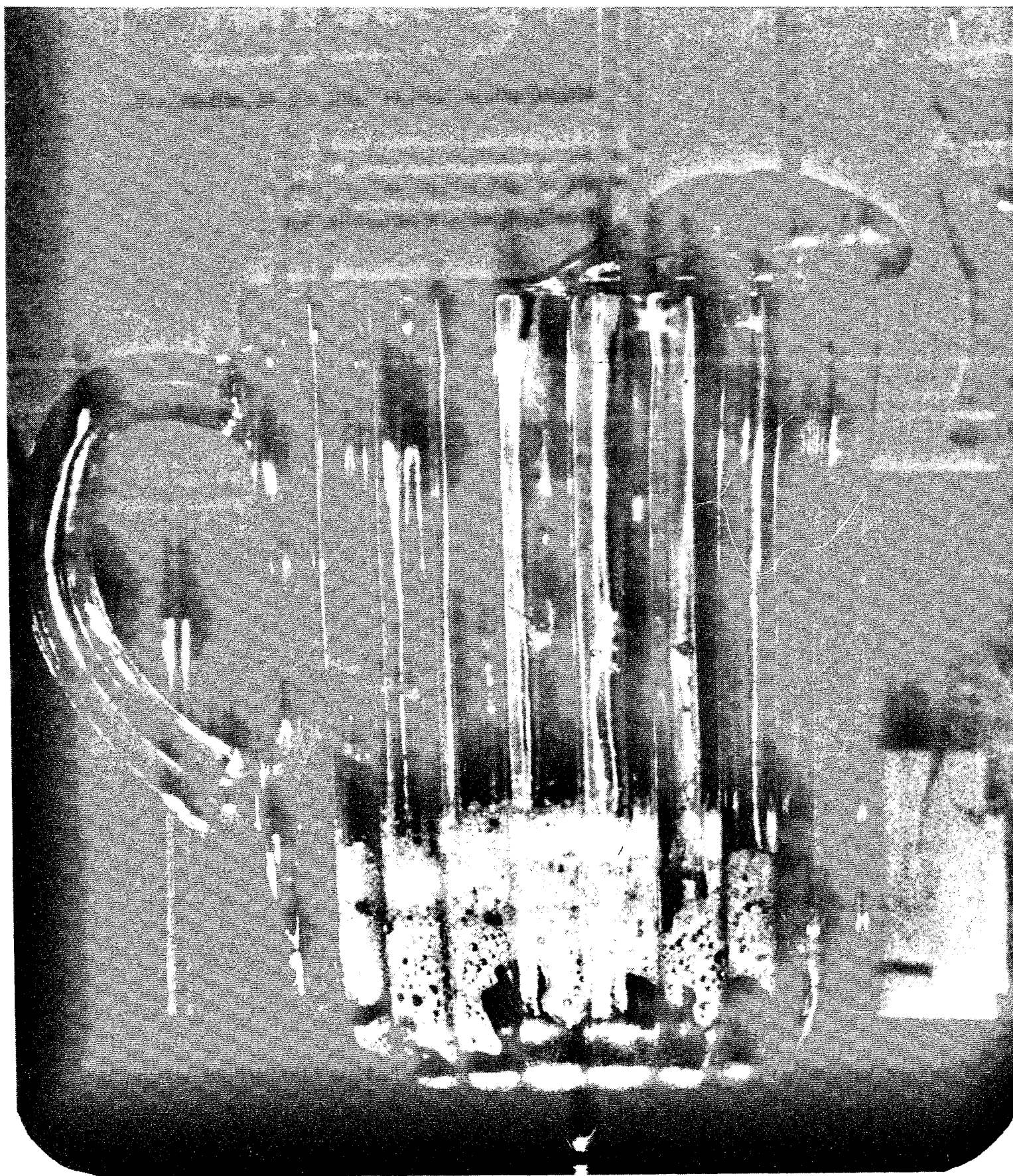


The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol. 8, No. 13 • University Community's Feature Newspaper • January 30, 1987

The Lounge



CARBON MONOXIDE TANGO

Picket lines are up, train service is stopped and getting from one place to another has suddenly become an ordeal. Although the passenger load on the LIRR is minute when compared to road transportation, its closure has sent shock waves throughout the region's economy and made the highways nearly impassable during the now extensive rush hours. Suddenly, how we get from one place to another has become a pressing public concern.

But why does it take a crisis to make us think about our modes of transportation? The Governor opposes opening the Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island yet supports atomic energy upstate. Why? Because Long Island's transportation system can't handle an emergency evacuation. Every work day, twice a day, every major road out of Long Island becomes a parking lot. Why? Because our highway transportation system can't handle its peak hour loads. Airline delays are so regular that passengers have to schedule an extra twenty minutes on each end of a flight. Why? Because our airspace transportation system is overloaded.

Overload is the key word in describing our transportation system, in whole or its parts. Haphazard describes its planning. It is easy not during this crisis to scapegoat the unions that are responsible for the strike for the transportation difficulties that we are experiencing, but that would accomplish little. At present LIRR handles only a small percentage of the overall commuter traffic,

both to and from the city and intra-Island. That its shut down could cause as much disruption as it has testifies to the weakness of our infrastructure.

Of the three cornerstones of our regional transportation system — roads, airports, and trains — rail is clearly the stepchild when it comes to planning and allocating sufficient funds for adequate service. [Something else as a segway] First there was the Long Island Expressway. Once it reached capacity, the Southern State and the Northern State were built to relieve it. The more roads that were built, the more cars there seemed to be.

The two tiers of major and minor airports in the New York area are already overloaded and although the FAA recommends expansion to a third tier, it also maintains that building these airfields will create more air traffic. The same has been recognized for road building. The more roads you build the more traffic you generate and you wind up having to build more roads to meet the new demand ad infinitum.

Opponents of mass transit point to a decade's old deficit and the declining amount of passengers as evidence of the inadequacy of rail as a feasible alternative. What they actually are drawing our attention to is meagerness of our region's support for mass transit.

The Long Island Railroad is not fitted to the community that it serves. There are no direct rail connections in many of the economically booming areas of the

Island and in few parts of the Island, is the LIRR connected to other transportation. The trains do not relieve automobile congestion because by and large you need a car to get to the stations. While the LIRR provides easy east to west movement across the Island there are no north to south transportation links, such as an extensive bus service.

Additionally, the poor quality of service prevents any gains in ridership especially among the middle class professionals who are the bulk of the railroad's potential customers. Unfortunately as ridership and hence operating funds decline, the service further deteriorates preventing any improvement.

Only massive investment in adding to their mass transit infrastructure will make it an attractive alternative. Although it has been estimated that nearly \$30 billion would be needed to do this, a long term view of the situation would recognize that this is not too much to ask. All major routes out of Long Island are at or above peak capacity. With severely limited room for highway expansion and the enigma of traffic-generation, there seems to be little choice than to invest in mass transit. The Long Island's transportation system is already straining at its limits, if the region is to maintain its present rate of growth or any rate of growth at all it must address the need for moving people and things before the situation passes from bad but manageable to critical.

Photo Box



Putting Coors on Ice

Boycotting Corporate Discrimination

by Ray Melville

"Black people lack the intellectual capacity to succeed", expounded Joseph Coors to an audience of minority businessmen in early 1984. Joseph and his brother William own and operate the Coors Beer breweries in Golden, Colorado.

As a result of the Coors Brothers' racist, sexist, and anti-gay hiring practices, Coors beer has been the object of a national boycott since 1977. The boycott was originated by Mexican-American workers and in 1977 was officially endorsed by the AFL-CIO labor union. Since 1984 three City Councils — San Francisco, Boston and Detroit — have officially endorsed the boycott. The NAACP, as well as gay activists, Asian rights groups and women's organizations have also publicly endorsed the Coors boycott.

Dr Lenora Fulani, recent gubernatorial candidate with the independent New Alliance Party, remarked "Joseph Coors has made no secret of his racist and reactionary views."

A catalyst for the NAACP's boycott of Coors was Joseph Coors' statement to African-American businessmen, "one of the best things they [slave traders] did for you was to drag your ancestors over here in chains." In addition, the Coors Brothers provide both monetary and verbal support to the John Birch Society, the KU KLUX KLAN and the American Nazi Party, all admittedly militant, white supremacist organizations.

Some of the beliefs espoused by the groups supported with Coors' profits are reportedly put into practice at the breweries. The AFL-CIO reports 19 unions busted by the company in 25 years, and in response, civil rights groups have endorsed the boycott. Dr Fulani, one of the only political figures in New York State to endorse the boycott, explained that support for the action is "part of the fight back movement against government and corporate policies which endanger the lives and welfare of our people."

The company's tactics, as documented by the AFL-CIO, include the policy of search and seizure of employee's lockers and cars; the frisking of workers at random and mandatory lie detector tests, used in part, to determine the political ideology and sexual orientation of employees.

the discovery that the Coors company is donating part of its revenues to the contras. Colonel Flaco, a U.S. civilian military assistance leader for the Contras identified the Coors brewery as "one of the Contra's biggest [financial] supporters."

center organization created to oppose the extensions of civil and constitutional rights to women, The Lesbian and Gay Labor Network recently announced that Coors profits have been donated to retired General John Singlaub. Singlaub has recently emerged as a key figure in the Reagan Administration's Contra-Cocaine-Arms for Hostages in Iran deal. Before his recent notoriety, Singlaub headed the World Anti-Communist League, which according to "MAXIMUM ROCK 'N' ROLL" magazine also received money from Coors, as well as from Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

Two other organizations receiving funding from the Coors Corporation are "Morality in the Media" and the Heritage Foundation. Morality in the Media was established in 1985 and has called for the quarantining of all persons exposed to AIDS, as well as mandatory H.I.V. testing, a test for AIDS, for all citizens in the nation.

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"... the Coors company is donating part of its revenues to the Contras ..."

The recent rejuvenation of the boycott campaign is due in part to "Witness for Peace" and the "Emergency Response Network", two pro-human rights groups based in North America. Their endorsements follow

Coors profits have also been diverted to fund the Moral Majority, as a result of that group's support for the death penalty for gay people; funding has also been used to prop up Phyllis Schlafly's "Eagle Forum", a right of

LIRR Strike: On the Wrong Track

The strike against the Long Island Railroad, which began Jan. 18, has thrown the lifestyles of commuters in a disarray and disrupted freight service to Long Island industries. In addition, two snowfalls have made driving conditions difficult and disrupted local bus service. The outlook of a quick settlement is bleak as negotiation between management and striking unions have gone nowhere.

There is still a wide gap between the unions and management. All of the unions currently on strike have been without a contract for over two

years. After normal negotiations had broken down last September, the unions announced their intent to strike. The railroad countered with two 60 day "cooling off" periods as described in the federal Railway Labor Act. During this time, the two sides were supposed to come to an agreement. Only two unions did, those representing the conductors and clerks which settled last November.

Containing a "me too" clause, the conductors' new contract has had a major impact upon negotiations. This clause adds any later concessions to other unions to this contract. It was given in exchange for the union's early settlement.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which led the walkout, came to a settlement along with two other unions Monday. The BLE agreed to a 28 day mediation period during which time the employees would return to work. At the end of the period, any unresolved issues would go to binding arbitration where a three man panel would decide the issues. The period will begin as soon as the employees return to work, which may be a while. BLE chairman, Jack Cassidy, said that

his union settled under threat of Congressional action which could limit his union's future ability to strike.

The BLE is after a 10.4% pay increase over the salaries of the conductors. Engineers have traditionally enjoyed higher pay than conductors. LIRR engineers gave up this distinction in 1972 when the conductors finally reached parity on the pay scale. In 1983, the BLE gave in on the parity issue in negotiations in exchange for a study commission on the subject. It ruled in 1984 that it was a legitimate issue for negotiation. The BLE intends to push the parity issue during the mediation period. LIRR President Bruce McIver still questions whether or not it is a legitimate issue.

The average base salary for LIRR engineers is \$34,410 with starting engineers receiving approximately \$10,000 less. While this may seem steep, it is on line with other railroads' salaries and is approximately half of what airline pilots receive for a job of comparable skill. Engineers and conductors both make an average of \$134.69 a day.

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Back Room Politics

by Lauren Shepherd

When the Graduate Student Lounge (GSL) re-opened last semester, it was dry due to thwarted attempts at acquiring an insurance policy and void of patrons. However, at the close of the semester a different scene existed. A dozen campus groups turned the GSL into a haven for discussion, communication and student camaraderie.

On any given night of the week you could find a film, speaker or meeting dealing with topics ranging from the academic to the political. The stereo, VCR and TV were always available and refreshments were free. Student groups such as The Democratic Socialists, GALA, HOLA, and the Red Balloon, who were sick and tired of mucking through the bureaucratic mud to reserve a room on campus or rent media equipment, found the GSL to be a perfect place to meet with no time limitations or outrageous costs.

The existence of the GSL as a haven for student communication might come to an end with FSA's recent take-over of "The Lounge". The GSL will now be a bar, as it was in earlier years, possibly destroying the "coffee house" image it maintained last semester.

According to Chris Vestuto, President of the Graduate Student Organization, "this will not happen". FSA has given the GSO a guarantee that the operation of the bar will not interfere with events being held in the back room.

The Graduate Student Organization has

reserved the back room of the Lounge as a meeting place for campus groups providing the same space and equipment as before, but with some time limitations. The "Back Room", as it is now called, will be available from 4pm to 10pm on Monday thru Thursday with special arrangements to be made if a campus group would like weekends or extended hours. Vestuto hopes that the GSO will be able to continue providing free refreshments and the popular Wednesday night movie series. Their fate hangs on negotiations between the GSO and FSA.

The preservation of the "Back Room" as a meeting place for campus groups "seems to be something the campus needs," Vestuto stated. Josh Dubnau of HOLA and Nicaraguan Perspectives voiced similar sentiments "The Stateman said the Left was still the most powerful movement on campus but without the Back Room, we would have no place to meet," he stated.

The GSO encourages all student groups to use the Back Room to guarantee its continued success as a bastion of student discourse and a comfortable meeting place for all the university community.

Vestuto mentioned that new groups, such as The Pinkitsch Balloon will be meeting in the Back Room. According to Vestuto the Pinkitsch Balloon is an artist collective providing "various flavors of artists a chance to come together in one place and communicate with one another and share energy."

Ronald Reagan Pulls Emergency Brake on Strike

by Karen McMahon and Lauren Shepherd

In the eyes of the general public, the LIRR strike is seen as a dispute between 15 LIRR unions fighting for separate wage increases and separate demands rather than a dispute between management and labor. This misconception is caused by the existence of an archaic union structure that has 15 individual unions working for one corporation. Such a structure certainly benefits the railroad — if one unified organization was working toward negotiations, the real demands of the workers would be clear.

The real issue in this dispute is the new contract introduced by the LIRR which

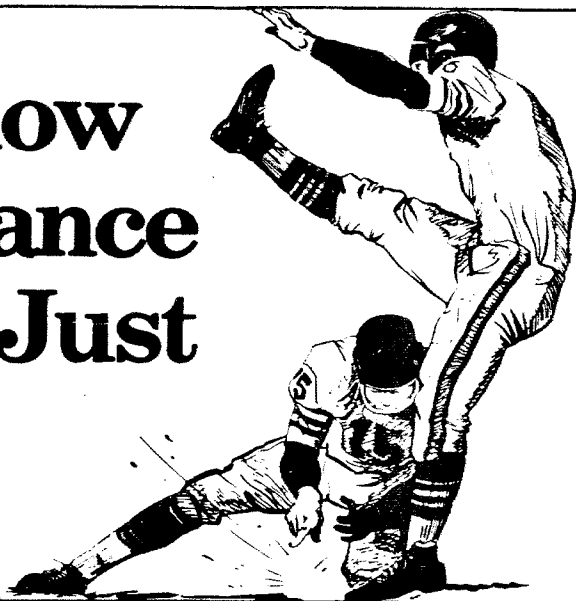
1. forces workers to give back benefits such as health insurance, and
2. allows the LIRR to employ non-union workers and private corporations to do much of the railwork.

With recent Congressional intervention,

the actual demands of the workers have been, at least temporarily, put behind closed doors with a 60 day freeze on the strike. Congressional intervention in labor disputes began in 1926, with the passage of the Railway Labor Act introduced by President Calvin Coolidge, who is, ironically, an idol of Ronald Reagan's.

Such measures benefit management which can continue to operate and profit while the workers' demands and protests are put on hold. Since unions were first established, there has been a management/labor relations problem. The US government, as a third party, intervening in local disputes only worsens this conflict. It puts the government on the side of management and cripples the momentum of unionists fighting for wages, contracts and workers rights. The outcome of the LIRR strike will bring to light the consequences of Congressional intervention for the LIRR workers.

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Will hold their first Spring meeting on
Wednesday, Feb. 4th
8:00pm **ESS 450**

Join us for trip info, movies, speakers,
good company, and bad jokes.

Attention all
Stony Brook at Law
members!

There will be a general meeting
on **Tuesday, February 3rd at
5pm**. All officers and committee members must attend.

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**The Student Polity
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everyone luck this
semester!**

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

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**THURS, FEB. 5TH
AT 9:00 PM**

FREE BEER
PROOF OF 21 REQUIRED
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\$4.00 TO GET IN**

State of the Nation

By Karen McMahon

Looking back, the victories and defeats, successes and disasters of 1986 have set the tone for an exciting and challenging national political agenda for the upcoming year. Topping the list is the democrats' victory in recapturing control of the Senate. They have returned to capitol hill wielding more power and influence than they've had in the past six years and many constituencies will be depending on them to reverse Reagan's social and defense policies. The labor movement also appears to be on stronger footing. After a turbulent year with defeats in Congress and on the picket lines, they finished the year with a show of grassroots electoral strength in support of the democrats. Both the leadership and rank and file seem to be rebuilding their strength and influence.

For many, however, this past year was a time of suffering and devastation. The AIDS epidemic continues to grow with few medical breakthroughs and little financial assistance from the federal government. The shock of the Chernobyl disaster injected nuclear power concerns back into the minds of the American people. Here on Long Island and across the country, concern has grown over safety, emergency evacuation and victims' compensation in the case of an accident similar to Chernobyl.

Democrats

For the democrats, it was a year of victory. The 1986 elections shifted the political power and the nation's attention from the White House to Capitol Hill, a transfer of power that has already begun to increase with the Reagan crisis over the Iran arms deals.

In November, the democrats gained 8 seats in the Senate winning a 55-45 majority and won over half a dozen seats in the House strengthening their influence there. The election victories were especially significant because they won a number of close races in the south and west which have been strong supporters of Reagan over the past six years. Meanwhile, President Reagan campaigned for nine republican candidates throughout the country. All nine lost. In a year when the republican party had a popular President campaigning for them and excessive funding, they found their support among the American people weakening.

However, the significance of the democratic victory still remains in question. The Congressional campaigns were not focused on the democratic party platform and ideology, nor won as a result of party loyalty. Rather candidates concentrated on individual personalities and local issues. At the close of the election, the democrats claimed a major victory and the republicans suffered a significant setback. But Pres. Reagan still held a 59% show of voter support and few were willing to declare an electoral swing to the democratic party.

With a new session of Congress, the ball is in the democrats court. After the Nov. election a Congressional source was quoted saying that "the democrats are itching to reverse Reagan's policies." One week into session, Congress has already sent Reagan an 8 year extension of the Clean Water Act, a measure he rejected last Nov. While the funding, \$20 billion, was the sticking point for Reagan last year, the risk of a veto override may be the determining factor this time. The House passed the bill 406 - 63 weeks ago and the Senate adopted it 93 - 6 last week.

According to our local Congressman, George Hockbruckner, "Over the last 6 years there has been a shift in the federal program away from the people to defense. We will see a reversal of that trend as the democrats begin flexing their muscle." Hockbruckner was a NYS Assemblyman for 10 years and was elected to his first term in Congress this past Nov. While federal government spending is limited by the largest deficit in this country's history, democrats seem determined to cut defense spending and give some funding back to severely cut social programs.

Labor

The labor movement has faced hard times over the past year with little support from the Reagan Admin. or Congress. They have suffered from a number of defeats on important strikes. However, it seems as though the movement is emerging from 1986 with a new vitality and militance among its rank and file and stronger political clout among its leadership.

Labor's most powerful resource has always been its ability to organize its membership into a powerful voting block. Having

But it looks like the tide may be changing. According to Hugh Cleland, Prof. of History at Stony Brook and a long time activist with labor and the Democratic party, "labor played a major role in helping the democrats recapture the Senate." With the Sen. Ted Kennedy now chairing the Senate Labor Committee, Cleland believes we're going to see a lot of pro-labor legislation over the next two years.

While things may be looking up for labor in Washington, many fear a growing divisiveness between labor leadership and the rank and file. This split seems to have developed partly out of a lack of support on the part of leadership during key union strikes. Many of the strikes were defeated. Six thousand flight attendants struck against Trans World Airlines. The strike was broken by TWA hiring new workers. Over 4,400 attendants lost their jobs, with little complaint from other unionists. During the AT&T strike, 150,000 communication workers took to the picket lines, with little avail. Service continued with few disruptions; supervisors filled in and new workers were hired.

Grassroot support for strikers took a positive turn when 1500 meatpackers struck against Geo. A. Hormel & Co. The parent union, furious with the locals' "militant" tactics, withdrew all support and demanded the members to return to work. The local refused. They sent workers into the community and across the country speaking to locals to build support. They raised donations in excess of \$1 million from more than 3,000 local unions and thousands of individuals came to demonstrate in Austin against Hormel. According to Hermon Benson, director of the Assoc. of Union Democracy, "The Hormel strike has had probably the widest support inside the labor movement."

Unfortunately this massive grassroots support was not enough to win the strike. Six hundred new workers were hired and 500 local members who crossed the picket line went back to work. The other union members are still unemployed. So, while the organizing was successful, the strike failed.

The labor movement is entering 1987 with more allies on Capitol Hill than they've

In the course of human events mankind is forced to come to terms with the toughest of all compromises, reality. We college students are cursed with the knowledge that one day we must fulfill our obligations to this void commonly referred to in college vernacular as the "real world". Somehow I feel that the main purpose of an intersession break is to remind us of this fact.

A question that must come to mind is what exactly is the real world, what is reality? Is it what we perceive and acknowledge or is it what we don't comprehend? Is it the monotony of going to work each day or the excitement of being able to work? What is work, a job or a profession? Is it a means to an end, or a beginning of the end? There real world can it be truly found? To answer this question one must be prepared to answer the question can it be truly found. The answers are equally elusive. I will, however, be bold enough to make one sweeping assumption; that being, the real world is anything and anyplace other than Stony Brook.

Stony Brook does, however, try to convey its perception of the real world to its students the best it can. This is particularly true in these opening few weeks of the semester when we are trying to settle into an agreeable class

BREAK FROM THE BREAK

by Michael DePhillips

schedule. During these two weeks of add/drop, a student experiences waiting on endless lines, pleading with professors, signing waiting lists, rearranging a schedule half a dozen times and ultimately not getting signed into the class needed to make everything finally fit. One can just imagine what sort of comforting words Stony Brook would have to offer - "Well, that's life kid. Better get use to it," oh really.

Winter recess had a lesson or two to teach us as well. Lessons that make the thought of Stony Brook's reality a reassurance of better days to come. We were taught or reminded how to make sure we got up early to be on time for our wonderful TempCo jobs. We were taught how to cope with rush hours in the snow with the LIRR strike. We learned how hideous television really is. We were reminded what it's like to be treated as children by our parents who by nature will always view us that way to some degree.

We were also reminded what it is like to be alone with no roommate to talk to, no hall to walk down and no suite to sit in. Old high school buddies are good company but after a while it gets depressing to hear how much easier it is to get better grades at their schools. Chalk this up to another dose of Stony Brook's preparation for "the real world." Thanks again.

Even with that last thought in mind, it is really a relief to be back. The feeling of optimism in the air is unavoidable. It is spring semester, seniors and super-seniors are making their final preparations for graduation while other students look for their chance at redemption. This is the semester that we will keep on top of our work and pull up those GPA's just like we planned all winter break. I hope.

Soon the spring part of spring semester will be in effect and it will be time for T-shirts and shorts and laying in the sun. We have two weeks off this semester to really relax and catch up on our work if we do happen to fall a bit behind. And to top it all off the GSL has reopened; things are looking up! A new semester, it's like a rebirth, new experiences to have, many good times to enjoy and more knowledge to acquire. So sit back and settle in, for the ride is about to begin - welcome back.

".. the Iran crisis was uncovered on the heels of the republican electoral defeat dealing yet another blow to the party ..."

The Iran crisis was uncovered on the heels of the republican electoral defeat dealing yet another blow to the party. The Reagan Administration is now under scrutiny not only for the Iran crisis but also for the accomplishments of the Reagan Era. The picture is grim. The Admin was going to balance the budget, yet they doubled the deficit. They were going to strive for full employment and a "safety net" for the poor. Instead unemployment is at its highest and so are the number of homeless people across the country. Most important, Reagan was going to make America "stand tall", but we got caught with our hands in the terrorist's cookie jar, trading arms with Iran and lying to the American people and our allies.

traditionally backed democrats, this strong voting block has afforded union leadership the ability to successfully lobby congress to pass important labor reforms.

Since the Reagan era began, and more specifically, since the overwhelming defeat of Mondale, who was strongly backed by union leadership, the unions have lost much of their influence on Capitol Hill. A clear sign of this loss of influence was the defeat of a major plant closing bill in Nov. 1985. The measure was defeated in the House where labor could typically count on the democrats' support. A move to defeat such a measure would have been "unthinkable" a couple of years ago, according to Mark de Bernardo, chief labor attorney for the US Chamber of Commerce.

had in the past six years and a stronger more militants' rank and file. But they still have a big battle ahead of them. Over the next year labor will be looking to Congress for progressive legislation on plant closings, catastrophic health insurance, worker retraining and stronger enforcement of OSHA laws, according to Cleland. They will also be focusing their energies on backing a strong candidate for the 1988 Presidential election.

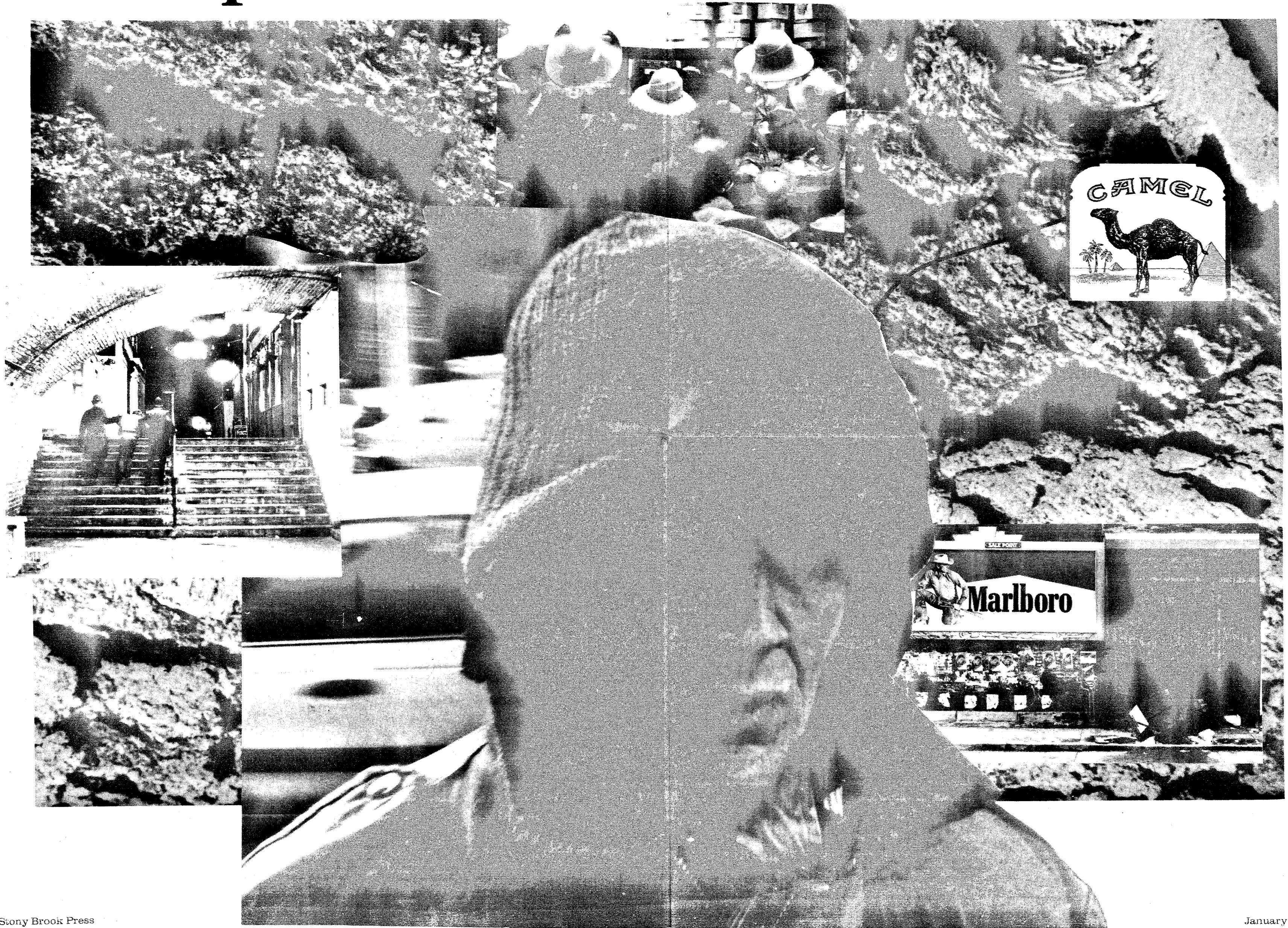
AIDS

One of the major social and medical issues facing the country is the deadly epidemic, AIDS. The American public has faced the existence of this disease with fear, denial and extreme homophobia. The AIDS epidemic has raised debates on discrimination due to sexual preference, the need for

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Circumspect

Invoices



by Ed Bridges

January 29, 1987 page 7

Still Striking

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However, conductors can make as much as \$10,000 in overtime while the federal government limits the hours engineers may work. Also under LIRR time constraints, engineers may be dismissed for tardiness.

The other union to settle Monday was the union for Firemen and Oilers. They, along with the Carmen's Union which settled earlier, have agreed to take the issue of differential pay to binding arbitration.

The Police Benevolent Association is another union that settled Monday. The main issue that will be decided in binding arbitration is the PBA's demand for 3/4's disability pay for injuries on the job. This demand had been held at the bargaining table by management. They asked the PBA to accept a clause that would have prevented the PBA's right to strike under the Railway Labor Act along with the disability clause.

The Signalmen's union is the major union still on strike. The LIRR wants to remove 35 foremen and assistant foremen from the union's jurisdiction as well as hiring subcontractors to install signals on the lines capital improvements plan. The union opposes this.

In an interview with **The Stony Brook Press**, general chairman of the Signalmen's union, Robert Waidler said that he wasn't overly optimistic for chances of a settlement this week. "For the past two weeks there have been chances for a

settlement only to have things fall through," stated Waidler. When chances of a settlement have been close, management has pulled things from the bargaining table according to Waidler.

He called binding arbitration a "no win situation" as problems won't be settled and doubted that much action would come from Washington so early in the strike. When asked whether the union would picket other railroads in the area like Conrail, Mr. Waidler had no comment as he did not wish to reveal his union's picketing strategies. He feels that settlements by other unions will have no impact upon his negotiations as his union's issues are different from other unions.

The Signalmen, whose base salary is \$30,606, is the only union not concentrating on pay and benefits as a main issue. The issue is to try to maintain jobs by keeping foremen and eliminating of subcontracting of work.

The other unions on strike consist of a coalition of shop-craft union that fix and maintain the LIRR's cars and locomotives. Their main issue is a desire for a skill differential over the basic salary which ranges from \$23,716 for Firemen & Oilers to \$30,443 for Boilermakers & Blacksmiths. Employees with more skills would receive more pay.

While the unions may be going their different paths in trying to reach a settlement, they do have

one thing in common: their members dislike for LIRR President Bruce McIver. McIver, whose salary is \$105,000 a year, served as head of New York City's labor relations office and the MTA's labor relations director before coming to the LIRR. This, combined with threats of job cuts when he entered the office last year, has not made him a favorite of workers. While past presidents enjoyed workers' respect by traveling around on the line and being visible, McIver is viewed as a union buster by employees, something that has not helped current negotiations. Many employees on the picket line sport buttons with McIver's face crossed by a red "busters" line. Morale was somewhat poor before the strike and hasn't been helped by the current happenings.

Since negotiations have failed to clear up these disagreements for 2 years it is unlikely that a bargained settlement will come soon. There are 3 other options though.

The first option is voluntary binding arbitration. At this time, the two sides aren't overly eager to enter into this, although this may change as the strike drags on. A mediation board would decide on the each side's demands with its decision being final.

Another option is Congressional action to send the striking workers back to work while negotiations continue. A 1982 US Supreme Court

decision stated that LIRR employees were not under the New York State Taylor Law which prevents public employees from going on strike. Currently LIRR employees are the only public employees in the state to enjoy this distinction. The Taylor Law penalizes employees two days pay for each day of strike or slowdown. Congressional action had appeared unlikely due to a pro-labor Democratic majority combined with the powerful lobby of national labor unions. Any action to amend the federal lobby of national labor unions. Any action to amend the federal Railway Labor Act would concern commuter railroads and would have repercussions around the country. The threat of such action, however, has forced at least one union to settle.

The last step would be the creation of a Presidential Emergency Board which would recommend a decision that Congress would impose. Given the way current negotiations are going, this seems a likely solution especially if picket lines spread. It has been used quite a few times including the settlement of a two month strike by New York City transit workers and LIRR employees in 1972/73.

This solution was last used this spring to settle a 75 day strike by workers on railroads of the Guilford system in New England. President Reagan issued an emergency order a day after the workers began picketing the federally owned Conrail line. The order was issued under the Railway Labor Act, ordering striking workers back to work for 60 days, barring management from making changes in the subject of the dispute and establishing a mediation board. Guilford management had rejected a Congressional advisory committee's decision which brought about the federally mandated settlement. It is currently readying to try in court whether the Federal government has the legal right to impose a job action settlement on a private firm, a case Guilford believes it will win.

As long as one union stays on strike, service will still be disrupted due to other unions honoring picket lines. When a settlement is finally reached, it will take two days to resume full operations. Although there is no regular service, the LIRR is sending trains out on its lines to keep rails clear of snow and rust so pedestrians should be wary.

If negotiations reach an impasse, striking unions might picket other lines. A spokesman for Staten Island Rapid Transit said that "service would be seriously disrupted due to the honoring of picket lines. The situation on other lines would be similar. Such a spread of picketing would be sure to bring federal action."

A great deal of attention has been given to the plight of the commuters during the strike although they aren't the only customers of the LIRR suffering because of the strike. Industries served by the LIRR's freight operations have been cut off and have had to rely on trucks to supply merchandise which has cost some companies thousands of dollars already.

In addition to clogging up the highways with more trucks, the strike is affecting future business for the railroad. In April, the railroad will lose its operating assistance from the state thus increasing the deficits of the operation. With a possible loss of customers due to the strike, freight service on the LIRR could be ended in the near future which would discourage new businesses on Long Island. Thus everyone is being affected by the strike from employee to commuter to businesses relying on the LIRR.

Given the differences between the two sides, it looks like Long Island Railroad riders will have to rely on another form of transportation for quite awhile.

Last night President Reagan signed legislation to put an immediate halt to the LIRR strike. This legislation forces a 60 day "cooling off" period upon the strikers. During this period a special panel will study ways to solve the dispute between management and labor. If, after the 60-day period, no settlement is reached, strikers will be permitted to return to the picket line. This legislation was sponsored by Congressman Lent (R - Nassau) and Senator D'Amato (R - NY).

Joe Coors

continued from page 3

The idea of quarantining was recently suggested in an initiative in California. It was put on the ballot by Lyndon La Rouché followers. The citizens of California rejected the idea with a vote of over 70%. Every health agency, civil rights group, and many professional organizations publicly opposed the quarantining of people with AIDS, labeling the initiative as

"naive", "costly", and "reactionary". Nevertheless, the Coors brothers and La Rouché continue to support such a measure.

The Heritage Foundation, a right wing think tank based in Washington D.C., has been one of the most effective Coors projects. Political analysts credit the Foundation with supplying the Reagan administration with personnel, as

well as foreign and domestic policies. The Foundation has served as a stable source of American interventionist policies in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Zaire, and Grenada, while simultaneously lobbying for drastic slashes in domestic health and human services.

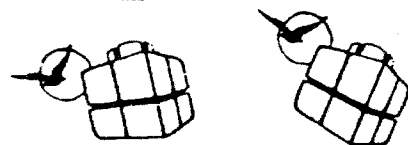
Presently, Coors announced plans to begin distributing in the greater New York area. This decision follows a loss of 30% in profits, during the years 1975-79 (this amounts to a \$20-30 million a year loss annually). The losses occurred as a result of the original Mexican-American/AFL-CIO boycott, with additional losses induced as a result of the cities of San Francisco, Detroit and Boston voting to endorse the boycott.

The sale of Coors beer in the New York — New England area is seen by activists as a way for the company to penetrate an area that is largely ignorant of the company's political and financial practices. Their tactic may succeed: Upon contacting the Governor's office for a statement in regard to the sale of Coors in New York and his position on the boycott, a spokesman responded "What is Coors?". The following day, the Governor's office responded that "Governor Cuomo has not addressed the issue at all."

The New York boycott which is being organized before the actual sale of the beer begins — remains largely a grassroots, gay, people of color, feminist movement. The multi-racial, progressive New Alliance Party, and the Democratic Socialists of America, remain the only political parties to endorse the boycott.

Lauren Shepherd chairperson of the Stony Brook Democratic Socialists of America chapter, insists that "the best action at this point would be educational programs, coupled with direct action", along with the actual boycotting of the beer. The D.S.A. plans to publish and distribute a products-boycott list for students this semester.

New York activists who are organizing the boycott expect that with the increased publicity that the boycott of Coors beer will be as effective here as it has been in the mid-west and California.



Nation

continued from page 3

and fear of sex education, funding for medical research, education and victim assistance, and the susceptibility of heterosexuals to the AIDS disease.

Currently one to two million people are infected with AIDS. As of July 1986, one third of the nation's victims, 8,035 live in NY. According to the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 4,500 of the NY victims are already dead. In fact, AIDS has been charted as the leading killer of women aged 25 - 29 in NYC. The future doesn't look much brighter. The federal CDC predicts that by 1991 cases will soar to more than 1/4 million and the death toll will reach 180,000.

Up until recently AIDS was categorized primarily as a homosexual disease. Since the largest risk group is sexually active gay men, the victims have often blamed for the existence of the disease and accused of promiscuity. Some advocates of the gay community believe that AIDS hasn't received adequate medical attention or federal funding because of its prevalence in the homosexual community.

Over the past year, however, the rate of the disease among heterosexuals has risen. By 1990 the CDC predicts upwards of 20,000 heterosexuals will have contracted AIDS. As a result of this increased risk, AIDS is becoming linked more to one's sexual activity than one's sexual preference.

This new focus has ignited a debate around the issue of sex education. Late last year, Surgeon General Evritt Kaap published a report on AIDS which suggested a strong sex education curriculum. The pro-

posal received a mixed response. Some feared it would encourage young people to have sex by condoning safe sex and the use of condoms.

A similar debate erupted among the networks and the manufacturers of condoms. Thus far, the networks have refused to air the controversial commercials advertising the use of condoms for safe sex. Advertising the use of condoms seemed like a wise preventative tactic to some and a blatant acceptance of casual sex to others.

There are many more issues surrounding AIDS that need to be resolved. Federal funding for medical research, education and victim assistance has been inadequate at best. The National Academy of Sciences and Surgeon General Koop criticized the federal response to AIDS and called for a \$2 billion allocation for research and education.

The Reagan Administration has recently proposed a \$534 million budget for AIDS research and education. According to Jeff Levi, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, "We need at least \$100 million more than that for education alone."

During the upcoming year the Task Force will be focusing on getting Congress to allocate more money to the AIDS issue, including funding for victim assistance which is currently non-existent. "Most victims end up on welfare, receiving medicaid," says Levi, because of the medical expenses involved in AIDS treatment.

The gay community is planning a March on Washington for October 11, 1987. The week long event would include sit-ins, lobby-

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Making Flippy Floppies

by Jeffery Eric Altman

owly but surely this university is becoming computerized. Computers are now found in all areas on campus not in the computing center and the administration building. Students have them in their rooms, faculty members in their offices, even Res Life has deemed it time to install computers in all Quad offices.

As computers are phased in, a problem starts to develop. This is not just a problem on this campus nor is it just limited to universities. The problem is the unauthorized illegal use and copying of computer software. This is a problem that is brought upon by the lack of respect paid to a copyright notice in this modern electronic age.

We have all been brought up with the ability to photocopy from a book any pages that we may need for a report or just to fulfill a desire that we have to possess a copy of the text. We also feel it's perfectly fine to make tape recordings of albums that we purchase and then trade them for copies of albums that others have. The same goes for video tapes as well. So naturally if society doesn't really see anything wrong with stealing, and I do mean STEALING someone else's hard work and money in these ways, why wouldn't it be okay to make illegal copies of computer software as well?

If you look at these other situations and say "Sure it's alright to copy books, audio and video tapes at will," then it's perfectly fine to make copies of software. The problem comes when it's no longer just a person making the copies for their personal use but when the law and the companies concerned see it as another company or a university being responsible for the breaking of the copyright laws.

Now most people do not know what a copyright actually means, so here it is spelled out. A copyright gives the holder of the copyright five exclusive privileges. These are:

- To be the only one allowed to make copies.
- to be the only one to distribute copies to the public.
- to be the only one to prepare "derivative works".
- to be the only one to perform the work in public (ie, plays, dances etc.), and
- to be the only one to show the work in public (ie, films).

Now these privileges apply to anything that has a legal copyright notice on it. This notice means that it is unlawful for anyone other than the owner to copy, distribute, upgrade, perform, or show the copyrighted work without the express written permission of the owner. This law is hard to

enforce when it applies to the individual and therefore our society takes it for granted. However, it would be very easy for a university the size of Stony Brook with the number of computers that Stony Brook now has to get caught and punished for breaking copyright laws.

We all know that illegal copying is going on. It has been since the first desktop computers came to Stony Brook but now is the time for illegal copying to stop.

We as a university, a center for higher learning that is supposed to set example for the rest of the uneducated world, should cease to risk our outstanding reputation, especially when there is another way.

The other way is called Public Domain software. It is software that is written by users that is not copyrighted and was written with the intent that it should be freely copied and distributed by anyone that wanted to use it. In the public domain are work alikes of well known software packages such as Wordstar and Lotus 123 both of which there are hundreds of illegal copies floating around the rooms and offices of students and faculty alike.

Public Domain software is available through users groups, from mail order and on computer bulletin boards. Let's stop this horrible risk that can only cost us. At up to \$50,000 per illegal copy, is it really worth it?

Suffolk County Government

by Jim Leotta

Without a doubt, Suffolk County government is one of the most interesting local governments in the country. Anyone who has ever attended a county legislature meeting can tell you that at the worst, it's 'good theatre'. It has often led the state in passing innovative pieces of legislation that have protected our environment, public health, and citizen participation in government. Among state officials, it is often referred to as Dodge City. Among party leaders, it is referred to as chaotic and undisciplined, often causing them premature greying hairs. What is the cause of such a dynamic legislature when just one county to the west, in Nassau, everything is so orderly that you read about the appointments to elected office as if you were reading about the elections in Russia.

In Suffolk County citizens have learned how to lobby elected officials. The greatest example of these skills is the anti-nuclear movement. Led by such heroic citizens as Nora Bredes, Leon Campo, Marge Harrison, and too many others to mention here, citizens have not only influenced the opinion of legislators but more importantly have learned at times to control the agenda of meetings and the platform on which these officials run. Neither party will run a candidate that is in support of opening the Shoreham nuclear power plant.

A few years ago the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature was Lou Howard, a Republican from Amityville. He was replaced in an upset by Greg Blass, over the objections of party

leaders. Blass was avidly against Shoreham, and struck an unprecedented deal with the Democrats and a few defecting Republicans to buck the county leadership. At the time there were eight Democrats and ten Republicans comprising the legislature. Michael D'Andre from Smithtown joined Mr. Blass as the defecting Republicans, and along with the eight Democrats, formed a bi-partisan coalition ousting Lou Howard.

What's so important about Presiding Officer? The Presiding Officer wields a great deal of power because of the ability to assign people to chair committees that control the flow of legislation through the legislature, set the budgets of legislators, determine their final salaries (different positions pay differently), and ultimately increase or decrease their potential to be re-elected. In addition, the Presiding Officer controls appointments to many a plum job that party leaders use to maintain loyalty among the rank and file.

Not only did Greg Blass buck the party leadership and get elected to a position that for years these leaders decided among themselves, he committed the blasphemy of appointing Democrats, yes Democrats, to chair committees in a Republican controlled legislature! This embarrassment led party leaders to want Blass out regardless of the cost.

To the chagrin of the Republican party leaders, and in a great victory for the citizens of Suffolk County, Greg Blass lost his bid for Congress. What both the Republican Party and Greg Blass overlooked was that because we liked the job Greg

Blass was doing so much we were going to vote against him. Greg's most avid supporters did just that and gunned down the best laid plans in Dodge City.

But the story isn't over yet. Each year the Presiding Officer needs to be elected at the first meeting of the legislature. The Republican party leaders met again with the Republican majority and urged cohesiveness and the ouster of Blass. They even announced before the vote that Blass was out and their new selection for the job was determined.

A new age of party loyalty was heralded. Even Greg Blass forgot that this was the year of the 'Amazin' Mets' and began packing his belongings, moving from the spacious quarters of the Presiding Officer's office. Party leaders even got the newly elected Blydenberg, a Republican, who promised the anti-nuclear establishment he would support Greg Blass for Presiding Officer if they endorsed him over his Democratic opponent, to betray his supporters and vote against Blass. The anti-nuclear groups were furious.

The rest is history. A phone call in the night from a disgruntled Republican legislator, Patrick Mahoney from West Islip, an early morning breakfast meeting to tie the score, a round of calls to the Democrats to go ahead, and to the shock of us all, the vote to re-elect Greg Blass Presiding Officer, a clear victory for citizen power and democracy. Party leaders stormed out in shock and anger. The wife of Gerard Glass from Lindenhurst, who had come that day to see her husband attain the coveted position of power, broke into tears.

Expanded Nation

continued from page 8

ing, direct action and other tactics. The focus of the march is to build support for and demand gay and lesbian rights. Some demands will focus primarily on AIDS including equal rights, housing, protection and funding for AIDS victims. Locally, "chapters of gay organizations have already begun organizing for the march," said Ray Melville, a Stony Brook student.

Nuclear Power

The Chernobyl disaster in Russia on April 26 shocked the world and caused fear, outrage and concern throughout America. At first there was outrage over the secrecy and lack of warning during the initial hours of the reactor accident. Once the extent of the accident, a reactor melt-down, was uncovered, fear and anxiety spread throughout the world. The full extent of the damage is still unknown. Thousands of acres of farmland were severely contaminated. Food supplies may be affected for up to 70 years. It is also estimated that cancer deaths could reach 45,000.

In the face of such a catastrophe, the American people began to ask, 'Could it

happen here?' With over 100 nuclear power plants on line, concern over safety and emergency evacuation began to grow. Local officials across the nation immediately took steps to delay the operation of another 15 plants, including Shoreham, that were not yet licensed.

At the time of the Chernobyl accident, Congress was in the midst of writing the nation's nuclear insurance law, the Price Anderson Act. The nuclear industry had been fighting for limitations on the level of compensation that victims could receive in the case of an accident.

According to Kathleen Welch, a USPIRG lobbyist, "The irony of the situation was that industry was simultaneously arguing that Chernobyl could never happen here, but if it did, the industry shouldn't be completely liable or it would go bankrupt."

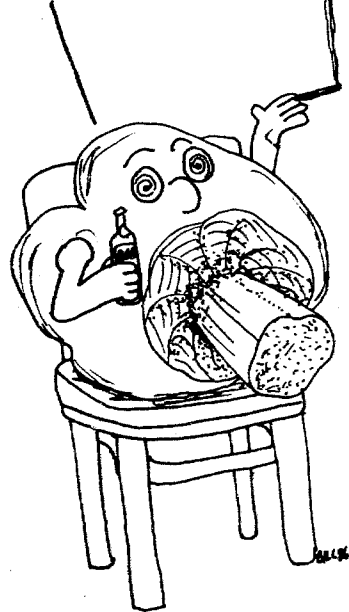
Congress adjourned without passing the Price Anderson Act. It was immediately preceding the November elections and there were two major factors that would have left the legislators in a risky electoral position. 78% of Americans thought there

should be no more nuclear power plants, according to a New York Times/CBS poll. Public opinion was strong and was anti-nuke. The nuclear power industry, however, had contributed \$10 million to Congressional campaigns over the past two elections and legislators were hesitant to vote against the industry. Feeling pressure from both sides, Congress chose not to act.

The Price Anderson Act expires this August. Anti-nuclear advocates are pushing for the industry to be completely liable in the case of an accident. Currently, the industry is only liable for up to \$665 million, not a large sum in light of the damage caused by Chernobyl.

Other nuclear power issues before Congress include emergency planning. Some utilities, like Seabrook, want to decrease the emergency evacuation zones from 10 miles to 1 mile. Meanwhile, American officials called for an 18 mile evacuation zone at Chernobyl. In addition, nuclear waste dumpsites and funding for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) are important issues before Congress.

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The Stony Brook Press

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“We the People ...”

by Adam Sacks

Imagine this. Your father is a lawyer, carpenter, stock broker, whatever. There are other people in this world that are policy makers. They are the power brokers of this planet. Some are dictators, some are elected, some win their power through birth. But they are not much different than anyone else, except for their power. It seems that the first time I saw a hundred dollar bill, I was amazed. The first time I owned a hundred dollar bill, I was amazed. But after seeing a few of them, and owning several, they no longer seemed to be such a big deal. When I finally bought the car I had coveted for so many years, I found it was something I could easily get used to and forget about. Life is very, very like that. It is not so much taking things for granted, but a variation on use and familiarity. We get used to anything.

Politicians did not start out powerful. They had childhoods too, you must remember. Perhaps they grew up in great wealth, among the true blue bloods of this nation. Actually the sociological literature makes more of a big deal about wealth than is needed. These people are not all that different than us, they just have more money. Money redefines many things in life, especially if you find or make a fortune, as opposed to being born into one. But even money has its limitations. You get used to it. You come to accept that you are rich and secure financially.

Power is something akin to that. Realize that you could actually walk into a room and sit down with the President of the United States. He is a real person. That is part of the reason the media stresses his cancer and prostate surgery. He is real. Let us not forget. Bathed as it is with antiquity, Thomas Jefferson actually lived and wrote. Washington was real as well. What seems to happen is a sort of deification. These people became recognized as gods. But they were not, they were mortal.

When I was a few years younger I wrote a hate letter to the President, but I failed to realize that he actually was a person who might receive it. I suppose that a secretary opened it, but I thought of him as a creature, rather than a person. Only an

object. It had something to do with the foolish way that these men are portrayed. Let's be realistic if it is possible.

Imagine yourself in an office with a phone. You have a secretary. You are very important. But you are not a lawyer, you are not a stock broker; you are the chairman of the board; the President of the United States, and as such your name and deeds will go down in history. And you know what, after a short while you get used to the power, you get used to the feeling of the office, and it then becomes commonplace and boring. Imagine that!

Now, you are running a very special company, the largest, most important company in history. But there is competition. To the east there is another company which seeks to undermine yours, as much as you want to undermine theirs. This company is strange and very secret, though reports are brought in about it by moles placed inside the factories and offices there. Realize this: power changes how you view this situation. In our lives you never choose the life or death of another person. In isolated cases where we do, it is a painful experience beyond compare. We leave it to the doctors, or the police, who are the true garbagemen of society. They pick up the junk that we leave behind in the form of broken buildings, smashed cars and dead bodies.

But as president you must make decisions that affect people's lives all the time. It becomes commonplace and boring. If the President had advised Marcos of the Philippines to hang on and fight the rebels, perhaps 10, 20, 30,000 or more people would have died. Imagine that. But Reagan said step down, and they lived. It is very easy to see that someone who does this every day can feel morally correct in sending weapons to rebels abroad. The company must survive and prosper. This other big company to the east is taking away its assets, we must defend them. If lives are lost, that is unfortunate but acceptable. After a while, the guilt of such decisions loses their impact.

There are others you must work with as well. Many you did not choose. The political process gives the illusion that you

chose them, but you know better. You've been in the game for years and nothing is different now. You even hear rumors that the other company, although very apart from yours ideologically, operates in pretty much the same bizarre way. You hang on and seek out your place in history, as was said. Life is dull after this and you begin to relish to more polished aspects of being President, such as dinners and graduations at Yale. The “office” work seems an annoyance, so your trusted and true advisors begin to get more and more influence and make more and more decisions for you. You don't mind, power is slipping away, but you don't miss it, it was boring anyway.

To learn how to fight, you must first understand your adversary. To do political analysis, you must first understand the way that the people operate. Shocking but true, life is very simple when you come right down to it. This material we are made of is very delicate. Something sharp goes right through. Reagan is just a man, not satanic or angelic. Just a man. He worries about different things than we do, and is more powerful by far, but when Nancy says, “Get your hands off me, I am not in the mood tonight,” he feels lousy just like any other person would. Hugh Hefner has popularized the image of the rich playboy with all of the fancy cars, houses and women. But in reality, the real rich, the Mayflower rich, are a boring bunch. They exploit their position, but that is about all they get out of it all.

Trust me, even if you real hard-core entrepreneurs out there start a company, make a bit hit, and sell out in ten years and make a killing, you will still not be acceptable to “the society.” So you buy a bigger house and a nicer car, but these too become commonplace. Ever meet a celebrity or someone you've been told so much about? Such a let down, isn't it? Just a person, two arms, two feet, etc. Same with our leaders. That is the story. Think of them this way the next you see them on television, the world will make more sense. We expect Reagan to have all the answers to our problems, and he too keeps up the image by acting as though he does. When he messes up, what a drag. I thought you knew everything!

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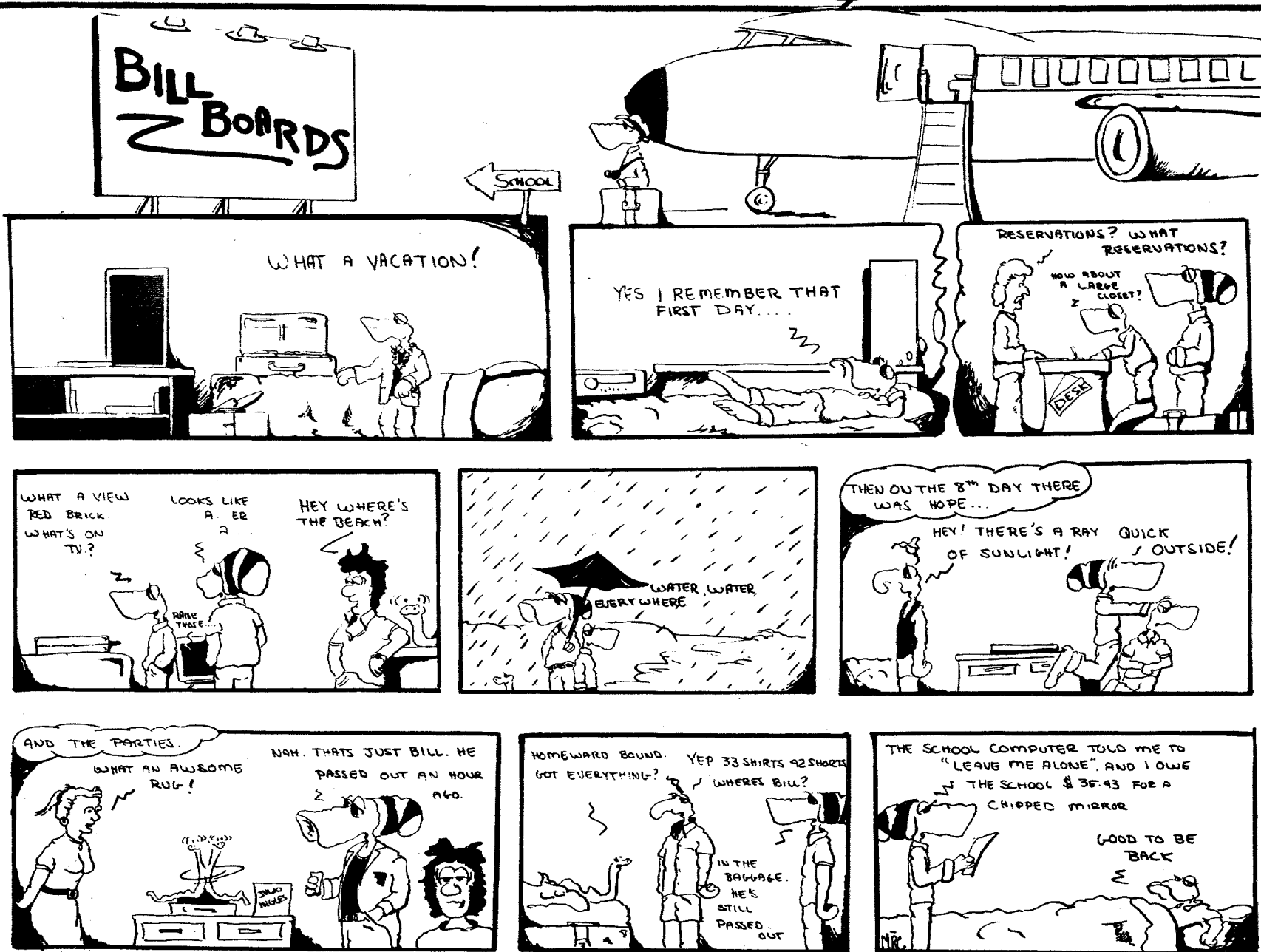
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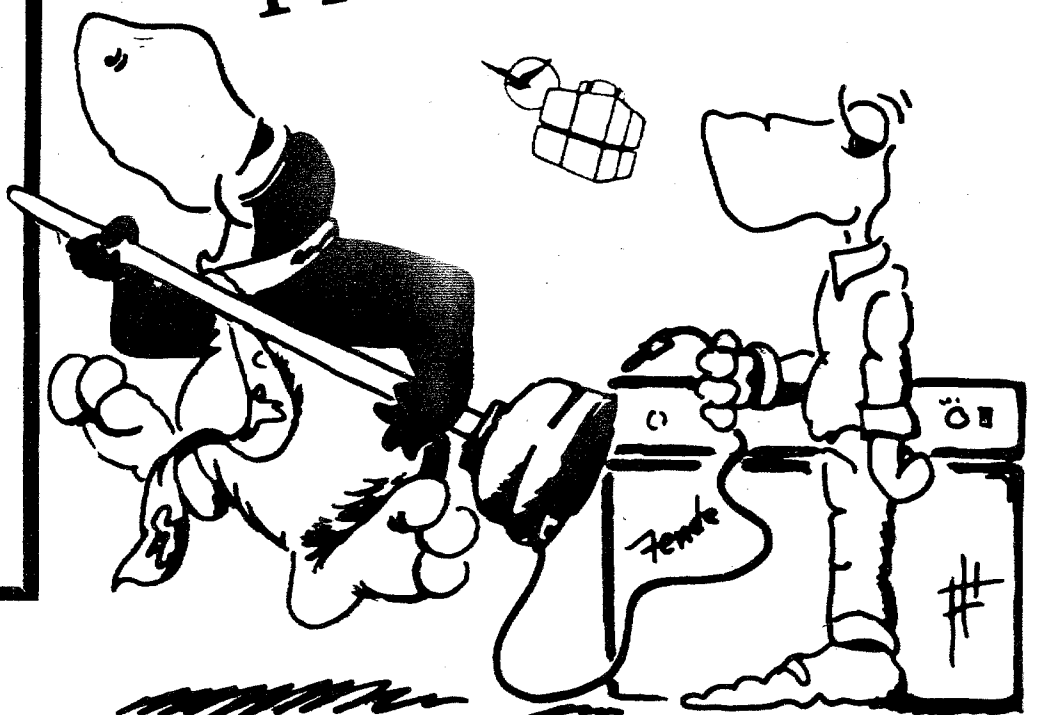
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