

The
Stony
Brook

PRESS

Vol. XIX No. 12

Read SQUEE, So We Can Justify This Cover

March 11, 1998

Inside:

the meal
plan
approaches

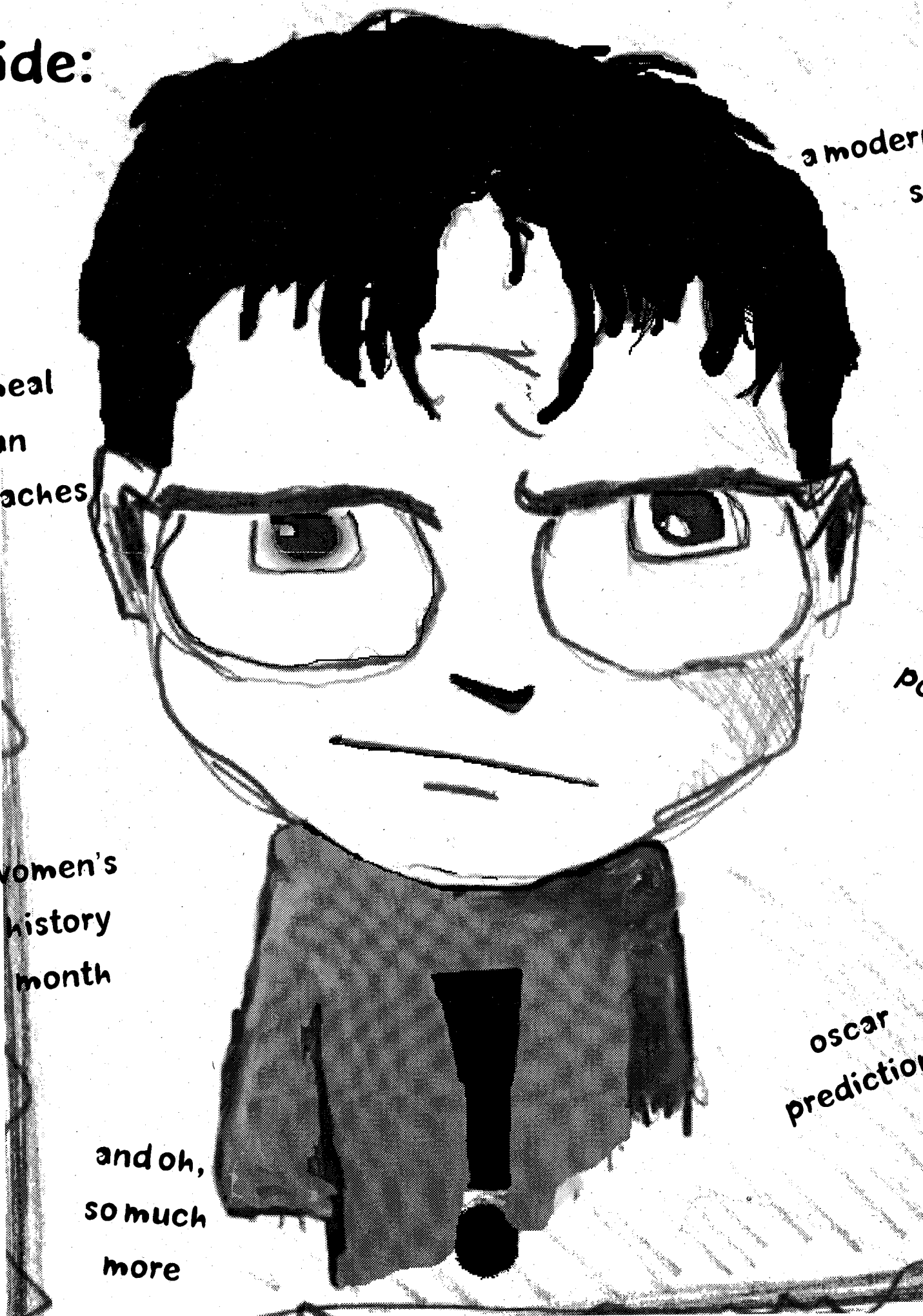
a modern-day
salem?

csa vs.
polity

women's
history
month

oscar
predictions

and oh,
so much
more



A Messenger of Peace

By Michael Yeh

In an emotional presentation, former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide urged students to place people over profits in a celebration of Haitian culture and progressive reforms sponsored by the Concerned Haitian League, the Haitian Student Organization, and the Peace Studies Center on Tuesday, March 3.

As an ordained Salesian priest, Aristide was well-known for his populist grass-roots movements protesting the oppressive regime of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Aristide won overwhelming support among the working class, but was expelled from the priesthood.

The Duvalier family fled the island in 1986 after 29 years of corrupt and brutal rule. After the *dechoukaj*, or "uprooting" of the dictatorship, a coalition of civilians and military officers presided over a skeptical public for four years. But in 1990, Aristide was elected president with a 70% majority in the first democratic election since 1964, when the ballots allowed only one choice: Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, president for life.

A strong critic of American corporate exploitation in Haiti, Aristide blasted economic globalization in his address. "Worship of the market and its invisible hand has become a world tradition in which economic growth is the measure and the limit of our human culture," he said.

Although a global market may increase the abundance of consumer goods, it often creates a false sense of well-being in developing nations by providing material rewards for an exclusive group. "Globalization promises material happiness," said Aristide. "Does that mean that hunger and poverty are disappearing?"

Since 1980, most third world nations structured their economies to conform to global trends, according to Aristide. In 1960, the richest 20% of the world's population controlled 70% of the wealth, but today, they own 85%. The poorest 20% had a meager 2.3% in 1960, which has now dropped to 1.1%.

"Poverty is not disappearing," said Aristide, "In fact, it is becoming more entrenched." Up to 85% of Haitians still live in poverty and face hunger every day due to corporate exploitation, erosion of farmland, and limited government services. "Democracy in Haiti doesn't mean a thing unless the people can eat," he said. "*San pè lan vant pa gen lapè lan tèt*. There is no peace in the head if there is no peace in the stomach."

But a military coup, led by Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, supported by the wealthy business community, abruptly forced Aristide into exile in September, 1991 and killed hundreds of his supporters.

Although the United States refused to recognize the military regime, media critics charge that the American corporate media mis-

represented and defamed Aristide because of his left-wing beliefs. In his book *Inventing Reality: The Politics of News Media*, Michael Parenti noted that the Washington Post accused Aristide of "fomenting class warfare in his sermons," and using "the threat of violence to enforce his will."

Ironically, the term "class warfare" was only used to describe working-class resistance against the rich, but not for the economic oppression forced upon the poor.

The *New York Times* reported that Cédras ordered the coup because of what he claimed to be human rights abuses by the Aristide administration. But international studies showed that human

rights violations fell sharply after Aristide came to power, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights announced that it had not received any complaints. In contrast, Cédras was implicated in violent suppressions of political dissenters as part of a counter-insurgency group created by the Duvalier regime, as well as the execution of Aristide supporters after the coup.

By emphasizing unsubstantiated allegations against Aristide and diverting attention from his campaign for a minimum wage, land reform, and enforced tax collection on the rich, the mainstream media tried to cast doubts about his integrity, as they have done for many leftist leaders around the world.

Cédras backed down only after the threat of a U.S. military invasion in September 1994, and Aristide returned to Haiti to complete his term. After he left office in 1996, the Aristide Foundation for Democracy was founded to create opportunities for economic participation by the poor. Entrepreneurship is encouraged through grants or low-interest credit for small businesses. Food cooperatives provide staples such as rice, beans, and cooking oil at about half the market prices. In an effort to increase Haiti's 20% literacy rate, the Foundation for Democracy supports Creole language programs. In addition, women are encouraged to participate in making economic decisions. By providing the tools for success instead of simply offering food, the Foundation is making strides towards long-term solutions for the economic problems.

Environmental conservation is an urgent part of the Foundation's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in food production. More than 95% of the land in Haiti is deforested due to the need for fast-growing food crops and charcoal. Approximately 1% of Haiti's topsoil washes to the sea each year, resulting in catastrophic loss of valuable farmland. "For a community to have peace, the society of nations must be at peace,"

said Aristide. "The trees, water, air, and soil are linked to our peace and well-being."

But Aristide pointed out that grass-roots campaigns must be supplemented with sufficient economic aid. "Only 10% of development aid goes toward meeting primary human needs such as health care, clean water, and sanitation. This represents less than 1% of what the industrialized world uses for athletic fields each year." Yet, only \$6 billion in addition to the current funding allocated for education until the year 2000 is sufficient to put every child in the world in school.

Aristide recently criticized his successor and former prime minister René Préval for a plan to privatize state-owned companies. Préval is under pressure from the U.S. to create a more suitable infrastructure for multinational corporations. Millions of dollars in aid have been tied to specific conditions such as increased privatization and the investigation of alleged human rights violations by the Aristide administration.

"Privatization, especially in developing nations, is always hard," said Charles Valembun, Executive Director and founder of the Concerned Haitian League. "Often, the people who benefit are the elites who have an ample supply of money to invest. But [privatization] creates more competition and perhaps better services. At the crucial stage of economic development in Haiti, it is important that the government thinks and rethinks its policies where privatization is concerned to prevent the establishment of a 'super-underclass'."

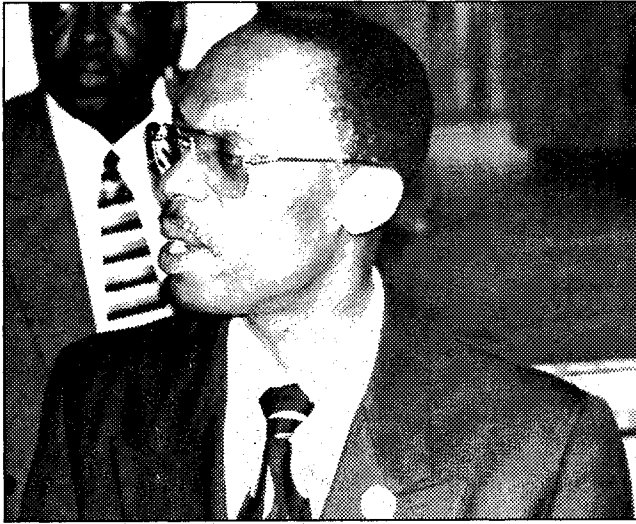
Following Aristide's presentation, Professor Leslie Owens of the Africana Studies department moderated a question and answer session with the audience. Each sponsoring organization presented him with awards for his service to the Haitian people. This event was also accompanied with an exhibition of Haitian art by Medalia Marketing of East Setauket and a performance by the Stony Brook Gospel Choir.

"[Aristide's visit] is the first time such a high ranking black dignitary came to the university," said Valembun. "It raised the level of consciousness, and it falls into our vision of universal emancipation and empowerment through education, and formation of legal and cultural advocacy."

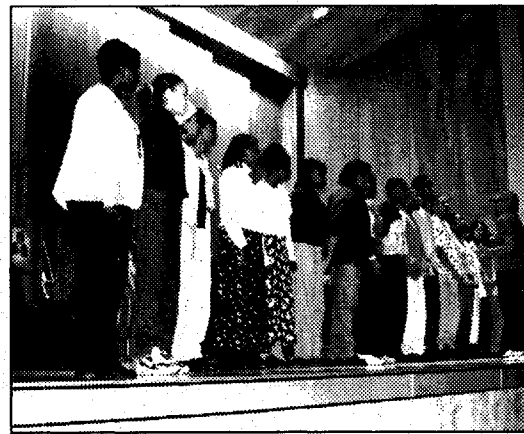
But this event was not only a tribute to Aristide's work, but also to the Haitian people and their commitment to democracy and justice. Aristide claimed that working with the poor had

taught him that "beyond market values, there are human values. They persist in struggling for a better life, in struggling for peace, and they know what they want."

With peace, democracy, and economic opportunities, Haiti will have a chance to return to its former glory. "I wish that one day we will have the pleasure to welcome you to Haiti," said Aristide. "But be careful, because once you are in Haiti, a virus will attack you. That virus is love, and you will stay there for a couple of months, maybe a couple of years, maybe forever."



President Jean-Bertrand Aristide



The Stony Brook Gospel Choir

Salem Lite

By Chris Sorochin

"Policy is what the kingpins want. What the others want is juvenile delinquency" John Updike, "A & P"

Last year, *The Long Island Voice* carried a story about students at Nassau Community College being penalized in some rather draconian ways for – horror of horrors – drinking on a school trip. It wasn't merely drink, of course, one of the brain surgeons actually got himself a nice case of alcohol poisoning and had to go to the emergency room, which only highlights the need for a realistic alcohol policy, one that recognizes the fact that young people are going to drink, and concentrates on minimizing potential damage therefrom. The story by Valerie Kellogg contained snippets of related news. One item that caught my eye was that of Andrea Lund, a teacher of 22 years at Malverne High School, who's been fined the incredible sum of \$39,000 for allegedly allowing students to drink on a trip to Italy that she chaperoned.

Intrigued, I reflected on my own high school days and how nearly everyone drank, even the goody-two-shoes kids, and how many kind-hearted teachers and parents aided and abetted us in our endeavors. I recall drinking at teachers' homes, to say nothing of house parties with the full knowledge, and oftentimes presence, of parents. Then there were special events, like the annual church picnics at the quaintly-named Gargoyle Park and our school's annual Oktoberfest. At these shindigs, we'd wait for the adults to get good and sloshed themselves and then manage to beg glasses off those we knew to be indulgent. Being tall and one of the first lads in my class to sprout facial hair, I was sometimes able to actually purchase the stuff and this did wonders for my social standing.

I would absolutely hate to think of Mrs. Rodriguez or Mr. Boisvert or Fr. Mitka or the Dwyers (and numerous others, too many to thank) being screwed to the wall for being nice to us. As I began to make phone calls, I envisioned an indulgent and enlightened teacher had looked the other way because Italy is advanced enough not to make a big deal about drinking age and then some Tipper Gore clone of a parent had gotten wind of the festivities and demanded blood, so school officials had to do something. I was wrong.

I started with the Superintendent of Schools. He didn't return my call and when I phoned a second time, his secretary told me that his comment was "no comment." I couldn't figure that; if what the district had done was so mightily noble, why not blare it from the rooftops? I did get the number of the district's lawyers, Terrence O'Neill of Rains & Pogrebin, a Mineola law firm specializing in labor law. O'Neill told me there'd been four chaperons plus spouses. One, who doesn't have seniority, made a deal with the district. Another, Marguerite O'Conner, was on the school board and therefore untouchable—I laughed out loud in the microfilm library when I read that in the *New York Times* of last November 8. The other teacher, Veronica Pearsall, is yet to be tried and I'm told by inside sources that her lawyers want it to be public, probably in the school gym.

The implication seems to be that the

adults actually conspired to allow the alcoholic shenanigans of their charges, a concept that in today's repressive climate seems highly unlikely. Anyone who knows jack about the public school system knows that the cardinal rule is Cover Your Ass (hereinafter referred to as CYA.) It's rather difficult to believe that individuals who've survived decades in the piranha-infested waters of secondary education would flaunt the rules in so blasé a fashion as these folks are said to have, actually drinking with students and being videotaped at it—especially if they were having personality conflicts with some of them.

To further complicate things, there was a physical (or nearly physical, depending on whom you speak to) confrontation between Lund's husband, who was also on the trip, and a couple of Italian motorcyclists. One of the students, in an attempt to prevent violence, grabbed him from behind, causing him, in turn, to lay hands on that same student. Upon returning, Lund felt it best to report the incident to her principal, Mark Scher, who then inquired as to other goings-on. Lund told him that at a karaoke bar in a Venice hotel, some students had ordered beer without her knowledge. In Lund's version of events, she didn't want to come swooping down on them like a puritanical harpy and so she let them finish before telling them not to order any more. Big mistake. When she told Scher this, he said, "You mean you didn't take it away from them immediately?" and demanded she sign a release form, accepting full responsibility. She refused. She had also (again, according to some accounts) filed disciplinary charges against some of the students for being rude and nasty the last day of the trip, and feels they wanted revenge on her.

Now, just for a moment, fantasize that you're a high school principal and are presented with the conflicting claims between several of your top teachers and a group of students about potentially embarrassing allegations involving the Demon Alcohol. No parents know about it—at least, none who care to raise a stink—and no one got alcohol poisoning or did a swan-dive off the Tower of Pisa. The venerable principle of CYA would demand some ceremonial love-taps in the wrist all around and a

sweeping of the whole affair under the nearest double-weave plush carpet. But Scher doesn't do that. Instead he flies in the face of CYA and proceeds to actually escalate things by involving the superintendent, Barry Schoenholz (whose teenage daughter is renowned for her house parties.) In what would normally constitute a bureaucratic self-immolation, charges were filed, and to top it all off, letters were sent out to parents of all students on the trip. Why? If these guys were anti-alcohol zealots, the students should have been disciplined as well, but not one was.

Curioser and curioser. In the meantime I

had sent a written list of questions to the current superintendent, Peter Scordo, Schoenholz having since exiled himself to the frozen wastes of Michigan. I have to admit that I might have been just the tiniest bit flippant in my phrasing ("was it wine with dinner or did she lead them in a Felliniesque orgy...?") and I received a somewhat curt and high-handed reply that neither the district nor their representatives would answer my questions.

It also said, somewhat disingenuously, "We are proud of the students who testified." Could these, I wonder, be the same students who'd held room parties at which the scotch and bourbon flowed freely? One mother, Anna Iacono, states that these pure and innocent angels have been cleared and vindicated. Does she really think her daughter,

Erica, now a student at the University of Delaware (and probably a supernarc RA) was some little waif who had liquor involuntarily funneled down her virginal throat by these hellcat instructors?

My sleep-in legal expert said the whole thing was reminiscent of that quintessential American psychodrama, the Salem witch trials, a story which has been replayed many, many times throughout our history. For those of you who were so drunk in high school you've forgotten your forced reading of *The Crucible*, here are the elements: a group of kids from a highly repressive society are discovered indulging in evil pleasures in the pagan wilderness outside the holy safety of the settlement—dancing in the woods then; drinking in Italy now. To save themselves and exact revenge, they start crying out that they were bewitched by a coven of evil adults hiding under the cover of respectability. Kangaroo courts of inquiry are set up with the goal of achieving convictions and rooting out the subversive evil poisoning the community, and some basically decent folks dangle from the oaks in the village square by the time it's all over.

Of the forty students on the trip, only eight testified, and Lund says that the parents of those are all, coincidentally, good friends of Barry Schoenholz. She also told me that Terrence O'Neill was relentless to the point of harassment in his attempts to get others on board. Transcripts of his hours of interviews with them are unavailable, so one can but speculate as to the methods employed to get them to "repent"—perhaps no more than the shallac of faux innocence and credibility bestowed on the other "children."

Back in Salem, the witch trials followed a socio-economic fault line in which the older agricultural villagers were trying to resist being pushed out by the newer mercantile class. While Andrea Lund is unaware of having enemies, she theorized that it was part of an effort to discredit Marguerite O'Conner by rivals on the school board. In a nice bit of poetic justice, O'Conner is now president of the self-same school board. Lund also told me that the district has, to date, spent \$300,000 on the trials, while the school itself is on an austerity budget. And although there are students at Malverne reading three grades below level, the administration dissolved the reading department, which was staffed, interestingly, by senior female teachers. *please see "Salem," page 15*



"...a group of kids from a highly repressive society are discovered indulging in evil pleasures in the pagan wilderness outside the holy safety of the settlement—dancing in the woods then; drinking in Italy now."

LGBTA Infighting

By Brian Libfeld

In theory, the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered Alliance (LGBTA) provides the only refuge for the Gay Community on campus. In truth, the LGBTA is a hive of infighting, backstabbing, and people who offer little support.

"Our main goal is to be here for people who need support," said Co-chair 'DJ' when asked about the group's mission. He admitted, however, that "for the amount of gay people on campus, the percentage that use the LGBTA is small."

According to Jen Adams, a member of the campus Gay community, and president of The Science Fiction Forum, another campus club, the LGBTA is home to few members of the Gay community, and her organization has a larger gay population with almost no crossover.

"I believe that the false hope that the club promises young gays quickly fades into disillusionment when they are confronted by the backstabbing and lack of support combined with the reality that the group is destructive to ones ego, rather than the haven of support that is needed" said former Co-chair DH Campbell.

In addition to driving away members of the Gay community, the LGBTA also drives away members of the Straight community who come down to offer support. Last semester, the LGBTA shut down after a member used a halogen lamp to burn poison ivy in the office, a decidedly confined space with little ventilation. Both the Co-Chairs quickly took action and shut down the

group. The budget was frozen, and the organization fell apart.

During the current semester, the group remained closed until two students took action. Jack Roberts, a non-traditional student and Commuter Senator, and Craig Liebl, a freshman and pre-closure member of the LGBTA, took it upon themselves to reestablish the group and pick up where the previous Co-chairs left off. Unfortunately for Jack, Jack is straight.

After Jack and Craig restarted the group, the members decided that since Jack was straight he didn't deserve to be Co-chair, that he couldn't understand what it meant to be gay. Craig was also unwelcome because he was a freshman. They demanded an election to demonstrate the club's desires, a right guaranteed to them under their constitution. Jack and Craig won, vindicating their positions.

The members again demanded that a new election be held, claiming that there was not proper representation of the groups members at the previous election. In this election, Jack and Craig were removed, and replaced by new Co-chairs 'DJ' and 'Jaime.'

According to the club's minutes for the night of the first election, there were ten members present. The meetings from the second election were without any attendance numbers, nor vote tallies. After checking with several attendees the number of attendees turned out to be 11; one of them arrived after elections and one didn't vote. At the first meeting there were 10

voters, nine at the second. Certainly a more representative body of the members.

The issue that rose out of this is not that the body of the LGBTA choose to sexually discriminate against a student that tried to support them, nor is it that they discriminated by age against a student that tried to support them, rather it is an issue of how they accomplished it.

According to the members who were present at the election there were 11 members present, and nine voters there. Each voter was allowed two votes for the Co-chair positions. Ballots retrieved from the garbage after the election meeting showed that at least 27 votes were cast in the election for Co-chair. According to the ballots there were 13.5 voters, a discrepancy of four and a half voters.

One self-described "queer" on campus said, "A straight Co-chair is an offense to my queerness. The LGBTA is for gays and he just can't know what its like to be gay."

"The LGBTA in neither a home to the Gay Community nor the straight people who choose to offer their support to that community" said DH Campbell, and added "We've tried to educate and empower the community, and the community has rejected our attempts. Those who care are almost always driven away by those that don't."

Jack Roberts ended the interview by saying "Just because I'm straight doesn't mean I can't be supportive. I know a lot of people . . . who could have used a group like the LGBTA."

SEE YA... WOULDN'T WANT TO BE YA

Commuter Student Association Moves to Separate From Polity

By Marlo Allison Del Toro

"The Commuter Student Association says: Enough is enough!" states their referendum petition platform. CSA wants to break from Polity, which they believe does not represent the interests of commuter students, so that they can form a commuter student government.

If the CSA referendum is passed in the April elections, they will collect the Commuters' Student Activities Fees, which they plan on cutting to \$45.25 per semester. This will allow them to sponsor events, concerts, and services that they feel commuter students want, such as a concert by Billy Joel.

CSA states that Polity, an organization whose executive board has historically been made up of resident students, "neglects" commuter students. One of their points of contention is that Polity did not let Billy Joel, who offered to play for free, perform on campus. The main argument against him was the security risk he would pose and the expense for security guards to assure his safety.

CSA claims that the year Billy Joel was not allowed to perform, gangster rapper Notorious B.I.G., whose murder last year remains unsolved, came to campus. Also, last Tuesday former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide spoke on campus, and First Lady Hillary Clinton spoke here last year. Each of these people pose a greater security risk than Joel.

Another argument for breaking with Polity is that Polity allotted more money in its line budget for phone calls, over \$10,000, than it did for the Commuter Student Association (although, CSA received approximately \$26,000 in line budget

and referenda money this year). Polity has justified this by asserting that as student representatives they will not deny phone privileges to students.

What Polity will deny commuter students is the right for them to vote at South-P. This year, even as resident students were given the right to vote in local, state and federal elections on campus, Polity has argued that having a polling site at South-P would cause too many problems for the elections board since there are no bathrooms in the parking lot.

At commuter LEG, a 'town meeting' held by the Polity commuter senators every Wednesday, a vote was held to seek support for the petition. Of the 31 people at the meeting, 23 voted in favor of the petition. Of the six abstentions, four were executive board members for CSA, who abstain from all voting at board meetings so as not to sway the vote. The two who voted against the petition were Frank Santangelo, who is running for Polity President, and Monique Maylor, the current Polity President.

Maylor found fault with the referendum petition platform, according to the LEG minutes, but she did not return calls asking her for specific disagreements. Marilyn Goodman, director of the Office of Commuter Student Affairs, said at the meeting that she felt that the petition was "decisive." She also encouraged CSA to follow any and all guidelines for petitioning, and for them to go through the proper channels.

Through Friday, CSA had compiled approximately 900 of the 1402 signatures that they need to ensure the referendum is put on the April 7-8 election ballot, although the vacationing Fred Preston, VP of Student Affairs, has final say on

whether it will actually make it to the ballot. Since the petitioning deadline was pushed back to 4 PM Tuesday, CSA has more time to collect the needed signatures. Most of the signatures they have collected are from commuter students, but some are from residents.

Although some residents are in favor of the break (or just don't care either way), others find faults with the proposed separation. One resident said that if CSA breaks from Polity all of the student organizations will suffer the loss of funds brought in by commuters. The clubs could, however, petition the new commuter student government for funds. As a Statesman editorial points out, some programs, like 3TV, aren't geared toward or accessible to commuters, and would probably be denied.

This movement was brought on by the constant bickering and general immature behavior of the Polity senators as a whole. Due to the reported pandemonium at Polity meetings, generally little or nothing gets done there. Residents fight with commuters, commuters fight with residents, and republicans fight with *The Press*.

It all comes down to the simple premise: No taxation without representation. The commuter students want to have equal representation in campus politics, and they certainly don't want to pay the same amount in Student Activities Fees for less than equal power (after all, they already pay the same Transportation Fee and aren't allowed to park on campus until 4 PM). Perhaps the only way to solve the problems in Polity is to do what our government has done: Create a two house system, with a joint council to iron out the fine points.

ON THE MEAL PLAN AND THE ADMINISTRATION

By Stephen Preston
Member, FSA's Dining Services Committee

Last month, the Faculty Student Association [FSA] was informed by Richard Mann, Vice President for Administration, that the meal plan and contractor would be selected by the Administration, and not by the FSA's Board of Directors. This was unexpected, as the FSA was responsible for the food service and believed it had ultimate authority over all aspects of it. Students on both the FSA's Board of Directors and the Dining Services Committee were deeply offended, and some (including myself) have begun attempting legal action to stop it. Why the uproar over this little decision?

First, the Administration knows little about the meal plan, especially compared to the students on the Dining Services Committee.

The Administration has neither enough direct experience with the meal plan, nor sufficient knowledge about contractors and alternative plans, to be trusted to make the best decision. Second, the Administration selected the contractors in the Student Activities Center based largely on promised "returns to campus." It is reasonable to suspect that it will choose the dining service contractor based on the contractor's proposed payment, possibly ignoring factors affecting students. Third, the Administration has ulterior motives: it wants the meal plan to pay for renovations to the dining facilities, and it has also suggested using the meal plan to raise money for non-dining purposes.

The FSA's Role in Dining Services

The Faculty Student Association is a non-profit corporation which was set up to allow the SUNY campus administration to run campus services without having to comply with all of the regulations of New York State. SUNY is the only state school in the country (except for the University of California) which is considered part of the state government, and therefore anything a SUNY campus wants to do is controlled by New York State's laws on ethics, disclosure, labor unions, "low bid" rules, etc. To evade these regulations, SUNY created the FSA, the Research Foundation, and other corporations. While these corporations nominally have independence from the SUNY administrators, they are in practice heavily controlled by them.

So, while the FSA's Board of Directors is composed of four students, three faculty or staff, and four administrators, the Board does not frequently conflict with the Administration. When it does, the Administration simply threatens to dissolve the FSA, as it seems to have done last year when it wanted to get the FSA's by-laws changed, or many years ago when then-President John Marburger wanted the by-laws changed. The FSA Board has gradually become more passive as Administration has gotten more aggressive, and now there are few serious disputes in the Board meetings.

Still, the Board of Directors had been planning to make its own decision on the meal plan. It had assembled a group of student volunteers and administrators into the Dining Services Committee, which was to decide the terms under which contractors would make their proposals, evaluate those proposals, and recommend the contractor to the Board, who would make the final decision (which would almost certainly be whatever the Committee recommended).

The Committee debated much in the Fall semester, and by January it was divided between two plans: a straight dollar-for-dollar declining balance which could be used anywhere on campus, or the pre-Advantage meal plan with a partial declining balance and a certain number of meals per week. At its last meeting on February 9, 1998, the Committee decided

on a compromise: the plan would be a straight declining balance, but 45% of the money would have to be used in the dining halls (Roth, Kelly, H), while the other 55% could be used anywhere. Refer to the Statesman, February 12, for more details on this plan (though parts of the description there are no longer accurate).

The major problem with the new plan is its cost. Declining balance plans are generally more expensive than other plans, because the contractor does not have an implicit "rip-off" factor built in. For example, in an N-meals-per-week plan, there is the "missed meal factor," which takes advantage of the fact that students will often not eat all N meals in any given week. In an "Advantage" plan, there is a 10% surcharge on all Advantage prices, which allows the

contractor to make at least \$400,000 additionally each year, according to the

FSA's Ken Johnson. The contractor must therefore build this rip-off factor into the prices, making them somewhat higher than off-campus prices. The contractor also will require a high minimum buy-in level (at least \$1100 in this plan, as opposed to \$900 in the current plan) to ensure that its revenues are high enough.

Now the Dining Services Committee agreed that hours should be cut in the dining halls, in order to save money and keep the buy-in level as low as possible. Of course, as mentioned in the Statesman, this would cause problems because one can't force people to eat more often in dining halls which have fewer hours. So the Administration decided after the meeting that all dining facilities should have expanded hours, as well as staying open during intersessions. (The Dining Services Committee was not informed of these decisions until it was too late to change the decision.) Superficially, this is a good thing. Unfortunately, the meal plan will have to get significantly more expensive to both cope with the additional hours and compensate for the rip-off factor. One FSA employee estimated that the minimum buy-in level might have to increase to \$1200 per semester (which would make Stony Brook's plan the most expensive mandatory plan in the SUNY system).

The Administration believes that students are concerned primarily with convenience, and thus will not mind paying significantly more to get it. However, many students are concerned primarily with price, and simply cannot afford to pay up to \$1200 per semester for a meal plan. What will happen to these students? Well, probably the same thing that happened to the students who couldn't afford the rapid increase in tuition over the past three years, and to the students who can't afford the room rates which are increasing to pay for the dormitory rehabilitation projects, and to the students who couldn't afford the recent TAP cuts. Namely, they'll just drop out and the Administration will continue to try to attract wealthier students to replace them. After all, there's nothing a SUNY Trustee likes better than a student who doesn't care about the cost of tuition, fees, room, or board, and there's nothing a SUNY campus President likes better than a happy SUNY Trustee.

"Return to Campus": How the SAC Was Sold

Generally, when the Administration wants to run a retail service, it subcontracts the service to the FSA. The FSA then goes out to bid, selects a contractor, and manages the service. Thus the FSA runs the food services on the campus and in the hospital, the

bookstores on the campus and in the hospital, the laundry services, the vending machines, BASIX, the Solutions copying center, the video arcade, etc. However, the Student Activities Center was to be the first part of President Shirley Strum Kenny's "Campus Village," and so the Administration wanted to be sure it was done exactly the way they wanted it. So, except for the food court, all of the services in the SAC are now managed by Carmen Vasquez, Dean of Students. By looking at the way these services were selected, we can get a good idea of how the Administration will select the meal plan contractor.

Bank Robbery

First, the bank. The Bank Selection Committee, consisting of Tom Farabaugh, Cheryl Chambers, and Peter Baigent, formed the Request for Proposals in Fall 1996. This was sent out to about ten banks on Long Island. Only two, Teachers' Federal Credit Union (which already has a branch in the hospital and an ATM in the Administration building) and Home Federal Savings Bank (with branches in Edward's), were interested in bidding on the bank. The Selection Committee came up with a scoring grid with three components: "Satisfaction of Bid Requirements," "Cost of Service to Students," and "Return to Campus." Each component was worth 33%.

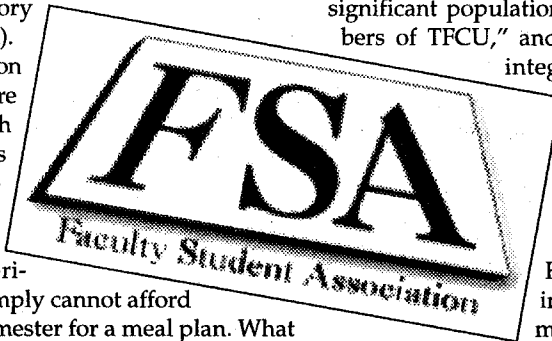
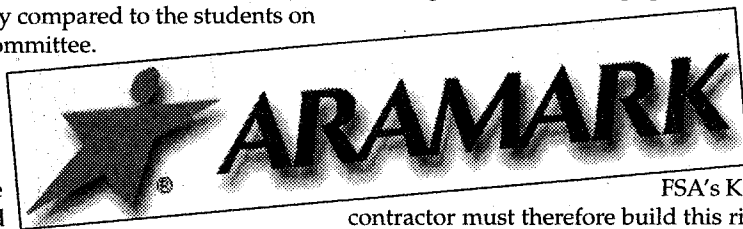
After the bids were submitted, Teachers' and Home Federal were about equal in scores of Satisfaction and Cost of Services (with Home Federal slightly higher, because they promised to do some things Teachers' couldn't). The only significant difference was in the Return to Campus: Teachers' promised to give \$11,000 to the Administration yearly, over and above any rent or other contractual payments; while Home Federal promised to give \$25,000 yearly. This difference resulted in Home Federal getting 19.6 out of 21, while Teachers' ended up with 14.3 out of 21.

But even then, there was still a concern that Teachers' Federal could provide things that weren't included in the scoring grid. One member of the committee said, "Although Home Federal comes out ahead on points, I think we need to consider the positive relationship that we have already established with TFCU through the branch at the HSC. Also, a significant population of faculty and staff are members of TFCU," and thus would contribute to the integration of the SAC into the University. However, the \$25,000 was just too sweet to pass up, and Home Federal ended up building itself a branch in the SAC.

Unfortunately, Home Federal was not willing to implement all terms of the agreement. For example, the original requirement was that the bank must "offer a check cashing service to all members of the campus community, regardless of having accounts with the bank." Home Federal promised to do this, but when it opened it required students to have checking accounts in order to get checks cashed. The Administration fought with them, and finally got them to compromise by cashing checks from the Administration, FSA, Aramark, and other on-campus businesses, for a fee. Teachers' Federal had stated in its original proposal that it did not want to cash all checks without indemnification, while Home Federal had stated it would cash all checks. The lesson for future bidders? Try not to be too honest in your proposal...

Wallace's Convenience Store

Three companies bid on the SAC convenience store: Wallace's, which currently runs the textbook store; the FSA, which currently runs the BASIX convenience store; and Handy Pantry, a Long Island



(AND WHY THEY DON'T BELONG TOGETHER)

chain with ten stores in Suffolk County. It is rather harder to obtain information about the convenience store, since the contract has not yet been awarded and most of the data is not yet public.

As with the bank, the Administration's selection committee was very concerned with the "return to campus." The "Satisfaction of Requirements" category was worth 50%, the "percentage commission of retail sales to be given to the University" was worth 40%, and the "bidder's financial stability and expertise" were worth 10%. Handy Pantry offered a commission of 3 1/8 %. The FSA offered a sliding scale commission: 4% on sales up to \$400,000, then gradually increasing on all sales above that, up to 15% on all sales above \$1 million. Wallace's would not say what commission they offered, and nobody in Administration could tell me, but it suffices to say that they also offered a sliding scale which was higher than the FSA's.

Like Home Federal, Wallace's also failed to implement all the required terms in the Request for Proposals. They were required to have a Point-of-Sale system (i.e. a barcode scanner), and they still do not have one (prices are manually input into the cash register). They are currently unable to provide computerized sales reports to the Administration, as required in the RFP. Wallace's has also not provided the deli and certain other items which were demanded in the RFP. So it seems that Wallace's probably didn't score very high in the "satisfaction of requirements" category. Wallace's also couldn't have scored very highly in the "expertise" category, since the company has never run a convenience store before. This suggests that Wallace's offered an extremely generous commission to make up for everything else. Perhaps this explains why a number of prices in Wallace's, e.g. for batteries and certain food items, are significantly higher than those in BASIX or 7-11: the extra money is going directly to the Administration.

Handy Pantry lodged a protest with the State Controller's office, claiming that the process used to select the convenience store was flawed. According to Joseph Stocken, Sr., the head of Handy Pantry, who filed the protest, "the bid was handled improperly; the winning bid [Wallace's] didn't follow the guidelines." He says the store was open before the contract was even approved, and that the bidding process should be reopened.

The above is not meant to be an indication of a conspiracy among Administrators to steal money from students. It is quite likely that Administration would love to see students not getting ripped off, as well as seeing the University getting extra revenue. However, when both are not possible, the Administration always seems to seek extra revenue, and this generally ends up resulting in students getting ripped off.

Renovations and Other Ulterior Motives

As I mentioned in the Statesman, the Administration believes that renovations to Kelly, H, and Roth are necessary and desirable. However, everybody knows that a good SUNY administration doesn't ask for renovation money from the state. So President Kenny and her Vice Presidents want to find some way of getting renovations done and having students pay for them. Much like the students either have paid or will eventually pay for those expensive dormitory renovations through increased room rates, students will eventually pay for dining hall renovations through increased meal plan rates.

The original draft Request for Proposals (RFP) had a provision saying how the University intended to raise funds. Two of the four primary goals were renovations:

"Bid Process Goals ...

3. Renovation of the three resident hall cafeterias to accommodate contemporary student dining patterns in the areas of menu and flexible time periods.

4. Renovation and/or consolidation of center campus dining facilities to include the addition of significant new dining space in the area of the central academic mall."

There was also a more explicit request deeper in the RFP: "Bidders will be asked to provide term for financing of \$4 million for renovation of resident hall dining halls over the ten year period of the contract. (Assume expenditures to contractor will be \$1 million in year 1, \$2 million in year 2, and \$1 million in year 3.)"

As I've mentioned already, \$1 million in a year is about 8% of total sales, which means that the contractor would have to raise about \$100 from every student on the meal plan just to give to the FSA. This would have to be pure profit, so that students would have to pay around \$1300 for \$1200 worth of food, on top of any other overcharging.

The Administration recently decided this would simply be too unpopular, so they are going about the same project in a more subtle way. The revised RFP has the following statement (in bold lettering): "FSA will not be looking for capital financing in the first year of the contract. Do not include this in your pricing. Instead, propose financing options for the future. Include a description of the terms for FSA, and the impact on student meal plan price." So in other words, this will still happen, but it will be postponed until students are a little more complacent and less complaining. Look for it to happen in about two years.

There is also the possibility that dining services will be used to fund other projects. Currently, the dining service operates independently, that is, nothing else on campus can contribute to it, and the proceeds from dining service must not be used for anything else. But Richard Mann, the new Vice President for Administration, reportedly has experience at other campuses in which dining service and campus residences are merged and one subsidizes the other. It has been suggested by other administration officials that he may want to see that happen here, which would mean that dining services would have to be removed from the FSA and run directly by the Administration. Of course, this would mean that students have as little input into the meal plan as they do into the dormitories. As the Administration seeks ever more control over the meal plan, it can be supposed that this is the eventual goal. The other implications of this idea remain to be seen.

What We Should Expect from the Bidders

The general expectations from the bidders come from what happened two years ago. Then, the only two bidders were Aramark and Marriott. Aramark had established a horrible reputation for itself, and most of the students were eager to get a new provider. In the preliminary vote of the Dining Service Committee, Marriott had the support of almost every member. However, Marriott's prices were a bit high, while Aramark's were suspiciously low. Marriott gave a rather lame presentation before both the Dining Service Committee and the Polity Senate, while Aramark's was much more elaborate. And as Aramark began offering special discounts and new programs, the body of opinion gradually shifted: Aramark was voted in nearly unanimously by the Committee.

So in the next month or so, we can expect to

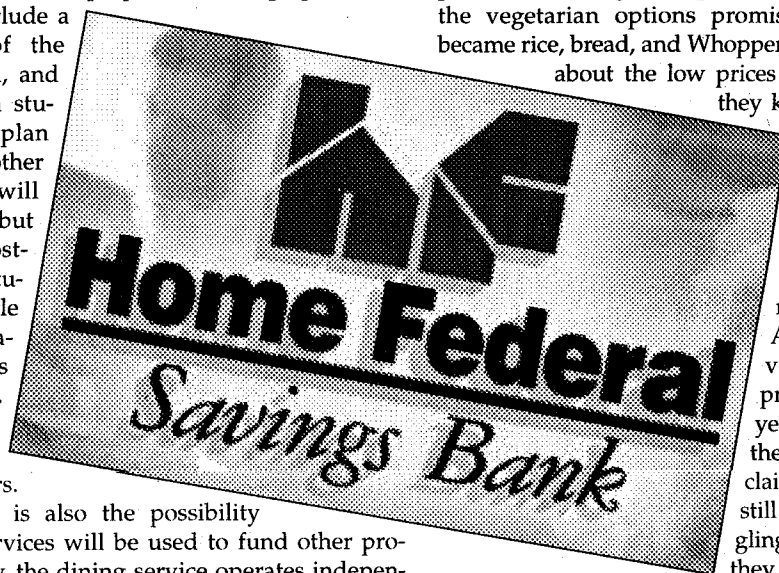
see more "Customer Appreciation Days" where Aramark gives away some amount of free food. We can expect to see our Aramark complaints finally rectified (e.g. price tags are now finally available in the Union Deli; hours at Papa Joe's have recently been extended; managers are suddenly very friendly, as pointed out in this very paper; the SAC suddenly has variety in the wrap station). We can expect to see extremely slick presentations from Aramark managers at any Polity meetings, and we have already seen Aramark suddenly advertising "Customer First!" in the Statesman. The more cynical among you have probably already realized that this is just a rather cheap ploy to make the students forget about all the overcharging, ignorance of student complaints, and sudden service cuts that were so much more familiar last semester. And when Aramark's bid finally arrives in late March, we can expect to see plans for new "diverse" food, with plenty of fresh ingredients, appetizing vegetarian options, and at lower prices than we could ever hope for.

Don't be fooled! Aramark did all the same last year. Remember "Changing Scenes", and all the diverse food offered? Remember how Aramark quickly abandoned all those ideas when they weren't as profitable as Burger King and Taco Bell? How about the vegetarian options promised, and how they became rice, bread, and Whoppers sans meat? Or how about the low prices promised, and how they kept increasing every semester? How about the services which were cut after the first year, because Aramark said they couldn't make any money? Aramark has cut services and increased prices virtually every year since they first got the contract, and always claimed that they were still suffering and struggling. And the fact that they promise it will never

happen again just makes it all the more crucial that we not believe them.

But as everyone asked two years ago, are the other companies any better? Here's a prediction for Marriott: they will submit prices which are high enough to seem reasonable, but not so high as to be extravagant. They will offer something to please the Administration, whether it is a "return to campus" or something more subtle, like additional renovation funds. Whatever they do, it is fairly certain to many of us on the Committee that the Administration will prefer Marriott over other contractors, and will persuade the FSA Board that all other companies are not large enough to handle 5,500 students on the meal plan. Aramark will not get the contract; not because the students are unhappy, but because the FSA and Administration are unhappy with them for different reasons (involving financial statements and such things). So unless students do something drastic to assert themselves to Administration, we can expect to see Marriott trucks all over the campus, with the same problems we now have with Aramark.

So the question for the students is whether the other companies (Lackmann, Chartwell's, CulinArt, and Whitson's) will offer anything worth fighting the Administration for. Lackmann and Chartwell's were both food providers before Aramark, and both were chased off the campus for providing horrible ingredients, dirty kitchens, and generally bad service. Have they changed? Neither CulinArt and Whitson's have much experience with campuses as large as Stony Brook. Can they learn quickly? If we want to avoid the same problems we've been having for the past several years, we have to hope so.



Serving Two Masters

University Presidents Moonlighting on Corporate Boards

By Kevin Kniffin

Reprinted from *Multinational Monitor*, November 1997

Judith Rodin is a director of Aetna Life and Casualty and of Electronic Data Systems. In July, she was nominated to become a director of AMR, the holding company for American Airlines. For her service on corporate boards, she received over \$123,500 in 1996. Rodin is a busy person, however. While she attended over 36 board meetings in 1996, her day job was service as the president of the University of Pennsylvania. She earned well over \$350,000 for this job, in addition to free housing, free housekeeping, an expense account, free Penn tuition (for her child), a personal staff and a car with a driver.

Rodin is not unusual. The presidents of more than one half of the 50 institutions listed on U.S. News and World Report's dubious rankings of leading universities serve on corporate boards, according to a *Multinational Monitor* investigation. Carnegie Mellon University places atop the rearranged U.S. News and World Report list of universities, ranked according to the sum of fees earned by university presidents for membership on corporate boards. Carnegie Mellon's immediate past president, Robert Mehrabian, took over \$105,000 in board payments from four publicly traded corporations in 1996.

None of the presidents on U.S. News and World Report's list of top liberal arts colleges serve on the boards of publicly traded corporations.

The growing presence of university officials on corporate boards is one important manifestation of the increasing corporatization of U.S. universities. The growing links between universities and big business raise important questions about academic integrity and university autonomy.

University officials face two sorts of conflicts from outside positions such as corporate directorships: direct and indirect conflicts of interest, and conflicts of commitment. Members of corporate boards acquire fiduciary duties to advance the interests of the shareholders they represent, and these interests may not be commensurate with what is best for a university. More generally, university officials serving as members of corporate boards may find their worldview (and their financial interests) significantly affected by their corporate ties and obligations, perhaps in ways that conflict with the best interests of the academic institutions they lead. "You can't serve two masters at

once," says Lawrence Soley, author of *Leasing the Ivory Tower* and critic of close university-industry ties. Officials may also face overwhelming time demands from their commitments to their full-time university job and to their meeting-heavy directorships.

PRESIDENTIAL BOARD GAMES

University presidents come upon their corporate board opportunities in a number of ways. Georgetown's President, Father Leo O'Donovan, for example, took a spot on Disney's board after becoming acquainted with Disney CEO Michael Eisner, the father of a Georgetown student. A Lehigh alum and benefactor invited Lehigh's recent president, Peter Likins, to the board of Parker Hannifin, a Cleveland fluid power system company. University of Oklahoma's President David Boren acquired some of his directorships through relationships made as a U.S. senator, says a university spokesperson.

With regard to the increasing number of former politicians at the helm of universities, Soley says it should be no surprise that they are also serving on corporate boards of directors. These politicians-presidents have been "taught to shake the money tree for campaigning. Now, they're shaking the same tree but for a different purpose," he says.

University presidents argue that serving on corporate boards broadens their perspective and connections in ways beneficial to their universities. Regarding her directorships, Rodin says that Penn's trustees expect that "what I do, I do for Penn." Rodin believes in joining the two roles so much that she has linked her University of Pennsylvania world wide web page to Aetna's site.

Peter Likins, one of only two of nearly two dozen presidents contacted by *Multinational Monitor* who was willing to discuss the issue, comments that board service gives him "a competitive edge over presidents who prepared [for the role of university president] only through academic service. I believe the trustees understand that advantage very well."

Trustees may indeed approve of university presidents serving on corporate boards, for, as Soley points out, "CEOs are the largest single group of trustees of universities."

Some university officials are willing to acknowledge that personal aggrandizement has at least something to do with why they serve on cor-

porate boards. Richard Cyert, president of Carnegie Mellon University from 1972 to 1990, admits, "I benefitted a great deal" from service on the boards of companies like First Boston (an investment bank), American Standard (the toilet company), and H.J. Heinz (the pet food and ketchup company). Cyert also admits something else that appears obvious: that university presidents obtain positions on corporate boards by trading on their university position and affiliation. Presidents "have to recognize they probably wouldn't have the job if it wasn't for their role at the university," Cyert says. In an attempt to redress this exploitation of his university role, Cyert made it a practice to donate large portions of his stocks gains back to the university.

Georgetown President O'Donovan follows a similar practice, deferring his salary as a Disney director into a student scholarship fund. But this practice is not the norm.

Inquiries were made of several companies regarding the reasons they recruit university officials to their boards of directors, but none were answered.

KEEN TO MOONLIGHT

Perhaps no individual more clearly illustrates the dangers of university presidents maintaining corporate ties than Thomas Kean, former governor of New Jersey. Kean has been president of Drew University since 1990. He has been a director of Aramark, a large food services company that is effectively the only competitor with Marriott in the market for subcontracting university dining services, since 1994. Aramark began participating in a multi-million dollar contract with Drew University on May 27, 1997. Kean refused to comment on this matter.

Kean is also a director of Bell Atlantic, United Health Care, Beneficial Corporation, Fiduciary Trust Company International, and Amerada Hess, the petroleum refining company. Kean made a bare minimum of \$235,000 from his directorships in 1996, and attended at least 28 meetings.

Though Kean declined to respond to questions, it seems obvious there is not a stringent review process at Drew. In fact, Kean's own secretaries expressed disbelief at the extent of his board memberships - evidence of the important role that simple disclosure can play.



WOMYN UNITE
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!
MARCH FOR WOMYN'S SAFETY

Wednesday, March 19th, 9 p.m.
Meet in Student Union

Welcome to Women's History Month

By Jill Baron

March is Women's History Month. In recognition of this important and often overlooked event, the University is hosting many lectures, guest speakers, and activities throughout the month. I will return to this later; for now I would like to focus on why there is a Women's History Month, why it matters, and where we stand today.

The Women's movement has its roots in the middle of the nineteenth century. The First National Women's Rights Convention was held in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1850. Among the attendees was the famous black abolitionist Sojourner Truth. Although she was the only black woman present, the convention delegates did not forget the million and a half black women who were still in slavery in the South; they vowed that "in every effort for an improvement in our civilization, we will bear in our heart of hearts the memory of the trampled womanhood of the plantation, and omit no effort to raise it to a share on the rights we claim for ourselves." The movement pushed on into the twentieth century, eventually gaining the right to vote, making it more acceptable for women to have careers, and calling attention to such issues as abortion rights, rape, and domestic violence. This brings us to the modern notion of feminism.

The word "feminist" still carries a negative connotation today. The image of the angry, man-hating lesbian still seems to dominate many people's idea of feminism. In a study done in 1989 that sampled college women, most of the respondents supported feminist goals, but only 16% said that they were definitely feminists, while 33% said that they were definitely not feminists. This is because our society fears strong women. Women are afraid to call themselves feminists for several reasons: they fear the bad reputation [i.e., being called a dyke]; we live in an anti-intellectual society that values conformity and homogeneity; and girls are not encour-

aged to speak up, but are encouraged to be timid and docile. These misconceptions about feminism are where the root of the problem lies- people are afraid of what they don't know, and are hesitant to ally themselves with anything even remotely controversial. A feminist is simply someone who places a high value on women, thinks women are worthwhile human beings, and recognizes the need for social change. I don't see anything about man-hating lesbians in there. Anyone can be a feminist - man or woman, straight or gay, young or old, conservative or liberal. Deconstructing these stereotypes is the first step to fixing the problems that still exist for women in our society.

I don't want to undermine the strides the women's movement has made; without it, we'd still be expected to stay home barefoot and pregnant. However, the fact remains that even today, problems still disproportionately affect women's lives. We still face a pay gap, gender segregation in jobs, divorce, poverty, child care, elder care, harassment, rape, domestic violence, emphasis on appearance, and restrictions on our reproductive choices. Right now, a woman who works full-time makes about 76 cents for every dollar that a man makes. Unfortunately, age and race are factors. No matter what their race, men earn more than women of the same ethnicity: for whites, women earn 80 cents for every man's dollar; for blacks, women earn 63 cents for every man's 73 cents, and for Hispanics, women earn 56 cents for every man's 63 cents. Also, the older you are, the bigger the wage gap: women ages 55-64 make 66 cents for every dollar a man makes; ages 45-54, 67 cents; ages 35-44, 73 cents; ages 25-34, 83 cents; ages 20-24, 95 cents. This is good news for the younger generations, but bad news for women who have spent their entire lives toiling in factories and sweatshops. These are the hourly rates for women working in regulated factories around the world: in Bangladesh, 31 cents; in China, 28 cents; in

Honduras, \$1.31; in Indonesia, 34 cents; in Nicaragua, 76 cents; and in the United States, \$9.56. These are the hourly rates for women working in sweatshops [unregulated factories]: in Bangladesh, 7 cents; in China, 20 cents; in Honduras, 36 cents; in Indonesia, 29 cents; in Nicaragua, 22 cents; and in the U.S., \$1.00. According to the National Committee on Pay Equity, the average woman can expect to be short-changed \$420,000 in salary over a lifetime of earnings when compared to men. Although we have come very far, we still have a long way to go.

I would like to urge everyone to attend some of the programs the University is hosting this month to celebrate the plight of women around the world.

Some highlights:

Wed. 3/11-- at 8PM in the exercise room of the Sports Complex, there will be a self-defense workshop.

Thu. 3/26-- at 8PM in the Old Chem Peace Center, there will be a coffeehouse and readings from Focus on Women on Diversity. Audience participation is encouraged.

Mon. 3/30-- from 1:30PM to 6:30PM on the third floor of the SAC, there will be a mini-conference on Women Who Dare, and workshops on sexual expressiveness; domestic violence; lookism, weightism, and racism; and videos, resource tables and refreshments.

Mon. 3/30-- at 9PM in the Uniti Cultural Center, there will a program on Reproductive Rights and Women of Color.

Tue. 3/31-- at 8:20 AM in Javitz 110, there will be a program on Gender Equality in Sports

Wed. 4/1-- The Center for Womyn's Concerns is hosting the Take Back the Night March; meet under the bridge at the entrance to the Stony Brook Union at 9PM.

MARCH 1998: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Living The Legacy Of Women's Rights"

By Lisa Gattis

Countless millions of women planned, organized, wrote, marched, lobbied, paraded, and broke new ground in the 150 years of the Women's Rights movements, and thanks to them our world is forever changed. Women and men in our generation, and the ones that will follow us, are a living legacy of women's rights won against staggering odds in a revolution achieved without violence. Women have much to be proud of.

During Women's History Month, we remember the pioneers, and work to increase awareness of women's issues. One of the Month's goals is to promote a more equitable portrayal of women in history - re-writing women into history. This is especially important for the self-esteem of little girls and the false sense of superiority of little boys. With this said, it is essential that both children and adults have the opportunity to learn about the true historical accomplishments of women from diverse backgrounds. Today, schools and communities celebrate the month with special events, and the Stony Brook is no exception! This year's theme, "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights," honors the contribution of women's place in history with a variety of events offered on campus. USB will host a variety of panel discussions, art exhibits, lectures, film presentations, concerts, and workshops this month, all emphasizing the rich diversity of women.

The following is a brief list of this week's events. They are all free, except where noted with \$.

Some common locations for events are:

The Peace Center - Old Chemistry

The Spot - Fanny Brice Building, Roosevelt Quad - 632-6027

Staller Center (Unless Otherwise Noted, Events On The Main Stage) - 632-7230

Humanities Institute - Frank Melville, Jr. Library, Room E4351 - 632-7765

Wednesday, March 11-

The Interfaith Center Chaplains speak about Women of Courage and Conviction in the Peace Center from 12:40 to 2:00 pm.

A Musical Showcase: A six band benefit performance for Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS). This will be held at The Spot at 9:00 pm (\$).

In Honor of Women: The Indigo Experience, Cultural Expression rooted in Blues. Uniti Cultural Center at 9:00 pm.

Thursday, March 12-

Speaker Eva Kittay will discuss the topic, Feminist Models for Aging in the Stony Brook Union Ballroom. For luncheon reservations (\$), call the Career Women's Network at 632-8260.

Saturday, March 14th-

The Staller Center will show the film: A Streetcar Named Desire (1951). Introduction by Academy Award winning actress Kim Hunter. 8:00 pm (\$).

Monday, March 23rd-

Is Love a Euro-American Invention? Speaker Jack Goody of Cambridge University will discuss. Humanities Institute, 12:30 pm.

Feminism and Psychoanalysis in the Millennium - a discussion by speaker Juliet Mitchell of Cambridge University. Humanities Institute, 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 25th-

Dollmaking Demonstration by Native American artist, Mary Carol Hanna (Blackfeet/Paiute) in the Student Union,

Fireside Lounge, 12:40 to 2:00 pm.

Massage Therapy by Healing Hands - Join Y-Past (Yes, Parents are Students Too!) and the Wellness Center, in an evening of relaxation and pampering. Chapin Community Center, Building A, rm. 1002 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Call 632-6755 for info.

Musical Showcase benefit (encore performance).

Thursday, March 26th-

Focus, On Women, On Diversity (Feminist Journal) is hosting a Coffee House and Readings. Open Mic! Refreshments! and Shared voices! Audience participation welcome. Peace Center, 8:00 pm.

Friday, March 27th-

Panel discussion: New Arts? Mary Kelly, Miming the Master: Boy Things, Bad Girls, and Femmes Vitales; Judith Barry (video and installation artist), Public Fantasies. Humanities Institute, 3:15 pm (\$).

Film: Fire (Director, Deppa Mehta) is a melodrama about two middle-class Indian women in unhappy, arranged marriages who find solace in a relationship with each other. Introduced by Suparna Rajaram (USB, Psychology Dept.) Staller Center at 7:00 pm (\$).

Saturday, March 28th-

From Omegas to Mr. Adams, the Importance of Literature for Feminist Science Studies. Speaker, Susan Sqier (Penn State.) Humanities Institute at 3:00 PM (\$).

USB Women's Softball vs. New Hampshire College. Varsity Softball Field 632-7282. 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Come out and support our team!

In addition to these events, check out the Women's History Month display in the Admissions Office, located on the first floor of the Administration Building. This display promises to provoke thoughts and actions in honoring women's place in history.

You can pick up your own copy of the calendar of events and/or a poster from the Women's Studies office in Old Chemistry, rm. 105. Call 632-9176 for office hours and info.

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

By DH Campbell

On Wednesday, March 4, 1998, the Supreme Court handed down an historic decision that ruled that under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, same-sex sexual harassment is against the law. The case, which involved an oil rig crew worker who was forced to endure threats of rape by other male workers as well as inappropriate sexual comments, was at first thrown out of court by a federal judge because the judge refused to believe that same-sex harassment existed. Later, on an appeal, the case was granted certiorari by the Supreme Court. The court then heard oral argument on the issue and decided to order that the case be reversed and remanded, meaning that the court has ordered the lower court which threw the case out, to hear the case over and make a ruling that is in keeping with the idea that same-sex harassment is against the law and in violation of a person's civil rights.

If one were to look only at the issue of same-sex sexual harassment becoming illegal, one would be pleased to see that the Supreme Court has created an equal standard for protection against harassment for men as well as women regardless of whether it was same-sex based or otherwise. Now though, legal and political pundits are beginning to contemplate the role (by way of precedent) that this case will have in giving Gays and Lesbians more legal protection against harassment and discrimination.

The issue is this; this case now creates a loophole for Gays and Lesbians to protect them-

selves from gay bashing slurs by claiming that these slurs are sexual harassment and are only being used on them based on the notion that they do not always exhibit characteristics of members of their same sex. It will also allow Gays and Lesbians to possibly sue on harassment grounds if they are subjected to lewd insults on sexual preference by people of the same sex.

For example, let's say that any member of the Gay and Lesbian community who may have been forced to deal with lewd gay bashing slurs primarily based on the fact that he/she didn't represent traditional gender characteristics, would now have the opportunity to file a complaint with a campus EEOC or a company's human resources division asking that actions of protections now be put in place. Should a campus or a company refuse (or fail) to comply they (the company or campus) could be held responsible and/or negligent and be left open to federal fines as well as possible civil suit action that could amount to millions of dollars in compensation.

This news that Gays and Lesbians may have more options to protect themselves is encouraging but we should remember that this case may not be held as a solid legal precedent that will open the flood gates to total Gay and Lesbian equality in our society. One reason for this is that the courts, both Federal and Supreme, have the ability to distinguish precedent. This means that they may choose to ignore this ruling as a precedent for rights should they choose to and keep it strictly in context of the sexual harassment area.

Another factor that may limit the effect of this legal precedent for total legal equality is that the decision, although unanimous, was extremely vague in its wording. In fact the complete ruling that was written by Justice Antonin Scalia, totaled only about 7 pages, which is unusually short for both a Supreme Court ruling and one written by Justice Scalia. The vagueness in the wording is intentional because it lets the lower courts of our country hammer out the fine details of any policy formation or standard of review by way of case law. It also allows judges to use more discretion in adding (or possibly subtracting) to the protection of same-sex harassment. Therefore we will have to wait and see how lower courts judges choose to interpret the ruling, but it is unlikely that radical changes will occur anytime soon.

Though, it is important to see the significant step forward that this ruling may offer in the area of protection for Gays and Lesbians in our society.

It is also important to see a significant indication that our courts are beginning to realize that there is more than one type of harassment and possibly more than one type of attraction between people. And, finally, perhaps deep down inside, the Supreme Court is beginning to realize that perhaps it is time to open small loop holes in the law to protect a minority in our population (not an uncommon thing for the Supreme Court to do.). Small, slow steps perhaps but significant and historic none the less.

TIME MAGAZINE'S SKEWED TRIBUTE TO HENRY LUCE

By Norman Solomon

The nation's biggest news weekly is celebrating itself. *Time* magazine has put out a "75th Anniversary Issue," paying tribute to the vision of founder Henry Luce. Readers get an inspiring -- and expurgated -- story.

Time began as a pathbreaking news-magazine in March 1923, the special edition recalls, and Luce was "its undisputed leader for nearly 40 years." We're told that he wanted *Time* to be "a vehicle of moral and political instruction, a point of connection between the world of elite ideas and opinion and middle-class people in the 'true' America hungry for knowledge."

Luce died in 1967, and the magazine is now the flagship of the largest media conglomerate ever, Time Warner. But the firm still doffs its corporate hat to the Luce mythology. After more than 60 pages devoted to self-homage, *Time* closes its March 9 issue with an essay by managing editor Walter Isaacson that clings to the Luce mantle.

While acknowledging that Luce let his "global agendas" unduly influence *Time's* content, Isaacson assures us that the rough edges have been smoothed: "Although our stories often have a strong point of view, we try to make sure they are informed by open-minded reporting rather than partisan biases." Yet the magazine lays claim to Luce's core values: "Above all, we continue to share his belief that journalism can be, at its best, a noble endeavor."

But *Time's* 75th anniversary issue is a telling instance of how lofty rhetoric can easily

serve as a cover story. The hero of the retrospective, Henry Luce, gets plenty of adulation and some hazy references to flaws. But it's sanitized history, omitting less pleasant facts.

They aren't hard to find. As tragic events unfolded in Europe, Luce ran his thriving magazine empire with an odious tilt. "In 1934 he devoted an entire issue of *Fortune* to glorifying Mussolini and Fascism," wrote independent journalist George Seldes. And in *Time*, Luce "permitted an outright pro-fascist, Laird Goldsborough, to slant and pervert the news every week."

One of many brilliant books by Seldes, *Witness to a Century*, recounts a revealing incident in March 1942: "Thurman Arnold, the assistant attorney general, appearing before a Senate committee investigating war profiteering, testified that Ethyl Gasoline Corp., General Motors, Standard Oil and I.G. Farben of Germany had an agreement by which the American corporations supplied Hitler with the secret of making tetra-ethyl lead for gasoline, without which Hitler could not have operated his air force or gone to war, and also supplied him with the secrets of making synthetic rubber."

The head of the committee, Sen. Harry Truman, responded by declaring "This is treason." But the big press glossed over the matter. As Seldes noted: "Henry Luce's *Time*, for example, ridiculed Truman on page 16 one week and published a \$5,000 Standard Oil advertisement on page 89."

After formation of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947, Luce -- a close friend of U.S. spy-master Allen Dulles -- privately urged his corre-

spondents to cooperate with the agency. Meanwhile, Luce debriefed with the CIA about his own travels overseas.

Along with some other powerful media executives, Luce joined Dulles on the board of directors of the National Committee for a Free Europe. That private front group funneled money to neo-Nazi emigre organizations.

Fifty-seven years ago, Luce proclaimed that the world was in the midst of "The American Century." His pronouncement is still echoing.

On March 3, when *Time* spent \$3 million to throw a celebrity-filled anniversary party at Radio City Music Hall in New York, one of the featured guests was Bill Clinton. "Tonight, *Time* magazine has paid tribute to the time it not only observed but helped to shape," the president said, "the 100 stunning years that your founder Henry Luce so unforgettably called the American Century."

Time Warner bigwigs like the sound of such talk. And they see no reason for the United States to relinquish the next hundred years. "To the extent that America remains an avatar of freedom," *Time's* managing editor contends, "the Global Century about to dawn will be, in Luce's terminology, another American Century."

No thanks. One was more than enough.

Norman Solomon is a syndicated columnist. His most recent books are "Wizards of Media Oz" (co-authored with Jeff Cohen) and "The Trouble With Dilbert: How Corporate Culture Gets the Last Laugh."

The Continuing Adventures of Space Doctor!

By James Polichak

Last Thursday, March 5th, Dr. Bernard Harris, astronaut, physician, and entrepreneur, spoke in the SAC Auditorium about his career and the impact of space-related technology on society. The well-attended talk and slide-show drew area high school students as well as USB students and staff.

Dr. Harris has a varied background and an even more varied professional career. He was raised by his teacher/mother on a Navajo reservation as a child, then moved to San Antonio. He attended the University of Houston, got his M.D. from Texas Tech, interned at the Mayo Clinic, and eventually realized his childhood dream of becoming an astronaut in 1990. Dr. Harris has been on two space shuttle flights, helping to deliver a satellite into orbit and docking with the MIR space station, along with conducting numerous scientific studies. Dr. Harris, who is of a mixed African-American and Native-American ancestry, became the first African-American to space walk in 1995. In 1996 he became the vice president of Microgravity and Life Sciences, a company specializing in scientific research in space.

Dr. Harris entertained the audience with his good-humored stories about how a person becomes an astronaut and what it is like to be in space. Dr. Harris's dreams of being an astronaut began with his hearing reports about the space program as a child on the reservation, and were further spurred when Star Trek aired with McCoy as the first TV doctor in space. Dr. Harris chose medicine as a career from experience with his family doctor and because you can't major in being an astronaut at college. Dr. Harris offers similar advice to would-be astronauts. He says to choose a scientific field related to space travel and become an expert in that before applying to be an astronaut. NASA is highly selective and those people who do get to become astronauts must be highly educated as well as devoted. Dr. Harris said that the average age of a new astronaut is about 35, and that astronaut has a Ph.D. in a science, an M.D., or training as a military test pilot on high-performance jets.

The new astronaut receives a lot of training, Dr. Harris said. New recruits go through a year of basic astronaut training, consisting of courses in astronomy, geology, and other sciences as well as flight training and physical exercise. According to Dr. Harris, preparing for each shuttle flight is like getting another Master's degree. Preparation for each flight consists of 12 to 18 months of study and training for the research that will be conducted on the flight. This unending education was part of what drew Dr. Harris to become an astronaut. Once in space, astronauts work 16 hour days conducting experiments and delivering satellites into orbit, in what Dr. Harris described as like being in a Winnebago with six other people for two weeks without ever going outside.

As a physician, Dr. Harris has been especially concerned with the effects of space travel on a person's health. Flying in the space shuttle has a

wide range of effects on the human body, starting from take-off. The space shuttle reaches escape velocity, the speed of 17,500 miles per hour necessary to escape the earth's gravitational field, in four minutes. This has the effect of tripling the gravitational force on a person, making a 200 pound man feel like he weighs 600 pounds. Once in space, the major factor influencing a person's health continues to be gravity, or the lack thereof. This lack of gravity changes a person's feelings of orientation, often confusing astronauts for a while. On his first flight, Dr. Harris had trouble finding the earth out the shuttle window because it was below rather than above him. In addition to this psychological adjustment, the rest of the body changes as well. Dr. Harris showed pictures of himself on earth and in space. On earth, one fifth of the body's fluids are in the legs, kept there by gravity. In space, this fluid is free to disperse itself around the body. The result is that astronauts have fat puffy faces. Add to this the interesting hairstyles zero-gravity produces, and space travel seems a bit less glamorous.

This fluid adjustment continues as long as one stays in space, with fluid volume shrinking over time. Additional effects of lack of gravity are a loss of 10 to 15% of a person's muscle tissue in the first two weeks of space travel; a loss of 1% of bone calcium per month, a potentially irreversible loss; and heart shrinkage (it doesn't have to work as hard to pump blood anymore). On a more behavioral level, to practice medicine in space, both the patient and doctor must be strapped down to prevent them from floating away from each other. Dr. Harris emphasized that every aspect of our lives is affected by gravity, right down to the chairs his audience was sitting in. Studying the effects of loss of gravity should tell scientists a great amount of new information about human health and behavior.

Space is an extreme environment even without the absence of gravity. Dr. Harris participated in an experiment measuring temperature in space. He and another astronaut went 35 feet out into space on the shuttle's robot arm while it was facing away from the earth with the sun down. The temperature sunk to -165 degrees, making the astronauts shiver in spite of their suits' heating systems. After 45 minutes, the sun came up (the sun rises every 45 minutes from orbit) and the temperature rose to over 200 degrees within ten minutes, overwhelming the air-conditioning in the space suits. Space travel also has effects on the immune system, increasing white blood cell counts, but making them less effective by still-

mysterious mechanisms. Cuts also heal much more slowly. Dr. Harris got a paper cut on his first space flight that did not heal until he returned to earth two weeks later.

Dr. Harris devoted the last portion of his talk to a discussion of the impact of space technologies on daily life and what he expects the future to hold for space travel and science. Dr. Harris showed slides of South American rain forests from space, pointing out areas of clear-cutting and other human activities. Astronauts noticed that huge clouds of dust get swept up in the Sahara and travel through the upper atmosphere to South America. Thus, much of the topsoil in the Amazon rain forest is from the Sahara Desert in Africa. Only space travel allows such views on the earth and insights into large-scale human activity. Other products of the space program also have a far more direct impact on our lives. Medical imaging technologies like CT scans and magnetic resonance imaging grew out of research designed to create better images of planets. The entire modern telecommunications industry-- cellular phones, global positioning,

satellite TV, and so on-- owe their existence to space research. Many advances in microelectronics and computer design were brought about as a consequence of needing to save space and reduce weight on satellites and space probes. Dr. Harris is confident that future space travel will have similar effects, especially in medicine and studies of human behavior as space travel-time grows and space travel becomes more popular.

The near future of human space science, according to Dr. Harris, starts with the international space station. Work begins in June and is expected to take five years to produce a space station that is about 300 feet in length and width and 50 feet in depth (to the extent that these terms are meaningful in space). This space station will provide a year-round facility for scientific research in space. Following the building of the space station will be the construction of a lunar base. This base may not be a colony, but a staging area for trips to Mars. Mars captures human excitement more than the moon, so much so that NASA's website during the recent Mars mission was the busiest ever seen. Dr. Harris believes that serious work on a lunar base will begin in the next 10 to 15 years, followed by serious thought and work on getting humans to Mars. While he did not comment on the recent evidence for ancient microbial life on Mars (which seems less and less likely to be valid), Dr. Harris said that he had never seen any aliens, nor had any of the other astronauts. He did note that astronauts themselves tend to be kind of weird, though.



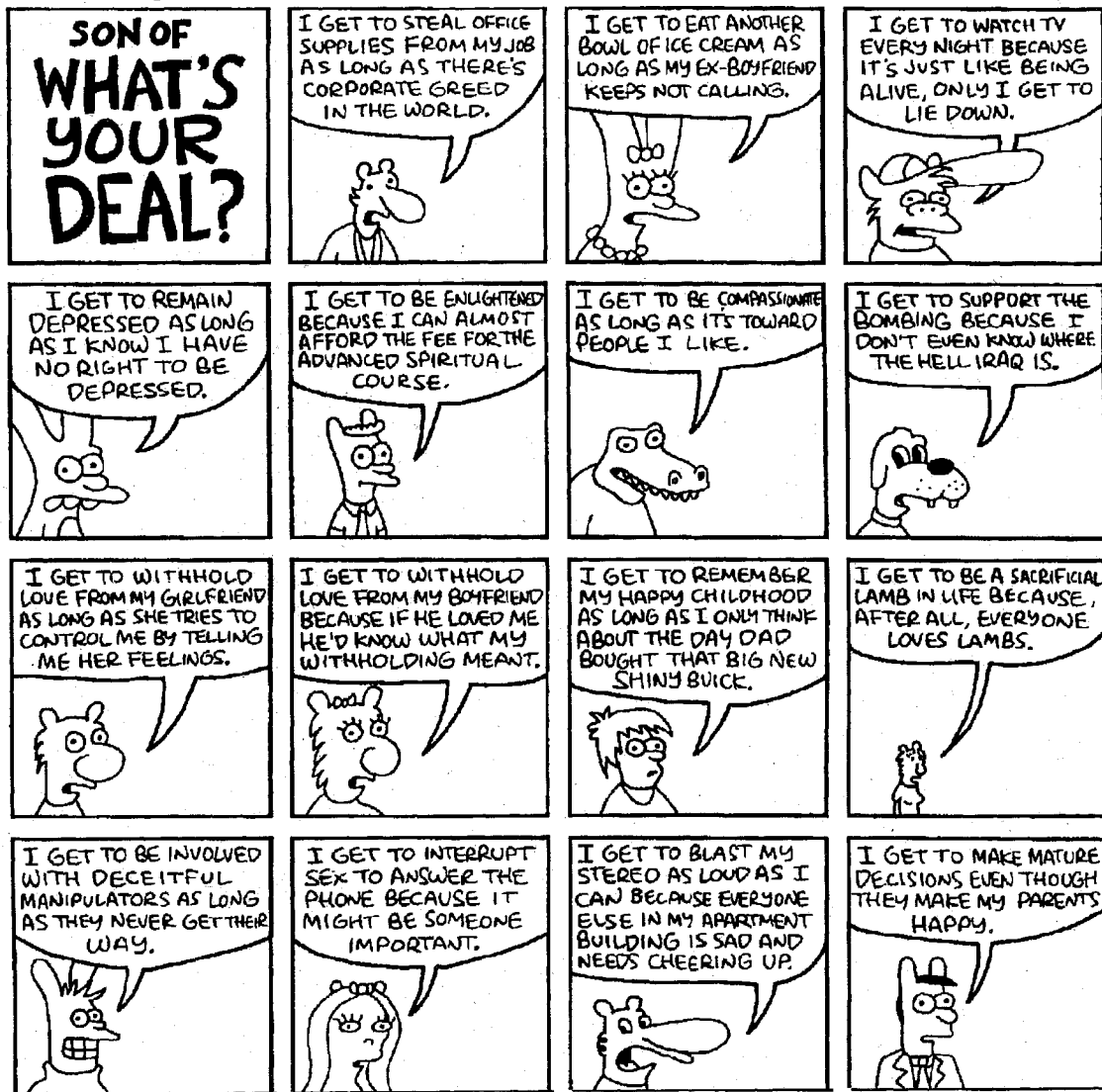
Dr. Bernard Harris

When in space, always remember to put the seat down after you use the space toilet. Otherwise, you might get accidentally sucked out into the dark, inky void when you flush.

This public service announcement brought to you by *The Storm Brook Press*.

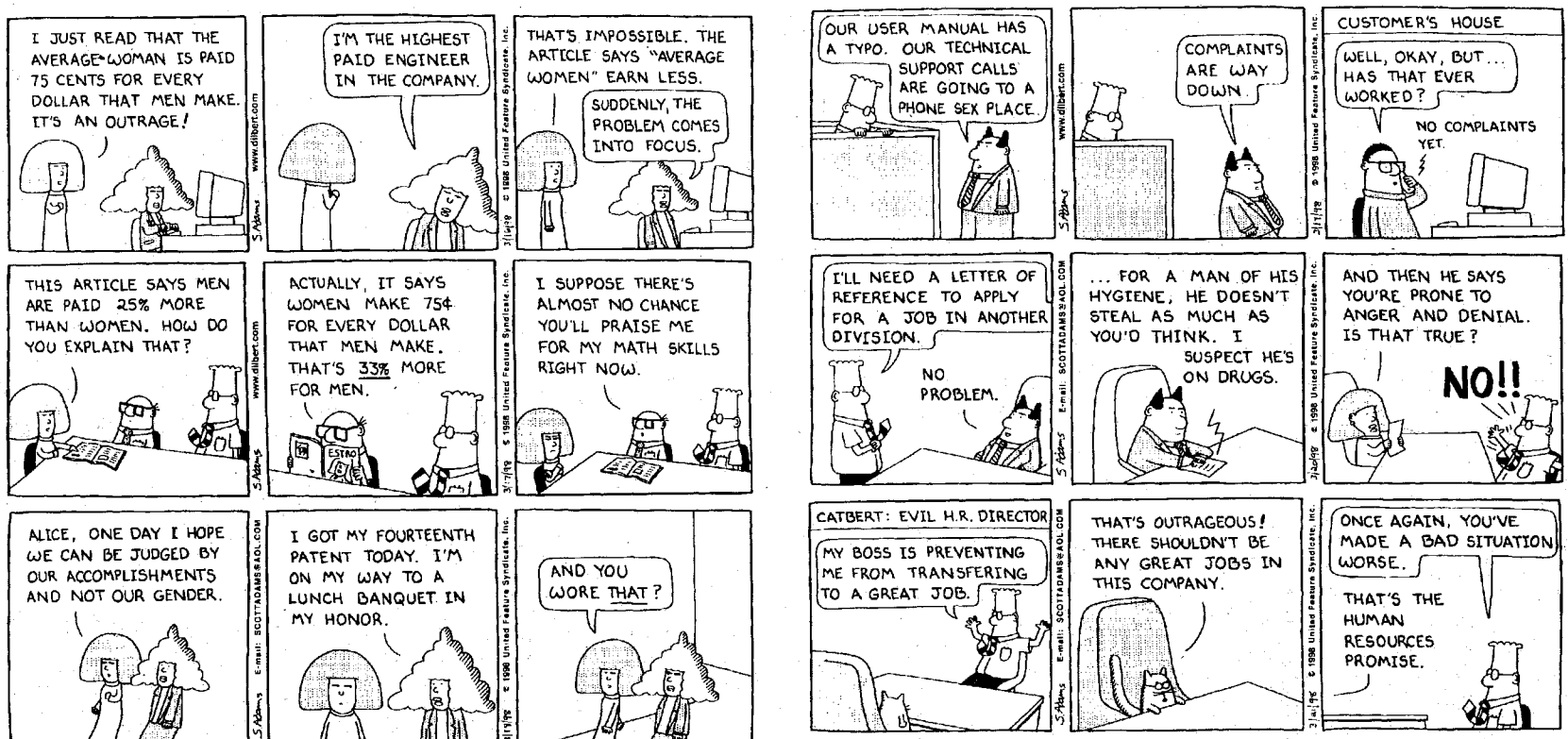
LIFE IN HELL

©1998
BY MATT
GREENING



DILBERT[®]

by Scott Adams



Hey!
 Now that I ate your
 comics, I fully intend
 to eat your soul.
 Muahahahaahahaha!

STRANGE BUT TRUE! BY DANIEL HORNER



Fact: In his free time, billionaire computer maven Bill Gates knits his own sweaters!

Strike Force Echo

by Matthew
 Vernon
 Xavier
 Willemain

<p>OH MY GOD! What have you done with my hair!</p>	<p>And get this coffee off of my head, pronto!</p>	<p>When last we left our heroes (Vampire and Ninja Master,) they had just been discovered by the evil Spyder, who sent Balnab to "get" 'em!</p>
<p>STRIKE FORCE ECHO</p>	<p>Stay back, or I'll do some scary Vampire stuff!</p>	<p>I could take that "USB Ninja"...he's got nothin'!</p>
<p>GULP! "Lord Of The Oak People" my ass!</p>	<p>What just happened? Once again, I have no idea whatsoever. It's about 7 am, and I have to paste-up the whole paper before 10 when Anne takes the thing to get printed, just so you can get it off the shelves on Wednesday. What's up with that two frame thing? It doesn't even fit right!</p>	<p>Oh, woe. A forlorn robot am I!</p> <p>NEXT ISSUE: EPISODE Who do I look like, Kreskin? Maybe something about I-Con.</p>

<p>Evil Steve: Megalomaniac Squirrel</p> <p>ALAS! I AM SO ALONE WITHOUT MY DEAR DEAD ESTEBAN...</p>	<p>Hello Mr. Steve, I'm the executor of Mr. Esteban's will...</p>	<p>and you were it's beneficiary. Mr. Esteban was a very wealthy man.</p>	<p>BOO-YAH!! NOW I CAN BUILD MY REBIGULATOR!</p>
---	---	---	--

IN "THIS SPACE FOR RENT" By Brian Libfeld

The Fashion Edge

by Amanda C. Stevens

Harper's
Bazaar says to
try the
"Minimalist
Business look": defi-
nitely avoid excess
underwear, and
shirt or blouses.
Maybe even ask
for that raise.



Mademoiselle says
you can never go
wrong with the flying
saucer look.



ADVENTURES IN THE MEDIA WING

I'm Press executive
editor David Ewalt,
and
some
I will
run
that are funny.

For
reason
only
comics

This puts ridiculous
strain on my
dear,
talented
colleague
Production
Manager
Matthew Vernon
Xavier Willemain.

NOT
WOMAN
ME!

Statesman editor
Pete Gratton
is
totally
uninvolved.

USB NINJA

AT THE SAC...

GRRRR

SSSSSSSS...

TAP
TAP
TAP

FIVE
HOURS
LATER
...

YEAH!
COOL!

ARGH!

Top Ten Things That Fill in the Phrase "What Part of <BLANK> Don't You Understand?"

- 10) What part of, "He's Albanian, he's a wrestler, and I love him," don't you understand?
- 9) What part of, "That's not the human head I sent you," don't you understand?
- 8) What part of, "I lost my virginity to an 81-year-old with no legs," don't you understand?
- 7) What part of, "I'm gay," don't you understand?
- 6) What part of, "I'm going to shove my hand up your ass and rapidly open and close my fingers," don't you understand?
- 5) What part of, "That's not MY blood," don't you understand?
- 4) What part of, "I don't want to play 'Will It Sting?', Uncle Willy," don't you understand?
- 3) What part of, "Because he's French," don't you understand?
- 2) What part of, "Your mother is a coke-snorting, cock-sucking whore," don't you understand?
- 1) What part of, "It doesn't fit," don't you understand?

The Lunatic's Ravings The Road Warrior!

By The Lunatick

Road rage has been in the news a lot lately. Why? Because they have decided it is the next hot topic for the news media to swarm on and politicians to cater to them over. How long has it been a problem? Since there have been cars.

OK, let's look at more recently. Do you remember the little dashboard-mounted sound boxes? They came out in the early to mid 80's. They had one to 20 buttons. What were the buttons, death ray, machine gun, missile, etc. etc? They went under various names including The Revenger, The Road Warrior, and many others. What they all had in common was the noises and a theme of get even with the people that piss you off while driving. I think this would definitely be considered "road rage."

That was then; now they want to make "road rage" a federal offense, literally (The usual political catering to the media's latest feeding frenzy). Now let's throw all the fast drivers, red light blowers, and general maniacs in jail. Yeah right, GET WITH THE PROGRAM PEOPLE! How are they going to put these people in jail?? Law enforcement! Right. Um, HELLO, if the cops were out there writing tickets for these offenses in the first place people wouldn't do them.

Let's study human nature. If people think they can get away with something they will. I've noticed a trend lately; the number of people blowing red lights has increased. Why? Because they can get away with it. The last few times they saw someone do it, they got away with it, so why not. Every time I think I blow a light badly, I look in my rearview and count the number of cars that follows me. It usually exceeds 5. None of them got tickets,

so how are they going to be put in jail? As usual the Politicians look to treat the disease by fighting the symptoms and not the cause.

So what causes "road rage?" Well, I can't answer for everyone, but I can tell you what pisses me off: BAD DRIVERS. I'm not talking about the "road rage" drivers, but the people that don't know how to drive... the people that stop in acceleration and merge lanes, because they don't know how to drive.

A perfect example of this can be found on campus. The main and south entrances both have acceleration/merge lanes. I actually stopped at the beginning of these lanes to see how much speed I could attain at normal acceleration (my tach didn't go above 4000 rpm when I shifted). At the south entrance 55mph, the main entrance 70mph, this was from a dead stop. The speed limit on Rt. 97 is 55, so if you go into the merge lane, you should be able to keep going and merge if you know how to drive. Yet people still stop and wait for a break in traffic, which causes a back-up and pisses people off, hence "road rage."

Another thing that pisses me off is the people who do 20 mph in the left lane of a major highway and refuse to get out of the way. This seems to happen mostly in New York, in the city and the surrounding areas. You get behind them and flash your lights, the sign of "please move aside and let me pass." Their response is to flash you a hand sign not found in the Vehicle and Traffic Laws (the finger). Either that, or hitting their brakes, or just ignoring you. Usually they are paralleling an equally slow driving person in the right lane. What does this do? Causes a back up, pissing people off, hence, "road rage."

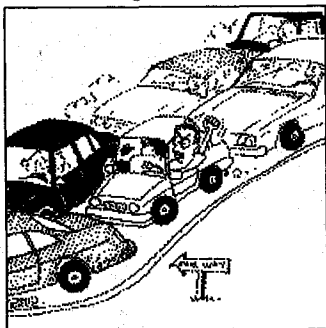
Then the ultimate thing that pisses me off: Poor or outdated traffic control and planning.

What do I mean? Look at gridlock. It's common in NYC, but on Long Island?????

I see it every day. The light is green but you can't go anywhere because there are a string of cars blocking the intersection. This has nothing to do with heavy traffic, but with poorly timed traffic lights. So it can take you 20 min to go 1 mile because of 1 fucked up traffic light. An example of this is on Rt. 347 between Stony Brook Rd. and Rt. 97. A year ago they installed a traffic light at the medical complex. Since then traffic has backed up from this light across Rt. 97 during times of heavier traffic. I used to fly through there, but now it takes 15 min to go about 1.5 mi. What does this do? Cause a back-up and piss people off... hence, "road rage" (get the point yet?).

A lot of people blame aggressive drivers as responsible for road rage. WRONG! It's the non-aggressive drivers, the wimps. The ones who sit at a stop sign waiting for the road to be clear, passing up spaces that a Mack truck could turn into, because they don't know how to drive their car. It's the people that swing all the way to the left to make a right turn (and vise versa) and don't use their blinker to indicate which direction they are turning. They also happen to be driving a Ford Escort or some other tiny car, not a Mack Truck. These people are great; the poor smuck behind them goes to pass and they turn right into them. Nice accident, but who's at fault; the aggressive driver or the clueless one who doesn't know how to handle their vehicle or the "optional" equipment it came with (blinkers)?

I could keep going on but let's get to the point: The cure for road rage is the same as the cure to most other problems, education and intelligent planning, not stiffer penalties for laws that aren't enforced. I know, I live in a dream world to expect this to happen, but remember, these are only the ravings of The Lunatick.



New Improv Troupe Created At Stony Brook

By Hilary Vidair

Theatre is often written, rehearsed, and eventually, performed. Yet there is a form of acting in which a script is not used. This is called improvisation (otherwise known as improv). The participants act spontaneously, saying and doing whatever comes to mind at the moment. This includes games involving movement, word associations, and storytelling. Improv is often portrayed as very comical.

Last semester, an improv troupe was created here at SUNY Stony Brook. It was run by Joshua Sperber and Mr. Saad. However, the group fell apart. This is where Alexis Barrett stepped in. "I decided that I wanted to start the group up again because I feel that improvisational theatre is beneficial to both actors and nonactors because it not only teaches you how to improv in a theatrical situation, but it can also help you learn to think on your feet in daily life."

Barrett, a double major of Theatre and Biology, started a new improv group at the beginning of the semester. Yet she does not consider herself a svengali. "The reason behind my not wanting to form a group with distinct leadership is that I feel that an improv group should consist of people who are all taken to be at the same level," she says. "Essentially, the position that I serve is more like a coordinator. I do not try to control what exercises are performed or critique how they are done. I merely make sure that there is an established time and place for the meetings, that the needs of those who participate are met, and that there are occasional guest instructors."

"This improv group is run in a free-form fashion," Barrett says. The members of the group take turns deciding what activities they will do. "For warm-up exercises, one or two people lead the group, which are usually vocal or physical exercises, as well as exercises for the memory. Three to four different types of improv exercises are performed. These exercises are suggested by and agreed upon by the group. Each exercise is performed until everyone has had a chance to try it."

"Freeze" is one such game. Two people go on stage and start a scene, each not knowing what the other will do. As the scene progresses, the other members of the group wait for a point at which they would like to take over one of the actor's positions. When they do, they yell "freeze" and replace the old actor. The story then becomes an entirely different scenario. "This exercise is very good for developing a quick wit and leads to a lot of unpredictable comedy," Barrett says.

What Barrett didn't predict was that the group was made up of people with a lot of different interests. "Something that surprised me was the fact that very few of the participants in the improv group are theatre majors," she says. "I feel that this adds to the relaxed atmosphere because it allows it to be more recreational than serious work."

Barrett feels that the actors involved have gotten used to working with each other. "I feel that the people in the group trust each other in general

and do not feel threatened or afraid to take risks. This allows for some very comical and fluid scenes." She also feels that there is no judgement or ridicule of the actors themselves or of their work. "We're just there to have fun."

"Improv is acting without a net. It's putting your ass on the line and enjoying it," says Mark Chavez, a member of the new troupe. "This

"...it not only teaches you how to improv in a theatrical situation, but it can also help you learn to think on your feet in daily life."

group is made up of people who enjoy it. It's a great group and it's definitely fun. It's all about being in a group that trusts each other, and who can work with each other. You have

to make something work on the drop of a pin." He hopes that the group will eventually perform.

"We are going to try to get a spot on the I-CON cabaret as well as the Stony Brook Arts Festival," says 20-year-old Barrett. The details of these shows have not yet been worked out.

The improv troupe would like to see other groups perform as well. "This hopefully will include some trips to the city," she says. "Seeing other improv groups perform will hopefully serve the same purpose as having guest instructors in that we can learn about and try to replicate new improv exercises. When it comes to theatre, one should be exposed to and absorb as much as they can."

Overall, Barrett is quite satisfied with the new group, which meets Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Theatre III in the Staller Center of the Arts. "Improv is a great exercise for the mind in a fun and relaxed atmosphere," she

REFLECTIONS IN TIME

By Heather Rosenow

The Black History Month Semi-formal, held every February here at Stony Brook, once again invited students, teachers, and professionals to commemorate this important aspect of American History. The semi-formal was billed as celebrating "A Decade Defined Through Reflections in Time" and boasted the honor of having The Honorable Barry A. Cozier, of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as its Key Note Speaker. As attendees filtered in at the beginning of the evening and also during their dinner, they were treated to the sounds of the Charles Williams Quintet which provided soft Jazz in the background. Once everyone had arrived, Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, Derrin Maxwell and Colette Reid, got the evening underway by introducing Izola J. Miller, who sang the Black National Anthem.

Lakeisha Barnes led the entire assembly in a prayer of thanks and hope before dinner and then all were invited to enjoy a dinner catered by Copeland's. Shortly after the meal, a poetry reading took place. First, Joyal Mc Neil read "A Decade Defined Through Reflections in Time," which was a poem dedicated to the diversity of talents involved in Black History and the respect which its leaders and the founders of the Civil Rights Movement must be afforded by younger generations. Second Lorraine Lowe read "Angels", a poem "dedicated to our ancestors." It painted a beautiful picture of sadness and dignity of the oppression overcome, and the oppression which has yet to be conquered by the Black Community in America today.

Following the moving poetry reading, Key

Note Speaker, Justice Barry A. Cozier, was introduced to the audience as an inspirational figure in New York, and an alumni of Stony Brook who should be looked to as a role model by young African-Americans everywhere. He spoke of the experience and inspirations of the role models to be found throughout Black History. Justice Cozier also talked about "infusing the African-American experience into the fabric of the American experience." He also brought to light startling statistics about the lack of Black students in law courses across the nation, a lack he held would be felt harshly in upcoming generations of Black Americans if not rectified with action from within the Black community. Examples included the University of Southern California where in a body of 168 law students, only one is Black, and at the University of Texas, out of 468 law students, only four are black. The audience was asked, "For if the Black community in America cannot represent itself in government, who will fight for their rights and the rights of their children?"

Justice Cozier spoke of segregation in schools. He referred to Brown vs. Board of Education which abolished school segregation in this country, and contended that it had been overturned. Not by the courts, but by the general public's apathy and ignorance. Ignorance of existing racial tensions and

the economic gap which disables so many poor neighborhoods in their quest to educate the young and enable them to compete in our growing global economy. Having himself been instrumental in the Civil Rights Movements on Stony Brook campus in the 1960's, he was afraid that one day he would be able to ask the question, "Have I watched Justice dissolve in my lifetime?"

In his speech, Justice Cozier implored the young African-American community here at Stony

Brook to educate their friends and themselves in order to empower themselves. He thanked all involved with the Semi-formal and all who attended for their efforts in raising awareness for Black History. Monique Maylor then presented him with a poster about Black History Month which read, "Black by Nature Proud by Choice" and thanked him for his inspirational speech. Special recognition was given to Gregory B. Coleman and Maha Osman,

who were Co-chairs of the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee. After all the formalities were taken care of, the DJ broke out and there was dancing until 2 am.

This event was a definite success which served both as a source of education and celebration of the tradition of Black History and its leaders in the United States. The committees involved should be congratulated for organizing such an enjoyable event.



Partygoers enjoy the semi-formal

BABYLONIAN BABEL

By Daniel's Mom

So, we did it again, right? We flexed our muscles, we showed those Iraqis that we mean business, we got the resolution we wanted through the UN Security Council, or did we? Well, er, yes. A week ago the Council adopted resolution 1154 endorsing the memorandum of understanding on weapons inspections negotiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. We thereby put an end to the latest in a string of increasingly dangerous crises involving Iraq and made it clear to Saddam what we would do to him if he reneged on his agreement again this time.

But what did we actually threaten to do to him in the resolution? Good question, and, strange as it may seem, the answer is that it depends, it depends in which language you are reading the resolution. The wording is, of course, vital. As the media reported, there was much coming and going while the resolution was being worked on before the vote, back and forth several times, with the Brits and the Americans in the forefront staunchly advocating the strongest possible action (and language), the French, Russians and Chinese (the other permanent members) wanting to be more conciliatory, and the others, including such world luminaries as Costa Rica, at various points in between.

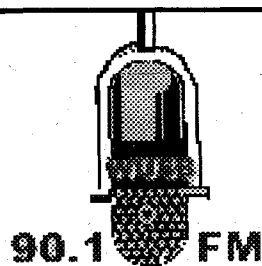
The outcome was supposed to be a victory for the hardliners (us): Saddam, according to paragraph 3 of the resolution, will suffer "severest consequences" if he doesn't toe the line. Not 'the severest,' mark you, just 'severest.' And in the

other languages? Costa Rica got the definite article that the Brits and the Americans apparently mislaid, but for the Spanish speakers, the consequences were serious rather than severe ("las mas graves"). The Arabs apparently got much the same as the Latinos. The Russian version was definitely not as strong as "severest", with or without the "the", but that's no surprise because we all know that they are Iraq's friends. The Chinese version said something else again, but in the Council the Chinese are always pretty low key and they aren't about to go to war, so it probably doesn't matter anyway. And the French - ah, they invented the language of diplomacy, didn't they! - they just got very serious consequences ("de tres graves"), which is more or less what they were aiming for all along, since they did not want to frighten Saddam too much, particularly when billions and billions of dollars worth of French contracts are at stake.

Does this mean that the Republicans finally got something right and those people at the UN really are a bunch of overpaid incompetent layabouts who can't even get a simple resolution right? Not at all. Didn't anyone realize that there were these differences, albeit subtle ones? Of course they did, but that's international diplomacy for you. Which brings me back to the Republicans. In the highly unlikely event that they ever read this article, the Republicans will probably say, if there are these discrepancies and if everyone knows about them, what is the point of the resolution anyway? or of the UN, with all its overpaid, incompetent, and now illiterate, staffers? or of international diplomacy, for that matter?

Well, there is a point. The point that must not be forgotten is that we were on the brink of serious military action, with no international coalition behind us and even without much support or backing, in a region that is a well-known powder keg, for goals - and here Republicans and Democrats agree for once - that most experts dismiss as elusive in the long run. The point is that bombing Iraq would, according to most of the experts paraded by the political left, right and center, probably not have gotten rid of Arch Enemy No. 1, or of his very well educated and highly skilled scientists and their ability to produce weapons of mass destruction again, even if we did manage to destroy some of their stockpiles. More importantly, the point is that the alternative, what bombing Iraq might have wrought, does not even bear thinking about. The concept of proportionality had totally flown out the window and the stakes, particularly in terms of human lives, were just far too high.

So instead, we have a much-needed resolution, with all its imperfections. And this imperfect resolution is actually serving its purpose well. At least for the time being, it has diffused the tension; it has allowed the weapons inspectors to continue their important work. This, not the actual words, is precisely the point of international diplomacy, of the UN itself. And for this we should be thankful. For our imperfect resolution. For international diplomacy. For Kofi Annan and the UN. Above all, for bringing us back from the brink.



Hey! Your radio station,

WUSB 90.1 FM

"RADIO FREE LONG ISLAND"

is having their annual fundraising drive...

on- and off- the air with special events and all sorts of groovy happenings!

"Wait!" you say, "I already gave at the office!" Well, yes, your Student Activity Fee does support WUSB. Or maybe you already made a donation if you're not a student No fret!. You can still help out and have a heap 'o fun by volunteering to answer phones during Radiothon, now through April 5. You'll get a chance to chat with WUSB listeners, munch on free donuts and cookies, see what our studios look like, meet WUSB staff (and see what some of us look like) and of course answer phones.

Just a few of the planned events so far. Check out web page at <http://www.wusb.org> or tune in to 90.1 for updates:

Friday, March 13, 1998

Two Man Advantage and Black People will be featured on Long Island Bandstand at 10pm. On Destinies: The Voice of Science Fiction at 11:30pm, Radiothon special featuring an interview with Jerry Doyle of Babylon 5, recorded at I-Con XIV.

Saturday, March 14, 1998

WUSB's Second Annual 12-hour Psychadelicathon, from 7pm until 7am the next day. Glue your dial to 90.1 FM and inhale the fumes.... Kicking everything into gear will be a rebroadcast of an interview with the princely poet of psychedelia himself, Donovan.

Sunday, March 15, 1998

As part of Radiothon Festivities, Jimi Durrso's Piltdown Man Trio will be performing live on Jazz On The Air at 2:30pm.

March 24

We'll be having a blues benefit at Paula Jean's in Setauket. Keep tuned for more information.

Saturday, March 28, 1998

On Onda Nueva at 4pm, the Onda Nueva All-Stars will be live in the studio!

Sunday, March 29, 1998

There'll be a special Jazz Organ Marathon on Jazz On The Air hosted by Gary Pecorino at 2:30pm.

Wednesday, April 1

High weirdness and music benefit at The Spot.

Sunday, May 10

WUSB will be having a Poetry Marathon Benefit at The Spot. More information to be announced...

Wednesday, May 13

WUSB will be having a benefit concert at The Spot featuring The Moodsetters, Moon Pearls and others. 9pm, \$4.

And of course, benefits at Dr. Shay's on Tuesdays (174 N Wellwood Avenue, in Lindenhurst, Long Island; telephone them at (516) 956-1000 to confirm dates). Benefit concerts scheduled so far at Dr. Shay's:

March 17 - Ucada and Gorilla Sweep.

March 24 - The Montgomery Cliffs and Argon & The Flying Saucers.

March 31 - Mustang Boy and Who Cares?

April 7 - Mindlessanity and Soni Path

April 14 - Fontaine and My TimeOn Earth

April 21 - The Hadleys and The Truth

April 28 - Surreal and Disturbed

All shows start around 9pm (unless otherwise given). Admission is \$4.00 or more, and for now it's 21 & over to get in (we're working on setting up some all-ages shows).

HELL-A-COMMUNICATIONS

By Robert C. Borden

On the night of Thursday, March 5th, every 216 phone number was inoperative for approximately 2-3 hours. As usual, Stony Brook residents got a first-hand look at the incompetence of the technicians and administration in the office of telecommunications. Unfortunately for the students, very little uproar was raised. Fortunately, this time the only trouble was a bit of inconvenience for those trying to get together and go out. But was that really all?

For the 2-3 hours that the phone system was entirely inoperative the possibility of a serious problem situation increases dramatically. Suppose, as accidents happen all the time and at only the inconvenient times, there was an accident. Your Uncle Pauly in Hicksville is involved in a serious car wreck. At the hospital the doctors try desperately to mend his wounds, but they are too serious. Uncle Pauly has but 3 hours to live. As he lies there in agony, he's calling your name. Your mother and father are notified immediately, and rush there for the last hours of Uncle Pauly's life.

There you are, sitting in your room playing video games. The phone is by your side waiting to ring, but it's not going to tonight. As you clear the third level of "Dungeons and something or other," your new sports car sits quietly in the nearby parking lot. Surprisingly, the Long Island Expressway is empty of its typical traffic. Uncle Pauly reaches out for your hand, but you're nowhere to be found. He's hanging on for you. Your Dad is frantic, trying your number. He tries again, checking his handwriting. He keeps getting

a strange busy signal. "How could this be?" he asks. For the last 3 or more hours, Uncle Pauly has been fighting a battle for his life. If he can only make it long enough for a chance to see your face and tell you all the things he could never say. The time for you to be there for him has passed. So has he. As Pauly's last brain waves pass over the screen, and the last beep beep beeeeeeee... of his heart flutters away into silent sadness, you get up from a long night of slaying dragons, grab a coke and say, "I'm bored."

Take another student, for example. She's walking home from the SAC, and sees that her psycho ex-boyfriend is following close behind. She runs, quite quickly, and gets to a call box. Oh no, It's broken! She quickly opens the front door and runs into her room. Unknowingly, a passing student opens the front door for the her mad pursuer, allowing him to chase and corner the poor girl in her room. Although locked, the door will soon give way to his crazed siege. She realizes when she hears no dial tone that an uncaring incompetent office known by some as "telecom" is the one thing keeping her from safety. After 10 frantic minutes of a futile attempt to dial the campus police, the RA, or anyone, the dead phone stays as such and the girl joins it in its mortality.

The students here are fictional, but the situations are entirely possible whenever the system incurs a "glitch," or a "bug." Though Stony Brook

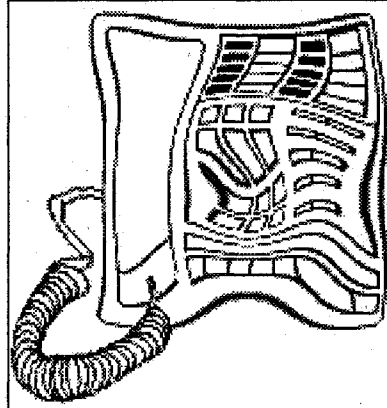
has been very lucky that nothing has happened yet as a result of the phones being down periodically, can we press that luck? Why should we have to? We entrust, and pay, the office of telecommunications to keep our telephones running. We could get by with even one phone per building, but you learn to rely on it. You don't plan on it being down

Administrative blunders such as a poor choice in a new system have cost the students hour

upon hours in downtime, lost wages, and lost opportunities. This has gone unpunished, so the problems continue to plague us. If these mistakes were made by someone in the private sector, don't you think the persons responsible would now be walking the unemployment line?

As students, we should demand reimbursement for these losses. If telecom wants to play around with new equipment, let them pay for the errors. The administrators of the office are untouchable to you, the

student, so they feel that they are invulnerable and that their mistakes can go unrecognized. This is not the case. If your phone goes dead again, pay telecom a visit. Sure, they hope you "go to the quad office" as they will tell you to, because a faceless victim is easier to kick again. For every person that takes the time to go upstairs in the ECC building, room 211, and demands that their phone be fixed NOW, telecom will become a bit more sensitive to meeting the needs of the students that pay them to do so. Remember, it's your room, it's your phone.



h o r r o r s c o p e s

By Phil and Colleen (and the prophets)

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Sometimes you eat too much. Maybe you have a tapeworm. Perhaps you should go to a doctor. It just might be serious. Although the spirits recommend taking a lot of mayonnaise, this might kill the tapeworm and decrease your amount of easy lovin'.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Since you are a dirty animal, I recommend taking a bath. This just might help you find someone who will come within fifteen feet of you. Remember to wash behind your horns.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

We've traced the call. It's coming from inside your pants. Get out of your pants immediately. But it's too late!

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

The radiation shield on your paper has broken down. Put down the paper and step back five feet. The prophets claim that this is the best way to your mom. If you see any discoloration on or around the areas that have come in contact with the paper you're fucked. Please send me all of your money because you won't need it where you're going.

Leo (July 23-August 22):

Your animal magnetism will draw many a Young Taurus stampeding your way. As a matter of fact, All of the signs are under your control. Just remember to grind, bump and grind baby. Don't forget a raincoat. Snooch!

Virgo (August 23-Sept. 22):

So you would have us believe that your a virgin? Yeah, right, you a virgin. You've been ridden more than the Scream Machine. Shame on you. Shame, shame. Does you mother know what you do you slut?

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Smart-assed skeptic: Monkey man will make you believe.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Stay away from Libras. Libras have emotional problems. I think it would be wise to call the police on any Libras you know, But don't let them know. They might kill you.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21):

Return to the agreed upon rendezvous point. The mission has been compromised. Wait at the coordinates for further instructions from the mother ship. Transmission Ended. (Resist or Serve)

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

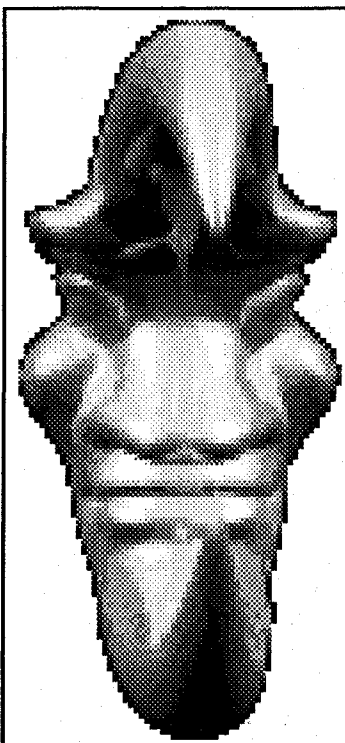
Your bike, I see it clearly now... it is... its in... The Alamo! In... the... basement!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18):

Some things are better forgotten. You must learn to detach your self from your possessions. They will do you no good. But I do not recommend throwing them away. And don't bother giving things to your family. They don't love you anyway. Send all of your possessions to Room 060 of the Student Union. There your things will be given a loving home with people who care more for them than you ever can.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20):

Your death will be the first in a long line of infidels. You must remember that this is not personal, the gods do not hate you, but your blood will cleanse this earth of the filth that now inhabits it. You will usher in a new era of peace. The Robots are your friends.



COUCHES THAT SMELL LIKE SEX

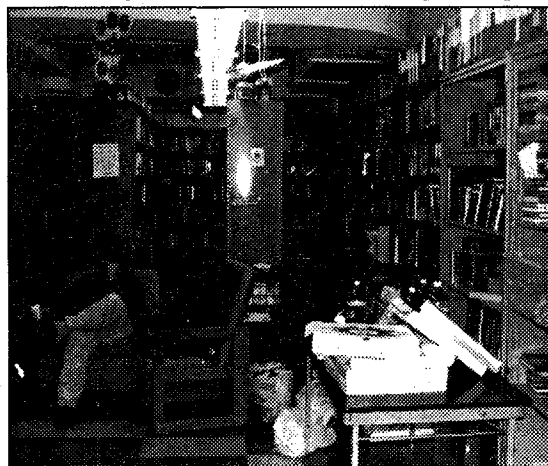
By Johnny Backslash

On February 25th, a few Press staffers and I descended down the steps of Harriman Hall into what appeared to be a world very different from any I had known before. A world of the fantastic and the wondrous. A world where trees hang from the ceiling, the walls are plastered with posters of Kevin Sorbo and Gamera, and the chairs all look like they were ripped off the set of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." It was the open house of the Science Fiction Forum, and they were out for fresh blood.

To be honest, there was only one tree hanging from the ceiling, it was more like a bush, and it wasn't in the Forum proper, but across in the hall in the Forum's science fiction lending library. The library, a massive and mildly organized collection of some fifteen thousand odd volumes was hung with not only a tree, but spaceships, dinosaurs and robots. I ran a quick check, to test the library for completeness; I looked for Tracy Hickman's "The Mantle Of Kendas-Dai," a recent, fairly popular title by a best-selling SciFi author. No dice, the Hickman collection was sadly lacking. However, a thorough search of the library did reveal a wooden replica of the male genitalia. Hey, ya win some, ya lose some.

While the open house itself consisted of little activity other than "enjoying" bad coffee and copious pizza, several officers insisted that the group was not, as one member

claimed, "the ultimate nothing club." A video of a previous group sky-diving trip played during the afternoon, and information flowed freely of a planned white-water rafting expedition heading out soon. The trip leaves on April 5th, and reservations must be in by March 18th. Additionally, the Forum holds a regular schedule of "Playstation Night" on Tuesday, "TV Night" on Wednesday, and "Movie Night" on Thursday, as well as sporadic movie marathons (for example, a Michael Crichton marathon was held to coincide with the opening of Sphere) and mass exodi to see blockbuster premieres in large companies.



You can't hide, Phil! You ARE a Forumite!

Other than providing a friendly community of "intelligent misfits" and a place to relax and catch some taped SciFi shows, many members expressed pride in their organization's providing a place of diversity...where members of any race, religion or sexual orientation could gather. Said Frank Santangelo, "This is a wonderful place full of diversity and versatility. It's really hip, definitely a spot to relax. They've been very kind to me." Other praise was perhaps slightly less emphatic, with comments along the lines of, "It's not that bad a pit of despair," and "You don't have to fall into apathy." Self-deprecation aside, the people of the Forum seemed to be having a good time, basking in the feeling of community and the glow of pizza galore.

This feeling of community extends back through time, with a Forum tradition known as

the log. Tucked onto two shelves on the far side of the Forum is a series of spiral-bound notebooks. These contain the random musings and stream-of-consciousness poetry of Forum members extending back through the Forum's rich history. Few people recognize that at thirty years old, the Science Fiction Forum is the oldest continually existing student organization on campus. It is a history full of tragedy (like the time the library burnt to the ground) and comedy (you should have heard the screaming on the sky-diving video.)

In addition to the library, a big ol' TV, and lots of random junk, the Forum also boasts a few computers, including one terminal hooked up to the school computer network that allows access to the library system. But what is all this stuff, really (for stuff it all is) compared to the love? It's all about the love. The love we share as students, alumni and science fiction celebrities. It is love, not stuff (no, not stuff, but love) that made science fiction author Harlan Ellison play lasertag with his beloved buddies from deep beneath the earth. You can't stop the love, baby! It comes creepin' in. It's gonna getcha.

Rising from its nocturnal lair of primordial ooze each night, the love comes lumbering up the deep cavernous system of tunnels that riddle the very earth beneath us. For it is love, not steam, that warms the brittle buildings we hide within on this lonely, desolate campus. The love comes for you when you're sleeping, it comes and it has its way with you. You become one with the love, you become of the love, and you shuffle your rotting ass down, down with the love. Down with the love, baby! If you're really so God damned interested in the Forum that you read this entire article you might as well just go down there and meet the gang.

"Salem," Continued from page 3

Witch hunt, anyone?

The case bears further similarities with more recent incarnations of Salem, most notably the day-care center hysteria of the late 1980s ("Believe the children") in which teachers were accused of, among other things, group sexual abuse, holding satanic rituals and having kids eat excrement. Some went to jail on the strength of testimony wheedled out of young children by ambitious prosecutors. And, of course, there were the "Red Scares" of the 1940s and '50s which cost hundreds their careers -O'Neill told me that the district was originally seeking to fire Lund, depriving her of both income and pension. Only her excellent observations saved her. The 39 grand will be about half her yearly income. O'Neill told me they wanted to "make it hurt." Just to put it in perspective for you, carting companies recently convicted of conspiring to dump toxic waste at a nondesignated site were fined no more than \$2 or 3 thousand. There must be something seriously wrong with me -I think poisoning the environment is far more heinous than letting teenagers do what they're going to do anyway, but that's just me.

According to Lund, Mary Jane Bolter, the state hearing officer for her case, was good friends with Terrence O'Neill, even offering to bring a cake into court for his fiftieth birthday. If this is true, Bolter should have recused herself. Lund also stated that Bolter pressured her to make a deal before

even hearing the defense.

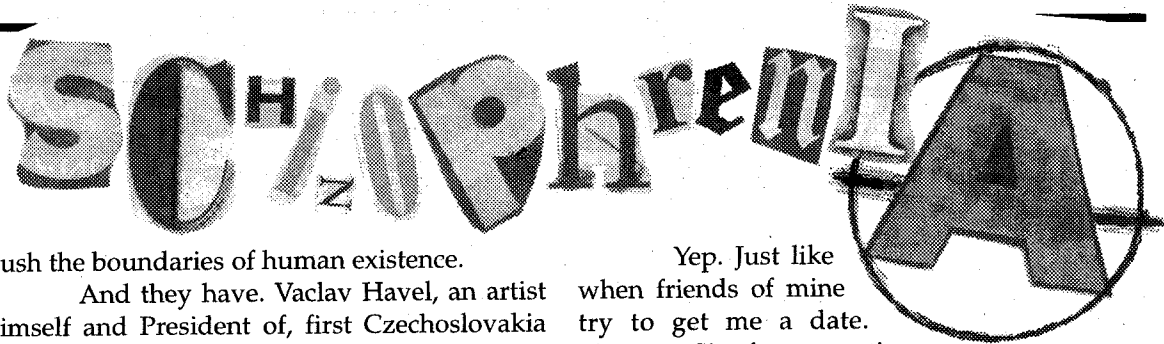
I asked both O'Neill and Lund if it wouldn't be preferable for the little buggers to be under some sort of adult surveillance or supervision while they swill, as opposed to sneaking around. I may as well have been babbling in ancient Etruscan. Both mouthed the party line about not condoning such behavior and I have the idea that most so-called adults in this society actually prefer the situation in which stealth and deceit are part of the equation, maybe because once we start accepting the fact that teenagers drink, we realize it's our responsibility to see that they learn to be mature and control themselves, and that's...well...responsibility, and the American way when it comes to this is to sink deep into a combination of denial and panic and pass some mindless legislation. It's revealing that the respectable folks of Malverne want to believe that their dewey-eyed youngsters would just never get sloshed of their own accord. I wonder what they make of Senate Bill S10, which provided for minors to be tried, sentenced and punished as adults. It kinda doesn't jell that in this country you must be 21 to legally drink, but at the same time, the US, along with only five other countries on the entire planet (among them such paragons of respect for human rights as Iran and Iraq) actually executes minors. What's the deal? Shouldn't there be some consistency in that majestic instrument we call the law?

One thing that fascinates me about this issue is the vast gulf between the squeaky-clean City on the Hill we're all supposed to inhabit and the Ricki Lake Trailer Park of the Soul that's closer to most people's experience. Furthermore, I can't help but wonder where others like myself, who enjoyed the benefits of a permissive atmosphere, or at least one in which youth weren't criminalized, are while this is going on. As in Salem, the criminalization can be handily employed against anyone. There's always the danger that if we take a stand, someone might denounce us as part of the Plot against Decency ourselves.

During the '80s, when all this nonsense started, an obscure yet astute cultural critic was fond of observing, "A yuppie is a hippie who doesn't want his kids to have as much fun as he did." I constantly hear "legal" adults complaining that the "illegal" adults don't show sufficient respect and courtesy. And they can't figure out why.

At this point I have neither the resources nor the inclination to plumb this morass of school politics in which administrators exploit moralistic hysteria to crucify employees who they may not care for, or to settle scores on the school board -to say nothing of rewarding students for turning stool pigeon. It might be interesting, though, to attend Veronica Pearsall's hearing to see if they bind her and throw her into Great South Bay to see if she floats.

D-KLINE'S



From the D-Kline Book of Rock 'N' Roll, in the section for top ten reasons why Long Island music sucks, one of those reasons is that half of *Frampton Comes Alive* was recorded at the

Commack Arena in Commack, Long Island. Lately I'm finding out that most people don't know this. Worse yet, I'm realizing that very few people are embarrassed by this.

So maybe it doesn't matter, but I think there IS an island here worth winning. And no, I don't think that Peter Frampton and, more importantly, those not embarrassed by him have anything to do with it.

Let's try it this way. Frampton's album sold over ten million copies. It is the greatest-selling live album of all time. It made millions of dollars for the label that released it, A&M. One night in March of 1977, the Sex Pistols got into a fight with an artist who was being represented by Frampton's manager, and two days later they were dropped by A&M. That is the power that Frampton's fame commanded.

But you've got to ask yourself which of those two aforementioned artists really matters. Artistically, and historically, who matters more, Peter Frampton or the Sex Pistols. Let me show this juxtaposition in another way. The other half of *Frampton Comes Alive* was recorded at San Francisco's Winterland Arena, home to the Sex Pistols' last concert. But which performance is more important? Which one has been talked about, and written about, and bootlegged? If you had the choice, which would you prefer to do, be a part of the live audience on *Frampton Comes Alive*?, or see the Sex Pistols implode on stage?

And just so you know, once the Pistols found a new label, their third one, and released their own album, it took fourteen years for it to go platinum. This signifies sales of a million records, a far cry from Frampton's ten million. But as I've asked, which artist is more important?

"Sure the first Velvet Underground album only sold 10,000 copies, but of those ten thousand people, every last one of them went out and formed a band"

-a (mis)quote usually attributed to Brian Eno³

This sort of influence seems more powerful than all the power that Frampton's fame can buy. This same thing happened ten years later in what has become known as 'the space cleared by PUNK.' This shouldn't be confused with all of the bands that have formed in the wake of Nirvana's, and then Green Day's, success. Most of these bands tried to sound just like the big band making the big money.

What the Velvet's first album, *The Velvet Underground and Nico*, made clear was that in rock and roll anything was fair game and anything was possible. Since rock and roll is an art form, this should then extend to all art. And if one believes as Oscar Wilde does, that life follows art, then what the Velvet's have done is

push the boundaries of human existence.

And they have. Vaclav Havel, an artist himself and President of, first Czechoslovakia and then, the Czech Republic, used the Velvet's first album as inspiration for the Prague Spring. Havel was honored to meet the band during their 1993 reunion tour when it passed through Prague. Also, three years earlier, Havel was interested in making Frank Zappa the Minister of Culture of the newly formed country of Czechoslovakia.⁴

"People rely on artists for the truth far more than they rely on politicians."

-Jello Biafra

Whereas a politician is looking for a job or perhaps to further a political/social agenda, an artist is at worst looking for the truth, and at best pushing the boundaries of human existence and thus paving the way into the future. Who has more intelligence, integrity, and vision, the Reagan/Bush/Clintons of the world, or the DaVinci/Walker/Havel/D/Nins of the world?

This is the power of art. The best bands have always had an artist or two in the band, or at least a good sense of what art is. Parts of what made the Athens scene that nurtured R.E.M. so good⁵, were the programs run out of the Visual Arts building on the campus of the University of Georgia at Athens. The joke in Athens, according to Rodger Brown's book, *Party Out Of Bounce*, was that in Athens anyone can be in a band but at least one member had to be taking classes in the art school.

So what does Long Island have to help along its music scenes?

Long Island does have six music mags, mostly Bi-weekly rags interested more in supporting the wannabe-next-big-thing-but-don't-know-a-thing-about-art bands that proliferate

all over this island than in trying to foster any kind of scene based on creating something worthwhile. I wanna stress that CMJ and *Under The Volcano* do not fall into this category since both are really national magazines located here on Long Island. But for the rest... well they all appear in the D-Kline Book of Rock 'N' Roll right alongside *Frampton Comes Alive*.

There is Five Towns College in Dix Hills, but this seems to be more of a musician/technology/music industry school. The people attending this school seem to be more interested in rock and roll as guitar masturbation and technical ability. And when musicianship becomes the be all and end all for being in a band, the results are rarely anything that matters.

"You gotta check out (insert band name), they have the best guitarist on Long Island!"

Yep. Just like when friends of mine try to get me a date.

They say I'm fun at parties.

You all know what that means. Well, think about what the above quote means. I've found it usually signifies that the rest of the band can't play. Even worse, it usually signifies that said band, and in particular said guitarist, can't write a song. They are very technical, masters of their craft, but in no way, shape or form are they art. In fact, said college actually appears in the D-Kline Book of Rock 'N' Roll right alongside all the others mentioned above.

So what could be good for Long Island music?

Let me start by saying that there is already a vital music scene on Long Island, but you aren't going to read about it in any of the bi-weeklies littering this campus. And you aren't going to find them kissing ass at industry showcases. (Trust me, if any of these bands wanted to strike up a deal with the devil, they wouldn't waste their time with the (middle) man.)

These bands are out there creating, perfecting and documenting. They aren't waiting around for some label or lazy journalist (including yours truly) to notice them.

And then there is the Fine Arts building right here on the campus of SUNY Stony Brook. The potential that this, coupled with the Theatre department, WUSB and the SPOT (and other oddities on campus), possesses could be electric.

1-Okay, so that isn't exactly fair. The Frampton performance at Winterland didn't need to be bootlegged because it was officially released. But if it had never been released, would there have been a reason to bootleg it?

2-It may have sold over ten million copies, but I can assure you that you wouldn't receive any royalties for your cheers

3-This is how it was remembered and written for years. Eventually, the real quote started to appear. What Eno really said was: hardly anyone bought the group's records when they first came out, but those who did all went on to form their own bands.

4-Rumor in music circles back then was that the position was never offered to Zappa because of pressure on the newly formed country from the U.S. state

department.

5-Don't think the Athens of the film *Athens, Ga., Inside/out*, think the Athens that led up to that. Not the Athens that the cameras caught, but the Athens that caused the cameras to come to town in the first place. Think B-52's, Method Actors, Pylon and R.E.M.

D-Kline host a weekly radio show on WUSB, 90.1 FM, every Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30. He hasn't shaved in days, but what the hell, it's radio.



Lydia Lunch, who taught performance art at the San Francisco Art Institute, is one of many artists pushing the boundaries of human existence.

Lick Dick Suck Fuck Gobble Nibble Chew Or, Choke on This, Candace

By Daniel Yohannes

Recently, I have been approached by many of my friends with questions regarding that most interesting of subjects, sex. Sometimes, a complete stranger would approach me and entreat me to assist them with their sexual conundrums. Being a recovering Boy Scout, I am always eager to help.

Let me begin with a parental advisory. If you are under 17, or a member of the contingent of prudes that currently has loud voice in our student senate, STOP READING NOW! What follows is a frank discussion of sex and sexuality meant to allay fears that stem from inexperience and ignorance on the issue. In the words of the immortal George Michael, "sex is natural, sex is good, not everybody does it, but everybody should." If you are one of the few the proud, the ones with a stick up their ass, this article ain't for you.

Fecophilia, avisodomy, onanism, homosexuality, sodomy, autoasphyxiation and the ever popular golden shower are some of the topics to be discussed. In alphabetical order, autoasphyxiation, comes first (Huh, Huh, he said come). This term relates to the strangling of oneself or ones sexual partner in order to increase sexual pleasure during orgasm. Did you know that men being hanged often experience an erection and orgasm before death? The same principle applies but, in our case, intrepid sexual explorers, fabulous orgasms, and not death, is the desired result. Don't try this with the date you just brought home from the Park Bench. Sex is something magical; freaky sex must be done with

someone you know, trust and hopefully love.

Avisodomy - fucking a bird. Enough said. Bestiality is ok as long as you don't penetrate the animal. Expressing yourself sexually with your pet is fine as long as the pet is into it and you are not hurting the animal. Whatever floats your boat, sailor.

What can I say about fecophilia? The term came to my attention after watching an episode of South Park, and I had encountered the fetish when I was strolling the sex shoppes of Amsterdam (those people will sell anything that could possibly turn someone on). Fecophiliacs are doo-doo lovers. It's a smelly habit, but to each his own. Since blood is often a component of stool, doo-doo lovers should be careful to choose an STD free partner.

Onanism is simply the word the Catholic Church uses to describe masturbation. Onan spilt his seed on the ground and God was angry. God called it onanism and teaches us it is bad. Unfortunately, this includes contraception or any sex that doesn't end in conception. The term has a connotation of compulsiveness; anyone who has done it once will do it again. To the men and women of this campus, I say, "get to know yourselves sexually before you let someone else get to know you". Finding out what you like in the throes of passion is dumb.

What can I say about homosexuality that won't get me in trouble? How about try it. Sex is good. Sex with every one is good. But don't sleep around and don't be one of those lame asses with both a girlfriend and a boyfriend. Oh, and yes wear a jimmy or a dental dam.

And to you, my little Russian friend, who was so shocked by my discussion of the golden shower, I say what's a little water between friends. Those of us who saw the epic film *Waterworld* know that in times of need, urine can be recycled. As long as you have no boo-boos on your skin to allow nasties in your body, urine is ok.

What do we think of prostitution? Well, let me be original and call it the world's oldest profession. Sex can be bought and has been for sale since the dawn of money. What do we do on a date? I usually end up spending lots of money and that by no means guarantees that I get laid. Why don't we lift prostitution out of the gutter and tax it to pay to replace the 60 year old textbooks in our children's classrooms? Sex for sale is a dirty business. I have known many people who I later found out were prostitutes. What did they all have in common, you might ask (if you gave a shit about the plight of an unloved sub-culture)? They were all beautiful, yes. But they were also all young, separated from their families, and smart (but not educated). Sex was their one discovered marketable skill. Making prostitution safer is smart.

One quick word on sodomy, if you will indulge me further. Legally, sodomy is defined as any non-missionary position sexual intercourse. So, for all of you who have gone down on your loved one, you are guilty of sodomy. Ever done it doggie-style? Guilty. And of course, those of us who are queer, guilty. In 1998, these acts are considered criminal in about half of our United States.

Oh, golly, do I have more to say? One last word - felching. Look it up; it's fabulous.


WUSB 90.1 FM TOP 30

March 9, 1998

1. SWERVEDRIVER: 99TH DREAM (ZERO HOUR)
2. HIGH LLAMAS: COLD AND BOUNCY (V2)
3. DJ SPOOKY: SYNTHETIC FURY (ASPHODEL)
4. CRAIG ARMSTRONG: SPACE BETWEEN US (CAROLINE)
5. REVEREND HORTON HEAT: SPACE HEATER (INTERSCOPE)
6. ARGON AND THE FLYING SAUCERS: SPACE, SEX.....(WHOLE SHOT)
7. DUSTER: STRATOSPHERE (UP)
8. TED SWEDALLA: LAMBADA WITH MY DOG (TVT)
9. KRISTIN HERSH: STRANGE ANGELS (RYKO)
10. CURVE: COME CLEAN (UNIVERSAL)
11. DIMITRI FROM PARIS: SACREBLEU (ATLANTIC)
12. MADAME X: S/T (ESTRUS)
13. AIR: MOON SAFARI (CAROLINE)
14. VICTORIA WILLIAMS: MUSINGS OF... (ATLANTIC)
15. THE 1-4-5'S: ROCK N ROLL SPOOK PARTY (ESTRUS)
16. JOLENE: IN THE GLOAMING (SIRE)
17. PINKO PINKO: TRAFFIC (NONS)
18. SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER: S/T (SQUINT)
19. DJ ACUCRACK: NATION STATE (SLIPDISC)
20. SKATELITES: BALL OF FIRE (ISLAND)
21. GAZE: MITSUMERU (K)
22. EAR: MILLENNIUM MUSIC (ATAVISTIC)
23. DONNAS: AMERICAN TEENAGE... (LOOKOUT)
24. THE DAVE CHOW EXPERIENCE: FELCHING TOWARDS OBLIVION (DEFCO)
25. DEMOLITION DOLLRODS: TASTY (IN THE RED)
26. DROPKICK MURPHYS: DO OR DIE (HELLCAT)
27. MARY LOU LORD: GOT NO SHADOW (WORK)
28. ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN: TIME IS NOW (KADO)
29. MYSTERY MACHINE: HEAD FIRST... (NETWORK)
30. SUE GARNER: TO RUN MORE SMOOTHLY (THRILL JOCKEY)

KENYON MOPKIN 516-632-6500

The SPot



Graduate Student Lounge

Open Wednesday through Saturday with live music

Located in the
Fanny Brice
Theater,
Roosevelt Quad

March 11th: VTB's Benefit
12th: Carvepenny & Sandpebbles
13th: 23 Band and Sunburst Jalopy
14th: Daughtier Judy and Soul Poets
20th: Sugarcrash
21st: Two Man Advantage
25th: VTB's Benefit
26th: Blue Abyss, Dead Wood, & The Q
27th: Pumice and Nanofrog
28th: Imperial Pints, Argon & Bonesugar

[h i n s l i n k y

By Lowell Yaeger



Reverend Horton Heat
Space Heater
(Interscope)

The Reverend Horton Heat has been resting on his laurels since he signed with Interscope Records in 1994. Liquor In The Front's visceral impact was partly courtesy of a band that had been spitting out psychobilly (a blend of rockabilly and punk that sort of like Elvis, on acid, under the influence of the devil) for years, but it was also answered to Al Jourgensen's harsh production style. And their last album, It's Martini Time, found the band playing with slower material, but in a lackadaisical "we'll see if this works, and if it doesn't, so what" fashion.

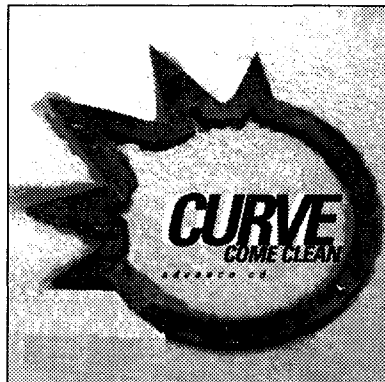
Space Heater, the Reverend Horton Heat's fifth release, absolutely wallows in that laissez-faire approach. The band conducts numerous experiments, and then smirks defiantly when greeted with the prospect of cleaning up the mess.

The first thing one hears is the oddly arranged "Pride Of San Jacinto", a hoedown cum lonely-country-road kind of song that somehow doesn't pack the punch of the instrumental that opened the Reverend's third album, Liquor In The Front. It isn't so much that the song is bad, it just relies on an odd time signature that sounds clumsy in such a primal band's hands. "Lie Detector"'s crunchy riff is also inappropriate for a band whose roots lie in rockabilly and country.

Some of it is just bad. "Revolution Under Foot" finds the Reverend rapping over a spare drumbeat for much of its length, and the effects-heavy choruses are laden with insipid lyrics like "Ain't gonna stay where we been put/A revolution's under foot"; the only thing on its side is the thick, bassy instrumental towards the end of the song. "Goin' Manic" and "For Never More" continue in this vein, relying on fancy production, a la Ed Stasium, to bear the weight of songs that go nowhere and do nothing. And while "Jimbo Song" -- a musical description of poor white trash with a giggle-inducing chorus that spells out "J-I-M-B-O" -- shows just how great the Reverend can be when he gets silly, its flavor bears a suspicious resemblance to the mainstream-palatable pop punk of bands like Blink-182.

"Starlight Lounge" stands out from the songs around it because it's good. It's a tense, strong little number with a jittery edge behind its rollicking guitar solos, and it finds a trick that the Reverend has tried before to some success, but rarely followed up on: cocktail music. For a few moments, the heavy guitars give way to conga drums and tinkly neon bar music, and the contrast is what makes the song so amazing. While not quite as good, "Mi Amor" blends the band's party-rock bombast with Mexican mariachi for a spicy treat; "Native Tongue Of Love" is perhaps the best of the Reverend's pot-shots at guitar effects and electronic sounds, because they create an atmosphere -- not a second drummer; and "Baby I'm Drunk" brings the Reverend closer to Elvis than ever.

Heater is a perfect example of "good idea, bad execution." Sure, the band needs to grow and expand, but the fellas are heading off in a bad direction. There's plenty of genres out there that the Reverend Horton Heat can try to merge their brand of psychobilly with, but they're not alterna-effects-rock and West Coast fraternity punk.



Curve
Come Clean
(Universal)

Curve was probably the best-sounding, if not the most creative, band of the shoe-gazing set that seized Britain a few years ago. Shoe-gazing, for those of you know who know better and don't waste your time reading NME, is a slow, droned-out pop style that incorporates elements of noise and heavy studio engineering. Curve blended the melodic side of the genre, found in bands like Lush, and merged it with the Teutonic roar of mind-bending ground-breakers like My Bloody Valentine, creating a whole that certainly transcended shoe-gazing, despite the music industry's attempts to label them as such.

Come Clean is the first album after a long break the band took for much of the 90s. And with little exception, it sounds as if they never left. The first single, "Chinese Burn", picks up where they left off five years ago: lyrics about women hating women, jealousy, etc. (while genuinely mindless and full of stupid non-sequiturs like "It's nice to know/exactly where you're going"), sung by Halliday, who manages to sound bored and impassioned at the same time; an onslaught of torture-tec effects so heavy that it's impossible to sort through them all, or to even focus in on one and tune out the others; thoroughly fuzzed-out guitar buried under so much feedback that the end of the song is awash in noise started during the first ten seconds. Unfortunately, it throws these elements through a blender of Prodigy-esque breakbeat tempos, giving it a modern feel.

It takes three songs before Curve finally kicks into high gear and unleashes the wall of force that made the band such a heart-stopper in the first place. The difference between the inchoate buzzing and Halliday's angel-with-black-wings voice creates a place that constantly exists on the edge of being crushed by one of the warring forces.

"Something Familiar" begins like its two predecessors, but the boring trappings of modern techno disappear about a minute into the song, and the fight begins, with a soaring burst of guitar thunder that crashes against Halliday's voice with divine strength. When Curve's got it, Curve's got it, and it truly is a wonder to behold.

From there on in, it's pretty much steady-going. All of the songs are at least competent, if not excellent, and a few are simply amazing: "Cotton Candy" layers sound after sound until the listener is spinning inside the music, surrounded by the melody and the noises within it; and "Recovery" assembles multiple storms of sound into a crushing beat that finishes off the album perfectly.

Not everything is perfect, of course. "Dogbone" is a bland little ditty that would be excusable but for the melodramatic little patch that sounds like something you'd hear in the background of Party Of Five, or one of those shit shows; "Alligators Getting Up" doesn't use the James Bond theme to good effect in the background: it lurks too quietly to be obvious, but not quietly enough to be subliminal. And unless your idea of fun is screechy Japanese bands like Shonen Knife, don't even touch the title track.

But hey, these are little things that don't much matter for a band whose sound is so big it nearly flattens itself. This album is a solid piece of work from a solid sounding band.



Dirty Three
Ocean Songs
(Touch & Go)

There's nothing here to differentiate this Dirty Three release from their other three Touch & Go releases: mournful songs composed for violin, guitar, and drum (no vocals) that sometimes sweep towards a hopeful crescendo, but more often collapse with a crash.

In fact, the only creative steps taken on Ocean Songs are more optimistic song titles ("Everything's Fucked" and "Sue's Last Ride" have been replaced by the more vaguely depressing "Black Tide" and "The Restless Waves"), although most of them deal with nautical themes, something that's just been done to death by other indie bands, like June Of 44.

Still, while we're here, we might as well take a look around. "Authentic Celestial Music" is a slow, sippin'-whiskey-out-of-the-bottle dirge that could have been pulled right off of Dirty Three's last album, Horse Stories. Songs like "Sirena" and "Distant Shore" end as they began -- with the listener knowing nothing more about the song than he did when he turned the CD on. This is an album full of pretty songs that fail to make a solid impact on the listener.

There is a bright spot, however, in the album's final track. "Ends Of The Earth" is an almost upbeat tune with mellow drum rolls and a long, slow violin melody that plays up the higher notes and, consequently, comes across as more optimistic, more progressive.

Ocean Songs is produced by Steve Albini, the noisemonger responsible for such tasty bits as Nirvana's In Utero and The Jesus Lizard's Goat, but you wouldn't know it to hear it. Although the sound is a little crisper than it used to be -- a negative aspect to the entire affair, since the Dirty Three's music is so bleak and depressing that without the filter of lo-fi recording, it's downright unbearable -- Albini's talents are wasted here, and there's virtually no synthesis between band and producer, something that could have proven truly interesting for a talented, open-minded musician like violinist Warren Ellis.

It's a shame that a band with so much to offer is stuck in a rut. That's the problem with a good gimmick -- you always get stuck.

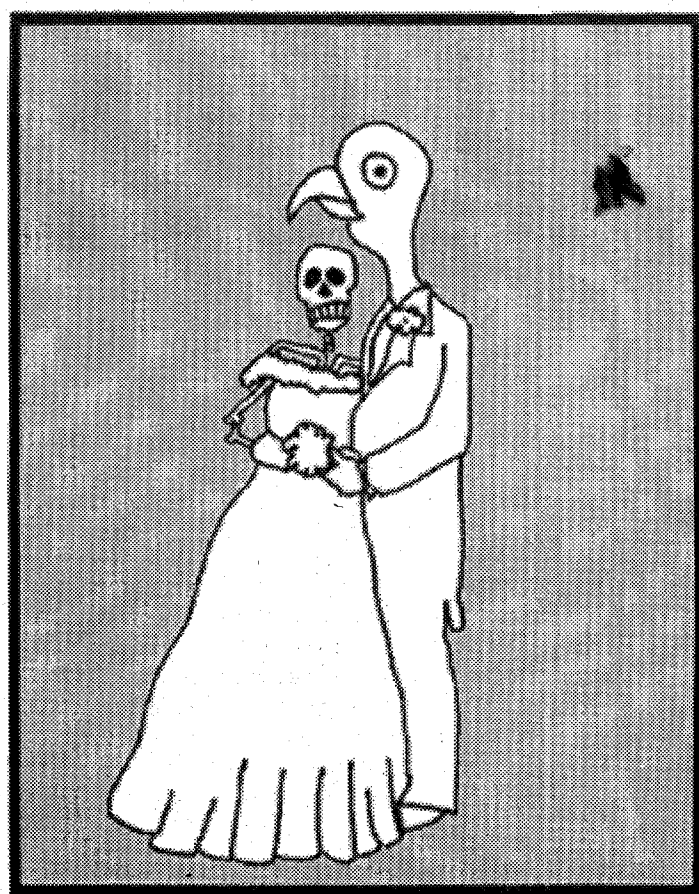
WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY.

WE CAN REBUILD HIM.

WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MAKE THE
WORLD'S FIRST BIONIC MAN. ED BALLARD
WILL BE THAT MAN. BETTER THAN HE WAS
BEFORE. BETTER... STRONGER... FASTER.

The staff of the Stony Brook Press sends their best wishes to Ed Ballard, our beloved staff member and "Cooking With Mocha" columnist. Ed recently busted his knee while playing a particularly hard core game of basketball with the staff, and is now recuperating from what was doubtless six million dollars worth of surgery. Ed, we hope to see you back in the office soon.

the SKELETON fast FOOD
dream BIRD prom



Coming after Spring Break to
THEATRE 3, Staller Center

[illegible]

M O V I E S

Oscar Predictions By Chris Cartusciello

It is once again that time of year. The snow has melted, the warm coats have been put away for the season and, oh who am I kidding? We haven't had a decent winter in two years. Can anything be more depressing? Well, lighten up. The Academy Awards are right around the corner and that means I get to tell you who will, as well as who should, win. Of the 269 films eligible in the past year, only 58 made the final cut. There were some surprises amongst this year's nominees, the biggest being *The Full Monty* taking best picture and director spots that were assuredly set aside for Steven Spielberg and *Amistad*. There are a few sure things in this year's grouping, but not as many as some would believe. Many people feel that *Titanic* will blow everything else out of the water, but there are some dark horses bringing up the rear who may just shock you.

The 70th Annual Academy Awards will be telecast from the Shrine Auditorium in L.A. on March 23rd at 9:00pm on ABC.

Best Picture

As Good As It Gets
The Full Monty
Good Will Hunting
L.A. Confidential
Titanic

Suddenly this is a close race. As the year started to draw to a close, *L.A. Confidential* was the sure winner, then *Titanic* reared its ugly head. Public opinion is rooting for James Cameron's disaster epic, but the public doesn't get a vote. *L.A. Confidential* won every major film critic's award for best picture of the year, but somehow *Titanic* stole the Golden Globe. For this reason, history would automatically declare the big boat the victor, but Curtis Hanson's noir thriller was clearly a superior film. Also, Academy members may feel that the huge grosses *Titanic* is making are reward enough. It's possible that they could split the vote and have a third entry take the prize, but that's not likely as the majority of the members will choose between these two titans. I'm going out on a limb and saying that the Academy will not be taken in by style, but will instead vote for substance. *L.A. Confidential* takes this one. If *Titanic* does win, it will simply be Hollywood trying to rationalize spending exorbitant amounts of money on inferior work.

Best Director

Peter Cattaneo - *The Full Monty*
Gus Van Sant - *Good Will Hunting*
Curtis Hanson - *L.A. Confidential*
Atom Egoyan - *The Sweet Hereafter*
James Cameron - *Titanic*

This category isn't as easy as one may think. Once again it seems to be a two horse race, between Hanson and Cameron, but don't count out Gus Van Sant. Late support for his film, along with America falling in love with its stars, could help him along, although those things would seem to do more for a bid at best picture. Hanson deserves this one for bringing James Ellroy's huge novel to the screen in an understandable and intelligent fashion. Also, traditionally the winner of this award is almost guaranteed the best picture Oscar. I'm going to say that things will be different this year though. Unfortunately Academy members will feel they must give Cameron a big prize for something and this one will be it.

Best Actor

Matt Damon - *Good Will Hunting*
Robert Duvall - *The Apostle*
Peter Fonda - *Ulee's Gold*
Dustin Hoffman - *Wag The Dog*
Jack Nicholson - *As Good As It Gets*

Nicholson is a virtual lock for this one. Peter Fonda would be the sentimental favorite, and that would be fine if the other performers weren't so strong. Duvall is quite possibly the finest actor working anywhere today, and the inspirational story of the making of his film will be good fodder for the members to discuss, but not enough to swing the pendulum in his direction. Hoffman's role is a little too close to reality for liberal Hollywood. Timing is the film's best friend, but the actor's worst enemy. Damon is just too young and will have to settle for being included with this illustrious group and, with as nice a guy as he is, that's just fine with him.

Best Actress

Helena Bonham Carter - *Wings of the Dove*
Julie Christie - *Afterglow*
Judi Dench - *Mrs. Brown*
Helen Hunt - *As Good As It Gets*
Kate Winslet - *Titanic*

This is probably the toughest race of the year. All five nominees are worthy of the prize. Helen Hunt would be my personal pick, but Academy members will likely see differently. Being a television actress will be her downfall, even though she did take the Golden Globe. In her favor, she is the only American of the bunch and we could see a repeat of 1993 when Marisa Tomei stole the supporting actress award when she was the only Yank amongst a group of Brits. Kate Winslet is capable of better work than she did this year and that will knock her out of contention. The race will dwindle down to Dame Judi Dench and Helena Bonham Carter. Dench was considered the favorite early on, but Carter's courageous role should propel her over the top.

Best Supporting Actor

Robert Forster - *Jackie Brown*
Anthony Hopkins - *Amistad*
Greg Kinnear - *As Good As It Gets*
Burt Reynolds - *Boogie Nights*
Robin Williams - *Good Will Hunting*

Forster gets the sentimental vote, but the film wasn't widely received and the nomination will have to be enough to sustain his career for a few more years. Hopkins is usually the perennial favorite but *Amistad* was virtually forgotten in this year's awards so he will be passed over this time. Kinnear has shown growth as an actor and is well liked, but he's still considered a beginner and will have to wait his turn, and it will come. This leaves Reynolds and Williams. It would be worth it to give it to Robin just to hear his speech, and he would be deserving if he got it, but Hollywood loves a comeback and Reynolds will take this one home to put on his mantle next to his Golden Globe.

Best Supporting Actress

Kim Basinger - *L.A. Confidential*
Joan Cusack - *In & Out*
Minnie Driver - *Good Will Hunting*
Julianne Moore - *Boogie Nights*
Gloria Stuart - *Titanic*

Basinger, it's that simple. Her role as a hooker, cut to look like Veronica Lake, was the most talked about of the year. She has shown growth and deserves this over any of the other nominees. Stuart may get some votes for sentiment, but can you really win with only a few minutes of screentime?

Best Adapted Screenplay

Donnie Brasco - Paul Attanasio
L.A. Confidential - Brian Koppelman and Curtis Hanson
The Sweet Hereafter - Atom Egoyan
Wag The Dog - Hilary Henkin and David Mamet
The Wings of the Dove - Hossein Amini

Director Hanson, along with Brian Koppelman, should easily take this one. The work of condensing James Ellroy's massive tome was a feat in itself. To

make such a compelling film from it was amazing. Much like last year's *The English Patient*, *L.A. Confidential* was considered unfilmable. A close runner up would be *Donnie Brasco*, but failing to win any other nominations knocks it out of contention.

Best Original Screenplay

As Good As It Gets - Mark Andrus and James L. Brooks
Boogie Nights - Paul Thomas Anderson
Deconstructing Harry - Woody Allen
The Full Monty - Simon Beaufoy
Good Will Hunting - Ben Affleck and Matt Damon

Maybe the easiest category to pick. *Good* guys Affleck and Damon take this one.

Best Original Dramatic Score

Amistad - John Williams
Good Will Hunting - Danny Elfman
Kundun - Philip Glass
L.A. Confidential - Jerry Goldsmith
Titanic - James Horner

This one is also easy, albeit slightly more interesting. Perennial Oscar favorite John Williams is always hard to beat, but he's up against some tough competition. Danny Elfman has really come into his own with his mood inspiring instrumentals. He's just been given a three picture deal to produce and direct. This is unheard of for a composer to get this on the merits of his music alone, but his compositions inspire more imagery than most directors' films. Even with all this momentum going for them, they will easily be overshadowed by James Horner. His haunting themes for *Titanic* still echo in people's minds.

Best Original Musical or Comedy Score

Anastasia - Music: Stephen Flaherty Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens
Orchestration: David Newman
As Good As It Gets - Hans Zimmer
The Full Monty - Anne Dudley
Men In Black - Danny Elfman

My Best Friend's Wedding - James Newton Howard

A music category and Disney doesn't have an animated movie in it? Every other studio is breathing a sigh of relief, most notably 20th Century Fox, whose freshman animated film, *Anastasia*, took on the mouse. Elfman gets a second nomination here, but he'll go home empty handed again. Look for this to be a fight between *Anastasia* and *My Best Friend's Wedding*, with the cartoon princess edging out the scheming bridesmaid.

Best Original Song

Hercules - "Go The Distance" Alan Menkin
Con Air - "How Do I Live?" Diane Warren
Anastasia - "Journey to the Past" Music: Stephen Flaherty Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens
Good Will Hunting - "Miss Misery" Elliott Smith
Titanic - "My Heart Will Go On" Music: James Horner Lyrics: Will Jennings

Is there even any doubt here? Yes, Disney does get its annual nomination, but can anybody remember the song? Same goes for *Good Will Hunting* and *Anastasia*. "How Do I Live?", from *Con Air*, would have a chance if it were the popular LeAnn Rimes version but nobody even knew that somebody sang it before her. Celine Dion makes it two in a row after last year's win for "Because You Love Me", from *Up Close and Personal*. She's the "flavor of the month" right now for movie themes, as Bruce Springsteen (*Philadelphia* and *Dead Man Walking*) used to be and Bryan Adams (*Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and *The Three Musketeers*) was before him.

Read this, and other articles, on-line at the Filmbuff's Forum:
<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1515>