TERMINATED

Now that we’ve got a brand new President running this great big country, and the Republican juggernaut has a lease on four more years of business-first policies, I reckon, that old chestnut, abortion, is back in the limelight. The Supreme Court’s decision to review Roe v. Wade is living proof of that. George wasn’t just whistling dixie when he said he’d do his damnedest to give legalized abortions the boot when he came into office.

Of course, it isn’t entirely up to him. There are a few formalities to be weathered—like the judicial proceedings of the Supreme Court. But with the political winds in his favor (not to mention the ideological biases of most of the justices), things could get mighty sticky over the next few years.

With this in mind, the National Organization of Women (or, for you recalcitrants, “Wimmin”) has organized a gigantic pro-choice march on the Capitol for April 9. Their contention is that the state has no right to deny the option of terminating a pregnancy, and they’re inviting all their friends to come and support that position. Not a bad idea, when it comes right down to it.

It has always been the admission of any well-established government that it can legislate the morality of its citizens. This, as a recent example like Prohibition reminds us, is not always a good idea. When a desired commodity is made illegal, criminals will assume the task of supplying it. This intriguing causality has occurred with every substance ever controlled, including alcohol, marijuana, and LSD. Abortions, though a service rather than a substance, are no exception to the rule. Back-alley abortions have been around as long as there have been alleys. The coat-hanger is a recent innovation.

In a society where sexual activity is portrayed as the ultimate spare-time activity by every element of the mass-media, pre- and extra-marital sex will remain popular. Similarly, in a society where birth control devices are still widely kept behind drugstore counters and off prime-time television (even in this age of AIDS fun’n’games), accidental pregnancies will continue to occur. When one society harbors both these tendencies (like, say, ours), people will inevitably seek to term the pregnancies neither sought after nor expected.

The legal battle that has so incensed Americans revolves (and revolves and revolves around the question: when is a fetus a human? When is it murder to perform an abortion? A tricky question, to say the least, and one that can only be answered through aggressive, creative legislation. A fetus is a human being when the state says it is. Period.

Of course, that’s the problem. Everybody and his Uncle Frank has an opinion on the matter and won’t be satisfied until the state adopts it and turns it into law. Hence, theology enters the legislative process. The separation of church and state crumbles away, in a running, unsolvable argument on when a fertilized egg becomes a citizen of the United States and not just a big tadpole sleeping in some-one’s uterus.

Some of your reporters definitely I puked

Letter to the Editor: A Concerned Student

Get Laid

The Stony Brook Press is published an article entitled “Sign Here, Please” by the noted scientist, Dr. Roy U. Schenk. While I wholeheartedly agree with the urgent need to develop the basic principles of scientific dating—unlike the harsh and opinionated female young lady who would not let Dr. Schenk buy her a dinner (according to the March 9th issue of The Press)—I would like to question one aspect of Dr. Schenk’s excellent, in-depth analysis, and I also would like to offer an important suggestion of my own. I have to admit, I’m not a bone-fide scientist (a. b. a plus a. m. a. still separates me from a Ph. or any other D.), but I did my share of field research in this area and still do it whenever I get a chance. As an amateur, this is my first organized attempt to turn my practical insights into a higher level of universal consciousness on this utterly serious subject.

In my treatise, Dr. Schenk discussed equal financial contributions to dating expenses as a way to optimalize the “150th step,” especially as far as the female partner is concerned. I would like to argue (respectably) against this egalitarian view of treating virtual equals equally when their actual equality is unequal (Aristotle, improved). Let me expand on this very important aspect—maybe the cornerstone of my argument—for slower thinkers and enemies of dateology. While it is true that usually the male partner bears financial responsibility for mutual dating activities, one has to take into consideration the preparational effort expended by the female counterpart. The high cost of purchasing make-up materials and the extended time-period of skillfully applying same port a considerable financial as well as physical burden on the female subject. Periodical visits to the hairdresser, the beautician, and the gynecologist also have to be taken into consideration as inevitable costs of dating activity. Hair-trimming services for men are much less costly and guys see a doctor only if their pecker is just about ready to fall off.

The last statement of the pre-cited paragraph is regretted as very unscientific. It can easily cast an unfavorable light on the emerging new field of dateology—a mistake deplored and promised not to be repeated in the rest of this short report.

Equitable distribution of burdens and responsibilities of dating expenses is what dateology is all about. Preparation for unforeseen occurrences—unless dating inter-continued on page 11

Generically speaking, it seems anti-abortion activists are more concerned with the rights of a child before it is born, than they are when it finally plants its feet on terra firma. Social welfare programs remain seriously underfunded and undermined in this post-Reagan era, and an unwanted non-white child has about a snowball’s chance in hell of finding a willing foster family to raise it from infancy. That, however, is not a hot issue. Fetuses are cute and helpless and fraught with mystical implications, but orphans aren’t. Once you’re out of that womb, kid, you’re on your own, but until then, nothing but the best from the rigorous right.

An abortion is the last resort of a desperate woman. If that resort is removed, she has no choice; she either finds a back-alley or goes through with the pregnancy—and don’t kid yourself that back-alleys won’t come back into vogue. If Roe is repealed.

Abortion is unpleasant and unnatural; pregnancies were designed by biology to produce children. Nobody likes the idea of a half-sentient fetus slopping around in a bucket of placental slime after surgical removal, but until birth control methods are propagated as widely and with as much enthusiasm as sexually-oriented media (from jeans commercials to Jessica Hahn), abortions will continue to be a part of American life—with or without governmental approval.

(For more information on the NOW March, see Footnotes, page 5.)
Riding on Borrowed Time

by John Dunn

Stony Brook’s bus system, which serves 140,000 riders a year on three commuter runs and two locals, is failing apart. The volume of use puts a tremendous strain both on the fleet—whose newest bus was built 15 years ago—and on the people who drive the buses.

The heart of the system is the depot in South P. Lot. Here, the buses are stored and maintained between runs. Each morning, every bus is fueled, cleaned, and has a pre-run trip before going out into service. No bus that fails inspection enters service, and this sometimes creates a shortage leading to rental of outside coaches.

A number of buses in the depot are out of service permanently. Buses numbered 1, 3, and 6 are for sale or scrap, while others—the Sunrisers buses—are used for parts to keep the existing fleet running (not always an easy task, given the age of the vehicles and the repair facilities). The newest chassis dates from 1982, the oldest from 1986. Although all the buses have been refurbished more recently, their frames are still old.

The past practice has been to save money by buying used and repairing them, rather than buying new ones. That policy is going to change, according to Hugh Mulligan, Director of Auxiliary Services—the department which took over operation of the bus service last summer. Stony Brook is spending at least double what other schools with new fleets spend, in order to keep a dilapidated system operational. Currently, the fleet is driven by eleven year-round people to do so. One suggestion from a 1983 task force report was to post signs all of buses and bus stops announcing that

by Robert V. Gilheany

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) celebrated its 15th anniversary at Stony Brook during March 6-9. For the past decade-and-a-half, gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have had a space on campus to struggle for freedom—freedom from sexual repression in the form of negative social pressure from a larger, homophbic community.

The 1960s saw a rebirth of the feminist movement and the sexual revolution was peaking. Radical feminist and lesbian activists saw themselves as oppressed—just as a hundred years earlier, women in the abolitionist movement had a space on campus to struggle for freedom—freedom from sexual repression in the form of negative social pressure from a larger, homophbic community.

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Illegal parking. The problems occur just about anywhere on campus. A few examples:

Snowfencing had to be installed in front of the Chapin bus shelter to prevent cars from parking in front of it and blocking access. Despite the fencing, cars still pull up on the curb beside it.

Illegal parked cars in the hospital loop are a disaster. Despite signs saying “No Parking, Fire Zone,” cars and taxis, many of which are anus-manned, park in the loop anyway. With the cars there, it becomes almost impossible to get a bus through. This delays one or both of the locals for up to 15 minutes at a time, which, in turn, causes system-wide delays.

The little impromptu parking lot in front of the Union marked “Don’t Even Think Of Parking Here” is actually for campus buses. Under ideal conditions (i.e., no vehicles in the area), the bus would pull into that cutoff. This hasn’t occurred for ages for obvious reasons.

The other major problem facing the buses and their riders is vehicles passing stopped buses. Just about every type of vehicle, including those of Public Safety, have been spotted passing stopped campus buses even though campus regulations forbid the passing of a stopped bus, no matter what the location. This includes the Engineering loop and the South Campus stop where cars whip by at 50 mph with no thought of stopping. The current fine for passing a stopped bus is $75. Mulligan said, "If we see a vehicle pass by $60 to make it worse, we’ll try to make it more of a deterrent. One suggestion that we’ve already been hit by a car passing a stopped bus—though not seriously injured.

One complaint from drivers is that they don’t know they are supposed to stop. The committee is open to answers on how to get people to do so. One suggestion from a 1983 task force report was to post signs on all of buses and bus stops announcing that
Petitions Are Available for the Following Polity Positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Sophomore Rep, Junior Rep, Senior Rep, Judiciary, SASU, and Stony Brook Council

Come to Rm 258 Union Building. Ask for Barbara. Petitions must be turned in by 5:00PM April 10.

Election Date is 4/17, Run-Off 4/27. Sign Up Sheet for poll-watchers in Polity Office.

SKYDIVING
Sponsored by the SPA

Fast Fun for Curing the SB Weekend Blues

☐ absolutely NO experience needed
☐ transportation/equipment/lodgings provided
☐ learn with the MOST experienced man in the USA
☐ lowest price available in area
☐ FUN

Union Building 223
Tuesday 9PM
Continued from page 3

GALA into the public light and people would get to know them.

On March 9, Jewelle Gomez talked of the New Left feminist idea that the "personal" is political. "If the personal wasn't political," she said, "then it's about the gay and lesbian issue, and there wouldn't be laws against the homosexual acts."

Though a lawyer by profession, she spoke of the fact that she attends rallies for pro-choice abortion, a similar issue. "Why should I care about pro-choice... ? I'll be there because my sisters' rights are at stake."

The night before, a panel discussion was held on homosexuality in God's eye. The panel included a Catholic chaplain, Rev. William Koenig, a Presbyterian minister (an associate pastor on gay and lesbian issues), Rev. Kenneth Wolfe, Jewish chaplain Joseph S. Topak, and Unitarian chaplain Katherine Lehman-Becker of the University Interfaith Center.

The latter said: "You want to know - the bottom line - is homosexuality against Jewish law? The answer is yes." He pointed to passages in the Bible's Book of Leviticus: "For man to lie down with his fellow man is an abomination." Nobody, however, is perfect, he said, and God judges the whole person. On gay and lesbian synagogues, he concludes: "Through they may violate Jewish law in one area, in all others they are like other synagogues."

Koenig said the Catholic church has gotten a "bad rap" on the issue of homosexuality. He spoke of how the church has sanctioned itself to it through discussion groups. Christ, he said, never condemned homosexuality. He condemned righteousness, and the only person guaranteed a place in heaven was a prostitute.

Wells referred the audience to a bibliography of works on the church and homosexuality and stressed the importance of social research. In the Unitarian denomination, Lehman-Becker said, gays and lesbians can rise to the highest positions in the church. An audience member said that if he were to advise a homosexual person, he would send them to the Unitarians, because other doctrines foster self-hatred and guilt.

A workshop by Robert O. Hawkins dealt with bisexuality. Hawkins said bisexuals exist. But he said that people move within the scale during their lives and the six-category scale is too general.

Hawkins also criticized the idea of trying to cure homosexuality. He described experiments going on in Germany to alter hormone levels, and said that such work is an example of a country trying to change its citizens.

David Wertheimer, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, offered another in its series of double-header readings. "I'm a bit of a political edge to bias-related violence. When asked where homophobia comes from, he replied: "Our Judeo-Christian background." Wertheimer said more of the attackers in bias-related crime are young men.

He described an anti-bias bill in the New York State Legislature that would enforce stiffer penalties for bias crimes. The bill includes stiffer sentences on crimes against people for religion, race, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation. For the past two years, the bill died in the Republican-controlled Senate. This year, he said, it seems to have a good chance of passing, but it's being held in the Senate as a bargaining chip. The Republicans told the Black and Puerto Rican caucuses that if they drop the sexual-orientation bill from the bill, it would pass. The caucus said, "Screw you."

Middle East Teach-In

There may not be any seats left, but the USB B'nai B'rith Kehillot Foundation is sponsoring a day-long teach-in on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on Sunday, April 9. Advance registration is actively encouraged due to limited space, but if you can get in, the agendas include current and political/military analyses of the conflict, a tasty kosher lunch, and a panel of Failure of the two-state solution. Rates are $7 for students and $10 for non-students, and registration forms are available from B'nai B'rith at the Interfaith Center (632-6563).

OFF CAMPUS

The Time Is NOW

Well, it's happening. Our Eagling President has made good on his pledge to do his level best to take away the right of American women to terminate their pregnancies. Hey, it's the prerogative of the states, right? Women have no claim on their biological functions, only morally upright bureaucrats do. Well, we know it--it's happening. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to decide on the issue. If you can get in, the agenda includes current and political/military analyses of the conflict, a tasty kosher lunch, and a panel of women's perspectives. Rates are $7 for students and $10 for non-students, and registration forms are available from B'nai B'rith at the Interfaith Center (632-6563).

The festivities start at 8 p.m., April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Humanities 239, this time with Tulani Davis and Michael Waters in the spotlight. As if that weren't enough, American/ Irish poet John Montague will step by the following evening (same place, same time) to read a few of his favorites, too. Hello, you won't be there, so step by and say howdy.

Back to the Bates Motel

The latter is USB's Topics in Art lecture series is "Hitchcock's Psycho, a Glimpse Behind the Shower Curtain," offered by resident critic, Michael Edelson.

The date: Monday, April 18. The time: 8:00 p.m. The location: Staller Fine Arts Gallery. The price: free as the air you breathe.

For Mature Audiences Only

Last Summer At Bluefish Cove is a "witty and loving portrait... of eight women at a summer colony." Sounds innocent enough, but, as it turns out, writer Jane Chambers is a "premier lesbian playwright" and the performance is restricted to Mature Audiences. If that gets your attention, this Student Theatre production is in Three, 11 April and April 17 & 18 in the Staller Center Theatre. Tickets are $2 at the door, $1 with ID.

Space Is The Place

Dig it. Another ESS Astronomy Open Night, April 7 at 8 p.m. in Harriman 137, Topic: "The Universe Around Us: Who are the Great Astronomers?" Lecturer: Yama Yahi.

The usual post-lecture telescope viewing ceremony will take place, and the ESS museum and library will both be open free of charge all evening. For further information, seek out the one they call Dolores Rohrbach (632-8221). You won't be sorry.
"Everyone Has Lived Here Sometime or Another"
Correspondence from Afar

Letter-writing has become one of the finer arts that have survived the transformation of the medium and the message. Back in 1989, the author wrote to the editor of the Stony Brook Press, expressing her admiration for the art of letter-writing. She noted that because of its immediacy, letters can convey a sense of humanity and connection that is often lost in the digital age. The author ended her letter by expressing her hope that letter-writing would continue to be valued and that future generations would have the opportunity to enjoy its many benefits.

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March 30, 1989

Dear Editor,

I am a subscriber to the Stony Brook Press and I was interested in the recent discussion about the decline of letter-writing. As someone who has always enjoyed writing letters, I wanted to express my views on the matter.

In my opinion, letter-writing is not only a means of communication, but also a way of preserving memories and fostering personal relationships. When one reads a letter that was written long ago, it can bring back happy memories and remind one of the people in one's life who are no longer present.

Moreover, letter-writing is a way of expressing oneself in a way that is not possible through electronic means. There is something special about the way in which a letter is handwritten or typed, and the way in which it is delivered by hand or by post, that makes it a unique form of communication.

I believe that letter-writing should be encouraged and preserved for future generations. While the digital age has brought many benefits, there is something to be said for the slower pace and more thoughtful nature of letter-writing.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
SAB Concerts present

Springfest Weekend

Fishbone

Friday April 14

$8 tickets are extremely limited
Buy in advance

Ramones

Saturday April 15

$10 students
$15 public

Funded by S.A.B. (students of the arts)

Rush for tix now

page 8 The Stony Brook Press
Thursday, Mar. 30
- Circle of Power
- Hillel Bistro at Downtown
- Dirty Dozens Brass Band at the Bottom Line

Friday, Mar. 31
- A.C. Reed at the Village Gate
- Dirty Dozens Brass Band at the Bottom Line

Saturday, Apr. 1
- Sick of It All at CBGB's
- Simply Red at the Beacon Theatre
- Neville Brothers at the Pyramid

Sunday, Apr. 2
- David Crosby at the Peninsula
- Neville Brothers at the Bottom Line

Monday, Apr. 3
- Throwing Muses at the Ritz
- U.S. Blues at the Palladium

Tuesday, Apr. 4
- Terrance Simien & the Mallet Playboys at the Bottom Line
- Dogs D'Amour at the Bottom Line

Wednesday, Apr. 5
- Mike and the Mechanics at the Bottom Line
- Simply Red at the Bottom Line

Thursday, Apr. 6
- Terrace Simien & the Mallet Playboys at Stephen Talkhouse
- Radiators at the Bottom Line

Friday, Apr. 7
- Al Green at the Beacon Theatre
- Simply Red at the Bottom Line

Saturday, Apr. 8
- Riki at the Bottom Line
- Simply Red at the Bottom Line

Sunday, Apr. 9
- Aliens vs. Gondek at the Bottom Line
- David Crosby at the Bottom Line

Monday, Apr. 10
- Dog's D'Amour at the Bottom Line
- Neville Brothers at the Bottom Line

Tuesday, Apr. 11
- Neville Brothers at the Bottom Line
- Throwing Muses at the Bottom Line

Wednesday, Apr. 12
- Neville Brothers at the Bottom Line

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Sunday, June 11
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- Throwing Muses at the Bottom Line

Dear EROS,

I'm nineteen years old and have never had a gynecological exam. Should I be concerned?

— Wondering

Dear Wondering,

There are no concrete rules on when a woman should have a gynecological (GYN) exam. It is recommended that a woman should have her first exam at age eighteen. Any woman who is sexually active before age 18 should have a GYN exam. A woman who plans to use prescription birth control (pill, diaphragm, or cervical cap), has a sexually transmitted disease, vaginal infections or any abnormalities, or is pregnant should have a GYN exam.

If you would like to know more about GYN exams, the counselors at EROS will be happy to explain the procedures and answer any questions.

Myths and Facts

Myth: The withdrawal method of birth control (when the man pulls out of the vagina before ejaculation) is highly effective.

Fact: The drops of fluid that come out of the penis just after erection but before ejaculation contain enough sperm to cause pregnancy. This method is only 40% effective.

For more information, contact EROS. EROS is a confidential peer counseling organization located in room 119 Infirmary (632-6450). Letters to DEAR EROS can be dropped off or sent through interoffice mail to 119 Infirmary, or placed in our mail box in the Polity suite in the Union.

March 30, 1989 page 9
Stop fooling around. It's time to get hardcore about software. With Microsoft.

We'll give you all the resources you want. Tens of millions in R&D funding. Along with one of the most elementary tools for thinking — a door, which leads to your own private office. All backed by management that truly 

speak your language, because they probably helped write it. We're serious about software design. If you are too, then apply right now for one of these positions.

Software Design Engineers
We're working on everything from object-oriented methodology, compilers, operating systems, and networking to sophisticated graphics, powerful applications software and more. In fact, we're working on some truly visionary ideas we can't even reveal yet. You could be too, if you have programming experience and a background that includes micro's, "C" or Pascal, 8086, 68000, UNIX/XENIX®, Macintosh® Toolbox, or MS-DOS.

Program Managers
Instant responsibility. You select the features, you shape the product, you design the user interface for new generations of software. Guide product development from programming through documentation and testing. Keep your product at the forefront of technology by knowing your competitors and product trends.

There are full-time and summer opportunities to work with our teams in applications, systems, languages, or CD-ROM. If you're about to graduate or are working towards a B.S. or B.A. in computer science, math, physics, or related field, we want to talk to you.

Microsoft offers you an opportunity to live and work where the quality of life is high and the cost of living is low — the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Along with amenities such as a health club membership, workout facilities and parcours, plus an array of benefits.

Begin by sending your resume TODAY to College Relations.
Dept. JW, MICROSOFT CORPORATION, 16011 NE 36th Way, Box 97017, Redmond WA 98073. No phone calls, please.
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Trademarks are registered by their respective companies.
T he latest film from Monty Python alumnus Terry Gilliam is a crushing disappointment to those who previously, at least, seemed to become more innovative with each successive work. Loosely based on the tall tales of R.E. Raspe and anonymous Others, Munchausen relates the final excursion of an aging adventurer whose exploits have become half-obscured legend in his own lifetime. At the beginning of the film, in a city under siege by the Turks, a gaunt and senile Baron (John Neville) stumbles upon a chintzy theatrical production of his life and travels. Angered by the inequity and poor quality of the script, he disrupts the performance with brandished sword, taking the stage himself to set the record straight. The theatrical troupe, desperate to make the best of a bad situation, backs him up all the way, improvising to act out the Baron's reminiscences as he relates to them the confused and hostile crowd. The film then fades discreetly from staged dramatization to cinematic recreation—a flashback, that is—using the same sets to double for the real McCoy in Munchausen's memory: a neat and effective trick.

Had the filmmakers stuck with this tale-telling conceit, something interesting might have developed, but it's dropped like a hot potato as soon as it's been properly established. This sort of thing, in fact, happens repeatedly: the movie seems to kick off to a good start about half a dozen times before it finally gets rolling, and once it does get rolling, the damn thing stumbles on random intervals and changes direction for no perceptible reason. Like fidgety children, Gilliam and co-screenwriter Charles McKeown seem to have neither the presence of mind nor the attention span to maintain a decent continuity, and Munchausen suffers immeasurably as a result.

What eventually evolves from this wandering, stop-and-start mess is a quast by the doddering old Baron and a little squirt of a girl to find the former's four super-powered servants and effect an end to the Turkish siege. The body of the film deals with this search, allowing a series of loosely-related plot elements to substitute for a plot. Once Munchausen gets this far, however, it at least begins to offer variety: the Baron has to take a charge travel to the moon (a surreal encounter with the schizophrenia lunar king, played with routine gusto by Robin Williams), the Forge of Vulcan (featuring Oliver Reed in a marvelous display of grunting, sweaty macho), and the cavernous belly of a sea monster (shades of Jonah and Pinnochio). Throughout, the Baron collects his super-powered servants in a quest for four, growing strangely younger (and occasionally older) as the quest proceeds. When at last the final suspect has been snagged, however (conveniently close to the besieged city), the rescue party proves to be less than potent. Disguised, the Baron turns himself over to the enemy, discovering, in the process, that the siege is the result (WARNING: Social Commentary!) of the evil machinations of soulless bureaucrats, including one supposedly on the side of the besieged (Jonathan Pryce, in an inspired parody of aristocratic simianism).

Ultimately, of course, the old farts rally to kick butt and save their honorable master, but the real conclusion to Munchausen occurs in a Brazil-like reality jump back to the stage where, as it turns out, the whole movie was just another "cinematic recreation" of the Baron's yarn-spinning. Suddenly, though, the whole thing seems to have passed.