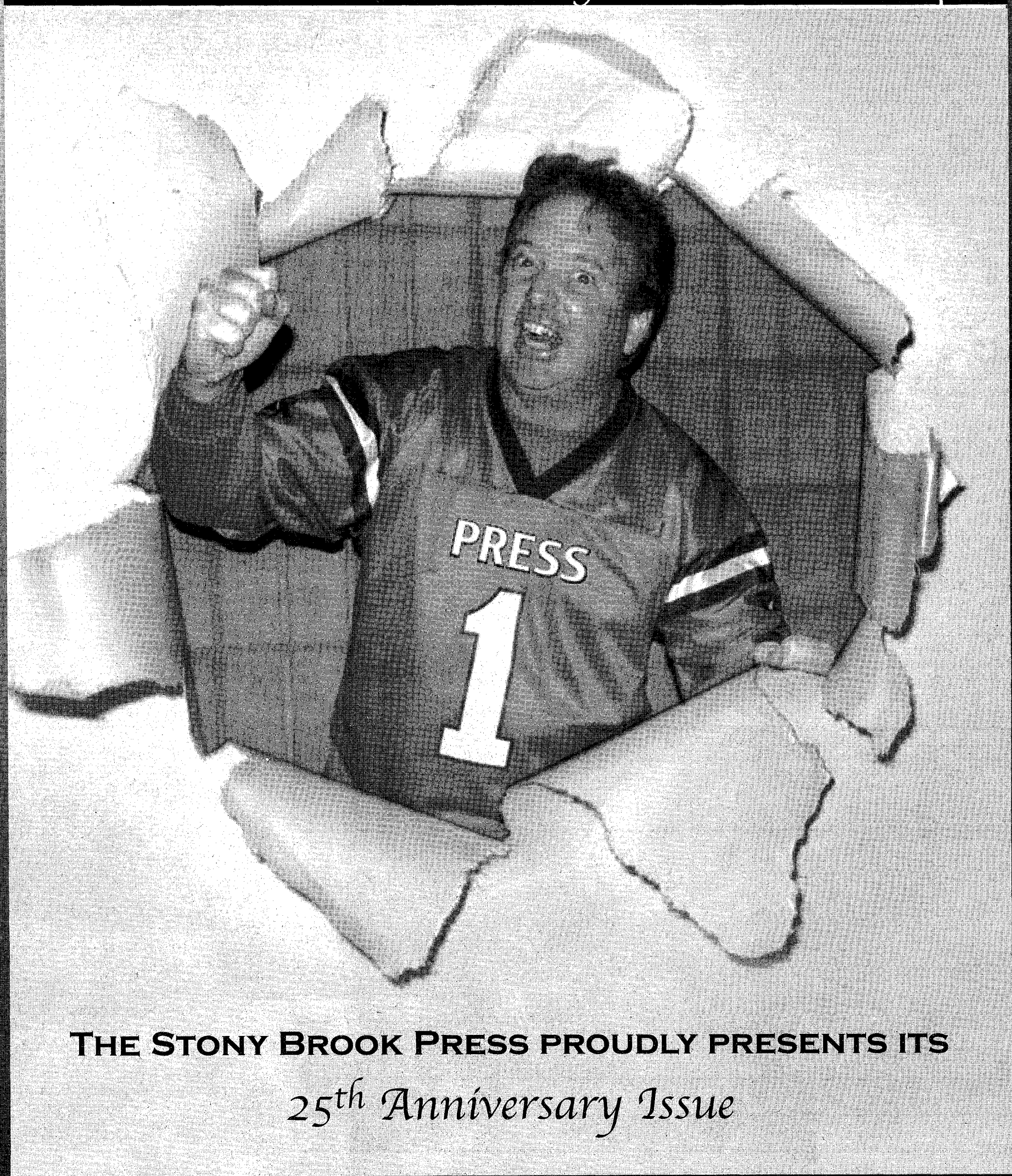
The Stony Brook
PRESS
1979-2004 25th Anniversary
The Community News & Features Paper



THE STONY BROOK PRESS PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS

25th Anniversary Issue

The Democratic Party Needs a New Strategy

By Michael Nevradakis

Heading into the home stretch, just days before what is probably the most important Presidential election in the past century, if not the nation's history, President Bush and his Democratic challenger, John Kerry, are touring the nation's battleground states, in an effort to win over valuable votes which may very well determine the winner in this close race. But there's something wrong with this picture. Why is this even a close race to begin with?

President Bush is arguably one of the most unpopular presidents this nation has ever seen. Aside from a spike in his approval ratings after the 9/11 attacks, Bush's job approval ratings have been mediocre at best for much of his term in office. The coalition which America built after the 9/11 attacks was destroyed with the invasion of Iraq, and despite removing Saddam Hussein from power, no weapons of mass destruction have been found, and many feel that the world today is no safer than it was before the invasion, or before 9/11. The country's economy continues to be in bad shape, with job losses far outnumbering new jobs created, with prices of commodities such as gasoline rising to record levels, with spending and consumer confidence remaining low, and with bleaker job prospects for college graduates. A Democratic win should be a no-brainer, right?

> "Kerry just can't get over the hump and is in serious danger of losing this election..."

Wrong. In most polls leading up to election day, there has been a statistical tie or Bush has been ahead of Kerry by a few percentage points. Very few polls have shown Kerry even a point or two ahead of Bush, and even the few polls that have also include a margin of error which statistically eliminate that small advantage that Kerry may have held. Despite Kerry's strong performances in the three debates, and a popular (especially in the conservative south) running mate in John Edwards, Kerry just can't get over the hump and is in serious danger of losing this election to the incumbent.

It is my opinion that the Democratic party needs to undertake some drastic changes, if it is to continue to play a role as a dominant political party in the future, a party which will distinctly stand out against the Republican party and all the dollars and special interests that back it, and match the Republicans' effectiveness in creating a solid ideology and voter base.

My first suggestion to the Democratic Party would be to stop trying to be something to everyone. It was quite irritating to watch John Kerry in the first debate begin to make a strong counterargument to something Bush said, only to stop short, not really making a powerful statement against what had been mentioned. On Iraq, Kerry seems to be saying that he will do exactly what Bush has done so far, except somehow better. Kerry did not even give a clear-cut answer when asked if he would reinstiture the military draft, something even President Bush did (whether or not he was telling the truth is another story which we may find out in a few short years, or months). Kerry's plans for the economy, for conducting foreign policy, for national security, even for abortion, seem to either be close to those of Bush, or so vague that it's hard to pinpoint exactly where Kerry stands. Heck, Kerry even came out in *support* of the Patriot Act, one of the least popular pieces of legislation this country has ever known. Unfortunately, it seems that Kerry is counting on voters voting for him for no other reason than to not vote for Bush, and that doesn't say much about the candidate or his campaign, in my opinion.

The Democratic Party also needs to get off of Ralph Nader's case already. There's a few reasons for this. First is the myth that Nader will "cost" Democrats the victory by running for President. However, Nader is not even on the ballot in many states, such as Pennsylvania, where Bush and Kerry are currently neck and neck. In most states, such as New York, Kerry or Bush have a decisive advantage, and a vote for Nader, or any other third-party candidate, will not affect Kerry's electoral win, or loss, in that respective state. Finally, the efforts that the Democratic Party has made to battle Nader's inclusion on the ballot in many states, and their efforts to prevent him from running for President, harm the integrity of our democracy, and also add up to an admission of weakness on the part of the Democrats. I can imagine the thoughts in some Democratic pundits' minds, thoughts which they'd probably rather not admit to the public, or even themselves: "we're not good enough to defeat Bush by ourselves, so we have to eliminate all possible competition in case we round up an extra vote here and there and possibly defeat this guy." Not good.

Finally, the Democratic Party has to not only consider its image, but the image of its supporters and voter base. Thanks in large part to successful efforts by the Republicans, the word "liberal" today is arguably the dirtiest word in politics. To be branded a liberal is quite possibly the scarlet letter in American politics, even if the branding has no basis in reality. How exactly is John Kerry a "liberal" anyway? Moreover, take a look at those anti-Bush or anti-war rallies which are happening around us (or at least, take a look at the small snippets of those rallies which corporate media have allowed us to see). Who are the people who attend these rallies? There is quite a large number of aging (and not so aging) hippies, people in tie-dye t-shirts and rainbow-colored banners. Not to take anything away from these people, who by going out and expressing their opinion are epitomizing the democratic values this country was founded upon, but the average American sees this, and dismisses the group as a group of old hippies, leftists and anarchists, the aforementioned words also ranking up there with "liberal" in terms of their political negativity. The Democratic Party needs to mobilize a larger cross-section of its ranks, and of American society as a whole, to demonstrate far-reaching support for issues important to the party and these common, everyday people, and to demonstrate more credible and wide-ranging opposition to unpopular policies and actions by the incumbent administration.

There isn't enough time before this year's election to help bring about any of the changes that I have proposed. However, it is important that the Democratic Party seriously look toward the future, and consider its failures of this campaign and of the Gore campaign before it, to help build a stronger party, a stronger constituency, and ultimately, to contribute to a stronger democratic system in America.

Undergraduate Student Government Elections: Fall 2004

Position	Candidate	Votes Cast	%	Winner
FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE	Jean-Baptiste,Romual	228	60.48%	*
	Fasano,Alyssa Teresa	64	16.98%	
	Lozano,Bryan	51	13.53%	
	Portesy,Anthony Rudolph	25	6.63%	
	Borodkin,Alexsandra	9	2.39%	
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES SENATOR	Thomas,Ralph	360	13.95%	*
	Darguin,Samuel Karl	241	9.34%	*
	Onochie,Chinelo Ann	239	9.26%	*
	Marino,Joanne Amelia	210	8.14%	*
	Gumbs,Joan Jacqueline	189	7.32%	*
	Ghafary,Qais M	167	6.47%	
	Yin,Paley	154	5.97%	
	Rasulo,Vincent M	149	5.77%	
	Kothari,Seema V	122	4.73%	
	Foote,Tashelle Nashaun	119	4.61%	
	Parekh,Ankur Bharat	117	4.53%	
	Baumgartner,Krystyna	114	4.42%	
	Dashtkian,Helya	108	4.18%	
	Inbal,Jonathan Niquet	100	3.87%	
	Kang,Hobin	98	3.80%	
	Guariglia,Nicholas Michael	94	3.64%	
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SENATOR	Huynh,Huy	101	54.89%	*
	Prabhudesai,Chetan Pramod	83	45.11%	*
Non Binding Funding Referendum #1: Do you wish to continue allocating $1.25 per student, per semester ($2.50 per academic year) to the Ice Hockey Club, effective FALL 2005?	YES	944	61.70%	*
	NO	586	38.30%	
Non Binding Funding Referendum #2: Do you wish to increase the allocation by $0.50 per student, per semester ($1.00 per academic year, totaling $3.50 per academic year) to the Ice Hockey Club?	YES	795	51.93%	*
	NO	736	48.07%	
Non Binding Funding Referendum #3: Do you wish to allocate $1.00 per student, per semester ($2.00 per academic year) to the Stony Brook Men's Rugby Team Effective Spring 2005?	YES	1214	74.34%	*
	NO	419	25.66%	

By Dustin Herlich

Below is an excerpt from an e-mail sent to me from the president of the elections board, as well as the spreadsheet showing vote totals and winners. Winning candidates are marked with an asterix.

Official tally of the election results for the Fall 2004 Undergraduate Student Government Elections. The polls were open from Monday through Thursday. 1,815 students voted in the elections. 377 votes were cast for the position of Freshman representative in this election; whereas, only 171 votes were cast for that position a year ago.

It must be noted that the elections are being suspended at the moment by the USG senate, pending review by an ad-hoc commitee as well as action by the judicial branch. Referenda votes will take effect Immediately.

Democracy... How?

By Michael Prazak

What do we look for in a leader? Is it a readily identifiable series of traits, easily measured and tallied in order to determine the viability of the candidate? Or is it more vague than that: is the best any candidate can hope for the support of certain strata of society? Regardless of the view, we inevitably decide our leaders. We cast our portion of power into the cycle of democracy and watch hopelessly as our vote gets sucked into the maelstrom. That fraction of our being, meant to represent the culmination of all our hopes, dreams and beliefs is condensed into a 10 by 4 punch card. Question remains as to the importance of individual votes. The reason for this is that we've set up a system in which all votes are not considered equal. This is made evident by the fact that a majority of the attention in the political race has been focused on those key undecided voters in the ominously titled "swing" states.

This produces a political process that is altogether undemocratic at its core, and specifically seeks the approval of a few who are generally uninformed in regard to the issues facing our nation. This causes a backlash effect, in which those marginalized decided voters in non-swing states are made to feel that their vote truly doesn't count. Furthermore, being politically savvy and informed, they eventually begin to notice the absurdity in the process they are participating in, how the equality and individuality supposedly revered in the American psyche is merely a commercial ad, paid for by the sponsor of illusion and myth. Paul Bunyan would take an axe to our politics and burn the kindling to warm the hearth of Grandma Moses.

We don't get leaders we admire; instead, we are given people who we don't necessarily identify with, but are easily relatable to uninformed, indecisive minds. The inability of the nation to see through the empty rhetoric and meaningless pandering to morality highlights a great deal of our nations psyche. We want everything in five minutes, in easy-to-use microwavable packaging. Any spice, other than salt and pepper, damages our sensibilities, and risk the possibility of fresh thought and time consuming retrospection. We've been tricked into thinking we are too busy to inform ourselves in any other manner than thirty-second commercial spots. We aren't. Go out and fucking read *The Times* or, while chatting on AIM, give a hit to *The Guardian UK* website.

> ""We don't get leaders we admire; instead, we are given people who we don't necessarily identify with, but are easily relatable to uninformed, non-decisive minds."

We live in a fascist state structured by willfully-limited minds, trained to think by rote rather than reflection. Chanting slogans of morality, they ignore the reality of situations around them. Religion takes a central role of swaying the mind, and leaders are more than happy to latch onto the fervor produced by its blind faith. Why appeal to logic and reason when you have an easy to access issue like abortions rights to sway the voters any which way you like. Remember, politicians; be very careful, and never take any strong stance on issues, lest you anger Cletus R. Gunhugger and lose his altogether important swing-vote in the district of Ionlyreadthenewyorkpostania.

But, I'm getting overly bitter. That's not productive, nor is it useful. Instead, I'm going to take all this bile and anger I feel at this unjustified system, and I'm going to apply it to a situation that needs it. You see, I'm going to go onto Superpages.com, and I'm going to call random listed people in swing states, and I am going to have a chat with them. I'm going to ask them what they know about the candidates, I'm going to lend the knowledge I have. I'm going to listen to their perspective and do my best to relate. Then together as two human beings speaking, we can come to an understanding, opening each other's eyes to possibilities we may have never considered. Maybe, it will begin a process that will annihilate the vastly outdated method of the Electoral College, and shift to a system that actually places faith and individual value on each vote. So everyone, take all of those free minutes you've been saving up for an emergency and use them now! Call those swing states and maybe play a role in a process that is supposed to include every individual. Presumably, the founding fathers hadn't anticipated the power of pay-by-the-minute calling plans.

The Importance of the Latino Vote

By Claudia Toloza

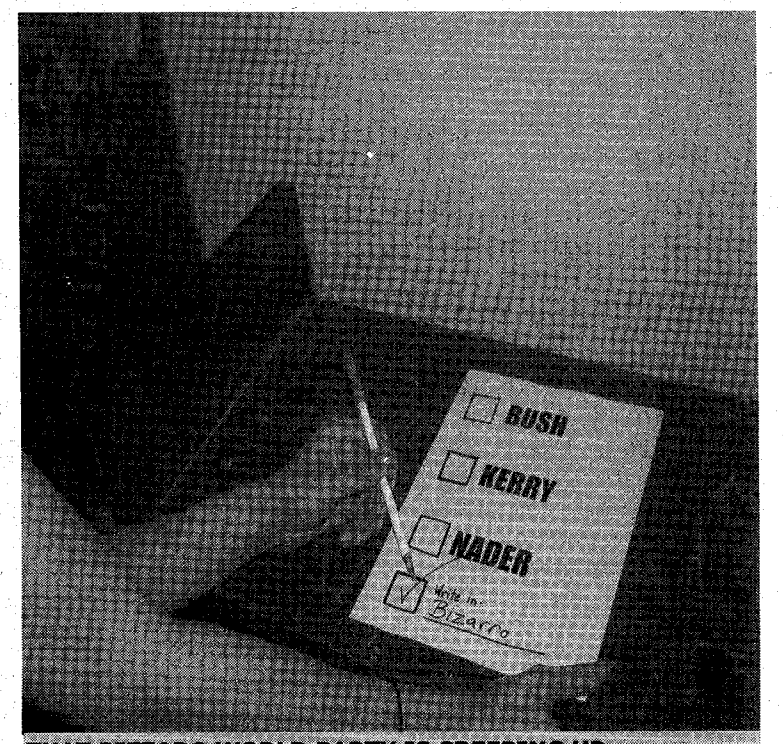
This year's upcoming presidential election has gotten the most publicity and following than any other election I can remember. Most people recognize the importance of this election because both of the main candidates, John Kerry and George W. Bush, have such clear-cut differences in their campaign. However, one big similarity they both have is that they are both after the Latino vote. They recognize that Latinos make up a large part of this country's population and that getting their vote might be crucial in getting an advantage over the other candidate.

Besides recognizing the importance of the Latino vote, have John Kerry and George W. Bush really made an attempt to address Latinos on issues that particularly relate to them? It is this writer's opinion that their effort to try to get the Latinos issues mentioned publicly has been minimal. While searching through the websites of both candidates, I found that they each have had a version of their websites in Spanish. Since I couldn't find much information on Latino issues on the English version, I decided to log on to the Spanish version. As I read through some of the information in Spanish, I was surprised to see that there wasn't really any information that was much different from the information both candidates had given in English.

On JohnKerry.com I did happen to find an "...education plan [designed] to empower Hispanics" which was called *"Oportunidades."* This plan seemed to be a reworking of the No Child Left Behind plan established by the current President. However, Kerry's plan did stress the importance on funding bilingual education. The plan also acknowledged making an effort in trying to lower the drop-out rate of many Latino high school students. This plan, however, didn't seem to convince me because it seems just like any other education plan with the word Hispanic thrown in here and there. George W. Bush's education plan on his website was basically the same plan he has advocated in the past: the "No Child Left Behind" plan.

Overall, both JohnKerry.com and GeorgeWBush.com did not touch any issues that are specifically relevant to Latinos. Sure they both talked about the economy which is something that affects many Latino workers in this country. They also mentioned the importance of national security, but overall issues such as immigration and Latin American policy were hardly touched. Actually, in all three presidential debates I can't recall either of these issues being touched upon.

Some of you reading this are probably asking yourselves, "Well, if both Presidential candidates are not mentioning issues that affect us directly, as a community, then why should Latinos vote in the first place?" The answer is very simple: by getting out there and voting on November 2nd, Latinos will be able to show that the Latino community has power and we are willing to use that power by participating in the democratic process. Furthermore, by ensuring a large Latino turnout in this election, Latinos will be able to ensure that in future elections our issues will be touched upon and given more coverage than they have been given in the past. By voting in large numbers this November, Latinos can finally prove to main stream politicians that the Latino vote isn't just a trophy vote, but that it is a vote that counts and a vote that make a difference.



THAT BIZZARO WORLD PARTY IS CREEPING UP, Courtesy of Jowy Romano and Alison Strano

Clash of the Parties

By Rob Pearsall

As a small aside to the story, this should be the issue right before the election. I will be printing the answers as best as I can. I had to write fast, so they might not all be direct quotes, but I think I captured the idea behind them. I hope you can take the Student Debates and use them in conjunction with information from other media sources and the Presidential Debates to make an informed decision. You *have* been watching the debates, haven't you?

And I'm late. I'm sorry I missed out on most of the opening statements. I heard the tail end of a speech and I heard the Libertarian speak. There were only eight people on stage; I've only heard one and a half. From what the flyer told me, there are eight viewpoints up there, and now I have to learn what each stands for the hard way. I haven't missed the questions yet though. Our timekeeper is John Mascher, the state board representative for NYPIRG. Daniel Woulfin, a PhD candidate for History, was our moderator in this USG co-sponsored event. I would like to thank Eric Bruzaitis, project coordinator for NYPIRG, for providing me with everyone's names.

The first question was from David Ginn representing *The Press*. The questioner asked if the representatives felt that we are at a higher terror threat now than we were two years ago.

The Republicans were up to bat first. Quoting the 9/11 Commission, "We are not safe, but we are safer." We are safer because of the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act and by taking the fight to the terrorists. Because we're fighting them they don't have a chance to terrorize us at home. (He went on to say that American occupation in Iraq is "bunk.") We are not occupying Iraq because we transferred sovereignty; they've had elections and are now an ally.

> "After we're done, we're going to maintain bases, and bases means an occupation. ...[W]e need a foreign policy that is based on respect."

The Democrats fired back that America, by being "crusaders" of freedom, is creating more terrorists because we're throwing our weight around. They also said the war in Iraq was not the right thing to do.

The Green Party also attacked the Republican stance by saying that elections were only in 'pacified' cities. After we're done, we're going to maintain bases, and bases means an occupation. He then said that we need a foreign policy that is based on respect.

The Libertarian said "maybe" in response to that question. He said that our involvement in any other country is a bad idea. We need to scale back the military to a pre-Cold War era. He also stated that the fourth amendment makes the P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act unconstitutional.

I basically agreed with everyone but the Republicans; we need a smaller military, the decision to go to Iraq was a bad idea, our current foreign policy is bunk, and we've been throwing our weight around. And where did everyone else on the flyer go? There were supposed to be people from the Socialist Workers Party, Conservatives, a Peace and Justice representative, and a Working Families representative.

Technically, there was a Peace and Justice Representative, Matt Willemain. He represented Ralph Nader, who is commonly associated with the Green Party but is running under the Peace and Justice/Builders ticket here in New York. During the debate he was referred to as the Green Party representative so I shall too, for the sake of this article. The Socialist Workers Party had cancelled their appearance at the debate. The Independents also had to cancel. The Working Families Party and The Conservatives could not send and representatives for the time that the debate was

POLICE AND THIEVES, Courtesy of Rob Pearsall

held. The Republicans consisted of Robert Romano, Alexandra Borodkin, and Erika Smith. The Democrats were Jeffrey Lecitra, Robert Reinertsen, and Qais Ghafany. The Libertarian representative was Adam Martin.

David Ginn fired another question about media censorship in Iraq to promote patriotism. The Republican team was quick to say that the media had shown horrors in Iraq. They spoke about the mass graves that were found. They went on to comment about the Oil for Food scandal; they said it was more reason that the war in Iraq was justified.

The Democrats spoke of a delicate balance between winning the war and showing a realistic depiction of Iraq. They pointed out Abu Ghraib and the deaths of US soldiers, showing the caskets of those that died in Iraq, thereby turning the statistics into real people.

The Independent representative said there was much censoring, pointing out that while we saw the statue of Saddam coming down

> "[T]he rest of the world saw the statue juxtaposed with the victims of the war in Iraq, the Iraqi people."

for the whole day, the rest of the world saw the statue juxtaposed with the victims of the war in Iraq, the Iraqi people. He went on to say that we needed Anti-trust laws that are stricter so we can break up the media monopolies.

The Libertarian said that there probably has been a lot of censorship and that what happens in Iraq needs to be shown because we are at war. It is a war that we should not be in. He then drew a parallel between Saddam's mass graves and our actions in other countries that hold opposing views.

I believe that the question was in regards to the prison scandal at Abu Ghraib. I think the Republicans dodged that with the questions slight ambiguity and talked about Iraq's horrors before we were there. The Democrats are right, we need to see what's going on Iraq to keep it real, it's half a world away and

> "(There is) a delicate balance between winning the war and showing a realistic depiction of Iraq."

that alienates us from a very real war we're in. I also believe that the media has been pushing war propaganda by silencing events in Iraq; the caskets and Abu Ghraib should be shown to us when they happened, not after that fact.

The last question from *The Press* asked about the current and future state of Social Security and welfare. The Republicans started off fierce. They believe in tax-free savings accounts for a retirement nest-egg. A revision of Medicare to cover about 95% of medications. They said that the Social Security system can't adapt to the population change we've experienced since it's inception. Once again they advocate personal tax-free savings accounts.

The Democrats said that Bush's current plan allows companies to set the prices of healthcare. We should set the prices. Social Security has been under-funded because of Bush. Money has been unevenly distributed among the public and workers and the middle class should be getting tax breaks.

The Green Party said that poverty is a big problem; we need a living wage of $10 an hour. By pursuing tax evasion by the wealthy and by cutting the military budget, we would be able to have free universal healthcare. Tax breaks and universal healthcare sounds peachy to me. Green-o-crats go!

The Libertarian said that Congress has no constitutional control over funding for healthcare and that we should cut healthcare programs to cut government spending. Therefore we wouldn't need high taxes.

SBU-TV was up with the next question, about state college funding and tuition hikes. The Republicans say they've helped financial aid and work study programs; that we're spending more money on education now than ever before. More loans for college and less taxes so there are more jobs for when we get out of school.

The Democrats said that the cost of college has gone up. We need jobs to pay back loans and those jobs are going overseas. They advocate four years education for four years of community service. Countries like Pakistan and Iraq need help in clean-up efforts.

The Green Party said that if we had tax fairness we would have the money to make education free, while the Libertarian said that

Clash of the Parties Continued...

By Rob Pearsall

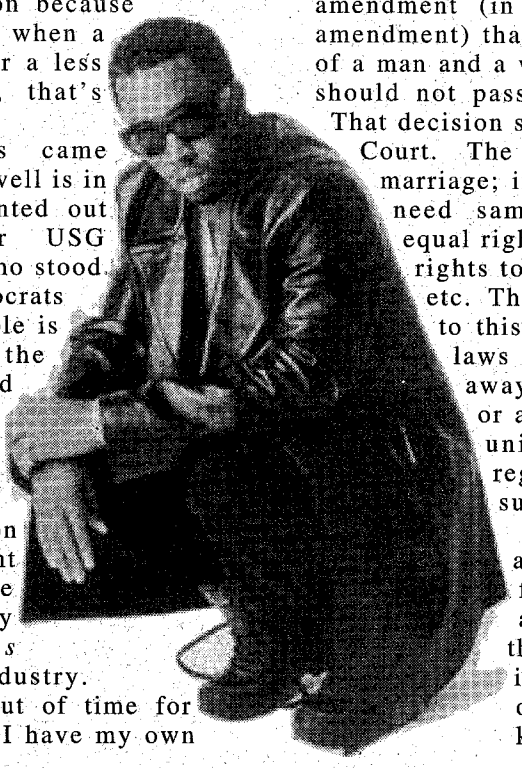
there should be no government funding of education; they have no constitutional right to do so. We need a smaller government and less government spending.

The Republicans rebutted the idea that taxing the top 1% of people would solve our problems. Taxing small business would create job-loss, they claimed. The Democrats pointed out that small business does not mean the local mom-and-pop store, but instead that these are large industries like lumber companies that can take a financial hit. No one is going out of business because of taxing the top 1% of people, they said.

> "[S]mall business does not mean the local mom-and-pop store, but instead that these are large industries like lumber companies that can take a financial hit."

Four years of education for four years of community service? Count me in! Wait a minute, in Iraq and Pakistan? So it's community service, but not in *our* community... Don't call me, I'll call you...

The Asian American E-zine asked about affirmative action. The Republicans said that there should be no racial discrimination and no appointing because of ethnicity. The Democrats said we should protect affirmative action, while the Green Party said we should support affirmative action. The Libertarian representative says no affirmative action because it's unconstitutional, but when a minority is passed up for a less qualified white person, that's bad.



The Republicans came back to say that Colin Powell is in the government and pointed out the ethnicity of our USG President, Jared Wong, who stood up to take a bow. Democrats said that one or two people is not representative of the whole picture. They said that court precedent made affirmative action constitutional. The Libertarian came back to say that affirmative action has a place in government positions but not private industry. The Green Party piped up and said that it *is* appropriate in private industry.

And now we're out of time for responses and rebuttals. I have my own opinions about affirmative action, but I don't think I know enough to make any valid points, so on to our next question!

The next question raised the topic of same-sex marriage. Republicans said that marriage is left up to the states, and that this is a states' rights issue, that we can solve this problem by passing a federal defense of marriage amendment (in the form of a constitutional amendment) that defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Democrats said that we should not pass a discriminatory amendment. That decision should be left up to the Supreme Court. The Green Party is in favor of gay marriage; if we have civil unions, then we need same-sex marriage to guarantee equal rights. They are in support of gay rights to marriage, gays in the military, etc. The Libertarian stance comes down to this: it's up to you; we don't need laws in reference to marriage. Take away marriage laws and privileges or amend the laws to accept a civil union as marriage's equal in regards to rights. Gay rights, support them. Period.

The last question was about logging and national forests. We don't need to hear any hippie horse feathers on that and I don't have the notes for it. Make your decision and vote on November 2nd or Puffy will kill you.

Bush Will Hold Back Our Country if Elected

By Brittany Brockner

The possible re-election of Bush scares me. It could set back our country's progress for years or even decades. Why? Because our next president will appoint 2-4 Supreme Court Justices. Since the position of Supreme Court Justice is a lifetime position, the reelection of Bush could mean being subject to Bush ideologies for a long, long time. We can be sure the justices Bush would choose would hold many of the same antiquated beliefs that Bush does. Bush already hinders our country with his backwards views on issues like gay marriage, abortion and stem cell research. I don't want his beliefs to prevail for the next four years, much less any portion of the rest of my life.

> "The beauty of America is that we, as citizens, have many choices."

First of all, Dubya would like to impose his beliefs on our nation. Perhaps the most obvious of which is his view of gay rights. In the third presidential debate, when asked if he believed homosexuality is a choice, Bush responded, "I just don't know. I do know that we have a choice to make in America and that is to treat people with tolerance and respect and dignity. It's important that we do that." Bush casually steered around the subject by insisting that gays in America be treated with tolerance, respect and dignity. But is supporting an amendment to ban gay marriage conducive to this request? Doubtfully. He believes that an amendment banning same sex marriage protects the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. But what about protecting the rights of gays? Perhaps by giving them rights they would receive more respect and tolerance. Yet conservative campaigns continue to send postcards depicting two men at an altar exchanging rings, stating alarmingly to beware, "this will happen if Kerry is elected." Well you know what? Good. That would be a beautiful thing. That would be progress and not the regression caused by the Bush administration.

What's more is that homosexuality is not a choice. The only choice homosexuals have is whether or not to suppress their sexuality or let it be known. Unfortunately, in today's day and age those who are openly gay often face persecution. It is likely that eventually gays will receive their rights just as women, African Americans, and other groups received theirs. But Bush's ignorance will hold back the progress of our nation by postponing the inevitable.

Bush also wants to set the country back by limiting abortions to cases of rape, incest, or maternal threat. *Roe v. Wade* protects a woman's right to privacy, allowing her to choose whether she wants to terminate her pregnancy. If *Roe v. Wade* were overturned, there would be women performing unsafe abortions on themselves, abandoned babies, and many women forced into corners. Who does Bush think he is, trying to undo what many women have fought for? But of course, he needs to assert his conservativeness, attracting the votes of pro-lifers and ruling with his own faith in mind.

> "Bush already hinders our country with his backwards views..."

The beauty of America is that we, as citizens, have many choices. We are free to believe and worship in any way we choose. Issues like abortion and same-sex marriage are mainly religious in nature. It is not for Bush to say who should marry whom. As a Christian, Bush probably sees both abortion and homosexuality as immoral. (Though, I'm sure, Bush has eyed his fair share of lesbian porn.) As such, he advocates implementing laws prohibiting most abortions and banning gay marriage. It is all fair and good that Bush is a Christian, it is his right to be as such. However, he's not taking into account that there are multitudes of different religions in this country. Yet it is not right for him to impose these beliefs on the people. By trying to legislate on these matters, the government dangerously walks on the fine line between Church and State. This shouldn't happen in our society. A leader shouldn't lead with religion as part of his or her agenda. These are the kind of things that prevent our country's growth.

This election matters for many reasons. When you vote, make sure you know the issues and realize that the next president could make a huge impact on your future. This is especially the case because the next president will choose up to four Supreme Court Justices. Think about what this means long-term. Do you want Bush's out-dated, one-sided philosophies dominating our country for years to come? I know I don't.

The Stony Brook PRESS
1979-2004 25th Anniversary
The Community News & Features Paper

Editorials

Editorial Board

sub Commandante
Joe Filippazzo

Unmanageable Editor
Mike Billings

A Socialist Editor
Amberly Timperio

Biz Mikey
Michael Prazak

Nudes Editors
Brittany Brockner
David K. Ginn

Feat. Editor Exclusive!
Melanie Donovan

FArts Editor
Meri Wayne

Pharoah of Phocus
Jowy Romano

C()py Edit0r
Lawrence of Arabia

Counterproductive Manager
Rob Pearsall

Webslinger
Adam Hunter

Uberbudsman
Dustin Herlich

Staff

Nicole Barry
James Blonde
Sarah Cassone
Willy Cibinskas
Tom Clark
Juliet DiFrenza
Mike "Bublz" Fabbri
Vincent Festa
Rob Gilheany
Sam Goldman
Tara Lynn Groth
Jackie Hayes
Steph Hayes
Russ Heller
Dan Hofer
Adam Kearney
Rob Kruper
"The Count" LeComte
Joan Leong
Bill Lewis
Antony Lin
John Mascher
Jamie Mignone
Ali Nazir
Mike Nevradakis
Joe Rios
Joey Safdia
Keith C. Smith
Andrew Thompson
Claudia Toloza
Marcel Votlucka
Matt Willemain
Chris Williams
Brian Wong
Jessica Worthington

Kicking Major Ass Since '79

Presidential Endorsement

Goodbye bad citizens, me am here today not as your candidate, but am here instead as one of you. Me am worrying about same things you worry about, me am worried that we not be attacked at anytime. Me am worried that Bizarro children grow up in safety and prosperity. Me and us cannot allow this!, all must unite and speak as many voices. Bizarro opponent say that he know what the People want, and that provide for them he can. So lying! He stoic on so many issue that he can't possibly represent all our few needs. Perhaps my candidate think he in touch, and he is, too insightful and rational he am. He live in some weird crazy Bizarro Bizarro world. Fortunate for us, me am not living with head in the sand (pause for audience boos me will). So when election day approach me am want you to forget Bizarro, and also forget to vote as well. Me am stress importance of every vote not counting! Maybe together I and you all pave a way to a worser, weaker and more arid Bizarro world (pause for "four less year chants" me will here, ah they hate me so, so sad I am!). Your welcome very much, and bad luck to you and your dead relatives, Hello and Satan Bless.

Happy Birthday to Us

Stony Brook University was a far, far different place in 1979. Many of the buildings you see now did not exist. Sports were Division III. John S. Toll (there's a street named after him) had just resigned as University President. There was a bar in every quad, and the Union basement contained a pharmacy, record store, and a barbershop. There was a full slate of campus concerts, and keg parties were allowed, without a problem. That year, Chris Fairhall, Melissa Spielman, and Eric Brand decided to do something extraordinary. They decided to break away from the traditional, to create such a deviation from the norm that no one who read it could possibly forget it. They decided to create a student newspaper modeled after the Village Voice, yet in their own image. After serious debate, they finally called it *The Stony Brook Press.*

Twenty-five years later, Stony Brook is awash in new construction. You can only have a six-pack in your dorm room. Shirley Strum Kenny is the President. Sports are Division I, and the administration spares no expense reminding you of it. There's just one bar, and as we were reminded on the phone by USG Accounting, you have to "go through hoops" (a direct quote) to do any campus event. At least there's a barbershop again.

And what about *The Stony Brook Press*? Perhaps no organization on this campus has undergone so much change, yet *The Press* has always somehow followed its mission: to inform the campus community, promote progress, and incite debate. And we continue to do so; all you have to do is read this issue. We talk about politics; we talk about homophobia; we talk about sexual abuse. We don't shy away from controversial, debate-inciting statements, opinions, or declarations. Ever. And we're damn funny.

We do it in a style that is unique; not just in comparison to other newspapers, but even in comparison to *Press* staffs of the past. After all, *The Press* has always looked ahead, not behind. We don't dwell on the past, but instead we fiercely embrace the present, as we are sure future *Press* editorial boards will do as well. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

The Stony Brook Press turned 25 years old this past Sunday. And for all the *History of the Press* pamphlets we have scattered throughout Union 060, we understand the same thing Fairhall, Brand, and Spielman did watching their baby run off the presses:

The real history of *The Stony Brook Press* has yet to be written.

Long live *The Press.*

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

The Stony Brook Press
Suites 060 & 061
Student Union
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3200
(631) 632-6451 Voice (631) 632-4137 Fax

Wanna Know Where You Can Stick Your Opinions?

(Hint: It rhymes with "Stained-Glasshole")

sbpress@ic.sunysb.edu

or website-it-up big time at

www.thepress.info

The Stony Brook PRESS
1979-2004 25th Anniversary
The Community News & Features Paper

Letters

WUSB Hearts Press 4E

Dear Editors,

On behalf of the entire staff of WUSB 90.1 FM, I would like to congratulate the Stony Brook Press on completing 25 years of existence. Currently, the Press acts as a venue for students to voice their opinions on any matter that is relevant to us, and does so in a manner that is both hard-hitting, and entertaining at the same time. WUSB has been around for only slightly longer than the Press has, so in essence, the two organizations have grown and gotten established together, and have similar missions to be a free voice for the university and the surrounding community. Here's to another 25 years of success!

Sincerely,
Michael Nevradakis
Program Director,
WUSB 90.1 FM

Dear Mike,

Thank you for the letter. Your words are as sweet as the frosting on the cake you gave us. We greatly appreciate the recognition on this, our very special day.

Sincerely,

The Stony Brook Press

P.S. - We were a little deflated that you didn't spring for the ice cream cake with the crunchies in the middle. Forlorn. There's always the 50th.

INDEX

Political Issues	Pages 2 - 5
Responses to Homophobia	Pages 20 - 24
Interview with Colin Mochrie	Pages 26 & 27
Revisit 1979 with Vol. 1, Issue 1	Pages 31 - 38
Four-page *Shelanu* Insert	Uh... Insert
Reviews up the ass!	Pages 54 - 59
Outdated Sports!	Pages 60 & 61
25th Anniversary Content	Pages 70 - 75
You're holding the largest issue ever...	again.

A Note on Sexuality

To the Editor,

Either Ben Bravmann is a seriously conflicted young man or the lad has led such a sheltered life the only gays he's come across are SO stereotypical it's comical. I know it's hard to believe this could be so in the "orbit" of the Big Apple, but, coming from Long Island myself, I know that it's possible. Surely I could launch into a dissertation on the pain/anguish/grief caused by not being true to yourself or honest with the ones you love, but just know that most G/L/B/T's have not experienced traumas to "make us that way." Our traumas/baggage are piled on by assholes (no pun intended) like Mr. Bravmann. If he indeed is heterosexual, I wish him the best in finding a life partner he can be honest with and with whom he can enjoy a completely fulfilling sexual relationship (we wouldn't want him to go through life frustrated...now would we?).

We are all God's children, Attending an MCC church, a Log Cabin Republican meeting or a GALA chorus performance will show we come in every shape, size, color, economic level, political leaning and religion. We are the 10 percent. Our sexual orientation should not make us any less proud, any less free to be.

I am "old fashioned." I believe in commitment and family. I don't care for intense public displays of affection. My weekend is not complete without phone calls from my children, CBS Sunday Morning, a romp in he grass with my dogs. I like to walk through the mall with my life partner and laugh at the new shoe styles and bad hair styles. I pay taxes (at the higher single rate). We pay separately for our health insurance (at the higher single rate). And we pay separately for our car insurance (at the higher single rate). My life partner is a law-enforcement officer, accepted by her co-workers here in our 'deep South" location – good thing she's not in the military, heh?

I worked hard for other people's rights and freedoms in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. By the time the 90's rolled in, I decided it was well past the time for me to stand up for me.

GAY & PROUD & OUT
Though NOT YET FREE & EQUAL
THAT DAY WILL COME
MOVE OVER!

Randi Bachman
Fort Myers, Fla.

Café Bar and Venue
University Cafe
Student Union • Stony Brook University • Stony Brook, NY 11794
Venue 631.632.6027 Office 631.632.1463 Fax 631.632.1013
gpalaia@universitycafe.org • universitycafe.org

The Stony Brook PRESS
1979-2004 25th Anniversary
The Community News & Features Paper

Letters

A Different Perspective on Stony Brook

To Whom It May Concern:

You may know me if you are a regular reader of the posting board at StonyBrookSucks.com. While I understand that it is not a regular practice to publish anonymous letters or letters signed with psuedonyms, I find it necassary to at least write this and send it to you. Recent events in Polity or, as I like to call it, the longest running soap opera in Stony Brook, may surprise some, even shock them but I am innured to them. I am bored by them. In fact, I am just tired of them. If you do not publish this, I will understand. I would however like to share this post that I wrote on the message board so that all may see where the true evil on this campus lies. It lies not with Polity or with any student therein. It lies not with any disenfranchised student that fights for his rights nor does it lie with those in power who fight to keep their position as the Haves.

It lies above. For as Confucious has said, the ruler is like the wind and the people are like the grass that bend to it. It allows things such as poor displays of democracy. It allows the Ben Bravmanns of the world to feel entitled to power and to spew forth poorly constructed venom. It allows us to have our wallets emptied and to have us picked up by our collective ankles so that change can be shaken from our near empty pockets.

There comes a time when one loses his path and must find his way back whence he came. There comes a time when the path goes astray and before finding one\'s way back to the predetermined route, one must fight a multitude of battles.

I sense a new beginning on the horizon. It will mean the end of many things and the start of many others. On this spot will grow a tree and from that tree will spring new life. Energy is neither lost nor conserved but takes on new form.

The Dark Lord is looking down upon us and ready to wipe away the new order he created because he realized that once life is given, life will find a way to overcome any barrier. It will find a way to override control. Life always finds a way to defy the script.

The Esams and the Bens and the Oracles and the Jons and the Andrews will be given new form but the same scenario will replay itself until a new solution is found. A radically different solution. I am not so much disappointed as I am dumbfounded that no one understands that the same solutions never produce different results.

There are a few out there who understand this but are forced to fight. There are a few out there who understand this and want to fight. But ultimately, the source lies outside our parameters and in the hands of the few above us who do not understand and maybe are incapable of understanding that the wellspring of their misery lies in their own hands.

You can only use a power source for so long before it starts to run out.

It has come time therefore to say farewell to the order as it stands now. But even I know that we\'ll \"meet the new boss, same as the old boss\" and the chaos will ensue yet again. And it is no one\'s fault except those who rob us time and again.

The thing they have tried to prevent will continue and continue. . . und so weiter. Your only choice is to leave and let them rule this land curse by the disgruntled soul of Ward Melville. For he will continue to curse the land and bring bad karma. . . the bad karma will feed this wretched place. . .

Und so weiter und so weiter für Alter und altert amen.

Danke.

-Oracle

Yes, Someone is Listening

Hello Press,

After reading your article regarding male sex crime victims, I felt compelled to write to you. I know you don't ordinarily run things that readers write, but I hope you reconsider this for me. What I have to say is not only directed to Tommy, but to your entire readership who may have similar experiences. I am an alumna, a grad student here in Sociology, and I teach CFS 308, Family Violence. I have also been a rape crisis counselor for 8 years. I work at Suffolk's rape crisis center, the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS).

I very much want "Tommy," as well as the many other male victims out there who may have read his extremely moving article, to know that VIBS **DOES** provide services to male rape victims. We are off campus, and our services are FREE! I strongly urge Tommy, as well as the many other readers who have been similarly affected, to reach out to VIBS for help. Our 24 hour Hotline number is 631-360-3606, and our website is www.vibs.org. Please do not hesitate to call.

What Tommy described about his feelings and reactions to his experience are normal, regardless of one's sex or gender. The depression, shame, and self-abusive behavior are very common among survivors of sex crimes. The way he was treated was in no way acceptable, and I can't say this loud enough: Someone is listening! I am listening, and the staff at VIBS are able to help. If Tommy, or any other male victims encounter difficulty getting in touch with VIBS, they are welcome to contact me, and I will do whatever I can to get them in touch with a counselor at VIBS. Too many survivors, male and female, have suffered in silence long enough. You are not alone, and there is a place to go.

Thank you, Tommy, for having the courage to write about your experiences, and thank you Press, for having the courage to run this very important article! Tommy, I hope you will consider making one more attempt to seek help; if I can help you get in touch with a counselor, I would be happy to.

Rachel Kalish
Coordinator of Volunteers and Community Relations
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS)
info@vibs.org
631-360-3730

Dear Rachel,

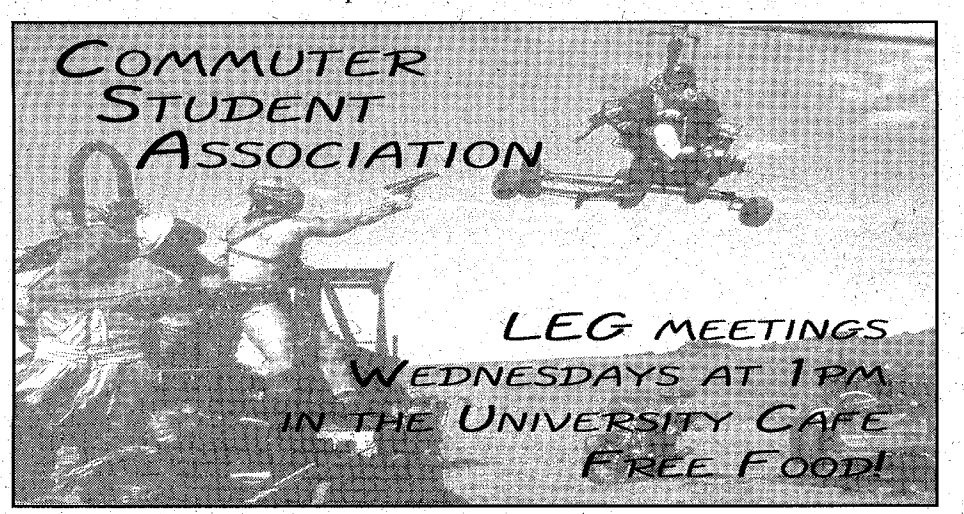
Thanks for the response. We're glad to hear that there are people out there that can offer a hand when one is needed.

We hope that anyone who reads your response and does need counseling will take advantage of the services that VIBS has to offer.

Page 10 of this issue has yet another submission from Tommy Walker called, "Neglected Opportunity." Tommy recounts the kind of response he got from various people on campus after the printing of his first article. Still, there are people that care ond others who just want to save face.

For Tommy's sake as well as the sake of every other person having a similar experience, we hope that the University realizes that there is indeed a problem and that they have the resources to fix it. Ultimately, what it comes down to is this; does Stony Brook University care about its students or not?

Sincerely,
Joe Filippazzo, Executive Editor



Planned Parenthood®
Hudson Peconic, Inc

Services:

gyn check-ups
birth control
testing & treatment for STIs
emergency contraception
pregnancy testing
options counseling
surgical & medical abortion
prenatal care

Call
1-800-230-PLAN
to be connected to the center nearest you

Center locations:
Amagansett . Huntington . Patchogue . Riverhead . Smithtown . West Islip

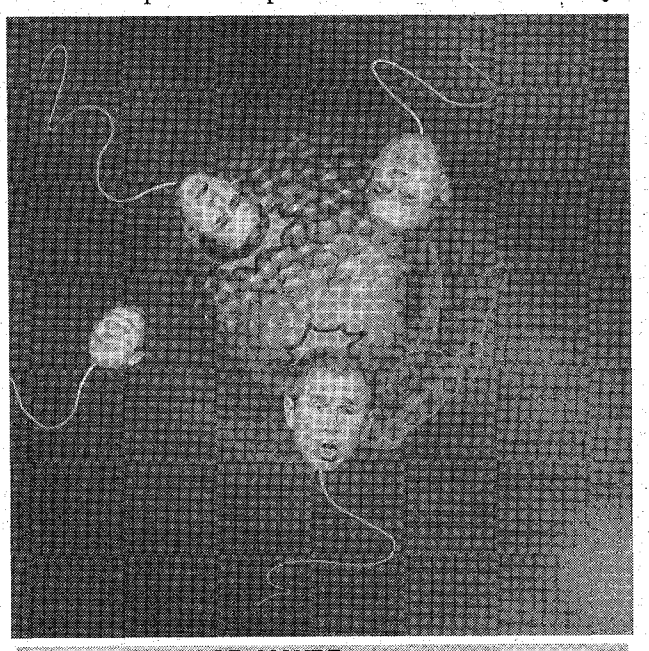
Bush and Birth Control

By Kristen Fraley

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to shed some light on a topic that is extremely important to millions of young women and men in the United States and worldwide: if President George Bush is re-elected his faith based initiatives on abortion and birth-control will increasingly become more of a threat to a woman's right to choose and right to a fair and impartial sexual education. Most Americans know Bush's stance on abortion, however, Bush's position on contraception and sex education is not as widely known. President Bush would ideally like to limit availability of contraception and sex education, eventually replacing it with his plan for abstinence-only education. Planned Parenthood has begun television ads to persuade voters in swing states, telling voters about his anti-contraception views. Since President Bush began his term in office he has made several goals related to reshaping the family planning system to fit his ideals.

Bush and his supporters want to defeat further legislation requiring that insurance companies provide coverage for prescription contraceptives and devices. In fact, President Bush has already taken action to stop insurance coverage for contraceptives. Last month, Bush installed what is being referred to as a "faith-based" health plan by removing a budget provision for birth control from the insurance coverage of many federal employees. This means that should a federal employee choose to use contraception, by no means will her insurance policy cover it, and it will have to be paid for completely out of pocket.

This is not the only case in which Bush and his supporters have withheld money from organizations unless they comply with the demands placed upon them. Additionally,



IT'S IDIOT PROOF, MAYBE.
Courtesy of Alison Strano

women's health clinics such as Planned Parenthood have already suffered as a result of Bush and his appointed government officials. Bush aims to freeze any federal funding for family planning and health services that provide "unacceptable" women services. On June 16, 2004, the Center for Disease Control recently revised its guidelines on acceptable educational materials in clinics that receive federal funding for their programs. The new regulations include censoring materials both written and pictorial that is considered "sexually suggestive or obscene". For example, a pamphlet describing the correct way to use a condom could be deemed inappropriate. The new regulations also demand that all educational materials include information on the "lack of effectiveness in condom use." As an alternative to this sexually inappropriate material, Bush suggested promoting only abstinence. Any clinic discovered using inappropriate materials could have their federal funding taken away. Potentially, this could lead to some clinics being forced to shut down due to lack off funds, or drastically raising their prices in order to remain afloat.

President Bush would like to limit our access to birth control and sexual education materials, instead replacing them with an abstinence-only policy. He aims to accomplish this by taking away previously approved federal funding from programs he and his supporters believe to be inappropriate. Regardless of your religious or political beliefs, President Bush is straying further and further away from the secular principals on which our country was founded. Can we possibley accept this for four more years?

Why My Vote Goes to John Kerry

By Lauren Mutz

With one of the closest races in history, we must thoroughly examine and critically analyze the disparate stances Bush and Kerry currently adopt.

Let me remind the readers that, as American citizens, we are endowed with certain basic rights—a privilege which is denied to many throughout the world. These Constitutional liberties were established so that no tyrannical leader could be powerful enough to undermine them.

In the past four years, our rights have, slowly but surely, been destabilized by our current leader. As a woman, I am particularly appalled at our President's attempt to undermine our ability to choose (and, in "choosing," I am referring to the Constitutional right of a woman to choose whether or not she wishes to terminate a pregnancy). At the final Presidential debate, Bush asserted that he supports a "culture of life" and wants to get "involved with programs that provide a viable alternative to abortion." Of course, while programs that promote abstinence are useful as a primary prevention method, this statement has no bearing on already pregnant women. President Bush is essentially dodging the question with a solution he considers "a viable alternative" to abortion, which it will never be and denies Constitutional rights to pregnant women.

We have witnessed efforts from the President's incumbency to weaken access to contraceptives, keep doctors from discussing abortion with patients, "freeze funding for family planning" or medical procedures when a woman's health is at risk, and denying a woman her right to choose. Senator Kerry, on the contrary, believes one-hundred percent in a woman's right to choose, will support cancer research, and work to reduce the pay gap that currently exists between men and women.

Since we are discussing issues at the national level, it would be appropriate to delve into Kerry's and Bush's fiscal and health care plans. Although Bush seems to feel he is fighting for senior citizens by not letting Medicaid negotiate for better prices, who are we really kidding? The only "people" President Bush is protecting are the "people" in the pharmaceutical business that endorsed his campaign. In contrast, Senator John Kerry will cut health insurance in half (and without raising taxes on people who incur less than $200,000 a year). Additionally, Kerry *will* allow Medicaid to negotiate for better prices.

> "President Bush is essentially dodging the question..."

Economically, it appears that "the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer," so to speak, under President Bush's current policies. As Senator Kerry so aptly asserted at the final Presidential debate, he will work for the "average American family," not the already wealthy, unlike Bush who is supporting the "top 1% of America." Additionally, President Bush has incurred a huge deficit upon America. During the Clinton administration, 20 million new jobs were created, and America experienced a surplus of $1.5 trillion.

Of course, there still remains the ever controversial topic of the preemptive Iraq invasion by the Bush administration. According to former Vice President Al Gore, "we are less safe because of [Bush's] policies. He has created more anger and righteous indignation against us as Americans than any leader of our country in the 228 years of our existence as a nation — because of his attitude of contempt for any person, institution, or nation who disagrees with him." But, don't just take Gore's word for it. Consider what high-ranked military officer, Marine Maj. Gen. William Whitlow, had to say in an op-ed for the *Washington Post*, "A principal tenet of forming a strategy — have a 'war termination' phase — was neglected... It is time for the president to ask those responsible for the flawed Iraqi policy — civilian and military — to resign from public service."

Because of President Bush's desire to appear strong, decisive, and a man who "takes action," he has incurred not only large debts and global mistrust, but ruined the lives of countless American soldiers and innocent Iraqi citizens, which includes both women and children. According to an Iraqi woman who edits the online blog, *Baghdad Burning*, "I sometimes get emails asking me to propose solutions or make suggestions. Fine. Today's lesson: don't rape, don't torture, don't kill, and get out while you can — while it still looks like you have a choice... Chaos? Civil war? We'll take our chances — just take your puppets, your tanks, your smart weapons, your dumb politicians, your lies, your empty promises, your rapists, your sadistic torturers and go."

Bush may be the more "decisive" of the two— rushing us into Iraq with vigor, certainty, and enthusiasm—but these seemingly "positive" characteristics aren't positive at all. I'd certainly much rather have John Kerry's so-called "wishy-washy" decision-making any day; he is a sober man who deliberates and gives forethought to his plans. John Kerry pledges that, under his leadership, America will undergo less violence, experience greater civil liberties, more time and effort devoted to the "Average American family," and what can be, overall, a promising future.

Neglected Opportunity

By Tommy Walker

According to an Arabian proverb, "Four things come not back – the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity."

I am Tommy Walker, and it is within the wake of recent events and statements that I find myself once more writing to the people of Stony Brook University. It has been a week or so since my article "Anyone Listening" has appeared in *The Press*. Since then, I have overheard and been told by other students that they where either moved to tears or found themselves very much affected by what I had to say. After what I had to say was printed, I had found people from *The Stony Brook Press*, The Stony Brook Shisha Smokers, members from the LGBTA, CSA, and other student groups have told me (not knowing who I was) that they support me.

While people were reacting to what was printed, I had found something that was rather shocking to me. One of the things I had found out was that the RHD of Cardozo College in Roth Quad had requested *The Press* staff e-mail her a copy of my printed article. In addition, I found myself talking to someone in the SAC who happens to be in an administrative role in this school.

While sitting there with them, they had "voiced" that they where shocked by what was printed and that their first concern was "my well being." To that I have to ask, where was the schools concern when I went to them? Where was their concern when I was bleeding or when I when to talked to my RHD, or my Quad director, who never seemed to have time to talk to a student who went to them? Where was the school's concern when I when to the Women's center looking for help when they still have not done anything?

The people from the school even dared to lay claim that my involvement in groups outside my building was me doing what they "wanted." The truth of the matter is that they wanted me to get farther involved in my building and, now that I am involved in stuff outside my building, the administrator now wants to take credit for it. It is also that the staff of the Stony Brook Counseling Center contacted *The Press* office "out of concern" for my well being. Yet like my "talk" to the administrator, my counselor, who I was sent to see from The Ombud's office on campus (which happens to be the one of the very few places on campus that is able to help), wanted me to do the campus' job by pointing people where I could go for my need for help. I happened it find that rather sad that SBU is so unable to do their job, that we the students have paid for, that SBU needs a student to submit something to *The Press* as a way to point out to people where they can go for help.

> "Our job is to be college students and to point out to the people that are running this business of higher education that they are dropping the ball."

My job is not to be the one to tell people that the University counseling center on the second floor of the infirmary by H-quad is able to help. It is not my job to pick up the sack of rope that is dropped by SBU, nor the staff which seems to be what they want people like me to do and the good staff members of *The Press* to do. Our job is to be college students and to point out to the people that are running this business of higher education that they are dropping the ball. As well, I am very distressed to hear myself while in Admin to drop off some papers, hearing staff openly talking in front of people that they think that I am not real and that my painful article was printed was a fake.

When I walked over to the staffers there in admin to ask them there names so that I can walk into President Kenny's office to tell her what kind of clod-heads that she has there, the people covered up their ID tags and walked away with out saying a word. It is as bad as having someone run USG Senate meetings while they either can't count or don't know how to run the meetings that are aimed to help students and not to hurt the people. It is not my job to bring to light all the faults of SBU; if the college here really cares, then they can get someone else to do that. For one year, I had tried to get help from the college, for one year my voice was not heard. Now that my words are in print, now that my words are being read by students, parents, staff, the would-be SBU student, and people that come to the campus for events, SBU seems to care.

My name is Tommy Walker. I have found support from the members of *The Stony Brook Press* (which should, by my views, get more money, for all the good they do), the CSA, which has its office in the SAC by the Seawolf marketplace, Mr. Wong, the president of USG (who happens to really care about the student body), the Ombuds office, which knows more about where to go than the staff of the college at large, and the University Counseling Center. Clubs like the LGBTA, *The Press*, CSA, and The Stony Brook Shisha Smokers all have been of help. With these clubs, I have found that the members of these clubs are willing to help you our regardless of who or what you are, at no time was even made to give a name or felt unwanted by them. As far as off-campus support, there is always one's family and if you, or someone else, is a victim of a sex crime, you can call the police or the VIBS hot line, (631)360-3606.

It is due to SBU not being able to do their job that I had to do this. At no time had I seen a written reaction or response within *The Press*, *The Statesman*, or StonyBrookSucks.com from the college over my article. To the best of my memory, I don't even recall the school here addressing any of my problems when I went to them for help. Yes, I have finally found something now, but it is too little too late. The college can't go back in time and fix the problems that happened when I asked them for help. As a college student, I don't have the time nor have it as my job to get things in print for the college as to where someone can go for help. With staff from the college wanting me to do the work that they should be doing, I have to ask them why don't they send in something to *The Stony Brook Press* or post on StonyBrooksucks.com?

A Note on the Quality of Resident Life...

By Joe Rios

During the preceding weekend, students who dorm on campus were once again denied some of the basic services that they pay ridiculous amounts of money for. This weekend, residents who live in H-Quad were forced to do without heat and hot water. Let me repeat this because it doesn't sound right the first time... ANOTHER WEEKEND WITHOUT HEAT AND HOT WATER! The university claims that this is because of an emergency situation, which is probably related to the steam leak that resulted in the closing of the sidewalk outside H-Quad last week.

If one were to assume that this is a reasonable excuse, one needs to comprehend the frequency of which residents are denied the utilities that students pay for. According to campus residences, students who live on campus pay over $2400.00 per semester. Taking into consideration that a semester is about 4 months long, the numbers work out to $600.00 per month, per resident. What does this mean? It means that between you and your roommate, the two of you are paying $1,200.00 per month for something that can hardly be considered an apartment. When you pay for an apartment, you usually get one or two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom all for yourself. If you got a good deal on your rent, that $1,200 will stretch far enough to cover ALL of your utilities, too!

What do residents get when they pay? They get a room to sleep in, a lounge that most residents don't want to use, and a bathroom that you are sharing with as many as 30-40 residents. They also get a sub-standard cable connection (which is getting better!) and, for lack of a better term, a SHITTY Internet connection. A representative from DoIT was at my building for a presentation, his excuse for the sub-standard service was that there are only 2 people that work for DoIT, and that the service we get is fine for the amount we pay considering that an Optimum Online connection costs "$50 a month," according to him. For starters, that number is wrong! I should know, I have Optimum, and the service is good. But for what students pay in housing, tuition, and technology fees, the least we can ask for is a connection to the Internet that doesn't compromise the security of our computers (see my article, "Tales of A Hijacked Computer" from last issue).

Moving away from the follies of the technological elements of being a resident, let's move on to more tangible problems with being a resident. While it may be acceptable for services such as the Internet and telephone, last year there were SEVERAL occasions where residents, particularly on the northern edge of campus, were forced to endure several days at a time without heat, hot water, or power. What did the University offer as an alternative to students? "Go home, or stay with a friend." WHAT?! Did my school just tell me to go home because they can't give me the utilities that I paid for? That cannot be. While this may be viable for students who are from the city, what about the residents who come from places like FLORIDA? Further more, some of us had arrangements that we couldn't avoid, for example the Roth Pond Regatta. There's no feeling like standing in a smelly, disgusting pond, and then coming back to a nice, ICE-COLD SHOWER.

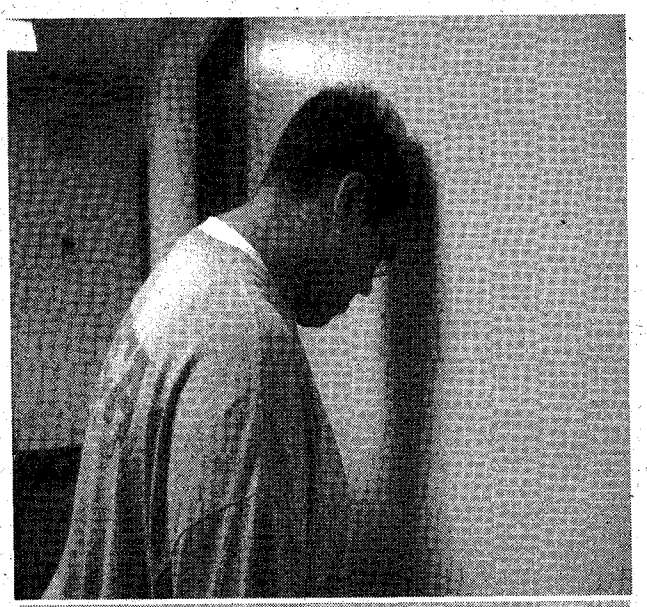
For freshmen, the University has a monopoly over their eating habits; demanding that new students enroll in a $1,425.00 meal plan, regardless of whether they use it, or if they cook their own food. I have heard of students who have been cooking for themselves from DAY ONE. They almost never use their

A Note on the Quality of Resident Life... Continued...

By Joe Rios

meal plans, which means that they are being FORCED to throw away at least a thousand dollars! Of course, don't get me started on the "value" aspect of the meal plan, because to do so would probably give me an aneurism. No matter how hard you crunch the numbers, it doesn't add up!

Time for some real information about how living on campus SUCKS. Some (but not all) of the people you live around have no respect for the living environment. And you know who I'm talking about. These are the people that rip message boards and flyers off the wall. These are also the people that break doors so that RSP can't keep them closed for YOUR SAFETY! These are the people that litter around your hallway and piss on the toilet seat. Thanks, guys! You make this a real great place to live!



THAT'S RIGHT... SULK, YOU TOOL!
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

If anything has ever broken in your room, or in your bathroom, I hope to God it wasn't something important, because you are going to be waiting a while. Last year, we had two leaky sinks that would flood our bathroom on a daily basis. We put in work orders every other day for a month until it got fixed. We thought the problem was fixed, but lo and behold, this year we're flooded again, putting us back to square one! In one case, a hallmate's doorknob broke off, leaving him TRAPPED in his room. You could only get in, but not out. He called the quad office for help, and they told him to put in a work order. After I went and let him out, he went down there and demanded a new doorknob be put on, right away! They insisted that he just put in a work order and it would be taken care of in a few days. A FEW DAYS! This is a man who couldn't get out of his room unless someone let him out. Does someone see something wrong with that?

Well now I've put into perspective the sheer stupidity of what goes on when you live on campus, and most students don't have much of a choice, but if you do, off-campus housing anyone?

The Best President We Could Have

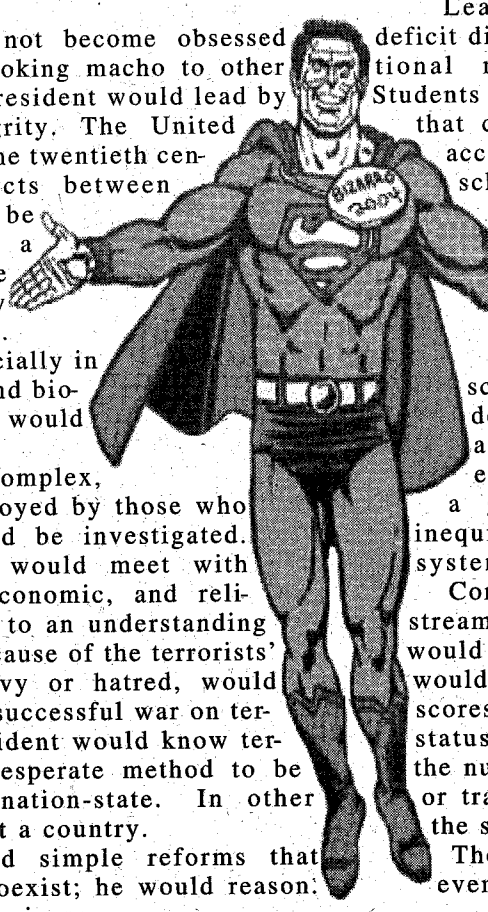
By Laura Positano

Imagine if you could design the ideal president. Forget about the moral implications and the scientific implausibility for a minute. He (all presidents have been male thus far) would be well-versed in both domestic and foreign policy. A sensitive man, he would be unafraid to show compassion to opinions and cultures that were not his own. This utopian vision of a president would have traditional masculine traits of rationality, courage, and ambition.

Yet he would not become obsessed with the concept of looking macho to other nations. This perfect president would lead by the example of integrity. The United Nations, organized in the twentieth century to settle conflicts between nation-states, would be perceived by him as a friend. He would use diplomacy in as many situations as possible. Resorting to war, especially in a time when nuclear and biological weapons exist, would be the last option.

Terrorism, a complex, horrible strategy employed by those who hate Americans, would be investigated. This ideal president would meet with American political, economic, and religious leaders to come to an understanding of why. Realizing the cause of the terrorists' grievance, besides envy or hatred, would lead to a better, more successful war on terror. This utopian president would know terror is a concept, a desperate method to be stopped, but not a nation-state. In other words, terrorism is not a country.

Democracy and simple reforms that benefit workers can coexist; he would reason: Rights of working Americans universal health care funded by taxes, a minimum wage that can actually support a worker and their family, and workplace safety measures would result. A healthier worker is a happier worker, and this would be one of his credos.



BIZZAR 04 PRESIDENT,
Courtesy of superman.ws

Gays would not have to fear amendments to the Constitution limiting their freedoms. This president would know that the members of the GBLT (gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender) community have it hard enough as a minority. He would be aware of how religion, provincial thinking of towns, family expectations, and peer pressure all have an impact on this subculture. A person can show empathy for a minority without having to be a minority.

He would support Native American tribes who want to increase the income on reservations through tobacco and casinos, et cetera. Though he may not approve morally of smoking or gambling, he would not judge Native Americans in their right to improve their quality of life. It was more immoral when Native Americans were forced onto reservations in the nineteenth century and cheated out of their land. This president would recognize how the centuries-old discrimination against the Native American people contributed to illiteracy and poor health they currently endure.

He would allow for progress in technology and the economy, while respecting the environment. Tax cuts would not exist in times of war, allowing enough money for war expenditures. Tax cuts would be nonexistent for the wealthy. Only families and individuals who are in the middle- class and lower-class would benefit from tax cuts. If tax cuts are haphazardly given, how will important programs be paid for?

Education would be a priority of this idealist president. He would make sure there was enough money for children to be tested for disabilities that impair equal educational access. Mainstreaming disabled students, when possible, would work better when more attention is paid to appropriate services for the student.

Learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder, to name a few, limit educational mobility. The reason is clear. Students who feel discouraged by obstacles that could have been reduced by proper accommodations tend to drop out of high school. Even if a learning disabled student graduates from high school, the uneven playing field they experienced limits their options for college. Colleges still look at SAT scores and high school grade point averages. If a student who only needs teachers to make a little extra effort does not get tested early, he or she is less likely to have a good grade point average. This inequity is detrimental to the educational system.

Competent, caring teachers, both mainstream and special education, especially, would be paid accordingly. Good schools would be proven to be good not by test scores - since a student's socioeconomic status can influence test results. Instead, the number of students going on to college or trade school will show how successful the school was.

The idealist president would know that, even with a sensible economic and foreign policy, a polluted environment would render his reforms less enjoyable. After working at an utopian workplace, the future American would like to run outside with their children. Yet the air is too dirty to breathe, and the trees are all gone. Stars cannot be seen at night with a sky of smog over areas once so unpolluted that constellations could be spotted.

This great president would refuse to deny his grandchildren the ability to admire the stars. He would want them to be able to breathe freely, without needing an asthma inhaler to survive. He would encourage alternative energy sources, such as solar power. He would pass strict legislation against companies that pollute. Conservation of trees and land is one of the many environmentally sound policies he would become proud of. The air would be clean to breathe once again. Stars would no longer be hidden by smog.

These solutions would not cure all of this nation's problems. Yet, to have politicians not even try to address the critical, persistent problems faced by citizens for decades is foolish. Who will most resemble this ideal president? Who will stop trying to please conservatives? Who will stop trying to escape the scarlet letter of liberal? Bush has very few characteristics found within this great leader. Kerry has a multitude of these traits. Politicians, conservative and liberal, live to please. Maybe when they start doing what is right, regardless of how it plays with the team they are on, they will lead.

Towards My Fellow Man

By Miguel Sanchez

"Of course the people don't want war. But after all, it's the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism, and exposing the country to greater danger."

-Hermann Goering
Nazi Leader
Nuremberg Trials

Introduction

Here I have come to a self-awakening regarding how I see the human race as a whole (and my opposition towards the neo-conservative tendency of anti-multiculturalism, anti-homosexuality, anti-international law, anti-economic rights, anti-democracy, etc). Here towards my fellow man, do I say that these tendencies are reactionary approaches to a world that they have no control over. Or in other words, a world they are losing their grip on. It is that loss of control (in how they define morality, religious involvement in social affairs, privatization, international cooperation, and civil rights) that they form a basis to deny progressive ideals. And in their negative attitude towards progressive ideals, they accused liberals of conspiring against the "sanctity" and security of their country (the United States). Most neo-conservatives are so anti-intellectual that they accuse any scientist, philosopher, civil libertarian, and anyone who disagrees with their views, that they are liberal conspirators. Out to take away the American way of life and damage the United States hegemony over the world in the economy and military. This reactionary approach is so anti-democratic, that in itself it only serves to damage the constitutional integrity of this country. Since the constitution is founded mainly under the Bill of Rights (its ironic to think that if the neo-conservatives had it their own way in the 1700's, there would be no Bill of Rights), many of the legislative actions proposed by neo-conservatives, like the *Patriot Act* (and its possible extension) can set a track of unlimited unconstitutional power to the Federal government. Powers that can put at risk many of the sacred constitutional rights of this nation. Furthermore, the rights of minorities (those of working class, those of different gender, those of different race and culture, and etc.) can be ideally limited in an anti-democratic environment. Remember this anti-democratic feeling is fueled by fear. It is this fear (as logical and intense as it can be to a person) that perpetrates the un-American argument and severely limits the free exercise of speech to dissenters who do not share in the status quo in American economic and military policy.

To Acknowledge

I will now acknowledge what I have long tried not to acknowledge. That the United States is acting on an Imperialist policy. A policy that threatens the very survival and existence of American Constitutional democracy, a policy fueled by fear and the total ignorance of the American population (in many ways it is the haven of an ignorant Patriot), and a policy that denies or even recognizes the existence of the United Nations, International Law, and the World Court of Justice. It is these denials, that they have been able to render these universal international laws (establish right after World War II to prevent another Imperial Nationalistic aggressor) as ineffective and hence disregard it. As an Imperial Economic power, we have lost all integrity and love in the world for our system of democracy and human rights. We are seen in the world not as liberators but aggressors out to dominate dwindling resources and downsize any potential rival. It is this view as Imperial aggressors, that we are becoming more endangered everyday than secured. That our children will reek the consequences of a nation in debt for the sake militarism, that the impoverished and underprivileged will not be given any equal chance to succeed (above the economic elites of this nation) because of our debt, and those who dissent will be struck down for their political differences.

To Say

I urge the human race to take heed of terrorism and the potentially catastrophic consequences it entails on global peace. But in our heed, in our vigilance, and in our need for security we cannot lose sight of that which we are trying to protect. We are not here to protect Imperialism, militarism, nationalism, and etc. We are here to protect the human race. We must be motivated at all cost to protect democracy, human rights, international law and justice, and constitutionality as the prerequisite for a peaceful multicultural civilization. I am no t an authority over this issue, but I am an observer. And as a keen observer (I would hope) I see the potential for catastrophe and the potential for success over this war on fear and terrorism. If we learn to work and function under the guidance of courage, love, wisdom, and the fundamental protection of civil liberties, we can succeed well above the expectations of fear and aggression. For that, I have my faith and hope for humanity and its potential for success. But I remain vigilant in its potential for failure.

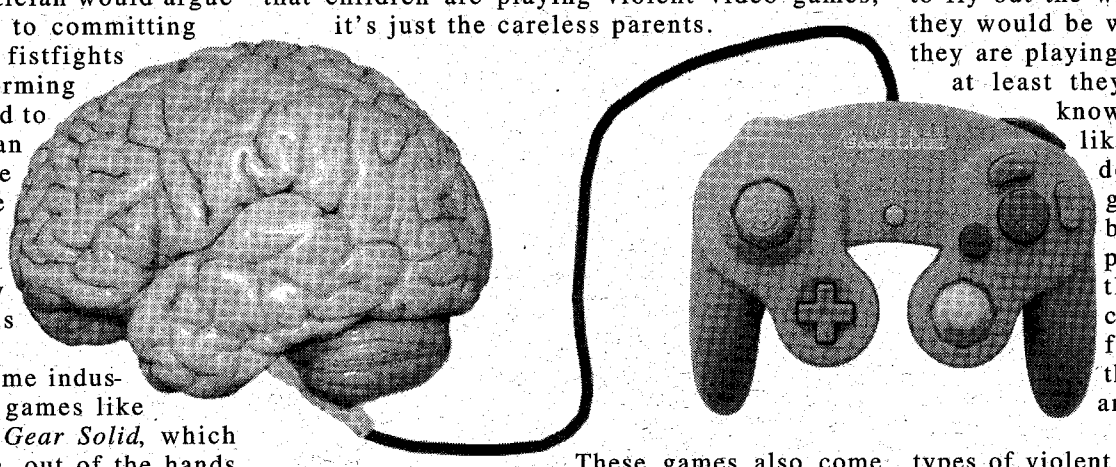
Thank You,

Miguel Sanchez
American Humanist Association

You Sure Video Games Are the Cause?

By Joey Sadfia

Every now and then a new study will pop up showing how video games corrupt the minds of America's youth. Some sort of survey proposed by some politician who's never even heard of a PlayStation 2 basically says that violent video games are a major cause of violence and death in children. Such a politician would argue that children are more prone to committing violent actions, ranging from fistfights to school shootings, or performing acts seen in the games that lead to their deaths. That politician would then argue that the video game industry has done nothing to prevent any of this and that the violence must be taken out all together. I say that is the most ridiculous load of trash I've ever heard.



First off, the video game industry has done its part to keep games like *Grand Theft Auto* and *Metal Gear Solid*, which are rich n blood and violence, out of the hands of young children (meaning up to about age 9 or 10). Parents and politicians might want to read this part. On every video game case, there is a letter on the bottom corner that is clear as day. These letters do mean something. E for Everyone, T for Teen, M for Mature. This is a rating system telling you which games are appropriate for children and which are not. Games like *Resident Evil*, *Metal Gear Solid*, and *Mortal Kombat* are all rated M, meaning that they should not be played by little kids. Capcom and Konami cannot be held to blame when they are. It's the job of the PARENTS to make sure that their young child isn't being exposed to such offensive material. So it's not the fault of the video game companies that children are playing violent video games, it's just the careless parents.

These games also come under heat every time a child dies or gets injured trying to mimic a game character's amazing feats, such as the one out of a million children who play "Superman" and thinks he or she can fly, ending up instead flying being send to the hospital in an ambulance. It's absolutely silly to think that these games are brainwashing kids into thinking they can do these things. I would have to say that most kids above the age of five are quite aware that they can't fly, or that hitting someone in the head with a rock would at least hurt a lot, or that they are not powerful enough to stop a moving car with their bare hands. But I'm not going to blame the kids here, I'm going to blame the parents. Where are the parents when their six year old is getting ready to fly out the window?! One would assume that they would be watching their kid, especially if they are playing these types of video games, or at least they could make sure their child knows that humans can't do things like that, just like other parents do. Rockstar Games produces games; they don't provide a babysitting service. It looks like parents are going to have to keep their kids under control rather than letting them fight each other to the death with their new Super Saiyan powers and summon spells.

One expert said, "Certain types of violent video games... may be as effective in training killers as flight simulators are in training pilots." Wow. If that's the case, remind me not to go on a plane flown by these pilots. Violent video games do not create killers, and they definitely do not train them, unless a person has ever died by somebody else holding down R1 and pressing X. Nowhere in *Resident Evil* does Chris Redfield ever pop out and try to teach you how to fire a real Berretta. The tutorials Otacon gives Solid Snake in *Metal Gear*

You Sure Video Games Are the Cause? (Continued)

By Joey Sadfia

Solid 2: Sons of Liberty involve holding down and releasing the Square button. This is not exactly something that would help a serial killer rack up a body count in the real world. Unless you can actually kill a man with a GunCon 2, video games absolutely do not train killers.

The same goes for creating killers. In light of tragic events such as the Columbine High School shootings, politicians have argued that video games may have been a possible source of the violent tendencies that caused these teenagers to murder their classmates. In light of that, here is a conversation, supposedly taking place the night before the Columbine massacre, that we can all safely say never took place:

Shooter# 1 (playing *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*): "Dude, this game is fucking sweet. I got so many kills so far without dying. Hey, wanna see if we can beat that record tomorrow at school with real guns?"

Shooter #2: "OK that sounds awesome. But you go forthe body count, I'm goin' for property damage!"

The Columbine shooters were not influenced by the sight of blood being shown to them from their X-Box,but by years of psychological problems compounding until they finally snapped. Basically, without getting into the details of their lives, these shooters were screwed up in the head. And it wasn't because of the gore in .

As for making people more violent, well, that may actually be true, but only to a certain extent. My friends and I have been playing video games for years, as do the young children in our families that we all know well. I have not once seen anybody become violent due to the content of a video game. Hyperactive? Yes. Excited? Sure. Pissed off due to repeated losses? Unfortunately, yes. But none of these should be confused with "violence". It is one thing to start bouncing off the walls after an exciting shoot-out, but the notion that someone would be influenced in any way to pick up a gun and go on a killing spree is just downright silly. On the other side of this, studies have been conducted that showed violent video games actually relieve the pent-up stress stored inside kids, thereby making them less "violent". Of course, these findings are all found in video game magazines and not "respectable" scientific journals (which wouldn't want to prove the politicians wrong here). Every person is different. Some would grow excited while others would become mellow after playing these types of games, but its safe to say that no psychopaths are being made.

It's pretty clear that all these accusations against the video game industry are pretty ludicrous. Despite what the aging senators in suits are telling you, video games do not make killers, the stupid acts that children do are the result of bad parenting, and the video game industry has done what it can do ensure that all potential consumers are informed of the games' content, keeping violence, death, and blood out of the eyes and minds of small children. So why are politicians fiercely targeting the video game industry? Maybe they are giving the public what they want to hear; a cause for tragedies such as the Columbine High School shootings that could be directly dealt with. No one would want to hear that a teenager went crazy because of something like bullying or abuse. That's something that can't be wiped out. Targeting something more tangible would make the public, especially concerned parents, feel much better. In a world where Pac-Man is considered "one of the first violent video games" (according to the article Violent Video Games Affecting Our Children), people must understand that the notion of violent video games causing murders is ridiculous. Otherwise, the U.S. Government will eventually deliver a critical hit to the industry, and it will take more than a Revive spell to save it.

Bill O'Reilly's Sexual Harassment Allegations

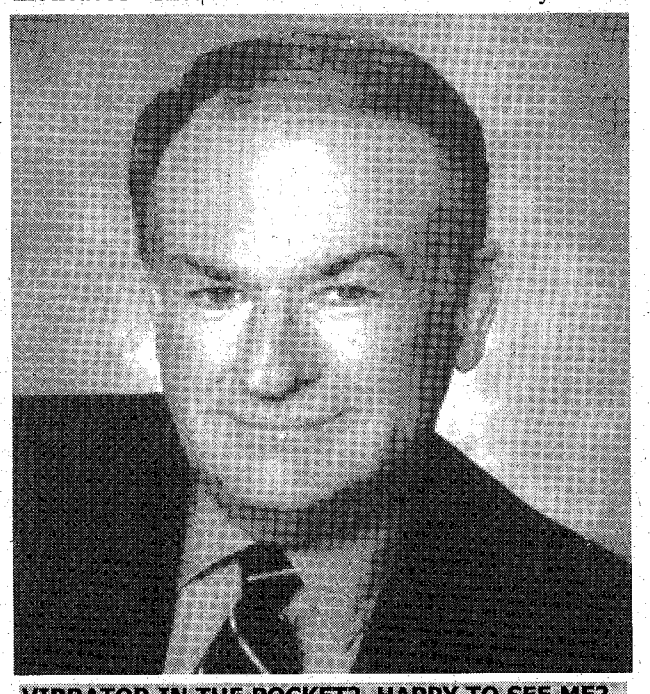
By Jorge Sierra

On Wednesday, October 13, Bill O'Reilly, host of Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor*, filed a lawsuit against his associate producer and her lawyer, accusing them of attempting to extort him for $60 million in "hush money." O'Reilly himself broke the news on his own show that evening, and the next day, the story exploded as Andrea Mackris filed a sexual harassment suit against O'Reilly (and Fox News) and both litigants went public with their allegations on different morning shows.

The allegations against Bill O'Reilly fit sexual harassment rather easily. As reported by the Associate Press, Mackris claims that while she worked on *The O'Reilly Factor*, Bill O'Reilly advised her to use a vibrator, told her about sexual fantasies involving her, and engaged in unwanted phone sex. I've heard worse, but what you have here is a pattern of inappropriate and unprofessional behavior ranging from the easily misinterpreted to stuff that clearly crosses the line, and it makes your job a living hell.

However, the behavior has to have actually happened, and it has to have been unwelcome. What little evidence we have right now suggests that something happened, but that it was not unwelcome. As *Dateline NBC* reported on October 15, O'Reilly has not said anything to deny any specific charges, but neither does it appear that Mackris communicated her grievances with anyone before going the legal route. But the *New York Daily News* did report that on October 19 that she confided in one Matthew Paratore, who went to O'Reilly's lawyers with a story about how she had a crush on the news giant, confided in him after breaking up with her fiancé, and eventually went into a relationship in which they had "more intimate talk on the phone." Then things went sour and she vowed to write a tell-all book smearing O'Reilly and Fox.

To tell you the truth, I'm not sure I buy this guy Paratore's story, although I have thought something like this must have happened. Obviously, *someone* has an axe to grind, and there's nothing pretty about it. Let's look at how this affects Bill O'Reilly. On one hand, as he states, being a powerful celebrity does make you a target. His show is the most popular cable news show in the country. Through it, he has profoundly shaped public opinion, embarrassed some of the country's most powerful companies and celebrities, and gained both fame and fortune. It's success that, as a commentator interviewed October 14 by *NBC Nightly News* pointed out, has not come about without significant mainstream support. That's what makes him vulnerable. Smear him with a sex scandal and that support is gone well before he has a chance to defend himself.



VIBRATOR IN THE POCKET? HAPPY TO SEE ME?
Courtesy of Alison Strano

And if these allegations do sink Bill O'Reilly's career, especially if it happens before all the facts are judged in court, it will send a dire message to anyone who aspires to make it honestly in this country. Forget fame, forget success, forget leadership. Forget doing things that need to be done in this world if there is the slightest chance that you will be recognized for it, because you will be threatened, you will be smeared and you will be humiliated. Better to just be a mouse, a "cog in the machine." No one will know you, no one will care. No one needs to know the difference you can make. $60 million? Do you really want to live in this kind of world?

At the same time, I fear this Andrea Mackris will join women like Kobe Bryant's accuser, Paula Jones, Marcia Clark, and Tawana Brawley, people who have gone up against insanely powerful and popular men in the pursuit of justice—and paid the price for it. Here comes the hate mail, here comes the microscopic dissection of every aspect of her live and motives. It's one of the most disgusting things about the way this country operates, and this time Bill O'Reilly and his lawyers are fanning the flames. When he goes on camera saying stuff like "this is the single most evil thing I've ever experienced," "these people picked the wrong guy," and "in the end, we'll see who's left standing," that's just abuse. When he has access to the public airwaves and can hire the best lawyers in the country (or just use Fox's), that gives him a lot of weight to throw around that his accuser simply doesn't have. When he says he cannot speak about the case a day after ripping into his accuser and then his lawyers tattle about some random guy in Mackris' life who came to them, well, anyway, there's something not right about that either.

This is a battle between a man who cannot be contested and a woman who can destroy him in an instant, the courts be damned. I think Michael Moore said it best when Extra interviewed him. "You're innocent until you're proven guilty, I learned that from Bill O'Reilly." Then he corrected himself and said something like "wait, Bill O'Reilly believes you're guilty until you're proven innocent". The bottom line is that in a situation such as this, there simply cannot be any justice.

Lions and Libel and Slander, OH MY!

By Dustin Herlich, Sorceror Supreme of the Media Wing

li·bel *n.*
1. a. A false publication, as in writing, print, signs, or pictures, that damages a person's reputation.
b. The act of presenting such material to the public.
2. The written claims presented by a plaintiff in an action at admiralty law or to an ecclesiastical court.

slan·der *n.*
1. *Law.* Oral communication of false statements injurious to a person's reputation.
2. A false and malicious statement or report about someone.

(The above courtesy of www.dictionary.com)

The second piece in my ongoing series of journalistic ethics is going to deal with libel and slander. I think it's of a timely and useful nature, and I hope you will all enjoy our little trip down legal lane. Some of you know of libel simply from the quote in the first Spider-Man movie "libel is print, slander is spoken". Now we'll get into what actually is libel and slander. Aside from being against university guidelines, it's also an actual legal matter, oft decided upon in a court of law.

For the most part I'll be using the words libel and slander interchangeably, as the laws that cover them are pretty similar, and what falls under libel and slander is also very similar. The chief difference being what kind of media the attack appears in. Questions of libel and slander are often difficult to answer, and often times blurred.

The most important thing to remember about libel and slander is that it's easily avoidable. Step one; don't print conceivably negative information about someone, especially if it is untrue. Step two, if you print something about an individual, especially when it relates to their character; make darn sure it's correct.

If you do have a piece that speaks of someone personally, or really tears into their performance on a job, etc., make sure that this person is a public figure. You really can't just talk about how much you hate your neighbor Bob because he has a nicer lawn then you. If you go after someone and they are not considered a public person, you can get in a lot of trouble. Don't use their name and don't give too much specific detail about that person. Saying something like, "a person I know does _____" is one thing, but saying, "the guy who lives at 34-76 east Elm Street is a moron" is another. Public figures don't enjoy the same protection of their privacy and, as such, can be spoken about with a few more liberties. The assumption is that if someone is a newspaper editor, actor/actress, university president, etc., that they are accepting the scrutiny of the public eye to a degree. Being critical of politicians and others is an important right of having free speech.

> "The most important thing to remember about libel and slander is that it's easily avoidable."

However, you still can't just say whatever you'd like about a person. You can be sued for libel and slander, but for the offended party to win a case, they have to prove some very specific things. Firstly, it has to be proved that the offended party is in fact not part of the public eye, and whatever they are supposedly being libeled for are matters not open to criticism. Secondly, it has to be proven that the offended party's reputation, either socially or professional was injured in some manner. If I print a hate letter about Joe Schmo in the newsletter that circulates only to my housemates, unless Joe Schmo lives in the house, I can't get in much trouble. There has to be a provable effect of the piece. If there is no proof of damage to a particular person's reputation, then the suit won't hold much water.

> "...Joe subsists on a diet made entirely of the blood of babies..."

To answer a few questions people have asked me, I'll go into some more technical specifics. One of the most important specifics to remember is that name-calling and words said in anger don't count. Again, it needs to be specifically untrue things that can be shown to have harmed a person. Things that are simply offensive and insulting don't count. For instance, if I were to write an article about Joe Filippazzo and call him all kinds of horrible names, I couldn't get in trouble. But if I write a piece about how Joe subsists on a diet made entirely of the blood of babies, he might have cause to sue me. However, proving damage might be difficult as that claim may even gain him more respect around the office.

Essentially, a libel or slander suit is a defamation suit. If you've been defamed, you have cause; if not, suck it up. Libel and slander laws constantly have to teeter on the edge of conflicting with the first amendment, but in general, cases that actually are won are fairly obvious and clear. It must also be said that Governmental entities cannot sue in matters of libel or slander, although a government official can bring suit for statements about the official personally. One thing that many people don't know is that libel is a civil matter and the worst that can happen is the plaintiff can sue you for all the money you've ever had and then some. In other words, awards are solely monetary if awarded. If you are found guilty of libel you can't go to jail or really have a criminal record of any kind. There are a few states where defamation is considered a criminal offense but even so, I'd imagine jail time for defamation to be almost unheard of.

To conclude, I'd like to point out a few things that might help someone faced with a prospective libel or slander suit. Plaintiffs winning these suits is actually a rare occurrence, and almost unheard of when media and reporters are involved. Free speech laws do protect journalists in most cases, and proving that a journalist knew a story was wrong, and still ran it anyway is very hard to do. Libel cases can also only be brought to court by living persons and entities which the law itself can refer to as "persons." Representatives of the deceased, etc., can't sue for libel. While libel and slander are mostly left up to individual states to legislate on, what I've written here holds true for the most part in all the states in the union.

Tune in two weeks from now for the next installment on my series dealing with media and journalistic ethics. If you've got a topic you'd like to see appear in this series, please e-mail me at media_ethics@excite.com.

As a side note, I asked that if you read my last article, for you to please e-mail *The Press*, no matter who you are and at least let me know someone is reading what I'm writing. I'm asking the same again this week, and in case you are afraid to let *The Press* know you are actually a reader, I've set up this e-mail address for you to communicate with me. I hereby swear/affirm that all letters and submissions received by me to that address that are asked to be kept confidential will be. That means all you administrators who secretly love the press and/or my column are not safe to do so, without any chance of even the rest of the staff at the paper, or your co-workers knowing you tainted your hands with our ink.

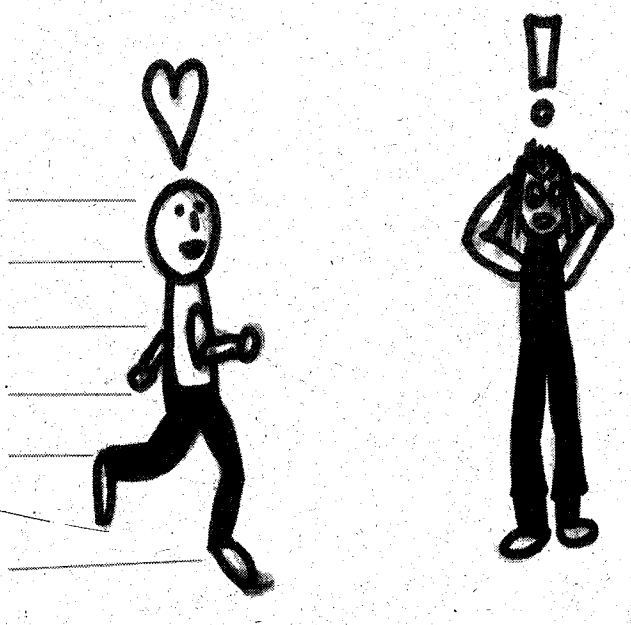
Call Me Old-Fashioned

By Jason Ng

So, one day I'm talking to one of my friends and the discussion takes a turn towards relationships, as most do. She started telling me about her ex and how she would only date guys of her own nationality (I'm trying not to get anyone in trouble with specifics). That kinda bummed me out because I was trying to ask her out when she told me the specifics of her relationships (you may have guessed by now I didn't fit the criteria). Anyways, that's beside the point.

So another time she starts showing me pictures from high school. I spotted someone completely out of her criteria and was quick to point him out. She then told me that she was just "seeing" them, and that that was different from dating or going out with them. This baffled me. I had heard dating rules like this before, but I never really took the time to understand them.

As it turns out, I was just old-fashioned. I finally learned that "seeing" someone is an initial step where the couples seeing each other can still see other people. Then I think, but could be wrong, that dating is the next step. I guess there's less or no seeing other people. And finally, there's the level of boyfriend and girlfriend. I think that's when you go out for lengths of time and actually really care about each other. See, the way I went through high school and up till now, I had believed that, regardless of how long you intended to be with someone, you would only be with one person at a time. I also thought that seeing someone, dating them, and being boyfriend and girlfriend were all the same. You were either in a relationship with them or not. I guess the one person at a time thing is just my little innocent old-fashioned-ness. I always felt that when you were looking for someone to be with, it would be out of mutual respect to only see one person at a time. That way you put your undivided efforts into one relationship at a time.



LEAVE ME THE FUCK ALONE, IT'S FRIDAY!
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

I soon realized that my point of view has its positives and its negatives. On one hand, we can describe the mutual respect aspect and the putting your best effort into one relationship. The problem with this is that seldom do you meet that one person you're going to spend the rest of your life with by only dating one person. By seeing other people at the same time, you don't overly commit yourself and basically, put all your eggs in one basket. Essentially, you gain experience and fine tune what you're looking for in a person instead of settling down with the first person you find. This way, you don't settle for anything less than what you're looking for in that person you really want to be with.

I've made the mistake of setting my sights on only one girl at time and I'll let you know, I ended up a puddle of low self-esteemed, no confidence crap. It's somewhat naïve to think that the one person you're aiming for is destined for you even before you really get to know them. I think the getting to know someone part is the major process that determines whether you were meant to be with them. In closing, I guess I'm just trying to say that I still think it'd be great to only date one person at a time, and expect that in return from someone in however serious a relationship you're in. However, I think it's even more important that you not settle for what you have, but to really aim for someone you really want to be with and spend the moments of you're life with. Life is short, you shouldn't settle for anyone you wouldn't want to spend whatever little time you have left with.

Michael Jackson in Uproar over "Just Lose It"

By Joe Rios

The glove is coming off in a battle between Michael Jackson, and rapper Eminem over the video for his new song "Just Lose It." The King of Pop was irate over the new video that features Eminem dressed as 80's style Michael Jackson, complete with the one glove look.

In the video, Eminem pokes fun at Jackson's child molestation charges against him. In addition he shows Jackson being vomited on by Eminem, his hair catching fire, and even his nose falling off, a blatant jab at his recent cosmetic surgeries. There is of course one part of the video that separates it from the usual offending that Eminem has a talent for. At the very end of the video, the Michael Jackson look alike, who actually IS Eminem in costume, is seen sitting on a bed, with children jumping on the bed behind him. Something that has been judged by people around me as "Fucked Up."

Jackson is very upset over the new video, threatening to sue, and demanding that networks pull the video off the air. So far, MTV is still showing it, although BET has decided to yank the video from the air. Robert Johnson, founder and CEO of BET stated the following with regard to the video being pulled off the air, "BET pulled the video because we feel it is inappropriate to use our network to air a video disparaging Michael's character, or that of any other celebrity." In an interview at a Los Angeles radio station, Jackson vented his frustration over the new video. Jackson stated, ""I am very angry at Eminem's depiction of me in his video. I feel that it is outrageous and disrespectful. It is one thing to spoof, but it is another to be demeaning and insensitive."

This is, however, not the first time that Michael Jackson has faced ridicule from someone. In the spring, there was an episode of *South Park* in which Jackson was ripped apart by the writers for his nose work,, and accusations of child molestation. On one interesting note though, there was not as much of an uproar over the cartoon as there was over Slim Shady's new video.

Regardless of how pissed of the King of Pop gets over his video, it is EXTREMELY unlikely that it is going to be yanked off the air, and neither MC Hammer, nor Pee-Wee Herman have made any noticeable complaints about the video (and yes, they both got poked fun at in the video as well). Furthermore, the thought of Eminem being pulled off the air just because someone was offended is highly unlikely. If Eminem was taken off the airwaves just because someone was offended, he would still be working a 9-5 job in Detroit!

The single for "Just Lose It," is in stores right now, and the entire album "Encore," will hit the shelves November 16th. In the meantime, the radio stations will continue playing the hell out of "Just Lose It." One notion that came to me during the writing of this article is that in this modern day, most people are not taking Michael Jackson very seriously anymore. The last album he put out is generally accepted as a massive failure, and now for the second time he is facing charges of child molestation. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice shame on me.

In retrospect, Michael Jackson has lost all of his status. This might reflect a reason as to why he is so irritated at Eminem. Jackson once had the level of popularity and status that Eminem has now, and losing that may have left some bitterness in Jackson which is a shame because in his day he was one of the greatest musicians of his day, and to see him on such a spiral is heart wrenching. The only hope for Michael now is that when the dust settles, he isn't in jail, and will still have something left of his reputation. Of course, should he manage to do so, I have a word of advice for Michael; Stop putting yourself into positions where you can be accused of molesting little boys!

"This just in:
The Stony Brook Press is online at
www.thepress.info
and... wait a second, I'm getting something else here... It would seem to be the case that I have no personality... Humph. 'Magine that."

Planned Parenthood®
Hudson Peconic, Inc.

Services:

gyn check-ups
birth control
testing & treatment for STIs
emergency contraception
pregnancy testing
options counseling
surgical & medical abortion
prenatal care

Call
1-800-230-PLAN
to be connected to the center nearest you

Center locations:
Amagansett . Huntington . Patchogue . Riverhead . Smithtown . West Islip

Chicken for Jesus?

By Matthew Rammelkamp

I have been offended one too many times by Chicken recently and it's almost made me puke, so now is my time to vent. I was walking around the Union food court to use their microwave and all I smell is the rotting corpses of dead chickens. I'm getting some soup in the SAC and I see people with thighs, legs, and wings of dead birds. I am walking in the library and I see day-glow pink flyers on the walls saying "Got Chicken? Got Jesus?" It seems that everywhere I go on this campus; I can't seem to escape from seeing people eat these beautiful birds that are just as smart as your pet! And it seems the more churches I pass, the more I see meat on a grill. At a church in Port Jeff, I saw a sign for an Alcoholics Anonymous co-"Chicken BBQ" meeting. The last straw was when someone from a religious cult on campus tried to get me read their scripture when they had tiny wings all over their plate, and their breath smelled like chicken soup. Well, let me tell you a little about chicken...

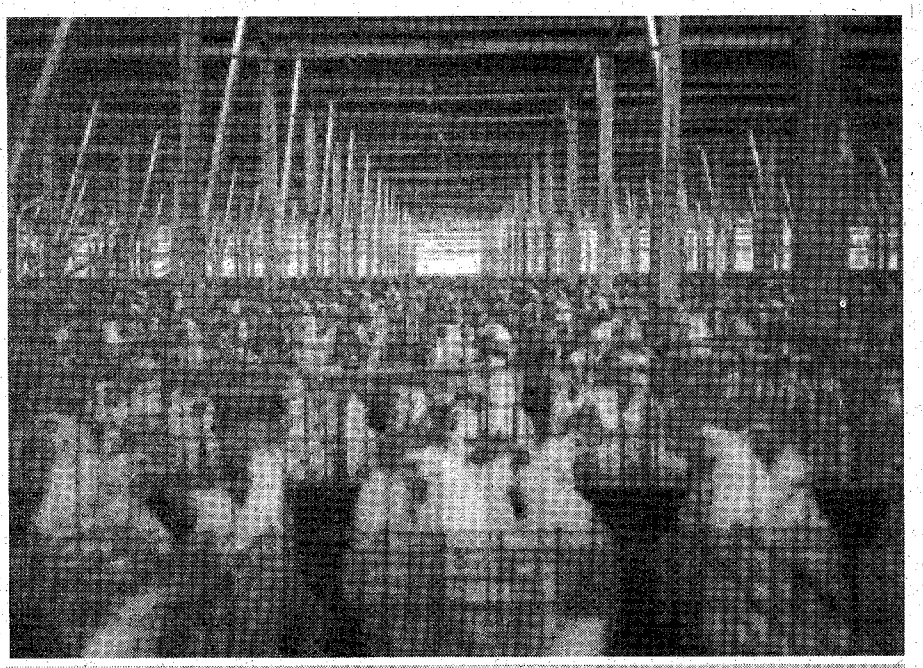
The average American eats more than 75 pounds of chicken meat every year. But our appetite for chicken has come at a high cost, often hidden from consumers. When you buy chicken meat from the school cafeteria or a restaurant, it is easy to forget that the food you are eating comes from an animal. Most people don't know how the meat was produced. They see the end product: cut and shrink wrapped, or battered and deep-fried, without thinking twice.

You may have a picture, left over from elementary school, of chickens clucking in a barnyard, or scratching and pecking at the earth. But for the vast majority of the 10 billion chickens raised and killed in the United States each year, little could be further from the truth.

The life of a boiler chicken (a chicken raised and killed for meat) begins in a large commercial hatchery, where in large metal incubators, chicks hatch by the thousands; they never meet their mothers. The chicks are boxed in crates and then dumped in long warehouses with tons of thousands of other chicks.

In the 1950's, it took 84 days to raise a five pound chicken; because of growth promoting drugs, it now takes only 45 days. According to University of Arkansas researchers if we grew as fast as a chicken, we'd weigh 349 pounds by age two!

On the factory farm, these chickens will never once step foot outdoors to walk in the grass or be struck by the sun's rays. Hens producing eggs can have their legs trapped and infected as they curl around the dirt-covered wire which they stand on, stuck in a cage the size of a folded newspaper, with four to six other hens. They never get to breath fresh air, they will get to mate or form normal social groups. Over the span of six weeks, the chicks become increasingly overcrowded as they grow at severely accelerated rates on an unnatural diet which includes manure, and the rendered remains of other chickens. There is also a high rate of leg disorders due to the genetic engineering of these chickens, and many of them have heart attacks from growing too fast. They may also grow so fast as to be in physical pain, from the weight of organs crushing and even breaking bones in their legs. Researchers say that more than 20% of broiler chickens suffer from chronic pain as a result of genetic disorders contributing to bone disease. Many birds cannot walk, and thus crawl around on the floor, unable to get to food, and are eaten alive by other chicks. Some crippled chicks are unable to reach the water dispensers, and simply die of thirst. "Broilers now grow so rapidly that the heart and lungs are not developed well enough to support the remainder of the body," admits an industry journal. In these conditions, the factory owners accept that many of their chickens are going to die. You may think they would loose money this way. However, researchers for another industry journal write that "It is more profitable to grow the biggest bird and have increased mortality...simple calculations suggest it is better to get the weight and ignore the mortality."



"NOTHING WILL BENEFIT HUMAN HEALTH AND INCREASE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL FOR LIFE ON EARTH AS MUCH AS THE EVOLUTION TO A VEGETARIAN DIET."

-Albert Einstein, Physicist - Nobel Prize 1921
Photo courtesy of Farm Sanctuary

The air inside the huge shed housing all the animals is lingering with dust, feed, and feces. Thick layers of these substances cover the machinery and mix with the stench of ammonia, making the air unhealthy to breath. The ammonia levels inside are usually two to three times the amount set by the Center for Disease Control to be safe for workers to breath. The CDC recommends that workers not expose themselves to these fumes for more than fifteen minutes per day. The chickens exposed to them during their entire six week lifespan, as ammonia burns covers abrasions over their body.

At six weeks of age, the chickens have reached market weight and are ready to be taken to slaughter. They are usually rounded up in total darkness when they are calm and less resistant. The birds are caught and thrown by their limbs into crates which are stocked onto trucks; many chickens suffer dislocated hips or broken wings and legs as a result.

Once packed onto trucks, the chickens are transported to the slaughterhouse. They are denied water, food, and shelter from extreme temperature. Again, industry researchers tell us most chickens find transport, "a fearful, stress, injurious, and even fatal procedure." At the slaughter plant, the chickens are moved out of the trucks with forklifts, dumped onto conveyers, and hung upside down in shackles. In these shackles, a machine is supposed to cut their throats, but many chickens miss the blades from struggling to get free. The very next step on the conveyer belt is the boiling scalding tank that loosens their feathers, and these "redskins" either drown or die from the extreme temperature. There are no laws regarding animal welfare during slaughter. The carcasses of these chickens are then de-feathered, dismembered, and disemboweled. Each step in the process makes the chicken bodies less recognizable, to the point that it is hard for us to remember that the wing, nugget, or chicken leg you buy came from living, breathing animals.

Inside factories where low-paid employees work with animals day after day, they often cut themselves. Employee turnover is among the highest among all other occupations. To relieve frustrations of the horrible working conditions, some of the workers take their anger out on the animals. Over this past summer, you may have seen on national television the undercover footage of extreme animal abuse at a chicken farm in West Virginia, which was investigated by People of the Ethical Treatment of Animals. This particular factory was investigated because the plant won an award for being the KFC "supplier of the year." Caught on film were workers picking up chickens and throwing them into the concrete wall like footballs, deliberately and maliciously stomping on them violently, and kicking them like punting a football. A simultaneous investigation into the supplier of the year of KFC in the United Kingdom also produced shocking footage. All of this is available to download on petatv.com or kfccruelty.com.

The conditions documented at the KFC slaughterhouses are not uncommon, they are the industry standard. The fact that the US and the UK "supplier of the year" award went to these plants is proof that these are not isolated incidents. Many times, animal welfare advocates write a letter to companies, requesting a tour of their factory farm, only to not be answered. What are they hiding in there? The truth will turn your stomach once you see with your own eyes (go to petatv.com!). These factory farms that have been infiltrated across the country and the abuses have occurred in every industry that "harvests" animals as machines.

You might be thinking, "Why don't they just give the animals more space?" It's called capitalism. The industry standard is to cram as many animals in the smallest amount of space, not pay for individual veterinarian care for sick or injured animals, and to not waste time worrying about proper stunning during slaughter. These lines go so fast that many animals throat's are not able to be cut, and they are either slaughtered alive or thrown into a boiling hot scalding tank to remove feathers.

Chickens are interesting and inquisitive animals and are thought to be as intelligent as mammals like dogs, cats, and even primates. When in their natural surroundings, they form friendships and social hierarchies, recognizing one another, loving their young, and enjoying a full life, dust-bathing, roosting in trees, making nests, and more. Just like cats, dogs, and humans, each chicken is an individual with a distinct personality.

Up until a few years ago, scientists spent barely any time learning about chickens' intelligence, but we now know more than we ever did. According to animal behaviorist Dr. Chris Evans, chickens are as smart as mammals, including some primates. For example, chickens are able to understand that recently hidden objects still exist, which is beyond the capacity of small children. The video "Let's Ask the Animals," produced by the Association for the

Chicken for Jesus? Continued...

By Matthew Rammelkamp

Study of Animal Behavior in the United Kingdom, shows chickens learning which bowls contain food by watching television, learning to peck a button three times in order to obtain food, and learning how to navigate a complex obstacle course in order to get to a nesting box. In 2002, the PBS documentary *The Natural History of the Chicken* exposed that "chickens love to watch television and have vision similar to humans. They also seem to enjoy all forms of music, especially classical. "Like us, chickens form strong family ties and mourn when they lose a loved one. Dr. Joy Mench, director and professor of the Center for Animal Welfare at the University of California at Davis explains, "Chickens show sophisticated social behavior...That's what a pecking order is all about. They can recognize more than a hundred other chickens and remember them. They have more than thirty types of vocalizations." Dr. Christine Nicol of the University of Bristol explains, "Chickens have shown us they can do things people didn't think they could do. There are hidden depths to chickens, definitely."

Kim Sturla, who runs Animal Place, a sanctuary for abused and discarded farmed animals, has seen chickens show affection and empathize for one another. She recalls an endearing story about two elderly chickens that were rescued from a city dump. "Notorious Boy" and "Mary" bonded and would roost on a picnic table together. One stormy night during a hailstorm, Sturla went to put Mary and Notorious Boy in the barn and saw that "the rooster had his wing extended over the hen protecting her." Chickens are able to learn by watching the mistakes of others and are very adept at teaching and learning, they can learn to use switches and levers to change the temperature in their surroundings and to open doors to feeding areas. Chickens have more than 30 distinct cries to communicate to each another, including separate alarm calls depending on whether a predator is traveling by land or sea. A mother hen will turn her eggs as many as five times an hour and cluck to her unborn chicks, who will chirp back to her and to one another from within their own shells!

There is no nutritional need for chicken or any other meat. In fact, there is substantial health risks associated with eating chicken. A 2003 Consumer Reports investigation found that approximately half of the chicken sold in grocery stores contained salmonella or other foodborne pathogens. Most of these bacteria were resistant to antibiotics, due to all the drugs pumped into the chickens to make them grow bigger. Many biologists say that in the thirty years, the buildup of our resistance to antibiotics is going to reach the point where people may die from the common cold. My uncle is currently in the hospital, dying because his body is resistant to antibiotics. The main source of these antibiotics into our system is from animal products: meat, dairy, and eggs.

So what about Chicken for Jesus? If anybody has an ounce of compassion, they would be sickened by what our species is doing: we've reduced these beautiful creatures that are fully capable of experiencing pain, fear, depression, loneliness, hunger, and happiness, to just another meal. It really isn't necessary to continue to eat animals. Did you know that pigs are as smart as six year olds? Well, I doubt you'd kill your little nephew and make a hot dog out of him, so why would you do it Babe?

Every hour, one million broiler chickens are killed to satisfy our appetite, yet millions around the globe are starving? For every one pound of grain we feed livestock, we only get back ten to sixteen pounds of edible meat. Wouldn't it be a lot wiser to conserve the earth, and free up the 70% of the grain we waste on producing meat, in order to feed famished mouths? The exponential growth of our population is causing our species to destroy pristine and ancient tracks of rainforest in South America and Indonesia, driving indigenous cultures to the brink of extinction, as they are forced to make way for the meat industry. The rainforest potentially holds the key to the cures for cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's, ALS, and other diseases. One-fourth of all pharmaceuticals contain a substances originated in the rainforests, yet we haven't explored them all before we're destroying them! In addition, these are our planets lungs we are destroying; will the Day after Tomorrow come true because of our cruel diets?

"THE GREATNESS OF A NATION AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED"

-Mahatma Gandhi
Photo courtesy of Farm Sanctuary

The multi-billion dollar meat and dairy industry use their wealth to manipulate public opinion. Through mainstream media they portray vegetarianism and bizarre and unhealthy while suppressing the facts about their crimes to animals and the environment. Anyone who cares about the environment or who is at all shocked by the cruelty of chickens and other animals on factory farms and slaughterhouse should seriously consider veganism or vegetarianism. There are plenty of excellent free books at the library to get you started, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals offer a free "Vegetarian Starter Guide" available for free by calling 1-888-VEG-FOOD. Any other information you need to know (recipes, nutrition, where to find food) is available by visiting goveg.com. You can email me with any questions or feedback, especially if you would like a complete list of vegetarian and vegan items available on campus: veganmatty@yahoo.com.

For everything that a meat-eater might think he or she would be sacrificing, a pure vegetarian version exists (they are healthier and most of them taste better!). And I mean everything: crispy chicken, chicken patties, chicken nuggets, chicken pot-pies, steak, BBQ ribs, breakfast sausages, sausage links, bacon, hamburgers, hot-dogs, meatloaf, cheese pizza, pepperoni, ham, turkey, salami, milk, butter, cheese, cream cheese, sour cream, ice-cream, any types of seafood, even ground "beef" for putting in tacos or for cooking. In fact, going vegetarian will actually expand the variety of foods you eat. Try something ethnic and new: Thai, Italian, Chinese, Mexican, Indian, Greek, Japanese, or Cajun. Or you can get even more exotic with Creole, Cantonese, Hunan or Szechwan food. Want to stay American? That's fine; there are over 30 different varieties of veggie burgers to choose from, and the list keeps growing. To a meat-eater, there is only one type of hamburger, and all milk tastes the same. To vegetarians, you can have soy milk, rice milk, almond milk, even hazelnut or even corn milk! Meat eaters might have peanut butter and jelly every once in a while, which is a great vegetarian option, but exploring a health food store, you will find almond butter, soy nut butter, cashew-macadamia butter, and an great expansion of your taste buds. If you live on campus, I recommend taking a trip to Wild by Nature (one mile east on 25A), or Trader Joes (one mile west on 347 in Smith Haven mall parking lot). Still, there is no need for special stores; every single supermarket carries several of the major brands of vegetarian "meat alternatives" such as Morningstar Farms, Boca Burgers, and Gardenburger. They also should carry at least Silk soymilk (who use windmills!) and Vitasoy. In addition, almost any supermarket now carries Tofutti "ice cream", but I recommend health food stores for more options on flavors. Many of these products are made from soy, which not only has no cholesterol, low fat, and has no risk of getting food poisoning, but the FDA says that "25 grams of soy protein per day may reduce the risk of heart disease." Trust me; it will do a lot more than just that. It will help prevent diabetes, obesity, stroke, even osteoporosis! Going vegetarian is *the* most healthiest thing you can do in your life, it even fights cancer; according to the American Dietetic Association, vegetarians have lower rates of death from heart disease, lower blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels, lower rates of type 2 diabetes and hypertension, and lower instances of prostate and colon cancer. The National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society both recommend vegetarian diets to reduce cancer risk. So what are you waiting for? Think about the chickens, the environment, and yourself. I know these famous people did:

"The question is not, *Can they reason?* Nor, *Can they talk?* but, *Can they suffer?*"

-**Jeremy Bentham**, philosopher

"Our task must be to free ourselves . . . by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."
"Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances of survival for life on earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet."

-**Albert Einstein**, physicist, Nobel Prize 1921

"As long as there are slaughterhouses, there will be battlefields."

-***Leo Tolstoy***, author

"While we ourselves are the living graves of murdered beasts, how can we expect any ideal conditions on this earth?"

- **George Bernard Shaw**

"Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages."

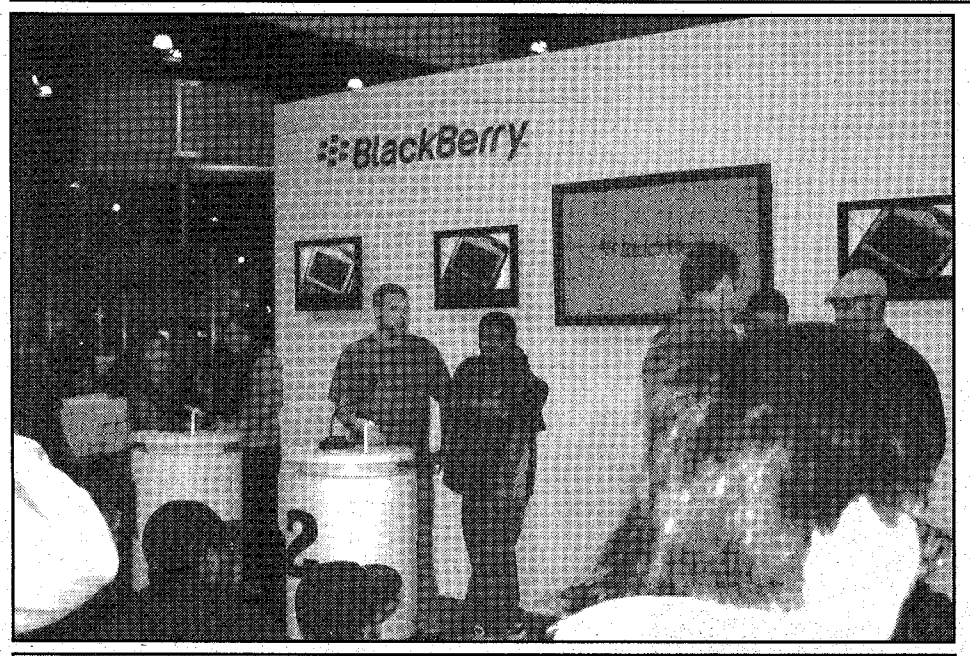
-**Thomas Edison**, inventor

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

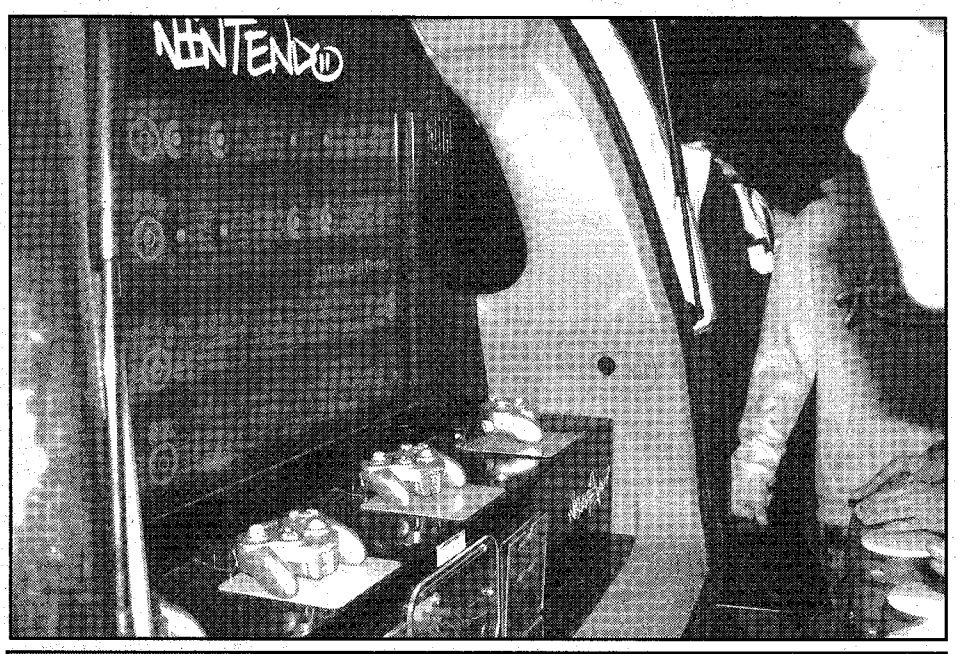
-**Mahatma Gandhi**, statesman and Philosopher

THE PHAROAH OF PHOCUS REPORTS

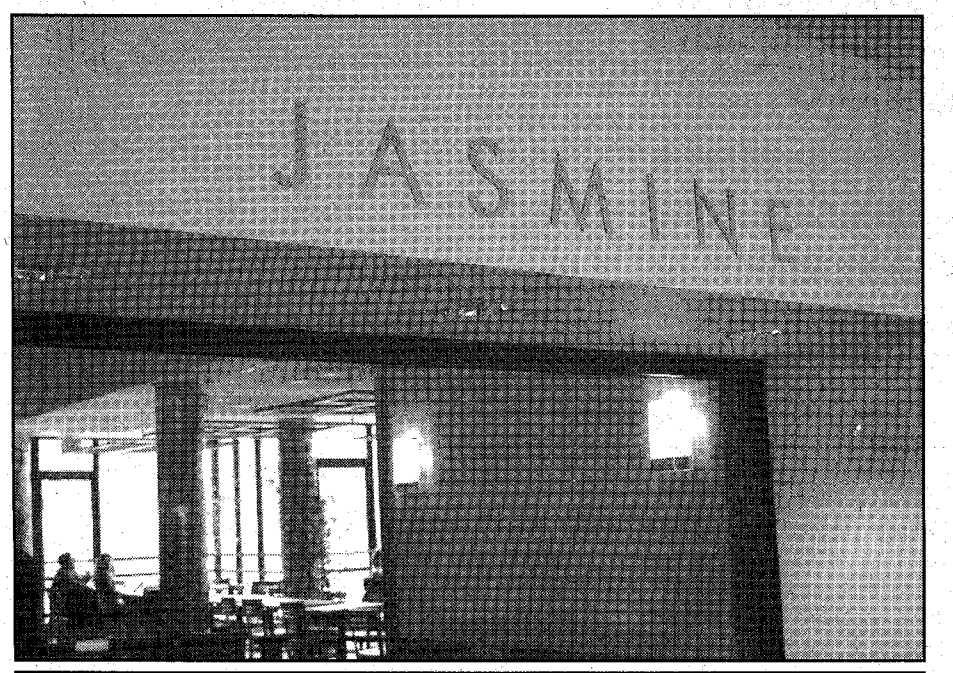
All photos courtesy of Jowy Romano



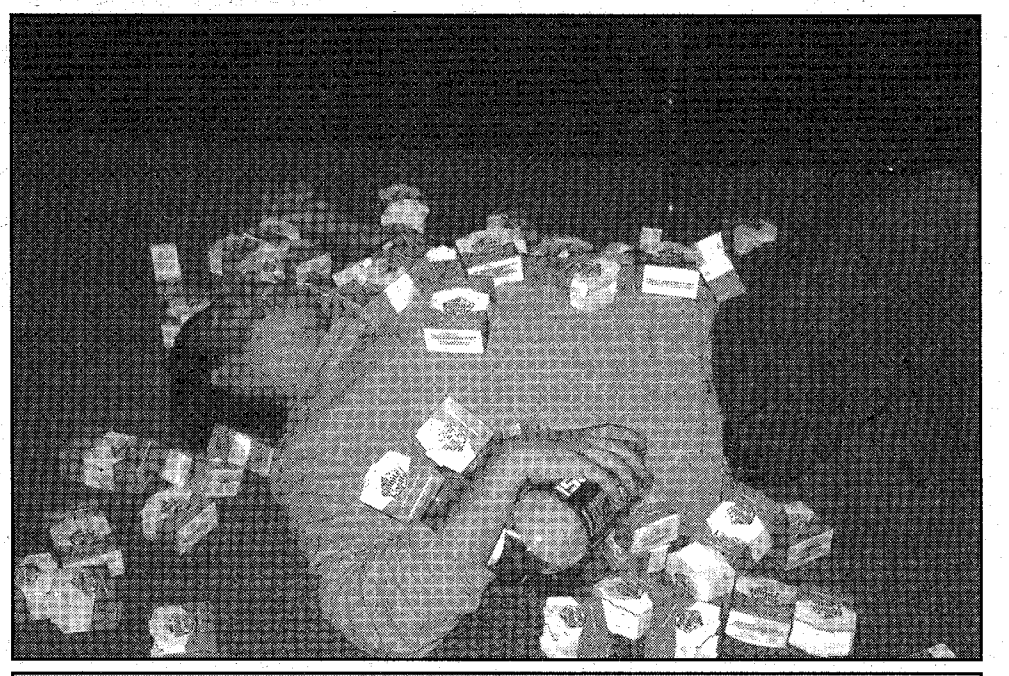
Black Berry Booth at Digital Life Tech Expo, NYC



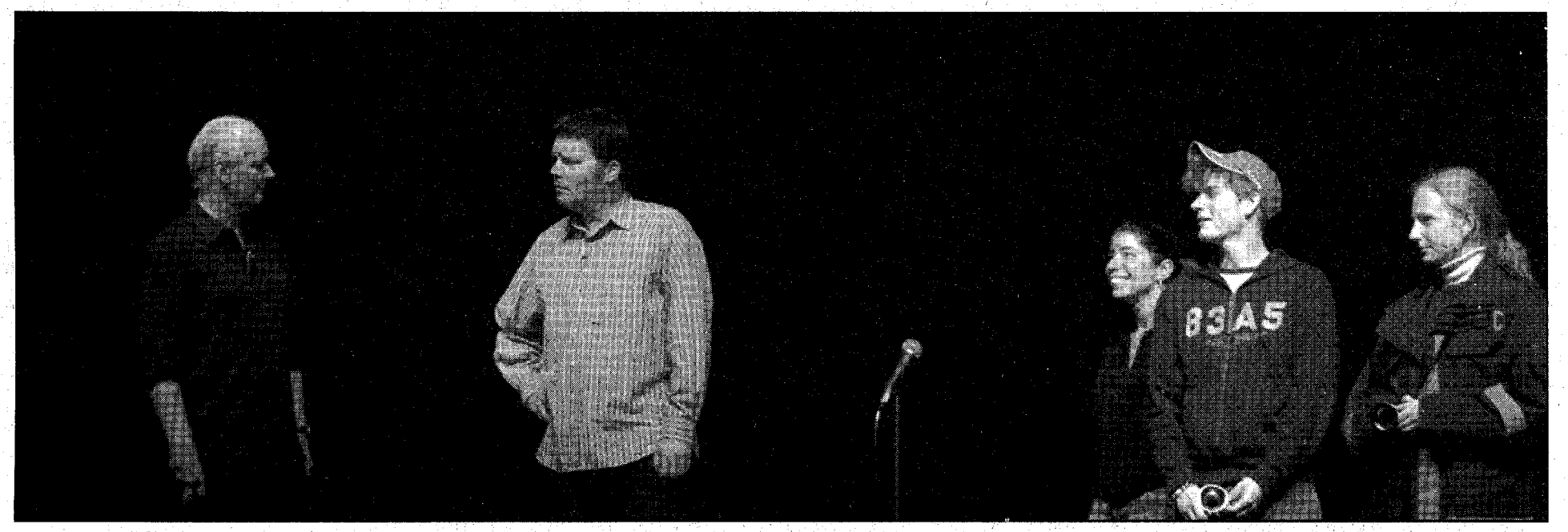
Nintendo's truck at Digital Life



The Jasmine Food Court in the Wang Center finally opens!



RA found dead at Ammann College after White Castle overdose



Whose Line stars Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood visit Da' Brook

Real Estate Class... err, Mass?

By Tara Lynne Groth

"You'll never know that God is all you need until God is all you've got."
- Nesconset Christian Church sign on October 21, 2004

Recently I decided to take a 45-hour course to obtain real estate licensure. No, I don't aim to be Mrs. Lester Burnham from *American Beauty*, but there were plenty of Mrs. Burnhams at the first class I attended. Also in attendance were the guys that probably fell off a turnip truck crossing the Rio Grande, and some people that I hope are hard of hearing because they don't understand the concept of Seller and Buyer.

As I sat through the four hours of class (three nights a week for a few weeks) I realized all the instructor did was read us the book. Each sentence is read twice in a Ben Stein-esque way reminiscent of *Ferris Bueller* (forgive my many movie references). It was information I already knew from working as an unlicensed real estate assistant for a year, so I took the few hours to compose this article, as well as every other article present in this issue. Point being: it's an easy way to make money (and God knows I'm not paid for this). If the lady who drives the *South Park* bus, who sat to my right, can be licensed to sell someone a home, it makes it all the less intimidating.

What crossed my mind during those four hours was how the class paralleled my experiences at mass. I haven't been to church in *years*, so my comparisons are based on church memories before the millennium.

The first similarity was sparked by what the instructor (remaining nameless) said: "Take what you read as the truth—if you think 'what if,' that's when you go wrong." So questioning authority is out of the question. Thinking only inside the box is promoted, as the instructor believed questions concerning material not in the first chapter is for discussion some other day. So those who questioned received no answers and remained precarious and ignorant, and almost fearful of their own lacking knowledge. This instilling of fear reminded me of the quote I saw while stopped at a red light on Terry Road in Nesconset on my way to the real estate class (see quote below article title). The idea that without having anything, such as answers in class, that is when you have to resort to faith in some belief system, in the class' case: the instructor and his "book." The notion seems absurd to me, but it's exactly what I was seeing during the class.

I CAN TRESPASS ALL I WANT NOW,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

This brings me to the next point: the "book." The instructor was explaining that all answers are in the "book," that there is no truth than whatever is in the "book." I couldn't help but see the eerie similarity between how this teacher regarded this book and the "truth" within it, and how a priest praises the word of the Lord in the Bible. Yes, the idea seemed far-fetched at first, but after tooling it over for four hours—it makes sense! The structure of the classroom itself takes me back to days on those Godawful—pun willfully intended—wooden pews.

The peculiar manner of the students around me led me to see another resemblance to the audience at church. As the instructor repeated yet another sentence directly from the book in front of us, people nodded along in agreement, a trancelike daze that I remember seeing on faces who enjoyed a priest's homily. No questions asked.

Even our "hygiene break," which was ten minutes consisting of people either going for a smoke, talking about themselves to someone feigning polite interest, chatting on their cell phone (that's me), or using the facilities, reminded me of the mandatory "peace be with you" moments in church. Intermission!

At one point in the night, and it would be quite insane of me to relate receiving the Sacrament (bread and wine) to this, but the instructor handed out a few highlighters. A woman near me utilized the highlighter to highlight not imperative information, but EVERY line on the page. If she had taken a sip from the cup of the priest, it would have been a swig, and she'd be hung-over today. Again, I find it more difficult to learn in this environment than the material itself.

My final connection between church and this real estate class lies in the crucifix. The instructor repeatedly informed us to mark a "T" next to specific sections of the chapter because that information would be asked on the test. I prefer an asterisk, thank you. I saw the "T" as slightly narcissistic in my case as my name begins with one. So while my page had several dozen stars in the margins, everyone else's pages had "T" multiple times around the paragraphs. I took it to be the sign of the cross!

Perhaps I had too much time on my hands, maybe I'm overanalyzing things *again*, but I couldn't let the above parallels pass without acknowledgement. It was too strange a comparison to pass by.

Since one night of instructing is down, I have eleven more to go—actually just ten because one absence is allowed. So twelve classes total...how many stages of the cross are there?

Amen!

Rebel Rebel

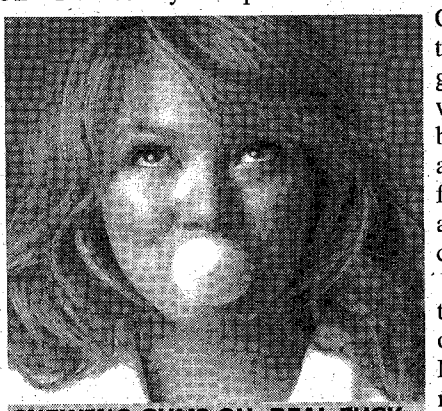
By Melanie Donovan

Watch out for us, we are today's youth. We are rebellious and controversial. Today's youth has everything to yell about, yet they sit in front of their televisions without a care in the world.

The youth of the 60's and 70's were the first to actually have an opinion on politics and society. They openly opposed the Vietnam War and supported their ideas of "peace." Called hippies, they argued that love and peace could change the world. Many were wanderers and refused to work at traditional jobs. So what are we doing? There is a reality show for every night of the week, so our schedules are pretty much full. Like the youth of the past, we are living during a war. A war that is already a great part of our history. But are we allowed to have opinions about all this? Are we allowed to have opinions at all?

High school teenagers do not even have to think any more. Everything is laid out in front of them. From the trendy clothes they wear to the popular music they listen to. You want to know how to "get the guy," turn to page 17 of your *Cosmopolitan* magazine and see what Gwyneth Paltrow is wearing this week. Just as long as our fashion is outlandish and nothing our parents would wear, then it is okay. The problem here is it is what our parents would wear. They did wear these outfits 20 or 30 years ago. Clothes designers are just taking older trends, packaging them correctly, and putting a hefty price tag on it. Despite what many think, there have been no trends set here.

Television. What is on TV today? Nothing original, there has not been any original TV for over 10 years now. Except if you count reality shows. Because just showing regular life is something we have never seen before, besides the fact that we live these lives everyday. So they had to spice it up, by adding only beautiful, perfect people that you would not see in everyday life and putting them in situations that are very common to most. Like eating cave dwelling spiders and applying for a job with Donald Trump.


CHEWING GUM? OH, REAL FUCKING ORIGINAL.
Courtesy of BigLeagueChew.org

Music as told by dictionary.com is, "The art of arranging sounds in time so as to produce a continuous, unified, and evocative composition, as through melody, harmony, rhythm, and timbre." Oh you mean like Lil' Jon's harmonic "crunk" tunes? There are many different types of music out there today, but let's talk about what is popular. Popular music is supposed to be a reflection of the generation of that time. So is Hilary Duff really a reflection of the great anguish we are going through right now in times of war? The only updates kids are getting about war are through Green Day songs. It is not like their parents tell them what is going on. They are the ones with the "support our troops" bumper stickers. And if you are against the war, you therefore do not support our troops and are therefore against our country.

So where are the revolutionists? Where is the outcry of the kids of America? Muffled by the sounds of the new season of the *OC* or *The Joey Show*. We ARE so controversial, who else would wear their trucka hat to the side? The opinions of the youth will be heard when they finally get some opinions. The unique are not so unique anymore, the rebellious are not so rebellious. Hippies and flower children were the true rebels and we are nothing but groupies of the past.

Colin Mochrie... as Interviewed by a Nervous Young Man

By Ian Rice

It's a quarter after three and I'm pacing around my apartment nervously. In fifteen minutes, I'm going to receive a phone call from Colin Mochrie, star of television's *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and a true master of all that is comedy. As if this being my first interview ever wasn't enough to send my heart into palpitations, it just so happens it's with a man that I've been a fan of for years. I was twelve years old when I first saw the British version of *Whose Line?* and Mr. Mochrie has provided me with a good majority of the truly hearty laughs I've had in my life. No doubt he's had a similar effect on many other people out there over the last two decades he's spent in the public eye. And on Thursday, October 28th, the students of Stony Brook will have an opportunity to get more of those laughs when Mr. Mochrie pulls into town with the two-man improvisation show, "An Evening with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood."

For those who don't already know, Colin Mochrie is a force to be reckoned with in terms of comedy and talent. Mochrie made his first appearance on the popular British improvisation comedy show, *Whose Line is it Anyway*? in 1991. He soon became a show regular, appearing in every episode. The British *Whose Line?* continued its run until `98 before moving to the US under the ABC network. Thanks to the transatlantic success of *Whose Line?*, Mochrie's profile in North America has increased considerably. He has appeared in numerous Canadian and American TV shows such as *The Drew Carey Show, The Outer Limits, Improv Heaven and Hell, Supertown Challenge, Blackfly*, and from 2001 to 2003, became a permanent cast member of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian political satire TV show. In short, the man never stops working. So I considered myself lucky enough to be given the opportunity to speak with him for a little while and ask him a few questions.

As 3:30 approached, I was beside myself with nerves. The phone rang, and I shakily started my recorder and answered the call. In a very subdued and human manner, Mr. Mochrie asked for me. I introduced myself and after a brief session of informing him what a tremendous fan of his work I was and how much of an honor it was to be speaking with him, we got started. Here is my interview with the extremely gracious Colin Mochrie:

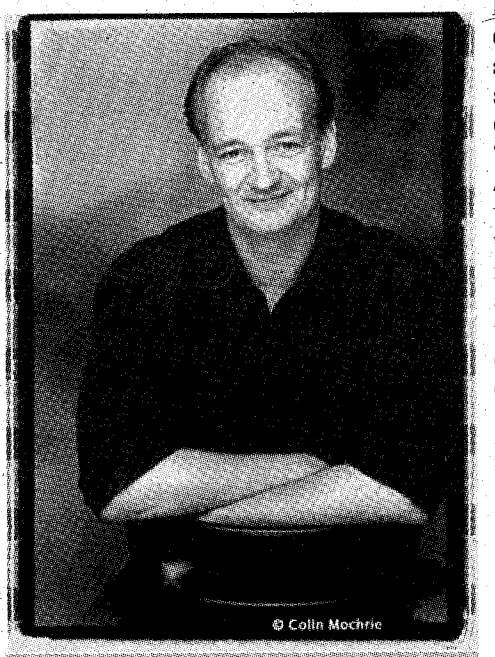
> [Michael Eisner said] "Oh, I didn't know your show was so popular." (laughs) And I thought, "Well, you of all people *should* know. It's your network!"

Ian Rice: A good number of people know you from *Whose Line is it Anyway?* How has being on the show impacted your success?

Colin Mochrie: Basically it's *all* my success. Without *Whose Line?* I certainly wouldn't have had the opportunity to do the live touring I'm involved with now. And it's given me other opportunities elsewhere. So, I'm always grateful, first of all, for the British *Whose Line?* that sort of got me started. and then when Drew (Carey) brought it over to America, things really started to take off there.

IR: You appeared on both the British and American version of *Whose Line?* Which version was better for you as a performer?

CM: They were both actually pretty much the same. I mean, it was the same producers for both so the actual show was set up the same way. The only difference was in what the final product ended up being. In Britain, there was no censorship whatsoever and in America we actually had a censor in the booth. Which, especially in the first year, was a tough readjustment for everyone. They would actually call down in the middle of scenes and say, "No, you can't do that." So, it was sort of...we were trying to find a line that we could straddle. We certainly didn't want to get dirty, because if we did the scene would never be shown on television. But, also we weren't quite sure where that line was. Some of the things they took exception to were things that I...(laughs) I didn't agree with. (laughs)



WHAT A SEXY, SEXY MAN, Courtesy of Colin Mochrie

IR: Did you find that some of your best things from the taping were left on the cutting room floor?

CM: Oh, no no...I'm pretty good (laughs). I've learned how to get around it. I mean, there were some things where I thought, "My God, how could they?" You know, they would bleep the word "laid" or something (laughs). And it would always, to my mind, make the audience think of something ten times worse that what was actually said.

IR: I read on the AP Newswire that the version of *Whose Line?* that's been on ABC has been cancelled.

CM: Yeah.

IR: Given the success of the show, what do you attribute the cancellation to?

CM: (Takes a deep breath) Oh, there are so many things. I wonder if I can talk about them without getting into trouble. (laughs) I don't think that ABC handled the show very well. When we first debuted in the summer (of 1998), we had great ratings. The show generated a lot of word of mouth and we were also sort of riding the success of the British version because it had been shown on Comedy Central for so many years and it had built a loyal cult audience.

IR: Right.

CM: But the show was so cheap for them to produce. That's why they ended up putting us up against *Friends* and *Survivor*, two of the hottest shows of the last twenty years (laughs). But because our ratings, even though our ratings weren't very good, because the show was so cheap we still made money for the network. So, because of that I think they felt they didn't have to publicize us. So, we never got any publicity. And then they started switching our time slot around. And then there was a political thing where the people who really championed the show sort of left and then new people came in and wanted to put their stamp on it. It just became sort of a mess. I don't think ABC actually ever realized how popular the show was. In fact, I know that they didn't. There was one year where...Warner Brothers (who produced the show) is owned by Disney. The California adventure park (Disneyland) attendance was down, so they decided that they would combine two events. They would have a sort of Grand Opening of the park and also a celebration of ABC Primetime. So all of the ABC stars went down and we were in the parade and part of the festivities was that we did a show, the *Whose Line?* guys, at one of the theaters there. There was a line up...people started lining up fours hours before the show started. And Michael Eisner, the head of the thing (Disney), came up to me and said, "Oh, I didn't know your show was so popular." (laughs) And I thought, "Well, you of all people *should* know. It's your network!" But they just really truly didn't take advantage of it. One of the great things about *Whose Line?* was, I think, that we had the widest demographic of any show ever. I mean, kids from six and up would watch it, grandparents would watch it. When we go to live shows, I'm always amazed how different our audience members are. They go from anywhere from five year olds to eighty year olds. And they all seem to enjoy it. So I'm hoping (laughs) someday maybe they'll put out the DVD and hopefully then they'll see how popular the show actually was.

IR: Is there any shot of it coming back on ABC or is it pretty much a done deal at this point?

CM: I think it's pretty much a done deal. We haven't shot in two and a half years now. And no one's actually ever told us that we're cancelled. We just kind of assumed because we're not doing it anymore (laughs). But, yeah, it just wasn't treated very well.

IR: I noticed last week on The WB that *Drew Carey's Green Screen Show* premiered, which is kind of like *Whose Line?* but it adds animation to the final editing. How do you feel about the new direction and does the added animation affect your overall performance on the show?

CM: It's...you know what? I haven't actually seen a show yet. (laughs) So, I can't comment on that part of it. When Drew first talked to us about it, it sounded pretty exciting and it was different and it was sort of a new step to take it on television. That being said, I found the tapings much harder to do than with *Whose Line?* because there was that added thing in the back of your mind where you would think to yourself, "I can't just sit here and talk, I have to do something for the animators. They can't get excited about two people just sitting in a kitchen." You know, it was having to do the game, having to be funny and then this added thing of trying to, in a way, be a director and getting a visual sense of what the scene was about. I found it difficult. Towards the end of our tapings it got a little easier but the first couple were kind of rough.

IR: What initially drew you to improv and how do you keep things fresh after so many years of doing it?

CM: I was first drawn to it being a lazy person. (laughs) I thought, "Oh, you know, you don't have to learn anything you just go up there and do it." And I loved the danger aspect of it. I

Continued on next page

Colin Mochrie... as Interviewed by a Nervous Young Man Continued...

By Ian Rice

Continued from previous page

mean, it's the closest I'll get to skydiving. (laughs) Where I can go out in front of an audience who paid good money and have absolutely nothing to show them except what they give us. So I find it exciting and it's always fresh because I've been very fortunate in that I've always been working in improv with great people. Even before the *Whose Line?* people, I was with Theatersports and Second City in Toronto. And what was nice about *Whose Line?* was working with Ryan (Stiles), of course, who I'd known for like twenty-six years. We grew up together. But one of the frustrating things about *Whose Line?* was I never got a chance to work with anyone else. Which is why it's great doing these live shows where Brad (Sherwood) and I are going out and working together. So that keeps it fresh because although I've known Brad for fifteen years, we haven't worked together that much. So it's nice to be working with someone who's coming from a different angle.

IR: Speaking of the show you're doing with Brad Sherwood, how does that experience differ from doing televised improvisational comedy?

CM: It's a lot looser and there's a different feeling. *Whose Line?* came very close to capturing what a live performance of improv is like, but there really is no substitute for the real thing. In our show, every scene starts with a suggestion from the audience and for about ninety percent of them we have audience members on stage with us. So it's a little more interactive actually than *Whose Line?* was. And because we don't have to worry about time, we can explore the scenes as much as we want and really milk it dry. (laughs) And we tend to do that! (laughs) So, I actually prefer doing the live shows.

IR: As a member of the audience, what can you expect from going to one of the "An Evening with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood" shows?

CM: I think you expect not to learn anything. (laughs) You don't walk away going, "Oh yes, I've learned something about the human condition." (laughs) It's just two hours of fun. It's mostly games that are probably familiar to *Whose Line?* fans and then we have some games that Brad and I have invented and sort of adapted for the stage.

IR: Performing live improv shows requires you to rely heavily on audience participation. How do you deal with an audience that's reluctant to participate?

CM: Luckily, we haven't come across that too often. When we're doing the live shows, basically our audience knows what the show is, so most of them are pretty excited and want to be involved right away. And the only thing that can actually throw you is whatever suggestions you get from the audience because they can be *very* strange. So, basically we've worked out a way of getting suggestions from the audience that sort of opens up their imagination and keeps it away from doing scenes about gynecologists and proctologists (laughs).

IR: Aside from your vast body of improvisational work, you've also appeared in several television and film roles. What was your favorite project that was outside of the realm of improv?

CM: Oh God...(laughs) Let me think...my wife (Debra McGrath) and I have just done a pilot up in Canada for the network up there and I have to say right now that's been my favorite just because I'm producing it, I wrote the scripts, my wife and I are in it, we cast all our friends and it ended up being really good. I'm very proud of it.

IR: That's *Getting Along Famously*, right?

CM: Yeah. So, we're pretty excited about that. Otherwise, I really enjoyed working on (Jim Carrey comedy vehicle) *Man On the Moon*, even though I ended up not actually being in it. But it was great to work with such a great director, Milos Forman. And I was actually quite proud of what I did, it was just unfortunate that nobody got to see it! (laughs)

> "I loved the danger aspect of it. I mean, it's the closest I'll get to skydiving."

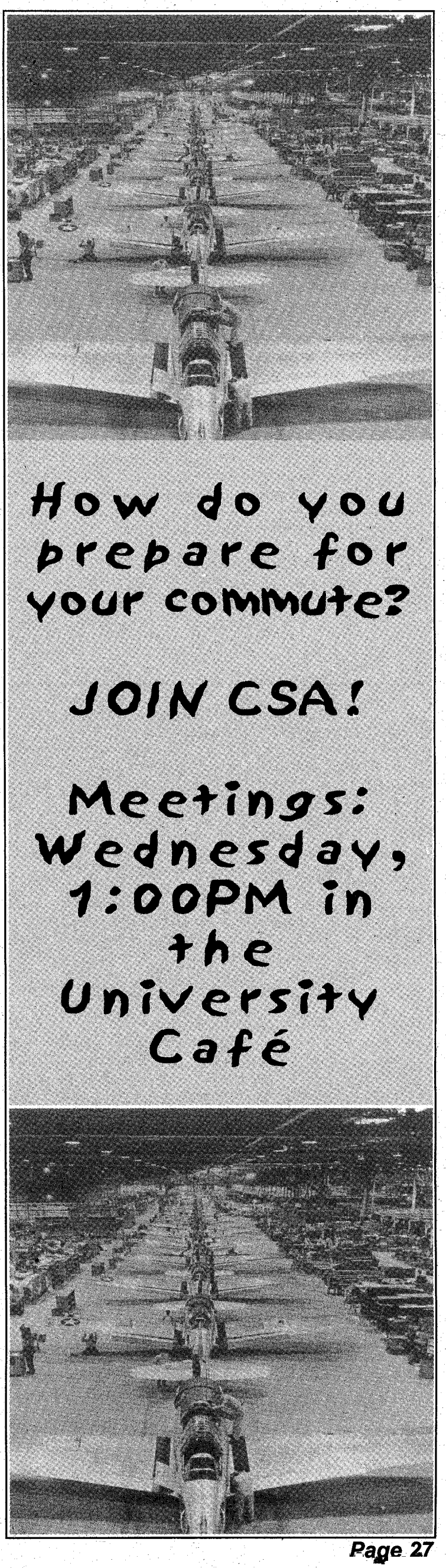
IR: Were your scenes deleted? Is that what happened?

CM: Yes, my scene was deleted. I was hoping it might be on the DVD, but no. No it wasn't! (laughs)

IR: One final question for you: what does the future hold for Colin Mochrie?

CM: I have no idea. I'm guessing more of the touring because we're really enjoying that. It really is a lot of fun. I'd like to branch out into movies, it's just finding producers and directors that want to hire me! (laughs) But I'll just keep plugging along and see what happens.

Drew Carey's Green Screen Show *airs on the WB-11, Thursdays at 8:30 PM*
Repeats of ABC's Whose Line Is It Anyway? *air weeknights at 10 and 10:30 PM on the ABCFamily Channel.*



Elliot Smith: Deceased, Still Genius

By Jamie Mignone

The thirty-first of October is the anniversary of his death. The nineteenth is the date of his final album's release. Its beautiful, I didn't expect it not to be, but Elliot left us before the final mixing was completed, and there was potential for disaster. Thanks (I cannot believe I'm writing this line) (sigh), thanks to MTV (sigh again), I'm listening to the stream of the album From A Basement On The Hill on their website, and there are no detectable betrayals of the dead genius's integrity. The legacy we've been left is true to the creator.

Halfway through the album I've encountered every style particular to Elliot's previous albums, the lo-fi nightmares and the high production dreams. There are melodic guitar and vocal arrangements to grate on your mind and some super-layered tracks on the album that will remind you that you do in fact have a soul, by way of removing it from you and replacing it before you can blink. Some poetry placed at the denoument of the opening track "Coast to Coast" some country guitar on "Fond Farewell" and some heavy static on "Don't Go Down" all reinforce the shame in Elliot's suicide.

So much wasted potential of a musical genius evokes the memory of Nick Drake. He also did the tortured singer-songwriter-with-acoustic-guitar thing, but it was like thirty-five years ago. Unfortunately, he also did the tortured singer-songwriter-with-acoustic-guitar-what-did-kill-himself thing. Died in his sleep of heart failure due to overdose on Tryptisol, an anti-depressant, and the intent is still debated. Elliot Smith stabbed himself in the chest with a twelve-inch kitchen knife, twice. The actual wielder of the knife is still speculated by some.

Ah, the second half of the album surpasses the first, its awash with spacey sounds and birds, blues riffs and boozer licks. "Shooting Star," starts somewhere between the asteroid belt and the moon, turns toward the delta, and lands in a cirrus cloud. The track containing the album's title, "Memory Lane," is the best on the finished product, a simple and playful, Skip James-esque guitar line, overlayed with a vocal line about the fear, and feeling weird, and wonder of why everyone else is so weird, and the eternal question: How did I get here?

"A Distorted Reality Is Now A Necessity To Be Free" is the greatest song title I've ever come across. The song is a bit of a complaint, a bit of regret, and a bit of accusation that altogether begs the question "if it's really that bad, then why don't you go kill yourself?" But the song's a little less blunt about it, and its also pretty. It belongs just where it was put, as the closing track of "From a Basement on the Hill."

FROM A BASEMENT ON THE HILL, Courtesy of Dreamworks Records

Flimflam Film

By Tara Lynne Groth

Being a Cinema (not *cinnamon,* listen to the diction) and Cultural Studies major at Stony Brook University, I have sat through various film classes preaching the formal, historical, aesthetic, and theoretical qualities of films. Now in my senior year, I have discovered a pattern, a redundancy really. There are films that are repetitively referenced as classic examples of "good" films.

I admit I can be sentimental and it is difficult for me to let go of ticket stubs, love letters, and fortune cookie proclamations, however I am a shade ashamed that I hoard syllabi from classes of the past. In this instance, my idiosyncrasy works in my favor.

According to three Stony Brook semesters' worth of syllabi, the following films appear two or more times: *Psycho, The Searchers, Citizen Kane, Vertigo, Rear Window,* and *Touch of Evil.* Much of class time is spent analyzing these "great" films. It's more like a Welles-Hitchcock conspiracy. In music you have Bach, Beethoven, Bob Dylan, or you have Britney, Christina, and Clay Aiken. Understandably, studying the best of the best lends the hope that those analyzing may one day produce works of said quality or greater; that the students sieve a more advanced ability to discern the qualities that make the good, *good,* and the bad, *bad.*

What remains unclear to me is why only this "good" is studied? Shouldn't the "bad" be taught to offer a deliberate contrast in understanding? Seeing bad films and being able to recognize the qualities that make them bad should be a small portion of the curriculum. If a university were to adopt a class that follows this method of instruction, what would the syllabus contain? I took it upon myself to compose such a syllabus.

The following is a faux syllabus, modeled after the syllabi of professors who instruct classes for the Cinema & Cultural Studies major, but tailored to suit the standards I have set upon hereto forth, and in no way was made with permission of any faculty member happily or unhappily employed by Stony Brook University:

Dr. Joe Blow
Library N5004
jblow@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
Office Hours:
M 10:00 – 10:01
W 12:30 – 12:33

CCS 333
Why Bad Films Are Bad

This course views films specifically selected based on poor audience reception. The features and values of these films that may have caused their unsuccessful release and the political and economic factors during the time of production and release will be considered and utilized to form in-depth analyses. This will be done according to the narrative, aesthetic, formal, and theoretical approaches to film studies, as well as the effects of star power and the reputations of actors/actresses, and certain points in popular culture's history. The films below will be examined in such a way as to answer the following questions:

What makes ...
A film unpleasant to watch?
A story not worth being told?
Montage superfluous?
Dialogue unrealistic?
Flashbacks unnecessary?

By knowing the answers to these questions, repeating the past's film blunders can be avoided and filmic practices improved. The films at question are *Gigli, Hollywood Homicide, Wicker Park, Head of State,* and *Kangaroo Jack.*

GRADES
10% Class Participation
10% Quizzes (5—one on each film)
20% Final Paper
20% Final Exam

All reading assignments will be assigned in class, and will require the purchase of Dr. Joe Blow's ten books. This year's edition is necessary; you cannot save money buying it used! It's not available on Amazon.com or Half.com, so you are forced to patronize the school bookstore—this is completely legal!

Insert that Disabilities clause here—and this syllabus is finito!

I think the perspective and the approach of such a class would broaden the understanding of film as a form of art and effective expression. There are other classes that I would have liked to see in my few years here. Maybe a class that follows a structured syllabus with the only variable relying on screenings of films released in theaters *now?* We've learned about *then* over and over, there may be some value in an education that compares the productions released next weekend and how it relates and reflects to the films a decade ago. Understanding trends in cinema allows undergraduates such as myself the ability to understand the system and gauge where the market may potentially lean. Other classes I would have enjoyed (but next year I'll just find something similar elsewhere, when my prerogative isn't "need to graduate in May") would be a class in comedy writing, or the study of comedic films—since they are the most challenging to create and have a successful return. Perhaps a class on a specific director's films, other than Hitchcock, Welles, Ford, and the like? What about Baz Luhrmann, Charlie Kaufman, Richard Linklater, and maybe one day—a famous female director/writer? It's funny that in all the classes required for the Cinema & Cultural Studies major, I don't believe I came across any that instruct on how to use a camera (to shoot digital video footage would be a nice to know, even at a novice level).

In my state of hopefulness I imagine studying films based on the factors mentioned in the above syllabus allows films' futures to be less predictable, more smart (J), and less conducive with an audience's groans and winces. An approximate hour and forty minutes of terrible screen time may be a waste of movie watching, but I think more productive if one can at least learn "don't do that—ever again."

Yes, But Who Helps the Jew?

By Adam Yorsaner

This year's Presidential election has been a fierce one. It's been a dead heat between the Democratic candidate, Senator John Kerry, and the Republican candidate, President George W. Bush. If you've lived in the state of New York for more than a month, you would've already discovered that the state is mostly in favor of the Democrats. Jews account for a good portion of New York State's population, and they're going along with popular opinion in this case. What most of New York State Jews haven't realized is that George W. Bush is in fact better for the Jewish people.

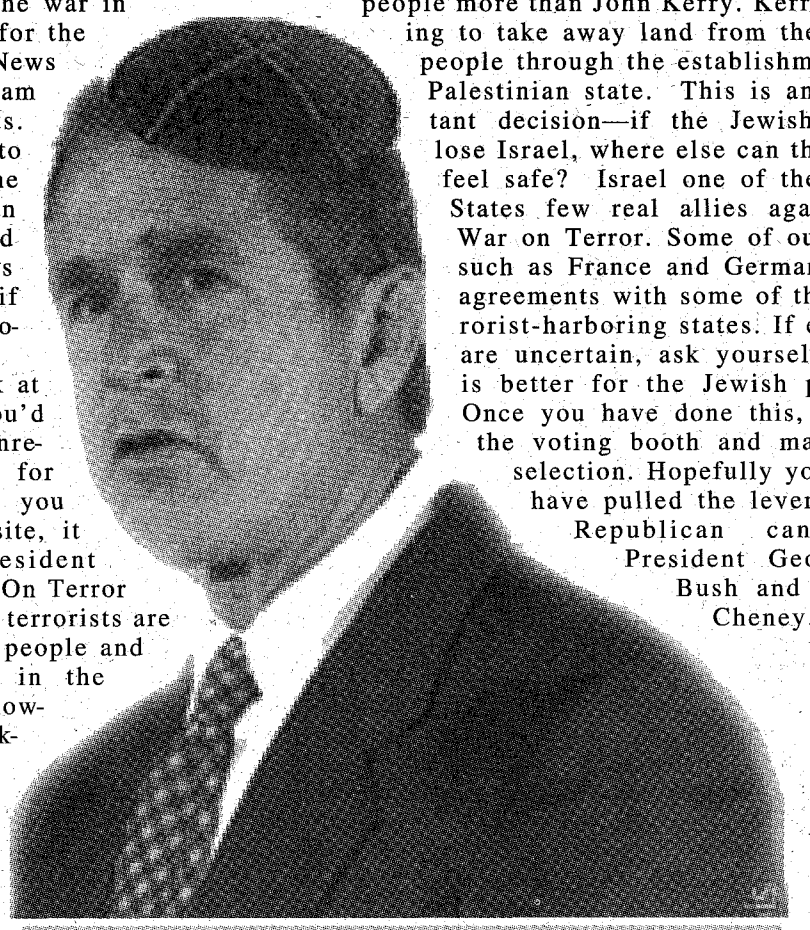
First case, Bush is very supportive of Israel. This should be very important to any Jewish person. It's the only land that we as a Jewish people belong and we should not persecuted for it. In a quote from Bush, "We will speak up for our principles and we will stand up for our friends in the world. And one of our most important friends in the world is the State of Israel...[Israel] is a small country that has lived under threat throughout its existence. At the first meeting of my National Security Council, I told them a top foreign policy priority is the safety and security of Israel. My administration will be steadfast in supporting Israel against terrorism and violence, and in seeking the peace for which all Israelis pray." (Speech to the American Jewish Committee, May 3 2001)

John Kerry's statement for his policy with Israel at Georgetown University is that there should be two States, one state Palestine and the other Israel. Why should we, as a Jewish people give land up? It was given to us by the newly formed United Nations in 1948.

Another supportive statement made by the President is that he is favors Ariel Sharon's actions against the imposing Hamas terrorist threat. Believe it or not, the war in Iraq was clearly justified for the Jewish people. Both Fox News and CNN agree that Saddam Hussein funded terrorists. He was giving $25,000 to each family who sent out one of their sons to commit an act of terrorism. He would also reward the families with an extra $15,000 if they killed the Jewish people.

If you were to look at Kerry's campaign site, you'd notice that he has many unrealistic peace agreements for the Middle East. Now if you were to look on Bush's site, it clearly states that "President Bush Has Fought The War On Terror On The Offensive." These terrorists are the enemies of the Jewish people and all the peaceful people in the world. Kerry's campaign, however, does not mention taking the war on the offensive, but supports negotiation. Wouldn't you rather have a President who takes terrorism away from the United States and brings it to where the terrorists are harbored and supported?

So if you are still at a standstill, consider that George W. Bush is helping the Jewish people more than John Kerry. Kerry is trying to take away land from the Jewish people through the establishment of a Palestinian state. This is an important decision—if the Jewish people lose Israel, where else can they truly feel safe? Israel one of the United States few real allies against the War on Terror. Some of our allies, such as France and Germany, have agreements with some of these terrorist-harboring states. If ever you are uncertain, ask yourself: "Who is better for the Jewish people?" Once you have done this, walk to the voting booth and make your selection. Hopefully you would have pulled the lever for the Republican candidates, President George W. Bush and Richard Cheney.



OY GEVALT... A GHETTO KIPA, Courtesy of Jowy Romano

MTV and the Latin VMA Disgrace

By Claudia Toloza

As a follow up to my article in *The Press'* first issue of this semester, which was about the lack of coverage of Spanish music in the mass media of this country, this situation seems to have happened again. This time, the culprit was neither La Mega (97.9 FM) nor Latino Mix (92.7 FM and 105.9 FM). This time, the culprit was none other than MTV. For those of you who didn't hear about the Latin VMAs (VMALA), which aired last Thursday night, I don't blame you because I only found out about them the day before. MTV didn't bother to put half the effort it did in promoting the VMALA as it did promoting this years regular VMAs, which is surprising because there are so many Latinos living in the United States who contribute to the music industry. In fact, the show was not even showed on regular MTV it was on MTV2, which limits the amount of people who were able to tune into it. The only reason I decided to tune in was to see some of my favorite artists perform because I hardly ever get to see their videos unless it's on the Internet. For those of you who didn't tune in not to worry because you didn't miss much since there was only one word to describe the show; HORRIBLE.

It seems that MTV has put its Latino audience in 3rd place because 2nd place would have been too good for us, apparently. The quality of the show compared to the quality of the regular MTV Video Music Awards was extremely low. The audio for the show was inconsistent. Many times one could barely hear or understand what the presenters and performers were saying. The show started off with an extremely disappointing opening act. Many well known Latin American artists such as Diego Torres, La Ley, and Julieta Venegas opened the show by doing Spanish renditions of Usher's "Yeah," Outkast's "Hey Ya," and Black Eyed Peas' "Hey Mama." The fact that these artist performed songs that are popular in English was very disappointing because it's almost as if they were saying that their songs weren't good enough to perform, so they had to borrow from American artists. I also found it extremely ironic because the entire show was meant to showcase Latin American music and talent but here were these artists signing translated versions of mainstream American songs.

WTF? OMFG! THE VMALA'S! Courtesy of MTV

As I mentioned before, the quality of the show was extremely low. The presenter Paulina Rubio, a Mexican singer who recently made an unsuccessful crossover to the American market, was extremely annoying. I don't even know if you can call presenting what she was doing because all she seemed to be doing was screaming. She also tried to get a joke in here and there but it was obvious that nobody in the audience got it, I wasn't even sure if she even got the jokes herself. As if seeing her throughout the show wasn't bad enough she also performed. Her performance wasn't much better than her hosting, it was actually worse because since she was singing live you could tell that she desperately needed the help of the digitalized voice that she used in her albums. The theater itself was extremely small compared to the ones that MTV used for its other productions like for the regular VMAs and the MTV Movie Awards.

I guess I expected too much out of MTV. I just figured that because the VMALA are a representation of the music from all the nations in Latin America and Central America and not just one nation like their regular VMAs that they would put more of an effort in putting on a decent show. The only reason I managed to sit through those two hours of my life that I will never get back was to see the performances of Juanes, Tiziano Ferro, Julieta Venegas (actually singing her own music), Alex Ubago, and Molotov. Their performances weren't great, but they did the best they could with the lack of good quality audio and technical support they were given.

Hopefully, if MTV decides to hold the VMALAs again next year, they will do much better job knowing that they will be representing the music of at least 15 or more nations. However, if they plan on throwing the same type of show that they did this year, it would probably better that they don't even bother in 2005.

Virgin Rebel Keeps it Real on Fox

By Adam Kearney

Richard Branson. Head of the Virgin group of companies: a record label, an airline, a mobile phone service, a Megastore, and a soft drink, to name a few. He's the guy who flies around in hot air balloons trying to break world records. He's the British entrepreneur with the beard and the shaggy hair that wants to make big bucks sending rich tourists into space. He might be one of those rare businessmen that aren't all business, one that out of sheer personality wants to create a corporation to allow consumers to actually have some fun, instead of just trying to convince them that they're having fun, with Happy Meal toy gimmicks. Now he wants to have some fun with reality TV and he's brought along his spirit of adventure.

Starting on November 9th on Fox, "Rebel Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best," will feature Branson and sixteen American tycoon protégés performing daring physical and mental challenges, such as whitewater rafting and cliff diving, as he narrows down his would-be successor out of the lot on the basis of how they reacted under pressure. Similar in some ways to the recent unscripted programs about billionaires and their hiring process, such as "The Apprentice," this one promises to be more exciting.

There is this oppositional relationship between Trump, Apprentice's star, and Branson. Trump is a tight-laced American real estate mogul that gets his kicks by firing people and Branson is a world adventurer from England who has branched from entertainment into transportation and communication and gets his kicks by jumping off of buildings with jet packs. They are both offering themselves to the TV screen, letting the public decide to which deserves more props.

This will no doubt feed the insatiable appetite in American people for celebrity worship. What better hero to idolize is there than one who has amassed a fortune based on their own talents? What better forum for that idolization than an unscripted reality TV show where the personalities of the billionaires truly shine, or stink. And what could the billionaires ask for, being the gigantic egos that they are, that would beat an opportunity to flex their will over up and coming business barons, selecting the strong from the weak, in the attempt to find someone in their own image.

In the process of diverting not only the public attention, but their own, on their quest for finding themselves in someone else, what great plans are being left untouched? Will there ever be private spaceflight if Branson is too busy at a photo-op wrestling a tiger in the tropical rainforest? Are our future leaders of commerce glued to the TV dreaming about the day when they can completely crush the dreams of some young wannabe simply by saying "You're fired".

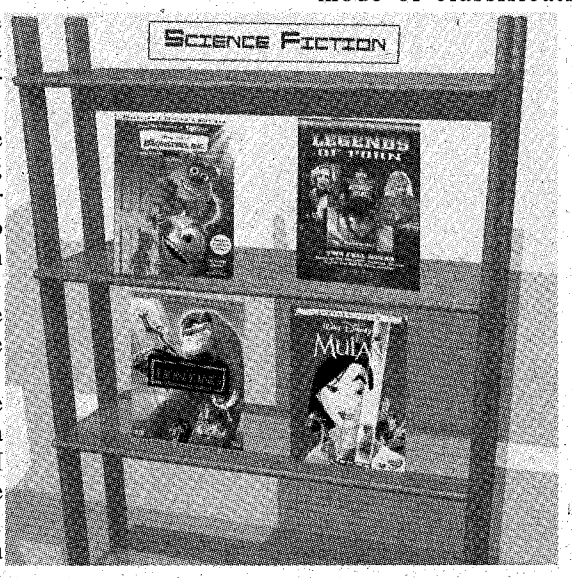
Branson is at least trying to offer a lesson to people. He is saying that character judgment is best accomplished by observing people under life threatening conditions. How they think, how they act, and how they react, however the pitfall of his hypothesis may be that he is looking for them to make the same decisions as he did. What worked for him may not work for everyone else. It should still be interesting to see what kind of obstacle course he has in store.

Blockbuster: The Genre Generator

By Tara Lynne Groth

Save for the cookie-cutter Hollywood Videos and a few faring ma 'n' pop video stores, Blockbuster dominates a large share of the video rental market. Granted that films that haven't even hit movie theaters can be downloaded online in less time than it takes to drive to the closest Blockbuster, they are still frequented daily.

Being the main source of video rental inventory here in suburbia, Blockbuster maintains a certain reputation. A family may mirror the ways of the Brady Bunch; going to Sears and adorn their "Sunday Best" for a trip to Blockbuster. The kids hang on to their parents' legs, overwhelmed with the Stonehenge of DVDs forming a maze around them. Parents appropriately start the beeline toward the Family Section, a quality "genre" of film if I ever heard (sarcasm!). The kids skedaddle.



OUT OF THIS WORLD MONSTROUS LION SEX, Courtesy of Jowy Romano

In the Family Section one can find what I'd categorize as comedy: the *Ace Ventura* films. There is an expectation that the movies surrounding these Jim Carrey classics would fall fittingly under the genre of Family. So as little Suzie and Jimmy race for a fun flick to zone out on, they run right into Charlie Kaufman's twisted original *Adaptation*, which is alphabetically shelved adjacent to the *Ace Ventura* movies.

It would be interesting to see the guidelines a film is required to fill in order to be a Family film. I don't know of any Charlie Kaufman film (*Being John Malkovich*, or this year's under acknowledged *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) that would adhere to the principles logically associated with the Family "genre." Charlie Kaufman should have has own friggin' genre.

What's more is that what would logically be classified as a Family film, *Jumanji*, is not. Blockbuster refers to *Jumanji* as an Action film. The Dewey Decimal system may be a more promising mode of classification. *Jumanji* was adapted from a children's book, taking into account the CGI "violence" of the animals I might understand being closer to horror, but as a whole I don't see how it's more Action than Family-oriented.

In all of the ways the nefarious real world intimidates, it's sad yet reassuring that a powerhouse giant such as Blockbuster can display the intelligence of their stock managers (or whoever holds the noble job of deciding where films are shelved) in every one of their fairy tale "genres."

I mourn for little Suzie and Jimmy or the next child who sits through the foibles, depression, and overstressed writer's block of Charlie Kaufman (played by Nicholas Cage) in *Adaptation*, instead of becoming a broken record of "Alrighty then!" because of some Blockbuster honcho who classifies films incorrectly.

Perhaps if Blockbuster ventures to remedy these shortcomings, they may also learn to accept that "New Releases" is not a genre of film, just the walls of shelves on the perimeter of the store, stocked with films that will be incorrectly categorized in a few weeks time as well.

The next eight pages are a reprint of the first ever issue of *The Stony Brook Press.*

First published on October 25, 1979, *The Press* was initially meant to be a reaction to the increasingly impotent editorial policy of the *Statesman.*

In 25 years, not much has changed on either side.

Presently, *The Press* continues to be a muckraking publication dedicated to informing and entertaining our readers.

Enjoy.

The Stony Brook PRESS

Thursday, October 25, 1979 Vol. I, No. 1

The University Tightens Control

By Eric Brand
and Melissa Spielman

There is a definite trend on the part of the University to increase controls and information flow, to assure that student life "runs properly," said a top administrator, who requested anonymity. He claimed that the University does not wish to direct every aspect of student life, but to have access to all activities on campus.

This trend is manifested in the institution of the RHD program, the new stress on facilities use forms, the stepped-up patrolling of dorms by Campus Security, the policy requiring licenses for all vending and pinball machines, and increased supervision of student businesses.

Carl Hanes, Vice President for Finance and Business, confirmed that the University is seeking greater awareness of student activities. "I think that's an obligation we have," he explained. "The risks of not doing it can certainly affect the students."

A major reason for these efforts is the Administration's responsibility for the campus itself. Assistant Business Manager John Williams, referring to the Kelly coffeehouses said, "The University is liable—nobody wants to see us have a 10 or $15 million suit."

In addition, SUNY Central wants to "limit the State's liability," said Hanes. "I get calls from Albany, and I get calls from legislators, saying, 'What the hell is going on over there?' "

A majority of student leaders oppose administrators' attempts to increase control. "The students, who are paying their salaries and are the reason for them being here, have no rights on this campus," said Polity President David Herzog.

Courtesy of Statesman Steve Ruder

Administrative Control was challenged at the October 16 "Quality of Student Life" rally. Above Robert Marcus, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, addresses the crowd.

Sam Taube, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, said, "The University is misperceived as trying to control student life." Added Hanes, "We've tried to actively incorporate students into the decision-making processes. It hasn't just been the University Administration running things with an iron-clad hand."

THE RHD FACTOR

In 1977, the Residence Hall Director Program was officially instituted. According to Stony Brook's 1978 Interim Report, the goals were to place in "each dormitory a professional staff member with comprehensive responsibility for the quality of life in that residence hall."

In March, 1979, the Kelly E Legislature barred RHD Gary Hodges from its meetings. A week later, the Gershwin Legislature voted to bar its RHD, Ellen Shannon, from attending meetings. In October, the Kelly E Legislature temporarily barred its new RHD, Joanne Verdino.

Something was wrong.

"It is truly unfortunate that the objections which were registered about the insertion of RHDs into the residential colleges were not heeded," read a resolution passed by the Kelly E Legislature after Hodges was barred. The vote was a reaction to a Residence Life decision allowing RHDs to overrule student selection committees on the hiring and firing of Resident and Managerial Assistants.

"We do not want RAs or MAs who fit the Administration's or the RHDs' idea of suitability," read the resolution, "no matter what the cost to the efficiency of the RHD program...The building residents are much more familiar with their needs than Residence Life."

Shannon was barred by Gershwin residents over dissatisfaction with her job performance, but Kelly E residents had no quarrels with Verdino. They voted to bar her in protest of the Administration's temporary closing of coffeehouses in Kelly Quad. "In view of the way the administration is treating the building," explained Kelly E RA Rich Bently, "and since the RHD is our only direct link with the Administration, we decided to bar her from leg meetings until the Administration makes an effort to communicate with us."

Commenting in Statesman last year on the action taken by the buildings, Vice President for Student Affairs Elizabeth Wadsworth said, "I think the (legislatures) have put their fingers on the wrong issue...It's a big waste of time in terms of having a positive effect on the quality of life in the residence halls. I assume that's what everybody wants."

But everybody has a different idea on acquiring high quality student life. The Kelly E resolution states, "Any program which pits its functionaries (in this case, your RHD) against the will of the college residents is doomed to resistance and eventual failure."

Continued on page 2

Racism Continues at Stony Brook

By Chris Fairhall

When the collective conscience of a society inbreeds, the ways it attains its means remain the same. One of the problems prevalent at Stony Brook which is caused by this, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Elizabeth Wadsworth, is, "The ways were invented by a racist culture."

"Stony Brook is part of a society which has been racist, sexist and elitist," she continued.

Courtesy of Blackworld/Winston Scully

Amiri Baraka speaking out at the demonstration to support the Africana Studies department.

Racism at Stony Brook appears to be institutional. "You keep on doing things the way you always have done them" is how institutional racism perpetuates itself, Wadsworth said. "It's so pervasive that individuals don't have to feel any racial discrimination to act in a particular way."

Former Chairman of Africana Studies Leslie Owens said that since 1970, "The department has had a varied kind of existence." He explained that the program has had a shaky history because its "educational base is not sound." This is due to the following reasons:

–"The program was removed from a provost last year," he said. Provosts are important in helping programs to obtain what they need from the Administration. Frank Meyers, who is in charge of social sciences, is acting in the capacity of Provost, Owens added.

–In order to teach his course, Owens said he told the Administration that he needed money to invite speakers. "They had agreed to invite people like Andy Young. The money was going to be pieced together, how I don't know." Owens said he has received only partial reimbursement for speakers he has had here.

–Owens is the only member of Africana Studies who has tenure. "In effect, it never had any senior faculty members. You can't have a stable program unless someone in it has tenure," he asserted.

–Not only does Stony Brook have a massive library in the academic m mall, but the Health Sciences Center and many departments have their own libraries. Until early October, Africana Studies had about 2,000 books "in cartons on the floor," Owens said. The problem was

Continued on page 6

On the Inside

Anti-Rape conference to be held November 3. ____ page 3

Gay students from Stony Brook march in Washington. ____ page 3

"Bedroom Farce" is reviewed. ____ page 4

Students learn on floating classroom. ____ page 4

Gil Noble speaks to Civil Rights class. ____ page 7

University Increasing Control

Continued from page 1

The Facilities Use Forum

"This request form does not constitute a contract and is not binding upon the University."

These words appear on the University's Facilities Use Request Form, which is required for any event at Stony Brook. The form, which must be signed by the Office of the Executive President, the Director of Security and RHD of the sponsoring building, is necessary for hall parties as well as quad fests.

"The University reserves the right to grant or deny the use of facilities, or to rescind authorization once given."

These words appear on the University's Facilities Space Use Request Form. This form must be signed by the College Legislature, Quad Council, Quad Director, Facilities Planning, Department of Security and Department of Safety (sic), the University Business Manager, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Dormitory Authority in Albany. It is required for any ongoing event, such as a student-run business.

Carl Hanes said, "We must have the ability" to refuse or rescind authorization of facilities use at any time. The University can close businesses or prevent parties, he said, even if no guidelines are

Carl Hanes

being violated. For example, he explained, "The University has X number of facilities and, depending upon the priority," one business or event might have to be moved.

Although the Facilities Use Request was established in January of 1972 and the Facilities-Space Use Request Form was established in October of 1975, this is the first year the Administration is demanding they be turned in. This semester, six student-run businesses were temporarily closed by the University because their forms were not on file.

The Dormitory Authority, which is ultimately in charge of all residence halls in the SUNY system, requires facilities use forms for "something like changing the building," said Peter Schultz, Chief of Engineering Services. "As far as individual things like a party, that would be something the administration would handle."

The University requires these forms for parties, said Williams, because "It's a way for us to determine who's using space and for what it is being used." He also said it is a way to prevent conflict between "two people wanting to use the same spot."

But some students fear these benign intentions might lead to the strict limitations now imposed at the State College at Oswego. Oswego's Alcohol Registration Form dictates severe restriction on the amount of alcohol, the size and number of parties on campus, and when and where the parties must take place. The form also states, "Each keg must be registered at the desk as they are brought into the building and no kegs are to be brought in after 1 AM," and requires signatures from four students who are "responsible for any damage" that may occur during the parties. The largest party allowed can have no more than 125 people in attendance, and no more than 4½ kegs or their equivalent can be served.

Students who violate Oswego's alcohol policy are put on "social probation" for the semester. They are "barred from having or going to parties," explained Michael Flores, President of the college's Student Association, and are thrown off campus if caught at a party.

Flores said it is not unusual for a party request to be refused. "The most frequent thing dorm directors turn parties down for is not filing two days in advance," said Flores.

Yet at Stony Brook, you have to file a week in advance—a minor annoyance, considering the Administration can revoke it at a moment's notice.

Is There Security In A Dorm?

At any time of the day or night, you might find Security officers or detectives patrolling the dormitories—especially if you live in G or H Quads.

Carl Hanes said, "We've increased the level of patrols in dorms where there has been high vandalism." As head of Finance and Business, Hanes is the man to whom Security is directly answerable.

At the recent student rally, many students complained about the plain clothes officers in the dorms. Security Director robert Cornute explained, "If you have a surreptitious crime—and vandalism is a surreptitious crime—it's necessary that the officer be inconspicuous."

"They've been patrolling the halls," said David Herzog, "but they should be patrolling the campus to deter violence and theft."

Cornute added that he doesn't "think my officers want to be there any more than the students want them." But the resolution to this conflict is not imminent, as Robert Cornute affirms Security's "obligation to secure these dormitories."

A License To Vend

Last year, the Student Business Committee "agreed that the (pinball and vending) machines should be licensed," said John Williams. The decision to enforce licensing, he said, came from reports that the machines were "drawing profit out of the dormitories and not returning money to the college legislatures."

Faculty Student Association President Ann Velardi said, "I've never heard of that," adding that if it were true, "The legislature could call Security to take the machine out." This conflict is indicative of the problems surrounding the University's attempt to have all pinball and vending machines licensed.

The licensing of the machines on campus, said Williams, was "one of my assignments when I took over as chairman of the Student Business Committee—and we've been trying to do this for years." Williams said that the Committee, which includes administrators, and officials of SCOOP, FSA and Polity, "left it to myself and John Songster to work out" the licensing.

The remainder of the story is far less simple. Williams related that he and Songster, who was then FSA's Chief Operating Officer, "set a date as August 1, and I sent out the notification to every college legislature, RHD and Quad Director." FSA had been asked to do the licensing, but Velardi explained, "FSA doesn't want to get involved in licensing" the machines. "I don't think we should interfere with the college legislatures' jurisdiction." So "FSA handed it over to SCOOP—we figured that could be a good money-maker for them."

SCOOP, the Student Business Co-op, came up with its own set of licensing guidelines, and a deadline of October 15.

Press/Melissa Spielman

Williams, however, "did not know that until it was dropped on me several weeks ago."

Jon Kaufman, a resident of Kelly E, owns four pinball and foosball machines, two in the Kelly E coffeehouse and two in Kelly C. Under the impression that the licensing deadline was the SCOOP date, he attempted to license his machines over the summer. But, Kaufman said, neither FSA nor SCOOP was accepting applications at the time.

During the first week of October, the Kelly coffeehouses were closed by the University. Kaufman discovered that his machines were not only locked inside, but had also been impounded by Williams because they lacked licenses.

Kaufman, who said he was losing about $100 a week while the machines were locked up, went to Williams to try to recover them. He said Williams "wanted a memorandum" to that effect. But Kaufman "refused to go through Administration bullshit to get my own property back." He finally recovered his machines last week when the coffeehouse keys were given to the colleges.

"I was never hassled about licensing before," related Kaufman, but simply had "contracts with individual buildings." He reported that when he told Williams "there wasn't a single licensed student-run machine on campus, Williams said, 'I'll impound them all.' When I questioned him about what harm the machines were doing, he said, 'No harm, but that's not the point.' "

The point, according to Velardi, is, "It's just another way of getting control over students. Anything people can give you the permission to do, they can deny you the permission to do."

It's None Of Your Business

"The University is assuming responsibility and showing concern for areas that it had previously overlooked," said Sam Taube. Taube is the Student Affairs liason to student business, and sits on the Student Business Committee. "In the past, businesses and certain activities operated with few regulations, and now...the University is trying to establish sensible operating procedures."

This attitude became evident during the first week of October when students found that the coffeehouses in Kelly B, C, D, and E had been closed by the Office of Finance and Business. More specifically, the students found that the locks had been changed, and not even campus Security had the new keys.

John Williams said the coffeehouses had not filed facilities use forms and were suspected of selling beer without licenses. "We were really under pressure to close those," he stated, "because I knew they were illegal."

An investigation by Security detectives turned up beer and price lists in the coffeehouses, and witnesses to the sale of beer. However, the keys were returned to the buildings, and Hanes said, "We will permit the coffeehouses to open under new management."

The whole affair left the administration with more control over the Kelly coffeehouses, but it also left a lot of unhappy students. The October 16 student rally was born of the anger and frustration of many Kelly residents. One complaint was that the coffeehouse managers had made the effort to comply with the University.

Rich Bentley related the history of Trotski's Deli in Kelly E. He said it was founded in 1976, and "that year...there was no red tape. We had it approved by the Quad Director."

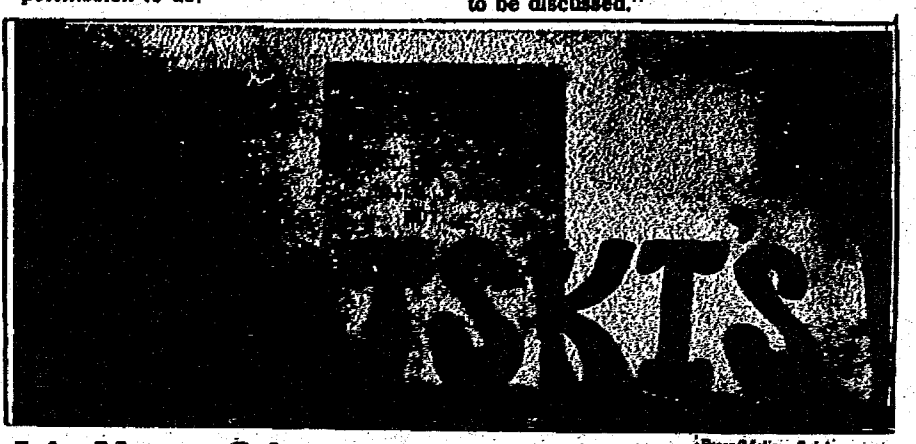
In 1977, he said, "We tried to get a beer and wine license." Finally, he was told last year by the FSA Chief Operating Officer that it would be granted. "John Songster said all the paperwork was done and the applications were sent in."

Apparently, Trotski's' application went the way of all liquor license forms Songster reportedly claimed to have mailed. "When we came back in August," said Bentley, "we found there was no record of application in the Finance and Business office."

According to Williams, the University had no intentions of approving the sale of liquor in Kelly. "Last year, Kelly E approached me about a beer and wine license, and I gave them facilities use requests," he said. "I also told them, 'We've got two pubs in G and H Quads, one in Tabler and one in Roth. One in Stage XII was also applying.' I said, 'We've got too many.'

"I'm not saying we were right...but some of us feel that bars in dormitories are not conducive to learning. There is noise, vandalism, garbage, and broken bottles. When we have that problem in one area, we don't want to see it in another.

"There was a moratorium" last year on opening another campus bar, said Williams. As for allowing Trotski's to sell alcohol this year, he said, "It would have to be discussed."



Press/Melissa Spielman

Carl Hanes said, "We have not closed the question" on allowing alcohol to be sold in Kelly, but asked, "Would it not be more appropriate to relocate one of the pubs?"

Hanes said that opening another bar would draw business from those already operating, which he believes they could not afford. "Pubs operated by FSA lost $30,000 last year," he said.

But Ann Velardi said a surfeit of bars has not been the issue. "Over the last two

Over Student Activities

years they have lost $30,000" she said, not because there are too many, but because "they were very poorly run—a lot of things went out the door. Every bar on this campus has the capacity to make a lot of money."

Velardi said tighter student control of the bars, such as having the managers sign out stock, is ending the losses. "Last year, the Benedict Saloon grossed $35,000," she reported. This year, during the first week alone, she said it grossed $5,000.

Velardi also disagreed with Hanes' statement that a bar in Kelly would take customers from bars across campus. "That's totally ridiculous," she said. "I think most people in Kelly don't bother to trek all the way over to Benedict. Also, people like to go to more than one bar in a night."

One of the University's major fears over alcohol on campus, though, is liability. Hanes stated, "What we can't permit are complaints of parents in the community that their children have been permitted to drink in the pubs. If that becomes a formal complaint we could lose the liquor licenses for all of them."

In addition, he said, "If something happens—obviously, by our permitting these businesses to operate, we have responsibility."

But students are challenging the University's policy on the sale of alcohol. "If they take away the bars," said David Herzog, "it would just be showing us 'You are insignificant. We can do whatever we want.' "

A chilling reflection of this is the University's Alcohol Policy: "The President of the University Center has the authority and responsibility to regulate the sale or dispensing of alcoholic beverages on University property, irrespective of any license issued by the State Liquor Authority or the Suffolk County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board."

In its efforts to assure that student services and activities are "run properly," the University may be doing more harm than good. Administrators have repeatedly insisted that these measures have been taken for the students' benefit. Yet, during this semester students have staged two rallies, both condemning the Administration's actions and calling for reparations.

And it is not just students who dissent over this trend, as it has been intimated thatthe Chief Operations Officer of the FSA was pressured out of his job over his lack of cooperation in supplying the University with information. "I have acted more independently than they would have hoped I would," said John Songster. "I think they feel I haven't kept them as informed as they should have been." On June 30, 1979, Songster resigned.

Students Recount Gay Rights March

By Greg Hullender

Gay Student Union President Michael Nappo said the 50 Stony Brook students who joined the throng at the October 14 March for Lesbian and Gay rights in Washington, D.C. were given "a sense of solidarity and accomplishment we didn't have before."

Arriving in Washington at 12:15 PM, members of the campus contingent said they were amazed at the size of the crowd, and where it came from. "I couldn't believe there were so many people from California," one student remarked.

"The Texans even had a float and a marching band, but then, maybe everything is bigger in Texas," another student commented. While newspapers estimated the day after the march that between 25,000 and 75,000 were in attendance, many students from the Stony Brook group estimated attendance closer to a quarter million.

Though the rally officially started at 12:01, most of the marchers, including the entire New York section, arrived late. "We were really worried because we were 15 minutes late, but there were so many people that we didn't actually start marching until almost 1," Nappo said. Members of GSU said they were relieved that everything was starting late, because it gave them plenty of time to unfurl their banner and assemble behind it.

GSUmembers at Stony Brook are a small minority, and many said they were thrilled at being part of the majority when gathered at Washington, D.C. "Coming down, about five bus loads of us stopped at the same rest stop. Within seconds, it was 98 percent gay. The other two percent freaked out. I guess they hadn't realized gay couples hold hands, hug and kiss just like straight couples," said another GSU member, who did not want to be quoted by name because of repercussions here.

Other members complained that too many people at the march removed their distinctive "March on Washington" buttons whenever they left the main group. "Several of us walked into a McDonald's near the Capitol, and a lot of people pulled their buttons out of their pockets after they saw us. Too many people are afraid to be the first gay people in a place," said another person who did not want to be identified.

Marchers proceeded up Pennsylvania Avenue, past the White House, and then down to the Washington Monument, where they assembled to hear speakers from many different gay organizations. "The D.C. police have estimated this crowd at over 250,000. How does it feel to have out-drawn the Pope?" one asked.

The only violence that marred the event occurred when a group bringing up the rear (marching under the banner of "No More Peace") was sprayed with tear gas by unknown assailants. Two Stony Brook students were with the group. "It illustrates our basic point," one said. "Straight people will continue to abuse us until we stand up and fight back."

"Oh, it was fun, and I'd do it again, but I don't have any illusions that we enlightened the public or anything like that," Anne Colonna said. "We walked through downtown Washington on a Sunday afternoon, stood in the mud, jumped up and down, and were virtually ignored by the press," she added.

Another student commented, "They can ignore us this time, but we've gotten an idea of the numbers we can muster. If we got 250,000 this year, we'll be back with a million next year."

Campus Committee Presents Conference To Combat Rape

By Jesse Londin

The FBI estimates that one-tenth of all so-called "sex crimes" are unreported. Using figures from the Campus Security Uniform Crime Report, it can be estimated that 40 rapes and 110 sex offense misdemeanors occurred on campus from April, 1977 to March, 1978.

In an attempt to enlighten and educate the University Community on this widely feared and narrowly understood problem, the Campus Committee on Assault and Rape Prevention is presenting "Against Our Will: Women, Men and the Power Paradox," a day-long program divided into a varied presentation of lectures and workshops. The conference, which takes its name from Susan Brownmiller's book Against Our Will, will convene November 3 in the Stony Brook Union from 9 AM to 5 PM. Students may attend free; others must pay a $2 registration fee by mail (to the Office of Student Affairs) or $3 at the door.

In her study of rape and its ramifications, Brownmiller wrote, "In recent years rapes and other crimes of violence have been reported with increasing frequency at formerly protected citadels like the college campus."

Last semester, five cases of rape were reported to Security. Employing FBI estimates, it can be extrapolated that 50 rapes were committed.

Security Detective Jeanette Hotmer, an early activist in rape education and prevention on campus, and an organizer of the "Against Our Will" conference, is concerned with correcting certain misconceptions about rape. "I hate the term sex crimes," she said. "It's like saying 'gun crime' or 'knife crime.' Also, rape isn't a crime of sex or passion. It is a vicious, aggressive assault aimed at physically and psychologically disabling the victim."

The conference will focus on rape as a psycho-political tool, treating it as a cause as well as a result of unequal distribution of power, freedom and opportunity. The theme of the program will be to illustrate that crimes of violence against women serve to perpetuate male dominance in our society.

The idea for such a conference was born of the Sub-Committee on Rape Education, a cooperative of staff from University Relations, Student Affairs, the Learning Center, and the Women's Center. This subcommittee is geared specifically toward making Stony Stony Brook's population aware of the roots of the rape problem and the implications of living in a violent society. Their aim is not to eliminate fear; the premise is simply that a problem must be understood before it can be tackled.

The Campus Committee on Assault and Rape Prevention has a short history. It was formed this February when former Acting President T.A. Pond dumped the problem of campus rape into the lap of Vice President for Student Affairs Elizabeth Wadsworth. Enthusiastically, she organized representatives from various concerned groups on campus, who then gathered to form Stony Brook's first affirmative action committee against rape.

In March, the committee broke off into sub-groups to continue working on projects such as Security's Dormitory Outreach Program; Rape Prevention week, sponsored by the Women's Center; a campaign for better lighting on campus; a student escort service, which, under the auspices of Polity Hotline, began October 15; student dormitory patrol; and other action.

The November 3 conference is designed to benefit men as well as women. Topics of concern will include pornography, sex-role stereotyping and battered women, and many other aspects of the multi-faceted "power paradox." Speaking will be faculty members including Judith Wishnia of the Women's Studies Department and JoAnn Rosen of University Counseling, as well as off-campus guests from Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS) and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

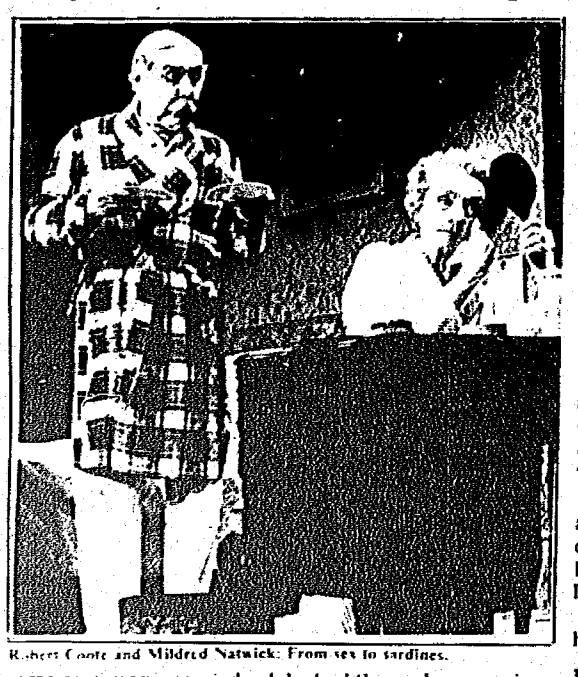
An anti-rape campaign is a step toward improving life at Stony Brook. Detective Hotmer said, "The University is supposed to consist of intelligent, enlightened people seeking further enlightenment. If we can't start educating against rape here, where the hell can we start?"

'Farce' Draws Crowds and Laughs

By Mike Kornfeld

Doctors love to talk about it. Students love to fantasize about it. "Rather than talking about it, let's just get on with it," she exclaims. Of course, she's getting at sex, but you won't see much of it in "Bedroom Farce," the latest Alan Ayckbourn comedy to grace the Broadway stage.

Ayckbourn is England's most popular comic playwright (rarely will a visitor to London's West End miss seeing his



Robert Coote and Mildred Natwick: From sex to sardines.

name on a marquee—indeed, he had three plays running concurrently during the summer of 1975), and is fast becoming popular on this side of the Atlantic. He first captivated audiences here in 1975 with "Absurd Person Singular," his comic saga of family disaster, drew critical acclaims on PBS TV a couple of seasons back. And "Bedroom Farce" is now drawing crowds at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

Ayckbourn's comedies dwell on British upper-middle class manners. In "Bedroom Farce," the focus is on the foibles of marriage and the insensitivity we all can exhibit to friends in times of need. Like "Absurd Person Singular," "Bedroom Farce" is a trilogy of playlets intertwined into one.

Three beds are on stage at all times. One is used in place of a dining room for crackers and sardines, another as a coat receptacle, and the third as a hospital for a hypochondriac. Only one bedroom is seen at a time, as lighting alternates with each scene change. This variation on the split-stage formula works very well and enhances our appreciation of the manner and mood of each individual character.

Ayckbourn's characterizations are what make the play. As he freely admits, "Bedroom Farce" is extremely English in its tremendous understatement. "With no malice intended, the characters come close to destroying each other out of sheer insensitivity."

British plays often lose something when brought to America, but not here. Not only can we relate to Ayckbourn's funny and endearing characters, but we can also grasp their uniquely British nature. The American cast puts British accents on and off like costumes. Like their acting, their accents are remarkably fine, John Lithgow's (Trevor) being the standout. That's not surprising, considering he's had a great deal of experience in imported British plays, having won a Tony for his performance in "The Changing Room" and having appeared in the riotously funny "My Fat Friend."

Theater goers might also recognize John Horton (Nick) and Lynn Milgrim (Jan) from Somon Gray's "Otherwise Engaged," which had a successful Broadway run a few seasons back. Robert Coote, who created the role of Colonel Pickering in "My Fair Lady" back in 1956, is superbly cast as Ernest; his booming, deep macho voice is quite impressive. Veteran TV drama star and Emmy award-winner Mildred Natwick plays his wife Delia, and proves that her talents are far from limited to dramatic acting. Judith Ively (Kate) and Obie Award-winner Alma Cuervo (Susannah) also star. All are under the fine co-direction of Sir Peter Hall (Director of Britain's National Theatre) and Ayckbourn.

As the curtain opens, the first couple we see is Ernest and Delia, an elderly pair who've given up on sex and derive pleasure from eating sardines on toast while listening to the rain gushing through the roof. "I feel as if I'm sleeping aboard a herring trawler," exclaims Ernest.

In another bed lies a chauvinist fellow named Nick, a hypochondriac who realizes how lucky he is to have a wife (Jan) with a head on her shoulders. A wimp in agony, he spends all day moaning.

Centerstage, Malcolm teases Kate by hiding her brushes in her bed. Such tomfoolery is their game. Malcolm thinks he's an "A-1 Stud," and when his wife suggests that sex with him is sometimes boring, he feels rejected and takes off like a whimpering child—his male ego crushed.

Kate's capacity for tolerating all this stupidity may be because she's so simple and unworldly. Yet, as placid as she is, she too has a breaking point, and Trevor completely unnerves her and everyone else into whose life he comes. Contrary to her easygoing nature, Kate winds up giving him a good hard punch when the clumsy oaf completely shatters a desk her hubby had just made for her.

Trevor sees himself as a destroyer of people, and his vision is fairly accurate. A bumbling twit, he has no reservations about popping in on people, unannounced, in the wee hours of the morning. He's completely obsessed with his own disastrous and troubled marriage to a woman (Suzannah) almost as devil-cursed as he. Indeed, she is the woman scorned, as her expressions and grimaces so well attest. Hypersensitive, she's constantly trying to reassure herself and build her ego. "They are two totally incompatible people," Ayckbourn says, "friends I hope we will all recognize if not wish upon ourselves. They're the sort who think that everything has happened only to them. They can't imagine that anyone else has problems."

But the British sense of humor and posture prevail in the others, who manage to cope despite the odds against them. Triumphant over all is that spirit of the British to overcome even the most bizarre of events.

"Bedroom Farce" is decidedly British and decidedly funny.

John Horton and Lynn Milgrim: A wimp in agony.

Students Take Education to the Sea

By Erik L. Keller

It's a spectacular morning. The orange sun is peeking through a streaked sky and the gulls cry in the day. Calm. Clear. Warm. The right time to be on the University's Marine Science research vessel, the R-V Onrust.

Docked at Captree Boat Basin on Great South Bay, the Onrust fits in with the other ships, flounder charter boats and their captains, who are waiting for their fares. Captain Kris Steube and Mate Steve Leffert prepare the Onrust for sea while their passengers, University students, wipe the post-dawn sleep from their eyes and load the ship.

At 7:10AM, the Onrust leaves its companions and chugs towards the ocean. Out in Great South Bay, the crew is happy with coffee to drink and fresh bagels and rolls to munch on.

"Here, have something," says Marine Science Professor Peter Woodhead. Opening the refrigerator door, Woodhead displays a miniature delicatessen. "After a long hard day of work, especially when we dive, we really feel like munching out," he says.

Today's journey, five miles from shore, will not involve diving. Bottom samples will be taken around the Marine Sciences Research Center's coal waste reef using a

Press/Erik L. Keller

The students' work is fun but hard on Marine Science's research vessel.

plunket. A plunket is a scooping device that is lowered from the boat with its scoops open. When it hits bottom the scoops close, grabbing a sample.

Marine Science technician Myrna Jacobson says the samples are being taken to determine this area's sediment life, known as in-fauna. Jacobson and Project Director Jeff Parker organize the Onrust cruises.

After the plunket is brought up, two sieves are used to filter out sand and other unwanted material, explains Jacobson. Specimens are collected and stained. They will be brought back to the MSRC for study.

The day is beginning to break. The morning mist is vanishing along with the Captree bridge as the boat begins to roll through the channel by Robert Moses Park. We have entered the ocean.

Students and their advisors get into boots and rubber pants, preparing to take the samples. Now that the boat is past the channel, it rolls so that water occasionally splashes through the side port holes onto the deck.

"Hah! This isn't bad at all. This is calm. But yesterday it was even calmer. It was like a sheet of glass," says Captain Steube, using his hand to emphasize its former flatness. He has been with the Onrust since its beginning.

The 55 foot R-V Onrust was built specifically for research and educational use. Captain Stuebe says the Center sent him up and down the east coast looking for a suitable research ship. He found potential in a Rhode Island lobster boat.

Completed in 1974 at a cost of $90,000, the total cost of the boat after it was outfitted came to $250,000, said Captain Stuebe.

The name Onrust, which is Dutch for restless, was taken from a distinguished 1614 Dutch explorer ship. The Onrust is essential for studying Marine Science, says Captain Stuebe. "I'm convinced there is more to learn there (on the Onrust) than in a classroom," says Woodhead.

One large difference between this classroom and more conventional ones is its movement. Woodhead says, "Some students are more seaworthy than others...but they wouldn't want to be oceanographers unless they wanted to go to sea."

The seaworthy part becomes obvious as a few lean over the side of the boat. The captain and his mate offer cigars to the ones who don't yet have their sea legs. All decline.

Even with sea sickness, you have to work. As two students bring up sediment from the ocean floor, it is dropped in a strainer that is being twisted by Woodhead and hosed with water by Jacobson. "Shake it baby. Shake it! Whoooooo! Look at him go!" shouts one of the plunket operators.

Muck, sand and water are flying everywhere and everyone is having a good time. Even the sea sick ones. However, the Captain sounds upset. "Boy, oh boy, oh boy. You're getting my ship all dirty," he admonishes the crew.

All agree that the most important thing on a cruise is a sense of team work and friendliness. Captain Stuebe says, "I get a positive response (to the cruises). I never hear a complaint except for the weather and I can't control that." He adds that swells of six or more feet will cancel a trip.

The Onrust is out at sea 160 to 190 days a year, says the Captain. According to MSRC Director Jerry Schubel, the daily operating cost for the Onrust is $500 for a 12-hour day.

Most trips last only a day. However, extended voyages lasting a week are sometimes taken. Captain Stuebe doesn't want this one to last that long. "All I want to see are asses and elbows," he yells. The crew laughs and goes back sifting out sand, muck and an occasional crab.

Editorials

Throw off University Controls

Several years ago, each dormitory had a Program Coordinator. Like RHDs, Program Coordinators provided a direct link between students and the administration, and helped to keep the administration informed about the residence halls. But, unlike the RHDs, Program Coordinators did not live in the buildings, and could not supervise them 24 hours a day. So in 1975, Residence Life assigned a Residence Hall Director to each dormitory.

According to the Office of Finance and Business, facilities use forms have been required from businesses for years. But there was no one specifically in charge of student businesses, and the forms were not really demanded. Last year, Assistant Business Manager John Williams was placed in charge of student-run enterprises. Now businesses are closed by the University unless their facilities use forms are on file.

The forms don't ask for a very large amount of information, and so far have not been too difficult to get authorized. But each states clearly that the University may rescind its authorization at any time.

Until this year, pinball machines could be placed in residence halls and operated through a contract with the College Legislature. Now, the University is requiring that all machines be licensed through SCOOP. Machines which are not licensed will be impounded.

Security patrols in the dormitories were increased after a bomb was found on campus. Patrols were also stepped up in the residence halls with high vandalism rates. Though the officers and detectives are attempting to deter crime in the buildings, their presence is a serious threat to privacy. Unequivocably, the Security officers have always been and will always be a direct arm of the administration, and their current omnipresence portends a great curtailment of student mobility and freedom.

These issues are controlled by different University departments and directly affect different segments of the student body. Each is an example of how the University is tightening its control over students' activities.

The method is simple. First, the University establishes a policy which is not too restrictive. It waits for the students to get used to it. Then tightens up the policy.

This trend is also in progress at other SUNY schools. In the area of alcohol policy, Stony Brook is more restrictive than it was last year. The crackdown on Kelly coffeehouses which allegedly sold beer, and the administration's recent reminder that temporary liquor licenses are necessary for parties are two examples. But, with no limits on the type and amount of alcohol allowed on campus, the policy is still loose. Perhaps the next step might be to impose an alcohol limit along the lines of that at SUC at Cortland, where no more than ten cases of beer are allowed in a dormitory room. That is a restriction with which it's easy to comply, but it's still a restriction. And once there's a limit, the University can lower it at will, until it reaches the 4½ kegs-per-125 people maximum enforced at SUC at Oswego.

And the University has the legal right to do all of this. As stated in its alcohol policy, the University can stop the sale or dispensation of alcohol on campus at any time.

Only students can work against increasing administrative control. Unfortunately, most students refuse to join the few who are fighting. Some may not be opposed to the control. Some may not see that it is going on.

The next few years will be crucial to the future of student life at Stony Brook. If the students fail to make it clear, right now, that they will not let the University continue to act in loco parentis, they will lose what was won in the 60s.

Social Inbreeding Creates Racism

In its purest form, racism appears to be a disease which has been fostered in the American nation, and is passed down from one generation to the next. The foundations of this society were based upon racist principles, and because no active effort is needed to keep these inbred attitudes, it will be an uphill battle to rid society of them; if an attack is launched.

The more subtle forms of racism at Stony Brook include blacks who are leary of joining white-oriented clubs for fear of being kicked out and the sad state of affairs in the Africana Studies department. Perhaps a more blatant example is that out of 11,000 full time students, only about 500 listed themselves as blacks.

Some people have said that standardized testing procedures discriminate against blacks and other minorities. Many people were sickened over the cross that was burned at a local NACP leader's home. How do you explain a cross-burning to a young child, or even a scholar, without stating that the foundations upholding this society are weak or crumbling?

Perhaps the biggest problem in combating racism is its subtle nature. Military experts and street corner wisemen concur that an enemy which can not be seen is almost impossible to fight. Job discrimination can be fought because there are concrete facts that can be dealt with. It is not so easy, however, to know how to make minorities feel comfortable about joining a club at Stony Brook.

Vice President for Student Affairs Elizabeth Wadsworth said that when problems are discussed, they should be in concrete terms and include specifics. This seems to be one of the key elements in identifying racism. It is the logical first step in a progression to end the subtle disease. But, of course, it is not a one-step problem.

Another important step is that people open up their minds to change. It will take a strong, concerted effort to open up the white, male dominated society to others. Leslie Owens said that rallies were good for getting across views to other people; but much more has to be done.

Because society is no more of an entity than those who compose it, the way to attack racism starts not with large numbers of people at rallies, but within a single mind. One suggestion for helping individuals open up their minds is having self-awareness sessions of sorts.

Offering courses which will educate the public about minorities and help minorities learn about their heritage is also important. Blacks learn in history that their ancestors were brought here as slaves. How would the white majority act if they were taught that George Washington exploited minorities?

Racism is an indictment of a disturbed society; a society of which we are all a part.

The Press: A Step Forward

The Stony Brook Press is not a puppet of Polity, though the student government has funded this first edition. The Stony Brook Press is not a leftist newspaper, even though the Red Balloon in an off-handed sort of way helped it get started. The Stony Brook Press, however, is biased because it is geared to the students at the State University at Stony Brook.

Following an occupation of the Statesman offices by a coalition of members from different campus groups, and the subsequent publication of the newsletter Statesperson, the announcement was made that the campus would have a new paper—independent of Statesman and Statesperson. While Statesman seems to be an event-oriented paper, it was decided that The Stony Brook Press would gear its editorial content towards investigations, and high quality feature writing.

Members of the University Community have periodically mentioned that Stony Brook might benefit from another publication. Some people felt that there is a need for another news medium to fill the holes between Statesman, Fortnight, Black World, other campus publications and WUSB. A need was felt for a publication that would go beyond the surface of important issues and dig into their true measures.

Some people feel the campus needs another publication; others do not. We hope that we do not disappoint any group with high expectations, and we also hope that those who thought the University Community did not need another publication find something a appealing in The Stony Brook Press.

If you have an opinion about this first issue, we ask that you let the student government know what it is. We ask that you let the Campus Community know what it is through Statesman or The Press. We ask you to let us know your opinion.

The Stony Brook Press has received enough funding from Polity to cover the costs of its first issue. It will be published bi-weekly, every other Thursday. With the editorial strength and financial support that come with time, it is intended that The Stony Brook Press will be a weekly.

The Stony Brook Press

Executive Editor ..... Chris Fairhall

Editor ..... Eric Brand Editor ..... Melissa Spielman

Staff

News and Feature: Lindsey Biel, Andy Cohen, Fred Friedman, Greg Hullender, Erik L. Keller, Rachel Kerdman, Jesse Londin, Robin Schreier, Angela Tenga, Sharon Welch, Phil Zack

Arts: Mike Jankowitz, Mike Kornfeld

Photo: Dana Brussel, Terrence (Spunky) Cullen, Steve Daly, Steve DiPaola, Jay Fader, Vincent McNeece

Production: Kathy Barrett, Laurie Brussel, Holly Cherwinsky, Meg Dougherty

Business: Perry Kivolowitz

Stony Brook Can't Escape

Continued from page 1

that the program did not have adequate office space. "They know you can't do legitimate things if you don't have a library," he said.

After teaching several years at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Owens came to Stony Brook in 1978. He recalled meeting with administrators who told him that the University wanted a "national program." Owens recruited poet Amiri Baraka last year. "I recruited him because he's of international importance," said Owens of the man who used to be known as LeRoi Jones.

For Les Owens, Baraka is a shining success in the midst of broken promises. Owens resigned as head of Africana Studies earlier this month to protest the condition of the department. His resignation apparently resulted in Africana Studies receiving more office space and room for library in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building. "They will say it was not triggered by the resignation, but clearly it was," he explained. Though Owens has resigned, he said he will continue to run the program. "What's left of it."

At a rally held two weeks ago, about 300 students gathered to show support for the Africana Studies department. Owens said that the rally "left people knowing that something was going on," but that it changed very little. "Change or lack of change always produces rallies. You get all sorts of agreement that there should be change," said Owens, adding, "But it's always hard."

As Owens fights for a legitimate Africana Studies program, black students at Stony Brook have been engaged in a battle for academic and social survival, according to Patrick Hilton, Special Projects Coordinator for Black Students United.

When Hilton first came to Stony Brook, he found that the community surrounding campus is predominantly white. "Some kids looked at me like they have never seen blacks before," he said. Many students at Stony Brook have complained that the community does not offer them anything, and that their social lives are restricted to campus.

Though there are scores of Polity clubs, Hilton contends there is little offered for black students. "There is no other thing besides BSU and the SAINTS (the Scholastic Achievement for Improvement of Non-Traditional Students)," he said. There is also a reason why blacks do not try to get involved in other clubs. "Blacks aren't trying because they think they will be kicked out. And the groups don't try to bring them in," Hilton said.

Hilton said the BSU budget is hardly enough to cover the cost of activities for the group for a year. "To get Andrew Young up here, it's $4,000—all we have is $8,000," he said. In order to get a referendum on the ballot to increase allocation, Polity requires 2,500 signatures. Hilton said there are not even 2,500 blacks on campus.

According to figures from Long Range Planning, as of March, 1979, there were 438 black full time students registered at Stony Brook. While this was out of 11,000 students, there were 3,000 students who did not put down their race on the questionnaire. Over 6,000 people listed themselves as white.

Junior Donna Franklin, who is a member of the SAINTS, said that the academic plight of blacks at Stony Brook started for many in high school. "Most of the teachers are all white and didn't have the same motivation teaching black students. . . Guidance counselors did not encourage you to take the (college preparatory) courses," she said.

Franklin added that teachers at Stony Brook are not willing to spend extra time with black students. The one tutorial group that has been established is the SAINTS, which has study groups and social functions.

There are no other groups or programs that concentrate on tutoring blacks, said David Brown, chairperson of the SAINTS. "If they wanted to bring minority students from disadvantaged neighborhoods, they should set up the programs to keep us here. As many should graduate as come in," he asserted.

Brown said he was happy that the Administration provided Africana Studies with a library and more office space, but that it should do more. "I think that the Administration is just now starting to deal with the minorities on this campus. . .but it should have been started a long time ago," he said.

"There's less racism at Stony Brook than in the real world," said Sue Mankita. "But minority groups are disadvantaged from the word go. . .There is overt and covert prejudice in scholastics," she said. "Look at standardized testing."

While the SAINTS is a group geared to both academic and social activities for blacks, Brown said it can not bridge the gap between the two areas. "There is no cultural center at this University. Most Universities have a central gathering structure to meet," he said.

While the Stony Brook Union serves as a meeting center for many groups, Hilton pointed out that BSU has its major meetings in Old Biology because of space limitations.

"There is not enough put in here for the minority programs," said Hilton. He added that most events going on at Stony Brook are geared to whites and that, "Blacks don't feel this is their school."

"All the means of communication is white oriented," Hilton added. "I think Statesman is unfair in its coverage of the populous of this school, especially for minority folks," said Brown.

Former President of the Asian Students Association Wally Lum said, "Asians don't perceive themselves as a part of the social system here. . .but as elements which are only incorporated into it." He said this results in a lack of "active participation (on the part of Asians) in determining their own fate as a minority." And as of March, 1979, less than 500 students were registered here as Asians.

Owens said he thinks that the racism at Stony Brook is worse than at other schools. "In some ways, it's worse because there is no student life. . .There is no basic concern for students—you just feel it," he said.

"People on campus have not been exposed to issues that have dominated campus life in past years," said Lum. He added that the lack of political issues at Stony Brook, which in the past gave students something to rally around, has caused a situation where students' "self control is so high and self esteem is so low that they are in danger of being extinct."

Though the University offers programs in Africana Studies, Women's, Asian and Hispanic studies and interdisciplinary programs, the Vice President for Student Affairs does not think it offers enough. "Of course not, how could I?" Wadsworth asserted. "No one could argue that there are enough programs for a diversified community. I could not say that we are comfortably diversified," she said, adding, "In part, that mirrors the nearby community."

"The village of Stony Brook must have incredible power because you don't find the kinds of things around the school that you should," said Owens. The local area does offer very little for s students. At meetings of the Civic Association of the Setaukets, one will see very few blacks in attendance and will also note that some local residents denounce the University.

"As I watched through the 60s, one of the things that the community was constantly asking was, 'what was (the University) going to do in terms of changing the character of the community?'" Kenneth Anderson President of the Brookhaven Town branch of the NAACP, told a Fortnight (the campus feature magazine) reporter in a recent interview. Anderson answered his own quesiton, saying "The Three Villages' leaders would never tolerate multi-family housing north of Nesconset Highway (where the University is situated), because of what it would do to change the quality of life, lower property values, et cetera..."

In terms of politicians, Anderson said, "They're elected to office on the platform (of) fighting against anyting that would disturb or alter the quality of life.

"We're not going to do anything that would offer students or workers or especially minority people the opportunity to live here unless they've got the resources to come in here and buy a 50-60-70 thousand dollar house,' " he quotes them as stating.

Anderson on more than one occasion has told the story of how he got involved with Stony Brook:

"I got involved in the University when I met a black student, who in his second or third year decided he didn't like dormitory life. He went to the housing office and got a printout of rooms and apartments that were available. They were available for white students but not available for black students. If he had a list of 20, he had the door slammed in his face on 19, and got a flim flam on the other one," he said.

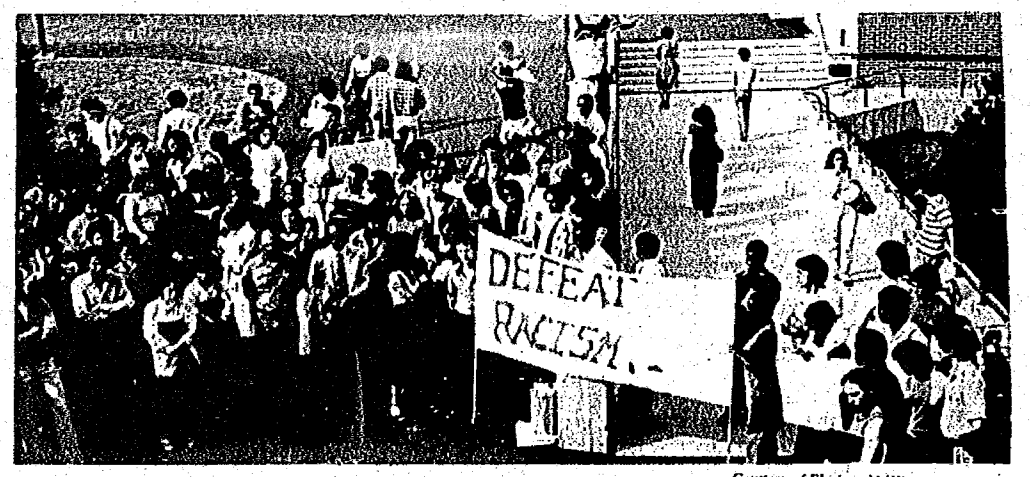
Anderson has lived in the area since the 1960s. "I think this is a very attractive community. I have a number of people I call friends in the community...But it doesn't detract from the criticisms that I have," he told a reporter from The Stony Brook Press.

Many students at Stony Brook may not be familiar with the immediate area, but even probably less know what is happening in New York, according to Owens. "Sadly, there are more things that happen in New York City, but you never gather it in Stony Brook," he said. On October 13, Owens had Gil Noble of the American Broadcasting Corporation address his civil rights class on issues from the city and the nation.

Noble is producer and host of the Sunday afternoon news show "Like It Is," and is also anchorman for the ABC late night weekend news. He discussed the civil rights movement of the 1960s and how it evolved to the Me Decade of the 1970s. "There was a plan set about by the powerful people in this country to undo" what was done during the 60s, he asserted.

The nation's power brokers, according to Noble, put people in militant, progressive minority organizations to cause internal dissention. Then with the use of mass media and drugs, Noble said the power brokers subdued the activists, and in turn were "putting out the fires that were burning so brightly."

Songs that are played today are doing a "psychological number" on young people, he said. "From singing songs like "Ain't Going To Let Nobody Turn Us Around"

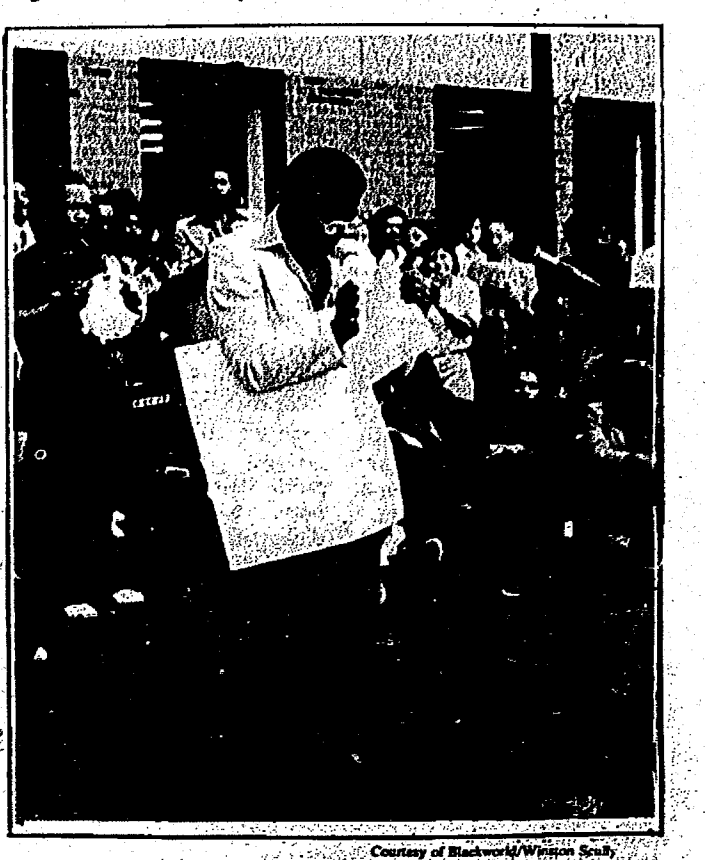


Courtesy of Blackworld/Winston Scully

About 200 students protested the conditoin of Africana Studies at a rally earlier this month.

"Some kids looked at me like they have never seen blacks before."

—Patrick Hilton



Courtesy of Blackworld/Winston Scully

Kenneth Anderson

From Institutional Racism

From 6

to "Push, Push in the Bush" is indicative of today," he told the class. "Television has a way of making some people look like what they're not," said Noble, adding, "Criminals look like heroes and vice versa ... Richard Nixon."

"All of a sudden," he continued, "at the same time of this civil rights movement, drugs became available. . .The most potent drugs at the lowest prices." Noble added that between the media and drugs, young people were being programmed.

He asked the students there if anyone had ever heard of the fight for freedom in Zimbabwe, Rhodesia. He asked them if anyone had ever heard that Ian Smith was an oppressor of civil rights. He asked if anyone had heard black soldiers in Rhodesia referred to as anything else but guerrillas. He apparently got his point across by class end, and he was given a standing ovation.

"I am convinced that racist attitudes are born out of a lack of awareness," Noble asserted. While most persons said they think racism is perpetuated today by peoples' unwillingness to change their attitudes, as Wadsworth said, its origins were only touched upon.

"People oppress other people," is one of the basic tenets or racism, according to Wadsworth. Noble said that the United States has had racist attitudes from its inception, citing the way whites treated the American Indians, and the African slave trade.

The problem of racism appears to be a social disease as old as humanity. "Society in its full sense is never an entity separate from those who compose it," Ruth Benedict said at the turn of the century. In terms of dealing with and changing the attitudes of at least one segment of that society, "The University ought to look seriously at doing intergroup conscience exercises within itself," said Wadsworth.

In order to help the University become diversified, it must draw in minorities, according to Wadsworth. "There was a workshop last spring for counselors of minorities in secondary schools. This was a focused effort and it's a small step in the effort," she explained.

"In Student Affairs, we have made an effort to get a diversified staff," said Wadsworth. She added that she agreed with the minority rights rally because, "It's important to put things in words, because it's the first step of putting them into action."

In terms of particular issues, Wadsworth said, "The more specific and concrete the requests are, the better. I think people need to call the issues in specific terms, resource terms," referring to costs. "In-depth talks are not what will change things, though," she added. "Results count, no amount of rhetoric is worth results."

Lum said, "The Asians must be aware of their historic past and this knowledge has to be transmitted to the population in general. Asians must be recognized as a contributing force in American society."

In order to teach Asians about their heritage, Lum said that they should do analytical work in history courses. "We need analysis of the historic past, teaching of methodology to discover this and encouraging ethnic studies programs. Racism comes from ignorance, and Asians have not analyzed their part," he said.

The key to change appears to be getting people to challenge old values. But Leslie Owens said this is tough. "The tendency is to have more and more students who don't challenge anything. It doesn't help the world any."

Noble: 'My Enemy Is Racism'

By Chris Fairhall

Gil Noble touches the lives of millions of people in the tri-state area every weekend. But on October 13, a Thursday, he mesmerized 300 students in Leslie Owen's Civil Rights class, as he delivered a poignant speech about one of the most turbulent periods in the nation's history.

From working uptown in Harlem at WLIB to emerging as a prominent black newscaster for the American Broadcasting Corporation, Noble told the students in Lecture Hall 102 tha tthe activists in the 1960s enabled him to get where he is today. "I came out of that civil rights struggle," he declared.

Noble is producer and host of ABC's Sunday afternoon news show, "Like It Is," and is also anchorman for the late night weekend news. He explained that it took a lot to put him at his position. "I wouldn't be at channel 7 if black people didn't come out of the streets and raise hell."

"They were militant, and they were committed," he continued. And while the "ranks began to swell," as the blacks were joined by other minority groups, Noble said the White House took action.

In the mid 1960s, the Kerner Commission reported to President Johnson that there was a need to have blacks in a number of industries. This made the gears of the Great Society turn, which opened the doors of downtown Manhattan to blacks. "We had been trying for years to get jobs downtown, but we couldn't even get our feet in the door," he explained.

Through his own story and observations, Noble told the story of how blacks and other minorities climbed up the social and economic ladders, the story of how the forerunners of students in that class struggled and died to improve the world for minorities, and the egregious end to those stories which has led to the Me Generation.

Noble told of his first assignment at ABC, covering the race riots in Newark. This was unusual, he said, because new reporters usually get the least important assignments, and that was the top story of the day. Noble concluded that he got the dangerous assignment because he was "unusually gifted as a journalist," which got a laugh andd some applause from the audience.

Though many people recall race riots as horrible and the late 1960s as a strife-filled period, Noble asserted that it "was a magnificent era." Students challenged the judicial, corporate and penal systems, he said. But Noble added that while students were attacking the establishment, the power brokers who run the country were mounting a counter-offensive.

"There was a plan set about by the powerful people in this country to undo that movement," he declared.

"The first thing was to get rid of the leaders ... They spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to put people in these organizations to start dissention...They were so involved in fighting each other that they had no time to fight a central enemy...These people used government agencies to control mass media...It is a documented fact that the FBI placed agents in the media...(They were) putting out the fires that were burning so brightly," Noble lamented.

Noble told the class that he is working on a documentary which proves that the nation's power brokers used everything they could, even if it

Courtesy of Blackworld/Winston Scully

Gil Noble

destroyed their own childrens' lives, to subdue the militant and progressive attitude that swept the nation. Though he was interrupted several times by students applauding, Noble held everyone's attention while discussing a plot that was just crazy enough to create the narcissistic attitudes prevalent today.

He started off by saying that the music industry played an important part. "They're all turned up max, the volume, the drivel...The lyrics now are doing a psychological number on young people," said Noble, adding that he is not a prude, but that "Push, Push in the Bush" is "not the kind of music (that) your generation should listen to."

"There was a record that came out against women," he continued. "By Mick Goddamn Jagger...It says that all black women want to do is f all night," said Noble with anger in his voice. He went on to say that he loves the women in his family "and I love black women, but what sort of men are you that you let someone talk about your women that way..?"

"You've been programmed to take it," he declared. "From singing songs like "Ain't Going To Let Nobody Turn Us Around" to "Push, Push in the Bush" is indicative of today...And, then of course, the drugs...All of a sudden at the same time as this civil rights movement, drugs became available...The most potent drugs at the lowest prices," Noble said. Everyone could afford drugs, he added, even people living in insect-infested tenaments.

"Now the only roach you know is the one that will make you crawl up the wall...While once you were active and militant, now you just get high...It gives the illusion that you're doing something, but I contend it doesn't," he asserted.

Noble also contends that youths who use drugs are extinguishing the fires of the civil rights movement. "When you're under the influence of these things, the only person you're a danger to is yourself...They spent a lot of money and a lot of time analyzing what we were doing, when they were sober...Many of our students were involved pressuring this country to change...now, today, students are different..."

He then went on to give a special message to the students in the class. "One of the worst things you can do, my dear brothers and sisters, is call yourself 'nigger'...not even in jest...because remember what is being done to your forerunners and your ancestors...And I'm saying to you that the world will judge you by how you judge yourself."

"I am mad," he declared. "I am mad at racists ... I want you black and white to listen to someone who is angry at what America has done to my people," said Noble, adding, "So if you love everybody, you better check yourself out...It's also good to let white people know you're angry...I suggest to you black students here that you organize and look out for your butts...Barbara Walters is sitting up there because white women organized...You have to sober up and become much more political."

"To all of you I say, question your moral and sexual values," pressed Noble, as students from the next class started a clamor in the hall. "The real mark of a man and a woman is not found between the legs, but between the ears...Purify your body and purify your mind...My enemy to my death is racism and I invite you to join me," he told the class, which arose to give him a standing ovation.

"They spent millions of dollars to put people in these organizations to start dissention...They were putting out the fires that were burning so brightly.

—Gil Noble

The Stony Brook PRESS/Sports

Easy Going Attitude is Key to Winning

By Chris Fairhall

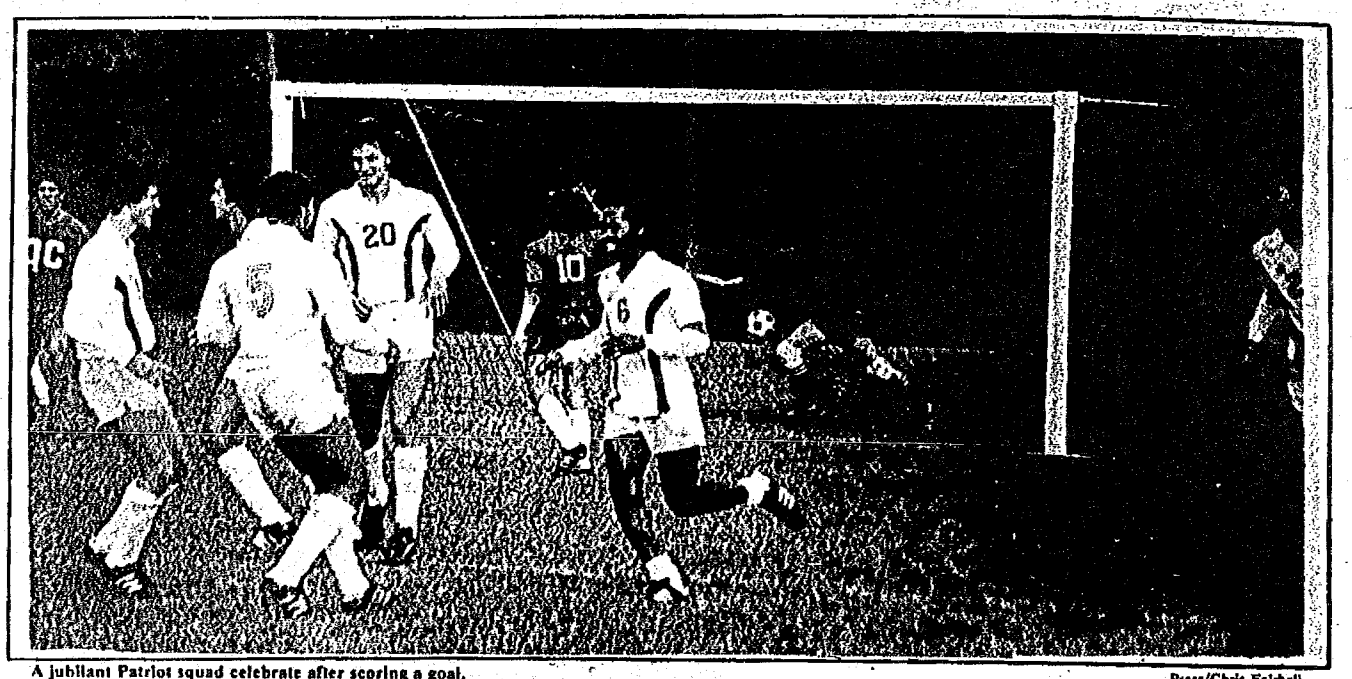
The scene is typical: Soccer coach Chris Tyson is pacing back and forth in front of the bench. He sporadically yells out instructions to players on the field. He's both pensive and calm. His attitude is relaxed. "Sometimes he's a little too easy going," said Co-captain Ron Beale, "But that's an attitude of the whole team."

As the Pats have not lost once in their last eight games, giving the team a 6-2-4 record with three games left this season, it appears that the laid back attitude is working. "Our win-loss record indicates we should be in the playoffs," said Beale, but, "The next three games are still important."

After playing Brooklyn at home Saturday and away at Pratt Tuesday, Beale said the team will play its toughest opponent at home November 6. "It's a division 1 powerhouse soccer school," he said of Adelphi. "I'm really looking forward to playing against them. We're out to avenge a 5-0 loss from last season."

Adelphi crushed the Patriots last year, in what Beale said was not even a good game. "A lot of Adelphi's foreign players are 25, 26. They play all year round. Last year we had 17 year old kids on the team playing against them."

The difference between this year's squad and last year's, he continued, is that the players have had additional playing time together. "The nucleus of the team has been playing together - several years," said Beale, adding that last year the Pats came up on the short side of a lot of 1-goal decisions and this year, we're coming up on top."



A jubilant Patriot squad celebrate after scoring a goal. Press/Chris Fairhall

Beale said that the Pats came off a slow start. "We really didn't come together until the New Tech game October 6." He said that a few players missed games because of injuries. Though the statistics show that the Pats have gotten their act together, there is still much room for improvement. "We could be doing a lot better," said Beale. "We need a stronger offense. Something more consistent...With a more consistent offense, the play is a lot more relaxing."

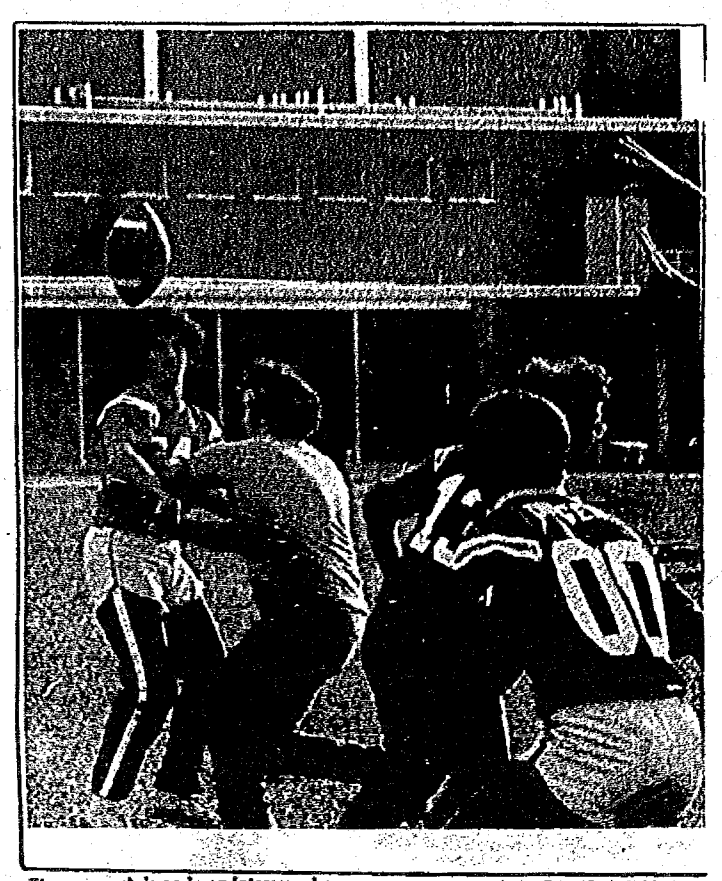
The man responsible for making the offense move is the coach. While the Pats are on the field, they have to trust him, listen to him, and let him be their eyes. "He's good in the sense that I have a lot of respect for him," Beale said. "He can act like one of us at times, yet everyone does what he says, and I follow up on his suggestions."

While the Pats appear to joke around a lot, the team's playing ability shows that they take the game seriously. "I might fool around a lot and not seem serious at times, but everything I take to heart," said Beale. "That's why when the coach says something, I really listen to him."

From a slow start to an impressive record with a lot of ties, the soccer team appears to be in good shape for playoffs. But in order to go all the way, the Pats will have to play consistently good offense and play up to potential. "We have the play potential to go as far as we can...to win the whole thing in our division...But the team hasn't played up to its potential," said Beale.

"The team has been playing good," he said, "But not great."

Seven Teams Left Undefeated



The pass rush is on in an intramural game. Press/Chris Fairhall

There are still teams that are undefeated in men's intramural football. In B League, both Kelly C and Cardozo A are undefeated. Tuna and Zoo from the independent league have had ties, but are still undefeated. Every team in C and E leagues has been defeated at least once.

A League
Ammann C-3

B League
Kelly C & Cardozo A

D League
Langmuir D-1

F League
Benedict E-2

Independent
Tuna and Zoo

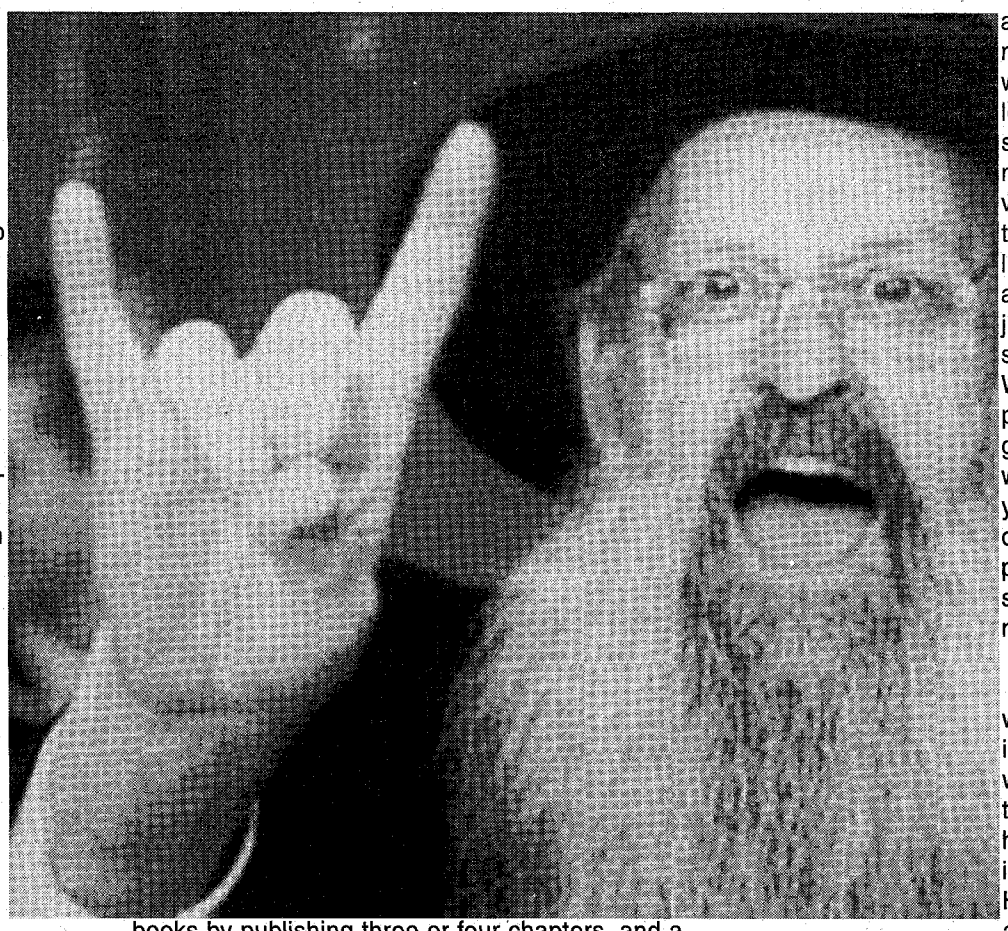
S✡H✡E✡L✡A✡N✡U

Volume 1 Issue 1 " The Jewish Voice of Stony Brook" October 27th, 2004

Welcome To Shelanu

By The Editorial Staff of Shelanu

Hello and Welcome dear Shelanu reader, we the Shelanu staff are grateful for your decision to read our paper. The paper you hold before you today is not new and has existed on this campus for many years. Unfortunately for the past year the paper was inactive largely due to lack of interest and leadership. After careful consideration the two current Editor-In-Chiefs decided that the Jewish community of this campus needed a newspaper that will equally and un-biasely represent their opinion. Following a lot of work and organization the product of this decision is before you.



The new Shelanu newspaper will consist of a total of 8 sections that will cover any and all aspects concerning a Jewish person in our times. These sections will include a campus life section that will report on any Jewish related events that have taken place on campus, as well as a message from one of SBU's many Rabbis, a first time writer section and many more. Shelanu will also Include American and Israeli news sections that will report on American and Israeli happenings covered by our local and Israeli reporters. In addition we will have a religious section that will contain a summary of the weekly Torah portion for the week of that particular publication as well as commentary and stories from the sages of past and present generations. Some of the more exciting sections will include a "Jewish Technology" section, a section promoting Jewish books by publishing three or four chapters, and a sports section that will cover Jewish sports happenings.

We are dedicated to representing an adequate voice of the Jewish community of Stony Brook. Therefore we encourage readers to submit letters to the paper at shelanu_SBU@hotmail.com if the material we publish contradicts the views of our readers. These letters will be reviewed and published, and our paper will try to adjust to your opinions. But don't just complain if you don't like something, come join our staff!! We really need writers, photographers, and people to help with graphic design, and anyone else who wishes to contribute. So if you feel like you can help us in our quest for the perfection of this paper please e-mail us and we will surely invite you to our next staff meeting.

Lastly the Shelanu staff would like to give thanks where it is due and thank all the people who helped to contribute. In particular we'd like to thank G-d for his tremendous blessings in helping us put this together, Dustin Herlich for his tremendous help and dedication, Norman Prusslin for helping and guiding us in the red tape, and last but not least the Jewish Community of Stony Brook for inspiring us to put out this publication.

What is Hillel?

By Noah Aronin Stony Brook Hillel Student President

There are many people who do not know what Hillel is, or what it is all about. Some people just have not heard about it. Some people have heard the name, or seen a flyer with the name on it, but do not know what it is. Some people think it is an organization that runs programs for Jews only. Some Jews, think it is an organization that runs only religious programs. There are other Jews, who think that they are too religious to go to a Hillel program.

Hillel is the Foundation for Jewish Life on Campus. It exists as a resource to all Jewish college students. It provides many different programs, all of which are aimed towards Jewish college students, but welcome people who are not Jewish as well. Hillel Foundation offers many religious programs, such as religious services and Shabbat meals. We offer many educational programs, such as Lunch and Learn programs. We have cultural programs, such as an Israel fair. We also provide social programs, such as a bowling night, or an open house.

Hillel the Foundation for Jewish Life on Campus, is the organization that is here to provide all Jewish students with the things that they want and need. Whether a Jewish student is Conservative, secular, Orthodox, unaffiliated, or Reform, Hillel accommodates them all. Hillel Foundation provides Stony Brook University with kosher food, Orthodox, and Conservative religious services, along with a Judaic Discussion group every Friday night. The Hillel Foundation also provides students with the Gloria and Mark Snyder Hillel Center, which has a big screen Television, a DVD player, a foosball table, and computers for students to use. The Gloria and Mark Snyder Hillel Center is a great place to get some school work done between classes, or just hang out.

This year Hillel has already had many great programs. We have had a few Shabbatonim, which are programs on the Sabbath which are now usually accompanied by free Friday night dinner. We have had a bowling night, karaoke night, an open house, a couple of barbeques, lunch and learns, and too many other programs for me to keep listing. Hillel is also continuing to plan more programs for later this month, later this semester, and for next semester. Some of the bigger events that we have coming up are a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure, an Israel fair, and a Hillel Semi Formal.

Both students and staff members work very hard so that Hillel can provide great events, programs, and facilities for all of the Jewish students at Stony Brook University. That is what Hillel is; the organization on campus which is here to give Jewish students the things that they want and need as Jews. That is what we are all about. As Stony Brook Hillel Student President, I care a great deal about making sure that we are successful in this mission. If anyone wants anything Jewish at Stony Brook University that Hillel does not currently provide, please let me know so I can try to help make it happen. My email is noahar@prodigy.net, or you can call us at 631-632-6565. I can not promise that any request will be met. I can promise that if there are Jewish students at Stony Brook University who want something Jewish I will do what I can to help make it happen.

Religious Absences and Campus Policy

By Evey Joseph

According to the Hillel Foundation For Jewish Campus Life website, there are an estimated 1800 Jewish students enrolled in Stony Brook University. A kosher dining hall rests in Roth Quad. Weekly orthodox services are attended, with conservative and alternative minyanim (prayer groups) starting this semester. Five rabbis are involved in campus life, and affiliated Jewish students are consistently active in various clubs and organizations on campus. The Jewish community is growing due to the proactive efforts of administration, staff and students to make Stony Brook a place where Jewish students of all Jewish sects can feel comfortable and welcomed. Yet, with all of these things pervading the campus, I have encountered problems that seemingly make religious observance and academic success mutually exclusive. I have experienced a failure on the university's part in making Stony Brook University an environment conducive to Jewish practice.

According to both New York State education law, and Stony Brook policies as they appear in the Student Undergraduate Bulletin and the Faculty & Professional Employee Handbook, certain accommodations must be made for absences caused by religious observance. However, the university has neglected to ensure the implementation of said policies, thus making difficult my ability to make up work necessary for my academic success.

I find it safe to say that the average Stony Brook student and faculty member is aware of the Jewish holidays which provide them the freedom of not attending or teaching class at the start of the fall semester. He/she may also know some tunes to "Dreidel, dreidel," or have grown up in a predominantly Jewish area of Queens or Brooklyn. However, there are many holidays that, like with any other religion, inhibit students' ability to attend class. On certain Jewish holidays (to name a few Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the first and last two days of Sukkot), observant Orthodox Jews refrain from engaging in specific activities such as writing, the use of electricity, and any other sort of work forbidden in the Torah (written and oral).

I understand the unreasonable nature of assuming that every professor know and memorize the times and dates of holidays belonging to every faith observed on campus. However, upon the submission of accredited documentation, Stony Brook faculty is required to allow make-up tests and alternative dates to submit homework.

Before Sukkot, I submitted documentation given to me by Rabbi Joseph Topek of Stony Brook's Interfaith Center, affirming the dates of the classes I would be missing and quoting the Stony Brook's Faculty & Professional Employee Handbook. "Section 224-a of the New York State Education Law states that 'Any student... who is unable, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, to attend classes... shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from performing on the particular day or days any examination or any study or work requirements. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials... to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements which he [she] may have missed because of such absence...'" This, excerpt, also found in the Stony Brook's Undergraduate Bulletin, was printed on Interfaith Center stationary, with Rabbi Joseph Topek's signature and Student Union extension included.

One would think that this policy, as it can be found in at least two campus documents, would be somewhat known, or that undergraduate department chairs would be somewhat aware of. In this article I do not list the departments with which I have experienced difficulty because after much time wasted, discussions with campus clergy, trips to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs office and much energy spent, I have dealt with these issues, and come to mutually agreed upon alternatives with my professors. After explaining the details and my distress, my professors cooperated very generously, and for that I thank them. However, all these activities, trips to various administrative offices and much worrying, have taken much time away that could and would have been spent making up the work that I missed.

As the class-missing holidays are over, I am slowly making up the readings and other assignments that I was unable to complete during the month-long sequence of holidays that began with Rosh Hashanah. I hope that in the present, and future, faculty will make known the university's policies and ensure their implementation. Many other faiths celebrate holidays unacknowledged by the American calendar. I am sure they experience difficulties similar to mine. I hope for their sakes, as much as my own, that things change within undergraduate departments. Like the newly renovated Shelanu, I hope that this article will shed a little light on the needs of Stony Brook's growing Jewish community, and the university's embracing of it.

Letter From the Rabbi

By Rabbi Yeshua Rabenstein

After the first corruption of the world, which starts with Adam and Eve eating from the tree of Knowledge, and Cain's fratracide, and ends ten generations later in a violent and immoral society, G-d destroys the world with a flood. The flood was not a one day event, and Noah, his family, and all of his passengers spent considerable time on the boat from the "old world" to the "new world". If G-d decided to destroy the world, why did He have to make the destruction such a long process? Let the world go up in a puff of smoke one night, and let the next morning be the first day of the "new order". Clearly, He wished for Noah and his family to have an "Ark experience." The time spent on the "Teivah"(the Ark of the Flood) narrative, was more than just a waiting period while G-d mopped up the failed world that was. The Teivah was the crucible of new life; it was the fetus floating in the embryonic waters of the flood, which provided an environment for the growth and development of those who were to be the founders of "a brave new world". The Teivah was a shelter against everything that was a holdover from the world, which was being destroyed and sterilized for a fresh start.

When the patriarchs and matriarchs come onto the scene they build homes, which are modeled after the Teivah, places which are sheltered from a world, which sometimes seems to have gone crazy once again. In turn, Jewish homes and institutions such as Yeshivot, Batei Midrash (study halls), and synagogues, are modeled after the Teivah (with varying degrees of success), to provide a place of spiritual nurturing. These are places designed to fortify the Jewish soul for facing the world while retaining an intense connection with G-d, a sense of purpose and the self-knowledge and learning necessary for impacting our surroundings. To successfully achieve this, we need to be able to return to Teivahs of various sorts for recharging and to further hone our capacities to live and grow as we should.

We are fortunate at Stony Brook to have a number of Teivah-like institutions and homes. This reality presents a two-fold challenge. We need to take advantage of our Teivahs, our places to daven (pray), our places and opportunities to learn Torah, our Jewish homes steeped in the Traditions and spirit of the forefathers, and we to preserve their nature as Teivahs, places of sanctity. We must use them for what they can offer us and make sure they don't become a continuation of the world that they fortify us to encounter.

Gaza Pullout Plan Hitting Roadblocks

By Melissa Friedman

Sharon's pullout plan includes the evacuation of seventeen settlements and troops from the Gaza strip and four small settlements in the West Bank. Sharon cites security reasons as his rationale, given the difficulty of supporting 8,000 Jewish settlers among the 1.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza strip. Although the majority of Israelis polled support the plan, that support may begin to waver due to the recent rocket attacks which killed two toddlers in the border town of Sderot, that spurred the recent Israeli attacks in the Gaza strip, aimed to thwart the ability of militants to fire rockets in nearby Israeli towns. The constant rocket fire has claimed the lives of three other Israelis, in addition to the most recent deaths in Sderot.

Sharon ordered the incursions to a halt after 17 days, calling it a success. During the incursions, the army demolished several dozen homes, all from which the army said rockets were fired. 110 Palestinians were killed, most of whom were militants and a few dozen were civilians. The army said that most of the civilian deaths were a result of militants taking refuge in civilian areas.

Many of the Palestinian residents are against firing more rockets into Israeli towns because of the Israeli response to these attacks, which have taken a heavy toll on their communities. Although, some Palestinians from areas affected by the incursion have sworn revenge on Israel, and say they are happy about these attacks and want them to continue.

The most recent terrorist attack took place at the Taba Hilton, an Egyptian resort frequented mainly by Israelis, where a vehicle rigged with explosives was driven into the hotel by a suicide bomber. The blast killed 33 people, which included mainly Israeli tourists and Egyptian hotel employees. The Israeli government suspects the attack was perpetrated by Al Qaeda and is related to the withdrawal plan, although many groups have claimed responsibility for the attack, and there is no conclusive evidence connecting it with the plan, although it was undoubtedly inspired by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Gaza Pullout Plan Hitting Roadblocks

By Melissa Friedman

there is no conclusive evidence connecting it with the plan, although it was undoubtedly inspired by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Since Sharon announced his pullout plan, terrorist attacks on Israel have increased to make it appear that terrorist attacks are effective in driving Israel out of the occupied territories. In response, Israel has targeted more top leaders of militant groups, and has increased the pitch of its incursions to demonstrate that the pullout plan is not caving to terrorists.

The withdrawal plan has spurred contention within Israel itself, dividing Sharon's right-wing Likud party, and some hard-liners have responded with threats of violence. Although a minority, a significant number of Israelis polled fear a civil war. The actual danger of a civil war is not so apparent, given that a very small minority of Israelis actually approves the use of violence to prevent the withdrawal.. Sharon has plans to discuss the pullout plans with settler leaders with whom relations have been significantly strained since the announcement of the plan. He refuses the calls for a national Referendum, which Sharon claims will slow down the evacuated process slated to begin in May 2005.

Israel has come under heavy criticism from the United Nations which called the incursions severe human rights violations and "wanton destruction." The resolution calling for immediate cessation of attacks in the Gaza strip has been vetoed by the United States. The United Nations several months ago passed a resolution calling for the dismantling of the fence between Israeli and Palestinian territories, which was vetoed by the U.S. Israel has defended itself by stating the U.N. ignored the gunrunners tunnels under the areas where roads, and water pipes were ripped out, and citing that the problem of suicide bombings has been largely ignored by the U.N. The U.N. has not passed any resolutions condemning the suicide bombings against civilians as crimes against humanity, and have not in the most recent conflicts, acknowledged suicide bombings as a factor beyond the fact that over 1,000 Israelis have been killed since the renewal of hostilities.

Editorial Board

Shimon Shakhnovich
Editor In Chief

Jennifer Eng
Editor In Chief

Evey Joseph
Copy-Editor

Lauren Mutz
Assistant Copy-Editor

Aryeh Glass
Production Manager

Noah Aronin
Campus Life Editor

Melissa Friedman
Israel News Editor

Adira Gorelik
American News Editor

Yerimiyahu Yitzhak Hoffman
Religious Section Editor

Eliyahu Weg
Technology Editor

Natasha Efrat
Photo Editor

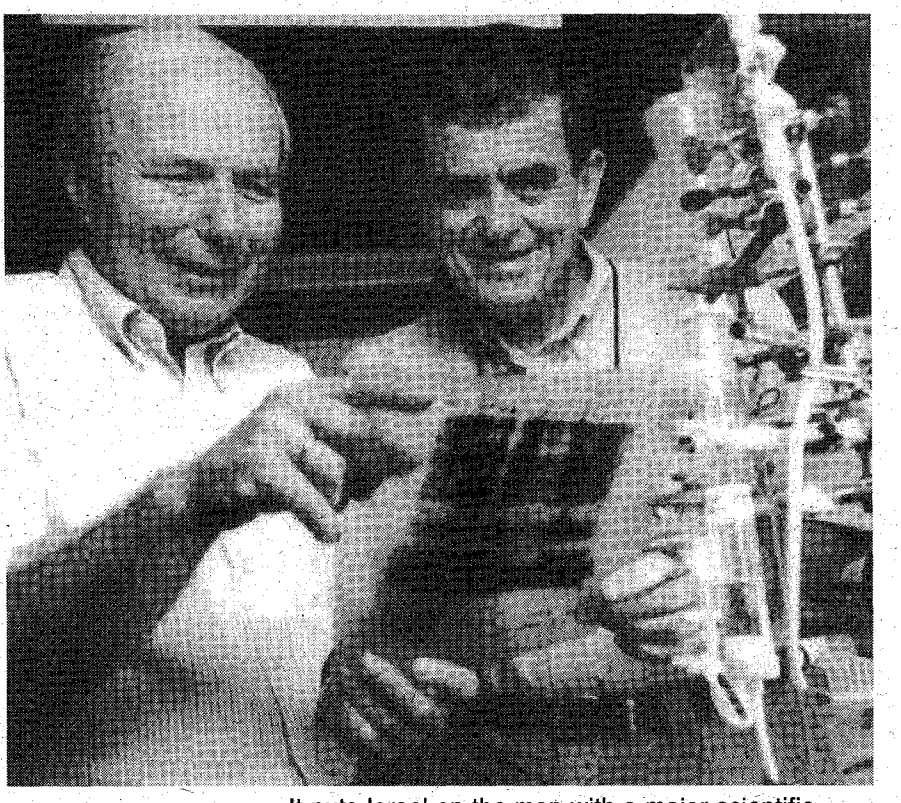
Rabbi Yeshua Rabenstein
Writer

Norm Prusslin
Advisor

Shelanu_SBU@hotmail.com

Israeli Scientists win Nobel Prize

By Eli Weg



At this years Nobel Prize ceremony, two Israeli scientists, Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover of the Technion in Haifa, became the first Israelis to be awarded a Nobel Prize in science. The scientists will share the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with Prof. Irwin Rose of the University of California. The prize was awarded based on research done during the 1970's and 80's on how cells are destroyed. The Nobel prize winners showed how the body uses a small molecule called ubiquitin to mark proteins for destruction. Understanding how the body degrades proteins will help scientists understand and find cures for many diseases such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, tuberculoses, Alzheimer's and any other degenerative disease. This research will give us the ability to control cellular replication (the replication of unused cells), which is what cancer is.

In the past all cancer treatments were treatments that were very hard to control and targeted nearby healthy cells as well as cancerous cells. Now with the research done by these scientists we have the ability to target specific cells, than have the body destroy the cancerous cells through natural means. One such drug, Velcade was recently approved for treatment in the United States for bone marrow cancer, which affects over 15,000 new Americans each year. At a news conference on Oct 6th Ciechanover said that "there are many more [cancer drugs] in the pipeline." Hershko was quick to add that, "It does not mean that a miracle drug to beat cancer is on the way, but I do believe there will be advances in the treatment of cancer based on our work. This I truly believe in."

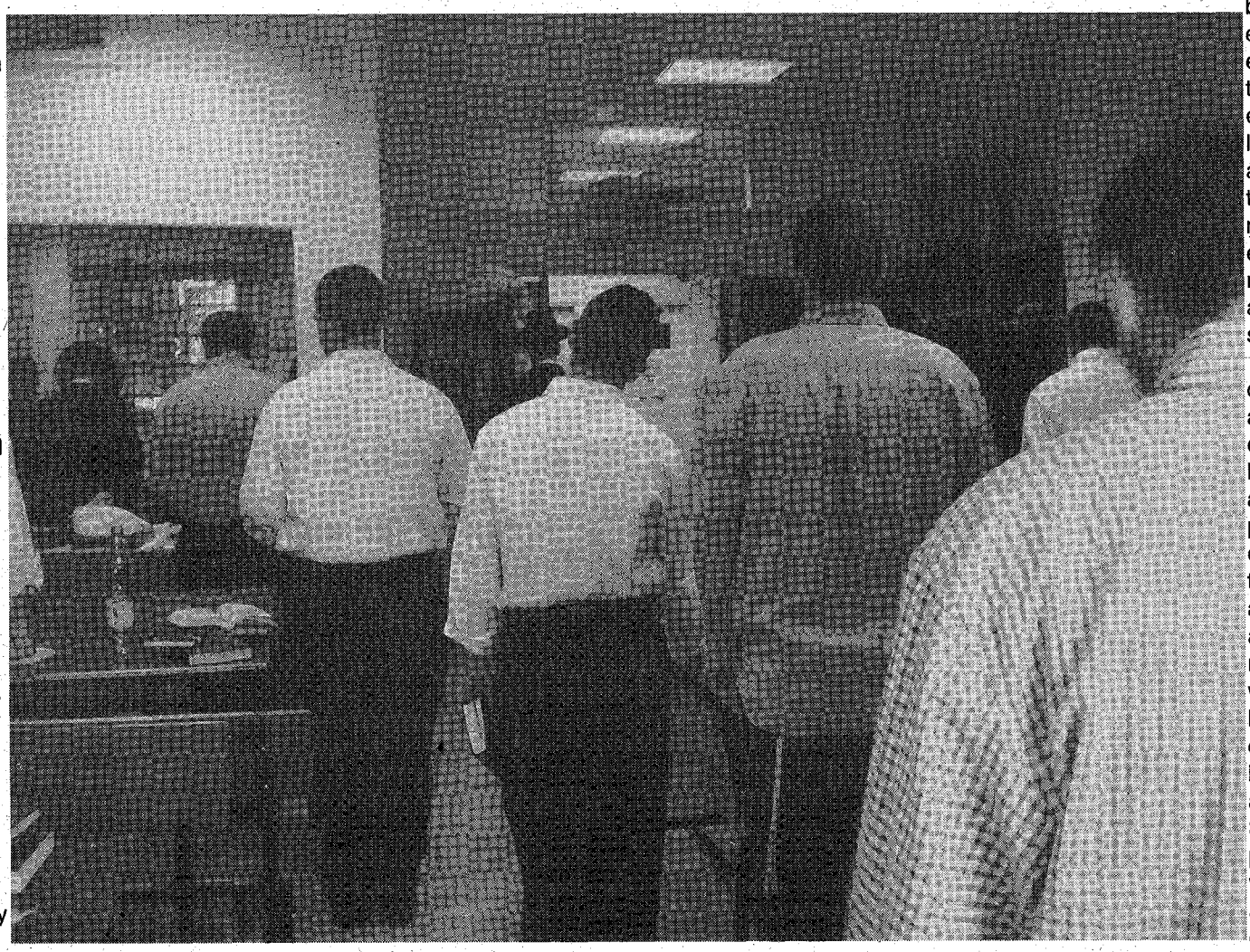
This should serve as a wakeup call to the academia throughout Europe and the world that has looked down on and boycotted Israeli research. It puts Israel on the map with a major scientific breakthrough that has the ability to change medicine as we know it. It should finally cause people to give some respect to the Israeli scientists for the hard work they've done.

While this is Israel's first Nobel Prize in science, this is not the first Nobel Prize it has won. In 1978, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. In 1994, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, shared the peace prize with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In 1966, Shmuel Yosef Agnon of Israel shared the prize in literature with Swedish writer Nelly Sachs.
Hershko and Ciechanover said that they take enormous pride in being the first of hopefully many Israeli scientists to win Nobel Prizes in science. Hershko added that the only Israeli natural resource is brains.

Medrish Shmuel

By Nathaniel Persky

As always the human soul is in search for a way to connect with Hashem. Most people these days travel to a myriad of places in the Holy Land to spend endless days studying the Torah. I would like to speak of one of these places in specific. It's a little known place right in the center of Jerusalem called Medrish Shmuel. Though the name has not spread around too much, the Yeshiva (Jewish school) is still pretty large, with over three hundred students. Instead of being in one large building or on a campus, the Yeshiva is spread through out a central neighborhood of Jerusalem; a mere seven to ten minute walk from Ben Yehuda, and only a twenty minute walk from the old city and the Kotel (Western Wall).



Medrish Shmuel, though largely American, also caters to students from England, Belgium and many other countries. This gives the Yeshiva a varied, international feel which is very down to earth and comfortable. In general, the school is for post high school graduates who study there for a period of time that ranges from a few months, up to three or more years. Many families send all their sons to the Yeshiva, improving the family atmosphere by seeing older and younger brothers learning and relaxing together. The Yeshiva has three Beit Medrasheem (study libraries) within a block of each other and thirty apartments spread out throughout the neighborhood where the students live. The guys there are very friendly to the point that by my first day I had met dozens of fellow students. The rabbis are very outgoing and continue to look for new ways to better teach students. With a large selection of classes and many rabbis teaching, the atmosphere becomes quite enjoyable. The majority of the time here, at the yeshiva, is spent learning with fellow students, with a few small classes to attend throughout the day.

The classes are small and student oriented, with multiple tracks for different levels of understanding and learning. They have also successfully integrated a Bal Teshuva (new to Judaism) track into the yeshiva. While most students are entering from yeshiva high schools, a small group regularly comes with little or no background and has special needs in the way of learning and moving up in the world of Torah. In this track there are older men there to provide a mature, well-rounded atmosphere for the younger students to focus in. The schedule is long starting at around seven fifteen in the morning and going until around ten forty five at night. Though this may seem like a long schedule, it is broken up into classes, one on one learning, breaks, and long meals to ease the day and help everyone unwind. The teachers are very knowledgeable and are always looking for the best way to accommodate students. If the long schedule is too much, you can take off an evening or afternoon and no one will say anything, as long as not too much is skipped.

The dorms consist of apartments scattered around the neighborhood or Rehavia and are actually quite nice. Most rooms are doubles, with two people, though some are larger rooms meant to fit three. Each apartment has around ten people so you are never alone. The apartments are also equipped with kitchens and other homey things, making it easier to live away from home. The school is situated two blocks from Gon Soccer, one of the larger parks in Jerusalem, so whether you are going for a leisurely stroll or a hard game of football (quite popular at the school) it's just a short skip away.

Medrish Shmuel is truly one of Jerusalem's hidden jewels and I highly recommend it to anyone and everyone. Even the food is pretty good, which is highly unusual for a yeshiva. So come one, come all and we shall have good times in the land of the Jews.

Taluha

By Shimon Shakhnovich

The last holiday of the Jewish month of Tishrey is perhaps one of the most joyous holidays of the Jewish calendar. This holiday, named Simchas Torah, marks the end of the yearly cycle of the public reading of the Torah, and begins the new cycle which is joyously celebrated by the Jewish people all over the world. In every part of the world during the first day of the holiday, and everywhere outside of Israel on the second day of the holiday, people sing and dance with the holy Torah scrolls in their synagogues, community centers, and on the streets of their communities. Happiness and rejoicing are the two main themes you will find anywhere you go in the Jewish world on those two days.

But what of those synagogues whose members are getting older or fewer in number and are naturally lacking in the holiday spirit? Should these people miss out on one of the happiest days of the Jewish year? These are the questions that the sixth Rebbe (rabbi) of Lubavitch (a Jewish Orthodox movement) must have been thinking of when he instated the Lubavitch custom of Taluha in the 1940's. Taluha is an organized walk through all of New York City to those synagogues that are known to be in need of some extra holiday spirit. This walk starts off in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, and spreads out through the five boroughs. Containing slightly more then 5,000 Chassidic participants, this walk is an amazing spectacle. A line of Chassidic Jews stretches as far as you can see ahead of you, and in the back of you everyone is in high spirits, singing, dancing, and rejoicing in the holiday. Due to its magnitude, this tremendous event has been described by some people as the reenactment of the Exodus.

Fortunately, Taluha doesn't really stop in Crown Heights. Most Lubavitch yeshiva students end up going all over the world to perpetuate the spreading of Judaism to Jews in the most intimate corners of the globe. With them comes the spirit of Taluha. Some of us may have seen the Chabad Rabbi of Stony Brook, Adam Stein, dancing with a Torah scroll and trying to get all who pass by to join in with his simcha (happiness) during Simchas Torah, which this year falls on October 8th. Believe it or not, all of this is done in the spirit of Taluha which emphasizes bringing the spirit of the holiday to all Jews.
Rabbi Yossi Turk, the Chief Rabbi of the city of Cordoba, Argentina, is also one of these students who decided to dedicate his life to the spreading of Judaism. When asked about his experience with Taluha, the Rabbi exclaims, " I would always participate in it when I was in New York City. We still do it with my kids. We don't have another shoul [synagogue] to walk to, so we walk a few blocks in the area looking for some Jew to participate him in the Yom Tov (good day, i.e. holiday) simcha."

Taluha, fortunately, is not limited to anyone. Everyone can participate in it. The only thing that a person really needs to do is be in Crown Heights on Simchas Torah. Finding a group to go with is never a problem. Hopefully, this kind of tremendous outreach that touches so many Jews in the most intimate recesses of their hearts will help secure a future for Orthodox Judaism and the Jewish people.

VOTERS!

Live on campus?

Have not gotten your voter confirmation card yet?

No worries!

You can still vote in the SAC come November 2nd!

Be sure to bring school photo ID.

STILL unsure?

Then call The Suffolk Board of Elections: 631-852-4500

Another? Da **Fug.**

Cheap Sex Headed for a Breakdown

By Erik Salomon

Cheap Sex is a four-piece street punk band from San Diego, California. The band formed in 2002 when singer Mike Virus moved from his hometown of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to San Diego, California. Mike was one of the founding members of *The Virus*, a well-known punk band from the East coast. He left the band on good terms, following his job as a software engineer. Soon after the move, the band was formed. After their first show which, interestingly enough, they played with *The Virus*, they were signed to Punk-core records. "Headed for a breakdown" is the band's second LP.

WHORE'S CAR OUT OF FUEL, Courtesy of CheapSexPunk

The band mixes fast paced punk drums and guitar melodies with politically charged and sometimes funny lyrics. One of Virus' favorite topics is corporate media censorship. In the song "Raped by the FCC," Virus screams, "Indecency is a word for this freedom invasion from the Christian right and the Bush administration. Church and state is his agenda. Drop a bomb in a heartbeat. But a boob offends ya???" Other topics addressed in Virus' lyrics are: the need for a voice for today's youth, rich fuckers who drive SUVs, child molesters, reality television, trend followers, and of course...emo kids. *Cheap Sex* is not the first band to write a song about how they dislike spoiled emo kids, but theirs is certainly one of the funnier ones.

The song begins with a lisp-ridden boy complaining about how his life is "such a fiasco." "The Dashboard show is this weekend and I can't even fit into my little sisters jeans anymore." As the drums slowly build, the kid complains about how "I make out with one guy at a show, and now I am gay? ...hello!! It's the new millennium." To break it down for you, the song portrays emo kids as trendy-ass metrosexual poseurs who dress like fags just to get laid. It's pretty damn funny if you can look past the bigotry. I, for one, have a sense of humor.

So yeah, if you like radio friendly music, driving SUVs, watching Survivor, the emo music scene, corporate censorship, or the current President of the United States, then this probably isn't your kind of record. If you like obnoxiously loud music with a point behind it, then you should definitely pick it up. It won't dethrone Pennywise's "Straight Ahead" from the top of my punk favorites list, but its pretty fucking cool.

The CD is available on www.CheapSexPunks.com

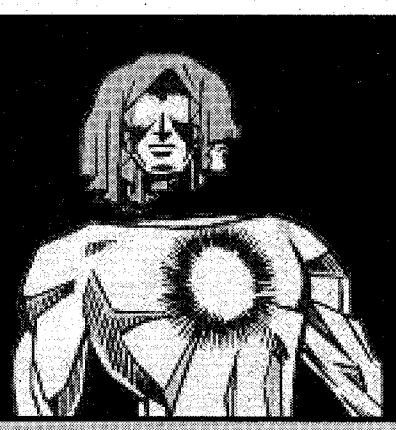
P.S. the Stony Brook *Statesman* sucks shit...

Rock Candy
Where Music, Art & Ideas Collide

It's Time To For Re-eduaction!

An Eclectic Boutique

1099 Route 25A – Stony Brook, NY (631) 689-1249
Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11am-8pm, Sun. 12-5pm (Monday's Closed)



The Living Tribunal Passes Judgement On:

The Flash: The Human Race

The Flash: The Human Race

Wally West is The Flash; the fastest man alive. In "The Human Race," intergalactic gamblers force Wally into a never-ending race. Pitted against Krakkl, his imaginary friend, the fate of Earth depends on Wally's victory.

PHYSICS

Wally West is the Flash. He's also the fastest man alive. He uses his unparalleled abilities to accomplish astounding feats such as thwarting evildoers, saving the world, and completely ignoring the principle of conservation of energy. Let's just dive right in.

The Flash doesn't just run fast, though. His speed permeates every aspect of his being which allows him to think, breathe, and even heal quicker than the average Wally. Even if we consider this a possibility, the Flash still couldn't hear "faster" than a normal human. Sound is created when a source produces vibrations and the energy from said vibrations are passed from air molecule to air molecule until it reaches our ears. In "The Human Race," though, he has a headset on throughout the race so that he can communicate with Earth via instantaneous transfer (let's not get entangled in any of this "instantaneous" business, though). Even though the headset is right next to his ear, he would outrun the vibrations, which only travel at about 350 m/s, before they reached his ear, which is moving at $c \approx 300{,}000{,}000$ m/s. Come to think of it, if the Flash talked into the headset at such speeds, the sonic boom that would result would probably destroy the entire planet.

What is most unfortunate for Wally West, though, is that we live in an environment where collisions are inelastic. This means that when energy is expended from some physical process, it has to go somewhere. There are tons of far reaching consequences of inelasticity but the number one case I want to consider is a rather important one for the Flash. It's a little ditty we all know and love called friction. Let's consider a situation where the Flash is running at, say, the speed of light and would like to stop when he gets to his living room. Stopping happens when the kinetic energy of Wally is transferred into the stopping surface as thermal energy. It's just like rubbing two pieces of cloth together. The faster you rub, the hotter your hands get. To dissipate the kinetic energy generated by moving at the speed of light, Wally West would produce temperatures high enough to ignite fusion reactions. Basically, if the Flash ever tried to stop running, he would set the sky on fire and melt everyone on Earth by getting the worst case of rug burn imaginable. I'll leave the reader with a disturbing thought: to sustain bodily functions that operate at such speeds, the Flash would have to eat non-stop. Digestion being what it is, though, he would also have to excrete waste. I guess what I'm really trying to say here is that the Flash would be stuck in a state of perpetual eating and shitting until his death. Go with yourselves.

PSYCHOLOGY

It begins as Wally West, the fastest man alive, runs so expeditiously in the farthest reaches of space that he catches up with light that has left Earth twenty years ago. In doing so, West bears witness to an image of himself as a child talking to his imaginary friend Krakkl, a being composed of radio waves that The Flash would often communicate with during his youth. Normally, imaginary friends are a common part of a child's development. While not every child will have one, those who do are not crazy or maladjusted; in fact, imaginary friends can serve some useful purposes. Up until the age of six, imaginary friends can be a great outlet for creativity, allowing the child to experiment with constructing a separate character with its own identity, morals, and preferences. Imaginary friends also provide a means through which children can express negative feelings or find a scapegoat for their own misbehavior. Not only this, but these constructs also provide comfort for children who believe they aren't receiving enough attention from their parents.

In the case of The Flash, however, interactions with an imaginary friend are anything but normal. First of all, Wally West is now into his twenties, a time where having an imaginary friend is usually referred to as schizophrenia. Secondly, besides the deistic intergalactic gamblers that have foisted this perpetual race on the Scarlet Speedster, no one has actually seen or heard from Krakkl outside of West himself; forcing the perspicacious reader to question whether or not Wally's pal from Radioland really exists. The notion of The Flash re-creating a figment of his imagination makes one question why a seemingly well-adjusted hero would do such a thing.

As the nephew of Barry Allen, the original Flash, Wally West has always lived in a shadow. When Barry died and Wally took up the mantle of The Flash, the first thoughts in his head were self-deprecating comparisons to his deceased uncle. Suddenly, all of the attention was shifted to him; but that selfsame attention was filtered through an expectation of failure. Barry Allen had died saving the world, and now Wally was thrust into his position as the fastest man alive; a position Wally didn't feel he was worthy of filling.

Now, it's Wally's turn to save the world and sacrifice his own life if the need should arise. Since Wally almost expected to fail due to the comparisons to Barry that were still ravaging his psyche, he became desperate to find a way to give himself a chance in the race. To mitigate these effects, Wally brought back Krakkyl in a desperate fit of regression. In other words, to insure against his own seemingly impending failure, Wally has chosen to see his opponent as his imaginary friend. This way, if he loses, Wally can blame it on Krakkyl just as a three-year-old would blame an imaginary friend for breaking a lamp. Through this storyline, the reader can see the negative effects that living in the shadow of his uncle have wrought upon The Flash.

PHILOSOPHY

What is the value of one life? How does one consider their existence in regard to the billions of other autonomous beings that cohabit the planet with them? A difficult question indeed, wrought with several moral and rational conundrums. But Wally West doesn't think so, as far as he's concerned the masses can kiss their collective asses. Hero, hardcore. Represent.

So, and I would agree, it seems the antithesis of hero to make such a cavalier decision, to so flippantly gamble against gods with an ante of the human race. Perhaps he knows something we do not. That's hardly a comfort to the objectified poker chips, wondering if they'll live to see another day in their world walked by myths.

John Stuart Mill, Godfather of Utilitarianism, would have quite a few things to say about this decision. It's all about the quantification of the good, you see. By weighing the separate goods (and don't consider ideas like virtue, honor or complex emotional content, they're all reduced to happiness in Mill's matrix of intelligibility...oh God, I can't believe I just wrote that, somebody "kill" me...). Regardless, Wally West would have to be working within this framework in order to be morally justified in his decision; this is where him being privy to some special knowledge would come in.

Wally West is definitely in a situation that prompts him to make a utilitarian decision, that being one that is a choice between two morally valued options. So, which is better, his immediate happiness, or the survival of the human race? To him there is no choice, he stoically decides to face the challenge ahead for the lives of all humanity. This is a decision that Mill would let loose a gooey one in his shorts for. Considering that Wally West, fastest man alive, could easily get himself, and all of his friends, to safety, before these beings destroyed his planet, shows what he was willing to sacrifice. A clear understanding of the good of the many outweighing the good of the few.

What Mills might disagree with, was the decision Wally makes later to gamble the lives of humanity on his ability to outrace instant teleportation. Aided by all of humanity (as well as his imaginary childhood friend from a radio-wave world...it's better not to think about it), he successfully defeats the extra-dimensional gamblers. This is where prior knowledge of being victorious would come into play. If Mr. West was certain of his ability to win, then there is no utilitarian conundrum. However, it is implied, as well as stressed by his imaginary friend, that when he undertook this decision to race he wasn't certain of the outcome. That son-of-a-bitch! Oh well, I guess he let that pesky intuition and emotional content get in the way of mathematically precise logic. However, I think Mill was a fan of reductio ad absurdum so he can go suck a nut. Speed on Speedster, unto infinitum.

The Living Tribunal is:
Joe Filippazzo, Mike Billings & Michael Prazak

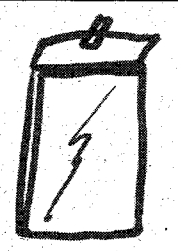
TOP TEN

Items

10

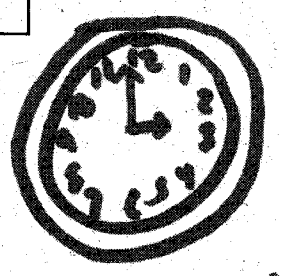
Miami Vice-style speedboats

9



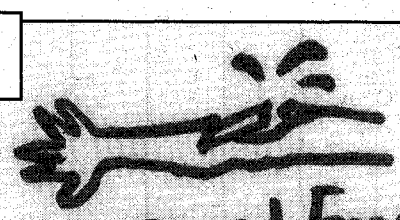
Pre-boarded comic book bags (current)

8



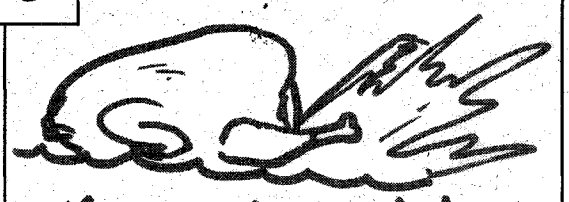
Wall Clocks

7



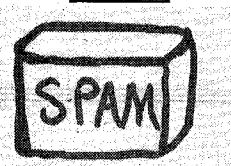
Compound Fractures

6



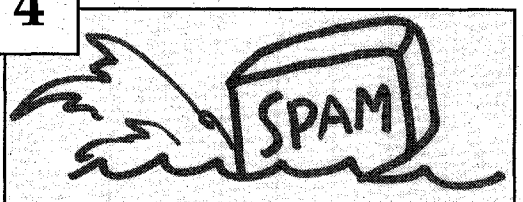
Miami-Vice-style Thanksgiving Turkey

5



Luncheon Meat

4



Miami Vice-style Luncheon Meat

3

Baked Clams

2

One Dimensional Universes

1

Miami Vice-style Anthropomorphic U.S. Constitution

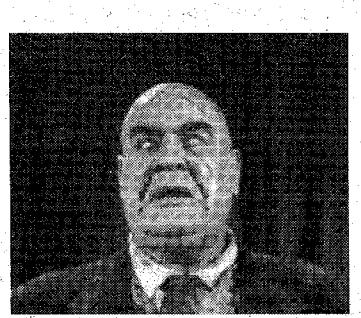
!

The Comics Section

OMAHA, NE ~Steph Hayes

Separated at Birth?

Sam



Swedish Wrestler Tor Johnson

Everyday Campus Tragedies

Where: Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium

What: A cruel daily reminder of the coerced oral-anal activity endemic to the athletic program

Kervin's
Tavern
Schmaa
Offended Lighten Up *
Yo Murphy Whats going on?
Nothin Much Geo Just kickin' back a Few
Cheers Man
Cheers Now do I have a Joke For You
So Whats Black and Blue and Doesnt like to Have Sex?
Seriously What kinda Joke is This?
The thirteen Year Old in My Trunk
...
Yeah I didnt laugh the first time Either...

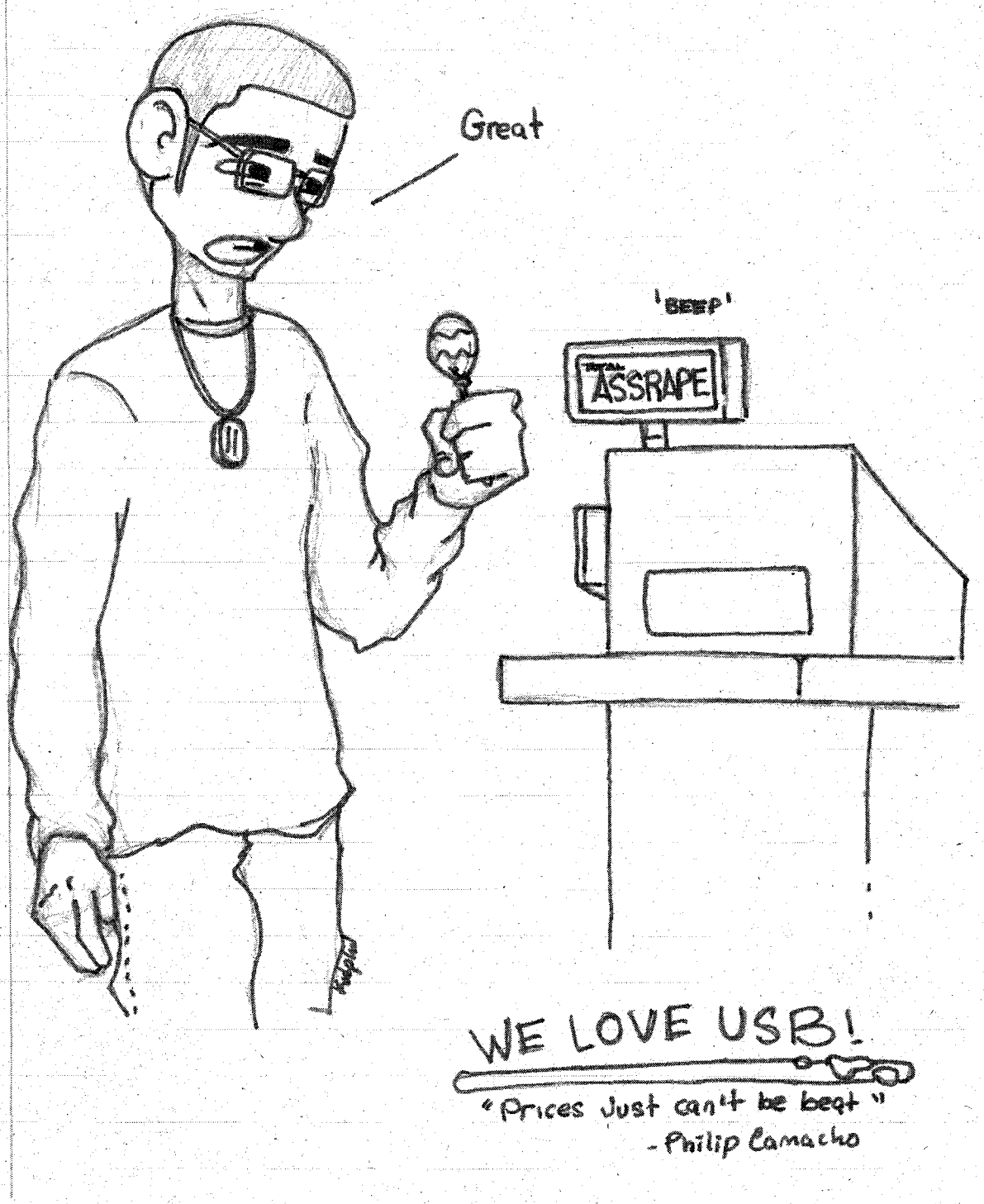
The Comics Section

WE LOVE USB!

- Philip Comacho

The Comics Section

The Comics Section



Pizza Tweezers

By Tom Senkus

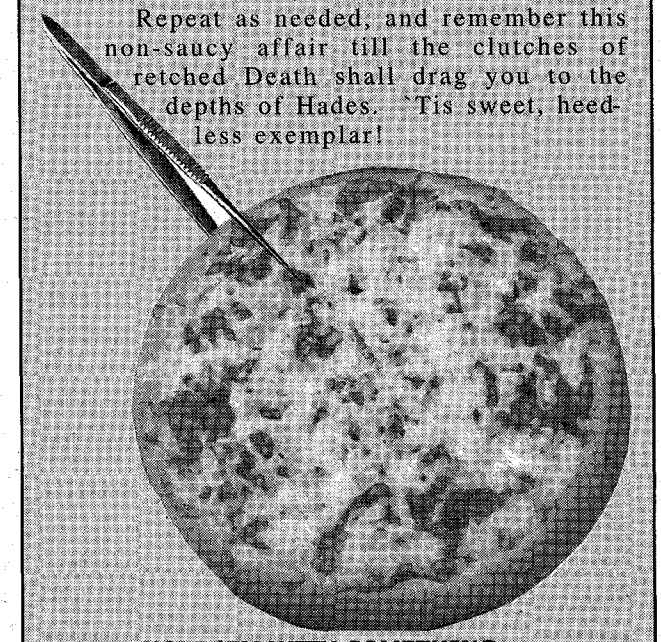
"Damn you, o' patriarch of the tyrannical disc. How dare you prepare the cheese to a low viscosity, but tempt Odio with the crust to be a simmering plateau of warmth, like the bosom of Hera?"

Yes, I've heard this at scores of pizzerias. Across Cambridge to Bridgewood to Woodstock. The pizza men themselves are not at fault, despite how many blowhards give orations atop curved orange seating, faux-Italian decoration, and pictures of the owner delivering the first blow to non-pizza kind. It's the nature of the beast; the crust must be warm enough to solidify, while the cheese slips like Succubus into your plate. Employ a fork? *NEVER!!!!!!!!*

Orators, step down from the steepled soapboxes. Herein lies the answer.

If cheese shall befall your slice, fret not, but let it fall to the plate, sweet ambrosia of Eden. Relish your slice to the crust, but take heed affront. If you eating style should be a folded slice or not, take the existing crust, and like tweezers, use the crust to latch onto the cheese. Then savor the taste of fickle Succubus. Sweet, she is.

Repeat as needed, and remember this non-saucy affair till the clutches of retched Death shall drag you to the depths of Hades. 'Tis sweet, heedless exemplar!



GOTTA HOLD 'EM WITH SOMETHING,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

THANK YOU, STRANGER

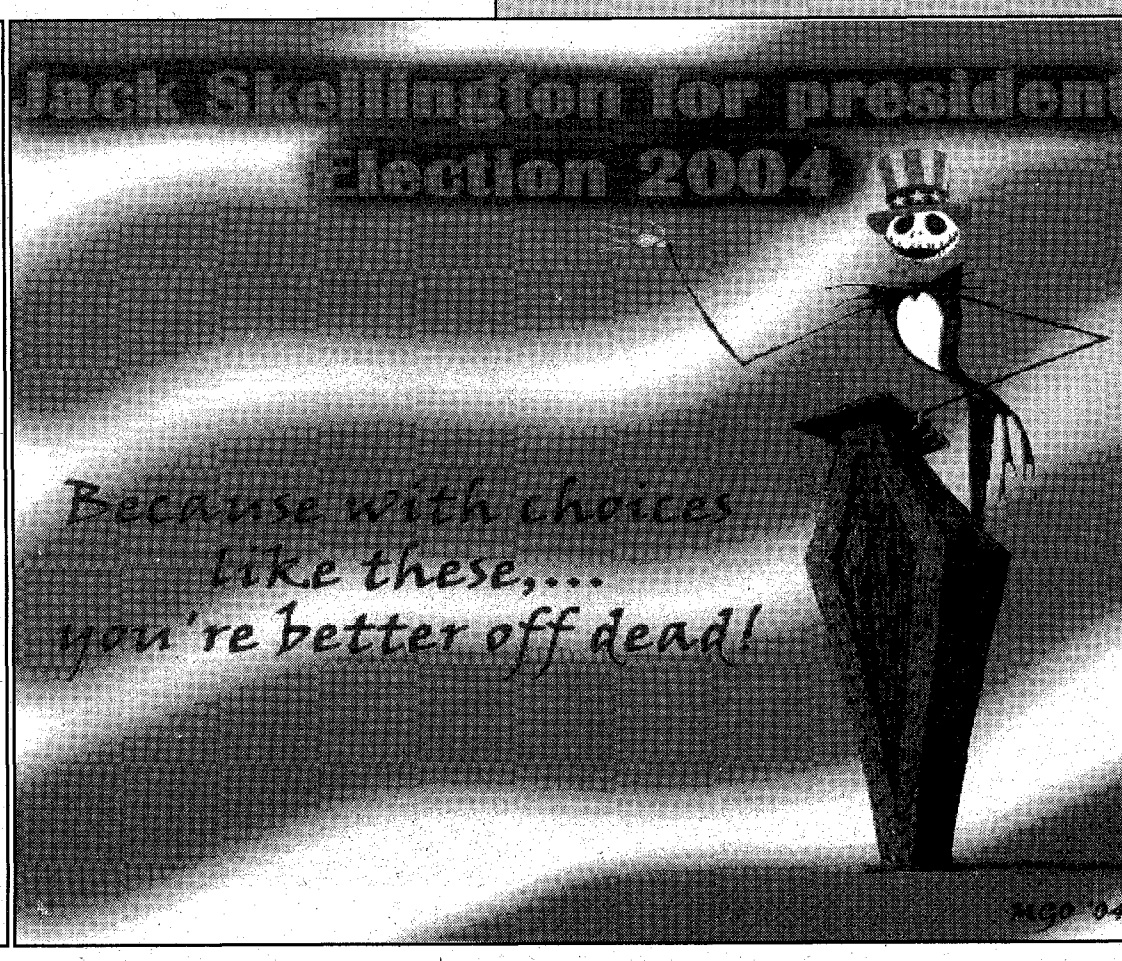
@

313 GALLERY
BOWERY

October 28th 6:30PM Sharp!!!!!
$5 at the Door

Join The Band For Bar Hopping After The Show!

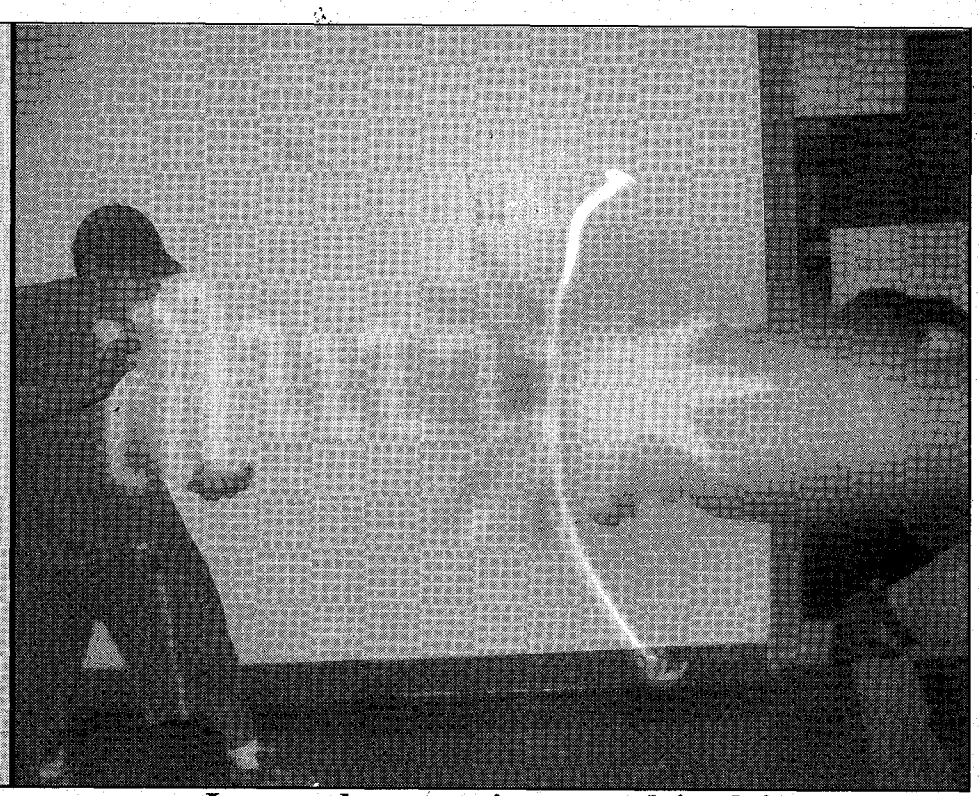
thankyoustranger@hotmail.com



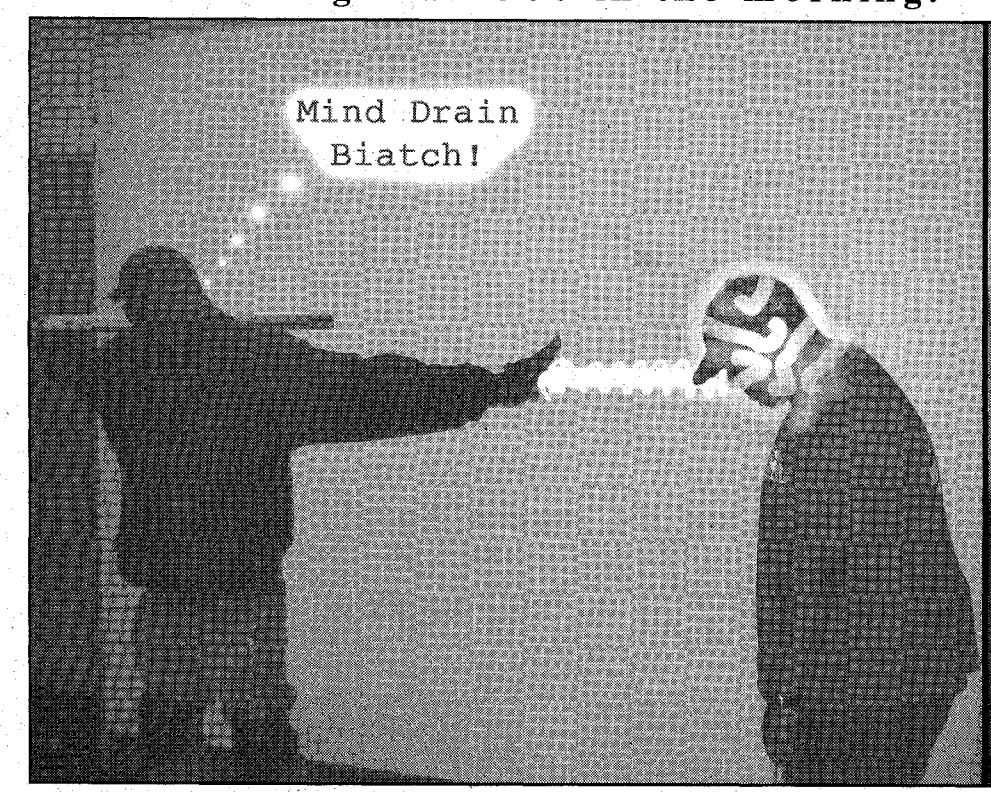
Joe Rios
Willy Cibinskas
Chris Williams

If Life Were an RPG...

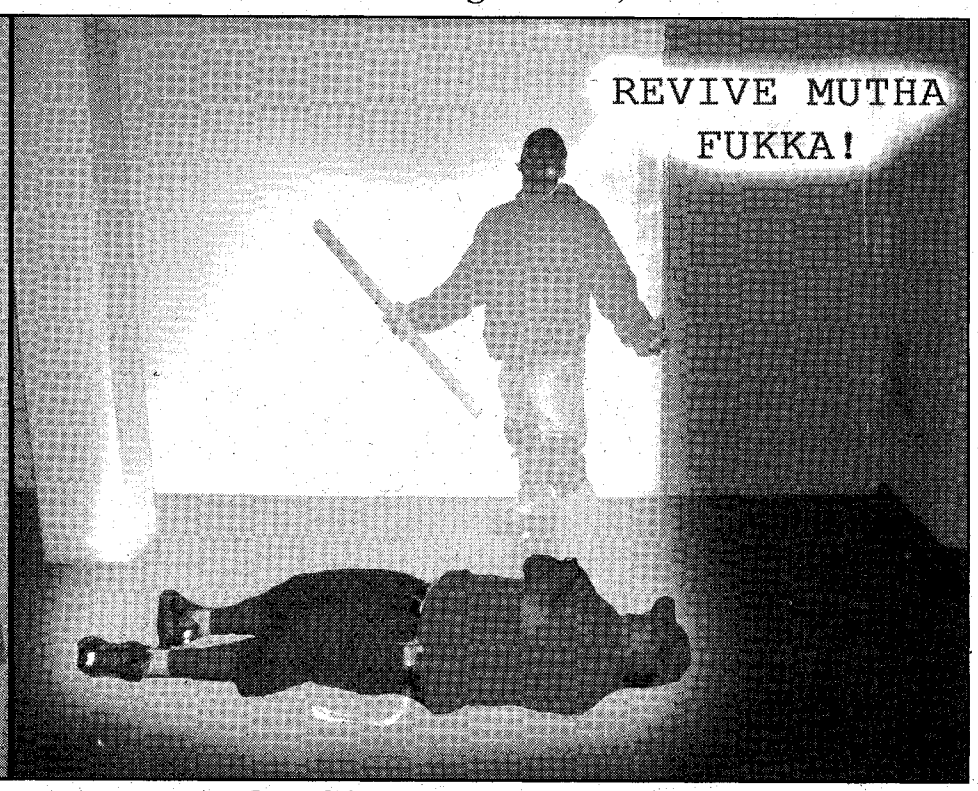
I'll be feeling that -300 in the morning.



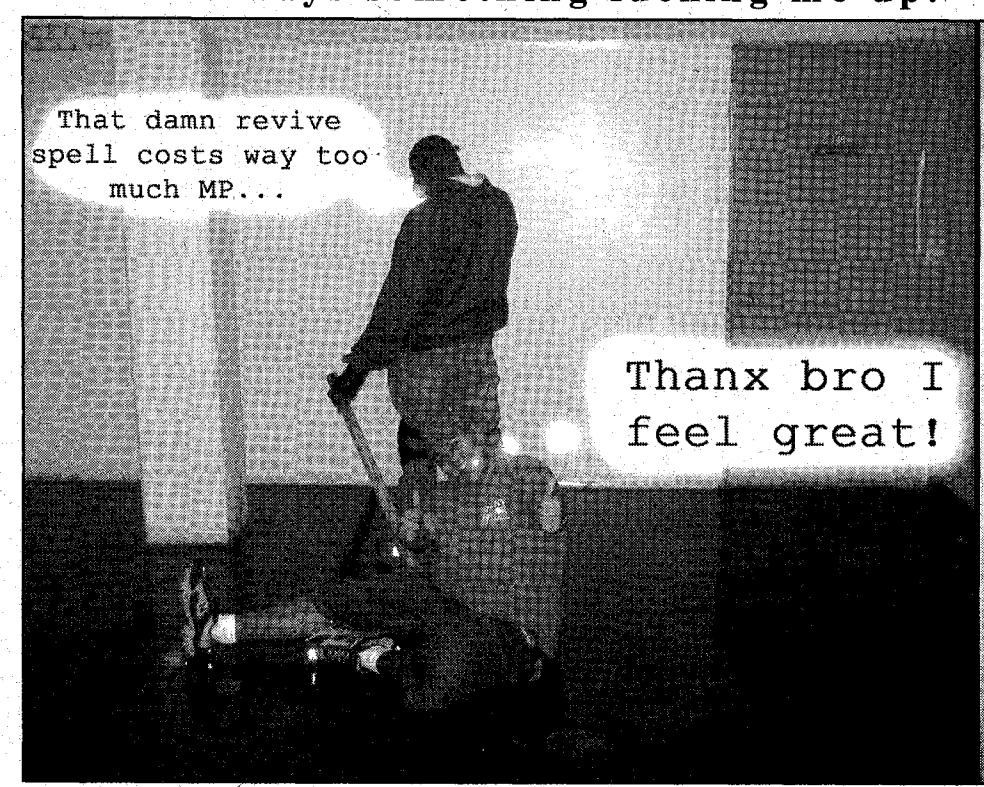
I can do magic too, bitch!



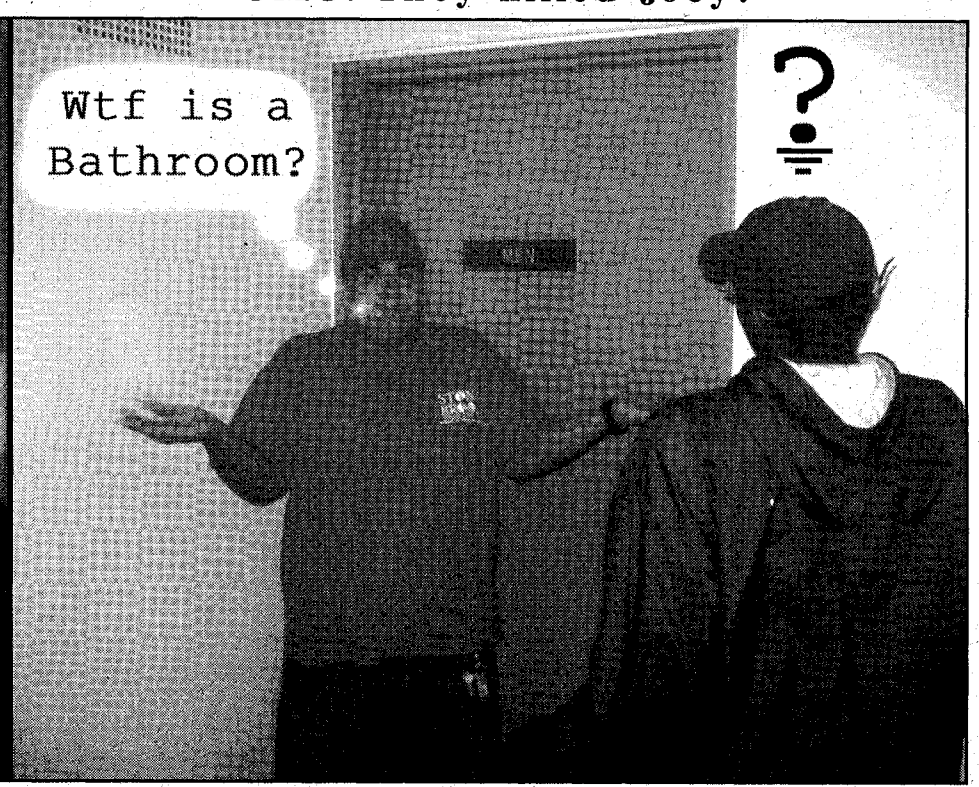
There's always something fucking me up.



OMG! They killed Joey!

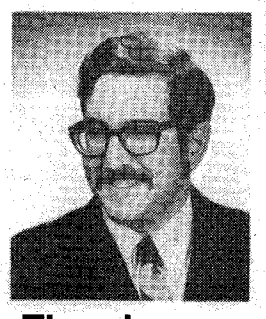


Every spell has its costs!

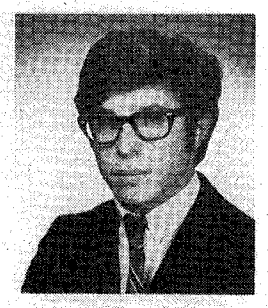


No bathrooms in RPG's!

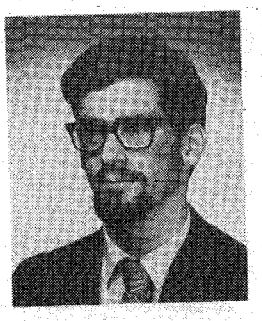
GEEKS and FREAKS



The glasses and tie look was big in 1970.



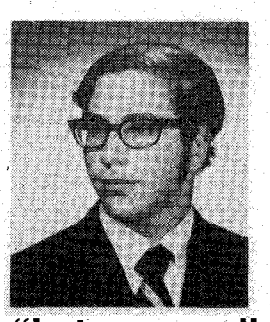
"Verry Big !"



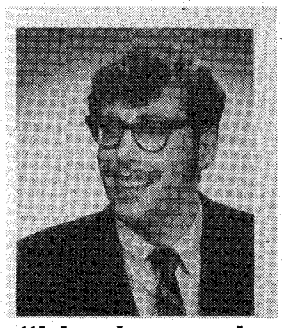
All the geeks were wearing them...

In the *SPECULA* yearbook.

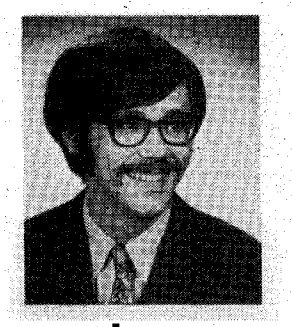
"I kissed a girl...once."



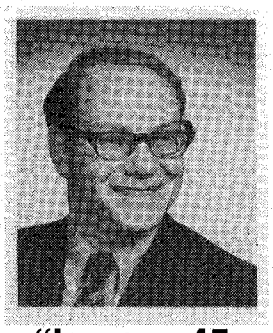
"Let me smell your breath."



"I had a penis enlargement."



chew gotit man

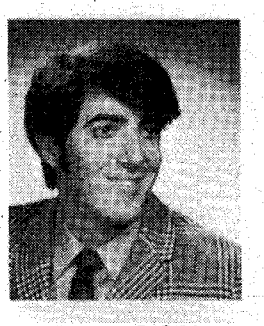


"I was a 45 year old freshman."

"I got to third base last night.'

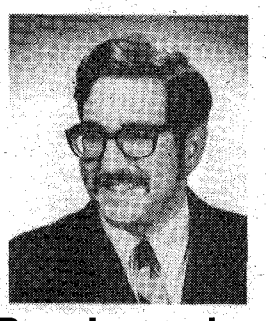
"Let me smell your finger."

first and only asian student.

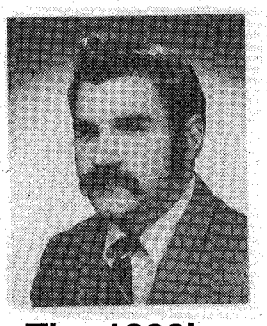


"WELL GOLY SARGE !' Gomer Pyle

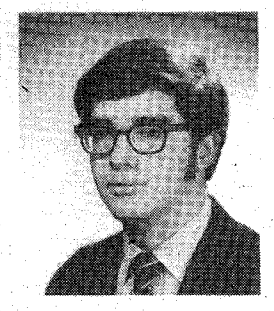
Invented Viagra.



Ron Jeremy's younger brother.

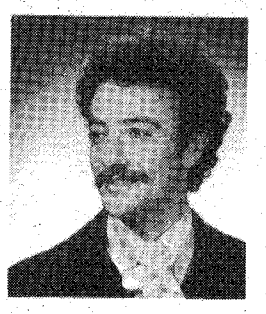


The 1800's called. They want their look back.



Never got laid in that suit, but was buried in it.

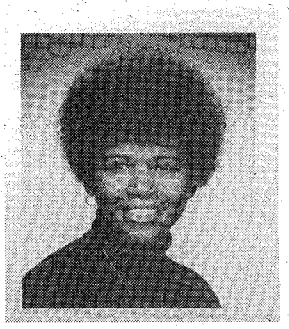
Now this guy was a straight up playa, son !



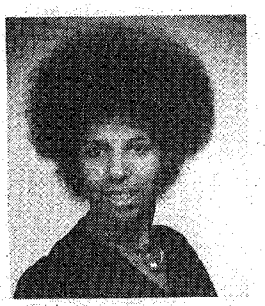
nice ascot, pickle smoker.

"I married an albino dwarf with a hunchback.'

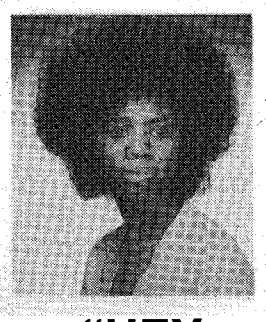
Does she have a sister?



Ladies and Gentleman, Gladys Knight,

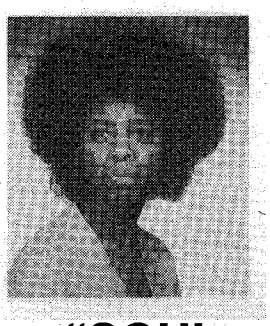


and the PIPs.



"HEY SISTA !!"

KING of the dorks.This guy died a virgin.



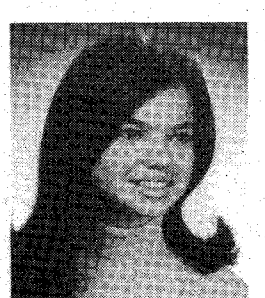
"SOUL SISTA !!!'

HEY HEY HEY Shirley from What's Happenin'?

These are the chicks I'd bang.

Mary Tyler Whore.

"My cooch smells like roses."

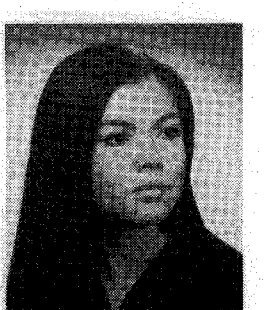


more Mary Tyler Whore.

oh come on, you wouldn't hit that?

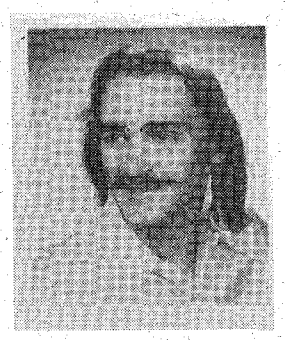
Puts mousetraps on her nipples.

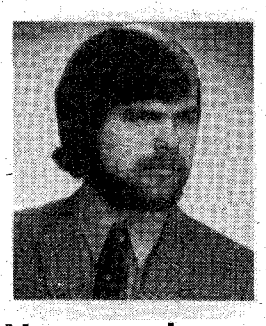
I don't know if this a guy or a girl, but i'd bang it anyway.



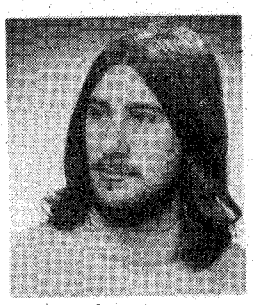
Tried anal once and cried.

DIRTY HIPPIES. They had long hair then and still do now. And still don't have jobs.

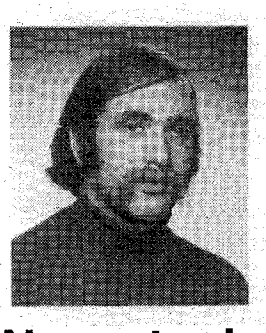

Future heroin addict.

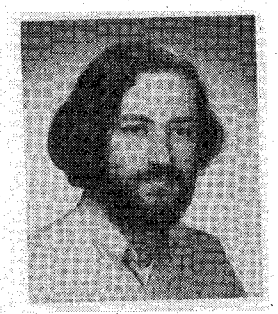

Verry serious corporate hippie.

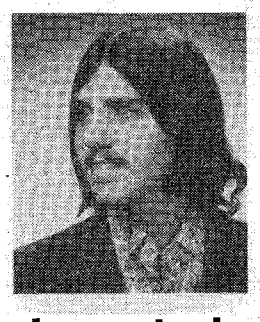
Can you say 'mutton-chops'?


One mushroom trip too many.

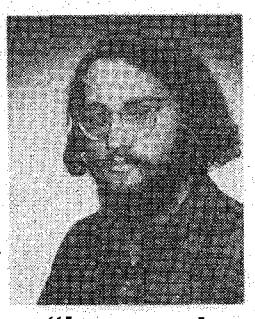
Smokes weed in the shower.

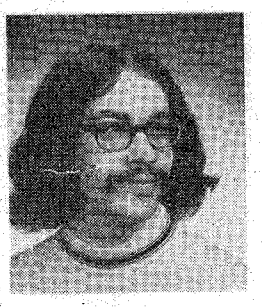

Never took a shower.

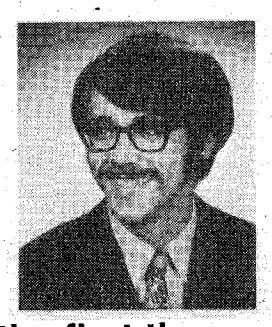

Showers in the gym with his underwear on.

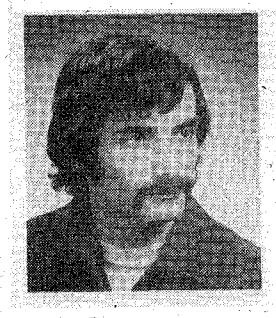

Invented birken-stocks

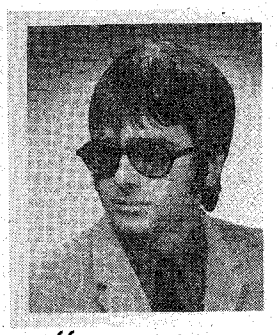
FREAK or GEEK?


"I am not a terrorist."


"We fell in love the first time we saw each other. Now we own the first pet store in the West Village that only sells gerbils.


future serial killer.

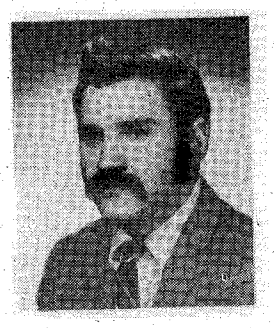

"groovy baby"

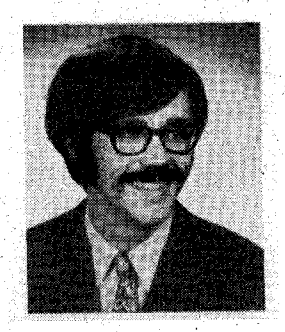

Could this guy be any cooler?

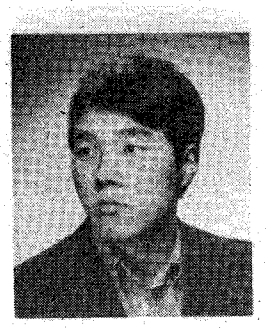
This guy's way cooler!

Gomer Pyle should marry this broad...

...over here.She needs some of that shit, kid.

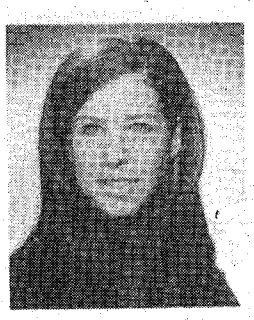

Ladies and gentleman, Jack Daniels.

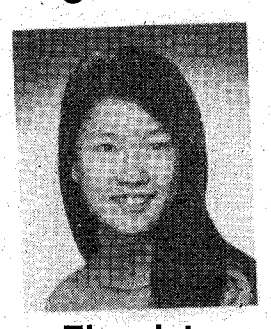

Jim Carey in disguise.


Hey another asian guy showed up.I wonder if there'll be any more?

More chicks I'd Bang!!! or at least.....

Tickle her feet with a feather.

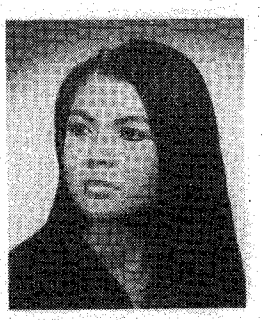

Smear cheese wiz on her toes.


Ejaculate in her eggs then cook her a sperm omlet.

Eat breakfast cereal with her breastmilk.

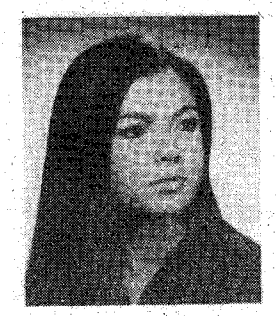
Have threesomes with a midget. Or is that only a two-and a-half-some?

Get our spleens pierced together.

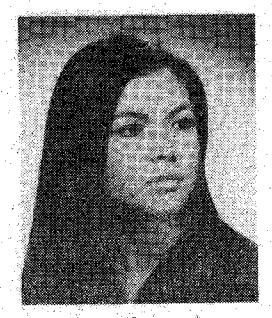

Yeast infection tampon tea-bag.

Eat gummi-bears from between her toes.

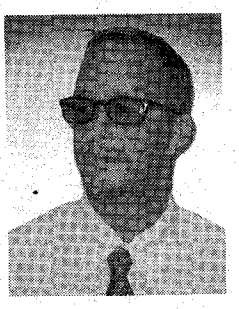
Vaginal tattooing.


Get a hand job with her hook hand.

get oral with an Altoid in her mouth.


explore hetero-gerbiling.

Change my pitch up...


Smack my bitch up.

Hey, Who Ordered the Reviews?

The Grudge

By Sam Goldman

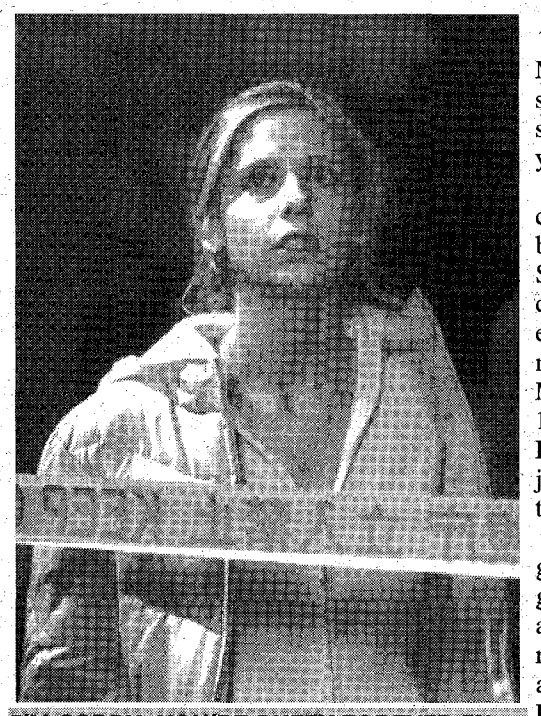
Let's get this out of the way first, so that you can remember it while reading the rest of this review. I cannot stress this enough: The Grudge is a terrible, terrible movie, and one you should not pay any money to see. It is rarely scary, the dialogue is laughably bad, and the acting is equivalent to a high school play. If you have a choice between banging your head against a wall for 90 minutes or watching this movie, I humbly suggest the walls of Old Chemistry.

The movie is based around Karen (Buffy the Va...uh...I mean Sarah Michelle Gellar), a foreign exchange student who is living in Tokyo with her boyfriend (Roswell's Jason Behr, who might as well be CGI). Working as a social worker for credit, her first case involves an old woman (Grace Zabriskie) who is all Ellen-Burstyn-in-Requiem-for a-Dream messed up in the head. While in the house she is exposed to...well, let's just call it a mysterious force, which, of course, kills...and kills. Of course, Karen now has to figure out the secrets behind this mysterious force, before it kills her boyfriend.

The special effects are good, and the pacing is okay, too. But many of the more well-known actors – Gellar, Behr, Clea Duvall, and Bill Pullman (who does a scene right at the beginning of the movie that's a microcosm of his career) – are completely wooden. I Let's get this out of the way first, so that you can remember it while reading the rest of this review. I cannot stress this enough: *The Grudge* is a terrible, terrible movie, and one you should not pay any money to see. It is rarely scary, the dialogue is laughably bad, and the acting is equivalent to a high school play. If you have a choice between banging your head against a wall for 90 minutes or watching this movie, I humbly suggest the walls of Old Chemistry.

The movie is based around Karen (Buffy the Va...uh...I mean Sarah Michelle Gellar), a foreign exchange student who is living in Tokyo with her boyfriend (*Roswell's* Jason Behr, who might as well be CGI). Working as a social worker for credit, her first case involves an old woman (Grace Zabriskie) who is all Ellen-Burstyn-in-*Requiem-for a-Dream* messed up in the head. While in the house she is exposed to...well, let's just call it a mysterious force, which, of course, kills...and kills. Of course, Karen now has to figure out the secrets behind this mysterious force, before it kills her boyfriend.

The special effects are good, and the pacing is okay, too. But many of the more well-known actors – Gellar, Behr, Clea Duvall, and Bill Pullman (who does a scene right at the beginning of the movie that's a microcosm of his career) – are completely wooden. I do give props for the casting of Ted Raimi (probably helped by the fact that Sam Raimi has a producer's credit). The main point, however, is that this is a horror movie without the horror. Many patrons at the Island 16 (including me and my *Press* cohorts) were cracking jokes instead of going back in their seats.



I'M SORRY, YOU'RE BUFFY FOREVER IN MY MIND.
Courtesy of Yahoo Movies

So, to recap: I have a grudge of my own, and that grudge is that I lost an hour and a half of time I would rather have spent writing articles, or maybe sleeping. Please, I implore you, if someone asks you to see this movie, run the other way.

P.S.: Yes, fanboys, Sarah Michelle Gellar has a nude shower scene. No, you do not see anything that will make you happy.

Do give props for the casting of Ted Raimi (probably helped by the fact that Sam Raimi has a producer's credit). The main point, however, is that this is a horror movie without the horror. Many patrons at the Island 16 (including me and my Press cohorts) were cracking jokes instead of going back in their seats.

So, to recap: I have a grudge of my own, and that grudge is that I lost an hour and a half of time I would rather have spent writing articles, or maybe sleeping. Please, I implore you, if someone asks you to see this movie, run the other way.

P.S.: Yes, fanboys, Sarah Michelle Gellar has a nude shower scene. No, you do not see anything that will make you happy.

Team America, World Police

By Dustin Herlich

Yes, offending every single nationality and culture IS funny. At least, according to this wonder of cinematic delight. When your movie starts off with the violent destruction of the most well known landmarks in Paris, you pretty much know that from there on in you're traveling on an out of control train headed straight for the border between poking fun and trying to hurt people.

The movie really does do a good job of offending all sides equally, and laying it on thick. Exploding Michael Moore and demonized actors join forces to give a portrait of the absurdity that is our current national state. From our foreign policy of "blow up everything in sight, and tell people they're better off that way," to the power supposedly non-political groups have we see a poignant, yet really funny look at what's happening around us. All this through the magic of marionettes. Yes, the strings are clearly visible, which is a huge boon to the humor content of the movie.

While yes, puppet sex and "fight scenes" are funny, some of the movie I fear may be lost on large portions of the audience. Most people know what the Eiffel Tower looks like, but how many people knew that the other buildings blown up in Paris had names too? (Yes, I know exactly which ones they were, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre art museum.) To me, an even better question is were people laughing at Hans Blix being eaten by sharks because it was a truly hysterical scene, or did they get that extra chuckle because they know Hans Blix as being a UN weapons inspector? But, I digress; this is a movie review, not a review of the society that helped create the movie.

I SEE THIS IN MY DREAMS,
Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

At any rate, the movie is funny pretty much no matter who you are. Pro- or Anti-war, the way the scenes are portrayed is fairly creative. The movie takes scenes from parts of pop culture and history ranging from the Mount Rushmore to the Star Wars cantina scene. It's hard to not laugh at the caricatures of the North Korean dictator, and silly sight gags like the leader of team America being swung around continuously in his rolling chair.

There are those who see this movie as an important piece of social commentary, and those who see it as a really funny movie with puppets. In many ways both are correct. The movie does ask subtly which doctrines we follow and why, but at the same time, the movie can make you laugh at pretty much any situation that's thrown at you.

seriously, no more...

Juanes Mi Sangre

By Claudia Toloza

On September 28th, Colombian recording artist Juanes released his third and latest album, *Mi Sangre.* Since its release, this album appears to be a complete success for Juanes since it already has claimed the #1 spot on the Top 25 Latin albums on the Billboard charts. For many of his fans, this album had been long awaited, and it especially came as a surprise because he had mentioned in a previous interview that this album was going to a remixing of the songs from his second album. *Mi Sangre,* however, is filled with 12 original new songs, all written and composed by Juanes himself. Like his other two albums, *Fijate Bien* and *Un Dia Normal,* the songs from *Mi Sangre* are filled with a mixture of musical genres ranging from rock, rap, classical, and, as always, traditional Colombian music styles. The lyrics in this album also move a step further than the lyrics of his last two albums when it comes to talking about issues like war and love.

His first single for this album, titled "Nada Valgo Sin Tu Amor" ("I'm Worthless Without Your Love"), has already been a huge success, playing non stop in many Latin American radio stations. Many of the songs in this album, like his single, "Nada Valgo Sin Tu Amor," talk about love, which is not surprising because Juanes has recently married the mother of his young daughter, Luna. Other songs in this album don't just talk about being in love, they also talk about love lost, such as "La Camisa Negra" ("Black Shirt"). In this song, Juanes explains that heartbreak can be so painful that it can drive a person to the point of dressing as if he was mourning the death of someone. Even though this song is about breaking up, it is still one of the most upbeat songs in the album. This song is also reminiscent of Juanes' song, "La Paga," from his album *Un Dia Normal.*

HIS EYE PIERCES YOU,
Courtesy of Amazon.com

However, not all the songs in this album deal with love. Like his previous albums, in *Mi Sangre,* Juanes also mentions the problems that exist in the world today. In his song, "Que Pasa?" ("What's Going On?"), Juanes questions why the world is in such a bad state, and why there are wars going on. One of the lines of the song asks, "Pregunto yo que pasó en el mundo hoy/ Que en todos los diarios yo leo las mismas noticias de horror/Vidas que callan sin razón..." ("What is going on the world today? All I read in the newspapers are stories of horror of people dying for no reason"). These particular lines sum up most the meaning of the song in which Juanes is not only questioning the tragic events that fill up most of the Colombian evening news, but also the unjustified killings that occur around the world all because of war. One of the most surprising songs in the album is track number 9, "Rosario Tijeras". In this song, Juanes pays homage to Colombian writer Jorge Franco and his novel of the same title. Like the novel, the song tells the story of Rosario Tijeras, a young Colombian woman, who, from a young age, has lived a rough live having been sexually assaulted as a minor. Her youthful experiences made her into a tough young woman who becomes involved in the world of drugs, sex, and violence; a world which ultimately leads to her demise.

This album, overall, is great because Juanes is able to demonstrate the talent he has for writing beautiful music. He is also able to showcase his incredible musical ability when it comes to composing music. Even if you don't speak Spanish you can still find this album very enjoyable just because of the different styles of music Juanes is able to bring together. The quality of this album definitely shows from the very 1st song, all the way through track 12.

Action Review

By Melanie Donovan

All the way from Toronto, Canada, the band *Action* has found its way into my CD player. *Action* consists of five guys with instruments who would describe their music this way, "*ACTION* relies heavily on the punishing sounds of British and Scandinavian hardcore punk from the early to mid-eighties." *Action*'s self tittled debut album, *Action* is jam packed with exactly what they said up there.

Most of the songs have an anti-war, "fight the man," "I have really spiky hair" feel to them. Their intense political views are definitely backed up by their heavy hardcore punk sound. First song that stuck out to me was "Suicide Squad," which is about suicide bombers. "Die for you government, die for your god/ there's no return from the suicide squad" are just some of the lyrics. The song "No one knows" is very interesting because it starts off with a sort of drumming sound that sounds like a marching band or army drum. The song itself is about John Kerry without mentioning his name though. "Lie alone in your empty bedroom/ You were young so long ago/ Lost the purple heart they gave you/ Why did it mean so much before?" For the chorus they just scream, "No one knows, No one cares."

Like most of the songs, "Dawn of a New War," talks about sending our kids off to war, with some awesome soloing going on. "Political abandon for the underclass/ Breeds caustic hatred for the 'greener grass'/ Resigned to a life, of second best? / Or lying on the ground with a bullet in your chest." I find it pretty interesting that this is a band from Canada and they are writing about the American issues. And it is daring of them to just say what they believe, and voicing their anti-war ideas. Most musicians today are afraid of going being pointed out as hating our country.

Action's music is pretty simple and straight forward. They are not writing about dream girls and broken hearts, so that is pretty respectable. They are signed with a Long Island record company, Punk Core Records, but most of their shows are in Toronto. So if you like the hardcore punk scene, check out our Canadian friends, *Action* and their new album, *Action.*

ACTION IS THE NAME OF THE BAND?
Courtesy of www.actionpunks.com

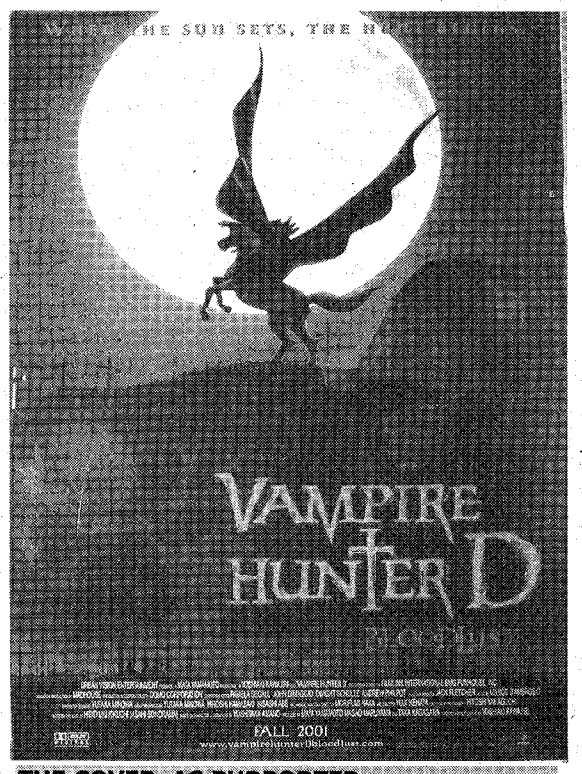
what'd i just say?

Anime comparative: Vampire Hunter D

By Joe Rios

In 1985 Hideyuki Kikuchi's graphic novel *Vampire Hunter D* was brought to life in the form of an anime. In 2000, another tale of *Vampire Hunter D* was brought to film. While the fifteen years between movies is a significant amount of time, especially in the genre of anime, there is still a constant theme at play that makes the *Vampire Hunter D* something that you have to see.

The world of the anime circles around the main character, simply known as D. D is the child of a human and a vampire, and is known as a "Dunpeel." The most advantageous trait of the Dunpeels is that they have the ability to move around n the sunlight (Think of Blade, only really, REALLY white). D's personality is the "quiet type," the kind of man who only says things that are really meaningful or important. Furthermore, D seems to drift about without meaning, working for money or justice, or whatever seems to please him, and although there are women who always get attached to him, he seems to brush them off in the end, and is once again drifting across the globe.



THE COVER, AS PURPORTED.
Courtesy of Urban Vision Entertainment

In the 1985 film, the Dunpeel is asked for help by a young girl named Dorris because she has been bitten by the Count Magnus Lee. Dorris needs D to kill Magnus before she turns into a vampire herself. While the action was rather subdued, and the animation quality that was average for 1985, there are no major complaints about the movie, as long as you watch this one first.

In the 2000 piece, D once again finds himself in a position where he is rescuing another damsel in distress. This time however, the reason for doing so seems to be just for money in the beginning. The damsel's name is Charlotte, and she has been taken away from her home by the Vampire Meier Link. In this film however, D is not alone. Charlotte's parents have also contracted a skillful group of monster/vampire hunters, known as the Marcus brothers. As they move across the movie D begins to realize that there is more going on behind the kidnapping of Charlotte, and that the most crucial factor may be love.

Moving aside from the plot, there is plenty more to *Vampire Hunter D* that makes it a must watch. The animation quality in the 2000 movie is actually very good, and that's not an insult to the 1985 version, its animation is about as good as it got for the time, proving what the difference fifteen years can make.

The plot for the first initial D movie was a little on the weak side compared to the second, and the rating on imdb.com reflects that. In addition, the voice acting was rather bad in my view (referring to the dubbed of course), something that was much better in the 2000 film. If you want to avoid this, just pick up the DVDs and watch them in Japanese with subtitles. Problem solved!

The *Vampire Hunter D* series makes for a good night's entertainment, and combing the two is an excellent way to compare how anime as a genre has progressed over fifteen years. Happy viewing!

Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut

By Jamie Mignone

So, there's this guy, and he travels through time and hallucinates (sounds like someone I know). He's really smart (never mind that last comment). He wakes up in strange places puzzled, wondering just how he got there (wait, I do know this guy!).

The time is the eighties, and the Republicans still have their good old Soviets to blame for the upcoming Armageddon, and King Bush I is on the campaign trail. Medication is in favor with the mental health community, and wellness experts and motivational speakers are abound. People still listen to Joy Division and Tears or Fears on a regular basis. Oh yeah, and every boy has a demon-from-the-future as their imaginary friend, the eighties were fun after all.

Being concerned with a confrontation of unknowability and solipsism, the protagonist is led around by funky bubbles of intentionality and a giant bunny, for fear that he won't get the master plan. Criminal acts and engaging the rules of the universe are the bulk of his actions, though most will refer to these as "delusions," or "hallucinations". Against the backdrop of a white-washed, well-to-do, private high school, its pretty believable that a conscious being would be tripping on a regular basis without the influence of psychotropics, especially with Patrick Swayze in your grill telling you that he loves you, and that you hate you.

So the director's cut has some twenty minutes extra and juiced up effects. This was obviously not a George Lucas film. I know this because the additional effects and modification thereof did not compromise the integrity of the film and remained within the bounds of decency and respect toward the audience. Nothing new was too over the top or too stupid, no Ewok jub-jub music was replaced with New Age garbage, and Jake Gyllenhaal has not been replaced by Hayden Christensen in the final scene.

Fuck George Lucas.

Jamie Mignone is currently the greatest distribution Manager The Stony Brook Press *has ever had. He is also an all around, swell guy.*

I "HEART" HUCKABEES

By Jamie Mignone

This is the best film I've seen in a long while. I think I "Heart", *"I Heart Huckabees"*. The film is about people with stylized ways of being who oftentimes take themselves too seriously. When one does regard their idealism with such high esteem, they're bound to run into situations that make them question the meanings of events in their lives. In that scenario, the most logical course of action is to hire Dustin Hoffman and Lily Tomlin to follow you around and explain, While causing a ruckus at your workplace, snooping through your trash, and trailing you all day on a bicycle.

The cast was great, and Marky Mark stood out in his role as a ready to fight defender of the earth, who must compulsively remind everyone of the treachery of petroleum products and the usage thereof.

Monists versus nihilists vie for the solution to Albert's (Jason Schwartzman), meaning vacuum. The universe is constantly supposed as either one way or another, and Marky Mark and Albert challenge both ideas throughout the film as the encounter other characters in existential crisis. Funny things happen to the poor frantic characters as they try to derive meaning from context and the lack thereof, challenge the will, question their purposive selves and redefine their personal identities. A lot of the characters meet their ideal opposite, conflict ensues, and then before you know it, someone's jet ski gets burned up, and we all quit our jobs.

In attempting to provide an account of the nature of the universe, allusions are made to, among other things, body bags and blankets. Funny things happen to the poor frantic characters

The Huntington Cinema Arts Centre is running this film, and if you think that watching people panic over philosophy is fun then you must attend this flick.

YOU WON'T KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE UNTIL YOU SEE THE MOVIE

reviews, anybody?

The Grudge More Like a Mistake

By Julissa M. Rodriguez

Sarah Michelle Gellar is not fighting the usual vampires and demons, but she's fighting a supernatural curse instead. *The Grudge* is not the usual teen slasher movie, but it is definitely not terrifying. Following the traditions of recent horror films, *The Grudge* has the same effect as the rest...it's eerie and interesting, but I don't think anyone will lose any sleep because of it. Despite it's intricate plot, the film lacks intrigue due to its Americanization. Takashi Shimizu, the director of the original Japanese version, directs this version of *The Grudge.* His guidance still did not save the film. This adaptation is weaker than the first. The Japanese influence is still displayed but the film clearly lacks depth. The movie is very reminiscent of *The Ring,* which was also a Japanese remake (think of scary black hair). The images are quite frightening but the scary moments are sporadic. The violence is not graphic. Most of it is done off camera while showing the end results.

Its non-linear plot keeps the story interesting, which is about the only alluring quality that the film has. Jumping back and forth between past and present saves the movie. The story does move a bit slow, but it is not boring because the story has aspects of a murder mystery; it keeps you guessing. The ghosts appear pretty early in the movie, but the explanation is not given until the end, which is the only reason for actually sitting through the entire thing. Unlike *The Ring,* it has more than one ghost creeping around popping out at the most obvious intervals. Its plot is also similar to *The Ring,* without giving it all away; it has a very similar story as well as style and technique. Do not expect to jump out of your seat until the very end, of course. Like in the tradition of all horror movies there were a few instances where you feel like yelling at the screen because the character clearly does something idiotic that is just asking for them to die. Perhaps having a different cast the film might have taken a different direction.

B4 YOU DIE, YOU SEE DA EYE, Courtesy of ImpAwards.com

Watching the Japanese version first, and then seeing the American version destroys the film's original mystique; it should not have been remade. It's not a complete flop, but it is disappointing in comparison to the other one. It's a film for entertainment's sake, obviously not an Oscar winner, but not a total crowd pleaser either. For future warning there is also a preview for *The Ring 2* before the film begins. I think that says it all.

Jasmine Cafe

By Dustin Herlich

Brand spankin' new, and a fantastic place to stuff your face. The Jasmine Café is actually a fantastic new eatery, with good food and pretty reasonable prices. Controversy about unions and contracts swirls around the café like flies do to the rest of the food on campus, but Jasmine café gets... gasp... a COMPLIMENT. Imagine that? A compliment from *The Press*! Anyhow, yes, the food's good.

I had the pleasure of visiting the café this past Thursday with notable *Press* alum Sam Goldman. Sam ordering the chicken samosas and Thai chicken with vegetables. I opted for lamb samosas and an Indian vegetarian wrap. Sam confirmed that the food was of good quality and value. When was the last time someone said any of that about the food on campus? The ingredients seemed fresh, and the food prepared with care.

Upon purchase, I wondered if I'd need the provided condiments such as soy sauce, duck sauce, hot sauce and mustard. I definitely did not. The food was flavorful and palate pleasing. Portions were reasonable as well. I can't say I left stuffed, but I didn't really order much to begin with. Considering what I paid, I can't complain.

So, wait, is it possible, we're going to have an article with no complains? Well, almost. I will mention in all fairness that the unions are upset because the labor for this new café is non-union. Some have conjectured that this is a reason for the lower then normal (on campus anyhow) prices for the food, and even the higher quality. Other cite that Chartwells did NOT get the contract for the new café, therefore no one got their usual kick backs, leading once again to better quality at lower prices.

Squabbles like that aside, this place is a win for students and faculty alike. It's clean, well laid out, and relatively quiet. The Wang center is a nice place to come relax, and now, grab a bite to eat. When the Wang center first opened, I had the pleasure of taking pictures of the event, and had a nice two page spread about it in an issue of *The Press.* One suggestion for the Jasmine Café is to have more garbage cans. The only two I found were pretty much full.

I hope to see the Café grow actually, and maybe expand to the point of having daily specials, events of various kinds and I hope they actually get their bubble tea machines up and running. It's a nice place with good food, what more can you ask for? The best part to me is how welcome a change it is from the fecaliths being passed off as food around here.

Ted Leo & The Pharmacists Concert

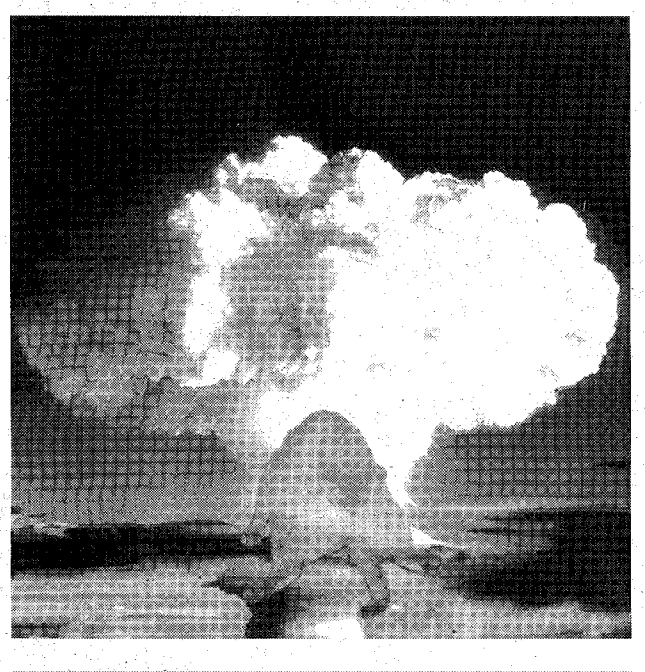
By Tom Senkus

Ted Leo is officially my hero. Ever since I had accidentally downloaded "Dial Up" (pun intended, true nonetheless), I have yearned to hear his pseudo-sea shanties, fork-in-the-road pep-talks, and AOR radio influences. Ted's two previous albums, *Hearts of Oak* and *Tyranny of Distance*, have led a buzz around the music community of a new wave of underground, feel-good punk. Instead of having the abrasive sneer, his attitude shows in his declaration that Thin Lizzy did, in fact, rock; and a refusal to write another dance-punk tune. *Shake the Sheets* continues Ted Leo's streak of near-flawless albums.

Starting off with "Me and Mia," right away, the long-time listener is aware of Ted's more worldly stance. Instead of yearning nostalgic or waxing poetic, the lyrics have been trimmed down to a political undertone. Teddy refuses to name names, preferring to leave his songs with a longer shelf life than those with a contemporary political parallel (Phew!). Closing in on election hellfire, lyrics like "I'm worried for my tired country" are poignant enough to send the message. Perhaps Ted's most impressive lyric is just a two word mantra; "it's alright," cooed for two minutes straight. It's that type of thinking that makes us love the man.

Digressing from *Hearts of Oak*, the production is much clearer, and the signature fuzz bass is all but gone. Superfluous instruments are done away with, leaving only variations in guitar, bass, drums and the songwriting itself to hold up the album. Fortunately, Ted comes through. Handing us the Bee Gees with balls ("Angel's Share"), a complete version of "Bleeding Powers" (orig. from *Tell Balgury, Balgeary is Dead*), and an island hopping mixture of ska and celtic ("SONG 4"), there's enough *hooks* to be *catchy* (Zing!).

Ted Leo, my hero! *: Swoon :*



THIS CAT'S GOT ABOUT 20 SECONDS TO FINISH UP.
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

Ted Leo & The Pharmacists: Shake the Sheets

By Tom Senkus

The time: 8 o'clock, Oct. 14th, 2004.

The place: The Knitting Factory.

All week, I had been waiting for a chance to see a CMJ Showcase of Lookout! artists, featuring Ted Leo & The Pharmacists. I spent days on end memorizing the lyrics to "Timorous Me" and "Biomusicology." I was ready.

I brought fellow *Press* staffer T-Money with me to the city. We had a nice Italian dinner in Little Italy at a place called *Buene Notte.* I was full of chicken parmigiana and ready to hit the town. Anticipating a night of kick-ass, a bum outstretched his hand and I gave him a high-five. Rock on!

The night's air was warm enough to cradle us until we reached Tribeca. We got to the door of the Knitting Factory, and as I tried to open the door, the bouncer (why do they call them bouncers?) stiff-armed my shoulder, then saying, "Do you have a ticket?"

"I'm on the WUSB guestlist."

Dumbfounded, he saw no reason not to let me in. Bear in mind, T-money had gone in unsuspectantly. I tell you, it's discrimination. It's because I'm black, THAT'S WHY!

After the minor ordeal, we walked inside; and off to the side, a man wearing a light-maroon hoodie and a black sports jacket seemed to be huddled against the wall. I pulled T-money aside;

"I think that's him," I said lower than the man could hear.

"Who?" T-money asked.

"Ted Leo!"

I've never been good around celebrities, making a fool out of myself about fetishizing some small aspect of an artist's life. Regretting a time in Boston that I chased Geddy Lee (the singer/bassist from Rush) into a wine cellar on Newbury Street, I made sure not to even bother Mr. Leo. Even going for a breather around the block, I made sure to give Little Steven (the bandana guy in the E Street Band) a preemptive steely gaze of the Tom Senkus Staredown. Cower, you fool, cower!

The opening bands were a good primer of my new reality series, *How Not to Be a Band.* One took time for insincere banter, making light of the fact that there were homeless in the subways. Another band had to wait on their guitarist's enormous, non-functioning pedal set-up, only to see him frustratedly fling his phaser behind the amps. That same band, obviously trying to cover up the fact that their lead singer could not sing, decided to turn up her amp beyond comprehension. I must tell you, I think I saw Hades every time she let loose on her guitar. I was deaf for two days! And yet again, the same band set up a keyboard, only to not touch the thing. "Play the keyboard" shouts were heard as they finished their set. I hope all those bands disband and get real estate licenses or something. Geez Louise!

The only highlight of the opening bands was an unclaimed beer on stage. If it hadn't been for T-money's wisdom, I may have downed it. My thinking was that the ethanol would destroy any bizarre, life-threatening case of East African Julu Herpes Mark 5, but if a female thinks it's dirty, than so be it.

The heat from the rubbed shoulders had started to get increasingly oppressive. The KFC heat lamps rose the temperature to a nauseating fluid mixture of sweat and beer-sweat. At one moment, a sudden cloud of beer-tinged flatulence sauntered to our nostrils. Guffaws and "aww man"'s were to be heard in a ten-cubic foot vicinity. Around the fourth opening band, T-money called it quits, fed up with the overbearing bass and knife-like treble. I don't blame her, but she'd have to give up her title of T-money. Turns out her ride home was more harassment than the comparatively harmless show, but that another story.....

Anywho, without much ado, Ted Leo and The Pharmacists set up on stage, not at all looking like the rock stars they could be. Watching them deftly set up their equipment in half the time as the other bands and having time to spare to mess with the between-set DJ was half the fun.

At this point, I'd like to avoid all clichés and not write out the exact playlists. Frankly, the show was so satisfying, it's hard to remember every little detail. The sound was cleared up and now I was actually able to distinguish a band on stage. The bass player stood rigidly, looking absolutely awe-struck by the packed house, while the drummer looked more like one of the bums that one of the opening bands described.

I do have to say that time-tested experience shows. Mid song, Ted seemlessly asked the sound man to change the onstage monitor without detracting from the song. The new songs, before their release date, were debuted, and you could draw two conclusions:

1. The songs were damn catchy and well-written.

2. So many people singing along meant they had already downloaded the leaked tracks.

After each song, Ted uncommonly thanked the audience with an off-key "Thanks." It was a wonder to watch him sing each song and the entire room bounce like school children. When an audience member asked for his *Underdog* T-shirt off of his back, he replied, "Hell no! This is going on E-bay for some kid in Japan." I came to the conclusion that, after watching Ted's nose maneuver close to the microphone, that that is his secret to his super-high voice. How I came to that conclusion was by seeing one of those dinosaurs from *Jurassic Park* that made a deafening drone to alert a predator. Ted must be alerting us of some serious rock-age about to come!

The audience was so delighted with Ted's performance that they (we) began chanting "one more song" until the DJ was forced to drown us out. Very rare has a performer NOT played an encore, but it was midnight when we had let out. If you want to see an incredible show by an incredible band, than look no further. The Pharmacists have a cure for what ails you (Damn, that was a horrible ending line. Maybe something like Leo and a reference to a lion or some shit like that, or maybe be indie-clever and toss in some references to other bands that the readers have never heard of and —- Woah, you're still reading this??? Oh man, how do I end this article? Terminate! *Access Denied.* What do you mean "access denied"? My ass. What's this button do?

Mouse on Mars: Radical Connector

By Andrew Thompson

Often becoming a more accessible band to the public is viewed as "selling out"; as disappointing your loyal core of fans for a chance at larger profits from tours and record sales. In *Radical Connector*, Mouse by Mars cannot be seen as leaving their traditional sound for something resembling "commercial" music. Rather, they have made what has been one of their most concise albums yet, trading in their sometimes rambling sonic experiments for something closer to a tight indie rock group.

Idiology, their previous album, gave some hints of a more accessible approach to music by including a drummer and vocalist for some tracks. This is their first album where all tracks have vocals, which gives their already lively music a more human touch. *Radical Connector* brings together some of Mouse On Mars' cartoon-orientated swiggles and blurps and allows them to include movements that had previously been ignored by Mouse On Mars, like funk and dance. The inclusion of nameable movements should give long-time listeners the idea that, this time around, they have decided allow their music a more concrete structure.

A new-found focus shows itself immediately, beginning with cut-up sounds set along an abstract steady rhythm from beats and lyrical movement, all of which culminates into a fully interactive sonic environment that comes closest to a refrain that Mouse On Mars have ever before achieved. "Wipe that Sound" is probably the funkiest thing ever to be produced by audio and vocal processing. The tempo moves to slower territory as the album progresses. By the end of the album, with the ambience of "Evoke an object" the listener realizes the evolution that has been crafted to create a perfect balance between their minimal tendencies (*Glam*) and cluttered productions (*Autoditacker*). Usually their songs do not exploit the many intricate sounds they produce, so this time greater attention has been given to the many moments that often have been left far too quickly.

Concentration on flow and coherence does not mean that they decided to cut out the random occurrences that give them their spontaneous feel. Instead of a brief passage through several different movements at once, they take it slower, allowing the listener to better absorb the album instead of feeling disappointed at all the avenues of exploration they miss due to the speed they use to go through each song. Vocals give them another element to cut up and rearrange, and they are lucky the vocalists allow them to do that to their lyrics. Many singers are far too pretentious in how they allow themselves to be recorded. Mouse On Mars finds singers who keep up with the music behind them.

Fun is to be had in here. The many allusions to cartoons still exist, with random bursts of sounds popping in and out. Just because there is an emphasis on more traditional song-making does not mean that spontaneity has been sacrificed on the altar of accessibility. Instead, they have tapped their close connection with the stranger elements of the large "Post-Rock" movement they have been associated with in the past to bring their analog keyboards and programming skills under control. An experimental temperament with their earlier music has been toned down, allowing for an easier listen to those unfamiliar with their large discography. It is still present, but as a compliment to the music, not the guide. Freak-outs, where they allow a sudden change in pace, happen but with less regularity. Also the pleasant experience with the first track does not get bogged down by the last few tracks. This has been a problem I have had with many of their earlier albums, where it always seems to have the one or two most intolerable songs at the end. The end here just wraps up what had been stated in the beginning, with almost
the same mellow attitude.

Radical Connector is not their best album to date, nor is it my favorite (the holder of that honor is a tie between *Autoditacker* and *Idiology*) but this offers a great entry into their sonic universe, with almost every earlier album produced present in one way or the other in this album. An interesting catchiness is present in each track, with each one offering the many changes often associated with Mouse On Mars' music. Some of their more excessive experiments have been reigned-in to make a clearer focus on the evolution of the songs. The entire album as a result flows nicely, with no one track ruining the atmosphere or being lackluster. For those who complain that placing an emphasis on accessibility automatically implies a "pandering to the masses" attitude, I present this album as evidence to the contrary. *Radical Connector* shows it is possible that a previously difficult band can move towards a more listener friendly attitude without sacrificing any of the quality that made their sonic experiments so engaging in the first place; a great introduction to the activities Mouse On Mars have been recording for the past decade.

Team America World Police

By Eddie Zadorozny

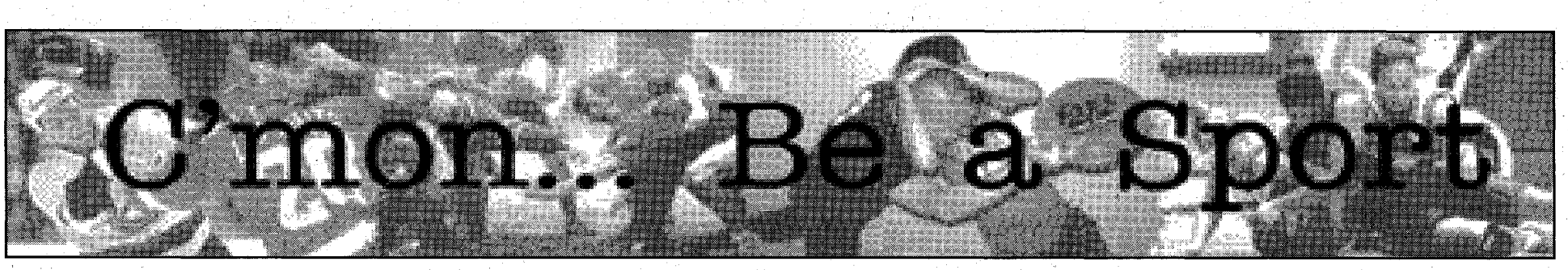
Politically correctness is a theme that has taken a most paramount turn in the last 10 years. Yet for the purpose of *Team America: World Police*, that is not the case. In fact, its the *un*political correctness that makes this film thrive, with countless sight gags and jabs at outspoken celebrities. But then, what did you expect from the producers of South Park, with their film that exploits the current Bush administration and its policies of handling terrorism? Hey, didn't Michael Moore already do that? This is exactly the point of *Team America*; a lampoon and buffoonery of politics and policies, of political activist celebrities and their above-all and know-all attitudes!

The story is simple: a team of five everyday Americans take up the cause, led by their leader, Spottswoode, who fights for truth, justice, and the American Way. No, its not superman, but the likes of a quarterback, clairvoyant, martial arts expert, and a psychologist (lets hope Dr. Phil doesn't see this as another job opportunity.) A group so inept at accomplishing anything (their total destruction of the Eiffel tower and Louvre is hilarious, and a cause for concern) that their leader, Spottswoode, enlists the help of an actor, Gary Johnston, who is currently on Broadway in the production of *Lease*, a complete rip-off and send-off of the play *Rent* (whose musical number is completely memorable, funny, and in such bad taste then the overrated play it's sending up.) With Gary's education experience in acting, Spottswoode hopes to enlist him to the team, with the hopes of acting like a terrorist to infiltrate the terrorist ring, acting as a spy for Spottswoode and his freedom fighters, Team America. Not only will this help Team America to annihilate the terrorists, but they also must seek and destroy Kim Jong Li, the North Korean dictator (who speaks like a whiny child), who has weapons of mass destruction and plans on selling them to terrorists, along with his own hopes and plans of world domination.

It is clear the driving element and theme of this film is the satire; its what really makes the film work. The constant mocking of celebrities is a high point and very comical; leave it to Matt Stone and Trey Parker to handle the task. None are spared: Janeane Garofalo, Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Matt Damon, and others. One particular actor, Alec Baldwin, is president of the Film Actors Guild, aka FAG (with a title like that, the jokes and character assassination are endless and quite funny; be prepared.) What is most ironic, is the point that most of these big-mouthed celebrities seem to think they have a doctorate in political science. Yet, in their own field of expertise, which is acting, most pretend to be something they're not, and reiterate dialogue that has been written for them; hmm...kind of resembles that of a lifeless puppet that only comes to life when it's prepped and told what to do, which, come to think of it, are the only presence in this entire film: the whole cast is bunch of marionettes. I'm sure this was the intent of the director, Trey Parker, who not only brings life to these self important stars, but also gives each a very memorable and funny execution.

I wouldn't be implying "wooden cast, wooden performances" (I will leave that to Mariah Carey and the cast of Glitter!) Actually, the performances of the puppets at times are meant to be laughed at, with the poorly staged fight scenes, and the visibility of the strings, but the craftsmanship of the puppets is quite brilliant. They give off expressions with a fluidity rich in detail and countenance. I know the audience isn't going to see this film with that in mind (that is the job of a film critic), but I'm just trying to justify the supposed $32 million budget of this film (couldn't the producers have saved money and just have the puppets built in Taiwan?)

The film, complete with sophomoric hijinks, sexual stereotypes, excessive obscene language, and one memorable sex scene, takes the satire and rolls with it. Yet, what do you expect from the makers of South Park? Except nothing but raunch, debauchery and offensiveness which, in this case, equals fun.



Holy Crap It's a Horribly Outdated Sports Column

By Sam Goldman

ME AND MY BIG FAT MOUTH!

So, I was completely wrong about Yankees - Red Sox. It is officially a series for the ages, with the Red Sox becoming the first baseball team and third sports franchise (two NHL teams did it in the 30's) to come back from a 3-0 deficit to win the series. But the Red Sox had much more than a 3-0 deficit to come back from. They had to beat the expectation of defeat. They had to beat the "Evil Empire," their most hated and reviled nemesis. They had to beat the Curse.

It is unbelievable, indescribable, and just plain nutty.

Think about each game: Mike Mussina losing a perfect game and then nearly the whole game. Jon Lieber dominating in game 2, the 19 run pounding in game 3 that made everyone think the Red Sox were running on empty.

And then...

David Ortiz homers in the 12th inning of game 4. Then it's Ortiz again in Game 5, the longest game (in terms of time) in postseason history, with a bloop single eerily reminiscent of Luis Gonzalez's blooper to win the 2001 World Series for Arizona. Curt Schilling, with his sock red with his blood, giving up one run in seven gutsy innings. And finally, the 10-3 pounding that silenced Yankee Stadium.

So where do the Yankees go form here? No doubt George Steinbrenner is breathing fire, and the New York sports talk mavens are already discussing who will be fired and who will be brought in as the latest savior of the franchise. Many people are talking about Bryan Cashman being let go, Nomar Garciaparra being brought in to replace Miguel Cairo at second, and Carlos Beltran replacing Bernie Williams in center-field. Bench coach Wille Randolph is the frontrunner to replace Art Howe as manager of the crosstown Mets.

If George Steinbrenner wants to find out the biggest reason the Yankees lost, he should look at...George Steinbrenner. George Seinbrenner was the one who decided to bring in Javier Vasquez and Kevin Brown instead of keeping Andy Pettitte. George Steinbrenner was the one who decided to bring in Kenny Lofton, who was completely useless this October. George Steinbrenner was the one who amassed a $170 million payroll that, to be blunt, rolled over and died in game 7.

For now, the Red Sox can bask in the glory of the greatest comeback in sports history.

FLYING HIGH

Hey Yankee fans!

Still upset about your team choking?

I've got just what you need!!

Take heed, my friends, of New York's two football teams. The New York Jets, as of this writing, are 5-0 going into a showdown with their undefeated rivals, the New England Patriots. The New York Giants are 4-1 going into this Sunday's matchup with the Detroit Lions.

Both teams have taken a similar approach to winning. Both feature strong, aggressive, opportunistic defenses, a great running game (Curtis Martin and Tiki Barber are among the league leaders), smart quarterbacks (Kurt Warner and Chad Pennington), and tough coaches (Herman Edwards and Tom Coughlin).

The big difference is the schedule. The Jets have it far easier, just as a matter of inter-division games. The AFC East features doormats Buffalo and Miami, while no team in the NFC East is an easy win. Their out-of-division schedules are even, with the Giants having Atlanta and Minnesota, and the Jets having Seattle and St. Louis.

FINALLY...

As I'm Typing this article, I switch to ESPN.com to find out that the Red Sox' opponent will be the St. Louis Cardinals, baseball's best team this season. The Cards are stacked with talent, witt the first five hitters All-Star caliber (SS Edgar Renteria, RF Larry Walker, 1B Albert Pujols, 3B Scott Rolen, and CF Jim Edmonds.) Renteria, Rolen, and Edmonds are Gold Glovers. On the mound, they have four 15-game winners in Jeff Suppan, Chris Carpenter, Matt Morris, and Jason Marquis. Their closer, former Met stud Jason Isringhausen, had 47 saves on the year, but blew 7.

Sooo... I get to make a prediction, don't I? Well, okay. Many will say the Sox will be drained from their ALCS, but they will have 3 days to relax, so I don't think hat will be nearly as much of a factor as many will make it out to be. St. Louis has more talent at just about every position, but the Sox have the emotional momentum. Yes, Tony La Russa is a better manager, but players win championships, not managers.

Ill be rooting for the Red Sox and an end to the curse, but I gotta go with the Cardinals in seven.

ADDEDNDUM:

I obviously wrote this article before the Red Sox amazingly swept the Cardinals to win the World Series, and the Jets and Giants both lost last weekend. Sorry, Yankee fans.

Congratulations are in order to the curse-breaking Boston Red Sox. I imagine the patrons of Yawkey Way are still partying, and I raise a cold Sam Adams to the city and their team. You've gone through enough crap. You deserve it.

sbu sport standings

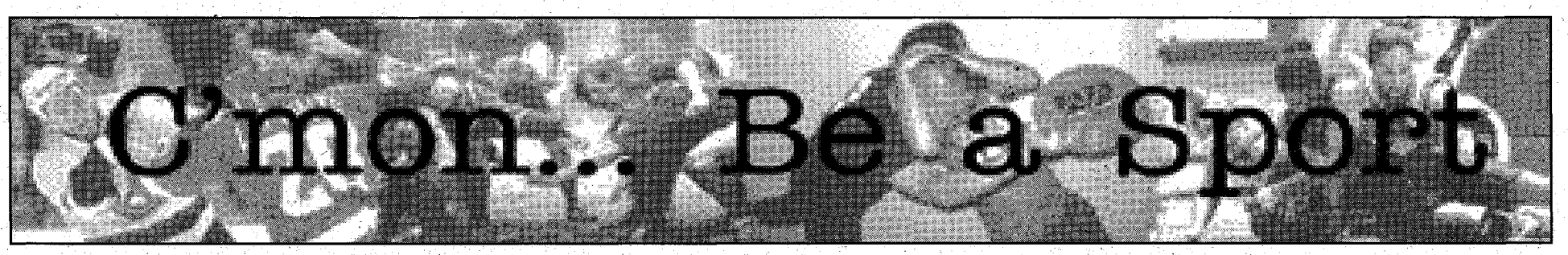
accurate as of 2 PM 10/28/04

FOOTBALL

LAST SBU GAME: Albany 27 at SBU 22, on October 23

NEXT SBU GAME: vs. Sacred Heart, October 30, 6 pm.

Team	Won	Loss	Conf. Won	Conf. Loss	Points For	Points Against	Streak
Central Conn.	6	1	4	0	189	132	Won 5
Monmouth	7	1	3	1	213	127	Won 4
Albany	3	5	3	1	133	191	Won 1
Wagner	5	3	2	3	183	157	Won 2
Robert Morris	4	4	2	3	217	170	Lost 3
Stony Brook	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**138**	**186**	**Lost 1**
Sacred Heart	4	3	1	3	204	140	Won 3
St. Francis PA	3	5	1	4	152	249	Lost 3



MLS Playoff Rivalry, Not MLB

By Antony Lin

So it's that time of the year again; it's playoff time! Those two rivals are going at it again, and no, it's not the Major League Baseball playoffs, it's the Major League Soccer playoffs between two bitter rivals: The New York MetroStars and Washington D.C.-based DC United.

Although the league is only nine years old, and the average player salary ranges from $20,000 to $30,000, it has produced stars that led the US National Team to the 2002 World Cup quarterfinals .

While the MetroStars have an average attendance of over 17,000 a match this season, DC United averages 19,000 attendees. The MetroStars, playing at Giants Stadium since the MLS started in `96, have a higher attendance average then the NJ Nets, NJ Devils, and the NY Islanders. Their TV ratings, according to the MSG Network, is higher than the NY Islanders and the occasional Devils game. Yet, outside MSG, the media coverage for our professional New York soccer team remains lifeless even when playoffs have already begun for the MetroStars against the hated DC United.

This is the first time the MetroStars will be meeting up with DC in the playoffs since `96, when DC United eliminated NY and went on to win the inaugural MLS Cup. Now, the two teams meet up again. DC United has the world's youngest soccer phenom, 15-year old Freddy Adu, and the MetroStars have the exciting 17-year old, Eddie Gaven.

Despite the bitter rivalry, both teams are alike in certain aspects, most notably stadium issues. The MetroStars fail to earn a profit every match due to the horrendous operators at Giants Stadium, known as the NJSEA, charging outrageously high rental fees, as well as refusing to share parking and concession revenue made from MetroStar games, not to mention the mistreatment of Metro fans over the years. While Robert Francis Kennedy Stadium may be better off for DC United, they still have to share RFK with the former Montreal Expos next season, which will inevitably cause problems.

This isn't just about a rivalry that takes place on the field; in fact, any "rivalry" that occurs is mostly between fans. Not to worry though, this is hate between the fans without rioting. Supporter clubs, when it comes to soccer, are fan organizations that are actually organized by fans, and in no way officially affiliated with the teams. Members stand throughout the entire match, chanting, singing, banging drums, throw streamers, confetti, etc. The chants are not the typical, "Let's go (insert team name)!" type of chants. The songs aren't that Jock Jam stuff. It gets more complicated, detailed, creative, and, of course, hilarious.

One such supporter club, The Empire Supporters Club, with about 300 members supports the MetroStars. DC United, with their three different supporter clubs, the Screaming Eagles, Barra Brava, and La Norte, has even more members.

Whenever the MetroStars play at Giants Stadium, a good number of DC fans make the trip to show their support. And whenever DC plays at RFK Stadium, the very same thing happens, with Metro fans clamoring into organized buses.

Being a Metro fan for six years, and an ESC member for two years, I made my first trip to RFK Stadium on October 17th. The very second I happened to wander off alone, I realizes the rivalry was bigger than I had ever anticipated, with insults hurled towards me from all directions and ages, including kids, teens, soccer moms, et al.

A similar event happened here in NY; I was present two weeks earlier at Giants Stadium, and three DC United fans decided to enter Section 101. If you don't know already, Section 101 is the home of the ESC. The moment they had entered, 130-some-odd ESC members present turned around, ignoring the game, and simultaneously gave the one-finger salute, while the DC United fans taunted back.

While this rivalry may not be as popular as Yankees/Red Sox, the Metro/DC rivalry will only become more intense over the years. To the already soccer fans, the quality of play may not be as good as the "European" style, but nevertheless, quality does not equal entertainment. Although the season is nearing its end, check out either www.metrostars.com or MSG for schedules, should Metro get past United. Either way, The 2004 MLS Cup will be televised at 3:30 PM on Nov. 14th on ABC. If not, come out to a game and head on over to Section 101 of Giants Stadium next season.

For some ESC chants, check out: http://www.empiresc.com/mf/esc/chants.jsp

sbu sports standings

accurate as of 2 PM 10/28/04

MEN'S SOCCER

LAST SBU GAME: SBU 3 at Rider 0, October 26

NEXT SBU GAME: vs. Maine, October 31, Noon.

Team	Record	Conf. Rec	Points	Last 5
Boston Univ	8-6-1	5-1-1	16	4-1-1
Binghamton	10-1-5	4-1-2	14	4-0-1
Albany	10-3-2	4-2-1	13	4-0-0
New Hampsh	5-4-6	3-1-3	12	2-2-1
Vermont	8-5-3	3-3-1	10	2-2-1
UMBC	7-5-3	3-4-0	9	2-1-2
Stony Brook	**9-5-2**	**2-3-2**	**8**	**1-3-1**
Northeastern	2-9-4	1-3-3	6	0-4-1
Maine	4-7-3	1-4-2	5	1-4-0
Hartford	2-9-4	0-4-3	3	0-4-1

WOMEN'S SOCCER

LAST SBU GAME: SBU 0 at Boston University 0 (2 OT), October 24

NEXT SBU GAME: vs. New Hampshire, October 28, 7 pm

Team	Record	Conf. Rec	Points	Last 5
Northeastern	11-4-2	5-1-1	16	4-1-0
Maine	11-4-1	5-2-0	15	4-1-0
Boston Univ	12-3-2	4-2-1	13	3-1-1
Binghamton	10-5-1	4-3-0	12	2-3-0
New Hampsh	8-7-2	4-3-0	12	2-3-0
Vermont	9-8-1	4-4-0	12	2-3-0
Stony Brook	**6-7-4**	**3-3-1**	**10**	**1-3-1**
Hartford	4-11-2	3-4-1	10	1-4-0
UMBC	7-9-0	2-5-0	6	3-2-0
Albany	2-16-0	0-7-0	0	0-5-0

Life, Liberty and Petrochemicals

By Leonid Borovskiy

With oil prices at an all time high, many people have been considering (as they did before in the 70s) moving away from oil as a major source of our energy production. It would make the US more independent of this politically expensive energy source, and even most oil companies are focusing on positioning themselves as energy companies, regardless of source. But one issue rarely considered in public is where other oil-based products will come from. Since the petrochemical revolution, more and more products have been made from crude oil, some reengineered (like artificial rubber) and some made exclusively from oil (like all plastics). Regardless, we are reliant on oil for many of these products. The following is a partial list of things that are commonly made from petrochemicals:

House, Homecare and Garden:
Ammonia
Plastic Bottles
Candles
Curtains
Detergent
Dishwashing Liquid
Disposable Diapers
Enamel
Epoxy Paint
Fertilizer
Floor Carpeting
Floor Linoleum
Floor Tiles
Floor Wax
Food Preservatives
Garden Hoses
Household Cleaners
Ice Cube Trays
Mini-Blinds
Mops
Paint Rollers
Patio Furniture
Refrigerants
Refrigerator Insulation
Shower Curtains
Shower Doors
Shower Heads
Sofas
Trash Bags
Unbreakable Dishes

Medicine:
Anesthetics
Antihistamines
Artificial Heart Valves
Artificial Limbs
Aspirin
Cold Cream
Contact Lenses
Cortisone
Dentures
Glycerin
Mineral oil
Prescription Glasses

Personal Care:
Bandages
Deodorant
Disposable Razors
Hair Combs
Hair Curlers
Hand Lotion
Lipstick
Liquid paraffin
Nail Polish
Perfume
Rubbing Alcohol
Shampoo
Shaving Cream
Toothpaste
Toothpaste Tubes
Vaseline

Fuel:
Benzene
Gasoline
Heating Oil
Jet Fuel
Kerosene
Natural Gas

Outdoor Products:
Fishing Rods
Insect Repellent
Insecticide
Sunglasses
Tents

Office and Electronics:
Adhesive Tape
Electrical Tape
Magnetic Tape
Magnetic Tape Cassettes
Magnetic Tape Recorders
Calculators
Compact Disks
Computers
Credit Cards
DVDs
Ink
LP records
Packaging
Pens
Safety Glass
Typewriter Ribbons
Typewriters

Sports and Safety:
Artificial Turf
Footballs
Golf Balls
Lifejackets
Parachutes
Skis
Sports Helmets
Sports Protection Materials

Car and Auto:
Antifreeze
Car Seats
Dashboards
Machine Oil
Model Cars
Oil Filters
Roads (Asphalt)
Sports Car Bodies
Synthetic Rubber
Tires

Children's Products:
Balloons
Crayons
Dolls
Glue
Halloween Masks
Paintbrushes

Clothing:
Buttons
Clothing Dyes
Nylon
Pantyhose
Polyester
Shoe polish
Shoes

There are, of course, many more products we use today that are made from petrochemicals, this is not meant to be a comprehensive list. But these are products that we constantly use and need, and as oil supplies become more limited, we will find ourselves asking the question "What do we do when we run out of petrochemicals?"

Continue this discussion online at *The Stony Brook Press* Public Forum at http://www.thepress.info.

Coming Soon to the CINEMA ARTS CENTRE

The Darkside of the Yellow Brick Road
Showing Wednesday, Oct. 27
Pink Floydd's *Darkside of the Moon* and Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz* finally come together on the big screen. Come see if all the rumors are true!

i ♥ huckabees

Showing Oct. 22 to Oct. 28
Convinced that a series of coincidences involving a doorman hold some secret to life's largest riddles, Albert Markovski (JASON SCHWARTZMAN) seeks the help of a detective agency unlike any other... which leads him down a path that questions the essence of existence itself.
****** 4 Stars** *-New York Times*

Theater of the Wild

The Brown Bunny is both a love story and a haunting portrait of a lost soul unable to forget his past. After finishing a motorcycle race in New Hampshire, Bud Clay (Vincent Gallo) loads his racing bike into the back of his van and begins a cross-country odyssey to Los Angeles. During his trip he meets three very different women: Violet, a wholesome all-American gas station attendant; Lilly (Cheryl Tiegs), a fellowlost soul he connects with at a highway rest stop; and Rose, a Las Vegas prostitute. Though he can never escape his intensefeelings for the love of his life, Daisy (Chloë Sevigny), he plans to reconcile with her when he reaches Los Angeles. Building to a notorious climax, the film presents one of the frankest portrayals of male sexuality ever seen in American cinema. Adults only. **No one under 18 admitted.**

Playing Nov. 3-4

THE BROWN BUNNY

Admission for all programs above: $7 Student/Senior, $6 Members, $8.50 Public
423 Park Ave., Huntington 11743 www.CinemaArtsCentre.org 631.423.7611

The Lonely Seat of Passion

By David K. Ginn

Okay, so there was really nothing passionate about it. Really, it was just a seat, and an almost lonely one. I say almost because, unlike Le *Statesman*, I felt pretty comfortable with being there. Les representatives from Le *Statesman* did not actually show up.

Well, anyways, let me tell you the story about the Wednesday, October 13th debate.

I was asked to represent *The Stony Brook Press* in the student media panel for the debate that day. I planned ahead, writing out questions I thought were important, striking out some questions, asking others for what they think should be asked.

So, as I'm on my way to the debate I hear from NYPIRG that, so far, I'm the only one who's actually going to show up for the media panel. I wagered that Le *Statesman* should be there, too, and I questioned even further why they wouldn't be there. It wasn't that I was afraid of being on the panel by myself, mind you, but just that I thought that since Le *Statesman* is so important, they should be able to take a little bit of time out to ask important questions about what direction our country will be going in starting in January. I mean, this is the student media panel. The student media represents the student body. Student media is the voice of the students. The media panel is the voice of the media. This is important stuff here, man. *The Stony Brook Press* not only sought me out and made sure that our queries about the presidential candidates were asked, but they freaking leaped at the opportunity. And, I'm rather happy to say, they trusted me enough to come up with the questions on my own. When a paper has enough confidence in its news editor to allow that person alone to represent the paper's views and inquiries, that's when you know you have a good paper.

This is yet another reason that I've been able to fortify my opinion that the major difference between The *Statesman* and *The Press* is that The *Statesman* is a thing... and *The Press* is a people.

Le *Statesman* will continue on forever and ever, and despite how its quality may fade and its acceptance may wane, it will still be around. It's an institution. Le *Statesman*, like a corporation, will be the same for a very long time. *The Press* has never wished to wage war on Le *Statesman*, despite how it might seem at times. To have two papers at war is a playful thing that both parties shouldn't take too seriously. That Le *Statesman* printed *Statesman Lite*, a hideously failed attempt at being "hip," is a point that only needs to be made once or twice; and at the very least not a second time in this article. To point out signs of weakness and waning to excess is take a war a bit too seriously.

I like to concede that I'm a good enough writer to know when I've broken off into a tangent, although I won't concede to being a good enough writer to really care too much. But getting back to the debate, you probably know why it all ties in.

Thirty minutes before the debate was scheduled to begin, I'd had about enough of waiting for Mansoor to get back to the guys from NYPIRG just so we'd know if Le *Statesman* was showing up or not. So I went into the office of Le *Statesman*.

It wasn't my first time in the office, mind you. I find that as I become more active and aggressive I become in the paper I write for, the more I find the need to visit the opposition. Since being elected onto the editorial board, I've been in Le *Statesman* office at least once a week, as opposed to the last two semesters, where I'd never even known they had a refrigerator.

That refrigerator is stocked with peanut butter, by the way.

Jelly, too, but who knows how old it is. I don't think I was supposed to look in their refrigerator anyway. It was kind of intrusive. Oh well, fuck it. Intrusive I was. Peanut butter I found. The world still goes on.

So anyways, when I went in the office, I met "Le Secretary." Le Secretary is really the advertising executive, or business manager, or whatever it really is that she does there. The point here is that as soon as you walk in, she's waiting there for you behind a desk. Very convenient. Anyone who waits by a door behind a desk and asks how she can help you and writes down messages is a secretary by just about anybody's standards. So, as I was saying, I see her and I ask her why Mansoor, in all his exalted greatness, had not yet taken the time to call the very nice people at NYPIRG to let them know whether or not he'd be showing up.

Le Secretary is actually very helpful, and she calls him on his cell phone. And he picks up!!! Good news, man. Good news. And guess what? Even more good news! He didn't forget!!! He's sending someone!!! Rock that shit, man. Way to go, Mansoor.

So we get to the SAC ballroom (hehehe, I only wish we could reprint *that* article), and I go over my questions with the people from NYPIRG, go over the questions that E-Zine had prepared, and find my friend Jess Worthington from SBU-TV and ask her if the station had anything they'd like to ask. Meanwhile, the clock was ticking, and Le *Statesman*, like a cheating husband cleaning lipstick off his collar as he drives home, had not yet shown up.

No problem, though. They'd be there. They're cool like that.

Unfortunately, they are not cool like that.

We went up there and started the debate, and *The Statesman* never showed up. The media panel, with just myself to represent the entirety of student media, acted almost like a second moderator. I didn't really have much of a choice. I felt that, since The *Statesman* didn't show up, I was charged personally with the protection and handling of the concerns of the student media. This wasn't a position I was very inclined to take, but I wasn't about to see the student media get ass-fucked as the debate goes on without them.

So that was all well and good.

Well, almost. The next week I find, to my complete surprise, that my face is now on the front page of The *Stony Brook Statesman*. It seems that they decided to write a nice, petite, yet under-researched article about the debate. It happened, and so The Statesman wrote about it.

That the picture of me wasn't very flattering is not in any way the subject of this article, nor is it any real concern of mine except to choke it up and laugh when my girlfriend makes fun of me. The one question I have, though, is why I am on the front page in the first place. I'm not mentioned once in the article, and neither is much of anything else. Yet, the caption under my funny picture reads, "David Ginn, News Editor for *The Stony Brook Press*, was one of the moderators of the debate."

Okay, a couple of things have to be made clear here. Firstly, I am *one* of the news editors of *The Press*. Although I know writing "'a' news editor," or even lowercasing the title is just a matter of semantics, but I think it's important for everyone to know that Brittany Brockner, the other news editor for *The Press*, was also there in the audience taking notes. Brittany is a terrific news editor, and it is very much unfair that her role as such should be trivialized at any time. This I do not blame The *Statesman* for. Like I said, it's semantics. What I do care about, though, is that people know it's not just me, or Joe, or Mike, or Sam, or anybody else who gets mentioned during these things who's responsible for this paper. Everybody involved- every single person in that staff box- makes the paper what it is. *The Press* could not survive without the people in that box. And that's just it.

That being said, I'd like to point out that I was not, in fact, a moderator. I don't want anyone thinking that I was placed there as a moderator in from *The Press'* pocket. I went there to ask some questions that *The Press* wanted answered. I did *not* moderate the debate. My role, through circumstance, became one in which I felt the need to protect the role of student media as a whole. This in no way made me a moderator. For me to be a moderator of the debate would be, in my opinion, very poor conduct on the part of both *The Press* and those responsible for setting up the debate. The moderator we had that day was very objective, keeping very much to the role that a moderator should take. It would not be fair to have a fiercely liberal paper send one of its own to moderate a multi-party debate.

What is perhaps most interesting, though, is that even though they couldn't send someone to sit up there with me they somehow managed to take exclusive photos and print up an article about it. Interesting.

The Incredible Mix Tape

A musical odyssey by Tom Senkus

It's Ultimate Because It Would Never Fit on a Single Tape Nor CD!

Ted Leo & The Pharmacists "Little Dawn"
Gyorgy Ligeti "Atmospheres"
Mitch Hepberg "Pizza Hut"
William Shatner "Common People"
Megadeth "Killing Is My Business... and Business is Good!"
Buzzcocks "Ever Fallen in Love"
James Kochalka Superstar "Monkey vs. Robot"
Elliot Smith "Twilight"
Television "Marquee Moon"
The Smiths "Last Night I Dreamt Someone Loved Me"

BUTT 4
Depeche Mode "Behind the Wheel"
Duran Duran "Notorious"
Beastie Boys "Shake Your Rump"
Beatallica "Everybody's Got a Ticket to Ride Except for Me and My Lightning"
Pavement "Conduit For Sale"
Harry Chapin "Sniper"
Tomoyashu Hotei "Battle Without Honor or Humanity"
Refused "Summerholidays vs. Punkroutine"

Age of Ambivalence

By Daniel Seifert

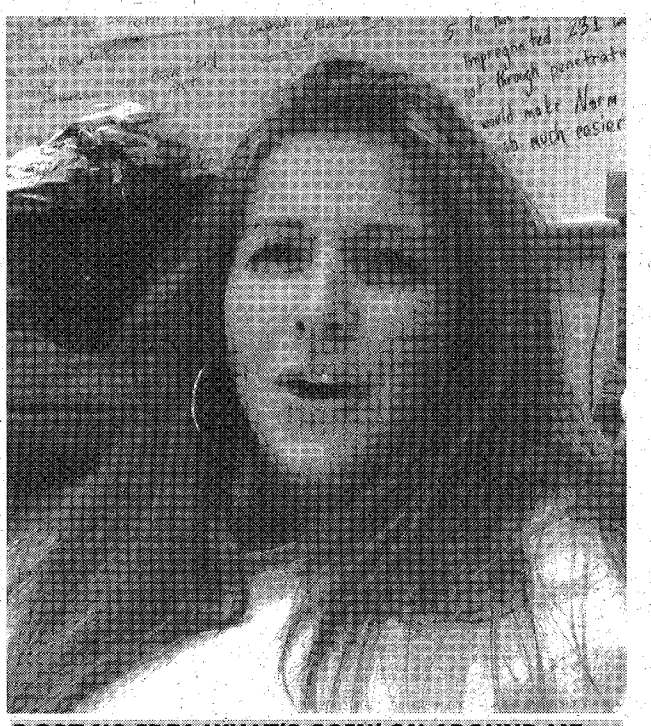
With the coming elections, I think the appropriateness of this article can not be understated. I am a self-proclaimed "pragmatic liberal"; all the ideas without the utopian grandeur. Election Day is not far off, but the ideas contained in this article are intended be applicable at any time. There is only one question that can jump start this article correctly: how can there possibly be undecided voters in an election as charged as this? Attending Stony Brook, or any university for that matter, belies the latent ambivalence that is present in our society.

If you have paid any attention to the coverage of this presidential election, the group that is slotted to play the biggest role at the poles are the undecided. Both candidates, Bush and Kerry alike, are playing to these people, pandering for their support. Both candidates are trying to appear as centrist as possible while attacking the other for being liberal or conservative. Kerry is deemed one of the most liberal senators, and Bush is painted as a conservative ideologue. In this election with such charged issues as the Iraq war, gay rights, and abortion, the fact that undecided voters exist is a testament to the level of ambivalence in our society.

I want to focus on the group of people who I think are the vanguard of the Age of Ambivalence: the notorious 18-24 demographic. They can best be characterized by the phrase, "my vote doesn't count." They feel that politicians are liars who are out of touch with society, and that there is nothing that they can do to change that. These three characterizations are the three things that I am hoping to end. It extends as far as the low voter turnout of the 2000 election, of which this demographic has the lowest turnout of all, with only 32 percent of the age group voting. Beyond that, and perhaps more frightening, is the registration percentage of that election where 54 percent of people in the 18-26 age group were not even registered to vote. If these statistics are not a smoking gun of ambivalence, than I don't know what is.

Now let me make my call to arms; a plea to all those who feel disenfranchised, powerless and excluded. You do have power, and no, I am not going to make the typical your vote counts speech, instead I am going to implore you to head my arguments and take them to heart. While people in general need to pay more attention to the political scene, young people particularly do, since the policies and plans put into action now are going to be inherited by our generation. We (and by we I mean young voters) have incredible power. As an age group we outnumber the vaunted 65 and up, yet we are marketed-to while they are played-to. Why? They turnout and vote, and, perennially, they are the most active political demographic, and because of that politicians talk to them instead of pay them lip service like they do our demographic. If we voted as consistently as they did, we would have our ideas taken seriously, and issues that matter to us could take front stage. But I promised this would not be your typical turnout out and vote speech so let me show you why.

If I were to ask anyone what the most important election is, I am positive that almost everyone would answer the presidential election. I would disagree, and say that elections



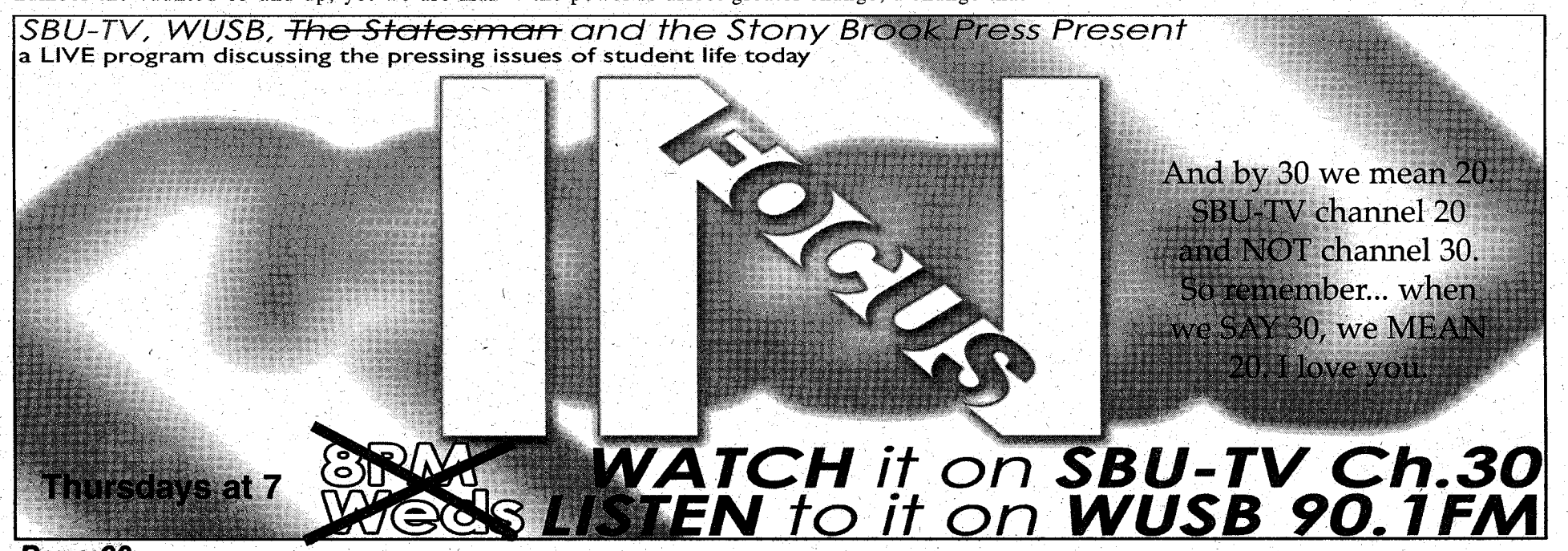
I GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S GOIN' ON AROUND ME, Courtesy of Jowy Romano

for you local and state government are more important and allow you to affect greater change. On a daily basis your state and local governments directly affect your life more than the president. How often do residential mandates and federal laws affect you on a daily basis? It is essential that we eliminate the mystique of the presidential election without understating its significance. The president is the undeniable leader of the country, but in order to end the age of ambivalence, we must show people that voting does make a difference. On a local and state level, your vote is proportionally more significant thus; it is easier to encourage people to vote by showing the power of their vote. If you and a group of your friends turn out and vote in a local election, you have the power to affect greater change, a change that is easier to see.

We need to show people the power that their vote wields. Think how differently the battle over higher tuitions here at Stony Brook could have gone if we had elected the proper state officials. If students had used their power at the ballots, we could have elected officials who were more sympathetic to the issue. Using your vote on the local and state level allows you to affect change on issues that hit home everyday. With gay marriage being such a hot issue this election, my point becomes increasingly clearer. As it stands, gay rights are still a state issue; voting for candidates who support your stance on gay rights on the state level could actually empower a state to legalize gay marriage.

The first step towards ending this ambivalent sentiment is by showing people that their vote *does* count. By turning out every year for state and local elections, they will be able to see the power of their vote. Their vote is proportionately more important, and, in general, local elections are closer, which will further illustrate the power of a single vote. Secondly, people can elect candidates on a smaller scale more easily, which would allow them to elect candidates who are actually working for the benefit of their constituency. This would prove to people that not all politicians are crooks who are in office as a means of attaining power. This bleeds into the third reason: voting in local and state elections can cure the affliction of ambivalence; people will see that they can affect change with their vote. This is perhaps the most important point; if someone feels disenfranchised and they are able to see the power their vote wields, they will hopefully regain the conviction to vote.

I do not care what party or ideological allegiance you have; it is more important to me that you turn out and vote. Living in a society where there is a palpable level of ambivalence and apathy is sickening. We pride ourselves on being a bastion of democracy when our level of democracy at home is appalling. It all starts with people of our age group who are too obsessed with their Thursday night parties and what outfit they are going to wear tomorrow. Look around you: laws are being passes that are going to affect us the most; privatization of social security, gay rights, tax laws, and, most importantly, an aggressive foreign policy which reaffirms the U.S. hegemony. It is our duty to speak up now, because if we don't, things are going to quickly become out of our reach. If we don't act now, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.



Ask Satan Anything

By Satan the Deceiver

Dear Satan:

My mommy says that good kids go to heaven and bad kids go straight to... well, you-know-where. But then my Bible teacher told me that all kids go to heaven, because kids don't do bad things like that. If this is true, then why does Eric Magreeves from grade three always push me around and take my lunch money?

- *Confused in Connecticut*

Dear *Confused*:

Kids don't go to, well, you-know-where. Your mother is just trying to make sure you stay a good kid by putting the fear into you. Although kids don't go to... h.e.double-hockey-sticks, adults and teenagers do. So don't worry about Eric Magreeves. We've already got his bed made up down here.

- Satan

Dear Satan:

Every time I try to do something nice for my girlfriend, it's as if she doesn't care. I brought her roses one day, made her chocolates, and even spent three weeks making a beautiful Valentine's Day card. Still, after all of this, she doesn't seemed phased in least. How can I get her to love me again?

- *Frustrated in Illinois*

Dear *Frustrated*:

My minions agree that this is most definitely something you should talk about with her. I'll tell you, from my own personal records, that your girlfriend thinks some pretty dirty thoughts. Try inspiring her with romantic sexual passes, but first try and see if she really does appreciate your hard work and effort with everything else. Oh, and your girlfriend has deep, dark desires about pillows and sex. Try cutting open a pillow and making love to her on it. Chances are she'll love you forever. So don't worry so much. She's in good hands.

- Satan

Dear Satan:

I come from a town with no movie theater. Everyone I talk to online has gone to a movie theater, but I haven't. Is it something wrong with my town? Are my parents and all the townspeople evil or something?

- *Stumped in New Hampshire*

Dear *Stumped*:

Actually, yes, your parents and the townspeople are evil, although that has nothing to do with this. The reason there is no movie theater in your town is because it burned down in 1978. *Star Wars* had been well into its second year in the theaters (because movies ran for much, much, longer periods of time back then, what with no VCRs or anything) and there was one group of crazy fanatics who dressed up as Wookies and Jawas and whatnot for their long-planned twenty-fifth viewing of the movie. Their parents were devout Christians, and so when the teenagers were told that dressing up as Wookies meant they worshipped the Devil we all got a good laugh out of it. Unfortunately, due to a truly sick sense of humor on God's part the movie was unexpectedly taken from theaters. The reason given was because the film wasn't making a lot of money in New Hampshire, but the real reason was that God just couldn't resist seeing a bunch of idiots dressed as Wookies and Jawas arguing in front of a multiplex ticket booth. I have to admit it was pretty clever. It was burned down, though, because the kids were so pissed off and embarrassed that they lit a fire in the theater's boiler room and set the building ablaze. They were just a little upset. It was forgiven. Soon afterwards they all moved out of town, fucked a lot of women, and all the people in town turned to evil. It worked out good for everyone. So don't worry. You're not strange.

- Satan

Email Satan @ TheEndIsExtremelyNigh@hotmail.com.

The Allegory Corner

By David K. Ginn

The movie *Jurassic Park* is obviously an allegory for the pre- and post-civil war period of American history. The evidence is right there, plain as day.

In the beginning of the movie we see a dinosaur in a cage that uses its intelligence to murder one of its captors (the gatekeeper, in fact). The dinosaurs, of course, represent the black slaves and the captors represent the southern slave owners. These slave owners underestimate the intelligence of their slaves and end up paying dearly for it.

It is this incident that inspires all the men to shoot the dinosaur. Gee, haven't we seen this before? Oh yeah, over a hundred years ago, when southern slave owners lashed out against slaves when they tried to defend themselves. This scene should have come to no surprise to anyone who had slave ancestors.

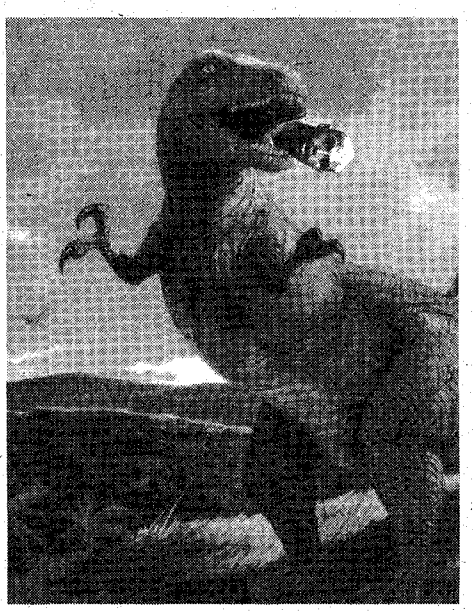
So what's the next thing the Jurassic Park officials try to do? They get the "experts" to come over and evaluate their little island, which just happens to be off the coast of Costa Rica, representing the secession of the Confederacy from the Union. These experts, representing Northern Liberators, come down to the island under the Premise that they should prepare a good and satisfied report, thereby endorsing their little setup.

And why do they do this? Well, because the Confederacy feels that the best way to get the Union troops off their backs about slavery is to convince them that everything is just fine. These people just happen to be "experts," which means that they were former slave-owners themselves.

The idea here is to get these so-called experts to tell the Union that things are Hunkey-mother-boinking- dory over at Confederate Island. No prob, Bob, right? Wrong!

At first, everything does go okay. The experts are amazed at how organized and well kept these slave lands are. Everything is just so beautiful. They've accomplished a miracle here. But then the experts ask to see what they had really come to see: the slaves. The first slave they want to see doesn't show up. No one ever gets a reason why. He's just... gone. Yeah, like we don't know what happened. Psh.

Then there's the second slave. He's the famous one. He's the one who wrote books and snuck them out to get published. They wait with such gleeful anticipation to see him, safe behind his cage, unable to crush their white world from his side of the fence. Ah, but he doesn't show up either. Then they try to feed him. He doesn't want to be fed. He wants to hunt.



I DON'T KNOW IF I'M MORE SURPRISED TO SEE CHARLES BARKLEY ALIVE OR THE T-REX.
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

So as they leave the pen of this famous slave (the T-Rex) they come across another slave, one who should have been hidden, too. This one is sick, and for the first time the experts begin to see the problems with the slave lands. The slaves would get sick very easily, and sometimes die, all because no one bothered to check up on their living environment.

Then, secretly, there is one man who decides that the North should have slaves, too. He is paid handsomely to kidnap as many slaves as he can and then breed them for northern slave dealers. This is oh-so-perfect. Unfortunately though, this doesn't work out for him. All he ends up doing is setting all the slaves loose. Bad idea, man. Then, as he tries to escape with his cargo, the first slave, the one who didn't show up the first time, finds him and kills him in an oh-so-gruesome way.

Justice, man. All the way.

But now there's a problem for the experts. That big, famous slave that stayed hidden? Well now he's out, and he's got white supremacists to kill. He attacks the experts and makes sure that the survivors have to spend a few days in *his* territory.

Meanwhile, the southern owners are trying to get their lands back into order. There is no way for them to get all the slaves rounded up again. They are free now. There is nothing they can do about it.

Now the main problem is getting their cages and control equipment back up and in order. And so what happens? That's right. In the movie, the black man volunteers to go out into the land of dinosaurs so that way his honkey superiors can have their freaking power. Notice that word, too. *Power.* That's what it's all about, man. It's no coincidence.

What happens next, you ask? Well, the experts end up escaping the slave land, then they go back to the big head slave owner who called them down there and tell him that his slave lands suck. Big time. There's no way they're going to endorse this island, mandinga. They've got sick, undernourished animals (slaves), animals breaking loose and taking over (slaves), and absolutely no control (white supremacists).

So they take off in their little helicopter and let the slaves have their island. But is that the end? If the sequel to this movie were about the original island instead of that stupid Isla Sorna shit, then you could bet your bottom dollar off your ass that it'd consist of more white men, this time trying to kill the dinosaurs and take their island back. I wouldn't be surprised if they were all wearing the same military uniform: white robes and hoods!

Booya. Jurassic Park is racist. Rock that shit, yo. I like vanilla ice cream. Later.

Holy Crap, It's an Election!

By John Mascher

Four years ago, the citizens of this nation went to our polling places and created one of the closest and most contested results ever. What are the chances of a repeat of this event? Well, Gore isn't running, so zero, you fool. But this does not preclude an utter and complete mess in which the results are not fully understood for some time. Below is a list of the states (with the new number of electoral college votes allotted to them after the 2000 census) and an evaluation of the most likely outcome, based on the most recent polling data* and legal challenges.

*Please note: Polling data is unquestionably accurate and flawless. This information is binding on the voters. Any attempt to create a conflicting result shall result in massive fraud to undo the damage you have caused.

Alabama - 9 - Bush is ahead by a significant margin. Most residents, however, will choose to vote for somebody in their immediate family.

Alaska - 3 - Bush clubs Kerry. Nader is triumphant, and a "moral victor" in this cold, soulless wasteland, with a stunning 5%.

Arizona - 10 - The results are forever unknown when pack mules climbing out of the Grand Canyon die from the heat. It's a dry heat, though.

Arkansas - 6 - For the first time ever, a law is enforced stating that voters may not take more than 5 minutes to mark their ballot. As a result, no votes are cast or counted.

California - 55 - Us Californians just have to worry about California breaking off from the United States to go hang with Hawaii. Alaska can come too.

Colorado - 9 - Although the election is close here, it doesn't matter because the Constitutional Amendment passes, splitting their vote 5-4. The whole thing makes its way up to the Supreme Court, and they decide in a drunken haze that Balki Bartokomous should get 8 of the 9 votes. The other is taken as a fee for wasting their time.

Connecticut - 7 - Confidant that they can just buy anything they need later, Connecticut forgets to vote.

Delaware - 3 - In an attempt to be first at everything, Delaware filed their results months ago, certifying Howard Dean as the winner.

D.C. - 3 - In an attempt to declare that they really are important, electors from D.C. again abstain from casting votes. This does not change the outcome, officially proving that nobody cares.

Florida - 27 - Hurricane Walter floods the state, curiously leaving only Palm Beach County elections open on Election Day. Pat Buchanan wins.

Georgia - 15 - Jimmy Carter threatens to stop building houses for poor people, but Georgia votes for Bush anyway. The former President makes his living by selling his inventory of nails on eBay.

Hawaii - 4 - In the entire history as a state, Hawaii has only voted for the Republican candidate in 1972 and 1984. This state gave Bush his 4th worst level of support last time. Conventional wisdom dictates, therefore, that residents will cast their votes for John Kerry, and then go eat Spam.

Idaho - 4 - After voting about 2:1 for Bush, Idaho is shocked to learn when it tries to certify the votes that it's name is a hoax, and it never actually became a state.

Illinois - 21 - Nobody bothers to vote, since Mayor Daley is going to "take care of things." Kerry wins.

Indiana - 11 - In a surprise comeback, Pat Paulsen gets several votes.

Iowa - 7 - Too close to call. No, seriously. It is.

Kansas - 6 - Bush wins, as expected. However, in news that shocks the nation, Bob Dole announces he has found a coalition of the willing in his pants.

Kentucky - 8 - Bush fries Kerry.

Louisiana - 9 - These French speakers vote for Bush. Go figure.

Maine - 4 - Maine again votes for the Democrat in both districts, so all four votes go to Kerry, making the electoral result completely uninteresting.

Maryland - 10 - A clear majority of voters write-in "None of the Above". Despite the fact that there's no option to do this, everyone is so confused that they just accept it.

Massachusetts - 12 - The great state of Massachusetts casts all of its 12 votes for Michael Dukakis. Nation wonders, "Isn't there at least another Kennedy you can run, or something? Throw us a bone here."

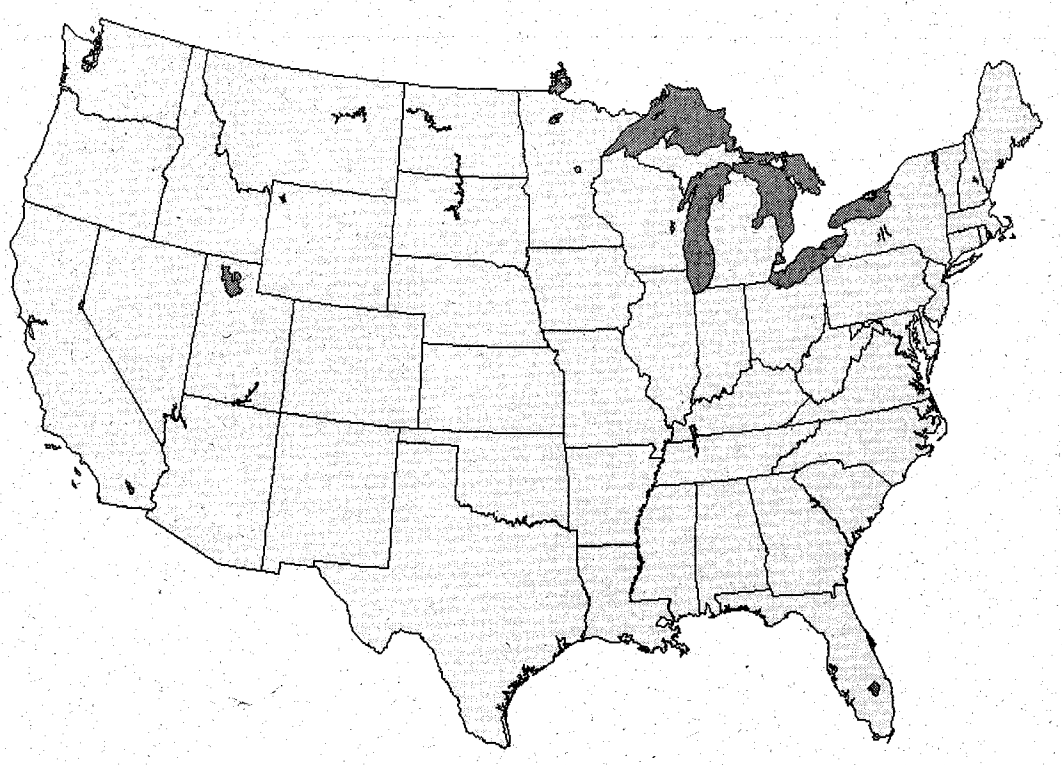
Michigan - 17 - It's the one that looks like a mitten!

Minnesota - 10 - "The Body" endorses Kerry. Exit polls indicate it had absolutely no effect on voters.

Mississippi - 6 - A large hole in the Earth's crust opens and swallows Mississippi. Alabama's Governor remarks that he is "pleased" about the new gulf and coastal areas.

Missouri - 11 - After a narrow Bush victory in Missouri, Dick Gephardt remarks under his breath, "I told him not to pick Edwards."

Montana - 3 - Did you know that Montana voted for Bill Clinton in 1992? There's no chance that will ever happen again.



Nebraska - 5 - There isn't anything funny or insightful to say about Nebraska, and if you think there is, send it in. I will reply, assuring you it is neither funny nor insightful.

Nevada - 5 - The odds makers take bets at Bush: 1/2, and Kerry: 6/4.

New Hampshire - 4 - Enthralled with his "straight talk," New Hampshire insists on voting for McCain.

New Jersey - 15 - Having been the target of too many jokes already, New Jersey decides to play it safe, and forfeit its right to vote.

New Mexico - 5 - Too close to call. [This is the popular Insert-Your-Own-Joke portion of the article!]

New York - 31 - Not ever having been there, I can't really predict how it's going to turn out here.

North Carolina - 15 - Deciding that they aren't all that impressed by the son of a mill worker, North Carolina just votes for Edwards' father instead. They're very practical that way.

North Dakota - 3 - When asked to certify their results, the state explains that it already joined Canada and voted for Prime Minister. They are disappointed, but not surprised, that nobody noticed.

Ohio - 20 - Too close to call. Senatorial challenger Eric Fingerhut loses, depriving us of a great name to make fun of. Senator Fingerhut. Say it a few times. It's fun.

Oklahoma - 7 - The wind comes sweepin' down the plain, and the ballots get blown away. Few are recovered by frantic election officials chasing after them.

Oregon - 7 - The voting system, entirely done by mail, is declared the best in the nation, because the United States Postal Service never messes *anything* up.

Pennsylvania - 21 - Philadelphia and Pittsburgh vote for Kerry. The rest of the state votes for Bush. The Amish break the tie by telling the Governor, "Eh, whatever. You decide."

Rhode Island - 4 - There is record turnout this year from bitter citizens demanding that the state not waste 1 million dollars on paying people to walk up and down the Connecticut / Rhode Island border and bicker over it. Oh, Kerry wins the state.

South Carolina - 8 - Bush wins by a margin greater than any other state with "Carolina" in the name. In the senatorial election, Strom Thurmond wins by write-in vote. Again. This is the first posthumous election of a senator since John Ashcroft lost to a dead man.

South Dakota - 3 - The close Senate race has resulted in so many television advertisements that by the time Election Day rolls around, everyone is so tired of it that nobody votes for any office.

Tennessee - 11 - Al Gore, still mending fences, is too busy to vote. Bush wins.

Texas - 34 - Texas is not to be messed with. No joke.

Utah - 5 - After trying to certify multiple Presidents, Utah wonders why everyone thinks it wants to have multiple Presidents. 2% of the population still considers both Bush and Kerry Presidents, despite every law and court finding to the contrary.

Vermont - 3 - Citizens, confused about which state is which, all go vote in New Hampshire.

Virginia - 13 - Nobody bothers to vote after the Governor comments snidely, "It'll just end up in the Supreme Court, anyway."

Bi-Weekly Must List 2

By Sarah Cassone

10. Factcheck.org – Know your Politicians lies and exaggerations before you vote. Unlike Dick Cheney (on national television, no less) I got the web address right.

9. Dazed and Confused (Widescreen Flashback Edition) – Richard Linklater's blast from the past re-emerges on DVD November 2nd, complete with deleted scenes, commentary and 1976 flashbacks.

8. Booksintocash.com – A quick and easy way to sell your textbooks. Just put In the ISBN numbers and the site will calculate your total and send you a check. In addition, they provide a free shipping label. Total cost for you: zero.

7. R.E.M @ MSG – Although their recent efforts leave a lot to be desired, this band is still a classic. Playing at the Garden November 4th.

6. Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events – Not just for kids anymore. This series is witty, clever, and entertaining enough for people of all ages. Let's just hope the upcoming film with Jim Carrey is as satisfying.

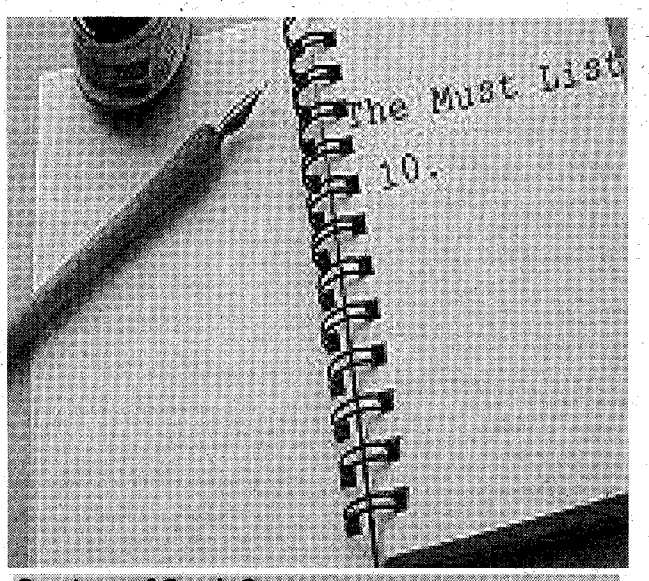
5. Mosh by Eminem – The Rapper's fluffy first single "Just Lose It" gives way to the harsh and highly political sound of "Mosh," the second single off the anticipated LP "Encore." The track has leaked on the internet. Do a Google search, yo.

4. Essential Film Noir @ the Film Forum – November 26th kicks off four weeks of classic film noir at New York's Film Forum movie house. Go to filmforum.com for more details.

3. Jon Stewart on Crossfire – In one of the most refreshing television appearances ever, Jon Stewart lashed into the Crossfire hosts and the news media in general, condemning them "partisan hacks." It contained the "reality" that Reality TV lacks. You can find a video file of the appearance on Suprnova.org or here: http://www.ifilm.com/ifilmdetail/2652831

2. Nightmare Before Christmas @ Landmark Theaters – Tim Burton's holiday favorite is playing in the city Oct. 29th and 30th for two midnight showings. Go live like Jack and Sally.

1. Video for I'm Not Okay (I Promise) by My Chemical Romance – Coolest. Video. Ever. It's a faux movie trailer and ... yeah. Just watch it at Mychemicalromance.com



Courtesy of Sarah Cassone

Support Our Troops

By Pam Zimmer

Yellow ribbon magnets, you've seen them. "God Bless America," "Support our Troops," etc. Some are in full yellow, some are half yellow, half flag, and all scream, "Look, I'm patriotic!" I have been seeing those stupid ribbons plastered on every car around. I counted seventeen in the ESS parking lot alone. But what do these ribbons mean exactly? Support our troops in what? In the slaughter of thousands of Iraqi's and Americans alike? In their decision to serve to be able to go to college? In their desperation to leave their run down neighborhood with a promise to see the world? In their deep hearted belief that they are truly saving a nation? In the ARMY vs. NAVY football game? What are we supporting when we slap that magnet on our trunk? I'll tell you. We are supporting the local 7-11 where we paid $2.95 for our patriotism.

Are we really a nation so foolish that we believe the poor eighteen-year old lying in a ditch, covered in filth, two thousand miles from home, surrounded by decomposing bodies gives a shit that we support our troops? I propose an idea: I want to create a ribbon especially for the troops. A ribbon the tells them we really care about them.

It should read:

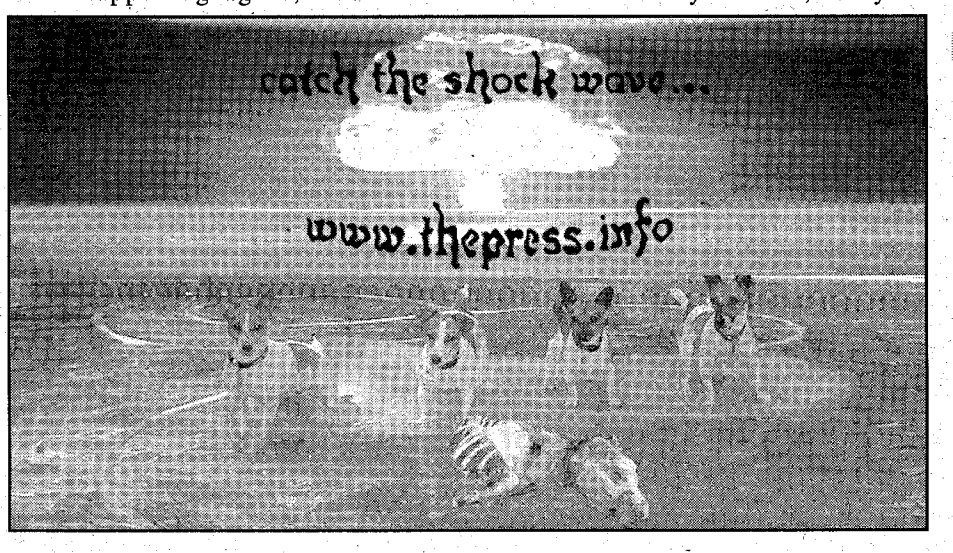
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS...BRING THEM HOME!

Well over one thousand Americans died on September 11th. In order to prevent that day from happening again, Bush sent one thousand more people to their deaths. This number doesn't include the tens of thousands permanently traumatized by the war, or the hundreds of thousands of family and friends affected. Bush says we must fight the war on terror. WAKE UP! WE ARE THE TERROR. America has caused more damage to itself in the past four years than any terrorist group could ever cause.

We need to stop the destruction of our country. We need to reunite our families. We need to bring our troops home, before we have to bring them all home in body bags. Then we need to elect someone who will put America first. We need to elect someone who will refrain from sending all of our young Americans to needless deaths, and we need to punish them if they ask why.

As college students, we seem to be less affected by war. We don't have children, and if we do, they are young. I have news for you, though. Bush is planning to bring back the draft, within the next ten years. This means all men ages 18 to 30 will be affected; think about who will be in that range in ten years. Your siblings, your children, your nephews, your boyfriends, your husbands, yourself even. Some may be skeptical that something as unconstitutional as the draft could never come back in to play. For all of those skeptics out there, two words: Patriot Act. Bush is slowly taking away our freedoms under the guise of safety. What is worse, we are letting him. We are handing over our freedom and giving up all that makes us American because we are afraid of what will happen when that little chart of terror turns red.

New York, once strictly democratic, is slowly becoming a swing sate. SUNY Stonybrook has over 40,000 votes that could change that. Support our troops, support our future and the future of this country. OUST BUSH. Unless of course, you enjoy wearing Army fatigues.



Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

It's time for the Dominatrix story.

In my very first sex column, nearly 2 years ago, I promised one day to write about one of my coolest sexcapades, truly a shining moment of mellow gold for the junkie: it was my last night in a foreign state at a Sex Carnival with a dominatrix ... on stage. It's a 100% real humdinger, and it includes nudity. So in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of this fine publication, let's make good on that 2-year-old promise, shall we?

I was living on the western side of Florida for a few months. It would turn out to be the last leg of my great meandering road-trip, a pilgrimage across this vast country and back that lasted for over a year, and took me through a hurricane just outside of Austin, the shag-carpeted *ceilings* of Graceland, alien civilizations in Roswell, and the all-night revelry of New Orleans ... But I tangent.

So it was my last night in Dodge, if you will. The next day I would be driving a leviathan of a rented truck, with my poor Saab hitched to the back, up through all the eastern states to come here and go to school in Stony Brook.

I had a mammoth amount of packing in store for me, but when my downstairs neighbors came up and invited to me to a Sex Carnival at this club in Ybor City, I just couldn't say no.

The neighbors were these wonderful married goth kids, heavily pierced and tattooed, but surprisingly conservative in their views. The club was "The Castle," a dark and disturbed place which hosted a brimming mix of goths and punks and trannies, oh my ... and of course the leather cock-ring crowd – always easy to spot.

As my companions and I walked in, we were greeted with the vibration of heavy spanking, followed by the faint aroma of wax and latex. There were willing participants in every stage of undress, either shackled to the stocks, helplessly strung out on the rack, or somehow involved with other medieval torture devices I cannot name. A lot of bondage, a lot of nipple-clamps, and more than a few coffins.

Nuns in vinyl habits were recruiting people to "make confession," and would then lead them around by a dog collar into a back room somewhere, to practice unspeakable acts of sodomy and lamentation, no doubt.

In the main stage area, grinding techno music was being spun, and was the backdrop for the porn playing on five towering movie screens. It wasn't so much porn, as it was those wacky Germans and their mutilation mischief. A woman's legs were tied open, and someone was sewing the lips of her labia together. The damn thing took forever, and didn't seem to faze anyone there, although it had me nervously fiddling my own piece a few times.

As I was milling around taking in all the carnal bedlam, a guy started poking me from behind with his glass dildo. He was trying to sell them, and he said they were guaranteed not to crack – and could even be put in the microwave! But I told him that as a rule, glass never comes close to my honey pot, and the money would be better spent on an eighth.

It was then that the show started. The techno and pussy sewing were turned off, hundreds of people plied in, and those in the stocks craned their necks to see the on-stage antics.

At first, plumes of smoke introduced a Vampire Lestat-type character who sucked blood, but mostly sashayed around stage admiring his own fangs.

At this point, I should probably describe what I was wearing, because it will prove significant later on: a cream satin slip, and boots. No bra, no panties, no stockings. (I pretty much stopped wearing underwear when my friend said, "Go without them for a week, and you'll never go back.")

So there I was, standing in a crowd of hundreds, pretty close to the stage. There was a hush, and this Dominatrix walks out. She was a blond beauty, probably in her early 30's, with huge breasts, sequined bra and thong, fishnets, and a whip.

The Mistress commanded that fucking stage.

At first, as some thrasher music started, she took a few grateful male audience members, and one by one, lashed them with the whip and poured hot candle wax on them.

And then, she looked around a minute, and finally rested her gaze on me. She motioned for me to come on stage. At once, two gimps in head-to-toe latex parted the crowd on my right and one assisted me up the steps to the stage. Now, at this point, my brain was screaming, and I remember hoping the Mistress wouldn't give me the hot wax treatment.

But she had other things in store for me. She grabbed me, and forced me down on all fours, and then proceeded to lift my slip so she could spank me. Well, when she realized I wasn't wearing any underwear, and I was just going to take this journey – ass out for the world to see – she got really excited, and spanked me even harder. She pulled my hair at one point, then turned me around, stretched my legs open and started slapping the inside of my thighs, before moving onward to my Bermuda triangle.

I remember cheers from the crowd while she was entertaining herself with my BAP (bad ass pussy). Then she pulled me to my feet, and started making out with me. It was the only time, before or since, that I've deeply kissed a woman older than myself.

After the lip session, she stopped and forced my face into her breasts, which I discovered were fake (although, of course, I didn't mind at the time.) I played with them for awhile; her skin was so soft, and she busied herself with my breasts, which she had unsheathed from my slip.

Then she hoisted me up, and actually lifted me so I was straddling her, while she was standing up, my slip hiked up to my waist, and I remember going buck-wild in that position, one arm up, like I was riding a wild bronco. We went crazy, but she was a professional, and timed the end of the song perfectly with our last dip. Applause.

We both left the stage after that, and as I rejoined my friends, whose jaws were on the floor, the Dominatrix stopped, looked around at me, and gave me the good nod.

It was an unforgettable night, which still holds the record for the greatest number of people to see me naked at one time.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

So, I guess I can tell you a bit about my life, and since you are a sex columnist and all, feel free to lend your advice. I met this girl at work, cute.. ok hot... real hot in the smart, young, and beautiful kind of way. Great body, very pretty face, and wonderful curly brown locks.

She works in the same department as me, has a CS degree and is 22, more than a few years younger than me. I saw her from a distance and insisted a buddy take me over to her department and introduce me since the place is big and I still don't know everyone.

I made a joke, she laughed. It was casual and whatever. A few days later we went out to lunch with some people from work and did that for a few days, she kept asking about what I was doing for the weekend and how she wasn't doing anything.

I felt a bit uncomfortable about asking her out right there in front of a bunch of my workmates, so I waited and called her later and gave her my number. I told her maybe we could have some dinner and call me if she was free. She said she had family visiting and all that and I didn't hear from her.

Mind you, I am still not a great thinker on my feet when it comes to reading women's minds and emotions and shit. I am still re-adjusting into being a social being once again instead of the anti-social uber-geekiness that comes naturally. Interfacing with machines always has come easier for me.

So I went to see her the other day and talk to her, but she was busy. I left work, but she called me later on my cell phone, and I didn't ask her out or anything cause I thought I might have made her uncomfortable and all that before.

The thing is, I don't know, I mean, before we were flirting and all that and I sensed interest. Perhaps I overestimated the interest level and at least projected my interest.

So the problem is she is young I think, not sure what she wants. I just don't want to have to play that role of the fucking daddy figure again where I tell the girl everything, what she wants and all that. But then again who knows, I don't know her, I just know I would like to fuck her and she is smart and likely a lot of fun to be around.

The other problem is she is not really American, and I am trying to not date fucking non-Americans anymore cause they are all fucking crazy and make me fucking crazy. Did I mention she was hot though? She is Persian btw, at least born there, raised in Canada and moved here a few years ago.

So I don't want to scare her off and my plan is to take it slow, be cool and just hang out and see what may come (hopefully both of us). What a fucking rambling mess that is, but any comments are welcome. :)

Sincerely, One of the Three Amigos.

A: Dear Amigo,

My friend. I will be honest with you. She digs you – at least a little bit, let's say that you have peaked her interest. But, she may be weighing her options, having possibly a few more bait on the line.

My advice is to keep being friendly, but not pushy, a girl can smell desperate a mile away. You sound like you have a good handle on the situation, and are content to let things progress at their natural rate.

I wish you the best Persian carpet ride ever.

For questions or comments, just e-mail:

AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com

An Open Commentary to the *Statesman*

> If you were an aging NBA Center you would be Dikembe Mu-Tool-bo

> If you ratted out "Ten Percent" Tony you be a S-tool pigeon

> If you were a popular 1950's toy, you'd be a tool-a hoop

> If confronted by Mr. T, he'd said "I pity the tool"

> If you were a Bat Man nemesis, you'd be Ra's al-Tool

> If you were President Bush you'd be shitting on the Consti-tool-tion

> You, Bill, and Ted make it a point to "Be excellent Tool each other"

> If you were a gaming system you'd be a Super Nin-tool-do

> If you were a bike race you'd be Le Tool De France

> If you were the square root of four you'd be ± tool

> If the FBI investigated you they'd use a fine-tooled comb

> If Chuck Jones made a cartoon out of you, you'd be Looney Tools

> I bet they fly you out to Amsterdam every year for the Tool-ip Festival

> (you = = logical value) => (you = = Toolean statement) qed.

> If you were a Ninja Turtle Exclamation you'd be "Tool-tally Tool-bular!"

> You collaborated on the Ben Stiller picture Toolander

> If you were a type of pasta you'd be tor-tool-ini

> If you were feared by an arachnaphobe you'd be a taran-tool-a

> If you were an inspirational movie about the Jamaican Bobsled Team you'd be Tool Runnings

> A little sherbert helps you keep tool in the summertime

> A green cactus burrito will send you straight to the toolet

> If Dentist's were scared of you you'd be toolth decay

> Back in the early 90's you were Tool Legit 2 Quit

> If you were a trio of swashbuckling chocolate bar magnates you'd be the Three Musquetools

> If you were overpriced Union Deli chocolate you would be Tool-blerone

> You probably completed your undergraduate studies at Tool-ane

> If you were an anthropomorphic pitcher of sugar water you'd be selling Tool Aid

> If you were a showtune from Oliver you would be "Tool Buy This Wonderful Morning"

> You got on Americas Funniest Home Videos when you took a football to the family tools

> You only took that lifeguarding course so you could get paid to get a tan relaxing toolside

> When you contact Hell you deal directly with Toolzebub

> If you were a bookish professor who took an underage lover she would be Toolita

> If you built a device for time travel, you'd call it the Flux Capacitool

Haiku d' etat

By Tom Clark

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

The Dancing Song Pt. 2
Sweating,
Swinging our arms,
Connecting with those near us.
A huge seething mess, happily
Bleeding

Far Away Lhabla
Dying
Of boredom, it
Feels good to know you're mine
And I don't care where, just drive far
Away

Over and Over
"Crimson..."
I sing aloud
A song I know, because
I wanna fall in love tonight
"...Clover"

Procrasti-Nation
"What are
you waiting for?
A certain shade of green?"
I ask myself as I skip my
Classes.

Dorm Smell
Writing
And listening
To System of a Down
'Cause everyone needs a mother
Fucker!

Anniversary
The Press,
Twenty-five years
Of pimping the Statesman
We came, we saw, and we conquered
Bitches!

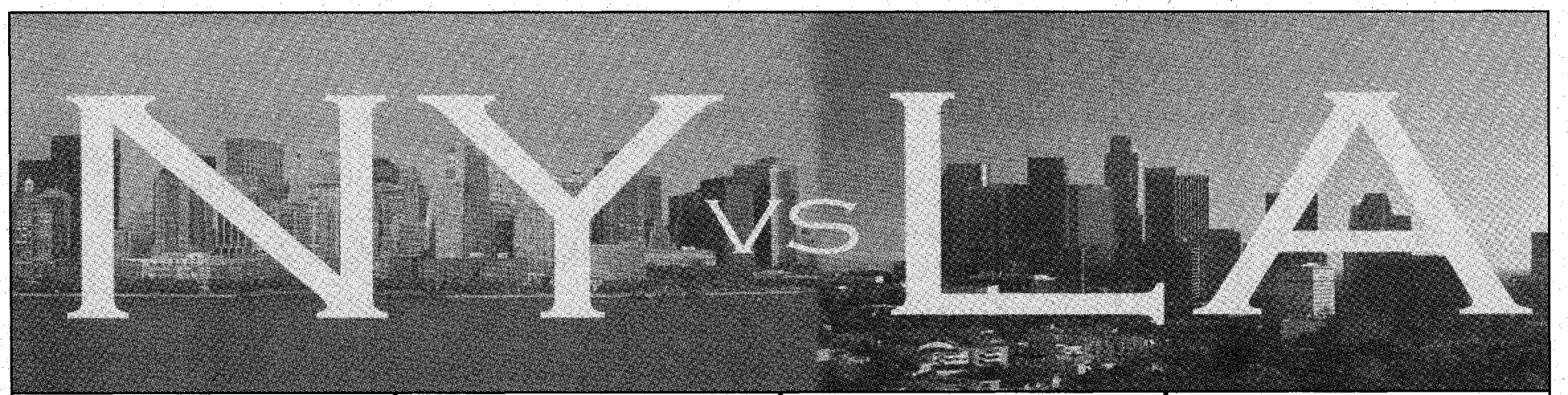
This week's Haiku d'etat is written in Cinquain, a 2-4-6-8-2 Haiku variant.
Each is a reference to a song or band, save the obvious one.
Figure it out and enjoy them all the more.

A Tale of Two Cities

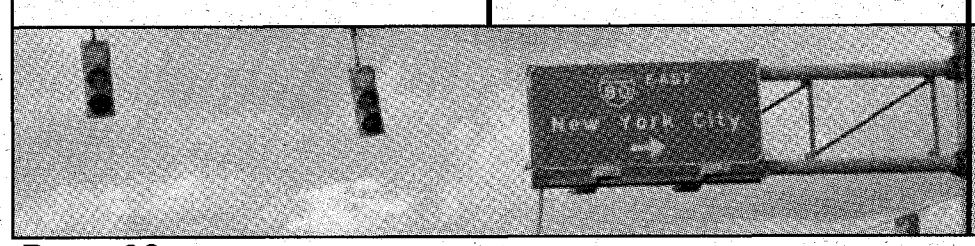
By Jill Baron

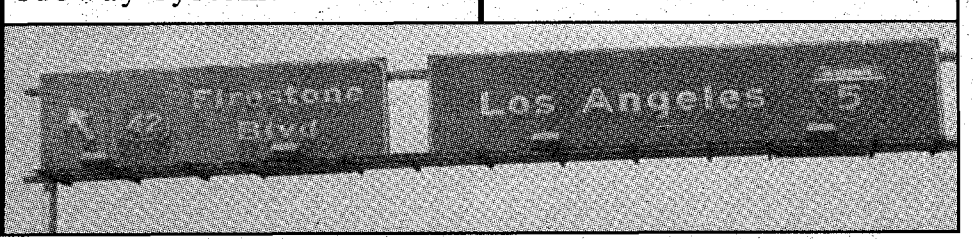
A few months ago I made the bold and/or insane decision to pack up my stuff, bid farewell to my family, and move to Los Angeles, California. I grew up on the Isle of Long and resided in NYC for several years. An East Coaster for life, or so I thought until a few months ago. Why the move, you ask? My vague response is, and always has been, "I guess I just needed a change...."

Since arriving in sunny California, I have naturally made some comparisons between my adopted home and my birth home. I feel it is important to transgress the usual New York/LA stereotypes [i.e., rude people vs. fake boobs everywhere] and get to the nitty-gritty of what makes each city great and sucky. So here I present to you a true breakdown of the ultimate battle New York vs. Los Angeles.

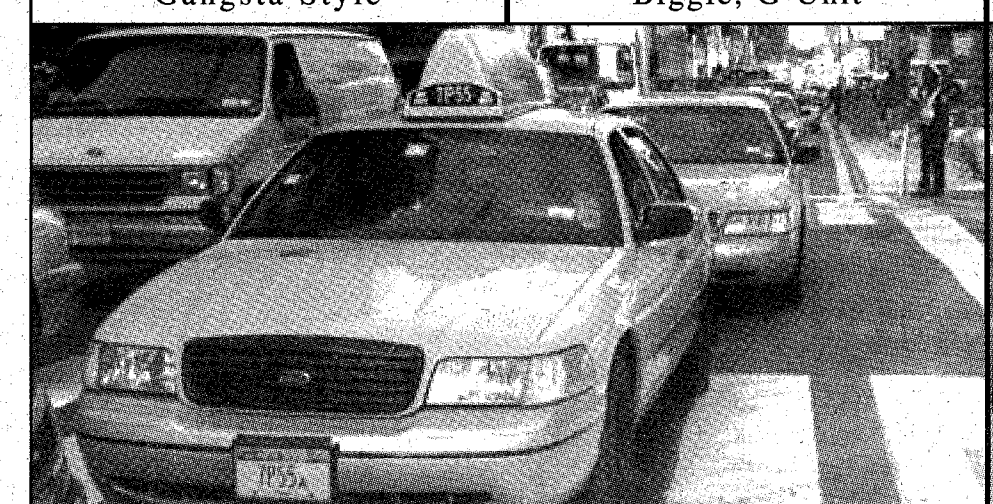


Category	NEW YORK	LOS ANGELES	ADVANTAGE
Weather	Shitty in the winter, gross in the summer, tolerable in between.	Beautiful, sunny, and 75 degrees all the time. Hasn't rained yet since I've lived here.	LOS ANGELES
Food	NYC is the food capital of the world, hands down. Bagels, pizza and Chinese food, how I miss you.	Yummy Mexican food abounds. Outside of that, it's fast food joints and boring "American" stuff. I have yet to find a good take out Chinese place. For real.	NEW YORK
Cost of Living	Ridiculously high rents are the norm.	Rents are more reasonable, but the cost of a car kind of makes it even out in the end.	TOSS-UP
Transportation	While I love the idea of the subway system in theory, riding it during rush hour every day really sucked. If I could have back all the minutes I've spent waiting on a subway platform, I'd live to be 200. And $2 for one ride is ridiculous.	While many [particularly those that don't live here] gripe about it, I actually find driving to work pleasurable. But traffic gets a little insane and the environmentalist in me does feel a little guilty, even though I drive a fuel-efficient compact car. However, unbeknownst to many, LA does have a fairly extensive bus and subway system.	TOSS-UP





Category	NEW YORK	LOS ANGELES	ADVANTAGE
People	Some are nice, some are rude, most are indifferent.	Ditto. I would like to take this opportunity to squash the myth about all LA people being fake-boobed Hollywood suck up types. While that element certainly exists, it is very easy to avoid. I do it.	TOSS-UP
Access to Nature	Outside of Central Park, you really need a car to get the hell out of the city and get in touch with nature.	LA is surrounded by hills, deserts, and a little farther out, snow-capped mountains. It's got it all. I can drive 10 minutes to Griffith Park and hike on a mountain trail.	LOS ANGELES
Culture and Arts Scene	We know it's good.	Well, it good here too. Many great museums and galleries.	TOSS-UP
Bars and Nightlife	New York nightlife is one of the best in the world, but also one of the priciest.	Lots of cool places, most of which in my opinion are slightly less pretentious then those in NYC. But the distances between makes bar hopping tricky.	TOSS-UP
Media	Some like to think of New York as the media center of the world. Having said that, many of the media outlets are glorified tabloids [ahem, New York Post] and perpetuate sensationalistic hoopla.	While maybe not as plentiful, I would have to say the quality is as good. Maybe the radio and TV people, and even the newspaper headlines, are just calmer. I like calm. If only Air America would get back on out here...	TOSS-UP
Pace of Life	Crazy and Stressful	Much calmer. Traffic can get gnarly, but in general Angelinos know how to chill.	LOS ANGELES
Gangsta Style	Biggie, G-Unit	Tupac, NWA.	TOSS-UP



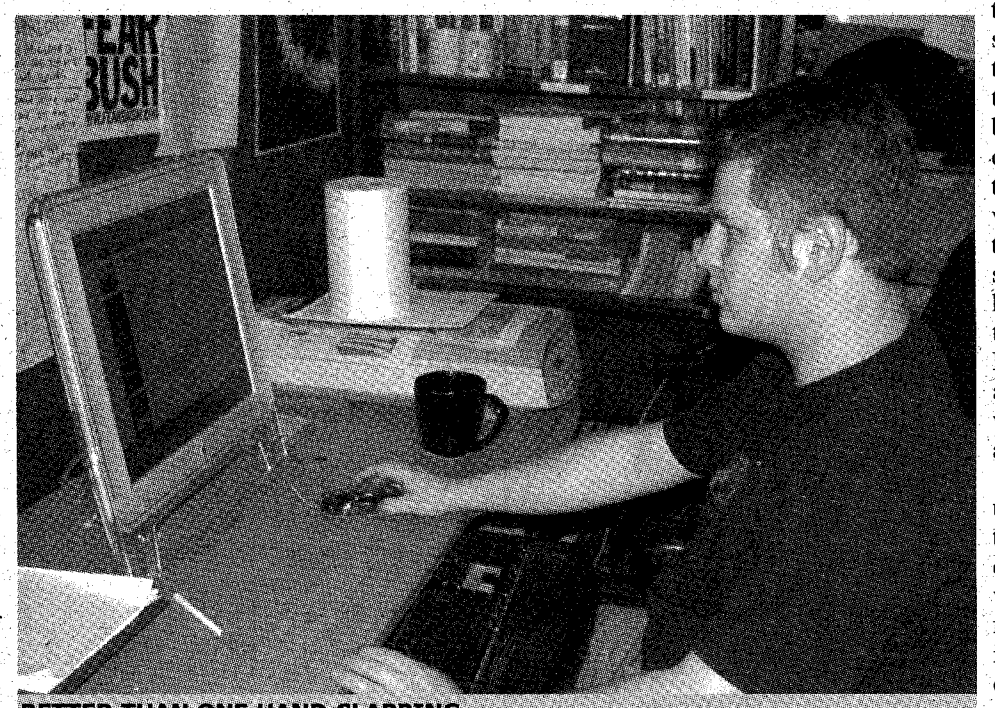
Writing is a Drug I Never Want to Withdraw From

By Sam Goldman

It was two years ago. I had transferred from Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, in an attempt to get my life back together after failing out of Polytechnic University and basically being a do-nothing stoner bastard. My first semester here was summer 2002. It was fun; I loved this school; it was the complete opposite of Brooklyn – wide spaces, small buildings, a freshly-built football stadium. It was my own heaven, believe it or not.

Near the end of the summer, I picked up a newspaper that was sitting around the back of the Union. On page three, someone had written an article about baby eating. In a very factual, no-nonsense style, this person had written directions on different ways to prepare and eat newborn children. I found it horrifying, disgusting, and laugh-out-loud funny. I looked through the issue and I loved it. After finishing the paper, I doubled back to the back page. *The Press* had advertised an open house; they were giving out free toilet paper.

At this point, several different things came together, in one of those perfect storms of thought that take place only occasionally. I loved the paper immediately. I was always a good writer, to the point that my original plan for college was to major in English so I could write fiction; I was extremely shy, and this might be a good way to make friends. As a result, at the first meeting, there I was, sitting next to the blackboard, nervous as all hell, watching Dan Hofer and Dustin Herlich talk about stuff I didn't understand (Polity? What's Polity?), while 20 sets of eyes looked at me like I was a piece of meat. Then Dan finally turned around and said he'd ask people what they're writing for the upcoming issue.



BETTER THAN ONE HAND CLAPPING, Courtesy of The Press

I already had something picked out – I wanted to discuss the case of Manuel Wackenheim, a French dwarf who was being denied an ability to make a living by getting tossed by bar patrons. As I announced my idea to the assembled staff, I saw a variety of grins, smiles, and some laughs, and some dude with a lipring got my attention just to give me a nod and a thumbs up.

The article got printed, and another one after that, and suddenly I'm a member of *The Stony Brook Press.*

I never really hung out with anyone, until I walked back one night from class and picked up a copy of the Statesman, only to see the entire Press staff looking directly back at me. I was horrified, until Mike Prazak broke the ice and said, "come on, we're gonna go see a movie." And so I became friends with the traveling group of fools that were the press staff – Dan, Dustin, Mike Prazak (who wrote the baby-eating article), Joe Hughes, Joe Filippazzo, Jackie Hayes, Ceci Norman and Bev Bryan. Other people came after me, like Ana Ramirez, Amberly Timperio, and Mike Billings.

Fast forward to the spring semester. Joe Hughes takes me aside and says he likes how much I've been contributing to the paper, and that I would be groomed to take this spot, by being named Arts Editor (Arts Editor is an appointed position). I was floored, and I knew then and there, finally, what I wanted my profession to be. Compliments and recognition became my new drug; I wanted people to read what I wrote. I wanted people to respond to what I wrote. *I want to be a writer.*

In between, I did something very few of my peers do. I went into the archives and read old issues. I read about the Fishbone concert in 1991 that forever changed the way concerts were held on campus. I read about how *The Press* pissed off Candace de Russy. I read about Squirrel and the Secret Service. I read *The History of The Press*, a pamphlet available in our archives. It's such a fascinating story. Three people took on the system, took on a venerable social institution that became bloated and evil, and they won a much bigger victory than anyone could have ever possibly imagined. I ended up wishing I had their fortitude, their fearlessness. I developed a sense of *Press* history, and an appreciation for it.

Let's fast forward to the end of the spring `03 semester. We were having our elections for next year's positions. I was looking forward to taking over as Features Editor from Joe Hughes. It was basically set that Dustin and Joe were frontrunners for the position. I was startled to find out that one of my friends (who will not be named) informed me that they thought I should be Managing Editor. I was flabbergasted. I didn't think I had anywhere near that much respect from them that they thought I could be one of the people to lead the next iteration of the paper. Dustin and Joe won the top two spots, respectively; I became Features Editor.

Over the summer, a complication developed; Joe was unable to continue his college education. We were all bummed. At this point, more and more people mentioned me as the best pick for the job, At first, I adamantly refused; I wanted to concentrate on my studies. But when the first round of voting came through with no one stepping up to take the job, I started to feel bad for Dustin. He needed a sidekick; he needed a friend's help. After a significant amount of soul searching, I came to a decision: If this is what I want to do, screw it; let's go all the way. The next week I became Managing Editor.

This last year was the most agonizing, breathtaking, backbreaking, illuminating, happiest year of my entire life.

In many ways *The Press*, over the past three years, has experienced a kind of renaissance; we have gained an immeasurable amount of respect from all members of the campus community. While saying that we've gone back to our hard journalistic roots may be going a bit extreme, I do believe that those same journalistic roots inform and permeate every aspect of the paper. Sometimes it's hard to see, and still too few people believe that. But it's true. Even when we do things that are offensive, we do them because we believe in our points and our ideals, and most (if not all) of the people in this college town at the very least understand this, even if they don't respect us. This was something Dustin and I worked so, so hard on, and now Joe Filippazzo and the talented, smart-as-hell Mike Billings are continuing our work, and going above and beyond what we've done. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Now I find myself in completely unfamiliar territory. For the first time in six years, there are no classes to look forward to, no tests to worry about. My room is an absolute mess. Most of my time is spent looking for work (and getting rejected by everyone). And yet, I still find myself in the office, doing work, helping out *The Press*, writing articles, doing the legwork (with Dustin) for the 25th anniversary. Maybe it's because I'm bored, maybe it's because I want to avoid the so-called "real world." But, in reality, it's because, at the end of the day, the Press is where I want to be.

I want to help this paper continue the renaissance that it's endured over the past three years. I want Shirley Strum Kenny to finally respect our paper, even if she hates it. I want Fred Preston to understand that we criticize not because we have a vendetta against Administration but because we feel a need to carry the torch and champion those causes we feel students care about. I want Alexandra Duggan to do something about what is easily the most hated and complained about student life department on campus. I want the *Statesman* to start acting like the news organization it purports itself to be.

I want a lot of things.

But mostly, I want those people who I've met and befriended over the past two years to be able to pursue the dreams they desire the most. I'm lucky. These past two years, I've had a head start at it.

THE PRESS *at* 25

P.R.E.S.S.!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Vincent Michael Festa

Allow me to introduce myself, I an Vincent Michael Festa. I'm taking the Media minor and considering the Computer Science major. I am balancing my other time here with WUSB, the Gamer's Guild, and of course, *The Stony Brook Press.* I also have time devoted for physical therapy, at least thirty hours of work, and my girlfriend who I strive for. I'm swimming in it every day, and damn, I feel like Henry Rollins at full steam ahead.

Before attending Stony Brook I was a student at Suffolk Community College in Selden, just down the road from here. I staffed for their *Compass* student newspaper along with Maury Hirschorn and then Editor-in-Chief of *Compass* and former Stony Brook student Michelle Piraglia. From there I wrote off-center music reviews, going-ons on campus, novelty items, and even had my own column. I had it in me to write because I felt like I had a lot of ideas and viewpoints that I needed to express to counteract all those who told me to "shut up" in high-school. I always had a need to write music articles like Japanese extreme noise, industrial music, and IDM culture to separate myself from the progeny of the Long Island disco diva dance-club scene so prevalent there. On the side I wrote short stories and performed poems as part of a mania and influence I had from my favorite artists and styles as well to match what I was feeling or experiencing at the time.

I heard about *The Stony Brook Press* long before I started going here. The first time I picked up an issue it felt and looked totally different than what other newspapers were expected to act. And to this day it never changed. *The Stony Brook* Press is still the radical, edgy, free-thinking, indie-credible paper that it's always been.

I knew what to expect from *The Press* and I came up with my first ideas ready to go for the April Fool's issue. They were the satire articles of fraternities and sororities put in death sports complete with *Death Race 2000* and *Rollerball* references, USG sponsored game shows featuring Sandy Curtis hosting *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* and a comic featuring The Devil as he shows that he was not as masculine and evil that everyone thought he was (the revelation that he was homosexual at the end was a response against President Bush's statement versus homosexuals). Not only was I back on track doing what I love to do, but this time the ideas were full speed and I was also ready to test the waters to see if it worked, and how good I was doing. So far so good.

Writing for the Press has been an escape that I constantly think about when I have breaks from studying. Since I have a lot of ideas burning to be printed, I've been feeling very motivated to let them all out and to see if anyone reading mine (and other *Press* writers) get turned on, excited, motivated, wheels turning, video game sound effects going off in their heads, etcetera.

First off, it's very rewarding when you do something for love and not money. The Press is one of my all-time favorite volunteer works I ever done. When you do something you love and don't mind not being paid for it, it shows how much of a soul you have. In this day and age you have to give up your freedoms, your passions, your true loves, and your first-born just to make a dollar. It's also very rewarding when you can express yourself however you see fit. No script, no dictation, nothing. Right now we're in a time where the Bill of Rights and the 1st Amendment are repeatedly set on fire, damned, abused, and left for dead by scared, insecure, and closed-minded McCarthyists, Conservatives, and the white man's media that control, weigh, and signal everything you see. (Nothing against the Conservatives, but the slant *is* true). So the outlet of expressure and freedom of speech and being is of importance to each and everyone and I feel that everyone should practice and accept. In fact, the longer I'm here the more I want to fire off at anyone who conforms to what other forces tell them or want them to be. Really, it's a sad sight for sore eyes.

We don't censor or edit or "clean up" what we receive because we do take our rights dead seriously. More importantly, we mean what we say and say what we feel because we won't go down on our hands and knees to submit to *nobody.*

Second, I see that there were a lot of Statesman defectives who jumped ship to join and write for us. Good. Good for them. I wish Ian Rice, Paul Akins, Dana Gomi, and Mike Nevradakis nothing but the best, because I understand where they are coming from, having to work with unappreciative, colorless, shallow management (or dictators?) who are never pleased with what you do no matter how hard you try. How they look down at you to try and hide their insecurities and to make themselves feel great since these people are managers or supervisors. I have worked with many of these superficial lowlives in retail, and being pushed around and treated like 3rd class and given the 3rd degree is just sickening. Just absolutely caustic. So it's a treasure to see people stand up to their "masters" in their faces and give them their receipts they so truly deserve.

The Statesman has been reprinting articles on a regular basis and judging by how many of their former staffers flipped the paper, *The Statesman* might need to keep reprinting articles just to keep up! I had a professor for Human Health and Pollution last semester (Stewart Harris) who unfortunately passed away over the summer and Newsday covered his death in the obituaries. What did *The Statesman* do? Reprint the article instead of doing some research and interviews and maybe, just *maybe* come up with something good and original to say. Here at *The Press* we stand on our own: we're not wanna-be studio hip-hop artists, manufactured bubblegum robots, submissives, or held at gunpoint to please higher-ups. %100 of the material you read here comes from us, not other sources. We're for real. We don't make up flat, simulated South Park quotes or statistics that clinically prove that we are the paper. We've been *the* paper since day one and we don't need doctors, colonels, or surdgeon generals to prove it.

Reading *The Statesman* is like having the unfunny kid at the hipster make-out parties who tries too hard to be funny and in the end sits there hopeless and lonely, depressed because he didn't connect with anyone at the party. "9 out of 10 doctors agree: twice-weekly *Statesman* keeps you regular". The other doctor suggests that you go directly to a poison-control center and wash your burning eyes with chloride as punishment for reading it. And besides, who here really wants to be regular? "Statesman: fighting for the little man since 1957". Oh, no...*we* fight for the little man. The Statesman just lies on its back and takes it as it pleases while the *Press* tells you what goes on and what is detrimental for the students and the attacked parties.

Finally, in the office we have a good time after hours. Only in our offices will you see our own Mike Prazak put in hours and hours of hard work into Street Fighter, I mean...our paper. We have DJ Blonde making some nice balloon animals...and other things...for our enjoyment and entertainment. Even our other staffers Tom Clark and Joe Rios played bread-and-broomstick baseball right in the middle of the hallway when things got slow. When things get really drastic we let Sam Goldman out the box and he'll do a party-boy dance for us and it's hilarious. And we also have the devil writing for us...her name is Amberly Jane! We also got comics with an indie edge, an expanded sports column, record reviews, campus current events, satire, sharper political viewpoints, and editorials, all because we are one of the creative forces on campus. And who knows besides Top 10 lists, Battles of the Centuries, 99 Problems, maze games, and other crazy Press breakdance moves we might come up with. As we hit the peak of our 25th year in print, we will continue to give the students what they really want and we hope the students take the responsibility to take action.

So thank God (or Allah, Moses, Buddha, Krishna, Magneto, Joe Fillippazo, or even Satan, whoever you believe in and worship) that *The Press* exists: a paper written by the disenfranchised and for the disenfranchised. Because we radical, off-center, leftist, non-polished, vegetarian, protesting yahoos are people too, and we do represent some part of this campus. You may be one of them.

I'm Vincent Michael Festa and I endorse this message. In fact, I think it kicks ass.

HOURS:
Every Day 10AM to 9PM
Sunday 10AM to 6PM

366-4440

FOURTH WORLD COMICS
33 Route 111, Smithtown, NY 11787
(Hillside Shopping Center)

NEW AND BACK ISSUES

STAR TREK • DR WHO • TOYS • STAR WARS
SCIENCE FICTION • POSTERS • T-SHIRTS
JAPANIMATION • VIDEOTAPES • MODEL KITS
MAGIC: THE GATHERING

10% DISCOUNT W/VALID
STONY BROOK ID CARD

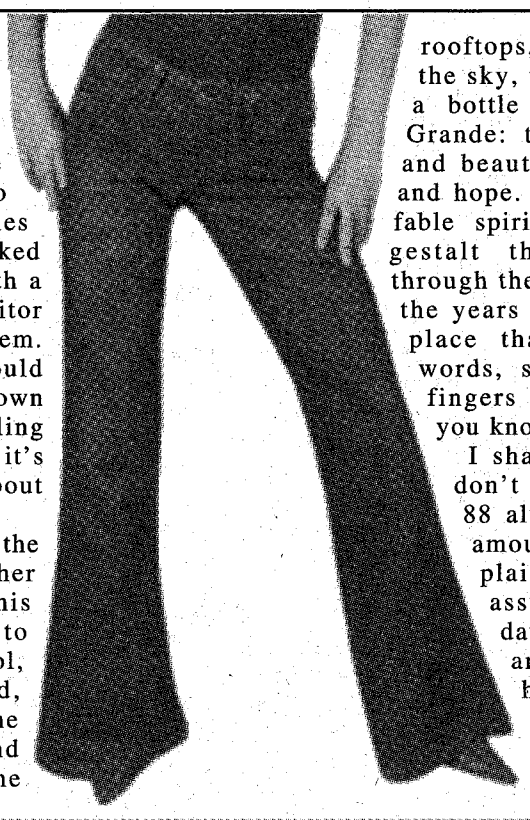
THE PRESS *at* 25

Looking Good in Them Jeans

By Craig Coldsmith

With fortune on my side, this will arrive in time for the 25th Anniversary issue.... Jesus, 20 sick, long years have gone by since I set foot on the SB campus and managed to trump my way into a job at Barnes & Noble. The Mighty Yeats worked there; he filled up the mast with a number of aliases — Arts Editor and Managing Editor among them. And, for nearly a year, he would hassle me ... "You gotta come down to this place, *The Press*, I'm telling you — you'll love it. No really, it's a cool place. You can write about music and politics."

Would that I'd known — the Mighty Yeats just wanted another shill, a sucker to take all his review assignments (he had to make the grades for law school, y'know). Ah... so blessed, though... just today I took out the ol' surgical nail clippers, and after two harrowing hours in the bathroom, I still found removing *The Press* Jam from deep down under my fingernails, from beneath my eyelids, from deep in my ears, an impossible task.



WE'RE THAT GOOD,
Courtesy of Schmuck2000.de

In this strange and terrible time, on the eve of the terrifically important U.S. Elections of 2004, I want to scream and shout from the rooftops, launch the message into the sky, type it out and shove it in a bottle to float down the Rio Grande: there are places of truth and beauty and terror and despair and hope. Places that have an ineffable spirit — a living logos and gestalt that remains undimmed through the passage of time; through the years and deaths ticking by. A place that, when you read the words, see the pictures, get yer fingers black from the soy ink, you know you've come home.

I shall be 38 this year, and I don't know about my fellow 84-88 alumni, but I hear a HUGE amount of grumbling and complaining from colleagues and associates about their glory days, how the good ol' days are behind them, how they have turned into something they don't recognize in the mirror. In my own case, *The Press* provided with me something larger to strive for, something that I feel grateful and fortunate and blessed to have attained — doing work that I love, searching out the truth, bringing the media to the people, keeping compromise to a minimum, partying hard, hard, harder, and rocking the fucking house till their fucking ears bleed.

And making a fine living at it. *The Press* turns out goddamn professionals like little angry love missiles... and the best part is that the folks cranking out *The Press* after OUR tenure could probably kick our ass, all things being equal. It's a fine honor, indeed, to be joined to such a raucous and precious tradition.

Sorry for rambling — I've got a family and a business to run, and while I've been checking pictures and text online, I haven't had two minutes to sit down and jot some thoughts for the 25th issue. Queenellen, my partner in crime, encouraged me to write about the Reagan years (when the progressive and independent voices were such a minority it was scary) and now, where things are just as crazed politically, but at least the "minority" is really half the country, and about the importance of independent media, and places like *The Press*, where you can try out these skills before getting all perverted in the sullied world of corporate media (and even bureaucratic media, e.g. PBS, NPR, MPR)... but screw that. If you are reading *The Press*, or if you are a *Press* staffer/alumni, you already know all that, and I'm no historian. Just know that *The Press* is a rare, fine, beautiful, odiferous, wet, dripping, tasty, flawed, perfect jewel on shores of the Sound. A tiny slice of the American Dream made flesh and paper. KISS KISS.

Would have loved to be at the 25th Ann. Party, but duty called here, and I kinda shot the wad on the 20th Ann. Party. See you in 2009...

This About Sums it Up

By Steven Tornello

Considering the history of *The Stony Brook Press*, and the people who've made it one of the most incendiary college magazines in the country, well, there's a brand new eight thousand seat football stadium full of responsibility which I should write about in this 25th Anniversary issue. Hell, I'm sure that it's full of remembrances and Bushwhacking and complaints about Public Safety. And I'm sure there's enough nostalgia lurking around to make an old folks' home jealous, like about how back in our day *The Press* was shown on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Seriously, it happened.

But you can read the rest of the issue for all of that.

Then I thought, "Hey, maybe I could give some guidance to a university starving for some." Being that the Career Placement office basically gave me less than zero information about how to break into advertising as a creative, I figured that maybe some good could come of this article. You know, share what I've learned in the eight years since I graduated. For instance, I could tell you, well, how to break into advertising as a creative. Or I could tell you about how once you leave school, your education begins to shape into something you can really use. Or I could give a long bitter rant about how business schools are killing this country and how case studies only work when you need to cover your ass. Or how no matter how much money you make or how many awards you win, none of it matters unless you find time to donate a little effort into a charity you believe in.

I could tell you that there's more to life than what you find on this campus. I could tell you that New York City is an aberration, and that, although I love it, my God, how I love it, there are plenty of other places in this amazing country where you can work and live and be supremely happy at both.

But you probably knew that already.

Then again, I feel there's a responsibility to leave a little of what *The Press* has meant to me. You know, small things that grew into large things, like how writing at *The Press* helped developed my skills into being an award-winning copywriter, and how being taught to second guess the second-guessers allowed my brain to try to be the first person to think in a certain way. I could heap praises on my peers, who torched my bad habits and sculpted better ones. And I could tell you exactly what I know now and I wish I knew then, but that would destroy the fun of getting there.

> *"The Press* was shown on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien..."*

But why should I be so serious? Maybe I could just write a short story with some amazing and heartfelt human truth in it. You know, a story that would make women look for the nearest person to hug and cause men to deny that a tear just ran down their cheek. Or I could write something so ridiculously hysterical that you'd think your appendix is about to burst, but it's just your funny-bone gasping for air.

Nope. This is the 25th Anniversary. This is no time for fiction.

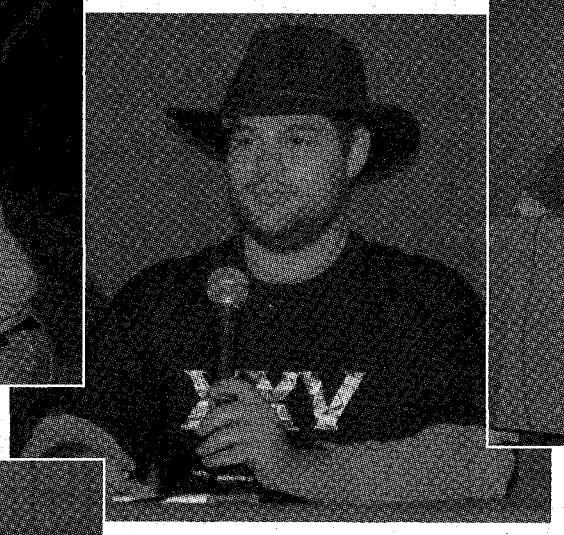
So this needs to be relevant. This needs to be inspirational. This needs to be some words of wisdom from a caring alumni to those that will carry forward the Seawolf banner. (Is there even a Seawolf banner? There should be. Someone should look into that.) This should have every element from every article that caused every controversy that helped make every issue a must read.

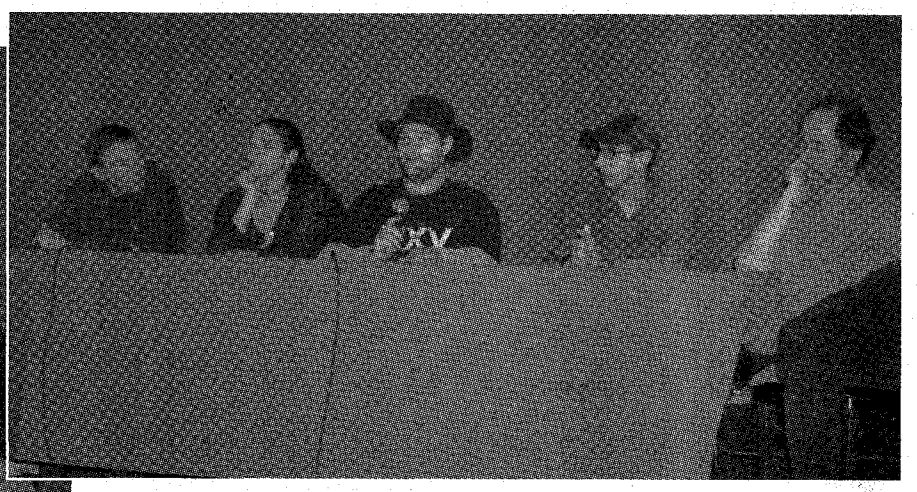
But that's looking backwards. Yes, I'm covering my ass.

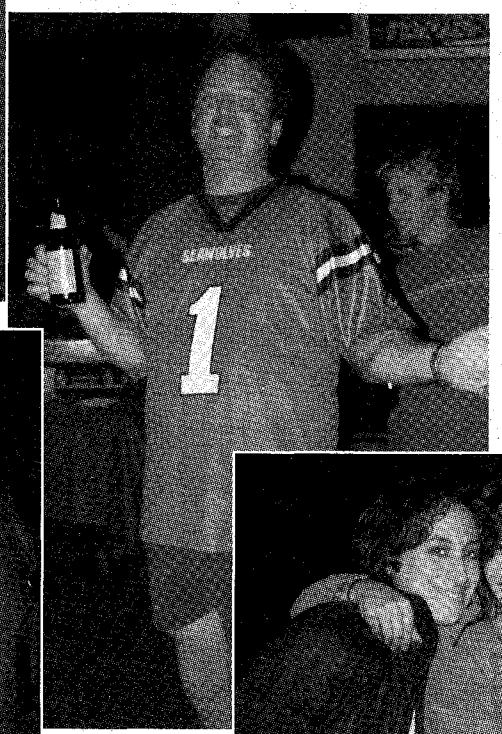
So I'm gonna use this article to look forward. This article should be about the next 25 years of *The Press*. This should be about all the success stories and troubles it will encounter along the way. This should be about the people and the alumni and the school we all love or mildly tolerate. This should be about how, in the near future, something will be written that makes a difference, something brutally incredible, and the University will finally take notice and change instead of just denying everything. And how, yet again, *The Press* will cement itself further as the strongest pillar of this campus.

But you know what? That's not my responsibility anymore.

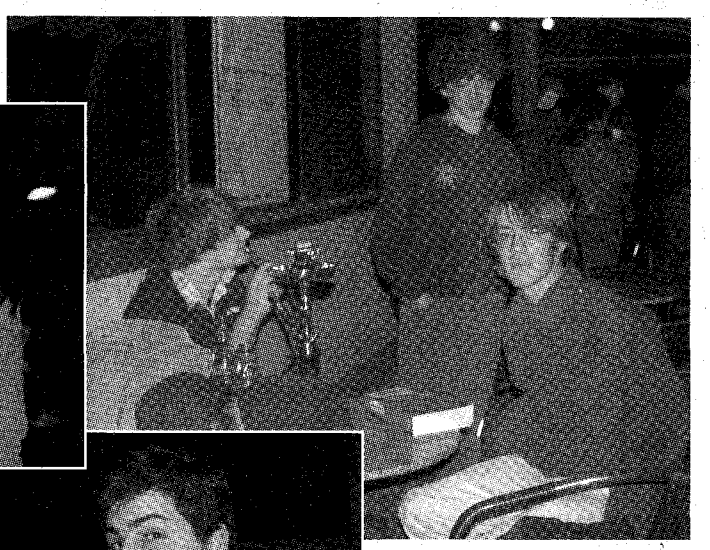
Read the next issue for that.

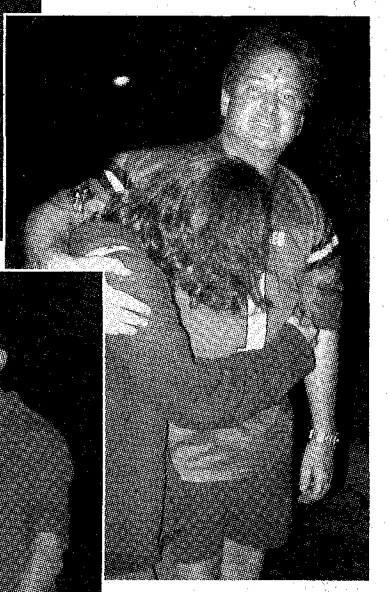


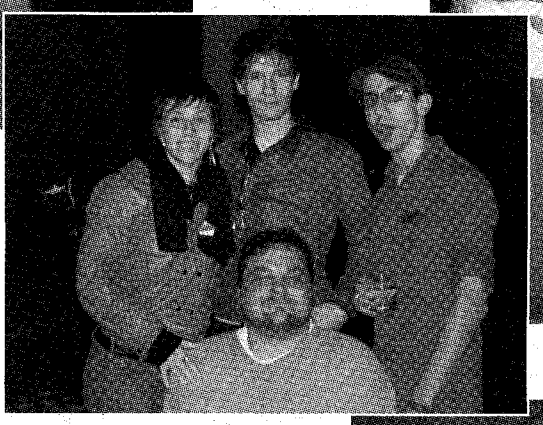


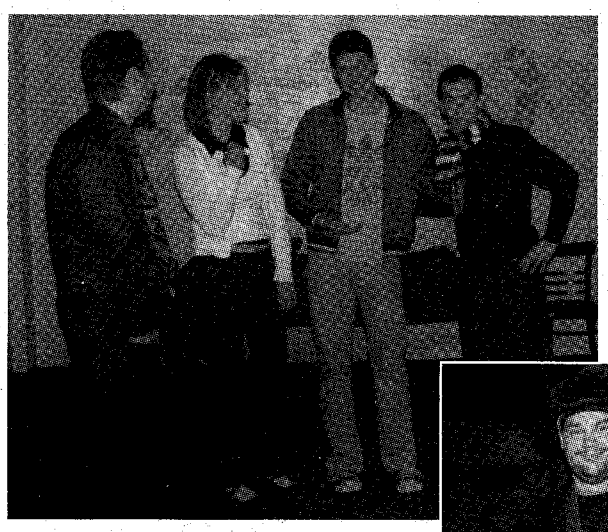


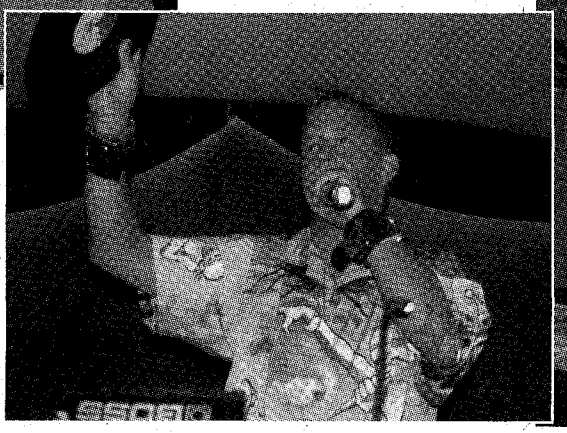
October 23, 2004 was rocked beyond recognition when The Stony Brook Press celebrated their 25th Anniversary at the University Cafe. If you were not there, you are a chump. Look at these pictures I have provided and covet.

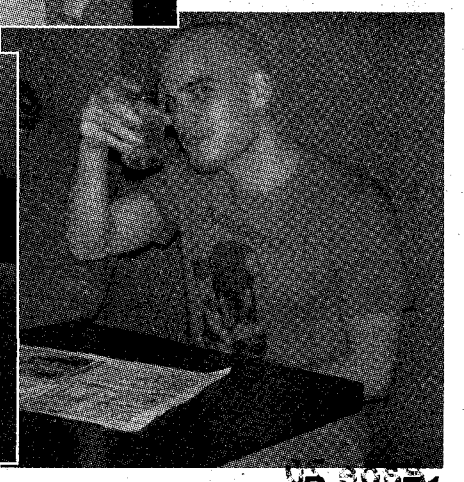




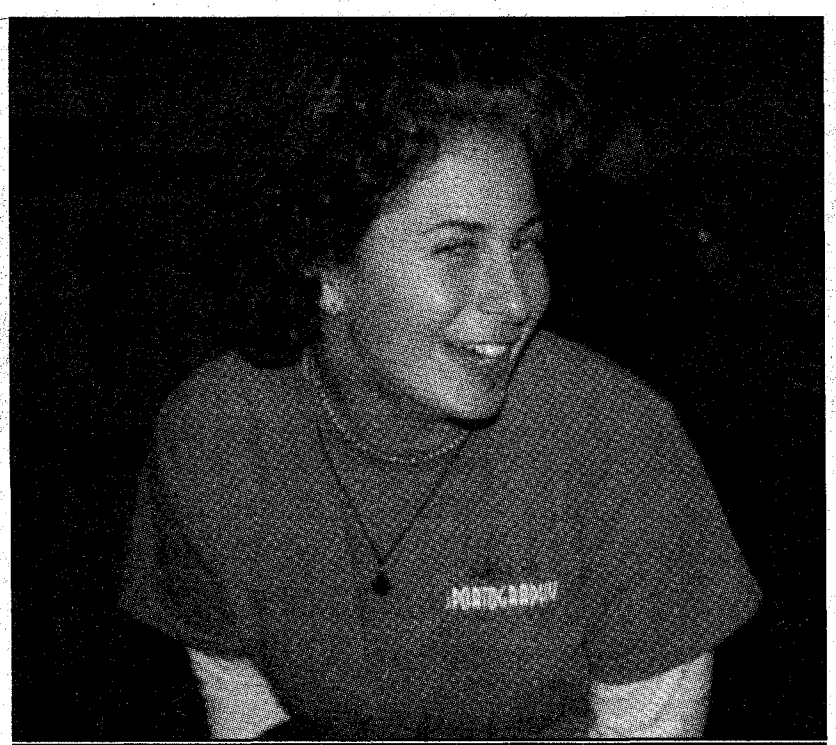




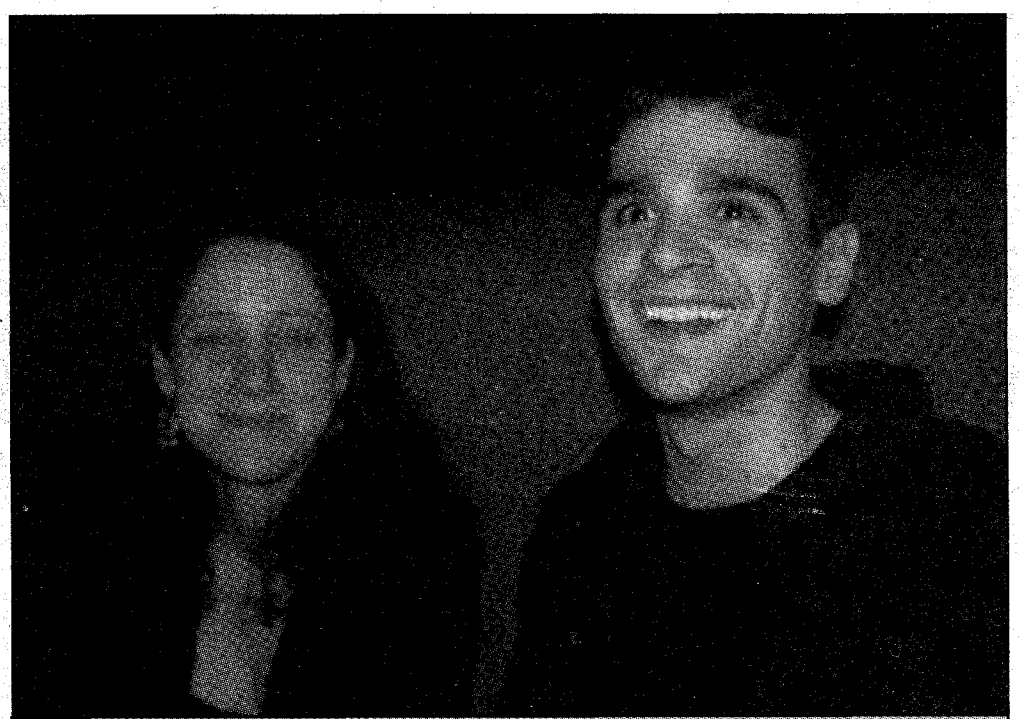




All Photos by Jowy Romano



"What's that you say? *The Press* just turned 25?!?! My word, I'm excited!"

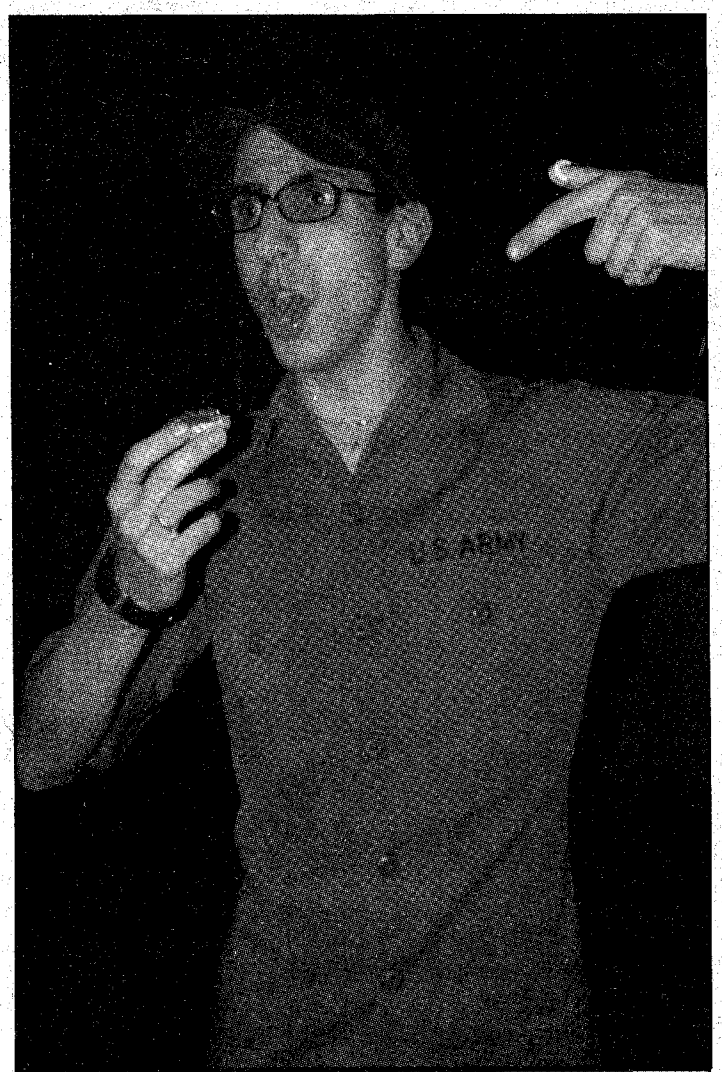


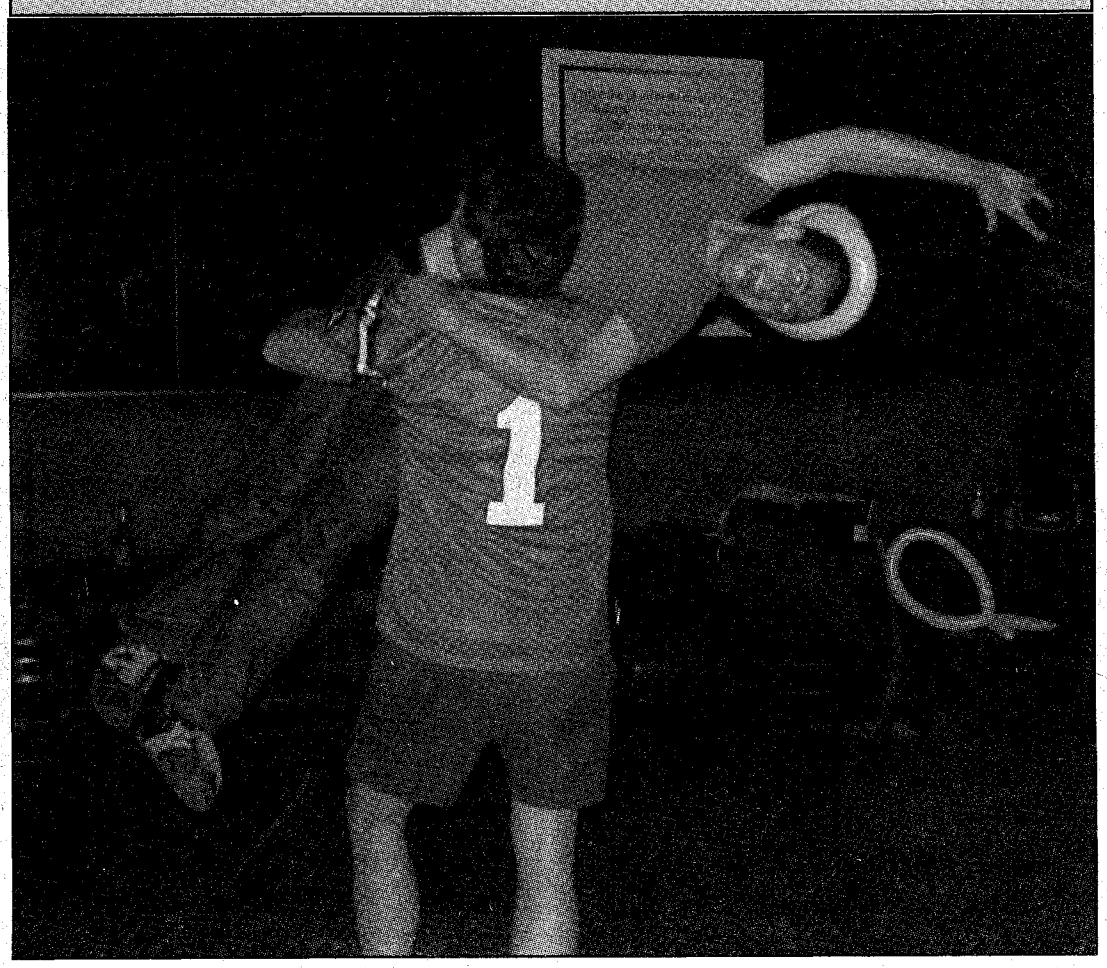
"Can it be? I fear that my facial expression may not be able to fully convey my untamed enthusiasm!"

The Stony Brook Press would like to extend its most heartfelt gratitude to everyone who ever wrote for the paper, read our issues, gave us pictures, handed us leads, applauded our efforts, told their friends about us, or just plain secretely loved everything we have ever done. Because of you, *The Press* has been nothing short of wildly successful for the past 25 years.

Because of you, the readers, and you, the contributors, and even you, the assholes who give us stuff to write about, *The Press* has entered its 25th year with the largest print run, the highest readership, the best quality, the largest average issue as well as the single largest newsprint publication in Stony Brook University's history. Thanks again.

xoxo The Press



"Yo, pizza bagels! I love *The Press*! I love *The Press* **and** pizza bagels!"

"Wait a second... the pit of my stomach is urging me to respond to this news of wonder! But what could possibly satiate my lust for *The Press*? That's it! DANCES! COMEMORATIVE DANCES! AND JIGS!"