Welcome to ROLMphone.

Sounds like the bad guy in a schlock science fiction film. But the bad guy is really the brochure printed up yesterday morning for the benefit of each and every campus resident.

Welcome to a flat $65 per semester charge. No choice, either. Everybody will have a ROLMphone in their room, three phones in a suite. Everybody that opts to will get an access number to punch into the phone to allow off-campus calls (on campus calls are free). Everybody, thus, will get their own computer-personalized bill. And everybody will be subject to the quirks of the temperamental ROLM computer that handles all the phone traffic on campus.

And believe us, that computer is quirky. All the offices on campus have had ROLM phones for over a year, so we've been thoroughly ROLMed at The Press. What's supposed to make the system so wonderful is a modern, high-tech IBM manufactured computer controlling all the phone lines. No aging electromechanical switches, no mazes of wire to fray and crack.

But the computer is, in a word, cracked itself. (Or should we say its 'software', in this computer literate age?) When the computer crashes, as it has a number of times already, the phones crash. That means no incoming or outgoing calls, on or off campus. Three weeks ago, the system was down for an entire weekend. Two days, no calls to or from any office.

True, the computer, like any other man-made device, is subject to its quirks, but the phones are not an occasional luxury like a video game. A telephone system is not something that can or should be subject to periodic downtime. Even after Hurricane Gloria, while the Three Village area was without power for over two weeks, the phones worked. And when ROLM crashes, you can't bypass it with anything. All the lines are tied into the computer, a fire in the computer room, and it's all over, no dial tone, no way to reach the hospital, or the police, or the police, or way to call a cab.

And it's too difficult to get the system to crash. When the system was first installed, an over-abundance of incoming calls to WUSB caused the entire answering-machine section to gag and shut down.

The system, when it's working, is less than would be expected from IBM, the self-proclaimed leader of the computer age. Just to call an ambulance you have to dial 122-22-8888.

Nasty loopholes exist, that have already been exploited by hackers with the time to poke around. A writer in 2600, a "hacker" magazine, gives all the details necessary to "kidnap" calls going to another phone to your phone. Others have been able to connect two parties together and listen in on the results, a sort of prank party call. Fine, until you really want to use your phone and you discover Marburger's secretary, or phone sex, on the other end.

The I-CON committee has a responsibility to produce the event on minimal funding. Many of the materials that Mr. Silfer frowned upon helped finance the programming and speakers that we hope will make the difference. It comes as little surprise that the most well-attended panels and talks were not those of the actors, but those of author Harlan Ellison. It is the sort of result that we have been working for year after year. Also the science and technology programming that Mr. Silfer just touches upon was more extensive and well-attended than ever before. Both of these points say something positive about the attendees of the I-CON program in regard to their curiosity and concern for the future.

John Madonia
Vice-chairman
I-CON VII Committee

And the phones themselves are cheaply made. Eight months and the buttons start to stick. When the volume button sticks, you've got to hold the phone at arm's length in order to keep from going deaf. Think of the Bank of New York cash machines. You really need that $10 bucks, but either the machine is "temporarily out of service" or it eats your card when you can't tell if you inserted it in the right password because the buttons are malfunctioning.

And all this and more for $65 dollars a semester.

According to Dallas Bauman, Director of Residence Life, the portion of the system for the dormitories is leased from ROLM at a cost of about $1,000,000 a year. The money from the phone charge will pay that lease.

The least that can be expected for the charges is prompt and competent maintenance. Before AT&T was trust-busted, and everyone had to rent phones, telephones were solid, abuse-able, and dependable, like an old American V-8. If the phones did fail, AT&T would send over a repairman right away. The ROLM phones are more like Yugos with all the options. Hopefully, repairs won't be a problem.

Residents of G-Quad have probably already seen the crews installing the new phone lines. The rest of the installation will be completed over the summer, so don't be surprised in the fall when you see that sleek little piece of phone wizardy in your dorm room.

The contract has been signed. Welcome to ROLMphone.

---Letter---

Cons

To the editor. We at I-CON are grateful for the extensive coverage of I-CON this year. In contrast to most of those who covered our event, it is evident that Kyle Silfer attended some of our programming.

However, there are points made by Mr. Silfer which appear to be contradictory. In particular, there is a comment regarding our diversity programming which Mr. Silfer described as "perpetuating—in its own innocent way—the same evils that we toil to remove. "

The I-CON attendees praise the packages instead of the creative sources. When the attendees have the opportunity to meet the author of a piece of work they admired, be it in print, paint, or celluloid, it is far more likely that the meeting will produce a greater understanding of the creativity of the individual than the faceless corporation which packages a product. We would like to know of any other program which packages instead of the creative source? This wrongly suggests that the too well-attended panels and talks were not those of the actors, but those of author Harlan Ellison. It is the sort of result that we have been working for year after year. Also the science and technology programming that Mr. Silfer just touches upon was more extensive and well-attended than ever before. Both of these points say something positive about the attendees of the I-CON program in regard to their curiosity and concern for the future.

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It's that time of year again when the dreaded graduation once again spirits away members of our staff. So if you'd like to hang out in the basement of Central Hall at odd hours, shout flashbulbs off in administrators' faces, play with razor blades, or type away furiously on a battered typewriter, come down and see us in Suite 020 Central Hall. We'll be printing over the summer too, so if you'll be around, put on your old shoes and pay us a visit.

---The Stony Brook Press---

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The opinions expressed in letters and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of our staff.

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Put a Gag in It
Students Welcome New Chancellor
by R. Sienna
ALBANY, APRIL 27—Amid the nearly deafening student chants of "Vote Down Bruce!", the SUNY Board of Trustees formally appointed Dr. Bruce Johnstone as SUNY Chancellor. Johnstone is currently President of Buffalo State College.

Almost 40 students gathered in front of SUNY's Administration building in a show of support for Dr. Johnstone this past week. The students were there to protest Johnstone's impending appointment as well as a proposed mandatory athletic fee.

SUNY Central officials at first only allowed ten students to actually attend the Board meeting, but a half hour of arguing in the building's lobby enabled an additional ten students to attend. The Board meetings (when not in "Executive Session") where the real dirty work is done) are supposedly open to the public on a first come, first served basis, SUNY officials said that the space in the Boardroom atop SUNY Central's highest tower was needed for members of the press.

The Board seemed quite unprepared for twenty boisterous students bearing placards and wearing gags that symbolized lack of student say in SUNY Central decisions. After the actual vote, one student, depicting the SUNY system, fell to the ground in a mock death and was carried out by two pali-bearers.

Chairman of the Board Donald Binklen was forced to halt his introductory statement several times as the students hissed and booed and coughed. Students became particularly enraged when Binklen stated that "I have asked Senator (Walter) Mondale to assist with the transition." The process carried on by a committee consisting of SUNY Trustees and an Advisory Committee representing all of the major SUNY constituencies—students, faculty, alumni, presidents, and governance.

Only one of the 15 Trustees is a student—the President of the Student Association of the State University—and only one student sat on the Advisory Committee, former SASU President and Trustee Everett Joseph, leaving students nearly voiceless in both the Chancellor search and any major decisions of the Board.

Binklen claimed that he has taken a year-and-a-half to hire a new Chancellor (Clifton Wharton left that post in February of '87 to run a pension fund in NYC) because the Board "did not actively pursue the search... until we received authority from the Board... to resolve the search... to the student, faculty, and alumni communities as well as the approval of the Board..."

Unfortunately for Johnstone, he is already under attack from students before even taking office, which he will do on August 1. His lack of experience running an immense bureaucratic machine, his support of mandatory fees, his allegiance to fund-alumni, presidents, and governance."

Governor and the Legislature—in July of 1987—to set the salary of the SUNY Chancellor. The Board raised the Chancellor's salary from $93,713 to $150,000 because the position "requires a competitive salary", according to Binklen.

Unfortunately for Johnstone, he is already under attack from students before even taking office, which he will do on August 1. His lack of experience running an immense bureaucratic machine, his support of mandatory fees, his allegiance to fund-alumni, presidents, and governance."

Johnstone makes a point.

The fee would allow more money to be funneled into athletics because Student Activity Fees are limited to full-time students. Almost 50% of the twenty-four largest SUNY schools (including Stony Brook) already have fees of over $100 per year. New Paltz, Purchase, Cato, and Farmingdale have already reached the $120 cap. The Athletic Fee would either free money for other uses or allow the student government to lower the Activity Fee.

The proposal, which will be voted on later this month, has split students state-wide. The Student Association of the State University (SASU), as well as several student governments, adamantly opposes the fee, calling it an attempt by SUNY to assume control of student money.

Francisco Duarte, the Finance Coordinator of SUNY Purchase's Students' Union, voiced his concern to the Board during a discussion of the proposal. The Board immediately took the proposal "Single out Athletics as an activity that comes above all others" and that the fee is "discriminatory because "part-time students must pay a pro-rated fee, but can not participate in varsity sports". Varsity sports are limited to full-time students.

Lippin asked the Board to "give us the vote of confidence that you as Board members and the student leaders of SUNY can distribute our money as we choose."

SASU Representative John Duarte openly attacked the proposed fee.

The Polity Elections may not be over yet.

The presidential candidates John Cuci and vice-presidential candidate Kurt Widnater both won Tuesday's election-run off by sizable margins, the staff are happy to meet tonight to hear charges of electioneering against Cuci and Widnater.

The problem is a chaos-driven campaign slogan that was painted on the cement below the walkway between Aum and Sturges and was on every piece of mail-in materials or personnel within 100 feet of a polling box, or in anyone's earshot or eyesight. The judicial council have to decide if the slogan affected voters. If it did, the judicial council would have to decide whether another run-off will be held or if the candidates in question should be disqualified.

May 5, 1988 page 3

Trustees Propose Athletic Fee
by Paula Tishin
The SUNY Board of Trustees has proposed that a mandatory Student Athletic fee be instituted—on campus presidents' discretion—for all intercollegiate sports.

The proposal, which was written by SUNY's Vice-chairman for Student Affairs Frank Pogue and Associate Vice-chairman for Student Affairs Norman Hostetter, would allow campus presidents—with the Chancellor's approval—to charge up to $30 per student per semester to fund NCAA sports. NCAA sports are currently funded by Student Activity Fee and allocated by student governments.

In their written proposal Hostetter and Pogue contend that NCAA sports are "crippled...by not having any direct state funding...the mechanism of the annual student budget process is discretionary and occasionally catastrophic—in addition to being clearly illegal according to NCAA regulations."

NCAA guidelines require that athletic funds be under the auspices of a campus' administration, but since the governor has never disputed this, student governments must collect the Student Activity Fee and then sign it over to the student government, the NCAA has never disputed this either. SUNY's NCAA funding is not completely illegal.

The problem is that Pogue, Hostetter, a number of campus presidents, and several student governments have with student control of NCAA funds is the volatility of those funds.

Students are free at any time to cut off funding to one or more sports, and changes in enrollment and the size of the Activity Fees can affect the amount of funding that an NCAA club receives on a yearly basis.

The proposal, one that has been kicking around Albany for several years, is intended to stabilize funding, and ensure the longevity and health of NCAA programs.

Funds collected from the fee would be distributed under the eye of an Intercollegiate Athletics Board, that if set up, would include an unspecified amount of student representation.

The fee would allow more money to be funneled into athletics because Student Activity Fees are limited to a Chancellor imposed ceiling of $120 per student per year. Almost 50% of the twenty-four largest SUNY schools (including Stony Brook) already have fees of over $100 per year. New Paltz, Purchase, Cato and Farmingdale have already reached the $120 cap.

The Athletic Fee would either free money for other uses or allow the student government to lower the Activity Fee. The proposal, which will be voted on later this month, has split students state-wide. The Student Association of the State University (SASU), as well as several student governments, adamantly opposes the fee, calling it an attempt by SUNY to assume control of student money.

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SUNY Purchase's Students' Union President and SASU President and vice-presidential candidate Kurt Widnater both won Tuesday's election-run off by sizable margins, the staff are happy to meet tonight to hear charges of electioneering against Cuci and Widnater.

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May 5, 1988 page 3

Election Question
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Peace Walk Planned

by Ryder Miller

At the Ethical Humanist Society, a Humanist church in Garden City, NY, members of the Long Island Alliance to Prevent Nuclear War, gathered for their weekly Tuesday meeting to organize the Long Island student Peace Walk for a World Without War.

Participants will walk four miles to Eisenhower Park where there will be an afternoon of music and speech. Though some of the plans are currently sketchy, people are invited to come down alone, or with their families, to their church in Garden City, at 9 am on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. (May 29)

The Long Island Alliance is a small group which works in conjunction with the larger LI Student Coalition for Peace and Justice. The core organizers are a handful of high school students from Syosset.

Their main objective right now is to spread news about the march. Most of the "nuts and bolts" are not tightened yet, but appear to be put in place. Only a few speakers and musicians have been confirmed for the 29th, but permits have been obtained for the March route and the rally site.

The Alliance to date, has received TV coverage, has been written up in local newspapers, and has received promises and monetary support from many of the groups in the LI Coalition.

The LI Alliance has met little resistance just as quickly as they dispensed with cleaning up on Tuesday night.

Vanishing Oaks

by Ryder Miller

In the local campus woods, the red oaks are disappearing. These acorn bearing trees which we know and love, are facing rough times these days. In recent years, they have faced competition from other trees, hurricanes and Gypsy moths which prefer oaks over other trees. If you get the chance, give a beached acorn oak a tug while they are still around.

Though still dominant in the local woods of Long Island, at which the Schiff forever wild, nature preserve on campus, and the Weld preserve located on the North shore of Long Island, red oaks are not replacing themselves.

Ecology Lab students walked through the Schiff and Weld preserves, recently, looking at which small trees will replace immediate canopy trees and long regeneration, red oak would only hold one fifth of the spots it presently holds in the canopy.

Though oaks appear to be having it bad, dogwood trees are dying left and right. Recently, a fungal blight which we know and love, the air pores in dogwood bark has spread to the local woods. Soon, almost all will be gone.

Looking at the trees that will replace the canopy layer, revealed another interesting fact. The number of red maples in the local woods are soaring up, as several covers including "Not Fade Away", as several covers including "Not Fade Away", "Conundrums", and "We're power hungry" made a surprise appearance as a kind of "Tree Blight". Though oaks appear to be having it bad, dogwood trees are dying left and right.

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Philosophy, Fabrics, and Food

by Lisa Caiafa

Nylon won WWII. And if you don't believe it, you can take Freshman chemistry with Professor Herschbach at Harvard University. Or go see him lecture, like I did Wednesday, April 27th.

His lecture, Artissta, Nylon, and Rice Pudding, was sponsored by the Provost's office under the Visiting University Scholars Program. Most of the material was from Herschbach's freshman chemistry course. A very ordinary course, most would say, but Herschbach sheds a whole new light on the subject.

To teach science, Herschbach proclaims, "You have to treat it like a part of humanities." Teach out to philosophy, history, economics. Science is not just for technicians. He teaches his course in parables with appropriate music in the background. He uses parables because they teach many things at once. And that is what science should be. Also, when you hear a parable, you are more likely to tell it to other students. For instance, one of the classes deals with how much alcohol you can drink before the LSATs.

This approach is not often employed. Most decidedly not at the university level where you find only hard-core scientists and mathematicians in upper-division science courses. But this is not what science is about. Most discoveries are made out of necessity or at a time when the sciences are given large endowments. Students are rarely told the history or economic situations governing a discovery. This is Herschbach's main concern. Science is not an isolated field.

Herschbach had his chemistry students write plays, develop posters, and paint pictures of their perceptions of science. In doing this, he is providing students with a creative diet their moment to shine. People learn in many different ways, and straight lectures are only one way of learning. We should enhance students' learning experiences, he said, instead of merely asking them to memorize.

One of the new concepts in teaching is using a 4-Mat system (named for the four quadrants of science) for teaching ecology. He uses parables because they teach many things at once. And that is what science should be. Also, when you hear a parable, you are more likely to tell it to other students. For instance, one of the classes deals with how much alcohol you can drink before the LSATs.

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The Administration Shuffle

Marburger Reorganizes University Posts

by Rich Wieda

President John Marburger has started to implement a reorganization plan of the entire Stony Brook administration, as recommended by a Presidential Ad-hoc Committee on Administrative Reorganization.

The Ad-hoc Committee was formed to pinpoint deficiencies in the administrations operations. According to a memo from Marburger’s office “these changes are intended to permit new levels of institutional effectiveness that will benefit all aspects of campus activities.”

Among the actions ordered is the initiation of the search for a new Provost. Current Provost Jerry Schoelbo’s two-year appointment is up next year. Professor Edward Katkin of the psychology department will be chairing the search committee, although the members of the committee have not been named yet. The search committee holds its first meeting next month.

Carl Hanes, the Vice-president for Administration, is being moved into the newly created, but ill-defined, post of Deputy to the President for Special Projects. According to Marburger’s memo “Mr. Hanes, Stony Brook’s most senior administrative vice-president, will assume responsibility for certain large, extremely important projects that profoundly affect the future of the entire campus.”

There are at least two major projects in hand: the University is still waiting for the approval of the external review of the mathematics department, and will be described in subsequent reports.

Associate Vice-president and Controller Richard Brown will assume Hanes’ current duties as acting Vice-president for Campus Finance and Management until a permanent Vice-president can be appointed. This new position will oversee finance, budget, and management control functions in the Budget Office and the Grants Management Office.

Hanes’ responsibilities are likely to be reduced to the extent that campus finance and management are transferred to these new offices. The rest of the duties of the Vice-president for Campus Finance and Management have yet to be finalized.

The interim between the acting Vice-president and the permanent one will be a time of experimentation with the new arrangements the memo states. Some of the responsibilities might include control over Public Safety and the Environmental Health and Safety department.

The current Vice-president for Campus Operations position, which has been vacant since Bob Francis resigned last semester, will be replaced by a new position, Vice-president for Campus Services. Hanes had referred in a December memo to this new position being created for fall of 1988. A search committee to decide the appointment has been created, and will be chaired by Ms. Florence Boroson, the assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The three remaining departments currently under the administration of the Office of Administration’s office—General Institutional Services (GIS), Physical Facilities, Human Resources—will be under the President’s office for the time being. In addition, GIS will be enlarged to include the Purchasing and Transportation offices.

The current Vice-president for Operations, who has been on the job since 1981, has been reassigned to the newly created, but ill-defined, post of Associate Vice-president and Controller. The other duties of the office have been transferred to the new offices and will be described in subsequent reports.

Hanes’ current position is now a two-year appointment. A search committee to decide the new position will be underway by the beginning of next year. The position will be a two-year appointment and will be described in subsequent reports.

Open Discussion on Closed Minds

by Socrates G. Gianis

One great step for mankind! This was the conclusion put to a panel of deans and directors in the Fine Arts Center yesterday in a critical discussion of the much heralded book by Allen Bloom, entitled The Closing of the American Mind.

The panel criticized Dr. Bloom’s strategy for restructuring an American educational system which calls for a re-emphasis of the “classical texts” as a prescription for healthy change in education today. Vice-provost Aldona Jonaitis moderated the discussion, pointing emphasis on the portraying of the "nostalgic discourse" of Western Idealism.

Ramese Ramsey

Justice for All

Ramsey Clark Speaks

by Robert V. Gilheany

"The noblest quest of the American people is the quest for equality," said Ramsey Clark at a lecture in the Fine Arts Center last Thursday. Clark is former Attorney General and a human rights activist.

Clark spoke about freedom, civil rights, the roll of the Supreme Court in American life, and comparisons between 1968 and now.

Clark said he would be unable to discuss the matter of upholding the rights of the American people. "Unfortunately he is out of work now," Clark said. Clark denied the problem on "the abuse of power to political figures in government and the abuse of power by political associates, and selective enforcement of laws as a result of political appointments to public offices."

Clark spoke about the historical trend of expanding freedom in the U.S. and reversal of reactionary Supreme Court decisions. Some of those decisions include the case of Dred Scott, the barring of women from the practice of law, and the federal government’s inability to legally prevent the commerce of products produced by child labor. Those decisions have been reversed.

The quest for greater freedom is the steady progress of its understanding and attainment of freedom," Clark said. The trend towards greater freedom has been backed up in court decisions such as Brown v. Board of Education and Roe v. Wade.

"Many presidents were not pleased with their Supreme Court nominees," Clark pointed out. According to Clark, President Eisenhower felt that a man he ever made was appointing Earl Warren to the Court. "I think that's the best thing he ever did," Clark said. He explained that Warren was appointed because Warren was a tough prosecutor in California and that he had overseen the incorporation of Japanese-American citizens during WW II.

"Who ever thought he would've turned out to be a liberal Justice?" Clark asked. Another example of Clark's was a case in which he said, "You can't beat the courts to enforce it. When the people took to the streets to resist G.I. Bill Richard Wueste will assume direction over the enlarged department.

Clark described 1968 as "the best of times and the worst of times." He spoke of an awful time during the height of the Viet Nam War, a sweeping fear of crime that had no rational explanation.

There were 200 race riots in our cities in the late 1960's and Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. It was also a time when people worked for change. "We the people took to the streets to end the war...and end poverty."

The civil rights acts of 1968 concerned housing. According to Clark, these laws made it illegal to discriminate in housing on the basis of race and sex. "1968 was also the first year we the people did not execute someone," said Clark, referring to the absence of capital sentences. "We did not execute anyone until 1977," Clark spoke about today and said "If we executed three people a day, the rate people are going on Death Row, we would be executing people every day until the end of the century."

Clark would like to see the right to food as well. "Eight million infants starved to death last year," he said. "The right to food has to come from the will of the people, not the courts."

He spoke of how this has to work through our democratic institutions to establish federal courts to enforce these laws. Clark also talked about voting rights and voter registration during this presidential election year. He told the fact that a black man, running for president in a major party...won Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia is a victory for equality."
Cold Turkey

by Michael DePhillips

America has a new outlaw. One that is not breaking the law yet, but is none the less a social outcast. A great deal of the public now views smoking as a deviant behavior. Now, New York City has joined the battle against this illrit pleasurable and passed an ordinance that bans smoking in most public places. Although this law will be widely accepted, for good reason, it can not be forgotten that smokers are people, who pay taxes in a society that values individual freedoms. When regulating these freedoms we must be careful not to ostracize or deny rights to any group of people.

The new legislation prohibits smoking in stores, theatres, hospitals, offices, museums, banks and most other enclosed public places. Also, the new law requires that half the tables in a restaurant with more than 50 seats be reserved for nonsmokers. The Federal Aviation Administration joined the battle by prohibiting smoking on flights of two hours or less. Northwestern took the cause one step further by banning smoking on all its North American flights.

These new regulations are widely accepted and reflect what seems to be a smokeless wave of the future. The nonsmokers sense this and approach their cause with an almost militant attitude. Reflective of this is a Northwestern Airlines television ad announcing their new ban. A smoker lights up, the ban is announced and the rest of the plane looks on.

So far this is exactly what has been happening. Smokers have been compliant. On the now smokeless LIRR there has only been one arrest and public places have been relatively smoke-free for months before the law. 26.8 percent of American adults now smoke, that is down from 42.5 percent thirty years ago, a time when America's greatest heroes had a cigarette permanently glued to their lips. The army even issued cigarettes with K-rations. The decline began in 1964 when cigarette ads were banned from TV and the Surgeon General began issuing warnings on every pack of cigarettes.

".all of America will be smoke free, thin, muscular, and sober. Then what will happen to all the people?"

We've come a long way from "you've come a long way, baby," but there are still many people who smoke. In fact, there are still a lot of people who need to smoke and that's where the conflict really sparks. The work place has been the battle ground for years. Restrictions on smoking in work are not new, nor are they altogether bad. If someone wants to quit, they should be free to do so on their own, not because they are pressured or blackmailed into doing so. These restrictions do little to help the smoker along in their struggle or help in arrangements for those who prefer to continue to smoke.

The Yankee Trader newspaper in Port Jefferson, is offering a class to any employee who has trouble quitting. As of last Monday, however, it's cold turkey in the building. This has cause an uproar from its writers who claim that a cigarette and a cup of coffee are as essential to their job as a pen and paper. Unhappy writers are not beneficial to the production of a newspaper. It would behoove the paper to take steps toward a compromise, instead of jumping on a national bandwagon.

This example should be followed by other companies who now impose strict non-smoking regulations. There should be aid for those who want to stop smoking and arrangements made for people who can't, or don't want to stop. As far as public places are concerned, they will be smoke free, thin, muscular, and sober. Then what will happen to all the people?
Pigeons Home to Roost

It's Time to Restructure Polity

by Frank Vaccaro

Polity, the autonomous student government here at SUNY Stony Brook, has come under serious scrutiny this Spring after dozens of clubs vehemently protested the new 1988-89 line budget. Many club leaders, as well as members of Polity itself, have publicly denounced the organization and a recent campaign by the Polity President himself came within 300 votes of seeing Polity dissolved.

But Polity's problems go beyond the recent budget complaints and getting rid of the organization would do more harm than good. What Polity needs is a leader willing to make the necessary adjustments while clarifying its purpose.

Like a majority of state universities, Stony Brook's undergraduate tuition includes a $114.50 "Mandatory Activity Fee" that adds up to a little more than one million dollars. This money is Polity's budget, and gives Polity a viable administrative and representative power. The money is to be allocated to the many student clubs and organizations that make up this university's social life, providing extracurricular programs and a safe academic environment. Polity's important feature of being able to act independently of the administration is underscored by the administrative's many attempts to limit student power and student activities.

Since 1976, growing student apathy and a lack of student activism have played major roles in undermining the seriousness in which Polity sees itself. Major issues like the almost ghetoo conditions in the dorms, the lack of a reliable campus security, the dioxin contamination of the lecture center, the carbon monoxide fumes in the HSC, and the Police brutality at the Kelly D party two months ago, have all but been forgotten in Polity's muddled present state. What Polity needs is a leader who can make the necessary structural changes that will refocus Polity on its important administrative and representative functions.

The first step towards improving Polity should focus on improving student solidarity and communication. Polity is a three tiered organization made up of an eight member executive branch, the Senate, and the C.S.O. whole in almost every student issue this decade.

In theory, the Council should make day to day interpretations and resolutions that would be beyond the large Senate's organizational capabilities. The Senate would review long term policies and procedures and wield the most power in its weekly meetings. Committees would be the primary responsible for small areas such as concerts, elections, and internal affairs.

In reality, however, the Senate has been plagued with improprieties, too much or too little parliamentary procedure, and inexpediency which results in intimidation from the Council. Each Senator's legitimacy is based on the fact that each Senator represents either one campus dormitory or 300 commune students. But dormitory activities have been virtually eliminated by the administration since the raising of the drinking age in 1984 and 1988. Students no longer identify with their buildings as they once did, making the building, as the unit of student representation, virtually obsolete. Senators are often appointed by default by haphazard of building residents who still attend building leg-vure meetings. Council members, on the other hand, include the Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the other "big" student positions occupied in much ballyhooed, campus-wide elections.

"Council members have seen the students lose ground in almost every student issue this decade."

There are countless other curious lines on the new 1988-89 budget, and they may have justification. But as mentioned above, not - the building senator from Cordonaro represents nobody. Few people in any building even know who the building senator is.

Right now, Polity veterans are tailoring a brand new Polity Constitution that takes a few good steps, but it still leaves a good deal of room for restructuring. One of the new constitution does is place quadrant representatives on the Council, so that building representation is moved, not lost. If Polity cannot or unwilling to adopt these necessary changes for improved representation and administration, the clubs may have to take matters into their own hands.

Opposition to this plan would certainly exist and Polity clubs probably involve 3,000 to 4,000 students, almost twice the amount of students that currently vote. All they would have to do is get their club members to vote for a referendum calling for a club senate. The Department of Student Affairs would undoubtedly have to recognize this body as legitimate and Polity would be forced to do a little restructuring.

I've spoken to several administrators who have liked the idea and would be honored to have a seat on this new senate. One administrator works right under President Marburger. He would be the most direct channel to the President's office that any student body has ever had.

All the club president's would have to do is set aside their egos and get together. They would have to make the realization that they are all subsections of the only true campus power.

"Polity clubs probably involve 3,000 to 4,000 students, almost twice the amount of students that currently vote. All they would have to do is get their club members to vote for a referendum calling for a club senate."

"Polity should focus on improving student solidarity and communication.

"There are countless other curious lines on the new 1988-89 budget, and they may have justification. But as mentioned above, not - the building senator from Cordonaro represents nobody. Few people in any building even know who the building senator is."
Press Pin-up Poster!

"God Bless America" ©1981 Gary Johnson

(Suitable for Framing)
by George Birdermann
The vindication of 30 Tent City protesters by two separate Federal judges is really good, and I just wanted certain people to know that.

Wednesday, April 20th marked the anniversary of something I just happened to see a year ago while waiting for my 7:00pm class in the Humanities building. A bearded, scruffy-looking man was sitting on the hill near the building. He had several packs with him. When my class ended some two hours later, I walked by the oval patch of grass and trees with the footsteps in the dirt worn by thousands of students, faculty members, and visitors. I was walking with some other people around a couple of tents that had been pitched on the grass. I shrugged, not really sure why it was there but not really wondering, either, and continued on. It wasn't until several weeks later that I met the people who started the demonstration, and came to understand what they were protesting.

Within a week the campsite, which didn't get dubbed Tent City until much later, had grown and it stayed there a month and was then dismantled, set up again, viciously dismantled by the assistant directors of Public Safety, we were busted, we were fined, end of story, right?

Wrong. The District Attorney's Office, surely at the urging of Stony Brook's Administration and/or SUNY Central, has announced plans to appeal the dismissals. The sad but laughable saga of how Stony Brook's Administration arrested students who were demonstrating grinds on to another chapter, and innocent students must endure at least several more weeks of wondering whether they'll have to appear in court to testify about their innocence, and whether another judge will laugh out the charges or if these Mickey Mouse charges will actually go to trial.

Darn't the Administration know that 14 of the 30 students arrested at Tent City were undergraduates? Darn't Altman know that there are undergraduate students who live in Chapin and that they also are on strike? I find Altman's comment about the parking situation in Chapin even more disturbing, given that he is the Presidential Fellow for Housing. With over 500 cars registered for the complex and approximately 300 spots, many students cannot find legal spots there, but the University says it will be stepping up ticketing and towing of illegally parked cars. As reported in the Press on April 16th, Altman said that, "If there's not enough spaces in Chapin and you don't have a ticket, take a bus from South P-Lot."

If anyone thought that the last time Altman took a two-mile bus ride from a parking lot to get to his residence? How can the Administration believe that is acceptable procedure for student tenants?

If we look at several other aspects of the Chapin rent strike, there is similar evidence of the Administration's distance from the student experience. The University's offer to drop from the rest increase $85,000 that it planned to charge Chapin tenants for unrentable apartments only shows me that before the threat of a rent strike, the University found it acceptable to charge student tenants for these dilapidated, uninhabitable units. Similarly, the University's plan to charge a mandatory monthly telephone fee of $12 to $17 for each Chapin resident, possibly including children, is not just ludicrous, it is unjust. Why can't Stony Brook students have the freedom to decide if they want to pay a fee for a telephone? Does the Administration really believe that because it signed a contract with ROLM, student tenants should have to help pay for the phone system or move out of their apartments?

I believe part of the problem is that the Administration just doesn't know what the students want because they have trouble seeing us as individuals. Or maybe they just have trouble seeing, it's been more than two years since the clock in the lobby of the Administration building stopped working, and it still hasn't been fixed. Six weeks ago, at the rally against US intervention in Central America, I noticed that the doleful high note "F" on the Administration building, which hangs over the main entrance to the Administration building, was missing, making it the "Admins ration" building. As far as I think about the missing F, I was still smiling. Yet all last week, the academic mall buzzed with activity as cleanup crews worked to get the grounds looking nice for that 20th birthday party on May 1st. Do students and faculty realize that all this spiffing up of the campus is only being done so that all the alumni, who haven't been at Stony Brook in years, will see a clean, well-maintained campus we have? I can't help but wonder if the Administration is really looking at the problems here, or just concerned about glowering over the surface so it can be sure to get all those alumni bucks.

(The writer is a former Tent City arrestee).

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The Fourth Estate: Commentary

No group or individual has used the media in this country to prove a point, start a position, or open provocative discussion since the publishing of the Federalist papers were published in New York in 1787.

The Federalist papers were expertly written, widely distributed, and designed to convince New Yorkers to ratify the newly-written Constitution. John Connolly is a writer, businessman, and theorist. He likes to see documents of this sort widely distributed throughout the media again. An Independent Media is needed to produce a large-scale document through which any group of people could propose, for example, a peace plan or strategy, or terms of negotiation with an enemy.

Connolly also provides historical and practical support for the communication. If the "media telegrams" are sent to enough people, produced in enough quantity that nearly everyone in a particular area would be able to know what other people are thinking about or would like to do (or not do) to improve living conditions.

This year has seen incredible attention paid by students to every detail of the U.S. presidential election. A media communication would help to bring more people into the fray of things. How can someone act if they don't know what's going on, what other people are feeling?

The media communication won't make conflict disappear, but it would be an excellent tool to start working with.

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After the established negotiating process between societies has failed or stalled, an alternative would be for one side to publish their detailed negotiating position in a widely distributed document. At the same time they could request a similar public response from their adversary.

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The Stony Brook Press
In a World Gone Mad...

Gang Bang

continued from back page

man who would sleep with a gang leader at a party, particularly in the minutes between the time the party was broken up by a machinimaan attack, and the arrival of the police. She screams "You don't know me at all" at Penn, and that could go for the audience as well.

But Colors' strengths far outweigh its weaknesses. In the complex world of the LA streets, neither Penn's nor Duvall's approach will be completely right or wrong, but each can learn from the other and live—or die—with the results.

It is Hopper, though, who gives Colors its brilliance. Only his fourth film (after Easy Rider, The Last Movie, and Out of the Blue), Hopper was recommended to producer Robert Solo by Penn. A major star in the sixties, Hopper spent the next fifteen years pursuing smaller parts and battling with a variety of problems and addictions. Sober for the last three years, however, Hopper has come back into his own, starring in a number of major pictures, including Blue Velvet, River's Edge, and Hoosiers (for which Hopper was nominated for an Academy Award). With his background, Hopper reportedly got along well with the actual gang members who played many of the small parts in the film.

In a tragic example of life imitating art, two gang members scheduled to appear as extras in Colors were killed in drive-by shootings during the time the movie was being made. Colors has already sparked some gang violence at showings in Los Angeles and other cities, but less than had been feared by many of the movie's critics, who originally wanted the movie banned in many areas.

As in Easy Rider, this movie ends in an orgy of violence. No one wins, but enough of the combatants—cops and gangs alike—are left to fight and fly their "colors" another day.

Smithereens

continued from page 13

Beach Boys, The Who, The Kinks, Stan Kenton; so many different bands, the Ramones. We've had many, many different influences. Who's your favorite current band? Young Fresh Fellows, from Seattle.

I like to play anywhere as long as the audience is good. Really, the size of the place doesn't make as much of a difference as the attitude of the audience.

Describe your typical fan.

That varies. Judging from our fan mail and the people we meet, there are all different age groups. Sometimes we get letters from 9 year-olds then forty year-olds. It's quite varied.

Are you afraid that if you become famous one day, you may turn into an 'outwardly' dead-minded robot-freak like Michael Jackson?

No, definitely not. We feel our music is universal. It's for everyone who likes it. The more people we can reach, the better.

Well, that's very nice but that's not exactly what I'm asking. Do you think fame takes a toll on an individual's character?

I've never been in that situation. I'm sure, though. You look around and you see that certainly, it does. But we've all worked too hard and too long for fame to make any weird changes in our personalities.

Do you consider yourselves a close-knit group?

I would say for sure. Three of us, excluding Mike, have known each other since the grade. I've known Pat for over ten years. We're more like a family than just a musical group.

What are your views towards the music industry?

They offer people with dreams a chance to help realize them. They make your records heard and put your music in front of people.

What's your advice to sprouting bands who are trying to make their music heard?

The most important thing is to believe in yourself and what you're doing and realize success is not going to happen overnight. It usually takes a number of years of hard work and low or no paying gigs. You have to tolerate traveling around and beating your head against the wall, be prepared for a tough ride. But if you really want to do something, you make your mind up and just do it. For us, it's a dream come true, really.

Athletic Fee

continued from page 3

approving athletic budgets two years in advance and placing the money in an account to gain interest? Duarte explained. Student governments at some schools, however, whole-heartedly support the fee. Clayton Levanti, Buffalo State College's Vice-treasurer (Chancellor-elect Bruce Johnstone is currently Buff. State's president) asked the Board to pass the proposal.

"Our Activity Fee is tied into athletics, we should be using it for cultural activities," he said, "take our money out of the hands of amateurs and put it into the hands of administrators."

What the Board will actually do is not clear yet. While Johnstone has openly supported the fee, some Trustees need convincing if the fee is to go through. Trustee Mele told Poppe and Hostetter that their "goal could still be achieved without creating another monster...another set of administrative posts." Mele also suggested that if NCAA teams need more money, that the Board could pull $1 per student out of State funds. "If you take one dollar, no-one will mind," Mele said, "take $25 and you'll hear screaming."
Thursday, May 5  
• James Brown at the Loose Star Cafe  
and May 6  
The Smithereens at the Bottom Line  
through May 7  
Friday May 6  
• The Fad at the Beacon  
Saturday, May 7  
• The Woilers at Bay Street  
Sunday, May 8  
• Robin Trower at the Ritz  
Wendy O and the Plasmatics at the Ritz  
Saturday, May 14  
Rudgers at the Ritz  
Sunday, May 15  
• Jethro Tull at the Bottom Line  
Tuesday, May 17  
• Steve Vaughn & Double Trouble  
Robert Plant at the Meadowlands  
Saturday, May 21  
• John Seyfield at IMAC  
Sunday, May 22  
• Sweet Honey in the Rock at the Apollo  

TOP 39 ARTISTS  
1.Crazy Marley—Conscious Party  
2. Michelle Shocked—Texas Campfire Tapes  
3. Thomas Dolby—Aliens Ate my Buick  
4. Boston—Chop Socky  
5. Peter Murphy—Love Hysteria  
6. Renaldo and the Loaf—The Elbow is Taboo  
7. Fixx—Surfing Rosa  
8. Billy Bragg—Help Save the Children  
9. Eugene Chadbourne—Dear Eugene  
10. Drowning Pool—Satori  
11. Bobby McCaren—Simple Pleasures  
12. Steve Talezo  
488 Deathless Days  
13. The Fall—Frenz Experiment  
14. Naked Raygun—Jetison  
15. Self Defense—Tug O War  
16. Living Colour—Vivid  
17. Jesus and Mary Chain (12")  
18. Sergeant Pepper Know My Father—various artists  
19. Joni Mitchell  
20. Bill Laswell  
21. Alice Donut  
22. Boogie Down Productions  
23. Dickies  
24. Dag Nasty  
25. Donavan  
26. Mute Beat  
27. Tackhead  
28. Red Lorry Yellow Lorry  
29. Lydia Lunch—Honeymoon in Red  
30. Monks of Doom  
31. Obed Ngoebeni  
32. False Profets  
33. Goddy and Cree  
34. Kilkenny Cats  
35. Fos  
36. Downey Midlow  
37. Semantics  
38. Sugarcubes  
39. Peter Nooten  

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Four Ugly Guys
An Interview with Dennis Diken of the Smithereens

Interview by Quina Kaufmann

How did you get the name “The Smithereens”?

We got the name as kids. I thought it up, after watching cartoons and hearing the phrase, “I’ll blow you to smithereens.” That’s really where it came from, and I had just compiled a list of possible band names in the late ’70s. I compiled a couple of hundred names and that was one of them. “The Smithereens” was the last one on the list, and it sounded like it should be a name for a band. After we decided to call ourselves The Smithereens, someone actually wrote us an article and said “Smithereens” was an Irish word, and we looked it up in the dictionary and found that it meant “little pieces.” Someone told me the name Smithereens sounds sexy.

laughs It wasn’t thought of as such when we did it, but you can interpret it any way you want.

The name of your new album is Green Thoughts. What does that mean?

Well, there’s a song on the album that’s called “Green Thoughts.” The reference is to envy or jealousy and after we recorded the album, we didn’t have a title that we were happy with. Especially For You included “Blood and Roses,” “Behind the Wall of Sleep” and “In a Lonely Place.”

How did you get the name “Green Thoughts”?

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What message does your music try to convey?

We’re here to entertain. The music does not have a profound message. We just try to share our experiences with people. Who writes the music? Well, Pat usually writes the music and lyrics. And although Pat usually writes the songs, we usually arrange them together.

Green Thoughts

by Quina Kaufmann

The Smithereens Green Thoughts, an album about jealousy and love was released on Capitol Records last month. Although it is at times a bit repetitious, too loud in spots, like an extra verse or beat in a song — it is overall a catchy album which has an air of nostalgia.

Pat Dineen, lead vocalist, has claimed that love songs are the only ones worth listening to; and the eleven cuts on this album are all about love. DiNizio’s lyrics often rhyme, making him appear a true poet; yet the happy melodies often clash with his gloomy themes. 

Take your “Elaine.” The lyrics are completely depressing—lamenting lost love — yet the music off is off base. It’s like singing to the universally known La Bamba tune, “My best buddy just decided to end it all and took forty-fours; and now he’s dead.”

The Smithereens have admitted that the sound on this album arises for a strong musical impact. However, DiNizio, who writes the music, should learn how to act a hit, and make the songs play as a whole. As this album will be aired on radio stations, the songs are short and the lyrics, emotional. The song, “Only a Memory,” has already become a hit on the air. DiNizio has a voice like salty butter, which makes him unique. He is himself, and completely original.

Some songs have classic ability. The lyrics of “The World We Know,” unlike some songs on the album, compliment the powerful music. DiNizio sings, “Broken heart/Time to go/somewhere/Pompeii.” Del Shannon sings backup like the backup on “Good Man’s Shelter” by the Stones. He’s almost better than DiNizio.

Also, a potential classic is “Especially For You.” DiNizio sings like a melancholy poet, “It’s the same every night/when I turn off the lights/hugging my pillow instead of you/In the morning I rise, and tell myself I pretend I’m happy/In spite of you.”

This album is meant to entertain briefly and not make a lasting impression. It makes one feel good. It’s the type of tape you pop in when you’re happy and you listen to it to maintain your happiness, and it’s the type of music you listen to before you go out. It’s a great walking/Walking/LP. However, if you’re set to just hang out and muse about life, skip this album, lock yourself in your room and put on some old Cars.

Who is the ringleader of the Smithereens? Ringleader? It’s a democratic type of group. However, I would have to say since Pat is the front-man and writes most of the material, that Pat is the main focus on stage. There are four different personalities in the band, and you get a cross section quite a bit of attention because he writes the songs and sings lead—we’re a very democratic situation.

You guys will be playing the Bottom Line in Manhattan from May 9-10. Is that show part of a long tour?

We just hit the road about a week and a half ago. We started in Norfolk, Virginia and we’ve been until now. We’re exploring the country now. There’s dates being added all the time.

Where will the band’s tour end?

Well, we don’t know exactly where the tour is going to wind up. But after our Boston show, we’re going to do a couple of other dates in the New England area. We go to Philadelphia, New York, the Midwest, including Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis. We work our west and play four nights in L.A., Portland, Seattle, Southern California, all over the place.

Do you have your families on the road with you?

No, no. It’s not like a vacation at all. It’s a lot of traveling, a lot of work. There’s really no time to spend with friends or families. It’s just basically the band members.

When you’re on the road, do you party much?

Usually, although I wouldn’t say a lot. There is some time for that, but most of the time we’re traveling, doing sound checks or going to used book stores.

Which countries are you most popular in?

America. What about England?

Yes, too. We also do very well in England, Ireland and Northern Europe. Are you recognized as a Smithereen on the street?

Yeah, last night we were at an Alarm concert. How were they?

Good, but we didn’t stay for the whole show. I only saw a bit of it, and in the lobby we were talking to quite a few kids who recognized us.

What are The Smithereens’ long term goals?

Basically just to keep doing what we’re doing now. It’s great that we now have an audience. After doing this for so many years, it’s great that people have picked up on what we’re doing and enjoy what we’re doing. We really don’t look back or understand what we’re doing at a certain point. We just want to keep on making good records and hopefully our career that people will enjoy and that we’ll enjoy what we’re doing too. It’s a career now and now we’re getting paid for what we’re doing—it’s wonderful.

In your pogo have to be megastars one day.

Our focus is not really on that. It’s really just keeping the integrity in our music, and hoping that we could keep doing quality work.

Because of your success has there been an increase in your financials?

I guess so, yes. And money changed your life?

No, not at all. We can afford to buy new shoes once in a while.

What’s the biggest change in your life because of your increased popularity?

We just spend more time on the road, and busier with our careers.

Who are your influences?

Well, we grew listening to radio in the 60’s, and that was an inspiration, making us want to learn how to play. Anything that was really good, of quality while we were growing up in the late 60’s, early 60’s, was an influence. Our genre has a cross section of influences; certainly the Beatles, continued on page 11
THE POOL BUILDING ON URSCA BEGA IS HOME PLANT OF THE J.C. POOL PUBLISHING CO. IT ALSO HOUSES THE UN-SHIFT EXILES - ALCOHOLICS NON-SHIFT FREE SHINGUARDS.

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If you were inside the J.C. Pool building on the night of the accident, you would have noticed the strange, unfamiliar atmosphere. You might have thought that you were in a different time, perhaps the future. But you were not. You were in the present, at the J.C. Pool building.

You may have noticed that the hall seemed unusually empty. It was not necessarily a lack of people, but a certain quietness. You got a sense of a certain old building, central to the history of the region.

EEE-BAGGY, look out! I have a Spanish test!

This is 2005-12. I believe it represents the mid-1980s. Urscia Nea is a place called Urscia, and it is a place where the future begins. It is a place where things are not yet decided. It is a place of potential, of change.

The future is not yet written. It is a place of uncertainty, of mystery. But it is also a place of possibility, of hope. It is a place where anything can happen.

I have a Spanish test. I am not sure how I will do, but I am excited. I am excited about the future. I am excited about what I can become.

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True Blue
Hopper, Penn, and Duvall Display Their 'Colors'

Dennis Hopper's Colors is a brutal and brilliant tale of cops and street gangs in modern-day Los Angeles. Full of shoot-outs and spectacular chases, Colors nevertheless presents a truthful and honest look at outlaw society. Hopper's Easy Rider, of course, is the most famous, and perhaps greatest, outlaw movie ever, but despite the fact that both films are fueled by drugs and alienation, they are worlds, as well as decades, apart.

The difference is violence. Easy Rider's outlaws were its victims, while in Colors, victimized as the outlaws are, they are killers. Pot and Acid were the drugs that provided the force behind Easy Rider. In Colors the drugs are Angel Dust and Crack—not only more violent in and of themselves, but drugs whose money-making potential drives the gangs to ever greater violence in order to control their turf.

Sean Penn and Robert Duvall star as two Los Angeles policemen, members of the actual LA anti-gang unit CRASH (Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums). Penn, nicknamed "Pac-Man" for his big yellow car (which "gobbles up" the bad guys), is young and aggressive, with a taste for humiliating those he arrests. In the battle of the streets, he wants to win. Duvall, on the other hand, is a year away from retirement and wants to survive. He will give the gang members breaks in small matters, so they "owe him a favor," and might avoid more serious crimes.

Arrayed against them are Los Angeles' street gangs. A preface to the movie informs viewers that there are 600 street gangs in LA with over 70,000 members, and that there were 387 gang-related killings last year alone.

In Colors, the "Crips" and the "Bloods" are rival street gangs caught in sexual and bloody revenge. Often, the victims are innocent bystanders. The fighting begins when the Crips drive by the home of a Blood, killing him in his front yard with a shotgun blast. Later, his funeral is disrupted by machinegun-wielding Crips in another "drive-by" assault.

Penn and Duvall's pursuit of the church attackers is only one of the picture's dazzling chase scenes and it is breathtaking in its speed and ferocity. In another, Penn pursues a gang member into a crowded restaurant and the two battle in the kitchen, fighting savagely until Duvall arrives to finish the job. In both scenes, Hopper's superb visual sense comes through, with images piled upon image in a rich mosaic.

In Colors, Hopper's characters are the job. In both scenes, Hopper's "drive-by" assault.

Tales from the Dark Side
Hurly Burly Camps out in Theatre I

by Kyle Silfer

The Thursday evening crowd for David Reis's Hurly Burly was, initially, sizable and reasonably enthusiastic. But by the end of the play's three-hour running time, at least half the audience had vanished into the night.

This high attention rate stemmed, no doubt, from a combination of the play's length and its considerable demands upon the intellect. A less-than-patient audience member might perhaps have found the second-ten-minute intermission too tempting an escape from the drama unfolding within the Fine Arts Center Theatre I. But the performances and pacing of the tight ensemble cast gave no reason for dissatisfaction.

Hurly Burly follows the daily lives of a pack of divorced (or separated) Hollywood career men who complement their desperate, miserable, paranoid, eating frenzies with frequent doses of drugs and sex. The action takes place on a landscape of sand, tents, and coolers—a weirdly symbolic representation of an apartment in the "wilderness" of modern California—and centers on the neuroses and paranoia of Eddie, a casting director who finds his pad the favorite crashing place of a variety of friends, associates, and total strangers.

The dialogue is swift, funny, and exquisitely clever—often so clever that it jumps out of character and attempts to sustain itself on sheer contrivance alone—but the plot drifts about elusively, evolving slowly, then ultimately vanishing in a tide of disparate, confusing events.

Reis has not so much a story to tell as an ambience to create (hence, the tents). Eddie's apartment/campsite becomes a nexus for the unsavory power struggles and crass interrelations that comprise the friendships and love interests of Hurly Burly's characters. The drama, and humor, that evolves is chiefly miscellaneous, misogynous, and misanthropic, hitting close to the bone often enough that the play establishes a rapport with the audience by recognizing its darker tendencies.

With each successive act, these tendencies become increasingly more evident in the actions of the characters on stage, and the laughs become less and less frequent. The line between humor and horror is a fine one, and Hurly Burly dances purposefully along it, sometimes stumbling indiscernately into one or another.

It was, however, director Farley Rich- mond's harnessing of a spirited cast that gave this production its ultimate success. In a play so dependent upon the simulation of reality, the seven actors and actresses offer convincing performances that rarely let the text down. Morgan Margolis as the self-destructive Phil, and Andy Steinke as the success-minded Artie, play well off D.W. Reichhold's manic, sardonic Eddie. As student theatre goes, it's tough to beat.