There are second class citizens at Stony Brook. They are those who cannot go home for the holidays. They may be foreign students, whose homes are thousands of miles away, independent students who have no other home than their dorm rooms, or students simply too burdened with finals or research to be able to get away from campus for much or all of the holiday periods.

All are discriminated against by the University. They are not physically thrown out of their rooms over Thanksgiving break, but the University makes their stay as inconvenient and as unpleasant as possible. For those on DAKA, their last meal was dinner on last Wednesday. Supposedly, since these meal plan students don’t have large refrigerators for their food, due to part of the Dorm Cooking Policy, or pots to cook in, they are expected to starve, or better yet, leave the University.

Since the University expects all first year students to survive the first week before school starts without a meal service, they expect those unlucky few who are stranded or choose to stay at Stony Brook to tough it out. It’s alright, the Administration seems to say, we all have homes with well stocked kitchens to go home to for Thanksgiving. If some students can’t have more than a Domino’s pie that night, well, they should be thankful they can get anything at all on a holiday.

But for those tough enough to survive on delivered Domino’s pies and Seven-Eleven bean burritos, the stay was still made tougher at Friday at 4:00 pm, when cut off the heat and hot water.

We understand that when the heat has to be shut off for Physical Plant repairs, it’s best to do it when the fewest students are around, but this doesn’t excuse neglecting the ones who stay. Heat outages, planned and otherwise, are obviously far from uncommon at Stony Brook, and something can be done to help alleviate the disturbances caused by them. The administration should have enough concern to purchase some inexpensive space heaters to be used by those students who are affected during the heatless days and nights when the school’s infrastructure is being repaired. Outrageously expensive? We think not, since the University would have to buy at least only 150 to 200 heaters to heat an entire heatless building during the semester, or all the remaining on-campus students over a break.

The heating problems, though, serve to bring to the surface other problems confronting campus. While the administration has been thoughtless and bureaucratic once again, they’re not the only ones neglecting their responsibility to students.

Polity started the year with an unusually high amount of promise. With a history of abysmal management behind it, President Gunning and his Council’s move to clean Polity’s act by replacing most of its professional staff was surprisingly welcomed. The hopes Polity had created for itself were not fulfilled. Polity should, for instance, be working to get the proper amenities for those students neglected on the holidays as well as working to meet those student needs during the semester that are left unanswered.

We understand how easy it is to get caught up in the crisis of the moment and allow needs that don’t broadcast themselves to be ignored for louder, though far less important issues. Polity still has time this year to prove it has as much ability and concern that it appeared to have at the semester’s beginning. It must set its priorities. It must commit itself to defending student rights and meeting student needs and deal with procedural, internal administrative business on a strictly secondary basis.

Let Polity prove its intent by using its 50% representation on the Faculty Student Association board, which runs the meal plan contract, to get meals served on holidays even if only in one cafeteria. Let Polity, with its new lawyers, initiate a class action suit for all students to force the University, as de facto landlord, to provide heat and hot water to make the dorms fully livable, and to recover money rebates for all the times the heat was shut off.

And as for the administration, let them shut off the heat at Shrewsbury, the state-supported home, when it is shut off on campus. Why should Marburger mind if the University cuts off his heat and hot water on the holiday weekends. After all, he has relatives to go home to also, doesn’t he?
by Quinn Kaufman

What we don't know about chemicals seems to be an issue that troubles many people. According to Savagian, the Department of Energy concluded by 9pm with Savagian suggesting that, “In order for food irradiation to work it is necessary that the plants be in high agricultural areas and that the fuel rods used to generate the gamma-rays will be transported by vehicle. Savagian states, “nothing can contain radiation... years ago radioactive waste was considered safe and now we know it is dangerous.” The film that Savagian showed at the Nuclear Teach-In irradiation effectiveness was discussed. The gamma-rays which penetrate the food and other types of electronics produced in the irradiation scheme is that the plants are not sensitive to decay. Savagian refutes the idea of effective irradiation stating that, “in all but five of the safe studies. It was thought that the food come from three sources: cobalt-60, cesium-137 (military nuclear waste), and other types of electronically produced gamma-rays. As gamma-rays from isotopes pass through the food, all division is halted and the ripening process of fruits and vegetables is hindered and bacteria is destroyed.

Investigators find that while it may kill bacteria with large doses of radioactivity, tomatoes and strawberries are the only truly effective recipients of food radiation. Citrus and apples discolor and radiation makes some vegetables, such as potatoes, more sensitive to decay. Savagian refutes the idea of effective irradiation stating that, “In order for food waste to be disposed of properly it must be low-calorie, low-sodium, low-sugar, and other types of electronically produced gamma-rays. As gamma-rays from isotopes pass through the food, all division is halted and the ripening process of fruits and vegetables is hindered and bacteria is destroyed.

Food irradiation allows gamma rays to penetrate fruits, vegetables, wheat, potatoes, spices and pork. The building of six new irradiation plants in Oklahoma, Hawaii, California, Washington, and Florida has begun, yet it is of major concern for environmentalists and anti-nuclear groups because the irradiation process involves exposing food to radioactive isotopes from nuclear waste.

NYPIRG’s spokesperson for their food irradiation project, John Savagian spoke at the gathering and informed the packed lounge on the safety of gamma-rayed food, the effectiveness of the irradiation process and possible alternatives to food irradiation.

Concerning precautionary steps with irradiation, it is not well. The FDA, who usually takes precautionary measures before approving any issue regarding drugs and chemicals, has not issued a regulation since the 1940’s thousands of studies have been done concerning the dangers of radioactivity. According to Savagian, “testing procedures for irradiation were narrow and in some instances fraudulent.” Out of the thousands of studies conducted only 441 were submitted to the FDA, and only 69 were actually accepted. Out of those studies that were accepted, 60 and 27 of those studies showed that setting gamma-rayed food was safe. The remaining 32 was harmful. Contributing further to discrepancies was the disposal of all but five of the safe studies. It was these five studies on which the FDA’s favorable ruling was based. When Savagian confronted the head of the Food Regulations division, Clyde Taguchi about why only five studies were used for the basis of such a monumental issue, Taguchi stated that theoretical calculations on what radiation does to food were used; not normal for the FDA.

The only tests done before the irradiation was approved were done to lab animals. URPs (unique radioactive products, or altered food molecules) are a product of chemical changes that occur in irradiation processes. Innocent lab animals that were fed gamma-rayed food had birth defects, kidney diseases, decreased lifespan, and loss of fertility. Further contributing to potential perils are benzene, selenium and potential poisons of foods. Benzene is a carcinogen, and as for the unknown URPs, no one even knows if they’re harmful. Presently arguing against the safety of irradiated food works in the irradiation process.

Savagian explains, “we just don’t know if it’s safe because of FDA testing on lab animals.” According to Savagian, the Department of Energy, asserting that irradiated food is safe, maintained that since only a small party of the animals have died and since there’s not much radiation food out there, why worry? But at those at the Nuclear Teach-In learned, “even then only if it’s proven-safe and not just theoretically safe.” The evening was concluded by Johns with Savagian suggesting that, “In order for food irradiation to work it has to jumpstarted into a major industry, we can stop it before it stops us.

For more information on how to prevent irradiated food, contact Joe Malave at the NYPIRG office at 246-7405 or write to: President Reagan
The White House
Washington DC 20500
or phone him directly at (202) 456-1414 or (202) 456-7639 and suggest the Bosco Bill.

Jolt

by John Dunn

Sick of food ads proclaiming their product to be low-calorie, low-sodium, low-everything and sugar-free? Hate the words diet and caffeine-free? Help is on the way for those trying to escape the health kick thanks to Bev Pak, bottlers of Jolt Cola. Jolt’s slogan is “All the sugar and twice the caffeine.” According to Joseph Hyatt, sales manager for Bev Pak, it is for “a lot of people” who want a zipier taste in their soda. The makers of Jolt were, as their product says, “Inspired by the need for a better tasting soft drink.” For Jolt the secret is pure cane sugar, which was used in soft drinks for years until they switched to the less expensive high-fructose sugar.

Exactly what does twice the caffeine mean? For Jolt it means 10 milligrams of caffeine as compared to the 40-75 mg in regular soda depending on how it’s brewed, a 1 ounce cup of coffee has 65-155 mg of caffeine. Apparently, they’re stretching it a bit on the “twice the caffeine.”

Of course the most important thing is the taste. The findings of my taste comparison were “so.” There’s not much difference in taste with other sodas; it tastes similar to C&C Cola. Evidently, they also have all the carbonation of other soft drinks. However Jolt has failed to recapture the zip and afterburn that the old Coke used to have. It does have more caffeine than regular soda, an effect that can be felt after drinking a few. Try having run and Jolt’s at your next party for an interesting upper/downer effect.

Jolt can be purchased at the St. James Beverage Center and at Pathmark with prices ranging from $9.99 to $1.99 for a six-pack. On campus, Stony Brook Pretzel Service is considering offering Jolt.

December 5, 1986
C.O.C.A.:

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Lecture Center 100

Tuesday Flicks

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American Cinema

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Buy tickets in advance at the Union Box Office

**Talking About Love**

**Dear Eros:**

What exactly is toxic shock syndrome? Are tampons that cause it still sold?

— M.P.

**Dear M.P.:**

Toxic shock syndrome is a rare but serious disease. Although only a small number of women have gotten TSS, a few of them have died. TSS is caused by a bacterium Staphylococcus Aureus, which infects some part of the body, often the vagina and produces toxins (poisons) which go into the bloodstream causing a bodily reaction. This results from an overenvironment for this bacterium to exist. Leaving anything in the vagina for more than 24 hours, such as a tampon, sponge, or a diaphragm increases your risk.

This disease is a syndrome, or group of symptoms. The symptoms are:

- high fever, usually over 102 degrees;
- vomiting;
- diarrhea;
- a sudden drop in blood pressure which may lead to shock;
-umbilical rash which peels after a while.

If you get any of the aforementioned symptoms while using a tampon, sponge or diaphragm, see a doctor immediately.

**Dear Eros:**

How often should I check for testicular cancer? Do younger or older men mostly get it?

— Nervous

**Dear Nervous:**

Testicular cancer is the most common type of cancer in men between the ages of 15 and 35 years. It is responsible for one in seven deaths in this age group.

Testicular cancer is one of the most curable types of cancer if discovered early. You can protect yourself by watching for early signs.

The first early sign of testicular cancer is usually a painless, hard bump about the size of a pea. It is found on the front or side of the testes. Some times a change in consistency of the testes occurs or a slight swelling can be noticed.

A normal testicle is egg-shaped, somewhat firm and smooth, and absent of lumps. A soft tube-shaped structure (the epididymis) lies at the back of the testes, toward the top. It feels a little firmer than the testicle, but it’s not hard and moveable the way a lump would be.

All men should examine their testicles once a month. To check for a lump you have to systematically examine each testicle. After a warm shower or bath when the skin of the scrotum is most relaxed, carefully feel over each testicle with both hands. During your testicular self-examination, you are looking for any changes in the size or consistency of the testes.

If you discover a lump it may or may not be cancerous (malignant). However, you should see a doctor immediately to have it checked.

**Eros**

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**Letter**

**More Nicaragua**

Open letter to Juan Carlos Sanchez:

Once again I am compelled to respond to your attack on my pseudo-intellectual, politically incorrect fantasies printed in the Statesman. The members and friends of GALA have never publicly supported the democratically elected Sandinista government of Nicaragua neither have we condemned them for any reason. We are not Internationalists, we concern ourselves with our own well being and existence in this world and not a society called America. But, since you insist on continuing the Reagadian tradition of disinformation, I will supply the facts.

**FACT:** Nicaragua (unlike America) does not interfere with the private sexual activities of its citizens. The Sandinistas don’t believe in Sodomy Laws. As Nicaraguan Interior Minister Thomas Borg has told gay Boston City Councilor David Scondras: There will be no laws against homosexuality. There will be no laws against the private sexual activities of Nicaraguan citizens. The Sandinistas do not interfere with the private sexual activities of its citizens. The Sandinistas don’t believe in Sodomy Laws. As Nicaraguan Interior Minister Thomas Borg has told gay Boston City Councilor David Scondras: There will be no laws against homosexuality. There will be no laws against the private sexual activities of Nicaraguan citizens.

**FACT:** The new Nicaraguan Constitution, which is currently being written (and which involves the input of ANY Nicaraguan citizen who wishes to get involved), will automatically include equal rights for women (unlike the American Constitution), equal rights, by the way, that will make "the ERA look like Jim Crow laws." The people of Nicaragua have pledged their lives to defend their right to self determination. As one Gay male observer in Nicaragua said: "As hard as we must struggle, we also need to assist those whose struggle is literally one of life and death. And we must remember that the forces that would like to strenghten democracy in Nicaragua as the same forces that were behind the Somoza government of New Nicaragua, so be it.

Raymond Melville Co-Chair GALA

---

**To the GMAT guru,**

(Excerpts from actual letters)

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December 5, 1986 page 5
STOMP

on over to
the
press

STAFF MEETINGS ARE THIS MONDAY AND EVERY MONDAY AT 8 PM IN ROOM 042 CENTRAL HALL

Wear Old Sneakers
Alcoholism & Al-Anon
by Marc Salzman

Alcohol is a drug which many students are familiar with, and which they abuse very often. Alcohol leads to death's related to drunk driving; even the smallest amount of blood alcohol can cause a loss of hand-eye coordination and timing. It also induces violence (bar fights, police trouble (disturbing the peace) and even the loss of work due to on the job hangovers). Alcohol also leads to alcoholism, a disease that progresses to uncontrollable drinking of alcoholic beverages. The alcoholic becomes physically addicted to alcohol, and when sober will begin to experience withdrawal symptoms: results in loss of job, family and self-respect, and can ruin a life, societal (violent crimes, motor vehicle crashes, health and service costs, and family and friends (divorce, crime, delinquency, even suicide can result).

The lives of family members of alcoholics are strongly effected. They lose focus on their own life because they are extremely worried about the alcoholic member of the family. The most important thing to know about their relative's drinking problem which can lead to attempted suicide because of denial; many are successful. Growing up, even in the Central American subject campus this is extremely difficult. There is no show of affection, and no one ever talks about feelings; just a lot of pain, grief, anger, and depression.

Al-Anon family groups are formed for the family members of alcoholics. These groups try to make these people realize that alcohol is a drug, that they are not the cause of, and that they have to separate their own lives from the behavior of the alcoholic. The way Al-Anon tries to accomplish its goals is based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Twelve Steps are: 1) surrenders (admit you are powerless over alcohol, 2) belief in a higher power (faith in a higher Power), 3) acceptance (a decision to turn over will to God), 4) willingness to change (dependence on own will), 5) honesty and trust (admit the extent of my wrongs), 6) will and way (be ready to God), 7) change in attitude (make direct amends), 8) spiritual growth and, finally, 9) gratitude (acceptance).

One thing that is important to keep in mind is that Al-Anon is not a therapy group, and that it is not a substitute for professional help. Al-Anon is an anonymous group and all last names are kept confidential. Al-Anon is an anonymous group and all last names are kept confidential. Also, only a few people in each Al-Anon group are aware of your attendance.

This semester the Ciudad Sandino project organized a coffee house at the G.S.O. Lounge. More and Renda were introduced at it and they gave background information on the project and invited everybody to the Nicaraguan Perspectives panel discussion. The first performer was Mike Rocklyn, an energetic folk singer who belted out songs for an hour. They included political satire aimed at President Reagan, songs on his experiences in the U.S. Navy, and a fast-moving folk song about being a member of an alcoholic home is extremely worried about the alcoholic member of the family. Al-Anon is an anonymous group and all last names are kept confidential. Also, only a few people in each Al-Anon group are aware of your attendance.

The scene is a college dorm room located at Stony Brook University. The topic of conversation is the possibility of raising the speed limit from 55 mph to 65 mph. Ironically the attitude is negative.

Rich enters the room and says, "Look at this article. They're really going to go do it." Gina asks, "What are you talking about?"

Rich says, "They're going to raise the speed limit 65 mph. No more speeding tickets when I go upstate to my summerhouse over the summer holidays."

Carmine angrily interrupts, "Carmine, Rich, doesn't know, he don't mean no harm." "What to?" Rich asks. Mike enters the conversation and says, "I've got a friend who's friend was killed in a high speed automobile accident this weekend. Rich quietly says, "I'm sorry, Carmine. I didn't know." "The tone in the room was at its coldest until Mike decides to break the ice. "I lost a friend the same way, Carmine, and I feel that the speed limit should stay right where it is." Gina puts her arm around me and looks at Carmine as she quietly responds, "If they make the speed limit 65 mph that means that people are going to do 75 mph, and that is very scary." Rich, who's face has now turned red, changes his earlier opinion, "Fortunately I have never lost a close friend or relative due to such a tragic end. It is a great loss to people who have to say that we want to say that a few extra hours of driving is worth it even if it only saves one life.

Rich looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, I just needed to blow off some steam, I shouldn't have jumped down your throat like that." Mike looks at him and says, "Don't be silly, Carmine, I think I learned a valuable lesson today. Thank you." Rich and Mike and Gina leave arm and hand followed by Rich and Carmine there is a lesson to be learned. If you have ever been to a wake of a person who died ina high speed automobile accident you have already learned the lesson.
vaseline melts rubber!

to find out more about birth control, call or visit ero.
if you have other questions, problems, or need info on other issues, please call us at 632-6450, or visit us at rm. 119 in the infirmary. your visits are kept confidential.

Polity Hotline wants you.

Hotline is a 24-hour intervention, information, and referral service. We are currently understaffed!

So, if you think you have what it takes to make us happy, come to the hotline office (Union rm. 251, in the Polity suite) and fill an application.

$1 Will Buy You:

-- a chocolate chip cookie
-- a subway token
-- two UNICEF greeting cards which will save the lives of 50 children.

THINK ABOUT IT!!
UNICEF greeting cards for sale

Dec. 4 & 5 and Dec. 8 & 12
Union Bi-level in the Fireside Lounge
11 - 3 PM
Sponsored by Stony Brook for UNICEF

Student Polity Association

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HOLIDAY BASH

date: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
time: 9PM - 2AM
place: UNION BI-LEVEL

LIVE D.J.
FREE MUNCHIES AND SODA
Double Proof Required for all alcoholic beverages.

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FARENHEIT 451
FLOWER
AT STONYBROOK UNIVERSITY
IN THE BALLROOM ON THURSDAY DEC 11
AT 9 PM FOR $4
$5
Steven Nash — Wildlife Illustrator

by Mary Rafferty

Initially, I hadn't planned to cover Stephen Nash's lecture, but found myself attending it for the sole reason of reading my ARS 161 class, (this being the alternative given to us by our professor). Five minutes into his talk, however, I found myself very much involved in what this man was saying and fifteen minutes into it I was searching my pockets for pen and paper to write about it.

This lecture, "Anatomical and Biological Illustration," was given Wednesday in the Art Gallery of the Fine Arts Center from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Nash covered a number of topics structured loosely in a chronological fashion around his own work. The talk was presented in slide show format, including anatomical sketches, medical illustrations, modes, and a considerable number of animal renderings.

"...scientific art can be appreciated not only for its practical functions, but because it is also aesthetically pleasing."

At the moment, Stephen Nash is a visiting research associate for the Department of Anatomical Sciences at Stony Brook. He is currently teaching a class in basic medical illustration, providing instructions on the use of computer systems to illustrate anatomical structures. Students are challenged to produce anatomical renderings using the computer and traditional media. The computer is used as an aid, not as a substitute for the traditional methods of illustration. Students are encouraged to experiment with different techniques and to develop their own personal style.

In addition to his teaching duties, Nash has also been quite active in the field of medical illustration. He has contributed to a number of medical publications, including textbooks and journal articles. His work has been recognized for its accuracy and aesthetic appeal.

"His work is proof in itself that scientific art can be appreciated not only for its practical functions, but because it is also aesthetically pleasing."

by Nicole Erdos

Sid & Nancy
Junkies
In
Love

by Nicole Erdos

Said, as I have a habit of doing, I walked into Sid and Nancy expecting another adolescent flick full of sex, violence, punk rock, and more sex. But it was really a good movie.

Sid and Nancy is a romantic punk drama about the affair, and eventual death, of Sex Pistols Sid Vicious and American groupie, Nancy Spungen.

It was the technical quality of the film that struck me first. It was nothing like the home movie I had expected. One of the most well done scenes was a 30-second shot of Sid and Nancy kissing by a garbage dumpster with debris falling around them like manna from heaven. The characters were at ease in their surroundings, and it definitely takes talent to make a garbage scene so amorously and sensually appealing.

Also adding tremendously to the success of this film were the amazing performances of Gary Oldman and Chole Webb as Sid and Nancy. Playing a junkie is admittedly a challenging enough role, but to play a junkie in love and to play one so believably shows a high degree of ability. Going in, I wasn't sure if I could really subscribe to the idea of junkie love, but I came out of the film actually believing that these two loved each other more than Romeo and Juliet.

The intensity of the acting and of the subject matter could have been too overwhelming to be fully convincing, but an almost Shakespearean interjection of comic relief avoided that catastrophe. The transition from hysteria to humor and back again was so smoothly executed, that I was unaware how emotionally manipulated I was until sometime after the movie was over.

I only have two minor complaints about this movie. The first is that the impersonation of Sex Pistol Sid Vicious and Johnny Rotten wasn't wonderfully authentific. The second is that this movie gives the false impression that all punks kick over tables when they leave any public place. But this isn't overwhelming problems, and unless you're highly idiosyncratic, they really aren't bothersome. This was one of the best movies I've seen in some time, and it's definitely worth the $8.00 and the trip to New York. (Sid and Nancy is currently playing at the 57th street Playhouse.)

December 5, 1986
It was one of those lazy Fridays when I heard the news, the news that would rise straight from... and indeed it did...

There it was on the front page: Daka uses profits to fund public safety.


Guns, guns for public safety from the Daka profits off of students.

It seemed there was a leak and some documents had to be removed or destroyed.

Whose, punished the hearing, plea and documents. Good work, mother.

Special press meeting was held.

District attorney?

If it true that documents were destroyed?

It's all Bob's fault. He did it!

No, not true... at all.

The sound, very familiar.

Once again Bob Francis was blamed for another administration blunder.

The documents were never retrieved, though there were supposed to be copies kept, they too had "disappeared" into the sea of red tape.

Was all this true?

Was there a cover up?

Was guns for weapons the truth?

Administration kept its lid shut and none was heard.

I wonder why? But I had more important things, on my mind, like when is lunch?

What is my GPA? Where is my social card?
**Time Trippers—By Bill**

**DARK INTENTIONS!**

Homers!  

**NEAR OZONIA, MICKY FINKS, BUTARIO BIZARRO, MURGAL, I BRING YOU THE ARENA TO OUR FUTURE. GNOMIC TIME TRAVEL TO OUR DESTINY. TRAVELLER? CRASH, SET THE POINTER, WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY? YEAR ONE THE BODGER MUST BE OUR DEUS!**

**MEANWHILE:**

FELIX, THE RICE PUNCHED THE NEW TIME MACHINE! IT AIN'T EXACTLY A DREOAN MACHINE, BUT WE'RE THE OLD TIME MACHINE HOOKED UP INTO THE OLD ENAV VAN!

**FIRST, WE GO BACK TO LAST MONTH AND PLAY THE WINNING LOTTO #5 FOR THE BIG JACKPOT...**

THEN WE GO TO THE FUTURE AND COLLECT THE ENTIRE WINNING MILLIONS AND LONG TERM BERAT IT.

IN ABOUT TWO THOUSAND YEARS WE BLIP IN, PULL UP THE MULA PLUS THE INTEREST AND BUY US A STAR SHIP!

THE REST OF US DECIDED UPON DISGUISES!

**TEMPUS LITERALLY FORGES IT:** IN TRADITION OF VETERAN TIME-TRIPPERS, FACE, FLEM & CO. WURTLE EARTH THROUGH THE CENTURIES. NEXT ISSUE: BEER TREK—"THE WRATH OF RIEZO" OR "THE NINJA WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS!"
by Craig Goldsmith

"I'm weary - lay your hands on me," sang Peter Gabriel as he jumped off the stage into the arms of his adoring fans.

Weary is definitely the word for Monday night's concert at the Garden. After two hours of watching the aging Gabriel dance and cavort around the stage, looking a hell of a lot like a bongo-juke puppet tied to unseen strings, I was worn out. And a bit bored.

I feel badly though I like Gabriel. A lot. He was sensitive enough to leave Genesis in order to pursue his own vision of music. Even at his worst he puts his student, Phil Collins, to shame, but Monday's show was not half what I expected. Maybe the show was under par because he tried too hard, or maybe because he performed too many of the synth-pop dance tunes from his new record (which sucks except for "Excellent Birds," the song that he co-wrote with Laurie Anderson a few years back. But more on that later.) In any case, the fans at the Garden appreciated him. The commotion raised in order to bring Gabriel out for encores was one of the loudest foot-stomping events that I've felt in a long time. I wish I could have shared the audience's enthusiasm, but then most of the audience seemed to be young high school students who must have shown up to hear Gabriel play his top ten dance singles.

His stage show was impressive, though - multi-leveled platforms, tracked dollies that suspended lights directly over Gabriel; a computerized, synchronized hallucinogenic demon that beamed into the audience's skull. Pretty lights don't make up for a show lacking in spontaneity and spirit, however. He poured and danced in perfect harmony with his computer-generated companion for over an hour, until Laurie Anderson started making an appearance.

Laurie Anderson's record "Mister Heartbreak," in 1983. The pair re-recorded the tune for Gabriel's most recent disc. Laurie Anderson was the highlight of an otherwise uneventful evening, and her duet with Gabriel was fantastic. At the risk of truly jazzing off Gabriel fans, Laurie Anderson's solo performance of "Excellent Birds" three years ago at the Beacon put Monday's rendition to shame. Gabriel's arrangement was poor, as was the sound quality. Come to think of it, the entire show suffered from either over-driven speakers or poor mixing - Gabriel's voice was often lost in a haze of over-strong drums-beats and an over-amplified bass.

It's surprising that a man who shocked the music scene by leaving Genesis just as they were beginning to make it big in order to pursue non-mainstream musical tastes is turning out such blatantly commercial music. Gabriel was quite popular producing his own brand of oppressive, pesimistic, world-weary, chants and dirges hung loosely on African rhythms. If he wanted to strike out in a new direction, why resort to formulaic dance songs that, unfortunately, sound like cleverly disguised Phil Collins' cover? It's changing the face of his audience as well. Listeners who showed up to hear Gabriel's more mature pieces were given continued on page 9

Gil Scott Heron
Professor of Bluesology

by Paul Clarke

I earned the right to hear the Blues. Colette had agreed to go to the Gil Scott Heron show but she was nowhere to be found. Days of phone calls and messages in her mailbox had left me with nothing but two passes and one person to use them. All dressed up but no one to go with.

7:30, one shot left. I headed over to her office in the Union. No luck. Jennifer was across the room. "Wanna go to the concert, Joe?" I said.

"What time did you say the show starts?"

"9:30."

"I thought you said 8:30.

"What was that, Paul?"

"8:30."

"What time did you say the show starts?"

"8:30."

"I said 8:30."

"What was that, PauL"

"I said 9:30."

"I have 45 minutes."

"My room is five minutes away."

We came back just in time to hear Gil Scott introduce himself to the campus as the distinguished "Professor of Bluesology."

For over an hour he laid his rap on us. Sometimes it was in prose, sometimes it was poetry; all the time it was funny. There were times they said they were disappointed. They came expecting a concert but got a funny man with rhythm who talked on four songs at the same time.

I was swayed. Maybe I was just too incredibly mellow or maybe Gil Scott threw one of those curves that make live performances so much better than canned video. To each his own.

With our friend Marianne, whom we had met at the show, Joe and I downed a few beers at Tara's after the concert. We talked about how Gil Scott let us know how it was about racism in a country that had outlawed slavery 20 years before America. But then there weren't any blacks in England proper until 1850.

His voice liked, like he was just about to break into a song. "I bet he'd be incredible in front of a reggae band, Joe."

Twenty minutes later and Johnson tells us, "My band isn't here but I brought a tape with me."

Two more poems and an encore followed while AV played his canned music. It was a relief. After forty-five minutes, a lone voice gets mighty tiring. Twenty minutes after he left the stage, they tell us that Herron won't be here for forty-five more minutes. Johnson, though, will perform another set. I need a bong hit.

"What was that, Paul?"

"I said I need a Bong Hit."

"We have 45 minutes."

"My room is five minutes away."

I never heard of Walt Whitman or Emily Dickinson rocking, but Johnson rocked. He rocked about racism in a country that had outlawed slavery 20 years before America. But then there weren't any blacks in England proper until 1850.

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