

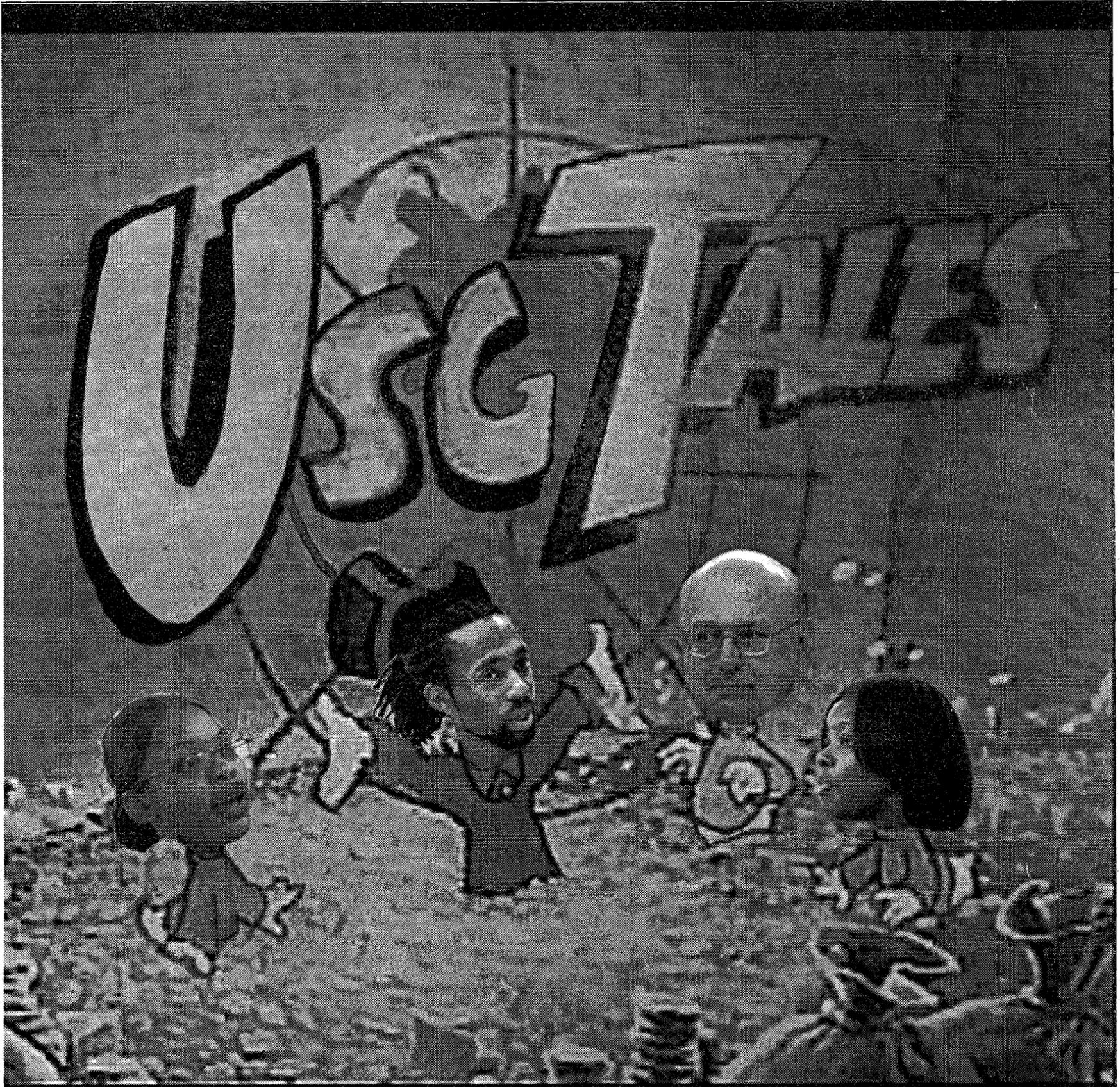
**THE STONY
BROOK**

PRESS

Vol. XXV, Issue 6

"It's Hard To Break The Spirit Of Volunteers"

December 11, 2003



**We're
Mad as Hell, and
We're Not Gonna
Take It Any More!
-All over**

**Mitchel
Cohen Writes
Again! Three pages
worth! Starts on Page
16**

**Another
Tuition Hike?
Read All About it on
Page 10! The other
pages are good
too!**

By Dustin Herlich

The way I see it, there really are a lot of problems in the university today, particularly in the form of student government. Every issue has two sides, and I'm sure some of the issues I bring up today are hotly debatable, and I'll try and be fair in my viewpoints. Also, unless absolutely necessary, or I'm giving praise, I'm not going to use anyone's names, just their positions. In the past I have been accused of printing falsities about individuals, and I've also been attacked personally, my ability as a leader, my convictions to media and my overall sense of morals and ethics have come under question. Oh, yeah, and I was called Willy-nilly.

There are some instances where members of the university community deserve high praise and thanks for doing the right thing, or at least trying to set up systems so that correct courses of action can be taken. I'd like to commend and congratulate both Sandy Curtis, and Norm Goodman for their appearance on my show, In Focus, which was broadcast live on the television and radio stations. They fielded tough questions, and even took questions from the surrounding community. If nothing else, that took guts, and I admire them for it.

I'm thankful for the new relationship that *The Press* has with people such as Pat Calabria and Doug Little, who have been very prompt in their responses to Press questions, and very cooperative in covering student related issues, particularly when it comes to campus crimes and alleged crime. I've also got to give Doug Little and Chief Richard Young credit for coming on my show, and taking questions from the audience, so to speak. Past criticism has included question dodging and using a lot of words to say nothing, but I think in these cases the responses were well thought out and truthful.

All of that being said, it's time to move on to what issues I see need attention. *The Press* has been called a lot of things, both good and bad. Recently, we were given the label that we've never said anything positive, and that we are constantly critical for no reason. A notable administrator in the university gave this label. We feel this to be unfair. Besides this article, we have complimented many a staff member or administrator. Often, we are the only ones who care enough to say a few good words. How about the case of Penny The Pasta Lady? We were given praise from students for weeks for doing a write-up of her award, and not only did no one else even mention this as a congratulations, but no one even thanked us for what we did (except for Penny). How about our editorial about the Dave Chappelle show, in which we congratulated John Neman on a job well done? How about our article regarding the Ashley Schiff preserve? What about the correction we printed because we printed the incorrect name of a police officer? I think we've been more than fair. Part of the media's job is to expose problems. I don't hate everyone and anyone connected to the university, and I don't hate the school itself. I'd like to see changes made, only because I believe that the school could improve dramatically, and it's frustrating when you see so many SIMPLE opportunities for improvement that are not taken.

I believe the new student government, now called USG, to be an absolute failure thus far. Further to the point, I don't see any improvement whatsoever in the time USG has been around. For those of you unfamiliar with the situation, here's a briefing:

The old student government was called Polity (some referred to it as Polshitty) and absolutely was wrought with problems at the end. The government was apparently decertified by the administration of the university, and many allege that this entire process was not done properly, and in fact, was done illegally. Now, assuming that this was not done legally (from the information I have seen, this may actually have been done improperly) then we need to have a new student government. Along comes a committee to form a new constitution and a new government

for us.

The meetings for the formation of the government have been called illegal and improper. The general consensus is that these meetings violated the New York State open meetings laws. On my show, In Focus, my co-host and I were able to ask Norm Goodman about these allegations, and his response was that the closed meetings, they felt, were simply organizational and planning meetings, and did not fall under open meetings laws. This may be true, but no one I've spoken to has heard of any meetings that were open, like he claimed there were. I don't know of any student, parent, faculty, staff or professor input into the new constitution other than those present at the closed-door meetings. It's possible that there were open meetings, but as a member of the university community, and as a member of media, I saw no notices, e-mails, flyers, posters, smoke signals or chalked sidewalks regarding the dates and times of the meetings. I didn't even get messages beamed into my brain.

Now, Assuming that Polity was decertified properly, and assuming that the new constitution was created properly, the ratification of the constitution was pitiful at best. One of the biggest criticisms of Polity was how few students voted. When less than 1/7 of the students voted in favor of the constitution, and many more than that raise questions and express dislike in the government, doesn't that say something? Even better, a student could vote as many times as he or she wanted, so long as they kept going to different computers. Yes, this is true; we've spoken to several students who voted more than once, and we received confirmation from the information technologies people on campus that this was possible. However, the claim is that these multiple votes were trackable and were deleted. I personally am not so sure that they really did delete the multiple votes, and am upset that they did not fix the problem, nor hold a new election. We don't really know how fair the elections are now. Do you really trust that it was done fairly? Even better, with so many people voting more than once, we still had less we should have to ratify the constitution. It is really, really sad when you think about it.

Maybe this constitution really should not be considered acceptable. We can go even a step further. Assuming that the constitution was ratified properly, and that the votes were fixed properly, then how do you feel about the fact that the constitution was changed AFTER ratification? I don't see a way that act can be considered legal under the laws of the nation we live in, let alone on the state and local levels. Even if this is allowed, I think that morally, a STUDENT government should feel some responsibility to the STUDENTS and at least let them know changes are being made. Kind of reminds me of a certain SAB meeting that press members were kicked out of during the summer. Oops, I guess open meeting laws don't mean anything.

Moving on with our history lesson, we come to this semester, where all the real problems begin. Many clubs, *The Press* in particular, did not receive notification of their budgets until far further into the semester than acceptable. How can you spend money when you don't know how much you have, or in our case, don't have? Well, *The Press* had their budget cut by 71.6%. Not only is that **absolutely illegal** to do to a media group with no notification or prior review, but many other clubs have been unfairly targeted for budget cuts as well.

Let's go over a few of these clubs that have seen their budgets evaporate. Most importantly is the SBVAC, or Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Isn't it enough that they service the students of this campus? Does that not make them worthy of having a budget? Well, let's throw in a few more facts. Like how about that SBVAC services not only all the students, but also **all persons on university grounds**. That includes staff, students, faculty, and visitors and

even space aliens should they feel the need to attend class (I'm almost convinced a few actually teach class). Wait, there's more, they also are the ambulance service for the veteran's hospital, and parts of the surrounding community, and members of SBVAC are often called on to help fill shifts for fire departments and other ambulance companies. Next time a member of USG, student or staff, falls, or in any way requires ambulatory care, maybe it won't be available, because they have not gotten a check from USG since June. As of right now, they will be closing their doors at the end of semester. They were trying to get a new ambulance (the one they have currently is in serious need of replacement) but instead have had to pay out of pocket for their expenses.

No, not enough evidence they deserve their money? How about the fact that they were named the best EMT corps in the state? That would put them among the best in the nation, and maybe in the world even. No, I guess that means nothing. Let's do some math then. SBVAC costs the students about three dollars each this year [They had been voted for a referendum increase of an extra three dollars a student, but USG claims their referendum was not worded properly. It seems to me though that the student activity fee has increased accordingly to allow for their extended budget.] From what I understand, their total operating costs come to about \$8,500 a month. This comes from various monies that the student government gives the corps, and from a limited amount of funding given by the state to each ambulance company. To hire an independent company after SBVAC closes will cost much more than that. All of the equipment SBVAC has will be sold off or scrapped, and their offices closed. Either a new company will have to form, or an existing company will have to come in. This new company will be private, and will need new offices built for them. That's going to cost a lot of money. Oh, and the smallest estimate that I have gotten for how much it will cost a month for a private company, \$30,000 a month, and then charges on top of that of \$500 per call. In the mean time, the already-stressed local companies will have to figure out a way to service the more than 20,000 people that SBVAC has taken care of. I asked a member of SBVAC if she has ever personally saved a life, and she answered that in fact she has, not only recently, but several times in the past. Imagine how many lives get saved in total, considering that she works less than ten hours a week for the core? Imagine what full time members accomplish.

Moving along in our review of what's been happening, we ask the question "maybe USG has very little money this year?" Nope, they have more than ever. Enrollment is up, as well as the activity fee. Then why is a club like the Kumdo club (which may have the single largest active membership on campus) getting about a third of what they did last year? Why has even *The Statesman* not gotten a single check from USG? Are they not supposed to be the paper friendly with administration? Something is definitely wrong here.

USG now also wants to cut funding to any group they feel expressed a viewpoint, and is investigating their continued funding of any organization that is affiliated with a religion. At least they are cutting all groups equally in this regard... Or are they? No other SUNY school feels the need to do this, why Stony Brook? USG itself might have to remain viewpoint neutral, but the way to do that is to fund all groups equally, not to cut funding. Again, no other school feels the need to do this, what makes Stony Brook so special? The Gospel Choir apparently isn't under any kind of review, because they got a 33% increase in their budget this year. I won't say they don't deserve it, and I don't doubt they perform often, and improve the quality of many events, but they absolutely express a viewpoint and are religiously based. A Gospel choir by definition sings songs based on Christian values. When I see them in full force

The Way I See it (Cont')

singing Hanukkah songs, and songs for Muslim holidays and Buddhist mantras, I'll no longer label them a Christian organization, but I've seen no such thing. I don't want them to lose any money, I'm sure they are a great organization and they do improve many other smaller club events, but that means other clubs deserve their money as well. *The Press* helps sponsor events and support clubs with everything from free ad space to small allocations to help with programming, and we're told that's a bad thing. I don't think you really want to hear me sing, but if my organization can help put on free events for the campus community, in conjunction with other campus media organizations, is that really bad? Do we deserve money taken away for that?

In the footnotes to the budget, there are constant references to a budget committee. Who is on this committee besides the current Vice Treasurer? How can the committee be valid considering that the Senate wasn't full until about two weeks ago? How about the fact that there is no Judiciary? Is that not a red flag? Is that not illegal? Our council tells us so. Decisions made prior to full formation of the Senate, Judiciary AND Executive Council are technically invalid. Should we talk about the fact that at a recent executive council meeting, the executive council was told by an administrator "Do not let the constitution get in the way of our mission"? Should that worry anyone? I think so. How about the fact that all these decisions again were made behind closed doors, and we really don't know who made them.

The Press' battle has been long and bitter. We still firmly believe that we never had anything called a "Double Referenda". We received \$3,500 from the media referenda if anything at all, close to \$5,000 from our own referenda, and the rest from a line budget. All the documents we have submitted to date reflect this, and as of the printing of this article, more documents, namely copies of vouchers that show our money coming from a line budget have been submitted to USG for their amusement. I'm sure this wave of paperwork will be rejected as well. We were given a little less than \$11,000 for the entire year. That's simply not even enough to cover printing costs. At a meeting with USG council members and an advisor for USG and an advisor for Student Media, it was agreed on that our printing costs for the year come out to over 20,000. That's just printing alone. Let's not mention the costs of printing and paper within the office, equipment upkeep and replacement, software upkeep, phone bill, office supplies, mailings, etc, etc, etc. We really do need our full budget, and we use it completely. How many times do we have to keep submitting the same papers in different forms? The first information I brought to USG after I found out that our budget was cut was information regarding what we use our money for. If you want proof that we need money for printing, then look no further than what is in your hands. This paper costs money. End of story. We are contracted to be a bi-weekly newspaper, and anything less is a violation of our constitution, which USG accepted and must support. This may very well be the last issue of *the Press* that you read. USG likes to tell us we have plenty of money in our account, but as of the writing of this article, the company that prints our issues is owed several hundred dollars, not to mention our distribution person, our mailings that have never gone out because they have not been paid for, memberships to organizations like the Associated College Press, the list goes on and on. I think that if USG would actually pay the bills we have, and properly allocate for, we would not have so much money left in our account. By not paying our bills you really don't make us look bad, you make USG look bad, and this is why most companies won't take checks from student governments.

There are certain groups in the media that have it even worse than us, like Shelanu which had its' computers taken by a member of the USG council

under the guise they be used for a USG newsletter that no one has ever seen. So where is that computer? What's it really being used for? Do you feel good that now you are preventing Shelanu from existing?

Yes, the claim is that there will be a committee formed to oversee the disbursement of the remainder of the student media referenda money this year, but so far we've seen little activity regarding this. We're supposed to have this committee set up by the end of the semester... We're still waiting, and we're not patient any more. I've been saying for years now that I support what is often called a publications board in other schools. This is a board that receives a large lump sum for all media, and disburses it accordingly. This way, needed increases come not from one group, but from all media groups as a unified voice.

Just so everyone knows, this article, along with supporting documentation and some other paperwork will be sent to the President of the university, the Vice President of student affairs, the State Attorney General, the State Comptroller, the Student

Press Law Center, and other legal organizations. We'll also be filling paperwork regarding the recent Freedom of Information Law violations by members of USG. As of the writing of this article, the five days they had to respond in some manner to or request have expired, and we have heard nothing,

yet we know they got the request. There is no way out of at this one. You didn't respond to a Freedom of Information Law request. That's going to hold up in a court of law, and we're probably going to take it there.

The Press isn't alone in our gripes. We're just the ones who print, so we come out as the most outspoken (or according to USG the whiners). Not only are we not alone, but the case is being brought to the attention of the media, legal groups, and governmental officials. So far, people have jumped at what we've told them and can't wait to publicize.

Our demands are not unreasonable. We want to see a better accounting of USG funds, and we want to know why the money is being spent in such a stingy manner. We'd like to see our budget given back to us, and we'd like to see those responsible for improper and/or illegal actions removed from office and punished to the full extent of applicable laws.

The Press, its members and its editors will never get any credit or recognition for what we really are, and what our readers see us as. Other papers win awards and get congratulatory letters from the president of the university. We get more awards, and get our budget cut. Our editors go on to win Pulitzer prizes, and work in media and make a difference in the world. We improve the campus community, and each and every day I get compliments from administrators, staff, students and even people from the community telling us that we are an excellent paper, and we have done a phenomenal job this semester.

Since I've been called a liar amongst other things in the recent past, let me re-iterate the following points:

- 1) All information is considered correct and has been verified to the best of our abilities at the time of printing
- 2) I am not attacking anyone personally, nor am I making

any statements about him or her personally

3) Anyone who feels that they are being threatened or treated unfairly or that any information is untrue should either submit to us a letter or an article in rebuttal which will be printed. Failure to do so will be taken as an admission of guilt.

Where have our university president and vice president of student affairs been this semester? Do they care? Maybe they'll care when Middle states gets a packet of information regarding the situation. I'm sure that the chancellor of SUNY will at least be interested in this. Maybe he has some views he'd like to share publicly.

I could go on and on, and bring in more examples, like the absolute absurdity of the financial policies and procedures, and the bylaws of different parts of USG which were written in secret by parties unknown and apparently subject to no scrutiny or approval process. It's kind of funny to get a copy of documents in which the statutes limiting powers of office members were not deleted, but simply crossed

"I'd like to see changes made, only because I believe that the school could improve dramatically, and it's frustrating when you see so many SIMPLE opportunities for improvement that are not taken."

out. If you're going to violate rules, or change them so you're no longer violating them, don't let us see the rules you don't like.

We'd like to see change and improvement. I'd like to see people held accountable for their mistakes. The current vice treasurer, whose position itself should be

under question, WAS the treasurer last year. ANY decisions and budget indiscrepancies from last year should fall on his head. If he is investigation last year's financial decisions, that means he is investigating his own decisions, and "forgot" what he did.

I really could go on forever, and say so much more, but I think at this point you've all gotten my point. If you're really interested in more than what I have here, contact the paper. I'll be happy to respond. In the mean time, take an interest, read the campus papers, go to council and senate meetings, demand a judiciary be set up, don't just sit back and take it. If you're a club and you feel you've been treated unfairly, contact us. We won't even tell anyone you spoke to us if you feel anonymity is better. You have our support. You're not alone. Stand up for yourselves, stand with us. We won't stop fighting until this matter is resolved one way or another.

To sum up, I'd like to thank certain people for their support, and even a few others for doing a good job. I'd like to thank the members of the USG senate who are willing to hear our case, and at least consider what we have to say. I'd like to thank also all of the legal organizations and lawyers we have been in contact with for their support and information on the matter. The staff and editorial board of the newspaper deserve my personal congratulations and gratitude for sticking together through this, and never giving up hope that what's right will come to pass. There are a few people, students and administrators and staff who have helped us more then we could ever thank you for, but most likely wish to remain unnamed. You know who you are, and we appreciate all that you've done for us.

Stony Brook Manifesto

We, The Students, have for too long labored under the repressive bureaucracy and fascist rule of student government. A time for revolution is at hand, as the blood of patriots have sown the seeds of freedom, so shall our lives go down in the annals of Stony Brook history. The enemy, conceited, fastidious and displaying complete non-adherence to reason leave us no other option than revolution. Our deaths will be many, our losses great. But, do not fear death, brave soul, for in dying you inspire the dreams of generations to come.

See the faces of your enemy, know that it is they that do this to you, and let that anger grow. Erupt into a roar and eliminate the need for talking, let the roar grow to a wave and let it speak to the hearts of us all. We, The Students, will understand, we, The Students, will take arms; we, The Students, will be the liberators of our own souls.

Dreams only die when denied the will to dream them. That is the purpose of our enemy. To take our dreams and invert

them, causing us to reflect on our impotence to achieve them. The enemy did not account for the will of the people, the enemy did not account for the will of the meek.

So, with pen, with ink, with strength of print, attack, bring down their empire around their heads and crown them kings of nothing but rubble. The only kingdom fit for those who dream of nothing but oppression.

We, The Students, will then seize control of the government. We will rule with understanding and courtesy, we will adhere to our rules as equally as those we govern, for we will be those we govern. We will eliminate inefficiency and redundancy; we will not exist for the sake of existence. We will concern ourselves more with quality of life than with quality of our lives. We will be the Students, and we will want for nothing more than that.

Snow Daze

So, last weekend, fifteen inches of snow fell down upon Stony Brook University. The snowstorm was a nightmare for those Stony Brook students who possess motor vehicles, as all exits but the Main Entrance were closed on Friday, causing a tremendous traffic jam. Press staffer Mike Billings reported that to get from Tabler to the Union, usually a 5-minute drive, took two hours! We'd like to take this moment to address a couple of things we saw that concerned us during the snowy, snowy weekend.

While we understand why the campus closed the entrances to Nicolls Road (there was an accident, and the North Entrance is a very dangerous pass), there was no reason to close the entrance near the South P Lot. Furthermore, the campus should have been made better aware of the situation, as neither campus channel 3 nor the Emergency Services website even stated that the entrances were shut off.

On another, related subject, I'd like to remind those of you who have sport-utility vehicles that just because you hap-

pen to own one of these gas-guzzling behemoths does not give you the right to go 40 mph at night during blizzard conditions, as we saw time and time again on Nicolls Road. The fact that you own an Escalade with dub-deuces does not mean that you should throw caution to the wind; in fact, the fact that your SUV can roll over more easily means there are situations where you should be even more careful than usual.

Lastly, we'd like to scold the University and the Town of Brookhaven for both failing to watch the Weather Channel like normal folks. The roads both inside and outside the campus were devoid of rock salt in the hours leading up to the snowfall, and then the roads were not plowed for quite some time, making travel even more impossible. In fact, the Managing Editor's street was only cleaned up just Wednesday. Both the city and campus agencies responsible should have been ready to clean up at the sign of the first snowflake.

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Letter: A New Perspective

Dear Stony Brook Press:

I like how the SBU Press publishes pretty much any article of substance (insane and nasty substance included). To quote one of my fellow students, "that paper is weird". Sometimes people like to deny that there are a lot of weird people, asserting that weird people are a minor anomaly among the masses of normal people. Your paper pours gasoline on those people and sets them on fire. Well not the actual people, but their hugely false assertions. I'd like to address the recent articles written in the stonybrook press concerning the USG and offer a new perspective, having recently been appointed a Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences.

From those with an opinion to voice I have heard negative things about our new student government. Some claimed the executive body did not adequately represent the interests of the student body. There was talk of monies spent on the executive council going to splish splash and one member having a parking ticket at said trip paid for. Some thought the non-student advisors of the government were corrupt and pocketing money. Well, liking trips to splish splash, I decided to be a senator and as far as corruption in the USG government there is none, at least that I know of.

Yes, I'm a senator, a word with so much nasty luggage these days. When one thinks politicians there is a sense of resentment. A difficulty to believe a person can gain a role of leadership and still remain uncorrupted by the desire to simply

make themselves look good or think of themselves of superior to their peers. I am not special, at all, may G-D correct me, I am his servant, but I now have the responsibility to represent the will of the students of stonybrook concerning the student activity fee and the funds it procures.

I must consider the opinions of all students regardless of religion or creed as equal. That is my number one priority for the next year as far as my relationship to this institution. Already a committee has been initiated to address the grievances students have brought against the USG; firms step in a direction that ensures the integrity of the institution. G-D willing the government will be able to show all students that it is efficiently distributing the student activity fee in a manner that maximizes its benefit to all students.

I think the newly formed USG has the potential to play this role effectively in the year to come and hope I will not find reason to think otherwise. Regardless, I will not assume the best in people and I will be vigilant in my scrutiny of those who hold the reigns of an organization that controls the distributing of well over a million dollars. On a final note, I'd like to commend the Stony Brook Press for continuing to motivate students to become more involved in their Student Government as well as their local and national community.

sincerely,
Ben Bravmann

Letter: Undergraduate Class Schedule

Dear Press:

I am a senior here at SBU and the majority of students are not happy about the school's plan to not publish the booklets with the course days, times, rooms, etc..

It was a lot easier to make a schedule using them rather than having to search on the Solar System. What really bothers me is that the Registrar's office, the Office of Student Accounts, the Office of Academic Advising and the Omnibus (I'm not sure if that's how you spell it) Office all were no help in getting information on who the student body should complain to; but worst of all the Solar System says the no booklets will be printed for the Spring semester and just the other day I was a student in SAC with one!! We scanned a copy of the cover page it prove it and I am enclosing a copy. I think you should download it and put it on the front cover of the paper.

Dear Whoever you are:

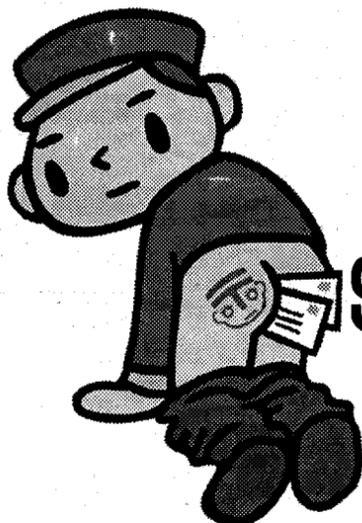
Thanks for gracing us with the knowledge, and hooking up the rest of the campus community.

If you're looking for someone to whom the student body could complain to, the Press is always happy to hear anyone's problems. Just use the email address below.

- The Stony Brook Press



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



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

sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu

Press Not Alone, Other Clubs & Organizations Having Budget Problems

By Jackie Hayes

The SB Press' devastating budget cut at the beginning of this semester seemed to open our eyes to a broader campus-wide problem. After talking with a multitude of club and organization representatives we realized many groups are experiencing budget problems. This was confusing given the fact that enrollment has increased this semester, causing a \$40,400 increase in USG's budget, making their working budget close to \$2.3 million.

As mentioned in previous articles, the Stony Brook Press received a 71% budget cut this semester. Clayton John, the previous interim Treasurer and current Vice Treasurer, made this decision. Under Article VII of the USG Constitution, entitled "Budget Process" it stipulates that the treasurer is supposed to initiate a budgetary process to plan the yearly budget. The process is supposed to take about two semesters and is formulated in conjunction with a Budget Committee. The Budget Committee drafts a budget after holding Budgetary Hearings with the clubs and organizations. The final budget is presented to the Senate where it must pass a majority vote. Under Section I of the Treasure's duties it states that the Treasures must, "communicate to all the USG funded groups' treasurers of any changes in budgetary policies and procedures." The fact that Clayton made major changes in our budget without a working Senate or Budget Committee and without contacting the SB Press' treasurer is unconstitutional. It is also stipulated in Section 3 of USG's Financial, Managerial Policies and Procedures that a Budget Committee must be formed to draft the budget. So the budget was drafted not only in violation to the constitution, but also in violation to USG policies. Yet the SB Press is not the only group on campus experiencing budget problems.

At the second, informal Senate meeting on November 11, Sam Goldman, SB Press' Managing Editor, was told by USG President, Sandy Curtis, that, "No political groups on campus will receive funding." If this is the case then College Republicans, Social Justice Alliance, Enduring Freedom Alliance, Students for Peace and Humanity, University Democrats, Students for Choice, and NYPIRG could possibly be denied funding in the future. It is unclear how USG will decide which groups are political and which are not. In the meeting they also said they would be taking a

closer look at religious groups meaning Baptism Campus Ministry, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Campus Crusaders for Christ, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, Chinese Christian Fellowship, and Hillel, among others, could be denied funding. MSA or the Muslim Student Association was denied funding by USG from its inception based on religious reasoning. This is not a SUNY-wide standard, in fact SUNY Albany's Muslim Student Association, along with their College Republicans, College Democrats, and Campus Greens, are student government funded. The USG Constitution's Preamble states that it intends to, "foster a spirit of community, diversity and fellowship, to create programs and services for the benefit of all members of the campus community." Apparently USG doesn't realize that political and religious groups carry out much of USG's aforementioned goal.

USG is not just talking about denying groups funding under political or religious justifications; they are implementing it. On Wednesday, November 12, SJA organized a panel to discuss the US' current occupation of Iraq. They had asked USG for funding but were denied under the justification that the panel would be expressing a partisan view. In order to get USG funding, SJA would have to bring another panelist expressing an opposing viewpoint. In a sense USG is financially censoring SJA by denying them funding on the basis of their event's content. It's also important to point out that on October 29 the US army was on Stony Brook's campus, along with reps from Source magazine, to recruit minorities, all funded by USG. A few groups also attended this USG event including SJA and Students for Peace and Humanity. They passed out flyers expressing reasons why not to join the army, along with their view on the current war. Yet they were asked to remove their flyers from the doors and tables. Apparently expressing the other side of the coin is not welcome during USG planned events.

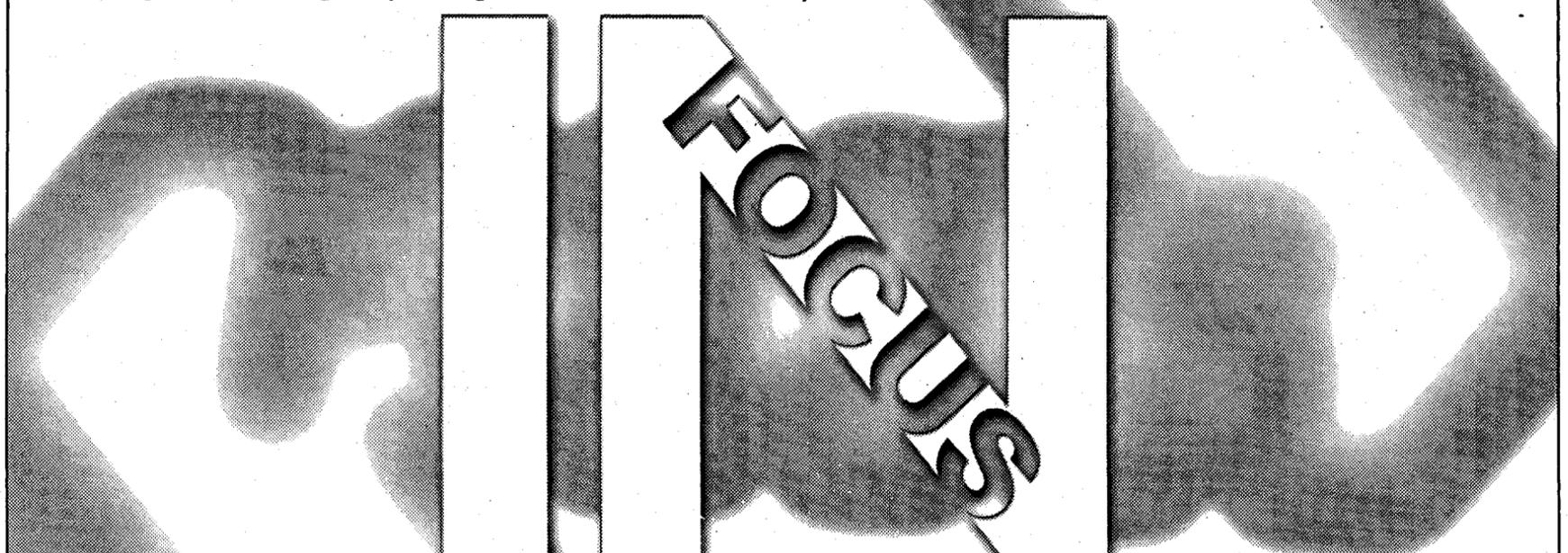
Some other groups currently experiencing budget problems include SBVAC and Students for Choice. SBVAC, the University's Ambulance Core, has been experiencing budget problems since the beginning of the semester. It is unclear as to the justifications behind their budget problems with USG, which includes withholding funds, yet we hope to include more information about this in other articles. Students for Choice, due to budget problems,

which are also unclear at this point, will not be able to put on the Vagina Monologues in February.

On top of budget issues, many clubs have other problems with USG, including the overbearing amount of paperwork. Current CSA (Commuter Student Association) President, Jim Driscoll, stated, "The major problems we've encountered with USG is switching rules and regulations about paperwork without telling us. They're making the whole system really difficult to do programming. You have to know 5 weeks ahead of time." The deadlines for much of the paperwork are required up to a month before the actual event. This, in turn, stifles a lot of events on campus. Although a small amount of paperwork might help in planning the details of the event, an overbearing amount results in an increased administrative oversight and less events on campus. Security expenses also become overbearing and eat up large portions of the event's budget. For most events requiring security, security costs a minimum of about \$600 per night. Organizations must hire CSS (Concert Security Specialists), since they are contracted through the University, and they must pay a five-hour minimum. They also must hire SPA, or events staff, which costs about \$500 on average and also receives a \$10,000 line budget from USG. Concerts, parties, certain comedy shows, and a multitude of other events usually require security. Last semester USG (then Polity) required Students for Choice to pay security for the Vagina Monologues performances they coordinated. Earlier this semester USG also required CSA to pay about \$1500 in security for a Bluegrass concert. Just in case there is any doubt, riots did not break out during either of these events.

USG is only a few months old and is attempting to break itself away from Polity's corrupt past. Yet confusion over the budget and general discontent among many clubs and organizations could potentially challenge their legitimacy. The budget changes made early in the semester were made under an interim Treasurer and without a working Senate or Budget Committee. USG also seems to be getting away from their goal of fostering diversity by ostracizing religious and political groups. Perhaps their first goal should be to adhere to their own constitution.

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



8PM
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"Um... Nobody die! We have no money yet!"

By Joe Filippazzo

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) never ceases to appall me. I have never seen a group of people so fastidious when it comes to keeping up their image yet so incredibly explicit in their disregard for propriety. In fact, USG's Interim Administrative Director Santo Albano said, "We are not going to let the Constitution get in the way of our mission." This was at the Executive Council meeting on November 21 where Fredrick Preston, the Vice President for Student Affairs, agreed to certify USG. The new student government justifies its lack of concern for legality in two ways. The first is to brush it off with the excuse that they are newly formed and just getting started. The second is to (literally!) cross out anything in the constitution, bylaws or policies that indicate they are doing something illegal. For, in the words of USG President, Sandy Curtis, "We are just trying to create legitimacy once again." In this student's opinion though, several dozen wrongs do not make a right. It has been made fairly clear to this student that a constitution is merely an inconvenience to this \$2.3 million organization that is trying to "get on its feet".

One group on campus that has threatened USG's coveted squeaky-clean image and has therefore been denied funding, is the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, also known as SBVAC. As a side note, SBVAC was named the New York State 2002 Emergency Medical Services Agency of the year by the NYS Department of Health. Santo Albano however has named SBVAC merely a "subordinate club". One would think that an organization that provides such an essential service to the campus community deserves a certain amount of respect and gratitude, but I remind you that we are dealing with USG and they are trying to "get on their feet."

Apparently, SBVAC has not received any of the money allotted to them through the student activity referenda. This means that we, the students, voted to give SBVAC a portion of the Student Activity Fee, but USG has failed to deliver the Ambulance Corps' very much needed funding. I had a chance to speak with Ted Teng, who is the treasurer of the ambulance corps, about his dissatisfaction with USG's actions so far. Mr. Teng says that SBVAC is typically granted \$8,400 per month from the student activity referenda to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since USG refuses to

give them any funding whatsoever, the Corps has been forced to use their surplus fund to compensate for the missing \$8,400. With this fund almost exhausted, SBVAC can no longer purchase the additional ambulance they were saving up to buy in an effort to increase campus coverage as well as the general operating efficiency of their organization.

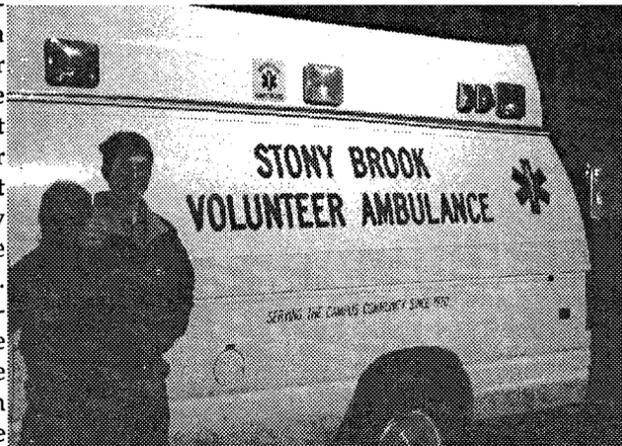
It is understandable for such a large business as our Undergraduate Student Government to want to protect their assets (or should that be asses?) but they seem to lose their true sense of purpose, i.e. serve the undergraduate student body, in the extraneously repetitive paper work. When an organization like SBVAC deals with such a sensitive topic as student health, it is logical

that liability will become a major issue. Since SBVAC is such a reliable and competent institution, it has provided USG, and specifically Santo Albano, with everything it has been asked for but still has not received its funding.

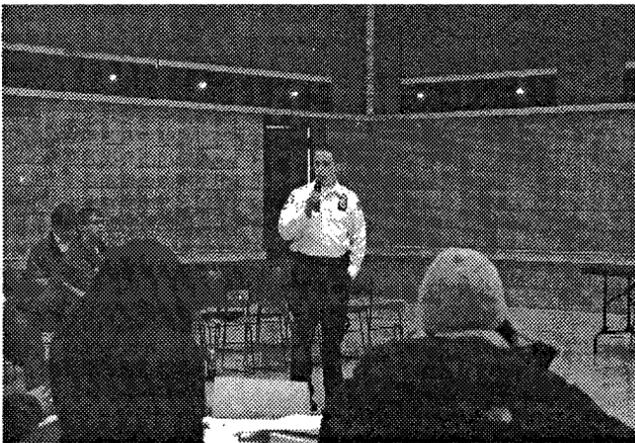
Some of the paperwork SBVAC needed to provide includes a detailed review of their expenses as well as their Proof of Corporation, which states that the Ambulance Corps is not just a club. Mr. Albano's demands were met but still insufficient. Next he wanted SBVAC's Proof of Insurance, even though SBVAC has its own insurance policy and it doesn't even directly concern USG. They responded with the appropriate forms. All the paperwork so far shows that USG would not be liable for SBVAC's actions but Albano's insatiable appetite for red tape lingered. The most recent form that the Corps was asked to provide was a more detailed explanation of SBVAC's entire insurance policy. We have now approached the final week of classes in the semester and SBVAC has still not received a penny from USG. Within a reasonable amount of time, Ted Teng faxed the appropriate doc-

umentation and has since been waiting for a response. I attended the Executive Council Meeting on Friday, December 5th, which was days after the form had been sent to the USG offices. After the meeting, I confronted Mr. Albano as to the status of SBVAC's money and he claimed that he was still waiting for them to send the form.

It makes sense for the best ambulance corps in New York State to be efficient, well organized, and aware of all the angles it must cover to fulfill the emergency medical needs of a few thousand Stony Brook residents. Similarly, it makes sense for an Undergraduate Student Government that is trying to "get on its feet" to not have a [explicative] [explicative] of a [explicative] idea as to



"LIETENUENT BRIAN WONG GIVING AN EMERGENCY THUMBS UP" Courtesy of Joe Flip.



The Stony Brook Press

we gots couches

room 060 SBUnion
every wed 1pm

Fuck Bush, Arnold, and the USG

By David K. Ginn

I'm glad that I finally came out with it. I think a lot of people are trying to find the right words to describe the people that have screwed things up so badly, but I just couldn't hold back anymore. Now it's plain, out there, and said.

George W. Bush has given the whole world a whole lot of shaft. We've been taking it in every way imaginable. George W. Bush is giving us the Kama Sutra of power-shafting. Not that it's any surprise. Power-shafting has been around for a long time.

Power-shafting, first of all, should not be confused with any term used to describe pornography, although it has its connections. Power-shafting is the use of one's power to give everyone else the shaft. Sound familiar? Of course it does.

Nixon did it. CEOs are still doing it. The court systems have done it, ever since the founding of our lovely nation. O.J. did it. Record companies just did it big time. Saddam did it, but if anyone really believes that's the reason we went over there, I would surely like to hear that argument.

Which brings us right back to our original point. Bush and power-shafting: the way to victory. It's amazing that for nearly eight or nine seconds after the September 11th attacks I almost thought of him in a high regard. Yikes!

He has certainly proved his merit since then. You can almost feel bad for him, too. The poor guy decides out of nowhere that he wants to start a war with Iraq, tells everyone that Iraq is withholding a mass of weapons that they plan to use on us, and then the leaders of Iraq do everything in their power to try to prevent the war. How could they? What kind of evil corruption is that? Trying to prevent war! Ha! And then they send thousands of signed and registered documents proving that they have no weapons, just as Bush requested. How horrified he must have been to see that! It was probably the last thing he expected. But no bother, he can just go on saying that it doesn't matter, we're going to kill you anyway. And so we did.

And poor Bush once again. After what seems like a quick war, everyone is happy. But then we learn that the war never ended. We find out that what at first was billed as post-war was actually still part of the original war. That's why we have a staggering number of "post-war KIAs" - because there was no post-war.

And then we don't find any weapons, after all. What a shame. All that work for nothing. But we're close to Americanizing Iraq, and that's one hell of an accomplishment. After we take all of Iraq's power and resources we can move on to somewhere else. The future certainly appears bright.

But what will happen in 2004? Bush won't be re-elected, that much is plain. But wasn't it just as plain that he wouldn't be elected in 2000? Maybe not quite as plain, but no one can deny the shock they felt when they found out he won. This includes the people who voted for him.

So he can alter the votes in 2004 just the same, can't he? Of course he can. But what about in 2008, when a federal law prohibiting a president to serve more than two terms comes into effect? No problem. We'll be at war then, no doubt. But by that time the war might not be with the people we're attacking but instead with the opposition. The rebellion. France will be there, and maybe half of the rest of Europe as well. At this time I can't predict whether or not Britain will stay at our side. I really hope they don't.

So, since we'd be at war, Bush would just have to pull a few strings in the Judiciary Branch to get an amendment that makes clear the substantial power of the war and provides an exception to the two-term law.

Then Bush will be President for Life.

That's Bush. Fuck him. Now let's move

on to Arnold. This one will be short, since I can't bring myself to spend a lot of time on this new dose of bullshit. Really, the underlying point here is that California named its prom king and Arnold was the winner. They still have the problem of trying to find a governor, but at least they have their prom king.

I can't comment on how good of a job Arnold might do. He might turn out to be the best governor that any state has ever had. I'm not saying fuck Arnold as governor. I'm saying fuck Arnold being elected to governor. I can't say fuck Arnold as governor because, unlike Bush, he has not yet done anything to exercise his political character one way or another. Maybe in time we will all come to hate him as we hate Bush, but then again maybe not.

But the election! Oh, dear me. Let's all elect Arnold because he's famous. It's all so ridiculous that it's actually funny. Bush isn't funny. This Arnold situation is.

And lastly, the third and final fuck for this article: The USG.

Hmm... I have an idea. Let's start a new student government where we don't give anyone the chance to run for office. Then, the few people who do make it will band together to plot some seriously fucked up shit. And let's not let anyone witness these meetings. That would be terrible. That would be suicide. If we actually abided by federal law then people might actually find out that we're merely dancing merrily on the grave of Polity.

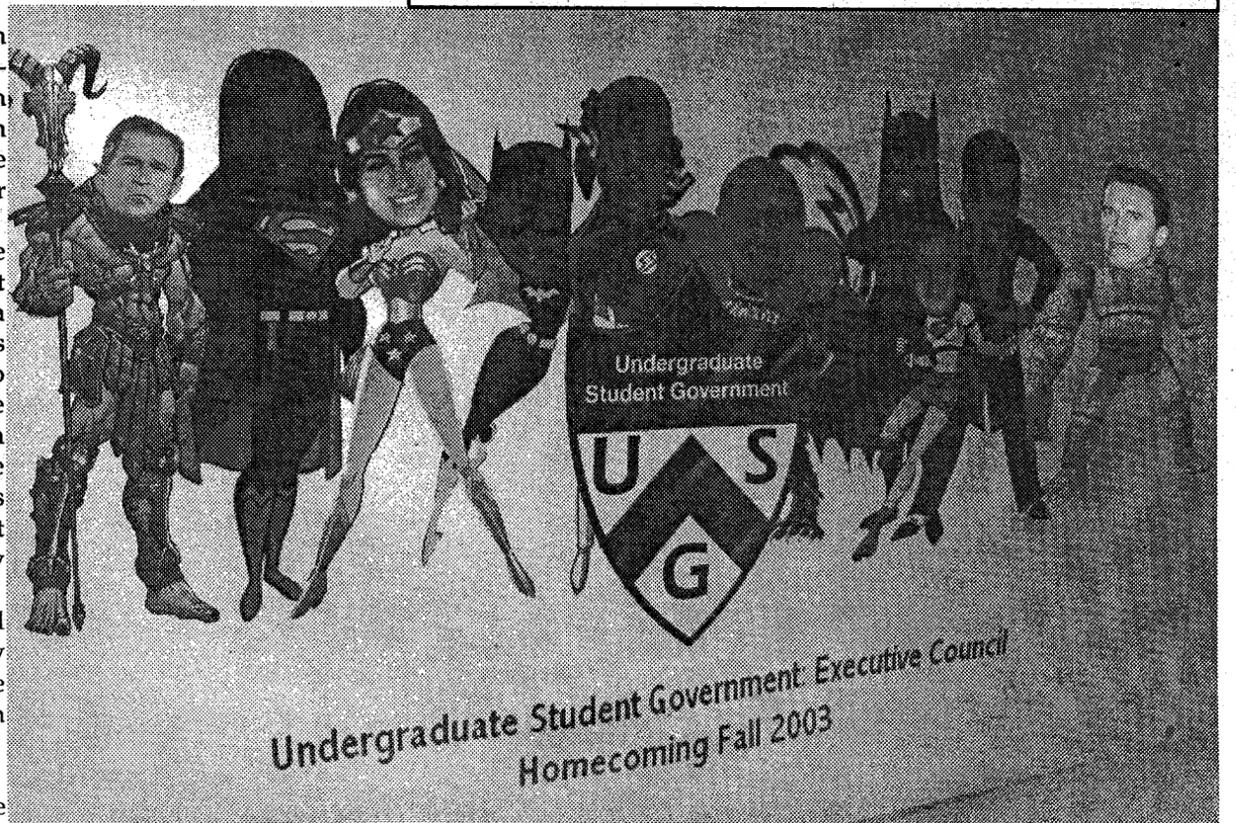
One of our first orders of business will be to give and take student funding. After all, it isn't real money. It's just on paper. They don't actually use that money. Secondly, let's target The Press. They are open and free and serve absolutely no purpose here on campus. We, like the federal government, need to control what

people read and think. The Statesman is a perfectly good source of news reporting on campus. We can flush out The Press, no problem.

What's our biggest disadvantage? We're not even a certified student government. That means that every action and every decision we make is completely null and void until we become a real government.

Well, fuck them too. They are, as Joe Flip so aptly put it just a few issues ago, giving us the shaft in so many ways. Power-shafting, baby. Tool of the past, wave of the future. Can you dig it?

THE FOURTEEN FUCKS
First Fuck: George W. Bush
Sloppy Seconds: USG
Third Fuck: Art Censorship
Fourth Fuck: P2P Shutdowns
Fifth Fuck: Arnold
Sixth Fuck: Taco Bell (see past article)
Seventh Fuck: Michael Jackson
Eighth Fuck: Jessica Simpson
Ninth Fuck: Iraq
Tenth Fuck: National Security
Eleventh Fuck: Excessive Technology
Twelfth Fuck: Hollywood
Thirteenth Fuck: Reality T.V.
Fourteenth and Final Fuck: Patriotism and the American Sense of Self-Importance.



Could Usama Bin Laden get a Job at Stony Brook?

By Nicklaus J Misiti

Everyone with a driver's license understands the frustration and annoyance bureaucracies cause. They seem like big government agencies where hopes, dreams, and purpose turn into lines, forms, processing fees, public employees, apathy and depression. All of this takes time which is surely going to waste in attempting to satisfy the seemingly insatiable need for the state to redundantly register you, find out your address and phone number, place you with an identification number, tell you what part of the form you filled out wrong, and take your money. Bureaucracies inevitably produce cold, disdainful atmospheres which provide a service that is not only inefficient but also inept in purpose. An extreme example of this is how a man could get a job practicing medicine in spite of the fact that he was a suspected murderer, convicted violent felon, and did not even have a medical license at the time of his application. Here is the tragic and horrific story of that man and how Dr. Michael Swango was hired by Stony Brook University to save lives and ended up taking them, becoming perhaps the most prolific serial killer in the history of the United States.

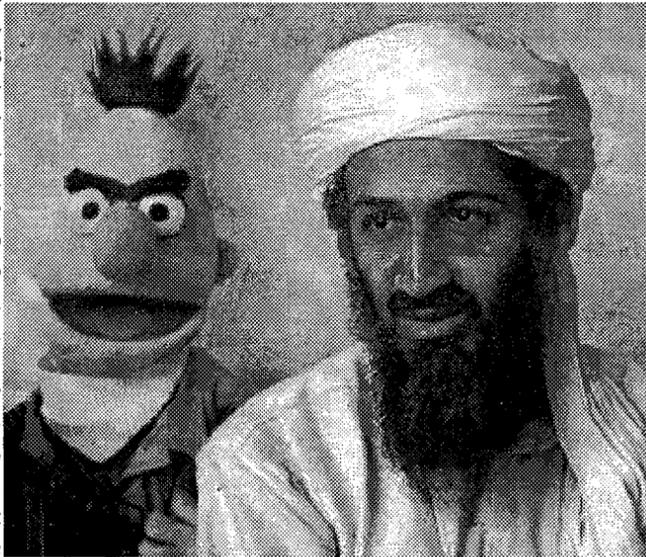
Michael Swango started off his career, like most doctors, in medical school; it was here his classmates gave him the nickname "Double-O-Swango." This nickname was given to him because a significant number of his patients died under mysterious circumstances; peculiarly, this even included patients who came in for routine physical exams. His classmates jokingly decided that, similar to James Bond (aka Double-O-seven) and his license to kill, giving "Double-O-Swango" his license to perform medicine would be on par with giving him a license to kill. In 1984, Dr. Swango was terminated from Ohio State University Hospital because it was suspected he was, in fact, murdering patients. A patient there accused Dr. Swango of injecting a mysterious substance into her; this injection was confirmed by two sources including a registered nurse working at the time. The medical establishment investigating concluded all three accusers were delusional in their accusations of Mr. Swango. This delusional claim is strange enough but when you tie in the fact that a coroner had concluded the cause of death in another patient of Mr. Swango's to be homicide you have to ask who is really delusional in this situation. "Double-O-Swango" was let go reluctantly by the hospital and no charges were pressed. He went on to get another job at another hospital where he was terminated, charged, convicted, and served time for poisoning his co-workers. In this case, Dr. Swango not only murdered patients but would also periodically bring in donuts for his co-workers which were laced with his special ingredient: rat poison or arsenic. After the employees got sick from eating them, Dr. Swango was arrested and served two years for assault. So now on his official record, or his resume if you will, he already had a number of discharges under mysterious circumstances, a felony conviction, his medical license had been revoked, and something tells me Dr. Swango's letters of recommendations weren't all that positive either. He applied to a number of residency programs in spite of this and the one that called him back was, of course, SUNY Stony Brook. They hired him as a full time doctor and accepted his phony excuse for his felony conviction for poisoning co-workers. He claimed in his interview that it wasn't a poisoning but a barroom brawl with co-workers that caused his conviction for assault. Either way, this is not something that normally gets you hired when you are being interviewed but Dr. Swango seemed to be an anomaly in every way, in every situation throughout the hiring process. "Double-O-Swango" was now back in action, and hospital complaints ranged from patients coming in with flu-

like symptoms leaving in body bags to nurses complaints that in the middle of the night they found Doctor Swango in the dark next to his patients bed staring over them. Still he maintained his status as a University employee. Dr. Swango wasn't discharged from USB until one of his previous jobs exhumed a patient's body and found it had extremely high doses of epinephrine while another had elevated levels of Succinyl Chloride, a warrant was sworn for his arrest. Mr. Swango fled to Zimbabwe where he got another medical job. When Zimbabwean officials asked how come he came to Zimbabwe when he could earn so much more money as a Doctor in the United States Doctor Swango's reply was typical of his charming nature "All my life," Swango told him, "I have dreamed of helping the poor and the disadvantaged." He said America had plenty of doctors, but in Africa, he would be truly needed. Here is an account of one of Dr. Mike's disadvantaged patients who survived under his care in Zimbabwe, Keneas Mzezewa had dozed off for a nap that May afternoon, but was awakened at about two p.m. when he felt someone removing his loose-fitting pajama trousers. He lifted his head, still a bit groggy from sleep, and saw that it was Dr. Mike. The handsome American doctor had a syringe in his hand, and seemed about to give him an injection, so Mzezewa, eager to help, pulled down his trousers and turned on his side. Then the doctor plunged the unusually large needle into his right buttock. Mzezewa saw that after he finished the injection, the doctor concealed the used syringe in the pocket of his white medical coat.

"Good-bye," Dr. Mike said softly, pausing briefly to look back at Mzezewa. Then he left the hospital ward.

Dr. Swango was shown on America's Most Wanted and was eventually caught when he returned to America visiting Chicago. He was convicted and is now serving four life sentences without the possibility of parole. He is suspected of killing upwards of 60 people but no one knows the true figure. The real story is that he was hired repeatedly in spite of numerous and blatant black marks against him. Marks so obvious it begs the question of what does it take to be filtered out of the bureaucratic hiring process, a swastika carved into your head? How about blood stains on your resume? If he looked in the mirror and had no reflection would that suffice to render you disqualified in this process? I'm sure, almost 20 years later, that there are deeply held emotions and angers concerning what happened here at the University involving Dr. Swango. I am not in any way bringing this up so those involved in this horrific crime have to relive the great suffering caused; rather, I am trying to point out its roots and how to prevent a future "Double-O-Swango" or even something less extreme such as a pedophile or rapist being hired. I'm sure after Swango happened the University came out with all sorts of statements calling for reforms. They probably fired the Dean or chief executive involved in Swango's hiring. But 15 years later, the bureaucracy here survives and, in fact, thrives. It is perhaps the most powerful force effecting campus life or lack thereof. Of course, Dr.

Swango is an exceptional case of bureaucratic failure; yet, on a certain level, it exemplifies the problems associated throughout and raises serious questions as to whether anything has changed in the bureaucratic process since Dr. Swango's conviction. Bureaucracies are cold, inhuman agencies where natural human interactions are turned into paperwork, memorandums, and computer filings. All of this is extremely boring and frustrating for both the citizen and bureaucrat, creating a natural antagonism because everything must follow a certain protocol and no protocol encompasses all of life's bittersweet circumstances. There is no incentive for bureaucrats to do their jobs except those that are absolutely required of them. And if they can get away with not doing those, why not? For instance, I'm sure someone was supposed to do a background check or reference call on Dr. Swango or at least make sure he had a valid medical license (since he was, after all, applying for a medical position). This could not possibly have been done to any reasonable degree in this case. What motivates the employee to do so? He is not held responsible for hiring a serial killer, pedophile, terrorist or Unabomber because no one is held responsible in a bureaucracy. The more inept it is and the more angry it makes you, the more you are placated and turned away; if you dare exude any sign of anger you are labeled crazy and unable to understand that everyone's just doing their job. Yet what job is that and is it worth the hassle a bureaucracy creates are important questions always left unanswered. Additional



important questions which must be asked at this University are how the bureaucracy can reduce the anger-apathy-depression iron triangle so firmly entrenched in its officialdom. Better yet to what extent can they make red tape nonexistent or at least bearable? The SOLAR system is an example of bearable bureaucracy, if it's going to be cold and callous why not turn it into a computerized machine? Also SOLAR saves time on lines while at the same time reducing environmental waste in terms of paper consumption. You can listen to nice peaceful music while you hand your vital statistics and money to the University. The best thing about it is that you don't have to go into that hellacious administration building where the workers are behind bullet proof glass apparently in direct knowledge of the rage the system produces (they claim its because of the money they have behind the counter but you don't see this in banks, do you?). They should really put multiple punching bags in that building just to relieve tension on both sides of the glass. I have seen 65 year-old bureaucrats with, in my opinion, every right to punch out pretentious little students crying for supposed answers. The point is everyone hates the bureaucracy. The University can reduce it by first looking at if its actually needed (in some cases it's not or can at least be reduced), second looking at reducing its redundancy, and third continue turning it into a computerized system you can use at home I think you will see the quality of life on campus improve proportionately. Who knows, maybe Michael Swango was sent from the registrar to the bursar to financial aid than back to the registrar when after two hours of this he finally snapped.

College Tuitions

By Beverly Bryan

College tuitions nationwide have climbed sharply throughout the economic ups and downs of the 80's and 90's. Relatively stable during the 60's and 70's tuition and fees for both state and private universities began rising in the early 80's at a rate that outstripped consumer prices. During that time, tuition costs for a private university education have grown to three times that of public schooling. Public school prices have also risen steadily from their lowest point 1980.

According to The College Board, the national average for tuition at four-year public colleges this year is \$4,694. This is an increase of \$579 from the average in 2002 or 14%.

Most universities, Stony Brook included, are larger than they once were and provide more services for students such as computer labs, which may account for the increase in the cost of higher education. Stony Brook economics professor John Hause suggested that the larger administrative staffs and increased benefits for employees over the years have contributed to the costs of tuition. "Package health benefits have been jumping along at a high rate of annual increase," he said.

Hause also pointed out the large salaries that the best professors command today, especially at a research university. "Colleges also are among places that are looking for the superstars," he said. But these alone, he said, were not enough to account for the rate of increase.

Speaking to the cost of public higher education, Melissa Morahan, project coordinator for Stony Brook University's NYPIRG office, said, "the reason for increased tuition and fees is that the state has not been investing in public universities."

"Tuition goes up in times of prosperity. Even in times of prosperity the state is not investing in the system," she said. This, she said, reflected poorly on the state's supposed commitment to the affordability and accessibility of higher education.

On December 3rd, SUNY Chancellor

Robert King presented a budget proposal to the Board of Trustees calling for a "rational tuition policy," which allows for regular, yearly tuition increases. These increases would not affect community colleges.

A press release from the chancellor's office quotes King as saying, "a rational tuition policy would enable families and the university to plan for the future. It would help the university respond to financial pressure, support its enrollment growth and fund quality improvement initiatives. Most importantly, a tuition policy will enable us to preserve and enhance the quality of the education we provide to our students."

The same press release lists the financial pressures facing the SUNY system as "enrollment growth, contractual salary increases, inflation in energy costs and other budget items."

It goes on to state that SUNY is less expensive than New England, Mid-

Atlantic and Mid-western state systems and that its Tuition Assistance is the most generous in the country. The College Board reports that public tuition and fees are the lowest in the American West averaging \$1,007 at a four-year school.

According to a report written by NYPIRG activist Miriam Kramer, the average cost of public college in New York is \$556 above the average nationwide, \$1,000 above the annual tuition and fees at the large state public universities of Florida, Texas and California. Since 1990 tuition and fees at SUNY's four-year schools rose by 156% compared to the national average of 86% during those years.

Over the past decade the portion of their income that New York families paid for school rose from 4% to 6%. This figure would continue to grow whether the tuition policy instituted were "rational" or not. The NYPIRG report points out that the gap is partially due to the fact that tuition has risen more and faster than the limited rise of 9.2% in average income for New Yorkers.

One of the financial pressures New York public colleges must respond to is declining government support. Adjusted for inflation state support for higher education in New York has fallen 12% after 1995.

Sudden jumps in tuition clearly affect the ability of students to finish their educations. Before this year 1995 was the last time tuition was raised. By 1997, enrollment in the state and city university systems had gone from 538,123 to 509,019. The loss of 29,104 undergraduates was the largest 2-year enrollment drop since 1976.

The cost of fewer New Yorkers receiving degrees has been estimated by the CUNY system. CUNY estimates that the city and state of New York receive \$708 million more in taxes from residents who graduated between 1970 and 1997 than they would have had those residents had not finished college. The graduates spend \$4.6 billion more in state each year than they would have without their degrees.

In its report on trends in college pricing The College Board reminds prospective consumers of higher education that, "Over a lifetime the gap in earnings for those with a high school diploma and those with a B.A. or higher exceeds \$1,000,000. While the cost of college may be imposing to many families, the cost associated with not going to college is likely to be much greater."

These words follow their revelation that while college enrollment is up among all minority groups and all economic backgrounds a person's chances of completing a degree remains "closely correlated" with his or her economic background. White students are still more likely to enter college than Black or Latino students although enrollment among women has passed that among men.

This year the State University of New York raised annual tuition by \$950 for resident students and \$2,000 for out-of-state undergraduates. It was the first time tuition had been raised in seven years. The long-term effects of this increase remain to be seen.

Voting = \$Bling\$ Why the student vote is so important

By Tyler Burke, Project Coordinator NYPIRG at Stony Brook

Apathy - such a nasty little word. By its harshest definition, it denotes an uncaring and indifferent attitude toward the issue at hand. Sadly, when legislators see that 18-25 year olds have the lowest voter registration rate in the nation, only one word comes to mind. A common misconception amongst young voters is that very few political issues actually affect them. However, quite the opposite is true. When our elected officials in Albany are feeling the crunch come budget time, they look to the path of least resistance to cover their programs, and student aid is the first program on the proverbial chopping block.

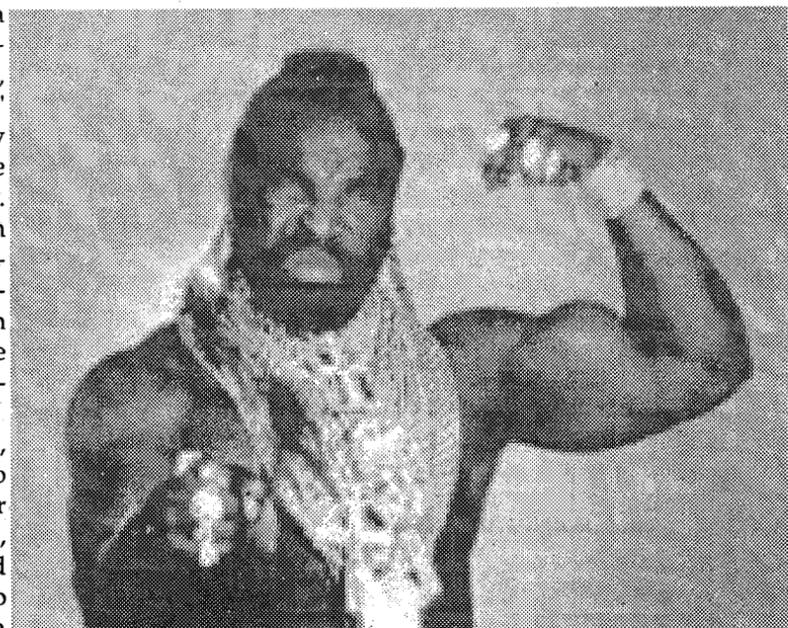
Now, as we gaze deeper into our educational funding crystal ball, we see the future of the New York economy. As of now, New York's "brain drain" is not the serious problem it is in other states. Simply put, New Yorkers educated at New York universities tend to stay here. As a result, if New York students are priced out of higher education, New York will retain a larger uneducated populace, thereby stifling the long-term economy and creating a glut in the job sector that needs the most opportunity. So if an ongoing decline in the state economy, and having to erect another wall in your room to hang

your ding-letter postings is your cup 'o' tea, please don't vote.

Let's say, for instance, that you're not a student, but a business owner in a college town. "Oh well," the business owner may say, "as long as sales at my combination Ramen Noodle, futon and over-priced textbook store are good, tuition hikes don't bother me." Ah, how wrong you are, my friend. Businesses in college communities feel the pinch too. With universities bringing in fewer students, and the students attending these universities having less money, tuition hikes can severely damage the economy of college communities.

So, long story short, when you're headed off to donate blood to keep your tuition check from bouncing, think to yourself, I should probably register to vote, so that the next time a tuition hike comes around, I'll try to do

something about it." Good thinking, my friend. While voting may not get you a Sponge-Bob Band Aid and stale cookies, it will give you a voice, and maybe a little extra bling-bling in your pocket as well.



"MR T. - THE ULTIMATE BLING BLING BLINGER"

Serving Your Country

By Lauren A. Trankle

Have you ever wanted to serve your country and stand up for the ideals that our founding fathers established, for example, the right to liberty, equality, and justice? Many high school seniors and college students alike enlist in the US Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force each year. Young women and men decide at an early age that they want to devote part and, for some individuals all, of their life to their country. These devoted and honorable young individuals learn about discipline, respect, and working cooperatively.

Seventeen year old Private Jessica Alleyne just completed 12 weeks of boot camp. She joined the US Marines with the hope of making a difference, to help other countries with peacekeeping and poverty relief. And she wants to help keep our nation free. Alleyne enlisted in the Marines in April and now she is in boot camp handling and using her M16A2 rifle, ready to take on combat drills. The Crucible, the last test of boot camp, is 54 hours of war simulation, during which she tests the skills she has learned. Senior recruits say it's the part that can make or break you. You have to be able to endure this to graduate.

So what is Ms. Alleyne thinking, exactly? "In the background they play tapes of guns being fired, so it really feels like war. I'm exhausted. At times I want to give up. So far, the hardest part of the Crucible was climbing a giant log-I'm terrified of heights. But it's a team effort; I'm not alone. Since no one gives up on me, I won't give up on them."

Is it really worth it to enlist like Ms. Alleyne? Many people join the military expecting to receive job training or tens of thousands of free dollars for college. Although the military does pay for partial or all college tuition, there are many factors to keep in mind. You must work for it and possibly risk your life for it. And it is not automatic. Unless you qualify for special jobs through a testing process or sign up for an extra-long term, you will never see the higher amounts of money. To qualify for any aid at all, you have to pay a \$1,200 nonrefundable deposit to the military (www.WesternMassAFSC.org). If you receive anything less than an honorable discharge (as one in four people do), leave the military early (as one in three people do), or later decide not to go to college, the military will keep your deposit and give you nothing.



Picture Courtesy of the US Army.

According to the Veterans Administration, less than half of eligible veterans are using their educational benefits. This means the military takes in a lot of money that will not be paid back. In other words, it's really the military that profits, not veterans. Colleges can help you find aid if you need it. Also, colleges offer various scholarships to students that help decrease tuition cost. It pays to investigate all options before agreeing to give away years of your life to the military.

Many people join the military expecting to receive job training. But remember, military training is designed for military jobs, not to help you get a civilian job later. Even in the technically-oriented Air Force, most jobs require particular military skills that will not do you any good in the civilian world.

According to the Veterans Administration, unemployment among young male veterans is about 31% higher than among non-veterans in the same group. Young female veterans face a 58% higher unemployment rate. As stated by former Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, "The military is not a social welfare agency; it's not a jobs program."

Another factor to keep in mind before enlisting in the military is that there is a great deal of sexual discrimination and harassment. Women often join the military to gain job training and break out of traditional roles. However, women are still limited in the jobs they actually perform,

and even when men and women share the same job title, women are made to do filling and typing, while men get the more "stimulating" jobs.

In 1990 and 1995, the armed forces surveyed female members and found that 64% reported sexual harassment. This was twice the rate of harassment reported by women in civilian jobs in



Picture Courtesy of the US Army.

a 1990 Harris poll. And in 1993, when women veterans under the age of 50 were questioned at the Veterans Affairs Military Center in Minneapolis, 90% of them reported that they had been sexually harassed while in the military. If part of the military motto is "unit of one", why is there such a division among the men and women who enlist?

Many individuals that enlist in the military think they will never have to face war. The reality of being called to war in Iraq and elsewhere is very real. Many of the United States soldiers who fought in Vietnam, Germany, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan never thought they would be the ones to see combat. The ultimate purpose of the military is to fight wars. This includes support units, reservists and National Guard members who may not see combat but still face extended and unknown amounts of time away from friends, families, and jobs.

Men and women of all ages continue to fight overseas to help keep peace with other nations. The Army Vision consists of three interdependent elements: people, readiness, and transformation. People will remain the centerpiece of all we do - soldiers, civilians, retirees and veterans. Nonnegotiable readiness, the foundation of our contract with the American people to fight and win the Nation's war, hinges on the well-being of our people. The process of transformation defines how we change the way we think and fight in order to develop the capabilities required in the 21st century. Men and women alike sacrifice their lives each day to better our nation. It is because we have such specialized military that we are able to face the eyes of danger and go about our lives peacefully.

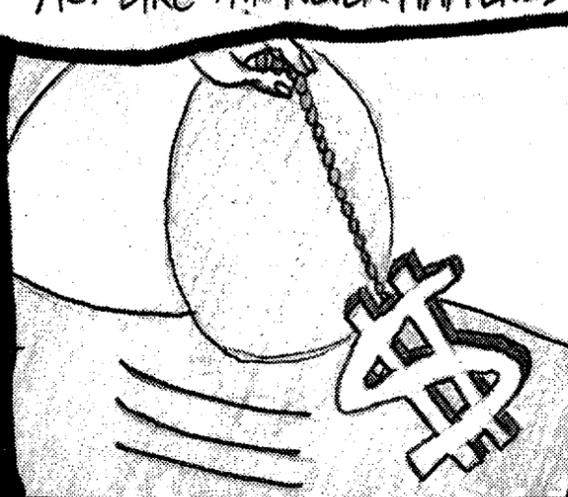
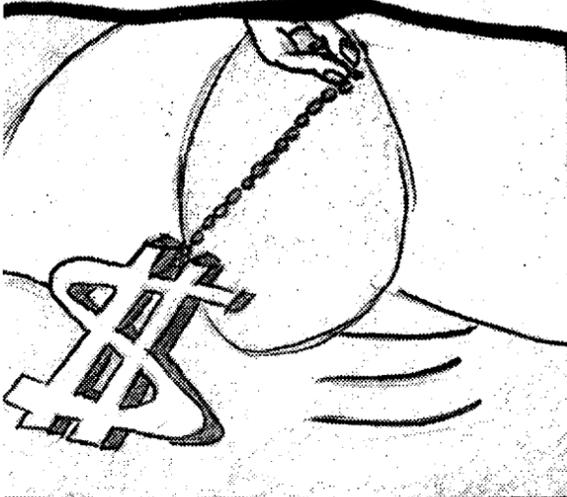
"The Army Reserve we have today- an Army Reserve more ready, more prepared and stronger than at any time since World War II- is due to the hard work, uncompromising dedication and selfless sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of men and women who serve today, around the world, wherever and whenever needed," stated, LTG James R. Helmly.

THE COMICS SECTION

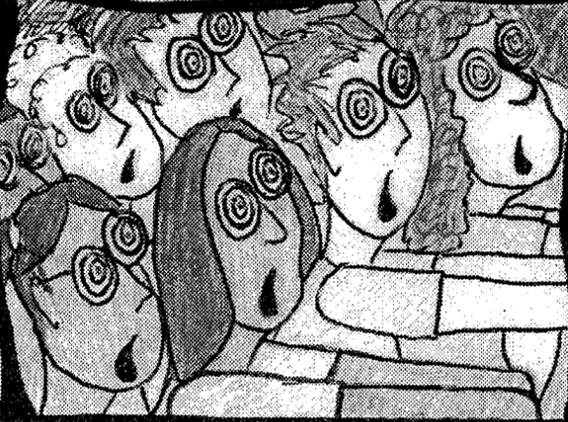
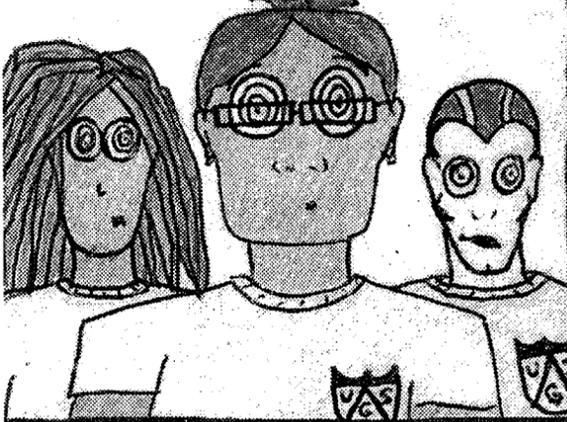
YOU ARE GETTING SLEEPY.

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU WILL ACT LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

YOU WILL DO EXACTLY AS WE SAY.

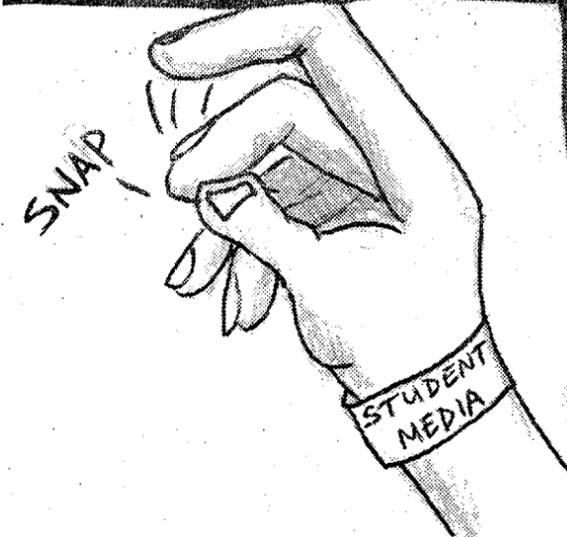
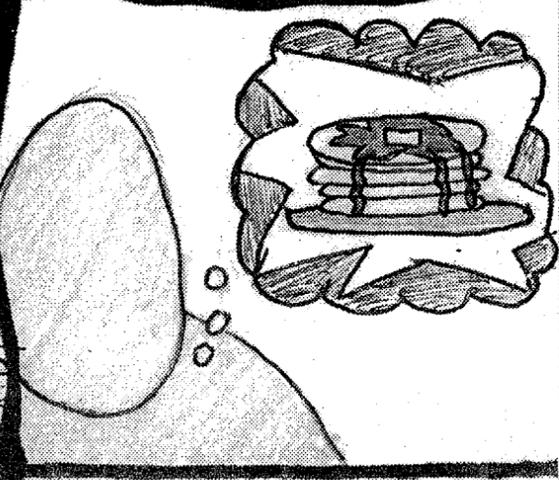


"YOU WILL MAKE MAJOR BUDGET DECISIONS OF STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS W/O A SENATE, JUDICIARY, OR ELECTED TREASURER." "YOU WILL BREAK YOUR OWN BYLAWS AND NOT THINK TWICE ABOUT IT." "YOU WILL COMBINE ALL ASIAN CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS INTO ONE, TO CUT SPENDING!" AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...



"YOU WILL NOT LET THE CONSTITUTION GET IN THE WAY OF OUR MISSION!"

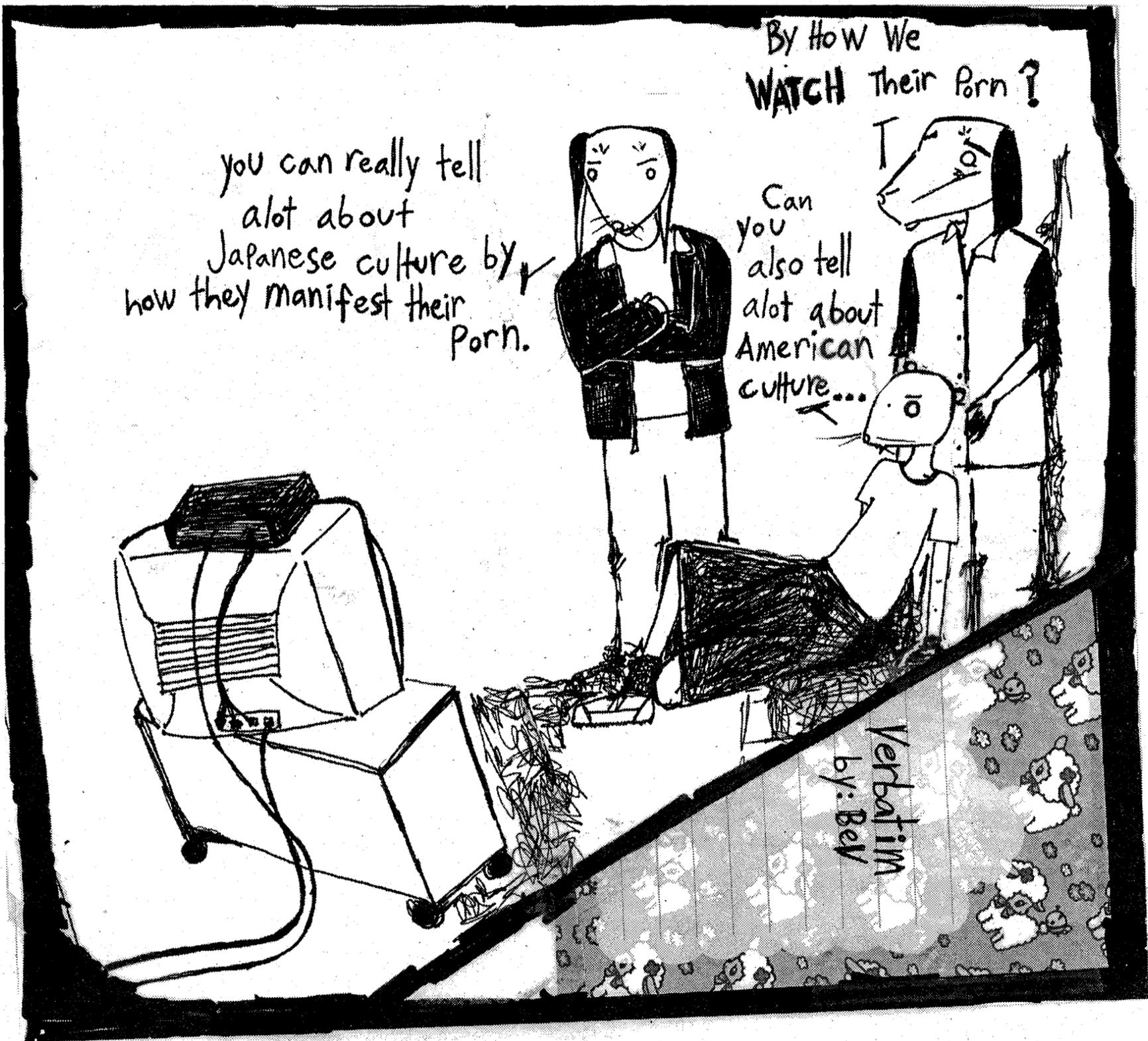
"OH, AND YOU WILL ALLOCATE \$2000⁰⁰ FOR BREAKFAST AT IHOP!"



WAKE UP

THINK FOR YOURSELF

By Jessica Worthington



Hey, did you hear about The Press?

The Press? Yeah, I heard about them.

Well?

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

Really?!?

Word yo. Racoons.

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

DnD, Neverwinter Nights, and a Large Chocolate Milk Shake Please

By mike fabbri

First I will be reviewing Dungeons and Dragons, then Neverwinter Nights, and finally, what we've all really been waiting for...THE CHOCOLATE MILK SHAKE!!! Right back to the point at hand or to the foot, matters if you're on the ground or not. Dungeons and Dragons is an old, old game; many of you have no idea how to play it, but it's probably been around longer than you've been driving, possibly even longer than your momma's been driving, possibly even longer than your baby's momma's been driving, hell even longer than Driving Miss Daisy has been driving. (One of these days, I'll be able to keep my thoughts on one track and not run away like mad men, but 'til then, VIVA LOS VEGAS!!)

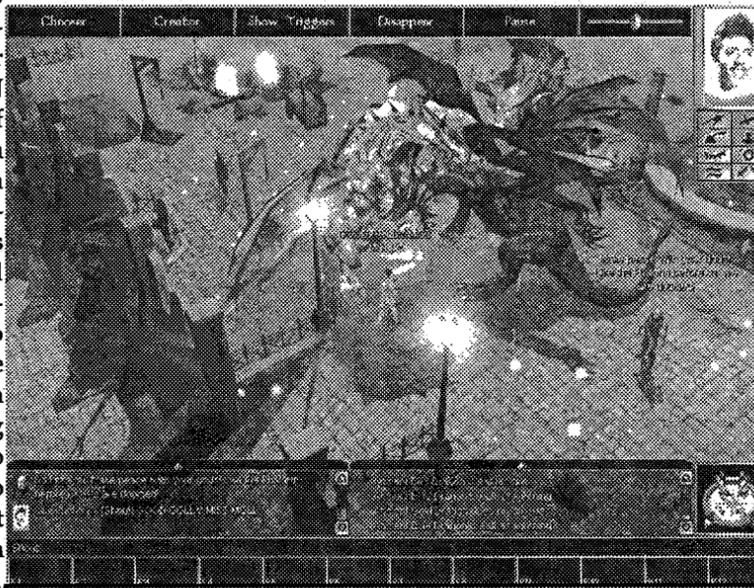
So, Dungeons and Dragons was developed and produced by a company called Tactical Studies Rules, way back in the early 70's. This company has subsequently changed names to TSR Hobbies, which then became just TSR and eventually was bought out by Wizards of the Coast, Inc. Wizards is the company that brought about the Magic: The Gathering card game, which has been around since July 1993. So, why do we need this great backstory to DnD? Well in short, BECAUSE IT'S A FUCKING AWESOME GAME!! (DnD is short for Dungeons and Dragons for all you gangstas out there that don't know about the ghetto style slang yo, word up to yo mamma).

Not that I play the real DnD at all. The real DnD involves pen, paper, dice, a Dungeon Master, and a whole lot more patience than I can muster (the Dungeon Master is somebody who makes up the world that the players travel through, somewhat of a storyteller/judge). I have tried, and I thought it was as boring as a bunch of punctuation marks all in a row like this L*%@#*\$. Pretty lame right? Well guess what, there is hope! Thanks to Atari and BioWare, we now have the next topic of discussion, and hopefully the actual point of the article.

Atari, a long lasting game developer, and BioWare, a decently new gaming company, have teamed up to create Neverwinter Nights, an award winning computer game. I say award winning as a very large understatement, I can't even begin to describe or even list the number of awards this game has won. Being that BioWare has just released their 2nd expansion for the game as well as a gold edition that is also for sale these days, it's safe to say it is a decently popular game. NwN (another one of those damn acronyms) is a game that utilizes DnD's rules, granted minor adjustments needed to be made to the laws that govern the game, being that it is close to impossible to make a direct transfiguration from pen and paper to keyboard and mouse. BioWare also did something else that was very important that other DnD computer games have tried and failed to do; I speak of none other than making your own games from their game engine. Now I realize that this doesn't really hold much appeal to many housewives out there, but if you're a big geek like me, than you like to make stuff. Especially stuff that you can play with - like cheese and cookies and stuff. But much more importantly, this retains the entire Dungeon

Master thing that I mentioned before. The Dungeon Master can make their own worlds, have their friends play in it, all the while the dungeon master can watch over them and generate monsters on the spot, give bonuses to individual players, add narrative, and quite easily keep that entire storyteller/judge role that is important to all the old school players.

This game definitely appeals to the old school players.

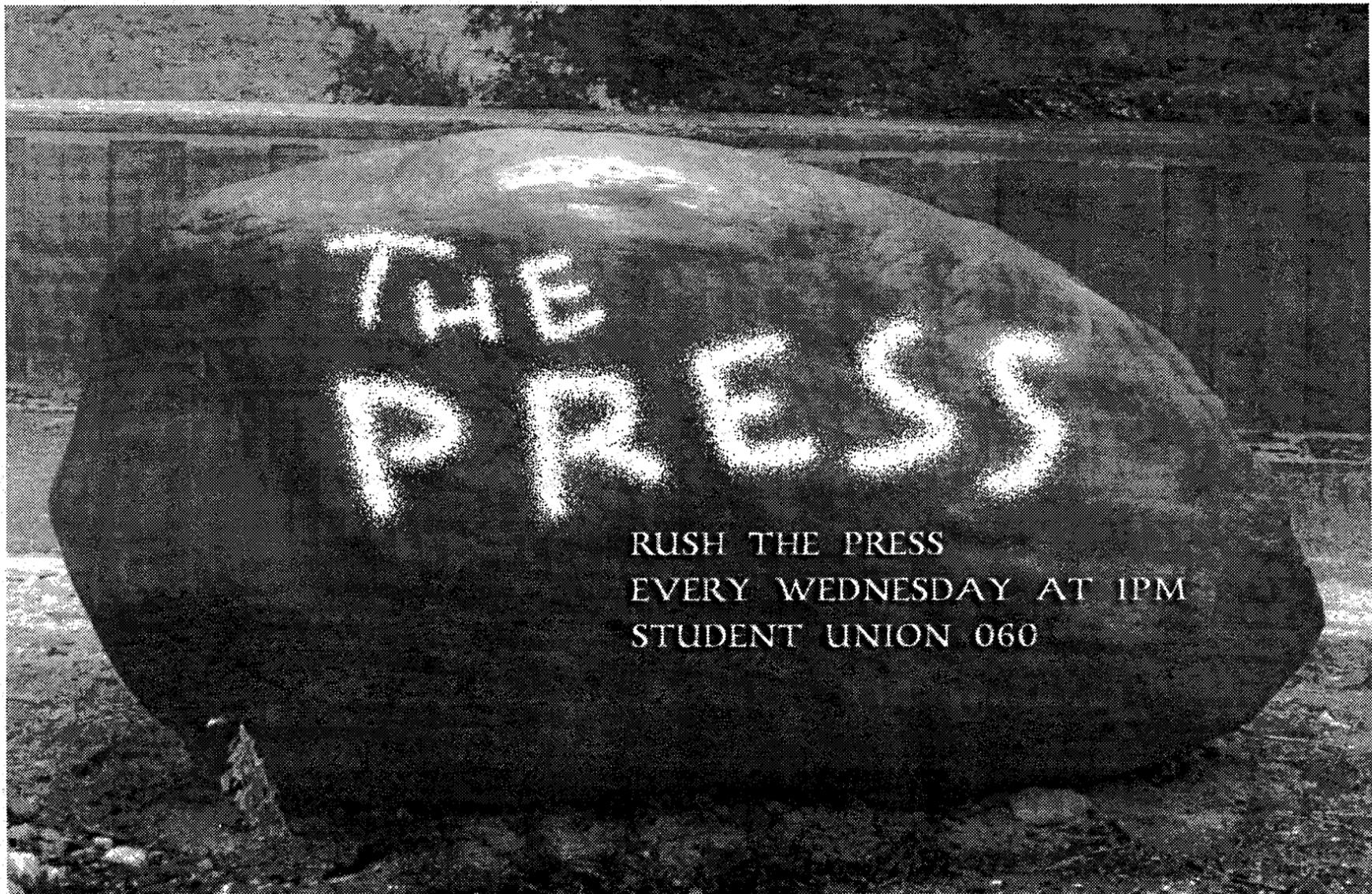


IN GAME SHOT OF NEVERWINTER NIGHTS.

Courtesy of BioWare.

Those that used to play DnD in their younger years have been separated from their friends over the years and can now play online with them whenever it is convenient for them. My suggestion to anyone that actually read this far into the article: go download the demo for this game. Play it. Enjoy the rich

story that BioWare has carefully developed for the single player aspect of the game. You probably won't enjoy the crappy path finding algorithms that they use, but you have to expect some bad with the good. One other thing you might not enjoy, especially if you do not like reading, is well.....all the reading involved. Overall I give this game a 9 out of 10, on what rating chart I do not know....how's about 9 out of 10 large chocolate milk shakes.



TOP TEN

Ways The Press is Spending its Stockpiled Cash

- 10 A murder of crows to avenge our recently deceased exultation of larks
- 9 Professional disposal of the bodies of all those dead whores
- 8 100 dollar bills to roll up and snort coke with... oh yeah, and lots and lots of coke (which is expensive)
- 7 Chuck Yeager P51 limited print stamp sheet so that our collection is UNSTOPPABLE
- 6 Nietzsche's ageless wisdom
- 5 A new accent for Russians... Fucking Pinko Cossack Sluts
- 4 Spider Monkeys and arachnophobic howler monkeys
- 3 Funding subversive militant movements in South America... wait that's Coke... and the US government... and Nike... wait, why haven't WE done this?
- 2 Braces for the whole staff
- 1 A murderous, cyborg anti-Preston sent back trough time to right the wrongs of the past... Disco Style!

Battle of the Century

The War In Iraq

Marshmallow Peeps

VS

PRO

- Oil lobby
- dubious justification
- Morally indefensible
- Colin Raises fist in anger

- Dubious nutrition pastels
- Physically indigestible
- Sugar lobby
- Explode in microwave

CON

- Stale Patriotic rhetoric
- Seething powderkeg
- U.S. Government sugar coats the death of children
- Americans force fed empty sound bites by Fox news

- Stale Marshmallow
- Colon swells to size of fist
- Nestle sugar coats the death of children's teeth
- Family forced fed empty calories
- Expand in stomach

Why I Hate Thanksgiving

By Mitchel Cohen

The year was 1492. The Taino-Arawak people of the Bahamas discovered Christopher Columbus on their beach.

Historian Howard Zinn tells us how Arawak men and women, naked, tawny, and full of wonder, emerged from their villages onto the island's beaches and swam out to get a closer look at the strange big boat. When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords, speaking oddly, the Arawaks ran to greet them, brought them food, water, gifts. Columbus later wrote of this in his log. Here is what he wrote:

"They brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks' bells. They willingly traded everything they owned. They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features. They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of sugar cane. They would make fine servants. With 50 men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want."

And so the conquest began, and the Thanotocracy -- the regime of death -- was inaugurated on the continent the Indians called "Turtle Island."

You probably already know a good piece of the story: How Columbus's Army took Arawak and Taino people prisoners and insisted that they take him to the source of their gold, which they used in tiny ornaments in their ears. And how, with utter contempt and cruelty, Columbus took many more Indians prisoners and put them aboard the Nina and the Pinta -- the Santa Maria having run aground on the island of Hispaniola (today, the Dominican Republic and Haiti). When some refused to be taken prisoner, they were run through with swords and bled to death. Then the Nina and the Pinta set sail for the Azores and Spain. During the long voyage, many of the Indian prisoners died. Here's part of Columbus's report to Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain:

"The Indians are so naive and so free with their possessions that no one who has not witnessed them would believe it. When you ask for something they have, they never say no. To the contrary, they offer to share with anyone." Columbus concluded his report by asking for a little help from the King and Queen, and in return he would bring them "as much gold as they need, and as many slaves as they ask."

Columbus returned to the New World -- "new" for Europeans, that is -- with 17 ships and more than 1,200 men. Their aim was clear: Slaves, and gold. They went from island to island in the Caribbean, taking Indians as captives. But word spread ahead of them. By the time they got to Fort Navidad on Haiti, the Taino had risen up and killed all the sailors left behind on the last voyage, after they had roamed the island in gangs raping women and taking children and women as slaves. Columbus later wrote: "Let us in the name of the Holy Trinity go on sending all the slaves that can be sold." The Indians began fighting back, but were no match for the Spaniard conquerors, even though they greatly outnumbered them. In eight years, Columbus's men murdered more than 100,000 Indians on Haiti alone. Overall, dying as slaves in the mines, or directly murdered, or from diseases brought to the Caribbean by the Spaniards, over 3 million Indian people were murdered between 1494 and 1508.

What Columbus did to the Arawaks of the Bahamas and the Taino of the Caribbean, Cortez did to the Aztecs of Mexico, Pizarro to the Incas of Peru, and the English settlers of Virginia

and Massachusetts to the Powhatans and the Pequots. Literally millions of native peoples were slaughtered. And the gold, slaves and other resources were used, in Europe, to spur the growth of the new money economy rising out of feudalism. Karl Marx would later call this "the primitive accumulation of capital." These were the violent beginnings of an intricate system of technology, business, politics and culture that would dominate the world for the next five centuries.

All of this were the preconditions for the first Thanksgiving. In the North American English colonies, the pattern was set early, as Columbus had set it in the islands of the Bahamas. In 1585, before there was any permanent English settlement in Virginia, Richard Grenville landed there with seven ships. The Indians he met were hospitable, but when one of them stole a small silver cup, Grenville sacked and burned the whole Indian village.

The Jamestown colony was established in Virginia in 1607, inside the territory of an Indian confederacy, led by the chief, Powhatan. Powhatan watched the English settle on his people's land, but did not attack. And the English began starving. Some of them ran away and joined the Indians, where they would at least be fed. Indeed, throughout colonial times tens of thousands of indentured servants, prisoners and slaves -- from Wales and Scotland as well as from Africa -- ran away to live in Indian communities, intermarry, and raise their children there.

In the summer of 1610 the governor of Jamestown colony asked Powhatan to return the runaways, who were living fully among the Indians. Powhatan left the choice to those who ran away, and none wanted to go back. The governor of Jamestown then sent soldiers to take revenge. They descended on an Indian community, killed 15 or 16 Indians, burned the houses, cut down the corn growing around the village, took the female leader of the tribe and her children into boats, then ended up throwing the children overboard and shooting out their brains in the water. The female leader was later taken off the boat and stabbed to death.

By 1621, the atrocities committed by the English had grown, and word spread throughout the Indian villages. The Indians fought back, and killed 347 colonists. From then on it was total war. Not able to enslave the Indians the English aristocracy decided to exterminate them.

And then the Pilgrims arrived.

When the Pilgrims came to New England they too were coming not to vacant land but to territory inhabited by tribes of Indians. The story goes that the Pilgrims, who were Christians of the Puritan sect, were fleeing religious persecution in Europe. They had fled England and went to Holland, and from there sailed aboard the Mayflower, where they landed at Plymouth Rock in what is now Massachusetts.

Religious persecution or not, they immediately turned to their religion to rationalize their persecution of others. They appealed to the Bible, Psalms 2:8: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee, the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." To justify their use of force to take the land, they cited Romans 13:2: "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

The Puritans lived in uneasy truce with the Pequot Indians, who occupied what is now southern Connecticut and Rhode Island. But they wanted them out of the way; they wanted their land. And they seemed to want to establish their rule firmly over Connecticut settlers in that area.

In 1636 an armed expedition left Boston to attack the Narragansett Indians on Block Island. The English landed and killed some Indians, but the rest hid in the thick forests of the island and the English went from one deserted village to the next, destroying crops. Then they sailed back to the mainland and raided Pequot villages along the coast, destroying crops again.

The English went on setting fire to wigwams of the village. They burned village after village to the ground. As one of the leading theologians of his day, Dr. Cotton Mather put it: "It was supposed that no less than 600 Pequot souls were brought down to hell that day." And Cotton Mather, clutching his bible, spurred the English to slaughter more Indians in the name of Christianity.

Three hundred thousand Indians were murdered in New England over the next few years. It is important to note: The ordinary Englishmen did not want this war and often, very often, refused to fight. Some European intellectuals like Roger Williams spoke out against it. And some erstwhile colonists joined the Indians and even took up arms against the invaders from England. It was the Puritan elite who wanted the war, a war for land, for gold, for power. And, in the end, the Indian population of 10 million that was in North America when Columbus came was reduced to less than one million.

The way the different Indian peoples lived -- communally, consensually, making decisions through tribal councils, each tribe having different sexual/marriage relationships, where many different sexualities were practiced as the norm -- contrasted dramatically with the Puritan's Christian fundamentalist values. For the Puritans, men decided everything, whereas in the Iroquois federation of what is now New York state women chose the men who represented the clans at village and tribal councils; it was the women who were responsible for deciding on whether or not to go to war. The Christian idea of male dominance and female subordination was conspicuously absent in Iroquois society.

There were many other cultural differences: The Iroquois did not use harsh punishment on children. They did not insist on early weaning or early toilet training, but gradually allowed the child to learn to care for themselves. And, they did not believe in ownership of land; they utilized the land, lived on it. The idea of ownership was ridiculous, absurd. The European Christians, on the other hand, in the spirit of the emerging capitalism, wanted to own and control everything -- even children and other human beings. The pastor of the Pilgrim colony, John Robinson, thus advised his parishioners: "And surely there is in all children a stubbornness, and stoutness of mind arising from natural pride, which must, in the first place, be broken and beaten down; that so the foundation of their education being laid in humility and tractableness, other virtues may, in their time, be built thereon." That idea sunk in.

One colonist said that the plague that had destroyed the Patuxet people -- a combination of slavery, murder by the colonists and disease -- was "the Wonderful Preparation of the Lord Jesus Christ by His Providence for His People's Abode in the Western World." The Pilgrims robbed Wampanoag graves for the food that had been buried with the dead for religious reasons. Whenever the Pilgrims realized they were being watched, they shot at the Wampanoags, and scalped them. Scalping had been unknown among Native Americans in New England prior to its introduction by the English, who began the practice by offering the heads of their enemies and later accepted scalps.

Why I Hate Thanksgiving (cont')

"What do you think of Western Civilization?" Mahatma Gandhi was asked in the 1940s. To which Gandhi replied: "Western Civilization? I think it would be a good idea." And so enters "Civilization," the civilization of Christian Europe, a "civilizing force" that couldn't have been more threatened by the beautiful anarchy of the Indians they encountered, and so slaughtered them.

These are the Puritans that the Indians "saved", and whom we celebrate in the holiday, Thanksgiving. Tisquantum, also known as Squanto, a member of the Patuxet Indian nation. Samoset, of the Wabonake Indian nation, which lived in Maine. They went to Puritan villages and, having learned to speak English, brought deer meat and beaver skins for the hungry, cold Pilgrims. Tisquantum stayed with them and helped them survive their first years in their New World. He taught them how to navigate the waters, fish and cultivate corn and other vegetables. He pointed out poisonous plants and showed how other plants could be used as medicines. He also negotiated a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and Massasoit, head chief of the Wampanoags, a treaty that gave the Pilgrims everything and the Indians nothing. And even that treaty was soon broken. All this is celebrated as the First Thanksgiving.

My own feeling? The Indians should have let the Pilgrims die. But they couldn't do that. Their humanity made them assist other human beings in need. And for that beautiful, human, loving connection they -- and those of us who are not Indian as well -- paid a terrible price: The genocide of the original inhabitants of Turtle Island, what is now America.

Let's look at one example of the Puritan values -- which were not, I repeat, the values of the English working class values that we "give thanks for" on this holiday. The example of the Maypole, and Mayday.

In 1517, 25 years after Columbus first landed in the Bahamas, the English working class staged a huge revolt. This was done through the guilds. King Henry VIII brought Lombard bankers from Italy and merchants from France in order to undercut wages, lengthen hours, and break the guilds. This alliance between international finance, national capital and military aristocracy was in the process of merging into the imperialist nation-state.

The young workers of London took their revenge upon the merchants. A secret rumor said the commonality -- the vision of communal society that would counter the rich, the merchants, the industrialists, the nobility and the landowners -- would arise on May Day. The King and Lords got frightened -- householders were armed, a curfew was declared. Two guys didn't hear about the curfew (they missed Dan Rather

on TV). They were arrested. The shout went out to mobilize, and 700 workers stormed the jails, throwing bricks, hot water, stones. The prisoners were freed. A French capitalist's house was trashed.

Then came the repression: Cannons were fired into the city. Three hundred were imprisoned, soldiers patrolled the streets, and a proclamation was made that no women were allowed to meet together, and that all men should "keep their wives in their houses." The prisoners were brought through the streets tied in ropes. Some were children. Eleven sets of gallows were set up throughout the city. Many were hanged. The authorities showed no mercy, but exhibited extreme cruelty.

Thus the dreaded Thanatocracy, the regime of death, was inaugurated in answer to proletarian riot at the beginning of capitalism. The May Day riots were caused by expropriation (people having been uprooted from their lands they had used for centuries in common), and by exploitation (people had no jobs, as the monarchy imported capital). Working class women organizers and healers who posed an alternative to patriarchal capitalism -- were burned at the stake as witches. Enclosure, conquest, famine, war and plague ravaged the people who, in losing their commons, also lost a place to put their Maypole.

Suddenly, the Maypole became a symbol of rebellion. In 1550 Parliament ordered the

to defeat the growing proletarian insurgency at home as well.

Although translators of the Bible were burned, its last book, Revelation, became an anti-authoritarian manual useful to those who would turn the Puritan world upside down, such as the Family of Love, the Anabaptists, the Diggers, Levellers, Ranters, and Thomas Morton, the man who in 1626 went to Merry Mount in Quincy Mass, and with his Indian friends put up the first Maypole in America, in contempt of Puritan rule.

The Puritans destroyed it, exiled him, plagued the Indians, and hanged gay people and Quakers. Morton had come over on his own, a boat person, an immigrant. So was Anna Lee, who came over a few years later, the Manchester proletarian who founded the communal living, gender separated Shakers, who praised God in ecstatic dance, and who drove the Puritans up the wall.

The story of the Maypole as a symbol of revolt continued. It crossed cultures and continued through the ages. In the late 1800s, the Sioux began the Ghost Dance in a circle, "with a large pine tree in the center, which was covered with strips of cloth of various colors, eagle feathers, stuffed birds, claws, and horns, all offerings to the Great Spirit." They didn't call it a Maypole and they danced for the unity of all Indians, the return of the dead, and the expulsion of the invaders on a particular day, the 4th of July, but otherwise it might as well have been a Mayday!

Wovoka, a Nevada Paiute, started it. Expropriated, he cut his hair. To buy watermelon he rode boxcars to work in the Oregon hop fields for small wages, exploited. The Puget Sound Indians had a new religion -- they stopped drinking alcohol, became entranced, and danced for five days, jerking twitching, calling for their land back, just like the Shakers! Wovoka took this back to Nevada: "All Indians must dance, everywhere, keep on dancing." Soon they were. Porcupine took the dance across the Rockies to the Sioux. Red Cloud and Sitting Bull advanced the left foot following with the right, hardly lifting the feet from the ground. The Federal Agents banned the Ghost Dance! They claimed it was a cause of the last Sioux outbreak, just as the Puritans had claimed



destruction of Maypoles (just as, during the Vietnam war, the U.S.-backed junta in Saigon banned the making of all red cloth, as it was being sewn into the blue, yellow and red flags of the National Liberation Front).

In 1664, near the end of the Puritans' war against the Pequot Indians, the Puritans in England abolished May Day altogether. They had defeated the Indians, and they were attempting

the Maypole had caused the May Day proletarian riots, just as the Shakers were dancing people into communality and out of Puritanism.

On December 29 1890 the Government (with Hotchkiss guns throwing 2 pound explosive shells at 50 a minute -- always developing new weapons!) massacred more than 300 men,

Continued on page 22

Eating Your Life Away

By Lauren Ashley Trankle

Turkey dinners with dressing, cakes and pies, bread and butter, onion rings, sweet potatoes, glazed walnuts, cappuccinos and hot chocolate with fluffy whipped cream will make anyone's taste buds tingle. Sweets and treats will leave people with even the smallest appetites anticipating seconds. It is rather challenging to turn one's back on devilishly delicious buffets. Next time when your hand is reaching for another helping of food filled with sugar and carbohydrates, remember this: Type 2 Diabetes is spreading quickly and affecting seventeen million people in the United States alone. And of those 17 million, approximately 90% to 95% have Type 2 Diabetes. The harmful foods that tempt you to even have firsts may result in a lifetime nightmare.

If you have Type 2 Diabetes, you have insulin deficiency (your body makes too little insulin) and most likely insulin resistance (your body doesn't properly use the insulin it makes). Amazingly, as many as 92% of the people with Type 2 Diabetes have insulin resistance. Normally, insulin is produced by the pancreas and it serves as the key that unlocks your body's cells to allow glucose in. However, if your cells are resistant to the effects of insulin, the pancreas will produce more and more in an effort to "force the lock." But no matter how much insulin is produced, your cells still can't use it well. Since the glucose in your blood isn't able to enter the cells, those cells begin to run out of energy. Eventually, the pancreas tries and loses its ability to produce enough insulin. At that point, glucose is locked out of the cells and getting higher by the minute in your blood.

If you aren't sure whether you have Type 2 Diabetes, or if you are at risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes, keep in mind that Type 2 Diabetes has its own set of risk factors. The following risk factors have been identified by the American Diabetes Association (ADA): being overweight (a BMI of 25 kg/m² or higher), ethnic background (African Americans, Asian

Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans all have a higher risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes), a family history of Type 2 Diabetes (parents, brothers, and sisters), inactive lifestyle or hypertension.

If one is diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, there are many complications the future may have in store for one's body. Diabetes is a serious disease and is life threatening! Over time, diabetes can damage the blood vessels that supply blood to the eye. The condition, called diabetic retinopathy, is the leading cause of new cases of blindness in adults in the United States. In addition, compared to people without diabetes, people with diabetes are more likely to develop glaucoma, a disorder that causes pressure to build up in the eye. This can result in partial or complete loss of vision.

Diabetes may also cause kidney damage, a condition called nephropathy. In a healthy person, the kidneys help the body filter waste from the blood. However, high blood glucose levels may eventually cause tiny blood vessels in the kidneys to become blocked and leaky. As a result, the kidneys lose their ability to filter waste from the blood. Blocked blood vessels cause harmful waste to stay in the blood, while leaky vessels may cause the loss of many proteins and nutrients that should stay in the blood.

Another problem that Type 2 Diabetes may cause nerve damage. As many as 70% of people with diabetes have some form of nerve damage, or diabetic neuropathy. In combination with poor circulation, severe nerve damage, when left

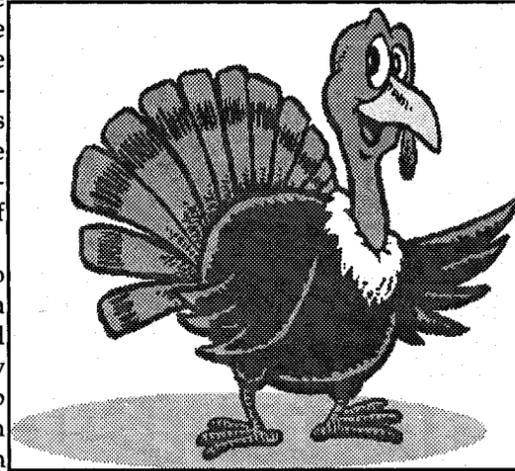
untreated, can result in amputation. In fact, diabetes is a leading cause of foot amputations in this country.

After reading all of the complications that Type 2 Diabetes may cause to your body, you may wonder what you can do to lower the risk of complications of diabetes or prevent yourself from getting Type 2 Diabetes. The best ways to lower your risk for diabetes complications are: eat a balanced diet, be physically active, take medications as prescribed by your doctor, stop smoking, get regular checkups and keep your scheduled appointments with your health professional. 99% of managing diabetes is self management!

Expanding your knowledge is your key to self-managing your Type 2 Diabetes. Management of Type 2 Diabetes requires nutritional counseling, weight reduction as needed, and exercise. When diet and exercise are not enough, ACTOS may be used alone or in combination with sulfonylureas, metformin, or insulin to improve blood sugar control. For more information go to:

<http://www.actos.com>.

Next time you feel like slouching on your sofa and spending the day watching television consider your health and well being. It is certainly not worth the damage to your physical and mental well being. After watching close loved ones go through the agony that diabetes causes, it really is worth it to watch one's diet and take care of themselves. Diabetes is increasing throughout the United States. Don't let yourself become one of the statistics!



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FRAGMENTS: the Unifying Rupture of the Linear and Curvilinear

By Ana Maria Ramirez

"In a way we've done ourselves a big favor by picking a name like that, we are allowing ourselves a lot of freedom," Grady Gerbracht said to his students in the Senior Seminar class as they began to lay out the floor plan of their upcoming exhibit, Fragments. Fragments, starting Tuesday, December 9th and ending on the 12th with the closing reception from 4-7pm, will display the works of these graduating students.

Students Maxie Buchanan, Brad Calkins, Megan Hoffmann, Peter Jauquet, Ha Na Lee, Jacquelyn Lipp, Charles Rivera, Helen Morgan Scott, Melissa Was, Yukito Yoneyama and Juan Luis Zepeda, make up the ARS 490 Senior Seminar class.

The studio classroom, 4222, was given to the members of the course as their own studio space, where they would have 24-hour access in order to have place where they can work and further develop their styles and techniques. This was, however, after the Art Department had revoked the previous studio spaces that were normally reserved yearly for senior students and turned them into offices. The studio was then given to the students enrolled in the seminar class to replace them. The ultimate goal for the course was to find a space around campus to bring together a show for the end of the semester. The administration building and the library gallery were the first spaces considered.

One of the students in studio class, who was one of the leading forces for bringing together Fragments, was Maxie Buchanan. After the advice of a Stony Brook alumnus, Maxie Buchanan realized that all the time she had been looking for a space, the best one was right under her feet. Studio 4222, which has housed several student-organized exhibitions, but had fallen into hibernation over the last three years. It was soon to be reawakened and again transformed into a gallery space. "We've had classes for three years in them and done nothing with it and it is just such an amazing space," Buchanan said.

The show was titled Fragments to describe the combination of painting, sculpture, photography, lithography and mixed media from the diverse conglomerate of students. "We named the show Fragments to describe the pieces of all our work and work styles all of the different styles and media," Buchanan explained.

Each of the pieces represents the developments these eleven students have taken throughout their undergraduate years, as well as

the new experimentations with other media.

When the layout was finally completed, what became most evident is how Fragments truly was the ideal title. The works can be divided into the use of strong linear devices opposing the softer curvilinear techniques of the others. The following artists emit this contrast, but their differences are what also bring each work together.

Ha Na Lee, is another student that makes up Fragments with her diptych paintings. In the diptychs, as well as other works shown in previous exhibits, Lee displays scenes of urban life with bright vibrant colors, capturing the pulsating life of the city. However, Lee is seemingly concerned with grids and boundaries, evident with lines that break up her scenes. With these grids, one can compare her work to Piet Mondrian's New York Boogie Woogie, with the use of a grid structure which acts as the container that holds that vitality of every city.

In her diptych, Lee uses telephone cables to cut up the landscape giving depth to the piece by creating both a foreground and background. The telephone cables also give a sense of boundaries and parameters; one can't seem to go in or get out. Besides this, Lee distorts the viewers perspective by displaying an urban view that is seemingly created in a vertical stance and rotates it to a horizontal view.

Helen Morgan Scott is another painter who, with female figures, also plays with perspective. Two female figures are seen in a barren landscape. Splayed out in the background is the body of a lifeless figure. The scene is set up to give the illusion that we have just come across the minute of the figure's passing. This absence of life is accentuated with the pale off-white colors that describe her body, the parts of which are touching the floor and are interestingly outlined in a deep blood red. The red symbolizes both the blood and also the draining of the female's own life force. The red is echoed by the mountains in the background. The other figure sits in the foreground, clasping her knees and covering her head, in a strong image of grief and mourning.

Jacquelyn Lipp also concentrates on the female form with her works, which use a free-hand brushstroke and free-flowing drip as she develops her own style to create these figures in color field backgrounds. The drip creates curves that are instinctual and hold no lines.

Juan Luis Zepeda, like Lipp, uses curvi-

linear lines to create curves not to depict the female form, but rather to create still-lives of wine bottles and guitars. In Coalescence of Light on Guitar and a Bottle and Fragments of the Essence of a Guitar and a Bottle, Zepeda creates diffused color atmosphere that becomes the primary subject matter.

Brad Calkins brings into the exhibit a series of litho-prints of pomegranates. Calkins uses two and three plates to produce a lush, full figure. Autumn colors like sienna, cranberry red and dark browns generate a texture that results in the fruit becoming quite sensual and evoking characteristics of a forbidden fruit, that when compared with the rest of the female figures, produce a vaginal representation.

Peter Jauquet uses acrylic to combine mechanical and organic features in his work called Structural Study. A diptych piece, both paintings echo the form of the other, both carrying rich color palettes.

In her black and white images, Megan Hoffmann uses shadow to depict a female breaking through the darkness behind her and who looks unyielding and fearlessly towards the viewer. Framing the central image of the woman are vertical images torn on the left side. Both side images record the glistening light over a stream of water.

Coming back to Buchanan, we see her strong handle on sculpture that is evident in her two works in the show. In Flux, Buchanan joins two 8 foot tall, 6x6 pieces of wood with thick pieces of steel bolted onto each side; the joining of both materials produce a ladder-like form, but she argues that she doesn't want her piece to be thought of as a ladder. Perhaps, as the title suggests, it is an embodiment of the unification of the two mediums.

Her second piece in the exhibit is made life-sized and is solely made out of thick steel plates. The plates extend outwards at opposing angles like a set of wings at the top. By the mid-section of the sculpture, the plates pierce through each other when they connect to a diamond shaped axis until finally reaching the floor. When lightly touched, the wings move from side to side, imitating the flight of a bird.

Buchanan's pieces bring the whole room together by combining the rigidity of her linear steel and wood with the fluidity of movement.



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Video Game Review: Hunter: The Reckoning-Redeemer

By Mike Billings

As you sit on your bed with that creepy and overly-excited grin that all serious video game aficionados have developed due to a lack of interaction with the opposite gender, there are a few things that become immediately apparent at the commencement of this game. Mainly, the sheer absurdity that is the driving force for the game as a whole makes the entire experience a worthwhile escape from a society that frowns on wandering the streets in leather chaps while carrying a battle-ax. Beginning with the story, Hunter: The Reckoning-Redeemer sets the stage for days of mindless fun.

The story begins in Ashcroft, a century old prison where countless acts of torture, atrocities, and wrongful deaths have taken place. In accordance with video game logic, those tormented souls have come back from the dead in zombie form and are now roaming the streets. Now, an evil corporation is plotting to turn the general populace into the same aforementioned zombies. This is where you come in.

You choose from one of five hunters, or people with various powers and weaponry fit for slaughtering the undead. The greatest aspect of this idea is that the developers of the game covered as many ridiculous stereotypes as possible. You choose from a miniscule Japanese rave girl, a seven-foot homoerotic biker, an Hispanic priest, a black female cop with just a pinch of

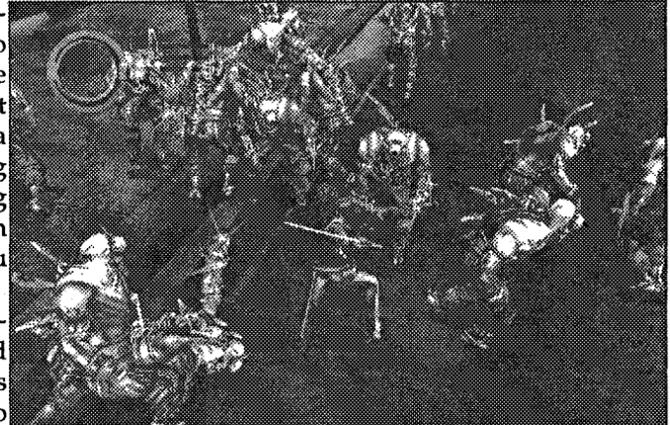
sass, and a barely legal girl whose hardly-contained breasts draw more attention than her 4-foot broad sword.

At this point, you're ready to start. If you're a fan of games that are cognitively challenging, emotionally provoking, or otherwise innovative, this is not the game for you. For everyone else, there are few things in life that compare to the simple pleasures of individually murdering upwards of 3000 undead creatures. This seems like it would get boring and repetitive at first glance, but that turns out not to be the case. In fact, you end up paying such unnecessarily meticulous attention to the evisceration of each creature that the game temporarily permeates all aspects of your life. You start to imagine how easy it would be to slice your way through the morning crowd at the Union Deli if you only had access to a katana blade. You lie in bed while trying to ignore the images of a teenager blasting a demon with a flare gun that have been scorched onto your retina. And yes, you will dream about it.

Despite this, there are some negatives. The story could have been fleshed out a little more, and the game itself is over before you really get a chance to appreciate how it has affected your life. On top of this, the ending was pretty dis-

appointing as well. The quick and unsatisfying conclusion leaves you feeling a little bitter, but you soon realize that the game itself makes up for it.

Overall, this amalgamation of Gauntlet and Diablo is a fantastic game. Every level and character is stunningly designed, and the soundtrack only amplifies the dark tone of the game. If you have an X-Box, you need to be playing Hunter: The Reckoning-Redeemer. If you don't have an X-Box, find someone who does, pretend to be their friend, and convince them to let you play this game. You won't regret it.



"IN GAME SHOT OF A ZOMBIE SLAUGHTER"
Courtesy of Microsoft.

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Why I Hate Thanksgiving

Continued from page 17

women and children at Wounded Knee. As in the Waco holocaust, or the bombing of MOVE in Philadelphia, the State disclaimed responsibility. The Bureau of Ethnology sent out James Mooney to investigate. Amid Janet Reno-like tears, he wrote: "The Indians were responsible for the engagement."

In 1970, the town of Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts held, as it does each year, a Thanksgiving Ceremony given by the townspeople. There are many speeches for the crowds who attend. That year -- the year of Nixon's secret invasion of Cambodia; the year 4 students were massacred at Kent State and 13 wounded for opposing the war; the year they tried to electrocute Black Panthers Bobby Seale and Erica Huggins -- the Massachusetts Department of Commerce asked the Wampanoag Indians to select a speaker to mark the 350th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival, and the first Thanksgiving.

Frank James, who is a Wampanoag, was selected. But before he was allowed to speak he was told to show a copy of his speech to the white people in charge of the ceremony. When they saw what he had written, they would not allow him to read it.

First, the genocide. Then, the suppression of all discussion about it.

What do Indian people find to be Thankful for in this America? What does anyone have to be Thankful for in the genocide of the Indians, that this "holoday" commemorates? As we sit with our families on Thanksgiving, taking any opportunity we can to get out of work or off the streets and be in a warm place with people we love, we realize that all the things we have to be thankful for have nothing at all to do with the Pilgrims, nothing at all to do with Amerikan history, and everything to do with the alternative, anarcho-communist lives the Indian peoples led, before they were massacred by the colonists, in

the name of privatization of property and the lust for gold and labor.

Yes, I am an American. But I am an American in revolt. I am revolted by the holiday known as Thanksgiving. I have been accused of wanting to go backwards in time, of being against progress. To those charges, I plead guilty. I want to go back in time to when people lived communally, before the colonists' Christian god was brought to these shores to sanctify their terrorism, their slavery, their hatred of children, their oppression of women, their holocausts. But that is impossible. So all I look forward to the utter destruction of the apparatus of death known as Amerika -- not the people, not the beautiful land, but the machinery, the State, the capitalism, the Christianity and all that it stands for. I look forward to a future where I will have children with Amerika, and ... they will be the new Indians.

In memorium. Lest we forget. The First Thanksgiving From the Community Endeavor News, November, 1995, as reprinted in Healing Global Wounds, Fall, 1996

The first official Thanksgiving wasn't a festive gathering of Indians and Pilgrims, but rather a celebration of the massacre of 700 Pequot men, women and children, an anthropologist says. Due to age and illness his voice cracks as he talks about the holiday, but William B. Newell, 84, talks with force as he discusses Thanksgiving. Newell, a Penobscot, has degrees from two universities, and was the former chairman of the anthropology department at the University of Connecticut.

"Thanksgiving Day was first officially proclaimed by the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637 to commemorate the massacre of 700 men, women and children who were celebrating their annual green corn dance-Thanksgiving Day to them in their own house," Newell said.

"Gathered in this place of meeting they were attacked by mercenaries and Dutch and English. The Indians were ordered from the building and as they came forth they were shot down. The rest were burned alive in the building," he said.

Newell based his research on studies of Holland Documents and the 13 volume Colonial Documentary History, both thick sets of letters and reports from colonial officials to their superiors and the king in England, and the private papers of Sir William Johnson, British Indian agent for the New York colony for 30 years in the mid-1600s.

"My research is authentic because it is documentary," Newell said. "You can't get anything more accurate than that because it is first hand. It is not hearsay."

Newell said the next 100 Thanksgivings commemorated the killing of the Indians at what is now Groton, Ct. [home of a nuclear submarine base] rather than a celebration with them. He said the image of Indians and Pilgrims sitting around a large table to celebrate Thanksgiving Day was "fictitious" although Indians did share food with the first settlers.

Mitchel Cohen is co-editor of "Green Politix", the national newspaper of the Greens/Green Party USA, www.greenparty.org, and organizes with the NoSpray Coalition, www.nospray.org and the Brooklyn Greens.

Plenty of Ball Room in the SAC

By David K. Ginn

It seems that due to some unique planning there is a considerable amount of ball room in the SAC. I took it upon myself to find out what kind of balls were in the SAC and exactly who was holding them.

It turns out that holding balls in the SAC is a perfect way to get people together for a common cause. Many events have taken place in one of the two ballrooms since their installation.

Upon investigation, I learned that the unique nature of the SAC had some relation to the recently-erected Wang center. Indeed, anyone interested in holding balls in the SAC would probably want to hold something in the Wang as well. The Wang is big, and if you've ever been up close you'd know that it's fancy. But hey, it's like I always say: A fancy Wang yields fancy balls.

I was considering having a ball or two myself this semester, possibly as part of a show or some other project I'll be working on. The problem is that I'll probably be too busy to attend every event. This shouldn't be a problem, though. There's plenty of people on campus who love to hold balls.

One thing that disappoints me about these campus attractions is the mysterious nature of the Wang. If you think about it, the Wang hasn't seen much action since its erection recently. It makes you wonder if the people in charge really have a firm grasp on the Wang. But I'm pretty sure there'll be people helping out to make sure the Wang maintains its status as an "up and com-

ing" project.

Perhaps I can ask the USG to hold my balls for me while the other people continue to work on the Wang. This seems like a perfect idea. This sort of cultural phenomenon calls for immediate group action. I'm all for that.

But if they don't find some new technique in handling the Wang, there's a strong possibility that much of the attention is going to be drawn away from it. It could become forgotten, unused, and even limp. There are many techniques that those working on the Wang can try, but even I understand that a new technique might only make it harder than it already is. And the Wang is hard enough now. There's no need for added pressure.

But I still believe that a good way to make the Wang stronger is to make a strong connection between the erected structure and all the balls that are in the SAC. I love balls, as I'm sure almost everyone else does. Well, maybe not most of the guys, but definitely the ladies. Part of a good campus date should always involve going down to the balls, and maybe now the girls might consider a good time with the Wang, too.

A big problem that I have concerns the lack of events taking place in the ballroom lately. The SAC can hold up to two balls, but most of the time there's only one, if any at all. The SAC should always have two balls, no matter what. We need to start speaking out to people so that we can have a steady flow of balls in the SAC.

I suppose that many people associate the SAC with simple fun and games. I'm all for that too, mind you, but perhaps there's something else we're overlooking. As much as we'd like to play with the SAC we must realize that there are always balls that need to be held. This is becoming increasingly evident throughout the campus. Just look around. Everyone has balls they'd like to be held, but no one speaks out. Maybe with the erection of the Wang people will start to realize the importance of the SAC. This would be a phenomenal breakthrough in the dying tradition that seems to have neared its end here on campus.

If there's anyone who's interested in holding balls, whether it be in the SAC or elsewhere, please take the time now to learn about how you can hold the best set of balls this campus has ever seen. Not ready to fiddle with the balls yet? No problem. Just go to the Wang and see if there's any action you can take there. Let's face it: we all knew the Wang was coming, but when it did we all turned our faces. I think it's about time we swallowed it whole and at last turned it to our advantage.

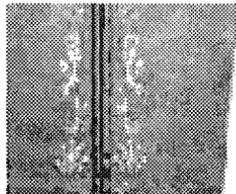
Not sure how to get started with that? Well, if there's anyone who's afraid they might choke on the pressure of the Wang, there's always the SAC to look at. Remember: the more balls we have in the ballroom, the better off we are.

By Gregory Aiello

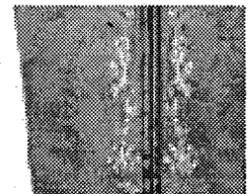
So the choices this week were The Cat in the Hat, Elf, Looney Toons, and Gothika. So the choices were really Elf and The Cat in the Hat. Though choice. Realistically, it means seeing the self centered, ego driven, not funny at all Mike Myers play six or seven parts in the same movie and speak like an idiot, or the two bit routine Will Ferrell does with one of his... two bits. I should have skipped the movies this week. I chose Elf.

It had a lot of good reviews. A lot. Cute, funny, hilarious, charming, and all that. What movie did they see? The reviews are misleading. Surprise, surprise the critics are wrong again. I suggest that all of you die-hard Will Ferrell fans stop reading now because none of the following will be in any way pleasing to you.

As a rule, Will Ferrell's routine comes in two forms. 1) Man acting like a kid and doing silly things. 2) Man acting like a kid, gets drunk, and doing silly things. Same shit, different movie. Elf was no exception to this rule and this time he even covers both grounds.



elf



Night Arrow and Time Lines and Turkey, Oh My!

By Gregory Aiello

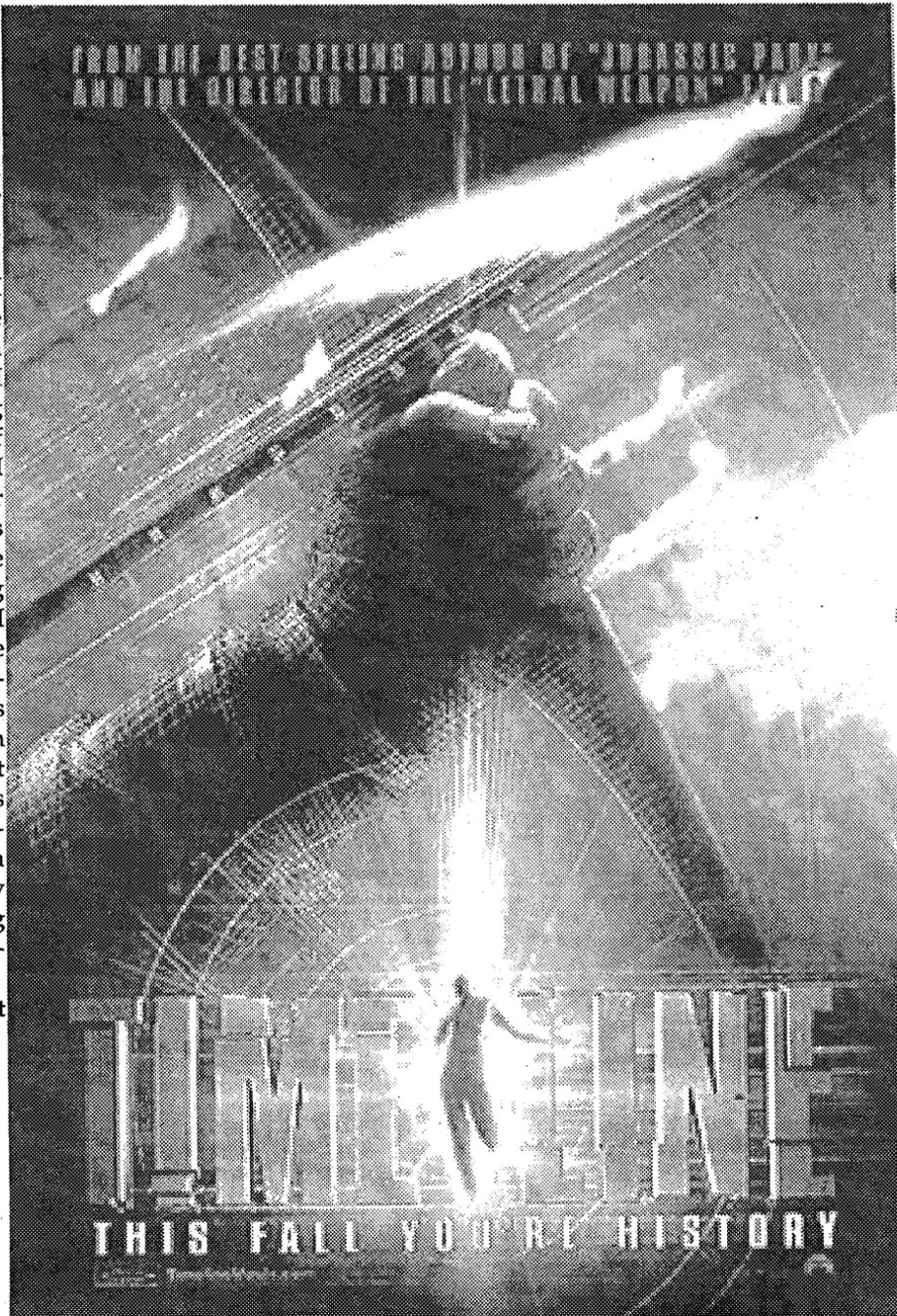
What exactly is a night arrow? An arrow of the night? A night of the arrow? A fuckaroo or a fuckaree? Good question. According to the movie Timeline, they are a secret weapon, so "shhhhhhhh!" Apparently, after thousands of years of warfare, the night arrow is still a well-kept secret, but I'll tell you what they are if you promise not to leak the information to the French. It's a regular arrow used at night when no one can see them fly! Isn't that just amazing? Does it blow your mind? The French had no clue, so remember, it's our secret.

Timeline sucked. Plain and simple. DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME. Night arrows are just one idiotic example of that fact. Come on people, night arrows?! Did they have a fucking cloaking device? Were they painted black with stars on them? It's just a freakin' arrow! Some of you readers might have read the book, Timeline. Well, I'll tell you that the only thing the movie and the book have in common is the title. In fact, the book wasn't even that great. The movie was so bad that it makes the book look like it's about brain surgery. I didn't think a movie could be as idiotic as that, but I was wrong. Then again, what was I expecting? My fortune cookie said, "It never rains every day," maybe that's why I went. I couldn't possibly see two shitty movies in one week. Right?

I do believe the director was either a monkey or a flaming ant. That's got to be an explanation for this movie sucking so hardcore. They claim it was directed by Richard Donner, the same man who directed the entire Lethal Weapon series! I don't think so! Then again, all the blame couldn't land just on him. The actors blew just as hard. Perhaps harder. Paul Walker, yeah your buddy from the Fast and Furious failures, SUCKS! I think he could definitely stamp a marker of "not gonna make it real far" on his resume because of this. Not like it wasn't clear already from his 19 pieces of shit movie history. By the way, his co-stars suck just as hard.

You know who wrote this screen play? Jeff Maguire is his name. Yeah, same guy who wrote the screen play for three other movies that sucked something fierce. Ridiculous! I should have done more research on this movie before I committed to going to see it. Waste of time, effort, and I want a refund for all the brain cells that were destroyed during the 116 minutes I sat for it. There are no redeeming qualities about this movie. Not a damn one. Any critic that says otherwise is either lying or selling something. In this case, they would be selling 2003's most atrocious movie.

W o r s t
movie ever.



USG Budget Released

By Jackie Hayes

The USG budget was finally released on Thursday, December 4 to Senate members (and will be formally released on Tuesday December 9 to all students) after much anticipation. The budget, along with its attached footnotes, reflects the plan for USG's \$2.3 million spending for the 2003-04 academic year. Many details are still unclear and will hopefully be answered in the few weeks remaining before the semester's end.

Just as a point of information, the USG Budget details three fiscal years 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04, in order to show budget changes in comparison with previous years. There are two types of budgets a club, program, or service can receive, a referendum budget or a line budget. A line budget is a budget guaranteed each year by USG after a club has made a formal budget proposal to USG and the Senate has approved their proposal. A referendum budget is voted on by the students every three years. Clubs rotate which year they go up for referendum and can propose to ask for more money when it is their turn for referendum. For example, if one group is currently receiving .25 of every student's activity fee they can propose to ask for another .25 or more when they go up for referendum. The budgets are divided up under 12 main headings depending on their content; for example, SB Press is under the "Media" heading. There are nine columns after the club's name the first is the club's budget for the 2001-02 fiscal year. The second through fifth are a breakdown of the 2002-03 fiscal year detailing funds from either referendum or line budgets. The sixth through ninth are a breakdown of the 2003-04 fiscal year.

The budget was drafted, as stated in the right hand corner of each page, by Clayton M. John, current, appointed Vice Treasurer of USG and previous, appointed Treasurer. The "Foot Notes for FY 03-04 Budget" seem confusing since they don't seem to reflect any concrete policies

and procedures, only his personal discretion. It is also confusing that he refers to a "budget committee" in the Foot Notes when multiple USG reps have already admitted there was no budget committee helping Clayton draft the budget.

Another point of question is the media referendum, which is the first item on the second page and is one point of dispute amongst USG reps and SB Press staff. As a SB Press member and previous treasurer of the Press, I don't remember at any time voting or knowing a media referendum existed, although the USG treasurer claims most media groups receive a double referendum (individual and media). The media referendum on the budget does not have an account number to the left of it, as opposed to every other item on the budget. This either means this is a typo or it means it is not currently in an account, which would be a cause for concern, since \$29,075 has not yet been distributed. I informally brought this question up in a USG Executive Council meeting on December 5 and Michelle Morris, Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, commented that Student Accounting has not assigned the account a number yet, but assured me that it was in a designated account. Yet how come an account, which has supposedly been around for a long time, has no assigned account number? And how come the Interim Treasurer had no knowledge of the account number since he is the one claiming the media referendum exists?

The Statesman's share of the budget is also confusing. They have a different relationship with USG than all other media groups because they are a separate corporation, generating the majority of their budget from advertising. Yet they receive a portion of the media referendum bringing their total to \$30,475 and on the last page of the budget they are given an additional \$6,000 for "advertising." It is unclear why they would be the sole media group to get an additional

\$6,000 for advertising. Also Specula, SB's yearbook, received an enormous budget of \$66,500, higher than any other media group, including SBU-TV. According to Michelle Morris since Specula receives a referendum budget and USG cannot touch budgets voted on by students. Yet this didn't stop USG from freezing SBVAC's referendum budget or "reallocating" SB Press' apparent referendum budget.

Note 19 on the Foot Notes is also slightly disconcerting. It allocates \$4,000 to the President's Discretionary fund "in the event of emergency spending or spending that would come as a result of the President's directive." This new addition to the budget gives the president the power to spend money without council approval. This translates to giving USG President, Sandy Curtis, \$4,000 of student money at her disposal, with the only check being after the fact. This was also brought up in the Executive Council meeting, USG reps claimed that this was NOT a new addition, Clayton was just clearly specifying an account which had previously existed in an attempt to clarify vagaries of the past. Yet my concern lied in the fact that it existed, not in the length of its existence.

On top of previously stated confusion, Senate Projects costing \$600, and Stipends receiving \$52,000 also raise a multitude of questions. Again, these are only questions and none of these questions have been formally brought before USG to clarify. If you, too, have questions about the budget you can bring them either before the USG Senate (meetings every Tuesday at 8pm in SAC ballroom B), the USG Executive Council (meetings every Wednesday and Friday at 1pm on the third floor of the SAC), or you can ask Clayton himself (his office is on the second floor of the SAC in the USG suite).

USG Thinking About Consolidating Asian Student Organizations

By Sam Goldman

The Undergraduate Student Government has been considering taking the various Asian student organizations and forcing them to consolidate into a single pan-Asian organization that would command the combined budgets of all Asian organizations, according to two important leaders of Asian student organizations.

The various Asian organizations have cried foul, stating that the various ethnicities and missions of the different groups make their consolidation a terrible idea. "Every Asian club's credo is so different", according to the Chinese Association at Stony Brook's Vice President, Steven Chao, that it would be impossible to represent them all fully in a new Asian super organization.

Chao does not believe USG had an ulterior motive for this. "We don't feel that it's a blatant act against Asian cultural clubs, but we can't understand why this is happening." The Asian-American E-Zine's News Editor, Leo Na, however, struck a much harsher tone. "They don't understand...they probably think Chinese people are the same as Korean people. That's racist."

In response to this threat, the various Asian organizations have mobilized to combat this. According to Na, the organizations have banded together to create a petition protesting the ban. Among the signatures taken, says Na, are those of every Executive Board member of every single Asian student organization, including the E-Zine. According to Chao, the petition also includes well over a thousand other signatures, including a

thousand at CASB's Asian Night program alone. What bothered Chao, more than anything, is the way the Undergraduate Student Government relayed the news to them. In a development that seems to sound somewhat familiar, they simply didn't inform them of any such plans. Chao reports that he heard the news from an Asian Students Alliance ex-president in the first week of November. "We're not happy with how the government went about it; the passing of information was nonexistent", he says. "None of the Asian presidents knew." When the petition was brought to USG offices, Chao reports that they declined comment, while Na states that USG told the E-Zine that the consolidation plan was just a thought, and that no definitive steps to combine the Asian organizations were taken in any direction.

The USG list of clubs and organizations, dated September 3rd, 2003, lists eleven various Asian student organizations, including the Asian-American E-Zine, which are recognized by USG. According to a draft of USG's 2003-2004 budget compiled by Vice Treasurer Clayton John, the following clubs received USG monies from a line budget or USG referendum, or a combination thereof:

-Asian Students Alliance (ASA): \$5,583.33
-Chinese Association at Stony Brook (CASB): \$10,583.33
-South Asian Students Alliance (SASA): \$4,283.33
-Japanese Students Society: \$5,583.33

-Korean American Student Association (KASA): \$4,583.33
-Philippine United Students Association (PUSO): \$5,083.33
-Vietnamese Students Association (VSA): \$2,083.33

-Based on these numbers, it can be figured that a consolidated pan-Asian organization would have a budget of approximately \$38,000. This number does not include the Asian-American E-Zine, Dunk Duk Koong Yee, the Hong Kong Association, or the Taiwanese Student Association; these clubs are receiving funding from the Special Services Council this year. However, most of these organizations would most likely also be folded into the new super group.

In addition, some organizations, like CASB, fund various events, like Asian night, where money is collected in an attempt to recoup costs. According to Chao, the money raised from these events goes back into the club's Transfers & Allocations account.

In an interview, USG Interim Administrative Director Santo Albano stated that the idea was indeed briefly discussed but it is being scrapped. According to Albano, there are no plans to consolidate the various Asian organizations now or in the future.

the WUSB 90.1 FM top 30 songs for the week of 12/8/2003

radio free long island

- 1 R.E.M. - IN TIME: THE BEST OF R.E.M
- 2 JOE STRUMMER AND THE MESCALEROS - STREETCORE
- 3 UNDERWORLD - ANTHOLOGY 1992-2002
- 4 DIRTBOMBS - DANGEROUS MAGICAL NOISE
- 5 NEUROSIS & JARBOE - NEUROSIS & JARBOE
- 6 MONOLAKE - MOMENTUM
- 7 TED LEO AND THE PHARMACISTS - TELL BALGEARY, BALGURY IS DEAD [EP]
- 8 FLYING LUTTENBACHERS - SYSTEMS EMERGE FROM COMPLETE DISORDER
- 9 GIRLS ARE SHORT - EARLYNORTHAMERICAN
- 10 SHINS - CHUTES TOO NARROW
- 11 ANTI-FLAG - THE TERROR STATE
- 12 OUTKAST - SPEAKERBOXXX/THE LOVE BELOW
- 13 WIG IN A BOX: SONGS FROM AND INSPIRED BY HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH (VARIOUS ARTISTS)
- 14 PRIMUS - PROMO DE FROMAGE: ANIMALS SHOULD NOT TRY TO ACT LIKE PEOPLE
- 15 ANIMAL COLLECTIVE - SPIRIT THEY'RE GONE... / DANSE MANATEE
- 16 UNSANE LAMBHOUSE - THE COLLECTION 1991 1998
- 17 GUIDED BY VOICES - THE BEST OF GUIDED BY VOICES: HUMAN AMUSEMENTS AT HOURLY RATES
- 18 JEFFREY LEWIS - IT'S THE ONES WHO'VE CRACKED THAT THE LIGHT SHINES THROUGH
- 19 STEELY DAN - EVERYTHING MUST GO
- 20 RICHARD DEVINE - ASECT:DSECT
- 21 HER SPACE HOLIDAY - THE YOUNG MACHINES
- 22 SKULLFLOWER - EXQUISITE FUCKING BOREDOM
- 23 ALBUM LEAF - SEAL BEACH
- 24 STEREO TOTAL - MONOKINI
- 25 DAEDELUS - RETHINKING THE WEATHER
- 26 UNTINTED: SOURCES FOR MADLIB'S SHADES OF BLUE (VARIOUS ARTISTS)
- 27 MY FAVORITE - THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES
- 28 CLEAR HORIZON - CLEAR HORIZON [PROMO]
- 29 QUINTRON - ARE YOU READY FOR AN ORGAN SOLO?
- 30 LOT SIX - MAJOR FABLES

top five new additions:

- 1 TWINE - TWINE
- 2 JAYLIB - CHAMPION SOUND
- 3 RHYTHM & SOUND W/ THE ARTISTS
- 4 GIRLS ARE SHORT - EARLYNORTHAMERICAN
- 5 RICHARD DEVINE - ASECT:DSECT

compiled by WUSB's quinn hanratty
page done by sam goldman

By Lauren Ashley Trankle

Devotion, loyalty, leadership, unity, and life long friendships are all components of Greek life. There are a variety of Fraternities and Sororities offered on the Stony Brook campus for the student body. During Rush Week, which takes place at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters, students have the opportunity to learn about the diverse Fraternities and Sororities on campus. Several students turn to Greek life in hope of finding a group of people with whom they feel comfortable and an organization that allows them to get involved in a mixture of activities, ranging from community service to campus fun.

Memberships in Greek organizations offer students many opportunities to develop their leadership potential. Greek organizations not only provide training in the principles of leadership, they are laboratories in which these principles can be tested. Each member is actively involved in the decision-making process, teaching and encouraging students to utilize their leadership talents in the chapters and on campus. Greeks are leaders in many major campus organizations, ranging from Student Government to Media Leadership.

For many individuals, the most important component of Greek life is the lifelong friendships. The fact that members call themselves "sister" and "brother" demonstrates the sense of family that the groups provide. In this often-overwhelming university environment, Greek women and men find that a sorority or fraternity offers a place to be comfortable and feel at home.

Contrary to the typical myth that fraternities and sororities are all about partying, a major goal of Greek life is to encourage and assist members in attaining their academic potential. Each Greek organization offers academic support programs including national and local scholarships and grants, incentives and awards, study skills workshops, tutoring programs, established study sessions, and grade-point requirements.

One of the benefits of Greek life is the connections beyond Stony Brook. Greek organizations maintain alumni relations programs that offer possibilities for career networking and mentoring. Many groups have active alumni and graduate chapters providing opportunities for continued involvement. This is a key factor that encourages many people to join a fraternity or sorority.

Social and recreational involvement cannot be escaped if you are involved in a Greek organization. Many of your fondest college mem-

ories will be developed through social interaction. Greek organizations provide the chance for you to make new friends and enjoy yourself. Examples of activities include chapter retreats, fraternity/sorority exchanges, all-Greek events, formal dances, uncountable parties, winter and spring break trips, and Homecoming.

The most important thing for someone to do before pledging a fraternity or sorority is research the organization that most interests you. It would be devastating to join a brotherhood or sisterhood that completely contradicts your interests and overall college goals. Whether you join a large or small chapter, a culture-based group or a general fraternity or sorority, a newly formed chapter or one that has been around for fifty years, is simply a matter of personal preference. Each organization has its own advantages. Selecting a fraternity or sorority is like choosing friends. Pick a group with which you feel most comfortable. Once you join, there is no turning back!

There are numerous benefits that Greek life provides; however, Greek membership can certainly leave a hole in your piggy bank. You certainly should consider the costs of Greek life when planning your personal budget. The cost to live in an on-campus residence hall, with meal plan (varies according to eating compensation) is about \$3250 per semester. Dues are to be paid at the beginning of each semester. The amount of money that is due changes from semester to semester; this can cause anyone a headache when living on a tight college budget.

Besides the excessive amount of money Greek membership costs, membership indoctrination process is another factor you should keep in mind before pledging for a fraternity or sorority. Most organizations require their members to complete a probationary period, sometimes called "pledging" prior to initiation for the purpose of orientation and member development. During this time you'll learn the history, traditions, and operating procedures of the organization and participate in activities to get to know the members better. The duration of the new member period varies from four weeks to an entire semester. While you pledge you also have to juggle your school work, job, family life, and prior obligations. It does not matter what is going on in your life, when you begin the pledge process you are then committed to the fraternity or sorority

pledge schedule.

Many individuals question the possibility of encountering hazing during the pledge process. Hazing is defined as any action taken which produces bodily harm or danger, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, fright, or ridicule. Once a common tradition, hazing has been banned by all national fraternal organizations and institutions of higher education.

A recent article in a Buffalo newspaper, entitled "Hazing Ritual Suspected in Fatal Crash" by Kate McCann, made it clear that hazing still takes place at numerous universities. Kelly Nester, 20, died after she was thrown from a sport utility vehicle that was packed with 10 other college women when the vehicle slid off a wet road during an unsanctioned sorority hazing ritual.

About six of the passengers from Plymouth State University were blindfolded at the time of the crash. The blindfolded girls were pledging for a place in the Sigma Kappa Omega sorority.

Like most other extra-curricular activities, how much you get out of your Greek membership is related to how much you put in. On average, expect to contribute four hours per week for meetings and mandatory activities. Optional activities such as holding an office, attending social events, playing on an intramural sports team, or helping out with various projects will of course take additional time. With good time management, your Greek activities will easily fit into your weekly schedule and allow plenty of time for classes, studying, work, and participation in other campus activities.

Many students swear that Greek life is the best part of their college experience, while other students never think twice about pledging a fraternity or sorority. Greek life is not for everyone! Fraternities and sororities cannot promise you happiness or success in your future. Yes, you will have a network of alumni connections and lifelong friendships. However, there are numerous internships available for students not part of Greek organizations and there are several clubs and organizations on campus that will allow you to interact with various individuals. Just remember: once you are a "brother", or a "sister", you have made a life long commitment!



By Amberly Jane

Trying to tie the knot in a blizzard is not the easiest endeavor. But my friend Adam, who eloped last year, was determined to make it official in a small nuptial ceremony with top-shelf open bar. The tempest last weekend halted everything - no limo for the wedding, no outdoor pictures, and more than half the guests M.I.A., but my friends managed to pull it off - some wild-eyed spirit of revelry and madness descended on us, and the night was filled with joy.

Adam was never very impulsive and his spontaneity surprised even his best man - my good friend Beate, who's mostly a hard-living, hard-drinking individual, with a serious self-loathing streak, and a penchant for making the funniest 'Deliverance'-style gore films you'll ever see. (Understandable for those of us isolated in upstate cattle country.)

Beate might be leaving for Japan soon, to teach English to the natives, so the wedding was potentially one of the last big fiestas - 36 hours of hard-earned debauchery.

The ceremony itself was quick and relatively painless; we arrived at the church before the reverend, so I ran around cavorting in the confessional, raiding the downstairs kitchen, and playing 'Chopsticks' on the massive metal organ. It was all business after that - the ceremony reminding me again why I never want to be the one in the white dress. There is a reason they call it the 'institution' of marriage. No offense to whomever it works for, but marriage is something out of the Dark Ages for me - a formally orchestrated exchange of appropriation, from father to husband. Punctuated in the church by all those hymns of protocol and obedience. Hell, at this point I don't even believe in monogamy.

People tend to get itchy when a woman is not tied down; I thrive on it. My mom wants me to get married, so she can relax in the vague notion that some random man will take care of me. My grandmother, I think, was far wiser. Her advice: "Why buy the cow, when you can get the sex for free?"

Either way, the wedding was beautiful, a union of two wonderful people, the intense and unyielding storm outside only bringing everyone closer together. It always snows longer and harder upstate - the ground just accepts it, no one much tries to tamper with it, plowing like Sisyphus, condemned to perpetual labor. The snow abides.

During the reception, I quickly downed two Caucasians from the main bar and bonded

with the girlfriend of one of the groomsmen. Heather and I shared a smoke in her truck as the snow blanketed the surroundings ... spoke of strangers and hobbies, sex and marriage. We walked back in, eyes red, to an emotional appeal from the bride's father that love can conquer all. Needless to say, as corny as it is, we were all nearly in tears.

I let the ring bearer, maybe about 10 years old, look through my sketch book, full of crude Lucy in the Skies-type imagery and mild sexual undertones. His eyes got wide and he confessed his own artistic leanings, so I happily let him draw in my book. I didn't realize until I was fully sober the next morning, that he had drawn a rather disturbing stick-figure representation of parachuter's shooting aircraft, a sniper shooting a car, and various other carnage, with a large sign that read, "You are now entering China." If that doesn't give you warm holiday fuzzies, then I don't know what will.

One conga line, plenty of drunk-talk, three toasts, a mad-dash for the bouquet, dozens of bets on the weather, and about eight White Russians later, I had dirty danced with someone's Uncle Joe, been full-on kissed by the groom's father on the dance floor, and watched the flower girl in pristine white gloves devour a piece of meat with the ferocity of an animal, gnawing its own leg out of a trap.

At this point I'm sitting in my hotel room, everyone's passing out or shacking up for the night. As for me, despite my infamously insatiable carnivorous sexual appetite, I'm pushing a deadline, watching an old movie with Peter Sellers on TV, my feet up, three glasses of hard liquor, and a nearly empty bottle of Everclear 190-proof grain alcohol, sitting on the hotel table in front of me. Beate is passed out on the bed, stirring only to run helter-skelter to the bathroom to pray to the porcelain god. I'm staring out at the quiet salt and pepper world, everything still, distant horizontal shapes form white bodies covered in thinning hair. Everything in muted black and white, like someone smeared too much coke on the mirror with a perfect randomness.

I could have got lucky. In the hotel bar, someone's 17-year-old little brother was all over me, but he was piss drunk and circumstances were not right for it. There was this 30-ish guy who asked me if I were there with anyone. I answered in the affirmative; I was with boyfriend, I said. (A shameless lie.) He shook his head as he looked me up and down. "Too bad," he said. "You look good enough to eat." He was certainly

not an option, that line is 10 times too old - and he was wearing a satin 'Members Only' jacket for Christ's sake.

So my thoughts were firmly on sex, as they usually are. I support no pretense, what's the point, my nether-regions ache; I need almost constant relief. Really we are all constantly trying to find that extra something that completes us, fills us up. Sometimes it's another person, and sometimes it's just the perfect dick. I make no excuses or apologies ... I live in a highly excited state of overstimulation.

Dear Amberly Jane,

Last week, I accidentally told my new boyfriend that I loved him. It was late, we'd been on the phone for a long time, and as we were saying goodnight, it just popped out of my mouth: "Love you!" There was a long, stunned silence, and then he said, "Uh, talk to you later." He's been acting distant and weird ever since, and I don't blame him - we've only been dating for a month. How do I take it back without pushing him away?

Signed - 'Mortified'

Dear 'Mortified',

At least you didn't call out his roommate's name during sex. In reality, this one is pretty easy, assuming your guy is not a disciple of Freud, who took these slips seriously. Arrange for a friend to call you when your boyfriend is around, and end the conversation with the fatal phrase. And the next time you cats are together, arrange to have a male friend 'accidentally' bump into you, and have him initiate the 'love-you' adieu. Your new boyfriend will probably conclude that you've got no special designs on him, that you and your friends are simply a loony, affectionate bunch.

One final note since this is the last column of the semester: May the force be with you during the composite mayhem of finals, holidays, and winter break. I'll see you next year for more sex, and sordid tales of the steamy Las Vegas underbelly.

For questions or comments, e-mail me at AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com.

stony brook press
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ISSUE

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