

THE STONY BROOK  
**PRESS**

Vol. XX No. 4

Vote, Dumbass!

October 21, 1998

**SCREW HALLOWEEN...**

**THIS IS SCARY.**

*In our ghoulish  
election day issue...*

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*plus...*

**THE 1998  
VOTER'S GUIDE  
PULL-OUT**

*Actual undoctored photo of  
Governor George Pataki*

*Serving Suggestion. Enlarged to show texture.*

# GOING APE WITH RICHARD LEAKEY

By Terry McLaren

"We are still apes," according to Dr. Richard Leakey. The world renowned anthropologist and conservationist gave a lecture entitled "Where We are: Our Past and the Future" to a full house in the Staller Center's main auditorium on October 7. His statement that we are all apes was made to emphasize how closely related humans and other animals are and how their survival is connected to our own.

Leakey's parents, Louis and Mary, are famous for pointing human evolutionary study in its current direction. Richard Leakey is the Director of the National Museums of Kenya. He also served as Kenya's Director of Wildlife and Tourism, but resigned in the wake of conflict over the country's reluctance to ban its lucrative yet destructive ivory trade. Leakey has worked hard to establish democracy in Kenya and now serves in its Parliament.

Leakey addressed man's checkered past and its uncertain future in his lecture. He foresaw two big conflicts in man's future. The first was the struggle between Judeo-Christian theology and biology when evidence of life is found on other planets. The second was what would happen when someone uncovers the secrets to life and then creates it. According to Leakey, the greatest challenge facing humanity today is "the challenge of knowledge."

Bipedalism, or walking on two feet, began four to five million years ago. This was not the wisest of developmental choices, in Leakey's opinion, because it makes humans dependent on one another. An injured biped is at a disadvantage if it doesn't

have the aid of crutches or other bipeds. Leakey speaks from experience. He lost both legs below the knee in an accident and now uses prosthetic legs. He related to the crowd his nightmarish experience of being alone in London and experiencing severe difficulty with his legs.

There are a few positive aspects to a two-footed lifestyle, however, such as increased social contact. The aforementioned injured biped benefits from the compassion of others and is able to survive because others bring it food and water and provide it with shelter and protection. Leakey showed slides of skeletons over a million years old, one with an almost completely healed broken thigh bone and another who lived years with a severe skeletal deformity. This is proof that somewhat early humans looked out for each other and didn't just leave the ailing and frail to waste away on the African savannah.

Leakey spoke with incredible compassion about the plight of the world's animals. He showed slides of elephants and explained their familial structures and complex social messages. Elephants appear to experience grief and spend time with the remains of dead kin. They also cover the remains of dead animals with leaves and branches to protect them from scavengers. Leakey said many a drunk person has awakened in the savannah under foliage lovingly piled over them by elephants. These remarkable animals have even been known to protect smaller prey animals by driving lions away from them. Sadly, man's demand for ivory trinkets has threatened the world's elephant population. It is likely that the ban

on ivory trade will be lifted next year, and elephants will once again be prime targets for hunting. It has gotten to the point where natural selection has taken over, and the number of tuskless elephants born, especially in national parks, is increasing.

Chimpanzees are another species that shows emotion and rationality. They are remarkably intelligent and innovative, using tools such as rocks to break nuts open. Chimps and other primates have been caught in the crossfire of civil wars and victimized by poachers. Monkey meat is a delicacy that gets a better price in Africa than imported European meat.

With so many species being threatened or lost, our own is not out of danger. Leakey spoke of the future and of how our existence is inextricably linked to that of others. Millions of European dollars have been spent stripping Africa of its lush forests in order to get wood. In the process, the world has been deprived of hundreds of previously thriving species. Countries have the ducks to spend on deforestation and the rape of the planet, but can't raise money to protect the world's animals.

Leakey got his message through to the audience by pointing out that "our future is as much tied to the management of the world's biodiversity as it is to the management of its diseases and economy."

During a question and answer session, Leakey was asked what we as individuals can do to protect endangered species. In response, he emphasized the power of political advocacy in environmental issues and encouraged people to lobby their governments to help save the earth's endangered wildlife.

## Bill McNulty

### A Hero's Welcome

By Marlo Allison Del Toro

WITH A FULL BEARD AND GRAY HEAD OF hair grown out to indicate the passage of time and to "show transformation"—the transformation he would like to see in U.S. foreign policy—Bill McNulty said hello again to a gathering of his family, friends, and supporters.

On October 13, over fifty people came together to welcome home the sixty-three year-old carpenter-turned-activist from his six-month jail term. They ate sandwiches and listened as he told them about the incidents which led to his incarceration, and of his time as a political prisoner.

Last November 16, McNulty and approximately 2000 friends and strangers protested at the United States Army's School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia; SOA is a military school which the government says is used to train Latin Americans about democracy, but which McNulty and his fellow activists call the School of the Assassins after the life lessons the graduates seem to have learned there.

Last November marked the eighth anniversary of the massacre of six Jesuit priests, their cook, and her daughter at José Simeon Cañas University of Central America in San Salvador. Of the twenty-six Salvadoran officers cited by the UN Truth Commission for planning, carrying out and covering up the massacre, nineteen were SOA graduates—nineteen were schooled by Americans in the US tax-payer supported SOA.

The protesters formed a funeral proces-

sion and walked onto school grounds carrying white crosses and eight coffins filled with petitions containing nearly one million signatures calling for the closing of the SOA.

McNulty was one of 601 arrested for crossing onto the campus, 31 charged for being repeat offenders and ignoring federal orders not to return after the previous year's protest, and 25 sentenced to six months in jail and a \$3000 fine. (Those sentenced were offered a waiver of the fine if they signed an agreement prohibiting them from returning to Fort Benning—they all declined.) Others sentenced were veterans, nuns, clergy, college professors, and college students.

McNulty's welcome home began with a fifteen minute film about the SOA, explaining the purpose of the school, the actions taken by SOA Watch against the school, and an amendment in the House of Representatives which would defund it; the film also described a handful of the better-known atrocities committed by school graduates.

The film questioned the need for the school since there have been no recent wars between South American countries, and there is no threat of communism since the Cold War has ended.

Nearly 2000 students per year study at SOA, and some of the most infamous of those grace its hall of fame, including the dictators of several South American countries. (Manuel Noriega, the former dictator of Panama, who is now in a U.S. prison, is also a graduate of the school.)

After the film was shown, and after he was introduced by his friend Maryann Bell, director of the Peace Studies Center, McNulty told stories about his time as prisoner #88101-020.

In Federal Prison Camp Schuylkill in Minersville, Pennsylvania, McNulty did a lot of

writing; he wrote at least 650 letters to supporters from as far away as Alaska and Peru. McNulty also tried to become active in the prison community.

Upon arrival, the inmates are asked their professions, so that they could be assigned to work detail. McNulty answered: 1) teacher, 2) carpenter, and 3) minister. A few minutes after turning in his form, he was called to speak with the prison psychiatrist.

"Do you have a messiah complex?" the psychiatrist asked McNulty.

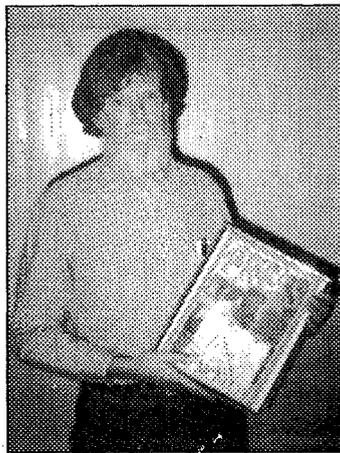
"No," he answered, explaining that he just had a few things in common with one certain famous activist and political prisoner.

McNulty, a devout Catholic, decided to join the prison Bible study group. At his second meeting he decided to add to the discussion. Afterward, another inmate said to him, "I hope there wasn't a microphone in the room—because what you said sounded like treason."

To this, McNulty replied, "When the Word is read the way it was meant to be read, it does sound like treason."

After McNulty finished his speech, his wife Carol read a poem she wrote about him during his incarceration. He was then presented a framed copy of the May 12 issue of *The Stony Brook Press*, which featured him on the cover as the 1998 Man of the Year. Former *Press* executive editor David Ewalt thanked McNulty for "being an example to the campus community...and the global community."

"The effort continues," McNulty said, urging others to join the up-coming vigil at Fort Benning on November 21 and 22.



# HUMANITIES IN TROUBLE?

By Michael Yeh

In higher education, as in many aspects of American society, money talks.

During the past 30 years, economic pressures have changed the missions and priorities of American universities. Advanced degrees and campuses grew, research funding increased, and faculties were paid well. For a while, the Ivory Tower seemed secure.

During these decades, however, the humanities became the unwanted stepchild of higher education. "Overall, universities have been downsized," said English professor Clifford Siskin, "but the humanities have been hit pretty hard." For the most part, humanities departments are not known for bringing in large sums of money for the university. This has led to a general lack of appreciation for subjects like literature and philosophy among students and the public.

"In a time that people are looking at the bottom line, some of the people who control budgets don't look at qualitative skills people attain from being able to analyze a poem or a piece of music," said Temma Kaplan, Director of the Women's Studies program. "A notion of learning as a commodity can produce this view."

## Chasing the money

The belief that the value of knowledge can be expressed in money is deeply ingrained in American universities, albeit in subtle forms. A discipline's potential for profit can determine how much attention a practical-minded administration gives it. This attitude has been blamed for the sharp decline in the quality of humanities departments since the 1960s.

In a recent article printed in *Harvard Magazine* entitled "The Market-Model University: Humanities in the Age of Money," authors James Engell and Anthony Dangerfield identify three criteria that ensure successful funding for academic departments:

"A Promise of Money." Disciplines that are associated with increasing chances of employment or professions that are associated with high incomes are usually funded more generously.

"A Knowledge of Money." Fields that are directly involved with the study of money, such as economics and business departments, are often left unscathed.

"A Source of Money." Certain disciplines that can bring in external funding from research grants or corporate partnerships usually thrive in universities. These include applied sciences such as engineering, computer science, and biotechnology.

Universities can get more funding for research by flirting with private corporations. The University at Stony Brook, for example, is developing a technology incubator with the software giant Computer Associates to enhance research in the computer science department. Also, the new Center for Molecular Medicine promises to create partnerships with local biotech and pharmaceutical businesses.

"Because of the need for funding, and the fact that states have been less supportive of state universities...universities have increasingly looked towards where money is that can fund their priorities," said University President Shirley Strum Kenny. "The answer has been that there is Federal funding for science, particularly for the biological and medical sciences, and that often there is corporate support for scientific investigations. And so there has been, I think,

great interest on the part of research universities in building their scientific areas."

But no cooperative venture comes without a price. Critics claim that cozy relationships with corporate interests pressure faculty to shift their research interests to areas with higher potential for profit.

"There are conflicts that are potential when you have a university oriented towards meeting specific needs of business interests," said economics professor Michael Zweig. "There is a definite concern about the imposition of business values into curricula and research projects."

President Kenny disagrees that business partnerships will have significant adverse effects on research universities. "I don't think you will find the corporate support of science as nearly as big a factor as the Federal and State support," she said.

Nevertheless, the influence of corporate interests may not be limited to research projects. "There are greater pressures to reform the curriculum, especially in the social sciences, for the business world," said Zweig.

## Teaching as punishment

There is no secret that many professors at research universities dislike teaching. But it is no wonder, since research frequently carries more rewards than teaching.

The priority of many institutions is not to educate undergraduates, but to build up good reputations by pumping out research publications. Universities work hard to recruit famous faculty, especially in the natural sciences, and advertise them as a sign of prestige. Engell and Dangerfield cite studies that show teaching load decreases as salaries increase. This emphasis on earning recognition has created a tense, "publish or perish" atmosphere among junior faculty seeking tenure. In addition, senior faculty with active research projects are often excused from teaching as a reward.

In general, faculty in the humanities spend more hours teaching, compared to their colleagues in the sciences. Traditionally, humanities departments, have been entrusted with helping students develop basic skills in language, rhetoric, and critical thinking. Yet these tasks are time-consuming and often not appreciated by administrators. In addition, humanists are also expected to publish extensively to obtain tenured appointments.

Due to understaffing and lack of funding, many universities employ graduate students to teach vital courses such as freshman composition. At Stony Brook, some sections of the introductory writing workshop (EGC 101) are taught by first-year graduate students in fields other than English. Although financial situations may differ among separate institutions, Engell and Dangerfield suggest that the sole reason for this practice is to divert money to more profitable projects.

## Warning signs

Placing the humanities on the back burner has led to alarming trends in the student population in recent years. Language scores on standardized exams have plummeted, while other grades have remained constant or even

improved. Verbal scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test have fallen, while the number of math scores above 750 has increased. Between 1965 and 1992, Graduate Record Exam scores in biology and chemistry did not change significantly, while average English literature scores plummeted by approximately 60 points.

Faculty salaries offer another way to compare the health of humanities to the social and natural sciences. The difference in average national salaries between a new assistant professor in literature and a new assistant professor in business in 1976 was \$3,000. By 1996, the gap had

widened to more than \$25,000. Salaries for faculty in fine arts, foreign languages, and education are even lower than

**"When these folks finish, there won't be much left that we can call an 'enlightened education'."**

those of professors in English.

People with doctorates in the humanities are often forced to settle for poorly-paying adjunct or part-time appointments that have few benefits and no job security.

A report by the American Association of University Professors showed that undergraduate students are aware of which professors have higher salaries, and this affected their choice of classes. But differences in salaries between humanities and other disciplines may reflect a popular lack of appreciation for the humanities in general. But no matter the answer to this "chicken or egg" problem, there is no doubt that the humanities are often seen as unprofitable and unworthy fields of study.

Today, only nine percent of students who take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test express interest in the humanities. Although the number of bachelor's degrees offered in the U.S. increased by 39 percent between 1970 and 1994, the proportion of students graduating with humanities majors plummeted. During this time, the number of health professions and public administration majors tripled while those studying business management doubled. The number of business majors was more than four times the number of English majors in 1994, although there was only a 78% lead in 1971.

Graduation patterns, faculty salaries, and standardized test scores clearly show the precarious state of the humanities today. But the main question is, how can we fix this?

## Redefining the liberal education

The notion of a liberal education as the base of knowledge expected of all educated citizens in society has been traded for more practical courses of study in many schools. The humanities form the core of a traditional liberal arts curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking skills over the accumulation of factual knowledge.

Although humanities courses may not directly increase students' bank accounts in the short term, many scholars agree that a broad undergraduate education provides one with the tools for success in many fields. Medical schools often regard humanities majors favorably, for example, and they frequently do not show preferences for students in the biological sciences.

"Most scientists think that to be an educat-

(continued on page 13)

# VOTE LEWIS, ENGLEBRIGHT & AGAINST D'AMATO

When you go to cast your vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd, remember to support those who will fight for you and your education. Who gets elected in New York State and the Federal government from the Stony Brook area has a major impact on your future, and decides whether you're going to be able to afford to finish school.

If you registered to vote on campus, get your ass to the Union Bi-level on Tuesday, November 3 and make your impoverished voice heard. If you're registered at home, make sure you get your absentee ballot and mail it out. If you didn't register to vote, hang your head in shame and prepare to rot in student loan hell you non-participating bastards.

Did they cut your TAP? Vote Pataki's ass out of office! He thinks the key to a balanced budget is grabbing students' exposed wrists and making nice deep vertical slashes. He cut taxes like a madman and got the money back by raping those who will lead the state in the future. In the NY gubernatorial race, The Press heartily endorses Grandpa Al Lewis, the Green Party candidate. If he gets 50,000 votes, the party officially goes on the

New York ballot.

Not sure who to vote for in the State Assembly race? We say re-elect Steve Englebright, a Stony Brook faculty member who serves on the Higher Education Committee. For years, Mr. Englebright has helped keep SUNY accessible to everyone, not just the wealthy. He has stood up to Pataki's butchering of SUNY and has secured an increase in TAP for this year. Plainly speaking, Englebright kicks ass in the name of SUNY and he needs our support. Facing serious opposition this year, Englebright needs every Stony Brook student's vote.

Oh yeah, and when it comes to the State Senate, anyone but D'Amato will do. You should have seen what he did to my mother.... We believe he's the fucker who encouraged Pataki to pillage higher ed funding and use the money to build prisons. Bad! Bad!

So now that you know who the mack-daddy of all student publications supports, be a good little drone, errr free-thinking individual, and shake your groove thing over to the voting booths in the Union on Tuesday, November 3 before 9 p.m.

# PRESS

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## TO THE EDITOR

### Shoplifting Course?

To Our Valued Customers:

In regard to the incident that occurred on October 8th here at the Student Activities Center. A valued customer who frequently dines here was involved in a misunderstanding with a manager. The manager alleged that this customer who was exiting the back door with food did not pay. We, [sic] management team apologize for any inconvenience we may have caused to any individual that we might have questioned due to any theft at the Student Activities Center.

Here at S.A.C., [sic] 25,000 customers walk through the food court on a weekly basis. Theft occurs daily. An individual who is caught stealing, Public Safety is called and disciplinary action will be taken care by Student Judicial Affairs. [sic]

A prior incident occurred when a manager was assaulted when confronting a suspect. The suspect ran and was apprehended by the police. Due to this experience the police is called in any incident. [sic] Again, we the management team at the S.A.C. would like to apologize to any customer that we have offended by this in any way.

We would like to inform you at this time a shoplifting training class is now going to be scheduled for next week for all management and staff.

*The management team wrote this letter in response to a Press investigation of an incident of managerial incompetence at the SAC eatery. As you can see, the letter effectively and succinctly addresses these issues.*

*They apologize for any "inconvenience" they may have caused to any individual questioned about "any theft." That, folks, is lawyer speak for "We're sorry, we made a boo-boo." It may have been more personal to apologize directly to the person involved. It may have been less cowardly to directly address the incident in question than to complain about their inability to stem the flood of shoplifting that they allege occurs at the SAC.*

*What occurred in the SAC on October 8th involved a total lack of respect for a student and customer. The SAC managers failed to manage. They also failed to acknowledge that in their letter.*

*Anyone interested in attending the "shoplifting training class" should meet at the SAC at 12:00 pm, Monday. Please wear baggy clothing.*

### To Hell With You All

To the "student journalists" of deservedly ill-repute,

The use of the image and name of Jesus as the Announcer of your table of contents in the latest issue of that used toilet paper you insist on calling "the Stony Brook Press" [sic] is not only gratuitously offensive (which I am sure does not bother you) and needlessly blasphemous (which probably bothers you even less), but it is boring. It isn't even funny.

If you are hell-bent (and I mean that literally) on using humor expressly to offend, then for God's sake make [sic] let it be humorous at least. If you're intent on making reservations at Che' [sic] Inferno for your eternal dining plans, at least be bold about it. Produce something genuinely shocking and disgusting. Make some degenerates laugh. Provoke the rest of us to want to hate your guts. This issue was feeble. That wimpy table of contents gimmick has got to go. What happened to the good old days when you people were total jackasses and knew it? What happened to gutsy irresponsibility and yellow journalism from your rag? What has happened to the once mighty Stony Brook Press?

Longing for  
the good old days  
when we could despise  
you instead of pity you,  
Kevin Rice

*Thank you for your pity, but I do believe a lot of people still despise us. One more or less won't be felt. As for our reservations at Chez Inferno, those were confirmed ages ago-- ask Candace de Russy. If you're trying to say that your God would damn a bunch of students for using Jesus' image, then I don't want to be a part of your little posse. Unlike you, I firmly believe that God has a sense of humor, look at the platypus. She's probably having a good laugh over the issue right now. You also called our table of contents "wimpy." What are you trying to say about Jesus, bro? If I were you, I'd be worrying about Chez Inferno myself. By the way, we still are total jackasses and know it.*

## WINNER

1998 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM AWARDS

- FIRST PLACE IN REPORTING
- FIRST PLACE IN HELLRAISING  
(TIED WITH THE HUNTER COLLEGE ENVOY)

## AFRICANA STUDIES

### Finally...AFS is a department!

*Invited remarks by Dr. William McAdoo, delivered on October 12, 1998, before a meeting of the College of the Africana Studies' proposal for elevation to departmental status. Dr. McAdoo is himself, a senator in both the Arts & Science Senate and the University Senate.*

#### COLLEAGUES,

I would like to make a few brief introductory remarks in order to inform our consideration of the proposal before us and then to answer questions:

You will note from our proposal that this year, Africana Studies celebrates its 30th anniversary at Stony Brook, having been established in 1968. Despite this lengthy presence on our campus, many of our colleagues may know little about Africana Studies or may have misconceptions based upon lack of information. While our proposal addresses the process leading up to this point and provides a brief overview of the major reasons for our application for departmental status, a few remarks might be in order to clarify who we are and what we do.

We are a degree granting unit, with both a major leading to B.A. degree in Africana Studies and a minor. Africana Studies is quintessentially an interdisciplinary academic unit. We are a complex of interrelated disciplines. And, while our unit maintains a tradition with historical roots in a unique and specific African-American experience, it has grown in size and focus to encompass a variety of themes and subjects. Our faculty members specialize in a wide range of regions of the world: Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, North America; Africana Studies at Stony Brook is the best example of an academic unit that deals with global themes and issues.

A central consideration informing the interdisciplinary nature of AFS is a belief that many of the more traditional disciplines have inadequately explored the record of individuals of color. The fact that many of our courses are cross-listed with other departments and programs (History, Political Science, English, Anthropology, Art, Women's Studies, French & Italian, Latin American & Caribbean Center, and SSL, etc.) speaks to the vital role played by AFS in helping other units to address this issue. But it also speaks to the high quality of our faculty's scholarship and teaching.

All members of the Africana Studies faculty teach on the graduate level and serve on graduate and Ph.D. committees. All members of the Africana Studies faculty have affiliations—the majority through joint appointments—with departments representing their home disciplines. Such appointments are not made lightly and require submission of files, careful scrutiny and vote by each departmental faculty. So, again, this is eloquent testimony to both our "connectedness" and to the strength of our faculty in areas of research, teaching, and University service.

One correction to our proposal. We have 7 faculty lines in Africana Studies, not 6. We are pleased to announce that, since the writing of the proposal, Prof. Anthony Hurley's faculty line has officially been moved from French and Italian to Africana Studies. We welcome his homecoming. He will maintain an affiliated relationship with French and Italian. We also have two joint appointees from other departments, who have regularly taught AFS courses and who have full rights and privileges on our faculty. So, we have 9 active faculty participants.

Now, what constitutes a department and what difference will it make? According to SUNY guidelines ("Guidelines for New Departments, Programs, Institutes, Schools and Colleges"): "A department is an academic unit in a school or college offering a curriculum leading to a degree of certification and having a chairman who reports to the head of the college or school." The same document defines a program in almost identical fashion as a department with the exception that a program has a director instead of a chair, and then further notes: "A program may be an academic unit that by reason of its small size or stage of development has not been given departmental status."

The panel of distinguished scholars—all experts in the field—who comprised the external review team referenced in our proposal, submitted a detailed report to the Academic Review Committee in June, which not only "vigorously recommended that departmental status be granted to" AFS, but also gave our faculty very high praise for their noteworthy achievements in scholarship, teaching and service to the University.

It is clear, from the Dean's and Provost's endorsements that our administration fully supports the contention of our faculty and the strong recommendation of the external review team selected by the Office of the Provost that Africana Studies is a department in everything but name and that departmental status ought to be conferred. Africana Studies is a department in everything but name, and we are here today to hopefully rectify this anomaly.

Now, what difference will departmental status make? One might easily ask what difference departmental status makes for more traditional departments on our campus. One might also ask what difference does it make to ANY unit which is denied the status which it has earned and rightfully deserves? But instead of taking this route, we would like to address this issue head-on. A department is perceived to be stronger, more stable and more permanent than a program. A department is generally held in higher esteem by students, other faculty members, administrators, and those in other academic institutions who are aware of our status. This latter point relates not only to potential resource allocations but also to the potential for attracting and hiring the best qualified new faculty, and attracting top-notch students to our B.A. degree program. Further, as we stated in our proposal, this will signal the importance and value placed on our unit by the University. It is critical to the morale of our faculty, who have earned the respect that this step will confer. Justice requires the recognition of AFS as a department among departments at Stony Brook. This, for us and for Stony Brook, is a historic moment.

## CAMPUS CRIME

### Assault on Campus

A female student reported that she was attacked while walking through an unmarked path in a wooded area between Tabler Quad and Roosevelt Quad on Tuesday, October 13 at approximately 9:30 p.m.

The victim was allegedly approached, accosted, and sexually assaulted by a male approximately 20 to 22 years-old. Her attacker had short black hair, possibly a crew cut, and was wearing a light colored jacket and blue jeans.

The Stony Brook Police Department and the Suffolk County Police Department are seeking information on this incident. If anyone has information regarding this incident, please call University Police detectives at (516)632-3333 or CrimeStoppers at 2-TIPS on campus or 1-800-TIPS off campus.

University Police also suggest that if you must walk alone at night, contact the Walk Service at 632-6337. For more information about on-campus safety, call 632-7786.

## THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

### Murder rumors untrue

There was no body found in H-Quad. Despite rumors that were circulating among students last week, there was no body found in H-Quad, according to Doug Little, Associate Director for Community Affairs of Public Safety.

The rumors may have started after the tragic murder of Michelle Ann Brey, an employee at the Benedict Cafe. Brey, who was last seen on October 10, was found on a bluff in Rocky Point overlooking Long Island Sound on Tuesday, October 13.

Brey, 34, is survived by three sons, aged five to nine. Donations to a memorial fund established by the Brey family are being collected in all campus dining facilities. Contributions can also be sent to P.O. Box 211, Malverne, NY, 11565.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### Meet Shirley & Friends

The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Organization will hold a town meeting with University President Shirley Strum Kenny and Dean Lawrence Martin. Topics to be discussed include recent increases in graduate student fees and the impact of increased undergraduate enrollment on graduate students.

The meeting shall take place on Thursday, October 29, in room 303 of the Student Activities Center from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Douglas Boyle in the Graduate School at 632-7040 or e-mail him at dboyle@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

## SAC FIASCO:

## NOTHING STOLEN, POLICE CALLED

BY DANIEL YOHANNES

HARTWELLS HAS DONE IT AGAIN. FIRST THERE was the "Incident at Deng Lee's," now we have the Situation in the SAC. Chartwells must think we are sheep, frequenting their eating establishments for the sole purpose of paying their bloated managerial salaries and ensuring their usurious corporate profits. But this time they messed with the Press.

On Thursday, October 8, at approximately 2:15 PM, I entered the SAC eatery with the sole intention of buying and eating one of their really tasty and kinda cheap pizzas. This I did, but I also made what was apparently the *faux pas du jour*: I walked back through the SAC food serving section, on my way to my next class in Javits. As Elvis was leaving the building, a manager named Farhad Ghezelaigh stopped me and said, "Excuse me, but I don't think you have paid for that pizza."

Mistake number one: That statement implies that he was watching me and saw that I had not paid for it. In fact, he had only seen me leaving the eatery with a slice. As I am a stickler for semantics (I can't help it, I get it from Mother), I was annoyed by his statement. "Excuse me but did you pay for that slice?" or "I'm sorry but the cashier is that way" would have been a less accusatory and more factual way to express the same sentiment. I stated that I had paid for it and he began to back down. I insisted that we return to the cashier and clarify the situation. After being assured that I had indeed paid for the pizza, Mr. Ghezelaigh began to chastise me for violating the aforementioned *faux pas du jour*, sans apologizing for accusing me of stealing. His tirade, and it was a tirade, fell on deaf ears. I had been insulted; there had been no apology; and I was late for class. This time I intentionally violated the back-through-the-SAC rule. Mr. Ghezelaigh followed me to the rear exit of the SAC and continued to berate me while I unlocked my bike and continued to my next class. His parting words were a threat to permanently expel me from the SAC eatery if I continued to violate the *fpdj*. He also wished me a less-than heartfelt good day.

I was more annoyed than anything else when I got to my next class, Genetics. Being the quintessential academic that I am, I placed my anger, shame, and resentment in the back of my mind and prepared to learn. After Genetics, I had an exam in MAR 340, and got out early. Finding myself with 30 minutes to kill, I decided that the "Situation at the SAC" had not been resolved to my satisfaction and intended to find out the name of the gentleman involved so that the issue could be addressed at a later time.

When I returned, I found him easily and he appeared to have lost all the aggression to which I had previously been subjected. He cheerily consented to give me his name if I would accompany him to the office in the back. Of course, I had a pen then and there but, as you will soon read, he had a reason for removing me from the public area of the SAC eatery. He said it would be much easier for him to write down his name than for him to dictate it to me. God, I am such a sucker. That said, I followed him to a tiny office, occupied by two gentlemen who did not identify themselves, and when asked refused to give their names (I will refer to them as Mr. X and

Mr. Y). Now news isn't about assumptions, but in the absence of their names and titles, I deduced that, since they were older than most students, wearing collared shirts, and sitting on their asses, they were probably managerial level employees of Chartwells, the company that is our current food service provider.

Mr. Ghezelaigh provided me with his name and I asked Messrs. X and Y if they could help resolve the situation. They indicated affirmatively, but before I could begin, Mr. Ghezelaigh interjected, "This guy stole a pizza." At this point, I nearly lost my shit but managed to hold it together. My shaking hands contradicted my calm voice as I explained to Messrs. X and Y what had occurred earlier in the day. I asked Mr. Ghezelaigh if he agreed with my version of the events, and he did. I then asked him why he had made the previous statement, a question for which he had no response. I now expected Messrs. X and Y to advise Mr. Ghezelaigh to apologize, but to expect is to be disappointed.

Mr. X said, "Now I remember you." (A couple of weeks earlier, I had met the gentleman while I was complaining that, since there was no pizza I had to buy a chicken wrap costing almost \$2.50 more. After my oh so eloquent defense of my position [poor students can't afford the extra cost, food service should be more reliable, etc.], the manager was unimpressed and unrepentant. In my annoyed state, I said, "I could have stolen this GD wrap, but I didn't. I paid for it and came here to express to you why I am annoyed that I have to pay \$2.50 more than my per meal budgeted amount.") He asked me if I remembered what I had said on the previous occasion. Of course I did and I repeated my statement verbatim. He remembered the phrase that included the word stealing, but not the actual issue behind the statement nor the fact that I only spoke it out of frustration at his callous attitude and inaction.

Faced with another implication that I was "of thieving character," I said, when you look like me (I ain't pretty), I can't afford to have the implication of being a thief. I asked Mr. X why his recollection was relevant to the present situation. He had no response.

At this point, Mr. Ghezelaigh asked "Are you calling me a racist? I can't believe you are calling me a racist." (I felt bad that he had misconstrued my statement, but at that point there was little constructive discussion occurring, and any attempt to clear up the misunderstanding may have escalated the situation further). Mr. Ghezelaigh became very emotional and irrational as he shared his personal history that refuted my "allegation" that he was a racist. Then Messrs. X and Y chimed in. I had the three managers in a 10x10 room blasting me for calling them racists. What we must not lose sight of is that I never made such an allegation. Mr. Ghezelaigh may have misconstrued my statement, but Messrs. X and Y were only eager to end the meeting any way they could.

Mr. Ghezelaigh did. He said, "call the Police," and Mr. Y did. At this point, I sat down, shut up, and started a deep breathing relaxation exercise. The three gentlemen continued their conversation during the denouement. They prattled on about "all this over a slice of pizza that cost \$1.25... This is so silly...blah blah." It reminded me of a conversation adults would

have in the presence of a child in order to influence the child. I said that as the situation had proven to be explosive, and since it was rude to discuss a person in their presence when they are no longer part of the conversation, "Please, let's wait quietly until the police show up." There were a few more petty grumblings and finally, golden silence.

When the police showed up, they requested my SB and NYS IDs. I complied and requested that we move the conversation out of the office. The cop was very professional. He asked if I felt uncomfortable and I said yes. We moved out into the hall where I noticed that five officers were present to deal with lil' ol' me. They were looming in the background twiddling their thumbs while the first cop took my statement. When we were done, he talked with his compadres, and asked me to wait while he took a statement from the managers. When he was done, he came out and said "Nothing was stolen, right? Why were we called?" I said, "I didn't call you, the managers did!" At that point, I was free to go.

I left the SAC thinking "Phew, that was close," and feeling relieved that I hadn't gotten into trouble.

Since then, I realized that the fact of the matter was that I had done nothing wrong. I hadn't deserved that 45 minute nightmare. I didn't deserve reliving my past anxiety with police. The SAC managers failed to manage, several times and on several levels.

The next day, I made calls to Kevin Kelly, Executive Director of FSA, Dawn Villacci, Consumer Advocate and Dennis LeStrange, a Chartwells administrator. Ms. Villacci was very concerned, as were all administrators I contacted. But here we are, one week later, and the only consensus that was reached was that some managers will receive sensitivity training.

At press time, the only training scheduled was one on how to handle situations involving shoplifters. The training will be conducted by Doug Little of SUNY Public Safety. I was led to believe that customer service and sensitivity training would become priorities as a result of this incident. Apparently, the bottom line is always Chartwells' first priority.

I had sincerely hoped that this article could have included some closure to this tale. We started with a student, wrongly accused of theft, and three managers who didn't know how to manage the situation. Ten days later, I don't feel the situation has changed much. I have little confidence that it will. Chartwells has an iron-clad ten-year contract with the University. Nothing short of gross negligence threatens their term here at SB.

The police report indicates that Messrs. X and Y are actually the Director and food manager at the SAC eatery (named Bauman and Waskowitz, respectively). If you are involved in an incident where you don't feel your rights as a customer and student have been respected, report the party responsible. One incident can be forgiven but we can not allow this to become the norm.

Sharon Shaked contributed to this article.

# AN INTERNATIONAL DISGRACE

By Chris Sorochin

**O**UR GLORIOUS REPUBLIC, AS WE ALL REMEMBER from history class, is a shining beacon of freedom to persecuted wretches the world over. The United States has always welcomed those fleeing oppression unless, of course, they were being oppressed by our allies, in which case they were excluded as "undesirable aliens."

One of our most cherished mythologies is that we're the blessed heirs of the Promised Land; that things could never be as good anywhere else; and no one would ever trade in our sterile plasticized civilization for anything else.

People do leave the US for other possibilities, though. Artistic and literary types have always relocated abroad to escape this country's frequent spasms of aggressive anti-intellectualism. We've also had political exiles, especially during periods of anti-communist hysteria. The Vietnam Era sent hither thousands of young men who figured they had better things to do with their lives than become accomplices and/or victims in the Empire's genocidal folly in Southeast Asia. Other disenfranchised youth followed.

And I'd be remiss not to mention all those runaway slaves who sought refuge in Canada or, going back even farther, all those both black and white who blew off the stifling embrace of holy Christendom to take up with the heather "savages" that were here first. When word got back that life among the red devils was more relaxed and egalitarian than within the fort, the leaders of the Virginia Colony made running away to live with the Indians a crime punishable by death.

With all this as background, permit me to introduce the latest wrinkle, and a lovely wrinkle it is, as it continues the theme of holding the US accountable for its own violations of international law, including those governing human rights.

Ritt Goldstein was a justice of the peace and city council member in Norwalk, Connecticut. He left last year and is currently seeking asylum in Sweden. Goldstein had suffered repeated attacks on both his person and his home and the brakes on his car were at one point mysteriously disconnected. The final straw came when the son of one of his colleagues was shot dead by the police.

Mr. Goldstein, you see, had rather naively bought into the outmoded idea that police should be accountable to some authority other than themselves, and had been campaigning for a civilian review board to oversee Norwalk police. He claims his life is in danger from rogue agents of the state who are empowered to use force, act with impunity and are tacitly encouraged by politicians spouting "tough on crime" rhetoric.

Swedish authorities, fearful of angering the mandarins of both the U.S. and the European Union (if Sweden sets a precedent, other countries might have to follow suit and allow similar cases), waffled like the House of Pancakes on a Sunday morning and at first rejected Goldstein's petition, puking up some mealy-mouthed pap to the effect that "the USA is an internationally recognized democracy and a state providing the rule of law."

This vile meatball did not go gently down the gullet of the Swedish human rights community, who compiled massive evidence in Goldstein's support. Among those testifying was a former mayor of Norwalk who had himself experienced nocturnal visitations from unknown elements who had hung out on his front porch drinking beer and leaving PBA stickers. He, too, was under the erroneous impression that consolidated power

could be legitimately challenged and had advocated some sort of external check on his city's police department.

International groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have recently published unflattering reports on police brutality in the U.S., adding to such domestic reports as those by the Mollen and Christopher commissions. Last year, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Bacre Waly N'Diaye, traveled to seven US cities gathering information on the death penalty and police brutality for the UN Human Rights Commission. The State and Justice Departments were not particularly helpful and good ole Jesse Helms had some anti-UN bile to spew for the occasion.

It is to be assumed that Mr. N'Diaye, who is from Senegal, did not travel alone or without diplomatic ID, or he might very well have found himself the subject of investigation, real up close and personal.

The last weekend in September, a conference in California took up the growing problem of what some refer to as the "prison-industrial complex"—the seemingly endless call for stiffer penalties, and more prison construction. California now spends more on its prisons than it does on its uni-

**People do leave the US for other possibilities, though. Artistic and literary types have always relocated abroad to escape this country's frequent spasms of aggressive anti-intellectualism.**

versities. Not coincidentally, the correctional officers' union is the largest contributor in California state political campaigns, meaning they can influence policies that will be beneficial to their job security—for example, the three-strikes law.

We're on the verge of much the same thing here as Pataki keeps subjecting SUNY and CUNY to the death of a thousand cuts, while planning construction of new prisons. A close friend who works in the judicial system was recently planning a trip up to Albany. To her shock, as she plotted her course, she recognized the names of no fewer than six of the towns she'd pass through as sites of correctional facilities. Much of upstate New York is now economically dependent on these institutions, making upstate legislators very eager to vote for measures that will incarcerate more and more of the populations as a kind of Kafkaesque jobs program for their Rust Belt districts that suffer high unemployment. I wonder if they look ahead to the social effects of having an economy run on human misery and degradations, one in which that majority of the breadwinners spend their workdays treating other people as cattle. Expect rising numbers for domestic violence,

divorce, substance abuse and mental illness to place additional stress on already overburdened public health services in rural areas.

In the San Francisco Bay area, thousands of high school students are planning a massive walkout to protest the increasing incidence of police misconduct and targeting of youth as a criminal class. I heard two of the student activists on WBAI's excellent "Democracy Now" (Monday-Friday, 9-10 a.m., 99.5 FM) saying that their schools now resemble prisons, with barbed wire and surveillance cameras. They wondered if this atmosphere was to prepare inner-city youth for a future not as productive citizens, but as an imprisoned and permanently suspect underclass.

New York City schools have recently been trying to implement the placement of police officers in schools. The authority of these officers would override that of school officials.

Middle-class suburban youth will be subject to slightly more genteel forms of repression. Some schools have Breathalyzer machines on the premises, prompting student protest walkouts and boycotts of school events. Students at five such schools in Texas organized an alternative prom in response to such a tactic.

I've even read of a school in Georgia where police drug teams conduct totally unconstitutional searches, including dog sniffs of students' persons and lockers, in a guilty-until-proven-innocent sort of procedure. A teacher who protested these searches had her car searched (also illegally) and police found (or more likely planted) half a joint in the ashtray. Needless to say, the instructor in question was fired when she refused to submit to an immediate drug test.

Some time back, I speculated on where they recruit youthful decoys for sting operations (which I've just found out are illegal in many countries and used to be illegal here, too. Bring back the good old days). Well, it seems that at some schools, one can be part of a "junior police academy." I believe Smithtown High is one of them. Those youngsters with promising authoritarian personalities must thrill to be selected for a "top-secret" assignment, keeping the Free World safe by screwing some convenience clerk of Mom and Pop business to the wall.

Another acquaintance told me of an extra special field trip she took at Ward Melville— to the Riverhead jail. The purpose of this excursion does not seem to have been to raise consciousness about need for prison reform. I think they call it "Scared straight" and its message is one of pure intimidation. "Don't let yourself be locked up in a cage like these animals."

At the close of last semester, perspicacious faculty members at our sister SUNY school at Old Westbury were dumfounded to discover that the new college budget included some \$10,000 for the construction of a new building to be leased to Nassau County for a police academy. This little extra was included with absolutely no input from the campus community, least of all the students, a high percentage of whom are people of color. I wonder if the cadets will be given homework assignments like patrolling the dorms, or going undercover to infiltrate suspect student groups.

One final pernicious detail: while the nation was enthralled with the squalid sexual acrobatics of the Bill and Monica Show (hosted by perverted Uncle Kenny), our dear friends in Congress passed a reprehensible Juvenile Justice bill. This darling piece of legis-

continued on page 8

lation bribes the states to try and sentence those as young as 14 as adults including imprisonment in adult facilities and (can't you hear them salivating?) the death penalty. This disgrace comes on the heels of a case in Chicago in which police held two seven-year-olds on suspicion of having committed a brutal rape and murder. Police interrogated them for several hours without parental notification or the presence of a juvenile officer. They were only released when lab reports returned traces of semen, which boys of seven are incapable of producing, from the victim's vagina.

All this is to remind you of the annual day of protest against police brutality on October 22. There will be a march and rally starting at 4 pm at Union Square park and proceeding to City Hall. If you've been to City Hall lately, you know that the little Dictator now cowers from his subjects behind guarded barricades.

It's especially important for those of us of European ancestry to make a showing; first, because it's the right thing to do and second, because although non-whites overwhelmingly bear the brunt of police brutality, they're not its exclusive victims, especially here in Suffolk county, where a good many police misconduct cases never see the light of Newsday. Just last weekend, a 61-year-old Staten Island man with Alzheimer's was set upon by several officers who stood on his neck and legs to hold him down as he had an attack.

Anyone can be the victim of police brutality; it's just a lot more likely if you're not white. Ask the off-duty African-American police officer who was stomped and kicked by several of his white brother officers. When he finally managed to produce his badge, the beating continued, with his attackers shouting, "You're not one of us." Remember to wear black.

**Disgrace continued from page 7**

**Just a little more paranoia.**

All the news about the devastation caused by Hurricane George has brought FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) into the spotlight. What hasn't been spotlighted is that not all the emergencies that FEMA is prepared to deal with are natural or undesirable and not all of their efforts are humanitarian. FEMA is also in place to take measures during "civil disturbances,"

**The "Labor" government of Tony Blair in the United Kingdom is taking yet another page from the book of the U.S. neoliberal police state. Blair is going to institute "zero tolerance" policing in many of Britain's poorest urban areas.**

i.e. any sort of political rebellion, loosely defined, I'm sure. Should the country ever be placed under martial law, FEMA would be there to round up dissidents, oversee the concentration camps and shoot on sight any who would resist. If you think it can't happen here, get your hands on a reliable account of the testimony of Oliver North in the Iran/Contra hearings in 1987. One of Ollie's wet dreams was to impose exactly such measures should there be widespread popular opposition to the US military intervention in Central America being plotted at the time. Not much was uncovered about this little matter, of course, because,

just like the revelations of CIA complicity in drug smuggling, it was immediately removed to closed session on grounds of (yes) national security.

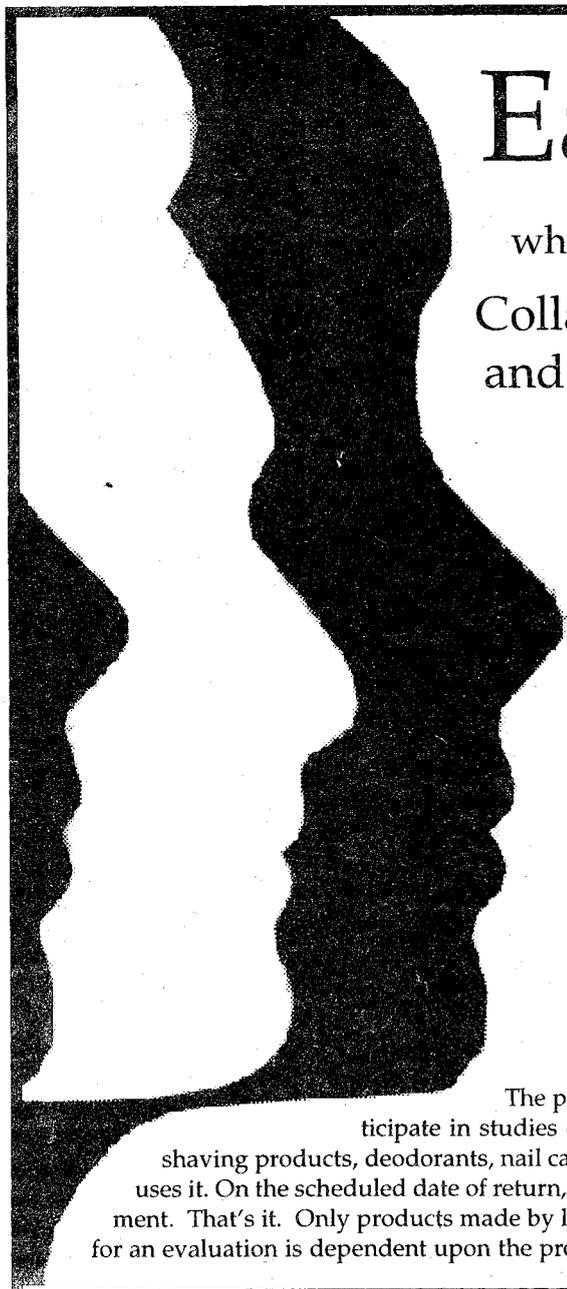
**Tony the Phony Strikes Again!**

The "Labor" government of Tony Blair in the United Kingdom is taking yet another page from the book of the U.S. neo-liberal police state. Blair is going to institute "zero tolerance" policing in many of Britain's poorest urban areas.

Soon residents of these 'hoods, many of whom are non-Caucasian, will revel in the cozy feeling of safety provided by their local constabulary swooping down on drug users, graffiti artists, and anyone else who looks dodgy and putting them through the full fury of the system. The same government has recently extended an anti-terrorism law, already in place in Northern Ireland, to the whole country. This provision features the infamous internment without trial and the possibility of arresting and detaining suspects indefinitely solely on the word of a police official. I don't see any potential for abuse in that arrangement, do you?

Not to be seen as slouches, the Irish government has come up with a copycat version of the law, once again demonstrating that the Irish ruling class are just Brit wannabes.

And in Germany, the sixteen-year reign of conservative chancellor Helmut Kohl ("King Kohl" as he's somewhat sardonically known to Germans) came to an end with the election victory of Gerhard Schroder. Some have compared Schroder to Blair. Let's hope not. Schroder's currently making an alliance with Germany's hyper-cool Green Party, whose platform includes getting Germany out of NATO and legalizing marijuana. Wouldn't it be ironic if uptight old Deutschland became the next hip and groovy destination?



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# A LIFE ENDED TOO EARLY

# THE HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

By DH Campbell

Matthew Shepard lost his battle to remain in this world on Monday, October 13, after bravely fighting to stay alive in a coma for five days. His body was unable to recover from having been beaten so badly that no surgery

## Personal Reflections On The Tragedy In Wyoming

could have repaired his crushed skull. He was unable to survive being crucified on a fence in near freezing temperatures for over 18 hours. He was unable to have the mental drive to want to return to a cruel world where violence against homosexuals occurs far too often.

"Matthew Shepard was 22 years old when his life ended." "He was the victim of probably the most sadistic and brutal attack against a homosexual in recent history"; "He was beaten and then left to die"; "He was a college student in Wyoming"; "He was a member of a family." These are some of the quotes that the media have been using to describe Matthew and the facts surrounding his death. But all too often, what the reports and our society overlook

was that Matthew was a human being. He felt the pain of being attacked, just as all of would have. He knew what it meant to bleed in the night, just like we all would. And he knew what it was like to feel the fear of being left alone in the night to die, just like we all can. He was more than just a gay man who was attacked; Matthew was a human being. Please keep that idea with you long after you finish reading this piece.

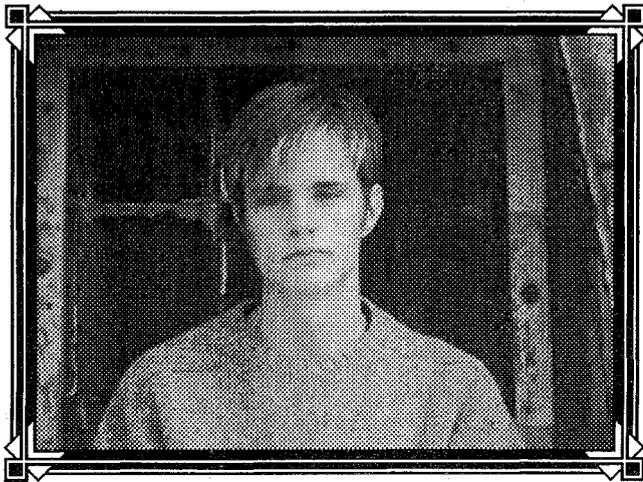
All during this week my co-workers and peers kept asking me what my opinions where on the incident. I understood why they were asking me about it being that I am one of the few openly gay men in my workplace and on campus, though I just kept hoping that they would drop the whole issue so I could avoid telling them my inner most fears and feelings. It isn't until now I that I am ready to sit down and answer their questions and begin for myself to sort out my feelings of grief.

How do I feel about the attack? My honest answer is that it makes me want to cry for Matthew and his family. But most of all it makes me want to cry for American society. I feel so let down. I feel so alienated by the responses of our politicians on this subject, I feel angry at our legal system for not taking harsher actions on bigots. I feel hurt by those Christian fundamentalists who think that Matthew got what he deserved. I just feel. That's it; I just feel!

I kept being asked what I thought was going to be the outcome of all this, meaning did I think that stricter laws were going to be passed to prevent against hate crimes? My answer to that is that I really don't think that there will be this upswing of political activism on behalf of gays by straight politicians who say that they want to protect the rights of all minorities by passing Anti

Hate Crime laws. And for all those who will say that now there is a move by even the most conservative leaders to embrace the Gay Community, (like Al D'Amato), I say the only reason why they even acknowledge us is because of the financial power base that many gays now have. Let us not fool ourselves into thinking that they really care.

Finally, I kept being asked if an attack such as this, could happen on Stony Brook's campus? My response to that question is yes, it can happen anywhere to anyone at anytime. I don't care if administrators read this article and tell the whole wide world that Stony Brook could never have something like this happen, I am here to tell you that homophobia, and for that matter bigotry against minority groups, is very much alive and well on Stony Brook's campus.

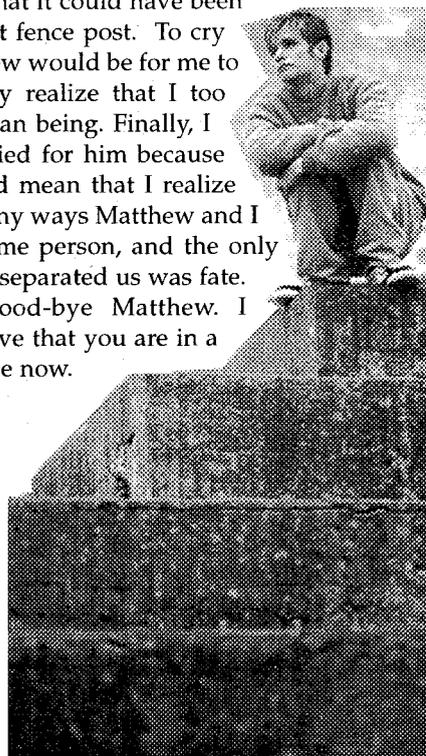


The night that Matthew died, I went to bed and the only image that I kept coming up with was of a video by David Bowie and Trent Reznor for a song called "I'm Afraid of Americans." In this video Bowie is seen running almost in a panic in New York because he is so afraid and bewildered about why Americans condone

violence on such a mass level. This was the best example of how I felt this week. Instead of being afraid of Americans, I am afraid of heterosexuals. Perhaps that is a dis-unifying statement, or even paranoia, but it is an honest statement just the same. And after this week with all the statements that were released by churches, politicians and other people as to why homosexuals are evil people, isn't it a valid feeling for me to have?

I haven't cried for Matthew yet, and I am not sure when I will. I haven't cried not because I am cold or unmoved to my core about losing him; I haven't cried because to do so would be for me to admit that it could have been me on that fence post. To cry for Matthew would be for me to consciously realize that I too am a human being. Finally, I haven't cried for him because that would mean that I realize that in many ways Matthew and I are the same person, and the only thing that separated us was fate.

Good-bye Matthew. I truly believe that you are in a better place now.



The death of Matthew Shepard has focused the nation's attention on the violence that many gay and lesbian Americans face every day.

BACKGROUND: Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, was savagely attacked, burned, and left to die for up to 18 hours tied to a wooden fence outside Laramie, 30 miles northwest of Cheyenne. He died Monday morning in a hospital in Ft. Collins Colorado.

When Shepard was initially found, last Thursday, he was unconscious and his skull had been smashed with a blunt object; he also appeared to have substantial burns on his body and cuts on his head and face. Two motorcyclists who found his body said he looked "like a scarecrow" because of the way he was positioned on the fence. Prior to this fatal attack, he had recently been beaten twice and attributed those attacks to his openness about his sexuality.

At the vigil last night, Walter Boulden spoke very eloquently about the loss of his close friend Matt:

"Matt's sense of safety was betrayed by every legislator in Wyoming and this nation who has opposed or voted against hate crime legislation over the last years. These men and women represented the leadership of our state and Nation, and sent a clear and tangible message to the people of our state, and to the children of our nation that it is okay to "Hate Gays and Lesbians." Through opposition to hate crime legislation which clearly states we will not tolerate hate, our leadership has sanctioned an atmosphere of ignorance, prejudice, oppression, and hatred. Our children have been, and are still listening and watching. Alex and I stand here before you because some of our children heard that message and interpreted it to mean it is okay to savagely torture and murder one of our gay children.

I will never be able to understand the thinking of a person who could do something so horrific to another human being. But these two young men did not in any way try to hide their crime. They did not dump Matt's battered body in some ditch hoping the snow would hide it until next Spring. They strung him up on a fence, displaying him like a trophy, announcing to the community and world what they had done. This display was an attempt to intimidate and subjugate Wyoming's gay community and send the message that all gays and lesbians deserve such violence.

College Democrats is very proud to stand with our brothers and sisters at the Human Rights Campaign in mourning the loss of Matthew Shepard and calling for a nationwide campaign for the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Congress is supposed to adjourn on Friday, October 16. To pass this very needed bill this Congress, calls MUST be made to Newt Gingrich and Trent Lott IMMEDIATELY.

**CALL:**  
**202-225-0600 NEWT GINGRICH**  
**202-224-3135 TRENT LOTT**

Simply tell them that you want them to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act THIS CONGRESS. The bill numbers are: H.R. 3081 & S. 1529.

# I WANT MY KEWPIE DOLL

By Chris Sorochin  
(Freelance political analyst and pundit)

**R**EMEMBER WOODY ALLEN'S CLASSIC *SLEEPER*, in which the 20th century protagonist, after being cryogenically frozen, wakes up a century or two down the road? Among many hilarious scenes of satirical social commentary is one where Allen confesses his sins to a robot priest with blinking lights and a revolving cross on top. At the end, the legend "Absolved" flashes across a digital screen, bells go off and a little door pops open, offering the newly clean soul a kewpie doll prize.

**"So long, sucker," the electoral process seems to sneer.**

My yearly pilgrimage to the voting booth has always perversely reminded me of that cinematic moment, pregnant with its suggestion of a ritual that's supposed to be a big significant deal but had devolved into more of a meaningless joke. As I sigh and pull the lever to reopen the curtains, the metallic ka-ching sound never fails to summon that image to my mind and I half turn around, expecting to see a trap door dispensing a cheap, plastic carnival tchotchke.

"So long, sucker," the electoral process seems to sneer cynically, "See ya next year," and it chuckles obscenely as I slink out of the polling place.

But I keep going back because it's important to exercise every democratic right, even futile ones, as there are those who'd like nothing better than to remove every last one. I've heard that in Russia, voters can select "None of the Above," and if enough do, a new election must be held within a certain period of time with new candidates. Who says they don't know from democracy over there?

As far as this year goes, George Pataki and his Republicans are crud personified. I don't vote for them. And the best thing you can say for the GOP is that they practice Truth in Advertising- you know exactly what you're getting, i.e. the coddling of the rich and big business, and the royal screwing of everyone else.

Which brings us to the dreary old Democrats. I blush to disclose that I'm registered in their party, a status predicated on the now-debunked assumption that at least some of their candidates may be worthwhile. Well, suh, the pickings get slimmer all the time. And if there's one thing that everyone should have learned from five years under the reign of Billy the Bulbous, it's that the majority of Democrats are nothing but Republicans with hip Fruitopia exteriors.

Case in point: Who in their right mind wouldn't dearly love to give Senator Sleaze, Al D'Amato, the patent leather spiked boot into political oblivion? But what are we presented with as an alternative? Here's his challenger, Chuck Schumer, bragging in his TV ads that he voted to support the death penalty and hire more cops. Hello? This is not a choice. I refuse to vote for any politician, no matter how putatively liberal, who feels compelled to play to the Raw Meat sector of the electorate by touting his/her commitment to more draconian "law and order" measures.

Several weeks ago, I interviewed Christopher Garvey, the Libertarian candidate for governor. I agree with him 100% on drug decriminalization, lowering the drinking age and abolishing corporate welfare. However, it seems to me the Libertarians would like to dismantle all public services, including education, and I don't think I can support that.

After a protracted court battle, there's going to be a Marijuana Reform Party line on the

ballot, and high time, too (Tee-hee). I don't know who their candidates are, but I'll certainly consider pulling some levers for them just to put them on the map and establish their permanent presence on the ballot.

So I'm urging all of you to please consider voting Green. The ticket is headed by the irrepressible Al Lewis, better known as Grandpa on "The Munsters," and the only candidate in syndication. Just think of how groovily retro it'd be to have a real honest-to-Christ leftist up there instead of some wishy-washy careerist political whore. I absolutely salivate over the baroque symbolism that could be achieved by having him

open the State Assembly in his Dracula costume, complete with undertaker green face and luridly red lips. I can see the new promotional campaign for the New York State Visitors Bureau now: Come to New York, the Vampire State (an appellation long ago bestowed by taxpayers).

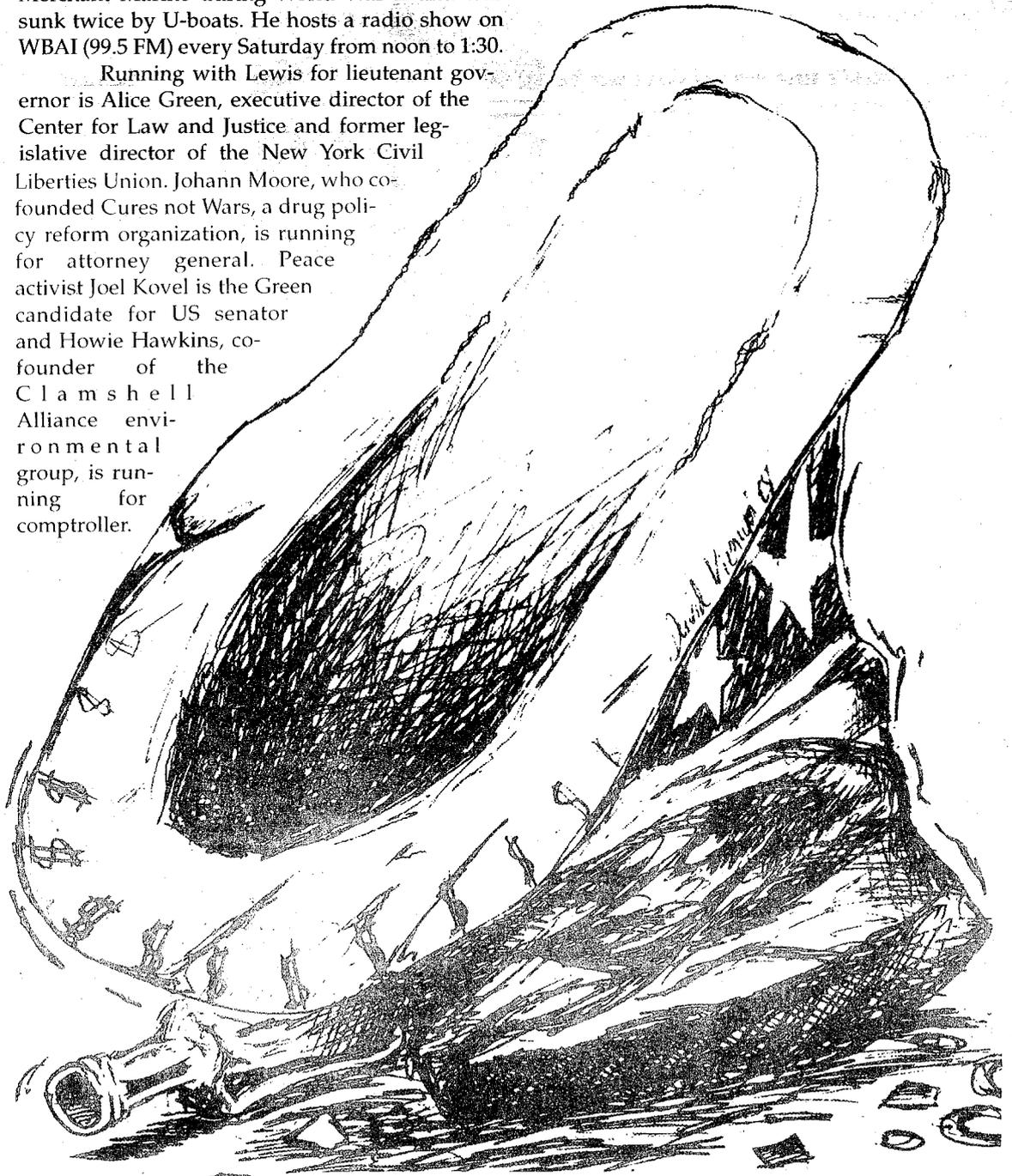
But seriously, folks, Lewis goes back a long way, having worked to support Sacco and Vanzetti in the 1920s, organizing southern textile workers in the '30s and working with the Black Panthers to stump for teaching of African-American history in the '60s and '70s. His war record (these have long been the staples of bullshit bragging rights for pols) veritably thumps its chest in proclaiming that he served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and was sunk twice by U-boats. He hosts a radio show on WBAI (99.5 FM) every Saturday from noon to 1:30.

Running with Lewis for lieutenant governor is Alice Green, executive director of the Center for Law and Justice and former legislative director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Johann Moore, who co-founded Cures not Wars, a drug policy reform organization, is running for attorney general. Peace activist Joel Kovel is the Green candidate for US senator and Howie Hawkins, co-founder of the ClamsHELL Alliance environmental group, is running for comptroller.

The Green platform emphasizes putting people before profits, especially dismantling the growing police/prison/punishment state, implementing international environmental treaties (especially Kyoto) and cutting military spending. They favor access to education, affordable housing and living wages for all. You can find out more by calling (718)459-1778(website: <http://www.greens.org/ny>).

Some would say voting for a third party is a waste of your vote. I must respectfully disagree with that way of thinking. The electoral process is supposed to be choosing leadership and policies that reflect your beliefs about the way things ought to be done. I feel it's a waste to take what's being dished out in the Tough on Crime/Lower Taxes cafeteria. Throwing your vote to the lesser of two evils only encourages them not to change. That's why the voter turnout is smaller every year.

At least show the fucking Democrats they're not the only game in town for progressives. True, Grandpa probably won't be elected and, even if he were, the forces of reaction would slip some arsenic into his Bloody Mary or get Elvira to claim he sexually harassed her. But at least when you wake up the morning of November 4, you'll be able to look in the mirror and not only see your reflection, but also be secure in the knowledge that you voted your conscience and not your fears. We'd be lots better off if more people did.



# THE 1998 STONY BROOK PRESS

## Voter's Guide

### 1998 GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES



**Green Party**  
**Al "Grandpa Munster" Lewis**  
**Dr. Alice Green**

Lewis' goal for this election is to bring the Green Party of New York State ballot status by getting 50,000 or more votes. This would greatly increase the party's influence and be a stepping stone to further victories. Lewis is a strong advocate of civil rights. He has fought for the rights of the poor and discriminated against since the 1960's. He is angered

by many examples of racism he sees in recent events. These include the proposed cuts to CUNY, the new NYC taxi regulations, the attack on NYC street vendors, the attempts to sell off NYC's community gardens, NY State's newly reinstated death penalty and the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

#### Republican/Conservative Party

**George Pataki**  
**Mary Donohue**

In George Pataki's first year as Governor he proposed doubling SUNY tuition, eliminating all aid programs (like TAP and EOP) and cutting SUNY's funding by almost one third. While these drastic measures were stopped by New York State legislators, during Pataki's tenure as governor he has increase one year's SUNY tuition by over \$100, a 45% increase. Under Pataki's administration, the death penalty has been restored in New York State. Welfare has also given way to workfare and there is a new five year time limit on benefits.

Welfare rolls have also dropped by almost 35%, which means over 500,000 people are now not receiving welfare. New York has also been the national leader in cutting taxes while Pataki's been in office. With regard to education, Pataki supports the formation of independent charter schools in the public school system.



#### Liberal Party

**Betsy McCaughey Ross**  
**Jonathan C. Reiter**

Pataki's running mate in 1994, Betsy McCaughey Ross is now running against Pataki for the position of governor. As lieutenant governor, she took on such issues as better education for children and HMOs restrictions of medical care. She has also taken on health care issues with her "Health above wealth: six point comprehensive plan." The Plan calls for a Patients Fair Appeals Act, which would give patients facing death an immediate right of appeal outside their health insurance if the plan refuses to pay for care that could save their lives; the Patient's Fair Disclosure Act, which would require insurance companies to disclose any financial arrangements between doctors and insurers that are meant to reduce health care consumption; a HMO Right to Sue Act, which would allow citizens to sue their insurance companies for injury; the Fairness to Women Contraceptive Coverage, which would require health insurance companies to provide contraceptive health care to all women; the Seniors Safety Net Expansion of EPIC, which would expand the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage, helping seniors save money on prescription drugs; and the Health Insurance Affordability Plan for Working Families, which would reduce the amount of people without health care through the formation of health insurance purchasing cooperatives, or health alliances.

#### Democratic Party

**Peter Vallone**  
**Sandra Frankel**



Peter Vallone is currently a New York City councilman. Regarding education, Vallone supports giving SUNY students who maintain an average of B+ or better a half price reduction in tuition. In addition he supports overall cuts to SUNY and CUNY tuition rates. Vallone is in favor of reducing class size in primary and secondary public schools to 18 and supports keeping schools open until 7 PM. He wants to pass a patients bill of rights and mandate insurance coverage for life threatening illnesses and for

children. Vallone also wants to give preference to NY state workers who bid on government business.

#### The Marijuana Reform Party

**Thomas K. Leighton**  
**Jeffrey C. Wright**

Similar to Lewis, Leighton hopes to make his fledgling party an established political entity in New York State through these elections. The party is dedicated to ending the prohibition of marijuana, not only because of the issue of personal freedom, but to protect children. Separating marijuana from hard drugs, according to Leighton, will reduce the chances of exposure to dangerous drugs on the black market, like cocaine. Leighton also wants to end government hypocrisy. While alcohol and tobacco, which cause addiction, violence, disease and death are subsidized by the government, people are sent to jail for marijuana use. Children are given drugs like Ritalin and Prozac, but are not protected from pollution and corporate greed. Leighton says "It's time to cut the crap, and make New York New Amsterdam again."



#### Libertarian Party

**Chris Garvey**  
**Donald Silberger**

Chris Garvey, like libertarians in general believe that "the government that governs the best governs the least." In short his position can be states as less government-lower taxes. Garvey believes that taxation is a form of theft and voluntarism and believes that user fees have provided superior alternatives to taxation. If he can not abolish taxes entirely he would like to "trade a tax on a good thing (sales or income), for a tax on a bad thing (pollution). He supports the elimination of the Department of Agriculture, Energy Research and Development Authority, subsidies for banks and developers, the housing finance corporation, the state of New York Mortgage agency and other governmental organizations. He supports a return to the 18 year old drinking age, prostitution as a civil liberty, an end to the war on drugs and the separation of school and state.

#### The following people are also running for governor:

Michael Reynolds—Right to Life Party  
Mary Alice France—Unity Party

# Candidate Profiles

## CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE

**Charles Schumer**  
Democrat/Independence/Liberal

Currently a federal representative for New York, Charles Schumer is known for challenging the National Rifle Association and passing the Brady Bill and Assault Weapons Ban. He has sponsored other bills to crack down on gun runners, limit handgun purchases to one-per-month and require gun buying cards similar to drivers' licenses. He wrote and passed the Violence Against Women Act which protects women from domestic violence and allows for safe access to family planning clinics. He wrote legislation to make college tuition fully tax deductible and co-sponsors a bill with Clinton to rebuild primary and secondary schools. Additionally he authored and passed the 1994 crime bill which put 8,400 officers New York streets and provided billions for new prison construction



**Al D'Amato**  
Republican/Conservative/Right to Life Party

Currently Al D'Amato is New York's Republican Senator. On education, D'Amato believes good teachers should be awarded with merit pay, he supports competency testing for teachers, and he supports giving teachers and principals the "fast-track authority" to remove violent and disruptive students from the classroom. He has introduced legislation to give a \$500 tax credit to every homeowner. He has fought and won over \$750 million dollars in breast cancer research funding and supports legislation that will allow a woman and her doctor to decide when she should leave the hospital after a mastectomy. The same bill proposes that insurance carriers cover the cost of reconstructive surgery.



These people are also running for U.S. Senate:  
Corrinne E Kurtz -Marajuna Reform  
William P. McMillen-Libertarian  
Joel Kovel-Green Party  
Rose Ana Berbeo-Socialist Workers

**CANDIDATES FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

**William Holst**  
Democrat / Stop HMO Abuses

William Holst was elected to the Suffolk County Legislature from the 12th district in 1997. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Economic Development & Education Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, a member of the Legislative and Personnel Committee, the Ways and Means committee, and the Public Safety Committee. He has secured funding from the county to purchase environmentally sensitive lands such as Hauppauge Springs and Spectacle Pond in Smithtown. He has used his influence to force LILCO to charge its pro-LIPA deal advertising costs to shareholders. His key issue is economic development and aims to revitalize downtown business districts throughout Suffolk County.

**Michael Forbes**  
Republican / Conservative / Right to Life / independence

Michael Forbes, a fiscal conservative, is a strong advocate for cutting taxes and balancing the federal budget. Forbes has spearheaded a \$30 million program designed to assist the Long Island businesses that converted from defense industry to private-sector contracts. He converted \$500,000 that was being used to study the advantages of composting on the LIE to purchase vans to help seniors and mentally retarded citizens get around Long Island. Originally a Newt Gingrich supporter, he as moved a little to the left working to gain Union support opposing Clinton's NAFTA/GATT Fast Track legislation and has worked to prevent congressional gutting of the Environmental Protection Agency and he supported various clean air and water measures.

**CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY**

**Steven Englebright**  
Democrat / Stop HMO Abuses / Cut Property Taxes

Incumbent Steve Englebright is a alumnus and a geology lecturer at SUNY Stony Brook. It was Assembly members like Englebright who held up the entire state budget to stave off Pataki's savage attack on higher education in 1995. Steve has advocated for increases in TAP funding, reinvestment in the SUNY operating budget and has called for an unprecedented \$1,000 tuition rollback in a SUNY education. This year Steve helped secure additional funding for TAP, as well as making college textbooks tax free. Steve is the chief architect of the Pesticide Registry Law which he hopes will unlock the mystery of LI's breast cancer epidemic. As a result of Steve's long record of accomplishment as the Island's premier environmentalist he has been endorsed by the Sierra Club and the NY League of Conservation Voters. His advocacy for women's issues and his stalwart support for a women's right to choose has earned him endorsement of NOW and the National Abortion Rights Alliance League.

**CANDIDATE FOR STATE SENATE**

**Michael J De Paoli**  
Democrat

De Paoli is a Stony Brook alumnus and Vietnam era veteran. He has worked for the Suffolk County Government, Smithtown Township, The Three Village and Hauppauge school districts, and served on the Suffolk Community council. De Paoli has also been Brookhaven Town Superintendent of Highways and is a member of the Brookhaven and suffolk Democratic Committees.

**James J. Lack**  
Republican/Conservative/Independence

James J. Lack was first elected to the State Senate in 1978. He chairs the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and serves on many other committees as well. He has also served as Assistant District Attorney in Suffolk County, Commissioner of the suffolk County Consumer Affairs Department, and President of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan NY. Lack also supported cuts in higher education funding in 1996.

Also Running  
Lillian C. Andwood-Right To Life

**John Jay LaValle**  
Republican / Conservative / Independence / Right To Life

John Jay LaValle, the Republican challenger for the 4th Assembly Seat and current Brookhaven Town Councilman, claims that, "Taxes, education and crime are the focal points of my campaign." Despite LaValle's claims to be pro-education, as Governor Pataki's liaison on Long Island in 1995, LaValle said nothing when the Governor proposed doubling SUNY tuition and eliminating all access programs (like TAP and EOP). While LaValle claims to be tough on crime, he has yet to receive the endorsement of any major Police Association. LaValle also claims to focus on taxes, however it was the Town of Brookhaven which has consistently overtaxed the defunct Shoreham LILCO plant, increasing the cost of electric throughtout the Island so as to keep property taxes in the Town artificially low.



Englebright



LaValle

# Why the hell should I vote for Grandpa Munster?

(you might ask)

By Stephen Preston

As many New York voters know, the New York Green Party's candidate for governor is Al Lewis, best known for his television roles as Grandpa Munster in "The Munsters" and Leo Schnauzer in "Car 54, Where Are You?". Greens are hoping that Lewis' popularity will bring them at least 50,000 votes, enough to get an automatic place on the ballot in all New York State elections for the next four years.

Lewis's running mate for Lieutenant Governor is Dr. Alice Green, a criminal-justice activist and former appointee of the Cuomo Administration. She is especially concerned about issues such as abolishing the death penalty, correcting unfair enforcement of drug and other criminal laws, and generally reforming the prison system. Also on the Green ticket is Dr. Joel Kovel, running for U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Al D'Amato and Democrat Charles Schumer (who he refers to collectively as "Schumato", feeling that the two do not differ significantly). His main concerns are cutting the military budget and dealing with global warming.

### What are those Green people all about?

The platform of the New York State Green Party revolves around four basic issues: environmentalism, political reform, corporate welfare, and expansion of government services.

#### Environmentalism:

- forcing General Electric to clean up the pollution of the Hudson River, which it largely caused
- eliminating nuclear power in New York State (including, of course, the reactor at our own Brookhaven National Laboratory)

#### Political reform:

- enacting proportional representation in the Legislature, in which parties which receive, say, 10% of the vote can have 10% of the seats in the Assembly or Senate (a system used in virtually all other democratic countries in the world)
- restricting the now-common practices of tax breaks and corporate welfare for corporate donors and high-paying political appointments for individual donors
- making it easier for independent parties to get on ballots, get involved in debates, and generally compete with Republicans and Democrats

#### Corporate welfare:

- lowering individual tax rates and raising corporate tax rates
- vigorously prosecuting corporate executives for criminal behavior, such as unsafe working condi-

tions, pollution, etc.

#### Government services:

- reinstating the welfare program and ending the "workfare" experiment, in which recipients work for benefits which amount to effectively less than minimum wage
- instituting a single-payer health care plan, similar to those in most other industrial nations, in which all health care is subsidized by taxes and is provided freely for all

The Green Party has opinions on many other issues, as well; you can read their platform or get more information at [www.panix.com/~levner/nygreens](http://www.panix.com/~levner/nygreens).

### Isn't a vote for a Green candidate a wasted vote? (Or: don't the Democrats deserve our support?)

No.

First, as regards wasting of votes, have you checked the polls for the governor's race? Pataki is ahead, way ahead — over 50% according to some polls, while Democrat Peter Vallone has trouble getting half that. Many Democrats acknowledge that Vallone doesn't have much of a chance. So isn't a



Vallone vote a wasted vote?

More importantly, what does a vote for Vallone actually mean? Although he has progressive stances on some issues, Vallone boasts of having cut New York City's budget, as compared to Pataki's budget increase last year. He landed his current position as New York City's Council Speaker solely as the result of "Tammany Hall"-style political dealings (according to *Newsday*, Oct. 19).

So why do people still support Vallone? Simply because they don't like George Pataki. And with good reason, too: Pataki has run a notoriously unethical administration, full of appointments

granted to unqualified people in exchange for political favors during the campaign (look at the SUNY Board of Trustees...). Pataki was also behind the tuition and fee hikes at SUNY in the past several years, which we are still feeling to this day.

But if all you really want is to vote against George Pataki, it makes sense to give your vote to the people who really need it, and the Green Party needs it more than any other party. The reason is that if the Greens get at least 50,000 votes for Al Lewis, they will automatically get on the ballot in every New York State election for the next four years. So your vote not only serves to protest against George Pataki, but it also helps the Green Party to elect candidates to local positions without having to collect signatures every year to get each individual candidate on each individual ballot. Electing local candidates, of course, is a much more realistic way for the Greens to affect state law than trying to get a candidate elected for governor (as the Greens will readily admit).

### Isn't "Grandpa Munster" just a joke candidate? Why shouldn't I just vote for Howard Stern?

"Grandpa" Al Lewis' candidacy is not just a Halloween gag. Lewis has been a political activist virtually all his life — before, during, and after his television career. In the 1930s he was a union organizer; later he fought for welfare rights and squatters' rights. He participated in anti-war demonstrations all throughout the 1960s, even before it was fashionable. He donated royalties from "Munsters" to groups like the Black Panthers, for their legal defenses. Since then he has worked to publicize the causes of the poor.

Though Green Party officials admit that Al Lewis was nominated largely because of his fame, in the hope that Greens could get the required number of votes to legitimize their party, Al Lewis' campaign is a serious one, and he is helping to draw attention to serious issues ignored by both Democrats and Republicans.

### So why should I vote for Al Lewis again?

- 1) Because he played Grandpa Munster
- 2) Because he's been a longtime activist for the poor
- 3) Because Pataki sucks
- 4) Because there's nothing you can do (or should do) to save Vallone
- 5) Because the Green Party needs him to get 50,000 votes to have a chance of getting any other candidates elected in the future

**"I want every one of those cheap flaky bastards who don't vote on November [3] to know that they are the real swine in this queasy generation, and if there is any justice in this world, they will be hunted down like fat animals in winter and chopped into stinking offal."**

**-Dr. Hunter S. Thompson**

# A Conversation With

**What is your connection to USB?**

I'm a graduate of this institution. I have a degree in Paleontology/Sedimentology, with a Masters Degree from what is now known as the Department of Geosciences. I've been on the staff of the University since approximately 1971 and still serve in a part-time capacity in the Geosciences department. I'm very committed to the mission of the University; to its role in enabling students to be all that they can be.

I believe that public higher education is the greatest single invention of the American experience because it enables each and every one of our citizens access to knowledge and enables them to take their intellectual and other energies in a fight for the betterment of themselves and all of the rest of our citizens and nation.

Without higher public education, we would be a lot more stratified society. Many, many people who are making significant contributions would be frustrated and would not have access to higher paying jobs, meaningful careers, and a quality of life, and would not be able to establish a very sound middle class. Among the things that I've done here, if you go to the Earth and Space Science building, I was the person who constructed the exhibits in the museum that's off the lobby. I constructed that in part to build a bridge between the university and the community because many of the children that now visit the museum are the future students here and I thought it was important to have that continuity.

**You've mentioned that you have been affiliated with the University since 1971 as a staff member. Legislatively speaking, in your first few years as a County Legislator and in your current position as 4th District State Assemblyman, what have you done for the University?**

Probably the most significant contribution that I've made is not one that I can point to a single piece of legislation or a bill and say, "See that particular bill there, it's numbered such and such, with a certain date." I can't do that, for what I regard as the most important contribution, to a very large extent, is my election to the Suffolk Legislature because it helped break down the barriers between the University and the community. Prior to my election, it was a popular sport particularly among Republicans in the town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County, to run and to make fun of the students on this campus, to be derogatory towards the presence of this campus, and to use the University as a foil for any and all problems. The fellow whom I first ran against and defeated, his major platform was anti-Stony Brook. When I was elected, I ran on the platform that the University was something that was a part of the community; that it was important to the full functioning of the economics of our island. I pointed out that it was one of the largest employers; it's now the largest employer of the bi-county region. The university and the community were one community and I ran on that platform. During the time that I was in the Suffolk Legislature, I worked to heal the wounds that had been opened by my opponent, and from the sport that was made of attacking the university. As a result, I can't, as I said, point to a single bill and say, "that turned the tide." But I can tell you that in my ten years in the Suffolk Legislature, I helped significantly in bridging the gap between the perceptions of the past, which were largely negative, and a more realistic

and holistic assessment of what the university was and is, which is a very significant and vitally important part of the fabric of our community.

**Since you took office in 1992, tuition has gone up and Financial Aid has decreased. With this in mind, how can you call yourself effective in higher education?**

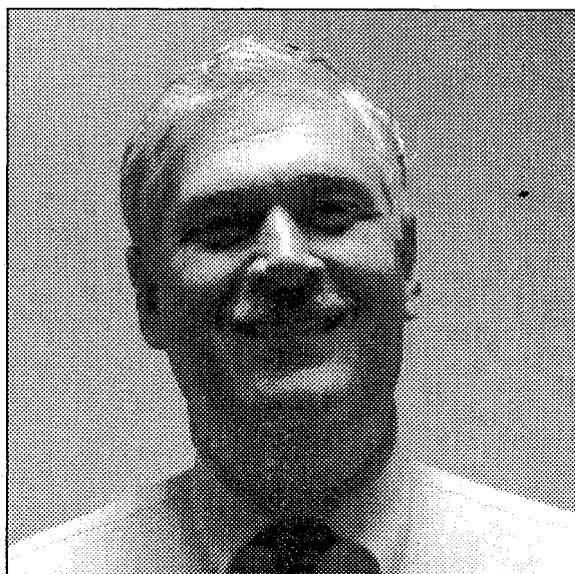
Well, let's take a perspective on who has proposed the increase. Who has fought the increase in student tuition? Who has proposed taking away tuition assistance and who has fought to restore tuition assistance? When you really take a look at the track record of this governor, you realize that from the day he came into office he has made war on SUNY and war on the students of the state university. The role that I have helped play is in the fight against his proposals to double student tuition, to cut back on base-line support to the state university, and to completely eviscerate and zero-out funding for all programs of access and tuition assistance. If you're asking have I been 100% successful in defeating the governor's proposals - the answer is "no." He is the governor, but perhaps a story about the first year of Governor Pataki and my interactions with the governor during that year would be instructive. The first year's budget by this governor proposed the doubling of student tuition and, at the same time, cutting base-line support to the state university system by 30%, almost a full one third cut. I thought that was completely outrageous. To make matters worse, he proposed zeroing-out all access programs such as The Liberty Scholarship, The Liberty Partnership, the EOP programs, and all of the tuition assistance. These are savage cuts to programs that were designed to fulfill one of the promises of SUNY, which is accessibility. The promise and premise of SUNY is excellence and access. By cutting 30% in his proposed budget, he was making a very dramatic statement that sent the signal to some of our finest faculty that they should leave town. With respect to the other premise of SUNY, which is access (and that means affordability), he meant to close the door rather dramatically on students, unless they had a lot of money to begin with. The "SUNY Nine", the nine members of the Assembly who were primarily responsible for the major campuses within their districts, said to the speaker, "This is something that must not be allowed to happen". We said, "We will not vote for a budget that that contains these kinds of cuts. Please draw a line in the sand." He did, and we didn't pass the budget.

I just want to place this in perspective the Senate passed the budget, even though the senator from this area sat on the chair of the Higher Education committee. We reached out to student leaders across the state and said, "Please, we need your help." Students got on buses and traveled to Albany for peaceful protests. They came to Albany from all corners of the state, and how did this governor greet them? He put

armed state troopers - and, mind you, I grew up in a time when the governor of Ohio sent armed national guards onto the Kent State campus and there were four dead at the end of the day around the state capitol. I was very offended when this governor put armed state troopers at the gates of our Capitol building to greet our students, but he did that and then he left town and refused to speak to the students.

The second year was more of the same. We held the budget, which is normally supposed to be finished on April first, up until August. It was the largest delay of a budget in the history of the state and the battle line was SUNY. In his second and third years, he proposed similar cuts. Did we end up getting everything that we drew the line for? No, the governor got a \$750 increase,

but he didn't get a double increase. We were able to restore almost to the level of the prior year the baseline support, and we were able to restore TAP, HEOP, EOP, Liberty Partnership, and a whole series of other access programs. I should also point out that my distinguished opponent [John J. laValle] in this election was the governor's regional representative in his second year as governor. He said nothing on behalf of the students on this campus.



Say Cheese!

**Over the last year, there have been concerns about the money that has been spent to fund recent campus additions such as Student Activities Center and the Paul Simons Memorial Bike Path. To my understanding, you have been a strong advocate for these structures. Why couldn't this money have been spent on educational advancements for the university?**

First, let me place it in perspective. I've been affiliated with this campus for twenty-five years. In some of those early years, you literally needed hip-boots to get from one side of the campus to the other. Trenches would be opened up in the middle of the day and you would either fall into them on the way to class or walk wide circles around the construction sites. The lives of students during this time were literally at risk. In fact, one night a graduate student in the astronomy section fell into an open manhole and was scalded to death by the steam in the base of that manhole. The campus was a dangerous place while it was under construction. When I became an assemblyman representing this district, I realized that the state's commitment needed to be improved and changed rather dramatically.

One major thing that this campus didn't have was a center. I mean that in a physical sense as well as in a spiritual one. The Student Union was the closest thing to a crossroads, but it really wasn't part of the academic mall. That was a metaphor for the way the policy toward USB was too often, also expressed. The students were sort of off to the side. When I was elected to the assembly, I had conversations with then-president Doctor Marburger and discovered that there were plans being discussed for a new center for

# Steve Englebright

students which would be on the central mall of the campus. I became involved with fighting for those funds when I realized that here was a chance to have a place for students that gave prominence and respectability to the premise that students really mattered by putting them in their own space where the sociology of the c

Yes. I was very amused with the cover that the *Press* had. It gained wide circulation in the halls of the New York legislature. In fact, if anything, it gave much too much dignity to her image. As far as I'm concerned she is one of the worst appointments in the history of the state. Candace de Russy has been leading the Pataki appointments to the policy-making board of the State University [the SUNY trustees] toward the direction of privatizing this institution; that is to say selling it, for all practical purposes, selling it off. In fact, Candace de Russy has proposed, along with the majority of the trustees that have been appointed by Governor Pataki, selling the university hospitals (privatizing them). I'm very very concerned that we have, under this governor, seen appointees to the SUNY trustees who want to cut off academic freedom; who want to increase tuition and, thereby make accessibility to a SUNY education more difficult. We put 16.5 billion dollars into the budget (and, mind you, we have a two million dollar surplus), and out of that we put sixteen and a half million into our proposed amendments. We passed them in both houses, put them on the governor desk, and asked the trustees if they would support sixteen and a half million dollars of additional funding for faculty because the class sizes are too big, and the faculty was dispirited because they were building buildings, but not budgeting for the people who would work in them. We asked if they would do that, they said no, and the governor took his pen and he drew a line through that part of the budget as amended by the legislature and initialed it. He vetoed it. The trustees need to be changed, and the only way you're going to change the trustees is to change the governor. Once again, my distinguished opponent said nothing during this time. With respect to the role of trustees in terms of telling campuses which speakers can speak on the campus or which forums should be allowed for academic exercise, if this is a free society that our universities operate within, then we should certainly allow the campuses to establish their own speaker schedule and conduct academic activities. I don't think it's appropriate for Candace De Russy or any other trustee to come to the New Paltz, Stony Brook, or any other campus and start telling the presidents how to do their business and how to make decisions in concert with their faculty and students. By definition, a university is a community of scholars, and if you respect the concept of community and the concept of academic freedom, then when that community of scholars schedules activities that are consistent with its mission and purpose, the trustee (who should be more concerned with whether we have university faculty adequate to carry out the mission of the state university) shouldn't try to second guess the community of scholars.

ampus could be constructively changed. The food and eating resources of the Student Union were notoriously dreadful. I was promised, if I

was successful in bringing home funds for a new student activity center, that there would be a large, greenhouse-like eating area. I thought that it was ecologically a good idea to recycle an old building, in this case the old Biology Building. I liked the idea of bringing the buses into a new road that would drop students off, particularly commuter students coming from P-lot, which is sort of like halfway to New Orleans. In the earlier days that I was here, the faculty would eat almost exclusively separately from the students. It stratified the campus sociologically.

I saw a chance for all of that to change. So I fought for the funds and brought home almost fourteen million dollars to help refit and retrofit the old biology building, to put the new bus turn circle in to create an opportunity for campus life to take a turn for the better. I would like to see students have a greater role in the management of the Student Activities Center; I'd like to see the students have a greater voice in many parts of the campus but that is something



Stony Brook students present Englebright with SASU Legislator of the year award

that is separate from the question of whether or not to build a building. With respect to the question of that amount of money being spent, let me be very clear: that amount of money does not come out of the operating budget of the campus; it is borrowed money. For anyone who asks why we didn't take that thirteen million dollars and put it in operational expenses; you can't, because it's bonded money. It's equivalent to taking a mortgage on your home. What you don't want to do (compared to something you might be able to relate to) is take out a big car loan in order to pay for a night's supper. That's a daily operational expense of your household - meals. This is what we did for the Student Activities Center. That thirteen and a half, fourteen million dollars, was long term debt and you can't take that and put it into the operational part of what the budget is.

*Last year we, here at the Stony Brook Press, received a lot of media attention in reference to our coverage of Candace de Russy and the conference being held at SUNY New Paltz. Do you have any feelings or comments on that situation there?*

*What is your viewpoint on women's rights and a woman's right to choose?*

I believe very strongly that a woman should have the right to control the destiny of her own body. I would point out that my opponent has accepted the Right to Life party line and will be appearing on the ballot on the Right to Life party line. I think that there is no way that we should ever go back to the kind of reality that

existed when I was in high school and college. When a woman had an unwanted pregnancy, she had terrible and very limited choices, and in many cases, had to seek the services of a back alley abortionist. I don't think it's appropriate to take that circumstance and recreate it, which is exactly what the anti-choice forces would create. The result, and I saw this from people whom I knew and went to school with, in some cases was that they ended up being sterile as the result of a botched abortion. One person I knew died.

I have no doubt that if we regress to that time, if our laws regress to that time, such incidences would again happen. I find it ironic that they are the people who call themselves conservatives are, in fact, radicals. I think it's radical to take the position that some of the "Right to Life" people do, which is on the one hand, government should stay out of the business of education, but that government should insert itself into the bedroom. What a contradiction, and they call themselves conservatives? You want to

really be conservative? You let people make their own decisions in consultation with their doctors and medical advisors and render decisions that enable them to still be viable when they are ready to have children. You do not force them to take their reproductive systems and place them at risk and end up being sterile, so they can't have children at all. I don't think that's appropriate at all, and I feel very very strongly about the issue.

Another issue that you feel very strongly about has been the environment. A lot of work you have done has been for the environment. Despite being endorsed by the Audubon Society and the New York League of Conservation Voters, your opponent is still persistent on claiming that you have not preserved one piece of sensitive land in your district since you've been in office. Can you evaluate on those allegations?

My opponent lies like a rug. Since taking office sixteen years ago, I have spearheaded (when I was a county legislature) the largest county level land acquisition /preservation program in the history of any county in the nation. The Suffolk County Open Space Program is something that I helped create when I was chair of the Suffolk County committee on parks. I pushed for that, and I successfully tripled the amount of county parkland in this district. I established the first designated bird sanctuary in Suffolk County, and took the park system from ten thousand acres as a system, not only within my district, to thirty-five thousand acres and I was responsible for that. Here in this district, when I became State Assemblyman, I successfully argued that the fine [the twenty-five million dollar fine, for the largest gasoline spill in the history of Nassau or Suffolk County], should include substantial funds for the protection of our regional drinking water, watershed, and of land here in the district. Let me be perfectly clear, there are divisions of responsibility; a county executive is much like a governor. It is inappropriate for a legislator to negotiate land acquisition. So I never

continued on next page

# NYPIRG Fights To Register Students to Vote

By Jennifer Hobin

Approximately two weeks ago the campus chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) launched its annual voter registration drive. NYPIRG aims to take advantage of the polling booths that will be located on campus by registering as many campus residents to vote as possible.

Prior to the registration drive only about 700 of the 6,000 campus residents were registered to vote. In an effort to register students by the October 9 deadline NYPIRG members, with the help of volunteers set up tables in and in front of the union, and went door to door in the residence halls to register voters. By the end of the drive NYPIRG had registered 1200 more voters.

Registering to vote is easy. In fact all one has to do is fill out their name, address, birthdate, sex, party affiliation, etc., and sign. All in all it takes about a minute and a half. Despite the ease with which one can register to vote for life convincing people to do so (even with the lure of shiny stickers and buttons) was not as easy as it should have been.

NYPIRG has continually been working to register voters. However during the first week of October NYPIRG stormed the dorms in addition to having their usually table set up in the union. Those working the table solicited potential registrants by walking up to them asking them if they were registered to vote on campus, and if not, inviting them to do so. NYPIRG made sure to tell students exactly how long it would take. Here is

what happened: Naturally quite a few people registered to vote, though in many cases it was a quite a task to get them to do so. In several cases NYPIRG volunteers, myself among them, had to plead with students to convince them that the minute and a half was worth their time.

And of course there were those people who were ineligible to vote due to their age or lack of American citizenship. Still others were already registered to vote. Well at least that's what they said. When asked if she was eligible to vote, one quick witted girl began to say "no" when she realized that that answer would be met with encouragement to do so. When the light bulb flashed on she put her head down, muttered that she was registered and walked away.

Despite NYPIRG's extraordinary success with the voter registration drive it was disheartening to see the number of students who just didn't care. For every person that registered there was another who simply wouldn't acknowledge that they were being spoken to. This would have been acceptable if the NYPIRG table was a table of drunk religious zealots, but considering that their goal was to empower students by giving them a voice in the electoral process it was not.

When I approached a group of three students in the union and asked them if they were registered to vote, one said quite proudly that he was, the other said nothing, and the last, apparently speaking for the rest of the group said, "No we don't care, we don't vote." Obviously one of the "brightest minds in the country."

Another woman said that she was not reg-

istered to vote and when I asked her if she'd like to register she said no because she didn't have enough time. I proceeded to ask her if she was aware that the cost of tuition has increased 160% under the Pataki administration, and that a 90% cap had been placed on TAP awards. Maybe she did, maybe she didn't. I wouldn't know because she didn't answer me.

The registration drive was met with much greater success in the dorms than was the table in the union. Todd Stebbins, the head of NYPIRG's Stony Brook chapter felt that registration in the dorms was more successful because students had fewer reasons to say no. After all saying that you don't have time to register to vote when your sitting in your room watching Ricki Lake re-runs just doesn't cut it.

NYPIRG's voter registration drive was met with great success. Unfortunately over half of the campus residents that are eligible to vote are still not registered and consequently will not be able to register to vote this year. There are approximately 17,000 students on this campus. Most of us (though certainly not all) have similar views on higher education: We want it and we want it to be affordable for as many people as possible. By registering to vote and then casting that vote on November 3rd we can send a message to our elected officials that we will no longer tolerate cuts to higher education. We can not do this alone. If you are registered to vote, great. If you are not you should take that minute and a half and register to vote for next year. You may be pleased with the results.

## ENGLEBRIGHT, CONTINUED

had, nor will I ever as a legislator, be part of a direct negotiation for a property. The accusations that I haven't done that is either naive or misdirection. This executive, Bob Gaffney, has not purchased the Detmer Farm, which (a 32 acre property here at Setauket), even though eight years ago, when I was a county legislator, I put the funding in place. This year, I was successful in capturing 10% of the state wide allocation for land acquisition--for the acquisition of 13 acres in Stony Brook adjacent to the home of William Sydney Mount, the genre painter whose paintings are on exhibit at the museum of Stony Brook. He was the first to paint the American Negro with dignity, and style, and grace, and his paintings are timeless. His relatives still live here, and are a part of this community. It's an extraordinary story, and because of that, the site is on the National Register of Historic Places. So when a subdivision application came in for the 13 acres adjacent to it, I went to the speaker and fought like hell to get the money, and I did, and we got the money built into the budget.

**Is this the bidding war being referred to by media as the "debate over the Ploch Property?"**

Yes. Think about it. If you're the owners of the property, the Ploch's are the owners of the property -- you have this debate as a result of John Jay LaValle's suggestion that the county should spend money from the funds that I helped create when I was a County Legislator. He dedicated a quarter-penny of the county sales tax to land preservation. John Jay LaValle has asked that we asked the county executive to take money out of that program and instead of buying watershed land for drinking water protection, use to duplicate what has already been authorized. If you are a member of the Ploch family, you'll sit there and say, "Hey this is terrific! I have two levels of government bidding for my property." That does not go well for the efficient use of taxpayer money. He politicized land acquisition and park land acquisition in a way that has never happened before, and if he's successful, he will take tax money, hard fought and hard won, from the state's Environmental Quality Bond Act.

**If you are re-elected, what are some of your goals for the next term?**

I would like very much to roll back the tuition hikes in this next term. I would like to see a greater concentration of energy and budgetary funds allocated for improving the faculty and the research potential of this campus and the other campuses within the SUNY system. I believe that the State University is to a very large extent an institution of optimism, and that you invest in your great strengths if you want to build an economic future of New York. Invest in the promise of young people. Invest in the promise of people who are in mid-career, and need to be retrained. Give them access, give them opportunities to make use of these institutions to improve the lives of everybody in the state. I will continue to fight for that in my next term and office and I will do whatever I can to make sure that the governor gets the message that SUNY matters and SUNY is important.

# Join The Press

Meetings every Wednesday during Campus Lifetime in Room 060, Stony Brook Union

# Interview with the Vampire

By Stephen Preston

The first thing one notices when listening to Al Lewis speak is the shouting. His voice hasn't changed much since "The Munsters", but there is anger in his voice which one might never have expected, if one knew him only from his television roles.

But as many have discovered, there's far more to Al Lewis than either Grandpa Munster or Leo Schnauzer (from "Car 54, Where Are You?"). After 70 years of political activism (he's 88 now), supporting unions and opposing war and discrimination, his goal now is to use his fame to spread messages that might be ignored from lesser-known figures. Al Lewis is as much an entertainer as an activist; he knows what people will listen to, and as a result his statements often seem short, catchy, and loud.

Lewis is surprisingly comfortable with himself. While most celebrities feign disgust with their fame, Lewis revels in it. You won't see any Leonard Nimoy-style "I Am Not Grandpa" stories from him; if people recognize him more as Grandpa than as Al Lewis, that's fine with him.

His goal now is to just get as much attention for the fledgling New York Green Party as possible, and if he must dress up in a tuxedo and vampire make-up on Halloween to do it, you can expect him to do it.

*Press: Why do you think liberals who might otherwise vote for Vallone should vote for you instead?*

Lewis: Vallone? He's a hack machine politician, out of the crookedest machine in New York City! Why shouldn't you vote for him? Look at his record!

*Press: What's the most offensive thing you think Vallone has done in New York City?*

Lewis: He put that incinerator in Brooklyn; it's poisoning the air. That's offensive!

They're trying to pass him off as the "lesser of two evils". Why would anybody vote for someone who's evil? He's a hack machine politician with a bad hairpiece. He has NO chance! He's only running because of the term limits in the City Council. He can't run anymore after this term. He wants to get attention so he can run for mayor.



*Press: You think he eventually wants to run for mayor of New York City?*

Lewis: Yes, he's only running to get attention. He wants to convince the Powers That Be to nominate him for mayor.

*Press: Some issues that concern Long Island... What do you think of the LILCO takeover?*

Lewis: Highway robbery! You can steal more with a pen than with a gun! People on Long Island, they got screwed by this.

*Press: What about the Brookhaven Nuclear Reactor? Do you think the reactor should be shut down? Should the whole lab be shut down?*

Lewis: The whole thing should be shut down. Nuclear power is a dead issue. The only reason it was done is because of the weapons. They want the by-product... That enriched uranium they've been using. It came from nuclear power plants.

*Press: I've heard you're going to be at Rockefeller Center on Friday, protesting the "Rockefeller drug laws".*

Lewis: I'm there every Friday, protesting.

*Press: You've said the Rockefeller laws [which provide minimum sentencing for drug possession] should be repealed. Do you think all drugs should be legalized?*

Lewis: Do you know what the most dangerous drugs are in this country? Alcohol and tobacco. If they're concerned about people's lives, why do they still sell alcohol and tobacco? Because the corporations who sell them contribute to the politicians! Those drugs kill far more people than all the illegal drugs put together.

*Press: But some people would say that if legal drugs kill so many people, then legalizing more drugs would kill even more people.*

Lewis: Those people are ignorant. A guy who grows marijuana in his backyard is just gonna smoke it. He's just growing it for his own enjoyment. The corporations who produce tobacco, they just want to sell it. Tobacco companies knew for 50 years that it was addictive, they never admitted it. That's why they increased the nicotine content in

cigarettes. Why would they do that? Just to addict more people, so they can sell more cigarettes!

*Press: I've read about how the Ralph Nader campaign in 1996 left a lot of the Green Party split, between those who supported a national race and those who just wanted to work locally. Has anything like that happened to the New York Green Party?*

Lewis: I don't know anything about it. Everywhere I've been, people support me. All the Greens support all the candidates on the ballot, straight down the line.

*Press: You've spoken about how much power corporations have in politics. How do you think this could be changed, short of Greens getting elected?*

Lewis: Take the power away! Do you know how many lobbyists there are in Washington? Why is there even such a profession?

*Press: What do you think people should do to fight corporate power?*

Lewis: Organize! Just get lots of people to protest.

*Press: Do you think that style of protest is as effective*

*today as it was in the 30s or 60s? Many people think it doesn't do anything...*

Lewis: It's not less effective now. See, people, through the media, have been dumbed down. They've been taught to think "There's nothing that can be done." That's the way they like it.

Politicians understand only two things: money and numbers. If somebody criticizes them, they don't care. IF they see 100 people protesting something, they don't care. But if they see 10,000 people protesting, they start to think, "Hey, those are my constituents; I'd better do something about that."

*Press: What effect do you think your campaign will have in New York?*

Lewis: I'm not a gypsy. I don't look into a crystal ball. All I know is whatever happens, they and you are gonna have to live with it.

*Press: And finally — I hate to do it — I have to ask about "The Munsters".*

Lewis: Go ahead.

*Press: Do you have any favorite memories about "The Munsters" or "Car 54, Where Are You"?*

Lewis: I'm proud of what I did. I'm proud of the fact that in 40-odd countries, I'm remembered and loved as Grandpa.



Al Lewis and Alice Green

The 1998 Stony Brook Press Voter's Guide was brought to you by:

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# FEATURES



## SHAVING CREAM AND RAZOR BLADES:

### BASIC HALLOWEEN NECESSITIES

By Frank Pedicini

*Cindy and Bobby just got back from trick or treating. They were exhausted, but nothing could stop these two seven year olds from looking through all the candy they got. Bobby took off his vampire fangs and black cape and dumped all of his candy on the floor. Cindy took off her witch's hat and began picking out all the stuff she liked. Careless, their mother left them alone while they sat in the den and sorted through a pile of chocolate and candies. After eating most of what they had gotten, Cindy came across an apple. She had this strange urge to eat it, maybe to get the chocolate taste out of her mouth. Bobby didn't even notice Cindy as she raised the apple to her mouth and took a big bite. Cindy knew something was wrong as she started to chew on the piece of apple. She felt a sharp pain in her mouth. Before she realized what had happened to her. Bobby screamed; he was shocked when he saw the blood coming out of Cindy's mouth...*

Halloween may seem like an innocent child's holiday, but it's also a time for violent crimes. It's a night of fun and excitement for everyone, but it can easily turn into a night of disaster.

There are some sick individuals out there who think Halloween is the perfect time to take out their frustrations on others. You may not believe this, but the old "razor blade in an apple" trick has been done many times to innocent children on Halloween. On the night of darkness and horror, memories of their worst Halloween moments take control. Luckily, we can learn from the experiences of others. Here are six real life Halloween horror stories.

#### "Chris"

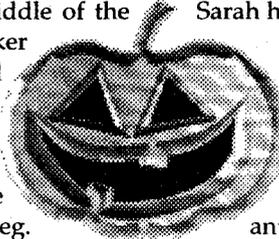
About three years ago, Chris was hurt on Halloween night with an unusual weapon: A can of shaving cream. While he and his friends were trick or treating, they saw another bunch of kids walking towards them. Before they could even say a word, the other kids were spraying them with shaving cream. Confused, Chris and his friends started to run in the opposite direction. But as Chris turned to run, he was shot point blank with a stream of shaving cream in his right eye. The pain was unbearable, but he continued to run. When Chris came home that night his parents had no idea what to do. He was in pain, and his right eye was all red and puffed out.

#### "Jennifer"

Jennifer's horror story deals with vandalism. Late one Halloween night, she was in her living room watching television. Everything seemed okay until she heard noises outside her house. She walked over to the window to see what was happening. Just as she moved away, a rock crashed through the window, sending glass everywhere. If it hadn't been for her mother, Jennifer would have been seriously hurt by the broken glass.

#### "Brian"

Brian's Halloween horror story was his own fault. He and his friends thought it would be funny to find houses that had pumpkins out on the front stoop. At first they all wanted to smash the pumpkins, but Brian had a better idea. He would take the pumpkin, put it in the middle of the street, and put an M-80 firecracker inside of it. Quickly, they all would run away before the pumpkin exploded. But it didn't work as planned. Brian lit the M-80, but he didn't run away fast enough. The pumpkin exploded right by his leg. Lucky for him he wasn't hurt that badly. But, he had a lot of explaining to do when a police car pulled up behind him.



#### "Amy"

Amy had a horrible experience while driving in her car one Halloween night. As she was driving past an intersection, another car smashed into the side of her car. Both drivers walked away from the accident okay, but they were both disturbed when they discovered the reason for their accident. They were both familiar with the area, and knew that there was supposed to be a stop sign at the intersection. Amy walked to the corner, and on the sidewalk she saw the stop sign. It was lying flat on the ground, covered in shaving cream. Someone must have thought it would be funny to tear the sign down.

#### "Mike"

Mike and his friends were walking home from a party late one Halloween night. Down the street, they saw a group of kids talking with each other. As they got closer, Mike and his friends realized that they new the group of kids. One of the kids had been wanting to fight Mike for a while. Mike and his friends continued to walk, and as they passed by the kids, a problem erupted. Before Mike could say anything, a fight broke out. As Mike was tackled to the ground, his hand landed on a glass bottle. The bottle broke into pieces, and the palm of his hand was sliced open. The other group of kids ran away as Mike's hand continued to bleed.

#### "Sarah"

Sarah was at her friend's house watching scary movies one Halloween night. It was getting kind of late (and they both had school the next day), so Sarah gathered her things and left. When she was a few blocks away from her house, she noticed a car following her. No matter where she turned, the car would follow her down that street. Sarah didn't know what to do, and she started to run to her house. The car sped up, and Sarah ran

into someone's backyard. It was dark and she hid behind a small tree near the side of the house. She heard the car stop, and the driver get out of the car. Sarah got up, hopped the fence in the backyard, and ran down another street and finally got to her house. Her parents called the police, but to this day Sarah has no idea who that man was.

People are supposed to have a good time on Halloween- not get hurt. The bad thing about these stories is that they can happen to anyone, and there's little you can do to prevent it from happening. This year, Halloween falls on a Saturday, and I guarantee there will be plenty of psychos out there looking for someone to harm. My only advice is to stay aware of what's going on around you, and realize that violence on Halloween night doesn't just happen in the movies.

*The Press is a bi-weekly features paper, published with the intent to make students aware of what is happening on campus and in the world through in-depth investigative reporting.*

*If you are interested in reporting on a particular subject, or you would just like to come down and see what we're all about, call 632-6451*

# WALK THIS WAY: THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND YOU



By James Polichak

Like most universities, SUNY at Stony Brook publishes a Student Conduct Code containing "rules and regulations governing your behavior at Stony Brook." The goal of such conduct codes is to go beyond the various laws of the land (which are also in force on campus) in order to regulate "conduct that affects [the university's] particular interests as an academic community." However, the language used in the Student Conduct Code, particularly in the Respect for Persons section, is so loosely constructed that one gets no sense of the bounds of punishable speech and behavior, nor a sense of how such vague regulations might promote the interests of an academic community. To put things briefly, the regulations in the Student Conduct Code are generally worded so that, while they specifically prohibit some behaviors, they exclude nothing. By failing to state with any reasonable specificity which behaviors and speech do not fall within the purview of the Campus Judiciary, the university is, in essence, reserving the right to punish any behavior or speech it deems punishable.

The Respect for Persons section of the Code contains eight subsections describing behaviors and speech that might negatively affect "the safety, freedom and well-being of others." The first point of confusion is that most of the specific behaviors prohibited (i.e., rape, hazing, stalking, assault) are already fully dealt with by the other laws of the land. Furthermore, the subsections themselves are redundant, so that parts A and F cover each other and all of the other sections. The University has, therefore, taken special trouble to mention some behaviors already covered by other laws. These behaviors and deeds are mostly sex crimes (sexual harassment, sexual abuse and/or assault, rape, and perhaps stalking). While sex crimes should not be condoned, they are certainly not more heinous than, say, murder, which is not singled out. I fail to see why sex crimes are held to have such a special impact on the interests of an academic community—the dead don't publish, but the sexually harassed still can. Special concern about sex crimes over and above other crimes is consistent with particular political leanings, however, which just might make one suspect the impartiality of the Campus Judiciary.

The wording of the Respect for Persons section is so vague that many parts can be construed to ban virtually all behavior, especially sexual acts. Worst is the "Dangerous conditions" subsection, which states that "No student shall create a condition that endangers or threatens the safety or well-being of him/herself or others." A moment's thought should bring to mind numerous safety threats that are actively promoted by the administration, much less condoned. Driving a car is quite dangerous, resulting in almost 50,000 deaths a year nationwide, participating in sports results in a few hundred deaths and hundreds of thousands of injuries. High fat foods? Walking up stairs? Shaving? Drinking or serving alcohol? There are thousands of activities that can be shown to be safety threats. Our Conduct Code says nothing that will help one decide which are likely to be punished and which are not. As a result, the University's own actions violate the Conduct Code. Technically, the Conduct Code only applies to students, so this might not be a problem to some (i.e., those who are not students).

Other sections are not as horribly wide-ranging, but are still far too extensive. Students are not allowed to "physically, verbally or psychologically abuse any other person," but no criteria are given for deciding when such abuse has occurred. Since the laws of the land (off-campus) place so high a value on free speech, it seems that one must take very special care to decide when speech has become abusive, and whether such abuse is great enough to warrant restriction of speech. The Code fails to make any hints at what criteria might be used. Similarly, "words or deeds" that are "sexually intimidating, abusive, hostile or offensive to others" are banned. However, the First Amendment to

the U.S. Constitution was included to protect the speech that is offensive, hostile, and intimidating — speech that is inoffensive doesn't provoke debate. The University makes no case that offensive and sexual speech should no longer be protected, nor does it attempt to make clear the procedures by which it determines that offense or intimidation (and other highly subjective verbs) have occurred. Using the regulations, one could easily conclude that wearing a button with a pink triangle on it might prove offensive, hostile, or intimidating to those against homosexuality and displays of gay pride (and what about actually committing such sexual acts?). Of course, some homosexuals might be intimidated by the many displays of heterosexual affection performed by the majority of people on campus. It seems as if all and any forms of sexual behavior are punishable, if the University decides it wants to punish. Even worse, the Stalking subsection prohibits acts "that are intended to harass, annoy, threaten or alarm another person," once again without defining any bounds. Such common verbs as "annoy" and "alarm" do not seem like they should appear in a Conduct Code. As written, the code prohibits asking your roommate to pick up his dirty underwear strewn about the floor, if he finds such a request annoying (this might also qualify as sexual harassment and the Code makes special mention that it will not consider relationships among complainants and respondents when meting out punishment). It also prohibits the setting of alarm clocks, which are, by definition, intended to alarm.

A Conduct Code as loosely worded as this gives students little to help them decide if they have been victims of code violations or if they have committed them. By seemingly banning everything, the University has reserved the right to pick and choose which incidents are punishable and which are not, with almost no oversight. Contrary to other rule systems (e.g., Federal law), which place very careful restrictions on the kinds of acts and (especially) words that are punishable, the University chooses to place none. Concerned that such a system violates the spirit of our representative democracy and the Bill of Rights, and that such a system might easily allow the Campus Judiciary to find a way to punish just about anyone they don't like, I went to see Gary Mis, the Director of Judicial Affairs.

Mis did nothing to allay my fears. When told that the Conduct Code, as written, prohibited driving and sports on University property, Mis responded that it isn't meant to. Similarly, he argued that while wearing a pink-triangle button might offend someone, such behavior was protected by the First Amendment, and would not result in punishment by the University. So here we have a case where the Director of Judicial Affairs agrees that sexual offensiveness has occurred, and that the Code bans sexually offensive deeds, but also insists that the Code doesn't really mean that. Other examples brought similar responses. Essentially, Mis argued that, though the Code seems to cover just about anything someone might want to do, it doesn't really, and that the members of the Campus Judiciary know this. Mis also argued that the Code couldn't possibly list all the activities prohibited, which is reasonable enough, but misses the point. The problem is that the Code does nothing to attempt to define which (otherwise entirely legal) activities are not prohibited by the University. Similarly, Mis argued that it is too difficult to try to define terms like "psychological abuse." However, it seems reasonable that an attempt be made, since it will have to be defined if any potential cases of psychological abuse come up. All those who do research on campus know that clear definitions are difficult but necessary, and those who deal with real-world legal systems are aware that people's lives and livelihoods often depend on the exact letter of the law. Why does the Campus Judiciary think that it should be allowed to avoid this very difficult but very necessary task? The University's utter lack of definition of the terms in the Respect for Persons section seems disingenuous, considering it spends almost a page defining terms like

"complainant," "respondant," "university official," and even "CODE" itself. Why are terms that are generally understood by all so patiently defined while controversial and difficult to understand terms like "verbal abuse" and "sexually intimidating atmosphere" are left up to the imagination (of the members of the Campus Judiciary)?

When asked how the Campus Judiciary decides which acts are "really" covered by the Code, Mis said that someone must make a complaint, which is followed by evidence gathering, a hearing, and so on. Mis could offer no clear guidelines about how the Judiciary decides which complaints are worthy of pursuing (it depends on the evidence) nor about which kinds of evidence get accepted (it depends on the complaint). Mis argued that every case was different, so no good guidelines could be offered. According to Mis, the Conduct Code is really vague, but this isn't a problem because the Campus Judiciary knows this, and thus doesn't abide by its own Code when making decisions. Furthermore, Mis believes that confused students should just trust that the Campus Judiciary will make more reasonable decisions than the Code suggests will be made. Essentially, we have a Conduct Code that is so vague that it is disregarded by its authors, who then expect to be trusted to decide which acts and words are really punishable. Why should we think that those who can't even right a reasonably clear Conduct Code can make reasonable and binding decisions about actual conduct? Mis assured me that no problems had turned up with such as system. Asking those who don't benefit might suggest otherwise.

The university is an institution dedicated to free inquiry and to clarity and precision of thought and deed. The rules of conduct in such a setting should similarly promote free inquiry (though some will be offended and intimidated) and should be written so that as little misunderstanding as possible occurs. Our Conduct Code seems designed to do the opposite. By containing statements that broadly ban ridiculous amounts of acts and speech, the Code makes one ever wary of punishment and breeds unnecessary fear in those who think what they say or do might be controversial. It can also encourage spurious, but embarrassing, time-consuming, and potentially discriminatory claims of victimization. By willfully admitting that what the Code says are violations and what the Campus Judiciary will punish are different things, Mis has basically stated that the precision and clarity expected of an EGC 101 student does not apply to the people who can expel you. He has also stated that the University will not even try to do as it says.

The rules and regulations at a university should clearly espouse a deep commitment to individual freedoms, especially as protected by other laws. They should, as much as possible, state which kinds of activities are prohibited and which are not. It is not enough to say, trust us, we won't do as we say, we'll actually get it right when it comes to real cases. If people could be trusted to do the right thing, we'd need no Conduct Code. However, much like some students can't be trusted, some members of the Campus Judiciary cannot be trusted. Additionally, even trustworthy people are likely to make poor decisions, especially when oversight and accountability are removed. A reasonable Conduct Code is designed not only to restrict the behavior of the rule-breakers but also that of the rule-makers. Ours places extreme limitations on potential rule-breakers but none on the rule-makers.

On a related note, please bear in mind that gambling is prohibited on University property except as part of "an authorized fundraising activity." Remember, kiddies, that some animals are more equal than others and Big Brother always gets his cut.

If you wish to make your opinions about the University's Student Conduct Code heard, Gary Mis can be reached at 632-6705 or by e-mail at gmis@sunysb.edu. The Code will be up for revision next spring, so sign up early to avoid the rush.

# HUMANITIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ed person, you need to know about music, art, literature, history, and other disciplines," said Kaplan.

In recent years, educators have made efforts to broaden the scope of the humanities by forming bridges between disciplines that were traditionally separate. "There has been a lot of rethinking on the role of the humanities and their relationships with other disciplines," said English professor Clifford Siskin. In addition, there is a greater emphasis today on multicultural studies.

"Physicists have known for over a century that perspective shapes the entire experiment," said Kaplan. "Women's Studies has provided the same shift in perspective that quantum mechanics offered to physics."

"On this campus, which is a racist campus, the culture has been very narrowly defined around dead white men for many years," said William McAdoo, Chairman of the Africana Studies program.

President Kenny agrees that there is a need to focus on "a lot of aspects that were not particularly important in the past when you tended to have many American historians and European historians, but not many historians who study Africa and Asia."

A similar need exists in literature and other fields, according to Kenny. "We look at a broader range of literature," she said. "It used to

be American and British, basically, but now there's a much broader approach. This has caused a lot of excitement and energy in the humanities."

But conservative critics often attribute the decline in humanities and so-called "academic standards" to an increased emphasis on multicultural studies in undergraduate curricula. Students are no longer required to study the works of Plato and Aristotle, or Kant and Hegel to fulfill core requirements. Instead, courses in the newer disciplines of ethnic studies or women's studies are often sufficient for graduation.

Efforts to increase Western culture requirements have

gained momentum in recent years. Yet, some scholars see these attempts to impose "standards" as a way for politicians to control what is being taught.

"I think there is a shutdown of some of the openness that would encourage humanities and the kind of discourse that the humanities has traditionally engaged in," said McAdoo. "I think it's all part of a right-wing move in the United States."

Kaplan agrees that creation of a uniform curriculum is difficult and counterproductive. "The idea that there is only a certain quotient of knowledge that people should learn is antithetical to the concept of education," she said. "The text isn't the issue. The issue is critical thinking." Nevertheless, drafting standards for

basic skills such as writing proficiency may serve a useful purpose.

"There is discussion in the university now of looking toward measurement of effectiveness of academic programs, that is, after people take a writing course, do they know how to write?" said Kenny. "Assessment is a very big topic nationally."

Peter Salins, Provost of the State University of New York, has proposed an assessment test in the liberal arts to be given to all undergraduates in the 64 SUNY campuses. But because administrative decisions of SUNY are often made by political appointees, many faculty members worry that a comprehensive exam will force universities to conform to a rigid curriculum that revolves around Western European culture.

"Obviously, if you have a system-wide test, it presupposes the same kind of knowledge being taught across the system," said sociology professor Norman Goodman, who sees the establishment of a uniform curriculum as the ultimate goal of the central SUNY administration.

Despite widespread opposition to the implementation of a state-wide standard, the issue will remain as long as right-wing administrators continue to blame multiculturalism for the decline in the humanities.

"I think the impact of turning the clock back on civil rights and on affirmative action in this country is part of one package," said McAdoo. "When you begin to shut a society down and turn the clock back, you don't have a place for humanities. When these folks finish, there won't be much left that we can call an 'enlightened education'."

For further reading:

Engell, James & Dangerfield, Anthony. "The Market-Model University," *Harvard Magazine*, (May-June 1998)

**"...conservative critics often attribute the decline in humanities...to an increased emphasis on multicultural studies..."**

# MY INNER CHILD IS GONNA EGG YOUR INNER CHILD!

By Lorena Stuart

Ah, Halloween, a time to shed our everyday faces and become what we most desire or fear, has come around once more. It's a time to break free from the shackles of normality and let your fantasies run wild. Halloween: children frolic, grandparents titter over their painted and costumed little angels, and college students gape in disgust at those of us who haven't totally accepted the frigid stagnancy that is "adulthood." Hmmm: there seems to be a problem here.

In my family, Halloween is probably the most anticipated holiday of the year. We plan our costumes months in advance, and begin filling the cabinets with candy sometime around August. And the older I get, the better Halloween becomes: the costumes get more elaborate and fantastic, the trick or treating lasts longer, and the parties get rowdier. Most of the population still seems to think Halloween is a joy best left to childhood, however, and should only be enjoyed by the next generation of pirates, ghosts, angels, and indians that need to be walked around the block.

Why this happens isn't really that important; the simple fact that I could not walk around campus dressed as a Vampire last year (yeah, that was me: the short, Spanish chick in the long, black dress) without stares of disgust and reproach is inexcusable. The costume wasn't even that elaborate: any self-respecting Goth club would have kicked me out for underdressing. But you, Ms. "Pigtailed Sorority Chick," and you,

Mr. "I Sell My Blood To Pay for My Books," and you, Ms. "If I Wasn't so Poised I'd Fall off My Platforms" all felt that my brief foray into the fantastic was simply inexcusable.

Where's your imagination? your joy? your magic? Have you been sucked so far into adulthood that your inner child has crawled up its own ass and died? I hear so many people complaining about how hard it is being an "adult." People constantly gripe about their worries, and wish they could be children for a while again, but ignore this completely socially-sanctioned chance to regress back to childhood for a day. Don't give up this chance to let loose and revel in the joy of tricking your neighbors or astounding your friends!

For those of you insecure about your looks: here's a chance to cover your most despised features with a mask (or cape) and finally talk to that hottie three seats over from you in that afternoon class. All you aesthetic gods and goddesses: here's your chance to put on that skimpy costume and distract the rest of us even more than you usually do. And those of you with a slightly more malicious bent: just remember that now you're actually old enough to buy the

eggs and shaving cream on your own. And don't even try to say that it's too hard to get a costume: that's what that little-used part of your mind called "imagination" is for. Worse come to worst,

you could all use the old tried-and-true standby: some fake blood and ripped jeans, and *voila!* instant Zombie.

We can't forget the more mysterious reason why everyone should dress up: protection from monsters. Originally, Halloween was the day when all the monsters would run around and terrorize the townspeople because the next day was All Saint's Day. So what the villagers would do

was dress up and make a lot of noise to scare away the evil spirits. I don't know about you, but I like the idea of running around protecting my stomping grounds from being overrun by supernatural beasties. Those of you who want to chance it, enjoy yourselves; I'm making absolutely sure none of them ghoulies will be snacking on my brains this year.

There's nothing wrong with letting that poor, repressed, suffocated, and starved waif that is your inner child out to play one day a year. Who knows? it might actually do you some good.



This is MY inner child!!

## Top Ten Reasons Albany Kicked Our Ass In The Homecoming Game

10. Players confused Roofies stash with steroids stash.
9. Cheerleaders couldn't decide who to root for, USB Seawolves, or SBU Seawolves.
8. President Kenny ain't no tight end.
7. Half the team confused the Park Bench with the new Division I stadium.
6. Diligent scholar-athletes were up all night studying for their midterms.
5. Francis, the Talking Mule, missed a crucial field goal with less than two minutes to go.
4. PCP distribution levels were unequal.
3. Coach's philosophy, "Only three on the field, a touchdown will yield."
2. Rascally Homecoming King Kevin Keenan swapped play book with *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*.
1. What the fuck's a *Seawolf*?



**R**OLLING ALONG THE INTERSTATE PAST FAMED LANDMARKS LIKE PUNXSATAWNY AND FAT WALLY'S BAR AND GRILL: WHAT A POINTLESS WAY TO WASTE THE WEEKEND. IT ALL SEEMED PRETTY RATIONAL THOUGH. SPEND A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF COLLEGE LIFE, AWAY FROM THE INSIPID FOOD SERVICE, THE BOREDOM OF CAMPUS LIFE, AND THE STALE AROMA EMANATING FROM THE NEARBY PHYSICAL PLANT. INTO OHIO WHERE A MAN IS A MAN AND THERE IS AN INFINITE SUPPLY OF ROADKILL TO MARVEL AT.

But I digress from the point of my article, which is to study our little society we call "America Culture." This whole journey started in typical American fashion; with competition. Long ago I was an avid fan of the Friday night waste of time know as Laser tag. I admit it I was that type of loser, but fuck man, it was fun. And why wouldn't it be? The thrill of pulse pounding techno deafening you as you mercilessly spray your opponents with bursts of blinding laser light. How manly. How American. I can't say that I didn't get a little excited after each game when I found out how severely I had beaten my rivals.

had no choice but fulfill my obligation to the faceless members of my e-mail ring and travel westward.

Driving on the interstate is a nightmare. Nightmares usually last for a half-hour. Multiply that by 20 and you have my trip. When I got there it was worse.

I try not to be condemning of people that I meet right off the bat, but I had my opinions of the natives before I got there; the standard New York superiority complex. Although I didn't enjoy it, I was sadly on the mark in my archtyping of the rural white man. I justify this stereotyping by the random cross section of Ohio residents that I met not living up to my expectations only on four occasions. So I attest not all of Ohio is racist, violent, homosexually repressed, Christ-olics, only east Ohio, possibly only the city of Warren, hopefully only the hundred or so that I met.

Sad is the state of Ohio, where WWF wrestling still hasn't be revealed as hakum. If the City, fine dining is Ruby Tuesdays and Kahunaville, so the question must be asked. Does our culture have no shame? Can we allow Ohio to remain a state? wouldn't it be prudent to disassociate ourselves (being the rest of society) from these uncouth louts? And if we were to annex their little community, what about California, or any

sheep-if you took your head from the grass you'd realize that the shepherd was fucking you. Anybody see the uprising in anti-terrorist actions America takes? Well how soon before Activism becomes Terrorism? The voice of a revolution could be turned to the ravings of a madman in the edit of a government press release.

You wanna do something about Ohio? Calling your congress will only get you so far. Get off from your couch and do something with the world we're in. Protest, inform, and present your views any way you can, 'cause we might not be able to tomorrow.

Laser tag in Ohio: Confronting the two evils of America in one weekend can be a harrowing task. But maybe beneath all the symbolism, and sleep deprivation I learned a few things. In every nest of hate and violence there is a voice of reason. Though she (in this case but as easily he) was quelled and secluded by the boasts and threats of the uncouth, she played the game and whupped ass. Some times you have to succumb to an evil to stop it. I'm sure she never thought of it in this way though, as a silent protest against the culture by besting it at what it does best.

It's a lesson we could all learn from. We've tried the tools that society tells us will

work and they've failed. Now we must take the few rights we have

# Finding the Soul of America

Hell, in a society based of the subjugation of the weak, this is the sport du jour. I'm less concerned with the 5-18 year olds that play every weekend, than with the rapid growth of the sport itself. For the players now, it's already too late. They have been taught that nothing makes you better than showing everyone how weak another person is. The last thing we need is another pseudo blood fest for the country to wrap its heart strings around and proclaim as the pinnacle of our society.

Good sportsmanship? Sure, but isn't that just the same as America slaughtering the Native Americans and then giving them a few parcels of land for them to eek out a meager existence? There is a reason the European and American societies are viewed with disdain, and it's because of just this sort of attitude. The Conquering Race.

The Great American Wave of Capitalism, where competition breeds excellence and violence is the ultimate arena.

Looking beyond this trivial point of sociological insight I stepped into the local Laser tag arena to practice for the upcoming regional championships. I had fallen into a NAMBLA fantasy, the place was filled to the 4'10" brim with gyrating 12 year-olds. Top 40s dance music thumped out of a DJ booth set up in the corner and I felt nausea. The previous evening's narcotics had begun to wear off and this throbbing mass of pre-pubesence was the last thing I needed. Nonetheless I plowed through the mob and into the arena proper where, expectedly, my team and I proceeded to trounce all challengers. To my surprise the majority of players were late teen to early twenty year olds like myself who seemed equally disgusted with the crowd out side.

Was this what my youth time weekend passion had been reduced to? A hokey white suburban dance hall for the junior high crowd? Not that the tradition of symbolic violence that stood in the same place a mere year before was any less despicable. Hell, if I had it my way they'd both be burned to the ground along with Yankee stadium.

The pathetic state of affairs that I was immersed in began to raise some doubts as to the necessity of the weekends 10 hour drive to Warren, Ohio. I wrestled with the dilemma for many an hour that night, and as such what was to be the best of the weekends sleep was ruined. In the morn I felt that I

## in the Heart of Ohio

By Glenn "Squirrel" Given

other state we don't approve of? What if it's not New York that gets to do the approving?

Sad is the state of America where we measure our worth through disassociation. When a society seeks to defend itself by endless quotes of "well at least we don't do what the (insert inappropriately behaving country here) do!" is that society really worth defending? Likewise in a government where all you have to do to have a say is wait a few years, is that say a valued one? More than likely "no" is the answer to all these questions. Anarchists want chaos but I say it's already here. Don't look down from your social pedestal because you might see it's rotting foundation.

Ohio is a glaring sore in the heart of America. But it's not alone; there are 49 others. Culture runs rampant spouting ideas of freedom that are unearned and rights that are taken for granted. Self-worth equals self-wealth is a clarion call through every metropolis in this stolen country. Violence is heralded everywhere we look, so how can we believe the counselors who proclaim peace to be the effective method of settling disputes? Our country pledges to the world (as long as we retain the military advantage), and sells its arms to any maniac wandering through the global market.

Do you believe the shit they cram down our collective throats? Peace keeping actions in the Mid-East and South Asia? Justifiable civilian losses? Come on

left and jam them down societies throat. Show them the limits, extreme left or right; just have a voice. Make your presence known.

Well, my team played and we came in fourth. At least it showed them there were other teams out there and that there were many ways to

### The Stony Brook Press Fall Literary Supplement



Submissions Due Wednesday

Oct. 28

# The Reel World

By April Nicole Glass

I feel vindicated. The gods have answered me (or God, so I shall not offend this largely monotheistic culture), and have given me a TV show with a protagonist who finally is more messed up emotionally than I am. Yes, of course I know what you're thinking: What about Ally McBeal? First of all, Ally hallucinates and sees dancing babies. I may see myself as a very imaginative and creative individual, but she probably doesn't know which hole to pee from half the time. Felicity on the other hand, is human.

This is not to discount Ally McBeal at all, because I have always said, since the first episode, that if I were ever to create my own TV show, that would be it. It's almost as if David E. Kelly pulled the thoughts out of my head. However, I can't relate to it. For starters, the characters

are all going on thirty. I'm going on fifty-five with oncoming menopause. Second, Ally looks like a rail and no matter how many National Enquirer articles call her anorexic, you just know that she eats like a pig. If I eat a grain of rice, I can feel the fat cells dancing their dance across the plains of my body. Finally, it's just not realistic. Law firms may be fun, but they're not that fun. Even worse, we all need a shrink, but who can actually afford one?

Felicity is real. I know that because I could be her. That's not to say that I would sacrifice my entire education on a whim and go off halfway

across the country to follow some guy I never even spoke to until graduation. However, I do stupid things every day of my life. Perhaps I haven't done anything drastically impulsive yet, but I want to. I guess the most significant thing is that for once, I want someone in a TV show to be happy, because the person deserves it. Who else would know? I also was unpopular, not only through high school but my entire life. So here she was, always on the

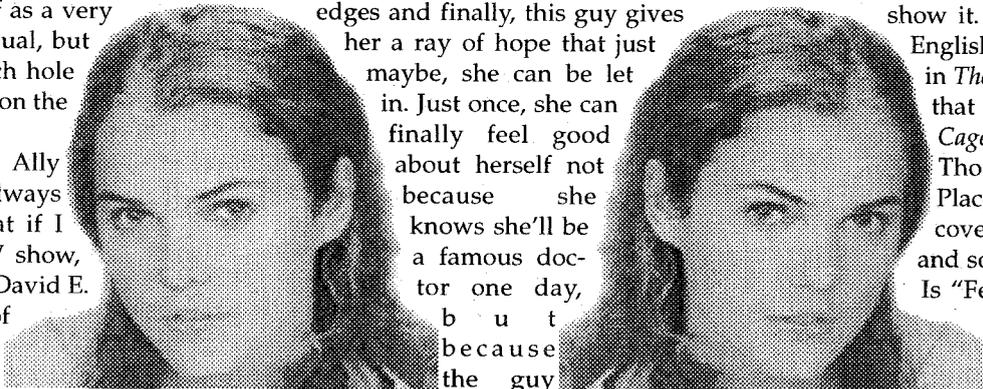
edges and finally, this guy gives her a ray of hope that just maybe, she can be let in. Just once, she can finally feel good about herself not because she knows she'll be a famous doctor one day, but because the guy voted most popular likes her, the girl no one ever gave a damn about!

So how come Ms. "I could be you" look like she stepped out of a Noxema commercial? Hey, that's TV for you. Would you honestly want to watch Dawson's Creek if Dawson looked like Marilyn Manson? Felicity is as real as real can be, without the pimples and blemishes, and especially the bathroom breaks. I suppose those just aren't considered interesting fodder for the teenage viewers, who are just hanging on for the sex.

I remember Keri Russel from "Malibu

Shores" (which you knew would be canceled as soon as Randy Spelling was cast) and some crappy made-for-TV movie where she played a baby sitter having an affair with the father, who turns out to be some psycho murderer who killed the mother. Typical fare, but she always managed to stand out. I'm not over glamorizing her as the only female who can act in 1998, but for some reason, anyone who can act just hasn't been given a good venue to show it. Look at Calista Flockheart: My AP English teacher thought that she was awful in *The Glass Menagerie*, and who could tell that she can act by her part in *The Bird Cage*? And then there's Courtney Thorne-Smith, straight from "Melrose Place." I almost keeled over when I discovered she has talent. They were lucky, and so was Keri.

Is "Felicity" doomed to become another casualty of quality TV shows? I don't support the backlash against the canceling of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." Just because something is family oriented does not make it a good show. However, shows like "My So-Called Life" and *Relativity* have come and gone with great and well deserved reviews, and it's always a scary possibility that any new and semi-decent show will follow suit. Time will only tell, but in the meantime I'll be getting ready to tape next week's episode. (Hey- I do have a life, unlike the rest of you couch potatoes!)



## THE McCOURTS OF LIMERICK

By Marlo Allison Del Toro

On Thursday, October 8, well-known author Malachy McCourt was supposed to speak on campus. He didn't show until one-half hour after the audience was told to leave, and one and one-half hours after he was supposed to be here.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Stony Brook Library and Wallaces Book Store, Malachy was to "read from his memoirs *A Monk Swimming* and share his wit, outspoken opinions and outrageous stories."

Representatives of Wallaces and Friends said that they may try to reschedule the speech.

Frank McCourt, Malachy's better known older brother and author of *Angela's Ashes*, spoke at Suffolk County Community College's Ammerman campus a year and a half ago. He was fabulous.

Frank from some of his memoir in his beautiful Irish brogue and gave the audience a brief and amusing run-through of his miserable Irish Catholic childhood and his book. (Tickets to his speech sold out two weeks beforehand, due to the great popularity of his book, and the full-house seemed delighted to be on the "haves" side of the ticket line.)

What follows is reviews of their books, and the reason for them speaking anywhere, let alone having their own documentary.

### A Monk Swimming

Hyperion, New York: 1998. \$23.95

Malachy's memoir is a good piece of non-fiction reminiscent of Truman Capote's tell-all, new journalism articles that expose the private lives of his famous friends and acquaintances.

Malachy mentions such characters as Richard Harris, Grace Kelly, Dorothy Parker, and Frank Sinatra, and his mentions, while not necessarily libelous, are often not flattering.

Malachy's story follows him through his 20s, "as he sloshed and wrenched his way around the globe," says reviewer Doug Wyatt.

Malachy's resumé during this period includes his being a longshoreman, bar owner, off-Broadway TV and movie (*The Devil's Own*, *She's the One*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*) actor, talk show guest, and gold smuggler.

Unlike his brother Frank's memoir, the style in Malachy's memoir varies, not in tone, but in word usage and spelling style. These tools don't always work for Malachy because he uses them inconsistently.

The tittle *A Monk Swimming* is based on a child's mistaken hearing of the Hail Mary's "amongst women." Although this title may have been good for Frank's story of an Irish Catholic childhood, it doesn't work for Malachy's book. The title only has an insignificant, and forced, place in the book.

Malachy is said to be as good a storyteller as his brother, and some even suggest that he is a better speaker than Frank, so perhaps the cassette tape version of this book, read by the author, is recommendable. Malachy's stories are funny, and he uses sarcasm well, so this book should not be disregarded.

### Angela's Ashes

Schribner, New York: 1996. \$25.00

Out of nowhere, Frank McCourt rocked the literary world. In a genre that is saturated with ghost-written celebrity tell-alls, Frank's work shows

what non-fiction is supposed to look feel and sound like; for that, he took home the Pulitzer Prize and numerous other awards, and his book is continues to grace *The New York Times'* best sellers list.

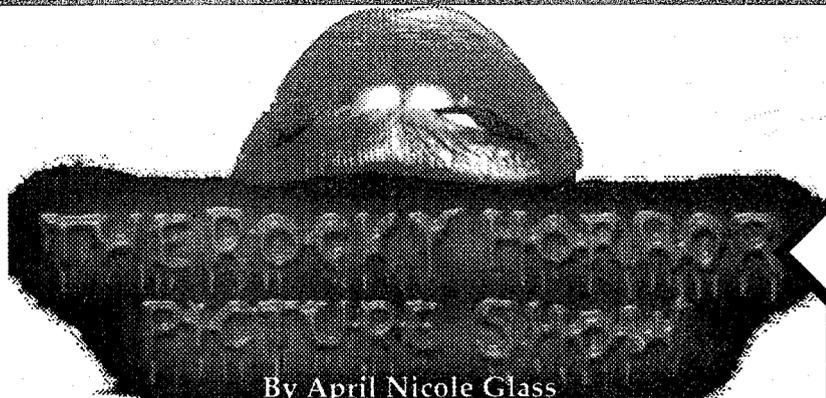
Frank's writing has style like no other author's. Sans quotes, he makes the reader sense who is speaking. He uses a consistent style of speech for each character, and uses words spelled as they are pronounced (arse in stead of ass) to allow the reader to feel as if s/he is sitting in a pub listening to Frank spin his yarn.

Although he never attended secondary school, Frank's written English is better than most people's. In fact, Frank taught writing at Stuyvesant high school in Manhattan after going to college in New York.

*Angela's Ashes* was so titled because Frank intended it to begin with his mother meeting his father, and end with her death and cremation; however, he found a more natural ending with his returning to New York and America, where he was born, so that the tittle is no longer apropos. (He plans to write a sequel to *Angela's Ashes* which will continue his mother's story.)

*Angela's Ashes* is highly recommendable to anyone who cares to read about the Irish, the (hypocritical) Catholics, or someone else's miserable (yet hilarious) childhood. It is the kind of book that one wouldn't loan to one's own sibling, for fear it might be touched by something rougher than kid gloves.

Also recommended is the cassette tape version of the book, which is read by Frank and must inevitably carry the same sense of style and humour.



By April Nicole Glass

**T**HE ELECTRIC SLIDE, THE MACARENA, THE Time Warp? If anyone has not seen *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* after at least eighteen years of existence, then shame on you! This movie, turned cult classic has been traditional Halloween fare since the 1970s. Where else would Meat Loaf be portrayed as a hunk to literally drool for, or for cross dressing to finally be seen as a main characteristic of one of the key players? The Rocky Horror Picture was the culmination of the sexual revolution, where anything went, be it human or alien, male or female, brother or sister. Unfortunately for Clinton, unlike Frank'n Furter, he doesn't have the option of beaming back to his home planet.

The origins of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* go back to 1973, when a then-little known Richard O'Brien opened it in London as a six week experimental theatre production at the Royal Court. It quickly received acclaim, and moved on to bigger and bigger houses, and eventually went on to win the Best Musical of 1973 in the London's Evening Standard's annual poll.

The movie we know today began filming in October 1974 at Bray Studios, a well known "spook house" in England, which was once the chateau of wartime refuge General Charles DeGaulle. Most of the cast had been original players in the theatre production. Richard O'Brien (Riff-Raff), Patricia Quinn (Magenta), Little Nell (Columbia), and Jonathan Adams (was the narrator on stage and was Dr. Scott in the film).

For all of those Rocky virgins, here is a brief summary of its most unconventional plot. Following a wedding of Ralph Hapschatt and Betty Munroe, Brad Majors (Barry Botswick) and his fiancée Janet Weiss (Susan Sarandon), two young innocents in love, get lost in the midst of an eerie storm and (was it fate?) stumble upon the Frankenstein residence. Following some disco beats and a looksie into an unhygienic science experiment to create a perfect pre-Fabio for men, Brad and Janet get seduced into this mad, mad horror fest. Will Riff-Raff and his sister Magenta get it on? Was that really Eddie (Meat Loaf) carved up for dinner? What is this world coming to???

Even if you don't know the plot, you can still have fun at any one of the nightly live showings in Manhattan. All you have to do is bring some simple props, but be damn sure you know what to do with them, or you're in for a public flogging.

1. Rice- At the opening wedding scene, as the newlyweds run off into bliss, you should throw Uncle Ben along with the crowd.
2. Newspapers- When Brad and Janet are caught in torrential thunderstorms, Janet covers her dainty head with the *Plain Dealer*. Use the *National Enquirer*.
3. Water pistols- These are used to simulate rain. Do refrain from using other squirting devices, for we must maintain public decency at all times.
4. Candles, flashlights- During the "There's a Light" verse of "Over at the Frankenstein Place," light up the theatre and bring a smile to your seat mate.
5. Rubber Gloves- During and after the creation speech, Frank snaps his gloves exactly three times. Later, Magenta pulls them off of his hands. Snap yours in sync with his for some good sound effects.
6. Noise makers- At the end of the creation speech, the Transylvanians respond with noisemakers and applause. Do the same.
7. Confetti- At the end of the "Charles Atlas Song" reprise, the Transylvanians throw confetti as Rocky and Frank head off for the bedroom. Throw confetti, have sex later.
8. Toilet paper- When Dr. Scott enters the laboratory, Brad cries out "Great Scott!" You should hurl toilet paper, preferably Scottie Tissues.
9. Toast- When Frank proposes toast at dinner, throw some toast in the air. Leave off the butter.
10. Party Hat- At dinner Frank dons one, put yours on too.
11. Bell- During the song "Planet Schmanet", ring it when Frank bellows "Did you hear a bell ring?"
12. Cards- During "I'm going home" Frank sings "Cards for sorrow, cards for pain". Throw them, make use of all those Delta packs.
13. Hot Dogs and Prunes- Throw them at the appropriate mentions in the film. Do make sure they don't stain the screen, for cockroaches are not a required prop.

## A Stolen Heart

By Hilary Vidair

**M**urder, abandonment, and sibling rivalry. A story set in the kitchen of a small Mississippi town, *Crimes of the Heart* tells the compelling story of the McGrath sisters who must come to terms with reality and face their past in order to save their future.

Babe, the youngest of the three sisters, has been convicted of shooting her husband, Zackery. The only reason she gives for committing this heinous crime is that she "didn't like his looks." As Lenny and Meg try to understand Babe's reasoning for committing this crime, underlying problems begin to unfold.

Upon turning 30, Lenny becomes aware of the fact that she is alone. She drives away the only man she has ever been with due to a fear of rejection. Instead of going out at night, she solemnly sits at home, looking after her manipulative, dying grandfather.

On the other hand, Meg, hasn't seen her family for quite some time. Her singing career has fallen apart and she has suffered a mental breakdown. This is the first time still haunted by her mother's suicide, she chooses to escape her feelings, and has avoided any contact with any family. Meg has been home since Hurricane Camille five years ago.

Due to abuse and neglect by her husband, Babe decides to have an affair with Willie Jay, an underaged "colored" boy. The unhappiness in her marriage has lead Babe to attempted murder, as well as contemplated suicide.

As the sisters face the "skeletons in the McGrath closet," they begin to understand each other for the first time, allowing them to take control of their lives. By the end of the play, it is not certain whether or not the McGrath sisters' happiness will continue to evolve, but for the time being, they are truly free from the burdens of their past.

Directed by Deborah Mayo, this enchanting performance was the first of four shows to be put on by the theater department this year. "Crimes of the Heart" was a wonderful beginning to a promising new season.

The beautifully arranged and highly detailed set was designed by Phillip Baldwin. A kitchen, with several wooden cabinets, back door, stove, and refrigerator made the scene look realistic. It gave the atmosphere of a typical home down South.

Lighting designer, Eric Schlobohm, did an excellent job portraying the time of day and night through the kitchen windows, This created a specific type of "mood" for the play. It also helped the show run at a quick pace.

Peggy Morin, in charge of costuming, should also be given credit. From the moment each character stepped on stage, their attire molded their personalities. Lenny's housedress and Babe's youthful pink clothing were two such cases.

The acting, however, was what made this production truly worthwhile. The talent displayed here was of high quality. Angie M. Hughes did a fantastic job playing the lonely, envious Lenny McGrath. The highlight of her performance was when she chased Chick Boyle (Rebecca Anderson) around with a broom. The audience roared with laughter.

Anderon portrayed Chick's irritating personality with great fervor and her thick Southern accent had added a great deal of flavor to the show.

Drew Whote depicted Doc Porter as the slick, smooth man he was meant to be. His subtle ways and overall keenness displayed Doc's newfound confidence.

The role of Meg McGrath was played by Jennifer Darcy. Through her acting, it was obvious that behind Meg's cool character was a lost little girl running away from the pain in her life. The part couldn't have been cast any better.

Barnette Lloyd was played by Michael Hartney. He brilliantly portrayed Barnette's innocence and determination. He truly showed his acting ability in the opening scene of Act II, when he tried to impress Babe (Jennifer Guarnieri) with his quick wit and professionalism.

Yet it was Guarnieri who made the show as upbeat and exciting as it was. Every time she spoke, the audience was dazzled with her amazing sense of humor. Everything she did, no matter how big or small, was superior. One of the most amusing incidents in the play was when Babe was demonstrating the way she wiped her mouth after drinking three cups of lemonade.

Guarnieri is also able to go from serious to playful at the snap of a finger. This was made evident when Barnette informs her that Zackery's family has pictures of her sleeping with Willie Jay. She loses control, punching the kitchen cabinets and falling into Barnette's arms. Just then, Lenny comes downstairs. Immediately she starts dancing, galloping across the room and dragging Barnette with her. It was acting like this that kept the show alive.

The actors and actresses in this show demonstrated real talent. Their love for the theater was clear and their ability to perform was outstanding. They truly made "Crimes of the Heart" enjoyable. This play was a "thumbs up" to Stony Brook's theater department. It gave a newfound excitement to awaiting the next Stony Brook production.

Twisted Mister's

# "STRANGELAND"

By Tony Barbera

I suppose there's something to be said for genital mutilation, but Dee Snider's self-help film guide to sadomasochism *Strangeland* was suspiciously silent in this respect. Sure, there was plenty of putting holes where there were no holes before, and lots of sewing up the ones that were already there, but there was nothing vaguely resembling an agenda of any sort. Stepping into "Captain Howdy"'s torture chamber, you immediately wonder "Where have I seen this before?" and then it hits you: Oh, yeah, *Seven* and *Hellraiser* etc. But what made these films great was not just a whole bunch of messed-up torture and gross-out horror, but a sort of message. One could even say a certain philosophical edge. *Strangeland* on the other hand, lacked anything close to a *raison d'être*. The plot is mind-numbingly simple: Dee Snider, of Twisted Sister fame, plays "Captain Howdy," a sadomasochist who lures teens into his chamber of horrors and tortures them, with the purpose of "expanding consciousness" through the peculiarities of physical anguish. He himself is shown suspended from meat hooks, like so many of his lucky victims, attempting to "cross the abyss" into death through slow painful torture so you can't say that he can't take his own medicine, like so many other movie "villains." He's pierced, stabbed, scarred, tattooed (and who knows what else) all over his body. But back to the "plot." In the great tradition of schlock horror, our good Captain unfortunately messes with the wrong guy. He captures the daughter of Detective Gage, who tracks him down and rescues the teens. Mind you, the film has only gone along for about twenty minutes.

In a surprisingly accurate rendition of our criminal justice system, Captain Howdy is found innocent after a plea of insanity, and spends a scant four years in psychological rehab before being released back into society. When he leaves the institution, wearing a blue knit cardigan and wire-rim spectacles, he finds that, surprise of all surprises, the townfolk are not happy to see him. His house has been vandalized, and an angry mob is protesting in front of it. He apologizes ("I'm sorry") and walks back into his violated home.

Enter our favorite Lee Press-on Nail slasher, Robert Englund (formerly Freddy Krueger) who, after hearing this heart-rending appeal to the citizens, decides "Someone's gotta take that boy out." So he gets some of his football-hooligan and bible-mercenary buddies and forms a good ol' lynch mob, and proceeds to hang Howdy. Of course this doesn't kill him, and after he falls from the tree, exclaims enthusiastically "What a rush!" So he loses the librarian apparel for the familiar tattoos and piercings, and goes after the angry mob, sewing them up in all sorts of inconvenient places. On the way, he picks up Detective Gage's daughter just for the hell of it (actually, as revenge for Gage having let the mob carry him away) and presto, happy days are here again. But, of course the police eventually find the victims, and Gage has a showdown with Howdy in an abandoned building. You can guess the rest.

So how much of my eight dollars was worth having spent on this movie? I could have rented *Seven* and found a villain with a bit more of an intellectual edge than Dee. Likewise I could have seen *Hellraiser* and gotten a more intense (though disappointingly less graphic) depiction of sadomasochism. Was there anything worth seeing in this movie? That is, aside from an all-too-

unflattering shot of Robert Englund in thong bikini briefs (and probably the single scariest moment in the film).

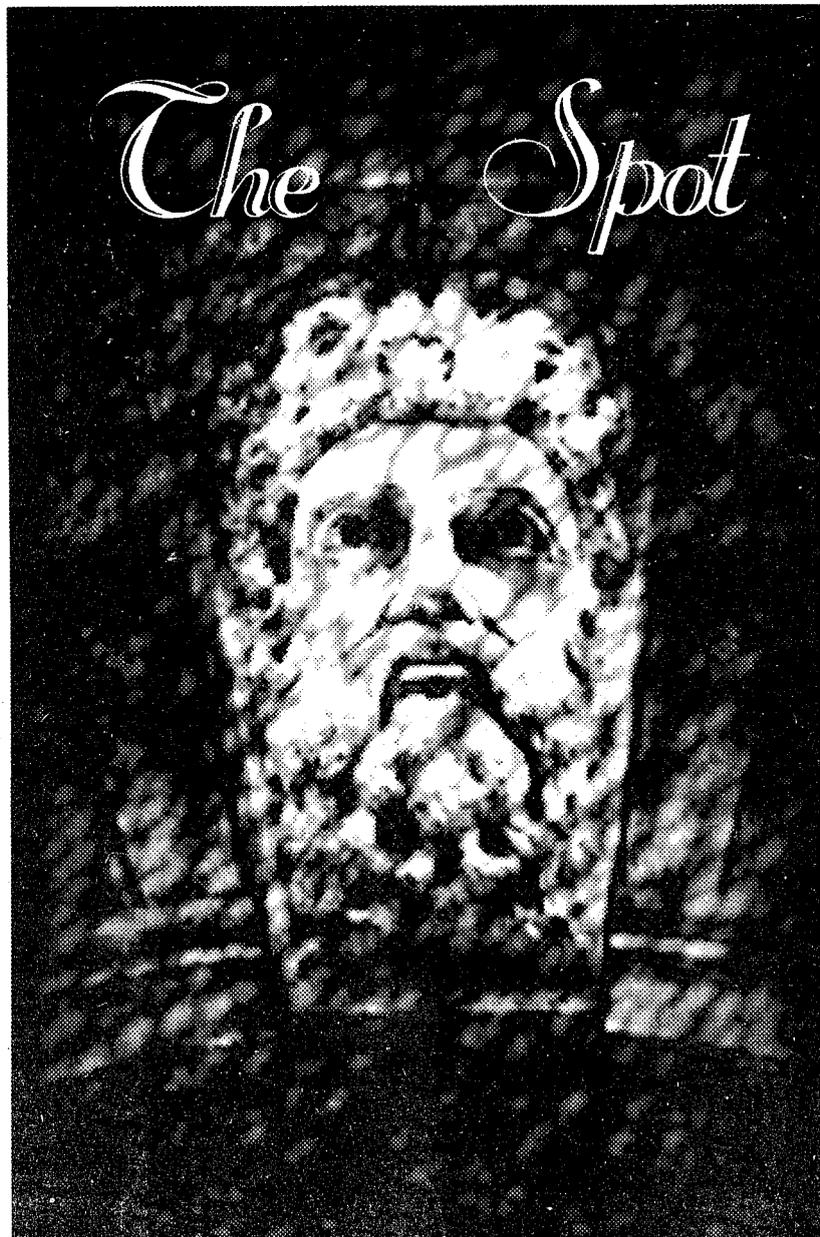
Well, let's take a look at what one can get out of this self-aggrandizing piece of "moviemaking." Captain Howdy finds his victims in chat rooms on a program that's essential-



ly a thinly-disguised AOL (any guess why they wouldn't let Snider use their name in the film?), so our first lesson is that the internet is evil. Captain Howdy is covered in tattoos and pierc-

ings, and helps his victims become equally decorated, so our next lesson is that body art is evil. Captain Howdy spends four years closely supervised in a mental institution, reading almost twenty four hours a day, yet after the hanging jogs his memory, he takes off his shirt and is as ripped as ever. Thus our next lesson is that reading builds biceps. Finally, Captain Howdy, who is obviously much stronger and a more proficient fighter than Gage, nevertheless loses the "final battle" and ends up burning to death on a meat-hook (gee, I guess I gave it away, darn). So our last lesson is that tough-looking detectives in trench coats use The Force (because they sure as hell aren't winning their battles on their own).

But none of this validates spending a dime on the movie. Well, if you're into hardcore, the soundtrack kicks ass, and there's always some music playing in the background. If you're looking for new and creative ways to get pierced, there are some decent tips here as well. And if you're looking into a career in internet stalking, you can definitely pick up some pointers. Aside from that? Some of the people I went with liked it. If you can forget that the acting sucked, the plot was moronic, the torture could have been a hell of a lot more graphic, and the good guys should've gotten their asses handed to them, I can totally see where they're coming from. At least there were some good previews before the movie. Kinda makes me want to see "Antz."



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# The Movie Guy: Halloween Special

By Frankie "The Movie Guy" Fusaro

Sorry about last issue folks, but there were complications in the delivery of my article. But I'm back, and thanks to Halloween, I've been given a full page to talk about my favorite Scary Movies, movies that are just super- great viewing at this time of year.

Perhaps you, like me, enjoy a good scare on Halloween. Most people do, and after all, it is Samhein, when the spirits of the dead are supposed to walk among the living. Of course, we all have our own version of a good scare. Some enjoy a Michael Myers' flick or a *NightMare on Elm Street* or how about a good old *Prom Night*, eh? *The Howling*, *Wolfen*, or *Silver Bullet* are always good for the Wolfman fan.

Just to make this clear to all you *Scream* or *Children of the Corn* fans, I'm talking about Scary Movies, not Horror. Horror only seems to bring about thoughts of monsters and slashings whereas Scary reminds one of suspense and the real fright that makes you paranoid or sick as you leave the theater- always looking over your shoulder or checking out the back-seat of your car just in case there's some one waiting for you there. Not that jump-out-of-your-seat stuff, we're talking true fear, that hits you right in the pit of your stomach. If I had to just limit myself to Horror movies I'd end up going into too many classics like *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* or *THING* (both versions) or even Price's *House of Wax*.

As in most things, scary is not universal, to one person *Tank Girl* can be laughter to another it could be scary (I don't know who, perhaps some aborigines or something). For instance, I do fear Arachnophobia but I can deal easily with *The Omen* or *The Stepford Wives*. I HATE spiders but the son of the Devil, he's cool. You might not all agree with me but I do hope you try and check a few of my picks out, if you haven't seen 'em already.

Now, we had more than a few arguments making up a list of just fifteen truly scary movies, movies that have gotten people time and time again to be positively scared. Some of the flicks up for this list were: *Jaws*, *The Arrival* (for its paranoia), *12 Monkeys*, and Robert A. Heinlein's *The Puppet Masters* (staring Donald Sutherland) not to mention Kiefer Sutherland's *The Vanishing* (that part in the box is so freaking disturbing). But we came up with a good cross-section of films that might bring you to the edge of your seat or just screw you up for life. Either way we're happy with 'em.

**The Top 15 Truly Scary Movies:**

- 15) *HellRaiser* - Hell, Clive Barker, cool jazz.
- 14) *Arachnophobia* - LOTS OF SPIDERS!!!!
- 13) *Phantasm* - there's a floating silver ball that rains death upon people, that just sounds

cool, doesn't it?!

- 12) *The Stepford Wives* - talk about whacked-out.
- 11) *Poltergeist* - hey, we're all about these kinds of spooks, aren't we?!
- 10) *Soylent Green* - I won't tell the secret, but if you don't know it, just rent it and stay away from everything, even the back of the tape, it will rock that way if you know nothing.
- 9) *Rear Window* - so it's not totally sick like some of the other movies here, but in a way it's a lot sicker.
- 8) *1984* - Orwell was a genius.
- 7) *Seven* - this was like Fudging Sick!!!
- 6) *Clockwork Orange* - this was a very cool "flicky."
- 5) *The Prophecy* - This is why some of us call Christopher Walken, G O D !
- 4) *The Exorcist* - Do I have to say anything here?
- 3) *The Shining* - "Here's Johnny!" took on a whole other meaning here.
- 2) *Psycho* - WOW! talk about sympathy for the Devil. (be glade there's only two Hitchcock's here I was talked out of *The Birds* and few others).
- 1) *Rosemary's Baby* - my cousin still believes this movie caused her to lose her baby. Now, I don't believe that personally (and neither does the rest of the family) but I do believe if there is one movie that could do something like that, this is it.

Viewers are as diverse as movies; most like a truly Scary Movie but a large percent enjoy the Cheese Factor in certain films. Films that follow the Scary Movie Survival Rules (as set down in *Scream*).

- For those of you who can't remember the Survival Rules (for I know you've all seen *Scream*) here they are, courtesy of Movie Guy 'Randy' from Wes Craven's *Scream*-

- 1-you can never have sex or you're dead.(sin factor)
- 2-drink or do drugs will get you killed. (sin factor)
- 3-never say "I'll be right back" or you're dead.
- The unofficial 4th (not stated by Randy, but brought to light in the film).
- 4-never go outside to investigate a strange noise or you're dead

But Cheese can follow into other arenas not just Horror. Anyone else remember *Yor: Hunter from The Future* or how about *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*?! In the vein of Horror, we all do remember *Monster Squad*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *Jack Frost*, and on occasion Cheese can be so cool that it can make you say "Give me some sugar Baby!" Just like the king of Cheesy Horror, ASH!!! Though the *Evil Dead* series rocked it was made to be cheese, as was *Jack Frost*, *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* and that classic *Attack of the Killer Refrigerator*. So, while

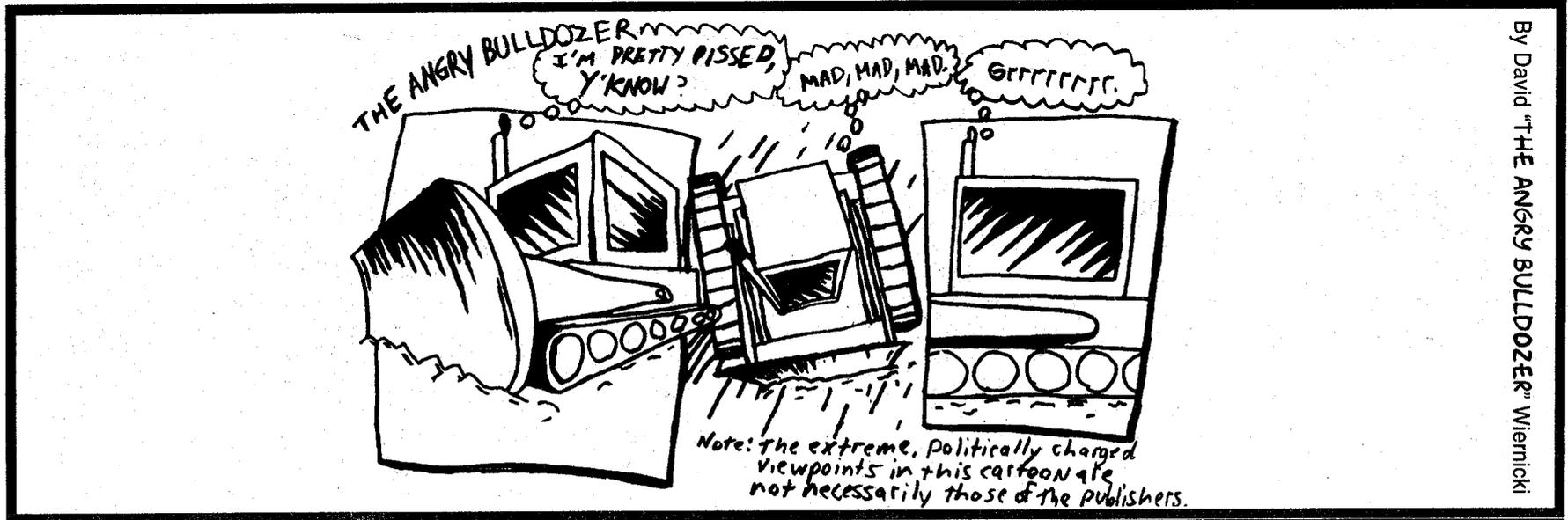
*Dinosaur Island* ain't on this list, I hope you like this one anyway.

**The Top 15 Bad Scary Movies:**  
honorable mention\*

- 15) *Orgy of the Dead* - Come on, with a title like that where could it go wrong? How about every where!
- 14) *Alligator* - Giant alligators that live the sewer, how much realism can we stand?
- 13) *976-EVIL* - Oh come on we all saw this puppy and we all loved it too.
- 12) *Night of the Comet* - I hate when those crazy comets flash by and turn everyone, not in a building made up totally of metal, into psychotic living zombies. That just happened one too many times around here.
- 11) *Slugs* - Oh gosh, this movie was SO BAD, it was almost the greatest film ever.
- 10) *Faces of Death* - I can't even begin here.
- 9) *Friday the 13th 1 - 8* - So one was ok but come on did you see seven. I always hate it when toxic waste is flushed thought the New York City sewer systems, but hey it came in handy here.
- 8) *C.H.U.D.* - "What does C.H.U.D. stand for anyway??"
- 7) *Critters 1 - 4* - Critters, what else can I say. They're even cooler than The Leprechaun.
- 6) *Dead Alive* - this had some great cheese.
- 5) *Videodrome* - I can't even begin to explain how insane this film was.
- 4) *Them!* - Giant Ants! Giant Ants! Dude they're Giant Ants!
- 3) *Blackula* - I know, I said no purposely stupid films, but come on, it's actually called Blackula.
- 2) *They Live* - Roody Piper says, "I came here to kick ass and chew bubble gum. And I'm all out of bubble gum": how can you get better than this?
- 1) *Killer Klowns From Outer Space* - I have a theory that this was not meant to be stupid, but hey I could be wrong.

So there you have it, the best bets to scare you silly on Halloween along with the Silliest bets to laugh yourself scared (huh? I've been at this way too long).

I'm sure you're about to run to the closest Blockbuster to get a few, if not all, of these films. But let me say one thing before you run off in a mad frenzy to get these premium flicks: The Independent video store is just as good as Blockbuster Video and it even has a porn section. Don't let Blockbuster, of all company's, be The Man. It's bad enough every coffeehouse is a Starbucks. But do you all really want the "The Dancing Baby" on your Blockbuster cards one day. Independence is what this country is supposed to be all about, this ain't 1984, at least not yet.



By David "THE ANGRY BULLDOZER" Wiernicki

# HELL-O-WEEN

By Glenn "Squirrel" Given

Once again the holiday scene is upon us and being the proverbial hell-raiser I am, I find that this holiday more than any other requires the appropriate music to set the mood. Screw Christmas carols and Valentine ballads. Halloween brings out the monster in us so we need the monsters of music to accompany us on our midnight binges, brawls, and mischief.



The Tea Party: Burrows, Martin, Chatwood, eh?

So I looked for some enterprising talent in today's music industry, specifically in the Halloween staple category of metal and hard rock. Look

at the supposedly angry music of late: *Marilyn Manson*? He's like a goth muppet, no one can take him seriously? *NIN* lost it's edge 4 years ago and *White Zombie* is just too hokey.

What happened to the quintessential spirits of Halloween that rose from the grave each year? Where are the teenagers to worship them? And where are the songs that would raise the dead themselves?

Not in America. I had to go to Canada for anything inventive. They speak French there; I feel emasculated.

**The Tea Party: Transmission**

I had been introduced to the Canadian goth rock scene somewhere in my friend's basement by these guys. They hit the beats hard and fast with a Pseudo-Arabic feel. Bringing back the glory of old school Joy Division with a heavy industrial twist



EC8OR: Patricia C., Gina D'Orio are ANGRY

**The Tea Party's** second release *Transmission* satisfies the late Halloween night post vandalizing need for chilling music with a heavy thumping beat to rest to. Perhaps suited for the van as you drive with your fellow

hooligans down the LIE to get to whatever town your hated ex-girlfriend lives in are heavy beat songs like "Psychopomp", "Transmission" and "Army Ants." Or in case you're throwing some all night goth jam, spinning "Babylon's" distort-techno-dance beat will get your party goers in the mode for a little of the ultra violence.

Ohh if you wanna get under the cape of that all to sexy vampiress sitting across the room than show her how dark and brooding you can be on *Release*. Do a little sway-type mopey dance, they love that. I'm telling you it's like spanish fly for the Living.

**GODSMACK: Godsmack**

*Metallica* vocals, *Korn* beats and a hint of *Alice in Chains*? Perhaps. A weird mix of stylings on

a CD that I was given totally at random that turned out to be better than I first thought. It's the type of music that you hear and poke holes into for its similarities, but after a few listens really gets to grow on you. There's a cute chick on the cover too.

There is a good deal of notable tracks on the CD. The stop start metal of "Time Bomb," bass metal grooves on "Whatever," and though stereotypical of the metal genre songs like "Immune", "Stress", and "Moon Baby" hold their own.

It's cute like the girl on the front but that's about all. Nothing innovative or really invigorating. Possibly I'm just not in the right mindset for the music for I do see it's appeal. It could serve as a nice post violence classic CD. I remain in contention over the quality though, sooner or later I believe that it will leave my CD collection for the greener pastures of my frisbee cache.

**Atari Teenage Riot: Burn, Berlin, Burn!**

The infamous creators of the genre of Digital Hardcore and foundation of the label of the same name, ATR doesn't slack off. Frontman Alec Empire, the undisputed overlord of this rare mix of techno and punk, isn't just angry, he is hate given form. Beyond smashing the instruments at the end of the show ATR uses machine guns and explosions for their beats. Smashing the accepted lines of what constitutes "danceability" or on air-friendliness, they blatantly try to fuck the system. No one is safe from their rage, the Media, Music Industry, Government(in any form other than dead), and the history of human culture all gets theirs on *Burn, Berlin, Burn!*

You want to fuck some shit up, well you can't handle this. The pure destruction at the force of tunes(?) like "Fuck All!", "Not Your Business", and "Start The Riot" will strip the paint off your house and leave your family with a permanent orange afro. Anti-Government rants from "Sick To Death", and "Deutschland(Has Gotta Die!)" make *Rage Against the Machine* seem like the college Republicans. Even the love song (if it were to be written by Jeffrey Dahmer) *Heatwave* gives ATR singer Hanin Elias's own Clockwork Orange style of girl power.

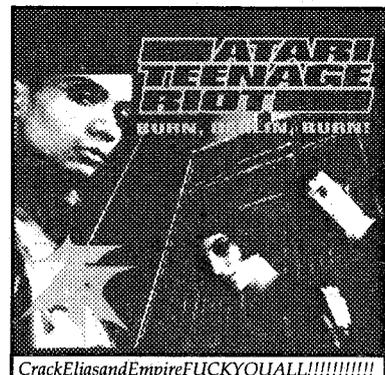
Fuck your neighbors, fuck the town, especially your high school and start blowing shit up. The sweet sound of burning administration buildings goes especially well with *Death Star*.

**EC8OR: World Beaters**

Find the mook who put Mortal Kombat the soundtrack in and kick him in the throat. That completed you can pick his punk ass off the concrete and put some real anger into your stereo. All you need is EC8OR. Part of the up and coming genre of techno called Digital Hardcore and signed to the label of the same name, they mix break-beat techno, industrial, *Dead Kennedys* style punk, and that indescribable something that can only be found in the mass escape of dangerous mental institution patients who didn't know it but had their normal coffee replaced with crystal meth.

This is the music that GWAR fans call "pointless noise," fuck them there sissies. Sounding like the musical equivalent of a fifty car pile up EC8OR gets your blood boiling and brings you to a psychological stance of: Fuck this world and the monkeys that populate it. Songs like "Mean", "The Whack", and "Part of The Thing" can only be said to rise your ire to the breaking point. Fuck, the rest of the album does the same.

Surprisingly enough, they do have a few slow songs, well, slow in comparison. Until *Everything Explodes*", "Dir t(a Stooges cover off the equally brutal *Funhouse* LP), and "Stick to the Sight" slow down the beats to a rousing thump, metaphysically setting your rage to the backburner. Although even there the pot doth boil over. Regardless of what songs you choose to rage to, it's like nothing you've heard before. And nothing is like sending some upscale rich pigs BMW off the bridge while busting out to the millennial anthem 199EC8OR



CrackEliasandEmpireFLICKYOUALL!!!!!!!!!!!!

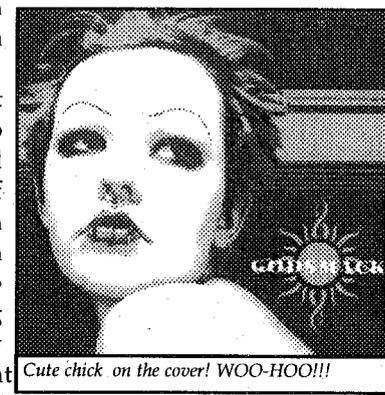
**Non-specific music that's all around good for All Hallows Eve.**

Need some tips? Throwing a midnight party? Try a little *Cure/Sister Machine Gun/Lords of Acid* mix to cover all the bases. A little goth to make the macabre "atmosfear" set in. And the addition of any ripping industrial should serve to step up the nights edge. It's not a Halloween with out random blind sexual encounters and what stirs the meat together better than some good techno-porn-rock, a funky beat to fuck to. One thing though, all parties on Halloween are better with 160 proof pumpkin shaped jello jigglers.

Just you and some close friends getting fucked up in the yard? Maybe the *Lost Highway* soundtrack, *Bauhaus*, or even orchestral music like *Night on Bald Mountain* and *Rasputina*. The droning melodies and eerie jazz will get what ever narcotic trip your riding off to a good start, while classic goth will set the appropriate crypt like air. To cut the edge when your coming down try some classical or any thing with a string section for that matter.

But let's get back to the old school traditions of suburban Halloween please. Grab your shaving cream, spray paint, and bat and show the town that your sick and tired and your not gonna take it any more. Petty vandalism is the name of the game, boyos. How about we have a little style and motivation this year, though. See, I'm all for anarchy, but to do it right you need a purpose. Listen to some anti society hard-core like *Rage Against the Machine* as your tear down the mail boxes in that neighboring rich commune. Pump a little *Korn* or *Pennywise* and take the shit back to the jocks and preppie whores who made your high school a waking nightmare.

Bring the glory of Halloween back. Bring forth the demons in you and the music that they crave. Try something new this Oct. 31st, Whether you rage across your town or sit in the yard and vegetate open your mind a little, that's what the day is for (well that and gut wrenching amounts of candy treats)



Cute chick on the cover! WOO-HOO!!!