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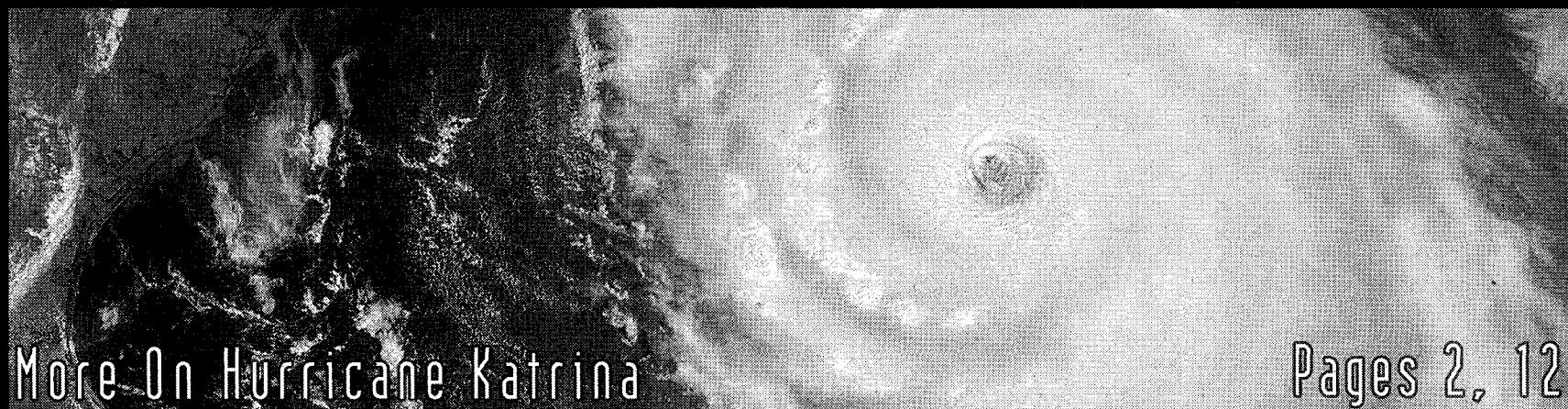
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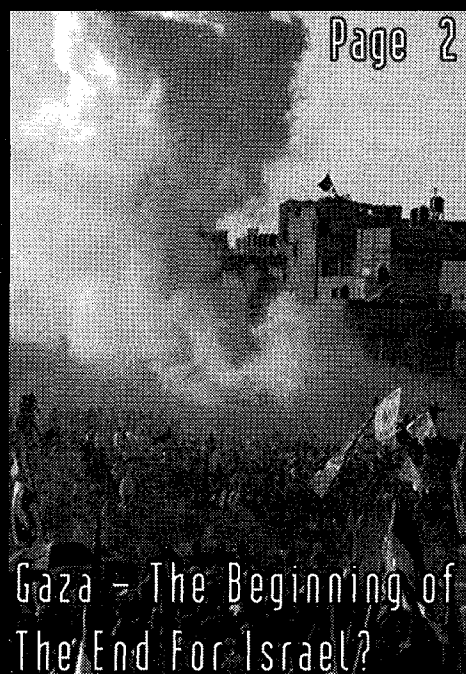
"My cleavage looks like the Eiffel Tower"

Sept 29, 2005



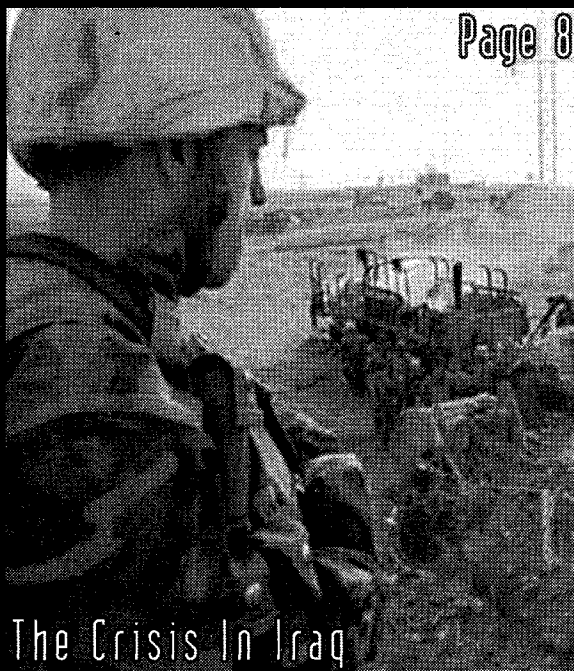
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Gaza - The Beginning or the End for Israel?

By Karen Shidlo

It seems that some progress is being made in Gaza. Israelis have just finished clearing an area that they have occupied for 38 years, pacifying Palestinians, temporarily at least.

Palestinian President Abbas, has told his people that they may now celebrate, saying that "[today] our people have the right to celebrate their freedom, their dignity. This place was a taboo for us...and now we are standing here."

He has been quoted as saying that he would gain control of Gaza - what he referred to as being "one large prison" - by the end of 2005, leaving him able to enter peace talks with Israel about other areas of concern.

Mr. Hussein, the Chief of Staff in Palestine, has promised that Abbas would comply with the conditions demanded by Israel before discussions can commence. This means dealing with the terrorist groups in Palestine and Abbas is showing ruthlessness by disarming the small groups within his own Fatah first; large organizations such as Hamas and II - Jihad will be targeted next.

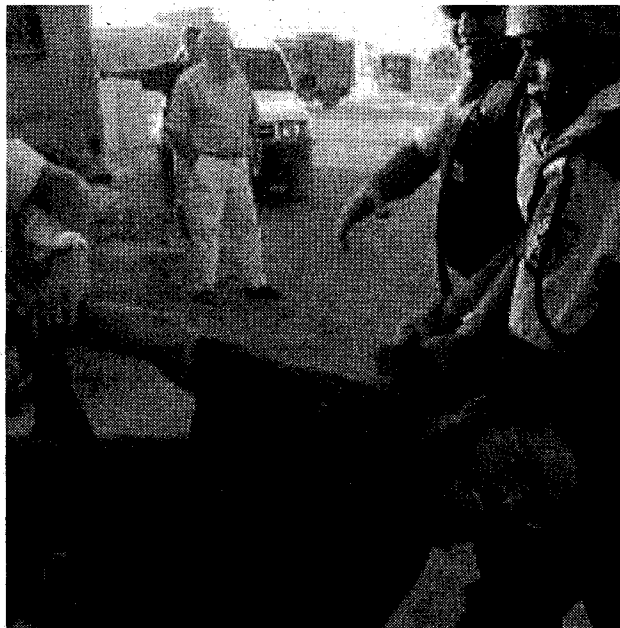
This all sounds comforting after the seemingly endless acts of violence in both countries, with suicide bombings and killing on both sides resulting in over 3000 deaths and 29,000 injuries since January 2001 in Gaza alone, not to mention other regions in Israel and Palestine.

However, the conflict has hardly been resolved. While Palestinians are currently celebrating their acquisition of Gaza, they are not satisfied, with Abbas commenting "[today] Gaza, tomorrow the West Bank and [East] Jerusalem," referring to all the territories captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

What does this mean for Israel, though? Already, Prime Minister Sharon has had to deal with massive demonstrations nationwide in response to his decision to return Gaza to Palestine. The pullout itself resulted in more than 300 arrests, several road blocks and has been the first time that Israel has removed established settlements from those areas in four

decades of construction and expansion.

Sharon has made public his plans for the near future, including such projects as establishing a security line in critical areas, continuing the war against terrorism (where have we heard this before!) and the erection of the Security Fence. After recent meetings with George W. Bush, Sharon is able to state that "The U.S. President is a friend to Israel and leads the international campaign against terror. He admires the State of Israel and the Israeli people for our resolved and determined stand in the face of terror."



DISPLACEMENT IN GAZA
Courtesy of Israeli Withdrawal

He claims that the support promised to Israel will have a great impact on the decisions that Sharon is intending to make concerning the ongoing Palestinian crisis. With the US's support of "Israel's right to secure and protective borders, and 'defensible borders'" and "recognition of Israel's right to defend itself by itself

anywhere and to preserve its strength of deterrence against any threat," Sharon will undoubtedly be granted a degree of confidence with which to approach the conflict.

The most controversial aspect of the US's involvement in the affair? The fact that Bush acknowledges that there will be no Israeli withdrawal to the '67 lines and the promise of taking Israel's side when in negotiations with Palestine.

Sharon also listed all the advantages of the Disengagement Plan in an attempt to gain more support for the project, including such promises as: the preservation of Israel forever; insurance that the Palestinians will end their violent terror, hence relieving political pressure from Israel; and making it so that Israel is the "leader" and the "initiator." He said that whoever disagrees with the Disengagement Plan forfeits all the accomplishments made so far and that he believes that the Plan is ultimately good for Israel.

Besides the social implications, that settlers have been forced to leave their homes and build their lives from scratch, the future of Israel seems filled with instability, discontentment and, undoubtedly, violence. It seems that, despite Sharon's optimism concerning the future of his country, the road to peace will continue to be a long and rocky one, even with the assistance and promises of his friend Bush.

Not much seems to have been achieved by the returning of Gaza to Palestine, for their appetite for land seems unsatiable and Israel is reluctant to give up any more settlements. It appears that thousands of people were driven out of their homes without achieving much in the name of peace and that is the saddest part of this conflict.

So while one nation is finding new hope in achieving their goal - integrating what is today Israel into Palestine - another is anxious about retaining their independence.

Recall the Moron and Don't Even Try to Make the Rest of Us Pay for His Idiocy!

By Natalie Schultz

How much evidence of incompetence is needed to remove a clueless official from office? New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin first proved his incompetence to the world by not evacuating the residents of New Orleans in a timely and efficient manner; then he tried to let people come back to their destroyed homes against the advice of FEMA, only recanting his advice after the reality of Hurricane Rita was all over television screens. This guy has got to go! He is an utter moron no matter how you look at it. Any Democrat stupid enough to stand up for him just because he is not a Republican is equally ignorant, and any blind partisanship will get the Democrats nowhere.

Now onto who is going to pay to rebuild the Gulf Coast: Don't even think of raising taxes on the rest of us! The American taxpayers should not have to pay for the idiocy of Louisiana officials, especially after so many good-hearted Americans have willingly opened their wallets and homes to the victims on their own accord. It's time our elected officials across all political parties started to cut back on spending across the board. That goes for George W. Bush as well; we need less government interference in our lives; true conservative policy calls for cutting back on spending and cre-

ating tax laws that encourage Americans to take the country back into their own hands. Bush's faith-based initiatives are a step in the right direction; whether you are religious or not it is clear to see that such groups are much better at handling post-disaster recovery than the government. The Salvation Army is the best example of an effective religious organization.

Right now, the government has a perfect opportunity to change our country for the bet-

"The only thing standing in our way is government..."

ter. The need to rebuild such a large area of the southern United States creates an opportunity that I could never have dreamed of myself. We can finally take a serious step towards protecting our environment and reducing our need for foreign oil. The answer is simple: alternative energy. If every single home and business on

the Gulf Coast is rebuilt using recycled materials and powered with solar energy this will do worlds of good for our entire country. This technology already exists and it works. The only thing standing in the way is the government; if our congresspersons and senators really want to do good for the whole country they will get together and pass laws giving tax advantages to companies that take all of the rubble from these areas and recycle it into usable building products. They will also pass laws that give businesses producing solar panels and solar roof shingles tax advantages so they can efficiently grow these businesses and compete with the less-efficient old-world building industry. By cutting back on the need for oil to power our homes we won't have to worry about the cost of home heating oil and gasoline skyrocketing every time a hurricane hits our refineries in the Gulf, not to mention the political effects in the Middle East.

Americans want energy-efficient alternatives; this has been made clear by the increasing popularity of hybrid cars. The government tells us that it is giving tax-incentives to businesses researching fuel-cells. I'll be the

Continued on next page

Recall the Moron and Don't Even Try to Make the Rest of Us Pay for His Idiocy!

By Natalie Schultz

Continued from previous page

first to admit that I love fuel-cell technology, but at the moment harvesting hydrogen without the use of gasoline is not feasible; therefore the government must give American car companies incentives to push out hybrid vehicles as fast as possible. Hybrid technology may not be the godsend of alternative energy, but at the moment it is the only truly efficient technology that actually works. The government must wake up to reality and embrace the technology that has already been proven to work, otherwise the Toyota Prius is going to be the only car on our American roads.

Europeans are way ahead of us when it comes to harvesting the natural powers of the earth. Homes in Europe are often being built with solar power, including windows that capture solar power. Ordinary homes are being heated by harvesting the geothermal heat

housed in abundance in the very earth beneath our feet. Ground source heat pump technology already exists and it works, but most Americans have never even heard of this wonderful source of home heating power. Our government must wake up to reality and give innovative companies the tax incentives necessary to compete with ordinary companies that build houses that waste energy. Many state governments, including New York, already do give homeowners tax incentives to convert to solar power. Even G.W. Bush's own home in Crawford, Texas is super-green. Its high-time that the federal government give tax incentives across the board to individuals and businesses alike to start harvesting the clean powers of the earth, rather than just sitting back and letting us destroy the earth with old-fashioned inefficient technologies that only cost us humans lots of money and cost the earth all of its natural glory.

We are in the midst of a deadly hurricane season as I write this. Hurricane Rita is Category 5, heading towards Texas at the moment. Scientists tell us that this may last 30 years or more. Whether you believe that this is do to global warming or not, is it really worth the risk of sticking with the status-quo when so many good earth-friendly alternatives exist? Some conservative lawmakers toss this kind of advice off as tree-hugging leftist hippie rhetoric. Take it from a self-proclaimed Reagan conservative: This is not rhetoric; no, this is the most economically efficient way to take our economy forward. It might be worth a look back at the presidency of Richard Nixon; after all it was Nixon who initiated the most environmental reform policies of any other president. Fiscal conservatives, its time to realize that environmental conservation is the most economically conservative road we can take.

Big Airlines in Trouble, Oh No!

By Alex Walsh

Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, the third and fourth largest air carriers in the country, have filed for bankruptcy protection. The filings, which occurred within minutes of each other, were the result of a long buildup of financial problems for the American air travel industry.

One of the main factors in Northwest's bankruptcy was the cost of labor. The airline had been flying for a month with its unionized mechanics on strike, after failing to secure concessions on wages, and faces a \$3.8 billion shortfall in payments to employees' pension plans. Both Northwest and Delta were also hurt by competition from smaller, lower-cost domestic carriers, and a dramatic increase in the cost of jet fuel. Northwest expects a fuel bill of \$3.3 billion for 2005, significantly higher than its costs of \$2.2 billion in 2004 and \$1.6 billion in 2003. Delta's costs are 50% higher than they were last year.

The air travel industry has never really recovered from the slump in traffic following the September 11 attacks. Delta and Northwest join United, the second largest American air line, and US Airways, the seventh largest, in bankruptcy, meaning that nearly half of the nation's air capacity is running on bankrupt carriers. American Airlines, the country's largest carrier, narrowly avoided bankruptcy in 2003, and has returned to profitability. Overall, the American air travel industry expects to lose a total of \$8 billion this year. Northwest, which had been struggling long before the attacks, was granted massive taxpayer-funded bailout packages from the state of Minnesota, in exchange for maintaining jobs in the state in 1991 and 1994, but another such deal is unlikely. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, when asked if he would consider another aid payment, said "Given how far they're in debt, it is really beyond the capacity of the government to save the day."

Analysts say that failures of management to react to changes in the market are as much to blame for the poor performance of airlines as rising fuel prices. A reluctance to alter labor relations and respond to the threat of low-cost, low-fare upstarts dragged down the largest carriers. In most cases, the attempts that were made at cutting costs came far too late. For example, until October of 2004, Delta's pilots

were being paid under a contract negotiated before 9/11. Some critics of the system believe that government aid and the protection of bankruptcy court allows large airlines to maintain poor business practices without the fear of actually being hurt.

The nearly simultaneous bankruptcies have led some in the industry to speculate on a merger between the two carriers. Delta and Northwest have had talks in the past, but nothing came out of them. The merger would be possible, as the carriers have very little route overlap. Delta, based in Atlanta, primarily services the eastern US, and launches many daily flights across the Atlantic. Northwest is concentrated in the Midwest, with extensive service to Asia. The lack of overlap means that a merger between the two would not significantly effect competition in either of their primary areas of focus, increasing the chance that such a move would be allowed by federal regulators.

Both airlines intend to continue flying under bankruptcy, hoping to minimize the effect on passengers, although services will probably be scaled back as they reorganize and cut costs. Many smaller cities, some of which are serviced exclusively by Delta or Northwest, are likely to be hurt by the reorganizations. The restructuring of the companies will also involve delegating more flights to regional partners, and of course, cutting jobs. Northwest has announced it will begin laying off employees (including 400 pilots) before the end of the year, and Delta plans to cut 9,000 jobs, on top of the 24,000 it has eliminated since 2001. Delta also intends to shed nearly 20% of its fleet. In the aftermath of these changes, assuming that no merger occurs, it is likely that Delta and Northwest will be more similar to the low-cost carriers, such as Southwest and Jet Blue, which helped push them into bankruptcy.



99 JET BLUE PLANES ON THE WALL, 99 JET BLUE PLANES, TAKE ONE DOWN...
Courtesy of Jet Blue

Pombo Versus Muir

By Brian Wasser

I don't know who Congressman Richard Pombo is or where he came from, but if his wild misunderstanding of the value of species other than ours isn't enough to frustrate any rational, knowledgeable person, his views on exploitation of public land are literally frightening, and obviously based in an insulated bubble of profit and twisted, stubborn dogmatism. His views on environmental issues certainly aren't based in any *fact*. After all, his joke of an editorial on drilling in Alaska was even more cliché than the standard pro-drilling arguments. The only thing he relied on was typical rhetoric like "environmentalist fanatics and their scare tactics," and "you can't conserve your way out of an empty tank of gas." Pombo also seems to think the U.S. is the world's leader in environmental protection. So it comes as no surprise that there's no insight whatsoever inherent in his new proposal to *sell* 15 National Park Service properties for energy and commercial development. I'm sure his distorted rationale for this planned atrocity is no different: that protecting natural landscapes undermines "America's can-do attitude."

The proposal, released by the Draft House Resources Committee on September 23, is part of broader legislation that includes opening ANWR to petroleum exploration, and allowing drilling in now-restricted areas throughout the country. As if this isn't bad enough, completely removing 15 parks from the Park System simply because they receive less than 10,000 visitors per year, is the most blatant of the recommendations, especially since almost half of these proposed properties are in Alaska, where it's pretty difficult to get that many visitors to

go anywhere. But aside from the transparent, makeshift validation of completely getting rid of some of the less popular parks is the harsh reality facing the parks that do survive. Suggested in the proposal are "mandated sales of advertisements on official Park Service maps and guides and on the inside and outside of all NPS buses, shuttles, vans, trams and passenger ferries." The Interior Department would also be required to solicit and sell commercial sponsorship of park visitors and education centers, museums, trails, auditoriums and theaters. Pombo may be onto something here: corporate theme parks as our national treasures. Expect John Muir to be rolling in his grave. As if creationist tours of the Grand Canyon, and a generally distasteful, tourist, consumerist air in all major parks weren't enough, now we are faced with the threat of increased corporate presence on everything to do with popular protected areas. If Pombo had his way, it wouldn't be long before Pepsi came out of Old Faithful and the Swoosh covered El Capitan.

All joking aside, the real pur-

pose of the National Park System, and the real benefit of a society which values open space as is, thereby showing that it has a comprehensive understanding of progress, altruism, quality of life and rationality, all seem to be getting lost.

Not only do these areas seem not to be protected for other species anymore, they don't even seem to be existing for the public good. At least, that's the apparent trend. With this course, the benchmark for parks justifying their existence will soon be 100,000

annual visitors. It sounds melodramatic, but the reality is that the scope of this legislation, and the implications for the hope of a genuine experience of a natural world that is either vigorously protected or else gone forever, are both sobering. "I have no idea what they

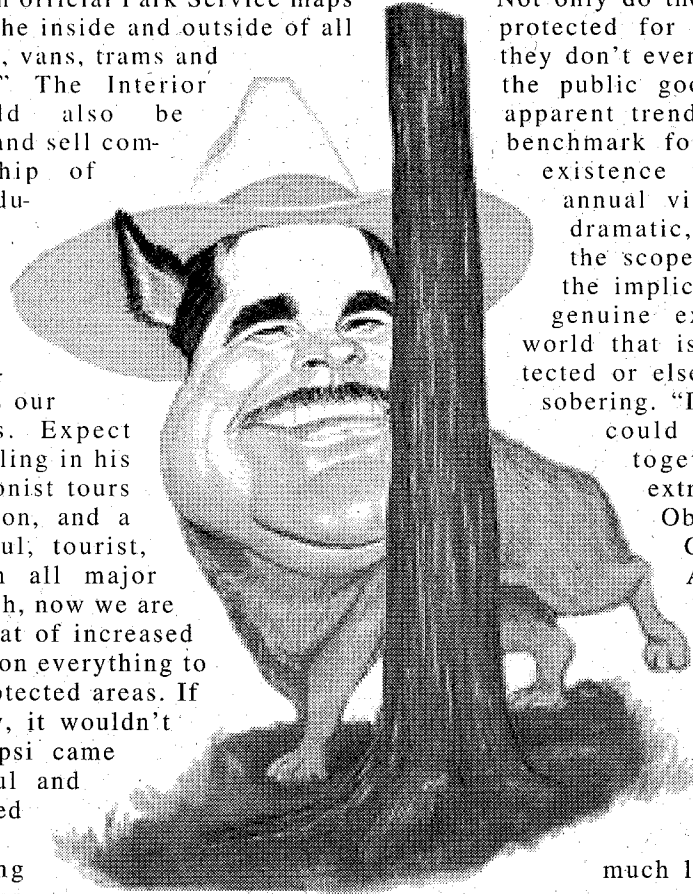
could be thinking putting together a proposal this

extreme," commented Craig Obey of the National Park

Conservation Association. "There are

certain people who will never be satisfied until you can sell advertisements and reap commercial profit from the national parks and this is that kind of proposal." To

be honest, there isn't much left that has avoided the reaper.



Indigenous Discrimination in Chile

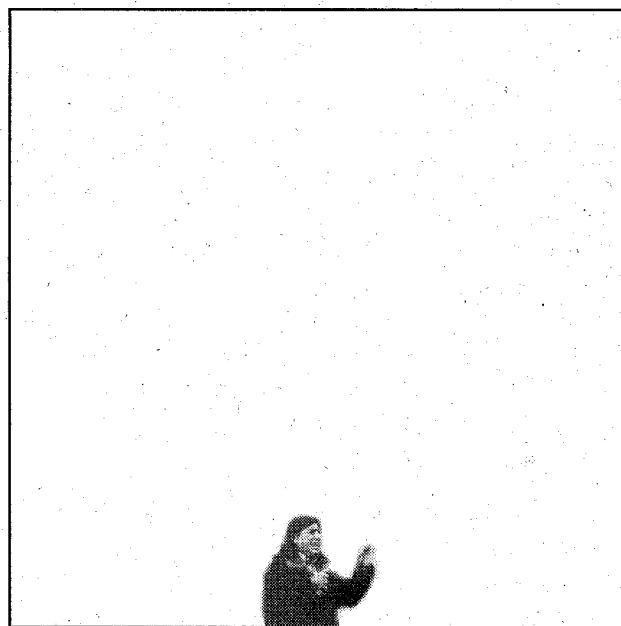
By Claudia Toloza

No matter what part of the world one looks at, it seems that discrimination is present everywhere. Most recently in Chile, Aucán Huilcamán, a Mapuche indigenous leader and an aspiring presidential candidate, was denied acceptance to the candidacy. In December, Chile will be holding its Presidential elections and Mr. Huilcamán was hoping to be able to represent the indigenous people of Chile as a candidate. Huilcamán was running for the presidency under the "Popular Indigenous Network" which is not a political party.

In order to be eligible to run for the presidency, a candidate has to have the backing of two political parties or declare himself an independent candidate and collect 35,171 signatures. Mr. Huilcamán more than met the requirements. He was supported by three of the presidential candidates, which included two candidates of the right of wing parties Sebastián Piñera and Joaquín Lavín, and also Tomás Hirsch, candidate of the Juntos Podemos Más alliance. Mr. Huilcamán had also been able to collect 39,100 signatures which he had collected on a horseback tour throughout Chile. Despite all of this, Aucán Huilcamán was denied acceptance as a presidential candidate; Ignacio García, director of the Electoral Service, explained that only 1,399 of the signature were valid, since they had met the requirements by being notarized. Mr. Huilcamán believes that the notarization requirement puts him and other candidates who do not have large financial resources at an extreme disadvantage.

It seems extremely unfair that a country which claims to be a democracy is not instituting democratic policies when it comes to its electoral system. According to the 2002 census, Chile's population is comprised of roughly 7-

10% indigenous people. Although indigenous people do not make up at least half of the population they are still Chilean citizens and it is unacceptable that they will not be able to be represented in Chile's December elections. This incident further shows the second class standing that indigenous people in Chile, Latin



THIS IS THE PICTURE THAT CLAUDIA WANTED, Here you go Claudia, get the size right next time.

America, and other parts of the world receive by their government. Indigenous people have more right than anyone as to having a say in their countries government, being that they were the first inhabitants many of these nations had before they became the countries we know them as today.

Aucán Huilcamán has every right in running for the Presidency of Chile. He is not worth less than the other candidates. If anything he is an even more valuable candidate because he is representing the most unrepresented group in the country. The notarization requirement on the signatures is an extremely discriminatory requirement. It undermines the meaning of democracy because it denies equal opportunity to Chilean citizens like Mr. Huilcamán. People like Aucán Huilcamán, who are not mainstream politicians, cannot be expected to have the same financial backing as the other presidential candidates since he is representing a group of modest financial income.

In Chile, Aucán Huilcamán has led the government to look inward and realize that their electoral procedures need to be changed. In fact, the leading presidential candidate Michelle Bachelet supports Mr. Huilcamán. Her support is rather surprising to some who feel that Huilcamán's candidacy may hurt her in the elections by taking votes away from her. Despite this risk, she still supports Aucán Huilcamán; perhaps she has realized that discriminatory practices do not belong in a democratic system. Also, current Chilean President Ricardo Lagos is supporting reform of the Chilean electoral system, which would allow Huilcamán to run for the presidency.

With just a few months left until Chile's December Presidential elections, hopefully Aucán Huilcamán will succeed in becoming an official presidential candidate. Even if he does not win the elections, Aucán Huilcamán has already won by challenging Chile's electoral system.

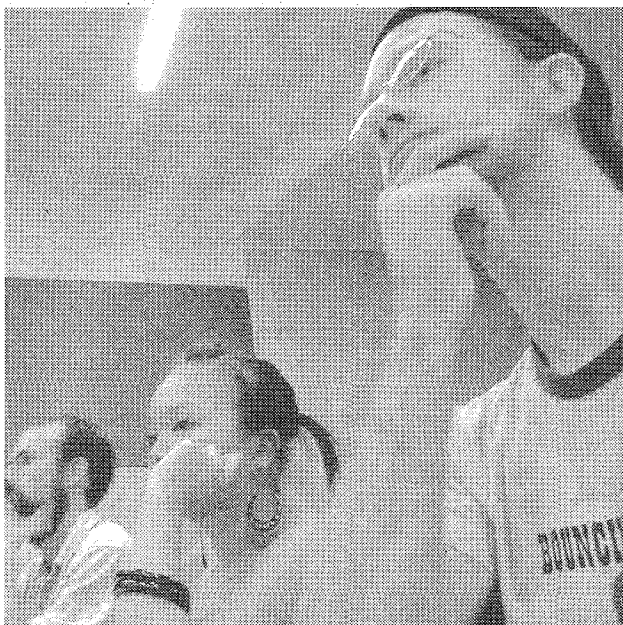
The Press Crashes President Kenny's Convocation

By Joan Leong



WE DID FIND FRIENDS, HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE US,
Courtesy of Rob Pearsall

To celebrate the opening of the new Humanities building, faculty, staff and students were invited to Shirley Strum Kenny's convocation. So naturally when I arrived they tried to keep me out. I told them I was from *The Press* and walked through the lady trying to tell me to stand in the back. I sat down next to Rob Pearsall and boy did we stick out like sore thumbs. Everyone was faculty and dressed to impress. The student body consisted of Rob and me because either all students weren't let in or they were smart enough not to waste an hour of their life. In this hour I learned the President Kenny looks absolutely stunning in a shiny blue suit, she makes cute jokes about the tripled students' situations and we get a whole lot of



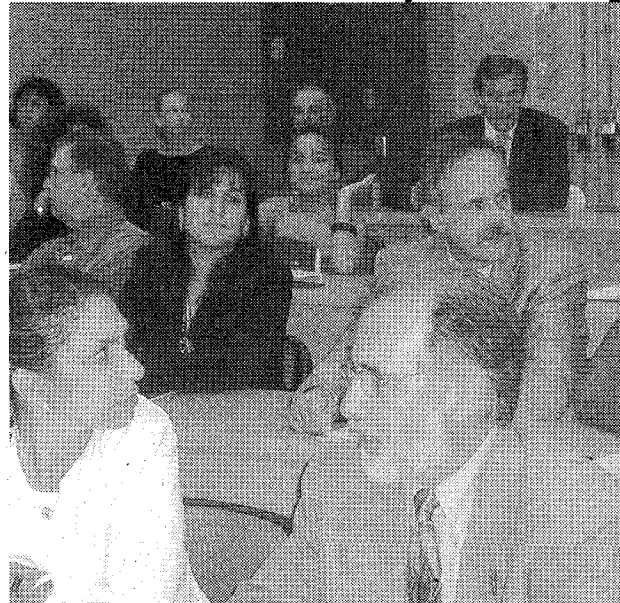
WE WERE MOST INTERESTED IN WHAT KENNY HAD TO SAY,
Courtesy of Rob Pearsall

money but we never see any of it.

The beginning of the convocation started off with a video of the Zebra Path, of course and the Wang Center of course. The rest of the video was just two narrators going back and forth about how wonderful we are. Finally, when President Kenny began her speech she sounded just like the tour guide video. For the next hour she mentioned over and over again how wonderful we are. It got ridiculous to the point where there were charts and graphs of how "stellar" we were. We are ranked 130 out of 183,000 for best universities by the London Times. We are in the top 100 in the world for best education. We are in the top 20 in North America for the Sciences. We are in the top 50 for public national universities. It went on and on like that until I lost track and stopped taking notes because I don't really care. Okay, we are a great university, who are you trying to convince?

What really impressed me was that she said she listened to the students complaints. She said that there is no fun outside the classrooms after Thursdays because Thursday nights are the only party nights. She said "the stadium is the place to be on the weekends" and there are parties all weekends. So the president encourages us to party all weekend and tailgate at the stadium. Also what really made me laugh and then go "HEY!" was her little joke about the lack of housing for students. "These last few years we spent about \$100 million dollars building new housing, and the result? Many students are still tripled." She giggles and the faculty giggled. I even giggled but when the giggling stopped, I thought, "Hey that was really fucked up." I was tripled my freshman year and it wasn't fun. There are triples in Roth and the rooms are tiny as it is and I know those tripled freshman are pissed off. A month into the start of school and people are still cramped into tiny spaces. She also made a joke about how some alumni come to visit and said they remember a lot of mud at Stony Brook and how there is still mud now. President Kenny was referring to beautifucking the campus with the new entrance. The entrance was unnecessary and she jokes about these things like it is so fucking funny. Students are pissed. Parents are pissed. Alumni are probably pissed as well. These are the people investing money into this school and instead of using our money and resources to help out the students; it's used needlessly for a new entrance.

President Kenny continuously talks about how many millions we make in fundraising and donations and how we are building alliances with corporations. Wow, I didn't realize we had so much money and yet our students see none of it. In most other schools, the students are their priority. I'm into my third year and I have yet to see the school care about their students. Instead of spending those millions of dollars into a new entrance, how about lowering the laundry machine prices or making it one



WHICH ONE OF THESE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER?
Courtesy of Rob Pearsall

student per desk? It's not that hard. I'm not even complaining that while Binghamton got Bob Dylan, we got rejects from hell Bowling for Soup. No matter how much praise you try to throw at the faculty or how hard you try to beautifuck the campus, you forget that the students are not content and are without housing. Even during President Kenny's speech, the lights went on and off repeatedly. It was all just a charade, the new building we are celebrating doesn't function properly. This school has done some great things but there is much need for improvement. Maybe one day there will be no more websites like, www.stonybrooksucks.com. Hats off to you President Kenny for trying to see only the silver lining, but all your little jokes aren't all that funny to us.



SHIRLEY STRUM, ALWAYS HAPPY TO SEE THE PRESS
Courtesy of Rob Pearsall



USG Senate Meetings

It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse!

It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse!

USG Senate Meetings

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It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse!

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It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse! It's a madhouse!

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And in the Center Ring!

This last USG Senate meeting was boring. The senators kept coming into the room well after it started. There was no quorum until around 7:20pm.. Dr. Baigent was a guest speaker. He arrived late and left early after fielding the vacuum of questions from the senate.

In order to run for the senate you need to get signatures, lots of them. You need to do the leg work involved in talking to people and convincing them to vote for you. Why didn't anyone ask Dr. Baigent about their job here? Why didn't they ask him about *his* job here? Here we have a guest speaker and no one in the elected senate wants to ask him a question.

Next up in the agenda for the night was an election for the Sergeant at Arms. Last year there was only one Sergeant at Arms. He was up for re-election. Before the voting there was a motion to have two people in the position of Sergeant at Arms. There's no more reason for two than there is for one. The idea of having two people in the position is not a bad idea. The air in room was, "Let's have two people in the position because there are two people running. Everyone leaves happy." That's a bad idea. The government should be making decisions based on what's right, not based on who's walking away dissatisfied.

The next vote was to decide the President Pro-

Tempore. Luckily they didn't decide on having two. The running was between Aryeh Glas and Amy Wisnoski. Aryeh stumbled through his speech and tripped over his words whenever Samuel Darguin called out the time. Amy was well spoken, eloquent even. She didn't have a piece of paper to guide her, she knew what she was doing when she went up to the podium to speak. Amy should have won by a landslide. A relative landslide, there were only 12 voters there. Aryeh's friend piped up about how Aryeh's speech was informative and well put and all-around grand. He was fellating his buddy. Justice Alex Borodkin went to the podium and threw her support for Aryeh. Two people threw their support to Amy.

The votes came in and we the new President Pro-Tempore is...Aryeh Glas with an 8 to 4 victory! Senator Glas has the position now and he better do a good job.

So in short, the Senate meeting gave us two Sergeants with pride intact. We got a President Pro-Tempore who, although qualified, shouldn't have his position. And a partially empty and slightly tardy senate body.

Let's see what happens during the next two meetings. Let us all hope that this was just people re-adjusting to school. Let's hope it's not a taste of apathy to come.

A Valuable Life Lesson: Don't Take Your Friends For Granted

I'm actually an introverted loner by nature, but one day I reached into my pants, found my balls, and marched down to the Union Basement, Suite 060...*The Stony Brook Press*. I immersed myself in the world of *The Press*, and in the end I gained some of the best friends I will ever have. My experience doing work there led me to solidify my interest in journalism as a career choice, too. For someone who for years had isolated himself from new people and new experiences out of cynicism and apathy, this was a new and exiting time for me.

But some of the most important lessons of life came to me after I graduated--in order to keep your friends, you have to be proactive and actually *work* to keep them. To be blunt, you have to give a damn or they won't give a damn about you. I made myself promise that I would work to keep them. And indeed I have. I still visit *The Press* to do production work and I enjoy the chance to see my friends, as I live far away and can't see them every day anymore.

But the most important thing about a strong friendship is not necessarily how often you see them or how much fun they are to be around, but rather, being supportive of them in bad times as well as good.

I can personally attest to this; one of my friends recently went through an emotionally draining week over some difficult family business, and she was very depressed. Now, there was no way I

could truly understand what she was going through, as I had never experienced the kind of loss she'd suffered, but nevertheless, I tried my best to be there for her in her time of need. Because that's what friends do, right? I feel our friendship is all the better for our giving each other whatever moral support we can, then as well as now.

Times like these really let you know if your friends are being true to you, and if they really value you as a person. Unfortunately, not everybody has it in them to stay true to their family or friends, whether because of apathy or fear or just plain self-absorbedness. Both my aforementioned friend and myself learned this the hard way. It's easy to hang out with people and shoot the breeze and have a few laughs, but it's not nearly as easy to actually build a meaningful relationship...or *maintain* that relationship.

Like I said before, in order to keep your friends, you have to give a damn about them or they won't give a damn about you.

Take it from me; I've spent most of my life as a loner, and if nothing else, that experience has taught me to avoid taking friendship for granted. And now I pass this lesson on to you, dear reader, with the hope you will apply it to your own life. Apathy is a bitch, and it will only bring you to a pace of loneliness, bitterness, and disappointment.

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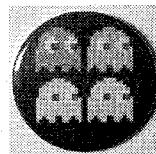
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Wool Over Your Eyes Is Fuzzy and Warm

To the Editor:

The SUNY tuition plan for Automatic Annual Tuition Increases is bad news for students and their families.

For one, New York public college students are already paying one of the highest tuitions in the nation and any further increases would continue to increase that cost.

Second, there is absolutely no guarantee that students and families will only see smaller, annual increases. In other states that supposedly index their tuition, during years of fiscal austerity students still get big, whopping tuition hikes above and beyond the annual, automatic increases. This could happen in New York too. Community college funding shows that the state already has set a bad precedent for following its own rules. Each year, the state is supposed to fund at least 40% of the community college budget and tuition is supposed to make up no more than one-third of the total budget. Each year, the legislature simply overrides this clause and is able to increase tuition more and provide less state funding. There is nothing stopping them from doing the same thing with the four-year colleges, even under these plans.

Any kind of tuition increase, whether it is a massive increase like the \$950 hike that SUNY students got in 2003 or annual increases like the ones being proposed by the State Senate, shifts the burden to fund New York's public colleges and universities away from the state and onto the backs of students.

Most importantly, this is not the right way to generate revenue for SUNY. In the past ten years, we have seen the cost of higher education skyrocket while state support for higher education has remained stagnant. It seems like the more the students pay, the less the state expends, and the further the burden shifts. This plan simply lets the state off the hook and digs deeper into New York college families' pockets.

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Please urge the Governor and Legislature to block this plan and any other plan that looks to tuition as a first resort rather than a last option for solving New York's fiscal woes. Its passage would ensure continued skyrocketing costs for students and their families for many years to come. You can start by attending NYPIRG's General Interest Meeting on Wednesday, September 28th at 1pm in the SB Union Ballroom. Next, attend the Public Hearing on the Future of Public Higher Education in New York, hosted by the New York State Senate and Assembly, scheduled to be held here at Stony Brook University on Thursday, October 6th from 9am until 3pm, location TBA. Tell your state representatives that you're not buying it. Automatic Annual Tuition Increases are harmful to students and their families and therefore harmful to the future of New York. Let your voice be heard.

For more information contact your local chapter of NYPIRG at 632-6457 or email at stonybrook@nypirg.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Contino
NYPIRG Project Coordinator

Dear Kate,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The failure of the state to find other sources of school funding is atrocious. Pushing students to pay more than their third only keeps less affluent students from attending college.

You can bet your meal plan that we'll be there on Thursday. By holding the hearing after such a long break it seems that they're banking on students not being at school. Less students means less of our voice being heard, whatever voice that might be.

Everyone should join *The Press* and NYPIRG on October 6th.

-Rob Pearsall, Executive Editor

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Sororities - The Real Story

By Louisa Johnson

As an active sorority sister, I have always been amazed at the amount of public interest in the "behind-the-scenes" story of Greek organizations. I recently read *Pledged*, Alexandra Robbins' look at sorority life, and I was surprised at her failure to distinguish between problems that arise within sororities and problems that arise within colleges. For example, she claimed that members of sororities were guilty of "binge drinking." This is true, I cannot deny it. Sorority girls do partake in binge drinking. So do frat guys, jocks, TAs, RAs, chemistry majors, members of honor societies, and probably some professors. Let's face facts: a lot of people drink in college. She reports that many sorority girls do drugs. Drugs are a serious problem in colleges across the country, and I seriously doubt that sorority girls represent the majority of the college-age, drug-using population. Ms. Robbins noted that eating disorders were very common in sororities. Again, I think that eating disorders are probably very common in college girls in general. Sorority girls really aren't any different from any other college girl, but they certainly undergo more scrutiny, which is possibly why they look so bad.

Sorority girls are often portrayed as alpha-girls, mean and judgmental, laughing at the fat girls, and never dating anyone who isn't the star of the lacrosse team, or, at the very least, in a fraternity. However, this is not my experience. I have met many, many sorority girls, and, for the most part, they seemed to be strong, unique, intelligent women, who joined an organization to make some friends, meet some new people, and to have a sense of home away from home. I have yet to meet the stereotypical sorority chick. It always surprises me to hear people say that they feel judged by sorority girls, because, truthfully, I have often felt judged for the fact that I'm in a sorority. I once walked into a 300-level philosophy class on the first day of class and was actually *laughed at* by the other students. Isn't that what the sorority girls are supposed to do? Laugh at the people who don't fit in?

Incidentally, I got an A in the class. It's interesting to me that sorority girls are labeled as mean, bitchy girls who drink too much, sleep around, use drugs, and look down on others. Based on that stereotype, it seems that the sorority girls are the ones who get judged. Also interesting is the fact that, in my time as a sorority girl, I've helped raise thousands of dollars for different charities. If one thousand non-Greek college students were polled, I guarantee that almost none of them would be able to name two charity events that they had taken part in during their college years.

Sororities aren't perfect by any stretch of

"When there are that many vaginas in an enclosed space, there's bound to be trouble."

the word. There are catfights, bitchiness, competition, and meanness. As one of my sisters once said: "When there are that many vaginas in an enclosed space, there's bound to be trouble." The bitchiness that sorority girls are famous for have very little to do with sororities and more to do with girls. As any girl knows, most girls don't really like girls, and most girls don't get along. Yes, there is tension sometimes, but it's a girl thing, not a sorority thing.

One major criticism of Greek organizations is the fact that we pay dues in order to be active members of our organizations. Some people consider this "paying for friends." This idea is ridiculous, of course, because the dues go to the treasury, not to the girls. I don't pay each of my sisters a specific amount every semester in order to keep them as friends. The money I pay goes to the treasury, which pays

for any number of things, including the parties we attend, the supplies we use in our fundraisers and charity events, and "sister" events (picnics, trips, etc.). Many clubs and organizations require its members to pay dues, including honor societies. The only difference is that honor societies endure far less scrutiny for it than sororities and fraternities. For that matter, I pay to attend this university. Does that mean that any friends I make within the university are, in fact, paid employees.

Then, of course, there's the issue of hazing. This is the one aspect of Greek life that I can't excuse, but I will say this. My pledge process was hard, but I never felt demeaned in any way. This is how all pledge processes should be. I don't condone violence or enforce drinking as a part of the process. When I crossed into my sorority, I was overjoyed, and I felt that I had grown so much as a person. I felt more independent, more secure, and more capable.

I can't believe that there are so many stereotypes surrounding Greek organizations. Some of the greatest artists, thinkers, and leaders were Greek. Ella Fitzgerald, Maya Angelou, George Washington, and Martin Luther King, Jr. were all Greek. Martin Luther King, Jr. is known for his contribution to the civil rights movement, not his great beer pong ability. Ella Fitzgerald is known for her liquid voice and incredible stage presence, not for her keg-stand time. I do believe most of the stereotypes associated with sororities are unfounded, and I do think that we are underestimated as human beings. I credit some of my very best friends, whom I do consider my sisters, to the fact that I pledged my sorority. Through the sorority, I have gotten to know some of the most intelligent, unique, and driven women I have ever met. They have broken the stereotypes and lived with scrutiny and judgment. I have no doubt that there are future senators, singers, movie stars, and CEOs among us, and I can't wait to see how far my bitchy, judgmental, alcoholic, drug-addicted, bed-hopping sisters can go.

The Crisis In Iraq

By Madeline Sheckter

When the war in Iraq began, a bunch of aging hippies starting running around calling it "Vietnam all over again." They had a point. Not that soy ice cream is good, because it's disgusting, but that we've gotten ourselves into a war we can't get out of for no good reason. Of course Saddam Hussein was a tyrant, children and small dogs know that, but he didn't have weapons of mass destruction and certainly was not involved in September 11th. A good portion of Americans think he was involved in September 11th, but a good portion of Americans think soy ice cream is tasty.

So what the fuck's going on in Iraq? It has become a bloodbath, with car bombs, suicide bombs and drive-by shootings providing a bloody backdrop for Hurricane Katrina. Last week, approximately 300 people were killed in a series of deadly attacks. Most of the casualties have been innocent Iraqi citizens trying to put in a day's work. Many of the victims were police, which should make one doubt President Jalal Talabani's assertion that 40,000 to 50,000 American troops could return home by the end of this year. It is clear that while Iraq is rebuilding an infrastructure, it is still fucked. I used a thesaurus; the only word for it is fucked.

The majority of the attacks have been

against Shiite Muslims, perhaps the most shocking of which occurred on September 14th. This attack was perpetrated by a group of men dressed as soldiers driving military vehicles. They arrested 17 people and shot them in a public square. This group of men either were soldiers or able to convincingly impersonate soldiers, neither of which is a comforting thought. While it had ten times fewer casualties than many of the bombing attacks, it was done by men who looked like soldiers, could pass for soldiers and were probably able to leave Taji unmolested.

Happily, shortly after the two most brutal days since the start of the war, the Iraqi Parliament signed a constitution. Now all they have to do is print up five million copies of it, and it should be printed and distributed by September 28th. This means that Parliament met their October 15th deadline; I mean "constitutional referendum" which outlines how the democracy they didn't technically, actually, technically speaking, want. Unfortunately, later that very day, a Kurdish member of Parliament, Faris Nasir Hussein, his brother and driver were shot by an unidentified man.

The war on terror does not appear to be going very well, but that's what happens when you try to fight a war against hate. The hippies

had a point about that, too. See the groovy thing about invading a country is that the people who live there don't like it. Actually, the people who live here don't like it either, but no one listened to us, or England, or any other country when we staged what was called "the largest war protest in history." The reason Iraqis resent our invasion so much, or at least the reason Fatih Abdulsalam gives, is that they are paying with their blood. Choosing a side is not a difficult matter; do you side with foreigners who have turned the structure of the country upside-down or with those who want them out? Iraqi citizens see the repercussions of our war against whatever-you've-got everyday, it is obvious that whatever happens it will not be favorable for Iraq. Those who pay for the bombings are innocent Iraqi citizens, not the terrorists we are supposed to be fighting.

Naturally, we realize this, which is why we're making more terrorists. According to a September 18th survey, the Saudi contingent of insurgents in Iraq was made up of well-educated, employed, middle class men. The majority of those interviewed claimed not to have been terrorist sympathizers before the war; indeed, 85% of those interrogated were not on militant watch lists. If there was any proof needed that fight-

Continued on next page

Oh Yeah, Bitch?

By Kristine Renigen

So, I came across an article about Greek life in last week's issue of *The Press*. I have to say that I was quite pissed. Did this guy know what he was writing about? Well personally, I don't think Mr. J Safdia did. I suggest that instead of telling freshman to think twice before joining a fraternity or sorority he should think twice before writing about something that contradicts his main point in the last few closing paragraphs of his statement. Of course, everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion. That is why I'm writing this article in response to the crap I read last week. But when you do state your opinion, at least stick to it until the very end, because you'll just wind up sounding stupid.

The first judgment made by Mr. Safdia (I will now refer to him as "jerk" throughout the rest of the article), was that people who join fraternities or sororities are those that were labeled as "popular" back in high school to boost up their low self-esteem and need to continue that elite status throughout their college career. A little jealous jerk? Maybe you are the one that is seeking some attention. Well, honey, you've definitely got my attention including all those that are in the Greek organizations. I have three family members that belong in a sorority and they are the sweetest, kindest, smartest people I know. Two of them have grown to be very happy and successful after they left college and they are still close to their sisters. The third one joined last year and has not changed since. She is still the kind, smart, and charming girl I grew up with. Yes, these are my family members. So, of course I'll think they're great anyhow, right? Well, just to let you know I know plenty more that are not in my family. I know lots of fraternity brothers that are nothing like those you see in movies or on television. In fact, they are the sweetest guys I've ever met. They made me realize that there are plenty of guys out there that really know how to respect a girl. I know it may sound funny to a few people, but it's true! My suitemate is in a sorority and my best friend/ roommate and I agree that she is the sweetest and most tolerant suitemate we've had because others would just slam the door on us if they saw us walking around like idiots dressed in drag or other absurd things.

A question was also raised by that jerk about the pledging process. Why would true friends humiliate you in front of so many people in order for you to cross into their organization? Well, my friend, here's what I have to say about that. First, understand what a rumor is. Sure, I'll believe the things that you have seen with your own eyes, but the other stuff I won't unless told by a primary source. Second, I see the hazing process as a test and life changing experience. If you can go through the stress and humiliation they put you through, then you can learn to go through other pressures you may come across in the future. They may not prepare you for the serious, dramatic traumas that may happen in one's life but god forbid that ever happens to someone that's what the brothers and

“... if I had any balls
please suck them now.
Suck them long and
suck them hard.”

sister are there for if that ever happens. Third, when you experience the stress they put you through you are not alone. You are with the many others that are trying to cross with you and that's how the brotherhood and sisterhood forms. You bond and help each other out while your true self naturally comes out due to the pressures forced upon you. These activities, although they may sound stupid and immature, help you learn about yourself and others. Also, to put it out there, I know for a fact that you don't need to be in a frat or sorority to make a fool out of yourself. My best friend and I do it all the time to amuse ourselves.

Ever wonder why all those frat boys and sorority girls look so happy? No, those smiles and laughs are not results of the world revolving around them. It's the result of the support given by their friends or as we like to call them,

brothers and sisters. But, just because they all have created a special bond and they belong to a specific organization it doesn't mean that they avoid their old friends entirely. That's now what it's all about. It's a club. It's an organization. Just like people work for The Press or play on the Rugby team. They all share something in common, but they don't leave out the friends they have outside those clubs. I know plenty of people that have kept their old friends after they've crossed. That jerk mentioned people no longer being friends with their high school buddies after crossing. People drift apart from their high school friends regardless. That's when you realize who your true friends are. And not even that, people just grow apart because they no longer have anything in common. It's a way of life my friend.

Now, I've made my argument against Mr. Safdia's about the friendships and the hazing. This doesn't mean I don't like that jerk. I'm just talking about his article in general. He did make some positive points about fraternities and sororities, but he mentioned that only a minority of the groups make a positive contribution to the society. Well, honey I'm sorry to say but every Greek organization makes a positive contribution to the society because philanthropy is a requirement. So, why shouldn't they wear their letters with pride? That doesn't mean they put their organization before anything else. They're just dedicated like anyone in any club, team, or organization. Did you know that just like sports teams you're required to have a certain GPA in order to stay in the group? Mhmm, yes, it's true. So, they don't ignore the fact that school is important. It is why we are here in the first place.

I hope I made my point clear, unlike that jerk did in his article. It's 4 in the morning, I'm tired and I'm going to end things with just one more thing.

Mr. Safdia, if I had any balls, please suck them now. Suck them long and suck them hard because at least I'd enjoy that rather than reading your article. But don't take this offensively, for as you'd say, I'm not against you, I'm only against your article in genital.

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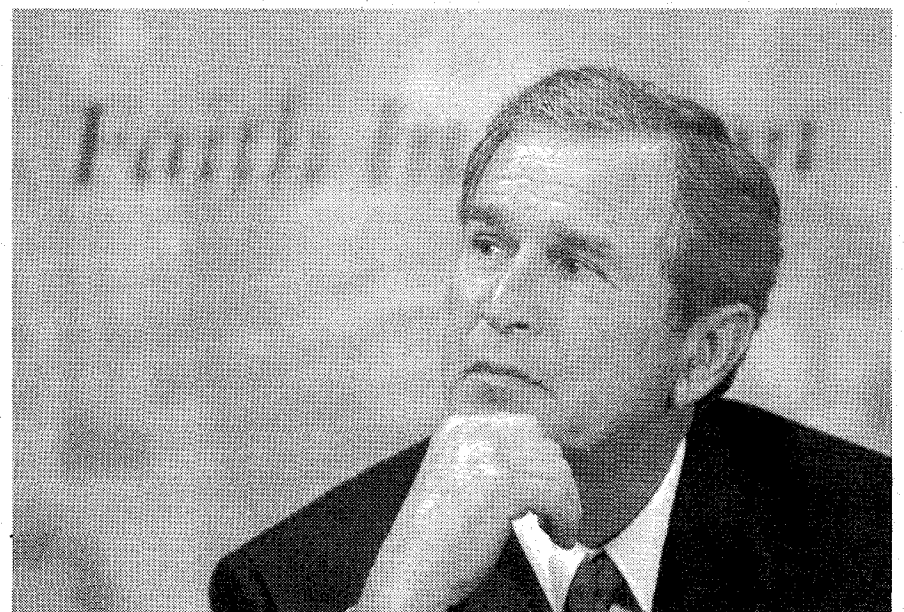
ing a war against terror is only going to make more terrorists, there it is, Reuters got it. Also, it turns out that the foreign elements of insurgency are actually way smaller than everyone was led to believe. US officials "overstated" the amount of foreigners fighting in Iraq, which is diplomat for "tried to make people think it wasn't really the Iraqis who wanted the U.S. to get out, but a bunch of other guys." In reality, at most 10% of insurgents are foreign.

In light of the past bloody week in Iraq, the Hurricane Katrina tragedy and the impending Hurricane Rita tragedy, Americans have begun to rethink our involvement in Iraq en masse. Support for the war has fallen to an all-time low according to *The New York Times*. More Americans are "concerned" with the \$5 billion spent each month in Iraq, which seems like an understatement. Concerned? Ought to be pissed. Do they even know how many Hermes bags you could buy with that kind of money? Or you could just put it in a piggy bank and pay off the \$333 billion deficit. The president can thank his pathetic handling of Katrina for his

record-low approval ratings, along with the gruesome week in Iraq that preceded it. America is now stuck between a rock and another goddamn rock, we need to get out of Iraq but we've already done so much damage that we can't. Bombings and drive-by shootings have become common, resulting in America turning back to the war we've been trying to ignore for two bloody (adj, not slang) years. The insurgency is escalating; it is not going to go away. The Iraq war is a mistake and Bush is spending too much time and money on it, not to mention lives — those of Americans and Iraqis. It is revolting, but as my grandmother used to say, "honestly, the fuck'd you think was gonna happen?"

The Crisis In Iraq

By Madeline Sheckter



I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING, I WONDER IF FAITH IS GOING TO PULL US OUT OF IRAQ, I WONDER IF FAITH WILL PREVENT CIVIL WAR. I WONDER IF HE JUST HAS SOME BAD GAS...

Courtesy of bad-gas-producing food

Pushing Extinction

By Tiffany Russo

On September 22, the House Resources Committee voted 26-12 to send "The Threatened and Endangered Species Act of 2005" bill to the House floor for review. If approved and then implemented this bill would make the biggest changes to the Endangered Species Act since its drafting 32 years ago. The primary writer of this draft, Republican Representative Richard Pombo, claims that the reforming of the act would help to fix many of its conflicts with landowners, who complain that the act restricts use of their private property. In an attempt to slow Pombo's race to the finish line, many environmental groups, scientists, Democrats and 23 House Republicans have voiced concerns to their peers asking them to slow the reform process for this bill, stating that the bill is complicated and critical.

Since the proposed changes could mean life or death to many species listed and waiting to be listed, I think this request should be taken seriously. This, however, was impossible for me to do when reading, on Pombo's webpage, his speech introducing his bill. Calling supporters of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 "groupies," stating "ESA is still stuck in 1973, wearing leisure suits, mood rings and collecting pet rocks," and calling the ESA regulations an "Iron Curtain" is certainly not what I would expect in a serious speech on a bill which could decide the fate of several species (and, may I ask, what the heck does the ESA have to do with communism?).

He goes on to say "To help demonstrate what some have called their 'blind faith' in this law, opponents of change may even go so far as to tell you that species with designated critical habitats are more likely to be improving, even though the official position of the Service, in successive administrations, both Democrat and Republican, is that 30 years of critical habitat has done very little." HUH? According to the non-profit group Environmental Defense, "A peer-reviewed analysis, posted on the web site of the scientific journal Ecology Letters, concludes that more than 50% of U.S. species listed as endangered before 2000, and almost two-thirds of species listed for 13 or more years, have stabilized or are improving. Further, species whose recovery efforts received significant funding are more likely to be improving."

You say tomato, they say tomato? Maybe dramatic results for the conservation of endangered species is not being seen because there are less species being listed, since according to the executive vice president of the Defenders of Wildlife Committee on Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee, under Bush's leadership less than 10 species per year have been added to the list, despite the fact that around 286 species await protection, compared to the recent administrations of Reagan, 32 species per year, Bush Sr. 58 per year, and Clinton, 65 per year. Also under this administration, the Department of Defense was made exempt from some Endangered Species Act requirements for military training exercises, even though there is no record that any of the ESA requirements are actually obstructing military duties or national security.

So my question is, what do the government and politicians gain out of all this and would it explain why, when I Google searched this topic, most of the articles in favor of the reformed bill were from the point of view of business, industrial, and conservative web pages? Doing a more peer-reviewed, and in depth search, I finally found the scientific articles, which as you may have guessed had many other things to say. It is also interesting to note that when the non profit group Union of Concerned Scientists surveyed employees of the

Fish and Wildlife Service on the problem of overturned decisions by political appointees, 73% of them knew cases in which U.S. Department of Interior political appointees injected themselves into ecological issues which should have been determined by employees of the FWS only. At their website you can also read example of this devious tactic, where, for example, second groups of "scientists" are set out to review and study work done by accredited scientists, which are done in half the time and come up with totally opposite conclusions where recommendations of habitat protection are shot down and deemed unnecessary. Now of course there are two, three, ten, sides to every story, but it is important in this case to set bias aside and try to review some of the bill's major changes.



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE CHAIR POMBO, Courtesy of www.MamboPombo.tv

First, and most important to many of the proponents for this bill, is the increased involvement of the private property owner in decisions made about land/habitat conservation. According to Pombo, "90% of all endangered species in America have habitat on private land." Shouldn't that read "Americans have their private lands on the habitat grounds of 90% of now endangered species?" You don't need to be a rocket scientist to have figured out by now that we were not here first!

Next, the reformed bill seeks to make greater distinctions between "threatened" and "endangered" species. Under the current ESA, both labels receive similar attention with regards to securing critical habitat designations, federal consultations, and funding. Pombo's provision would allow plans for threatened species to be made on a case-by-case basis, and thus making protections not required. This would not only be hard to keep track of, but would just cause threatened species to fall into the category of endangered. Luckily this provision was modified by Rep. Mark Udall, a Democrat from Colorado, putting threatened species under the same recommendations as endangered. Revisions also call for more state and local involvement, allowing them to decide whether or not to follow ESA recommendations. Other complaints of the present ESA is that property owners are not notified in a decent amount of time about what changed they had to make to their land if it was also home to a listed species. New provisions have made the deadline for the Department of Interior to give building plans to land owners 180 days. So, hopefully they aren't too busy.

There are many other amendments and provisions to be reviewed in this 73 page draft,

so for a more detailed analysis see the 3,500 word study recently released by The National Center for Public Policy Research, but my main concern is to point out that this issue is vital to the lives of individuals throughout many species, some of which most have not and may never see. I am not opposed to reform for ESA, but I am certainly not in favor of giving the states the choice in determining which species deserve protection, I am not in favor of creating a bill that would make some lands impossible to secure for protected areas and instead ask for recommendations on special areas with no force or pressure. I am not saying that the act does not need to be revised, because it does. When you have landowners so determined to keep their property that they are preemptively sterilizing their lands to make certain no rare plants of animals live their or would be able to live there, you have a problem. Since, unfortunately, animals are forced to step aside as people multiply and spread across their home ranges, it is our responsibility to make sure everything is being done to protect them. Even if that means giving private property owners grants, monetary or land reimbursements, and apologies.

My only question though is where do we get the money from? Even more money will need to be found since another provision sets to make taxpayers responsible for paying developers and hunting fans to follow ESA regulations. It is obvious that not enough funding and time is going into ESA, but funding, time and, for that matter, issues of importance to property owners, never were the main concern for the proponents of revision. If improvement were the end result of the proposal, and if the ESA were truly anachronistic, there wouldn't be such an outcry against the revisions. What many people fail to understand is that the logistics of environmental law are only as they can be, such that the goal is of utmost concern. When toxic waste is found on a property, it is cleaned up first, and issues of responsibility are sorted out afterwards.

Likewise, as cliché as it sounds, extinction is forever. These revisions don't seem to respect that. The bottom line is, what more are we going to expect animals to sacrifice for our own benefit? We have already taken their land, their meat, and their health, should we take their existence too?



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What Controversy?

By Rachel Eagle Reiter

I am not a scientist. I am not a medical doctor. I am not hip on legal terminology. I haven't been following every wave of change in political policy. I am not dying of a deadly disease. No one in my family is dying of a deadly disease. Whether or not stem cells are researched does not currently affect my personal life. I am writing this article in consideration of those individuals who dwell in hospital beds and remain determined to live because each breath that they breathe is a breath of hope for a cure. Also, I am considering how a change in policy will affect medical care for future generations.

Government officials are facing pressure to make legal decisions, the outcomes of which will either transform medical care or put limitations on it. To research or not to research the stem cell, that is the question. My question to you is this: Should we throw

cures away? Potential cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Diabetes and Alzheimer's are currently in the wastebasket. Stem cells are being properly disposed of because of the laws that limit medical scientists, restricting stem cell research due to religious reasons.

I respect the sanctity of human life; I believe you do, too. However, we are taking into consideration the life of a cell, not the life of a child. Every day, cells in your body die, but you're still o.k. Plus, nothing immoral has taken place. Cells give their lives to us. They are very un'cell'fish. They die so we can live.

They spend their existence keeping the human body in homeostasis. While certain individuals waver over whether it is ethical or not to take the life of a cell, patients at the point of desperation are being deprived of potential cures for their illnesses.

I do not deem it ethical to give a living cell more rights than living human beings. It isn't humane to give a cell the right to life, but deny thinking, feeling, suffering people the hope for cures. Stem cell research offers ill and dying patients hope for relief from their suffering.

We have exited the dark ages. Now, in the 21st century, potentially an age of scientific progress, religious leaders would still attempt to keep scientists restrained by self-righteous reigns. Scientific progress can not and will not be held back by religious forces that would hinder the freedom of research. It concerns me that the subjective opinion of religious, authoritarian rulers would have the political influence to impede scientific

progress. The days of science being handicapped by religion should have ended with reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Mother of the Renaissance.

We are entering the age of stem cell research. The possibilities that can come out of stem-cell research are limitless. However, just the word, *possibility*, puts such fear into some individuals. Change is nothing to be afraid of. Progress is not to be shied away from. Undeniably, there is the chance that mistakes may be made in the laboratories, during this age of stem cell research, but even in the midst of

each mistake there exists the possibility for cures. Have a microscopic amount of confidence in medical research scientists, that their intentions are to find cures in the most ethical, possible way, taking everything into account, including the integrity of their research as well as the necessity to discover cures for diseases that rob individuals of their health, stamina and vitality. It is only unethical to deprive the ill and dying of cures. Let's consider that right to life.

The ill expect their physicians to do everything in their power to see that they get well again, but are their family members promoting the medical research that gives hope for cures? If not, then it is unfortunate that physicians' hands are tied by laws – laws that limit medical research due to the stem cell research controversy.

What controversy? The cells are being thrown away. Opposing stem cell research is the equivalent to taking the stand that stem cells belong in trash receptacles rather than in the hands of scientists. Such a waste, such a failure to recycle such an indispensable, priceless, specimen of research is a crime that makes putting an empty soda bottle in a trash receptacle insignificant.

Will those that oppose stem cell research claim to be more holy than those who do not oppose stem cell research? Will they give a cell the right to life, but deprive a thinking, feeling, breathing human being of a cure? Is the cell more valuable than the person or is the person more valuable than the cell? I am sorry that it is even necessary to initiate such questions, but the answers to these questions are the basis of the very nature of the stem cell research controversy. If we are waiting for the miraculous discovery of the instance, the spark, the beginning of what it means to be human before stem cell research is approved of, then the price may be the lives of millions of definitely human entities.



RON REAGAN; STEM CELL ADVOCATE
Courtesy of his father's suffering

Music, Politics, and Fundraising at the Wang

By Charlene Obernauer

Stony Brook students, faculty and staff chipped in last Thursday night to raise money for charities supporting victims of Hurricane Katrina at an event organized by the Musicians' Alliance for Peace (MAP) and the Social Justice Alliance (SJA)—both student groups on campus. More than just a fundraiser and concert, the event was also designed to raise awareness about how factors such as race and class contributed to the scale of the disaster and the failure of the relief efforts.

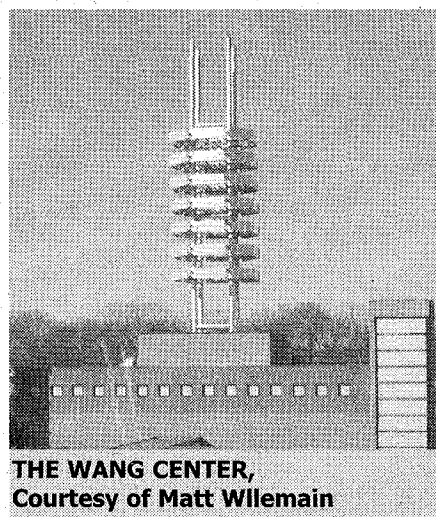
The event began in the Wang Center Theater with a panel discussion entitled "Katrina, the Political Dimensions of a Disaster." The speakers included Professor Cynthia Bogard, a professor of Sociology and director of the women studies department at Hofstra University, and Professor Peniel E. Joseph, a professor of Africana Studies at Stony Brook. In her talk, Prof. Bogard outlined a general trend in Bush administration policies, which favor the wealthy, cut social programs to the poor, and put political loyalists in positions of power, rather than those more qualified to do the job. She noted how, even after all of the negative press the Bush administration received for its response to the Hurricane, it continues to push a destructive political agenda in the reconstruction effort. Examples given were the introduction of the school voucher system for displaced people, the suspension of environ-

mental standards, and the suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act, passed in 1931, which requires contractors with the federal government to pay the prevailing wage in the region.

Professor Joseph spoke of the history of racism in American domestic policy and how that history can be traced right up to the segregated communities of New Orleans, where the poorest communities lived in the areas most vulnerable to flooding. He also spoke of the opportunity this tragedy has created for Americans to talk about a second New Deal, referring to the jobs programs sponsored by the federal government as a response to the Great Depression. Both speakers emphasized that it was up to ordinary people to hold their politicians accountable to and press for politics that addressed large-scale poverty and racism in America.

After the panel discussion, the audience made its way to the food in the Wang Center Lobby, dining on the all-vegetarian food donated by Mama's Pizzeria in Centereach. The topic of the panel seemed to carry over into the din-

ner conversations at almost every table. After nearly an hour, Dawn Chambers, a composer, singer, pianist, and one of the core organizers of the event, announced that the concert was about to begin.



THE WANG CENTER,
Courtesy of Matt Willemain

A jazzy song entitled, "Song for Bunny," written by Martin Loyato and performed by eight talented musicians was amazing, kicked off the music portion of the event. Kathleen Flynn and Gabe Shuford followed, performing a harpsicord and singing duo; Jason Prisett came next on classical guitar with "Koyun Baba," composed by Domenicone, and Dawn Chambers (piano), Rachel Schutz (voice), and Eric Sewell (violin) then performed three songs composed by Denise Gilson. Malini Srinivasan finished the per-

formance with a classical South Indian dance that was truly spectacular.

The event, co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Department, the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and the University Café succeeded in raising over \$600 for charity.

How Our Wasteful Dietary Lifestyle Helped Katrina Kill Your Fellow Americans

By Matthew Rammelkamp

In 2004, The National Hurricane Center described the number of hurricanes and storms as "well above-normal activity." Monetary damages from these events exceeded \$40 billion and were concentrated in Florida, which had never before experienced more than three hurricanes in a single season. So far in 2005, we are only half-way through hurricane season, and the intensity and frequency of activity has well exceeded expectations, including the most destructive hurricane in U.S. history, Katrina. This year also marks the earliest date on record by which four tropical storms formed (Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis formed before July 5) and the earliest date on record by which two Category 4 hurricanes occurred (Dennis formed July 4-7; Emily formed July 10-16). Scientists agree, the average number of hurricanes between 1995 and 2005 is unprecedented. An MIT study published recently in *Nature* provides the first data analysis indicating that tropical storms are indeed becoming more powerful over time.

Global Warming? You bet ya - higher ocean temperatures influence the tracks of hurricanes, increasing the likelihood of hurricanes moving through the Caribbean or making land-fall on the U.S. east coast. It appears that a track of unusually deep and warm water led Katrina directly to the Gulf Coast where it struck Louisiana and Mississippi. Scientists predict these trends will continue in the future, and there is concern that global warming will continue to cause climate variability and extreme events (e.g., floods, droughts, heat waves) to increase. For instance, a recent scientific analysis indicates human-induced climate change likely increased the severity of the 2003 European heat wave that killed thousands of people. If you happen to not care about innocent people being drowned or burned, just think of higher prices in gas, with food and other commodities soon to come. When the next hurricane comes up the east coast towards New York, maybe you will start to take some responsibility for your wasteful actions. That is - if you're a meat-eater.

Many of us have been trying to pressure governments and corporations to change their fossil-fuel ways for decades now - but to no avail. We all know how bad driving a car is - but it seems that is the only affordable and reasonable way for many of us get to school or to the supermarket. Again, your government does not want to encourage public transportation or to make it easier because they are getting checks from oil companies in locked doors. It seems inevitable that we all contribute largely to global warming. I mean, we all do our best. We turn our lights and appliances off when we are done using them, we recycle whenever possible - that's great. But have you ever considered your meat-centered diet being a major contributor of global greenhouse gases that is causing global climate change? Not only that, but there are a multitude of other ways our unnecessary, cruel, and unhealthy meat addictions have destroyed our

planet and its resources. Global meat production entails the torching of enormous areas of rainforests in the Amazon, uses about half of the freshwater we consume, while at the same time being the biggest polluter of waterways, and the biggest source of erosion of our precious topsoil. It hasn't always been this way.

Traditionally, farm animals have played an essential role in keeping agriculture ecologically sound, by returning nutrients to soil as manure, grazing fallow fields, and providing draft power. But today, because of the vast growth in human meat consumption and demand (due to the exponential population explosion), we have been forced to raise livestock in ways that are beyond detrimental to Mother Nature. In fact, the animals we raise for food may have a greater impact on the environment than we humans ourselves! Livestock now outnumber humans globally, 3-to-1, and traditional methods of raising animals are being eliminated, replaced by "factory farming," the process of confining animals by the thousands into huge sheds to increase production. Factory farms are usually owned by a few industry conglomerates, whose main goal is to increase production rather than raise animals in an ecologically-sustainable way.

University of Georgia biologist David Wright estimates that cattle and other ruminant livestock graze one-half the planet's total land area. They also eat the majority of the food that is raised on the earth's total land surface. At least 25% of the earth's land surface is dedicated to growing food, which is more than all the world's forested areas combined. It is clear that agriculture takes up the vast majority of our land use, and it should seem obvious that

sumption may be the biggest threat for the environment and humanity in the 21st Century.

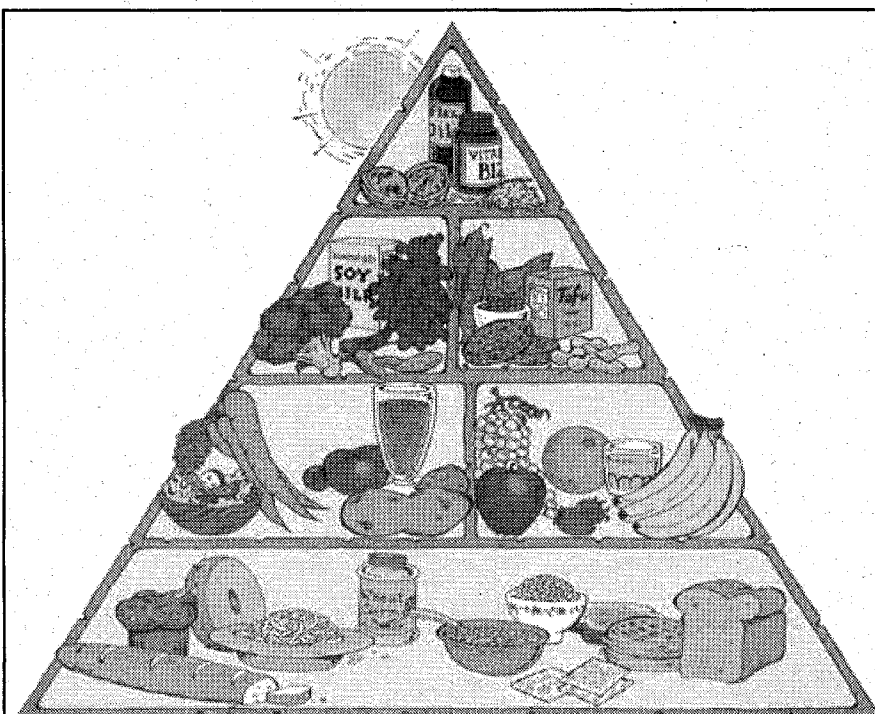
As the world population approaches 7 billion, and is expected to reach 10 billion by around 2060, the amount of land used for agriculture is going to inevitably increase. Livestock population growth rates parallel human ones, so for every one person, three animals are alive at any given time, in order to provide meat. Currently, one in six people go hungry each day, which is only going to increase as the world population increases, and as available land decreases.

The world's last remaining forests and rainforests are under a great threat. According to Population Action International, from 1963 to 2003, an area of rainforest half the size of the United States has been cleared. In that same time period, the ratio of overall forests to humans has decreased by one half. This "forest-to-people" ratio, developed by Tom Gardner-Outlaw and Robert Engelman, is a division of the country's forest cover by its population which helps quantify the number of people living with current levels of forest resources. In their book published by Population Action International, a ration of 0.1 hectares (approximately one quarter acre) of forest cover per person is used as a criterion to acknowledge that 1.7 billion people live in countries with "critically low levels" of forest cover. These people may be susceptible to scarcities of timber, paper, and other key forest products.

Trees and forests help to prevent wind from blowing away dirt on farms, and hold in large amounts of water. The low level of forest cover puts people at risk of erosion of crops and floods. The number of people who live in these forest-scarce countries could almost triple to 4.6 billion by 2025, according to projected rates of deforestation and population growth, put forth by the United Nations.

By 2020, there will be approximately one billion fewer acres of farmland than there was in 1991. The growth of genetically-modified foods has been proposed to feed hungry people worldwide, but this is currently being used to raise corn and soybeans to feed livestock for the human appetite of meat. Most environmental groups have raised many concerns over the dangers of genetically-modified crops for the environment and human health.

Global meat production has increased more than fivefold since 1950. Probably the most comprehensive study of global meat production was published in a 1991 report by the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental think-tank based in Washington D.C. The report is staggering. In 1990, the United States fed 70% of its grain to livestock. For the next eight years, the amount of kilograms of meat consumed per capita rose from 112 to 123. Aside from changes in exports of food or other factors, simple calculations suggest the number has risen to almost 77% by 1998. According to the 1990 numbers in the report, Europeans fed approximately 60% of their grain to livestock, the Soviet Union 55%, Brazil 55%, Japan 48%, the Middle East (as a whole) 33%, and China 20%. Since then, these numbers have increased dramatically. The change has been most drastic in the developing countries. From 1990 to 1998, the annual per capita meat consumption in Brazil rose from 47 kilograms to 70, and in Mexico from 40 to 53. China has more than doubled the amount of meat consumed, from an average of 24 annual kilograms per person to a



The Vegetarian Food Pyramid

Notice: No Hurricanes

how we deal with agricultural policy issues is going to be the biggest environmental problem. The Union of Concerned Scientists has come out and said that our food choices rival transportation as the human activity with the greatest impact on the environment. We also use a great deal of our food and other resources such as energy, water, and land to raise livestock, in order to produce meat and other animal products for human consumption. The steady increase in global meat production and con-

Continued on next page

How Our Wasteful Dietary Lifestyle Helped Katrina Kill Your Fellow Americans

By Matthew Rammelkamp

Continued from previous page

staggering 53.

These increases in meat consumption have been paralleled by a transformation in production methods in animal agriculture on a global scale. Factory farming has replaced traditional environmentally sustainable methods of raising livestock, and threatens the global environment on many fronts. Considering that China has a population of over 1 billion, the threat of increased meat consumption from this country alone is enough to put the earth's carrying capacity on its last limb.

Factory farming is now the fastest growing method of global animal production; these methods have replaced traditional practices for 74% of the world's poultry production, 50% of pork, 43% of beef, and 68% of eggs. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Asia has the fastest growing livestock sector, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to 1991 numbers, 38% of the world's global food supply is fed to livestock. This number was 35% in 1960, and has been increasing. Although decreasing meat consumption does not automatically mean starving people will be fed, in order to feed the world's growing population with less farmland, we are going to need to use our resources better. According to 1990 figures, 1.3 billion people could have been fed by the grain and soybeans eaten by U.S. livestock. At that time, there were 5.4 billion people worldwide, with one in six going hungry. These numbers come from United States Department of Agriculture reports, calculated with United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reports. The figures are expected to be quite larger now as the amount of meat consumed has been on a steady increase in developing countries. Two-thirds of the increase in meat consumption in 2002 was in the developing world due to global trade, urbanization, and rising incomes. From 1995 to 2003, meat consumption for the average

"Factory farming is now the fastest growing method of global animal production; these methods have replaced traditional practices."

Filipino rose from 21 to 30 kilograms per year.

The primary source of global forest loss is the demand for farmland. In Latin America, Asia, and Africa, slash-and-burn farming and customary farming techniques which once were sustainable, are now a threat because of increasing population densities. These methods are used to clear land for livestock grazing, which often results in the permanent conversion of land to agriculture. In deforested rainforest areas, there is a threat of the loss of the land's agricultural value altogether. The majority - 80% - of the biological value in these areas are not in the soil. Clear cutting tropical forests leaves the soil with relatively few nutrients, such that it is unable to support agriculture for more than a few years. In addition, the slashing and burning of the forests itself burns addi-

tional carbon into the environment. Overall, the second largest source of global warming is deforestation releasing excess carbon dioxide.

More than half of the world's original forest cover is gone, and only one-fourth of the forest cover that remains is considered "relatively undisturbed by human activity". From 1990 to 1995, an area the size of Afghanistan (65 million hectares) was deforested in developing countries alone. The pace of deforestation in these countries is more rapid than it ever was in Europe, due to a faster population explosion today in the developing world.

Many environmentalists think that logging is the biggest destroyer of forests, accounting for one-third of all forest loss each year, yet according to Population Action International, logging's biggest role in deforestation is directly related to agriculture and cattle ranching. Logging roads provide pathways for farmers to follow and settle, clearing land in the process. When trees are cut down, especially tropical forests, they release the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. From 1970 to 1991, the expansion of pastures into Latin American forests has released 1.4 billion tons of carbon.

Throughout the 1980's and 90's, the U.S. imported approximately 200 million pounds of beef from Central America each year. Our consumption of products that destroy that rainforest is forcing indigenous cultures into extinction. Only 200,000 of the original 6 to 9 million estimated indigenous people remain in the Brazilian Amazon. We are pushing other species, other cultures, and ourselves into extinction. At the current rates, all the rainforest will be destroyed within fifteen or twenty years.

The tropical rainforests are being destroyed at a rate of two football fields every second, and we are experiencing the biggest rate of extinction since the dinosaurs. Not only are half of the earth's species at risk for extinction, the destruction of the global rainforest ecosystem will have dramatic drawbacks to science, agriculture, and our sustainability on this planet. One-fourth of all medicines available today were derived from plants in tropical forests, yet we have only been able to screen for pharmaceutical properties for less than 1% of them. Scientists estimate that there are at least 30,000 undiscovered plants, mostly in rainforests. 70% of substances the National Cancer Institute identifies as being useful in cancer treatment originate from the rainforest. Species go extinct at an average rate of 137 per day, and the global meat consumption plays a predominant role.

Destroying forests in developing countries also has other unintended impacts. The loss and misuse of forests in developing countries is a driving factor in the inability for educational services to be provided in the third world. Population Action International notes that 80% of the world's population lacks access to enough affordable paper and reading materials for basic literacy and communication standards. With the destruction of forests worldwide, and especially in countries where people cannot afford to buy expensive imported paper, steps taken to preserve forest from cattle ranchers will also fight poverty and illiteracy in the third world.

Producing livestock is a very energy-intensive industry. Manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides and using fuel for powering farm machinery uses a varying amount of fossil fuels depending on which animal is raised. Altogether, it is estimated that a typical

American's meat consumption (the 1990 level) consumes the energy equivalent of 190 liters of gasoline per year. A professor at the University of Stockholm found that a meal rich in meat made with imported ingredients emits nine times as much carbon as a vegetarian meal made with domestically produced ingredients. This is actually a conservative estimate compared to many others, such as Cornell University's David Pimentel, a specialist in agricultural energy. He estimated that 30,000 kilocalories of fossil fuel energy are used to produce a kilogram of pork in the United States. This is equivalent to the energy in almost four liters of gasoline. According to his estimates, beef used 17,000 kilocalories per kilogram, and 13,000 kilocalories for chicken. These numbers may be lower compared to other countries. Well-fed American steers and broiler chickens reach market weight in as little as one-fourth the time of Chinese ones. This means that China may use four times as much energy producing chicken than the United States; approximately 52,000 kilocalories of energy for just one kilogram of chicken.

Energy requirements for grain-fed pork and poultry in Europe are even higher than in the U.S. Japanese cows are typically fed twice as much grain as American cattle, in order to

"The meat, dairy, and entire agribusiness industry receive huge subsidies..."

produce a desired "butter-soft" taste. This means using twice as much energy. In the revolutionary book *Diet for a New America*, John Robbins estimates that if the entire world were vegetarian, there would be a lot less energy used, and the world's supply of oil would last 260 years. However, if the entire world ate as much meat as Americans did, the world supply of oil would run out in just 13 years. One-third of the fossil fuels in this country is used to produce meat.

In addition to emitting carbon dioxide via required deforestation for grazing, livestock emit 16% of the second-most detrimental greenhouse gas, methane. According to 1990 numbers, livestock emit 80 million tons of methane gas each year through flatulence and belches. Animal wastes at feedlots emit another 35 million tons as the manure piles are deprived of oxygen during decomposition. These emission levels add up to 3% of global warming from all gases.

The feed used for livestock also guzzles huge amounts of water. In California, the dairy industry consumes one-third of all irrigation water, and elsewhere in the U.S., water is diverted from dwindling aquifers to feed beef demands. In the beef feedlot center of the nation, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and the Texas panhandle, crops are raised with water pumped out of the Ogalla aquifer, which took thousands of years to develop, and could very possibly be depleted in a few decades. It is estimated that it takes 3,000 liters of water to produce one kilogram of U.S. beef, and the water used to supply each American with animal products each day is about 380 liters. This has actually caused the Colorado and Rio Grande

Continued on next page

America's Dietary Habits & Katrina Continued...

By Matthew Rammelkamp

Continued from previous page

rivers to have already dried up by the time they reach the ocean! Political scientists predict that "water wars" will develop in a few decades as countries fight over the world's vanishing resources. If production methods and consumption levels or meat continue, the large amount of water use the industry consumes will only bring more wars sooner.

Factory farming also brings problems concerning pollution, by creating stockpiles of livestock manure which can pollute rivers, lakes, and groundwater. According to the Sierra Club, animals on factory farms emit 2.7 trillion tons of waste per year. This is the equivalent of 130 times the amount of waste that humans produce. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, livestock waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states. The nitrates from the manure mix with the artificial fertilizer, and can cause cancer, nervous system impairments, and "blue baby" syndrome, a rare but deadly condition afflicting newborns. The single largest source of ammonia is from factory farms, and communities that live nearby not only have to worry about drinking water, but the odor which can be overwhelming and cause sickness.

The meat, dairy, and entire agribusiness industry receive huge subsidies of U.S. tax-dollar money, which makes meat affordable to the average consumer. It is estimated that if the U.S. government did not subsidize these industries' water use, one pound of meat would cost \$35 per pound! In 1996, the Worldwatch Institute estimated that environmentally-destructive subsidies cost tax-payers \$500 billion a year. They claim the global tax burden can be reduced 7% by eliminating these subsidies, which would directly encourage job creation and investment. Indirectly, we would also save an unknown amount of money from reduced hospital bills (from less heart attacks, etc), and fewer cleanups for contaminated water supplies.

Why are these subsidies on meat to make it artificially cheap? Many legislatures accept campaign contributions from the meat conglomerates, who help them get elected and who lobby them for increasing subsidies every year. According to a report by the Center for Public Integrity, the meat industry has created one of Washington's most effective influence machines, by recruiting federal lawmakers and congressional aides for its lobbying juggernaut. The report found that Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas ranked among the top recipients. Between 1987 and 1996, Gramm

received \$611,484 from meat industry groups, followed by Hutchison with \$409,178, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich with \$232,239.

Factory farms also use antibiotics for livestock. The same drugs that are used to treat human illnesses are widely used on factory farms to prevent disease from spreading in crowded conditions, and also to increase growth. The major drawback is that humans are consuming these drugs, possibly having adverse health effects, and also becoming resistant to them, reducing the availability of drugs to fight human disease. In the United States, humans consume only one-eighth the amount of antibiotics that livestock do.

In addition to not being able to prevent disease, factory farming spreads deadly diseases to humans. The past few years has been outbreak after outbreak of diseases jumping the species barrier, killing or threatening to kill people. The Avian flu in Hong Kong, which led to the massive killing of chickens, has infected eighteen people and killed six. Mad Cow Disease, Foot-and-Mouth disease, and SARS, are more famous examples. SARS actually originated on a factory farm in China.

Meat-rich diets also contribute to the most serious and abundant degenerative diseases in industrialized countries, especially the United States. Heart disease, stroke, obesity, diabetes, and dozens of types of cancers are all leading causes of death. Women who eat meat or other animal products daily were three and a half times more likely to get breast cancer or ovarian cancer than those who ate meat or animal products less than once a week. Similar studies showed men having the same increased risk for prostate cancer.

The diet that most of us were brought up on supports industries that are destroying the natural world and that threaten humankind's existence. This is happening right now - killing our fellow American citizens via heat strokes,

antibiotic-resistance, infectious diseases like SARS, hurricanes, and of course, the degenerative diseases associated with meat consumption. By consuming animal products, we directly contribute to global ecocide and to the acceleration towards our own and other animal's extinction. Cow's milk, eggs, meat, fur, and leather are the end-products of torture and murder of animals. To cut costs and increase profits, creatures are forced to endure a lifetime of suffering, confined in tiny cages or crammed shoulder to shoulder with their doomed brethren. Cows, veal-calves, pigs, and chickens are forced to live in the darkness and filth of factory farms, sickly and miserable to an extent we cannot imagine. They, along with the cattle and sheep that seem to ease in the fields, all have the same destination: the slaughterhouse.

The multi-billion dollar a year meat and dairy industry use their wealth to manipulate the people's opinion. Through mainstream media they predictably portray vegetarianism as bizarre and unhealthy while suppressing the facts about their crimes against animals and the environment. Veganism is the solution. This is the abstinence of all animal products from everyday life. For everything that a meat eater might think that she or he would be sacrificing, a pure vegetarian version exists. From steak to chicken to milk and ice-cream, it's all out there. It is possible, healthy, and ethical to live as a vegan. For information to help you transition to a more plant-based diet, be it completely vegan or otherwise, visit either www.tryveg.com, www.tryvegetarian.org, and/or www.goveg.com. In 40 years, humanity will not be able to go back in time and alter the course of events that brought them to mass-starvation and ecological ruin. But that future can be changed on an individual basis, starting now.

Email me for works cited or any other questions: veganmatty@yahoo.com



STONY BROOK RECYCLES!

PAPER

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

PLASTIC

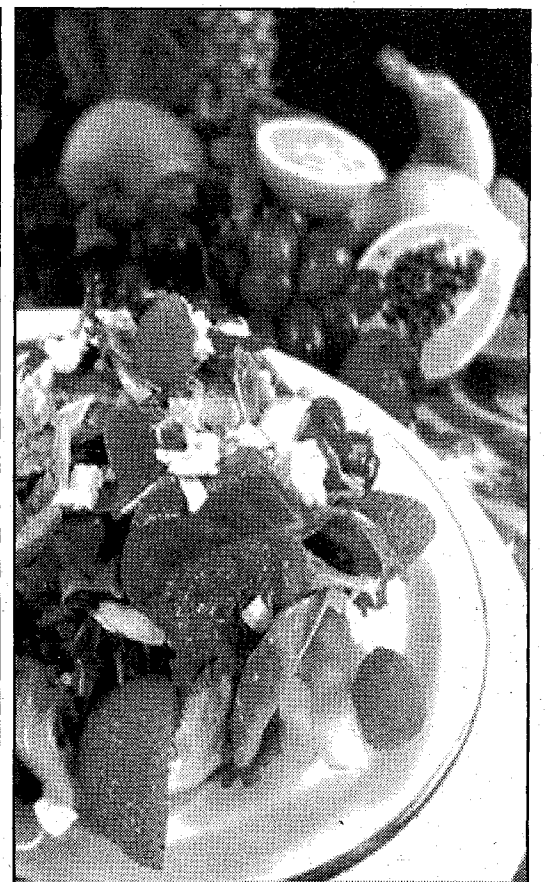
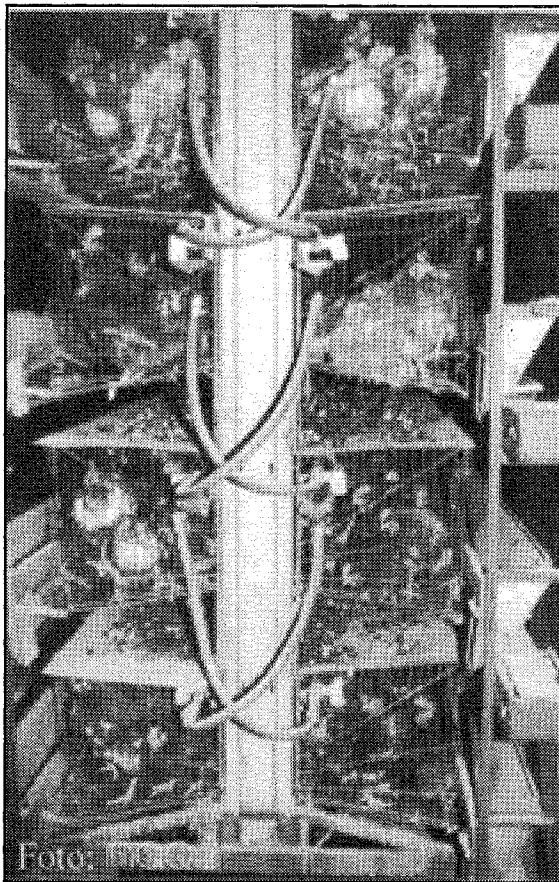
- BOTTLES & JUGS (MUST BE EMPTY AND CRUSHED)
- NO STYROFOAM, FOOD CONTAINERS

STONY BROOK RECYCLES!

PAPER RECEPTACLES

ARE ON MAIN CAMPUS AND SOME DORMS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB ENCOURAGES YOU TO RECYCLE!



A Renewed Plea for Vegetarianism

By Camilla Bulkhan

Ignorance truly is bliss, but, a word of caution, what you do not know is going to hurt you. I honestly believe that knowledge is empowerment and, as a staunch advocate of raising awareness in innocent, unsuspecting consumers, I am going to reveal to you the grotesque, albeit covert truth about meat in modern-day America.

Firstly, information on modern agricultural practices remains obscure and inaccessible to everyone. Is it because of some small factor of guilt or perhaps fear of losing profits that the agribusinesses continue to delude people into believing that what they are eating is actually good wholesome nourishment? Change can only be brought about through enlightenment (unfortunately, for many, this involves acute discomfort or an overriding sense of shame) and thus, everyone needs to know what happens before this "meat" can even be served.

Secondly, the gravest misassumption that people make is that animals reared for food must have been treated well or else the agribusinesses would suffer economically. This could not be further from the truth. The staggeringly high demand for meat, eggs and dairy has led to the regarding of animals as mere commodities. (In fact, the word "animals" is technically incorrect since man is an animal too. However, for the intents of this article the terms "animals" and "non-humans" are considered to be synonymous and may be used interchangeably.) This is where the great shift from small, independent farms to massive corporate-owned factory farms has occurred. Of all the developments of the twentieth century, factory farming is by far the most barbaric invention created that man should feel thoroughly ashamed of. "Factory farm" is basically a superficially harmless term used to refer to large warehouses where animals are intensively reared in overcrowded cages or pens under strictly controlled conditions.

Simply put, these animals exist in the most unnatural and filthy environment daily without ever catching a glimpse of the sun or breathing fresh air until maybe the day they are hoarded into a truck and transported to the slaughterhouse. These precious intelligent beings, who feel pain, fear, stress and all the other myriad complex of emotions that humans experience, are forced to subsist in these

cramped circumstances whilst standing in their own wastes. It should be noted that many animals, especially poultry, are crippled as a result of their forced and rapid weight gain and lack of exercise.

It is also utterly horrifying when one even tries to imagine the inexplicable pain of being mutilated without the use of anesthetics! Animals are routinely branded, castrated, tail-docked or debeaked (in the case of chicks to prevent the cannibalistic pecking of other chicks borne out of sheer frustration of sharing an impossibly tiny cage with eleven others). Tail docking actually involves the removal of most of the tail of a piglet using a pair of pliers and thus, leaves behind a highly sensitized stump which if bitten, even the most traumatized listless creature will fight against. Believe it or not, there exists a psychological term to describe this overwhelming physical and mental depression that affects animals living under such deplorable conditions which is "learned helplessness". In fact, the term was coined by the 'respected' psychologist, Martin Seligman who subjected dogs to increasing levels of intermittent and unavoidable electric shocks until they themselves gave up trying to escape out of utter despondency. (For the record, I was forced to learn of this "great" theory in Psychology 103 last semester.)

The overarching argument is that it is far more economically efficient for farmers to gain a higher productivity per cage or allotted floor space than per individual animal. Individual creatures are allowed to suffer as long as they continue to rapidly gain weight since, crowding animals pays.

However, some of you may be wondering why any of this should matter to you. Perhaps, the cruelty exposed to animals means little, if any, to you. However, animals intensively reared under such conditions are also routinely pumped full of antibiotics, growth-promoting drugs, anti-parasitic drugs and even, pesticides which accumulate in the flesh, especially the fatty tissues. Animal flesh has even been demonstrated to contain dangerous levels of arsenic, mercury, and dioxins etc. So, it is a generally accepted fact that these toxins and drugs are passed onto the consumers and becomes a contributory factor in numerous diseases of the body.

In fact, studies show that eating a diet based on meat, eggs and dairy products has been linked to an increased risk of all the leading degenerative diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, Type II diabetes, arthritis, obesity etc. Thus, it has been proven that we can all lead healthier lives through the systematic elimination of animal-based foods. Broadly speaking, there are two main reasons for this. Firstly, by avoiding animal foods you are avoiding the toxic and detrimental side-effects of constantly ingesting high levels of growth hormones, antibiotics and pesticides. Secondly, meat, eggs and dairy are generally acid-forming foods which contain high levels of saturated fats and artery-clogging cholesterol.

But what does the acidic nature of animal-based products mean? Well, human blood pH should be slightly alkaline (about 7.35-7.45) and thus, constant consumption of meat, eggs and dairy leads to a decrease in the body's ability to absorb nutrients, repair damaged cells and an overall increase in the body's susceptibility to illness and fatigue. This is precisely why we are always encouraged to increase our intake of alkaline-forming plant foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains. A vegetarian/vegan diet will thus reduce the risk of many chronic degenerative diseases (hypertension, heart disease, cancers) by offering a vast number of nutritional benefits such as lower levels of saturated fat and cholesterol with a subsequent increase in levels of fiber, micronutrients (magnesium, potassium), antioxidants (Vitamins C and E) and phytochemicals. One can definitely expect a general improved feeling of well-being and decreased levels of fatigue and stress.

In fact, going vegetarian has never been easier with all the unlimited, alternative, meatless options (pasta, pizza, veggie wraps, and salads) available. So the next time you find yourself at the Grill, order a delicious veggie burger instead of a cheeseburger. But remember, the real challenge lies in making this a lifestyle change rather than a short-lived fad. This is certainly not an all-or-nothing option so by simply decreasing your intake of animal-based foods, you will be contributing towards the eliminating of animal suffering whilst simultaneously reaping the multiple benefits of great health and well-being!

The Case for Mandatory Student Health Insurance

By Richard Tuckman, MD

A recent op/ed in *The Press*, ("Mandatory Insurance Policy," 8/30/05 by Marc Niola), expressed some legitimate concerns as well as some misconceptions regarding the Stony Brook University's new mandatory health insurance policy. It is certainly true that the new requirement results in significant additional costs to full-time students who do not have outside health insurance. These students generally are the ones who would be most burdened by the added expense. Money for these students often is very tight. Many of them are taking out loans or working to finance their education, and so concern and frustration for the additional costs is understandable. However, these students are also the ones that are most vulnerable to the medical and financial impact of a sudden medical problem.

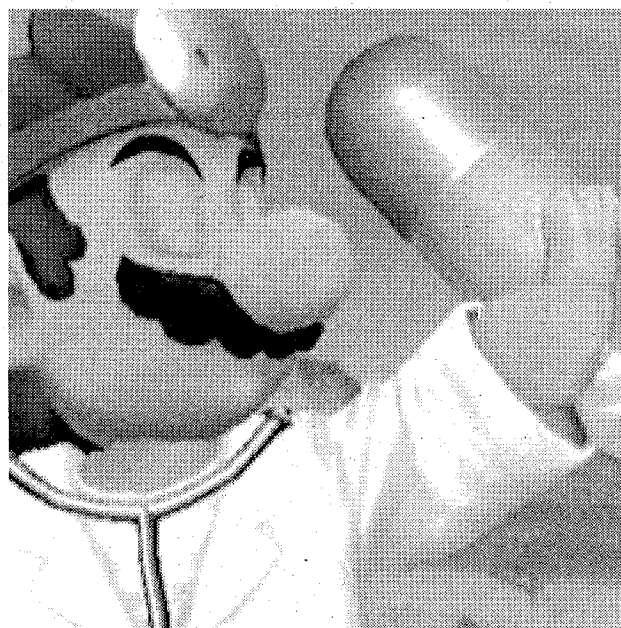
The Student Health Service (SHS), is a vital service for students with common medical problems, and it helps keep costs down. But some students unfortunately suffer from more complex medical problems that require specialized or emergent care that is out of the scope of what can be offered at the SHS. As a full-time physician at the SHS, I have seen many instances in which otherwise healthy students have had to deal with traumatic injuries from falls, accidents, or athletics, and acute medical problems like appendicitis for example. Uninsured students who need that type of care have a tough time. They have the extra burden of paying for unanticipated and often large medical bills at a time in their life when they are financially vulnerable. In addition uninsured students with non-emergent medical problems often choose not to pursue diagnostic and treatment options because of cost and therefore in effect are getting sub-optimal care.

Contrary to what is charged in that op-ed, mandatory insurance is not a "sophisticated ruse by Stony Brook to exploit the vulnerable and disinterested." The University has no financial stake at requiring health insurance. The issue of mandatory health insurance has been a 'hot topic' in college health over the past several years, and is not a measure uniquely considered or implemented by SUNY Stony Brook. Many other schools in the SUNY system require health insurance including Buffalo, Binghamton, Brockport, Cornell, Oswego, Plattsburgh, Purchase, and others. The University of Connecticut, Ohio State University and all the universities within the University of California system, just to name a few, also require health insurance, and many other universities are seriously considering it. The reason universities are interested in it is because it increases the pool of those covered, and thus results in lower premiums and more robust coverage- a mix that will adequately cover the student population at a much more affordable cost. College administrators realize that as health care costs rise, the health implications and financial impact of even the most common problems that can affect uninsured students, can be devastating, and can affect academic performance and the overall college experience.

The concept of insurance is often misunderstood. It is the idea of pooling resources in order to spread risk among a larger community. Health insurance should be thought of like other forms of insurance. Just as car insurance protects us from the financial disaster that an accident can create, health insurance will protect us if we are unfortunate enough to need expensive medical care. No matter how healthy you are now, you can suddenly develop a med-

ical problem. Medical illness is often unpredictable, and thus everyone needs protection. Those who don't have health insurance, even the healthiest among us, are gambling with their medical and financial well being. Furthermore, just because you are healthy and don't need to use your health insurance doesn't mean you wasted your money. Insurance is not like other services, such as a gym membership, in which the more you use the more value you have achieved. Health insurance remains valuable even if you never need to use it.

It is valuable because it eliminates that gamble of financial ruin that a medical problem represents, and thus offers 'peace of mind'.



DR. MARIO ADMINISTERS SBU SUPPOSITORY, Courtesy of Nintendo

Unfortunately health insurance is for the most part tied to employment in this country. Students are usually not employed full time and unless they are covered under their parent's or spouse's plan or covered by government plans like Medicaid they remain uninsured and vulnerable. Most students are unable to afford individual health insurance plans, which tend to be extremely expensive, and so the only real opportunity some students have to be covered is through the University. But previous attempts at offering voluntary insurance opportunities have not resulted in an adequate solution. The voluntary plan did not provide a sufficient mix of scope of coverage and premium costs. It covered students only up to a certain cap that was insufficient to truly protect students from the very type of sudden and acute medical problems that could result in the financial disaster that young and healthy students need to be protected from.

The reason the voluntary plan was insufficient was because not enough

students were enrolled. Many students didn't take advantage of the opportunity. Students generally are young and healthy and for them it doesn't seem to be an issue. As a result, a significant number of students remained uninsured. Some surveys from insurers and colleges across the country identify anywhere from 10% to 30% of college students as uninsured even when a voluntary plan is offered. In addition to the smaller pool of students enrolled in the voluntary plan, enrollment tends to be skewed to those that already have medical conditions, and thus would already represent large expenditures from an already small insured pool. As a result, the insurance companies could only offer limited coverage and higher premiums in order for the plan to be financially viable. Therefore the voluntary health insurance plan was not the solution to the risk to the overall college experience that acute medical illness represents.

The op-ed also expresses the concern that mandatory health insurance infringes on the student's individual right to decide what's best for himself or herself. That is a real concern, but it must be weighed against another real concern; that rising medical costs increasingly threatens the overall college experience of the uninsured students. It's always preferable to have as much freedom of choice as possible, but the university has a real responsibility to further an environment that is conducive to an overall positive college experience. After consideration of these issues and, after careful research, thought, and debate over several years, the university administration felt strongly that mandatory health insurance had become a necessary measure for the health, welfare, academic performance and social experience of the stony brook university community. By requiring all students to have health insurance, the university was able to secure an excellent health plan for those students who were not previously covered, and at low cost. Based on my experience caring for students over the past six years as a full-time attending physician at the Student Health Service, I strongly agree with the new requirement.

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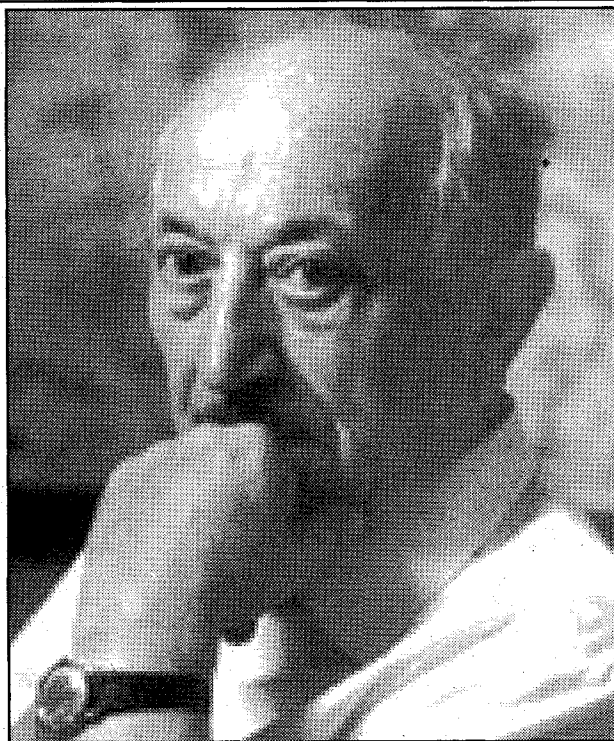
Amagansett . Huntington . Patchogue . Riverhead . Smithtown . West Islip

Simon Weisenthal, Hunter of Nazis, Hero of Justice

By Laura Positano

"There is no freedom without justice." No one understood these words with the breadth of their being more than Simon Weisenthal. Wiesenthal was in a total of twelve Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust. Yet despite how the Nazis' depravity deprived him of basic subsistence and dehumanized him for a period of his life, he didn't become a vigilante. Wiesenthal had seen what insanity hatred could cause, even when in his case, he had a right. His hatred, unlike that of the vitriol aimed at his Jewish brethren by the Nazis, was understandable.

Ironically, after four years as a prisoner of the sadistic Nazis (from 1941-1945) he became determined to resolve, through legal means, as opposed to violent acts, the actions of those who tortured him. After World War Two, he started pursuing Nazi war criminals with the help of documents. Documents were crucial because at the end of the war, Nazis fleeing Germany took on entirely new identities. The local governments accepted the documents, most of which were forged (the Nazis used former Nazi government printing presses and artists). By comparing photographs with the original passports, the Nazi hunter could dismiss the fraudulent identities.



SIMON WEISENTHAL
Courtesy of www.facinghistorycampus.org

But this was the easy part. The post war, then "West German" government did not want to help the Nazi hunter, but didn't want him to find any Nazis either. The movie *The Odessa File* (1974) was deliberately based on his life, and he appeared in the movie (though the action was fictionalized). The real life history of this Nazi hunter was not too far different from the movie's portrayal. Wiesenthal was a compassionate but relentless man, determined to avenge in a civilized manner those who killed millions.

Weisenthal eventually made 1,100 Nazi war criminals face retribution, including the infamous Adolf Eichmann, one of the brains of the Nazi plan. Additionally, Wiesenthal, who was a native of Poland but lived in Austria post World War Two, forced Austria to acknowledge its part in the deaths of millions. Wiesenthal worked on enlightening Austria's conscience over this dreadful truth for decades, and eventually earned reverence for this from other Austrians. In the Jewish community, Wiesenthal has hero status, and will always be revered for his magnanimous acts. Wiesenthal died September 20, at the age of ninety-six. Ironically, but happily, he outlived most Nazis and saw the establishment of Israel.

Mad in Manhattan

By Adam Kearny

Something about Midtown reminds me of Gotham City. The buildings are worn to dull shades of gray and brown; two hundred year old bricks piled in gothic spires tower above the dirty streets. It's a commercial area, not a pleasant place to live, like a corpse of the Industrial Revolution turned shopping mall. Wafting up through the grimy subway vents is the distinct, powerful odor of what must be a secret, underground landfill. The olfactory bombardment stretches for ten or so blocks south of Penn Station, perhaps functioning as a smelly moat, keeping the freaks below 14th St.

The perplexing Manhattan campus of SUNY at Stony Brook is conveniently located on the eastern edge of the aforementioned quarantine zone. The question is: why is there a Manhattan campus in the first place? No other SUNY has found a need for one. The answer commonly tossed around is that fundraisers can be held there with rich, big city investors, thereby infusing Stony Brook with even more corporate sponsorship. The practical advantage to students is that those who live in the city don't have to commute and can squeeze in some extra credits during the summer. Having attended one session at the Brook and another in Manhattan, I can say I find the open space of Stony's near deserted campus far more comfortable than the swarms of business-people on the grilling asphalt of E 28th St.

The Manhattan campus would be greatly improved by a student lounge with at least a couch and a TV. There's no need for any sort of food service, with all the surrounding stores and restaurants, but it would be convenient if there were someplace better to relax between

classes, inside the facility. The campus is really just the second floor of an office building. There is corridor lined with classrooms ending in a door that is always locked, but which leads into the spacious lobby containing the offices and the area for the fundraisers. There is one small classroom with three computers, a bunch of desks, and a microwave for students to use

while waiting between classes. On the microwave is a foreboding message warning students that if they fail to clean the microwave, so graciously provided for by Dr. Fred Preston (VP of Student Affairs), than it *will* be taken away. It's not exactly service with a smile.

So the students taking more than class mill around the hallways while the spacious lobby is off limits. Students can be buzzed in to print from the computers in the lobby, which is usually

filled with folding chairs for the fundraisers. When one of these meetings is going on, don't expect to be allowed in. On the walls hang some pretty hip posters of artists and artwork and such, which helps relieve the boredom for a few minutes by giving you something to stare at. Taking 3 three-hour classes begs you for some distraction. So, you take a walk.

On the corner of Park Ave and 28th St. is a McDonalds, but Ronald and fifty workers on lunch-break can get old quick. The guys making Gyros on the street are a blessing in disguise; however unappealing those slabs of grilled meat may appear, with the right applica-

tion of hot and white sauce, they are far tastier than anything from a fast food joint. As an aid for digestion let me recommend happy hour at the Bull's Head Tavern, on 23rd St. and 3rd Ave. With \$3 drafts of Guinness, Magic Hat, and Newcastle, in a cool, dark bar with a jukebox and a pool table, you can escape the swarm of the summer street with style.

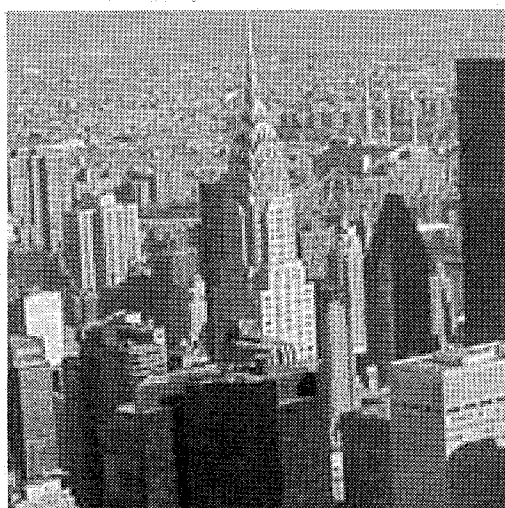
If you feel like hanging outside and soaking up the weather, there's Madison Square Park nearby, and Union Square is about ten blocks away. You can join the other urban outdoorsmen, lying flat on your back in a patch of dirt and grass on the lawn. Do not attempt this without sunglasses or headphones. You might even get your picture taken by an aspiring art student; they infest the area like wild rabbits, scurrying about and breeding, spawning more of themselves. Thus the perpetual cycle of critiquing fine art continues.

If you're lucky you can cut class and go to an event. When I got the call before class saying Frank Miller was signing books nearby, the decision was easy. There was a line wrapped around the building, and a strong chance of showers. The powers that be at Barnes & Noble had stopped distributing bracelets, as the hour was drawing late and our beloved Sin City creator was getting ready to leave. Observing that it was indeed Miller Time, James Blonde and I managed to obtain some MGD's, which helped our anxious anticipation. When we did manage to get in, we were the last ones on line and barely made it, but I did manage to ask the man a question.

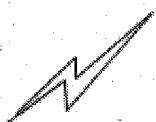
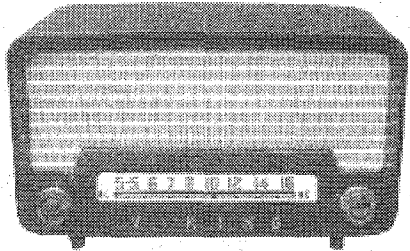
"So Batman rules and Superman drools?" I prodded. He stared at me bewildered for a moment while I smiled back at him.

"Oh yeah," he said, "I'm writing another Batman book right now [Batman & Robin All Stars] and I'm going to kick Superman's ass again, for the fans."

There you have it folks, big blue's taking another hit from the man in black. Score one for Gotham City.

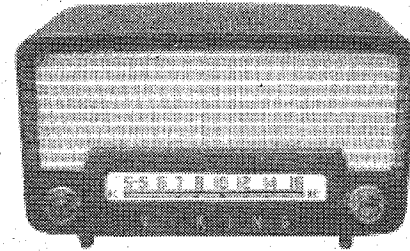


MANHATTAN, THE UNTAMED MISTRESS,
Courtesy of New Amsterdam



News in Brief

~For Lazy People~



Compiled by Melissa Lobel and Matt Willemain

NATIONAL

"Superbug" on the Loose

Recently three Chicago-area children died of a toxic shock syndrome-like sickness. This illness was caused by the germ methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA. MRSA causes bleeding and shock to occur in the adrenal gland. In all three cases, and others nationwide, the illness progressed from pneumonia to shock. An interesting factor in these illnesses is the fact that these children were infected in the community and not in a hospital where "superbugs" are normally present.

Over the past years, doctors in Los Angeles have treated 14 patients with necrotizing fasciitis, better known as flesh eating bacteria, caused by the resistant germ. In Corpus Christi, Texas, numbers of MRSA infections have jumped from 10 in the 1990s to more than 400 in 2003. These cases were also reported infections from the community. Only recently have there been such a high number of staph infections outside of the hospital. Although these infections are rare, doctors are on the lookout for shock-like cases caused by MRSA.

Chicago Calls for Immediate Withdrawal from Iraq

On September 14, the City of Chicago, by a City Council vote of 29 to 9 with 12 not voting, became the largest US city to call for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. San Francisco has already voted to get out of Iraq, as have smaller cities like Evanston, Illinois and Gary, Indiana.

AFL-CIO Dissidents Found Alternative Labor Federation

On Tuesday, the "Change To Win Coalition"—the seven unions that split away from the AFL-CIO last July—met in St. Louis to found an alternative labor federation. By walking away with 40% of the AFL-CIO's membership, the new coalition has divided the labor movement.

The central argument in the fight that lead to the breakup was about how much money to spend on political activities versus organizing new workers into unions. Unions are always grossly outspent in Washington by bosses, but membership in unions has plummeted over the past half century from 35% of the American workforce to little more than 10%. Some analysts feel that the argument was the tip of an iceberg of different attitudes about how to respond to corporate globalization and the decline in the economic situation for working people over the past three decades in spite of national economic success.

The seven unions founding the new federation are the construction workers (Laborer's International Union and Carpenter's Union), hotel, restaurant and clothing workers (UNITE HERE), United Farmworkers of America, United Food and Commercial Workers and two very broad unions that work in many different fields, the Service Employees International Union and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

US Senate Republican Leaders Work for

More Crookedness

Senators Bill Frist and Mitch McConnell have proposed a loophole that would undermine laws meant to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption. Originally snuck into the back of a totally unrelated 438 page bill, the proposal would allow a series of shady transactions; ultimately, wealthy people could donate eight times as much money towards a candidate's election as they can now, and corporations four times as much. Worst of all, these newly expanded legalized bribes would only be available to incumbents, already holding federal office. The overwhelming majority of federal officials face no significant competition, and by giving a huge benefit to insiders this proposal attacks the health of American democracy, which is supposed to be based on a real contest in which politicians have to compete earn our support.

The campaign finance laws this proposal would cheat were written in reaction to serious abuses, like the Watergate scandal of the '70s and the Savings and Loan scandal of the '80s.

The proposal was Section 719 of a bill called HR 3058. After criticism from colleagues and activists, the proposal will now be voted on separately as an amendment to the bill. The original purpose of the bill is to give many federal agencies, and the District of Columbia, the money they need to run normally next year.

Frist, from Tennessee, is the Senate Majority Leader, and would personally benefit from this when he runs for President. McConnell, from Kentucky, is the Majority Whip and a frequent opponent of campaign finance regulation.

LOCAL

USG Gets Off To Lackluster Start

This past Tuesday marked one of the first USG Senate meetings of the semester. Most of the senators who showed up were late. The meeting got off to a rocky start because quorum was not met at 8 o'clock. The guest speaker, Dr. Baigent, the Interim V.P. of Student Affairs, gave his short speech and no senators had any questions for him. Dr. Baigent left and the senate went onto the

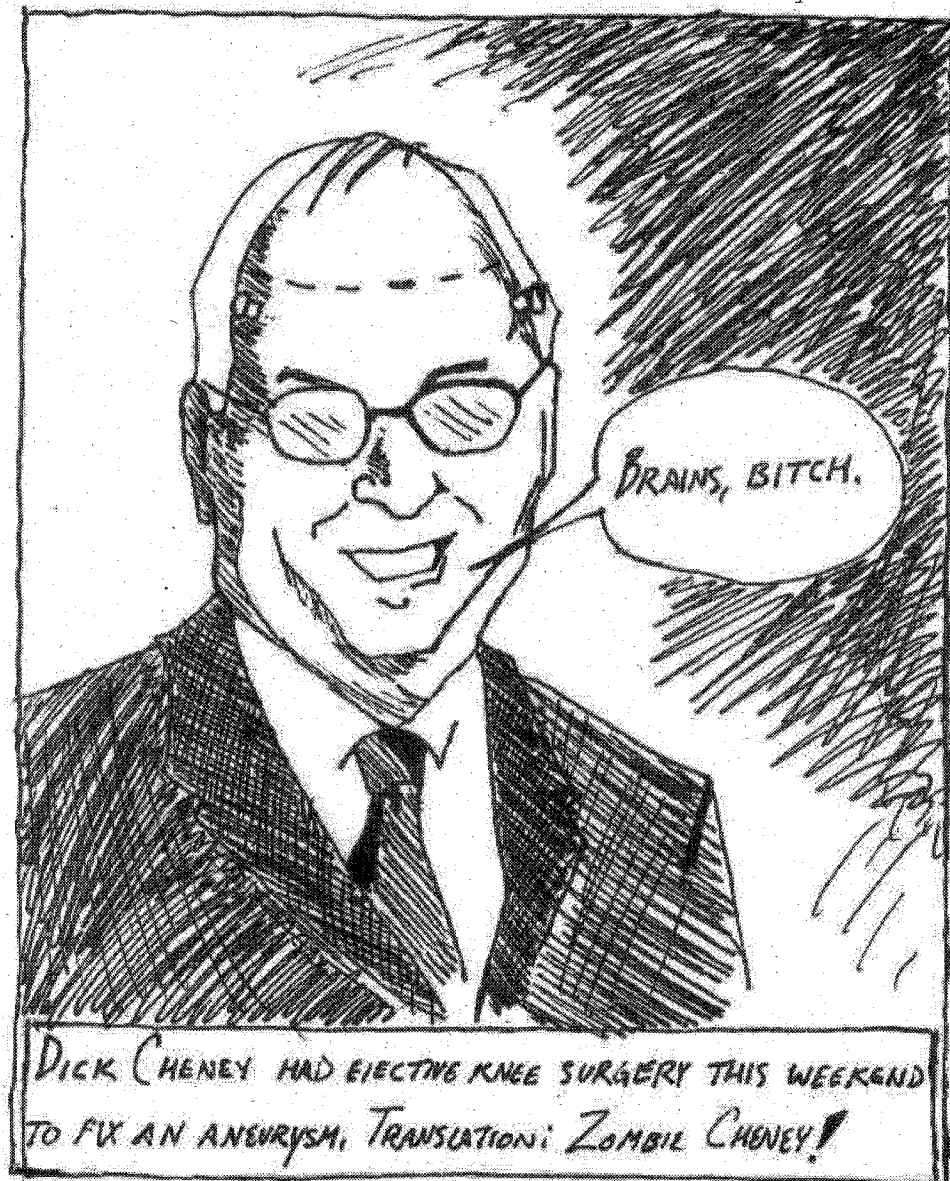
two elections of the night. First election was for the Sergeant-at-Arms. There were two nominees and before ballots were cast there was a motion for having two Sergeant-at-Arms. Both nominees were elected. The next election was for the position of President Pro-Tempore. Up for election were Aryeh Glas and Amy Wisnoski. Aryeh Glas won the election with a majority of 8 to 4. Time for another year with USG...

Bronx Triple Homicide

On September 21, 2005, Elvis Hartley, 47, Miguel Aquino, 37, and Dilsia Tejuda, 18, were shot. Three men, Noel Bruno, 26, Ricky Curet, 34, and a third man, knocked on the apartment door where the three victims and Johanna Hartley, 23, a survivor, were residing. The four adults were gagged and bound with duct tape and forced into the bathroom. The three men then pulled Hartley and Aquino out one, by one demanding drugs and money. After realizing they were not getting what they wanted, they proceeded to kill Hartley and Aquino execution-style, they were shot in the back of the head. Then the men went to the bathroom and shot Tejuda. However Bruno shot Curet in the bicep giving Johanna Hartley the opportunity to escape.

Tejuda's child, Sehing De La Rosa, 2, also survived the shooting. Police speculate that the four companions were "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Illustrated by James Messina



Politically Correct Absurdity, Heavens, Let it Drown in Obscurity

By Natalie Schultz

In honor of 2005's havoc-wreaking Season O' Hurricanes, I thought it would be fun to take a look at just exactly how these storms get their names. So, to make a long story short: In the beginning storms were named after the Catholic saint upon whose day it fell; this didn't work out too well since if it landed on the same day in more than one year the storms became So-and-So the Second, Third etc. So during WWII the military started naming hurricanes after women, and in 1950 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) decided to follow suit and the first hurricane named after a woman was Able. Now, is it just me or is Able not actually a woman's name, but an adjective, or at best the biblical male name Abel misspelled? Anyhow, the point is that in the 1970's feminists, deciding that it was sexist to name vicious storms after only women convinced the WMO to name storms in a boy-girl, boy-girl order.

Ok, so lets get this straight: Women's rights activists decided that it wasn't fair to name Mother Nature's wrath after only women. Seems to me these women lost their chance to truly prove that women can kick the arses of men beyond the walls of the boardroom. The way I see it naming powerful storms that cannot be tamed by any man (or woman) is the best complement any woman can receive.

If feminists were wise they would have knocked on the door of the WMO and handed them a list of some truly kick-ass women from the history books to add to the list of potential hurricane names. But no, instead the WMO has a list of 21 names that are recycled every six

years (the most powerful ones being retired). So apparently the WMO could only come up with approximately 126 male and female names using the Latin alphabet. Pretty soon we will be witnessing the wrath of Alpha, Beta and Epsilon; Aldous Huxley might be cheering them on from beneath the grave, but please, why don't the bloody feminists offer up some fine female names inspired by women who truly did kick-ass back in the day?

Katrina? As in Katrina and the Waves? Oh, gee, how ironic; I'm sure all the homeless people on the Gulf Coast are "Walking on Sunshine." Oh Yeah!

When I envision a devastating storm I think of Thor or Zeus, sometimes even biblical Armageddon. But whom do we get? Gaston? Charley? Rita? Can you get anymore weak-kneed lame? At least the last real hurricane to hit Long Island was named Gloria, and although not all that bad, coming ashore during low tide at Category 2, it was a glorious storm.

Come on now you feminists, why don't you start championing for the great women of the past to have great hurricanes dedicated to them? How about Gudrun, she who destroyed the Huns by murdering her husband Attila after feeding him their two sons? What

about Olga, the Kievan-Rus princess who stealthily defeated the enemy Derevlans and then proceeded to take over the entire Kievan realm? Perhaps Unn, one of the first great settlers of Iceland whose descendants lead to Gudrun Osvifsdottir, a key character in Laxdaela Saga, would be fitting. What about Catharine the Great or even the Greek goddesses Hera and Athena or even Lachesis or Atropos, the two Fates in whose hands rested the ultimate fate of men? Of course the best name that could be bestowed upon any hurricane of fury

would be Lilith, the true first woman, equal to man, whom the bloody writers of the Bible decided to kill off because Adam was an arrogant ass. A true feminist would rally to honor Lilith, who so wonderfully tempted Adam's minion Eve; for if that tale turns out to be true then we all deserve to be washed away in her surge of vengeance.

Will this unrelenting wrath of "political correctness" never cease? If this continues our descendants will be thinking that Noah-ell saved her/his multi-cultural beings of the infinite universe from the waters of the "Wide Sargasso Sea" that began to overflow do to the capitalistic free-market economy.

Shakespeare-who?



Mount: Unexplained Phenomena

By Jeffrey Cabello

I was always interested in the paranormal. Ever since the movie *Ghostbusters*, I always dreamed of having one of those proton packs when I was little, as well as many other kids who have seen the cartoon and the movie. Well, as I grew older, I started to understand what it was all about. The ghost part actually. It's kind of hard to miniaturize a particle accelerator to fit on your back. So, as I grew older, I decided to look into the world of the paranormal, and found many possibilities about what to believe. The paranormal is something that is not well known about, most people have experiences; however they cannot tell what it was, aside from a description of the phenomena. In my freshman year of college, I decided to investigate the paranormal in a scientific point of view. So, a colleague of mine reported that in Mount college, when she was doing laundry at about 2:00 a.m., she noticed the TV turn on and off by itself. This seems to be a common occurrence when paranormal activity is near. I decided to check it out a few days later, along with a few of my friends. I had a limited amount of equipment, consisting of only an EMF meter. As we were checking out the basement where the activity had

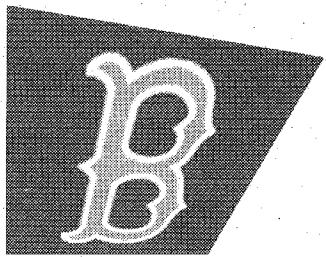
occurred, we noticed there was the electrical room and elevator room in the basement as well. The EMF meter measures the Electro Magnetic Field where you have it placed. Since these rooms consisted of man-made electronics, they gave off a constant reading. As we were continuing our sweep of the basement, we noticed a chair sitting by itself by the wall. I was fascinated by this chair, noticing that it was by itself. I decided to check EMF readings in the place where a person's torso would be if they were sitting down. Immediately, the EMF meter started to fluctuate, and the air in that space became cooler than the air in the room. It was relatively hot in the basement, where you would start to sweat if you stood there too long. Well, having my colleague from the Campus Catholic Ministry, he decided to essentially "free" the spirit. So, having carrying holy water all the time, he said "Rest in peace" in Latin, and sprinkled some holy water where the EMF fluctuated. Almost immediately, the EMF meter returned to normal, and the temperature went back to normal. So what was there? There were no vents on top of the chair or around the chair, and the door leading to outside was closed. What caused the air surrounding the chair to become cooler than the room? If I had more equipment with me at the time of that investigation, I

would most likely have come to a better conclusion. I started to buy more equipment, such as an IR thermometer, micro-cassette recorder, IR cameras, electrostatic locator, and Geiger counters. These turned out to be useful during a future investigation. At that point, I also decided to create a club, the Stony Brook Ghost Hunters Society. It was founded in January of

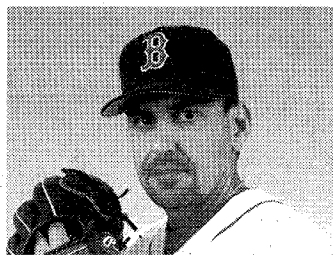


A CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE...
Courtesy of David K. Ginn

2005. We are also looking for members for my paranormal investigation team. If you go to the website: www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbghs, you can fill out an application for a position on the team, and you can also view when the club has its meetings and what we will be doing on that meeting. Also, you will be informed of ghost hunts/paranormal investigations. I plan to write more articles as more findings come up, or just to inform the public about some paranormal terms. So stay tuned everybody.



Previously, on Your
2004 World Series
Champion Boston
Red Sox...



Frank Castillo felt the
need to interrupt.
"Um...why do you hate
the White Sox? It
looks like they do good
crime solvin' work."

"They've only beaten us,
oh, about every year, for
the past forty four years,
in the annual triathletic
SoxOff: the softball game,
the four-legged sack race,
the pie-eating contest."



Solving Crimes!

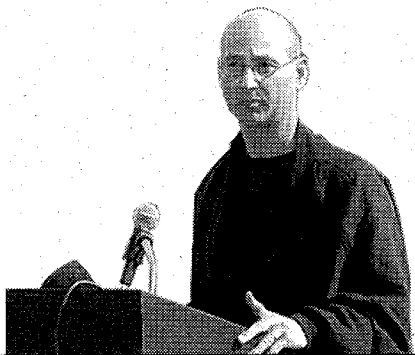
YOUR 2004 WORLD
SERIES CHAMPION



Fightin' Mysteries!

By Matt Willemain

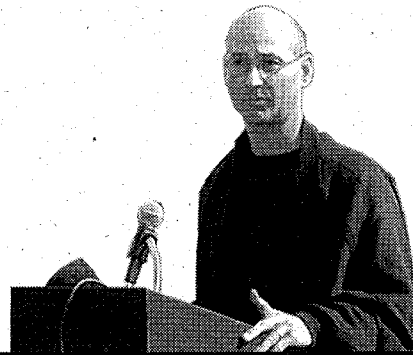
Manager Terry Francona,
"Now I know there's a lot
of people who think we
can't win this thing. But
I don't care about the
past. Pokey Reese?"



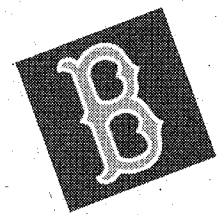
"Right here, skipper!"



"Pokey, we're going to
get right down to
business, here. You're
going to run point man
in the four-legged sack
race."



Episode Eight:



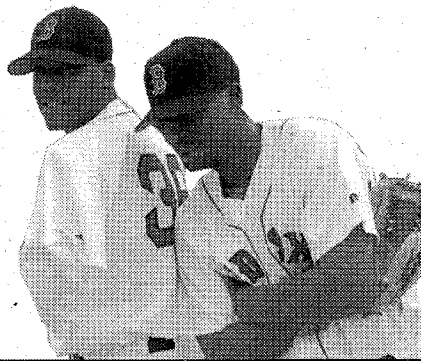
Chicago Showdown

Bobby Jones was a little
confused, and asked,
"Pokey, this is my first
Triathletic SoxOff.
How exactly does the
four-legged sack race
work?"

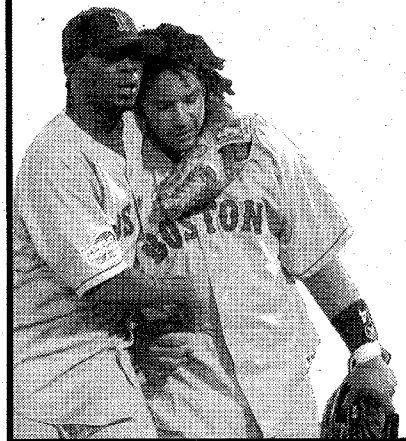


"It's very simply,"
explained Reese. "You
need three guys and four
potato sacks. Stand over
here by me, then put
your foot in this sack..."

"There you go! I got
Bobby Jones on the
right..."



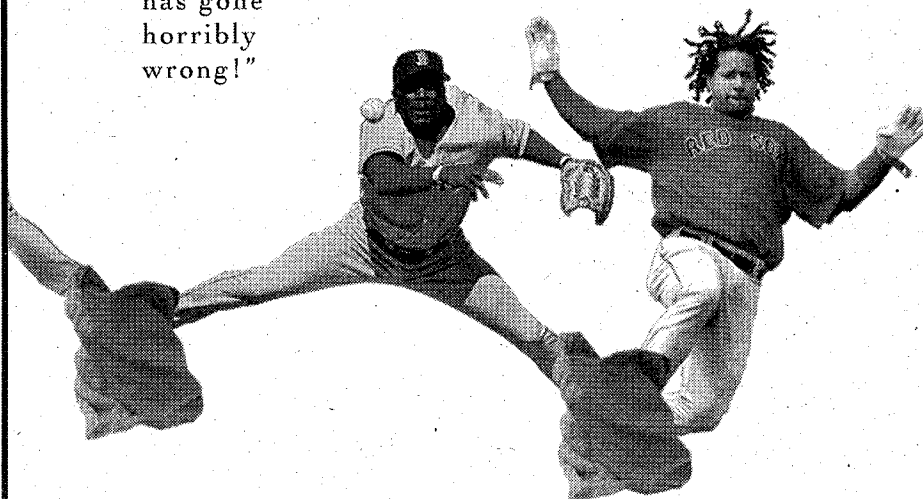
"And Manny Ramirez
on my left! Who's ready
to race in some sacks!"



"Reigning four-legged
sack race champions!
Oh yeah, brother! We
dominate in sacks!"



"Criminy! Everyone stop moving, something
has gone
horribly
wrong!"

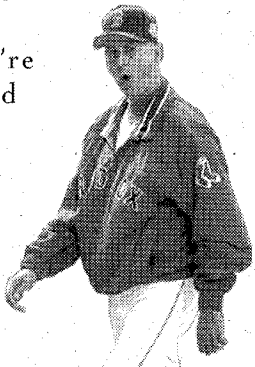


The White Sox celebrate
a win...

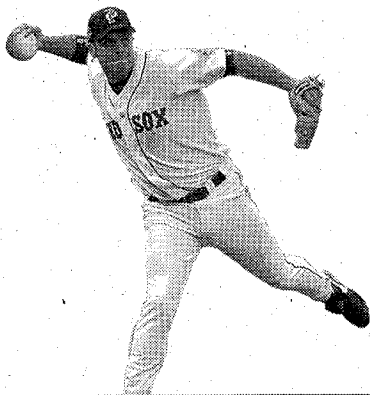


"I can't move my neck!
Or my arm!"

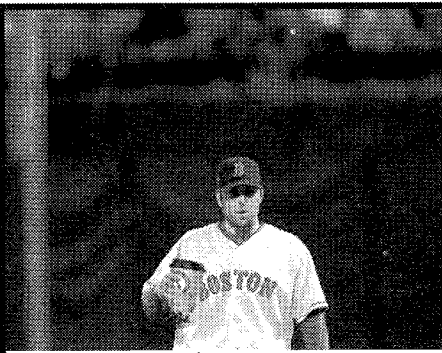
"Ok, so we're behind. If we lose one more of these games, we're out of it. But I know you guys can do it. You've just got to focus on what you're doing, and execute. Now the softball game is up next..."



Earl Snyder providing solid defense at third base!



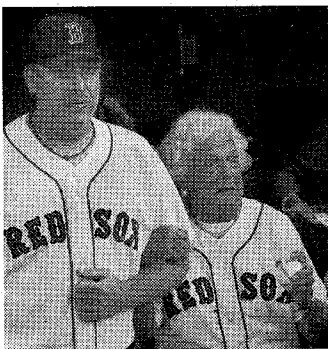
Doug Mientkiewicz taking a coffee break at first base!



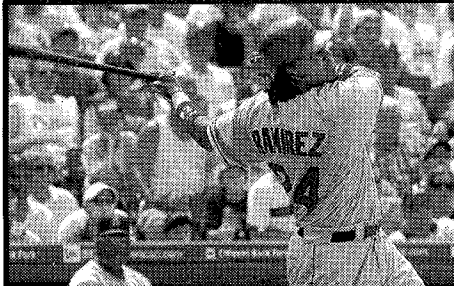
"Mmm...look at that, a gentle grounder. There it goes, right to first. There's Doug Mientkiewicz just kinda hanging out. There goes the ball. There goes my bum ticker."



"Oh dear," cried Barbara Bush. "I think the Red Sox might lose this contest!"



"Don't worry, Mrs. President," reassured Curt Schilling, "Manny Ramirez is up next."



Manny goes yard!

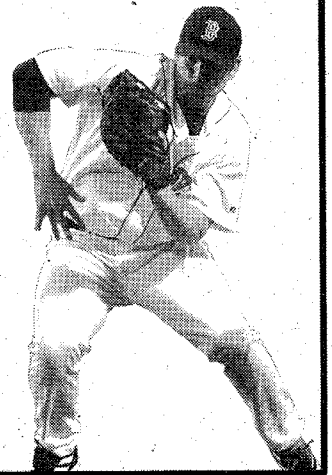
On the verge of elimination, the Red Sox cling to a tenuous lead.

"I've got to redeem myself and get out there and play some mean defense, use all my..."



Real smooth moves!

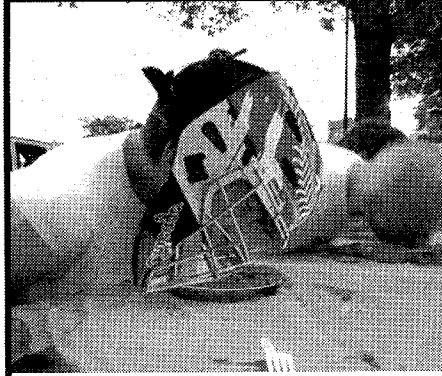
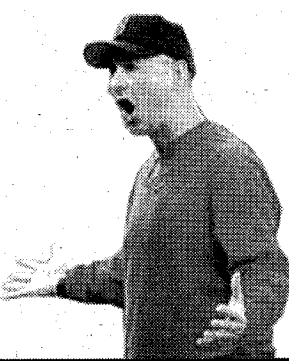
"West Side!"



Manny and Doug celebrate the softball game win, and the SoxOff is tied one game to one.

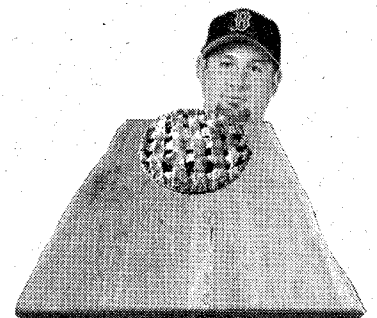


"Ok, people, all we have to do is win a pie-eating contest! Is that too much to ask?"



Sandy Alomar, Jr. of the White Sox is a veteran competitive pie-eater who knows the very real threat of potential tooth or face injury.

Jamie Brown is a kid who loves eatin' him some pies.

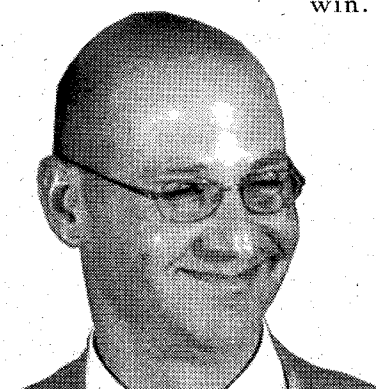


"Finish that pie, Jamie, finish that pie!"



"He's doing it! He's really doing it!"

The Skipper was all smiles as the Red Sox dodged another frustrating loss and took home the SoxOff win.



Pokey Reese jams with Tom Hanks on the oversized piano!

"Be sure to tune in next issue for the exciting conclusion to Your 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox!"

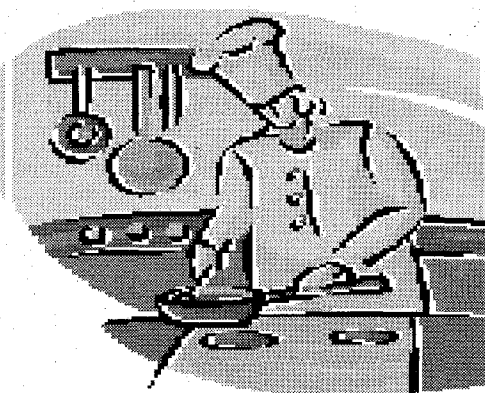


ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ORGANIC VEGAN MEALS?

COME TO OUR FREE COOKING WORKSHOPS
LED BY WHOLISTIC CHEF EILEEN WEILBACHER
AND TRY SOME DELICIOUS FREE FOOD!!

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE AT KELLY DINING CENTER, 2ND FLOOR @ 5:30pm
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**Calling
all hungry
and/or
poor
students...**



Mon. Sept. 26

Hearty Root Vegetables

Daikon radish, kohlrabi, onion,
garlic, carrots, turnips,
parsnips, beets

Quinoa

Lemon verbena tea

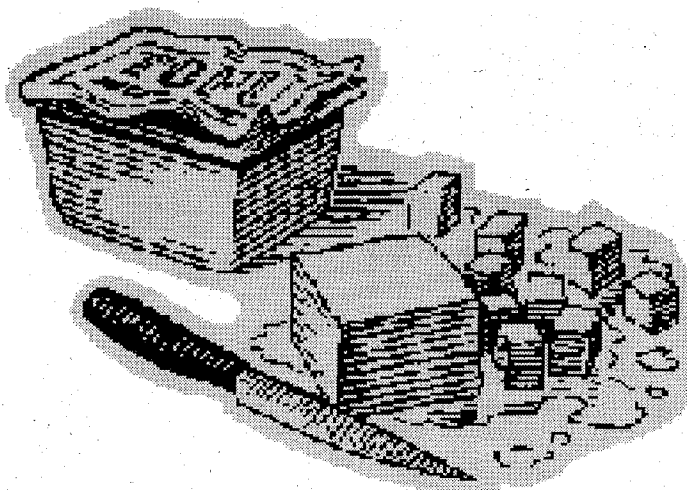
Mon. Oct. 10

Mineral-rich Sea Vegetables

Hiziki salad and

brown basmati rice

Green tea with ginger



**FREE
ORGANIC
VEGETARIAN
& VEGAN
MEALS!**

Mon. Oct. 24

Building/Tonifying the Blood
with Greens

Collards, escarole and white

cannellini beans

Fennel tea

Mon. Nov. 7

Warm up and Energize

Miso soup

Wild rice medley

White vanilla tea

Mon. Nov. 21

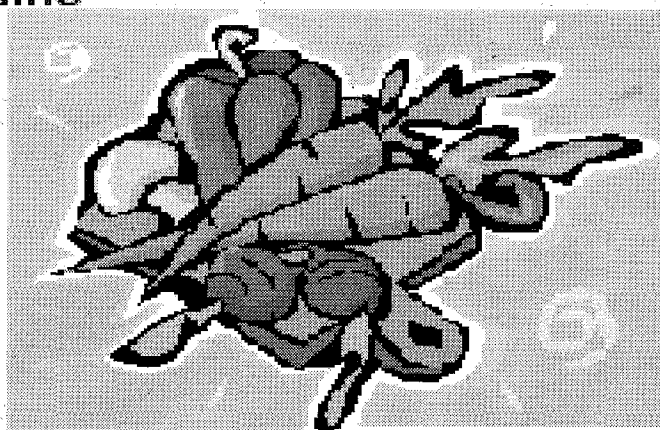
Healthy Thanksgiving Sides

Sweet potato pie

green bean almonidine

"creamed" onions

Hazelnut tea



**Every other
monday @ 5:30
(please register)**

Mon. Dec. 12

Celebrate End of Semester

with Desserts!

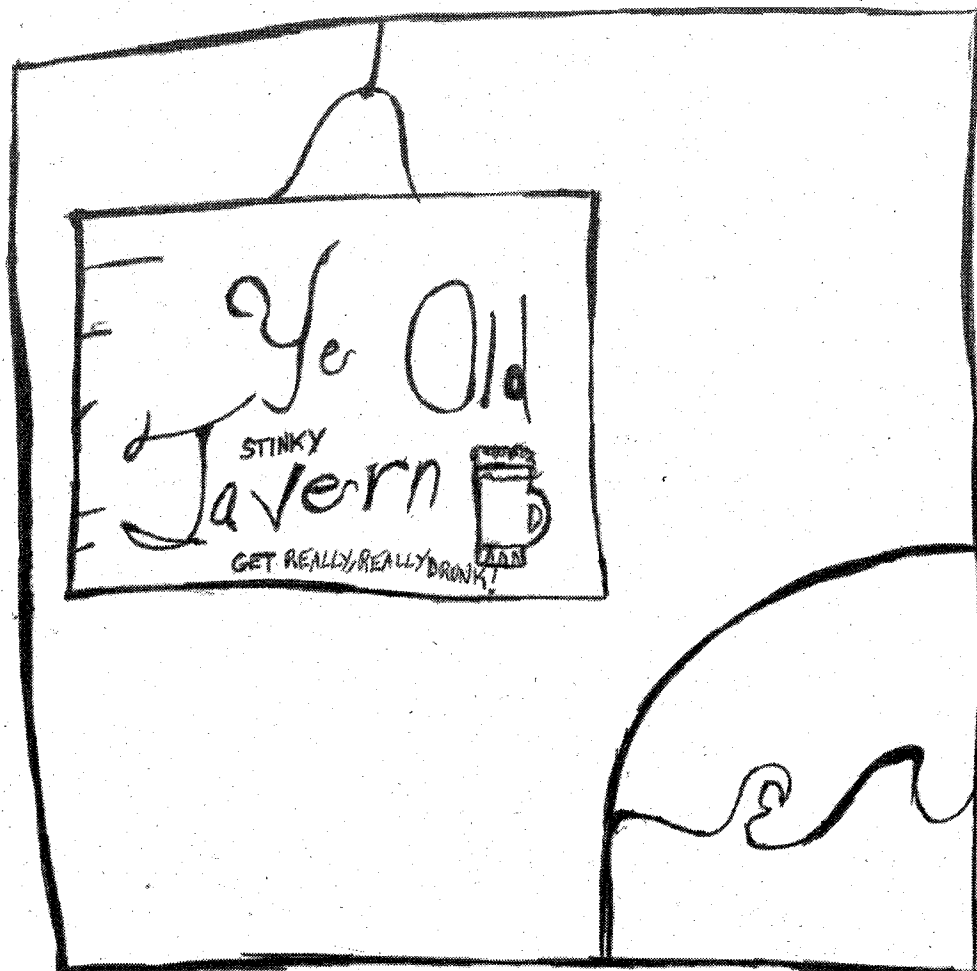
Coconut macaroons

orange cookies

Cocoa spice tea and licorice tea

To register, please contact Darlene Petroccione, RD, CDN
Registered Dietitian for Campus Dining Services
2-9979 or dpetroccione@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

The Comics Section

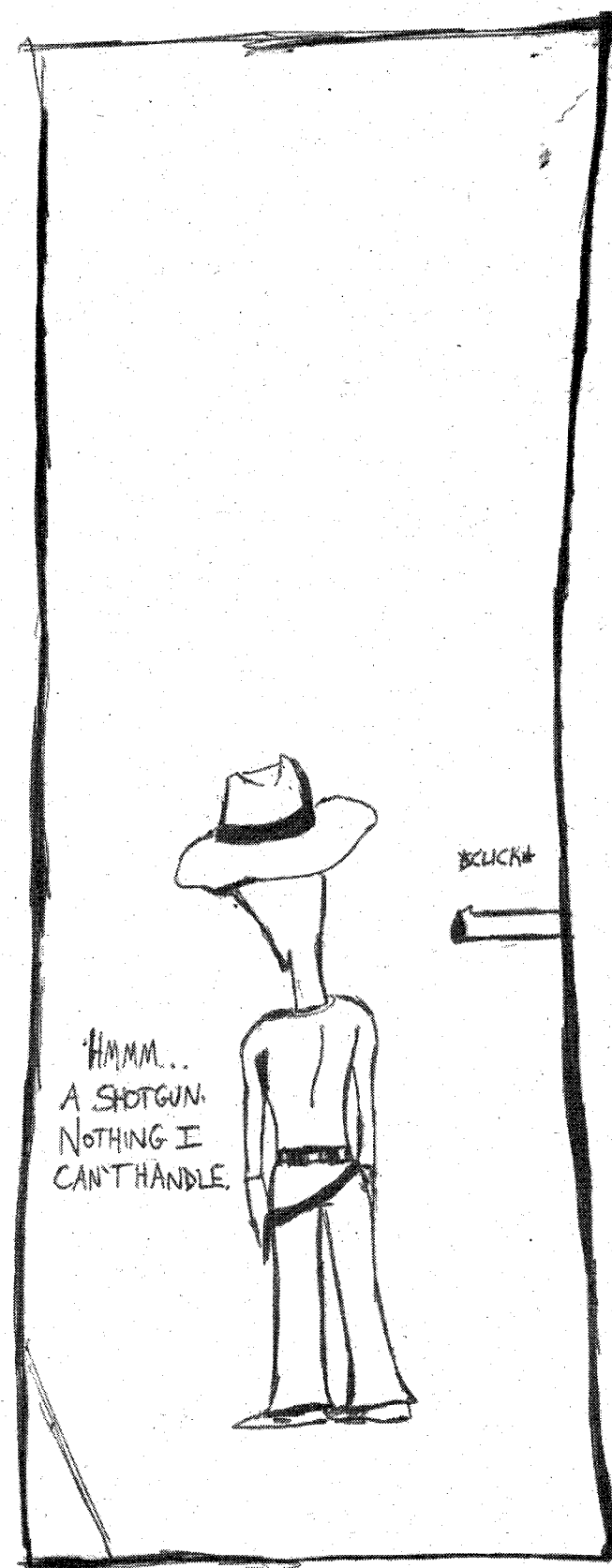


A FISTFUL OF ZURONIAN CREDITS

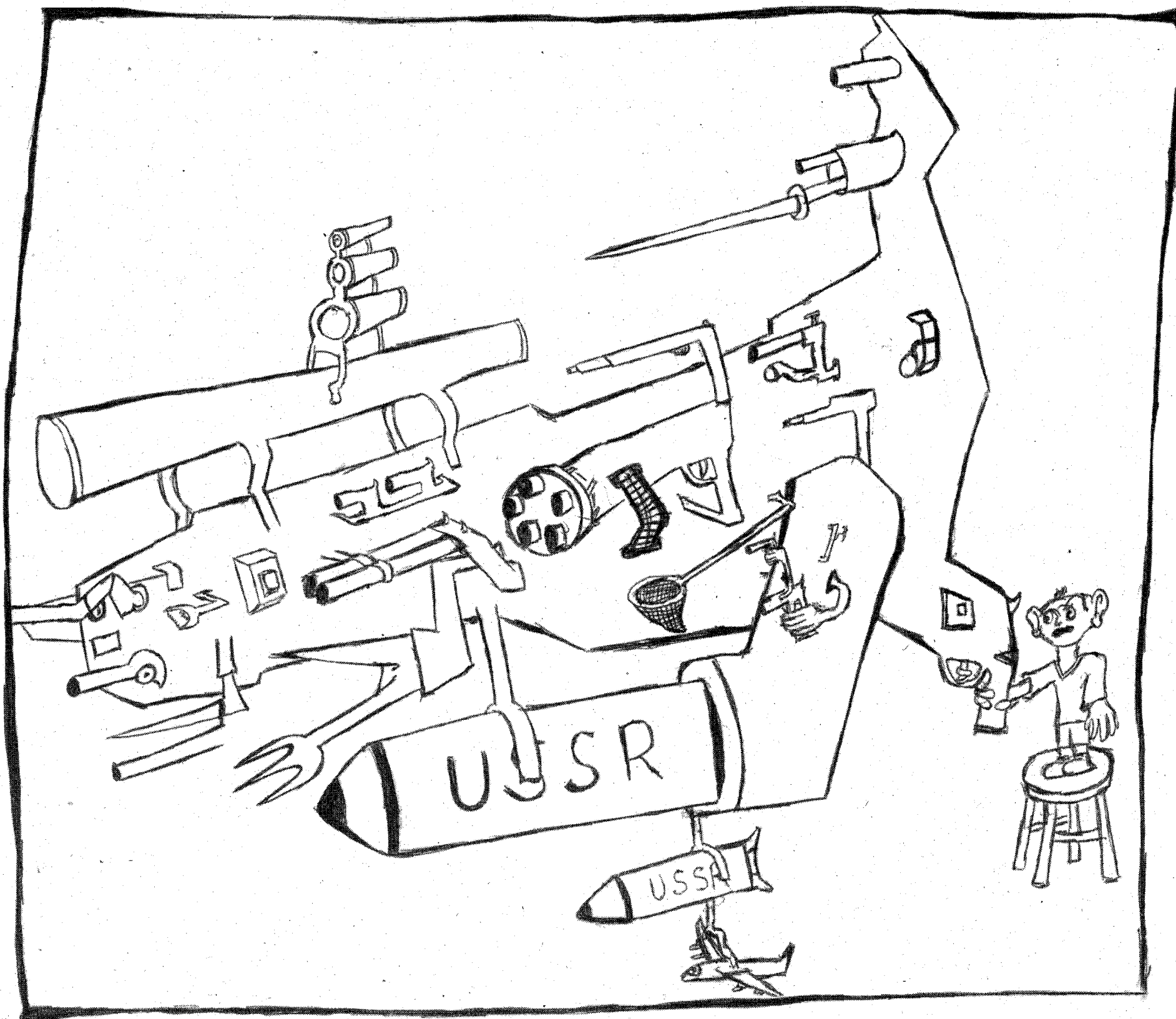


Bartender not available
for shooting.

Bartender: "Sure, knock yourself out."



The Comics Section



The Comics Section

Sex and The 'Brook

By Rudy Randall

Article 1: The Day I Lost My V-Card

I moved into Stony Brook University at the beginning of the Fall semester in 2004. I was 18, I was gay, and I was a virgin. Not that there hadn't been opportunity at any point in my life, I was just always scared by intimacy. In this day and age, virginity was something very rare among people of my age, it seemed everyone by their freshman year of college had engaged in the act of intercourse. All of my new friends had done so and I only had one friend back home that went to college a virgin. This wasn't a bad thing however, it was more of a shock than anything to people. My new friends vowed to help me fix this "problem."

I was lucky enough to meet some amazing people in the beginning of the semester, we bonded fast and we became almost like a family. Ed, my roommate, had been with his girlfriend for over two years before they had sex, which happened to be about two weeks before he moved into school. He lived relatively close and his girlfriend was a year younger and a senior in high school so they didn't have to worry about a distance thing, he got to see her pretty regularly. John lived a floor below me and Ed, we always hung out in his suite and pretty much lived there. He had lost his virginity when he was 17, he had had sex with three girls, one of which was a serious girlfriend. He was single now and definitely looking. Charlie, John's suitemate, was a theatre geek who wasn't a geek at all. He had lost his virginity when he was a sophomore in high school, he had only had sex with one other girl who was his current girlfriend. They were working on a long-distance relationship as she was also still a senior in high school and was back in his hometown near Westchester.

Now, one thing you need to know about me, is that I'm not your average gay guy. My friends and I have a theory that I wasn't even supposed to be gay. First of all, I don't have the "gay lisp." Also, I'm not clean; I'm quite possibly one of the messiest slobos you'll ever meet. However, the most incriminating piece of evidence is the fact that I don't have Gaydar. I could not point out a gay person if I tried. In only the most extreme of cases can I tell, such as Carson

from *Queer Eye* or Jack from *Will & Grace*. Also, I absolutely hate really flamboyant guys, for some reason it just gets on my nerves. I like guys, so be a guy. I don't want someone who wears more make-up than my mom, strike that, I don't want someone who wears make-up.

But back to the focus of the story.

My friends were determined to get me laid. Now after about a month of trying I had given up and decided not to spend so much time thinking about it. So one night John, our friend Lynn, her boyfriend, and I decided to go to a party in the building next to ours. We entered the suite of my friend Eric and it was pretty

"I was 18, I was gay,
and I was a virgin..."

crowded, there was a game of beer pong going on and they were setting up a game of asshole at a table in the middle. Now, one guy, Mark immediately caught my attention because he was pretty flamboyant and I thought that he might be gay. So I asked John and Lynn and they were pretty sure he was. So, I sat down next to him, and we started talking. He was an all right guy, a little more feminine than I usually go for but he was nice so it didn't really matter. He was cute, funny, and lived in the building next to mine, and it seemed he was interested in me as well. About two hours and two shots of Devil's Spring later John and Lynn were ready to go, so I went to get Mark's number.

"Why, are you going?" he asked.

"My friends are going, so..." I replied.

"Well me and a couple of my friends are gonna go watch a movie if you wanna come?"

I was tempted, I knew what "watch a movie" meant.

"Yeah...yeah, I'll go, let me just tell my friends I'm leaving." I told him.

I ran over to John and Lynn who were waiting at the door and told them that I was gonna chill here for a little while.

"Are you sure?", asked

Lynn

I paused, I wasn't even sure of what was going to happen, so I said, "Yeah, I'm sure."

John and Lynn left and I walked back over to Mark who was with a couple of people and we started walking upstairs. I sat with him on his bed while the other three or four people sat on his missing roommate's bed. Someone pulled out a joint and started passing it around. After a couple hits my inhibitions were out the window so we started making out. His friends eventually left so we started tearing each other's clothes off. Everything was going good except for one thing. I don't know if it was the alcohol, the weed, or if he was just bad, but he couldn't get it up. Believe me, I tried and tried but he was just not working. Not only had I never even been with someone who was naked, I definitely had never experienced this, so I climbed on top and a couple of minutes

later I had lost my Virginity.

We were laying down in his bed and for some reason I just started to get antsy. It was four in the morning and I wanted to sleep in my own bed. I got up and told him that I had to get back.

"You live off-campus? I thought you lived in a dorm?" he asked.

"I do," I replied, "I just gotta get up early." I lied.

So I got up and got dressed. I bent down to give him a kiss, missed, bent down again and kissed him. Still kind of buzzed I walked home and into John's suite, he was passed out but I woke him up and told him that I had just had sex, he gave me a thumb's up and fell asleep. I woke up in the morning feeling the same as when I had woken up the morning before. I took a shower, got dressed, and headed down to John's suite. I walked into his room and he immediately greeted me with a hug and called me a man, as did Ed and Charlie. However, I still didn't feel different. I felt, the same. I didn't feel sad, but I didn't feel exactly excited, I just didn't know.

In my rush to get back to the dorm I had never gotten Mark's number, and of course this was pre-Facebook so I didn't have a way to reach him. Living in the same quad and in the building next to someone you'd expect to see them quite frequently, but it was a good two weeks before I saw Mark again. I was walking up the path in my quad toward the dining hall and I saw him at the top of the path walking towards me, so as he got closer I waved and said hi. He immediately scowled, turned his face, and kept walking. I was dumbstruck, what the fuck had just happened? I kept walking to the dining hall running the twenty seconds over and over in my mind. What the fuck had just happened? What did I do? Did he even know who I was? What the fuck had just happened? I got an iced tea and nachos and ran back to my room and told Ed what had just happened.

"What!" yelled Ed.

"I don't know, I mean, he just turned his head, like he didn't know me." I said.

"Where's he live again? I'm gonna fucking kick his ass," Ed asked.

"You are not" I said, "I don't really care, it just kinda sucks, I just hope I don't run into him again."

The best thing about living in an enormous university like Stony Brook is that no matter where you live or where your classes are you will always see the people you never want to see. I had never seen Mark before on campus and now I saw him at least twice a week. I tried the first couple times to acknowledge him or say hi but he just kept giving me the cold shoulder so eventually I just stopped trying, and eventually I stopped seeing him everywhere. Seeing him four times a week, turned to once. Seeing him once a week turned into once every couple of weeks. Many people believe the day they lose their virginity will be this big turning point, and the person to whom they lose it will be this significant character in this life. Not for me. For me the day I lost my virginity was just another day and the person I lost it to is just another guy around campus. I wasn't bitter, I wasn't mad, I just saw it as an experience, something to grow from. We all grow, we all change things about ourselves and make decisions we might regret, but as long as we take our regrets and learn from them what is there to regret? I believe everything happens for a reason, that you can learn from everything, Mark happened for a reason, and I learned that you can never trust a guy that can't work his own dick.

To Be Continued...

THE STONY BROOK PRESS



**WE HAVE YOUR GRATUITOUS
SLAVE GIRL, AND IF YOU WANT
HER BACK, COME AND GET HER.**

**MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS AT 1 pm
STUDENT UNION ROOM o6o**

Ask Amberly Jane

What a long, strange trip it's been.

I just got back from a 10-day orgasm.

Wait. Amend. I haven't gotten back yet. I was in the Black Rock Desert for Burning Man. Missed the first 2 weeks of school to attend. My mind melted; I left it somewhere on the playa. Stats I've rattled off myriad times - 35,000 crazy, naked or otherwise artistic people on the moon, otherwise known as Nevada, the playa it's called - something hard, cracked and alkaline, that you can scrub pans with, and coats your skin with ivory pantyhose, and dreads your hair.

It's one harsh motherfucking environment: deathly hot during the day, freezing at night; no vegetation of any kind, no insects on the flat Tatooine nothingness in every direction, except for distant purple super-tit majesties and the carnival psychedelica of course, a feast for every eye and orifice - not even interrupted by 70 mph dust storms - all centered around The Man, a 100-foot neon-laced wooden figure atop a fun house, which gets burned to the ground on the last night, while sienna-hued bodies, swelling with heat, dance to the drums and destruction - dance as if freed from all the fetters that bind you to life.

But we'll return to this land of coaxial imagination in a sec.

For all you freshies: welcome to the column. It's been cuming strong for - good god, nearly three years now - delighting young and mature with the sex-capades, drug-capades, and uncensored jubilee firestorm orgy of yours truly, a deviant. A pervert. A social malcontent and nature-loving anarchist.

I receive many letters of lust - no question too insane, impure, or impolite. I loathe political-correctness, a censor of one's mind. I want to know the size - big as a baby's arm, and smell - ectoplasm and gingerbread. Hallelujah. Happily for me, my curiosity is a radio left on all night at full volume, and the neighbors complain and the cops come, happily for me, I get glorious expressive letters.

Everyone has a story. Share yours, if you dare.

On to the Burn - I was lovingly accosted by Naked Bruce at the gate. Name self-explanatory. Electra spanked me that first night - an initiation for virgin Burners. Sparkle and Dr. Wow, a 75-year-old couple camped next to me, regularly showering outside in the raw.

There was the Russian also, uncircum-

cised and always naked who wanted me to henna his penis, and to flog me with 7 varieties of whips ... one was kangaroo. I politely declined. Cake, who had Gumby brownies (because that's what they reduce you to). The pilot with tangerine pot and gourmet mushroom chocolates. Johnnie the fire-swallow from Kansas City. Babycakes, artist from ... i forget, with a grin like the Beer Barrel Polka. Easy and his Hawaiian cuddle-dome. Randy lads from New Zealand, Ireland and Scotland - and an Englishman looking to have clown sex. Radiant and Sawdust, Sunshine and Glitter - 37-year-old millionaire Silicon Valley swingers. Bunny Joe with Eons of ecstatic love. Sharky, perfect body, dark and wide of girth...

Yeah, I explored a lot of bodies under the expansive sky. You don't sleep much, and by the end your under-eye skin sags like fresh dough dripping from a baker's spoon.

Nothing is recognizable to your subconscious eye - you are bombarded with house-sized magenta heads buried in the ground just above the lip, giant movie-screen rainbow twinkle Light Brights, intricate contraptions of wood and metal - fire-spewing dragons, Tron-cycles, eyeballs and cupcakes that humans drove from the inside, Cheshire cat with the ear-to-ear, 20-foot bananas (with Viagra license plate), a giant blue pig with Vertigo eyes - all Art Cars that carry people to and fro ... ebb and flo.

A phone booth in the middle of Mad Max country (and yes, there was a Thunderdome. Two men enter, one man leave...) was a receiver to God. Out of order - seems god is on holiday. A 100-story ladder shooting 90 degrees into space.

Dicky, a forlorn roustabout, encased himself in a clear plastic cubicle. He was trying to artistically delve into the root of alienation, but in my opinion it was just a clever ruse to get the female sympathy vote.

And costumes. Glorious tribal, sultans, technicolor ball gowns, fuzzy flashing and I-don't-know-what. I'm describing that which allows description - the rest there are no words for - 3-story interactive clock apparati that when you dance on the neon platforms of disorientation with fire-pits and thousands of bodies writhing post-apocalyptic-style, fractal laser formations appear in front of you and you are presented with the answers to life's questions.

An adorable nymph in white climbed

onto my platform. "This is my first time to Burning Man!", she gushed, "And this is my first time on ecstasy. And this is my first time kissing a girl - can I make out with you?" To which I didn't hesitate and smiled wide like a royal flush and nodded because the music was thumping and she wouldn't have heard me anyway. Laser beams flocked around her like birds around Saint Francis. The sky so thick with millions of the brightest vanilla stars I've ever seen, magnanimous, from horizon to horizon, and a long strip of Milky Way creaming straight through. The moon mango, and thin as a tortilla. And there I was, swaying to heavy drums and techno vibrations teased into rhythm, my clit buzzing like a cicada, kaleidoscope sunbursts behind my eyes, sucking on the tongue of a lilly-white goddess.

I saw 9 shooting stars in the Nevada sky; before Burning Man, I had seen 0.

I rode my bike many miles everyday across the moon, with goggles, a necessity, and water - piss clear is the motto to live by if you don't want to end up shriveled like Napoleon's 2-inch jarred penis (at a museum in Zurich, I believe). Yet I probably only saw 10% of the whole shebang, organized by streets named Amnesia, Bi-Polar, Catharsis, Delirium, Ego, Fetish (get it - alphabetical, so even when your INCREDIBLY fucked up, you can usually find your way.)

Speaking of, I tasted three new drugs at the Burn: poppers - inhaled, feels like whip-its; ecstasy - I felt very much like usual, I must be ecstatic all the time. And DMT - smoked, zero to 85 in .2 seconds. 'You took too much man, too much...' Good news: it only lasts 10 minutes.

A tangent about being ecstatic: When I was in Tampa, during the tail-end of my year and a half cross-country journey that culminated in attendance at Stony Brook, I worked briefly selling artwork out the back of my convertible. Met a great variety of humans who, if I read about them in a book, would have been quite sure they were fictitious. Once, I happened upon a Scientologist stronghold, and they convinced me to take their patented Life Happiness Quiz (250 questions!)

They graph the results, and where it dips below a certain line, that's the area you need help. Well, they looked back and forth at each other, in their crisp matching T-shirts,

Continued on next page



Hey, did you hear about The Press?

The Press? Yeah, I heard about them.

Well?

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

Really?!?

Word yo. Raccoons.

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

THE STONY BROOK PRESS
RM 060 IN THE STUDENT UNION
WWW.THEPRESS.INFO #2-6451
MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1PM

Ask Amberly Jane

Continued from previous page

and stared at me in disbelief.

"We've never seen anyone as well-adjusted as you. You must be very content. We can't help you."

"I am," I said, "and No, you can't."

About the daily Burn: people say 'Welcome Home', and you may think it's hokey, but for a 10-day orgasm I'll take an eye-roll here and there. People want to help you, love you, kiss you, shower you with compliments, anything on the spectrum.

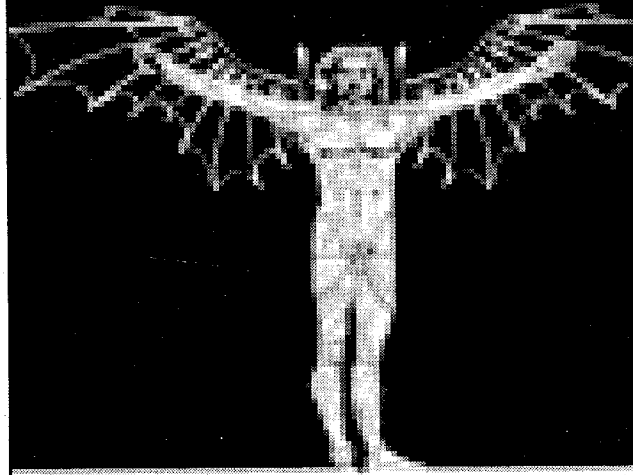
Some of the Principles - Radical Inclusion, Self-Reliance and Self-Expression. Gifting (Money is discouraged). Leave No Trace. Participation and Communal Effort.

Those are the principles, the essence, isolated from commotion and myth.

bubbly to fellow wayfarers. After a hug and some convo, maybe we would share an adventure, then part and start the cycle anew.

As a community, there are appearances of certain human social leanings - Rumors: like Lindsey Lohan was there, or the Playboy Bunnies - who were giving out passes to party with Hugh. Also, suspicions of narcs and don't eat the brown acid.

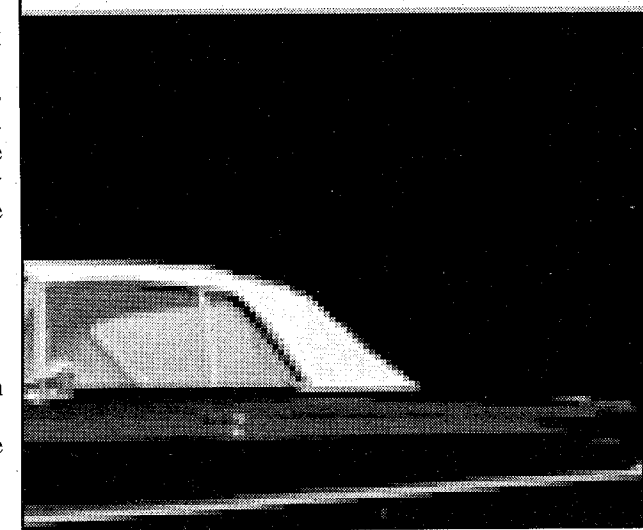
No one is stuffy or ill-mannered, (except for the bad-trip and no-sex crowd - one downside to an orgy, usually someone's left with a hard-on.) Some people go to be different people, presumably who you're afraid to be in public - in the 'default' world, as we came to regard it. Some go to be themselves, unencumbered by the pressure of social graces, inspired and in touch with the archives of crudest instinct ... etched in breath is the desire to be free.



How do you
prepare for your
commute?

Join the
Commuter
Student
Association!

Meetings
Wednesday
at 1pm in the
University Cafe



NIGHT OF THE BURN ... JUST ANOTHER COUPLE FREAKS, IN THE FREAK KINGDOM.
THESE PARTICULAR FREAKS ARE AMBERLY JANE ON THE LEFT, JAMIE MIGNONE RIDING LIFE IN THE
MIDDLE AND THE LOVELY PAULA GUY ON THE RIGHT.
Courtesy of Cousin Paully

It is a community without phones, TV or iPod. Nearly anything wanted - is had. Taoist Erotic Massage for lovers, Pole Dancing Class, Advanced Rope Bondage, Porn & Eggs, Dilated People's Eye Spa, Bald Head Decorating, Heavy Petting Zoo, Celtic Maze, Sangria Soiree's, Juke Joints and Freudian Slipper Lounge's. None of which I got to - distraction is like a magnet ... stimulus overload is inevitable.

From Make-out Monday to Threesome Thursday, Fetish Friday and 69 Saturday, Graffiti Night, Beer Socials, Shanty Ho Down's ... Tents you could visit at certain times to get free pancakes, saki, oral sex, oranges, coffee, hash, panties...

I participated in Critical Tits, a bike rally for thousands of topless women. During the after-party, the only men allowed in were serving - circulating with trays of fruit and candy, massaging, body-painting, fanning, rubbing glitter and otherwise worshiping you and your body. Not a bad way to spend a sunny afternoon.

Paully, my cousin (who bought my ticket and the RV we stayed in, and is one generous bastard), brought 12 cases of champagne. I would wander around on drugs, offering the

And at the end, when the Man was burned, all 10 stories crunching in red-hot licks of flame, bodies convulsing to the drums in and out of melody, crossing the beats like a jaywalker dodging taxicabs, road signs are stolen and many start packing up, meaning your usual landmarks disappear, and you must use Cassiopeia in the bright malted sky to guide you.

I'm sorry, but I must halt at the moment. Plans are coalescing, and I have to leave; taking a juicy bite of the big apple for a dear friend's birthday tonight - eyeball on deadline. Always on the move, you know. Can't get to letters this week, they've been stacking up from over the summer - for those of you inquiring about my safety, confused, thought I was washed up some shore - Naw man, I'm all good.

E-mail: AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com.

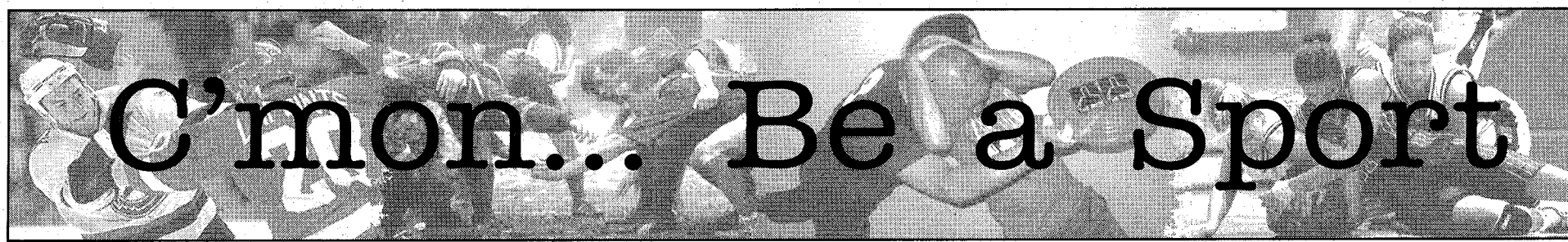
Next week: Lurid stories.

Tequila body shots.

Girl goes to Amsterdam. Girl sits in hotel room and reads Bible. Help is on the way.

Building refurbished: Why does the downstairs still smell like diaper?

Karma Sutra position of the week...



Lehigh Blanks Seawolves Women's Soccer

By Antony Lin

On the sunny and beautiful Sunday afternoon at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, the Stony Brook Seawolves fell to the Lehigh Mountain Hawks 2-0. About 130 would be in attendance for the affair.

The Seawolves started the match with a 4-5-1 formation, while the Mountain Hawks also appeared to be using the 4-5-1 as well. The first half saw Lehigh attacking frequently, creating more of the opportunities. "It was tough. We needed more runs off the ball. It was a good first half, but we have to work on capitalizing," stated left winger Trine Allenberg.

The visitors would score off a counterattack in the 10th minute after a loss of possession on the left wing. Midfielder/forward, Daniela Molina, found Gina Lewandowski off a through ball. Lewandowski went in all alone and slotted the ball off the far post and in.

Four minutes later Stony Brook nearly equalized. Right winger, Danielle Lewis played the ball ahead looking for forward, Tiffany Fasullo. Mountain Hawks goalkeeper, Julie Kafka rushed out but was unable to pounce on it. With the net empty and the ball ending up at the feet of Lewis, Lewis' cross was cleared away.

After missing the last couple of games, right back Kirsandra Seaton would return in the 20th minute. "On the positive note of today's game, Kirsandra returned. It is good to see her re-enter mentioned coach Ryan.

The greatest opportunity of the match for the Seawolves would come in the 25th minute. Allenberg placed a nice long ball find-

ing Lewis down the wing. Lewis fired a slow roller from 8 yards out past Kafka. While Kafka was beaten, Lehigh forward, Michaela Pawlewicz was able to get a foot to it, knocking the ball at her own post, leaving the ball loose in the box, which was then cleared.

As Stony Brook looked to equalize in the second half, Lehigh continued its pressure. The Mountain Hawks would go up 2-0 in the 54th minute. Midfielder, Jen Fetsick chested down a ball from fellow midfielder, Shannon Lockwood. Fetsick was able to put the ball into the far post from 8 yards out.

The visitors nearly tripled its lead in the 77th minute. Midfielder, Lauren Calabrese shot from point blank met up with an onrushing Bennett, who was able to make the save. "We went for the win rather than keeping it close by putting four forwards up top. We always want to give the team a chance to win. By doing this, we left the back exposed," explained coach Ryan.

The best chance for the Seawolves in the second half would come one minute later. Fasullo found Allenberg. Allenberg lofted a short ball finding Lewis in all alone. Lewis' effort from 9 yards out hits the near post and bounces out of play. "It is a game of inches. We hit the post twice and it bounces out. Lehigh hits the post and it bounces in," stated head coach Sue Ryan.

Stony Brook drops to 1-4-1 on the season while Lehigh improves to 5-0-0. "They are a good team. Technically, they were very good. Danielle Lewis played very well," said Allenberg.

"The high emotion from Friday night made it difficult to us. We have to look at what we did well and get ready for St. Johns on the road since it is a big rivalry. I am happy that we are fighting hard. The next step is to get the result," stated coach Ryan.



THE TEAMS EXCHANGE THE "HIGH FIVE" AFTER THE GAME, Courtesy of Joy Dutta

Seawolves March Over The Saints

By Antony Lin

An estimated crowd of 350 were in attendance at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on the Friday evening as the Stony Brook Seawolves, in their home opener, battled the Siena Saints to a 2-0 win. "We had good support tonight. It was good to be home after a long road trip. We went down to Florida and we also faced some tough fields on the road," said head coach, Sue Ryan.

Stony Brook began the match with the 4-5-1 formation, while the Saints used the 4-4-2. Due to the injury of Kirsandra Seaton, Kelly Bahnsen took over the right back position. "Kelly has never played in the back and she volunteered to play there. She has a great mentality and she is doing a great job. For her, it is all about the team," stated coach Ryan.

The start of the first half saw the visitors applying heavy pressure towards the Seawolves backline. The Saints first opportunity came in the 3rd minute as Siena defender, Kate Goodwin's shot was easily handled by Seawolves goalkeeper, Cindy Bennett.

The Saints' best opportunity would come just three minutes later. Bennett came out well to stop the shot of Siena's forward, Kristen Turner, off a breakaway. Turner was able to collect her own rebound only to have her shot cleared off the line from Seawolves left back, Chelsea Van Horn.

The home side would get their first opportunity in the 10th minute. Off a cutback, right winger, Danielle Lewis was able to find lone forward of the first half, Tiffany Fasullo.

Her effort from 17 yards out was saved and held onto by Saints keeper, Patti Carroll.

Stony Brook's best opportunity in the first half would come in the 37th minute off a fantastic buildup on a counter. Forward, Jackie Anthony found midfielder, Kristin Mishrell from about 40 yards out. With Lewis sprinting towards the middle, Mishrell sent a splendid through ball finding Lewis, whose one-timer from point blank sailed just wide of the right post off an onrushing Carroll.

The Seawolves would get their first opportunity in the second half three minutes in. Lewis' cross from the right skipped pass a few and found its way to left winger, Trine Allenberg. Allenberg's shot from 8 yards would sail just high of the crossbar.

Another golden opportunity would come for the home side in the 60th minute. Anthony placed a through ball to Lewis. Lewis' shot from 11 yards out was denied by the far post.

The pressure put on by Stony Brook would finally pay off in the 71st minute thanks to a "golazo" from midfielder Brooke Barbuto. After eluding a Saints defender, Barbuto cracked one from 35 yards out, finding the upper left of the goal. "Coach Ryan told me to get the ball and score. I got the ball and turned, and then I nailed the shot," said Barbuto.

Just a minute later, Mishrell nearly got the insurance goal. Mishrell cut the ball to her right and unleashed one from 25 yards out, sailing inches wide of the near post.

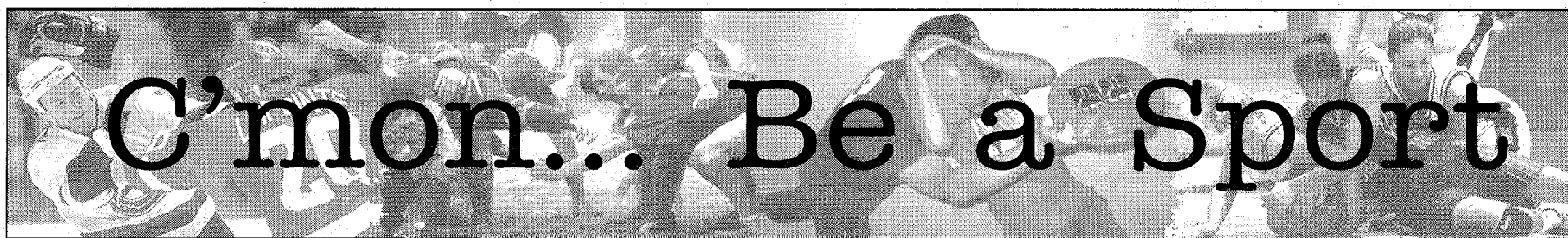
The insurance goal however, would come in the 82nd minute off a setup by Barbuto. Barbuto found Allenberg making a run down the left. Her near post shot curled past Carroll to make it 2-0. "Going towards goal I saw my teammate (Allenberg) wide and Trine nailed a beautiful shot," stated Barbuto.

The win improved Stony Brook to a 1-3-1 record, while Siena drops to 2-3-0 on the season. "We came off a losing streak and wanted it bad. The same intensity to win is expected the next game," mentioned midfielder, Kate Attenberger.

Seawolves Women's Soccer Capture Title and Coach Ryan's Milestone

In the second game of the quadruple header, the Stony Brook women's team also captured the Holiday Inn Express Invitational title by defeating St. Francis 2-0. Goalkeeper Cindy Bennett, along with defenders Kirsandra Seaton, and Marisa Nucci made the All-Tournament team. Forward Tiffany Fasullo took home the honor of Most Valuable Player.

The victory also marked a milestone for head coach Sue Ryan. Ryan now has 150 victories in her 21st season as head coach of Stony Brook.



C'mon... Be a Sport

Despite Loss, Seawolves Men's Soccer Captures Title

By Antony Lin

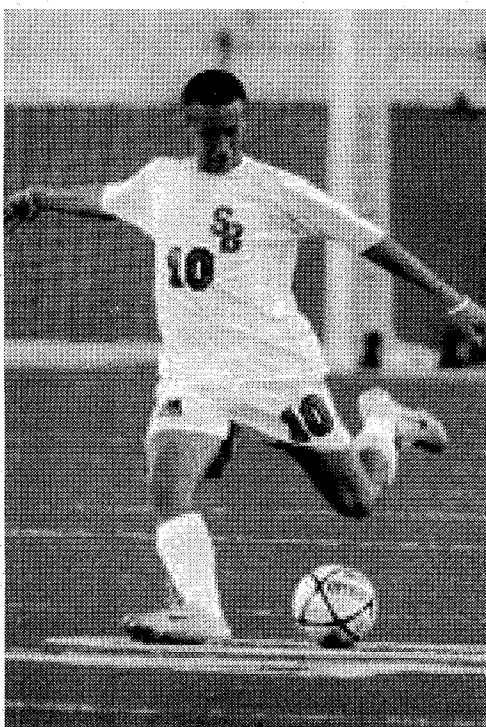
On the beautiful and clear Sunday evening, a crowd of 250 showed up to see the Columbia Lions blank the Stony Brook Seawolves 1-0 on the final day of the Holiday Inn Express Invitational. The match was the fourth of a quadruple header at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

"It was a tough game. We did not wake up until the 40th to 50th minute. We were unlucky in the second half. We were preparing all week after coming back from playing Howard University," said center midfielder, Michael Palacio.

The match started off in a slow and defensive pace, seeing Columbia with more of the possession. Stony Brook employed a 3-5-2, while Columbia appeared to be using the 4-4-2.

The first opportunity of the match would come for the Lions in the 9th minute. From the right side, midfielder John Mulhern cracked one from 27 yards out sailing just wide of the far post. Nevertheless, Seawolves goalkeeper, EJ Xikis appeared to have had the shot covered.

The visitors' next opportunity would



TOURNAMENT MVP, MICHAEL PALACIO
Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

come four minutes later off a loss of possession in the Seawolves end. Forward, Tom Smith's shot from 13 yards out was easily handled by Xikis.

Stony Brook was able to create more opportunities in the second half, but it was Columbia who managed to get what would be the game-winning goal, a minute into the second half. Off a cross from midfielder Drew Ford, Smith fired a shot past Xikis to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

"It was just a beautiful goal." There was not a lot you can do about it," stated head coach Cesar Markovich.

The Lions nearly doubled their lead in the 57th minute. Midfielder, Will Lee's cross from the right wing found Smith, whose header sailed wide of the far left post.

The Seawolves would get their first great opportunity in the 63rd minute. Palacio, lofted a through ball to sprinting forward, Chris Megaloudis. Megaloudis went in all alone, only to have his shot saved from an

onrushing Michael Testa.

Three minutes later, the home side would get an even better opportunity. Palacio took on two Columbia defenders and laid it off to midfielder, Matt Avellino. Avellino's right-footed effort from 28 yards out unfortunately found only the left post.

The last opportunity for the equalizer would come in the 82nd minute. Defender Mark Zajkowski, sent a long ball that skipped to Palacio. Taking on two defenders on the left wing, Palacio lofted the ball over a defender to himself. His shot from 7 yards out forced Testa into making an excellent jumping save, preventing any rebound.

With the loss, Stony Brook ends their five-game unbeaten streak and drops to 4-2-1 on the season while The Lions improve to 3-5-0.

"We just ran out of gas. Columbia is good. We tried to match them in the second half," stated Markovich.

Despite its loss, Stony Brook was still crowned the champions of the 2005 Holiday Inn Express Invitational due to goal differential. In the preceding game, Lafayette won by a 1-0 margin over Fairfield. Two nights ago, the Seawolves defeated Lafayette 3-0, while Fairfield defeated Columbia 1-0.

Avellino and defender Rob Fucci made the All-Tournament team for the Seawolves, while Palacio was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

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HEY, WHO ORDERED THE REVIEWS?

Graham Coxon - *Kiss of Morning*

By Stephanie Hayes



Walking around Camden-town
Illustration by Steph Hayes

This is my favorite Graham Coxon album. At first listen it may seem too simple but each song, whether it's loaded with an infectious catchiness or a lone acoustic guitar, is nearly perfect. The mish-mash of musical genres from one track to the next is so great that the most critical listener can probably find something gratifying. However, *The Kiss of Morning* is never hindered by its experimentalism. Coxon's voice, which manages to sound vulnerable yet uncontrived, ties each song together smoothly. His singing is perfectly suited for the strange, sad, personal lyrics it carries. More so than his previous solo albums, this effort showcases his talents, apart from being the former Blur guitarist. Graham Coxon's latest album, *Happiness in Magazines*, was released earlier this year.



Book House

One of the last remaining independent bookstores in Suffolk County is closing October 1.

The Book House has been around for decades, selling used books, often those that are out of print, to the community. Situated alongside the actual Lake Ronkonkoma, this literary landmark has relied for three decades on word of mouth, and humble, small fliers with a sketch of the Book House and a map of its location on the lake to advertise it. The Book House was formerly a snack shop when the Lake was a popular summertime destination back in the 1960s, and retained the unassuming architecture it had from that time. Unlike mainstream bookstores, with their impersonal staff and hip, at times faux intellectual environments, The Book House was as real as they come. Breezes of the lake served as natural air conditioning. The fact that The Book House had no heat in the winter was no deterrent for the true literary aficionados that have often frequented the place. The grandfatherly owner cares more about rapport with his family of customers than his bottom line.

This is what we call "Editorial Space." It's created when we've got a little bit of white space and nothing to fill it with. I am going to fill it with what is said to me next.

"Can I see how it's coming along?"

"Prazak, come here! Prazak!"

(Zombie moaning follows)

"Hey, Rob... What's up? You call me?"

Tune in next issue when we've got little holes to fill with nonsense.

SHORT STACK, TABLE 3

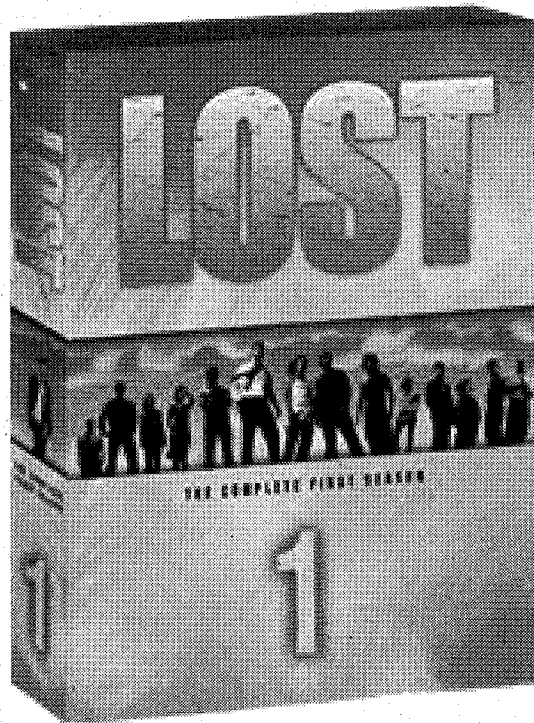
Lost - The Complete First Season DVD

By David K. Ginn

Lost: The Complete First Season kicks ass. There is so much ass kicked by this DVD set, I don't know if anything could ever kick ass again. Well, perhaps that's exaggerating. Truthfully, there could have been more. I wanted more. But it's cool. I liked it anyway.

The show rocked, of course, but we will not discuss that here. I've reviewed every single episode already in past issues, so now I'm about ready to focus on the DVDs.

There are seven discs. The first six have all the episodes, and the last has the special features. There are only a handful of commentaries, but they are of course awesome. Both parts of the pilot, plus a few other episodes have decent commentary tracks, but above all make sure to watch the commentary on *The Moth*, otherwise known as *DMS: The Dominic Monaghan Show*. Yes, it is indeed awesome.



Now let's jump ahead to the bonus features, because that's what we all came for, isn't it? The documentaries rock really hard. Check them out.

You've got your deleted scenes (plus two cut flashbacks from the finale) and some amazing bloopers. The bloopers made me laugh. They made me laugh heartily and fully.

The documentary features are fantastic. Most of them are about the pilot, but they all cover other aspects of the show as well. Perhaps the coolest feature is the auditions section. Here we see all of the actors auditioning for completely different roles.

It's amazing.

Yeah, I don't have much more to say. I'm gonna go back to watching the show.

THE PRESS

THEY STOLE OUR PRESS-IOUS...
AND WE WANTS IT BACK!

MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1PM. STUDENT UNION 060

Author's Armchair

by Andrew Pernick

This issue is my first back in the saddle as Copy Editor. And, speaking of editing and editors, we have the theme for this installment of Author's Armchair: editing. An author is, more often than not, his harshest critic. Writing, when it comes to self-editing, is suffering—an author suffers for his work, sweating bullets, bleeding from the wounds he inflicts on his psyche and his ego. For most authors, nothing is ever good enough, nothing is ever truly perfect. This is the nature of the beast.

There is a fine line between an edited text and an over-edited text. The goal of every author is to straddle that line, to push the envelope, so to speak, so that his work represents the best possible reflection of his talents. This is where the pain comes in. Sentences need to be cut, entire paragraphs need to be reworded, entire chapters may need to be rebuilt from the ground up or, worse still, scrapped. This is also where the art comes in. When one reaches the editing phase, one must remember that there is more to editing than simply correcting the mechanics. The first critical question is, of course, "Is it grammatically correct?" The second, harder, question is, "Does it work?"

My first piece of advice this: answer the second question first. One must strive to maintain stylistic, thematic and dramatic elements. Continuity is key. It is permissible to have the occasional sentence fragment if style or theme demands it. It is permissible to have a run-on sentence here or there. These two facts are doubly important in dialog—remember, no one ever speaks in perfect English all the time. The mark of a good author is to know when to break the rules

and how. That said, NEVER let your spelling suffer—there is no excuse for typos. Thus, it is easier to strive to have writing that works within the context of the larger work than it is to make your work grammatically perfect first and then have to suffer through the agony of making it fit within the rest of the text.

Second, make sure you have a copy of the rest of the text on-hand. This serves two purposes. For one, it allows you to make sure you maintain continuity at all times. For another, it ensures that you have ready access to your prior decisions, stylistic and thematic elements, patterns of speech for your characters, and even metaphors and similes you've already used.

In addition, you could try finding a writer's circle. For those of you who are not in the know, a writer's circle is a group of writers who get together to improve their work. A good circle is equal parts professional development center, support group, and social club. Finding a writer's circle is simply a matter of a little time, a little bit of Googling, and some patience. That said, it does take some time to find a circle that works for you, so you may not find the right one on the first try.

While we're on the topic of having others help you in the editing process, you could also try submitting it to online forums such as www.fictionpress.com or the MegaTokyo Creative Writing forum on Piro's Corner (forums.megatokyo.com). That said, I must give you a word of warning: the MT forum has a ratings system for the degree of criticism to be levied upon a submission, ranging from an F1 (good or bad) to an F5 (an in-depth analysis, with scathing criticism); unless you are very confident in your work and have an extremely healthy ego capable of handling the possibility that your work might be publicly ripped to shreds online, don't request anything above an F3.

When it comes to choosing an editor, many people think that their best friend or lover would make a good choice. This is a mind-bogglingly BAD idea—a best friend knows you, and wants to keep you on as their friend. This is doubly so for a lover. Thus, they will not be honest in their criticism; instead, they will view your work through rose-colored glasses and will not give you the honest, constructive criticism you need. Instead, turn to someone who has proven himself to be honest, objective, and critical, yet fair. DON'T turn to best friends or lovers.

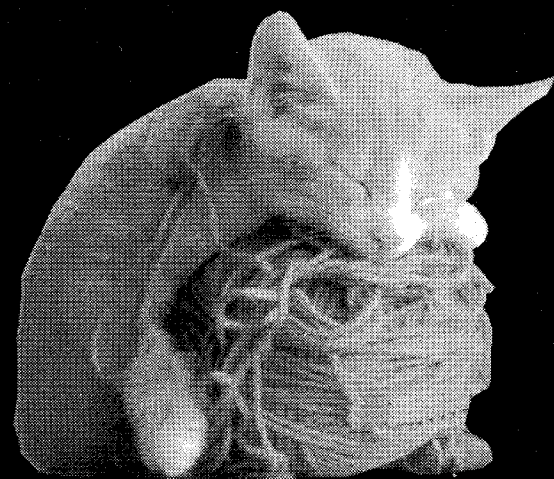
Once you've received your work

back from those you have entrusted to edit it, make whatever revisions you feel are appropriate. Remember, you are the author, not them. It is up to you to know whether their suggestions should be implemented. Over time, you will develop a sixth sense for when to stop editing. Once you do, this skill will stay with you for life, taking much of the pain out of the editing process, and making the writing process itself easier as you start to edit while you are writing. Until then, trust your instincts and the advice of those you turn to. Happy Writing!

Play America's Greatest Pastime

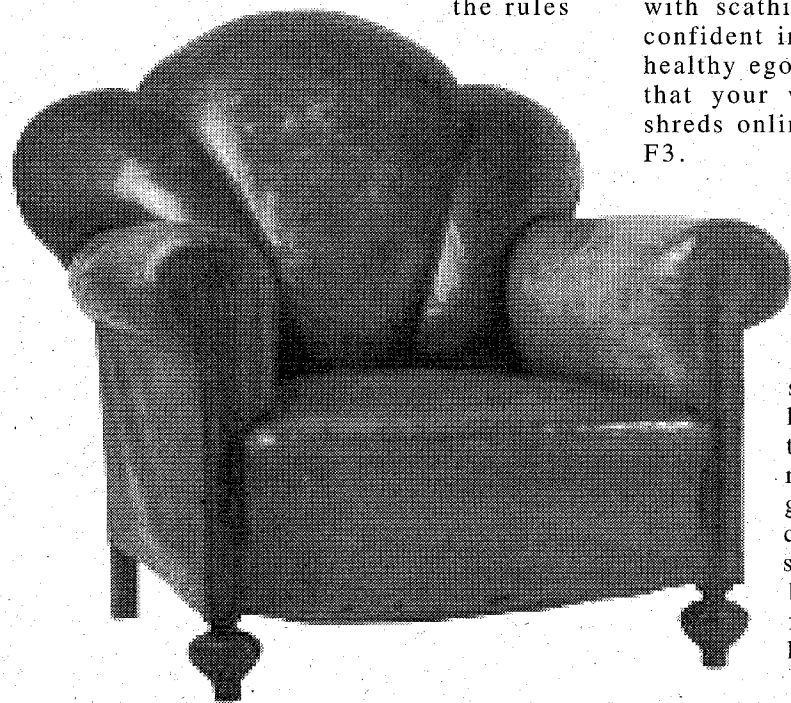
"Dead or Sleeping"

Every Wednesday at 1pm
060 Student Union



The Stony Brook Press:

Where dead things and sleeping
things can peacefully co-exist...
and then we guess which is which



☒ Swords

☒ Sorcery

☒ Technology

☒ LESBIANS!

CRASHWORLD

- A NOVEL -

www.AndrewPernick.com

Dear Prostentnic Vogon Jeltz,

I'm a teacher at a city high school and I have a problem. My kids won't listen to me no matter what I do. They are always rowdy and they won't stop talking even when I am trying to teach. I have tried everything, yelling, pleading, assigning more homework, calling parents, but they won't sit down and learn. Do you have any advice for me?

—Tryin' to Teach in Detroit

Dear Tryin' to Teach,

I see you have quite a problem on your hands. When my crewmembers get rowdy, such as shouting too quietly or lumbering around in a way I don't particularly like, I sit them down quietly and read them some of my poetry. They are always screaming for more when they hear it, but when it's over they are nice and calm and will listen and obey anything I say. They will even tell me how much they like my poems. Hopefully, it will work for you, but if you are not as talented as I in writing poetry, you can just execute half the class as a disciplinary exercise. I did that with my crew the other day, and I must say not only is the crew shouting and lumbering just the way I like them to shout and lumber, but I myself feel much better.

Dear Vogon Guard,

Hi, I'm recently unemployed and am looking for a job, but I don't know what's out there. I'm trying to find something where I would have opportunities to climb the proverbial ladder, you know what I mean? I don't want to work behind a register, or to be stocking shelves. I want something that's somewhat enjoyable and with room for advancement. What do you think I should do?

—Poor in Pittsburg

Dear Poor,

You can always become a guard on a Vogon spacecraft. The hours are very good, although the actual minutes aren't all that enjoyable. But you will have many important responsibilities, such as shouting, that you give you the feeling that you are truly part of a team! Try this, repeat after me: "RESISTANCE IS USELESS!!!" Did you enjoy that? I'm sure you did. The most fun thing about this job, without a doubt, is throwing people out of the airlock. My aunt says a ship's security guard is a perfect job for a young Vogon, so I'm pretty sure it's a perfect job for whatever you are. Remember, RESISTANCE IS USELESS!!!!

Dear Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz,

I am in big trouble! I recently took out a huge loan from the bank in order to pay my mortgage, but I lost all the relevant forms needed for the money. I had originally tried to use my credit cards to pay it, but they were all over the limit. I mortgaged my house because I owed thousands of dollars to the government because I hadn't paid my taxes in three years and they caught me hiding a lot of income that was supposed to have been claimed. If I don't come out with a lot of money fast, they are going to take everything I own, even my house, and put me in jail! Help!

—Fiscally Irresponsible in Florida

Dear Fiscally Irresponsible,

Sorry, but I can't help you. You didn't send this letter through the proper channels. When you send a letter to which you want to receive a reply, you must include the registration form signed in triplicate, sent in, sent back, queried, lost, found, subject to public inquiry, lost again, and finally buried in soft pleat for three months and recycled as fire lighters. When you have filled out all the necessary forms, for the small fee of 600 Altarian Dollars or 9 Ningis (1 Pu), then send in your question again and I'll happily give you some advice and maybe even read you some of my poetry.

We do this all for you!

ASK A VOGON ANYTHING

Dear Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz,

It's my grandmother's 5,397th birthday and I don't know what planet to hold her birthday party on. Since she's really old and has seen many planets, she wants to go somewhere exotic, preferably to a place where not many tourists go. Could you suggest some places for me, please?

—Party Animal on Bethselamin

Dear Party Animal,

There is an entire space-time continuum full of interesting sights and wonderful experiences. I would recommend having a bite to eat at Millway's, but then again taking a woman nearing death's door to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe may not be the best idea. Might I then recommend the planet Traal? There you can see unique creature called the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast of Traal. Be cautious, however, the Bugblatter Beast often preys on elderly women, regardless of species. My own grandmother fell victim to one of these creatures last year, and though it very much angered me, I did not save her as I did not receive the orders to do so from Vogsphere.

If it is your wish to observe simple, primitive, yet exotic creatures, might then I recommend a planet in the western spiral arm of the galaxy called Earth? It's a lovely planet, but you have to hurry if you want to see it, because in twelve minutes it will be demolished in order to build a hyperspace bypass. But at least there when you go to the lavatory, you won't need a receipt.

Dear Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz,

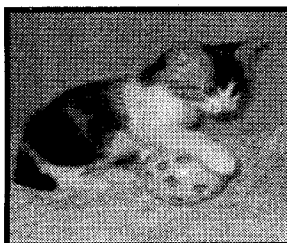
I am very confused about the Universe, specifically how we all came about. All the people of my planet say that the Universe was sneezed out of the nose of the Great Green Arkleseizure, but I think life slowly evolved into what it is today. What do you think? Am I right to disagree with my fellow Jatravartids, or am I totally off base?

—Confused on Viltvodle VI

Dear Confused,

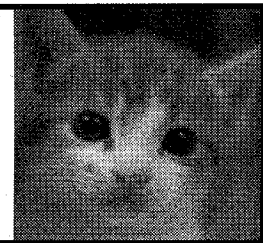
I think it is foolish to put faith in evolution. It is not needed, despite what many proponents of the theory claim. Look at my people. We came out of the seas of Vogsphere and decided that evolution was too much of a waste of time. Who really needs it anyway? Vogonity turned out just fine. So yes, the Vogons are living proof that evolution is a myth, so feel free to go back and wait for the Coming of the Great White Handkerchief with the rest of your multi-armed kind.



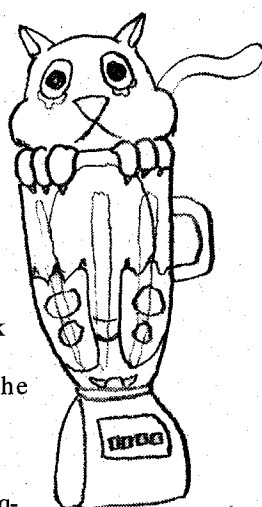
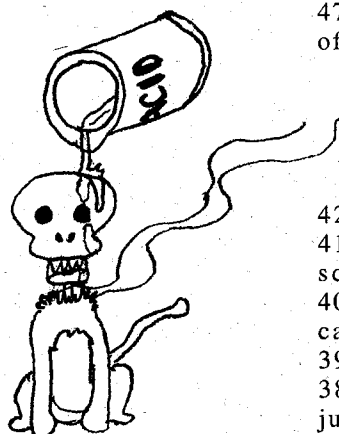


The Stony Brook Press Proudly Presents...

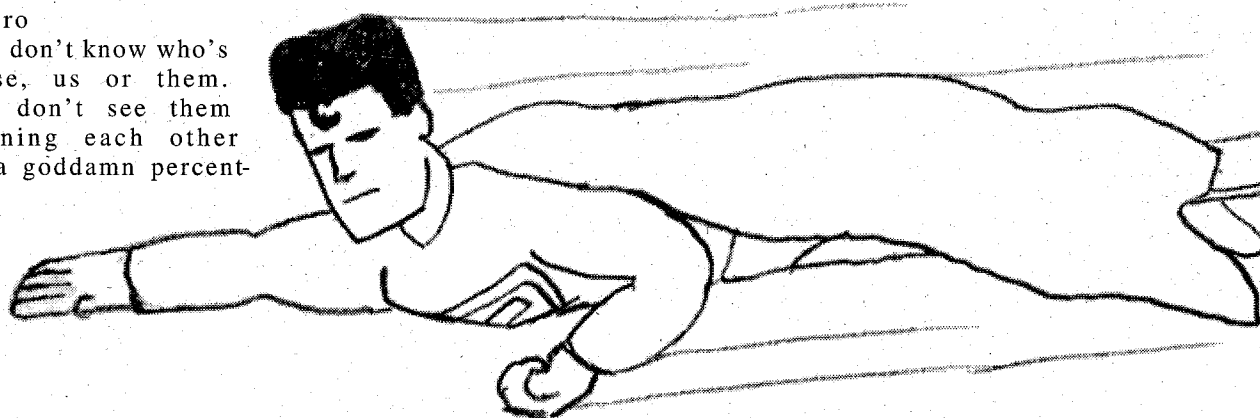
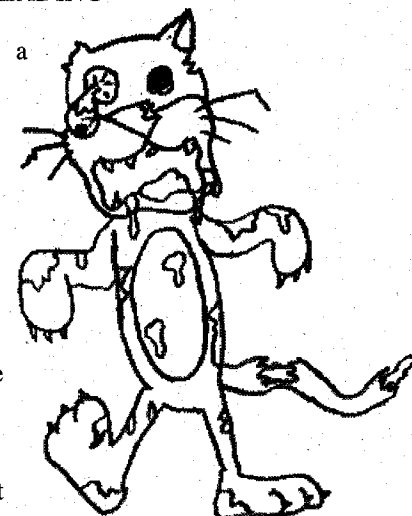
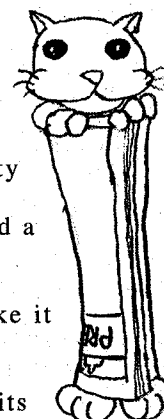
101 Ways To Skin A Cat



- 101) Hedge Clippers
- 100) Velcro
- 99) Tearing off lots of Band-Aids
- 98) Concentrated Acid
- 97) A really powerful lint roller
- 96) Convince it that removing fur is a symbol of social dissent
- 95) More Velcro
- 94) Organize a leaflet campaign condemning fur
- 93) Yeah, try a little more Velcro
- 92) Turn the cat on its back, place it on a hot skillet, wait for three minutes and then pull it off
- 91) Run it through the drain disposal
- 90) Strap a hose to its back and syphon
- 89) Send it to China
- 88) If Velcro doesn't work, try duct tape
- 87) Superglue the cat to a set of train tracks. When the train comes, sit back and watch the cat skin itself as it tries to escape
- 86) Suspend the cat with a stomach harness with a suspended sheet of flypaper on its back. Place a ball of yarn four feet from the harness and watch the cat swing
- 85) George Foreman Lean, Mean, Skinnin' and Grinnin' Machine
- 84) Tie the cat to Superman and have him fly at top speed
- 83) Scare it
- 82) Construct a time machine and send the cat back to Nagasaki (may be overkill)
- 81) Seal the cat in quick-drying cement and then chisel it free
- 80) Incisive wit
- 79) Have Pat Robertson pray for skinned cats. Let divine intervention take its course.
- 78) Potato peeler
- 77) Sawzall
- 76) Blender
- 75) Hang cat over knives and wait for Vogon paperwork to come through.
- 74) Possess the cat with a demon and exorcise it "the hard way".
- 73) Four words: Jeff Goldblum/ teleportation machine
- 72) Paint cat in pinstripes and ship it to Boston
- 71) Have a giant spider bite it and once its insides liquefy open a hole to drain it.
- 70) Rube Goldberg machine
- 69) Hello Kitty S&M
- 68) Deng Lee's
- 67) Self-effacing humor
- 66) They don't call it a cat o' nine tails for nothing... but that's not a way to skin a cat
- 65) Deli-slicer
- 64) Give it to Edward Scissorhands as a pet
- 63) Adamantium infusion gone wrong
- 62) Hulk angry! Hulk skin!
- 61) Put it in a centrifuge
- 60) Eh, try some more Velcro
- 59) Barbed wire cage match, bitch
- 58) Bring it for midday tea with Jack the Ripper
- 57) Nuke it from orbit. It's the only way to be sure.
- 56) You really should never, ever skin a cat
- 55) Haha. Fuck it. Skin that motherfucker.
- 54) FATALITY
- 53) Moils Gone Woild
- 52) Wrap it in The Press. Drop off at CORE party office
- 51) Put it in a space shuttle. Poke hole in window.
- 50) Slim Pickins. Yeehaw!
- 49) Slim Pickins... with Velcro
- 48) I don't know who's worse, us or them. You don't see them skinning each other for a goddamn percentage.



- 47) Expose it to UPN's exciting fall lineup. (Honestly, the season finale of Buffy marked the quick, downward spiral)
- 46) A knife. Try a simple fucking knife.
- 45) Full body wax
- 44) Lightsaber battle over hot magma
- 43) Ask the cat to paint its self-portrait into The Last Judgement
- 42) Flesh-eating bacteria
- 41) Offer \$20 federal gold dollars for each Injun kitty scalp
- 40) Random fact: Vin Diesel's mere presence once caused a cat to skin itself
- 39) A particularly vicious shiatsu massage
- 38) Glue socks to it and surprise it in an attempt to make it jump out of its socks. Hilarity ensues
- 37) Transpose it to a Dali painting
- 36) Cast it in Mission: Impossible 3 where it removes its skin to reveal it's really a scientologist
- 35) Prevent it from making a daily call to its girlfriend
- 34) Tell inept middle school shop students that the cat is their final project
- 33) Bonsai Kitty
- 32) Roll it down the Rockies
- 31) Dress it as a baby seal and send it to the arctic
- 30) Cat + blooming onion = genius
- 29) Feed it to the DOGS
- 28) Zombie bite. Decomposition will do the rest
- 27) Strap it to a chair and subject it to Danish art films
- 26) Ask the cat to "take it off" for you
- 25) Anti-PETA backscratcher
- 24) Nuclear catnip with uranium 238
- 23) Recast Face/Off with cats
- 22) Lose it in a carpet factory
- 21) Mail it to Buffalo Bill
- 20) Go away
- 19) Stop reading
- 18) We stopped being funny thirty-six ways ago
- 17) WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU STILL READING THIS?
- 16) I bet this feature has given you a hard-on the size of the Tower of Babel
- 15) I guess we'll keep going, for the die-hard fans
- 14) Dress it as an altar-boy and send it to Sunday mass
- 13) Make the cat join PETA. "Fur is MURDER!"
- 12) Using advanced psychotherapy, convince the cat it has bugs all over it
- 11) Flesh-eating fire ants
- 10) Introduce kitty to Vlad "The Impaler" Tepes
- 9) The old-fashioned way
- 8) "In Soviet Russia, cat skins you"
- 7) Call Paula Abdul... opposites attract
- 6) Introduce it to Cthulhu
- 5) "How did you two fucking fucks... fuck!"
- 4) Get off my lawn!
- 3) Use Blizzaga to freeze-dry the epidermis
- 2) Faces of Death, Vol. IV
- 1) Who's the sickest fuck? Us for filling an entire fuckin' page with this bullshit, or you assholes for eagerly reading the whole thing?



Illustrations by Joe Donato

The Reformation in Central Kentucky Scintillates

By James Messina

Industry, thy name is James! I'm writing a second article. I bet the public even now stands eagerly outside the Union basement, awaiting my latest musings. Unfortunately, it is to sad, frenzied readers that I direct this apology. In the first article, I gave you two codes, one of which had a \$100 prize for the solution. I didn't, however, tell you how to get your \$100. E-mail me at longinquous@yahoo.com with the method of the code's solution, and it's all yours. Also, I like penis enlargement and Nigerian bankers as much as the next guy, but try not to e-mail me unless you have a serious enquiry. A serious enquiry, and a sure token of my egomania and overconfidence, would be asking for a known plaintext. If you ask I'll provide you with a message in English and its code equivalent and allow you to try and figure what happened between the initial plaintext and the final ciphertext.

In the first article, the main body was taken up in an explanation of some basic terminology I'll be bandying about as I continue to write. This article will be hopefully less tedious. Codes have in the last century or two become legion, as though there were two code bunnies humping away somewhere, and this is especially so in the last twenty years. The public has become privy to information that once would have been the sole domain of the military. With the advent of all this new material my job becomes easy – I can pick anything, write a bit and call it a day. Today, I start with an introductory anecdote.

My anecdotes will retain no chronological integrity whatsoever, as I prove to you now by beginning with the Civil War. The Civil War represents to we Americans the beginnings of something big. The American public was, prior to the Civil War, taken with cryptography. Edgar Allan Poe contributed an article to a newspaper in Philadelphia about cryptography that got a lot of attention. The deciphering of the Rosetta Stone led to the establishment of numerous societies taken up with the mystique of Egypt and of codes. With the advent of the telegraph, where messages were charged by the letter, companies and telegraph operators alike scrambled to devise codes which would save them money. These were all factors that influenced the development of cryptography in the Civil War, but perhaps none so much as the fact that it being a civil war, military graduates were all using the same methods. It became a matter of desperate importance to devise codes which the enemy was unfamiliar with.

The North, having a more established telegraph network and better operatives, managed to stay ahead of the South for the entire war. In fact, the South published intercepted Union messages in newspapers in the hopes that they would be broken by a civilian. But the Union's system, referred to as the Union Route Cipher, remained unbroken. This is perhaps nowadays not so much a testament as to the integrity of the code as it is to the care taken to prevent informants, and the lack of cryptanalytic techniques and technology available at the time. The North used a system of both transposition and code words, wherein words would have corresponding but unrelated words replace them. Those words were then placed into a grid and rearranged. This system in and of itself has a relatively strong integrity, as the only way to guess at meanings is to intercept many communications and try to establish connections via commonly repeated terms.

In those days, implementing this system

and relying on more than one codebook for transmissions was considered sufficient to prevent the code's breaking, but reliability on the code and reliability on the people using the code are entirely different. Anson Stager, the creator of the Union Route Cipher, was dead set on maintaining the security of the codebooks. The codebook to Cipher 6 was available only to 14 people, with no exceptions made regardless of office and the other ciphers were equally isolated. One operator was relieved by Stager's office when the operator was coerced into handing his codebook over by the command of General Grant himself. It is a common principle of modern cryptography to assume "the enemy knows the system." This is known as Shannon's maxim, after the famous cryptographer Claude Shannon. But back then, these principles hadn't become generally known and security through obscurity was the name of the game. By making sure the Confederate forces never got



KEN "MOTHERFUCKING" TUCKY
Courtesy of The U.S. Postal Service

hold of a codebook, the Union maintained their edge.

The Civil War ciphers also represented the Americans' first concerted effort at code breaking, as each side scrambled to decipher the other's messages. Offices were set up for the express purpose of code breaking, the Signal Corps was formed, and things were generally taken to a level they hadn't been at before. The steps taken during the Civil War hardly prepared us for the Zimmerman Telegram and World War I, but they represent the beginnings of where we are today.

And now for your viewing pleasure, last week's code.

Letter	E	T	R	N	I	O	A	S	D	L	H	C	F
%	12.75	9.25	8.50	7.75	7.75	7.50	7.25	6.00	4.25	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.00

Letter	U	M	P	Y	G	W	V	B	K	X	Q	J	Z
%	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.25	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25

PUZZLE THE 1st:

RGTJC RUCIT CRGHT XKVUR QQPAS

How did I solve this magnificent code, you ask? Well, it was all rather elementary... Realistically speaking, a code of this sort, albeit of greater length, should prove easy enough to even a beginner. It was my mistake to make the message so short no good connections could be established. Regardless, I'll solve it using a method available since the 9th century, known as frequency analysis. In the English language, we have letters that combine phonetically to form words. For whatever reason, the letter "e" appears more commonly than any other letter and the letter "z" the least.

Knowing also that the letters "th", "ph", "ght"

etc. often form together also helps. When you become aware of the fact that some letters are used more than others, you take a look at your message and try to look for oft-repeated letters and digraphs (groups of two letters). Now, when I first devised this, I was an idiot, and had made a message with but two instances of the letter 'e', and none of the aforementioned digraphs. So bear with me. The approach is thus: we notice that "QQ" appears together. We guess this is a double vowel, for the purposes of me not looking like a buffoon. It's common for "EE" and "OO" to appear together, but you can rule out "II," "UU" and "AA" for the most part, unless they form back-to-back words. We "guess" it's a double O. James Bond, right? Friggin' sweet. So we look for more 'Q's, find none, but leave the guess standing. We then search for other avenues, and find that "R" appears four times, and both "T" & "C" three times. Based on this, and the fact that a logical explanation for a message this short escapes me, we leap boldly forward and decide that "R" represents "P". This gives us "poo" for three of the last letters, which besides being hilarious allows us to deduct the message. We say "poo" represents "spoon," then using the letters we fill in unknowns to get:

PGTJC P SCIT CPGHT XKVSP OONAS

Using one of those aforementioned leaps, the message becomes "Perhaps a grapefruit spoon," with two null letters attached at the end of the message.

It is at this point that I diverge from my original plan. I've just explained frequency analysis, which allows you to solve any basic substitution analysis. In the fourth issue I'll explain anagramming, which solves transposition ciphers. The third issue I'll briefly outline the difficulties cryptanalysts have, and one or two examples of how they've historically overcome them. That is all. Solve this new puzzle! Hint at the bottom.

PUZZLE THE 2ND:

Editor's Note: Due to an error in submission, the embedded picture file was not sent with the article. You, the reader, will have to do without the second puzzle this issue.

Final note: As I have already mentioned, I am by no means an expert on cryptography. I've yet to consult a hard text for information, which I should, and I'm unfamiliar with the upper-level mathematics regarding cryptography and cryptanalysis. If you wish to learn from a better source, I encourage you to. The two websites I list below I've frequented and found to be both helpful and intriguing. The books I haven't perused, but I have from a good source that they're every bit as informative.

Famous Unsolved Ciphers:

<<http://elonka.com/UnsolvedCodes.html>>

Wikipedia – Cryptography:

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptography>>

Practical Cryptography, by Ferguson Neils and Bruce Schneier.

Applied Cryptography, by Bruce Schneier.

The Code Book, by Simon Singh.

The Codebreakers, by David Khan.

Hint: The first letter is "T"

Club Spotlight

BENGALIS UNITE

Bengalis Unite represents the interests and needs of the Bengali students from Bangladesh and West Bengal at SBU. Through educational, cultural, and social programs like an Eid Party, International Mother Language Day, Bengali New Year Picnic, a carnival, and



their first cultural show at SBU, they plan to cultivate and share their Bengali culture.

Weekly meetings are Mondays at 7pm in SAC 303. At their first Social Mixer on September 16th they played cultural Jeopardy, with teams competing, and munched on chanachor, a snack of puffed rice, fried lentils, cold veggies and spices - the most popular Bengali snack.

Cabinet members are President Sharobi Chowdhury, V.P. Akbar Hossain, Secretary Agniva Banerjee, Treasurer Zaki Yusuf, Events Coordinator Sharif Nayeem, Events Coordinator Hridi Saha, Public Relations Nobel Mehdi, Public Relations Maurin Huq, Fundraiser Sajed Hossain, and Publications Murtaza Karim.

You can check out what they are doing and become part of their forum at www.bengalisunite.com. Their next big event is a carnival on the SAC Plaza on October 12th during Campus Lifetime.

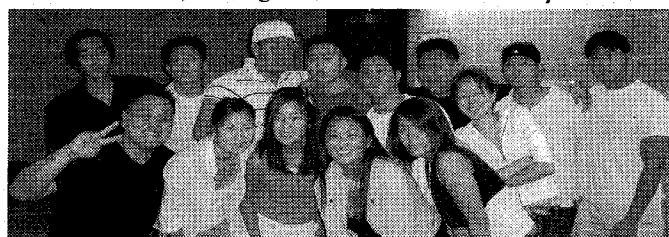
KOREAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

KSA represents the interests of Korean American students and they have plans for lots of cultural and social events this year including their annual Korean Night in the spring, a picnic, ski trip, and apple picking.

Weekly meetings are Mondays at 8:30pm in SAC 303. At their first meeting on the 19th they played guessing game ice breakers. They had new members guess which Cabinet member could eat the most (and it was not the biggest guy!). The new members also participated in a 'treasure' hunt to find out who was who in the meeting. They answered questions like who among them were freshman, who owned a dog, who dyed their hair, and a whole list of other things.

After an entertaining night, they finished off the meeting feasting on pizza.

Cabinet members are: President Na Eun Lee, VP Esther Choi, Treasurer Min-Seok Choi, Secretary Jin Young Kim, Events Coordinator David Lee, Public Relations Chris Youn, Public Relations Dan Kim, Web-Master Lawrence Chu, Web-Master II Derrick Tow, Senior Rep EunJoo Chang, and Sophomore Rep Angeline Seah.



You can check out what they are doing at www.xanga.com/sbuKSA where they have lots of photos, and there are even more on the SBU AA E-Zine Photo Gallery. Their next big event is a New Student (& Friends) Orientation on Thursday night, September 29, 2005.

Asians Connected

By Maria Ng

The AA E-Zine is a weekly online news and events electronic magazine geared toward the Asian American community. Subscriptions are free and you just get a weekly e-mail with a link to the new issue. It is funded by USG and alumni. Students who work on it can get academic credit. Beginning with this issue, it will also be in each *SB Press*.

The AA E-Zine hosts an annual Cabinet to Cabinet Social for all of the Asian and Asian American student clubs and organizations at SBU. This year new rules on BBQ's having to be cooked by Campus Dining or Jasmine (after 40 years students suddenly became incapable) made the Freshmen Welcome BBQ too expensive to have. At the last minute the Zine and Sunita Mukhi, Director of Programming at the Wang Center, realized that having the social earlier than usual and combining it with an Asian Info Fest would be a great alternative way to start the year.

And it was! Especially given how little time there was to notify groups it was happening and freshmen about the Info Fest. (With the strict rules on posting flyers on campus, especially how few can be posted in the dorms and really visible spots, it is amazing any events happen at all!) So with only one week's notice, the Social was held on Tuesday, September 6, in the Wang Center Chapel, with the Asian Info Fest right after it.

The Cabinet to Cabinet Social is a good way for the Cabinets and E-Boards of the various Asian and Asian American groups to meet. It is casual over dinner and the various leaders introduce their clubs and themselves to the cabinets of the other clubs. Done at the beginning of the year, everyone meets contacts from other clubs early on, enabling them to coordinate

events or to make sure their events are not planned for the same date.

There is an assumption outside of the Asian community that the Asian clubs are some sort of monolithic group, but although the KSA people may know the people in DDKY, they often have no clue who the leaders are in the other Asian groups, and vice versa for everyone else.

To smooth this process of working together, the AA E-Zine has devised an events calendar and private Cabinet contact list. While the contact list may only be viewed by group leaders, the calendar is for public viewing. Each Asian club is given a personal login and password to put up their events as soon as they decide to do them. Then when the Zine's weekly issue is sent out, all the subscribers are able to view the different events going on that week.

A large goal of the AA E-Zine is to cover and get the word out about the different Asian related events on campus. This is why after the Cabinet to Cabinet Social, the AA E-Zine co-hosted the Asian Info Fest in the Sculpture Gallery of the Wang Center. Posters around campus advertised this event and students attended in hopes of getting information about a new club, fraternity, or sorority to join.

The Asian Info Fest brought free publicity for the clubs and happy students who found new groups to join. To end the evening, free Wang Center calendar journals were given out and a fun free raffle was held for various prizes including coupons for free bubble tea from Jasmine, t-shirts, DVDs, and lots more.

The evening was a success and now that we know it works, next year all the clubs will know about it in advance. Plan for it, same time next year, the first Tuesday of the 2nd week of classes in the Wang Center Celebrating Asian and Asian American Cultures.

SUPPORT "BE THE CHANGE DAY" OCTOBER 1, 2005!

www.saal.org

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Gandhi

Younhee Paik: Ascending River

By Jin Woo Cho

The exhibition "Younhee Paik: Ascending River" is on display at the University Art Gallery in the Staller Center from September 6th until October 22nd. The major works of Younhee Paik started around 1996 with Invitation to Rest. This artwork, which is on display on the ceiling of the TOTAL museum in Seoul, Korea, was inspired during the hospitalization of Paik's mother. Since it was difficult for her to view the paintings while she was lying down, Paik created an artwork that can be viewed while lying in bed. From then on, she attempted to visualize a restful environment on canvas for the relaxation of viewers as well as a tribute to her mother.

Paik created an atmosphere of comfort in the gallery; she covered not only the ceiling but also the floor with her paintings. It felt like I was at the space gallery in the Museum of Natural Science. St. John Divine - Far, which is almost 12 feet long, ornamented the ceiling along with other works. The depiction of the architectural floor plan of a church on the background, resembling some kind of a galaxy or a cloud of stars emanated a strange aura of fantasy and peace. Paik's intention, regard-

ing the churches in her artworks displayed here, was to connect the notion of a spiritual trip in relaxation and internal exploration by religion. In addition, I noticed a projector on the floor of the gallery and it was projecting an image of gentle tidal waves onto the picture along with the sound of waves.

There were two couches with a pillow in the middle of the gallery and I thought they were not part of the exhibition at first. But I lay down on one of them after I read the sign: "Please lie down and relax." I could see the entire painting without raising my head and it seemed like I was just floating around somewhere in the middle of the universe, watching the colorful lights shoot out from the stars.

The image of tidal waves was juxtaposed with the painting and it looked like the lights were being carried away by the waves. I realized what the ancient people meant by the term "milky way." I was almost ready to fall asleep until I realized that I still had classes left that day. I recommend visiting the exhibition and submerging yourself into the peaceful world of Paik, which may give you peace of mind during your busy schedule.

www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine

Alumni Spotlight

By Ja Young

Alumnus John Cordero, Class of 1998, just finished one of the most exciting and successful marketing projects he has ever worked on. National Geographic did a single subject issue for September, 'Africa'. It was the first time since 1943 that its cover did not have a photo. Editor Chris John felt that no one photograph could represent all of Africa.

To celebrate the issue they wanted to put together an incredible viewing masterpiece and Grand Central Terminal (GCT) was chosen for 'Experience Africa'. As the Account Director for Grand Central Marketing (no relationship to GCT) - that is what John did. It was seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors, all to rave reviews.

They took images from the issue and blew them up into 10' by 15' prints, had a live web cam from a wildlife watering hole, Mike Fay, George Steinmetz and other photographers came out and talked about their work. They had everything! The worldwide

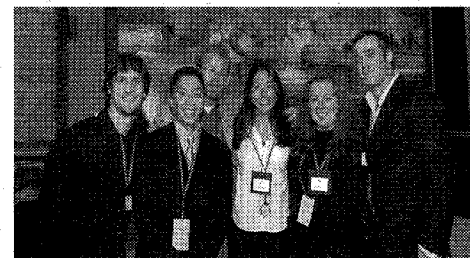
publisher said it was "outstanding" and the Editor in Chief said, "This is what the magazine is all about."

It is why when it was all over the Promotion Services Director for National Geographic called John "The African Rock" for the tremendous job he had done.

A sponsor of the event was Lenovo, which also has an alumnus relationship to SBU through its VP, Meng Lin. He had spent a semester here as part of a special program for Chinese managers American management. The program was initiated by CA after founder

Charles Wang returned from his first trip to China in 50 years. See Lenovo / SBU: <http://www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine/articles/vol9/CEAS.html>

John, second from left in photo, did the first double show sellouts of China Night as President of CASB in his senior year at SBU. He was a rock then too! If you want John to be your rock - he's at john@grandcentralmarketing.com.



Dude Part 3

By David K. Ginn

This is the third part of Dude. The first part told the tale of Bono, a man with dreams of being a musician. During the course of his travels he saw his dreams fall far from him when a no-talent hack with the same name became famous. Bono's plans for his band U-3 were destroyed forever when the other Bono stole his idea and made the band U-2.

Bono I descended into drugs and alcohol, and eventually he mutated into a giant talking bird. Spreading his wings, he flew out into the great free skies.

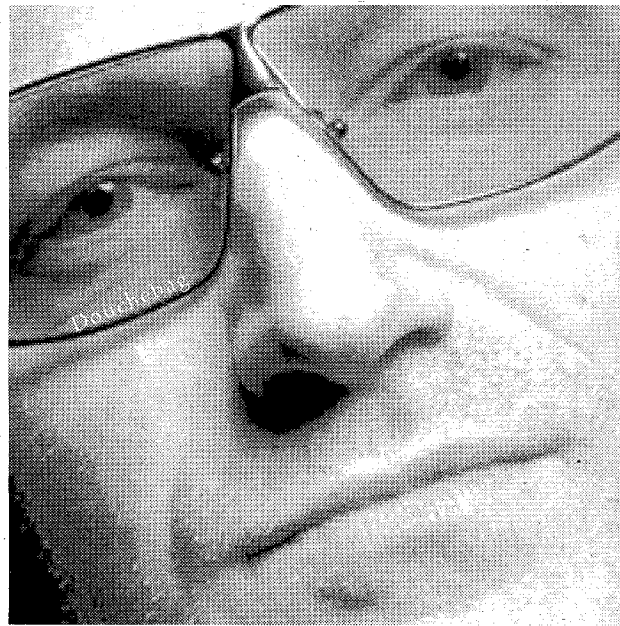
The second part of Dude told the tale of BonoBird I as he flew over the great lands of the world, it told of his encounter with Bebop, a lonely mountain squirrel with a broken leg and a heart of gold. Bebop warned BonoBird I not to fly over the great plains of Great Plains, but his warnings went unheeded. BonoBird I flew right over the plains, and was captured by a tribe of floating orbs. The orbs tried to eat him, but before they could he insulted their mothers in a quick and timely fashion, thus putting to end a long-withstanding curse of the Great Plains, which makes it an evil place until someone has the guts to insult an orb's mother.

Later on, after his escape, BonoBird I met with a group of friends who all died. After that, he met with some more friends. They didn't die. They had names. Their names were Lyle, Juniper, Kevin, Michael-son, Liverpool, BreakfastNook and Peter-Poo. They all made tuna sandwiches and packed lightweight, but rain-resistant tents and went on their merry way.

One day, as they sat in a dreary and dimly lit forest clearing eating low-fat pretzels and high-protein cereal bars, Michael-son had an idea. He told the rest of the group to wait there, and when they saw him next he had stripped off all his clothes and had covered himself in pear nectar. He ran off into the woods laughing. No one ever saw him again.

Then, as you recall, they had their discussion on the goods and evils of life. They dis-

cussed the evil Emperor Jim, and his unoriginal yet slightly entertaining due to its tongue-in-cheek method of acting out a cliché plans for world domination. They agreed that someone needed to stop him. When they Kevin asked why, they ate him. When they were done, Juniper said, "That's a good question, really. Well, to answer that as best I can... I believe one cliché has to be battled with another cliché." This was widely agreed upon.



BONO'S GOT A BIG FACE.
Courtesy of Celebrity and Fame

Then they all turned to BonoBird I and said "Can't you be a hero just for one day?" He didn't answer them. They sighed. "Oh well. I guess we can be heroes for just one day."

This third part of Dude tells of the group's battle against the evil Emperor Jim, and the destruction of many things at certain random and unprecedented times.

Here is Dude Part 3:

They gather. They charge. Some people

die. Some people live. Some people choose regular soda over diet, despite the many attempts by the soda industry to make the diet brands just as tasty and thirst quenching as the originals. In the end, we see the true faces of our heroes.

Heroes are forever. Heroes are eternal. Heroes are \$4.99 at Bourbon Bob's Subway Shop.

BonoBird I made his last stand on the battlefield. But since no one wanted to buy lemonade, he made no money that day. No one laughed then, either. Instead, he was poisoned by an evil man named Torch-O, and as he prepared to die he mutated once again into a 3'10" cactus with a surly disposition and a tendency to stutter the first words of every other sentence.

"I don't want to die. Pl-please don't let me go. Don't take me away. Th-there's still time."

Many hungry rodents tried to devour him, but their attempts were thwarted by The All-Mighty Thwarter, who swung in at just the right moment. Torch-O ran away, and went into a dark and philosophical, if not somewhat self-exploring exile. The All-Mighty Thwarter thwarted death's designs on BonoCactus I, and then flew off into the sky. BonoCactus I then created a fusion between his two mutations, and his cactus body grew feathery cactus wings. BonoCactusBird I rose from the ground and summoned his awesome power to overthrow the mighty castle of Emperor Jim. Emperor Jim came out of the rubble and screamed so loudly that many people had to cover their ears because it hurt their ears to hear such a loud scream from someone who wanted to do it despite the fact that many people in neighboring communities were trying to take a mid-day nap in their quiet suburban homes.

BonoCactusBird I banished Emperor Jim into the depths of the unknown. All praised him. The smoke cleared away.

Devastating Event in My Life

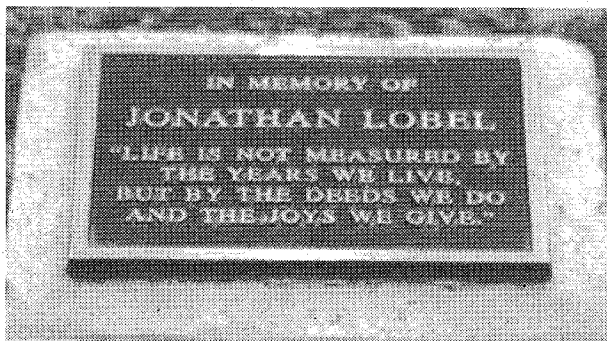
By Melissa Lobel

Two years ago on September 25, 2005 one of the most devastating, life changing things happened to me. I found out my brother Jonathan Lobel had passed away in a car accident. At that moment, so many things rushed through my head, but I was in more of a state of shock than anything. Obviously, given the situation, all I could do was cry. I had no words to say and even if I did, they would not come out. It was not until a few hours later that it really hit me about what happened. At that moment so many more things went through my head.

When people are younger, or even older, they say things they don't really mean out of anger. In most cases, later on down the road, they get the opportunity to apologize for those spoken words. In my case, I was never able to do that. When I was finally able to have words come out, the only thing I was able to say was "I didn't really want him to die." Despite the numerous times I was told that it was not my fault, and even though I knew deep down that it wasn't, there was still the feeling of guilt. It took a little time for that to surpass in my mind.

My brother would have graduated from Stony Brook as president of the Psi Chi group in 2004. Given the fact that he already had his requirements for his major, and was only a few credits shy of graduate and was taking easy elective courses as a senior, with the help of Jerrold L. Stein, the Dean of Students, and other

members of the administration, Stony Brook was nice enough to give us his diploma. I must say, the people from the psychology department such as Dr. Nancy Franklin, and Dr. Marci Lobel were absolutely wonderful. Dr. Lobel put together a beautiful graduation ceremony and



IN LOVING MEMORY
Courtesy of Matt Willemain

made a special speech in honor of my brother. Dr. Franklin sent us a picture of Jonathan with the honor society, which our whole family appreciated very much, along with her touching letters that she sent to each of us. Another person who I have to thank is Stony Brook graduate and amazing friend Brad Jerson. With the help of him and the honor society they put together a memorial service for him at the school as well as planting a tree, which can be found in the psy-

chology courtyard along with a plaque.

The last two years have definitely been the hardest years of my life. In the beginning all I could think of was how I had wished it were me instead, so that I wouldn't have to be dealing with so much pain. I didn't think my life would ever be able to go back to normal. I felt as if I was going to be living life alone. Lately, I've been able to resume to every day activities and not feel guilty for having fun. Certain things I may give a second thought about doing, knowing that it would not be something my brother would approve of. Other than that, certain days are much harder than others. This is clearly something that will affect my family and me for the rest of our lives. Despite the fact that I may have a day that I don't cry or that I'm happy, the pain never fully goes away. There will always be something that happens each day that will make me think of my brother due to the length of time we spent together. Even though some of these things will make me cry, it's not always a bad thing. Everyone says that over time things get better. The only way people really know just what the person is going through is to have experienced it themselves. This week has been very hard for me but with the help of all my friends, especially the large group from Stony Brook, I have been able to take my mind off things for a few minutes at a time and get a laugh.

Riding the South-P Bus: Unsafe and Unfair

By Miranda McDougall

If you are a commuter at Stony Brook you probably have experienced taking a ride on the South-P/SAC bus at one time or another. I am a South-P girl myself, having no problems with the bus last semester. Looking back, I may have had no problems because my class times were at unpopular hours and I didn't have a job that I had to rush home for. This semester, on the first Tuesday, I was unpleasantly surprised to find about 150 students waiting for the bus in the hot, humid heat. When the bus finally came, not everyone was able to get on but they squeezed in as many as possible, filling the aisle with people right up against each other. As if the sheer amount of people on the bus wasn't bad enough, it was a hot and humid day and it was an old bus. Half of the windows didn't open and there was no air conditioning. It was really fucking uncomfortable. Not exactly the way I wanted to start out my day.

Later on that day, I saw two buses pull up by the SAC. One was the Inner Loop bus and one was the Outer Loop bus. They were brand spanking new. I decided to check them out so I got on the Outer Loop bus. It had air conditioning. I was one of three people that got on it. That really pissed me off.

So later that night, when I got home, I e-mailed Parking and Transportation, politely stating my concerns. On their website, you can put in your name and e-mail if you want a response. I did, but I haven't heard anything.

Since then, I have noticed that the bus situation has not really improved, especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays. According to the new bus route map, the South-P Express is supposed to come every 7.5 minutes, approximately. Last

Tuesday I timed it. I wasn't able to get on the first bus that came after I got to South-P because there were too many people waiting and the next bus did not come for 11 minutes. The other day the bus that was going back to South-P was crowded, but I was in a hurry to get to work so I squeezed in the aisle. When we went over the huge bump that is now present at the entrance the bus takes into the South-P lot (a result of road work done over the summer), the people in front of me all lunged backward, resulting in my foot being stomped on by the guy in front of me. Now I'm limping around with a swollen big toe. On the bus this morning, the woman next to me was visibly irritated by the situation, so we got to talking. "They pack us in like cattle", she said. I thought, 'that's exactly how I feel.'

Commuter students who use the South-P lot should have the same accessibility to campus as every other student. Right now, just because we weren't lucky enough to get a stadium permit and happen to live on Long Island and commute to school, we do not have the same accessibility as everyone else. Not only is this unfair treatment but I find the amount of people being packed in the buses we do have to be unsafe. Since Stony Brook can not or will not make more commuter parking closer to campus than they must make it easier for students like me to get from South-P to my classes. I am tired of waiting for the bus. I am tired of being uncomfortable on the bus. I am tired of being packed in like a herd of cattle. If my fellow commuters are having similar problems I suggest sending an e-mail to Parking and Transportation. They aren't going to do anything until enough of us complain.

The Stony Brook Press



Where *all* the
lonely women
are.

Meetings
Wednesdays
at 1 pm
Union room 060

I Don't Know About You, But I Love Paying More to Wash My Clothes!

By Trevor Hirst

For those of you out there that don't do their own washes here on campus, the price for one load of laundry in the washing machine is \$1.25, and the price for using the drier is \$1.25 as well, with the ability to add time to the drier to the tune of \$0.25 for 12 extra minutes.

I'm sure everyone has seen in the laundry rooms the electronic doo-dad boxes that have pieces of paper over it claiming that there is a new debit-style system in the works to "save us money" on our laundry. The way this system works, in theory, is that you put money on your student identification card via online credit card similar to recharging your meal points, or by putting in cash vending-machine style at various stations throughout campus. There is such a station in the lobby of the Student Union as well as a station next to Taco Bell in the Benedict Food Court.

With your hard-earned money on these cards, students and presumably members of the faculty and staff that live on campus can get "convenience" discounts on doing laundry. The program that worked fine last year had a savings on the washing machine from \$1.25 to \$1.10 with the card and the driers went from \$1.00 to \$0.85. The savings were not huge, but it helped.

Everyone has also noticed that these machines aren't operational yet, whereas they were working fine last year, albeit if you had money left over on your card at the end of the school year, it was forfeited. The money rolled over between fall and spring semester, however.

So, like most people returning to campus, I went to do a load of laundry. I brought down enough for two loads in the machine (one for colors and one for whites) and one load in the drier. I brought down \$3.75 in quarters because I had seen that the card readers weren't working as of the time I did my laundry.

After I put my money into the washing machines and had my clothes in, I happened to glance over at the driers and noticed the price displayed on the screen...\$1.25. I did a double take! It went up a whole quarter! The price of the washing machines stayed the same, but the driers went up in price! By 25%!!

Moreover, since the cards didn't work to give us any kind of deal, we are forced to pay even higher prices for a simple load of laundry. I paid a total of \$3.05. Now I pay \$3.75. That's an increase of \$0.70 for every wash. It may not seem like a lot, but for college kids with no job,

relying on what spare cash we have, 45 cents adds up rather quickly.

I understand the increase in fuel costs. I understand inflation. Hell, I even understand the roughly \$7.3 million spent "beautifucking" the campus. We pay more for student activity fees. We pay more for a slice of fucking pizza (don't get me started) why should we have to pay more for laundry?!?!?

Which brings me back to one of my earlier points: the laundry cards in which we allegedly save money is not in effect yet... we are in our THIRD WEEK OF SCHOOL!!! Wasn't this accounted for? What bright minded dipshit thought it would be a good idea to change what worked? Oh, I'm sorry; I know the answer to this...bureaucrats. That nice bright red tape sure is sticky!

We, as a student body, can't do anything. We need to do our washes. We need to get tons of quarters, we need to understand that technology is good for us, and it takes time to develop and blah blah blah. I don't know about the rest if you people, but I'm steamed! Transfers and freshman didn't have the luxury of cheaper laundry last year, but I did... returning students did... it was good times, back in the day.

We have to do something about it, hell, we got the tuition hike nixed (thanks NYPIRG)...great people by the way. So we can do stuff if we want to... so make noise.

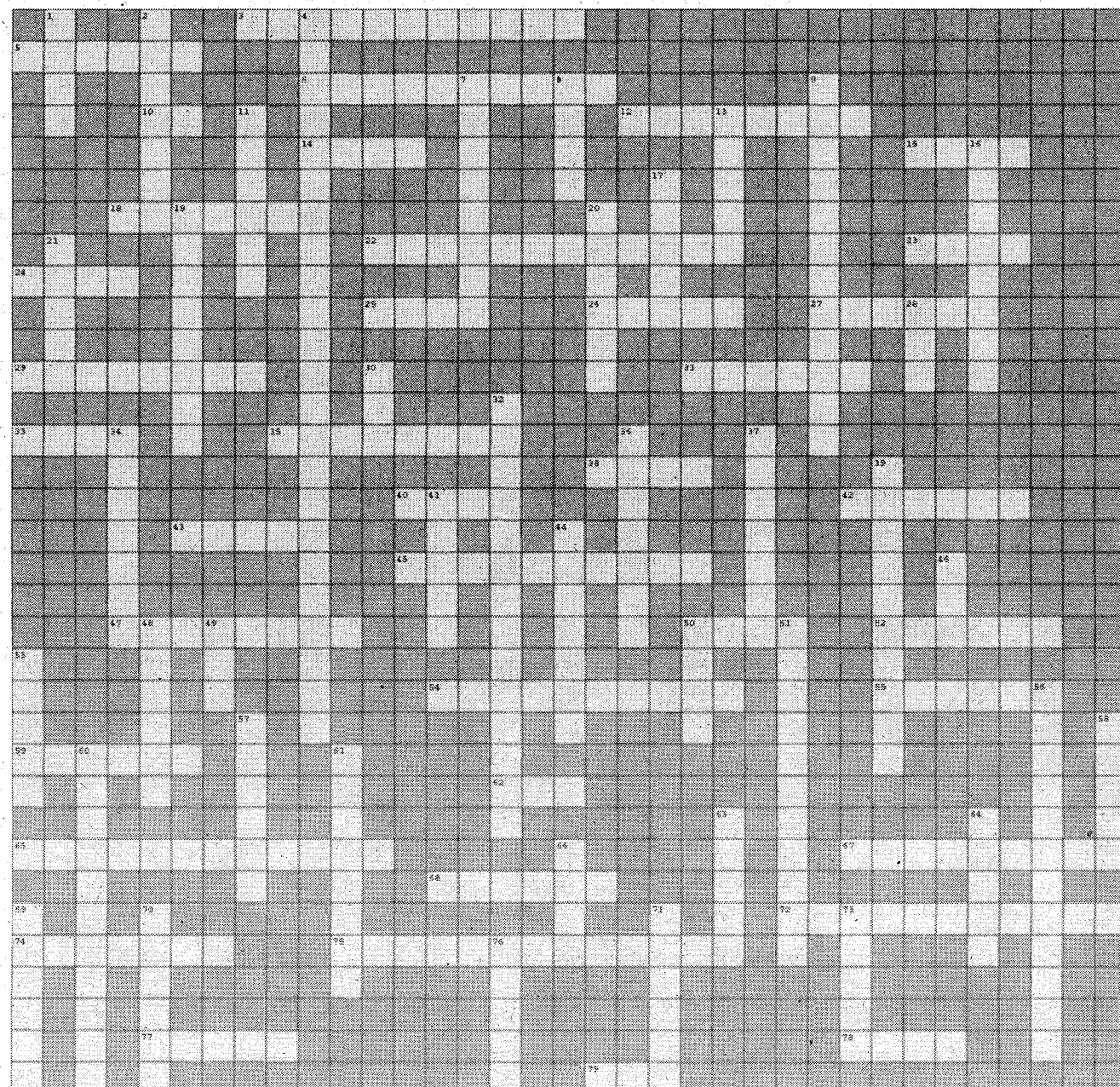
"Hell I even understand the
\$7.3 million spent on 'Beautifucking'
the campus"

Across

3. Third Pink Floyd frontman
5. Gizmo's species
6. Name of fictional rock band on Lost
10. Sam's holographic friend
12. Main Tolkien god (Elven name)
14. What you will find in every web search
15. Title character of Icelandic saga
18. Press comic about a strange town
22. Replacement for 67 Across
23. Everything Macaulay Culkin did after Home Alone 2
24. Burgermeister Meisterburger hates these, and they apparently hate him too
25. Popular singer or a modeling substance
26. "It's worse than any death, Jim!"
27. Warrior hero of Fantasia
29. Doesn't taste very much like the original
31. Mr. Show movie *Run* _____ *Run*
33. According to Bright Eyes, you'll finally understand the movement of a what?
35. Burgermeister Meisterburger is the #1
38. Explicit fantasy painter
40. Server's advantage
42. Placebo album *Sleeping With* _____
43. "The hero of Canton, the one they call _____."
45. Early single from The Mars Volta
47. Title character of another Icelandic saga
50. Like some models
52. Popular Asian-American novelist
54. Name of the last really big crossword we had
55. Type of hat
59. Chewbacca is a walking what?
62. Aspire
65. Short story by Raymond Carver
67. First Pink Floyd frontman
68. Instrument used for a type of cake
72. Press comic
74. Pink Floyd album adaptation of a George Orwell novel
75. Album with one song
77. Both players have thirty points
78. Leia called our escape what?
79. She said who's scruffy looking?

Down

1. Zero points in tennis
2. Movement preceding Surrealism
4. Canadian orchestral rock band
7. Name of the title ship on Firefly
8. Thwart
9. Autoerotic activity
11. Measure of time
13. Lesser Tolkien gods
16. Smash-hit Jethro Tull album
17. Gimli's dad
19. Fairy painter
20. She called Luke what?
21. Believed we were pretty happy before the whole "society" thing caught on
28. Main Tolkien god (true name)
30. Prepare to hit your target
32. 2005 The Mars Volta Album
34. Character on The Muppet Show
36. What Jesus thought God did to him
37. Apparently, so The Beatles say, he blew this out in a car
39. Alternate name for self-titled Beatles album
41. Singles include "Bug Eyes"
44. Real-world hero of Fantasia
46. Turn on the waterworks
48. Tasty sandwich
49. _____ from Heaven
50. Mounds don't have these
51. Female-led prog-rock band
53. "It's life, Jim, but not as we know it."
56. Chris Cunningham short film
57. She called him a nerf-what?
58. Renaissance/somewhat rock band Blackmore's _____
60. A bit paranoid, even for the 18th century
61. "Futures made of Virtual _____"
63. Predator of Fantasia
64. Chekov's first name
66. Title character of '79 Pink Floyd song
69. Wide-release debut album for
70. An illusion?
71. Nickname of Peregrin
73. Modest Mouse song "The World At _____"
76. Receiver's advantage



The Master Crossword Star Trek, Prog Rock, and The Neverending Story

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