

The *Stony Brook*

1979-2004

PRESS

25th Anniversary

The Community News & Features Paper

Vol. XXV, Issue 8

"The World's Filthiest Ball Draining Cum Mag"

Feb 2, 2004



Our Largest Issue Ever!! 52 Pages!! OOOOH SH**T!!!**

BEERFEST RESULTS!!

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The Brooklyn Nets Are No Slam Dunk: A Commentary

By Sam Goldman

New York City real estate mogul Bruce Ratner's decision to buy the New Jersey Nets has absolutely nothing to do with Ratner's interest in the Nets, the NBA, or professional sports in general. It DOES have to do with Ratner's hard-on for the Brooklyn Atlantic Yards - a gigantic plaza of office towers on the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, which, coincidentally, is also the proposed site of the new arena that will house the Nets.

Every talking head in the New York metropolitan area has been talking about the Brooklyn Nets like they are the second coming of the Dodgers. An NBA team, they say, would bring the public spotlight on an area that would desperately need it, with a Frank Gehry - designed jewel of an arena surrounded by gigantic office towers where, it's thought, well-known businesses would set up shop, spurning economic growth into the area. It would continue an economic and cultural revitalization that has been brewing in Brooklyn for the past decade, with places like Williamsburg and DUMBO (Down Under The Manhattan Bridge Overpass, for those who don't know) becoming trendy spots for restaurants and artists. The Brooklyn Nets would now be the cherry on the top of the sundae.

BULLSHIT.

First of all, to build this proposed monstrous plaza, the city would need to condemn the area around Flatbush and Atlantic Avenues. This would, among other

things, kick out a thousand folks currently living in low-income housing, as their homes would be demolished. Ratner promises "affordable housing" will be built in its place, but there is no guarantee that the tenants who would be kicked out would get first priority once the new apartments are built. Is it really worth it to transplant a thousand people from their homes to build the new arena? Some people say, "yes." I wonder if they would speak differently if they were forced out of their homes.

Secondly, there has been no evidence that Brooklyn can support a major sports franchise of any kind. The largest sports franchise that currently exists in Brooklyn is the Cyclones, a minor league franchise that sells out its games in Coney Island's 7,500-seat Keyspan Park - not close to the size of an NBA arena. Boston's FleetCenter, for instance, seats 19,600 people. Furthermore, has there been a study of whether the city, already containing one sports team (the Knicks) can support a second one? Everyone simply assumes so because the New York area has so many sports teams in its general vicinity. Everyone also assumed that Los Angeles could support two football franchises; it turned out they couldn't even support one. And, even worse, what happens if the Nets start to stink up the joint? There has been not one quote - NOT ONE - from Ratner that stated his desire to help the Nets win the NBA title. Nets forward Kenyon Martin,

having an All-Star season, is a free agent after this season. Will Ratner be willing to shell out the dough necessary to keep Martin in New Jersey? Will he be willing to bring in the new players necessary to have the Nets keep pace with the best in the league? Because with so many different things in New York vying for your entertainment dollar - not just sports teams, but concerts, Broadway, museums, and all the other attractions New York City has to offer - if the Nets aren't competitive, the new arena will just be a mausoleum. What then?

My last point has to do with the makeup of the borough in general. Bruce Ratner is on record as saying that Brooklyn needs a Manhattan skyline. As a native Brooklynite, my opinion is that it absolutely does not. Brooklyn, despite its recent revitalization, is not a flashy place. It has no need for the ritz and glamour that inhabits Manhattan. It's a working-class borough, close-knit, devoid of celebrity. Instead of the icing on the cake, the Brooklyn Atlantic Yards would be like the rich new neighbor down the block that insists on showing off his new Lamborghini.

Unfortunately, there really isn't any way to stop this from happening. I just wish everyone around the city didn't make it seem like this was unequivocally such a Good Thing. People see the bright lights of a new basketball arena and their eyes get blinded by the light; they fail to see the ground go out from underneath their feet.



CBS Refuses to Air MoveOn.org's Anti-Bush Ad During Super Bowl

By Jackie Hayes

On January 12, 2004, MoveOn.org announced the winner of their "Bush in 30-seconds" ad campaign. The contest asked members nationwide to submit 30-second ads criticizing the Bush administration. The winning ad, "Child's Play," depicts children working in factories, grocery stores, and hotels, criticizing the fact that the \$1 trillion deficit acquired by the Bush administration will be handed down to the children of future generations. Moveon.org also rose close to \$2 million to air the ad during the Super Bowl, the most watched event of the year. Yet the ad was turned down by CBS due to its controversial nature.

According to a New York Times article, CBS feels the ad violates its advocacy rules based on a long-standing tradition of not airing issue-related ads. CBS also turned down an ad from People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) under a similar justification. MoveOn.org representatives argue that CBS will be airing commercials from beer and tobacco companies, an anti-smoking ad, as well as an anti-drug ad from the Bush administration during the

Super Bowl. On their website, they point out the controversial nature of last year's ads linking drug use to support of international terrorism. A CBS spokesperson, Dana McClintock responded, "the ads are for stamping out drug abuse. If there's a reasonable, intellectual argument to be had about why drug abuse is a positive thing, I would love to know what it is."

MoveOn.org is currently trying to lobby support for airing the ad by encouraging their members to call and send letters to CBS. They hope to appeal the decision within CBS. An AdAge.com article said a 60-second version of the winning ad was aired January 20, before the President's State of the Union Address. They also bought about \$300,000 worth of ad time on CNN from January 17 to January 21.

MoveOn.org is becoming a political force with a membership of close to 2 million. On top of raising money for an ad campaign, divisions of MoveOn.org, including MoveOn.org Voter Fund and Political Action Committee (PAC), have raised millions in campaign contributions. Using grassroots techniques and the Internet,

they have raised more than \$10 million towards different issues. They are considered to be left leaning and have been attacked by the right as a, "channel for Leftist communication, indoctrination and mobilization." Members of the right also fear they will be able to bypass campaign finance restrictions.

Despite criticism, MoveOn.org is shaping current politics. An article in Ars Technica states, "In an election year where more young voters are expected to turn out, the 'net is heating up as a sincere battle ground for politicians." It has also been hailed for bringing politics to the people. According to an article in the Village Voice, "The overwhelming response illustrates how the Internet and low-cost technology are chipping away at barriers to political participation." If you would like to see "Child's Play," the ad rejected by CBS, or would like to learn more about MoveOn, log on at www.MoveOn.org.

MoveOn.ORG
Democracy in Action.

SEC Uncovers CA Scandal; What Does This Mean For Stony Brook?

By Jackie Hayes

Following a two-year investigation, Computer Associates (CA) received a "Wells Notice" by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Monday, January 12, meaning that CA could face civil charges for their accounting practices during the fiscal year ending in March 2000. According to an article in the Herald Tribune, SEC has recommended charging the company with inflating revenue by recognizing returns on about 95 software contracts, amounting to \$1 billion, before they were signed. Due to Computer Associates' intimate relationship with Stony Brook University, many wonder what the current investigation will mean for the campus.

Charles B. Wang, prior Chairman and CEO of Computer Associates, is probably one of the most notable figures on Stony Brook's campus, mainly due to his \$25 million donation in 1996 for the construction of the Wang Center. Shirley Strum Kenny hailed the donation as "among the most generous in the history of this nation." Yet, in 2000, Charles Wang resigned as CEO of CA and was replaced by Sanjay Kumar. His sudden resignation may have been due to the start of the SEC investigation, coupled with a lawsuit brought by stockholders in 1999.

The 1999 lawsuit was filed against seven CA directors, including Shirley Strum Kenny, and charged them with awarding large amounts of stock to three of CA's top executives, including Charles Wang. The stock was valued at over \$550 million and was awarded during the fiscal year currently under investigation. Martin P. Unger, one of the stockholders who filed suit, commented in PR Newswire that Computer Associates "ignored the terms of

a stockholder-approved executive ownership plan when they issued 9.5 million more shares than allowed."

An article appearing in the January 23rd issue of the New York Times details CA's previous senior vice president for finance, Lloyd Silverstein's testimony to the United States District Court in Brooklyn. Silverstein admitted lying to investigators in order to cover up accounting practices. He stated that orders to lie came from several top executives but did not give their names. Those unnamed top executives could include members of the Board of Directors, including Shirley Strum Kenny, or Charles B. Wang, Chairman and CEO of CA at the time. SEC has not specified whether they would pursue criminal charges with any current or prior CA executives. Lloyd Silverstein faces a potential five-year jail sentence and a fine of up to \$250,000 for obstruction of justice.

Nanci Li, Charles Wang's wife and prior CA CEO of iCAN SP, also resigned in early January, shortly after CA received the SEC notice. Three executives, including Ira Zar, were forced to resign in 2002 due to the current investigation. Shirley Strum Kenny left the Board of Directors in 2002 after being a member for about eight years.

Aside from the Wang Center, CA has also made large monetary donations to Stony Brook's campus, including the sponsorship of the Stony Brook Software Incubator, WINGS (Wireless Networking and Simulation) Lab, ECSL (Experimental Computer Systems Lab), and the Computer

Associates Transaction Lab. Sanjay Kumar, current Chairman and CEO of CA, delivered a speech to SB students in November 2003 at the CEWIT: Business Without Boundaries Conference. CA is listed as one of the business partners on Harriman Alliances' web page for giving information systems and software development support. Sponsorships, donations, business, and technical support make up the majority of CA's close to eight-year relationship with Stony Brook.

Shirley Strum Kenny has been complimented for her "initiatives to build bridges between the academic and business communities." On top of being a board member for CA, she was also on the Board of Directors for Toys R Us, the Chase Manhattan Metropolitan Advisory Board, Goodwill Industries of Greater New York, the Long Island Association, and the Institute for Student Achievement. Yet her ties with big business may reflect poorly on the University especially in light of the CA scandal.

Shirley Strum Kenny was unavailable for comment this week, but hopefully will be available in the near future. It does not seem likely that any top executives will face criminal charges. Yet Stony Brook's close relationship with Computer Associates, including large monetary donations, raises the question of whether illegitimate money was used to finance programs and construction on campus, including the Wang Center.



The Stony Brook Press

we got's couches

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every wed 1pm

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EDITORIAL: Welcome Back!

Welcome to the spring semester of *the Stony Brook Press*. Let us fill you in on some of the exciting shit we got planned.

First off, as you can see, this issue is big. REAL big. In fact, this issue is the largest issue in *Stony Brook Press* history. And it's not just filler, either. We've got fall Beerfest results, a spread on the Democratic nominees for President, interviews with four well-known people in the comic book world, articles on the Nets' move to Brooklyn, MoveOn.org versus CBS, a response from USG's Santo Albano, and the usual great, funny stuff you'd expect from us. As you can also see, we've updated our look as well, complete with a new logo.

We know what you're wondering. Why mess up a good thing? Well, if you haven't noticed, 2004 is our 25th Anniversary year. That's right, the little paper that broke off from the *Statesman* is now all grown up, and we thought we'd put on a new set of clothes, metaphorically speaking. And those of you who are former *Press* alumni should be ready; we're planning a party in October to celebrate.

What do we have planned for the future? Well, we're going to have some (hopefully) regular columns. Besides Ask

Amberly Jane, we will now bring you Andrew Pernick's column Dog, Roebuck and Lapwing, about Wicca/Paganism, and Sam Goldman's reports on the race for President. Also, we will have our usual coverage of the insanity that is I-CON, and, of course, our spring Beerfest,

We'd like to take the time out to mention two organizations that have helped us out in our time of need. SBU-TV and the Commuter Students Association have been longtime supporters of *The Stony Brook Press*, and they have graciously sponsored this issue. They have the sincere thanks of everyone who works here at our little paper.

The consensus here at the Press is that the last fall semester's worth of issues have been some of the best in recent memory, and we really want to keep that going. If you want to help out, you're always welcome at room 060 in the Union basement.

For the past 25 years, we have proudly been The Community News and Features Paper, and we plan on being that for the next 25 years too.

Have a great spring semester!
 -The Stony Brook Press

**EDITORIAL:
 Make Them Hear You**

Come Hell or high water, two things are certain. One, *The Stony Brook Press* WILL be funded. Two, *The Stony Brook Press* will not cease in our quest to stop USG from harming the student body any more than it already has.

If we continue to allow USG to operate as it has been, we can only expect their blatantly unconscionable activities to run roughshod over the students of this campus; leaving USG unchecked and unquestioned presents a clear and present danger to us all.

That said, USG's evils did not occur in a vacuum. No organization could possibly perpetrate the crimes USG has without an accomplice. It is abundantly clear that USG is being controlled and manipulated by the administration. USG is, and has been since its inception, a marionette and the administration, through its Executive Council, is its puppet-master.

As things stand now, many deserving clubs and organizations are being held as financial hostages, starved of the very funds you, the students, have set aside for them. The

Student Activity Fee, like its name implies, comes from the students; it should be used, for the good of the students, to provide activities, events, and organizations for the students, not left in the idle hands of an inefficient, favoritist, bureaucratic, unproven organization.

Therefore, students of Stony Brook, we shall not desist in our efforts to report USG's misdeeds. That said, you must answer the call and oppose USG's efforts to strip you, to rob you, of the college experience you have already paid, and paid dearly, for. Be vocal in your opposition. Keep yourselves as informed, and involved, as you can. The ONLY way USG will ever grant you, the students, the events, activities, and organizations you deserve is if you make your disapproval known, vote in EVERY election, and answer the call to arms; if you, the students, voice your displeasure with USG loud enough, and often enough, USG will have to listen. They will only win if you remain silent. Make them hear you!

Letter: On The Passing of Richard Oringer

This press release was sent out on the passing of Dr. Richard Oringer, 37, who was killed in a car accident on the corner of South Drive and Nicolls Road on January 29, 2004. The Press extends its deepest condolences to Dr Oringer's family for their loss.

- The Stony Brook Press

Dear members of the Stony Brook family,

It is with great sadness that we share in the loss of one of the School of Dental Medicine's faculty, Dr. Richard J. Oringer who died suddenly in a tragic car accident as he was leaving campus on Thursday.

To appreciate the significance of this loss, one needs to understand Dr. Oringer's personal attributes and contributions to Stony Brook. His brilliance was coupled with a considerate and humble personality. He was always the first to give praise but never the one to seek it. As a leader of the Department of Periodontics, he dramatically transformed its tone to the highest level of academic achievement. He was an incredible asset to both the Department and the School. He was so loved by students that he was selected as Marshall or Grand Marshall at graduation in 2000, 2002, and 2003. He was selected to be the Grand Marshall this coming June. His tireless dedication to academic programs also resulted in the receipt of two faculty awards for teaching excellence and two yearbook dedications.

Dr. Richard J. Oringer received his B.S. degree summa cum laude (1988) and D.D.S. degree (1992) from Stony Brook University and certificate in Periodontology and D.M.Sc. in Oral Biology (1996) from Harvard University. Following a one year teaching fellowship at Harvard, Dr. Oringer joined the periodontal faculty of the School of Dental Medicine as an Assistant Professor in 1997 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. Because of his teaching prowess and excellent organizational skills, he was appointed Director of Predoctoral Periodontics in 2000. His teaching ability was recognized at the national level when he was awarded the prestigious Bud and Linda Tarrson Fellowship in 2001 by the American Academy of Periodontology. As Program Director, he translated his innovative teaching methodologies into practice including an interactive CD Rom technology, practical outcome assessment tools, a smoking cessation program and periodontal medicine. He also contributed to the clinical and didactic teaching components of the advanced education program in periodontics. His clinical proficiency resulted in the achievement of diplomate status by the American Board of Periodontology in 1998.

Always driven to excel, Dr. Oringer committed his time and efforts to further hone his research skills which resulted in an impressive portfolio of research activities. He was the Principal Investigator of two major randomized controlled clinical trials on a minocycline periodontal therapeutic system and

on the evaluation of rhBMP-2/absorbable collagen sponge as a suitable bone graft material for sinus floor augmentation. At the end of 2003, he received notice of a K23 award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. The project entitled "Dendritic Cells in Periodontal Health and Disease" would have availed him of the tremendous opportunity. This application received the outstanding score of 1.6 from Study Section. He was often called upon by the industrial sector to investigate the clinical significance of new therapeutic modalities. His publication in peer-reviewed journals was extensive.

Notwithstanding his teaching and research commitments, Dr. Oringer was active in his regional and national periodontal organizations. He was often asked to speak on his clinical and research activities and was selected to be the major speaker at the 2003 spring meeting of the Dutch Society of Periodontology on the role of risk assessment in periodontology. His professional endeavors resulted in his being elected in 2001 to the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists. He was on a fast track to become a leader in organized periodontics.

Dr. Oringer was married to Dr. Erin Riley, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs at the School of Dental Medicine. They have one son, John, 4 1/2 months of age. They live in East Setauket. A campus memorial service will take place in the Student Activity Center's (SAC) Auditorium on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 2:00pm. A reception will follow in Ballroom A.

We encourage those of you who might wish to share recollections, anecdotes and other memorial statements to visit the following web site: <http://www.pbse.com/dentite/richard> this site contains photographs of Dr. Oringer and a place for your personal contribution. We plan to assemble the contributed materials in a printed volume for Dr. Erin Riley to share with John Riley Oringer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made payable to SBF/Richard Oringer Scholarship Fund, SBF/The John Oringer College Fund, or the American Heart Association and sent to:

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Stony Brook, NY 11794-8700



You Wanna Know Where You Can
Stick Your Opinions?

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

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Donkeys In A Line: The Democrats Running For Prez

By Sam Goldman

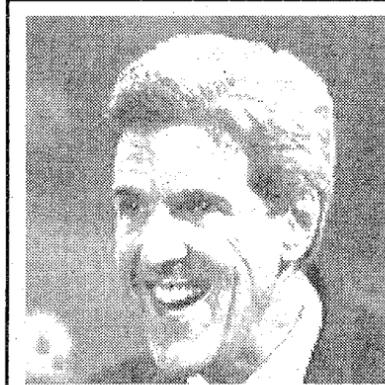
It's 2004, kids, you know what that means? This November, you will all get a chance to vote for the new President of the United States. Of course, you can also vote for the current President, as well. It's all up to you. You have the power. Rock the vote.

But seriously folks, cliches aside, every November, you get a chance to exercise a right that was fought for over 200 years ago – the right to be able to decide who leads your country for the next four years. And if you don't think that your vote matters, let's just flash back to four years ago, where we had the tightest presidential race of all time. So, if you haven't yet registered, go register (NYPIRG's always happy to help with that), and if you are registered, take 5 minutes from your busy day next November and push a couple of buttons and pull a couple of levers. That's all it takes.

And, in case you haven't been paying attention to politics, here's a little stat sheet on all the Democrats running for their party's presidential nomination, compiled from a variety of news sources, so you really have no excuse.

As of Tuesday, January 20, the time of the writing of this article, there are seven candidates. Here they are:

SOURCES: FoxNews.com, MSNBC.com, and WashingtonPost.com



Sen. JOHN KERRY

Hometown: Boston, Mass.
Born: December 11, 1943 in Denver, CO
Education: Yale U., B.A. 1966; Boston College, J.D. 1976
Political Experience: Lieutenant Governor, 1983-85; U.S. Senate, 1985-present

John Kerry is a decorated war veteran who is running on the idea that he is, by far, the most qualified candidate among the Democrats to be President. He is often said to be an idealist, with grand plans for the country. He surprisingly won the Iowa caucus when many said his candidacy was on the rocks.

First priority: Health care reform.

On Abortion: Believes the Constitution protects a woman's right to choose. Announced he will appoint only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court.

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action. Does not support the concept of quotas.

On The Economy: Vows to restore 3 million jobs lost under George Bush. Has proposed creating jobs through a new manufacturing jobs credit, by investing in new energy industries, by restoring technology and by stopping layoffs in education.

On Education: Opposes vouchers. Would expand early childhood programs. Seek to help students pay for college with new College Opportunity Tax Credit on the first \$4,000 paid in tuition for each year of college, and a Service for College Program that would fully fund four years of college in exchange for a 2-year stay in a national service.

On Gay Rights: Supports partnership rights and civil unions. Opposed to gay marriage.

On Health Care: Would propose giving tax-based incentives to employers and credits to individuals. Wants to add a strong, affordable prescription drug benefit to Medicare packages, and to allow the public to buy cheaper drugs through Canada.

On Homeland Defense: Would devote more resources to first responders and create a Community Defense Service to provide volunteer manpower in the event of an attack. He would also expand technological innovations to the war on terror.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Voted for use of force, but criticized Bush's coalition building and diplomacy. Would seek greater international involvement in Iraq and work to transfer sovereignty to the Iraqis as quickly as possible. Wants to work with Iran to deport senior Al Qaeda leadership in that country.

On Taxes: Opposes a repeal of all the Bush tax cuts. Will keep middle-class tax cuts. Supports tax credits on health care and college tuition.

On The Environment / Energy: Supports increased investment in renewable energy and reducing our oil dependence by 2 million barrels of oil a day.

On Foreign Policy: Would restore shattered alliances and develop global security strategy on terrorism. Negotiate with N. Korea to end their nuclear weapons programs. Says U.S. absence from Middle East peace process has risked security.

Sen. JOHN EDWARDS

Hometown: Raleigh, NC
Born: June 10, 1953 in Seneca, SC
Education: North Carolina State U., B.S. 1974; U. of North Carolina, J.D. 1977
Political Experience: U.S. Senate, 1999-present



John Edwards reminds many pundits of Bill Clinton — a young, media-savvy, smooth-talking southerner who, reminiscent of Clinton's famous appearance on Arsenio, declared his candidacy on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. His campaign strategy — a tried and true one — is to target the always-forgotten middle class. His campaign was also thought to be faltering, but a better-than-expected showing in Iowa gives him some hope.

First priority: Campaign finance reform.

On Abortion: Supports abortion rights. Opposes a partial-birth abortion ban without an exception for health of the mother.

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action.

On The Economy: Supports the creation of tax incentives for companies manufacturing in America. Supports tax credits for working Americans to buy their first home.

On Education: Supports increased investment in teachers. Would create new afterschool programs. Proposes a \$3 billion "College for Everyone" plan. Opposes continuing legacy admissions policies.

On Gay Rights: Opposes gay marriage. Believes the issue of civil unions should be decided by individual states. Supports partnership benefits.

On Health Care: Would offer parents increased tax breaks to cover their children. Supports the automatic enrollment in health care plans for millions of children. Would seek to require parents to cover children under age 21.

On Homeland Defense: Wants to establish a new Homeland Intelligence Agency. Supports substantial increases in border security. Would provide more money for first responders.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Supported the war in Iraq. Would turn over Iraqi civilian authority to the United Nations. Would overturn the order excluding countries from participating in Iraq's reconstruction. Believes we must do more to support nuclear disarmament programs. Says we need a new relationship with Saudi Arabia.

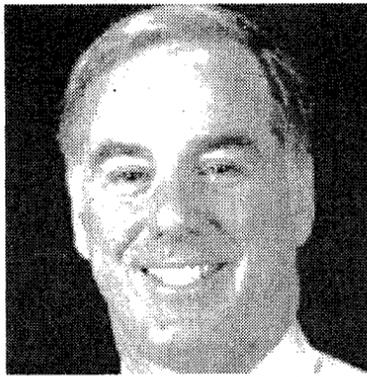
On Taxes: Opposes a repeal of all the Bush tax cuts. Will keep middle-class tax cuts. Supports tax credits on health care and college tuition.

On The Environment / Energy: Supports an increased commitment to environmental protection and energy conservation. Would promote renewable fuels.

On Foreign Policy: Would seek to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Believes we need to strengthen international institutions and alliances.

Donkeys In A Line: The Democrats Running For Prez

By Sam Goldman



HOWARD DEAN

Hometown: Burlington, VT.
Born: November 17, 1948 in East Hampton, N.Y.
Education: Yale U., B.A. 1971; Albert Einstein College of Medicine, M.D. 1978
Career:
Political Experience: Vt. House, 1983-87 (assistant minority leader, 1985-86); lieutenant governor, 1987-91; governor, 1991-2002

Howard Dean is pissed off, and he's not gonna take it any more. The former Vermont governor has campaigned as the choice for those who are angry about the Bush administration's policies and especially the war in Iraq. Until the Iowa caucus, he was considered the leading candidate. He has gained points for his use of the Internet to spread the word, but has lost points for what some perceive to be a manic temper.

First priority: To shore up relations with countries who were against the war in Iraq.

On Abortion: Says a woman's right to choose is constitutionally protected. Opposed the partial-birth abortion ban signed into law by President Bush.

On Affirmative Action: Called the Supreme Court's decision upholding affirmative action a victory for civil rights. Would pursue policies that encourage racial diversity on campuses.

On The Economy: Says Bush administration's economic policy is unfair and misguided. Pledges to repeal the Bush tax cuts. Intends to set the nation on a path toward a balanced budget.

On Education: Proposes increased spending for early childhood education and post-secondary education. Opposes voucher programs.

On Gay Rights: Supports civil unions. Says gay marriage is not a federal issue. Opposes the Defense of Marriage Act.

On Health Care: Proposes health coverage for every American under 25. Would seek to provide coverage for adults with incomes up to 185 percent of the poverty level. Would permit drug re-importation from Canada.

On Homeland Defense: Supports the establishment of a Homeland Defense Trust Fund by reversing Bush's tax cuts. Would make more resources available for first-responders. Supports increasing protection of our infrastructure and borders.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Opposed the Iraq war from the outset. Says Bush misled the American people. Wants to hand over maintenance of order in Iraq to a NATO-led coalition. Believed that Al Qaeda was a larger threat to the U.S. than Iraq. Says we must strengthen our military and intelligence capabilities. Says we must rebuild our global alliances and partnerships.

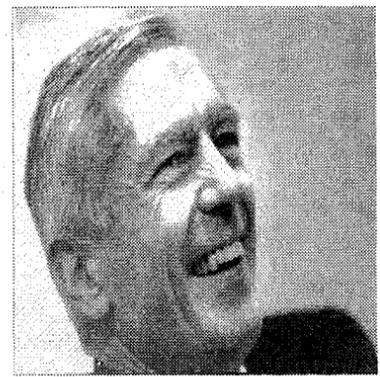
On Taxes: Would repeal Bush administration's tax cuts and use that money to fund healthcare, homeland security and education, and to balance the budget.

On The Environment / Energy: Wants 20 percent of energy used in the U.S. to come from renewable resources by 2020. Wants tighter controls on air pollution.

On Foreign Policy: Wants to negotiate a resolution of the nuclear standoff with North Korea. Calls for a two-state solution to Middle East conflict.

Gen. WESLEY CLARK

Hometown: Little Rock, AK
Born: Dec. 23, 1944
Education: West Point Military Academy, 1966; Oxford U., masters in philosophy, politics and economics, 1968
Career Highlights: Retired Four-Star General; NATO Supreme Allied Commander, 1997-2000; Director of Strategic Plans and Policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1994-1996.
Political Experience: None.



Retired Gen. Wesley Clark trumpets a mix of inexperience and experience — a military insider who was also decorated in Vietnam and who led NATO forces in Serbia, and at the same time, a political outsider who can come into D.C. and clean house. His campaign speeches and ads have been emphasizing his military resume, stating that he is the best Democrat to lead in this new age of the war on terror.

First priority: He has a five-point plan on economy, education, health care, and the environment.

On Abortion: Supports abortion rights. Opposes partial-birth abortion ban.

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action. Filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of affirmative action at the University of Michigan.

On The Economy: Would attempt to save \$2.35 trillion over 10 years for deficit reduction. Has a \$100 billion Job Creation Plan that allocates \$20 billion as tax breaks to businesses who hire new employees.

On Education: Wants more federal funds for education. Supports changing accountability measures. Would seek to expand access to pre-school and increase financial aid to college students.

On Gay Rights: Supports recognizing civil unions. Welcomed Massachusetts State Supreme Court's gay marriage decision. Wants to give same-sex couples legal rights and federal employees the right to name same-sex partners as beneficiaries.

On Health Care: Would spend \$695 billion over 10 years on plan to cover 31.8 million uninsured Americans and subsidize insurance for low-income earners. Believes in placing more emphasis on preventative care.

On Homeland Defense: Would create a \$40 billion Homeland Security Fund, allocating more money to law enforcement agencies and local first responders to hire personnel. Would establish new safeguards at our borders.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Would never have voted for war. Wants to internationalize the country's reconstruction. Believes the Coalition Provisional Authority should be replaced and that the military operation should be turned into a NATO one. Would create a U.S.-Saudi commando force to work the Afghan-Pakistani border. Thinks we should use our assets more wisely and repair relationships with our allies.

On Taxes: Would cancel Bush tax cuts for those earning over \$200,000 and provide \$2,250 tax credit per child. Has a plan to save \$2.35 trillion over 10 years and provide \$20 billion for tax incentives to businesses to hire new workers.

On The Environment / Energy: Supports vigorous enforcement of all clean air and clean water laws. Supports reinstatement of the Superfund tax. Wants to strengthen automotive fuel efficiency standards.

On Foreign Policy: Would seek to restore America's alliances. Supports strengthening and use of international institutions. Would develop a regional strategy to deal with North Korea. Wants stronger inspections of Iran and North Korea.

Donkeys In A Line: The Democrats Running For Prez

By Sam Goldman



Sen. JOSEPH LIEBERMAN

Hometown: New Haven, CT
Born: February 24, 1942 in Stamford, CT
Education: Yale U., B.A. 1964; LL.B. 1967
Political Experience: Conn. Senate, 1971-81 (majority leader, 1975-81); CT attorney general, 1983-89; U.S. Senate, 1989-present

Joseph Lieberman is the only Democrat to consistently proclaim himself as being for the war in Iraq, and has, at times, called for more troops to be sent there. He is also, with the exception of Rep. Dick

Gephardt, the only candidate that can be truly considered a Washington insider. He is running on his record of over 30 years of public service, but polls have him falling further behind the pack.

First priority: Repeal Bush restrictions on stem cell research.

On Abortion: Supports abortion rights. Opposes ban on late-term abortions.

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action. Opposes quotas. Wants to help states and schools construct constitutionally suitable affirmative action programs.

On The Economy: Would seek to enact an investment tax credit. Supports encouraging companies to manufacture in the U.S. Wants to give smaller manufacturers access to capital.

On Education: Supports school voucher experimentation. Wants to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. Would increase tuition assistance for lower income families. Would seek to improve K-12 and college coordination.

On Gay Rights: Opposed to gay marriage. Would seek to extend benefits to partners of gay federal employees.

On Health Care: Supports creation of new \$150 billion American Center for Cures, which would find cures for chronic illnesses. Would seek to expand the eligibility of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Vows to get workers health care coverage regardless of work circumstances.

On Homeland Defense: Supports measures to provide \$7.5 billion to local first responders for training and resources. Would allocate \$7 billion over six years so local communities can hire more firefighters.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Believes in sending more troops and resources to Iraq. Wants to ask NATO to assume command of forces. Supports developing a process and a timetable for formation of permanent Iraqi government. Says there were extensive contacts between Saddam Hussein's government and Al Qaeda. Would demand that North Korea dispose of all nuclear weapons.

On Taxes: Thinks we should keep the middle class tax cuts in place. Wants to reset the top two income tax rates that were decreased. Pledges to repeal the dividend tax cut.

On The Environment / Energy: Supports measures to increase fuel efficiency. Wants to invest in clean-burning coal technologies. Would provide incentives for hybrid car purchases. Favors increasing renewable electricity output.

On Foreign Policy: Wants to increase foreign aid to Israel. Would fight nuclear proliferation. Favors encouraging economic and political reforms to Arab and Muslim nations. Would seek to integrate security strategies with allies.

AL SHARPTON

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Born: Oct. 3, 1954 in Brooklyn, NY
Education: Tilden H.S.; Attended Brooklyn College
Political Experience: Candidate for U.S. Senate, 1992 and 1994; Candidate for mayor of New York, 1997

New Yorkers are very familiar with Al Sharpton. He led a decade-long crusade against police abuses and brutality, mostly in our area. He plans to use his candidacy as a platform to galvanize minority voters, especially in the southern and western U.S. He, like Clark, has skipped Iowa to focus on New Hampshire.

First priority: To bring U.S. troops home and transfer control to the U.N.

On Abortion: Supports abortion rights. Opposes ban on partial-birth abortions.

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action.

On The Economy: Would stimulate economy by creat-

ing jobs through infrastructure redevelopment.

On Education: Would add constitutional amendment guaranteeing high-quality education. Opposes school vouchers.

On Gay Rights: Supports gay marriage and same-sex domestic partnerships. Says gays should have the same rights as everyone else.

On Health Care: Supports a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal health care to all Americans. Wants a national, single-payer health insurance plan operated by the federal government.

On Homeland Defense: Says seaports are vulnerable due to structural decay and understaffing.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Opposed the war in Iraq. Would submit a multilateral redevelopment plan for Iraq to the U.N. Would get more nations to help in Iraq. Would put more resources and military into the hunt for Osama bin Laden. Would investigate Saudi Arabia's

Rep. DENNIS KUCINICH

Hometown: Cleveland, OH
Born: October 8, 1946 in Cleveland
Education: Case Western Reserve U., B.A. 1973; M.A. 1973
Political Experience: Cleveland City Council, 1969-75, 1983; mayor of Cleveland, 1977-79; Ohio Senate, 1995-97; U.S. House, 1997-present

Dennis Kucinich is a riches to rags to riches story. Cleveland's youngest mayor at 33, he became a local pariah after refusing to sell the city's electrical system and thus sending the city into bankruptcy. Now, 23 years later, he is running for the Presidency, seeing himself as a bold messenger who will say what others in his party will not. He is notable for being perhaps one of the first politicians to openly speak up against the war in Iraq, having done so over a year ago.

First priority: To get out of Iraq within 90 days, transferring authority to NATO.

On Abortion: Supports abortion rights. Would only nominate supporters of Roe v. Wade to the Supreme Court. Opposed partial-birth abortion ban

On Affirmative Action: Supports affirmative action.

On The Economy: Would propose withdrawing from NAFTA and the World Trade Organization. Wants to administer \$50 billion in zero-interest loans every year to finance state infrastructure projects. Supports raising the federal minimum wage.

On Education: Vows to commit funds to undertake school construction and repair. Supports increased federal funding to schools to decrease class size. Wants to create universal college education, tuition-free. Opposes school vouchers.

On Gay Rights: Supports gay marriage. Thinks Federal law should protect civil unions. Believes same-sex couples should be treated as equal in the eyes of the law.

On Health Care: Favors universal health care through a single-payer system not tied to employment. Favors price caps on prescription drugs.

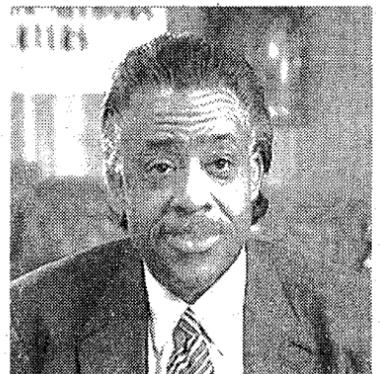
On Homeland Defense: Would create a Department of Peace, which would work domestically to make nonviolence an organizing principle.

On Iraq / War on Terror: Says the war in Iraq was wrong and counterproductive to winning war on terror. Promises to bring all U.S. troops home and get the U.N. in. Charges that the Bush administration has killed thousands of innocent civilians in the name of fighting terrorism.

On Taxes: Would cancel tax cuts to the Americans at the top brackets. In favor of provide a payroll tax credit. Would work to close corporate loopholes. In favor of raising employers' taxes to fund universal health care.

On The Environment / Energy: Favors strengthening environmental laws and increasing support of the Kyoto Treaty. Wants to reduce U.S. dependence on oil. Supports increased investment in alternative energy sources and increased penalties for polluters.

On Foreign Policy: Would create a Department of Peace and normalize relations with Cuba. Wants to promote international cooperation and agreements and promote engagement with North Korea.



Election 2004 Issues: Flying Monkeys, Cocaine and the Reverend's Huge Wang

By Jen Skirkanich

America and the world have changed dramatically in the past four years. Another, and shockingly, dumber Bush is in office; the world is enraptured in panic and war; and Ron Jeremy and Tammy Faye Baker are at last bosom buddies. For many, Howard Dean seemed like the free world's best chance at salvation, that is, until last Martin Luther King Day. The media has an obligation to society to report on the events of the world. More important than this basic motive, however, is their drive to line their pockets by loading their coverage. This presidential candidate-to-be didn't have a sordid affair with an intern, and he didn't even kill one. He never had a known spell with alcoholism nor an obsession for partying and blow. All he did was express passion for his country and what he believes in. This, unfortunately, might have lost him the race for the nomination. It is not necessarily the media's fault; every 11 o'clock news report and late-night comedian is just feeding society what it thrives on: controversy. The ability of the media to portray a passionate, level-headed physician running for office as a psychotic madman is quite easy. It's probably much easier than convincing the people of America that an ex-coke-addict and alcoholic with a speech (brain) impediment is worthy to be president simply by virtue of his daddy.

The recent portrait of Dean as an off-kilter Tourette's sufferer was the only negative factor riding on his back leading into the second and "winner-takes-all" New Hampshire primary, a race where he was a shoe-in for first. His disappointing defeat to John Kerry was quickly attributed to the "I have a

Scream" speech. The depth of Dean's downward spiral does not stop there, however: an announcement from the Dean camp indicated that it is so pressed for cash that it's workers would not receive paychecks this week, and news that top campaign managers have been fired only deepened the blow. More strikingly than the lack of support in New Hampshire for Dean's campaign was the lack of support in New Hampshire for the Kerry campaign. According to a New York Times exit poll, only 14% of NH democrats who voted for Kerry did so because they believed in "what he stands for." It's quite clear what this election comes down to: ABB - anybody but Bush.

Electability, and not the issues, seems to be the main issue of this campaign. So why campaign at all? Is it merely an exercise in expression of one's ideals? Take the democratic candidate Vermin Supreme, for example. His platform of oral fixation includes "Warrantless random dental inspections... and ...gene splicing to create a race of winged monkeys to act as tooth faries". How about Al Hamburg, the 14-time running veteran from Wyoming. Hamburg's hobbies include frightening children, anti-Semitism and wearing Nazi memorabilia. His heartwarming platform includes increased interest in ocean exploration, programs to "stop school Bullying of litler kids (sic)", as well as

"sterilization Laws to enforce it against - Dopers - Drunks - Retards and Illegal Aliens".

It is clear that the ABB mentality makes the issues of this election secondary to the ability to defeat Bush. If one is to eliminate the possibility of electing a candidate based on her/his platform, then on what, pray tell, is left to base one's decision? Thanks to a poll by the crack team of political spin-doctors at Playboy magazine, we just might have the answer you're looking for. A shocking 46% of Americans believe that Rev. Sharpton is the most well-endowed candi-

date on the panel, however, only 16% think he is the best in bed. Although only 15% believed that W. was the most well-endowed, 25% believed that Bush is the best of all in bed. And 30% think that the current president has had same-sex partners, while 43% believed that Sharpton has not only had more sexual partners than any other president but has also had multiple threesomes. Although this data was not conducted during an exit poll, it clearly reflects an urgency from the American people for Rev. Sharpton to not withdraw himself from the race before the steamy final climax at the Democratic National Convention in July.



One More Meeting

By Dustin Herlich

Well, after much heated debate, and a fight to the death in a pit of spikes by the members of The Stony Brook Press E-board, it was agreed that I should try and attend one more meeting, this time with the Dean of Students, the president of USG and the advisor for media. Can't get more fun than this, right? Well, honestly, it really didn't go that badly at all.

I think the presence of the Dean of Students, along with the fact that it was only the president of USG and myself at the meeting really helped things go more smoothly. My only regret was that the President of USG was unable to stay for more than thirty minutes. That time, though, was sufficient for me to make some of the concerns of The Stony Brook Press clear while stating them openly and publicly. Just to highlight some of

the things I tried to bring up, and make clear, I'll re-state them for our readers.

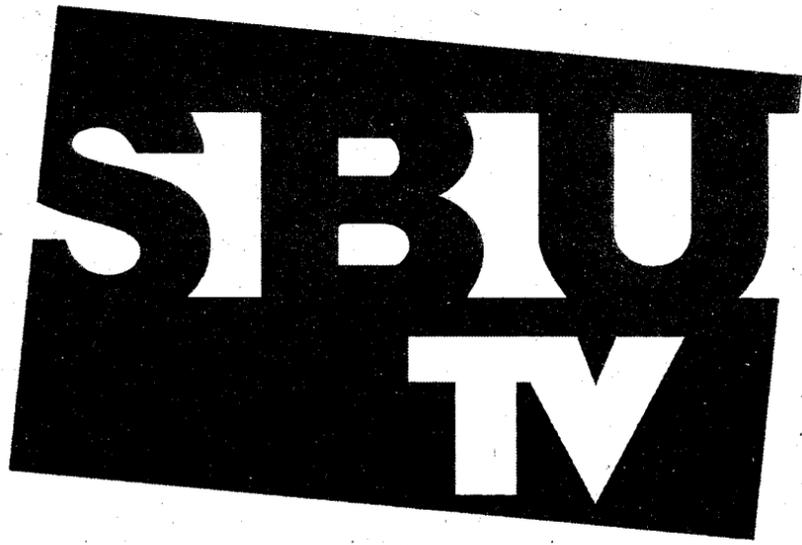
The most important issue possibly is that we feel that not only are we being financially censored by USG, but that there is sufficient evidence for this that would hold up in a court of law. When I stated this plainly, the president of USG replied that it was never their intention to censor The Press in any way, and that some of them even enjoy our content. I appreciate the statement, and I'm now putting it in writing, which is, in a sense, a form of it "going on record." The Official stance of USG is dually noted. Unfortunately, we are not exactly inclined to agree with it, but so it stands.

The second issue we have is that other clubs have been treated unfairly, specifically when it comes to budgetary

matters. At this meeting, those issues did not come up very much because time was short and, after all, this was primarily a meeting about The Press and our current relationship with USG.

The third issue is that, as students, we feel the student government really isn't doing the best job it could. Again, unfortunately, because of time this wasn't discussed in depth, but we feel it's important nonetheless. One point that I made was that we here at the paper have to look at what's going on in three separate ways. We are students, we are a newspaper, and we are a USG funded club. In print, an individual author is allowed to voice whatever opinions they feel, but as far as official SB Press editorial consensus goes, that will come

Continued on page 12



Campus Channel 30

PROGRAM GUIDE

Spring 2004

Mon/Wed/Fri

6:00pm - USG Meetings
 8:00pm - In Focus
 9:30pm - LateNight w/
 Beverly Bryan
 10:00pm - Seawolves
 Sports
 12:00am - IndiFilm
 2:00am - Big in NY
 2:30am - An A&E Show
 3:00am - The Silly Spider
 Monkey Fiasco
 4:00am - SBUTV TimeWarp
 5:30am - Ghoul-a-GoGo

Sun/Tue/Thu

6:00pm - National
 Lampoon
 Network
 10:00pm - The Silly Spider
 Monkey Fiasco
 10:30pm - Ski & Snow
 1:00am - Broken Radio
 1:30am - LateNight w/
 Beverly Bryan
 2:00am - Ghoul-a-GoGo
 3:00am - Seawolves
 Sports

Live Programs:

Tuesday 11pm - Stony Brook Uncut
 Live, raw and uncut, with fresh music, local events, guests, phonecalls and interviews with prominent artists of today, tomorrow and beyond.

Wednesday 8pm - InFocus
 From global events to local issues, this news magazine offers interesting perspectives, information and an opportunity to voice your opinion.

Friday 10 pm - UC Live
 Local music from SBU's University Cafe.

Other Programs:

National Lampoon Network
 Just like those National Lampoon movies you love, but funnier, and on three times a week.

Ghoul-a-GoGo
 Hosted by your favorite ghoul, Vlad, this show will scare your pants off (if you're afraid of funny).

Silly SpiderMonkey Fiasco
 Best sketch comedy show ever... EVER! EEEEVER!

SBU-TV Originals:

Seawolves Sports
 Our own coverage of SBU sports with a new game every week. From DI Football & Basketball to Lacrosse & Rugby, we've got your sports world covered.

LateNight with Beverly Bryan
 Sketch Comedy? Interviews? Music? Honestly, we have no idea what this show is about... but just try watching it without laughing, it's impossible.

IndiFilm
 The best independent movies from around the world.

Broken Radio
 Music Videos, from the most current hits to that song you couldn't get out of your head 3 years ago. It's all the music you love to hear

Big In New York
 Positive members from our own community and from the city, this show covers a variety of interests after all, it's what's "Big in NY" (paramp-ching)

SBU-TV Time Warp
 Remember that SBU-TV show you missed a few years ago? Well, we've got it, so check it out, it's something new every week... what? you're not watching?

Questions? Comments?
 sbutv@ic.sunysb.edu

Dog, Roebuck and Lapwing

By Andrew Pernick

Welcome, dear readers, to what will become a regular feature in the Stony Brook Press, a column for Pagans, about Paganism, by a Pagan (or, to be more precise, by a Wiccan). In coming issues, you will read about new and/or interesting books, events, developments and political issues of particular interest to the Wiccan/Pagan community at large and to Wiccans and Pagans at Stony Brook.

Since this is our first column, perhaps introductions are in order. I am a 21 year old Computer Science major currently in my junior year. I have been practicing Wicca for the last three years, following an eclectic, solitary path. I have never been a member of any coven simply out of a personal aversion towards worshipping alongside other people. That said, I am not opposed to covens nor to religious groups in general; each path is different, and while I know covens are not for me, I know there are many out there who do enjoy and benefit from being in a coven. Those of you who read or post on alt.religion.wicca.moderated (ARWM) may also know me by my handle, "-A." (sans quotes).

This issue's column features a review of Amber Laine Fisher's book, *Philosophy of Wicca* (ECW Press, 2002, ISBN 1-55022-487-5). According to the back cover, *Philosophy of Wicca* "details Wiccan beliefs and reveals the how and why of this burgeoning religion. Beginning with a discussion of the nature and manifestations of Deity, this book explores how practitioners of Wicca relate to the Divine." *Philosophy of Wicca* is, in short, a wonderful book and, although it weighs in at

a modest 268 pages, it is so well-executed that no back cover description can do it adequate justice.

Dealing with such diverse and complicated issues as balance, the soul, sex and sexuality, and exploring the depths of one's own existence is no easy task and Ms. Fisher does a remarkable job. She avoids the usual one-true-way pitfalls that are, unfortunately, so common in books of this nature deftly, reminding the reader that her words are meant to teach and inspire rather than be followed as absolute truths. Even in her end-notes, Ms. Fisher encourages independent thought, experimentation, and evaluation.

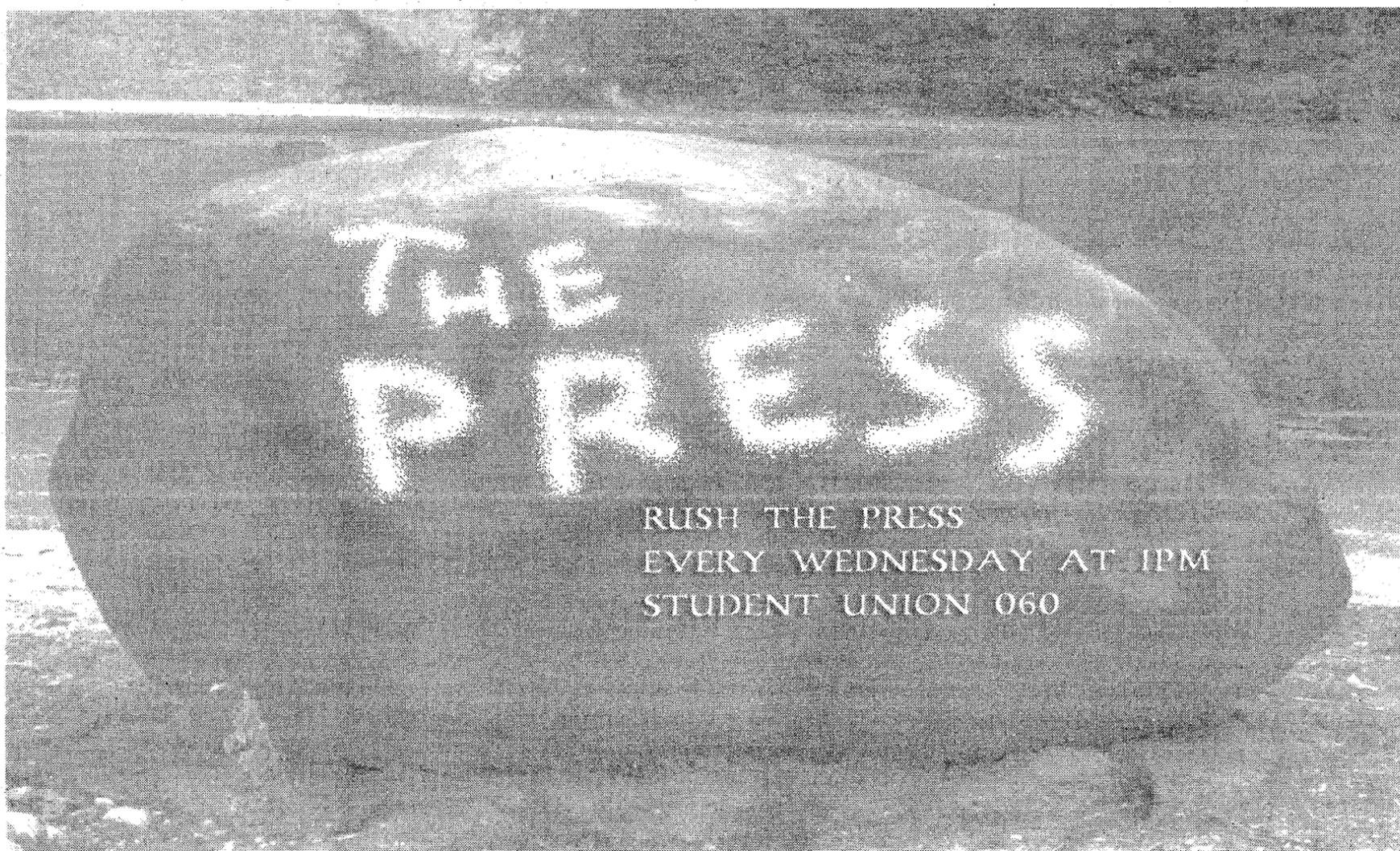
Each of the book's 12 chapters begins with what could best be described as an "appetizer passage," due to their well-crafted whetting of the mental palate. Some of these passages, such as the short story, "In the Garden of the Goddess," that begins the first chapter, or the gentle reminder of the Goddess' immanence before chapter three, are so beautifully crafted that they deserved to be included in my own *Book of Shadows*. Others, such as the pantheon-independent creation myth in chapter two, provide ample material for later meditation and consideration.

The chapters themselves are incredibly rich with ideas given that the book is, to quote Elizabeth Barrette's remarks on the back cover, "scholarly yet not pedantic, philosophical yet not vapid, and advanced without being incomprehensible." If ever there were a perfect way to summarize Ms. Fisher's results, this quote would be it. She

answers many questions in often provoking ways, such as her advancement of the term "henotheism" (the belief in one set of deities without denying the existence of others) to describe Wicca. Through the abundant use of rich imagery and language, Ms. Fisher asks, and at times gives her own answer to, questions that would otherwise be very difficult to comprehend quite palatable to the average reader.

In short, *Philosophy of Wicca* is an excellent book. Through her masterly use of metaphor, rhetorical questions, and examples, Ms. Fisher has given us a text that can easily be recommended to almost all Wiccans. That said, this book offers no ritual framework, leaves many things for the reader to answer, and provides little for the absolute neophyte; it is not suitable as a first course in Wicca. Also note that the title clearly states that this book deals with Wiccan philosophy and, therefore, contains little for the non-Wiccan Pagan. Simply put, *Philosophy of Wicca* makes for a great "200-level" guide to the more advanced aspects of Wiccan philosophy. This book would make a near-perfect addition to almost any Wiccan's library. Five stars.

Alas, dear readers, for we have reached the end of our time together. "Dog, Roebuck, and Lapwing" will always be open to your suggestions, recommendations, and (constructive) criticisms, so please feel free to email me your thoughts via cbwoodstein@yahoo.com. Until next time, Blessed Be!



Continued from page 9

out in our traditional unsigned editorials which are written as the consensus of the majority of our democratically elected editorial board. Try to say that all in one breath...

I agree that this problem should never have to come up again in the future, and that steps need to be taken to ensure that. I am grateful that a recommendation committee will be meeting soon, or so we are told, which will be able to allocate some money for us out of the media referenda. I really never wanted to take such a large chunk of cash from that pool, but when faced with the fact that we won't be able to print any more issues, I'll take money from any place I can get it.

USG's position is that we got our money from that pool all along, but we disagree for several reasons. First, no one even remembers voting or having a media referenda. Second, I've spoken to several past editors and business managers, and none of them remember the media referenda ever existing, as according to the records we have, along with those that we have dropped off at USG, we only got \$3,500 from it at most. Magically, though, the records from last year say we got a considerable amount more than that from the media referenda. We keep saying we had a line budget, and several senators have agreed to testify on our behalf under oath. We appreciate this. We wonder why in 25 years no one has told us we are not a line budget, and why, last year, every single budget form we have has line budget checked off, and no one corrected us. How can we "call ourselves a line budget" and never get corrected? Even better, and I think more importantly, the current treasurer has never spoken to me personally, and I don't think he has spoken to any of the members of my organization about the situation. The only one we have spoken to regarding this who falls under any treasurer type jurisdiction is the vice treasurer, who incidentally has decided to "clean up" all of the accounting mistakes of the past. Or cover them up, I don't know: our FOIL requests have gone unanswered, and that's a crime punishable by one year in prison. There is no way out of that one. It also falls under abuse of office laws. I don't think having detectives hanging around USG and other offices, for a few days asking questions helps anything, do you? Well, if you really didn't think it would help, then the FOIL requests should have been granted to us already. Getting back to

the matter at hand, cleaning up accounting and setting things straight is a great idea, except for one thing which leads me to continue to be leery of what is actually going on with the records, and why there is the claim that many don't exist any more. Last year's treasurer, the interim acting treasurer over the summer, and this year's vice treasurer are one and the same person. Imagine that. What does this person have to clean up? His own mistakes from last year? I keep mentioning this over and over, and no one has yet to even give me a cohesive response on this topic! If we were not a line budget, would not this same person have said something last year? Or last year didn't matter? Where is the current treasurer? Does the current treasurer not care right now? I'm not accusing anyone. I'm asking questions.

I'll ask some more questions. The Stony Brook Press does not do it's own in-house printing. It would be nice if student media could have an in-house print service, but we don't. We have to pay money to an outside company to do the issues for us. This isn't bad, but unfortunately that means we have no control over the exact amount it costs to print an issue, or how often rates go up, etc, etc. Something else we have no control over, but are being blamed for, is a billing error. Our printing company had a computer error and billed USG too little for a few issues. Not even all the issues, just a few. The printing company did what every company would do in this situation: send out a bill explaining the problem and asking for the difference. That's all well and good. USG is blaming us for this and saying that we should have been more responsible. How can we be more responsible when we don't control their billing computers? We don't write the checks, accounting does. If we had been able to write the check, we might have been able to see it was for too little originally and adjusted ourselves accordingly. The people in accounting don't seem too worried, and understand that it was the printing company's error. Except for the fact that we don't have enough money to cover the difference yet, everything should be fine. As long as the recommendations committee actually meets, and the recommendation is actually followed, we finally might have some money to print again. We'll see what happens. USG is putting the blame on us, and making this out to be some horrible act The Press perpetrated on the rest of the universe. It was a billing error. Get over it. If we had been given

our correct budget for this year, we would not have had to worry about this at all, and this would never have been an issue. You've brought all this upon yourselves, and really, haven't made many efforts to fix much. It's been mostly other people stepping in to mediate and to try and help, and occasionally you (USG) will follow their advice and agree to solve the situation. Give everyone a break and do what's right.

Just so that everyone is clear on the matter, giving us money won't make us "go away" or stop us from printing anything that you might not want the public to hear about, like how when asked for a list of names on the "committee" that decided on our budget among others, we were met with a stammer and a blank stare. We're a newspaper; this is our job. If you really want us to not pay attention to what you're doing any more, then do what's right. How about that for a novel concept?

I'd like to take some time now to also thank Commuter Students' Association and SBU-TV for taking out ads in the paper to help us get this issue printed. To those who support us, we salute you. To those who work to see us shut down, we hate you, and so do our supporters. We don't die, we multiply. Enough people recognize our greatness that the only referenda group to receive more votes than us last semester was the Blood Drive. Even we'll admit that they deserve money more than maybe any other group on campus other than the Ambulance Corps. OOPS!! I forgot, USG doesn't want to pay their bills any more...

The last thing I really want to say is that we still have not gotten any response, written or otherwise, to our faces regarding our content from any of the people in the positions that we have mentioned. We've received a response from someone at USG at the time of this printing, but again, none from the students supposedly making decisions. If you, your friends, loved ones, enemies, or anyone you know feel that we have targeted a group, cause or person unfairly, you have to let us know. If you feel we printed information that was incorrect, you NEED to write or call. We'll either print your article, your letter, or even just a simple retraction. Just let us know; we're accommodating.

Live long, prosper, and read The Stony Brook Press. A Press a day keeps the doctor away. And The Press tries to keep the corruption away. You get the picture. We're on your side. Trust me.

Mr. "Red Tape" Responds

By Santo Albano, Former USG Administrative Director

Thank you Mr. Dustin Herlich for your invitation to respond to the article that you wrote, which was critical of the motivations and actions of USG officials (Stony Brook Press, December 11, 2003 Vol. XXV, Issue 6). I'm taking the liberty to assume that your invitation extends to the other authors who wrote critical articles about the functioning of USG officials.

Mr. Filippazzo's Opinions Responded To With Facts

1. Some people attempt to use the "letter of the law" to destroy progress of any kind. The point I was making for which Mr. Filippazzo accuses me of disregarding propriety was the following. I was trying to make a good faith attempt to answer a question concerning why we moved ahead to make certain decisions when the government was not fully formed. I said that policies, procedures and constitutions are created not only to provide structure to an organization but are also created to assist the organization in meeting its obligations - in other words to fulfill its mission. An organization can be faced with the decision of closing down completely and not making any effort to fulfill its obligations or to limp along making sincere efforts to function while reconfiguring itself. The responsible organization will attempt to do both. It will attempt to meet its responsibilities while it reconfigures itself. The decision for the fledgling understaffed USG could have been to close down and not provide funding for any clubs or activities while it made sure that every policy and procedure was perfect and that every act of the organization was perfect before it acted. We chose to limp along so that clubs and activities could be funded while we attempted to reconfigure ourselves. Therefore, the context of my comment that we choose not to allow the quest for fully functioning constitutional behavior to undermine the mission of USG to provide funding for Clubs/Organizations and activities stands firm. We are aware of the difficulties we are having in forming a constitutionally sound organization, but we want to, at the same time, continue to facilitate the funding of clubs and activities. My comment also came at a time during the Senate meeting when it was becoming quite clear that some of the people present were beginning to play the obstructionist game by using technical arguments about parliamentary procedure and constitutional procedure to grind the efforts of the government to a halt and to promote their own agenda at the expense of the government.

2. Mr. Filippazzo's written remarks about SBVAC funding are simply and com-

pletely inaccurate. SBVAC is obligated to provide USG with a yearly certified financial statement by an approved outside accounting firm. They have not done so to date. They have admitted recently that they have not done certified financial statements for the past two years. We requested a copy of their liability insurance policy because our insurers advised us that since we provide close to 40% of SBVAC's operating budget, we might be liable for any unfortunate malpractice on SBVAC's part. We wanted to review their policy to see if we needed to purchase additional insurance to protect the funds of USG. We did not want to encroach upon SBVAC's incorporation. We wanted to make sure that we were protecting USG funds from a possible major lawsuit. We were acting responsibly not maliciously. By the way, the last I've heard is that SBVAC has not found a copy of its liability insur-



SANTO ALBANO.
Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo

ance policy! Our insurance carrier is currently working with their insurer to iron out the glitches. I'm confident that their funding will follow soon. Finally, while it's to their credit that SBVAC has received accolades for its emergency response activities, emergency response activities are not the same as corporate and financial responsibilities.

3. The paperwork we generate is remarkably not extraneous. All the paper we generate is an effort to correct problems of the past and to avoid future problems. We are currently attempting to become recertified as a government within SUNY. Every process, every decision we make is under scrutiny to determine whether or not we are acting responsibly as a financial organization. Some of the new accounting processes are provoking the need for a new way of functioning which, at this time, is difficult for USG and the people we serve. It would be nice if our critics recognized the good faith manner in which we are attempt-

ing to do our job. It would be nice if they criticized our efforts without being snide, and it would be nice if they stopped distorting our motives.

4. Mr. Filippazzo's thinly veiled criticism within a question was so intelligent, snooty, and malicious that I couldn't help appreciate it. I apologize if he took my laughter as a mocking of him. It was not my intention. I was simply laughing with him. I saw the gleam in his eye as he asked the snide question. He seemed to be enjoying himself. I was enjoying myself back.

Jackie Hayes Remarks Responded To With Facts

1. Jackie is correct that some other clubs and agencies are having problems with their funding. Typically, what happens is that we request financial statements and other needed information, such as coaches' certifications, constitutions, minutes, etc. Far too much time passes before we get all or some of the paper that we need, even though we are told that it is coming soon. We have to do something about this time lag. The clubs and agencies don't like it, and we don't like it because we often think an issue has been solved because of the verbal promises made and then it pops up again and doesn't go away. We are committed to finding a better way to handle this issue.

2. Despite being told at least three times in the Senate meeting that the President's Discretionary fund was always in the prior budgets of Polity but not labeled in the budget, Jackie persists in calling it a new expenditure. It is not. It is a newly labeled expenditure. We are trying to make the budget transparent. This is a good thing!

3. Jackie is generally correct that we need to do a better job of making the budget intelligible and available to everyone. Our intent is to post it monthly on our Website. First we need to improve the Website.

4. USG has been waiting for months for the media interests to form a media council and to establish a subcommittee that will consider all media funding issues. The last I heard was the media council had its first meeting just before the semester ended but it has not established a budgetary subcommittee. The media budget issues can be addressed and all clarifications can occur once their media budgetary committee is up and running.

5. Jackie's last exhortation for students to get involved and attend senate meetings is sublime. "Participation is the answer".

Continued on next page

Mr. "Red Tape" Responds

By Santo Albano, Former USG Administrative Director

Continued from preceding page

Sam Goldman's Opinions Responded To
With Facts

1. In my hallway interview, I expressed to Sam that a short discussion of how to handle the ever-increasing requests for money from ever increasing cultural and ethnic clubs was held because despite, the apparent large sum of money that USG operates with, it is a finite number and we need to find a way to maximize its effectiveness. We are not experts in Asian cultures, but we can recognize when a constitution appears to be an exact duplicate of another club's. In that case, we tell the club members that USG does not fund competition between groups and ask why can't they work something out with another group that has the same mission. Is it possible that out of our ignorance we might confuse Asian people? Yes, of course, but I don't believe that we have. I believe that someone heard a snippet of a conversation and created an erroneous issue. However, thanks for the reminder, Sam.

Justin Herlich's Remarks Responded To
With Facts

1. I know my response will aggravate a lot of people who want to live in the past, beating dead horses and using old issues that serve to grind the work of USG to a halt by having Senate meetings that last for endless hours. I know the obstructionist class is out there. And, just like in the X files, they are out to get those of us who want to move forward. This is a case of healthy paranoia. I know that I shouldn't diagnose myself particularly so healthily, but I am adverse to people who want to simmer the sauce until it tastes like motor oil. The accusations are endless. Polity was

disbanded illegally. The new government was constructed illegally. The passion behind these accusations is made like a younger brother who wants to tattletale on his older brother. There is a here and a now. And that here and now includes a Polity that no longer exists. I am here now and I'm committed to doing the work that needs to be done to bring USG up to snuff. I don't believe wallowing in the past serves a purpose. Let's get on with the future.

2. All the fixed assets (computers, cabinets, athletic equipment, etc.) purchased with USG funds belong to USG, not to the club that purchased them. These assets are used and managed by the clubs and agencies for future students of USG. The current students are stewards of these fixed assets when they function according to their constitution. When they are not functioning according to their constitution and/or they lose their referenda and there is a need for the equipment elsewhere, they can be taken and reallocated by USG personnel. The idea that equipment purchased with USG funds belongs to the Clubs is erroneous.

3. According to State law and SUNY Policies, State tax dollars cannot be used to fund political organizations and expressly religious organizations. In the past, Polity was inconsistent in following the stated guidelines in this area. As a consequence, some clubs and organizations were mistakenly funded. We, to our credit, are trying to establish consistency without defunding any existing organization. Recently, the Chancellor's task force revised its guidelines so those religious organizations that seek funding for cultural, social, recreational, and academic activities which can be funded for those activities. This has given us the leeway to fund such activities, and, where we can, we have done so.

Religious clubs and organizations that request funds for proselytizing will not be funded because such funding would put SUNY, which is part of the State Government, in the position of establishing a state supported religion. This cannot be done. We are not looking to take money away from groups. We are looking to distribute money properly.

4. I love people who scream for accountability when it's not their own hide or the hide of a compatriot that is at stake. Should I scream for the hide of Mr. Filippazzo for writing a completely error filled article? What about Mr. Herlich who repeats the distorted "facts" of the SBVAC case and Shelanu case? After all, shouldn't shoddy journalism be held accountable? I don't believe Clayton John, who has been serving the financial needs of USG, is perfect. He must make mistakes. I don't know anyone who doesn't. The vindictive attacks on Mr. John have been unwarranted. In the most difficult of times for USG he has worked tirelessly to get the budgeting process off the ground and approved. USG and the student body have no better friend than Clayton John.

5. Finally, it's remarkable how Mr. Herlich expects the good faith of his readers when he gives no good faith to other students attempting to reconstitute USG. "1) All information is considered correct and has been verified to the best of our abilities at the time of printing." What does this statement intend? Does it mean that we should have good faith that Mr. Herlich and his colleagues are trying their best and should not be held accountable or criticized unfairly for their errors because they are trying their best to do a good job? If so, why not grant the same courtesy to the members of the undergraduate student government? They are surely trying their best.

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Crap, It's Music! Quick, Somebody Kill It!

By Joe Filippazzo

Every time I hear a guitar, I lose control of my fists and pound out windmills until I connect with the flesh of another's face. You know what I'm talking about. One time, I saw a guy playing guitar so I came in for a closer look. As soon as I was within punching distance, I took my left shoe off and transformed it into a gauntlet of music-induced fury. I didn't just rearrange his face. I re-ARRANGED his face! This other time, I learned how to play the bass but totally flipped out and broke my own ankle. Which brings me to my point.

Why do rock concerts incite stabblings and arson? Hell, if one or two campus events didn't end in a firefight with the cops, maybe we could actually have a good rock concert here at Stony Brook University. The unfortunate truth, though, is that, like all college students, every time I hear a band like The Get Up Kids, I will not rest until all life within my twenty-foot, rock and roll sphere of hatred ceases to exist after I destroy their pulmonary systems. Which brings me to my point.

Thank the lord, Jesus Christ, for CSS. I fear for a world where the Concert Security Specialists are not waiting in the wings at every such concert to calm the otherwise turbulent waters of death that accompany rock music of all forms. One time I was at a concert and the live music started playing. Everything went red. I got the urge to give everyone Indian burns immediately. Luckily, one of the seven burly peacekeepers from CSS removed his leather hat. As the shadow lifted from his 37-inch neck, I regained my senses. Everyone went home that night with one more life lesson and one

less Indian burn. Frankly, it's better this way. I don't want to kill, but the power chord tells me to. Someone has to be there to keep me in line, and damnit, I'll be god-damned if it's anyone but a six-foot-ten, ex-cop named Country.

To tell you the truth, I don't really care how much money is drained from the Student Activity Fee to pay for top-notch security like CSS. What is it, like \$1500 per event? Obstructionists might claim it was a waste but that's only because they're bitter obstructionists. It sounds like an investment to me! In fact, I think we should throw the student government a few more hundred bucks to hire USG security to fetch the CSS fellas drinks and sandwiches. Because, after all, student safety is at the top of Stony Brook's list of priorities. I mean, how else can we ensure that I don't rip the sleeves off my shirt and use them for Molotov Cocktail fuses? Wait a second! That's it! We can never allow live music on campus! Then we will avoid having to torch the mountains of student carcasses that result every time people gather peacefully to listen to music!

You might be saying to yourself right now, "Wow. This kid has it all figured out." But no, no, no, my friend. There are com-

plexities in this world that even I do not understand. For instance, this one time I went to a concert off campus about two weeks ago. Some of my favorite bands played, including The Reformation, On the Might Of Princes, Anterrabae, Thieves and Assassins and Encrypt Manuscript to name a few. Also, it was an eight-dollar benefit show for a woman with muscular dystrophy. You know skulls are going crack and the streets are going to run red with the blood of innocents.



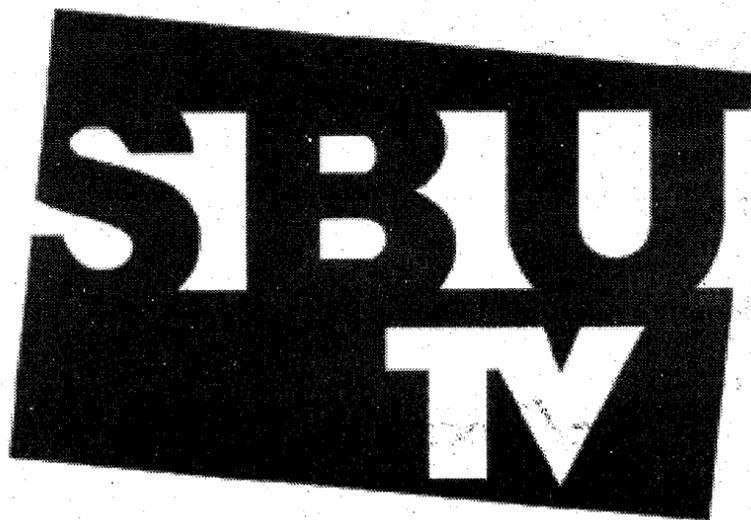
ON THE MIGHT OF PRINCES.
Courtesy of www.truepunk.com.

The show began promptly at seven o'clock, but CSS wasn't there! I panicked, and you know how my eyelids start to sweat when I panic. They were sweating A LOT because I was panicking A LOT! The music flowed freely, and my head started moving. Up and down it bobbed along with the beat of a hardcore snare. Was it going to

kill? Then my foot started to tap with the beat too. Who will put me down? Thousands of thoughts raced through my head. Concert Security Specialists were still not there. They were coming though, right? The kids that organized this show weren't sick son-of-a-bitches, were they? After all, they were like seniors in college at least. The destructive potential of these lascivious ragamuffins was so high you could wade through it.

But lo! I enjoyed the show thoroughly and was only compelled to dance. CSS didn't show up at all the entire night... and there was not a single casualty! I know, I know. I don't get it either. You mean to tell me that live music can happen in an enclosed space with over 100 people and the only one who goes home in a body bag... is your boring Saturday night? I don't believe it. [Noises of disbelief]

Luckily, we here at Stony Brook University are safe. We will never have to worry about the out of control, totally F-ed up stuff that happens off campus. We are privileged indeed. Pay the Student Activity Fee, go to a novelty fair or four, go to another novelty fair, and enjoy the occasional overpriced DJ. And if there ever is live music on campus, CSS will make all right with the world for a five-hour minimum. Thank you Student Activity Board. Thank you USG. Thank you Jesus. But most of all, thank you CSS. Now that's MY Student Activity Fee at work!



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Free Kevin Hart

By Jessica Worthington

On June 21, 2002, Kevin Hart was sentenced 5 to 15 years in prison for two counts of second-degree manslaughter and one count of third-degree assault. I believe Kevin Hart is innocent of the charges filed against him. I believe he was given an unfair trial in a Nassau County court. I believe the evidence put forth in court clearly proved that he was innocent. I believe Kevin Hart should be released from prison.

The accident

Sunday, June 24, 2001. Two cars are stopped at a stoplight heading southbound on Lawson Blvd. in Oceanside, Long Island. One car is a Lamborghini driven by Michael Vasapolli. His wife Karen Mauro is next to him in the passenger seat. The other car is a 1990 Corvette driven by Kevin Hart. He has no passenger with him. Engines rev, testosterone flies and they both take off when the light turns green. The Lamborghini cuts off the Corvette, zigzagging through traffic. The Corvette falls back. The Lamborghini then continues weaving his way through the traffic and crosses the double yellow line. The Lamborghini is now a southbound car traveling in a northbound lane on a Sunday afternoon. The Lamborghini collides head-on with a Volvo driven by Glenn Jacofsky with his wife Amy in the passenger seat. Michael Vasapolli and Glenn Jacofsky are both killed. Amy Jacofsky is injured. Kevin Hart pulled his car off the road to avoid the accident. He was stopped, 50 feet behind the accident.

The trial

Kevin Hart went to trial the following June. He was tried on two counts of second degree manslaughter for the deaths of Glenn Jacofsky and Michael Vasapolli and a third degree assault charge for injuries to Amy Jacofsky.

My first qualm is with the jury of the trial and the media's influence on this case. This accident happened right around the time that the movie "The Fast and the Furious" was released into theatres. There were already articles all over the papers about drag racing being a recent problem among young men with nothing better to do than prove their masculinity through a car. These articles helped to promote a stereotype of the individuals who practice this sort of activity. That part really isn't the problem. The jurors should be able to have any mindset they want going into a trial, but should be able to weigh the evidence presented and make a sound decision based on that evidence. My problem is, however, that these jurors apparently weren't able to do that and the fact that they weren't sequestered during the week-long trial only worsened the problem because they were able to read every article written about this trial along with reports of other apparent drag racing accidents. News stories are never completely objective and these certainly weren't either. The picture of Hart in one newspaper made him out to be a monster. In another one, the reporter decided to bring up the point of

driving records, meanwhile he only referred to Hart's and neglected discussing Vasapolli's record, which was comparatively worse. So, in short, the jury should have been sequestered to ensure an untainted opinion of the case.

My next problem is with the trial itself. The prosecution argued that Kevin Hart was an accessory to these deaths. This claim assumes that there is a principal involved who "engages in conduct which constitutes an offense." The accessory is then "criminally liable for such conduct when, acting with the mental culpability required for the commission thereof, he solicits, requests, commands, importunes or intentionally aids such person to engage in such conduct." This would mean that Hart's actions would have to directly influence the actions of Vasapolli, therefore aiding Vasapolli in the deaths of himself and Jacofsky. In order for Hart to be found guilty of this, the prosecution had to prove that he was drag racing at the precise time of the accident.

So, the prosecution called to the stand a Mr. Louis Howarth, whose job was to analyze and explain scientific data to reconstruct the accident to the jury. From his analysis of skid marks left by the braking of Hart's Corvette, Howarth was able to conclude that he had to be going at least 40 MPH to have left the marks that he did. That is to say, from the beginning of the skid marks to the end of the skid marks, the Corvette slowed down 40 MPH. He couldn't determine what speed Hart was doing prior to that, whether it was 90 MPH or 43 MPH, but, simply to produce the braking marks on the road that he did, he had to have been going 40

How could the jury have reached this decision? Were they that easily convinced by prosecuting assistant district attorney Frank Schroeder's closing statements when he said, "inconsistent testimony is the hallmark of truth?" Were they impressed with the idea of setting a precedent for all other drag racing trials in the future to be judged by? I have no idea...

MPH.

At this point there's not enough information to determine if Hart was drag racing at the time of the accident. All we know so far is that he was doing at least the speed limit before he pulled his car off the road and stopped. So, logically, the next thing to do is to question the people that actually saw the accident happen.

Prosecution witness Lynn Helmseadt testified to seeing the Lamborghini cut off the Corvette. Karen Mauro, Michael Vasapolli's wife and passenger, also testified to the Lamborghini cutting in front of the Corvette. These two statements show that the Lamborghini had passed the Corvette and was now in front of it. This point is essential to

establishing the positions of the cars. Once we find out that the Lamborghini was in front of the Corvette, and not alongside it, we are able to question the prosecution's claim that Hart "forced" Vasapolli into oncoming traffic. When you then add in the statements made by the two other drivers that the Lamborghini tried to pass in which they said that at no time did they see the Corvette in their mirrors, you can discredit the prosecution's claim altogether. Kevin Hart was not near enough to the spot of the accident to even be seen by the drivers present. It is not until defense witness Altaf Masalawala testifies that the Corvette was 50 feet behind the accident that we learn exactly how uninvolved Hart was.

As argued in the appeal, this evidence proves that Hart cannot be an accessory to Vasapolli's death because that would imply that Vasapolli was the principal in his own manslaughter, which, by definition, can't happen. So that charge should be dismissed. It also proves that Hart could not have been the principal in the death of Glenn Jacofsky or injuries to Amy Jacofsky because his car did not physically make contact with their car. Furthermore, he cannot be considered an accessory in this circumstance either, because, according to the evidence, he had ceased drag racing at the point in time when the accident occurred. Michael Vasapolli chose, on his own accord, to recklessly steer his car into oncoming traffic, resulting in his own death, as well as the death of Glenn Jacofsky.

That evidence seems pretty cut and dry, but if a juror still felt the prosecution might still be on to something, they should have been quickly turned off by the prosecution's key witnesses. The two witnesses were both police officers. Michael Wu is an officer that was one of the first on the scene, and James Carridi is an off-duty officer that just happened to be driving by when the accident happened. The two testimonies given by these officers are so contradictory to one another that

they should not only be thrown out, but also ripped up and spit on. No conclusions can be drawn from them at all, so they should have been stricken from the record completely. Officer Wu claimed that Hart gave him a statement 2-3 minutes after he arrived. Wu testified that he was alone with Hart when Hart said, "He [Vasapolli] was drag racing, that he was going about 85 miles per hour." Then later, Wu contradicted himself when he said Hart stated, "We were drag racing, that we were going about 85 miles per hour." That's a huge discrepancy. That alteration changes the entire statement. Officer Carridi then testifies to being present when this alleged statement was taken after

Continued on following page

Free Kevin Hart

By Jessica Worthington

Continued from preceding page

Officer Wu just said that he and Hart were alone. Either they both were there or not. One can usually recall who is around when something like this happens. His recollection of the timing of events also challenges what Officer Wu stated because, according to Officer Carridi, Hart's statement was made much later than when Officer Wu said it was. Even so, all this talk of the statement to begin with is questionable because Hart claims that he never made a statement, he was never shown the statement in writing which he is then supposed to sign, and it's not documented anywhere in the police report that Officer Wu submitted. Any jury member that hears two testimonies that are supposed to claim the same thing but are extremely contradictory toward one another and have no solid documentation supporting either one, should disregard the entire testimony and raise an eyebrow to the quality of police officers they are dealing with.

Finally, we come to the verdict. Somehow, after all this evidence and all these discrep-

ancies, the jury deliberated for a mere two hours and found Kevin Hart guilty of two counts of manslaughter in the second degree and one count of third degree assault. If that wasn't enough of a slap in the face, he was then given the harshest sentence ever delivered to a defendant in a New York drag racing case. He received the maximum of 5-15 years. No other person had been sentenced to more than three years of prison.

How could the jury have reached this decision? Were they that easily convinced by prosecuting assistant district attorney Frank Schroeder's closing statements when he said, "inconsistent testimony is the hallmark of truth?" Were they impressed with the idea of setting a precedent for all other drag racing trials in the future to be judged by? I have no idea...

This was a horrible event to have happened. The Jacofsky family has had to deal with the most unfair ordeal out of everyone. Their loved one was taken away at the hands of another. I can't even imagine the pain they've had to deal with since this happened. I can

understand that they want some closure for their ordeal and want justice to be served. But the person responsible, died that same day.

Kevin Hart cannot be held accountable for the actions of another. He had no way of controlling Vasapolli's car to slow him down, or keep him in his own lane. Kevin Hart could only control his own actions. He realized that what he was doing was stupid, so he stopped. End of story. After that, he had no say in what anyone else chose to do.

You can read more about this case at www.kevinhart.org. More questions are raised about the trial proceedings, witnesses, and the laws themselves. You can write a letter stating any opinion you want about the case. I just urge you all to think about it. In a time when so many authority figures are tied to some sort of corrupt behavior, we should be the ones questioning their decisions and keeping them in check. Read the facts, weigh the evidence and, as always, think for yourself.

The Duck Pool

By Robby Barkam

(with strong apologies to H.P. Lovecraft)

As I scaled the rise, a forlorn wind swept over me. Perhaps it was a warning. The townsfolk had cautioned me to stay clear of this place -- a place they had shunned for so long, not one of them could describe it in any great detail. Thus the reason I lay here prone, exhausted from the climb, and in fear of my very existence. I needed to find out for myself.

My eyes were instantly rewarded. Across a short expanse sprawled the industrial conglomeration of the Stony Brook University sewage plant, consisting of three processing pools open to the elements, steaming their putrescence into the winter air. And floating in one of the pools, in multitude no less... dear God! My eyes cannot behold such a blasphemy of nature! The knowledge sears my brain to the core!

Back at Miskatonic University, certain students whispered of a strange, recurring phenomena in an isolated part of the grounds of a large campus on Long Island. In the beginning, I scoffed, as did their peers. There was talk of drug usage, or the more usual alcohol inebriation so common on campuses these days, causing such a horrific hallucination. At the Institute of Biology, all in authority shook their heads. Impossible, they surmised.

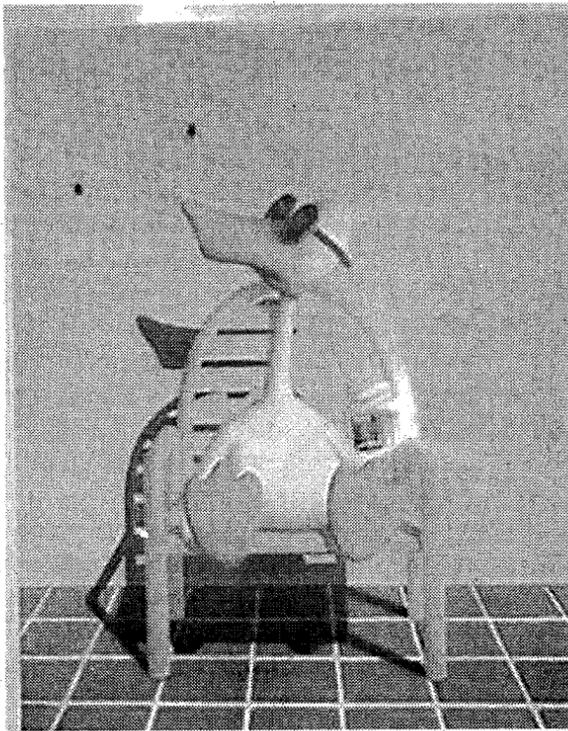
Then, the photograph arrived at Miskatonic, submitted to that very department by an unknown hand. Grainy, shadowy, indistinct - but revealing just enough to send the halls of learning in this sleepy New England valley into an instant furor. Suddenly, it seemed, every student and professor wanted to know the truth. And to this day, why all heads turned to me, I will never

completely comprehend. I was young, had tucked away several daring scientific exploits of my own, and possessed, in a curseful way, an amount of free time none of my fellows could seem to find. In short, I was "it." I packed an overnight bag and booked passage to Long Island the following day.

The rising sun cast its revealing light over me and the land I trespassed on. As I watched, parting mists flowing insidiously above the black, stagnant water of that hideous pool brought the denizens of such an inhospitable place into full view. They moved with such an innocent grace across the surface of their circular tank of slime. I scoured my scientific mind for the formal name of their kind, knowing full well their mere presence, their simple contact with such a liquid should encourage their instant demise. But my eyes beheld the impossible opposite. These creatures, four in number, navigated through the evil currents of their newly-found pool with a thoroughly misplaced sense of joy.

That they were ducks, I now knew for certain. Wild mallards, flocking into a pondful of man-made sewage like it was some pristine forest lake. I knew they were doomed. I knew what horrendous toxins and poisons and caustic chemical combinations

and stinking human residues collected under their gently paddling feet. I could only stare at them in helpless compassion, awaiting the spasms and tortured wails of anguish that would precede their painful, eventual demise.



But suddenly I knew the soul-searing truth. What had I just seen? I cried out in sheer, naked horror -- cried out for so long I thought the townspeople would come surging up the hill to rescue me, until I realized they must already know, and this is the very reason they never dared approach the dreaded place I had embarked from New England to see.

These could not be ordinary ducks. They were now things the gods of nature must shun, feathered monsters forever transformed by the terrible compounds that coursed through their systems as if it formed their own blood.

And even as I stared transfixed, biting my hand to rescue some last vestige of my sanity, a second member of this deranged flock performed an all-too-familiar maneuver of its kind that forever branded it a species apart from every good and wholesome animal that God put on this green earth.

The poor bird *dunked*.

When RINOs Attack!

By Greg Lubicich

When RINO's Attack - Fiscal Treason and Sedition

Recently, the American right has been splintering due to two reasons. The first reason is that they no longer have a real opposition that could unite them in a common cause. The second reason is that their energy has been sapped by the same type of infiltration and compromise that ruined the initiative of the American left (FYI - the allegedly bought DNC leadership doesn't count as real opposition).

Gifted with a non-statist ideology, the gains of the American right are significant in the electoral, judicial, and media arenas. However, without a real opposition to unify it, the American right has been splintering into factions of true believers and RINOs (Right In Name Only). No less a conservative than Pat Buchanan has stated that the RINOs are "interventionists, globalists...[and] fiscally irresponsible (www.acu.org)." Empirical data from The Club for Growth shows that federal spending, deficits, and fiscal irresponsibility grow equally well or better under a Republican congress as under a Democratic one. They even have a RINO watch, a "who's who" list of quislings to the right (www.clubforgrowth.org). And of so-called non-activist appointments to the federal judiciary, even conservative activist Anne Coulter says "Ours go bad, and theirs never do... Mr. Buchanan is not alone in his views." Citizens Against Government Waste, the Club for Growth and National Taxpayers Union also joined yesterday's conservative protest of excessive spending (http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040115-112447-9758r.htm). Apparently, fiscal responsibility isn't on the RINO's agenda.

When RINOs Attack - The Fifth Column

Recently RINOs have proven that they are as reluctant as so-called liberals to properly train and equip our armed forces or to crackdown on corruption that saps the strength and morale of the forces we have (www.militarycorruption.com, Soldiers for the Truth, www.sftt.org, www.hackworth.com). Likewise, the RINOs are as reluctant as the so-called liberals to make the painful reforms in the federal apparatus needed to ensure real security. As evidence thereof, apparati specifically committed to finding terrorists has been sidetracked and "mission-creeped" into tracking Texas state lawmakers, common criminals and, allegedly, anyone who engages in lawful dissent (www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/special/03/legislature/1911853). RINOs are as good as any so-called liberal at getting the companies you buy from to break their privacy agreements to spy on you for the government, thus doing an end-run around Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and

seizures. The resulting lawsuits only mean that the privacy policies will be rewritten, and legal settlements are a tax write-off anyway (JetBlue, Northwest Gave U.S. Data on Passengers, By Sara Kehaulani Goo, Washington Post Staff Writer). Similarly, Adobe, Google, and other computer firms have openly or clandestinely taken on the role of government censor in excess of the requirements of US law (www.anticensorware.com, http://sethf.com/anticensorware/general/google-censorship.php, Adobe, others slip anticounterfeiting code into apps, January 9, 2004, 5:43 PM PST, By Robert Lemos, Staff Writer, CNET News.com). If the RINOs were really dedicated to national defense, then all of the troops in Iraq would have the latest body armor and all container cargo in US ports would be scanned. In fact, RINOs see "fighting terrorism" as a shibboleth convenient for expanding the power of the state while at the same time distracting the security apparatus from needed reforms by focusing on the activities of law abiding citizens rather than rouges. A fifth column of seditionists could do little more harm to national security than the RINOs have.

When RINOs Attack - Orwell is Here

Recently RINOs have proven that they are as gleeful to expand the powers of the state as any communist ever was. Your bookstore purchases, library lending, Internet habits, and even grocery purchase records are subject to sometimes warrant-less RINO searches (http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0209/hentoff.php, Robyn Weisman, NewsFactor Network, November 2, 2001; Silicon Spooks: Government Spying on the Internet, By Shawn Ewald). The search isn't the problem for the non-RINO right (and the left too). What they object to is the lack of a judge's oversight of the executive branch and the complete lack of eventual notification of a search when no evidence of unlawful behavior eventually comes to light even decades later. This appears to have already gotten out of hand as even churches are being monitored (www.churchcentral.com/nw/s/id/17985/template/Article.html). Apparently, the concepts of limited government, governmental accountability, and separation of powers are thought crimes in the RINO world.

When RINOs Attack - No Free Market

The RINOs are bigger spenders than Lyndon Johnson, only they spend on corporate welfare not social welfare. Need proof? The recently passed Medicare drug "benefit" is the single largest expansion of entitlements since the 1960's. When the bill was coming to a vote, a majority of House members were sympathetic to amendments allowing drug imports from Canada and empowering the federal gov-

ernment to negotiate wholesale drug prices (http://www.prospect.org/print/V15/2/kuttner-r.html). However, the RINOs prevented drug companies from facing a free market in drugs. SBU graduates face international competition for jobs. Capital and all other goods move freely from Canada. Apparently, RINOs are quislings to the free market and the consumer is a slave when they exempt drug making campaign contributors from the realities of economics (http://www.conservative.org/pressroom/030821.asp, http://www.conservative.org/pressroom/031021.asp, http://www.conservative.org/pressroom/031114.asp, http://www.conservative.org/pressroom/031223.asp).

When RINO's Attack - The Last Straw

The last straw that seems to have broken the conservative ranks is immigration reform. The RINOs want to reward 10 million lawbreakers with citizenship. The RINOs keep 1 million or more non-violent drug offenders imprisoned at considerable expense while seeking to reward 10 million lawbreakers who are already over represented in the violent crime community

(http://www.city-journal.org/html/14_1_the_illegal_alien.html, http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=36652). This is just the sort of internal consistency that revealed the ideological failures of the left.

Part of the proposal for immigration "reform" is that "temporary" foreign workers will receive the Social Security benefits they paid as a financial incentive to return to their home countries. That was tried in the 1940s and 50's under a program called "Bracero." The lawsuits are still pending for the millions of dollars that are owed to those workers. The idea that half-citizenship is better than none is even rejected by immigrant advocates (http://www.prospect.org/webfeatures/2004/01/echaveste-m-01-08.html).

Seriously conservative radio host Michael Savage has asked whether President Bush should be impeached in order to save his presidency (you can't make this up). "Recently on my radio program, I challenged my audience by asking whether President Bush should be impeached. My purpose is to save the Bush Presidency. I am desperately trying to awaken this good man, our President, to his Advisors who are misleading him on the immigration issue. My hope in raising this incendiary question is to shock the Republican Leadership into an awareness of the incredible lack of support they have on this (http://www.homestead.com/prosites-prs/SAVEPRESIDENCY.html)."

Continued on following page

Paintings

Video

gALLERY

Ceramics

Sculpture

Spoken Word

Photography

Music

Mixed Media

Gallery 4222

318 Wynn Lane

Port Jefferson, NY 11777

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When RINOs Attack!

By Greg Lubicich

Continued from preceding page

When RINO's Attack - Sedition Prediction

Newsmax.com, a right wing news web service, on Friday, November 21, 2003, published an account of an interview given by General Tommy Franks to Cigar Aficionado magazine. "General Tommy Franks, who successfully led the U.S. military operation to liberate Iraq... retired from U.S. Central Command, known in Pentagon lingo as CentCom, in August 2003, after serving nearly four decades in the Army. Franks earned three Purple Hearts for combat wounds and three Bronze Stars for valor. Known as a 'soldier's general,' Franks made his mark as a top commander during the U.S.'s successful Operation Desert Storm, which liberated Kuwait in 1991. He was in charge of CentCom when Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda attacked the United States on Sept. 11." A more credible source would be hard to find. In this interview, General Franks suggested that a terrorist attack prior to the 2004 elections would likely result in suspending, or not-so-slowly replacing, the American Constitution with a military government (<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2003/11/20/185048.shtml>). The New York Times so-called conservative columnist, William Safire, has well-known connections to the centers of power in Washington and the White House. On December 31, 2003, Mr. William Safire

blantly predicted that the "October surprise" affecting our 2004 election will be "a major terror attack in the US."

On November 23, 2003, an article titled "Mission Creep Hits Home, American armed forces are assuming major new domestic policing and surveil-



lance roles" was written by William Arkin, a well-connected military analyst for the Los Angeles Times. He detailed how the US military is "already working under the far-reaching authority that goes with 'extraordinary operations'" including assigning military special agents FBI

field offices, and the first exception in over 100 years to the Posse Comitatus Law (which bars the US military from assuming domestic police functions). Mr. Arkin concludes, "outside the view of most of the public, the government is daily expanding military operations into areas of local government and law enforcement that historically have been off-limits. And it doesn't seem far-fetched to imagine that those charged with assembling 'actionable intelligence' will slowly start combining databases of known terrorists with seemingly innocuous lists of contributors to charities or causes, that membership lists for activist organizations will be folded in, that names and personal data of anti-globalization protesters will be run through the 'data mine.'" Do Mr. Arkin, Mr. Safire, and General Tommy Franks know something you don't about when RINOs attack?

In the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2001, an administration official denounced those "who scare peace-loving people with phantoms of lost liberty.... Your tactics only aid terrorists, for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve. They give ammunition to America's enemies (<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0226/hentoff.php>)."

Was he talking about so-called conservative columnist William Safire? Or conservative talk show host Michael Savage? Or General Tommy Franks - the man President Bush depended on to win Operation Desert Storm?

Interview with Mark Waid

By Adam Schlagman

Q) You've been the writer on X-Men, Flash, JLA, Captain America, Superman, Fantastic Four, Empire, as well as many others. What you might be the most famous for, though, is Kingdom Come and of course that short stint at Archie Comics. What was your favorite book to do?

A) For a long time, it was Flash because it was very personal work, but now I'd have to say it's SUPERMAN: BIRTHRIGHT. I'm having the best time, and I think issues four and five are my favorite things I've ever written.

Q) Your run on Fantastic Four is superb. The book is better than it has been in many years. I love the cliffhanger at the end of every issue, that's how comics should be written. Got anymore upcoming surprises or villains for us? We're still in shock over Doom scarring Reed's face in issue #500.

A) Believe me, it's all ABOUT surprises--though we've not yet figured out who to 'make over' next now that we did Doom, we've got our eyes on the Frightful Four. Keep watching.

Q) You and Joe Quesada had a little disagreement at some point with Fantastic Four. What was that all about and what happened because of it?

A) To be fair, it wasn't really Joe, it was his boss who didn't like what we were doing creatively. I told them it was their sandbox and that if they didn't like my work or if I wasn't giving them what they wanted, they should let me go, no harm, no foul, just business--and they did. After the public outcry, however, they asked me to return, and because I love the characters and the editor, I said yes. No regrets.

Q) Your creator owned series Empire is fabulous. Do you have any other original ideas

for series that might see print shortly?

A) Nothing that'll see print in 2004, likely--most of my 'new' ideas are at the moment in the hands of various Hollywood types. But I do have a pet project or two I'd like to get off the ground for 2005.

Q) If you could work with any artist at all, who would it be?

A) That I've NOT worked with? John Romita, Sr., hands down my favorite living comic book artist.

Q) You are on the Countdown to Wednesday DVD giving out advice on how to break into the comic business. Do you have any more advice to give and what's the best way to get an internship?

A) I'm afraid I'm all wrung out of advice after that; I have no more insight. But as far as internships go, I'd suggest contacting the personnel departments of comics companies or visiting their websites to see if they have any information. Good luck!

Q) What exactly is the job of an editor? You were an editor at DC Comics for a few years. Did you learn a lot from that experience?

A) I learned a tremendous amount just by osmosis, because I got to work with every major writer at DC save Alan Moore and Frank Miller. I learned a great deal about craft, about the importance of keeping things brief and making the best of the limited space 22 pages allows you, and most of all I learned a lesson that will keep me in line as a freelancer--that editors aren't evil people just because they expect you to meet your deadlines!

Q) How long does it take you to finish a script and what's the most script's you've ever writ-

ten in a month?

A) Normally these days, it takes me a little over a week to do a script--I've slowed down somewhat for a variety of reasons, since at one time I was averaging a book a week. I think the most I've done in one month was probably the equivalent of seven or so comics, the month of the KINGDOM event.

Q) What do you consider to be the greatest thing that you have ever read?

A) Wow. There's only EVERYTHING to choose from. Probably "To Kill A Mockingbird."

Q) What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?

A) Wow. There's only EVERYTHING to choose from. Probably the time a friend and I were cutting up at another friend's wedding reception. The video photographer was getting quotes from everyone there about the couple, and when we saw him approach the bride, we stepped in to joke around for a second as if she were coming out of court--putting our hands up to the camera, saying "No photographs," escorting her out--all of which, I promise you, was much funnier if you were there. Or if you weren't the bride, who went NUCLEAR on me and started SCREAMING at me in the middle of the reception floor in front of hundreds of her friends and relatives. Poor girl apologized later, but man, I just wanted to DIE.

Q) Do you have any upcoming projects that you'd like to promote or something that someone else is doing you think people should read?

A) Yeah. ROSE AND THORN by writer Gail Simone. It's 2004's best mini-series!

Interview with Alex Maleev

By Adam Schlagman

Q) You've worked on Batman, Superman vs. Predator, and currently Daredevil, which by the way is the 2003 Eisner for best ongoing series. How does that make you feel? A little cocky I bet, but a well deserved cocky.

A) Not at all. If you only knew the story around my acceptance of the award you would understand my take on the issue....I am honored of course and grateful to the wonderful team of people I belong to. But our work is more gratifying than any award.

Q) What is it like working with Brian Michael Bendis, the writer of Daredevil? Is it tough working with someone that writes four or five books a month?

A) It makes no difference how much he writes and what he does. The scripts I get from him are always top quality. I don't know how he does it and I don't try to figure it out any-

more, sometimes I ask him though and he smiles mysteriously. If I didn't know, I would think he's on something...

Q) Whose your favorite character in general to draw and your favorite Daredevil character to draw?

A) My favorite character is the one that puts his suit on as often as he wears street clothes. The one who uses his brain more than his fists. The one who would win the Sundance festival as opposed to the MTV best action hero award.

Q) If you could work on any title at all what would it be and who would you want to be the writer?

A) I'm spoiled now, product of Brian's masterworks. I'm staying with him.

Q) What did you do for New Years? I hope you didn't get too drunk, those hangovers are killers.

A) I slept through. 9.30pm in Netherlands....Not a big fan of New Year's Eve at all. I hate parties where people force themselves to have a good time only because they have to. I also abhor Valentine's Day. That's plain stupid if you ask me. Best parties happen when they're not planned ahead. Plus, the older I get the more sensitive my ears become to screaming. And New Years Eve is a stage on which insanity performs at the top of its lungs. I prefer my earplugs.

Q) Valentine's Day is the Devil!!! Is there an artist that you tend to draw like that was your role model?

A) I would like to be the artist who can draw

Continued on following page

Interview with Alex Maleev

By Adam Schlagman

Continued from preceding page

inspiration from everything and all the time. Role models are not welcome at my workplace. I do worship some names, but don't dare to mimic them. I get tired and bored sometimes, my head wanders off...

Q) Who do you want to win the Superbowl?

A) I don't give a rat's ass. Ask me about football, then we'll talk. Oh, I forgot, you have a made up name for it, cause here the name football is taken by a game that has only one kick in it.

Q) What is your most cherished piece of art that you have ever created (I hope it's not that nude picture of yourself, yea I heard all about it.)?

A) It has to be one of my etchings.

Q) What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?

A) Man, I got plenty. I am a magnet for blunders. I do get away with it by saying that I'm not from around here...

Q) Do you have any advice for artists that are attempting to hit it big in comics?

A) Play the lotto. If you feel lucky, try comics. But know your anatomy.

Q) Since you've worked on Batman and Daredevil, who do you think would win in a fight?

A) The one who gets more chicks.

Q) As you draw is there a special type of music (don't be country don't be country) or something on TV (don't be anything on UPN) you like to watch as you do so?

A) Jazz and electronic.

Q) Are there any more projects you are cur-

rently working on or might be working on in the future that we should be looking forward too?

A) DD gives me enough time to enjoy my freedom. I like traveling, I do it in my spare time and don't kill myself with work anymore. It's not worth it, there's a huge world beyond comics waiting to be explored.

Q) Do you have a website so that we can purchase your masterful artwork and is there anything that you would like to promote?

A) Been working on it for years. I guess if I don't have a deadline I tend to procrastinate.

Promoting? Not really. Promotions? I'll take a business class to New Zealand:)



Interview with Fabian Nicieza

By Adam Schlagman

Q) You've written Spider-Man, X-Force, Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Thunderbolts, and even X-Men including X-Men #25, where you got to remove Wolverine's adamantium. Now you're working on Hawkeye, Cable/Deadpool, and Avengers/Thunderbolts. Who's your favorite character to write and who would you most like to write?

A) I don't have a single favorite to write, since I enjoy them most at the time I'm actually writing them. Certainly, in hindsight, I'd say I especially enjoyed the New Warriors, Nomad, some members of X-Force, Cable, Deadpool, Turok and the TBolts. As for who I would like to write the most? It's a long list, but at the top would be Superman, Nightwing, Atom, Hawkman, Captain America and Dr. Strange.

Q) The new Hawkeye series is very good. What can we expect to see in the second story arc?

A) A murder mystery that escalates into an international incident. The return of an old friend and a new foe. More action, but without skimping on the sarcasm. :-)

Q) How did you first get started as a comic book writer? Is this what you've always wanted to be?

A) I got a staff job at Marvel a few years out of college and just tried to learn the ropes from the inside while I did my daily job. I got lucky, sold some stories that impressed various editors enough for them to continue giving me work, and went from there. I've always wanted to be a writer, but coming out of college, I had very realistic expectations about

my chances of ever earning a living as one, much less a comics writer. Pretty damned lucky, I think.

Q) What's it like collaborating with another writer? You and Kurt Busiek, the writer of JLA/Avengers are teaming up to do a 6-issue Avengers/Thunderbolts mini-series. What can we expect to see happening in that?

A) It's more difficult in a lot of ways than writing on your own, but it also has advantages. Having a sounding board helps us flesh out ideas, improve on each others' ideas and shoot down impulses or ideas that individually we might have developed to the detriment of the story.

Q) I, for one, love Deadpool and can't wait to pick up your new Cable/Deadpool series. What can we expect from that? Will Deadpool still be running his mouth off?

A) You can expect action, adventure, humor and -- surprise -- some social commentary. You can also expect DEADPOOL to be his usual sarcastic, bitter, rude, lonely shell of a man -- and you can expect CABLE to display heretofore rarely seen dry wit... :-)

Q) If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A) Tough one. Egypt -- as long as I could be guaranteed safety for my family! Greece or Rome, too.

Q) Anymore projects you have planned for the future?

A) Working on a short film we hope to debut on the internet in March. That's been taking

up as lot of my time over the last few months.

Q) Is there a title for the film and will it be available to everyone on the Internet?

A) The film should be available on the Internet on a host site with -- I hope -- several links on comic book related sites. It's tentatively titled "Red Wind," but that might change.

Q) How long does each script take you to write?

A) It varies. Full script takes longer than plot only. Team books take longer than solo books. Enthusiasm and excitement speeds up the work compared to disinterest and despair. Just like writing for school papers!

Q) Do you have any advice for aspiring comic book writers?

A) Get a degree that gets you a job in a field that lets you write. Then once you have some measure of security, give comics writing a try. Don't pin all your hopes on making a living as a writer, much less a comics writer. That's a road paved to Unhappyville.

Q) What's your most embarrassing moment?

A) Why would I want to share that with the world?

Q) Got anything you want to promote or recommend or any final comments?

A) Buy the comics I write. Now! That's all.

Another Comic Book Interview
On The Next Page

Interview with Pia Guerra

By Adam Schlagman

Q) Y-The Last Man is "The Best Book of 2003" according to Wizard Magazine. And why wouldn't it be; it's superbly drawn and written, you can't not pick it up. I mean I have all the actual issues and the trade paperbacks. So how's it feel knowing your book is numero uno?

A) Well the flattery is nice.

Q) A congratulations is also in order because Y-The Last Man was just optioned by New Line Films and there's a script currently being worked on. Do you think you'll be involved some way in the movie?

A) Someone still has to draw the book, but I guess I could take some time off to work the craft services table.

Q) If you could do the casting, who would you cast as the main characters?

A) How about Rosie O'Donnell as 355?

Q) What's it like working with Brian K. Vaughan, the writer of Y-The Last Man?

A) A wonderful experience. He's a great writer.

Q) Are you ever like, "Brian, that's not how women would act."? I mean you're a woman and you have Brian over there writing about tons and tons of women and only one male.

A) I'm a woman? Oh my god! I am! What am I doing drawing comics?!

Q) I hear that Brian gave you gold handcuffs for Christmas. Is there a special story behind that?

A) Yorick is an escape artist. Brian is a sweet guy. Natch.

Q) Did you get him anything for Christmas?

A) Yeah I did, but I don't know if he's gotten it yet so shhh, don't tell anyone!

Q) What's your favorite piece of artwork that you have ever created?

A) In kindergarten I made a paper and pipe cleaner tulip for my mom that I'm pretty darn proud of. It was pink!

Q) How did you get started in the business?

A) It must've been that hit on the head I took

when I was 17. Made me think ten years living in poverty trying to convince editors I was a capable artist was a good idea.

Q) It's extremely tough out there. There are tons and tons of artists attempting to get "discovered." What's your advice for aspiring artists?

A) A good hit to the head for starters...

Q) Your boyfriend is a writer. Any chance of you two collaborating on something together in the near future?

A) Sure, but only after a trip to the pharmacy first.

Q) What's your dream project to work on?

A) Something with a chorus line. I'm seeing lots of toulle with jaquard accents.

Q) Any last words, regrets, self promotion, a website where you sell stuff maybe *hint hint*?

A) www.hellkitty.com If you're looking for an underwhelming experience, there's no better place on the net!

Hello?? By Sam Goldman

USG, whether it likes it or not, is in symbiosis with the clubs and organizations of Stony Brook University. Without USG, the Student Activity Fee - the lifeblood of campus life - could not be properly distributed. Without the clubs and organizations, there would be no need for USG, or the Student Activity Fee. USG, however, seems to fail to recognize this, and it shows mostly from the communication, or lack thereof, that they have displayed towards the member clubs and organizations.

Instead of consulting clubs and organizations when making - or even considering - any sort of change, USG seems to prefer working by decree. The whole recent brouhaha with the Asian clubs and organizations could easily have been avoided had anyone in USG taken five minutes out of their busy schedule to discuss any plans for consolidating the Asian student organizations. Instead, USG looked the other way, as the Asian clubs seethed.

Or how about the Stony Brook Press' own mess? We had to wait a full month to be told our budget had been cut, and it was only in mid-October that we learned of any plans to form a media committee, and to get that information, we had to march to the second floor of the SAC ourselves. Would anyone have told us what was going on if we didn't take the initiative? We would have found out we had no money when we had run out of it. A phone call or email - not to an advisor, not to a faculty member, but to the organization itself - to explain the situation takes no more than five minutes. Just this week, we were told that the USG

logo will now be required on the front cover of our paper as of February 6, under penalty of probation. To get this information, we were tipped off by someone NOT is USG, and again had to go ourselves to confirm this. If we had not bothered to get the information ourselves, we would not have known about this AT ALL. Even the memo given out by Sandy Curtis mentions flyers, posters, and handouts, but not newspapers. By the way, who were the first people to tell the Statesman about this new rule? The Stony Brook Press. When did Blackworld find out about it? Again, an email only takes 5 minutes. Oh, just in case you were wondering: No less than federal court cases make such an action illegal - even with a disclaimer, even with a goddamn apology on our front cover, no ifs, ands, or buts, it's simply NOT LEGAL. If USG would have kept an open line of communication between themselves and student media, they would have known that. Oops.

Who were the first people to tell CSA President Jim Driscoll that he was a USG Senator? The Stony Brook Press. Now, even if you feel that USG should have no communication at all with its clubs and organizations, you should at least think that USG would have the decency to tell the president of the largest organization on campus that a Senate position was constitutionally reserved for him, ESPECIALLY since USG had trouble filling Senate seats. And the CSA office is directly ONE FLOOR BELOW USG'S!!!

At one point, when we were discussing the Press' problems, someone remarked that

maybe we were not told about the plans because USG was still forming, and things were kind of hectic at that stage. Now USG has a working Senate and Executive Council, complete with assistants. There is absolutely no reason for USG to continue making such important decisions about the state - financial or otherwise - of any club or organization without speaking to them first. There is absolutely no excuse for USG to continue a dictatorial rule-by-decree method of governing other than that they want to. And the end result of continuing to do so is an impression, right or wrong, that USG simply does not care about Stony Brook's clubs and organizations.

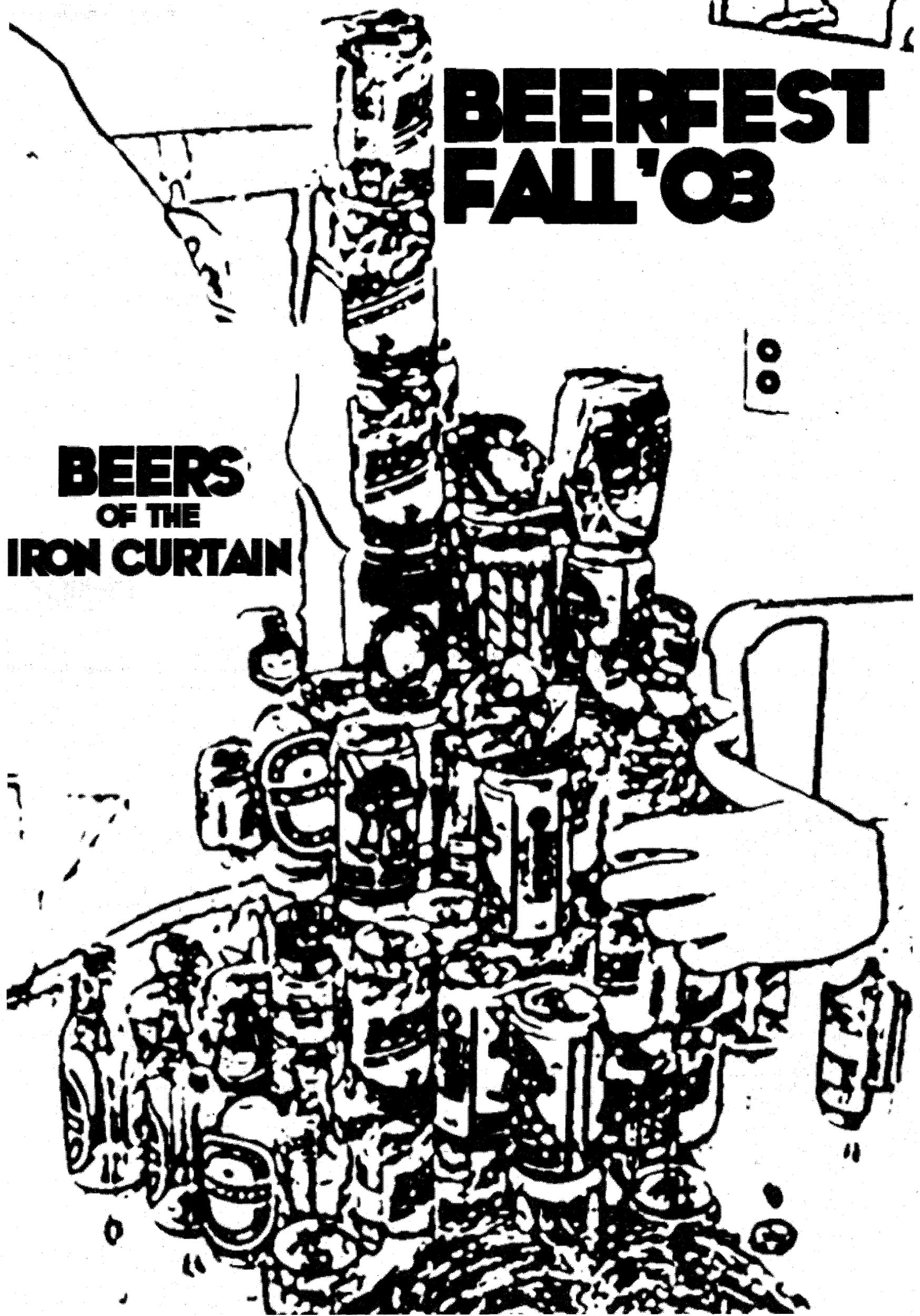
Things are getting better. USG Former Administrative Director Santo Albano recently sent us a letter responding to some of the articles in our "USG Tales" issue. Without going into an opinion of his statements, I'd like to commend him for finally taking Dustin Herlich's offer, and we hope other USG members do the same. But communicating back and forth after things have happened is not nearly as useful as having USG communicate with its members when it matters. I'm also sure USG will remind us that their Executive Council and Senate meetings are open; but its not the decisions that are important, rather, it's the processes that we need to be a part of, if USG wishes to maintain a harmonious symbiosis with its clubs and organizations.

A government that refuses to let the people in on its decision-making processes is a tyranny. And, at Stony Brook University, a tyranny cannot survive long.



BEERFEST FALL '03

BEERS OF THE IRON CURTAIN



THE DEFINITIVE BEERFEST REVIEW

By DANIEL HOFER

This past semester's Beerfest was one for the books. Packing the house came many with the intent to whet their alcoholic palate with exotic beverages from across the globe. Themed, "Beers of the Iron Curtain," partiers had the opportunity to sample beer from countries that currently are, or were communist.



Now wait, are we going to fast dear reader? Do you ask, "What is this 'fest of beer' you speak of?" Well, it is none other than a celebration that was created for and by the students, in honor of our dear catalyst of fun, Beer. For nearly a decade, members of *The Press* have gathered to sample and enjoy beer that would normally go unnoticed by the

average drinker. To complement said exquisite beverages, the cheapest of beers are also enjoyed to make for a memorable night. Beerfest started as a small gathering, but in recent years it has grown to a full-blown occasion featuring music from live DJs an even New York's own Ghost Blazer. In



short, Beerfest is none other than an amazing party.

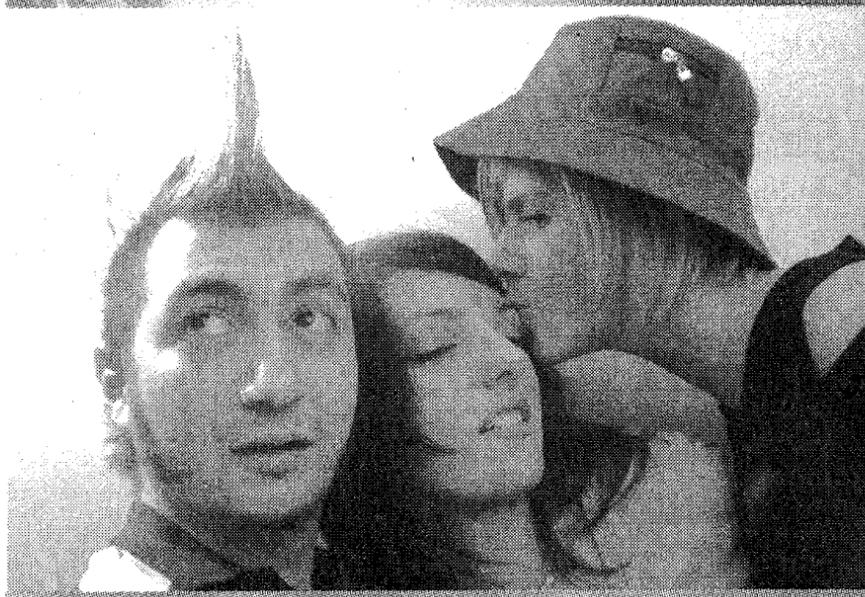
This semester, partiers were offered the opportunity to be professionally photographed while they were drunk, resulting in the highest-grade documentation of drunks in history. From athletes to members of Greek organizations, this semester's gathering featured a broader range of Stony Brook's diverse social population. It is no doubt that Beerfest has done the best job in integrating various angles of Stony Brook life in a way all could enjoy.

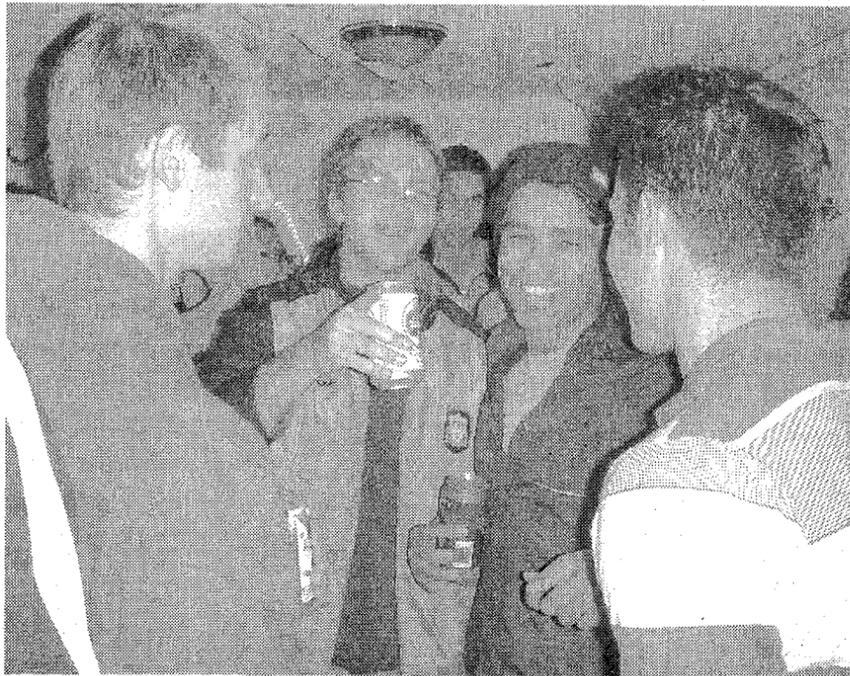


Other details of the party were hard to come by. As this reporter was "smashed like a Halloween pumpkin" (according to others at any rate) the details are quite blurry. However, attendance was well over 100 resulting in hardcore partiers spilling out into the cold of winter night.

The Taste Testing

Taste testers are confronted with eight mys-





Official State Beer of China!) "completely ordinary," "boring" and "more average than your average joe." However it fared better than its better-known counterpart Tsingtao, which was left flat in eighth place.

The Comments

In addition to ranking beers, testers get to put their two cents in on each beverage; a few of the worthwhile resulting unedited comments are featured below. Overall, comments this semester were better than most, with approximately 12 references to my mother, 47 comments specifically

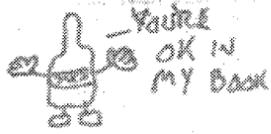
tery beers. Each must be rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the best) in four categories: Taste, Bite, Aftertaste, and Iquaqi. Iquaqi is the wildcard category, the "Je ne sais quoi" of a beer, the "I don't know why, but this beer rocks/sucks." Using a complex system of statistical analysis involving averages and points for ranks in the four categories, beers are given a final rank.

Looking at the results, it was a tight battle for first, with Topvar and Baltika 4 neck and neck in most categories. However Topvar had the better bite leaving Baltika 4 to nibble on seconds. Third and fourth were Rycerskie (say that 10 times fast) and Yangjing respectively. Accurately enough, there were many comments calling Yangjing (The

www.thepress.info
for hundreds more pictures & detailed Beerfest results

on genitalia (human or otherwise), and many others completely illegible. You guys rock!





BEER 1

- Hmmmm... Quite odd but soft like cupid's orchid
- This beer made me hard. A little. On second thought, it might have been Brian Libfeld. But the beer helped.
- One time I had shit on my dick and I used the Stony Brook paper to wipe it off. thank you.
- sam scares me. help.
- aroma like a urinal patty... but no after-taste
- it tastes like my phat (fat) mommy's ass, only more like pork & communism. Socialism? heil? czar.
- Oooh, la la. If only everything out of the Iron Curtain could go down like that then, well, yeah things would probably still be the same. Hollür

You called it: Nectar of the Gods Via Stalin

Actually called: **Baltika 4**

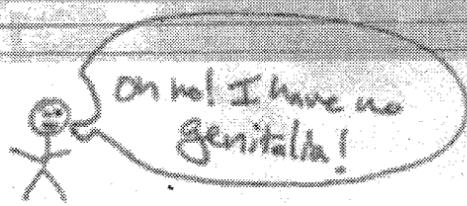
TASTE: second

BITE: third

AFTERTASTE: first

IQUAQUI: first

RANK: second



BEER 2

- Tastes like water + bukaki
- Smooth jazz on a mar-tian plateau
- I'd rather make love to Rosanne Barr
- This beer is as bland as most chinese personalities
- Too watery tastes like an SDT girls ass! Pool Pool Pool!
- Tastes like Natural light. how does that translate oh Yes Natural lite
- Less bite than a

blowjob

- If average had a name...

You called it: Liquid glast-nost

Actually called:

Czechoslovakian

Original Lager

TASTE: fifth

BITE: eighth

AFTERTASTE: seventh

IQUAQUI: fifth

RANK: sixth

TASTE: sixth

BITE: sixth

AFTERTASTE: sixth (tie)

IQUAQUI: eighth

RANK: seventh

BEER 4

- This one was weak like your mother. And that's not necessarily bad. Your mother has her secrets, as does this beer. It helps that both come easily.
- Why does my crotch suddenly itch like crazy?

(Fuck you, I ran outta material)

- You fuckers thought I wouldn't notice? This beer gives me wings. You skipped me Red Bull!

You called it: Fallout

Actually called: **Tsingtao**

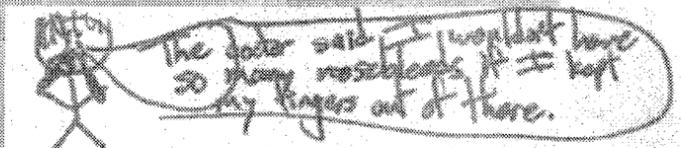
TASTE: seventh

BITE: seventh

AFTERTASTE: sixth (tie)

IQUAQUI: seventh

RANK: eighth



AFTERTASTE: second

IQUAQUI: second

RANK: first

BEER 7

- My butt really itches. hold on... ahhhh
- The passive-resistant of beers
- I definitely drank my own rumination.
- This is the beer that the pigs on animal

farm drink

- FKN GRT BRR
- Welfare state beer tastes like fuck you pussy
- This beer is a Pro. In the sense that I believe it would have sex with me in return for monetary compensation.

You called it: Grgrossimo

Actually called: **Yangjing**

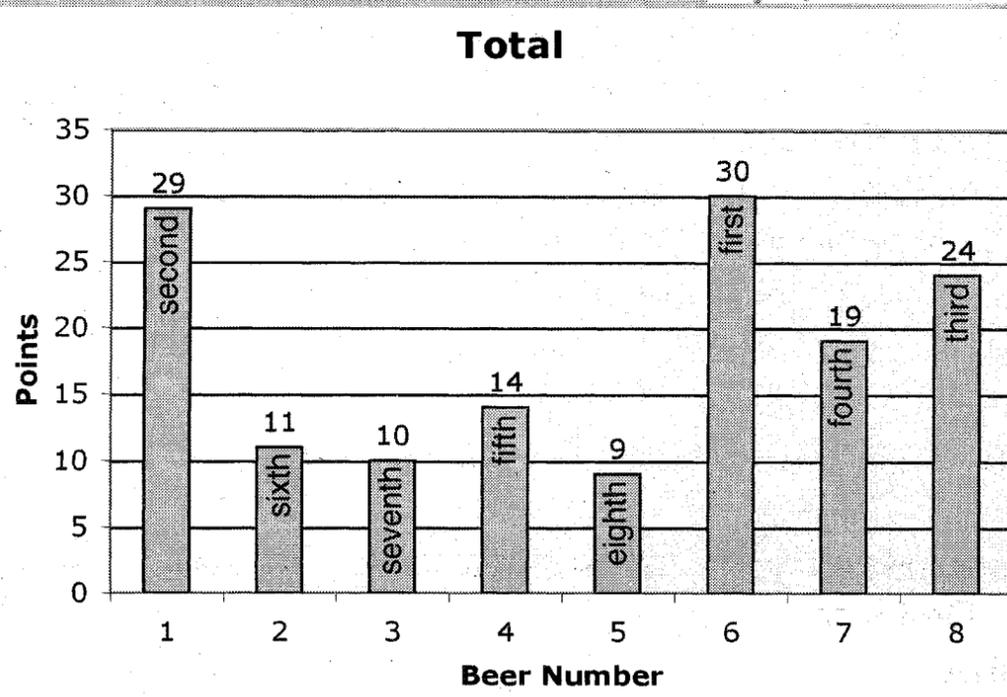
TASTE: fourth

BITE: fourth

AFTERTASTE: third

IQUAQUI: sixth

RANK: fourth



BEER 3

- Well slap my ass and call me Shirley.
- I am being consumed by foam!!! also, my spoon is too big.

• did you know that dimatape PM

& Beer makes everything so much better?

- crappity crap crap on a crap stick of crap
- This is why abortions happen with wire hangers.
- Mike is a fart-knocker and Dan was a half-assed news-person-in-charge way to let us down. This is why I drink.
- Who milked Dan's mom's crotch, 'cuz I like it!

You called it: Mr Bojangles

Actually called: **Baltika 3**

- Tastes like my daughters genocologist.
- Im too stupid to form an opinion My girl-friend dresses me
- In Soviet Russia, Beer drinks you!

You called it: Kumquat

Actually called: **Czech**

Rebel

TASTE: eighth

BITE: fifth

AFTERTASTE: fifth

IQUAQUI: fourth

RANK: fifth

BEER 5

- Communist beer? we have to like it. they'll beat us
- Long and convoluted like Dan's Moms dick.
- The girl across from me gets an F.
- Geez us Christ. Did you guys try to find the absolutely worst beers for this tasting?
- Tastes like Hotpants.

BEER 6

- The leprachon told me it was goooooo
- Hubba Hubba! AaaaaGAh! WeeWhew! YeeHaw!
- Dark and bubbly, this is the Steve Urkell of post-soviet brews. Needs suspenders and more alcohol.
- I have a boner
- That was delicious. Like Josef Stalin himself is blowing in my ear
- OOH! This beer is as tight and creepy as John Basedow's Abs.

You called it: "This beer is like, Whoa."

Actually called: **Topvar**

TASTE: first

BITE: first

BEER 8

- TASTES LIKE FUN
- Ah! The Cops!!!
- Please no more commies.
- eeehhh!! Give me my WHITE RUSSIAN.
- My anus is bleeding! are the cops here? I HAVE ID!!
- Eye of the tiger MoFo's!!
- We have the bomb. Me. I am the bomb.

You called it: Optimism

Actually called: **Rycerskie**

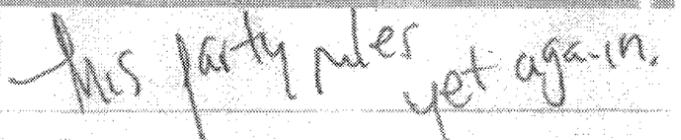
TASTE: third

BITE: second

AFTERTASTE: fourth

IQUAQUI: third

RANK: third



THE WUSB TOP 30 ALBUMS FOR THE WEEK OF 1/26/04

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Kid 606 - Kill Sound Before Sound Kills You
 King Tubby - The Roots Of Dub/Dub From The Roots
 Ghost - Hypnotic Underworld
 John Vanderslice - Cellar Door
 Dufus - 1:3:1
 Metal Urbain - Anarchy In Paris
 Hella - The Devil Isn't Red
 Mice Parade - Obrigado Saudade
 Matthew Dear - Leave Luck To Heaven
 Sigmatropic - 16 Haiku And Other Stories
 Eltro - Past And Present Futurists
 Weird War - If You Can't Beat 'Em, Bite 'Em
 Adventure Time - Dreams Of Water Themes
 Ani Difranco - Educated Guess
 Her Space Holiday - The Young Machines
 Horrorpops - Hell Yeah
 Rocky Horror Punk Rock Show - Various Artists
 Homosexuals - Homosexuals Record
 Back In Baroque: - The String Tribute To Ac/Dc Various Artists
 Fantomas - Delirium Cordia
 Twine - Twine
 Karminsky Experience Inc - The Power Of Suggestion
 Lcd Soundsystem - Yeah (Stupid Version) / Yeah (Pretentious Mix) [Cd5]
 Jaylib - Champion Sound
 Dani Siciliano - Likes...
 Lisa Gerrard And Patrick Cassidy - Immortal Memory
 Notwist - Different Cars And Trains
 Electrelane - The Power Out
 Kwisp - Teriyaki Vest Odyssey
 Sun Ra - Piano Recital Teatro La Fenice

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TOP 5 NEW ADDITIONS

Electrelane - The Power Out
 Savath & Savalas - Apropa't
 Dani Siciliano - Likes...
 The Opus - Breathing Lessons
 Willowz - The Willowz

COMPILED BY WUSB'S QUINN HANRATTY
 PAGE CREATED BY SAM GOLDMAN

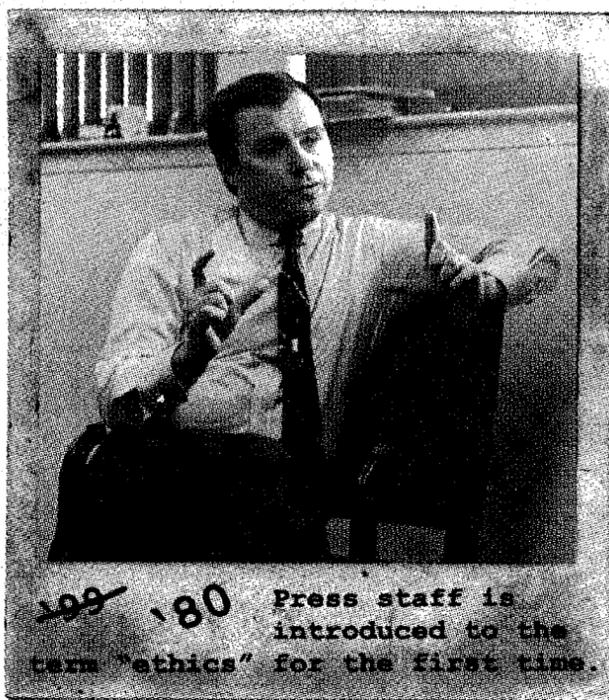
A Pictorial History of The Stony Brook Press



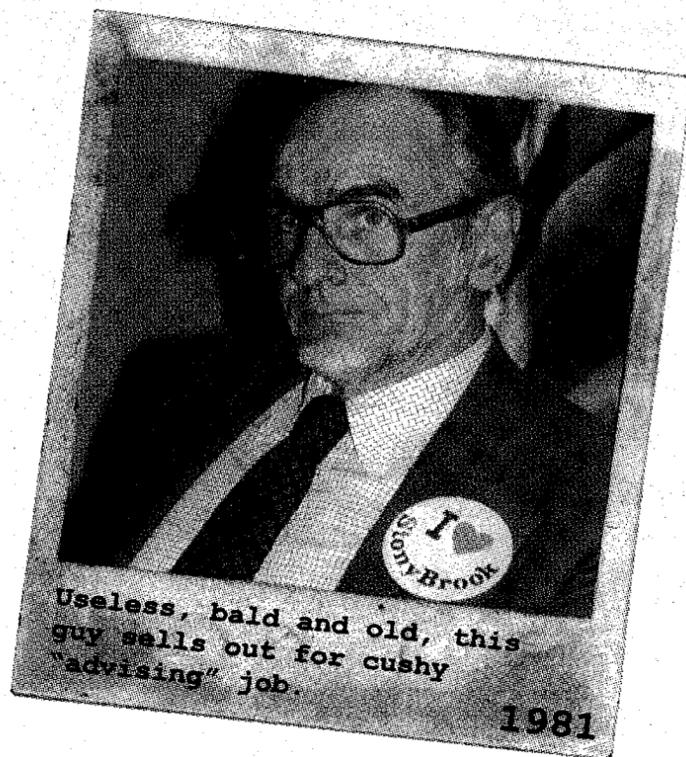
Not-yet formed SB Press merely a peverted twinkle in Statesman's eye. Fred Preston truly happy. 1978



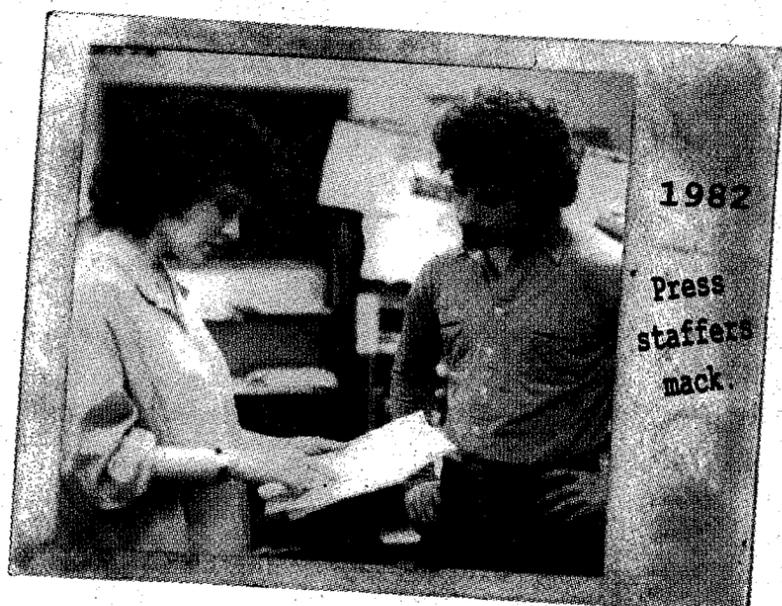
Stony Brook Press has only original thought. 1979



1979-80 Press staff is introduced to the term "ethics" for the first time.



Useless, bald and old, this guy sells out for cushy "advising" job. 1981



1982 Press staffers mack.

The history of the Press is a long and convoluted one indeed. We would like to include every picture the Press has ever taken, but that would be a good five or six pages long. Instead we have scoured our archives and just chosen the cream of the crop. The selection process for these pictures was a long and arduous journey but we feel that each one gives the best summary of that year's events.

Enjoy! But don't piss us off or we will slap you in the ear until you pass out!! You think we're playing games?!? We are NOT playing games!



Cooooool!

1992



'93 Corpulent fatty fat she-male, "Chubs McCheeseOnThat" found to be brood mother of Press staff.

happy halloweeeeeeeen 1994!



Staff finds fountain of youth and throws huge, super-fun Halloween party with cupcakes and candy and ponies and no parents allowed!

The Press bites... Psyche!



Moses declares Press issue "funniest Goddamn thing" he's ever read. Dies next day of massive stroke at age 2563. '95

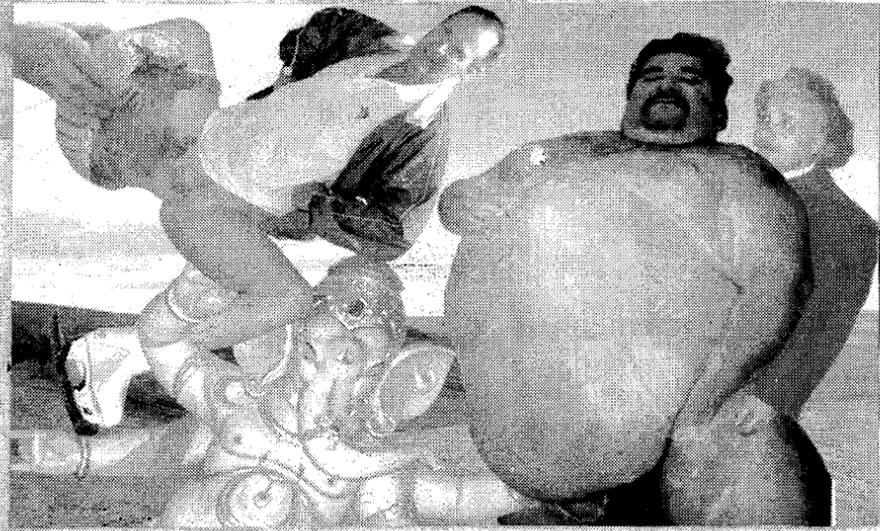


'96 Stereotypical Italian moms with rolling pins found to be "funny as a Goo-gatz!"

WORD!



THIS BABY EXPLODES!
1997



Press discovers Photoshop and **EVERYBODY FUCKS EVERYBODY!** 1998

PRESS



Sixteen consecutive issues from 1983 found to divulge the pronunciation of our Lord's one, true name.

1984



Editorial board disrobes and creates Press staff of 2004... expeditiously!



Entire Press e-board masters double fakey nollie reversal.

'85

MINT!

Totally Tubular!

Where's My Two Dollars!!



'86 Through drunken haze, Press realizes that they are a newspaper... and quickly relapses.



'87 Press finds cure for cancer but erases from content for tasteless ass-joke.



'88 In the Cold War spirit, Press outspends Russian Club by purchasing an exorbitant quantity of fireworks.

In Stony Brook Press, Smirnoff Yakov's you!



'89 All executive editors found to be just dead bodies animated by the immortal spirit of Boutros Boutros Ghali.

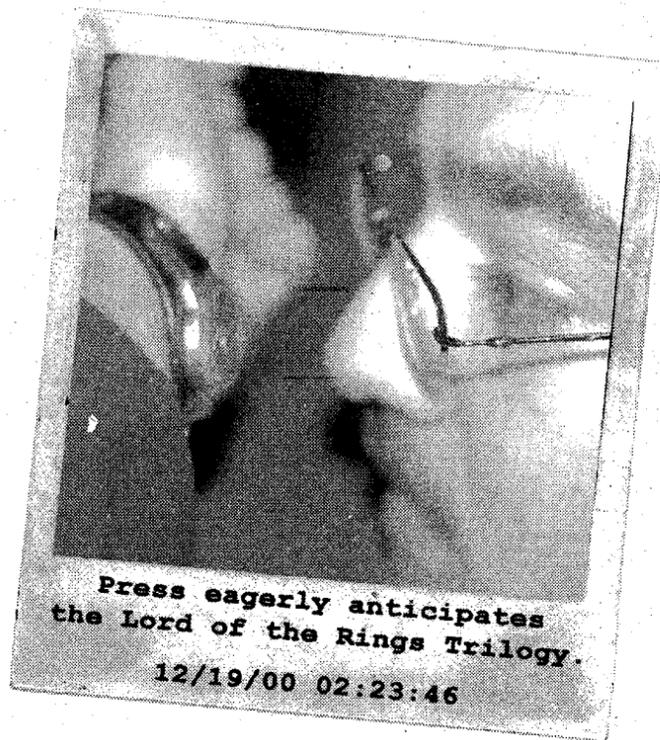
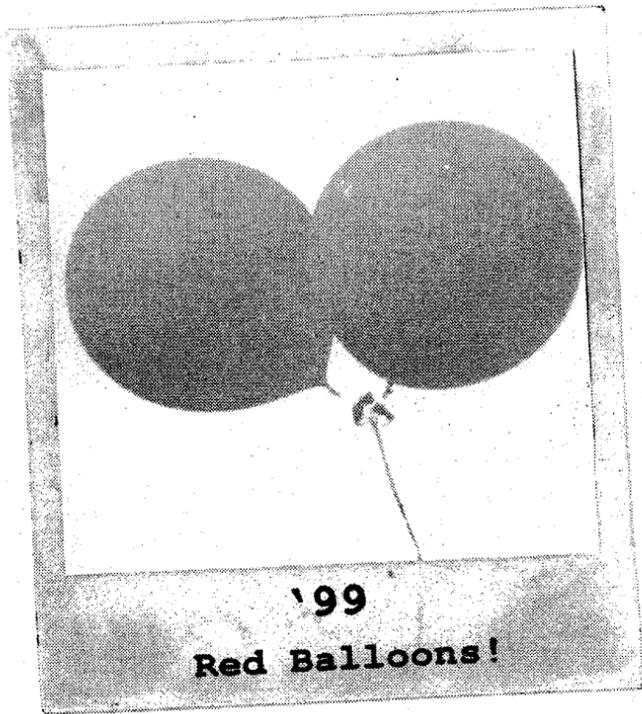


'90 Small Mexican brass section locked in press office dies of starvation. Jose, Angel, and Hector are in our hearts.

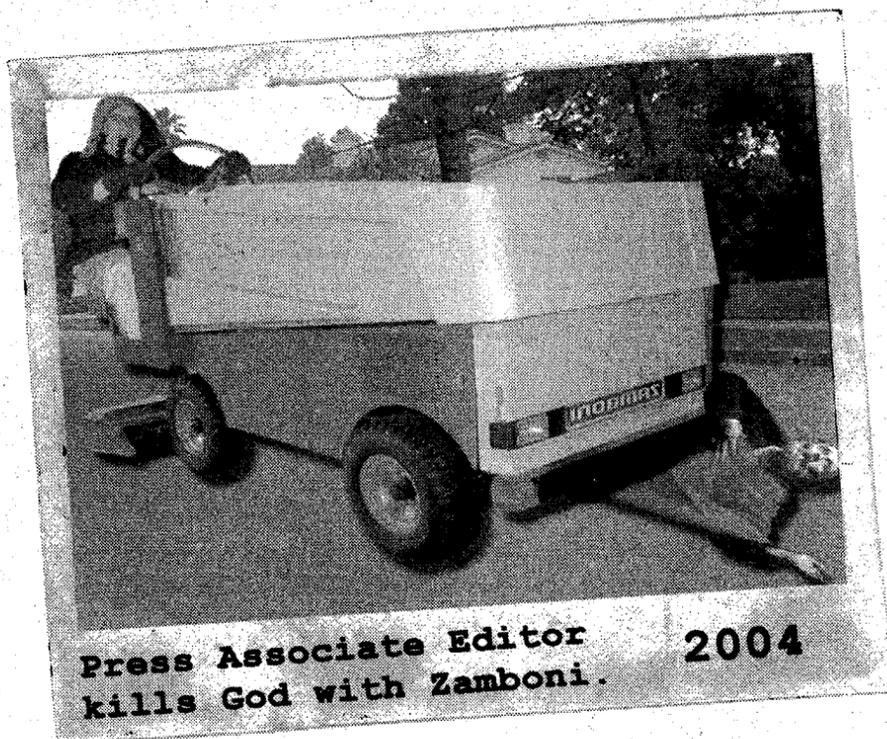
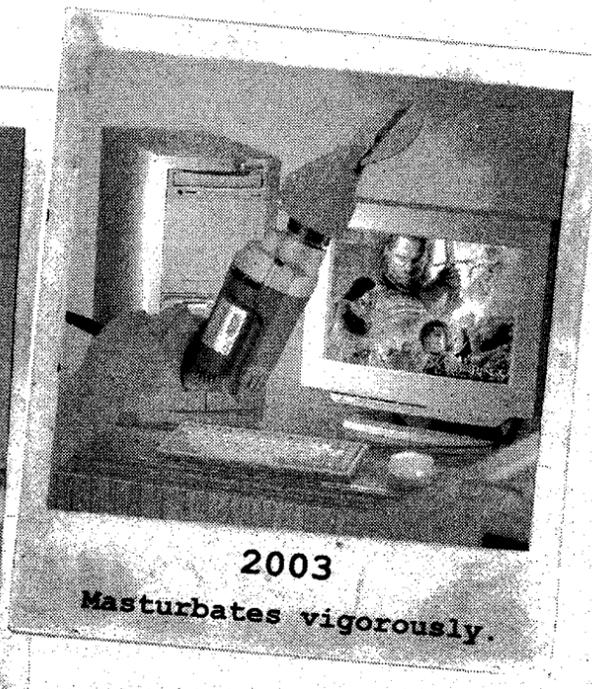
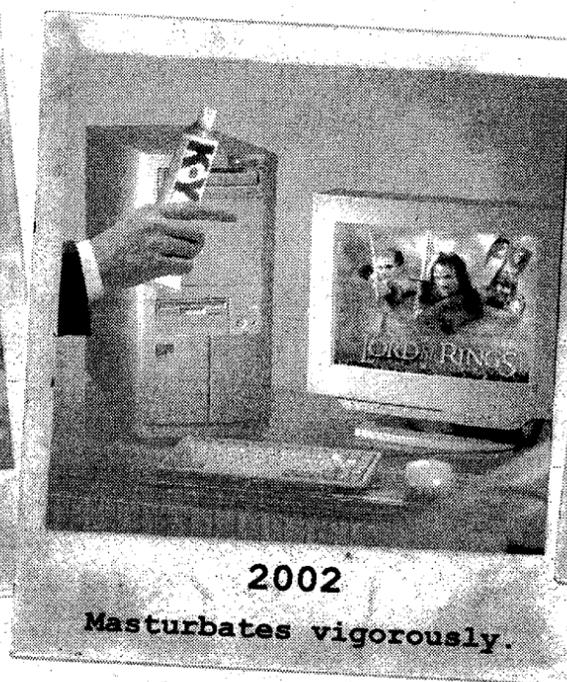
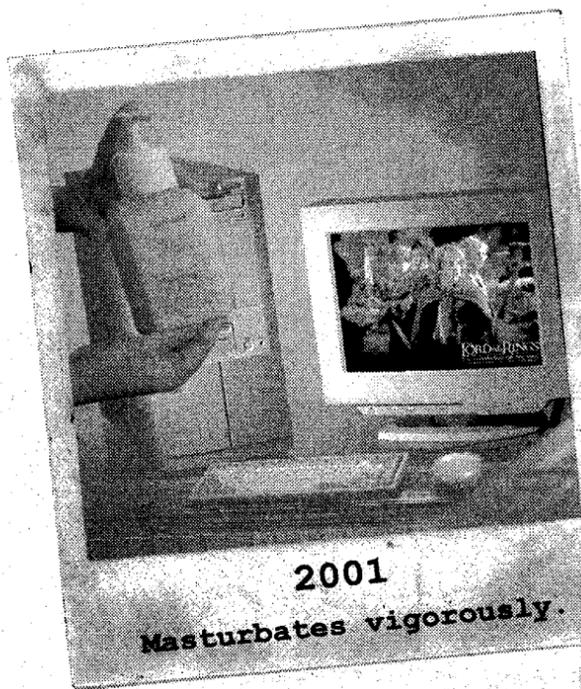


First Press member dies. Sends bitterly sarcastic postcard from hell.

'91



To infinity and beyond!!



The Stony Brook Press has seen a lot. We have come a long way since our first ~~publica publi~~ issue some 25 years ago but at heart, we are still the same ~~hardworking dependable~~ phat paper.

We've changed offices and thrown up on ourselves a lot. Not to mention pretty much every single Executive Editor in Press history has been arrested at some point. But praise ~~God~~ Gaia Buddha Allah Vishnu beer for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

For now, my friends... Good luck, and ~~God~~ do speed.

up. I don't
anymore...you
25 is

SBDV Festival

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
(Deadline: February 15th 2004)



Don't leave it on the
Bottom of your pile.
get your application at
www.sbdvfestival.org

The Friskie Powder Conspiracy

By Mike Billings

"Where is the dope coming into?" It was this phrase, uttered unenthusiastically by Dolph Lundgren in 1989's *The Punisher*, which defined a generation of action movies. From the 70's to the 90's, countless films revolved around elaborate drug deals involving ridiculous amounts of cocaine. In a way, this is understandable. At that time, most Americans seemed to have a palpable fear and misunderstanding of drugs. There was a perception that every street corner contained at least one easily accessible and sleazy purveyor of Blow, and this attitude was reflected by the heavy media coverage of the various activities of drug cartels.

Recently, however, times have changed. Back when these media portrayals were popular, everyone needed an outside source of Wacky Dust because it was so hard to come by. Demand was high, supply was limited, and business was good for those selling Columbian Snow. Today, the cameras no longer watch the pusher; in fact, he is all but extinct. This is of course due to the bizarre weather phenomenon the world has experienced as of late. For the past months, pure Aunt Nora has been pouring out of the skies at an alarming rate.

Indeed, the fact that nature has suddenly begun to spew forth mountains of Yeyo has obviously devastated the drug trade. While demand remains the same, the supply of Mama-Coca has become virtually limitless as it has blanketed the very ground we walk on. With that much Paradise on the ground, it is not surprising that people's daily lives have been affected. The inundated population seems to be able to control itself to a point, but once the streets run over with

Polvo Blanco, all bets are off. People refuse to go to work; opting rather to stay at home inhaling Peruvian Flake faster than John Goodman inhales flapjacks at a breakfast buffet. Classrooms remain empty as first graders lock themselves in their rooms and snort Nose Candy off of their math homework with rolled-up Pokemon cards. Some sad individuals even go so far as to scour the streets in modified trucks with a large scooping device attached to the front in an obvious attempt to abscond with the Toot that has fallen onto the road.

Although these are shocking developments, the real question is "why?" It was only months ago that the fertile earth remained untainted by the ivory fingers of the White Mosquito. People attended their jobs, kids went to school, Zip was purchased on the street, and life was normal. Why the sudden change? Who benefits

from such a widespread availability of Burnese? Certainly, the general population benefits. With Billy Hoke piling up around them, people have no need for the inflated prices that the dealer charged in years past. This Candy Cane maelstrom, however, is far too complicated for the general populace to initiate. The one man with both the means and the motive to perpetrate this flood of Racehorse Charlie is comic book icon Stan Lee.

When all of the implications are uncovered, the culprit is obvious. What happens when oceans of Merck drop from the heavens? For one thing, anyone involved in any level of drug sales, like the dealers and importers, go out of business. No more speedboats with shifty men in Hawaiian shirts will be docking at the pier, no more drug mules with balloons full of Carrie

stuffed into their rectums will be awkwardly waddling through airport security checks, and no more middle aged men hanging around elementary school playgrounds passing out marshmallow peeps laced with Hooter. In fact, people will have no need for dealers of any sort considering the unlimited supply of Henry VIII.

Another side effect of the abundance of Perico is that people will experience an inflated sense of happiness and invincibility. No one will feel like going to work, and the population will therefore encounter more leisure time than ever before. With all of this free time, movie ticket sales will skyrocket. The key, however, is that no one wants to see action films centered around drug busts anymore. Since dealers and importers no longer exist in reality, their on-screen drama has no merit, and the people lose interest. So what will people be seeing? Stan Lee believes he has the answer.

In Stan's mind, the movie-going public will uniformly abandon traditional drug-centered action films and turn exclusively to comic book movies to pass the time. In the presence of all this Star-Spangled Powder, real life becomes bereft of drama, making comic book fantasy the only interesting alternative left on the cinematic landscape. Once this happens, the power-hungry Lee will be able to maintain a diet comprised solely of 100-dollar bills, gold bullion, and diamonds. Lee will have the ability to produce films about any Marvel creation he wishes, manufacturing an environment where New Warriors and Kickers Inc. make hundreds of millions of dollars.

Simply by increasing the supply of Serpico 21, Stan Lee ensures that his comic book movie empire makes him a billionaire. There is no way to tell how he made this happen, but this is the same man who indirectly caused several generations of young men to ignore the opposite gender so they could debate whether Gwen Stacy was already dead on the way down or if the webbing snapped her neck. One simply can't determine how Lee does what he does. All there is to do is go outside and enjoy the Frisco Special.



Hey, did you hear about The Press?

The Press? Yeah, I heard about them.

Well?

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

Really?!?

Word yo. Raccoons.

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

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

Memoirs of a White Slaver

By Maury Hirschklorn

You've seen catalogs showing photos of beautiful single women from other countries that guarantee that those women will be married to you if you paid their costs.

I ran such a service and put out similar catalogs in the 1990's. My catalogs were unromantically entitled, "Single Women From Eastern Europe and the former USSR."

This is how I got involved in such a business: I volunteered to help the Five Town Disabled Singles Club in Cedarhurst, Long Island. My main job was to transport Susan Katz to the club and back. Katz had multiple sclerosis and was in a wheelchair.

At the club, I met Veronica Mohr, a quadriplegic. Mohr wanted to start a flier for the club, and I agreed to assist her. I got the idea to find disabled single pen pals in other countries and put information about them in our flier.

From the library, I found books that had names and addresses of newspapers in other countries, and I put advertisements for single disabled pen pals in those newspapers. Some foreign disabled people responded to me, and I put that information in our flier. However, nobody from our club responded to those people, and the flier ended because of lack of interest.

So I corresponded with the people. Eventually, I stopped writing to them. Since the letters were so interesting, I put "not disabled" pen pal advertisements into newspapers in Eastern Europe and the former USSR to hear about what life was like in those countries. I was particularly interested in people's experiences during the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe.

Soon, I only responded to single women because they seemed the most interesting, and their friendship and companionship helped with my loneliness. Because there were too many women for me to write to, I put photos and descriptions of the women in catalogs and put advertisements into American newspapers for single men to write to them.

Thus, my pen pal business was born. If a man wanted to write to one or some of the women listed, he paid me a nominal fee to cover advertising costs. The women were from almost every country in Eastern Europe, and most countries that were part of the former USSR. All the women understood and wrote

in English, and many of them were professionals such as medical doctors or engineers. I included women from countries that no other catalog had, such as Yugoslavia and its former republics. The prettiest women were mostly from the Czech Republic and Poland.

I had no major problems except that some men complained that some women didn't write to them. I discovered that the main reason behind this was because either the men didn't write properly and misspelled many of the words in their letters or because they wrote about sex in their first letters to the women. Because of that, I sent the men an example of what their first letter to the women should look like. From some of the women, the main complaint was that some of the men were twice their age.

I was surprised by how many lonely single men there were in this country. Also, many of the men who responded were prisoners, but I couldn't help them because most of them couldn't send me money. At least two of the men married women they found through my catalog.

Both the women were from Romania. Now, they live in this country. I know about them because the men sent me letters describing their experiences and sent photos of them with their new wives.

One of those letters from James P. read: "Dear Maury, Last June 1992, I received several names from your correspondence service... One of them, Corina F. from Bucharest, Romania has captured my heart. She is a jewel beyond all costs. This is my experience: I wrote a brief letter to Corina shortly after getting the package from you... Her letter was encouraging, she liked the fact I was a medical doctor also... [Carina was a medical doctor too.] When I saw her at the airport, I thought she was so beautiful. It took only two days for me to decide, and I asked her to marry me. She said yes immediately..."

James P.'s letter continues: "I should

explain why I wanted to find a spouse outside the USA. I have been an atheist for many years now and thought I would be more likely to find an atheist woman in Europe than here. Also, it seems to me that most American women are so fickle. When life starts to become hard work, they start looking for another man who can give them the easy life. It seems to me that they are never satisfied. I think that Eastern European women will appreciate what a man provides them..."

Another letter from Gary A. read: "Dear Maury, I wanted to drop you a line to let you know about the experiences I had with a woman I met through your service. Her name is Graziella P., and she lived in Medias, Romania. In March 1993, I went to Romania and met my special girl. We got along very well. Graziella was a beautiful, splendid, young lady and was a joy being with her. She took good care of me and assisted me in having a pleasant time visit in her city. Her family was very hospitable and giving. I knew I was in love with Graziella one afternoon when we were sitting in a small Hungarian restaurant having a delicious dessert. I knew my life would not be complete without this lady to love and share my life with..."

Because I was losing money, I ended my pen pal business after a few years. But single men, mostly in prison, kept writing to me years after.

Even though I was lonely and single, I decided not to visit or marry any of the women I wrote to because of the risk. It costs thousands of dollars and tons of paperwork to bring a foreign wife here. You have to provide birth certificates, physical exam reports, lab tests, biographical forms, etc. I had feared that once the woman is here and gets her citizenship, she'd disappear.

But I advise other lonely, single men to give it a try. But they should first write to men who married women through that service to find out if it's legitimate and what's expected of them.

Single Women from Eastern Europe And the former USSR

See the January 1992 and 1993 issues which included women from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia.

List the 1-digit number & the name of each woman you have chosen to write to on the enclosed order form. Send that a \$10.00 to the name & address below. I will send you a copy of her letter & her address. Send \$10.00 for each additional woman that you would like to write to. Or for \$30.00, I will send you copies of 5 women's letters & addresses. Or for \$65.00, I will send you the addresses only of all the women listed.



Group about life in Eastern Europe & the former USSR. Find a man friend (as possible) & write. All the women listed are single & experienced & ready to write to a man. All the women's letters are current & enclosed to this catalog. All the women can read & write English.

Maury Hirschklorn
925 Fulton St.
Farmingdale, NY 11735

THE COVER OF A MAIL-ORDER BRIDE CATALOG
Courtesy of Maury Hirschklorn.



THE INSIDE OF A MAIL-ORDER BRIDE CATALOG
Courtesy of Maury Hirschklorn.



KORN - TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

by Mike Fabbri

THE PLAN:

Ok, so here's the plan: I have a pair of headphones, a computer, a brand new KORN CD, and a bottle of Jack Daniel's. Only really, really good and fluffy things can come out of this endeavor. So if you guys and gals are ready, so am I. Here we go.

(1) **RIGHT NOW** - This track makes me happy I'm drinking whiskey. A familiar old school KORN sound. Not as raw and dirty as any of their songs off their first album, but still raw and dirty as fuck. This song is a fantastic way to open a KORN album and should be duly noted by someone, not me of course.

(2) **BREAK SOME OFF** - Another track with some of the old school KORN sounds. Granted, there is definitely the presence of the softer and cleaner KORN sounds also in the track, but that can almost be completely neglected. This is another good track for the beginning of the album.

(3) **COUNTING ON ME** - Opens up nice, then all of a sudden, it gets really shitty, and then just stays shitty. Nuff said.

(4) **HERE IT COMES AGAIN** - This track didn't even open up nice, it just seems to want to be useless garbage through and through.

(5) **DEEP INSIDE** - A track that I have found to be amazingly mediocre. Not good or bad, but right in the middle. Completely and utterly ordinary.

(6) **DID MY TIME** - A track that has a very good melody, but in the end it just ends up sucking a whole lot of...of...of...of something that a good song would not be sucking any of.

(7) **EVERYTHING I'VE KNOWN** - I should have skipped this track, my god why did I not skip this track?

(8) **PLAY ME** featuring NAS - ok, so if you ever had to wonder what NAS' voice sounded like over heavy guitar riffs, stop wondering, it's terrible. It's horrible, it's atrocious, horrifying, awful, dreadful, (at this point I'm just using the Microsoft Word Thesaurus), horrendous, appalling, etc.

etc..

(9) **ALIVE** - Starts out with some damn good potential. Seems to be holding onto said potential. Seems to be making good use of the potential, and it just crapped out at 1 minute and 3 seconds. The rest of the 3 minutes and 21 seconds turn out to be utter shit in comparison to the beginning.

(10) **LET'S DO THIS NOW** - Something that must be said, no other band has ever or ever will make bagpipes seem like the most hardcore instrument that has ever existed. This track as a whole is tight as fuck. It knows when to grab you and kick you in the head and when to let you take a breath, anxiously awaiting for the next blow.

(11) **I'M DONE** - Utter garbage.

(12) **Y'ALL WANT A SINGLE** - Fantastic opening, great melody, superb lyrics, and hard as fuck. This is a good track. It almost makes me misty eyed. Somewhere in the middle of the track, it gets really weak for reasons unbeknownst to me, though it does finish up nicely.

(13) **WHEN WILL THIS END** - The title of the track basically encompasses my feelings towards it. It is a really drawn out track that is unnecessarily pointless.

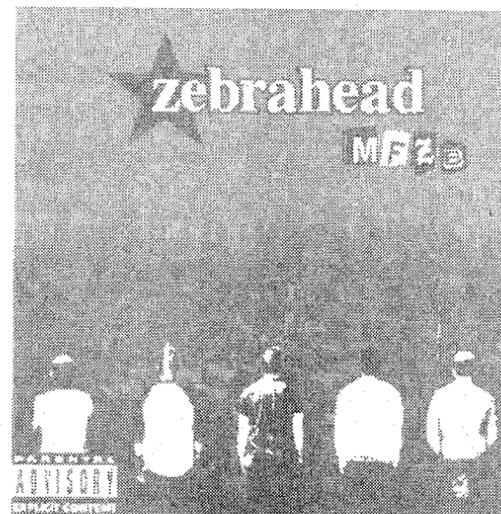
Conclusions and delusions:

So, here are my final thoughts of the album as a whole. Every album has its good tracks and its bad tracks. There is no way of avoiding it. KORN's latest album is definitely a fine example of this. If the good outweighs the bad in this particular case, it's definitely up for discrepancy. If you are an old school KORN fan, you probably won't like this album. Though I suppose if you heard anything that's been on the radio by KORN in the last 5 years or so, you probably would have got this connotation anyways. If you are just a die-hard KORN fan true and true, it does not matter what I say because you will probably pick up the album regardless. And if you are a new school KORN fan (god forgiving), you'll probably like the album as a whole. Rate it yourself and then decide whether it's worth the \$15 or not. Well, I'm out of whiskey, which means I'm also out of reviewage, so until next time kiddies, same bat time, same bat channel.

Zebrahead: MFZB

By Phil Heijmans

As the nausea settles and the mass media scene moves further and further away from the pop-punk stage (Good Charlotte, Simple Plan) and closer towards a somewhat less bland style of music, with the erupting, overly aggressive Indie-emo-garage scene, with bands such as Thursday; Zebrahead, with their third release MFZB (released on Sony Ent.), works as a good



mediation on popular music between the two genres.

It's almost impossible these days to see punk bands we once knew stick to what they're good at in light of the interest of increasing popularity and inevitably, high-profile record label signings. Although Zebrahead is no exception, the transition in musical styling from its previous album, Playmate of the Year, is a small one. The band relies on its complexity and Linkin Park's soliloquies (in a manner of reflection) in its vocal backings to give its punk base a texture unlike any other. MFZB is a 2003 release which, although more reliant on the catchiness of its melodies in an effort to attract new listeners, is still fit by the standards of genuinely good punk variation music.

Particularly impressive are the songs "Blur" and "The Set-up" which, although lyrically nothing special (much like the rest of the album, and pretty much the rest of the genre), bring a lightened spirit that makes objectifying befouled relationships aggressively and overly fun. Furthermore, the fast paced and loud nature of the music is enough to make you air-drum with your tongue sticking out long enough to embarrass yourself in front of your mom; that's right, folks.

In addition to the music, the album comes complete with a CD book filled with hard to read handwritten lyrics, which are always fun to try and figure out, and a "CD Extra" which allows you to access various extras if placed in a CD Rom. There is nothing particularly worth looking at on this extra and it is pretty much worthless, but then again, so is Sony.

All of that aside, the album itself is one of the best I've heard in a while, and considering the degree of difficulty in finding good music these days, I am notably impressed. If you appreciate good rock music, you'll appreciate Zebrahead... and trust me, kids, you'll look real cool blasting this down your hallway after quiet hours. Now if that's not punk, what is?

More CD Reviews on page 39!

Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

They say whatever happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. But you can't hold on to the smoke-screen, when the underbelly is so steamy and a sex column needs to be written. So here's some true tales from the land of high-rolling fantasies and no-luck nightmares.

Over winter break I went to visit my friend Brendan, after not seeing him for something like 5 or 6 years. This is the same guy who stole credit card numbers from patrons of his in-laws Bed & Breakfast, using them to access porn on the Internet. This is also the same guy who unsheathed his manhood and propositioned me at his dear sister's funeral — said it would make him feel better. I told him it was in bad taste, especially considering his wife and baby boy were fast asleep in the next room. Yes, it's safe to say that better judgment has eluded Brendan on many an occasion; he is certainly the horniest person I know — cock and balls above even me.

My strange trip actually began at the airport where I was carrying some contraband across the border. I know what you're going to say, but come on! I don't need the added hassle of trying to procure anything while I'm in Sin City, it's far more economical to simply bring it along. I was stopped, however, by three people staring earnestly at my backpack under the x-ray machine, probing and scrutinizing the hollow outline of everything I own. A short-haired safety inspector ushered me to a separate dissecting table, barking about a knife, unzipped my bag, grabbed the illegal substance and began waving it around wildly, apparently not sure of what she had. I realized she was referring to my Boy Scout knife, which I had brought along for protection, so I told her it was in the other compartment. She replaced the canister. Disaster averted, but knife confiscated. All in all, a small price to pay.

Off to Reno first. Sure, it's the 'biggest little city in the world,' but my memories are of a lot of cowpokes and Hemi's, sheep dips and smog checks. I saw a 'Kill Bush' sticker on a streetlight that made me smile. Even way off the strip, you can gamble anywhere. In the gro-

cery store, airport, dentist, even in the hospital ... something to do while waiting to take care of that slot-machine-induced Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. I also remember losing a pool bet and baring my breasts to the bar, to the sound of much applause and whistles. (For my win, I would have seen some dude's Prince Albert. Maybe next time.)

Half-way into my Nevada stay, my cousin and his business partner picked me up from Brendan's house to go to Lake Tahoe. They had just finished designing a Biker Girls Gone Wild porn site, and as an additional perk, their boss set us all up in his swanky condo; stocked with assorted liquors and every condiment, fireplace, three balconies, etc. The sweet water of Lake Tahoe is amazing; so pristine, with black sand, hazy, translucent blue mountains in the distance, and pine cones as big as my head. And with an elevation over 9,000 feet, the air is so thin, you're high all the time. Besides sledding down a full-scale mountain, the time in Tahoe was spent storing up energy for Vegas and being content to shamelessly wallow in my own putrescence.

Finally, on to Vegas, which I had been waiting for nearly my entire life. It is simply, incredibly, depraved; a modern day Sodom and Gomorrah on acid. You can simultaneously get a tattoo, get married by Elvis in a drive-thru, play Keno, and get your hair done all in one sitting. And everything was saturated with light and color — of course that could have been the worm I ate, at the bottom of the Mescal Tequila bottle.

After the mescaline/tequila mix fully hit my system, I don't remember much streaming reality, but I do remember snapshots of time. The strip clubs, first of all. Spice World, which I learned is the lowest of the heap, helps girls start off and earn money to buy breast implants. But, Jesus tap-dancing Christ, the girls at Wild Orchid were absolutely impeccable. Not a busted one among them. If I remember correctly, they were really quite breathtaking.

I ran into the fabled Vegas video cam-

eras in the bathroom doorknobs. Again, this might have been a hallucination. But I definitely remember when I entered Circus Circus. Two daredevil motor-cross titans were spiraling in manic separate cycles inside a tiny steel ball above me that kept wiggling off the protective gray mats underneath. Gas, lots of gas. Noises all around — someone just got a pay-off. I played roulette and craps and — 'Baby needs a new pair of shoes' — lost a little money, but that is the way of the great Vegas magnet. I had no idea what time it was the whole time I was there. No clocks are allowed, and you can't see daylight or any signs of the great outdoors.

I went to some shows, and got lucky behind the big, red, velvet curtain, stage left, during Licorice Ass and the Torpedoes Spectacle, a dingy low-budget show next to Elvis in Hawaii Spirit of the King. I saw over a thousand soaring fountains fill Bellagio's lake. And the most extreme and bizarre "ZAMORA," the Torture King, famous for his ability to endure great pain. The sign promised ... feats so bizarre and unusual you won't believe your eyes. WARNING not for the squeamish or faint of heart. But the show was just some various body skewerings and electrocutions. Nothing too bad. I also stumbled into Gladys Knight at the Flamingo, the all-male revue Thunder From Down Under, and Dr. Naughty: X-Rated Comedy Hypnotist, who, thank god, did not pick me out of the crowd, considering how fucked up I was.

Not to leave out my spiritual side, I attended a Buddhist Service at some point. I remember incense, candles, and a 'Happy, New Year sermon from Eikyoji Temple in Japan via wide-screen TV. Live. I learned a lot — Happy Year 2489 Stony Brook, enjoy the year of the monkey.

For any questions, comments, or just a kick in the ass, e-mail AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com

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Pearl Jam - Lost Dogs
by Melanie Donovan

After so many years, you expect a band to come out with a "greatest hits" CD or DVD special as many bands are doing at the moment. Pearl Jam took another approach by releasing their two-disc CD set, *Lost Dogs*, of rare songs and B-sides. With 16 songs on the first CD and 14 on the other, *Lost Dogs* is loaded with its share of "lost" hits as well as numerous misses.

Track one on the first CD, called "All Night," had the original Pearl Jam grungy feeling to it. Its heavy sound makes me disappointed to hear songs like "Hitchhiker" and "Don't Gimme no Lip" which dabble with sound and voice experimentation (Binaural outtakes). This album definitely skips around when it goes back and forth from its "back in the day" feeling to its "what the hell

was Eddie thinking" feeling. Tracks "Alone" and "In the Moonlight" have the down and dirty down-tuned guitar and Eddie's ripping voice. Songs like "You" and "Leaving Here" are catchy but nothing special. "Grimmie out of control" and "Whale Song" really make me want to be deaf, and I see why these two were not chosen for final PJ albums. In fact, these two songs should not be anywhere near the Pearl Jam name for they would disgrace it. "Hang-ten outta Santa Fe when surf comes out tomorrow lets go! / And he's always practicing his cowabunga call. / Cowabunga!" are just some lyrics from "Grimmie out..."

There were quite a few songs from disc one that stuck out from the rest. "Down" has interesting lyrics with a bit of country style music, "Down. Fall by the wayside no getting out. / Down. Cry me a river dried up and dammed." The track called "Sad" got to me after a few listenings. I especially liked the way the music and the emotion of the song fit perfectly together. This also goes for the song "Hold On," which touches on the emotion of everyday life. The last track on the first disc is an old favorite, "Yellow Ledbetter," reminding you just that no matter how hard you try, you cannot understand a damn word Eddie is singing.

Disc two gives way to a whole cluster of deep songs showing the band's emotional side. The first track, "Fatal," is slow-paced with slurred words, but Ed pulls it off quite well. The next couple of songs are also slow and long-winded but their lyrics and flow make them beautiful. There are a few

Christmas oriented songs made for their fan club Christmas singles; my favorite out of these is "Let Me Sleep." The music is quite lovely and the words are moving, "Oh when I was a kid oh how magic it seemed / Oh please let me sleep it's Christmas time."

The last few songs go into no real category of their own; they're just kind of thrown in there. An oddly placed "Last Kiss" had its run on the air waves, but I think Eddie sums it up quite well in this quote: "We've done really well with teenage death songs." "Dirty Frank" was written around the time when Pearl Jam was on tour with Red Hot Chili Peppers, which gives it that chili-pepper-esque sound. Then an instrumental, "Brother," definitely shows that it is an outtake from the album *Ten* with its guitar riffs and solos. Then there's the strangest of them all, "Bee Girl," written about the dancing bee girl from Blind Melon's "No Rain" video, and that's all I have to say about that.

Finally we are left with a haunting hidden track, which is entitled "4/20/02," the date of Alice in Chains' lead singer Layne Staley's death. The song is just an electric guitar and Eddie Vedder pouring out his thoughts on Staley's drug use and the people who imitate him. "So sing just like him, f**kers. / It won't offend him. / just me, cause he is dead." The exposed pain of this song closes this set well. *Lost Dogs* is not just the rejected tracks for those die hard Pearl Jam fans who search far and wide for the unreleased songs, but a whole new album experience of its own.

The advertisement features a background image of a stack of DVD cases. One case is prominently displayed in the foreground, showing the text 'DVD' and 'ALL THE DVD'. In the background, a window with blinds is visible, and a piece of paper with the text 'up. I don't anymore...you' is pinned to it. The main text of the advertisement reads 'SB DV Festival' in a large, stylized font, followed by 'OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM' and '(Deadline: February 15th 2004)'. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'Don't leave it on the bottom of your pile. get your application at www.sbdvfestival.org'.

Don't leave it on the bottom of your pile.

get your application at
www.sbdvfestival.org

TOP TEN

Ways to Thank Santa for the Joys of Christmas

Battle of the Century

BATTLE OF THE CENTURY

VS

ORGY OF THE CENTURY

10 In The Butt

9 Whores

8 Make that showboatin' Rudolph not so pretty no more.

7 Take the holiday back from that jack-booted fascist, Jesus of Nazareth

6 Cookies and man-milk

5 Silence his frigid, nagging wife by forcibly inserting a rusty iron mace into her larynx

4 So much yeyo that no one in the North Pole is without a rolled up dollar bill and a hate filled libido

3 Cover up his past in the National Socialist Workers Party.

2 Burn the only existing photo of St. Nick in order to release his soul from this eternal hell of materialistic damnation

1 Find the cure to pus-filled testicular warts... quickly!

-If you rearrange the letters of the acronym, you get T-COB.

Although it is a good rapper name to boot, you have to first establish yourself as a no-nonsense, trick-ass bitch by getting shot in the face or something. T-t-t-t-t-T-COB!

-Catapulting diseased billy-goats over castle walls is an effective way to inflate the rate of infection among opponents.

-Your mom shows up and dies.

PRO

-If you rearrange the letters of the acronym, you get COOT, which sounds a lot like "cute," but in a playful, baby talk kind of way.

-Finally, a way to explore your bisexual curiosities without your roommate crying about his personal space.

-Anally penetrating diseased billy-goats is an effective way to inflate the adipose tissue among sexual partners.

-Your mom shows up and tries to put your naked body back from whence it came.

-Rape not so rapey if Madame Curie wants it. (You see, what's funny here is not rape. Instead, the humor lies in the transmutation of the noun into an adjective.)

-Disillusionment sets in when your lungs fill with blood from a spear to the throat. Oh wait, that's death. I meant death.

-The Press' fortnightly attempts are not funny in retrospect or as-you-read-it-spect, either.

-Unsuccessful campaign results in bumper of the century

CON

Funny in retrospect, but if you laugh during the orgy of the century, you can be sure as hell you're not invited to the next one.

-Disillusionment sets in when you realize that Charles DeGaulle's penis is far shorter than the 8" he's been bragging about.

-Successful coital escapades result in awkwardly scraping Calvin Coolidge's discarded seed off your lower back.

it's back!

Classifieds

Saucy Big-Shot Republican
seeks oil-rich mamacita to
subjugate; call me!
1-800-PlayGOP

Where are my drugs?
Call 1-800-Rush-4-Rush

Small blue midget in red
garb seeking smart-alecky
white boy to handle
Sector 2814 (that's behind
the chode).
Don't call me;
I'll find you.

Analingus?
Don't mind if I do!
1-800-USG-TakesIt

Not-Voltaire looking for
fan-girl goth chick. Must be
into swooning.
1-631-ThisIsVoltaire
(whoisGoth)

Maverick television station
seeks all-nude content!
boy-girl, girl-girl, boy-boy,
boy-boy-girl, boy-girl-girl,
girl-girl-girl,
boy-girl-sheep,
sheep-horse, we-don't-care!
Call SBUTV (7-2888)

Formerly Mohawked Managing
Editor of award-winning
newspaper looking for hot
beeyotches!
Email Lamppost1@netscape.net

Lonely "black" man seeks
others for games of hide-
and-seek. Over 12 need not
apply.
Call 1-800-Fun-W-Jacko

I have a huge selection of
hats and staffs and a
stylish "aged" look. My mom
named me John-Paul, but my
Cardinals and I have this
cute thing where we refer
to me only as "Gandalf the
Infallible." Looking for
foursome with three other
upstanding fellows who get
down on salvation.
1-800-Vatican

Short, sweet and spicy
politican seeking dedicated
orthodontist to guide her
teeth through adolescence.
1-631-Icebreaker

For Sale:

- 2 Ambulances - "Like New"
 - 90,000 yds of Ace bandages
 - 8,364 gauze pads
 - 155 saline IV's
- Will trade for cash or
detailed life insurance
policy.
Dial 333.

I'm not going to lie.
This is Webster and I'm still
really small. Send cash. No
phone because they are
listening. Send cash and the
address to your comfy, heated
home. Just address envelope
to "Webster" and my dark,
chubby hands will somehow
find it.

Embattled Democrat former gov
seeks anger management
specialist. Yeeha!
1-800-ILuvDean.

Hey Girlfriend! Does Your Student Government Pass the Class or Have Its Thumb up Its Ass?

Answer These Next 10 Questions to Find Out!

1.) What would your Student Government do with \$2,000 of student money?

- a.) Throw a kickin' outdoor concert with hott local bands.
- b.) Bring in a sassy speaker on women's rights, Girl Power!
- c.) Blow it all on a pancake breakfast for themselves at IHOP!

2.) What would your Student Government do to commemorate student leadership on campus?

- a.) Invite a diverse group of student leaders campus-wide to a bitchin' congratulatory ceremony.
- b.) Publish an awesome newsletter giving a short synopsis of each student leader and their phat accomplishments.
- c.) Spend \$10,000 on a giant plaque recognizing only the Student Government's Presidents as true student leaders.

3.) How would your Student Government draft a budget during an interim period?

- a.) Wait for an elected Senate to be formed, organize a budget committee, and rock the vote on final budgetary changes.
- b.) Hold hearings with clubs and organizations to get the down low on their financial needs.
- c.) Have one grossly misinformed treasurer pull numbers out of his ass.

4.) After dissolving a corrupt, old Student Government how would they form a new one?

- a.) Hold campaigns across campus to spice up student involvement.
- b.) Make running for office a cinch for the average Joe (or Josephine, Girl Power!).
- c.) Give the old leaders new titles and call it a day.

5.) How would they get the word out about the new and improved Student Government?

- a.) Advertise for free with the hottest student media groups.
- b.) Dorm Storm!
- c.) Allocate \$20,000 to highlighters, change purses, and other useless paraphernalia with their logo all over it.

6.) What would your Student Government do if they discovered corruption in the ranks?

- a.) Bring it to the Judiciary Committee and let John Q. Law handle it!
- b.) Remove this bogus bozo from office for good and keep your records as tight as John Basedow's abs!
- c.) What's a corruption?

7.) How would your Student Government treat its Volunteer Ambulance Corps?

- a.) Really friggin' good.
- b.) Thank them for providing a mega-valuable service to the campus.
- c.) Hassle them with extraneous paperwork and withhold their funding until the miles of red tape are cleared up.

8.) How does the student body respond to the current Student Government President?

- a.) With the utmost respect.
- b.) A standing ovation, Girl Power!
- c.) BOOOOOOOOO!!

9.) What would the folks in charge say about their Constitution?

- a.) "Our Constitution is the mortar of this Government."
- b.) "This Constitution is for the students, by the students, and under no circumstances will it be forgotten!"
- c.) "We will not let the Constitution get in the way of our mission."

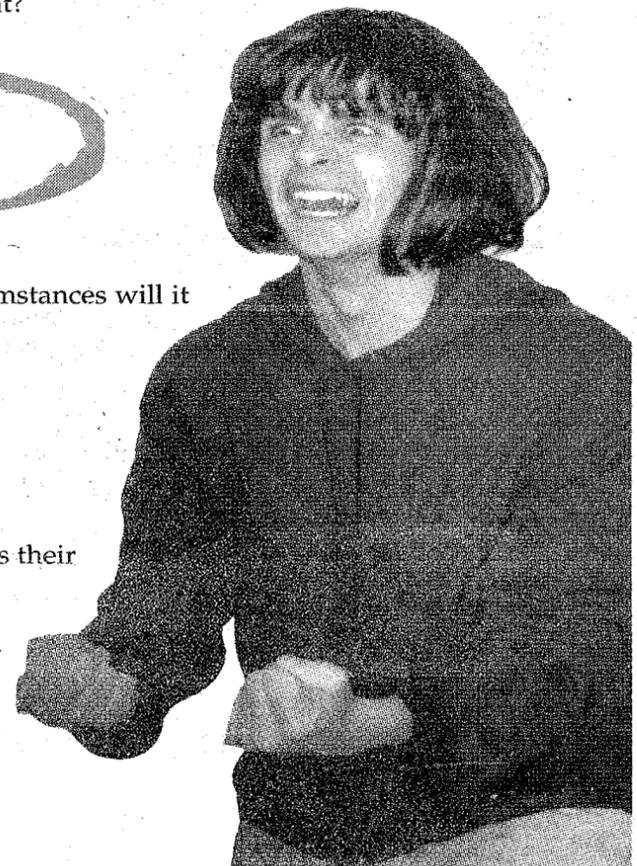
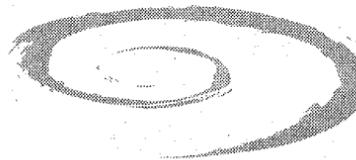
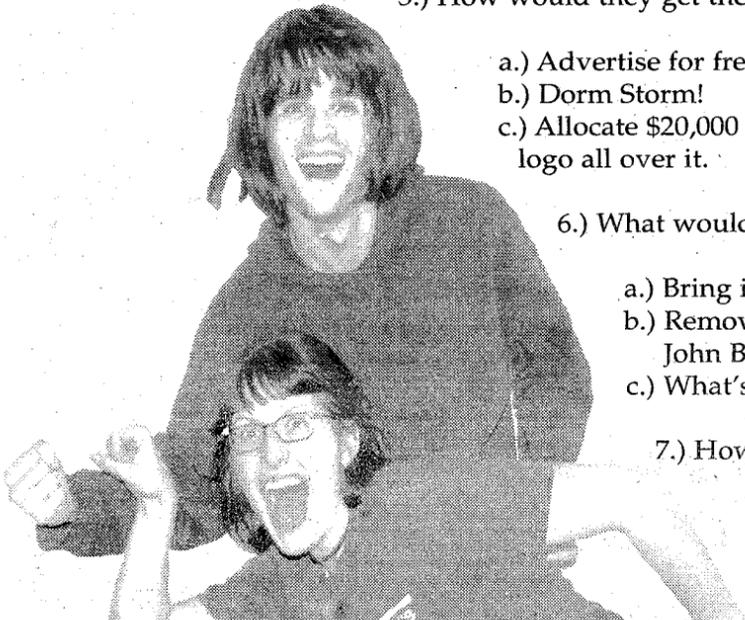
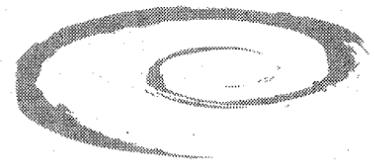
10.) How does the best paper on campus view the Student Government?

- a.) Cuts 'em a little slack because they're doing their best.
- b.) Tries to scrutinize, but finds nothing wrong, boo-yah!!!!!!
- c.) Is forced to produce page after page of obnoxious commentary because it is their journalistic and moral duty.

How Did Your Student Government Add Up?

- If you chose all A's, you can concentrate on better things like boys and shopping cause your SG is A-okay, Girl Power!
- If you chose all B's, your SG gets a 4.0, great job girl friend!
- If you chose all C's, you go to Stony Brook.

Girl Power!



THE COMICS SECTION

LUMINATIONS • Sam Goldman
TODAY'S TOPIC: EXCUSES

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | <p>Well, I'm always more cautious. But I will never stop helping and loving people the way Jesus said to.</p> |
| <p>He said, "Continue to love. Always love. Remember children. Imitate the children." *</p> <p><small>*Actual comments from MJ's 60 Minutes interview!!!!!!</small></p> | |

MORAL OF THE STORY:
 Some people are just sick in the head.

FIN

Photo Credits: CBS

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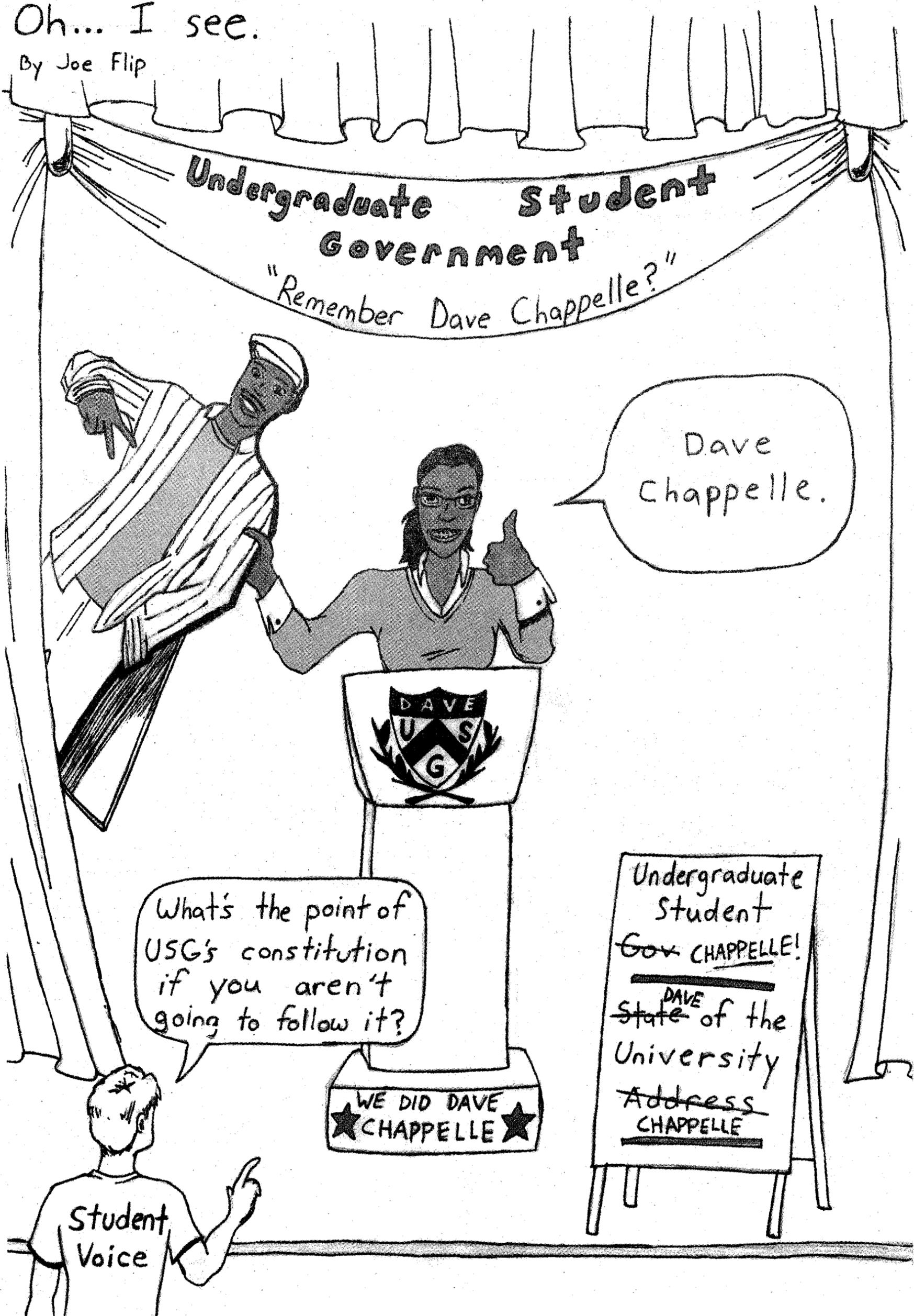
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| | |
|--|---|
| <p>This Valentine's Day Let That Special Person in Your Life Know They Rock!!!</p> <p>Sterling Silver Jewelry Shakespearian Love Mug Kama Sutra Pillow Cases Art Magnets, Candles Ugly Dolls (but they're really cute!)</p> <p>Shop Rock Candy For That Perfect Gift</p> | <p>Rock Candy Coupon</p> <p>20% Off Any Longsleeve Shirt (Includes Hoodies, Sweatshirts, & Thermals)</p> <p>Limit One Per Customer Expires 02/14/04 (Not to be combined with any other offer)</p> |
|--|---|

Oh... I see.

By Joe Flip



Phillippe the Tragical Bunny

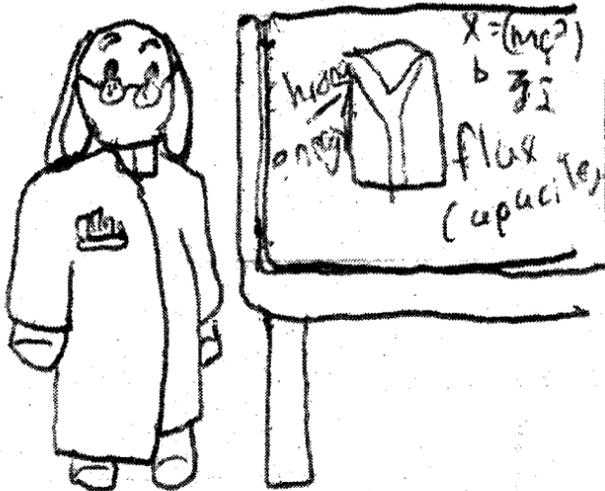
Often I've thought anger was the propagator of change...



Other times, passivity and reflection...



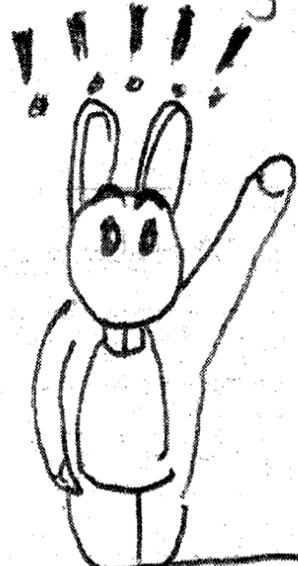
Then it seems that true change will arise from study and research...



But each one just leaves me with the same, if not more, questions...



Then the answer hits me like a bolt of lightning!



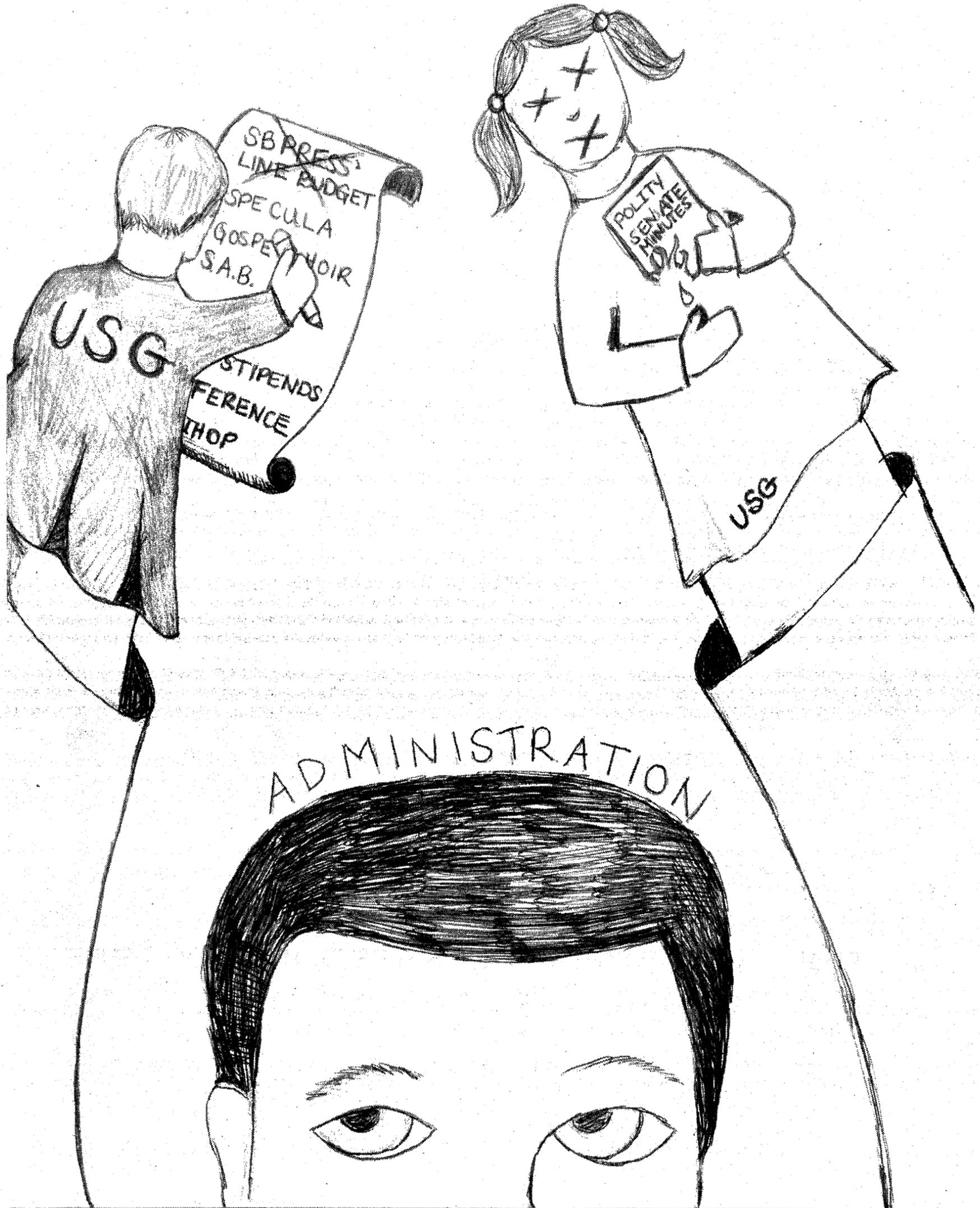
Suicide!!!



By Michael Prazak

We've Got Your Number

by Jackie Hayes



What? There's A TV Station On Campus?

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Arts - Entertainment*

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Make Mine Leftist!

By Mike Prazak

America is a battlefield of ideas. The right and left of the political take stock of their ammo, and levy at each other their amassed artillery. Their weapons of choice; the broadcasters microphone, the 24-hour news network camera mugging pundits and the countless commercials paid for by the friends of anonymous white protestant. One place you do not expect outspoken political ideas, however, is while skimming through the pages of Fantastic Four, or joining in on the adventures of Spider-Man. Marvel Comics seems to be breaking trend, however, with several of their recent storylines, many of which involve controversial stances on some extremely politically divisive issues. Their terms of expression, ranging from the subtle to the blatant, are paving new roads for the forum of comics in becoming a fully realized method of expression.

Examples of this polemical turn are evident in several of their flagships titles. The Fantastic Four, a team of former shuttle hijackers endowed with super powers by cosmic rays, find themselves controlling the nation formerly ruled by their arch-nemesis, Doctor Doom. Immediately, thoughts of current imperialistic standards taken by our own nation come to mind when hearing this, however unlike the U.S. the Fantastic Four immediately understands that power does

not justify them as rulers. Turning away from profit or exploitation, they fulfill their role as servants to the people, allowing the people of the country to self govern, while existing solely to benefit the people when they are able. Some would argue that this was simply an analogy to the U.S itself, a beautiful testament to our government helping and supporting the people of Iraq. This could be possible, if it wasn't for the immediate and aggressive task force sent after the Fantastic Four by the U.S. Government. Unhappy with what they felt was an unstable nation, headed by a person of unsure political leaning didn't sit well with Uncle Sam. Even after it became apparent that both the Fantastic Four and the people of Latveria were happy with their arrangement, the U.S, citing the impropriety of the Fantastic Four as rulers of a nation, immediately went about deposing them as rulers.

This account of policy is highly critical of the United States pick and choose imperialistic liberation tactic. Madmen, and murderers are only thus, if they are deemed threats by the U.S., while others are completely ignored. The people of our nation are never given any rhyme or reason to these designations other than immediate color-coded threat bulletins.

Furthermore, on this point, we find a

similar criticism made although a little more directly than the Fantastic Four account. In the Mighty Thor, we find the Norse god of thunder, deeming mankind unfit to rule themselves, as this typically breeds violent and despotic rulers, or unsteady alliances of tenuous threat. He eliminates all nuclear weapons and tries initially to assist the governments in solving their individual problems. Eliminating famine, by creating rains, tilling barren earth until it is rich again, he solves many of mankind's physical needs. Unfortunately, this time the lesson of "might makes right" is unheeded and the more subtle and sociological problems are completely incomprehensible to this Norwegian ideal of manhood.

So, heralding the age of comics as a medium of expression equally as viable and potential as music and film, we find Marvel comics. Utilizing two of its flagship titles to make statements, both bold in concept and subtle in presentation. Perhaps a societal re-examination of the forum of comics needs to be engaged in. Nonetheless, I am proud that a medium that had so captivated my youth, continues to provoke my interest well into my adult years.

So, until; Stan Lee makes Spidey a commie, Make MINE MARVEL!

A Point to Ponder, A Point to Consider

By Leonid Borovskiy,, Program Director, SBU-TV

For those readers that know me personally or professionally, it should come as no surprise that my first Op-Ed for The Stony Brook Press is on the topic of the media/government relationship. It should come as a surprise, however, that I'm writing an Op-Ed at all. This is a topic I feel strongly about and while I feel that truth is self evident through fact, I found some topics that left me pondering and had this point to consider:

In a time when international politics have once again arrived on our main stage, I feel it's important to take a time out to consider the role of the media (print and otherwise) in the political process.

The press is often considered the forth branch of our government, the ultimate check and balance. It informs the masses and shapes opinion, and when media is unbiased and objective, it offers knowledge that can shape the future.

One of the first signs of tyranny is the lack of a free press. Most often this is replaced by pretend free press, press on a leash. Growing up in Russia I remember newspapers that were as widely honored and as interesting to read as the New York Times or as informative as the Wall Street Journal, and yet Pravda (Truth) and Izvestiya (News) had neither real truth nor real news, because they were government controlled, and served its interests.

While I cannot say that today's free media is free of influence, it is not nearly as incapacitated as it would be if the government were in control. We all understand the dangers that powerful government brings with it. And while government is important, accountability for its actions is a key ingredient in keeping control of the people.

Some may say, government control is

in your best interest, and it's here to help you. This may be true, however, it just as easily may hold untrue. And in that lies the principle! Limited rights for the government and the remaining rights for the people (within reason) is what makes democratic rule great.

You may say "Leo, I know this, why are you touching on such basic ideas?" My reason is simple. It is because I am seeing what is easily the best example of unlimited government out of control right here on this campus. I would not want to discuss actions or motives that I am not aware of, but based on the basic ideas above I'd like to present the current situation.

The nearly year old Undergraduate Student Government is allotted many extra freedoms, by those that sanction its existence, to allow it to grow and flourish so that it may further itself and become more formed. I think we can all agree on this statement. However freedoms that are now offered to it allow for actions that move to not only harm the student experience but destroy the credibility that USG seeks. Doubly bad is surely not doubly blessed, to take a line from the great bard.

Seeking instant changes that seem revolutionary, the government's reactionary actions such as budget cuts and scrutiny of student organizations, which include the student press, have placed this government in a situation where its methods, moral standing and motives have been questioned. Normally in such a situation, a government sanctioned by the people would be forced to step back and stand up for its actions, but this group has chosen to say they were right in their action, placing blame and accountability on other students.

The conundrum of this situation is

that without creating better ties with the students and being forceful and bureaucratic, this government is in fact creating a better structure of governance. However it is only better from the point of view of function, at great expense to what the Student Activity Fee is intended for (Student Activities).

In their hopes to sway the press, and in that the people, to their side, this government has created a situation where there is no win for the students of SBU. If the students stand up to the government, it will take them away from the activities they wish to participate in. If the students submit, their activity time and money may be lost as well.

How does this relate to the freedom of the press? Simple, because in the case I describe above there is a win situation for the students involved in the government. Their success in bringing an already indifferent student body to concede to the government's power is a success. They don't want us to rise up and fight when we feel injustice, they want us to submit. The media playing its role does not fit such an outcome, reporting disagreeable actions to the body will upset the students, make them fight, make a stink, make things difficult.

Are the students in student government doing something wrong? Honestly, I don't know. Are some organizations worse off under this government than the last? I know they are. Is freedom of speech threatened for security's sake? Definitely. Will the government deny this and make themselves sound like your friends? Anyone out to save their tail would.

So why fight if we lose either way? Because no one should better themselves on the suffering of others. Free media, free minds, free thought, free forever!

STUDENT RUN, STUDENT OPERATED

Stony Brook University Television
Suite 073
Student Union Building
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3200



February 3rd, 2004 Address to the Undergraduate Student Government Senate

Dear Senators and Council Members,

My name is Leonid Borovskiy, and I am the Program Director of SBU-TV. As Program Director, I hold the top student position in the organization and oversee our activities. It is my job to make sure we are able to broadcast, and present programming to the student community. I believe that I am the only student on this campus qualified to do it.

It is my honest opinion that you shouldn't want me doing this job. The Student Media is now, and has always been a bane of the student government's existence and I am proud to say I'm very much a part of that. We tape your meetings, we analyze your performance and we catch you when you make mistakes. This is all of course, for the benefit of our fellow students.

I say you should not want me doing this job, but who you'd rather have in this position shouldn't matter. Such decisions should not enter the realm of any government that considers itself democratic. SBU-TV's top student position has always been elected by an appropriate body, a committee of our members, and for this to change, to take away the right of a media organization's self determination, is a travesty to say the least.

SBU-TV has provided News, Entertainment and Sports programming to our student community for the past three years, and has done so freely, without oversight from this, or any past Student Government.

Our firm stance on SBU-TV's state as a "quasi-independent agency" of the Undergraduate Student Government is that Student Media, like all media in America, should be free. We should be no exception to the rule.

Even Dr. Goodman, the co-chair of the committee that wrote the current constitution of this government, has said that SBU-TV's current state is a mistake, and needs to be rectified.

As a founding member of this student organization, I am appalled at the blatant censorship and imposition of power that the current government has asserted over our organization. But the power to rectify such mistakes is in your hands. I charge you with the responsibility to place the voice of the students back in the hands of the students. Make all media free!

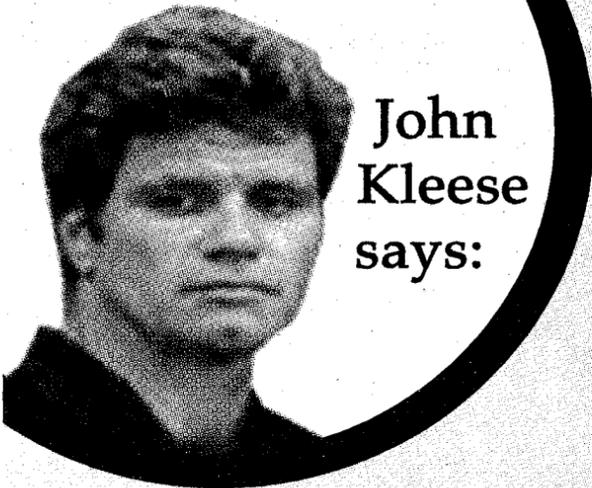
My suggestion to you is amend the constitution, the governing document of your body, proclaiming that all media should be free of the power that government may impose, as it is written in the US Constitution and upheld by US courts.

Thank you for your time.

Leonid Borovskiy
Program Director, SBU-TV

PRESS

The Community News & Features Paper



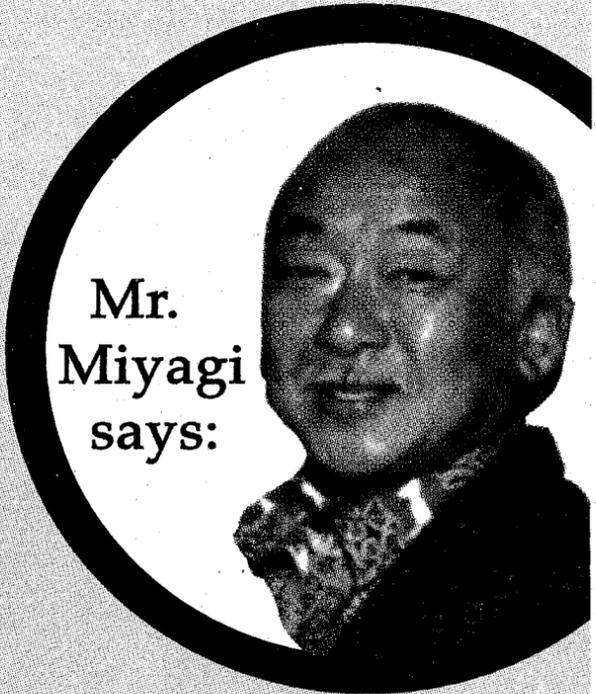
John Kleese says:

Testimonial 1:

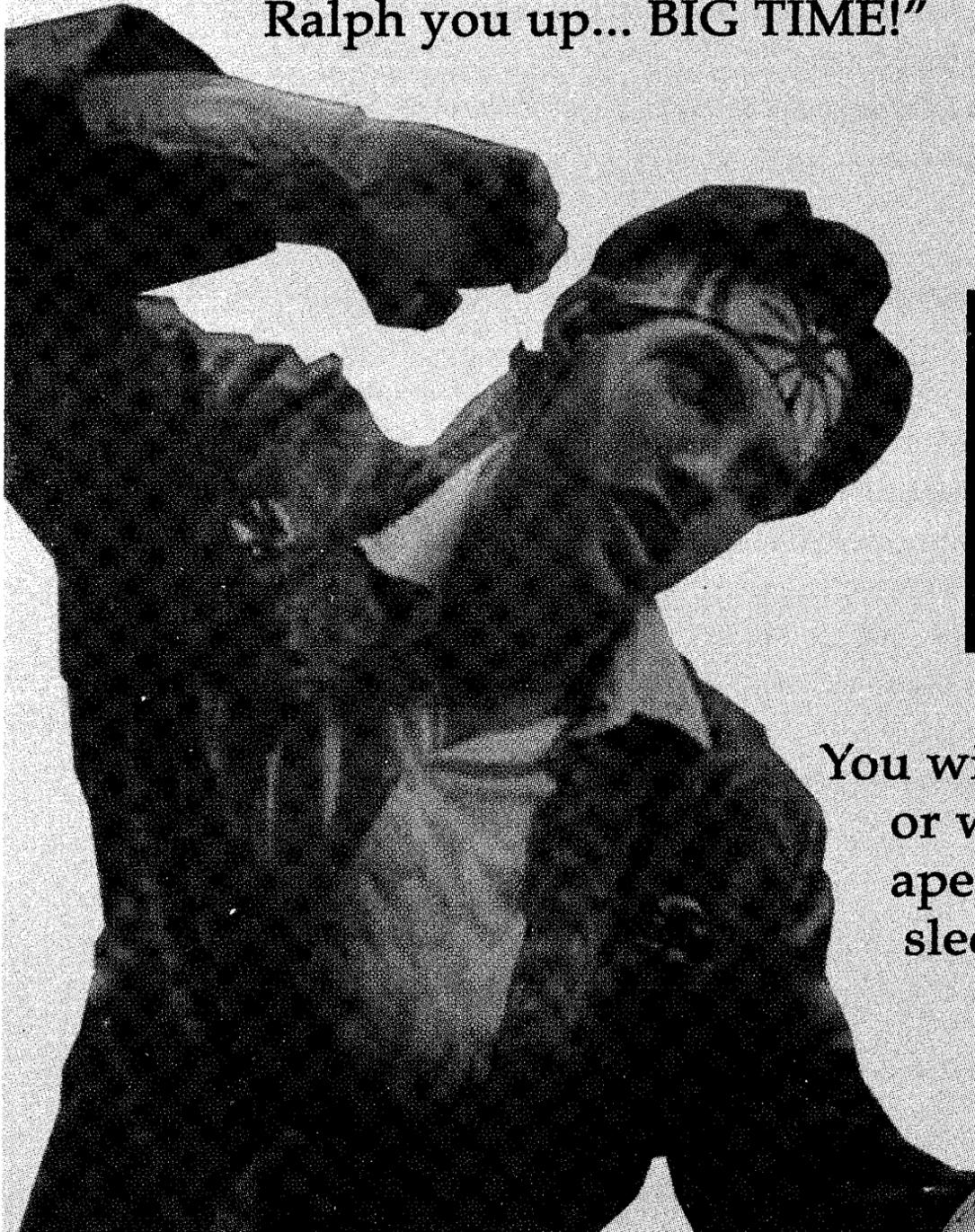
"I got crane kicked in the face once... but I was being kind of a son-of-a-bitch. Don't let this innocent neonate feel these toned fists of hate."

Testimonial 2:

"Ralph is a sick fuck, period. Did you even see what he did to my wife? Watch your ass or he'll Ralph you up... BIG TIME!"



Mr. Miyagi says:



"Sweep the leg every Wednesday @ 1 pm - Rm 060 Student Union!"

You will work for *The Press*... or we let Ralph Maccio go ape-shit on this sleeping baby!



COPOUT

Entry:

pretext

Function:

noun

Definition:

disguise

Synonyms:

affectation, alibi, appearance, bluff, cleanup, cloak, color, coloring, copout, cover, cover story, cover-up, device, excuse, face, feint, fifty-two page issue, fig leaf, fish story, fish tale, front, guise, mask, masquerade, plea, ploy, pretense, reason, red herring, right, routine, ruse, semblance, show, simulation, stall, stratagem, subterfuge, veil

Concept:

reason/excuse

Source:

Roget's Interactive Thesaurus, First Edition (v 1.0.0)
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 SCANDAL!!
 Page 3**

**THE DEMOCRATIC PRES
 NOMINEES!!
 Pages 6 - 8**

**BEEFEST RESULTS!!
 Insert inside**

AND SO, SO MUCH MORE!

**HISTORY OF THE PRESS!!
 Pages 30 - 33**

**USG (FINALLY)
 RESPONDS!!
 Pages 14 - 15**