



THE  
STONY  
BROOK

# PRESS

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# Hope

We at the Press would like to welcome you back, both newcomers as well as you oldtimers. Before you become inundated with torrents of facts, figures and reserve room reading, we would like you to consider what is going on in the world around you.

Consider President Bush. Name the three most important things that he has accomplished during his term. You might come up with the fact that he is alive, he only needs three weeks to catch a fish and that the White House dogs had pups. There is also the important issue of flag burning. Let us hope, now that he's caught a fish, that his mind turns to problems like drugs, the homeless and the budget deficit (remember that?). That would make a nice start.

In New York, we have the State Legislature. Let us hope that in the upcoming year they manage to approve eight candidates for the SUNY Board of Trustees so that it has full representation. Next spring when the legislature is wrangling over the SUNY budget, let us hope they remember that students, faculty and staff will remember them in the next elections.

Speaking of elections, this November local town and county offices will be up for election. Years of effort were spent to allow students to vote from their dormitory addresses. Don't let apathy let these efforts waste just because they're "minor offices." They are major offices to a great deal of people in the

Town of Brookhaven and in Suffolk County.

Perhaps SUNY Central will start acting with at least a modicum of sensibility. They didn't have enough money to go around in the spring and then had enough in the summer to give major administrators pay raises.

Closer to home, think about the Stony Brook campus. How can a university that shut off the coolers on its water fountains this summer to save money consider spending millions to move the Student Union less than a thousand feet? These and other interesting items will be answered someday whenever the final draft of the master plan is released.

Let us hope that the university finds and hires capable replacements for those administrative positions which are unfilled. It would also be nice for officials to deal with the bureaucracy and stay in their positions longer than Yankee managers.

Let us hope that comments being made in various campus reports do not mean that the administration is considering taking over the Student Activity Fee once again. An attempt was made several years ago by the present administration but was fended off by the students. There are more important things for campus officials to spend their energies on.

Some things should not require hope. Dormitory residents will be guaranteed heat, hot water and electricity by the administration. Calls will not go

unanswered to Residence Life on a Friday evening when there is ice running out of the faucets. The university will have enough toilet paper and light-bulbs for the year and that commuting students will finally get to ride on new busses. Dorm cooking buildings will receive weekend garbage pickup and some sort of maintenance this year. If the administration is intent on wiping out the dorm cooking program, it would be nice to have enough dining hall space for all meal plan participants.

We know that the new Polity Council will spend its time working for students and wisely choosing a new Executive Director rather than spending \$7000 for junkets to Washington as was done last year. We know that SAB will provide the campus with good, cheap concerts converging a variety of genres.

Of course it takes more than hope for these items; it takes involvement. Get involved or at least keep yourself informed about what is going on on campus. Make sure your building or commuter senators attend Polity Senate meetings and keep you informed. If there isn't an activity or organization on campus that interests you, start one. Vote in the November elections either from campus, your home or absentee ballot. Don't hope for everything to occur on its own—make things happen. Do the right thing.

## Thanks Jack

*The Stony Brook Press would like to commend university President John Marburger III for his \$6,000 donation to the Stony Brook Foundation. \$5,000 will go for scholarships; \$1,000 is unrestricted. President Marburger received an unasked \$6,000 raise from New York State this summer.*

The members of the Stony Brook Press generally don't have anything better to do than sit around the offices waiting for YOU to bring us your articulate, legible letters and viewpoints.

### Where was the Press?

We were ready to publish last Thursday but our typesetting machine didn't agree. After spending \$120.96 each for two E-cores (small E-shaped metal things) and \$354.42 for a drive rod (a long, thin metal rod with a piece of plastic at one end). Ed, our Itek repairman, made the necessary repairs at a mere \$99 per hour. The total bill was \$893.34. Please do not confuse us with other Monday & Thursday publications, and tell your Senators to make Polity give us more repair bucks.

## The Stony Brook Press

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# Juan Williams Speaks at Staller Center

by Lee Gundel

On the evening of September 5TH, at approximately 7:30PM, this year's new student convocation began. Unlike many other such convocations, this one dealt with a topical issue that is close to the heart of many Stony Brook students—the issue of race relations in modern day America, how it got to its current state, and what can be done to change the current situation for the better.

The convocation featured Mr. Juan Williams, distinguished black journalist, television news commentator, and author of the critically acclaimed book *Eyes on the Prize*. After two short (but pertinent) introductory speeches by vice president of student affairs Fred Preston and university president John Marburger, Mr. Williams made his entrance onto the podium and began to deliver this year's convocation speech.

Williams, having a great deal of

expertise on the issue of race relations in the U.S., began talking almost immediately about the rule that all individuals must play in American society in order to halt the spread of interracial tensions. He stressed the point that it is the younger generation that must deal with the issue of racial unrest in this country.

"The older generation right now is at a loss to deal with racial issues in this society," said Williams concerning the issue of racial disharmony in modern America. "For the most part they (the older generation) have given the conversation over to demagoguery, a lot of hostile people, and hate mongers. But you rarely hear anybody say 'Let's find out how this situation can be turned around.' You just don't see it happen. That is the requirement for your generation; that is the challenge for your generation—if you can face up to it."

Williams also stressed that it is the individual who must make a difference in soc-

iety, because when too many people believe themselves to be incapable of initiating social change there comes a blind and dissatisfied acceptance of current conditions. In order to stress the importance of individual's contribution to society he cited several stories of the forgotten heroes of the civil rights movement. Among these were a story of a sixteen year old girl named Barbara John who helped in initiating the court case of Brown v. the Board of Education—a case which eventually destroyed the legality of segregated schools; a story of an eighteen year old college student named Diane Nash who, through giving encouragement to the freedom riders, helped them in their fight against segregation; and the story of a fourteen year old boy named Emmet Till who became, after his death, a kind of martyr for the civil rights movement.

The point behind Williams telling all these stories was to emphasize that it is the individual who shapes history and that the re-

sponsibility for change is on the shoulders of the individual. He also indicated that most worthwhile social changes usually necessitate some form of a struggle. Speaking in this vein Williams quoted the following lyrics from an old gospel song:

*"Keep your eyes on the prize/  
Hold on, hold on/  
The one thing I did right/  
Was to stand up and fight/  
Keep your eyes on the prize"*

The relevance of these lyrics to Williams' message about the individual's responsibility for initiating social change is far reaching, and the rest of his closing remarks were made in the same vein.

"You've got to get up and start your fight...make your power felt—make a difference!" said Williams as his speech came to a close. And this was, more or less, the whole aim behind this year's New Student Convocation speech—to motivate us, as individuals, into making a difference in our communities and in the world.

# New Provost Hits USB

by John Dunn

"Stony Brook is very exciting and well thought of." So says the university's new provost Tilden Edelstein in referring to the campus. Edelstein replaces Jerry Schubel, who resigned after 3 years to return to his former position as dean and director of Stony Brook's Marine Sciences Research Center. Edelstein, who assumed the position on July 1, comes from Rutgers where he had been for 22 years most recently as Dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The new provost is positive about the Island, having vacationed with his family in Mattituck for many years. A new resident of East Setauket, Edelstein looks forward to his new position saying, "It's a challenge to come to a place where there's still work to be done." The challenge, to Edelstein, is to "help mold the university further and to provide the campus with a sense of community."

According to Edelstein, a major factor why the campus lacks a sense of community is the lack of student amenities, particularly on an undergraduate level. He feels that more activities would make college life more meaningful and would have a payoff on the academic side as well. "If a student stays for the weekend to see a concert, then there's a greater chance he'll end up in the library studying than if he went home," said Edelstein. He also believes that more activities will be a big help in attracting students to Stony Brook.

The provost is less sure on how the university would provide such amenities. The university's office of Student Activities has always mentioned how difficult it is to sponsor events since the students control the money. Edelstein stated that if the students are happy with many special interests having a part of the budget, things will remain the way they are. If not, they're may be some changes.

Edelstein believes that certain things besides activities have to be done "to publicize and attract students." The development of the Honors College and URECA

program are steps in the right direction for attracting undergraduates. "In order to attract the brightest undergraduates," Edelstein said, "we have to offer more Honors programs and things like fellowships." Offering smaller classes for freshmen would also be an attraction. "A smaller class or two would help the transition process from high school to college as well as make the process friendlier," he said. But the provost noted, intimacy does not necessarily mean good education.

The provost also said that Stony Brook has done a good job in attracting people at the other end of the scale. "It's good to see people who had trouble in high school to have a chance to get into Stony Brook and stay in," he said. He also noted that unlike other schools, Stony Brook doesn't just accept the academically disadvantaged and then let them drop out but instead, provides the support they need to stay in school.

As far the students who are neither academically disadvantaged nor eligible for honors programs, Edelstein said, "the middle is always a problem at state universities." He said that the university can stimulate the students and tell them they can do well if they try, but it is up to the students to put in an effort.

Stony Brook has had more than its share of bad publicity in the past few years. Edelstein said that the university needs to counter the images created by the publicity with reality. "When students see that the campus isn't what it's been portrayed as, we'll start attracting more students," he said.

The university has many things in its favor according to Edelstein. "It has a strong faculty and reputation but is still in the process of being developed," he said. He noted that, unlike Rutgers, the construction had been done without temporary buildings and that Stony Brook has developed into a "north-eastern university."

As part of the recruiting process, the university has started to seek more out-of-state students. At present, only 2 per cent of undergraduates are from other states in the

U.S. Edelstein believes that it is likely the university will continue to seek students from other regions since, "it makes the campus more diverse." He notes that the admissions department has targeted specific regions for publicity about Stony Brook. Once again, Edelstein says that more student amenities could make the recruiting process easier.

He noted that unless more housing is built and the university develops a better image, recruiting goals mentioned in the self-study will not be realized. Edelstein remarked that it's easier to recruit graduate students to Stony Brook because of the university's research orientation.

As for Stony Brook's sports program, Edelstein believes it has its place. He liked the move to Division I by the lacrosse and women's soccer teams. Whereas his predecessor was a fan of lacrosse, Edelstein's favorite is basketball. While this doesn't mean a move to Division I by the team, he did note that Villanova's coach Rollie Massimino started his coaching career at Stony Brook. "You never know what will happen; football used to be a club sport here," he said.

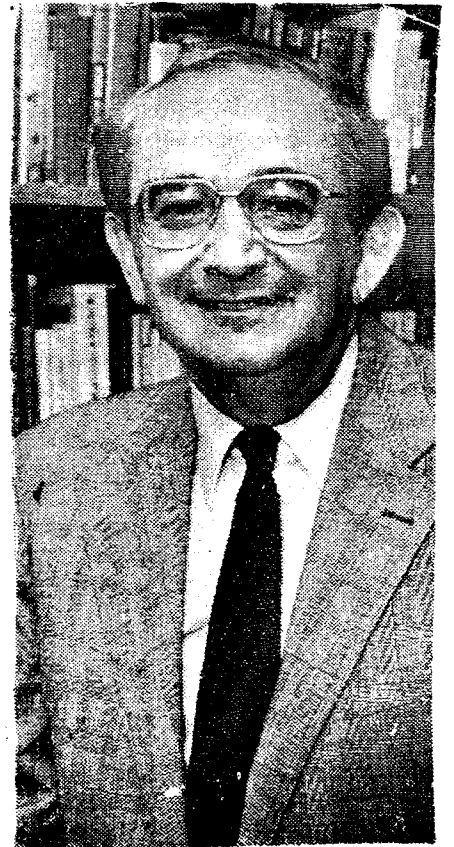
He would also like to see more development of East Asian studies and closer ties between the medical school and main campus. "At Rutgers, the campuses were separated by several miles. Only Nichols Road divides the two campuses here so I'd like to see more interaction," said Edelstein. The challenge of "juggling the budget" would also have to be dealt with.

Edelstein conceded that there are problems that have frustrated his predecessors. "We have to convince New York State to spend its money here," he said. The provost supported the proposed tuition increase of last spring but not at the expense of pricing poor students out.

He believes there are ways to get the campus involved with the surrounding community. He cites the Sundays at Stony Brook lecture series started by predecessor Jerry Schubel as one example and the continuing

education programs as another. There has been strong growth in the continuing education program, according to Edelstein, something which should be pursued.

A believer in the importance of accessibility, Edelstein wants to get involved on campus. "You have to keep in touch with your constituents; in this case, the faculty students, staff," he said.



Tilden Edelstein

Edelstein came to Stony Brook both for the challenge and the opportunities that exist. "Changes can still be made and there's the opportunity to try just about anything," he said. "Things aren't written in stone."



# 1989 - 90 Campus Bus Schedule

## NORTH LOCAL

Operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on the hour and half-hour from North P lot/LIRR station. Route times are after each hour and are approximate.

Route	Time	Time
North P Lot	:00	:30
Kelly	:02	:32
Gymnasium	:03	:33
Grad Chem and Grad Physics		
Student Union—Bookstore	:05	:35
Library and North Campus Academic Buildings		
Administration Building	:07	:37
Day Care Center	:10	:40
Hospital Main Entrance	:11	:41
Chapin Apartments	:12	:42
Dental Clinic	:14	:44
South P Lot	:15	:45
South Campus	:19	:49
Tabler/Roth	:21	:51
Tabler Steps	:23	:53
Engineering Mall	:24	:54
Kelly	:26	:56
North P Lot	:30	00

## Hospital Bus Service

Operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. via South Local/South P Lot (see schedule).

Operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. via North Local/North P Lot/LIRR Station (see schedule).

## SOUTH LOCAL

Operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. on the hour and half-hour from South P Lot. Route times shown are after each hour and are approximate.

Route	Time	Time
South P Lot	:00	:30
Dental Clinic	:01	:31
Chapin Apartments	:05	:35
Hospital Main Entrance	:07	:37
Day Care Center	:08	:38
Administration Building	:10	:40
Student Union — Bookstore	:11	:41
Library and North Campus Academic Buildings		
Gymnasium	:12	:42
Grad Chem and Grad Physics		
Kelly — Stage XII	:13	:43
North P Lot	:15	:45
Kelly	:19	:49
Engineering Mall	:21	:51
Tabler Steps	:22	:52
Tabler/Roth	:23	:53
South Campus	:24	:54
South P Lot	:25	:55

Service available Monday through Friday

## Commuter Bus Schedule

Operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:10 P.M. every five minutes.

### Route

South P Lot  
South Campus  
Engineering Mall  
South Campus  
South P Lot

**Hello!**

To restart an established line budget club or college legislature, you must submit minutes showing the election of officers, a club constitution, signature form and you must attend an informational meeting on September 14TH at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions, feel free to call Shari Sacks at 632-6460.

**Thank you.**

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# Residential Wrath

## One Student's Ordeal in the Dorms

Kathleen Saul

*The following letter was written by a Stony Brook student to her state senator this summer. Copies also went to John Marburger and others in the Stony Brook administration; the State Attorney General and Governor; and various media among others. The Press hopes that Ms. Saul, who is spending the year studying in Paris, returns to an improved campus.*

Since I have been a student of the State University of NY, (fall, 1987), I have observed a constant pattern of over-charging students for services which are not adequately provided, or are not provided at all. The attached letter, to SUCO Auxiliary Services, at SUNY at Oswego, is a demonstration of just one of the ludicrous bills I have been forced to pay, over the last two years, in order to pursue my education. In this letter, I will address four major problems I have encountered with the State University System, other than the recent insurance. They are as follows: Cooking Fee, Inadequate Residence Services, Rolm Phone, and Common Area Damage.

If a student at Stony Brook elects not to be on the meal plan, he or she must pay a "cooking fee". I remained on the meal plan for the mandatory first year of school, during which time the cafeteria food made me ill, to say the least. This past year, I chose to be in a cooking building. I was placed in a suite with six people. Every semester, each of us paid \$121.00, that is, \$1452 in total, for the year. For this fee, we had the privilege of not having to become sick from cafeteria food. In addition, we were supposed to be provided with extra outlets, two stove burners, and a hood with fan and light, and a large sink for the hall, (six suites). We received a hood, dirty and rusted. The light and fan were somewhat operational, but the fan moved no air or smoke out of the room. About mid-April, the hood began dripping a sticky, oil-like substance onto our counter. We also received one extra outlet, which often blew fuses, with only a few appliances plugged in. We received no burners. The sink in the hall was often plugged up, and the hot water spigot fell off almost every day, spraying hot water everywhere. When students reported the broken and missing articles, they were merely documented as "missing" on Room Condition Report forms, never repaired or replaced. We were told by Residence Assistants, and the Residence Hall Director: "Don't worry, you won't be charged for it." We may not have been charged an extra amount for missing and broken items, but I paid \$242.00 more than students on meal plan to live in a suite with no more facilities than suites without so-called "cooking facilities".

In addition to inadequate cooking facilities, the residence services I received were also very inadequate. The dormitory building I lived in was Whitman, in Roth Quad, (suite A22), rumored to be one of the "better" cooking buildings. When my parents, both alumni of SUNY at Fredonia, dropped me off, they were appalled at what greeted them: A dirty, garbage-filled, roach-infested building with very poor lighting, and virtually no security. I will begin with actual missing and damaged items. In my room there was absolutely no lighting. Only a switch on the wall remained. One screen was missing, and one window would not stay open unless propped. The blinds were broken and hardly usable. The mattresses were stained and dirty. There was no shelf for books. My roommate, a veteran of this room from the year before, told me she had been reporting the window for two years, but to no avail. In the bathroom, the shower curtain was missing, there was often a shortage of toilet paper, which we were sometimes forced to supply ourselves, from the grocery store.

In the suite room, we received one small light, with a 60 watt bulb, hardly enough for six people. Within a few months, the bulb blew. We replaced it. There was also no operational sprinkler system in our suite. There were numerous times that our building was without heat or hot water, in the dead of winter. There were several days which I recorded: Jan. 30, Feb. 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, Apr. 7, 8, 9, as well as about five or six others in the month of March. We received one day's notice only on February 16, that the heat/hot water would be turned off on February 17, and 18, supposedly to have it fixed. Not only does the lack of this service restrict showering and washing of dishes, but it is very unhealthy, espe-

cially when the weather is so cold. In addition, we had no hot water or electricity on May 12, 13, and 14, the weekend before final exams. During this time, we were not able to cook, and much of our food spoiled in warm refrigerators.

Perhaps the most repulsive part about living in Whitman Dormitory was the cockroach infestation. Each of us killed at least two or three roaches every day—that is, twelve to eighteen roaches per day in one suite. Exterminators were supposed to arrive once a month. Twice in a row we were skipped, and when we reported this, we were told we would have to wait until next month. I saw exterminators only twice in nine months. Again with our own funds, we bought roach motels, sprays, traps—Combat, Raid—you name it we tried it. As I walked out of my suite for the last time, on May 19TH, I killed one last roach with my shoe.

**"...Twelve to eighteen roaches per day in one suite..."**

I would like to add at this time that during the time that Quincey Troupe, my residence assistant, was arrested in connection with a campus rape, and suspended from all residence halls, we were not provided with a "substitute" residence assistant.

SUNY at Stony Brook has recently install Rolm phones in every room on campus. I believe that this is an excellent idea that will lend at least some security to the campus. However, the cost and billing system leave much to be desired. In a double room, each occupant pays \$65.00 per semester for one shared phone. In a single room, the occu-

pant pays the same \$65.00 for a phone all to him/herself. The occupant in the double room should be charged \$32.50 for the partial use of the shared phone, or two phones should be installed. In order to receive the benefit of outgoing service, a student must pay twenty-five dollars, as a security deposit, with the expectation that this deposit will be refunded when they leave school, or upon request. I paid the twenty-five dollars last August. On June 5TH, I received a phone bill for \$22.07. Since I will be studying abroad in Paris, France for the 1989-1990 academic year, I requested \$2.93 from Bitek at Stony Brook, upon receipt of this bill. I enclosed my billing stub and reson for request. As of July 23, I have not received the remainder of my deposit.

This year, SUNY at Stony Brook adopted a policy of "Common Area Damage". This means that is anything in a suite, on a hall, or in a residence building breaks, the residents of that area will share paying for its replacement. This has given the University license to charge students for items which fall apart, under normal wear and tear, (up to twenty years of wear and tear), and lack of maintenance on the part of the University. The students in these cases have absolutely no say in what should be considered common area damage, and are not informed as to the total cost of replacing these items. During the Spring, 1989 semester, the front door of our building broke. It had not been working properly for some time; I several times had to try my key two or three times in the pitch dark, in order to get in. The door, when it finally broke, was listed as "Common Area Damage". We will all be forced to pay for a door that broke under the strain of normal use, and a lack of maintenance on the part of SUNY at Stony Brook.

Two years ago, I was accepted at two Ivy League colleges. I chose SUNY at Stony Brook, because I thought it would offer a good education, at an affordable price. Instead, I am constantly being over-charged for services which are not provided, and I am receiving no assistance or support from the administration of the SUNY at Stony Brook. Two years later, I am thoroughly disgusted with the entire State University of New York system, and the people in charge of running it. I thank you for attention to this matter, and I will contact your office within the next two weeks, in the hopes that you will be able to help me with any or all of these problems.

## Polity Seeks New ED

by Joe DiStefano

Polity has been on the lookout for a new executive director (ED) since mid-August when a search committee to find a replacement for Judi Segall was formed.

By the end of this month Segall will begin working as an executive assistant to Fred Preston, vice president for student affairs. The beginning of the academic year marks an especially busy time for Student Polity because of Fall Fest and the re-forming of Polity clubs.

Segall is willing to help out in the event that the committee does not find a new ED and added, "My thoughts have been to take care of things before I leave." She predicted, "I don't foresee there being a lapse, they'll be some kind of arrangement made. Polity's daily operations will not be stymied."

"It's my hope the group can pick the best person in the shortest time," said Norm Prusslin, committee chair and Student Union Assistant Director for Media Services. Prusslin said most EDs serve for two or more years and added, "I don't think many students have served on a hiring committee."

Also serving on the committee are Sorin Abraham, Polity president; Dan Slepian, Polity vice president; Rachel Boatswain, Fall Fest chair; and Pam Leventer, execu-

tive director of SCOOP, the student cooperative.

Among the duties of Polity's ED are acting as a liaison to the university's administration, managing daily operations, overseeing Polity's managerial procedures, and advising the student government on matters including event programming and allocation of the budget, which is funded by the student activity fee. Leventer hopes to see an ED who will support a student controlled activity fee and ensure its proper distribution.

According to an ad placed in the New York Times, applicants should have at least a B.A. if not an M.A. in addition to prior work experience in a university setting. Although these are the job requirements committee members will be looking for other qualities when they begin to interview the fifty applicants later this month.

Abraham listed previous experience in student government as essential for an ED remarking, "I would hope for someone who was an activist, who did not have apathy as a part of their curriculum."

Leventer confers with Abraham on student activism. She asserted, "Polity is not just a funding agency, it should be an advocate for students on administrative policy." She voiced her confidence: "It's hard to find the right person. I think it will be difficult but I'm confident we will."



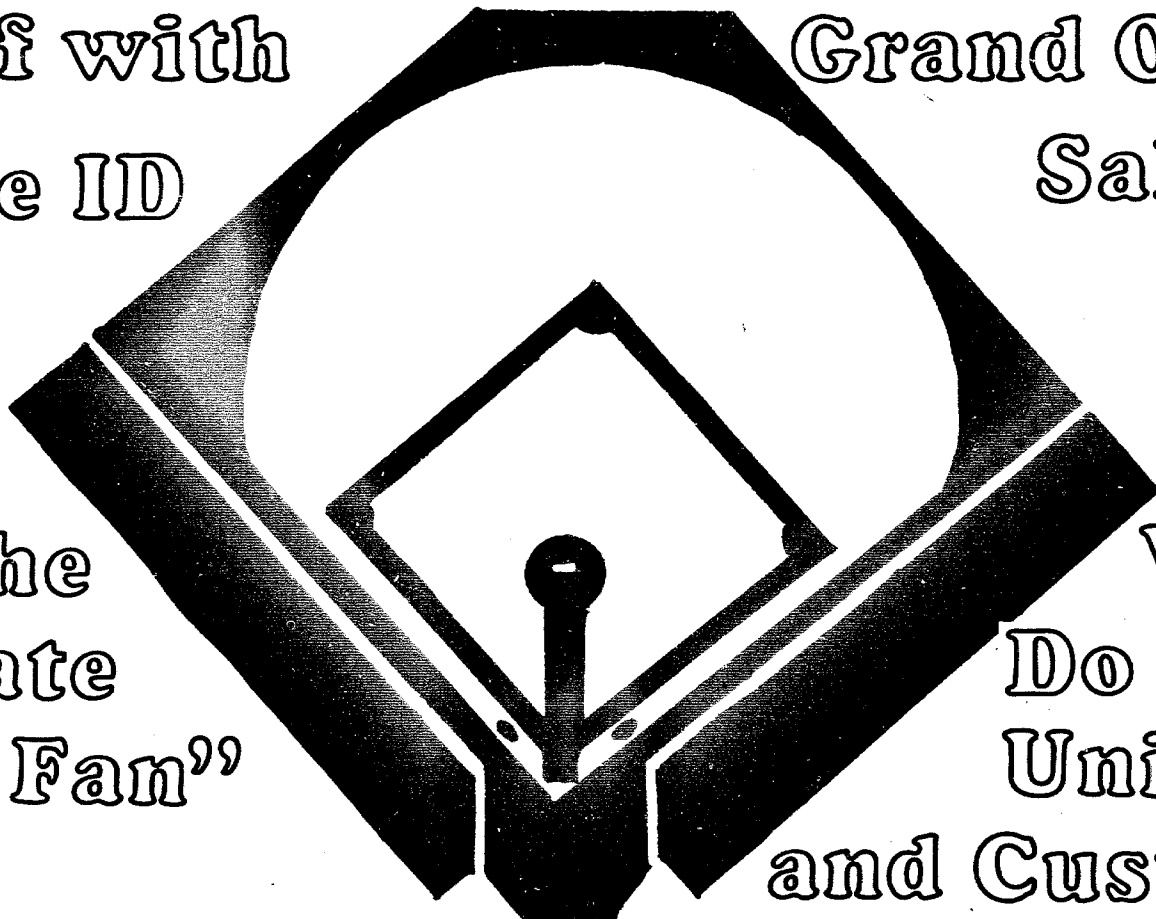
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# Summer News

by John Dunn

The university experienced a number of personnel changes during the summer. Aldona Jonaitis, vice provost for undergraduate studies, left to become vice president for public programs at the American Museum of Natural History. She will coordinate the operations of the Exhibition and Education Departments and the American Museum-Hayden Planetarium.

Richard Brown, associate vice president for finance and management, left to become vice chancellor for business affairs at East Carolina University. He will be the chief financial officer at ECU.

Tilden Edelstein was named provost. Edelstein comes from a 22-year career at Rutgers where he was the dean of Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He had previously been associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and chairman of the history department.

Dorothy Melville died August 1 at age 95 after a long illness. Mrs. Melville, along with her husband Ward, who dies in 1977, donated in 1956 the land upon which the university was built. The Melvilles also donated their summer estate in Old Field, Sunwood, to the university. Although it burned down in 1986, the beach and gardens are still in use. The Melvilles were also very active in town affairs, donating much of the collection of the museums at Stony Brook as well as restoring downtown Stony Brook into its present Federal architecture.

The Melville's, particularly Ward, were upset with the architecture of the university which was envisioned as ivy-covered walls of academia. The Health Sciences Center and University Hospital were two of the worst offenders. Before his death, Ward's vision had failed and Mrs. Melville said, "Thank God Ward can't see it."

Thirsty people at Stony Brook had to look somewhere other than campus water fountains for cold water. According to Carl Hanes, deputy to the President for Special Projects, the cooling units of many water fountains across campus were disconnected to save energy. "The coolers consume lots of energy," said Hanes, "and they're on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

Other energy-saving measures this summer included having most of the campus keep earlier office hours. This allowed air-conditioners, lights, and other large electricity-consumers to be turned off earlier in the day during peak energy usage hours. High wattage incandescent lights have either been replaced with low wattage fluorescent or simply removed with no replacements.

With these and other similar energy saving measures, the university has been saving up to \$80,000 a month according to university spokesperson Vicki Katz. In addition, an energy hotline (632-6631) was created for people to report campus energy waste and problems.

On June 30, the term of SUNY Trustee Gurston Goldin expired leaving the sixteen member SUNY Board of Trustees with only eight members whose terms have not expired. Of the other eight seats, five are held by holdovers or members whose terms have expired and three are vacancies.

Board chairman Donald Blinken told the **PRESS** that while the situation "is a prob-

going to start cutting back on the number of students admitted to the system. The declining number of high school students was noted as one reason for the cutbacks. It was also mentioned that certain universities might have been admitting more students than they should have to bring in extra money. [Of course, such questionable activities would never take place at USB. —Ed.] SUNY Central said that the cutbacks would not affect student access to SUNY.

The current trustees, with their homes and dates of term are:

Chairman: Donald M. Blinken

D. Clinton Dominick  
(Newburgh, 1984-90)

Mrs. Judith Lasher Duken  
(Plattsburgh, 1980-88)

Arnold B. Gardner  
(Buffalo, 1980-92)

Gurston D. Goldin  
(New York City, 1985-89)

John L.S. Holloman, Jr.  
(East Elmhurst, 1968-94)

Mrs. Nan Johnson  
(Rochester, 1976-86)

Judy Krebs (student)  
(Albany, 1989-90)

Victor Marrero  
(New York City, 1985-93)

Edward V. Mele  
(Barneveld, 1982-85)

Rosemary C. Salomone  
(Brooklyn, 1985-94)

Darwin R. Wales  
(Binghamton, 1973-90)

## "Thank God Ward can't see it."

lem," it was not effecting the function or effectiveness of the board.

According to Blinken, the trustees may do the following: appoint the SUNY chancellor, approve the appointments of campus presidents, direct and approve the SUNY budget, and develop the SUNY master plan, among other things. The trustees are also responsible for all SUNY rules.

SUNY Central announced that it was Terms expire on June 30.

# Exaggeration and Misrepresentation A Look at Coverage of the Troupe Case

by Kyle Silfer

Manufacturing an intriguing news story through exaggeration and misrepresentation is a tactic generally ascribed to either the Hearst school of yellow journalism or the modern tabloid press. Because they claim to practice "objective journalism"—a discipline demanding accuracy, impartiality, and circumspection—newspapers like the **New York Times** and **Newsday** are rarely dismissed by the reading public the way the **National Enquirer** and (to a lesser degree) the **New York Post** are. Certainly, a lot of people buy what the more overtly lurid papers are selling, but a much vaster percentage of the population responds to the aura of respect surrounding the **Times**. And therein lies a load of bullshit.

The Quincy Troupe case is an excellent example of how news hooks can be derived from potentially inert material, allowing even the most "objective" of journals to turn the merely interesting into the sensational. In the **New York Times** and **Newsday**, it is possible to trace the development of coverage from initial slant (invariably, "racial tension on campus") to the point where repetition of buzzwords and catch phrases turns that slant into widely accepted fact. Through this gradual process, supposition becomes truth, and the results are tighter, more dramatic, and ipso facto, more interesting news stories. In rather stark contrast, the Troupe stories that appeared in **Statesman** convey information with little focus or slant—a situation probably due as much to closeness to the actual events as to "unprofessional" journalism. (The **Press** is removed from consideration here, due to obvious bias, as is **Blackworld**—whose role in the Troupe affair was distinctly more participatory than "objective journalism" standards would allow.)

If we may generalize, the process of "dramatization"

seems to take place in three steps: initial coverage, with a slant toward the dramatic element (in this case, racial tension); follow-up coverage, with suppositions about the dramatic element repeatedly referred to in an unqualified catch phrase. Once the final stage is reached, the dramatic element is inextricably connected to the incident—it may be debated or discounted by anyone, but it must be dealt with, and, thus, remains "dramatic" whether it has validity or not.

"...yellow journalism isn't  
quite as out of fashion as  
we might naively believe."

Though an analysis of each of the previously mentioned papers would be enlightening, I will confine myself to **Newsday**, which offers the best example of this progression, due to its day-to-day, in-depth coverage of the case. The first qualified mention of campus racial strife in **Newsday** appears in an April 5 story by Michael Slackman and Michael H. Cottman. According to this article, the Troupe incident "has set off a wave of protests [actually, only one had taken place at that point], in some cases pitting black students against whites, and friends of the victim against friends of the accused." Thanks to the "in some cases" qualifier, this statement is basically irrefutable, (and, to be fair, it is also basically correct), but a less gripping observation—that "in

some cases" both black and white students and friends of both victim and accused were *not* pitted against one another—could also have been made. Good news, however, is no news.

In the same issue, a Jimmy Breslin-style sidebar featured by Paul Vitello attempts to give some kind of "behind-the-scenes" human interest angle to the "Tragic Campus Debate" (as it is tagged in the headline). Vitello writes: "Which is worse: to be black or to be raped? That was the question yesterday at the learning institution called the State University at Stony Brook." As if being black is somehow the polar opposite of being raped. (Actually, the question I heard that day was: How can a student with an uninvestigated alibi and no physical evidence against him be drummed out of school without so much as a hearing?) Vitello also offers incisive analysis of the student mindset: They were young enough to believe that all things are personal, no matter how political, no matter how messed up." Yeah, man. Groovy. Are human interest features allowed to indulge in subjective lapses, or is this a statement of fact?

Step Two manifests itself in the next day's issue, in an article by Slackman and Joseph Demma. According to these reporters, "school officials prepared to head off what they say is a potentially explosive rift along racial lines among the 16,000 students on campus." Note the profusion of apocalyptic phrases: "prepared to head off," "explosive rift," "racial lines," and—holy cow!—"16,000 students". Sounds like a race riot in the making, doesn't it? Well, if "they say" so, then it must be true, though such colorful imagery was probably absent from whatever statements "they" gave to **Newsday**. To further validate this Stony Brook-under-siege depiction, university president John

continued on page 9

September 11, 1989 page 7



# Assessing SUSB

by John Dunn

Despite funding problems that have led to deferred building maintenance and staff reductions, the State University at Stony Brook is stronger and more effective today than five years ago, according to a periodic self-study the university released in July.

And the next five years seem to be even more promising. The 60-page report says that among other things, the university hopes to create a campus environment with an increased sense of safety and security, boost the number of graduate students by 20 percent, upgrade both buildings and grounds, and promote more weekend activities for students.

"We need to provide a campus with more amenities to continue to attract a high caliber of students," said new provost Tilden Edelstein. The report was submitted by Stony Brook at the beginning of July to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the university's accreditation agency. Every ten years the university has to do a comprehensive institutional review as a part of the accreditation process and this report is an update of the 1984 ten-year self-study.

Primary preparation of the report was done by a steering committee whose executive director was James McKenna, director of the university's federated learning communities. He said that the committee started with the 1984 ten-year report and worked from there, collecting data from a wide variety of sources. "We were guided, in part, by the format that the accrediting

agency sets up," McKenna said. He said that the committee had representatives of different sections of the university. To help assist in the gathering of data, there was a dialogue between the committee and the various operating units of the campus so that the whole of the campus was involved.

McKenna also said that the self-study will be used as a briefing report for the university as well as preparation for the 1994 ten-year report. Deputy to the president Stan Altman stated that the report is also tied into the whole planning process of the university including the master plan.

**"We need to provide a campus with more amenities to continue to attract a high calibre of students."**

The review covers a variety of topics, concentrating on the academic nature of the campus and ranging from the undergraduate experience to the quality of life for faculty.

A number of successes that the campus has had in the past five years are mentioned. Sponsored research has grown from \$40 million in 1984 to over \$63 million in 1989. A new honors college begins this fall which will offer challenging academic programs for well prepared incoming students. The

men's lacrosse and women's soccer teams have been elevated to division I status.

And the university has more planned for the future. Graduate student enrollment is to increase by 20 percent in the next five years along with a modest increase in undergraduate enrollment. A consortium of Stony Brook, MIT and Brookhaven National Laboratory have proposed that a national Nuclear Theory Institute be created at Stony Brook. The new fieldhouse is scheduled for completion in 1991 and groundbreak for a hotel and conference center is set to begin next year.

increased." Murphy noted that the renovations of the Chapin apartments will displace students for months at a time. The expected high rent costs of the graduate housing currently under construction may put them out of reach of a lot of students according to Murphy.

The university's service to the region is mentioned in the report, noting the benefits of the Fine Arts Center. The Centers for Regional Policy Studies and Advanced Technology as well as the small business development center connected with the Harriman School for Management and Policy are among many new centers designed to increase interaction with the community as well as help solve the region's problems. University Hospital has Long Island's only kidney transplant program as well as a center for the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.

Altman says that as the Long Island economy tries to diversify, it will look to a major research university which will assist in the process and that university will be Stony Brook. According to Altman, the type of programs developed by Stony Brook and the surrounding region will have the effect of both helping the region and elevating the university.

The impact the university has on the region at present can be demonstrated by the composition of the student body.

According to the report, most of Stony Brook's students still come from the metropolitan New York area. Forty-five percent

*continued on page 9*

## A Self-Study at Candyland

by Elizabeth Ard

The Periodic Review Report submitted by the university is a fascinating document. I urge members of the campus community to try to obtain a copy so that they can see what directions the university is considering taking.

The report is quite interesting and raises a number of interesting points. The report committee should be commended for doing such a thorough job. However, there are several items in the report that are hard to take seriously. A number of examples:

**Page ii:** "Although we have completed a long overdue rehabilitation of the major graduate residential complex..." I wonder what complex is being discussed since it certainly isn't Chapin, shouldn't one wonder why a ten-year old complex needed "long overdue" rehabilitation.

**Page v:** "Plans have been implemented that are dramatically reducing the level of student cooking in the residence halls. Campus meal plan participation has increased to 4200 of the 6000 total residential students." Plans? I suppose extortion is a plan that is the word that best describes the demise of dorm cooking. 'Oh, you want new furniture? Go on the meal plan.' And isn't it amazing that as soon as a building is converted to meal plan, it gets rehabilitated? Hmmm.

**Page vii:** "The university will soon break ground on a much needed hotel-conference center." Exactly. Forget heat and hot water in the dorms or a decent bus system, what this campus really needs is a hotel-conference center. Maybe that is where students will be placed on weekends in February when there's no heat. By the way, the 150-room hotel is due to break ground sometime this year.

**Page 26:** The university is attempting to attract students outside the metropolitan region through increased print and radio advertising as well as recruiting visits. Consider some of the advertising we've had previously in the media: the Troupe case (made the *Today* show among

others); various shootings; the high load default rate; et cetera. Consider what a job Stony Brook recruiting officers face and that's even before the students see the campus.

But then again, the report notes, "How many students will decide to come to Stony Brook because our lacrosse team recently defeated no less a university than Notre Dame?" The answer: the same number as the number of Public Safety cars at the Pond Path 7-11 on a Saturday night.

There are also a set of twelve goals to improve the quality of campus life by the year 2000. Here's a few of them: to create a campus environment with an increased sense of safety and security; to expand child care services and facilities for students; to enhance student social and recreational life on the campus; to restructure the student activity fee and promote more weekend activities.

Yup, it's that damn student activity fee that's getting in the way again. As the report says, "the university is working...to enhance its oversight activities (of the activity fee)."

There's some other fun things in the report. Currently the university is constructing more graduate student housing to make up for the present shortage of non-tenement housing on campus. So you might think the university wouldn't try to dramatically increase the number of graduate students. Right? Wrong. **Page 35** of the report states, "The university plans a substantial increase in the number of full time graduate students over the coming five years, moving from 2951 to 3543, an increase of 20 percent." Plus the university expects the "completion of new graduate housing will encourage American graduate students, many of whom now live off campus, to return to university housing." This would increase the level of "international" integration according to the report.

Now where are all these students going to live on campus. Good question. The answer will probably be in the final

draft of the university master plan, originally due for release in July, which now *may* be released in October.

Well, if you want to know everything the university plans, you'll have to pick up your own copy.

The self-study wasn't the only fascinating document released this summer. There was also the president's message concerning the 1990-91 capital budget request. Now this one had some real doozies.

One paragraph tops just about anything written on this campus all year. "Infrastructure needs such as roof repairs, provisions for adequate heat and electricity, proper functioning of HVAC systems, and reconstruction of failing infrastructure systems as important to the functioning of Stony Brook as the realignment of roadways, the refocusing of campus activity onto the central mall, or the creation of space for computing services."

Wow. Adequate heat and electricity on campus is just as important as converting Central Hall into a student union. That's right, under the current draft of the master plan, the student union will move from its present location to a refurbished Central Hall. The current student Union would be converted into offices for student services. Plus, once central drive is moved north of the field house, the Bridge to Nowhere will be inclosed with shops and boutiques being built beneath it.

And remember, this is *just as important* to the functioning of Stony Brook as adequate heat and electricity. (As soon as the final draft is released, the *Press* will provide details of the plan as well as incisive analysis of its impact of the campus and surrounding communities.) It's thinking like this that gave John Marburger a well-deserved raise.

As President Marburger says in his message, "We believe that Stony Brook can be a campus of which SUNY and New York State can be proud." (I hope that doesn't imply that SUNY is proud of the campus at the moment.) "This is a battle we are committed to winning."

page 8 The Stony Brook Press



# Don't Believe the Hype

continued from page 7

Marburger is quoted as saying: "We are always concerned about incidents like this that might stir up racial tensions. [emphasis mine]" In addition, faculty member Judith Wishnia (of Women's Studies) comments that she is worried about the "possible split between the very active women on campus and the very active blacks." Hey, two conflicts in one! Both racial and sexual. And it's all been officially corroborated by reputable sources. But this is only Step Two, and it's a slow process. More to come.

April 7 repeats and expands the previous day's revelations. A story by Slackman and Mitchell Freedman reiterates: "...school officials began steps yesterday to head off any racial tensions among students," and though a few student interviews revealed "no overt racial tensions," "small signs of racial animosity" had been noticed. (Racial harmony was apparently not discussed.) Fred Preston, vice president for student affairs, is then paraphrased in a statement that provides the standard catch phrase for subsequent Troupe articles: according to Slackman and Freedman, he "agreed that there is some racial sensitivity on campus and the Troupe controversy had heightened it. [emphasis, again, mine]" In the same piece, Marburger repeats his concern that a racial incident may occur, and adds a juicy, unqualified statement: "There are racial tensions at Stony Brook. [you get the idea]"

(An April 8 story deviates from the campus scene to cover the details of Troupe's arrest and the conflicting accounts offered by the Suffolk County police and Troupe himself—a well-balanced article by Michael Slackman that, in my opinion, leans toward no one side.)

The next day, however, makes up for all that with a vengeance. Elizabeth Wasserman, ex-editor of *Statesman*, infiltrates her alma mater to come up with a feature article purporting to uncover the throbbing heart of the USB student community. The story, rife with superficial generalization and statements of unjustified opinion, is the final stage of Step Two, the validation of controversial hearsay. For example, Wasserman writes:

*"Fear, anger, confusion and a sense of lost innocence have been unleashed ... the fear is most apparent as students walk the dimly lit paths leading to their dorms after the campus bus service stops at 11 p.m...."*

Apparent to whom? To Elizabeth Wasserman lurking in the shadows, reporter's notebook in hand? To students in general? To God? From this article, it is impossible to determine the source of the writer's knowledge, and with such loaded, subjective images as a "sense of lost innocence" being "unleashed," it is more than nominally important to come up with detailed supporting facts. Instead of quoting students of faculty who perceive the campus as being fraught with fear, anger, etcetera, Wasserman takes it upon herself to generalize a still more general feeling. She states these things as fact, not as a consensus of campus residents, and in doing so is guilty of slinging the shit, of "dramatizing" opinion into journalistic reality.



**"Wasserman takes it upon herself to generalize a still more general feeling."**

Wasserman tends to justify her statements (when she bothers) with a standard technique: "Some white female students said...", "...many students think...", "Many blacks see..." Students who say, think and see otherwise are irrelevant. There is no reason for a *Newsday* reader to believe that other pockets of opinion have gone unmined in this ostensibly far-reaching and insightful social document, but,

less obviously, there is also no reason to believe that they haven't. Wasserman's job is to pick out the most salient and relevant opinions of the USB populace, but she appears to have chosen only the ones that most fully support her thesis (that of "racial tension"), and even these she generalizes about. An accurate series of direct quotes from a good cross-section of the campus would, I believe, suffice as a barometer of Stony Brook's student temperament, but Wasserman is content to offer her own image of Stony Brook under-siege as filtered through a vaguely articulated wash of student/faculty sentiment.

After a non-campus oriented article on April 13—describing Troupe's appearance on the "People Are Talking" television show, the phrase "heightened racial tensions" begins to appear. Vague enough to be irrefutable, but distinct enough to be interesting, the image first shows up in common use in an April 15 story by Slackman: "The case has heightened racial tensions on campus..." Now the "racial tensions" described by Marburger and the racial sensitivity admitted by Preston to be "heightened" (though this may not have been his wording) have been fused, to form a single, "factual" concept.

At this point, we are well into Step Three. Slackman's April 19 article says: "The administrative charges—which led to heightened racial tensions on campus—were temporarily contained in articles on new developments in the case now refer to an increase in campus racial tensions, completely without in-text justification. May 4: "For a time the case divided the campus along racial lines..." May 10: "The case heightened racial tensions on campus..." These are statements of fact made possible by previous establishment and repetition. If they've been saying it this long, it must be true. And, true or not, it is perceived to be true because it is represented as true. Slackman's May 11 article on the dropping of Troupe's charges, even went as far to say the campus had been "polarized" by the case (which also, of course, had "heightened racial tensions"), a patently false statement that never could have been made a month previous—one that not only exaggerates, but misrepresents the campus situation. Only the progression from Step One to Step Three makes such perversions of "objective journalism" possible, and only the gradual nature of the progression makes it tolerable.

The reason these liberties are taken is unclear, but whether the desire to create a more interesting news story leads to unintentionally selective blindness, or the writers are crassly manipulating facts to more dramatic ends, the result is the same: subjectivity replaces objectivity, hearsay replaces fact, and yellow journalism isn't quite as out of fashion as we might naively believe.

Kyle Silfer is former Executive Editor of the Stony Brook Press.

## A Study in Self-Delusion

continued from page 8

come from Suffolk County, 28 percent from New York City and 87 percent from the metropolitan area. In comparison, only 8 percent come from the rest of New York State, 3 percent from foreign countries and 2 percent from other states.

While this may seem too homogeneous, the report notes the metropolitan area is much more diverse than most regions of the county and thus does provide a heterogeneous student body. However, Stony Brook does intend to attempt to attract more students from outside the metropolitan area. Other interesting statistics about the student body is that over 23 percent of entering freshmen are not U.S. citizens and

more than 20 percent speak and write English as a second language.

The report does take into account the fact that many students base their choice of college on things that are emotional and subjective. Thus the report notes, "How many students will decide to come to Stony Brook because our lacrosse team recently defeated no less a university than Notre Dame? It is difficult to determine with precision." The report continues to say that "we find evidence to persuade us that we have moved to effectively over the past five years to make Stony Brook a more attractive and desirable university."

McKenna says that the evidence is both observational and anecdotal. People who

have been at the university for a long time contributed that the campus is improving both physically as well as a community. Anecdotal information has come, according to McKenna, from incoming students and their comments about the university. Wiesner says that changes in the vice-presidential structure in the past year have made him "very optimistic about the new leadership." Morale is another question, as far as Wiesner is concerned. "Morale on campus is mixed, due in part to the mixed messages concerning funding and commitments to education that the university has received from the state." The conditions of the dorms are another problem, according to Wiesner, but work to be done on campus housing in

the near future is encouraging. Edelstein said that "unless we have more housing and present a better image, recruitment goals are not going to be realized."

Athletically, the university is seeking to compete with institutions that are Stony Brook's peers in the classroom and in research; thus, the move up to a division I level by the men's lacrosse and women's soccer teams. The new field house, currently being constructed, is ahead of schedule and may open next year.

According to the report, Stony Brook is stronger and more effective than it was five years ago and is moving towards its goal as a comprehensive public research university.



# Orientation

Throughout this year, the Stony Brook Press will be printing excerpts from *The Unauthorized Biography of SUNY Stony Brook*, a soon to be published best-seller. Rather than start at the beginning, this segment deals with the end. It's an appendix dealing with items to orient the reader with the Brook.

## School Colors, Alma Mater

Stony Brook's colors are blood and concrete. Actually they're scarlet and gray, but as nothing on campus is in the school colors (the bus shelters are close), blood and concrete is a more apt description.

The Stony Brook Alma Mater (not to be confused with the school song) is something every student should know yet few do. The reason is not to sing it before football games or at graduation, but because a little known Student Judiciary rule. Should you be caught with more than four kegs in your room, you will be required to sing the Alma Mater over the Administration building loudspeakers. For those of you planning parties, here are the words:

Music: Peter Winkler  
Lyrics: Winston Clark

*Sandy shore  
Meeting the northern sea  
Ancient ground where Patriots yet arise  
Scarlet, gray  
Under azure skies  
The morning of a lifetime lies in Stony Brook  
Raise a grateful cheer for Stony Brook!*

*Youthful joys  
Youthful folly, too  
Ancient wisdom seen through youthful eyes  
Lifelong friends  
Bound by youthful ties  
The morning of a lifetime lies in Stony Brook  
Raise a grateful cheer for Stony Brook!*

## Ancient Catacombs

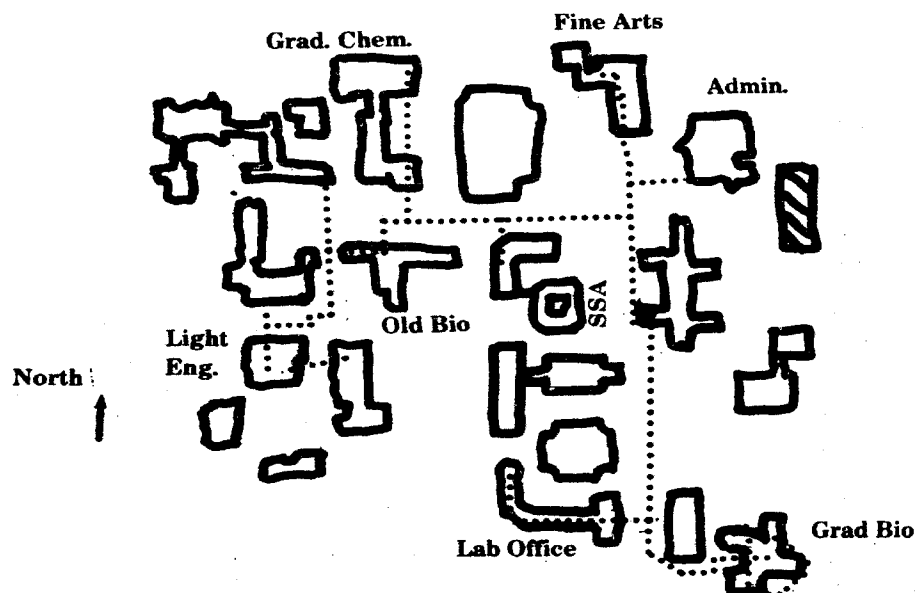
The Tunnels are a network of subterranean passages under the academic mall. Though the tunnels' main purpose is to provide maintenance workers with access to the university's water and heating pipes and power and telephone cables, the passages are large enough for a group to maneuver through them comfortably.

During the 1960s, when campus protests were commonplace, university officials fearing a possible break-in by students would escape the Administration building through the tunnels. The last time this occurred was probably in October 1982 during the P.O.T. (Protest Our Treatment) Rally. Students angered by changes in admin policies that would have made RAs and MAs police for drug use and underage drinking were pounding on the walls of the Office of the Vice President for Campus Operations Robert Francis. Francis and Fred Preston mysteriously disappeared from administration and popped up in Old Biology (Central Hall)

when tempers were cooled down.

A Press investigative team volunteered to go down into the tunnels to chart them. (See graphic.) There are entrances in just short of a dozen buildings and they are easy to find. Simply go into the basement of a building in the academic mall and search for a door with the words, "This is not a tunnel entrance" etched onto it. You have found the tunnels.

A few warnings: Be quiet near the Administration entrance—the tunnels come up at the Public Safety office. Also, the Student Conduct Code states (Section II A 2 c.) that, "No unauthorized student shall enter into any restricted area; nor shall any student assist or make possible the unauthorized entry of any person into any restricted area. Restricted areas include tunnels, roofs, posted or enclosed construction sites and secured utility areas." So, if you take the chance, be careful out there, or you might get screwed.



The dotted paths represent tunnels

## Who It's At

Since studies have shown that 98.7% of campus residents have no idea who their college (dormitory) is named after, here is the whole list. How these people's names were chosen will be covered later in the semester.

Name	Life	Fame	Quad
Othmar Hermann Ammann	1879-1965	Engineer	G
Bernard Baruch	1870-1965	Financier	Kelly B
Ruth Fulton Benedict	1887-1948	Anthropologist	H
Benjamin N. Cardozo	1870-1938	Author, jurist	Roth
Harry Chapin	1942-1981	Musician	Stage XVI
John Dewey	1859-1952	Philosopher	Kelly A
Frederick Douglass	1817-1895	Journalist	Tabler
Theodore Dreiser	1871-1945	Novelist	Tabler
Dwight D. Eisenhower	1890-1969	President	Kelly C
George Gershwin	1898-1937	Composer	Roth
Asa Gray	1810-1888	Botanist	G
Horace Greeley	1811-1872	Journalist	Stage XIIC
Alexander Hamilton	1755-1804	Statesman	Kelly E
Learned Hand	1872-1961	Jurist	Tabler
Jimi Hendrix	1942-1970	Musician	(see Henry)
Joseph Henry	1797-1878	Physicist	Roth
Washington Irving	1783-1859	Author	G
Henry James	1843-1916	Writer	H
Helen Adams Keller	1880-1968	Author	Stage XIIB
Irving Langmuir	1881-1957	GE researcher	H
William S. Mount	1807-1868	Painter	Roth
Eugene O'Neil	1888-1953	Playwright	G
Eleanor Roosevelt	1884-1962	Humanitarian	Stage XII
Margaret Higgins Sanger	1883-1965	Eugenicist	Tabler
Bela Shick	1877-1967	Pediatrician	Kelly D
Henry Lewis Stimson	1867-1950	Statesman	Stage XIA
Arturo Toscanini	1867-1957	Conductor	Tabler
Robert F. Wagner, Sr.	1877-1953	U.S. Senator	Stage XIID
Walt Whitman	1819-1892	Poet	Roth



**Clues:**

You wanted it big

You wanted it exciting

You wanted it of top quality

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**IT'S EXCITING**  
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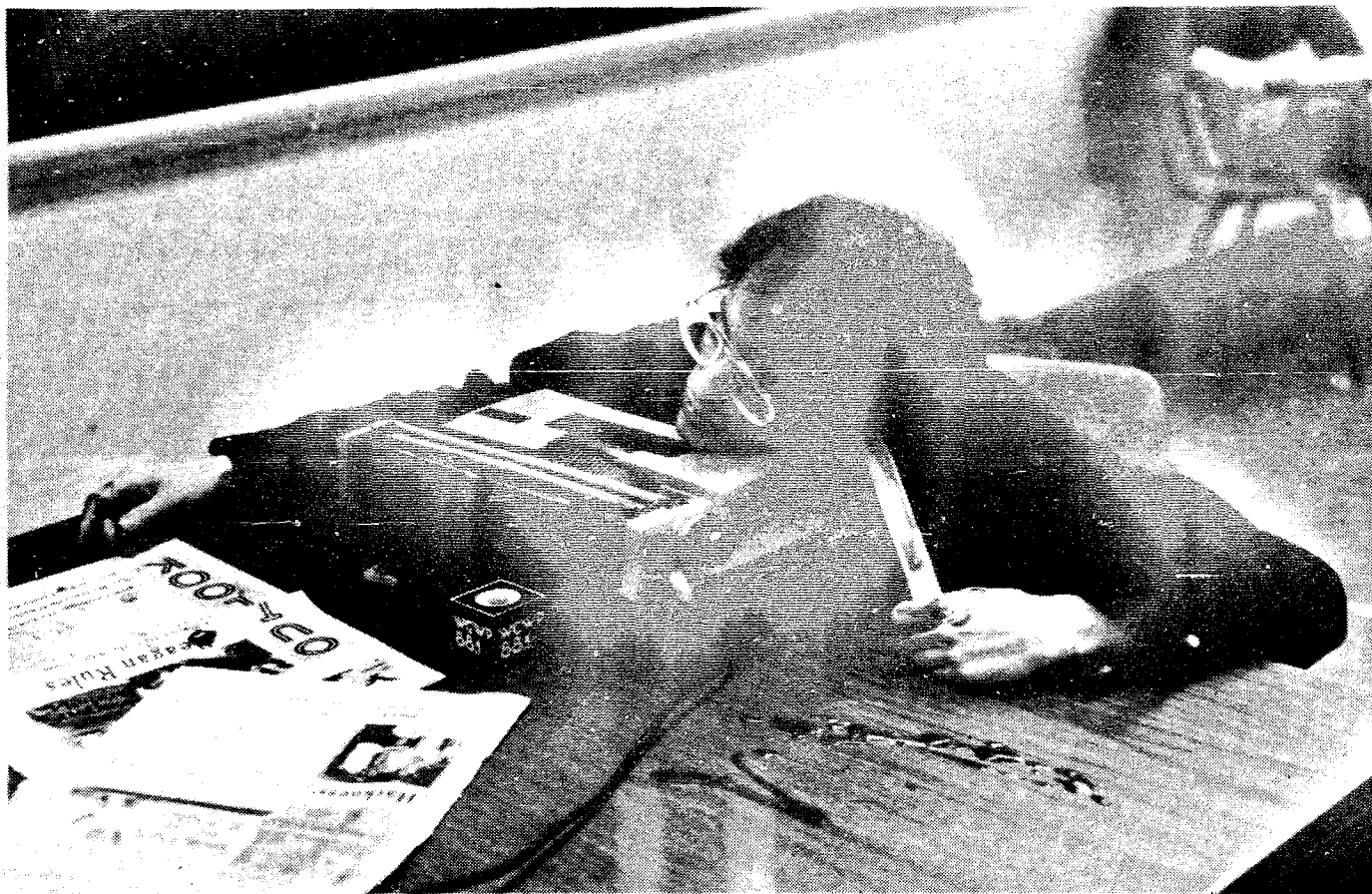
The Press word of the day is

**Het-er-o-dox**



# DON'T DO IT!

Instead,  
Join the Creative Crew  
at the Stony Brook Press



We're welcoming people interested in writing, taking pictures, drawing cartoons or just joining in the fun we all have putting out the Press. Meetings Monday nights at 8 in Central Hall, suite 020.



# Malcolm X's Roots

by Robert V. Gilheany

Over the last year or so two people have handed me this book and said, "Rob, you have to read this book, the autobiography of Malcolm X." This summer I've finally got a chance to read it. The book is intensely emotional and packed with vivid accounts of his life from his youth in Lansing, Michigan and Boston up until his experience in the Harlem scene. The book has the ability to put you in the mind of a street-smart hustler who prays on the livelihood of others to survive. Finally the book shows how Malcolm X got religion (Islam); his dedication to Eliga Muhammad, the building of the Nation of Islam, and the falling out between the two. Then came his pilgrimage to Mecca and the final transformation in Malcolm X.

On its simplest level the book is a portrait of a Black life in White America (1925-1965). On the larger level, it is also a commentary on the superstructure of racism in America, and of blacks' and whites' attitudes toward this.

He was born Malcolm Little to the Baptist preacher Earl Little and his wife in 1925. His father was a follower of Marcus Garvey, an early black nationalist who believed in the black community lifting itself up by itself. He thought that as long as the black people were minorities in America they would always be treated as second class citizens.

The Rev. Earl Little was killed by klansmen in the early 1930s, leaving Mrs. Little to raise eight children on a black woman's income supplemented only with some help from social services. Times were going to get tougher for the Little family. Mrs. Little would often have to hide who her husband was to avoid being fired. Social Service agents

worked on dividing the family until they finally got the mother committed. Malcolm X commented, "I have no respect for a system that puts pressure on a family then blames the family for not standing up under the weight." That reminded me of watching the Iran-Contra hearings and those Reaganite slimeballs would blame the Sandinistas for Nicaragua's economic problems when the Contra's strategy was the economic sabotage of that country.

Malcolm X moved to Boston and stayed there with his sister Ella. Once there, he familiarized himself with the crowd in the black section of Roxbury. He became a shoeshiner and a friend of a local musician named "Shorty". He was a quick learner and before long he was supplementing his income by selling "reefers." He was getting into the music dancehall scene in Boston with his zoot suit and hair "conked". Soon he landed a job as a worker on the railroad from Boston to Washington, D.C.

He was turned on by the Harlem scene. Once there, he started to grow into a first class hustler. There is a vivid description of the fast life of the hustler. He describes it as a jungle with turf battles and always being on your guard. "The hustler doesn't have time to reflect on what he is doing...he is always on his guard." There is a sense of adventure in the account of his burglary activities. He explains how it's done, but in the end he is caught.

Malcolm X, Shorty and the two white women (who were phoney petitioners sent into white neighborhoods to size up the place) all received jail time. He said that part of the reason the sentence was so stiff was because of the involvement of the white women. Throughout the first part of the book he talks about the relationship between white women and black men and how white men don't like it.

In prison he would get visits from his brother Riagal who eventually turned him onto the Nation of Islam, and the teachings of the honorable Eliga Muhammad. Muhammad believed that the white man was the devil. The race had been created by an evil Dr. Yacobi who was breeding a race of bleached out white devils from the original black race. This argument was backed up by the nature of black-white race relations in the United States plus historical examples such as the slave trade and other such examples of the evil doings of imperialist exploitation.

While in jail and discovering religion, he re-taught himself how to read (Malcolm X was an 8TH grade dropout). He started with the dictionary and then moved on to philosophy (eastern and western) and history. The Nation of Islam's anti-white message was backed up by his reading of the atrocities of England, France, Belgium, and Italy against the people of Africa.

Once out, he became an active minister in the Nation of Islam. He met with Eliga Muhammad and his family and set up mosques in various cities. He became a chief spokesperson for the Nation of Islam and then began preaching about black separation and self reliance. The Nation of Islam has strict codes of moral conduct punishable by suspension. Part of Malcolm X's split with Muhammad was over the fact that he had two daughters out of wedlock. Another issue was Malcolm X's comment about "chicken's coming home to roost" about the JFK assassination. He was silenced by Muhammad, but that statement was only an excuse to push him out.

After the break, Malcolm X made his pilgrimage to Mecca. He saw the Brotherhood of all the Muslims: black, white, brown, yellow, etcetera. He met with Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia and in their discussions Faisal said that all racial references

in Islam are from Western influences. His eyes were opened to a new way of looking at the racial issue.

Malcolm X talked about negative racial attitudes held by both blacks and whites. He said that blacks should not be blamed for anti-white feelings. By looking at the American attitudes and the historical events that lead up to it shapes anti-white attitudes. The difference is that between executioners and victims.

Malcolm X met with African leaders such as Abdulle Nassar, Kwame Nkrumah and spoke at universities. His dream was to get black Americans to think internationally by linking up pan-Africanism (the decolonisation movement in Africa) and the human rights struggle for African Americans stateside.

On the home front, he started to build new organisations: a religious one in the Muslim Mosque, Inc. and a secular one in the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). Unfortunately, he was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem where he was about to give a speech. If he had lived, I wonder what his relationship to the Black Panthers would have been.



## Misadventures

continued from page 13

with my friend I was directed by a rather dimwitted student to one of the cafeterias on campus.

University Dining Service, their equivalent to DAKA, was horrendous, and I'm only saying that to be a gentleman, my real thoughts aren't fit to print in the Press.

When I got back I made a run for Papa Joes, located in the Student Union, and ate some much needed good food. I mention Papa Joes not because I designed the logo on the shirts but because the food there is excellent. The new management there means business and doesn't mess around with your meal, and has given the place a well received "woman's touch."

After dinner I returned to my friend's room to find her still out, but I decided to wait. I watched the "Cosby Show" with her two roommates, and we debated how the new flock of Black comedy shows all trying to outdo the "Cosby Show," to wit I replied Cosby has gone downhill since he left the "Fat Albert Show" (the pinnacle of his career, I feel personally).

Moments later Jeni showed up and we exchanged hugs and she filled me in on her classes, school, nightlife, etc.

Her hall was a buzz with activity as everyone was getting ready to go to this big party in the apartments quad where there was going to be a reggae band.

She took me around and met all of her

friends, most memorable was one of the gang's friends "Abigail". Story goes: Ted worked at A&S. Showroom dummies cost \$10 wholesale. Ted bought a showroom dummy and a \$45 dress.

Abigail was sitting and had her palms together and elbows pointing out as if she were praying. She was dressed in a stunning lacey tube-top mini-skirt, black elbow gloves (donated by Jeni) and was dressed better than most of the real women I saw up there. Her hair was long and brown although Ted had an array of wigs. After registering as an overnight guest with Jeni's RA we went to the party.

(I strongly urge guests or people hosting guests to register with an RA. It's free, no hassle, just to notify in case Lord forbid an accident.)

The band which I was told was called "Hot Buttered Asparagus" but later they were introduced as someone else when they came on about 10:30.

The band was real good. But the hour long line to get to the bar was not in our eyes worth the two dollar cover we paid to get in so we demanded our money back. The only beer I saw that night was in other peoples' cups, due to the fact that no beer is sold on campus and the campus is fairly isolated. No 7-11 or Park Bench to contend with.

As a matter of fact most students weekly stock up on bottles or liquor so they can have it on the weekend, with most crossing

the state-line into Connecticut to get bottles of beer, that being the closest retail outlet of alcohol.

Ted was in effect with Abigail who was sitting on his shoulders like the girl in the hero of the beach comic that was in the Charles Atlas ad when we were all young and read comic books. (You remember the guy at the beach gets sand kicked in his face and he goes home and gets mad and kicks a chair then orders the book and the next day he punches out the guy, and the girl says "OH—your the hero of the beach.")

Abigail proved to be the most interesting of Jen's friends I met, even though she's empty headed, (not more so than other girls I've dated) as she proved herself to be a magnet for drunk people as throughout the evening they were coming up and expressing their disbelief that she was not alive.

"Is she real?" one party-goer queried.

"No, Pal, she's a figment of your imagination," Ted cordially returned.

"Why do you take her to parties?" another one asked, this one a white girl with long brown dreadlocks, her Black boyfriend at her side.

"Because..." Ted returned, pausing to make sure he had everyone's undivided attention, "she's a cheap date." Mostly the men in the crowd laughed at that one. "Yea, and she never talks back," added the white girl's boyfriend, which infuriated her and she gave him a smack.

"Or does that 'Ha Ha'," Ted added.

Disappointed with the overcrowding and lack of beverage, the group, which had grown and shrunk like a fluctuation in the stock

market, we opted to return to Ted's room to chill.

I got to carry Abigail on the way home and with her sitting on my shoulder and Jeni by my side I felt like the king of the world, not one but two beautiful women.

After Ted's, Jeni and I left and put in some after midnight games of ping pong in her building's lounge, where she accidentally stepped on the ping pong ball, crushing it.

After returning the equipment and getting her ID back, the spent ball going unnoticed, we decided to turn in and the last things I remember before falling asleep was a commercial on her friend's TV that boasted a huge art sale in the Hilton with "starving artist prices".

That night I dreamt that I was trapped on a desert isle with a thousand other shaved head spiked hair freako starving artists trying to sell my book. But they all had a book or demo tape or paintings that they were trying to sell. So instead everyone traded their work and we were all enlightened by each others' work. Unfortunately, no one got rich and famous.

The next day was spent chewing on a Captain Crunch/Crunch Berry mix at the cafeteria and saying goodbye to Jeni and all her friends and taking one last skate on the pavement or Purchase, where Jeni took me underground into the tunnels, where first year film students shoot footage as a class project. We said goodbye at the bus stop as the bus pulled up and I started the long trek homeward.



# Misadventures at Purchase

by James Blonde

It felt like it was in the nineties and muggy, someone drank my last Jolt cola I had in the office fridge, set aside especially for when I returned, and a pile of work filled my desk in my absence. But it was good to be back.

My intrepid journey brought me to our sister SUNY school Purchase. More pleasure than business, as the trip was to visit a certain special ladyfriend of mine who is in her freshman year in the Visual Arts Department.

The trip there was less than enjoyable due mostly to the lame attempt at public transportation that the Metro-North line tries to pull off on the public.

Twice, the train sat motionless for a total of half an hour as fellow passengers told and retold horror stories of other recent delays and even a derailling the previous evening.

Highlights of my afternoon amok in Manhattan were a disappointing visit to the Museum of Holography (Mercer St. & Canal) which used to fill the top spot in my favorite museums in town category. The downstairs gallery show was bland and unimaginative and I remember the artists work no less than I remember her name.

From there I visited several comic shops expanding my collection of underground

and adult comics, most noteworthy of which was **Doll #1** (Rip Off Press), drawn and written by Guy Colwell, whose work has been printed on the same page as mine (**Street Music #3** by Fantagraphics Books, available at your local comic shop).

Many hours of enjoyment were spent at Psychedelic Solution (W. 8th), viewing the Pushead showings of both original art and skateboard designs. Pushead is most remembered for his designs for Zorlac skateboards, illustrating **Thrasher** magazine and most noteworthy art for Metallica's album covers and concert shirts.

psychedelic, skate and comic related posters for those naked freshman walls, all at reasonable prices. Unfortunately I inadvertently left the poster I had brought for my lady-friend in a phonebooth and, by the time I realized it, and returned, it was swiped.

The Gods of Good Fortune smiled upon me as I accidentally passed the stop I was supposed to get off at (White Plains) because I was too engrossed in one of the many fine publications I purchased earlier.

From North White Plains I took a very expensive cab ride for an extremely short

found my friend's building, hall then room, but lo and behold she was not there. (Funny the same thing happened with the other lady-friend.)

Intent on taking in some local color I skated around some more, soaking in the buildings, the hum of people, the atmosphere of the school. Purchase has a larger campus than Stony Brook but with two quads worth of students.

Purchase for those that are not familiar with it is a SUNY school that boasts an impressive art, dance, drama and music curriculum.

Most of the students there are from rural or suburban areas and come to be near the city and in a productive environment.

Skating around the campus was a real freak show, if you were not used to subversive lifestyles and radical appearances. You might be thrown by all the shaved heads and nose earrings. Surprisingly the most "extremest" and "hardest" looking fellows were the nicest and most positive I met there.

It was late Friday afternoon, early evening when everyone is either returning home from classes to get ready to go out or has already gone out. Still not making contact *continued on page 12*

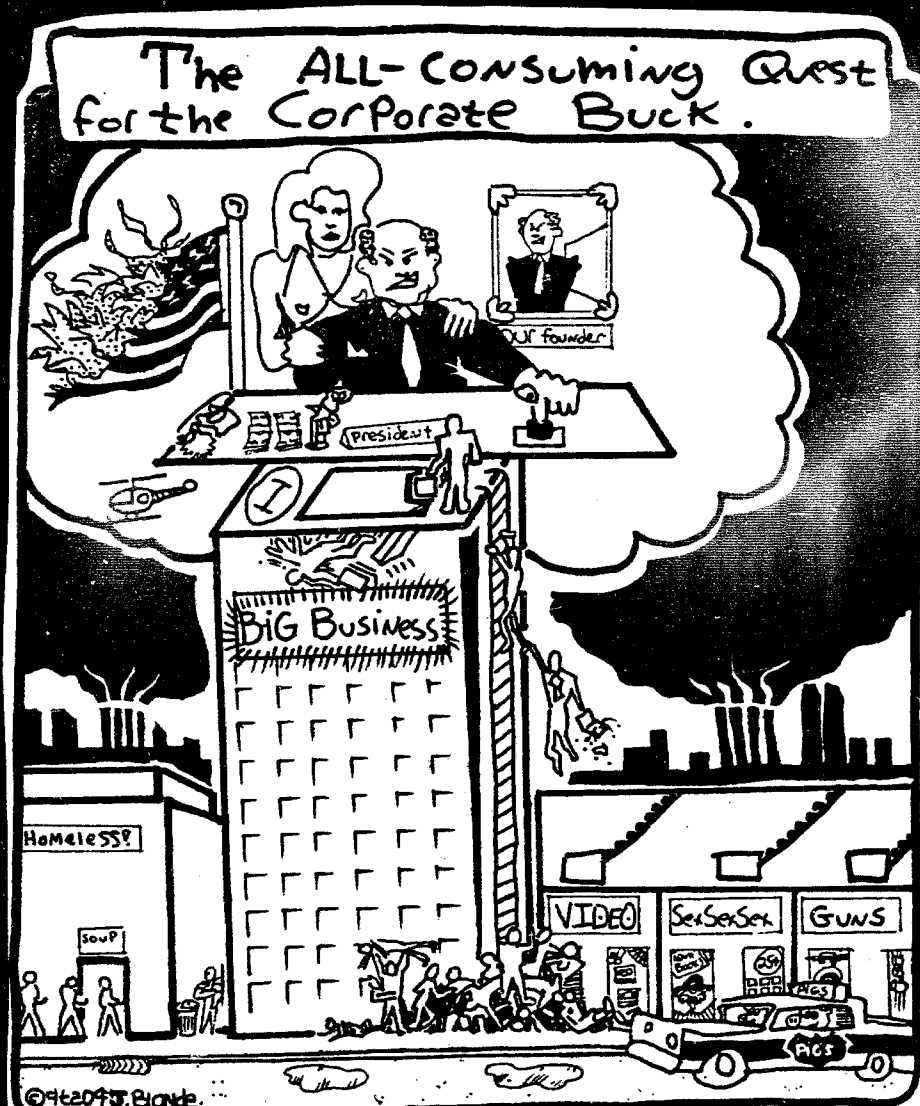
## "...Cosby has gone downhill since the 'Fat Albert Show'"

Also in the house were original comics by Gilbert Sherdon who draws drughumor comics—**Fabulous Freak Brothers** and **Fat Freddy's Cat**. The Psychedelic Solution has a large array of dead-head,

distance to the school.

Upon arriving and a short skate about the campus, it all started to come back to me from the last time I was here, (also to visit a lady-friend I might add) some years ago. I

# Page 13





# CLUB CALENDAR

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>☐ <b>Angry Squire</b> ..... (212) 242-9066<br/>216 7th Ave</p> <p>☐ <b>Automatic Slim's</b> ..... (212) 691-2272<br/>151 Bank St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Bay Street</b> ..... (516) 725-2297<br/>Long Wharf, Sag Harbor</p> <p>☐ <b>Beacon Theatre</b> ..... (212) 496-7070<br/>74th &amp; Broadway</p> <p>☐ <b>The Blue Note</b> ..... (212) 475-8592<br/>181 W. 3rd Street</p> <p>☐ <b>The Bottom Line</b> ..... (212) 228-7880<br/>15 W. 4th &amp; Mercer</p> <p>☐ <b>Bradley's</b> ..... (212) 473-9700<br/>70 University Pl.</p> <p>☐ <b>Carnegie Hall</b> ..... (212) 247-7800<br/>57 St. &amp; 7th Ave.</p> <p>☐ <b>Cat Club</b> ..... (212) 505-0090<br/>76 E. 13th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>CBGB's</b> ..... (212) 982-4052<br/>315 Bowery &amp; Bleecker</p> <p>☐ <b>Eagle Tavern</b> ..... (212) 924-0275<br/>355 W. 14th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Fat Tuesday's</b> ..... (212) 533-7902<br/>190 3rd Ave.</p> <p>☐ <b>IMAC</b> ..... (516) 549-9666<br/>370 New York Ave., Huntington</p> <p>☐ <b>Irving Plaza</b> ..... (212) 279-1984<br/>17 Irving Plaza @ E. 15th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Knitting Factory</b> ..... (212) 219-3055<br/>47 E. Houston</p> <p>☐ <b>Lone Star Roadhouse</b> ..... (212) 245-2950<br/>240 W. 52nd St.</p> <p>☐ <b>McGovern's</b> ..... (212) 627-5037<br/>305 Spring St.</p> | <p>☐ <b>The Meadowlands</b> ..... (201) 778-2888<br/>East Rutherford, NJ</p> <p>☐ <b>The New Ritz</b> ..... (212) 956-3731<br/>254 54th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>The Palladium</b> ..... (212) 307-7171<br/>126 E. 14th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>The Puck Building</b> ..... (212) 431-0987<br/>299 Lafayette</p> <p>☐ <b>Rock-n-Roll Cafe</b> ..... (212) 677-7630<br/>149 Bleecker St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Roseland</b> ..... (212) 247-0200<br/>239 W. 52nd St.</p> <p>☐ <b>SOB's</b> ..... (212) 243-4940<br/>204 Varick St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Sundance</b> ..... (516) 665-2121<br/>217 E. Main St., Bayshore</p> <p>☐ <b>Sweet Basil</b> ..... (212) 242-1785<br/>88 7th Ave. South</p> <p>☐ <b>Town Hall</b> ..... (212) 840-2824<br/>217 E. Main St., Bayshore</p> <p>☐ <b>Tramps</b> ..... (212) 777-5077<br/>125 E. 15th St.</p> <p>☐ <b>Village Gate</b> ..... (212) 982-9292<br/>Bleecker &amp; Thompson</p> <p>☐ <b>Village Vanguard</b> ..... (212) 349-8400<br/>7th Ave. South</p> <p>☐ <b>Westbury Music Fair</b> ..... (516) 333-0533<br/>Brush Hollow Road, Westbury</p> <p>☐ <b>West End</b> ..... (212) 666-9160<br/>2911 Broadway</p> <p>☐ <b>Wetlands</b> ..... (212) 966-4225<br/>161 Hudson</p> <p>☐ <b>The World</b> ..... (212) 947-5850<br/>254 E. 2nd Street</p> |
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## WUSB 90.1FM

## TOP 35

1. Hoodoo Gurus
2. Bauhaus
3. Acid House (comp.)
4. Pop Will Eat Itself
5. Tribe Called Quest
6. LL Cool J
7. Special Ed
8. Pogues
9. Nona Hendryx
10. Daniel Johnston
11. Close Lobsters
12. Happy Mondays
13. Bong Water
14. Bo Deans
15. Three Times Dope
16. The Call
17. Stone Roses
18. B-52s
19. Queen Ida
20. Jules Shear
21. Kinsley Report
22. Nirvana
23. James Brown
24. Half Japanese
25. Ndugu
26. Read Head King Pin
27. Black Bird
28. Mana McKee
29. Marshal Crenshaw
30. Figures on a Beach
31. Pixies
32. Rainmakers
33. Kevin McDermott
34. Fetchin' Bones
35. Bradford Marsalis

### Tuesday, September 12

● Fine Young Cannibals  
at the Beacon Theater — and Sept. 13

★ Max Roach  
at the Blue Note — thru Sept. 17

### Friday, September 15

● The Kinks  
at Jones Beach

The Call  
at the Ritz

Nuclear Assault  
at Sundance

### Saturday, September 16

● 10,000 Maniacs  
at Jones Beach

### Monday, September 18

● Ziggy Marley  
at the Beacon Theater

### Tuesday, September 19

● Dave Holland Quartet  
at the Knitting Factory

### Wednesday, September 20

● R.E.M.  
Nassau Coliseum

Poi Dog Pondering  
at Knitting Factory

### Friday, September 22

● Dead Milkmen  
SUNY Stony Brook

★ Bad Brains  
at the Ritz

### Saturday, September 23

● Big Audio Dynamite  
at Bay Street

### Tuesday, September 26

● ★ Pere Ubu  
Love and Rockets  
at the Ritz

★ Robyn Hitchcock  
at the Knitting Factory

### Wednesday, September 27

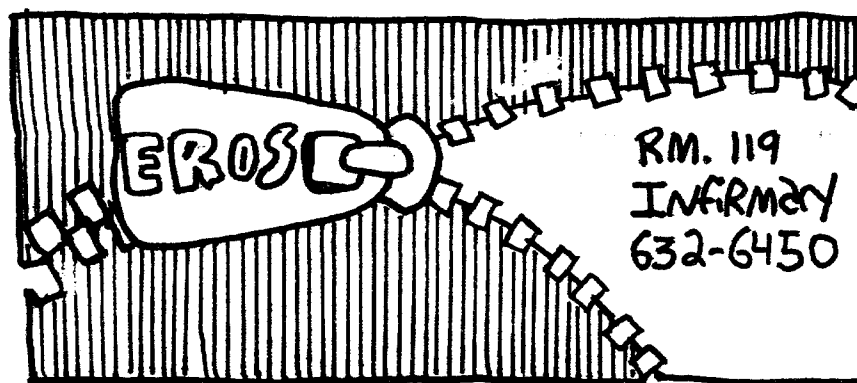
● Allman Brothers  
at the Beacon Theater — thru Sept. 30

### Friday, September 29

● ★ Hawkwind  
at the Ritz

### Saturday, September 30

The Wallers  
Yellowman  
At Bay Street



EROS is a student run, peer-counseling organization which provides information, counseling and referral on birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and sexual health care. If you have any questions that you would like answered in our column, please submit your questions to our office or to the Press office, room 020, Central Hall. EROS is located in RM 119 in the infirmary. Stop by or call 632-6450.

#### Dear EROS,

A few weeks ago my boyfriend and I were worried that I had a sexual disease. So I went to the doctor and he diagnosed H.V. Vaginitis, and said I probably got it just from being tired and run down. I took all the antibiotics he gave me, but now I have the symptoms again. What's going on?

—In the Dark

#### Dear In the Dark,

Many forms of vaginal infection are caused by a general lowered resistance of the woman's body (i.e. stress, lack of sleep, poor diet, etc.) BUT even most of these infections can be transmitted sexually. Therefore, as with all sexually transmitted diseases, it is essential that the sexual partner also be treated, even if the partner is without symptoms. This is what is known as "ping-ponging," because you and your partner can reinfect each other over and over again if one of you are sexually active, perhaps your partner was not treat-

ed also. Return to your doctor and ask him about this and other possibilities as to why your symptoms recurred so as to avoid future infections.

#### Dear EROS,

I have a question to ask you about condoms. I know you can just buy them in a drug store and that they are cheap, but is there a correct way they should be worn?

—Curious George

#### Dear Curious George,

That is a good question, and YES, there is a correct way a condom should be worn. The condom should be put on after the penis is erect, but before there is any genital contact with your partner. This is because sperm can leak out long before the man comes. When putting on a condom leave about half an inch space at the tip. Be careful as you roll the condom down to push out any air bubbles. Air bubbles can cause breakage.

Immediately after ejaculation the man should grasp the base of the condom (around the base of the penis) and withdraw the penis from the vagina. Check the condom before you throw it away to make sure there are no rips or tears.

Remember, condoms and foams should be used together; this combined method is almost 100% effective form of birth control.

—EROS



# Naked Truth Revealed

## Dead or Alive's Latest Release

by Sharan Velin

Well, I was just in the new record racks here at WUSB a few weeks ago, and I just happened to notice a new Dead or Alive album, called *Nude*. I immediately grabbed it and checked the list of songs on the back, and was happy to discover that the great song "Turn Around and Count 2 Ten", the only new song they came out with in the last three years, has *finally* been put out on record. It was about time Dead or Alive came out with a new album, and if "Turn Around and Count 2 Ten" was any example, it should be amazing.

One look at the cover shows that Pete Burns, the man who obviously wants to be a woman, has reached the peak of androgyny. An uninformed viewer might mistake him for a woman at first glance. Although he makes no effort to change his actual physical body, and even appears practically

"nude", as the title suggests, on the front cover, his poses suggest femininity that would rival Marilyn Monroe or Madonna. Even his costume on the back appears like something a woman could wear. With his long hair and makeup, it could be very easy to mistake him for a woman.

Well, I immediately rushed it over to the nearest available turntable, and after listening to it awhile, I knew I had to get a copy of this. Now I know why it took so long for them to come out with a new album (not counting their greatest hits album). This is definitely the best Dead or Alive album ever recorded, even better than their second album, *Youthquake*. The album is a pure dance album. Listening to it is like being in a nightclub. There is not one bad or even mediocre song on it. It is pure electronically synthesized dance music—the epitome of danceable new wave. It is such perfect dance music that probably even listeners of Hot 97 would

flip for this album, so if they discover this, it will unfortunately be played to death like all the music they get their hands on. However, this music is so great, it *might* even stand up to that. (Staying away from Hot 97 and the other hit radio stations should help!)

The lyrics which Pete Burns sings, too, have a sort of a nightclub feel to them. The songs seem to have recurring themes, which make you wonder what they've been up to in the last three years. Most of the songs are about breaking or broken relationships, although he handles even these topics with a flare, as in songs like "Give it Back, That Love is Mine", but two of the songs, "Come Home With Me Baby" and "I Don't Want to be Your Boyfriend" tell a story typical of the nightclub pick up scene, or the Stony Brook dorm party pick up scene, for that matter. "Come Home With Me Baby" says just that—it's a pick up song for an obvious one night stand. Yet the next morning, the girl

obviously expected more, so he sings "I Don't Want to be Your Boyfriend". In both songs he insists that she "just got lucky", which seems pretty stuck up, but it only appears in these two songs, so at least we know Pete Burns isn't always like that. There is also "My Forbidden Lover", a song about his relationship with another woman.

Well, all this seems to show that his feminine appearance has no connection to his sexual preference, but either way, the music is great. If you want to dance, just listen to this album. Even if you don't want to dance, listen to this album. In other words, just listen to this album. (I'm taking Intro to Symbolic Logic, and how can you be any more logical than that!) So my advice is—go out and buy this album. It's great listening, and they deserve the money. Just stay away from the radio for a few months!

### Footnotes

#### L Ron Again

Those of you who aspire to become science fiction and fantasy writers and illustrators can get in on L. Ron Hubbard's Writers (or Illustrators) of the Future Contest. (Yes, the Hubbard of Scientology Fame.) For your chance at cash prizes and nationwide publication from the high priests of Dianetics, send SASE to: L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest, P.O. Box 1630, Los Angeles, CA 90078. Illustrators should send their entires to P.O. Box 3190. Don't delay as the deadline is September 30.

#### Collective Shops

If you need help with your study skills, are interested in foot message or want to learn about intimacy, consider the group shop programs being offered by the University Counseling Center. Although the programs are being offered in October, you have to register by September 20 and it's all FREE! Pick up a flyer at the Counseling Center located on the second floor of the Infirmary. For more info, call them at 632-6715. Remember, no late registration for the Overcoming Procrastination workshop will be allowed!

#### The Force Wants You

Have plenty of free time this semester and looking for something to do? Perhaps you should consider participating in the scientific research program of the Strategic Defence Initiative Organization. SDIO is seeking forefront research and development approaches in a variety of areas. Those of you with experience in terahertz technology, cold fusion or ultra-short wavelength lasers, among other fun things, can write for a copy of the program brochure. Send a written request to SDIO, The Pentagon, SDIO/IST, Washington, D.C. 20301-7100. May the force be with you.

#### Enhance Your Library Skills

If you think the campus library is merely a building where the skylights are backwards, then perhaps you should enroll in one of the four courses the library is offering this fall. There's the 1-credit Intro to the SB Library, the 2-credit Academic Research along with Library Skills for psychological as well as sociological research at 1-credit each. For further information or of tours of the library, go to the reference desk in N1001 or call 632-7110.

#### Where's That room?

Returning members of the campus community have undoubtedly noticed that the reserve room in the library has moved. Main library material will be loaned from the third floor circulation desk. Don't forget your ID card and proof of registration kids!

### Comics

## Breathed Gasps Bloom Busts

by John Dunn

Berke Bloom's latest County anthology is just out. Who cares.

Last year in the *Press*, in the "Great Bloom County Debate", I tried to argue that Breathed still had some of his pazazz left. The night of the Mary Kay Commandos shows why Breathed decided to end the strip: it's not funny. That's not to say the entire book lacks humor, but beyond colored Sunday strips, there is little else of substance.

The ongoing campaign coverage is a shadow of what Breathed did in 1984. Steve Dallas is still a nice, sensitive guy (not the slime we have come to love) and Cutter John has disappeared completely. Only the development of Ronald Ann shows any spark in the book which is undoubtedly why she's featured in Breathed's new strip Outland.

Previous anthologies have had little bonuses like the Billy and the Boingers flexidisk and a copy of the Bloom Picayenne. This book features Smell-o-toons which go along with the Mary Kay Commandos series in the book. Imagine the thrilling smell of perfume and mothballs. Didn't that make the book worth seven-plus bucks?

It is rather unfortunate that the book ends just after the November elections. The presumed next anthology should be Breathed's best in some time since it was when he announced the end of the strip that it started to improve. At least it is nice to know that Breathed humanely uses rabbits to test new strips as is shown the back cover.

There is little else to say about this disappointing book. Opus fans will be glad to know that he should make occasional guest appearances in Breathed's Sunday-only Outland. Bring on Fred Basset.

The Old Bloom County



The New Bloom County





# High Altitude

by John Dunn

**W**e're not going to talk about getting old tonight, we're just going to sing about it," said Grace Slick September 1st at Jones Beach. The 49-year old vocalist and the rest of the Jefferson Airplane played for over two and a half hours before a windswept but enthusiastic audience.

The reformed Airplane include original members Grace Slick and Marty Balin on vocals, Paul Kantner and Jorma Kaukonen on guitar Jack Casady on bass. Joining these five are Kenny Aronoff (of John Cougar Mellencamp's band) on drums, Peter Kaukonen (Jorma's brother) on guitar along with a keyboardist whose name eludes me.

The band played two sets a three song encore. The first set opened with "She Has Funny Cars" which led to the Airplane classic "Somebody To Love" which got the crowd rocking despite drumwork that was a tad too heavy. Two teeny-boppers next to me were enjoying themselves, dancing to the music. Fortunately for their health, they stayed out of the way of the people near them.

"Plastic Fantastic Lover" and "Won't You Try/Saturday Afternoon" kept the crowd going as the band slowed into "Today." The quiet song demonstrated that twenty years of aging hasn't hurt the voices of Slick and Balin much.

The slow mood continued with "Good

Shepherd" and an excellent version of "Lather" with Grace making those funny little noises on stage.

Then came a plodding Balin song "Solidarity" which is off the current album. The audience sat quietly waiting for the lengthy song to end. After "Wooden Ships" came another new song "The Wheel" featuring Paul Kantner. The song featured some pretty impressive guitar work along with a five minute drum solo at the end of the song. Unlike some solos which become dull quickly, Aronoff left the crowd dazzled with his stickwork.

"The Wheel" flowed into a KBC band song "America" which featured good keyboard work. The theme of the second part of the set continued with the new song "Freedom" which left the crowd pumped up as the first set came to a close.

After a short break, Jorma and Jack took the stage which caused various members of the audience to shout, "Yeah, Hot F-ckin' Tuna!" The teeny-boppers were perplexed, to say the least, at why a large portion of the crowd was going bananas. People at Stony Brook, who have seen them numerous times on campus over the years, know why. Jorma and Jack plucked their way through "I'll Be Alright", "Death Don't Have No Mercy" and, of course, "Embryonic Journey." Grace Slick joined Hot Tuna for "Walking Blues."

Slick then started talking about panda bears and threw a few stuffed ones into the audience. Noting that there are only 700 left



in the world, she began to sing "Panda", a song off the new album. Slick looked up but was not deterred during the song by the occurrence of fisticuffs near the stage. Next Balin joined her and the band performed the Jefferson Starship hit "Miracles." Next came "Ice Age" off the new album, which is a new version of a tune Jorma's done solo.

Things started to go downhill from there. "Summer of Love" and "True Love" are two songs from the new album. Sappy would be the best word to describe them. Fortun-

ately things improved with "Crown of Creation" and the classic "White Rabbit" which had the teeny-boppers singing along. A rousing version of "Volunteers" ended the set just like it did in the old days with Grace singing "counterrevolution" as Balin shouted "fight back! fight back!"

The set ended and the teeny-boppers fortunately went away allowing me some foot-room in the cramped aisles. (Obviously they were designed to seat people with an average height of 5'4".) The encore opened up with "It's No Secret", the only song of the night from their first album. Next Jorma led a blues-based song which had everyone jamming and Paul Kantner ended the show with "Planes", a decent song off the new album.

The band is tight, arguably tighter than they were twenty years ago. Then again, as my friend Duane noted, they're not playing with 200 milligrams of LSD in them. Grace Slick, despite a battle with alcoholism, has lost virtually nothing off her voice. The guitar-bass trio of Paul Kantner, Jorma Kaukonen, and Jack Casady is still one of the best in rock today. Hopefully the band won't let personal animosity get in the way and will be around a long time to come. Maybe we'll even get Hot Tuna opening like they used to. And maybe, just maybe, they'll play Stony Brook like they did in the old days (Their first east coast concert in the 60s was at the Brook).

Despite some turbulence, the Jefferson Airplane are back and flying smoothly. (Cliche of the week.)

## —Vinyl—

# Feed Your Cat

by John Dunn

**T**wenty years ago, The Jefferson Airplane offered a mix of tender ballads, political consciousness and good old rock and roll. Their new release, the self-titled **Jefferson Airplane**, attempts to recapture the old ways with a modern sound. It doesn't quite make it as the album has a few weaknesses.

**"This album should last the decade."**

When the Airplane were reorganizing, Marty Balin was not going to be included because of animosity within the group—perhaps the album might have been stronger if he wasn't on it. His two leading contributions are "Solidarity", which is five minutes too long, and "Summer of Love." They can be described as weak, sappy or both. Even Marty Balin fans are going to have trouble listening to these. Fortunately these are the only two tracks upon which Balin dominates.

Grace Slick's entries are, for the most part, decent. They tend to concentrate on her voice rather than overwhelming it with music. Thus "Panda" and "Common Market Madrigal" have the similar sound of Grace and a piano. "Freedom" adds the guitar work and gets the message across without being preachy.

Slick shares vocal duties with Balin on "Now Is The Time", a forgettable song and "True Love." Lyrics like "We've got no reason to wait/Let's do it tonight" will make CD owners skip over it. "True Love" is the song on the album most likely to get Top 40 airplay. Here the blend of Balin-Slick vocals and music finally come together. It has the feeling of an updated "Somebody To Love" and manages to pull it off. It's better than what could have been done with an updated "STL."

Then there's the strengths of the album: the songs of Jorma Kaukonen and Paul Kantner. Jorma's "Ice Age" is an average Jorma song. "Too Many Years" could have been off any recent Hot Tuna/Jorma effort. If you like Jorma, you'll like the song. I did.

Jorma's gem is the instrumental "Up-front Blues" which clocks in at 2:20. It's a good ol' blues number that is an antidote for Top 40 and/or Eurodisco.

Then there's Paul Kantner's three songs which are the surprise of the album. "Madeline Street" is a nice little number which could be out of the 60s, except for the line "Down in Nicaragua in a little music bar" which puts it in the 80s.

"Planes" and "The Wheel" combine all the talent of the group. Kantner's vocals with the Slick-Balin backdrops blend with the guitar-bass of Kantner, Kaukonen and Casady to produce a sound that sounds just like the old Airplane. Plus lyrics like "the wheel keeps on turna turnin' REVOLUTION!" set the mood. Perhaps that's the reason that makes the songs enjoyable to listen to.

Jefferson Airplane is an uneven album.

but ones that fans of the group will buy. People expecting the old glory may be disappointed by the contents. Consider this your warning.

The major fault of the album is the cheap vinyl. In an effort to dump LPs, the prices have shot up and the vinyl is cheap. My original copy of **Surrealistic Pillow** will last for years to come. This album should last the decade.

