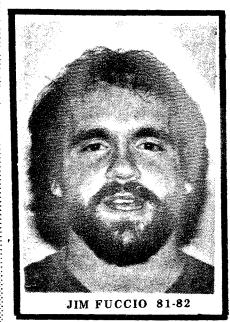


Stony Brook Brook Brook

Vol. V. No. 25 ● University Community's Weekly Paper Thurs. Apr. 26, 1984

Who's Next









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ENDORSEMENTS

The Polity elections today are both the most interesting and important in the past several years. While the tendency is always present, especially in a newspaper coming out on election day itself, to get into the endorsement racket, the Press has decided, after much discussion and debate, to offer no endorsements, except one.

By way of background, the following is from the Feb. 12, 1981 Stony Brook Press, when the Press' first executive editor, Chris Fairhall, was running for Polity Treasurer against an opponent running on a "Sink the Press" platform:

Statesman, as far as is known, has never endorsed a campus candidate. A major rationale behind this was that though it would be hoped the editorial board would have the wisdom to choose wisely, regardless of their choice the enormous power of the preeminent communications outlet would unduly influence an election. Two papers, though they might now have opposing political viewpoints, are not guaranteed to always be so. (In the general public, newspapers, radio and TV stations can endorse candidates without jeopardizing the fairness of the election simply because there are so many of them.) The power of the press (small p) on campus is great, and safeguards against its abuse are not unreasonable.

Politics makes for strange bedfellows, and this is no less true at Stony Brook. Perhaps no more than 100 students here make up a "power elite" that run the papers, the student government and the Faculty Student Association. Invariably, they form alliances--"friendships"--and are often involved in several areas at once. This leads to conflicts of interest, back-stabbing, collusion, excitement, the works--but is unavoidable, first, because there is a limited number of willing, able students, and second, because, that is the nature of the beast. The point is, there is no guarantee that an endorsement will not be tainted with political underpinnings. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions, or something like that.

Additionally, public relations must be taken into account, and a strong argument exists that it would just look bad to endorse a

candidate. For a newspaper that struggles to provide accurate, complete information, doubts as to its credibility should not be instigated.

Though it may seem obvious whom the Press might endorse in the upcoming Treasurer election, it was felt my a majority of the staff that the dangerous precedent, the damaging effect on credibility and other possible negative effects outweighed any benefits to be gained.

Considering that the Press founders learned this lesson from Statesman's wise policy, it is disturbing to see our colleagues break their 25 year tradition to endorse a candidate, especially when their particular endorsement of Barry Ritholtz for President is so apparently "tainted with political underpinnings."

If the activity fee increase is passed, Statesman will gain a 50% increase in their Polity budget over this year, a \$15,000 jump to \$45,000. The major architect of that increase is Barry Ritholtz, who has been lobbying for Statesman both in the Council, which prepared the budget, and the Senate, which voted on it. If someone gave you an extra \$15,000. what would you say about him?

According to Managing Editor Ray Fazzi, Ritholtz's financial help to the paper "is appreciated," but was not at all a factor in the endorsement decision. Statesman Deputy Managing Editor Liz Wasserman added, "I can't see where such a question would arise from," concerning a possible relation between the money and the endorsement, noting, "I can't believe the Press has nothing better to write about on this campus than a Statesman endorsement."

In adition to all the Polity positions on the ballot, all important in their own right, there is one referendum of greatest importance to be voted on. That is the mandatory activity fee, which must be voted on every four year. A defeat of this referendum would be disasterous for every student activity on campus. Most important of all, it would mean the end of The Stony Brook Press. Vote "yes" on this one.

As for that one endorsement: though the Press will not endorse a candidate for office, we heartily endorse voting. Do it. Take a minute. It can't hurt. It might help.

Sour Orun Choice



The Stony Brook Press will be taking next week off to get ready for finals and for the Press' year end issue on May 10, and to rest from the Press-Statesman softball game this Friday. See ya in two weeks.

Cover Photos By:

Eric A. Wessman

David Morrison

John Tymczyszyn

The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor ... Joseph Caponi
Managing Director ... Daniel Hank
Senior Photo Editor ... John Tymczyszyn
Photo Editor ... Scott Richter
Arts Editor ... Kathy Esseks
Business Manager ... Pamela Scheer

News and Feature: Belina Anderson, Al Bosco, Brian Cameron, Eric Corley, Brian Ehrlich, Ben Euster, Lorna Francis, Dave Goodman, Patrice Jacobson, Brian Kohn, Ken Kruger, Ron Ostertag.

Arts: Michael Barrett, Sarah Battaglia, Greg D'Auria, Philip Garfield, Hubert Moore, Jean Marie Pugni, Paul Yeats, D.J. Zauner.

Photo: Albert Fraser, Mike Krasowitz, Dave Morrison, Mike Shavel, Haluk Soykan.

Graphics: R. Gambol, Charles Lane.

Production: Egan Gerrity.

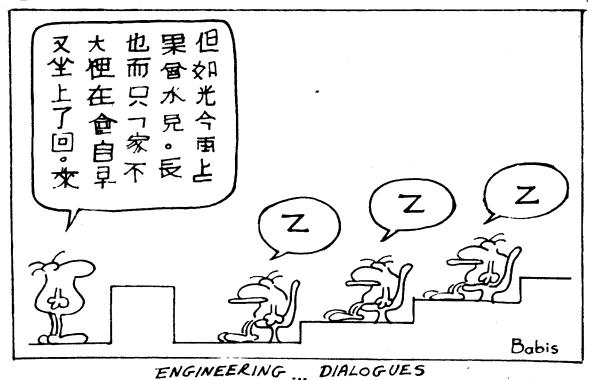
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Phone: 246-6832 Office: Suite 020 Old Biology S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook Stony Brook, New York 11794

- Press Pic.



Bottom-Line Business NBC'S Dave Marash Speaks Out

by D.J. Zauner

"Dave isn't the usual pretty face you see on the tube," a former student at Stony Brook and newsman with ABC said in introducing Dave Marash, a topnotch investigative journalist for WNBC-TV news. Marash came to Stony Brook Monday to speak on "Why there isn't more 'Beef' in television news," and his reasons were not pretty either. His appearance at SUSB was on behalf of the Eighth Annual Martin Buskin Lecture.

Marash began his lecture with a short discourse on "Bottom-Line business," using the steel industry as his example. Bottom-Line business, Marash said, is a paradox. Business entails long-term service for its patrons, while the idea of the Bottom-Line was obtaining the fastest and greatest profit available--without paying heed to long-term backing. Marash retold a segment of conversation he had had with "a top American Steel Corporate Director": "We're not in the steel-making business," the man said to him, "we're in the money-making business." Marash was angrily opposed to this Bottom-Line business, and the rest of his talk revealed this as

has declined in quality.

Without glancing down at a notesheet on the tiny podium before him, he spoke in a strong voice about his experiences at all the major netweorks. When TV was still in its fledgling state, Marash worked under a news director ters," Marash continued, his voice who thought of TV as a "box with two knobs: one to switch it on or off, and one air as much as possible. They haven't to change the channel." The news director--a man named Chick--demanded a 5% across-the-board budget cut on the news program, an act that is as foolish as it is detrimental. Across the boards means that each and every feature of the program would suffer an retelling on the air because they were equal cut, regardless of its import. the personalities that made America "The next thing he did was positive, tune in to the news. The more they were though," Marash said with a grin on the air, the higher their credibility hidden in salt and pepper whiskers. "He dropped dead."

Marash departed from his experiences and talked about how the Bottom-Line method is detracting from news quality. "60% of Close-Up's budget (a documentary series once aired on CBS) was funneled into election coverage." The quick and hefty profit was in the elections, not the documentaries.

TV journalism is submerged in the

the primary reason why TV journalism "star system," Marash says. The budget for the news programs are fixed, "and when someone gets a one and a half million dollar salary, someone else is going to get a pink slip."

> 'This A-Team of glamour reporremaining steady and calm, "are on the the time to do the actual reporting. They have to take a limosine from the studio to their homes.

What Marash is saying is that someone else was doing the reporting, and that the TV "stars" were doing the climbed. They were the trusted ones who came into the people's homes every night for dinner; they were the ones who delivered what Marash referred to as "Happy News."

"But there's plenty in America that can't be smiled at," Marash stated. The American-Parade--a celebration of America today--is Marash's epitome of "Happy News." Of 60 MInutes, his message was quite direct and simple--"A remarkable job considering the

structure." Each correspondent is responsible for 25 stories each year, driving them to use unserious, old

With the fast pace and less serious turn the style of TV news has taken, there has been a divorce from authority--the TV "stars" are trusted and seem authoritive as they buzz through their two minute deliveries. Serious reporting Marash stated, shouldn't be done by anchormen because they risk "pissing off" the viewers and losing their credibility. And so the documentary in its true form has died, the style of news reportage has become a montage of quick deliveries designed to appease the viewers' short attention spans--and it al boils down to the Bottom-Line busi-

Marash wrapped up his talk with a question and answer session. The questions were all aimed outside of the scope Marash had established, but each answer he gave led inevitably to the quick profit motive as being the cause for the lack of "Beef." When the questions wre through, Marash exited the Union and drove home on his own, without a limosine's fanfare.

Vote Today

President

Belina Anderson Rory "Hawkeye" Aylward Barry Ritholtz Write In

> Vice President Andy Weiss (Koff)

> > Secretary

Write In

Mike Berkowitz Neal Drobenare Kim Parks Write In

Senior Rep. Danny Wexler Write In

Junior Rep. Eric Levine Write In

Sophomore Rep. Mike Naglieri Write In

> **Judiciary** Denis Butler

David Cheng Jack Franco Anthony Gonzalez Cindy Greenberger Sheryl Honigbaum Patrice Jacobson Natalie Jasen Rene Line Dan McNaughton Jack Niemiec Frank Peraza John Perry Gladys Rodriguez Steve Ventrone Rosina Walker Write In (vote for 10)

SASU Rep. Gerry Manginelli Steve Kahn Gina Maraio **Andrew Chin** Write In (vote for 2)

SB Council David Gamberg Sam Hoff Write In

Manditory Student Activity Fee

Yes No

Activity Fee Increase

> Yes No

Residents vote in your dorm 10 am to 8 pm

Commuters vote at: **Lecture Center:** 8 am-5 pm Union: 8 am-8 pm Library: 10 am-7 pm **Engineering Loop:** 8 am-11 am; 1:30 pm-4:30 pm South P-Lot: 8 am-11 am; 1:30 pm-4:30 pm **Health Science Center:** 8 am-5 pm

Press and Statesman

to Slug It Out

The long awaited annual softball game between The Stony Brook Press Heavy Hitters and The Statesman will be held this Friday. The Press reigns victorious for the past two years and has a life time record of 3-1 in the series. We show great promise again this year.

Two years ago a fearful Statesman forfeited, avoiding a most certain slaughter by our semi-pro powerhouse. Last year the Press won 28 to 13, to the surprise of no one.

To be held tomorrow, April 27 at three P.M. on the athletic fields of the SUNY, Stony Brook campus, a huge crowd is expected. The only worry that the Press has of the Statesman, is that they again might not show up, in quite understandable fear.

THE FRENCH CLUB

has a MBA degree for you!!

A speaker from the four biggest schools of Business will speak to you personally about \$ getting a MBA in France & be able to work ? any where.

POLITY HOTLINE

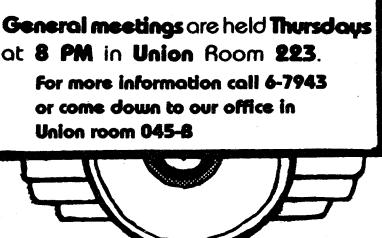
Is expanding its diversifed staff. If you are interested in helping your fellow students, drop by the Hotline office in the in the Polity Suite in the Union

Polity Hotline is an emergency complaint referal and infomation service. We'll help you solve your problems with the University and help cut Red tape involving academic residental, maintenance and finanical problems. Hotline will also make referrals for sexual harassment,rape,V.D. and psychological counseling. We are student advocates here to serve the students of Stony Brook.

> 246-4000 7 days a week/24 hours a day



General meetings are held Thursdays



SBMDA

presents An Evening with

"LITTLE BUSTER AND THE SOUL BROTHERS"

AN MDA BENEFIT

Friday April 27th at The End of The Bridge \$2.00 with ID \$4.00 without ID

> The Stony Brook Shotokan Karate Club Offers a

50 Summer Introductory Course in the classical art of

JAPANESE KARATEDO

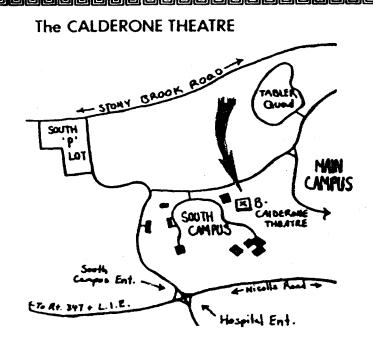
First Meeting: June 4, 6:30pm **Gymnasium Dance Studio** Instructor: Chuck Muller -3rd Dan J.K.A

"Cooper is a very promising playwright." -Phil Holland The Three Village Herald Stony Brook Dram presents

RED TAPE-STRY

April 26-28 8:00 pm Tickets at the Union Box Office or at the door \$2.00 鳳Calderone Theatre(south campus)





FUNDED BY THE MANDATORY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE المام المام

Presidential Predictions

Biorhythms Give Hawkeye The Nod

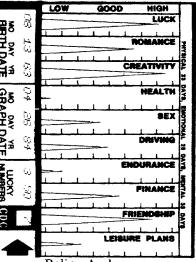
by Hubert Moore

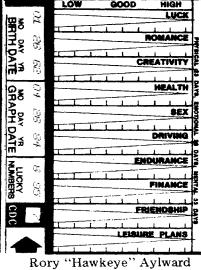
With 0% of the precincts reporting, The Press is predicting Rory "Hawkeye" Aylward as the winner of 모호 🖰 today's Polity elections.

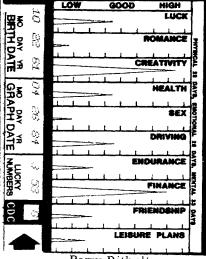
Thanks to the miracle science of biorhythms, the future is an open book to those of us who know the birthdays of the candidates.

The biorythym is simple, and 100% foolproof. Ps Years of scientific evaluation has shown that human beings are ruled by three cycles of different lengths: the 23 day physical cycle, the 28 day emotional cycle and the 33 day mental cycle. Interestingly enough it is not the low of the cycle, but the median of each cycle that is marked by "rhythmologists" as days to beware. Days when any cycle is at zero on a scale of plus 10 to minus 10 is called a critical day, when an individual is in transition from the high half of the cycle to the low half or vice versa; bode ill for that individual in that cycle precisely because this state of transition exists. Triple critical days have been known to be fatal.

By coincidence each human being starts every cycle at zero. Apparently birth is a triple critical experience. This makes biorythyms easy to calculate. Simply calculate the number of days between the subject's birth and the date for which you want the information. Then divide this number by the length of the particular cycle and make note of the remainder. Next, plot a sine wave of wavelength equal to the length of the cycle and of amplitude 10. The subject's potential is given by measuring the remainder along the wavelength axis and finding the value of the







Belina Anderson

Barry Ritholtz

biorythym machine like we did.

The cards reproduced below tell the story: we most important catagories for the elections. Clearly Aylward has the edge in all of these.

The only high points in Ritholtz' biorhythms are in creativity and finance. Perhaps after reading this healthy romantic sex for a long time while driving. He article he can make some money betting on Hawkeye. will then make leisure plans regarding how he will Since today is a physical critical day for him, he will spend his summer stipend. Either that or losing the probably break his leg falling off a bar stool after election will be the best thing that ever happened to spending his winnings.

Remarkable in Anderson's biorhythyms are lows in

augmented sine function for that cycle, or you can go endurance and health and highs in luck, creativity and down to Cooky's Steak Pub and put a quarter in the friendship. Either the campaigning or the election returns will make Anderson sick, but luckily, the disease won't be fatal and she will be able to crefigure that luck, friendship, and creativity are the atively turn this to her advantage and get notes from friendly doctors excusing her from all the work she missed while campaigning.

After winning the election, Aylward will have

ALL COUNTY CONFERENCE

- * U.S. Congressman Tom Downey, Congressional District No. 2
- * Barry Commoner, Former Presidential Candidate
- * Barbara Ehreneich, Fellow, Institute for Policy Studies
- * Marge Harrison, Co-Chair, Long Island Progressive Coalition

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1984 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

S.U.N.Y. AT STONY BROOK STUDENT UNION

CONFERENCE FEES: \$ 8.00 - Pre-registration \$ 10.00 - Registration at Door \$ 4.00 - Senior Citizens and Students SPONSORED BY: Suffolk Coalition for Peace, Jobs and Human Needs (516) 751-2374

MORE INFO CONTACT: Don Goodman (Co-Covenor) 20 Seville Lane Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790

The Lounge



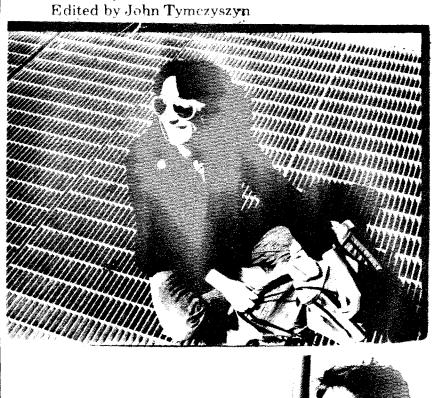
Sciore, Asst. Prof. of the Comp Science Dept. My students learn about Data Base Systems and Operating Programs through practical experience; I input their grades, and the computer outputs them from the departmet. But this Friday all of you can get experience in something more practical, like Czechoslavakian beer. I'll be serving Pilsner Urquell at a special price of \$1.25 between 5 and 7

So come to The Lounge and Czech it out.

The Lounge Rm. 133 Old Chem.



"Shades of Stony Brook" Photos by Michael Krasowitz Edited by John Tymczyszyn













Michael Krasowitz is a contributing photographer at the Stony Brook Press. Michael is also an accomplished artist, whose work is currently on

display at the Main Library Gallery. Entitled "KRAZ-ART '84," it will be on display through May 5th.

- Letter

To the Editor,

Fred Preston's plan for meal plan victims and campus cooking, which has the support of Maburpoint of his seven point recommendation is unreasonable.

Putting transfer and freshmen students on the meal plan starting next fall is ludicrous. Most students on the meal plan are freshmen, and most resident freshmen are on the meal plan. Those freshmen who do not want to be on the plan choose to cook for several different reasons: They prefer the food of their native culture, thev are older freshmen who have been living on their own, or they know the truth about institutional food, which I will refer to as "fude"

Transfer students, tion in their old school and know consuming institutional fude. the truth too.

ger, is outrageous! Almost every know that opening Stage XII cafe- would revoke cooking privileges if teria to meal plan students would certian standards of upkeep are not be unduely harrassing or destructive met. The punishment is a three to those students who have found another alternative, the Harkness Vegitarian Food Co-op, at that facility.

Making certain buildings mandatory cooking or non-cooking has severe social implications. It would cause groups of friends to be parted because they would not join in the rewarding social activity of eating. and it would make other groups agree to a majority vote on which plan to choose, cooking or meal plan. The latter choice might con-

presumably, demn some loyal friends to a year were presented with a similar situa-, of oil, starch, and irregularity by

Preston also recomends the crea-Preston and Marburger probably tion of "death squads" which year long diet of Daka fude for a whole building.

If anything remotely resembling this seven pointed plan, which floats in front of us like MacBeth's dagger, is enacted, then students choices must be ballanced with support to the cooking option and the meal plan must improve. There must exist easier ways to shop, cook, and ways to store refrigerators on campus.

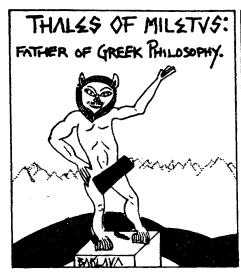
The meal plan must be altered to provide for the great variety of

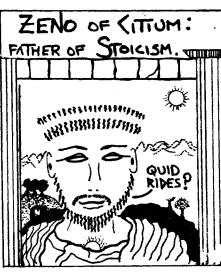
diets that exist on campus: Vegitarian, Kosher, Chinese, Haitian, etc. The many cultural diets are due to the many foreign students and to Stony Brook's proximity to New York City. Just because other SUNY schools, Ivy league schools, or the real Berkeley may have mandatory meal plans does not mean it is fair or reasonable to have one

Preston and Marburger want a mandatory meal plan, even if it is just manditory for freshmen and those who buckle under to peer Fred, Jack, let us all choose what we want. We are all adults, and we are all in school and have too much pressure on us already, so please leave us alone.

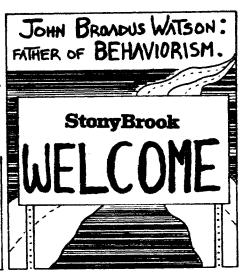
David Ruderman

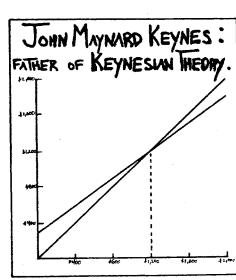
-Stony Brook Benthos

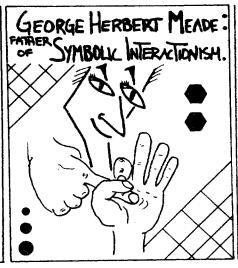




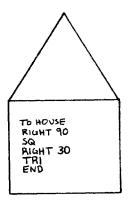














Student Rights Rally

Tuesday May 1 in the Fine Arts Center

Food Speakers Music

Banner Contests

Prizes for 3 best college banners 1st: 3 kegs

2nd: 2 kegs 3rd: 1 keg Issues

Dorm Cooking Campus Safety Stop 21 Utility Fee

BE THERE!

_ Viewpoint ____

Here Comes The Rain Again

No Spring In This Spring

by Brian T. Ehrlich

Ah, the smell of spring is in the air. The flowers are beginning to blossom and the trees are getting their vibrant colors back. The scenic landscape around campus begins to fill out its forage and the wildlife returns to their homes. People start dresing lighter and stay indoors more often, conversing with nature and each other.

Doesn't this sound great? It would be even better if it happened at this university. Even though it's the end of April and spring has been here for over a month, you could never tell just by looking around you.

For starters, where's the beautiful weather we're supposed to be having? Instead of sunshine blinding you, we get sleet and blinding rain. People aren't walking around with suntans, they've got rust stains. Everyday it seems it's raining; whenever you wake up the first thing you hear is the pitterpatter against your window. At first you think it's those damn roaches again, but

when you open the blinds you see it's only drizzle.

That's another thing about the weather. It always starts out as a drizzle so you think, "Hell, I don't need an umbrella." When you're about halfway to wherever you're going, that's when it comes down the heaviest. By the time you finally reach your destination you're completely drenched. Of course, the second you step inside to dry off it automatically stops raining and the sun comes out, that is, until you're ready to go out again. Then repeat steps one through three.

Anyway, the bad thing about the weather is that it keeps everybody indoors. Not that anyone in their right mind is going to go out in a downpoor, but once it begins to rain everyone locks themselves in and doesn't come out until it stops. You'd think they were building an ark or something. Classes (remember those?) are deserted except for those brave few who ventured out into the storm, only to discover their professors have cancelled classes for staying inside.

leaves on them. Either the university the marine fauna that inhabit them. went out and bought a truckful of dead Occassionally, the weather does over everything that isn't moving. I time they get to spend relaxing. think I speak on behalf of Smokey the Nonetheless, the weather is bound to off the campus."

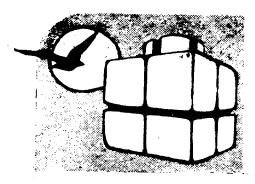
there are more swamps in the area that later it's going to snow.

the day. Maybe we're not so dumb are deeper than Roth Pond. Two notable locations are the areas between As for the scenic surroundings, ECC and Old Bio and between ESS where did they come from, a Sears and Physics. Next week National Gecatalog? The trees can't be real be-ographic and Jacques Cousteau are cause no one has ever seen them with going to do a special on these sites and

lumber to plant or they're artificial (you break and the students do wander know, the kind that says "connect part around campus. Now that's a sight to #43 into #67 without getting part #5a behold. People you've never seen bewet"). If you look closely at most of the fore begin going to classes, knowing trees around the academic mall you can there are only a few weeks left. These see price stickers on them. Unfor- are the same people you see everyday tunately, there aren't that many trees in the Union complaining about how left since the university likes to pave much work they've got and how little

Bear when I say "You make me sick, get clear up and then this campus will be back to normal. You remember, the Now my favorite part of the campus: frisbees flying everywhere, sunbathers The Pitiful Drainage System. "What lying around, and naturally, everyone drainage system?" you ask. Exactly. As going home so they can go to the beach. of late, the ducks (including Sammy) Happiness will abound and young have packed up and moved to other hearts will frolic in the spring breeze. areas on the campus. It seems that This can only mean one thing: sooner or

The Stony Brook



will publish weekly (more or less) over the summer term. If you are interested working for the best newspaper in the free world, down come the basement of **O1d** Bio any Monday night at 8 pm, and join the Press.

A NATION OF GLASS

"We will not recognize any decisions of the World Court concerning Central America for the next two years."

- State Dept. Spokesman, WCBS radio

"The U.S. is not mining the harbors of Nicaragua." - Caspar Weinberger, ABC-TV

"This is the moment of truth. There is no time to lose." - Ronald Reagan, March 24, 1984

> It is almost May. The fascists are strapping their blades on the leather skin of the night. To hell with Truth! Its triumphs are small, and for even these the masses are grateful.

A grateful people cannot make history in its own image.

It is almost May. The sheep are winding their way through the wood-slat slaughterhouse gateway and the only music is the scream of the knife to which the docile lambs dance.

A docile people cannot make history to disco's beat.

It is almost May. Even the daffodils are cold. The North star is frozen in place, for ten thousand years it guided the way, and now we are lost. The ship of Revolution, its boundless generosity is eaten from within.

A fearful people cannot make history scapegoating the darkness. It is almost May. The cold steel is rolled. Glass and steel pyramids tower over the fluorescent corridors of despair. Nooses hang from every city lampost. There are troops tramping through every instinct, reining them in. When rage is turned inward, or its true course altered the arrow of Freedom is broken.

A self-hating people cannot make history its rage stripped of love.

It is almost May. History moves more like a pendulum than an arrow. Battles thought to be won have to be fought all over again.

I have lied. Such people do not exist, and never have. People make history because they live, or die. They are not stones. They are not breads to be cast about like mines on anyone's waters.

It is almost May. May, the month of the rising. May, this crimson month of history, when people — those fabled "masses" have always seized hold of their lives.

A hungry people makes history when it can tolerate the lies no more forever.

- Mitchel Cohen

TICKETRON: 212-977-9020 TELETRON: 212-947-5850 UNION BOX OFFICE: 246-6816

CLUB CALENDAR

THE BEACON THEATRE 74TH AND BROADWAY 212-874-1717

Johnny Winter 5/4
Christine McVie 5/14
Motley Crue 6/2 & 3
Berlin 5/17
Simple Minds F 5/25
Siouxie and the Banshees F 7/13

THE BOTTOM LINE 131 WEST 3RD

Stephane Grappelli
Steeleye Spain
NRBQ
Th 4/26
F-Su 5/4-6
F & S 6/1 & 2
the Fugs
6/8 & 9

CBGB'S 315 BOWERY AT BLEEKER

Mondo Boffo, Bop Apocalypse, and Life Boat S 4/28
Agnostic Front, Gilligan's Revenge, and Violent Children S 4/28
Hardcore matinee the Egyptians Su 4/29

IRVING PLAZA 17 IRVING PLACE AT 15TH STREET

Miller, Miller, Miller & Sloan & Support Kristi Rose and the Midnite Walkers

4/26 S 4/28 LONE STAR 5TH AVE & 13TH ST.

212-242-1664

621-8700

212-989-9505

Pousette-Dart Band M 4/30

Buster poindexter and the Banshees of Blue T 5/1
Rick Danko with the Cafe Brothers W 5/2
Jane Blood Ulmer Th 5/3

MY FATHER'S PLACE 19 BRYANT AVE ROSLYN

Mahogany Rush Su 4/29
Bill Nelson's Vistamix F 5/4
Gregg Allman Band F 5/11

THE PEPPERMINT LOUNGE 100 FIFTH AVE

Arms Akimbo F 4/27 Urban Blight S 4/28

THE SAVOY 141 WEST 44TH STREET

Style Council 5/10

STONY BROOK

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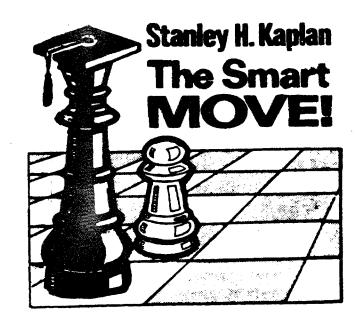
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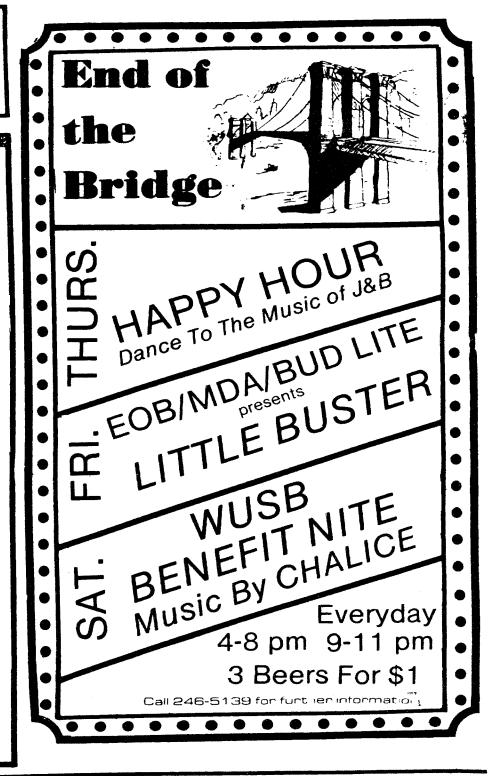


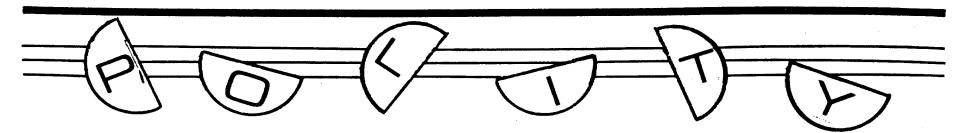


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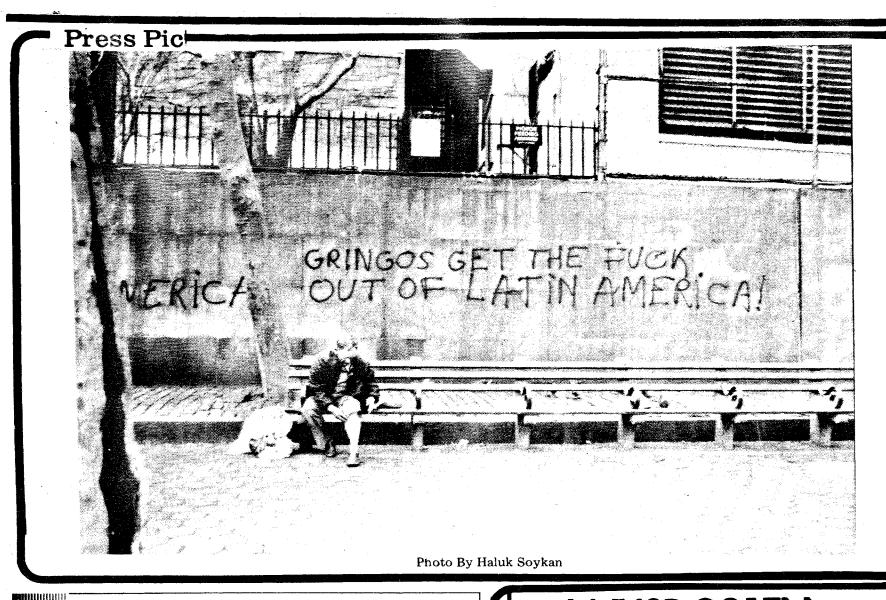
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- 6. Joe Jackson-Body and Soul
- 7. Dire Straits-Alchemy
- 8. Steps Ahead-Modern Times
- 9. Innocence in Danger-EP
- 10. Icicle Works-LP
- 11. Steel Pulse-Earth Crisis
- 12. the Smiths-LP
- 13. the Style Council-My Ever Changing Moods
- 14. John Blake-Maiden Dance
- 15. Jah Wobble-Snake Charmer
- 16. Playboy Jazz Festival-Complication LP
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- 20. Jeff Lorber-In the Heat of the Night

These Just In: Aswad LP; Big Countryeep: Blancmange 12"; Bill Evans LP; Minutemen LP; Johnny Winter LP.

Comfortable In America Thompson Twins at Hofstra

by Sarah Battaglia

Why is Alannah Currie of the Thompson Twins always wearing that weird, long-brimmed hat every time you see her? Because then she only has of Into the Gap, (as I expected they to wash her hair once a week! (This is a self-admitted fact, straight from the tour book!)

The Hofstra Playhouse hosted the increasingly popular Thompson Twins, a trio united in song (and fashion) to bring together the white, black (and blonde?) in communicating the message of «personal freedom,» as lead singer and keyboardist Tom Bailey recently stated. Bailey, percussionist/vocalist Alannah Currie, and synthesist/ vocalist Joe Leeway put on 1-1/2 hours of the music contained on two of their most recent albums Side Kicks and the presently chart-climbing Into the

But first a quick note on their opening band. They had a funny and amusing style, and performed at least two fast, catchy dance numbers - one in which a DJ came out and «scratched» records on 2 turntables - but they forgot one thing: letting us know who they were. If it was announced, it was inau-

dible amidst the blaring tuning-up chords. And that's a shame, since I'd have liked to see them again.

The Twins opened with the titlecut would) to promote the new single, and went into «Doctor Doctor», followed by a warm audience reception to both. Both «Doctor Doctor» and «Hold Me Now» (which recently went gold) ensure the success of their new L.P. with the former providing a catchy chorus similar to that of 1983's big hit, «Lies,» and the latter appealing in its love song character. Unfortunately, «Hold Me Now» lost the fuller texture heard on the record, especially in the gaps between phrases in the chorus, but Bailey sang a pretty melody while playing the piano.

The Twins put as much importance on the visual aspect of their shows as they do for the music (which, by the way, would be nearly nil without their «live band» to back them up) and so utilized Varilites, the latest in computer-controlled lighting, which multicolored the stage quite nicely. They also presented their customary screen

and silhouette scheme, where Alannah would stand behind a screen, projecting her image three times as large, and move robot-like to the beat of a drum or wood block. The stage also bore a set of steps used to accomodate the three for climbing up and down in various dance movements or simply to stand on when shaking a tambourine or, as in one instance, for playing a seemingly homemade contraption of miniature cymbals and bells. They never stood in one place for too long; fluttering around like a carefree kid (a la Cyndi Lauper) seems to be the thing these days.

"In the Name of Love," "You Take Me Up" and "Sister Of Mercy" were performed in a similar vein: nothing really outstanding to hear or see after the initial effects exept maybe Baileys waist long strip of hair down his back. One need only listen to two or three of the Twins' songs to wonder what Leeway contributes to the band, other than what seems like five notes on the Prophet. For that matter, I thought my 7-year-old niece could strike the xylophone as well as Currie. But they are talented musicians and do in fact make all their own music in the studio. With

the live band doing the job onstage, the use of complicated instrumentation is left to the others, giving the Twins more freedom to dance without sweating over guitars and synthesizers. Their music, theatrics, and fashion have resulted in soaring sales in America, where, surprisingly, they reached the top first, before climbing the charts in

The bobbed hair and baggy pantsclad audience enthusiastically screamed for three encored which The Thompson Twins very obligingly gave them. The much awaited for "Love On Your Side" resulted in cheers, whistles, and roses given to Bailey from a front row fan when he cried "I give you sentimental roses, but you gave them all away." Everyone danced-no chaotic trampling required the security they had- but orderly and civilized partying. The music, choreography, and light humor made the evening enjoyable for everyone there, to quote Bailey in a recent interview: "America is the perfect place for the Thompson Twins." And I couldn't agreemore. We got along just Wednesday night.

Albums •

Alchemy: Dire Straits Live More Knopfler With An Expanded Group

Dire Straits Alchemy Warner Bros. Records

By J. Rosenfelder

Since his founding of Dire Straits, Mark Knopfler has taken on an increasingly imporant role as leader of the group. After their second album, Communique, Knopfler's younger brother and rhythm guitarist David, left the group. On their outstanding third album Making Movies, Knopfler and remaining members drummer Rick Withers (since replaced by studio-ace Terry Williams) and bassist John Illsley were joined by piano player Roy Bittan, of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, whose precise and melodic style proved to be the perfect match to Knopfler's own virtouso playing. This combination of talent plus the format of longer songs, allowed Knopfler to create a real tour de force. On Dire Straits' latest release, Alchemy, the group takes various songs from their previous albums one step further, performing them live, a situation in which Knopfler and the crowd feed off of each other until they both reach exhaustion.

The opening cut on the album. "Once upon a Time in the West," begins with a meandering keyboard solo, then Knopfler takes some initial strokes on his Stratocaster that immediately quiet down the audience, as everyone savors his tasty licks. The crowd eventually gets into the music though, and a party-like atmosphere envelopes sides three and four. Most of



the time, however, the sound is excellent on the album, with the most distinctive feature of the band Knopfler's guitar, sounding at least as good as in the studio. My only objection here is the somewhat restrained presence of the rest of the band, who act like sidemen trying to avoid stepping on Knopfler's toes.

Fortunately, they turn in worthwhile performances regardless. Saxophonist Mel Collins (ex-king Crimson) contributes a excellent solo to "Solid Rock,"

which is his most memorable part from the two sides he appears on; percussionist Joop de Korte is practically inaudible as is second guitarist Hal Lindes. Consequently this "big" band ends centering even more on Knopfler.

Emphasis from the wistful acoustic leads of Love Over Golds's "Private Investigations" to his lightening fast solos on "Sultans of Swing," the song that exemplifies Knopflers sound out of phase, finger-picked Stratocaster.

which no one can imitate Knopfler completely out does himself. This Solo is his best performance on the album, with the possible exception of any other song on the record,

Although Alchemy, only has ten songs on four sides, probably has enough on it to attract the newcomer, while providing what Dire Straits fans crave: more Mark Knopfler.