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The *Stony Brook*

1979-2004

# PRESS

25th Anniversary

The Community News & Features Paper

Vol. XXV, Issue 13

"Never put multiple Wiccans in a room. We get catty."

April 22, 2004

## YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE FINALLY AT WORK

USG Passes its 1st bill - The Club and Organization Bill of Rights

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throughout the issue

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on the SUNY  
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Mike Prazak on "Kill Bill Vol.  
2." Mike Billings on "The  
Punisher". Someone's going  
DOWN.

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Amberly Jane!!!

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# SUNY Patronage Jobs Affect Politics and Policy on Campus

By Jackie Hayes

An article printed in the Associated Press earlier this year reported that Senate Minority Leader David Paterson criticized SUNY Central as a "patronage mill." He stated, "If we confirm our suspicions that SUNY Central has become nothing more than an expensive and glorified patronage mill, I will propose that this agency be terminated." According to Paterson, SUNY's central administration has 49 employees earning more than \$100,000 a year and about 100 employees earning more than \$75,000. He criticized the fact that many SUNY officials were creating these jobs while also proposing annual tuition increases.

In a similar article in *National Cross Talk*, author Jon Marcus stated, "Many people close to the governor and the mayor have been given university appointments." Some examples included Pataki's budget director, Robert King, hired as SUNY Chancellor for \$108,667, the daughter-in-law of the Republican Party Chairman hired for a position in the SUNY Chancellor's Office, and Bill Paxon, a former Republican congressman who served in the state assembly with Pataki and King, hired as SUNY's Washington lobbyist. Many have reported that this trend is shaping the political climate on campuses, and that the political views of Pataki are being reflected in SUNY policies.

Roscoe Brown, former President of Bronx Community College, stated in a closed-door meeting with members of the SUNY faculty union in 2001 that, "It appears that every new member of the SUNY Board of Trustees appoint-

ed over the past six or seven years has passed a political litmus test. They have had to demonstrate their bona fides as Republican Party members or as 'Pataki Democrats.'" If this is the case then it may come as no surprise that political organization has become very difficult on Stony Brook's campus over the past few years. Currently one must obtain a permit six weeks in advance to protest on campus. If this policy were in effect last semester, it would have hindered all protests that occurred, including the protest against the Campus Combat tour, which was advertised only four weeks before the event.

On top of a clamp down on political freedoms, university policies also seem to be affected by the network of political patronage. The views of Pataki seem to have a direct hand in SUNY policy making. At Albany Day last year, Assemblyman Peter Abbate, Jr. stated that, "This is not a governor who is in support of public education...we've got a governor whose philosophy seems to be to privatize public education." In an article entitled, "Academic Capitalism in a Public Ivy" Cynthia Young commented that, "since he [Pataki] took office the largest increase in tuition has been accompanied by a \$294 million reduction in financial aid." New York State ranks 41st in the country for the amount of tax dollars granted to higher education, reflecting the fact that, fiscally, Pataki has done a poor job of supporting public education.

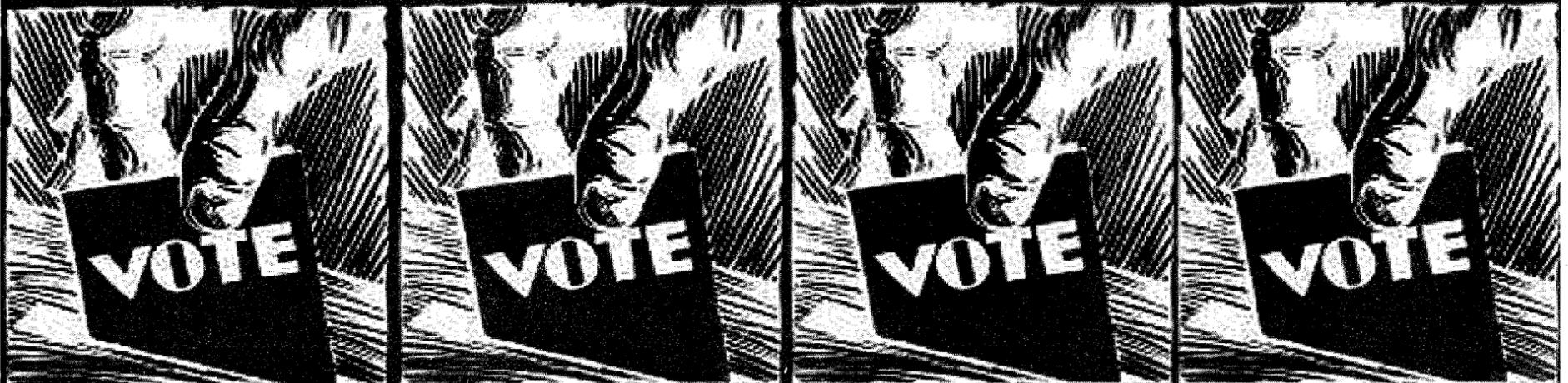
Stony Brook University President

Shirley Strum Kenny acknowledged the lack of state support in her 2003 State of the University Address stating that, "So yes, the students are paying a bigger percentage of the costs of their education, and State tax money is paying a considerably smaller proportion." Yet she continued stating, "Instead of wasting time regretting that the State does not—as some states certainly do—support us well, we have to focus our energies on being creative and entrepreneurial in finding other sources of funding." This seems to reflect the general attitude of many SUNY administrators, that vying for corporate dollars or outside funding is a higher priority than pressuring state officials to increase state support.

Stony Brook alone has brought in over \$90 million in outside funds in the last decade, not including the Charles B. Wang Center, constituting the largest personal gift given to a SUNY school. Yet, what does increased private funding mean for Stony Brook students? With increases in tuition and fees, overcrowded classrooms, program cuts, and a stifling of political freedoms, few students have seen the benefits of outside funding. Young stated that SUNY schools, "are increasingly transmuting themselves into mini corporations governed by the cost efficiency logic that makes them compelling business partners... students are reduced to variables in a financial equation, nothing more and nothing less."

## Support Clubs and Activities on Campus!

### VOTE TO KEEP THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE MANDATORY



April 26th - May 3rd

Polls open at 6PM on Monday and close at 6PM May 3rd

Clubs and Activities funded through the Mandatory Student Activity Fee Include:

- Cultural Clubs such as Caribbean Student Organization, Latin American Student Organization, African Student Union, Asian Student Alliance, Haitian Student Organization, and PUSO
- Programming like concerts, comedy shows, and Roth Pond Regatta
- Campus Media including the Statesmen, the Press, Blackworld, WUSB and SBU-TV
- Advocacy Groups such as the Undergraduate Student Government, Commuter Student Association, NYPIRG, LGTA, and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
- Athletics such as Men's and Women's Rugby, Intramurals, Cheerleaders, Hockey, and Crew
- Services including the Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Childcare, and Blood Drives

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Vote Online on the SOLAR System [www.sunysbedu/solarsystem](http://www.sunysbedu/solarsystem)

# Blackout Reparations

By Michael Prazak

During the April 13th meeting of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate, a resolution was proposed that hoped to vocalize and resolve student discontent in regards to recent blackouts on campus. The resolution, proposed to the Senate body by Senator Raj Gupta, demanded an immediate admittance of accountability and additionally a formal apology from administration. Citing both the inconveniences to students as well as gross incompetence in university response as grounds, Gupta plans on pushing through a compensatory enactment that would involve all affected students.

This measure was proposed in response to the blackouts that affected the campus starting on Sunday, March 14th. Due to still unconfirmed causes, Mendelsohn and H Quads were plunged into darkness, as well as several student service buildings, which included the Student Union as well as the Infirmary. In response to this, the University set up emergency generators until normal power could be fully restored. This came several days after the initial blackout, however, and many students had to endure cold water and lack of heat until backup generators could be deployed.

Several students reported having daily life on campus greatly affected. From classes being moved from their Union location, to having their living quarters moved on account of the lack of heat, general student ire and discontent was readily apparent. "It was just an unsafe environment, it was bad enough in the dark, but candles added a nice flammable element to the situation," reported one Mendelsohn resident, who asked not to be identified. Further concern was focused

on the lack of power flowing to the Infirmary. Undergraduate Physics Major, Joseph Filippazzo additionally noted, "It's one of the closest and most immediate sources of student aid on campus, to have it taken out without any backup [power] is ridiculous."

In addition to both these problems, the power failure also affected the fire alarm systems in all respective quads. Stuck in utter darkness, with one of the only methods of light for students coming from candles, a substantial fire hazard was created. Combine this with the general atmosphere complete darkness typically brings, and you have a situation that is lacking in both safety and comfort.

As the only official administrative response to date has been a mass-emailed empathy letter, many students feel that the University has not fully grasped the magnitude of the disruption to student life. Due to the general lack of concern displayed by the University, initial student discomfort and shock fermented into a movement calling for some form of retribution.

Drawing on student concern, Senator Gupta spearheaded the proposal presented to the senate body. In addition to the aforementioned demands, Senator Gupta also suggested that the students immediately affected by the blackout be monetarily compensated for their inconvenience. "A formal apology would be the least they could do," stated Senator Gupta at a focus meeting in response to the proposal.

In this reparatory proposal, Gupta recommends that the University refund approximately 75 dollars in housing credits to all students living in the Mendelsohn and H Quads, estimating this sum from the gener-

alized denial of student benefits paid for in



**ANGRY STUDENTS... THEY'RE THERE, TRUST ME.**  
Courtesy of Dr. Jessica Worthington III, Esq.

their initial tuition. These utilities include the provision of electricity, heat, and Internet access, in addition to several other affected areas.

Many students in attendance at the presentation of the proposal displayed mixed reactions in response to it. Some felt it was a necessary measure that the school should consider in order to display their concern for the students on campus, while others viewed the proposal as arbitrary. Feedback from the Senate body itself was equally mixed, as the proposal was tabled for a reevaluation at a future Senate meeting. In any event, the Blackout Resolution remains an issue within the body of the Senate, and represents one of the first administratively demanding legislatures the body has yet engaged. Hopefully, setting a precedent whereby student resolve can effectively hold administration responsible for their actions, or in this case, inactions.

## Club & Organization Bill On USG's Desk

By Sam Goldman

The Undergraduate Student Government is currently considering a bill which its drafters claim will protect the rights of clubs and organizations. Called the Club and Organizational Bill of Rights, the bill was created by several groups that feel they have been wronged by USG this past semester.

The bill seeks, among other things, to create an appeals process for clubs whose budgets are found to be reduced by the Treasurer's Office; create rigid guidelines for how USG would notify clubs and organizations about matters pertaining to them; make USG more transparent to students; and protect the rights of student media. Among the clubs and organizations that participated in the creation of the bill were *The Stony Brook Press*, the Commuter Students Association, the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, the Social Justice Alliance, Stony Brook University Television, and NYPIRG. It has also received verbal support from members of the Science Fiction Forum, the Linux Users Group, the LGBTA, Students for Choice, Kumdo Club, the Crew Team, CASB, LASO, *En Accion*, the Math Club, WUSB-FM, and the *Stony Brook Statesman*. In addition, USG Senate President Pro Tempore Esam al-Sharif and USG Senator Ben Bravmann participated in the bill's creation. Its first showing to the public and USG members was at the February 21st Leadership Conference; however, it has gone through several revisions since that time.

At the Senate meeting of April 13th, the bill was finally brought before the USG Senate. USG Executive Vice President Sergio de Freitas allowed every member of the Senate to speak out on the bill, and speeches both in support and against the bill were made by Jacqueline Hayes, the bill's co-author, *Press Business Manager* Joe Filippazzo, *Commuter Students Association President* Jim Driscoli, Mr. Al-Sharif, USG Administrative Director Louis Medina, and USG Treasurer Andrew Rafii. Among the topics brought up and discussed were the issue of redundancy between the bill and the Financial Policies and Procedures, which is currently being written by Mr. Medina and Ron Willow of the FSA, and a statement from the Shapiro law firm, USG's attorneys, against the bill. After over an hour of tense deliberation, the bill passed the USG Senate by a 6-5 vote with one abstention.

On Friday, April 16th, the bill went before USG President Sandy Curtis at the Executive Council meeting. Curtis asked for the input of the Executive Council, and de Freitas, Vice President of Campus Life Jonathan Neman, and Diana Acosta all spoke at the meeting. Many members of the Executive Council felt that the wording of the bill was much too vague in certain areas, and felt it could cause confusion. Neman, in particular, felt that a clause guaranteeing clubs two minutes of time on the Senate agenda was overkill. de Freitas also felt that

Section 5 of the bill, which deals with the rights specifically of student media, is a special interest section, and should not be included in the bill. Filippazzo countered that the bill was made available to members for almost two months, and that such changes could have been implemented much earlier. After more deliberation, Curtis decided that the bill was to be sent back to the Senate for the changes to be made, but not before she and several other members of USG's Executive Council voiced their support for the bill.

Many of the clubs involved in the Bill's creation have had problems with the Undergraduate Student Government. The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, NYPRIG, and the *Statesman* have had problems related to USG's new insurance policy. SBVAC's problems came to a head when they were placed on the USG Senate agenda without their knowledge. *The Stony Brook Press'* budget was modified without their knowledge or an explanation that has been deemed satisfactory by its executive board. Stony Brook University Television was made an agency of USG instead of a campus organization.

[On April 20, USG President Sandy Curtis announced that she would not veto the Club and Organization Bill of Rights, therefore making it law immediately - Ed.]

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**EDITORIAL: Make It Happen**

Everyone has their own preconceptions about the notion of student government. Student government always seems like some sort of secret society, one where students are voted in by their friends, do nothing but favors while in office, and pad their resumes. Their concern for the welfare of the student body is minimal at best, nonexistent at worst. The events they put on are silly, small, and never benefit the student body as a whole. As a result, less people get interested, and student government becomes more and more of an insider clique as opposed to a representative student body.

Many have accused Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government of being just that type of student government. With the exception of Dave Chappelle, they have not done enough events to benefit the student body. When it came to defending the rights of students, a bill - the Club and Organizational Bill of Rights - was stalled for two months, and even now, after its passage, forces in USG are still attempting to bring the bill down. The Senate has spent significantly more time on procedural matters than on bringing resolutions and bills that benefit students to the table. While the reasons for this do not lay entirely with USG or its members - the Senate badly needed a parliamentarian, and the Administration inevitably gets cold feet whenever the words "concert" are mentioned,

for instance - to say they deserve none of the blame for it would be dishonest.

Some will say we should vote for a voluntary Student Activity Fee as a result; we say that is killing an ant with a sledgehammer. A vote of No on the student Activity Fee is not a vote of No for USG; it is a vote for No clubs and organizations, No campus events, No student life, period. The trick is not to destroy the Undergraduate Student Government, but to make the Undergraduate Student Government better.

Voting for USG positions begin next week; it is the students chance to take back their student government and lay a foundation for a USG that will protect the student body, that will reliably present programming that will benefit the student body as a whole, and that will go out there and get what needs to be done for the students, done.

We urge all Stony Brook students to go to Friday's debates in the Wang Center and find out about these candidates. We urge them to read the campus papers, where some candidates will present their platforms, and we urge them to get on SOLAR next week and VOTE.

Blow the doors open. Sweep out the secret societies and the cliques. The only way USG can be a representative student body is if you, the public, make it happen.

**EDITORIAL: The Press Endorses**

The *Stony Brook Press* would like to officially endorse the following votes during voting week: April 26 - May 3. Hey, if other newspapers do it, why can't we? (Note: As of this writing, we have not received an official list of candidates; this is based on what we have heard.)

**On A Mandatory Student Activity Fee:**  
 Yes. See the first editorial.

**For USG President:**  
**Jared Wong.** Now, to be completely honest, this isn't so much a vote for Wong (although we're sure he'll do a great job) as it is a vote against Sandy Curtis, who is running for reelection. Even though we are happy she supported the Club & Organization Bill of Rights, she remains part of the Old Guard; she was a member of the old Student Polity Association, a member of the Student Activity Fee Interim Planning Committee, and USG President. It is time for new blood and fresh ideas to enter student government. As for why you should vote Jared Wong over Brandon Fuchs, just type up Mr. Fuchs' name into the search field on the Statesman web site. Flattery will get you nowhere, Mr. Fuchs.

**For USG Executive Vice President:**  
**Esam Al-Shareffi.** Why this man isn't running for President, we have no idea. Al-Shareffi is easily the brightest star in the USG firmament. He's knowledgeable on procedure, listens to all opinions, and every step of the way will put the rights of students first. If you make any votes next week, vote this

man into office.

**For USG Treasurer:**  
**Ted Johnson.** Bright, well spoken, and forthright with any all information he has, Ted Johnson is the complete and utter opposite of the current Treasurer's Office.

**For USG Vice President of Communications:**  
**Ilan Nassimi.** While Shaina Kohanzadeh has gotten out and advertised for major USG events like next week's elections, when it came to communicating with students on any sort of regular basis, we can't even say she did a pitiful job; she did not do her job at all. When Ilan went on SBU TV's In Focus and was asked what he would do differently, he replied, "Everything." We are willing to give him the opportunity.

**On The USG Constitution and Bylaws:**  
**Yes.** Yes, Fred Preston, who quite frankly shows nothing but contempt for the student body whenever he opens his mouth, handpicked the committee to make the Constitution. Yes, the Constitution's writing was done behind closed doors, the way it was delivered to students was questionable, and its sudden changing after last year's elections was ridiculous. But many of the points of the Constitution people had problems with have we feel, been remedied with the Club & Organization Bill of Rights. USG is so close to a firm foundation that it would be a shame at this point to blow it up.



## Letters: Jesus don't want us for a sunbeam...

Posted by "SonofJesus" on the Press message-board:

I don't know if there is anyone out there (particularly anyone who uses this board) that is not involved with the Stony Brook Press, but if there is heed our warnings please. The Stony Brook Press is a monstrous, dehumanizing paper that strips us of the very layers of our being. The Stony Brook Press supports gay marriage. I repeat: The Stony Brook Press supportd gay marriage! That right there should prove to you the very nature of their content.

And I still am not sure if they thought it was funny to have a picture of Jesus marrying a male homosexual on their front cover, or if they thought it was just plain indictive, but this kind of awful tyranny must end. Our country, The United States of America, is built upon the foundations of Freedom and Liberty. The Stony Brook Press publishes articles that insult our country and our president, and that insult our religion! How can this be allowed to continue? This paper should be made illegal, and production should be forced to stop immediately. That is the only way to preserve and ensure that the freedom of our nation continues.

My grandfather fought in World War II to protect the liberties of our nation. Now I see that he has failed.

Dear "SonofJesus":

Thank you very much for your post.

To explain to both you and the readership of this paper the utter idiocy of your opinion, let me quote from you:

If we don't do something now our country will turn into a place run by the people, corrupted with the people's ideas. Is that what you want? I didn't think so

Think about that statement for a second.

The United States, more so than anything else, is founded on the idea that the people are free to run themselves. While whether that actually happens or not can be debated endlessly, this ideal has formed the cornerstone our our country. You call yourself someone who fights for freedom, while at the same time you wish to deny a newspaper's right to publish what they desire, so long as it is not libelous. And by asking people to oversee and censor our publication, you destroy the very ideal of freedom that you attempt to save.

My suggestion to you is to come back to us when you know what you're talking about.

Have a Nice Day,  
The Stony Brook Press.

P.S.: **THANK**

**YOU**

**FOR**

**WRITING!**



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

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

**sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu**

and the forums at

**board.thepress.info**

# USG Needs a Tracheotomy

By Joe Filippazzo

I am merely the Business Manager of *The Stony Brook Press*, but my experiences with Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government have forced me to become deeply involved in campus politics. I have gone to virtually every Senate meeting since its inception, and many Executive Council meetings as well. In the past, I have criticized the practices of both governmental bodies quite a lot, well, because they were doing a terrible, terrible job. Some things have improved, some things have degenerated, and still others have not changed a bit. Here's the latest from the frontlines.

As we are all aware, there are about 13,000 undergraduate students here at Stony Brook. If you are one of the twenty students that attend these meetings, then you are probably well aware of how things are run and you are probably very agitated. If you are an attendee and you aren't aggravated by USG's current practices, you are either sleeping, or you are Fred Preston. If you are one of the other 12,980 students, then your only exposure to campus politics comes in the form of snide commentary printed in *The Press*. The reasons are simple: the *Statesman* will never cover USG meetings because, well, they just don't have the chutzpah for actual criticism. USG will never tell you about their meetings because they are afraid that you might show up and look to them for (heaven forbid!) representation. Administration will never tell you about USG meetings because you might realize that USG is just the bastard spawn of an incredibly oppressive and devilishly successful Administration. They REALLY don't want to hear any criticism ESPECIALLY if its coming from us stupid college kids.

The bottom line is that, right now, USG is the voice of Administration to the students. That's kind of really, um... ass-backwards. USG is supposed to be our voice to the Administration. How did this happen? It doesn't really matter. But we, the students, will soon have a chance to effect a change in our student government and maybe, just maybe, put a functional and (heaven forbid!) representative governmental body in place for next year. The purpose of this commentary is to give the reader a quick idea of what their current student government is doing so that one may be prepared for USG's upcoming elections. (Polls are open April 26 - May 3 on SOLAR)

I mentioned before that some things have actually changed for the better in USG. For example, the Senate is actually behaving like a legislative body now and has actually passed their first bill on April 13th entitled *The Club and Organization Bill of Rights*. As bill number 0001, this was the first non-Senate proposed bill passed by USG and it was done so by a 6-5-1 vote. For a copy of the bill, visit [www.thepress.info](http://www.thepress.info), or for more information on the Senate proceedings, see Sam Goldman's article entitled "Club and Organization Bill on USG's Desk" in this issue.

The Senate has come a long way, but I would like to clarify something: The April 13th Senate meeting went well (while every other one was a disaster) because there was open discussion among senators and the gallery was actually able to contribute for the first

time. This success is due wholly to open dialog between USG and the student body, nothing else. Although Administration is currently paying (with student money) a parliamentarian to sit in on Senate meetings and run Senate "training sessions" once every three weeks, she effectively does nothing. Every senator knows that he or she should wear pants at all times and stay off of the tables while meetings are being conducted. Oh, and one of the Senators said the word "motion" when he should have said the word "move" instead. Hey, I think the Administrative Director's friend needs a little extra cash. Let's give her a job! But don't worry, kids. It's not patronage... it's advice! However, Administration insists the position is necessary, and I'm sure that they will try to attribute the Senate's newfound success to Administrative action. After all, how could us stupid college kids run a government without big, responsible adults holding our hands?

that the current USG Executive Council will do whatever Administration tells them to do.

Another example of the Administration's attempt to subtly exercise control over the students is none other than our pals over at the Shapiro Law Firm. These stupid college kids will listen to lawyers! Hey, let's put the lawyers in suits! Yeah! No one will dispute a guy in a suit with a law degree! This is one of the methods used to postpone the Bill of Rights by USG. They kept insisting that the bill be put off until their "legal counsel" could review it and make suggestions. What is not mentioned is that by Shapiro's agreement with the university, the law firm shall not get involved in matters of the student government past an advisory level. In no way is the law firm supposed to act in a supervisory way. But, goddamn, it's hard to say no to a guy in a suit with a law degree.

The point is that Administration will ALWAYS do what is best for them. But guess what... There are more of us than there are of them. We do have a say in what happens at this University, and our voice is the Undergraduate Student Government. Right now, we have Administration telling our Executive Council what the students want. That's not how a democracy works. Doesn't it make sense that the students would know what the students want? Of course it does! So our next course of action is to remove the very impressionable and not-so-representative Executive Council that is in place right now. But how can us stupid college students do anything? VOTES, MY FRIENDS! VOTES! Let's make sure that the Executive Council for next year is one that will listen to the students first and then consider what the various administrative persons put in place to hinder student rights have to say.

The current Executive Council has done only two things of note: The first is Dave Chappelle. Yes, he is funny, I know. But if Dave Chappelle didn't rake in a ton of money, do you honestly think that Administration would have let it happen? The second thing is that they have done everything in their power to stop a student

proposed bill of rights. I really don't need to go into this any further. The current Executive Council is not a proper representation of the students of this university. Even if the bad things they have done aren't convincing enough for you, just try to think of anything they have done that might possibly somehow maybe warrant their reelection. I assure you there is nothing. Please vote the current USG Executive Council out of office so that the rights of students may finally be put above Administrative interests.

## Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council



2003-2004

Sandy Curtis  
Sergio de Freitas  
Andrew Raffi  
Clayton M. John  
Jonathan Neman  
Michelle Morris

Shaina Kohanzadeh  
Mélissa Torchon  
Diana Acosta  
Latoya Duncan  
Rosario Minier  
Coelette Martindale

**THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. NOW YOU KNOW WHO NOT TO VOTE FOR.**

Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo

I have had a number of people ask me what an "Administrative Director" does and, to tell you the truth, I have no idea. "What," they ask, "are the fruits of his labor?" Well, I don't think there *are* any fruits! "Well then, what is his labor?" Um... I don't really think he *does* anything! Armed with this information, one could then rephrase the question to be, "Why are there little to no fruits of his non-labor?" Better still, I think the real question students should be asking is, "Why do we pay him?" I was just wondering myself.

The fact of the matter is that Administration really wants students to think that many of the positions that have been created are necessary and worth every penny but in actuality, they are just put in place so that Administration has someone to whisper "good advice" into USG's ears. But what is good for Administration is not necessarily good for the students. For example, USG delayed a student BILL OF RIGHTS for almost two months. Although the delay came from USG, guess who benefits from a suppressed student voice? What is most unfortunate about this situation is

# Vincent Rasulo Banned From All USG Meetings

By Jackie Hayes

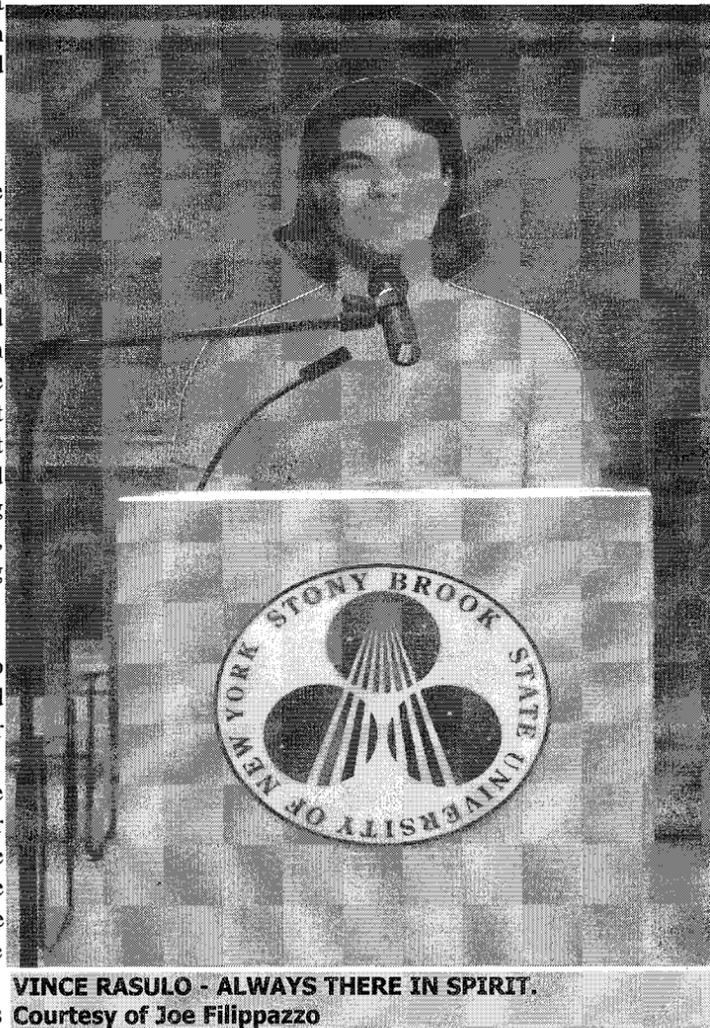
On March 29, 2004, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs issued an Official Directive to Vince Rasulo, a current USG Senator, stating, "You are restricted from attending or being in the vicinity of Undergraduate Student Government/Senate meetings held on the campus." The statement continued warning, "Any violation of this directive may result in further disciplinary action."

According to the statement, the restrictions are a result of harassment charges brought forth by Senator Ruth Gual. Gual charged Vince Rasulo with harassment during the March 2 and March 23 Senate meetings. When questioned about the incidents Vince responded, "I said 'Fuck you' to her at the meeting on the 23rd... I admit that was inappropriate." Vince continued stating he didn't remember anything occurring at the March 2 meeting, probably because there was no meeting on March 2. There was a Senate meeting on March 3, but Gual was not present at that meeting. Gual refused to comment on the matter and requested that any questions be directed to her attorney, yet she did not give the contact information for her attorney. The validity of these claims is unclear given the fact that on March 2 there was no Senate meeting, that at the Senate meeting closest to that date Ruth was not present, and that she refuses to comment on the matter.

The Code of Conduct outlines possible offenses that might result in disciplinary action. One includes "Offenses against persons" stating that, "No student shall threaten, assault, haze, or otherwise physically, verbally, or psychologically abuse any other person." The statement issued to Vince claims that, "It was reported and it is alleged that you harassed Ms. Ruth Gual..." Any student has the right to bring any claim to the Director of Judicial Affairs for review. Yet, the Code of Conduct outlines a process by which this is to occur.

First the complaint must be directed towards a specific office for review. In this case it was referred to the Director of Judicial Affairs, Gary Mis. Second, an investigation would take place for the purpose of determining, "whether further action is necessary." The investigation would include interviews with the parties involved and the opportunity to bring forth evidence supporting or contesting the claims. Third, after viewing the evidence the University official could decide whether further action is necessary and could initiate a hearing process. Before the hearing, both parties would be notified of their rights and responsibilities. Also, according to the Code of Conduct, "Those in attendance should include the complainant(s), respondent(s), their advisors, and witnesses (while giving testimony), the presiding University Official and Board (when assigned). A University observer may be present. The presiding University Official shall determine whether additional persons

may be present." Following the hearing and a multitude of other procedures, the University Official could conclude that further disciplinary action is necessary and this could include sanction from meetings



such as USG meetings.

Yet, Rasulo was denied the aforementioned procedure. He was not allowed to bring evidence or testify before a University body or official before disciplinary action was taken. He was restricted from all USG meetings, including Senate, Executive Council, or otherwise before any due process. The statement issued to Rasulo said that a University Official has the power to ban him from such meetings under Article II A, 7 of the University Student Conduct Code which states, "Within the University, authority is delegated specifically to some individuals and some official bodies to direct the action of other members of the University, in fulfillment of legitimate purposes and functions of the institution." Under this directive Vince does have the right to appeal, yet must comply with the directive while the appeals process is underway.

Vince has had a long and tumultuous history with the current USG. He was appointed Senator in Fall 2003 and was one of the members of the first ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee was established to look into claims brought forth by students and was formed after the passage of the Transparency in Government Act. When Rasulo started his second semester as USG Senator they notified him one month into the semester that he no longer met the GPA requirement. Rasulo argued that his GPA be rounded up since the requirements for a

Senator stipulated only two significant digits and his GPA was three. They refused and advised him to step down. Vince argued that a GPA requirement is not stipulated in the USG Constitution and that the matter should be brought before the Senate and determined by a majority vote. This was also denied. Vince continued attending meetings, although they refused to recognize him as a Senator. He continued to argue that he wanted the right to bring the matter before the Senate. He was continually denied.

This matter came to a head when the USG Senate conducted a closed meeting and denied Vince Rasulo access. Fred Preston approached Vince before the meeting stating, "I'm going to have to ask you to leave." Vince refused, stating that the Senate was violating the New York State Open Meeting's Law. Preston then stated, "I am the Vice President of Student Affairs... I will take this beyond Polity; I will take this to the Academic Judiciary!" Following this incident Vince attempted to file a complaint with the University Police against Fred Preston for violating the NY State Open Meetings Law and denying him access to a public meeting. Campus Police refused to take his complaint (For more information regarding this incident refer to *The Stony Brook Press*, Vol. XXV, Issue 11, article entitled, "Define 'Closed Meeting'" by Joe Filippazzo).

The Official Directive restricting Vince Rasulo came from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Fred Preston. The directive is based on faulty information and seems to be a warning to students discontented with the current state of University Politics. Preston has used his power of Official Directive to effectively remove Vince Rasulo from the Undergraduate Student Government. Rasulo has been denied the right to file a complaint with campus police and attend USG Senate meetings. He was denied due process before he was effectively banned from all USG Senate meetings. He cannot currently attend any USG meetings and the complaint will appear on his permanent record. Fred Preston has succeeded. Yet another student has been stripped of his political and individual rights. Another student has been turned away and marginalized from the Undergraduate Student Government.

# Letter to a Stony Brook Activist in the Making

By André Levy

I've been a graduate student in Stony Brook for nearly eight years now. I'm finally graduating, and leaving is not easy. With all the faults that one may have with living on Long Island and studying in Stony Brook, it has grown on me and come to feel like a home. And campus life has certainly changed during this period. In part it has been my perspective and attitude, but also some very objective changes. One thing I find particularly important is the political activity and events on campus. These were few and far between. As a foreigner and a progressive, coming to the USA meant being somewhat careful with what I said and how much of my progressive ideas I was comfortable exposing. Stories of the McCarthy witch hunts and decades of government support of murderous anti-left movements (from the Contras in Nicaragua to UNITA in Angola) still influence many foreigners' views of the liberty to dissent in US without falling victim to some type of social ostracism. But, as is often said, things changed after 9/11. After a wave of global solidarity came a tsunami of jingoism that made it necessary for me to voice my concern about a militaristic response by the US that would only destabilize global relations and further the source of anti-American sentiment that fuels terrorist organizations (and so it came to be).

Fortunately, I was not alone on campus in feeling this way. On Sept. 20th, 2001, some active students organized a panel discussion to attempt to contextualize the terrorist attacks and discuss their aftermath. From that panel arose a new campus organization, the Social Justice Alliance (SJA), which has since then been on the forefront of organizing political events on campus. Now, I must admit I am biased in singing praise to this organization, for soon after I began attending their events, I became involved in the organization and have tried to contribute my time since then. But I feel it is a fair and objective assessment. I need only count the number of events that SJA has organized and the variety of issue these have addressed. Over fifty campus events, including talks given by campus professors and invited speakers, teach-ins, movie viewings, music events, and several peace rallies. Events covered issues about Iraq, Palestine,

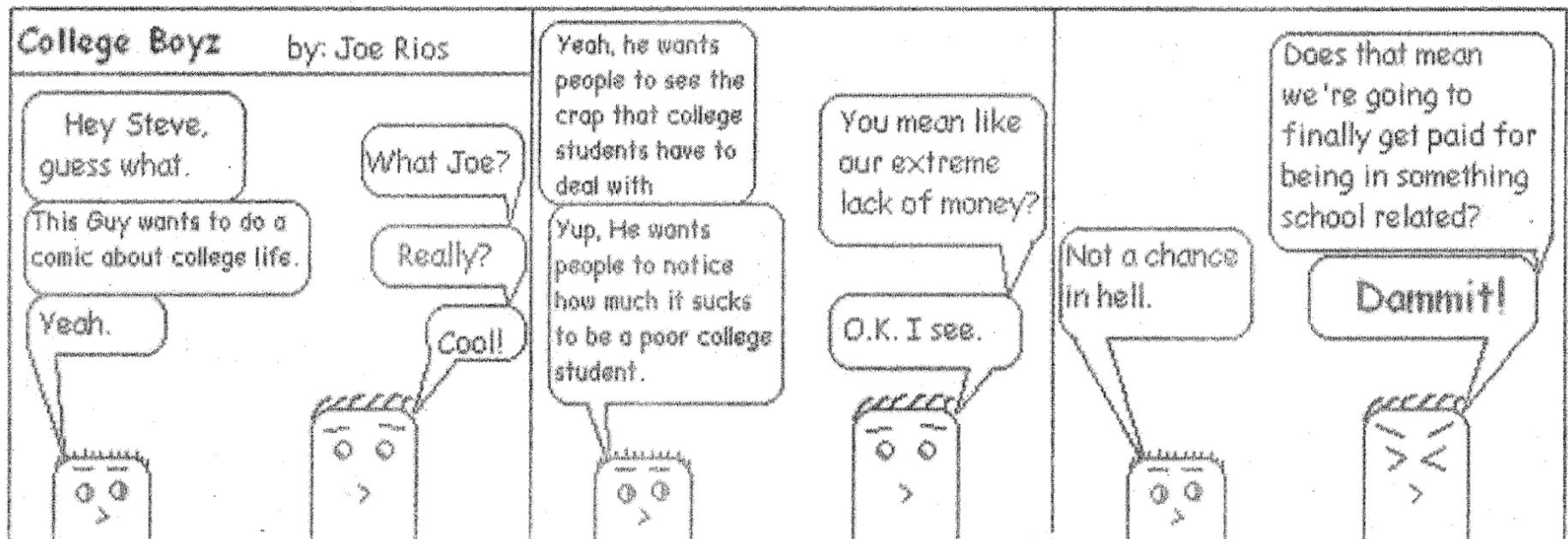
Argentina, North Korea, Colombia and the Philippines; workers and women's rights, globalization and its organizations, peace and human rights, the political economy of oil, and political cartoons. In addition, it has helped mobilize for and organize trips to numerous rallies in Washington DC and NYC, including the historic global day of protest on Feb. 15th, 2002, the recent protest on March 20th – both for peace – and the upcoming April 25th rally in DC for women's rights. I need only think of the number of people it has touched and offered a forum to express their dissent and educate themselves. People from both on campus and off campus. People who lighted up when they found others of like mind and motivation, when before they had felt isolated and surrounded by drums of war and hatred, and rejoiced to see the staleness of apathy broken by organization and network building. The latter has been SJA's constant task and its invaluable contribution, bringing people together, to work in concert. SJA has grown from a graduate student group into an undergraduate student group, and is making efforts to coordinate faculty and staff. Although it is an organization to which many make their contribution, I feel obligated to highlight, pay tribute, and thank the constant work that Chad Kautzer has dedicated to SJA and campus organizing. He has been a pivotal element in linking the many phases of SJA from its beginning, and has been a relentless organizer and motivator that was very rightly honored with the Emerging Graduate Leader award in 2002, by SBU.

Many of the events mentioned were not organized solely by SJA, but in co-sponsorship with other organizations and campus members in the spirit of networking mentioned. These deserve their praise as well. But again I feel justified in arguing SJA's central role in organizing political events on campus and through its activity opening room for others to organize likewise. One organization that deserves mentioning is the Students for Peace and Humanity, a graduate student club that arose in opposition to the US support of Indonesia, while this country conducted countless massacres against the people of East Timor. I am sad to say that this organization

appears to have dissolved. Any student club has its bursts of activity when highly motivated members give much of their time and dedication. If they are not constantly replaced, as students need to dedicate more time to studying or as they graduate and leave, then an organization and its contribution to campus life will vanish. SJA too has many longtime members that are finishing or leaving campus, and it needs new members.

This letter is not intended as a pamphlet or promotional for SJA. Rather, it is humbly written for those young students, graduate and undergraduate, who want events on campus, and who want to go the protest outside the Republican National Convention on August 29th, in Madison Sq. Garden, but would rather go from Stony Brook train station with other protesters from the university and community. To those faculty that are going to be here longer than (most) students, for whom SBU is a more permanent home, and whose obligation I feel it is to generate discussion outside of class. To those who might still complain that "nothing happens on campus": it has been much worse. But it needs motivated students, faculty, and staff to keep organizing events and networking. It doesn't happen by itself. Give some of your time. And please, don't forget to go vote on Nov 2nd. As the voter mobilization campaign in Florida in 2000 pledged, take five voters with you, and get that MoFo and his band of lying chicken-hawks out of the Whitehouse.

Author: André Levy, Graduate student in Ecology and Evolution, proud member of SJA.



# Still Smells Like Teen Spirit

By Vincent Festa

"So where were you when Kurt Cobain passed away?" is another \$64,000 question that will still be asked throughout the pop-culture way of life in the years to come.

Me? I was just another crooked hip-hop radio head in Brentwood high school cutting class when an alternative-rock friend of mine told me that Kurt Cobain committed suicide. I let out a sigh of disbelief, because nothing like this should've ever happened.

The next day started a prominence of Nirvana shirts that lasted a long time. One girl in my school went as far as dressing in all black the day after Cobain's death. Some started to write Nirvana symbols and slogans on ratty and torn pants as a tribute. Other renamed Kurt Cobain "Kurt Cocaine" because they didn't understand his music and thought he was an idiot to take his own life (well, we fans didn't wish for it either).

It wasn't until later that year that I started to catch onto Nirvana and the alternative band-wagon when I met a new set of friends and for a while deserted hip-hop roots in favour of new acceptance. First I met a group of cute girls from Plainview who were more into the rock than hip-hop beats. So how else would I try to impress them and fit in? They were really the ones who got me a taste into the alternative music nation. Later on, I made more friends in high-school who were into the "Seattle grunge" scene and it was cemented...I wore the ripped hat, muddy jeans, a Mossimo or Rusty t-shirt over long sleeves, musty plaid flannel around the waist, and the wallet with as many kick-ass chains attached to it as possible. It was called the "Seattle grunge-poser" look.

The "Nirvana-thing" was the lifestyle that my friends and I pretty much lived then. The lifestyle was just really hanging out with friends late at night wearing the clothes, acting like assholes, watching Beavis and Butthead, getting in trouble, being loud, and doing crazy things in places that we weren't supposed to. Oh yeah, and listening to Nirvana. Since we lived in Brentwood which was (and still is) dominated by hip-hop, rap, and Latin culture, the occasional alternative-rock girl in our school was prized and cherished, a cute and colorful treat usually very fascinated with even if we found them outside of our town. That, and we hated "the homies and hoodies", because at the time we thought they were the real troublemakers and we needed their music as an excuse to "win one for rock".

So how did Nirvana the music tie into my scene back then? Nirvana had brought all of

us together. Kurt Cobain, Krist Novoselic, and Dave Grohl had let out some of the best crazed, relentless, aggressive, and head-on rock music of our time that a lot of people that I knew where into it. Their personalities and their Nirvana-isms pretty much set the tone of our attitudes, wackiness, style, and direction of who we were and who we wanted to be and how we wanted to feel. Even a few people who were straight-up hip-hop even had a slot or two for Nirvana.

As a band so good it was the one thing in which we all had in common. Through hanging-out and communication we all got ourselves into other similar rock groups as well. (That was our Napster and Kazaa at the time!) Without each other, how else would have we all been into Soundgarden, Alice In Chains, The Smashing Pumpkins, and as mandatory Pearl Jam and the Singles movie soundtrack? From there we all



HERE WE ARE NOW / ENTERTAINERS  
Courtesy of www.testi-canzoni.com

bands that rocked such as Stone Temple Pilots, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Live, Weezer, Butthole Surfers, Jane's Addiction, Collective Soul, Blind Melon, Seven Mary Three, and Candlebox. Add some Sonic Youth, Primus, Foo Fighters, Silverchair, Bush, Hole, Green Day, Goo Goo Dolls, The Pixies, Breeders, King Missile, and the Crow soundtrack along with Tool, Korn, White Zombie, Pantera, Filter, Nine Inch Nails and Marilyn Manson and you can see what the scene was all about. This was required listening! Nirvana beget the grunge element for others to follow so that grunge itself was the center of the universe but anything with a guitar and drums that didn't originate from Seattle was good enough.

Yeah, we all had a great time hanging out and meeting new people who had a lot in common with us. Overtime, things started to slide. The alternative element in my life took the back seat to hardcore, techno, electronics, industrial, and back into hip-hop right as I left high-school. Outside forces in my life and strife

between all of us separated us and eventually we went our own separate ways. But one thing is evident: that Nirvana and the alternative heritage had never left me and still continues to stay with me to this day.

So now when Nirvana is name-checked from any direction I can't help but to think of the fashion failures, parties, high-school antics, and wasted nights of doing downright stupid idiotic things in public. They were so good that just the word Nirvana very easily brings back memories of such.

When I do listen to Nirvana, I think of how Incesticide inside my Walkman was the soundtrack for the brutal winter of 1995-1996 and the Christmas trips visiting my family in Staten Island. "Breed", "Marigold", and "Pennyroyal Tea" always have me thinking of crushes and girlfriends of high-school past, and "Smells Like Teen Spirit" was always a centerpiece of a mosh at any birthday party. Even when hunting down those rare Nirvana singles with those mysterious B-sides I tend to think of going to what was Sam Goody and actually buying a CD. Rest assured, Nirvana (as well as the above-mentioned groups) was part of my life.

So what now? Kurt Cobain is no longer with us. We have a walking embarrassment of a disaster named Courtney Love who uses her industry savvy, Kurt's fame, and the Nirvana brand name to her advantage, and an endless supply of memorabilia that could rival the Sex Pistols. Dave Grohl hit rock-god status with the Foo Fighters, Queens Of The Stone Age, Killing Joke, and Probot; and Krist Novoselic enjoyed a good underground success with Sweet 75 and his work with Jello Biafra. Frances Bean Cobain is still hiding and the music industry, however, still goes on.

We saw how Nirvana rose from the ashes and pits to end up becoming big as if it was the music-industry Cinderella story. To have everyone fall in love with a great band and having a rockin' good time only out of nowhere to see how Kurt's life ended and taking Nirvana's band with it made us realize how tragic and unfortunate it was. To hear Kurt's reasons to go in a form of a letter somewhat gave way into why he wanted it to end. And to find and sift through the endless supply of bootlegs and a vast library of never-released material left us to figure out who he was, how he felt, and what Nirvana was all about.

And it all seems like it was still yesterday. It still smells like Nirvana is indeed with us after all.

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

# Statesman Never Ceases to Suck

By Jackie Hayes

In the April 15, 2004 issue of the Statesman, mostly dedicated to the hard-hitting topic of cars, there appeared two articles containing sexist comments. Aside from being superficial, the article entitled, "Turning Heads with Your Automobile: A Girl's View," enforces sexist stereotypes. The article starts off stating, "many purchase these 2 ton hulks of metal to attract the opposite sex, or females." The insinuation that a female's level of sexual attraction to a male is based on a flashy car is degrading. Does the author mean that dangling a shiny object in front of a woman is the key to her heart or her pants? That women are such base creatures that a big, pretty object would compensate for the lack of a personality? You know what, maybe the author is right; deep down I really just want some asshole with a fancy car, not someone with a sense of humor, or someone who respects me as a human being, and I certainly do NOT want a meaningful relationship!

The article continues on its obnoxious commentary stating that in regards to a Audi TT, "It is a bit small, only a two-seater, so having more than one lady in this car will be fairly difficult unless you're going to pack them in like sardines in a can. Which, if you think about it, isn't that bad of an idea." This article is offensive to men as well as women, insinuating that all men need is a nice car and a pussy or two and they'll be just fine. So women don't take men seriously because they only want one thing, and men don't respect women because deep down they're only in it for the flashy car. Yet, the author concludes at the end that, "So

please be respectful while driving, for you may turn our heads while driving by but your car isn't necessarily going to help you score." Thanks for clearing that up, as if that one superficial, half-assed clarification would redeem your article from the piece of shit that it is.

The Statesman doesn't stop there; just check out the intelligent article written by Associate Layout Editor James Caston, which begins, "Like most guys my age, I like my cars (and my women) fast." I'd like to point out that they received a lot of money from a car dealership for this issue, which included 10 car-related advertisements, 10 car-related articles, 1 car-related cartoon, and one NYC Auto Show Features spread on the back page. Correct me if I'm wrong, but this proved to be the largest issue of the Statesman this semester, at a record breaking 20 pages. They also seem to have no qualms with selling out their paper and the student body who reads it. It goes beyond aggressive advertising to deceptive and underhanded journalism. Their articles shove buying a car down the reader's throat commenting, "Cars, most people have them and everyone wants one," or "The question of whether to buy or lease is second in the world of questions only to the well-known quandary between the chicken and the egg," or, "Life is good... when you drive a nice car. Vroom vroom, baby." Yet, the Statesman seemingly had no scruples in dedicating almost an entire issue to advertising a car dealership, while keeping students in the dark about the whole thing. The Statesman has proved once again that they are good at basical-

ly two things, selling out and kissing ass.

The April 15, 2004 issue featured some more sexist commentary by Publisher Mansoor Khan in a review of, "The Girl Next Door." When pointing out some highlights of the movie he noted, "If you're a heterosexual male, you'll appreciate the excess of female nudity in many scenes of this film. If you're well, not a heterosexual male, you at least won't be offended, because the nudity is not completely tasteless." As a pre-med student, I pray that this is a joke and he has not gotten through his college career thus far being this ignorant. He concludes that his only qualm with the movie was that, "Elisha Cuthbert does not show any frontal nudity, but you can't have your cake and eat it too." But, you know what? I'm being way too uptight! Statesman you should just kick back, drink your beer, and sell students out to a car dealership because, HELL, it makes your job easier, and keep pumping out your infamously hard-hitting journalism that addresses real student issues like, "How to Look Your Best In Your Car" because why should you care about the students you're fucking over? They're just stepping-stones on your ladder to success.

HEY BEOTCH, ARE YOU NOT GETTING THE HELP YOU NEED AT THOSE LAME-ASS WRITING AND MATH CENTERS?  
NO?

DO YOU NEED MORE ONE ON ONE HELP (WINK, WINK)  
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# A Slice of Life: S-60 Bus Driver

By Tom Senkus

I figured that some of life's most mundane moments are sometimes the most interesting, that you can tell a lot from a little. I don't know if I'll make this an installment or just a one time thing. Hell, it seems like an attempt to rip off Ernest Hemingway...

Verbatim Conversation (missed beginning)

Bus Driver: .....to get position, to get their right, so they gotta give everybody a percentage.

Me: She could be, like, a huge book writer.

(Pause)

BD: Last week. It was quiet, nice and quite. Now....

Me: (polite laughter)

BD: Sh' started at six o'clock, she's been on the radio since... five-thirty. Never shut up since five-thirty this morning.

Me: (empathetically) Wow.... (polite laughter)

BD: and I think she does forget her points. She problee sittin', she problee recordin' her voice and then listens to it. That's what i think, she loves to listen to her voice on the radio.

(Pause)

Me: They can hear what they're saying? or...

BD: Well the county, the county records everything that... that's transmitted.

Me: Right.

BD: so she problee ask them to give her a co-HA-HA-py-HA-HA.

Me: (polite laughter)....Wud she just complain about? Nuthin'? or...

BD: The fair box is not.... givin' out the transfers, ...so she's been tryin' to.... put it in bypass with a certain code that ya' do....that if you need to give out another transfer, ya' just punch, punch in yaw code and then ya' put it in (unintelligible by passing car)

Me: Yea.

BD: ....an' it'll print out. So... since about six-thirty, her ...'s been actin' up. She called back at seven a'clock sayin' that it's workin'.

Me: yea.

BD: but now she just called at seven-thirty... it's messed up ah-gen.

(Pause)

Me: Is she like a new bus driver? er....

BD: No-

Me: (laughter) oh-

BD: itsjustthat any, any, any little thing.... that that she, she can resolve it on her own

Me: (empathetically) Yea.

BD: (unintelligible) to do it first.

Me: Guess you've been driving a long time?

BD: She's bin there... bin there eight years. I've bin here about four years.

Me: Oh yea? How, how is driving a bus? Like I always imagined it would be like, kinda repetitive.

BD: Well, that's why we switch arr runs evry three months, an... an we just switch, we just switch'd arr runs... Monday.

Me: Uh huh.

BD: so i'll stay on this one for three months, then we'll... we'll switch.

Me: Right.

BD: So by seniority, we'll pick.... by the top of the list, by top of seniority, they'll pick first and then.... you get to pick whatever's available.

Me: Yea.

BD: So she's.... she's been here about (squints eyes to think)... (unsquints) eight years, or sumthin' like that.

Me: (whistles loudly, like the second part of a cat call) You guys get pension, or what?

BD: (widens eyes, sniffs, then shakes head left to right)

Me: (laughs) Won't mention it again.

BD: I wanted to retire in two years, but I can't. (Dramatic pause)

Me: Do you get like crazy people on the bus? like...

BD: Ummm... depends what you call crazy. (Mutual laughter)

Me: The definition of crazy, yea.

BD: Well, you know, you get some people that are.... they ride the bus all the time an they still ask the questions "where ya goin'?". They, they put up new bus stop signs, they still stand whereva' they want.

Me: Yea

BD: Some of um think that the the 'no-food' sign means no hotdogs and soft drinks.

Me: (looks up at the "no food" sign, which is a "no" sign around a hotdog and cup of soda) (genuine laughter)

BD: (sarcastically) They can have everything else but hotdogs

(Pause)

BD: Sumthin' diffrent evry day

Me: Yea. Keep ya' on your toes, i guess.

BD: (unintelligible) The drivin' doesn't bother me, i like drivin'.

Me: yea

BD: And, you know.... sumthin' diffrent evry day, sum times it'll be the same... same thin', but... there's always sum one out there just change yaw day (unintelligible).

Me: (Unintelligible)

BD: Five minits or.. it could be a whole ride.

Me: Yea.

BD: This ride's not too bad. It's ova in an hour, an hour an ten minits.

Me: How long's your shift?

BD: Ummmm.....well on this one,... I start at six a'clock in the mornin'... and then I, I get off at twelve-thirty in the afternoon, sometimes... and then I come back at three-thirty.

Me: Not too bad.

BD: Come back at three-thirty an, an i'm off at a quarter to seven.... but it's easy.

Me: Yea.

BD: 'kuz I only live five minits away from the job.... and uh...(unintelligible)... when I come back at three-thirty... I go into Gordon Heights where the run starts

Me: Right.

(The radio buzzes with directions to some driver, while I stare at the road, thinking of another question.)

Me: I don't mean to be derogatory, but like, what (tape cut out) motivation to become a bus driver? Is it just like-

BD: Motivation?

Me: Yea.

BD: I like drivin' an I like.. uh, ya know, the diffrent ya know, (obscured by radio)

Me: What did you do beforehand, then?

BD: Uhhh, I workt for an ambulance company.

Me: Driver?

BD: Drove an ambulance and helped out the paramedics for five yeas

Me: That's cool

Intercom: Approaching Stony Brook Road and-

BD: Uhhh.

Intercom: Route three fourty-seven, Coventry Mall, Stony Brook!

BD: I (unintelligible), when I come back at three-thirty, I start at Gordon Heights and go and pick up people, then i go to the mall, like i'm doin' nowww

Me: Mm hmm.

BD: And then I leave the mall at five-thirty.. and go into Gordon Heights and then i'm done.

Me: Yea

BD: So it's just two trips. One trip to the mall, and one trip back, and then i'm done, so it's not too bad.

Me: Mmm

BD: But uhhh, I've had a plenty of job, but I really like drivin' no matta what it is, whether it's ambulenz, bus, truck, whateva-

Me: Do you have to be certified for like a test or sumthin'?

BD: For a bus?

Me: Yea.

BD: You have to have a certain license.

Me: Ohh.

BD: Other than that.. as long as you have a clean license.

Me: Mm.

(The bus brake "farts" as an asshole driver cuts the bus off)

BD: (nonchalantly) There's three lanes! One two three! I'm gonna take this one, you can take those two.

Me: (laughter)

(Pause)

BD: And.... I used to work at uhh.. I used to work at a school for abused and delinquent children

Me: Mm.

BD: They were like a step away from goin' to jail

Me: Oh, right.

BD: And the guardians... their guardians were too old to take care of 'em, the kids were too rowdy... ninety-five percent of them were on medication since, since they were five or six yeas old

Me: Yea.

BD: And here they are, thirteen, between the ages of twelve an... seventeen an..-

Me: (for some reason, I laughed. I was delirious, sue me!)

BD: the state is ready to take them to jail, juvenul hall or jail. We try an.. monitor them an give 'em sumthin' to do an'... I was there for six yeas, but I'm supried I lasted that long there.

Me: I can only imagine, with like, all the hormones they're on, ya' know, just ya' know out (unintelligible)

BD: Let's face it, i mean: alot of 'em are abused... mentlee, physiclee, emotionally... whateva..

Me: Yea.

BD: And the famlees can't take care of 'em, there, there's no family structure or nuthin'.

Me: Gotta be bad.

BD: State takes 'um an... sends 'um to us and we try an, ya know, take care of 'um. Help 'em out. They go to school durin' the day... then in the afternoon, when they came back to the residential setting, then that's when I come in an, ya know... keep 'em busy with activities and responsibilities that they have to do aroun' the dorm and stuff.

Me: Right.

BD: But.. that's (unintelligible)

Me: I can only imagine how heart-rending that is (laughter for no reason).

(Bus stops; passenger boards)

Board Passenger; Good morning.

(laughter in the back of the bus)

BD: They jus have 'um... their mind set on (obscured by passing car) or they have a

Continued on page 12

# A Slice of Life: S-60 Bus Driver

Continued from page 11

different kind of trust for people.

Me: Mm hm.

BD: But it's uh.. seveny-five, thirty-nine percent of 'em are on some type of medication... and you really have to watch for the, fa' they're side-effects or, when they're not taken' it.

(Awkward Pause)

Me: Did you write (?) other things besides like bus driving? er...

BD: Uhhh, I've done ah, done alot of things.

Me: Well no, I mean like interests an' stu-, I'm like curious (nervous laughter)

BD: (sarcastically) Interests?

Me: Yea.

BD: I think, ya know, I'm at work or I'm at work.

Me: (stupid laugh for a bad joke)

BD: It's so easy. I only work four days, I'm off three days.

Me: Not too bad.

BD: I'm off Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, so this is... this will be my first weekend ah'm havin' the three-day weekend off like that.

Me: Yea.

BD: So I'll decide what ah'm gonna do. I used to go campin'. Go upstate. Go out east.

Me: Yea, Montauk.

BD: (Unintelligible) drive, drive to get away.

Me: Yea.

BD: Go to the gym... (more sarcastically) I go the gym, I work out. (The bus driver is pear-shaped)

Me: (laughter)

BD: (smiling) I play raquetball, I play raquetball. Keeps me... sweaty. Anything else, i'm not gonna go.

Me: Yea.

BD: Costs me, cost me alot... alot of money to get a body to look like this (again, pear-shape).

Me: Yea! (laughter)

(Mutual laughter)

Me: Time and effort.

BD: (cut off by crappy tape) ...liposuction, stomach staplin', I'd rather just spend the money, eat, eat a steak, eat a p'tayta, that's it.

Me: (In agreement) Yea.

BD: Whatayagonnado?

Me: (laughter)

BD: I enjoy today and I have a coronary tomor-

row.

Me: Yea.

(Bus brake farts)

Me: Live for today..... Takes time and dedication (laughter)

BD: Yea!

(Awkward pause)

BD: I was in the Army for six yea's. I was in Germany for two yea's. That was great. Send a

seventeen year

old to Germany

for two yea's,

and there's no

drinkin' age,

and the only

thing you can

do is party all

the time.

Me: (Sniff in

agreement)

BD: I did enuff

partyin'... to

last me a life-

time, so I just

don't... Don't

drink anymore.

Me: How long

were you station-

(BD spoke

over me)

BD: (I spoke

over BD) ...I

did it all then,

I did it all

then. I was in

Germany for

two yea's, then

I was in, came

back to the States for two more yea's

Me: For what though? Like, for like, just ahh.. security, or just..

BD: I was in th', I was in the Army.

Me: No but like, for umm... like what, what war? what-

BD: No, I wasn't in any war. I got out... I went in... I went in in nineteen eighty-four. Came out innn uhhh... eighty-eight?

Me: Hmm. Why'd you go in the Army?

BD: I was young, too active. Didn't like goin' to school. Didn't like to follow directions.

Me: (faintly) Yea.

BD: I said, "well, I'll show them. I'll do some- thin'." I signed up to go to the Army when I was sixteen. My parents wouldn't sign me ova'... If you were less than eighteen,... your parents had to sign you ova'. I said, "Look: When I become eighteen, I'm gonna go anyway, so either way, you can sign me up now."

Me: Yea.

(Pause)

BD: So I went... I was in the infantry, I was... training do what they're doin' now.

Me: Like peace-keeping sort-of-stuff?

BD: (Puzzled at my assumed naivety) Well... infantry.

Me: Well, I know, but like as far as like, did you have to do ummm like community service-type stuff?

BD: No.

Me: Oh, no. (laughter)

BD: I went there on my own... willingly, after I graduated.

Me: Mm.

BD: It was (Tape cut out)

Me: Kinda sucks t-

BD: It was the two best things that I did: I joined the Army and I got a divorce, so...

Me: How long did that last?

BD: (Murmered speech, obscured by my question) Three yea's. Three long yea's.

Me: Yea.

Intercom: Approaching Smith Haven Mall. Last Stop. Transfer-

Me: I didn't catch your name.

Intercom: to Routes S-5-

BD: What's up?

Intercom: 6

Me: I didn't catch your name.

Intercom: S-57

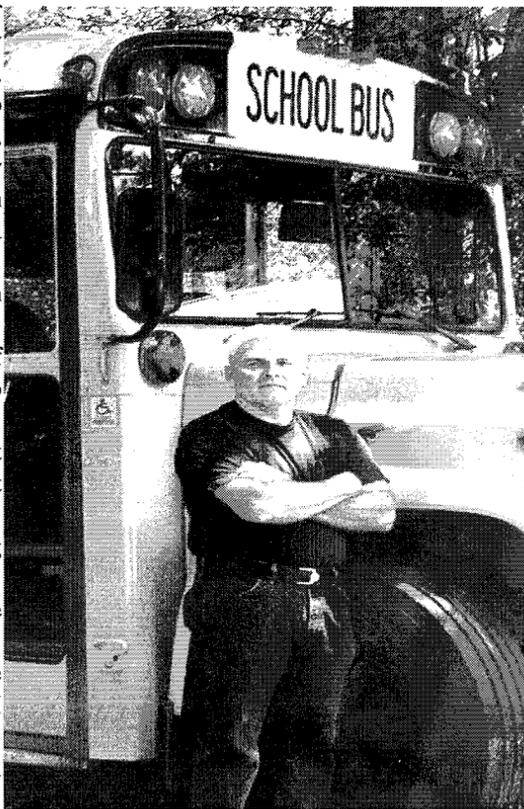
BD: XXX (Name withheld)

Me: XXX? (Name withheld) I'm Tom. (unintelligible).

Intercom: S-58, S-59, S-62, S-63, 3D, 6B

Me: Have a good one, man.

XXX: Have a good one



A BUS DRIVER.  
Courtesy of The Internet

## "Hello? Is there someone I can talk to?" Help Response says "yes"

"Hello? Is there someone I can talk to?"

This is how many of the hotline calls begin at Response of Suffolk County – an anonymous voice asking for the help of a sympathetic stranger. That's because strangers sometimes make the best listeners. Response of Suffolk County is a non-profit organization that provides a free 24-hour crisis intervention/suicide prevention hotline. We are on the ballot for a referendum this year and are asking for the students' support.

So many young adults struggle silently during their college years. A time when many of us hope to choose a career and start on a new path, the college years can be enormously stressful and, despite what we read, isolating. Academic pressures, social and sexual expectations, and the first experience of living away from home can lead to depression, anxiety, sui-

cidal thoughts, and substance abuse.

The person who asks "Is there someone I can talk to?" means this literally. Perhaps the caller has tried to talk to friends who either don't understand or jump to give advice. Maybe it's 2:00 in the morning, and there is no one available. Or perhaps the caller is intent on keeping their problem confidential – a diagnosis of HIV, a struggle around sexual orientation, a recent date rape.

On the hotline, we give the caller all the time they need. And time is our best friend. For the young person who is considering suicide, the time that we give them creates a delay in action, an opportunity to consider alternative ways to escape emotional pain. It is amazing how creative a person in crisis can be when they are heard, respected, and not rushed.

The deaths by suicide at New York University this year highlight a frightening reality; every two hours someone under age 25 ends their life in the United States. Earlier this year, a SUNY Stony Brook student ended his life after purchasing a gun. Response is proposing to expand its community outreach on campus and make the hotline service better known. In addition, we plan to offer a 24-hour hotline for SUNY Stony Brook that students can call from any campus phone, making us more accessible. While our daytime counselors are volunteers, we pay for overnight coverage and community education work. Therefore, the support of students is very important. We hope they will help us to help them.

Sonia Wagner, CSW  
Executive Director  
Response of Suffolk County, Inc.  
Hotline 751-7500

# Your Student Activity Fee at Work, My Ass!!

By Tori Russo

I've been complaining and bitching about how unorganized Stony is. Now you gotta read about this: You probably have seen the advertisements for the "Battle of the Bands" all over campus with the little line on the bottom ("your student activity fee at work") implying that the USG is actually doing something with OUR money, the money that we are paying to have exciting on-campus events. So, I signed up for the event, and waited. I waited, waited and waited. I asked how much longer I should wait for, and was told to keep waiting, that somebody would contact me. A few weeks passed by and still no answer.

Then, on the week of the event, I realized that maybe somebody forgot about me. I went back to the same office in the SAC where I signed up and was told that I should have done a security check form. Now before I go any fur-

ther, what the hell is this? A security check for what? For terrorists? Maybe for those bands who brainwash people with subliminal messages in their lyrics? I mean, if anybody can just go to the event, why not security-check everybody who's going to come to the show since anybody can pose a potential threat.

So I SHOULD HAVE DONE A SECURITY CHECK, has anybody told me? No! Ten bands signed up, but only three played. Why? Because this idiot Nick, who was in charge of the event, was too busy picking his nose! I was like, what the hell, everybody in my band goes to Stony Brook, we are all members of the same U.S.G.-funded club, we have performed previously on campus at almost every basketball game and in the union, but no! And what else is even crazier? Nick told me that it takes 3 freaking weeks to do this security check which

involves having documented references of some sort from the places where a band has played before. I tried talking to "advisors" present at the event but it was all useless.

Then the following funny thing happened: I was talking to people who were going to play the second set at the Battle of the Bands, and they have never performed anywhere, the guy who was playing a 3-piece shitty drum set has been playing drums for only a day and a half, they wrote most of their songs 2 days prior (they were walking to 7-11 one night and stumbled upon a homeless crack-addict and wrote a song about him the next day). They offered to let me play with them on trumpet - I went to my room, got my trumpet and played with them and nobody stopped me! Now, what kind of security check is this?

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YOUR  
LOVE!!!**

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GIVEAWAYS & FLOWERS  
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POETRY SLAM  
& MUCH MUCH MORE!**

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- Volunteer in the Communications Committee under USG.

If elected, I will work to serve as a direct link from the students to the Student Government and the Administration.

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more cam-  
paign ads  
are scat-  
tered  
throughout  
the issue.

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# TOP TEN

## Things Not to Do at a Funeral

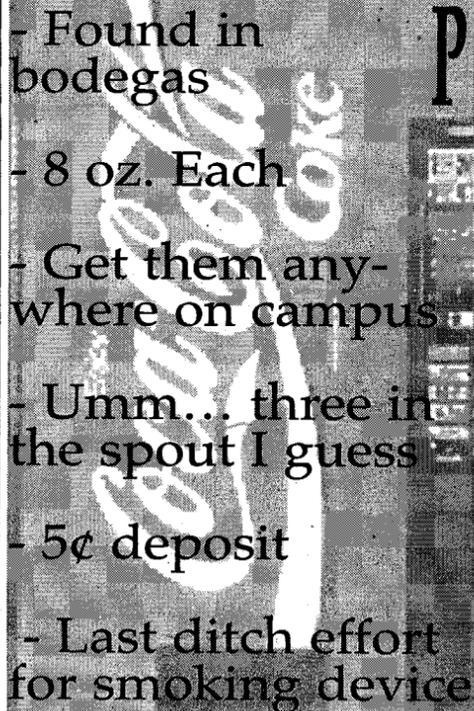
- 10 Offhandedly refer to the corpse as "that lazy son of a bitch"
- 9 Corpse piñata
- 8 Muttering "It should have been you" under your breath as your grandmother looks to you for consolation
- 7 Labored, arrhythmic applause
- 6 So did anyone see the movie 'Alive'?"
- 5 Continuously referring to the body as "pharaoh" whilst attempting to liquefy its brain with a coat hanger
- 4 Making masturbatory noises by flapping your cheeks against your gums... or by masturbating
- 3 "Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo!" Like crying's gonna bring your baby back
- 2 Extracting the coke-filled condoms from the anus of the late "Frankie the Mule"
- 1 Ventriloquism

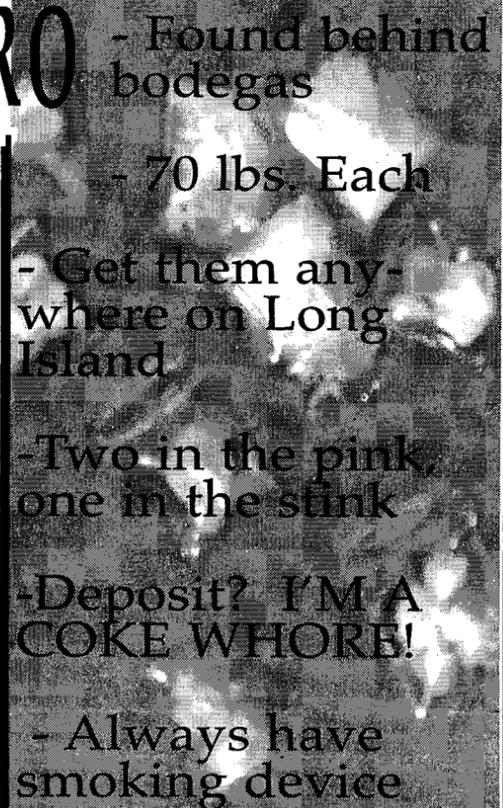
# Battle of the Century

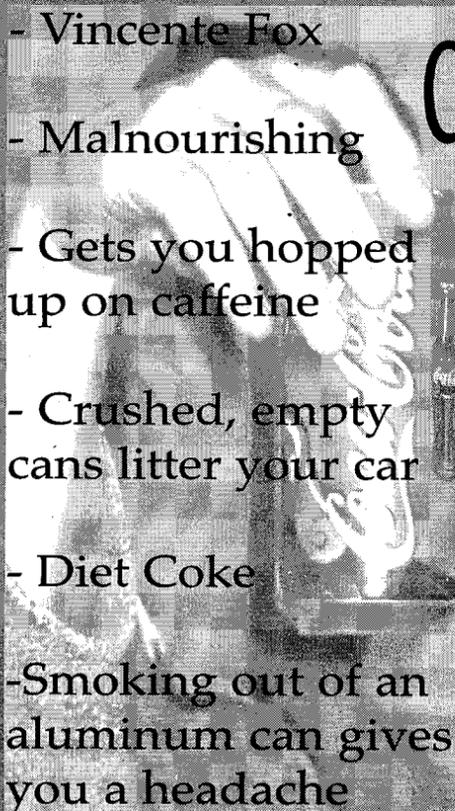
Coke Cans

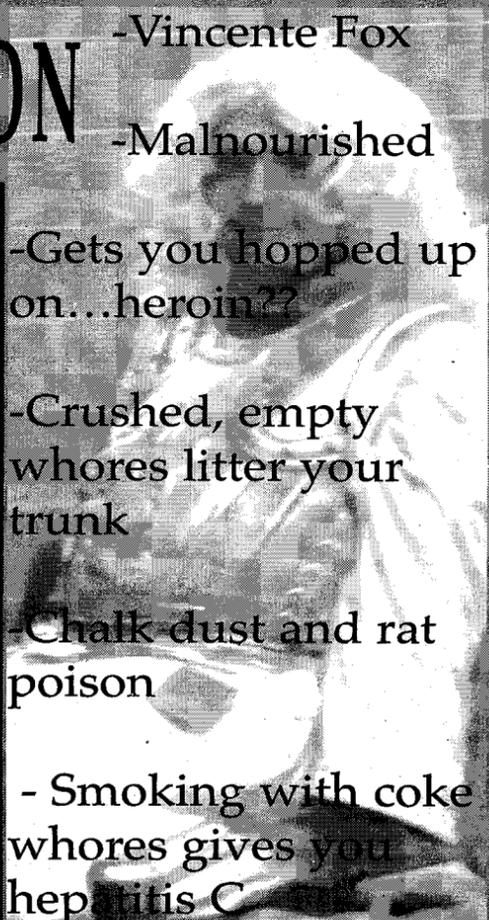
VS

Coke Whores

- 
- PRO**
- Found in bodegas
  - 8 oz. Each
  - Get them anywhere on campus
  - Umm... three in the spout I guess
  - 5¢ deposit
  - Last ditch effort for smoking device

- 
- Found behind bodegas
  - 70 lbs. Each
  - Get them anywhere on Long Island
  - Two in the pink, one in the stink
  - Deposit? I'M A COKE WHORE!
  - Always have smoking device

- 
- CON**
- Vincente Fox
  - Malnourishing
  - Gets you hopped up on caffeine
  - Crushed, empty cans litter your car
  - Diet Coke
  - Smoking out of an aluminum can gives you a headache

- 
- Vincente Fox
  - Malnourished
  - Gets you hopped up on...heroin??
  - Crushed, empty whores litter your trunk
  - Chalk dust and rat poison
  - Smoking with coke whores gives you hepatitis C

# Kill Bill: Vol. Holy Shit, I Just Crapped Blood!

By Michael Prazak

If *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* was a stylistic alleyway anal raping, then *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* was the surprisingly comforting obligatory reach around at the end. View the first sentence as something good, and this metaphor makes more sense. In a way, in order to get the full effect of *Kill Bill: Vol. 2*, you have to put yourself into the mindset of someone who would be open to a random alleyway anal intrusion. This taken into account, one really couldn't find a better way to spend a Friday night and 10 bucks.

The cries of complaints decrying *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* generally comprised themselves in the style over substance category. Where were the character driven dialogues we've grown to love in Tarantino films? Where is that oh-so-flavorful pacing and humoristic rhythm that seemed to ooze off of films like *Pulp Fiction* and *Jackie Brown*?

Questions like these ran rampant in response to the release of *Kill Bill* el primero. Many weren't willing to lose themselves in the gore-ridden ballet of violence and dismemberment. Trying to force the prior film into the Tarantino paradigm distanced many from enjoying it on a purely aesthetic front. Reference and panoramic beauty were the

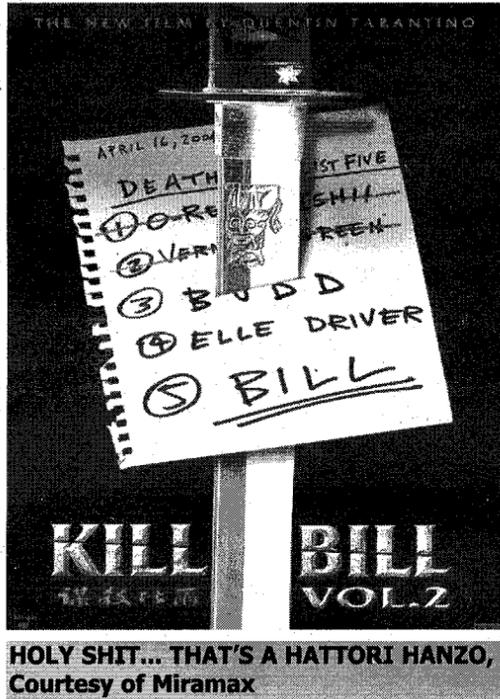
nature of the game, and the game was chop-socky Monopoly. For the limited viewing audience who had been raised on classic Hong Kong flicks, and Sergio Leone films, pangs of geeky-giggles and insider guffaws were constantly enacted. Therefore, it's understandable that some may not have "gotten" *Kill Bill: Vol. 1*; all that those of us who did "get it" could do was mourn our fellow filmgoers.

However, in *Kill Bill: Vol. 2*, we find Tarantino returning to his tried and true methods. Back are the situational hijinks and magnificently paced dialogue, as to comfort and console those who were shocked by the initial post-modern blast of *Kill Bill: Vol. 1*. It was as if the scornful Papa Tarantino had slowly and lovingly pulled them back to his chest, with the very same hand he had just smacked them with. Fortunately he

did so while maintaining the razor sharp edge he had honed on *Kill Bill: Vol. 1*. The main difference between the two is that in the prior film, where violence was the purpose, *Vol. 2* uses the threat of violence as a stylistic tool. By drawing out and prolonging scenes of extreme tension, the focus of the audience was gripped and held for as long as Master

Tarantino wanted. A paramount example of this is the manner in which Bill confronts the Bride on her wedding day. The audience knows how the scene is going to end - in a violent, bloody and ultimately tragic manner, which sets our beautiful protagonist on her "roaring rampage of revenge." However, when Bill does arrive, his likeability and off-putting manner almost makes us believe things won't happen as we expect them. Unfortunately we know, or at least we know inside, we try to lie to ourselves; but that anxious part of us, the one that knows our parents actually hate each other, heaves a deep sigh of relief when the Deadly Viper Squad marches into the Chapel and restores anxiety to its proper place in our mind.

All in all, *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* may actually appeal to all the viewers that see it. By maintaining a delicate balance between style and substance, Tarantino both placates those who didn't enjoy the over-the-top feel of the first film, while indulging the film geek in his egoistic intellectual façade. I recommend viewing both *Vol. 1* and *Vol. 2* back to back, and in a "linear" fashion, as the development of the film and characters seems oh-the-more tangible and "real." As a matter of fact, I will put fucking money down on it. You will love this fucking movie, I can absolutely guarantee it - as a matter of fact, I am so god damn sure you will love this movie, that if you do not like it, Michael Billings, that's right, the guy who wrote the Punisher review will pay for your goddamn ticket! So love it or MONEY DOWN! You've only got to lose 2 hours of your life.



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# The Punisher Review

By Michael Billings

Going into *The Punisher*, my expectations were as low as one would think they'd be. The trailer for this movie alone was more than enough to incite the sarcastic jibes from comic book fans that they have expertly honed while watching hours of television in their parents' basements. In the comic book, Frank Castle's family is caught in the crossfire of random mob violence in Central Park and murdered, causing Castle to become the Punisher. The trailer for the movie reveals, however, that Frank Castle's family is actually surgically mowed down on a beach in Florida in a mob hit aimed specifically at them. All of this is set to "Let the Bodies Hit the Floor" by Drowning Pool, an anthem that has come to signify terrible movies.

From the start, this film is doomed. By drastically missing the origin, *The Punisher* ends up completely misrepresenting the main character. According to the comic, the Punisher is a direct response not necessarily to the just the untimely deaths of his loved ones, but more so by the randomness of the event. Castle's drive to kill is fueled by the very chaos he attempts to destroy, giving the Punisher endless reason to slaughter those he deems evil. The movie, however, whittles this compelling story down to a standard revenge tale; Castle, played by Thomas Jane, spends the duration of the movie hunting down Howard Saint, played by John Travolta, for ordering the hit on his family. By removing the chaotic element, writer and director Jonathon Hensleigh creates a character that should logically stop killing after attaining the revenge he seeks, an idea that negatively distinguishes the cinematic Punisher from that of the comic book.

Although this inaccurate foundation basically makes it impossible for this film to be great, *The Punisher* does manage to redeem itself to the point where you're willing to walk out of the theater without demanding your 10 dollars back. After Castle actually becomes

the Punisher, he ends up living in a run-down apartment with a small group of pathetic yet colorful neighbors that were adapted from the comic book. Hensleigh completely nailed almost everything involving the interactions between Castle and his neighbors. The soulless and mechanistic nature of the Punisher comically contrasted with the lovable tenement dwellers. The only subplot that was bothersome in this area was the implied near-romance between Castle and Joan, one of his neighbors played by Rebecca Romijn. Hensleigh manages to avoid the Hollywood romantic subtext by rightfully having Castle coldly reject Joan's advances before running into his apartment and downing half a bottle of Wild Turkey.

The action in *The Punisher* film ranges from corny to creative. In one car chase scene, the Punisher is driving away from a pursuer when a pre-adolescent girl who looks like an extra from *Boogie Nights* just happens to run into the middle of the road so that Castle crashes his car trying to swerve away. This sequence played out in such a ridiculous manner that you expect Castle to avoid hitting the girl only to run into a bus full of nuns on their way to work at a soup kitchen. While Castle is battling a room full of gangsters in the denouement, however, the action stays true to the comic. Castle unemotionally and methodically rips through a squad of mobsters in an enjoyably violent manner, even plunging a knife into someone's brain through the bottom of their mouth.

Despite the pleasantly surprising bright spots, *The Punisher* isn't very good

overall. Hensleigh completely misinterprets the character's origins and motivations, and much of the plot and dialogue is fairly hackneyed. As the Punisher, Thomas Jane does a passable job, but he was clearly selected mostly on the basis of his physique judging from the amount of time he spends without his shirt on. From a comic fan's point of view, there's a good chance that this movie will simply be the cause of a lot of disappointment and/or impotent rage.

Generally speaking, it's probably not worth seeing *The Punisher* in theatres. If you're going to see a movie in the near future, you should probably just go and see *Kill Bill Vol. 2*. In fact, definitely see that, it's nothing short of amazing. Hey, remember Mike Prazak's article from the top of the page? The one about *Kill Bill*? Everything he says about the movie is completely accurate; the dialogue, characters, and general flow of the film is brilliant. There was this one scene where a strip club owner and one of his strippers were snorting lines of coke in the back room of the club and the owner gives the straw to the stripper and goes, "Come on baby, be somebody!" in an effort to get the semi-clad temptress to partake in some finely cut nose candy. I've never heard a funnier way of trying to convince someone to do drugs in my life. Every minute of *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* is enjoyable, whereas many minutes of *The Punisher* are just frustrating. See *Kill Bill: Vol. 2*.



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# Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

I remember it well. It was 1986, and I was sitting on the banks of the Hudson River with my dad, who was in the middle of quite a lively discussion concerning the singular importance of pouring beer into the water to attract fish. I was attempting in vain to secure my fishing pole, wrestling with a huge BLT in one hand and a cup of worms in the other, when a strange man walked past our truck, head down, mumbling quietly to himself and sort of shuffling his weight to one side as he walked. I commented on his weirdness with the lack of delicacy common to all 9-year-olds, but my father became grave and turned to me with a weighty sigh.

Apparently, they had once shared a desk in grade school, but my father said the man grew up to be a nuclear physicist, the kind who lived in his white lab coat with matching pocket protector, and loved so much the power of pure thought and mathematical elegance. One day, the scientist found out that what he was working on was being used to kill people. He couldn't stand the pressure, jumped out of the second story window of his lab, landed on the railroad tracks ... and kept walking. And he's been walking ever since.

My father used it as an object lesson on the vile government, himself a scientist who blew off his eyebrows during an experiment once, but also a hippie who burned his draft card and went to Woodstock. "How dare they use science against us," he said.

But I always thought about that man in a different context. When the pressure of work mounts, deadlines pile up, and I become breathless with the sheer amount of projects I'm putting off until later – I think of that man, and suddenly my woes are put into context. He gives me perspective, you could say, and I bring him up now to offer solace to all my readers who are facing their own Herculean tasks, drowning in end-of-semester drudgery.

Speaking of the gods, you may have noticed that my column was absent from the last issue. While there was some misplacement involved, I blame the newspaper Gods, who are eternally hungry, and require a sacrifice from time to time to abate their urges. And don't be fooled by imitators – I'm flattered that the Statesman spoofed me, but my bed is not full of urine. Certainly cum, but definitely not urine.

Over Spring Break, I was visiting my parents upstate, when I found myself in just the right place, at just the right time. I happened to be a few yards away when BANG – a house exploded! It was decimated in fact, totally leveled, when a gas line under repair ruptured, causing a huge fire, and spraying debris all around. When the explo-

sion occurred, I was in a huge renovated barn that shook like a plane had hit the roof, but after seeing the smoke pluming outside, I ran to the site of the accident. (The neighborhood had been partially evacuated before the blast and no one was seriously hurt.)

Earlier that day, I had a wisp of a thought that I should bring my digital camera with me, and so I did, not completely sure why. All doubt was erased when I found myself standing in front of the blazing fire. Nine houses around the site were later condemned; windows and doors blown out, walls and staircases shifting beyond inhabitation.

I ended up selling the pictures to a few local papers, who used them on the front page, and the owner of one even offered me a job for this summer. It's crazy, the twists and turns of life.

I-CON brought an unexpected reaction last month, when once again, Stony Brook was enveloped by the pale-green monitor glow of all manner of unwashed geeks, iron-clad virgins, and comic book junkies, who got together to compare RAM and wallow in deviant behavior. Furrries and Trekkies and Ghostbusters and Storm Troopers. Oh my.

The purpose of this annual shindig is to promote sci-fi interests, of course, but it is also a Call-to-Arms for every nerd ... and a juicy peek for every geek. While bonding occurs over demon anime porn or that 300th round of D&D, the underlying message is one of solidarity.

Together they may be a commercial for prescription eyewear, and try to seduce women with pie-charts – but mutually the droves of geekdom stride a singular course toward world domination. Or at least, that's what they want you to believe – they DO know where all your code is, after all.

Honestly though, this was a kinder, gentler I-CON. Maybe it was the warm weather, but everyone was in good sorts. The Furrries (people whose interest in animal characters goes way beyond an appreciation of The Lion King), were friendly and much less creepy than last year. Even artist-extraordinaire Voltaire, who last year was rambling on about terror sex, was carefree, frolicking on the warm grass with his young son. (The love would have spread all the way to a Klingon wedding, but unfortunately it was canceled when the bride fell ill.)

In other news, I attended my friend Beatle's going away party, and saw a few old movie-making pals from college upstate – including this petite girl who used to write poetry about slowly torturing people in dungeon basements ... she actually became an actress, and has starred in many

fancy TV shows.

And I said a long 'goodbye' to my dear friend off to Japan.

Campus life is speeding toward apex. Besides the all-night poker matches, I'm gearing up for the leisure of summer, but first we have only a few weeks to complete any vital school proviso. But maintain perspective. Alcohol may help. I've been hanging out at the University Cafe', for instance, slinging Guinness. But, I did write a letter to my grandmother. Perspective.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

I read your column in every issue of the Press...I love hearing about your crazy stories! The story about stealing the pot was the funniest thing i have ever read. I decided to write you to ask for some advice in my sex life. I'm in a long term relationship, but i'm also very bicurious. This sexual interest is fine with my boyfriend, its just that i have no idea how to seduce a woman. There have been plenty of girls that i've been attracted to in my classes, but i never know how to approach the situation. I want to make a move, but i allways end up chickening out. Please help me get a woman into bed...

Signed – Curious but Frustrated

A: Dear Curious,

Yes, females are lovely, aren't they? Soft skin, sinuous curves, no wonder you're curious. Although I have had my share of naked women on top of me, I have to admit that all of them came on to me, and more often than not, I really had nothing to do with it. To some extent I still feel like a blathering idiot around women I am attracted to. Not men, of course. Men are easy. (It's nice, but not surprising, that your boyfriend is cool with the whole idea – he's probably looking to get in on the mix, and if he's not, he's nuts.)

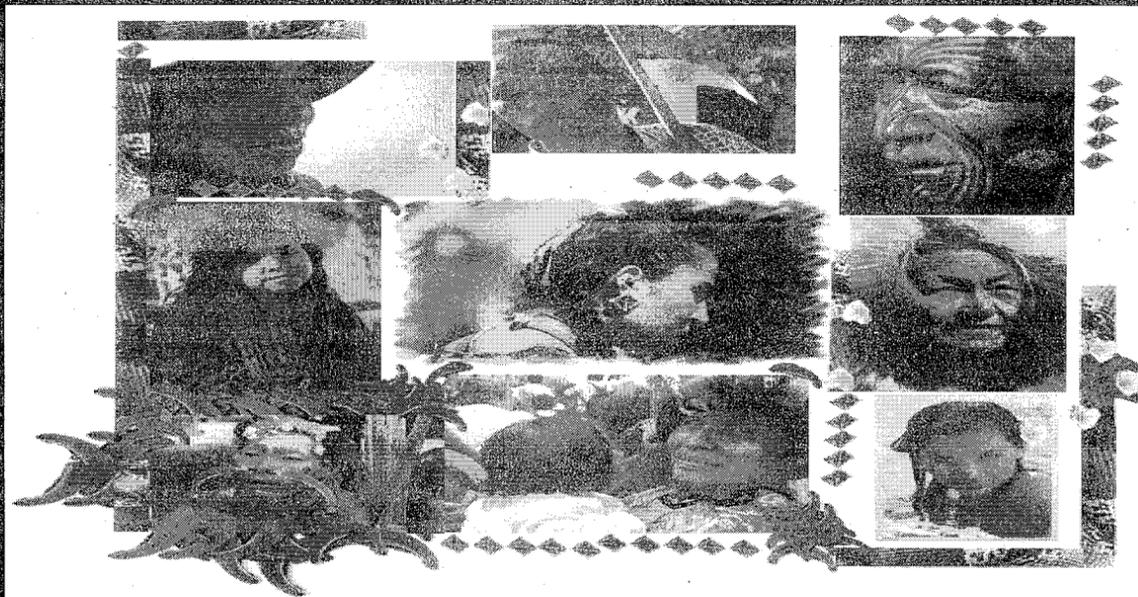
Anyway, I want to help you out ... that's my thing, so I discussed the matter with two of my friends who happen to be lesbians, and crucially, much more knowledgeable than I. They suggested a good strategy: Have a party. Invite your crush and remember – never discount a stiff drink or a joint or both to lift inhibitions. Then give her a massage in semi-private, slowly taking off her clothes... But be forward. Both of my friends could not stress this point enough, or as one put it, "Don't worry if you think she may not be into women – because it really doesn't matter." Good luck.

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

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# Pat McGee Band – Save Me

By Andrew Pernick

It's finally here. Four years after the release of their breakthrough record, *Shine*, and after months of touring, and several delays, Pat McGee Band released its latest musical wonder, *Save Me*. Featuring a full string section on two tracks, and the vocal talents of Laura and Allison Veltz of Cecilia on a third, *Save Me* is a musical gem, showcasing the band's exceptional talent and Pat McGee's composing brilliance.

First and foremost, any fan of Pat McGee Band should find all of the songs on *Save Me* extremely familiar: since 2001, Pat McGee Band has been testing these songs on live audiences across the country. But to say that they are familiar is not to say that they are not good; quite the contrary – *Save Me* is a musical masterwork. It has taken songs that fans of the band know quite well and rendered them in a whole new, improved creative light.

"Rebecca" is finally dead. After thousands of performances in concerts since the song first debuted on Pat McGee's 1995 acoustic album, *From the Wood*, and after being on every subsequent album, "Rebecca" is overplayed. Its absence from *Save Me* is far from conspicuous: Pat McGee himself is tired of the "fan-favorite". At best, "Rebecca" has been, due to its unusual longevity, a historical curiosity and it is fitting that the song is not on *Save Me* as it wouldn't fit in with the rest of the album.

The album starts off with "Beautiful Ways", which fans of the band might remember used to be titled "Radar". This song is clear, clean and modern, with the background vocal talents of Pat McGee himself, thanks to the miracles of overdubbing and layering. "Must Have Been Love", the second track, has been part of the repertoire for over three years and it has finally come into its own.

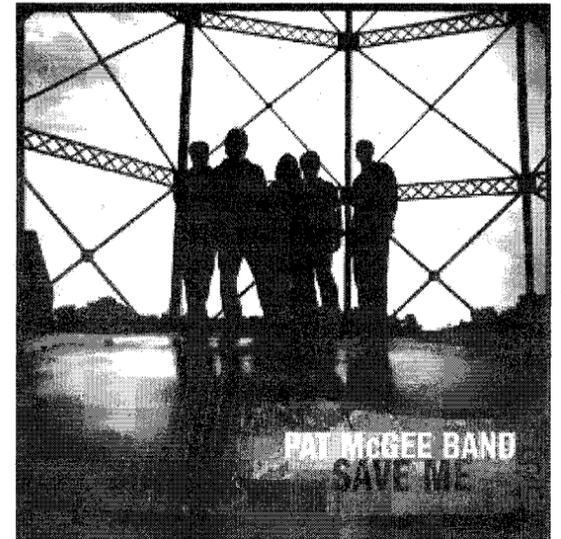
The vocals are crisp, the harmonies perfect, and Pat McGee is still, clearly, a powerful tenor.

"You and I" is made ever more delightful due to the string ensemble backing it. Orchestral composer Ralph Farris blended the 10-piece string section (three First Violins, three Second Violins, two each on Viola and Cello) to perfection, adding a subtle layer to an already powerful song.

"Now" is one of the albums many highlights. It is an excellent mix of classic power rock, folk rock, country, and a certain *je ne sais quo*. The plucky optimism of the lyrics make this a song that deserves to be someone's personal anthem: "After the stars fall down/and there's nothing for wishing on/after the goodbye sound/and love leaves her alone/she picks herself up off the ground/she won't bow down/she's gone too far to give up now."

If "Now" doesn't have you singing along, neighbors be damned, "Don't Give Up" will. The most powerful, catchy, infectious song on the album, it has that rare feeling of "instant hit" that is too often absent from mainstream music. It's the kind of song that makes you want to stand up, dance, and sing along at a volume that would wake the dead. It's the kind of song you keep on repeat play for days. Ralph Farris' orchestral skills are masterful, adding another layer of brilliance to this song. Musically, lyrically, and artistically, this track is PERFECT.

A straight shot of country flavor directly jammed into your eardrums, "At It Again", with the backup vocal talent of producer Marti Frederiksen, is another crowd favorite re-envisioned with the mature, clean feeling that runs throughout the album. "Annabel", a song Pat McGee wrote for his daughter, is bouncy, vivacious, and catchy.



THE ALBUM COVER, Courtesy of Warner Bros.

"Wonderful", a love song Pat McGee Band style, is a vocal gauntlet for tenors, a dream realized, with highly original lyrics: "you were a drive-by romance/now you're my ecstasy." Both tracks also feature Frederiksen as a background vocalist.

"Shady", the last track on the CD, has an eerie, haunting quality to it. The addition of Cecilia members Laura and Allison Veltz to the track as vocalists gives the song a rich, deeply moving feel. Listen closely around the 1:50 mark and, in the background, you'll hear one half of a telephone conversation about meeting to have an illicit affair.

In short, *Save Me* is a wonderful collection of brilliant music, a shining example of what happens when all the pieces come together in just the right way. Pat McGee Band has matured, and their music is made all the more incredible as a result. Go out and buy this CD this very minute. A perfect 10.

## Side Scrolling Mosh Pits

By Daniel Hofer

Video games of today are nothing like the games of our youth. Controllers have more buttons, graphics have more detail, and games can accommodate more players. The music has also changed over time, however maybe not for the better.

There is at least one group of people who have realized this, the *Minibosses*. Looking at the legendary Nintendo



HEY, THIS BAND SHOULD BE CALLED THE "MINI-BLUR-SSES" Courtesy of Christian Johnson

Entertainment System for inspiration, the *Minibosses* have taken some of the greatest game soundtracks and pumped them full of garage rock goodness.

They have redone "Megaman 2," "Double Dragon," "Castlevania," and "Punchout," to name a few tracks. On April 3rd we had the luck of seeing a live performance of all of those songs and a few more at Northsix in Brooklyn.

The *Minibosses* opened with new tunes "Goonies 2" and "Ninja Gaiden." It was a very informal set; the band members were drinking on stage, they talked with some people in the audience between songs, and they had us sing "Happy Birthday" to the sound technician. The group even invited two of their old friends on stage to cover "Jesus Extract," an old *Sleepytime Trio* song.

If you have heard the *Minibosses* before, you can feel the energy in their music. However, seeing them play live on stage is amazing. Each member rocks out in his own style and the audience sweats up a storm with them as everyone goes wild.

They played with a band of about 10 years ago from New Jersey called the *Rye Coalition*, and a new band called Eagles of Death Metal. The *Eagles* are actually a side project of Josh Homme's from Queens of the Stone Age. Aaron Burke from the *Minibosses* said, "I know Josh from a few years ago, and we finally got our shit together to actually go out for a week this spring."

I also asked him about other bands that remake video game music, such as *Project X*.

Aaron says the *Minibosses* don't feel any competition, "We love anybody who makes some good music. We know some of them personally, and some of them we don't. There are a lot popping up these days, so it's hard to keep track."

Like many bands, the *Minibosses* have their own tee shirt for sale. However, the art on theirs is done by David Rees, the creator of the biting comic *Get Your War On* (<http://www.mnftiu.cc>). "We did ask him a few years ago to do a shirt for us and, unbelievably luckily enough for us, he obliged," Aaron says. "His stuff is amazing, pure genius. I love *Get Your War On* the most, but both *Fighting* and *Filing* are also amazing."

Before the *Minibosses*, a few members were part of a similar video game cover band called the *Jenova Project*. Will any of those songs ever be redone? "We're working on so much stuff, and it's going so slowly right now that it's hard to say if we'll ever tackle that stuff. But you never know," says Aaron. What about the future? "Sleep and then more shows. We're looking forward to playing Portland at the end of this month."

If you would like to hear some of their songs feel free to check out <http://minibosses.com>.

## VOTE CHANGE

### **Funding:**

- Funding for Religious and Political clubs

### **Government Accessibility:**

- Monthly Presidential Updates on SBU TV and the Statesman
- Make Available Student Activity Fee Breakdown
- USG Website to post updates, disclose USG plans, and help promote events on campus

### **Streamline Club Process**

- Appoint one person and their staff as the liaison for all club questions and paperwork
- Establishment of a special council made up of USG, SU&A, and general student body members to decide on new club recognition

## VOTE RESPONSIBILITY

### **Academics:**

3.78 GPA  
Political Science Major  
Classical Civilizations Minor  
Junior Class Standing

### **Honor Societies**

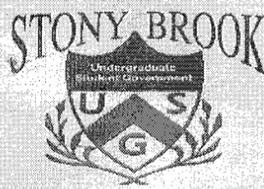
Stony Brook Honors College  
Sigma Beta Honors Society  
National Society of Collegiate Scholars  
Golden Key International Honors Society

### **Clubs:**

VP College Democrats  
VP of Enduring Freedom Alliance  
Hillel

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*All eyes are opened,  
And students become aware.  
Come, friends, and join the...*

# Haiku d'etat

The Porn Industry  
A key part of daily life  
Shut down for two months

I learned the hard way  
To knock before entering  
A room with a boy.

Porn star Darren James  
Gave bareback penetration  
Now he's got the HIV.

Oh man, Traci Lords  
was just fifteen back when she  
fucked on film for cash.

Porn was good to me  
But now Scientology  
Will have to suffice

Starred in Gonzo Porn  
Yeah baby he likes it raw  
Just like Ol' Dirty

Last Tango butter  
Marlon Brando's hairy ass  
O! To be sublime.

Since I have a dick,  
Trivializing women  
Never gets me laid.

Misogyny sucks.  
Stupid white boys on the staff  
Aren't that funny.

# A Positive Change for the City?

By Christina Beltrani

Something to think about—the average American will throw away 600 times their weight in garbage during their life, resulting in 90,000 pounds of trash for future generations. As concerned as I am with the environment, even I, after hearing this statistic, have the hopeless reaction that throwing out recyclables with my other garbage here and there will not affect the 90,000 pounds of trash anyway. But here is another statistic to counteract that feeling—recycling one ton saves 17 trees, 587 pounds of air pollution, 6,953 gallons of water, 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space, 4,077 kilowatt hours of energy, and 463 gallons of oil. That sounds much more hopeful, does it not?

This gives reason to believe that New York City's decision to resume all recycling as

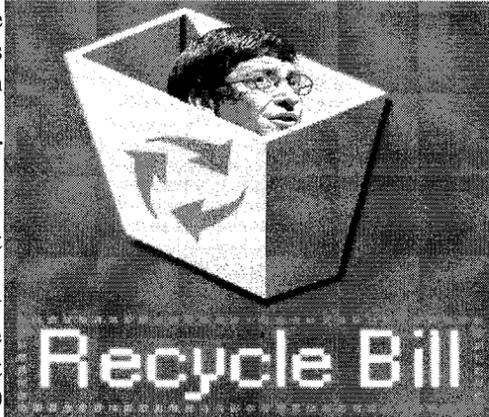
of April 1 of this year will have a positive effect on the planet's future. For those that either did not know or do not reside in the City, recycling of glass and plastic was suspended in July of 2002. This was done in an attempt to save money (\$40 million to be exact) during a severe budget crisis that year. When the savings never surfaced, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Department of Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty decided to revive weekly recycling collections. But the question now is if the change in recycling in 2002 did not go as planned, how will resuming recycling now be any different?

I would love to ramble on about how important the environment is and display a bunch of statistics to scare everyone into caring, but if recycling was stopped due to monetary issues, let us be realistic and assume it was brought back due to monetary issues. Do not get me wrong, the benefits of recycling are quite obvious, but not everyone, Mayor included, makes rulings based solely on the good of the environment.

What it truly comes down to is money—

the cost of taking the City's waste and dumping it in someone else's backyard has increased fifty percent since 2001, while recycling costs have dropped in the past ten years. The more recycling is performed, the more efficient it gets done, and the less it costs. This lower cost of garbage handling affects the budget, eventually effecting taxes. Plus, recycling opens up many new jobs for numerous individuals. Ten-thousand tons of waste is a one-person job at the incinerator, a six-person job at the landfill, and a thirty-six-person job at the recycling plant.

So was the City correct in its decision two years ago? No. Is it trying to change its ways, for the good of both the environment and its people? Yes. April 1st will not only please environmentalists but satisfy the tax payers. Do I feel like the City is doing all it reasonably can with recycling? Let us just say this new step makes me much more optimistic than I have been with their environmental decisions in the past. They say hindsight is 20/20, and this is a perfect example, but at least this time the change in recycling will clearly result in a positive outcome.



OH BOY. LISTEN, I JUST DO THE CAPTIONS,  
Courtesy of Bubblz

# If It Doesn't Work, Cut It

By Tristen Petecca



YOU HEARD 'EM FOLKS,  
Courtesy of Bubblz

Who could be opposed to New York City suspending its recycling program after an event like September 11th? The city lost thousands of people and millions of dollars that day to terrorism. It is natural that something in the budget would need to be cut to compensate. Mayor Bloomberg made a good choice when he chose the recycling programs for glass and plastic.

Environmentalists would argue that the city is not doing everything it can to recycle and that it is using September 11th as an excuse to cut the programs and save some money. I believe that is absolutely not true and would go even further to say that cutting of glass and plastic recycling programs was the best thing they could have done. Of course I favor recycling and think it is a very important practice but we must look at the reality of the situation. The New York City recycling program was not at all efficient. Aside from costing the city money

because markets for the materials were lacking, forty percent of the glass the New York City Department of Sanitation took in was not appropriate for recycling and ended up in landfills anyway. Mayor Bloomberg said it best "In addition to its cost, the current recycling program does not achieve its vital environmental objectives, with approximately one-half of the material collected not being recycled into new products." Even if one hundred percent of materials were being recycled into new products, would it be wrong to give the city some slack? The city took a major blow; could we let it heal economically before we start bashing it for poor environmental sense?

If the city were not doing all it could to recycle, could not it have pulled metal and paper out of the mix as well? The city is not against recycling. In fact, recycling is extremely important for New York City because of solid waste disposal issues. The city sends its garbage to other states to be disposed of at a cost of \$36.6 million per year. An efficient recycling system would ease that financial burden tremendously. To further prove that the city supports recycling, Mayor Bloomberg reminded the city in a press release that the deposit for carbonated beverage bottles was still in effect and urged the citizens to take advantage of it. Also, there was a reasonable deadline written into the "Temporary Emergency Recycling Requirements" bill. The city asked for only two years before fully implementing the recycling program again. This doesn't sound like a city that is trying to cop out on recycling.

The suspension of glass and plastics was estimated to save the city \$40 million. It also

provided the city and vendors time to revise their programs and boost their efficiency. Now in 2004, vendors that were once asking more than \$100 per ton to take recyclables are asking only \$51 per ton. If the programs were never suspended, the vendors would never have had the opportunity to better their operations and the market for glass would still be poor. This is the main reason why I believe that suspending glass and plastic was the best thing New York City could have done. Now instead of paying out, New York City might save some money on its recyclables. It will mean less money spent to haul solid waste out and more money for the city. The city spent its time wisely organizing a public outreach program to educate the residents on what materials are recyclable and what materials are not. This means that we should also see an increase in the percentage of materials that actually get made into new products.

Environmentalists can whine about valuable materials not being reused and shake their finger at the city for suspending the programs that prolong our resources. If they do not look at the facts, however, what point are they trying to make? It is not that the city is not moral or does not see the benefits of recycling. The fact is that the programs were not effective in recycling materials. The city had been actually losing money in order to carry out these environmentalists' great cause. How could New York be accused of not doing everything that it can? How can those opposed be so insensitive of the crisis New York has had to deal with? The facts speak for themselves.

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# ADS OF USG CANDIDATES

While we are extremely happy that these candidates have taken up the Press' "penny for an ad" offer, the advertisements stated here should not be construed as an endorsement by the Stony Brook Press.

## Hello my fellow students, I'm Brandon Fuchs and I'm running for President.

I believe college should be a fun experience, not a "Stony Brook" experience. We shouldn't have to pay \$2.50 for a Powerade since this isn't Manhattan and we shouldn't have to protest to get simple inherent rights that we deserve. I'm trying to lead this fight, supporting the club bill of rights, meeting with leaders of clubs and organizations on campus, and \*trying\* to bring about change. Notice I say trying. My position on the Senate right now is bringing some change but we need more. We've given students and clubs a leg to stand on that cannot be taken away. It's a start. The Press is leading the way with this fight as well, with their continued coverage of USG, and their leadership behind the Bill of Rights.

I'd like to make Stony Brook a school when people hear the name and say some positive profanity (not the negative we are used to hearing). This will take new blood in USG, new attitude, and getting rid of old Polity bad blood. The first step is electing me President - My agenda will be straightforward - Make Stony Brook a FUN and INTERESTING place. Every last penny should be spent on events, that means some real performing artists, some big names. If Buffalo and Albany can have these things why not us? Don't we deserve it?

**Remember, if it's change you want vote FUCHS for president. Any questions 6-4399.**

**ILAN NASSIMI**  
For VP Of Communications & Public Relations

### I AM:

- Executive Producer / Marketing Director of Dave Chappelle & Kanye West Shows
- \*Member of the Student Activities Board
- \*The New USG Web Designer

### I WILL:

- Maintain Active and USEFUL USG Website
- Name an Official USG Spokesperson
- Create Monthly USG Newsletter
- Provide Access to Vital USG Documents (Constitution, Clubs Bill of Rights, etc.)
- Restore Ineffective Communications Board
- \*\*Create Student Involvement Campaign\*\*

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IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- NYPIRG CHAPTER PRESIDENT AND  
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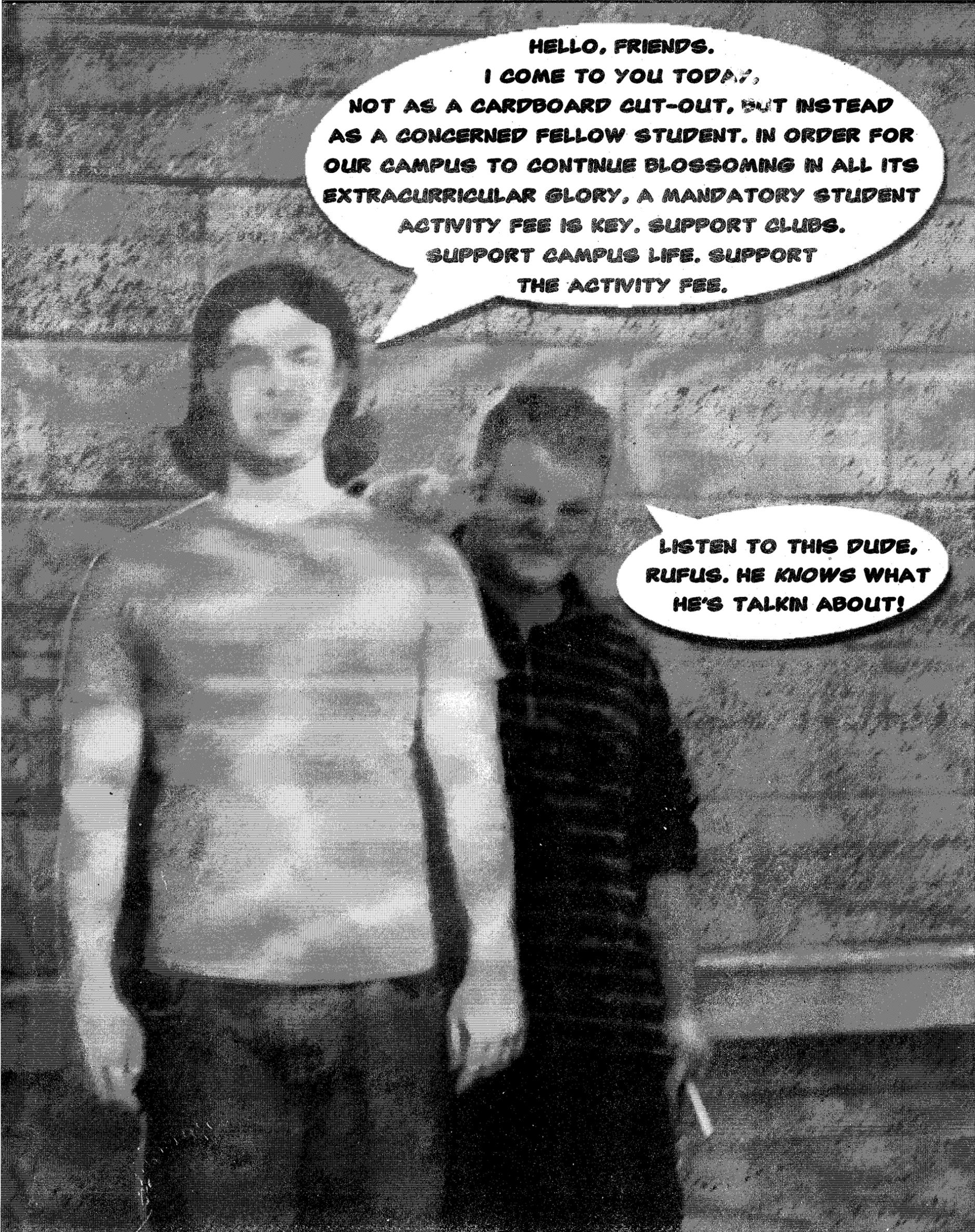
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STUDENT

- UNDERGRAD ORCHESTRA  
MEMBER

- MEMBER OF NYPIRG'S  
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ACTIVITY FEE IS KEY. SUPPORT CLUBS.  
SUPPORT CAMPUS LIFE. SUPPORT  
THE ACTIVITY FEE.**

**LISTEN TO THIS DUDE,  
RUFUS. HE KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S TALKIN ABOUT!**