

*The
Stony
Brook*

PRESS

Vol. 7, No. 12 ● University Community's Feature Paper ● July 14, 1986

**"We must take what is
rightfully ours from the
decadent weaklings that
now hold it!"**

Lord Garth



Preston and Marburger make their
long-awaited grab for the Student
Activity Fee.

Page3

No No No! Back Back Back! Mine Mine Mine!

Fred is at it again! This time he wants to take over control of the Student Activity Fee by appointing an administration employee to act as Polity's Custodial and Disbursing (C&D) Agent.

Currently, the Polity Executive Director, a Polity employee, acts as the official custodial and disbursing agent to insure that Polity's financial transactions are within Chancellor's guidelines. That is the E.D.'s most important, but certainly not only function. Last week, Polity's E.D., Robin Rabii, was dismissed from Polity because the Polity Council decided that he had not been fulfilling his job description.

In Preston's memo to Polity President Marc Gunning, Preston states, "... while the campus administration has in the past allowed the Polity C&D agent to carry out (administration's) oversight function, I am no longer comfortable with this arrangement. This is as a result of my having an updated understanding of the intent of this area of the SUNY Guidelines, as well as my own assessment of the effectiveness of this arrangement."

The arrangement he means is Polity hiring its own C&D agent. Of course, final approval comes from administration itself, but they have not found the need to interfere in the past. So why, all of a sudden, does Preston feel, "uncomfortable with this arrangement?"

Polity has had its own C&D agent for more than the past 10 years with no problems - and there are still no problems.

The problems seen by Preston with Polity controlling the C&D agent stem from pressure and guidelines. Pressure results from the stress felt by serving both Polity and administration's needs. But why is there pressure from admin? The C&D agent's job is to make sure that Polity follows the guidelines in its monetary actions and shouldn't let any illegal monetary actions through. This is to "protect the interest of the students," according to Fred. Now,

when Fred was asked if he knew of the E.D.'s habits that created unhappiness among the Polity leaders (i.e. showing up to work late, leaving early, long lunch breaks, etc.) he said he wasn't aware of them. All he knew was that Rabii's was fulfilling his job concerning administration. He did not know what the E.D. was doing concerning the students. If Fred had the student's interest at heart (as he has claimed many times) then he would have known exactly what was going on. (The C&D agent works for the students. Administration should not be pulling at and causing pressure on the E.D.)

How can we, the students, allow administration to suddenly take over Polity when they admit they don't even know what is happening in Polity? If the C&D agent is instead on the payroll of administration he or she would feel incredibly pressured to support just those things acceptable to administration. By taking control of the C&D agent, administration destroys the balance of power. The C&D agent goes from guardian to a policing agent where they must enforce and be concerned with University policy.

Another complaint of Fred's was that Polity was not following Chancellor's guidelines. Admin, for instance, is supposed to see a copy of the audits of Polity's books. Okay, hey, no problem. It is the job of the E.D. to make sure the report is shown to administration. What happened? Who knows? The report was never shown due to supposed communication problems between the Treasurer and the E.D. They are right down the hall from one another. How hard is it for the E.D. to walk down the hall and say, "Hey, where's the books we have to show admin?" Huh? But it wasn't done.

It is up to Polity to fire the E.D. if he is believed to not be doing his required work. That is just what has happened. The Council acquired enough evidence to fire the E.D., as it was their responsibility to do. And what dismal result befell Polity? Admin-

istration is penalizing Polity for using their better judgement by firing a detriment to the operations of Polity. Of course, according to Uncle Fred, these "minor changes" of his were long overdue in coming.

It will be a dyspeptic day when administration acquires control. If admin takes over and finds that they don't like a particular club or function because of its content, such as activist clubs, or the particular use of monies such as field trips, films, or lecturers they feel are a waste of money, then all they have to do is freeze a budget and that's that.

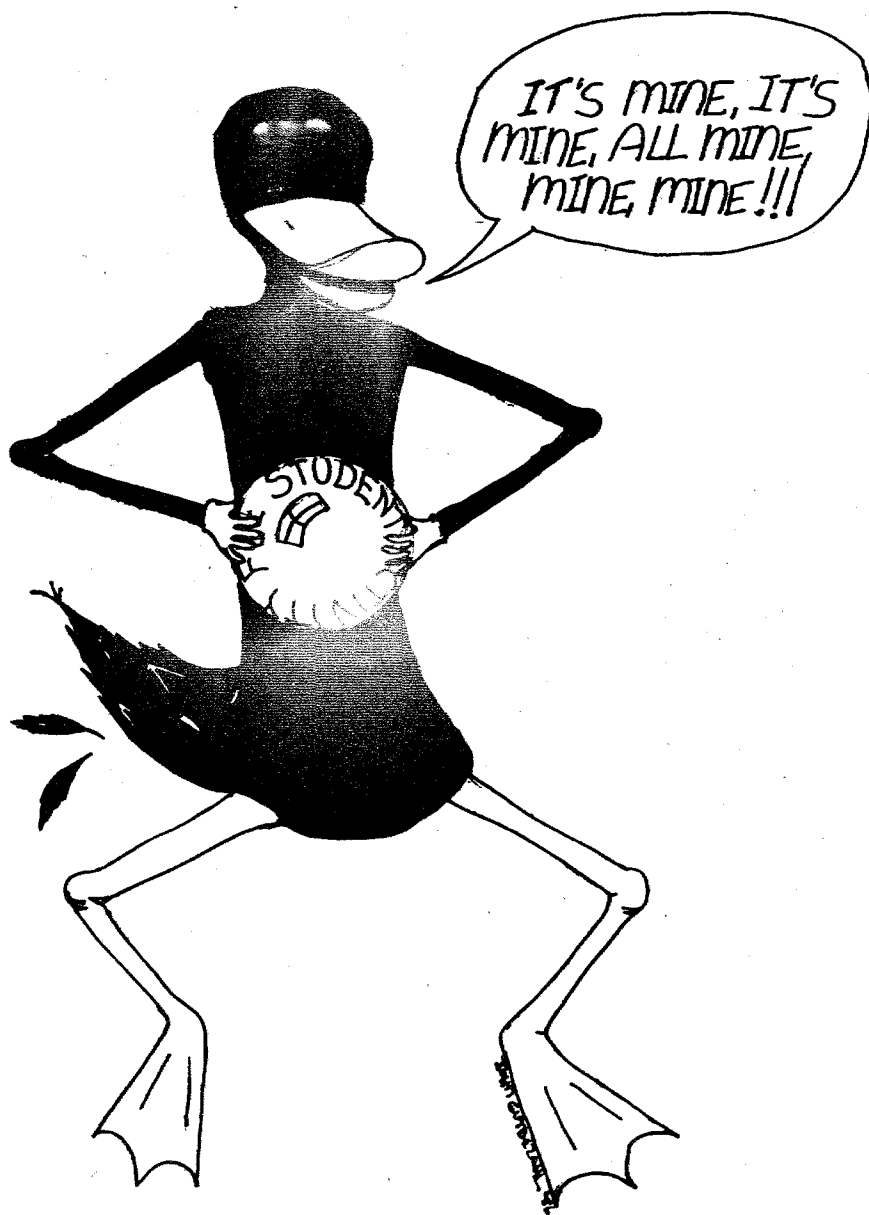
If there were no heat in H-Quad for a month in the winter, and Polity wanted to sue administration to get some heat (as they have done in the past), they won't be able to because administration certainly wouldn't sign the checks for a lawyer.

But forget all that - what ever happened to Marburger's promise to us that no major policy changes will occur over the summer? Wanna know what happened? Marburger doesn't think this is a major policy change, this is just another small change in the large world of bureaucracy. Isn't that amazing, how everything looks small and inconsequential when compared with bureaucracy? Wow!

When Marburger was confronted with all this he said he had no opinion on it himself. He said he was acting on the judgement of Fred Preston. Well, does Marburger need to hide behind the advice of his Vice President so he doesn't have to answer any questions or face any of the consequences? No. He has final say over all of this. He should be made accountable for breaking his promise. He owes the students a direct answer and explanation - not just, "I'm taking the advice of Preston because he has sound judgement and he is consistent with the guidelines."

Marburger, what's your opinion... we'd like to know.

Press Pix



The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor Eliz. Hampton
Associate Editor Anthony Tesonero
Managing Editor N. Todd Drobeneare
Editor Emeritus Ron Ostertag
Past Editor Joe Capogi

Staff: Ed Bridges, Mike Grunga, Paul Condral, Stephen Coyne, Michael DePhillips, Albert Fraser, John "Guppy" Gutbezahl, Jeff Knapp, Mike Shavel, John Tymoczyn, Fran Westbrook

The Stony Brook Press is published most every Thursday during the academic year and summer session by the Stony Brook Press, Inc., a student-run and student-funded not-for-profit corporation.

Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy.

Staff meetings are held weekly in the Press offices on Monday nights at 8:00.

The opinions expressed in letters and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of our staff.

Phone: 246-6832

Office:

Suite 020 Old Biology (Central Hall)
S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York 11794-2790

Preston's Pernicious Palaver

V.P. To Take Control of Activity Fee

By Eliz Hampton

Polity and students have always opposed administrative policies that have had a negative effect on student rights. But never before has there been such an uproar as that caused by Vice President for Student Affairs Fred Preston's latest edict.

On the fourth of July, Polity's executive director, Robin Rabii, finished his last day of work. He was dismissed by the Polity Council because it was established that he had not been fulfilling his job description. His dismissal prompted Preston into action. On July 21st, according to Preston, administration will choose for students who Polity's new Custodial and Disbursing (C&D) Agent will be. He will be taking an important power of choice away from students.

Summer Benedict Legislature Chair Dave "Spicoli" Marlon said, "This is the most outrageous act Preston has ever taken... in his whole history of outrageous acts."

The job of the C&D agent is to make sure that Polity is following Chancellor's guidelines to assure proper use of the Student Activity Fee, and to sign checks that go out of Polity. Polity's E.D., Rabii, was Polity's C&D agent. Rabii's dismissal "opened up a question that that we preferred to open up at another time... the whole thing precipitated prematurely," disputed University President Marburger, but anyway it was time, "to re-examine a policy that needed to be redone."

One of the problems that Preston had with Polity hiring the C&D agent was that "the C&D agent on the payroll for Polity subjected him to undue pressure. He is pulled in two directions between administration and Polity. Administration wants certain responsibilities from the C&D agent and he can't accomplish the work if he has the threat of being fired by Polity if he questions certain fiscal policies. Therefore Polity operates less efficiently. The financial policy of Polity would be less."

Pressure is not the only problem with

Preston, he also wants more accountability for Polity "There is not a university department that doesn't have accountability. When dealing with public monies there has to be some kind of accountability. This is our way of accounting for Polity and its money."

Marburger totally agrees with Preston. As a matter of fact, Marburger acted on the advice of Preston. He took "the advice of Preston because he has sound judgement... he is consistent with the guidelines. Any way the change would've been made the next time a new Executive Director (or C&D agent) was hired."

This action, according to Preston, "will improve the internal operations of Polity... expenditures will be consistent. The change is to protect the interest of the students."

Marc Gunning, Polity President, on the other hand, is strongly opposed to the policy change. "First off, it's going to really slow our ability to pay for prepayments and contracts we're involved in because we'll need approval from a third party. But worst is that it leaves administration with final approval over each and every one of our expenditures. If, for instance, we have to

sue admin for something, there's no guarantee they'll pass it."

"Understand that I have no problem with administration having full access to our records and full knowledge of where our money goes - we have nothing to hide - but his plan is totally uncalled for."

While administration will have final approval for all expenditures, Preston doesn't feel that the changes will cause a change in the workings of Polity. "The only changes that will come about when dealing with the budget are that any expenditures that shouldn't be taking place won't."

Gunning's feelings of confusion over the suddenness of the change are shared by many. "Polity's been this way for its entire history - its always worked - I don't understand why this change has to be done so quickly." Marburger commented that, "Well, sometimes circumstances occur that necessitate immediate action."

But back in 1980, Marburger promised that no major policy changes would occur over summers. This promise was made when he closed Benedict Saloon and saw how upset the students were when a policy had been changed without their knowledge. This present action to Gunning and other

students, "is certainly a major policy change and should not occur over the summer."

On the other hand, Marburger can't understand the big fuss. "Students have a tendency to read too much into changes like this, and distort the intentions of administration. The university has always had power over Polity that it hasn't used." Preston also doesn't see this as a major policy change. For him, "small changes have been made each year to follow guidelines, this is just the natural course of action. Actually it was put off as long as possible. This is a good juncture to do this."

Although the policy would have changed anyway Marburger felt that "the current C&D agent should have been retained over the summer... there should have been some kind of transition." Instead of the smooth transition that Marburger is speaking of, The Polity Council has already appointed Virginia Boone, ex-Polity bookkeeper, as an acting Executive Director, without, to the dismay of administration, administration approval. Marburger wasn't pleased with "the proposal by the council for Virginia Boone as acting E.D. without a search... her credentials should have been approved by administration before she was hired."

The person administration has in mind to take over the job of C&D agent is Bill Fornadel, the Director of Student Union and Activities, because, "he is highly qualified for it (the position of C&D agent)." It was necessary to find someone who knew something about student activities. "We could have chosen somebody from finances but they wouldn't have known about the student activities and would have taken too long to train someone."

Meanwhile, Gunning is busily trying to find a solution to the problem. "We're working on an alternate proposal that would allow administration to retain its oversight responsibilities and would allow us to continue in the format we've been using all along."

"... worst is that it leaves administration with final approval over each and every one of our expenditures ... if we have to sue admin. for something, there's no guarantee they'll pass it."

Polity President Marc Gunning

Bungles to Blueprints

FSA Hires Architect for Rathskellar

By Joe Caponi

The Faculty Student Association has taken a major step in its three-year quest to construct a rathskellar facility at Stony Brook. The corporation recently hired architect Jerry Kronouet to begin drawing up final plans for the facility, which may be open to students by January.

According to FSA Executive Director Ira Persky, "Mike Tartini (FSA President) and I will hopefully be meeting with the architect next week," to work out final details on the design for the rathskellar, to be put in the bi-level area in the Union formerly occupied by Barnes and Noble.

Current plans call for an alcohol serving area, with burger-type food to be served in the basement, with a cafe or lounge upstairs, according to Persky. "I think it will be two independent areas."

Tartini explained that an easing of the liquor liability insurance problems statewide has led him to be much more confident that FSA will be able to insure a beer and wine operation. "The situation statewide looks a lot better than it did two or three months ago."

Still to be decided is the exact decor of the facility, and the uses for the upstairs area. Persky explained that there is a concern in FSA that a traditional cafe, as planned last year, serving such items as coissant sandwiches, quiche, and international coffees may not be able to generate enough revenue to make it worthwhile. "For FSA to pump \$450,000 into renovating a place, it has to operate on at least a break-even basis."

The Rathskellar has been a continuing controversy for FSA for most of this decade. With the closing of the Benedict Saloon (a bar that sold mixed drinks as well as beer and wine) by John Marburger in the summer of 1980, FSA members and others began discussing the need to create a central bar facility for the campus as a whole, along the lines of the rathskellars that operate at hundreds of American colleges and universities.

Action began in 1983. Baby Joey's Pub was closed due to the high state-imposed utility fee, and the Henry James Pub was closed due to financial losses. At the same FSA Board meeting where it was decided to

close the James Pub permanently, \$48,000 was put aside to begin planning a central rathskellar, which at that time was anticipated to be in the first floor space of the Roth Quad cafeteria.

In 1984, however, an FSA Rathskellar committee recommended instead that the End of the Bridge Restaurant be completely remodeled and expanded into the rathskellar, and in June of 1984, the FSA Board voted to do just that.

Event intervened, though, that summer. University President John Marburger decided that he was unhappy with the FSA Bylaws, and demanded changes in them. He went so far as to direct the state to dissolve the corporation entirely. The situation did not become fully resolved until January of 1985, by which time the prior plans had become outdated.

In the spring of 1985, with its corporate existence assured, no less than three separate plans emerged for the rathskellar. FSA, acting with space use planners William Laurence Associates, recommended the rathskellar be placed in the bi-level area vacated by Barnes and Noble, with a

cafe on the first floor, and a bar downstairs.

In contrast, the Union Advisory Board, an arm of university administration, recommended changing the first floor into a study lounge.

A third proposal, put forward by FSA Board member and then-SCOOP President Pamela Leventer, reintroduced the End of the Bridge renovation as a suggestion, along with other renovations throughout the Union.

None of them were approved.

In the intervening time, the Whitman Pub and the Graduate Student Lounge have closed, and the drinking age has been raised to 21. FSA officers have been considering options since then.

According to Persky, specific plans should be formulated within the next six to eight weeks, and construction will then be dependent on approval of the plans. He and Tartini, however are looking for construction to occur over the fall semester, with a belated, but much-welcomed opening, in the spring.

Attention Students

DON'T BE LAID BACK OR YOU WILL GET SCREWED!!!

FROM: Fred Preston, V.P. Student Affairs
TO: Marc Gunning, Polity President
SUBJECT: All Activity fee expenditures must be approved by an administration officer effective July 21, 1986.
RESULT: If this edict is allowed, your activity fee will be disbursed by administration rather than your elected peers.

YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS BEING CHALLENGED!

Every activity on campus funded by Polity will be affected. Concerts, clubs, athletics, PSC functions, Tokyo Joe's, Colleges, protests, rallies, WUSB, The Press, etc., etc., etc.

LET'S STOP IT BEFORE IT BEGINS

In 1980 Dr. Marburger promised not to make any major policy change affecting students during summer session. He is breaking his promise.

Make a phone call of protest to John Marburger NOW...
Phone: 246-5940

SSAB Presents

**Atlantic City
Bus Trip
July 25th**

\$4 Deposit Due

**\$10 to be collected
on bus.**

**Receive \$10 in
quarters FREE!**

**FALLFEST
is coming!**

**Come join a tradition and be
a part of the 1986 FallFest
Planning Committee.**

**For more information call
Chris at 6-3673**

Funded by the
Student Activity Fee

What is the FSA?

The New Faculty Student Association

by Neal Drobenare

Only a year and a half ago FSA erupted in a heated controversy over the corporation's bylaws. Centered around Polity's control of the Board of Directors and officerships, this student-administration conflict came to a head when University President Marburger announced that unless the FSA reformed its bylaws, he would cancel its contract to provide services to the campus. Realizing the seriousness of this threat, FSA amended its bylaws so that no constituency group controlled the organization.

The new collegial atmosphere which has led to hopes for increased accomplishment from FSA is seen as the result of the changing times. "Now our discussions have to do with what we can do to improve the campus and the FSA, whereas in the past the discussions were a result of political conflict," said Fred Preston, an FSA Board member. "We are operating very collegially now," pointed out FSA Secretary Pam Leventer. This friendliness between the different factions in FSA is far different from the politicized atmosphere that has prevailed the corporation for most of its existence.

"Students are different now," says Preston, "they are less conflict oriented." A new generation of non-activist student leaders have emerged and replaced those such as Dave Gamberg who saw the administration as an adversary. These students, unlike their predecessors don't use FSA as a political battleground to fight for student rights but are more concerned with the proper "business" functioning of the association.

While many agree with Preston's assertion that FSA has left politics behind, FSA Vice-President Dick Solo disagrees. "I haven't seen the FSA cleansed of its political activities," FSA, he says, "employs a rational problem solving approach to important decisions but sometimes this involves representation of interests and constituencies. When the balance between the two shift heavily in favor of political representation of interests and constituencies the organization is stymied." Solo sees the corporation as having achieved a "more fruitful balance between the political and rational problem solving approaches."

Though the changing times account, in part, for the more conservative, authority respecting, and cooperative student leaders, the bylaw crisis is regarded as the motivating force in changing the attitudes of students who were involved and forming those of the students who were to enter the FSA after the storm was over. It is these changed attitudes that account for the new balance between the rational problem solving approach and the representation of interests.

"I think the change came when last year's board and this year's board, especially students, realized that Jack Marburger was not fooling around," said FSA President Mike Tartini. The threat to the life of the corporation caused those in it to close ranks and work together to make FSA operate more acceptably to the University's leadership and with the least amount of controversy. The bylaw crisis affected more than people's attitudes, it affected who the people in FSA would be.

"We have gone through a very difficult political time," said Carl Hanes, Vice-President for Administration. "It seems it was important to have new players in as many of the seats as possible to take the old sensitivity and politics out." Rory Aylward, Polity President at the time, had just been

elected on an anti-Polity platform and was eager to remove as many of the old FSA board members as he could. Only two students from the previous year were re-appointed and only one now serves on the board.

Both this year's and last year's FSA presidents were elected without previous board experience as was Aaron Rosenblatt who became treasurer two years ago, immediately after the bylaws crisis.

The changes in the FSA affected employees as well as directors. The uncertainty and stress of working in an organization under siege led to the resignation of FSA's three top staffers last year, the executive director was one of them. After protracted searches, Ira Persky was selected as the new FSA Executive Director.

What the new set of directors, officers and managers, the members of the FSA were faced with the task of redefining the role of president, executive board, board of directors, and professional management. "Things as simple as who should sign things, the President or the E.D. were unclear," said Solo. "In the past," he continued, "the President was very involved in the day to day operations of the corporation. Now that has been defined as the role of the E.D.", while the president is responsible for project direction and evaluation. "The grey matters" between policy and implementation is now what is left to be worked out between the president and the E.D.

In the past the executive committee met once a month to prepare for the Board of

Directors meeting. "Things are different now," noted Fred Preston. "It is critical for this executive board to do most of the preliminary work before the board gets involved."

With the Board of Directors meeting only three or four times a year instead of monthly as in the past, the center of power has shifted from the Board of Directors to the executive committee. "We (board members) try to keep on top of things," said Gerard Karcher, "but we don't have as much involvement as the others (e.c. members)."

While the president works out a relationship with his management team and the e.c.'s relationship with the full board of directors, FSA is beginning to move forward for the first time in a long time.



Michael Tartini



Carl Hanes

Photo courtesy of Specula

Photo courtesy of University News Service

FSA's Structure

The Faculty Student Association, Inc. is a not for profit corporation that provides auxiliary services to the students, faculty, and staff of the University. These services are run either by FSA directly or by one of its sub-contractors. FSA operates check cashing, the Union Amusement Center, the Main Desk, The Loop, and brings in businesses to run the food service (DAKA), the haircutters, and laundry machines. SCOOP, which runs the Rainy Night House, The Hard Rock Cafe, Harpo's Ice Cream Parlor, All Good Things, and the Audio-Visual service, is also an FSA sub-contractor.

Incorporated under New York State Law, FSA is technically independent of the University while holding a five year contract to provide auxiliary service. This agreement may be broken by either party by giving forty-five days notice. Two years ago Dr. Marburger threatened to do just that to force changes in the FSA bylaws. While not legally dissolving the corporation, this move would have thrown the association off campus and ended all its revenue producing operations.

Even though it is legally separate from SUNY, FSA's bylaws and business practices must meet certain criteria as set by SUNY Central to be eligible to serve as a campus auxiliary service corporation. These criteria are incorporated into FSA's

bylaws and cover such areas as constituency representation, accounting methods and use of funds.

The bylaws state that every student, faculty, alumni, and staff member of the University Center is a Class B member of the corporation. This designation is the equivalent of shareholder status in a for-profit company excluding voting or dividend rights.

The ultimate power in the corporation rests with the Class A members who may set policy or take any action they deem appropriate at their meetings.

Of the 22 voting class A members, 12 are students, 5 are administrators, and 5 are faculty. On the student side, the Polity President and Treasurer are automatically Class A members with the remaining eight undergraduate and two graduate seats appointed by Polity and GSO Presidents respectively. The five faculty members are elected by the University Senate. The Vice Presidents for University and Student Affairs and HSC are automatically Class A members and the University President may designate a university business officer and one other person to be Class A members.

Although they may meet more often, the Class A usually limits itself to one annual meeting a year, where they elect the Board of Directors.

Composed equally of students and non-

students, the twelve member board is responsible for steering the association in between meetings of the Class A. There are separate elections among the students and non-students so that each may choose their six directors independently. Even though the students don't have to give a Board position to any graduate students, the non-students must give the alumni a seat if it is requested and the faculty are always entitled to three seats.

Once elected, the board chooses the corporate officers from among their ranks. By tradition, the President and Secretary are students while the Vice President and Treasurer are faculty members or administrators. Together these four compose the executive committee. This committee handles the business of the association between meetings of the full Board of Directors.

Running the day-to-day operations of the corporation is a paid professional staff who report to the president and the Board. The chief operational officer is the Executive Director, who is aided by an assistant, a Comptroller, a Food Contract specialist and direct operations managers. In addition to this management team is both student and non-student employees working in the FSA offices and in the individual businesses.

N.D.



**Stop Them Before
They Stop You!**

Save the
Student Activity Fee

To Be Or Not To Be

by Faye Wattleton

President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

President Reagan compared abortion rights to the evil institution of slavery. He even went so far as to say that we cannot survive as a free nation if the constitutional right to abortion is overturned.

Reagan did not point out that the views he expressed were his own personal opinions — not the shared beliefs of the majority of Americans.

Poll after poll has shown consistently that *the majority of Americans support a woman's right to choose abortion, free from governmental interference.*

Of course, President Reagan's comments were made for a political purpose — to help arouse the anti-choice movement to further attacks on a woman's most precious right — the right to reproductive freedom.

I'm convinced the President and his allies in Congress fully intend to outlaw abortion. He made that point clear in his pre-election campaign speeches and in public statements after being reelected.

President Reagan promised the National Right-To-Life Committee that he would put the full weight of his presidency behind a constitutional amendment or legislation to outlaw abortion.

And his replacement of entitlement programs with federal block grants to the states means that now far less money is available for family-planning services and sexuality education programs in many states. Forced spending reductions under the Gramm-Rudman legislation will further curtail services to those most in need.

In 1983, by a vote of 50 to 49, the Senate failed to pass a proposed constitutional amendment banning abortion. President Reagan used the full influence of his office to work for that amendment, and is continuing to do so now!

Mr. Reagan's Justice Department has asked the Supreme Court to overturn its landmark 1973 decision on reproductive freedom.

In a brief filed before the Supreme Court, the Reagan Administration is arguing that the court should "abandon" the position it has taken in support of a woman's right to reproductive choice. Even though the court reaffirmed its stand on this issue in 1983, the Reagan Administration is boldly proclaiming its anti-choice, anti-Supreme Court position.

The only way we can counter Mr. Reagan's attempts to destroy reproductive freedom is to mobilize the

pro-choice majority of the American people in support of personal choice.

I believe the American people must be reminded how much is at stake, and quickly. They must be shown that tragedy will follow for millions of innocent women, men and children, and that our Constitution was *not intended* to be used by the Moral Majority — and especially not by a president — to foist personal religious beliefs on the rest of us.

But most politicians will not stick their necks out unless they sense grassroots support. And so far, the loudest voices have been those of the militant anti-choice leaders screaming such hostile slogans as "Stop the Baby Killers."

I know some people hold deep religious beliefs that forbid abortion. But they conduct their own lives according to their own beliefs and don't attempt to impose their beliefs on you and me. They pose no danger to individual rights.

What deeply troubles me is that a minority, with the help of our President, are using whatever political power they can muster to force their point of view on the rest of us.

That's why it's so important that you and other citizens join with Planned Parenthood in our **Public Impact Program**. This massive public education campaign is designed to preserve the most basic of human rights: the right to decide when or whether to bear children.

With your help, Planned Parenthood's **Public Impact Program** will reach millions of Americans through radio and television messages, newsprint ads, legislative alerts, and special publications.

Through this campaign, millions of citizens will learn that passage of a constitutional amendment to ban abortion could:

★ ★ Deny an abortion to a 14-year-old girl impregnated by her father;

★ ★ Cause medically safe abortions to be replaced by back-alley butchery and by the self-induced procedures of desperate women — many on the verge of nervous breakdown or suicide;

★ ★ Give crime other lucrative markets — in illegal abortions and black market adoptions.

Most reasonable people would agree that abortions certainly should be available to women in circumstances like these.

Anti-abortion groups cannot counter these uncontested facts except to preach that "abortion is a sin" and any suffering is the "price a woman must pay" for getting pregnant.

Your help is very important right now. In the last two years, terrorist acts of fire bombings and the destruction of family planning clinics have more than tripled. Radical anti-choice groups like the "Army of God" have vowed to attack dozens of family-planning clinics.

While the overwhelming majority of Americans favors personal choice, most of them have **not taken an active stand to defend the right of choice.**

But now that the lives of doctors, nurses, other clinic staff and patients are on the line, citizens like you face the urgent need to get involved quickly.

Believe me, the battle to preserve reproductive freedom, like the waging of a political campaign, will be won by the side that does the best job of presenting the issues.

The use of television and other media is the only way to quickly educate the public. The Right Wing taught us this lesson.

Today I am calling upon you — and all Americans who cherish our rights and freedoms — to join with me and Planned Parenthood in seeing that this right is not destroyed. And that total untruths about abortion are not circulated as fact from the highest office in the land.

Together we can work to achieve the most important goal of Planned Parenthood — to give all people the right and the ability to decide for themselves whether and when to bear children.

I believe that no woman, black or white, rich or poor, can ever truly be free without the right to control her own reproductive life.

I hope that you and every person who values the inalienable right to reproductive freedom will join with us to show the President how united we are. We must say "no" to those right-wing extremists who would replace the rule of law and the constitutional right to abortion with terrorist acts that threaten hundreds of innocent lives and destroy millions of dollars of property.

By writing a letter to the White House, you can let the President know your feelings and also help us let him know that the vast majority of citizens continues to strongly favor individual choice.

In addition ... you can help protect reproductive rights and expand family-planning services by joining me today in Planned Parenthood — the nation's oldest, most respected family-planning organization. You now have a unique opportunity to become part of this historic struggle. No one else can do your part. Your help is desperately needed.

Looney Tunes

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICES

One year shy of its 30th birthday and having just celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first graduating class, the State University of New York at Stony Brook is moving away from its youthful image to a more traditional one. And one sure sign of tradition that has arrived is the alma mater.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors decided a year ago that the time had come for Stony Brook to have its own school song. Twelve entries were submitted in competition and the winner made its official debut at commencement May 18. A second entry received so many votes that it has been designated "The Stony Brook Song" and will be played by a marching band for the first time at the football team's Homecoming game September 27.

Music for the alma mater was written by Peter Winkler, associate professor of music at Stony Brook, and the lyrics by Winston Clark, who was for years a writer/director for Theater Three in Port Jefferson and is now free-lancing in New York City. The lyrics:

THE ALMA MATER

Sandy Shore
Meeting the Northern sea
Ancient ground where Patriots
yet arise
Scarlet, gray
Under azure skies
The morning of a lifetime lies in

Stony Brook.

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

The Stony Brook Song was written by Anne and Jay Singer. She is a radiology resident at University Hospital and he a music teacher in the Hauppague schools. The lyrics:

THE STONY BROOK SONG

O Alma Mater, Stony Brook
We sing our praise to you
From Oyster Bay to present day
Our spirits you renew
O Alma Mater, Stony Brook
With colors scarlet, gray
Inspire us to greater heights
O Patriots lead the way.
To excellence you are avowed
On rocky shores you stand so proud
O Stony Brook our minds do soar
We thank you now and evermore.



"Sandy Shores"

Photo by Scott Richter

About the Cover

Lord Garth was a psychiatric patient on planet Elba II, an asylum for the last few incorrigibly insane criminals of the known universe. His attempts to take over the Enterprise to conquer the galaxy are similar to Lord Fred Preston's attempts to take over the Student Activity Fee to conquer Polity. See story on page 3 and editorial.

Summer COCA Presents

Wednesday, July 16:

Bridge on the River Kwai 7:00pm



and

Apocalypse Now 9:30pm



Thursday, July 17: Weird Science

7:00 & 9:30pm

**All shows are free in the Union
Auditorium**

**Funded For By the
Student Activity Fee**

Don't Fred on Me

By Paul Rizzo

(The conversations in this viewpoint are hypothetical, though some are accurate paraphrases of administrator's comments. The statements at the end are fact.)

Between the summer of 1980 and the summer of 1986, Polity has gone through two Executive Directors/C&D Agents. Each lasted three years. The first left for more lucrative pastures. The second "resigned."

"Shame on you," says Fred. "I'm taking over the Student Activity Fee (with Jack's blessings of course)."

"Have we done anything wrong?" you ask. Dr. Preston answers: "We don't like the fact that we approve the C&D agent for Polity, but we have no say in when that person is removed."

"But," you respond, "The E.D. violated Chancellor's guidelines. He didn't get along with the staff or the Council. His work habits were atrocious (etc., etc., etc.). And besides, you still would have the same oversight power you always had. You still have to approve our future choice for E.D. The State Auditors and the Internal Auditors can review our books at any time. (And would give us a cleaner bill of health than University Hospital got.) Your office can review vouchers at any time. You still have to certify our budgets. Just because the state auditors haven't been in since 1975, the internal auditors have never been in, and the last VPSA to look at vouchers was Wadsworth in 1980 - doesn't mean we should be blamed for your ineptitude. There has to be another reason. Dr. Preston, what is it?"

"Power," he replies. "I'm using this as an excuse to take control. I tried to take over the activity fee when I worked at Amherst and I lost. Now I'm taking over at Stony Brook. (Actually, I'm trying to sleaze more money for student activities, but I can't admit that publicly)."

You walk away, shaking your head in amazement. When the next round of budget cuts comes down, you'll remind the faculty that someone's salary is now being dedicated to Polity, instead of Polity picking up the tab for their own E.D.

"Let's try Paul Chase" you tell other students, "He's more rational."

Paul talks ancient history: "There was a time Polity was

going through so many E.D.'s, my head was spinning."

What do you know about ancient history. You research the facts. Yes, Polity did go through 3 E.D.'s one year in the mid-70's. But overall, Polity's record wasn't too bad - 8 people in 17 years. One had even done it twice. An English graduate - he left to write the Great American Novel - couldn't survive as a taxi driver - came back - then left again to write for a local newspaper.

You thought about it more. Polity, you knew, had evolved into believing the position should be a starting one - for someone with, say, an MBA but little work experience. The salary wasn't great. It was a dead end job. It was a jumping off point. No one expected an E.D. to stay more than a few years.

Besides, look at the University. A student who had graduated in the summer of 1980 had just seen a new President come in. Returning for a visit in the summer of 1986, that allumnus would never have heard of Homer Neal, Fred Preston, Paul Chase, Gary Barnes, Dallas Bauman, Jack Joyce, (etc., etc., etc.). And Homer is already on his way out. If high level people were changing all of the time - what was going on at lower levels?

The faculty was the same. In 1986 only 7 of the Political Science Professors were still around from 1980.

Growth and change - isn't that what universities are all about?

You come across an old Statesman article by Jason Manne. Written in 1975, and you realize nothing's changed. Although written to students about their transiency - it applies to today's situation.

"The average tenure of a University President in the State University System is less than your tenure as a student. A graduating senior at Stony Brook has survived three University Presidents at Buffalo, Binghamton, and Albany, survived one Vice President for Student Affairs at Stony Brook, and may yet survive one Vice President for Finance and Management at Stony Brook. When John Toll says you are transient, and he is permanent, remind him that he is the exception, you are the rule. The President of the United States has the same term that you have as a student. Remember that when anyone calls you a "transient."

Besides - you would expect Dr. Marburger to sympathize with the difficult decision the Council had to make. He'd been in similar situations with the "resignations" of a VPSA and VP of University Affairs.

Ah - now you understand! It's really just a return of In Loco Parentis, do as I say, not as I do.

You stop daydreaming. Now it's time to write a serious viewpoint.

Polity asked its Executive Director to resign for legitimate reasons, many of the same reasons past Polity Councils had discussed removing this Executive Director. However, due to Dr. Preston's misperception of what a great job the Polity E.D. was doing, past Councils were concerned with what the ramifications could be for the undergraduate population if Dr. Preston was not willing to listen to Polity's grievances with an open mind.

As the problems with the Polity E.D. became greater in severity and in number, as well as increasingly detrimental to the organization, the current Council, acting responsibly, had to make the decision of asking the E.D. for his resignation. The Council expected disagreement from the University Administration, not retribution.

As a result of acting responsibly, the Polity Council has been brought to trial prior to the charge being made known. The sentence, that will affect the entire undergraduate population, as per Dr. Preston's memo of July 7th, 1986 "...to institute an administrative process for daily approval of Student Activity Fee expenditures... while the campus administration has in the past allowed the Polity C&D to carry this oversight function, I am no longer comfortable with this arrangement... the new expenditure approval process will be formally effective July 21, 1986."

THAT IS, IT WILL BE, UNLESS STUDENTS AND FACULTY DO NOT ALLOW THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION TO WASTE ALREADY SCARCE RESOURCES RATHER THAN MAINTAINING AN EXISTING SYSTEM WHICH HAS WORKED WELL FOR OVER 15 YEARS.

(The writer is co-chair of SSAB and Treasurer of Kelly A.)

Out With the Old

Representatives from almost two dozen SUNY campuses statewide met during the first weekend in June to elect officers and set policy for the Student Association of the State University (SASU).

The conference, held at the Star Lake campus of the State University College at Potsdam, was highlighted by the election of Everett Joseph as SASU president for the upcoming year. Joseph, a SUNY Albany student and the first graduate student to head SASU, defeated Martin Cornish.

In the other elections, Deborah Katzowitz, a former SASU intern, delegate and Women's Caucus delegate from the University Center at Buffalo was elected Executive Vice President, former University Center at Binghamton Student Association President Fred Azcarante was elected Vice President for Campus Affairs, and SASU Board of Directors Chair Deanne Grimaldi was elected Vice President for Community Colleges.

The delegates adopted a platform heavily critical of the Reagan education and social services budgets and of its military and arms control policies. SASU asked each student government to declare its campus a nuclear free zone.

While many planks were adopted by the delegates, their importance relative to one another within the association will be decided by the Board of Directors. At its July meeting, the Board will adopt six resolutions as organizational priorities. SASU's Third World Caucus and its Women's Caucus each have the right to set one of those six priorities for the Board.

Proposed amendments to the SASU bylaws that create caucuses for both the Gay/Lesbian community and disabled

people were passed by acclamation. To become part of the bylaws, the amendments must be approved twice by the general membership. They are scheduled for a final vote at next year's annual conference.

Katzowitz sees smooth sailing ahead for the proposals. "No one spoke out against the concept," she noted.

A motion adopting affirmative action within the association was passed easily. The act applies to both the hiring of staff and the recruitment of interns. Proposed as an internal rule, it did not require the double vote that amendments do.

Stony Brook was represented by SASU delegates Bill Fox, Rita Solorzano, and Chris Cushmerick. Fox and Solazano were elected in the spring elections while Cushmerick is Polity President Marc Gunnings appointee.

SASU Board members: Francisco Duarte; Albany SA President Paul Verdolino; Buffalo SA President Chris Kascubski; Buffalo SASU delegate Adam Dader; Buffalo SASU delegate Oscar Bartchouski; SUNY Buffalo Graduate SA Vice-President Brett Dean; New Paltz SA President Donna Bellamy; Oswego State SASU delegate Carmella Viscounte; Utica Rome SA President Willy Ivory; Oneonta: Third World Caucus Chairperson Lisa Johnson; Buffalo: Third World Caucus Delegate Shari Shabler; Erie Community College SASU delegate Linda Lippin; Purchase Women's Caucus Delegate

Letter

An Open Letter to Stony Brook Alumni Dear Fellow Alumnus:

I am writing to share my concern about recent events at the Stony Brook and to ask for your immediate help.

The University Administration, led by Dr. John Marburger, is seeking to establish total control over the undergraduate Student Activity Fee, the money assessed from students, and - until now - democratically distributed among campus organizations and activities by the independent student government, Polity.

1. Why should we, as alumni, care?

Because when we were at Stony Brook, we benefitted from the existence of an independent student voice on campus...

...Many of us developed our organizational and political skills working at Polity, trying to represent an undergraduate constituency at an institution that often had other priorities (and often still does).

...Many of us got our first business experience working for SCOOP, which was created with seed money from Polity - and would never have existed if it were up to the university administration...

...In working for independent student organizations, many of us discovered interestests and aptitudes we would never have expected to find in ourselves. We made mistakes, all of us. But we learned a lot that we would never have learned in the kinds of safe, paternalistic student organizations that most university administrations seek to foster.

Students at Stony Brook deserve the same opportunities now and in the future. And as active concerned alumni - people who support Stony Brook needs - we should speak our minds on this issue, loud and clear.

2. What you can do - and why you should do it now.

This is the only appeal you'll receive this month which does not ask for money. We

ask only that you send a respectful letter to Dr. Marburger, politely but firmly stating your opposition to his plans. Send a short, polite note, or call Dr. Marburger at 246-5940.

But please, do it now. Dr. Marburger has indicated that a final decision will be made on the student activity fee no later than July 21st. If your concerns are to make a difference, he must hear about them immediately.

Almost all of us have moved on and away from Stony Brook. We all have careers, lives, and families away from the University. We don't ordinarily involve ourselves in what might be considered "the internal politics" of our former campus. But we believe this issue goes to the heart of what has made Stony Brook, for all its faults, a special place. A vibrant, diverse place, where many different voices can be heard because they can afford to rent the microphone.

Act now, the future students of Stony Brook need your help!

Sincerely,
Belina Anderson
Richard Bentley
Bill Carmada
Lorrie Krebs
Pam Leventer
Jed Schneider
Ellen Winters
JoAnne Young
Bill Harts
Barry Siskin
Joel Peskoff
Babak Movahedi
Fung Lam
Lori Reckson
Jody Schwartz
Jim Fucci
Boris Foelsch
John Jessiman
Larry Roher

Politicians Throwing Stones

Dead Hot on Day One

By Anthony Tesoriero

It was 11:30 last Saturday night when the phone rang. The television weatherman had given his forecast, hot and humid with temperatures in the high 90's. Not a great day to see an all day outdoor concert, I thought. Picking up the phone, I heard the familiar voice of 'Stagger' Lee. "Be ready at six tomorrow," he said, making me forget about the next day's heat.

Although Bob Dylan and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers were given top billing in the promotion for these shows, our party of travellers to RFK Stadium were going to see the 'opening' act, The Grateful Dead. The last time this group went to a concert was in April to see the Dead at Hartford Civic Center. On the road again were Stagger Lee, Flash, Gagger, and myself, along with a little lady named Karen, the person who procured our tickets to this sold out show.

Arriving in the capital, Gagger turned the car radio to the local rock station while we navigated the car to the foamy amber beverage distributor to buy a pre-concert Coor's case. As I was drinking my first brew I heard the DJ announce, "...and later this afternoon at RFK Stadium Bob Dylan will play two sets to open up for The Grateful Dead..." Great News! We heard the Dead were playing short opening sets for Dylan, and this told us that we weren't going to get the Reader's Digest version of a Dead show.

At the Stadium it was easy to pick out the Tom Petty fans spread out amongst the much larger Dead crowd. These were the people wearing preppy shirts in spite of the heat, Rayban shaded and with jappy women in their company. These were the same people who left the show at 5:30.

The concert began at 2:30 with Dylan and the Heartbreakers producing a very tight sound. Unfortunately, the ninety-six degree temperatures prevented us from enjoying Dylan's talent, our group's time being spent seeking relief from the heat under streams of cold water being sprayed on the audience.

Coming out from under the water, I noticed that my fellow travellers had gone their separate ways so I tried to listen to the music again. My luck wasn't holding out though—Tom Petty started singing some of his own material. Seeing Petty perform allowed me to prove a theory that I had hypothesised for some time. **Theorem:** Petty does not have to perform live. He can play his records over the audio system and walk off stage, the crowd being none the wiser. While listening to "Even the Losers Get Lucky Sometimes" or some other pop hit, I walked onto the grass and passed out from the heat in the Redskins end zone.

I woke up to hear Dylan playing his last encore. Determined to get a view for the Dead I walked through the crowd to within 60 feet of the front. Finally I could see the stage. By this time Gagger and Flash had joined me so we planted ourselves there and waited.

At a quarter after seven Phil Lesh walked on stage in a T-shirt, blue cord shorts and army green sox. After picking a few notes on his six string bass Bob Weir and company took their places. They opened with "Hell in a Bucket" setting a good pace to make one feel as though it was going to last for a long time. Jerry then slowed it down a bit with "Sugaree." By now the people in my area were noticing Bob Dylan lounging out on the second level of speakers on the left, catching the show.

The rest of the first set consisted of "Me and My Uncle" into "Big River", with Brent, who was playing unusually inaudibly, letting out a hot keyboard lead on the latter. "Row Jimmy," "Cassidy," "Althea," and "Let it Grow" wrapped up the set.

The temperature had dipped to a cool ninety-two degrees when the second set started. The sun had set just enough for the stage lights to be turned on, and the music was getting more intense along with the lights. "Saint of Circumstance" into "Aiko Aiko" opened it up. Knowing that we still needed some cooling down Weir played the opening of "Rain," but

thw only relief came from fans spraying us from behind with their water bottles.

The music was continuous after that. "He's Gone" (and nothing's gonna bring him back) into Drums/Space into "Stella Blue." The mellow pace of "Stella" was immediately reversed by a fiery version of "Throwing Stones." Not too hot to fall down yet they continued with Buddy Holly's "Not Fade Away."

After an encore of "Brokedown Palace" we went to our seats and collapsed. All of us exhausted, we drove back to New York knowing that the long strange trip was well



Photo Box



Night of Living Dead

A Head's View of Day Two



Big Bob Dylan

By Michael DePhillips

Dead Heads from around the country brought their weird act to Washington, D.C. this past Sunday (July 6) and Monday (July 7). There the Grateful Dead hooked up with their mentor, Bob Dylan, to supply fans with a double bill lasting over 7 hours. Pulling into R.F.K. Stadium parking lot late Sunday night I found the typical Dead show scene: tents pitched, fires burning and heads walking around mumbling about how the "Saint of Circumstance - Aiko" mix must have been great that night. I rambled about the scene trying to find out about the rest of Sunday's show. Information was scarce but that didn't matter. I had the great time I typically have at Dead shows. Dead heads partied all night and bodies started to drop around sunrise, and I was no exception. I dozed off with the sound of Jerry's tape-recorded voice filling my ears. I woke a few hours later to a '73 Stella Blue tune being played by a bunch of smiling freaks in the car next to us. Yep, Jerry was in town. It was 11:00am and both the sun and my head were pounding, but there's something

about a Dead show that makes you forget about all your ills. The city was now awake and the passers-by gazed upon the scene in bewilderment. "Where do they buy those shirts?" they murmured, gawking at the tie-dyed covered chests of the Dead Heads. I heard one lady comment, "God, look at them! Look at their hair, where do they come from?" Yep, Jerry was in town!

When the gates opened at 2:00pm we began to make our migration from the lot to the field. There were some white-collars picking up their Redskins season tickets, and they looked petrified, fearing that their field would never be useable again. Nothing remained for them to do now except stare. I stared back and muttered something about the Giants in '87 - sorry boys.

Once inside the stadium I realized how hot it was, and man was it hot! Temperatures were reaching close to 100 degrees. No wind, no relief. It turned into a real life and death situation. I had to get wet real soon. A couple of hoses were lying on the field and I quickly took up a position next to a freak dancing around with one, spraying

everyone. I found Paradise.

It was about 4:00pm when a whine came from the stage. It was Dylan's whine and I began to groove. He looked great; white satin shirt, black leather pants, long curly hair. He was rockin. Petty and the Heartbreakers were backing him up musically, which three black women were backing him up vocally. Lots of style, Bob.

The tempo from the same vein as "Empire Burlesque" was quick. "Clean Cut Kid" and "Respectfully Yours" stand out from the first set. After 45 minutes Bob relinquished the stage and Petty and the Heartbreakers were left to do it up.

Apparently Petty had been playing, singing, and saying the same material throughout the tour, but since this was the first time I caught the act, I didn't care. Bob then came back on and played "To Ramona" and "It Ain't Me, Babe" with just his wood and harmonica. Spellbinding to say the least. Petty followed with a few more songs without Dylan, including "On Called Spike" which went over well. And Dylan came back on...again! This time he was wearing all black leather. He was looking damn good, and playing better. "I and I," "Like a Rolling Stone," and "Just Like a Woman" were outstanding. "Rainy Day Woman" drew large cries from the crowd. Dylan played to 7:30 and when he announced that he was to later introduce the Grateful Dead I couldn't believe there was still another show to be heard!

I wandered about the stadium until about 8:30 when "the boys" came on. What sets they played! The first set consisted of: Ramble On Rose, Minglewood, Must Have Been the Roses, Baby Blue, and Desolation Row. They took a short break and played the second set: Box of Rain, Playin, Terrapin, Drums, Space, The Other One, Warfrat, Round and Round, and Good Loving. "Satisfaction" was the encore.

Jerry Garcia had dropped 20 pounds, grew his hair and donned the big red t-shirt. His voice flourished and his guitar was right on target, as always. Bobby Weir's hair was longer, but otherwise it was the same old Bob Weir. Phil Lesh, in shorts and a matching t-shirt, played his bass such that it hit spaces I didn't know existed. I couldn't see Mickey, Bill, or Brent, but I bet they were smiling.

The sun still shone when Jerry laid down the law, with "Ramble On Rose," "Minglewood" was hot, and Bobby sounded great.

RFK rocked, then came my first "Must Have Been the Roses," which met my highest expectations. Next was the "Baby Blue" of "Baby Blues". Bob Dylan, the composer of the song, came on and accompanied Jerry and the band. It was a dream come true: Dylan on stage with the Dead. Jerry rose to the occasion, and you could tell that Dylan was proud of what had been done to his tune. Now it was Bobby's turn to shine. He and Dylan did a duet to "Desolation Row" to close the first set. Long song, lots of verses, lots of notes, in fact, I got so lost in this baby that I forgot where I was. Dylan extra psychedelic and the Dead were obviously having a lot of fun. Twenty minutes later when the song came to an end the place went crazy.

I sat down, didn't speak for a while, poured water on myself and listened to teasing notes leading the audience to believe Shakedown would open. As I said, it was teasing. "Box of Rain" opened the second set. The boys perfected the number after recently playing it in every city on their '86 spring tour. Their harmony lifted the stadium a few feet off the ground. "Playin" was short and sweet, not too much space, but it was tight, real tight. "Terrapin" was perfect. A perfect "Terrapin" is religious - 'nuf said. The drums, they alone were talking to me, until the rest of the band came on and took me someplace far away during a very special space jam. They teased a "Morning Dew" during "Space" but broke into "The Other One." I figure it was to give Dylan a little background info on the band. "Warfrat" did exactly what it was supposed to do, both grooved and inspired. Bobby was all over the place during "Round and Round." "Good Loving" was the best I've heard since listening to Pig Pen do it on the old bootlegs. It was extra hot and just what the doctor ordered. As a special treat Bobby introduced the band towards the end of the song. While they were grooving, each member took a little solo as they were introduced. The stadium exploded when Bobby got to "Good old Jer" and it erupted when Jerry added "... and the greatest guy in the world...Bob Dylan."

The encore was "Satisfaction." What more could anyone want? It was gospel Rock and Roll, pure gospel. The Dead will be back at the Garden for three dates in October, catch them, and keep an ear out for these RFK tapes until then... Aiko.

ATTENTION
ALL MAJORS

**STOCK
BROKER
TRAINEE**

Career opportunity
available for hard-
working, enthusiastic
individual—college
graduate

Send resume to:

RR107
P.O. Box 1728
Huntington Station
NY, 11746

The Rainy Night House

Is Open

Monday thru Thursday
8:30am to 6:00pm
Friday 8:30 to 2:30

Now during the summer:
From 8:30 to 11:00am M-F
Eggs:
Fried, Scrambled

Come to the basement of the
Union, and see what we're all
about.
(Member SCOOP, Inc.)

We serve:

Bagels with:

Tuna, Shrimp, Chicken Deluxe,
Egg Deluxe, Whitefish Deluxe
Creamcheeses: Scallion, Vege-
table, Walnut Raisin

Meats:

Turkey, Lox, Ham, Roast Beef
Assorted Pastries

Baked Potatoes

With Cheese, Ham and Bacon

Beverages:

Coffee, Tea, Sodas, Juices

Her Decadent Self

By Neal Drobenare

The Jester and the Queen, a comedic play written, directed, and starring Bolek Polivka was performed last month as part of the Fine Arts Center's International Theatre Festival. The Czechoslovakian's free-form humor is equal to that of America's top mass culture comedians. His command of English was perfect and he plays off his eastern European accent in the manner of Yakoff Smirnoff, the ex-patriated Russian comedian made famous by his Miller Lite commercial. "In America you can always find a party, in Russia party always finds you." Polivka's verbal and physical zaniness bring to mind Robin Williams in his "Mork and Mindy" days. Like Williams, he can do the most ridiculous things with such a serious attitude that it makes them funny. Add to this his air of innocence, similar to, but not as extreme as, Andy Kaufman's Latka, and you begin to sense the comedic presence that Polivka exudes on stage. Unlike these comedians, humor is not his aim, but just his method. His vehicle, *The Jester and the Queen*, while funny, is meant to be taken seriously.

After we were seated, a tall man with a thick shock of black hair rose from the first row and introduced himself as the DIRECTOR! Bolek Polivka. Before beginning he insisted that we transform ourselves along with him into the Queen's royal audience. As Polivka rejoined the audience, the queen entered, and hissing her viperous hiss, announced that she was bored. She repeated, she was bored.

Unable to amuse her decadent self, the queen declared that she wanted a jester to

entertain her. One of us would have to do, and Polivka was chosen. Curling her long nailed finger at the first row she summoned him out of our midst to perform that role. She loosely placed a rope around his neck and dressed him as her jester as he stood there yielding to her.

As the queen demands entertainment from him, she reveals that she is not a queen

anyone from the "royal audience" on the stage. It could have been one of us. Transformed into a boot-licking simp, Polivka's antics as jester had us laughing to the end of the show, but it is not empty headed humor. While his "everyman" is repeatedly humiliated by the Queen, he retains a vestige of his humanity by deftly turning her into the jester. The antics meant to amuse her.

Polivka's humor works by taking the illogical to its logical end over and over again. Playing with a six foot harvesting scyth for the bored Queen, he accidentally bangs it on the ground as he swings it. He intentionally continues the blade motion and pulls it close to him so that it appears he has accidentally cut off his own head, to the great amusement of the Queen. With cruel laughter in her voice she demands that he do it again. And he does it again...and again, and again. As the comedy of the Klutz wears off, all that is left is the stark decadence and cruelty of the Queen highlighted by a now humorless performance.

Upon occasion during the show he straightened up and reverted back to the role we first saw him as, the director. In doing so, he escaped the reaches of his destructive relationship with his Queen and transformed her, by his own change, into a crying actress. His repetition of this device lets us know that this option is open to the Jester at any time. Yet, he allows himself to be drawn further and further into this destructive relationship with the Queen. He allows himself to be ordered to "play the King," a role whose outcome he knows can only end in his execution.

Polivka's comedy is an allegory for the relationships that make up everyday life and the power that people let them have over them. The Jester, like many, chooses to stay in a self-destructive relationship, responding to cruelty with cruelty. By not reverting back to the director's role, as he could have, Polivka highlights people's ability to choose the effect a relationship will have on them.



Photo courtesy of Fine Arts Center

Irish Gloom

Gold in the Streets, performed at the International Theatre Festival from June 19 to June 22, is a play of movement and conflict. The three vignettes placed consecutively in 1912, 1950, and 1982 Ireland, reveal the protagonists moving their homes in search of something better only to find disappointment. Whether it is Agnes Mullen, moving from the Catholic farmlands to Protestant Ulster in search of a livelihood, or Mary Conner coming home from England after the death of her English husband, only to abandon her homeland once again, or Sharon Macallister, who, leaving her policeman husband in search of safety both psychological and physical, none find happiness in their original moves. The play paints a bleak, fatalistic picture.

The problems of a people divided into two religions, two countries, and two identities are reflected in the interpersonal struggles of the protagonists. Agnes Mullen, feigns being Protestant in order to get a job, Mary Conner is rejected by her old friends and family for being too "English." Unfortunately none of the characters ever solve their problems. They only run away from the unbearable to find the barely tolerable. A dark fatalistic streak clearly runs through all the vignettes. The answer to these conflicts is ridiculously clear; it is nothing more than acceptance of people despite their differences. The stories exhibit no hope that this will ever happen.

Gold in the Streets is impeccably performed by the four women actors of the Charabanc Theatre Company from Ireland. While the drama in the work can be universally understood, the comedy doesn't translate well. With a peculiarly nationalistic humor based on Irish history, culture, and dialect, Americans will find it difficult to understand many of the jokes. Missing the

quick wit of the three heroines, all we see is their strength as they fight for survival and dignity. The relief and contrast that comedy provides to the heavier themes of the play is sorely missed.

Each of the four women play a variety of roles in each of the three vignettes. It is a tribute to the actress' versatility and the well thought out blocking that we have no difficulty keeping track of who is who as the performers change characters. Minimalis-

tic in its presentation, the stage is barren except for the back drop, a table and a few wooden chairs. It is the human environment, not the physical one, that the company wants us to focus on.

Originally formed to provide employment for women actors, the Charabanc Company has its members play the male as well as the female roles. Understandably, their stories are told from the women's perspective. This is not to say, though, a

feminist perspective. No radical statement on women in society is made. Women aren't seen as having the answers to the socio-political problems that the play explores. Nor though, are they pictured as helpless waifs. We see them as they are; human beings struggling to survive while keeping their dignity intact.

The author would like to thank Dr. Solo for his counsel.



From "Gold in the Streets"

Photo courtesy of Fine Arts Center