Jesus') Body in a mental ward...in 1942. This is how We Exist today...in this Dimension of Time and Light. This Spiritual Existence was revealed in My Son, Eugene's Autobiography: ALL SOULS ARE MINE. Unfortunately, this 1959 Book is out of Circulation.

I have always taught each generation the POWER OF LOVE...so the population of this World will be less and less afraid of Me. LOVE WILL conquer ALL hatred and fear...and the Spirit of Truth will dwell among you.

There is no need to fear ANY god greater than I — Your Living GOD and CREATOR within the Body of My Son, Eugene/Jesus...there are NONE. After the demise of humans, I Am the ONLY GOD they will see...on the day of Judgment. Leave your fears behind, and enter into Our Domain in Heaven...where the wicked are barred and they will find their own Domain in the murky, depths of Hell!

with this threat hanging over them...which can become frightening reality and a living nightmare...as Hiroshima and Nagasaki can verify." Unquote.

These two super-powers are playing a DEADLY, NUCLEAR game of Russian-Roulette. The destiny of humanity, is in the hands of fools.

With Armageddon on the brink of disaster — many humans still doubt that I, CREATOR of the Universe, Am Truly Alive, here on Earth...in this Dimension of Time and Light. This rounds out the Trinity, Father, (My Greater Spirit in Heaven) Son and Holy Ghost...Here, in Human Flesh on Earth.

My Voice is not one crying in the wilderness, for some to hear My plea, I planted every blade of grass, and every living tree. I make the sun to shine...the moon to shed its light...please forgive Me...I was carried away, I didn't mean to give you such a fright.

We do not try to turn Religion into a topsy-turvy fear...but these Words of Wisdom I want humanity to hear.

It would be an asinine decision — on the part of mongrels — to actually believe My Son writes these Letters of retribution on His own. Rest assured...I as, ALMIGHTY GOD...Am the Potter...My humble Son, is the Clay.

Yes, it is useless for puny mortals to try to roll back the tide of ENDLESS SEA. My Son and I are here to stay...till Death tells Us to depart...and not flirt with human feelings, that sway the heart.

As ALMIGHTY GOD, My Dictation through My Son must cease...as We bid you a fond anon. My Holy Name is never written on paper...simply because it is void of form. My son will sign His Surname to let LOVE heal the blasphemous hearts of mortals who still believe that GOD AND His Son are not the destiny of wayward humans.

Prayerfully yours,  
Eugene Changey

**"...My first-born Son, Jesus is Reincarnated into the Body of My Second-Born Son, Eugene. They are ONE and the SAME SPIRIT."**

in One Body? The procedure is simple: My Son tries to leave His mind a total blank...void of thoughts. My holy Voice is heard above this void...thus He rapidly writes My Very Holy Words.

In previous Letters, I try to emphasize to skeptics... who may read this Holy Letter for the first time...that My first-born Son, Jesus is Reincarnated into the Body of My

I tearfully regret to say: Humanity is slowly sinking into an abyss of fear!

In My Personal Letter (April 11, 1985) to Soviet Leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, I Quote: "There is no greater peril to the population of this World, than awesome, gruesome, nuclear war-heads on missiles now in deployment by the United States and Soviet Russia. Humanity cannot survive



# La Troupe Circus

by Neal Drobenare

The circus always bored me.

I never liked the circus. Maybe it was too much TV, but the novelty of seeing people on top of elephants wore thin pretty quickly, and clowns with funny noses never quite seemed to cut it in the age of John Belushi and Eddy Murphy. After I bought my red penlight to twirl around, I was always dashing around looking for something exciting to do. To put it simply, the circus always bored me.

So when my editor told me that a Canadian circus troupe was the last show in the Fine Arts Center's International Theatre Festival, I did not even pretend to be happy about my assignment. *The Press*, not paying for its tickets, occasionally got seats somewhere in the back. At least, I thought to myself, I could put my program over my head and get a nap. I was not thrilled when the perky young thing that was my usher took my pass and chirped, "Front row center — enjoy the show!" Great, Really Fucking Great!

I looked up at the stage. It did not look like it was supposed to. There were no animal cages, no high wires; there wasn't even a ring to perform in. What the hell was going on here! My friend Dan told me to pipe down. What the hell, I didn't pay for my ticket anyway.

Then something very strange happened. Two troupe members, dressed more like gymnasts than circus performers, grabbed a long piece of elastic rope and began bouncing around the stage resembling Greenwich Village gymnasts doing floor exercises. Very strange. And very interesting. Maybe I didn't want to sleep after all. Suddenly they bolted off the stage, only to be snapped back and thrown to the other side over and over again. I figured they'd get tired sooner or later. Eventually, they just sat down off stage and started playing with the rope. First, one would pick it up and whip it, sending a wave through the rope

that looked like some demo from high school physics. (I hated physics, numbers mean nothing to me, but I loved crashing those trains. I let my lab partner figure out the momentum, he was a brain anyway.)

They kept playing with that rope. It was like two long haired hippie freaks trying to talk to each other without using words. Very avant-guard, very artsy. I was impressed but more importantly I was entertained. What the fuck, this might be good after all.

When things quieted down, this little French accented woman came on stage equipped with a big red nose and faggy glasses. She had an incredible figure and a pretty smile, but that red nose, those faggy glasses... God, was she repulsive! She was the kind of girl you used to run away from in junior high school. But she had this winsome, innocent air about her. I was attracted and repulsed at the same time — what comedic potential. When she came on stage she dragged a leash behind her and smiled. Of course, she must have one of those cutsey dogs on the other end, I mean what the hell, all circuses have them. But Noooo, she pulled the leash and what the f—, it was a big ugly, mack dump truck. You know the kind, the one you always wanted because it was so big and so ugly and you could run over anyone else's trucks and crack them in two. REAL fun. I loved mack trucks.

Anyway, this was the Canadians' clown. But it wasn't one of those oafish, see me do stupid things clowns that you pay seven dollar to see at Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey circuses. This was a clown with comedic potential. And ability. Playing off her attractive-repulsiveness, she picked a lover from the front row, and dropped her dump truck in from of him. The kid got up and gave it to her. She dumped it again. He got up and gave it to her, again. She dumped it a third time. Now she asked him to come up and...

Whoa! I almost started transcribing the entire show. Shit, it's 3 am already and I'd be up all night if I did that. I'm glad I caught myself in time.

The rest of the show was incredible. It wasn't like a circus at all. Sure, there were tricks and acrobatics but there weren't any animals. Good, I hate animals. They always shit all over the place and then you have to clean it up, UGH! I hate that. I finally figured out why I liked this show. Parts were serious and parts were funny, but that's not why I liked it. Circuses are boring 'cause they don't mean anything. It's just a bunch of people in funny looking costumes doing tricks. They don't connect the dots.

son for any of it.

Even on the stupid kid's shows there are reasons for those f—ing car chases. What the ..., at least they pretend that there are some redeeming qualities in smashing up perfectly good cars. And so does this circus. Not cars, but acts. They all had some plot, humor, rational...

We're on the verge of a great idea here! Fun, excitement, plot, meaning. We're on the verge of a new era in circus entertainment! Maybe I'd even put up with animals to see them again. Maybe I'd even go into the city to see them again. Maybe I'd... what the hell, maybe I should just go out and find that cute girl tonight.



Photo by Eric Wessman

You won't find this at La Troupe Circus

## Curchackean Tempest

By Neal Drobenare

When a middle aged man walked into Fine Arts Theatre One late, Fred Curchack stopped his performance and demanded to know why the latecomer had not made it to

the show on time. Embarrassed, the man could only mumble something about how his car would not start. That's all right, said Curchack, I forgive you. Restarting the show, he explained how Shakespeare had

meant his comedy, "The Tempest" to be about forgiveness. Like the former Duke of Milan who eventually forgives those who despise him, Curchack, will forgive those whose cars would not bring them to the theatre on time.

"Stuff that Dreams are Made On" uses the Shakespearean play as a spring board to explore an artist's struggle with himself as he tries to play all of the story's roles. While the entire plot of "The Tempest" is not covered during the play, Curchack does not change Shakespeare's plot. His artistry comes through in the changes and additions to the dialogue. These changes along with Curchack's "off the cuff" cracks show the new relationships between the characters as well as between the different parts and feelings of the performer himself. Curchack explores his doubts and insecurities as the story moves toward its end.

This one man play was written, directed and performed by Fred Curchack. The stage he acts on is barren except for a grey backdrop, a floor lamp, and a stool with a doll which represents the Duke's daughter, Miranda. Her voice is supplied by Curchack while he plays the four other characters with the assistance of superb home-made masks. His only other props are two bic lighters and a flashlight. The flashlight and the grey backdrop allow him to project larger than life shadows before the audience. His artistry allows us to visualize the magic of Prospero the former Duke, the flights of the

spirit Ariel, and the evil presence of Caliban.

We are constantly reminded of the importance of the audience to the performing artist. Unlike those mainstream productions that you would see on Broadway, this show does not play at the audience so much as with it. People are dragged on stage to play minor parts and Curchack has conversations with others. In a previous work of his, Curchack has the performer shot "dead" on stage. When the "police" arrived they refused to allow anyone out of the theatre because they were all material witnesses.

In this play as an old lady storms out in disgust when Curchack kisses the wooden doll, Miranda, he stops and implores "But Mom, you said you would stay this time, Mom, please!"

While some of his work is offensive, it is clear that it is not there for shock value, but to explain and poke fun at his neurosis just as his previous work used shock to test the boundry between the performer and the audience.

Fred Curchack has produced thirty-seven original theatre pieces in the past twenty-five years. His works have won him a Bay Area Critics' Association Outstanding Achievement Award and the San Francisco Chronicle's Outstanding Achievement Award. He is a graduate of the High School of Performing Arts in New York City and has completed both his MBA and BA in Theatre Art at Queens College.



Photo courtesy of Fine Arts Center

Curchack and his masks