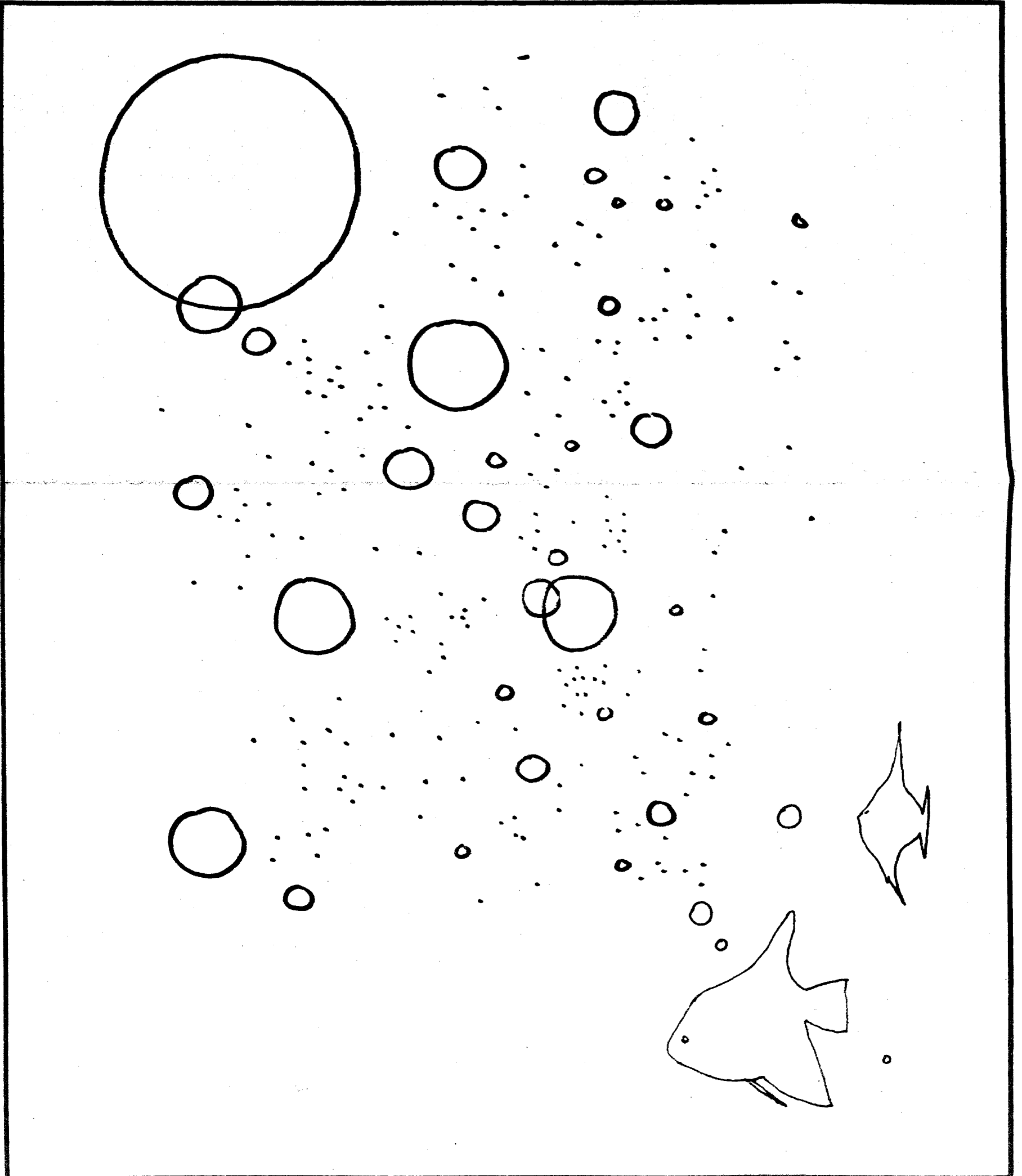


THE  
STONY  
BROOK

# PRESS

Vol. 10, No. 15 ● University Community's Feature Paper ● Summer 1989



# RED CHINA BLUES

Early this month, Congress unanimously passed a bipartisan omnibus bill enforcing sanctions against the government of the People's Republic of China. Among the measures taken were bans on the exportation of ammunition and certain radioactive materials. George "vision thang" Bush was leery, perhaps too much so, of ruining relations with China, preferring instead to focus his energies upon the burning issue of Old Glory, which smacks of his hammering Dukakis on the pledge issue.

The violent termination of the student movement in China offers a lesson in information manipulation as well as insight into our President's myopia. Chinese students protested on the grounds that their government was corrupt and had lost its legitimacy, since it paid no heed to the collective will of the people. The government's already fractured right to rule was then completely shattered when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) struck out against the students peacefully demonstrating in Tiananmen

Square. With this action, the Chinese government was morally unseated by both democratic and communist ideals. The notion of social equality central to modern communism was destroyed when the PLA created the ultimate schism between itself and its people.

The PLA's attack upon the people is not the only Orwellian element in the China struggle. History is being rewritten and propagandists have already transformed the peaceful marchers into thugs and hooligans engaged in counter-revolutionary activities. In their effort to wipe the slate clean, officials have falsified fatality counts and Xiaoping and his posse of hard-liners have used tactics of information manipulation, 20th century-style—jamming Voice of America broadcasts and commandeering mass media.

To a lesser degree, the American media has made some assumptions about the Chinese student movement. It's all too easy for any American to view the situation through a patriotic haze and ascribe to it the

qualities of the American Revolution. One of the criticisms raised at the recent USB rally for China is that the media has misconstrued the movement's goals. To most full-blooded Americans, democracy has become synonymous with the US's particular species of representational government, but to assume that the events in China are a push down the road to Americanization or that the government-dubbed "counter-revolutionaries" will lead an over-the-counter revolution of China, with service industries and convenience stores is ridiculous.

What started for Americans as a vicarious re-experience of the turbulent 1960s ended with a grisly double entendre on "Red China." Bush's reaction (or lack thereof) is appalling. The students have been all but wiped out, and the PLA has moved in, for now. Intellectual freedom has been evicted, and dissension is now thoughtcrime.

ABC NEWS

125 West End Avenue New York, New York 10023-6390 (212) 887-7777



April 25, 1989

Mr. John Dunn  
Box 228  
St. James, NY 11780

Dear John:

I am pleased to tell you that you have been selected as this year's recipient of the Martin Buskin Award for Campus Journalism.

The Buskin Committee, of which I am the alumni member, found in your work for *The Stony Brook Press* both the journalistic excellence and the strong concern for the campus community that Marty Buskin tried to instill in his students when he taught at Stony Brook.

That you intend to teach high school social studies and not pursue a career in journalism is very much teachings, and your future students, gain. As *Newsday's* education editor, Marty would have been pleased at your choice.

The small cash prize that goes with the Buskin Award will be presented to you at your History Department convocation at commencement. In addition, your name will be added to the award plaque permanently displayed in the Library.

Congratulations!

Cordially,

Bill Stoller  
Radio News Correspondent  
Stony Brook '71

**THE PRESS** congratulates staff member John Dunn on winning the 1989 Buskin Award for campus journalism. More of Mr. Dunn's incisive commentary may be found on page 7.

COVER: K. & K.

## The Stony Brook Press

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# China, My China

## USB Rally Against Oppression

by David Alistair

"We feel angry, outraged, and betrayed," said the man behind the microphone. "We are asking ourselves the question: Is this our government? The answer is no."

The crowd of several hundred in the Staller Center Plaza shuffled nervously at the long, searching pauses in the speaker's address. Cameras, previously popping away, were held at rest by press and spectators alike, because this man, a representative of Chinese students and scholars at SUNY Stony Brook, had requested, for safety reasons, that his image not be recorded. He stood clutching a sheaf of papers from which he read his speech, carefully articulating English words often choked by his strong accent.

"We cannot go home, because our lives will be in danger there," he said. "We cannot live there, because we do not have freedom. We cannot work for the government, because it is against its own people. Sooner or later we will all face the problem of visa and passport expiration."

This was the People's Rally for China, a June 21 gathering organized by students at Stony Brook. Its purpose was threefold, said co-organizer Rick Eckstein by way of introduction: "...when there's oppression anywhere in the world, everyone feels it, and that's one of the reasons why we're here. Another reason is education...We hope we can maybe share some ideas with people and learn from what's going on. That's what a university is all about, to learn

**"We cannot  
go home...  
We do not  
have  
freedom."**

tons, and other portable bits of Chinese culture were available for purchase. "Do what you can."

Other speakers at the three-hour rally included university president John Marburger, who condemned "the brutal suppression of the non-violent demonstration by students and supporters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square," sociology professor Scott Feld, whose ill-timed visit to China allowed him to view the "horrible monstrosity" of the military crackdown firsthand, and other members of the USB commu-



Hand-lettered t-shirts were sold to raise funds.

Visa Adjustment Act, a bill introduced, with 33 cosponsors, by US House Representative Nancy Pelosi. According to an information sheet handed out at the rally, Chinese nationals in the United States, including many Stony Brook students, are caught in a "Catch-22 situation" because an Extended Deferred Departure offered by the US Attorney General in early June "makes individuals ineligible for visa adjustment or application for permanent resident status." In other words, if a Chinese national accepts EDD status (which allows residency in the United States until June 5, 1990), he or she must return home when that status expires, regardless of national or international crises. The Pelosi legislation is geared to change that and similar bureaucratic stumbling blocks, and those at the rally were urged to sign petitions and contact their local representatives in support of it.

"...some of my friends were killed, some of them were put in jail," said Chinese grad student Yueh-Ting Lee. "We really appreciate the American government and American citizens who support us...I really appreciate that Stony Brook...[is] concerned."

Eckstein, however, ended the speaking portion of the rally on a cautionary note. "People in the United States," he said, "tend to be rather ethnocentric, I'm afraid. We tend to think of ourselves as the most important people in the world, we tend to think of our way of life as better than anyone

else's, and we tend to think that everyone else in the world wants to be like us. But, he cautioned, "The battle's not over here, either. We've had our government hosing down people in Birmingham, Alabama in the 1960s because they assembled [and] tried to call for equal rights. People were killed at Kent State University in 1970 because they assembled and tried to petition their government to stop a war in Vietnam. A graduate student here at Stony Brook was detained for three weeks a few years ago because his name popped up on a list as a subversive..."

"In the early 1930s, hundreds of thousands of World War I veterans marched on Washington demanding the bonuses that the United States government promised them, and they were crushed in the streets...by Colonel Patton, by Colonel Eisenhower, and by Colonel MacArthur...We have our own bloodstains in this country...We should all realize," he concluded, "that this is a worldwide struggle against oppression, wherever it may be."

The PA system was then turned over to the broadcast of a cassette tape smuggled out of China which contained a first-person account by one of the leaders of the student demonstration. Chinese-speaking members of the crowd converged upon the platform to hear more clearly, while others were left to listen to the frightened, sobbing voice of a young woman speaking words they could not understand.



A smuggled Chinese recording drew an attentive crowd.

from. And there was a third reason, but I can't remember what it was."

"Fundraising," prodded Dominic Chan, another organizer. "Yes. Buy food and buy t-shirts to help out some of these victims in China." He indicated the tables scattered around the periphery of the plaza, where hand-lettered silkscreen shirts, fried won-

ton—like GSO president Chris Murphy and history professor Hugh Cleland—who aired their views on the Chinese situation. The microphone, however, as Chan and Eckstein repeatedly mentioned, was open to anyone with something to say.

Also brought up at various times throughout the rally was the Emergency Chinese

Thirsty people at Stony Brook will have to look somewhere other than campus water fountains for cold water. According to Carl Hanes, deputy to the president for Special Projects, the cooling units of many water fountains across campus have been disconnected to save energy. "The coolers consume lots of energy," said Hanes, "and they're on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." This, according to Hanes, includes a lot of time when people aren't around. "Most of the water isn't so warm during the year anyway, including the summer," he said. When asked why the fountains outside Harriman Hall were still babbling away, wasting electricity and allowing people to dive in and enjoy the cool water, Hanes had no comment.

One possible catch with shutting off the water fountains is related to a design flaw in some models. The problem, according to

sources, affecting only a few of the fountains on campus, is created when the water sits in a disconnected fountain. While the refrigeration unit is off, lead starts to leach into the system, and though the lead levels were tolerable by previous environmental standards, some of the offending fountains failed to meet new, tighter standards upon re-testing.

George Marshall, director of Environmental Health and Safety, was unavailable

for comment, but sources in the administration said that there was no danger to the campus community, as the offending fountains had been disconnected and were being repaired.

The university has been saving up to \$80,000 a month due to similar energy conservation measures, according to spokesperson Vicki Katz. An energy audit team has looked at ways the campus could save money on its utility bills. For instance, said

Katz, "We replaced high wattage incandescent lights with low wattage fluorescents." Measures taken include most of the campus keeping earlier office hours—from 7:30 to 3:30, with employees taking a half-hour lunch. This allows the air-conditioning, lights, and other large electricity-consumers to be turned off earlier in the day, during peak energy usage hours. High-wattage incandescent lights that have not been replaced have simply been removed. An energy hotline (632-6631) was created for people to report campus energy waste and problems. According to the hotline handler, calls have been sporadic, mainly coming when it's either too hot or too cold.

All of this makes a difference according to Carl Hanes: "Electricity costs the university 7 to 7.5 cents per kilowatt in the winter and 11 to 12 cents per kilowatt in the summer."

continued on page 8

Summer 1989 page 3

## Cutting Back Cutting Off

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# SSAB Events

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## WHAT

## WHEN/WHERE

Hero Social..... 1:00 July 12/Union Courtyard  
Horror Night..... 9:00 July 14/Keller Lounge  
(Cujo, The Exorcist, The Shining)

Outdoor Dance..... 10:00 July 20/Sanger Lounge  
Horror Movie Spoofs... 9:00 July 21/Gershwin Lounge  
(Fright Night, Little Shop of Horrors)

Tournament of Games..... 1:00 July 25/Union Arcade  
Roller Skating Party.... July 26/Commack Roller Rink  
Indian Festival ..... July 29/TBA  
Movie Night ..... July 30/Sanger Lounge  
(She's Gotta Have It)

Hero Social..... 1:00 August 2/Union Courtyard  
Summer Fest '89..... 1:00 August 3/Keller Plaza  
(with concert)

Movie Night ..... August 4/Keller Lounge  
(Pink Floyd—The Wall)

Barbeque ..... 5:00 August 8/Outside Gershwin  
Tokyo Joe's ..... August 10/Union Bi-level  
Music Cruise ..... 4:00 August 11/Front of Union  
Movie Night..... August 12/Sanger Lounge  
(Purple Rain)

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Brought to you by the fine folks at the Summer Student Activities Board.

POST CONSPICUOUSLY

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# Chasing the Rainbow

## On the Road to Vermont

by Robert V. Gilheany

Some would call them hippies. They're the Rainbow Family, a nationwide movement of people on a mission to heal the planet and its inhabitants. Rainbow people have been producing gatherings across the country in national forests, where people can camp out for a week of love, sunshine, nature and like-minded people. The North East Regional just happened in the Green Mountains of Vermont (June 21-28), and I went.

I had been looking forward to heading up to the Regional for some time, but because of pressing problems, I'd only mentioned it in passing to a few friends. Chris K. almost went, but decided not to, so I decided to hitch up. On Friday after work, I got myself together and on the 4PM Port Jefferson ferry, carrying a "Vermont Rainbow Gathering" sign, I met this guy Mikey. He was meeting his college friend Dave at Bridgeport. (They both went to school in Rochester.) He was involved in SASU (the Student Association of the State University) and I told him that I'm a crazy leftist. He said he didn't believe Abbie Hoffman killed himself ("I hung out with him and he wasn't the type to kill himself"), and he also mentioned that he knew people "on the left" around Abbie who were computer hackers and they all disappeared right after Abbie died. ("I can't find them and I'm an expert at finding people.") We met his friend Dave, and we went in his 1971 VW microbus to Wilton, Connecticut. We went to Cranberry Park and climbed the monkey tree and hung out at Dave's house. They were heading for a reggae music festival near Woodstock, NY, and they dropped me off on Route 22.

Then it started to pour, but this fellow Chet picked me up. He drives for a living, delivering mail for a bank. I was looking at the rain (and for cheap lodging), and we drove around until I found a cheap place to stay: the Poughkeepsie train station. I'd take Amtrak to Albany. So I'm looking around and saying, "Jesus Christ, I'm in Poughkeepsie," and I took the 9AM train to Albany, but it was 40 minutes late.

Got to Albany, gave my friend Efram a call. I knew Efram

from when I was a super star in Nassau Community College NYPIRG. He was the state board rep at Stony Brook and I was/am good friends with him and his girlfriend Yvette. I'd seen him only once in five years and he likes to camp out, but wasn't home when I called. So I got up to Route 7 in Troy and hitched all the way to the gathering.

The first person I met looked like he was being ambushed by 50 million mosquitos. I headed up the trail to the site



with a young couple—a three mile, muddy rock, treacherous journey. I was saying, "Hi," to people and they were saying, "Welcome home." On the trail I met John T. ("Wow, what's up?") He was leaving just as I was arriving and with a very attractive woman whose name I forgot. When I made it to the end of the trail, I saw tents, teepees, and lots of people. I was hoping to meet Shoshanna, who moved to Montpelier, Vermont, but she hadn't come ("Gawrsh.").

Chatting with people, asking where they're from (Boston, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan—I even met people from California and Germany)...There was a river on the site for swimming (Don't drink the river water or you will get beaver fever. Yellow liquid will come out of your pores, green liquid will come out of your orifices, and a big fever will follow.). But it was cold and refreshing for skinny dipping. One couple gave themselves a mud bath and took pictures of each other. You really have to scrub the mud off.

Everybody gathers around in a big circle for supper that Rainbowners prepare for everyone. People talk, make announcements, then listen to the person holding the staff. The Rainbow is about sharing, taking care of each other and the planet and looking for more people to come and join the Rainbow Family. People made announcements about problems they had with people, about rides, and then we ate. It was wonderful. Then, they passed the magic hat for expenses.

After we all ate, a few of us went to the kiddy village—where the kids hang out—to read Dr. Seuss books out loud. I got to read *Fox in Sox*, but most of the little kids didn't come to the reading—they preferred to play on the trampoline.

The night brought a Rainbow talent sharing show. People sang originals (mostly), played their guitars, read poetry, danced, and juggled—a beautiful atmosphere. The MC got everyone to come up to dance to the beat of drums, bongos, and tamborines; he lead a chant: "Don't you know, we're the Rainbow/ Can't you see, we're family."

The next day is Sunday. I have to be at work Monday. The only ride back to New York I found was with the Hare Krishnas. I was making my way down the trail with my sleeping bag and a bag of bottles I was carrying to the recycling bin. At the end of the trail on my way down I ran into Mikey and Dave—they decided to come up! I told them I had to catch a ride with the Krishnas at three o'clock, but it was already three o'clock. They said, "Put your stuff in the

*continued on page 7*

# Not Good After June 30

## Stale SUNY Trustees

With the expiration of Gurston Goldin's term June 30, only eight of the sixteen seats on the SUNY Board of Trustees are held by members whose terms have not expired.

Of the sixteen seats, eight are held by current members, five are holdovers or members whose terms have expired, and there are three vacancies. The holdovers are allowed to remain on the board, as state law permits them to hold their positions until new appointments are made. One trustee, Edward Mele, of Rochester, had his term expire in 1985 and still sits on the board. Mele was quoted in *Newsday* as saying, "I just keep coming till I'm told not to."

Board chairman Donald M. Blinken, of New York City, said in an interview with the *Press* that the situation "is a problem" but that it was not affecting the function or effectiveness of the board. "I am hopeful and confident," he said, "that Governor Cuomo will present some names for appointment" to the State Senate Higher Education Committee when the legislature reconvenes in the fall.

Trustee Arnold B. Gardner, of Buffalo,

described the situation as "sensitive," but said the board "continues to operate effectively." He called the members serving on the board "excellent people."

Francis Sheehan, press officer with the governor's office, refused to discuss any details of the search for new board nominees as a matter of policy. Any nominations, he said, would be announced at a later date.

Vice chairperson Judith Davidson Moyers resigned in May, stating that SUNY was "endangered by the loss of leadership from the highest level of government." Moyers was disappointed by the tuition-hike veto as she believed that monetary cuts would seriously damage the university system. A *Newsday* article reported her as saying, "We're standing at the brink of breaking into the ranks of first-class universities, but we can't put up with the situation of not knowing where the money is coming from." Appointed in 1977, Moyers became vice chairperson in 1983.

According to the SUNY fact book, the sixteen-member board is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the

State Senate, for a seven-year term. The tenure was changed from ten to seven years in 1986. One member of the board is the student representative, whose presidency of the student assembly makes his or her one-year membership automatic. Trustees receive no compensation for their services other than reimbursements for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The board meets monthly, September through June, in Albany. Eight members are required to constitute a quorum, and a simple majority vote makes a resolution binding. A seven-member executive committee is elected by the board to represent it at times between its regular meetings.

According to Blinken, the board may do the following: appoint the SUNY chancellor, approve the appointments of campus presidents, direct and approve the SUNY budget, and develop the SUNY master plan, among other things. The trustees are also responsible for all SUNY rules.

The current trustees, with their homes and dates of term are:

Chairman: Donald M. Blinken

(New York City, 1976-82)  
George L. Collins, Jr.  
(Buffalo, 1980-88)  
D. Clinton Dominick  
(Newburgh, 1984-90)  
Mrs. Judith Lasher Duken  
(Plattsburgh, 1980-88)  
Arnold B. Gardner  
(Buffalo, 1980-92)  
Gurston D. Goldin  
(New York City, 1985-89)  
John L.S. Holloman, Jr.  
(East Elmhurst, 1968-94)  
Mrs. Nan Johnson  
(Rochester, 1976-86)  
Judy Krebs (student)  
(Albany, 1989-90)  
Victor Marrero  
(New York City, 1985-93)  
Edward V. Mele  
(Barneveld, 1982-85)  
Rosemary C. Salomone  
(Brooklyn, 1985-94)  
Darwin R. Wales  
(Binghamton, 1973-90)

Terms expire on June 30.

— John Dunn



# Who Can Save the Earth?

## Glad You Asked...

by Joe Caponi

In the last several years, crises from surfin' syringes to rainforest destruction and global warming have brought the earth's critical environmental condition to everyone's attention. Faced with dozens of threats to the future of life on earth, a large number of groups have been organized to educate, agitate and fight for the preservation of the environment.

As a public service, the Press is presenting a by-no-means comprehensive list of some of the groups in the environmental movement, along with their addresses, telephone numbers, and a very brief description of their activities. Contact them directly for more information. In each article, quotes about an organization are from that organization's literature. They, and the planet, could use your help.

**African Wildlife Foundation** - 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C. 20036. "For over a quarter of a century working around the clock to conserve some of nature's greatest and most threatened treasures - Africa's wildlife." Active in saving African elephants, mountain gorillas and black rhinos from extinction.

**Cousteau Society** - 930 West 21st Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23517. Working to explore and protect oceans, rivers and lakes, and the species in them threatened by pollution and over-fishing.

**Cultural Survival** - 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 495-2562. "Cultural Survival was founded in 1972 to help smaller, once isolated societies survive the rapid changes created by the encroachment of governments, corporations and others. Such contact is inevitable, but destruction is not. To survive, remote societies need time to adapt to changes. Toward that end, Cultural Survival supports projects on five continents which help indigenous peoples retain their rights and culture as they learn to live with the modern world."

**Earth Island Institute/Save-The-Dolphins Project** - 300 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 788-3666. Working to protect dolphins from tuna processors that slaughter dolphins as a byproduct of some tuna fishing techniques.

**Environmental Defense Fund** - 257 Park Avenue South, NY, NY 10010. Active in rainforest preservation and "a wide range of positive and sustainable programs to conserve and protect our environment here at home and around the globe."

**Greenpeace** - 1436 U Street, N.W. P.O. Box 3720, Washington D.C. 20007. Large, international activist

organization. Works "to stop the threat of nuclear war, to protect the environment from nuclear and toxic pollution, and to halt the needless slaughter of whales, dolphins, seals, and other endangered animals."

**National Toxics Campaign** - 37 Temple Place, Fifth Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 (617) 482-1477. Dedicated to reducing toxic chemicals in drinking water supplies nationwide. Supports toxic reduction laws, as well as helping "victims of toxic waste fight back against giant corporate polluters and do-nothing governmental bureaucracies."



**Natural Resources Defense Council** - 122 East 42nd Street, NY, NY 10168 (212) 949-0049. Uses a provision of the Clean Water Act to sue polluters and gain injunctions to stop them. In the eastern, US, they "developed cases against the 161 worst violators, including the likes of Upjohn, Bethlehem Steel, Gwaltney, Ford, and General Motors. Of these 161 cases, their actions in 127 directly led the company to comply with the law or provoked the state or EPA to initiate a governmental enforcement action. The other 34 are still pending."

**New Forests Fund** - International Center for Development Policy, 731 Eighth Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003. Active in reforestation efforts

throughout the world., to combat, "severe wind and rain erosion, the silting of rivers and irrigation systems, and the increasing severity of drought and floods around the world." 1,420 projects in 110 countries.

**Rainforest Action Network** - 301 Broadway, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133. Oppose logging, water projects, and land clearing activities destroying world rainforests, through supporting indigenous rainforest activists, and letter-writing drives to government and corporate officials. "Our job is to pressure those institutions in the developed world which aid and abet the systematic destruction of the world's premiere biological resource."

**Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund** - 2044 Filmore Street, San Francisco, California 94115. "The 'Law Firm' for the national environmental community. We have represented virtually every major conservation organization. We also provide legal services to small hard-working groups like the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Denali Citizens Council and Alaska Survival." Mounting a major effort concentrating on saving the Alaskan wilderness.

**Wilderness Society** - 1400 Eye Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 842-3400. Protects National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges. "The leading national conservation organization protecting out public lands."

**Wildlife Conservation International** - A division of the New York Zoological Society, Bronx, New York, 10460 (212) 220-5155. Engaged in rainforest conservation efforts in 37 tropical forests throughout the world. "Use scientific skills to build conservation action plans, and leadership and 'people' skills to ignite the local programs leading to long-term protection of our natural world."

**World Wildlife Fund** - 1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 (202) 293-4800. "Since its founding in 1961, World Wildlife Fund has been in the forefront of the international struggle to protect the world's threatened wildlife and the habitats they need to survive." ... the largest international conservation organization in the world."

**Zero Population Growth** - 1400 Sixteenth St., NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 332-2200. Dedicated to voluntarily eliminating population growth in the US and worldwide. "No matter how distracted we may be by the number of problems facing us, one issue remains so fundamental most can agree on its urgency: overpopulation. The crowding of our cities, of our nations that underlies all other problems."



Experience thrills, chills,  
and intrigue on the  
paranormal beat at  
The Stony Brook Press.

Meetings this fall Mondays at  
7:30PM. Be There.

# Symbols and Surveys

by John Dunn

Commentary. Write commentary, he said, we need it for the summer issue. One more thing to toss on my list of things to do this Independence Day weekend. Write commentary, mow the grass, buy hot dogs, make cole slaw, and pick up butane to burn the flag with.

Flag burning. It's a hot topic nowadays. Actually, it's a topic that's perfect for our President, who ran a campaign centered around the Pledge of Allegiance. This is the most exciting thing to occur during the Bush administration since the birth of the White House pups.

It was rather unlikely that the President was going to be in favor of the Court's decision, but it does raise a few questions. Why is it okay to execute sixteen-year olds and the mentally retarded and roll back affirmative action? Why did these Supreme Court decisions elicit no comment from the President? Flag burning, now there's a substantial issue that the administration can sink its teeth into. We'll let Dan do the difficult stuff, like opening state fairs.

One interesting thing from all this is the importance of our flag as a national symbol. Does anyone remember what our national bird is? That's right, the bald eagle, which can be seen emblazoned on any one of a number of government items. The bald eagle can also be found lying dead on the shores of Alaska, thanks to the Exxon Valdez (90 dead at last count). I don't recall the entire nation getting mobilized to sign petitions or amend the Constitution to prevent eagles from being slaughtered by spilled oil. Then again, most people have probably forgotten about the Alaskan oil spill by now, with all this flag business. I'm glad the Bush administration is tackling the really tough and controversial issues.

Evidently it's fine to put the flag on clothing, use it for advertising (including the giant flags on Rt. 347) and do just about everything else to this "sacred symbol," but don't try to burn it. At least I'm glad the line is being drawn: you can do anything else to the flag, just don't burn it.

I wonder if this decision screwed up betting pools on the Court's abortion decision. On one hand, the Court went to the right in its rulings on the death penalty and affirmative action. Conservatives were no doubt cackling with glee, thinking that Ronnie had finally provided a Court that was going to get back at those liberals. Then came the flag decision. You might be better off flipping a coin than figuring out the court on this one.

The death penalty decision puts us in a unique situation in the world, as the US is now one of the few countries that executes minors. As for the mentally retarded, they may have a mental age of six, but if they're sixteen, they're fair game. Is this what George Bush meant when he wanted a kinder, gentler nation?

Enough of political thought; there's something else on my mind. Since I graduated in May, the university has been kind enough to send me a confidential survey of Spring 1989 seniors. Plus, a week after I received the survey, I got a

postcard from President Marburger saying he hoped I would return the survey as soon as possible. Question one: why is the university spending all this time, effort and money to know what I think of the place *after* I graduated? They couldn't have asked *before* I left so things could have improved while I was still a student?

I also appreciated a "confidential" survey wanting to know my name and address—so they can get in touch with me in the next year or two. I suppose they may want to know my opinion of the Brook two years after I've been flooded with alumni newsletters detailing all the good

**"...you can do anything else to the flag, just don't burn it."**

things the university has been up to since I left. Thanks, rub it in.

I also wondered about a few of the questions on the survey. Yes, I am a U.S. citizen, born and raised not more than three miles from this university. So why ask what the national origins of my family are? Is the university going to change its recruiting methods if too many Italian-Irish-Americans attend? ("No Irish need apply.")

My favorite question is number 14, which inquires how satisfied you were with a number of things at Stony Brook. How come I get the feeling not too many people are going to say they were "very satisfied" with the general condition of

buildings and grounds. Other winning topics are the university's concern for me as an individual, general registration procedures, and personal safety/security.

And why do they want to know if, while enrolled at Stony Brook, I smoked cigarettes regularly but not if I drank alcohol? I guess that's presumed. An addendum to this question should be "While enrolled at Stony Brook, have you: had a good time/enjoyed yourself?" Let's find out the happiness quotient at this place.

Question No. 19: "If you could make your college choice over again, would you still choose to enroll at Stony Brook?" And if you answer probably or definitely not, they want to know why. They provide a half inch of space for an answer, hardly enough, I think, for an adequate response.

The survey also wants to know whether the use of graduate students "adversely affected my level of academic attainment." I disagreed strongly with this one, but unfortunately there was no room for an explanation. At Stony Brook, some of my best classes were taught by graduate students and the worst by professors concerned about their research.

Fortunately, the survey wants to know what individual faculty member I found the most extraordinary in his/her undergraduate teaching. The key word here is "extraordinary." I had a number of excellent professors while attending Stony Brook, but one stands out as extraordinary. Somehow I believe excellent and extraordinary don't have to go together. One doesn't have to be the best to be extraordinary which is why I picked a faculty member who may not have been the best professor I've had in four years of college at two universities, but he was the most extraordinary: Prof. Erich Goode in the sociology department. I can't explain why; you'd have to experience his classes to know why I chose him. One can be "good" but to be extraordinary as well takes some doing.

Two last things about the survey. It wants to know what I expect my career to be in 10 or 15 years. Taking this question very seriously, I responded either executive vice-president at SUNY Stony Brook, a high school social studies teacher, or, of course, a masseur (which, if I fine tune my technique, could earn me more money than the other two combined.)

Lastly, they leave me space to enter other comments. Perhaps I should just send clips of my articles in the *Press*. I think I can boil it down into scapple, and be brief in three inches of space. I can't exactly say the university was responsible for getting me a job—it was due to my writing for the *Press* that I was offered a job as a reporter.

This explains why I'm still tapping away at the typewriter for the *Press* even though I graduated. And this explains why this fall I'm preparing the serialized version of *The Unauthorized Biography of SUNY Stony Brook*, a soon-to-be-published best-seller. It will cover the famous and not-so-famous events in this university's colorful 30 year history. Watch for it. [Yeah—Ed.]

## Naked Rainbows

continued from page 5

microbus." So I did. Guess I'm not making it to work Monday.

I went to a workshop on the Rainbow and Homelessness Run by a guy named Bear Hug. The idea being developed was of the Rainbow acquiring cheap land where street people and Rainbows can run it. But the second part of the talk was about the squatters movement. Karin from Boston and Jerry from NYC spoke about how they organize themselves, and do eviction watch and how they break into abandoned city-owned buildings and get themselves set up. Jerry explained that abandoned buildings in NYC can house everyone in the state of Vermont. He also spoke of how the squatters fix up the building and get themselves protected legally from evictions. I invited Jerry to talk at Stony Brook in the fall.

Later on, after I hooked up with Mikey and Dave, I joined a drum circuit around a camp fire—bongos, tom-toms and cow bells all banging away, people getting into the spirit of

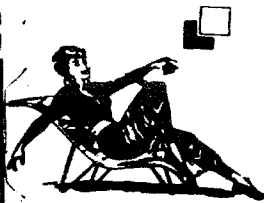
it. I went on all night long. The stars were amazing in the Vermont sky, thousands of them—you can actually see the Milky Way.

You have to have a flashlight to get around at night. You can see the small lights from the flashlights creeping and floating down out of the darkness. At 2AM I didn't have a flashlight and had to get down the trail. I got a candle and slowly proceeded down the windy, uneven trail. The candle burned out halfway down and I had to use my feet as eyes to feel my way down the trail. I got to the van and camped out in my sleeping bag on the ground.

Monday morning I began to think of work that I was missing. Mikey and Dave said, "We aren't going to the ferry, we're going to Rochester." "Oooh gawrsh," I said. Luckily I met Kimberly and Steve who were going to New Haven. They took me to Bridgeport—one stop at Steve's grandma's to jump in the pool. When I left the gathering I smelled real bad: mud all over and a small growth of beard. It was a blast.

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# CLUB CALENDAR

**Thursday, July 6**

●  
Feelies  
at Maxwell's  
—thru July 8

**Friday, July 7**

●  
Lou Rawls  
at Blue Note  
—and July 8

Wind of Change  
Instead  
Up-Front  
at Anthrax

**Saturday, July 8**

●  
Los Lobos  
at the New Ritz

Ray Charles  
at Planting Fields/O.B.

**Sunday, July 9**

●  
Grateful Dead  
at Giant's Stadium  
—and July 10

**Wednesday, July 12**

●  
Copernicus  
at the Knitting Factory

Saraya  
at the Bottom Line

**Thursday, July 13**

●  
Sonny Sharrock  
at the Knitting Factory  
—and July 14

**Friday, July 14**

●  
Loudon Wainwrights  
at the Bottom Line  
—and July 15

Sonic Youth  
at the New Ritz

Verbal Assault  
No Outlet  
at Anthrax

**Saturday, July 15**

●  
Damned  
at the New Ritz

**Sunday, July 16**

●  
Adrian Belew  
at the Bottom Line  
—and July 17

**Tuesday, July 18**

●  
Don Dixon  
at the Bottom Line

**Wednesday, July 19**

●  
Benny Goodman Tribute  
at Jones Beach Theatre

**Thursday, July 20**

●  
John Zorn  
at the Knitting Factory  
—thru July 22

**Friday, July 21**

●  
Dave Brubeck  
at Pier 81

Metallica

Cult  
at the Meadowlands

Toots and the Maytals  
at IMAC

**Sunday, July 23**

●  
Bob Dylan  
Steve Earle  
at Jones Beach Theatre

Metallica

Cult  
at Nassau Coliseum

**Monday, July 24**

●  
Pilgrim Souls  
Swimming Pool Q's  
Tiny Lights  
at Maxwell's

Rhys Chatham

at the Knitting Factory  
—and July 25

**Wednesday July 26**

●  
Camper Van Chadbourne  
at the Knitting Factory  
—thru July 29

**Friday July 28**

●  
Buckwheat Zydeco  
at IMAC

Phoebe Snow  
at Baystreet

**Sunday, July 30**

●  
B. B. King  
at the New Ritz

Selected from the WUSB Concert Billboard

## TOP 35

WUSB 90.1 FM

1. Adrian Belew
2. Poi Dog Pondering
3. Darling Buds
4. Van Morrison
5. Happy Flowers
6. Love and Rockets
7. 10,000 Maniacs
8. Gov't Cheese
9. Bob Mould
10. Simple Minds
11. House of Lords (comp)
12. Sun Ra
13. Pixies
14. Pere Ubu
15. Al Green
16. Marshmallow Overcoat
17. Tin Machine
18. Skid Roper
19. My Bloody Valentine
20. Devo
21. Billy Bragg
22. Bonnie Raitt
23. Bill Drummond
24. Kool Moe Dee
25. Aswad
26. Keith LeBlanc
27. Bill Frisell
28. American Jazz Band
29. Greater than One
30. Boom Boom G.I.
31. Joe Jackson
32. China Crisis
33. Patsy Cline
34. The Cure
35. 28th St. Crew

## Cut Off

continued from page 3

mer, so it does add up." He said that the university has rescheduled events and classes so that "certain buildings could be closed for days, weeks, or even months."

The new post-rail fence in front of the chemistry building was installed to prevent vehicles from destroying the grass. Said a member of the building staff, "The new fence replaces the old, smaller one." When asked why the old one was removed, the person responded, "It was probably ridden over and destroyed."

The university is still having problems with Suffolk County in trying to get rid of its sewage. The county had said it was not going to accept university waste until USB paid its portion of the new county sewage facility. The plant, located near the campus's north entrance, opened this spring.

According to Carl Hanes, the matter has been resolved and the university is able to have its sewage processed by the plant. Currently, a certified accounting firm is auditing county records to determine the payments, both capital and operating, that the university owes the county. Hanes said what has not been resolved is the level of operations the plant was engaged in when it began handling campus waste. This has an impact upon the amount the university owes the county.

On a larger scale, SUNY Central announced that it was going to start cutting back on the number of students admitted to the

system. The declining number of high school students was noted as one reason for the cutbacks. It was also mentioned that certain universities might have been admitting more students than they should have to bring in extra money. [Of course, such questionable activities would never take place at USB. —Ed.] SUNY Central said that the cutbacks would not affect student access to SUNY.

—John Dunn

## CRISIS

continued from back page

centric ways and making a baby out of banana bread and cheese whiz (both of which Mme Fromage claims to have invented) with her mother.

Deborah Pearl Siegal and the "yare" Catherine Copeland are a synergetic combination, delivering a tour de force of nervous excitement as Jane and Edith. Tammy Nazar's debut as director (of both plays) is as ambitious as the selection of works performed—ranging from conventional to experimental theatre.

Hats off to Paul Weisman and Julie Stock as the ambiguous gender-switching psychiatrist and wife. And Nazar's cameo fill-in for Glenn Warmuth, as Robert, gave an interesting twist to a "male role." The cast also must be commended for producing, under turbulent conditions, an unforgettable performance—an Ericksonian hopscotch through concepts surrounding the farcical American lifestyle and cultural myths.

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**Dr. John**  
**In a Sentimental Mood**  
Warner Bros.

In a pointless but likeable way, the doctor tinkles and croons through some familiar, bluesy standards. The opening cut ("Makin' Whoopie") is the album's only dazzler, courtesy a guest performance by Rikki Lee Jones. Tacky string swells, the child of unhip production, are abundant throughout. The "Mission Impossible Theme" horn riff featured in "Love for Sale" is the kind of amusing, parodic touch the rest of these tunes are missing. An edge of acerbic playfulness is needed to cut through the flimsy novelty of sentimental groovy mastered here.

—Karin Falcone



**New Order**  
**Technique**  
Qwest

Only one objection: the songs all sound pretty much the same. Otherwise, it's a real cool sound, very danceable. "Fine Tune" is a slight exception, a bit more "disco-y" than the rest, with a husky, deep voice interrupting with the statement: "You've got love technique." Are those sheep sounds at the end of the song? Typical of New Order, the lyrics don't coincide with the titles. Highly recommended for aerobic instructors.

—Diane Schutz

**Depeche Mode**  
**101**  
Sire

This live recording opens with the operatic sounding instrumental "Pimpf" and continues into two cassettes of DM's greatest, including most from their latest, **Music For the Masses**. Recorded at the Pasadena Rose Bowl on June 18, 1988, the sound through your speakers will give you the sensation of being there, surrounded by teeny-boppers and pseudo-punks. The overall feeling of the music is very upbeat, with the exception of several appropriately mellow songs, like "Somebody," "The Things You Said," and "Nothing." One song worth noting is "Stripped," particularly displaying the smoothness of Dave Gahan's vocals and the synth-pop back-up of the rest of the band.

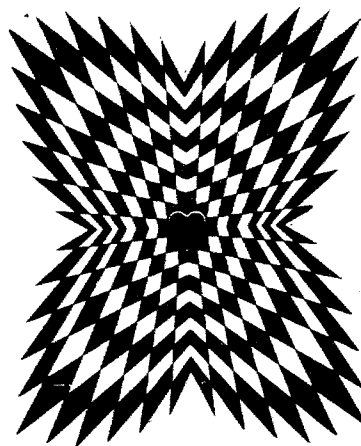
—D. S.



**Government Cheese**  
**Live! Three Chords, No Waiting**  
Reptile

Incredible! Government Cheese is pleasantly unmemorable, no-frills, surf rock-a-billy new muzak. The "genre" is meaningless, however—Live! blends into the pattern of commercial wallpaper. *Yawn!* Reptile Records, P.O. Box 121213, Nashville, TN 37212.

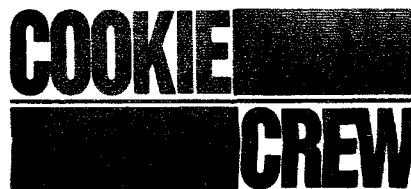
—Rob Rothenberg



**Love and Rockets**  
**Love and Rockets**  
RCA

These death-rock turned cheese-pop holdovers from Bauhaus have finally gotten their act together with an album of unrestrained neo-seventies art schlock that sounds like Marc Bolan back from the grave with a distortion box embedded in his skull. You gotta be blind to miss the T. Rex influence on the medium-rotation AOR hit "So Alive" (with its orchestral texturing and all-girl chorus), but L&R do more than resuscitate the dead—they hack up the corpses and add the prime chunks to an acid-grunge stew uniquely their own. Yeah, man. Like wow.

—David Alistair



**Cookie Crew**  
**Got to Keep On**  
Polygram

One hell of a horn sample keeps coming back to serve as the infectious focal point of these heated dance variations. ("A taste of the forthcoming twelve inch.") A hybrid called Hip House (as in "The HipHouse Remix") is the Crew's method of beat worship. Though not quite revolutionary, it is certainly adequate impetus for your house-guests to work up a sweat.

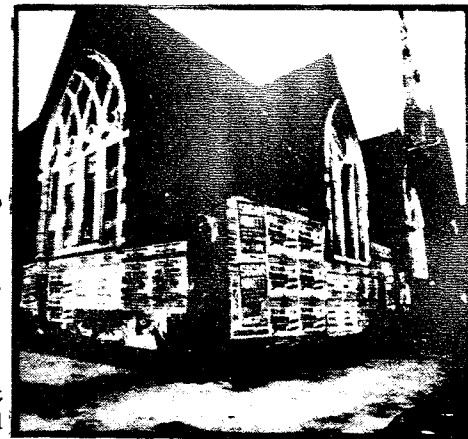
—K.F.

**Barry Adamson's**  
**Moss Side Story**  
Mute/Restless

This surreal sound montage will take you on a micro-journey through **Moss Side Story** (whatever that is—subtitled: "In a black and white world, murder brings a touch of color..."). A soundtrack without a movie—a spacey and schizophrenic electronic joyride through the stereophonic fringes of description in album reviews. You just have to hear it to understand...

Restless Records, Culver City, California 90231-3628.

—R.R.



**24-7 Spyz**  
**Harder Than You**  
Relativity

These kids play serious hardcore. Side One flattens you with the sheer volume and originality of Jimi Hazel's surprising reworkings of standard metal guitar riffs. Punk chant by P. Fluid adds interest beyond the tingling thrash. But the Spyz shift sound with ease: Side Two is an articulate diversification—into "Sponji Reggae" (a Michael Rose tune), acapella, dirge, island rhythms, and "Tango Skin Polka." High energy fun for people of all speeds.

—K.F.



Some records courtesy WUSB 90.1 FM

# RAISE GIANT FROGS



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# Not Just Dr. Blow-Off

## Another Look at Antonio

by Evelyn Cooper

Fifteen years ago, the course in the Stony Brook undergraduate catalog called PHI 360, "The Philosophy of Education," went virtually unnoticed, with a maximum of fifteen students signed up per semester.

Enter Professor Antonio de Nicolas, a recent arrival to Stony Brook from India. He discovered and adopted the course, and its demand quickly rose to over seven hundred pre-registered students per semester.

On the first Tuesday of any semester since his arrival, the PHI 360 classroom could easily be mistaken for a bank that has decided to give away all of its money. The students pile in so tightly that the door doesn't open, and chase de Nicolas with their Add forms as if he were the Messiah himself.

But he doesn't claim to be the Messiah. Just a writer, poet, philosopher, and promoter of a different form of education which he believes is imperative to the societies and communities of free people. It is a method of education, he explains, "that enables individuals to perform free mental acts and use their inner faculties not manipulated by professors or the existing world." It is also a method of education that has been warmly received by students.

Mary Boylan, a graduating senior who took PHI 360 this past fall and who was a teaching assistant for the same class this spring said, "I loved the class. It gave my creativity a work-out by letting me get mentally and physically involved in the learning process. I'll remember the experience I had in his class probably more than any other college course I've had."

Michael Paladino, also a graduating senior, took PHI 360 this Spring. "I met and worked with people I probably never would've talked to," he said. "It was difficult at times, but overall I liked the course because for once I was active in more ways than just taking notes and multiple choice tests...De Nicolas was also a very likable guy."

In the beginning of the course, students



Image: Alvin Shin

divide into groups of their choosing according to several authors assigned. Each group then presents a dramatized version of the author or chosen text to the rest of the students at a future date. The group is then graded as a whole for the presentation. The course also requires a final written test, which students are graded on individually, in order to test their cognitive skills.

Students in the course often find themselves in conflict over what they think should be the relevant points of their presentations. This, as one would expect, is where the fighting (or learning) begins. As de Nicolas explains, "the students are aware that they cannot leave the group, so they gain experience in the difficulty of forming communities and realize how they stand against the other groups. They also learn how to make decisions and how to create images...Learning this way is more fun and effective than just repeating back to a professor what he has said."

De Nicolas also has some views on the role of the professor. He explains: "Professors should use a lot of restraint, make a vow

of giving the students the dignity of conducting the whole affair by themselves."

In all his years of teaching PHI 360, a few presentations' lines and insights stand out in his memory. In one, seven students used a large table in the middle of the room and delivered the *Revolt of the Masses* as they were pretending to be sinking. "Only two were American Anglo-Saxons while the other five were Koreans," he explains. "While delivering the Bill of Rights, one of the Anglos forgot his lines. The other one immediately improvised, 'Just as well, for where we are going they speak no English and have no Bill of Rights.'" The crowd was instantly charmed.

Other presentations are not as fondly remembered, yet, in all his years he has only failed one group for its presentation. He recalls: "This group mistakenly took the Marquis de Sade as an occasion to show a dirty movie. They justified their work mounting the movie, with great ingenuity on the bodies of the participants in the presentation. They failed not because the movie was filthy but because they failed to see that the Marquis de Sade had the opposite message in his writings."

Anyone who has spoken with de Nicolas for more than twenty minutes knows how much he enjoys Stony Brook and its students. "The students at this university stand no nonsense and are very bright," He added, "They are at their best when their creativity is challenged."

He continually stresses how grateful he is to Stony Brook and says the university has played a very strong role in his successes. "Stony Brook is an ideal place to study how different cultures come together under imagination. It has allowed me to teach, do research, and write my books. The whole university is very inspiring. There is a high quality of students here; they're the best for what I am doing..."

He also believes that Stony Brook students are the hardest to please. He explains: "I know that if a student here likes my poetry, then *wow!* I know the whole

world will love it."

De Nicolas is happy living in a large-acre house on a hill in East Setauket. He shares it with a wife, a nine-year-old son, a seventeen-year-old stepdaughter, three show horses and two dogs. "Although," he explains, "I'm at home in America, I'm also at home in the Far East, India, or just about any culture."

He was born in what he calls the smallest village Spain has, and is of Spanish descent, but spent a large part of his formal education in India. The accent he speaks with reflects this diverse and well-traveled background. It has been described as Spanish, Italian, French or even Greek by some at first meeting.

William Packard, a writer, editor, and poet, describes his first impression of de Nicolas. "Nothing prepared me for this meeting with a man who was so articulate and alive and so obviously grounded in a reality beyond himself. He seemed to take an unaccountable joy in the history of ideas as we talked..."

De Nicolas will teach "The Philosophy of Education" course this summer, but for the first time in nineteen consecutive years, will not return to Stony Brook in the fall.

He plans to travel to Europe where his new book of poems, *The Sea Tug Eligies*, will open as a ballet in Amsterdam.

Another book he has recently finished, *Habits of Mind*, should be out by July and will be featured in the Barnes & Noble bookstore in September. He promises that this book will be "quite controversial," because it includes a chapter describing his experiences at Stony Brook and the PHI 360 course. It will also express his view of the problem with the American method of education and will propose changes that "some," he explains, "may find threatening." De Nicolas dedicates this work to his students.

"I've never stayed anywhere longer than I've stayed here," he explains. "Stony Brook has been fantastic to me. I know I'll be back."

## Summer Flicks

continued from back page

Indy's real name, anyhow?" and "Hey, did the Jones family have a supportive home environment?" As if giving us all these rather arbitrarily contrived bits of information somehow fleshes out Harrison Ford's smart-ass, rough-and-tumble screen persona. So Indy's real name is Henry. Why not Bill or Jethro? If you dispel the aura of mystery, what's the point of creating it in the first place? *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was an inspired rehash of extravagant pulp fiction and low-budget Saturday afternoon serials; *Last Crusade*, from its cheap character hooks to its shamelessly derivative storyline, is just a tired rehash of *Raiders*. Some amusing moments, but not enough. Stay home and read *Doc Savage*.

—K.S.

## Mumbo Jumbo

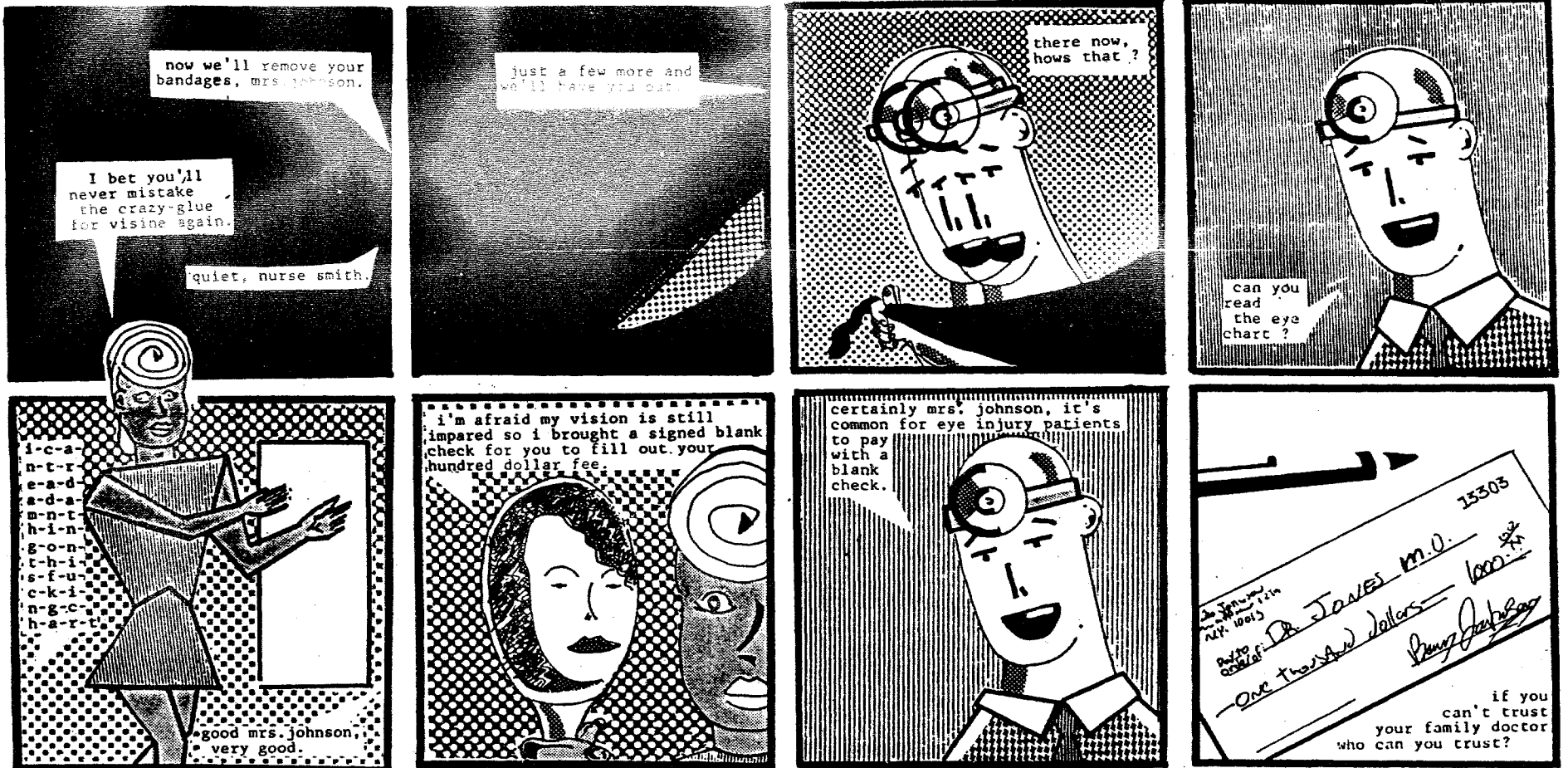
In *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*, William Shatner's directorial debut, a rebel Vulcan named Cybock stages a hijacking of the starship Enterprise in order to "boldly go where no man has gone before," in this case to the center of the galaxy where he can drop in on the legendary home of the Judeo-Christian God. Cybock's portrayal throughout the film as a spiritual leader of approximately the same magnitude and level of persuasiveness as Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. lends credibility to the plot, but even this breaks down at the film's climax, and as things draw to a close, the pseudo-religious aspects seem to grow stupider and stupider by the minute. There are, however, many moments in *Star Trek V* that are completely unaffected by this pseudo-religious mumbo jumbo, and it is at these times that the film is at its best. It is a movie with a good sense of humor, a great (and familiar) cast or characters, and enough big intergalactic weaponry to last even George Lucas a lifetime. Recommended to anyone who has even a remote appreciation of *Star Trek*, and it's an absolute must-see if you have ever wanted to see Spock roasting a marshmallow in Yosemite national park. And I, for one, have been waiting to see something like that for a loooooong time.

—Lee Gundel

## Dawn of the Dead

Back in the 60s and 70s, there was a slew of mildly counter-cultural novels for and/or about young people in repressive or oppressive situations called upon to grow up fast (usually too fast) and perform some kind of dramatic civil disobedience (usually ending in tragedy). The one they made us all read was *Lord of the Flies*, but there were many others: Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War*, Paul Zindel's *The Pigman*, and William Butler's *The Butterfly Revolution*, to name a few. *Dead Poets Society* could easily have fallen off a shelf of similar Young Adult paperbacks in the local library, but it's not a tattered old novel, it's a 1989 Peter Weir film produced by Touchstone/Disney and starring Robin Williams. And not a bad one at that. Though the plot and characters are formulaic as hell, the formula is a good one that works almost as well for Weir and Williams as it did for those YA novelists. Maybe the film clanks a bit here and there, and maybe Weir's mystical touch is a little out of place in a teen coming-of-age flick (though incongruously effective in an otherwise gratuitous suicide scene), but the excellent ensemble cast makes it all very palatable. Entertaining and affecting, despite its flaws.

—K.S.



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# Crisis in Theatre 3

## Summer Shorts

by Irin Strauss

There's always something special about an opening night performance in theater. The company is given the opportunity to establish its tone, providing a reference point, or model, to coordinate the tempo and timing with company members and audience response. But the cast of "Identity Crisis" and "Present Tense" (USB's Theatre Three—June 28-July 1) had a chance to do it all again the second night when "fate's fickle finger" had a run-in with the production, causing one of their major talents to bow out due to a sudden illness. Since this actor was in both plays, the cast was, as one might say, confronted with a true "identity crisis."

The first play, written by Frank Gilroy, is "Present Tense," a gimmicky, although likable story about an imaginative young adolescent male's anxieties about peer pressure and sex.

Kevin Cooney treats the title role, Norm, by putting the term "opera" back into soap. His tremolo voice and slight awkwardness add color to the frustrated youth's overblown reactions to seemingly inconsequential mishaps. After failing to get his girlfriend Ann to sleep with him, his troubles become further compounded when paranoia sets in. Norm begins to realize his girlfriend's promiscuity as he recalls, with new perspective, a chance meeting between Ann and the high school's all-star jock, Doug, with a flashback-inducing television remote

controller.

The jock Doug, played by last-minute stand-in Jim Colavecchio (originally slated to be Jerry, Norm's friend) is your average all-brawn, no-brains type of character. Colavecchio charges him with a bit of self-

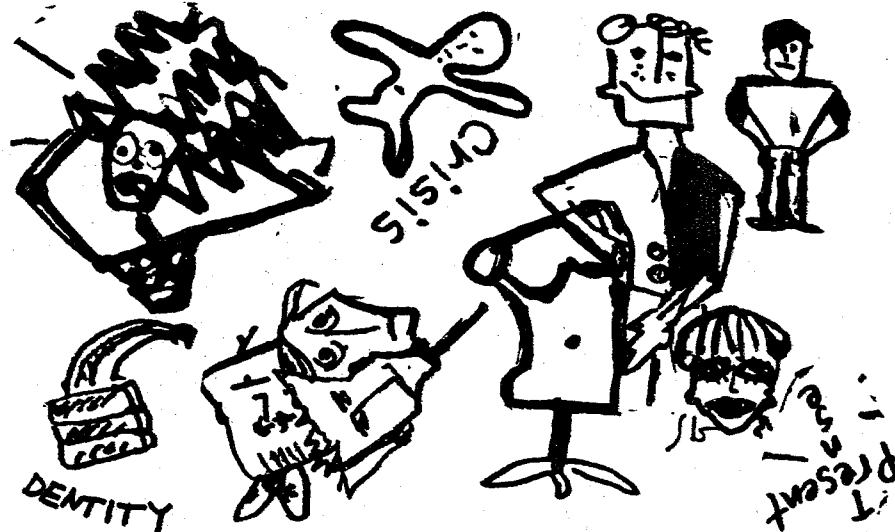
Overall, despite Norm's friend Jerry's (another last minute stand-in by Tom Berger) attempts to divert his attentions away from his girlfriend, we ultimately end up with a bittersweet and edifying ending, knowing the structures and dynamics of

winning Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You) is an absurdist portrait of the American family, a healthy answer to the frankness of the previous play. "Crisis" is a black comedy treating a victimized female losing life, sanity, and ultimately, identity at the hands of a callous family.

Blasting from the speakers at the start of the play was the Vapors' only hit, "Turning Japanese," initiating the frantic tempo for the audience and cast. Jane is the neurotically frazzled, brink-of-suicide daughter who enters while leafing through an oversized edition of *Insanity and Out*, causing her to appear as an Alice in Wonderland on amphetamines. She is subjected to her daffy mother Edith's (alias Madame Fromage) delusions of grandeur and confusing words, and also to Robert, who continuously changes family roles (alternately son, father, grandfather, husband, etc.) at Edith's whim. These two offer a dazzling display of funny lines by escalating the excitement and tension of the performance.

Poor Jane is further propelled into a hellish nightmare when her mother introduces her to a transsexual psychiatrist, Summers, and attempts to strip her of her already tattered identity. She is haunted by dreams of Tinkerbell's epitaph, while comparing her life to a Dostoevsky novel. Her family is clad in institutional clothing, punctuating their aberrant behavior. Jane makes the transition by conforming to her family's ec-

continued on page 8



parodying humor as he craftily taunts the offset Norm.

Kimberly Poppiti salvages the "most popular girl" stereotype of Ann by giving what could have been a very bland character no little appeal. Added attractions are Sarah Friedland and Jacalyn Lee as Norm's volupuously talented high school unattainables.

social pressures impinging real forces on the internal psychological dynamics and stability in adolescents. A nice play that, although confined in vision, possesses vitality—perfect for TV. (Although the world could use more nice guys like Gilroy, it could stand fewer nice playwrights.)

"Identity Crisis" by Christopher Durang (*Secret of My Success* [film], and Obie-

— Celluloid —

# Summer Cinema '89



## Gothic City

You've absorbed the hype, you've skimmed eagerly through the reviews, now get your ass in line and see the movie. Or don't. For all the hoo-hah, both pro and con, *Batman* is basically just a pumped-up, high-gloss cinematic version of the same comic book schlock us juvenile delinquents have been reading since we were old enough to hoof it down to the corner newsstand. Nothing new here, except that *Batman* is probably the first of its ilk to capture a genuine corporate comic book atmosphere instead of hamming it up (the Adam West version), missing the point (TV's *Incredible Hulk*), or lading on the Sturm-und-Drang (*Superman the Movie*). Director Tim Burton and screenwriter Sam Hamm have pieced together an interesting, if brainless production, notable less for its performances (Keaton and Nicholson, as hero and villain, suffice, but little more) than for its scenic design. Gotham City is a surreal, crime-ridden industrial wasteland of WWII fascist dream architecture (plagiarized from Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*) and huddled masses crying out for succor—and our hero comes in. Though *Batman* cops its no-nonsense approach and gloomy ambience from Frank Miller's landmark "graphic novels" *The Dark Knight Returns* and *Batman: Year One* (gratis, of course), it lacks the rev-



sionist spark that made Miller's work so powerful. This *Batman* is either for the rubes who have steered clear of superhero comics for the past fifty years or the fanatics who can't stand to see someone playing around with Gotham gospel. Competent, but too straight for its own good.

—Kyle Silfer

## Deja View

Sequels to box office smashes are often as successful as the originals, but sometimes fall short because of slavish devotion to the plotlines of the mother film. Unfortunately, the makers of *Ghostbusters II* didn't want to risk their financial necks on any novel plot devices, instead adhering to the Underdogs Save the World from Certain Doom formula. (Well, gee, it worked the first time.) Although this movie uses the same gimmicks as the first film, it is a spectre of its former self. Our heroes have fallen into obscurity since the last time they were called upon to deliver Manhattan from the gaping jaws of demonic conquest. Once again, the villain is some occult nasty from bygone centuries (this time, a musty old sorcerer with an attitude) whose rise to power is accompanied by an increase in the city's ghost problem. Beneath the teeming streets is a river of empathetic slime (resembling a half-set raspberry gelatin) which has been



negatively charged by all the "bad vibes" (oh wow, man) of New York's stereotyped nasty attitude. This malevolent jello lures the big baddy who uses it to increase his power, and the movie's moral ground is as flooded with syrupy good will as the city sewers, since, for good to succeed, the boys must get all of NYC to think happy thoughts. Early on, we see Bill Murray moving in with Sigourney Weaver to protect her and her baby from the evil sorcerer. Weaver: "Don't try any of those cheap moves on me." Murray: "Oh no, I have all new cheap moves." But all Murray and his merry band have are old ones rendered cheap by the movie's rehashing.

—Joe DiStefano

## Old Hat

When the new Indiana Jones flick opens with a comic book-style "origin" sequence explaining how young Indy (River Phoenix) acquired his hat, bullwhip, and fear of snakes, you know you're in for some seriously self-referential cinema. During the course of Big Steve Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, not only do we get to meet our hero's dad (Sean Connery), but we discover the answers to such nagging questions as "What the hell is

continued on page 10