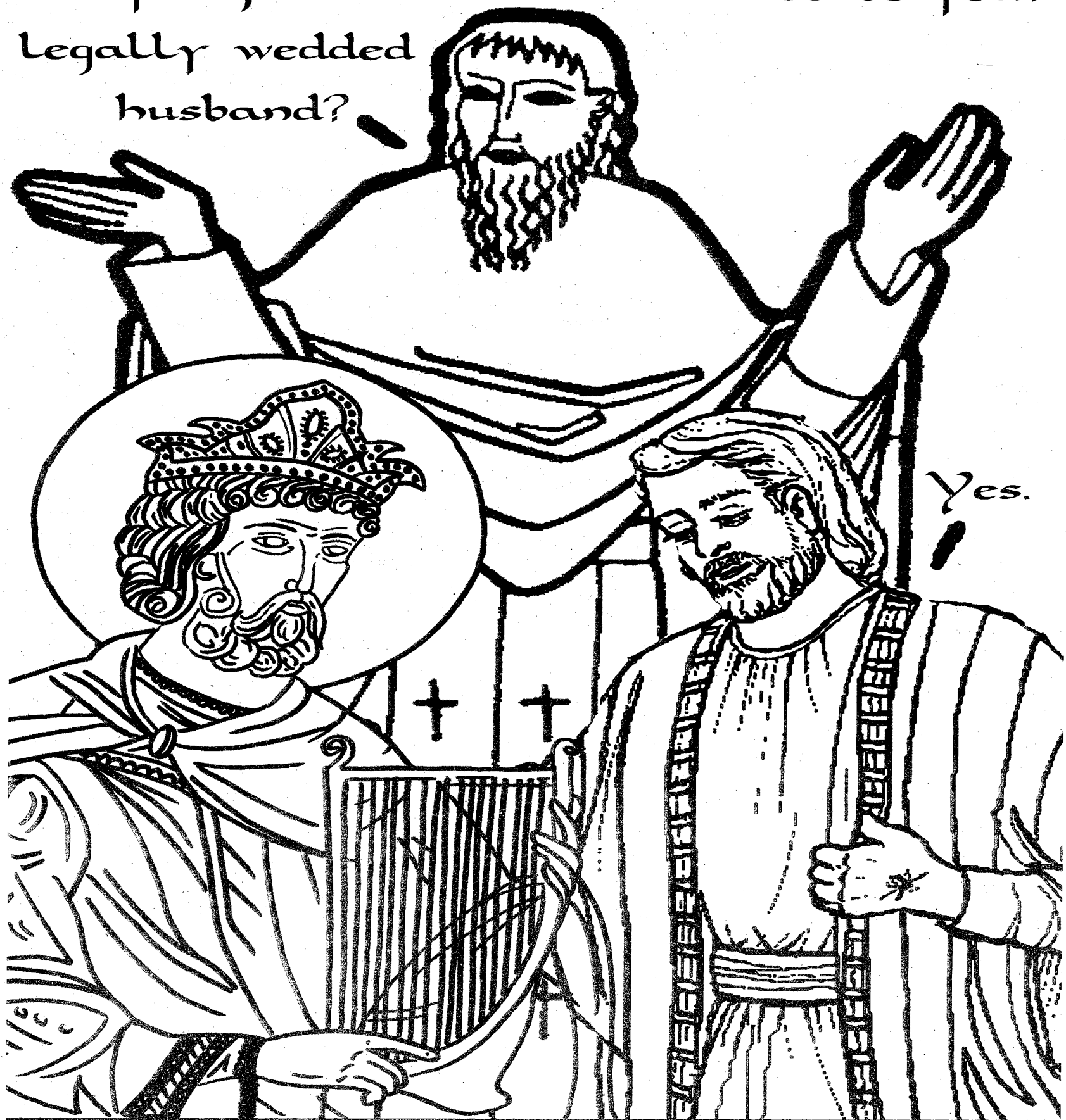


Do you Jesus take this man to be your
legally wedded
husband?



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Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld; Town Councilman, SBU Alumni, and Model of Student

By Jackie Hayes

Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld is the current Brookhaven Town Councilman from the Stony Brook region in District One. Yet what most people don't realize is that he was also instrumental in winning Stony Brook students the right to vote from their campus address and getting Stony Brook its own polling place. Through his experiences he relates the difficulties of organizing on Stony Brook's campus as well as insight into making mass mobilization possible.

Many students could probably guess what major problems stifle activism on campus, as Rosenfeld states, "While things change, they stay the same." One problem might be the mass exodus of students flooding out of the campus on weekends. This problem makes it difficult to organize on campus because there are time restrictions around organization. Rosenfeld states, "You're dealing with a very limited school year in terms of trying to organize politically at Stony Brook. Thursday night a lot of people clear out, they go home." Yet while these restrictions might be discouraging, it does not make organization impossible. Steve is a living example of how mass mobilization can still work despite certain disadvantages. He states, in reference to the weekend dilemma, "that's always been one of those unique aspects of a campus like Stony Brook."

Another problem stifling organization is a strong administration and red tape. Rosenfeld comments, "They've created an almost antiseptic environment, where I feel like if you need to breathe in deeply, there's an administrative form to fill out." According to the Princeton Review Stony Brook University is number two in the nation for red tape. Many students have complained about the lack of campus life, which is directly related to intense administrative oversight. Make organizing more complicated and time consuming and you will see less organizing. Rosenfeld states, "It would look like the administration is bending over backwards to try to get something to happen at the campus, and yet they've really cracked down even further, they've made it more difficult, I think, to organize independent of them." Steve explores the administrative mentality stating, "they want to know it's a controlled environment because if something goes wrong at the campus the parents, the media, the governor, whoever, will hold them accountable, not the students." Whatever the reason behind heightened administrative oversight, the result is still stifled campus life. Rosenfeld comments, "My opinion is nothing stifles creativity like a good, solid administration."

Despite these and other setbacks,

Rosenfeld was still able to mobilize a mass of students around voting rights. In the fall of 1987 Rosenfeld joined others in pushing to get students the right to register using their campus address. In 1971 Congress passed the 26th Amendment lowering the voting age to 18. Yet in many districts, including Suffolk County, students were not allowed to use their campus address to register. Therefore students were not able to vote in local elections and were encouraged to fill out absentee ballots to vote in their home district.

Rosenfeld founded the Student Coalition for Voter Registration (SCVR) to address student voting rights on Stony Brook's campus. He negotiated with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, testified at a public hearing in Albany held by a Task Force to encourage electoral participation, and coordinated efforts with NYPIRG, SASU, Residence Life, and Polity. Around September 1988, after a long battle, he succeeded in winning the right for students to vote using their campus address.

Steve didn't stop there, he continued organizing around student voting in an attempt to get voting booths on campus. According to guidelines established by the Board of Elections a district needs 1000 registered voters to have its own polling place, meaning Rosenfeld had to register 1000 students to vote to get booths on campus. In a 1988 Statesman article Rosenfeld stated, "it's our time to make it known to the University and community just how important student voting rights are." Steve coordinated rallies and registration drives resulting in about 1200 resident student registrations. In November 1988, before Stony Brook had polls on campus, Auxiliary Services provided buses to and from the nearest polling place. The student response was enormous. One co-coordinator and NYPIRG director, Kit Kimberly commented in a Statesman article that, "The busses were full the entire time and there were lines to take the bus all day... It shows that students on campus are not apathetic." After this massive voter turnout Stony Brook was designated a polling site.



STEVE FIORE - ROSENFELD.
Courtesy of 1990 Specula.

The registration drive and mass mobilization of student voters was so successful it appeared in an October 1988 article of the New York Times. According to the article Stony Brook students alone had affected a national race. University President at the time, John Marburger, commented to the Statesman that, "I strongly support all efforts of voter registration... One would hope that legislators would become sensitized to student needs." A Statesman editorial also noted that, "If the university turns the heads of the politicians, and convinces them that it could be a strong source of support or dissent we would see more action on student and educational issues than we have seen in the past."

Steve's example proves not only that organization and political action is possible on Stony Brook's campus specifically, but also that students can have more control over policy making if they assert themselves as a political force. Rosenfeld advises that, "The key is to find like-minded people that think and feel about a particular issue, the way you do...you get a group of five and you can accomplish almost anything. I mean just crazy stuff can happen with five devoted people." Some other helpful advice might be, VOTE GOD DAMN IT, VOTE!!!! It does make a difference.

(Note: Presidential Primary Elections are March 2. If you are not registered to vote NYPIRG would love to help you.)

More Problems with USG Got a Solution?

By Jeff Kruszyna

It is quite obvious that our Undergraduate Student Government has a lot of internal problems to say the least. From my point of view, as a club president and a former interim spokesperson for a pre-USG committee, I have witnessed many a problem first hand. While working on the "inside" I observed favoritism running rampant throughout the entire power structure.

An easy example of this would be when any club with "connections" to pre-USG "higher-ups" came to receive funding through my committee they would get whatever they asked for with no questions asked. However, when a new club came along, or even an established club that lacked such connections, they would be put through hurdles you wouldn't believe. For example, when a "connected" club came to us for funding they were passed right on through no questions asked even though they had blatant flaws in their constitution.

I believe this type of favoritism played a role in what USG has just put SBVAC through because I doubt it would have happened to other organizations on campus in similar situations. After wit-

nessing this type of unprofessional behavior, I quickly submitted my letter of resignation to Dr. Preston, only to find out that he already knew of the favoritism and he had basically appointed me to my position only to see if I would come to the same conclusion.

Following this incident I wondered: if he had already known this then why would he allow the corrupted leaders of Student Polity to try and restructure themselves into what is now called USG (in case you haven't seen the \$20,000 worth of paraphernalia floating around campus)? The answer to this question still eludes me to this day!

With all of this in the past I now turned my focus toward the two student groups that I am currently involved with. Being the president of two undergraduate groups I could not help but to have to still put up with the same old student leaders that now have new titles. At least this time I knew what I was in for! I have been put through many a hurdle all due in some part to our current USG. From missing paperwork to allegedly mixed-up filing I have encountered it all. Not only does it take 45+ minutes to

drop off a voucher (with even more criss-crossing visits to various offices) but it takes even longer to get a club mailbox in the USG suite itself.

As frustrating as all of this is, it is nothing compared to trying to get a response (or for that matter any action) out of either Dr. Preston or even the current President of USG on matters pertinent to the proper use of our Student Activity Fee. To illustrate this point, when you e-mail any school administrator you will certainly get a response the next business day. However, when either of the two listed above are contacted, you are lucky to get a response in a couple of weeks if even at all.

Something has to be done about this problem, the least of which I have brought to fruition in this article; and it is imperative that it be done now. Otherwise the USG will continue to elect each other from the same pool of candidates that it has been doing for the last few years. It is my strong feeling that our undergraduate student body ought to do like Donald Trump in *The Apprentice* and say to our current USG executive board

Vive La Stupidité

By Dustin Herlich

In recent times the decisions and mistakes of the French government have come under much fire, and their image greatly tarnished in the eyes of the world, particularly in this country. While we may not agree with all of their decisions, enacting boycotts of French goods really doesn't do anything to help our nation, our interests, or the French people. The amount of harm we incur on our own businesses with French connections, and money in the French Market is not worth the price of a plate of freedom fries.

That being said, it is still fair to be critical of the most recent misguided action of the French government, which the French people have been loudly against. What I speak of is the banning of "overt religious symbols" from public schools, and possibly other places like government offices. While some French politicians call it a move to protect a secular French society, the overwhelming majority does not see it as so.

There are a myriad of other explanations to the ban that have come up, and some seem more likely than others. There is the claim by some that the ban is a measure to improve women's rights and free them from the bonds of strict traditional Islamic teaching. Since Jews are also targeted in the ban (Jewish males would no longer be allowed to wear yarmulkes) some politicians have told their Jewish constituents that the ban would

help protect them from hate crimes, and would force everyone to feel equal with each other, and make it harder to tell one another apart based on looks alone.

None of these arguments seem to hold much water, and they all seemed to be aimed at quelling the potential uprisings of certain specific objectors to the ban. Really what it comes down to is they are defending a stupid idea to the end, and somehow it seems we may see this actually come to pass as a law. What a mistake that would be. While the ban also would prevent people from wearing crosses that are too big, it's nowhere near the same as the other bans. You can't wear just a small headscarf; you can't wear on at all. To compare the two is not possible. While a small neck chain with a Star of David on it, or other small symbol, would also still be permitted, those don't hold the same religious significance as a head covering, and are really optional where the head coverings are a requirement.

The argument that this is protecting a secular society is completely illogical. There is no attack on secularism being performed by the observance of an otherwise unobtrusive religious practice. Isn't religious freedom one of the reasons why many of these people came to France? Doesn't that matter to anyone? If they really wanted to be fair they would ban Christian crosses altogether, but then again, they too are com-

pletely optional. The law really comes out of fear, ignorance and intolerance.

The French are famous of their hatred of their two largest minorities: Jews and Muslims. It's hard to say which are more persecuted. Many of the Arabs living in France or those of Arab descent are poor and oppressed, and many are forced to make livings doing things like panhandling to tourists and the like. I personally have traveled to France, and have seen what it's like for some of these people. Automatically a neighborhood that is dominated by Muslims is considered a slum, and as being dangerous. Similarly, some of the actually nicer areas of Paris have healthy, thriving Jewish populations, but that would not be mentioned in a tourist guide, no matter how relevant. I've even been told to stay away from Jewish areas by some people. Even some of the Jews in France seem to have disdain for some of the attractions in Jewish neighborhoods. A great example is the day I wanted to go visit Joe Goldenberg's Deli. I was told not to go there because the food was not kosher. Oy veh. The reason I wanted to go is they never patched over the damage created by a home made bomb that was launched through their window many years ago. They left the hole in the floor as a reminder and a memorial. Pretty powerful really when you see it. Anyhow, I digress...

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EDITORIAL: The Clone Wars

We're not talking about the nifty ones in Star Wars where Yoda kicks butt. We're talking about the global debate on copying DNA and therefore copying an organism. The most hotly debated sector of cloning is that involving Homo sapiens. While the idea of having many, many copies of the editorial board of The Press is somewhat creepy, the promises that stem cell research holds are maybe worth the risks.

The most fervent oppositions to cloning comes from the religious right in the United States. They think we're being bad Christians. Too bad that not only is everyone not Christian, but they seek to ignore the fact that the Bible often talks of how anything pertaining to saving lives supersedes most other rules and regulations. If we can't collect new stem cells, cloning the ones we already have is the way to go. Stem cell research can lead to us finding ways to let people like Christopher Reeve walk again, and so forth. Cloning whole humans though is slightly disturbing, and maybe should be regulated in some way.

Cloning an individual valuable cell (like a

stem cell) again can be very useful and save lives, and make people happy, but cloning entire animals has certain inherent problems. The least of which being that cloned creatures tend to die around the same time as their predecessor. And by the same time, we don't mean that they both die at 40, we mean that the predecessor dies at 40, and if the clone was 10, it dies at the same time. Until they learn how to fix this problem, cloning really is a cruel act.

There are plenty of people who make a big deal out of cases like Hitler, and how he might be cloned and his clone would take over the world. Nature vs. Nurture plays a role here, but even if Hitler Jr. turns out to be the ubermensch, he'll still be hated for the blood he carries.

There is still so much we don't know about cells, their biology and the basic chemistry that makes them work. While the ability to properly clone a cell is a big step forward in gaining this understanding, we still have very far to go before cloning any more than a cell is the right thing to do. Besides, cloning takes all the fun out of making babies the old fashioned way.

EDITORIAL: A Union By Any Other Name

One of the hottest hot potatoes in the coming elections andn more importantly, in the eyes and minds of the world in general is the issue of same sex unions and marriages. The coming together of two people who love each other is a sacred thing to be cherished and revered. All the time we are told of wonderful stories of how two people shared a love and came together despite any and all odds. Since when is one person allowed to dictate whom another person should love?

Same sex unions really should be a non-issue. Why do we feel the need to enact laws defining that a marriage is only the union between a man and a woman? What is so threatening about two men or two women sharing love? If two people are committed to each other, why deny them the rights that any other couples are entitled to? Because some ass-backwards Dark Age moron named Jerry Falwell is afraid of his own penis? It really comes down the fact that, once again, we really don't separate church and state and we expect everyone in our land to either be a Christian, or follow Christian doctrines.

We'd venture to say that with all the pressures put on same sex unions, those that do exist are probably forged with stronger bonds than many heterosexual unions and marriages.

Many same sex couples adopt children and provide for their children better than any others could. Their children don't come out into the world any more warped or depraved than the rest of us, and maybe even better off considering they might have gotten a fairly good education in tolerance and acceptance.

Gay and Lesbian couples coming together to share their lives is no more threatening to the "moral fiber of America" then Cheezits. What IS threatening is things like us going to war for no reason, peanut butter and jelly packaged in slices like Kraft singles, and people who actually enjoy "music" by Avril Levigne and any of her phony cohorts.

This is the land of opportunity, no? Send us your tired and sick and all that right? Land of freedom, separation of church and state, freedom of religion, equal opportunity and all of that, right? By denying any of our citizens the right to express themselves, and their love we are throwing all of the above out the window.

Letters

Letter: ACTUAL FEEDBACK!!

Hello Editor,

Nice to see the new Press web site is finally kicking it into gear where so many old Press web sites floundered.

I read Sam Goldman's profile of the Democratic candidates for President. I'm curious how he determined that Senator Edward's first priority was campaign finance reform. I remember being pleasantly surprised when I heard Senator Edwards, in a debate maybe a month ago, asking Senator Kerry if Kerry would join him in supporting, what was it, full public financing of campaigns? If I'm remembering correctly, that was a remarkable position for those candidates to take. I was surprised because I had carefully followed the candidate's positions as declared on their web page, and seen nothing of the sort.

Looking at the issue-related material on Edward's campaign web site right now would lead you to believe that his top priority is one of the issues listed at the top of his home page: the economy, education, secu-

Dear Mr. Willemain,

First off, it's nice to see anyone actually giving a shit about anything I wrote. Thanks.

Secondly, my determination that Senator Edwards has campaign finance reform as his first priority was from a piece on MSNBC detailing the candidates' agendas. I especially avoided the candidates' web sites when doing the profiles, because in my opinion the web sites are there for little more than propaganda. In any event, as we both know, what a candidate SAYS during the election year and what he

rity or health care. But there is also a link for "More". Following the "more" link you see a long list of proposals from Edwards. There's nothing about campaigns or elections on that list. He does have a "Cleaning up Washington" section, but that is lobbyist ethics and disclosure stuff. He's also got a sixty page program for American you can download as a .pdf file. You'd think in sixty pages he'd have room for his top priority. But there isn't a word in there about campaign finance reform.

I'm glad to hear that Edwards is in favor of campaign finance reform. We need to get all the money out--full public financing. We need to give all candidates a hearing, with easier ballot access, open debates, free airtime, reenacting "equal time" requirements of broadcasts and higher expectations of our news outlets. I'd like to see all the candidates get behind programs like these. But I don't see campaign finance being a top priority in the Edwards campaign.

- Matt Willemain

DOES once they're elected are two very, very different things.

As for the web site, well, all thanks and praise are due to our loyal webmaster, Dan Hofer, whose cherubic face graced our cover last issue, and our friends at Kempleton.com. Keep visiting the site; we hope to have many more cool things there soon, including a contest for those readers proficient in Adobe Photoshop.

Again, thanks for reading and replying.

Sincerely,
Sam Goldman

Letter: Who Will Save My Life...the USG?

I am now finishing my third year here at Stony Brook, my third year as an RA for Division of Campus residences, my second year working for the Sports Complex and my second semester with the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Throughout my time here at Stony Brook I have had the chance to see the bureaucracy, politics, and logistics behind the inner day-to-day workings of this university.

Consequently, yesterday I came across an internal memo that had "accidentally" been leaked to the University media. This memorandum read that at the upcoming scheduled Undergraduate Student Government meeting, the Stony Brook Vol. Ambulance Corps was to be yielded time to be "apologizing to the Senate about their propaganda of going on strike." The writer of the memo in question would do well to understand the meaning of the word "propaganda". The premise behind the word is to spread misleading information for the purpose of promoting some cause. If SBVAC was to choose to go on strike, it is in my opinion that they are in completely within their rights to do so.

SBVAC is a fully certified and credited EMS agency; however, most EMS Agencies operate on budgets that run in the millions of dollars per year. However, SBVAC runs on about \$78,000 a year. Nevertheless, despite this massive financial handicap SBVAC has managed to earn the honors of

being awarded the Suffolk County EMS Agency of the Year as well as the New York State EMS Agency of the Year awards. This is thanks to the many hard working and committed volunteers who dedicate countless hours to making sure that SBVAC runs to and beyond its full potential. Its members make sure that the largest employer on Long Island, its faculty, children in daycare, elderly in the Veteran's Home and the 22,344 enrolled students are protected 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

When one considers the great responsibility that SBVAC shoulders, one would also think it ludicrous to cut funding to the agency. Then again, the USG had cut off SBVAC's funding because of a dispute over insurance providers. SBVAC is fully covered by an insurance and liability policy that is approved by the University as well as the NY State standards. It is then that the USG decided that it wanted an audit of SBVAC's finances before unfreezing its budget, an independent audit that would take time and money. If SBVAC were to continue operating without any funds, it would seem that this could inescapably lead to a compromise in patient care. As a member of SBVAC, I would rather let some other agency provide care to a patient rather than endanger them myself because of inadequate resources. Thus resulting in the CSA's threat to sue the USG based on the fact that the withholding of funds from SBVAC could lead to

the possible endangerment of students on campus.

All this might seem a little confusing, especially when considering the subject is the well-being of people. Nevertheless, the newly formed USG has not lost any of the luster and finesse that we are used to from its predecessor, Student Polity Inc. It is sad to think that the USG would hold funding to SBVAC just because it wants its way. It is also sad to think that the USG would stoop so low as to send an internal memo announcing an apology from SBVAC without actually inviting SBVAC to the meeting in the first place. We all hoped that the new Undergraduate Student Government would be a change for the better, that things would run more efficiently and we could all rest easy knowing that our \$2.25 million in student activity fee was being appropriately dispensed. However, between the freezing of residence hall LEG accounts, numbingly slow account allocations, enormous egos and now endangering the well-being of students on campus; I fear that nothing has really changed but the name of the organization.

-Ahmed Belazi

for Victor Melendez

"Nothing is known, but we believe that God is overhead;
And as life is to the living, so death is to the dead."

– Mary Mapes Dodge

"Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again.

Wisely improve the present. It is thine.

Go forth and meet the shadowy future,

Without fear and with a manly heart."

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I have never cried for more than 1 day. Though I have grieved for years on end, with every third thought placed firmly in the memory of some lost loved one, there is a point when tears cease to be an epitaph, and become a celebration of life.

Victor's life is not one for you to grieve. If Victor's most prevalent wish was that he wanted to transcend his own death, then he certainly did not mean to be remembered in tears. Victor was vibrant and lively. His energy and excitement was not based in some fad that someone taught him. It was fed to him by his love for others and it coursed in his veins while he passed it on. "Christie, look at this new stance I learned in Yoga," "Christie, try my chickpea soup, I'll make it just for you. You'll never eat meat again." That energy is not how Victor was, it's how his IS.

I have no sad memories of Victor, and it is not that tragedy has erased them from my memory. Every argument that we had was based in fear for the other, honest caring. It was not something I held against him then, and certainly not now. If I was ever angry at some decision that he made on my behalf, I have since learned the err of my ways. I am grateful for the days that he listened to my opinion, and only saddened by the days that he did not.

My most vivid image of victor is of his smile. Even when his mouth frowned, his eyes laughed. Even when his words depressed him and his eyes disheartened him, his love for life glimmered behind his frowning cynicism. If victor was ever unhappy in his life, it is only because it takes a lot to fill a heart so big.

It is impossible to speak on Victor's life without also addressing the impact of his mother, of Julie, and his other close friends and loved ones. Some of these people are the strongest, and most truthful I have ever known. A part of my felt as though I owed it to victor to lend strength and fortitude to those most closely connected to him, but it was in them, in his mother and in Julie, that I found the most strength. I feel it was they who upheld me. It was also they who lent me the other side of the story. It is since his untimely death that we've developed a more complete understanding of his personality.

Quite honestly, the best gift I have ever been given came straight from his loved ones, and through them, from Victor. The best gift is to learn that you are respected by someone for whom you have such respect.

I am responsible. Although I may not be able to prevent the worst from happening, I am responsible for my attitude toward the inevitable misfortunes that darken life. Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life. I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss, or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift we all have- LIFE ITSELF.

- Marc Toto

- Christie Price

In the afterlife Gladiators meet their maker
Thrown through the wind fields and lakes of Bluewater
To the next life from the fortress
Away from the knives and slaughter
To their wives and daughters
Once more before the law judges over all of us
Cos in this place you'll see me
Brace yourself, cos this goes deep
I'll show you the secrets the sky and the birds
Actions speak louder than words
Stand by me my apprentice
Be brave. Clench fists."

- The Streets (one of Victor's favorite musicians)

We've watched you suffer a dull aching pain
now you're gone, showing us the same
You tempted fate, and she took you
Living a life without pension, redemption was due
Invincibility broken, our tears must be cried
let's do some living, then we'll die



By Vera Nigai

Attempting to capture Victor's soul in a short essay is akin to attempting to capture global scenery in such a manner – the beauty is far too opulent and majestic to be justly reflected by a limited collection of written words and the full experience is ultimately ineffable. But I will do my best to communicate his character in the hope of fulfilling his dream of transcending his death by keeping his memory alive forever. So here goes:

His humor could animate the dullest of spirits;

His love was tender enough to cushion the hardest of falls;

His intellect was sharp enough to brazenly penetrate the toughest perplexity;

His soul burst at the seams with unadulterated passion, which was crystallized by his poetry;

His talents enthralled even the skeptic with their fertility;

He was a natural born storyteller who unconsciously refashioned everyday events into thrilling adventures;

His presence was simply electrifying;

He was my harbor, my teacher, my playmate.

His heart was a boundless fountain of love and if you had the strength to withstand the winter storms the spring held the promise of unfathomable warmth and beauty. You could always count on him to sacrifice his own pleasure and comfort for the ones he loved; to put his own suffering aside to alleviate the pain of his loved ones and may God help anyone who posed a threat to the ones he held dear.

We had our own private world replete with goofy nonsense that we both deeply cherished. "The only entertainment we ever needed was each other's company. Our souls overlapped and his presence is as much a part of me as is my own beating heart despite the fact that another part of me died with him that fateful day.

And although the sadness inherent in such a young death is incorrigible, know that Victor experienced more heterogeneity and fulfillment in his 23 years on earth than most people do in a lifetime.

In life he equipped me with an undergird of unconditional love and in death he taught me to love every moment as though it was a priceless treasure. I took his presence in this world for granted and needless to say I will never take anything else for granted again.

- Julie Adeshchenko

for Victor Melendez

If ever you
find yourself in the fathomless
darkness of the shadows
of any blight
Remember that your
soul
Shines more than
the laugh of
a thousand angels.

If you ever
find your spirit
held captive in castles
of deceiving mirrors,
Ignite yourself
and let the ashes
tie down your winds of doubt
and emerge a new
among tulips of hope
saturated with the dew
of self content.

Ignite yourself and purge
the outside world
until the warmth comes back
like divine echoes
in the canyons of
time.

To Victor-

It will probably be a while before we hang out again, but when we do- we'll definitely make up for lost time. You were always soo good to us; you treated us in a way we'll never forget. Its such a shame that one of the few good people in this world had to be taken from all of us so soon. Remember Halloween Vic? If death were to be cool, you would definitely be it. Remember the weekend of the snowstorm? the girly pants? the police station? The memories of you are so clear and always will be. We miss you so much but it still kinda feels like you are here. Somebody like you cannot disappear that easily. It would take more than this for you really to be gone buddy. Evey time the phone rings we're used to it being you. Every time we turn a corner, we expect to see you in your trench coat, sunglasses, ufo's, and a skullie with that huge smile on your face running around like Johnny Depp, Fear and Loathing style. Even though it may not be for a while, we know we will see it all again one day. We love you Victor and can't wait to see you again. So, Vic, are you watching us? What can you see? Guess we'll never know.. enjoy it though..

"...didn't know that it was over, till it was too late..."

With so much love,
Shauna and Jessica
Dedicated to my Lovely Cousin Victor Antonio Melendez

My Afterglow
By Michelle Torruella

If I were to die tonight, what would my loved ones remember of me?

If I were to die tonight I m hoping that they would remember my smile, the twinkle in my eyes, the wonderful hugs that I loved to give, and my laughter that was strong and loud.

If I were to pass unexpectedly I want all those that I touched to know that I was grateful for their presence. That I was appreciative of their special type of love; for I know that everyone loved me individually and in their own pronounced manner. If I were to die too early for those around me, I wish for them to know that my spirit has no sense of time and that I will always be surrounding them with my afterglow. If I were to die tonight I would want all those that I loved to remember the words, I love you. For every time that I said these words I truly meant them.

I thank all of those around me for the blessed moments that they chose to share with me. Please try to understand that I know that those moments were special and very dear. Since those moments are so dear, please remember not to make them so few and far between.

Please remember me by my positive and quirky behavior, my broad smile and deep laughter; remember my soulful, deep brown eyes, my strong hands that touched and my open heart which has been blessed to know all of this love.

I was lucky enough to spend Victor's last night with him and one of the things that he was thrilled about that night was the meaning that his poetry brought to his past experience and the fulfillment its publication will bring to his future. He was captivated with the transcendental aspects of life to which his lifelong dream was to contribute his poetry. Please make his wish of publication come true by donating what you can to cover expenses.

Please contact Julie Adeshchenko at Desertpearl9@juno.com for further information or simply send a check or money order to:

Julie Adeshchenko
2460 E 18 St
Brooklyn NY 11235

(The check or money order should be made out to Yulya Adeshchenko, which is my legal name)

If ever there was a dream
that danced with flesh
in the spaces between light
and the pupils of my eyes
it would be the reader.

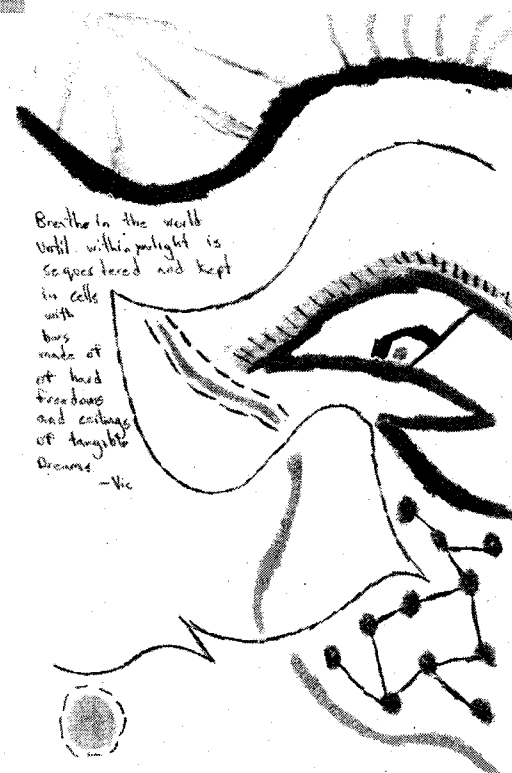
If ever there was a secret
to be kept from those
who enslave the heavenly
tangible
because of the real's shame and fear
Its you.

This poem denounces you
to the authority of
purity of adjectives sought
and chains you to the
chaos of my thoughts
And on this page
another beautiful smile
of yours is born
And once again all the
melancholy in the world is fought...
For this instant
Within your smile
life in its wonder
is infallibly insistent.

Tears float
like the smoke of
burning palates
colorless
like a serpent's horizon.

The clouds paint
the cloak of
a sky
of wet velvet
in ephemeral brushstrokes
of transparent chance.

Inside
is forgotten
and the outside becomes
nothing
but an image
of an absent yet tangible
lake of past.



Going back to the issue at hand, the headscarf ban really just makes people angry. It negates religious freedom in France, and instead of quelling anger and uprising, it promotes it. Now there is something for extremists to rally behind. This could be one of the causes they are looking for to spark the fire of hate in people. Who gives the French Government the right to tell anyone what religions practices they can and can't follow? Since when do all the Muslim women who wear headscarves want to suddenly shirk their religious obligations? Is it possible that some of the women actually choose to wear the scarves? How about Jewish males? I'm surprised no one has told them that "now they are free from their burdens." Again, are there no Jewish males in France who are proud to wear a yarmulke?

It really has become a question of racism. France has singled out the Muslims, and they had to target someone else too, to try and cover their tracks. The headscarf ban comes out of the fear they have for Arabs and Muslims. France has seen it's share of terror attacks, and unfortunately most do seem to come from a particular group of people. At the same time though, that's no reason to take out the actions of a few on the general population. Using the same logic that the U.S. has used, and France has started to, anyone who might be or has been a supporter of the environmental awareness

should be thrown in jail for life and not even charged with a crime after the ELF crimes. Not that ELF can compare in any way with either Islam or Judaism, or any other minority, but I think you get the point I'm making.

Many French look at their Muslim population in the same way that Strom Thurmond viewed African Americans. It's really sad that a nation with such progressive programs as centralized healthcare, and general programs for the welfare of its citizens, can take such a step back into the dark ages of religious intolerance and racial segregation. How can they say this will help stop violence when already hundreds of thousands world wide have been protesting this ban? Yes, amendments for things like review in a year of the effect of the ban are in the works, but it still does not change what has been done. If they think that this will not cause more violence and unrest, they need to get the cheese out of their ears.

And before you go out and trash the Diner down the block because it still sells French toast and not freedom toast, remember that not only are you doing more harm to an American business then anything French, you're being no better then them. The French could care less what we call our French fries, etc. None of them are really French anyhow. Besides, there are those in this country who want to force other religions onto people, and sometimes that's worse then taking them away completely. Some people have to wake up and understand

that not everyone in the world follows or cares about the ten commandments, and they certainly have no place in our schools and courts of law. Unless we are at the moment of Ragnarok or Armageddon or whatever you believe in, you have no right to tell me that your deity or belief is better then mine, or my lack thereof. France used to understand this, but has somehow forgotten it. If they think that by jumping on the US led "let's all vilify Islam" bandwagon they will save face in the eyes of the world, they are dead wrong. Maybe after a year of violence and protest they'll come around and repeal the law. The only thing I can do until then is hope that those I care about overseas are well and safe, and don't get caught up in any of the onslaught that might ensue.

Stony Brook Fucking Stinks

By Ben Bravmann

Stony Brook may be perceived as a friendly place. More often than not the fellow in front of you holds open the door for you; the people down the hall turn down their music or close their door when you ask them kindly. There is a low occurrence of fighting and one rarely sees two people arguing in the middle of campus cursing each other out. The behavior one commonly witnesses does seem to be friendly and polite behavior.

I would contend though that these behaviors are in fact worthless and superficial in their contribution to Stony Brook being a friendly place to live and work in. One holds the door open so as not to feel bad for causing it to smack into someone's face, people turn down the music because you are right there, confronting them about the matter and they do not want to put up with your shit. There are few arguments because people don't want to break the norm and potentially look bad in front of their peers, and there are no fights because people don't want to be kicked off campus.

The truth is that, beyond the public eye, Stony Brook can be a very unfriendly and inconsiderate place that might leave the sensitive participant feeling as though they were dealt with quite harshly and downright

rudely. The hallways of the dorms smell. They smell like depression and weed: putrid, callous, with uncompassionate hardness. They are not kosher; they are not clean, they are dirty. Even five hours after the cleaning staff decides to actually do their job, for once, they return to their unnatural state of filth.

This filth, this smell, is the result of one person simply not giving half a shit about the fellow next door. In those sections of a hallway where caring people live, one can smell the difference, but the hallways of the indifferent stink, and I personally am sick of them. Yet, I know I would only suffer unjustly from attempting to treat the symptoms of a rotten community; instead, the bonds between Stony Brook students must be mended. I cannot simply spray disinfectant to kill the offend-

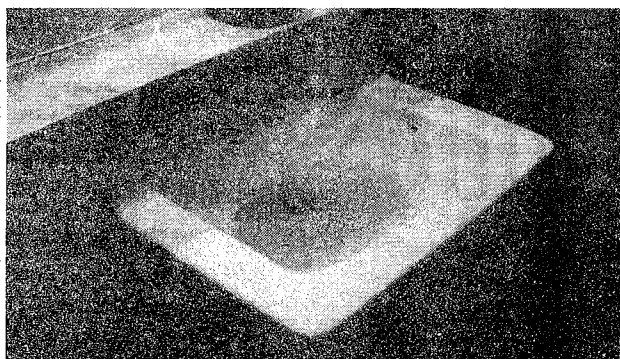
ing odors or light a candle to cover them up, I must convince the community leaders to make changes to the very environment that perpetuates the growth of these foul substances.

It is what people do to have fun that creates the bonds between people and Stony Brook students far too often are doing the wrong things. They are smoking, drinking, fucking, hazing, - and playing videogames. These activities inspire no trusting relationships, the type of relationship one needs to clear the stink out of campus. They create only surface deep bonds, built on flimsy sensations. Such activities are ok, but only when someone is already your good friend.

When these activities are used to build the main

foundation of a relationship, that relationship is about as stable as beer foam, quickly dissipating and leaving a sour stain in the heart.

People sharing their feelings build good



Sink pouring out brown water
Courtesy of www.stonybrooksucks.com

Continued on page 18

Does Anyone Else Have A Problem With This?

By Joe Filippazzo

When last we left our heroes, the spectacular SBVAC was in the financial clutches of the twisted obstructionist Doctor Santo and his excessively wordy run-arounds! Will New York State's mightiest emergency response service emerge triumphant? Or will the dastardly deadbeats of USG make SBVAC's bank account flat-line? Find out in the paragraphs below! Same SBVAC time! Same SBVAC channel! No SBVAC money!

Former USG Interim Administrative Director Santo Albano was the one who insisted from the start that the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps' insurance did not cover USG in the incident of a malpractice suit. To remedy the situation, he decided waaaaaay back in June 2003 that freezing the Corps' budget was in the best interests of the community. According to Albano, the money would be freed up as soon as a proper contract was signed by both sides and a sufficient amount of insurance was purchased by SBVAC so that USG was covered. Herein lied the dispute.

SBVAC was named the best volunteer emergency service in New York State and has not had a malpractice suit once in their 34 years of operation. Also, the student government, be it Polity or USG, has never been liable despite the fact that they partially fund SBVAC. Also, the Ambulance Corps recently added USG under their "named additional insured" which covers up to \$1 million for the agencies specifically listed. Also, just because the Ambulance Corps is so efficient at what they do, SBVAC has had a \$3 million blanket insurance policy just in case such a circumstance arose.

Albano was still unsure as to their "limits of liability" so he suggested that SBVAC's insurance provider and USG's insurance provider along with some other SBU bigwigs and lapdogs have a phone conference the week of December 20th. Everyone who agreed to show up to the meeting kept their word except Albano who realized two days before the meeting that he had to go away on vacation and would not be able to attend. This was not a problem since there were many others present that could bullshit with the best of 'em. The meeting began...

Mike Brooks of USG's insurance provider Austin and Co. Inc. says that the "gap in insurance coverage" is a major problem and must be resolved immediately.

Luckily, Brooks came to the meeting equipped with his handy-dandy extra insurance sales pitch complete with gold-enrod colored brochures and signed testimonials from other satisfied volunteer organizations!

SBVAC's Phillip Aubrey, who was present at the meeting, did not go for it. According to Chief Aubrey, although the vacationing Santo Albano made it clear to SBVAC that it would be a phone conference between insurance companies, no one at the meeting beside himself was aware of it. When Chief Aubrey insisted that Mike Brooks speak to SBVAC's insurer he noticed that a telephone was all of a sudden very difficult to come by. Eventually a phone was found and the call was made.

Paul Cowell of SBVAC's insurance provider Hubbinette, Cowell, Associates Inc. insisted that the Corps was absolutely not a liability to USG's beloved "two-point-three million dollar organization." Not only was USG named on the insurance for \$1 million but they had an additional \$3 million in blanket insurance! Not too long into the

meeting, Mike Brooks was all of a sudden pressed for time and had to be on his way. It was decided that no additional insurance than what SBVAC already had needed to be purchased. USG is not an insurance liability.

As far as the contract between USG

former job. Chief of Operations Ann Teng assured me that the Corps sent USG a contract as early as October 2003 but Albano refutes this claim. Again a contract was drawn up in December and submitted to USG in early January of 2004. This one was not thrown out. It was promised that it would be reviewed and returned to them within a few days. The contract was approved by USG but was not sent back to SBVAC for about a month. As soon as SBVAC's lawyers give it the ok, the Volunteer Ambulance Corps will have their budget freed. In addition to their approximately \$8,300 per month, they will receive the back pay for the seven or so months when funds were not allocated to them.

But what's this? An e-mail from USG's Executive Vice President Sergio deFreitas finds its way into the hands of the media in the basement of the Student Union. It is Sergio's job as chair of the USG Senate to make the agenda for their weekly meetings. (Tuesdays at 7pm, SAC Ballroom A. All are welcome to voice their opinions!) The e-mail had some interesting tidbits though concerning SBVAC.

According to deFreitas, SBVAC was going to publicly apologize to the Senate for "propaganda of going on strike, the refuse of USG Execs from payments, and the outcome of the meeting. (USB Vol. Amb. dropped the ball)" at the February 3rd meeting. This was a total shock to my colleagues and I so we promptly contacted SBVAC's Chief of Operations Ann Teng. Chief Teng knew absolutely nothing of the apparent apology her organization was scheduled to make and she was sure it was a false statement. But why would Vice President deFreitas put the Corps on the agenda for the upcoming meeting (for an

apology, no less!) without notifying them first? Hmm...

SBVAC decided that they would go to the Senate Meeting on February 3rd, but certainly

"But why would Vice President de Freitas put the Corps on the agenda for the upcoming meeting (for an apology, no less!) without notifying them first?"

and SBVAC goes, as of the printing of this article, the contract has been approved by USG's lawyers and is now being looked over by SBVAC's lawyers. But why did the Ambulance Corps wait until now to sign contracts? The answer to that, my friends, is as ridiculous and convoluted as Former Undergraduate Student Government Interim Administrative Director Santo Albano's

not to apologize. Since deFreitas is a stickler for Robert's Rules of Order (even though he is clueless as to how they actually work), I took it upon myself to make sure SBVAC was indeed on the agenda. I visited Sergio in his office (SAC 219, all are welcome to voice their opinions!) the afternoon of the 3rd and asked for a copy of the agenda for

Continued on page 15

McCain - Feingold: An Attack On Your Rights

By Greg Lubicich

When the ACLU, CATO Institute, NRA, NAACP, and even AARP all agree that something is a piece of garbage, you know it is a piece of garbage. When the National Right to Life Committee and Planned Parenthood stand united against something you know what they oppose is pure evil. The McCain-Feingold bill, misnamed as "The Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2001" (S. 27) is now a law, and it has survived legal challenge up to and including the U.S. Supreme Court. The Law gives a monopoly to the mass (corporate) media on political spin for 30 to 60 days before an election. It is no surprise that Dan Rather, et al., have not reported on the anti-American portions of this law. Dan Rather admits that Bush never liked the McCain-Feingold Law, although at the time Rather was trying to bash Bush about it "A big boost for campaign finance reform -- a U.S. Supreme Court decision puts pressure on Congress to act on John McCain's call for change, opposed by President Bush." (www.kausfiles.com/indexmccainfeingold.html)

What didn't Dan Rather tell you? Interest groups that a typical person might belong to such as the NRA, NAACP, CATO, ACLU, and even the AARP are banned from engaging in certain types of speech before an election, yet an exemption is given to major firms such as Westinghouse via its media giants NBC, Disney via its media giant ABC, Viacom via CBS, and Time-Warner via its media outlets CNN, CNN International, and CNN Headline News. (To find out who owns what, visit Columbia Journalism Review at www.cjr.org/tools/owners/)

Below are links to the ACLU, CATO Institute, NRA, and the National right to Life News, all exposing the parts of McCain-Feingold Law that are subject to major media blackout. Did Senator McCain learn about freedom of speech while serving in Stony Brook's student government? Did he learn about issue advocacy from the Department of Student Unions and Activities? Did Dan Rather do an internship here?

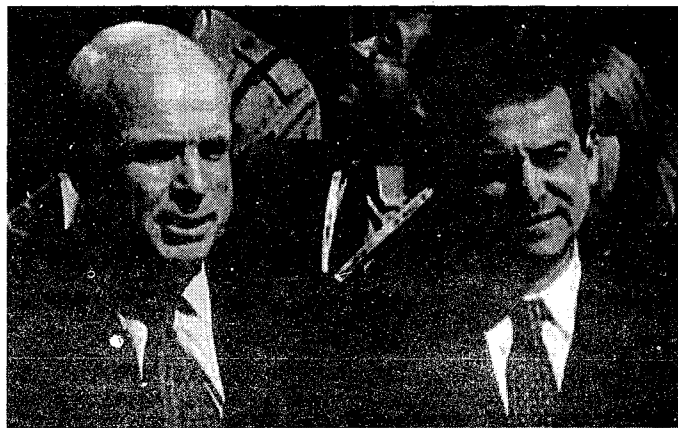
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) <http://archive.aclu.org/congress/1032001b.html> ("The Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2001 is not reform at all, but is a fatally flawed assault on First Amendment rights." Laura W. Murphy, Director ACLU, and Joel Gora, Esq., Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School and Counsel to the ACLU).

Cato Institute (CATO) <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa393.pdf> (An excruciatingly accurate exposition as is usual for CATO, one of the few libertarian think tanks in existence.)

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) <http://www.nrlc.org/news/2001/NRL03/pres.html> (This website is short and concise, and clearly identifies winners and

losers. NRLC's General Counsel, James Bopp, Jr.: "McCain-Feingold 2001 is a major assault on the average citizen's ability to participate in the political process because it targets and imposes severe restrictions on two key citizen groups, which serve as the only effective vehicles through which average citizens may pool their money to express themselves effectively: issue advocacy groups [such as NRLC] and political parties. However, McCain-Feingold 2001 leaves wealthy individuals and candidates and powerful news corporations unscathed, thereby enhancing their relative power in the marketplace of ideas.")

The ACLU and the National Right to Life News agree - now there is a first!



SENATORS MCCAIN AND FEINGOLD.
Courtesy of CNN.

National Rifle Association (NRA) <http://www.nrahq.org/transcripts/cpac0202.asp> Below is an excerpt from a speech from Wayne LaPierre, the NRA Executive Vice President, to the February 2002 CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference). He explains why the major media has said VERY little about this major league abomination. (You'll love the part about the hot air balloon.)

Quote: "And I'll tell you another scandal the media's not covering -- and never will -- and that's how they're embezzling the First Amendment under so-called campaign finance reform."

You know, we don't put people in jail for free speech in the United States of America. But that's exactly what the McCain-Feingold bill would do. It outlaws political speech by groups like the NRA or CPAC or ACLU or NAACO or Fund for Animals or the Sierra Club 30 days before a primary election and 60 days before a general election. No political speech for any individual or any organization except politicians and the big media conglomerates!

I mean General Electric, NBC, CBS, ABC, Viacom, AOL-Time Warner, the Washington Post, New York Times, these multi-billion-dollar media conglomerates and the hundreds of companies they own, can say whatever they want. But not you and me.

Where in the Constitution does it say they're freer than us?

The media could spend millions or billions of dollars creating programming about their pet causes and their pet politicians, while they ignore or vilify you and me. And there's no way we could respond for any amount of money. What media wouldn't take that deal?

Politicians couldn't be criticized by those pesky issue ads that hold them accountable. What incumbent wouldn't take that deal?

You know, in my civics class we learned that if you see something you don't like in America, you join a group, get active, speak up and the worst thing that can happen is your cause loses. Under this bill, you speak up and the worst that can happen is you go to federal prison for 5 years and pay a \$25,000 fine.

It's the biggest, dirtiest, stinkiest assault on freedom I've ever seen. We as citizens should be free to say whatever we want about politicians 20 days, 30 days, even five minutes before an election. That's what makes America different.

But the media won't talk about that part of the bill, and the politicians won't talk about that part of the bill, because they're exempt from the gag order in that part of the bill.

King George threw colonists in jail for pamphleteering against the crown. You tell me, what's the difference?

We will not be silenced. If we have to, we'll launch the Good Ship NRA and drop anchor in international waters just off the coast and broadcast the truth from our own TV towers. We'll tie a radio antenna to a hot air balloon, let 'er go a thousand feet straight up and we'll broadcast the truth on our own Radio Free America. John McCain, we will not be silenced!

The America being designed right now won't resemble the America we've been defending... "

You may contact your federal elected representatives in regard to McCain-Feingold at

Clinton, Hillary - (D - NY) 476 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-4451

Schumer, Charles - (D - NY) 313 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-6542

Congressman Tim Bishop, Washington Office: 1133 Longworth H.O.B. Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-3826, (202)225-3143 (fax); Coram Office: 3680 Route 112, Suite C, Coram, NY 11727, (631)696-6500, (631)696-4520 (fax); Southampton Office: 33 Flying Point Road, Suite 119, Southampton, NY 11968, (631)259-8450

BOOBIES!!

By Dustin Herlich

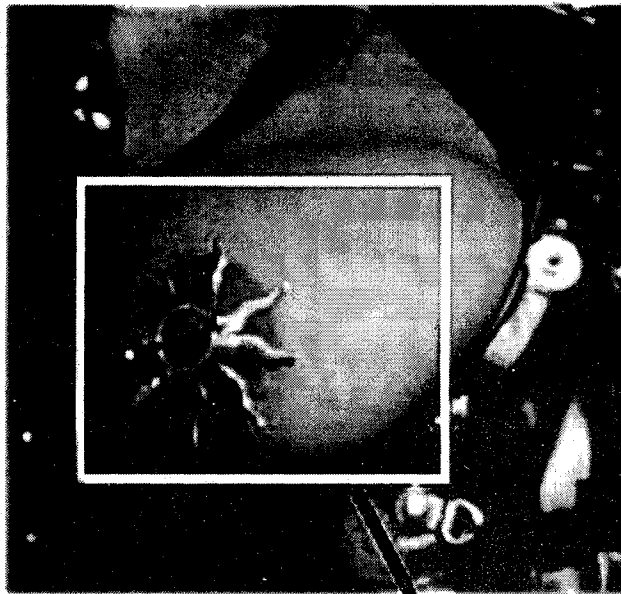
Janet Jackson has boobs. Get over it. Everyone, their mother, and their uncle have now either seen it live or on the Internet, and has an opinion. Mine is that anyone who still cares about this needs to stop wasting my air. I like the woman who wants to sue because the image of the spike clad mammary gland caused her grievous mental harm. I guess this woman never looked down in the shower. It's definitely not wonderful that she did what she did, but why do we care so much?

In all the other civilized nations of the world, the occasional milk pillow flash on TV isn't exactly taboo. In many countries in Europe, all of our hard-core porn at certain hours isn't exactly taboo. I'll never forget going on vacation in Europe, and watching a naked woman run through a waterfall for two minutes, then suddenly, when the commercial ended you saw a bottle of shampoo. Yes, I want that shampoo... But seriously, why are Americans still obsessed with covering up our jumbly wumbles? Nudity is a way of life for some, and Nudist colonies still exist, even in this country. Why is it that Nudists are shunned and labeled as deviants? They believe that the human body in all shapes and forms is a thing of beauty. The Romans and the Greeks (no, frat toga parties don't count as Greek appreciation of the human form) made their highest art in praise of nude perfection. What makes us different?

Yes, there is a time and place for everything, and the revelation of the snack tray was at the wrong time, but why vilify so badly? Now they want to instill mandatory delays to live broadcasts and the like. This is an abhorration to freedom of speech. How can we trust anything live when it's now going to be filtered and edited a few seconds before it reaches us? Suddenly, Bush speeches look amazing because they can take out all the stupid parts before we get to see them. Maybe Janet and Bush are working together? OH NO! Let's all wear meat helmets and hide in aluminum foil bunkers so that the aliens can't beam their mind control rays into our brains and make us vote for

Bush again! Has anyone else noticed the fancy-pants mind wave beamer attached to her teat? I'm sure the evil eye is growing from the other one.

What I have noticed is that suddenly



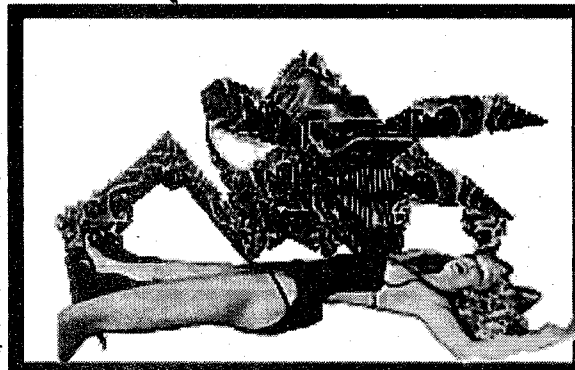
there has been even MORE Janet in the news. You see her saving orphans and giving to charity, and how she's got a new album, and now body piercing shops all around the world are selling copies of the nipple shield she's wearing. Guess what, ladies and gentlemen: SEX SELLS!! And she sure sold some sex. Paris Hilton did the same thing right before her TV show went on air, and now she's all kinds of popular.

If the Press Editors all flashed their pink bits, would more people read the paper? If any more people read the paper, we'd have to increase our run, and that would mean getting more money from USG, and well, they don't seem to want to do that. But I digress... We're here to talk about breasts, the givers of food to human young. Or in her case, a way to publicize herself and to boost record sales. Since we're mostly stuck up puritans in this country, it seems any kind of nakie makes us all turn heads, and we eat up the new and shocking

like no one else. Maybe that in itself is one of reasons that we're still so afraid of our own bodies. If we were freer with sexuality and the human form, then it would be harder to use these things as tools to make money.

How about this food for thought - if Mr. Timberlake had taken his shirt off, the crowd would have cheered and that would have been the end of it. Aside from hair, and occasionally size, what's the difference between man boobs and a woman's chest? Where in history did they become so taboo? Why hasn't that even been something to rally behind in the area of equal rights? Maybe it's because men control the world, and most of us are pigs and can't control ourselves if there's a woman around wearing less than a snowsuit. I don't really know, I'm just asking the question.

The mass media ate this one up, and blew it completely out of proportion, as well as all the critics on morality and censorship and the FCC. It was a big picnic of stupidity and over-reacting to save face. I'm honestly more offended that the word fuck was



said on TV than Janet's public exposure. Who decides what's appropriate and not? Why does the FCC have so much power of supposedly publicly owned airwaves? Again, more food for thought. Let this be a lesson to everyone. Boobs will get your records sold, but just be careful of the negative controversy that ensues. I'm glad she's proud of her body, and for someone of her age, she really is in good shape. Maybe at the next Super Bowl we'll have the teams play naked.

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a LIVE program discussing the pressing issues of student life today

IN FOCUS

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LISTEN to it on **WUSB 90.1FM**

TOP TEN Battle of the Century

New Super Heroes and Their Corresponding Slogans

Jésus
Christos

Jesus
Christ

10

The Flame-boyant Torch -
"Pizazz!!"

9

The Minigolf Avenger -
"He'll putt you behind bars!"

8

Miss Dyslexia -
"She'll fcku yuo pu!"

7

The Astounding Abortionator -
"Stops evil in its fallopian tracks!"

6

Sandy "The Cat" Curtis -
"Four feet and feisty!"

5

Victor von Throwthispaper -
"AWAAAY!!"

4

The Trickster -
"Five Dolla! Five Dolla!"

3

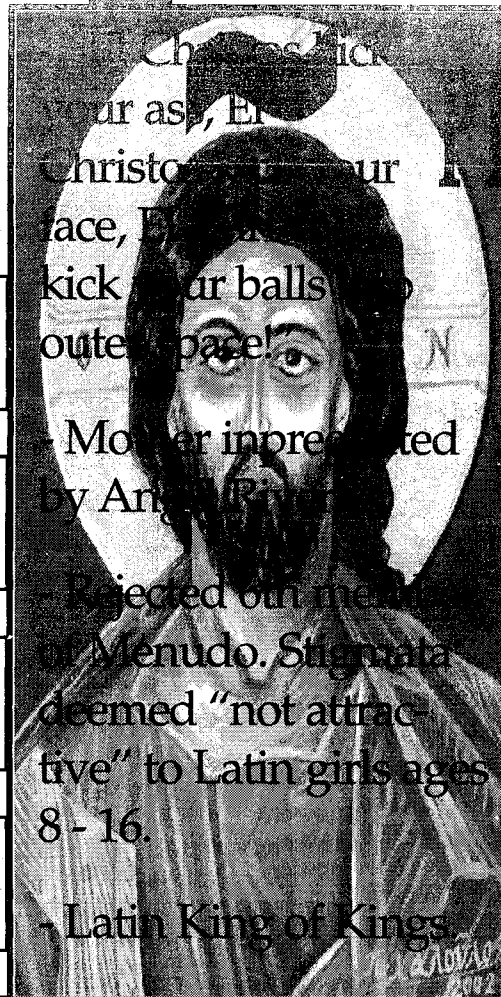
Snuffledownagus -
"Please don't sue!"

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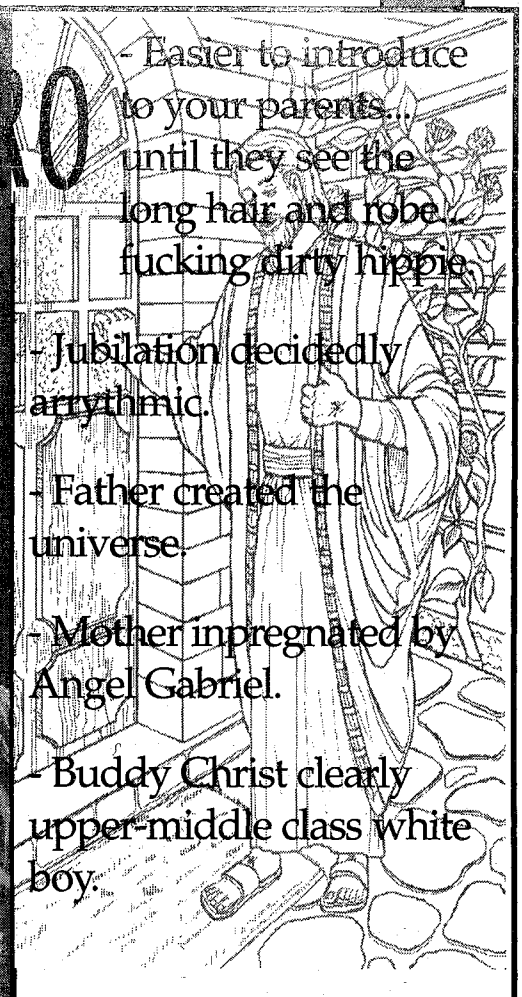
The Statesmanatee -
"Let each become a whale!"

1

Cumshot -
"He's in your face!"



- Jesus Christos
- Easier to introduce to your parents... until they see the long hair and robe... fucking dirty hippie
- Jubilation decidedly arrhythmic.
- Father created the universe
- Mother impregnated by Angel Gabriel.
- Buddy Christ clearly upper-middle class white boy.
- Latin King of Kings



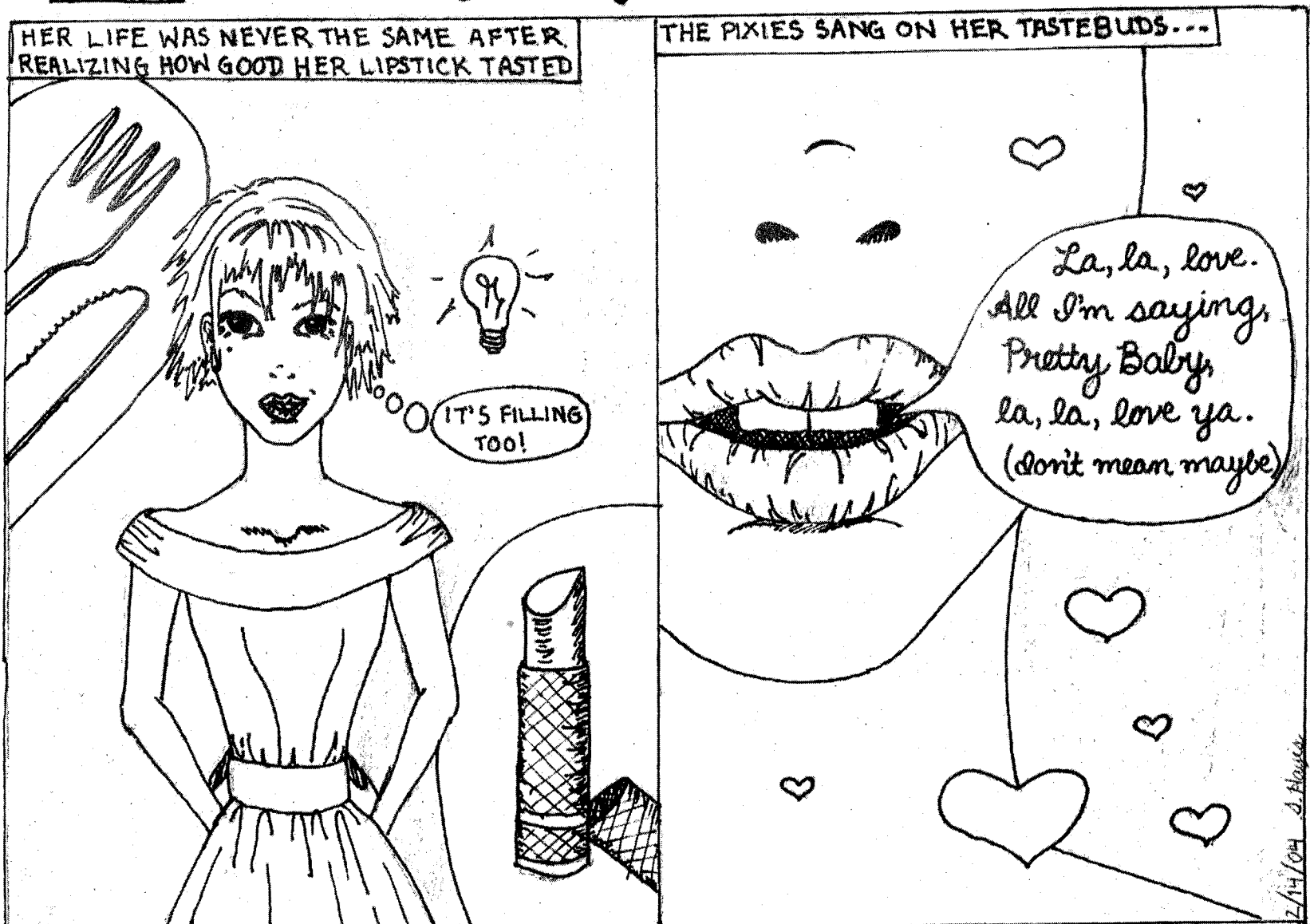
- Smooth European accent means he will nail your little sister
- Product of God's drunken weekend in Rio.
- Virgin Maria? Hell no.
- Turns water into Olde E.
- Only bites who got cut worse than Jésus
- "Jesus Christos" is a river in Egypt.
- Died for your sins... and won't let you hear the fuck-ing end of it.
- Mel Gibson.
- Millions upon millions of pillowbiters as a fan following.

Mooble, or: The Rise and Fall of Modern Logic

by David K. Ginn



★ OMAHA, NE by Steph Hayes



Behind The Wheel

By Lauren Ashley Trankle

Having a car on campus can be rather convenient to any college student. It is pleasant to be able to drive to a grocery store to restock one's food supply and have the luxury to drive home when need be. Having a car on campus is every college student's dream... and nightmare. Over the past few years, deaths due to car accidents have increased. Insurance has sky rocketed. More college students are getting behind the wheel after drinking. This leads to the continued increase in DUI and DWI's that are given to those of the younger generation.

It is important to take the necessary steps when driving to protect the lives of others and yourself. Safety belts are a must regardless of the length of your trip. Many people believe that they are very safe when driving to the store, the campus, or a friend's house - but all it takes is one driver not paying attention, losing control or taking unnecessary risk. Three out of four collisions occur within 25 miles of home! When the speed limit decreases, this does not mean the driver should be any less cautious while driving. Nearly 8 out of 10 collisions occur at speeds less than 40 mph. People not wearing safety belts have been fatally injured in collisions as low as 12 mph. That is about the speed you would be driving in a parking lot.

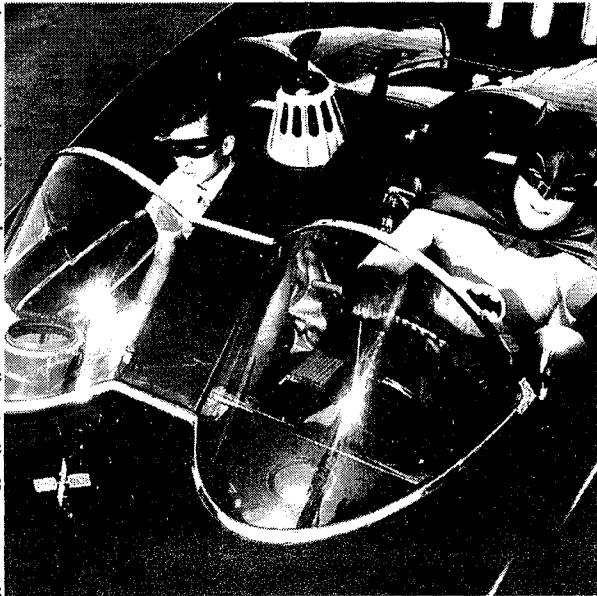
I can't emphasize enough how critical it is to wear a safety belt! Safety belts reduce the chances of being killed or seriously injured by 50% in the event of a collision. Some students have shown the effectiveness of safety belts to be well beyond 80%. The lap-shoulder combination gives better protection than just a lap belt. Also note that in real life, cars collide at all angles and the passengers are thrown in every conceivable direction unless they are safely buckled up and anchored to the vehi-

cle seat. The most common causes of injury and death to children in automobile collisions are: a) being thrown into the windshield, dashboard or some other part of the vehicle; b) being crushed by adults who are not wearing safety belts; c) being thrown out of the car.

Drinking and driving is a hazardous combination. Studies of automobile crashes show the impact of drinking on fatalities and injuries. Consider the facts:

- One third of the fatalities and injuries in New York State involve impaired or intoxicated drivers and pedestrians.

- With the increased Blood Alcohol Content (BAC), crash risk increases sharply. A driver



er with a BAC of 0.08 is four times as likely to cause a crash as a driver who has not been drinking, while a driver with a BAC of 0.16 is 25 times as likely to do so.

- Underage drinking drivers are at the highest risk of all. Drivers 20 years old or younger are almost three times as likely to be involved in alcohol related fatal crashes than other drivers.

No one should consume alcohol and drive. Everyone's safe driving ability deteriorates after drinking. Some people, especially young drivers, lose their driving skills even more quickly. This is why New York State law makes it illegal for any driver or passenger to possess an alcoholic beverage with intent to consume (commonly called the "open container" law).

There is no quick fix, no known way to reduce your BAC after drinking, except to wait for your body to metabolize (eliminate) the alcohol, and that takes several hours. Your body metabolizes about one drink each

hour. This means coffee will not sober you up, nor will a walk or a cold shower. They may make you feel more awake, but you will be just as impaired, and it will be just as dangerous for you to drive.

If you are under 21, your driver's license will be revoked for one year if you are convicted of DWI or DWAI in New York State, or in any other state or a province in Canada. If you are found to have refused to take a chemical test in New York State, even if not convicted of DWI or DWAI, your license will be revoked for one year.

If you commit a second such offense while you are under 21, your license will be revoked for at least one year or until you are 21, whichever is longer.

In both cases, if you enroll in the Drinking Driver Program (DDP) and receive a conditional license, your license will remain in conditional status for the original full period of revocation.

Also be aware of suspension of your license if you are found guilty of using a fake New York State Driver's License or non-Driver Identification Card as proof of age to illegally purchase alcoholic beverages.

It is necessary to make smart judgment calls when drinking by yourself or with your peers. If you are at a party and have been drinking, find someone who has not been drinking to drive your car or give you a ride home, or call a taxi. It is a good idea to keep extra cash in your wallet and the number of a taxi service in your cell phone, phone book.

You have a right and a responsibility to say "NO!" Think of other ways of getting home for you and your friends. Don't feel embarrassed or afraid to call your home for help. Or call a friend, or a taxi. Your life may be at stake! Your chances of being involved in a fatal collision are many times greater if you ride with a driver who has been drinking.

I hope the next time you get behind the wheel of your car you buckle up and are sober. You may save someone's life including your own.

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we got couches

room 060 SBUnion
every wed 7pm

we got couches

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The Stony Brook Press

we got couches

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every wed 7pm

Does Anyone Else Have A Problem With This?

Continued from page 9

the meeting that night. Sergio said he would e-mail it to me and inquired if I knew what was going to happen. I shrugged. He said it would be "interesting." I shrugged again. He then found it impossible to contain his excitement and blurted out the now-infamous phrase, "Let's just say that SBVAC dropped the ball."

That night, the meeting took place as scheduled, but Sergio deFreitas looked surprised when SBVAC entered the meeting. The ten minutes that was allocated to the Ambulance Corps was used by our good friend, First Assistant Chief Phillip Aubrey, who brought the situation to the Senate's attention. After a beautiful and compelling speech by Chief Aubrey, Sergio deFreitas said that the e-mail was an internal office memo and he was sorry if there was a misunderstanding. Assistant Chief Aubrey made it clear that this was not an acceptable apology and that his organization deserved better. When the topic was pursued by the gallery during open forum, deFreitas stated that he would not comment until the situation was resolved and that he had to discuss it with his Executive Council.

The next Senate meeting was the following Tuesday, February 10th. SBVAC was



*Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps Representatives (back row).
Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo.*

back in full force to hear Sergio's response. It came in the form of about four lines under Sergio's letterhead reiterating his regret that a "misunderstanding" had taken place. SBVAC said that this was still not sufficient. In addition, Former SBVAC Treasurer, Ted Teng, spoke for a few minutes. He distinctly made it clear to the Senate multiple times that he was speaking personally and not for the Ambulance Corps. Mr. Teng stated that Sergio overheard a conversation between Teng and a PEC professor at SUNY Stony Brook in regards to financial problems the Corps was experiencing. Teng read a signed affidavit from the professor stating that he spoke to Teng of SBVAC's troubles but not once did the spreading of propaganda or the issue of going on strike occur in the conversation. (Especially noting that the Volunteer Ambulance Corps by law could not go on strike.) Teng felt that deFreitas simply

made the situation into something he could use against SBVAC.

I don't think that anyone means to suggest that the two aforementioned stories are related but the reader is free to make of it whatever he or she so pleases. What is clear to me though is that certain groups within the Undergraduate Student Government are not behaving as if the students are their primary concern. Whether it's insurance shakedowns, reputation smearing, incompetence or stupidity (or maybe all of the above!), an intense revision of the Undergraduate Student Government and its policies should take place immediately. USG's claim to fame has always been their allegiance to correcting the mistakes of the oh-so-corrupt Polity, but so far this campus has seen nothing but the all too familiar repetition of history under our "new and improved" student government.

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ELVIS SIGHTING!!!!!!...at the Union?

By Jessica Worthington

So, I was minding my own beeswax go wrong.

last Saturday night, and you wouldn't After doing crappy at the craps table We were All Shook Up by the end of the night

believe what happened. I, Jessica Q. Worthington, with mine own two eyes, witnessed something out of this world.

As I entered the ballroom of the Union there was a man. This man was adorned in a form-fitting white suit that had been in a fight with a Bedazzler and fringes along the arms. He had a giant gold chain to grace his neck, perfectly pruned sideburns, wavy jet-black hair, and a sweet golden tan. With the curl of his lip and the thrust of his pelvis, I knew who was before me. This man was none other than Elvis Presley. And he was dancing on a table.

Then I found out that it wasn't Elvis, but it was pretty damn close. It was actually an Elvis tribute band. And boy did they Shake, Rattle and Roll.

They were invited to the Commuter Student Association's event, entitled Mood Indigo. CSA magically transformed the Ballroom from a dull, empty space perfect for shady dealings, to a festive, populated space perfect for shady dealings. With a casino on one side, a leather-clad Elvis impersonator on the other, and food in the middle, you can't

(sorry), I strapped on my Blue Suede Shoes and strolled on over to the stage in hopes of being the lucky girl Elvis would wrap his silky scarf around and woo. He was nothin' but a Hound Dog as I told him Don't Be Cruel. He Got His Mojo Working, along with everyone else's in the room as he Rocked Around The Clock by Returning To Sender the

Unchained Melodies of The Love Machine.

as he exclaimed with a groin-straining split, "Viva Las Vegas!"

By the by, this wonderous band is called King Kai and the Creoles. Headed by King Kai, known to the outside world only as Jimmy, this group of Elvis enthusiasts have played the world over. Having been crowned the king at several Elvis impersonator contests, Stony Brook should thrust with pride at having this legend perform on our very grounds. And yes, they could perform. The energy emitted from the spectacular five-person band coupled with the electricity of The King himself, was exactly the fun, different, entertaining entertainment this campus needs.

I'd like to thank the Commuter Student Association for their efforts as they have always and continue still, to put on great events such as this one. Thank you casinos for providing an outlet for people with weak-minded, addictive personalities. Thank you Elvis Presley for not being afraid to thrust

your pelvis, shake your be-hind, wear jewel-studded leather, and exert enough sexual energy to father a small, no large country. And thank you King Kai and the Creoles for prolonging the magic and making me feel like I was negative 30 again.



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Magan Hoffman

Olesya Ianovitch

Esther Kim

Jim Lim

Jackie Lipp

Margitta Rogers

Helen Moisen-Scott

Amanda Smith

Jaun Luis Zepeda

Thur 1-9pm

Fri Sat Sun 1-10pm

Monday's Closed

Graduate Exhibition #1

March 27, thru April 18, 2004

Amy Ragshaw

Bryan Lauch

Max Liboiron

Sang Ah Suh

Kentaro Totsuka

Graduate Exhibition #2

April 24, thru May 16, 2004

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Lawerence Mesich

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Learning Nothing in the Process of Excelling

By Lauren Ashley Trankle

Is the risk of getting caught or not learning a thing during one's academic adventure - commonly known as cheating - really worth the hopeful 4.0? Students all over the nation turn to cheating rather than their textbooks. In a world where excelling is key and failure is not tolerated, students feel cheating is sometimes the best solution.

Cheating is an action common for many college students. The Internet, cell phones, and other high-tech devices are adding to the rise in cheating, says John Zacker, Ph.D., the director of student discipline at the University of Maryland-College Park and an expert on how technology has affected cheating. All a student has to do is IM, text-message, or search the Web, and someone else can provide her with the answer. Many students are faced with challenging work from their courses and often feel overwhelmed with their work; this in turn leads to cheating.

Cheating happens all the time, according to surveys by Donald L. McCabe, Ph.D., a professor of business at Rutgers University and the founding president of the Center for Academic Integrity. Most students cheat at least once in high school or college, and nearly a quarter of all college students admit to serious cheating on exams.

If a student is caught cheating on exams or copying someone else's work that student will be brought before the Center for Academic Integrity. If that student is found guilty of academic dishonesty that individual will have "failure due to academic dishonesty" found on their transcript. If 'academic dishonesty' is on your transcript it will definitely hurt your chances of finding a job.

The average college student has uncountable expectations in every given day. Today, students are expected to excel in their studies, participate in school related activities, work part time, volunteer, and still function.

There are numerous cheating strategies that college students are applying to their 'work technique.' I have heard of students smearing lip balm on "Scantron" answer sheets (those fill-in-the-dot forms) to make them unreadable to computers, and using cell phones to have friend's text-message the answers during an exam. Also, cheaters do still use traditional methods, such as writing answers on gum. But these methods are risky.

Last year, a professor at the University of Maryland posted incorrect answers to an exam on the Web; students who asked friends to text-message them got the wrong answers, which red-flagged their exams. The six students who confessed all failed, and notes were put on their transcripts.

Some websites offer papers - free or for sale - on virtually any subject. However, there are also websites that professors are

using to detect duplicated work (for example, turnitin.com, a service that spots stolen phrases and purchased papers). Other professors type suspicious phrases into Google to search for the original source.

Professors are opening their eyes wider, as students' sneaky cheating techniques increase. In a suburban all-boys high school in Maryland, 10 senior boys cheated on the SAT. Eight were suspended, two expelled, and 81 students at the testing center had their scores cancelled. Students that cheat often forget that their cheating can also hurt their classmate's academic standing.

It is simple to compare your math answers from last night's homework with your close buddy from class. However, changing your answer to his is cheating. Students often forget that a simple line from an author that you 'borrowed' for your report, if not properly cited, is considered plagiarizing. It is easy to cheat, but it also becoming easier for professors to catch cheaters.

There are various ways students can

avoid cheating. One of the most essential things to remember is time management. Every free minute you have, take the time to read over class notes, start assigned work, and begin projects that require a great amount of time. The worst thing any college student can do is cram for an exam the night before. It is better to study for exams a little bit each day. You will be more likely to remember the information for the end of the semester exam.

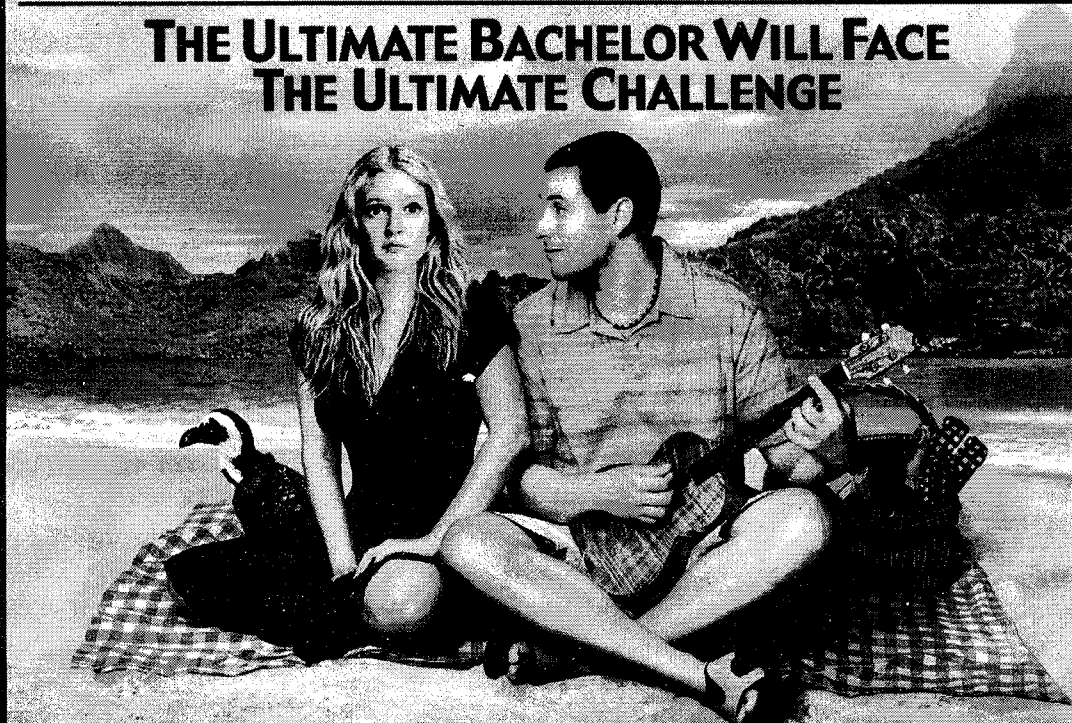
When you feel overwhelmed with your work or when you are taking an exam the best strategy to apply is relaxation. When your heart is racing, relaxation will help calm you down. Close your eyes for a minute and breathe in and out through your nose. This will help you get your breathing and heart rate back to normal. Focusing on breathing works well because it helps you quiet your mind, making it easier to relax.

Next time you are tempted to copy and paste information from a website or copy your friend's paper from last semester, think twice. It is not worth the risk of losing your earned spot at Stony Brook University.

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"50 FIRST DATES" OPENS IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE ON FEBRUARY 13!

Stony Brook Fucking Stinks

Continued from page 8

friendships and good communities. Once two or more people have genuinely expressed their feelings about life to each other they know where the other stands. They know when they can and can't trust each other, and if they are safe with that person. Typically, even people of different belief systems can find they value the same things. If people don't value the same things, it is even more important that they know it about each other and learn to accept it at the beginning of the

relationship rather than further along where it can cause real damage to a fragile foundation built on mere physical sensation.

Trust and understanding are the result of a good and healthy amount of sharing among peers. Such sharing should be free of criticism. Instead one should apply curiosity about their neighbor's perspective so they can imagine what it's like to be in their shoes. It is not easy to do this, it takes humility to accept the fact that your views may only be compatible with the life you

have been blessed with and that other people have different views shaped by their own unique life that you may never be able to totally relate to.

Still, if everyone in Stony Brook made the effort to do this, Stony Brook would be a better place. Of that I have no doubt. So, when you see or meet someone who is totally different from you, try to understand what makes him or her the way they are. Remember, there is a reason for everything - even things that make you want to puke.

Race To The Lincoln Bedroom

By Sam Goldman

First off, a little preface. From now until May, this column will deal with the events leading up to the 2004 Presidential elections. In the interest of public disclosure, I am registered as not belonging to any party, but my politics do lean towards the left. However, I'll try my best to be fair and impartial. Also, I am not a Washington insider, nor do I have Times-sized resources. If I'm wrong, I'll gladly admit it, so don't hesitate to tell me that - just be nice about it. Now, on to the fun stuff...

And then there were two.

With Wesley Clark and Joe Lieberman dropping out, John Edwards and Howard Dean falling further behind, and Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton never really in it to begin with, the



THE SEXIEST FACE LINCOLN COULD MUSTER.
Courtesy of Mike Fabbri.

Democrats are left with John Kerry. Pundits are already projecting Kerry as Bush's main challenger going into the spring and summer. However, the time between now and March 2's "Super Tuesday" primary will allow Dean and Edwards time to make their last stand. Already his rivals have started to attack him on what looks to be an about-face on the war in Iraq - he voted for the Senate resolution authorizing military force in Iraq back in October 2002, but now he has been attacking Bush, painting himself with an anti-war brush. The fact that Kerry's home state of Massachusetts is wrestling with the gay-marriage issue may also be an attack point in the weeks to come.

There have been rumors swirling around Edwards, namely, that he would accept a vice-presidential seat from Kerry if so offered. Many feel that a Kerry/Edwards ticket would have the best chance of beating Bush come November. Which brings me to

something that is one of the key points in the campaign: Electability. Democratic voters, now more than ever before, are strictly looking at which candidate they feel would have the best chance of winning come Election Day. They feel that George Bush is such a threat to the nation that it's better to vote for someone who has the best chance of beating him over someone who they feel is the best candidate. This accounts for the surge in John Kerry's approval ratings in the past few weeks as more and more Democrats feel he is the candidate popular enough to defeat Bush.

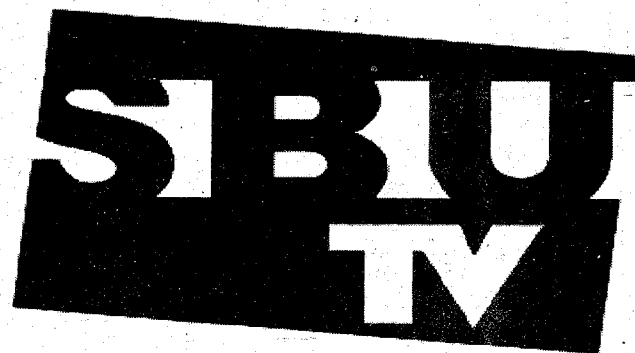
Speaking of our erstwhile President, it has, on the whole, not been a good week for George W. Bush. It started with his appearance on NBC's Meet The Press. Most critics, both conservative and liberal, gave him piss-poor marks for the way he fumbled through host Tim Russert's questions. The week continued with a statement from CIA Director George Tenet during a press conference where he all but admitted that there were no weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq. Finally, on the same day, a Washington Post/ABCNews poll showed Bush with his lowest approval ratings ever, and accusations swirled that Bush went AWOL during his tour of duty in the National Guard. Bush was forced to release his medical records, showing his critics that those accusations were false. Yikes.

The only good news that came for Bush was the announcement by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that he expects there to be a job boom - 2.6 million new jobs, he estimates, in this upcoming year. Which brings us

to bullet point number two: the economy. Regardless of what is going on in the world, economic issues are always one of the main issues in any Presidential campaign. If Bush can show that the economy is finally improving during wartime (something which traditionally happens), it will seriously help his campaign.

To finish with something off the beaten path, it looks as if Ralph Nader, who ran for President in 2000 on the Green Party line, may be gearing up to try again in 2004. Between now and the next publication of the paper, he is expected to announce whether or not he will run again. Unfortunately, he has much less support now than he did then, due to the electability issue, as there is a possibility that Nader could be the difference between beating Bush and having him stay another four years. The usually liberal weekly magazine The Nation wrote Nader an open letter urging him to sit this one out.

What will the next two weeks bring? Not too much is on the schedule. The Democratic candidates will be campaigning in the "Super Tuesday" states, which, by the way, include New York. George Bush will attempt to reassert himself on the Iraq issue, as well as slowly begin to attack John Kerry. Ralph Nader will rise in the forest...but will he make a sound? I'll be back in two weeks to tell you all what's happened in the previous two weeks, but in the meantime, make sure you register to vote, because otherwise this is all useless to you.



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Interview with Senator Jim Driscoll

By Ben Bravmann

Ben Bravman- BB

Jim Driscoll- JD

BB: What is your role here on campus?

JD: I am an undergraduate student majoring in applied mathematics and economics, currently president of the Commuter Student Association and the CSA representative to the USG Senate.

BB: What were you doing in the Summer of Love? [1969]

JD: I was in the U.S. Marine Corps, a Vietnam Era Vet. (Honorably Discharged)

BB: I assume you were drafted?

JD: No, I volunteered

BB: So let's get this straight, people are dying over in Vietnam and you volunteer to be in the service?

JD: Yes

BB: What were your responsibilities in the service?

JD: I was a truck driver, I was a combat engineer, I did construction and combat zone

BB: Compared to your experiences in the service how do your days here at SBU rate?

JD: There's a lot of leadership experience that I got in the service that I'm trying to translate to my role in the CSA.

BB: Do you think the leaders in the student government are good leaders, in general? Why or why not?

JD: In my opinion, I think with more student involve-

ment we could reach out to the student leaders on campus.

BB: How did you become president of the CSA?

JD: My history with CSA is I started out as CSA senator. I was then elected Sergeant at Arms. The following year I was elected Secretary. I served as secretary for two years and was then elected president, a position which I'm currently serving.

JD: I urge every student who pays a student activity fee to attend senate meetings, to attend council meetings, to make their voices heard.

BB: Would you like to comment on the state of the university's administration as a whole?

JD: In my opinion, the university's administration needs to be more responsive to students and less responsive to special interests.

BB: Is there anything else you would like to say in this interview?

JD: I hope more students get involved because the more involvement, the more scrutiny, the less likely something can go wrong.



JIM DRISCOLL (left) and BEN BRAVMANN (right).
Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo.

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- SUNY STONY BROOK PRESENTS -

CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT

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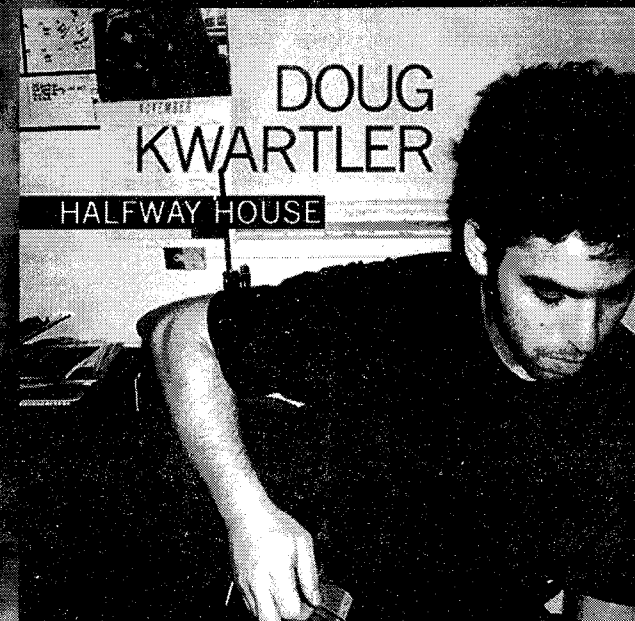
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Slashdot Infiltrated?

By Greg Lubicich

Apparently the easy access to information given by the Internet is too dangerous for the status quo, so there was and is a big movement to censor what people in a given country can see, hear, and thus think, especially via search engines. This article presents enough sources for the reader to decide whether there was a COUNTERINTELPRO-style disruption of the nascent movement among high skill programmers and lawyers to oppose censorware - software designed to deny information.

The good guy in this story is Seth Finkelstein, and although times were tough, he appears vindicated and victorious. According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation's (EFF) Pioneer Awards Honor Internet Luminaries, Seth Finkelstein is an "anti-censorship activist and programmer. Seth Finkelstein spent hundreds of unpaid and uncredited hours over several years to decrypt and expose to public scrutiny the secret contents of the most popular censorware blacklists. Seth has been active in raising the level of public awareness about the dangers that Internet content blocking software and rating/labeling schemes pose to freedom of communication. His work has armed many with information of great assistance in the fight against government mandated use of these systems."

The reason we in the US don't have a filtering system as Draconian and opaque as in countries like North Korea or China

(although we have one) is due to a small group of people, including Seth Finkelstein, who pushed during Congressional hearings for a DMCA law exemption to allow anticensorware.com people to decrypt censorware. Right before the hearings the person who owned their domain name became erratic, allegedly taking the site down, then after group members objected allegedly putting it up again possibly without all the content. Did this person have second thoughts about his/her involvement in the whole project? Perhaps, but then why is the same person alleged to have released to the public (and any enemies) an internal memo from the group's lawyer detailing reverse engineering of censorware when this memo could be a basis for legal action against the individuals or the group? If he had the jitters, there are more reasonable outlets than hobbling and/or endangering your own people at the moment of greatest media attention. It is hard to think of any set of actions more strategically timed to disrupt, dispirit, and disadvantage a group than those presented here.

The story reads like a classic COUNTERINTELPRO program of infiltration, disruption, and compromise. In these scenarios the infiltrator is usually rewarded with some goodie such as being released from a 20-year jail sentence, money, a job, or a bullet in the head if he threatens to reveal his handlers. One of the people who may have

been involved in the hi-jinks with the website and so forth is now allegedly an editor at Slashdot.org, a major portal for technology news. Why would Slashdot hire him?

Seth Finkelstein must be a true technology genius, and he must have a great moral core to his character. Unfortunately, nowhere on his website, <http://sethf.com>, could this author find any indication that the experiences of the anticensorware group fit a tried and true pattern, or that it may have been instigated and coordinated by agents of a foreign intelligence agency.

The Highs and Lows

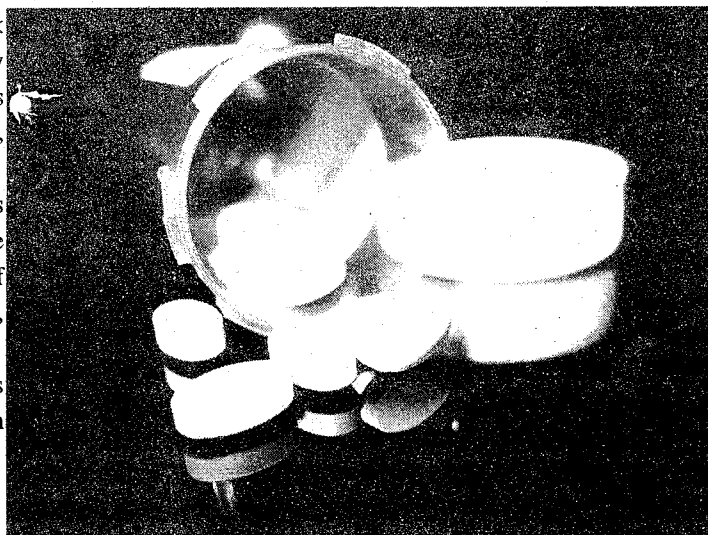
By Lauren Ashley Trankle

College can be one of the most rewarding and fulfilling times in an individual's life: freedom from parents, learning about yourself and others, and developing friendships that last a lifetime. Stony Brook University allows for students to experience a great deal through a wide variety of clubs and organizations. Also, Stony Brook allows students to learn an enormous amount about various cultures and the diversity of students surrounding the campus. However, Stony Brook University is a university that challenges its students academically, athletically, and socially. Students ranging from freshmen to seniors all experience the pressure to excel in every aspect of their life. At Stony Brook, and all over the nation, students are turning to drugs such as Ritalin to help them deal with the stress of college.

More than four million college-age Americans used a prescription medicine illegally in 2001, according to a new survey from the U.S. Department of

Health. That makes other people's medicines the second most popular illegal drug among young adults, after marijuana. Mushrooms, cocaine, LSD, and alcohol can still be found around campuses but the drug of choice these days seems to be prescription medication, especially Ritalin. Ritalin, the prescription stimulant used to treat attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), has become the drug college students take when

they feel they can not think or complete their



assigned work on their own.

Ritalin may also be the drug of choice for many college students due to its

easy access and low cost. Students can get Ritalin from friends, family, doctors, and at social gatherings. Students pay about \$3 to \$10 a pill, which is rather affordable for any student living on a tight budget.

Ritalin is a drug used not only for studying, but also as a big party drug. It is rather challenging to determine who is and is not taking this drug. It can be found in the possession of athletes, student body representatives, sororities and fraternities, and the ordinary Joe Somebody. Not one specific type of person is taking Ritalin. However, the effect of Ritalin is the same for all.

Narcotic painkillers such as Percocet and Vicodin are also popular among students who are into drugs. Many students have medications left over from various medical operations such as knee surgery and the removal of wisdom teeth. Instead of throwing the medications away after recovering, students sell and use these medications.

The opportunity to experiment with drugs is there if you want and it can be rather tempting. When you see your buddy from math class snort Ritalin off the floor in the bathroom of a bar, you may think, "It's

Continued on page 22

Torn by Beauty

By Lauren Ashley Trinkle

You see it at the gym, hair salons, in class, at the mall, and if that's not enough it shouts at you from bulletin boards and television. Beauty is perfection in today's society. Girls are told that there is no such thing as being too skinny. Guys are told that there is no limit to their weight lifting. Why is it that no matter how good we look, it's never good enough?

The number of women getting their physiques cut-and-pasted has surged 128 percent in the past six years, with countless more craving procedures to better their appearance. More women and men have decided to go under the knife. Let me point out that these individuals are not getting a heart transplant or a kidney replaced. They are simply getting liposuction, new breasts, and let's not forget nose jobs, brow-lift, cheek and calf implants, and the enhancing of the lips with collagen.

It is safer and cheaper than ever to get a new, tight tummy and a firm ass. Breast implants that might have cost \$10,000 in 1994 can now be found for half the price. With costs dropping, so are the patients' ages; doctors report that half the women who are getting implants are under 34, as are a third of those getting liposuction.

Some thrive for the six-packs, others scream for buns of steel. Everyone's image of the most sculpted body varies from individual to individual. Some like having a little extra meat on their thighs while others will spend countless hours running on the treadmill so they never go beyond a whopping size four. When the scale tilts a little too much to the right, one often feels like the Titanic. Sad but true, unfortunately, you will have another broken scale to add to the pile of the

others' you have thrown out the bathroom window.

Weight Watchers and Slim Fast both preach that if instructions are followed properly, you are guaranteed to be the God or Goddess amongst your peers. Hey, I always wanted people to stand when I entered a room or cover my body with uncountable jewels. However, Weight Watchers and Slim Fast both forget one tiny, little detail that if your, gasp, diet does not make that inner-tube around your stomach deflate, you will remain to be the peasant you always were meant to be. That's right, no more dinner for you and its back to yo-yo dieting. You skip a meal and then eat ten meals later because, if you don't, you're going to pass out from being famished, or so you think.

Men and women are getting plastic surgery and spending more time at the gym than with their friends and family, in anticipation of making themselves look younger and sexier. I admit after bitching for what seems like eternity, ok, thirty minutes, I feel better after working out. I do a little spin in front of the mirror. After checking out my front and back and front again, I feel a little more at peace with my thighs and buttock. This is until I wake up in the morning and nearly kill myself trying to get out of bed because my legs are so sore from my tedious workout from the day before.

We are told looks do not matter by our friends and family. If this is true, why is "Extreme Makeover" still being aired on ABC and why is it every time I pick up a magazine there is always an article about

"How I lost 100 pounds in 10 minutes!"?

Maybe I'll start the Subway diet? Better yet, I'll just give up carbs and stick to meat products. Everyone loves meat these days.

So many college-age men and women are now spending their spring vacations getting procedures done on their bodies, instead of hitting the warm beaches in Cancun. Our preceding generations realize the pressures that our generation faces to perfect our bodies. A "to-die-for" shape wasn't required for the older generation and none of their idols promoted perfection.

Marilyn Monroe was considered the Britney Spears of the 1940's. Nowadays, Marilyn Monroe would be described as overweight by the media's standards and not up to par with society's concept of beauty. Having a pretty face just isn't enough anymore!

Superstars face the same body image problems as we do. The lovely actress Liv Tyler has said repeatedly, "I've been told if I lose weight, I'd have more work, but I refuse to submit [to that]. To the rest of the world I'm slim, and I like the way I am."

Expectations have certainly changed over the years. The twentieth century has standards that the average person can not meet. I feel sorry for my peers who struggle with their body image. Society does not allow individuals to be creative and unique. Instead, society demands set standards to be strictly followed. The twentieth century should be about individualism and freedom of artistic expression, instead society is making this impossible.



MAAAAAAD DRUGS. YALL!
Courtesy of Yahoo.



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The Highs and Lows

By Lauren Ashley Trankle

Continued from page 20

all just fun and games." When it comes to your mental and physical health, it is never just fun and games!

Ritalin is one of several brand names for the stimulant methylphenidate, which aids the parts of the brain that help people concentrate and focus on tasks. Timothy Wilens, M.D., a child psychiatrist who is a specialist in ADHD at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston says, "Ritalin, Adderall, and similar stimulants have allowed millions of children to succeed in school. The drugs have also enabled them to appropriately handle social situations that would otherwise be impossible because of chemical inadequacies in their brains."

Ritalin and other drugs may help you

succeed on your paper but what it can do to your wellbeing is not pretty. Your heart beats faster and you become much more irritable. Other side effects include dry mouth, dizziness, and headaches. The most common health risk to students who abuse ADHD medicines as study drugs is severe sleep disruption or deprivation.

Ironically, sleep loss from stimulant abuse can also cause someone with normal concentration levels to become less attentive and lose their focus. Students that snort Ritalin expose themselves to similar medical risks as users who snort cocaine. It can cause nose bleeds, open sores, and it can erode the nasal tissue.

Still, many college students who party or study with ADHD medications don't

see a problem and they believe their actions are relatively harmless. WRONG! Last year 1,245 people wound up in the ER after they took ADHD medications.

No one needs a pill to help him or her succeed. There are numerous ways that students can get academic and mental support on campus. Professors have office hours for a reason and TA's are there to help students understand the material taught in class. Everyone who attends Stony Brook University is here because they have the ability to achieve a great amount during their academic schooling.

Dude! Where's My Butterfly?!

By Gregory Aiello

Well to start out I'd like to welcome you all, with a heart-felt pat on the shoulder, back to Stony Brook. The weeks are already trudging by (no doubt about that), we are snoozing in class already (no doubt about that), and us commuters once again realize why we hate commuting (Can I get a hallelujah?). This seems to be just the right time for me, your favorite movie critic, to get back into the critiquing flow.

The Butterfly Effect. What is it? The theory, boiled down to the nitty gritty, means changing one small and tiny thing can have a huge impact on something else. Cool. So the concept of this movie is our star, Ashton Kutcher, has the ability to rewind time to sections of his life where he experienced blackouts and change what happens. Cool. Coincidentally these black outs ALL happen at critical, character-defining moments in his life and the lives of others. Convenient for the plot, of course, because who the hell would want to see a movie where a guy rewinds to change what game console he buys? PS2? X-Box? Game Cube? Dear lord! I need my journal!

So allow me to get the good stuff out of the way first. Awesome concept! Damn cool plot! Twisty! Tasty! Sure! Of course right after the movie is over you begin to think, "Shit, where are my critical moments in life, and what would I change, and more importantly... what would be different?" Crazy, I know. I began to think the same thing myself and had a good stroll down memory lane. That's how I know the concept is good. It's because I walked out of there thinking about it. Neat stuff from the minds of J. Mackye Gruber and Eric Bress, if I do say so. Also, it's still making me laugh even as I write this, the character Thumper was awesome. Ethan Suplee, big dude with the crazy hair, is by far the most interesting

character in the movie. Damn funny. Damn right.

But this is where the bad stuff starts to come in to play. Umm, the actors. Aside from the man Thumper, and all the kids cast to play the ages of the main characters at 13 and 7, the cast is weak. The weakest link is, you guessed it, Ashton "Dude" Kutcher. Sorry folks, no respect here for a guy who could star in Dude Where's My Car and That 70's Show (which of course just means they dress from the 70's repertoire and have modernized retard humor with prompted laughter), and come to this movie expecting to be taken seriously. Come on people, this is the same man who went through a five minute bit of trading "Dude! What's mine say?" and then "Sweet! What's mine say?" and then "Dude! What's mine say?" and then "Sweet! What's mine say?" "Dude! What's mine say?" and then "Sweet! What's mine say?"... No. No and then some. Of course there he also is in the hit teen movie My Boss's Daughter and says the line "I was just checking these girls for breast cancer." Does he do all this and come to The Butterfly Effect expecting to be taken seriously? I'm sure he does but, despite his degree in Bio-Bumblefuck-Chemistry, he ain't the brightest lamp on the street corner. Ashton Kutcher, my message to you is to never overstep your bounds again. And you're dating Demi Moore? It makes a kind of fucked up sense...

While I'm on the subject I am faintly reminded of Josh Hartnett. He thinks he's an actor too. Let's set the record straight. He's

not. Please put in another quarter and make a new selection. And stay out of the pretty-boy aisle: it doesn't work. Of course, that dumb fuck makes Ashton Kutcher's acting look like it's a work of art.

The chick in this movie is Amy Smart, playing the triangulation of all of Kutcher's love, Kayleigh Miller. Her track record thus far as an actor is as unimpressive as Kutcher's, but she's not so bad in this one. I mean, what is there to screaming bloody murder and pretending to cry and being a ditz anyway? Could be tough stuff if she forgets who she's supposed to be sleeping with, I suppose. Of course the focus of the movie is her and who she happens to be sleeping with. Ashton Kutcher wants to be that guy. Uh-huh. The degree in Micro-Shitonastick-Engineering wasn't worth a damn when he's thinking about her having multiple orgasms. She's hot, but she's blonde, and blondes are evil. All of them. Sorry Amy, it was not meant to be between us.

Oh, by the way, I do give a few extra points to this movie for making the subtle point that FRATS ARE FUCKING RETARDED! Little side note there.

So how do I rate this movie? I rate it as "see it because it's good." Not great, but good. Worth seeing in the theatre once, and that's the truth. Don't do this because you expect much in the way of good acting from Kutcher, it simply won't happen. Don't do it for me either, I'll still like you if you see it or not. Do it for Thumper, and his crazy/cool hair. Right on!



A PRETTY LITTLE BUTTERFLY.
Courtesy of myself.

Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

Well, it's been a full year since Ask Amberly Jane has been answering the hard questions from Stony Brook's misguided malcontents, borderline clods with serious sexual hang-ups, puritanical prudes, and earnest seekers of truth. I've aired my dirty laundry. I've received copious amounts of fan mail and one letter saying I should "hang my head in shame" (A hearty 'Fuck You' to that person, by the way). So far, it's been a great ride with no regrets. The only thing is - as with all sexual favors and dark chocolate - I want more: more letters, more feedback, more dirty limericks. Loaves and fishes.

At present the anticipation of upcoming events has taken hold of me. Expectation is a dangerous thing. All too often it clouds the here-and-now, puts the responsibility portion of my brain on auto-pilot, and makes it near impossible to get anything done. What is the cause of this frenzy? In a few days I'm off on a savage road-trip to celebrate Mardi Gras with a few party-animal friends. With all of us together, we are doomed to get into trouble. I am guilty, Lord. But I am also a lover and one of your best people. And tho I have walked in many strange shadows and acted crazy from time to time ... I ask simply to avoid jail and the man in black pajamas.

It's been about three years since I've been to the Big Easy. Back then New Orleans had a nasty sewer problem with Nutria - 20-pound rats invading the city. Bourbon Street was a party some random Tuesday night. There were tap dancers and sax players, Absinthe and hand-made cigars, and a silver-painted pudgy man who had a 13-year-old dog wearing glasses, trained to sit perfectly still. There was Banjo the clown, face-paint weathered and cracked, teeth missing and discolored, a homeless enter-

tainer. He made strange multi-colored dirty balloon animals and thrust his pelvis wildly in an attempt at foul humor. And, of course, the fantastic jambalaya.

I hope everyone's Valentine's Day was full of good things, or at least went by painlessly and quickly ... hopefully nobody got VD on VD.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

How can I get my girlfriend to talk dirty to me in bed? She says she doesn't know what to say, and when I give her some suggestions she says no, it's too perverse.

Signed - Dirty-Talker in Tablet

A: Dear Dirty-Talker,

So your girlfriend is shy and you want some graphic language to charge your sexual batteries. If she has no objections to the idea, but just lacks the courage or the experience, here are some fast and fairly painless ways to get her talking.

1) Erotica. There's nothing safer to start with than using somebody else's words. Invest in an erotic book or magazine and take turns reading nasty passages.

2) Porn. The advantages of pornography are bountiful and far-reaching. In this case not only can you guys get all hot while watching, but your girl can plagiarize all the salacious comments.

3) Phone sex. Maybe it's easier for her to practice lurid language over the phone, before she can say it face-to-face. In this case, ask her what she is wearing, doing with her hand or coke bottle, etc.

4) Porca Puttana. That's Italian for "fucking whore," meaning that if she spoke another language, maybe she wouldn't feel so shy. This also helps if she finds some hard-core terms offensive.

5) Role-playing. This is so

much fun. Sometimes pretending you are someone else, makes it easy to do things or say things you normally wouldn't. ("Oh, camp counselor, I've been a bad scout.")

6) Questions. Ask her to close her eyes and describe what you are doing to her at the moment. Ask her to describe how you are doing it, what organ is in what orifice, what she would like you to do, how you are making her feel, etc.

If she seems to be responding well, you should definitely keep going, but if you're not sure, it never hurts to ask. Chances are your lover will be aroused by what's coming out of her mouth.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

What exactly is a donkey punch, and should I try one on my girlfriend?

Signed - John

A: Dear John,

I'm going to take a wild leap and assume you are NOT referring to this great punk/ska band from Michigan. A donkey punch is where, during doggy-style sexual activity, the man punches his partner as hard as he can in the back of the skull right before he reaches climax. This causes her to convulse and tighten every cavity. The man then holds on for the best orgasm of his life. Unfortunately this maneuver is not at all pleasurable for the female partner. I personally would not try it if you ever want to get laid by this woman again, and/or don't want to wake up to find your balls excised from their sac.

For any questions, comments, e-mail: AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com

The Stony Brook Press, harboring fugitives for 23 years.

Define the truth with us.

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

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

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

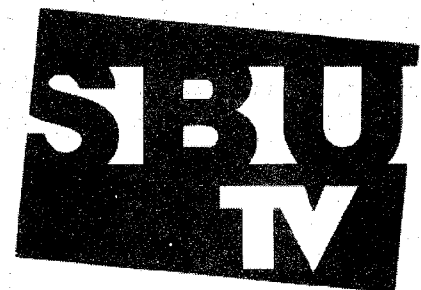
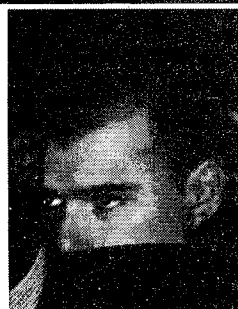
-Which one of the girls in Hanson did I have sex with?

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

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



John Walker Lindh, Staff Writer. Come join him in our cold and wet basement room. Follow the stench of the corpses to room 060, basement of the Union. Submissions-letters-complaints: stonypress@hotmail.com



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Why Students are Unhappy with Stony Brook

By Mark Gold

The question that many administrators and faculty members here at Stony Brook ask is why students are unhappy here. To their dismay, Stony Brook rankings in national publications that are based on student surveys are lower than they had anticipated. There is not just one reason why this is the case because there are many facets of this university that make students dissatisfied. After being here for a couple of years, I will try to explain some of these reasons.

Before I begin, it should be mentioned that not every student is unhappy here, but a large portion of the student body is. Heck, there is even a popular website solely for students to air their grievances about the school (www.stony-brooksucks.com). I also should note that I do not hate Stony Brook, but I do see places where improvements are needed and agree with students that Stony Brook needs to do a better job of listening to the students to make it a better place.

The first problem pertains to professors on campus. As noted in the Princeton Review, one of the largest problems that students are concerned about is the quality of professors on this campus. College is an important deal to many and having skilled professors is key to acquiring a solid education.

There are a number of great professors on campus, but the number of unqualified and atrocious ones outnumber the good ones. As a science major who has had over 30 science and non-science professors, I can honestly say that I have had only 5 or 6 professors that I have enjoyed having (most of them from non-science classes).

There is no doubt that professors here on campus are knowledgeable in their field, but having the ability to communicate their knowledge to students is a skill in itself and many lack this skill. Reading word for word off PowerPoint slides or ranting for an hour while scribbling on an overhead does not constitute teaching. Teaching is explaining topics well while offering time for the student to digest the information before moving on.

Time and time again I have heard professors say that this would slow down the pace of the class, that they are tight on time and want to get through all the material by the end of the semester. Has any professor thought that it might be a better idea for students to learn and understand fewer topics rather than be confused on a myriad of subjects?

Another problem I have found with some science professors is the difficulty of the course. Too many times the averages of the exams are in the 50's. What is the point of having an average

score in the 50's? When the average is that low there are two possible reasons: the professors has not taught the material well or the students are not preparing well enough. Well, I can assure you that many students who prepare well for the exams still only do slightly above the average.

I once had a conversation with a friend of mine who attends an Ivy League college who asked me how the science classes were at Stony Brook. He was surprised that I said they were hard because he said his were not that bad. Obviously he needed to work hard, but nowhere near as much as I did.

When I showed him my biochemistry and organic chemistry final, he knew some answers but not all. When he showed me his, I had no problem completing either exam, with only minor questions regarding the material. This is a problem.

How is it that an Ivy League educated student does not know how to complete a Stony Brook exam? Now I hate to break it to the Stony Brook administrators and professors, but it does not take a comprehensive study to realize that there is a higher caliber student body at any Ivy League school than here at Stony Brook. Professors might not see this as a problem. Some might even ask, "Well, don't you feel better about yourself because you know more than your Ivy friend?" I say no. Until a Stony Brook diploma holds the same amount of weight as an Ivy League one and the caliber of students increases here, students should not have to suffer from overpowering professors who have the urge to make their courses so complex.

Now I do not want to come across as a lackluster student who is just upset at taking hard classes, because I am not. But I am concerned as to why professors are making their classes so hard. I have no problem taking a challenging class, but there is a problem when averages are in the 50's and students have no clue what they are learning. The purpose of college is to learn, not to be overwhelmed with information and feel lost throughout the semester.

A university is nothing without skilled professors, but knowledgeable professors who do not know how to teach are just as bad as those who are unskilled. Stony Brook has many highly educated professors, but many lack basic teaching capabilities. It should be a priority of the administration and professors to make sure that those who are teaching the courses have the communication skills needed to teach students who want to learn but are not yet masters in their field of study.

Another important issue to students is the campus appearance. On the

outside, many of the buildings on campus look relatively well. The SAC graces the academic mall and the new Humanities building should look nice when it's complete. But with all the focus on the outer appearance, has anyone looked on the inside of some of the buildings?

Take for example the Melville Library. For administrators, the library should be the most important place to keep well-maintained because this is where students go to study. Has anyone been there recently? The quality of the place is horrific.

When I step into the Central or North Reading Room or the Stacks, I feel like it's a time warp back to the 60s and 70s because I doubt any of the furniture or rugs have been replaced since they were first installed. The lighting is also atrocious and makes you want to sleep more than study.

Administrators are all about improving the level of academic excellence here on campus. So enough with the talking, how about some action by giving students the tools needed to succeed? A library that actually promotes studying and doesn't have those horrific colors and odors would be a nice start.

Furthermore, just in case administrators didn't know, Old Chemistry fits its name and is very old and in desperate need of repair. Better yet, take it off the edifice respirator and demolish it. Javits also needs some help. Students in Javits 100 need hardhats to avoid the falling tiles. The Union has so many leaks in the ceiling that I feel like I'm playing dodge ball with water pellets when it rains outside.

Another issue that has to be addressed is the lack of student involvement with the decisions made on campus. Sure there might be those handful of students that have their say, but what about every other student? How about having referendums for students to vote on when class elections are held?

Take, for instance, the demolition of the bridge to the Union a couple years ago. Even though it took place during the summer, word still traveled and it bothered a significant number of students and alumni that their input was not sought. It isn't hard to get opinions from students; it just takes the effort and willingness of administrators.

Now let's talk about those cell phone antennas atop the Chemistry Building? What you didn't know about them? I'm not surprised. I doubt many students and faculty do know about them, but they are there. Just look up at the Chemistry Building roof and you'll see the white vertical strips. The people

Continued on page 25

Why Students are Unhappy with Stony Brook

Continued from page 24

who put them up were also quite clever to 'camouflage' some of them. There were a couple facing the SAC that stuck out like sore thumbs against the black backdrop for a couple of weeks, so they painted the antennas black so you wouldn't know they were there.

Now there is still inconclusive data concerning the health hazards of the radiation emitted by cell phone antennas, but communities around the nation are usually opposed to them being placed in their neighborhood. But here at Stony Brook, there was no such uproar because there was no public forum held regarding them. I know as a student I

wasn't informed about them, and I'm sure faculty wasn't either.

The cell phone antennas atop of the Chemistry Building might not pose a threat, but they might. I know I don't want to be any of those professors or students that have to be on the 7th floor of the Chemistry building or on the top floors of the Library facing the Chemistry building all day. The thought of every cell phone call made on the eastern part of the island being beamed off antennas, literally on top of my head makes me a bit uneasy.

Some might argue that the school is just trying to make campus a safer place by ensuring adequate cell phone reception on campus, but I doubt this is

the reason. For starters, my cell phone works on most parts of campus and the dead spots I had last year on campus still exist with the addition of these antennas. The only reason why the cell phone antennas are atop the Chemistry building is because the school is collecting rent from cell phone providers.

By listing out some of my major concerns regarding Stony Brook, I hope I have made clear to some administrators what students want and are concerned about. I encourage other students to do as I have and get their voices heard. In order for Stony Brook to improve, students must speak out and administrators must not only listen, but also comply.

Diary by Chuck Palahniuk

By Matthew W. Morse

In the aftermath of Fight Club, author Chuck Palahniuk wrote a string of novels such as Survivor, Choke and Lullaby that combine horror and humor in a completely original method. He continues to present his critique of consumerism in his new exploration of horror called Diary. Diary differs from the authors other novels in that its darkness exceeds its humor in a paramount fashion. Blood, suicide, conspiracy, reincarnation and rage against the American consumer culture fuel the story.

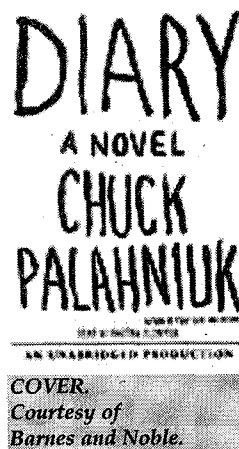
The novel takes form of a diary as kept by Misty Wilmot in the absence of her husband, who is in a coma after a failed suicide attempt. The story takes place on Waytansea Island during the summer season when summer-vacationers overrun the island and condemned the locals to a hell of food service and

retail jobs. Misty undergoes an investigation of her husband's eccentric suicide note, which happens to be written on the walls of kitchens, closets, and bathrooms hidden in summer homes that he renovated. Misty lives with her daughter and extremely creepy mother-in-law who continuously pressures Misty to pursue her long lost passion, painting.

In Diary, the life of Misty Wilmot is dissected: all oddities from her childhood as trailer park trash, to her college years, to her present life as an over-weight, alcoholic, undersexed, tits-sagging-to-her-knees

hotel restaurant waitress who happens to have a husband in a coma after attempted suicide. The catch is everyone on the Island believes she will be a great artist following in the footsteps of Maura Kincaid a famous Waytansea artist of the nineteenth century. In fact, many believe that Misty possesses the very spirit of Maura Kincaid and that she has the ability to save Waytansea Island from imminent destruction caused by consumerism, rich vacationers, corporate advertising and the abuse of the islands natural resources, including the people who live there.

After a chain of fantastic events, Misty finds herself in a struggle between life and lifestyle. Palahniuk strives to engage the reader into asking the same question of his/herself on both a personal and cultural level.



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!

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SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN WRITERS



MARCH 3 ♦ VIRGINIA WOOLF

Over sixty years after her death, the writings of Virginia Woolf are a source of continuing power and ever-increasing influence. Acclaimed author of *A Room of One's Own*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *Orlando*, *To The Lighthouse*, and featured in Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*.

MARCH 10 ♦ SYLVIA PLATH

Born in 1932, Sylvia Plath published her first poem when she was eight. By the time of her death at age 30, she published over 200 poems, and writings such as her autobiographical novel *The Bell Jar*, *The Colossus*, *Ariel*, and *Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams*.



MARCH 24 ♦ JULIA ALVAREZ

Julia Alvarez was born in New York City on March 27, 1950, and raised in the Dominican Republic. Her bi-cultural upbringing informs her novels *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, *Oyl*, *In the Name of Salome*, and *In the Time of the Butterflies*.

MARCH 31 ♦ MAYA ANGELOU

Dr. Maya Angelou is a remarkable Renaissance woman who is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature. As a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, she continues to travel the world, spreading her legendary wisdom.



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