

*The  
Stony  
Brook*

# PRESS

Vol. 8, No. 9 ● University Community's Feature Paper ● Nov. 17, 1986

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# EXCRESCENCE

For many decades the United States has been greedy. Its people have been greedy for personal gain, personal comfort; and its actions, foreign and domestic, have been greedy for stature; for power.

There can be no question that the United States is a truly great country. Here one can find extensive freedoms the likes of which are enjoyed nowhere else on earth: opportunity exists, discovery stirs, advancement is fulfilled. Such concepts as justice, equality, and freedom can easily be applied to our society.

Yet it is a society in a vacuum.

Once upon a time, the United States was a toodler, with wise fathers who offered strong guidance and set him on his path. And the child learned and consumed and grew. Soon he was a healthy, vigorous young man, bursting with energy, burning to try new things, to seek out life and new ventures. This energy created a hunger and soon he found he needed nourishment to continue growing.

He wounded himself deeply with an internal war — the Civil War. But he was strong enough to survive, and the new-found unity only brought him the confidence to consume more and grow more. He expanded. He dipped his toes in the waters surrounding him, bruising his knuckles in European War. He liked the taste of the exotic foods in distant lands. He hungered for trade and for commerce. With each passing day, he grew and consumed more. Soon the hungers were an incessant drive; the larger he got, the more he demanded. He found that the more powerful he was the easier it was to acquire resources, food, and even sweets.

But then the lean times came. Although parts of the body withered the whole was strong. And when a

second World War came, and stung him, his spirit rose up, and he entered the fight. Soon he was strong, stronger than in the past. When the war was over he was the mightiest. He flexed his muscles, and grabbed, and feigned benevolence.

But he practiced insolence. What caught his eye, he swept up in his hand. What he needed, he took; what he didn't need — well, he took that too. He became used to getting his way, to sating his desires, and then some. As time wore on, some flab showed here and there. But he was strong despite the paunch.

Yet, in all this time he has consumed, and grown, and eaten resources without a notion or a care for the future. His seemingly limitless power that gave him seemingly endless resources blinded him to a need for care, for caution. And restraint was a curseword, a pox on industry; the backbone, the life's blood of his very existence. Caution? ... Fool! Restraint? ... Anarchist! Communist!!

It is a picture of a rather selfish young man. A sort of brilliant, powerful, gluttonous, petty, childish young man. A type perfectly willing to damn the torpedos and full speed ahead. A type perfectly willing to damn his neighbors so that he might live comfortably. A type perfectly at ease being a fraction of the world's population, but consuming a fourth of the world's resources.

A very selfish young man indeed. And he is a young man who must learn a lesson, who must gain some maturity before he eats himself and neighbors out of house and home.

+ Childhood is appetite. Maturity is restraint.

In many ways the United States has slowed its rapid palate enough to listen and hear the pleas of his

neighbours — to hear the voice of reason, similar to a grandmother saying, "Not so fast, not so fast. You'll get sick. You'll make yourself dyspeptic. Take human bites. Others have to eat too."

Unfortunately the United States is on a path that exists in a vacuum. Its "golden" past, is past. (But was it even "golden"? The path is hung heavy with hollow sweets, and there is no light at the end of the path. For at the end is a dismal abyss.

No amount of yearning for the old days, no insistence on a manifest destiny, a God-given right, a divine plan, is going to save us from that abyss.

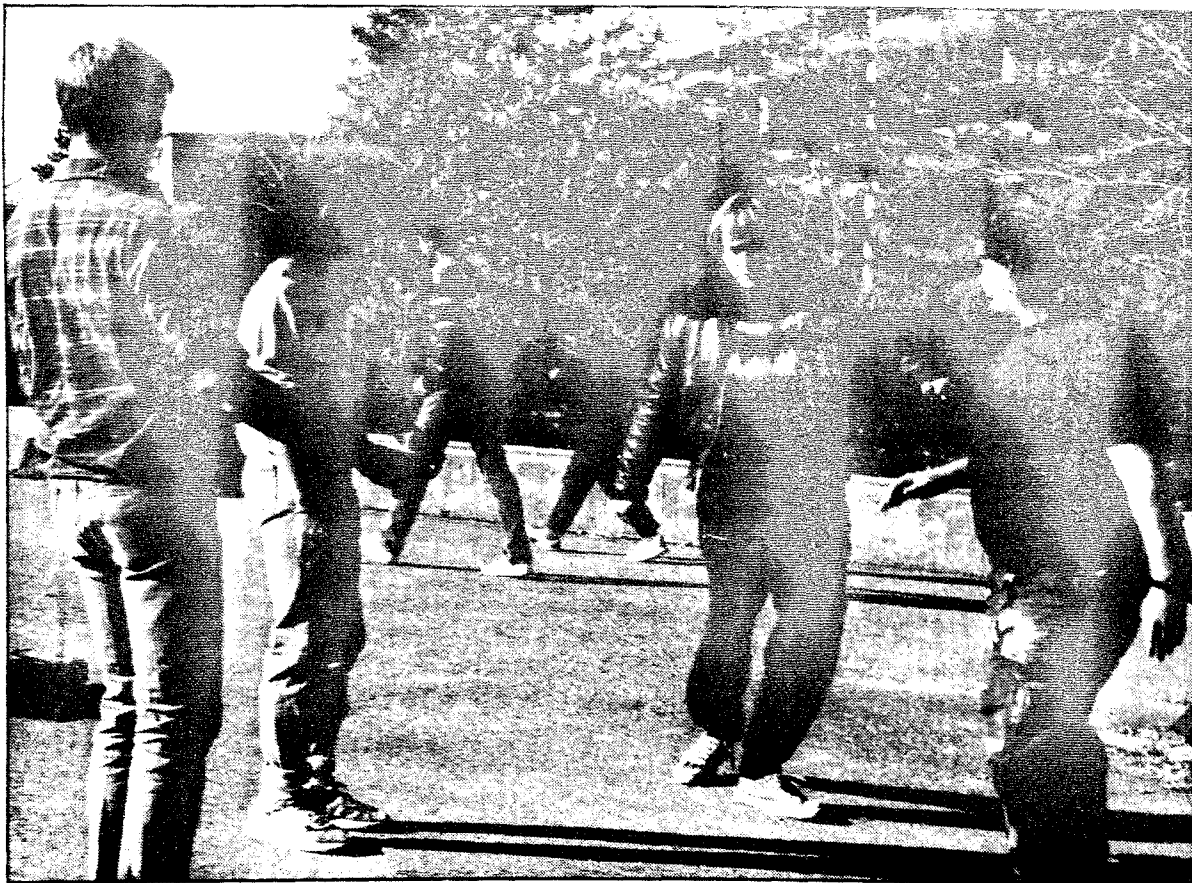
The United States has been greedy. Its consumption outstripped its growth, until its sole purpose was that consumption. It is time for the ego to deflate, for the appetite to be curbed, for the self-respect to be regained, ... or possibly even gained.

## Where Was The Press?

Our typesetting machine decided to go on vacation, but without us. It's still not fully back. This issue encompasses the last two weeks worth of news, not much, huh? Hopefully, the machine and its baggage will be with us soon, and we will print again when it is, or this Thursday, whichever comes second. Please do not confuse us with other Monday & Thursday publications, and tell your Senators to make Polity give us more repair bucks.

Cover Photo by Laura Borowitz

## Photo Box



Press Photo by Jack Zollo

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# Mutilation

## Campus Organizations Take Own Sample

by N. Todd Drobenare

The handling of the asbestos testing in the Javits Lecture Center, in the wake of the September 26th fire, has damaged the credibility of Vice President for Campus Operations Robert Francis with many campus constituencies. "The handling of this entire situation gives the impression of stonewalling," said Bill Wiesner, the campus president of the United University Professions.

The New York Public Interest Research Group, The Graduate Student Organization, and The United University Professions took the unusual step of duplicating the asbestos test run by the administration. Both tests revealed the presence of asbestos in crystallite form within pipe coverings, but in different concentrations. The administration's samples registered a 15% and a 20% asbestos content in the insulation, while the campus group's sample showed 40%. The tests for both the administration and campus groups were contracted out to New York Testing Lab, Inc.

A lack of faith in Bob Francis and his subordinates led to the separate testing. "We don't have a chain of custody for the University Administration's samples which would insure that the samples have not been adulterated," said NYPIRG Project Coordinator Richard Drury.

"In addition, doing our asbestos test is a litmus," he continued, "It allowed us to see if the tests would really take two weeks, and if the administration would tell the truth on their own."

On Thursday, October 30th, Tom Cuthel of the university Department of Environmental Health and Safety informed David DeLucia, NYPIRG's Chief Javits Fire Investigator, that due to heavy lab work load, New York Testing Lab was going to take at least two weeks to analyze the insulation samples.

Identifying himself only as "Dave DeLucia from the State University," DeLucia was told that asbestos tests would take only 2 to

3 days to complete, by a New York Testing Lab Employee, Mrs. Bryle.

On Tuesday, November 4th, Mr. L.



Bob Francis

Westly of New York Testing informed a Press Assistant News Editor that a Stony Brook official who he declined to name had asked him to refrain from giving out any information on the asbestos testing. He indicated that a heavy workload could delay finishing the test but didn't specifically say that they were backlogged.

On the following day, Wednesday (November 5th), I went with Mr. Drury with a sample of asbestos from Javits and delivered it to the lab," said DeLucia. The cost of the test was split by the Graduate Student Organization and United University Professions. The administration's sample had arrived at the lab that Monday, November 3rd.

The results of the campus coalition's sample were made available on Friday, November 7th and the administration's were soon forth-coming. NYPIRG investigator DeLucia expounded that "apparently any inferences that they were backlogged were incorrect."

Francis maintains that the later arrival

date for the test results was given "because, if for some reason beyond our control, the information was delayed, we didn't want people accusing us of holding back information."

"He is telling you a story," exclaimed G.S.O. President Chris Vestuto. If that is the reason, they are very stupid. He's already been accused of lying and misleading, it doesn't make much sense to insult the sensibilities of so many people for something so unimportant. He could have just said, this is the company that is doing the testing, this is their phone number, this is the date they have told us the results would be in, if you have any problems, give them a call."

Dr. Francis says he publicly overestimated the time the testing would take to prevent rising expectations, yet a memo to him from George Marshall, Chief of Environmental Health and Safety, gives the same date. "There is a lot of unanswered questions here," pointed out DeLucia.



Press Photo by Ross Bartick

All the participants in the controversy agreed that, in the air samples that were tested, the asbestos did not seem to be at hazardous levels, but DeLucia noted that the samples were taken five weeks after the fire and forced ventilation in the building. Asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer in humans.

"I do believe the administration makes mistakes," said Wiesner. "Something is not

right, it was a mistake to let classes in, even if nothing was lethal. After a fire like that, comprehensive testing must be done. If there are going to be errors, let them be errors of caution."

"Bob Francis was confused," continued Wiesner.

"He told me a few days after the fire that there wasn't any asbestos in the Lecture Center," said Drury. At a meeting with NYPIRG, GSO, UUP, and Polity, though, Francis denied this, stating, "It's absolutely untrue. I told him there wasn't any in any of the classrooms, to my recollections there was some asbestos, but it's in the mechanical room or in some room away from people."

"It looked like he (Francis) was confused, but he shouldn't have answered questions if he was confused," noted Wiesner. "There is no greater priority than health. Francis should stop being so casual about responsibility for safety." In an interview before the results of the asbestos tests were in, Francis said, "I think it (the testing) is absolutely specious and unnecessary. I am going to forget I said that. We are going to test for asbestos, even though at the big meeting the other day, it turned out that the little bit of asbestos is not in the room they are talking about, it is in a different place altogether."

While the representatives of the various constituencies maintained that there was asbestos in the mechanical room through which the Lecture Center was vented after the fire, Francis produced a 1981 Health Department report stating that the only asbestos is in the Lecture Center basement. These recent tests have shown the report to be wrong, with the discovery of asbestos in that mechanical room.

"We don't mean to alarm people about an asbestos hazard when no one knows if there was one or not, but what is scary is that, every time you confront Francis with the facts, he changes his story," exclaimed Vestuto.

## Cold Shower

### Heating Outage Plagues Campus

By John Isbell

On Monday morning, the tenth of November, nearly the entire campus had no heat or hot water. People could look forward only to a forty degree shower, uncertain of when the hot water would again caress their frigid bodies. The problem was caused by the high level of water in the cascade heaters, whose controls are vital to the successful operation of the Physical Plant.

In a cascade heater high temperature water exists, and the steam given off by this water heats the water which is pumped out to the campus. However the water level in the heater must be monitored. If the level is too high, steaming ceases and the heater may explode. If the water level is too low, the heater drains and then the water runs back to the lowest region.

Restarting the heater is a delicate job, since maintaining the water level is more difficult. When the water is being heated to its high temperature it expands by 65,000 gallons.

The problem, says Ken Fehling, Director of the Physical Plant, lies in its design. Originally, in 1962, it was meant to be a

steam plant, pumping out steam to the buildings instead of water. The receptor buildings then would use this steam to heat pipes containing water, making the water hot. It was this hot water that was used for heating and showering. In 1974, the Plant converted from steam to the Steam II High Temperature Water System, which pumps high temperature water for the buildings to use. However some of the older buildings must take this high temperature water, convert it to low pressure steam, and then to low temperature water.

By contrast to the low lying Main Campus Physical Plant, the Plant supplying the Health Sciences Center is built on a hill, as Fehling feels it should be. He supports this with facts. Any minor problem like the one faced by the Plant previously mentioned could be rectified within a shorter time, as the plant by the HSC could just turn off the pumps and the water would stay still, instead of running back to the plant and flooding it, as it did on Monday. The temperature would have been back to normal by the end of the day, whereas some parts of campus did not get heat until nearly a day-and-a-half later.



Press Photo by Ross Bartick

The masses, huddled, on Amman A-1, yearning to be warm.





# Water

## Budget Process Yields Silly Results

by John Isbell

The University Administration is in the process of refurbishing the grounds in front of the Administration building by installing a new sprinkler system. The installation of the sprinkler system is an attempt to help improve the quality of the campus environment.

The money used for the sprinkling system is appropriated by the state and does not come out of the University's budget. President Marburger said the funds for the sprinklers were requested two years ago, and now that they are approved, he wishes he could use the money somewhere else. "If I could drop the project, I would," states Marburger, but if he did, the University would lose that money and never get it back.

Each year, exclaims Sanford Gerstel, of Campus Operations and Director of Facilities, all the SUNY schools request money for projects, and the Governor then "looks at every campus request and legislates the appropriate money." The monies may be used only for that which it was allocated. The funds are dispensed according to the priority of the projects, which is determined by the Governor. The money appropriated can be used either for a set of small projects, such as planting shrubbery and the like, or for funding large projects. The campus is, of course, able to receive more than one appropriation per year, as there are different departments for each "subject". "It's a different pot of money," says Gerstel. The example cited was the funding allotted the



Sprinkler Unit

dormitories, which is handled by the Dormitory Authority. "Our budget submissions ask for \$18M for dormitory rehabilitation,

not including any new housing. So we're asking for lots and lots of money for dormitory repairs." Marburger concedes that

"the Chapin apartments were badly designed and badly built," and therefore, "a terrible embarrassment to Stony Brook." Luckily, however, this year the state has allocated "nearly one million dollars for the rehabilitation of apartments."

The University is also asking for a lot of additional money for campus beautification. "Much of the beautification on campus is done by the maintenance department," claims Gerstel, using funds they get "either from their operating budget or from sums of money they ask for from the capital program."

Gerstel defends the request for the sprinkler system, saying, "if you're going to start planting shrubbery and ground-cover and grass around here without a sprinkler system, it's going to look like hay and die in July and August. So if you're going to try to beautify the campus, you do it correctly, otherwise don't bother, you'd just be burying your money."

Marburger commented on the fact that the University only gets a portion of the money it asks for each year, saying that he "probably would have nightmares," if he "could get to sleep." "We ask for everything," claims Gerstel, "yet nothing gets by."

"The point is," stressed Gerstel, "that because we are putting sprinklers in by the Fine Arts/Admin building does not mean we're excluding other items." Students should not get angry with the "wrong people (Admin) but the should rather exert their 'energies towards the right group (the legislators)."

Press Photo by Ross Bartick

# Tour America On Stony Brook

by John Dunn

Sick and tired of being stuck in traffic while commuting to Stony Brook? Want to attend a school where 95% of the students aren't from New York or maybe just want to get away from it all? Stony Brook students can now spend a year elsewhere in the United States via the National Student Exchange, which Stony Brook recently joined.

The National Student Exchange was founded in 1967 to offer students travel, academic diversification, cultural awareness

campus. NSE has two different plans. Under Plan A, the student pays the tuition and fees to the host campus. The out-of-state (non-resident) tuition differential is waived allowing the student to pay the in-state tuition and fees to that school. Students attending a Plan A college may exchange only to a Plan A or A/B campus.

Under Plan B, the student pays tuition and fees to the home institution. Students attending a Plan B campus may only exchange to a Plan B or A/B campus. Luckily, Stony Brook is a Plan A/B campus, meaning

worked out but students will probably be treated as if they were in the foreign-exchange with credits earned at the host campus counting towards the residency requirement."

To participate in the program, a student must have attended his/her home institution for at least a semester before the exchange and must have at least a 2.5 GPA, more for certain programs at certain schools. Other things like activity in school organizations and events are also given consideration. Students are expected to return to their home campus to complete their degree after the exchange.

Mobley said that 97% of those who apply to the program are placed in exchange schools; 84% get the institution of their first choice. Schools choose their exchange students during an annual convention in mid-March.

The diversity of the schools makes up the content of the program. Students can attend such major universities as the Universities of Alabama and Maryland or small schools as Eastern Oregon State College. Students can attend schools in major cities such as UMASS-Boston or in the openness of the

University of Wyoming. Skiers can attend the University of Maine or Utah whereas sunworshippers can attend the University of Hawaii or the College of the Virgin Islands.

Lynn Jacobsen, coordinator of NSE at the University of Delaware, a school similar to Stony Brook in attendance and located in a similar town, said that they had been a successful member of NSE for 13 years. They had approximately 50 students attending UD from around the country although mainly from the West Coast. She said that UD students usually went out to the West Coast or down South.

One of the interesting things is to read the catalogue of schools involved in NSE to see what they say about themselves. For example, Stony Brook's entry says that a new fieldhouse will seat 8,000. The University of Wyoming touts their location as being a respite from smog, heat, humidity, and urban overcrowding. Others do likewise.

Stony Brook will be making its first exchanges in the 1987-88 academic year. Students should contact Max Mobley towards the middle of November and before March 1, 1987 at Stony Brook's Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

**"Skiers can attend the University of Maine or Utah whereas sun worshippers can attend the University of Hawaii or the College of the Virgin Islands."**

and the chance to learn more about themselves in a world away from their families and hometown friends. It also gives students a chance to participate in a program not offered at their institutions.

Max Mobley, Stony Brook's coordinator for the NSE and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, explains: "It is a particularly attractive program. It gives students academic and cultural enrichment, and provides greater diversity at an affordable cost." Mobley said that he recommended Stony Brook join the NSE when he found out about the program via a memo. Stony Brook had had a chance to join the NSE in the past but never acted on it. Mobley is the sole staff member, with a budget of \$2,000; \$500 of which goes to the membership fee.

The program costs generally the same as it would for students to attend their home

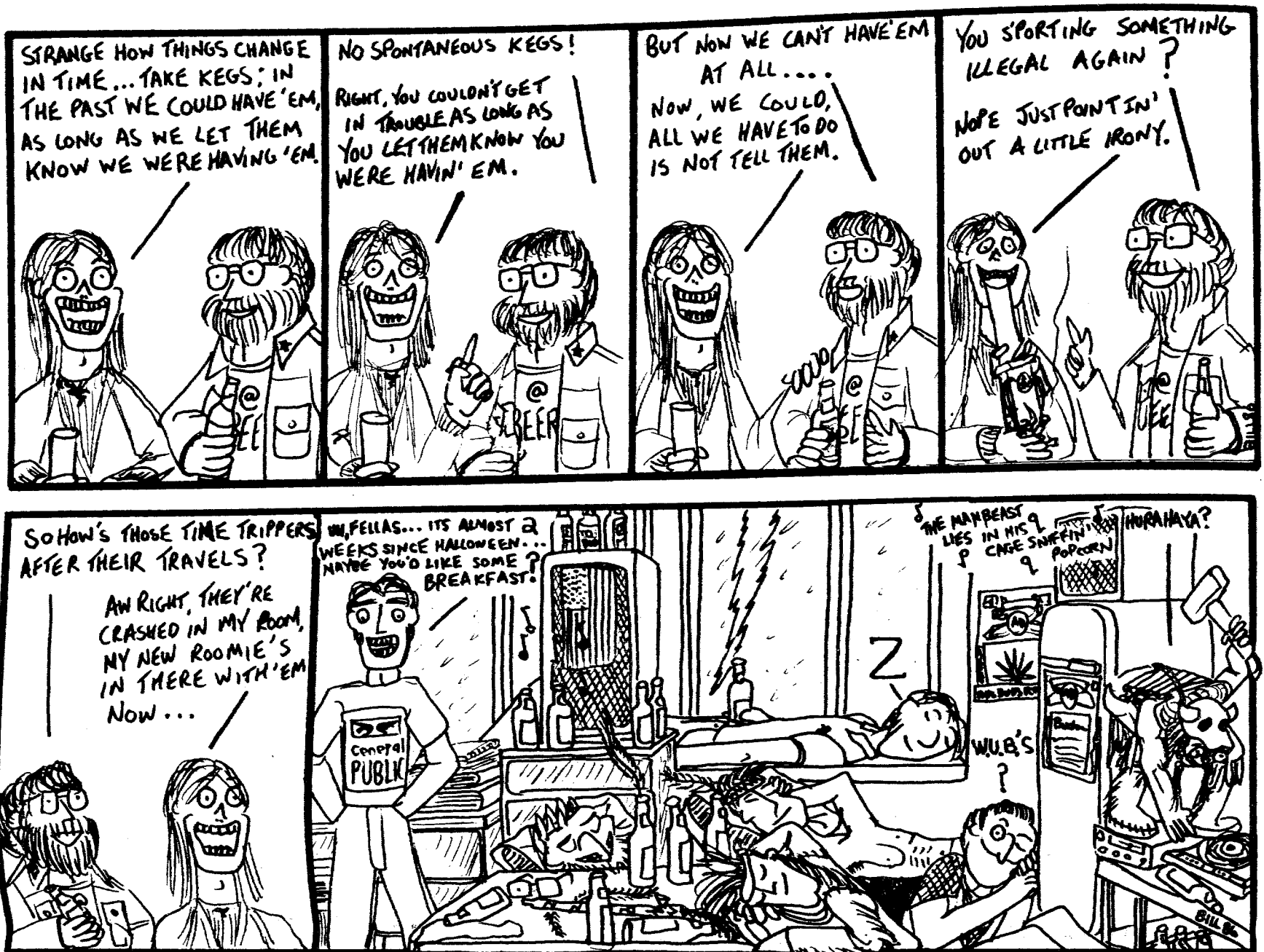
that students are allowed to attend any campus they are eligible for. Some schools have limitations on the number of students they accept under each plan. At Stony Brook, an unlimited number of students may come in under Plan A, but under Plan B, Stony Brook will accept only the same number of students as it sent out on Plan B.


The exchange eases much of the red tape normally involved with a transfer. The institutions use a simplified admissions process, and credits are automatically sent back to the home school to become part of the student's regular transcript. "Everything is in place to keep them in step with their programs back home," Mobley said. When asked what Stony Brook does concerning the residency requirement after the 58th credit, Mobley replied, "It's still being



Max Mobley

Press Photo by Jack Zollo





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# AIDS Illness and Ignorance

by Lisa Lechleiter

AIDS, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, has become a major focus in our lives. It is a two-fold epidemic, concerning widespread illness and widespread panic. Fear, misunderstanding, as well as misinformation has increased the public's concern about the disease. AIDS, which is mystifying to the medical establishment and frightening to the public, has caused hysteria across the United States and the world.

Firemen, for example, have refused to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to AIDS patients. Hospital personnel are refusing to clean victims' rooms and nurses are reluctant to care for them. AIDS phobia has also infiltrated our educational institutions. Debates have arisen about whether children with AIDS should be allowed into the classroom. Parents in many parts of the country have protested and boycotted schools when children with AIDS attend. Ryan White, a fourteen year old student from Kokomo, Indiana, who contracted AIDS while being treated for hemophilia, was barred from attending classes in his school.

The widespread concern about AIDS among parents who fear that their children could be infected by a classmate is understandable, but unnecessary. Many parents of school age children are acting out of unwarranted fears based on misinformation. Their actions show that they are clearly suspicious of the uncertainty that surrounds the disease.

The medical establishment through research is trying to investigate this mysterious disease, the nature of it, and how it is and is not transmitted. They have discovered that the virus must enter the bloodstream of a victim, for the victim to contract the disease. Researchers agree that AIDS can only be spread via intimate sexual contact, the use of contaminated hypodermic needles, transfusions of blood containing the virus, or spreading from an infected mother to her fetus. We are told that AIDS is not transmitted by dry kissing, hugging, shaking hands or other casual physical contact, nor by sitting on a toilet seat previously used by an AIDS patient or by sharing household items. Studies prove that not a single case of AIDS has been traced to on the job transmission by an infected waiter, food handler, or school teacher. Nor has there been any reported case of an infected child trans-

and local school boards are currently preparing guidelines for the acceptance of students with AIDS into the classroom.

Confusion, misunderstanding and hysteria about AIDS can be alleviated if the public were better educated about the disease. To investigate this issue, I studied the relationship between teacher's knowledge about the disease's symptoms, transmission mechanisms and risk groups, and their at-

titude towards acceptance of AIDS victims into the classroom. The data used in the analysis are from a 1985 AIDS survey which was conducted of teachers from a school district in Suffolk County. There were 684 teachers in the school district at the time and 170 were randomly surveyed. The sample of teachers used in the study taught at various grade levels and three quarters of them had children of their own.

**"The fear of contracting AIDS and the uncertainties that surround the disease have caused panic in the classroom..."**

Despite the progress in medical research there are uncertainties between the findings of the medical establishment with respect to transmission mechanisms and what some teachers believe. Many teachers remain ignorant or simply doubt the evidence. Although the teachers surveyed knew the three ways in which AIDS has been found to be transmitted, via sexual intercourse, 98.5%; intravenous needles, 99.2% and blood transfusions, 100%; over one quarter of the teachers, 28% were unsure whether having daily contact with an AIDS victim would increase one's chance of contracting the disease. This is a public misconception. No cases have been found where the virus has been transmitted by daily contact with an AIDS victim.

Previous research conducted by a *New York Times*/CBS News Poll found that nearly half of the population thought they could contract the disease by sharing a glass

groups. The percentage of teachers recognizing groups at risk of acquiring AIDS was very high. More than one half of the teachers, 52.8% however, incorrectly identified Haitians as a risk group. They are no longer considered such since researchers have decided that the majority of the Haitian victims were also homosexuals.

The fear of contracting AIDS and the uncertainties that surround the disease

have caused panic in the classroom. Parents are concerned of the possibility that a child with the disease may attend the schools in which their children are enrolled. In response to whether a student with AIDS should be permitted to attend public school, one quarter of the teachers surveyed responded yes, 34.8% no, and 40.2% were unsure. Tables presenting the percentage of teachers permitting AIDS students into

the classroom by their knowledge of the disease's symptoms, transmission mechanisms and risk groups are too lengthy to include but as expected these results show that the greater the understanding teachers have about the disease, the more likely they are to accept AIDS victims into the classroom. What is perhaps more interesting is that a substantial number of teachers are unsure about permitting an AIDS student into the classroom, as represented by the high percentages in the no and unsure categories.

With respect to gender, male teachers with a high knowledge about the disease's symptoms, transmission mechanisms and risk groups are more likely to permit a student who has AIDS into the classroom than are female teachers. Moreover, teachers with a high knowledge of transmission mechanisms and risk groups, who did not have children of their own, were more likely to accept AIDS victims into the classroom than those knowledgeable teachers who had children.

This study has attempted to stress that efforts at direct public education are needed to teach educators as well as the public at large about the disease's symptoms, transmission mechanisms and risk groups. Much of the fear surrounding the disease can be alleviated if people were more knowledgeable about AIDS.

## Nicaraguan Perspectives

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**"AIDS is not transmitted by dry-kissing, hugging, shaking hands or other casual physical contact..."**

mitting AIDS to a classmate.

Despite the advancements made with respect to the medical establishment's knowledge about the disease, the public's fear has not abated. Public attention has focused on fears of casual contact with AIDS victims. Parents are concerned with their school age children, who put a variety of foreign objects in their mouths, and their risk on contracting AIDS from other pupils in the classroom.

Teachers, the educators of our children, are also concerned about the AIDS epidemic and the growing concern about whether students with AIDS should be permitted to attend school. State education departments

with a patient. This is a similar concern among some of the teachers. Of those teachers surveyed, 11.1% believed that AIDS could be contracted via utensils. An even larger percentage, 21.4% of the teachers did not know whether it was or was not a transmission mechanism.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease control, 73% of AIDS victims to date are sexually active homosexual and bisexual men, 17% are intravenous drug abusers, 1% are infected via heterosexual contact with someone who has AIDS, 2% are those who have had transfusions of injected blood, and 1% are infants born to infected mothers. The remaining 5% do not fit into these



# Trekking Down To Washington

## Beer and Loathing in the District of Columbia

by Anthony Tesoriero

It was all planned out three weeks before the trip. Six of us would attend the 1986 College Media Advisors / Associated College Press Convention at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in the nation's capital. At the convention, which started on November 7th and continued through to the 9th, we would attend workshops and seminars to help us sharpen our newspaper skills, meet journalists from other college publications and show the whole college media community what **The Stony Brook Press** is all about. We would also have a lot of fun partying throughout the District of Columbia.

The day before we left Stony Brook, our party of six shrunk down to two: The Production Manager and myself. Our Editor told us that she wanted a story out of this convention. I was the man for the job.

We were to leave at 10am on Friday but difficulties started to plague us from the beginning - The Big Blue Van rolled up to my door at 3pm. That is when I discovered that our party had increased to six again, but not the original six. Besides our driver the new passengers were a photographer, a SASU delegate and someone from upstate who wanted to come along for the ride. Also, we were to meet a writer at the hotel bar at 3:30 on Saturday.

Back on the road again, we made an extended excursion through the borough of Brooklyn (we got lost) and luckily escaped the tri-state area at 6pm. Then along came some

inclement weather (heavy rain) which slowed us down further. When we were just north of Washington we encountered mechanical difficulties (the battery died) and we were stranded on the southbound shoulder of I-95.

After several unsuccessful attempts at push starting The Big Blue Van in the forward direction, we decided to try it in the reverse direction. In the pouring rain, The Photographer and I pushed Big Blue while The Production Manager tried to start her. He popped the clutch and when the engine started, he stomped on the breaks causing us to impact with Big Blue's hood. It couldn't get any worse.

Upon entering the Capital City Mr. Blue stalled once again, right in front of the Chinese Embassy. This prompted our encounter with D.C.'s Finest. After assessing our situation and checking out our Driver, the officer flagged a mobile unit so that he could get some flares to place around The Big Blue Van. We finally got a jump start when the mobile unit came back to the embassy three times and found that we were still there.

Back in transit again, we made another extended excursion (got lost in D.C.) but eventually arrived at the hotel. Once there, the snotty desk clerk told us of problems with our accommodations (they overbooked the weekend) and said that we would have to make alternative arrangements (we had no place to stay).

"The hell with this," I said to The Production Manager. "I'm going to the bar!" The Driver, Photo-



grapher and "upstate" joined me while The Production Manager tried to utilize his travelling experience to deal with the snotty desk clerk.

[Conference Update: It was already 12:30am early Saturday at this point. We missed all of the Friday sessions and the prospects for attending the Saturday seminars were not good.]

Fortunately for us we had made credit card reservations for our room. This meant that if the hotel could not put us up, they would have to give us a free room somewhere else. This was fine with us since we only had enough money to stay for one night. Now we could stay until Sunday.

The snotty desk clerk booked us at The Hyatt Arlington (yes, Virginia) so now the only problem was getting there. Since Big Blue was in a state of disrepair we decided to try The Metro.

Here was the first place we started comparing Washington to New York. The Metro is Washington's version of the subway. This ten year old underground rail system uses space age transportation technology to get people around the Washington area. Instead of tokens, computerized fare cards are inserted into the entrance turnstiles. When leaving The Metro, fare cards are inserted into the exit turnstiles and an appropriate amount of credit is deducted from the card.

The Metro seems antiseptic. There was no litter, no graffiti and no trains after midnight! That's why it's not called a subway.

Unable to catch a Metro, we called for a taxi. Here was our second Washington - New York comparison. Myron Thomas, our cab driver actually stopped for pedestrians

crossing the street. The other cabbies did the same. In New York we would have been hit crossing the street at the times that we did.

Another unusual thing about Myron was that he watched his MTV while driving us to Arlington. He got us there safe though, so we checked in, grabbed a few brews and crashed for the night.

On Saturday we finally made it to the conference. The Production Manager and I went to workshops on The First Amendment and advertising, ad page techniques, and staff recruitment and motivation. Then at 3:30 we went to the bar to meet The Writer.

Meanwhile, The Driver, Photographer and "Upstate" went to get Big Blue's battery charged. They arrived at the bar shortly thereafter along with the SASU delegate.

One of the more bizarre things at the bar was The Yards of Ale. Now I have seen Feet of Ale and Half Yards of Ale but I have never seen a length of ale like this. A Yard of Ale is a 3 foot tall glass of ale with a large mouth and a neck that gets thinner towards the bottom. At the bottom there is a large bulb. The glass is supported by a wooden stand. When filled, The Yard of Ale holds fifty four ounces of beer.

There is a catch to drinking The Yard of Ale. When you get to the point where air flows into the bulb, it forces the rest of the beer into your mouth or onto your shirt. At the bar we had seen instances of both.

Anyway, one and one half hours and many beers later, The Writer still hadn't shown up yet. Our party suggested that I call him. He decided to fly to New York directly on Sunday. And that was just too bad for him.

You see, since we got a free room the first night and used the money for the room for the first night for the room for the second night, and we didn't use the extra money we brought for the room for the second night for the room for the first night or for the second night, it meant just one thing: *Party Time!*

Except for The Production Manager and myself, everybody called it a night at midnight. We went out to see Arlington at night. There was The Iwo Jima statue, The Dark Star Park and a great view of the city from across the Potomac River. After some more fun we joined our party back in the room.

On Sunday we played tourist all day (except for The SASU delegate - she lives in Washington) checking out museums and monuments; walking up and down on The Mall. We spent an hour and a half at The Air and Space Museum, which is hardly enough time to see three exhibits. More than a whole day could be spent there alone.

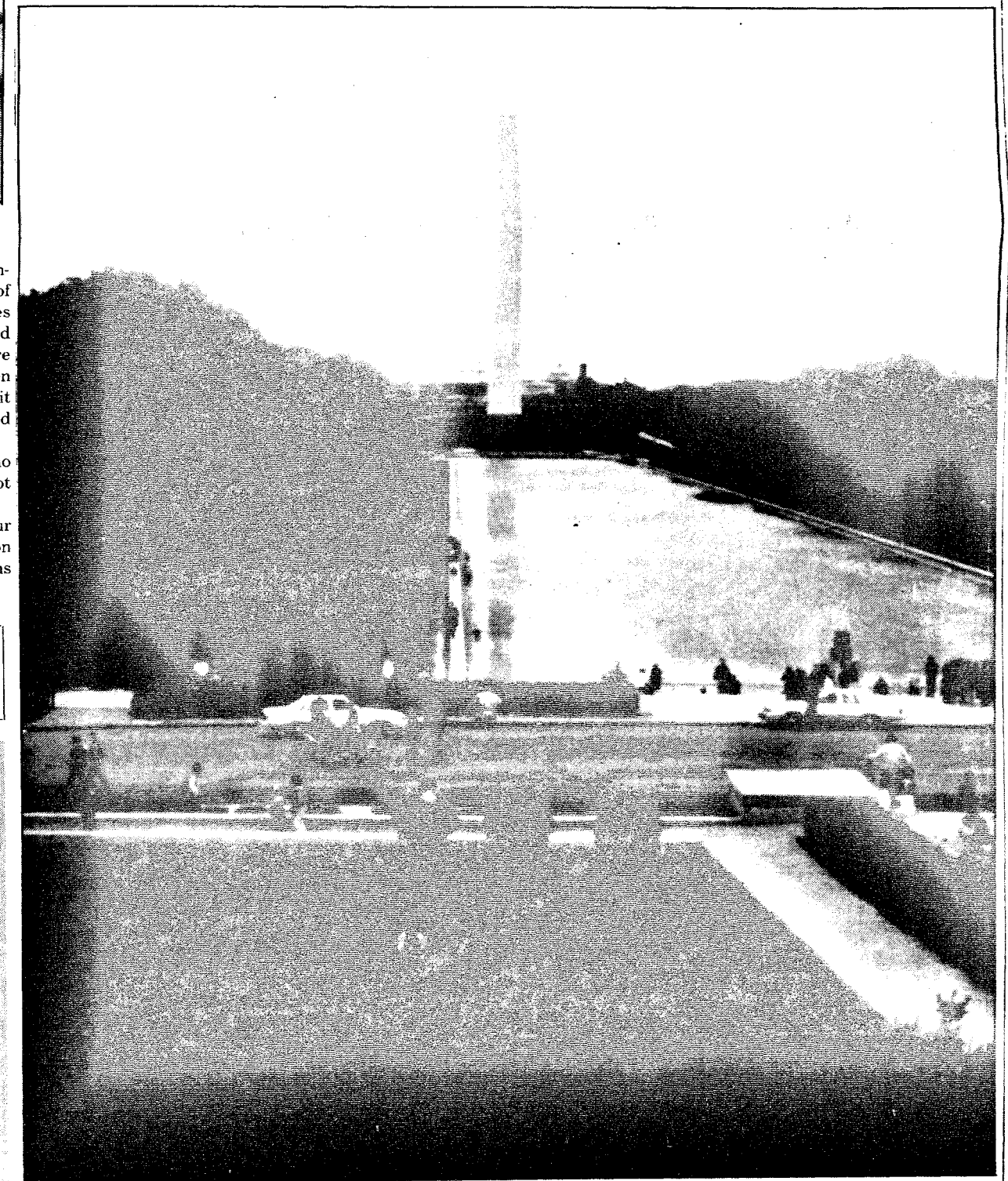
At 5:30pm the museum closed. We reconnected the battery to The Big Blue Van and drove home without stalling once. We knew nothing could go wrong. That all happened on Friday.



Abe Lincoln with something on his mind.

Washington Photos by Laura Borowitz

"... right in front of the Chinese Embassy. This prompted our encounter with D.C.'s finest."





## Attention All Students

Because we now have reasonable assurance that the possibility of hazardous conditions existing in the Lecture Center are minimal, Student Polity is no longer sanctioning an official boycott of the Lecture Center.

Since we don't have enough information to officially declare the Lecture Center as completely safe, and because we are aware of the negative impact this situation has had on your studies, we have requested and received an extension of the withdrawal cut-off date for students attending classes in Lecture Center rooms 101, 102, and 103.

Students wishing to withdraw from these classes must do so by today, Monday, November 17th, at 5:00 p.m. at the registrar's office. Students who do withdraw will receive a W on their transcript.

Withdrawals without a penalty will be handled on a case by case basis by the Vice-Provost's office. For more information on your options, call the Vice-Provost's office before you withdraw.

The minimum full time status load of 12 credits per semester must be maintained.

This extension was made available only for students attending classes in Lecture Center 101, 102, and 103.

Marc Gunning  
Student Polity Association, Inc.

# Talking About Love

EROS is a student run, peer-counseling organization which provides information, counseling and referral on birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and sexual health care. If you have any questions that you would like answered in our column, please submit your questions to our office or to The Press office, Room 020, Central Hall (Old Bio.). EROS is located in RM 119 in the Infirmary. Stop by or call 632-6450.

Dear EROS:

*I hope this doesn't seem weird, but sometimes I like to masturbate even though I feel like it isn't right. I grew up with my parents telling me how wrong it is. Is it bad?*

Confused

Dear Confused:

Whether to masturbate or not is a different decision for each person. Many of us learned from our parents, school and religion that we were not to touch ourselves sexually. Masturbation teaches people what they like, and often this can be shared with partners. Masturbating is not wrong. It is only a problem if it interferes with other things that a person must do to carry out regular activities. Not everyone enjoys masturbating, and that's all right too. If masturbating doesn't bring you pleasure, trust your own preferences.

EROS

Dear EROS:

*After my boyfriend and I have intercourse I immediately go to the bathroom and douche. Is this an effective method of birth control?*

S.S.

Dear S.S.:

Douching is not an effective method of birth control. This is because the douche, which is liquid squirted into your vagina under pressure, will push some sperm up

into your uterus. Douching is the least effective. In fact, unless you are instructed by a doctor for a particular reason, you never need to douche. The vagina has a natural cleansing process. Frequent douching and the use of vaginal deodorants can change the acidic and alkaline balance in the vagina, leading to infections.

EROS

Dear EROS:

*My boyfriend and I often get into fights because he wants to have sex and I don't I feel really bad because he says that I turn him on and then we don't make love, so later he has to suffer because his "you know what" really, really hurts. Can this really be true? Sometimes, I feel like he's running a guilt trip on me.*

Don't Want To Be A Fool

Dear Don't Want To Be A Fool:

What your boyfriend is referring to is commonly called "blue balls." It may be true that your boyfriend does feel some slight tension or discomfort but as for suffering from long lasting pain, that's highly unlikely. He may be exaggerating to get you to comply. Remember the final decision as to whether you want to have sex is up to you.

EROS

Dear EROS:

*I am 19 years old and am currently taking birth control pills. I really love this method of birth control and don't like the idea of using any others. I would like to know how long I can continue to use the pill without any harmful effects?*

Pill User

Dear Pill User:

If you are not experiencing any problems now you may be able to use the Pill for a while. Exactly how long is hard to say. Researchers disagree on the length of time a woman should stay on the Pill. Some suggest that a woman stay on the Pill for two or three-year intervals with three-month breaks in between. Others believe that in some cases it is safe for a woman to take it for up to ten years without stopping. There is also some belief that the longer a woman takes the Pill, the more likely it is that problems and/or complications may result and may continue for years after going off the pill. As you can see, this question still doesn't have a definite answer. It may be helpful to bring it up with your physician who is prescribing the pills.

EROS

## Letters

### Hidden Moons

An Open Letter to the Campus Community:

Recently several allegations have been made over the formation of CARP, the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles, on campus. These allegations were made as a result of research conducted on the origins of CARP. It is the college recruiting arm of the Unification Church under the influence and 'spiritual guidance' of Sun Myung Moon. Such information is not readily made available to members of this community by the CARP representatives who were soliciting for the Moonies in the residence halls several weeks ago.

The Members and Friends of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance who are actively involved in the investigation of CARP do not oppose the formation or recognition of the group. We, of all people, know what it is like to be

the victims of persecution and to be denied basic individual and collective liberties; we do not wish to become the executioners. Freedom is Freedom, it is not reserved for the Left or the Right, for only heterosexuals or homosexuals, but rather it is to be enjoyed (and demanded) by all humans.

But, the Members and Friends of GALA are opposed to the ideals of the Unification Church: the belief that homosexual love is an "unspeakable crime," the belief in killing "those who oppose the movement," and the inherent inequality of Black persons, and the subjugation of womyn. Persons do have the right to cling to these bigoted beliefs, but their right to expression of these beliefs end when their fists make contact with our bodies.

We wish to request that a Polity by-law be created that requires ALL offshoot groups (such as CARP, College Republicans, etc.) to include information on the 'parent' organization in the literature, constitution and campus advertising.

Additionally, that such groups be required to make public the origins of their

budget, its' size, and be accountable, as other campus groups are, for their spending practices, as it relates to their operation on campus.

When the campus community is presented with the facts regarding these organizations, a rational, intelligent decision can be made by individuals to be affiliated with these organizations or not.

Raymond S. Melville  
on behalf of Members  
and Friends of GALA

### No Photo Available

To the Editor:

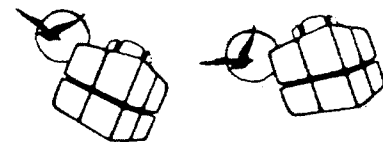
On Thursday, November 7th, I went to get my yearbook picture taken. I was wearing a small white print on a black sport shirt. (It had a collar.) The photographer informed me that I could not get my picture taken unless I was wearing a jacket and tie. Slightly

annoyed, I asked him why. He said that it wasn't acceptable because they wanted everyone to look the same in the yearbook.

On a campus where the students and faculty are so diverse this reply came as a shock to me. I feel that the yearbook should represent the individuality of the student. It is in my opinion that after four years of attending this university students such as myself should have developed into individual entities and not into clones on the page of a yearbook.

In expressing my opinion to the photographer, a man of a large persuasion approached me. Once again I explained the situation. He stared at me and said, "The whole world doesn't revolve around you." So much for places of higher education.

Martin McKeown



## Commentary

### Perspectives on Nicaragua

by Chris Kushmerick

The truth may hurt, but that is no reason to propagate lies. Coming to terms with the fact that your government lies to you may not be easy, but it is a lot better than being caught with your head in the sand as a U.S. - backed Contras wage a war against the Nicaraguan government, in our name.

To justify its actions against Nicaragua, the U.S. government has created all sorts of lies about the Sandinistas, in a

no-holds-barred smear campaign. Fearful of the truth, Reagan and his sphere of influence try hard to make the Nicaraguan government look bad, so that people in the U.S. will not start asking to be treated as decently as the people of Nicaragua are by their own government. Fortunately, they overlooked one thing: U.S. citizens, by the hundreds, have travelled to Nicaragua, have seen the advances the Nicaraguan government has made over the U.S. run Somoza regime, and have come back wanting to spread the

truth.

The program **Nicaragua Perspectives** (see ad page 7) offer you a chance to talk to students, workers, and clergy who have travelled to Nicaragua. Through our own experiences we will help to dispell some of these lies.

To those who would tear down our signs, and keep your heads in the sand: You can run from the truth, but you can not hide.

Chris Kushmerick travelled to Nicaragua January 1986.



# Future Shock: Stony Brook

By Pat Flannery

In the beginning there was nothing, and then there was a man, a man with a visionary sense, a man with the name of Ward Melville. Here was a man with a portrait in his mind of how the Three Village Area should look, and the money in the bank to buy that mental picture into a state of reality. It was in that portrait that there should be a small, New England style teachers' college located south of the railroad tracks. This small teachers' college would fit rather nicely into the small, New England style country town that Ward Melville had been building for close to two decades. Over the course of that generation, Ward Melville had been the primary, and for the most part, the sole real estate developer and master builder of the Three Village Area.

Back in those days, you could see farms for as far as the eye could see. There was no Smith Haven Mall, no suburban sprawl either, just farms and forest. There was a central shopping center that Ward Melville had built in the 1940's. The eagle over the Post Office flaps its wings on the hour. There was no Andor Plaza. There was no Station Pizza. There was no Park Bench. There was no Seven-Eleven. It wasn't there. It didn't exist.

In 1957, Ward Melville donated to the State of New York some four hundred plus acres of land south of the Long Island Rail Road trackage with the expressed intent of having the State of New York build, own, and operate the small teacher's college that was part of Ward Melville's mental portrait of what his small New England style town would look like. The small college envisioned would not have any building that was taller than three stories.

The total student population was never planned to exceed two thousand students. There were never any plans to encroach upon the community. The buildings that were planned for were the Gymnasium, Harriman Hall (a.k.a. Old Physics, Physics), Old Engineering (a.k.a. Engineering), Central Hall (a.k.a. Old Bio.), Humanities, Old Chem, the Library (It was originally a nice looking building before it was encased in five stories of cement), and G and H quads. There was no Admin. No Fine Arts. No Union. No HSC. No South Campus. No South P-Lot. No Grad. Chem. No Grad Physics. No Nuclear Accelerator. No ESS. No Math Tower. No Engineering Mall. No SBS. No Social Science (nee Psychology). No Life Science Library. No Lab Office-ECC. No Computing Center. No Lecture Center to have a fire in. In comparison, the place was quite austere as compared to the hodge-podge that we have today. That was the original intention. The name was even different. It wasn't the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The name of this place back then was SUCOLI, State University College on Long Island.

SUCOLI was supposed to be one of those small state teachers' colleges like SUC Brockport. It wasn't supposed to be a university center. When SUCOLI opened its doors, the concept of a university center had yet to be conceived of. Back in those distant days of bygone past, the community was dramatically smaller than it now is. There were farms where houses now impenetrably stand in soldier-like formation. The flavor of the community surrounding the university was distinctly rural.

In the years 1963 to 1965, Ward Melville had his dream. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that he lived past 1965, and witnessed the collapse of the achievement of his beatific

vision. The advent and nativity of the Smith Haven mall in nearby Lake Grove was one of the many signs of the collapse of Ward Melville's dream come true for the Three Village Community. During the late sixties and early seventies, housing developments were appearing at an ever constant rate. The flavor of the community was in a rapid transition from rural to suburban. Ward Melville saw this and was not pleased with what he was a witness to. He believed in structured growth within the theme which he had laid out over a generation before. Time and progress were now the agents which would shatter the work of over a generation. A changing of the guard was taking place similar to the very role that a younger Ward Melville had filled a generation before. The brashness of this new generation of movers and builders was lacking in the historical sensitivity which the generation of Ward Melville and Robert Moses maintained even at their peak of power and influence.

The evolution of the Three Village Area is a real and interesting continuing event. During the nineteenth century, Port Jefferson was a major sailing port, and was home to a few shipbuilding yards. Setauket was home to many fishermen. Stony Brook with its shallow, but well sheltered harbor, was home to numerous leisure-oriented vessels. In the early twentieth century the decline of the maritime industries triggered a depression in the area which lasted until Ward Melville of Old Field initiated a renewal program in the late 1930's.

The community which Ward Melville had successfully created throughout the 1940's and 1950's had become so attractive that many people wanted to move to the small New England style country town with its private prep school and state teachers' college. The problem was that the people who wanted to move in did so, by moving into new housing developments. By expanding the community at such an explosive rate, each could only contribute to the demolition of the very community which they wished to belong to.

By the early 1960's, it was becoming obvious that there was a need to overhaul the SUNY system to accommodate the baby boomer's desires for low-cost public higher education. In 1965, then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller announced that the long awaited SUNY overhaul would take the form of four "University Centers", one of which was SUCOLI. With the elevation in status, the name was changed to reflect the greater importance of the university center's mission, "Let each become all they are capable of being." The new name for SUCOLI was the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The University Center was not to be a small teacher's college. It was to be a major center for higher education, serving the needs of the geographic region which it was located in. Since Long Island is such a diverse and expanding area, all programs of study can be justified as being necessary to the future of the region. It is in the context of such needs of the regional area which Stony Brook must serve that the bloom of such departments and programs has continued.

The expansion of the curricula of study was accompanied by the expansion of the faculty. With more programs being offered, more applications for admission were received and accepted, causing a substantial rise in the student polity. With an increase in the student polity, more personnel and professional staff were added to the institutional bureau-

cracy to enable it (the institution) to adequately serve the needs of the student polity.

The surrounding community, did not at that time and has never since viewed its own explosive growth in the 1960's as being one of the causative factors of the growth and evolution of SUCOLI into SUNY @ Stony Brook. The community has not acknowledged that its own growth on an explosive scale served as the primary causative factor for the disintegration of the small New England style country town. The community of the Three Village Area compounded their initial error by fostering a spirit of animosity between themselves and the university community. They accomplished this by assigning the guilt for all their problems on the existence of the University. The new Stony Brook scapegoated the University for all their problems (auto traffic, drug problems at their local high schools, teenage drinking, teenage pregnancy). Instead of looking within their own polity for answers to their problems they used the ready-made response, "This would have never happened if the university wasn't here." They blamed university students for encouraging rebellious activity, drinking and drug use by their sons and daughters. They held morally responsible the university administration for not adequately supervising (a 24 hour guard) the student polity.

The attitudes of the outside community, magnified by their own blind arrogance have only frustrated the attempts of the university to fulfill both its primary and secondary missions. When will they realize that they cannot shut down this great monument to higher educational processes, like the local businesspeople have already done? They condemn the university, but their wounds are healed at University Hospital. Why do they condemn the second greatest resource in their area as the source of all their problems? Instead, why don't they welcome the university-wide polity on equal terms and utilize the resources of this great university to help them solve the problems which they have for so long failed to acknowledge as their own.

Perhaps, if the community surrounding the university fully utilized the resources of this great repository of knowledge, they would gain knowledge. Perhaps also through this gained knowledge, they would also acquire understanding and wisdom. With this newly found understanding and wisdom, they might come to see their communities problems not as emanating from the university, but instead as proceeding from the failures of their community to provide adequate guidance for their youth. The presence of alternative role figures does not in and of itself impose a rebellious state of affairs upon a polity. Rather the success of secondary role figures is directly dependent upon the failure of the primary role figure.

Ward Melville's dream may have disappeared, but it is a lesson to us all. We should never seek so much to possess something, in so much as its possession it is lost. The old Stony Brook of over a generation ago shall not return. But its absence should not preclude us from creating a new and better Stony Brook, which shall incorporate both the remnants of the old Stony Brook, and the combined visions of greater community (inclusive of the university) for the future.

## Working Sex

by L. Hobbs Shepherd

A film entitled, *Workplace Hustle* was shown by the Democratic Socialist Forum on Monday, November 3 in the Graduate Student Lounge. Narrated by actor Edward Asner, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, the film vividly showed the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. The film gave some startling statistics: almost 80% of the women in the workforce are victims of sexual harassment. Over 50% of these women have quit at least one job because of sexual harassment.

The problem is widespread. Abolishing sexual harassment in the workplace, according to Asner, will primarily come from consciousness raising. Asner stated that men and women define sexual harassment in different ways, thus a man might be unaware that he is harassing a woman in the workplace. According to Asner, a single definition of sexual harassment will exist when the majority of men acquire the talent to put themselves in a woman's shoes, that is, to feel what it is like to be sexually harassed.

The audience at the DSA forum feels there is a need for change in society's attitude toward sexual harassment, but more importantly, a change in the way in which men are

socialized. The majority of the group sees the sexual harasser as a person who has a position of power, such as an employer. The majority of the powerholders in the American workforce happen to be men. Therefore, it appears that the stigma that men are more powerful than women (which Americans have been socialized to believe) must be overcome in order for sexual harassment to be abolished.

Socialization aside, one member of the audience asked why women are not coming together to fight sexual harassment in the workplace. The film, *Workplace Hustle*, clearly expressed the fear women are faced with when they become vocal about their harassment experiences. A victim might lose her job if she is vocal or become labeled as a "difficult" employee who lacks a "sense of humor" when it comes to male prodding. One woman in the film, who was fired when she exposed her sexual harassment ordeal, sued her employer and won, but would only receive a monetary award if she did not publicize her experience. Finally, sexuality is a personal thing. It is embarrassing and insulting when a woman must be questioned about her sexual life when she brings a case of sexual harassment to the courts. Most victims, according to the film, would rather suffer

silence or seek support from fellow women workers about her experiences with sexual harassment.

The participants in the forum discussed short term goals that might help fight sexual harassment in the workplace. Labor unions where women can form grievance committees would be a useful antidote to sexual harassment. Also, employers who realize that productivity goes down when sexual harassment exists and who are advocates of an environment free of sexual harassment are important.

As a follow-up to the Sexual Harassment Forum, the Democratic Socialist will present a talk by a union organizer next week, on the subject of "Organizing Women Workers." The speaker will be Ira Stern, a staff member of the International Lady Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). The Forum will be held on Tuesday, November 11th, in room N320 of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building.

*Workplace Hustle*, a film on sexual harassment in the workplace, was part of the discussion at Monday's forum. Residence halls or campus groups who would like to have a film and discussion on the subject may contact the Democratic Socialist Forum via Polity.

# German Club

General Meetings held on  
Wednesday at 2 and 4:30  
in Library N3045

All Are  
Welcome!



presents

An Evening With  
Gil Scott-Heron

and  
Linton  
Kwesi Johnson

Thursday, Nov. 20, 1986

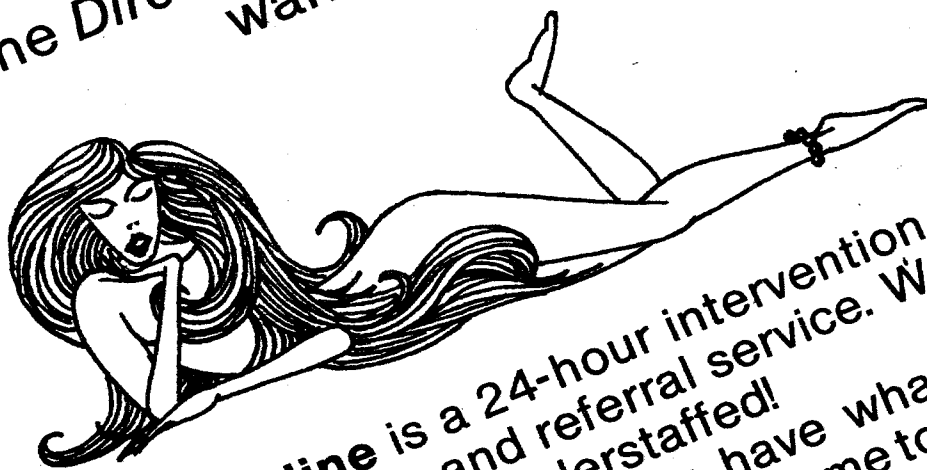
Fine Arts Center Main Stage  
Ticket prices \$8 Students \$10 Public  
Tickets on sale in the Union Box Office.

STUDENT

POLITY

ASSOCIATION

The Director of Polity Hotline  
wants you.



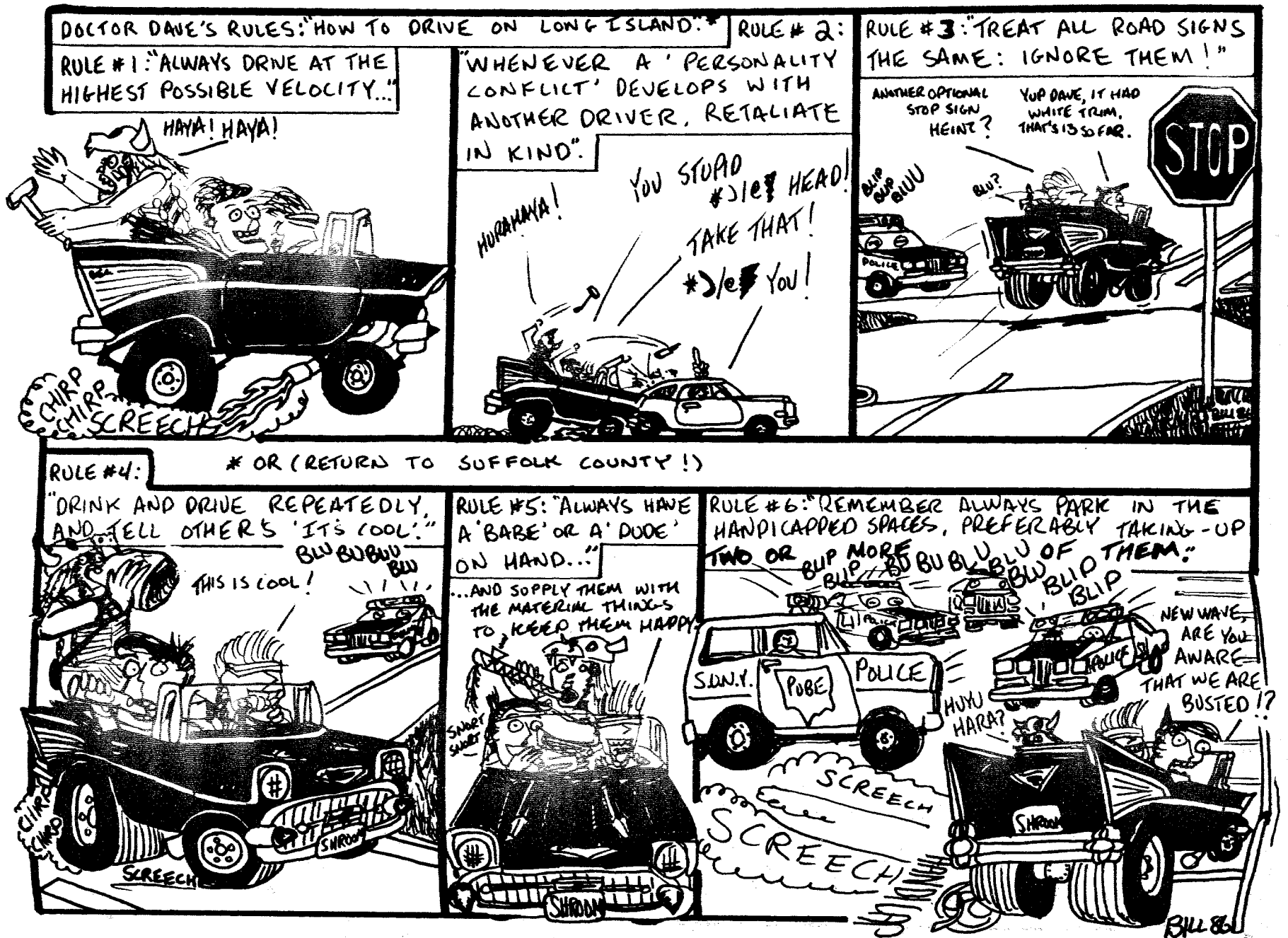
## Attention

Line Budget Clubs  
&  
PSC Clubs

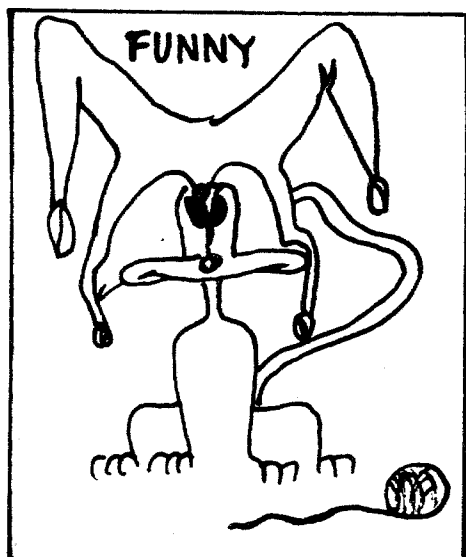
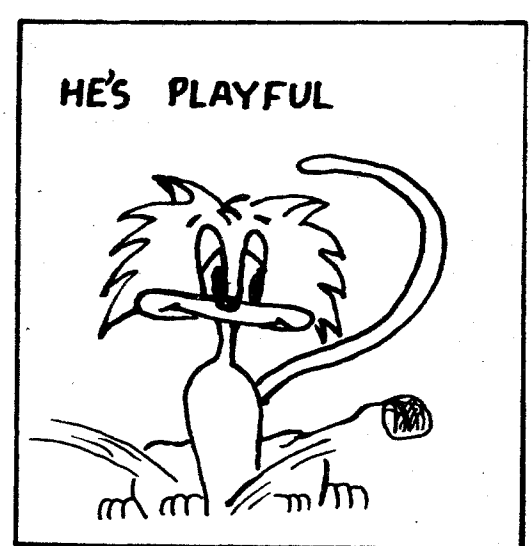
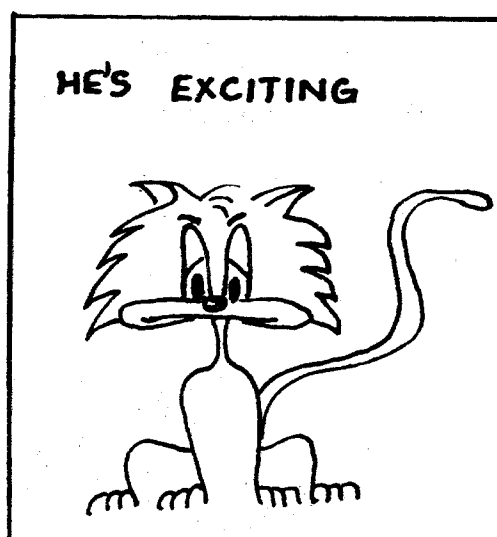
Seeking a Line Budget?  
Budget request forms for the 87/  
88 school year are now available at  
Polity. They are due no later than  
Nov. 21st.

Hotline is a 24-hour intervention,  
information and referral service. We  
are currently understaffed!  
So if you think you have what it  
takes to make me happy, come to the  
Hotline office (Union Rm. 251, in the  
Polity suite) and fill an application.





- X-perimental Comix -



SECTION 20-1, subsec 3F/2

NO HOT PLATES ALLOWED IN THE ROOMS. ORGIES, PARTIES NAKED BODIES AND DRUGS BUT NO HOT PLATES.

**BLAZAR**

BILL ARRIVES HOME AFTER A LATE NIGHT OF STUDYING AT THE LECTURE CENTER

HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE COMFORT OF HIS BED...

CRASH! OUCH! UNPH!

NEXT MORNING HE AWAKES...

AND MAKES HIS WAY TO THE MIRROR...

HE LOOKS INTO THE MIRROR... AAARGH!!! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME, I'M... HORRIBLE! UGLY!

COULD THE FIRE IN THE LECTURE CENTER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY CHANGE?

\*NOTE: THIS IS A VERY SUBTLE HINT.

ACTUALLY, THIS COULD BE GOOD. I'M ONE OF THEM, UGLY, BUT ONE OF THE CROWD THE BABES, THE FUN THE BABES! ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

THIS IS DEFINITELY OUTRAGEOUS! I COULD...

POOF!

BACK TO MY OLD SELF. OH WELL.. ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

STAY LONGER

JACOB JAVITS LECTURE CENTER

**EVOLUTION OF A CHARACTER**

Join The Press

Learn To Play

The Electric Plunger

The Press meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm. in Central Hall, room 042. Stop by.



# David Byrne Meets Mr. Rogers

by Craig Goldsmith

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood of Virgil, Texas. Shot against a background of prairie brush, factories, farmhouses and suburban Texan homes, David Byrne drives a red convertible across the screen in a requiem for the down-home American life. It is a life killed by giant semi-conductor companies, shopping malls, television and general apathy. Byrne, however, does not let his nostalgia for the lost American West sink into sentimental, stomach-turning slop. Rather he gives the people of Virgil (not a real town actually) an open forum where they can express their feelings about Texas, and America, and in the process, reveals that corny ideal of the "indomitable American."

Byrne maintains a delicate balance in *True Stories* — a balance between total objectivity (the film loosely resembles a documentary) and interpretive commentary. The inhabitants of Virgil are, to put it mildly, fucked. Byrne's soft-spoken narration endears the bizarreness of the townspeople rather than allowing them to look foolish.

Driving a convertible (owned, not rented, he tells the audience), wearing a Texas oil tycoon cowboy outfit, Byrne totally throws the audience into the confusion and the insanity of this mythic Texan town. Nothing is closed to Byrne's cameras — from the corridors of Varicorp, the town's chief center of employment, to the bedroom of the local eccentrics, Byrne lays open the lives of Virgil for the public. He walks with the

citizens and they tell him all their personal problems, their fears, their dreams, their needs, their lies. Byrne is a modern Mr. Rogers taking us through an Everytown in an effort to expose some universal truth ... or perhaps just to have a good time. He is the ultimate straight man, never laughing at the absurdities of the lives of Virgil. He accepts everything the people have to say with a disaffected air. Not bored, nor disinterested, just open — the born listener. His cowboy suit and his American-made car, rather than acting as a costume, or his attempt at blending in with the Texans, become him.

Byrne, however, is not the main personage in "True Stories", he only gives the movie its flavor and tone. The people of Virgil are the subject. Draped loosely around the sesquicentennial celebration of the town's founding, the film exposes the drives and needs of the townspeople as well as the sentiments that they have for the town itself. The people are proud of their small town, and of Texas.

Byrne very rarely offers any clue to what he really thinks about what he sees. When he does, he only presents additional information that allows the audience to decide for themselves. In a segment he drives past rows and rows of pre-fabricated corrugated aluminum factories and warehouses. Every building looks the same except for minor variances in color and size. Looking into the camera, Byrne remarks on the ease in which



fucked-upness. Considering that *True Stories* is David Byrne's first shot as a director and as an actor, it makes the film even more a tribute to his talents as an artist.

A word about the music of the film. I have not mentioned the Talking Heads until now for two reasons. First this is a film, Byrne is a director, and a discussion on his vast musical talents is out of place. Second, anyone who doesn't know without being told that Byrne is the lead singer and songwriter for the Talking Heads should have themselves examined for possible braindeath.

The above notwithstanding, the music in *True Stories* is superb. Performed by (who else?) the Talking Heads, the music ranges from muzak-derived background noise, to hard-driving soul (as in the church sequence, wherein the minister is the lead singer of a religious R&B band). Byrne makes a brief appearance as a singer in a lip-sync competition in the local nightclub, singing T-Heads. Various characters can be heard humming T-Heads songs while they work or shop, in fact the Muzak heard in the shopping mall is based on T-Heads material. More subtle commentary, David?

Although the flagrant use of his own music could possibly be misconstrued as egoism, Byrne's choice of music is impeccable in every scene. The only problem is that MTV has taken clips from the film to use as videos. Whether or not Byrne allowed this, I don't know, but the videos in circulation do a disservice to both the film and Byrne's considerable ability as a director.

business men can set up these buildings. He explains that all you have to do is order a building from the catalogue, specify size, shape, color, and — boom — a building is delivered, assembled, and you're in business.

Although, he doesn't actually say it, Byrne's implication is clear — that pre-fabricated, factory-made depersonalized buildings suck. But it is Byrne's subtlety in speech and presentation that allows his few digressions into commentary to come off in a good light, rather than appearing condescending. It is that condescension of societal observers (don't nail me to a cross, please) that tends to piss people off instead of giving them food for thought. This is what makes this film so good: Byrne is able to criticize shopping malls, plastic buildings, even evangelical religious groups, without looking down his nose at them. He lets the falseness of modern America poke fun at itself.

It's difficult, though, to describe exactly what this film is trying to do. It is beyond that sort of description. It both labasts Americana and glorifies it. It portrays the people of Virgil as hopeless fools and as the last remnants of honest-to-God Americans. Throughout it maintains a balance of wit, intelligence, visual beauty, and general

drum set.

Love & Rockets, although a little tough to grasp visually due to Daniel's antics, were pleasing to the ear. They played flawlessly with just a twinge of feedback. The only disappointment that the over anxious audience displayed with the Band was its refusal to play the favorite, "Haunted."

ience displayed with the Band was its refusal to play the favorite, "Haunted."

If you missed Love & Rockets at Bay Street, don't despair; they'll be playing at The Ritz in Manhattan at an undetermined date in the near future.

## Love and Rockets Take Off

By Quinn Kaufman

Straight off the yacht from England and into the hazy harbor of Sag were David J., a former member of Bau Haus and the band Love & Rockets, to play this past Saturday evening at Bay Street.

Opening up for Love & Rockets at 11:30 was The Lucy Show — red hair and all. Unlike the main act, they came in on a boat. The Lucy Show, also from Britain, played with such charisma and humbleness during "Heaven" and "Whitespace" that most spectators seemed to appreciate them more than Love & Rockets, even though The Lucy Show only performed for half an hour.

The main attraction, came on at 1:00am with rambunctious greetings from the overly excited flock of homosapiens.

Lead singer and guitarist Daniel Ash, wearing white pants, knee-high black combat boots, black spiked hair and matching gold earrings seemed to be playing the part of a super-idol-king-Tut. Don't misunderstand me, though, the band played magnificently. They wailed brilliantly through "It Could Be Sunshine," "The Dog End of a

Day Gone By," "Saudade," "The Seventh Dream of Teenage Heaven," and "If There's A Heaven Above," so loudly that I still can't hear right. At times you'd find it hard to believe that fame had not taken its monstrous toll upon Daniel. As he euphoniously blurted out in Kundalini Express, "Ego is not longer you," I couldn't help thinking that Daniel, alone, was making up for lost personal esteem and is now THE ego. He plucked and twanged his guitar like he'd just O.D.'ed on Dexatrim, and the way that he laid on stage, with his feet furiously kicking the air, along with the imaginary rope that pulled he upper lip to the zenith, was just a bit too much.

But the band played on, with the long-awaited encore of "Ball of Confusion." Bassist David J. and drummer Kevin Haskins played with genuine excellence, and not a bit of arrogance. David J. looked really mod with his blond crew cut, black round glasses and plaid pants Kevin played drum in an old Bau Haus tune with such power and tempo that at one point he looked as though he was going to crumble into his

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