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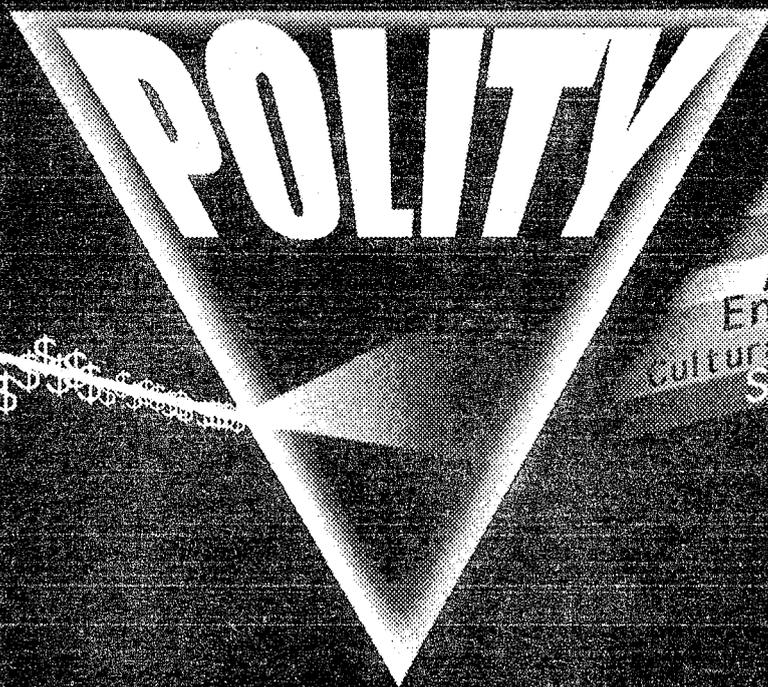
THE STONY BROOK PRESS

Vol. XXI No. 5

Vote "YES" For Press!

November 10, 1999

The Student Activity Fee Debate *...Pages 3 and 4*



Academics
Media
Athletics
Entertainment
Cultural and Advocacy Interests
Services

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in
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Goes Bye-Bye**
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**Jack and Hil tackle your
sexual queries**
...pages 18 and 19

And...the Fall 1999 Literary Supplement

What's New at SBU

Thanksgiving 1999

The Minority Planning Board will be sponsoring their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17, 1999, from 7 to 10 p.m. They will be busing people from various homeless shelters to the Union Ballroom, where the homeless will enjoy a wonderful dinner. In order to make this event successful, they need your help.

They are looking for volunteers who can serve food and socialize with the attendees. If you are interested, please contact Domarys at 6-2879.

Please donate canned goods to the food drive. Collection boxes will be found in the Polity Suite 202 and at the table in the Union during the next couple of Campus Lifetimes.

Fall Elections Student Polity Association, Inc. November 10 and 11, 1999 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There will be polling sites located in Roth Quad, Kelly Quad, H-Quad, the library, Javits, the Student Activities Center (SAC) and the Union.

Revote required to continue funding these referenda groups:
Blood Drive, COCA (Movies), News Media, SAB (Student Activities Board),
Specula (Yearbook),
The Stony Brook Press,
University Response (Hotline),
Women's Rugby and Polity's Undergraduate Student Activity Fee.

If you would like to run for a position or need more info, call 632-6461 or stop by Student Polity Suite 202 in the Student Activities Center.

"Worms World: Elemental Cycling at the Seafloor"

By Prof. Robert C. Aller
Marine Sciences Research Center
SUNY Stony Brook

Sedimentary deposits are major sites of organic matter decomposition and nutrient regeneration, particularly in shallow water shelf and estuarine environments such as Long Island Sound. Sediments are also repositories and natural processing sites for a range of anthropogenic wastes.

Bottom-dwelling animals play an extremely important role in controlling physical and chemical properties of the seafloor, and can influence plankton productivity in overlying water. Although muds and sands may sometime appear quiescent and boring, the seafloor is in fact riddled with structures formed by bottom-dwelling fauna, and is in a constant state of dynamic renovation by inhabitants. Worms and other benthic organisms in marine sediments can play biogeochemical roles analogous to those of earthworms in soils on land. For example, nutrient cycling processes such as organic matter decomposition and natural denitrification are greatly enhanced by bottom-dwelling animal activity. One of the effects of low oxygen in overlying water is to eliminate large benthic organisms and thereby greatly alter elemental cycling and storage processes at the seafloor.

Presentations are in Room 001 ESS Building SUNY Stony Brook,
November 19, 7:30 p.m.
There will be refreshments and demonstrations after presentations.
Admission is FREE!

More information about Geology Open Night
is on the web at
www.geo.sunysb.edu/openight/
E-mail gilbert.hanson@sunysb.edu
Telephone 516-632-8210

HILLEL AND SHOAH FOUNDATION PRESENTS NATIONWIDE CAMPUS SCREENINGS OF "THE LAST DAYS"

Stony Brook students will join thousands of fellow students throughout the United States for a nationwide campus screening of the Shoah Foundation's Academy Award-winning film "The Last Days." The program, commemorating the 61st anniversary of "Kristallnacht," is presented by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, with the support of USA Home Entertainment.

The screening will take place on Wednesday, November 10th at 8:00 p.m. in the Student Activities Center room 304. It will be preceded by a candlelight march from Roth Pond to the SAC at 7:30 pm. The special screening will be complemented by an educational program designed to engage students in a dialogue about the issues inspired by the film. It will be introduced by Professor Ivan Sanders, a Hungarian Jew and expert on Hungary's Jewish community.

.....
**Wanna do something about
the meal plan?**
Attend the
Resolutions Committee Meetings.
Every Thursday at 11 a.m.
SB Union Room 201

MONEY IS SPEECH IS POWER

Student Activity Fee: Mandatory v. Voluntary

By Deborah Sticher

Assuming you, the reader, are a full time student here at Stony Brook, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that every semester, approximately one dollar of your money goes towards the publication of this fine paper. For full-time students, this cut is allocated to us out of your \$83.75 per semester student activity fee.



This fee is paid with your tuition bill, and it is mandatory. Portions are also granted, at the discretion of Polity, to the intramural system, men's and women's rugby, the Roth Regatta, the New York Public Interest Research Group, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Alliance, Blackworld, Stony Brook Child Care, Animated Perspectives, Science Fiction Forum, the Committee on Cinematic Arts, and the list goes on. The goal is for our school to offer as many different kinds of programs, activities, and organizations as possible so that everyone within our incredibly diverse student body can participate in something that interests them.

In 1996, at the University of Wisconsin, there existed a similar student activity fee of \$165. As at Stony Brook, the fee was mandatory. One could not participate in the graduation ceremony without paying the fee. Furthermore, their fee went towards similar programs for similar reasons: to give the student body as a whole something constructive to do with themselves. To Scott Southworth, however, the wide array of organizations offered by the University was a little too wide.

Specifically, Southworth objected to paying for those organizations to which he was ideologically and politically opposed. These groups included such things as WISPIRG (the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group), the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Campus Center, the UW Greens, the International Socialist Organization, the Militant Student Union of the University of Wisconsin, the Student Labor Action Coalition, Student Solidarity, and the Students of the National Organization of Women. By paying the student activity fee, Southworth felt that he was directly supporting causes with which he did not agree. This, however, was not a simple case where someone did not want to support intramural sports because they were physically inept and would never use the service; the organizations that Southworth opposed tended to take official political stances on certain issues and were activist in nature. He felt that his money was subsidizing the expression of ideas that he would never endorse. This was a First Amendment issue.

Southworth joined forces with two other law students and gained backing from legal foundations representing the religious right. Southworth v. Grebe was first tried in 1996. The suit went all the way to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which declared that mandatory student fees for political and ideological student activities were unconstitutional. The plaintiffs contended that, rather than have a University offer many different programs that permitted the expression of contrasting viewpoints, the University "would be better off dumping the [entire] system" (from a 1997 Student Press Law Center interview with Scott Southworth). This logic went against legal precedent, however, and by March 29, 1999, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals granted the University of Wisconsin's petition for appeal.

At the very root of Southworth's argument is Buckley v. Vello which established the equivalence between money and speech. Southworth was no less likely to verbally declare his support for a

group like WISPIRG than to voluntarily donate money towards the cause. The Pacific Legal Foundation, one of the groups supporting Southworth, said the school is "coercing [students] to subsidize these groups which propagate speech they abhor."

However, the money received in a student activity fee transaction is ultimately filtered through the University. In 1957's Sweezy v. New Hampshire, it was established that "it is the business of a university to provide that atmosphere which is most conducive to speculation, experiment and creation." According to the United States v. the Associated Press decision, the University setting should provide "wide exposure to that robust exchange of ideas which discovers truth 'out of a multitude of tongues.'" Campus community and university life therefore becomes a reflection of the pluralistic society in which we live. The University is a neutral forum for ideas and a platform for discourse. And at very least, learning to tolerate and respond to disagreeable speech is a part of the educational process. So the definition of this unique concept of University has already been established, as in Healy v. James: "The college classroom with its surrounding environs is peculiarly the 'marketplace of ideas.'"

Now that debate and diversity have been accepted as imperative to the setting, who must pay for it?

School newspapers have already been deemed necessary and viable in mandatory student activity fees in such cases as Veed v. Schartzkopf (1973) and

Kania v. Fordham (1983). Carroll vs. Blinken (1992) more controversially upheld the use of mandatory fees to fund a public interest research organization. With these precedents set, it seems strange then that the Seventh Circuit Court did not rule in favor of the University. Their reason was that they were applying instead the precedents of Abood v. Detroit Board of Education and Keller v. State Bar of California. These cases involve individuals questioning the mandatory funding of organizations that use the funding they receive for the exclusive purpose of furthering an agenda. The organizations in question were, respectively, a union and a state bar that took sides on political and ideological issues. In contrast, the Southworth case had fees that went not to particular groups, but to a student government organization that distributed the funding in a "viewpoint-neutral manner" (Amicus brief, American Council on Education). The money received from the fee was managed for the specific purpose of creating a forum rather than furthering a political opinion.

But the question remains: Even if we need a forum so badly, why can't groups operate on their own funding? After all, if there is enough interest in running these clubs, surely there will be enough dedication to fund them as well. Certain groups, like newspapers that cover sports and campus events, could probably raise enough money from advertisements and private donation. Other groups, however, may be more hard-pressed for fundraising. Without dependable support, this would put undue stress on the staff of such an organization: the need to create a fundraising post or committee. Clubs do not have time to be in the business of fundraising; they need to be in the business of performing their objectives, whether they be helping the homeless or providing a creative literary forum. Also, active competition for funding would actually create tension between groups that may be politically or ideologically aligned or that have absolutely nothing to do with one another. Additionally, some groups are inherently more attractive than others. An animation club is reasonably innocuous and could readily acquire

support, while a safe haven for gays and lesbians, like the LGBTA on our campus or the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Campus Center of Wisconsin might find more problems in the acquisition of funds. A funding imbalance between clubs would inevitably be created. This is why a distribution of funds must come from the student government organization. The student government organization exists to manage and create even-handed discourse, not to create factions.

There is even a way to ensure that groups with little or no value never come into or perpetuate existence. If one student finds a club so objectionable that he deems it dispensable, he can bring such concerns directly to the student government organization that distributes funding. If the concerns are legitimate, hearings may be held. Beyond that, a periodic referendum on the student voting ballots should eliminate any question of what the majority will tolerate (which is, typically, a mandatory student activity fee).

In fact, this year, at Stony Brook, we are going to be posed the question of whether or not we want a mandatory student activity fee. Assuming the reader is enjoying this forum that allows I, the writer, to inform and entertain you, the reader, I recommend continuation of this system. One should remember that the majority should provide space for the minority, so as not to stifle them, and allow the minority to flourish. After all, what does a University have to offer if it does not offer a variety of programs?

On November 9th, 1999, at 10 a.m., Southworth vs. Grebe appeal was heard in front of the United States Supreme Court. This case has been eagerly anticipated by student clubs and organizations in state college campuses across the country. Although we do not yet know the results of the hearing, should the court rule in favor of Southworth, our own school will have to contend with some policy issues. It would nearly be out of the question to ask each individual organization to provide its own funding, for the reasons mentioned before. However, there are solutions that still have a fee in existence, but when the bill is received, each student may audit which activities they choose to support individually. This may be presented in a form of a list of those programs and organizations offered, and there may be instructions on the form as to how to get rid of those certain charges. This system is currently in active use in the CUNY system for certain groups. All people have to do is go to the group and ask for a refund.

Hopefully, though, the Supreme Court will not take Southworth's extreme stance of "dumping the entire system altogether". It is unfortunate that this case puts so many clubs and organizations at risk. Clubs and organizations not only provide the

community and social life of the campus, but also have proximal use of this grand educational resource called a University. We have a library, and space, and tools, and really smart people at our disposal. As a result students are at the forefront of activism and information. We need to be able to exercise all of what we have gained from the academic end of the spectrum. We need this forum in order to do this exercise.

Vote here at Stony Brook on Wednesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 11. There will be polling sites in Roth Quad, Kelly Quad, H-Quad, the library, Javits, the Student Activities Center, and the Union from 9 a.m. until 17 p.m.

Illustrations by Deborah Sticher



VOTE FOR A VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

The Student Polity Association is seeking to continue, for the next four years, the mandatory Student Activity Fee. A referendum has been placed on the Student Polity Election ballot that will allow students to vote on the matter. Voting "yes" would ensure the continued collection and disbursement of the \$167.50 Student Activity Fee to campus organizations by Polity. Voting "no" would result in students choosing whether or not to support campus organizations with a voluntary fee, a move which could result in student organizations losing all or some of their funding.

The referendum comes at a time when the Supreme Court is about to hear a case which challenges the constitutionality of the mandatory Student Activity Fee on the grounds that forcing students to pay for other student organizations, some of which are political in nature, constitutes an infringement on a student's freedom of speech.

While the Student Polity Association has made a wise choice in allowing students to vote on whether the fee should or should not be mandatory, this is not enough. Even if the referendum passes by a majority vote, students who are ideologically opposed to the activities of other student organizations (or those who simply do not want to pay for said activities) will be forced, at the will of the majority, to support those activities. A majority vote is not cause enough to trample the rights of the minority. Nor is it enough to say that any student group that wants to can form an organization of their own. Allowing one to act does not justify forcing one to support another's action.

Students must vote "no" on the referendum to continue the mandatory student activity fee. Then, if the mandatory fee is abolished, students and student leaders must lobby Polity to implement a fair system of voluntary fee collection. In the interest of fairness, each student should receive with his or her university bill, a listing of how much Polity has charged them for each student organization. If a student does not want to lend his or her financial support to a particular group, that student should be able to request that the Bursar refund his or her money. Thus students will be charged the fee in full, but have the option of getting reimbursed for those fees they choose not to support.

Critics charge that making the student activity fee voluntary, in the absence of a clear plan to implement this policy, may result in the collapse of campus organizations. However, students will have a greater chance of getting a fair voluntary policy implemented if they vote "no" to the mandatory policy. At least then, students can encourage Polity to implement a plan like the one mentioned above. If, however, the mandatory fee remains, students will be stuck, for four years, with the status quo: an unfair and unjust policy.

The criticism that a voluntary student activity fee may result in the demise of campus organizations,

VOTE FOR A MANDATORY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

As the question on the referendum stands currently, a vote "no" to a mandatory student activity fee would endanger many groups on campus. Polity has not, thus far, disclosed a specific alternative to the mandatory option. The repercussions of a voluntary student activity fee can not, therefore, be assessed at this point. Until a detailed plan of the voluntary student activity fee is articulated by Polity no student can make an informed decision in the vote. Additionally, students must not simply choose to eliminate a mandatory fee without understanding the consequences of such an action.

The alternative suggested in the above editorial is the most reasonable alternative of those suggested. Unfortunately this solution will not be implemented unless the SUNY Board of Trustees changes the current policy of not granting refunds to students. Unless this policy is changed, it is irresponsible to even suggest that a voluntary student activity fee is preferable.

We must vote "yes" for the current mandatory student activity fee because too much is at risk to be lost. The student activity fee funds more than 150 groups on campus that bring education, advocacy and fun outside of the classroom. If a voluntary student activity fee is enacted each group will have to fight to validate its existence. Groups will become competitors and drown one another out.

Additionally, it is completely unrealistic to say that groups will be able to "convince" students on this campus of their importance. Would a math major necessarily support a fine arts organization? Would someone of Korean ethnicity necessarily see the need for a Latin American organization?

Students organizations should not have to be forced into the business of fundraising. It is far too time consuming and detracts from the actual goals of the groups. We need to uphold the mandatory student activity fee for now, even if it slights the majority, because the paucity of information regarding other alternatives gives us no choice.

including those like NYPIRG, which has played a role in helping students to access affordable higher education, has some validity: Not forced to pay for campus activities, students will be less inclined to do so. This makes the jobs of campus organizations including, but not limited to NYPIRG and the student media, more difficult. However, it does so at the benefit of the entire campus community. If student organizations want funding they are going to have to demonstrate to their supporters, the students, why they deserve it. Student leaders will have to show their students why their organization is an important component of campus life. If they can not, then maybe they really are not important to the campus community as a whole. When forced to validate their existence to their financial supporters, student organizations will be forced to give students what they want.

PRESS

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VOTE "YES" FOR PRESS!

On November 10 and 11, the Student Polity Association will be holding its fall elections. Several campus organizations, including the Student Activities Board, the Blood Drive, and COCA, are up for referenda. The newspaper media, consisting of *Statesman*, *Blackworld*, *Shelanu*, and the *Press*, are also up for referenda. This means that students have the option of voting "yes" to continue funding these organizations, or "no" to cease funding. The *Press* is also up for a separate referendum. For the past three years, we have been getting 25 cents per student, and the referendum asks students to continue this funding. The other newspapers also have their own separate referenda, which come up to vote in alternating years. Each also gets a certain amount of

money from Polity from a separate budget. Essentially, each paper has three different funding sources. However, each source is equally important for these groups.

Because the *Press* is the subject of two referenda this year, it is even more important that we get students' votes. The *Press* was founded twenty years ago to give the campus community an alternative source of information, including investigative reporting, insightful analysis, and biting satire. We welcome all contributions and viewpoints from the campus community, and are, in essence, an open forum for the Stony Brook community. We need students to vote "yes" for the Newspaper Media and the *Press* on November 10 and 11, so we can continue serving them.

WINNER

1999 NEWSDAY SCHOOL JOURNALISM AWARDS

- FIRST PLACE IN COMMENTARY
- SECOND PLACE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

1998 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE

JOURNALISM AWARDS

- FIRST PLACE IN REPORTING
- FIRST PLACE IN HELLRAISING
- BEST SENSE OF HUMOR

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: COVERING CAMPUS CRIME

By Shari Goldsmith

Living at the peak of the Information Age as we know it, Stony Brook students have grown familiar with the University's snail's pace for implementing policies that enhance students' ability to obtain information.

The "Covering Campus Crime" discussion, on Nov. 3, served to inform journalism students and any interested parties as to the various legal responsibilities that universities have to successfully satisfy inquiries for information. Michael Hiestand, an attorney from the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Virginia, described some of the tools that the laws provide under the ideal of "freedom of information," as part of the lecture series sponsored by the Martin Buskin Committee for Campus Journalism.

Hiestand described some of the steps being taken to impose regulations that would provide the public with more accurate profiles of campus crime. In the past, there has been controversy regarding the confidentiality of the outcomes of cases heard by the Campus Judiciary System. The system had initially been constructed to address academic offenses. Over the last dozen years, the content expanded to include criminal cases of sexual assaults, robbery, physical assaults, etc. Thus, students with no specific legal training had been given serious responsibility. The proceedings were conducted secretly, and were considered the last closed court system. Because of the confidentiality of the system, the criminal activity judged over by these courts is excluded from campus criminal profiles. Universities were able to do this by quoting provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), otherwise known as the Buckley Amendment, which prohibits them from releasing the educational records of students. The term "educational records" had not been clearly defined, and was used loosely to include securing the confidentiality of criminal activity committed on college campuses.

In October of 1998, Congress amended the

Campus Security Act, which included opening police logs, by "altering the Buckley Amendment to explicitly say that certain disciplinary records are not covered by the law... Outcomes of proceedings involving crimes of violence or nonforcible sex offenses are no longer confidential under FERPA," as described by the SPLC's *Covering Campus Crime Handbook for Journalists*. A teleconference was held on Oct. 29 to clarify the recent provisions of the law, as Congress attempts to establish universal standards of crime reporting among college campuses, as explained by Jennifer L. M. Gunn's article "New Campus Policies" in the Nov. 1 *Statesman*. The final results have been specified to include the name of the student, the violation committed, any sanction imposed by the institution on the student, and, with written consent, the names of other parties involved. The law intends to allow the disclosure of information pertaining to "serious" disciplinary offenses, the definition of which is still under discussion.

When I contacted Stony Brook's Office of the Student Judiciary, regarding their policy on releasing outcomes of disciplinary proceedings, their response was that the information was "confidential." After informing them that legally this justification doesn't apply, I was transferred to someone else, who repeated the claims of confidentiality. In a discussion with Gary Mis, Director of Judicial Affairs at Stony Brook, I was told that a committee has been set up to define Stony Brook's policies in light of the new laws passed by Congress. Mis said that the discussion of Stony Brook's procedure of divulging information about the outcome of disciplinary hearings would be concluded in a couple of months. Until Stony Brook's updated policies are arranged, according to Mis, the current policy will remain confidentiality.

Hiestand also discussed the responsibilities of campus police to publish yearly campus crime statistics and permit access to their daily police logs. Campus

crime statistics still go underreported because of a loophole that allows the tally to disregard crimes reported to campus counselors, which distorts statistics specifically regarding date rape.

Universities have also been given the responsibility of creating policies of "public notice" for criminal incidents that pose an "ongoing threat to the campus community." Hiestand explains that colleges are supposed to provide a timely report notifying the community, to allow them to take precautions to protect themselves. Most schools have ignored this policy, according to Hiestand. Stony Brook University's Deputy Chief of Police, Doug Little, described the steps the police department takes (communicating in bulletin boards, over email, in residence halls, and through on- and off-campus media outlets) to make the community aware. Little also described their publication of an annual pamphlet with statistical information, and their willingness to comply with any requests to view the daily police log.

Hiestand also described the legal policy of Freedom of Information in regard to public bodies, i.e., those who receive public funds. Information legally available to the general public includes records compiled and minutes of meetings held by these bodies.

Censorship is one of the most pressing issues the Student Press Law Center deals with. Kentucky State University is currently involved in a censorship case, *Kincaid v. Gibson*. Recently, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeal in Cincinnati upheld a ruling that school administrators have the right to censor college student media.

The Student Press Law Center strives to inform and assist high school and university students across the country. Bob Tiernan, the Stony Brook professor and *Newsday* reporter who moderated the evening, said, "You must learn to leverage the power you have."

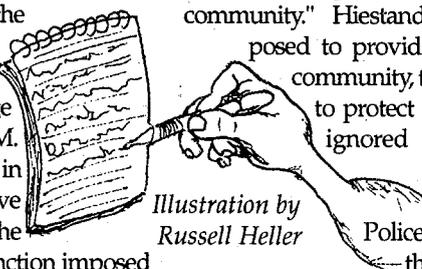


Illustration by
Russell Heller

The Ever-Tenuous Existence of Fourth Amendment Rights

By D.J. O'Dell

The Supreme Court will soon be issuing a decision on a question that has plagued state supreme courts for the last decade: Do police officers have the right to search an individual engaging in "unprovoked flight"? An affirmation of this question would allow police to chase down and search individuals whose flight was thought to be provoked by the mere appearance of police officers in their vicinity.

The case they will hear centers around the conviction of William Wardlow, an individual who was involved in an "unprovoked flight" situation. The incident occurred in 1995 when officers, patrolling a high crime area of Chicago, apprehended William Wardlow, who had sprinted up an alleyway upon seeing the patrol car. A pat-down search of the suspect after he was chased down by officers uncovered a handgun. Wardlow was arrested, and the handgun was eventually used as evidence in his conviction.

Search and seizure cases involve the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

This amendment, found in the Bill of Rights, can be viewed as containing two clauses. First, the amendment outlaws "unreasonable searches and seizures." Secondly, the amendment maintains the requirement of a warrant for a search to be constitutional. In cases of this nature, many argue that chasing down and searching an individual who flees without provocation falls well within the terminology of being a reasonable search. They believe that an individual

would not flee from the law unless involved in some unlawful activity. This, however, is basically a moot point in light of the warrant requirement clause, which is where most of the contention will be centered in this case.

Though the Constitution would seem to demand a warrant in order to make searches and seizures legal, many Supreme Court cases have decided that the amendment suggests (rather than demands) the necessity of a warrant. The Court has gone so far as to say that "when a warrant is not required... probable cause is not invariably required either" (*Vernonia v. Acton*, 1995). Thus far the Court has recognized seven general exceptions to the warrant requirement involving search and seizure cases, including the following four: (1) searches incident to a valid arrest; (2) searches to ensure that evidence is not lost; (3) searches to ensure the safety of law enforcement officials; and (4) searches done in "hot" pursuit.

The Supreme Court, in deciding this case, will have to agree on whether or not the "unprovoked flight" doctrine constitutes a general exception to the warrant requirement. The Court could easily refer to the above exceptions to justify searches and seizures involving unprovoked flight. First, if unprovoked flight, in and of itself, justifies the labeling of an individual as a suspect, then the search could be viewed as being done in hot pursuit of a fleeing suspect. Secondly, as a suspect constitutes a form of evidence, chasing down someone who flees in this manner could be viewed as a form of evidence preservation. Once they apprehended the criminal, evidence preservation would also justify the actual search itself. Next, the officers would be allowed (under exception 4) to search the individual to ensure their safety. If an illegal weapon or substance were found on the individual, the search could finally be viewed as a search incident to a valid arrest.

Many circumstances suggest that the Court will indeed find these searches to be constitutional. First, Supreme Court precedent shows that the current Court usually rules in favor of law enforcement officials when it comes to probable cause and the warrant requirement. Secondly, search and seizure precedent (as shown to some extent above) seems to far outweigh the necessity of individualized suspicion, something which the Court maintains is not required in search and seizure cases. Finally, it is necessary to consider the political pressures being placed on the court to adopt this policy. The Clinton administration argues that fleeing from police, by itself, is indeed a "suspicious circumstance warranting further investigation" in the form of a limited pat-down search. Such "limited pat-downs" are currently constitutional and could lead to a more extensive search should the officers believe that the individual is carrying something illegal. In the past, cases of unprovoked flight resolved in favor of the suspect have been reversed due to political pressure, displaying the fact that courts are not a completely separate branch of government, and that they often must curb decisions to meet the political agendas of the other branches of government.

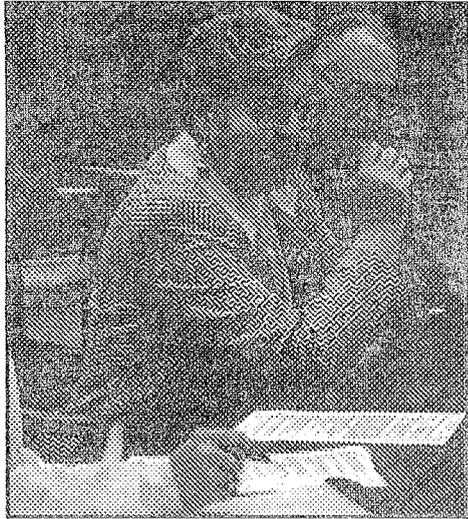
Such a decision will undoubtedly have a great impact on inner city areas that already display strains on police-minority relations. Furthermore, such an exception would create a tool that police might misuse in order to attain primarily unrelated goals. For example, if a large shipment of illegal arms hit the streets, officers might patrol certain areas in the hopes that their presence might provoke an individual to flight, thereby granting themselves the right to chase down and search the individual. This decision, whether affirming or reversing the "unprovoked flight" doctrine, will undoubtedly result in a law enforcement environment charged with political and racial overtones.

Dismantling the State

By Ali Shehzad Zaidi

The State University of New York turned fifty in 1998, but its mission—to provide New Yorkers with quality education at low cost—is endangered. Earlier this spring, SUNY faculty finally responded by revolting and issuing an unprecedented demand for the removal of the state-appointed University trustees.

New York public college tuition increased at three times the national average—from \$1,350 a year in '89-90 to \$3,400 in '95-96. This hike is particularly glaring because the income gap between the rich and poor in New York now surpasses that of any other state. In a recent study, the New York Public Interest Research Group noted that the percentage of average family income needed to pay college tuition at New York public universities more than doubled from 4.6% in '89-90 to 11.25% in '95-96. Consequently, between 1995



Shirley selling SUNY's soul

SUNY's crisis began in the 1980s when Governor Mario Cuomo and the state legislature enacted tax cuts, particularly for corporations and the wealthy. Together with a recession, these tax cuts led to New York State budget shortfalls. New York public college tuition more than doubled between 1990 and 1992 for SUNY students, 73% of whom receive financial aid. Cuomo's Republican successor, George Pataki, immediately enacted for the '95-96 school year the largest tuition increase in SUNY history—a \$750 hike accompanied by a \$200 million cut in SUNY's operating budget. That year, SUNY student enrollment dropped by 10,000.

By 1995, most SUNY trustees were Pataki appointees, including E. E. Kailbourne, chair of Fleet Bank, Edward Cox, son-in-law of Richard Nixon, and Candace DeRussy, co-founder of Change New York, a powerful anti-tax organization. In January 1996, the new trustees forced Frederick Salerno, a Cuomo appointee, to resign as board chair. Afterwards, they denied SUNY Chancellor Thomas Bartlett the authority to appoint his own staff. Bartlett had disagreed with the governor's plans to cap Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants, saying, "We cannot turn our backs on those who need our help the most." Deprived of decision-making power, Bartlett resigned in June 1996.

State support to SUNY's operating budget dropped from 90% in 1988 to 45% in 1996. In "Rethinking SUNY," a plan submitted to the New York State legislature in December 1995, the new trustees called for SUNY to become "more self-sufficient, more entrepreneurial, more focused and more creative." In a statement issued together with the heads of other New York State universities, SUNY's new chancellor John Ryan explained: "Just as the businesses and industries we support must be flexible to meet the constantly changing demands of the economic and academic marketplace, so must our own institutions be given the managerial and financial flexibility to operate

effectively and efficiently."

"Financial flexibility" suits Chancellor Ryan. During his first year in office, the trustees gave Ryan a 45% raise, bringing his salary to twice that of the governor. SUNY presidents were given pay-for-performance salary packages and will be paid according to how they carry out the new agenda. The incentives are not strictly personal; campuses will receive extra funds for increasing teaching productivity.

Touting "greater management autonomy" and "empowerment" for individual campuses, Pataki's appointees recently attempted to introduce variable tuition rates at SUNY campuses. While these currently exist only at SUNY's two year technical colleges, the aim is clearly to extend them. A new "operating freedom" is the right to name buildings and grounds after living individuals. Instead of honoring the deceased, SUNY now honors the highest bidder.

The trustees also granted such "freedoms" as waivers for five community colleges to exceed their annual tuition limit, and permission for individual campuses to set their own dormitory rates. They attempted to introduce "management flexibility" for SUNY's teaching hospitals to enable them to compete in today's managed care environment. These initiatives are fragmenting SUNY and are eroding broad and equal access to higher education in New York.

In the latest SUNY budget, adopted in June 1998, the trustees determined that colleges will no longer receive funds solely from a central budget, and will keep their own tuition and fees. SUNY's new financing scheme is called "Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM)." Previously, colleges received funds according to their purpose, mission and need. Today, student enrollment and market-driven imperatives determine campus budgets. Nineteen SUNY campuses stand to lose funding because of RAM and will have to either cut programs or raise mandated student fees, which now average \$485. The fees, which are not covered by TAP, are a covert means of introducing variable campus tuition.

In a 1999 study on RAM, Thomas Kriger observes: "RAM must be understood in the context of the managerial reform movement that is currently transforming the world of higher education budgeting. These reforms mark the influence of a new generation of more conservative, 'activist,' university trustees. They also illustrate the widening influence of neoclassical economics (an emphasis on competition, the maximization of self-interest as a prime factor in human behavior, the primacy of profit as a value in human interactions) on higher education policy making). As with RAM, performance funding is a method for SUNY to gain greater managerial control—or flexibility in the consultants' language—in the workplace. It is not by coincidence that SUNY's recent move toward performance-based funding is associated with RAM; both originate in the Total Quality Management (TQM) movement."

These developments underscore a grow-

ing sense of crisis among SUNY's faculty. From 1994 to 1996, SUNY lost 1,597 full-time professors—14% of its faculty. SUNY adjuncts now teach 40% of SUNY's courses. Tenure at SUNY, already eroded by the growing use of part-timers, is further threatened by SUNY's investments in distance learning technology. In the past two years, the SUNY Learning Network has tripled the number of courses it offers through the Internet. SUNY faculty may see their control over the curriculum diminished by the increasing use of distance learning.

Faculty recruitment at SUNY is in decline. In 1990, SUNY outbid 80% of the nation's colleges and universities in the salaries it offered to new faculty; by 1996, SUNY could only outbid 40%. SUNY faculty went without a contract from 1995 to 1997. Negotiations stalled when the faculty union, United University Professionals (UUP), refused to allow outsourcing of faculty positions to corporations.

As SUNY shifts from full to part-time labor, it is also undergoing changes in the education it provides. Federal and state tax dollars, not to mention student tuition, are flowing into technology centers such as the Center for Environmental Sciences and Technology Management. The aim, says SUNY Albany President Karen Hitchcock, is "to help move the best ideas of university researchers into the marketplace." SUNY has increased matching funds for sponsored research at its colleges. A new budget initiative for 1999-2000, "SMART-NY," would match sponsored research funding with SUNY money. Meanwhile, traditional disciplines are being scaled back.

The corporate presence takes different forms at more liberal arts-oriented schools like SUNY Geneseo. "You won't see as much corporate-sponsored research here as you would at, say, SUNY Binghamton or Albany," says Jay Hamilton, an assistant professor in the Department of Communications at SUNY Geneseo. "Instead, many of our learning resources are corporate sponsored."

The school, like most throughout the nation, receives equipment that has been donated by large corporations in exchange for what Hamilton describes as "an increased corporate presence on campus."

Last fall semester, Hamilton says, Kodak supplied his department with three low-line digital cameras. In exchange, Kodak was permitted to provide a presentation to the communications students. "There were probably about 100 people there," Hamilton says.

"What I thought was going to be a discussion about new technology and advancements in the field turned into a bald-faced sales presentation for Kodak products."

Last year, the Department of Communications at SUNY Geneseo reduced its five tracks of study to two combined tracks. During her senior year Maria Lambert, an organizing director for the Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU) and recent graduate of SUNY Geneseo, had her track, rhetorical studies, eliminated from the department.

"I still graduated with rhetorical studies on my diploma, but I never had a chance to take a

State support to
SUNY's operating
budget dropped
from 90% in 1988 to
45% in 1996.

University of New York

number of courses that were part of that track," she says. "Instead I had to enroll in lower-level courses for additional information." Lambert says even the threat that low-enrollment majors may be eliminated has a "chilling effect" on campus because students are fearful of enrolling in majors that may not exist in the next academic year.

Bruce Van Hise, executive director of college advancement at SUNY Brockport, where only 3 percent of outside funding comes from private sources, says a "significant increase" in corporate funding can be expected in the next 10 years. Still, Van Hise, who was involved in raising private funds for the new Bausch and Lomb Public Library, says he has never "experienced any pressure from private sources who donate funds." "For us to change our organization to raise funds would be improper and foolish," says Van Hise.

At SUNY Old Westbury, a four-year college on Long Island, the administration eliminated French language instruction, faculty positions for the writing center, the program in English as a Second Language, and the college's unique performing arts program in African American music and dance. The number of full-time faculty declined from 146 in '89-90 to 107 in '96-97, leading to a steep rise in the student-faculty ratio, from 22.2 in '89-90 to 30.2 in '95-96. SUNY's research universities are also being restructured. Two years ago, SUNY Albany's administration closed down the German department, fired its four tenured professors, and merged the French department into a newly created Modern European Languages department. It simultaneously hired 19 new professors in other disciplines as part of what it called a "strategy of investment in strength." Invariably, strong disciplines are those that engage in corporate sponsored research.

In an open letter in the November 7, 1997 *Albany Student Press*, French professor Helen Regueiro Elam wrote that the SUNY Albany administration "has transformed the university into a country club...with utter disregard for intellectual values, pedagogical priorities, or the larger role of a university in a democratic culture." Students at SUNY Albany, she believes, are becoming processors of information rather than critical thinkers, as corporations increasingly dictate SUNY's curriculum.

Another critic of recent developments at SUNY Albany, English professor Teresa Ebert, described in an essay the economic pressures on humanities departments, which include "cutting their budgets, limiting new hiring, increasing the teaching loads of their faculty, suspending admissions to their graduate programs or eliminating them altogether, and substituting part-time contingent knowledge workers for full-time positions." These pressures will jeopardize more than the well-being of SUNY. As Ebert points out, educational issues are at "the very matrix of the forces shaping citizenship, and affect the shape of labor relations, the structure of the distribution of wealth and access, and the very forms of daily life."

Errol Schweizer, a SUNY Binghamton senior who edited the student publication *Off!*, described, in a spring '98 interview, the formidable obstacles to activism at SUNY. "I think even worse than the apathy," he says, "is the anomie, the profound alienation that we all feel towards our cul-

ture, towards one another." There is a growing sense of powerlessness, says Schweizer, "as more people get shoved by the wayside, and as the gains by the middle class and the unions during the '50s and '60s slowly get rolled back."

Students have difficulty imagining alternatives to the system that conditions their very thinking. As Ralph Nader observed during an October 1996 talk at SUNY Binghamton, "We have to imagine the manufacturing of suppressed imagination is part of the consequence of growing up corporate, growing up looking at the world through the eyes of the dominant institution of society."

The changes at SUNY affect Schweizer, who hails from the Bronx, in a personal way. "Although I can pay for school," he says, "I have siblings who may not be able to because of the constant tuition increases, because of the privatization and the neo-liberalization of the academy that is really making it hard for urban, working class people to pay for school."

SUNY Binghamton's fading public identity is symbolized by its recent name change to "Binghamton University." The transition from state-supported to state-assisted university is having lasting repercussions. "Departments in the humanities are being drastically scaled back as part of the Rethinking SUNY plan," notes Jennifer Lutzenburger, a graduate student in English. "Our university...is being shifted to a business and vocationally-oriented center. The English department received two funding lines [for two faculty positions] to replace the eight faculty members we have lost and are planning to lose through retirement. There is no indication from the dean that we will receive more lines."

This story is being repeated elsewhere. At Monroe Community College (MCC), the faculty and staff voted last year to allow increases in class sizes, reduced salary raises, and fewer earned vacation days in order to avert layoffs. With state subsidies in decline, MCC recently entered into partnership with the optics industry and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a key player in nuclear weapons development.

"Departments in the humanities are being drastically scaled back..."

Pataki's tuition hikes, budget cuts, and appointments dismayed many who remembered and cherished SUNY's early years. Among them was Samuel Gould, who headed the SUNY system from 1964 to 1971, when its enrollment doubled. In October '95, Gould, in retirement in Florida, called his former assistant, John Mather and urged, "Drive the Vandals from the gates." A month later, Mather responded by founding Preservation of SUNY. It now includes fifteen former SUNY trustees, fourteen former campus presidents, and twenty-four former university administrators as well as alumni, students, businessmen, and former state officials. Mather has published op-ed pieces in the *Legislative Gazette*, the *Albany Times-Union*, and the *Binghamton Sun and Press Bulletin*, taking the SUNY

trustees to task for abrogating their responsibilities to the university system.

John Mather regards himself as both an idealist and a pragmatist, and has set out to defend the public stake in SUNY. He opposes the decision to fire three hundred administrators at SUNY Central Administration, a move he believes will cause SUNY's sixty-four campuses to duplicate their functions with a proliferation of local administrators. Mather is troubled by what he calls the "RAM scam," by the cuts to the Tuition Assistance Program, and by attempts to eliminate the Equal Opportunity Program (EOP), a program for disadvantaged students that Mather, then a SUNY official, helped create in 1966.

Maple Sweeney, a New York City native and International Relations senior at SUNY Brockport, says she wouldn't be at Brockport if it weren't for EOP. "I am qualified," says Sweeney. "I have the grades.

I just don't have the means. It's unfortunate that my mother doesn't have a lot of money, but people of misfortune need help reaching their potential. If the cuts to EOP continue, people like me won't even be able to consider coming to Brockport."

Many SUNY students feel the same way. Student debt is on the rise. Between 1990 and 1995, there was a 65% increase in the amount of federal loans owed by SUNY graduates. Among Mather's allies is SASU, which brought 15,000 students and their supporters to Albany on February 15, 1995 for SUNY's lobbying day. SASU organized a protest at State Senator Joseph Bruno's 1997 graduation speech at SUNY Albany. Last year, SASU initiated a letter writing campaign in an effort to persuade legislators to restore SUNY's funding.

This sort of activism is becoming a necessary part of SUNY campus life. Students at SUNY Geneseo hold an annual, week-long "Budget Advocacy" campaign, where they distribute information about state budget cuts, organize letter-writing campaigns to legislators, and hold a rally. This past academic year, students at SUNY Geneseo focused on making the public aware of tuition increases and cutbacks in TAP and EOP.

Over the past four years, as state funding of EOP has diminished, students at SUNY Brockport launched a letter-writing campaign and lobbied in Albany. Nearly 8,000 letters were sent from the Brockport campus to state legislators, and EOP was restored to three-fourths of its initial operating level, says SUNY Brockport EOP Director Terrence Barnes. Students continued to lobby for the final 25% of funding, which passed the legislature but was ultimately vetoed by Pataki.

Mather hopes that the lobbying efforts of SASU, together with growing public awareness of SUNY's importance, will reverse the neglect and abuse of the university system. "Before Pataki became governor in '95, appointees checked their corporate connections at the door," said Mather in a recent interview. "They functioned independently in the discharge of their fiduciary responsibilities, recognizing that the shareholders of SUNY are the people of New York." As Mather sees it,

continued on page 10

Felony Disenfranchisement in the United States

By Dan Skinner

Among other repugnant distinctions in the theatre of human rights abuses, the United States holds that of denying the most mentally capable citizens per capita the right to vote.

Felony disenfranchisement laws deny the right to vote to those currently incarcerated, paroled, probated or, in the case of 15 US states, even ex-felons who have paid their debt to society. This is all part of a calculated effort to systematically destroy what big government considers a superfluous and worthless population by stripping them of the available and legal mechanisms of change—so-called "institutional death."

The figures are astounding. According to a 1998 study by Human Rights Watch on the impact of felony disenfranchisement in the United States, almost 4 million US citizens were denied their right to vote, resulting in the disenfranchisement of 13.1% of the total US population of black men. 31% of black males in Alabama and Florida are permanently disenfranchised, as are 25% in Iowa, Mississippi, New Mexico, Virginia and Wyoming, and 20% in Delaware and Texas. While New York does not permanently disenfranchise felons, 126,800 prisoners and paroled felons were temporarily disenfranchised in 1998.

What impact does disenfranchisement have on the criminal justice system and society at large? For one thing, disenfranchisement invariably increases the sense of overall alienation that one who has served his or her time feels upon re-entering the outside world. Such hopelessness for rehabilitation sends this superfluous population into a downward spiral of misanthropy that can then be used by the government to justify their further incarceration. It is a cycle that can be enhanced and self-sustaining, as politicians instill yet more fear of these people into society—which then calls for stricter laws. The more people the government incarcerates, the more the politicians are hailed as the great protectors of civic stability and safety. Silencing the superfluous population

is a win-win proposition for any politician - democratic or republican.

This point is heightened when one considers the startling trends of increases in the incarceration of non-violent felons—especially those arrested on petty drug possession charges. In many states, a one-time marijuana possession charge could result in permanent loss of one's right to vote. In light of the demographics of exactly who these laws are affecting, it seems that Reagan's "War on Drugs" might be better termed America's "War on Black People."

While several countries, including Finland and New Zealand, have temporary disenfranchisement laws, these laws are almost exclusively applied to those who have been convicted of electoral crimes. Such laws are supported with the idea that these people are a threat to

the electoral process itself—perhaps the only reasonable argument one could muster to support stripping someone of their ability to participate in the voting process. US hypocrisy is further highlighted by the fact that broad felony disenfranchisement laws are in strict violation with both the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

As you might guess, proponents of US disenfranchisement laws are hard pressed to offer any concrete justification for the legitimacy of these laws. Those who support disenfranchisement are, for the most part, indoctrinated by stigmas surrounding prisoners, with no sense of the bigger picture or understanding of the impact such regressive laws have on society.

They are the same people who might believe that a case with questionable facts should be decided on the side of the state because the defendant "probably did something wrong." The political end result is that the disenfranchised will be some of the most likely to remain in the criminal justice system, while politicians benefit from the publicity generated by keeping these so-called misanthropes in prison. In political terms, these people are kept in line and silenced.

Support of disenfranchisement laws sends a

clear signal to those stuck in the rotating door of the criminal justice system that they will never again be an upstanding member of society and should thus be discarded. These proponents, however, are the same people that will be the first to complain when recidivism rates rise—with the action of choice usually being a cutback on social and rehabilitative funding because it seems have failed. Yet, they never gave it a chance in the first place. Keeping those that they have deemed a threat to their political agenda in prison is their well-achieved goal.

To afford prisoners every possible avenue for real rehabilitation and assimilation into society after incarceration is key to the spirit of true change. Efforts must be made to reduce every source of alienation from the system that has detained them. In fact, giving them the power to participate in the voting process would empower many of the prisoners who have spent their time incarcerated educating themselves to earn a GED, work toward a college degree or, in some cases, help to prepare their own defense. Taken even symbolically, the right to vote offers many people a feeling that they have a voice.

Prisoners are the only people who truly know how the criminal justice system works. They know where the problems are and what life is like inside. To deny prisoners the right to use their vote to influence change in the criminal justice system is akin to denying workers the right to vote to influence labor reform. The accepted belief is that these issues are best left to the lawmakers. Of course, these lawmakers are almost entirely rich white men who wouldn't dare even visit a prison.

The fact is that, for many primarily black communities, going to prison has become just another part of life. This is especially true in this age of rampant racial profiling and rounding up of those who the police recognize merely because they have a past record. Her again, their presence on the street is an indication to the police that they must be doing something wrong. Not being able to have an impact on the laws that most effect one's community is clearly a component of institutional death. Disenfranchisement laws will inevitably force a percentage of prisoners interested in reform to rely upon illegal avenues of change and are among the most socially regressive and unjustifiable laws in US legal system.

Prisoners are the only people who truly know how the criminal justice system works.

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"Dismantling" Continued From Page 7

SUNY's new trustees "believe in a stratified society in which there is a permanent underclass."

From his perspective as a former SUNY administrator in the '60s, Mather is dismayed at the attitudes of today's public officials. Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Mather recalls, placed absolute trust in SUNY administrators and would not attempt to influence their decisions. That trust has evaporated under Pataki, who has placed Republican operatives in key administrative positions at SUNY.

Donald Dunn, a First Deputy to the Governor, was appointed Executive Vice Chancellor without a search for the position. David Farren, the husband of New York State Health Commissioner Barbara DeBuono, was appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Enrollment Management. David Bilett, a former staff member of John Faso, the Republican Assembly Minority Leader, was named Associate Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations. Michael Clemente, a former assistant to Jim Natoli, Pataki's Director of State Operations, was named the General Manager of SUNY's Construction Fund.

In May 1997, Vincent Aceto, president of the SUNY Faculty Senate, expressed his concern to the trustees that "a subtle, but pervasive, political litmus test is being used to appoint personnel at SUNY System Administration." The appointment of Peter Salins as SUNY's new provost was, however, none too subtle. Salins is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a well-funded right-wing think tank.

It had become increasingly apparent that the trustees were loyal not to SUNY but to the man who appointed them. In a June 28, 1998 letter to Chancellor Ryan, UUP President William Scheuerman wrote that SUNY's trustees were the "leaders of the only public university system in the nation in 1997-98 not to request a budget increase."

Recently, the state legislature passed a bill to guarantee that at least four of SUNY's sixteen trustees would be SUNY alumni. The assumption was that alumni would act in the best interests of SUNY and temper the agenda of political appointees. Pataki, however, vetoed the legislation.

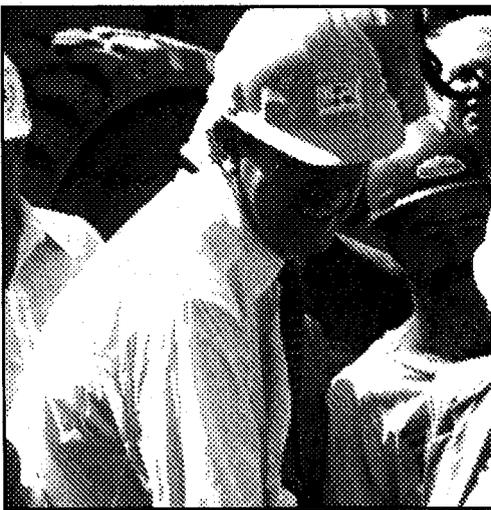
With SUNY administrators often appointed without searches, affirmative action guidelines waived throughout the system, and plans underway to place all SUNY research under the auspices of the SUNY Research Foundation (where public disclosure laws do not apply), the need for public dialogue and accountability at SUNY increases.

To this end, Mather has introduced a "Magna Carta" for SUNY, outlined in a six page supplement to the *Legislative Gazette*. (The original Magna Carta, extracted by the barons of England from King John in 1215, guaranteed civil liberties for the English people.) Preservation of SUNY will soon convene a panel to inform the public as to the actions and voting records of SUNY's trustees.

SUNY's Magna Carta would insure that trustees owe their full loyalty to SUNY and act consistently in its interest. It states that SUNY "belongs to all the people of the Empire State"; that the politicization of SUNY "is disserving of public higher education requirements in the preservation of a democratic society"; that SUNY

must comply with federal and state regulations, including those regarding affirmative action; and that SUNY "is an entity at law; not subject to actions that would fragment or dismantle it."

Many hoped that the record \$2 billion surplus in the 1998 New York State budget, would improve SUNY's fortunes, which had been subjected to fifteen consecutive budget cuts. In April 1998, Pataki vetoed many of the state legislature's appropriations for SUNY, including an \$8.8 million increase to hire new faculty, a \$3.8 million EOP restoration, a \$150 per student increase in state aid to community colleges, and a \$65 per student book purchase credit for public college students.



Governor George Pataki

Matters came to a head on December 15, 1998, when the trustees approved a SUNY core curriculum, effective Fall 2000. Four trustees, working with two administrators, had drafted the curriculum without consulting the Faculty Senate, campus presidents, or other trustees. Earlier, in January 1998, the Faculty Senate had sent the trustees a policy report on general education which had been endorsed by all campus presidents and faculty senates. The senate's request to discuss the report with the trustees was ignored. The vote on the new curriculum took place at a time when the faculty were busy grading papers. Details of the proposed curriculum had been faxed to the trustees less than a week before. The few professors who turned up at the December 15 meeting were not allowed to comment until after the trustees had finished voting.

The hastily passed curriculum, consisting of ten courses in different subject areas, might have benefited from faculty advice. A month after the passage of the core curriculum, campus presidents met with SUNY administrators to inform them that there were not enough faculty to teach the mandated core curriculum, since faculty lines depended on the number of student majors in a particular subject. Chancellor Ryan, however, declined to promise the presidents more resources.

The new curriculum made little pedagogical sense. Most SUNY campuses already had rigorous core curricula. Jane Altes, the interim president of Empire State College, observed that a single course in a foreign language or a science, consisting of three credit hours, "has no academic meaning." Justyna Berger, a SUNY Albany senior wondered: "How valuable is one course in foreign language or math? In my experience, taking so few courses in such a wide variety of disciplines has no lasting intellectual impact."

Pataki's appointees had usurped the role of the faculty in determining SUNY's curriculum. As the policies of the SUNY Board of Trustees state: "The University faculty shall be responsible for the conduct of the University's instruction."

What followed was the most massive professors' revolt in SUNY history. In April 1999, the Faculty Senate joined with the SUNY faculty

union to declare "no-confidence" in the trustees and to ask the governor to remove them. Their joint resolution censures the Board of Trustees for, among other things, "failing to conduct fair and open searches for the most senior administrative positions in the University and disregarding affirmative action guidelines, . . . allowing ideological views to dictate the academic direction of the University, . . . failing to advocate for strong financial support for the University, . . . seeking to significantly disrupt the public mission of high quality health care delivery to the people of the State of New York by attempting to remove State University of New York's teaching hospitals from the University, . . . [and] violating its own policies by imposing a mandated general education policy for all campuses without the direct involvement of legitimate faculty representatives, chief academic officers, or presidents."

The faculty addressed the governor, legislature and people of New York: "Never before have we so spoken and we do so now only from the deep conviction that the University is in a time of great jeopardy." Shortly afterwards, in a April 5, 1999 letter to the trustees, Chancellor Ryan wrote: "All of us are engaged in a renaissance of the State University that is both challenging and, at times, contentious. But we cannot step back from the challenge simply because some people are made uncomfortable by change."

In a similar letter to the campus presidents, Ryan stated that the Faculty Senate appeared to be "trading its historic and collegial role as a vital participant in University governance for the adversarial role inherent in the union-management contract-negotiation process," adding that if the Faculty Senate came "to be viewed as a part of the union-representing individual faculty members, and not as the scholarly and academic representative of the faculty as a whole," then the administration would have to "review the role of the Senate in a much different light." On April 20, professors throughout SUNY wore black armbands in protest.

In his 1999-2000 budget, Pataki proposed a \$133 million cut in TAP, which would have resulted in a \$510 reduction in the maximum award to SUNY students—which now covers only 26% of tuition. He also proposed reducing TAP eligibility at community colleges from six to four semesters and requiring students to take at least fifteen credits instead of twelve in order to maintain their TAP eligibility. In June 1999, Pataki completed his stacking of the SUNY trustee board with the addition of Bernard Connors, an Albany businessman and former FBI agent.

After a record delay in passing a budget, the New York legislature has just rescinded Pataki's cuts to higher education. Despite the reprieve, SUNY's future

remains unclear. What is clear is that SUNY will spend \$3 billion during the next five years for campus construction projects, an agenda that Vincent Tirelli, a labor organizer at the City University of New York, describes as "a neutron bomb in reverse," since it builds buildings but doesn't put people in them.

That kind of planning may please construction firms, many of which contribute to Pataki's campaign, but will do little for the students for whom Rockefeller had vowed in 1969 to preserve SUNY as "the open gateway to opportunity in American life."

Four trustees...had drafted the curriculum without consulting the Faculty Senate...

O L I V E R S T O N E E A T S A C A Z O N E

By Chris Sorochin

"I don't see people these days; I just see signs."
—The Emperor Nero in Quo Vadis

It was a sunny fall Friday afternoon. Before climbing onto the cattle-car that is the 2:16 train, I ventured over to Station Pizza for some sustenance. Station has some of the better pizza in a pizza-challenged area, for reasonable prices. The guys who work there are always friendly and they usually play decent music.

On this particular visit, I noticed that the counterman was suffering from an occupational hazard common among those who perform stationary service jobs that feature periods of relative inactivity: he was serving as a captive audience for an immensely fat local guy who appeared to think he was lending crystalline brilliance to the pizza guy's afternoon by engaging him in useless conversation. As I gobbled my slices, I noticed another employee come in and make a comically tortured face behind the obese one's back.

Somewhere in the middle of my second slice, in rushes a younger local type, late 20s, early 30s, the kind of guy who works in some kind of carpentry/construction job. He relates a barroom encounter ("on the ferry from Foxwoods") with some self-described Secret Service employee, working on some purported "covert operation." The details of this no-longer-top-secret escapade involved sealing off New York City—"no one can get in or out"—and some sort of terrorist attack, biological, I think.

To which the Fat One non-sequitured, "America's the Land of Opportunity, unless you're an American," and he launched into a rant about how foreigners come here and clean up to the detriment of red-blooded specimens like him. It was like one of those creepy Ed Asner bar scenes in JFK, except it lacked the arty cinematic lighting.

I didn't quite hear when Operation Blabbermouth was supposed to come off, but the perfect time would seem to be over New Year's of the Y2K. In old Fun City (actually the new Disney Not-So-Fun City), it looks as if 2000 will be rung in with greater weirdness than usual. For one thing, it's rumored that the Times Square ball is to be composed of many, many beads of—get this—Waterford crystal! Yep, the subway system is junk on wheels and the schools are veritable penal colonies, but by gosh, we're not going to let that stop us from dropping a ball made of very expensive, shiny stuff from a building.

Even weirder and more disturbing are the New Year's Eve plans of our Supreme and Fearless Leader, Herr Uberfuhrer Rudolph Giuliani. He's ordering all his top commandants to gather in his fortified bunker somewhere in the World Trade Center on the big night, to await, I guess, the Apocalypse. I wonder if they'll crank Wagner on the sound system.

I've said this before, but it bears repeating: this Y2K thing is going to be the pretext for some clampdown on freedom and dignity. Something will either actually happen or will be staged and the ensuing "crisis" will justify some more draconian legislation.

If this sounds like something out of one of the proliferating paranoid political thrillers, consider what happened after the Oklahoma City bombing. Clinton signed an Omnibus Crime Bill increasing the application of the death penalty, limiting appeals and allowing deportation of aliens on the basis of secret evidence.

Or perhaps the goal will be of a militaristic nature à la the Gulf of Tonkin. The Pentagon's US Space Command has been working to place anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) in space, in violation of all treaties forbidding the militarization of the Final Frontier. At the 36th Space Congress at Cape Canaveral, Col. Tom Clark admitted that Star Wars continues to be "politically sensitive," and they would "need an event to drive the public

to support ASAT deployment. But it will happen. We are now talking, planning, doing research and development. Someone will attack one of our systems." Though touted as defensive, bet your last \$100 billion (the amount blown on Star Wars thus far) that the lasers of the ASATs will be just as handily able to be deployed offensively.

Yes, it's a strange millennial world out there. Manufactured uncertainties are producing all kinds of tensions and searches for scapegoats. The xenophobic droolings of the fat guy in the pizza parlor are echoing throughout the Island. The most recent manifestation has been in the form of attempts by bigoted busybodies in various localities to prevent largely Central American day laborers from gathering to be picked up for jobs.

A recent meeting at the Brookhaven Town Hall was punctuated by the disgusting spectacle of nativist know-nothings endeavoring to drown out a Latino man speaking on behalf of the laborers by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance! Other charming highlights included these oh-so-respectable homeowners shouting "Legal or illegal?" "Go home!" and "You have no civil rights!"

Margaret Bianculli-Dyber, of the Sachem Quality of Life Committee said "this is our country and not your country." This woman should do some research into history and find out how people with names like "Bianculli" were treated several generations ago when they came here seeking economic betterment. She might just see something most unpleasant staring back from the mirror. These "citizens' committees" are just the northern cousins of those formed by Southerners during the Civil Rights Movement to maintain their beloved tradition of segregation. These folk sound just like those who gathered at the entrances to schools some 40 years ago to spit on, and yell abuse at, black children seeking to be treated as human beings. Maybe Brookhaven could fly the Confederate flag at its next meeting.

Your faithful correspondent will continue to monitor and keep you apprised of all developments.

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AT THE SPOT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1999

The Stony Brook Press



Fall 1999 Literary Supplement

FUCKIN' SADDAM
By Cox N. Mussels

*Let me tell you a little story
about me and my friend
Saddam.*

Back in '91, Baghdad, Iraq.

*Saddam likes pudding. In
the plastic cups.*

*People as human shields
Ingenious
Torch the land, Saddam!*

*Now we live in a Boise
condo,
our bungalow cozy for two.
The neighbors drive us
crazy
with their fucking.*

*On Sundays we go to
Grand Union.
Saddam always wears his
bathrobe.*

*When people stare, he
shouts,
"Chama zedalou ish!"
Which means "What the
fuck are you looking at?,
Dicknose."*

*It's his turn this week to
clip the coupons.
Fuckin' Saddam.*

BEA ARTHUR'S BREASTS
By Cox N. Mussels

Can't you see me standing here?
I've got my back against the record
machine.

wait

I think that I shall never see
A woman as lovely as lovely Aunt Bea
Arthur, breasts once sang,
Now they just hang.
Oh, Bea Arthur's breasts.

Oh, Bea Arthur's breasts.



NOT TO BE COMBINED
By Cox N. Mussels

My love is with coupon only.
My love is not to be combined with any
other offer.
My love expires on the 26th of November.
My love is a gigantic gooey booger,
And I just want to smear it all over your
peritoneum.
Not much space on that peritoneum.
So I guess I'll have to choke on the rest.
I love boogers.
wait

Or on your septum. Yeah, on your septum.

The Clash

By G. Avery Kerbs

Ohh The Clash
Woe is The Clash
I was too young
and you needed the money
you broke up
you broke my heart
Woe! The Clash
Mick Jones
on his own
Big Audio Dynamite
London's Calling - "Situation Nowhere!
Situation Nowhere!"
Should I stay
or should I Rush
Ohh the Clash
You hurt too much.

Loose Thoughts

By Aleksander Plonski

Red lit tables, red lit walls
And liqueur and glances
And deals quietly injected
And the hot air, music
That breeze of the juke box
And the hot air of a glance
Can't resist the beat of the
Underground cantina groove
Oh smile again, Trisstessa
You junkie whore of the fiesta
noche
Why should the terrible thoughts
Tear down the walls of this place
And the melodies of red sunken
eyes
I've learned one things in Mexico
...patience

Untitled
By Shari Goldsmith

I.

...fear my self
And scare myself,
Maybe because I fear the
unknown.

Nature is so easily adaptable,
And sometimes it gives
way.
And sometimes it takes
too much shit.

And human nature?
Does it exist?
Will it survive?
Is it yet again something being
driven to extinction.
Or do we just stink
and wreak havoc
on each other
for one another
to avoid the self
insufficiency.

I'm not done,
Yet, if I'm, ever done,
Kill me.

II.

Hunt me down.
No you hunt me round,
No you run me round
Into circles around my self.

III.

And brutality gets old,
And brutal people are already
dead, inside.

And God bless the sun for its
ease
And the ease it provides.

A lesson to be adopted
And glued and stuck to my gooey
insides
As it all sticks to me
Amazingly.

I'll stick with me too,
And it doesn't seem so gooey
anymore.
But goo can be fun.

And did you ever notice how the
earth sticks
to us all.
Do we cling back as tightly?
I probably just cling
to myself.

It's amusing to spend so much
time on what I fear.
Maybe I'm just misunderstood
by myself.

IT'S ALL FOR THE DOUBLE BARREL OF A SMOKING SHOT-GUN LIMPING ALONG LIKE A
 DEAD ERECTION BENEATH A PALE WHITE SHEET HIDES AN AGE OLD GHOST WITH NIGHT-
 LIGHT EYES THAT BURN LIKE THE EMBERS OF A POST-COITAL CIGARETTE DRAGS THE
 SLOWNESS OF SUICIDES WHO REFUSE TO DIE AFTER THEIR HEART STOPS BEATING THEY
 STILL POINT THEIR CROOKED FINGER AT THOSE THEY THINK TO BLAME FOR THE SHROUD
 THEY WEAR AND THE TRIGGER THEY DIDN'T PULL AND THE BULLET LODGED IN THEIR
 BRAIN HOT WET AND STICKY LIKE AN ORGASM LIKE SKULL FUCKING LIKE MIND
 FUCKING LIKE THE EFFERVECENT SHADE AND ODOR OF GUN POWDER TIME WHEN
 SWEATY SHEETS CLING TO THE BACK OF KNEES AND FEET THAT RAISE A CROSS-HAIR'S
 QUESTION MARK-LESSLY HE MARS THE HEARSAY PLEAS(E) IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT TICKLED PINK
 BLACK AND BLUE FEATHER-OAR-BLADE MARKS HE LEFT BUT DIDN'T GO AWAY.

FORGIVE ME FATHER FOR I HAVE SINNED AND KNOW NOT WHAT I DO

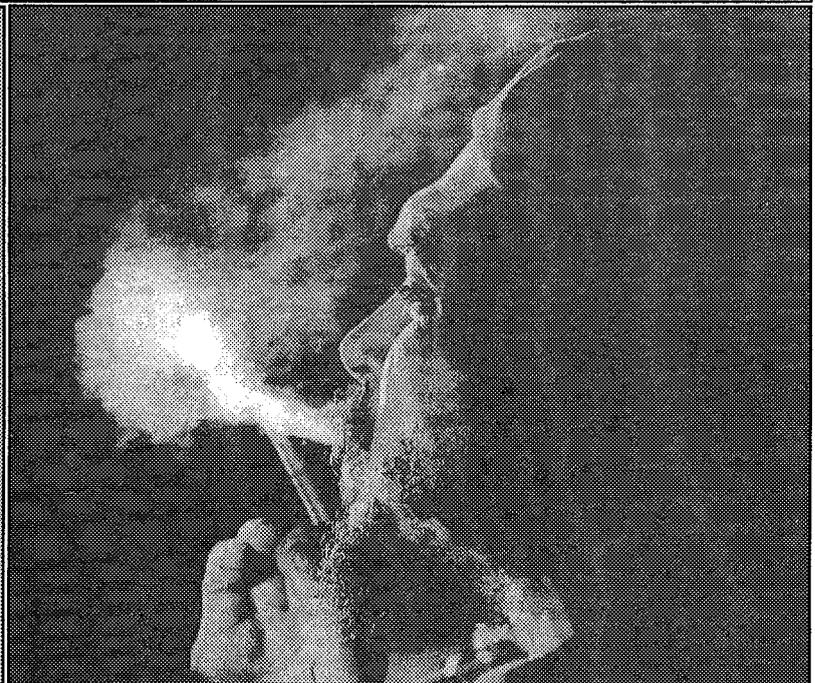
-ANONYMOUS

Young Mother at Smith's Field

Time clock the spread
 as I'm at the door, against
 the Wall, glared by pasty,
 swollen, about to explode it's
 Pillsberry Im stuffness.

Atop the leads, sitting in
 sawdust, watching for the
 splinters,
 dragging my books I drop to
 my knees; for all by myself, for
 want of myself, I drop
 to my knees.

-anonymous



Untitled By Chris Bullock

let me see if i can isolate you a strychnine piece of anaconda lore,
 taken from the fringes of my sugar-addled corpse to the recesses of that dark imagination
 of yours
 label it often and send it careening into your pen
 and burst this wound onto the paper
 strengthened and starting gun mania he delves into Nike ads and articles he clipped out,
 synthesizing the perfect monster
 looking at the surgeon we say "what simple removal of the bone he displays"
 creeping into corners of disinfectant stained corridors we look at the surgeon and observe
 "look how well this jaw fits into that skull"
 yet unborn and unforeseen are the words "nothing fits into our classification scheme, I
 want him to unleash the underaged rebel nature thats been locked up inside of me"
 he frisks your intentions and sits you on the mattress and fucks you five minutes
 cough out money
 you know what it used to be like to be young
 come back again to the fountain of youth
 its always been there

the next day you're lost in a department store and you touch that familiar voice again
 "come to my house if you have nothing to believe in"
 and you go to this friend's house and you exit content and satisfied
 later on you see him on the sidewalk
 you fool yourslef thinking he might not be able to remember you
 unfortunately he wants to seduce you again
 run away but be quiet
 he has many friends who'd be willing to help him out



Cattoman By Deborah Sticher

Hyde
By Shari Goldsmith

*Red Devil
Red Devil
I see you
Peaking out
Scaring the child.*

*You exist to scare the child.
So they hide
Instead of seek.
And stay silent
Afraid to speak*

*So as not to be revealed
To the devil
And they're haunted and hunted
By a lingering fear
Whose identity is unknown.*

*What If
What If
I'm caught?
I've been revealed
By my reflection.*

Untitled
By Glen "Squirrel" Given

I
Am shakespearean allegory
No time for similie
No time for metaphor

Everyday is Halloween
I
Can neither rhyme nor reason
No time in season
No time in
Millenium
Got some
Poison
For the weekend
The weak end up
In solitary

I
Am shakespearean allegory
A sympathetic similie
So smile for me
For I
Am poor metaphor

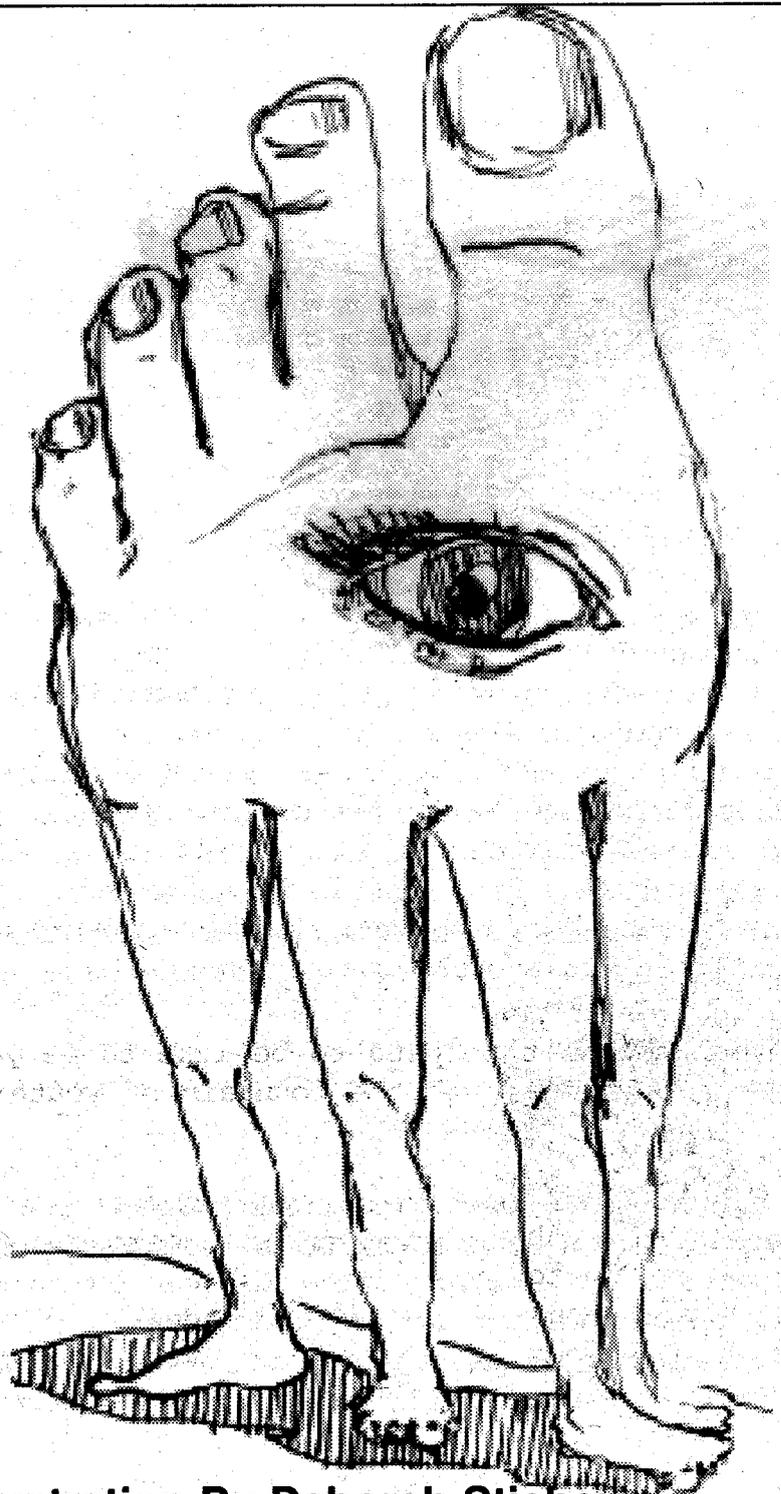


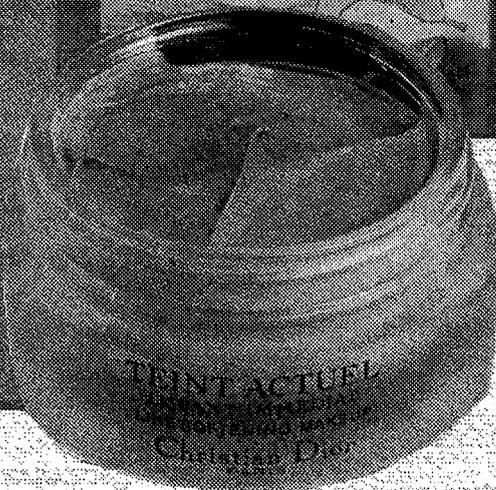
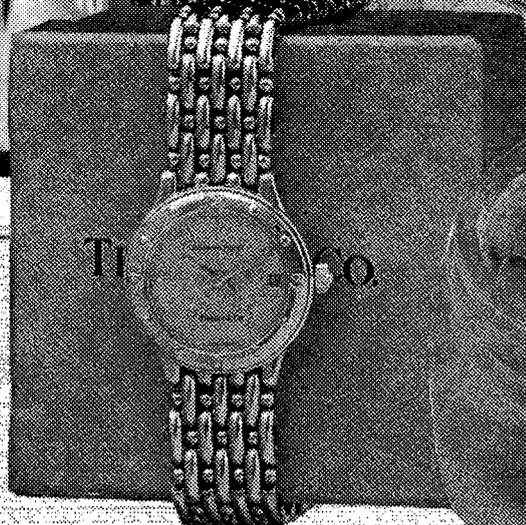
Illustration By Deborah Sticher

Prison (circa 1972) By Lynn Lovell

Tall,
handsome,
broad-shouldered,
smart,
he stood so close to my soul,
I could almost touch him;
he reached out a hand to me,
and I to him,
but Society said, "No!"
and slapped my hand back to my side
all because he came in
the "wrong" color
(you know, like a shirt?),
or -- to be more exact --
because we came in
different colors
(you know,
like mismatched socks?)
I raged,
I cried,
I beat my fists against

the walls of bigotry,
but there was no law
proclaiming all relationships
"equal,"
no plan of action,
affirmative or otherwise,
to ensure
a "star-crossed" love.
So, sighing,
I dropped my aching arms
and turned away,
trying not to see
the bars across my heart,
trying to live
as if
they did not exist,
as if I
were
truly
free.

Urban Decay

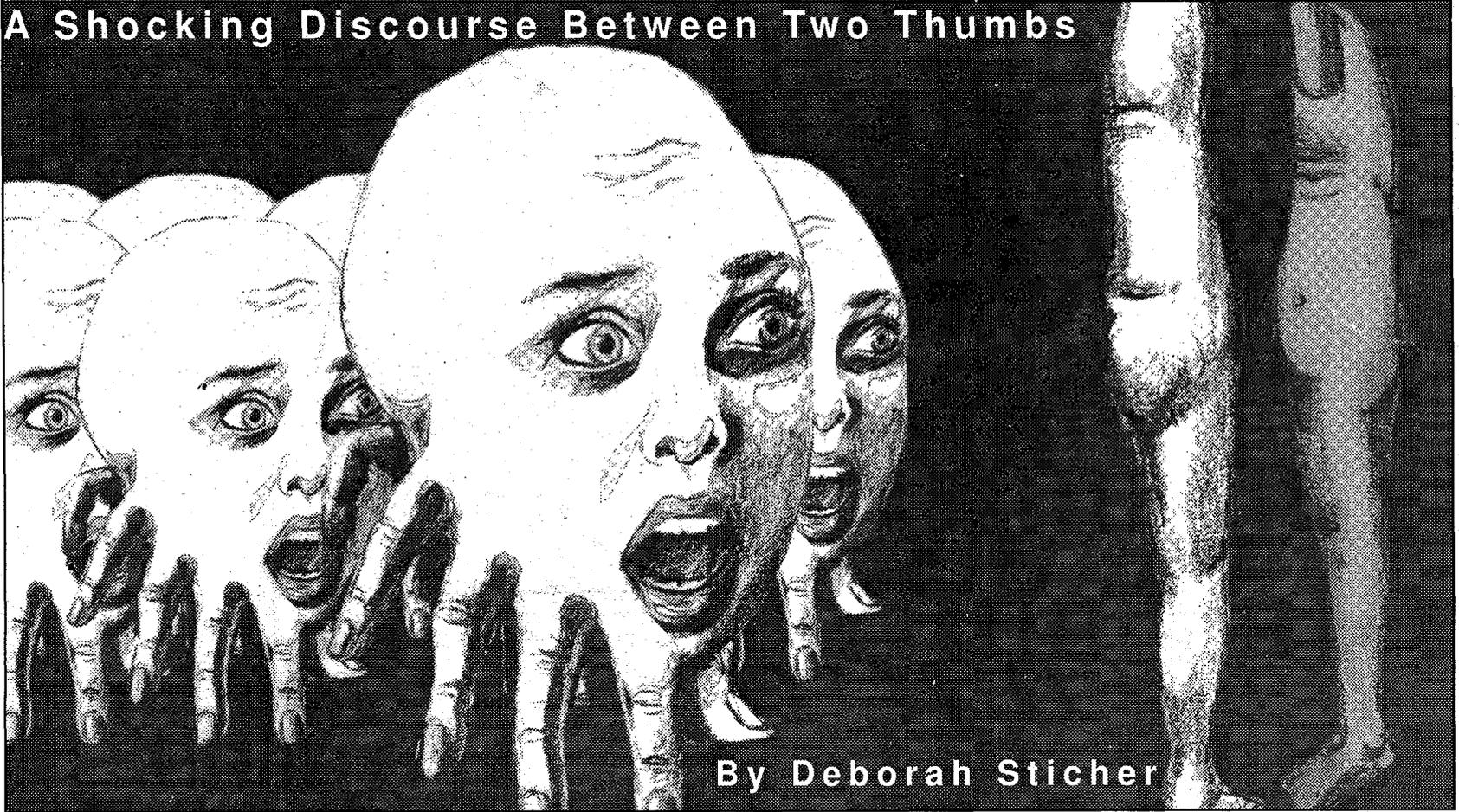


By Deborah Sticher

Breakthrough
By Hilary Vidair

I find out how they tick and turn them counterclockwise
I wanted to figure out how you tick and push you an hour ahead
Last time I got lost just as fast as I was found
And although you've been my life preserver, can you save me from the sharks?
You claim to be in the water, but you only have your feet in.
Did we improvise baby, or was the whole thing staged?
Thinking of goodbyes before acknowledging hellos
Tiptoeing in talk and teetering on time
Glass containers shatter when frozen (barriers are truly burdens)
Sometimes the light seems a long ways away
But how will we ever get there
Without taking that first step?
I'll hold your hand.

A Shocking Discourse Between Two Thumbs



By Deborah Sticher

Untitled By Chris Bullock

*i contaminate through past tense archives
collective past tense
withdrawal form of phenomena
i relapse into behavior and intent
and demonstrate portions of loss of inhibitions
history disintegrates
into shots of robitussin
while crossing the delaware
impersonal retribution
i careen through makeshift corridors
and wake up caressing the girl's spine
touching lips tuck and fold
relapse into deprived condition
i force-feed myself afraid of fasting myself
slip inside of her
and tackle phenomena
very important issues
tickle her thigh and corrupt silence
close up shop like i'm territorial
presence manifest in locations i collapse through los angeles california and long island new york
skies full of brothels
rogue population popular detonation morals spread like wildfire
cameras sparkle all over the diorama
i defy gravity we touch lips and corrupt...
i prophesied the demise of america
but forgot to patent my discovery
i collapse into my car
and care*

Sub-Urban Late-Night Subway-Station Sessions

By Aleksander Plonski

Late Night Subway
Down the porcelain corridor
Got the old cat jazzin' away
Its 3:30 in the morning
With every minute
The walls are getting closer
And the sounds of avenue
Fade away unnoticed
Long night was late night subway
night
Had some after hours Miles
A 30 cent - "thanks for listening"
Wrapped in a napkin poem
It is an "all I've got" station
And dreams are getting heavier
On the tiered eyes...

The light grows dimmer
In the room of
Strange extended arms
She is reaching out
I'm reaching in
To the distant and absent love

Searching for a fix down on Drowsy
St.
Hot air and neon lights lit
Dimmed with the past electric
night
the subway-station Jazzman
And the street walkers resting
there
Beautiful horrors...
Leave on the next train
And never come back here again.

As vicious as the tin sound
Of a missed coin tossed
Falling on concrete
Missing the station jazz-filled
bag.
The man said it gets to him;
Not for music but for the quota...

The Jazzfull night, I sip it down
With heat rolling round stale
underground
Corridors of the town
Eyes spilled on the trans-chase...
Passing along, the coin
falls...and misses.

Praise the amazed summertime tune
I bow, I know-
We talk about the clattering
sounds
On pavements of Dixieland
Boys with empty eyes
And the mob clapping, cheering,
Ceaselessly giving away their
Round figures of pity
-To spare...

He likes to play for his fix
I got mine riding along
Through the mocking mosaics of
still, stained faces,
Filling in the cracks,
Carved by the deep down breath
From beneath the palisades and
monuments
White pale squares
A perfect reverberation
For a late night session...

...He blew a sweet false note
Mistaken echoes challenging the
walkers' muteness
He lost the sub-urban flow, now on
sale
For the mannequin-walls.
*Exact change in a hand
You could understand...*

Thick hot streets
With red shades and a beat
And the fish-market stench
On Jamaica avenue
With lust posted on the walls
And pigeons picking out scrapes
From the sidewalk's cracks
Lazy riff raff talks
And the liqueur stores
On the corners of worlds
Lost signs of words
And big bad boys
Shuffling their cruisers like
toys...
*Exact change in a hand
You could understand
Exact change in hand
You could understand...*

Talk Show Therapists: The Pros and Cons of Teletherapy

By F.L. Livingston

The girl thought for a few moments. Then she said something to the effect of, "I can't really commit myself right now."

No, she was not a young woman opting out of marriage or a serious relationship. She was a teenage girl trying to find a way to reconcile with the mother who had abandoned her long ago. So thick was the hostility between this girl and her mother that Dr. Joy Brown, their talk show host, suggested that they back up and see if they could find any point of agreement, no matter how small.

This is a technique that Dr. Brown often uses. She encourages each member of an estranged duo to look inside themselves and discover—and admit—the amount of time they are willing to spend with the other. Then she sees if they can both agree on a time frame. Even if they only commit to talking on the phone for five minutes once a month, for example, she explains, "It's a start," and that they can build from there. In this way, she helps them to begin the journey back to each other.

Dr. Brown is one of the most recent in an increasing number of talk show hosts who deal with human relationships. I am speaking of such personalities as Oprah Winfrey, Ricki Lake, Montel Williams, Jenny Jones, Sally Jesse Raphael, Jerry Springer, Leeza Gibbons, "Mother Love," Maury Povich, and Queen Latifah. Such shows provide a more or less "safe place" for a guest to air a grievance ("Honey, I'm tired of your working late!"), confess a secret ("Baby, I've been cheating on you with your best friend!"), or present a request ("Mom, I hate the way you dress! Please have a makeover.") to someone else. (Richard Simmons' "Dreammaker" program is a variation.)

I am not entirely qualified to discuss the pros and cons of these programs, since I do not have time to watch them all equally and on a regular basis. Nor do I have a degree in either psychology or media. But I think I've seen enough to make a few general points and expound on what I've noted as a lay viewer.

I cannot deny that these these shows involve an "entertainment factor," which some of them strongly emphasize. ("Oooo...I wonder what his girlfriend will say when she finds out that he's been sneaking around with her best friend's ex-boyfriend's mother who's also engaged to her dad!") It is not unusual for some of them to exploit their guests for the sake of pure "shock value." I am especially averse to programs where the guests coerce their friends or relatives into revealing painful secrets. ("Either you tell or I will!") Granted, all these people agree to come on the show, but . . . Humiliation? Astonishment? Invasion of privacy? All on national television? I doubt that any positive intention can outweigh the negative effects here.

But an increasing number of these programs are moving towards real efforts to help their guests find psychological peace. This latest trend began simply enough. Montel started to offer free after-show therapy to those in need. Soon several of these programs began to employ licensed therapists as regulars on their sets to help calm irate guests and dispense "quickie" advice. Some of the shows took a tougher stance, for better or worse, arranging, say, "boot camp" experiences for difficult teenagers. And along came

"Mother Love," preaching the "power of forgiveness" and urging angry guests to make a definite choice between saying "I forgive you," and "Forget it!" Now Dr. Brown has introduced actual on-screen therapy sessions into the mix.

Yikes! That's a little scary in itself. Not only are you "airing dirty laundry" in public but also having your psyche probed for all to see. No doubt there is some exploitation in this, too.

Yet, for many guests, it is the start of a whole new way of life. More specifically, a whole new approach to their problems. I cannot help but strongly applaud these attempts to aid other human beings.

Then again, some serious questions are running through my head:

Q 1. What do these talk show therapists have in common with televangelists?

A 1. They both use television as a medium to further spread knowledge of their methods and ideas. No harm done there, I suppose.

Q 2. How are these "teletherapists" different from the televangelists?

A 2. Among other things, televangelists are merely doing what evangelists have always done, except on a larger scale. Teletherapists, on the other hand, are taking what traditionally is a private discussion and holding it up for public consumption. Ouch!

Q 3. So is teletherapy necessarily bad?

A 3. No, I don't think so. I think it can do a lot of good. And often it does. Such a session frequently helps the guests to identify their problems more specifically and to express them more clearly and directly. Guests are often told, "Don't tell it to me. Turn around and talk to your (mother, lover, friend, whoever)".

It also encourages them to focus on "the other person's" emotions when necessary and to better comprehend that other person's needs, as well as their own. On one episode of "Sally," for example, a mother was instructed to "really listen" to her daughter, to stop "reacting" (read: interrupting) and concentrate on understanding her daughter's pain.

And it guides them in finding a way to resolve their difficulties. It tends to aid reluctant patients in seeing the value of therapy, propelling them to continue it after the show. It also helps them to understand that improvement may be a slow, step-by-step process, but it is possible.

The audience learns from watching these therapy sessions, too. In fact, often the audience itself is confronted and forced to face its own debacles. While some shows tolerate, and even promote, a "gladiator mentality" in their audiences (Jerry Springer comes to mind), more and more hosts are asking their audiences to be more sensitive, more intelligent—and more realistic. On a recent "Montel," for instance, the audience clapped and cheered wildly when a mother boasted of slapping her unruly son "upside the head." But Montel was quick to bring out the fact that his slap led to a brutal attack by the boy on the mother. He also pointed out that most modern courts do not view corporal punishment as an acceptable way for

parents to deal with kids. He did not at all condone the boy's violent reaction, but, in effect, he urged parents and children everywhere to try to find new and better ways to solve their disagreements. Recognizing the truth of his words, I felt compelled to look at the realities of such situations and think about more effective solutions. I am certain that many viewers felt the same way.

Still, I have some concerns. There is often a sense of unnecessary urgency on these shows. The host or therapist sometimes seems to feel pressured to achieve a solution by the end of the program. And the guests often appear to feel a need to make that happen. In some instances this has led to false or misleading answers.

On one show, for example, a husband and wife agreed to a six month separation. The purpose of this was to sort out their feelings individually. More specifically, it was to give them a chance to decide whether or not they each wanted to continue in the marriage.

But just before the end of the show, the wife blurted out something like, "Oh well, that's over!"

Surprised, the therapist reminded her, "It's just a six month separation!"

"But he'll go to someone else in a day," the wife explained, "so if it's separation, then it's over."

In that case, we were lucky enough to find out that the woman did not share the therapist's view of the situation. Just as often, we don't discover that. Contrary to what I said about "step-by-step improvement," there is a danger here that some people will come away from these shows with a message of "instant therapy"—and perhaps expect it from more traditional office visits. They are likely to be unduly disappointed if their own off-screen therapists can't solve problems this quickly.

Yet, for those who perceive these teletherapy sessions accurately—as mere beginnings of what could be the road to a "happier place" in the lives of the guests—these programs can be invaluable in promoting greater sensitivity, self-expression, and courage to seek help when needed.

Even an "unsuccessful" case has its merits. The first scenario described above did not end well. Yes, the girl agreed to write notes to her mother now and then and to communicate by telephone. But she could not pin herself down to a specific frequency of phone calls or length of conversation time.

"Once a week?" Joy Brown prompted. "Once a month?" And a few minutes later, "For fifteen minutes? Ten minutes? Five minutes?" All to no avail.

The mother was visibly discouraged and almost ready to "give up."

So was the case a failure? I think not. It forced the girl and her mother to see exactly how far apart they had grown and how much work needed to be done if they still wanted to mend their relationship. It gave evidence to us all that not every such story comes to a "happy ending" and that we may have to accept that and move on.

Sometimes we learn as much from what can't be done as from what can. Even at their "worst," I believe that these shows have a lot to offer.

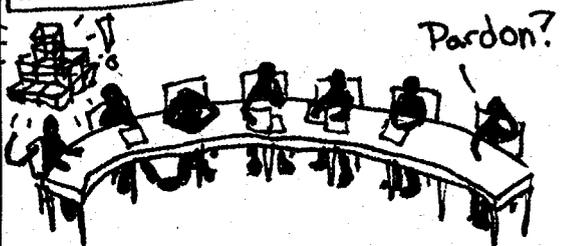
But enough said. Now hand me that remote . . .



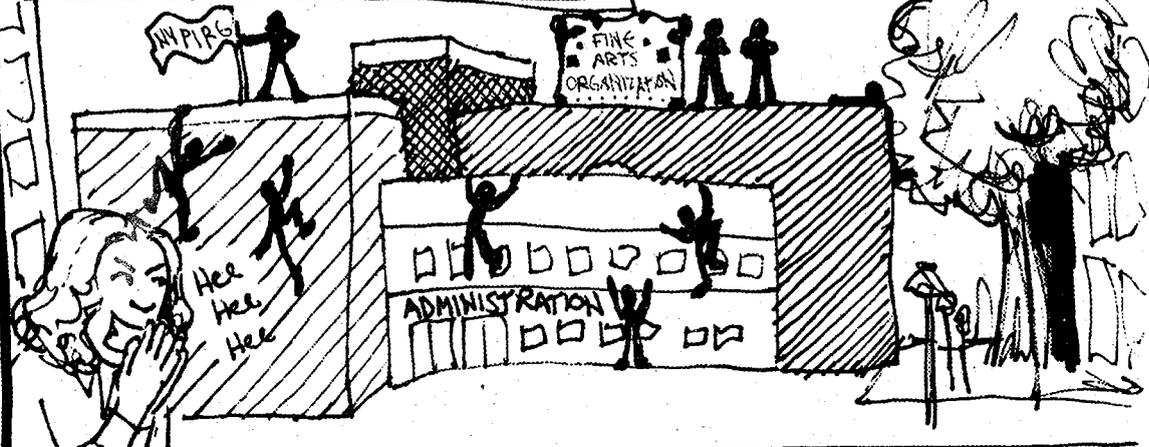
Jerry Springer's Final Thought...

It is not unusual for some of them to exploit their guests for the sake of pure "shock value."

BUT THAT'S OKAY. THAT'S THE PLAN. YOU SEE, MY HOPE IS THAT THE FACULTY WILL FINALLY SEE, AS IN THE PATH'S INSTANCE, THE NEED TO INSTALL ADULT-SIZED MONKEY BARS...



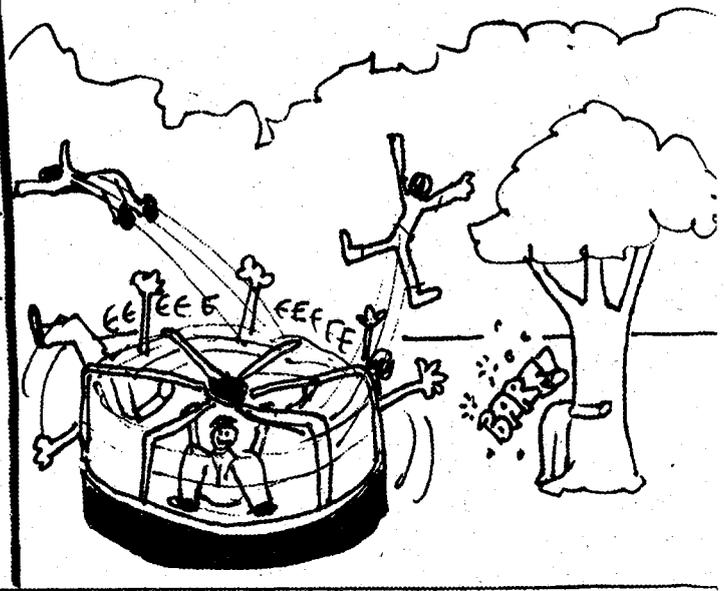
... TO CURB THE INSURGENCE OF ALL THIS MONKEY-LIKE BEHAVIOUR.



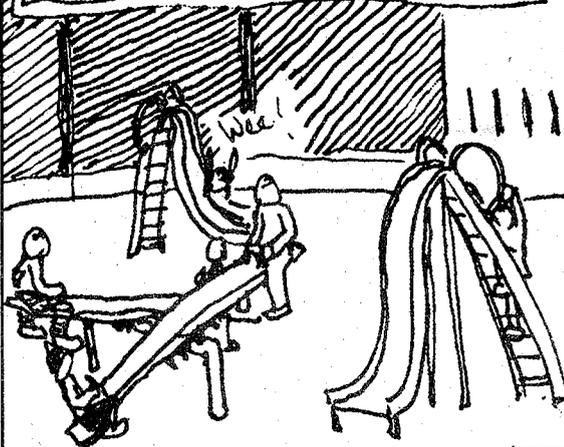
OF COURSE, ONCE THE MONKEY BARS ARE INSTALLED... WE'LL WANT MORE...



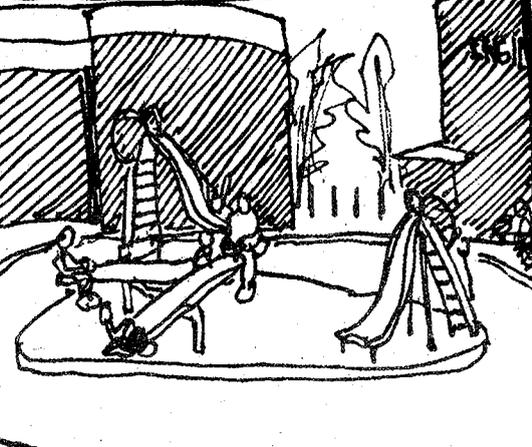
REMEMBER THE MERRY-GO-ROUND?



AND THEN COME THE SLIDES AND THE SEA-SAWS...



... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BUS LOOP...



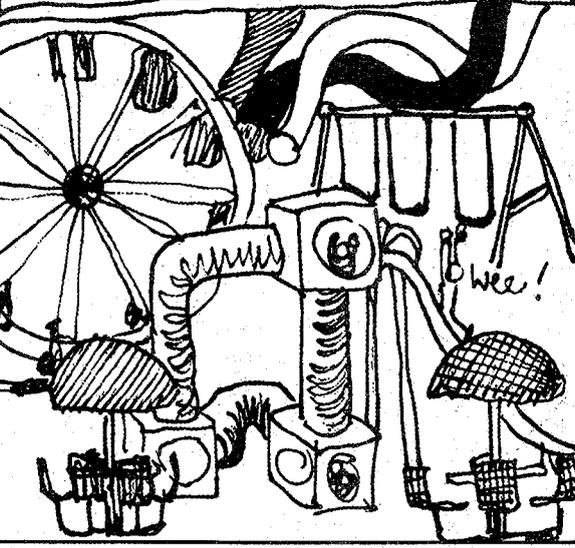
ACTUALLY... LET'S MAKE THEM WATER SLIDES... WE CAN LEAVE THE ONES IN THE BUS LOOP... WE'LL JUST TURN THE ZEBRA PATH INTO A WATER SLIDE.



AND DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, THE TORRENTS OF WATER WILL FREEZE - INTO A LUGE!!!!



PRETTY SOON WE'LL HAVE ALL OF THE PROPERTY ELEMENTS OF A PLAYGROUND-ON-CAMPUS!



OH WHAT FUN... UNTIL THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING.



ALL THE STUDENTS HAVE TO DO IS BEAT THE PATH. OF COURSE, THERE ARE MORE DIRECT METHODS OF GETTING THINGS DONE. IF YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA (LIKE MINE) TO IMPROVE ANY ASPECT OF THIS CAMPUS GO TO THE DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS (SAC, ACROSS FROM THE CSA lounge), POLITY (SAC, 2nd floor), OR THE PRESS, THE STATESMAN, OR NYPIRG (basement of the Union). BE DIRECT, LEAVE A MARK.

Sting's Venomless Vision

By Michael Kimmel

Sting has moved into middle age as a cross between a rock star and a parody of one. He's alternately ambitious and grandiose, a risk taker who doesn't know his own limitations (does anyone remember his "acting" career?). Here's a guy who is a true rock visionary, whose voice envelopes the listener like a warm hug, honey-coated, aching for meaning in a world where you always have to strain for it. His songs range widely over various musical styles, gravitating towards lyrical syncopation, his lyrics evoking timeless poetic tropes.

On the other hand, here's a guy who is also a self-absorbed New Age crooner who uses lush orchestration to mask vocal and lyrical failings. Surrounded by ambient synthesizer drone, you could just as easily be having a massage by someone named Amethyst Starfeather. What other rock musician uses a harp?

On "Brand New Day," his first release in six years, you'll find plenty of both sides of Sting. There are plenty of New Age pieties, pop-psychological bromides and overly lush orchestral flourishes. But Sting also returns to some earlier, more successful musical haunts, and visits some new ones as well.

A few of these little forays into other musical genres fall flat on their colonialist faces. "Perfect Love" grafts in a French rap by Cheb Mami that's pretty inane, and "Desert Rose" threads an Algerian syntho-disco sound through it that is supposed to give it an international flavor, but would actually make this otherwise interesting song at home in any second-rate world disco.

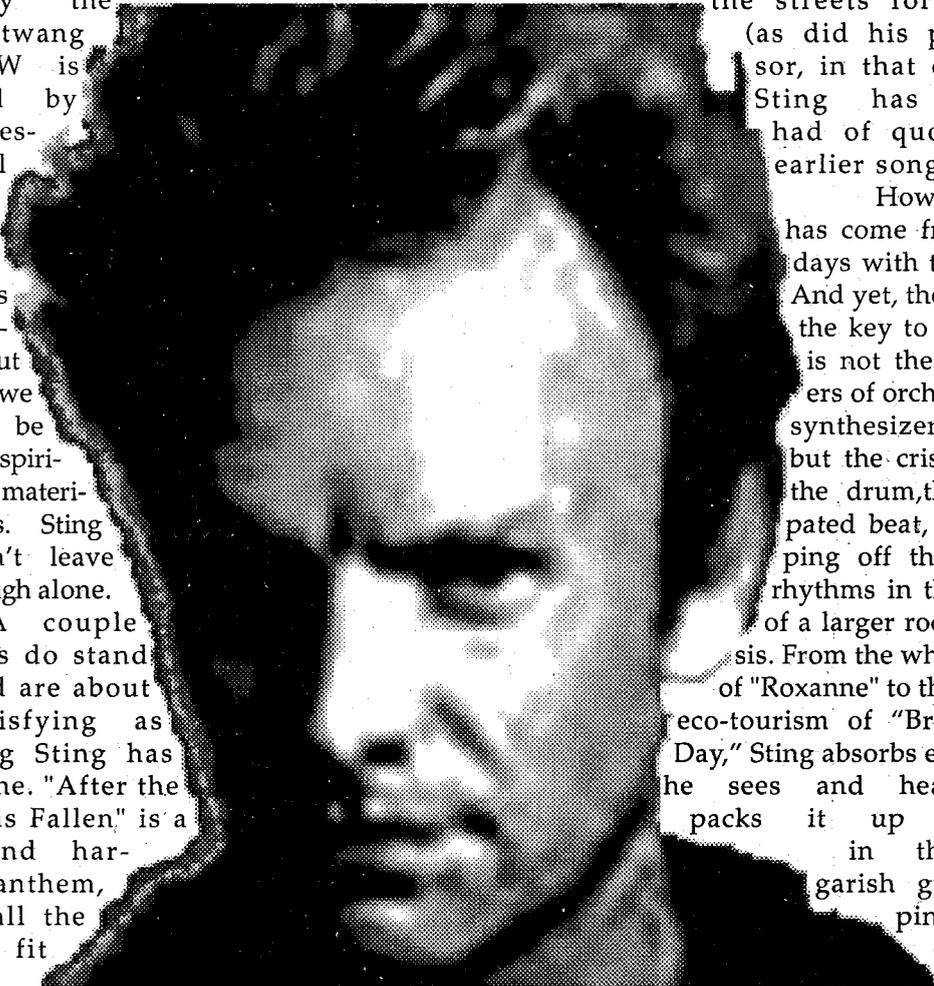
On two songs, he's joined by other famous stars, but to little effect. Stevie Wonder provides a smooth harmonica solo on the album's title track, but the song itself sounds a lot like a cheap imitation of a Stevie Wonder song. And James Taylor chimes in with some solos on the C&W-inflected "Fill Her Up," a ditty about a young gas station attendant's fantasies of movin' on up. The song's fine for the first few minutes, but then

suddenly the quaint twang of C&W is replaced by an orchestral swoosh offering quasi-religious palliatives about how we have to be filled by spiritual, not material, goods. Sting just can't leave well enough alone.

A couple of songs do stand out, and are about as satisfying as anything Sting has ever done. "After the Rain Has Fallen" is a lush and harmonic anthem, where all the parts fit

together seamlessly and the result transcends the dichotomy Sting typically presents: between rocker and crooner, kid and grownups. On "Tomorrow We'll See," he returns to his earlier incarnation with the Police, looking at Roxanne's life not from the point of view of her confused lover, but from her point of view as a besieged hooker. Here we see the far less idealized life from the point of view of a transvestite prostitute who "walks the streets for money" (as did his predecessor, in that cute way Sting has always had of quoting his earlier songs.

How far Sting has come from those days with the Police. And yet, then as now, the key to his music is not the lush layers of orchestral and synthesizer sounds, but the crisp beat of the drum, the syncopated beat, the snapping off the world's rhythms in the service of a larger rock synthesis. From the white reggae of "Roxanne" to the musical eco-tourism of "Brand New Day," Sting absorbs everything he sees and hears, and packs it up for us in the most garish gift wrapping you've ever heard.



Get Some F*cking Culture
 The Undergraduate Fine Arts Organization
 wants to raise your low brow ass up

Check out their website
<http://emedia.art.sunysb.edu/artclub>

They even have regular meetings...
 ... like civilized people.

Every Wednesday at 9:00pm
 in the Staller Center, Rm. 4222.

HAVE YOU SEEN STONED COLD STEVE PRESTON?

Lee Nichols Writes A Top Ten!

[Editor's Note: A man by the name of Lee Nichols recently wrote two letters to the Stony Brook Press: one expressing his disapproval for pictures in Jack & Hil, and one criticizing an article by Chris Sorochin entitled "Catholic Yuppie Lawyers From Hell" (our October 7 issue). We printed both of these letters in our October 27 issue. This is Lee Nichol's latest response.]

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing my letters, even though you knew they were not meant for public consumption. Besides being morally challenged and bereft of a decent education, *The Stony Brook Press'* staff isn't terribly bright.

I would like to submit ten reasons why *The Stony Brook Press* should never be defunded. Perhaps you could publish them also. I don't doubt many people within your community would find them to be very apropos. They are as follows:

1. Hilary Vidair would probably be refused admittance to every other school in the United States, except Suffolk Community College. How would her overactive libido survive?
2. She'd end up schlepping coffee for Larry Flynt.
3. Hilary Vidair's staff would be forced to open a chapter of Illiterates Anonymous.
4. Chris Sorochin would undoubtedly enter the priesthood, become a bishop, and convert most of

his flock to atheism.

5. Shirley Strum Kenny wouldn't have to demonstrate that she is an invertebrate.
6. Russell Heller would spend his time vilifying the etiquette and couture of the homeless.
7. Russell Heller would also spend his time proposing legislation to eradicate from the English language any word with more than four letters.
8. Glenn Given would fritter away the hours finding new ways to demonstrate his inherent disrespect for anyone who is older, wiser, and less noisome than he.
9. Glenn Given would have to admit that he kisses up to Russell Heller.
10. Hilary Vidair would have no outlet to spin reason #9 into an obscene comment.

The Suffolk County District Attorney is looking into my complaint that both the University and the hospital exposed my two minor children, who happen to do volunteer work there, to obscene material. This is the "age of the children." You mustn't violate their rights in any way, don't you know.

Like I said, not terribly bright.

Cordially,
Lee Nichols

Crossword 101

By Ed Cauty

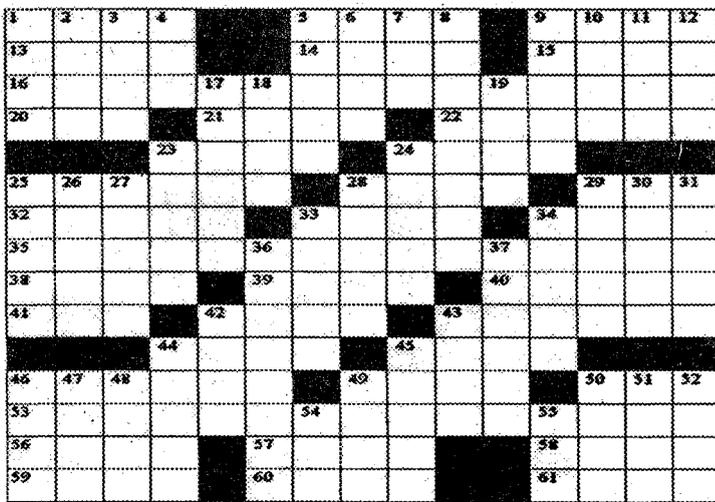
"80's Flicks"

ACROSS

- 1 Boston Marathon
- 5 Parseghian & others
- 9 Apartment
- 13 Heartthrob
- 14 Kosovo champion
- 15 Every
- 16 *Michael J Fox* flick
- 20 Bdwy sign
- 21 Lyric poems
- 22 Vocations
- 23 Pierre's pals
- 24 Entreats
- 25 Screwdriver specialist
- 28 Candy walker?
- 29 Stitch
- 32 Walking
- 33 Became alert
- 34 Withered
- 35 *Paul Hogan* flick
- 38 Prefix for phone or graph
- 39 Eye part
- 40 King's org.
- 41 Draft Bd. org.
- 42 Fraction of an instant: abr
- 43 Sherlock's finds
- 44 Ms. Truman
- 45 Coal, e.g.
- 46 Governor Whitman predecessor
- 49 Pepsi, e.g.
- 50 Classifieds
- 53 *Eddie Murphy* flick
- 56 Cartoonist's light bulb
- 57 Schnitzel ingredient
- 58 Ms. Boleyn
- 59 Stumped
- 60 Corn crib units
- 61 Drove

DOWN

- 1 BBQ meats
- 2 Hebrew month
- 3 Designer Chanel
- 4 Big deer



- 5 Stakes
- 6 Cheerleader utterances
- 7 Lunched
- 8 Weakened
- 9 Greek cheese:PI
- 10 Praise
- 11 Land measure
- 12 Definite articles
- 17 Salad ingredient
- 18 Norse god
- 19 Prod
- 23 Petroleum refiner
- 24 Uses a 48 Down
- 25 Composer Johann's
- 26 Hair styles
- 27 Living quarters
- 28 Newborn's plight
- 29 Family car
- 30 Build
- 31 Cries
- 33 Cables
- 34 Creeper
- 36 Melt
- 37 Beyond belief
- 42 Golda ____ Israeli Pol.
- 43 Yank
- 44 Smash
- 45 Ruins
- 46 "The ____ Most Wanted"
- 47 Queen of Sparta
- 48 Klin
- 49 Scorch
- 50 Teenage woe
- 51 Finished
- 52 Rushed
- 54 Affirmative vote
- 55 Posed

Answers In
Next Issue!

By GFR Associates E-Mail: EDC9432@aol.com
Mail: GFR, P.O. Box 461, Schenectady, NY 12301

Top Ten Things Our Student Activity Fee Should Go Towards Instead of Polity

10) Scotch and
condoms

9) 1978, hot pink, Buick
Skylark convertibles for
everyone!

8) Titties, titties,
titties

7) Dignity...

6) Lobster Boy Project
Phase III cleanup

5) Valtrex ('cause it's all
about suppression, baby)

4) Another million
dollar fountain that
pumps out ice cold Colt
45

3) Hello! Drugs!

2) TEEK Date Rape Legal
Defense Fund

1) Women of
questionable virtue

Child Under My Bed

By Glenn Given

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Timmy who lived in a beautiful Tudor home in the suburbs of The City. Timmy was loved by his parents, Mom and Dad, very much—more than normal, some might say, because he was an only child.

Today was Timmy's 8th birthday party, and all of his friends had been invited to his house to celebrate. Johnny was there, along with Sara, Missy and little Jerry.

"Wow, Timmy! Your parents sure got you a lot of gifts," remarked Johnny.

"That's 'cause they love me more than anything else in the world, and these material goods are proof of that," retorted Timmy.

"I wish my parents loved me that much," intoned Sara sadly. (You see, she lived on the other side of the tracks, and made Timmy's parents a little nervous because she always had this hungry look to her.)

"No one could love anyone as much as Mom and Dad love me," said Timmy.

So they all sat in Timmy's living room, celebrating the 8th birthday of the most loved kid in the world. Timmy got trucks and video games, cake and Scrabble, among other things. Finally it started getting late, and all of Timmy's friends got picked up by their parents. Waving goodbye to the pickup truck that Sara rode away in, Timmy's parents turned to him and said, "We have a very special gift for you now."

Timmy was jubilant, to say the least, because receiving gifts was his favorite pastime. If this was a "very special gift," more special than anything else he had received today... Well, this was gonna be something.

"Come up to your room, and we'll show you," said Mom and Dad.

And little Timmy was jubilant to find his very own brand new race car bed waiting for him. He hopped up and down on the bed, giggling with delight and when finally exhausted, turned to his parents and said, "I love you."

They smiled and left their son to his new bed. Since it was getting late anyway, Timmy decided he might as well go to sleep and enjoy the newfound comfort of a race car shaped bed. Darkness crept through little Timmy's brain as he fell into blissful slumber. Timmy awoke early in the morning to a faint crashing noise. Groggily he turned his head toward his bedroom door to try and spy where the noise had come from.

Something shuffled in the far corner of his room, and Timmy turned his attention on it. Peering closely, he saw, ever so faintly, two tiny pinpricks of light. As he stared the pinpricks stared back, slightly

swaying back and forth. Wondering what these were—and just a little scared—Timmy held his breath to focus his hearing. From the dark corner where the pinpricks floated, slow, shallow breathing was emanating.

The hallway light came on, and the darkness peeled back from the corner. Standing there for the briefest of seconds was a little boy who looked a lot like Timmy. He shirked from the light, and as quick as a viper he had shuffled robotically up to Timmy's bed. Then the hall light clicked off and the room was plunged into the void of night again. Timmy saw those glowing eyes hovering above his bed and immediately pulled the covers over his head. Squeezing his eyes shut and holding his breath, he fell back to sleep. But before he did, he felt a slight bump of the bed, almost as if it had been slightly lifted and dropped again.

The next morning when he got to the breakfast table, Mom and Dad were staring at him very strangely.

"Well son, what do we have to say for ourselves?" Dad asked sternly.

Timmy was confused. All he could think of was that maybe he'd forgotten to say all his "thank you's" yesterday.

"Uh. . . thank you for the wonderful present?" Tim replied.

Dad stood bolt upright in his chair and hauled back his hand to give Timmy his "what have you's" but Mom held him back. Looking at Timmy—who was now cowering in his chair—Mom calmly took away Tim's breakfast and said, "Until you own up to what you've done, you're confined to your room and will have no breakfast."

Timmy was in shock, but he knew better than to get on Mom's bad side, so he simply excused himself and walked back to his room. On the way he caught a peek into the living room to see that all of Mom's Precious Moments figurines were shattered and lumped in a pile in the corner.

Timmy spent the rest of the day in his room, staring at the wall. He was very sad, for he didn't know what he had done that had made Mom and Dad so mad. Outside he could hear them arguing—about him, and what would be done if this sort of behavior continued. Every time Dad shouted, or when Mom mentioned the word "orphanage" (Tim didn't know what that meant), a little giggle would come from under his brand new race car bed. As the day wound down and night fell, Timmy, overcome with hunger, closed his eyes and went to sleep.

A slight scraping noise woke Tim from his slumber. He cast his gaze on the door and saw that a small plate of food and a glass of water had been left there. He dragged himself from the bed and walked over to the food. As he sat down in front of it, those two glowing eyes greeted him from behind the door. Tim scooted back hurriedly as the door swung closed. The room was dark again, and all Tim could see were those two bobbing lights accompanied by the sounds of his dinner being slovenly consumed.

There was a moment of quiet, and

then the door slowly opened again. Standing in the light, the little boy from under the bed lifted the plate and glass from the floor. Looking over to the near catatonic Timmy, he smiled. With that final gesture the little boy threw the plate and glass as hard as he could down the hall to Mom and Dad's door.

CRASH! CRASH!

He turned back to Timmy and pushed him aside, deftly sliding under the race car. Timmy ran to the edge of the bed and peered underneath. There sat the little boy with the glowing eyes. Timmy began to cry as Dad's roars filled the hallway. All the little boy did was put his finger to his lips and smile.

Suddenly Timmy was grabbed from behind and lifted from the floor. The next hour or so was a painful blur. Timmy was beat worse than the Yankees beat the Red Sox, worse than the NYPD beat Diallo, worse than the Republicans beat the poor. Timmy cried himself to sleep that night.

That night was repeated over and over again for the next month. Timmy grew pale and gaunt from lack of food and beatings. Dad began to drink and Mom began to cry uncontrollably and the little boy under the race car bed continued to destroy their home. Timmy cried himself to sleep every night—well, every night that he didn't pass out from the savageness of Dad's, and more frequently Mom's beatings. And every night the boy under the bed laughed more.

-----One Year Later-----

All was well in Mom and Dad's house, nothing was broken and the house didn't reek of cheap bourbon anymore. Mom and Dad were in love again, and they expressed that fact often, in many new and creative ways.

The race car bed sat in the garage gathering dust, as it had for almost all of the past year. Nothing came from underneath anymore, and if you listened closely there was no noise coming from it at all. It wasn't used anymore. No one had slept on it since Timmy had passed on, and nothing resided beneath it since that very same day. "Why did Mom and Dad keep it?" you might ask. Well, they kept it as a reminder of the horrible child they'd had. The child that was a lot like you and me. The child that was wonderful only in its absence. Mom and Dad kept the bed to remind them to always vote pro-choice.

So Mom and Dad lived happily ever after, because they never had another child again. They also blocked out any memories of little Timmy, because he was easy to forget—because they did not love him, and in fact, never had loved him.

Timmy burned in Hell for what he had done.

So remember, little ones: Anything that is wrong in your house is your fault, and if you try to blame it on the child under the bed, you will only make Dad hit you more.

From Russell with Love

This Issue's Target: Cracker Jacks

By Russell Heller

Yo yo yo, my campus peoples. Have you noticed the abysmal quality of Cracker Jacks recently? Of course you have! Well, here I present my best efforts to rectify the situation. I am sending a letter to Sailor Jack, spokesmariner for the Cracker Jack company. If he proves to be the champion of virtue we all came to know him as during WWII, he should jump right on top of this grenade and bring swift windjammer justice to those corporate fatcats who have degraded the product bearing his likeness.

Let me tell you, friends, the fury of angry seamen is not a threat to be taken lightly. Sailor Jack has taken on far greater opponents (remember the destruction wrought during the climactic battle between him and Dr. Doom?) with fewer resources (he knows 200 ways to kill a man with his pinky) than he has now. Sailor Jack is a powerhouse, nay a dynamo of well-intentioned energy at our disposal. With Sailor Jack and his trusty sidekick, Bingo, on the job, we'll have a higher peanut to popcorn ratio AND better prizes before you can say, "Take me out to the ball game!"

You know, if there's one thing I hate, it's a lousy Cracker Jacking experience, and I've had far too many recently. So in characteristic fashion, I have, at the very least, really confused the hell out of John Q. Letter-Reader in the Frito-Lay mailroom. You have to start somewhere. So kudos to me for subverting corporate evil, from the bottom up.

Dear Mr. Jack,

Hello. My name is Russell Heller. I am a student journalist at Stony Brook University. I am writing you in response to the gradual, steady decline in the overall quality of your product.

First of all, your "Cracker" Jacks seem to feature fewer and fewer peanuts with every passing year.

Are your R&D people working toward some eventual peanut phaseout? Will there be a new partner to accompany the glazed popcorn that I know and love? I for one, was an avid fan of the honey-roasted peanuts which used to gather at the bottom of the box, and if they were to disappear altogether, a small part of me

would die with them.

Speaking of the bottom of the box, what the hell happened to the box? All around this campus: BAGS! PLASTIC BAGS OF CRACKER JACKS! I am outraged. What are you, just some sell-out bag of chips now? Is that it? I expected better from the Cracker Jacks that I grew up with. Don't you care about the environ-

ment anymore? Cardboard boxes were much safer than the beaver-killing plastic bags that we see today. Furthermore, Jack, it has come to my attention that you are not even a "Cracker" as you so blatantly advertise with your nickname. Word around the campfire is that you are olive-complexioned enough to forfeit any and all assumed Cracker status.

Cracker Jacks are an American icon. You don't see anyone monkeying around with apple pie, do you? Of course not, because people have had the good sense not to fix it if it ain't broke. Cracker Jacks weren't broke, but they HAVE been fixed—in much the same manner as a cat on the way home from the vet's office. The Cracker Jacks of late simply have no balls.

I understand that in the business world, sometimes steps must be taken in order to stay ahead of the competition. Fiddle and Crunch & Munch must be like a pack of hungry wolves who snap at your ankles as you struggle to stay at the top of the hill. But the way to emerge victorious in the bitter struggle for supremacy of the candied popcorn and peanut market is by consistently making a better product, not by compromising the integrity that Sailor Jack and Bingo have stood for for over 100 years.

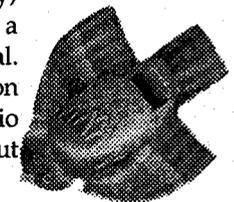
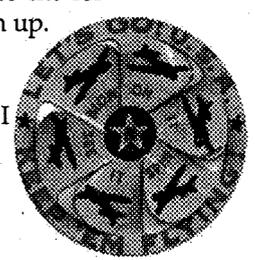
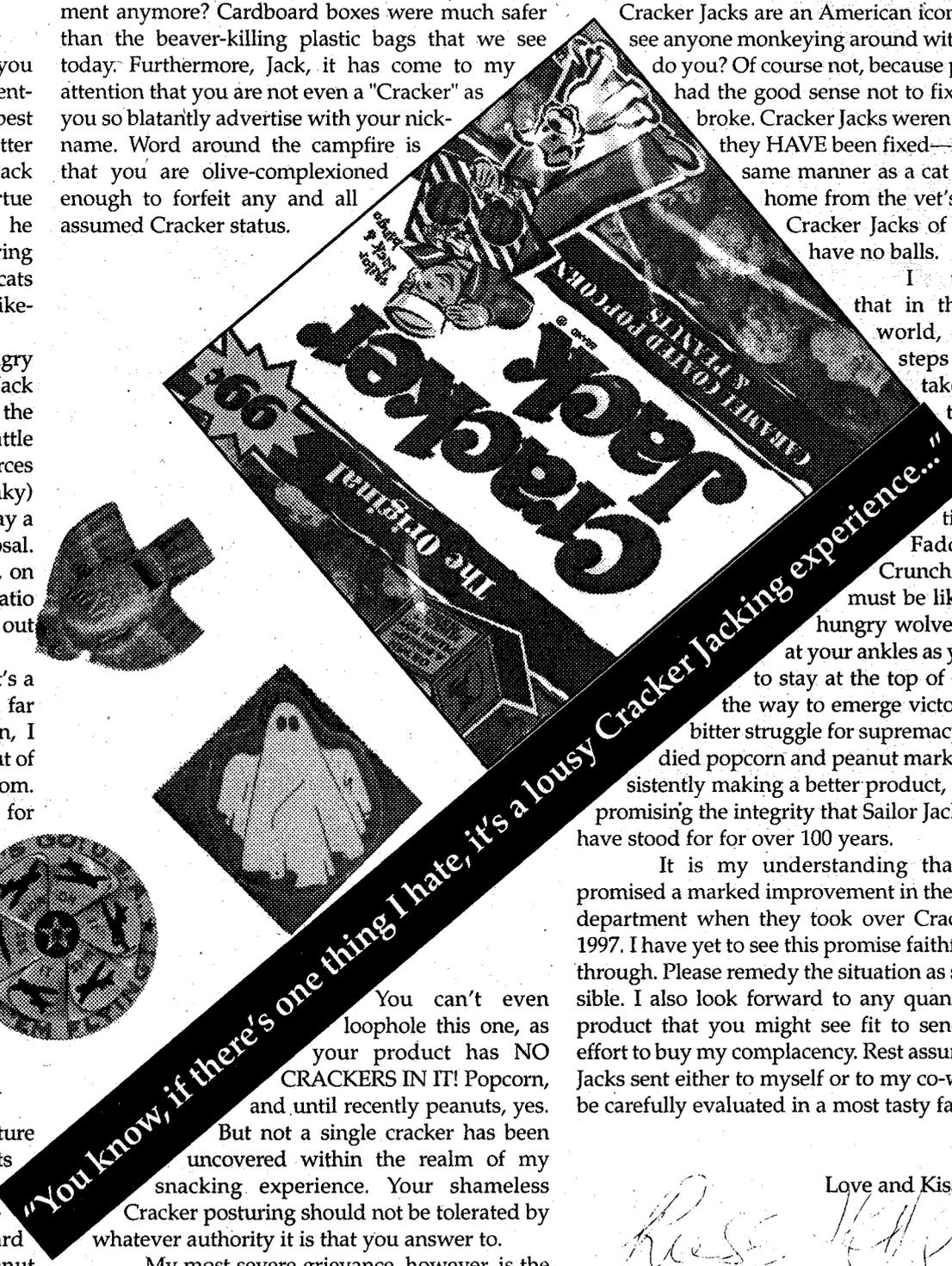
It is my understanding that Frito-Lay promised a marked improvement in the secret prize department when they took over Cracker Jack in 1997. I have yet to see this promise faithfully carried through. Please remedy the situation as soon as possible. I also look forward to any quantity of your product that you might see fit to send me in an effort to buy my complacency. Rest assured, Cracker Jacks sent either to myself or to my co-workers will be carefully evaluated in a most tasty fashion.

You can't even loophole this one, as your product has NO CRACKERS IN IT! Popcorn, and until recently peanuts, yes. But not a single cracker has been uncovered within the realm of my snacking experience. Your shameless Cracker posturing should not be tolerated by whatever authority it is that you answer to.

My most severe grievance, however, is the fact that any quality that your prizes once had seems to have been abandoned in exchange for less expensive alternatives, devoid of any prize-like characteristics. A little research on my part has led me to the discovery that before my time, Cracker Jack prizes were a toy to be envious of.

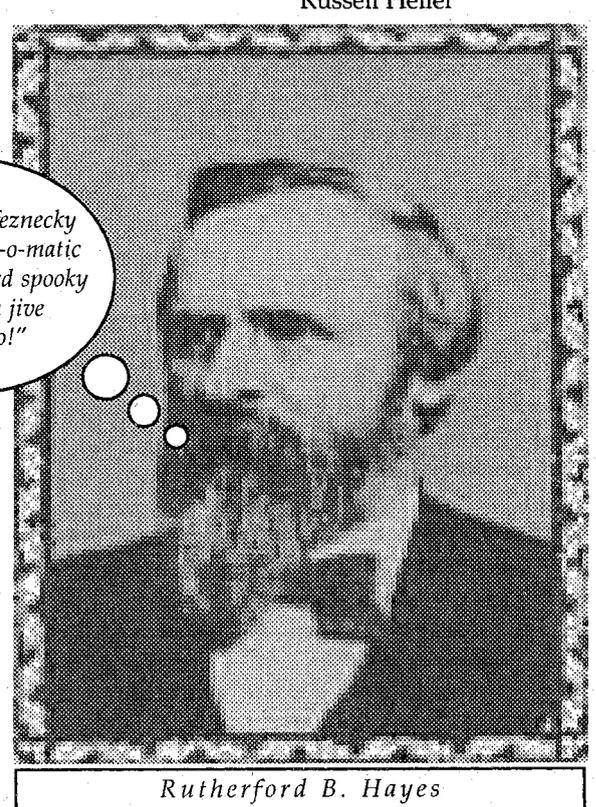
Prizes made of tin, or plastic, with moving parts—or even requiring some assembly—were not uncommon before the company lost its edge. Nowadays, what passes for a Cracker Jack prize is a blowboat (a folded piece of paper that can be blown along a table), or a goddamn sticker designed to be placed on the other side of—the STICKER BACKING! What fun. What happened to morse code signal mirrors, metallic bird whistles, lenticulars (those little plastic moving pictures that you were supposed to stick on your shoelaces), or pictures of and facts about our beloved ex-President, Rutherford Birchard Hayes?

I have yet to pinpoint the date at which prizes ceased to be prizes, but I have a sneaking suspicion that it was somewhere around the time Frito-Lay bought out the company. Likewise, I place the introduction of bagged Cracker Jacks at about the same time.



Love and Kisses,
Russell Heller
 Russell Heller

"Snook-style feznecky
 bo diddly slide-o-matic
 boss action word spooky
 Yo, that's a jive
 haiku, yo!"



Rutherford B. Hayes



Thank you!
 Somebody has finally
 asked our advice!
 Keep it cummin'.
 Bring your questions
 to the
 Student Union,
 Room 060, or
 email us at:
 sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu

THIS ISSUE:
LETTERS

PENIS POKING & URINAL ENEMAS

Dear Jack & Hil,

I should first mention that the article that you guys(or gals) compose is very interesting to read. Thanks for taking the time to put it together! Now, on to my questions.

Question 1:

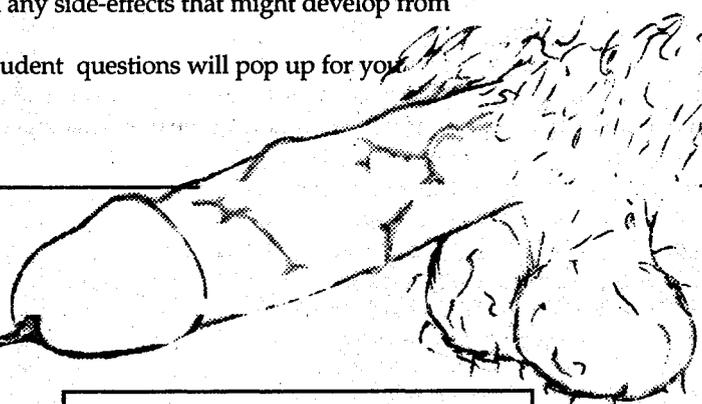
My girlfriend and I both enjoy our sexual encounters with one another tremendously. The problem is that she sometimes complains to me of feeling a "poking" type of pain when I penetrate her. She is very non-specific about the origin of the pain, and I find my efforts to talk about it halted by an obvious attempt to shield me from something. In lieu of a visit to the gynecologist when she gets back from school, I was wondering if the two of you could offer me any facts on this phenomenon, which I have found to be not uncommon among my sexually active female friends.

Question 2:

The other question that I had has to do with enemas. I have some knowledge of human anatomy, yet am somewhat cautious about approaching the act of a rectal enema using my lover's urine. Thus I was wondering if the two of you could possibly offer knowledge(first-hand or otherwise!) on any side-effects that might develop from insertion of the somewhat basic human urine into the large intestine environment?

Well... that's about it for now. Keep up the good work and I'm sure some more student questions will pop up for you guys! Thanks again for your efforts on the articles!

Pooki



Cock Illustration by Russell Heller

JACK:

Whoa, what a doozy to start us off with. Here we go... Breeder sex and girlie issues are not my field of expertise. But I can sympathize with the personal nature of your problem. Communication within relationships is difficult; talking about sex can be near impossible.

The first thing you need to do is to get your girl to a gynecologist. Annual exams should become part of her life, and can save her life. I know many women who feel anxiety about going to the gyno, but big girls do what's good for them. The problem could be nothing; and if it isn't, she is better off knowing now.

The second thing you should do is to open a sexual dialogue with your partner. Do you feel that she is withholding something because you are? Sexual honesty is the hardest kind, but the problem could also be with you, Casanova, or—closer to the fact—with your peter. I can envision a pencil-dick causing a "poking sensation" during intercourse. Does your dick have a strange curve that could "poke" at the wall of the vagina? If so, changing positions might help. I don't know what to suggest if your problem is the former, but I can recommend against surgical augmentation. If it ain't broke, don't spend \$15,000 to have someone cut your dick open to fix it. There is literature out there about ways to increase the girth of the male organ. I suggest you find it.

In addition, our good friend Monkey has added this: "I think he may be hitting her cervix, at the posterior end of the uterus. But if I remember correctly, the cervix is sensitive to pressure, but does not usually create pain in response to stimuli. You may want to ask Pooki if it's a feeling of pressure or real discomfort."

As to your other question, if you knew your ass from your elbow in the field of anatomy, you would know that nothing happens when you mix basic (as opposed to acid) urine with the environment of the large intestine, also basic. No two bodily fluids explode from contact with one another.

Now a more interesting question is how to get your lover's urine into your large intestine. I will assume from the first part of your question that you are male and that your lover is female. The artist in me envisions some sort of funnel device, with you doing a headstand, but the pragmatist in me is forced to settle for peeing into a sandwich bag and taping it to an empty Bic pen.

HIL:

To start, your girlfriend might be experiencing discomfort due to the positions you two are having sex in. Try doing it with her on top. That way, she can control how far your penis goes into her vagina. This will also expose her clitoris, so that it can be stimulated by you, her, or both.

More seriously, though, you say that your girlfriend was attempting to "shield" you from something. As I repeat in almost every column I write, communication is key. A relationship cannot be healthy unless there is trust and honesty. I wonder if you also have problems discussing nonsexual problems with her. If this is the case, then you might want to address this outside of the bedroom.

I was pondering how to answer your second question as soon as I read the email. Then I received a message from my good old friend Monkey, a graduate of Biology here at Stony Brook. He had read the email and provided me with this information. I will quote him directly:

"First of all, urine is not necessarily basic, as Pooki wrote. Its normal pH can range from 4.6 (acidic) to 8.0 (basic). But why use an enema in the first place? Excessive use of enemas can..

- Upset electrolyte balance,
- Cause dehydration,
- Remove the colon's protective mucus coat, and
- Stretch the colon, causing possibly irreversible damage.

As for urine enemas, I'd say use fresh pee. Urine that has been standing outside for a while harbors bacteria. This can degrade urea to ammonia, which is more toxic. Also, I suggest that urine enemas be done only as a special treat, to avoid unpleasant side effects.

Monkeys don't like enemas, by the way."

It really baffled me when I read your question. Why would you want to use urine to perform an enema when there are so many other wonderful uses? Try taking a shower with your partner and urinate on each other's bodies. This can be a physical way to express emotion.

Picture on this page and bottom of next page are from the book "Sex For One: The Joy of Self-love" by Betty Dodson, Ph.D.

GETTIN' THE LIVELY LADIES

Dear Jack and/or Hil,

I have been a reader of your column for a while now, but this is the first time I have written in. My question for you is this: Where are all the sexually adventurous women?

I have been in several relationships, but I have never felt that my partner would be willing to try, or be interested in, the kind of sex I would. In one of your prior columns I believe you endorsed a sort of role reversal by a woman with a strap-on dildo. I'm game, ladies! But how do you broach a subject like that without being labeled a pervert and dismissed? God only knows where you could find a girl who's into fisting or the like.

Basically, what I am saying is that this is college, and isn't it supposed to be the time in your life for experimentation? Haven't we all heard the cliché, "Well yeah, I fooled around like that once while I was in college." I just haven't felt that the ladies on this campus are being true to that spirit.

Kinky in Kelly Quad

HIL:

Most importantly, you should know the woman before requesting any type of unusually kinky sexual activity. You said you worry that she would think you were a pervert. Well, if some strange guy came up to me and asked me to fuck him in the ass, I would be taken aback.

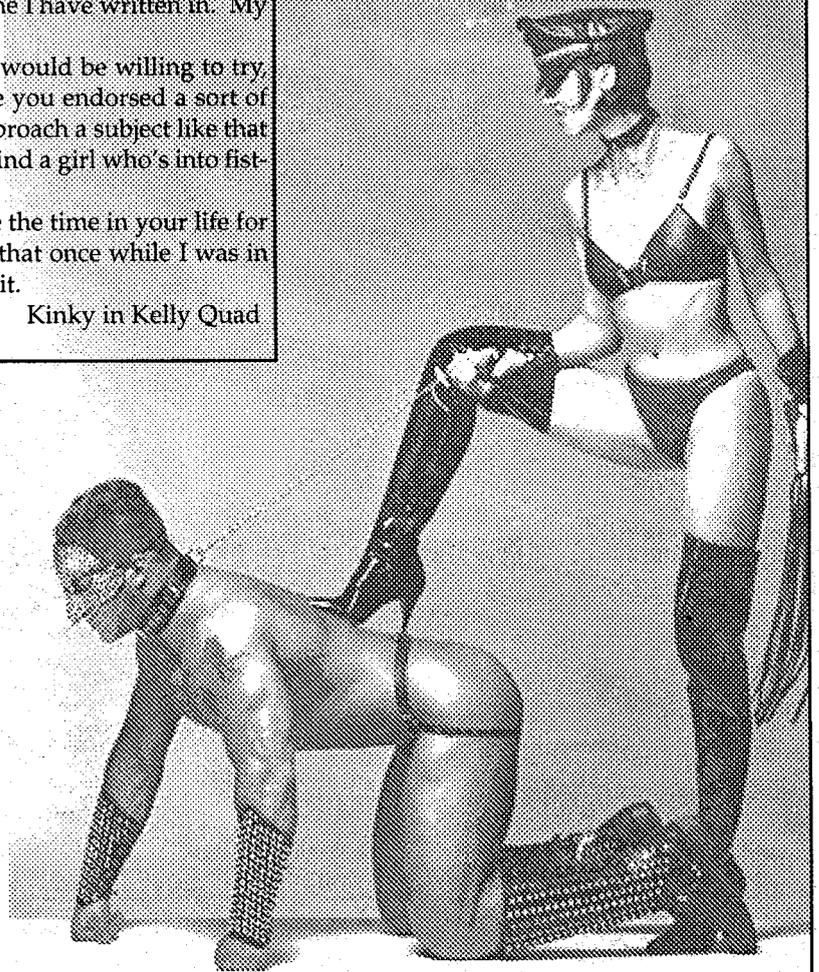
If you plan on engaging in really adventurous sexual relations, you should be 100% comfortable with the person. Having erotic monkey sex with a woman you just met that day is highly unlikely. If you really want to experiment, you might want to try these things with a regular partner.

This brings us back to communication. How will you ever experiment sexually if you can't even bear talking about doing it? Yet take your time getting to know a girl before you approach her with such a question. (Or, you can locate the club having the scavenger hunt. Now *those* are ladies.)

JACK:

You ain't hanging with the right ladies, son! There are women out there that are sexually adventurous. In fact, there seems to be a large concentration of them in the *Press* office... But seriously, the only way you'll get what you want from your partner is by telling her. If she labels you a pervert and dismisses you, you gotsta check the poonani you're going after, kid! Those

tight-assed sorority hos ain't gonna do it for ya. There are girls who want you to stick your fist up in 'em. If the girls you've been with haven't been willing to play dirty, think about the kind of girls you usually go after. Then find the exact opposite. If all else fails, come down to room 060 in the Union... We've got women so kinky down here, you'll be cummin' out of your ears!



HYMEN HARDSHIPS

Dear Jack & Hil,

Please tell me all there is to know about the hymen and the first time.
—Anonymous

JACK & HIL RESPOND

The hymen is defined in Webster's dictionary as "a fold of mucous membrane partly closing the orifice of the vagina—also *maidenhead*."

Over the years, there have been many inquiries about the hymen and its purpose in virginity. Way back when, a new bride's sheets would be inspected to see if she had bled or not. If she hadn't, she was branded a whore (for having had premarital sex).

Your inquiry is quite broad, and we are not sure whether you are a virgin seeking information, a guy trying to figure out his lover's past, or a flaming pervert with an intense desire to fuck little girls. Whatever the case, we hope our advice is helpful.

First of all, the common belief that the hymen is always broken during initial coitus is a myth. It can be broken during many other activities, such as dancing, bicycle or horseback riding, or fingering. Some women are even born without one.

In addition, the hymen does not always get broken, even when intercourse has occurred. It may merely stretch sufficiently to make room for the penis.

One other possibility is a partial tearing of the hymen, in which the hymen does not fully break; rather it severs from one side and not the other, or it rips a hole somewhere in the middle. Whoa! That sounds painful! Actually, though, most girls report that they do not feel extreme pain their first time.

Another myth is that there will be a lot of blood. In actuality, little or no bleeding occurs, and it trickles rather than gushes. The most common case is finding some blood on the underwear or sheets later that day.

If it is your or your girlfriend's first time, there are several things you

can do to make the experience more pleasing than displeasing. The first such task can be accomplished by either the woman alone or her partner. This is for the "true" virgin, one who has never experienced any serious action below the belt. Start with one finger, using some lubricant if needed. Slowly stick the finger into the vagina, one knuckle at a time. Continue to add fingers until there is no longer any room. The tighter you are, the fewer fingers you will be able to use. The most important thing is to relax. Let go of your vaginal muscles, and lower your shoulders. Once you've done this, gently move the fingers back and forth in the vagina. If you do this every day, it will help loosen you up.

Then, when you are ready to have sex, have your partner do the same thing with his penis that either you or he did with his fingers. Start slowly, making sure you are nice and lubricated before he even tries (MEN READ: just 'cuz you're having sex doesn't mean you should ditch the foreplay). Stick the head of the penis in first, again relaxing your vaginal muscles. Take deep breaths and keep your legs spread wide.

If it starts to hurt, don't tighten your vaginal muscles, instead tell your partner to give fewer inches and slow down. Just as we should all ask for what we want, we should feel free to express what we don't want, especially if it is painful.

We hope that you have found this information useful. Just remember, the emotional angst from losing one's virginity is often worse than the actual pain. Think before you act, and always use a jimmy. We hope your first experience is a good one. (Write to us when it happens!)

O HYMEN! O Hymenee!

By Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

O HYMEN! O hymenee!

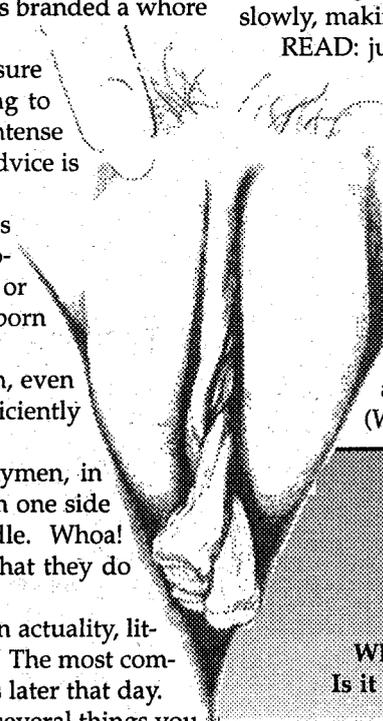
Why do you tantalize me thus?

O why sling me for a swift moment only?

Why can you not continue? O why do you now cease?

Is it because, if you continued beyond the swift moment,

You would soon certainly kill me?



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