



FROM BERLIN TO BAGHDAD

By Fred Mayer

It's difficult to assimilate the events of the past year. This essay is bifurcated. It's a study of contrast.

I. A Thin Ray of Hope

For me, the former Berlin Wall bears many meanings, living as I do in a postmodern world in which rebounding waves of historic signification wash over us, generating formidable interference patterns. Two defining features of the 20th Century - Third Reich and Nuclear Device - fused and became strangely transmogrified in the Wall: an object, an incarnate history, an event... always a media event. The sloshing of worldwide forces climaxed and was then instantly frozen by nuclear deterrence. In 1961, a circular crystal formed in Berlin. It was made of concrete.

The unmistakable signs of thaw in Eastern Europe - conveyed by TV - continued to surface all through the Fall of last year. Finally, a threshold was reached and crossed. In the early hours of Wednesday November

8th, then Mayor-elect Dinkins delivered his acceptance speech, citing the New York Jewish community as "a light unto nations..." On both sides of the Atlantic, political survival was being played out. Sitting in a Long Island living room watching a box, I heard Jurgen Sudhoff, the West German State Secretary from the Foreign Ministry state in broken English: "Well I think it is the demonstration of the fact that the leadership in East Berlin at last has understood what the time is - namely the time of the present situation where people are treated as young children with no say in their own affairs - that time is over." Then came Thursday November 9th. A stunning concept was born out of repeated requests for clarity by an American anchorperson:

"...do I understand it correctly: Citizens of the GDR can leave through any checkpoint that they choose, for personal reasons? They no longer have to go through a second country?"

"They are not further forced by the GDR...transit through another country."

"It is possible for them to go through the Wall at any point?"

"It is possible for them to go through the border."

"Freedom to travel?"

"Yes, of course... It is no question of tourism, it is the permission of leaving GDR."

With those words, the infinitely thin border between two historical eras was crossed. A Wall which 191 people had died to cross, with the most recent casualty occurring in the early months of 1989, became a useless landmark.

Powerful emotions gripped the world as we watched, over the shoulders of the wide-eyed TV correspondents at the Brandenburg Gate, students occupying the Wall and furtively pummeling it with pick axes. As the coverage progressed, we realized that both the East German and West German police were attempting to keep the students away from the Wall! Somehow this perfectly matched the emotional age-gap which manifested itself on all the pundit-coverage. Switching channels, we watched old veterans of the Cold War showing their true colors: Senator Sam Nunn - "We have...a great deal of instability here..." A very concerned looking Walt W. Rostow actually proposed that the NATO and Warsaw pacts be converted into arms

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BONFIRE OF UNITY

By Robert V. Gilheany

Black Unity Day was celebrated with a beautiful bonfire and a keynote address by former Black Panther and political prisoner, Dharuba Bin Wahad. A crowd of two hundred (predominantly, but not exclusively, Black) gathered between O'Neil College and the Student Union. A pile of wood were set up for the bonfire and everyone was waiting for the Fire Marshall to show up; he never did. Someone from the crowd yelled, "Typical Stony Brook Scam - They will try anything to stop us!" But still, the bonfire was set ablaze and flames shot thirty feet into the air, sending warmth throughout the area.

Polity President Dan Slepian spoke about the State Budget crisis and its effects on students. He said that because of the Budget crisis, tuition is going up \$100 in January, then it will be raised to another \$500 - \$700 next Fall. Slepian continued - "The cuts in the SUNY budget don't just mean the elimination of departments but the whole university will be closed." When asked if New York State Budget crisis is the result of Reaganomics, he said, "Reagan was the worst thing that has happened to this country, ever."

Poetry was read by African Studies Program Professor Louis Revara. His poetry was very moving and well delivered. His poems dealt with the plight and history of Black working people. One poem described

the manual labor of the ghosts of past women janitors, who would scrub the floor of the office that he once worked in. Another poem recalled the assassination of Malcolm X - *the bullet screaming! the martyr falling...* It was very powerful. Dr. Florence Cash, the Chair of AFS, spoke of the importance of studying Black history (from slavery to the present) but also cautioned that there are "plenty of problems happening on our campus and in our community right now."

The keynote speaker, Dharuba Bin Wahad, was introduced as a former Black Panther who was sent to jail on charges that accused him of attempting to kill two police officers. Later on, he pointed out that "we are living in dangerous times," reminding the crowd of the impending economic crisis, the Persian Gulf situation, as well as the African American relationship to the U.S. capitalistic economy from the time of slavery to the present. He then expanded his speech on the U.S. war against people of color throughout the world - from Palestinians to South Africans to Vietnamese.

Wahad talked of the Black Panthers and their fight against police brutality, the Vietnam War, housing and employment, and self-defense of the African American community. He spoke of the Black Panther Free Lunch Program which gave free food to poor people. A Free Breakfast Program was also set up in many cities across the country,

including one in Hauppauge which was run with the help of Stony Brookers of the Red Balloon.

In the 1960's, the Panthers worked with Leftist groups such as Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The Panthers had a clear political analysis derived from the idea of human liberation. During those times, several Black Panthers offices in many cities were attacked and firebombed by the police.

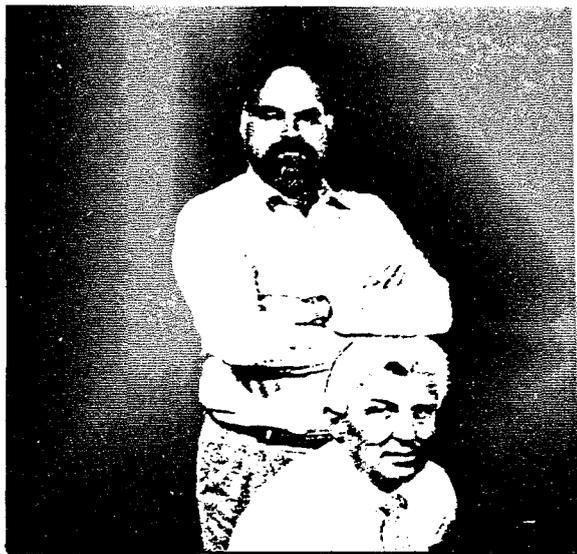
Wahad said, "You [Blacks] are not here [at the university] because they love you, you are here because Black brothers and sisters fought for your right to be here." He urged the crowd to work on freeing political prisoners in the U.S. - "Right now, there are more than 200 political prisoners in this country without any support." He said that the ANC (African National Congress) demands the freedom of its political prisoners before they would start negotiating. "These people are in prison because they love you," Wahad said - "Any movement that doesn't put the release of its political prisoners in the forefront is not a movement worthy of support."

After Dharuba Bin Wahad finished his speech, people got up and spoke. One particular student spoke about how we should look out for and take care of *our* women. A friend of mine said, "Rob, this guy is a sexist pig. Let's get out of here." We split. ■

In Search of the "Higgs" Particle Physicists Collaborate

By John Sealy

Michael Marx a dynamic professor of Physics at Stony Brook, heads a 350 member team in search of the elusive "Higgs" particle.



The Soviet Union has agreed to contribute up to \$200 million to a consortium, based at the University at Stony Brook, that hopes to build one of the two large detectors at the Superconducting Super Collider.

The detector team, called EMPACT/TEXAS, is headed by Michael Marx, professor of physics at Stony Brook. (EMPACT stands for Electrons, Muons and

Partons Using Air Core Toroids.) The group is one of three contending to build the initial two large detectors planned for the SSC Laboratory, to be located near Dallas, Texas.

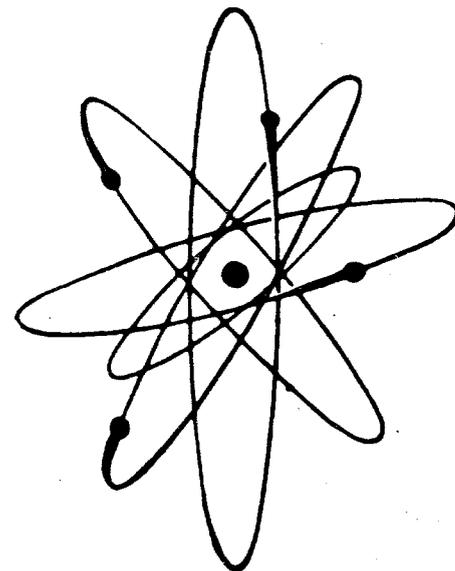
Particle physicists, in company with nuclear and atomic physicists, astrophysicists and cosmologists, are beginning to understand not simply what matter is, but when, how, and where it originated. The physics community in the United States has reached a broad consensus that an accelerator should be constructed to explore realms where phenomenal discoveries can be expected. The accelerator is the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), a twenty trillion electron volt proton synchrotron, or more simply put, a proton-proton collider.

There exist four forces known to us thus far - gravity, electricity, magnetism, strong and weak forces and possibly a yet unknown fifth force. To discover this fifth force is one of the objectives of the 8 billion dollar operation, which will provide unprecedented insights into the world of elementary particles and perhaps the birth of the universe.

Dr. Marx mentioned that 50 universities and labs are involved world wide, twelve of these being Soviet institutions. Of the 350 physicists involved, 140 are Russian.

The accelerator will collide particles at high velocities to produce particles with different charges and masses." Professor

Marx and Dr. Metcalf agree, "The problem is that nobody knows why the masses and charges are different." According to Dr. Metcalf, an accelerator must be built because the high velocities needed to split the particles cannot be reached without one. ■



Teacher and Course Evaluation at Stony Brook

By Scott Skinner

"Students do not decide what will be in the curriculum, how it will be taught, or who will teach it. They decide very little-- if anything at all--regarding the academic aspect of the university. They have no power to do so: they have only their opinions." -- Introduction, **Teacher Evaluation and Course Guide**, 1967

Back in the 60's, the question wasn't "Do students have the right to judge teachers?" but rather "How can teacher evaluations be presented objectively?" The answer to the latter question was a source of much discussion and debate among students, faculty, and administration. According to Dr. Richard Solo, Director of New Student Programs, "Powerful student forces existed at Stony Brook in the 60's...students were actively involved in all aspects of University operations." The widespread student-apathy of the 80's was unknown to the students of the 60's, whose "fanatical zeal" resulted in the production of a series of teacher and course evaluation guides. In recent years, an intermittent movement has surfaced to bring Stony Brook back to that time when students played an active role in the University affairs that shaped their lives. The history of teacher and course evaluations at Stony Brook is rich with the success and failure of students and faculty alike, both of whom endeavored to improve the quality of teaching on campus.

In 1967, Stony Brook's first teacher and course evaluation guide was published as a resource guide for students. The modest 58 page book provided statistical information and student comments, compiled from questionnaires distributed and collected by student canvassers. Although the students controlled all of the aspects of production, the project was really a joint effort between the students and faculty. Many departments were utilized for various services, including the Psychology Department for advice on statistical and psychological problems. Funding was provided by Polity, the University, and Upward Bound.

By the Spring of 1974, the **Teacher and Course Evaluation** guide had evolved into a mammoth 740 page book that was affectionately referred to as "the green monster." Unlike the earlier volumes, the 1974 edition stressed student comments, and included verbatim quotes from the students themselves. However, all student comments went through a reviewing process which corrected spelling and grammatical mistakes. Obscene and inappropriate comments were not published. According to the guide's introduction, "...a careful attempt was made to provide a broad representative sample of the total number of comments." Once again, the staff consisted solely of students, with the exception of a non-teaching professional working through the Office of Undergraduate Studies. However, unlike earlier volumes, the 1974 edition was completely funded by the University under a special Teacher Evaluation account. The

guide was extremely expensive to produce, which ultimately led to its demise. The 1974 spring edition was the last edition published.

In the years that followed, it was the Administration that assumed the full responsibilities of teacher and course evaluation. Although evaluation surveys were distributed and collected, no effort was made to compile the data into a usable medium. The purpose of the surveys was no longer to assist the students in the selection of teachers and courses. The new surveys were primarily designed for the benefit of the faculty and the Administration. The new process called for the faculty to voluntarily distribute and collect the evaluations, which were subsequently filed away in the Office of

1974

STUDENT COMMENT (14):

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS THE INSTRUCTOR TOLD US, "I GET PAID TO DO RESEARCH, NOT TO TEACH". HE HAS CERTAINLY LIVED UP TO THAT CLAIM. PROFESSOR ROSENTHAL IS DEFINITELY THE WORST INSTRUCTOR THAT I HAVE HAD AT STONY BROOK. THE LECTURES ARE BORING AND HAVE VERY LITTLE SUBSTANCE. THE READING IS TERRIBLE-- AT TIMES IT IS PRACTICALLY INCOHERENT. (ONE BOOK WAS TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, AND THE TRANSLATION MADE ALMOST NO SENSE). PROFESSOR ROSENTHAL DOES NOT SEEM TO CARE IN ANY WAY ABOUT WHAT HE'S TEACHING AND WHY HE'S TEACHING. THE COURSE IS COMPLETELY GARBLED: THE LECTURES MADE NO SENSE AND THE TEST HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH ANY APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE. IT WAS SIMPLY REPEATING MEMORIZED INFORMATION...

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SEVERAL POINTS. FIRST--MOST OF WHAT I HAVE ABSORBED FROM HIS 205 WAS FROM MY READINGS. ALTHOUGH PROFESSOR ROSENTHAL WAS SUPPOSED TO COVER SPECIFIC LECTURE TOPICS, THEY WERE PRESENTED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE LEVEL OF INGENUITY OR EFFORT ON HIS PART WAS NIL. HE TOLD US AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE THAT HE WOULD RATHER SPEND HIS TIME PUBLISHING...ALTHOUGH HE'S A NICE MAN, USUALLY VERY HUMOROUS. HIS TEACHING HAS MUCH TO BE DESIRED. PERHAPS HE TRIES TO OVER-SIMPLIFY THINGS--IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, HE ONLY SHALLOWLY COVERS THE MATERIAL THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ON HIS EXAMS. I FEEL THAT HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE IS SAYING TO THE CLASS.

MR. ROSENTHAL IS A VERY INTERESTING LECTURER WHO INSERTS LITTLE HUMOROUS ANECDOTES AND COMMENTS INTO HIS LECTURES. HE HAS A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT DOESN'T OVERUSE IT. HIS LECTURES ARE VERY ENJOYABLE AND INFORMATIVE. TWO OF THE BOOKS USED IN THE COURSE, HOWEVER, WERE, I FELT, ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE CLASS. THESE WERE THE ONES INVOLVING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES. THE AUTHORS, AND I SUPPOSE MR. ROSENTHAL HIMSELF, ASSUMED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD HAD SOME BACKGROUND IN ECONOMICS. THIS WAS NOT TRUE OF MYSELF, SO I FOUND THE READING VERY UN-INTERESTING, TEDIOUS, AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

excerpt from the **Teacher and Course Evaluation Guide**

stitutional Studies. The Administration used the results of the surveys for advancement purposes, and as a determinant for tenure. Students did not have access to the evaluations, and it was often the case that even the faculty did not have access to the results in a usable medium. At best, the students would only indirectly benefit from the surveys, assuming that the faculty took the results of the surveys into consideration and improved their methods of instruction.

In the Fall of 1987, Junior Class Representative Daniel Rubin worked closely with Robert W. Merriam, an associate professor of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, to produce a new teacher and course evaluation guide. Officially referred to as the **Student Course and Teacher Evaluation Book**, the guide would include the statistical results of a new, more efficient questionnaire designed by students, faculty, and administration under the auspices of the Education and Teaching Policy Committee (ETCP). Rubin's main goal was to produce 10,000 copies of the book, and distribute them to every undergraduate and academic department. The **Student Course and Teacher Evaluation Book** would be a return to earlier times, when students could utilize the survey information before signing up for courses. However, unlike the earlier guides, Rubin's book would not contain open-ended student

comments. In addition, the results of the surveys would also be computerized for easy access. In a proposal dated December 3, 1987, Rubin states, "The collected information... would be most useful if it could be integrated and stored in a central data base..."

From the Fall of '87 to the Spring of '88, Rubin and others worked through the University's hierarchy of committees and subcommittees, many of which only met once a month. The proposal finally reached the University Senate on May 2, 1988, where it was relegated to last on the agenda of the Senate meeting. In a letter addressed to the ETPC, Merriam states that the teacher and course evaluation proposal was "sort of introduced" as the last few senators were preparing to leave: "The discussion died with only one sigh as the last senator left the room." Merriam found the Senate response "disappointing," and Rubin became "disillusioned." The **Student Course and Teacher Evaluation Book** was never produced.

While the efforts of Daniel Rubin were forgotten, a new group of students formed to address the goal of a teacher and course evaluation guide. In the fall of 1988, Katherine Bailey was appointed as the first chair of the newly formed Academic Affairs Committee under Polity. This committee met with faculty and staff to discuss the goal of producing a resource guide that would include the statistical results of the teacher and course evaluation survey. The committee stated that it would, "... PUBLISH the results of...[the] evaluations for use by students who will be choosing courses for next spring."

Two members of the Academic Affairs Committee also served on a Task Force created by Egon Neuberger, the Acting Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies. According to a memorandum addressed to the ETPC and the Academic Affairs Committee, Neuberger states that his Task Force was established to, "...reconsider...the whole process of evaluating teaching at Stony Brook." At least three procedural problems were addressed by the Task Force: 1) the survey is not mandatory; 2) a teacher can easily alter evaluations before submission; and 3) the process does not include provisions for student-access to the results of the survey. The Task Force produced a new teacher and course evaluation questionnaire, and proposed procedural reforms for the evaluation process. However, the Academic Affairs Committee under Polity did not succeed in their endeavor to publish the results.

Currently, the Administration is acting in accordance with the proposal put forth by the Task Force. The new teacher and course evaluation questionnaire, known as the Student Evaluation Form, has 10 statistical questions and three open-ended questions for student comments. According to Sandra A. Burner, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of the Center for Academic Advising, "The new procedure is designed to improve the integrity of the student evaluation form process," said Burner, "It will hopefully

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Marburger for NOW

By James F. Barna

Once each year U.S.B. President John Marburger meets with the women of Stony Brook to discuss issues of concern to them. This year's gathering, sponsored by the campus chapter of the National Organization of Women, was held on November 7th. Attending with President Marburger was Provost Tilden Edelman and Carol Cohen, the new Vice President for University Affairs.

The discussion took the form of a response by Dr. Marburger to various questions asked by N.O.W. earlier in the semester. In starting the meeting, he suggested that an annual report on women concerns be published by the university.

Marburger then addressed the topic of sexual harassment. He first mentioned proposals to have a comprehensive sexual harassment training program as part of each employee's training. He stated, "If we can do it with hazardous materials, we can do it with hazardous behavior as well."

He further discussed the problems of prosecuting offenders, telling how hard it is to

find victims who will press charges. "It is very difficult for us to deal with such things," he said.

One other topic was the presence and retention of women. This topic takes on new significance now that layoffs of campus personnel are likely. When asked about the layoffs, which will affect many female



employees, Dr. Marburger began by saying: "We are facing serious budget problems..." While he could not promise that jobs would not be lost, Dr. Marburger assured the group that gender concerns would be part of any decision.

At one point Barbara Baskin, Co-Chair of N.O.W., asked the president to explain why, when women's sports play such a large role on this campus, there was a lack of women on the platform at the opening of the USB Sports Complex. He replied that it was "a dreadful mistake," and "I don't know how it happened."

At the end of the discussion, Dr. Marburger was questioned about the lack of blue light phones on campus. As a member of the Center for Women's Concerns explained, blue light phones are a special type of emergency phones that will automatically dial public safety when the receiver is lifted. They would be placed throughout campus so that an emergency phone is always within sight. While there are some emergency phones on campus, they are somewhat scarce, and little help in the event of an assault or rape.

Overall, while President Marburger was sensitive of women's issues, one wonders what real difference this yearly gathering will have. With cutbacks likely, this campus may have to wait for the changes it requires now. ■

Operation Night Camel

The American Plan of Attack Against Iraq, 20000 US Casualties in the First Four Days



By Jean Rousseau

"The war against Iraq will last four days," according to an advisor of Dick Cheney, American secretary of Defense. In its October 18th issue, the center-right French magazine *L'Express* reported the remarks of this advisor and published the plan of attack against Iraq. Nicknamed **Operation Night Camel**, this attack will be "the most murderous attack in history in such a short time." A plan almost too simplistic, in four phases.

The attack starts on a moonless night, mostly because the heat is bearable by the occidentals, but also because the Iraqis do not have the equipment to fight at night. The first act belongs to the US Air Force. **Mission:** destroy the maximum of enemy offensive means in the minimum of time. Guided by AWACS radar planes, flying over Saudi Arabia, informed minute by minute by the images beamed from the KH 11 spy satellites, and covered by patrols of F4G Wild Weasels, which scramble detecting capabilities, 22 Stealth bombers F117A neutralize air-defense radars and batteries of Soviet ground-air SAM missiles and Franco-German Roland missiles. In their steps, 14 bombers F111 coming from their Turkish base of Incirlik, tens of F15E assembled at Dahrhan (Saudi Arabia), 60 FA 18 Hornet, A6 Intruder and A7 Corsair launched from the aircraft carrier Independence in the Gulf, converge towards the sites of ground-ground missiles Scud and Al-Hussein and the airports where are dispersed 300 attack planes and Iraqis bombers.

Six hours earlier, a squadron of B52 bombers, have left the base of Diego Garcia in the Indian ocean. They each carry 12 cruise missiles and destroy 8 redoubtable airfields buried in the desert along the Saudi border. This first phase will have lasted less than six hours.

The second phase will last longer and consist in annihilating the military-industrial infrastructure of the country. In a systematic way, buried sites, nuclear and chemical, arm plants, the 8 commanding bunkers in Bagdad suburbs, and the 134 km of the strategic highway connecting Bassora to Kuwait City are destroyed under a carpet of bombs, cruise missiles and tactical rockets. At dawn, the U.S. aviation attacks the massive concentration of tanks along the Saudi border. Three quarters of the T55, T62 and T72 are in a defensive configuration, buried in the desert and then particularly vulnerable. At "H + 24" the country is military and economically ruined.

Third phase: detach Kuwait from Iraq. Commandos of U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Berets) and Navy "Seals" have penetrated during the first hour of the offensive behind Iraqi lines. They must disorganize the opposing forces communications. Now begins the first combined operation of planes, helicopters and tanks of the military history. Supported by multiple rocket-launchers MLRS 30, 200 heavy M1 tanks rush through the dried bank of Al-Batia, north of Hafr al-Batin, to create the breach along the Iraqi-Kuwait border. At this point Italian, British and French aircrafts "clean" the field as the invasion proceeds.

The 10 Iraqi divisions -170,000 men, 3,500 tanks, 1,700 artillery pieces - are cut from the bulk of their strategic reserve: 15 divisions in the south of Iraq.

The fourth phase of the plan consists in the reconquers of the Kuwait territory. While 11,000 marines are brought on the north shore of Kuwait by about twenty ships, the south border is attacked by a huge force of 45,000 marines, 3 infantry brigades of the U.S. Army, 4,000 French military, and 6,000 British troops. They will open the way to the Arab force of about 50,000 men (Egypt, Syria, Morocco) which will have the mission to free every square inch of the Kuwait territory and destroy it completely if necessary.

This seems perfect on paper, but in this ideal scenario the opponent is underestimated. After fighting a war against Iran for 8 years, this army is prepared. Back to the wall, the Iraqi army will not give up so easily. For the Pentagon, the cost of this operation is estimated to be 20,000 men, if not more.

Sadam Hussein may use his chemical and bacteriological weapons. He has the launching capability to send them on targets few hundred miles away. There is no riposte against that. A British officer declared before his departure to the Gulf, that in case of chemical attack, the only riposte will be the nuclear arm.

The CIA reported September 28th that the Iraqi army has a considerable stock of bacteriological arms. In *Newsday*, November 8th, the possibility of a germ-war scenario against Israel is presented. U.S. officials projects that Iraq will use anthrax and botulin

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NYPIRG Fall Conference

By Steven Kreps

The New York Public Interest Research Group held its annual fall conference at SUNY Binghamton the weekend of October 27th. Although I was not previously involved with NYPIRG, I had been interested in their work and so went along with a busload of students from SUNY and Nassau community college to educate myself as to what NYPIRG was all about.

First then, a word on what NYPIRG is all about. NYPIRG exists to further the interests of all New Yorkers. It is our Public Interest Research Group, and as such, its main purpose is to educate people. NYPIRG is a non-profit organization which is run by a board of seventeen students from the seventeen chapters of NYPIRG around the state. These students get together to discuss the agenda, approve the budget, and basically form the direction of the organization.

There were many things to be learned at the NYPIRG conference. Three hundred students from around New York all got together to exchange ideas, make friends, and in general receive some affirmation that what they are doing is a good thing. All this is done over a weekend, while several chapters slept either at the YMCA or, where the chapters from Stony Brook, Albany, and a few others stayed, the Boys Club of Binghamton. Unmistakably, there is no method of introductory social interaction quite as interesting and educational as sleeping on a gym floor with about forty or fifty other people, most of whom you do not know. The relationships which ensued, the conflicts between the early sleepers and the late night basketball players, were as much of an education as the formal conference itself.

The main reason for the conference was the workshops. There were six sets of workshops

spread over Saturday and Sunday, and over thirty individual workshops to choose from. Everyone had a chance to follow their own interests within the diverse NYPIRG agenda. Topics of workshops included environmental preservation, education reform, voter registration, consumer protection, and the advancement of good government. In the workshops, people gathered in a classroom where the workshop leader explained to the students the nature of the problem to be dealt with, possible solutions, and the type of work which needed to be done to work towards those solutions.

On Saturday I attended a workshop on education reform, titled "Breaking the Bias: Standardized Testing Abuse." There are two problems with standardized testing which NYPIRG is working to reform; the over-testing of children at a very young age, and the whole trouble with standardized tests, that they discriminate against women, people of color, and students from low-income families. I consider myself to be a fairly educated, conscientious person, but a lot of what I learned at this workshop was new information to me.

My favorite workshop came on Sunday. The two hour workshop was a spiritual exercise, intended to develop inner peace in the light of our connection to nature. For two hours, forty people acted like monkeys, stared into each others eyes, and shared feelings about nature and harmony.

This workshop really showed me what NYPIRG is all about. Communication. We have to communicate with ourselves and with our neighbors, to develop a peaceful society in which we can all live with maximum comfort. When the Dalai Lama was here two months ago, on of the questions he was asked was how can one work to develop world peace. His answer was that we first needed to develop

inner peace. Like the old saying goes, *you can't love others if you don't love yourself.* When fighting for the preservation of humanity, it is very important to stop and see just how beautiful it is.

The workshops were where people who work for NYPIRG get to learn just what it is NYPIRG is doing, which is important since the people who work for NYPIRG and NYPIRG are really the same thing. There was plenty of opportunity during the workshops to discuss individual questions and work out all sorts of strategies for activities, ranging from the rally against standardized testing, to the registration of voters recently worked on for the November election.

The weekend also offered some social opportunities which were educational as well. Each chapter of NYPIRG had a different personality, so it was a real learning experience to meet people in chapters from Albany, Queens, and Purchase. There was a real diversity in people, all working towards the same ideals of education and activism.

We learned over the weekend that NYPIRG exists to further the interests of all New Yorkers. The SUNY project leader, Craig Siegel, put it, "The NYPIRG conference was a perfect symbol for what NYPIRG is all about, its two goals of education, which we received this weekend, and activism, which will hopefully be sparked here and brought back to campuses across the state. Hopefully this conference will serve as a catalyst to spark student activism on campus."

But don't just take my word for it. Find out for yourself, because that's what NYPIRG is all about, finding out for yourself. To help find out for yourself, contact the NYPIRG office at 632-6457, or step on down to their offices in the basement of the Union in room 079.

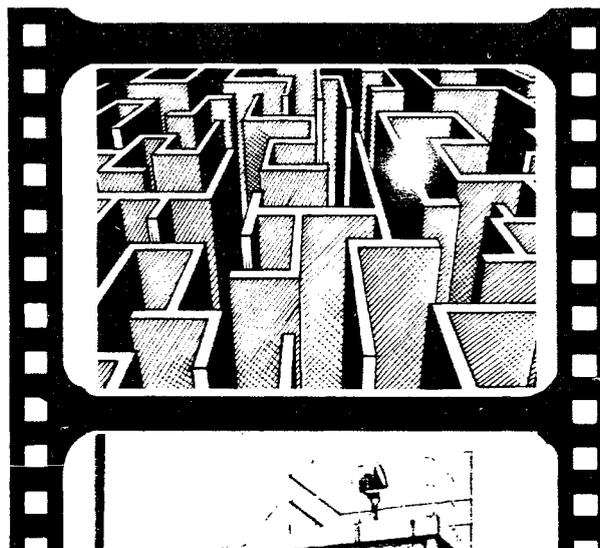
Theatre's Illusion

By Steven Kreps

The Stony Brook Theatre Department's production of *The Illusion* was the first theatrical production I have seen at Stony Brook. It certainly won't be the last. The play was well executed, much better than I would have expected in such a small production. The show was held in Staller Center's Theater 1, which holds an audience of less than two hundred.

Despite the department's light budget (and soon to be lighter, thanks Mario), the production was professional and impressive. The special effects creatively employed in the play were not of an expensive sort. But they did not at all detract from my enjoyment of the play. The stage hands were disguised as spirits, wearing all black, except for their colorful masks. The speaker system in Theater 1 is a little weak, but that's not the fault of anyone in the department.

The Illusion is an English translation of the French play *L'Illusion*, written by Pierre Corneille in 1636. The plot centers around the life of a man, Clindor, who is in the service of a man named Matamore. Clindor's father, Pridamant, after not seeing his son for many



years, is now curious to know how he is doing. He seeks out Alcandre, a magician, who shows him his son's life since their break. This show then comprises the rest of the play.

When we join our heroes, Matamore has his eye set on Isabelle, a beautiful young woman. At the same time, Isabelle is developing a liaison with Clindor. She is also sought out by

Adraste, another French gentleman who will stop at nothing to have her as his wife. Through all this, Isabelle's maid, Lyse, is acting as foil and go-between for some of the men who are seeking Isabelle's hand. Rampant absurdity follows.

To a modern audience, some of the situations portrayed in the play may seem dated, or sexist, perhaps even downright offensive. However, these are things we must expect if we are to enjoy most any work of literature written before the twentieth century. *L'Illusion* is a unique play, combining elements of tragedy and comedy, sewn together in a surreal illusionary fabric.

The acting in the play was very good. Kevin Crowe was hilarious as Matamore. The role afforded Kevin a good chance to really ham it up, and the audience really ate it up. Glenn P. Warmuth, who plays Adraste, was convincingly sinister, remnant of film actor Kiefer Sutherland in some of his tough guy roles. Andrew Fish (who, by the way, writes for **The Stony Brook Press**) was monumental, hypnotic, almost awe-inspiring in his portrayal of Pridamant's friend.

Call me a cynic, but whenever people my

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Apathy = Death

One week ago, President George Bush announced that he was activating another 150,000 troops. These will be added to the estimated 230,000 American troops presently in the Middle East, waiting for war. This will bring the total to 380,000 Americans, made up of nearly eight Army divisions, two Marine expeditionary forces, six aircraft carriers with escorts, two battleships with escorts, and more than 700 attack and fighter planes.

For all this escalation, however, public reaction has been muted at best. Americans seem apathetic to the death and carnage which may well result from a war with Iraq. I cannot allow myself the luxury of apathy. Besides being a student and an editor, I am also an Army Reservist.

Each incendiary use of rhetoric, each loud clang of the sabre brings the grim reality of war home to me. I watch the late news, waiting in hope that the economic sanctions have weakened the Iraqi resolve, or that their troops have backed down, but both these scenarios are improbable and each new day finds us closer to war.

When I signed up for the reserves, it seemed like a good way to pay for college. War was an abstract concept, far distant from the college campus. After all, what is the whole American ideology of war anyway? Can we

possibly buy into the American tradition of the good son going off to war to die for apple pie and some fictional American way?

If there is a call in the middle of the night, telling me to report, I will go. Having pledged to, I will honor that agreement. But, this doesn't stop me from trying to prevent this war from ever becoming a reality.

America doesn't want its young men dying in the desert. If Americans will simply voice their opinions, this war will never begin. The administration is not foolish enough to fight a war that America steadfastly opposes.

To be apathetic is to give your consent. Let's stop this war before it begins.



The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor: James F. Barna
Managing Editor: Michele Neumeier
Associate Editor: Lara Jacobson
Business Manager: Michelle Fleck
Photo Editor: Walter Schneider
Arts Editor: Eric Penzer
Production Manager: Rick Teng
Minister Sans Portfolio:
 Fletcher Johnson

News and Features: Fred Mayer, Robert Gilheany, Fletcher Johnson, Scott Skinner, Jean Rousseau, John Sealy, Steven Kreps, Michele Neumeier, James F. Barna, Kate Owen, Robert Rothenburg

Arts: Scott Skinner, Christine DeFazio, Eric Penzer, Steven Kreps, Joe DiStefano, Lara Jacobson, Greg Forte, Steven Kreps, Wayne Meyer, William Capozzi

Graphics: Walter Schneider, Greg Forte, Rick Teng, Lara Jacobson, Don Fick

The Stony Brook Press is published biweekly during the Academic year and intermittently during the summer session by The Stony Brook Press Inc., a student run and student funded not-for-profit corporation. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy.

For more information on advertising and deadline, call 632-6451.

Staff Meetings are held weekly in the Press offices each Monday at 8PM.

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

Phone: 632-6451
 Office: Suite 020, Central Hall
 SUNY at Stony Brook
 Stony Brook, NY 11794-2790

LETTERS

Reviewing the Reviewer

After recovering from fits of laughter while reading your review of WUSB's October 6th benefit concert, I got to thinking deeper about the pathetic bias with which you apparently approached your assignment. It is with all fairness that a rebuttal of your "review" is in order.

First of all, you bought a ticket for someone without I.D., definitely a no no. Policy stated you had to have I.D. Maybe your poor judgement is what lead to these excited kids not thanking you in a way that you deemed acceptable. (By the way, great cover Rick; *Volume 12 no.4*) Or are you saying that they stole your money and tickets, in which case you should have pointed the offenders out to the proper authorities. Either way, your desires to kill may indicate that psychiatric therapy is in order.

Your incredibly cryptic style of anecdotal storytelling

belongs in a "Dear Abby" column, huh? By the way, what do you have against younger people anyway? You may have seen them but we saw you and you looked like a bag boy at Grand Union. What are you, a freshman?... a sophomore?... seems that you were only recently in high school also, but apparently failed the editorial course, and now you're continuing to pursue a career that you don't have much ability in. Instead of judging everything simply at face value, why didn't you take the time to find out from the people who organized these shows a bit of background and you might have been a little less one sided in your "review." Just because you probably listen to *Yo La Tengo* and *Dread Zeppelin* a myopic view (of any music that you don't particularly care for) comes shining through. What's your problem?...are you seriously trying to tell people what good music is?

Well, a lot of people came to see this awful music! Not only did the bands donate ALL their time and proceeds to help WUSB but Steve K. and Sound Bite House donated their equipment and organizational efforts also, with no help from the majority of Stony Brook big mouths like you! Personally, I'm glad you suffered, while you are entitled to your opinion, a music that has endured for at least fifteen years without much commercial support must have something going for it.

Poor acoustics and raucous playing (admittedly, sometimes not the best technique) are the usual price that you pay when seeing hardcore or punk shows. If technique or big buck staging are what you are looking for, go to a Pink Floyd show. At least there no one will knock the pencil holder out of your shirt pocket. It's a lucky thing for everyone that we don't dress like you! I don't see that the way people are

dressed has much to do with music anyway.

About the only good thing you pointed out was that the people there had a great time. Well, that's because they get involved, and don't behave like virginal wall flowers. I guess your method of reporting is to hide out somewhere making judgements, not finding out the facts. If you're really interested (which I'm sure you won't be) I suggest you talk to Steve K. or S.B.H. Simple math shows that at least \$900 to \$1000 was generated for WUSB by people with no taste in music. Stick that in your calculator Mr. Mathlete! Why don't you shut your mouth (or better yet, do us a favor and break all your pencils) and find out the facts before criticizing other people's efforts. GET WITH IT! As Dear Abby would say, "You're two sandwiches short of a picnic, buster!"

-Lee Jackson

☞ continued on page 7

LETTERS

continued from page 6

P.S. Why don't you stop all the swearing which as my mother used to say shows a lack of intelligence, not to mention you'll never get Wayne Robbins job that way.

P.P.S. You can use the bi-line "reviewing the reviewer" so that you don't strain yourself trying to be creative.

Dear Editor:

In response to MJ XII's viewpoint **This is the 90's People...** I would like to say that you should be running on a ticket with Jessie Helms. Freedom of expression seems to be one of the last freedoms that we have. Some of us hope it stays as one.

The writer refers to homosexuality as "morally deficient laity" in his article. Along with that he puts down promiscuity; makes implications that some forms of abortion are done out of abuse; condemns divorce etc. Who are you to make moral decisions for everyone else? How can a decision to have an abortion be abusive? Have you ever had to face that kind of decision? Who are you to say that homosexuality is immoral?

You are assuming that everyone in this country should be a straight, monogamous, married Christian. You should have more respect for other people's opinions and ways of life. I think it's sad that there are people with such narrow minded opinions such as yours. I was offended at every level by every statement that you made in your letter. It is obvious that you are a very insecure, sexually repressed Right Winger who has a great potential to be another Hitler. The ideas that you express is what is bringing our country into a Fascist state now.

Sex is not a dirty word. God has never been proven to exist. Homosexuals are not sick or immoral. The Christian Church is not the only religion. Priests and nuns (like everyone else) have sex drives. And AIDS and genital herpes are not due to free love hippies. Everyone has a right to their own opinion. You have a right to yours and I have a right to mine. May our freedom to express them stay. Power to the people.

-Shoshanna Wingate
Red Balloon Collective

Environmental Bondage

Walter Schneider



Governor Cuomo at the Environmental Bond Rally on Stony Brook Campus, October 31.

By Kate Owen

Governor Mario Cuomo told the crowd at the October 31 Environmental Bond Rally that the proposed bond was "perfect." He admitted the fact that, "The Bond Act is not selfish. I do it because it is bigger than me. I do it because it is my duty to the universe." Most people these days do indeed agree that environmental concerns are extremely important. Why then did Proposal One fail?

There are those who would say that the apathy of New York State is a result of a short sighted, greedy populace. Cuomo blamed much of the opposition on "Upstaters" like the "People of the Catskills and the

Adirondacks." "They've been lying up there for a long time," he stated after explaining how many upstate people feared that even more of their money would be spent in urban areas.

The 51% to 49% victory for the opponents of Proposal One surprised many who felt that the Act was destined to pass. "There is no wrong way to protect the environment. Any step is a good step," were words that I heard often.

Opposed to this sentiment were those who felt the Bond Act to be an attempt at a quick fix for a huge problem. They saw the proposed 1.9 billion dollar expenditure unwise in these days of tremendous debt. The people of the Adirondacks and the Catskills remembered the results of similar acts during the 1970's and 1980's and saw the establishment of 800 million, nearly half of the 1.9 billion figure, as a fund for purchasing undeveloped land as a tremendous threat to their way of life.

The Rally at SUNY Stony Brook focused upon the need for, in Cuomo's words, "Spring fresh" drinking water, the upgrade of sewage treatment facilities, increased recycling, and the closing of "450 dangerous landfills scattered across New York State." And yes, land would be protected from the clutches of nasty developers.

The need for a clean-up is imperative, and this state is becoming aware of it as never before. Why then was only a little more than half of Proposal One allocated for such projects?

continued on page 11

SKINNER'S BOX

GET INVOLVED



By Scott Skinner

What do you do when you're bored and your roommate isn't home and you get that urge? Do you defenestrate? For all of you students who spend your weekends here at Stony Brook committing sinful acts of defenestration, let me tell you a little secret. There are two kinds of people in this world: those that get bored, and those that GET INVOLVED. Cool people know that the GET INVOLVED game is the best game in town.

Want to play? First, you must get mad about something. Next, you must seek out other students who share your madness. Finally, you must organize and demonstrate so that everyone knows how mad you really are.

The most difficult aspect of the game is to decide what issue merits your madness. Fortunately, our society has provided us with a hefty variety of problems to choose from. If you want to play it safe, you can simply jump on the trendy-issue bandwagon, which focuses on one issue at a time, and then forgets that the issue even exists.

The starving Ethiopians is a good example of a once trendy issue. It came, we got mad, and it left. Naturally, the Ethiopians are still starving, but that is not our concern. Remember, the main purpose to the GET INVOLVED game is to get mad, not to solve any problems.

Other trendy issues that are now out-of-vogue are nuclear disarmament, drug addiction, homelessness, apartheid, AIDS, and a plethora of environmental issues. If

you are more daring, you may opt for a heated issue such as abortion, capital punishment, or animal rights. These issues have an advantage in that they are debatable, and often involve hostile conflicts of opinion that result in the aforementioned acts of defenestration.

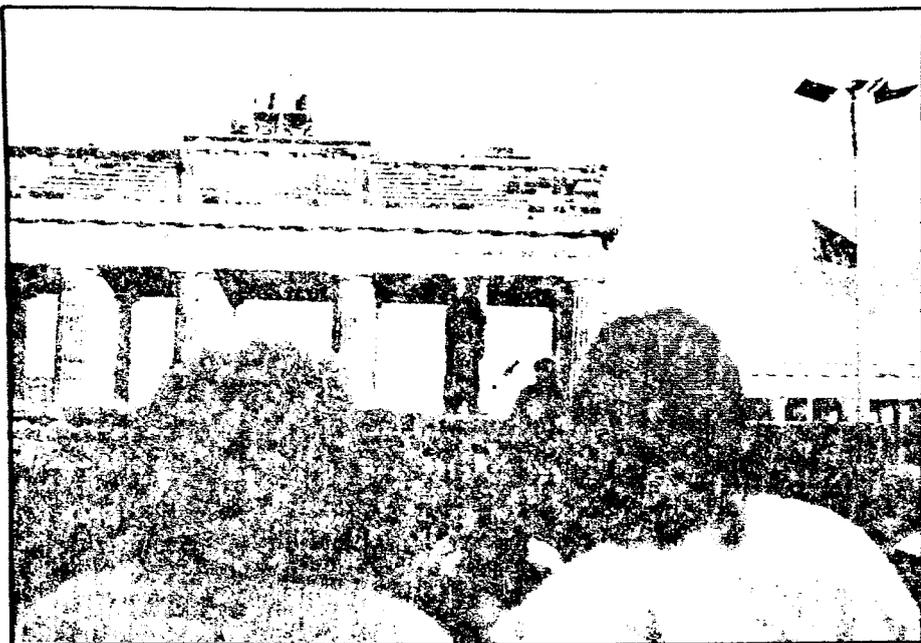
If you are a history major, you may decide to choose a perennial issue such as racism or sexism. These issues are noteworthy for their endurance: they never get solved and they never go away. All of you medical students will be banking on the fact that there is virtually no end to the number of diseases you can get mad over. Choose from cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, Lyme disease, and a host of other diseases.

The decrepit state of our planet will no doubt make environmentalists mad. Unfortunately, environmental rules are the easiest to break, and no one really cares that improperly disposed Aika-Seltzer tablets are blowing up pigeons. Finally, let us not forget that the GET INVOLVED game includes a plentiful harvest of campus issues.

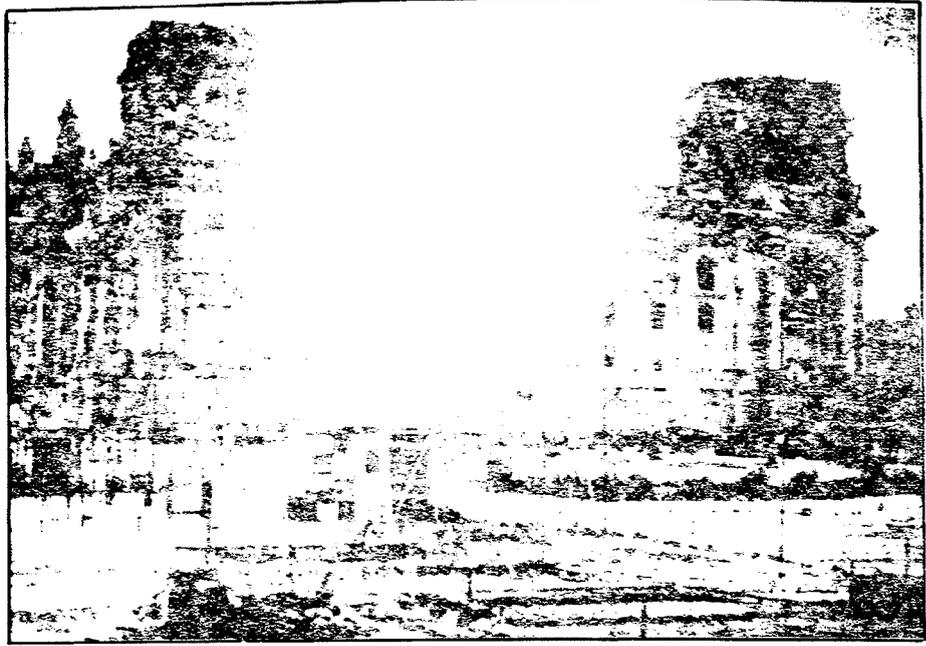
If you don't know what these issues are, then you will find out soon enough when you are forced to sell crack to get money to pay for the health tax, school bus tax, utility tax, and tuition hike tax. Or perhaps you like little green trees littering your concrete park-pit.

In any event, the GET INVOLVED game has something for everyone to get mad about. And remember, you are all winners if you decide to play. ■

FROM HOPE TO TERROR continued from page 1



Watching the Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate.



The Reichstag building shortly after the end of WWII.

negotiation and control agencies! This was on its face very amazing because such an idea is a supreme threat to the academic-military-industrial complex of the United States. But, of course, hopes for such an idea were quickly dashed: Paul Nitze - a very somber look on his face - "I think its premature...We need to have NATO..."; Sam Nunn - "I subscribe to what Paul just said..." etc..

Could it be? Would the students at the Wall attempt to hold it - against the wishes of the police - at all costs? Would they turn the Wall into an occupied zone? Maybe, as a means of *seizing history*, they would say to the superpowers, "Your Wall, your Cold War, is dust!" This idea was greatly reinforced by televised images of Wall-striding students playfully using gravity to counteract the force of the water jets rising from East German police canons.

Sunday, November 12. My flight finally arrived in Tegel Flugplatz, Berlin, at 1 p.m. local time. I found a bus which conveyed me to the packed inner city, along the main drag, the Kurfurstendamm, known by the locals as the "Ku-damm." The sidewalks were crammed with people, most of them from East Berlin. Before long I was in a section of West Berlin called Friedenau, in the apartment of Eva and Stephan Honisch, along with their son Kai, and a friend of the family from Hamburg. (Eva is Günter Grass' secretary, and a longtime friend of my mother.) I did not have to do a great deal of explaining as to the reasons for my unannounced presence in Berlin. Everyone was excited about the same thing. After a wonderful dinner we all decided to drive over to the Wall and see what was happening. With daylight waning we toiled down the Ku-damm and towards the regions of the Wall south of the Brandenburg Gate. The air was only slightly cool, very comfortable, and very clear. As dusk gathered, a full moon punctuated the sky; a finer evening could not have been asked for by anyone. We parked and walked toward the Wall, toward a spot where the letters UNI had been painted in nine foot high blue letters on a white background. A few youths were sitting astride the Wall, while scattered crowds of Berliners milled about, heading in the general direction of the Brandenburg Gate to the north.

As we walked north, we came upon a huge knot of people who were crowded around an opening in the Wall. This was the Potsdamer Platz opening, located in what was once the teaming center of what is now called "Old" Berlin. This center, reduced by intense bombing and years of neglect, is now an empty scrub-filled field. Wall panels, which in 1961 were erected across a former thoroughfare, had been torn down. There was drinking, laughing, singing, and drumming - on large heavy drums. The ground was littered with empty bottles of champagne. Everyone was smiling from ear to ear. Although I didn't know it at the time, I was standing a few hundred yards away from the unmarked remains of Hitler's bunker, located somewhere in the middle of the nearby no-man's land.

*"There was drinking,
laughing, singing, and drumming -
on large heavy drums"*

With night fallen, we continued north among the thickening crowds streaming toward the Brandenburg Gate. The scene which struck me upon arriving there I will never forget. "ET has landed," was my first thought, as I viewed the huge press encampment, complete with a one hundred foot high broadcasting tower. The whole scene was brightly lit by flood lights which were trained upon the graffiti covered Mauer (Wall), with the triumphant arch of the Brandenburg Gate standing behind, capped by its Eastward-facing horses. (Prior to 1961 those horses faced west.) All the while, lurking in the background on the north side - and never shown on the network broadcasts - was the Reichstag structure, a neoclassical monument which radiates power, even in its truncated postwar form. (The bombed-out dome was not reconstructed).

Wednesday, November 15th. I stood with a crowd of people directly in front of the Wall at the Brandenburg Gate, witnessing a group of West German students who were attempting to point out that the United States of America along with the Federal Republic of Germany were spending more than a million dollars

per day to support a regime in El Salvador which - during that week - dropped bombs on its own unarmed citizens. I watched (while shouting "Was fur ein Freiheit ist das?") as those protesters were physically subdued by West German police who were armed and accompanied by dogs. Clearly the Berliners running the show had no desire for a world audience to be reminded, during such warm festivities, of rather undemocratic details in Central America.

Later that evening, I paid a visit to Laura Grass, the eldest daughter of Günter Grass. Evelyn and I had entertained her in Manhattan only months earlier during Herr Grass' **Show Your Tongue** book tour. It had been her very first visit to the United States. She resides with her husband, daughter, and twin sons in an apartment that is only a few blocks away from the Wall (now gone). On this evening, we walked to a warm little *kneipe* at **Check Point Charlie**, and had a beer. We then walked north, along the Wall, toward the Brandenburg Gate. As we progressed along the dark path along the Wall, we passed what looked like an empty, ordinary looking field. Laura gestured to our left, and pointed out the unmarked remnants of a foundation for what was once a very large building. She informed me that this was the site of the Gestapo headquarters during the Third Reich.

Friday, November 17th. After an attempt on Thursday to cross over to East Berlin at **Check Point Charlie** left me angry and cold (oh, to have to constantly deal with lines!) I took the warm path to the East via the Friederichstrasse U Bahn (subway). After a day spent exploring mostly deserted East Berlin, I stood with over 4,000 students in the freezing cold in a plaza called Bebel-Platz, site of the East Berlin Staats-Oper. It was another brightly-lit and emotionally charged scene. While there I witnessed some of those students' first experiences of freedom, and I heard what they were saying. They mocked the middle-class values portrayed in the western media at that time - images of banana shortages were the grist of their fun. The media had recently been emphasizing how the poor East Germans had no good produce, especially bananas, and implied that such shortages of consumer goods were the motivation behind their desire for

freedom. Yet what I saw were students with bananas affixed to their heads and coming out of their ears; students drawing bananas with chalk on the ground. They were saying in no uncertain terms: "We don't care about bananas! We care about democratic pluralism! We care about children! We care about our environment - rapidly being destroyed by middle class values!"

Victory for Nationalism

The headlong rush toward German reunification has been consummated. The fact that West Germany's economic power, to which I was briefly exposed in Berlin, is being used to destroy and consume the GDR has left me somewhat saddened. For me and many others, the fall of the Wall was a harbinger of peace, a signal of hope for all mankind. Instead, the event has been played out as a victory for (western) capitalism. In his December (1989) **Don't reunify Germany** speech, (the text of which appeared in the **New York Times** of *January 7*) Günter Grass said:

"Day by day, the people of the German Democratic Republic are struggling for greater freedom and razing the bastions of a hated system by nonviolent means. This is an event unique in German history - a successful revolutionary movement. What is actually happening, however, is in danger of receding into the background. Other, secondary concerns are thrust to the fore. Numerous West German politicians demand the stage, and with it, of course, the spotlight. The West German Government, its Minister of Finance in the vanguard, drapes its cornucopia in glittering promises, then dangles it ever higher, demanding that the revolutionaries take ever riskier leaps to get it."

About six weeks ago, Grass' most recent book, **Two States - One Nation?** was published. His moral courage clearly manifests itself when we read:

"...when I, with many of my generation - leaving aside our fathers and mothers for now - was confronted with the results of the crimes for which Germans were responsible, crimes that would be summed up in the image of Auschwitz, I said: Impossible. I said to myself and to others, and others said to themselves and to me: 'Germans would never do a thing like that.'

...Auschwitz speaks against every trend born of manipulation of public opinion, against the purchasing power of the West German economy - for the hard currency of deutschmarks even unification can be acquired - and yes, even against the right to self-determination granted without hesitation to other peoples. Auschwitz speaks against all this, because one of the preconditions for the terrible thing that happened was a strong, unified Germany."

During the student demonstration in (formerly) East Berlin, I met one of the organizers, a psychology graduate student from Dresden (horribly firebombed by the British) named Suzanne Schmidt. On that cold night we exchanged addresses, and we have since struck up a correspondence. In June, she sent me a letter, written in imperfect English, conveying the acute sense of ambivalence which she and other activists - the very people who brought down the Wall - are experiencing. Regarding the just completed elections of that month, she wrote:

"The next step was looking for a new leader. H. Kohl was the right person with these promises of wealth, money, and all that as soon as possible! I couldn't understand that most of the citizens believed in [him]. There was a great jerk to the right. 'Germany above all'... you know! The people, who risked the way of the streets in autumn, were again in opposition. Maybe its the destiny of all thinking people around the world! And now, nobody has time, all we are busy with exchanging money, with [our] own life because the unknown problem of unemployment stands. I've lost my illusions. It's a pity."

Wait a minute! What about the end of the Cold War? What about moving the clock back, away from midnight, away from the death-world? What about the peace dividend? What about shifting the agenda from nuclear deterrence to global warming? What is the meaning of those emotions we felt, bringing streaks of tears to our faces?

"In a spontaneous debate with Mr. Cuomo last week, I asked him 'should we have troops in the Gulf?' 'We can't take those troops out now!' was his guarded response."

II. Welcome to the Terrordome!

On November 8, 1990, on the eve of the first "Wall" anniversary, with 230,000 troops already deployed in and around the Persian Gulf, President George Herbert Walker Bush stood in front of the cameras and said: "Before the invasion in August, we [!] had succeeded in the struggle for freedom in Eastern Europe, and we had hopefully begun a new era that offered the promise of peace." And what is Bush's "promise for peace?" "I have today directed the Secretary for Defense to increase the size of U.S. forces committed to Desert Shield to insure that the coalition has an adequate offensive military option should that be necessary to achieve our common goals."

Bush will now raise U.S. force levels in the Middle East to something in the neighborhood of 380,000 troops. This is nearly three-quarters of the level of troops the U.S. had deployed during the worst days of the Vietnam War. Regardless of whether fighting breaks out, he has signed the death warrants of hundreds. How can that be? Let's compute in a conservative fashion: During the first three months of the operation, more than 40 U.S. personnel were killed in accidents. That's about 7 dead per 100,000 per month. If 380,000 are deployed, then in one year we can expect roughly 320 dead Americans. How many Americans were killed during the invasion of Panama? Nineteen. And this is "peace?"

The Politics of Denial

We have had plenty of time to form a coherent response to Bush's war mongering. And what have **We the People** said? Very little. In our recent elections, America failed to exhibit concern for anything but what we were spoon-fed by the bourgeois media forces of our time. The most sickening response has come from many of the so-called "progressives" of the Democratic Left, who Lenni Brenner has aptly called the "Marxocrats." On October 23, the **Village Voice** displayed the



Protesters confronting police, on the western side of the Wall.

incredible cynicism of its editors when it printed an article by Paul Berman entitled **The Gulf and the Left**. In it, the editors of the magazine **Dissent** got together, along with other self-proclaimed leftists, to offer us their informed opinion regarding the Gulf standoff. And what did they say? Michael Walzer: "...if the external effort at non-violent coercion has failed, then it would appear to me that military force is justified;" Mitchell Cohen (no relation to our own): "The Persian Gulf is not Vietnam. Anyone who is familiar with the Middle East - which excludes Ramsay [sic] Clark - knows this;" Jo-Ann Mort (a union activist): "We in the left in this country should stop thinking of the United States as a hated horrendous actor in the world;" And again, Michael Walzer: "Because of the end of the Cold War, a much more genuinely collective and internationalist kind of security policy is possible. But it may involve the use of force. Why do we have to be against that from the start? It seems to me that Saddam is likely to be defeated at some cost. I hope that the American left gives - what shall we say? - critical support to the effort." I have two words for these people, the first letters of which are F and Y. These moral cowards are again revealing the emotional age-gap which I spoke of earlier. They will certainly not be the ones to die, inhaling blood and vomit inside gas-masks. Even liberals such as Mario Cuomo feel compelled to recite the party line. In a spontaneous debate with Mr. Cuomo last week, I asked him "Should we have troops in the gulf?" "We can't take those troops out now!" was his guarded response.

It is the highest of ironies that mainstream and right-wing commentators such as Pat Buchanan, Mark Shields, David Gergen, Kevin Phillips and - believe it or not! - Jim Lehrer are the ones who are offering the deepest doubts about our rush toward war. Mark Shields, a former Marine, had the courage to break the silence in the **Eastern Establishment**, in a now famous article in the **Washington Post**. In the last few weeks he has consistently called America onto the carpet for its lack of resolve, and rightly so.

Press editors watch impatiently over my shoulder for me to end this already too long article. I need to say one more thing. Daniel Ellsberg has recently written that "[America] is mad. Psychotically divorced from reality." Our denial phase will, in a few months, be over. The March of The Dead will begin, and our deep sleep will end and the deafening snores will cease. And then we will get to do more than dance to the words of "Life During Wartime." A historical debt will be paid with blood. Sisters and Brothers, wake up! ■

"It's a good thing for leaders that people don't think." - Adolf Hitler.



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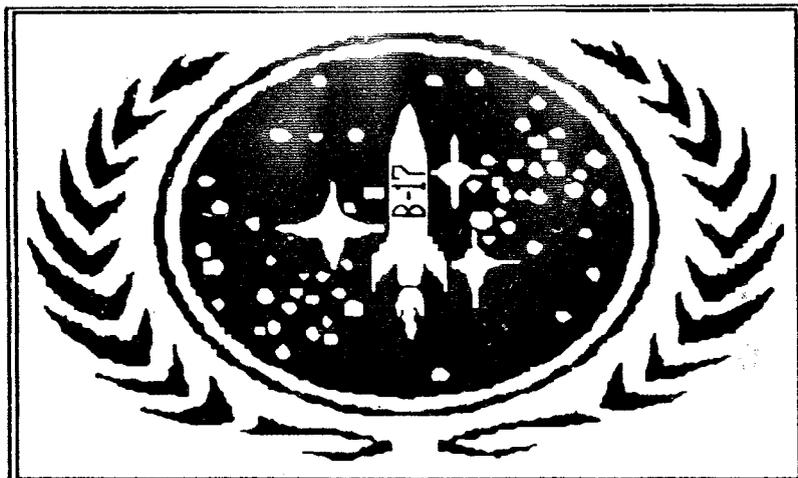
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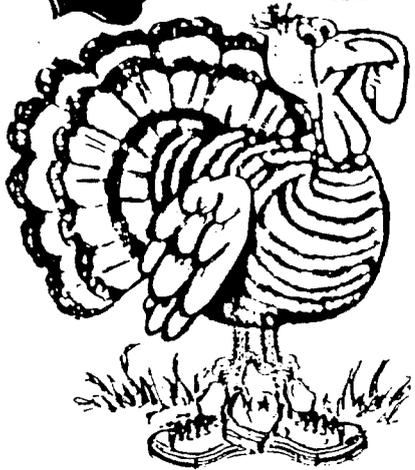
The Science Fiction Forum



The Science Fiction Forum has over 10,000 volumes of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror available for lending. Everyone is welcome to come in and relax in our lounge. The Science Fiction Forum is located in the basement of Central Hall, room 037, 632-6598.

- Every Tuesday we have meetings in our lounge around 8 PM.
- Every Wednesday we show Japanese Animation videos.
- Every Thursday is Video Night which starts around 7 PM

3rd ANNUAL TURKEY TROT



5k RACE

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER**

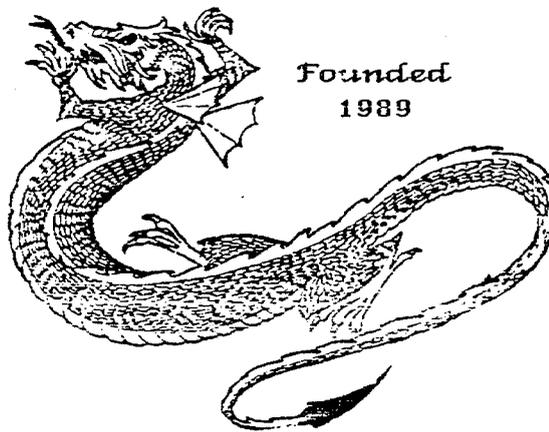
**17th
AT 10AM**

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\$10.00 Day of Race

CHECK IN:

University at Stony Brook Sports Complex



Founded
1989

The Stony Brook Gaming Club

Its getting cold out. Your 'trapped' indoors. The Smurf's and Days of Our lives no longer have the appeal they used to. You don't have the \$\$\$ to go out. So what do you do ? Check out the Gaming Club!

The Stony Brook Gaming Club is funded by Polity to provide the campus community (thats YOU) with interactive indoor leisure activities (we call them GAMES!). We have games of all types ranging from the tried-&-true Monopoly to wargames, computer simulations, and role-playing. Some members have even gone so far as to write thier own games for our campus main-frames!

As you can see, if we don't have what you want, we will go to great lengths to get it. Our meetings are open to everyone and thier friends. Since many people cannot make the 'official' meetings on a regular basis, we schedual games and campaigns to fit a variety of scheduals. (As you can guess, the voting procedure gets kinda screwy!)

So check out the Gaming Club. Give yourself the break you deserve. Stop by and have some fun!

Meetings:

- Location : Central Hall 037 (basement, Science Fiction Forum)
- Times : From 8pm onward Wed & Fri nights
- Other times annouced at Wed meeting

As of Now (always As of Now)

time, the true spider, spins its web
delicately around me

tighter
always
tighter

time

-B.C.

When you party
remember to...



Don't get wrecked. If you're not
sober—or you're not sure—
let someone else do the driving

A message provided by this newspaper
and Beer Drinkers of America

Their Fate

The raft
of the Medusa
is lifted
up and thrown down

in terror stricken faces
exists agony

naked thoughts collide with nature
causing disturbances
inside
of the viewer
who can feel
the pain
and dying
of those aboard
unknowing
not' thinking
of their fate

-B.C.



There was a dream
I was sitting & pondering
near an Indian stream.
My double, unknown to me,
appeared, & pressing
my fingers into the water,
I watched patterns grow
until they disappeared.
I searched for myself
but fell into my
fading reflection,
By this stream
By this stream
As faces in clouds
passed by above.



Womb

Womb
carries me
so near.
Filmlike placenta
fogs
the distance between
my heart-
and yours.
Rage.
Twilight rage.
Contaminates womb
blanketing space.

-Lara Jacobson

BONDAGE

continued from page 7

The people of the Adirondacks and the Catskills who face few problems with water, or disposal, are ravaged by the presence of acid rain. They too, are aware of their existence in a "Global Community." It was the sense that the Adirondacks, where 98% of the land is undeveloped, is clean enough. These people remember previous environmental acts, and live with the knowledge that the Governor's Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty First Century released a suggestion in April of this year to use funds created from the Bond Act to purchase 65,000 acres, 20% of the remaining private land in the park.

The overwhelming negative response that existed in the North Country was not, as Cuomo suggested, a result of a lack of concern for downstate needs. It was created by a fear for an already tremendously weak economy that would be crippled by lack of growth. Essex and Hamilton Counties, with the highest proportion of state owned land, also possess the worst economies.

It is certain that environmental issues will not disappear. In future years, as awareness grows, so will the chances for the Bond Act passing. It is my hope that future proposals will not manipulate the growing terror, and will create a proposal which will focus on the urgent needs of more urban areas, rather than fall back upon ensuring isolated parks to grant the illusion of a healthy environment..



CAMEL

continued from page 4

toxin in the event of a war. Botulin takes effect within 12 to 72 hours, leaving the victim headachy, dizzy, and (if the dose is sufficient) ultimately dead from respiratory paralysis. Anthrax is a bacterium which is found under the form of a spore. It is almost indestructible and resists to disinfectant, rapid freezing and thawing, even boiling. The inhalation of anthrax kills almost everyone exposed to it. Spread during world war II on the island of Guinard, off the coast of Scotland, anthrax spores thrived there for decades despite removal of top soil, forbidding the presence of humans and animals. Part of Israel would be sealed off for decades.

What about the massive destruction that the Iraqi army could inflict to the oil fields to retaliate against an attack? The largest oil field, Ghawar (three times the reserve of American oil field) is half an hour flight from Iraqi Air Force. A Kamikaze attack, like the one conducted by the Iraqi aviation on the Iranian oil terminal of Kharg and Sirri in 1987 and 1988, is not out of question. Most of the anti-aircraft defense is based close to the Iraqi border, not the oil fields.

If an attack must occur against Iraq, it will happen early next year. Americans are increasing their military force. By January, close to 380,000 U.S. troops will be in the Gulf area. Two to three months is the time left for Iraq to leave Kuwait. It seems to be the general consensus of U.S. allies in this crisis. After that the economic boycott will be considered a failure, and the military intervention will be hailed as the only option left. The hostages will not matter anymore. The number of casualties will only be an imponderable, a mathematical variable in the mind of militaries.

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Skinny Puppy

By Wayne Meyer

Skinny Puppy demonstrates that some bands keep getting better all the time. This past October saw the release of Skinny Puppy's sixth album, **Too Dark Park** (NETTWERK).

Produced by David Ogilvie and cEVIN KEY, **Too Dark Park** leaves behind the driving style and beat featured in **Rubies** (co-produced by Alais Jourgensen). The new album surpasses and redefines the "industrial sound."

Too Dark Park is an intense album that will grab hold of your gut, with no intention of ever letting go. Its rhythms and lyrics are made of the stuff that infects your brain and comes to haunt you in your dreams.

Skinny Puppy use their lyrics to get their point across. They claim to be animal rights activists, environmental protectionists, and humanitarians. *Spasmolytic* tells of the

plight of the poor and homeless, while *Shore Lined Poison* exposes every form of environmental destruction known to man. This is further emphasized in the song *Morpheus Laughing*, which describes the nightmare our Earth has become.

Skinny Puppy's live show is said to reflect their concern about subjects such as animal rights and environmental destruction. At a Skinny Puppy concert, one can usually find an information booth for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The members of the band have also been known to speak about animal rights outside of their lyrics. If you believe in any of the causes that Skinny Puppy champions, or just want to hear some good music, listen to **Too Dark Park**, or see the band live. Skinny Puppy is currently on tour, and will be at New York City's Ritz on November 16. ■

WUSB 90.1

WUSB Top 35

1. Galaxie 500
2. Soup Dragons
3. Redd Kross
4. Boredoms
5. Chrome
6. Jane's Addiction
7. Alice Donut
8. Alice In Chains
9. MMG/Too Black Too Strong
10. W.S. Burroughs
11. Fuel
12. Frequency
13. LARD
14. Mark Isham
15. If 6 Was 9
16. Christian Lunch
17. Gibson Bros.
18. Dwarves
19. Flaming Lips
20. Boredoms
21. Sal Asylum
22. Paul Simon
23. Artig
24. Connels
25. Crystalized Movements
26. Chainsaw Kittens
27. Marc Ribot
28. Waterboys
29. Sun Ra
30. Common Ailments of Maturity
31. Sister Ray
32. Derelicts
33. Urban Dance Squad
34. Neville Bros.
35. Thee Hypnotics

BOX

continued from page 14

Many people find death and being alone terrifying - a lot of my thinking comes from escaping this fear through affirmation of life. A major influence on my writing and images is Walt Whitman - the idea of faith through acceptance. When trying to make sense of something you throw all of these things into your container, then it's all together, and it becomes uplifting, peaceful. I want my work to speak about the joy in life. It would be very

easy to call the container Pandora's Box - but hopefully it stays open long enough for hope to escape."

Chris Yates' work, a variety of mixed media, has been displayed in Columbus, Huntington, and New York City. He is currently (Fall 1990) teaching ARS 152 - Figure Painting and Drawing, and next semester will teach a Color Lithography class. ■

THE BAND

continued from page 16

haven't had a lot of our friends outside the group join in, but we plan to get some of the all-stars into the line-up at some point. We're just mainly gettin' started.

SBP: Is the material mostly original?

LH: It's just every dirty trick in the book, you know. We're writing some of it, we've got friends writing some of it, and we got a few sort of growing themselves.

SBP: The Band has played at some of the most famous venues in the country (Winterland, The Fillmore); How does it feel to be playing in Stony Brook's gym?

LH: Well you know, we've probably played out here at Stony Brook as many times as anywhere. We've always played out here.

SBP: What did you think of the crowd tonight?

LH: I thought it was great! I had a real good time.

SBP: How does the new generation react to your music?

LH: I'm happy the new generation recognizes some of our tunes, that always feels nice. I think we've got a pretty good bunch of kids. What we hope to do is find one [record] that they really like. If we can get one of those kinds of records cut, we'll all be happy. ■

COURSE

continued from page 3

involve students distributing and collecting the forms." Burner added that a computer program written by graduate student Shaji Bhaskar will be used to process the results of at least two of the ten statistical questions. Eventually, the program will allow students to access this information via a terminal from any sinc site on campus. The program will allow students to: 1) select a course, and receive a course rating and a list of the faculty teaching the course; and 2) select a teacher, and receive the mean scores from "at least two pertinent questions." In addition, "designated computers" are under consideration to facilitate access to the data.

Dr. Douglas, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, believes that the computers should be ready by the Spring of '91. However, William Dawes, a professor in the Department of Economics, has his doubts, "The process involves a lot of data that has to be typed in. Who is going to do all that typing?" When asked about the computers, Peter B. Henderson, Undergraduate Program Director of the Department of Computer Science, said he had, "No idea. No one has contacted me." Henderson added that this lack of communication is "typical" of the Administration. Polity President Dan Slepian also had "absolutely no idea," when questioned about the new evaluations and the computer project. Slepian added, "The Administration always does this to me...they always leave me in the dark."

On November 7th, Slepian announced to the Polity Senate that he will pursue the

STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE
SUNY - STONY BROOK

INSTRUCTIONS: Please use a No. 2 PENCIL to fill the circles that identify the course, section and your response to each question. Print the instructor's name and fill in his or her designated number.

DEPARTMENT: _____ INSTRUCTOR NAME: _____
INSTRUCTOR NUMBER: _____

COURSE NUMBER: _____ SECTION: _____

1. What does the instructor do particularly well? (please be specific)

2. What could the instructor do better? (please be specific)

3. Aside from the quality of the instructor, what is particularly good or bad about the course? (please be specific)

EVALUATION SURVEY

THE INSTRUCTOR

1. Is well prepared and organized	1	2	3	4	5
2. Makes subject clear and understandable	1	2	3	4	5
3. Displays enthusiasm	1	2	3	4	5
4. Shows concern for and openness to students	1	2	3	4	5
5. Is available and helpful during office hours	1	2	3	4	5
6. Makes objectives and procedures clear	1	2	3	4	5
7. Requires work that is challenging and worthwhile	1	2	3	4	5
8. Evaluates student performance fairly	1	2	3	4	5
9. I would strongly recommend this instructor to a friend	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have learned more from this instructor than from other instructors in courses of similar size and level	1	2	3	4	5

Current procedures assure that your response to this survey will be kept in strictest confidence. Your participation will help the University improve the quality of instruction. Thank you.

teacher and course evaluation guide: "I will get [the project] off the ground and then delegate [the project] to the Academic Affairs Committee." Slepian hopes to publish the student-comments from the new Student Evaluation Form. According to Slepian, the publication will cost \$10,000 - \$15,000, and will be funded by Polity and other contributors. When asked how he will succeed where so many others have failed, Slepian said, "I don't know...I will consult Daniel Rubin to find out what obstacles to expect, and how to avoid them." ■

Eros: Sexual Counseling

Dear Eros,

I just found out that I'm pregnant at the Infirmary. I feel really angry and stupid because I had an abortion two years ago and at the time I vowed I would never have another unplanned pregnancy again. What really bothers me is the fact that I was consistently using birth control. Please help me to put this situation in its proper perspective. I feel like such a failure.

Distressed.

Dear Distressed,

Many pregnant women, in addition to some health care providers, may feel a sense of failure, considering the physical and emotional stress, inconvenience and expense of abortion. It is important to understand, however, that there is a significant likelihood of another unplanned pregnancy, in spite of the fact that the woman consistently used an effective form of birth control. One study found that if 100 women rely on a method that provides 98-99% effectiveness after a first abortion, about 21 to 51 women will probably have at least one more unplanned pregnancy within 10 years.

A repeat or second abortion is not necessarily proof of a deep seated psychological problem or an educational failure. While some repeat unplanned pregnancies may be a sign of an emotional disorder, it is important to keep in mind that repeat abortion rates may reflect nothing more than statistical odds. Birth Control is far from perfect! ■

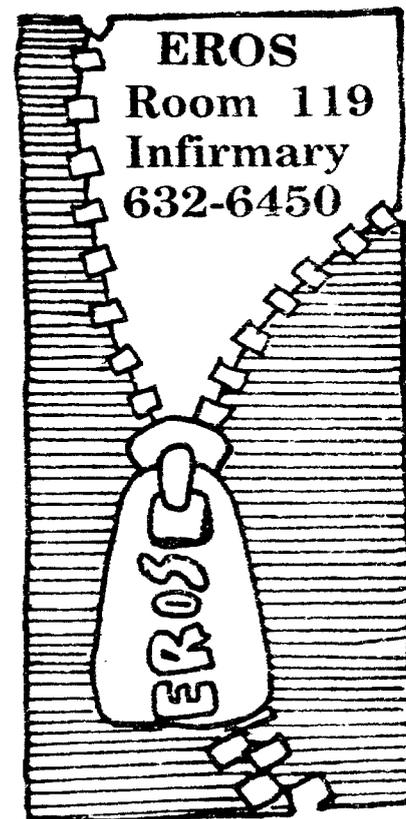
Dear Eros,

My mom was just diagnosed has having breast cancer and is scheduled to have a simple mastectomy. Last weekend when I went home, I overheard her telling my Dad about her options - a simple mastectomy, a modified radical mastectomy, and a radical mastectomy. Can you please explain the differences among these procedures.

Curious

Dear Curious,

A radical mastectomy is a procedure in which the entire breast, underarm nodes, chest nodes and pectoral muscle are removed. This was once the traditional recommended procedure performed on women diagnosed with breast cancer. Today, more and more surgeons are recommending a less extensive procedure called a modified radical mastectomy, which removes the breast and some lymph nodes but does not remove any muscles or deep lymph nodes. The overall cure rate after a modified radical mastectomy seems to be as good as that following full radical surgery, and the modified radical procedure is unlikely to cause the problems with skin healing, decreased arm movement and arm swelling that are common after radical mastectomy. For a simple mastectomy only breast tissue is removed. Healing and cosmetic appearances are two reasons many women opt for a simple mastectomy. The advantage some surgeons cite of removing surface lymph nodes is that a decision about future treatment with x-ray or drugs can be based on whether lymph nodes contain evidence of cancer spread. ■



FOOTNOTES

Intellectual Orgy

An all-day conference titled "Modern Culture: Social Science and Social Theory," will be held on Wednesday, November 28 at the Alliance Room of the Frank Melville Library from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Faculty members from various universities will participate. Students are encouraged to join in on this stimulating exercise that is guaranteed to please all. Yes! Get it on! Jump into interesting discussions such as *Modern Art/Culture; Democratizing Culture?; Modern Film and Modern Culture; Cultural Boundaries and Social Class; and Cultural Theory*. The cost for this red-light delight is \$30 (\$15 for students) and includes lunch. For further info call the Institute for Social Analysis (SBS Building Room S412) at 632-7706.

Soviet Cinema

The Humanities Institute Film Series is showing the Soviet film, *Come and See* on Monday, November 19, 8:00 PM at Theater Three, 412 Main Street, Port Jefferson. Call 632-7765 for info. Bring your comrades along. After the show you can paint the town red (in other words, have a good time).

Cold Rain and Snow

Sick of crashing on your friend's couch? Tired of sleeping in countless dorm lounges? Weary of going back to mama and papa everytime you need a place to stay? Annoyed at the idea of leeching on your mama and papa who are having financial problems already? Then, bring the intersession



housing application to Campus Residences by Friday December 7 (the application will be available on Tuesday, November 27). But you have no money, right? Well, learn hypnotism and hypnotize Al DeVries into giving you a free room at the University's expense.



Television Children Fed

If you are in the main library for some reason other than studying, look for the video library located near the computing center. Wander about inside the place and look for the *Atomic Cafe*, a movie that is really funny. Rent this movie, invite a few friends, get a case of Meister Brau and watch this delightful film. I'm positive that this one will surely blow you away. It's that good. ■

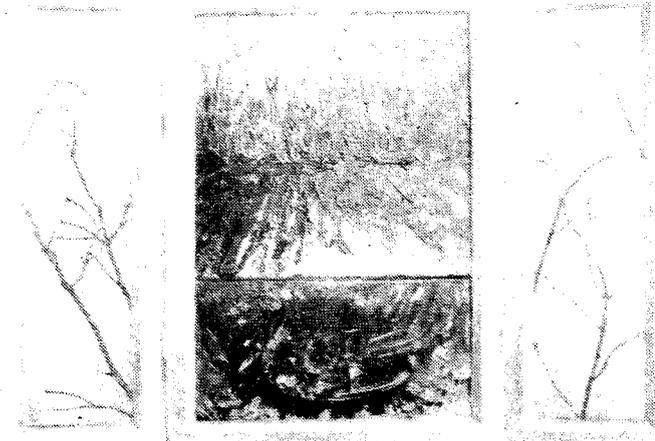
Pandora's Box

By Lara Jacobson

Boxes, Altars, and Other Cabinets was presented from October 23 - November 8, 1990 in Stony Brook's Library Gallery. The opening reception was held on October 30th. Christopher Yates, the artist, is a second-year graduate student. Before coming here to study art, he spent his undergraduate years at Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio.

Chris was born in 1965 and raised in Ohio.

Greg Forte



Transmigration

The work done for **Boxes** definitely reflects the natural environment of his home state. The show was an assemblage of some fifteen or so rustic furniture-like pieces, all of wooden frame and construction. The display was true to its title, as was shown were indeed boxes, and some cabinets were very much like altars, opening up into three panels. Aside from a few pieces such as a table, most of the works were wall-hangings. Each structure had a unique and personal aesthetic quality, utilizing an array of mixed media; wood, oils, glass, plastic, found objects, coffee grounds, and even a dead bird. Every work was created in conjunction with a poem, on the frames of the paintings, the shelves in the cabinets, and anywhere else the artist could

find the room the associated poem was scrawled in an almost childlike script. Luckily, as reading an entire poem on a single piece was impossible, a few xeroxes of all the poetry was provided. All of the paintings were landscapes, or an occasional seascape - using dark and sometimes haunting color combinations. "*When God is Near*," a rusty scale in a glass and wood cabinet, which gives one the image of a clock, below the glass is painted a seascape. The poem, an unreadable scrawl along the edges.

"*Waves*," another ocean image - a blue-green oil of waves atop a reddish wood chest, the poem "*Waves*" all over it. One of the seascape cabinet/paintings, "*Flight*," functions as a keybox, keys suspended from hooks behind a glass window.

However, many of the paintings were cornfields, country roads, blue skies, etc. "*Affirmation*" displays a painting with Van-Goghish brushstrokes of bales of hay in a field - this was one of the most attractive and striking pieces, I think. Nearly all of the work reflected a sort of religiosity of nature in title and appearance. "*Transmigration*," an altar/cabinet with the carcass of a bird encased in plastic below a nighttime oil of a cornfield lends to the image that the bird is

buried. Both windows of the panels are plastic-encased twigs. The artist made use of another dead-bird image; wood-carved in "*Metabolism*."

"*Bridge*," a central altar-piece, ironically contains a few shot glasses set with precision on the shelves inside, a painting on the background, and visible on the shelves is a segment of the love poem "*Bridge*":

(excerpt)

*close-my heart-close
close another side of romance
for I've been wrapped in arms as tender as
bandages*

The Press had the opportunity to speak with the artist. When asked how he first became interested in boxes and altar-images he said, "My pieces were made in a way so that they alluded to icons and window structures...I used a lot of religious imagery. The first pieces I did were what I would call my violence series. They were basically alters with a religious influence, crucifixes, pictures of terrorists; terrorists were doing the work of God and killing people - it really bothered me. Eventually I worked to a point where the work wasn't about terrorism but about trying to heal the problem of violence and hatred within myself."

About this series: "Essentially they are constructed images. I'm taking several images and ideas, poetry, found objects, painting, furniture, etc...The idea that the cabinet is a container, it's precious - one has an intimacy with those kind of objects...it's a psychological container as well...when I put my energy into and finish a piece it is my way of accepting something about this life. A lot of the work has to do with cycles of nature, for me finding an acceptance in the continuum of the cycle of life. Mortality, hatred - all are a part of life and accepting their existence brings about a kind of faith, or hope in life, because you accept the flow of it.

☞ continued on page 12

continued from page 5

age act in roles with rich English dialect, I have a difficult time believing that they are being serious and not doing a cheesy imitation of a Monty Python routine. The actors in *The Illusion* did a fine job of avoiding this pitfall, walking the thin line between good dramatic acting and overly melodramatic presentation.

The audience received the play very well. Matamore, Clindor, and Lyse, all protagonists in comic scenes, drew titters, giggles, and sometimes outright guffaws. It is a shame that a play of this quality will only be seen by approximately 1500 people. Considering the size of our community, you would think we could drum up a little more interest in quality theatre, especially at these prices. If you haven't seen the play yet, you would not be wasting your money to do so. The performance runs through November 18. The next Stony Brook Theatre production will be Ama Ata Aidoo's *Anowa*, beginning on December 6.

For ticket information contact the Staller Center box office at 632-7277. ■

THE ILLUSION



Swan Lake At Stony Brook

By Christine DeFazio

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater performed *Swan Lake* at Staller Center for the Arts Saturday, November third and Sunday, November fourth, 1990. Unfortunately, many students missed the performance. The music for *Swan Lake* was composed by Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky in 1876, and the ballet premiered in Moscow in 1877. Certainly, Tchaikovsky never intended his work to be played reel to reel; the accompanying music for this performance was pre-recorded, and the quality left much to be desired. The dancers' grace matched Tchaikovsky's instinctive Russian element of response to emotional impulse and freedom in his creations.

Swan Lake was choreographed by Marius Petipa, known as "the father of classical ballet." He elevated the Russian ballet to international fame. Petipa also began the 20th century ballet according to the American Ballet Theater. In addition to producing over 60 full-evening ballets by himself, Petipa produced *Cinderella*, with Tchaikovsky, in 1898.

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater is celebrating its 21st season of national acclaim. It takes an expert dancer like Patricia Wilde to direct such a flawless performance of *Swan Lake*. Directing the PBT since 1982, Wilde is one of the world's foremost classical ballerinas. Her knowledge and experience come from her 15 year role as a principal dancer in the NYC

Ballet, and her 12 year role as ballet mistress of the American Ballet Theater, of which she became director in 1979.

Act I of *Swan Lake* featured awe inspiring scenery and costumes. The costumes were pink, peach, and lemon-yellow, created by the often forgotten costume makers, Janet M. Groom and Cathy Bell. There was a jester who added an element of humor where the royal characters appeared.



Acts II and IV were highlighted by the cast of swans, who wore the traditional white ballerina attire of taffeta tu-tus. The narrative of Act II was delightful. Prince Siegfried discovered his object of desire, Odette, the queen of the swans. The queen's

spell, imposed upon her by the evil baron, could be broken (of course) only by the true love of a prince. Act III left the audience with broken hearts, as the prince unknowingly betrayed Odette, with the baron's daughter Odile. Odette appeared, during the scene, in silhouette, making the audience want to shout out and warn the prince of the evil plot.

The most aesthetically pleasing act was Act IV. Beautiful special effects were used, as the entire cast of swans, in silhouette, glided past a screen. Odette followed in a chariot with Prince Siegfried, who saved her from death. Although this was the shortest act, it was dramatic and filled with quick movement.

The choreography was flawless, even when the music stopped. The swans danced in synchronized groups, to great effect. Odette, danced by Janet Popeleski on Saturday night, effortlessly displayed superb control. Steven Aneegarn, a native of Johannesburg, danced the lead of Prince Siegfried.

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theater gave a fantastic performance of *Swan Lake*. Hopefully, the sound problems will be resolved for the next performance. *Africa Oye*; an African dance and song performance, will be at Staller Center this month. One last thing to think about: this ballet was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Perhaps this is the type of entertainment that people like Jessie Helms wish to support, but it should not be the only type; diversity in the arts is a most important factor. ■

VINYL

New New Bohemians



By Eric Penzer

In 1988, the music world was introduced to a bold new talent. The success that followed for Edie Brickell and New Bohemians came as a surprise to some. After all, it's not easy for a folk/rock band to gain nation-wide support from the music market. Their popularity was due, in no small part, to the band's brilliant debut album, *Shooting Rubberbands At The Stars*. The album was number 10 on Rolling Stone's list of 1989's top 100 albums, and the

first single, *What I Am*, made it to number 4 on the pop charts. With the release of *Ghost Of A Dog* (Geffen), Edie Brickell and New Bohemians have proved that the success they enjoyed with their first album was due to talent, not beginner's luck.

The album begins with *Mama Help Me*. This up-beat rocker features Edie singing, and at some points screaming (Janis Joplin style), for someone to help her face the world. Similar sentiments of "helplessness" are expressed in the next song, *Black & Blue*. It is interesting to note that these two songs were written before the rest of the album, and performed on tour. The "helpless little girl" attitude that Edie displays on these cuts is not apparent on the newer selections. The rest of the album shows how Brickell's songwriting skills, and confidence, have grown during the past two years. The remainder of the first side is excellent. One outstanding track, *He Said*, is narrated by a woman hoping to come out of a relationship with an inner sense of independence. *Times Like This* introduces us to a new style of New Bohemians. The song features Brickell singing over a single acoustic guitar. This is only one of several songs on *Ghost Of A Dog* to feature this "narrative" folk/rock style.

The album's second side is more mellow than side one. *Ghost Of A Dog* has a very simple arrangement. The singer, once again, basically speaks over a guitar part. The music is pleasing, and the words give us

a bit of "comic relief." One verse of the song reads: "How can that dog be barkin' in the backyard?/We ran over him years ago/How can that dog be runnin' by the backfence?/We ran over him years ago..." Edie kicks back again on *Oak Cliff Bra*. The song just describes the passers-by as seen from a front porch. Perhaps the best song on the later half of the album is *Me By The Sea*, which Edie says, "describes happiness in loneliness." The arrangement here is also very simple.

Brickell's songs seem to fall into three major categories. Many of Edie's lyrics try to react to, or make fun of, basic philosophical questions. *What I Am* is a prime example of this. On other songs, Edie sings about various male-female relationships. The song *He Said* demonstrates this idea well. Finally, we have possibly the most enjoyable type of New Bohemian song, the wonderfully simple narratives in which the singer describes...nothing special, through the eyes of...no one special. The best of these songs on *Ghost Of A Dog* is *Oak Cliff Bra*, which Edie calls, "a lazy porch scene."

After a solid debut album, it would have been safe for New Bohemians to simply follow their formula for success. However, in taking a chance with different styles of music, the band has proven their talent, courage, and creative ambition. Although Brickell doesn't exactly fit the rock star mold, Edie Brickell And New Bohemian's future in the music business is promising. ■

Playin' In The Band



By Eric Penzer

The Band was as much a part of the sixties as Bob Dylan or the Grateful Dead. They were, for quite some time, Dylan's back-up band, and later decided to venture out on their own. Throughout the late sixties and early seventies, The Band recorded hit after hit, including such favorites as *The Weight*, *Up On Cripple Creek*, and Dylan's *When I Paint My Masterpiece*. Fourteen years ago, The Band swore to hang up their rock & roll shoes and call it quits. Their star-studded farewell concert, *The Last Waltz*, was one of the better known musical events of the seventies. In the mid-eighties, The Band (sans Robbie Robertson) returned to the music world.

Saturday, November 10, three of the original Band-members played a concert in Stony Brook University's Gymnasium. Drummer/vocalist Levon Helm, bassist/vocalist Rick Danko, and multi-

instrumentalist Garth Hudson were joined by a backup band consisting of a keyboardist, guitarist, harmonica player, and a second drummer. The reunited Band delivered a rock & roll show that was musically excellent, and a whole lot of fun.

After opening with an all-too-mellow blues jam, and a couple of more up-beat numbers (including the favorite, *Stage Fright*), Rick Danko asked the audience to help them sing *The Weight*. Despite a poor keyboard solo by Garth Hudson (which seemed out of context), the song retained all of its vitality. Sometime during the next few songs, Garth fell off his chair. After raising his chair in triumph (who did he think he was kidding?), he took his place behind his keyboard once again. Switching back and forth between keyboards, saxophones, and an accordion, Hudson looked a little confused throughout the show. Regardless, when he sat down to actually play, the results were brilliant (with the

exception of *The Weight* solo).

Although The Band was loose, and not all that well rehearsed, they managed to bring across their excellent musicianship and energy for which they are famous. Levon Helm still makes drumming look so easy, you would think anybody could do what he does (which shows just how good he really is), and his voice seems to be getting better all the time. Rick Danko seemed, at times, to have some trouble keeping the rhythm solid on the bass, but when he sang, his playful voice made up for any other inconsistencies in the music.

Other highlights of the show were *Rag Mama Rag*, *The Shape I'm In*, and the favorite, *Up On Cripple Creek*. Although it was probably impossible for the members of The Band to ignore the requests for *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*, the song was conspicuously absent from the set. The night's encores were both oldies, including the rock and roll standard, *Willie and the Hand Jive*. After this song, the band left the stage and the audience left the gym. Both groups were satisfied with the show.

Backstage after the show, the smiles on the band's faces were ear-to-ear. They looked very happy with their performance. Although The Band was in a hurry to get on their bus and leave, Levon Helm took a couple of minutes to answer some questions for The Press.

SBP: Would you like to tell us a little about your new record?

LH: Well, we're starting to record and we've been working in a studio upstate. So far we

continued on page 12

SPOTLIGHT

PETER TOSH DAY

by Joe DiStefano

In a tribute to the late reggae superstar Peter Tosh, the Stony Brook Activities Board presented the third annual Peter Tosh Day concert on Monday, October 29. Who better to pay tribute to Tosh than his own son, Andrew?

Since the concert was on a school night, the hordes of rowdy Three Village teenyboppers, who usually descend upon the union whenever there is a concert, were not present. In fact, a friend commented that there were more SAB security guards at the show than reggae fans.

The overall feel of the audience was one of positive unity. Most of the people there were either deadheads or (what seemed to be) local middle-aged couples. I noticed a couple of grey headed women bopping to the driving rhythm of Tosh and his band, which proved to me that suburbanites can definitely be hip. Andrew urged the audience to pursue cultural unity and "learn to love each other."

Although I didn't recognize many of the band's tunes, it didn't seem to matter. The band stirred up a hot mix of songs, including original material as well as two medleys in memory of Peter Tosh.

The band's encore was a rousing reggae cover of *Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better*, followed by an electrifying jam of the anthem, *Get Up, Stand Up*. Overall it was an excellent show, even though the crowd was mostly not Stony Brook students. The students who were at the concert enjoyed themselves, and those who weren't missed out; too bad. After the concert, Tosh spoke with The Press.

Interview conducted by Greg Forte

SBP: Was it your father's motivation to start a band?

AT: Definitely. My father didn't want me to start with a band, but three members I tell you about (Keith Sterling, "Santa" Davis, and George Fullwood), they are the ones that gives me the courage to go out on the road and continue the works of my father.

SBP: Do you feel like you're growing up in the light of your father?

AT: The son of Peter Tosh is still Andrew Tosh. (laughs) I love that, that's my dad. I'm his offspring.

SBP: How do you write your songs?

AT: My inspiration comes from the Almighty, the Creator, Mighty God Himself. When He gives me the inspiration to write, I write all day. I play the piano when I write my songs and I listen to the music. That's all I do when I write my songs.

SBP: How did you feel about the concert tonight?

AT: Very good. The audience was very receptive.

SBP: You just came out with a new album?

AT: *Make Place For The Youth*. It just came out a couple of months ago.

SBP: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

AT: Yeah. I want the world to know that Peter Tosh is gone, but his work's got to carry on. And I want the youth to keep far away from drugs because in this society today - it's very - our youth are falling so fast on cocaine. It kills the brain so fast, my brother. I want you to know that. Keep reading the Bible, believe in the Almighty Himself, and you'll know all.

SBP: So what do you think when the audience asks you to play *Legalize It*, like tonight?

AT: I don't play *Legalize It* at colleges because - I telling the youth, I teaching the youth, I a role model for the youth. So today, I have to think of myself as well. I wouldn't want to do *Legalize It* at colleges because it's the youth, and it wouldn't be uplifting for me to do that.



Greg Forte