

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

Vol. XX No. 8

"You're all weak. Get up! Get up! "

January 27, 1999

From Amsterdam...

It's Potfest '99!

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REPUBLICANS DENY VOTE TO STUDENTS

By John Giuffo

Even after the wholesale and very public disgrace of Suffolk Republican bossman John Powell late last year (and subsequent resignation Monday) for his part in a mob-controlled stolen truck ring -- Oh, the lack of creativity! -- when the searing light of media scrutiny should force attempts to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's," the county Republican party voted in November to prevent resident students at Stony Brook from voting.

The election for the 5th District Suffolk legislature seat on January 19 ended with Democrat Vivian Viloria Fisher winning with 4,461 votes to Republican Barbara Ransome's 2,078 votes. It was held on that day because students would be returning to school at the same time, and would be unlikely to vote.

The Republicans lost again, but it wasn't for lack of trying. A win last Tuesday would have secured them a veto-proof 2/3 majority in the legislature. Their winning strategy? Quash the students. Students after all, especially those unwashed louts who live in the slums of New York City, vote mainly Democratic.

Steve Hackeling (R-Asharoken), the presiding officer of the Suffolk County legislature said, "The 19th was a compromise. The Republican's leader, Powell, wanted it done on the 12th." He also said Democrats balked because Republicans made their desire to keep students from voting obvious. "Those in the Republican

from voting obvious. "Those in the Republican leadership say that the kids who aren't here in the off-season aren't residents, so they shouldn't be entitled to vote anyway."

The law runs contrary, as it so often does, to the actions of Republican leadership.

No attempts were made to contact Powell: Party bosses indicted under a mountain of federal evidence tend to lose their credibility.

The numbers tell the story of why the

THE LAW RUNS CONTRARY, AS IT SO OFTEN DOES, TO THE ACTIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP.

Republicans are scared of students: There are 1,563 registered voters on campus. 73 votes were cast at the on-campus polling site last Tuesday. Of those, Fisher got 72.

And so it seems the Republicans' fears are justified, and their actions immoral.

And speaking of immorality, what do campus officials think? Fred Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs, said that although he doubted the legislature intended to keep students from voting (Reminder: the legislature said they intended to keep students from voting), setting the special election on the 19th had the unfortunate side-effect of keeping students from voting.

"I think that if the goal is to get students to vote...this certainly goes against that."

When they returned to campus, most students did not know there was a special election for their county legislative representative. For their

their county legislative representative. For their part, Polity leadership can't be blamed for not informing them -- they themselves appear to have not known about the election.

"I never knew there was going to be an election," said Polity Vice-President Sayed Ali on the 19th. He was then told that there was indeed an election that day, and that that was because County legislators said they wanted to prevent students from taking part in it. "How typical. Y'know that's really wrong because I feel that it's total disrespect...Republicans are showing that they don't give a shit about students."

That means everyone is agreed: Democrats, Republicans and students all said the special election to fill the Suffolk County Legislature's 5th District seat was held on January 19 in order to keep students from voting. Okay, everyone except Fred, but I suspect he'll come around once he reads this.

So it's business as usual for Suffolk County Republicans. Except this time their plan backfired. Vivian Viloria Fisher, 51, head of the foreign language department at Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, kept the legislature from being seized by a veto-proof majority, won despite the odds, and is the first-ever Dominican-born legislator in Suffolk County.

When she filled the vacuum left by Democrat Nora Bredes (who resigned the seat late last year after she moved to Rochester, where her husband works, in order to keep her family together), Fisher did more than win an election in a district that often swings to the Democrats. She put a chink in the shiny white and corrupt armor of Suffolk County Republicanism.

That's quite a way to start a term.

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SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST?

ISSUES

By Jill Baron

Last semester, the SUNY leadership integrated a process of "performance review" into the funding formula for the University. Essentially, the funding that each SUNY campus now receives from the state will be primarily based on enrollment and "merit," or student and faculty performances. This policy is known as Resource Allocation Methodology, or RAM.

Prior to the implementation of RAM, state funds were dispersed proportionally according to campus costs. Budget cuts were shouldered equally by all the campuses. Now, however, individual campuses will no longer be allies struggling together against the Big Bad State, but will be forced to compete against each other, by way of attracting students to increase enrollment and cracking down to boost test scores. This is the most voiced criticism of RAM: Many fear that smaller, less populated campuses won't be able to compete with the larger campuses, and may be forced to shut down. This would disadvantage thousands of students and lead to the economic devastation of the surrounding areas.

In a letter to his "comrades" that was posted on SUNY Stony Brook's webpage, Bill Scheuerman, president of the United University Professionals (the union that represents SUNY professors and other employees), wrote "...SUNY will now become a formula-based University, driven by market forces rather than rationally coordinated educational policy.... This year RAM is a zero sum game. For every campus benefiting from the new method of distribution, another will suffer."

SUNY administrators formed a RAM committee to develop the new funding formula. The committee went to the office of the Provost because they felt that "the notion of determining performance is inextricably tied to the academic missions of the campuses." In 1997, the SUNY provost, Peter Salins, assembled the Performance Indicators Task Force, composed of "senior leadership from the State-operated campuses, the Community Colleges and the System Administration including Academic Vice-presidents, Deans, the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council, Business officers and Institutional Research Officers, and an observer from the New York State Education Department." The group met several times since their initial meeting in September 1997 and, on June 1, 1998, sent their recommendations to the Provost as "A Proposal for Merit-Based Performance Funding for the State University of New York."

The Task Force recommends that: "Excellence be recognized through the performance of those campuses which distinguish themselves by scoring in the top third among the campuses in one or more of the four given areas of performance, specifically: a) student achievement, b) faculty achievement, c) academic robustness, or d) quality of campus services, environment and climate. Significant Improvement is recognized through the performance of those campuses which distinguish themselves by scoring in the top third among the campuses in improved scores" in the same areas.

Another section details the intended use of alumni, student, and faculty surveys to measure

campus performance. A later section describes the "Phase-In" plan for the actual implementation of RAM. According to this schedule, in the first year, 1999-2000, 50% of the merit funding will be distributed as awards for excellence, based on the 1997 student opinion survey, and 50% will be distributed in the form of capitation awards for earned degrees. The second year, 2000-2001, follows the same schedule. In the third year, 2001-2002, 1/3 of merit funding will be distributed as awards for excellence, 1/3 as awards for significant improvement (based on the year 2000 student opinion survey vs. the 1997 student opinion survey), and 1/3 will be distributed in the form of capitation awards for earned degrees.

So what does all this mean for Stony Brook? Norman Goodman, a professor in the Sociology Department and a member of the University Faculty Senate, said "...in the revision of RAM, in which the Stony Brook provost, Rollin Richmond played a role, the net result is that Stony Brook will actually gain a little bit." When asked if he thought RAM would exacerbate the competition among campuses, he said "Yes, I think it will. You see, before it wasn't as clearly formula-driven. So now, you know that if you want more money, you have to get more students. And you have to get more students in those disciplines whose costs are lower than the average cost being allocated in RAM, because if your costs are lower, you benefit.... The budget then induces campuses to look for students not because of their academic program, but because of what the costs are. And that, I think, is a mistake."

General Guiding Principles and Assumptions for Performance Indicators and Merit-Based Performance Funding

- 1.) The purpose of measuring performance and/or basing any funding on performance is only to promote improvement and reward excellence.
- 2.) Indicators should measure outcomes rather than inputs and processes.
- 3.) The best measures are congruent with campus mission and reflect goal attainment. Thus similar measures may be weighted differently by sector, such as Doctoral Institutions, Comprehensive Colleges, Colleges of Technology/Agriculture, and Community Colleges.
- 4.) Measures should be confirmable with the results, replicable by others, sustainable as part of normal administrative processes, and able to be integrated with the planning and budget cycle.
- 5.) Measures should be relatively simple and easily understood; simple enough to be workable and comprehensive enough to reflect the diversity of campus mission and activities. Least costly and burdensome is to draw upon existing data and not attempt to measure everything every year. The effort should be spread over a three or four year cycle by focusing on different components of the indicators each year, integrating whenever possible with Middle States activities.
- 6.) Wherever possible, measures should utilize trends over time so that improvement can be rewarded. Multi-year rolling averages would be preferable to single-year data.
- 7.) Wherever appropriate, comparisons should be within a national, regional, or peer context.
- 8.) Performance measures should be known in advance, evolutionary, and changing to improve with experience as necessary.
- 9.) Merit-based performance funding should be phased in and will work most effectively with new money.
- 10.) Merit-based performance funding, exclusive of capitation awards, should not exceed 5% of the operating budget of a campus for any given year.
- 11.) Campuses should compete with their own record to improve performance rather than a single University standard.
- 12.) Performance measures should do no harm. They should be used positively and with care in the promotion of institutional improvement against prior performance wherever possible rather than for inter-institutional comparison. Campuses in need of improvement in certain areas should not be disadvantaged in such a way as to virtually guarantee the impairment of future performance.

Source: The State University of New York

Good P.R. Depends on Honesty

Since the founding of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, many local residents have regarded the campus as a burden to the community.

This arrogant "not-in-my-backyard" attitude reared its ugly head again as conservatives, tweaked by the prospect of a politically active student body, purposely chose a date for the recent special 5th Legislative District election that would guarantee poor voter turnout on campus. But the contempt felt towards university students is not only expressed in political activities.

There is a group of "concerned citizens" fighting against the plan to construct a stadium for our entry into Division I sports. Critics of the stadium claim that the crowds of spectators would disrupt the peace and quiet of the Three Village area.

And then there are the exclusive communities such as Old Field and Poquott, where residents hire "rent-a-cops" to harass students on their way to events at the Sunwood estate or the Flax Pond Marine Laboratory. Many

minority students feel unwelcome in these communities, which, of course, may be precisely what the residents want.

Unfortunately, there are signs that the administration is giving in to the demands of the few people who can't appreciate the diverse resources offered by the university. Sources in administration suggest that the university is deliberately not advertising this summer's Empire State Games, because of potential opposition from the local communities.

This is wrong, for we have every right to be proud of our opportunity to host one of the most important athletic events in the nation.

And our beloved queen of public relations should know better than to think that concealment of information would lead to mutual respect between the university and the off-campus community.

Respect must be earned, and we must start by being honest about the campus news, without trying to mislead the opposition. Only then can we convince skeptics that the university is a worthwhile institution.

TO THE EDITOR

Yet Another Reason Why Cops Suck

It would seem that our local law enforcement officers, who I might add are becoming real cops soon, just can not handle real police work. In a semester that has been filled with random beatings and rapes, Public Safety (now, that is a misnomer!) has found it in our best interest to harass skateboarders. Yes, beware Stony Brook: You might get jumped, you might get raped, but those damn skaters will pay for having fun!

I do not mean to make light of a terrible situation. It seems to me, however, that the police on campus should be addressing rising violent crime that is occurring on our campus. If the cops are out protecting buildings from "evil" skateboarders, then they sure as hell aren't protecting us. It is not as if anyone on this campus cares what happens to the buildings. All one must do is walk into or out of any place on campus to know this. ATTENTION PUBLIC SAFETY! The buildings on this campus are falling apart because they are not maintained by anyone. Hell, we're lucky if half the lights work. The campus is a disgrace. Yes, things are falling apart, buildings are crumbling, and there are huge, gaping holes in many ceilings. You know what? It has nothing whatsoever to do with skateboarders. When nothing is maintained for thirty years, things will fall apart.

If the cops were effectual and not screwing around all the time, I do not think we would even need a director of Public Relations, to spin all of the time. I make a plead, to Public Safety to fight crime, people are being hurt and violated. Make us feel protected and safe when we see you, not afraid. Why do you shake us down for minor infractions? Hey you want to be real cops? Then try fighting real crime. Stop harassing innocent people.

I must point out that I do not skate. It just makes me furious that police are even wasting time on something so trivial, when horrendous acts of violence are occurring on our campus. If you are so concerned about the appearance of our school, how about riding the presidents' ass about some major campus wide renovations.

Flowers are nice and all, but green team gardens can not hide structural decay. Skateboarding is not a crime, rape is. For the love of all things great and small, get your priorities straight, please.

Ryan Muldoon

An Open Letter to Stony Brook

This school makes me sick. No, I am not being shrill or a crybaby. The last time that I ate from one of our residential dining facilities my stomach was poisoned and I felt sick for a few days. Where does this nightmare end? Read on.

Polity is about the most useless thing on campus. How many students actually voted for the current administration? It does not even have a popular mandate. Rather it thrives off of voter apathy. Besides that, the vice president, if I went by the accounts printed in the student newspapers, does not have a clue as to what his job is. I guess that the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree. I am baffled by how the President, Aneeka Gibbs, remains eerily silent on most of the issues that dominate campus. I heard barely a peep from her concerning our safety crisis or the meal plan fiasco. And has anyone ever tried to get money from Polity? It can be like pulling teeth. At times, my LEG can only function if people pay for their programs out of their pockets. More important than anything else, does anyone have any word on any of the legislation that the Senate has passed this semester? Has the Senate been functional at all?

Until clear answers can be provided, it remains obvious why so many students are oblivious to what Polity does and stands for.

And where does the administration get off doing things without consulting the entire student body? President Kenny, we have enough damn grass and trees on this campus. We are in the middle of a frigging forest if you haven't been paying too much attention. Also, where is the money coming from for the silly benches being installed in the middle of the sandlots that make

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Student Union

SUNY at Stony Brook

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LETTERS, CONTINUED

Kelly Quad so impersonable? Why does Coca-Cola dominate our meal plan? Whose decision was that? I wasn't consulted. Many other students that I come across weren't either. Furthermore, why can't I change the color of my room without going through bureaucratic red tape? And why does the university shut down on weekends? There is a large amount of people here. What are we supposed to eat? I'd rather choose to fast than have it imposed. Wouldn't you, President Kenny?

While I'm on the subject, can we please have some more professors? It's great to increase enrollment. There is one caveat, though. You must increase the amount of professors proportionately. Otherwise, you'll end up with huge, cramped classes and unsanitary learning conditions. Also, if any professors are hired, then please make sure that he/she speaks English. It's hard to understand what a professor professes if it requires translation. I don't think that most students look forward to this hardship.

So why am I rambling in a letter that seems as pointless as a Polity election? Well, let's put it this way: I am very fed up with this school. It is pretty hard to sit back and have to watch something catastrophic occur before the University addresses any of our problems. Yes, for a long time we've needed more blue lights, a greater amount of police presence in the University community, and professors that communicate well, among other things. But this school and the institutions which, supposedly, represent us, have mastered the art of turning a deaf ear. There is a general attitude that the students will

have to just deal with the miserable conditions; usually we are left with no resource. I've seen it in President Kenny, in our dining halls, with some of our RHD's, professors and RAs. Polity does not represent anything. The student body is generally apathetic. There is no one to turn to. I feel like I am screaming in a vacuum.

This has gone on long enough. It is time that the University start to provide the services that it owes the student body. We need a meal plan that works. We need more professors, and English courses for some of those who already teach here. And it would be nice if the kids in G & H Quads had habitable buildings. Those things would just be a start. While the school gets cracking on them, I would want for it to consider the establishment of a forum that maximizes student input into the system. This forum should provide for the dissemination of accurate information between the students and the administration. That means this forum should have a consultant role in school affairs. This forum should be independent of Polity, faculty and other administrative committees. Instead, this new forum should be by student mandate and should exist to put all pertinent issues to student referendum.

Lastly, Polity needs to be scrapped. Apparently, it doesn't work. We need better representation in our affairs. There is no use for an institution that spends as much time bickering over trivial matters as Polity does. A new organization needs to be built from scratch with a strong constitution that won't create confusion in the future.

Sincerely,
Ralph Ulysses
Angry Student
LEG President, Schick College

Squirrel Makes Me Nuts

Congratulations to you all on an excellent December 10th issue. I was thrilled to see the School of the Americas protest get such great play, especially after the contribution of Long Islanders (like Bill McNulty and Richard Streb) was so overlooked by other local media outlets. I hope you will continue to cover local and national activism with such zeal.

I also found Terry McLaren's interview with the campus rape victim to be absolutely riveting... hopefully, some of the people in power at USB will read it, and realize that rape isn't just a P.R. problem; there are real people getting hurt here. The problem shouldn't be addressed only when it's on the nightly news, making President Kenny look bad.

One quick complaint, though, with an otherwise terrific issue: Could "SUNY Admin Theater" be any more unfunny, half-literate and self indulgent? Those two pages could have been used for something far more useful and entertaining, like bus schedules from 1987.

"Bugs Potter"

A Campus Mourns

By Terry McLaren

"He had a smile that would just make your entire day" said Cindy Ceglowski, a friend of Damian Corrente.

Corrente, a 21-year-old Stony Brook student, spent his time at school working hard with various campus groups, studying, and helping his friends. Now police are searching for his killers.

Corrente was shot and killed on Thursday, January 14. He, Harold Zambrano, 20, and another young man were approached by three men that afternoon in a parking lot behind a shopping center in Freeport. The men approached Corrente's car, said something in Spanish and started shooting.

Corrente was shot in the head, chest, and side. Zambrano, who was shot in the jaw, was brought to Nassau County Medical Center where he was listed in serious but stable condition. The third friend, who police declined to identify, was not injured. Nassau County police are looking

for three suspects in connection with the shootings, said Detective Sergeant Dan Severin. Anyone with information about the shootings can contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-244-TIPS.

Severin said on the 15 that the motive for the shooting is not yet clear, but



Damian Corrente

police were investigating rumors of gang violence. There was no indication that Corrente had ever been involved in a gang, and no evidence that Zambrano was a gang member.

A biology major and Douglass College resident, Corrente showed a real concern for his fellow students.

As a Polity senator, Corrente could always be counted upon to make a fair and unbiased judgment, according to Sayed Ali, Polity Vice President. As a friend, he was always willing to help someone out. "He's really going to be missed," Ali said, "It is a great loss."

Corrente's activities didn't end with the Polity Senate. He also worked as a DJ and was a member of the Student Activities Board, and was excited about bringing new artists to perform on campus in the spring.

It is clear that Damian Corrente will be deeply missed at Stony Brook, and students want to show how much they care about their friend.

"We're definitely doing something to honor Damian," Ceglowski said.

A committee is being formed to find the best way remember this student who was loved by many. Dean of Students Carmen Vazquez, Roni Paschkes, Associate Dean of Students, Cindy Ceglowski, representatives from the Commuter Student Association, and Dorlisa Minnick, RHD of Douglass College, will begin meeting this week to plan an appropriate way for the University to remember Corrente. Anyone interested in helping the committee can contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 632-7320.

About the planned memorial, Ali stated, "I feel like we owe him something." and added that Corrente is in his, and everyone's, prayers.

"This is something I wish I didn't have to do," said Ceglowski, "but I wouldn't dream of not doing it."

(Photo courtesy of Newsday)

KKKANDY DOES KKKAMPUS

By Chris Sorochin

Candace de Russey has once again decided to come out (pardon the expression) as champion of the cultural right-wing, by descending like a ton of rancid K-Y Jelly on one of Stony Brook's tepid efforts at multiculturalism, a "celebration of diversity of lifestyles." I seriously doubt that the object of Madame de Russey's latest teapot tempest was as titillating as the New Paltz conference of a year back -- no whips, chains, dildos, or those strange little balls destined for unspecified orifices. But hey, once you find out what gets you on the evening news, you stick with it.

And, of course, behind de Russey, straddling her like a berserk, bucktoothed bareback rider, is George Pataki, a man so clueless that he and his cohorts at Columbia used to ingest marijuana by mixing it with canned baked beans (Pataki claims, however, that he tells his own kids "to obey the laws"). Pataki, on orders from the big-money types who hired him, is an avowed enemy of higher education, and these attempts to portray SUNY campuses as academic fleshpots are strategic ploys to 1.) justify further cuts and 2.) put the university community on the defensive and render it both pliable for more abuse and timid about making any statements or challenges that could be construed as inimical to the prejudices of Joe Six-Pack.

And, oh yes, 3.) to toss some red, raw meat to those gullible souls who really and truly believe that everything would return to its former Edenic state if only gays and other people who don't fit their narrow view of what's acceptable would just shut up and disappear -- people like the preliterate cretin Jacob Pulaski, who hasn't heard the news that "commie pinko" as a serious term of opprobrium went out with beehive hairdos (call me anything you want, comrade, just don't call me late for the revolution) and Douglas Jensen, who knows a few SAT vocabulary words and claims to care about the Chinese peasantry being forced to eat their children. I'll bet Jensen would be right up front cheering if our Fearless Leaders wanted to nuke a couple million Chinese and their children, though.

I'd also like to point out that if we're going to condemn political/economic systems and philosophies on the basis of instances of mass starvation, we have to also condemn capitalism for the Great Hunger, the artificial famine that reduced the Irish population by 2/3. And then there are all those Iraqi kids dying because they had the bad taste to be born into a country whose corrupt, thuggish leader the US put in power and supported until he committed his thuggery without permission from Washington. But then, one of the amusing things about conservatives is their ability to find excuses when it's their ideology on the spot.

I'd like to share some statistics with you that have just been released by the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. about our glorious state. First, in the past ten years, state spending on prisons has increased by a cool \$761 million, so politicians like Pataki can boast that they're tough on crime and garner the votes of upstaters desperate for any kind of economic development in their regions. Contrast that with the \$615 million DECREASE in spending on state universities and you get a pretty accurate picture of where the priorities of the government of New York State lie. If upstate communities need economic infusions, wouldn't it be more beneficial, not to mention safer and more pleasant, to open community colleges and university centers?

Sixty-two percent of the state prison population is in for nonviolent -- mostly drug -- offenses, a result of the Rockefeller drug laws (medieval codes designed to make then-Emperor Nelson Rockefeller look tough by mandating jail time for even minor drug offenses). Keeping all these people caged is expensive and merely serves to dehumanize and harden them. Also, violent convicts are frequently released to make room for mandatory drug convicts.

Since 1980, the white prison population has risen by 100%. The black prison population has increased by a hefty 1600%! But the system's not racist, is it?

Police State Blotter:

Neither of the following items should shock anyone who's been paying attention:

The NYPD is proposing the collection of DNA samples from all arrestees. Yep, even for jaywalking. Gotta build that database that will have all kinds of personal information that's none of their business. Just in case.

"Hi! I might be a federal agent" reads the legend on a T-shirt worn by a cartoon drawing of a smiling freckle-faced teenager on the latest propaganda in the holy war against teen tobacco use. I spotted this little gem at an overpriced Korean deli in my neighborhood. Is it just me, or is there something both creepy and pathetic about a government agency (in this case the FDA) that recruits people it considers too young to make their own decisions as undercover narcs? And while we're on the subject, isn't there something equally sorry about a citizenry that doesn't find such tactics worrisome?

Anyway, if the FDA distributes this little sign in as widespread a manner as I suspect they might, here's a great opportunity for some savvy entrepreneur to make a killing on the wealth of possibilities for subversion - imagine people of all descriptions walking around in T-shirts reading "Hi! I might be a federal agent." This could be bigger than the "This is your brain on drugs" fried egg.

In a related outrage, truancy cops in Chicago are now empowered to hassle kids they see smoking. Way cool, man: the cops get yet another pretext to bully someone smaller, and the kids get yet another way to strike a faux-rebellious pose, which will boost tobacco sales, making R.J. Reynolds and friends happy. The Great Minds in the political system who dreamed this up will be able to brag how "tough" they are on teen smoking, while the antismoking fanatics can derive an almost sexual satisfaction from the knowledge that they've once more deprived someone of their pursuit of happiness "for their own good." Pass the castor oil! Please, sir, may I have another!

That brings us back to our old friend KKKandy. There are several dozen SUNY campuses and community colleges throughout the state, not counting CUNY. Maybe if the hellraiser and shit-stirrer communities, or all of them, got together and organized concurrent orgy seminars (to say nothing of concurrent orgies!), we could blow out KKKandy's circuits, and she'd have to be taken away for a nice long rest. Let's do it sooner, rather than later.

ISSUES PUTZHEAD OF THE WEEK:

By Michael Yeh

It is no secret that the editors of the *Three Village Herald* despise the right of university students to vote in local elections. In an editorial published just before last week's special election for the 5th Legislative District, they claimed that, "For the record, we're no fan of the student vote."

The *Herald* claims that students have "little or no contact" with the surrounding community, and should therefore be excluded from voting. This statement, aside from being grossly untrue, reflects an arrogant but common mentality among a few local residents who wish to preserve their lily-white community and keep outsiders away.

Stony Brook students live, shop, and conduct business in the same places as other residents of the three village area. Students drive on the same roads, drink the same water, and are subject to the same laws. Students interact with local residents on a daily basis and share common concerns — a fact that the *Herald* refuses to acknowledge.

The most likely reason for the contempt shown by the largely Republican community may be due to the overwhelming majority of students who register themselves as Democrats. After the

THE THREE VILLAGE HERALD

victory of State Assemblyman Steven Englebright over Republican challenger John LaValle last fall, the *Herald* published lie after lie in their Nov. 11 editorial to suggest that students used underhanded efforts to influence the campaign:

Herald: "The *Statesman*, sans any LaValle interview, came out swinging for Mr. Englebright."

Fact: The *Statesman* interviewed both LaValle and Englebright on the same day, before their special election issue.

Herald: "...ditching the photographs provided by the LaValle campaign, the *Statesman* ran a photograph of that challenger with the governor, who is none too popular with SBU students."

Fact: The photograph was from LaValle's own off-campus campaign literature, where he proudly ran on the Governor's coattails. LaValle also insulted the intelligence of students when he packaged himself as the Independence party candidate, without any connection to the Governor. Besides, when is any newspaper obliged to run a photo provided by any partisan campaign unless it is paid advertising space?

Herald: "...Stony Brook University [is], the

hot-spot which provided the decisive 1,000 votes for Mr. Englebright."

Fact: Englebright received only 496 more votes than LaValle on campus, constituting less than 1/4 of his total margin from his district.

Herald: "...every piece of LaValle campaign literature which went up at SBU came down within hours."

Fact: University regulations restrict posting of any flyers to specially designated bulletin boards. Maintenance staff are instructed to remove signs affixed to buildings, doors, and other public areas. Signs from LaValle's campaign that were posted in inappropriate spots were removed, as were all other literature in the area. Ironically, LaValle's signs were seen on the glass door by the arcade in the basement of the Stony Brook Union on election day, which was technically illegal since the building served as a polling site.

The Verdict: The *Three Village Herald* has consistently been incapable of printing the accurate truth about student participation in elections without innuendo and political spin. Their anti-student attitude is an insult to the University Community.

Call Susan Bridson, Editor-in-Chief of the *Three Village Herald*, at (516) 751-1550 or e-mail her at toh-news@erols.com to tell her what a putzhead she is!

TELL WALLACE'S TO GET BENT

By Elvis Duke

One of the worst things about starting a semester at Stony Brook has always been having to prostrate oneself to the literary bugging of the campus bookstore. While buying textbooks should be a simple — and reasonably affordable — experience, the more retarded elements of the Faculty Student Association and modern commerce have combined in Wallace's to form an outrageous example of capitalist excess.

At Wallace's, all the standard rules of sales and service seem to disappear as quickly as Hostess Sno-Balls from Shirley Strum-Kenny's secret stash. Have supply to meet demand? Hardly. Who hasn't gone into the bookstore at the beginning of the semester to find one of the texts they need will be out of stock until after midterms?

Price your stock reasonably? As if! When next you should be unfortunate enough to wander into that bibliographic wasteland, be sure to take a look at the books in the "EGL" section. These are standard bookstore fare... classic and modern novels that could just as easily be bought at Borders or Barnes & Noble. The Wallace's difference: Paperbacks for widely printed titles cost leaps and bounds more than anywhere else on God's green earth. I once found that I could get an attractive, leather-bound "classics" version of Moby Dick at Borders for less than the price of a dog-eared and highlighted "used" version at Wallace's.

Treat your customers with respect? I've felt more dignity getting a prostate exam. Shoppers at Wallace's are forced to surrender their purses and backpacks at the door; the automatic assumption being that all students are thieves. A standard commercial bookstore would never try such an insulting stunt. Of course, customers at a standard store would never reach the point where

they feel the only way to avoid being ripped off themselves is to use the five-fingered discount.

Then there's the farce of "book buyback." Any student who has ever sold a textbook back to Wallace's at the end of a semester can testify that they receive back only a tiny fraction of what they paid for it. Expensive science texts which retail for sixty dollars or more return only four or five dollars, regardless of the amount of wear and tear.

A good exercise for students silly enough to sell back their books is to return to Wallace's at the beginning of the next semester, and seek out that same book on the shelves. That chemistry manual Wallace's gave you six dollars for is now being sold "used" to other students for \$39.95.

It must be nice for Wallace's to be able to pull profits in the neighborhood of 600%. Keep in mind that's almost pure profit, too... the only cost involved for Wallace's is the thirty seconds it takes for some minimum wage slave to carry the book across the store, put a yellow "used" sticker on it and throw it back on the shelf.

And all this is made worse (if that's possible!) by the fact that Wallace's isn't supposed to be running your average for-profit business. Since their contract comes from the school (and the FSA), they have a mandate to serve the students. They're not here just to make money... it's in their contract that they provide for our needs.

Of course, it's little surprise that Wallace's has ignored their commitment to the students: The managers doubtless saw our administrators do the same thing and figured it was appropriate.

There are, thankfully, alternatives. Stony Books, located in the strip mall across the train tracks, is a decent option. You'll get slightly better prices for sales and buybacks, and the atmosphere is much more comfortable. Unfortunately, not all professors are thoughtful enough to list their required readings with them, so they don't always

have the books you need. Students may be forced to go to Wallace's anyway to pick up that last text or two.

With the growth of commerce on the internet, however, several intriguing new possibilities have surfaced. A handful of online bookstores specializing in college textbooks now offer their services worldwide. Varsity Books (www.varsity-books.com), BigWords (www.bigwords.com) and eFollett (www.efollett.com) all offer a large selection of textbooks at discount prices. A student with a credit card can order all the books he or she needs from a selection considerably larger than Wallace's, and have them conveniently delivered to their house or dormroom within a day or two. And since they can cut costs by not actually having a store and lots of employees, these sites can offer discounts of up to 40%.

BigWords appears to have the largest selection of the bunch, with an advertised 4 million titles. My search found that they had in stock almost all of the textbooks on my shelf, in both new and used form. Every book is discounted about 10%, and used copies are available for most titles. BigWords even has a plan brewing where you will soon be able to rent a book for a semester.

VarsityBooks operates on relationships with schools — the schools send their book requirements to the online store just as they would to a Wallace's or Stony Books. A few dozen universities are already signed up. Stony Brook, of course, is not among them. Nonetheless, a quick search for some of the textbooks I own found most of them.

These alternative bookstores should be seriously considered by Stony Brook students. Not only are they a real way to save money and time, but they allow us to do an end run around one of the most outrageous and abusive establishments on campus.

THE BLUE WALL OF BRUTALITY

By Chris Sorochin

Wyandanch, just a short drive from campus, is euphemistically referred to as a low-income area by residents of what one real estate advertisement calls "the exclusive North Shore." It's one of many such areas that increase as one goes south. Here live people who are denied Long Island's mall-bright glitter. In these communities, you'll find lower, working-class "white trash" and large concentrations of African-Americans. You'll also find growing and vibrant colonies of immigrants from Central America and the Caribbean. These people do low-paid, distasteful work, often as landscapers, restaurant workers and domestic servants for the more affluent. They are often resented and despised by those more fortunate, as evidenced by the recurring English-only bills introduced into the Suffolk County Legislature by reactionary politicians like Michael D'Andre of St. James.

Needless to say, they get "special treatment" from local law enforcement, courts and bureaucracies.

Fr. Bill Brisotti opened Casa de la Paz 25 years ago to provide support to these immigrant communities in the form of legal advice in finding employment, and all manners of personal difficulties.

On the evening of January 24, 1998, a young immigrant was walking alone to his home and was approached by a woman who seemed to want money. She was a police decoy posing as a prostitute. The young man didn't speak English and the decoy didn't speak Spanish. He figured she wanted a handout and proceeded to try to give her some money so she'd leave him alone. When he did this, Your Tax Dollars At Work pounced. An unmarked car screeched around the corner and two

"...IT'S CONSIDERED DANGEROUSLY OUT-OF-STEP AND EVEN LIBERAL TO BRING UP THE CONCEPT OF INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY..."

men leaped out. Figuring he'd been set up for a rolling, the young man took off and ran onto Fr. Brisotti's property, with the still-undercover police in hot pursuit.

Brisotti was in his room in the back of the house when he heard a commotion and voices in the front, the voices of a mob yelling, "Get 'im! Get 'im!" He proceeded to the front door with a flashlight and a portable phone (ironically, to call the police). He then observed two white men pummeling the hell out of a man he recognized as one of his more active parishioners, who was at this point calling for help.

The dangerous criminal is 5'7" and weighs no more than 150 lbs. Of his tormentors, one is his size and the other is a good deal larger (6'3"). At this point, the larger one is straddling the man's legs and both are striking him with their flashlights. Brisotti shone his light on the scene. The cops began to curse at him and the larger one told him to get the m-----f----- light off him and informed him that if his victim didn't stop moving, he was going to kill him. Brisotti believes he meant this. He told the cops that the guy didn't understand English and told the man in Spanish to be still so they'd stop beating him.

Once they got him face down and handcuffed behind his back, the larger one, I guess to illustrate that he wasn't afraid of someone much smaller who didn't have use of his hands, picked up the suspect and smashed his face against the wall of the house. The blood is still there. He was taken to the hospital and received over 20 stitches. He was prescribed antibiotics and didn't get them until 7 days later when he was released.

(I once saw a gang -- they looked for all the world like a Guido'd -- out street gang of undercover cops swarming around a small Latino guy they'd stopped for DUI. Sure enough, one of them very gratuitously smashed his head against the back windshield.)

Is this part of police training? I know it's considered dangerously out-of-step and even "liberal" to bring up the concept of innocent until proven guilty, but is this sort of goonishness really necessary? I suspected it wasn't, but as the sum total of my martial arts expertise is a very lackluster high school wrestling career, I spoke to my friend Mike, who has a black belt in karate and studied under one of Japan's most revered masters (to hear him tell it, at least). Yup, with proper train-

ing, it's quite easy to subdue and restrain someone (especially someone half your size) without causing any permanent damage. Are officers trained in these techniques? Who knows; they don't appear to use them if they are. Mike opines that minimal violence policing would be unpopular with those both in and out of police departments who think it's the function of cops to be feared dispensers of on-the-spot "justice."

Earlier this month, the victim of this outrage was convicted of one count of soliciting a prostitute, two of resisting arrest and one of assaulting an officer. He will be sentenced on January 8 and could go to jail for up to 21 years. The defendant, says Brisotti, has a wife and child and is definitely not a troublemaker. The prosecutor instructed jurors not to listen to Brisotti's testimony because he was biased. The police, of course, are never biased. Police claimed there was no beating and could not account for the stitches. One juror told the defense attorney they thought Brisotti was "anticop." Brisotti replied that he's not, just anti-anyone who would use his badge and position to harass and brutalize people.

The police claim not to have beaten the man in question. They even claim there were no other witnesses or additional police on the scene. In other words, we have good old-fashioned perjury. The brutality charge was investigated by -- are you ready? -- the police department themselves, and guess what? They found there was nothing improper in the officers' behavior.

I wonder if those jurors are any relation to a bunch of "regular guys" I happened to sit next to when I foolishly popped into Horsefeathers in Port Jefferson for a drink one recent evening. One of those loathsome examples of the new style of pornography, a "true life" cop show was on and these jokers were really getting off on some police all but hogtying someone poor, black, and dressed differently from them. I had the distinct impression that this was in a small measure what Circus Maximus crowds in Imperial Rome must have behaved like as they cheered and guffawed. Then, as now, brutalization of the poor provided entertainment for the resentful masses. It'd be nice to think that this sort of cultural bottom-feeding was restricted to the less educated, but I happen to know that one of the chuckling chuckleheads has a law degree. Great.

As for prostitution, it's common in Wyandanch, but Fr. Brisotti informs me that police entrapment rarely nets the wealthier clients who drive through to pick up girls and then drop them off at six the next morning. This dovetails nicely with my theory about decoy operations in general: they're out to get anyone they can and they'll go after easy targets that can't fight back. They ain't proud.



it welcomed us with open arms. amsterdam is much more than the sum of its parts, but one part fascinated us most...

Potfest '99

By The Masked Iconoclast, Lord Hill and J. Baker

7:15 AM, 12/29/98: We get off the train at Centraal Station and lug our bags through a shadowy European city of tight streets and narrow buildings. Our first stop: **Picasso** coffee shop, where our guides assure us that the green-and-white sign in the window means 'Yes, I have pot to sell you. Even though the sun hasn't risen yet.'

That's Amsterdam for you. Try as you might, you can't ignore the pervasive effect marijuana has had on this city. With rare exception, you can find a 'coffee shop' within two block's radius of your current position at any time.

Picasso Coffee Shop was a small outfit whose atmosphere was one part marijuana smoke, one part reggae music. Lugging our heavy bags, we dragged ourselves up to the small second-floor and sent a few people down for refreshment. The plane ride had been seven hours long, and jet-lag had zipped us through six time zones. Several people were giddy from sheer exhaustion, and our guide assured us that our hotels were a decent walk away.

Within ten minutes of having arrived at Picasso Coffee Shop, these stresses were no longer of any concern to us. A grizzled blond man with a large wart on his right hand saw to that.

It wasn't until the second day that we became so stoned we stopped taking down information about the marijuana we smoked. The names became arbitrary after a while - after all, how much can 'King Kamaya Maya' tell you about what you're smoking?

The Picasso was our first experience with buying sensamilla in Amsterdam, but it proved a good primer for the days to follow. A hand-written laminated menu was presented to us at the counter: it showed the various kinds of marijuana and hash the Picasso had to offer, along with the prices for a gram of each. (The prices were between 15 and 30 guilders, two of which roughly equal a dollar; you could also buy weed and hash in five gram amounts, the maximum imposed by Amsterdam law.) The hash was divided neatly into two different types (blond and black), while the marijuana was separated based on its status as a domestic plant or an imported plant. (By the way, stay away from the imports. We tried Jamaican, Thai, and African marijuana, and generally found them to be a dry, brown crumbly substance too similar to the schwag one contends with at home.) The kind bud was in sweet abundance, though.

The Picasso marijuana supposedly won the Cannabis Cup in 1994, and with one glance we could see why. Like most kind bud, it was soft, springy, and moist with its juices. The THC crystals sparkled on the surface when one held a bud up to the light; the substance was absolutely 100% free of stems and seeds. Other varieties included Poison (harsh but worth it) and The Dream. We also tried some hash: Rabbit, Afghan, and Moroccan Tanga.

The store sold simple pink and purple pipes for those of us who did not wish to roll joints - and just in case we wanted them, they were on sale

behind the counter.

Nearly all the joints are rolled with tobacco. (We only found one exception to this rule in all our time in Amsterdam.) However, unlike the joints you may make here, these are rolled with a filter, they're mighty big, and they're as packed as Rosie O'Donnell's ass. Rolling joints with tobacco is a European thing: We noticed people rolling their own joints in coffee shops, and they were using tobacco (usually Drum) as well.

It would be pointless to talk about each variety we tried from that day forth. In total, we must have tried over 30 varieties, and one store's 'Northern Lights' is much different from another's.

However, one strain stuck out during our stay that we cannot resist discussing, and that is the fabled White Widow.

The feeling a pot-smoker gets in his or her heart upon seeing the White Widow is akin to the feeling one gets when eyeing a glistening hot turkey on Thanksgiving. Everything about its appearance speaks of happiness, comfort, warmth and pleasure. It's certainly a pleasure to smoke: there's no burn, no cough, and a sweet taste fills your mouth, as if you had taken the bud and chewed it with your teeth. The appearance? Small orange hairs wind their way around a gleaming green bud pregnant with THC crystals. The smell that escapes upon opening the bag clearly defines it as a substance you would want to bring to the Son of God upon his birth. Fuck the myrrh, bring the White Widow.

The effect? Profound. Several veteran potsmokers who accompanied us on this trip assured us that this was the best weed they had ever smoked. One of the writers of this article is one of those veterans, and believe you me, it kicks ass. I haven't been that high in years. The night we smoked it, I remember very little. I remember having a long conversation with a concrete gargoyle; I remember shouting at people in the street; I remember rolling around on my bed in the hotel and shouting 'It's a greatest hits album! It's a greatest hits album!' Not for the faint of heart.

* * *

More than the marijuana itself, the coffee shops each possessed a unique identity of their own. Several of them resembled one another (a couple of stools, a cigarette vending machine, a coffee bar and a weed bar, nothing to write home about), but the ones that stuck out made a difference.

The **T-Boat** is Amsterdam's only floating coffee shop, and we poked our heads in for a visit late in our vacation. Besides offering a plethora of delicious weed, the atmosphere was outstanding: benches sat beside windows which were lip-level with the surface of the water. Watching canal waves drift by can only enhance the pot-smoking experience. Not to mention the permanently

stoned cat that made the T-Boat its residence. Kitty spent most of the time we were there chasing invisible mice and miring its claws in the wooden floor. And they had a "Star Trek: The Next Generation" pinball machine. 20 balls for a dollar, can't beat that. Balls, balls, balls.

Think Pink featured Pink Floyd as its theme. The walls were painted with graphics from some of Pink Floyd's more popular albums (the prism from *Dark Side Of The Moon*, the cartoon mother from *The Wall*) and the space cakes were rainbow-colored and delicious. (Side note: the space cake, a pound cake baked with either hash or marijuana, while delicious, might not always get you high. Several times a space cake was eaten, several things conspired to prevent its full effects:

namely a slightly full stomach and the realization that at 7 guilders a slice, not much hash was going into the cake overall. The novice is probably the best suited for the space cake.)

Think Pink was the last coffee shop we were in before we left Amsterdam. We picked up several slices of cake and

gobbled them down on the train to assure that we would get high on the plane. Because we're addicts.

Thanks, Amsterdam.

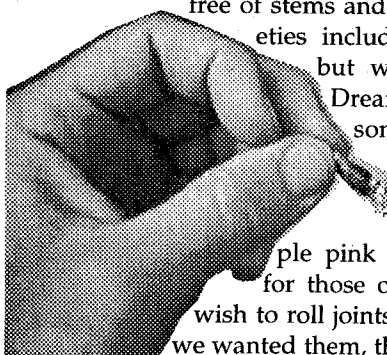
The #1 standout coffee shop had to be **Barney's Breakfast Bar**, which we visited not once,

not twice, but thrice! Barney's sells marijuana, but also food, something you're not likely to find at most of Amsterdam's coffee shops. While you smoke at tables sculpted to resemble waves and dolphins, the helpful staff will bring you delicious food, everything from veggie burgers to hot sandwiches served on thick slices of white bread to Irish breakfasts consisting of eggs and meat and potatoes. Smoke while you wait for the staff to bring you your meal, making the wait a delicious pause.

In addition, Barney's was the home to two of the most interesting people we met in Amsterdam: the herbologist, an expert in the different kinds of weed sold at Barney's ('This is a fine sativa, grown in water. Starts off real slow and builds to a sweet plateau'), and the crazy person, a Janet-from-Three's-Company lookalike who assured a slightly-bemused, slightly-scared man that a newspaper she owned would be worth \$10,000 one day. (And that isn't even getting into the 'Temple Hash'. Talk about strung out! This chick was Queen Of The Gutter. Sores and lice and all. When we left Barney's, she followed us for a block and then bent and scrubbed her hands in her hair, and I swear, the shit that fell out landed running.)

* * *

And that's Amsterdam for you. (We'd write a better ending, but the legible paragraphs that precede this notice are a miracle in and of themselves. Bye good, friends you.)



Sex, Drugs, and Euro-Trash Techno:

By Joanna Wegielnik

"Destination - Centraal Station, where the junkies will watch your bags"

- Amsterdam Comedy Troupe
Boom Chicago

Hash, hookers, and wooden shoes: ahhh yes, the Netherlands, widely recognized as one of the most progressive countries in Europe. Liberal drug laws, tolerated prostitution, efficient, clean (and frequent!) public transportation, one of the highest living standards in the world, and non-prohibitive immigration policies are just a few of the things that make this relatively small western European country on the cusp of the North Sea a final destination for tourists and immigrants alike.

The Dutch reputation for liberalism dates back to the 17th century, when religious refugees flocked to Holland from all over Europe. Amsterdam, capitol of the Netherlands, certainly remains one of the more cosmopolitan and culturally diverse cities in Europe. One can clearly see the influence of a formidable immigrant community simply by strolling down any street in Amsterdam. Indian, Chinese, Indonesian, Surnamese, Nepalese, Turkish and Moroccan restaurants abound. There's a falafel restaurant on practically every block in and around the center of the city.

Food joints aside, the overly romanticized tolerance of immigrants and minority groups in Holland should not be exaggerated. Most immigrants, mainly from the former colonies of Indonesia, Surinam, as well as many African countries, Turkey, and Morocco, work and live outside of Amsterdam in rapidly growing ghettos. Job opportunities for immigrants are few and far between, forcing many to work in the service industries catering to tourists. And, of course, there's the nasty colonial legacy; the Dutch were merciless in their quest for imperial glory and wealth. The entire Indonesian archipelago, the Congo basin, South Africa, Sumatra, Surinam, Madagascar, Curacao Island in the Antilles, and strategic parts of Venezuela were all at some point colonized and controlled by the Netherlands. The Dutch (Boer) settlement of South Africa probably ranks as one of the most ruthless colonial conquests in modern history, the legacy of which can still be seen and felt to the present day.

Nonetheless, Amsterdam remains one of the most progressive and tolerant cities in Europe. According to the official web page of the city (put up by the mayor's office!), "Amsterdam fiercely defends its reputation for tolerance. To some ears, tolerance suggests not having the energy to object. In Amsterdam, it is a very much more vigorous phenomenon. It means being alert. It means seeing everyone is free to live a life without fear of oppre-

sion

or marginalization. When the great philosopher Voltaire said: 'I disagree with what you have to say, but I shall fight to the death defending your right to say it', he must surely have been thinking about Amsterdam." Try and imagine Giuliani's administration saying something like that about New York. Not bloody likely.

Legalizing soft drugs and tolerating prostitution invariably has the effect of stigmatizing a city as the Sodom and Gomorra of our times, and this has certainly been the case with Amsterdam. In reality, it's not nearly as hedonistic as everyone seems to think. A closer look at the actual policies on drugs and prostitution should help separate fact from fiction.

Drug Policy

Dutch drug policy is founded on the belief that there should be a clear division and distinction between hard and soft drugs. According to official government drug policy, "Public health has been paramount in Dutch policy on drugs for the last twenty years. The policy aims to combat the use of hard drugs and to help users fight and cope with their addiction." The Dutch parliament passed the Opium Act in 1976 to differentiate between hard drugs and soft drugs. Soft drugs are defined as products of cannabis indica, e.g. hashish and marijuana; hard drugs are defined as heroin, cocaine, LSD, amphetamines and XTC. The policy objective of screening young people who are going through an experimental phase with given soft

drugs, from the hard drugs scene, has proven realistic. Only a very small percentage of young, soft drug users makes the move to hard drugs. In fact, developments in this country have disproven the "gateway" theory.

Possession and sale of marijuana and

hash are legal in small quantities (5 grams or less, with one ounce being roughly equivalent to 28.4 grams). Possession of soft and hard drugs in large quantities (more than 5 grams) is illegal and dealt with severely. "There are heavy penalties for trade in and/or possession of large quantities -- i.e. more than one could reasonably require for own use -- of both hard and soft drugs. In practice, this means that any person in possession of trade volume of hard drugs risks

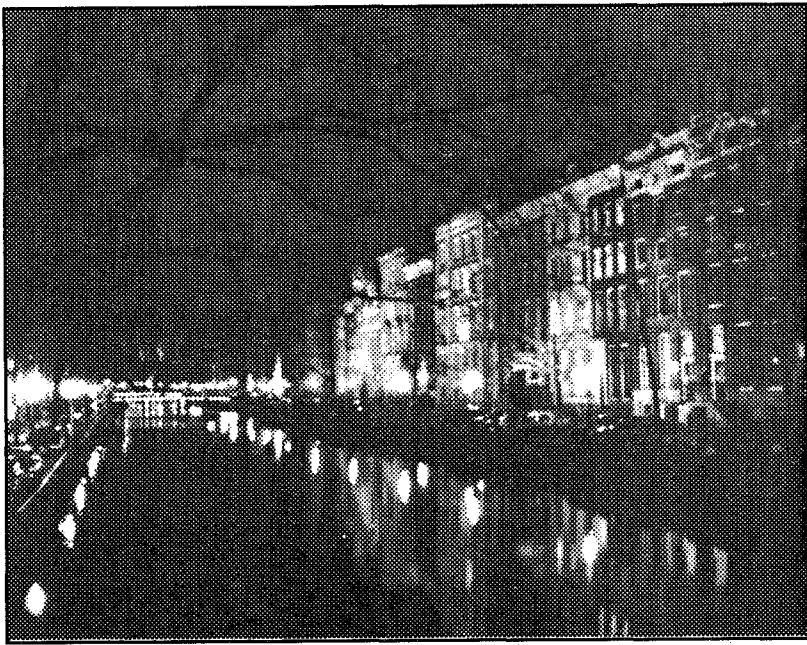
12 years in prison and/or a NGL 100,000 fine (approximately \$57,000). The sale, transportation and processing or manufacture of hard drugs can carry a prison sentence of eight years." XTC, heroin, and cocaine are all illegal but can be purchased on the street. Marijuana and hash can only be sold in licensed "coffeshops."

In recent years, the Netherlands have been forced to bow to international pressure from other countries (namely Germany, France, and the United States) to bring their drug policies more in line with those of other European countries. As a result, the municipal government of Amsterdam is forcing many coffeshops to choose between selling marijuana/hash or alcohol and limit the amount of drugs one can buy to 5 grams down from 30 grams per purchase.

Harm Reduction, Care, and Prevention Policy

Dutch government officials treat hard drug addiction as a public health care crisis, as well as a public order issue. Unlike in the US, drug addicts are not arrested and prosecuted. They are instead treated as *patients* who suffer from a *disease*. At the same time, not every addict is automatically entitled to government support. The city of Amsterdam practices "deterrence" drug policy. The policy is compromised of "combating the drug

trade; providing intensive information on the risks of use/abuse; intensive police response to crimes committed by addicts; no care provisions for illegal alien users (except in emergency situations); support/motivation for users to get 'clean' and re-socialize; and maintenance of the strict division of soft and hard drugs via a clear



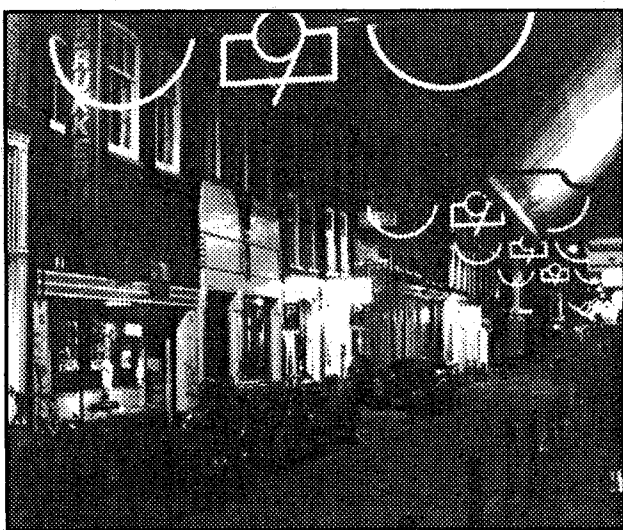
policy of 'coffee shops'."

Also, unlike the United States, the Netherlands does not sanction a government subsidized "war on drugs." Furthermore, the Dutch government admits that there are changing trends in drug culture and that drug policy needs to be

amended to accommodate new trends. "The now twenty year old policy on drugs has resulted in stabilization and control of the problem. However, given the way issues shift, it demands continual fine tuning. As heroin loses ground, so synthetic drugs like XTC surge ahead, and given the different climate for users, a different approach is needed. The need to fine tune the approach is spurred by other developments around drugs. Indeed, the patience of local people will only take a certain level of crime and general nuisance, and combating these is more urgent than ever. The fact that organized crime is also moving into the drug trade also prompts a more effective approach. At the same time, the Dutch certainly do not lag behind other European countries when it comes to drug seizures by the customs, police and other law enforcement agencies."

Dutch officials estimate that there are approximately 25,000 hard drug addicts in the country with 6,300 living in Amsterdam. The vast majority are heroin users. "There has been a steady decrease in new, young heroin users, and deaths from drug overdoses and HIV infections. Use of cheaper forms of cocaine [crack] has stayed limited. Official Dutch drug policy is based on managing damage to health. This is backed up by prevention programmes, and by provision of methadone and sterile needles."

One of the main goals of Dutch drug policy is to prevent and decrease the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users. As a result, an extensive hypodermic needle exchange program was implemented in 1984. Studies have shown that the needle exchange program has been highly successful; it has not increased the use of intravenous users, and addicts who use the program are less likely to share needles and transmission of HIV.



Another provision of the care and prevention aspect of Dutch drug policy is the methadone program. "Of Amsterdam's 6,300 hard drug abusers, 3,258 were reached via methadone programmes in 1995. The provision of methadone yields several clear benefits. The fact that it gives health care providers regular contact with the majority of addicts creates excellent opportunities for giving information, notably on AIDS. The regular three month medical checks are also complemented by a six month TBC screening. And, since 1986, the methadone bus has been providing clean hypodermic syringes and condoms. Rather than boosting demand, provision of methadone has actually seen a steady reduction in the number of clients. However, treatments do tend to be long."

Prostitution

Contrary to popular belief, prostitution is not legal in the Netherlands. In fact, Dutch law prohibits it. Amsterdam, however, has tolerated prostitution for many years. The city's red light district, named for the red neon lights decorating many of the sex club windows, is known worldwide. Brothels are not legal, and the 70 that were operating a few years ago, have been shut down since 1996. There are 200 window prostitution businesses (known as sex clubs) and an estimated 5,000 prostitutes. All sex clubs are subject to strict rules and regulations and need permits to oper-

ate legally. Failure to comply with these conditions results in closure. No expansion in the number of sex clubs will be permitted. According to city officials, this type of tight control on prostitution is more effective than all-out prohibition of prostitution. This policy does not apply to other sex businesses like porn shops, peep shows, and theaters.

All the rules and regulations are designed to protect the prostitute and ensure she can work independently and of her own choosing. She has the right to refuse customers, the right to regular medical check-ups by a doctor, and the sex club operator cannot force her to have unsafe sex or to drink alcohol or use drugs with customers. Minors (under 18) are prohibited from working in sex clubs. Illegal aliens, historically vulnerable to coercion into prostitution, are not allowed to work in sex clubs. According to city policy on prostitution "Amsterdam does not apply a policy of systematically hunting illegal aliens whether or not prostitutes. This category is particularly vulnerable to coercion and exploitation. The ban on prostitution by illegal aliens is also a weapon against the illegal traffic in women; this makes Amsterdam a less attractive market for the traders." Owners of sex clubs are responsible for the immigration status of the prostitutes working in their establishment.

Street walking prostitution was "officially" permitted in the Theemsweeg area of Amsterdam on January 1, 1997. "Business hours are from 21.00 to 06.00 hours. The area is equipped with separated fenced spaces giving privacy for the prostitute to carry out transactions with the client.

Barriers close off the site, preventing the spread of street walking into a wider area. A lounge facility is also positioned in the street walking zone, where the prostitutes can relax in peace and quiet, and get treatment from the city health service. Security and public order are maintained by the police. South American women and transsexuals make up a proportion of the street walking population. In general, they are not drug addicts. There is a major risk that addicted prostitutes are infected with the HIV virus and the medical programmes stress safe sex and avoidance of pregnancy."

The Fallacy of "Junkie's Paradise," and "Frites with Sauce"

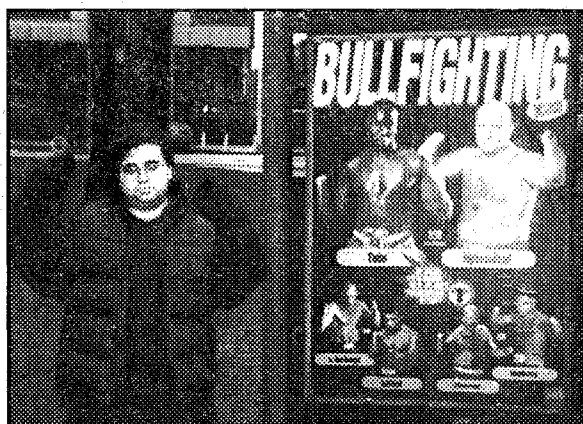
The Netherlands's policies on drugs and prostitution have drawn considerable protest from the more uncompromising and hypocritical members of the international community, notably the United States which, ironically enough, remains plagued with the "drug" problem. The "war on drugs" in the States is and remains a complete and utter failure, resulting in nothing but a tremendous human toll

(incarceration rates among minor drug offenders are astronomical, especially for people of color), no concrete decrease in the use of drugs among youth, high HIV transmission rates among intravenous users, and an exorbitant amount of tax dollars spent on a policy which has been highly ineffective since its implementation during the Nixon administration.

The Dutch drug policy reminds us of what could potentially be implemented in our own country. Unfortunately, our fearless leaders, headed by drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffery and the Clinton administration, would rather continue on with a failed policy that inflicts untold damage and harm on the population at large, and paints the Netherlands, and especially Amsterdam, in a demonic light as a 'junkie paradise,' an utter fallacy if there ever was one. Most likely the legalization of soft drugs and toleration of prostitution in the United States will never happen, because contrary to popular belief, we do not live in the "land of the free", rather, in a highly intolerant, indoctrinated society that can't handle a grain of truth or admission of its own mistakes and weaknesses. Go Captain America!

If you ever do make it to Amsterdam, keep all this in mind. As you sit in a coffeshop getting blitzed off possibly the best marijuana/hash your lips have ever touch, think back to home, and the shwag you are forced to consume on a regular basis. Think about the draconian Rockefeller statutes which have put countless drug users behind bars. Think about your civil liberties being thrown out the window as the "war on drugs" slowly but surely creeps insidiously into your everyday life and affairs. Think about it long and hard.

One last thing, as soon as you make that left out of Centraal Station into the red light district, be sure to try the "frites with sauce," a fabulous Dutch treat which consists of nothing but greasy fries served with mayonnaise the likes of which I have never tasted. Happy travels!



"Fisticuff...er, hand-to-hand...er...the gloves are OFF!"

A Closer Look at Social Policies and Personal Freedoms in the Netherlands

Legalize It

By Jennifer Hobin

For over two decades, the United States has been embroiled in an expensive and seemingly futile battle against marijuana. The burden of America's war on drugs is reflected not only in dwindling federal coffers, but in the lives consumed by the battle and the lives that could have been saved had it never occurred. The criminalization of marijuana caused the arrest of 695,000 men and women in 1998. While prisons fill, money is drained from more pressing social ills. Marijuana criminalization is more than a civil liberties issue. It concerns users and nonusers alike. Perhaps the way to win the war is to stop fighting it.

Criminalization advocates claim that marijuana has an intimately causal relationship with rising rates of crime and disease and a decline in the productivity and general usefulness of the user population. The politically volatile nature of the debate should cause any educated citizen to question these claims. Examined with a bit more scrutiny and a bit less bias, the claims of the marijuana military lose credibility.

The medical risk factors associated with pot use have important implications for legalization. If pot is legalized, who is going to foot the bill for marijuana related diseases in the US? Considering the amount of federal money that has been spent treating diseased cigarette smokers, this is a reasonable question. After all, even if you think you have the right to smoke pot, perhaps I should not have to pay for it. However claims that marijuana smoking will increase disease rates — and decrease the money in your tax paying pockets — seem to fall short.

While smoking pot will certainly not aid your respiratory health (asthma is one exception) the negative effects may be minimal. Compared to a nonsmoking (tobacco or pot) control group, pot smokers are only slightly more likely to make outpatient visits for respiratory problems. Researchers at UCLA provided evidence in a 1997 paper that heavy pot smokers (3-4 joints a day for approximately 15 years) show no evidence of developing chronic obstructive lung diseases such as emphy-

sema.

While pot smoke may be as dangerous as tobacco smoke, the key element to developing disease is the amount of smoke inhaled. Though compared to tobacco smokers pot smokers retain smoke in their lungs longer, which leads to the deposit of more harmful chemicals, the overall rate of smoke inhalation tends to be less. Since only 0.8 percent of Americans use pot on a daily or near-daily basis (which still may be less than the heavy users in the UCLA study) the risk of lung diseases among pot users is minimal.

Opponents of marijuana legalization (and its use in general) argue that marijuana has negative effects on motivation and performance. Once again, this is a reasonable point to raise. Will legalization contribute to an overall decline in the productivity of our nation? Under

the influence of pot, users may become sedated and lethargic, and they most likely do not function at their highest potential. If the people that experience these symptoms spend their entire day high, this might be a problem for them.

However, does smoking pot decrease one's output when not smoking? The evidence

nonusers. A study done by Canadian researchers shows that marijuana users worked less efficiently immediately after smoking (not surprising), however their productivity quickly increased. Overall the user group worked as much as the nonuser group.

Despite claims to the contrary, there is no good evidence that marijuana is a highly addictive drug. In fact, most people who smoke pot do so only occasionally and very few become daily or near-daily users. A study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services in 1994 indicated that 75 percent of people who had tried pot had not used it in the past year and 85 percent had not used it in the past month. In fact, only 2.5 of those surveyed had used pot once a week or more. Additionally, several studies conducted over several decades show that when high dose users stopped using drug withdrawal symptoms rarely occurred. Animal studies have shown that although the abrupt cessation of intravenous THC administration does cause alterations in the behavior of some animals these animals, do not self-administer the drug.

While marijuana itself may not be harmful, legalization opponents argue that it is a stepping stone to more addictive and dangerous drugs like cocaine and heroin. Are marijuana users significantly more likely to use harder drugs than nonusers? If so, will pot legalization incur greater costs upon society? Hard drug users are likely to have used marijuana before their encounter with hard drugs. This finding is demonstrated again and again in scientific literature. However, these findings do not mean that pot users are more likely to be swept into a lifestyle of hard drug abuse. According to the aforementioned study conducted by the US Department of Health and Human Services, for every 100 people who have tried marijuana only 1 uses cocaine once a week or more. This finding does not exactly provide support for a gateway theory of drug abuse.

Marijuana use may not doom our society by creating a populace of diseased, lethargic morons, but some argue that any negative consequences of legalization, such as a pot-related vehicular deaths, increased high school dropout rates, or pizza place robberies (slightly inconsistent with the motivation argument), are enough to keep pot criminalized. However, any calculation of the cost of legalization must be weighed against the cost of criminalization.

Since 1972, ten million people have been arrested for pot offenses in the US. On the federal level most of those arrested are growers, distributors, and large-scale sellers, but on the state and local level most arrests are for possession. Under federal law, possessing a single joint is punishable by a fine ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 dollars, and up to a year in jail. Persons convicted of any marijuana offenses are ineligible for federal student loan assistance, federal grants, or federal work assistance. This means that a college student arrested for possessing a joint may not be able to continue his education because the federal government has denied him loans. On the state level, punishment ranges from fines to incarceration.

While every arrest does not culminate in jail time, the trend is toward increased incarceration. On average 3,677 pot offenders have been put in federal prison each year since 1990, a number that has substantially increased since the 70s and 80s. This number does not account for those people sent to state prison. In California, under the "three strikes" law, more people have been impris-



THE CRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA CAUSED THE ARREST OF 695,000 MEN AND WOMEN IN 1998.

indicates that it does not. Studies of college students show few differences between smokers and nonsmokers. They tend to engage in extra-curricular activities to the same degree and obtain the same grades. While studies of high school students do indeed show lower levels of performance in smokers than in nonsmokers the direction of causality in these studies is not clear. In many cases the smokers had been performing poorly before they began smoking pot.

Laboratory and field studies demonstrate that marijuana users work as much as nonusers. Two long terms studies (one conducted on 400 men in New York and the other a national survey of 12,000 young adults) concluded that marijuana use does not reduce people's motivation to work, their employability, or their ability to earn wages. Lab studies carried out with token economies show that marijuana users worked as much as

oned for possessing marijuana than for all violent offenses combined. More than half the states have enacted laws which will automatically revoke a person's license if they are found in possession of marijuana, even if they are not driving.

The people arrested for pot offenses are sometimes high school dropouts and sometimes criminals. Often they are otherwise law abiding and productive citizens; perhaps parents, scientists, factory workers, students, or teachers. With every arrest these people are drained of financial resources in defending themselves and they lose time, productivity, and often their families and freedom. For people who live in public housing the arrest of a family member on drug charges may result in eviction of the entire family even if the alleged criminal is not convicted. Clearly for the people who are using or live with someone who is using a relatively harmless substance, the war on drugs is a losing battle.

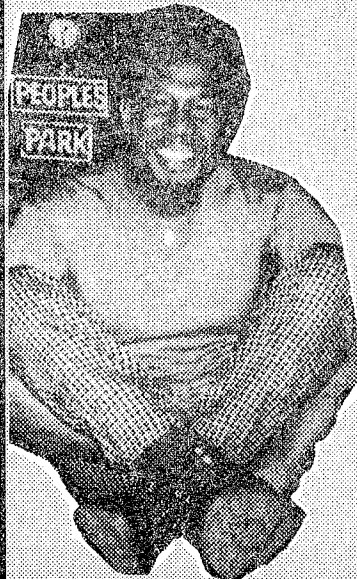
However, the cost of marijuana criminalization does not stop there. Indeed, it negatively affects the lives of everyone in this country. Arresting and trying an alleged criminal costs taxpayers a substantial amount of money. If a drug offender is then found guilty and sent to jail, the cost to the non-offending citizen rises. Now, every taxpayer pays room and board for pot smokers who were capable of paying for themselves without hurting anyone, at a cost greater than if they had attended the nation's most expensive colleges. Additionally, jailing our citizens deprives them of any productive contribution they could have made to our society.

Surely the people of the United States can think of better things to do with the money spent on seeking out and punishing pot smokers. Surely the prevention of murder, rape, robbery, and drunk driving are more pressing jobs for our civil servants. In light of the rising rates of use, the war against marijuana, a substance which by all measurable standards is less dangerous than driving a car, has failed. Legalization is our most sensible option.

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for balance:
one staffer's take on the social
impact of marijuana legalization.

By Glenn Given

I smoke pot, a lot of it. Even though I am a self-styled criminal, I do not believe in the legalization of marijuana, though I do recognize the medicinal benefits of marijuana. In choosing to oppose the legalization of marijuana, I argue that though marijuana can be used productively as a herbal health aid and the byproducts of mass producing marijuana (hemp) would significantly ease the current stress on many of our nation's industries (paper, clothing, fuel), the social effects of any drug legalization are dire at best.

Many opponents of marijuana legalization claim that pot is a "gateway" drug (that the use of cannabis inevitably leads to the use of more dangerous drugs like heroin, cocaine, and the like). While there is little to no proof that there is a direct link between the use of marijuana and the use of dangerous narcotics, it seems to be a reasonable and popular assumption. Though there is no hard evidence to support this assumption, there is also no evidence to the contrary. Seemingly, proponents of marijuana legalization herald this as proof against a connection.

I have never met a narcotic user that didn't smoke pot (and additionally, did not have marijuana stand as the first illegal substance they used), but still does not prove that the use of pot leads to more drug usage. Though the correlation

between the two is powerful, the causality, unfortunately, cannot be accurately determined.

It may seem insignificant that, reportedly, only a small percentage of marijuana users move on to harder drugs. But isn't even a small percentage of dangerous drug users too much? It would seem that if marijuana were to be legalized, the number of pot smokers would increase and along with them the number who choose to jump to potentially deadly substances.

One should look to the most wide-spread legal drug used in America, alcohol, as an example of what legalized drugs may become. I'm sure no one who has to cross a street relishes the thought of a few more DUI idiots racing along the roads. With the legalization of marijuana would inevitably come the establishments that distribute it. If we look to the Netherlands as an example, something akin to a bar. And as much as I'd like to believe every pot user's solemn oath to only use marijuana responsibly and NEVER do anything stupid while under the influence, I just can't. Hell, my first thought when stoned is to something.

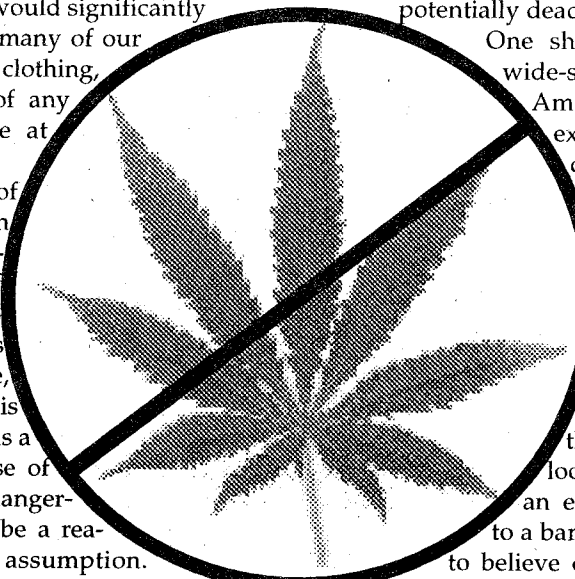
If we look back, our culture is on the whole stupid and prone to making dumb choices (which are bound to be made much smarter with the introduction of legalized marijuana, the drug most widely known to make one dumb). While you and I or any individual person we know may be

intelligent and reasonable, it seems that somehow, at large, we're dumb as stumps.

Additionally, do we, as a society, need the release of another potentially addictive substance? With the prevalence of nicotine and alcohol, as well as a tidal wave of prescribed drugs in our country, one would believe that we are a culture easily hooked on the line of the next substance that will ease our stress or cheer us up. An easily addicted culture is an easily exploited one. It seems to be reasonable to assume that the production and distribution of marijuana (were it to be legal) would fall into the laps of the major tobacco manufacturers, and we know how much the smoking industry cares for our well-being.

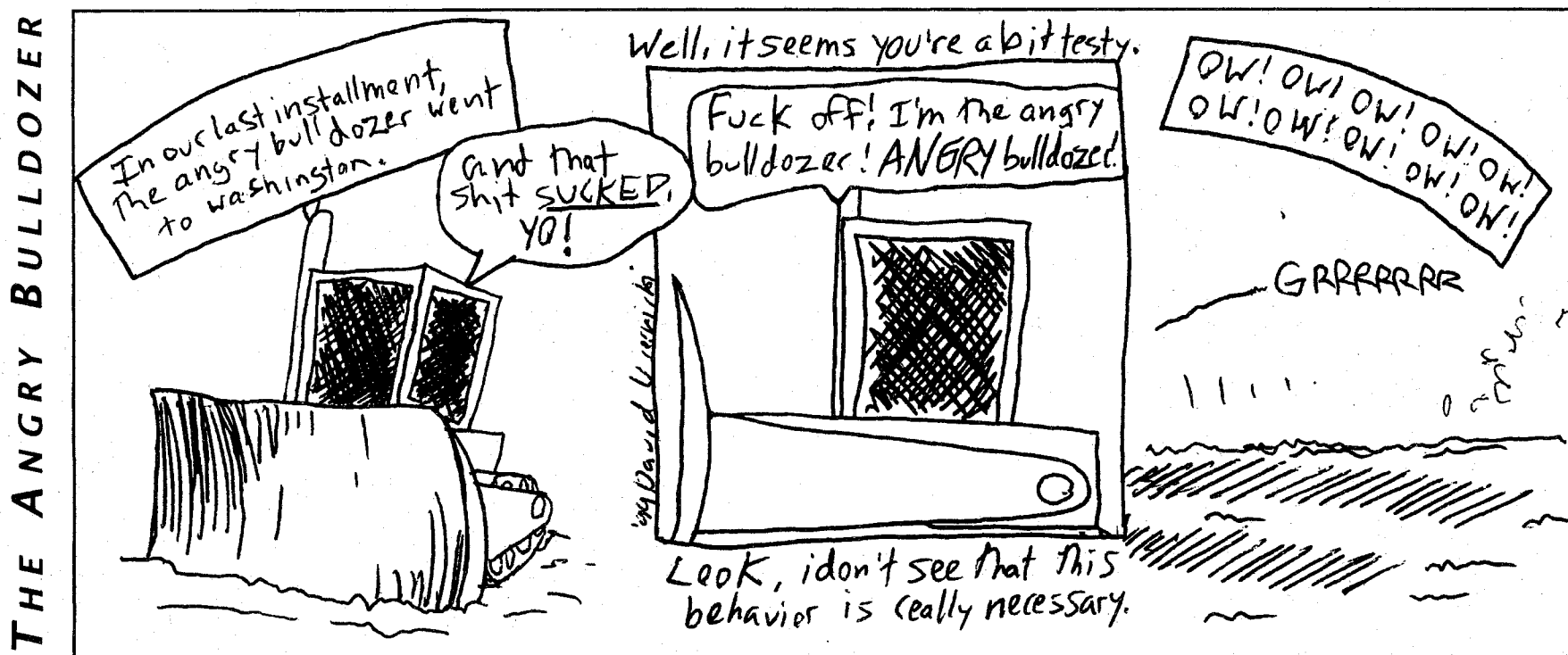
With legal pot, you won't be getting your ganja from your friendly neighborhood dealer, who will be forced out of business by the taxes on crops, the permit prices, and the efficiency with which big tobacco has in production and distribution of its product. Instead you stroll on down to your local 7-11 and pick up your pack of "Marlboro Greens" at a price that is inappropriate when compared to the quality of the item. Much like the beer industry, Budweiser, while by far the crappiest brew, remains the most popular, because like all capitalist efforts, the company reduces its price by cutting corners; such effort could easily be applied to marijuana.

Perhaps we're better off with our marijuana being illegal. We can take it into our own hands to ensure quality, to prevent accidental death/crime, and to not make the jump to dangerous drugs. Most of all, who doesn't enjoy the feeling that with every joint we're sticking it to the world of big business and big government? Don't be convinced into letting them take one of our weapons.



Top Ten Things Overheard Pot Fest '99 in Amsterdam

- 10) "Smoke! Keep going! I don't *care* if you pass out!"
- 9) "John Popper makes you hot?" "John pop-her? I think I will."
- 8) "There's no flash." <FLASH> "Oh."
- 7) "Fucking Blues Brothers! Fucking bar, man! Shit! Fucking Americans? No way!"
- 6) Joanna: "Unfortunately, my velvet Goth shirt is too tight." Martha: "When has that ever stopped you before, ho?"
- 5) "Trying to flush that toilet is like trying to make a woman climax."
- 4) "C'mon guys, it's a crack pipe only if you put crack in it. Right?"
- 3) "I don't drink orange juice for breakfast. I drink beer."
- 2) "Look at you. You're picking at your feet like a dog."
- 1) "I'd like to freak you guys out with a pair of bunny pajamas. Yeah, a pair of bunny pajamas and a big strap-on dildo."



A Brief History of US Marijuana Legislation

By Jennifer Hobin

Despite having the harshest penalties for marijuana use in the western world, pot is the most widely used illicit drug in the United States. More than 70 million Americans have tried it and more than 20 million have smoked it in the last year. Today marijuana is classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency as a Schedule 1 drug. This means that the federal government has decided that it has no medical value and a high potential for abuse. The classification of marijuana into this controversial category has not been without its battles. The following is rough guide to the legislative history of the drug.

Pot is not exactly a newly discovered drug. Indeed it was cultivated in China as far back as 4,000 BC and in Turkestan by 3,000 BC. Long used medically in many parts of Asia, South Africa, and South America, marijuana did not enjoy the same medical value in the west until the mid 19th century. Naturally, use of the drug spread from Europe to the United States where it was frequently prescribed for ailments from depression to constipation. Of course marijuana's perceived value was not just medical. Much like today it was used simply to get high and to have a good time.

In 1937 under the Marijuana Tax Act the use of pot socially and medically declined drastically. People suspected that the demon weed was linked to various crimes especially among immigrant populations, and its association to African-American jazz musicians had purportedly made some people "nervous". The Marijuana Tax Act levied a token tax on all buyers, sellers, importers, growers, and physicians who dealt in marijuana commercially, prescribed it professionally, or possessed it. While the tax itself was not a big deal, the punishment for violating the act was: Violations could lead to 5 years in prison, a two thousand dollar fine, or both.

The Act had other serious repercussions. Every time physicians requested marijuana for patients they were required to give sworn testimony and affidavits as to their reasons for using the drug. They had to provide the government with patients records including names and addresses (a clear violation of doctor-patient confidentiality) and were subject to frequent police inspections. Individuals possessing the drug were subject to the same increased police presence. These and other details of the legislation made it far too risky for most people to prescribe or use pot.

Shortly after the tax act was passed, the Bureau of Narcotics prepared a bill for marijuana use that more than 40 state legislatures enacted. The bill effectively made possession and use illegal. In 1941, Cannabis was removed from the US Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary, an act which essentially denied that the drug had any medicinal value. The rest of the '40s and '50s sailed by with very little in the way of important legislation. Surely people used. Some people got caught, some did not.

The 1960's saw increased recreational use of marijuana and as could be expected new anti-marijuana legislation was not far behind. The year 1970 saw the enactment of the Controlled Substance Act which assigned all psychoactive drugs to five schedules. Marijuana officially became a schedule 1 drug. Interestingly MDMA, the drug commonly known as

ecstasy, was classified in schedule 3.

Also in 1970, in response to the rising marijuana rates Congress formed a national commission, known as the Schafer commission to study the effects of marijuana. The commission reviewed the scientific evidence in addition to funding new studies where the evidence was lacking.

In 1972 when the commission presented its report it concluded that the danger associated with marijuana use had been overblown. Additionally, they concluded that marijuana use was not a significant threat to public health. At the time the report was issued more than 24 million Americans had used marijuana.

The same year the commission issued its report the National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Law (NORML) petitioned the government to reschedule marijuana as a schedule 2 drug. This would have allowed the legal writing of marijuana prescriptions by medical professionals. NORML's petition was denied on the grounds that it would violate US treaty obligations under the United Nations' Single Convention on Narcotic Substances. NORML petitioned the government two more times in the '70s.

After the Schafer Commissions Report, a judiciary committee sprang up in an effort to challenge it. The reports that came out of the committees hearings emphasized that marijuana did indeed have detrimental effects that were ignored by the Schafer commission.

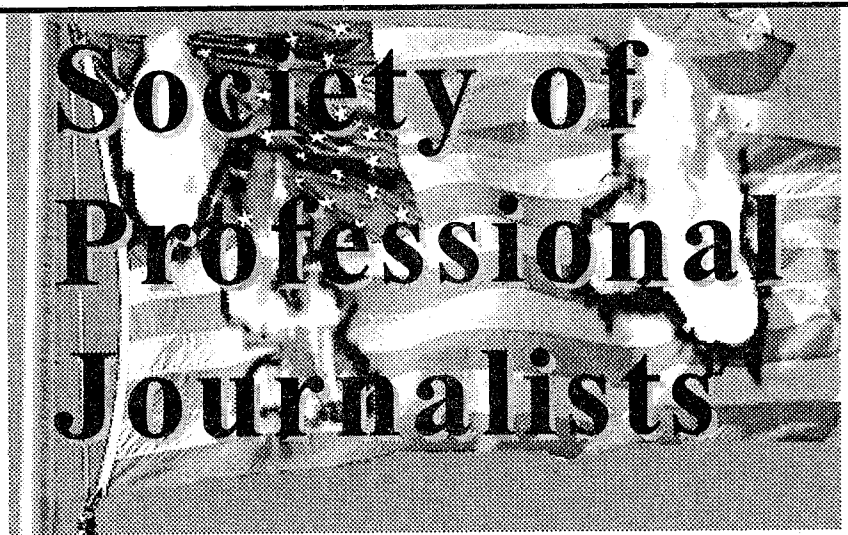
In 1985, five years after the third petition by NORML the DEA reclassified synthetic THC (marketed under the name Marinol) to a schedule 2 drug, but marijuana and naturally occurring THC retained its Schedule 1 status. A 1989 petition was denied once again by the DEA despite a recommendation by its own law judge that marijuana should be rescheduled as he felt that it was one of the safest therapeutic drugs. The US court of appeals upheld the authority of the DEA to act in ignorance of the judges decision.

In 1992, the Compassionate Use Program, a federal program started in the '70s which provides people with marijuana (grown on the governments pot farm in Mississippi) for medicinal purposes, stopped admitting people. This came after a wave of applications, mostly from AIDS patients. Only 8 patients remain in the program. The Clinton administration has refused to reinstate the program.

Despite an increased investment into marijuana funding by the federal government (NIDA's budget increased from 3 million dollars in 1982 to 26 million in 1990), marijuana use in the US has continued to rise. While research efforts continue, marijuana remains a schedule 1 drug. Federally, possession of marijuana, indeed possession of a single joint, is punishable by a fine of 1,000 to 10,000 dollars and up to a year in jail. Also under federal law importers and traffickers can be punished with life in prison.

Despite the harsh federal penalties, several states have passed resolutions for the medicinal use of pot. In 1996, California and Arizona approved ballot initiatives to remove state criminal penalties for possessing pot for medical use. Users, while exempt from state penalties can still be punished federally. Ironically, this was the same year that Barry McCaffrey, known for taking a severe stance against drugs, was sworn in as Drug Czar. At this time the White house also proposed an expansion of drug legislation.

Despite the federal governments continued hard line stance against marijuana legalization, even for medicinal purposes, states are flexing their muscles in the face of federal opposition. The 1998 elections saw the passing of ballot resolutions similar to those passed in California and Arizona in several states, mostly on the west coast. Voters in Alaska, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, and the District of Columbia approved ballot initiatives exempting patients from criminal penalties when they use marijuana under the supervision of a physician. Despite sending a strong message to the federal government, the battle continues.



Society of Professional Journalists


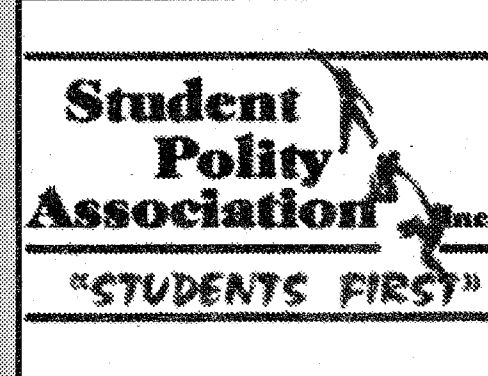
Open House

(Read: FOOD!)

Wednesday, 2/3 at 6 p.m.

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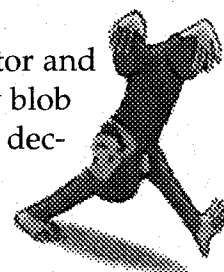
BATTLE OF THE CENTURY

<h2>Heroin Addiction</h2>		<h2>Student Polity Association</h2>	
<p>PRO</p> <p>Quick, easy weight loss program; a promising career on Ally McBeal; endless games of Connect-the-Dots with your track marks; ability to empathize with Pink Floyd; whores, whores and more whores; never at a loss for activities on weekends now that you found detox; your ashes will do Keith Richards a lot of good.</p>	<p>CON</p> <p>Your choice of collapsed food plan is a quick and easy weight loss program; meetings close-ly approximate conversations among actual heroin junkies; whores, whores and more whores; can teach the fine art of embezzlement; Polity senator extraordinaire Frank Santagelo; it's so cute when steam shoots from out their heads.</p>	<p>PRO</p> <p>Polity endorsed food plan is a quick and easy weight loss program; meetings close-ly approximate conversations among actual heroin junkies; whores, whores and more whores; can teach the fine art of embezzlement; Polity senator extraordinaire Frank Santagelo; it's so cute when steam shoots from out their heads.</p>	<p>CON</p> <p>will rip off students faster than any smack dealer; also too cool for their crack friends; not only are they as entertaining as monkeys but they're just as smart; as in touch with the student body as the Tiannemen Square Guards; unlike smack addicts they're not just ruining their own lives.</p>
 <p>Snort it, Smoke it, Shoot it!</p>		 <p>Shoot it, Shoot it, Shoot it please!</p>	

Cooking With A Dirty Li'l Monkey

By Michael "Monkey" Yeh

Every autumn, I can never resist decorating the house with pumpkins. But I'm also a procrastinator and pack rat, and I can never bear to chuck them out. So I just keep them around until I end up with a slimy blob of fungal and bacterial spooge. That is, until I found this yummy recipe that allowed me to "recycle" the decorations. Besides, it offers yet another excuse to indulge in a snack!



Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup mashed cooked pumpkin*
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour



Doin' It...

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit. Using an electric mixer or food processor, beat eggs, vegetable oil, pumpkin, and milk until mixture is well-mixed but not too airy. "Over-beating" will lead to tough and misshapen muffins.

Stir dry ingredients except walnuts into the mixture, making sure everything is distributed evenly. The batter should have the consistency of ketchup (add more milk if it is too stiff). Fold in walnuts and raisins, and pour into lightly greased muffin pans. Leave at least a quarter-inch of space at the top of each cup, to allow room for expansion. Bake for 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

More monkey tricks:

Try making muffins using sweet potatoes or yams instead of pumpkins. Since this batter will be thicker, double the amount of milk in the recipe.

***Cooking pumpkins:** The easiest way to cook fresh pumpkin is to place 1-inch chunks in a bowl covered with plastic wrap and microwave on the highest setting for 5 minutes. Otherwise, one can steam or boil it until tender.

By Donald Geetch Toner

Finding internet sites on reforming the laws against the prohibition of marijuana is much more difficult than one would expect.

They are few and far between in my opinion. In the time it takes to find one, you could have rallied all of your friends together and marched down to Capitol Hill to protest on your own. Once finding the sites though, it becomes an even more difficult task to find ones which contain any information on a simian level. There are more people out there that dedi-

cate their home pages to cannabis that have not a clue as to what they are saying than there should be, almost to a dangerous level. If one should really search though the information is available to the public over the internet, as well as in books and videos, for all to partake in.

The first site I located, and by far one of the more informative sites, was at <http://marijuana-as-medicine.org>. The site itself is a full outline of facts about the medicinal uses of the drug, historical uses of it, political policies surrounding the use of it, as well as citing specific US and European cases dealing with the drug. The site includes answers to many questions people have had about the drug such as "How long it stays in your system?" to "Which states have passed legislation advocating doctors to prescribe marijuana?". The site itself is very well organized to the point that my 14 year old sister knew exactly where to go when I posed a ques-

tion to her in reference to the site. Alos due to the lack of big fancy graphics it uploads in mere seconds, no wait needed.

The next site I found, <http://www.lindesmith.org/mmjcsdp.html>, covers a broad range of subjects including a history that dates back to 15th century BC China, the first recorded use of marijuana as a medicine to debates on the drug as late as 1998. There are listings of the findings from the scientific community on the

is also a quiz to test your knowledge of the history of the drug in this nation, a big eye opener in my opinion. Also at the end of the page one can send donations to NORML and join in their fight to legalize cannabis for prescription use.

The final site I found was at aclu.org/library/spring98.html. Although it doesn't contain the broad spectrum of other sites it does show specific recent examples of the drug in America. The website is somewhat one

sided stating the all to familiar marijuana versus drinking/tobacco argument. The biggest redeeming factor of this page though besides its quick loading time is the

list of links at the end. Not a well thought out page in the fact that it has no index, but the list of links at the end is quite comprehensive, spanning all possible references one would want to know about, including some of the links mentioned above.

One side note as we come to a close was that on my visit to the DEA site, a site one would think would contain vast amounts of information on this subject. There was NO information at all. Well that is not entirely true, they had a couple of graphs. That's it, nothing else. I searched around for over a half hour to find those 3 or 4 graphs which just showed how they had arrested more little kids (8-12 grader's) for possession of marijuana in recent years.

I leave you now to your own opinions on the subject at hand and hopefully, if you visit these websites, I leave you better informed.

Potfest Web Picks

medical uses of the drug and its application for illnesses ranging from asthma and nausea to AIDS and cancer. Also with a listing of state wide laws and individual state studies laid forth in a very easy to follow manner no one should have any trouble following this site. It has a self containing index which will take you exactly where you want to go with little fuss.

The third site I came about was <http://www.natlnorml.org/home.html>. The site may take a couple seconds longer to load than the previous ones mentioned but it is well worth the wait. Before you even enter the actual cite a few statistics flash on your screen, preparing you for what lies ahead. The site is the home site of the national branch of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The page is heavily endowed with information dealing with legislation on the uses, for medicinal purposes, of the drug. There



<http://www.the-spot.org>

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4. Volcanos: Blow the Roof of this Mutha (Magma)
5. Refused: I Feel Lonely (Epitaph)
6. Asian Dub Foundation: Rafi's Revenge (London)
7. Emmylou Harris: Spyboy (Eminent)
8. Gang of Four: Bienvenido a Miami (Rhino)
9. Elliot Sharp: Tectonics - Field & Stream (Knitting Factory Records)
10. Beck: Mutations (DGC)
11. Digital Empire II: The Aftermath (K-Tel)
12. Rondelles - Fiction Romance, Fast Machines (Smells Like)
13. Pussycats: Playin' Dirty (Hell Yeah)
14. The McGarrigle Hour: Peg-Leg Man (Hannibal/Rykodisc)
15. Jim's Big Ego: Don't Get Smart (Eastern Front Records)
16. Hasidic New Wave: Giuliani Uber Alles (Knitting Factory Records)
17. Tommy Boy's Greatest Beats (Tommy Boy)
18. Jennifer Kimball: Limp Wristed Rock (Imaginary Road)
19. John Lee Hooker: The Best of Friends (Virgin)
20. Forward 'Til Death: Who's Your Sugar Daddy? (Lookout!)
21. Flat Duo Jets: The Broncos Suck Armadillo Dick (Outpost)
22. KMFDM: A Rabbit Eats Carrots! (Wax Trax!)
23. Victory Style III: He Doesn't Like Parrots! (Victory)
24. Jello Biafra: If Evolution is Outlawed, Only Outlaws will Evolve (Alternative Tentacles)
25. Nighty Nine: 767 (Endearing)
26. Peter Epstein: Staring at the Sun (Muuka-Luuka)
27. Two Man Advantage: Drafted (Royalty)
28. Long Hind Legs: Feb 4th-14th 1998 (Kill Rock Stars)
29. Fall/Winter 1998 Compilation (Southern/Tree/Polyvinyl)
30. Chicago Underground Duo: 12 Degrees of Freedom (Thrill Jockey)

We've Got It "All" in Al(l)bany

By Matthew Vernon Xavier Willemain

ALBANY - The snow kept falling, and with it, the freezing rain. The geographic and political heart of the Empire State was paralyzed...petrified. But it wasn't the harsh weather that hits you like a ton of Canadian bricks the moment you leave Westchester County that froze the hearts of old white men in this upstate utopia. No, it was fear for the searing hot justice that comes following the three words no corrupt state bureaucrat or ultra-reactionary SUNY Trustee can stand hearing: *Stony Brook Press*. The slimy squid-like tentacles of truth and decency wrapped themselves around Albany on Friday, January 22, with the opening of the *Stony Brook Press Albany Bureau*.

The mission of the Albany Bureau would not be an easy one. First, there would be the coverage of state politics. The average *Press* reader is well educated and politically engaged, and this puts great pressure on excellence in news gathering. In particular, great care must be taken to keep tabs on the dangerously-out-of-control SUNY Central, what with certain Trustees we shan't name here, descending further into depravity with every daily shot of that vilest of dopes, Rush Limbaugh. Second, it would be the duty of the Albany Bureau, during what journalists term "lazy staff weeks" to fill space in the paper with restaurant reviews of Albany area eateries just four and a half hours by car from Stony Brook.

Obviously, it would take an experienced journalist with crack instincts, unquestionable integrity, bold leadership skills and more than a little courage to take the helm of this historic adventure. After an exhaustive search process in which all *Press* staff members were required to undergo a

daily regimen of calisthenics and drug testing, the competition was narrowed down to the two hundred finest women and men the *Press* has ever had the pleasure of being written by. When one of these candidates withdrew from school and moved home to Albany, the search was over!

Clearly, Matthew Vernon Xavier Willemain, the *Press'* new Albany Bureau Chief (ABC), is a perfect fit for the high pressure world of political journalism. "You know," said Willemain, "a few years ago I came up with a method that has served me well in all my political work. It just hit me like a ton of Canadian bricks. Follow the money! My idea seems to be picking up steam in journalistic circles. This is why I believe that this principle, along with my many other principles, will serve me well in my years as the ABC." Willemain cited the fact that his name appears on page 36 of the January/February '99 issue of *Quill*, the quarterly magazine of the Society of Professional Journalists, which often prints the names of such important figures as the Pope and Ted Turner. Other credentials include two semesters of editorial service at the *Press*, and the fact that he lives near Albany. When asked about living in the wintry Capitol District, Willemain responded that, "it's better than that [expletive deleted] island!" Quickly retracting his comment, and asking that it not be included in this article, Willemain pointed to comments by New York State Governor George Pataki, quoted in the Sunday, January 3 *Albany Times Union*, "The Capital Region, I think, is now, and will be one of the most exciting places in America in the 21st century. I honestly think this is going to be one of the most exciting places in America to live over the next decade." However, Willemain also pointed to the Governor

ing behind the last row of seats in a darkened movie theatre between showings of *Down in the Delta* at Albany shopping mecca, Crossgates Mall. Willemain brushed aside my first question, about his presence at the mall, which many have accused of causing irreparable damage to both the small community in which it is located, and a population of an endangered butterfly that once thrived there. Asked again about his objectivity and potential conflicts of interest, Willemain responded, "We at the *Press* don't believe in the outdated model of objective journalism espoused by those hacks at the New York Times, and we don't make any arrogant claims to have no bias. In fact, we're proud of our stand on numerous issues, including hard-hitting environmental advocacy and distaste for corporate power and big-money special interests! As far as the State Legislature goes, I have carefully documented evidence that State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is actually an agent of Lucifer."

Prominent area businessman James "Moneybags" Hawley had only good things to say about Willemain. "Yeah, I know Willemain. He's a good friend. Bit of a freeloader, though. We're always going out to all the best restaurants in town, and I always end up picked up the bill. Plus, he never has a cigar, so I always have to give him nice cigars. But he's loyal. I bet he'd never write anything bad about me, or my vast empire of business interests. Oh, and I take him for rides in my Corvette, too. He sure does love fast cars and loose women."

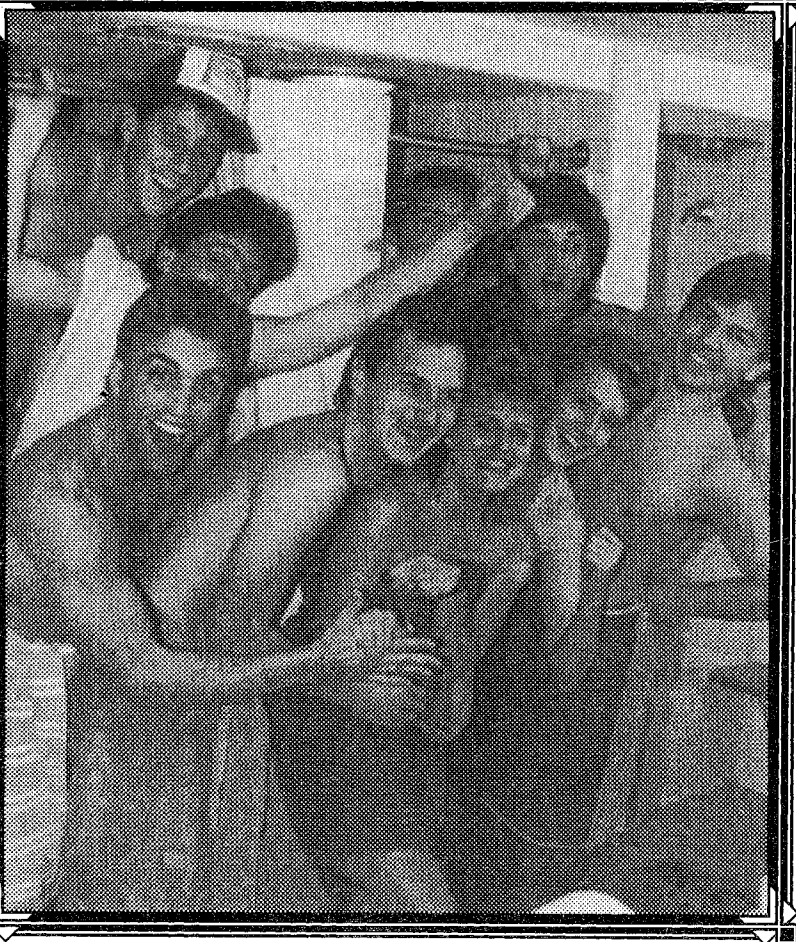
"Quid pro quo, no!" Willemain insisted in regards to his ties to the Albany business community. "Ok, so the guy gives me free dinners. It's not like I'm getting' cigars out of the deal or anything. The fat cats are the bad guys. Me and Pataki aren't the fat cats! I'm the model of moral leadership that both the Stony Brook Community and the Capital District are starving for. That's why the *Times Union* is spreading these lies about me! They fly the Libyan flag, you know!"

This was a bold claim. But true. There it hangs, next to ol' Stars and Stripes, flapping in the balmy freezing rain. Majestically it waves, proudly declaring that bond of loyalty only the Albany *Times Union* can feel for Libya. It's the same bond of loyalty *Stony Brook Press Albany Bureau Chief* Matthew Vernon Xavier Willemain (SBPABCMVXW) feels for Long Island and her people. And to have that bond with a man whose name is printed on page 36 in the January/February issue of *Quill* is no small gift, indeed. More like a ton of Canadian bricks than a small gift.

In Albany, life goes on. While the *Press* opening its Albany Bureau is the biggest news in town, it's certainly not the only news. The Green Party protests the Rockefeller drug laws on the steps of the Capital. The Governor delivers his State of the State address. The Albany Police Department handled brutality charges. General Electric continues to plunder the taxpayers of New York. Senate Majority Leader Bruno proposes student tax cuts. The SUNY Board of Trustees meets to continue it's radical right-wing agenda of dismantling the State University system. It's these little things that fill in the pattern on the quilt of life, between *Press* bureau openings.

And it's the little things that remind us why Albany is so great. Because, even though it may be a very little thing indeed compared to cities like New York or, say, Setauket, Albany does have William Kennedy, Pulitzer Prize winning author and long time personal friend of Official *Press* Hero Hunter S. Thompson. Having only one Pulitzer Prize winning writer in town means no disorderly jockeying in line to write the forward to the new regional bestseller: *Albany, Capital City on the Hudson*. With Matthew Vernon Xavier Willemain (see page 36 in the January/February issue of *Quill*) back home, that may all be about to change.

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cautioning, in the same article, "Albany could be struck by a meteor."

"That's the kind of risk a guy like me is willing to take for the sake of truth, justice and the common good," said Willemain. "And I believe every word George Pataki says. Anyone who wants to eliminate parole for all felons, slash the SUNY budget and make it functionally impossible to collect the taxes needed to provide vital social services, is my kind of guy. Plus, I can't get those dreamy teeth of his out of my head."

It is precisely this even-tempered objectivity that puts Willemain head and shoulders above the other news sources in Albany, chief among them the Hearst Corporation's *Times Union* and Northeast Public Radio WAMC. Willemain is the kind of man who can be trusted to give even-handed, non-partisan views on the issues that matter most to the Stony Brook Community. Responding to allegations that he worked as a campaign volunteer for a state legislator, Willemain said, "Behind you! It's a trap!" When I caught up with him later, he was crouch-

College Women Bank on Morning-After Pill

By Elana Ashanti Jefferson
Columbia News Service

It's been a vital secret among sexually active college women for more than a decade.

Birth and abortion are not the only options to a possible pregnancy. A trip to the campus health clinic provides a third alternative that whisks away pregnancy 97 percent of the time.

Little-heralded "morning-after pills," also called emergency or post-coital contraceptives, have been a staple at student health clinics since the late 1980s. Now it is as common for college women to pick up a prescription for the pills as it is for them to check out a book from the library. And because of the unique way they prevent pregnancy, these pills have managed to stay below the radar screen of the nation's explosive abortion debate.

University of California junior Sarah Carey learned about emergency contraception last year after a condom mishap.

"It was stressful," the 21-year-old Latin American Studies major said from her home in Santa Cruz. "But part of me was just like, 'O.K., I can go in and take the pill.'"

These emergency contraceptive pills do not cause an abortion like the French "morning-after pill," RU-486, which is not approved for U.S. distribution. Rather, the American pills prevent pregnancy by dosing a woman with high levels of hormones, explained Brenda Slade, director of women's health services at Columbia University.

Scientists do not know exactly how emergency contraceptives work. They suspect that the hormones induce menstruation or prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg. Possible side effects are the same as with other oral contraceptives: cramping, shortness of breath, high blood pressure and rare circulatory problems like strokes and heart attacks.

"For a time, emergency contraception was touted as one of the best kept secrets in the world of gynecology," Slade said. "College campuses were some of the first places it was available."

The pills contain drugs that have been legal in the United States for years. But it wasn't until February 1997 that the Food and Drug Administration approved high doses of hormones as a method of preventing pregnancy. Women must take a series of the pills within three days after unprotected sex.

Uncertainty about the precise way emergency contraception works appears to have spared it from attack by anti-abortion groups.

"We take no position on contraception," said Jeanne Head, president of the New York Right to Life committee. "We only oppose those drugs that cause an abortion."

Sandy Trevitchick, manager of the women's clinic at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus, said at least two students request emergency contraception each week. "It's usually due to unprotected sex or a condom breaking," she said. "Sometimes it's from sexual assault."

Slade said that women are rarely as distressed about taking these pills as they are about getting an abortion. "The magnitude of the decision is entirely different."

Barnard College student Jennifer Williford said, "Three months down the road, these pills may prevent a woman from getting an abortion."

Many students take the availability of emergency contraception for granted—an "easy solution," said one from Massachusetts. Older women are less certain.

Sensitivity to alumni concerns has kept nurse practitioners at Stephens College, a women's school in Columbia, Mo., from widely advertising the pills.

"The alumni were around when there were house mothers in every dorm. They don't even want 24-hour visitation," said Cherie Dupuis, the director of student health services at Stephens. "They have a different set of moral and ethical standards than students today."

Women students who have experienced the pills say it would be foolish to rely on them for birth control.

"When I took them, I got cramps that were more serious than any I'd ever had," Carey said. "I would never plan on using them again."



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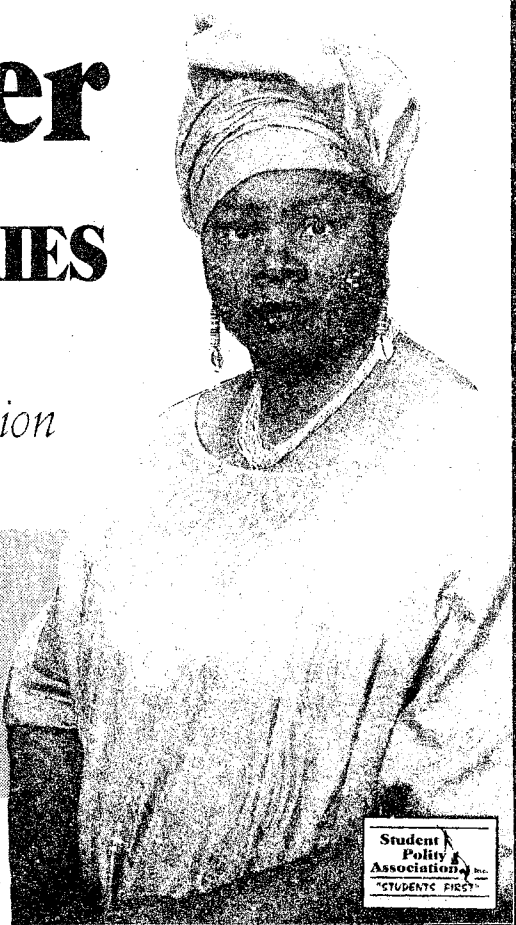
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Polity Progress and Other Fun Oxymorons

A bi-weekly feature exploring the inner workings of our student government

By Joanna Wegielnik and John Giuffo

In this week's installment of *Polity Progress*, we examine the Polity constitution, a source of much contention among warring factions in our student government. Certain members of the Senate and Council would have us believe that the Polity Constitution is the reason why nothing ever gets done during Polity meetings. Being no experts in constitutional law, we sought the legal expertise of two old *Press* friends to elucidate the intricacies of said document; Marina del Ray, Esq. and Original Gangsta, Ice-T. Without further ado, we present the Polity Constitution as interpreted by the dynamic duo.

Polity - "An Aristotelian form of political organization in which the whole body of the people govern for the good of all and that constitutes a fusion of oligarchy and democracy."

Marina del Ray, Esq.

"To ensure that each individual may become all that she is capable of being? Why is gender being specified in the preamble? The wording in this document is totally UNACCEPTABLE."



"The Council should not be given absolute power to to appoint something as vital as a budget committee. Do you know what happens when a dangerous faction is left to its own devices? COLOMBIA 1953! LAND REFORM! PEASANT REVOLUTIONARIES! LOS GUERRILLEROS ESTAN EN LA JUNGLA! MI PUEBLO, EL FIN DEL MUNDO ESTA AQUI!"



"Whatever happened to majority rule in government? 24% for amendment procedure is ludicrous! I WILL NOT STAND FOR SUCH ABUSE OF POWER!"



"25% of the Student Polity for a referendum!!!!???? If I was in Polity, I'd get eight of my friends to initiate a referendum to elect me as Supreme Leader."



The Polity Constitution

Preamble

As of December 1993 - The objective of Student Government at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is to insure that each individual may become all that she is capable of being. To realize this purpose, Student Government must be cognizant that they represent the student point of view, which places those items concerning the educational atmosphere above all else. To this end, Student Government is mandated to create and perpetuate programs which reflect upon the total environment of the University.

Student Government ultimately derives its power from the student body which must be considered an autonomous unit within the University Community. Student Government is created to carry out its mandate through the delegation of powers to it by the Student Polity, as put forth in this constitution.

Article XI Section II

The membership of the Budget Committee shall be determined by the Council. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of the Budget Committee.

Article XIII - Amendment Procedures

1. A proposed amendment must be put on a ballot by either a petition of 24% of the Student Polity, 3/4 vote of the Senate or may be initiated by 3/4 vote of the Council.

2. An amendment will be considered ratified if 2/3 of the members of Polity voting on the amendment vote affirmatively.

Article XIII - Referendum

"{A referendum may be initiated by majority vote of the Council or by a petition of 25% of The Student Polity.} A referendum shall be adopted if a majority of those casting ballots vote affirmatively."

Original Gangsta, Ice-T

"See, what this bitch is sayin' is that the constitution uses 'she' to refer to all students, bitches an' playas alike. But I don' know what she complainin' about, bitch should be happy the shit even mentions bitches in the first place. Shit."



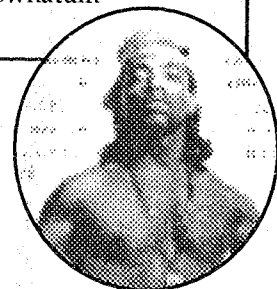
"Straight motherfuckin' up, motherfucker! Nobody should have access to money like that except yours truly. Sides, man, ain't no fuckin' college students gonna know what to do with that many presidents."



"Yo, this bitch is trippin'. She's all like mira, mira, an' shit. Man, you best shut yo ho mouth bitch. I got some power for you to abuse, mothafuckin' BITCH!"



"Straight, up, I'm ma let y'all in on one a Ice's little secrets. When a bitch offers to bring eight of her friends, MARRY that bitch, yo! Let them all check out your chest, dog, yknowhatum-sayin?"



In next week's installment, we report back on the first Polity meeting of the new year and take a close look at the Spring semester's agenda. Also: an exclusive interview with Steve Fiore Rosenfeld, Esq., a former Polity member, and guest commentary by Elvis Duke, bad-ass-at-large. Plus, we reveal the secret identity of the 'happenin' dancer.'