

**THE
STONY
BROOK**

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Here We Go Again...

Polity Starts the Semester With Business As Usual

The first Polity Senate meeting of the semester was held on Wednesday February 10th. As usual, the meeting opened up with objections from certain members of the Commuter Student Association. Their first objection was to the agenda which according to Senate bi-laws must be posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Following this a motion was made to suspend the bi-laws and adopt the agenda which was adopted after two roll calls, both asked for by Vinnie Bruzzese of Commuter College. Following adoption of the agenda, Richard Cole made a motion to call the meeting out of order on the grounds that not enough notice was given prior to the holding of the meeting, this motion was dismissed as it was unfounded. Finally, at 8:10 PM, the meeting was supposed to start at 7:30, attendance was taken. However, more Senate time was wasted by various members of Commuter College (namely Vinnie Bruzzese and Richard Cole) as they repeatedly spoke out of turn claiming that since bi-laws were suspended there were no Robert's Rules and therefore no need to raise one's hands or to call for a motion. At this point a motion was

made to reinstate the bi-laws. The call to question was objected to by Arie Rosenbaum followed by a roll call request made by Richard Cole.

Glenn Magpantay of SASU gave a brief report of the governors budget for SUNY stating that "while the governor's budget is interesting, it's a series of tricks and treats. The treat is the tuition freeze, but the tricks are the cuts in aid and in Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)." He went on to tell the members of the Senate that there is going to be a TAP phase down which could result in up to \$600 cuts in TAP. He also pointed out that there may be an elimination of Graduate and Professional TAP, which would result in an elimination of TA's. After this statement Magpantay was attacked by Richard Cole. Cole asked Magpantay if he supported the teaching of undergraduates by graduate TA's to which Magpantay responded "when you have a class of a couple of hundred students and one professor you need a sufficient number of graduate teaching assistants to run the class efficiently..." Magpantay also urged students to attend SASU's Legislative Conference and Student Lobby Day being held in

Albany from February 19th through the 22nd. Students will get a chance to get together, discuss issues and strategies relating to issues such as the SUNY budget cuts, financial aid, and campus violence, among other things. Then on Monday the 22nd, they will have an opportunity to meet with Assembly Members and State Senators in order to voice their concerns.

Discussion was also held about the Grass Roots Organizing Weekend (GROW) coming up in Albany. Polity will be renting vans for students interested in attending. The programs are designed to teach students more about grass roots organizing, lobbying, and other techniques for student empowerment.

Finally, several commuter senators spoke on the issue of the bus fee. Vinnie Bruzzese offered four alternatives to the present bus fee. The first is an attempt to put advertisement on the campus buses similar to those of the county buses in order to off-set the costs of running the buses and thus lowering fees to students. The second proposal is to use the council reserve fund which consists of unallocated Polity funds to run the buses. Each

year Polity estimates its budget by multiplying the student activity fee by 9200 students. However, the number of undergraduates usually exceeds that number, therefore the excess moneys collected goes into a reserve fund to be used at Polity's discretion. According to Commuter Senator Paul Giotopoulos last year's reserve fund totaled close to \$300,000, the cost of running the buses is \$275,000 per year. At the meeting David Greene stated that it would be against the chancellor's bi-laws to use public polity funds to run the buses, however, according to Paul Giotopoulos of Commuter College SUNY Binghamton uses their reserve funds to run their campus buses. The third proposal is to impose a mandatory bus fee that all students would pay, similar to the mandatory health fee. According to Bruzzese this would cut the fee in half. The fourth proposal is to sue the University in an effort to try and force them to eliminate the current fees. At the meeting a motion was made and passed to form a standing committee of six members and one chair in order to further research this matter.

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University Senate Sets the Pace

By Catherine Krupski

The first University Senate meeting of the semester was held on February 8. In it, University President John Marburger presented a report from the University Safety Council regarding the issue of arming and discussed the Governor's budget proposal. Dean Schubel also presented the Steering Committee's report for the recruitment of high achieving undergraduates.

The Governor's proposed budget will reduce the Stony Brook budget by 1 percent. The anticipated cut was 2.2 percent. While this was the smallest cut in years, many programs were affected, such as the Waste Management Institute, funding for Lyme Disease research, and construction for the new Student Activities Center. None of these were included in the budget. According to Marburger, construction funding will be the pri-

mary target for legislative restoration.

The report on arming from the University Safety Council was released on February 8. This report covers both sides of the issue of arming the campus Public Safety Officers. President Marburger is "calling for a reaction from every member of the university community" until March 8. His response will be based on the letters that he receives. A policy statement will be made after that.

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the Undergraduate Initiative. This is a plan to recruit higher achieving undergraduates to the university. A study conducted by the Baron Gillette agency was presented to the Senate last semester and indicated an immense gap in the perception of the university from the side of the professors and from the students. This discrepancy is the basis for USB being the least

desirable of the four university centers.

The university formed a committee to find the problems with the university and eventually fix them. The university was said to be at a "crossroad." One path leading to an awesome public university with enormous opportunities or just the opposite. The problems that were cited were the lack of campus life on the weekends, long slow lines everywhere, inadequate undergraduate advising, and a non-existent career placement office.

The problems are now officially recognized by the Senate in the report, *Strategic Institutional Marketing Plan Focused on the Recruitment of High-Ability Undergraduates*. Solutions should be coming soon. They agreed that they should improve what they have now that works, and build on it. One committee member said that recruitment shouldn't end when a student

says "yes." There should be more programs for them in the summer and fall semester. One program that will help is the Honors College. Providing real world experiences and opportunities at the Health Sciences Center would also interest potential students. Other programs that were mentioned were EUREKA and FLC. The quality of the dormitories have improved. The athletic teams are almost all Division One.

President Marburger also said that good teaching is essential, but there are so many "agenda items," that teaching is often ignored. A Senate member asked how can we attract potential students when administration changes policies on them mid year, in particular, the Declining Balance issue.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 8 in Javits 109.

A TASTY CAMPUS TRADITION

Sherman Raftenberg Day

By Rachel Wexelbaum

On February 9, 1993, Stony Brook celebrated the 20th anniversary of Sherman Raftenberg day, a campus tradition dating back from February 4, 1973. Roughly 30 students and alumni marched off to the steam pit by Kelly Parking lot and recounted the ancient tale of a poor drunk soul who did not quite make it as he tried to jump over the pit. According to one former student:

"On a cold winter's night twenty years ago, a guy named Sherman Raftenberg and his friends got really drunk and bumbled around campus in search of warmth. Somehow, they found themselves in Kelly Woods near a large steam pit. (In those days, the steam pits were much bigger, uncovered and ominous like mysterious craters or pus holes.) Behaving like true jocks, everyone began to take turns jumping over the steam pit until Sherman thought he could outdo them all. He jumped over once. He jumped over twice. Then he jumped one more time—and missed. For seventeen seconds the campus reverberated with Sherman's screams as he descended into the lower depths of hell and flowed through the pipes of the Stony Brook underworld, never to be seen again. The university, upon hearing about this

tragedy, gave Sherman's parents one thousand dollars for each second he remained alive (which was estimated to be seventeen seconds) and closed off the steam pit so that no one else would get hurt. Ever since then people from around campus march en masse to the famous steam pit and an alumnus tells the story. Then a sacrifice, in the form of a White Castle burger, (because they're steamed, not fried) is thrown down the hole to appease the spirit of Sherman, a student jumps over the pit three times, then everyone screams for seventeen seconds and run like hell when Public Safety comes."

Every year the story changes a little bit. The faces come and go, but one thing that must remain consistent in the ceremony is the White Castle burger. "For the past three years we couldn't get a ride to White Castle, so we had to use a Burger King Bacon Double Cheeseburger," (BK's meat is kept warm in a steam machine) another student mused, "and Sherman wasn't amused. A lot of us had some really bad luck."

Much of the campus population has never heard of Sherman or the steam pit. This is because the university system does not like to disclose the real-life stories of student screw-ups, like Chuck Winthrop...but THAT'S another story...



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INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN...

The Thrills (and Chills) of Winter Camping

by George Bidermann

The great outdoors beckons campers each summer, when birds sing, mosquitoes buzz, and gentle winds blow at night. Granted, camping isn't for everyone, even under ideal conditions, but spending your time in a state campground, where there are quiet hours, showers and bathrooms nearby, and even a pool, can be a safe, sterile, fun experience. Camping in the wild, on the other hand, poses a number of interesting challenges, such as dealing with bodily functions, gathering wood, setting up shelter from bad weather, and food storage and preparation.

But few people, even those who like the outdoors, will ever experience the thrill and the challenge of winter camping. Eating marshmallows and foil-wrapped potatoes 'round the campfire doesn't hold the same allure in single-digit temperatures, and the sun, when it shines, brings only light; you must generate the concept of warmth from inside your mind. Still, the avid outdoors person will find that living up to this challenge is in itself an empowering experience.

Last month I was contemplating this very challenge as I headed upstate with four friends for a weekend in the woods. It had been five months since our last visit to the camp we have built on some land tucked away on a back road 40 miles north of Binghamton, several miles from the nearest town. This would be our first trip to the camp during the winter, and while we had thought seriously about the effort involved, I wondered what lay ahead as we drove north.

We left Long Island relatively early, with temperatures in the mid-thirties and sunshine in the sky, but about halfway there the highway suddenly turned white as we drove into a heavy snowstorm. By the time we arrived at the camp, temperatures had dipped into the teens and several inches of fresh snow covered the ground. We rushed to unpack the gear and carry it down to the camp, as we had less than two hours of daylight remaining.

It had been established from the beginning that only Cas and I were serious about staying at the camp. Our three companions, after a half-hour in the cold, made up their minds that they would be

spending the weekend at the Howard Johnson's in town.

Winter camping was new to both Cas and me, but we have had enough experience to know that braving the elements is largely a question of testing things out and going with what works. Once all the necessary gear had been carried down to the site, we began planning and discussing our options. We looked around for the best place to set up our wind-break, a large tarp that would shelter our tents from the winter gusts that seemed to run through you. We chose to set camp in the edge of the woods, where the trees would help to break the wind and provide the posts for hanging our wind-break. We pitched two tents, but assumed that we would be sleeping together in one of the tents and storing gear in the other. In that kind of weather you need to share body warmth.

Cas took care of the bedding as I prepared the fire, gathering wood from nearby and stacking the dozen logs we had brought from home. He set two layers of padding inside the tent, then sandwiched our sleeping bags between two heavy quilts, draped a few blankets over that, and eventually two blankets over the tent. We found this to be useful because it helped to insulate the tent, especially after several inches of snow had fallen on top of the blankets.

The key elements in keeping warm are having enough of the right gear and minimizing sweat. Insulated boots and warm gloves are important, for it is the extremities—head, feet and hands—that get coldest. If your hands or feet get too cold and wet, you *will* be miserable. Airing yourself out, if you are generating sweat through heavy work, is also important. I periodically opened up my layers of sweatshirts, vest and jacket, for a few minutes if I felt I was getting wet inside.

As dusk approached, we were in pretty good shape. Cas began cooking, using a double-burner Coleman stove. He prepared a wonderful dinner of Cauliflower and pasta with a rich tomato sauce, which all five of us ate around the fire. It was funny to see how fast the food turned cold, and even our beers were freezing before we could finish them. Only the port wine, with 20% alcohol, stayed liquid in the open air.

We realized the importance of having coolers, for now they were serving to keep the food and liquids from freezing.

A short while later, as our friends departed for town, Cas and I began to realize that we were going to be alone for the evening.



Deep down, I was not afraid, for there are several households along the dirt road that leads to the camp. But I also knew that we were going to be okay, for while it was only eight degrees (minus-fifteen with wind-chill), we were prepared.

I went to bed early while, as I found out the next morning, my friends became engaged in their own adventure. The van had gotten stuck in a snow-bank as they tried to turn around on the narrow road, and they spent an hour trying to get it out before eventually calling a tow truck. And they were able to get a ride into town from the neighbor whose house they had gotten stuck by. I missed all of this while, tired and drunk, I quickly fell asleep. I didn't even hear Cas come in several hours later. The next morning he told me he had seen them through their crisis before heading out to the meditation circle (in a remote area of the camp) and singing to the winter sky. When we awoke the next morning, both of us were amazed at how comfortably the night had passed.

We took a long hike before heading into town for breakfast. Both of us felt fatigued, and we spent a while resting and warming up in a local diner before renting cross-country skis and heading out with the whole group to a state park. We used the motel room (where we watched *Star Trek*) and a wonderful Chinese restaurant as reasons to stay in town, but Cas and I eventually returned for the second night after leaving our friends by the indoor swimming pool at the hotel. The second night passed easily, partly because we were used to the cold by now, and partly because there was no heavy work to be done. The snow kept falling, but gently, as we sat near the fire and talked. The peacefulness hung around us as the quiet evening passed, and I remember feeling a sense of triumph. It hadn't been that difficult. And the beauty of the camp, covered in snow and silent as can be, was well worth it.



Waste Not, Want Not

Facing Long Island's Garbage Crisis

by Paul Giotapoulos

This is a bit clichéd, but fitting, statement directed toward the increasing garbage disposal problems facing Long Island and New York State. The problem of disposal becomes ever more complicated as factors of money and environmental responsibility fight for more consideration on the deliberation tables of local and state legislators. Do we poison our environment with increased land-filling and incineration, or do we deal with real alternatives aimed at reducing the amount of trash ever requiring such attention?

In 1990, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) estimated that New Yorkers generate 6.4 pounds of trash per person per day. These figures surpass those estimated for the country by the Environmental Protection Agency by more than 1.5 times. These staggering numbers bear witness to a problem that requires a more sensible solution, such as increased recycling, instead of programs designed to increase both the size of existing landfill and incinerator facilities, such as the Brookhaven Landfill site, and creating new sites.

It is therefore essential that more open-minded legislators as well as environmental groups

push to enact laws that will strengthen already existing recycling programs in addition to those bills which are aimed at inducing the amount of trash prior to consumer use. Approximately 80% of the state's garbage is recyclable and programs designed to approach this figure in terms of actual recycling are truly the only alter-

amount of trash that requires our concern.

Problems associated with incineration and eventual landfilling are rather severe, ranging from releasing such pollutants as dioxin and mercury into the air to dumping high concentrations of lead and cadmium into landfills in the form of ash. Studies performed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the EPA reveal that incinerator ash often fails federal hazardous waste tests due to high levels of toxins. This is a result of the concentrating effect of burning garbage and having the toxins remain. The ash produced from the incineration process still maintains about 30% of the volume of the initial garbage, and is almost always dumped in landfills.

Recycling and reduction programs can be implemented rather quickly, and offer sound solutions to our current garbage disposal pro-

gram. A shift to the process of incineration only delays the inevitable and has serious public health implications. In addition, it takes several years to construct an incinerator and dependence upon its use is incurred to validate the large investment. Surely, the choice is clear.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



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native. According to the EPA, packaging of consumer products makes up one third of the trash Americans produce. With bills such as the Environmentally Safe Packaging Act (designed to reduce multi-packing of individual items), a reduction of potential trash can be eliminated prior to production, consequently reducing the

Morality, Military, and Homosexuality

by Anthony Ramos

Two years ago I went to the Huntington U.S. Army recruiting center and spoke to a Sergeant Days. I asked him questions about the ROTC program and he was very helpful in answering all of them. He even gave me an application. I began filling it out and one of the questions asked, "Are you homosexual or bisexual?"

When I returned the application to Sergeant Days, he looked it over and his attitude changed immediately. He began to speak curtly and aggressively. He said I was ineligible to apply because of my homosexuality and he refused to answer any more of my questions.

Two days ago, I called the Marine recruiting center in Coram and spoke to another sergeant. When I asked him about gays in the military he simply said, "I follow the orders of the Commander in Chief. I have no opinion on the matter." He, too, did not want to answer any of my questions and was anxious to get off the phone. He did say that the question on the application for ROTC which asks if a person is homosexual or bisexual has been discarded.

Bill Clinton's plan to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military has received a great backlash on the part of government officials as well as the American

people. Over the past several weeks the issue has appeared on the cover of every newspaper, has been the topic of many talk shows, and, frankly, I am tired of hearing about it. I do, however, want to take a look at the "reasoning" behind the military's current policy and then see why gays should, and probably will, serve in the military.

The question of morality has been one of the biggest in keeping gays out of the military. Morality? What does this mean? I looked it up in Webster's and found that it meant, "moral quality or character, rightness or wrongness, as of an action." I found this to be an amazing definition. That the military would actually use this word in its exclusionary policy is fascinating. I mean, the whole idea of morality in comparison with the military is ridiculous. How can an organization whose purpose is to go out and kill people, often innocent people, talk about morality?

The point I'm trying to make is that the military itself is an immoral institution. Therefore, having morality as the justification for excluding homosexuals is *bullshit*.

The military also states that allowing homosexuals in the military would disrupt the order and discipline of servicemembers. Therefore, if gays are allowed to serve, there are going to be orgies in the barracks

and soldiers will march hand in hand.

Gay men and lesbians have been serving in the military as long as it has been in existence. When I think of some gay friends of mine who have served time in the military, I wonder how they survived without disrupting order and discipline. A friend of mine is not exactly your typical butch soldier, yet he managed to serve in the Army for several years. So far as I know he did not disrupt its order and discipline.

What the military is worried about is the order and discipline of its heterosexual soldiers. Allowing gay soldiers in may make that poor straight soldier feel uncomfortable and he'll get all upset. He may even decide to beat up gay soldiers and we can't have that because we have to maintain order and discipline.

So yes, gays and lesbians have served in the military for years without disrupting its mission. Once the ban is lifted thousands of screaming queens and bull dykes will line up in front of recruiting stations to enlist. Give me a break. I for one would keep as far away from the military as possible. I do think that I should be able to serve if I wanted to, but thank God I don't. I just hope that we don't get into another war, because then I could be drafted! Thanks, Bill.

Somalia and the Cynical

by Mitch Cohen

"To give food aid to a country just because they are starving is a pretty weak reason."

—Henry Kissinger.

Months before the United States sent troops to Somalia to supposedly protect food supply lines from the pilferage of "evil warlords," Italy was completing arrangements to ship that nation's toxic wastes to Somalia, with nary a protest from the U.S. By early September, Italian companies were almost finished "building two incinerators to be installed in Somalia that would handle at least two 550,000-ton shipments of toxic waste next year for an estimated profit of \$4 million to \$6 million." U.N. Environment Chief, Mostafa Tolba, said the dumping could aggravate the destruction of Somalia's ecosystem and threaten further loss of life in the ravaged nation.

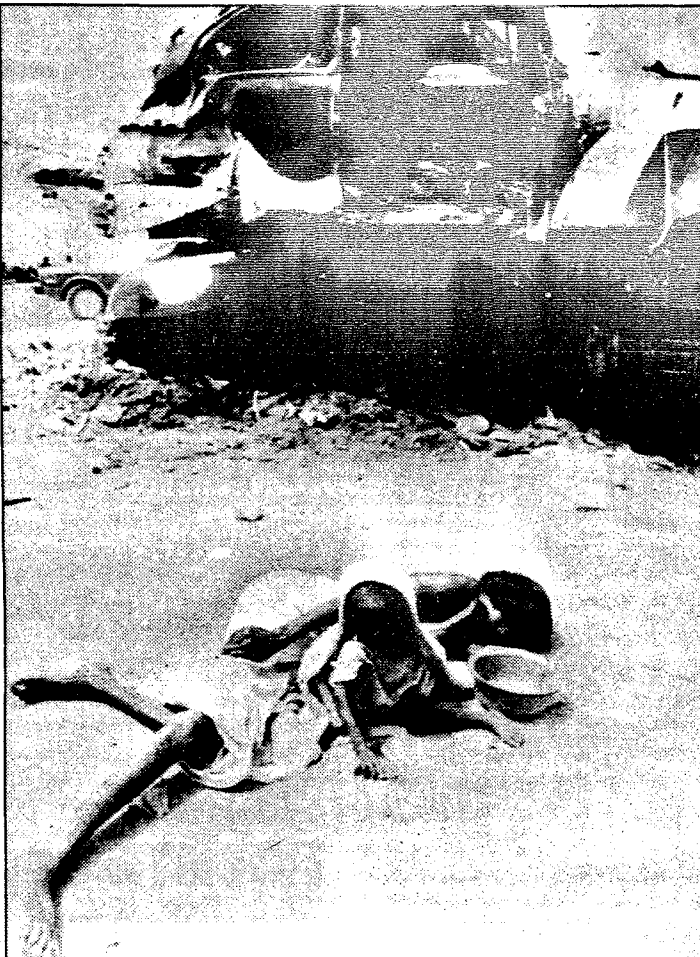
"Africa," writes Silvia Federici, a professor at Hofstra University, and editor of the Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa's newsletter, "is being turned into the chemical/nuclear dust-bin of the world, the region where expired pharmaceutical products, toxic wastes, and materials banned in other countries, from medicine to pesticides, are dumped." In 1992 alone, industrial countries exported over 74,000 tons of toxic wastes to a dozen "less-developed" regions, including the Africa continent. If all goes according to current U.S. government plans, those wastes would be but the "first wave of a national flood of global waste dumping" amounting to tens of millions of tons each year.

Much of the toxic waste generated in the U.S. cannot be legally buried there in landfills, because of victories won over the last twenty years by environmental and working-class movements. It can cost waste producers as much as \$2000 per ton to legally dispose of liquid wastes, leading to profits of tens of billions of dollars for traffickers of the wasteberg, rivaling profits from the drug trade. So instead of detoxifying their wastes, many companies ship them off to be dumped abroad, at only a fraction of the economic cost. American Cyanamid, for example, a huge corporation headquartered in New Jersey, ships thousands of tons of mercury wastes to its facility in South Africa, which then dumps the deadly compounds directly into a river—with the approval of the South African government.

Mercury, which is present in most waste shipments, is a lethal poison with brutal effects on the nervous system, even in very low concentrations. Mercury poisoning causes deafness, loss of smell and taste, mental deterioration, and death. Scores of South African people living downstream from the dumping have already died from it; drinking water and agriculture have been drastically compromised.

But a few years ago, Africans began what would become an international outcry against toxic dumping (which includes nuclear waste). To reclaim the moral imperative and bypass newly-signed treaties, virtually every recent waste trade scheme now claims some form of socially redeeming purpose. U.S. regulations

allow toxic wastes to be mixed in with agricultural chemicals; because they're considered "inert" elements there's no need to list them. Consequently, thousands of tons of U.S. toxic wastes, deceptively labeled "fertilizer," have been scattered on farms and beaches from Bangladesh to Haiti. Even "the Green word 'recycling' is now used as a license to dump all kinds of dangerous wastes in my country and around the world," says Marijane Lisboa of Greenpeace Brazil, and in this Mad Hatter tea party known as the New World Order, recycling, re-use, and other "humanitarian benefits are



ment of military bases to patrol Somalia's 1,700 miles of strategically vital coastline along the Indian Ocean and oil-tanker routes; the dumping of toxic, nuclear and industrial wastes; tapping into Somalia's mineral reserves (especially uranium, but also bauxite, iron, tin and gypsum; hammering an ever-cheaper and dispensable workforce into existence; and creating the ability to militarily attack forces that challenge the interests of U.S. capital in the region—particularly the recently successful Eritrean revolution, the Somali National Movement in the north, Libya, and progressive forces in Kenya (which are beginning to threaten the existence of U.S. bases there)—as well as protecting U.S. dominance in competition with European and Japanese capital. We should have realized from the start that the benign "humanistic" portrait of "Operation Restore Hope" painted by U.S. government officials was specifically designed for a public desperate to believe that the U.S. government would, maybe this time, actually feed people because they were starving, no strings attached!

Most people understandably want to reach out and comfort those who are in pain, feed those who are starving, house those who are homeless. We want the government to work that way; but it doesn't, and it won't. Nor will it reveal its own crucial role in creating all the misery to begin with. However odious, Henry Kissinger's maxim accurately represents the way U.S. policy creates hunger, and uses promises of food-as-a weapon. We need to stop fooling ourselves into believing the lies spun for us, which enable the ruling class to slip in its murder and mayhem by riding the Trojan Horse of our suddenly eager morality.

Praise the Lord, and Pass the Malnutrition

Although people have been and continue to be desperate for food in particular areas of Somalia, especially those areas in which the stringent policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were fully implemented over the last decade, the country as a whole is not wracked by generalized mass-starvation, chaos and random violence. That is just one more lie used to manipulate us into accepting the stationing of U.S. troops in the Horn of Africa. "In fact," explains Rutgers professor Said Samatar, who is from Somalia, "these horrors are only occurring in a limited portion of Somalia, notably in the...southwest between Mogadishu, the capital [where all the press are clustered], and the regions surrounding Baidoa and Kismayu. The rest of the country is relatively peaceful and well-governed by an alliance of traditional elders and local leaders that has re-emerged in the wake of the collapse of the central authority...In the entire country there is only one ['warlord']—General Aidiid—worthy of the name. And even he does not exercise supreme authority over a horde of followers whom he can deliver either to the field of battle or to the negotiation table." We cannot allow the U.S. government the luxury of framing the issues for us ("mass starvation," "warlords," "chaos"), and thereby orchestrating our emotions and control-

accrued to the recipient country, which must then pay industrialized nations for their garbage, so that it could be burned in incinerators and used to generate electricity.

Eyeing Somalia, Guatemala, and other poor client-states of the U.S. as potential dump sites, the U.S. government has taken the lead in blocking a proposal by Dr. Tolba and many so-called "developing" countries that would prohibit all toxic waste exports from 24 industrial countries to the rest of the world. But progressives in the U.S. still have yet to heed the warning of ecologically-minded anti-war activists that the U.S. and other industrial countries are growing increasingly restive over finding places sufficiently pacified in which to dump their toxic wastes, which they need to do to lower costs and increase profits. To understand the complex reasons for U.S. military presence in Somalia, toxic dumping must certainly be considered among the important factors.

Combined with other information gleaned from first-hand accounts but generally unreported in the corporate press, a much more insidious interpretation of the U.S. motives in Somalia emerges. U.S. goals there include: the enlarge-

AP Photos

Manipulation of Hunger

ling the terms of the debate.

Here's an example of how such manipulation works: The U.S. claims that up to 80 percent of all relief is being stolen—which is the current justification for sending the troops. But Rakiya Omaar, who had been the director of Africa Watch until the middle of December (before she was summarily fired last month by Human Rights Watch director Aryeh Neier for not mouthing his approved liberal version of the government's line), cites relief organizations such as Save the Children and the International Committee of the Red Cross as enduring a loss rate of only 5 to 10 percent, a fairly constant figure in *all* famine relief. Right now, reports Omaar, Mogadishu—which was in the most desperate of all the Somali cities and is the focus of U.S. media attention—“is totally flooded with food” and “anybody can buy rice; it's very cheap.” The mortality rate, she says, had dropped and the overall situation had been improving before the troops were sent. Many relief workers in Somalia go even further, complaining that their efforts are being *hindered* by the U.S. military intervention: “We can't get to people we used to, and they are dying,” said James Fennell of CARE.. Before the troops hit the beaches, relief agencies had hired guards “to ride shotgun on trucks, losing some supplies to looters—but also reaching many thousands of people who were too weak to seek help in feeding centers. [But] the Marines first move in Baidoa was to disarm the airport security force, tough ex-soldiers CARE had hired as escorts...Tibebu Haile Selassie, deputy director of UNICEF in Mogadishu...said, ‘the situation is worse than it was before.’”

The Internationalization of Labor

Much of Somalia's economic life is organized



around the growth and export of cattle (traditionally, camel meat, although that is changing), which utilizes the large pastoral spreads provided by nature in that region, along with sugar, sorghum, bananas, corn, gum and incense. Although the vastly different natural landscapes,

social and economic arrangements, and deposits of natural resources throughout Africa make it inappropriate to apply certain generalizations about the continent to individual African societies, the policies of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and international capital—such as the forced development of export crops, even though that destroys local self-sufficiency and disposes small plot-farming, concentrating the ownership of land in a few giant corporations—are becoming a universalizing force on the continent. Resistance to them is widespread despite—or, possibly because of—the variety of societies and landscapes. That common imposition enables us to apply to Somalia, today, observations Silvia Federici had written several years ago about Africa in general: “The survival of communal ties and the lack of tradition of wage dependence have...fostered a sense of entitlements with respect to the distribution of wealth in the community and by the state. Second, [they are] responsible for the fact that most African proletarians fail to experience capital's laws as natural laws, even though the demand for what industrial development can provide is now a general factor of social change.

“Africans' resistance to capitalist discipline must be emphasized given the tendency in the U.S. either as helpless victims of government corruption or natural disasters or as protagonists of backward struggles revolving around tribal allegiances (a myth perpetrated by the Western media). In reality, from the fields to the factories, the markets and the schools, struggles are being carried on that not only are often unmatched for their combativeness by what takes place in the ‘First World,’ but are most ‘modern’ in content. Their objective is not the preservation of a mythical past but the redefinition of what development means for the proletariat: Access to the wealth produced internationally, but not at the price capital puts on it.”

European colonialism's failure to break the back of the village structures in Africa, including much of Somalia, has cut deeply into world capitalist profits from that continent. Beginning in 1977, when Somali dictator Siad Barre was dumped by the Soviet Union, and became a client of the U.S., the International Monetary Fund has imposed a series of stringent regulations on Somalia, causing the per capita GNP to drop from an already wretched \$250 to \$170 a person over the last five years. “Rather than proposing development and the introduction of democracy, [the IMF and the World Bank] used free-market tactics: slashing government spending, privatizing state-owned companies and banks, eliminating price controls and wage subsidies and freeing up exchange rates.”

Much of Somalis' income came from relatives working the oil fields in Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The reconfiguration of the working class in the Persian Gulf following the 1991 war—Kuwait and Saudi Arabia forcibly replaced Palestinian, Arab, and African workers with cheaper, less class-organized labor from southern Asia—has cost Somali around \$300 million a

year. Somalia, which is slightly smaller than Texas in geographic area, now owes \$2 billion to Western banks.

For over a decade, villagers throughout Somalia have resisted the hard-line U.S./IMF policies. As Pollack reports, “Under IMF programs in 1981 and 1983 these measures [listed above] were adopted by the Somali government. The reaction from the people to the new hardships was too great, and the government backed off partially, lowering the exchange rate, and reimposing price controls. But the IMF pressed on and, as a result, more social programs were

cut. For instance, Barre abandoned the policy of guaranteed employment for school dropouts.

“The reporting on the social consequences of IMF

and World Bank policies has been extremely scarce. The Times, for instance, has had articles on Somalia every day for the last two months on the famine, with not one single word about its roots. It's as if the country didn't exist before two months ago. All of the coverage is focused on the ‘feuding clans’ and the difficulties they present to relief efforts.

“But it is the structural adjustment programs of the IMF and World Bank which are the roots of the hideous levels of illiteracy (60 percent illiterate in Somalia), inequity, illness, malnutrition, and famine in Africa. These policies cause a greater reliance on market forces to ‘adjust’ the country's structure into the structure of the Western-dominated world market. Even in times of adequate rainfall Africa's food-production capability is distorted by this system.” In Somalia, only in those areas around Mogadishu, the capital, Baidoa, and Kismayu, where IMF measures were able to break down the traditional structures and be fully imposed; and in the town of Baardheere, which is occupied by the forces of Gen. Mohamed Said Hersi Morgan, the son-in-law of Siad Barre and, according to Rakiya Omaar, a major war criminal, who invaded from Kenya after being resupplied by the Kenyan Army, do we find the kinds of hunger, disease, and disruption of domestic life that so powerfully stir our distant compassion. And even there, the starvation was caused by the *imposition* of brutal policies via a central authority in Somalia, not by its collapse (contrary to the current U.S. government/media/liberals' line). Somalia under Barre was in as desperate straits as it is today—perhaps worse; all the misery we're called on to fight today are a direct result of U.S./IMF measures, imposed in some areas of Somalia more effectively than others by a central governing authority that no longer exists—and which the U.S. government is terribly concerned to reestablish.

Mitch Cohen is a member of the Red Balloon Collective.

So Much For Us...

At the University Senate meeting on February 8, Stony Brook President John Marburger renewed his call for the diversion of extremely limited resources and attention to the recruitment of "high-achieving undergraduates" to the University. This plan, suggested by the Baron Gillette Agency, is designed to make Stony Brook appear more desirable to talented prospective students by giving them better dorms and other facilities, their own special programs of study, increased access to the best teachers, and a sense of community with each other. In turn, it is believed that the University as a whole will benefit by the higher reputation it will receive because of this program.

It isn't very likely. Even if this program does improve the demographic profile of the student body of Stony Brook, that improvement will be meaningless to the students not accepted into the program, but will actually make the talent-level to which they are exposed *drop*, because high-achievers will be shifted out of their classes. It is not unthinkable that "ordinary" USB students will develop a sense of inferiority to their more

important counterparts as their living and educational conditions continue to diminish while the highly-recruited new students consume more of the effort and attention of the Administration. Since these new students will be isolated (out of embarrassment?) from the rest of the student body, literally no benefits will accrue to the rest of the undergraduate population of Stony Brook.

Since our budget is decided in Albany, Marburger's pet project will not generate any new funds or other resources, for the University, but merely take more money *away* from the rest of us (through the costs of renovating dormitories—we can't expect students we *like* to live in places like this—and creating programs of study for the little darlings). While Marburger's other big initiative, the move toward Division I athletics, also diverts resources from the problems of current USB students, at least *it* is intended in the long run to generate more money, which could be used to improve our educational and living conditions.

Here goes Marburger again. Instead of rolling up his sleeves to try to get more money out of Albany, or to develop programs

to increase efficiency here, he has decided to waste his time pursuing an interest that doesn't even exist yet. This is *not* an attempt to deal with the University's problems, but simply another useless high-profile effort to ignore them.

Admissions standards have fallen at Stony Brook of late because of declining demand for what the University has to offer. This is no surprise—decreasing quality and increasing costs will generally do that to any university. It is part of the mission of universities to limit admission to those students who are talented enough to make the most of the educational opportunities it offers. However, the students presently at USB *were* accepted. The University has a commitment to them, to *us*, to make available the best possible education for our money. This means an honest advocacy of their interests and going to bat for them. The Undergraduate Initiative renounces that commitment, and is an immoral breach of faith. The only ethical way to make USB more attractive to prospective students is by making it a better place to get an education for the students who are already here.

The
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Letters To the Editor

To the Editor:

Media should be used for reporting the facts and not manipulating them for some hidden agenda. The article "Nat—a Stony Brook Tradition: Homeless man accepted by most on University Campus," (*Statesman* 2/1) by Linda Marie Schramm, a *Statesman* staff writer, contains inaccurate and deceptive statements. It appears to me that the purpose of this article could be to discredit me and prevent me from having an influence on the university community.

I came here in 1973 with the B.S. in Psychology from Southern University as a T.A. in Social Psychology to get a quality education. Most of my education since I left the seminary has come from my personal research. I have attempted to use my knowledge to contribute to the university community. Mr. Cole, I will see you in court.

Nat

To The Editor:

This semester the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) plans to continue its fight for a cleaner environment, consumer protections, students rights, and a more just society. By working with NYPIRG, Stony Brook students are able to bring about specific changes in the New York State legislature and at the local level. Some of the issues NYPIRG at Stony Brook will be working on this semester include:

Increased Funding for Education. Cuts to SUNY Stony Brook's budget damages the quality of the education Stony Brook students receive. This semester NYPIRG will work to freeze tuition, restore cuts to financial aid, and restore funding to the SUNY budget.

Environmental Preservation. New York State is drowning in a sea of garbage that, through land-filling and mass burn incineration, pollutes our environment and threatens our health. NYPIRG is working towards the safer solution

of reducing, re-using, and recycling our garbage. We will lobby at the state and local level for the passage of legislation to strictly limit the use of excess packaging which accounts for one third of New York State's waste stream. **Small Claims Court Action Center.** Lied to? Cheated? Swindled? Learn how to fight back! The Small Claims Court Action Center helps student and community members use the Small Claims Court to protect themselves when they have been ripped off.

If you would like to work with NYPIRG this semester, on any of these issues, I urge you to attend NYPIRG's General Interest meeting February 17 at 1:00 p.m. in Union room 236. If you can't attend the General Interest Meeting but would like to find out more about NYPIRG call the NYPIRG office at 2-6457 or stop by in Union Rm. 079.

Jeremy Potter
NYPIRG Project
Coordinator

The PRESS

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Each should
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250 words,
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All
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Along the Color Line: Gay Rights and the Black Freedom Movement

by Dr. Manning Marable

The battle for human equality and social justice knows no color boundaries. Black Americans and Latinos are of course all too familiar with the stinging darts of prejudice and bigotry. Yet, across this country, the opponents of Black and Latino equality are sharpening their rhetorical knives against another minority group—lesbians and gay men.

For decades, homosexuals in the United States have experienced deeply-entrenched patterns and policies of discrimination, including: expulsion from the armed services; being fired from places of employment solely due to one's sexual orientation, rather than job performance; the denial of full legal rights for gay couples; being rejected from public accommodations; and the loss of rented apartments or dwellings. States such as Georgia passed so-called anti-sodomy laws targeting homosexuals. The rights guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution were all too frequently denied to gays and lesbians.

However, beginning in the 1950's, lesbian and gay liberation groups came into being, calling for greater civil rights and empowerment. In cities like New York and San Francisco, gays created political associations, and quickly became a growing influence inside the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. During the past two decades, seven states and about 110 communities throughout the United States passed anti-discrimination laws, designed to reinforce and protect gays' rights. These laws never created "special rights" or a uniquely protected status for homosexuals; they only guaranteed the same basic legal rights which all Americans take for granted.

The Reagan administration created a more repressive environment for lesbian and gay rights across the coun-

try, as aggressively homophobic rhetoric was encouraged at the highest levels of government. But it was only in the past four years, under former President George Bush, that right-wing think tanks like the Heritage Foundation took active aim to target the rights of homosexuals. In Oregon last year, statewide Ballot Measure 9 proposed the amendment of the state's constitution reclassifying homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." The measure would have forced all levels of state government to actively discourage homosexuality. This proposal was so controversial and extreme that few believed at first that it could be passed. Nevertheless, 43 percent of all Oregon voters backed this hate-filled measure.

In Colorado, the conservatives pursued a more clever strategy of hate. Amendment 2, placed on the Colorado ballot last fall, prohibited any community or city in the state from passing local civil rights ordinances to protect gays' and lesbians' rights. Amendment 2 advocates claimed that they didn't want to suppress the rights of homosexuals, but only wanted to prohibit the definition of lesbians and bays as a protected class or minority group with "special." The language of Amendment 2 seemed "reasonable" compared to the Oregon initiative. An intense, grassroots mobilization was waged by the Right, which appealed to the Christian groups by declaring that the Bible condemns homosexuality as a sin. Despite overwhelming opposition to the measure from liberal cities such as Denver, Aspen, and Boulder, Amendment 2 passed with 53 percent of the popular vote. Many gay and liberal groups have responded by calling for a nationwide boycott of Colorado. On January 15, a Denver judge granted a temporary injunction blocking the implementation of Amendment 2, until a trial is held determining whether it is constitutional.

The "successful" homophobic language of Colorado's Amendment 2 is being used as the basis for new statewide measures in at least ten other states targeting gays and lesbians. Conservatives convinced thousands of voters that they were only voting against "special rights" for lesbians and gays, which really wasn't a statement favoring discrimination against them.

But what progressives should have argued in Colorado and elsewhere is that the Far Right is trying to destroy the basis for *all* civil rights legislation, not just against gays and lesbians, but women, people of color, people with physical disabilities, and others. Gays and lesbians were targeted first, only because homosexuals were perceived as most vulnerable politically. The argument that a "majority" of voters should have the right to take away a minority group's rights is not only false but dangerous. We must have the courage to state clearly to the public that sometimes the majority can be wrong. A majority of white Southerners in the 1950's undoubtedly favored Jim Crow segregation laws, and they were wrong. The battle for full human rights for all is not just an issue concerning lesbians, gays, Latinos, African-Americans, and other minorities, but everyone. Because if the rights of any single person in our society are in jeopardy, it is only a matter of time before our own rights will be destroyed.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado, Boulder. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 250 newspapers and is broadcast by more than 60 radio stations throughout North America, Jamaica, Costa Rica, England, and India.

Commentary

On the Eve of Destruction?

by David Yaseen

It seems that everywhere in the world, people are finding normal, peaceful life insufficient to their needs. While it is to be granted that the lives of the large majority of the world's population aren't all wine and roses, at least most of them are surviving and have the resources to make plans for a better future. But for many, this is not enough. No, they have to make sure that they get more than anyone else, that nobody within 500 miles is of a different religion, that something that another group had done to them centuries ago is finally avenged, that oil prices stay beneath a certain level at all times.

It's true, we live in a country which, despite what we see to be major problems, doesn't have to contend with organized warfare, religious persecution (although the increasingly rabid Christian Right is cause for concern), or starvation. To most of us, even those who inhabit the bottom rungs of our social system, life is more or less secure. Although everyone is the victim of life's unfairnesses, in this country we can seek redress of major violations of ourselves and our property. And as long as we have Lotto, hope here will never completely die. Given all this, it does make sense that we would be baffled by the increasingly awful state of world affairs, and that we wouldn't be able to understand what makes people so terrible to one another.

Old-timers would probably remind us that the

world has looked much like this many times before, but we survived. Up to a point, they are right. There is nothing new about a world in turmoil—any state of affairs in which there are less than 20 active wars in the world has historically been the exception rather than the rule. But we're still here, right?

Unfortunately, that's not enough. The results of the last two times that we allowed the world to simmer and bubble with strife, were World Wars I and II, that cost this country dearly, both in terms of men and money. In the post-World War II period, we have been happy to proclaim ourselves to be the vanguard of humanity's high achievers, and we put up with *this*?

Still worse, we have the nerve to calculate (or allow our government's military ghouls to calculate) the profit-margins of selling weapons to anyone with enough cash, calling a situation in which we have sold the same amount of guns to both sides of a dispute "maintaining stability." This idiocy is reflected in the moronic opposition to gun control laws in our own country. However, we have a stable government and court system, and a reasonably effective police force to counteract much of the dangers we mindlessly incur in the name of gun-company profits. What would one suppose would happen in countries that aren't so stable, or worse, in countries in which the governments are actively corrupt and aggressive? Just what you think would happen—people dispose of each other at will.

It's not as if the guns are the only problem, and certainly we are not going to be able to do away with all of humanity's ugly streaks in any kind of hurry. But we're not even really *trying*. The United Nations has devolved into a body that exists solely for the interests of its larger members, and when it does decide to do anything decent, the forces it deploys are not only too small, they are utterly ineffective. The United States, newly in the position of "policeman" to the world, has yet to demonstrate that it is willing to exercise its influence in world affairs for any reasons that do not involve oil or geopolitical positioning of military force. Our attempts at diplomacy are toothless (vis. Bosnia), and simply allow killings and tortures and rapes to continue, and we have the gall to say, "at least we did something."

There has been a lot of talk since the election and inauguration that this nation is going to enter a new phase of social consciousness, with policies that are going to be more constructive and less mercenary, in both domestic and international affairs. Let's hope so, or Somalia and Bosnia are only going to be the beginning.

JOIN THE
PRESS

C.O.C.A. FILMS

C.O.C.A. (Committee on Cinematic Arts) films are shown on Friday and Saturday, 7:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and midnight, and on Sunday, 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., in Room 100, Javits Lecture Center. \$1.50/general admission; \$1/Stony Brook ID. Call 632-6472.

February 5-7: Under Siege

February 12-14: *Last of the Mohicans*

February 19-21: Candyman

February 26-28: School Ties

March 5-7: Consenting Adults

March 12-14: *The Bodyguard*

March 19-21: Distinguished Gentlemen

March 26-28: *Dracula*

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Legislative Conference
Student Lobby Day

Albany, New York
February 19th thru 22, 1993

Every year, SASU sponsors the only student-run Student Lobby Day. SUNY students from across the state gather in Albany for a weekend of issue-related and skills-building workshops on topics which include: SUNY Tuition, Budget Cuts, Financial Aid (state and federal) clinics, bias related violence, training public safety officers and much more. Presentations to state-wide and SUNY policy-makers and legislators. Come network and exchange ideas with students across the state of New York.

Student Lobby Day, Monday, February 22nd
 Student apply what they have learned and meet with their elected
 Assembly Members and State Senators, urging them to

- (1) freeze tuition,
- (2) fully fund SUNY and
- (3) fully fund and expand financial aid

(including College Work-Study, Equal Opportunity and Talent Assessment Programs)



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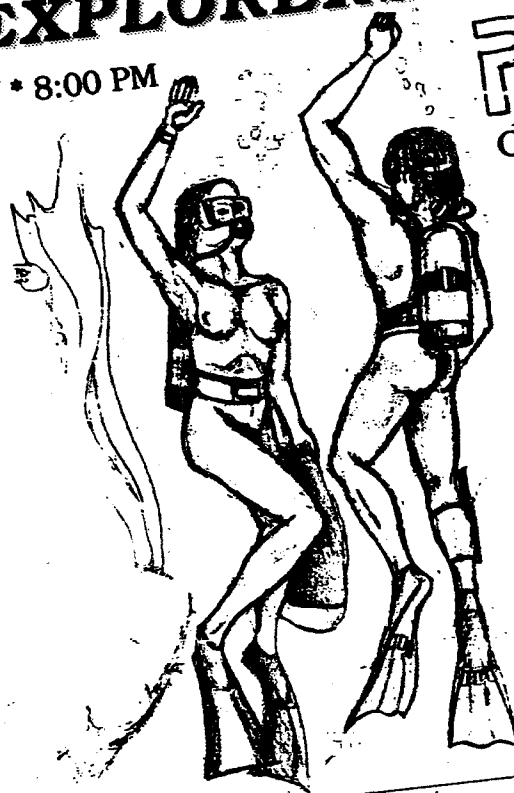
NOTE: The Student Association of the City University of New York is a completely independent student-run organization representing and advocating the SUFT culture in the Students' Chapter, New York State Legislature, the Rights Education Network Conference and emergency response for defending all NYC Student and SUFT Civil Administrators and saving other non-vote organizations in NYC.

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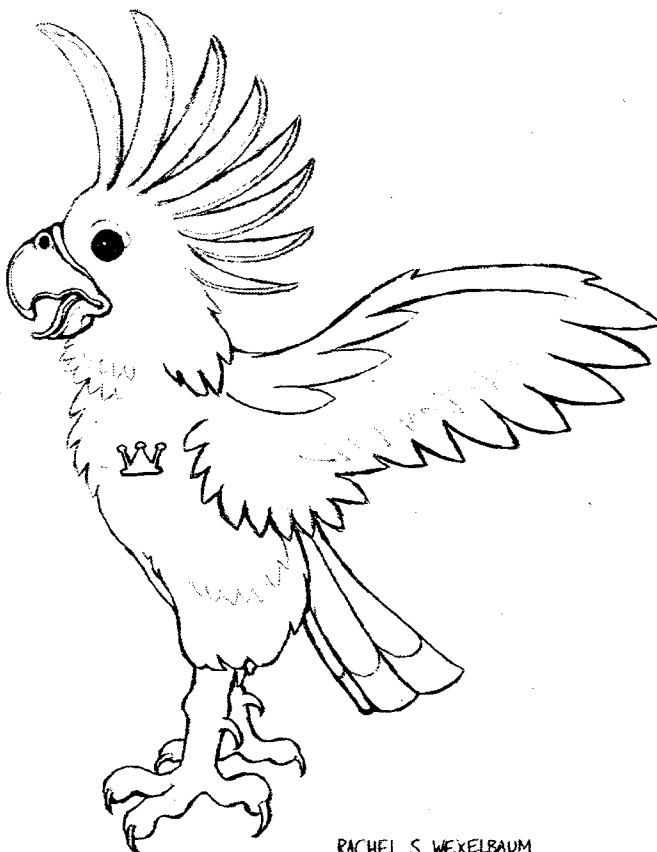
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The King And The Cockatoo

by Rachel S. Wexelbaum

On a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, far away from any oil spills or military bases, lived a happy little king and his happy little subjects in a lush tropical rainforest. No one had anything to complain about—everyone had enough to eat, there was plenty to do and groves of marijuana to smoke—but then a great sulphur-crested cockatoo (a BIG one) arrived from the big land of Australia and took up residence on top of the king's hut.

The cockatoo would not leave his new perch, and he made such a horrible noise and rain of bird droppings that the king refused to leave his hut until someone chased the bird away. However, his simple subjects believed that the gods had transformed their king into a cockatoo, the symbol of good fortune, and they treated him with the utmost reverence. Since the kingdom seemed to be running as smoothly as ever without the king's presence, the king decided to stay indoors and during the evenings teach the cocka-



RACHEL S. WEXELBAUM
2/1/93

too all the necessary things to say to his subjects to keep order. As the cockatoo learned quickly, this went on for quite some time until one of the king's subjects went against the animist philosophies of his people and decided to assassinate the royal bird and install himself as king.

When the cockatoo saw the man approaching him with a slingshot he cried for the guards to come, causing the true king to appear and sentence the terrorist to exile at sea. When the other subjects found out that the true king was still alive, they too abandoned their animist philosophies and pelted the poor man to death with stones as the cockatoo squawked and squarked.

The happy little people kept the cockatoo as their new king, and life in the lush rainforest was the same as it ever was—except now it was better.

MORAL: Blame not the puppet for his evil words but the man who pulls his strings.

MORE IMPORTANTLY: In Paradise there can be no king.

Funnies



The Magnificent Six at Staller

by Catherine Krupski

Six degree candidates in the Master of Fine Arts Program have put their work on display in the University at Stony Brook Art Gallery. The styles are all very contemporary and extremely energetic. There is nothing traditional about any of the pieces on display.

When you first walk in, you will see the familiar chocolate bunnies on mirrors. That is Ronald Wakkary's *Reproduction*. He had his work in the Main Library Art Gallery last semester. On the wall opposite his works are those of Vickie Arndt. She effectively utilizes black and white contrast with dried flowers in her six untitled pieces. Leaving them untitled could be considered a cop-out, but it could also be looked at as leaving it to the viewer to decide what exactly is represented and how one should feel. A few of them seem to defy gravity as they grow out of the wall.

J.D. Larson has four pieces in the exhibit. *Naked came we, naked shall we return thither* is very intriguing. It is a round mound on the floor covered with animal skins and clothes, all dark colors with some pacifiers mounted on it and nails protruding from it. In the middle of it are dozens of knives sticking out toward the middle, which has been hollowed out. *Compulsion Series #6* is absolutely awesome. It is black



MAUREEN PALMIERI
14 STATIONS (CROSSES OF LIFE)

with red streaks cutting through it. It eventually spirals off center of the rectangular wall mount. It looked so painful, so full of powerful negative energy.

Maureen Palmieri takes her art from nature—literally. Leaves cover the otherwise carpeted floor and plants grow in *Part of the Cycle* (*Ashes, Ashes All Fall Down*). In the middle is the grave of a woman. Her other pieces—all a different part of the life cycle—are all taken from nature. She parallels the enormity of nature to the life cycle. She shows a part of the cycle with a plaster skull looking up at a gate. This was the only piece that did not contain leaves or dirt.

Oil on gauze is the primary medium used by Brenda Hanegan. Once you realize that it is gauze on paper that holds her images, you will be amazed. However, each of the pieces on display shows only two or three different images. Jeffrey Sturges has photographed brush strokes in black and white and put them together in four different groups, three are positive in the respect that they are very light and the last is negative; it is very dark.

The styles are so unique so that you really have to get up close to notice the fine detail in some of them. These students will be graduating soon and taking their amazing contributions with them, so catch them while they are on display. The exhibit runs until February 27.

Review

BONE CLUB HITS THE SCENE

by Xiola Lollapalooza

Everything's on fire... especially alternative rock newcomers Bone Club. To describe their style is almost impossible. Their unique sound is incomparable to that of most bands. The closest group to which they can be somewhat paralleled is Alice in Chains, but even that is pushing the issue. Bone Club has an uninhibited style which stands out among the overplayed musicians of today. This is the most original music I have heard in years. If you are tired of listening to the repetitious pop and poser rock played on a

lot of so called "rock" stations, this is an album you should get.

Bone Club owes its awesome vocal combination to the brother team of Andrew and Darcey Arashiba. Their intriguing guitar riffs are smoked simultaneously by Darcey Arashiba and John Hausman. The bass and drums are played by Pat Kallemeyn and David Andler, respectively. When each member takes to his instrument and the sounds are combined on their debut album *Beautiful-LOOK OUT!*

The first two cuts on the album, which will be released in August, are titled *Everything is on Fire* and *Alive*. Those enthralling tunes show the diversity of styles evident in the band. The quick-changing vocal range and tempos show the adaptability of this truly unusual and singular band. The most outstanding of the remaining four songs was *Hubris*, which has an eerie apocalyptic sound. They are consistent in their harmonies and the variety in

each song.

The biggest complaint I have about the CD is that it is too short. Their name should be changed because, before I listened to the album, I wasn't sure of what to expect. I think they need a more creative alternative rock-type name. It would also be nice to include a picture of the band in the album cover so you would know what they look like! Despite their ill-founded sepulchral appellation, their music is definitely kick-ass and worth a spin on any CD player. If you love alternative rock, this would be a great addition to your collection.



BONE CLUB