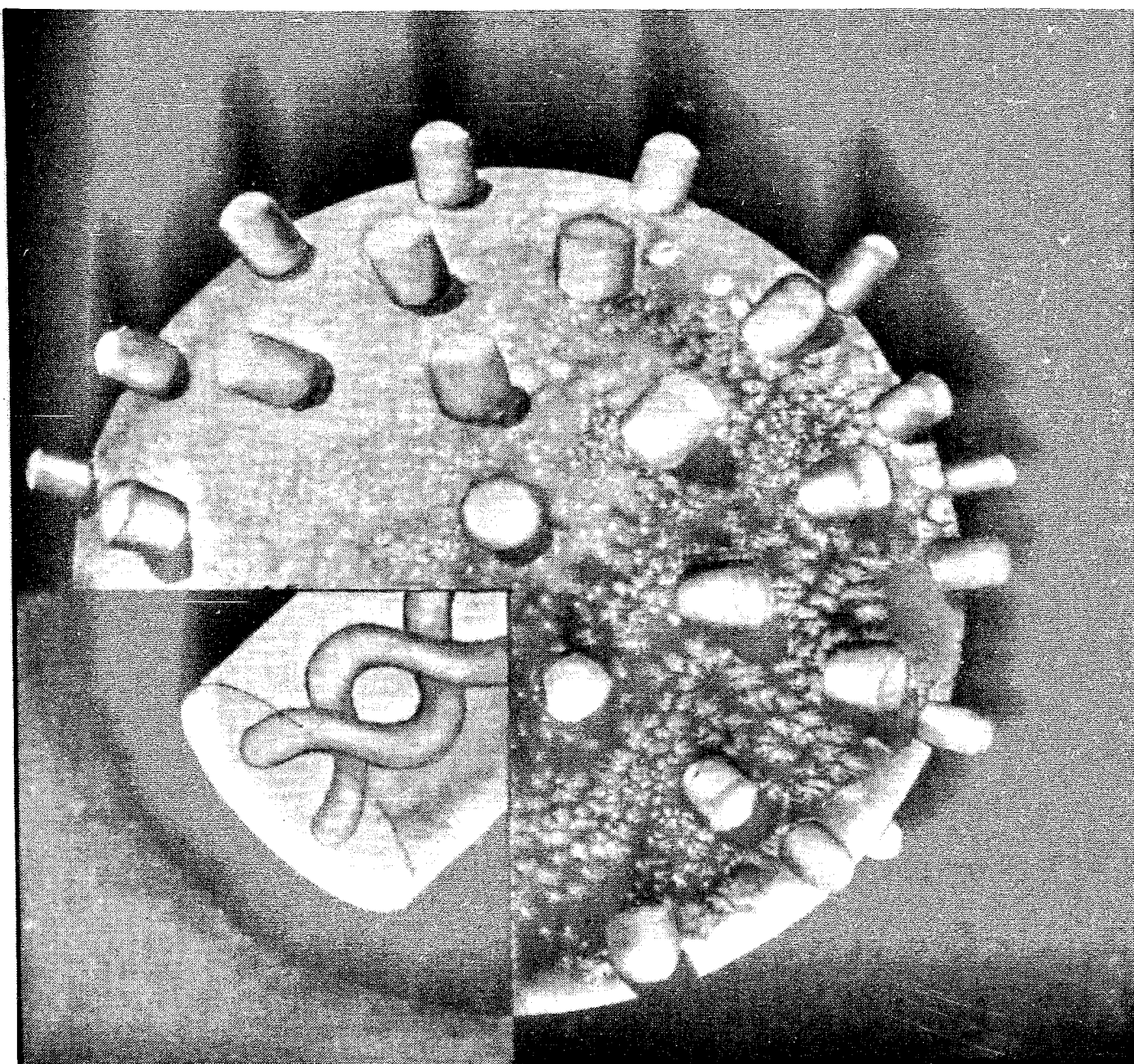


THE
STONY
BROOK

PRESS

Vol. 12, No. 16: The University Community's Feature Paper: August 8, 1991



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Nixon comments on

The Press:

"They are above average in intelligence. Most of them are liberal politically. Virtually all are ambitious, not so much for money as for status. They are proud of their profession and sometimes find it difficult to hide their contempt for the less well-educated politicians and businessmen they cover ... Press people don't mind being despised, that's their business."

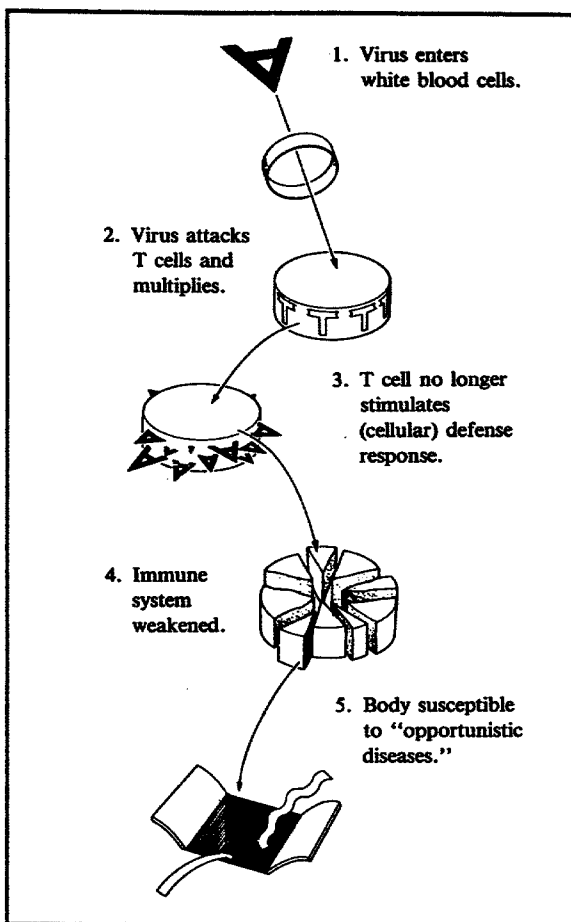
Join The Press

**Next Meeting:
Monday August 19
8:00 pm
042 Central Hall**

Wear old sneakers.

FACING THE AIDS CRISIS

Stony Brook AIDS Center Sponsors Long Island Regional Conference



The effect of the AIDS Virus on the immune system.

by John Sealy

"Do you have it?"

"I know for sure I don't."

Post-secondary concerns on "Facing the AIDS Crisis" took center-stage at the Long Island Regional Conference last month at the Woodbury Country Club.

The event was sponsored by The AIDS Education and Resource Center School of Allied Health Professions of SUNY at Stony Brook, The New York State Education Department's office of Excellence and Access, and The Two-Year College Development Center at Albany. The focus was to educate about HIV and AIDS prevention, policy development and implementation, developing education programs for campus communities, and the integration of AIDS education into the curriculum.

WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is a life-threatening disease and a major public health issue that has a devastating impact on our society. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the name of the virus (germ) that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) that causes diseases like pneumonia. HIV can be in the blood, semen, vaginal fluids, tears, and saliva (no instance of transmission from the last two body fluids) of infected people. HIV infected people can infect others, even if no symptoms are present, so it is imperative to follow prevention rules.

HOW IS HIV TRANSMITTED?

- Having sex - vaginal, anal, or oral with an infected person. Anal sex is especially risky because the vulnerable rectum lining provides avenues for entry of the AIDS virus into the blood stream.
- Multiple partners - The risk of infection increases according to the number of sexual partners one has.
- Using or being stuck with needles contaminated with HIV infected body fluids.
- Transmission of the virus through the birth canal.
- Transfusion with HIV infected blood.

The seminar was tendered by a wealth of expertise from National Resources. Dr. Rose Walton, the chief coordinator for the occasion welcomed the press, and immediately introduced a speaker who touched on the personal perspective of HIV on campus.

Dr. Joseph Rukeyser followed with startling updated statistics on the regional impact of HIV. He implored that one, we do not have a health care system in this

country; we have a disease care system, two, we use legislation to tackle problems like these, and three, the ability to pay decides your medical options. Dr. Rukeyser also mentioned that even though the rate of growth of infected homosexual men has decreased, about 70% of AIDS victims throughout the country are men who have sex with men and bisexuals.

He went on to say that "We do not have only one epidemic but lots of local epidemics, for example the condition of transmission in all parts of the city areas and towns may be different due to how infected. He included that, for example, what works as a solution in San Francisco may not work in New York City or Wyandanch. His elaboration included a report that NYC ranks first in the U.S. with positive HIV victims with 22% of total US - 87% of which is in New York City.

He continued that from statistics we cannot rule entirely that because a disease is prevalent somewhere it is absolute - denial from the people in that community is a factor. Dr. Rukeyser then presented the following demographic report on HIV:

- New York City is the leader in HIV positives who developed AIDS through intravenous drug use.
- 57% of national HIVs developed the virus through male homosexual intercourse.
- Women - 10% nationally/ 15% New York City)
- New York City is the most sero-prevalent city; that is it has the most antibodies to HIV in Blood Samples; with 329 per 100,000.
- New York City's epidemic drives the epidemic on Long Island.
- In NYC one in every 82 women giving birth is HIV positive; 1 in every 60 are Bronx women
- It is estimated that approximately 25,000.

people on Long Island are HIV infected.

-National break-down of HIV-infected causes:

Intravenous transmission	40%
Homosexual or bisexual men	39%
Heterosexual men and women	7%

82% of HIV infected women are Black and Hispanic.

- AIDS is the leading cause of death among men between the ages of 25 - 39. Among women between the ages of 20 - 39.

According to Dr. Rukeyser our current medical system is not prepared to treat minorities and ethnic groups. This changes the face of the epidemic.

Dr. Rukeyser mentioned that early diagnosis and treatment is more effective, but the lack of resources for many is deplorable. He notes that more college students are being affected at a lower age; this increases concern.

Researchers have noticed a sharp increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STD's). There is a remarkable increase of incidents of Syphilis since 1987 and they believe it has a definable correlation to HIV. STD's on campus's have skyrocketed. Herpes, chlamydia, and vaginal warts is seen much more often in colleges.

Dr. Rukeyser ended by mentioning recent cartoon caricatures of health care workers as not sensitive to people affected by STD's.

Kenneth Steinman, a highly articulate young speaker and Health Education Coordinator for the American College Health Association, was next with a more pronounced reiteration of Dr. Rukeyser points. He addressed the crowd mainly on campus problems, campus policies, and how are they dealing with the hysteria in the community. He said that 97% of the students know all the transmission methods.

Mr. Steinman mentioned that a California University cut wrestling from the school budget for fear that the AIDS virus may be transmitted by the sport. He stated that 15 year-olds are sexually active.

Student denial is widespread. For students, it is an academic question of who is at risk. This is usually the knee-jerk type. Kenneth continued that the demographic trends could be in error since they are men who have sex with men but do not identify themselves as being gay.

He mentioned that students under the influence of alcohol will probably not practice safer sex. "The condom goes out the window once blitzed! He went on that 1 of every 500 college students are infected according to a 1989-90 school year report.

Mr. Steinman included that 52% of campus' distribute condoms. He thinks that your job title is not important - how committed you are to assist with this problem is paramount. The janitor must make sure that the condom machines are filled.

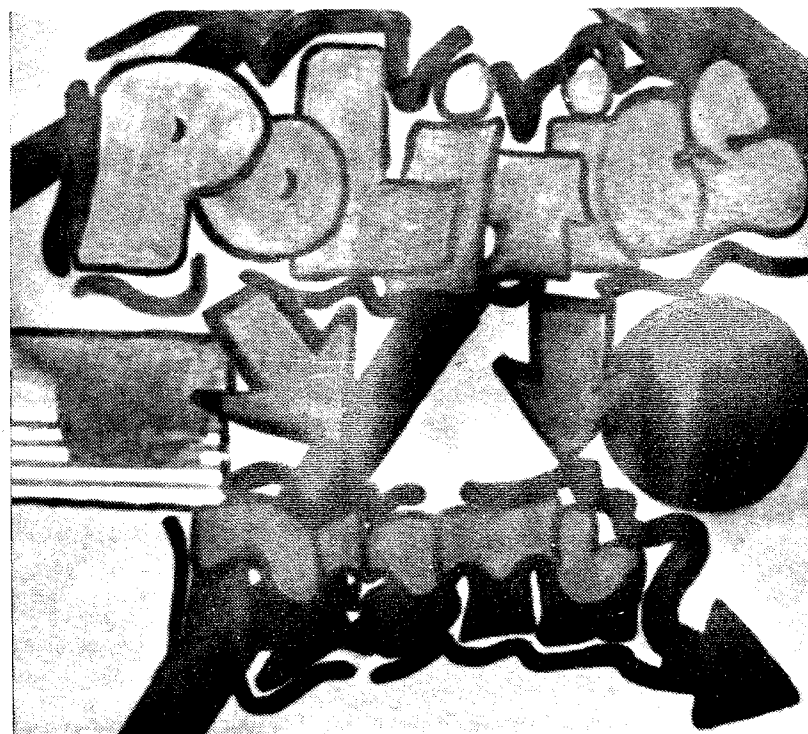
The Catholic Church has been pressuring Albany in opposition to distribution of condoms in the public schools. They think the authorities should be preaching a moral standard of Biblical integrity, effective and self control.

Nationally homosexual and bisexual men are still by far the most infected new cases but the percentage is dropping. AIDS was the second leading cause of death in 1983 now it is the leading cause of death among heterosexuals.

PEER AIDS COUNSELING

Dallas W. Bauman, Executive Director of campus residences at Stony Brook, briefed a group workshop during the second half of the seminar. His topic, *Prevention*, gave the group tremendous insight into a campus scenario. He said peer education really works, but very little of AIDS education actually changes the behavior of dropping steroid use, using condoms, and following prevention rules.

continued on the next page



Politics = Death, Oil on Canvas, 4'X4' by Trish Nezami

GREG FORTE

Hamburger Pollution - An Environmental Threat?

by Jean Rousseau

Hmmmm! the smell of grilled meat over a charcoaled fire. Add to it a bun, a tomato slice, a lettuce leaf, ketchup, hot mustard, and here's a great hamburger. You're craving for this tasty burger. You hold it in your hand. You are ready. And like million of Americans this summer, you will eat it.

Nothing wrong, if you re not an animal right activist and you don't have much sympathy for the slaughtered beef you're now digesting. On the other hand you unexpectedly aggravated the air pollution problem. It is not solely the charcoal fire and its fume which are the culprit, but the hamburger too. This surprising finding was published in the June issue of *Environmental Science & Technology* by Glen R. Cass and his colleagues at The California Institute of technology in Pasadena.

When cooked over a charcoal, ground beef emits dozens of compounds, ranging from a series of hydrocarbons, furans, steroids and pesticide residues. According to the meat you chose and the way you cook it, the patty will release chemicals in different dose. "Fine aerosol emissions from charbroiling of regular hamburger meat are higher than from charbroiling extra-lean meat, which in turn are much higher than the emissions from frying the same amount of hamburger" asserts the scientist in EST. Detailed analysis identified 75 discrete compounds in the hamburger smoke. The size of the particle emitted is 2 microns or smaller and are

about the size of cigarette smoke. It will mix almost as readily as a gas and will reside in the atmosphere for days.

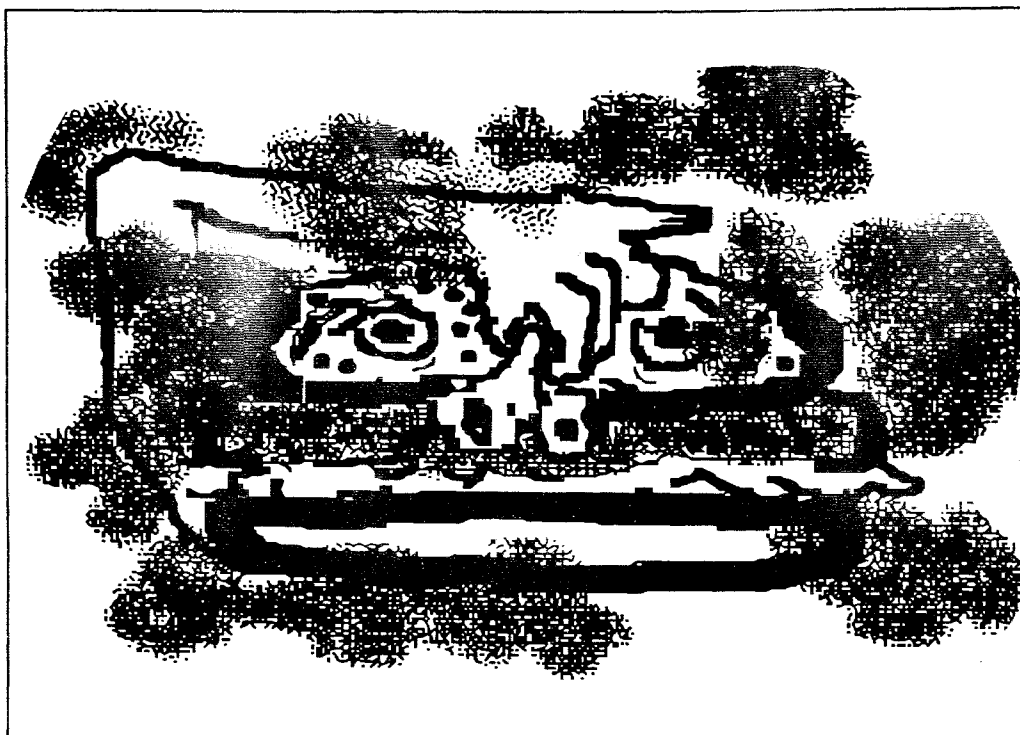
In the city of Los Angeles, carbonaceous material form 40% of fine particle airborne pollution. About one-third of that

such as fireplaces, gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles, dust raised during road paving, forest fires, organic chemical processing, metallurgical processing, jet aircraft and cigarettes cannot account individually for such a large share of aerosols.

To determine the contribution of hamburger smoke to urban polluting air, the Caltech group used cholesterol aerosol particles as a tracer for the hamburger smoke. Among fine particles Quarter-pound hamburgers fried until medium to well done emitted about 7 milligrams of cholesterol per kilogram of meat. Extra-lean burger broiled on a charcoal would emit ten times more cholesterol, but when charbroiled to a gas grill, it would release roughly four times more.

By reviewing air sample collected in 1982 in Los Angeles and looking for cholesterol, the researchers found twice the concentration they predicted, assuming that all restaurant and home charbroiled meat was ground beef. According to Cass, it is a remarkably small difference. There is no data yet showing the toxicity of meat smoke, but studies reported earlier this year by epidemiologist Joel Schwartz indicate that fine particle can play an important role in aggravating respiratory disease (Science News, 4/6/91).

Following Cass study, an hydrocarbon-control program in Los Angeles may mandate restaurant which charbroiled their meat to install filter that can block particles 10 microns and smaller. Environmentally conscious burger eaters may not be willing to install a huge filter for their backyard Sunday picnic. Why not try a good crispy Greek salad instead?



contribution can be traced to soot. The remaining fraction has gone largely unstudied according to Cass (*Science News*, July 27th, 1991) until him and his coworkers reported in the April *ES & T* that meat smoke appears to account for more than one-fifth of these particles. Other sources of organic compounds

AIDS

continued from page 3

ONE TO ONE AIDS EDUCATION

Dallas W. Bauman mentioned a training session for Resident Assistants who are given the responsibility to communicate AIDS information to his/her population. They are prepared to establish rapport which translates into comfort while talking about sex or sexual orientation. They must also have the ability to effectively listen and admit unsuccessful gains with his peer group. Dr. Bauman admitted that 87% of heterosexuals engage in anal sex as a means of birth control.

One question raised was how do the peer AIDS counseling assess behavior change? Dr. Bauman implied that this was difficult but that self reporting was the best means.

A Stony Brook RA on hand suggested that methods he uses in counseling is bulletin board notices, distributing condoms readily and offering his time. Dr. Bauman mentioned that providing a bridge really helps. This allows peers to go beyond a certain situation, establishing that you are there to help not counsel. Then pop the question "ARE YOU FAITHFULLY, 100% FOLLOWING SAFE SEX METHODS?" Dr. Bauman said that you may personalize the risk by having an anonymous one-on-one session where you have your questions answered. He went on to say that peers are more effective because you are essentially at their reasoning level or one step above. We can easily see the mistrust evident between parent/teacher-pupil conversations. It is also imperative that one not try not to act like a savior but more like a friend.

Attorney Thomas Kirdaly, a legal AIDS case

handler said that New York State legislation contains the toughest confidentiality laws in the country. His job is not only in recrimination of discrimination but also to preserve confidentiality. He also went on to say that quarantine has no role in the management of AIDS because HIV is not spread by casual contact, and that quarantine is a fact of the past except in the cases of hepatitis, chicken pox, etc.

MECHANISM OF TRANSMISSION

No one knows the origin of the AIDS virus or why it is not destroyed by man's immune system. Nevertheless, the virus in the blood stream begins to attack certain white blood cells (T-lymphocytes), and multiplies. By this point the genetically altered T cell no longer stimulates (cellular) defense responses. The immune system weakens and the body becomes susceptible to "opportunistic diseases."

HIV IS FRAGILE

HIV is fragile, much more so that the viruses that cause colds or the flu. It is killed by heat, ordinary soap and water, household bleach solutions, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, lysol, and the chlorine used in swimming pools. HIV is not transmitted by contact with inanimate objects.

Even though it is inactive outside the human body the genetic material or the blueprint of the virus is very tenacious. On a dry surface the virus lives 13 hours, in a moist medium 3 days. This material allows reproduction of the virus using the preferable nutrients found in human body fluids, it also takes over the cell mechanism.

If joining the military is the way out, why are there so many vets in the ghetto?



Light Up A Rainbow - It's Dark In This Century

A REPORT ON THE 1991 NATIONAL RAINBOW GATHERING IN VERMONT

by Robyn V. Gilheany

"It is said that when the earth is weeping, and the animals are dying, that a tribe of people who care will come. They will be called the warriors of the rainbow," reads the cover of the rainbow family publication, "All Ways Free." Every year since 1972 there have been national gatherings for peace, love, and respect for each other and the planet. These gatherings have moved from state to state, and the national gatherings happen every first week of July. This year's national was held in the beautiful Green Mountains of central Vermont, not far from where Ethan Allan and the Green Mountain Boys made their attack on Fort Ticonderoga N.Y. This was my second national, I was in Minnesota last year and I was at the regional in Vermont the year before [See Stony Brook Press summer 89].

Before going up I went to work out travel arrangements, but it looked disorganized, so I hopped on a Sunday evening ferry to Bridgeport, Connecticut and hitched to Vermont. I made it a few miles north of Springfield, Massachusetts in good time, but then the state troopers kicked me off Interstate 91. I got one lift in the next six hours. Up in Deerfield in Northern Mass. Some one with Vermont plates stopped, "cool, far out" I thought to myself. I hopped in, the driver was a chubby 36 year old guy who was incoherent. I also noticed he stunk of alcohol. "Will you help me move my heater in to my house?" he asked. "Yes," I replied. So, he drove east on Route 2, which was kind of off the beaten path. He rambled semi-coherently, "I'll get you to Vermont, I'm from Vermont, will ya have some beers with me?" I started thinking it's 11am on a Monday morning, I agreed to have a beer. We got to this boarding house somewhere in north-central Massachusetts and he couldn't open his apartment door, he locked himself out, "will ya kick the door in for me?" I did. We had a few brewskies. The fellow was making me nervous, he said "I'll get you to Vermont, I'm from Vermont, tomorrow." During the time he seemed to be putting the moves on me, he was never more than a foot away from me. I'm not turned-on by chubby slobbering 36 year old alcoholics especially not on the first date.

I got out of there and caught a ride in the back of a pick-up truck that took me 30 miles back to Route 91. Then these groovy high school kids took me all the way up to central Vermont, Ah, in the vicinity. One of my Stony Brook history teachers and her husband happened to be driving by, they drove me a few miles. Then I met up with Jimmy and the Brooklynites, and we rode in to the site, far out.

The Brooklyn people were a lot of fun. At the parking site, 4 miles from the gathering, I was chatting with an old rainbower named Roadrunner. He was talking about buses coming in from the northwestern states of Oregon, Washington, and Montana. I was intrigued, because I have some old Red Balloon friends from Missula who I would love to see; one of them I was madly in love with two years ago. So I kept an eye out.

The Brooklynites disappeared and I started to chat with a handsome blond fellow with glasses who was with an attractive brown haired woman. It was David and Laura from Lexington, Kentucky. We hiked into camp and we settled near Cornucopia kitchen. The camp had many kitchens that with names like Wandering Lotus, Tea time, NERF (New England Rainbow Family), Sloppy Joes, where the all night crowd was hopping, and the Mud Hut, known for coffee. People would eat breakfast at the kitchens and help them run. I would do water and supply runs for Cornucopia. Other people would collect firewood. Most of the kitchens would send food up to the main circle during feeding times. Food was paid for by donations made to the magic hat.

Food wasn't the only thing that was provided for, Rainbow



**Rainbow Family High Noon Silence Circle for World Peace
July 4, 1990 West Virginia**

had first aid, medicine, and provided holistic health professionals who volunteered their knowledge and services. The volunteers represented both traditional and non-traditional methods of health care. Herbalists, nutritionists, traditional doctors and massage therapists were all located in the C.A.L.M. (Center for Alternative Living Medicine) camp.

Children spent time with their parents and they also went to Kiddie Village. That is a special camp site for children with supervision that would set up activities for the kids.

The Rainbow people really had it together. With the food supplies, the care of the site, Kiddie Village, and C.A.L.M. The whole week was worked out to meet the needs of the people. Environment, kids, first-aid or just people with special emotional and psychological needs were all taken care of.

I was hoping for a lake on the site. The first thing I wanted to do after 20 hours of hitchhiking was to get naked, find the lake and swim. There was a place called Bliss Beach, it was a pool about four feet deep that was part of a stream that ran through the site. When I jumped in, it was like jumping into iced water, shockingly freezing. That was the only disappointment, no lake. There was a lake in Minnesota last year.

I met up with the Stony Brookers I was planning to get a ride up there with. I got there a day ahead of them. There they were about a 100 yards back of Sloppy Joe's kitchen, and they were camped next to Jimmy and the Brooklynites. I ran into about 10 to 15 Stony Brookers up there.

Sloppy Joes runs all night, I spoke with one of the people in the kitchen and he told me "when the sun comes up over the mountain that's when we close up" approximately 5 AM. All night they serve up all kinds of fried food occasionally saying "dose the cook".

The concept that the earth is your mother, you respect the earth and treat it with care - is part of rainbow thought. This thought is put into practice on two levels. First is the way is they go about setting up camp and running it so it is holistic for the people and gentle on the environment.

Shitters are dug by each camp. The latrine holes are dug 4-5 feet deep and plywood is placed over the hole, a sliding door is built into the wood. Lye is used after people are finished using the facility and the latch door is closed. This prevents dysentery and other intestinal maladies that are spread via the pupes >flies>food> you chain.

That all spring water is boiled or treated before it is used for cooking and recycling was also highly organized at Rainbow.

On the other level Rainbow looks at the big picture, and the continuing destruction of the Earth. At the circle the Rainbow got a welcome from a local Indian Chief. In the statement was a call for opposition to the James Bay hydro plant which, if built, will flood thousands of acres of Native Indian land in Quebec for the profits of a few major corporations. The James

Bay project will destroy the land and communities of the native people in Quebec. One woman said that the project is so massive that if it were completed it could be seen from the moon.

During the council meetings people who spoke of the destruction of the earth made the obvious connections of Governments and corporations and the role that connection plays in the environmental destruction. The word of the local Indian Chief was a call to demonstrate in Montpelier, Vermont to call for a boycott of Canadian hydro-power from James Bay.

Rainbowers see connections between the disrespect of the environment, The Native People of North America (Great Turtle Island) and the shitty way people are treated in every day society. They look at love and peace as a way of living that could transform the world and make it a better place. The 4th of July featured a morning silent

meditation and prayer for world peace in the main circle. The morning was overcast while thousands of people sat in silent meditation. As noon approached, the clouds started to break. The circle started to chant OM-OOM-OM. The chanting resonated as the clouds were clearing at noon, miraculously a Rainbow appeared around the sun as if it were a message from the Great Spirit. Later on that day New Yorkers burned Old Glory. The march started near the trading circle it was led by a sign that read "Death to America" and a makeshift coffin draped with a graffitied American flag. The march of 50 people made its way up to the main coral chanting "Death to America," "U.S. out of El Salvador," slogans about the police occupation of Tompkins Square Park. The cardboard Coffin and flag was led to the main fire and set ablaze.

This set off a controversy. Many Rainbow people saw the flag burning as a violent act and counter to the spirit of the Rainbow gathering: "The main circle is sacred and no violent acts should take place there." Others commented by pointing out that burning a flag is not a violent act. People stated that people from Tompkins Square to El Salvador have Uncle Sam's foot on their thoughts. "When I see that flag burning, I see oppression going down."

Others said that the main circle is a "sacred, spiritual site" and should not be used for a political statement such as a flag burning, but James Bay is an environmental-political issue that is rightfully talked about at the circle. Rainbow is about respect for people and the earth so a lot of us can't separate all the issues involved, when looked at holistically. Only a few were upset for "patriotic" reasons.

Saturday featured a Rainbow peace parade. There was a march with elaborate costumes that lead to the main circle. The different groups that made up the march preformed. The first group was the children, they did a tribute to the animals we share the planet with. It was very cute. Others included the brothers and sisters circles, they did some heavy songs about love and getting along. The Oregonians did a few wonderful songs about Rainbow life. The Rastafarians jammed out a drum circle and a spiritual Rastafarian chant. And the Pagans did a Wicca dance. During this festival there was a marriage, a psychedelic marriage. It was nice, no sexist vows, just a beautiful ceremony. Everyone one was invited to partake in mushroom tea at the reception.

After the festival, the last weekend of the gathering was starting to wind down. People were starting to pack up and head back to Babylon from Rainbow. They are all bringing the good Rainbow vibes back with them, and in time will change the world.

The next Rainbow national will be held in Colorado. In the meantime watch for Rainbow regionals and picnics. Happy trails.

Mainstream Media Lags Behind Its Alternatives

Finally some of the mainstream media are starting to talk about national and international scandals that have been previously covered intensively in the alternative press.

Examples that come to mind are the unfolding October Surprise Scandal, and the South African government's funding of Chief Butaleizie and his Inkatha Party that has been in bloody conflict with the African National Congress.

For years the alternative press has been talking about the 1980 Reagan - Bush campaign officials' dealing with Iranian clerics to keep the 52 American hostages captive. This was done to prevent President Jimmy Carter from working out a release of the hostages late in the Presidential campaign, hence the term "October Surprise." It has also been uncovered that there are connections between this scandal and the Iran-Contra-Cocaine scandal that was covered up by the Congressional hearings as well as the International Banking scandals due to collapse of the Bank of Commerce and Credit International. In the case of BCCI, it was the New York State judiciary who initiated a law suit; not the Department of Justice - in a cause that is involving 81 countries.

Early this Summer, articles by the New York Times and a special by Ted Koppel on ABC Nightline, detailed meetings held in Paris between Reagan campaign officials and new government members of Iran. The function of these secret discussions was to postpone the release of the hostages during the electoral campaign, and a wave of sympathy for Carter. In return, the non-recognized Iranian government received similar arms to the ones that were provided to the then- US ally, Saddam Hussein.

This story was first reported by former Iranian President Abdul Hussain Bani Sadr who was living in exile in France. US Government official Richard Benekie spilled the beans, but his story was inconsistent. Congress and the media acknowledged the gravity of the accusations, but did not pursue investigation.

There is no diversity in the mainstream media. There is a disturbing homogeneity that leads one to question its credibility and scope.

Although the heavy hitters in the media racket can deploy an army of reporters and technicians to the site of a plane crash on a remote

mountain top in short order (all of which will in turn render the story in the exact same way), it takes years for the media to report on the most scandalous news on the national/international scene that is politically unsettling to those few who sit at the helm of the major media outlets.

Journalists and activists are demanding a Congressional inquiry into the October Surprise scandal. But beware - the Congressional investigation into the Iran-Contra affair was designed to cover up some of the most sordid aspects of that scandal. The connection between cocaine trafficking and the scandal was made to be outside of the scope of the investigation. If a Congressional investigation gets under way watch out for cover ups of the Iran-Contra affair or the Warren Commission.

It is high time the American public demanded more from the fourth estate. In a democracy the people depend upon accurate information and varying opinion in order to form their own.

The mainstream media has become a singular drone. The newscaster from Iowa sings a brainwashing lullaby.

The Stony Brook Press

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A RACIST EDUCATION

During the Persian Gulf War my classmates and I were told to write letters to the troops that were fighting to tell them how much we supported them. But what was it exactly that we were supporting? The mass murder of Iraqi civilians? The brutal slaying of 100,000 Iraqi troops (some of whom had already given up and were running back to Iraq waving white flags)? The destruction of Iraqi towns and cities? Is that what we were supporting? We're always hearing how all the people in the Middle East are all terrorists and can't be trusted (with the exception of Israel of course). Now all Iraqi people are bad and it doesn't matter if they are killed for no reason whatsoever. If 100 Americans are killed we mourn their deaths and curse the Iraqis, even though it was the American troops that went into Iraq in the first place. For every American soldier that died 1,000 Iraqi soldiers died but we celebrate those deaths while mourning our own. I hadn't realized, up until this war, that an American life is worth 1,000 Iraqi lives. It seems as if the American public-school system is brain-washing us kids in to believing what they want us to. I mean, America always prides itself in being a democracy and letting everybody have a right to their own opinion. Yeah right, what they mean is a right to THEIR opinion. By using the school system to instill in us what they want us to believe while we are young THEIR

opinion becomes our opinion. When we grow up we think we have our own opinions when it is really THEIR opinion. Quite an ingenious scheme, isn't it? For example, the Israeli/Palestinian crisis, I am shocked at how people can just sit and do nothing and even support how Israel just goes into another country and takes over. Their only way to justify it is to say "We used to live here 4,000 years ago. It's like me going into somebody's house, taking over, and saying "Get out, my ancestors used to live here." In Israel when Palestinians try to fight back by throwing rocks we curse them meanwhile we cheer on as Israelis are shooting down Palestinians with machine guns. The teachers in the public school system are supporting this and feeding the kids a bunch of lies to make them believe that all these things are okay. Teachers hold a lot of power over us. We look up to them. We believe everything they say and would never think that they were going to lie to us. The children of today are the leaders of the future. They are going to run the world according to the stereotypes that they were taught when they were young. If this method of "bias teaching" goes on the future can only be doomed.

Robert Nezami is an 8th grader at Mattlin Middle School in Plainview, New York.

GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

The Press welcomes your letters and viewpoints. They should be approximately 250 and 1,000 words in length, respectively.

Handwritten submissions will be burned.

ROBERT FRANZA



STAY TUNED ...

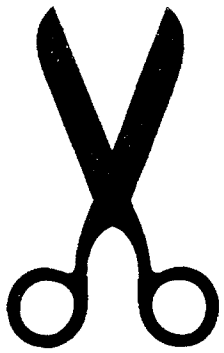
The Press reviews the latest musical offerings.

Next issue:

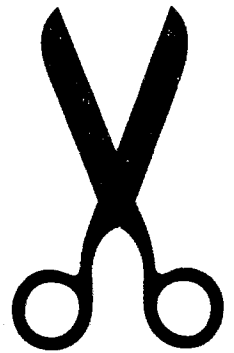
* ***Free Play*** - the debut recording of Argentine keyboardist EDUARDO del BARRIO featuring Weather Report drummer Peter Erskin.

* Progressive funk rock band STRAY LIGHT RUN's new demo tape.

* ***Perspex Island*** from ROBYN HITCHCOCK AND THE EGYPTIANS.



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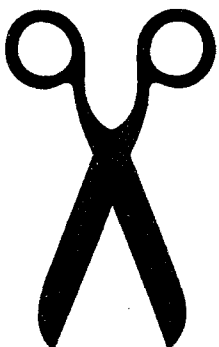
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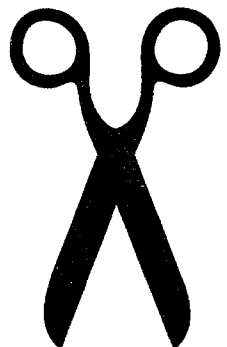


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OUT OF THE ARENA

Tricky Dick Pulls Another One From The Hat



by Dave Suarez

Richard Nixon's *In The Arena* is a curious blend of special pleading and convoluted apologies, with an assortment of fascinating insights and observations thrown in for good measure. It is a book guaranteed to elicit anger on the part of some readers, and affectionate forbearance for some, as Nixon has been careful to select, edit, and modify history, and to add numerous statesmanlike observations that young readers and those with faulty memories might well ask "was this guy all that bad?"

The most interesting parts of this book are encountered when Nixon reviews his Soviet and China strategies. He comes across as logical and prudent in his belief that the People's Republic constituted a useful counterweight to the Soviets. Nixon asserts that Mikhail Gorbachev is no champion of democracy, but rather a pragmatist who is in the business of survival.

Nixon's recollections of Watergate are characteristic of the Nixon of old. He sees himself as a victim of the media and the liberals who, he claims, never forgot his hounding of Alger Hiss in 1948. Thus, Nixon's transgressions during Watergate are equated with mythology, and if you have any doubt that this is convoluted apologetics, consider that key players like prosecutor Archibald Cox and convicted conspirator John Ehrlichman go unmentioned.

Nixon cites many examples to show how the media was always out to blow up any incident, however small, to discredit him. He notes that former Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson secured government transportation for their pet dogs, attracting humorous comments from their press, but in contrast, when Nixon did the same thing for his dog "Checkers," the press came down hard, some even demanding that the air fare be reported as income on his yearly income tax.

Nixon has definitive views on application of the welfare system, which he feels should only be used to prevent families from falling below the poverty line. He strongly opposes a welfare system such as exemplified by LBJ's Great Society. Nixon feels that such a system must fail because it seeks to redistribute wealth, and



thus destroys incentives, which in turn harms the capitalist system. Too much federal assistance can create a dependency on the dole and destroys faith in the capitalist, he argues.

Nixon's view of his place in history is not affected by modesty, to put it mildly. He equates himself with Charles De Gaulle and Winston Churchill, both of whom knew political defeat and resurrection. Nixon also views himself as one who was never afraid to take risks. He says there is no guarantee that a risk always pays off, but he says that greater rewards can result when the risk is greater.

He speaks candidly of his pardon by President Ford, and expresses gratitude that the pardon saved his family, innocent of Watergate, from financial and emotional ruin. The pardon effectively ended litigation against Nixon at various levels and from numerous sources. The pardon, he suggests, was a factor in the defeat of Ford by Jimmy Carter.

Regardless of political affiliation we can still agree that Richard Nixon remains a most provocative figure after four decades. If you find yourself infuriated by Nixon's view of himself and his actions, or if you feel he is a misunderstood over-achiever, *In The Arena* makes for interesting reading, even if it merely confirms your current appraisal of the discredited former president.

RICHARD NIXON

In The Arena

A Memoir of

Victory, Defeat and Renewal

Pocket Books, New York, 1990

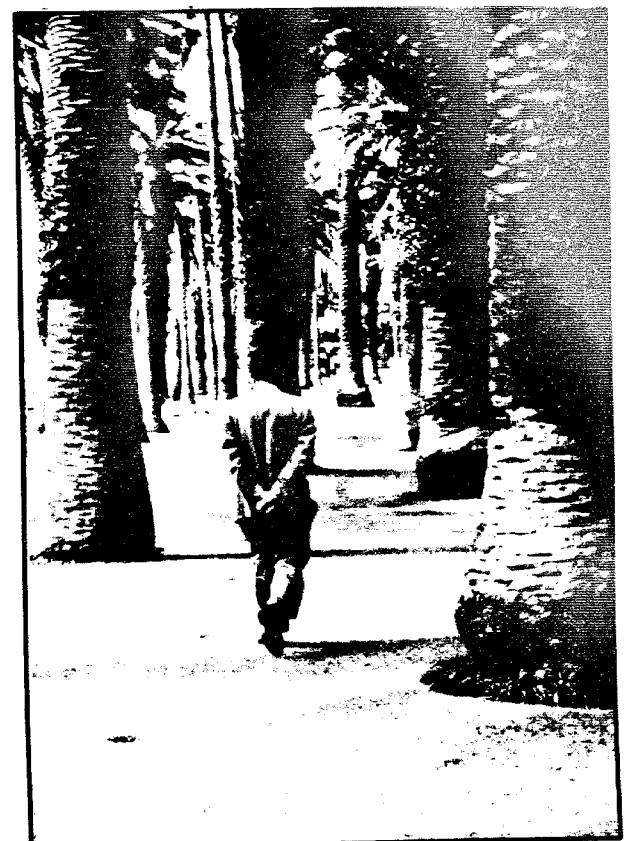
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God Is On Our Side

The former President on religion

Some say the basic teachings of religion, especially those that have to do with people's relationships with one another, can easily be translated into secular terms. You don't have to believe in God to honor your parents, or to be honest in your business dealings, or to treat others as you would have them treat you. But to separate the teachings of any religion from its mysteries, to demand adherence to its rules without faith in the higher authority from which they flow, is to cut man off from a source of spiritual power that over the centuries has inspired, strengthened, and comforted millions. At a time when the challenges of life are greater than ever, why deprive ourselves of that power? At a time when it is so fashionable to talk about the terrible mess man has made of the world, why do so many intellectuals assume that man alone, without the guidance of God, is capable of fixing it? The miracle of America is that it is "one nation under God." Without God as part of the equation, what makes us special? Many of our opinion leaders are satisfied to think of the United States as just "one nation" among one hundred sixty moral, if not necessarily military or economic, equals. I am not. Perhaps I am being old-fashioned, but I still want America to be something more.

from *In The Arena*



stony brook

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Wailin' and Rockin' With Walker and The Rocket

WUSB BENEFITS FROM 'DEM OLE COUNTRY BLUES'

Little Toby Walker and The Rocket Live at Tattletales July 9.

by Talula Arachnov



WUSB, 90.1 FM on any niegh-boring radio dial, held a laid back and loose benefit at small bar called Tattletales at 5030 Nesconset Highway on July 9. At a \$5 cover charge, the star attraction was Little Toby Walker and The Rocket (the former of which frequents the WUSB Blues Hour and the annual Radiothon) performing their new release, *Dem Ole Country Blues*. The native Long Island duo would never have been complete without the silver steel dobro (Toby - who also did most of the singing) and The Rocket's adorned washboard. Little Toby is professed to be adept on the six and twelve string, harmonica and vocals, while The Rocket digs that rockabilly on harmonica, pennywhistle, spoons, washboard, mandolin, Jaw Harp and he sure can wail those blues if he wants to.

Playing their own renditions of long-loved and swayed-to oldies to a receptive and appreciative audience of perhaps 30 people (in these parts the two have a well-deserved following - the benefit reaped over \$300), Little Toby and The Rocket were a big hit. Some favorites you may want to listen to on their new release: *Mississippi River Blues*, *Matchbox Blues*, *Train To Memphis*, *Cincinnati Flow Rag*, *Amazing Grace*,

Poor Black Mattie, *Lonesome Graveyard*, and *Mama Had a Sick Child*. If that ain't enough to give you the blues then give a listen to *You're Gonna Look Like A Monkey When You Get Old* - that should do it.

If you happen by a Little Toby Walker and The Rocket gig, pick up the cassette - it's worth a listen, or even just a look - at the cassette jacket. Each song heading has a nifty little dedication to it - for example, *What's The Matter With The Mill*, is by "Memphis Minnie (Lizzie Douglas) who ran away to play guitar on the streets of Memphis. She later joined the circus, married at least three times that we know of and was a big recording star during the 30's and 40's. What a girl she must've been!"

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GREG FORTE

LITTLE TOBY WALKER
and
THE ROCKET



Scaring the Children

Weir and Tuna at Nassau

by Eric Penzer

As Bob Weir and Robert Wasserman's, "Scaring the Children" tour began to roll into town for a show at Brookhaven's Bald Hill Amphitheatre, the train came to a screeching halt. Yes, a still a controversial misappropriation of funds caused more than a few shows at the Suffolk venue to be cancelled, including the Weir/Wasserman performance. Well, seeing as the tour was on the road already, the decision was made to hold the concert (this particular show featuring opening act Acoustic Hot Tuna) at a slightly scaled down Nassau Coliseum (utilizing roughly half of the arena for a more intimate show). Okay, so we have a venue. Now, do we have a show?

Acoustic Hot Tuna took the stage at exactly 7:30 and performed a rollicking 70 minute set. The band, although getting on in years, is as fresh and exciting as ever. Jorma Kaukonen is, without a doubt, still one of the best acoustic guitarists on the music scene today, and Jack Cassidy remains a tremendous bass player. Although Hot Tuna has kept a somewhat lower profile over the last decade or so, their show is still an event that must be experienced. They left the stage with the audience yelling for more. Naturally, the crowd was expecting the same energetic performance from the night's feature act, Bob Weir and Rob Wasserman. Sorry.

I should have known it was going to be a rough night when Weir took the stage to music that was adapted from a more than lame 2001 soundtrack. In addition, the smoke machine that spewed obnoxious emissions onto the stage just seemed to confuse all in attendance (including Weir, who took a good five minutes to make his way to the front of the stage, seemingly waiting for the smoke to clear).

The duo began the show with the Grateful Dead concert staple, "Walkin' Blues." Now, assuming that Weir is in fact an intelligent man, and assuming that he knew that Acoustic Hot Tuna played an incredible version of that very same song in their set, wouldn't you imagine that Bobby would forego

his boring version of the song, at least for this show? After all, the song sounds better with a lead guitar player like Jorma. The only reason this tune is bearable at dead shows is because of Garcia's brilliant playing.



Dead shows, leaving the audience yearning to hear just one simple Garcia guitar lick. This was painfully obvious on "Victim or the Crime," which was simply boring. Some of the tunes, namely a little number called "Artificial Flowers" were just plain silly.

However, Weir did justice to Dylan's "Memphis Blues..." and also performed nice renditions of "Heaven Help the Fool" and "Josephine." There was a nice instrumental number that allowed Weir to show everyone that he can really play guitar. Unfortunately, playing alone with bassist Wasserman, Weir didn't have an opportunity to do much soloing. After an encore of "The Weight," Hot Tuna came back on stage and joined Weir and Wasserman for a great version of "Baby What You Want Me to Do".

Seeing an acoustic performance at the Nassau Coliseum is much like listening to a band play smack in the middle of the Grand Canyon, and this didn't help Weir's performance. At least Tuna had two guitarists to fill in the gaps a bit. The bottom line is that after an hour of Hot Tuna, the crowd wanted more. After a half hour of Weir/Wasserman, the crowd fell asleep. If the order of the show was reversed, and Weir opened for Hot Tuna, the show would have been 100% better. After all, Tuna's a tough act to follow.

Regardless of the negative side effects, the fact remains that Dead bandmembers need something to keep them busy when the dead is not on tour. I guess one of the reasons the Dead has lasted 25 years is that the bandmembers take on other projects to keep their interest up. However, while the Jerry Garcia band is as fresh and energetic as the Dead (sometimes even more energetic!), Weir's acoustic performances just get boring after a while. Scaring the Children indeed.

Bob Weir plays at Nassau Coliseum

Weir's 90 minute set featured some Dead tunes ("Looks Like Rain" and "Victim or the Crime"), Dylan's "Stuck Inside of Mobile With the Memphis Blues Again", and some Weir songs. All the Dead songs lacked the energy they have at

ERIC PENZER

The Sixth Annual International Theatre Festival

getting started: a love story

by Shari Nezami

If you've ever wondered what it was like to be a confused, alcoholic, Southern, Catholic, Communist, mystery-writer, wonder no more. *I Can't Get Started* is an exciting and thought-provoking play based on just such a person - Dashiell Hammett. It was performed by Dublin's Rough Magic Theater Company and made its North American debut during the International Theater Festival, which ran July 10 through July 14. Written by Declan Hughes, the play explores Hammett's life and love affair with Lillian Hellman combined with a mystery on the side.

The play delves into the psychological contradictions of Hammett's life and offers insight into the confusion surrounding its every troubled aspect. Hammett, who worked as an operative for Pinkerton's Detective Agency, served in World War II and volunteered in WWII after Russia was invaded, was a chronic alcoholic who wrote several best-selling mystery novels and is estimated to have made between \$1 and \$2 million in his life time. He was involved in many left-wing and anti-fascist causes and spent six months in prison during the McCarthy years for refusing to name names before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC).

Lillian Hellman, played by Anne Byrne, launched her career as a playwright and went on to write a series of successful plays for theater. She was also called to testify before HUAC but refused to testify about anyone but herself. She did, however, manage to avoid spending any time in prison.

The play intertwines two dominant themes: that of the Hammett-Hellman relationship, and a detective story from one of Hammett's supposed drafts. Though watching two plays at once gets extremely confusing, the acting was so superb and the script so exciting that one really didn't mind. The relationship between Hammett, played by a superb Arthur Riordan, and Lillian Hellman, played by Anne Byrne, is one of power, passion, and severe struggle. At one point Hellman tells Hammett he is pulling her into his confusion and that she

must leave - but she doesn't. This is typical of the relationship; Hellman begs for commitment, clarity, even just sanity, but Hammett refuses. His relationship with Hellman is the focus of the play and the chemistry is fabulous. They dance, they fight, they scream, they cry. At one point Hammett complains about the dinner Hellman has cooked him and she retorts by throwing it in his face, a cliché, yes, but charming nonetheless.

Arthur Riordan as Dashiell Hammett in *I Can't Get Started*

And charming is exactly what this play was. It sold out twice and on Sunday night, its last night, the Staller Center was almost full. The audience ranged in age from 19 to 90 and though at times the play got so confusing you felt certain you had missed something, still it flowed. Hammett and Hellman fight through out the entire play but you get the feeling that these two will be together for quite a while. Hammett drinks a lot - too much - and at first so does Hellman. But she

eventually sobers up and goes on to be an extremely successful author and screenwriter. Hammett's life goes just the opposite; when they meet he's extremely successful but for 26 of the 30 years that they're together he doesn't write a word - he just drinks. When Hammett goes to fight in WWII, Hellman goes to Hollywood.

There were a few scenes that took place while Hammett was in the service. One that was extremely humorous was when Hammett discusses human sexuality with two younger officers. By the time Hammett had left WWII, he had become something of a legend. Upon his return he's a mess and she's a star. How did these two manage to stay together until his death? Good question. The play doesn't even attempt to answer this. It instead draws you into Hammett's mystery which is a much more interesting story line than the Hammett-Hellman affair.

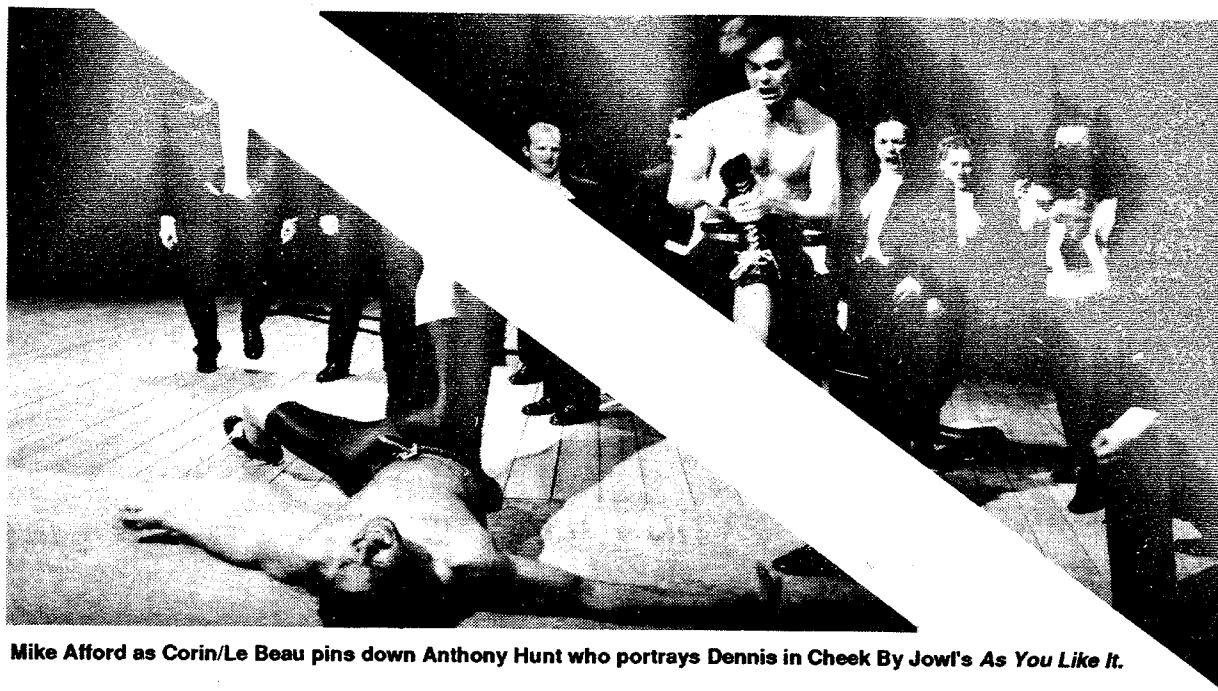
The main character of the second plot (the supposed draft of a Hammett mystery) is a Mike Hammer-type detective who gets drawn into a web of government corruption, deceit, and murder. Playwright Declan Hughes deserves a tremendous amount of credit for coming up with a story line so similar to something Hammett himself would have actually written. It had a typical damsel-in-distress plot but with a Hammett-style twist - that of a father sexually abusing and then killing his own son. Amazingly enough, the father was also a governor.

The best line that came out of this play was one spoken during a conversation between the detective, played by Stanley Townsend, and the governor. Governor Bryant informs the detective that "People are happier believing that the enemy is within, so I keep them looking down at the Blacks, Jews, Commies, the unemployed." To this Townsend replies, "So they can't look up and see what you're doing, right?"

Overall the play was intriguing, to say the least, and made some serious statements about society and authority, but it's theme was mainly one man's struggle with his own conscience, a struggle that nearly killed him.

John Sealy contributed to this article.

as you like it

Mike Afford as Corin/Le Beau pins down Anthony Hunt who portrays Dennis in Cheek By Jowl's *As You Like It*.

It takes a passionate character portrayal to keep me riveted at a performance of one of Shakespeare's works. I thought on my way to see *As You Like It* for the first time. It was performed by the Cheek By Jowl Theatre Company at the Staller Center for the Arts on it's July 24 opening night. 'In the past, mediocre performances have turned me off - even to *Romeo and Juliet*!'

I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. Before the play started all the actors came out into the audience and walked around, chatting with people. Cheek by Jowl is a British company which is making its debut in the States and several of the actors remarked that they liked it here very much. The actors were all men and this made the play even more interesting since there

are two leads and several supporting roles that call for female characters. The lead male role, a character by the name of Orlando, played by Patrick Toomey was among the best and most vibrant Shakespearean acting I've ever seen. His scenes were not only interesting but moving. Patrick Toomey was an actor who drew you into this play. I cried with him, laughed with him, and prayed for him when he went after the woman he had fallen for. Needless to say he is one of the finest actors I've seen on the stage. The rest of the cast is, of course, also marvelous and it is little wonder why Director Declan Donnellan is a two-time winner of the Laurence Olivier Award. Cheek By Jowl has been together for ten years and is widely acclaimed in Europe as one of the most outstanding Shakespearean companies.

As the plot unfolds several story lines emerge. The first is

that of two brothers whose father has passed away and left them his dukedom. The older brother has been left in charge and apparently "treats his horses better than [he treats] his [younger] brother." Well this doesn't last too long - the younger brother, Orlando, gets sick of it, starts a fight, and is thrown out. He goes on to try wrestling for money so that he can survive on his own. Orlando challenges a wrestler who works for another duke and this is where he meets his love Rosalind. This is also where the second story line begins. As it turns out Rosalind is living with her uncle, a duke, because he has exiled her father who lives in the forest with a group of his supporters (the third story line). Rosalind, however, is not exiled because her cousin, Celia, has begged the duke to let her stay on with them and it appears as if the two of them are lovers - until Rosalind falls for Orlando, that is.

The plot thickens as both cousins get exiled and are forced to flee into the forest. Rosalind, who is played by a man Adrian Lester, dresses like a man because it is not safe for two women in the forest. Surprise, surprise, Orlando also flees to that same forest because his brother is trying to kill him. However, there are some delightful characters that almost make up for that. There is the country bumpkin, for example, who thinks he's a philosopher and says things like "For as it is the property of water to wet it is the property of fire to burn." The magic between Orlando and Rosalind is also fabulous. You really forget that Rosalind is played by a man and just get caught up in some good old fashioned romance. When Rosalind dresses like a man even Orlando cannot recognize her and the countless scenes they play together, while Rosalind tries to teach him how to court Rosalind, are unforgettable and simply remarkable. These two characters make the play.

Opening night was almost sold out and I can tell you that the rest of the audience liked this play even better than I did. It combined drama, mystery, and comedy into an enjoyable production that, even though it dragged on at some points, was well worth the seeing. Cheek By Jowl is worth seeing in almost anything - they're just that good.

S.N.