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VOLUME XLI, NUMBER 50

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998

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Food Fight

Chartwells
Management Face
Tough Questioning
From Students in
Public Forum

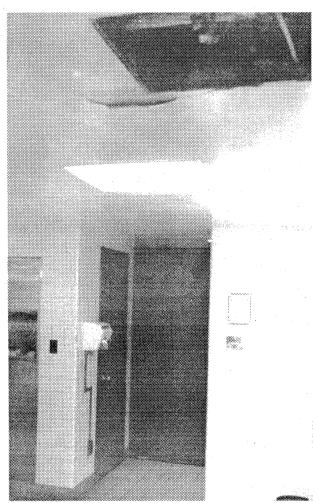
Page 3

Student Union Shows Age

By Marjory Thompson

Have you ever wondered, just how old the Student Union is? As you walk around, one casually notices that it's slowly but surely falling apart. Many offices, including the *Statesman* office, have holes in the ceilings, leaks and show various signs of structural deterioration.

Student building manager Jarelyn Lopez reported complaints about acts of vandalism in the public bathrooms and leaks in offices such as the Center For Women's Concerns. The NYPIRG office has been one of these rooms that have been experiencing the leak problem. A completely rotted out pipe is now leaking runoff waste into the NYPIRG office which has caused



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying
The women's bathroom in the Union has a huge hole in



The NYPIRG office has runoff waste leaking into the room.

he room.

flooding and foul odors to emanate. "The smell was so bad that students could not come down to work there. It is disgusting," said Todd Stebbins, the project coordinator for NYPIRG. It took NYPIRG three weeks to get approval to move their office next door, into the former CSA Lounge for one month, until their office is repaired.

To remedy these problems a lengthy process takes place. The problems must first be reported to the office of Student Union and Activities. They are then reported to the physical plant to be fixed. Depending on how well a job the workers of the physical plant do, the problem is either fixed properly or occurs again, as is often the case.

Of course, as with every state sponsored institution, any reported problems go through some bureaucratic redtape. There is not enough personnel at the physical plant to cover all the problems. Things are fixed according to necessity, who's available to fix it, and the cheapest way available to fix it, which may not always be the best way.

If you've heard rumors about the Student Union being torn down, they are not true, for now that is. From

the meetings that the building managers have had, it is the understanding that the union will get renovated as time goes on, and will continue to operate as any other building on campus.

Most of the minor problems that can be noted are structural ones like holes and rust. There are also more serious problems such as exposed wiring in the ceiling of the basement.

Remember last semester when the bridge was falling apart and it was fixed? Well for some reason some stones are still loose and rock as you walk on them.

On the positive side, it can be noted that all the public facilities like the bathrooms and study lounges were clean, or as clean as public facilities get anyway. David Kline of WUSB said, "The office was clean, vacuumed frequently, and had the garbage taken out frequently."

The Student Union is too vital a student resource to allow it to become obsolete and worn-out. If money needs to be spent to get it fixed and renovated, then its worth it.

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Charting a New Course on Food

Students Accuse Chartwells of Breaking Meal Plan Contract in Wagner College Meeting

By RISHAD JONUSCHAT Statesman Staff

On Tuesday night, University students and Chartwell's management gathered in the lobby of Wagner College to discuss the new meal plan. The decorum of the meeting was not always peaceful.

Chartwell's began a ten year contract with Campus Dining Services (CDS) this past July, and it was not long before students levied complaints over rising prices cases of food poisoning, and a lack of variety in food

Students were generally pleased with the outcome of the meeting, which was attended by Michael Weintraub, the director of the Kelly dining center, and Dennis Lestrange, the director of Dining Services. Lestrange and Weintraub were tentative in taking down students' points. Some of the 75 students were not very cordial during the meeting however.

One student said that the meat used for a sandwich was an inferior quality to the Boar's Head, and the quantity was insufficient for the price paid. Other students complained about the poor layout of Taco Bell in Kelly Quad, and a smaller supply of prepackaged items in the Deli.

"Many of their policies are inconsistent, for instance, fluctuating prices, and I think they need to be more stable if they expect to serve the campus community," said sophomore Glenn Given.

Lestrange promised that improvements would take place in the newly refurbished Deli. Some of these additions will include a case for bottled beverages ensuring that each drink is chilled, a stock of canned foods, an increase in products such as cookies, and more shelving for nonperishable items.

The changeover this summer has inevitably led to differences from the policies of the last meal plan provider, Aramark. Students are still having difficulties with their meal plans. Some students on meal plan B are unaware of what mixtures of food and drink they can have for one meal price. During the meeting a student was unsure as to why only 'six well - balanced meals' are served weekly instead of seven per week.

"We had nice things planned out for this meal plan, the Faculty Student Association has let us down," said senior Frank Santangelo, a member of the dining services committee which voted on Chartwell's contract in the spring. Santangelo grew irate at the meeting, at times yelling "liar" at Lestrange as he sought to defend Chartwell's actions.

Santangelo pointed out several price discrepancies from the meal plan contract that Chartwell's signed: the philly cheese steak which was to originally cost \$3.75, and is now \$4.89; a 32 ounce fountain soda which went from a contract price, according to Santangelo, of \$1.25



Chartwell's manager Dennis Lestrange

to \$2.32, in addition to other items.

Some students found price discrepancies within the campus itself. "I paid \$1.75 in the Student Union deli for orange juice, and only \$1.50 in the SAC," said senior Terry McLaren.

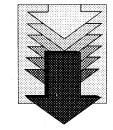
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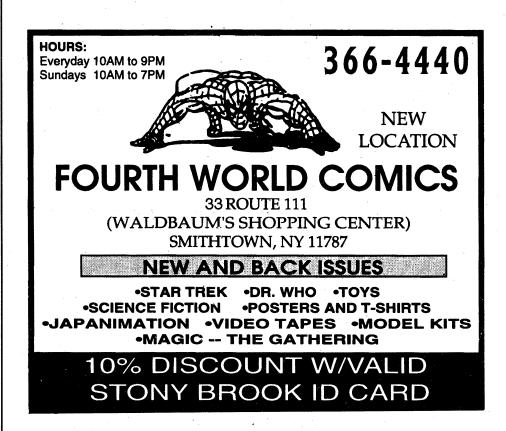
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Continued from the Back Page

in flames. The sculpture suggests the interconnectedness and passion of a relationship, as well as the sanctity of its memory and its aftermath.

One of the strengths of the exhibition is the consistency of the concept of negotiation between interior and exterior in each of the five pieces. Physically, all of the sculptures have an interior containing a small object-a boat, fuel canisters, lead rhinoceros, pair of hands, or sugar in glass jars. Enclosing or surrounding each of these objects is a roughlooking barrier that appears to protect its precious contents while at the me time preventing them from interaction with the outside world. The duality can be associated with the desire to burst out (emotionally, physically, sexually) and to safeguard inner emotions.

The Artist

My dad thinks contemporary art is opaque, cryptic and esoteric. He might go to a museum on a very rare occasion, out of a sense of duty or obligation, he might even enjoy himself. But he'll tell you he didn't get it. Words elude him. He can't tell you what most things mean.

What I'm here to say is that my dad understands a lot more than he thinks he does. If I ask him the right questions, he can answer definitively. "Is this one aggressive or passive, Dad?" "Are the colors aggravating or soothing?" "Does it seem larger than life and scary or oppressive, or more like a miniature, like a model or a narrative?" He just needs a little he consciously identifying the characteristics of the art that have already spoken to his subconscious and have

communicated a feeling. Unfortunately, the feeling is often better before it's in words. Something is lost in the translation. He goes away thinking, "Oh, that's all it is. That's kind-of dumb."

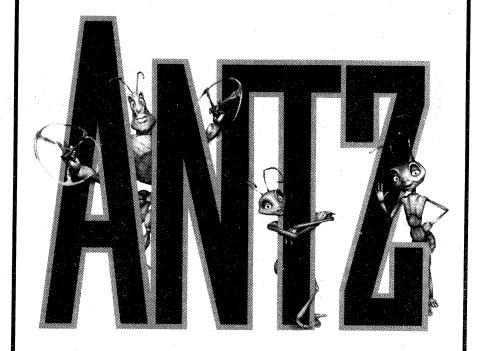
This is a major reason most people in the world don't like to go see contemporary art. At first they don't think they understand it, then when someone explains it, either it sounds too complicated and infested with theory (which it usually is not, in fact), or too simplistic and mundane. That's because art is not a verbal language. It is a language in the sense that it communicates ideas from one individual mind to another, but it cannot be reduced to words. If the artist could have spoken the idea, or simply written it on the canvas, wouldn't that have saved a lot of trouble?

In the old day, many artists made allegorical paintings that could be reduced concretely to sentences like "Napoleon was a good ruler," or "St. Sebastian was artyred for the God he loved." Even these also communicated a great deal more, though, something more emotive than merely informational. People learnded to love Napoleon for hes majesty and aspire to Sebastian's faith.

Today's art usually does not use symbols that can be deciphered so easily into words. I, for one, try to avoid this type of easy reading because it leads to dismissal. Ambiguity leaves rooom for a viewer to com back at another time and see somethign new. It's all right with me if two people have different reading of a peice; I usually find several levels of meaning in my own work. I strive only to put peole in the ballpark of an emotion. Just tune in to yourself when you look at art. You probably know more than you think.

- Todd McCollister

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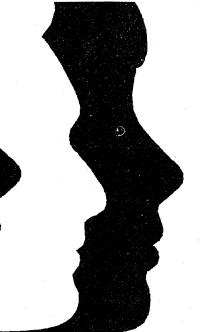


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Friday & Saturday, October 30th - 31st, 1998
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Now in its 14th year, the Retreat brings together a diverse mix of 60 Stony Brook students, faculty, staff and administrators who will focus their attention on this year's theme: "In Search of Community." The Retreat will be held on Friday, October 30th and Saturday, October 31st.

The Planning committee welcomes applications from students who would like to become more active in areas of campus life. As the application process is competitive, please make sure that you answer all questions fully and that the completed application is returned by October 9th, 2998. Applications can be obtained from and submitted to Colette A. Reid, the SFS Retreat Graduate Student Co-Chair, SAC Room, 219. If you have any questions regarding the application or the Retreat, please call 632-9906 and ask for Colette.

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Editorial & Commentary

A Loss of Appetite

FSA and Chartwells Breach Service Contract

When Chartwells announced as the new meal plan provider on campus last summer, many students were elated to be free of Aramark and the problems that came along with their services. Unfortunately, the students were proved wrong. Instead of rectifying the problem, the Faculty Student Association and Chartwells have given the campus even more of a headache.

Students have numerous complaints against the new meal plan. Residents are avoiding Plan B because of the strict definition of what a "meal" is. For example, if a student eats in his/her dining hall and wants to eat the turkey instead of the fish but they want the side of rice that comes with the fish, it is not considered a "meal."

new meal plan provider include the lack of variety in the food. In the Kelly Deli, and H-Quad, there is a shortage of prepackaged food. For the amount of money paid, students are also angry that the

quality of the food is not adequate. Vegetarians on campus are also at a loss with the lack of selection available to them.

Although they are getting better, the kitchens are dirty and unsanitary. Last week in the Kelly Deli, there was grease on the floor, leftover food in the slicer and a foul stench from the garbage lingering in the air. These problems arise from the eateries being understaffed.

In the original contract, Chartwells appeared to be a competitive and ideal choice. Filled with promises to expand the food services to help accommodate a growing university, the promises came up empty. However, not all the blame can be placed on Chartwells.

FSA has played a key role in the Other complaints against the problems of the meal plan. In the contract, FSA listed some prices; the Philly cheese steak was originally \$3.75, but the current price paid is \$4.89, a 32 oz fountain drink was listed as \$1.25 but in actuality costs \$2.32. The change in prices is a

breach of contract and there are countless other discrepancies.

But why would FSA list false prices on a contract and then overcharge the campus? FSA is a non-profit organization that is supposed to help the campus, but they have a lot to gain from Chartwells. They make a 13% of the gross sum of the plans offered, or \$2 million a year, which ever one is

The students have the ability to fix these problems. Students have to voice their concerns to the administration and take action. FSA must be made accountable to those they are supposed to be serving- the students.

There is talk that students will be bringing a class action suit against FSA for the breach of contract and the inadequate food. Students are being charged \$2400 per year for the meal plan, and that is not money that most students can throw around frivolously, so make sure other people are not doing it for

Don't Vote? Don't Bitch!

By TODD STEBBINS SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN

"Who are the electors...? Not the rich more than the poor, not the learned, more than the ignorant, not the haughty heirs of distinguished names, more and unpropitious fortune. The electors are to be the great body of the people of the United States." -The Federalist #57

It is apparent that students on this campus are far removed from interest in deciding who will run for political offices in New York State due to the near dismal turnout for the September primaries. Although this was a primary election for only one all it takes is for you to turn the there are more than 25 registered Democrats on this campus.

So I ask you all, why? Why did our forefathers fight against the tyranny of England to have their interests better

movement? Why did students fight to get voting booths on this campus if you aren't going to even take the five minutes to vote? Why can't you recognize that voting for the people who represent you is a privilege?

It took people like Nelson than the humble sons of obscure Mandela 76 years to get the privilege to vote and in our country

> "Why has your tuition gone up over 160% since 1990? The reason is students don't vote."

party, it is more than likely that age of eighteen. Why has your tuition gone up over 160% since 1990? The reason is students don't

Why is the governor advertising that he cut education taxes by 40% for Senior Citizens? represented? Why did women's Simply because Senior Citizens suffrage occur? What was the vote. Why is financial aid reason for the civil rights forecasted to take yet another slashing in the 1999 state budget? The reason is obvious. Not enough students vote and they don't use their voting power as a block to make elected officials accountable to their needs.

What are our needs? Hmmm... I think that question can be answered by any student on this campus. Keeping tuition affordable, making it so that housing is available to all students on this campus, stopping the cuts to programs like TAP, SEEK and HEOP, and making this campus accessible to all who want to get access to higher education.

How do we all do this? Get out the vote! It is as simple as that. The student population of this campus which is at least 18,000, can easily swing the outcome of almost all elections in this state. You understand the problem, now fix it. Vote this November and make them all accountable to you, the student.

-Todd Stebbins is the Project Coordinator of NYPIRG

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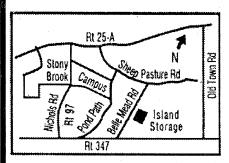
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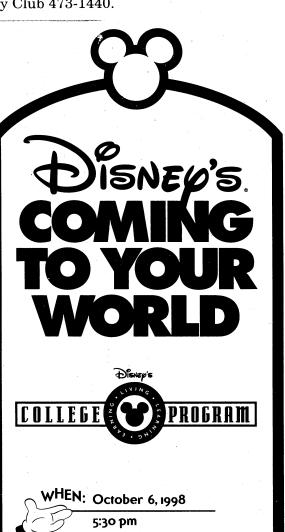
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The Stony Brook States man Monday, October 1, 1998

HOMECOMING '98 Seawolves



Come out and cheer our mighty Stony Brook Seawolves as they battle the Albany Great Danes Saturday, October 17

BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST!

Show your spirit and win a great prize! Commuters and Residents are encouraged to enter the Bulletin Board Contest. Applications are due Monday, October 12; Boards must be on display by Campus Lifetime, Wednesday, October 14. Applications are available at the Commuter Student Affairs office and for Residents at your college office.

1 p.m. Football Field



PARADE AND STREET FESTIVAL

After the game, stay around for great food, fun, and fireworks!

9:00 p.m Carnival 10:15 p.m. Parade 12:00 a.m. Winners

Announced

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

AppleFest and Homecoming Kickoff Celebration, Student Activities Center Plaza, 12:00 noon - 2:10 p.m. Celebrate the Opening of Homecoming with a variety of apple treats, prizes, and a WBLI 106.1 FM live remote.

"Swallow This," 7 p.m., Stony Brook Union Auditorium. This show is a theatrical performance written, created, and performed by USB students, featuring hilarious yet sensitive student choices and their ramifications, which are explored through vignettes.

Homecoming King and Queen Contest, Student Activities Center Auditorium, 8:00 p.m. Presentations given by all student contestants. Judges will select King, Queen, and their Court, to be announced during Saturday's half-time show. Free Admission. For contest rules, contact the Office of Student Activities, Suite 219, Student Activities Center, 632-9392.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

SAB Tokyo Joe's Dance Party, Stony Brook Union Ballroom, 10:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Building Homecoming Parade Floats throughout Friday and Saturday in assigned locations. For more information, call the Office of Student Activities at 632-9392.

5th Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series/Award Presentation and Luncheon, The School of Health Technology and Management,

Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 2, Level 2, East Campus, 12:00 noon -2:00 p.m.

Midnight Madness, Kickoff event to celebrate USB Men's and Women's Basketball season. Laser light show, T-shirt giveaways, and fabulous prizes, including a chance to win a car and tuition. Sports Complex Arena, 10:45 p.m. -1:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Alumni Games: Football, Lacrosse, Women's Soccer, on the practice fields behind the Sports Complex. Come cheer our alumni as they recapture the magic. Alumni Reunion Tent with hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, and refreshments. 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Homecoming '98 Football Game, on the Football Field, Stony Brook Seawolves vs. Albany Great Danes. Kickoff, 1:00 p.m. Halftime show featuring the Brentwood High School "Green Machine" Marching Band, pictures with the Seawolves mascot, and the crowning of Homecoming King, Queen, and Court. Come cheer our mighty Seawolves on to victory!

Post-Game All Campus Celebration Buffet. Bring your football game ticket for free entry to this extravaganza of food, friends, music, and dancing. Meet with USB's head football coach Sam Kornhauser and help us cut the Homecoming 1998 Celebration cake! End of the Bridge Restaurant, Stony Brook Union, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"Za Ondekoza" Drummers of Japan. Staller Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m. Inspired by nature,

their folk music is visual as well as aural. A spectacular performance for the whole family. Tickets for USB students and alumni with ID are \$12; general admission, \$26.

Homecoming Street Festival. Student Activities Center Drive and Plaza, 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. Featuring a carnival with games, rides, magicians, jugglers, photo buttons, sand art, washable tattoos, and DJ's playing music. Grucci Fireworks will light up the skies at 10:45 p.m. Parade float, banners, and bulletin board winners will be announced at midnight.

Homecoming Parade, 10:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., starting at Roosevelt Quad and continuing along Student Activities Center Drive to Old H lot then back to SAC Plaza. Come cheer on your clubs, sororities, fraternities, athletes, performers, and more. This year's parade will feature Homecoming Grand Marshals, Bill Knapp '78 and Jane Knapp '78, the Homecoming Court, and spectacular floats.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Stony Brook Alumni Association's 10th Annual 5K Walk & Run for Scholarships. Race will begin in front of the Sports Complex, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Immediately following the race will be a Pancake Breakfast, SB Union Ballroom. Six categories of awards and a grand prize will be given to First Place Winners. \$10 registration fee for students; \$15, community, faculty, and staff; \$18, day of race. All pre-registrants receive a free towel. Join the Seawolves mascot as he races toward the finish line.





Dialogues on Works of Art

Three Looks at aGrad Student's Exhibit

An Overview

Even as a kid, when I used to watch Gilligan's Island I always wondered about the real relationships that were behind the smilingly bucolic niceness we saw. The undercurrent of repressed desire and sexuality between the Professor and Mary Ann was really too whitewashed to be believable by anyone. Ginger's Marilyn Monroe sexiness was too flaunted to be understood, considering the circumstances, as were the Skippers and Gilligan's supposed nonchalant abstinence. Any croticism between Luvee and Thurston was obviously unthinkable. This crystal clear ambiguity obviously gave a real charge to the show and was one of the reasons we all kept watching: we wanted these inevitable desires to come to fruition. Would it be the Professor and Maryann or would it be Ginger and Maryann? Really there was no limit to what could have happened (and probably would have in any real situation).

That latent, bubbling-to-the-surface eroticism added the charge that not only kept us watching but also made us care. By hoping, not only that they would be saved (did we hope for that? did they?), but that they would fulfill our and their fantasies, we related somehow to their plight. Their loneliness was somehow real in a way that we can all relate to (and I don't mention Sartre's "No Exit" because that would be too passé). We sense only too often that distance from real contact, despite the proximity of others who might very well be inhabiting the very same geography.

In the show of sculpture by Todd McCollister "Exhibition on a Desert Island", the visitor is tacitly invited to visit with the sculptor on his island, to see his desires, even if they are coded to obscure them. The pieces all radiate a subtle poetry, which speaks to a desire within them to be with and within the viewer, as well as the viewer's desire to be there. Each is symbolic and representative of the artist's sense of solitude and longing but also speaks to the very same sense of him or herself the viewer brings to the pieces.

Using found objects as well as constructions, McCollister creates a series of love poems written to the beloved (in an abstract sense of "the beloved") as well as internally musing on the nature of "this thing called love".

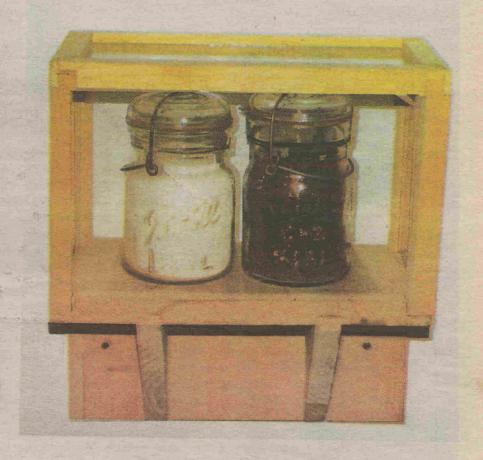
In the sparsest of terms possible the sculptor has worked in a subtle Zen-like nuance which demands much of the viewer.

Perhaps, if there is a flaw in the show it is precisely here: the work, while offering a certain poetic radiance does not contain, at every turn, the undeniable quality it requires. Just as poetry demands that each word be the condensed and most correct usage, so this work, due to the sparseness of elements and richness of content, requires the same precision. It feels almost ass if the work reaches to varying degrees that level of fruition but as an installation the work can be somewhat lost in the space. Despite this the charm and elegance of the pieces is strong and communicative, making the spectator a willing participant in Todd's emotional poetry.

In the floor piece "Go east to the Rising Sun" the viewer looks down upon a small hand carved boat floating in a wooden pool sitting in a heavy iron carriage. An anchor secures the boat, despite its obvious inability to drift any distance due to its size in relation to the diminutive pool in which it sits. While the boat cannot travel any meaningful distance the larger pool and carriage in which it sits is inevitably completely transportable. The viewer looks into this little boat and senses a relationship with it, one that tells us that the boat is the heart of the matter, and its trapped solitude is not accidental but metaphorical. Despite the melancholy nature of the piece, as well as some of the others, the poetry in the work makes us not feel pity for the poor little boat but empathy with it in a tender and almost wholesome way. This is desire with little to no tint of perversion, it is a desire almost completely un-eroticized, perhaps even bucolic.

The wholesomeness one could find in this piece could be found in the other four pieces as well but it could also be deceiving to a great degree. Just as beneath the surface of the good natured Mary Ann there was always the implicitly sensual and erotic person that each of us could be (or is), here too is to be found a sentimentality not at all devoid of its eroticism. The overt asexuality, in a reverse of its appearance, offers up a noble eroticism, one that might lay the foundation for an even more intense perversion.

If we simply remember that in the seven cast Gilligan's Island there lay a potential of 28 amorous interactions (to keep it between couples), several of them somehow openly implied, the rest potentially or otherwise, it is apparent that the complicity of any two objects becomes loaded with the long fingers of desire. At the same time the elegance, silence and poetry of Todd McCollisters work



Oh Sugar Sugar, above, and Torero, by Todd McAlister

becomes immediately charged in a similar way. This comes not from the inherent nature of men and women trapped alone on a steamy deserted island but instead by the nature of our own understanding of the solitude and desire inherent inside each and every one of us, and which radiates from each of the pieces and the whole of the show. The works are on view weekdays 10 am - 4 pm until October 6.

-Keith Miller

Duality&Isolation

A small wooden boat floats silently in a wooden pool sheltered within an iron wagon. Movement is implied through the floating of the boast and the wheels of the wagon, but anchored, the boat cannot float far within its small rectangular confinement, and the wagon seems rusted into stasis The sculpture, Go East to the Rising Sun, implies a desire to break free, yet overwhelming sense of immobility and isolation.

Go East to the Rising Sun, by MFA candidate Todd McCollister is one of five sculptures currently on view in the Library Gallery on the first floor of the



Statesman/Peter Gratton

Melville Library. McCollister's Exhibition on a Desert Island explores the human emotions of isolation, longing, self-protection, and passion through a combination of carefully constructed wooden pieces and found metal and glass objects.

Like Go East to the Rising Sun, the sculpture entitled Tinder Box, has a sense of mystery to it. In Tinder Box a burned metal box rests on an altar-like wooden table. The box is partly open, but only darkness emerges. Upon opening the box, two burned-out fuel canisters can be seen. McCollister explains that to create this piece he lit one of the canister and, after burning awhile, the first canister lit the second before the whole box was engulfed

Please See Dialogues on Page 5

The following issue, printed as Vol. 41, issue # 50, should have been identified as Vol. 42, issue # 10.