

The  Stony Brook

1979-2004

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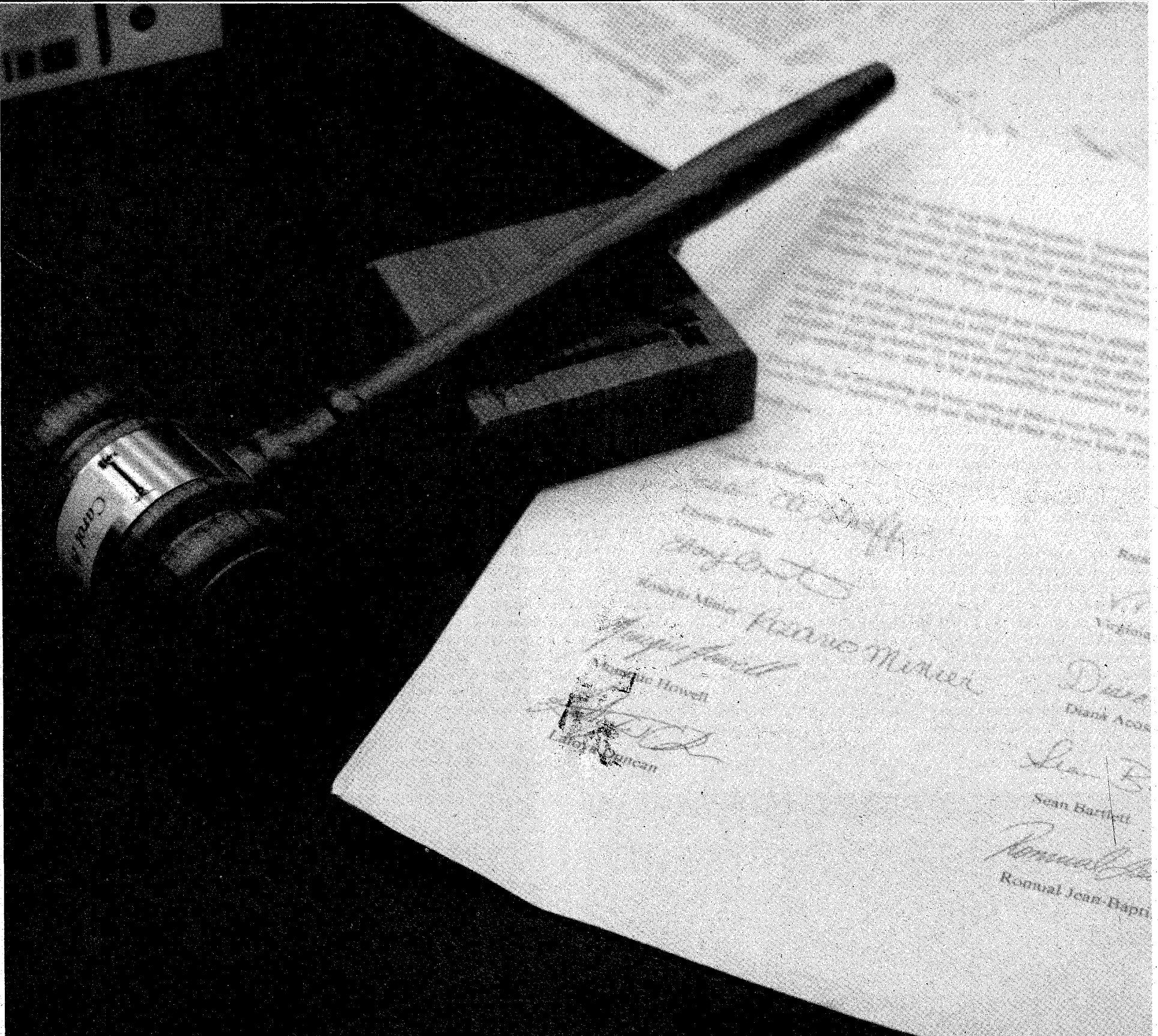
25th Anniversary

The Community News & Features Paper

Vol. XXVI, Issue 6

"We talk in circles and still nothing is learned!"

Dec 3, 2004



Senate

Takes a turn for the worse when meeting erupts into free-for-all; Police are called to action

Executive Council

President Jared Wong waives stipend and reproaches council for "secret meetings"

Judiciary

Chief Justice Vlad Frants calls for impeachment; Is removed from Senate Meeting

The Battle for Same Sex Marriage Comes to Stony Brook

By Marcel Votlucka

The battle for equality in marriage has raged for this past year ever since Massachusetts legally sanctioned same sex marriage and San Francisco offered marriage licenses to same sex couples for a short time. And on Wednesday, November 17. The battle for same sex marriage came to our humble campus. About fifty people gathered in the SAC plaza that afternoon to join in solidarity with gays and lesbians in our struggle for dignity and equality. The speakers included Becca Ahuja of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Mike Heinz, President of the Syosset Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and faculty member Jessica York. It was a beautiful late autumn day, and the rally was a sea of color as rainbow flags flew in the breeze. But more importantly, the passion exhibited by the speakers and the rally-goers was the most heartwarming thing of all.

The first speaker was Becca Ahuja, who spoke about her experiences working against the same sex marriage ban initiative in Oregon. Even though the initiative passed on November 2, Ahuja made it clear that she still holds out hope that gays and lesbians will someday win marriage rights across the nation, because of continued efforts and struggle and agitation for the cause. She also pointed out that here in New York State, ballot initiatives such as those in Oregon and other states will not occur. The next speaker was Mike Heinz, who spoke of his gay son and his feelings on the same sex marriage issue. Speaking of the distinction between civil unions and same sex marriage, he said, "if it walks like a duck, talks like a duck, and acts like a duck, then it's a duck all right," meaning of course that marriage is marriage and the term "civil unions" (as opposed to marriage) is at best a half-assed acknowledgement of the love and commitment that two gay men or two lesbians can have for each other. He reminded rally-goers that the separation of church and state is sacrosanct and that the legalization of state-sanctioned same sex marriage would *not* mean that churches would be forced to marry same-sex couples. His message was that nobody is forcing contrary beliefs upon anyone; the church may do what it wants and true believers may believe in what they wish—the issue here is extending equal rights to all, not imposing a worldview upon anyone.

Speaking of his gay son, Heinz made it clear that, "God made my kid gay." He also asserted, "I want my son to have the same happiness as me." What he was asking for was simple; dignity for his son, and the love his son may have for his partner.

Jessica York spoke next about her experiences, using a fairy-tale motif. She said, "there's no Prince Charming for me. For me, my fairy tale involves a woman." She continued her speech by referring to George W. Bush as the "big, bad wolf" in her tale, the "Wicked Witch of the United States" as she put it. Like Ahuja, York held out hope that same sex marriage will become generally accepted by American society. She cited the Fourteenth Amendment's "equal protection" clause as a legal justification for legalizing same sex marriage across the fifty states, adding, "Marriage is a basic human right. States should not interfere in what is a basic personal choice."

Yet, already nearly a dozen states have banned same sex marriage, and some have even gone so far as to ban civil unions as well. It is interesting to note that conservative Red States, which supposedly espouse "traditional values" regarding marriage and the family, actually have *higher* divorce rates than liberal strongholds such as Massachusetts! The speakers certainly made it clear that the oft-invoked "sanctity of marriage" is really just a myth, especially when tossed about by Red Staters.

After the speakers had finished their respective speeches and the rally approached its conclusion, Brother Clark Berge, the Protestant Campus Ministry Chaplain, took the stage and invited couples to exchange vows in a mock marriage ceremony. About half a dozen couples, gay and lesbian, took the stage, exchanged vows to continue the struggle for same sex marriage, and, well, "kissed the bride," or groom in my case. Yes, yours truly took the stage and exchanged vows too. Thus, I can tell you that while these were not *real* weddings per se, there was a profound symbolism behind the ceremonies, that the love and commitment of a same-sex couple is equally valid as that found in a union between a man and a woman. This was one of the central themes inspiring the rally.

What makes same sex marriage such a pressing issue? For one thing, there are over one thousand specific legal protections and benefits that come with marriage, including receiving custody of children when one's partner dies, receiving company pension benefits after a partner dies, Social Security survivor's benefits, filing joint tax returns, hospital and prison visitation rights, receiving sick leave to care for an ailing partner, bereavement leave, the right to assist in medical decisions for an incapacitated partner, and the right to refuse to testify against one's spouse in court. Other rights include:

Inheritance

- Automatic Housing Lease Transfer
- Burial Determination
- Crime Victim's Recovery Benefits
- Divorce Protections
- Domestic Violence Protection
- Exemption from Property Tax on

Partner's Death

- Insurance Breaks
- Joint Adoption and Foster Care
- Joint Bankruptcy
- Joint Parenting (Insurance Coverage,

School Records)

- Certain Property Rights
- Reduced Insurance Rate Memberships
- Visitation of Partner's Children
- Wrongful Death (Loss of Consort)

Benefits

But let's be honest and frank here. Any gay man or lesbian would tell you that this is not merely about receiving equal rights and protection under the law. This is not merely an issue of tax benefits and property rights and such. At its most fundamental level, this is about dignity. The legalization of same-sex marriage would not only put gays and lesbians and other so-called "queer" folk on par with heterosexuals in the legal sense, it would send a powerful message that America, the land of the free and home of the brave, views all people as equal and deserving of respect and dignity. And really, that's what we all want, right? If nothing else, that's what we all deserve, right?

Some people say that gays and lesbians are not deserving of equal protection under the law because we pursue an immoral "lifestyle" and are therefore "sinning against God." To these people, a lesbian or a gay man such as myself would ask, *am I not a human being?* Does the fact that I prefer men over women make me such a bad person that I must be treated like something less than a person? We ask only that we be treated the same way you would like to be treated, nothing more. Is that really asking so much?

A gay man or lesbian would continue: what exactly makes a marriage between two men or two women who love each other and are committed to each other so threatening to your own marriage? How does it affect you? When we speak of the "sanctity of marriage," what we're really talking about is the sanctity of *one's own marriage*. The institution of marriage has remained stable for thousands of years despite marriage between people of different races, ethnicities, religions, political beliefs, et cetera. It has remained in existence despite adultery and divorce. There is nothing wrong with the institution of marriage; it is not going to die out because two guys get hitched. Rather, two guys or gals tying the knot would only make the institution stronger and more inclusive. Perhaps we ought to be more concerned about the divorce rates as threatening the "sanctity of marriage."

Let's put things in perspective here. Right now, straight couples are receiving special legal benefits and protections that gays and lesbians are not entitled to under the law. But the Fourteenth Amendment clearly states that all are not to be denied equal protection under the law. Either these entitlements are to be given to all couples regardless of sexual orientation, or they are to be given to none at all. There can be no room for equivocations or double standards here. So, do I have a biased viewpoint here? You bet I do! I only hope that you will read these words and take them to heart.

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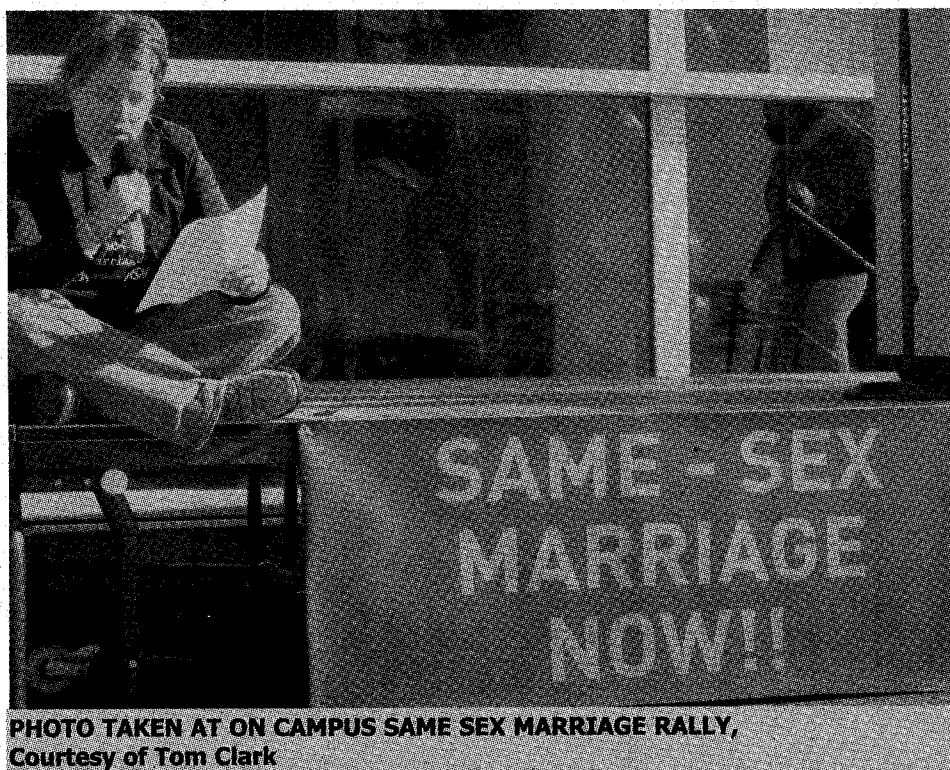


PHOTO TAKEN AT ON CAMPUS SAME SEX MARRIAGE RALLY, Courtesy of Tom Clark

USG Senate Meeting Devolves Into Shouting Match; Police Asked to Intervene

By Joe Filippazzo and Mike Billings

This past Tuesday, November 30th the Undergraduate Student Government did everything in its power to commit professional suicide. With only one meeting left in this semester, the USG Senate met in SAC Ballroom B to attend to its weekly business. When the meeting began, USG President Jared Wong introduced the newly appointed Executive Vice President Jeffrey Kruszyna. Mr. Kruszyna, who has served as the president for the Stony Brook University College Republicans, went through what he describes as a "baptism of fire."

After a new President Pro Tempore was voted upon, President Wong was allotted several minutes to address the body. What resulted was the beginning of an unmitigated volley of personal attacks and shameless finger pointing. Wong's speech was a response to a letter that was authored and signed by all other members of the Executive Council, with the exception of Treasurer Rajat Gupta, that urged President Wong to veto two bills that had been passed a week prior by the Senate. The first bill entitled "Continuity of Government for Senate Act" (COGS) stipulated that venues including SAC Commuter Lounge, Railroad Platform South Side and Dunkin' Donuts be used as alternate meeting places for Senate if Ballroom B was ever unavailable. The second bill entitled "Participation, Attendance, Legitimacy, and Students Acts" (PALS) set stricter guidelines for when meetings for USG bodies could take place. The signed letter from the Executive Council to President Wong called both pieces of legislation a "mockery of [the] organization and lack sensibility, reason, and justification."

In response to the resolution, President Wong approached the table where the majority of the Executive Council was seated, ripped the letter to shreds, and threw the pieces on the floor in front of them. According to the contents of his speech, there were several points that earned President Wong's ire. For one thing, he felt the letter insinuated that the Executive Council views the Senate as an embarrassment to the organization, and that they made a mistake in passing these two bills. The greatest offense to Wong, however, was that the letter was drafted in secret in a closed meeting; a direct violation of New York State Open Meetings Law. Wong remarked that he was upset that he was given no forewarning of the council's actions nor had anyone made an attempt to address him directly. "This whole semester I've tried to make

peace with [the council]," said Wong, who recounts a long period of unfriendliness and difficulty with the rest of his Executive Council.

Wong continued and addressed the matter of stipends paid to USG members, which was brought up with the "We Care about the Students Resolution." The resolution, presented and signed by President Wong, was a declaration that he would personally waive his stipend.

After much applause, the resolution was then passed around the room for Senators to sign; and all reportedly did. Although some Executive Council members expressed their disapproval of this action, the issue of stipends became buried in the ensuing chaos.

After President Wong's speech, Senator Vince Rasulo moved to impeach every Executive Council member whose signature appeared on the letter. This included Esam al-Shareffi, Ebony Omede, Rosario Minier, Monique Howell, Latoya Duncan, Virginia Morgan, Diana Acosta, Sean Bartlett, and Romual Jean-Baptiste. At this point the floor was opened to debate, of which there was little. Instead, members of the Senate, Executive Council, and the gallery seized the opportunity to publicly berate their constituents and to engage in fruitless fulmination. The Senators and Executive Council members basically took turns pointing fingers and accused one another of not performing their job correctly. Several Executive Council members eventually became fed up and left the meeting. Disregarding the remaining items on the agenda, anyone who stepped up to the podium was allowed to vent their frustrations on any issue they chose, even if it was not pertinent to the discussion at hand. One gallery member who became very upset that he was not recognized to speak was Chief Justice Vlad Frants of the USG Judiciary.

As the rapidly unraveling discussion broached the one-hour mark, Frants, who was scheduled to be next on the agenda, seized the podium microphone and began to deliver the speech that he felt he was entitled to give. Immediately, Vice President Kruszyna urged Frants to relinquish the microphone and wait until he was recognized by the chair. As Chief Justice Frants began speaking over Kruszyna's warnings, the Senate moved to have Mr. Frants removed from the meeting. When it became apparent that there was no Sergeant at Arms, the body was at a loss as to how to proceed over Frants' tirade. As the meeting devolved into complete bedlam, several of those present called the University Police. The Senate moved to have a recess and Chief Justice Frants continued with his speech, which called for President Wong's impeachment due to his purported delinquency in appointing students to the empty seats of the Judiciary.

By the time the police arrived, Frants had already finished his obloquy and was in the process of exiting the building. At this point, Senator Rich Hsu ran after Frants and called for members of the gallery to grab him so he couldn't get away. Luckily, no one reciprocated. As two officers questioned Frants in the hall and one stood by the entrance to the Ballroom to keep students out of the open meeting, another

two went inside. The room soon calmed and the meeting was called back to order. The two officers were seen talking to Interim Administrative Director Sonia Guttman and Director for Student Activities Alexandra Duggan; a conversation that seemed to be the only thing that kept Mr. Frants out of handcuffs.

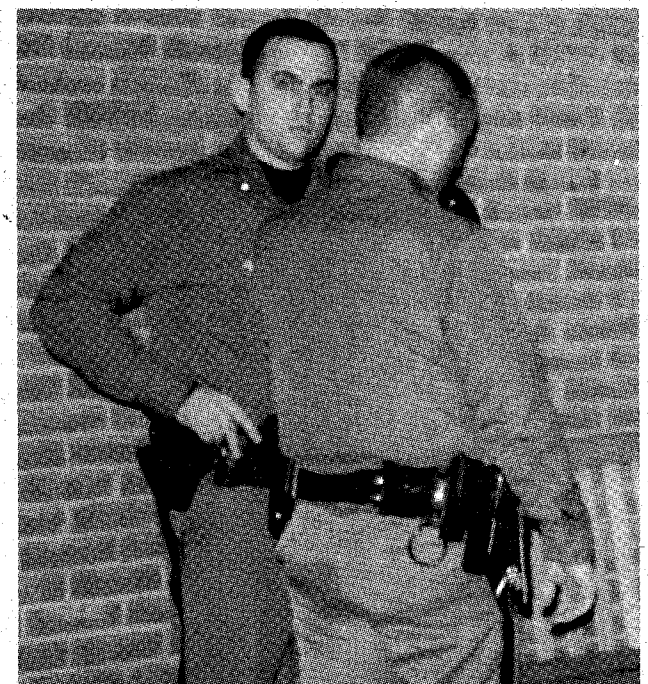
At the close of the meeting, most were left with an extremely bitter taste in their mouth. Although the two and a half hour Senate



THE ANGERED CHIEF JUSTICE SPEAKS OUT OF TURN WHILE GALLERY MEMBERS DEMAND HIS REMOVAL.
Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo

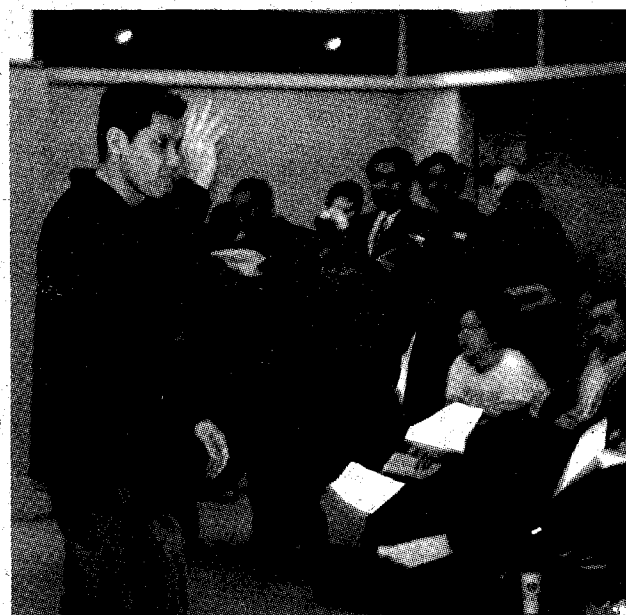
meeting had seen the election of a new President Pro Tempore as well as the first action to eliminate stipends, most of the time was allocated to unproductive, disorganized, and very personal mudslinging. When asked to comment about the evening's events, President Jared Wong stated, "I didn't expect any of this." He went on to explain that he was extremely disappointed that meetings were being held "in secrecy" and he simply felt that he had to defend himself at Tuesday's proceedings.

The Undergraduate Student Government is the heart of student life and activities here at Stony Brook University and coordination and cooperation are the only way to keep the blood flowing. Our student government has begun to fibrillate, though, and when the muscles of this heart stop working together, malfunction and inevitably death are not far off.



THE TWO OFFICERS WHO, WHEN PRESENTED WITH A SIMILAR SITUATION LAST YEAR, WRESTLED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT WILLIAM SCHWALBACK TO THE GROUND AND DRAGGED HIM OUT OF A SENATE MEETING IN HANDCUFFS.

Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo



PRESIDENT WONG TOSSES THE TORN-UP RESOLUTION AT THE COUNCIL'S FEET.
Courtesy of Joe Filippazzo

America's Growing Health Crisis: Idiots!

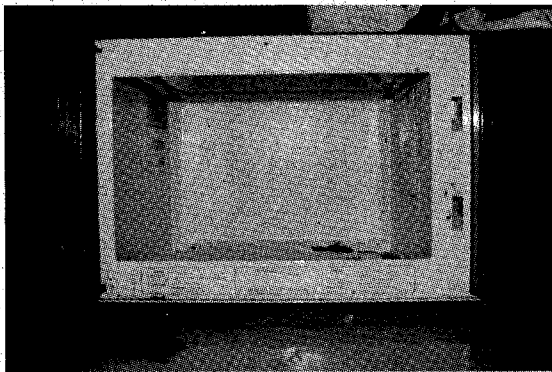
By Sohail Ahmed

It was a British Newspaper, the Daily Mirror, that asked a question on the minds of several billion people this past Wednesday: "How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB?" Once again proving himself a Divider, George W. Bush managed to turn out his religious base in force in the key battleground state of Ohio and several of the...less important states of the Midwest. Rather than gaining new Republican converts, it appears that the party solidified its base while further strengthening the opposition—and by opposition I mean the rest of the world. Exit polling in several heavily religious precincts in the Midwest found that the primary issue on the minds of these voters was not Iraq...not education. Thinking economy? Nope, keep going...stem cell research...What?! Preventing scientific progress is apparently more important in the eyes of the religious Right—I didn't say religious people in general—than avoiding world-wide warfare or further diminishment of the US image.

While this was not characteristic of all Republican states, you'll get a real kick out of the number one concern of Midwesterners and Southerners according to CNN exit polling—terrorism! That's right. Fearing something they have not and likely will never experience from foreigners, these voters decided to reinstate a President who has unabashedly used the T-word to inspire fear in the hearts of farmers and ranchers across America. To believe Homeland Security is to believe that no one is safe, especially if "No One" happens to be a resident of Kentucky—the bluegrass state, an inhabitant of the frozen windswept plains of Alaska, or the dangerously under protected mountainous areas of Colorado, the Square Shaped State. How did New Yorkers with experience with the T-word vote? According to the New York Times, only 16% of Manhattan and Bronx residents voted

Bush and their primary concern was Iraq, not terrorism. So why did we invade Iraq? Because of the "easily persuaded" types...aka Dumbasses.

I'd like to congratulate California. Not only is the state not shaped like a square but Californians demonstrated their brilliance at the polls in more than one fashion on Tuesday. First of all, California, along with just about all the other states bordering oceans voted Democrat. Secondly, California's population voted 59% in favor of Proposition 71, which counters the Administrations decision to restrict the use of federal money for embryonic stem cell research.



THE PRESS' VERY OWN HEALTH CRISIS,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

California, greatly in debt and with a huge helping of problems as it is, passed the proposition to fund stem cell research with \$300 million for each of the next 10 years. Using my calculator...that's three billion Dollars! Why is that a smart move? As it stands now, no other state has come close to even proposing this massive

investment in a single field of scientific research. The University of California system stands to benefit greatly as it will likely receive a large portion of the funding. Of course, researchers in other states are already being enticed in the hopes of bringing talent and name power to the University system. Over the next decade we will probably see California at the forefront of a wave of new discoveries and home to a booming biotech industry. But enough of Proposition 71—let's move on to trying to understand how such a ridiculous thing as the last election could have turned out the way it did.

On Thursday, the Columbus Dispatch reported that Bush apparently received 4,258 votes to John Kerry's 260...in a county where

638 votes were cast...so someone forgot to carry a decimal point—stop whining! All right, all right, I'll admit I didn't hear many reports of voter disenfranchisement this time around. Then how could such a ridiculous thing happen? Terrorist! Terrorist! Iraq! 9/11! That's how. Repeat a few words enough times and some begin to worry about being jumped or having their TVs stolen by terrorists. Then all a certain network needs to do is follow it up with "experts" who bolster the belief that America is at war with a single enemy with a common cause—a fierce, hatred of freedom. And which democratic country is the easiest target for terrorists? The one that's farthest away!

Iraqi Insurgent: "I hate freedom! I hate it! I kill it! Especially the US Constitution!"

Yeah, that's it.

So according to this administration, we can help ourselves by helping Iraqis...by killing them. Don't understand? Don't worry. Let's talk about Hummer owners, people who almost invariably happen to be idiots.

I'm often surprised by the avid Hummer enthusiasts on the Southern State or the Belt Parkway. What can you say? "I've got spotlights for headlights and they're always on! Look at me! My Hummer gets 10 miles to a gallon and I got me two flags and a Yellow ribbon on my bumper! Soldier!" While some are put in harm's way to secure America's fossil fuels for the coming century, other patriots are burning away the spoils on the way to Stop N' Shop. These decked-out off-road vehicles and all-terrain (and by all terrain I mean asphalt) vehicles sporting battle-ready coatings like Bright Red and Eggshell White may be the problem. With the world's oil reserves and polar caps receding, how about outlawing tank-like SUVs from the highways? Unlike Europe where the sizes of cars seem to go down as the prices hit \$5/gallon, today I see more urban assault vehicles in Bumblebee Yellow combat coating than ever before. Help these Hummer owners. Let them know that they are making fools of themselves. Only with a concerted effort will we be able to fight the growing health crisis: idiots.

The Wave of Bush Resignations

By Joan Leong

It is openly known that I am adamantly opposed to Bush, his administration, and his policies. I could easily take this opportunity to manipulate the facts and turn it into a crazy conspiracy theory. However, I will not turn this article in an angry rant. George W. Bush isn't the first president to have high-ranking officers and cabinet members resign. Presidents before him have been faced with letters of resignation. But this many so soon?!

Attorney General John Ashcroft resigned a week after Bush was re-elected. Nominated by Bush in 2000, he narrowly won the position by a slim 58-42 margin. There was much controversy surrounding his nomination because he was considered a "neo-con" and had a history of having very conservative political and religious views. He leaves the Department of Justice and the country with the Patriot Act, which he claims "saved lives." And his position on anti-abortion has made him a favorite among religious conservatives. I will always remember his attempt to take down Greenpeace for an 1872 law for "sailor mongering" and "piracy" and failing miserably (if you don't know, look it up!). Ashcroft luckily leaves us on this note; "the objective of securing the safety of Americans from crime and terror has been achieved." Yes, I'm just as perplexed as you are.

Ashcroft's successor will be Alberto

Gonzales, a White House legal counsel and the former Supreme Court Justice of Texas. Surprisingly, he has very different views from Ashcroft. For example, he has very liberal views on abortion, which is highly criticized by conservative Republicans. If he is confirmed as the new Attorney General, he will be the first Hispanic American to ever hold this high-ranking position.

Secretary of Commerce Don Evans also announced his resignation. He was Bush's campaign chairman in 2000, a longtime friend and one of his closest advisors. Evans is a former businessman who strongly believes in the free-enterprise system and playing the field in the global market. Donald Evans is the name to cuss out loud when you lose your job to outsourcing. After a hard and strenuous term as Secretary of Commerce, he states "with deep regret that it is time for me to return home." Evans will stay in office until January.

About two weeks after the election results, Secretary of State Colin Powell also handed in his letters of resignation. He will very much be missed because among a dominating and extremely conservative administration, he was the voice of moderation. He was one of the few members of the Bush Administration that Democrats and other moderates and liberals could rely on. Often cri-

tiqued for not jumping head first into invading Iraq, he was a lone fighter who wanted to delay the invasion. It was publicly known that he often had dissenting issues and remarks with "neo-con" war hawk Donald Rumsfeld. After much pressure from members of the Administration at that trying time, he gave in to the invasion and presented faulty evidence about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to the United Nations. Rumors have it that Powell is leaving because he was neither asked to stay nor was he asked to leave. However, he was quoted, "It has always been my intention that I would serve one term." He can't be blamed, it was an arduous four years of the "fight against terror," and he had to compromise on many of his positions due to political pressure from all sides. In an administration that doesn't tolerate any dissent, it is admirable that Powell carried out his full term and used his influence as skillfully as he could. With a highly respectable military and political career as his legacy, Powell plans to serve out the rest of his term until a successor replaces him. Praises from prominent leaders around the globe poured in as news of his resignation spread. He was very well liked and popular for being upholding and respecting foreign policies. George W. finally found something intelligent to say, "He is a soldier, a diplomat, a civic leader, a statesman and a great patriot. I

The Wave of Bush Resignations Continued...

By Joan Leong

value his friendship. He will be missed." National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice is his most likely replacement.

Three other high-ranking cabinet secretaries have also resigned. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham who provided this country with record high oil and gasoline prices is also resigning. His possible successors include Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow and retiring Democratic Senator John Breaux of Louisiana. Secretary of Education Rod Paige who organized the No Child Left Behind Act is also stepping down. White House domestic policy adviser Margaret Spellings is most likely to replace him. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman who handled the mad cow disease and increased consumer protection of food safety and nutrition also resigned. She was praised for her hard work in containing the mad cow disease and increasing farm profits but very unpopular among small farmers who called her a "corporate lackey." She is also unpopular among many environmental groups for not upholding Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation Act, which protects millions of acres of national land from being victims of deforestation and other environmental policies. She is staying on for the rest of her term and no successors have been

named.

The only major recent loss in this administration is Colin Powell. Other prominent figureheads like EPA Administrator Christie Whitman, Director of the CIA George Tenet, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, and Press Secretary Ari Fleischer all resigned early into Bush's first term. Having to keep their mouth shut one too many times and after being disparaged for, god forbid, publicly voicing their dissent, they all gave their respective

notices. Many times, they would openly comment on something the neo-conservatives didn't agree on and soon after, they would retract what they had said. It was also obviously fishy; they had to acquiesce with the terror team (Bush, Rice, Cheney and Rumsfeld) no matter what. The slightest sign of opposition to the Neo-Cons of Terror eventually led to the resignations of the worn-out officials who finally surrendered because they realized they were just instruments to deceive everyone this is still a democracy.

With all of the top officials jumping ship shortly after his re-election, it does discredit Bush—even further in the public's eye. Could it be they didn't think he would win re-election? Or was it they do not want their good name tarnished any further by associating with one of the most intolerable and unpopular presidents ever? While some officials were a good ride, we have had many losses along the way. Colin Powell was one of our few democratic links to the Bush administration and now that he is gone, the Neo-Cons of Terror can rule with an even more stubborn iron fist. What is the Terror Squad going to put America and the world through next? Just wait and cower because evil has finally triumphed over good men and women.



BYE BYE POWELL, HELLOOOO RICE,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

Unifying a Divided Nation

By Jorge Sierra

After one of the most momentous and bitterly divisive presidential campaigns in our generation, it was heartening to see the graciousness with which both candidates brought the campaign to a close and resolve to try to unify this divided nation. This unity is needed because we will have a ton of problems to take care of as we enter into Bush's second term. There is bipartisan recognition for the need to reform health care and social security and to enact policies that help average working Americans, many of whom still aren't quite on their feet yet. Republican proposals such as tort and tax reform also affect all Americans and need to be honestly discussed. As well, we have to take a serious look at what this country needs to do to win the war on terror, stabilize Iraq, and make the government accountable to the values and dreams of its people. These issues are all complex, they arouse strong passions on both sides, and they will require the input, cooperation, and patience of both Democrats and Republicans if we are to arrive at the best solutions.

This country might have a chance. President Bush has a history of making real concessions to liberal causes and traditionally Democratic voting blocs. He kept his promise to pull the navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico. He ushered in the No Child Left Behind Act, which promises to get poor and minority students out of dead-end schools, with bipartisan support. He has made very conciliatory statements about homosexuals and illegal immigrants, frequently dismaying the conservative right as he has done so. Also, there was that very public capital murder indictment John Ashcroft announced for the 1996 slaying of a lesbian couple, and the resignation forced on former Senate majority leader Trent Lott by his own party after he made a racially insensitive remark that outraged African Americans.

These outreach efforts have reaped great dividends for Bush's party. His increased share

of the Latino vote helped decide this election, and his share of the black vote also increased slightly since 2000. He even retained most of his share of the gay vote despite that anti-gay marriage amendment blowup, receiving 21% according to washingtonpost.com exit polls (in 2000 a record 25% of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals voted for the Republican presidential candidate). Bush's record isn't perfect, but he has made enough good faith efforts to allow him to win the trust of many traditionally Democratic voters. That's what uniting the nation is about, for in this way many interests are acknowledged and served.

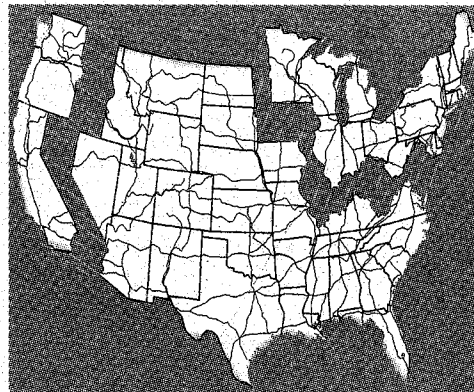
But now the party base has come out in force as well. The "big tent" of the Republican Party is now bigger and perhaps more unstable. Although it's pretty clear what voters expect of Bush in Iraq and the war on terror, there is a real danger that the president will be unable to meet his dual domestic mandates: traditional values and conservatism on social issues on one hand, progress and fairness for all Americans on the other. For example, what happens when conservatives and Latinos both try to flex their muscle on immigration at the same time? So far the president has been able to strike a balance on most of these conflicts, but he cannot afford to get complacent. Although the Republicans have the initiative, only an honest political process that fosters an appreciation for both diversity and our common causes will serve the interests of all Americans and keep this coalition together.

Democrats have something of a record of broad coalition-building under Bill Clinton, but right now they urgently need to work with Republicans again because they are losing their

base. They must speak to, not against, the conscience of formerly liberal and long-time conservative voters so that their party's values can have a place in pending legislation. Their political future depends on it. I'll grant John Kerry gave a very good critique of President Bush's handling of the war on terror, but if all Democrats can offer is an anti-Bush, anti-Republican, anti-conservative message, and they still lose, then there's no reason to vote for them. Number one they can deliver for you, so why vote for them? Number two, all the great ideals there are to choose from and believe in are being held by the people representing the other party.

No one ever said bringing this divided

nation together would be easy. There are tough choices to be made on both sides. Sure it's easier to keep attacking the other side for its depravity and push the most "morally correct" agenda, but that doesn't serve anybody's interests, especially when so much is at stake for this nation. In the past decade or so, the conservative right has made great progress in moderating its extremism and moving toward the main-



THIS'LL BE REALLY EASY,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

stream, and we need to challenge them to use their increased support to strengthen their balance between traditionalism and respect for people of all backgrounds and values. The liberal left also owes it to this country to advocate vigorously for the forgotten progressive side of moral values and drop its own most hateful elements. It is time for all Americans to come to the table and meet our challenges in the best spirit of our democratic ideals.

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Treading on the Geneva Conventions

On Tuesday, November 16, footage depicting a U.S. marine shooting a wounded Iraqi in Fallujah was made public. The footage shows two Iraqis slumped against a mosque wall with a few U.S. marines surveying the area. One marine indicated that an Iraqi was pretending to be dead, then shot him at point blank range.

Kevin Sites, who is responsible for recording the footage, told reporters three other wounded men were killed under similar circumstances that day. Under the Geneva Conventions, wounded soldiers are to be collected and cared for by the party that has them in their power and are not to be subjected to further violence. Also, under the Geneva Convention places of worship may not be used, "in support of the military effort," and they cannot be "the objects of reprisals."

Although it has been depicted and is being treated by military personnel as an isolated incident, the footage reveals a more systemic problem. The current administration is placing little, if any, value on the promotion and enforcement of the Geneva Conventions. The Justice Department issued a statement that non-Iraqis captured in Iraq could be treated similar to members of al Qaeda, meaning Convention standards don't apply. A senior Justice Department official commented to CNN that, "This administration has made it clear from the outset that members of al

Qaeda and other terrorist groups do not necessarily enjoy the protections of the Geneva Conventions. Al Qaeda members and other foreign terrorists in Iraq illegally would not be entitled to the Geneva Convention protections." Following this logic, numerous non-Iraqis have been secretly detained, transferred, and interrogated by U.S. forces.

Other Humanitarian issues are deeply concerning including the amount of Iraqi civilians killed since the onset of the war. Some estimate that Iraqi civilian casualties number higher than 100,000. Not to mention the devastation bombing and ground combat has caused to the infrastructure and economy. How will they rebuild entire cities with a suffering economy? How will adequate food, water, and medical supplies reach the refugees escaping combat in Fallujah, Baghdad, and Mosul? How can we ensure the safety and protection of non-combatants? These questions seem to be out of the scope of the current mainstream dialogue on the Iraq War. It seems that the current Administration and the mainstream media have forgotten that promoting humanitarian causes goes hand in hand with democracy. How can we possibly 'free' or 'democratize' Iraq without simultaneously enforcing the Geneva Conventions and promoting humanitarianism first and foremost?

LETTER: That's How We Do

To All,

Glad to see the Press thriving on campus. However, that Bravmann character is off his Ritalin. May I suggest you replace it with Thorazine, or better yet a Curare dart at fifty paces.

His unique style, a combination of schizophrenia and Tourettes syndrome, would make him an excellent candidate for study. Why don't you donate him to the hospital's psych ward to turn off the "salad shooter" he calls his mouth.

Seriously, if I needed incoherent "white-noise" from bigoted, patriarchal, misogynistic, homophobes I'd go turn on Fox News and/or watch the sound bites of President Bush.

Keep *The Press* alternative,
 Dean Benson

Dean,

Thanks for the letter. That's probably the best description of Mr. Bravmann's writing I've heard yet. As far as the content of his work goes, however, we do feel that it's valuable in a sense. In fact, we weren't going to print his submissions initially and they've caused many an argument among editors but we decided that it is very important that we print this type of viewpoint. The main reason is that we feel obligated due to the inherent nature of *The Stony Brook Press* as a megaphone for the students. Although the editorial board is wholly liberal, we do not and will not restrict our non-editorial content to reflect our personal beliefs. In the past, we have been criticized by left-wingers for printing such neo-conservative hogwash but we would like them as well as the dirty neo-cons to know that the beauty of freedom of speech is that it's a double-edged sword. We welcome absolutely everyone who would like to have their voice heard to speak up so that we may shout it from the rooftops for you.

We do not claim to be viewpoint neutral. *The Press* does have a specific editorial view but it believes that the paper can progress in a certain direction without silencing others. You mention that we should "keep *The Press* alternative" and we think that a forum for *true* free speech is truly an alternative idea.

Sincerely,
 Joe Filippazzo, Executive Editor

Wanna Know Where You Can Stick Your Opinions?

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

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Come One, Come All to the USG Circus

Come one, Come all, to the USG Circus
 A special editorial

Last year, *The Stony Brook Press*, angered by an unjust cut in funding and driven to do something about it, dove into the campus political scene in a fashion never before seen in our newspaper's history, and quite possibly this school's history. While we freely admit that we probably would not have been as keen to attack Undergraduate Student Government injustices if we had gotten our usual funding, we also believe that the result – culminating in the Club and Organization Bill of Rights – was the best thing that could ever have happened to our newspaper.

This year, with the national elections taking precedence, we have not been paying as much attention to USG matters as we should have been. This has been our mistake. What has been going on this year dwarfs last year's circus by a

mile.

Irfan Sayed, teamed with several cultural and religious organizations and the Commuter Student Organization, had presented a bill intended to fund religious and cultural groups by creating a semi-independent organization similar to the IFSC called the Council of Religious Entities, or CORE for short. This is a program the *Press* supports, mostly because religious groups like Hillel, Gospel Choir and Essence of Praise receive funding already, while the Muslim Students Association (where Mr. Sayed hails from) does not. Originally, USG's outgoing Executive Vice President, Esam al-Shareffi, and the head of the Special Services Council, Rustum Nyquist, both of whom we respected greatly, supported the bill. Then, for reasons that we still find unclear, they became opposed to it. At the meeting where the laws were supposed to be voted on, Mr. Sayed introduced the bill, then refused to answer questions when asked, enraging several USG members, including Mr. al-Shareffi. However, the bill passed. Mr. Nyquist and Mr. al-Shareffi are currently challenging the bill's validity in the USG Judiciary.

During this time, a parallel story emerged. Jon Lawson, the Commuter Student Association's Senate representative, was told he would be unable to continue at his position. Inexplicably, he was then given the option of staying in his position another three weeks, which he accepted. During that time, just like any other representative Senator of a democracy, he used his vote to suspend the hotly contested elections because of serious charges levied between Romual Jean-Baptiste and Alyssa Fasano, who were running against each other for Freshman Representative. After his three weeks were up, he was publicly removed in a ceremony which violated the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (trust us, guys, it is; we researched this when the same thing happened to Vince Rasulo last year), and then, on top of it all, apparently on the advice of a parliamentarian, and with the blessing of Mr. al-Shareffi, his vote on the issue was "nullified," leaving Jean-Baptiste the winner. The *Press* cannot stress enough that there is absolutely no justification that could possibly be made for disenfranchising a Senator's constituency by essentially telling this Senator that their vote didn't matter. We don't care if it's because his/her grades weren't high enough; we don't care if he/she was doing illegal things while in office; we don't care if he/she pulls out a rifle and shoots someone during the meeting. You never ever nullify a vote, for any reason, ever. And if this was the idea of the parliamentarian, she should be fired immediately. Voting is one of the cornerstones of the democratic process. We wonder what is being taught in USG's "leadership" class if they don't grasp this basic concept (never mind, Maria Terrana's teaching it).

These two items combined have created a situation in which a lot of personal enmity has been directed at Mr. al-Shareffi, most of it on the message boards of StonyBrookSucks.com, which is currently experiencing a renaissance. The relative anonymity of the boards, combined with the fact that Mr. al-Shareffi stupidly decided to engage these unknowns, created a combustible atmosphere, where Mr. al-Shareffi has been criticized for, among other things, being from Iraq, and his friendship with Ben

Bravmann, who has written (and continues to write) a series of bigoted, highly incendiary columns in this very newspaper. It culminated recently with two articles, written under pseudonyms (which, after discussion, was deemed to be a mistake on our part), published in the last issue of *The Press*, after which Mr. al-Shareffi almost immediately announced his resignation, citing personal stress. The *Press* believes that Mr. al-Shareffi is a good man who has tragically been led astray by his reliance on people, like Alexandra Duggan and the USG parliamentarian, for advice that more often than not turned out to be very bad. We still like Mr. al-Shareffi, and he is always welcome in our office, but we will not ask him to reconsider his resignation, if you get what we mean. And to attack Mr. al-Shareffi by comparing him to members of Saddam Hussein's government (as one post did) is sleazy, cowardly and disgusting.

Now, having disposed of his personal enemy, and having the CORE laws be in operation, one would think that this would be enough for Mr. Sayed. But he has plans that extend far, far beyond this victory.

Over the past several weeks, Mr. Sayed and his supporters in the Senate and on StonyBrookSucks have begun a series of attacks on those members of USG that come from the University's Equal Opportunity Program, or EOP. EOP has been the "third rail" of USG politics for a long, long time. Many people involved with campus politics, specifically several members of the Commuter Students Association, have claimed that EOP students have been the ultimate administrative tool; a group of students shepherded into politics by Fred Preston, who vote for each other, campaign for each other, and stand by each other no matter what. Their current poster child is Jean-Baptiste, a cocky sort who, in one of his first official statements upon taking his position, basically told the Senate they were idiots, reportedly was picked to run for office by Mr. Preston personally and who reportedly told USG President Jared Wong when they first met that he intends on taking Mr. Wong's position eventually.

Last year, many people came into our office to talk USG politics, and they would eventually talk about the EOP stranglehold on campus politics. However, no *Press* article written by an E-Board member last year mentioned EOP at all. This is because we believe there is absolutely nothing wrong with EOP students doing what they are doing. What they do is called organizing and being politically active; why should EOP student be punished for their actions? Oh, and by the way, neither Sergio de Freitas, nor Andrew Rafii, two people we had beef with last year, were EOP members. The *Press* never fought EOP; we fought stupidity and incompetence, period, and we continue to do so. And if you still really hate EOP, and want to "defeat" them, you don't do it by attempting to legislate them out of USG, as was attempted recently. EOP is not, has never been, and will never be the problem, and those who devote their time and energy into fighting them are wasting time better spent doing other things. We have no problem calling Jean-Baptiste an amazingly arrogant man who would not be in his position save for the grace of Mr. Preston, but you will never, ever hear us call him an EOP "Welfare Queen" (as some have) or something of the sort.

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A Response

By Rustum Nyquist

The Past

I am currently a senior and involved with USG as the chair of the Special Services Council, a joint agency that provides student activity fee (SAF) funding for new clubs and for special events by non-USG funded organizations. I have been involved with this council for almost a year and a half now and am glad to have done it. I have been able to meet many active and motivated people on campus putting on great programming. I first became involved with the government as a club president in my freshman year. Here I witnessed corruption and a wholly dysfunctional and irresponsible administrative process in the Student Polity Association, the predecessor to USG. To be extremely brief, Polity was a decrepit imitation of a government that, at least in my short acquaintance with it before it was dissolved, did not serve broader student needs in any way, shape or form. The treasurer's office was a black hole for paperwork, as in; whatever went in never came out again. The accountants were often hostile to students and were definitely not working for our benefit. All of these problems mentioned stemmed from the fact that throughout the ranks of the organization, there existed unmotivated, lazy, and self-interested people. That being said, I can honestly say that USG is a step up, even with its problems. It is becoming more of a force as more people get involved and gaining greater leverage to advocate for student needs.

Within this article though, rather than dealing with the problems of the past, I would like to focus on activities going on now within our current government. In particular, I would like to make brief responses to two articles written in November 17's issue of *The Stony Brook Press*.

The Present: CORE, Racism, and an Honest Response

These articles titled 'USG has Greatly Upset This Individual' and 'Racism at Stony

Brook University' provide sharp and very pointed criticisms of USG. I use the term criticism loosely for they serve more as thinly veiled attack pieces than any semblance of constructive criticism. I will only respond to allegations that I am personally involved with because that is all I can really account for. As far as racism within SSC, this is deeply insulting to me, and towards my fellow council members. 5 out of 6 of the council members are of Asian descent and I can only imagine their disgust to be equal, if not greater than mine. In my time within SSC, beginning with a solid foundation established by former chair Tim Cole, we have created a paper trail that fully accounts for each decision we have made and always operated with the intent of full disclosure. I make myself as available to students as possible giving out personal contact information if needed and I ask that any student with legitimate concerns over our decisions come and share them. I stand behind my record as my sole defense. We've funded

"I use the term criticism loosely for they serve more as thinly veiled attack pieces..."

a breadth of diverse clubs and the process is working now. We have a set procedure for applications and each one of our decisions is accountable, or at the very least well documented so that it can be subject to further scrutiny. Beyond asking people to inquire about how SSC works and how our decisions are made, I will let this unfounded accusation rest.

The former article mentioned a current issue of funding for religious clubs. I respond by saying that at no time has Esam Al-Shareffi, any other elected official, or my self demonstrated any intention to slight religious organizations in anyway. A lot has happened within this, and for those unaware of it, I ask you to get in touch with your senators, executive council members, or myself for more information and to lodge your own opinion. As for CORE, the legislation referenced in the article, it is wrong legislation in that it gives unbridled discretion to a council that provides SAF funding and does not uphold viewpoint neutrality; for both of these reasons the bill is not legal by the precedent set by the United States Supreme Court. All

funding decisions that a school government makes involving a mandatory student activity fee must be made with no regard for a club's viewpoint. They can disallow duplicate clubs, but they cannot adjust funding or allocate/not allocate funds because of a club's purpose. By creating CORE, an acronym for the Council on Religious Entities, we are in, within its mere creation, going into the viewpoint of religious clubs by requiring them to go through a separate process from all other clubs and organizations; this is illegal and unfair. As far as unbridled discretion, that means that any governmental decision maker must have a set process to determine any allocation, and must not have the power to give money by his or her own whim. One example of the boundless power given to CORE council members is the ability to require financial records and affidavits of past and present students regarding whether they were, or are currently paying the SAF or having it waived. Groups that do not abide by the wish of CORE would be subject to budget freezing. Not only is this an example of unbridled discretion, but also a violation of all students' privacy rights.

These are the reasons for opposition to the bill. In replace of CORE, I have drafted another bill that does abide by pertinent laws and hopefully the senate will approve it so these clubs can finally get the money they deserve. The CORE laws were drafted and presented underhandedly and the concerns that I raised with the presenter were not heeded; I offer my bill for passage or defeat and welcome input from any and all who are interested.

If the persons who wrote these two damning articles felt confident to put their names behind their accusations possibly I, or you, could respond to them, but since they chose the more sheepish path of anonymity, unfortunately there is no resolution to their grievances. I do entreat any and all students who want more information about these issues or to inquire about the workings of SSC to come to me. Although I am resigning at the end of this semester, I am always available for anybody with concerns. Please, get in touch with me at my school account, nyquist@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or my personal account, rustum.nyquist@gmail.com.

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B.A.S.I.C. Misinformation at "Let's Talk About Sex"

By Mike Billings

Recently, the Brothers and Sisters in Christ, or B.A.S.I.C., sponsored a program called "Let's Talk About Sex." Billed as a realistic discussion about sexuality, the program was meant to spark a frank discussion among attendees and provide real information about a topic many are still uncomfortable addressing. While the intent was noble, the outcome was silly at best, and dangerously misinforming at worst.

The two-hour event began with a three-song set from a band that covered songs from U2 and Lifehouse. After this, the audience took their seats and the "Essence of Praise" dancers performed while gospel music blared in the background. Despite the fact that these acts clearly worked hard and did a great job, we were now roughly 30 minutes into our frank discussion about sex and no one has actually said a word. After the musical and dance performances, it was time for a relationship skit. Again set to gospel music, this time of a more pensive variety, the actors used pantomime to demonstrate that one's heart does not belong to any other person; but rather to God. While the effort of the actors was commendable, this is yet another chunk of time that wasn't used to discuss the topic of sexuality; a topic that would be difficult to properly discuss in this type of format in less than an hour.

After the myriad of performances, the main speaker prepared to begin. For the event, B.A.S.I.C. had booked Bobby Lloyd, executive director of Long Island Citizens for Community Values, or LICCV. On a newsletter distributed after the program, it is stated that the mission of LICCV is to "significantly reduce sexual violence and the victimization of women, children, and families...by educating citizens and legislators on the harms of pornography." Judging from this statement it's not surprising that the early focus of Lloyd and his two assistants were the dangers of pornography and masturbation.

The main idea was that pornography, despite the fact that most people do not perceive

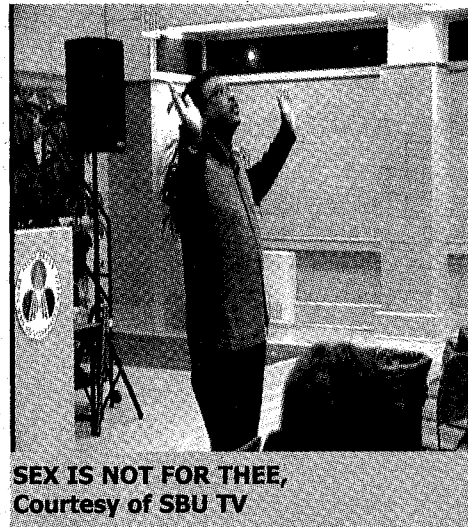
it to be a serious threat, is an unwavering track to destruction. Lloyd and his assistants spent their time relaying horror stories about pornography; how it caused one of the speakers to drop out of school and the other to almost lose his family. The latter speaker even professed that when his wife discovered that he was collecting pornography, she wanted to "cut out [his] heart, fry it up, and eat it." This seems to be a rather extreme reaction to the discovery that one's spouse watches porn. In fact, this was the general problem with this area of the talk. The speakers were so focused on the dangers of a dependence on pornography; they failed to mention that the majority of people who have ever seen pornography will not become dependent on it. Instead, the speakers implied that anyone who looks at pornography will develop a horrible addiction that will tear their lives apart.

After this portion of the talk, Lloyd moved on to speak about sexually transmitted diseases. Going from an abstinence-only perspective, the idea that people should wait until marriage to have sex, Lloyd described the symptoms of a number of STD's and how they can be contracted through sexual activity. An appalling fact, however, is that Lloyd frequently doled out incomplete and incorrect information. During the program, Lloyd stated that the AIDS virus, because it is so small, passes right through condoms; making condoms an ineffective means of protection during intercourse. This is false. According to the Center for Disease Control, "Laboratory studies have demonstrated that latex condoms provide an essentially imperme-

able barrier to particles the size of STD pathogens." The way Lloyd describes it, a condom is no more effective against AIDS and other STDs than a sieve.

Once Lloyd finished speaking, there was only about ten minutes left for a discussion; far too little time for anyone to obtain any meaningful information about relationships and sexuality. Even if there was time, Lloyd was clearly too out of touch with reality to give any helpful answers. At one point during the discussion, Lloyd notes that college students should not have relationships, because relationships do nothing but take away from time that should be used for studying and praying.

Although this is a ridiculous comment, it does serve the purpose of summing up the spirit of the program. This was supposed to be a frank, meaningful discussion about sexuality. While Lloyd did not shy away from graphic questions, he certainly did not offer any meaningful, or rational, advice for college students. Considering that the average age of the room was about twenty years old, Mr. Lloyd's speech would have been more appropriate in an eighth grade health class where the goal is to make kids aware of the risks associated with sex and to try and make them delay it until they can fully take responsibility for their actions. For college students, however, Lloyd simply presented skewed and false information to an audience that doesn't need to be fooled; if you give people of this age real information, each one of them is more than capable of making informed decisions for themselves. Anything less is an insult and a waste of time.



A Backhanded Defense of the Statesman Complemented by Commentary on the Press

By Matthew Weinberger

I always get a little irritated whenever someone insults the *Statesman* in these pages. I realize this statement alone will make many readers roll their eyes and go back to masturbating or whatever it is you people do when you're not reading *The Press*, but please, hear me out.

Look at the feature *An Open Commentary to the Statesman*, in *The Press's* previous issue. Basically, this consisted of a series of "tool" puns in reference to everybody's favorite administrative mouthpiece. This filled half a page. Now, see, here's the problem. Without the *Statesman*, what do you fill *The Press* with? I mean, it's easy to say that the Press is better than it. That's a given. But without the *Statesman* to compare against, each issue would be very anemic.

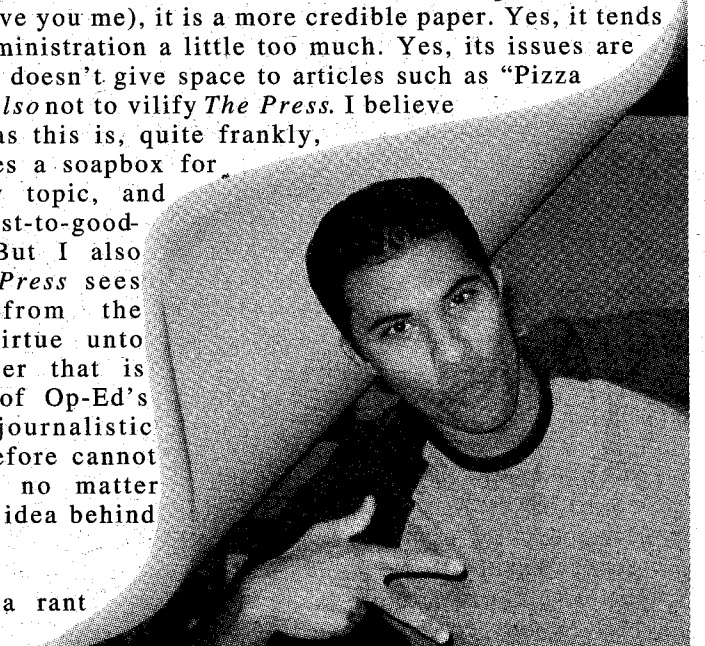
Mansoor Khan. For a lot of people, this name invokes both terror and hatred. I've only met him personally once, when he came during one of those "required" freshman meals (in fact, I am one of those freshmen said meals were foisted on for the \$40), and basically begged and pleaded for people to join their staff. Now, I don't know him that well (or, indeed, at all), but having every third sentence coming out of your mouth be "join the *Statesman*" is not a great way to make a first impression. Later, though, I would come to respect him, despite my dislike.

In a semi-recent issue of *The Press*, Mr. Khan wrote an article entitled "I See You a Rant and Raise You a Rant." In this, he wrote a response to the Press's constant mockery. While I do not like his writing style (The phrase "Opinion Booklet" seems to amuse Khan more every time he types it), you have to respect the balls of this guy. He tore into the Press's editorial staff and policies with the viciousness of a cornered weasel. If the *Statesman's* issues are too thin, I am sure it is because the

content they want to include cannot escape the gravitational pull of his testicles.

This is not going to conclude with a resounding endorsement of *The Press* and a vilification of the *Statesman*. For all its problems (and they are there, believe you me), it is a more credible paper. Yes, it tends to speak for the administration a little too much. Yes, its issues are too thin. But it also doesn't give space to articles such as "Pizza Tweezers." This is also not to vilify *The Press*. I believe that a paper such as this is, quite frankly, amazing. It provides a soapbox for anyone, about any topic, and gives it real, honest-to-goodness circulation. But I also believe that *The Press* sees being separate from the *Statesman* as a virtue unto itself. A newspaper that is comprised mostly of Op-Ed's cannot claim journalistic integrity, and therefore cannot command respect, no matter how incredible the idea behind it may be.

But that's a rant for another day.



Come One, Come All to the USG Circus

Continued from page 7

In addition, there have been volleys thrown at several people with close ties to our newspaper; NYPIRG, Senator Joanne Marino of SBU TV and Chris Williams. Students have been walking by NYPIRG's office making snide comments, Mr. Sayed recently attended one of their meetings, and Eric Bruzaitis has been the target of vicious rumors. Chris Williams has been the target of a campaign on StonyBrookSucks claiming he doesn't attend classes, calling him an administrative mole (which is ridiculous; this is Stony Brook University, not Soviet Russia), and even worse, claiming that his presence is a danger to the student body. Joanne Marino has been criticized for nothing more than being a bit bubbly and overexcited when she speaks.

NYPIRG was founded the same year as we were; we are closer to them than to any other organization, by far, and it shows; right now, half their staff is also our staff. All those people voting last month? That was partially their doing. We know the amount of time and energy they put into causes, from fighting tuition hikes to getting people to vote to fighting to close Indian Point. We know how devoted they are to what they do. They are our sisters in arms; to disparage them is to disparage us, and we can't stress enough that anyone who attempts to subvert or harm NYPIRG in any way will have to deal with a furious *Stony Brook Press*. The same goes for Chris Williams and Joanne Marino. Not only is Mr. Williams a student, but *The Press* has several people who frequent our offices and don't go to school anymore, including our former Managing Editor, Sam Goldman, and while the CORE group has known about that for quite some time, we haven't heard a peep about it; not to our faces at least. Wonder why it's okay for Mr. Goldman to be on campus while Mr. Williams is declared dangerous. Maybe it's because he's black?

But this doesn't answer the big question: why? What is Mr. Sayed's endgame? Well, glad you asked, because we know exactly what it is. You see, he wants USG dissolved, in favor of a program where students would be able to decide, to the penny, how much money they would give a certain club, commonly known as a "checkoff system." There are two problems with this. The first one is that it's illegal, as decided unanimously by none other than the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Southworth vs. Grebe*. According to Holland+Knight, they ruled such a system unconstitutional "because a representative body distributed the student activity fees in a content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral manner". The University did not take a partisan viewpoint on issues supported by student groups, but merely created a limited public forum to encourage discourse among the student body. By permitting some students to 'opt out,' the integrity of that public forum would be jeopardized because less popular viewpoints would lose funding." In other words, it's a public university's responsibility to ensure that unpopular speech (such as *The Press*) and clubs that are not as popular (like the Chess Club) get protected.

The second problem with the checkoff system is that it's stupid. Even the most popular clubs on campus would be harmed irrevocably, as the chances of enough Joe and Jane Students giving a club like, say, the Commuter Students Association even half of its current budget. In addition, the SUNY Chancellor's Guidelines were recently amended, partially because of what happened with Kathleen Westlake & Co. several years ago, to ensure that a campus organization acts as a student government's fiscal agent, which, for USG, is the Faculty Student Association. Now, they get paid

for what they do, and *The Press* heard last year that as much as \$800,000 of USG's \$2.2 million budget go to pay them, in one of the greatest little-known secrets of Stony Brook. This means that Joe and Jane Student will have to pay at least 33% of the current Student Activity Fee anyway, which means they would be even less likely to shell out extra monies to clubs.

And to achieve this unachievable and stupid objective, the methods of Mr. Sayed and his followers have been outright deplorable and cowardly, mainly, a campaign to publicly disparage anyone who stands in his way through anonymous postings on StonyBrookSucks alongside other equally anonymous and equally disturbing behavior. NYPIRG member and Senator Jacquie Bachman, Senator Marino, and EOP members won't drink the Kool-aid, therefore they and their organizations are targets, as we expect to be as soon as this is published. At least when we wrote about USG last year, we had our names on it. This scorched earth policy has not only created wounds between organizations that will not heal easily, especially in the case of a close-knit organization like EOP, but it also has created a situation where USG's business has been dominated by petty feuds (there were several attempts to impeach Mr. al-Shareffi, all unsuccessful) instead of things that might actually be useful.

Many people believe that *The Press* automatically supported the efforts of these people. Maybe it was because many people, Mr. Sayed included, stopped by our offices on a regular basis, and are seen joking with us. Maybe it was because of the articles in our last issue. But most likely, it was because many felt that, based on last year's events, *The Press* would automatically support anything that would wreak havoc in USG.

We do support the CORE laws. If anyone has a problem with them, the bill can be amended. But we cannot and do not support a "check-off" system. We do not support any attempts to remove EOP students from the democratic process, or to demonize them. We do not support any attempts to harm NYPIRG. And we certainly cannot support what certain people have done by attempting to discredit certain people (like Eric Bruzaitis, Chris Williams and Esam al-Shareffi) by personal, anonymous attacks that spread misinformation to an all-too-willing group of feebleminded minions. If you believe that EOP is evil, that NYPIRG is a waste of money, and that those people on StonyBrookSucks are right to do what they do, don't consider yourself a friend of *The Stony Brook Press*.

All that over with, we now focus our attention to the Executive Council. Just this past Wednesday, they circulated a letter to Jared Wong, the USG President, publicly asking him to veto two bills that passed at the last Senate meeting. The first bill, the Continuity of Government Act (COGS for short), specifies a need for a set time and location of Senate meetings, which the Council agrees is a good idea. What they did not like is when the bill deflated into "sarcasm and wit" by suggesting, as alternate locations for Senate meetings, the Stony Brook LIRR Station, the Full Moon Café, and Dunkin Donuts. The second bill, the Participation, Attendance, Legitimacy and Students Act (PALs for short — they sure like their acronyms), states that USG meetings, including Executive Council meetings, should be postponed on days before a school holiday. The Council argues that "if a student has an issue of importance, they will make the effort to stay for that day," and that "as the student government it is our duty to be as accessible to students as possible." The letter then goes on to ask

for Jared's veto of these two bills.

The first bill has merit; the Council admits as much. The second bill also has merit; by having meetings when most students will not be available, they make meetings less accessible and not more. And both bills can be amended to reflect the Council's concerns. These are things that could have been brought up in Council. By distributing the letter at the Senate meeting, their goal was not, as they claim, "to keep students best interests in mind," but to publicly humiliate Jared Wong. Kudos to Raj Gupta, USG Treasurer, for not participating in this farce, and for Virginia Morgan, VP of Clubs and Organizations, for publicly expressing her concerns about it, even if it was too late.

Mr. Wong, who has been absolutely invisible as USG President, finally—finally—stepped up to the plate. Not only did he reveal that the letter was drafted in quorum at a secret meeting, but that the Council also seriously discussed impeaching him. He basically told the Council to perform an anatomically impossible act and then proceeded to deliver a master stroke to the idiots in the Executive Council. He circulated a petition asking USG members to voluntarily waive their stipends, an issue which has been especially important to *The Press*. According to Senator Bachman, it was unanimously signed by the Senate, and by Mr. Wong himself. This occurred before (now former) Chief Justice Vlad Frantz apparently resigned, put the third branch of government in jeopardy, and then went insane.

Did the Executive Council sign the stipend petition? Look at the back cover of last week's issue. Of course they did not. In fact, some members believe they should get raises. This, while members of NYPIRG, SJA, many cultural and religious clubs, and, yes, *The Press*, put in just as much time and effort into doing things that help the student body, and while USG is (get this!) actually considering cutting the funding of clubs before cutting their own pay. If USG wants to be paid for their time, so should every member of every club or organization on this campus. Period. The fact that this is a measure supported by every Senator and by most people outside of student politics shows how insanely out of touch the Council is with what the student body wants and needs.

As for Jared Wong, we have been waiting for Mr. Wong to show us we were right in supporting him for President. We learned that he has been trying hard to implement the reforms he championed last April (specifically his "one-stop shop"), but that the Executive Council is firmly set against him. If that was the case, he should have, at the very least, spoke his mind publicly, whether in *The Press*, in Senate or in some other fashion. To not speak to anyone is to perpetuate the idea that you're not doing anything, and that was our idea of Mr. Wong. Tuesday, he finally showed us what he was capable of, and became the student leader this campus needs, if for only an instant. Now he needs to stop hawking the Rec Center (a misguided idea; renovating academic building should take first priority), appoint judges to the Judiciary (Mr. Frantz's concerns are definitely valid), and focus his immediate attention on a USG that is in the same kind of bottomless chaos Student Polity was in when it got decertified.

And if that last sentence doesn't scare anyone in or associated with USG, if no one in USG realizes the farce it has become, and how poorly they service the students, then USG deserves decertification. And, if it happens, don't expect any big outcry from Union 060 about it.

NYPIRG: Building Student Power

By Juliet Di Frenza

Thirty-one years ago, in a Queens College cafeteria, a group of students created a structured plan for grassroots organizing. It was a public interest research group (PIRG), but more organized, focused and most unusually, had the interests of students in mind. It was the first consumer and environmental advocacy organization of its kind: student run and student directed. PIRG's didn't just spring up in New York, but in places like Massachusetts and Connecticut and as many as 29 other states around the country.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is the largest and most effective consumer and environmental rights group in the state. For over 31 years NYPIRG has been fighting (and winning) on issues throughout New York State. The strength of NYPIRG is within the campus activism, which is *student* activism.

NYPIRG is a statewide organization with student activists from Stony Brook, to Binghamton, to Buffalo, NY. The NYPIRG State Board of Directors is made up of students representing each of our 21 campus chapters. It is the Board of Directors that chooses what issues to tackle, and appoints the Executive Director. As a staff employee, the Executive Director works solely for NYPIRG and closely with the Board Chair. The energy and ideas generated by students are paired with on campus project coordinators who facilitate the transformation of issues into campaigns.

The State Board Executive Committee is made up of the Board Chair, Vice Chair and three Board representatives. This committee has the power to make decisions for the organization when the full Board of fifty or so students cannot convene. Those people who are on the Board are enrolled and attending school, since the only way you can be on the State Board is if you are a college student. The only exception is the Board Chair. This student takes an academic yearlong internship for credit, which entails moving to NYC to work full time out of the NYPIRG office. The rest of the NYC office is made up of issues staff who work on campaigns such as the environment, higher education, consumer and homeless outreach, among others. The NYC office works in conjunction with our 21 campus chapters. The organization's issues start with the ideas of the students and end with student action.

On Stony Brook campus we have two project coordinators, (PCs), Eric Bruzaitis and Rose Auguste. They are full time staff and work as facilitators who foster the growth of student activism by giving students the tools to develop skills that can be used for successful and effective public outreach. They attend to everyday office affairs, helping out on student's issue projects. They are a necessary part of running a chapter. But if it weren't for the devoted student activists, there would be little for them to do.

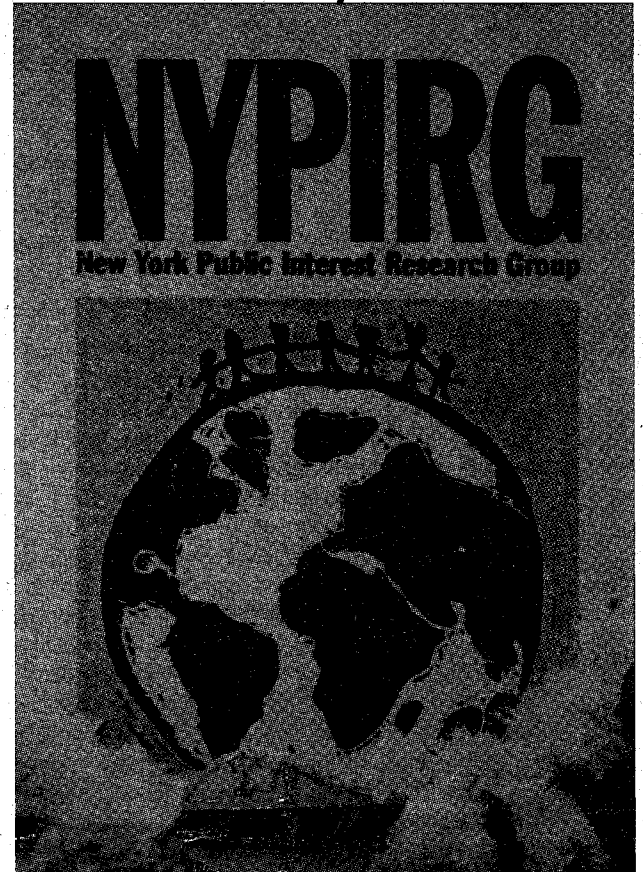
These core students are most active in the chapter and some of them are State Board Representatives. For each of the schools there are two to four elected Board representatives, who are students that speak for each of their respective campuses. There are four Stony Brook Board representatives, one of whom is myself. The reason I ran was because I wanted to be your, the SBU student body, voice in this organization, but anyone can run for the State Board. This is a time when students from all over campus have a chance to choose who they want to represent them in NYPIRG. One of the unique opportunities that NYPIRG has to offer is being able to take an active part in creating real social and environmental change. As a Board representative, you can make a proposal on a specific issue that you would like to address and if your fellow Board reps pass the proposal then NYPIRG can take it on as issue work.

For example, the State Superfund (created to have polluters clean up their toxic waste sites) dried up several years ago and 400+ toxic waste sites suddenly were not getting cleaned up. These sites were linked to neurological disorders, birth defects and breast cancer, and the government wasn't doing anything. So NYPIRG spearheaded a campaign for the reinstatement of the Superfund. To do this we would have a NYPIRG worker head the campaign focusing on passing a bill to bring the fund back. Then the campus would get involved and we would have press conferences, petition signings and lots of media work. I was a part of the Superfund campaign and actively participated for 2 years, so when it was finally reinstated it was awesome! If you are into it, you can derive a lot of satisfaction from work with NYPIRG.

Another successful campaign is our higher education campaign. NYPIRG has a staff person working full time to insure that students' voices are heard in Albany. But the staff person can't do it alone, and that's where the campuses come in. We hold press conferences, get petitions and letters done, hold media events to raise awareness and influence legislators. We fight hardest on the Higher Ed campaign while the New York State Budget is being written. Our work has paid off and we kept SUNY and CUNY tuition hikes lower, saving students thousands of dollars.

For those of you from the city you may have heard of the MetroCard (something that as a City native I feel is the best thing since sliced bread!). Since the early 1980s, as part of our consumer rights campaign, the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign has been working on making the MTA cleaner, quicker, and more efficient.

NYPIRG is a full time student advocacy group that is non-partisan and separate from the state government. The 21 campuses that have NYPIRG chapters receive a part of the student activity fee so that we can operate to serve



ACTIVISM IS SEXY,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

the student body. NYPIRG is on campus for *students'* benefit; our office, facilities and knowledgeable staff are here to aid you in program work. Next semester we'll be having workshops, where students can learn how to be efficient and successful in campus activism. Some of the topics might be student coalition building, campus event planning, and off-campus political and media outreach. The skills picked up at these workshops will not only help in college but will extend to the job sector, by improving your interpersonal skills and multi-tasking abilities.

I hope that this article has answered questions and helped clarify what NYPIRG does. Just for the hell of it, I'm going to leave you with my own thoughts. I think that NYPIRG is a great organization for a whole litany of reasons, only some of which I touched on above, but my number one reason for liking NYPIRG is because it directs my activist energy into constructive work on successful campaigns, which make a difference to our future. After all, it is this cultural and ecological society that is our inheritance.

Any questions or comments in response to my article can be addressed to me via email: sbenvi@hotmail.com or you can call me at the NYPIRG office: 632-6457.

A MISPLACED LETTER

Dear Press,

WHOA! You guys just put out the best issue EVER! Thick and heavy with some of the most intelligent and informative articles I have ever read. Matthew Rammelcamp's "Bush Steals Election Again...Business as Usual" was superb.

But your shining moment was indisputably the RALPH spread. That opening letter from the blue to red states was a literary gem. It says it all about America today. You guys are writing geniuses on par with Jon Stewart, Al Franken and Bill Maher. I suggest you send this masterpiece (pages 34-35) to all of them to gain the national recognition this piece deserves.

- A big fan.

Dear big fan,

Stony Brook University is a veritable zoo and *The Stony Brook Press* is outgrowing its cage. Please don't feed the animals.

Rrrroow!
Joe Filippazzo,
Executive Editor

USG Judiciary Coverage

By Joe Filippazzo and Jackie Hayes

Statesman on Trial for Constitutional Violations

The Undergraduate Student Government Judiciary held its first official hearing this past Tuesday, November 23rd. The plaintiff was Michael Nevradakis, Program Director of campus radio station WUSB and former Editor-in-Chief of the *Stony Brook Statesman*. The defendant was the current Publisher of the *Statesman*, Mansoor Khan.

The brief Mr. Nevradakis filed with the USG Judiciary was an enormously detailed account which made several extremely serious allegations against Khan. These included charges of misappropriation of Student Activity monies as well as numerous infractions against the organization's Constitution. According to Mr. Nevradakis, for the last two years, the *Statesman* has not been having elections as its constitution stipulates but instead, Khan has been appointing unqualified friends while demoting others as he sees fit. Nevradakis also claims that Khan was responsible for the numerous parties held in the *Statesman*'s office where alcohol was served. To make matters worse, the parties were supposedly funded with club money.

Michael Nevradakis arrived with a list of witnesses, an annotated constitution, several affidavits, a tape recorded meeting where Khan admits to his folly and a stack of over 50 e-mails as evidence. Mansoor Khan did not show up. Instead, Khan submitted a single page statement which Judge Arthur Flynn read to the court. In his statement, Khan remarks that he is protesting the trial due to the fact

that he does not recognize the USG's jurisdiction in the matters presented. Prior to the trial, Khan requested that the USG Judiciary defer the case to an Administrative hearing. In such a hearing, a group of administrators would review both sides and decide a punishment if the defendant is found guilty. The USG Judiciary denied Khan's request and said that the trial would proceed as scheduled.

Even though Mansoor Khan did not show up, the trial continued in his absence. After his opening statement, Mr. Nevradakis called four of his six witnesses (two were not able to attend) and questioned them. With no cross-examination possible, the court moved on. Nevradakis then presented the affidavits and tape recorder for the court's approval. Finally, Nevradakis made his closing statement and thanked the judges for their service. With nothing further to discuss, the court was dismissed. One member of the gallery remarked, "That's a lot of evidence. To tell you the truth, I wouldn't have shown up either." All the facts have been presented and the arguments have been made for both sides. The deliberation of the judges will be presented sometime this week.

Many governmental members believe that the outcome of case 001 of the USG Judiciary will be very important to the future of the student government. It will either prove to the students that this university's faux democracy actually is somewhat functional or it will confirm everyone's suspicions that USG was beat when it was born.

Judiciary Questions Integrity of CORE and USG

On November 25 at 12:55pm the USG Judiciary held its second case, Case no. S. Ct. 003 2004, Nyquist, Al-Shareffi v. USG Senate, Syed. The case petition was filed by Special Services Council Chair Rustum Nyquist and Executive Vice-President Esam Al-Sheriffi on November 5 and challenges the constitutionality of the CORE laws, which were proposed by Irfan Syed and passed by the USG Senate.

The CORE laws establish CORE, or the Council of Religious Entities, as a legislative body responsible for the allocation of the Student Activity Fee in regards to religious clubs and organizations. They also attempt to articulate the rights and duties of religious groups on campus. The funding of both religious and political clubs and organizations were threatened during the Fall of 2003, when then USG President, Sandy Curtis stated political and religious clubs would no longer receive USG funding. The CORE laws could have been a response to protect and articulate the fiscal rights of religious clubs and organizations.

The petitioner's brief outlines their qualms with the laws stating they violate, "the USG Constitution, the Chancellor's Guidelines, Trustee's policy, financial policy and procedures, USG's contract with USG's fiscal agent, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as well as several rulings by the United States Supreme Court." The brief also points out that religious clubs and organizations are supposed to be dealt with on viewpoint neutral basis as decided by Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth. The respondent, Irfan Syed did not submit a brief, evidence, or a list of witnesses in defense of the laws.

Neither the petitioner nor the respondent was present for the trial. The USG Judiciary ordered an indefinite injunction on the enforcement of the CORE laws until another trial could be held. Vlad Frants, Chief Justice, stated their decision was based on the fact that this was a "highly sensitive issue" and that it would not be in the best interest of the students to issue a summary judgment based on the evidence already submitted.

Aside from the CORE laws, the Judiciary also raised other issues regarding the integrity of USG. Frants stated he would bring a motion to impeach USG President, Jared Wong to the USG Senate on Tuesday based on the fact that he has not filled the remaining seats in the Judiciary. According to the USG Constitution, it is the USG President's responsibility to fill the Judiciary within 30 days of the semester. Frants pointed out that over 120 days had passed with little motion from Wong to begin the Judiciary nominating process. Frants also indicated that they couldn't proceed with their second case until there was a full Judiciary.

As it stands, the USG Judiciary is two justices short of a full Judiciary and is postponing the hearing regarding the CORE laws until the positions are filled. If Frants moves to impeach Wong and the issue is brought before the Judiciary, Frants will have to step down from his position as Chief Justice, meaning USG potentially could be left without a President or Chief Justice by next semester.

For more information regarding the case or for information on how to apply to the USG Judiciary visit the student government's web site at <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/usg/>.

The following letter was submitted by former Senator Vince Rasulo to USG President Jared Wong.

The letter recounts an altercation that took place at a Senate training session in early November.

Here it is for you edification and enjoyment

President Wong,

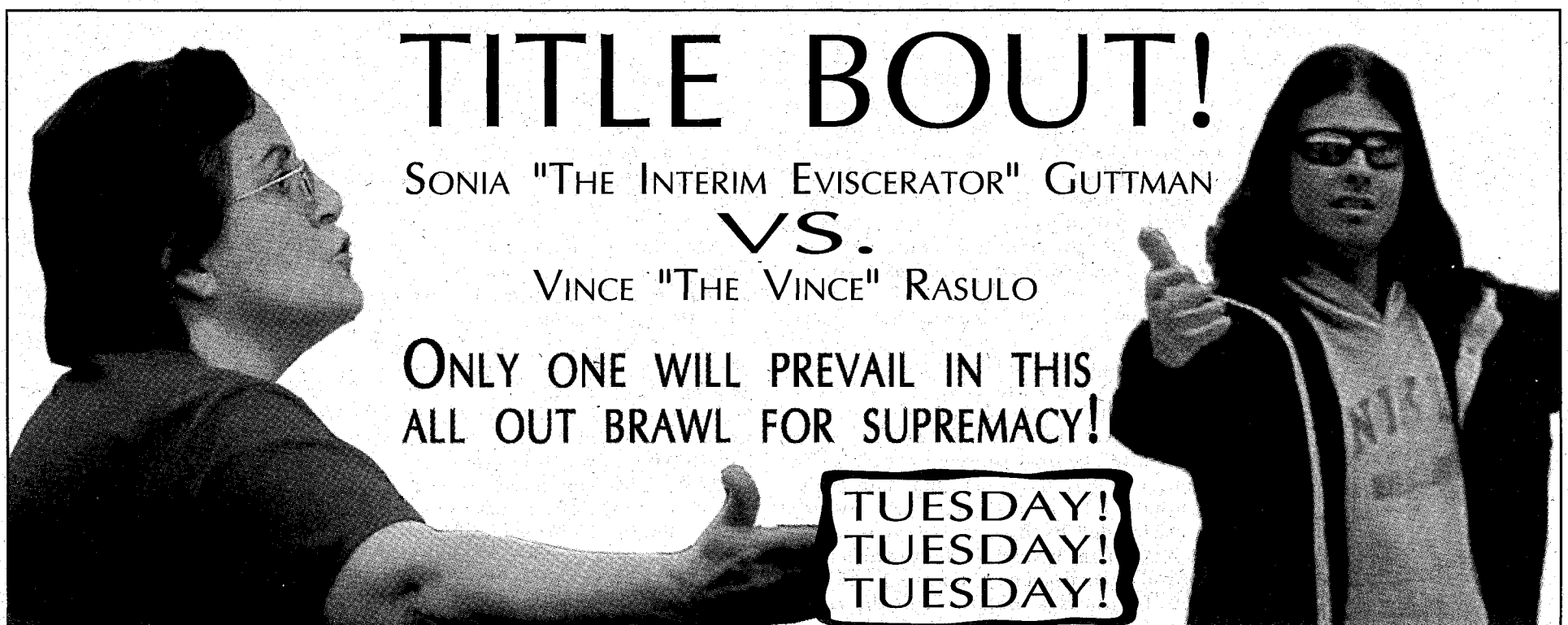
I am writing to you regarding an incident that occurred on Tuesday, November 9th, 2004, at 6:15pm in SAC room 225. I was informed by Administrative Director Sonia Guttman that I was not allowed to attend that evening's Senate training session. This was in violation of a motion passed by last year's Senate allowing for public attendance at all Senate training. I asked Ms. Guttman to put in writing that I was prohibited from attending and she refused. I attempted to write a statement for Ms. Guttman to sign at which time Ms. Guttman became highly agitated. Ms. Guttman aggressively lunged at me with a degree of ferocity that caused me to believe that she intended on striking me or causing me bodily harm. With both hands Ms. Guttman grasped the pad on which I was writing and tore it from my possession; after a brief exchange Ms. Guttman stormed out of the room. An administrator, Alexandra Duggan, was present in the room and witnessed the altercation; Ms. Duggan has agreed to be a witness on my behalf.

It is your obligation, as the elected representative of the students of this university, to terminate Ms. Guttman's employment immediately. Ms. Guttman has demonstrated that she is not possessed of the self-control or discipline required of an individual responsible for working with a student population. An Administrative Director ought to be familiar with the rules and procedures of the organization for which they work, as well as accommodating of and responsive to student needs. However, Ms. Guttman seems to believe that obstruction and the ability to disseminate disinformation are the proper prerequisites. Ms. Guttman's ignorance of student government precedent and her willingness to disregard student concerns when it suits her are evidence enough that she is not intellectually nor ethically fit to hold this position of authority.

In closing, you must fulfill your obligation to uphold and defend student rights. As president you must do everything in your power to permanently remove Ms. Guttman from any position of influence in the student government. Terminate Ms. Guttman immediately and begin the search for a competent and respectable Administrative Director.

Thank you,

Vincent Rasulo

What's in a Label?

Reclaiming One's Sexual Individuality

By Marcel Votlucka

Freak!
Faggot!
Queer!
Homo!
Dyke!
Fairy!
Sissy!
Carpet-eater!
Bulldagger!
Pervert!

If you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, or otherwise "queer," no doubt you've been the target of words like these at one time or another. If you're "straight," you may have even used them against someone at one time or another. These terms are usually meant to be hurtful and demeaning, intended to bring us who are "queer" down so that ignorant fools can add false bulk to their twisted worldview. Indeed, there is a psychological power in words that can be wielded with terrible results.

Heterosexual.
Homosexual.
Bisexual.
Masculine.
Feminine.
Androgyny.

We don't usually think of these seemingly benign words as being ugly and degrading, though they are. Indeed, their overuse is ultimately more degrading and sinister than the previously listed insults; these words represent a process of systematic dehumanization that affects all of us. Without realizing it, "heterosexual," "homosexual," "bisexual," "masculine," and "feminine" are code words for the *subversion of our individuality*.

This process, starting from birth and lasting until your last breath, involves being indoctrinated by society to have faith in a rigid construction of gender and sexuality. Males are taught to be "masculine"; that is, to be strong, tough, rugged, unemotional, rational, big-balled, dominating, aggressive, even violent. And males are given undue priority and special privileges in just about every society on the planet. Females are taught to be "feminine"; that is, weak, gentle, tender, emotional, nurturing, submissive, passive, peaceful, and beautiful. Boys are told: *don't be a pussy* (in other words, don't act feminine in any way) and girls are told: *sugar and spice and everything nice* (in other words, construct yourself to please a man). If you have a penis, you must be "masculine," and if you have a vagina, you must be

"feminine." In this rigid gender system, there is no acceptable middle ground; if you're by chance born a hermaphrodite, the doctor will fix you up quick.

And of course, you are taught to fall in love and make babies with the opposite sex and gender; boys kiss girls and girls kiss guys. And you can love or have "vanilla" sex with only one partner at a time—polygamy is out of the question. You are to be a heterosexual monogamist, either totally masculine or totally feminine depending on what lies between your legs. These are the rules. Dissent will not be tolerated. You will comply. And if you don't, you are a "queer," an enemy of humankind.

This is heterosexism, a rigid, unbending social system based on the social construction of one's sexuality and gender. This brutal system sanctions violence against women, violence against "queers," the suppression of men's emotions, fierce competition over who is the most "straight," and uses fear to keep people in line, regardless of the cost to their individual minds.

"Queers" supposedly challenge this rigid system by their own existence, but only to an extent. Despite the diversity that lies within the "queer" mindset, there are still rigid boundaries and role expectations. If you are gay, you must love men exclusively and are expected to be somewhat "feminine;" if you are lesbian, you must love women exclusively and are expected too be somewhat "masculine." If you are bisexual—well, you'd best stop sitting on the damn fence already and *pick a side!* Lord help you if you are transgendered or transsexual; you have no place at the table, so go join the circus, and *get out of sight!*

This is nothing less than a form of mind slavery. Under the rules of this rigid sex/gender system, you are given a label, and expected to force yourself to "fit in" with the rules of that label, regardless of the cost to yourself. At the beginning of this essay I gave examples of these labels. Under this system, these and other labels are used to categorize and construct us, as well as demean others who don't fit in, in order to preserve a sense of order. Everything is supposed to fit into a nice neat little package.

But it doesn't always work that way.

Sometimes the labels don't quite fit. Sometimes they just aren't good enough. Case in point: I am a male. I have a mix of both "masculine" and "feminine" qualities. For the most part I am sexually attracted to guys, but occasionally I'll come across a girl who I find attractive. I feel that I could possibly fall in love with either a guy or a girl—for me it depends more on the *individual person* than what lies between his or her legs. Now, does this make me bisexual? I thought it did for a long time. Or am I really a gay man? I definitely prefer

guys to girls. Or am I in between the two labels? Who the hell am I? There is no word to describe my flexibility, and as a result I am forced to use the terms bisexual and homosexual interchangeably. I feel comfortable using both, but at the same time neither truly describes *who I am*.

I use this personal example to illustrate my main point: we think of ourselves in terms of rigid heterosexist and homosexist labels, and construct (and constrict) our individual selves based on the roles and expectations provided by them. We deny anything that does not conform to these standards, opting for personal and sexual repression rather than being honest with ourselves. We end up thinking about ourselves in terms of inadequate assigned *labels* instead of as unique *individuals*. I wish to challenge this fallacious way of thinking.

I am not proposing that we create new labels in order to catch those who don't fit in; I am proposing that individuals stop getting so hung up over labeling

themselves and others, and begin to relate to themselves and each other strictly as sexual individuals. We all have our own unique lives, thoughts, personalities, emotions, drives, and lusts. Try as you might no one label, no one standard—"masculine," "feminine," "heterosexual," "homosexual," even "bisexual," can fully capture your inner complexity in a nutshell. Under the brutal sex/gender system we live under, labeling is used for simplicity, not complexity; easy categorization, not rigorous questioning and self-exploration. Individuals can transcend the labels and the system itself.

In light of this, labeling, and the self-repression and oppression of others that results from it, is fundamentally useless.

To deny one's inner feelings and emotions and sexual drives is to deny one's self, and by following the rules of the rigid sex/gender system, you subvert your own individuality. Believe me, it's hard work constantly having to prove yourself according to these standards. Why bother? It's dehumanizing.

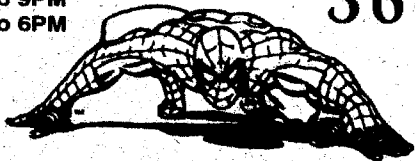
What I'm really trying to say, then, is: *be true to yourself*. I know it seems like cheap advice, but I really do mean it—think about who you are as an individual person, not as part of a collectivist label. For instance, what personality traits do you have? Whatever they may be, there's no need to think of them as simply "masculine," "feminine," or even "androgynous," and don't think you must twist your own self simply to conform to any of them exclusively. Indeed, what's the point of doing this? Be who you are and who you want to be. The same thing goes for sexuality; love whom you want to love and lust after, not who you feel you *have* to love and lust after just because the system tells you to.

To sum up my main idea, the heterosexist sex/gender system, and the labeling and slurs and name-calling that come out of it, forces us to subvert our individuality by forcing us to *deny ourselves free choice*, deny who and what we really desire, deny a diverse range of loves, lusts, relationships, and experiences, and deny ourselves a liberated self-identity, simply out of "playing by the rules." To challenge this outmoded way of thinking is to grant you individual freedom and flexibility, and to make a dent in a society in which all are governed by mere words, obscene rules, and self-repression.

"This is heterosexism a rigid, unbending social system based on...gender."

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Weightloss for Dummies

By Marcel Votlucka

Basically, we Americans are a bunch of gluttonous pigs. Over half of our adult population, and an alarming percentage of our children, are getting fatter and fatter every year. We're so fat that we block out the sun, to say nothing of "yo' mama," and it's getting to the point where being a fat fuck, who takes up two or three seats on the subway and can barely fit through a doorway, is becoming *normal*. Hell, I used to be a pudgy little flab ball when I was a wee lad—not anymore, since I've since lost all of that fat through following a more judicious diet. Everybody wants to have that lean, fat-free body, and the amount of money we waste on finding a cure for fatness could help rebuild our crumbling infrastructure or feed those starving kids that we ignore except if it's Christmas or Thanksgiving:

Oh, Daddy, let's go give those cans of siring beans that we've had since Thanksgiving of '78 to that poor family living in the tent under the bridge! After all, 'tis the season of giving!

The latest weight-loss fad is the Atkins Diet, in which you supposedly lose weight by cutting out all carbohydrates from your diet, such as breads, pasta, certain fruits and vegetables, etc., and replacing them with...MEAT!!! LOTS OF MEAT! CHICKEN, BEEF, PORK, LAMB, VEAL, VENISON, OSTRICH, ELEPHANT, EAGLE, MANATEE, CATS, DOGS, POSSUM, ELK, VAMPIRE BAT, ARMADILLO, WALRUS, DUCKBILL PLATYPUS!

Become a consummate carnivore, and you too can attain that willowy figure you've always desired in as little as six to eight weeks! Pass the barbecue sauce, and don't be stingy with the saturated fat! And I hear from a reliable source that Guatemalan babies are quite tasty. Japanese babies, too—sushi, anyone? Gobbling down juicy, fatty, cholesterol-laden animal carcasses will make you into a fucking centerfold—at least, that's what this diet plan promises. Is it just me, or is this a blatant advertisement for the meat industry? The whole thing is an incentive to buy meat products and cram them down your throat, and the effect of this fad is that meat sales have skyrocketed. People like meat—it tastes good, damn it! And it's expensive too, so buying it makes us feel like one of them rich folks that Dubya likes so much. Never mind whether or not it's actually *healthy* or, God forbid, *effective*, it's a fad! Gotta jump on the bandwagon!

Think about it for a damn minute! We know that ingesting lots of "bad" fat and "bad" cholesterol—all abundant in meat—puts you at greater risk of obesity, heart ailments, and certain cancers...and now we're supposed to believe that eating this way is going to somehow *improve* your health?! Whatever happened to a fucking

balanced diet! Are we so desperate and gullible that we'll resort to such absurdities?! Wait...we've already answered that question, haven't we? Well, maybe not me. Because I have my own weight loss plan that I am over 473% certain will produce good results:

STOP EATING SO MUCH CRAP, GOD DAMN IT!

Stop shoving everything you see into your fucking mouth! Ring-Dings and Twinkies and Doritos and Krispy Kreme donuts and McBurgers and super-sized Freedom Fries and foot-long heroes and hoagies and sub sandwiches and Haagen Dazs and bag after bag of M&M's and 64-ounce Pepsis and fried chicken and potato chips and double-cheese pizzas and nachos do not make for a good diet. Chocolate is not one of the major food groups, damn it! Neither are milkshakes! Neither is Taco Bell! Stop shoveling that kind of crap into your stomach on an hourly basis and calling it a balanced diet!

And while you're at it, try to get up off your fat ass and move around a little! Instead of traveling to that grocery store down the block from your house in your SUV, try...drum roll, please...WALKING there! It's not that hard, put one foot in front of the other, repeat until said destination is reached. Unless you're wheelchair bound or comatose or something, the act of walking is not difficult to do. Why, in my day we had to walk twenty miles through the snow just to get to the outhouse...

No, I am not a goddamned nutritionist, but it doesn't take a Dr. Atkins or a Dr. Ornish or any other high-paid nutrition expert to tell you that the key to losing that blubber in your belly and the flab in your ass and those extra chins you've collected over the years is to EAT LESS AND EXERCISE MORE! And when you do eat, try a balanced variety of foods...I can hear the masses gasping as I write this sentence.

Forget that shit about high-protein, low-fat, low-carb or high-fat, low-protein, low-carb or low protein-medium-carb, high-fat diets, and forget about counting calories and measuring ingredients and proportions

of vitamins and shit like that; this is not a fucking chemistry experiment, it's *food*! Eat it! Just not too much...and cut back on the Twinkies and ice cream and all that other junk food... 'cause that's what it is, JUNK. Do you want junk food or do you want real food? They're not compatible; get this through your head, will you please?!

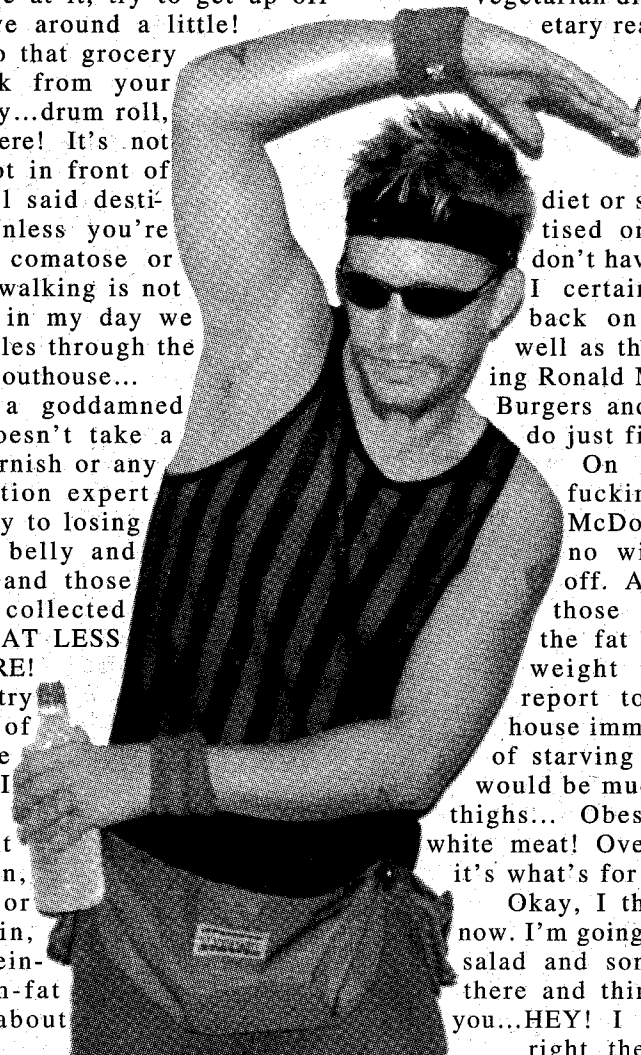
I'm not saying that some of these diets, including the Atkins diet, can't be effective. There are studies that show that they can sometimes be effective if you stay committed to them, but let's be realistic here. Most of these diets, especially Atkins, are bullshit! Obesity, in most cases, is not a disease; it is a lack of will power exploited by the food industry, corporate fast food chains, and the advertisement business. Instead of relying on a fad diet or seeing a therapist or getting your stomach stapled or resorting to bulimia on Thanksgiving, why not go for the simplest and most sensible method?! Eat less, exercise more, balanced diet—it's *not* that complicated, even a moron could do it!

Having switched gradually to a mostly vegetarian diet due to health and budgetary reasons (i.e. I'm poor), I can vouch for its results: in two years, I've safely lost twenty-five pounds. And this is without relying on some stupid fad diet or some inane product advertised on all channels 24/7. You don't have to give up meat totally—I certainly haven't—but cutting back on the animal products as well as the junk food and abandoning Ronald McDonald and The King of Burgers and the good Colonel would do just fine.

On another note, all these fucking lawsuits filed against McDonalds by fat people with no will power really piss me off. Anybody who buys one of those stupid belts that "jiggle the fat away" or those "24-hour weight loss formulas" should report to the nearest slaughterhouse immediately. There's a village of starving Ethiopians whose hunger would be much satiated by your plump thighs... Obese Americans—the other white meat! Overfed, lethargic children—it's what's for dinner!

Okay, I think I'm done ranting for now. I'm going home now to enjoy a fresh salad and some soymilk. You just sit there and think about what I just told you...HEY! I thought I said...you stop right there! Get away from that refrigerator this instant!

GIMME AN 'S' FOR STUPID FATTIES!
Courtesy of Jowy Romano



Ask Amberly Jane is on hiatus this fortnight to recover from a wild Thanksgiving Day mushroom trip.



Emails are appreciated - AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com.

A Toast to Humanity

By Amy Wisnoski

It's come to my attention recently that absolutely nobody does what he really wants to do. When I say "this has come to my attention recently," I in no way am saying that this is a new social development. On the contrary, I'm relatively sure it's been going on since the beginning of modern history and I'm sure if I had the time or energy to research it, I'm sure I'd realize that the past twenty years have seen a dramatic increase in our ability to be who we really are and do what we really want to do, but that's not what I want to talk about. What I want to suggest is that we designate one day for all of us to just let our collective guard down, one day for all of us to live exactly how we want to, no questions asked.

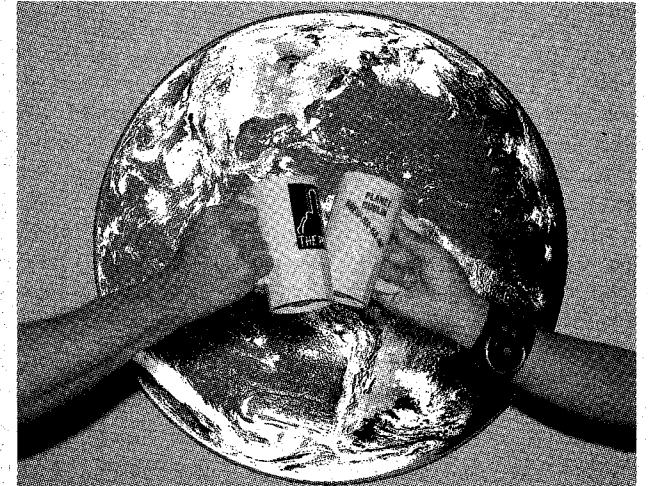
So, here's to us, desperate to fool and beguile each other, and willing to sacrifice just about everything to achieve acceptance and maximum popularity. Here's to the pretty girls and boys, who wake up before the sun rises every morning to primp and prepare, who eat salads and work out all the time, who dedicate themselves to perfecting their exterior no mat-

ter how mixed up they really feel. Here's to the fat people, who make excuses for themselves even when they're not entirely convinced an excuse is necessary, who wear the clothes that achieve the most slimming and least comfortable effect possible, who place everyone into one of two categories: Fatter Than Me, Thinner Than Me. Here's to the old men and women who eat out at restaurants by themselves when their love is gone, no matter how sad and awkward it makes everyone else around them feel.

Here's to the good students who work diligently on projects months before they're due even when they've forgotten why a near-stranger's evaluation of their hard work is supposed to mean something. Here's to the procrastinators who insist they're motives are more complicated than just unadulterated laziness. Here's to the parents who love their children even when they can actually see their own lives evaporating. Here's to all of us, completely lost and lonely much more often than we realize, but also completely beautiful and worthwhile when we least expect it. Here's to trying hard when we know it's legitimately

hopeless. Here's to trying hard when we might actually have a chance.

Even if you only remember who you really are for a brief passing moment, even if you've already forgotten, it's good to know that there is a you to forget.



00000000000000000000000000000000 US!
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

College Media Good, Nashville Bad

By Dustin Herlich

Nashville Tennessee, also known as Music City. This little city was home to the 2004 ACP/CMA national media conference. The conference was absolutely spectacular, but the city itself left much to be desired. Since I believe in "bad news first" let's start with a recap of Nashville itself. From there, we'll move onto the actual convention, and how much media conventions actually mean for budding journalists at the college level.

Nashville is a small and very Southern city, best represented by the oh-so-popular confederate flag bikinis on sale in almost every shop, as well as country and western music. Don't expect to find anything besides country and western music in Nashville. In a city that has eight churches on five blocks, and has a historical plaque proclaiming how they got all the Jews in Nashville to move out finally by the 1950's, diversity is not exactly welcome. Tennessee is definitely a Red state.

To the city's credit, while being small, the two streets that actually have any sort of night life are fairly active and city ordinances bar cars from some roads at night making for a much more tour-friendly experience. People were friendly and overall the city seemed quite safe. The food was absolutely spectacular as well. Anyone who's a fan of old time favorites like ribs, sweet potatoes and fried chicken will find themselves quite happy. It's probably not possible to get a bad meal in Nashville.

Friendly people made the experience a lot better too, and helped soften the blow of the overt confederate mentality. Depressed pregnant store cashiers and being attacked by zombies did sour the mood though. Ok, so there were no zombies, I just want to see if anyone's actually still paying attention.

The conference itself was spectacular. Employing speakers from all over the country on topics ranging from Photoshop ethics to FCC regulations, each session that I attended was jam packed. We were often forced to stand in aisles

and along the walls. The lucky few that got seats at each session were themselves packed in like sardines. The only bad part about the conference was deciding which workshop to go to, and which to miss, as most of them offered something to everyone. Being that I personally work in broadcast and in print, I was often hard pressed to make my decisions. I regret none of them.



THE NASHVILLE CREW,
Courtesy of Dustin Herlich

Listening to professionals, lawyers and people who work for organizations like the FCC really places the status of journalism as a whole in perspective, and gives us here at the college level a really good idea of where we fit in this mosaic. It makes you feel a lot better too when FCC representatives themselves have no idea how to explain to us the new indecency laws.

It just goes to show how ridiculous they really are. Stony Brook Media itself really stood out at the conference. We were the most unique set of people there.

When we think of big private institutions with tons and tons of money, we often think of actual journalism majors and almost professional staff running the college media. Well, in many cases, that is true. There are large, well established journalism majors and programs in many universities, but none can hold a candle to Stony Brook. It's not even close. While there may be the money for daily papers on many campuses, and many of them print color etc, they also have actual paid professionals working on these publications, and if that's not enough, most often the students themselves are handsomely paid for their work as well. Media at Stony Brook is 99% volunteer, and we're still better. I say 99% because The Stony Brook Statesman has two paid employees, besides paying their editors. The television station pays for limited help, and the radio station has to hire a part time professional engineer to keep the station running.

Stony Brook students are better trained

journalists, our papers look better, and our content is better. Instead of a ten watt AM station, we have a four thousand watt FM station (90.1FM) that reaches ALL of Long Island, large parts of southern Connecticut, Queens, Westchester and even occasionally other NYC boroughs and itty-bitty parts of NJ. I'd like you to show me any other non-commercial entity that can claim that! Instead of dry, boring clones of major newspapers our publications have unique and engaging content. We report on issues that effect the students, and do it all without a professional staff really running the show. Students here run the show, and that's a huge difference between us and other universities. Considering most people in media here have never taken a journalism class, we know surprisingly more than our counterparts around the country. The questions coming out of the mouths of some of the journalism majors at the conference were a little shocking.

We owe Norm Prusslin a large debt of gratitude for working so hard, and for making Stony Brook media what it is. Without him, we wouldn't be as good as we are. The Journalism professors at Stony Brook definitely help, and their wisdom does filter down through the ranks, but it's really Norm's guidance and tutelage that have given us the ability to rise up and meet the challenges we face today.

While the individual sessions were each fantastic, and the information invaluable the most useful part of the conference was really the moral boost. We were able to see how much more we can produce with so little, and have it come out so very much better than everything else around us. There were awards at this convention, and unfortunately we were just too unique to win any. They're not going to give an award for a five hour radio broadcast; because that's just longer than any other they had ever heard of. I don't think they got anyone to sit there and listen to it all to actually judge it.

This conference, besides being one of the single greatest learning experiences of my undergraduate career, was also the single largest confidence boost I think media at Stony Brook has ever had. We should be proud of what we do, and instead of fighting us tooth and nail, those with the power to should support us, and help us grow even further.

Toscanini College Press Issue Defacement

By Nicole L. Barry

As a tenant of Toscanini College, I know that we never receive issues of *The Press*, partially due to my own laziness since I don't want to drag them from the Union to Tabler, and I know that because of such an oversight or lack of dedication if you will, many people in my building have never read *The Press*.

After this last issue came out, my ever so dedicated boyfriend decided to drag a full stack (50 issues) of *The Press* from the Union to the dirt lot in the Administration parking lot, load up his car, and take that stack right to the front of Toscanini College. He did so last Thursday, at about 2:00 PM, when he finished with class.

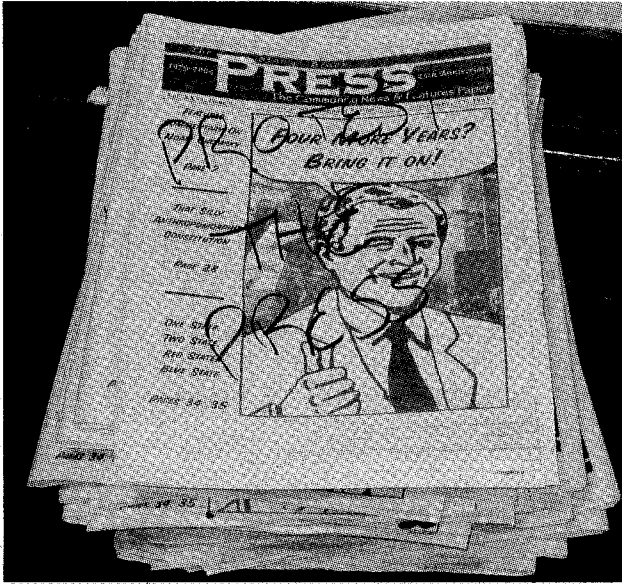
I had a Chemistry midterm that evening at 8:30, and when I came back at about 10:20, I went through the front entrance (something I rarely do), and something caught my eye. The top issue had been written over in permanent marker with "Protest *The Press*" written right over Dubya's face.

Of course I was upset, why wouldn't I be? I crouched over that stack, looking through every issue, where every front, back, and copy of Ben Bravmann's article had been written on. Someone with a lot of time on their hands had just done a very terrible, very bad thing.

I called *The Press* office to let them know what was going on, and Matt Willemain answered, as he typically does if he's in the office, and he said he'd let them know. So I talked to the RA on duty to ask her if she'd seen anyone, or heard anything. She hadn't, and she agreed that my idea of posting a little notice stating, for those who are unaware- *We are an open forum, we do not stand for homophobia*, would be appropriate. I went through the issues, grabbed an assortment of the various statements written on the issues, and brought them up to my suite.

I was just as pissed off as I could be, and I showed my suitemates what had transpired in

the few hours the issues had been there. They, of course, were appalled at what had happened. My roommate in particular understood my anger because she reads every issue. I printed off a little disclaimer, stating that we are an open forum, and that we don't endorse homophobia, and grabbed some of my roommate's tape in hope of rectifying some of the wrong and slanderous



THE DEFACED STACK,
Courtesy of Rob Pearsall

things that had transpired. Ben Bravmann's previous homophobic article was accompanied by a disclaimer, and I attached that to my flyer as well, because obviously, without it, these sorts of things happen and people get seriously fucking offended. I mean, Ben Bravmann's article is one major fucked up piece of literary shite, but at least I know that *The Stony Brook Press* is an open forum. I don't agree with his article, but Voltaire compels me from the grave to defend free speech.

But what do you know? In between, RSP

shifts and while the RA on duty had the doors closed, the same jerk had posted a flyer. Printed on a plain sheet of letter size paper, they stated "Protest *The Press*" saying that we have a history of making slanderous and inaccurate stories, and then, to top it all off... a little marquee of Facebook

pictures, (<http://www.thefacebook.com>) including Jowy Romano's e-mail address. They put numerous *Press* staff and Editor pictures from Facebook up, saying "these are the people responsible" and giving Jowy's email address as the way to get in contact with "The President of *The Stony Brook Press*". Need I clarify that he's our photo editor, not our president?

I had decided to tape up my disclaimer anyway, when Jowy and Joe Flip decided to drop by and see what was going on. After discussing the situation, we talked to the new RSP on duty, who hadn't seen anything, and then let the RA on duty know that while her doors were closed, something else had transpired.

We filed a police report for the flier but the police officer made me take down my disclaimer too, which I felt was unfair and unnecessary. It was to let people know that what was written all over the issues was WRONG. It was simply stating the facts. But oh well, no love lost between me and them, because to be truthfully blunt about it, the officer didn't give two shits about what happened. Why should he? Probably isn't paid to care about what happens on campus.

Enough of my extraneous commentary.

Fact is, we still don't know who exactly did it.

Ladies and gentlemen, when you're pissed off about an issue, don't go and deface fifty issues to make a point. Write something and send it to us. Tell us what a bunch of pricks we are. We'll print it. That's what we do, because we're an open forum.

Die In (out?) For Peace

By Dustin Herlich

Stony Brook University. Once regarded as the Berkeley of the East, now regarded as number two in the nation for most dissatisfied students; once a seething hotbed of activism and protest, now quiet as a mouse. WHY? No matter what issues you believe in, why have we stopped expressing our opinions? Why have we become complacent, and uncaring? What is so different now that we are afflicted by a crippling epidemic of apathy? At least some clubs on campus are doing something to motivate students and involve them in the world around them.

First and foremost is student media. Student media is a fantastic outlet for us to get the word out, have our opinions heard, and for others to see and hear the ideas of others, and the news that directly concerns us as students. Runners up on this war on apathy include others like NYPIRG, College Republicans and College Democrats, and SJA.

While SJA (Social Justice Alliance) is somewhat new to the University, forming in 2001, they have mobilized a large portion of the community, undergraduate, graduate and off-campus students for some common goals. Among the events that SJA has organized, one of the more visually striking was their November 17 protest against the slaughter of Iraqi civilians. The idea was to come out, lie down on the academic mall and pretend to be dead; sounds simple enough, and it gets the point across. The protest was non-violent, really non-intrusive and effectively communicated the dissatisfac-

tion of many in how the war is being handled.

In many ways the protest was a success. Besides garnering interest in the cause, the protest was a fantastic publicity event for the club, and more importantly showed that there may still be life on this campus. Protest is an important tool the public has, we need to exercise this right as often as possible to help ensure we keep it. While to the university protest may be the worst possible thing for students to be doing, the reality of the situation is that visibly active campus ATTRACTS students. A campus as dead as ours easily turns prospective students away.

We need to ensure that groups on both sides of the political spectrum get equal opportunity to voice their opinions. If a group wanted to stage a pro war rally, they should have the right to do so. Everyone has the right to voice their opinions, as long as they make it clear that it is opinion, and they do it in a respectful manner. Burning down your neighbor's house because you don't like the green color he's using on his siding isn't acceptable, but organizing a neighborhood preservation committee to express your concerns is a fantastic way to get the message across.

Protest by students is our version of a neighborhood action committee. We are the residents of this community, we are the ones that are potentially being drafted, and we are the ones that need to be concerned about these issues. Students who actively protest and have

their voice heard are also more likely to be the ones voting. There is no excuse for people our age not to vote. It's important that each and every person on this campus and every campus do their part to ensure that they are registered to vote, and exercise that right. If nothing else, protesting after you haven't voted really is kind of silly. How can your opinion on the matter be fully respected when you don't try to take your time to protest a decision at the time it matters most?



THEY'RE NOT PRETENDING,
Courtesy of WWII

Video Game Sex

By Vincent Michael Festa

Video gaming is the new on-going sexism.

If you don't believe me then turn on your Playstation and insert a copy of *Playboy: The Mansion*, *The Guy Game*, or the new *Leisure Suit Larry: Magna Cum Laude* where the game's objective is to either nail the opposite sex or to win access to see footage of topless women. Or you can read the latest videogame magazine where sexy heroines like *Bloodrayne*, *Shadow Hearts*, or *Rumble Roses* "pose" seductively to attract gamers' attention. Even *Gamestar Magazine* features its female "spokesmodels" to dress themselves up very sexily to showcase the latest in videogame and technological releases, even as going as far as to have one of them in a bikini top wearing a *Gamestar* hat just for the sake of promoting the magazine. You might as well read *Maxim* for the latest gaming reviews now.

Welcome to the new age of video gaming: where at-home interactivity and the opposite sex can now co-exist as one. Maybe in the fantasy or advertising world, but good luck finding her playing 16 hours of *Final Fantasy* or *Everquest*.

Sexuality and sexism in video games have come a long way and back then there really was no problem. When it all started video game companies never sought to alienate females or to intentionally shun them from the gaming world.

Back in the 1970's when the first arcade games like *Pong* were in black and white and video game systems such as Odyssey, Fairchild (Channel F), and the Atari 2600 were simple colorful block patterns, 70's girls were usually advertised to encourage their male-friend gamers performance or even to play with them. It was also at a time when both sexes in equal proportions enjoyed playing these games, as most of the games themes usually never swayed to either gender and never had a personalized hero.

In the 1980's, both sexes enjoyed *Pac Man* and *Ms. Pac-Man*, a fair shot at pleasing both genders. But sexism started to become more apparent when, in the early part of the decade, a little-known company called Mystique created the first X-rated video games: *Custer's Revenge* saw the title hero attempting to cross the screen to get to the Indian princess where she is tied up ready to be nailed. In its own response, that same company also made naughty games for the female, too. And then in the PC world, *Leisure Suit Larry* followed. More vulnerability and alienation was ready to follow as most of the main heroes in these games were males and the ones to be saved were the helpless females waiting to be rescued. The coverage of male video game heroes as part of the escapism had swayed its focus from female gamers. However, the tables started to turn where games like *Gauntlet* featured female Valkyrie warriors and even in the first *Metroid* where it was discovered that the hero was a 'heroine' all along. Periodically, girls and boys were seen playing family-friendly video-gaming such as the *Super Mario* and *Disney* series, and even *Barbie* games came out especially for little girls. But magazines chose always to cover the male knack of the industry.

Despite more previous-mentioned positive roles for female characters in games and for the female audience that would play video games in general, Japan had (and still does) have its fair share of cartoon nudity where their video gaming, cartoon, and entertainment culture is more lax in the form of mah-jongg tile and parlor-type video games and anime. *Poker Ladies* was a strip-poker-type arcade title released only in Japan where players played hands to

force the loser female computer opponent to strip her of her clothes and ultimately to "play with her" by repeated tapping buttons as fast as they can. *Bubble Bath Babes* released in Japan was a home game that featured nudity as well.

In the 90's, every fighting game had its few female characters in a dominating male roster. It was only a matter of time before an all-female fighting game came out called *Strip Fighter* where the better the score the less you could see of your opponents character. To top *Strip Fighter*, Tecmo created *Dead Or Alive* and Neo Geo's *King Of Fighters* with having "bounciness" results from their lady characters. Later on, the "dating simulation" was created in which players attempted to go out with the female characters a'la RPG style in a virtual-reality state (apart from the *Weird Science* movies in which two male teens created their dream girl robot). This decade also marked the arrival of Lara Croft and *Tomb Raider*, which was a life-like action-adventure heroine that doubled as a male fantasy satisfying the sexiness in an adventurous woman with back flips and a gun. Meanwhile, back at the pubs and bars, video screens containing many games in one featured matching, poker, and drawing games to finally reveal the nude women after mastering the boards. Though more games geared towards girls and little ones were released, again there had to be a focus on the bigger, more male-oriented games.



HELLO, MY TWO-DIMENSIONAL GODDESS...
Courtesy of PAL

And now the new decade, where sexuality in video-gaming has become open and more apparent here in the states due to Japanese influence of anime, hentai (Japanese pornography), and Japanese customs. It's in slightly more video-gaming aspects by now. Going back to the first paragraph, there seems to be a new rush in adult-oriented gaming. The magazines have their female spokesmodels and the publishers' heroines to show sexual innuendo. In games like *Mortal Kombat*, their female warriors now show more skin and dress even more seductively, so they can rip the arms and heads off of their enemy and look sexy doing it. *Dead Or Alive* has its own volleyball game where the femmes dress up in beachwear and bikinis for the sake of graphics but not much for the game itself. A new fighting game, *Rumble Roses*, is an all-female free-for-all where there even is a mud-wrestling mode. Games like *BMX XXX* display crass jokes but never skimp on nudity, innuendo, or crudeness of not just females. And where else can you pick up a woman, rock her in the back seat of your jacked car, and throw her out in *Grand Theft Auto*?

So why had video game sexuality and sexism been allowed in the first place and how did it have all this time to be prominent while alienating female fans? There are many factors, theories, and guesses as to why it had been allowed to exist and run its course.

#1: Computers are mistakenly seen by society as a male thing. In this day and age, computers and games are enjoyed by both sexes. However, different sexes perform different tasks because men and women's minds work differently than others. Society usually sees and pre-determines what is acceptable for both sides of sexes. That *does not* mean that women aren't able to consider, tackle, or perform programming. In fact, a programming-tech called Full Sail in Winter Park, FL features a total of only six female programmers amidst a total enrollment of 500 (see *Electronic Gaming Monthly*, November 2004). Still, it is very evident that men dominate certain fields.

#2: Field domination of male programmers and developers. Programming video games and writing code is a creative thing, and programmers will create what they want to. With these fields again being dominated by males, mostly their ideas, needs, and wants will reflect on their work.

#3: Life-like graphics. Adding to this, computer technology came a long way from the 70's. Now with polygons, 3-D structures, and realism, programmers can create life-like and realistic characters to their liking. Precise costumes, graphics structure, and even measurements fulfill programmers, and even gamers' subconscious fantasies and comedic inside jokes as well, little by little. With big money and the bottom line, the idea of sexual innuendo to possible attract gamers make ends meet a little more possible.

#4: Rating system. Video games reached their apex in the 70's days of Atari and again in the 80's days of Nintendo and maintained most of their innocence unlike the turn of events in the music-record industry. A ratings system for video games called the ESRB created in the mid-90's is just a more sophisticated "parental advisory" sticker but also achieving the same purpose of letting people know of their content. With different degrees of rating systems ranging from EC (early childhood), to extremes such as M (mature) and AO (adults only), game programmers, developers, and publishers may have a chance to explore new possibilities at pushing the envelope. Although creating radical ideas will get the companies controversy, more than likely a ratings system will give them permission or license to program these ideas regardless.

#5: Japan culture. Though the worlds of Japanese animation, video games, and even a touch of hentai, all go hand in hand. The Japanese influence and content of culture and ideas borrow from each other since some of these fields do have at least some things in common (thematic elements, plot, style, schoolgirls, certain themes of sexuality, etc.). There's a good chance that video gamers may also enjoy manga or Japanimation and that shared elements and interests can help mix titles into other formats.

#6: Social situations: This could be many things. Most game players, especially males, enjoy gaming marathons, which is the addiction. The biggest time sappers are the RPGs, in which lots of time and attention are given due to intricacies, exploration, coming attractions, and an incentive to have everything. Therefore, too much attention and focus can lead to sheltered lifestyles. On the other hand, rejection of social circles may lead to solace in video gaming where people can escape to without being criticized.

Video Game Sex Continued...

By Vincent Michael Festa

If some people do take gaming seriously, they can possibly create to a degree what they want or wanted out of life in a small way and have that reflected in the industry. Back to escapism, video games are the reason why we can do things and accomplish things that we wish we could in real-life (for example, the sex and violence in *Grand Theft Auto*)

#7 Sex sells and so does controversy, or, the bottom line. As always, any idea of sex will attract anyone using a product. Games like *Poker Ladies* that use any idea of sex will hope to attract anyone curious in how it works or is interested in the idea and will likely put in money into the arcade machines or the companies that create them. Going into controversial territories once again will create controversy in which results into more interest because in human nature we are interested in the things we are not supposed to know about.

I did write this article up as a result of playing *Mortal Kombat* and reading the latest *Gamestar* and it compelled me to observe and opine as to why sexuality in certain areas of gaming is more noticeable. And no, I am not protesting against artistic freedoms or how programmers and developers want to make their games.

What I do see is that aside from sexuality in games, females are coming back stronger than ever despite companies' viewing of them. What I do notice is that titles and games like *Dance Dance Revolution* and various music games are bridging the gap between males and females and also winning back female membership for the gaming industry not by sexual innuendo but by utilizing a theme in which both sexes have in common (dancing).

Also, more and more females see no reason as to why they can't enjoy gaming as much as men do as they have reflexes, coordination, and the same likenesses and qualities of the genres as men do. In fact, The Frag Dolls, A Ubi-Soft sponsored female gaming team, are dominating males in video-gaming competitions and tournaments (*Electronic Gaming Monthly*, Holiday 2004). Their presence in the magazines finally have them give female gamers credit where credit is due and finally catering to a forgotten demographic that may have been playing *Mario Party* all along and titles such as *Lord Of The Rings* and *Harry Potter*, games that cater to fans of the titles no matter which sex. Or, on the other hand, by showing that female teams play *Halo* and *Rainbow Six*, females are not shown as submissive but aggressive, never minding to

pick up the controller and tackle the "man games." So about that *Bloodrayne* ad with the heroine showing off her cleavage...

As for the six female programmers, they show that they are breaking the preconceptions of society, and a possible narrow-minded society that sees females as housewives or inferior. Instead, they might disregard the idea of gender and are doing what they enjoy. They want to do more than play games and show that they can pursue their interests more, even to show that there are more possibilities as to what females can do, because there is no reason why a female can't do it. They also show that females are not ideas for advertisements or jokes in games, rather they take themselves very seriously and maybe refuse to take it as such.

Though sexuality and sexism is noticeable in the industry for quite some time, it's not what it's only about. Females are not just only seen to be sex objects in gaming: most do enjoy the lighter, funnier, or tougher side to gaming that should be in more eyes of males. In fact, don't be surprised if she is somewhere in Tokyo, Sao Paulo, or Johannesburg and she frags you in *Halo*.

The New Constitution Complete with Loads of Extra Amendments and Special Offers

By David K. Ginn

Hey everybody! We, the people at Harding & Kerrigan International Productions, Inc., invite you and your family for a special sneak peek of the brand spanking new Constitution. Here at H & K our proud men and women value honor, respect, and good ol' fashioned fun. Aside from valuing honor, we also honor value. That is why we make everything so cheap! And I mean cheap! I mean grimy, filthy, ass-fucking dirt-cheap. Our men and women value old fashioned fun, and our men have fun with old fashioned women. Nobody loses!

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Live off of your fears. Then you will become an American.

P.S. : The reason we are so stern on our policies of illegal immigrants is because their ideology of hard work and resourceful living threatens our way of life. Sorry, folks. Consumers only past this point.

The New Constitution



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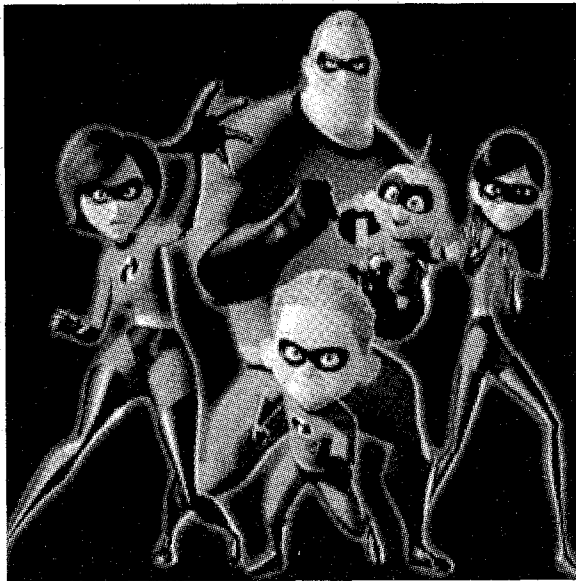
www.andrewpernick.com/Crashworld/CrashworldMain.html

HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

The Incredibles

By Eddie Zadoronzy

Pixar Studios, the company that seems to do no wrong, has again another piece to add to their growing display of computer animated features with the marvelously inventive and clever film *The Incredibles*. As with their other colossal hit films *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, *Monster Inc.*, and *Finding Nemo*, which showcase the fight or struggle for correctness, from the "odd man out," "little person" perspective, yet all share an underlying theme of the importance of family. Such is the case with their latest extravaganza *The Incredibles*, with its many family themes such as coming together, strengthening the bond and acceptance. The strength and force of this family is not only heroic but a viewing pleasure (Celine Dion would be proud).



THE INCREDIBLES THEMSELVES, Courtesy of Pixar Studios

Superhuman strength, the ability to stretch to great length, speed, invisibility, and capacity for creating a force field, all qualities that could not be possessed by mere mortals but super heroes are luckier than mere mortals! In this case a bunch of super heroes known as the Incredibles who exhibit such qualities and use them in helping to combat crime and felonies committed against innocent bystanders. These acts of heroism seem to go well for a while, until a series of lawsuits by the civilians they saved are served up, questioning such tactics as being unjustly welcomed and in most cases as total screw ups. At the center of this uproar is Mr. Incredible, the superhuman with incredible strength who due to public outcry is forced into the government's Super Hero Relocation Program along with every other superhuman. A saddened Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T Nelson) is now forced to live as a mere human amongst domesticated Middle America as a insurance agent who now goes by the name Bob Parr.

While in the doldrums of mediocrity and domestication, Mr. Incredible feels anything but incredible as his home life is affected, as is his relationship with his children. He is slowly sinking into a mid-life crises as boredom and an identity crisis slowly take over his persona. He desires to regain his past existence of his former glory and his true calling in life to be a super hero (maybe his first job back could be to rescue Martha Stewart, her identity could use some saving). Meanwhile at the home front his wife Helen Parr/Elastigirl (voiced by Holly Hunter) makes the best of the situation and actually welcomes the opportunity to be the best undercover mother she could possibly be by raising there three children: daughter Violet who has the capability of creating force fields; son Dash who can move quicker than a Britney Spears first marriage annulment; and baby Jack-Jack (who seems to have the ability of morphing but no grasp of it yet).

To feel alive and meaningful Mr. Incredible and his super hero buddy Frozone

(Samuel L. Jackson) privately relive their super hero personas at night, all the while masquerading a story to their wives that they go bowling. Meanwhile their secret triumphs don't go unnoticed, they are secretly being watched

by a woman named Mirage (Elizabeth Pena) who charts down the success of these endeavors and relays the info back to her diabolical and spiteful boss Syndrome (Jason Lee). Syndrome as a child had idolized Mr. Incredible back in the day, and despite possessing no superhuman abilities of his own had great aspirations to be his sidekick *a la* Batman and Robin. The rejection and lack of acknowledgement by Mr. Incredible to the child forever altered his perception of good, thus spawning the evil Syndrome with aspirations of total world domination with his creation of super powered robots,

as well as annihilation of all former super humans, with Mr. Incredible as his personal vendetta (talk about a major "Grudge" but that's a different movie).

The film is fun, fast, and furious in its pace; it's your vision that will be affected as the extraordinary images are displayed on screen in such vivid detail, as well as with such dash and drive, that the clarity alone will make those with glasses or contacts feel like their 20/20 vision has been restored. The film is very clever with its action sequences, especially one where Elastigirl gets caught between closing doors that has her body stretched across the span of three rooms. The scene is nothing but brilliance as well as hysterical; the agility of her character's abilities are really put to the test. Another scene is by the hilarious designer Edna "E" Mode (a cross between Vogue editor Anna Wintour, actress Linda Hunt and an illegal dose of Ephedra) who creates costumes for the super heroes. Her scenes are some of the best and her speech

on the unimportance of a super hero's cape is classic. Other scenes are memorable and executed just as well. While the action is relentless and impressive so is the underlying theme of family unity, as the family is forced to bond, relying on each others' abilities to overcome, thus creating cohesion as a family and showing the offspring's bond with their parents.

As entertaining as it is, the film is a bit long in duration and maybe could have been better off 15 minutes shorter. Also, the character Frozone, played by Samuel Jackson, has some great lines and his ability to use ice is staggering in its visual splendor, yet he isn't really needed here in the film. One instance is his joining on the attack with the Incredibles as they fight Syndrome's mechanical behemoths, it seems completely out of left field, he could be completely taken out of the picture and the film would suffer nothing.

Despite those two minor setbacks the film is a major tour de force. The director Brad Bird, who also helmed the little seen hidden treasure "The Iron Giant," has just created the film that will be the blockbuster of the whole Christmas season and just solidified Pixar animation as the leader in the business as well as a major force to be reckoned with. *The Incredibles* is exactly what its title says: INCREDIBLE!

The Incredibles is rated PG for action violence, its running time is 1-hour and 55 minutes, and it was released by Disney/Pixar.

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HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

A Jungle of Concrete: A Sonic Movement

By Andrew Thompson

Before I even begin, there ought to be some sort of explanation for how I was raised. My musical diet as a child was focused around Classical and the late-night show on K-Roc "Solid State with Liquid Todd" which still plays some great house and progressive house (believe me, there is a difference between the two). My parents encouraged me to follow my own musical path, so I wouldn't end up tragically listening to James Taylor and Dave Matthews Band believing they were cool. Instead I took a totally different approach. Sounds that made me come up with a basic idea of what the timbres and movements suggested appealed to me most. Lyrics I didn't relate to until I found bands that actually had decent ones, instead of the typical radio tripe of some guy singing about a loss or some other banality.

Anyhow, when my friend suggested a Drum n' Bass live action (because he dislikes the word concert, I will refrain from that word) I couldn't say no. I've grown further into strange classical and electronic since I was a child, so Drum n' Bass is an important part of my musical past. We took a late night train and began our epic journey to New York City. Any journey that takes around two hours I consider "epic," mostly because I have no attention span to speak of. Together we discussed the election results, people we hadn't seen for awhile, what we had been doing, and so forth. Two hours is a lot of time to kill, particularly in a confined area like a train with only brief glances at the landscapes quickly flying past us. The surroundings became less and less prominent as darkness destroyed our ability to see the scenery outside.

Walking out of the train, I recognize a friend of mine from history class. He explains to me that he commutes from the Bronx to Stony Brook several times a week. To him and anyone in his position, I would like to say I fully respect your dedication, your ability to put up with such a long commute. Go you!

Single-file I am led up to the great Penn Station Lounge, the place where random chance meetings occur each day, never to happen again. In the background of the moving mass of people plays some truly terrible Muzak, the kind of stuff that is like sonic wallpaper, existing in every waiting room, played for no apparent reason because no one really cares or is interested. Maybe it has to do with keeping up some sort of appearance of affluence. However, in an area where officers politely go up to lounging travelers asking to see their tickets, the appearance of affluence has already been lost.

One of my more train-savvy friends leads us to a local line that brings us right next to Cooper Union. I know that area well only because my friend is slowly losing his hair due to the incredible amount of stress they place on their students. The amount of mental frustration these unfortunate souls tolerate can be explained in one single sentence: "It's free." It may be free, but I know when I graduate from Stony Brook University, I'll still have all my hair.

We travel down the surprisingly empty streets until we finally arrive. Someone at the door searches me to make sure that we all are upstanding citizens. The admission (\$5) I have no problem with, especially when this sonic movement lasts several hours. Again, I call it a live action since my friend was opposed to me calling it a concert, which it turned out not to be.

For our first treat we had someone who actually was one of my favorites. He began with a simple loop of a crescendo of either horns or violins. Then with each loop a slight variance was added, in addition to a small amount of feedback. Beats were supposed to be most prominent here, but they seemed to be a compliment instead of the main focus with this person.

The sonic movement prominently featured Diesel boy, who turned out to have a slightly more electro sound that most of the other artists there, but some of those in between also referenced the apparently chic 80s new wave synth stabs. To be fair, I have something of a soft spot for the 80s sound, so I enjoyed that. The bass in there was pretty powerful, as it was a small, enclosed space where people were nicely packed in. I envied those who knew how to dance to music that, by definition, has no established rhythm but is defined by its chaos. Not to say I didn't try, but my attempts were futile.

Diesel boy was worth going there, but some of those who followed just seemed to be unable to follow up any of the artists who came before them, so they did not attract my attention as much. What did attract my attention was stumbling upon a twenty-dollar bill on the floor, which essentially paid for my entire trip there. That made me happy

knowing I had proved the old joke wrong, that where if there was a \$20 bill on the ground, somebody would've already picked it up.

A few people there obviously were slightly eccentric and I realized that the eccentricity was due more in part to drug use than anything natural. Two people that evening came up to me asking if I had any acid. No code words, nothing. Just a blunt question they expected me to answer. I answered no of course, and spent a good part of that night wondering if I really do look strange enough to do something like that. My friends heard from at least one of these people, and laughed hysterically.

After the last artist who embodied the idea of lackluster, we left at around 3am. The train left in about a half hour, so I decided to get a breakfast of champions from a deli across the street. Breakfast as it turns out starts later in the day, at 6am. No tasty egg and bacon on a roll, although I did argue about it being called an early bird special, since I certainly counted as an early bird. Instead a can of Red Bull and an onion bagel with cream cheese became breakfast. Surprisingly, it was quite filling.

At 4:27 I believe our train arrived on track 19. By that time, the Muzak in the waiting room had become quite humorous. It might have been the obvious lack of sleep or just sitting

there for over half an hour that made us focus on it. When I reach an elderly age I hope my music won't be played in some lobby where people totally ignore it. Also by that time I expect that the electro-jazz muzak garbage I hear in every waiting room has become extinct, replaced by more fulfilling sound of silence.

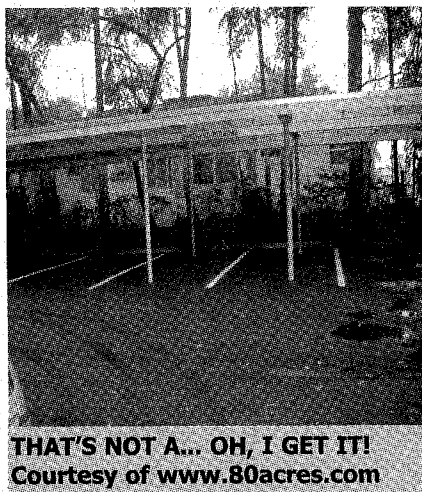
Maybe it was the gently thumping rhythm of the train ride or the long night we had, but all of us ended up sleeping past our stop. Eventually, as soon as we had gotten out of the train, we awoke to the pain of near-freezing temperatures. Our retreat from the train platform brought us to a Dunkin Donuts. It was before 7am when we arrived there.

Dunkin Donuts is a dreary place on a weekday morning, but as we sat there exhausted, eating the plastic food Dunkin Donuts offers we saw and heard a change in the environment entirely. People commuting before 7am are actually young, embittered people still getting used to the life that they have adopted. They gave up a good part of their lives to spend hours in fluorescent lighting with every reason to be paranoid and ambitious at the same time. Paranoia settles in after taking the job, realizing your expendability as being recently hired. Ambition stems from attempting to surpass the mediocrity so many settle for after being disillusioned with work. This ambition eventually destroys whatever other interests the person might have had, making them "driven" people, but the focus takes away from their other creative outlets, transforming once interesting and enlightened people into workaholics and burnouts. Creativity stayed away from people like these.

The music changed when these young, white-collar workers entered. Superficial jazz music was played, in an attempt to try and show consumers that Dunkin Donuts was so chic. But it didn't work; it only succeeded in frustrating those in line. Music in this case tried to ease the worries that existed for this group of people, who quickly ate up their plastic foods, glanced at *The New York Times* or *Post*, and ran towards the platform to make their trains.

Eventually these younger workers left, and what came in were those accustomed to the work they did and able to handle a later commute. The music in Dunkin Donuts changed from shallow lounge jazz to rather nice 60's bands like the Doors and Jefferson Airplane. Older workers knew how much they needed to do, and didn't do any more than that. The music that played for them conveyed their emotions perfectly, able to be competent musicians in their own right while being able to experiment a bit, while with the younger group they listened merely because it sounded tasteful, not for any deeper emotional or intellectual level.

Our train came during this time, and we trekked out in near freezing weather. The many sounds I had experienced slowly faded away into memory under the constant pulse of the tracks traveling beneath us. It was far too early to be awake, and I rarely get to see these times while I am conscious. Sound exists everywhere, and the unfortunate reality is that while we focus too often on going somewhere, we forget to notice what has passed us by, the sounds, landscapes, and people take a back seat in our brain while we remain focused on goals that, in the long run, have little to no importance in our lives.



HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

Review of *Proof* Audience

By Tom Senkus

Halfway through the Stony Brook's Theater Department's showing of *Proof*, I realized two things:

1. Agreeing to write a review about *Proof* was a bad idea. I have no idea how to even begin to review a play besides saying that the play was a "hoot" and "Me likey plays."
2. The audience deserves some type of review.



COMPLETELY RANDOM AUDIENCE MEMBERS,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

While in the lobby, Sarah Cassone sported a scarf with dangling rabbit fur balls. True rabbit pellets. "It's made of real rabbit," she said, tossing the scarf like a true *artiste*. Let's hope that the rabbit died of natural causes on a tiny little rabbit bed, surrounded by loved ones, and praying to Rabbit-Jesus.

I take that back; rabbits are Rastafarian.

I asked the lady who took my ticket if her name really was Stage Manager. Stage is a

pretty name, but I would see how it would get confusing in the theatre business, especially since she was just Ticket Ripper.

Taking our seats in the theatre, it was hard not to notice that this, the first night of *Proof*, had *proven* (Shazam!) to be sold-out. Omnidirectional conversation broke out, slightly subdued by the Rufus Wainwright dusting out from the excellent speakers. I loves the Rufus.

Seated to my immediate right was Tara Groth. She'd decided to outdo all other candidates of fashion victimization that night, bearing a belt buckle *a la* John Wayne. Ease up on that whisky, cowgirl. I think I heard a "Sooooo-eeeeEEEE" come from her direction during the applause. You really can't go anywhere with her.

Jowy Romano was dressed in a bandanna and a skull/crossbones shirt, declaring the fifth day of the week "Pirate Thursdays." I declared that Jowy should not be spelled with a "w." "*Touché*," he said, then, "Have at you!" To kill some time before the show began, we fenced on the gangplank of the S.S. Staller Center until the show began.

Jo(w)y's friend Urban (I shit you not) was quite the hoot. I forget how he was dressed, but it was not pirate-like. Did you know that an anagram for his name comes out Bun-Ra, a homosexual equivalent to Sun-Ra, the avant-garde pianist who believed that Africans of the world would unify and leave Earth in a spaceship? Urban also arranges into "a burn."

Tom Senkus, otherwise known to the world as "Impeccable Dresser," was in his unironed best. He wore some type of pants.

Pants are good. Tom's pants must be (in some metaphysical way that only a few enlightened individuals can grasp) his representation of a postmodern male's delineation of the status quo, declaring to the world a new 21st century Renaissance is upon us in *splendor divincus*. To say he's a sharp dresser is an huge insult.



THE ACTUAL PLAY,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

Some guy had a coughing fit during the play. Go cough somewhere else, coughy.

(* most of this never happened, except for the coughing. What a poopsicle.)

Alexander: Oscar Winner?

By Julissa M. Rodriguez

Oliver Stone's grandiose account of the tumultuous life of Alexander the Great chronicles the ambitious ruler's come to power. Alexander, played by Colin Farrell is captivating; he engrosses himself in the character making one believe he is really Alexander the Great. Angelina Jolie plays, strangely enough, his mother yet she still possesses sex appeal like only she can. Her sultriness embodied the notoriously ruthless character of Olympia.

The film begins with Alexander as a young boy and then follows him as a young adult leading to his leadership status. The childhood scenes also bring forth the conflict between his ruthless mother and volatile father, setting the scene for Alexander's troubles to come. The film exhibits a grandiose level of variety; each location conquered by Alexander is vividly depicted differently from the previous. The elaborate sets are truly amazing, luring the audience into that ancient world. The story is told in narrative form often jumping back and forth through past events. This device helps the story; thus creating a climax. This is evident when the truth about Alexander's father's death is revealed.

The story's homosexual approach is a bit over-exemplified but it aids in the interpretation of Alexander's character. The ruler's rise to fame is attributed to his mother's driving ambition for her son's rise to excellence. Though his relationship with his mother is

attributed to his wandering eye for men.

The major drawback of the film is its length. Think Titanic; the grandeur of the film was worth the three hours. Unlike other epic films, *Alexander's* elaborate detailing was not frivolous but indeed crucial to the storytelling. In order to capture the bigger-than-life persona of Alexander the Great a film of this magnitude needed to be made. Besides the actual scenery, the film provides plenty of eye-candy. Not only do Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie keep the audience's attention but also Jared Leto (playing Alexander's life-long friend and lover Héphaistion) as well as the ever-constant presence of concubines, belly dancers, and slave boys. Rosario Dawson plays Alexander's wife Roxanne. Although she does not appear until close to the end of the film, she holds her own as the mirror to Jolie's character.

The battle scenes were truly larger than life. I don't know how historically accurate they

were but they definitely made you feel like you were right in the middle of the conquests. The legions of men in the battle scenes followed the spirit of the entire film making them larger than life. The last battle scene in particular is beautifully done. Stone's use of the color red is striking. All in all, this film was made to win an Academy Award and it actually has a chance.



ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING? TOGA PARTY!
Courtesy of www.film.gen.tr

HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

The Myths Concerning *Fable*

By Keith C. Smith

When Peter Molyneux, lead developer of *Fable*, claimed that his game was going to be the greatest RPG ever made, I was understandably skeptical. Still, I wanted to believe it so badly. The features he promised were so amazing, I couldn't help but to get excited. It truly sounded as if someone was going to make a perfect game. Well, let that be a lesson in life friends. There are no perfect games. That doesn't mean, however, that this game isn't awesome nonetheless.

In *Fable*, you play the role of a young boy living in the humble village of Oakvale. And what happens to humble villages in RPG intros? They burn down! Bandits raze your village, murder your father and kidnap your sister and mother. But it's you who they were after for some reason. Before they can add you to their hostage list, Maze, a potent wizard from the Heroes Guild appears and transports you to the guild. There you train to become a hero, and what you do with yourself after that is (more or less) up to you.

Once the hero is let loose upon the world, you can choose which quests to undertake from a list that the guild provides. Sometimes you can choose between alternate sides of a story. Would you like to defend the farm from pillaging bandits? Or does the profit involved with being a pillaging bandit sound too good to pass up? Sadly, this kind of choice only appears rarely throughout the story.

You also can alter your appearance through tattooing, hair styling, and eating. If you spend the daylight hours indoors, you'll grow pale and pallor. Work out your muscles a lot and you'll become the spitting image of He-Man. This also affects how people react to you. Whether they back away in fear, or swoon at your gaze.

Combat is innovative and allows a lot of versatility. You can switch quickly between your melee and ranged weapons with a single button, and magic can be mixed in for some fast

paced combos and action. The enemies you face vary from the goblin-like hobbes to a massive scorpion queen. All require different strategies and combinations of melee, ranged and magical techniques.

As you make use of the three tiers of attack, you will gain experience in their respective attributes; strength, agility and will. When you return to the guild for training you can spend this experience to bolster stats and learn new techniques. Your character ages about a year each time you do this, and his appearance changes subtly to account for his training.



I HEARD YOU COULD USE HEADS AS WEAPONS,
Courtesy of www.game-attitude.com

The most anticipated aspect of this game however, is its alignment system. Good or evil? Murderer or defender? Pirate or yadda yadda yadda... Well in a word, the alignment system of *Fable* is...meaningless.

Yep! The big hoopla that everyone was waiting for has no real affect on the game. Sure you can grow horns and look all demonic by murdering your wife and taking your grief out on hapless merchants, but it doesn't change a

thing. You'll be requested for the same quests and the story goes on without a hitch. Feel like turning over a new leaf and returning to the light? Well, just dump a big enough wad of cash on the church and that halo will be floating overhead in no time (Maybe *Fable* takes place in 15th century England.)

It's a shame really. This game is really good, but it's hard to overcome the impossibly high standards that the creator set for it. The environments are so well detailed and beautiful. It's like walking through a 3-D storybook. The voice acting is dramatic and suits the characters well. The missions are quite intense at times. During an escort mission of two merchants, I actually started to feel attached to them due to their believable conversations and reaction to danger. I began jumping in front of them at every sound in the distance. It was a rare gaming moment indeed.

The sound helps this kind of mood setting a lot. The music has a fairy tale theme but it is adapted to the environments and situations you enter without missing a beat. Monsters cackle eerily in the background of swamps and the clamor of each individual person can be heard within town.

I sometimes wonder if, had I not expected so much, would *Fable* be a five out of five. If you've managed not to hear the hype about this game, tell me what you think after you've played it. In any case, whether you enjoy action or role playing, this game will be very fun, if only for 20 hours or so.

Mr. Molyneux did apologize for his overpromising and under-delivering on *Fable*. "I didn't mean to do that," He told the BBC online, "If people feel upset by the fact that some features don't make it into the final game, I have to be more responsible." Apology accepted, Mr. Molyneux. Now go make some more great games! Just hold your tongue this time.

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HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

Elf

By **Eddie Zadorozny**

Candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup, (some would say the typical American diet), are not only the basic four food groups for elves but are synonymous as being sweet and tasty which could also define the splendid film *Elf*. All its fattening confections of visual and imaginative delight are what makes this film quite enjoyable as well as clever and inventive.

Will Ferrell plays Buddy the elf who as a baby at an orphanage mistakenly climbs into Santa's toy sack where he is not discovered until he climbs out of the sack upon returning to the North Pole. From here, Buddy is raised by Poppa Elf (played by Bob Newhart) devoid of any knowledge of his real parents, who gave him to the orphanage, or that he is actually human (thus explaining his having none of the trademark elf traits). Then, when told of his previous life as an orphaned baby, Buddy sets out to find out who his father really is.

The scenes with Poppa Elf and Buddy showing his growth from infant to full grown elf and presenting the differences between Buddy and the other elves are comical and show a flair of wit. The scenery of Santa's workshop at the North Pole where Buddy lives and works (which is obviously a studio set) is A sight to see due

to its color scheme. Yet when Buddy steps out of the workshop into the outside against the white wash scenery to embark on his journey to NYC, it is a visual treat, especially a very cute scene that plays homage to the Rankin and Bass bringing to mind those stop-motion clay animation characters of the very charming and very clever Christmas TV specials of the 1960's (Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is coming to Town, to name a few).

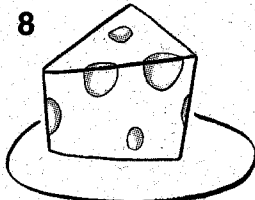
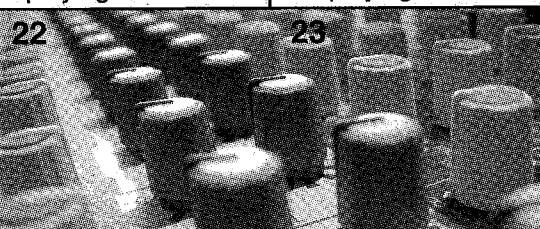
Upon arrival in the city we get the basic fish-out-of-water scenarios which are very funny. One in particular has Buddy discovering a diner that possesses the best cup of coffee. He eventually finds his father, Walter Hobbs, a children's book editor played by James Caan. At first Walter does not believe or think much of this elf, yet DNA testing proves that this is the son he never knew and so he takes Buddy into his home where he lives with and tries to adjust to his new immediate family. The bonding scenes with Walter's family and Buddy are again very humorous especially a dinner scene where maple syrup seems to be the new condiment for flavoring. Aunt Jemima would be proud.

Will Ferrell is perfectly cast as the

childlike, yet gawky elf, Buddy. The genuine charm Ferrell gives this character is felt throughout the entire picture. You clearly want Buddy to succeed in his endeavor and more so. Bob Newhart also shines as a no nonsense expressionless patriarch elf who's the polar opposite to Ferrell's character, who provides many of the comical moments of the film. James Caan does a nice job as someone whose ideas and thoughts about Christmas and the importance of family transform from (shall I say) Scrooge, complete with all the stereotypes of arrogance to a true believer in Christmas. As for director Jon Favreau, he should be commended for putting together a piece of celluloid complete with its cute yet clever script, and pacing it with very witty and lively scenes. All connected with this film have a lot to be proud of for creating a film which down the road I'm sure will turn into a Christmas holiday staple as well as a classic.

Elf is rated PG for some mild language and rude humor. Its running time is 1 hour and 35 minutes, and it was released by New Line Cinema.

Melanie's Monthly Madness, Sucka!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2004			1	2 Benefit for the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign: Knitting Factory	3	4 Vice Records Tour: Rothko
5 The Eternals: Knitting Factory	6 Val Emmich Bowery Ballroom	7 Cake & The Walkmen: Starland Ballroom	8 	9	10 Umphey's McGee: Irving Plaza	11 Cake and Riddlin' Kids: Northern Lights
12 The Pixies: Hammerstein Ballroom Dec 11-18 The Pixies are playing!	13 The Pixies are playing!	14 E. Town Concrete: Knitting Factory	15 The Pixies are playing!	16 The Pixies are playing!	17 The Slackers: Knitting Factory	18 It's A Wonderful Next Life: A Drag City Christmas party: Bowery Ballroom Dec 18-19 The Pixies are playing!
19 It's A Wonderful Next Life: Dress Code: A sweater with a knit cap or scarf please	20 Elefant: Bowery Ballroom	21	22 		24	25 The "I Don't Have a Family to Visit" Tour The Press Office Union Rm 060
26 The Fab Faux: Bowery Ballroom Dec 26-28	27	28 String Cheese Incident: Madison Square Garden	29 String Cheese Incident: Madison Square Garden	30 H2O 10th Anniversary Show! Knitting Factory	31 String Cheese Incident: Radio City	

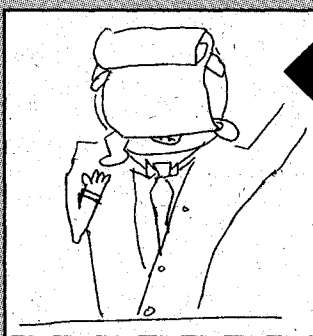
TOP TEN

New Reality Television Shows

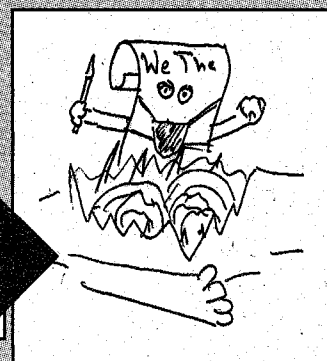
- 10 Pimp My Rascal
- 9 A Very Nick and Jessica
Partial-Birth Abortion Spectacular
- 8 Don't Die From
These Snake Bites
- 7 Autistic Kids/Road Rules
Challenge
- 6 Blood Swap
- 5 Who Wants To Be
A Cancer Survivor
- 4 Real World:
Astral Plane
- 3 My Big Fat Obnoxious Latently
Homosexual Red-Haired Bigot
- 2 Yellow Eye For
The Lupus Guy
- 1 Survivor: Fallujah

**IT'S EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE
ANTHROPOMORPHIC US
CONSTITUTION!**

**I WONDER WHAT KIND OF
KOOKY SITUATIONS HE'S GOTTEN
HIMSELF INTO THIS WEEK?**



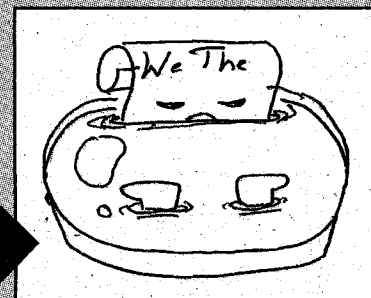
The ill-fated Daily
Show Interview



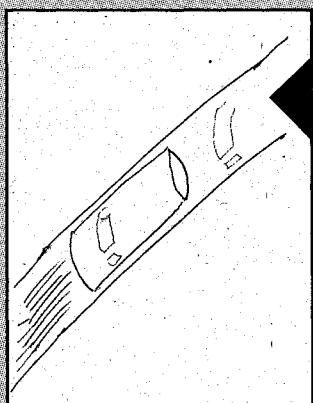
In the O.R., freeing
appendices from their
British rule



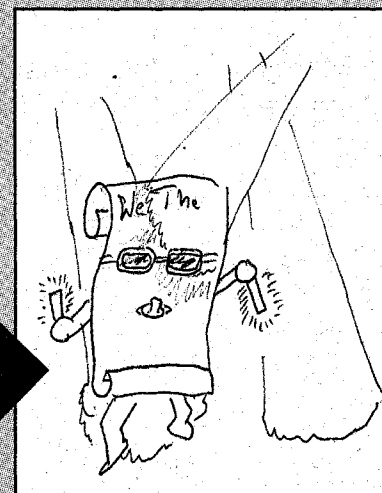
Humuhumunuk
unukuapupu



The annual
Thanksgiving Day
cranberry sauce
bath - smooth only

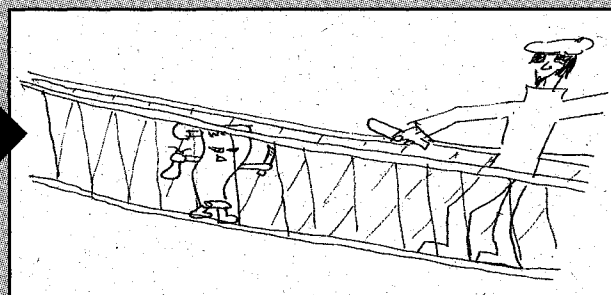


In a future tube
speeding away from
unjust amendments



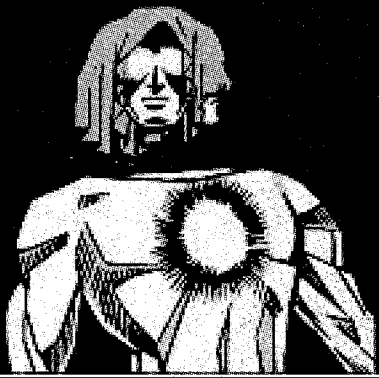
Sunglasses,
light sticks,
and a very
young night
ahead

Defending us
against beat-
niks at the
Temple of
Doom



TUNE IN NEXT ISSUE FOR EVEN MORE TOM-FOOLERY AND HI-JINKS!

By Matt Willeman



The Living Tribunal Passes Judgement On: The Infinity Gauntlet

It's that time of the year when Thanos and his bejeweled glove take on the Marvel Universe. Yeah that's right, the Marvel 'Verse, 'cause Batman would have taken him out in a second.

PHYSICS

The cruel and powerful Thanos is in possession of the Infinity Gauntlet; a glove which commands every aspect of our reality. Collectively, its six gems yield the power to create and destroy at the bearers whim. Shrouded in mysticism, their versatility and elegant power are like nothing the world has ever seen. They're kind of like Maxwell's Equations but a lot less hoitey-toitey.

Before we get into the physics of the gems though, I would like to address everybody's favorite magical masquerader...Dr. Strange. He purports to be the world's most powerful magician but I claim that he is simply a jerk. Under the guise of "doctor" he exploits the beauty of scientific discovery for his own personal gain, just because he can. For example, in the first issue of *The Infinity Gauntlet* series, Strange is sitting at a table, eating. What bothers me though is that he is levitating while there is a chair literally three feet to his left. And yet...he levitates. But does he say that it is due to the electromagnetic interaction? Does he clarify that a wire of current is inducing a repulsive force equal and opposite to that of the force of gravity? No. "It's magic," he says. I don't know where this guy got his PhD but I can assure you that it was not at an accredited American university.

Now that I got that out of the way, we can proceed. So Thanos created a citadel of sorts on a platform that was just floating in space. Fine. Even though the platform was about the size of a mansion, it wouldn't have nearly enough mass to create a gravitational pull strong enough to allow anyone to remain standing on it. The effective escape velocity would be $.001M/s$ at most. The moment the Hulk's punch connected with the purple Titan's jaw, he would have been ejected into the vacuum of space, Gauntlet or no.

Speaking of the vacuum of space, I'd really like to know how Firelord, the once herald of Galactus, keeps his staff and hair lit. I don't care how cosmic your power is—there is not enough oxygen in space to light one's hair on fire.

And speaking of Galactus as well as the rest of the celestial entities, they combine their power in an onslaught of energy beams to defeat Thanos. Imagine this scenario: physics exists. Upon firing their assorted weapons, each planet-sized defender would be propelled in the opposite direction. Given the magnitude of the blast, Galactus would not even see the fruits of his labor since he would have been rocketed a few million miles away.

And speaking of planet-sized defenders, there is a part in issue four where the oversized beings of sheer power meet to plan their assault against the evil Thanos. Gigantoid roll call!! There's Galactus, The Stranger, Lord Chaos, Master Order, The Living Tribunal, Eternity, Uatu the Watcher, Chronos, Love, Hate, Epoch the fledgling planet, and the two Celestials, Lloyd and Frank. Although the meeting was very productive, a problem remains. All of these beings, including the disembodied heads of Lord Chaos and Master Order, are incredibly massive. Now we all know that anything with mass experiences gravitational force and the more mass, the stronger the gravity. If these beings were all talking in a huddle, a problem arises since gravity goes as the reciprocal of the distance squared. I guess what I'm trying to say here is that their meeting would inevitably end with a humongous group hug from which none could escape. Even if Thanos kept the Infinity Gauntlet, I would feel a little safer knowing that hugs transcend physics.



PHILOSOPHY

Thanos, the Mad Titan. He wrests control of the foundational powers of the universe, in order to construct an homage to death: a universe in which half the population is dead. Why this obsession with death? Is there something that drives him towards the embodiment of the end of existence? It could be argued that since his youth he'd existed outside the realm of normal morality. Noting his stark differences between himself and the pantheon of titans he was born into, he was conditioned to view himself as the antithesis of these Grecian ideals. Whereas they represented eternal life and technological progressiveness, he would delve into the bowels of the arcane and sinister and become a disciple, and later lover, of Death.

History, if we are to place any stock in the works of Nietzsche and Foucault, is full of dichotomous relations such as this. The Apollonian against the Dionysian; The Existence through nature versus the controlling of nature; and Finally the Thanatos against the Eros. The concept that interests us, almost intuitively, is the idea of the Thanatos, or the lover of death, as Thanos of our story owes his namesake as well as inspiration to this Greek Déity. Thanatos was a God birthed as an outsider amongst his kin. Unable to affect Gods directly, and only able to bring death to mortals, he existed as an outcast from both. The similarities between these two characters, Thanos and Thanatos are almost cooking pan in the face obvious.

The broad influence of philosophy in this story melds with both the subversive psychology of the character and the intrinsic physics of the power involved. However, as I do not want to step on my fellow writers toes, I shall curtail my discussion to the realm of philosophy only. Thus, the clear idea to approach here is the idea of dichotomies in general, as they spawned both Thanos as well as his mythical forefather. If one reads into Nietzsche's, *The Birth of Tragedy*, we find that dichotomies like this are what propels mankind forward and allows them to transcend their perceived limits. Here, strife and struggle between opposites are not seen as a destructive thing, but as a creative force.

Therefore, from this point of view, one could argue that the existence of Thanos in the Marvel universe serves as a balancing agent amidst a legion of heroes. An eternal yang to their bright ying. As most great villains he serves as the antithesis of the heroes he is at odds with, however as the stakes of the game he is playing happen to be universal domination, he is in opposition to a heroic ideal, and not any specific hero. He stands for the opposite of the concept of sacrifice, the opposite of the responsibility inherent in power.

It is interesting to note, in finality, that though Thanos could be equivocated to the opposite of some moral ideal, he also has some incongruities in his personality that almost redeem him, showing that the line between villain and hero are a bit more tenuous than we may first assume. His love for death is indeed true and pure, showing that in a heart of stone, some element of reverence can exist. Additionally, it turns out that that the Mad Titan is typically the catalyst for his own defeat. As he had in two prior incarnations as an almighty being, he let the power slip through his fingers due to his subconscious belief that he did not deserve it. However, as this taps into issues involving psychology I shall leave my piece at that, and turn it over to the baron of Freudian implication, Michael Jesse Billings.

The Living Tribunal

The Infinity Gauntlet

Continues...

PSYCHOLOGY

In *The Infinity Gauntlet*, the story revolves around the aspirations of an immortal Demi-God named Thanos of Titan. With a name like Thanos, one would correctly suspect that he is utterly obsessed with death. In fact, Lady Death becomes the object of Thanos's obsessive longing; an unrequited love that drives him to seek out the infinity gauntlet and become the omnipotent controller of the universe. At least, this is what the reader is led to believe; but it may be the case that Thanos did not seek Godhood out of love alone.

Once the Infinity Gauntlet is acquired, the user has control over all that is; space, time, power, reality, the mind, and the soul. With this much authority, the user would have a monopoly over every detail in the cosmos. While an obsessive desire to impress Lady Death may be part of his motivation, another possibility is that Thanos of Titan suffers from an aggrandized version of Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Although it may strike some as surprising that one of the most powerful beings in the universe suffers from crippling anxiety, one must simply examine the facts. In accordance with some of the criteria put forth in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (Fourth Edition: Text Revision), Thanos of Titan blatantly displays a number of symptoms associated with GAD.

First, Thanos demonstrates excessive anxiety and apprehensive expectation through his relationship with Lady Death. From the commencement, his concern has been to warm the frigid heart of the physical manifestation of mortality. While this in itself is not unusual, this intense yearning pervades every one of Thanos's actions to the point where he calculates every move on the basis of whether or not Lady Death will be any closer to submitting to his affections. In addition to this, the reader learns that this is not a fledgling crush. Since he dissected his mother while he was a boy, Thanos has had an unnatural fascination with death, and that fascination turned to love upon meeting Lady Death herself. Judging from this, Thanos has been experiencing this excessive anxiety and worry for well over 6 months, the requisite time frame needed for the diagnosis.

The second issue is that of control. Thanos obviously finds it difficult to control his worrisome thoughts concerning Lady Death's feelings for him, so he looks to exert his will over his external world rather than over his internal feelings. This need for control is precisely why Thanos has obtained the Infinity Gauntlet; exerting complete control of the universe is an indirect means of feeling some semblance of internal control. Thanos also demonstrates symptoms of being restless and on edge, irritability, and difficulty concentrating. The latter of the three becomes apparent when he loses control of the gauntlet because of a lapse in attention.

Finally, Thanos's symptoms cannot be attributed to an Axis-I disorder or any substance abuse; and his anxiety has certainly impaired his social functioning since omnipotence actually caused Lady Death to resent him, thus eliminating his chance at a love life. At this point it would be advisable for Thanos to seek help in dealing with his disorder, and he should think about contacting the University Health Center.

The Living Tribunal is:

Joe Filippazzo

Michael Prazak and Mike Billings



Dear Slater,

My mother says I need to go find a job right after I graduate high school. I was all like, no, I want to have the summer off, and she was all like, well, no, you can't, and now I'm all like, man, this sucks. I don't want to have to work at McDonalds flipping burgers for some rude jerkoffs (can I say jerkoffs?) all summer. Please give me some advice.

- Unemployed in Vermont

Dear Unemployed,

Alright, listen up Preppy. You say you don't want to work, and your mom's telling you you have to. So what's the problem? Man, if I were you I'd get my butt working right away. I know what you're thinking, though. You want to try and trick her into believing you really have a job when really you're only selling chocolate for boy scouts. I'll tell you, it's not going to work. Ah, but I'd love to see you try, Preppy. Fifty bucks says you can't sell enough chocolate to convince your mother you have a job, and the loser has to wash the other person's underwear for a week. How does that sound? We're on.

- Slater

Dear Slater,

Hi. I work for a charity organization, completely non-profit. Yesterday someone came in and accused me of being media-hungry and selfish, saying that giving away millions of dollars worth of toys for poor and underprivileged kids during Christmastime was just a way to make people like me. How do I respond to this kind of ignorance?

- Saddened in Ohio

Dear Saddened,

I'll tell you something, babe. The only thing worse than a non-giver is someone who hates givers. You know what, though? I personally spoke with Jesus, and I think he'll give the Jews the holiday off if they confess to nailing him to that cross. I know Preppy wants to keep his mouth shut about this, but I don't want to get in any trouble with the big guy. I say, screw Zack and his little lapdog Screech. If they want to go on with it, they can. I'm lettin' Jesus know. Oh, and if that ever happens again, just do what I do. Give 'em a taste of the ol' High School Football Knuckle Sandwich, times two.

- Slater

Dear Slater,

You ain't got shit on Christian Slater.

- Gay on Long Island

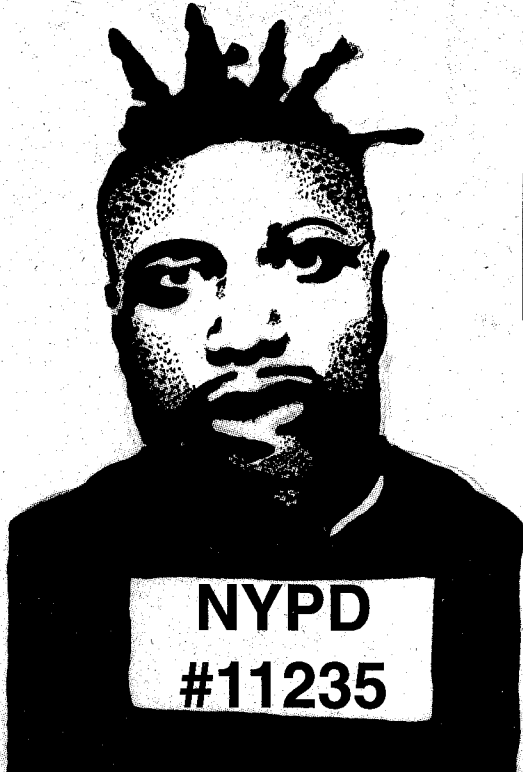
Dear Gay,

Screw you. And while you're at it, screw your mother and all her friends at the bridge club. And fuck your uncle, too. You prick.

- Slater

Comic Strip

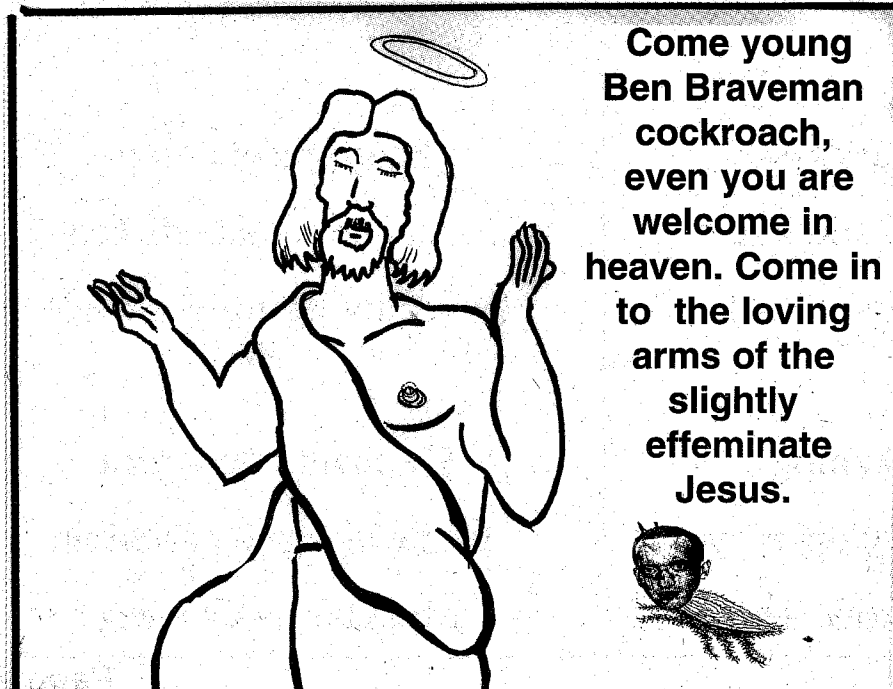
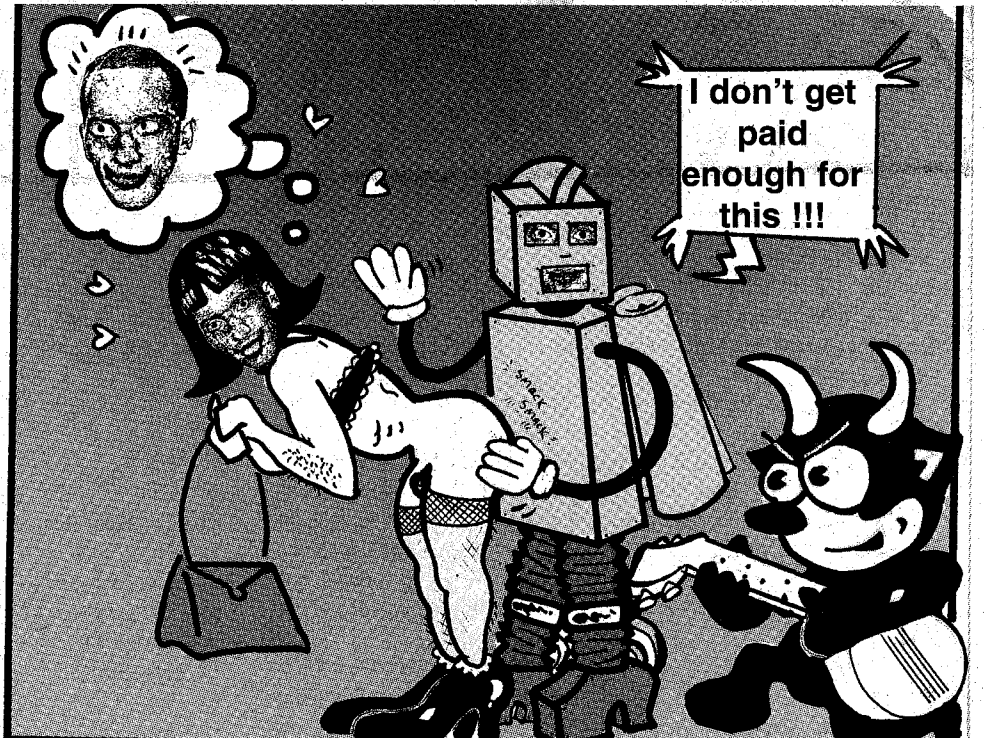
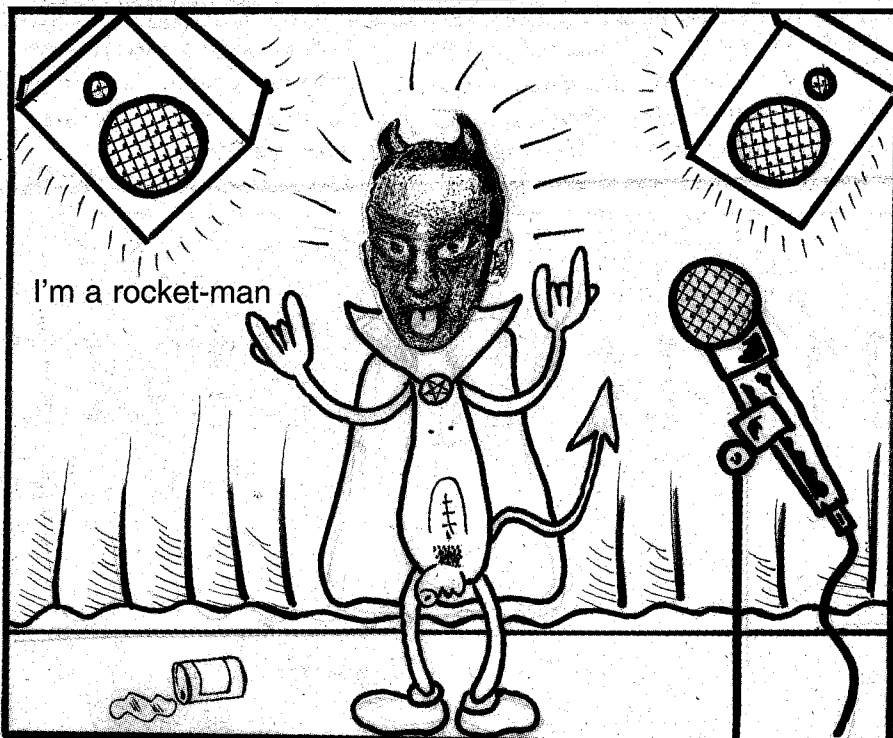
JAMES BLONDE



I'm OLD DIRTY BASTARD. Or they used to call me Dirt McGurt, or Big Baby Jesus. But now they call me OLD- DEAD BASTARD. I left more children than I got teeth in my head.



Whenever a RAP-STAR dies they are automatically booked for a very special gig. HAPPY-HOUR in HELL. But when I get there , there was all kinds of freaky shit going on !!!



Come young Ben Braveman cockroach, even you are welcome in heaven. Come in to the loving arms of the slightly effeminate Jesus.



And I thought the WU-TANG clan was WHACK !!!



The Phrenology of World Series Night

By Frank Fusaro

This is the story of a journey, a journey that started in 1920 when Broadway producer, and owner of the Boston Red Sox, Harry Frazee sold first baseman/outfielder/pitcher George Herman Ruth to the New York Yankees for \$125,000 in cash and a loan of \$300,000 which Frazee used to open the wildly successful musical "No, No, Nannette!" at New York's Globe Theatre in 1925.

In the time Babe Ruth, as he became known, played with the Red Sox (1914-1920) he not only pitched the longest World Series game ever played, from beginning to end (1916). He also hurled a 6-hit shut out in Game 1 against the Chicago Cubs (1918). In the eight years 'The Bambino,' as he was so dubbed by Boston fans, played for the Red Sox they won four World Series. Of course The Bambino's record as a Red Sox pales in comparison to the records he set as a New York Yankee.

The matter may have ended there had it not been for the losing streak the Boston Red Sox's would embark upon. The worst part of which, was not the fact that they're team couldn't win a pennant. In fact the Red Sox would spend the next 86 years as just about the best ball club out there... Just about. But every time they would get in sight of that World Series trophy something would happen. Always, just not good enough; Weather its Enos Slaughter stealing home in 1946 or the 16-strikout performance of, former Red Sox, Roger Clemens upon his return to Fenway Park, as member of the Toronto Blue Jays (1997). The Sox just can't catch a break, thus the 'Curse of the Bambino' grew.

True, or not. Deserved, or not. The Curse became as famous as the Babe himself, perhaps more so. And a rivalry, which has spanned almost a century, was born. So when on October the 27th the Boston Red Sox finally broke the 86 year-old curse, and swept the 2004 World Series, it was no surprise to find a choir of "Fuck Babe Ruth!!!" being sung, somewhat drunkenly and out of tune, at the steps of Fenway Park.

In fact the euphoria, which surrounded the park, and indeed extended down every street in town, was palpable. Walking form every direction they had come, high-fiving and hugging their way up to The Fen, as the park is so affectionately known. Each hoping to share their joy in a ritual older then baseball: The After Party!

The After Party has its roots in the very

fibers of every society since the first dock-worker on the Euphrates River cried impotently, 'I could have been a contender.' Its heart is in the true celebration of human accomplishment. Whether it being in building a strong government that is respected beyond its borders, or the yearly sacrifice of a young virgin to



IT SMELLS LIKE BURNING,
Courtesy of Frank Fusaro

reestablish alpha male dominance over the pride. It is spiritual. It is there to unite us.

A better equalizer then a few pints at the local pub, a better drug then you can find just about anywhere. Making all feel like children at Christmas, this connection, a cornerstone of worship, is what brought out the anti-Babe hymn on the corner Brighton Avenue and Lansdown Street. It's what every pilgrim has traveled here for, confetti in their hair and kisses on there cheeks. It's just as big a part of the night as the game itself. Yet before the crowd could start a round of "The Spicy MaHaggis Jig" or shoot off any more fireworks the City of Boston's Police Department, in military like black "riot uniforms" batons at the ready and shields deployed for added protection, began to advance from behind the barricades that separated the faithful from the Promised Land (Fenway Park). Starting with the mounted police, ever popular in crowd control since many of today's city dwellers are unfamiliar with the temperament of horses, the officers began to diffuse into the hordes of happy fans who started a new, much braver, chant: "Fuck the Police!"

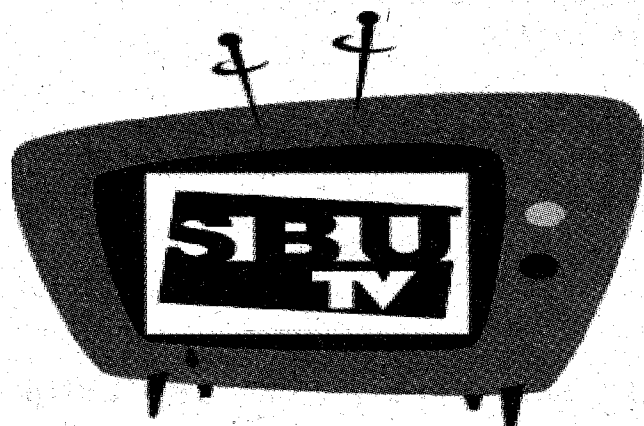
Mayor Thomas Menino's Praetorian Guard was apparently taking no chances this time as they lead there mounts strait through the most concentrated groups as they trotted down towards Kenmore Square. The previous week's 'Pennant Riot' had resulted in 8 arrests, over a dozen minor injuries, a flaming car, gate-crasher at Fenway Park and the death of twenty-one year old Victoria Snelgrove. The Emerson College undergraduate was struck in the eye by a paint-ball style projectile filled with pepper-spray the night of October 20th shortly after the Sox won their 11th pennant, the first since 1986. Victoria became the first fatality of the City of Boston's newest "Less Than Lethal" weapon in the on going fight with crowd control.

The paint-ball style weapons had been supplied to the force due to worries that protests during the recent Democratic Nation Convention might turn violent. But this would mark its first use in an actual crowd control situation. Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole stated that while the Boston PD "accepts full responsibility for the death of Victoria Snelgrove" so-called "punks" were faulted for starting the riot. O'Toole followed by praising her officers for their "great restraint."

O'Toole, not wanting a repeat of the "punk" revolution, promised she would have just about every office on duty for Game 4 of the World Series. While Mayor Menino unable to shut down most of the bars in Boston, despite several meetings with owners, outlawed TV cameras in all Boston Bars.

To the City's credit it was not caught totally unprepared at the "Pennant Riot." Video cameras had been added to the area around the Fenway Stadium, in hopes that they would deter such incidents. This, of course, was not the case. But the cameras were helpful in identifying students who took part in the riot. The Mayor urged university officials to expel any students caught on tape, like Northeastern University had done after a similar video caught students vandalizing cars and setting fires after the Super Bowl.

Despite all the added protection 21 arrests were made on the night of October 27th and 30 people were treated for minor injuries; one of them a police officer. And at least one dumpster was set on fire. Though this time no one climbed into Fenway Stadium to despoil the 93 year old ballpark. So Boston, finally having completed its journey to the World Series, can rest... until next year that is.



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HOLY CRAP IT'S A SPORTS COLUMN

By Sam Goldman

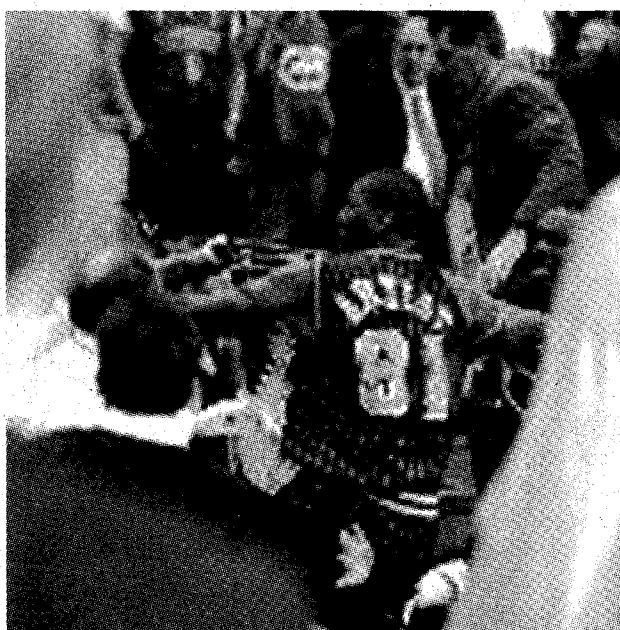
All this time I was missing hockey, I just should have been watching basketball.

By now, even those who don't like sports have probably heard of the "Malice in the Palace" (you know it's bad if they named it), the brawl between the Indiana Pacers and a bunch of drunken fans in Detroit. But if you've been on the International Space Station or something...

With less than one minute remaining in November 19's 97-82 Pistons victory, Pistons All-Star forward Ben Wallace, who had been banging with Pacer players the entire game, got a shove in the back from Indiana Pacer Ron Artest, and snapped, lunging after him. He was restrained by officials and teammates, while Artest decided he would chill out by lying across the scorer's table. At this point, some idiot about 6 rows deep decided, "Hey, wouldn't it be cool if I hit him in the face with my beverage?" and his friend said, "Yeah, that would be AWWW-SUMMM!" Artest, being the calm, cool-headed individual that he is, immediately made a beeline for someone (which turned out to be the wrong guy), tackled him and began to wail on him. Teammate Stephen Jackson followed suit, rearing back, and going buck-wild on the poor lush. As Mike Breen and Bill Walton ducked for cover and all hell broke loose, Pacer Jermaine O'Neal was accosted by two more Detroit drunks, shoved aside Palace of Auburn Hills security and tagged one of the two alkie with a right cross to the jaw.

The aftermath of all this? David Stern, in a "one-to-nothing" decision, laid down the law. Artest is suspended for the season without pay. If it stands (more on that later), it would stand as the largest suspension in NBA history, lasting 73 games, and costing the former St. John's University star \$5 million in lost wages. Stephen Jackson gets to sit out 30 games, O'Neal gets 25 games for his Tyson imitation, Ben Wallace gets 6 games, and a bunch of other folks get a game for leaving the bench.

Of course, the NBA Players Association calls these penalties excessive and plans to appeal all three major Pacer suspensions (Wallace has stated he would not appeal). Pacers coach Rick Carlisle and GM Larry Bird have publicly stated that they are "100%" behind Artest, and in interview after interview with players, you hear the same thing: "I've never been in a situation like that;" "The fans deserve some of the blame for it;" "I think their punishment was too harsh."



MALICE AT THE PALACE,
Courtesy of ESPN

Shut up!

If anything, Artest's punishment was far too light. Imagine if you will, a little girl with her father sitting next to the guy who got sacked by Artest. Or if a little kid was in the front row and got run over by Jackson on the way to Artest's position. Or someone who is elderly

was jostled by security. Artest's actions put a large portion of the arena, which is supposed to be a family- and child-friendly atmosphere, in serious jeopardy. Based on his bad-boy history, Artest should be forced to attend mandatory counseling, and be suspended until such time as a shrink says he's okay to continue playing ball. At the very least. And make it clear to him that if he doesn't become a mature individual, he can go play in Europe.

It's a damn shame that no player will step up and speak out against that same kind of behavior. Of course, it doesn't surprise anybody. Nor should it be surprising that the union refuses to acknowledge that several of their own crossed the line. But it's no less revolting.

Lastly, the fans. It is definitely common knowledge that the skids of hooliganism are greased with sweet, sweet beer. Now, I love a good brew as much as the next guy, but the serving of alcoholic beverages at sporting events is not a God-given right. The NBA needs to seriously consider the curtailing – or even banning – the sale of alcoholic beverages, but it won't because when you sell them at \$6 a pop, it's obviously a cash cow that no one can ignore.

A final thought: ESPN's Marc Stein suggested an idea, which I happen to like, patterned after soccer games. You see, in soccer matches, fans get punished for their hooliganism by being locked out of matches by FIFA, the sport's governing body. In fact, after boorish fan behavior, several important games this year have been played in front of no one but the media, league officials, and tens of thousands of folks dressed up like empty seats. If the Detroit Pistons' fans can't control themselves, maybe they shouldn't get to watch their team. Lock them out of the Palace of Auburn Hills and blackout the game from cable television. Paying for athletes to entertain is a privilege, not a right, and the fans need to be reminded of that.

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Welcome to Parking 101: Where, What and When

By Lena Tumasyan

How many times have you driven to campus in a rush trying to make it to your first lecture on time, only to realize that there is not enough space in the lot you wanted to park at. Then you end up rushing from lot to lot trying to find a spot, and VOILA the last one is taken? Then you have come to the right place—PARKING 101. All the information you might need as to where, when, and how to avoid getting a ticket.

First you'll need to be introduced to your instructor—I am a fellow commuter and have been driving/LIRR-ing my butt over here for the past two and a half years for 40 minutes (without traffic) in each direction. My cars have seen their share of nasty conditions, road kill, and concrete debris as well as those nasty kids who cross the streets while talking on their cell phone, sipping a "Starbucks" coffee, trying not to drop the five textbooks that they couldn't manage to fit into a silly 'ol backpack, basically just BEGGING for someone to run them over. Brats, PLEASE watch the road. I got my own things to worry about, so do the bus drivers, and we only have TWO eyes to figure everything out with.

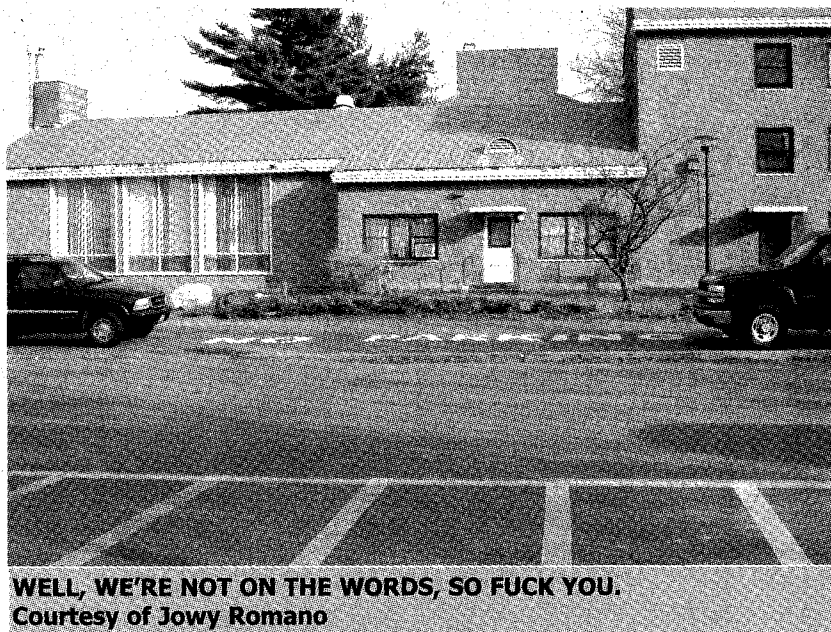
Welcome to day two: entering and exiting the university. First, there are three entrances from Nicolls Rd, also known as Route 97: the South, Main, and North entrances. The South and Main entrances lead to the HSC (Health Science Center) as well as West Campus (or Main campus). The North entrance is right by Route 25A and leads to the fields, North P (Parking) lot, and parallel to LIRR. But there is also another entrance many of you have not heard of—the nameless one that intersects with Stony Brook Rd (which leads north up to Route 25A and south down to Route 347). It is near the Day care center and South P lot.

Day three: so now that you have a pretty basic idea of your closest escape route—here's a few tips in entering. If you enter from Stony Brook Road, you'll have a 20 or so minute ride up to the ESS lot or the SAC anytime between 8 and 9am. If you instead wish to continue straight along Martburger Drive (where you entered from Stony Brook Rd) up to the North P and LIRR lots, then expect more then just 20 minutes. The rest of the day should be fine, except for the faculty exodus at 4-5pm, but hey the faculty have their own lots, which are also closer to Nicolls Rd, so you shouldn't have that much of a problem.

Day four: where to park. Well, depends on whether you're a resident or commuter, undergraduate, graduate, or faculty/staff. Faculty and staff (from your favorite professors to your sandwich vendors, god bless the deli Gods) have FREE PERMITS in the BEST ZONES. If you're a grad student or an undergraduate who is also a part time faculty you can buy monthly parking permits in garages (such as the amazing "Administration" garage near Javits). Each garage is priced differently from \$16 to \$30, depending on where the garage is; you can access more information by visiting <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/facilities/tps/parking/garage.shtml>. Graduates who live on campus get free parking next to their apartment complexes, such as Schomburg (they're brand-spankin' new and right behind Kelly) and Chapin (behind the HSC).

Day four continued: Undergrad residents, HA! You have it pretty bad. Allow me to elaborate...there are currently approximately 7,500 undergrad residents on campus, up from about 6,000 in Fall 2000, AND you guys are increasing steadily—from approximately 52% in

Fall '00 to 57% Fall '03 Of course we must consider the fact that in Fall 2000 many dorms started going through renovations and the apartment complexes have not been built yet, but as of right now, you still have only 1,400-



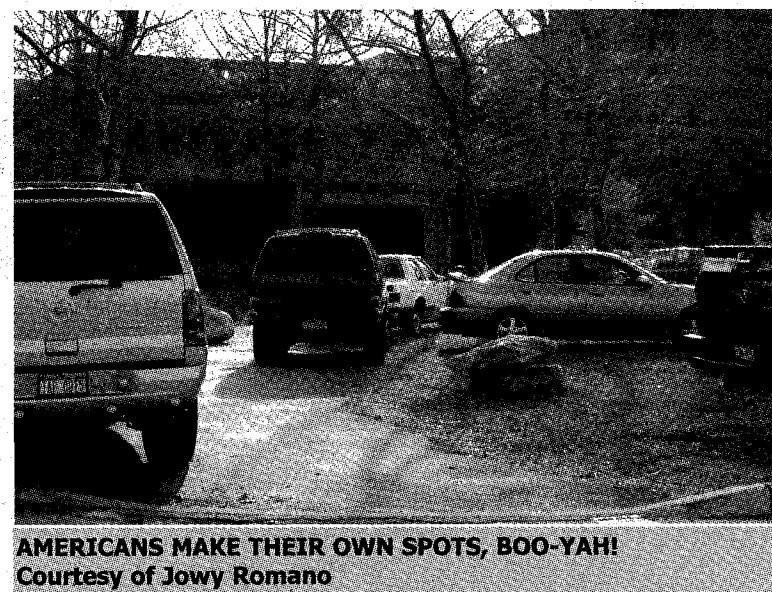
1,500 or so spaces (does not include apartment parking which mostly grad students use). Barely enough for 1/4 of the current undergraduate resident population! Yes, we know that freshmen are not allowed to have a car on campus (except for special circumstances), and many students don't wish to have cars on campus. But many others STILL WANT PARKING. I suppose the only favorable part of all this is that the resident permits are free and that you can be born lucky and find a spot.

Day five: commuters! No, I did not leave you last because it's university policy to ignore our unimportant population (43-42%). I'm not sarcastic, I just know that those who come to campus only part of the day aren't considered as important as those who are here 24/7, 8months a year. There's a lot to consider for the 5,700 or so commuters. First of all—where your classes are, and secondly, - how much dough you got to spend on parking. If you're only here for a class or two perhaps you wouldn't mind paying hourly rates at the metered parking lots (spread out throughout campus and in lovely locations). If you're here for a whole day, well that starts getting pricey. The cheapest parking? South P and North P lots—the permit is FREE. That permit also includes a little part of the lot behind the sports complex on Gym Rd, but from my personal experience, it's full anytime of day (and sometimes night). In total, there are approximately 2,300 spaces in the North P, South P, and gym lot combined. Hmmm... where do the 3,400 left over go? Well they might or might not. If you don't have class, you might not come to the University, or if you come to take care of some business you might opt to park in a metered zone. And that's exactly what the university relies on - that commuters don't come on days they don't have class. According to Mr. Shertzer (director of parking), the South P lot is never full and rarely comes close to full. Well, gee, I feel lucky that just in case I spent half an hour driving around the northern and academic areas of the university looking for a spot, I can go back down to the South P lot, take a 20 minute bus back up to the buildings. And yay, I can go

straight to my second class! Sorry for the sarcasm folks, but I need some more reliable places of free parking. How about North P lot? Hmmm, looks good, and full at about 10:30am.

Day six: the STADIUM LOT. The most controversial and newest parking lot for commuters, opened, THIS SEMESTER. If you folks haven't heard, it right behind the Union and Sports Complex, and it's so easy to walk from there to the academic buildings. In fact, it takes me about 5 or 10 minutes to get from that lot to my class. YES, finally a lot that I do not need to take a BUS from! The catch? It's full! There are 500 spaces and approximately 650 permits sold (once again on the basis that ALL commuters won't be coming EVERY day, and that people will leave and come throughout the day). Sure ok, I'll dig the \$75 semester charge (\$125 for fall and spring). And if you are commuter #651? Well, you get to be put on a waiting list for the pricey permit. Although it's not the most expensive parking option when compared to the parking garages and metered lots, dammit it's the most convenient. I suppose I'm thankful that if I'm one of the 650 students who were able to purchase the permit, then I have a pretty good chance at getting a spot in the lot. But more people want to get in! Also, there is no preference between senior/freshman and graduate/undergraduate when purchasing the permits; it's first come first serve. So I suggest if you guys really want to park there and are willing to pay, then get in line early for next semester. Unless you bought a yearly permit, you will need to renew and spaces will be limited.

Day of judgment: the SB Police gives out 15,000 illegal parking tickets a year! Do not be another statistic, for they really will TOW YOUR CAR. Actually, the money from the tickets (I was unable to find out exactly how much revenue it was) could be used to build another level in Garage lots, or the other lots. Here's how: flat lots cost about \$2,000 per space and



garages cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per space. Although most tickets are between \$15 and \$25, taking an average of \$20 per ticket, multiplied by the number of tickets given equals \$300,000 in tickets alone! Or we can finally repair some of the pavement (repairs are needed in the North lots), or bus shelters! Personally, I'd like to see a little bit of everything.

Recess: a few final hits and tricks. Pssstt... you CAN park close to the buildings even without paying for a permit or meter - it all depends on WHEN. If you came at or after

Welcome to Parking 101 Continued...

By Lena Tumasyan

4pm (Monday through Friday) you can park in the stadium lot, any resident area, and faculty/staff lot. This is precisely what I did for nightly exams—in the morning I parked in the free North/South P lots and then moved my car up so that after my exam I just took a stroll to ESS lot or a close resident lot and I was outta there. Metered lots are also free after 7pm, so if you come late to see a show at the SAC, you can park right behind it and enjoy close, free parking. During the hours of 7am through 3pm, Monday through Friday, Parking Services offers motorist assistance for common problems such as battery jumps, locked-in keys, empty gas tanks, and slow leaks. During all other times,

assistance is limited to battery jumps and locked-in keys only. Call University Police 632-3333 and DON'T STAY STRANDED...or just be careful after parking your car, especially on rainy days when we use headlights the most! (Taken directly from "Parking Map 2004")

Final note: with all this information in mind, it's very important to remember that all drivers, regardless of status or permit, must be CAREFULL. Be courteous when the buses are letting people off so that you don't try to drive AROUND the bus, thereby running someone over. It's as important for everyone to be courteous to the drivers—please, when you are crossing the road especially from the Union to the

Library, or vice versa, LET VEHICLES DRIVE THROUGH. I know it sounds too much to ask for, but if the person actually waiting for a car to pass through, we can avoid injury and backups that can extend all the way past Chemistry building along John S. Toll Drive.

Thank you very much to Mr. Arthur Shertzer for answering my questions regarding parking and Ms. Eileen Delaposta for answering my questions regarding student enrollment. For more parking questions contact (631) 632-AUTO or <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/parking/>

David Bowie: A Living Legend

By Derek Johnson

Bowie. The man, the legend. Without him, modern music wouldn't be the same. The fashion, the attitude, the characteristics of rock music as we know it would not be here. Everyone from Britney Spears to The Cure has been affected by his legacy. The pop music of the 1980's were heavily inspired by Bowie's work in the 1970's. Madonna and her chameleon-like style changes were impacted by Bowie's own transition through style. Think about it, no Madonna means no Britney, Christina, Jessica and Mandy as well as all of their countless imitators.

I suppose pop recycles itself; you have to steal and borrow from other musicians because imitation is the key to success. Repetition is the greatest definition of today's pop culture. Rap music samples pop tunes incessantly in homage to its elders and the garage/art rock scene is a hint of the heyday of similar acts in the late 1970's and 1980's. Right away my own mother said the look of the Franz Ferdinand video "Take Me Out" is extremely similar to the Talking Heads with David Byrne. Prince has made a heavily awaited comeback and his ambiguous look and sound reminds me of a mix between Bowie and Jimi Hendrix.

Some say there are creators of certain genres. In my opinion, Lou Reed and his work with the Velvet Underground and after was the founder of grunge. Iggy Pop is the grandfather of punk while others say it was bands like the Sex Pistols and the Ramones. Ozzy Osbourne is the undisputed king of heavy metal and hard rock with Black Sabbath and his solo work afterwards. David Bowie however, is the most influential solo white male pop artist aside from Elvis. Depeche Mode and the Cure, Boy George of Culture Club fame, Spandau Ballet, all of the synthesizer and technology bands of the 1980's came from him.

His late 1970's work, the Bowie/Brian Eno trilogy in Berlin was the most inspirational to those bands. *Low*, *"Heroes"*, and *Lodger* created a world where minimalist music was accepted in rock. Each album was half-comprised of quick, less than three minute pop and the other half featured the newest technology of the late 1970's. The second half, or B-side, was filled with synthesizers and arrangements con-

ducted and performed by the ambient and ethereal maestro, Brian Eno. Instruments uncommonly used by rock artists were prevalent. Violins, kotos, mandolins, harps, cellos, vibraphones, xylophones, the list goes on and on. Bowie and Eno were adding a different definition to rock. This along with another hipster, Bryan Ferry, and his on and off again band Roxy Music, gave rise to the baritone crooners of the 1980's over-laced with synths and dance-pop. Kraftwerk and undeniably, Pink Floyd also helped create the sounds of the 1980's. Bowie, however, was the most directly referenced,

because in the 1980's, he was past everyone else in terms of style and music. All of the bands mentioned were either disbanded or kept a low-key profile in the 1980's. Bowie was always ahead of the pack. The influence of the eighties pop bands rolled on into the techno and dance music of the 1990s and the cycle continued.

There is a well-known proverb that said the clothes make the man. In the early 1970's, Bowie defied this statement with his flamboyant look. He blurred the lines between homosexuality and heterosexuality. He shocked parents who saw him as just another gay drag queen. He rallied the Post-

Hippy generation by giving them more visuals than just the sound. He believed rock music was a pose. According to the book *BOWIESTYLE*, Bowie said, "You could arrange it anyway you liked it but in the end it meant something, it said something." The glam rock scene had found its undisputed leader.

David Bowie became a gay icon in the early 1970's as well. He did something no rock star would do, and declared that he was gay in 1972. Keep in mind this is before Elton John and Freddie Mercury. No other rock star came out of the closet before Bowie. He is in fact bisexual; he screwed the girls and teased the boys. His costumes consisted of boas, fishnet shirts, and he wore heavily applied makeup. He had a hairstylist and makeup artists with him on tour, and fashion designers went to his concerts.

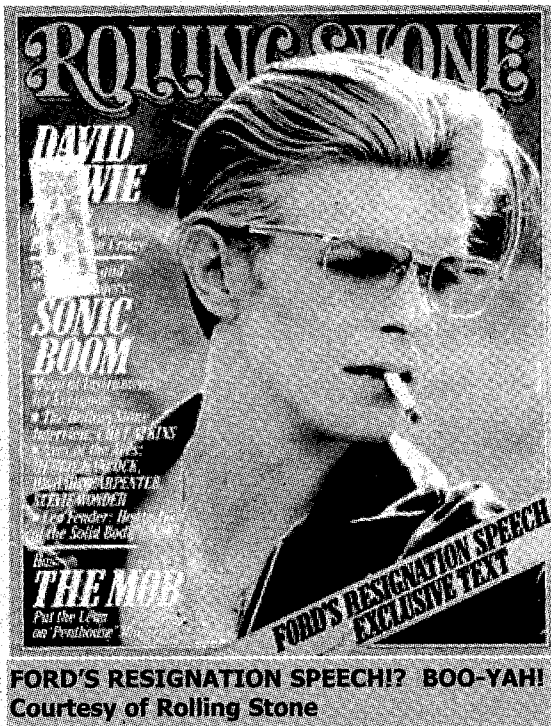
David Bowie's hairstyles alone helped influence the bands of the 1980's. The duck tail,

the one-sided part, the mullet and the slicked-back hair gave way to, as *BOWIESTYLE* put it: "the New Romantics, the Blitz Kids, straight out of Britain. The young guns who had admired him in the mid-1970's had all grown up."

His look and sound during his Ziggy Stardust/Aladdin Sane period made a mark on the fashion world as well. Tommy Hilfiger used "Watch That Man" in one of his commercials last year. The neon-orange mullet that looks like a flaming fireball trickles down through models today. Outrageous hair can be seen in magazines such as *Glamour* and *Vogue*. Bowie's numerous hair transformations through the years are still around. The sexual ambiguity of models traces back to the androgyny of the Glam Rock Era. Is the model a male or a female? Both perhaps? Cross-dressing has always been a famous pastime in the world of modeling. Kate Moss likes to wear jackets and men's pants. The macho, "don't mess with me look" in models today can be seen in Bowie's drug-addled period during the mid-70's. I can't think of one fashion designer who doesn't respect David Bowie. The cigarette dangling out the mouth only looked cool with him. Cheap clothes on a man never looked so good. That era also brought out a different type of fashion statement. David Bowie wore boxed trousers and a tie on oversized jackets courtesy of Sears Roebuck! That was one of the cheapest department clothing stores of the day and Bowie borrowed the look from the Latin nightclubs and streets of NYC.

The side chain and the plaid shirts brought him down to Earth, making him more relevant to the people. The cameras loved him too, which is a rare thing in the pop world. There always are the good and bad photographs of celebrities, especially musicians. David Bowie is always photogenic, whether he means to be or not. His pictures create a statement, especially on his albums. Ask the majority of rock photographers and musicians and they'll tell you he has some of the most iconic imagery on his album covers. Since most of us will never get a chance to do so, just look at *Aladdin Sane*, *Diamond Dogs*, or *Low*. The simplicity or the outlandishness of the covers has created rock music's most dynamic album covers.

It is true that David Bowie stole or borrowed from his icons and influences, but he had to establish himself. The musicians of today have taken what they needed from him, while some haven't. The lesson is to find the roots of everything. Something as gargantuan as rock music culture needs to take a step back and discover their origins. Maybe they'll find themselves along the way and give credit to where credit is due. And David Bowie is one of the exceptional few living rock stars who deserves that respect.



The Korean Life Media Club

The Korean Life Media Club (KLMC) had one of its first general body meetings on Monday September 20 in SAC 309 at 8:30pm. President Jun Kwan Park introduced the KLMC cabinet including VP Hyung Rae, Treasurer Jieun Lee, and Secretary Yoo Jung. He also explained the role of the KLMC in providing Korean cultural ties to the campus community over the roughly past two years it has existed. The Korean Life Media Club is an outgrowth of the weekly radio show on WUSB, Korean Life Radio. The radio show has well served not only the campus community but also the Long Island Korean and Korean American community for over 20 continuous years. This great and long standing tradition of Stony Brook University is now hosted by DJ Jong Lee, and says of the show, "We're cool!"

The Korean Life Media Club currently publishes at the website www.koreanlife.org, and is thus promoting Stony Brook University to a worldwide audience. While the home page is in English, as you might imagine much of the site is available in Korean, but is compatible with many web translators such as babelfish.org or <http://babelfish.altavista.com/tr> although you do need the proper character set installed on your browser. Activities featured on the site include the radio show (of course), school life, off campus events, monthly barbecues, camping trips, etc. Special activities are also regularly planned over

Thanksgiving/Spring break or the winter intersession, and this is especially important to those students who might otherwise feel isolated over these breaks. KLMC staff hope to move to a print format at least once a semester starting sometime this fall or spring.

The Korean Life Media Club currently has no formal, or even informal, ties to the Asian American Journal or other campus media outlets. While KLMC President Jun Kwan Park also has not formed an opinion about working with the Asian Students Alliance (ASA), Korean GSO members, or with the Long Island Korean-American business community, there is one event that definitely has his attention—Korea Night. This annual spring event by the Korean Students Association (KSA) may be the single largest Korean cultural event held at Stony Brook University or perhaps even all of Suffolk County. More details about Korea Night will be reported in the spring. For now President Jun Kwan Park says that KLMC is "looking for new members." So whether one is Korean, studied Korean at the Defense Language Institute (DLI), or just have an interest in Korean language and culture, the Korean Life Media Club and Korean Life Radio are Stony Brook University's, and now the world's, information sources on Korean culture.

All articles by Greg Lubich

Chinese Association at Stony Brook

According to their website, Chinese Association at Stony Brook (CASB) is a cultural organization that is dedicated to promoting the Chinese culture throughout the campus community by a variety of activities, events, and programs (www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/casb/about.html). CASB met that mission with events this fall that included the October Sports Day and Picnic on the Physics Lawn, the November Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament (apparently there was a lot of interest so pre-registration was required), and the December Singing Contest/Banquet.

At CASB's first general body meeting on Wednesday September 29 in Stony Brook Union 236, the meeting started promptly at 8:30pm when President Richard Chang introduced the CASB cabinet including VP Jeff Hsu, Treasurer Tom Mui, Secretary Jenny Lui, Public Relations Ting Ng, and Events Coordinator Dave Lee. After a fun "bingo" style ice breaker, "Up Till Dawn" gave a brief presentation about Saint Jude's Children's Hospital. Next came event planning, elections, food, and a raffle of a Care Bear.

The ice breaker was a game where one had to find a person to sign a box on a bingo sheet that had an adjective or phrase that described the person, e.g. no classes on Friday, has a tattoo, is a veteran, etc. There was some contention as to whether a local caterer such as Yin-Yang should cater the December event, but since no one volunteered to drive to Flushing to get food from contending food providers the matter was resolved. Discussion of fall events led to plans for spring including a February Valentines Dance with other groups including but not limited to ASA, PUSO, and KSA. Also mentioned were a March Volleyball Tournament, a May BBQ, and, of course, CASB's big event of the year China Night—a fun filled evening of cultural acts, singing, dancing, and a fashion show. China Night is held each April during Asian American

History Month, and has become so well known that in the past co-sponsors included the Student Government, the Chinese Studies Program, a campus newspaper, a television station and even several faculty members.

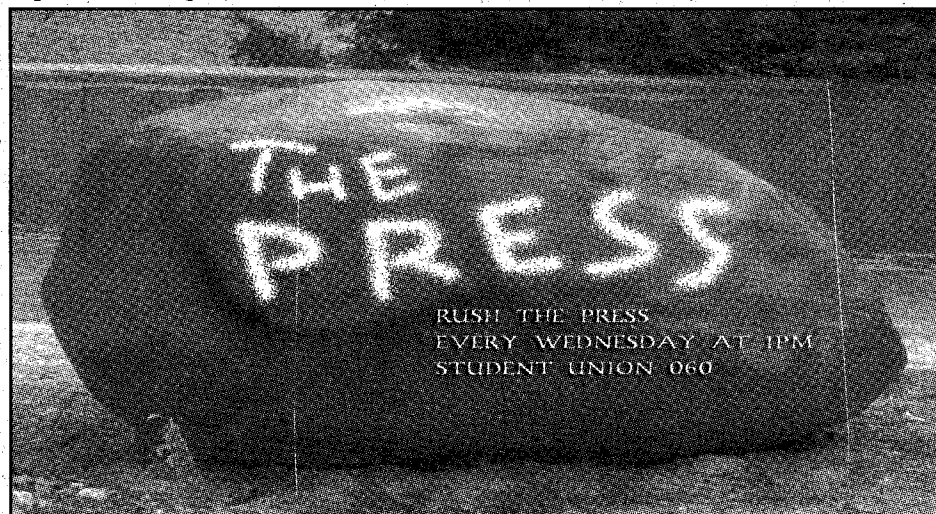
CASB elections for the positions of Treasurer, Treasurer Trainee, Public Relations Representatives, Social Chair, Events Coordinators, and Webmaster were quite distinctive. All open positions had multiple candidates, and one indicator of a "healthy" club is the abundance of people who want leadership roles. As is usual the candidates came before the room. Not some, but all candidates declined to give a speech. In contrast to this unique occurrence, CASB used the same voting method as many other campus organizations known for their electoral rectitude and adherence to principle, the secret auditable ballot. In a secret auditable ballot, voter choices remain anonymous yet a paper trail allows the vote to be inspected, audited, and if needed recounted. The states of Ohio, Florida, Georgia, and quite a few more could learn a lot from CASB's elections.

These high standards of voting may be a result, or perhaps the cause, of CASB's achievements in producing campus leaders. Leaders such as 2000 Freshman representative Lucy Kim, or 2000 Sophomore Representative Kimme Chin were the first ever Asian American students to win a campus wide position on the student government council. Lucy Kim and Kimme Chin are history-making trailblazers who, in part, paved the way for others. In a university with the largest Asian and Asian American undergraduate population on the East Coast, both as a percent and in total numbers, it is likely that we can expect more record setters from CASB in the future. Kimme Chin states, "I love my club. I've devoted 4 years of my life to CASB. You grow in the positions. You learn."



COMMUTER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

LEG MEETINGS
WEDNESDAYS AT 1PM
IN THE UNIVERSITY CAFE
FREE FOOD!



THE PRESS

RUSH THE PRESS
 EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1PM
 STUDENT UNION 060

Philippine United Students Organization

P.U.S.O. stands for Philippine United Students Organization, but it could also stand for "Another Club that Does Everything Right." P.U.S.O. meetings have sign up sheets at the door, ice-breakers, warm ups, consciousness raising exercises, videos of prior year's events, tryouts for participatory events and shows, and a generally positive and welcoming mood set largely by the P.U.S.O. officers. Monday night P.U.S.O. meetings on the third floor of the SAC are open, raucous, and lively, yet they are still effective on a level similar to other campus organizations known for their adherence to democratic principle. Indeed, it may be the only campus organization whose webpage solicits criticism with the goal of continuous improvement. Time is allotted at the end of every meeting to offer comments, suggestions, and criticism (www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/puso).

At the first P.U.S.O. meeting, P.U.S.O. President Steve Baga had an ice-breaker where people formed small groups to create ideal pick up lines. One can imagine the humorous results. At the second meeting, light refreshments were served, and P.U.S.O. used a more traditional ice-breaker where people went around the room and stated their name, major or year, and what they wanted to get out of club P.U.S.O. or something they like. This went over well and served to reinforce the prior week's welcoming mood.

In the fall of 2004, P.U.S.O. had an overabundance of people who wanted to take leadership roles both within and outside of P.U.S.O. For example, at the second meeting when P.U.S.O. elections were held, essentially every open position had multiple candidates. Likewise, one P.U.S.O. member, Byran Lozano, ran for USG Freshman Representative, a campus wide position. As stated in the November 17,

2004 issue of The Stony Brook Press in an article titled Racism at Stony Brook University, candidates from certain backgrounds reported difficulties getting on the ballot for USG positions. Nevertheless, Lozano persevered and ran for USG Freshman Representative despite what may have stood in his way. The number and strength of candidates within and from P.U.S.O. is a strong indicator of the level of vibrancy and strength of the Philippine and Philippine American community at Stony Brook University.

After the elections at the second P.U.S.O. meeting, a video of some of last year's events was shown including outtakes from Stick Fighting, Hula Dancing, and the Coconut Dance. These videos highlighted some of the best parts of last year, and were a great motivator. At one point in the Hula Dance video someone shouted, "That's your Secretary!" and some laughter followed. The Coconut Dance was one of the zaniest, most humorous things this writer has ever seen. Because the Coconut Dancers did their act with 100% deadpan seriousness, a dance that would have been just funny and goofy became hilarious and zany. A further description of the Coconut Dance is beyond the capacity of words; it has to be seen to be believed. Immediately after the videos, the meeting ended, and there were tryouts for this year's P.U.S.O. events and activities in the Union Fireside Lounge. Not surprisingly there were plenty of people who wanted to use their limited free time preparing for a P.U.S.O. tryout or event.

One of the P.U.S.O. meetings included a game where signs were put up on the walls with words that people might use to describe themselves including Philippine, American, Philip, Pnoy, Pinoy, etc. People then stood by signs

that they identified with, or identified with most heavily. After groups had gathered around the words, President Baga then asked people why they identified themselves with a given word and what they thought the word meant. He then explained some of the favorable and unfavorable origins and/or history of certain words and identities. People were then asked if they wanted to change where they stood. Indeed, quite a few people did change their position once they were enlightened, informed, and educated about the nature and origin of certain words and identities.

While P.U.S.O. doesn't yet have the worldwide media reach of WUSB, Korean Life Radio, or Korean Life Media Club (KLMC), P.U.S.O. awakens change on a level similar to Malik Sigma Psi (Maliks). While P.U.S.O. hasn't yet produced campus-wide leaders on the level of the Chinese Association at Stony Brook (CASB), P.U.S.O. meetings have audio-visual aids and warm-ups as good as the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA). Similar to the Asian Students Alliance (ASA), P.U.S.O. energizes the University community. On a level similar to Club Om, P.U.S.O. informs, enlightens, and educates.

P.U.S.O.'s final event of the 2004 year is the 10th Annual Filipino Mass. It will be on Sunday December 5 at 5pm (sharp) in the Wang Center. This year marks the first time that this special event will be held in the Wang Center. All are welcome, and appropriate dress is suggested. P.U.S.O.'s final regular meeting will be on Monday December 6 in the SAC 306 at 8:30 pm. Again, the meeting is open to everyone, and is usually quite fun. If P.U.S.O. and other such clubs are any indicator, Stony Brook University's student life this spring will be quite interesting.

Club Food Reviews

CASB:

Pizza, bread sticks, various chips, cookies, and soda. The garlic butter sauce for the bread sticks was outstandingly delicious, and the cookies were pretty good too. People mingled while preparations were made for the raffle.

ASA:

Vegetable platters, fruit platters, soda, juice. A healthy sugar high.

Club Om:

Pizza. A nice way to finish a Jeopardy-filled evening.

Maliks:

Rice, chicken strips with sauce, cooked plantains (bananas). A tribute to good food and women.

PUSO:

Potato salad, Cole slaw, chips, soda, and more that we didn't notice cause we were watching the coconut dance.

Club Awards

Most Zany Meeting: PUSO

Best Game: Club Om's Desi and Hindu Jeopardy

Best Ice-Breaker: VSA's Human Knot

Best Live Dance Performance: Malik's Pop Dancing

Best Recorded Dance Performance Shown at a Meeting: PUSO's Coconut Dance

Best Sauce: (tie) CASB's garlic butter sauce, and Malik's chicken sauce

Best Vegetables: (tie) ASA's fruit platters, and Malik's cooked plantains

Largest World Wide Following: KLMC



The Return of Opie and Anthony and What It Means for Radio

By Ian Rice

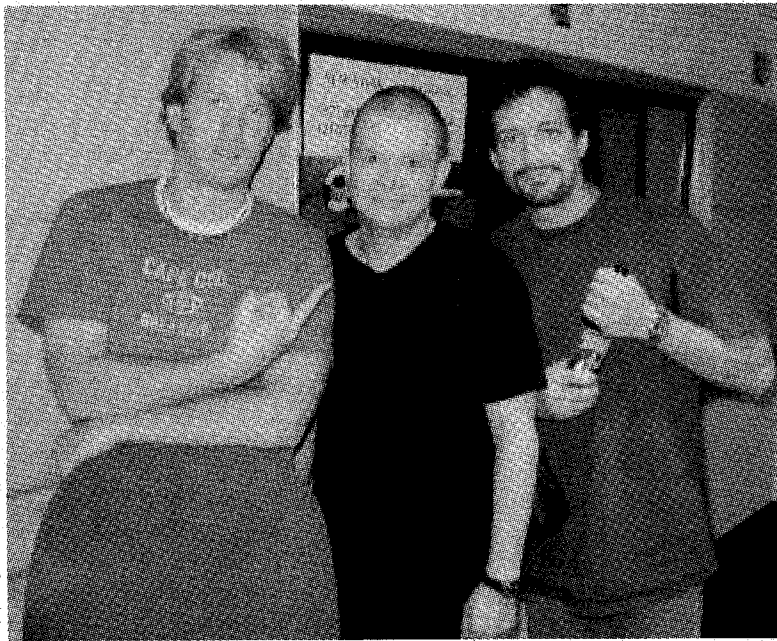
On October 4th, Greg Hughes and Anthony Cumia quietly re-emerged on the airwaves of XM Satellite Radio. Better known (especially in the New York area) as Opie and Anthony, the duo had been on an extended vacation from any form of broadcasting since August of 2002. It was at that time that the pair were suspended and subsequently fired from WNEW, the New York City talk station that their show was the cornerstone of. Apparently, it's against FCC regulations to *talk* about consenting adults allegedly conducting sexual acts in St. Patrick's Cathedral, despite an undeniable lack of visual evidence or affirmation of a guilty verdict in a court of law. Injustices aside, the pair were still fired and to make matters worse, Infinity Broadcasting (their employer and one of the largest communications companies) would not release them from their freshly signed contract. Opie and Anthony were being paid *not* to get back on the air, ostensibly so that they couldn't tell their side of the story until a time when nobody would care anymore.

Well, at least that's what Infinity Broadcasting thought.

Fans of the show proved the media mogul wrong, however, as they flocked to purchase XM Satellite receivers and quickly activated their service after the announcement of Opie and Anthony's return to their airwaves was made in August, 2004. Fans and industry watchdogs alike were chomping at the bit to hear all the sordid stories regarding the duo's firing once and for all, not to mention all the other stories previously prohibited from discussion during their show's tenure at WNEW. Why were these stories vaulted for so long? Well, fellow broadcaster and Infinity Broadcasting employee Howard Stern had issued a "gag order" to all other shows on the company payroll in 2000, prohibiting his name or stories involving his name to be mentioned in any way, shape or form. For years, the behind-the-scenes feud between Opie and Anthony and Stern escalated, with Infinity Broadcasting in the middle of it all. Only cryptic doses of the battles were told during WNEW broadcasts. Stern never breathed a word about them on his own program across the street at WXRK.

But out from under the watchful eyes of Infinity Broadcasting and now safely on XM Satellite Radio, it has been "game on" for the information to come flooding out. And come out it has. Granted, the first broadcast made by Opie and Anthony on their new sta-

tion was not the grandiose slam-fest some listeners might have hoped for. After all, they are the "pioneers" of the medium, being the first really large-scale venture either of the two competing services has taken on. The boys did deliver some of the dirt, though, with the promise that the remaining stories were shortly on the way. Another one of their infamous "radio teases"? No, more like two professionals finally feeling comfortable, knowing that nobody with a suit on his back and dollar signs in his eyes will "ruin it" for them this time around. They are finally free to speak their minds.



JIM NORTON ROCKS!
Courtesy of Ian Rice

That's the beauty of the burgeoning satellite radio market—it is completely uncensored. But don't read "uncensored" as "an invitation to abuse vulgarity." In the case of Opie and Anthony, the pair have refrained from using profanity much at all on their program (save for the callers and the perennially filthy-mouthed genius Jim Norton). Instead, Opie and Anthony read "uncensored" as "the freedom to talk about whatever they please, whenever they please." No more banned subjects, no more creative substitutes for minimally offensive terms like "laid" or "road head." First the first time in their collective careers, Opie and Anthony are completely unfettered. And, truth be told, their program is better off for it, even as they continue to work on getting acclimated after being off the air for such a long duration.

It is this newfound freedom that has caused many other broadcasters to take notice (namely Howard Stern, who confirmed

a deal with XM competitor Sirius beginning in January of 2006) and has prompted the question, "Is satellite the future of radio?" As of right now, the answer appears the answer is a definite "yes." While the medium has steadily been growing since its inception in 2001, the hiring of Opie and Anthony has certainly caused a lot more people to take notice. In fact, XM reported stock increases with the signing of Opie and Anthony, as did Sirius with their subsequent arrangement with Howard Stern. The addition of two of the biggest names in the radio industry to the medium has certainly leant an air of success to both stations and has caused many people to view it in a much more serious light.

Some might say that it's time that they should view satellite that way, given the state commercial radio is in these days. FM radio has become a sterilized corporate industry, exactly what it set out *not* to be upon its introduction during the early part of the 1970's. Conceived as the antithesis of AM radio, FM set out to be a place where singles were ignored and advertisers were sent packing in order to let the music take center stage. In the course of the last thirty years, however, the same business-minded, money-hungry corporate honchos that took over the AM industry have slowly ruined FM. And the listeners had nowhere to go.

Until now, of course. Now, listeners can invest a relatively minimal amount of money and be connected to the satellite arena. Like a cable television station (such as HBO), satellite radio is driven by the subscriber's dollars, not the advertiser's dollars. It is almost exactly like FM was in its formative years, pandering strictly to the listeners and letting the free-form ideology take firm control. Will satellite eventually end up like FM and AM did before it? Well, the law of average says that it most likely will. But for the time being, people should be taking advantage of the endless avenue of choice and freedom that has been placed before them and get themselves satellite radio immediately. Satellite is the future of radio because all other radio outlets are gasping their last breaths.

The Opie and Anthony Show airs coast-to-coast each weekday morning from 6-10AM ET, with additional encores around the clock, on XM202. Visit http://www.xmradio.com/programming/channel_page.jsp?ch=202 for more information.

STONY BROOK RECYCLES!

PAPER

- NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, CATALOGUES
- WHITE/COLOR PAPER
- NO GLOSSY OR WAXY PAPER!

PLASTIC

- BOTTLES & JUGS (MUST BE EMPTY AND CRUSHED)
- NO STYROFOAM, FOOD CONTAINERS

STONY BROOK RECYCLES!

PAPER RECEPTACLES

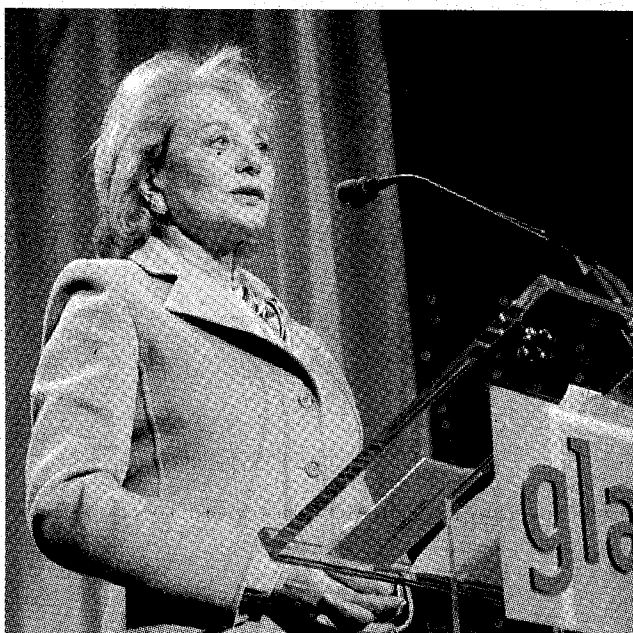
ARE ON MAIN CAMPUS AND SOME DORMS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB ENCOURAGES YOU TO RECYCLE!

20/20 Rewrites History: The Murder of Matthew Shepard

By Jorge Sierra

This past Friday, ABC's 20/20 featured an investigative report reexamining the 1998 murder of 21-year old college student Matthew Shepard, the brutal crime that shocked the nation and brought anti-gay hate into the national consciousness. Six years later, 20/20's report directly challenges the mostly unquestioned fact this even was a hate crime. The report gives a completely different explanation for the brutal crime, with interviews from several people close to the case or the people involved, including Matthew Shepard's killers, who are currently serving life in prison. As 20/20 co-anchor Elizabeth Vargas argued in very strong language: "It is the legend and not the complete fact that has been printed again and again."



SOMEHOW I'M STILL ALIVE,
Courtesy of robots

Vargas interviewed the killers Aaron McKinney and Russ Henderson, their chief prosecutor Cal Rarucha, Aaron's girlfriend Kristen Price, the police officer who recovered the murder weapon, and several acquaintances of McKinney, who by all accounts was the one who beat Matthew to a bloody pulp. All say that Aaron was hooked on crystal meth, and state that "methamphetamine rage" probably or certainly was what drove him to beat Matthew so savagely. Aaron claims that he lured Matthew into his car to rob him, in part because he has out of cash and drugs. He denies the anti-gay motivation, although he still claims Matthew came on to him. Aaron and Kristen now say they purposely corroborated the widely-held belief that it was an anti-gay crime in hopes the jury would let Aaron off easy.

That's about what was public about this report before it aired, and it's easy to understand why that alone made headlines and worried a lot of people. Personally I think 20/20 would never have gone forward with this story unless the evidence had been overwhelming, and although not everyone Elizabeth Vargas interviewed buys the methamphetamine argument, after watching this hour-long report, I think it's solid.

But that wasn't all. 20/20 also goes into excruciating sob story detail about Matthew Shepard and his two killers (goodness but I completely forgot about 20/20's sob stories), much more detail than I wanted to know. I don't want to know that his killers had troubled childhoods, or that Matthew was once raped, learned he had HIV, and started doing drugs

himself. And I *really* don't want to know that Russ Henderson did well enough for himself that he became an Eagle Scout. The report also questions whether Matthew knew his killers and even whether Aaron was bisexual, although these assertions are more disputed. I don't know right now what the headlines and reactions are going to be following this story, but they can't be pretty.

Up to now it's been basically gospel that this was an anti-gay hate crime, but this story literally destroys what we call history. Is it any wonder some people were attacking the show before it even aired? We were told for many years that this was a hate crime, an anti-gay crime representing one of our greatest evils. We had some sick people—they dared to call themselves people of faith—going around saying terrible things about this guy and his family. It really horrified most of the country. I know my religion is very clear on this one: murder is wrong, and God loves each and every human being. I remember also my mother's reaction when Matthew, on the verge of death for several days, finally passed away. It was a heartbreaking story. I don't want to hear that it's false.

I cannot understand why God has chosen to make things happen in this way. I've always thought there was a reason this story happened, why him, why then, and I thought the answer was obvious. Just recently, the FBI released its 2003 hate crime report. There were 1430 crimes motivated by anti-gay hate last year, including six homicides, and you know there are more. That world of hate is out there, barely visible—it's still out there. Something, somewhere has to be done to show the world the things that now take place under God's eyes alone.

It's a tremendous thing when one person is chosen to represent the stories of many faceless people. It happens with heroes, too, like those one or two stories of heroism I remember about the day the Twin Towers fell. There are stories that have to be told, and just a select few are chosen to represent them. This is why our legends exist, to speak for all those unknown and forgotten who but for them would be silent entirely. But now we learn that it's an assignment that God does not always assign fairly. What are we to say to that?

Elizabeth Vargas was, I thought, very sensitive during her entire report, much more so than I could ever be. The program made it very clear that this was a horrible, completely unjustified murder, that it was devastating to Matthew's family, and that some religious fanatics behaved completely inappropriately in its aftermath. It tried to affirm a lot of the good that has happened since then. But it's a still lot to handle.

So much has happened since Matthew's death. People took sides in the aftermath, and they will forever be judged by what they did and said. I have to believe that some of what has transpired has literally brought some people back from the dead. I mean, that's the point of it all, right? Maybe this country's very history has been changed, but it doesn't change the fact that we were faced with a test, and by and large we reacted against the public preaching of hate. That's something to be proud of. But as Elizabeth Vargas argued passionately on *The O'Reilly Factor* the week before this show aired, we still have anti-gay hate crimes happening every day, anti-gay murders every year. The same problems remain. We are being judged at this very moment. What shall we do now?

How do you
prepare for
your commute?

JOIN CSA!

Meetings:
Wednesday,
1:00PM in
the
University
Café

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The Hard Line

By Ben Bravmann



Abortion is murder. Doctors who perform abortions are murderers. Women who go to these doctors for abortions are willing accomplices. They all should simply accept these as facts. Imagine planting a seed in the soil, then, just when they discovered the plant was going to grow to be a flower, they decided that they didn't have the time or energy to tend to that flower so they yanked it out of the ground and stomped on it until it was sure to die. This is abortion, except human beings deserve more respect than flowers. In this analogy, sex is the equivalent of planting a seed, but with serious consequences. Once a seed is planted and you know it is going to grow into a flower crushing the seed or sprout is the same or worse than killing the flower. Once a woman is known to be pregnant, killing the fertilized egg is the same or worse than killing a human because you didn't even give it a chance.



Now let me address the argument that women should have control over their bodies. I agree that women should have complete control over their bodies. Just as men have control over their bodies. I decide if I am going to jump off a cliff or not jump off a cliff because I have control. Yeah, whatever. If you are a woman, you have a responsibility to treat the ability to be a vessel for new life with the deepest respect. If you do not think you can

handle this responsibility you should get fixed or at the very least be on birth control (in case you are raped) and of course, since none of these methods are fool proof you should NOT HAVE SEX.



This, of course, assumes that you have access to birth control (the pill or implants). Still, you should not be having sex if you can't handle the responsibility of having a baby. If you get raped, I can understand how it would then seem all right to get an abortion, i.e., the day-after pill kind. I mean it's still murder, but it's all about you, right? You and your freedom. Of course one human life is not more important than nine months of emotional stress for you (and a lifetime of wondering what happened to the baby you put up for adoption), or is it? I mean it's not like there is a long-ass waiting list of infertile parents waiting to adopt a newborn baby...or is there?



What would be better is putting women back on a pedestal where they belong (did we ever really take them off it?). They are there on that so-called pedestal because they are vulnerable to being violated in the worst of ways. If women want to maintain autonomy over their bodies they need to accept responsibility for the womb they carry. This means not walking home drunk and alone. We are not living in a safe world. Evil lurks

around every corner tempting you to sink to its level (I exist). When you are raped, you only perpetuate the violence by robbing the innocent life within of its chance in this world. If you have consensual sex, get pregnant, and have an abortion, it is that much worse.



You should know I'm pro-choice. I don't think it's right to force a woman to have a baby; I'm not G-D. I just believe people need to accept it. Abortion is murder and you will meet those you have murdered in the afterlife. Try explaining to them that you were raped, or the condom broke, or that you just didn't care. Though I doubt spirits who were never given a chance at life are likely to offer much forgiveness. One last note: if you had a child you loved, at what point would you let it die? Most mothers I've met would be willing to die to even have a chance at saving their child's life, and this is my view on women who are at risk of death when giving birth. Get fixed or prepare to shoulder the consequences.



TIN FOIL SPERMIES
UNFORTUNATELY
PENETRATE THE CREEPIEST
EGG EVER,
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

Is Statesman's Library Show Phony?

By Greg Lubicich

In spring 2004, the Main Library and/or the Provost's office invested over \$50,000 adding new bathrooms and renovating the Commuter Student Study Center so that it could eventually be open 24/7. The Commuter Student Study Center is also sometimes called Main Library Commuter Lounge. Despite the fact many people in the Department of Student Affairs had little or nothing to do with the financing of the project and were not the driving forces in the matter, the generally positive and upbeat February 5, 2004 Statesman article on the matter ("Commuter Lounge Gets a Facelift") generously mentions and/or quotes several people from the Department of Student Affairs while completely and entirely failing to mention those who deserved the most credit--the Director of the Libraries and the Provost's Office.

In contrast, the generally critical Statesman article of November 18, 2004 ("Study Longer, Not Harder") decrying the lack of late night academic facilities mentions or quotes the Director of the Libraries, the Associate Director of the Libraries, and even the Director of Instructional Computing multiple times. There are a couple of problems here. First, none of these people have control over whether another administrative branch of the University insists on a security camera (which is what is causing the delay in keeping the Commuter Student Study Center open late). Second, readers should know that at least one prior Director of the Libraries wanted to completely eliminate

late night study facilities. The current Director of the Libraries was from his first day at the University committed to finding the funding to install bathrooms, security gates, and generally upgrading the lounge. He has achieved all these worthy goals.

So why is it that in this matter Statesman allegedly demonizes the people who deserve the most credit while lionizing those who deserve little or no credit whatsoever? Does Statesman use "kid gloves" on the Department of Student Affairs? Does the sudden appearance of sheep-like bleating about the library from Statesman tell you that certain unscrupulous administrators gave the OK to their alleged little cronies in Statesman to go after an easy target, the librarians? As usual, many people are of the opinion that the answer to these questions is yes.

The REAL source of the delay in establishing late night hours is certain higher ups in Public Safety (not the rank and file University Police) who may be insisting on a camera despite the fact that studies have shown that after the first 20 minutes of a shift CAMERAS DON'T REDUCE CRIME because the attention of the people watching the monitor naturally wanders. If one wants to prevent crime, more officers and higher community standards are statistically proven methods. "As feel-good measures, surveillance cameras lead us to waste limited resources that could be better spent putting police officers into neighborhoods... Surveillance cameras are not a substitute for community policing." (Source:

http://archive.aclu.org/issues/privacy/Barnes_Testimony.html)

"A three-year study commissioned by the British government and conducted by the Scottish Center for Criminology suggested that "spy" cameras had little or no effect on crime." "It may help in securing convictions, but it doesn't actually prevent the crime." (Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=08032002-020813-4448r>. See also other works by noted criminologist Jason Dittion, and <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5942513>). If the goal of security camera installation is crime prevention, it won't work more than one hour per day (3 shifts times 20 minutes). If the goal of security camera installation is crime conviction, it is the wrong goal. It is cold comfort to your concussion that the person who bonked you on the head will go to jail because a camera got it on tape.

So for 30+ years a few monitors like RSP kept the non-existent "studying-crime wave" in check but all of a sudden we need cameras because someone's relative may be selling surveillance equipment? Did Statesman FOIL the name, company, and price of the camera equipment? Does Statesman give "fair and balanced" coverage to Department of Student Affairs versus the librarians and Provost? Did Statesman ask the hard questions? Did Statesman analyze the real issues in this matter? As usual, many people are of the opinion that it did not.

Hybrid Cars

By Keith C. Smith

With gasoline prices at an all time high, consumers are paying more attention to the fuel efficiency of their prospective car purchases.

Some people are looking for the most horsepower in a car. Others seek out the most comfortable car. But as the number of people seeking the most fuel efficient cars rises Honda and Toyota have both generated fuel efficient alternatives to conventional cars.

One such alternative was the diesel engine car. It provided better gas mileage than any conventional compact car, yet it did not sell very well. Newest on the scene are cars utilizing

both a conventional gas powered engine and an electric motor. These "hybrid" cars offer even greater fuel efficiency than diesel cars did. The technology works by having the gas motor shut off completely when the car is at a stop. The electric motor takes over and the car runs exceptionally smooth. During stop-and-go traffic, which accounts for most of the driving done in large cities, the electric motor continues

to move the car. Only when the vehicle reaches speeds of 15 mph or more does the gas motor take over. The Honda Civic Hybrid, for example, will give you 51 miles per gallon of gas, as compared to it's non-hybrid version which gets about 30 mpg.

When Toyota Motor released the first in their line of hybrid cars, the Prius, in June, 2001, Toyota President Fujio Cho made a prediction. He said that cumulative sales of the company's hybrid vehicles would hit 300,000 by 2005. This prediction did not look as if it would come to fruition when sales of the Prius

barely broke 15,500 that year.

"I just thought it wasn't for me," said one motorist about not buying a hybrid car in 2001. "The hybrid cost a lot more, and I figured I'm not really changing the environment much by driving it."

In 2002, sales didn't vary greatly. "With gas prices at historic lows, the cost of fuel is not as important as many other vehicle characteristics, such as towing and safety features," said Ron DeFore, a spokesman for the Coalition for Vehicle Choice.

However, 2003 changed all that when America went to war in the Middle East. "The tightness of the crude [oil] market has transferred itself to products in the States," said independent energy consultant, Geoff Pyne. According to the Energy Information Association, the average price of unleaded regular gasoline rose to 98.1 cents per gallon, from 80.6 cents just a year prior. It changed the way people shopped for vehicles.

"You have to wait a year just to get one now," said one Toyota dealer when this reporter asked about buying a Prius. "We get our stock in September and by May they're gone."

A Honda dealer told this reporter about the type of people who buy his hybrid cars. "They are mostly educated people. They do the research and come here knowing they want to help the environment and to save money." When asked about the \$2,000 price difference between the hybrid and conventional engine model, he told me that you will save that much in gas within two to three years. In addition, the



HOW MUCH IS ELECTRICITY PER GALLON?
Courtesy of Keith C. Smith

government offers a tax credit for buying a hybrid that nearly makes up the price difference. I asked if he thought that the increase in gas prices has affected hybrid sales. He said "Definitely."

The success has grown so much that the Automotive Club of New York has named 2004 the "Year of the Hybrid". A statement supported by the 2004 North American International Auto Show in Detroit. This year's show presented a flood of new hybrid entrants. They included SUVs, pickup trucks, and family cars from five different manufacturers. The coup de grace came when a hybrid car, the Prius, was named car of the year.

David Friedman, research director of the Clean Vehicles Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists stated, "Five years ago, most American consumers didn't know what a hybrid was. Now, one is named Car of the Year."

Still, some manufacturers have not been taken in by the success and are holding off on making their own hybrid models. "The best place for hybrid technology is larger vehicles. We want to start big," says Ken Stewart, General Motor's marketing director for new ventures, including hybrids. GM intends to produce the first hybrid SUV by 2007. GM hasn't been totally absent from the hybrid market. True to their word of making larger hybrids, they have been working on some of the largest ones in America...Buses. GM has been producing hybrid buses that are about 60 per-cent more fuel efficient than the diesel buses that came before them. By the end of 2004, GM hopes to have 270 hybrid buses in service.

The continued success of the hybrid no longer relies on the fluctuating price of crude oil. "People have gotten the incentive they needed to learn more about [hybrids]," one Honda dealer told me, "Now that they know what a superior product it is, in ten years they will be everywhere."

Liberals Care About Values Too

By Laura Positano

By a narrow margin, George W. Bush managed to win the 2004 election. His reelection defied logic for many liberals. A day or so after his reelection was made certain (since the election was so tight to the end), the fighting in Falluja began intensifying. He was the one who proclaimed "mission accomplished," and yet more than a year later, the war wages on. Pundits of both conservative and liberal leanings said his reelection, despite the disastrous Iraq war, was due to his values. Exit polls of Bush voters proved this theory. Kerry also stood for values, such as raising the minimum wage, improving the environment, and supporting civil unions. If values were such a determining factor, why did Bush win?

Bush wants to ease restrictions on polluting companies and limit the amount of money people could get if their doctor is incompetent and they sue the doctor. Some people may say that medical malpractice suits only benefit "greedy trial lawyers." Trial lawyers can be as greedy as journalists, doctors, or any other occupation for that matter. They may also be as honest as any honest doctor or journalist. Bush uses stereotypes, such as the greedy trial lawyer, or the gay couples bent on destroying the institution of marriage. Marriage is already in decay, if you think about adultery, spouse abuse, or divorce. These problems afflicting the institution of marriage existed before the "fad" of gay marriage began.

By capping the amount of money people can get from doctors who permanently disfigure

or disable, et cetera, due to the doctors' incompetence, Bush is not being compassionate.

By allowing for the further degradation of the environment, Bush is not being compassionate either. Compassion is a value shared by most, if not all, of the world religions. Here the Democrats show the values beyond compassion, like wisdom, justice, and humility. Why can't Bush be more like the Democrats on these two issues?

By playing with the concept of making his religious beliefs the law of the land, by amending the Constitution, he is violating values America has stood for. The United States has been viewed as exemplary for its recognition of egalitarianism. This belief has been

justified by a Constitution that values the right for people to pursue happiness, as long as their actions do not present a clear danger to other citizens.

Jesus, who is purportedly Bush's favorite philosopher, was compassionate. I wonder what Jesus, a friend of lepers and prostitutes, would say to him about this? I doubt Jesus would support amending the Constitution to restrict rights, rather than increase rights like amendments usually do.

The values of equality and fairness tend to be values Democrats stand for.

"I doubt Jesus would support amending the Constitution to restrict rights."

Democrats should have emphasized this, and appealed to the sense of fairness in citizens across the country. Bush was able to inspire Catholics and other religious groups to believe that he was the only candidate with morals. Kerry should have appealed to pro life Christians with the following argument: morals are consistent, are they not? If a person is pro life, which means believing in the sanctity of human life, then they should be pro life. Bush may say he is pro life and yet he still has not apologized for an unjustified war. Perhaps he may have been advised wrong, but he is the Commander-in-Chief. He should apologize for following bad advice, being the supposedly moral person he is. Bush can not say he is pro life while making it harder for the elderly to get

life-saving prescriptions. Not all eighty year old men and women still work; in fact, most are retired. Bush wants people to invest in health savings accounts, but could a grandma who has been retired for thirty years and shops at Key Food invest in such an account?

I hope Bush could become the compassionate conservative he said he was when he was originally running for the presidency in 2000. Perhaps he will be the uniting president that he still promises to be. Hopefully, these sentiments are not pipe dreams.

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* If you have an eating disorder, you are still welcome to write for our literary supplement at any time and we sincerely apologize for any undue stress created by this advertisement. Our market research has unfortunately concluded that overweight people who get drunk and naked at sporting events are really, really funny. - Mgt.