

THE STONY
BROOK

PRESS

Vol. XXV, Issue 3

"Henshin a-go-go, baby"

Oct. 22, 2003

Aliens Attack!

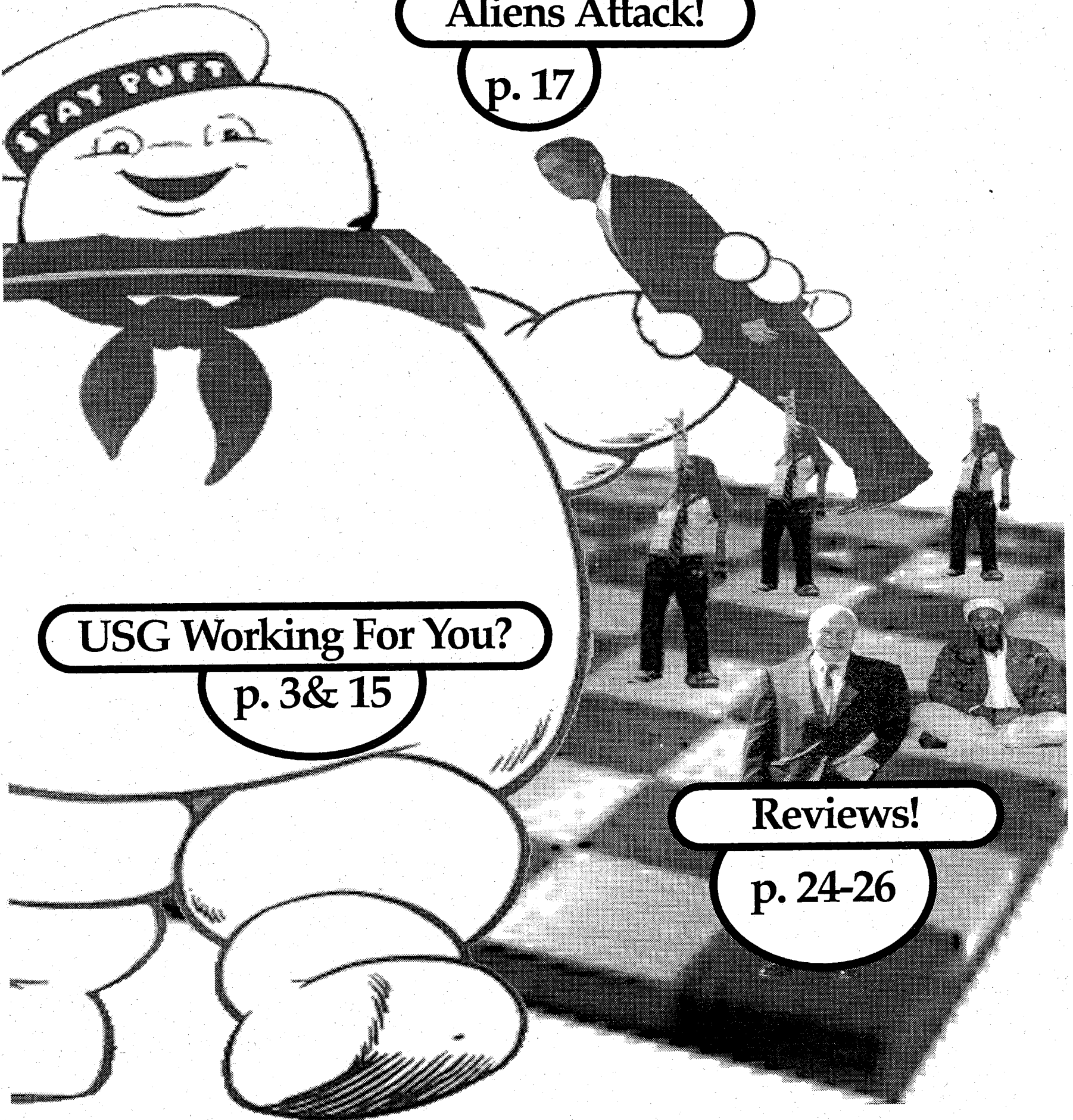
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"AmeriCan't Politics"

By Gary Lubrat

Politics is a dirty man's game. When you think about that statement, you probably find it hard to refute. After all, how many honest politicians do you know? Check that, how many politicians do you know? I won't try to act all politically snobbish to rub it in your face that I can name a great deal of politicians and what they stand for, but what I'm trying to get across is that most Americans show a great deal of apathy towards the political machine within their very own nation. It's mind-boggling that a large majority of Americans do not care about their democratic process. This apathy is generated during high school and continues on all the way through life. But, the truth is, every American citizen needs to involve themselves with politics to secure their freedoms of liberty and freedom of speech. It is the essence of being American.

High school is the ruination of a great many minds. For five days a week you are bludgeoned with mindless banter and systematic bullshit. By the end of each day all you want to do is crawl inside your bed and sleep the mental anguish away. Oh the pain, the woe, and the misery of high school! Secondary education is more about discipline than it is about education. How many times in college are you sent to the dean's office in comparison to the principal's office? Rapists and plagiarists need not answer that question due to the fact that they will skew the data. But, you get the picture. United States history classes are the worst. They bore you to death with the history of how this nation was formed (A tea party, yay! Wait, they didn't party. Screw this.) and Andrew Jackson's contemptuous attitude towards the Bank of the United States. I'm sure all 16-year-olds are enthralled by the Federalist Papers and the Bill of Rights. Ever notice how all the interesting and dazzling history occurs during wars? Peacetime politics are some of the most important, but it's blatantly overshadowed by the wartime antics of cruel dictators and overzealous presidents. Ask yourself this question; would you, being a 16-year-old, actually give a damn about this "stuff?" No! No, you wouldn't! And if you answered yes, you're just ashamed to admit that you were once a high school drone. Deal with it, politics may be more boring than a Dennis Miller standup routine, but it's also more important than what that history teacher in high school would have you believe. The only thing a high school student cares about when pertaining to history, is passing. That's all that matters. None of them will ever want to become President, or better yet, a legislator for their local town. So, once they receive that passing grade, they go on their merry way assuming that they'll never have to know history or politics ever again. High school has won once a person believes that politics and history is pointless. If you believe that

American history is boring as all hell and that you'll never need to involve yourself with politics, you are doing the most unpatriotic thing humanly possible.

As seen, high school destroys all hope that humanity has in human interest in politics. But, as I have emphasized time and time again, politics is extremely important. Consider this: we are a participatory democracy. A DEMOCRACY! WE ARE A DEMOCRACY! We actually have the ability to interact with our political system. Do the majority of us do it? NO! This isn't a fascist government where citizens are expected to obey and accept all laws and mandates that a country enacts. But, wait, if the citizens DO NOT participate in their political system, isn't the government, in effect, fascist? Yes, it can become fascist, not by choice, but by direct effect on the hands of the non-voters. I am not saying that every country that does not have high voter participation is fascist, but if you sit back and assume the government is perfect and there is no need to keep a watchful eye on them, it could lead to a fascist state. Here's an example of what a country that cares little about politics can become.

Take a look at Germany, circa 1930's. A weakened state that was looking for a leader found help in a not-so-friendly guy. German citizens were in a bad way, no doubt about it. After losing World War I and being utterly humiliated by Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations, no German wanted to care anymore. It was as if Germany had lost its schnitzel. So, a man by the name of Adolf Hitler was elected as chancellor of Germany, and THEN made himself dictator by killing all those in his way. I emphasize the fact that he was voted into office because of the fact that the citizens elected him to be their leader. Hitler did all of his dirty stuff once he was given the power, not before. When citizens vote for the wrong guy, that's bad, but when you vote for Hitler, why vote at all? But Hitler wasn't promoting the eradication of the entire Jewish race or world domination. He promised a thriving economy, a revival of the German state, and help to all German citizens that were in need. Hitler said everything the Germans wanted to hear. He never once mentioned his true intentions. Think about it, if you went up to a podium with a political platform of "Kill all the Jews and Take Over the World!", what do you think your odds would be on winning? Not that good, I'd imagine. When you are so apathetic in response to participating in government, anything sounds good. Just look at Hitler (<http://www2.dsu.nodak.edu/users/dmeier/Holocaust/hitler.html>).

America is not fascist. We are a society of free citizens that embraces values of liberty and justice for all. We proudly celebrate our independence each year with rousing parties full of drunken revel-

ry and fireworks. The only thing that frightens me about America is the fact that I don't know many people, older and younger, that are involved with politics. Most of them don't even vote, which is the simplest way to participate in politics. They just blindly pledge allegiance to the presidency and assume that the suits in D.C. are making the right decision. And when I say, right, I don't mean "right or wrong" I mean, the Reigning Right. This country was founded on the principle of involvement with your political society. After all, we developed from a monarchy. One that was ruthless and empirical in nature. This country needs more people to involve themselves with political affairs and the status of their rights. It is up to us to make this country what it was intended to be in 1776. I'm sure if Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington came back to take a look at the country they helped to create, they'd probably go around and kick all of our asses for allowing this country to become so lazy with political affairs. If we continue down the path we are on, we will, in time, end up like those that we separated from.

Get involved in any way you can. Just get out there, let your voice be heard, and make sure your opinion is noted. You know how gun nuts hold on to the 2nd amendment for dear life? I want everybody to embrace the 1st amendment, which allows you to verbally deject and criticize those insane Hestonites. Do not allow your voice to be silenced. You are an American and the most patriotic thing you can do is to speak out and become involved. Don't be blindsided with the idea that waving a flag and singing "God Bless America" makes you the most patriotic American in history. It only makes you look like a gigantic fool for making those empty gestures. Singing those songs and waving those flags will not make you any more involved than if you sat on your ass and watched C-SPAN. It is American to speak out and withhold an opinion. It's what we were founded on for Christ's sake. Don't sit there and let someone else speak for you! Speak for yourself. You have a voice and a mind of your own. If you think the government is doing wrong, organize a group and get heard. You may not be able to change the world all by your lonesome, but if you speak up, you're sure to have many supporters. And remember, it's okay to have an opinion. It doesn't make you a traitor to speak out against the government if you believe it's doing wrong. It's actually protected in the Bill of Rights, contrary to what you may have heard on Fox News. ("U.S. Constitution" <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.billofrights.html>)



USG-Unit: S-B-U Do the Math

By Sam Goldman, Jackie Hayes, and Jess Worthington

Several years ago at a North Carolina university, the administration withheld monies to a student newspaper for publishing an editorial that they disagreed with. The paper sued, and the federal Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that their First Amendment rights had been infringed upon:

Censorship of Constitutionally-protected expression cannot be imposed at a college or university by suspending editors of student newspapers; suppressing circulation, requiring imprimatur (approval) of controversial articles; excising repugnant material, withdrawing financial support, or asserting any other form of censorship oversight based on a institution's power of the purse.

Last Friday, the Stony Brook Press was made aware of the fact that their current working budget was cut by approximately 75%, from about \$37,125 to just \$10, 525. In addition, an extra \$1,000 was taken from the budget to pay for their summer issue, which, they were told, would be taken from a special summer budget.

On Tuesday, Press Executive Editor Dustin Herlich, Managing Editor Sam Goldman, and Business Manager Jackie Hayes marched up to the offices of USG Treasurer, Clayton John, to find out the reasons for the drastic budget decrease. John responded that, when he took a look at the Press' budget, he felt the amount of money the Press received was "disproportionate", compared to publications like Blackworld, Shelanu and En Accion, all of which publish on a much smaller scale than the Press. He also claimed that he was setting up a meeting with Media Advisor Norman Prusslin to set up a committee where students could "appeal" for extra funding. He claimed that, on June 6th, there was an email to Norm about this; this claim has gone unverified. In fact, John made the decision to cut the Press' funding unilaterally, without talking to anyone in student media - not Prusslin, not his assistants, Fianna Sogomanyan and Kelly Brown, and definitely no members of the Stony Brook Press. Lastly, he claimed that to prove that we deserve our monies, we needed to obtain records from the old, since-defunct Student Polity that went back three years.

Dustin Herlich, Executive Editor of SB Press, stated "They are trying to financially censor us, but we're not going to lie down and take it, we're going to go on fighting and make sure we get what we deserve."

The \$10, 525 that the Press received is enough money to print out only 5 issues at most, instead of the 12-13 issues the Press has printed out for the last two years.

John's actions are not an isolated incident. The new University Student Government, since its inception, has gone on the warpath, attempting to

curtail the rights of student media, both in writing and in practice.

For instance, the new University Student Constitution, under Section 3B, lists Stony Brook University Television as "a quasi-independent agency [that] shall provide media services to the Undergraduate Student Government and its members". A "quasi-independent agency" reports to the USG President, which is currently Sandy Curtis. According to the Constitution, "The President is responsible for insuring that all agencies under this category fulfill their duties and responsibilities. The Executive Vice President may be delegated the supervision of these agencies."

Leo Borovskiy, SBU TV President and Program Director, says that "all media should be free from influence from political organizations, like the one represented by the Undergraduate Student Government. I quote a much wiser man than myself and say that government should not control the media."

Last month, the University Student Government began pressing Stony Brook organizations - including SBU TV and the Press - to complete new signatory card requirements by October 1st, and would not provide these organizations with a budget until they did. However the USG is nowhere close to having a working Senate, Judiciary, or Student Activities Board, allowing themselves, as stipulated in the new Student Constitution, until October 31st to complete these requirements. This means that they have given themselves a month longer to complete the similar tasks they asked of other organizations, and still have not adhered to their own stipulations. In fact, the Student Activities Board has been in "interim" mode for a year and a half and has recently decided to remain this way until the end of the fall semester.

Another example involved Shaina Kohanzadeh, Vice President of Communications & Public Relations. According to the Constitution, her position "shall be responsible for all communications or the dissemination of information within the Undergraduate Student Government. That includes the dissemination of information to the members of the USG government and/or its recognized groups."

On Thursday, Kohanzadeh came wandering by the media wing in the Union basement. She found the Press office, and immediately communicated with Dustin Herlich her new "rule" that all publications funded by USG carry the USG logo somewhere on the paper. She argued with Dustin Herlich and Sam Goldman for over an hour, during which:

Σ We learned that Kohanzadeh had never read the Press, and had no idea that a radio station

and TV station even existed at Stony Brook. We also learned that she had absolutely no idea about how a newspaper runs, despite her desire to start her own USG Newsletter.

Kohanzadeh asked Associate Editor Mike Prazak how many people are on the Press' staff. Mike replied that the Press had 20 staffers, after which she asked if some Press staffers would rather work for her than the Press.

Kohanzadeh stated that she was in charge of all student publications, even though the USG Constitution gives her absolutely no such powers.

According to Press Business Manager, Joseph Filippazzo, "There is no way the Press can present itself as an unbiased, non-affiliated student publication if we carry the logo of the same organization we objectively cover every year. For Ms. Kohanzadeh to come in here and make such demands demonstrates her utter lack of knowledge about student publications."

Lastly, several Press staffers were kicked out of two Student Activities Board meetings because of an expressed desire not to have Press members write about the details of these meetings [For more information on what actually happened, go read Jackie Hayes and Joe Filippazzo's article elsewhere in this same Press issue].


It's tough to say as of now what exactly the motives behind the recent events are. The Constitution is vague, and the lack of progress USG has had in setting up the various departments required in the Constitution leaves us with very few people who are accountable for these actions. The Stony Brook Press can think of only one reason why these events are taking place: that the Undergraduate Student Government is attempting to censor this paper, by attempting to strangle it financially, by swamping it in paperwork, and by telling us what they want us to put in OUR paper.

On a final note, we would like to quote something from A Story of the Stony Brook Press, our paper's Bible. Under "Folding", it says:

"Don't. The most dire circumstances in which you might find yourself cannot excuse the folding of the paper to the many editors and readers who have gone before and who, now, may never again...As long as the Press publishes - in whatever form, and with whatever integrity and quality - the future beckons, the promise holds, the potential exists."

We will not lie to you - The Stony Brook Press is in serious danger of folding, if we cannot get the financial support we need. We encourage all Stony Brook students, Stony Brook alumni, and Press alumni who care about this paper to communicate to the USG your wish that the Press be allowed to survive.

SBU-TV, WUSB, The Statesman and the Stony Brook Press Present
a LIVE program discussing the pressing issues of student life today



8PM
Weds

WATCH it on SBU-TV Ch.30
LISTEN to it on WUSB 90.1FM

Editorial: The USG(arbage)

Five months ago, the new Undergraduate Student Government was formed. It's mission went much further than doling out the \$2 million dollar Student Activity Fee. It was, in a very real sense, a chance for redemption, a chance to show that, after the misdeeds of the old Polity, students can be entrusted to run themselves the right way.

Five months have passed, and the Stony Brook Press can, with absolute certainty, say the following:

The USG has been a failure. Not just a failure, but an unbelievable, spectacular, full-fledged failure, of the sort that would make old Polity senators cackle with glee.

The USG had a large part of the last spring and summer semesters to set themselves up right. Instead, they procrastinated, perverted a Constitution that took months of closed-door meetings to make, and attempted to forcefully influence student media. Instead, they should have been setting up their committees and boards, getting more than six people to run for Senate, setting up a Judiciary, giving students more than three days to advertise themselves as candidates for USG positions. All things they have not accomplished.

Now, we are not making the blanket

assumption that everyone in USG is useless. People like Santo Albano (who has taken Kathleen Westlake's old position) and Jonathan Neman are good people, people who want to see USG get on track. But for every good person on USG, there are five people who care more about themselves than the students of this University. Those odds don't bode well for the future.

Norm Goodman, who spent his valuable time helping create a Student Constitution he hoped would serve the students well, recently said on a radio show on WUSB that he is happy with the way the constitution looks, and how things are running. Considering his interest in student life at least appears to be genuine, and his ideals outwardly unselfish, we wonder how happy he really really could be with all the problems we are having now. USG is, without question, a blight on Fred Preston, who spearheaded the abolition of the old Student Polity, on Sandy Curtis, the current USG President, and a woman completely in over her head; and on every student of this University who cares at all about it.

What makes it even worse is that it only took us five months to find that out.

Editorial: Presidential Recall?

It's amazing how many atrocities have come to light for the current administration, yet no action has come of it. We know that they lied, they cheated and they stole. They invaded a nation on the premise of them having weapons of mass destruction, but then found none. How can several soldiers (that probably don't really even exist) send the same exact letter to different media groups? We could go on and on and on. We could talk about domestic issues, like the destruction of the environment, or that they lied (more lies) about the Alaskan North slope oil reserves (it's only about a month's worth of oil), but that would just take more time and space than we have.

The bottom line is very simple. Why no impeachment process? Clinton got impeached for supposedly lying about sex. Bush and friends lie about a war, our planet, our troops (who are actually miserable) about terrorism, and who knows what else. Why has Bush not been held accountable for anything? What's happening in this country? Rush Limbaugh is a junkie, and the world just pats him on the back, and says it's ok. Soon, we'll see banners saying "We support are troops and Rush". Then he'll come out of rehab and the world rejoices. Clinton claims to have tried pot but

not inhaled, and people still ridicule him for it. Bush was a cokehead alcoholic and no one says anything about it any more. Imagine if Al Franken was addicted to painkillers? Angry mobs of Bill O'Reilly fans would be instructed to storm his house and beat him to death. Does that really sound fair and balanced to you?

Maybe it's time people started to take some more action. Maybe we should start to write to our "elected" officials and start demanding accountability. Even better, we should start voting some people out of office. Our votes still count. We may not elect the president directly, but we elect our senators and our local officials and our congressmen. We should start to exercise that right, and make some changes in this screwy little country that some of us still love.

E-Board

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The Stony Brook Press is published fortnightly during the academic year and twice during the summer intersession by The Stony Brook Press, a student run and student funded non-profit organization. The opinions expressed in letters, articles and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of The Stony Brook Press. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy. For more information on advertising and deadlines call (631)632-6451. Staff meetings are held Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. First copy free. For additional copies contact the Business Manager.

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Letter: We's Got's Some Fans

Dear Stony Brook Press,

Your last issue rocked! I have to say, i dont see how people can hate the paper if you keep up the good work. It was good to hear that Penny the pasta lady won an award. I liked seeing Walter Moss writing again, he always has interesting points. I even loved the 35 things to do with words on a grain of rice. Oh, and Bob is cooler than ever. But, like every letter, I have a complaint.

Bob is cool, but Bob spinoffs: NOT COOL. I mean really, what is the point of Joe and Jon? And who is slim gatsby? I can honestly say I have never finished reading one of his comics. In fact, I went to considerable length to finish this issue's comic, only to be lost at the end. I think next time you are considering entering pointless comics, you should leave a blank "do it yourself page." I'm sure the kids will love it, and it would be funnier.

Anyway, don't take this the wrong way, keep up the good work. Unless all my friends are liars, they like the Press as much as me.

Sign me-

Loving the Press, Stony Brook, NY

Dear Stony Brook Press

You paper makes me laugh a lot. I think it's good, but some of the comics are bad. My english is not the best, and maybe i don't get it, but most of my friends agree. Who is slim gatsby? his comic is ver bad. The comic with the airplane is just not funny at all. Why do you print it? I can make better comics, let me draw things.

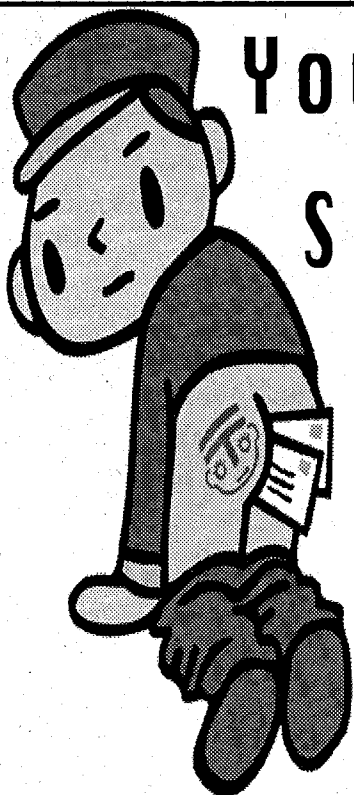
-Pizda Huyova

To our fans:

Thanks for the feedback. It's always great to hear from our readers. we value the oppinions of our readers greatly. If you really don't think our comics are funny, you're welcome to complain about it, but only if you have the guts to send one in yourself.

Oh, yeah, and if you send one, it better be funny.

-The Stony Brook Press



**You Wanna Know Where You Can
Stick Your Opinions?**

(hint: It Rhymes With "Stained-Glasshole")

sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu

Do You Get What You Deserve?

By Lauren Trankle

Everyone's first job requires a certain level of commitment and integrity; sweeping, organizing, stacking various objects on shelves, and bustling around with a smile on one's face. These are the actions that are common for the typical college employee. Here at Stony Brook University there are various job opportunities for students of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and interests. The student body that fulfills the numerous job opportunities is extremely diverse, as is the pay that these students receive.

Danielle Fischer, a freshman to the Stony Brook student body, is currently employed at the University Book Store. She works eleven hours a week to pay for her college bills and for a little extra spending money. Fischer's wage is \$6.75 an hour for her services. "I am constantly on the move," says Fischer. "From the time I walk in the University Book Store till I depart, there is always so much to do." She never stands still for a minute, her hands and feet are always in motion. Fischer started working as a cashier and has now moved onto: hours of cleaning, organizing book orders, and preparing the store for its hectic days. This ambitious young woman leaves work every day tired and exhausted.

Beth Harrington, who is also a freshman this year at Stony Brook, works at the Sports Complex. Harrington works about ten hours a week and is paid \$10 an hour for her services. You can find Miss. Harrington sitting at the main desk answering the telephone, directing people to their desired location, and answering individuals questions regarding the hours the sports complex opens and closes throughout the week. She spends a great deal of her time sitting behind the main desk working on her assigned work from her professors. "I love my job," proclaimed Harrington. "I get to meet people when they ask me a question, I get a lot of school work done, and I get along with everyone I work with!" A college job doesn't get any better than this. Can you imagine getting paid to do your studies?

In the beginning, Laissez Faire principles

and traditional concepts of the employer's rights dominated the nation's thinking. While the rights of employees and union were severely restricted, there was little restraint placed upon the employers. Employers had the absolute right to hire and fire; they could discriminate upon the basis of union membership, or for that matter, upon any ground as well. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 prohibits unequal pay for equal or substantially equal work performed by men and women. Although this act is mainly directed to equal pay amongst men and women it also means that jobs equal in skill, effort, and responsibility should include pay that is equal among women, as well.

Recently, the Full-time Student Program was designed for full-time students employed in retail or service stores, agriculture, or colleges and universities. The employer that hires students can obtain a certificate from the Department of Labor, which allows the student to be paid not less than 85% of the minimum wage. The certificate also limits the hours that the student may work to eight hours in a day and no more than twenty hours a week when school is in session and forty hours when school is out, and requires the employer to follow all child labor laws (www.dol.gov/esa).

Many job seekers think employers, as a general rule, try to hire them for substantially less than they're worth. In many cases this is true. Also note that even though some jobs have defined salary ranges, hiring managers generally have some latitude to negotiate within that predetermined range based on a number of different factors. Most important, marital status and gender should not affect compensation.

Whether you're after a more lucrative job or just trying to fatten your weekly paycheck,



asking for a raise is an exercise in negotiation. And the first step is to know what you want. It is important to find out what others in your position make. See how your salary compares to those being offered to new employees. Also, if you have had an impact on the company's bottom line, know the exact figure. The key is to provide data that shows your value to the company.

Why is it that two young women who work at the same university get paid so differently? There is a huge void amongst various skills and how the pay is based upon them. In conclusion, research shows that some of the jobs on campus are much more lucrative than others when their purpose is not necessarily significant. At the end of the day, students do not get the pay that their skills deserve. Based on the level of skill, why is there disparity in the pay when the level of skill that is required to do the job is similar?



Hey, did you hear about The Press?

The Press? Yeah, I heard about them.

Well?

I heard that they only like people with raccoons on their backs.

Really?!?

Word yo. Raccoons.

Boo-yah baby, I'm in like Errol Flin!

The Press
rm 060 in the student union
www.sbpress.org #2-6451
meetings every wednesday at 1pm

Taco Bell = Slavery

By Matt Rammelkamp

Slavery is known to exist in places like Burma, Sudan, and China. But didn't slavery end after the Civil War in the United States? On the contrary; over the past five years, U.S. Justice Department officials have successfully prosecuted five slavery rings operating in South Florida. Three of the cases involved tomato pickers in the Immokalee area, the center of Florida's \$600-million-a-year tomato industry and one of many communities where Taco Bell has influence as a major buyer of tomatoes.

Antonio Martinez was lured into slavery by the promise of work in America. He and 18 others were hauled in a van from the Mexico-Arizona border to Florida at \$700 a piece, to be worked off in a form of present-day slavery called debt bondage. After arriving in the Immokalee region, they picked tomatoes at a rate of \$24 for every 1,000 pounds harvested while under the watch of an armed boss, who informed the workers that escape attempts would be answered by either beatings or a bullet. Smuggling, shelter, and food costs were docked from workers' checks, with interest so high these workers-turned-slaves weren't able to pay it off and became bonded laborers to the crew boss. Martinez became one of the estimated 50,000 men, women, and children the CIA says are brought to the U.S. every year and forced into slavery under the threat of violence.

Taco Bell Corp. - a major purchaser of Florida tomatoes - has shown little concern for labor conditions on their associated farms. Their parent company, Yum! Brands, Inc., owners of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, Long John Silvers, and A&W Restaurants, generate \$5 billion dollars in sales each year, and the largest fast-food restaurant chain in the world, with over 30,000 restaurants around the globe. Yet Taco Bell has come under a huge boycott demanding that they raise the wages of the workers who pick their tomatoes, and that they guarantee that the fields they buy their tomatoes from do not use modern-day slavery.

But why target Taco Bell? In a grower-contractor system, like the one Taco Bell uses, growers hire labor contractors, who are responsible with the

hiring, housing and payment of workers. This system easily permits slave labor camps to thrive. It also allows Taco Bell to fake ignorance of worker's conditions, claiming the farms are responsible for their own labor practices. Then, the farms can shift responsibility to the crew bosses. Everyone is pointing the finger in opposite directions, but the buck stops at the checkout counter. We can use our purchasing power to force Taco Bell to pressure growers into halting the demand driving debt bondage in American agriculture.

When asked in a radio interview whether Taco Bell could guarantee that there was no slavery behind their tomatoes, the best answer a company spokesperson could produce was, "slavery was abolished years ago in this country... in case you didn't know."

Since 2001, the farm workers' group, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, has led a growing coalition of activist, religious and human rights groups to pressure Taco Bell to use its prominence to improve general labor conditions on the farms they purchase from. Oxfam America, CorpWatch, and the American Anti-Slavery Group have recently joined the campaign to urge the corporation's leaders to address modern-day slavery in the fields.

What are these groups demanding? Taco Bell should convene a meaningful, three-part dialogue - bringing together representatives of Taco Bell, their Florida tomato suppliers, and representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers - to discuss solutions to the problems farm workers face in Florida's fields. They should join with CIW and tomato industry representatives in drafting strict wage and working condition standards to be required of all Taco Bell tomato suppliers and be

enforced by independent monitoring. Such standards would end this system of slavery by requiring respect for pickers' fundamental labor rights. Until then the CIW call on all those who respect human rights to organize around a Taco Bell Boycott, which has recently been successful in "Booting the Bell" from 17 college campus' or high schools. Last winter, Immokalee workers finished a "Taco Bell Truth Tour" by staging a ten-day hunger strike outside Taco Bell Headquarters in Irvine, CA.

In addition to slavery, the Immokalee workers haven't had a wage increase since the 1970's. To adjust for inflation, this means they have been going further and further into poverty every year. As a result of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' campaign, tomato piece rates have gone up to 45

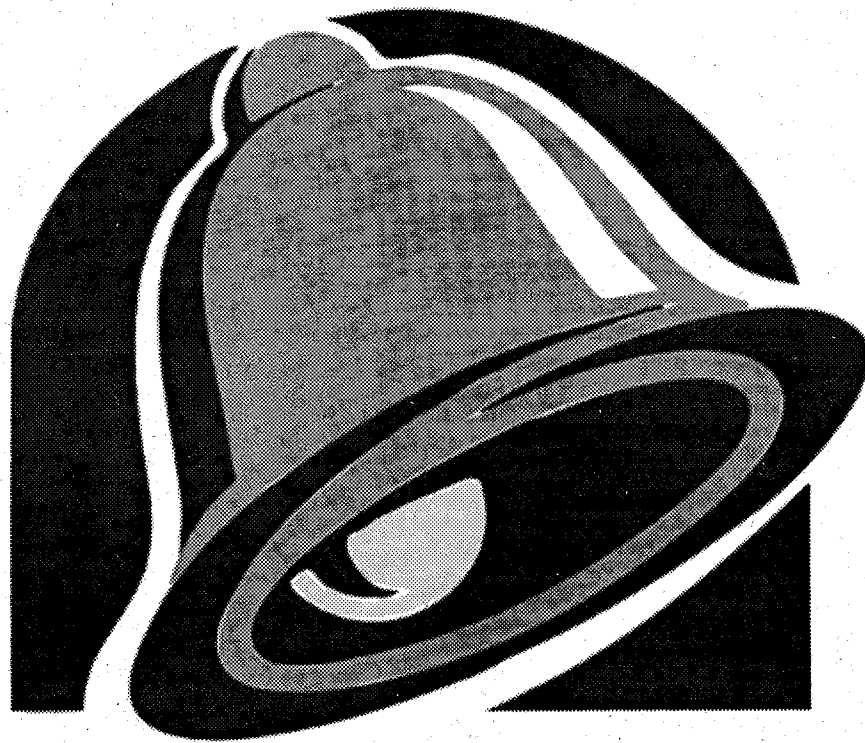
- 50 cents per bucket. However, this is still far short of a living wage, and even far short of the value this work had two decades ago. In order to keep pace with inflation since 1980, the piece rate today would have to be 73.5 cents. Further, because the piece rate has stayed stagnant for so long, a worker has to pick more buckets just to earn the minimum wage. Whereas a worker had to pick 7.75 buckets per hour to earn the minimum wage, by 1997 they had to pick almost 13 buckets in the same amount of time.

Endorsers of the campaign include: SOA Watch, Global Exchange, Professors Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn, Julia Butterfly Hill, United Students Against Sweatshops, United Church of Christ, United for a Fair Economy, United Farm Workers, Mexico Solidarity Network, Food First, United Campus Workers, Student Environmental Action Coalition, National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Presbyterian Church USA, National Lawyers Guild, and dozens of other labor, religious, student, community, and global justice groups.

Recently, three of the CIW members (Julia Gabriel, Lucas Benitez, and Romeo Ramirez) have been chosen as the 2003 winners of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. This prestigious award is given in recognition of their extraordinary work fighting modern-day slavery and their leadership of the national Taco Bell boycott. In the words of the RFK Center for Human Rights, through their work, "they have shown the connection between the plight faced by migrant farm workers in the U.S. and the universal struggle for human rights that is going on all over the world."

The American Anti-Slavery Group is America's leading human rights group dedicated to ending modern-day slavery worldwide. Since its founding in 1994, the American Anti-Slavery Group has helped free over 80,000 slaves, spotlighted and defended the work of local abolitionist activists worldwide, brought modern-day slavery into the international agenda, and launched an anti-slavery web portal that updates and mobilizes 46,000 activists each month.

To get involved in the Taco Bell Boycott, visit the Coalition for Immokalee Workers website: (www.ciw-online.org) and Student-Farmworker Alliance (www.sfalliance.org). To help kick Taco Bell out of Stony Brook (in H Quad), email: werto@post-master.co.uk.

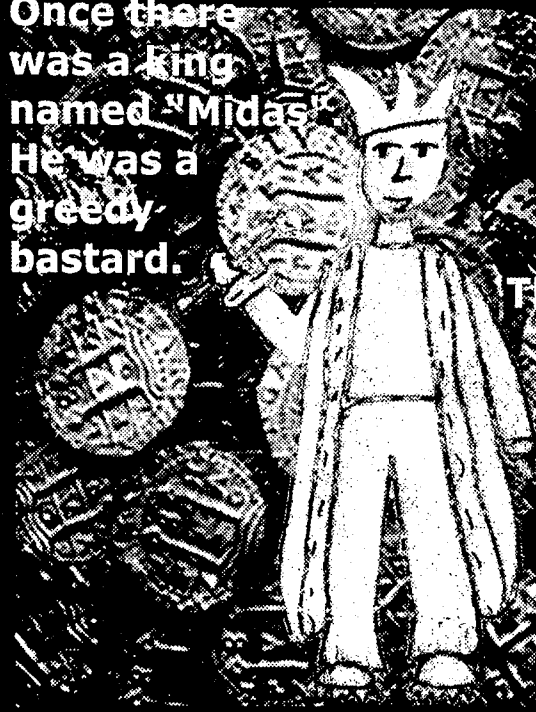


TACO HELL

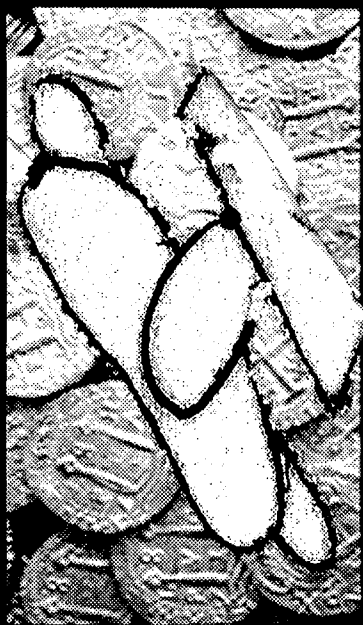
THE COMICS SECTION

THE GOLD TOUCH OPEN DOOR PIXIE

Once there
was a king
named "Midas".
He was a
greedy
bastard.



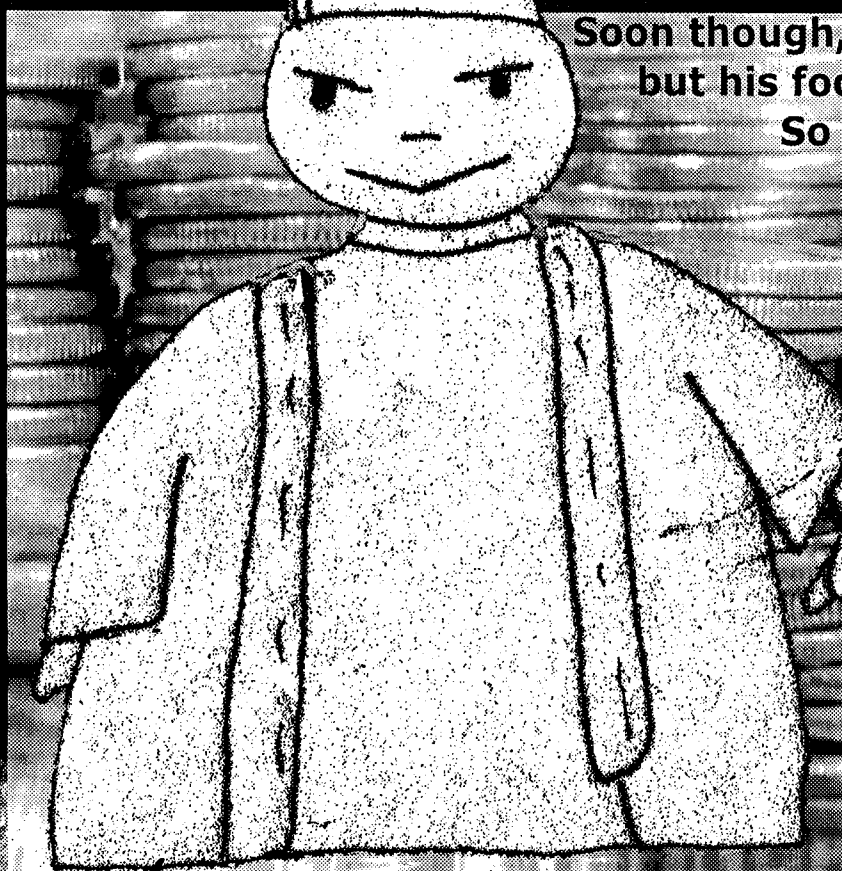
One day a Magic
"Jackass"
gave him the
Golden Touch.
He touched things.
They turned to gold.
He was happy.
So he touched
more things.



Soon though, Midas grew hungry,
but his food turned to gold too.

So rather than waste it,
he put that into
his pockets too.

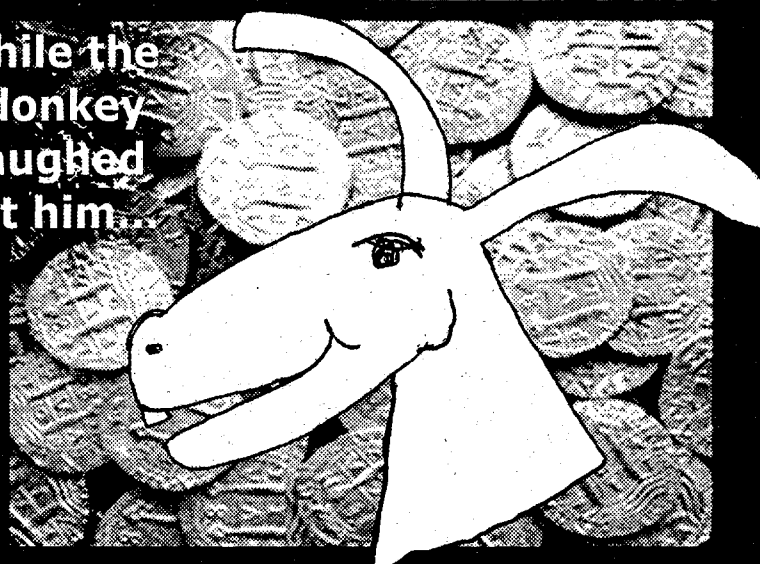
Soon he was so
heavy he couldn't
even move to find
the donkey that
gave him his wish.



So, he sat there
crushed
by the weight
of the gold
and starved
to death.



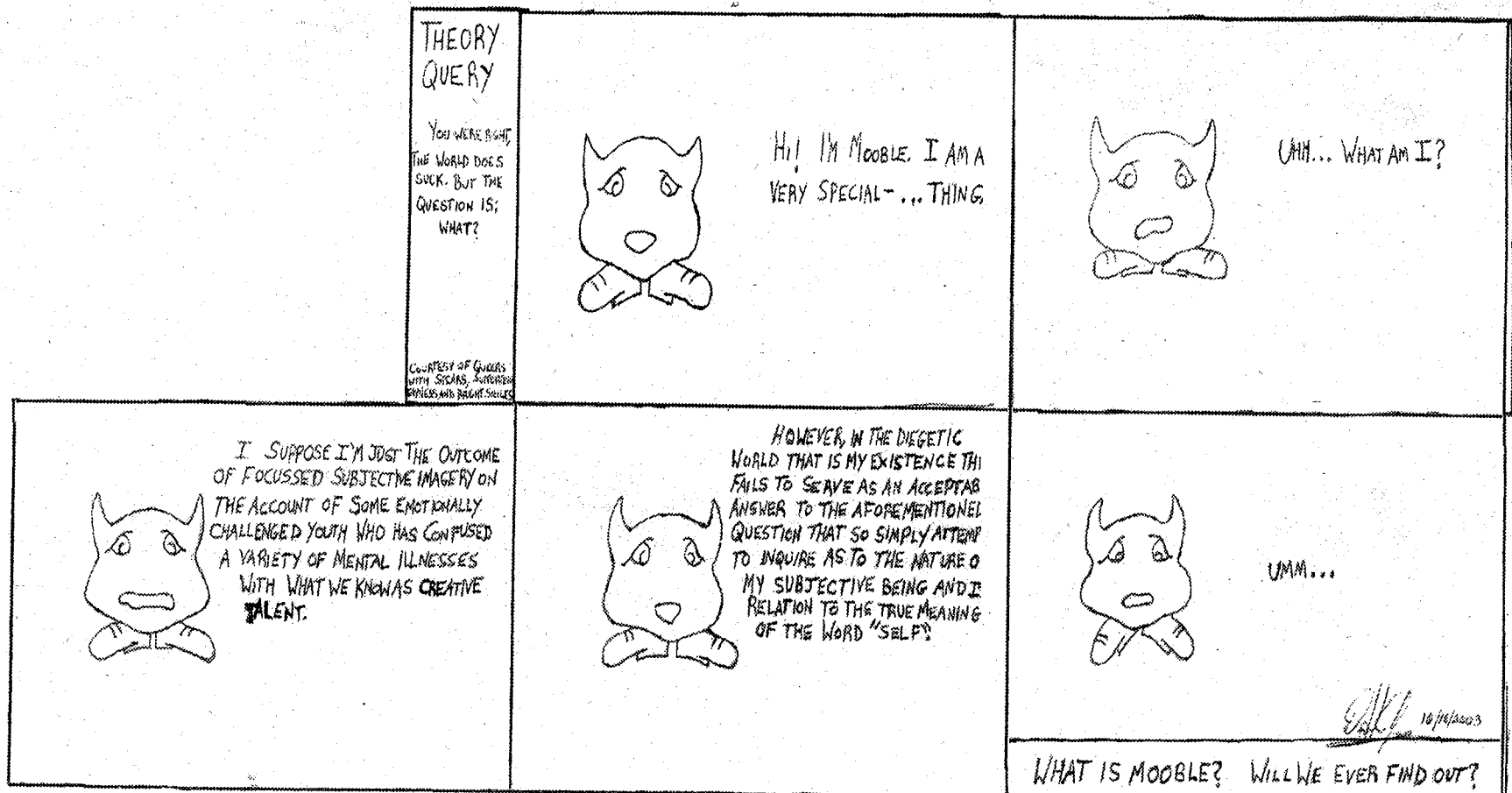
while the
donkey
laughed
at him.





MOOBLE, or: The Rise and Fall of Modern Logic

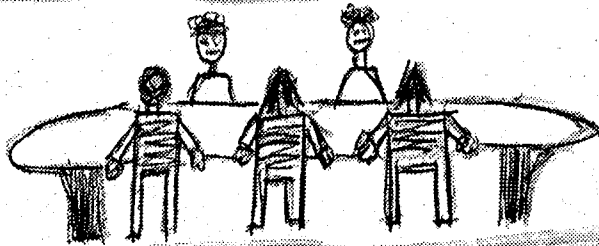
By David K. Ginn



Luminations ~~Sam~~ sam goldman

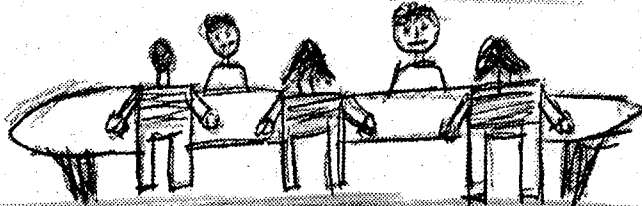
TODAY'S TOPIC, KIDS: PROCRASTINATING

FALL
2002



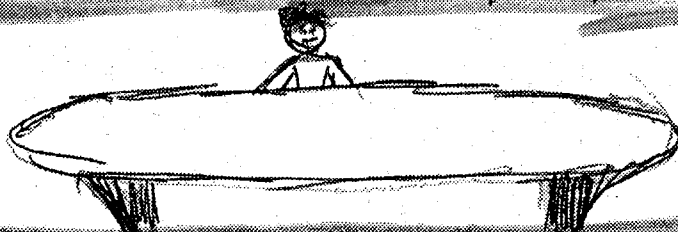
"Let's have an interim Student Activities Board while the new student government gets set up."

SPRING
2003



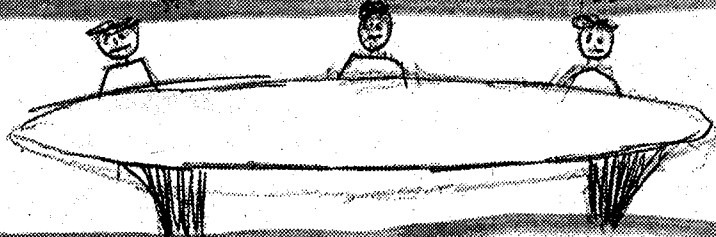
"We promise that we'll start on SAB over the summer."

SUMMER
2003



"It's the summer, so we're not really gonna do anything. By the fall, we'll start on it. Honest."

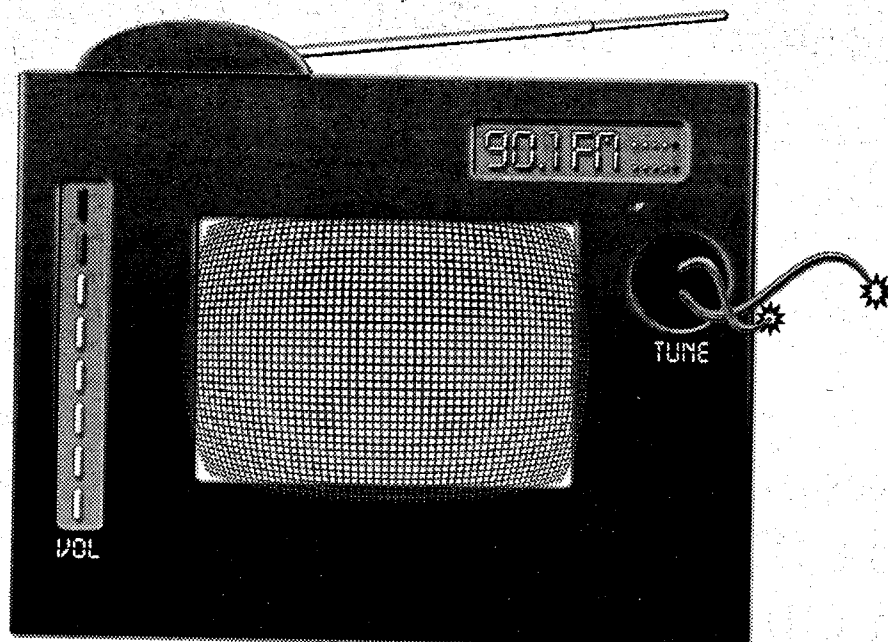
FALL
2003



"We're sorry it's not set up yet, but we'll try and set it up in the spring... we promise."

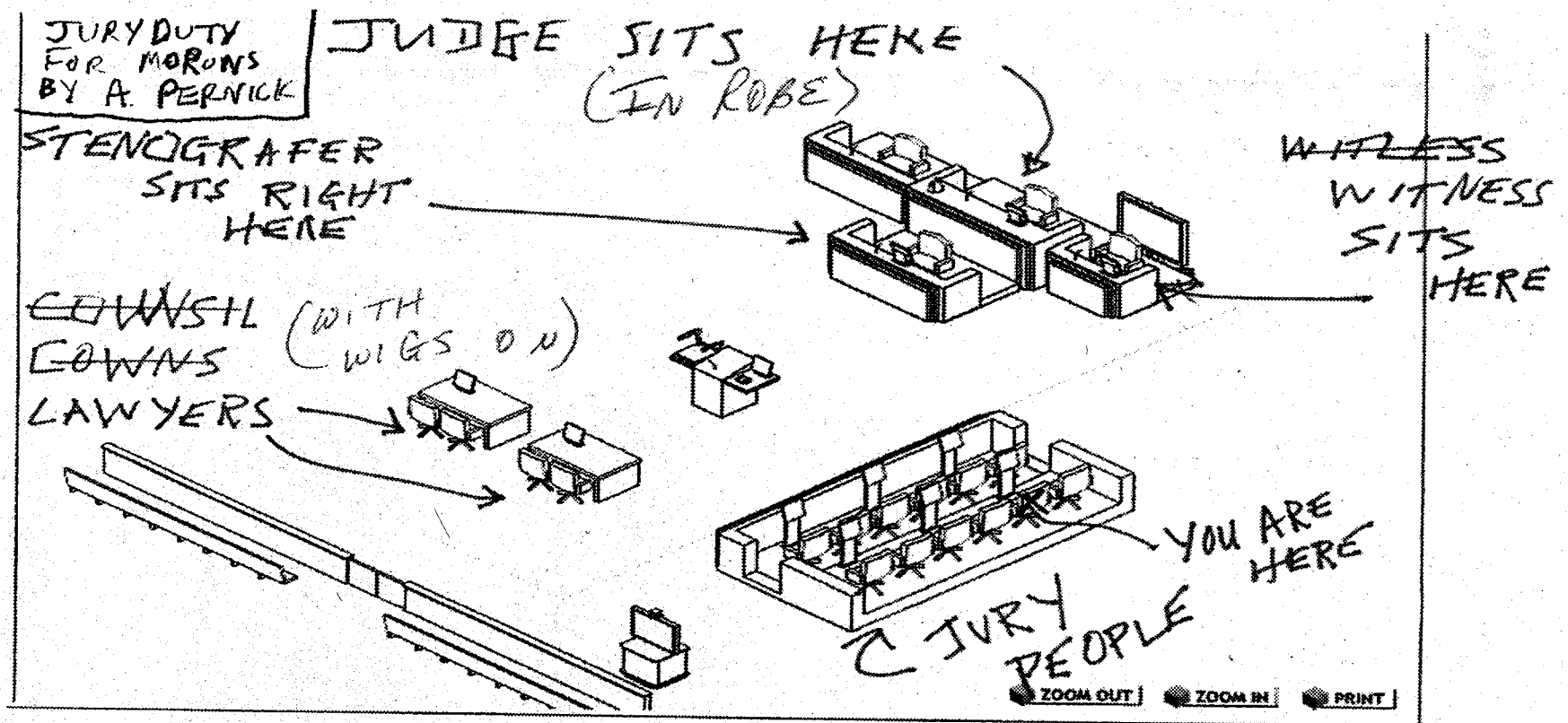
MORAL: I understand people have their studies to worry about, and I know there are some good people working on the 2nd floor of the SAC trying to set up SAB ASAP...

BUT 4 SEMESTERS IS TOO DAMN LONG!



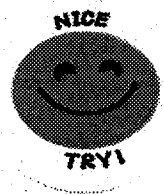
W-USB

the dial is broken. you have no choice.



SO YOU WILL KNOW
FOR NEXT TIME...

UNITED STATES against



What are you doing for Halloween??
don't be scared, it's just
the Dusty Hotpants
Musical Expo

featuring

great
music

In A Canoe

Brave Little Fireflies

and more awesome bands

Dusty
Hotpants



Halloween Night
8:30-11 PM
Union Ghoullroom

→ Free for everybody!!!
Off-campus students will
need to be signed in

From the Student Activities Board

Bob on Genetalia

Jamie Mioneone

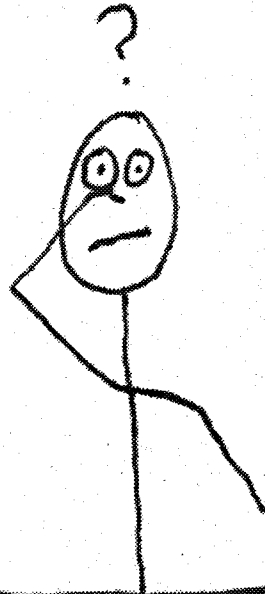
In the beginning, there was nothing.

yep

Sometime between then and now, there was something. Just like that.

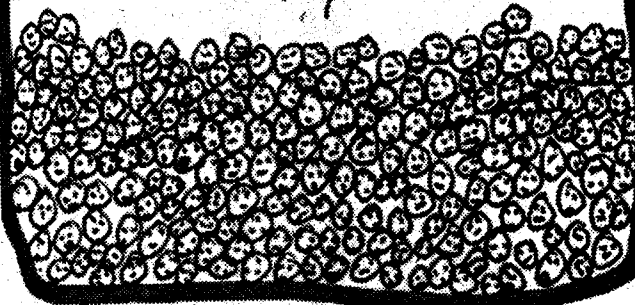


Much more than seven days later, there was man.



Then there were lots of people. This is because they were mostly concerned with their own genetalia.²

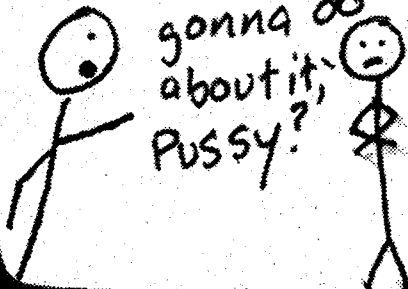
Someone's touching my...
Hey!



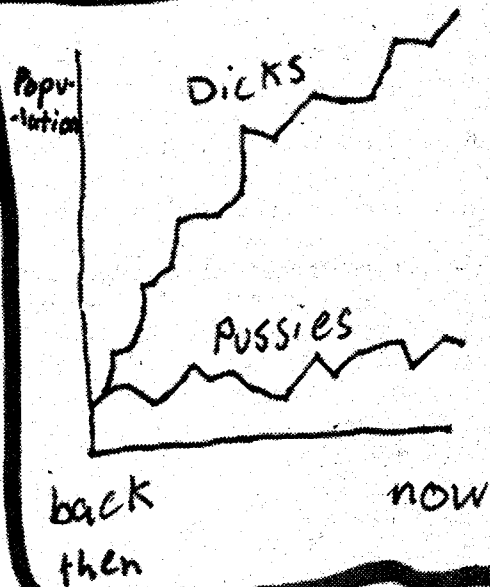
Since society was based on genetalia, they started acting like genetalia.

You're a dick!

what're ya gonna do about it, pussy?

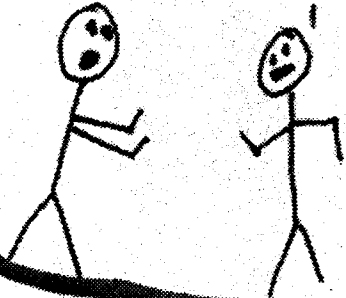


Society stratified

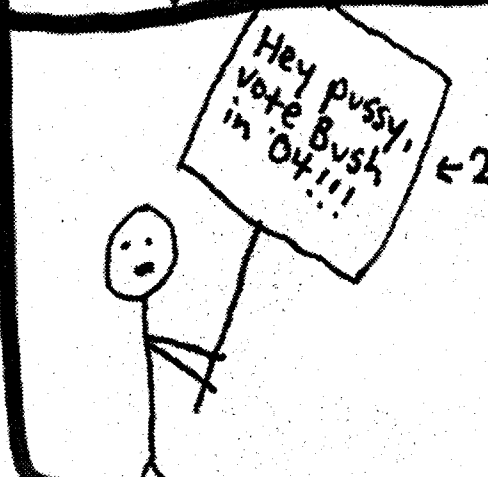


With the dicks on the rise, (you didn't laugh and neither did I), they started taking over.

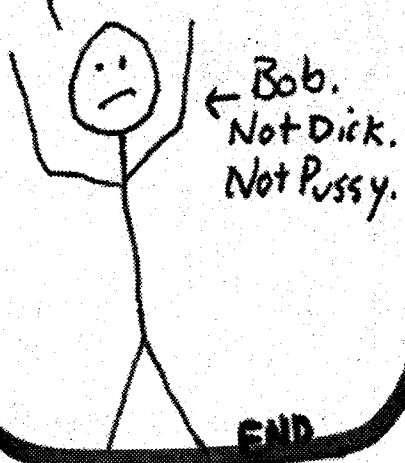
Outta' my way, pussy.



Now they're in charge.



And they're called Republicans.



¹Actually, they're concerned with each other's genetalia. ² see parenthesis in panel 7

Check Your Premises: A Response to an Objectivist Cognitive Dissonance

By Jamie Mignone

In Statesman volume XLVI, number 73 dated 10-16-03, pages six and nine feature an article entitled "Celebrating Western Civilization," by Michael Berliner who apparently is the senior advisor to the Ayn Rand archives of the Ayn Rand Institute. Not only is this article a complete waste of time, it is so full of lies that upon reading it I completely lost my shit. Mr. Berliner doesn't just libel native peoples for the sake of the exaltation of white men, he also does this to the effect of portraying the annoying objectivist who is too self-centered to adhere to the principles of his own chosen "philosophy".

Lie number one lies like a crack-whore having a stroke in Berliner's insinuation that Columbus did not bring slavery and genocide to the new world (new to whitey, that is). Chris's journal, 10-13-1492: "At daybreak, great multitudes of men came to the shore, all young and of fine shapes, and very handsome...I COULD CONQUER THE WHOLE OF THEM WITH FIFTY MEN AND GOVERN THEM AS I PLEASED." Before he went home he kidnapped between one and two dozen Arawak people, less than a dozen of which survived the trip to Seville. Ferdinand and Isabella sent him back with a fleet of seventeen ships. He arrived again in 1495 and according to the account of Bartolome de Las Casas, WHO WAS THERE, "Since the Admiral perceived that daily the people of the land were taking up arms, ridiculous weapons in reality... he hastened to proceed to the country and disperse and SUBDUE, BY THE FORCE OF ARMS, THE PEOPLE OF THE ENTIRE ISLAND." Las Casas then lists the canons, cavalry, infantry, and hunting dogs that were used for guess what? "KILLING MANY INDIANS AND CAPTURING OTHERS WHO WERE ALSO KILLED." Later, the whites kept five hundred people as slaves on Haiti and took another five hundred to Spain. In a letter to the Spanish royalty, Columbus wrote of the many colonies of their empire, "THEY NEED MANY SLAVES, AND I DO NOT THINK THEY GET ENOUGH FROM NEW GUINEA." Of the Arawaks SLAVES he wrote, "ALTHOUGH THEY DIE NOW, THEY WILL NOT ALWAYS DIE. THE NEGROES AND CANARY ISLANDERS DIED AT FIRST." Killing all kinda sounds like genocide, and the enslavement of the natives by Columbus was made kinda explicit by

his own hand in writing.

Ayn Rand's idealized portrait of the world and of man through her works of fiction offer an often hated combination of ultimate civil liberty, pure unrestricted capitalism, and the supremacy of reason. That's the idea, in a nutshell. It is not worth reading her works now that you've read that last sentence, although she is a very good writer of fiction, not philosophy, but do what you will. In debate, she was notoriously shrewd and when she caught someone contradicting themselves the first thing she said to do (if she didn't just tear the poor bastard a new asshole) was "check your premises." Mr. Berliner, rather than basing his reason on fact or primary resources he follows platitudes put forth by our mainstream media. This not only makes him a shoddy journalist, but a bad objectivist.

"The opening of America brought the ideas and achievements of (lots of white men)..." That's it. The statement just says that ideas were brought. Harmless ideas brought to nobody in particular from the benevolent whitey. Actually, the Spanish greeting typically went like this; "I implore you to recognize the church as a lady and in the name of the Pope take the King as lord of this land and obey his mandates. If you do not do it, I tell you that with the help of God I will enter powerfully against you all. I will make war everywhere and every way that I can. I will subject you to the yoke of obedience to the church and to his majesty. I will take your women and children and make them slaves...the deaths and injuries that you will receive from here on will be your own fault and not that of his majesty nor of the gentlemen that accompany me." This in Spanish or Latin is incomprehensible to most of the people in this country now, never mind the speakers of the native languages of this land. Furthermore, the Ayn Rand clique is strictly atheist, and unfortunately the Spanish didn't come brandishing gilded dollar signs and doves, they came with guns and crosses. Bad objectivism.

"prior to 1492, what is now the United States was sparsely inhabited, unused and undeveloped," cites the distinguished Berliner. The people were primarily living a life common to chimpanzees according

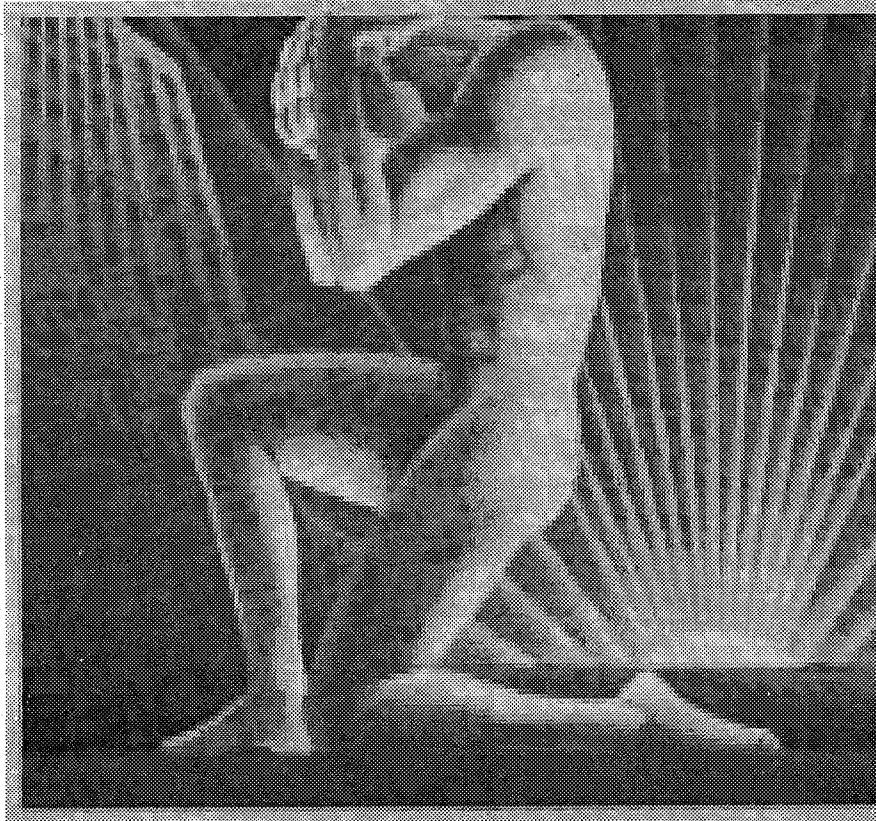


to his testament, with no written language or agriculture or anything white. Life was short for them, was it? Well, considering the Europeans were coping with a little something called the Plague and on average lived half to two thirds as long as many natives, and that the life expectancy white people have in America is within just the last century starting to catch up, then the Europeans must have lived to like twelve years old back then, but that can't be possible cause Columbus was killin' Injuns for way more than twelve years. The Native peoples of Long Island were more than ten tribes, the languages spoken and written here were more than three hundred, and the crops of the Wampanoags were plentiful enough to feed the grave-robbing Pilgrims who were so uptight, (like objectivists), that the English told them to leave. If the enormous benefits meant by Berliner that the whites brought were murder and disease, then he is absolutely correct and I couldn't praise his journalistic integrity further, you really have stopped at nothing to bring the people the truth.

Multicultural education is a cruel hoax that will create more racism. Not even gonna dignify that with a response.

"Everyone is a sovereign entity...that is the ultimate value of western civilization," posits Berliner. Columbus says "gold is most excellent; gold constitutes treasure; and he who has it does all he wants in the world, and can even lift souls up to Paradise." There's his ultimate value, shiny metal, ooh, ahh, shiny.

Christopher Columbus was a jerk. He was a disease spreading white supremacist with a fixation on shiny yellow metal. Michael Berliner is a bad journalist and a horrible, horrible objectivist. The Statesman is birdcage liner. Ayn Rand is dead.



Sociological Treatise #1

By Lukas Manneun

The American Social Experiment is dead. Many are unwilling to come to terms with this near certainty due to the slow pace at which our society unravels (or is encapsulated). Politically the nation has grown corrupt, the influence of money has become highly inhibitive and the nature of political redistricting has all but created an entire house of Congress inhabited by lifetime appointees (ironically reminiscent of the English House of Lords). Morally society has grown debased, not in the sense that new generations no longer adhere to the same standards as their forbearers, but rather that a sense of individual importance has grown to the extent that in most citizens any concept of social responsibility, of a debt to the community, has been marginalized to the point of nonexistence. Sociologically almost no progress has been made in the last quarter century to reduce the massive cleavages that ravage America- the vast majority of the nation continues to exist in ethnic enclaves and view those racially, economically, and geographically different from themselves with a high degree of suspicion and apprehension. The basis of American society- equality of opportunity- more and more becomes a farcical notion as the gap between rich and poor increases and the tax burden is laid increasingly on the middle class. One born with privilege will not find the same opportunities as one born without. We run the risk being suffocated under rapid urbanization, booming population, and rapid advances in technology.

It can be said that this is merely human nature, but we have today an opportunity to invariably alter that very nature through the level of affluence and technological prowess that exists throughout our society- indeed, it often seems the robust American economy is perhaps the only element of this grand experiment that seems to have fared magnificently well.

It is essential to analyze the nature of intelligence before suggesting a cure for our malaise. We are a species driven by fear and ignorance inhabiting a society in which education is, theoretically, the primary means of indi-

vidual social progression. We have been lulled into believing that certain elements of the population possess a higher degree of intelligence than others. All men are of the same basic biological makeup, and as such all are capable of thought on a certain plain- it is the pursuits that an individual's intellectual energy is channeled into that define what he excels at. One man is a great writer and another a talented musician not due to some absurd notion of inborn talent, but rather a result of the redirecting of their conscience thought and time into separate subject areas. Herein lies the American charade: as certain individuals receive a stronger social fabric than others, they are almost guaranteed at birth a greater level of success in life than those born without such a fabric. The masses of urban and rural poor do not experience a great degree of social turnover, and beyond the anomalous success story almost all are scarred for life by virtue of their heritage. They exist in a de facto state of servitude. It is a lie and must end.

I propose not an amending of the system but a complete overhaul, a necessary razing, for it is only from the ashes that our phoenix can arise. I shall term the society I wish to impose an "Academic Sparta"; the changes are included the following four-point plan:

1. The abolition of the last name and the tracing of lines of heredity
2. The banning of passing wealth from one generation to the next
3. The institution of a federal education system responsible for every facet of a child's care after the age 4
4. The retention of a democratic system of government, free economy, and complete suffrage after the age of 18

At first glance it seems I am suggesting the elimination of the nuclear family and the destruction of one's ancestry. This is precisely what I propose. We have reached a point in sociological development at which the nuclear family unit has become more detrimental than it is

beneficial. One's heritage and family is the chief source of individual self-identity, and it is this identity that breeds both racist and classist thought. The continuation of wealth along family lines allows for social division along hereditary lines and distorts the playing field from birth. The values once imbued by the family with a relative degree of efficiency have begun to fall into disrepair after a half century of social liberation, and can be just as well provided by the state, in a system that provides a social fabric that spans racial and economic backgrounds, creating a system in which college graduates and high school dropouts truly earn their distinctions. There are those who will surely cry that I am impeding creativity, stomping on the ever-tantalizing American Dream.

What folly. I have created a process that ensures the American Dream- 'a days pay for a days work'- withstands the tests of time, have developed a system of tremendous flexibility- after the end of secondary school, all individuals leave to live their lives in a society based on an economic and political model much similar to our own, with a few minor modifications concerning the nature of political campaigning, congressional redistricting, and term limits for federal officials. The extent to which we have failed to tap into our population's human potential is staggering- we have allowed fear of change to obstruct the advancement of the human species. This is not communism, although it may be considered a line of socialist thought. I'm not endeared to social security or universal medical coverage, for both concepts fail to address the critical issue, the disparate entrance into this world that faces every member of our society. No child should drive a luxury car or work nights to support his family- both fates can only be the result of the personal effort they put forth and individual decisions they concoct for themselves, and not those inherited from their, and our own, forbearers.



SAB... All That You Can Be

By Joe Filippazzo

You are getting the shaft harder than you could possibly imagine right now as you read this. In fact, you've been getting this very same shaft for about, well... how long have you gone to Stony Brook? Yeah. You've been getting it that long. (You say:) "How, prêt ell, am I getting this aforementioned shaft?" (So I say:) Because you don't have the slightest idea how this university organizes, plans and executes decisions within our beloved Undergraduate Student Government (USG).

One board of particular note that this author feels perfectly embodies the spirit, attitude, and frame of mind of almost every USG related organization is the Student Activity Board (SAB). For the quite large percentage of you who don't know, the Student Activity Board is the quasi-independent sub-committee of USG that decides how to spend (ready for this?) the Student Activity Fee. After you add your \$150 and I add my \$150, the university gives upwards of \$200,000 to this one organization. Unfortunately, SAB's job description is completely different from their actual goal. Their job is to provide the campus population with diverse and entertaining extra-curricular events that accurately reflect the interests of the student body that funds them (that's you!). Their ultimate goal however is very different. SAB generally has an extremely narrow field of view when it comes to event planning and its success is hindered even further by the fact that 80% of the board either cares just enough to satisfy personal interests or doesn't care at all.

Problem 1: There are 5 people on the Student Activity Board (even though our constitution says that a fully functioning board is supposed to have 10 members) and 80% of them don't care about you. How many SAB board members give a shit?

Solution: ONE. ONE person on the board is actually trying to make sure our money is spent the right way. ONE person is doing her best to cater to the interests of underrepresented students like herself. And ONE person is being jerked around and penalized for speaking her piece to an otherwise closed-minded undergraduate politburo.

"How do I shaft thee? Let me count the ways."

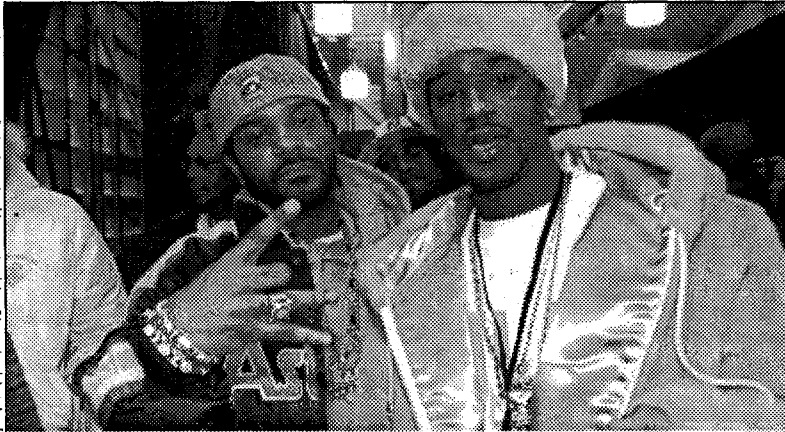
-Elizabeth Barren Browning, USG Vice President of Poemeology

Shaft 1: USG and thus SAB generally is a closely-knit group of Administrative peons. A confused and frightened bunch, they usually act belligerent toward members of other herds even if the outsider has good intentions.

August 11, 2003 was the day that three students (outside the ring) were encouraged by our heroine to come to the 1:20pm SAB meeting in SAC 218 and express their interest in joining and participating. They were not exactly greeted with open arms. The three students (one from SBU-TV, one from the Press, and one from Commuter Student Association) were promptly asked to leave the meeting. When they inquired why they had to leave, even though the action was in direct violation of the New York State Open Meetings Law, they were given two explanations. The first was that the meetings were closed (i.e. illegal) because SAB was going

through a rough formation period. The second was that since the interested students had media connections, SAB didn't want articles on everything they did or information "leaking" out (i.e. extremely illegal).

A week later on August 18th, the students came back looking for answers. One SAB pawn told them that the order came directly



"Pink and fuzzy hats 4 E!!" - Juelz Santana

from our Undergraduate Student Government President, Sandy Curtis, who claimed that friends couldn't attend since the (still incomplete) board was under construction. The concerned students were then told that they were not even allowed to wait in the USG office (i.e. awfully illegal). Finally the meeting, which was an hour later than scheduled, began and they were let back in the office. At this point, Sandy Curtis came in and told the students that the Co-chair of SAB was unaware of the law and that they could stay for the meeting (legality at long last!).

To recap: The Peon said the Prez gave the order then the Prez apologized for the Co-Chair's mistake. Basic communication skills and fundamentally important legal concepts, one would think, should be prerequisites for the cited governmental positions (not illegal, just stupid). Legality aside, a student government, one would think, should be open to instructive criticism and diverse student input (not illegal, just inefficient).

Shaft 2: The ever-present incompetence was exacerbated by SAB's refusal to cooperate with their one useful member who I'll cleverly refer to as "Useful" from now on. For example, when Useful proposed a lecturer for October, the Co-Chair said that she was planning to have a lecturer and said that it wouldn't be a good idea to have two. The Co-Chair's lecture was not seen to fruition, so October had no lectures.

As another example, when Useful initially applied for a position on the four person Student Activity Board, the SAB Advisor told her that she would be notified as to what the status of her application was and the time, date, and location of the meetings (which should be public knowledge any way!). Useful repeatedly tried to get this information via e-mail, phone calls and office visits but to no avail. When the SAB Advisor finally got back to her and gave her the position on the board, Useful found out inadvertently that SAB had been having regular meetings for the previous four weeks.

As another example, Useful began to organize a concert for late October and specifically requested 3 different dates for the event, as one planning an event is required to do. The Chair of SAB however, went ahead and scheduled his own show for the same dates. (Illegal, inefficient, and cliquey is fine, but that's just plain rude!) It's also a perfect segue into...

Shaft 3: Last semester, the Press in association with most of the other student media groups, put on the wildly successful *Operation: Rock and Awe* where the *Get Up Kids* performed free in the Union Ballroom. While organizing the show, it was strongly emphasized and continually made clear to the organizers that they **COULD NOT POST ANY ADVERTISING FOR THE SHOW UNTIL THE SECURITY CHECKS FOR THE BANDS CLEARED.** The media made sure they honored this rule and waited. The total advertising cost for the show was approximately \$80.

With all this in mind, the Chair of (the still incomplete) SAB scheduled a rap concert with the Diplomats (Juelz Santana, Jim Jones, Freaky Zeaky and what have you) for late October. Approximately a week later, a box of several hundred flyers arrived in the SAB office. They were professionally made off campus and were 4" x 7" glossy, full color and, despite the spelling errors, very high quality advertisements for the Diplomats show. You may have seen them around campus about 3 weeks ago but then after that, they disappeared and the show was never mentioned again. The reason for this is that the show never happened. The Chair of SAB went ahead and allocated student activity money for the flyers on the assumption that the Diplomats were going to pass the security check (against governmental regulations, illegal, presumptuous, and **THAT'S OUR MONEY!**). The glossy, independently produced flyers now wallpaper my bathroom so that their creation was not in vain. Their usefulness henceforth shall be gauged in their innate ability to piss the ever-lovin' shit out of me.

And the list goes on. In my research for this article, I have seen case after case of support for the shameful, ugly and embarrassing truth about our Undergraduate Student government, and in particular, the (still incomplete) Student Activity Board. Overall, it is a corrupt, wasteful, failure of a committee that simply changes its name and shuffles the positions of its members when it gets into hot water or enters public scrutiny. The board is, for the most part, an ineffective, uneducated, and misinformed group of people who are not fit to speak for the rest of the student body.

Currently, positions have been opened so that a fully operational board may be formed but until action is taken and SAB actually performs its duty described in the Undergraduate Student Constitution, I can only hope that the cue of shafts we are receiving has an end in sight. I believe it was Juelz Santana himself, who said,

*"Killa's my big nigga, also my big brother
We are the Dip family, get a grip family
Nothin' alive can divide this SAB."*

Undergraduate Student Government
Proudly Presents

Dave Chappelle

Dirty Jokes,

Clean Body.

BLACKOLOGY 103: Introductory Chappelle

THURSDAY, November 13th @ 9:00PM

TICKETS ON SALE @ SAC BOX OFFICE NOW!

\$12 SBU Undergraduate Students -- \$20 Public
Stony Brook University Sports Complex Arena

Pole Shift Warning

By Jay Rosenstone

The <http://www.zetataalk.com> website of Nancy Liedt, an abductee of the Zeta Reticulan extraterrestrials discusses the shift in the Earth's poles which is expected to occur before the end of 2003. This danger has been suppressed from public knowledge due to a government cover-up. The ZetaTalk website explains how the planet Nibiru passes through our Solar System about every 3657 years. Previous passes have caused disasters such as the Great Flood. Nibiru orbits around both our Sun and an unlit star. Nibiru was actually detected by an infrared telescope hoisted aloft by balloon in 1983. Nibiru is inhabited by large human-like beings who once ruled Earth and used humans as mine workers.

The magnetic field of Nibiru is so intense and so much stronger than Earth's that the Earth's magnetic core is expected to shift under the Earth's crust when the giant comet passes between Earth and the Sun. Severe tidal waves, earthquakes, polar icecap melting, hurricane force winds and firestorms are expected.

Before the pole shift, the Earth will be swept with red dust, then stop rotating for several days due to Nibiru's magnetic grip on Earth's especially magnetic Atlantic Rift. There will be a long day on one side of the Earth and a long night on the other side. The pole shift is specifically explained in the "Pole Shift" topic within the "Pole Shift" section of ZetaTalk as a "movement of the interior of the Earth, the core to come into alignment with the giant comet Nibiru....The Earth's crust resists aligning with the giant comet" but eventually the core breaks with the crust and over the course of about an hour moves under the crust.

After the pole shift the new Equator is expected to pass over the old North Pole and South Pole melting them within 2 years and raising sea level 650 to 700 feet. New polar icecaps are expected to gradually form over the remains of subducted India and off the coast of Brazil. The Pacific Ocean is expected to shorten, the Atlantic to widen, and the Indian subcontinent to be subducted under the Himalayas. The Zeta Reticulans "estimate that the comet will come within 14 million miles of Earth. The strength of the magnetic field at that distance will be such that the comet's North Pole angled, essentially in the same direction as the Earth's North Pole, forces the Earth's North Pole to evade the pressure and accommodate its' larger brother by swinging south to the bulge of Brazil." The Point of Passage section shows the angle between Earth and the Sun at which Nibiru crosses the orbital plane.

Now, who are the Zeta Reticulans who provide the information on ZetaTalk? They are the most common type of extraterrestrials visiting Earth, the little grey beings with the big oval eyes. In the "Worlds" section of ZetaTalk they explain that their home planet is in the Zeta Reticuli star system. Life on their home planet was badly damaged by biological warfare. The large Zeta eyes are an adaptation to the dim sunlight there.

The "Hybrid" section of ZetaTalk describes their program of abducting humans as part of a project to create a new Human-Zeta race. The memory of the abduction is, however, repressed. This lack of conscious remembering together with the lack of

photos of the Zeta Reticulans on the ZetaTalk website can make it difficult to convince people that warnings about the pole shift are credible. While I can understand that the pole shift is considered to be a test for humans to deal with largely on their own, I respectfully feel that the that the extraterrestrials are making a mistake being so secretive that their very existence is often doubted. The "Special Children" topic within the "Hybrid" section details the gradual influx of Zeta genetics into humans. While they seek a 50/50 blend in the hybrid race, select human children were born with 3-5% Zeta genetics starting in the 1950's moving to 10% in the 1990's. The SciFi television network series "Taken" was an attempt by the government to educate the public about the hybrid project.

The fear of panic is a driving force behind the cover-up. The tendency to deny danger is partly a legacy of the way of life of our foraging ape ancestors. They sometimes had to deny the threat of predation in order to keep searching for food.

The Zeta Reticulans decline to give an exact date for the pole shift beyond stating that it will occur before the end of 2003. They fear such precise information might be used to allow some individuals to survive at the expense of others (see the Date link). But although there may be preliminary disasters the actual pole shift should not occur until after the last date given for Media events with Nancy Liedt. As of the October 16 submission of this article, the most forward scheduled appearance by Nancy Liedt is a live radio program on survival scheduled for November 10.

But what is the evidence for the pole shift so far? Please look especially at the "Synergy of Signs" section which discusses using photos and diagrams the:

"Global quakes when the Atlantic Rift is in key positions vs. Planet X.", "Increase in Nibiru image size and approach toward the ecliptic (the plane of revolution of the Earth around the Sun)", "Increasing brightness of the double sun.

Red dust cloud from Nibiru causing especially red sunrises and sunsets", "Government coverup of SOHO (solar observatory) photos and Richter earthquake readings", and "Crop circles support Zeta comments on approach angle".

Also, the August, 2003 power blackout in New York and the September, 2003 power blackout in Italy were attributed by ZetaTalk to crustal stretching. See the "St. Lawrence Seaway" topic under "Global Quakes" and the "Power Outages" topic under "What's New."

Make sure you investigate the "Photos" section including the fire dragon, occulting sun and sunset sun photos. I have personally seen two rainbows in July (one about a tenth the intensity of other) around sunset, which would correspond to the sunset sun photos of two glowing objects. There are comments on moon orbit changes and in September, I saw the crescent of the Moon on the bottom of the Moon instead of on the side. Of course I have seen the red sky at sunset and sunrise.

Another website dealing with the approach of Nibiru is The Grant Chronicles

(<http://www.grantchronicles.com>). The "12th Planet" link at The Grant Chronicles includes information on the fading or winking out of the 12th Planet which affected observability when Nibiru was further away months ago. Make sure you see the "Wrong Dates" section of The Grant Chronicles which show the author's attitude in considering the circumstances of the pole shift. Submit the word Nibiru to a search engine and you will find many other fine websites.

Getting back to ZetaTalk, the "Safe Locations" section details prospects for areas worldwide. For example the East Coast of the United States section discusses the crust under New England bouncing up just before the pole shift while the crust south of New York City will be pulled under water prior to the shift. The prospects for New York City are quite poor with skyscrapers and bridges collapsing and severe tidal waves. For New York State the Zeta advice is to be at least 100 miles inland and 200 feet above sea level to be safe from the tidal waves.

Now, does it really have to be this bad? No, because for one thing, there is uncertainty about how close Nibiru will come to Earth. Furthermore, I am hoping that getting this article published will help to blow open the cover-up and get the entire scientific community to contribute ideas on what can be done. The "Men in Black" section of ZetaTalk discusses this group of technologically advanced formerly extraterrestrial hominoids who live secretly in caves on Earth where they have constructed underground cities. Perhaps they have technology which could help. I propose a Men in Black cooperation project to get in contact with them and work together to help moderate the pole shift. Another idea would be to make the Earth's own magnetic field more diffuse using the principles of scalar electromagnetics. This might make Earth respond less drastically to Nibiru's magnetic field but that could be wishful thinking because of the size of the forces involved. Please look at the "Troubled Times" section of ZetaTalk for survival information.

The most important thing you can do now as a reader of this article is to get the word out about the approach of Nibiru so both the scientific community and the general populace are alerted. Do not neglect the other ZetaTalk sections including those on Government, Science, Transformation to 4th Density, and the Orientation differences between Service-to-Self and Service-to-Other. Also, you need not believe everything. For example, many UFO magazines describe black triangular spaceships as being extraterrestrial. ZetaTalk however describes them as being of human military origin. Perhaps there are some topics they feel they must maintain secrecy about.

The future can be changed but only if fate allows it. Live life to its fullest now because you never know what tomorrow may bring. Demonstrate that you can handle the pole shift information in a constructive manner without panic and you will gain the support of others in the know who can lend credence to the pole shift danger. Plan on survival including escape routes, power production and food production.



ZetaTalk®

TOP TEN

Things USG is Buying With Our Money

Battle of the Century

FIRST
CHINESE
ASTRONAUT

OPTIMUS
PRIME

VS

PRO

CON

10 Diverse activity planning which accurately reflects the interests of the student body

9 Baking Money Pies

8 World's Largest Paper Shredder

7 NIETZSCHE

6 \$28,000 Subscription to the Statesman...wait we really are

5 Furnish Decadent Empire Complete with Orgies and Vomitoriums

4 A life-size replica of Scroodge McDuck's "Money Bin" complete with gold coins for USG members to swim in

3 Buy out Webster, invent words like Terranotacular and Claytastic

2 50,000,000,000,000,000 Wax Hands

1 Massive Amounts of Red Tape

- No longer stranded on Earth

- Converts into 1960's

- Escapes Communism

- Space rice

- 75 lbs of fury

- Xin Yin Hao

- Mao is personal hero

- Convoluted writing system makes actually landing shuttle impossible

- Lack of hygiene products in space

- Makes embarrassing noises while speaking

- Vacuum pack mien tiao

- Has no action figure

- Ty-cho-naughts... Chinese in Disguise!

- Stranded on Earth - TO KICK ASS!

- Converts into fighting robot

- Escapes Galvatron

- Energon rice

- 18 wheels of fury

- 1111 1010 1100 1110

- Neitzsche is personal hero

- Horizontal stripes make his already boxy hips look ridiculous

- Lack of shocks and mufflers in space

- Makes embarrassing noises while converting

- Cannot find mate to receive all of giant robot love

- Actually, just as much as meets the eye

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God Monkey-Fuck Damn! It's R.K. Milholland!

By Andrew Pernick

The Stony Brook Press met up with web-cartoonist R.K. Milholland, creator of the incredibly brilliant "Something Positive" (www.somethingpositive.net) where readers can get their recommended daily allowance of cynicism, midget abuse, boneless cats, irreverence and senseless violence. S.P., as it is lovingly called, is also the only quasi-daily comic with "chocolate fnord!"

Stony Brook Press: Thank you for joining us.

R.K. Milholland: My pleasure.

SBP: Tell us a bit about yourself. Where are you from? Where did you go to school? How did you learn to draw? What does the 'K.' stand for? When's your birthday? What do you do for a living?

RKM: Oh god! I was born and raised in Bedford, Texas a small town between Dallas and Fort Worth. I went to the University of North Texas until 1999 when I dropped out of the art program over being very unhappy with how they were teaching. I moved to Boston in May of that year. The 'K.' stands for Keith; my full name is Randall Keith Milholland. I'm a data entry specialist. It's real exciting - gotta get those numbers in.

SBP: How many hits per month does "Something Positive" receive and how did you get as popular as you are?

RKM: As of May, I know I have around 40,000 readers. I haven't checked it in awhile. I got lucky; word of mouth has been very good to me. The first month of the comic's life I was mentioned on the comic strip "Penny Arcade". They are the large gorilla of web-comics. And since then it's been word of mouth, a lot of people just sharing my comic.

SBP: How did you get started with web-comics and what made you start "Something Positive"?

RKM: I got started because a lot of the cartoons I enjoyed were vanishing. Either the cartoonists were tired of doing them. It kind of depressed me and I wanted to do something in the vein of comics like "The All-New Bobbins Show" which would end later on and so I started a comic based on my friends and I quickly learned that my humor isn't quite as - well, it's pretty obscene. I went with that because people seemed to like it. I went for a more honest approach about how people act. You know, people being angry, people sometimes screw up relationships and things like that.

SBP: Describe the process of creating the comic.

RKM: The process is pretty easy. Of course I say that now. I sit down, I take some paper, I draw everything in blue frames. I draw the character outlines and then go over them in ink. I then scan it and arrange the panels as I'd like them to be, color the comic and then I add my text. Then I go over it, reread it, make sure everything is funny, make sure I'm not repeating myself. If I don't like it, I delete it all and I start all over again.

SBP: What inspires you as an artist?

RKM: My friends, seeing people, anger, past

loss. I try to keep my comic close to what people understand. I base it on a lot of experiences I've had with people, failed relationships, good friendships, seeing people you care about leave your life. Things like that.

SBP: Do you read any web-comics and, if so, which ones?

RKM: I read Scary-Go-Round, Sluggy [Freelance], RPG World, Devil's Panties, Queen of Wands, Kung Fool as much as I can.

SBP: How do you get along with artists like Pete Abrams, Scott Kurtz and their ilk?

RKM: Pete Abrams is hard to not get along with. He's just a good man, laid-back, honest with you about everything, he doesn't hide. But he doesn't come off as arrogant, he hasn't let his success really go to his head. [Scott] Kurtz and I don't talk. He hasn't shown any interest in talking to me. We've had a few run-ins on what used to be his forums. We didn't particularly get along. It's odd because he and I grew up in the same town, we went to the same junior high, high school and college and we had a lot of the same teachers. My sister even knew him in high school but he has no interest in talking to me. I somehow doubt I'm more than a passing thought to him. I



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God Monkey-Fuck Damn! It's R.K. Milholland! (cont')

love his comic, I don't really care about the man. I get along with James Grant of Phlegm Comics. He's very blunt; you always know where you stand with James. Aeire, Queen of Wands is a good to get to know. She really knows about comics. She has her fingers pretty much everywhere; Keenspot, she's been tech support for Keenspace, she knows a lot of cartoonists. I've been pretty fortunate; most of the cartoonists I've gotten to know have been good people.

SBP: Do you get hate mail?

RKM: Yes! Weekly, sometimes daily. It depends. Usually it's when a person has found my website for the first time and it's a day I have a particularly effective comic I get a short "How could you do that? You should be ashamed of yourself and arrested!"

SBP: How much of yourself do you put into Davan and how much is he, or the comic, an outlet for your anger?

RKM: Davan is very similar to how I was a few years ago, he's kind of a retrospective for me. When someone makes me mad is usually goes straight into the comic because it keeps me from mauling them. There are times I still do public assaults. I have, on occasion, when people have angered me, posted it on my website and sent my readers after them. I am a vindictive little bitch! It's not professional but I've never claimed to be one. But Davan is a lot of me trying to understand my past actions, trying to come to terms with some of my own mistakes.

SBP: How much of your comic is based on real events and how much is fiction?

RKM: In the original strips, it was 80% real. It's kind of evened out now. A lot of story ideas do come from things that have happened. The story about Kim's coven falling apart because of a bad woman taking over, popularizing it, making it trendy. That happened to the real Kim, she went through that situation. There are a lot of incidents. Like Davan finding out that his great-grandfather might have been a Klansman. That is something that my cousin and I learned that there is belief that my great-grandfather might have been a Klansman and so I did a strip about it. I try to keep it as real as I can because it's something I know and, if I know it, I think it will be better material. Those usually make the better stories.

SBP: Are Pee Jee and Aubrey real or fictional?

RKM: Real!

SBP: Are they really as dangerous as you portray them?

RKM: Pee Jee is generally a laid-back person and she gives everyone a fighting chance. So long as you don't push her buttons, you'll be fine. Aubrey also gives everyone a fighting chance but she's a lot closer to her character in real life than Pee Jee is. And if you step over the boundaries you find out very quickly.

SBP: Why is it that you dole out so much twisted misfortune on, of all people, your alter-ego Davan?

RKM: I feel less guilty about doing it. I think everyone has the whole complex of "everyone's against me." And I can't say that I'm any differ-

ent. It's kind of funny; he's kind of the everyman, he's not as much to the extreme as the other characters and it just seems more appropriate for him to receive a lot of misfortune. Besides, he deserves some of the stuff he gets. I mean, he isn't exactly the nicest person alive.

SBP: How do you come up with Davan, Pee Jee and Aubrey's scathing, cynical, biting repartee?

RKM: Some of the things they've actually said. Some of them are things that I've said. It's just comments we have. Aubrey and I have had conversations where I wish could have been tape-recorded because countless, horrible comments have been lost to time. It's just generally the way we talk. We tend to open our mouth and whatever flies out, flies out. Hopefully it's intelligent. Hopefully it's worth putting in the comic.

SBP: Like "God monkey-fuck damn?"

RKM: Yes. That has been said a few times. "Monkey-fuck-suit" is another term that has been used. Aubrey is a particularly great wealth of creative descriptions for things.

SBP: Are the characters' real-life counterparts recognized as their "Something Positive" alter-egos? What happens when people meet them?

RKM: If you mean people on the street, Aubrey has been bought many drinks by people who realize she's Aubrey. She looks very close to her character. Most people haven't recognized Jason. Pee Jee's character looks different enough from her that she's not recognized, which is how she prefers it. She did not want that. Jhim has had a lot of recognition which he's happy with. T-Bob has some. It's kind of a mix. Some of the characters have been recognized, some haven't. It's usually the more extreme characters that get the recognition.

SBP: And what happens when they are recognized?

RKM: It depends. Jhim has gotten pretty good attention, he's met some nice young men out of it. Aubrey has gotten a lot of free drinks which is, you know, a staple of her diet. She has had times when she's snipped at people because she just didn't want people to bother her. There's a right time and a right place for people to walk up and say "You're Aubrey from that comic!" And when she's trying to have a moment with her boyfriend, that's the wrong time. But, overall, most of them have been pretty happy with it.

SBP: Do you have "fanboys"?

RKM: Yes I do. Most of them are pretty good. They're not as rabid as some comics. I'm not like Pete Abrams where I have like the Sluggites [Sluggy Freelance fans] who will now dedicate their lives to my mission. I've had a few. I think because I make fun of fanboys, a lot of them want to keep themselves in check. Part of them doesn't want to be made fun of in the comic and, in a way, part of them does.

SBP: You depict Davan's parents as sensitive, reasonable, intelligent, loving people. Why does Davan hate them?

RKM: He doesn't actually hate them. He's never actually says he hates them. He doesn't get

along with his father. They're too similar as characters. As for his mother, their interactions haven't been touched on enough in the comic to my liking. The few times you've seen them, he definitely cares for his mom. The main problem he has with his father is that they are too similar. His father is just as cynical as he is, his father makes really snide comments, and people like that either gel really well together or they butt heads.

SBP: Where did Avagadro and Pepito come from? Is there some unwritten rule of web-comics requiring midget abuse?

RKM: Yes, there is that rule because midgets don't complain! Let's face it, anyone under three feet, we don't care, we can't hear them. Avagadro's based on many directors. I did theatre for the past 10 years and there are a lot of directors who are just total jackasses. I did a lot of community theatre and they didn't understand that we're helping them out as much as they're helping us. A lot of the roles I've taken have been when actors have dropped out of plays, so they weren't plays I even auditioned for and weren't plays I really wanted to be in. My viewpoint was "You can't fire me. You asked me to be here." And they still copped the attitude. It's my strike of fuck you, I'm tired of "Oh, I'm a director. You're not very important." Pepito was originally supposed to be a monkey. He was a sex monkey and Davan was going to have elderly neighbors who were going to appear in the strip for a long time and be the sensitive, old people you like. And about a year into the strip, you would've found out that they're horrible, deviant sex perverts and Davan would save their monkey from them. But the problem is that certain catchphrases were going to set the monkey off and he would do inappropriate things like if he heard the term "mount up", he would mount something up. Davan was also going to have a different cat originally that would be a very sad cat that was always being abused. And it would of course be repeatedly raped by the monkey. But that's never happened so I decided to turn him into a little midget because everyone loves midgets!

SBP: Monette, your "Reluctant Lesbian", does she have a real-life counterpart?

RKM: Monette is a composite of four different people I've met. I've taken various qualities from them. The difference is that she actually has redeemable qualities, the rest of them should have been killed.

SBP: Are any of them as mixed-up as Monette is?

RKM: Yes. Quite a few of them are more mixed up.

SBP: You've done story arcs about plays involving the crucifixion and cancer. Both seemed to aim for outrage. What was the viewing public's reaction and why did you draw these arcs?

RKM: They were just so absurd most people couldn't be offended by them. I had a lot of Christians who loved that. Most of the Christians who read my comic actually have a really good sense of humor. There's a minister who reads my comic, which surprised me and when I had post-

Continued on page 22

God Monkey-Fuck Damn! It's R.K. Milholland! (cont')

Continued from page 21

ed the strip about D&D [Dungeons & Dragons] being satanic, he replied to it and said "Who said this to you? I want to talk to them about it. That's bullshit." And that was a surprise. Christians take it pretty well. The plays are basically I want to do something so absurd and it's kind of how Mel Brooks came up with "Springtime for Hitler". Something so bizarre. I'm sorry, but cancer's funny!

SBP: Please take this opportunity to say "fuck you" to anyone who has ever pissed you off.

RKM: Fuck you to everyone who got pissed off because you felt I was being too pro-choice with my abortion storyline. Fuck you to everyone who got pissed off because you felt I was being too pro-life with my abortion storyline. Fuck you to the three Mormon people who got pissed off because I made fun of Mormons. If you liked my comic strip when I made fun of other people and you can't take a fucking joke, then you shouldn't like it when the joke's about other people. Grow up. Fuck you to the various people who thought I was being unfair to Wicca. Some of you really are posers. Accept it. Fuck you to the gamers who think I don't game. I play D&D. Yes, some of you really are that lifeless and pathetic. Fuck you to the people who got upset that I did a suicide story line. Sometimes people die and you have to accept it. That was just my way of trying to accept it too.

SBP: Your boneless, hairless "chemo-kitty" Choo-Choo Bear is, arguably, the most surreal character in web-comics. Where did he come from?

RKM: I have a theory that all cats have Jello skeletons. How else do you explain most of the things they get away with in life? The original Choo-Choo Bear was not going to be Davan's cat; he was going to be Davan's downstairs neighbor's cat which was an angry half Persian, half Siamese that was out to kill Davan. Because I thought that Choo-Choo Bear was such a dumb name, I felt it had to be used. One day I decided to put a cat in the comic and I drew it. Choo-Choo Bear was not going to be a recurring character. Too many people liked him and it was one of the few times I ever caved to the pressure and so I keep him as a background character. He's just fun to draw.

SBP: Will we be seeing more of Jhim now that he's moved away?

RKM: You'll see more Jhim-specific storylines. Jhim is not out of the comic. There will be, however, a few of the characters who are leaving the comic.

SBP: Boxers or briefs?

RKM: Neither.

SBP: "Something Positive", you say on your website, is "a webcomic with chocolate fnord." Does that mean it's edible?

RKM: Originally it was "a webcomic with chocolate sprinkles." Yeah, I guess you could print it out and eat the paper.

SBP: Why, in your opinion, does there exist a need for web-cartoonists to use Cthulhu?

RKM: There's just something horribly funny about the Lovecraftian mythos. It's a wonderful read. I love horror and I love his writing and the writings of many of the people who came after him. At the same time, a lot of the people who are into that stuff take it so seriously that some of us have to counter them.

SBP: Your characters are anti-Furry yet your website claims that you transform into a merkat during full moons. So, are you pro-Furry, anti-Furry or Furry-indifferent?

RKM: I'm Furry-indifferent. My viewpoint is that most Furies are not sexual perverts, despite what people want to think. That's the new witch-hunt; geeks need someone to antagonize. Geeks need someone to who they can say "You're worse than me." And that's who we're pinning it on. We used to do it to Star Trek fans and now that Star Trek's numbers are dwindling because it sucks worse than it ever did, we're going for these people who are into that. Yeah, some of them are into deviant behavior. Big fucking deal! So are most geeks! At least they're fucking open about it. They like to wear suits that make them feel like monkeys while they're having sex. How many people look at porn of women shitting in men's mouths? At least they're honest. I don't care; they're doing it in their homes. They're not fucking in chipmunk suits in front of children. Although, I would pay to see that.

SBP: What about the Koala fucking? Please tell me that was fiction.

RKM: That was fiction. The original storyline had a different ending. The last panel of the strip that mentioned Koala fucking was the typical "Monette calling Davan from a man's apartment". I thought that this was bullshit. It's so stupid, so goddamned tv-sitcom that I'm embarrassed about it. I destroyed the original drawing of it and I thought "What would be bizarre?" I hate Koalas. I think they're ugly little shits. If there's one animal that should be wiped off the face of the Earth, it's the Koala. So I made Monette fuck a Koala.

SBP: Could you clarify your stance on Wicca?

RKM: I look at it this way. If you have religious viewpoints, I respect you if you have faith. I have questioned that many times. My family is very faithful but at the same time my father promoted the idea that I find my own faith and, for a Southern Baptist, that was a very big step and I thank him for that. I love researching religion. I've met many Wiccans for whom it is what they believe. Good for them. But there are just as many "Wiccans" who aren't real; they're pursuing it because it might be cool. The same reason some people go for Christianity - "It's what I know." They use it for social reasons. They use it for a reason to make themselves "better" than other people. That's my problem. I have no respect for that. The same with atheists; if you're an atheist, great, but don't use atheism as an excuse to look down on other people. Wicca's fine. It's a belief system, it's valid. I hope that for the people who really believe in it that it's exactly what they need and I hope it gives them what they want.

SBP: The recent arc involving Davan's sex life and Branwen's obsession with circumcision is particularly bizarre. What inspired this foray into discussions about Davan's manhood?

RKM: I was driving to Toronto, which was where my girlfriend was living at the time. On the radio was a debate and they were interviewing men who were "survivors of the circumcision disaster," and how they felt they were all victims of society and how there are certain laws about circumcision and how there are men who go through therapy to overcome it. I'm circumcised and I enjoy sex. I don't really care that I had an extra flap of skin lopped off. Since then, I've heard other people talking about it and I've met a few men who were upset about it and I've seen people debate how horrible it is. Who fucking cares? I can see that there is an argument that it is kind of archaic. I just wanted to make fun of it. It seemed so stupid to me. My girlfriend brought it up and she made a couple of comments that Branwen had made but she wasn't being serious. Wouldn't it be funny if Davan finally gets this woman he's really into, he adores her, they have sex and she apologizes to him because he couldn't have enjoyed it because he doesn't have a couple of extra inches of skin hanging off the front?

SBP: Where do you see "Something Positive" going in the next year?

RKM: At least one other character is leaving the strip. They'll be moving on. The storylines are going to be more focused on three main characters. Jason is probably going to be bumped up to being one of the main characters, they'll be some more stories about him. He's going to become part of the little circle. There will be a lot more stories about Davan's parents and Monette. There's going to be a very intense Monette story arc. Hopefully, beyond the comic, Steve Jackson Games' Warehouse 23 company will be marketing my t-shirts. Hopefully we'll be in talks about doing a compilation book of some form and maybe other merchandise. I just hope people enjoy it as much as I like doing it.

SBP: And what about in the next five years?

RKM: One character will be dead. A couple characters will leave, some new characters will come in. Things are going to change around quite a bit. Hopefully the comic will still be what I want it to be. If not, I'll stop doing it. I have long-term goals with that. With myself, I'm just hoping that I'm drawing it, I'm hoping people are enjoying it. I'll probably do another comic strip besides "Something Positive" on the side. I had wanted to start this year but certain things in my life prevented it. If it starts, it will be a comic strip about junior high in the 80's; what it's really like to have been in junior high in the 80's and based on a lot of the true life experiences of my friends being a geek in junior high. In Texas.

SBP: And, lastly, is there anything you wish to say to the "Something Positive" audience or to the readers of the Stony Brook Press?

RKM: I really appreciate everyone who's given the comic a chance. Even if it's not what you enjoy, thanks for trying. To people who like it, I hope it's something you keep enjoying. I appreciate all of the word of mouth and I appreciate all of the good words and I appreciate a lot of the critiques as well. And good luck getting engineering jobs; try not to make any buildings that fall on people.

SBP: Thank you.

RKM: My pleasure.

You are Nothing but a Goonie

By David K. Ginn

These words were immortalized by a culture before our own. By a time, and a place, that is long since forgotten. By a people who sought out culture and found it in the most unlikely of places. This is the period which we call "The Eighties".

One of the most cherished films from the eighties is the Richard Donner classic *The Goonies*, a movie that inspired hope and meaning for millions of lost children caught in the threshold of their time. Losers and Geekwads from all over united with the Dorkwads and Slackers throughout the world. There was much rejoicing. The coalition of the Dorkwads had begun, and that coalition had a name. It was called "The Goonies".

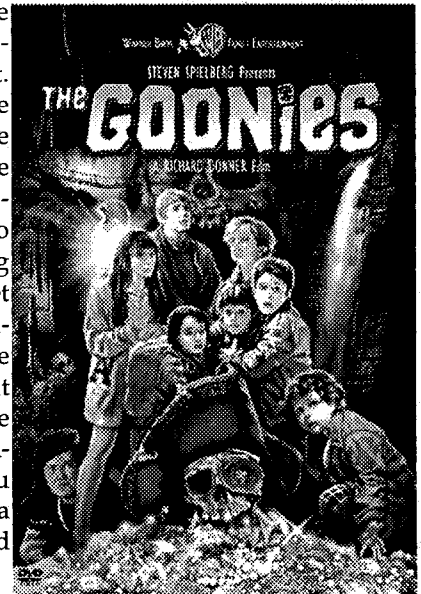
Was this change caused by the movie, or was the movie a wake-up call to those on the threshold of loserdom? Better yet, did *The Goonies* help shape the eighties into what it was, or did the eighties help shape *The Goonies* into what it was? Maybe the former; maybe the latter; maybe a little bit of both? Who can tell at this point?

The movies of the eighties were unique in

almost every way. After watching the film *White Water Summer*, I felt that I had a firm grasp on exactly what it was that sets the generation apart. In the end of the film, after the credits begin to roll, you really believe that you've watched a film about courage, adventure, and morals. A movie that makes you question the badness of the bad guy and the goodness of the good guy. But then, suddenly, the credits stop rolling and who should appear but the film's star, the loveable teenage youth who we've watched overcome all kinds of danger in his trip outdoors. And, alas! He provides an ending monologue that purely erases all illusions of courage and wisdom you thought you'd seen. His end monologue, in a nutshell: "I'm just a kid, so give me my goddamn MTV!"

For me this was kind of awkward, until I thought about all the other eighties movies I'd seen. They were all like that, in one way or another. *White Water Summer* was a kick-ass movie, confusing monologue or not. *The Goonies* and *The Lost Boys* are classic centerpieces for the eighties' generation.

And let's not forget about one of the greatest films of all time, *The Monster Squad*. There you have it. All of these movies were about kids and MTV, and that's what made them so goddamn great. So, for all those living in the time of the new millennium, those who are struggling so hard to get through college or are already out and in the world, remember this: You are Still Just a Goonie. And that's that.



Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

So, who's up for some good old-fashioned visceral experience? When the cold weather starts engulfing college students, we respond with keeping the hearth fires stoked ... there's been chronic porn-watching as of late, various sugarplum confections, Halloween sneaking up and a costume needed for parties, and as always a lot of students cozying up to the warm indulgence of different beds and bodies, bodies and beds.

I had plenty of visceral sagas in the last few weeks. The fucking playoffs for one. I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Yankees fan, and the nail-biter that was Game 7 was no disappointment; a home-run on the first pitch in the bottom of the 11th, after a sweeping New York rally, broke both the tie and the poor little hearts of Red Sox fans everywhere. I called my good friend Danielle in NYC, who incidentally possessed tickets to Game 1 of the World Series, and she was hyperventilating. (Little did we know Game 1 would be a wash.)

Also, after attending an acutely raw Gov't Mule show upstate with a good friend, and chanting "Boston sucks" for a full three minutes in a bar clustered with drunk fans beforehand, I returned to my Stony Brook room only to find an urgent message from my mom - my grandmother had passed away during dialysis. So I headed back upstate to be a pallbearer. I took the train that runs north along the Hudson River, and for countless hours each way I would look out the window and focus on the steel frosting with sunlight sprinkles spread on a tree-lined cupcake. Briefly along the ride, I wanted to lap it up, forgetting for a second that ingesting the noxious waters of the mucky Hudson would probably result in a third nipple protrusion. (Thank you Capitalism.)

My namesake, Grandma Jane,

was the cool kind of Italian grandma; extra large and jolly. Not only would she try to feed you every second you were in the vicinity of her kitchen, pig's feet, musky prosciutto, always bread and cheese, but she wouldn't take 'No' for an answer. And when I was very young, gram taught me what the word 'conniver' meant, a useful definition to keep under your belt.

When it rains, it pours. Nationally, the economy is tanking, the government spent \$300 million for a lengthy search and still has found no weapons of mass destruction to justify the war that is killing soldiers in Iraq on a DAILY basis. Add to that shit heap - the endorsed mafia (i.e. the government) is being investigated for blowing the cover of a CIA operative after her husband exposed them, and the Terminator just won a popularity contest in the West. It seems like everyone is having a tough time, but maybe none so tough as the poor sap who wrote in this week.

Personally, I think we're all fucked. Like Mr. Mojo Risin said, I just want to get my kicks before the whole shit-house goes up in flames.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

I'm a 28-year-old fat bastard who still lives at home with his mom, plays video games and surfs the Internet 16-18 hours a day, and has absolutely no prospect of getting laid. I don't do well around people, in fact I hate most all of you. Needless to say, this doesn't help my chances of getting laid. The last time I got laid was 6 years ago. It was a miserable failure, mostly because the unlucky lady decided that watching *Dukes of Hazard* was more interesting than my thrusting prowess.

That was 6 years ago, with '6 years' being the key word. But I'm not a one-time loser. I'm an all-time loser.

Before her, out of my only two other girlfriends - one became a lesbian, and the other one soaked me for travel fare and a \$1,500 engagement ring ... before I found out that she had given me a fake name and was already married.

I really could go on and on about the failures of my sex life, but I think this brief introduction gets the point across. You have to help me, because if you don't I'll be celibate for longer than most people are virgins.

Signed - 'The Muffin Man'

A: Dear Muffin Man,

You miserable sack of stupid, all your answers are in your letter. You live with your mother, are fat and play video games all day. If you want to get laid, start by moving out and meeting people, instead of sitting at home. Even fat people get laid, but working out probably wouldn't hurt your chances.

You say you don't do well around people, so leaving your house is probably difficult. I imagine you either clam up or become overly obnoxious. My advice is to find a good anti-depressant (marijuana is leaps and bounds better than Prozac, whose side-effects include sexual dysfunction and bed-wetting ... neither of which helps your chances of getting laid.)

And instead of sitting like a corpse in front of a terminal, a simulation, take the next step to a real fucking life. Even telephone chat lines are a step in the right direction. Baby steps, Muffin.

And look, if all else fails, hop on a plane to Vegas, and purchase some time with a Roadside Sensatory Hostess. She'll treat you right.

E-mail questions or comments to AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com.

A Perfect Circle – Thirteenth Step
By Melanie Donovan

Well, the long awaited second release from A Perfect Circle is here. But does Thirteenth Step match up to their first album, 2000's Mer de Noms?

With a little bit of member switching going on, we get the same enchanting sound that A Perfect Circle has come to call their own. The new additions to the band are James Iha (formally of The Smashing Pumpkins) on guitar and Jeordie White (aka Marilyn Manson's Twiggy) on bass. The band's fearless leader Maynard James Keenan wraps us up in his mind-boggling voice and lyrics that we all love from not only Mer de Noms, but from the music of Tool as well.

While the lyrics of Mer de Noms deals with sexual desires and the subconscious soul searching, Thirteenth Step draws closer to feeling like an "outsider" in the world. Yeah I know, I know today everyone is singing about not "fitting in", but I think Maynard approaches this at a different angle.

In the song appropriately titled "The Outsider," Maynard sings about someone who feels so distant from life and is most likely contemplating suicide. Calling this person "precious, narcissistic, and dramatic queen" certainly makes you wonder who this person is and if she can be found inside many youths today.

The music of this album is just as captivating as the lyrics.

Composed by Billy Howerdel, the music pulsates through your body and opens your mind to the sounds echoing in your head. The song "Vanishing" makes you feel as if you are soaring above everything and disappearing from the life you want to escape. The soothing guitar in "A Stranger" wins me over with its simplicity and allure.

The very first track on the album, "The Package," has it all; great music, sound, lyrics and overall appeal. To use this as track one I think is inappropriate because it could easily be the next "Judith." "Clever got me this far/ Then tricky got me in/ Eye on what I'm after/ I don't need another friend," these lines caught my attention and kept it for the rest of the song. The strength and intensity of this song really holds on tight, while Maynard's vocals top it off.

There is also one cover song on the album, "The Nurse Who Loved Me," a cover by the 90's band Failure. I must admit I had heard this version before I heard the original and of course I am partial to Maynard's voice ringing through my head. The song which is a little far from their sound, easily becomes APC-esque after getting the Maynard makeover.

Overall Thirteenth Step really proved itself, even after having to follow Mer de Noms, which will always be my favorite. APC really kept their original sound strong; not letting today's nu-metal slip in or interfere. Even though it might not have the success of the factory produced rock bands these days, it will still

hold a place in the hearts of APC fans everywhere. I'm just glad they finally put out something new and I can get up from the edge of my seat where I waited patiently for the past three years.

Memento
Beginnings
By David Ginn

Looking at the cover of this album, I was in high hopes of something different, something that at least gave a change of pace for rock music. Maybe these expectations were decidedly biased, or maybe they simply asked too much from the music industry today. To tell you the truth, I'm not sure but I will say that when I slid the album into my CD player what I heard was not quite what I'd expected.

The music was good; there's no doubt about that. The band, led by guitarist/vocalist Justin Cotta, certainly has talent. And potential, at that. However, when I heard the first two songs I will say I was disappointed. It wasn't the music itself that let me down; it was the band as a whole.

After listening to punk rock bands such as Glassjaw, Brand New, and Perfect Circle, I was definitely in the mood for something different. The first song on the album, titled "Nothing Sacred", is a great song. It just about represents the genre as a whole. Don't take the comparison too far, though; Perfect Circle and Memento very clearly fall into two different categories of music. Most likely, comparisons will be made between this band and the rock sensation AFI.

However good the first song might have been, it wasn't at all different. It was basically a rock song. Throughout the first four or five songs, I was constantly on the edge of my seat waiting for something slow to come so at least I could relax and be ready for the next song. But the album continued to follow a straight line, with one song being barely distinguishable from the one before it. At times it seemed as if I was listening to the same song, but with different lyrics.

Then, it happened.

It was what I had been waiting for. At some point towards the end of

"Abyss", the fifth song on the album, there was a noticeable presence of creativity just beginning to rise. Then when the next song, "Below", kicked in, I knew the ice was broken. "Below" is different from the other songs on the album. Instead of his usual scream voice Cotta makes a change to a darker, more seductive tone. The guitar rhythm is precise, with less distortion and more concentration on making each note a new

voice in the song. I was reminded, very faintly, of the guitar work done on "Have a Cigar", from Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here album.

Then, after the song ended, I waited. I was crossing my fingers in the hopes that "Below" was not just a diamond in the rough. Then, the next song came on. And behold! An instrumental piece! Beautiful. The song "Reflections" is a piano solo done by front man Cotta. I had my shoulders cringed as I waited for the heavy guitar to come and ruin it, but alas I was proven wrong once again. It was a straight, confident piece that the band obviously had no fear about putting on the album.



The rest of the album was great, ending with the twelve-minute opus "Figure 8", a sort of up-and-down number that pretty much closes the album and makes you want to start it again from the beginning.

And so I did, and do you know what I found out? The first five tracks weren't nearly as bad as I'd made them out to be. As a matter of fact, they helped shape the album into what it became towards the end. Pick up this album if you get a chance. It's worth it.

Rating: ***** (seven out of ten)

Essential Track: "Blister", a moody landslide into noir and sexuality

OVERSEER: WRECKAGE
yY Michael Fabbri

When first looking at Overseer's CD case, I really had no idea what kind of music lay inside of it. With no real great way of describing the cover picture, you'll just have to take my word on the intrigue I felt first looking at it. Basically as soon as I got home that day I popped that bad boy into my computer, hooked up my headphones, cranked up the volume, and hit play. In my opinion, this is really the only appropriate way to listen to a new CD.

My initial impression of the first song, "Slayed", was that this band was hands down the Beastie Boys for the next generation. The next song, "Stompbox," derailed my original impression only slightly. My thoughts were something along the lines of, 'ok, so they're a mix of Beastie Boys and some funky poppy kinda riffs.' I soon realized how wrong I was about everything over the next few tracks. Overseer is far more complex and diverse than the beastie boys ever were or ever will be. Overseer has accomplished something I never really thought possible in the mixture of techno beats with hardcore and softcore lyrics. Every track is insanely distinct from each other. Every song was a whole new experience. Most techno/rap/rock/(insert your favorite genre here)/blue grass albums will contain many of the same noises over and over again, and there is of course always an overall style from one song to the next. Overseer on the other hand has some how managed to completely do away with these notions. I do not really understand how that is even possible, but they did. Every track that went by was another pleasant surprise.

Even though I say that one song is nothing like the next, they still found a way to easily glide from one song to the next with no problems. It was a most beautiful occasion listening to these transitions. Though I do have to say, the very last track labeled "Heligoland" was a little



CD REVIEWS (cont')

bit too much to take in. A 26 minute mind fuck is what it boiled down to. For about five or ten minutes at the end of it, was just a telephone ringing. I

guess it's something important to have at the end of a CD in case the listeners were to fall asleep or something.

All in all, this album was a very well constructed work of art. From the rap and rock combo, to the hardcore and techno combo, to the indy and emo combo, to

the pancakes and cheddar cheese combo, to even the ringing telephone combo. This album has it all. If you like new things, if you like shiny things, if you like new and shiny things, definitely pick up this album. OVERSEER: WRECKAGE. Remember it, it's good I swear. I'll bet my ninja moves on it.

Review: TRAVIS 12 memories
By Ceci Norman

Talking to a good friend about how to describe Travis, he described them as "AMRADIOHEAD" - full of the pretensions of Wilco and the British-ness of Radiohead. And well, that was brilliant and accurate enough to describe them, so I stole it. Listening to their new album conjured up the same emotions as the penguin chocolate my parents brought back from a recent trip to England—which is something along the lines of confusion and annoyance (for suggesting penguins are edible creatures, when, clearly, they're not) mixed with the recognition of the greatness of it. Travis' new CD is both annoying

in that it's not as good as their past work, but also great because they are talented.

Musically, Travis is as strong as ever.

Since they put out The Invisible Band a year or two ago, I've listened to it almost monthly—at least the mp3s of it, since I'm a poor-ass college student, and well, there were better CDs to buy. 12 Memories might have the chance of making that a memory—well, maybe, but probably nothing. It'll have to grow on me greatly, and magically change so it can match the greatness of their single 'side' or 'indefinitely'. In

any case, 12 Memories does conjure memories of their trend to have soft melodies, and a certain sense of melancholy. And luckily, they've stayed away from the cheesy-ness of singing such clichés like 'Why does it always rain on me'. It only lacks in having strong vocals, instead the lyrics are a little above a whisper. Blending the music and the vocals almost takes away from the lyrics, and could suggest that they're hiding from the 12 memories they're expressing. Which is kind of a shame, because most of their strengths lie in their lyrics. I mean sure, the same soft whispery sounds are well put together. Nothing stands out though, and if nothing stands out as brilliant than what makes it worth listening to? Unfortunately, not too much. Conceptually, the album is better, and they've seemed to have gotten somewhat over having the identity crisis they've had in The Man Who, and The Invisible Band. They take their twelve different "memories" and put them to music, commenting on such things like invading other countries, broken love affairs and coming and going, and mostly the depressing sides of rela-

tionships, and the leaving behind of things. Although it's whiny, it's also well done... you just have to get past the whining.

It's definitely worth listening to, but nothing to run out and buy... and I'm not even sure it's worth pirating mp3s for either, but if you have a chance to listen to, it's worth it.

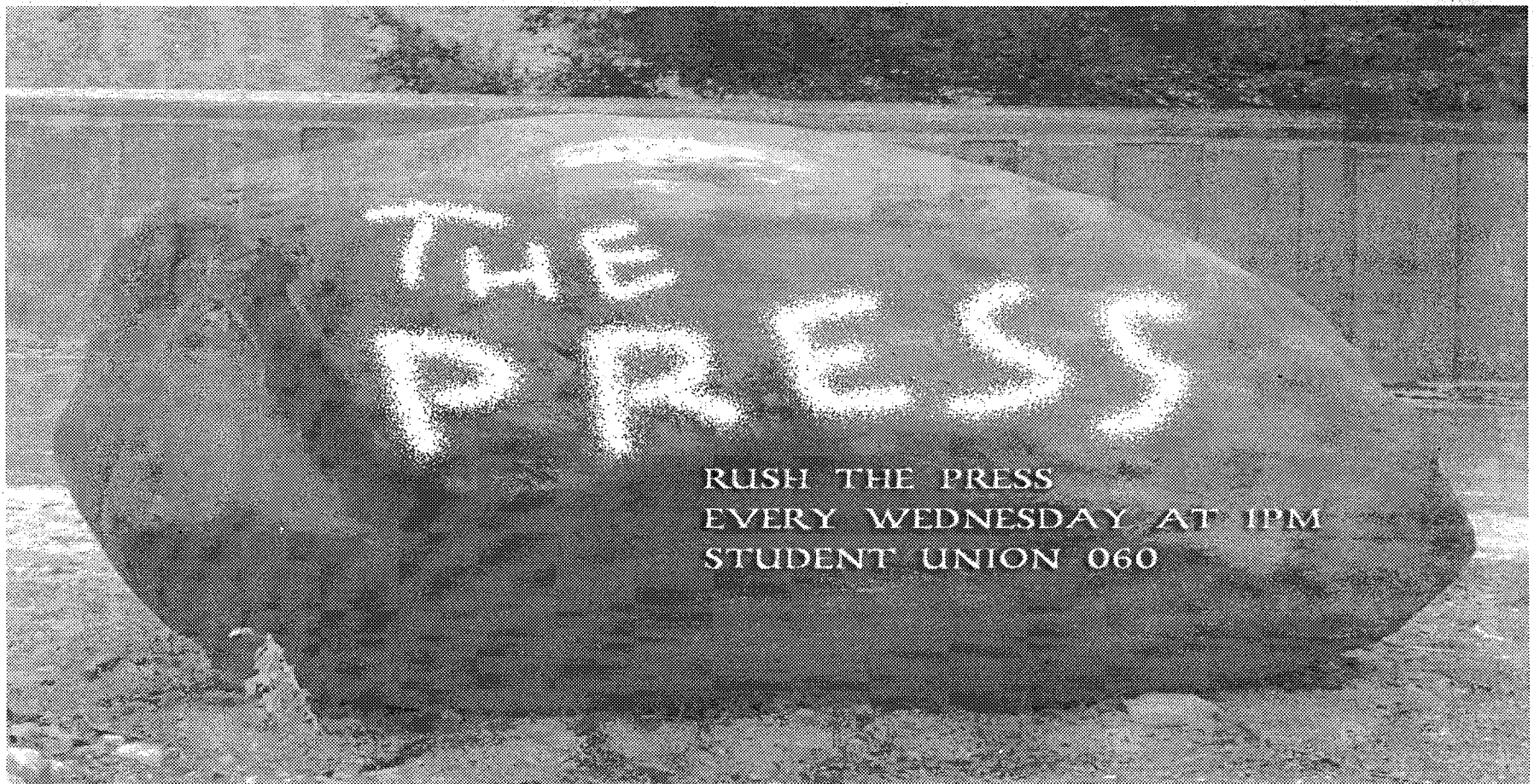
David Bowie - Reality
by Sam Goldman

David Bowie. I could try to talk about what he has meant for music over the past forty years, go over his numerous accomplishments, touch on his record sales, and I could do it for a full page. But I think the compliment he'd like the best is that music is as relevant and listenable today as it was when he was Ziggy Stardust.

And it sure is. Reality showcases a confident, fifty-six year old David Bowie, in all his full-rock-out glory, cussing and swearing, playing guitar, keyboards, synths, percussion and even baritone sax, and generally showing the public that he's not ready to go to a nursing home anytime soon. Songs like "New Killer Star" and "Pablo Picasso" are nothing less than pure Bowie rock songs with great guitar riffs, catchy choruses, and that Bowie attitude that only he can exude through your speakers. "Picasso's" bolero guitars, especially, can't be missed. Meanwhile, "The Loneliest Guy" and a cover of the late George Harrison's "Try Some, Buy Some" showcase Bowie's ability to slow it down and make a spiritual statement.

A review of this CD could not be complete without Reality's tour de force, "Bring Me The Disco King", a bluesy, piano-driven, eight minute paean to the old days, back when he was "killing time in the 70's." He surreally repeats the title as verse throughout the song, and, aided by drummer Matt Chamberlain, he takes you back to the old disco clubs of that era, where he was the aforementioned Disco King.

But between his last record, Heathen, and this one, it is obvious that David Bowie doesn't want to become King of anything. For all his accomplishments and fame, David Bowie seems happiest just being David Bowie, and that's more than good enough.



Kill Bill: This is a not a Review

By Michael Prazak

Quentin Tarantino, you poor mentally malformed boy? Why do you make movies the way you do, with characters that sear themselves into memory, and situations that provoke equal amounts of nausea and awe? I bring these questions to you not out of criticism. I simply wish to gain a better understanding of the mind that created the masterpiece I've viewed three times in the past week. Never have I found severed limbs more symbolic or beautiful. Next, maybe you'll turn a filming of my own castration into a post-modern masterpiece. Please. I'd love you all the more.

Kill Bill really doesn't bother you with niceties such as plot and dialogue. Point in fact they are actually quite inconsequential. A summary of the plot is, in style, equally as simplistic. Revenge, that's all you need to know. Even the sub-plots involve revenge to some capacity. So, all you need to know is revenge, everything else is ornamental. Anyway, the plot is secondary; it falls behind the imagery and referential brilliance displayed throughout the film. This is not a film where you say "oh," this is a film where you say, "oh shit." So to all the critics, shut up about a need for deep character development, and revelatory plot experiences. Some filmgoers actually enjoy non-fascist movies that allow you to interpret them internally.

After determining that you are supposed to assume style is greater than substance, this movie really has no equal. It continues in the Quentin Tarantino tradition of post-modern collage film making. What makes this film so amazing is that he

manages to do this without making it seem like you've seen these references already. It reminds you in a wistfully reminiscent way, not in a boring repetitive manner. Appealing to both, those of us with voluminous martial arts film knowledge as well as those of us who just like pretty. By infusing his own vision with these prior film stereotypes he somehow reinvigorates them. These dual natures coalesce into moments that are beauty personified, the brutality of these situations provide subtle clues as to how one should approach this movie. You really can't read into the actuality of the situations, in a style reminiscent of Rene Magritte, you're supposed to distance yourself from a realist interpretation. What you're watching is a film; you should treat it as such. The paramount example of this is where you learn the origin of one of the subjects of revenge. In learning her origin you witness the murdering of her family. This is presented in a way that is overwhelming both visually and aurally, and with such beauty that you almost feel guilty about enjoying it.

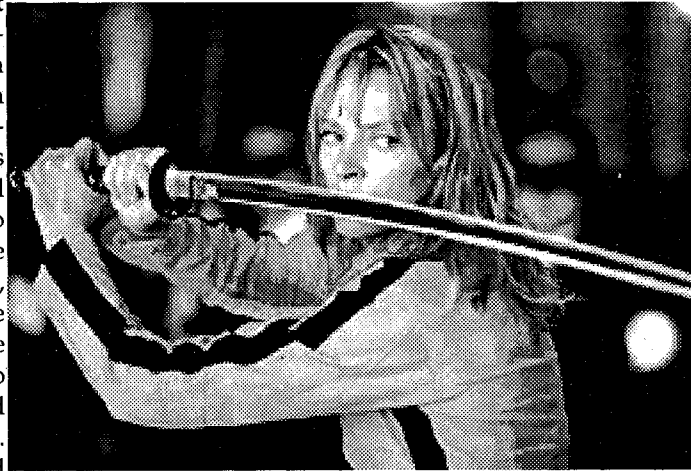
That this movie succeeds both superficially

as well as transcendently is a testament to the brilliance of Tarantino. Hopefully he keeps his eyes focused on films of the pulp genre, I'd hate to see his take on documentaries. I'd likely soil myself. So in short, go see this film. If you want, scrutinize and

enjoy every reference that is thrown your way, if it's even possible to get them all you will be pleased. If you don't want to spend the requisite amount of time required to get them all, then just enjoy the pretty fights.

In finality, Kill Bill is a film that achieves all of its aims. It serves as a delightful homage to

the Kung Fu films that inspired Quentin Tarantino. Furthermore it presents visual beauty in a manner that challenges you and inspires you. It's far to often that directors grab someone by the hair and force him or her into engagement and development. Very few actually trust the audience enough to allow them to do this all internally. Perhaps this is misappropriated optimism on Tarantino's part. Oh well, for all the people out there who didn't "get" Kill Bill, all I can say is, I am sorry and I pity you. Hopefully you will be blessed with a timely death.



Underworld

By Stevie Chao

Comic geeks and Goths everywhere got what must an epic and long time coming battle between two of the most powerful legendary creatures of the night. In the fall action thriller Underworld, we get dropped in the middle of a raging war between werewolves and vampires, set in the present day...well, we really don't know where it is, except for the fact that all the characters have wacky accents and drive on the wrong side of the road. However, this small plot hole is quickly forgotten thanks to the movie's stars, Kate Beckinsdale (Serendipity, Pearl Harbor) and Scott Speedman (Felicity).

Kate Beckinsdale stars as the movie's heroine, Selina, a vampire werewolf hunting warrior, called death dealers. She and fellow death dealers prowl the streets, hunting the night for their eternal foes, the werewolf clans. For centuries long the war has raged and her vampire house has been credited for the assassination of the leader of the werewolf nation, Lucian. However, in recent years, the warrior house of vampires gradually grew into a bureaucracy as opposed to a house of warriors, with few remaining. As the vampires grew into their life of decadence, the werewolves slowly amassed their forces in subterranean packs, only surfacing for the sole purpose of finding one man, Micheal Corvinas (Speedman). He alone unknowingly holds the secret to the ultimate nocturnal race, a genetic amalgamation of the two species. Thrust into the middle of this blood feud, he meets the beautiful Selina and with a quickly formed love affair, they each defeat the evil, which surprisingly comes from the vampire side, a traitor Kraven, leader of the vampire house. Obsessed with power and the heart of Selina, he disguises the truths of the war, that the "evil" werewolf leader Lucian still lives and that the vampires were the aggressors.

The film is filled with stunning stunts and gunfights, as both vampire and werewolf armies use Desert Eagles and automatic sub-machine guns.



instantly begin their attraction and for no rhyme or reason, are in full-blown love within 25 minutes of their first meeting. The underlying conspiracy between the evil character Kraven and the new eventual protagonist Lucian, provided what seemed to be a pretty interesting story, however as we got more in depth into the union of the two species to create the uber vampire-wolf, we totally forget about this conspiracy and all that it entails.

There also additional plot weaknesses like why did Lucian agree to a union between vampires

the non-stop action and a vast cast of ivory skinned sexy model vampires with long hair and of course, our stars. Speedman and Beckinsdale are great actors and give enough to make this film believable. If you're in for a movie that will keep you glued to the screen and won't give your mind too much of a jog, this is definitely one for the weekend.

Portraits: A De-Masking of Time, Labels and Faces

By Ana Maria Ramirez

The second exhibition is up and running at Gallery 4222. Portraiture is on display now until Oct. 26. The artists that make up the show address the issues of what the idea of portraiture should entail. One artist chooses to bring established 'portraits' in today's commercial media under a microscope and magnifying it, while another tackles his own self-awareness, and others illuminate the pliable intimacy of their subjects.

We once again see Garcia, blazing onto the gallery walls, but unlike his previous showings, the creator withdraws for a moment from his signature symbolic language, and with an aggressive pointed finger, directs his audience to images of pre-packaged Americana ideals, selecting two well known portraits of American consumerism.

In the pieces, Uncle Ben's and Aunt Jemima, Garcia chooses the portraits found on the packages of the famous instant rice and maple syrup products, both of which have decorated their packages since the companies' inception. In Uncle Ben's, the artist crudely carves onto a wooden panel the image of the orange box of rice. One can easily substitute the 'Ben' for 'Tom' as he stares out with a wide grin. On the right side of the panel, the words "Trusted for over 400 years" are stamped.

As for Aunt Jemima, Garcia incorporates an authentic 'mammie' doll, circa 1930, into a wooden box. The box mimics any other commercially packaged toy made for any little girl or boy. In addition to this, plastic forks, knives and frying pan are included.

Even when on the surface the image of Aunt Jemima is evokes memories of childhood and warm pancakes, it also subliminally carries with it racist and stereotypical connotations that has run its course through American history; before with the mammie dolls and later with a bottle of maple syrup.

In a subsequent piece called Genocide, Garcia mounts an open wooden cabinet onto the wall. The cabinet is loaded with toys and games that can easily be found in any child's toy collection: plastic toy Indians, Pocahontas coloring books, a Redskins baseball banner, toy Cherokee trucks, a raccoon hat, among others. With each different toy or image found in the cabinet we see that after having nearly eradicating the whole population of Native Americans, popular culture has substituted their presence with representations of 'redskins' and a certain exoticness of the 'angry male Indian warrior'.

Garcia bravely unwraps these prepackaged American ideals and illustrates what was perhaps seen before as innocent and benign is in fact quite the opposite.

On the parallel wall to Garcia is the work by Frank Kish. Kish displays another piece of a series of works in which all use the image of a Korean deli in New York City.

In 35mm Still From a Film, the whole image is divided into sections and mounted onto a wooden door. Poured over this, is a thick, shiny enamel, creating the feel as if the viewer is staring through a window and into the deli.

One portrait Pedro Sousa chooses to display is the embodiment of Adam Welch in the Destruction Series. Welch, a young sculptor is displayed in a 16X20 and three accompanying 5X7s, in full glory. In the 16X20, we see Welch standing in the middle of a green marsh landscape, gazing contemplatively in front a tower of rock held up by a thin sheet of glass erected by his own two hands. The subsequent three photos show Welch destroying the sculpture.

His next two pieces are called Mi Amor and Inside the Womb. The photographs were taken inside an installation piece of Makiko Miyamoto, where its creator attempted to recreate a womb in a harem-

esque environment of draping fabrics. An atmospheric softness envelops the center figure in both images, who seemingly the conception of this incubator. The viewer is caught off guard in Mi Amor, stared down by the subject, as if this is first moment of consciousness creature.

In another way, Christopher Cooke portrays new life in his two photographs, where he plays with the light and shadow, which depict a wide-eyed baby infant being sprinkled with water.

Yukito Yoneyama captures the portrait of New York City with its towering buildings and grided streets. To add to this, Yoneyama also turns his attention to intimate scenes of a female figure in reflection.

Finally we come full circle with the last artist in the show: Darryl Isaacs. He experiments with different materials, such as wax, rubber, even epoxy to make up different a series of heads and torso of himself in Faces and Feelings: the Geo Made Man. As well of this, he mixes in other materials in the batter to make each one even more interesting. Flies are trapped in one of his heads, in another pharmaceutical pills. Several of his torsos are peppered all over with cigarette butts. The pills, cigarette butts and bugs represent the pollutants that invade his body, like a cancer, which has inevitably become a physical and part of him.

As well as the pieces that make up Portraits, the second room of Gallery 4222, has been transformed into a salon space. An array of works cover practically every inch of the wall space here, where the art is, one can say, directed to all art lovers. To get a small piece of the spirit of this group, the paintings, small sculpture and prints are begging to be taken off the walls and bought.

The Stony Brook Press, harboring fugitives for 23 years.

Define the truth with us.

-Is shaving your head and beard punishment enough for treason?

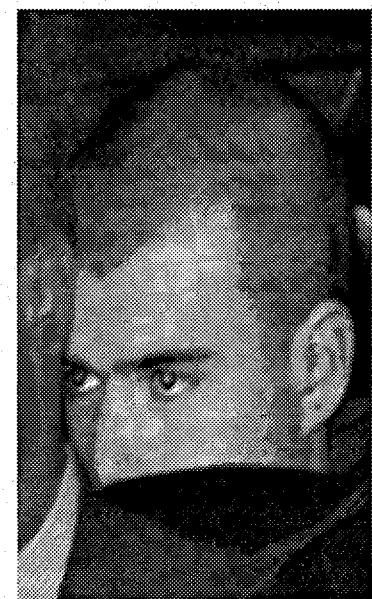
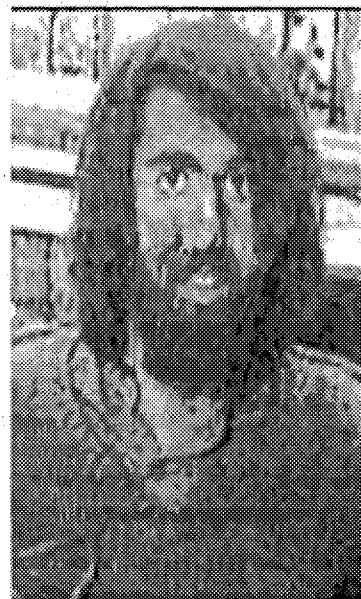
-Why did the Taliban buy up 30% of the world's pretzel stocks on January 1st?

-How did Pat Buchanan's book *Death of the West* end up amongst the flyers dropped on Afganistan?

-Which one of the girls in Hanson did I have sex with?

-The Shirley Strun Kenny-Enron connection (c'mon, you know there has to be one).

-Where do we go? where do we go now, Sweet Child, Sweet Child, Sweet Chieeeeild of mine?



John Walker Lindh, Staff Writer. Come join him in our cold and wet basement room. Follow the stench of the corpses to room 060, basement of the Union.

Submissions-letters-complaints: stonypress@hotmail.com

