Picket lines are up, train service is stopped and getting from one place to another has suddenly become an ordeal. Although the passenger load on the LIRR is minute when compared to road transportation, its closure has sent shock waves throughout the region's economy and made the highways nearly impassable during the now extensive rush hours. Suddenly, how we get from one place to another has become a pressing public concern.

But why does it take a crisis to make us think about our modes of transportation? The Governor opposes opening the Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island yet supports atomic energy upstate. Why? Because Long Island's transportation system can't handle an emergency evacuation. Every work day, twice a day, every major road out of Long Island becomes a parking lot. Why? Because our highway transportation system can't handle its peak hour loads. Airline delays are so regular that passengers have to schedule an extra twenty minutes on each end of a flight. Why? Because our airspace transportation system is overloaded.

Overload is the key word in describing our transportation system, in whole or its parts. Haphazard describes its planning. It is easy not during this crisis to scapegoat the unions that are responsible for the strike for the transportation difficulties that we are experiencing, but that would accomplish little. At present, LIRR handles only a small percentage of the overall commuter traffic, both to and from the city and intra-Island. That its shut down could cause as much disruption as it has testifies to the weakness of our infrastructure.

Of the three cornerstones of our regional transportation system — roads, airports, and trains — rail is clearly the stepchild when it comes to planning and allocating sufficient funds for adequate service. Something else as a segue. First there was the Long Island Expressway. Once it reached capacity, the Southern State and the Northern State were built to relieve it. The more roads that were built, the more cars there seemed to be.

The two tiers of major and minor airports in the New York area are already overloaded and although the FAA recommends expansion to a third tier, it also maintains that building these airfields will create more air traffic. The same has been recognized for road building. The more roads you build the more traffic you generate and you wind up having to build more roads to meet the new demand ad infinitum.

Opponents of mass transit point to a decade's old deficit and the declining amount of passengers as evidence of the inadequacy of rail as a feasible alternative. What they actually are drawing our attention to is meagerness of our region's support for mass transit. The Long Island Railroad is not fitted to the community that it serves. There are no direct rail connections in many of the economically booming areas of the Island and in few parts of the Island, is the LIRR connected to other transportation. The trains do not relieve automobile congestion because by and large you need a car to get to the stations. While the LIRR provides easy east to west movement across the Island there are no north to south transportation links, such as an extensive bus service.

Additionally, the poor quality of service prevents any gains in ridership especially among the middle class professionals who are the bulk of the railroad's potential customers. Unfortunately as ridership and hence operating funds decline, the service further deteriorates preventing any improvement.

Only massive investment in adding to their mass transit infrastructure will make it an attractive alternative. Although it has been estimated that nearly $30 billion would be needed to do this, a long term view of the situation would recognize that this is not too much to ask. All major routes out of Long Island are at or above peak capacity. With severely limited room for highway expansion and the enigma of traffic-generation, there seems to be little choice than to invest in mass transit. The Long Island's transportation system is already straining at its limits, if the region is to maintain its present rate of growth or any rate of growth at all it must address the need for moving people and things before the situation passes from bad but manageable to critical.
Putting Coors on Ice
Boycotting Corporate Discrimination
by Ray Melville

"... the Coors company is donating part of its revenues to the Contras ..."

The strike against the Long Island Railroad, which began Jan. 18, has thrown the layoffes of consumers in a dusty and dammed freight service to Long Island industries. In addition, two snowstorms have made driving conditions difficult and created local bus service. The outlook of a quick settlement is bleak as negotiation between management and striking unions has gone nowhere. There is still a wide gap between the unions and management. All of the unions currently on strike have been without a contract for over two years. After normal negotiations had broken down last September, the unions announced their intent to strike. The railroad counseled with two 60 day "cooling off" periods as described in the federal Railway Labor Act. During this time, the two sides were supposed to come to an agreement. Only two unions did, those repre- senting the conductors and clerks which settled last November.

Continued on page 8

Ronald Reagan Pulls Emergency Brake on Strike
by Karen McMahon and Lauren Shepherd

In the eyes of the general public, the LIRR strike has seemed as a dispute between 15 LIRR unions fighting for separate wage increases and separate demands rather than a dispute between management and labor. This misconception is caused by the existence of an LIRR structure that has 15 individual unions working for one corporation. Such a structure certainly benefits the railroad — if one unified organization was working toward negotiations, the real demands of the workers would be clear.

The real issue in this dispute is the new contract introduced by the LIRR which forces workers to give back benefits such as health insurance, and allows the LIRR to employ non-union workers and private corporations to do much of the work. With recent Congressional intervention, the actual demands of the workers have been, at least temporarily, put behind closed doors with a 60 day freeze on the strike. Congressional intervention in labor disputes began in 1926, with the passage of the Railway Labor Act introduced by President Calvin Coolidge, who is, ironically, an idol of Ronald Reagan's. Such measures benefit management which can continue to operate and profit while the workers' demands and protests are put on hold. Since unions were first established, there has been a management labor relations problem. The US government, as a third party, intervening in local disputes only worsens the problem. It puts the government on the side of management and cripples the momentum of unions fighting for wages, contracts and work as equal partners. The outcome of the LIRR strike will bring to light the consequences of Congressional intervention for the LIRR workers.
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THE STONY BROOK ASTRONOMY CLUB
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Join us for trip info, movies, speakers, good company, and bad jokes.

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The Student Polity Association welcomes everyone back and wishes everyone luck this semester!

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Looking back, the victories and defeats, successes and disasters of 1986 have set the tone for an exciting and challenging new year. The national political agenda for the upcoming year. Topping the list is the democrats' victory in recapturing control of the Senate. They have returned to capitol hill welling more power and influence than they've had in the past six years and many constituencies will be depending on them to reverse Reagan's social and defense policies. The labor movement also appears to be on stronger footing. After a turbulent year with defeats in Congress and on the picket lines, they finished the year with a show of grassroots electoral strength in support of the democratic candidates. The labor movement and rank and file seem to be rebuilding their strength and influence.

The labor movement is entering 1987 as the democrats court. After the Nov. election a congressional source was quoted saying that "the democrats are itching to reverse Reagan's policies," and "the democrats seem determined to cut defense funding, $20 billion, was the sticking point in the defense bill. The democrats have in the past six years and a stronger more cohesive labor movement. The labor movement has faced hard times over the past year with little support was not enough to win the strike. The labor movement is in need of going to work each day or the excitement of being able to work? What is work, a job or a calling?"

The labor movement has faced hard times over the past year with little support was not enough to win the strike. The labor movement is in need of going to work each day or the excitement of being able to work? What is work, a job or a calling?"
Circumspect

Invoices

by Ed Bridges
29 1987 page 7

The Invoices

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Stony Brook Press

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The idea of quarantining was recently suggested in an initiative in California. It was put forth by the board and was later abandoned by the unions.

In an interview with The Stony Brook Press, chairman of the Stony Brook Press, Robert Waidler said that he didn't think quarantining was a realistic possibility for the current strike.

The Stony Brook Press, a newspaper that covers the Stony Brook University community, reported on the situation. The paper stated that quarantining was not considered a viable option by the unions involved in the strike.

Joey Coors

continued from page 3

and fear of sex education, funding for mental health services, and victim assistance. The assertion of heterosexuality and the AIDS issue. Conclusion: The failure of many people are infected with AIDS.

As of July 1996, one-third of the nation's victims, 8,853, live in New York. According to the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 4,500 of the NY victims are already dead. In fact, AIDS has been a leading killer since women aged 25 - 29 in NY. The future doesn't look much brighter. The federal CDC predicts that by 1991 the cases will soar to over 100,000.

Up until recently AIDS was categorized primarily as a homosexual disease. Since the larger group is sexually active gay men, there have been often blamed for the existence of the disease and accused of promiscuity. Some advocates of the gay community believe that AIDS has been accepted because of its non-heterosexual nature.

Over the past year, however, the rate of the disease among heterosexuals has risen. By 1996 the CDC predicts the number of Americans with AIDS will rise to over 100,000. This rise is due to a significant factor: sex education.

The Stony Brook Press, a newspaper that covers the Stony Brook University community, reported on the situation. The paper stated that sex education is crucial in the fight against AIDS.

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continued from page 3

posts received a mixed response. Some feared it would encourage young people to engage in unprotected, unsafe sex and the use of condoms.

A similar debate erupted among the networks and manufacturers of condoms. Thus far, the networks have refused to air any similar advertisements.

During the upcoming year the Task Force will be focusing on getting Congress to allocate more money to the networks, including funding for victim assistance which is currently non-existent. "Most victims have not chosen to tell their families, " says Levi, because of the medical expenses involved in AIDS treatment.

The gay community is planning a March on Washington for October 11, 1987. The week-long event would include sit-in, lobbying activities and would target the issue of sex education. The program will also include a "national AIDS education curriculum." The program would be implemented in schools to educate students about the risk factors associated with AIDS.

The Stony Brook Press, a newspaper that covers the Stony Brook University community, reported on the situation. The paper stated that this program would be an important step in the fight against AIDS.

nationally
Suffolk County Government

by Jim Leotta

Without a doubt, Suffolk County government is one of the most interesting local governments in the country. Anybody who has ever attended a county legislature meeting can tell you that it is often referred to as Dodger City. It is referred to as a_productive and disciplined chamber of commerce, one that is often referred to as excessive and undisciplined, often causing those attending to wear a white dress or to perform tasks in public. The Suffolk County legislature has learned how to lobby elected officials. The greatest example of these skills is the anti-nuclear movement. Led by such heroic citizens as Nora Bivens, Leon Camilo, Marjoe Harrison, and too many others to mention here, citizens have not only influenced the opinions of legislators but have also influenced the opinions of the public. The Suffolk County legislature has taken great steps to open its doors to the public and to allow the citizens to participate in the decision-making process.

A few years ago the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County legislature was Louis Howard, a Republican from Amityville. He was replaced in an upset by Greg Blass, over the objections of party leaders. Blass was avidly against Shoreham, and struck and unpreceded deal with the Democrats and a few Republicans to keep Shoreham out of the county. The time there were eight Democrats and ten Republicans comprising the legislature. Michael H. Annette from Northport joined Mr. Blass as the only Republican. The citizens, named the bipartisan coalition United Louis Howard. If there was so important about Presiding Officer? The Presiding Officer wields a great deal of power because of the ability to assign groups to chair committees that control the flow of legislation through the legislature. The Presiding Officer, besides being the elected head of the county, has the authority to appoint people to the public service. This embarrassment led party leaders to want Blass out of the legislature. They announced before the vote that Blass was out and that he would not be allowed to run for another term.

At the time of the Chernobyl accident, Congress was in the midst of writing the nation's nuclear insurance law, the Price Anderson Act. The nuclear industry had been fighting for limitations on the liability that victims could receive in the case of an accident. According to Kathleen Welch, a USFRS locator, "The irony of the situation was after the 1979 Three Mile Island incident, it did not look like the industry should be completely liable or it would go bankrupt." Congress adjourned without passing the Price Anderson Act. It was immediately taken to the next session of the legislature. Lawmakers of both parties were concerned that the legislation would pass and that it might happen here. While 100 nuclear power plants were operating at the time, concern over safety and emergency evacuation began to grow. Local residents across the nation immediately took steps to delay the operation of another 15 plants, including Shoreham, that were not yet licensed.

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The Chernobyl disaster in Russia on April 26, 1986, spread worldwide fear, outrage and concern throughout America. At first there was outrage over the secrecy and secrecy did not stop there. The entire world focused on the reactor accident. Once the extent of the accident, a reactor that went down, was uncovered, fear and anxiety spread throughout the world. The full extent of the damage is still unknown. Thousands of acres of farm land were severely contaminated. Food supplies may be affected for up to 70 years. It is also estimated that cancer deaths could reach 400,000.

In the face of such a catastrophe, the American people began to ask, "Could it happen here?" With over 100 nuclear power plants on line, concern over safety and emergency evacuation began to grow. Local residents across the nation immediately took steps to delay the operation of another 15 plants, including Shoreham, that were not yet licensed. At the time of the Chernobyl accident, Congress was in the midst of writing the nation's nuclear insurance law, the Price Anderson Act. The nuclear industry had been fighting for limitations on the liability that victims could receive in the case of an accident. According to Kathleen Welch, a USFRS locator, "The irony of the situation was after the 1979 Three Mile Island incident, it did not look like the industry should be completely liable or it would go bankrupt." Congress adjourned without passing the Price Anderson Act. It was immediately taken to the next session of the legislature. Lawmakers of both parties were concerned that the legislation would pass and that it might happen here. While 100 nuclear power plants were operating at the time, concern over safety and emergency evacuation began to grow. Local residents across the nation immediately took steps to delay the operation of another 15 plants, including Shoreham, that were not yet licensed.

The Stony Brook Press Suite 002 Old Biology (Central Hall)

by Jeffery Eric Altman

If you look at these other situations and say "Sure it's alright..." ways, why wouldn't it be okay to make illegal copies of computer software as well? We have all been caught up with the ability to photocopy from a book any pages that we may need for a report or just to fulfill a desire that we have to possess a copy of the text. We also feel it's perfectly fine to make tape recordings of albums that we purchase and then trade them for copies of albums that others have. The same goes for video tapes as well. So naturally if society can't really see anything wrong with stealing, and I do mean STEALING: someone else's hard work and money in these ways, why wouldn't be okay to make illegal copies of computer software as well?

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The Stony Brook Press Suite 002 Old Biology (Central Hall)
"We the People ..."

by Adam Sacks

Imagine this. Your father is a lawyer, carpenter, stock broker, whatever. There are other people in this world who are policy makers. They are the power brokers of this planet. Some are dictators, some are elected, some win their power through birth. But they are not much different than anyone else, except for their power. It seems that the first time I saw a hundred dollar bill, I was amazed. The first time I owned a hundred dollar bill, I was amazed. But after seeing a few of them, and owning several, they no longer seemed to be such a big deal. When I finally bought the car I had coveted for so many years, I found it was something I could easily get used to and forget about. Life is very, very like that. It is not so much taking things for granted, but a variation on use and familiarity. We get used to anything.

Politicians did not start out powerful. They had childhoods too, you must remember. Perhaps they grew up in great wealth, among the true blue bloods of this nation. Actually the sociological literature makes more of a big deal about wealth than is needed. These people are not at that different than us, they just have more money. Money redeems many things in life, especially if you find or make a fortune, as opposed to being born into one. But even money has its limitations. You get used to it. You come to accept that you are rich and secure financially.

Power is something akin to that. Realize that you could actually walk into a room and sit down with the President of the United States. He is a real person. That is part of the reason the media stresses his cancer and prostate surgery. He is real. Let us not forget. Bathed as it is with antiquity, Thomas Jefferson actually lived and wrote. Washington was real as well. What seems to happen is a sort of deflection. These people become recognized as gods. But they were not, they were mortal.

When I was a few years younger I wrote a hate letter to the President, but I failed to realize that he actually was a person who might receive it. I suppose that a secretary opened it, but I thought of him as a creature, rather than a person. Only an object. It had something to do with the foolish way these people are portrayed. Let's be realistic: it is possible.

Imagine yourself in an office with a phone. You have a secretary. You are very important. But you are not a lawyer, you are not a stock broker, you are the chairman of the board, the President of the United States, and as such your name and deeds will go down in history. And you know what, after a short while you get used to the power, you get used to the feeling of the office, and it then becomes commonplace and boring. Imagine that.

Now, you are running a very special company, the largest, most important company in history. But there is competition. To the east there is another company which seeks to undermine yours, as much as you want to undermine theirs. This company is strange and very secret, though reports are brought in about it by moles placed inside the factories and offices there. Realize this: power changes how you view this situation. In our lives you never choose the life or death of another person. In isolated cases where we do, it is a painful experience beyond compare. We leave it to the doctors, or the police, who are the true garbagemen of society. They pick up the junk that we leave behind in the form of broken buildings, smashed cars and dead bodies.

As president you must make decisions that affect people's lives all the time. It becomes commonplace and boring. If the President had advised Marcos of the Phillipines to go on and fight the rebels, perhaps 10, 20, 30,000 or more people would have died. Imagine that. But Reagan said stop down, and they lived. It is very easy to see that someone who does this every day can feel morally correct in sending weapons to rebels abroad. The company must survive and prosper. This other big company to the east is taking away its assets, we must defend them. If lives are lost, that is unfortunate but acceptable. After a while, the guilt of such decisions loses their impact.

There are others you must work with as well. Many you did not choose. The political process gives the illusion that you choose them, but you know better. You've been in the game for years and nothing is different now. You even hear rumors that the other company, although very apart from yours ideologically, operates in pretty much the same bizarre way. You hang on and seek out your place in history, as was said. Life is dull after this and you begin to relish to more polished aspects of being President, such as dinners and graduations at Yale. The "office" work seems an anachronism, so your trusted and true advisors begin to get more and more influence and make more and more decisions for you. You don't mind, power is slipping away, but you don't miss it, it was boring anyway.

To learn how to fight, you must first understand your adversary. To do political analysis, you must first understand the way that the people operate. Shocking but true, life is very simple when you come right down to it. This material we are made of is very delicate. Something sharp goes right through. Reagan is just a man, not satanic or angelic. Just a man. He worries about different things than we do, and is more powerful by far, but when Nancy says, "Get your hands off me, I am not in the mood tonight," he feels lonely just like any other person would. Hugh Hefner has popularized the image of the rich playboy with all of the fancy cars, houses and women. But in reality, the real rich, the Mayflower rich, are a boring bunch. They exploit their position, but that is about all they get out of it all.

Trust me, even if you real hard-core entrepreneurs out there start a company, make a bit hit, and sell out in ten years and make a killing, you will still not be acceptable to the "society." So you buy a bigger house and a nicer car, but these too become commonplace. Ever meet a celebrity or someone you've been told so much about? Such a let down, isn't it? Just a person, two arms, two feet, etc. Same with our leaders. That is the story. Think of them this way the next you see them on television, the world will make more sense. We expect Reagan to have all the answers to our problems, and he too keeps up the image by acting as though he does. When he messes up, what a drag, I thought you knew everything!
The Press meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm. in Central Hall, room 042. Stop by.

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College Consortium For International Studies

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a place where it wasn't a crime to know how to think
A legend of sorts in minds of a few
where bad times were forgotten and friendships grew
A 30 second walk from a
when you can't look at a
the name of this place I will do tell
it's a lovely old pub called the GSL
Our patronage will be loyal and we wish you success
from all your friends down at the

Stony Brook Press