

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

Vote on SOLAR from
Noon March 27th -
Noon April 1st

2006 USG Elections Guide



Imagine if the university implemented new rules saying that if you had a party in the dorms you were only allowed to have 125 people and four and a half kegs of beer. In 1979, Stony Brook students were pissed off. The university was tightening control, according to the headline on the first story ever published by *The Stony Brook Press*. How far down we've come as students since then, in our ability to shape our lives on campus, and our current trajectory further downward, are the real stories of this year's student government election—in spite of the drama of a bitterly contested battle over which candidates will appear on the ballot and “October surprise” last minute accusations and counteraccusations between the Presidential candidates.

Those pissed off students (from 1979) had several complaints. For the first time, the administration was requiring that students file paperwork to reserve space for events in dorms; the limits on parties and alcohol mentioned above were a worst-case scenario fear based on rules from SUNY Oswego.

Residence Hall Directors (RHDs), who had been on campus for only two years, for the first time were hiring and firing Resident Assistants (RAs); before 1979 students elected their own RAs. Needless to say, if students elected their own RAs you wouldn't be coming back from winter break to find that some jackass had written up the earrings you cut out of a shoebox for your Halloween costume as a violation of the campus weapons policy, as actually happened this year to one *Press* editor.

The administration was also cracking down on student businesses. Then, the campus was rife with both entrepreneurial and cooperatively managed student businesses that sprung up organically in response to student needs. The Rainy Night House, a café and musical venue in the basement of the Student Union, was so popular among the students that it did a million dollars worth of business in one year. But that year the administration had changed the locks on coffeehouses in four dorms in Kelly, and, as *Press* founding editors Eric Brand

and Melissa Spielman wrote, "not even campus Security had the key." The administration closed the coffeehouses because they were serving beer without a license. The coffeehouse managers had filed the paperwork, but it had been set aside, unprocessed, because the administration unilaterally decided that newly liquor-license coffeehouses would cannibalize the business of the seven already approved student owned and operated bars in dorms.

Increasing campus Security presence in the dorms and the seizure of student owned vending and pinball machines authorized by students in dorm leg's but not by central administrators were among several other concerns.

The student government organized two large campus rallies condemning the administration moves. Three dorm legislatures voted to bar their RHDs from leg meetings. One drafted a resolution that "We do not want RAs or MAs who fit the Administration's or the RHD's idea of suitability...no matter what the cost to the efficiency of the RHD program...The building residents are much more familiar with their needs than Residence Life." The students response was organized, and expressed a seriousness and a coordination that forced the administrators to roll back some of the

changes.

That today's students suffer far greater ignominies without complaint speaks volumes about our self-respect. That this is how we learn to participate in public life goes a long way in explaining America's civic decline.

In the final paragraph of Brand and Spielman's article, they relate the opinion of a Faculty Student Association (FSA) staffer, Chief Operations Officer John Songster, that he was pressured out of his job for failing to cooperate with the administrative crackdown. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Within this elections guide we're publishing, excerpted, a letter from Sonia Guttman to the student body. Guttman was a professional staffer in student government who lost her job last year. She thinks it was because she wouldn't cooperate with important decision-making going on behind students' backs. She sounds an alarm; the students had better wake up before we lose control.

The good news is that in last Wednesday's debate (which you can see broadcast on SBU-TV Channel 20) the candidates running for Senate (the ones who showed up) and President expressed an understanding and preparedness to organize students if the USG's will is ignored.

Inside the Elections Guide

The Press' Undergraduate Student Government (USG) elections guide is a compilation of articles (news and opinion) about the elections, a quick explanation of the offices in "contention" (far too many races feature only one candidate), the endorsements of our editorial board, and information about individual candidates. Individual coverage includes brief interviews in which the candidates were asked standardized questions, as well as free ad space provided to the candidates. Some of the interviews with Executive Council candidates bear an icon marking the endorsement of *The Press'* editorial board.

The Press went to great lengths to communicate directly with as many candidates as possible, seeking to interview the candidates and provide them with free ad space. This was made tremendously difficult by several factors, including bitter disputes in and between the Elections Board, Senate, Executive Council and Judiciary on the subject of the elections as well as repeated delays and broken promises to provide candidate contact information by the admittedly overworked Elections Board.

The names of candidates appeared and disappeared and appeared again on official lists of who was going to be on the ballot. We were given, and in some cases not given, a variety of reasons why candidates were prevented from running, some clearly legitimate, some less so. Efforts to inform the candidates of what the hell was going on were appallingly poor. In the worst case, a candidate showed up late for her debate through no fault of her own, but because the location had been moved at the last minute. Debate moderators from the Elections Board made her wait for an hour to speak without mentioning to her that she had been removed from the ballot. The last word was that she may have been returned to the ballot.

The result: there may be candidates on the ballot who are not discussed in this guide; similarly, we may profile candidates for whom you cannot vote. Candidates who remain dissatisfied with their treatment by the administration of the election are encouraged to approach *The Press*.

Vote For Sam Darguin, Amy Wisnoski, Trevor Hirst and Chinelo Onochie

In considering the presidential candidates for the upcoming Undergraduate Student Government (USG) election, we at the Stony Brook Press find that both candidates are experienced and competent. We were, however, particularly impressed by Samuel Darguin's responsibility, and feel that he would be the ideal candidate to represent the student body at this university. A Junior double-major at the university, Mr. Darguin has been an active member of our academic community and student government. As the Executive Vice President of USG, and therefore the Chair of the USG Senate, Darguin has been hard working and productive. He showed great leadership skills in leading his running mates through this campaign. His passion and commitment to the students will lead us through a great school year. We would find it hard to argue, however, against Romual Jean-Baptiste, currently serving as Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities.

The President of USG is ultimately responsible for the lawful operation of the entire student government, leads the student body and represents us on and off the campus (including, this year, serving to represent both the undergraduate and graduate students as the one student on the Stony Brook Council—to whom the SUNY Board of Trustees delegates management of the university and oversight of University President Shirley Strum Kenny). The president also manages the professional staff, delivers reports on the state of the university, and appoints students to USG agency positions. The president consults with the Executive Council on all matters.

We had an easier time considering the candidates for Executive Vice President. Not that Paley Yin, formerly of the USG Judiciary, has anything going against him other than the competition. Amy Wisnoski is the most impressive student leader in the USG, and a great candidate for EVP.

Continued on page 7

Vote Yes for the Mandatory Student Activity Fee!

By Adina Silverbush

They'll be a question proposed to you on solar when you vote, whether you believe paying a student activity fee should be mandatory or voluntary. It's essential that you vote mandatory on this question! If you are involved in any clubs or dorm events on campus, this is the money that supports those things you care so much about. This is the money that gives students a life on campus.

I know what you may be thinking, life on

campus at Stony Brook? Huh? You think you're complaining now about lack of events, the campus will be a real dead zone if we lose the Student Activity Fee. Big events like Roth Regatta, Strawberry Fest and Earthstock will vanish! Forget about karaoke nights, dances, newspapers (the Stony Brook Press is completely funded by these fees), cultural events, and free food! They'll be no comedy shows, hypnotists, concerts, celebrities,

and basically no chance for students to be involved. You'll go to class and go home. College is not just about the classroom, give yourself and your fellow students a chance to enjoy themselves and learn socially by telling the university you care about student life and are willing to pay a fee to ensure it!

On Wednesday, March 22nd, the Elections Board held a debate for candidates for the positions of Senator and President. Candidates were asked questions by the moderators, Elections Board Chair Max Sequeira and member Sharon Weiss, members of student media organizations, and the gallery. The event, which was scheduled to run from 8 to 11, ran well over time, ending just before midnight, and was plagued with microphone problems.

The first segment of the debate was targeted at candidates for Senate for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Only one candidate, the Reform Party's Kenny Hoang, was present for this category. Hoang said he wants to be a Senator because he sees a lot of unhappiness in fellow students. He says they need someone to represent them who can be there for more than a year or two.

After Hoang finished, eleven candidates for College of Arts and Sciences Senate seats took the stage. Five of the candidates (Ketty Dautruche, Simone Grant, Jonathan Hirst, Charles Nwabuobi, and Andrew Weber) represented the SUCCESS party, five (Alexandra Borodkin, Drew Curran, Matt Maiorella, Robert Romano, and Nathan Shapiro) represented the Reform Party, and one, Ryan O'Connor, is running as an independent. The Senators generally gave similar responses to most questions. All were in favor of stricter enforcement of Parliamentary procedure at Senate meetings, making paperwork for clubs available at a single location or online, fighting apathy among Senators, and organizing students to fight for their rights against the administration. Several candidates had ideas for legislation concerning the school's required tech fee, which currently goes to funding the SINC sites. O'Connor and Maiorella proposed that the tech fee could be optional for two years, and those students who paid would be given a laptop for personal use. Jonathan Hirst expressed an idea to extend wi-fi to the dorms.

The final event of the night was the Presidential debate. Each candidate had an opportunity to make an opening statement before the

Continued on page 6

Editorial Note:
Robert Romano filed a brief with the Judiciary to invalidate Sam Darguin from running for USG President. The decision and that story will be available on Monday, March 27th.

For now, blank space.

Sonia Guttman: I Refused to be a Pacifier

"I think it is an organization that has no heart...that ultimately cares about money and power," writes Sonia Guttman about the Faculty Student Association (FSA). In a letter addressed to the students, excerpted here, she suggests that undergraduates have very little, and increasingly less, real power over managing our affairs at Stony Brook, including the approximately two and a half million-dollar student activities budget. Guttman used to work for the student government, and believes she lost her job because she wouldn't cooperate with the FSA and the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs dealing dishonestly with the students and using the institution of the Undergraduate Student Government to distract student attention while making decisions behind our backs.

The full text of Guttman's carefully prepared letter is available on our website, www.the-stonybrookpress.com. In the letter, she explains what moved her to write, the structure and recent

history of the student government (including some of the history that lead to USG replacing the old Student Polity Association), her personal experience as a professional staffer in student government (including how and why she thinks she was forced out), why the students should be concerned and what she recommends.

USG was formed in May, 2003 to replace the previous student government, known as Polity. Polity served as student government for many years, but because of mismanagement, poor accounting controls, conflicts of interest, abuses, and an inability to carry out its mission, was decertified in October, 2002. I'm not going to get into all of Polity's problems. I wasn't there, and I think the main lesson to be learned from that experience is that it failed in its task to administer the student activity fee because of the reasons I mention above.

As the recognized student government,

USG is required to comply with two documents: The Chancellor's Guidelines, and the USG Constitution. (You can get copies in the USG main suite in the Student Activities Center.)...

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, the Chancellor's Guidelines establishes a tri-partite structure, consisting of: 1) the student government (USG), 2) an independent fiscal agent, which must be one of the following: Faculty Student Association (FSA), Stony Brook Foundation, Research Foundation, or other contractually recognized campus-affiliated organization (unless the campus receives an exemption), and 3) the Campus President or Designee (VP of Student Affairs). (At present, USG has a contract with FSA to provide services as fiscal and custodial agent.)...

I was employed by the Faculty Student Association (FSA) from May 5, 2003 through July 5, 2005. I was first hired as the USG Accountant,

Continued next page

The Elephant in the Room: is the USG Reform Party Republican?

By Matt Willemain

At the USG debates, the moderators squirmed when a member of the gallery asked presidential candidate Romual Jean-Baptiste if he (and the USG Reform Party whose ticket he heads) was a Republican. Jean-Baptiste explained that he and many of the other candidates endorsed by the Reform party are not Republicans. The question was a reasonable one, however; a more nuanced description of the relationship between the Reform Party and campus conservative activists would be accurate.

The Stony Brook College Republicans originally founded the Reform Party. The party's top leadership, Chair Alex Borodkin and Vice Chair Robert Romano, are College Republicans. When Reform party volunteers were tabling in the SAC to distribute campaign literature they did so as the College Republicans. The party lists five member organizations, the two with ideological orientations are both conservative activist groups: the College Republicans and the Enduring Freedom Alliance (a nonpartisan conservative issues group that, while officially endorsing no candidates or national political parties, publishes the Stony Brook *Patriot* right-wing newspaper and whose membership and leadership often overlap with the those of the College Republicans). Half of the Reform Party's officially endorsed candidates (Chris Dolley, Drew Curran, Borodkin, Romano and Nathan Shapiro) come from the ranks of these groups. The other member organizations of the Reform Party are the nonpolitical Rifle Club, Ice Hockey Team and Chemical Engineers' Society.

Jean-Baptiste appears to have worked closely on his campaign with Romano, who is currently President of the College Republicans.

On the other hand, the Party members argue

that they have made an effort to include people of all political persuasions. And does it even matter? On the one hand, the USG Reform party platform articulates in great detail a non-ideological, pro-student and pro-consumer program. Romano fairly brags that more recent SUCCESS party literature and candidate public comments adopt some of the



Tokyo trembles
Courtesy of those mighty...what do they have, hooves?

ideas first mentioned in this campaign by his party. And the care that went into preparation of the elements of the Reform platform with genuine universal appeal is of value to the student body.

In some important ways, however, there would be negative consequences if conservative activists and their allies were in control of the student government. For example, Romano is an advocate of a legal campaign which argues that because student activity fee money must be distrib-

uted in a "viewpoint-neutral" manner, half of the money granted by campus-wide student referenda to the nonpartisan advocacy group the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG—a statewide student group that fights for affordable higher education, consumer safety, the environment and good government) must be diverted to an astro-turf "conservative alternative" to NYPIRG.

NYPIRG has a large budget funded by the student activity fee because students regularly recognize NYPIRG's three decade long record of careful nonpartisanship while fighting for students, keeping the price of tuition down and advancing other worthy causes like fighting pollution government corruption. To take away half the money student voters periodically confirm should be given to NYPIRG to give to an unproven group would be wrong.

Another problem with the conservative activist element of the Reform Party can be seen in Romano and Borodkin's advocacy of the "Academic Bill of Rights", a measure rejected recently by both the SUNY Statewide Student Assembly (including several representatives from Stony Brook running on the SUCCESS slate) and the Stony Brook University Senate. The "Academic Bill of Rights" comes from national conservative activist David Horowitz, who presents it as a defense of the liberty of students. Presumably, America's oppressively liberal university faculties run classrooms that only present "one side" of important questions and, even worse, situations where students are unfairly penalized in their grading for holding beliefs politically unpopular among the professors.

Continued on page 12

Pacifier Continued...

Continued from previous page

and then I served as the Interim USG Administrative Director...

USG contracted with FSA to serve as fiscal and custodial agent in or about January 2003...For these services, FSA charges USG an annual management fee of between approximately \$200,000 and \$350,000, depending on the amount of time and effort FSA expends on behalf of USG. Obviously, FSA is going to take every opportunity to justify spending as much "time and effort" as possible on USG, another revenue generating operation.

In my role as accountant, I reported directly to FSA and was told that I would be responsible for getting USG's accounting back on track. The old Polity had handled its own accounting and the Accounting Office was in really bad shape. The records were in disarray and for the most part unreliable. Accepted accounting standards had not been followed in years. Assets were missing. There were very poor internal controls, so the student government was frequently taken advantage of. There were several lawsuits pend-

"It became clear that FSA and the Chancellor's Designee has their own agendas...that I believed did not always coincide with the student government's best interests."

ing. Payroll taxes had not been paid on a timely basis in years, so there were huge penalties and interest to contend with. Because of the mess, the student government incurred high accounting and legal fees. In addition to all this, the students were treated with rudeness and disrespect when they entered the Polity Accounting Office. It was a bad situation...

When I originally accepted the position, I had not realized the magnitude of the problems. I, therefore, submitted my resignation, and gave two weeks' notice. However, within a few days of doing so, a student came into my office and introduced herself as the newly elected USG President. To my surprise, she asked me to take back my resignation,

stay and help her and the Executive Council get USG running effectively. I was so impressed with her that I promised to stay and help, and that's exactly what I tried to do. I stuck by the new student government for two years, because of my promise to her...

By the end of the 2003-04 academic year, USG's accounting was pretty much in order. All

bills were up-to-date. Taxes paid. Lawsuits resolved. The outside auditors reviewed the records and gave USG a clean bill of health...However, there were still problems. The student government had trouble filling the USG Administrative Director (A.D.) position. In one year, USG had three Administrative Directors come and go. The A.D. position is a very difficult position for two reasons: 1) on the one hand, it is a position which reports directly to the USG President, on behalf of the Executive Council; and 2) on the other, the A.D. is ultimately an FSA employee. By its very nature, this poses a number of problems. First, you have a professional person reporting to a student, the USG President, who probably has very little professional, work or business experience. Second, there is the potential for conflicts of interest, because although the A.D. is responsible for looking out for the interests of the student government, at the end of the day, he/she is an employee of the Faculty Student Association. (USG has no employees.) Third, due to the very nature of the Student Government, every year the USG President and Executive Council members change, so if the A.D. does his/her job as described in the job description, he/she may have to face the potential displeasure of FSA and/or the Chancellor's Designee, who are here for the long

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

haul. The missions and agendas of the three organizations, which are all part of the tri-partite structure established by the Chancellor's Guidelines, are not always the same, which poses a real problem for the person serving as A.D. In other words, if the A.D. does not "go along," he/she may be gone...

I then approached the USG President and offered to step in as Interim Administrative Director...I was told that the Chancellor's Designee was not pleased with my filling the A.D. position, because I had been labeled a student advocate...

Elections occurred in the Spring of 2004, and a new President was elected. FSA told the student government that the outgoing USG President could not make the decision about the Administrative Director; that it was the decision of the incoming President. The outgoing President wanted me. The new President (I believe under the pressure of the Chancellor's Designee and FSA) suddenly did not. (Originally, he did.) For

months, FSA, the Chancellor's Designee, the newly elected USG President, and the Executive Council argued about whether or not to hire me as Interim A.D. or to pursue a full-fledged search. At the end of the day, the new USG President, under pressure from the Executive Council, instructed FSA to search for a new accountant and to hire me as Interim A.D. for a year...

I sensed a tremendous conflict of interest being an FSA employee and being responsible for the student government's interests. It became clear that FSA and the Chancellor's Designee had their own agendas with regard to the student government, an agenda that I believed did not always coincide with the student government's best interests. I was amazed at the egos, chauvinistic attitudes, and power circles that exist at Stony

Brook University. And I was extremely disappointed by the poor examples and lack of sincere mentoring given the students by professional people, who have worked on this campus for 15, 20, even 30 years.

It reached a point where I discovered that meetings regarding USG were held without my or the Executive Council's knowledge, because it was known that I would report back to the Executive Council. Administrative decisions about USG were being made without the prior approval of the Executive Council, thereby directly conflicting with the USG Constitution and FSA's contract with USG.

FSA even reached the point of manipulating the permanent A.D. search, in order to prevent

"It reached a point where I discovered that meetings regarding USG were held without my or the Executive Council's knowledge..."

Continued on next page

Letter From the Former Elections Board Chair

Confusion and debate ensued when then Elections Board Chair George Surguladze decided unilaterally to extend the deadline for submission of candidate paperwork. He did not have the power to make this decision, but that wasn't clear to the candidates he spoke with who proceeded to file by what they thought was the new deadline. The Press hopes to explore the matter in more detail in future coverage. In this letter, Surguladze shares his personal perspective on those events.

My name is George Surguladze and I am the former Elections Board Chair. I am a junior and have been involved in the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) since my freshman year. USG has been an amazing place to gain real world experience, and I had the opportunity to communicate with many fantastic individuals. This service has made my whole college experience unforgettable.

Being the Chair of the Elections Board has been an amazing experience. I started out as an Elections Board member under then Chair Robert J. Romano. After the fall '05 elections, I was recommended by Robert Romano, the outgoing Chair, to President Diana Acosta to serve as Chair myself. Diana Acosta sent my nomination to the USG Senate, and the Senate later approved me.

As most of the student body can see, the upcoming spring elections are taking place a bit earlier than they normally do. The Elections Board created this timeline because we wanted to increase student voter turnout. Having the spring elections before spring break should play an important role in increasing student participation. After spring break, many college students have tests and religious holidays; thus, candidates don't have enough time to invest in promoting their candidacies. The Elections Board has faced great hardship and dedicated many hours of effort to establish our well-organized timeline. The advertising effort for the elections was well managed and the turnout of candidates has been record-breaking. Many people were surprised by this candidate turnout.

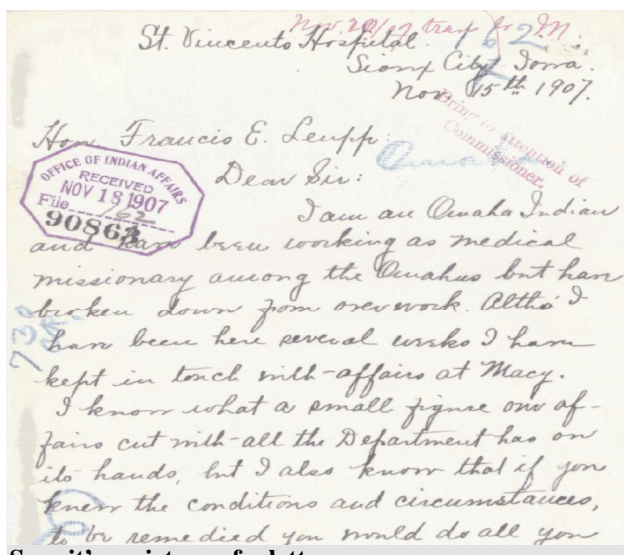
As the deadline approached for candidates to turn in the petition signatures required to appear on the ballot (that deadline was March 6, 2006 at 5pm) it was increasingly apparent that fewer people were handing in their petition forms. Earlier I had been informed by the candidates that many of them had classes from 3:50pm to 5:10pm and just could not make it in to the USG suite to hand in their petitions by 5pm. Thus, I decided to extend the deadline from 5pm to 6pm, in order to have many more candidates on the ballot so that students would have a choice between the candidates. In order to have a true, stable and fair democratic election, it is important for students to have a choice. The bigger

arose. The Elections Board, instead of staying united as a team to fix the problem, has been polarized. The problem was not fixed until the USG Senators became involved. On Tuesday, March 7, 2006, the problem was considered in the Senate and they proposed legislation that would further extend the deadline for the petition forms until Thursday, March 9, 2006. The Senate's intent was to increase even more the number of candidates on the ballot and help the situation faced by the Elections Board.

Many candidates considered the extension of the deadline by the Senate to be unconstitutional and took the case to the USG Judiciary. The Judiciary favored the complaining party and declared the legislation that the Senate passed to be unconstitutional and illegal. It was now on the Elections Board to deal with the situation and help the democratic process.

On Monday, March 13, 2006, I, George Surguladze, chaired a meeting of the Elections Board in the USG Suite conference room (SAC 202), with every board member present (including the two new members appointed the previous Tuesday by the USG Senate). The number of people who showed up was huge. Everybody cared what decision the Election Board would make. Was it going to be the approval of Senate's extended deadline, or holding special elections in the fall? Both sides had amazing arguments for the Elections Board. They both presented their concerns and the Elections Board, as an unbiased independent agency, listened to the heated arguments and debate in great detail. In the end, the question was: was it going to be spring elections and a choice among candidates or having special elections in the fall. The board voted 3-2 in favor of the extension of the deadline. I, personally, think that the Board made the best decision for the student body.

I hope the elections will go down as a great success and will have a great turnout. It is important for students to come out and vote because, at this point, every vote matters.



See...it's a picture of a letter
It just makes the page layout that much nicer

the competition, the better the elections. If only one candidate pursues each office, then what is the point of elections? Thus, I committed political suicide and extended the deadline, in order to give the students democratic elections.

Many candidates, who handed in their petition forms before the original deadline, were upset. They called the other candidates, who handed in their petition forms after the original deadline of 5pm, "irresponsible". Whole arguments and dialogues about who was right and who was wrong

Continued from page 3

questions began. In his statement, Reform Candidate Romual Jean-Baptiste said he intended to lower food prices and centralize communications in USG, while Samuel Darguin of the SUCCESS Party emphasized the need for a USG that represents the student body. According to Jean-Baptiste, the Reform Party and its candidates deserve to win because they are organized and have experience in writing legislation. Communication was a major part of his responses. Several times he mentioned a Central Communication System website for students and government to share information about events, legislation, and meetings. Noting that there was a problem of accountability in USG, he backed his party's policy of making impeachment easier, to punish apathetic Senators. He said that the stipend policy should be made consistent. Currently, only Executive Council members receive payment, while Senators do not. Jean-Baptiste said that either both groups should be paid, or neither. His personal recommendation was that neither should receive stipends.



Tune in to SBU-TV 20 to see the debates
Courtesy of the picture tube

Darguin characterized his SUCCESS ticket as self-motivated individuals who are already leaders. As the current Executive Vice-President of USG, Darguin illustrates the 'experienced leadership' of his party. He gave his experience in changing the Senate this year as an example. Specifically, he said, he made sure that new legislation went through committees rather than being presented directly to the Senate. Also during his term, he said, he ensured that the speakers in the gallery had a chance to speak and did not disrupt the meetings. To reduce apathy in USG, and as an alternative to stipends for Senators, he proposed rewarding officials who do their jobs with Political Science credits and internships with local politicians. He also said SUCCESS would bring diversity to government.

Current USG President Diana Acosta was given a chance to question her potential successors. In one of her questions, President Acosta reminded the candidates that the election is not a popularity

contest, and should take character and honesty into account. She asked them to describe their characters. Speaking of the value of humbleness, Darguin said he was a good listener who students could relate to. Jean-Baptiste said that he was a reliable, approachable leader who "gets the job done." As with the Senators, there were many issues the Presidential candidates agreed upon. Both spoke in favor of political parties in student elections, increasing student advocacy with the administration, enforcing USG laws, and supporting a Constitutional review committee. Both also said they prefer positive campaigns, but when a student asked them to pledge to positive campaigning, only Darguin did so. Jean-Baptiste said "I am for positive campaigning."

Also in attendance at the debate was Andrew Thompson, a representative of the FAILURE party. FAILURE, which stands for Fostering Apathy In Legislation & USG Representation, Eventually, is running no candidates, but will claim victory if fewer than 30% of students vote in the upcoming election. Thompson, a former Senator who was involved in the CORE party last year, also represented the SBU FM radio station

The second debate, for all executive council positions except President, will be held on Thursday, March 23rd.

Pacifier Continued...

Continued from previous page

me from becoming permanent A.D. They instructed the Executive Council to violate their own Constitution under false pretenses, continued to change the makeup of the search committee, and even placed three of their own employees on the search committee at the last minute. Interestingly, these three people made misleading statements about me to members of the Executive Council, directly contradicting FSA's own policies, which require evaluations be provided for all FSA's employees, where any concerns about performance would be addressed...

I had served on three of FSA's prior search committees, and had never seen a search conducted with such bad faith...

FSA is going to tell you that I am a disgruntled employee. There is no question that I was extremely upset by the injustices of what happened. It's not easy to be treated unfairly. However, this is almost one year later and I have gone on with my life...I put a lot of my sweat and caring into the organization, and, believe it or not, I care...

In my opinion, there is an intrinsic conflict of interest in the current tri-partite structure currently administering the Student Activity Fee. The students are at a tremendous disadvantage when they cannot trust their fiscal and custodial agent...When I first started working for USG, members of the student government expressed distrust of the Administration. They felt that everyone was trying to get a piece of the Polity budget. At first, I thought their concerns were due to youthful rebellion against the status quo. But as I spent more time interacting with the cast of characters at Stony Brook University, I could understand the concern. I am amazed by the egos and power circles that exist

at Stony Brook University...the elitism. There is no question that I was bullied, because I refused to go along with agendas I did not believe were in the student government's best interests. My position was that the student government needed to be presented with all sides of the argument, so they could learn. I thought that was the whole point of the Student Government. I did not think the purpose was for the students to learn that the only way to get along in life is to "go along" with the powers that be, and become a cynic. I did not think the lesson was that you need to learn to rub elbows with the powerful, and take advantage of the people who have placed their trust in you. I believe the A.D. should be someone to challenge the students to take responsibility for their organization, and to face the serious problems involved in running a business. I believe the A.D. should encourage the students to remember that USG is about service, not entitlement or special privileges. FSA wanted an A.D., who would act as a pacifier to keep the students quiet and happy. I refused to be a pacifier that you stick in a crying baby's mouth.

As you can see, I don't think very much of the Faculty Student Association (FSA). I think it is an organization that has no heart...that ultimately cares about money and power. Polity suffered the consequences of that type of thinking. I think FSA has forgotten that it is being paid a yearly management fee to provide accounting and human resource services, not to run the Student Government. USG is not another one of FSA's operations, like the meal plan or the laundry service. The problem with FSA is that it does not understand the Student Government. FSA only knows how to control. FSA has no faith in the students' ability to manage a \$2.5 million budget. I don't believe FSA cares about the

little guy, and that's what the Student Government is all about.

This is why I've written this letter. To encourage all of you to make your votes count, and vote for students who are going to stand up for your government. To encourage you to find ways to work together, and with other departments, for USG's successful future. To encourage you to either look for another fiscal and custodial agent, or demand that FSA stop with the nonsense. In my opinion, FSA is not worthy to serve as USG's fiscal and custodial agent. It's not just a matter of the accounting. At this stage, any other respectable organization on campus could step in and take over the accounting function.

Let me add that I do not think that FSA was alone in all of this. I believe that members of the Chancellor's Designee's office were also involved in these shenanigans. FSA was the fall guy if anything went wrong. It is clear there needs to be a serious discussion as to the roles of the Student Government, the Chancellor's Designee, and the Fiscal and Custodial Agent...

(Let me add that I can substantiate everything I've stated in this letter. If the USG Judiciary needs any documentation to this effect, I can provide them with such.)

Finally, I just want to say that I loved working with the students. I met so many wonderful students, who I believe are going to have a positive impact on their community and their world. I also met some wonderful professional people. In spite of everything that has happened, it has been an honor for me to work with those special people. They know who they are. I wish USG all the best.

Vote for Darguin, Wisnoski, Hirst and Onochie Continued...

Continued from page 2

She is intelligent, fair and especially dedicated. She is one of the main reasons we have voting stations in the SAC, the Union, and the Library this year. Amy wants to educate incoming Senators in their positions and actually cares about student involvement on campus. Considering her active voice and hard work in the Senate this past year she is the perfect candidate for EVP.

The Executive Vice President fills in for an absent president and handles whatever of the president's responsibilities he or she chooses to delegate. The EVP is in charge of clerical and record-keeping responsibilities and Chairs the USG Senate.

The only candidate for Treasurer is Stephen Hui. Unfortunately, Hui declined to be interviewed. We regret that we can't make an endorsement for this important position.

The Treasurer is, as you might expect, responsible for the USG's money. The Treasurer Chairs the Senate Budget Committee, delivers reports on the state of the USG's finances and keeps track of all assets and property of the USG and all USG funded clubs.

Clifford Pierre appears to be running unopposed for the Vice President of Communications and Public Relations. His opponent, Miguel Melendez, seems to have been removed from the ballot.

The VP of Communications is responsible for communication from the USG to students and clubs. She or he is also responsible for distributing Executive Council and Senate meeting minutes and running public relations efforts of the USG.

He is running unopposed, but we still wanted to endorse Trevor Hirst for Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities. Recently appointed the Chair of the Student Activities Board, Trevor has been involved in the SAB for a long time and has shown his commitment

to bringing engaging events to campus.

The VP of Student Life works closely with the University Vice President for Student Affairs (administrator Dr. Peter Baigent's office) to address student life issues, works on events programming and ensures that events reflect diversity and are open to the entire student body.

Ralph Thomas is running unopposed to keep his current position, Vice President for Clubs and Organizations.

The VP of Clubs handles interaction between the USG and student groups. He or she meets with the President of each group at least once a semester, and works to train club leadership.



**U is for "you", because I heart you, USG
SG is for "so good", which is how you make me feel**

There are two candidates for Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chinelo Onochie and Latoya Duncan. Onochie currently holds the position, and Duncan was on the Executive Council last year, so both are experienced. Duncan declined to be interviewed. We're endorsing Onochie because she's done a good job and she understands the responsibilities of the job.

The VP of Academic Affairs is in charge of ensuring student representation in academic decision making bodies, like the University Senate. That's the (largely) faculty senate that makes decisions about academic policy, for example: when and if students can take a "pass/no credit" in a course. She or he is also the go-between from the USG to the faculty and the administration, and recognizes faculty members who do the best job helping student development.

Sujej Batista and Samone Rogers are both running for Senior Class Representative. Assuming he doesn't get kicked off the ballot, Onte Johnson is the only candidate for Junior Rep. Jeff Akita was running against Vanessa Lawrence for Sophomore Rep, but Lawrence appears to have been devaluated.

The class reps don't really do anything specific, unless it is delegated to them.

We didn't consider making endorsements in the USG Senate, as, once again, given the number of candidates, just about anyone running will be seated in the Senate, which is divided by students' majors into representatives from the Health Science Center (HSC), College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) and College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). No candidates are running from HSC. Only two, Kenny Hoang and Sheena Joseph, are running from CEAS—both declined to be interviewed. The bulk of the Senate candidates are from CAS. It's worth mentioning that among the Senate candidates, only Alex Borodkin, Andrew Curran, Ketty Dautruche, Simone Grant, Jonathan Hirst, Kenny Hoang, Matt Maiorella, Charles Nwabuobi, Robert Romano, Nathan Shapiro and Andrew Weber bothered to show up for the debate "organized" by the Elections Board.

The Senate writes laws and resolutions, reviews the policies and procedures of the USG and divides up the student government's money collected from your student activity fees.



All the candidates were asked the same questions: 1) Why are you running for USG? 2) What changes do you plan to implement, if elected? 3) What do you think about student apathy?

Samuel Darguin, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for President

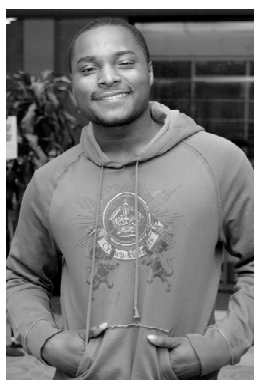


1) Samuel is running for USG because he believes “student government should be felt by the student body.” The diversity of the many different people of the SUCCESS party ticket is very important to him.

2) Changes he would like to implement include increase in student life where everyone can have fun. He wants RHA and CSA should work together on events. He would like to schedule events that are a good time for commuters. He believes the government now is lacking. They need to be advocating for students and realize what needs to be changed about our government. When talking about tuition problems, Samuel said, “Student government can be a big force.” Students need to learn more about the tuition increases. He used the metaphor of “planting and growing” to explain how to make the government better by using a diverse group minds.

3) Samuel believes that voter apathy is a serious problem and most students on this campus do not vote. He stated that “a campaign needs to be launched to educate students.” He suggested open forums where the student body can ask questions. Students should be allowed to ask the tough questions that usually do not get answered and finally get their opinions heard.

Romual Jean-Baptiste, Junior, Reform Party candidate for President



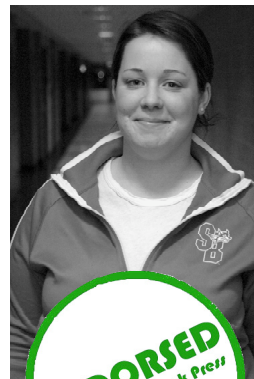
1) Jean-Baptiste feels his current position (vice president for student life) allowed him to take part in many USG agencies and bodies and let him be in contact with students. As a result of this experience, he feels he is qualified and knows what problems the students and their government face.

2) He hopes to change the meal plans—specifically the price of food—and he thinks this could be done if students pressure the Faculty Student Association (FSA) more. He also advocates for a competitive off campus meal plan. He plans to work on weekend life. Jean-Baptiste says that he exceeded a campaign promise to increase student life on campus. He feels the way to address student life is to provide consistent programming, through lobbying other clubs to program events because the Student Activities Board (SAB) “can’t do everything. You’ve got to sell it.”

3) Asked about student apathy, Jean-Baptiste said, “I feel students are more interested in being involved now.” USG campaigning is at an all time high, utilizing novel methods of promotion. His

campaign emphasizes communication between students and government. He wants to set up a website outside of the university that will provide one stop for all information for students. Anyone in USG would be required to write a couple paragraphs to explain to the students any meetings or decisions.

Amy Wisnoski, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Executive Vice President



1) “I am in the senate now and I have a lot of ideas to make it really efficient and accountable. Being a Senator, my power feels so limited to what I want to do as far as implementing my ideas. If I was Executive VP I’d be able to streamline the process. I’m really good at writing legislation and I feel

like I can only do so much being part of a team. If i was the leader I could train a lot of people to do that really well. It seems that the next natural step is to run things now that I know how it works really well.”

2) “One thing I want to do is a lot more specific training for senators. Right now you have people coming in, being senators, who don’t really know anything about their position. People come in and they’re like, “What am I supposed to do?” The best way to solve that is to train them; as far as legislation, when to write a resolution instead of a bill, how do you implement whatever law you’ve just written, how do you lobby. I also want to get the committees to be a lot more active. In the constitution there are these six standing committees and the only one that does anything is the legislative review committee and I’m the chair of that. We just need to train people better. When people know what they need to do they have no problem doing it. Nobody knows what to do.”

3) “That was my biggest issue in Senate this year. I was obsessed with the voting stations. When I ran last year for senate I was running unopposed, all I had to do was vote for myself and I’m in. I thought that was sort of appalling. That was my biggest issue and I ran with it. I hope this election blows up with these voting stations, if they don’t have any impact I’m gonna look like an idiot. But honestly, I think they’re going to be huge. The voting stations will be in the SAC and there will be caution tape to say this is the area the candidate can’t stand and right outside that tape everyone who’s running should be standing there saying, ‘Go vote, go vote for me right now.’ And if that’s the case, just based on foot traffic alone I think we should get at least 20, 25 percent of the campus to vote. When people see other people voting, they are encouraged to vote. They’ll think their vote is so important because all the candidates will be there saying, ‘vote for me, vote for me.’”



Paley Yin, Senior, Reform Party candidate for Executive Vice President

1) Yin says he got involved because he wants to take an active role: “people you meet on campus always complain about USG funding of clubs.” He wants to do something about it.

2) He hopes to make some changes in his Executive Vice Presidential capacity chairing USG Senate meetings because he feels they are not always well organized and strictly observant of the relevant parliamentary procedure.

3) “Apathy a serious issue that bothers me,” begins Yin. At the same time, he thinks USG already took a lot of steps to address the problem, including election campaigns on facebook, and flying by the Elections Board, and innovative advertising like his party’s inclusion of flyers with every Domino’s pizza delivered to campus.

Clifford Pierre, Sophomore, SUCCESS candidate for Vice President of Communications and Public Relations

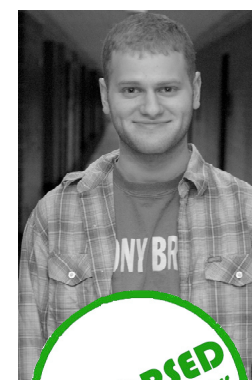


1) Clifford has background experience in communications and possesses good people skills. He also says he has an innovative new technique to increase event success.

2) Wants to decrease the campus-wide cultural separation. He believes in the SUCCESS slogan and aims to bring unity and diversity to our school. Clifford wants to encourage programs that currently focus on specific cultures to be shared by all types of students.

3) Benefits of voting aren’t being seen by students. He says he will show students how much their voices actually can be heard.

Trevor Hirst, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities



1) “Basically I’m already on the Student Activities Board and I know what needs to be changed in there, what programs to bring to school for diversity and basically I know what’s good and what can be kept the same. As the VP of student Life I would be in a position to make those changes to bring diverse events to campus because that’s totally not the case right now.

Bring things that everyone can attend, not one specific group. I feel that these changes would be better for the school. [Keeping commuters on campus] is the goal of everyone on the Activities Board but we also want to keep students here on the weekends and make it less of a “suitcase school”. Programming is a big part of that and there’s nothing to really do except for brunch.”

2) “In order to get good program you need good people. I don’t think it’s a matter of the capabilities of the people but how they’re trained also. I think that in the position of VP of Student Life I would be

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

in a place to train people in their jobs to get them to deal with agents and get them to deal with different aspects of their position to help the school better.”

3) “The result from last year’s election were kind of appalling and short of standing outside with a megaphone and handing out flyers people are going to vote if they’re going to vote and not vote if they don’t. That’s disgusting. We have a couple good ideas on how to get people to vote, questionnaires they’re going to fill out in order to see what they want changed on campus. I think that if people have a vested interest in this then people are willing to listen to what they say. They believe more in any candidate and they’re going to be more likely to vote for them and to vote in general. When they see that we’re not people on Mt. Olympus, that we’re normal students just like them then they’ll feel like voting is not a big chore and it’s something that actually needs to be done. Change has to be put in place. Students will think, ‘I can have an idea and I can tell people I’m voting for what things they need to get done and there’s a good chance they’ll actually change that.’”

Ralph Thomas, Sophomore, independent candidate for Vice President of Clubs and Organizations

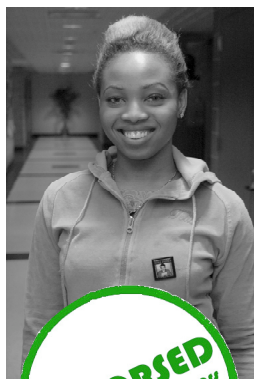


1) Thomas is running because he wishes to change USG from within, getting more clubs involved in weekend life. By being elected, he hopes to forge a better connection with the clubs and organizations. He proposes more monthly meetings to discuss problems, more communication within marketing, getting media involved with regular clubs, making processes like registration easier, and informing non-clubs so that they could become funded clubs.

2) Thomas plans to work with the Office of Student Activities to take its processes online, including block booking, and registration.

3) Participation needs to be increased, Thomas believes, since students need to feel more a part of it, saying “they make up the student government and without them there would be no student government”

Chinelo Onochie, Sophomore, SUCCESS candidate for Vice President of Academic Affairs



1) Chinelo is re-running for her position as VP of Academic Affairs. She started a lot of programs this year and wants to see them through. She has experience and has devoted a lot of time to her position. She wants to continue to work to improve academic integrity.

2) Wants students to take academic work more seriously. She believes school should come first. She has plans to bring



more educational programs to Stony Brook; some examples are more lectures and bringing professors from other school to share their insights.

3) Has worked with NYPIRG to help improve voter turnout. She thinks USG has to work to get students more interested by having better communication with students. She feels USG needs to work harder to inform students as to why they should vote yes for the mandatory activity fee.

Samone Rogers, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senior Class Representative



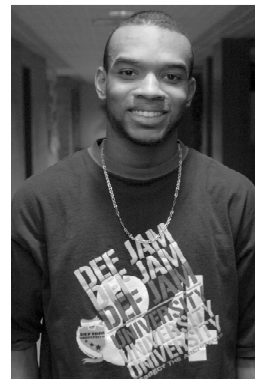
1) “My answer is the simple fact that I’m going to be a senior next year and I want my last year at SB to be something I can remember. I want some programs that’ll make me remember this year, something more than what it’s been. I know my freshmen year, I have to have it to my freshman class rep, because I remember my freshmen year better than anything else, when they had fresh-fest, when they had activities in the Fireside Lounge. That was the only time I went to Campus Life. I think bringing back that excitement of coming to different programs and just knowing that your senior year was the best it could possibly be. And being a student advocate, that’s one of the reasons that motivated me to be an RA and that’s what keeps me going as an RA a lot of people come to me and ask, ‘Why can’t we have this?’, ‘When is this thing going on?’ and I’m limited to things going on in my building. I’d like to expand it campus wide.”

2) “I want to work on opening up the lines between the senior class and USG. I know a lot of seniors that are graduating this year and they have no idea what’s going on as far as the graduate salute. One of my main concerns is making sure that everyone knows what’s going on and about these programs. Also working with the careers center because a lot of the jobs that come on campus are financial institutes and we don’t have a lot, like, law firms that come out here to recruit people. We don’t have much diversity and that’s a big problem on this campus. Just making sure that we have those different majors covered, preparing our seniors for the world. I think a lot more workshop geared toward seniors too. At my job we have something called from backpack-to-briefcase. It’s a work-environment training to get you ready for leaving college into the real world. Working a 40 hour work week. Teaching them things that are useful for more than just knowledge, things you can tap into when you get out of here.”

3) “One of the biggest problem last year was when I asked people if they voted they ask, ‘How do you vote? How am I supposed to do this?’ People actually called me up and asked, ‘I’m saving this but it’s not going through. What happened? What’s going on? I don’t understand it.’ Although we’re in the age of computers some people are still challenged with technology and that’s a simple fact of the matter. It’s a lot easier to walk past the Union and see these voting stations and say, ‘I’m gonna take the time out to go vote.’ It’s a lot easier to have that station rather than asking someone to go on SOLAR and click on this. Another thing is that

a lot of people didn’t even see that icon in the right hand corner saying, ‘vote.’”

Onte Johnson, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Junior Class Representative

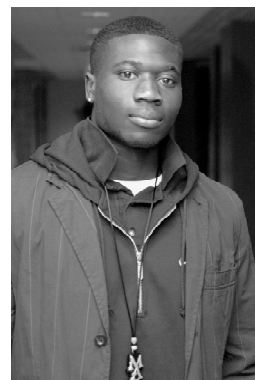


1) “I feel like I’m a leader. I have already established myself as a leader on campus. I’m the President of my building’s LEG, I’m on the Senate. I’m on the rugby team, where I’ve stood out as a leader and won Most Valuable Back player. There are some things I’d like to see on campus. I’d like to reach out to everyone on campus as a whole to build USG back up and make it something valuable to get involved in. Lots of people don’t know what USG is.”

2) “I would reach out to the student body as a whole to make sure every student’s voice is heard properly and come to a consensus. I would represent the Junior class and bring more opportunities to the campus. I’d also like to network outside the campus. I run my own business, which has a partnership with Motorola. We have Donald Trump as a representative. This shows that I have the skills for networking, and I can bring more to campus.”

3) People are not voting because they don’t understand the importance of USG. If we have a stronger government, people will understand its importance more. Certain people don’t care because of the government’s previous history. That decreases people’s willingness to vote.

Kofi O. Acheampong, Sophomore, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



1) Kofi is trying to bring more events on the weekends so students don’t skip town the moment Friday comes. He wants to see the budget being used more for better programs made available to students educationally and for recreation. He wants to be the voice of his fellow students and be able to address their complaints. He wants to change the general ambiance of the student body and bring more school spirit with fund raisers and social events. He wants students to feel like Stony Brook is home.

2) Kofi is constantly hearing about how expensive the food is on campus and wants to try to get the prices lowered and more affordable. He wants to implement more stop signs and stop lights so intersections and streets are made safer for students that are walking and driving. He wants to change the way the school handles the maintenance because when it snows or rains it becomes inconvenient to get to class.

3) Kofi feels it is important for students to participate in USG because their voice won’t be heard otherwise. If they sit around and complain, there will

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

be nothing done. They need to participate in order to make changes happen.

Adrienne Berry, Sophomore, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) Wants to get involved and help the concerns she has with the campus.
- 2) Feels academic peer advising should be expanded upon. Since students value the opinions of other students these programs really help and should be more widely spread and advertised.
- 3) Adrienne is constantly encouraging her fellow students to get involved and vote. She says a lot of students have complaints and do nothing about them

Alex Borodkin, Sophomore, Reform Party candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) "I believe I could actually make a difference," begins Borodkin. Some of the concerns that motivate her candidacy include campus accessibility issues highlighted by the mobility difficulties of her friend and party-fellow Drew Curran, as well as ridiculously high food prices. Borodkin believes she is qualified by her experience serving in the USG Judiciary, as well as authoring and shepherding through the USG the current Judiciary bylaws.
- 2) Borodkin spoke of using student ID cards as debit cards. She believes it would be reasonable to petition the Faculty Student Association to use cards off campus to purchase food, giving students more competitive choices. She cites historical precedent for this dining option. Expanding on her concerns for handicapped access, she explains the need to "chop the curbs," pointing out that are even no ramps off the roadways at the handicapped parking spaces. Borodkin enumerated several problems with campus dinging, eateries' hours of operations, especially Saturday morning, huge lines in the SAC, different hours of availability in the SAC and different prices for residents and commuters. She feels the budget process has to start earlier (November) and the process should be streamlined. She feels the USG treasurer needs more discretion over what happens in the accounting office (managed by the Faculty Student Association) — the accountants never got back to the Treasurer last summer and he couldn't get involved. She detailed the Reform Party plan for USG legal experts to take parties' cases to the USG Judiciary, referring to a case in which her party-fellow Robert Romano sued the USG, and they spent two weeks scrambling to find someone to write a response. She also wants the requirement for impeaching officials to be reduced from three quarters to two thirds, given the historic difficulties with USG attendance.

3) Brodokin sees a cure for student apathy in the creation of political parties, to campaign for candidates. She explains some of the apathy as stemming from USG having a lot of attendance problems and club members become distraught about their budgets being frozen.

Drew Boudreau, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) Drew wants to run for USG so that he may find ways to make life easier for the undergraduates and create more integration campus wide.
- 2) Drew wants to make changes that will bring to the surface clubs that have been neglected. Clubs and events involving the Arts and the

LGBTQA community have been overlooked, and he says that we should "get some of these people out of the closet."

3) When asked about voter apathy, Drew responded, "It is a shame. It is awful and it reflects that the previous government did not give the students an incentive." He says that we need an operational efficient government.

Zoragina Castillo, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)

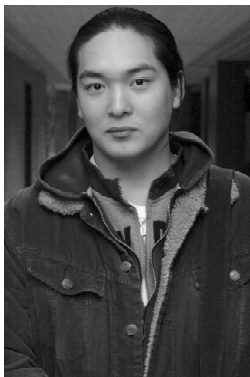


- 1) "I feel a lot of students are unrepresented in student government because they are not informed. I think by being part of the senate I can help people in different clubs and campus general by representing them."
- 2) "I would vote on different issues that would benefit the campus community overall.

The big issued is the student activity fee and making sure that it is used efficiently to help students."

3) "I think it is a big problem because students are not informed that they have a say about the money they pay to go here. Aside from voting for me, it would be awareness and let the students know they have a say."

Matthew Cho, Sophomore, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) Matthew would like to "make Stony Brook as enjoyable as possible." He is constantly hearing complaints regarding this place and if elected he would do his best to see these problem addressed. He wants to see Stony Brook at a more progressive pace and have students be able to actualize

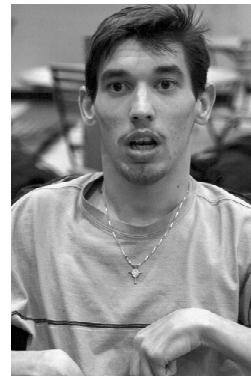
their ideas and goals.

2) Since he is involved in many organizations on

campus like the Kumdo Club and KCF, he is able to directly hear the problems students discuss and want to be their voice in the government. He wants more food options for students with special diets such as Muslims because there are many of them on this campus. He feels their food is not represented and wants to bring healthier and cheaper nutritious foods that aren't so expensive. He also promised to press for more vegan and vegetarian options when this press reported asked.

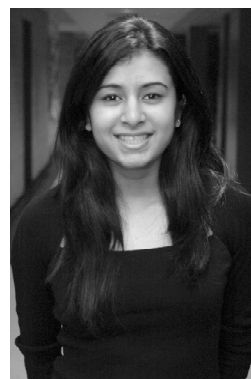
3) "I feel like most students have become complacent and don't bother with the problems. They do not take the proper steps to go about change, mostly because they don't know how to go about doing it." He feels that the students feel their voice do not matter and don't bother trying. He feels that he could change the way students vote by encouraging them to join more clubs. When involved in the clubs, he feels they will be connected to the USG and in turn encourage their members and peers to vote as well.

Drew Curran, Senior, Reform Party candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) "I think I could help a lot of people. I'd like to improve student rights."
- 2) "I would like to look into more off-campus meal plans. I'm very interested in getting more students to vote in USG elections. I'd deal with handicapped access on campus. Current handicapped access is inadequate and needs to be improved. Everyone should have the access they deserve. If elected, I would work towards dialogue between every branch of government."
- 3) "It's tragic. Students should have more to say about government. I would work on this if elected."

Anupa Dalal, Freshman, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) "I'm used to having leadership positions. I was involved in High School, but I felt very uninvolved this semester. I wanted to get involved with USG next semester."
- 2) "I stay on campus, because I'm from Pennsylvania. I noticed that the campus is dead on weekends. I'd work

for a more active campus on weekends. If we plan more, people will see how fun it can be and come back on weekends."

3) "Everybody should be voting. Their fee goes to campus activities, they should have a say in where their money goes. Lots of people just don't know about the elections. Putting it on blackboard could help increase turnout."

Continued on next page

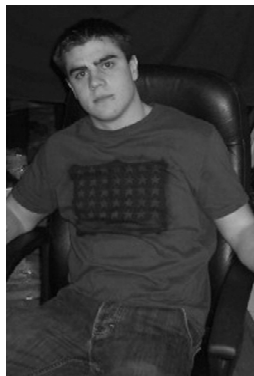
Continued from previous page

Ketty Dautruche, Freshman, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



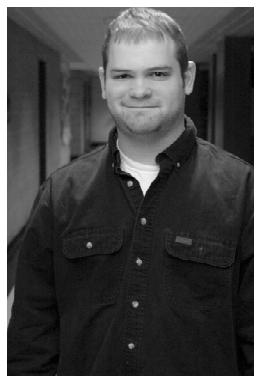
- 1) "I'm a political science major, and this would help me gain experience with government. I'd be a good Senator because I can relate to students. I know what they're going through."
- 2) "I would change campus life on the weekends. Lots of people go home on the weekends. Most campus services close earlier or change service on the weekends. I'd try to increase the number of people who stay on weekends and improve campus services."
- 3) "I realize that lots of students don't vote. There's a lack of interest. But it's important because you're electing people who will help you in the future. There could be some kind of concert or event to raise interest in elections."

Chris Flanagan, Freshman, independent candidate (endorsed in Reform Party literature) for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) "I want to help out as best I can. I've got lots of ideas for improving things, and I want to do my best."
- 2) "I want to make campus life better on weekends. And the food courts. There's not too much healthy food. I think I could help make it better."
- 3) "I think we need to make a better name for USG. I would also promote the elections more."

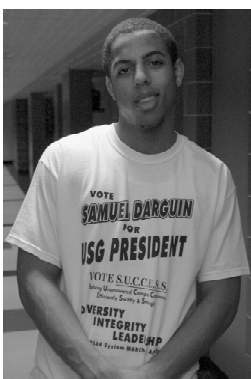
Jonathan Hirst, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) Jonathan is running for USG because he wants to get more students involved. He says that Stony Brook is a diverse campus and there are a lot of great clubs and events that no one knows about.
- 2) Jonathan would like to see designated liaisons for the CSA and RHA for involvement.
- 3) Jonathan does not appreciate the fact that students are not getting involved. He believes they need to be more excited about voting and getting involved.

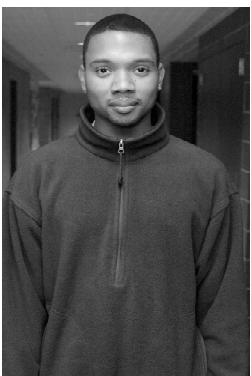
Ephraim Jackson, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)

- 1) Ephraim brings up many good issues that needed to be addressed and was very passionate about mak-



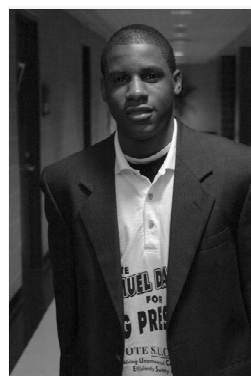
- ing changes. He feels that he would really take a stand for the students. He is actively working on trying to stop the tuition hike and even went to Albany Day to actively fight against it. He is the spokesperson for Stony Brook and surrounding schools when it comes to lobbying for more financial aid and lower tuition hikes.
- 2) He wants to see more buses going to South P for the commuters. He saw how when it was snowing or raining or whenever it was really cold, the commuters had to wait for long periods for a bus to come bring them. He wants more buses running from South P to areas where commuters can get on. He wants to hold more information sessions to teach students how to get involved politically on campus. Ephraim feels that there should be more open sessions where he can really get the opportunity to meet and talk to the students and address their concerns.
 - 3) Ephraim feels that more students would be involved if they were more informed. If there could be ways that would make students more aware, they would become active on campus. He leaves me with his slogan campaign: "If you want action, vote Jackson."

Shomari Jordan, Junior, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



- 1) "Well, as part of student government we are the voices of students and a lot of times students don't know who to go to to voice their opinions. We also have a vision of what the campus should be like but we don't know who to go to. As a senator of USG I feel students could approach me and voice their opinions to me and I could then voice their opinions to the next level, so that students could see results. I like to participate, being active and productive."
- 2) Long Term Goals: "I went to Washington D.C. with the USSA, United States Student Association, we lobbied to fight against tuition hikes and to make financial aid packages better. We would like to see more grants [rather] than loans."
- Short Term Goals: "During the petition process I also asked students [in addition to their signature] questions and asked opinions of changes they would like to see. A big concern for commuter students are the buses. They want express buses to run on a timely schedule [because they have been missing their trains.] I would also address the high price of meals and try to make them more affordable."
- 3) "I think it is always good to be an active member of the student body so why not take advantage of it. We can't force people to vote, but we can keep sending a positive message about importance of voting."

Charles Nwabuobi, Freshman, SUCCESS candidate for Senate (College of Arts & Sciences)



- 1) Charles believes leadership has a great impact. If he gets his position in the senate he can bring more unification to the students and get more of them involved. He wants to help get more events ranging from education to entertainment.
- 2) Charles believes in what the SUCCESS party wants to change about the school. He wants to create more activities that fit the time schedules of commuters.
- 3) Student government is something that more students should get into. He states that, "If you do not care now, how could you get into real government in the future? Voting is very important for your future and goals."

Ryan O'Conner, Junior, independent candidate (endorsed in Reform Party literature) for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)

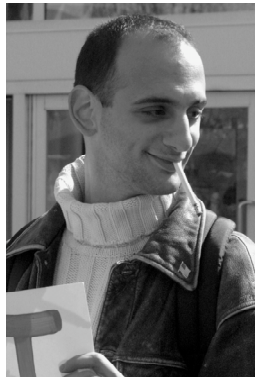


- 1) He is getting involved mostly because of the way the budget is handled. Based on his experiences as part of the recently-started Rifle Club, and previously as a member of other clubs, he wants to get smaller clubs bigger budgets. These smaller clubs have people who are involved, but not the funding that they need. He points out that there is a massive budget surplus while clubs are always under-funded.
- 2) He supports an idea suggested by Professor Phillip Baldwin for redirecting the technology fee. The proposal is premised on the idea that many students have their own computers and printers, and that the SINC sites are not only underused by the students but more frequently upgraded than is necessary for simple applications like word processing. So O'Conner supports Baldwin's proposal to allow students to waive their SINC site usage and set aside their tech fee for two years and, in exchange, be provided a personal laptop computer. O'Conner also voiced concerns expressed by virtually every candidate about the campus dining service.
- 3) "I for one was one of them," said O'Conner about apathetic students. "I had always complained about funding and meal plans." He said that students need to get involved in student government sooner in their college careers, and that he regretting that he had waited until what would be his senior year. "Voting does matter, especially given how few people vote." O'Conner partially dismisses campus apathy as a part of a nationwide phenomenon. He sympathizes with busy students, but doesn't think it's expecting too much for students to, at least, log onto the SOLAR system, skim the candidates and vote.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Robert Romano, Senior, Reform Party candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



1) "I'd like to improve quality of life on campus. People talk a lot about it, but change can be done. I'd like to see optional meal plans so we aren't forced to buy overpriced food and the ability to use meal cards off campus. I think that handicapped access on campus is inadequate and unacceptable. We can work with FSA on these things. There should be more students on that committee. The Vice President of Student Life should sit on the committee. He should also have others working for him, because he has so many jobs. The VP of Student Life should be like the Secretary of State, with people working under him in different areas. I'd like to reform the USG constitution to include more checks and balances between the branches, and more accountability. There should be a public defender for students in the judiciary, and a District Advocate of Justice for USG. Someone to advise the president on issues in USG law. Currently, there's a lawyer, but his expertise is in national and state law, not USG rules. Clubs should have more say in the budget process. There should be representatives for bureaus of clubs instead of class representatives. Class representatives are really negligible positions. Representatives of the clubs could form a second house of legislature. I also think the budget process should start earlier, even as early as October. I'd like to see online block booking for

events. Doing more club administration online could cut down on administration fees and save money, which could lead to a lower Student Activity Fee."

2) "I'd like to see penalties for breaches of USG law. The current procedures for impeachment set the bar too high, requiring three-fourths majorities of filled seats in both the Senate and the judiciary. There's no reason for that. Three fifths, or even 2/3 of the senate should be enough, and that should be of those present, not filled seats. Under the current system negligent Senators are being threatened with impeachment toward the ends of their terms. A District Advocate of Justice could help keep this fair. People with legitimate excuses, which would be defined in the Constitution, should not be impeached. Violations such as misappropriation of funds should be punished, as well as violations of Elections Board rules. Penalties for these violations should be defined and limited. The brief that was filed with the judiciary during this election is a testament to the court and the new judiciary bylaws. The student government should never go around what is stated in the law."

3) "Changes to USG should curb apathy. Political parties are helping this. Parties recruit candidates and spread the word about the elections. They provide a campaign structure and get more people out there. The part informs members as well as the student body. Pressure for increasing turnout should be put on candidates, not on the elections board. Candidates need to work to get people to vote for them. The Vice President of Communications should also work to inform students. The current VP of Communications is not doing a very good job. For the first time there were not advertisements in the Statesman informing students how to run for office. I think there is need for an Insurance of Participation Act and a Transparency in

Government Act. USG needs a website that works, with their own hosting instead of using the school's. The website should be student run. USG has the money and the technology to build it. I'm disappointed in the current President. It's pathetic to rely on the administration for this. Communications can and should be improved. If elected, I look forward to working with the Vice President of Communications. Ending voter apathy requires student leaders to reach out to students. Otherwise, students won't vote."

Nathan Shapiro, Junior, Reform Party candidate for Senate (College of Arts and Sciences)



1) Nathan is a commuter who felt distant from the campus and USG. He wants to help USG improve communication with its students and make USG more available to the student body. He's a political science major and knows how a government should be run.

2) Wants to improve USG's website as it hasn't been updated for a very long time and contains files that don't work. After the election fiasco, he wants to ensure USG follows its proper agenda. Nathan says that the government must stay true to its constitution. Bylaws must be changed since they are currently ineffective.

3) Nathan feels the apathy arises from a lack of understanding in students about what USG actually does and how it effects the students. He stressed that this is not the fault of the voters and says that as students become more involved they will be more interested in what USG has to offer.

The Elephant in the Room Continued...

Continued from page 4

Opponents of the "Bill of Rights", such as Stony Brook Sociologist Michael Schwartz (who has been targeted by "Bill of Rights" promoter Horowitz in a book as one of America's 101 most dangerous professors), contend that the argument for the proposal sounds reasonable, but it doesn't match what the measure would actually do. Schwartz explains that the "Bill of Rights" would require the university hiring process to fill faculties so that both sides of a political dispute were represented, regardless of the demonstrable scholarly merit or lack of merit of those sides. Offering an example he says Horowitz avoids, Schwartz says that under the "Bill of Rights" a biology department might be required to hire, as half their faculty, advocates of Creationism. Creationism and Evolution may continue as a political debate, even though all serious scholarship based on empiricism, repeatable experiments and peer-review are on one side of the question.

Schwartz argues that, traditionally, advancement in the Academy was based on scientific accomplishment recognized by the intellectually qualified, and that the "Academic Bill of Rights" turns that tradition on its head so that following the unscholarly ideas of well financed political agents

By Matt Willemain

could be inappropriately rewarded with positions in universities.

The Creationism example is a compelling one, but for it to apply universally you have to have confidence that the social sciences, like Sociology, have the same reliably empirical foundation as the physical sciences.

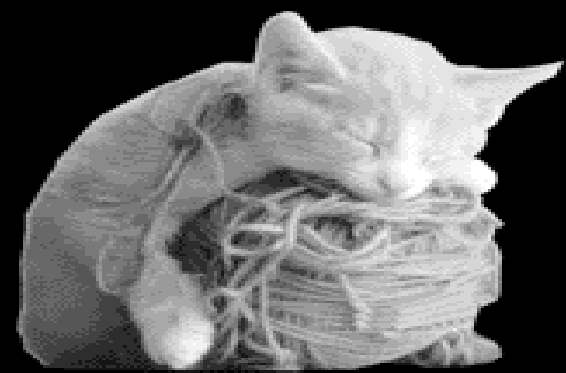
In fairness, the "Academic Bill of Rights" would have to be adopted by the New York State Legislature, and the result of campus elections wouldn't have a direct consequence on the issue. However, elected student leaders could lobby state legislators and represent themselves as the voice of the student body and their support for the "Academic Bill of Rights" as the will of the students.

Those serious concerns with the conservative element of the Reform Party being said, all members of new USG should look through the Reform Party platform, available on their website, www.usgreform.org. Many of the specific ideas presented there are good pro-student initiatives that should be acted on.

Play America's Greatest Pastime

"Dead or Sleeping"

Every Wednesday at 1pm
060 Student Union



The Stony Brook Press:

Where dead things and sleeping things can peacefully co-exist... and then we guess which is which

The final three pages of the elections guide is dedicated to free advertisements given to the candidates. This material is not meant to imply an endorsement. Endorsements by the Press editorial board appear on page 2 of the elections guide.

Let ROM Be Your MULE!



Romual Jean-Baptiste for USG President

- I will fight to allow students to use their meal cards off-campus!
- I will make certain that all students are charged equally on their meal plans!
- Unsafe conditions for handicapped students will not be tolerated on campus!
 - I will fight for a more frequent bus schedule!
- I will reform the USG Constitution to represent your ideals and prevent corruption.
 - I will ensure that your student activity fee is well-handled and not wasted.
- I shall hold all government officials accountable to the students, regardless of status.
 - I promise to increase communication between the USG and you, the students!

www.usgreform.org

Vote For AMY WISNOSKI for EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

- Optional and flexible meal plans for residents
 - More off-campus locations accepting meal points
 - Complete re-structuring of parking for commuters
 - More activities on the weekends (including concerts and comedy shows)
 - Career mentoring program for all students
 - Current President Pro-Tempore of the Senate (author of more than 14 bills and resolutions)
- E-mail: Amy.Wisnoski@stonybrook.edu

VOTE S.U.C.C.E.S.S. 2006

Looking Out For You!




Paley Yin for Vice President

My goals are to improve the quality of student life on campus, enhance the overall Stony Brook experience, reform the administration of the Undergraduate Student Government, streamline the accounting of Undergraduate Student Government funds, and provide for the fair and balanced distribution of those respective funds, support and motivate candidates who genuinely care about the undergraduate student body, nominate candidates that are personally determined to carry forth reform, ensure accountability in the legislation, policies, and procedures of the Undergraduate Student Government, increase awareness of and participation in the Undergraduate Student Government, defend student rights, and guarantee limited government and the rule of law, and to these ends, to work with candidates that will help to achieve these student-oriented goals.


www.usgreform.org

VOTE **RE-** **ELECT** **VOTE**



Ralph Thomas
V.P. of Clubs & Organizations
 Vote on SOLAR March 27 - April 1, 2006

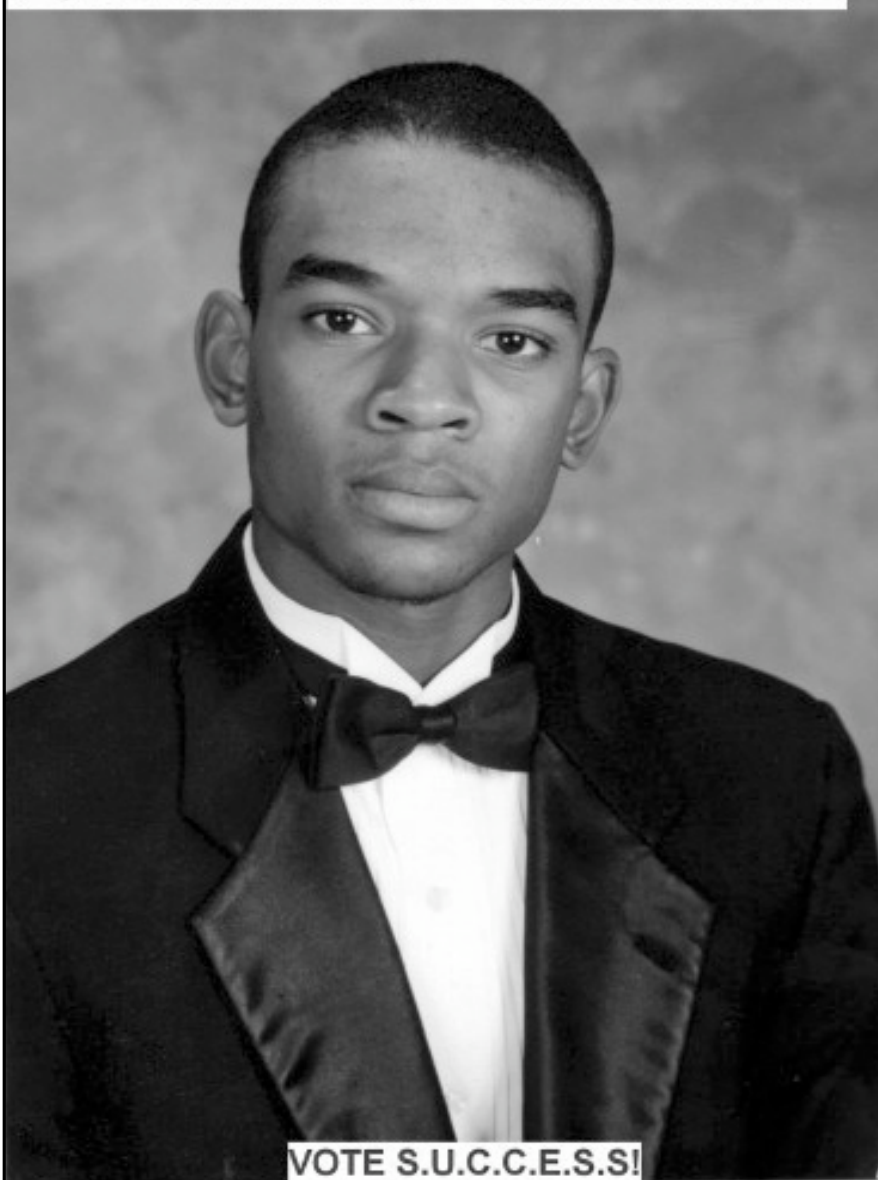
Sujeey Batista
 for
USG Senior Representative



Lets Really Make
 College The Time
 Of Your Life!

Vote
 VOTE on SOLAR
 March 27- April 1

VOTE ONTE' FOR JUNIOR REP!



VOTE S.U.C.C.E.S.S!

Love EVERYTHING about STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY 300%?
 LOVE that mandatory Required Student Health Insurance fee?
 Absolutely feel that Stony Brook food prices are JUSTIFIED?

IF NO, NO, AND DEFINITELY NO... then
 VOTE

KENNY HOANG
 on the USG REFORM PARTY
 FOR
 CEAS Senator!
 INCOMPETENT people must not represent you!

Fully approachable, most honest, hard-working & open minded
 → I am the best choice!

You Deserve Better!



Sheena Joseph for Senate
 To Ensure the Fair and Equitable Distribution of the Student Activity Fee
 Vote on SOLAR March 27th - April 1st
www.usgreform.org

Who Do You Trust?



Nathan Shapiro for Senate

To Restore the Rule of Law
Vote on SOLAR March 27th – April 1st
www.senatornate.com and www.usgreform.org

Long Live the Republic!

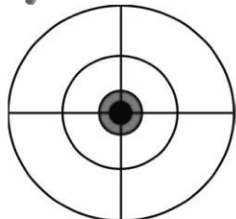


Romano for Senate



To Reform the USG Constitution and to Improve Student Life on Campus
Vote on SOLAR March 27th – April 1st
www.usgreform.org

Always on Target!



Matt Maiorella for Senate

To Ensure Efficiency and Government Accountability
Vote on SOLAR March 27th – April 1st
www.usgreform.org

Simone Grant

My name is **Simone Grant** and I am running for the office of **senate**. I have previous experience in student government from high school. I was also Quad Council Representative for my ledge last year. I have not been a part of USG throughout my Stony Brook career which I see as a good thing because I would be a fresh face for USG. I am hoping that I can play an even more integral part in my school through this. I am a dedicated and motivated individual who is looking to make an impact on Stony Brook if I am elected.

Hello everyone, I'm **Chris Dolley** and I'm running for **USG Senator** for Arts and Sciences on the **Reform Party** ticket. My most pressing concern about USG is the overfunding of the Administration by the student activity fee (the administration that allocates the fee). It does not make for financial sanity when you have the majority of the fee going to the administration that distributes it. It is a hugely wasteful problem, and clubs, organizations, and major events are missing out on a lot of funding. I'm a responsible person, I have a 3.4 GPA, I will attend every Senate meeting, and I've set up an email account with which anyone can email me ideas for USG about: usgdolley@yahoo.com. I'm completely open to any concerns about USG.

Bring Common Sense Back to USG



Andrew Curran for Senate

To Enhance Student Life and to Reform the Budget Process
Vote on SOLAR March 27th – April 1st
www.usgreform.org



Vote for Zoragina Castillo to represent you on the USG Senate.
Look for S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
March 27th- April 1st
on the Solar System!



Alex Borodkin for Senator

To Ensure Accountability in the Administration of the USG
Vote on SOLAR March 27th – April 1st
www.usgreform.org

Jimmy Carter Says:



“In all my years monitoring the administration of elections, never have I seen per capita levels of ill production like these. ‘Candidate Rooster?’ What a cock-up.”

Wing Fortress Zone