

The Stony Brook

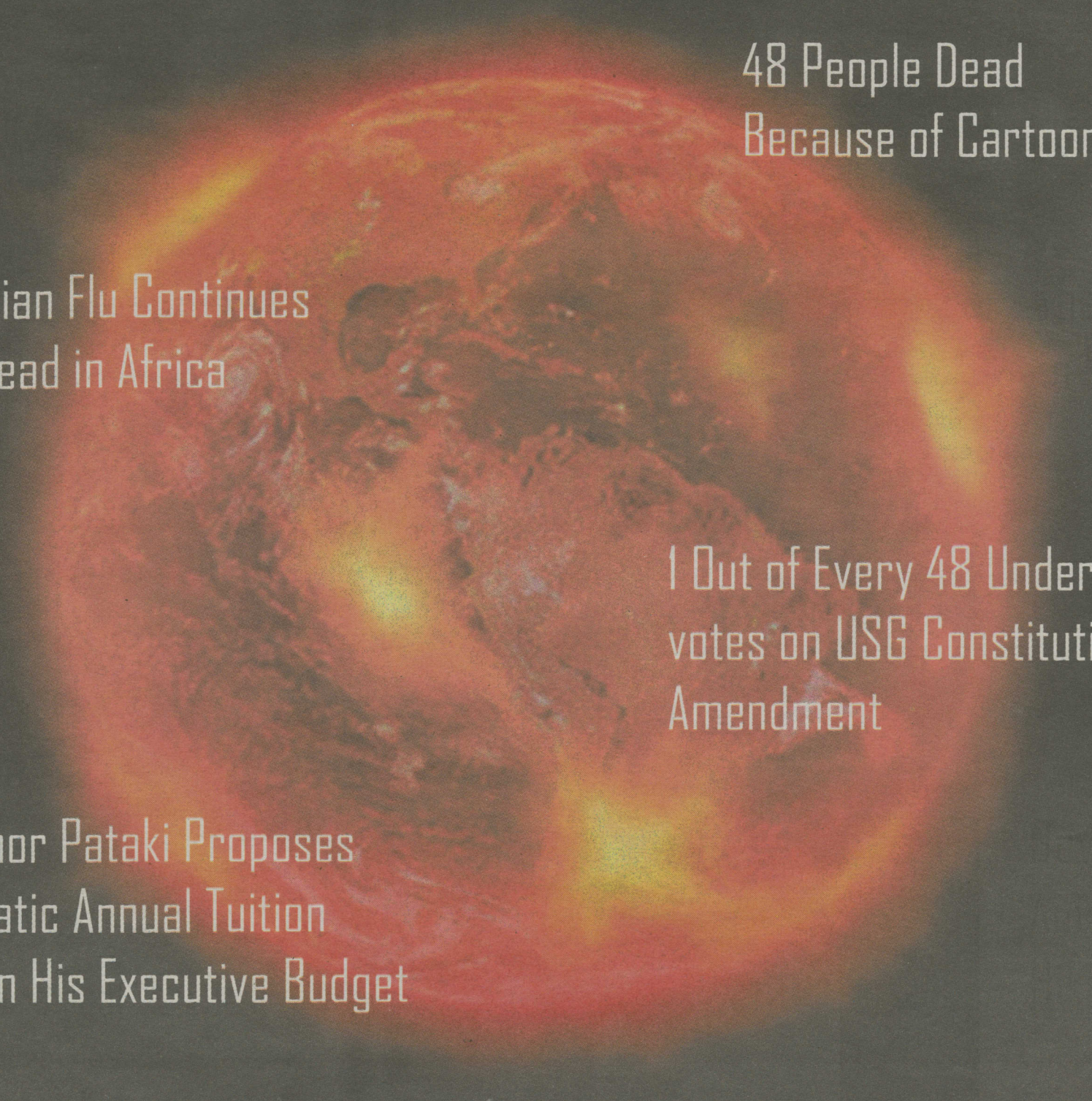
# PRESS

*The Community News and Features Paper*

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"The Campus' Most Meretricious Newspaper"

February 22, 2006



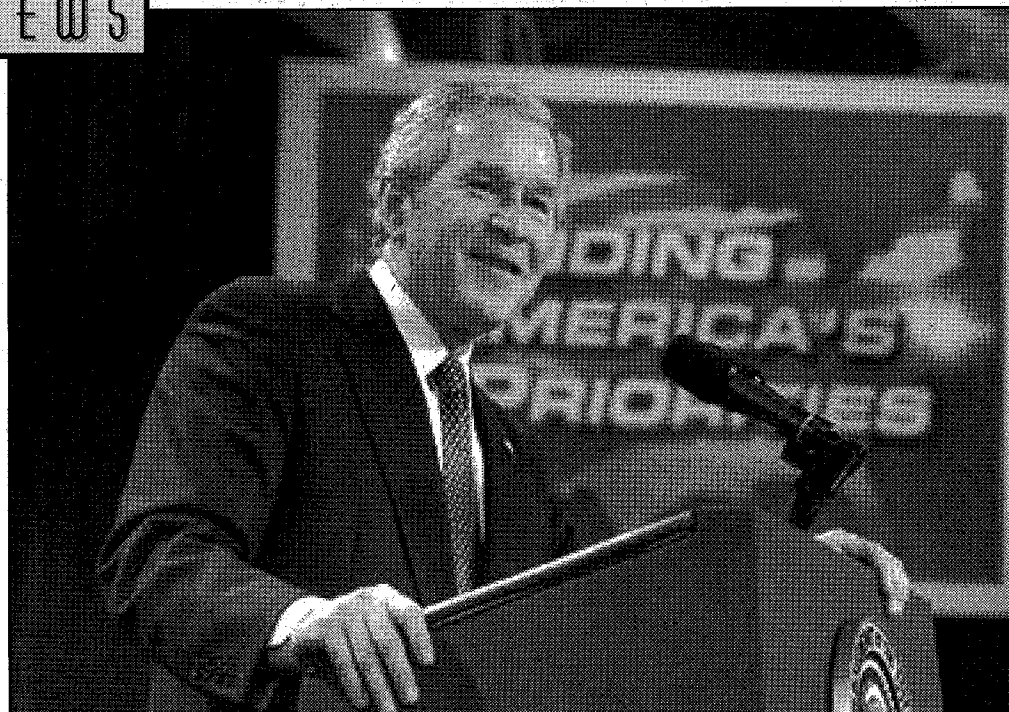
48 People Dead  
Because of Cartoons

The Avian Flu Continues  
to Spread in Africa

1 Out of Every 48 Undergrads  
votes on USG Constitutional  
Amendment

Governor Pataki Proposes  
Automatic Annual Tuition  
Hikes in His Executive Budget





He seems happy, the rest of us aren't.  
Courtesy of an ignoramus.

February 8, the President announced the 2007 Budget Proposal with four broad topics in mind. In each of the four topics: continuing our economic expansion; restraining spending and cutting the deficit; the long-term fiscal danger; and focusing on national priorities, the aim is outlined in ambiguous terms. By focusing on ambiguity, President Bush allows himself marginal errors, unlike the war in Iraq. In an effort to continue the nation's economic expansion, he wishes to ensure the tax relief enacted in 2001 permanently. He also plans to offer many new jobs to aid in the productivity of the economy.

President Bush plans to cut the deficit by terminating or reducing 141 programs that are not getting results or not fulfilling essential priorities. The number 141 suggests that he already has the list of programs that he is planning to cancel, but refuses to disclose which ones to the public. President Bush also does not define what the essential priorities are, but assume any program outside of his plans for Iraq is fair game. In the mean time, the request for Congress to give the President a Constitutional line-item veto, which merely means that he may say nay to any part of budget appropri-

words, he hopes to be able to reform the program for the future in the future, and if there is any way possible for the increasing population, to make the program more stable. There are also plans for reforming Social Security so it may protect the now and the future of all the citizens. Nevertheless, there are no details as to what the reforms may entail. Already Medicare has become more individualized and private under 401K plans, and Social Security has lost value and amount in dollars.

National priorities may be the only topic for which President Bush had clear, almost non-ambiguous goals. The ongoing War on Terror will be continuing for a while longer as he believes that we should continue to spend our resources on whatever the troops may need. It may not be the troops that need the resources but researchers (so oil dependency is cut) and the court trying Saddam Hussein (so people can stop storming or quitting their posts). While President Bush does endorse the money spent on research and attorneys, the War on Terror still has precedence. With spending on the War on Terror is the defense of homeland, thus security will increase spending so the borders will be safe from fleeing Mexican immigrants. He wish-

## Bush's Latest Proposals on 2007 Budget

By Laura Tattersall

ations of a bill. Congress has not yet responded to this.

Long-term fiscal danger refers mostly to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. President Bush plans to save \$65 billion dollars by "slowing the future growth of entitlement spending" for Medicare. In other

es to ensure US battlefield superiority, however, without the intelligence superiority, the nation may still live in fear.

As for the plan to reduce healthcare costs, and improving access to those healthcare benefits that almost everyone is entitled to, the success remains to be seen from his previous proposal. Of course, one must not forget President Bush's ongoing battle with the nation's lack of education. Recruiting new math and science teachers may not mean so much if the teachers are under-qualified. It may be a better idea to promote the importance of education instead of just leading the country blind. According to *The New York Times*, the new proposal will cut the Education Department's discretionary budget by 2.5 billion dollars. And out of the 141 programs to be cut mentioned in the beginning of the article, 42 of them are from the Education Department. Many schools will still be unable to see the benefits of the proposal as most of the money will continue to stream to President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

So why does Stony Brook care about the budget? As mentioned before, the Education Department will have its budget cut by 2.5 billion dollars, so the money will most likely not come from the low-performing, urban, disadvantaged or public schools. It is only speculations that maybe the money will come from public colleges where students may have to pay more each year. As students, we care about the maybe rising costs. As citizens of the United States, the impact of Medicare and Social Security reforms will only haunt us in our later life. But there are rights and wrongs in the world of budget proposals; not everything will come to pass. President Bush will not give up on the idea of spending \$100 million on underperforming students attending religious schools, and we should not give up on the nation at large. Remember this is a democracy, and vote to bring a better change in our financial world.

## Palestinians' Access Into West Bank Blocked as Hamas is Granted More Power

By Karen Shidlo

The Palestinians received Gaza only months ago, but already, insatiability has shown its ugly face again, this time with the election of a Hamas-led government. Israel has responded with sanctions, determined not to associate with the new Palestinian administration which, though has conceded to end the violence, does not agree to recognize Israel as independent.

The Israeli government has created a new policy, making it almost impossible for Palestinians to enter the country from Gaza, and leaving thousands who live there but work in Israel suddenly unemployed. The government is also planning to stop the construction of a new sea port in Gaza, denying Palestinians the right to travel on the West Bank, with only a limited amount of people able to apply for permits, making the crossings into formal international borders.

Interim Prime Minister Olmert has also

been halting tax revenue transfers to the Palestinians in this attempt to appeal to Hamas in renouncing violence. Gideon Meir, a deputy director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, has been quoted as saying "[our] intention is to make it clear that Israel will not be dealing with a terrorist organization called Hamas," making it clear to Palestine that the measures that the Israelis are imposing are not merely to feed this infinite conflict, but an attempt to end it.

The problem appears to be sending out the message of intolerance to Hamas without disrupting the daily lives of the Palestinian civilians. However, it is certainly necessary to suppress Hamas at any cost, an organization which arranged 60 suicide bombings in Israel over the last 5 years. President Abbas claims that he will assist Israel in the endeavor to weaken the terrorist group through discussions with them.

The EU has held discussions with Israel,

telling them to "wait and see" before imposing the restrictions against Palestine, to which Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz replied that his government would "need to have a clear and unequivocal policy" against Hamas, unless they moderated their views.

"I think everyone in the international community has a problem with giving financial support to a regime, an unreformed Hamas, which supports terrorism and believes my country should be wiped off the map," says Regev, in defense of Israel's reaction to the newly elected government.

Unfortunate as it is for those Palestinian citizens who feel the full force of the restrictions and have lost their jobs, it is comprehensible that Israel's choices in how to respond to Hamas are limited. One can only hope that the newly elected party does not exacerbate the situation and that the restrictions achieve their aim of ending the violence in the Middle East.

# Tuition Hiking a Higher Mountain

By Vincent Michael Festa

Students could be affected by automatic annual tuition hikes and a re-structuring of the Tuition Assistance Program if New York State approves the proposed 2006-2007 Executive Budget, and NYPIRG is currently communicating to students and sending out notices all over campuses state-wide to force Pataki to revise the requested proposal.

"We're sending back this budget because proposals to raise tuition are harmful to students and should be opposed," said Kate Contino, NYPIRG Project Coordinator.

A news release issued from the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) stated that New York State Governor George Pataki is observing a 30-day budget amendment period,

where he plans to issue initial \$500 annual tuition hikes for SUNY schools and \$300 yearly hikes for CUNY schools.

Pataki's proposal includes activating automatic annual tuition increases tied to price indexes starting at 4 percent a year for state schools with more increases thereafter if the state still improperly funds them afterward.

It also includes re-structuring the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), a tuition program mainly used for books and dorm living. The proposal may re-define full-time TAP status to 15 credits instead of 12 credits with percentage decreases of assistance for students who enroll or earn lesser credits. Pataki recommends decreasing funding for TAP this way by \$189.9 million.

The NYPIRG news release shows that the policy will raise student tuition with many SUNY and CUNY students already struggling to pay for college. The average debt for a student graduating out of college is \$15,500. Further assessment indicates that the state has reduced support for its schools over the last ten years, therefore shifting financial burden to students and their families. New York ranks number 39 in state tax dollars allotted to higher education.

NYPIRG claims that previous tuition hikes are filling in budget holes and errors, and a passed budget will shift the financial burden to students at a faster rate. Additionally, it claims that no guarantee is made by the state that its' numbers and percentages will stay fixed, and Pataki may allow a larger-than-intended increase beyond the indexed amount.

NYPIRG's statistics show that index increases of 2.1 to 4.6 percent for colleges across the country were surpassed by increases of 7 percent (Arkansas State University) to 13 percent (Ohio State University's Columbus Campus).

The proposal does come with its few

advantages, including \$100 credit increases for CUNY schools per enrolled full-time student, which can help universities run a little easier. Pataki may also seek to double funding for programs, such as EOP, HEOP, SEEK, and College Discovery from below-level to adequate funding levels.

A small increase in SUNY and CUNY operating budgets comes with the proposal, but may not be enough to keep up with the schools' needs through resulting years of financial neglect.

Median family income grew 2.2% between 2000 and 2004, and the tuition increases may outpace incomes, making it harder for poorer students to attend.

NYPIRG states that the penalties are heavier than the benefits. NYPIRG urges students to be alarmed, aware, and to go against the proposal for higher tuition hikes.

"Automatic annual tuition increases can only guarantee that the students will end up paying more and more," says Blake Reinhold, Higher Education Project Leader

NYPIRG is a not-for-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization established, directed, and supported by New York State and College students. For more information on NYPIRG and tuition matters, contact NYPIRG on the web at [www.NYPIRG.org](http://www.NYPIRG.org), by phone at (631) 632-6457, or in room 70 at the Union building on campus.

**Complaints? Call  
NY State Governor  
George Pataki at  
518-474-8390  
TODAY!**



## USG Referendum

By Matt Willemain

Earlier this month, with a staggering "turnout" of 275 out of 13,000 students voting on the SOLAR system, Stony Brook undergrads narrowly approved, by a 68% to 32% vote, an amendment to the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Constitution. (Amendments require two-thirds support from the student body, in addition to the approval of both the USG Senate and Executive Council.)

The weighty constitutional referendum process belies the relatively picayune issue at hand: a proposal by the students who administer USG elections for a little more leeway in the scheduling of those elections.

The proposal was explained during several recent USG Senate meetings by representatives of the USG Elections Board: Board Officer Sharon Weiss and Robert Romano.

Student governance enthusiast and College Republicans President Romano, a fixture in the USG Senate gallery, had formerly held the position of Elections Board Chair and is currently advising the Board informally. Weiss and Romano explained that there is very little flexibility in the scheduling of the extended elections process (which includes filing for candidacy, collecting signatures, voting, etc.). These constraints are especially problematic this year, when an unusually late Spring Break, Jewish holidays, and upcoming finals squeeze the USG elections.



Looks like she's voting.

Courtesy of Google via searcher Caroline

The USG Constitution (in Article III Section 1.C.2.a.) has been amended from "The voting members of the Executive Council shall be elected two weeks prior to the last day of classes in the Spring semester, except for the Freshman Representative who shall be elected by October 31st," to "The voting Members of the Executive Council shall be elected before the last day of classes in the Spring semester, except for the Freshman Representative who shall be elected by October 31st."



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All right, this is what we're going to do. We're all going to have a big talk. We need every religious militant, fanatic, and evangelical, to sit in a circle. Maybe we can get somewhere in Asia, somewhere we can fit everyone. We really need a large landmass to house everyone for this little conference.

Everyone is going to get a piece of paper where we all write down something nice about the religion of the other and then we write something that we don't like. We're going to use our words here. And only nice words too.

After this little session we're going to do some trust-falls. We've got a lot of people here so this is going to take a while but in the end, the world will be a better place.

Maybe then we can get everyone to see eye-to-eye. We can see past all the oppression, hatred, homophobia, satire, and bombings. We'll be able to share our holy lands, call Jesus a momma's boy and draw Mohammad with a wiffle bat and a tee.

We've got to use kid gloves for this because everyone needs to learn that violence only begets more violence and that peace is the key to peace. Everyone has got two ears and we should use them to listen. When you think someone is ignoring you or your plight then you get angry.

It seems, more and more these days, that someone is getting pissed off at someone else because of ethnicity,

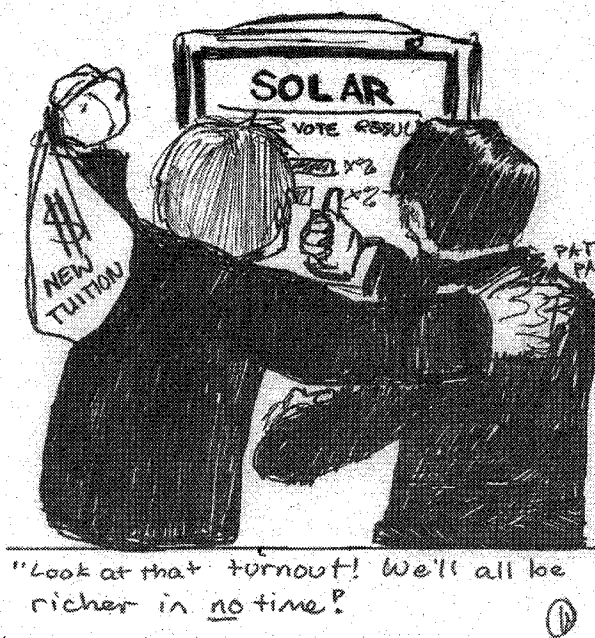
background, race, or religion. History only repeats itself and the fact of the matter is that violence over religion is a pretty prominent theme. Maybe if we could all speak the same language then we could move past car bombs and hate crimes.

Maybe then we'd be able to get Pat Robertson to shut up. If we could all communicate then maybe we could have Israelis and Palestinians live together in the same damn place. After talking it out people would see that those cartoons are only satire.

Hell, maybe we could get everyone to lighten up a little, share a laugh. We'll ask all the fraternities and sports teams to organize a world wide party with kegs. At the end of the conference everyone could kick back and reminisce over a bottle of suds. We could all joke about how Sharon has a mushy butt and that his mushy comatose butt almost smothered an Imam, a Priest, and a Rabbi during the trust falls.

Maybe in this giant drunken circle someone might apologize for the Crusades, the Inquisition, the whole Roman thing, the holocaust, 9/11, Paris, Madrid, London, the car bombs and IEDs in Israel/Palestine, Iraq, and everywhere else terrorism has made the streets unsafe to walk at any hour. Get someone to apologize for the fifteen dead in Nigeria.

We're all people living together. A few days in Asia in a giant circle might get that idea across.



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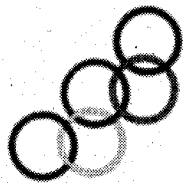
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# NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Compiled by Melanie Donovan, Adina Silverbush, and Claudia Toloza

## Olympic Gold Medalist Donates Winnings for a Charitable Cause



United States speed skater Joey Cheek, who won an Olympic Gold medal in the men's 500m race, has donated his winnings to help the Darfur effort. Cheek, who received \$25,000 from the U.S. Olympic Committee, has donated his entire winnings to the "Right to Play" charity, established by former Norwegian Olympic speed skater Johann Koss. After announcing his plan to donate the prize money, Cheek challenged his sponsors to match his donation. In the men's 1000m race, Cheek was able to win silver medal and again he donated his \$15,000 prize to the "Right to Play" charity. So far, Cheek has been able to raise \$250,000 from his donations and also from businesses and individuals who have matched his donations.

## Emerson Quartet Wins Grammy



Stony Brook University resident artists, The Emerson String Quartet, won a Grammy this year for the Best Chamber Music Performance. The group, comprised of Eugene Drucker (violin), Philip Setzer (violin), Lawrence Dutton (viola), and David Finckel (cello), have been an active part of Stony Brook's Music Department and performs regularly at The Staller Center. Their performance of "Mendelssohn: The Complete String Quartets" was given the Grammy and Da-Hong Seetoo, who engineered the group for that song, was also given a Grammy for the Best Engineered Classical Album. The Quartet was also nominated for Best Classical Album for that recording.

## Greenland Ice Cap Melting Faster



New information about Greenland's glaciers was released Thursday by scientists at a conference in St. Louis and then published in Friday's issue of the journal Science. The glaciers are melting faster and increasing speed, therefore causing sea levels to rise. Changes are drastic since 1996, where glaciers were losing about 100 cubic km per year in mass from its ice sheet, compared to 2005 where it has increased to 220 cubic km. The surface of the ice is melting onto the sides of the glacier, thus lubricating the

sides and speeding up the movement of the glacier into the ocean.

The melting of the ice is modifying the plants, wildlife and the native people of the Arctic. These are just the immediate effects. The long-term effects of Global Warming will be far more devastating in the next 100 years. Without the cooling layer the Arctic provides, temperatures will rise. Higher temperatures have already taken a toll on parts of Alaska. The spruce bark beetle, which chews forests in Alaska, is breeding much faster in the warmer weather destroyed 3.4 million acres from 1993 to 2003.

Researchers have been monitoring the changes from satellites and will continue to do so with the changes of mountain glaciers, temperatures rising and ice caps melting.

## SUV Owners get Tax Cuts



A new plan allows for tax breaks for owners of small business companies who purchase SUVs. The incentive is that these vehicles will help improve the businesses. If they use the truck for work purposes only, they get a deduction of up to \$25,000 when buying a Hummer, Ford Excursion or other SUV weighing more than 3 tons (depending on tax bracket). Even after you deduct the \$25,000 you can deduct the depreciation on the remaining amount. "Someone who bought a \$60,000 SUV, for example, can claim the remaining \$35,000 over six years (Molloy, Associated Press)."

Last month, there were also tax cuts for people buying fuel-efficient hybrid cars, although those tax breaks are only \$3,150, regardless of what tax bracket you are in. The flashiness of the Hummer may increase business, but how practical can it be unless you are leading your safari hunt through the jungles of ...Queens?

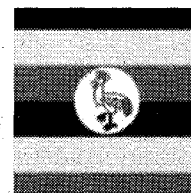
## Haiti Elections



After much controversy and protests over the Haitian elections, Rene Preval was finally declared the new president on Thursday. The former president during 1996 - 2001 was Jean-Bertrand Aristide's hand-picked successor and has many of the same political ideologies. Aristide was the

previous democratically-elected leader that was popular among the poorer populations of Haiti. He was overthrown in a rebellion in 2004 and has since been in exile in South Africa. This week's elections resulted in a 48.76% of the vote and a 50% majority plus one was still needed. The results have been claimed as fraudulent as tens of thousands of ballots were found in garbage dumps; they were all marked for Preval. After much media coverage of the allegedly rigged elections, thousands of protestors overtook the streets of the capital. There were many violent protests and at least one protestor was killed on Monday. Preval urged the public to demonstrate peaceful protests and promised to contest the results strongly. There were 2.2 million votes cast and 125,000 were officially declared null due to errors that also contributed to the suspicions that polling officials were rigging the elections. With Rene Preval in place as the new president of Haiti, it furthers the waning US influence in the Caribbeans. While Washington welcomed the new president, it has already put pressure on Preval to not allow Aristide back from exile.

## Uganda Elections



The first multiparty election in over two decades is set to be held on February 23rd. It hasn't happened yet and already people are predicting unfair election results. According to Human Rights Watch, they claim that all of the events leading up to the elections have "been marred by intimidation of the opposition, military interference in the courts and bias in campaign funding and media coverage." The candidates are current President Yoweri Museveni, and Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change. President Museveni banned political parties when he first took office, but repealed the ban and then changed the constitution removing presidential term limits. In the northern region, the Lord Resistance's Army has been waging a 20 year insurgency against Museveni's government and promised to vacate if Museveni loses. There are many obstacles in Besigye's way as he awaits the verdict of alleged rape charges and treason and has not been able to promote as actively on the campaign trail. Museveni is already boasting predictions of having 80% of the votes and refused to succumb to pressures asking him to campaign fairly.

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Quiet time at Gitmo  
Courtesy of Claudia Toloza

The United Nations Human Rights Commission just released a report urging for the closing of the Guantánamo Bay prison. This 54 page report is the result of an 18 month investigation conducted by a group of 5 which included scientists, academics and lawyers. The report alleges that the United States Government has been involved in the torture of many of its prisoners. The detainment camp located in the Guantánamo Bay naval base in Cuba was originally opened in 2002 after the September 11 attacks. The jail is estimated to have 500 prisoners who have been labeled as "enemy combatants". So far, no formal charges have been pressed against the prisoners, and the majority of them have remained in the prison since 2002, without any due process.

The report claims that the United States government has used such tactics as force-feeding prisoners who have gone on hunger strikes through the use of feeding tubes. There are also claims of

the United States government would go on the offensive, specifically targeting the credibility of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. This organization includes some 53 member states, some of which have had questionable dealings with human rights issues in the past. As soon as the report was released, the United States government went on the offensive, claiming that much of the information found on the report was incorrect. Government officials claimed that much of the information that was used in the report was a collection of allegations made by former detainees and also information received from lawyers of detainees.

Scott McClellan, spokesman for the White House, specifically questioned the credibility of the information provided by former detainees. As McClellan explains "We know that Al Qaeda detainees are trained in trying to disseminate false allegations."

degrading treatment such as placing the prisoners in solitary confinement, shackling and hooding them, among other things.

Before the report was even released it was speculated by many experts that

## Guantanamo Bay - Who is Telling the Truth?

By Claudia Toloza

Much of the information that was used in the report was provided by previous detainees, information received by lawyers of detainees, and any public information available regarding the situation. As part of their investigation, the commission had asked the United States government for access to the Guantánamo Bay prison. The U.S. government granted access, but would not allow the investigators any contact with the prisoners, making the commission turn down the offer from the government. Since they were unable to speak to the prisoners themselves, the commission had to rely on the information it had access to in order to prepare its report.

Some experts have expressed their concern about the recommendations made by this report. Although many agree that the Guantánamo Bay detention center should be closed, they fear the fate of the prisoners if this indeed happens. One of the biggest concerns is that once the detainment camp closes, many of these prisoners will be transferred to other detainment centers that may be outside of American jurisdiction.

The release of the report seems to have started a "he said" "she said" conflict between the United States government and the United Nations. The U.S. government discredits the report because it claims it to be only based on allegations. However, the U.N. is not to blame because they were only going on the information they had available to them. If the United States had perhaps granted the investigators access to the prisoners, it could prove to the world that it is not violating the human rights of the prisoners.

Continued on page 9

## Gay Bar Killer Killed...But Not By Irony

By James Messina

On Thursday, February 2nd, 2006, a young man entered a gay bar, the Puzzles Lounge, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His name was Jacob Robida, an eighteen-year-old local dropout. He ordered a drink using a fake ID and sat down. He asked the bartender if he was in a gay bar; the bartender confirmed this. He ordered a second drink. He then used a hatchet to attack the patrons.

He was tackled and disarmed by several patrons, but he wasn't deterred by this. He pulled out a 9 mm handgun and began firing on the crowd. Robida was said to have stopped his attack only when everyone had fled or lay dying. After he was satisfied with the carnage, he fled the scene. Four people were left seriously injured. Authorities later retrieved both the hatchet and a machete from the scene. Robida was wanted for three counts of attempted murder.

The police were hot on Robida's trail, and went to his mother's home. She said he was last seen at 1 am, visibly wounded. In this humble writer's opinion, this is not a woman in the running for the Mother of the Year Award. Robida's room was practically a small armory, laden with sundry guns and other weapons. The room was

also covered in Nazi imagery and anti-Semitic writing. And for good measure, a coffin. The police feared Robida had fled and alerted the FBI. Warnings were distributed widely, including descriptions of his car, a 1999 green Pontiac.

The authorities' fears proved valid, as the next sighting of Robida was two days later, on February 4<sup>th</sup>, in Arkansas. A local police officer, Jim Sell, made a traffic stop. After talking briefly with Robida, Sell was shot and killed. Police responding to this pursued him and used spikes to stop the vehicle, but the spikes proved ineffective. The pursuit lasted another few miles until its conclusion in Norfolk, Arkansas. At some point during the ensuing gunfight, Robida shot and killed his female companion, Jennifer Rena Bailey, aged 33, of West Virginia. The exact connection between Robida and Bailey is unknown, but it is suspected he lived with her temporarily, and that they were romantically involved. The reason for her death is also unknown. After shooting Bailey, Robida turned the gun on himself and shot himself in the head. He died despite being taken to Springfield, Missouri for medical treatment.

It was found subsequent to Robida's death

that he maintained a MySpace website. The website corroborated the impressions left by his quarters - a strong interest in death, Neo-Nazism, and the Insane Clown Posse. The ICP was quick to renounce any connection between their music and his behavior, stating that his Nazi beliefs probably played a much stronger role in the attacks. Surprisingly, though the ICP considered his actions deplorable, a cached mirror of his MySpace page reveals that many of his peers felt differently. The general trend of reactions was to attack the media's depiction of him, to defend his actions, and to outpour grief and condolences (which is pretty fucked up; I don't get high-fives for kicking puppies).

In the final chapter to date of ongoing events, Jack Thompson and the New Bedford mayor have blamed Robida's attacks on videogames. The police have emphatically denied confirming this, and his MySpace account makes no mention whatsoever to videogames. Jack Thompson believes this is due to a cover-up by authorities, rather than an unhinged young man with Nazi sympathies going on a rampage, and has accused newspapers and DA's alike of playing a part in the alleged cover-up.



# Blizzard of 2006 Takes Dump on Tri-State Area

By Alexander Kahn

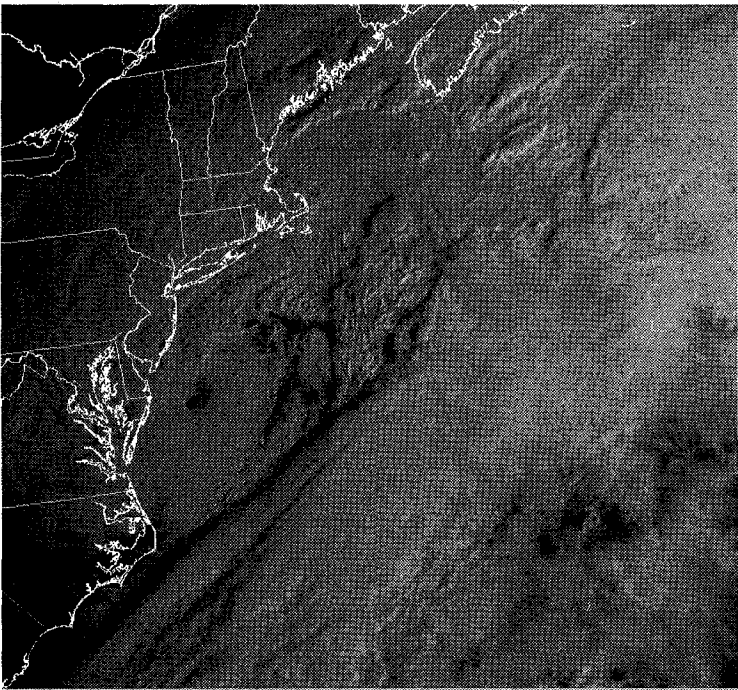
During the weekend of February 11th and 12th, the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states were socked with a nor'easter that brought between one and two feet of snow, 30 mile per hour winds and visibilities near zero to most of the tri-state region. The snowstorm did not cause much disruption as the brunt of the storm effects fell on the weekend, but it was notable in the amount of snow it left. New York City was the hardest hit as the storm brought 26.9 inches of snow to Central Park, setting a record. The storm also brought 20 inches of snow to Islip-MacArthur Airport, 19.1 inches to Medford, 15 inches to Port Jefferson and 13.9 inches to the National Weather Service New York City office in Upton.

The storm developed early Saturday morning as a low-pressure system in the Gulf of Mexico. It proceeded to move up and intensify along the East Coast. This type of snowstorm is referred to by meteorologists as a Miller A snowstorm, as the storm originated in the Gulf of Mexico and strengthened while moving along the East Coast. As the storm passed through the Mid-Atlantic states, it brought 15 inches of snow to Baltimore, 9 inches to Washington, DC and a foot of snow to Philadelphia. The storm arrived in the area in the early evening of Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, first bringing light to moderate snow. However, the storm's strongest effects would not be felt until Sunday morning, when a heavy band of snow bringing snowfall rates of three to five inches an hour set up over north-

eastern New Jersey, New York City and Connecticut. The band brought 11 inches of snow to Central Park in the three hours between 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday. It is unknown why the heavy

on Sunday afternoon. The storm proceeded to affect New England as the storm brought 27 inches of snow to Hartford, CT and 17.5 inches to Boston. As the cleanup from the storm began, many area school districts decided to cancel class for Monday. Some area colleges were also closed on Monday, including SUNY Old Westbury. However, at Stony Brook, classes were in session Monday. The storm was a shock to many, as an unseasonably warm January had fooled some into thinking that this trend would continue. Despite the warming trend in the days after the storm, there may be a colder pattern setting up for the rest of February.

The storm was rated a three on the newly developed Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS). The NESIS scale was developed by Weather Channel meteorologist Paul Kocin and Louis Uccellini, the director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Center for Environmental Prediction. Based on the Saffir-Simpson scale for hurricanes and the Fujita scale for tornadoes, NESIS assigns a ranking to a storm, depending on the population of the areas affected and the amount of snowfall. Ratings range from one, which represents a notable snowstorm to five, which represents an extreme snowstorm. Only the Blizzard of 1996 and the 1993 Superstorm have been rated a five on this scale. A rating of three signifies that the storm was a major snowstorm as it affected the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states.



Visible satellite image of the snowstorm at 7:45 AM EST on Saturday, February 11th. my god, it has an eye!  
Courtesy of NASA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite and WeatherTAP.com

band of snow developed over that particular area. As the intensifying low moved northeastward out of the area, snow gradually came to an end

## Death Along Tracks of LIRR

By Adina Silverbush

A train commute most Stony Brook students know all too well is a ride on the Port Jefferson line of the Long Island Rail Road. Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at about 6:30 pm, this ride made 800 people into the witnesses of a devastating accident that left a 60-year-old widow from West Islip dead.

Madeline S. Mintz, according to reports, was traveling alone north on the railroad tracks for about 40 feet after making a wrong turn. She was already on the tracks before the gates went down (the gates were functioning normally). Mintz had entered the tracks minutes before the train approached. When the train did approach her car in Syosset, it was going so quickly that there was no way for it to stop in time, and the train crashed into Mintz's car at 78 mph.

None of the passengers aboard the train were injured, although the engineer suffered from smoke inhalation. The crash left Mintz's car burning and blasted it about 1,400 feet.

Mintz was so badly burned that they had to look at her dental records for identification.

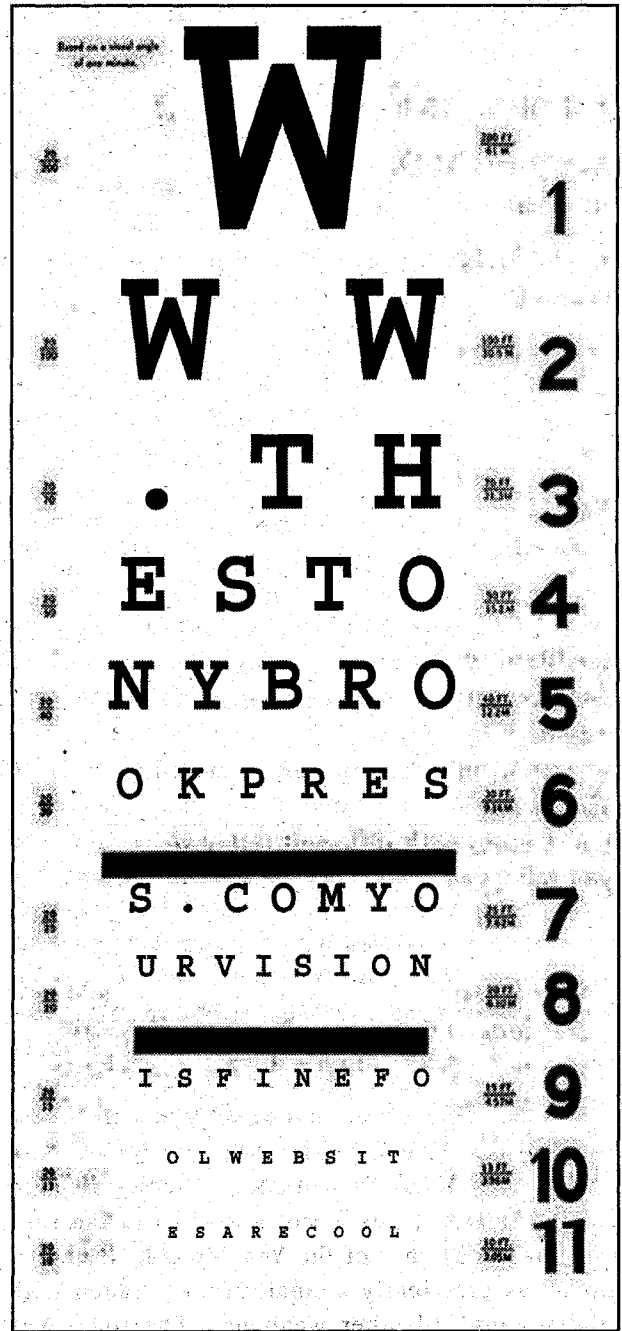
According to passenger reports, "It just sounded like you were going over debris." "It was a car on the tracks facing the train... we were going so fast you couldn't tell if the car was moving or not... it was facing directly in front of the train." The train was held for three hours, and then passengers were able to take buses back to Hicksville. The next day, Long Island Rail Road functioning went back to normal.

Madeline Mintz was a mother to three adult children, but no further information has been released on her. Detective Sgt. Kim Riley of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) said, "It was a very tragic accident." Sympathies go out to the Mintz family. This was a very awful, unnecessary accident. If this could happen to Ms. Mintz, it can happen to others, and the MTA must work harder to ensure it doesn't!



**USG  
Senate  
Meetings**

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





# The Next Black Plague?

By Cristina Hernandez

On May 16, 2002, *ER* aired one of the most powerful season finales in its long running history—"The Lockdown." On that Thursday, devoted *ER* viewers watched in awe as smallpox spread through the ever-popular County General Hospital. Yes, it was a smallpox epidemic; words such as quarantine, outbreak, and plague were thrown around without a flinch. Of course, contrary to popular belief, *ER* is not a true-to-life show. Dr. Carter isn't going to ride in on his white horse and use his mystifying healing powers, which would even raise Lazarus from death, to save the world. Despite the fact that smallpox was eradicated over 20 years ago from every nook and cranny of the earth, the threat of an outbreak, an outbreak of any kind, most likely produced a strong reaction from viewers who are afraid that they or a loved one may be at risk of catching death. Today, we may be close to coming face to face with what could be the culmination of their fears. It is referred to as the Avian Flu.

Recently, it has been confirmed the malevolent H5N1 strain of the virus is affecting poultry in three Nigerian states. The World Health Organization has called for a massive public education campaign to halt bird flu from spreading to humans in Nigeria, says the BBC News. As stated by the World Health Organization coordinator, General Lee Jong-Wook, "All countries must take measures to protect human health against avian flu and prepare for a pandemic." It is not altogether known how the bird flu has spread to Nigeria, since it was first found in the South-Eastern region of Asia and then more recently Turkey and Russia. Nearly one hundred people have perished due to the avian flu since the disease resurfaced in late 2003.

Although cross-infection to humans has been rarely seen thus far, they say that if the H5N1 strain mutates so that it can be passed between humans, it could become a global pandemic, killing millions.

Who are "They?" And can we trust "Them?" Are they bird flu gurus or are they creepy old semi-psychic women who think they can see the future because they once got hit by lightning? Or worse, are they the rich, high government officials

who want a good laugh at mass panic?

Haven't "they" been wrong before?

They told us that SARS was going to kill us all. Mad Cow Disease.

Beware of the cows they

said, don't even

look at a burger

for too long

because you'll

die. And what

about AIDS?

Yeah, AIDS was

definitely out to

get us; it was the

final destination of

deadly diseases.

What makes the

Avian Flu any

different? In

my opinion, I

don't truly

think that the bird flu is Alfred Hitchcock's nightmare come true. It's not like I believe that there are a bunch of contaminated birds conspiring to kill me. But I do think its something that the American population should keep an eye on. I am not going to be skeptical about it and let the avian flu catch me off guard. It's not time to panic just yet. Don't go stoning your little sister's pet bird, Peewee, because he might have the bird flu. And don't run away screaming in violent terror if you see a dead pigeon in the middle of the street. It's not like there's a ten commandments of what to do or not to do in order to avoid the Avian Flu. America has a higher quality of life and better healthcare than the

poorer, less advanced countries, so perhaps we stand a better chance against the Bird Flu. Americans also have higher sanitary and nutritional standards; it's not like I've seen anyone picking up a dead bird on the side of the road and eating it lately. My point is that the Bird Flu is something to be cautious about.

*In tenth grade European history, I learned about the Black Plague. I was in 9th period and I jotted down, "black plague a.k.a. black death, in Europe, boils, fever, lots died." Experts are comparing the Avian Flu to the Black Death and that scares me. I hope that they are wrong. I hope that they are very wrong. These "experts" that get that title stripped away, forcing them to cry tears of agony. After watching the "Lockdown," I looked up some fun facts about Smallpox.*

## Facts About Smallpox: -

- \* Smallpox does not occur in nature.
- \* People cannot get smallpox by traveling to a foreign country, nor can they get it from people visiting this country.
- \* The only known stocks of the virus exist in high-security labs in Atlanta and Russia.
- \* Other than through a criminal act, the risk of exposure to smallpox is zero.

Unlike Smallpox, the Bird Flu is still a mystery to me. Hopefully in 10 years *ER* can make an episode about it, and Dr. Carter can still prance in and save the day. But as of right now we can only ask ourselves, "Is the Bird Flu the next Black Plague?"

# Thousands Dead in Landslide in Philippines

By Joan Leong

After a series of heavy rainfalls, the farming village of Guinsaugon, located in the central Philippines, has been completely buried by a landslide. With a population of only 1,857 people, there have only been 57 survivors found. As more time passes on, the likelihood of finding more survivors grows fewer and fewer. Rescue efforts have proved to be futile because the entire town was immersed in mud and landmarks are completely gone. The rescue effort is further hindered by a no-fly zone over the village because of fears of disrupting the landslide and causing more damage. Aid workers have only been able to use bulldozers and hand shovels to try to find survivors. The mud is so soft that rescue workers are quickly engulfed waist deep in mud and are putting themselves in danger. The heavy rain, blocked roads and washed out bridges are also obstacles in the way of rescue. The search is mainly focused on searching for the 250 children believed to

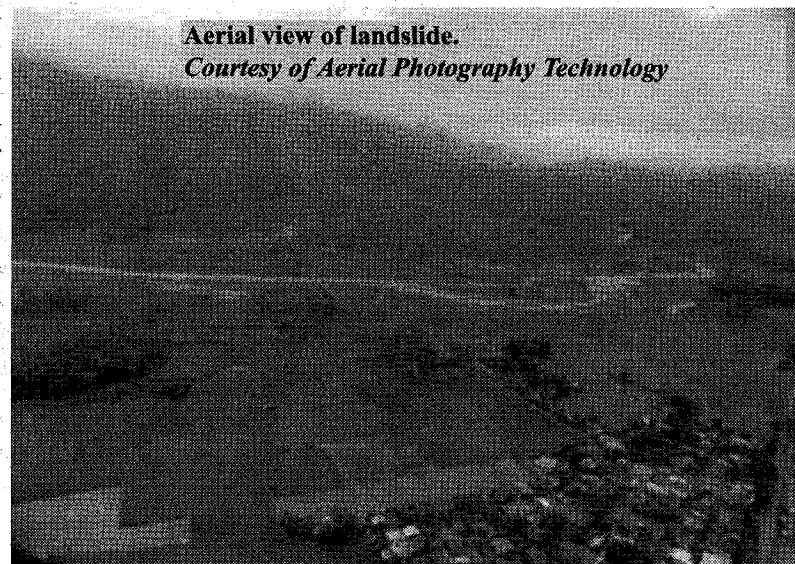
be trapped in an elementary school. Hope was given to surviving family members as reports of text messages were received by cell phones. Eleven other towns have been evacuated in fears of the moving landslide. Guinsaugon is located on the Leyte Islands and have been bombarded with heavy rainfall for two weeks.

Witnesses to the tragedy said that the landslide sounded like the mountain that loomed over the village had exploded and then crumbled. Pretty soon, the entire town was buried under mud and traces of steel beams peeking out were the only indications that a town ever even existed there. The U.S. military has dispatched two warships and 1,000 marines to the area. The soldiers were given sketches of the town to try to locate where houses and the ele-

mentary school once stood, but without landmarks to depend on, it's almost blind luck. The official UN death toll is only at 200 because those are the only bodies recovered

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Aerial view of landslide.  
Courtesy of Aerial Photography Technology





# State of the Union: Uuuuuuuuuuhhhhhh, What?

By Madeline Scheckter

In his January 31<sup>st</sup> State of the Union Address, George W. Bush made a statement calling for legislation to be passed which would "prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research: human cloning in all its forms, creating or implanting embryos for experiments, creating human-animal hybrids, and buying, selling, or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator – and that gift should never be discarded, devalued, or put up for sale."

The term "uuuuuhhhhhh, what?" does not even begin to express my emotional disturbance at this statement. While it is quite true that scientists in China have fused human cells with rabbit eggs (worst Cadbury Cream Egg flavor ever) and put human brain cells in mice (worst premise for a science fiction movie ever), this hasn't been an issue in a single one of the states in the United States. In fact, neither the House nor the Senate has said a word about human-animal hybrids. Now, human-animal hybrids aren't exactly centaurs or sexy mermaids, but they would have something or other to do with combining cells from humans and animals in a totally non-sexy way. Then they would be used to help find cures for diseases or grow "spare parts," both of which are clearly very wrong and immoral scientific goals. That is, of course, if you accept the theory that human-animal hybrid means the same thing as "chimera," which I don't. "Chimera" is the scientific term for all that cell fusion combining different animals' cells for blah-blah boring. Human-animal hybrids are like *The Thundercats*, which is not boring at all. No, rather than referring to chimeras, I'm fairly sure the President walked so far into stupid that he stepped into crazy.

# Human-Animal Hybrids Determined to Strike Within the US

By Matt Willemain

The suspicious behavior resulting from fear of an indistinct enemy can limit our opportunities and alienate potential friends, and the resulting cloud of paranoia can inhibit our fullest self-expression and achievement.

But a bal-

that mineshaft canary of human knowledge: raw culture. It is in the songs and stories of the folk where is writ the cutting edge of our discoveries, be they wondrous or terrible. And so we turn to the graphic novels of anthropomorphic deviance; to the Sci-Fi Channel original movie *Hammerhead*, in which now-doughy character actor William Forsyth must vie with a mindless killing machine, the twisted spawn of banished stem cell research, adept at nothing but killing in both wat'ry and terrestrial environs; even to the early tocsin of Warren Zevon.

There is a price to pay for negligence patrolling the borders of humanity. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Let us hope the final accounting of that price will remain in the realm of speculation.

What do we know for sure about the "chimera," beyond their exclusion from the divine creation? We know that when they *do* come (and come they will), it will be both swift and sudden. The bogeymen of the antiquarian grotto are no longer content to lurk in the musty corners of ill-defined nightmares, and now push hungrily at the thin membrane separating the world we know from another.

How long before the Chinese man-bunnies are ceaselessly fornicating their way to numerical supremacy? And what happens when the Mayo Clinic swine, which (who?!) live by the circulation of human blood, come up short in their own production of that precious sanguine stuff? What unearthly vengeance will they exact for our programs—or should I say *pogroms*—of organ harvesting? You're reading the words of one commentator who does not wish to know. Do not open that box!

Orange alert, people!

Why, I saw Lon Cheney walking with the Queen, doing the Werewolves of London. I saw Lon Cheney, *Junior*, walking with the Queen, doing the Werewolves of London. I saw a werewolf drinking a Piña Colada at Trader Vick's. His hair was perfect!

Draw blood.



ance between openness and security must be maintained, for in our zealous advocacy of trust, we may forget that there are those in this world who aim to do us harm, and we may lay ourselves open to serious losses of life and property. So it is with the very real threat so eloquently confronted by our heroic President George W. Bush in his recent constitu-

tionally mandated State of the Union Address, the coming Human-Animal Hybrid menace.

Absent reliable scientific reports of the simmering Human-Animal Hybrid threat, we must turn to what little information we can glean from

# Guantanamo Bay Continued...

By Claudia Toloza

Continued from page 6

When it comes to politics, it seems that the real issues get lost in the argument. The situation at Guantánamo Bay should not be looked at as a petty conflict in which the blame gets shifted from side to side. The issue at hand is that these are people we are talking about, whether they are terrorists or "enemy combatants" does not matter; they are people nonetheless. As people they should be treated with dignity. If the United States government is confident enough that it has not engaged in any wrong doing in Guantánamo Bay, then they should grant access to the U.N. investigators to speak with the prisoners. After all, as Abraham Lincoln put it, "Truth is generally the best vindication against slander."





# Who Yelled Fire?

By Mark Bannick

If all the world is a stage, then the editors of Denmark's *Jyllands-Posten* just yelled "Fire!" from the back of the theatre and caused a stampede in some of the most critical areas of the audience.

In Western society, we champion the various policies of freedom, yet we refrain from letting our freedoms turn into anarchy. Whether they be explicitly written into law or implicitly accepted in society, there are limitations to all of our freedoms. (Yelling "fire" in a crowded theatre is one such limitation—libel, slander, death threats, and insulting another's mother are among the rest.) Progressively, the West has enacted measures ensuring freedom rather than restricting it. This as ensuing generations challenge the norm of traditional expression and clash with the establishment in a dialectic which almost always favors the proponents of freedom.

Adopting the spirit of progressivism, the editors of the *Jyllands-Posten*, believing that the Western media were self-censoring in regards to militant Islamism, published a dozen denigrating pictures of Mohammed in September 2005. As it was intended, the cartoon has received attention. Depicting an image of the prophet Mohammed, is, according to Islam, forbidden, for doing such is considered idolatry. And, if Mohammed were to be depicted, depicting him as anything other than a holy man receiving and extolling the words of Gabriel would be an outrage.

The source of the outrage that has grown into the worldwide conflict we see today began locally in Denmark when imams Ahmed Akkari and Abu Laban were insulted by the paper's publication. As leaders in the Muslim community, they felt it was their duty to redress their grievances, but the paper did not publish their letters, nor did their politicians heed their complaints. Alienated in their homeland, the imams took copies of the cartoons (plus other denigrating depictions of Islam that had been sent to Muslim groups) to Al-Azhar University in Cairo, which is known for its moderation in international affairs. There, the cartoons were viewed and the grievances of racism were heard by influential statesmen from across the Middle East.

It is at this point in the story that the details appear to be vague. According to a Danish reporter covering the story, the Middle Eastern statesmen,

while meeting with the Danish imams, may have misinterpreted the events and believed that the Danish state sanctioned the publication of the cartoons. They all became acutely aware that Muslim populations in Denmark, Europe, and the West were being oppressed and subjected to racism. From these meetings, it was not long before the rest of the world became aware of the cartoons, as protests emerged outside Danish embassies throughout the Middle East. Fortunately, the Danish contingency was evacuated from their embassy in Damascus before rioters tossed incendiary grenades at it. Unfortunately, at least a dozen or more Arabs were killed and many more were injured as protests turned violent, emerging in nearly every Middle Eastern country from Turkey to Indonesia and Afghanistan to Egypt. Radical groups and clerics have called for the boycott of Danish goods, and for trials prosecuting the Danish editors and leaders; so far, a fatwa hasn't been decreed, but the staff of the *Jyllands-Posten* paper has had plenty of exercise in bomb-scare evacuations.

Lost in this scene, it seems, is the voice of moderation. Muslim leaders, not wishing to see their precarious diplomacy with the West disman-

tled by heated rhetoric, have called for calm and requested the cessation of violent protests. These leaders, in addition to millions of moderate Muslims throughout the world, would rather see an environment where Muslims are not equated with suicidal Jihadists holding anti-Western sentiments. This silent majority, which adheres to the peace of the religion, would not like to see subsequent papers reprint the cartoons in "solidarity" with the other publishers who do so solely to reaffirm the freedom of the press.

Citing no legal infractions or ethical misbehavior, the editors of the *Jyllands-Posten* have justified their publications with the fact that the freedom of the press has created a situation in which the freedom of the press can be explored. Our notion of freedom is derived from the morality of individual autonomy. Within our "free" world, we have come to recognize that though we are "free," we really are not. Society as much as biology defines who we are, and no society is free if it selects a group of people to oppress. The denigrating cartoons published in the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper are not an exercise of freedom; they are an exercise of racism.



Freedom of the Press or Freedom to Insult?  
Courtesy of New York Times

## Religion Is a Problem a commentary

By Jacob Gray

Our species has come a long way in the last four millennia. We have witnessed advancements in science and society that would have seemed like impossibilities to people who lived as recently as fifty years ago. On average, humans today are living longer and better lives than they ever did in the past and all of our gratitude for this can be directed at a single entity; SCIENCE. Not politics, not specific individuals, and certainly NOT RELIGION. Religion seems to be one of the sole survivors of the ideals that have been long dead since our primitive past. People have systematically abandoned previous ideals as new, more effective ones have surfaced throughout history and that's exactly how it should be. We *should* be abandoning our previous beliefs and life-styles as our species evolves but religion has been persistent within our public

conscience despite the overwhelming evidence that it is all fantasy. My intention with this article is not to insight contempt towards people for their beliefs, race or life-style choices nor is it to propose the same old "proof by specific contradiction" that is usually employed in anti-religion arguments (i.e. Creationism vs. Evolution, Noah's Ark vs. Geological evidence, etc.) even though many of these arguments are perfectly valid. My intention here is to propose some new arguments that many of you have probably never been exposed to and hopefully you will seriously re-evaluate some of the beliefs that many of you still desperately hold on to. I will begin by giving you a simple mathematical model that can be interpreted as evidence that it is impossible for any of today's existing religions to be correct. I will then offer a brief analysis of

the past and present effects that religion has had/is having on society to support the argument that religion is a burden to the advancement of society and that it does more harm than good.

I must begin by noting that the following mathematical model is NOT a proof that religion is wrong. It is merely a theoretical probability that I personally formulated to demonstrate the absurdity of many religious claims. It's not even a very profound mathematical model. In fact, it's quite trivial, which further promotes the inadequacies of religion since it doesn't even take advanced science to discredit it. This model can be used to evaluate the abundance of conflicting theories regarding what happens after we die, the true form of god, or any other super-

Continued on next page



# Religion Is a Problem a commentary

By Jacob Gray

## Continued from last page

natural claim made by religion.

The following is a brief explanation of the basic principles of probability that will be utilized in the investigation; Assume that there is one truth and that it can be perceived by us. Let  $N$  be the number of explanations whose probabilities of truth are being evaluated,  $T$  be the total number of explanations and  $P$  be the calculated probability that  $N$  possibilities out of the total  $T$  are correct. If  $T$  is a finite number, then the probability that any supernatural explanation is true can be calculated by the simple formula  $P = N/T$  assuming that one of the theories out of  $T$  possibilities is correct (note that  $N < T$ , which means that  $0 < P < 1$ ). In order to obtain a percent value you must multiply the ratio by 100. For practical purposes, I have omitted this step in the general model that I present however I will express the ratio as a percent in the resultant conclusions. Since we are assuming that the truth is unique,  $N = 1$ . Keep in mind that this probability can apply to *any* one explanation, so if you're a Christian, Muslim or... whatever, it doesn't matter. This probability still applies to you. The truth is that since there is no scientific evidence to support any of the supernatural claims made by any religion (hence the term SUPERNATURAL) the probability that any one explanation is true is equal to the probability of any other explanation. This means that the Hindu explanations of supernatural events are just as scientifically valid as the Christian explanations. But how many explanations are there? In the absence of scientific evidence there can be an *infinite* number of explanations for any given phenomena. We could just make something up. For example; after we die, we might all go to a place called Copulahktabullshitalzalonia and eat pineapples for all eternity. It could be true. This statement is just as valid as saying that we go to heaven considering that there is equal scientific evidence (NONE!) to support both statements.

Therefore, Copulahktabullshitalzalonia must be included in the infinite number of possibilities being investigated. Since  $T = \infty$ , a modification to the original formula is necessary. Infinity is not a number, it is a concept. We can not divide a number by a concept. It is simply undefined within the realm of modern mathematics. But we can notate the equation in a way that indicates that as arbitrarily large values of  $T$  are inserted into the equation, bringing  $T$  arbitrarily close to positive infinity, the value of the ratio continuously converges to a specific value. In mathematics, this concept is called a *limit*, and it

is notated as follows:

Anyone with even the most elementary knowledge of the concepts of calculus will probably know the value of  $P$  just by looking at the equation above. This is a very familiar limit in mathematics and its value is so well known that it has been branded as a mathematical triviality over the last several centuries. The answer is;  $P = 0$ . Therefore; THERE IS A ZERO PERCENT PROBABILITY THAT ANY ONE SUPERNATURAL BELIEF IS CORRECT! Notice that if both  $N$  and  $T$  are allowed to wander to infinity then the value of  $P$  becomes one, which implies that if we take into account an infinite number of possibilities, then there is a 100% probability that at least one of them is correct. But since we are dealing with infinity, I wouldn't waste my time going down the list of all the possibilities to find the right one. So now you may ask; "Then how do we know which one is correct?" The answer is that we probably won't but if any one theory proposes ANY valid, scientific argument to support it, then that theory must be excluded from the previous argument since the probability that that theory is true will not be equal to that of all the other arguments. In fact, it will be much greater and would probably turn out to be the correct one. I must add that you will probably NEVER find that one true theory by reading a book that was written thousands of years ago.

Religious people love to say; "We don't need proof to support our faith". They will then dismiss and/or ignore, with the utmost disdain, any evidence that contradicts their beliefs. Imagine how terrible the world would be if every person thought like that. Our societies would never advance and our species would be living by very primitive standards, being metaphorically frozen in time at some point near the dark-ages. There would be no science, no effective governments and, of course, no REAL answers to any of our questions regarding the universe or ourselves.

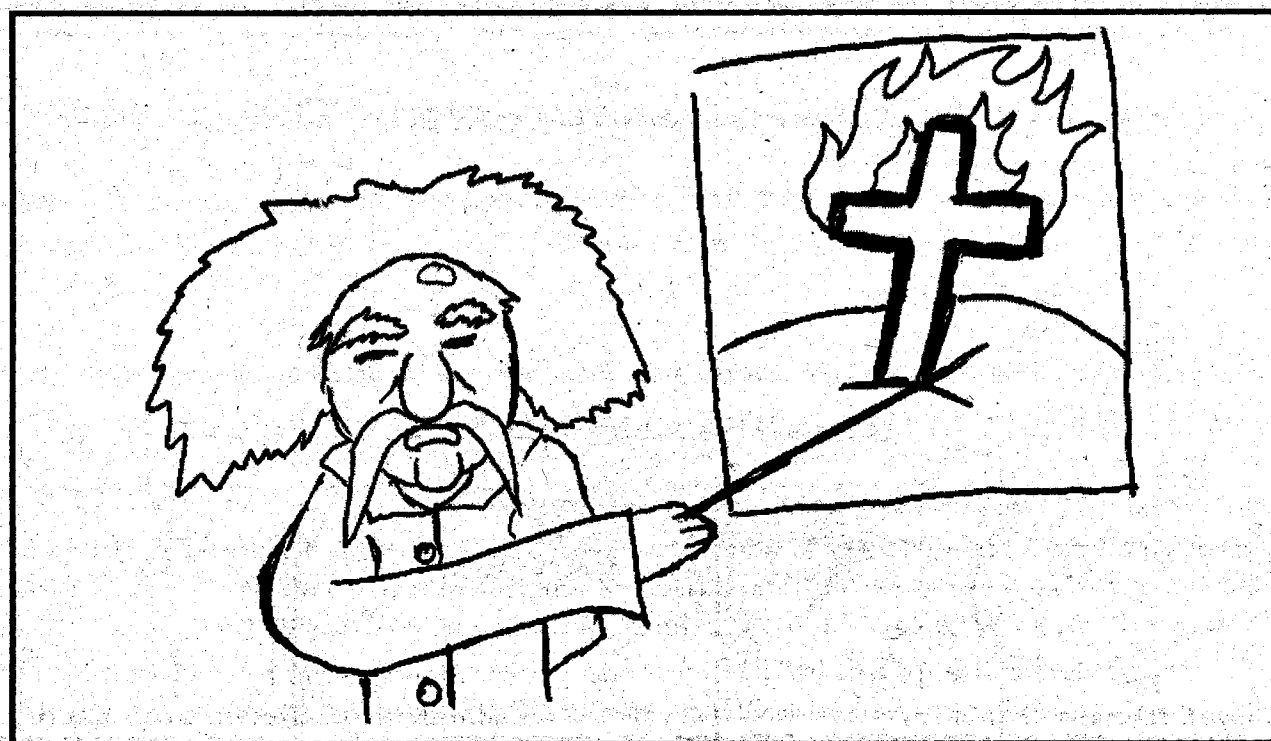
One of the crucial characteristics that almost all religions have in common is that they try to explain what we will perceive after death. They then convince their followers that they all have control over what happens to them when they die and that if they live their lives according to the rules of their religion then they will be adequately prepared for the afterlife. Therefore, religious people live to die. They deny themselves of their natural impulses and of any higher knowledge that may contradict their beliefs because they think "god" will send them to heaven for doing so. Having won "god's" appreciation, they then live the rest of their lives in fear and eager anticipation of death.

Does this sound like the kind of people that would populate a productive society? I don't think so.

This religious obsession with death may be the dominant reason that THE ONLY THING THAT RELIGION HAS DONE FOR THE HUMAN RACE ON A GLOBAL SCALE IS CAUSE WAR. This is true in both the past and the present. There are Islamic Militants that are presently waging a war against "infidels" (aka, people who don't share their beliefs). However, this Muslim crusade pales in comparison to the 300 years of terror and atrocities that were inflicted upon Europe in the name of Jesus (the Christian Crusades). How many more times does this have to happen before people realize that their stupid wars are not going to accomplish anything positive? As history progresses they all end up looking like bad-guys and if you are willing to harbor beliefs that condone this kind of behavior then you are part of the problem. As long as religion exists, people will always kill each other over it. I understand that people will always kill each other over something, even in the absence of religion because it seems to be in our nature, but the death-count for religion is way too high to ignore or excuse. There is no reason to kill or condemn people over religious beliefs that hold a 0% probability of being correct.

I often hear the argument that religion can do a lot of good for people on an individual basis. This could be true. If you are going to believe in something to make yourself feel better then go right ahead but STOP TRYING TO CONVERT OTHERS AND STOP FIGHTING OVER THIS NONSENSE!!!

In closing, I would like to add that every time religion has challenged science, science has won. In the future, I am quite sure that science will continue to overcome every challenge that religion presents. There is a notably long list of claims made in many religious texts that scientists know to be incorrect. It's time for the human race to move on. Our beautiful brains have led us to an unprecedented level of intelligence and it is time for the human race as a whole to embrace it. I hope that, eventually, most people will disregard religion as primitive superstition. However, I do realize that this hope is somewhat unrealistic at this time because I'm sure that people will continue to believe in religion no matter how much evidence there is to contradict it. It will probably take several generations for logic to dominate the public conscience so that this monstrosity can finally disappear entirely. Until then, I will continue to preach the only true gospel in existence; IF YOU WANT TO HAVE FAITH IN SOMETHING, HAVE FAITH IN SCIENCE.



Want to see more  
?

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on  
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## Parental Life Today: What Will We Be In For?

By Travis Aria

Many college students deem themselves as being too young to even consider the contemplation of marriage, much less the complications that are likely to arise once children have been added into the picture. However, a glance into modern familial trends reveals that attaining higher levels of awareness in relation to how society is currently affecting and is structured around the institutions of marriage and of the family would likely aid in the improvement/correction of many problems that young married couples with children are facing today.

In their book *The Mommy Myth*, Susan J. Douglas and Meredith W. Michaels have discussed a sociological phenomenon that is currently pressuring women into maintaining and caring for the home and its related extensions, including children. While women's liberation movements and feminist causes have led to women escaping from their romantic-era domains and into the traditionally male-dominated workplace, the responsibilities and pressures to care for children/families are still unequally skewed, placing vastly larger burdens on women. Douglas and Michaels have identified a major way in which women are pressured into ultimately accepting unfair shares of familial responsibilities, which they have dubbed "The New Momism".

The New Momism essentially pressures women into first desiring children through "the insistence that no woman is truly complete or fulfilled unless she has kids" and then reinforcing both the belief that women are the best caregivers of children as well as the concept that only mothers that constantly devote their entire "physical, psychological, emotional, and intellectual being[s]" to their children can be deemed as acceptable. Women are devalued if they are unable to successfully reproduce and subsequently raise children in accordance with these strict, sexist regulations.

The disproportionate delegation of familial responsibilities in favor of men is greatly responsible for why it is so much more difficult for women to balance work and family than for their male partners. In an article titled "I Want a Wife", Judy Brady, a wife and mother, argues that she "wants a wife" because of the ease it would place on her to have someone handle the majority of her responsibilities while selflessly caring for her and handling various other burdens that are commonly delegated to wives. She sarcastically describes that nature of a wife as one that is entirely selfless and that will tend to her husband's and her children's every need and then logically asks, "Who wouldn't want a wife?" No one can/should be expected to balance their careers and families while being given the majority of responsibilities in the latter. This is

much like an 85 lb. jockey and a 400 lb. sumo wrestler trying to use a seesaw; it just doesn't work.

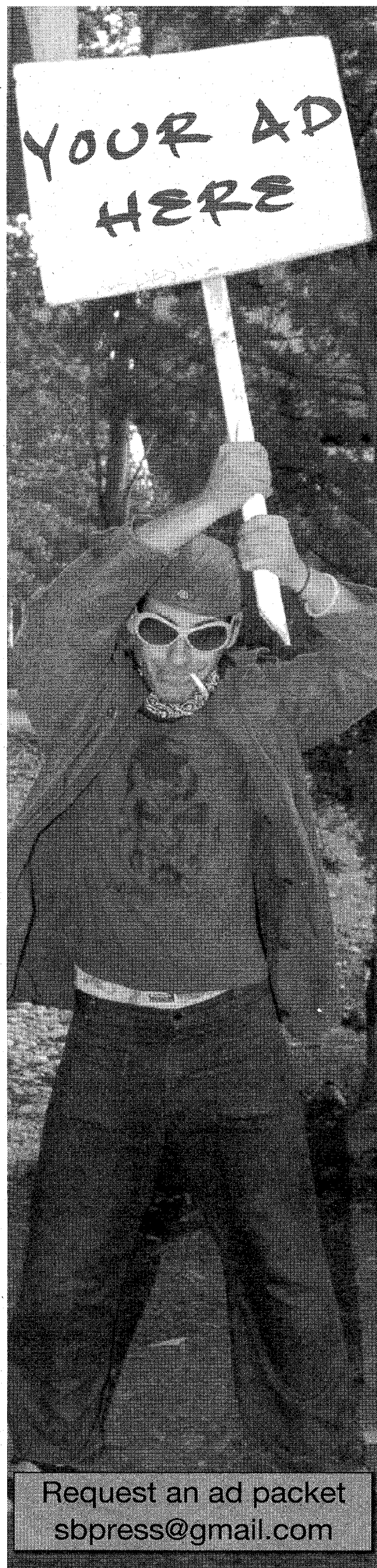
In an article entitled "Up from Under", Alix Kates Shulman discusses a written, formal agreement that she made with her husband after suffering from the aforementioned burdens of motherhood. The agreement was designed to enforce an equal distribution of responsibilities between her husband and herself. After adhering to the agreement, the results were quite apparent. "Our daughter one day said to my husband, 'you know Daddy, I used to love Mommy more than you, but now I love you both the same'." Equal delegations of responsibilities between wives and their husbands can result in improved marriages, greater familial bonds, and greater ease on wives to balance their work and home lives. In short, men need to step up and take

responsibility for an equal share of work at home as this is the only way that women will successfully be able to attain an otherwise unreachable balance of work and family life. One way to accomplish this on a societal level is to place social pressures on men to pull their own weights at home. The popularization and eventual institutionalization of arguments such as "real men are there for their families" can encourage women to demand more from their husbands/partners and pressure men into doing more at home.

Additionally, many people now face a workplace that places great amounts of pressure upon them to work longer hours per week. The 40 hour work week is becoming a relic from a time when families were given greater considera-

tion. 50, 60, and even 70 hour workweeks are quickly becoming the norm. If a person wants to spend more time with their family and decides to work fewer hours, even if the quality of their work is greater than that of their colleague's, they will likely be marginalized as being one who is "not serious enough about their career", resulting in their being overlooked for promotions, bonuses, etc. This trend towards longer workweeks combined with the pressures placed on women to perform the lion's share of childcare and/or chores at home and be great mothers hurts them greatly by holding them back from the advancement of their careers. Many women are unfairly forced to choose between their careers and their families and are socially criticized no matter which route they take.

It appears that the only answer to this social dilemma lies in increased union influence and control through collective bargaining accompanied by increased involvement in business on the part of the government. Laissez-faire, conservative policies, while possibly somewhat beneficial to business/capitalist structures, tend to disregard the lives of the very people that allow these structures to function in the first place.



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By Sam Goldman

Last week, the *New York Press* had planned to devote an issue to the fallout from a series of cartoons that the Danish paper *Jyllands-Posten* printed that featured various versions of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. According to the religion, drawing Muhammad at all is considered blasphemy; among the versions of Muhammad that was featured had the prophet with a bomb hidden under his turban.

The editors' reasoning was simple. Their issue was intended to criticize other publications, such as the *New York Times*, which had refused to print the cartoons due to fear of attracting negative attention from the Islamic community. In an e-mail to the *New York Observer*, Editor-In-Chief Harry Siegel explained, "... it would have been nakedly hypocritical to avoid the same cartoons we'd criticized others for not running, cartoons that however absurdly have inspired arson, kidnapping and murder and forced cartoonists in at least two continents to go into hiding."

The *NY Press*' ownership, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, overruled Siegel and the rest of the editorial staff. Believing that the paper had "suborned its own professed principles," Siegel, Managing Editor Tim Marchman, Arts Editor Jonathan Leaf, and City Hall Bureau Chief Azi Paybarah abruptly resigned in protest.

In a statement on the *Press*' website, General Manager Peter Polimino stated that the ownership "... felt the images were not critical for the editorial content to have merit, would not hinder our readers from making an informed opinion and only served to further fan the flame of a volatile situation." In a later interview with the *New York Observer*, Siegel broke it down in much simpler terms: "The owner of the paper [David Unger] was talking to me about his fear that things would get blown up," he told them. "This was expressed to us directly: 'I'm not putting lives in danger. We're not getting things blown up.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

When it comes to free expression, many of

us are hypocrites. We believe in the idea of "free speech" but so many of us have our own list of exceptions. You can do whatever you want, but... hey, you can't talk about THIS, man, its so important to me, it hurts my feelings, you don't know!

For illustration, take a look at the responses from politicians about the *NY Press*' failure to print the cartoons. Now bring your brain back to March 2005, not even a year ago. At that time, then-*NY Press* staffer Matt Taibbi, in what he would later refer to as a drug-fueled haze, wrote an article entitled "The 52 Funniest Things About The Upcoming Death Of The Pope." With entries like #23, "Doctors examining the body discover that the Pope was not only a woman, but also Hitler," it was pretty much guaranteed to generate an outcry. Anthony Weiner, who was then running for mayor, told the press that all issues of the paper be found and thrown away (which would be illegal). Many other local figures would offer their disgust. Most of the editorial board was fired shortly thereafter.

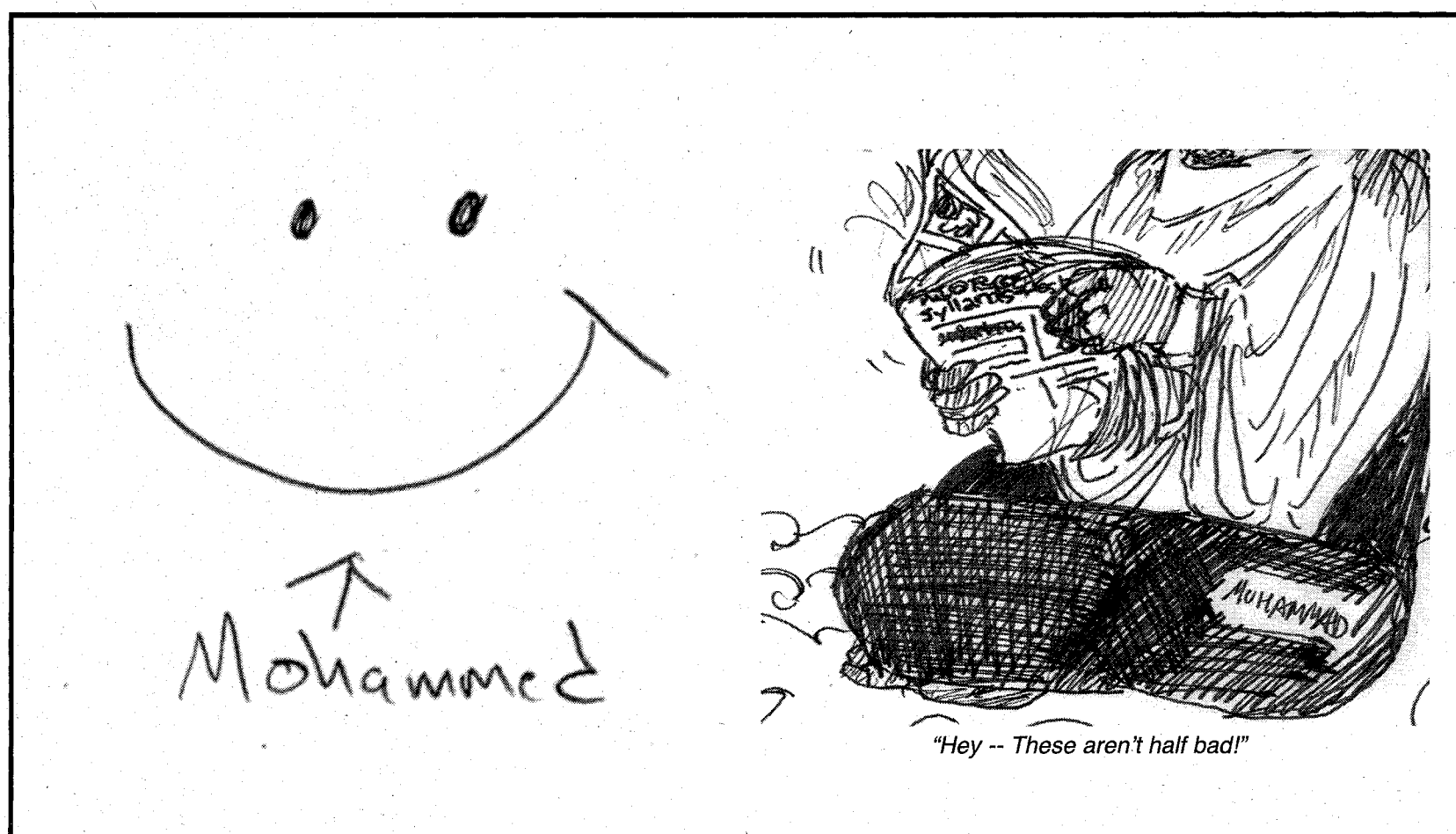
Now? Exactly the opposite. All of a sudden, instead of affirming the owner's decision to not print something obviously offensive to a particular religion, people everywhere are lamenting the firing, interspersing it with cries of "free speech!" Come ON. Where were these people when Taibbi was getting fired? Probably right behind Weiner and all the people protesting Taibbi's article.

Think about all the things that go on in our society all the time. I mean, we let Klu Klux Klan members march. We broadcast television shows that include a priest that pops Valium and talks to Jesus. We take a picture of a Jesus covered in elephant dung and we not only affirm its right to exist, but we hang it in a museum. We Photoshop a cartoon of the Battle of Hoth taking place on the phallus of Jesus, or Jesus getting married to a man, or the current president's head superimposed on the body of the most evil man of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These things may be offensive to many of you, or at least some of you. That's okay; you have a right to be offended. But, if you truly believe in free speech and free

expression, you must recognize that the people who propagate this have a right to be offensive, whether some of these things serve a purpose beyond their own existence (by changing your idea of art, bringing you closer to your God, or sparking a needed and necessary debate) or not. Anything else is hypocrisy; you cannot declare a right to free speech and then make exceptions based on your own prejudices, like the Muslim world is attempting to force Western media to make. Like the Western media is doing for the *New York Press*.

We like to think that freedom of expression is a uniquely American ideal. It's not. Not to delve in Rovian hyper-patriotic crap, but freedom of expression is the mark of a civilized society, because people are allowed to speak their minds about anything, including the state of government itself, without fear of reprisal. But true freedom is not something that should be turned on and turned off at anyone's whim. For free speech to be truly free, we must understand that there is a right to offend, on the basis of race, religion, or anything else. That doesn't mean we need to be happy about it. But we should be prepared to do exactly what we are imploring those Muslims who are rioting throughout the Eastern Hemisphere to do. Don't like a newspaper? Don't pick it up. Don't advertise in it. Ignore it. It will go away on its own. But give those people the freedom to do as they wish, and be strong and secure in the knowledge that eventually, those that preach hatred will be relegated to the sidelines of history.

Burning embassies is not the way to voice displeasure at things we do not like. That we can all agree on. But there are so many people attempting to do exactly the same thing these Muslim rioters are attempting to do; they just carry laptops and microphones instead of Molotov cocktails. Their goals are equally as insidious. While we should all condemn the riots in the Eastern Hemisphere, we should never let the free-speech hypocrites in our own midst get off scot-free.





# The International Film Series

By Stephanie Hayes

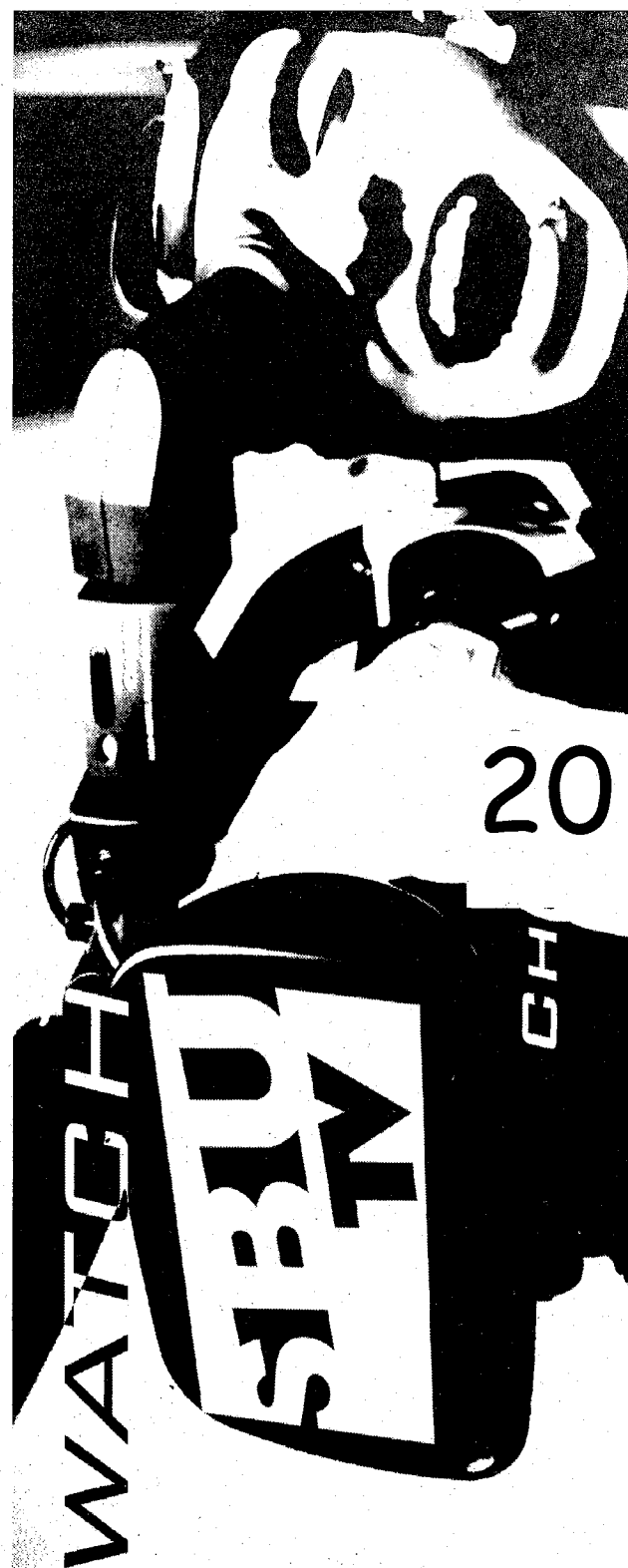
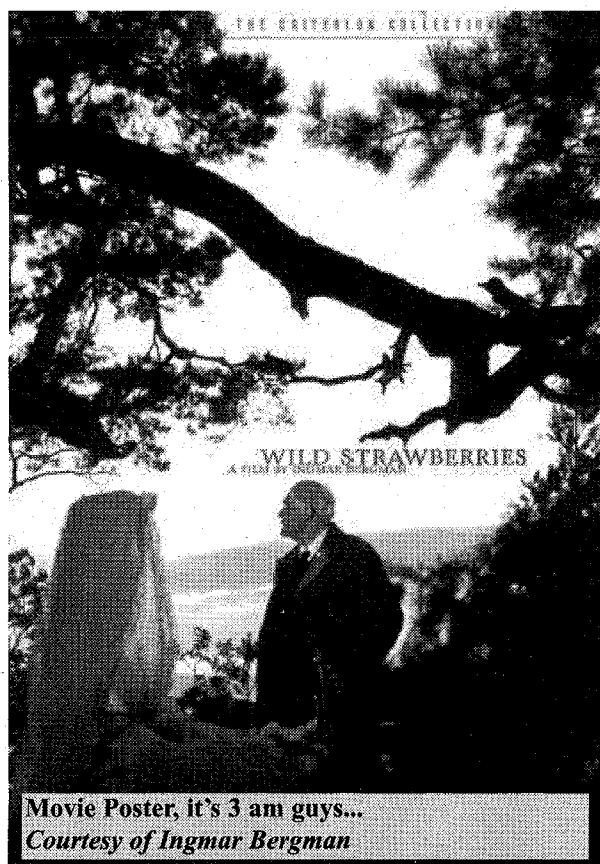
One of Stony Brook's best-kept secrets is the International Film Series, the brainchild of Perry Goldstein. Established last semester in hopes of exposing students to classic foreign films, the run rages on this semester. This is *such* a good deal: a free movie followed by free food. The last showing was Ingmar Bergman's *Wild Strawberries* (1957, Swedish). It was picked and introduced by Professor Krin Gabbard, who recounted the first time he'd seen the movie in the 60s. He had been impressed by how different *Wild Strawberries*, along with other European films "you may not know now", was from the formulaic Elvis Presley and Doris Day movies of the

decade. Even now, having seen the movie over a dozen times and being able to criticize its "stagey" execution, Gabbard confesses he is still touched by this story. "Bergman is so good at portraying the complexity of life..... the [impossible] need to have faith and connect with other people," he says about the film.

This film series is a funny thing. Going there more than once, you are bound to see the same people in attendance. That's cool but I think no one else comes out to these screenings because of the poor advertisement. Unless you come across a flier, there's no way to know where or when this stuff goes on, let alone what movie is being shown. I think there used to be a web-link but if it still exists, it's well hidden. So, we'll have to go on faith here. Trust me, the International Film Series is every Friday at 7pm in the Tabler Arts Center, room 107 (if you're coming through the café, the room is upstairs).

## The schedule for the rest of the semester:

2/24	<i>Love and Anarchy-</i> Lina Wertmuller (1973, Italian)
3/3	<i>Swept Away-</i> Lina Wertmuller (1974, Italian)
3/10	<i>The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie-</i> Luis Buñuel (1972, French)
3/17	<i>Knife in the Water-</i> Roman Polanski (1962, Polish)
3/24	<i>If.....-</i> Lindsay Anderson (1968, English)
4/7	<i>Murmur of the Heart-</i> Louis Malle (1971, French/German/Italian)
4/21	<i>Rules of the Game-</i> Jean Renoir (1939, French)
4/28	<i>The Bicycle Thief-</i> Vittorio De Sica (1947, Italian)
5/5	<i>The Garden of the Finzi-Contini-</i> Vittorio De Sica (1971, Italian)



# "Brokeback Mountain"

By Eddie Zadorozny

Love is easily attainable for most, that most being a heterosexual love. For homosexuals, it is attainable also, but dealt with in secret, seclusion, or hidden from the prying eyes of a society that views it as different and wrong. Today it might be a bit more acceptable or perhaps tolerated by social order in other countries or states but for the most part, it is seen as a negative. Yet, in the Midwest state of Wyoming of 1963, such a love was equated as taboo and met with a staunch resistance and zero tolerance, as well as elevating the emotions of anger, hatred and contempt among people who might have witnessed same-sex affection and love. Funny how such an ever-reaching aspiration of love could spark such romantic feelings; I have always commutated the word love with such adjectives! Such is the daunting task for two young cowboys who must find a way to lasso their growing passion and feeling for each other in this very emotional and poignant film.

The year is 1963 and two young cowboys have taken a job on a mountainside, tending to sheep for a few seasons. Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) a very quiet, reserved type, and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) a more sociable guy, apply for

the job. The two spend the next several months in each other's company with only the herd of sheep to look over, as well as the vast and stunning topography of land that only the state of Wyoming can offer. The days are long and the time is longer, and the two develop a friendship that eventually evolves into a bond and attraction that transfers to feelings and frustration. A love has grown between the two that affects each other differently. For Jack it's something he can deal with and wants to attempt when each leave this job. For Ennis it's too much of an emotional state for him to handle; he denies it audibly but inside he struggles with the concept- a struggle that will burden him for the rest of his life. Each leaves the mountainside with their love for the other a secret and re-enter society as they left it, in denial.

The years pass and each gets married, not to each other but to women, further complicating their lives. They are living as expected for two men- that being a heterosexual lifestyle culminating with the inevitable, the validation of a wife and kids, in all, the American dream. The disguise of marriage for Jack and Ennis might dispel and detract notions of homosexuality to others but not

for each other. Over the years, they keep in contact and once every year they return to Brokeback mountain on implied fishing trips, much to the naiveté of their wives, at first.

The characters in the film are very engrossing as well as intelligently written. The dialogue is thought-inducing (but I wouldn't have minded if Ennis had some subtitles in his character. Heath Ledger's delivery, although for purpose and effect, is still barely audible). The character Ennis, as played by Heath Ledger, may seem empty but that is clearly not the case. Ledger's acting is very deep and resonates. He holds a lot of emotion; you can feel the anguish in his character even when he is not stating a word - brilliant! In particular, the scene at the end of the film where his character goes to visit Jack's parents is not only commendable but also heartbreaking. Michelle Williams as Alma Del Mar, Ennis's wife, holds a lot of weight in the very few and brief scenes that she is in. Jake Gyllenhaal as Jack Twist, also exudes some great scenes. The Oscar nominations this film nabbed are all with merit and well-deserved.

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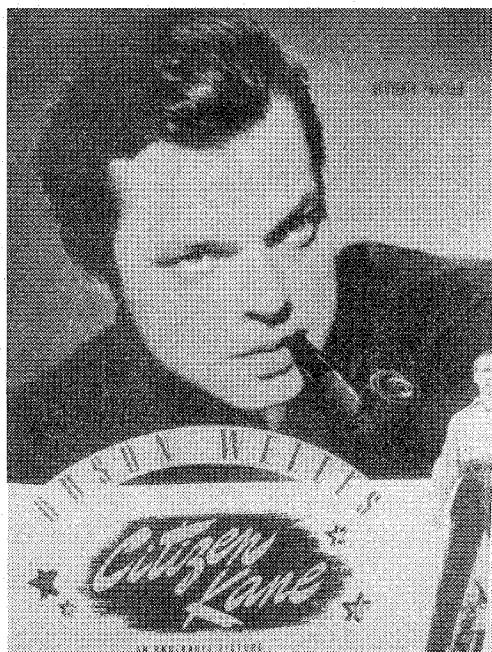
By Caroline Ann D'Agati

Snow blankets the rooftop. "Rosebud." A tired hand loses grip. A glass snow globe is released, rolls idly and smashes on the floor. America's most successful failure has breathed his last. Though the narrative has just begun, the tale has already ended. The audience can anticipate no redemption; all hope is dissolved before it has arisen.

Seated cozily atop the American Film Institute's top 100 films of all time is Orson Welles 1941 masterpiece, *Citizen Kane*. Hailed for its cinematographic innovation and scathing screenplay, the film composites the lives of three historical figures: newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, utilities magnate Samuel Insull, and "the Aviator" himself, Howard Hughes. Though only 24 years-old and having no prior feature film experience, Welles demanded total control of the production process: RKO studios responded in kind. Welles produced, directed, co-wrote and starred in what wound up being his singular film success. Due to the vehement protests of the film's supposed subjects, the American reception of the film was less than cordial. William Randolph Hearst's control of the press was crippling and despite eight Academy Award nominations and one win (for "Best Original Screenplay"), the film did not enjoy its current acclaim until the 1950s.

The film recounts the life of millionaire

newspaper publisher and industrialist, Charles Foster Kane. *Citizen's* semi-linear plot takes the audience on a journey to explore the meaning of his dying word, "rosebud." Through flashbacks and



Here's what's happening  
Courtesy of

interviews conducted by journalists in the present, we are only truly acquainted with Kane after we know he is dead. This element gives the film a unique finality that robs the viewer of any hope of a triumphant conclusion. In the film's tale of an American giant, we are given a decidedly un-American philosophy. We are shown that despite all Kane's wealth, hard work and talent, he loses. This story of his flawed and ultimately worthless life is the biggest contention against the American Dream to be so praised by our society. Despite its melancholic tone, Charles Foster Kane's journey into the heart of loneliness, despair and personal oblivion has become the

standard by which all other films are judged. Even now, sixty-five years after its release, *Citizen Kane's* revolutionary brand of cinematography, writing and storytelling make it the most exquisitely beautiful tragedy ever recorded on film.

So why should you see it? I'm thrilled that you ask. For maximum cerebral digestion and in an attempt to avoid more supercilious film jargon, I shall provide you with a few well-outlined reasons:

1. **Myriad references in other artistic venues:** From cartoons to music to other films, there are thousands of allusions in American media. Surely we all remember Montgomery Burns' adoration for his teddy bear "Bobo" in *The Simpsons* episode entitled, "Rosebud." There also is a song by the White Stripes, *The Union Forever*, which is a musical synopsis of the film. It is referenced in the "Oil Bladder" episode of *Seinfeld* (my personal gauge of what is artistically valid) and *Field of Dreams*. It will surely increase your number of what my high school film teacher called "good to be educated" moments.

2. **Snob Appeal:** It doesn't matter how many David Lynch flicks you've seen, museums you have been to, or how many of your records are on vinyl. You aren't allowed to be a pop culture snob unless you have seen *Citizen Kane*. Sorry kids, I don't make the rules.

3. **Intellectual Swoon:** You know that mysteriously attractive intellectual dude/chick that's in your chem/bio/psych class? Yeah, the one with the tortoise shell glasses who always wears black? Chances are he/she follows the pop culture snob rules and has seen *Citizen*, too. Think how impressed he/she will be when you wax poetic about how the use of lighting or the deep-focus lens highlights Kane's romantic estrangement.

4. **No Joke:** It is the most masterfully composed, original and beautiful movie I have ever seen. When a film mesmerizes you and makes you feel as deeply moved upon the fiftieth viewing as it did the first, there is something extraordinary at work. It is truly magnificent. No joke.

## "Brokeback Mountain" Continued...

By Eddie Zadorozny

### Continued from last page

The cinematography in the film holds considerable value. The images of the herds of sheep, though simple sounding on paper, are quite the visual spectacle on film. As well, the images of the mountainside and terrain, the visuals are clearly encapsulating and very serene looking.

There are two brilliant scenes directed with such flair by Ang Lee that I could write a 10 page paper on them but this review is already long enough so I will touch upon them lightly. First, the thanksgiving dinner scene between the families of Ennis and Jack is just brilliant. The parallel and context of that scene is just superb. Second, the scene where Ennis goes to see Jack's parents is

classic. The whole scene between the three has every emotion and stance of opinion clearly written on each actors face without even having much dialogue involved, you can feel the emotion in the room as if there was a fourth character among them!

Ang Lee has also graced the film with some interesting perspectives that made me think and evaluate. In particular was a recurring theme in the film (but for some characters, clearly pieced circumstances together) that most everyone knew what was going on but can't talk about it or acknowledge it. Another instance I found troubling but maybe be an explanation as to why peoples' minds are sculpted that such a love might be so wrong and frowned upon. The scene in question, where Ennis's father shows a young Ennis what happens when such an

act is committed and the repercussions for it, then proceeds to show Ennis, an elder man assumed to be a homosexual left for dead in a ditch with a particular appendage detached. The image to a young Ennis is most effective in shaping his young, impressionable mind. Yet what message did the father send, that homosexuality was a crime that deserves that kind of punishment? What about the punishment of human law, thou shall not kill?

The film is an achievement! The images and thoughts of the film resonate for days later upon viewing; they did for me. To me, that's what makes a film important one that sticks and resonates in your head for days. It's a sad film but effective as well as important. My last thought would be just let people live their lives.

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# “A Little Night Music”: A Review of a Revue

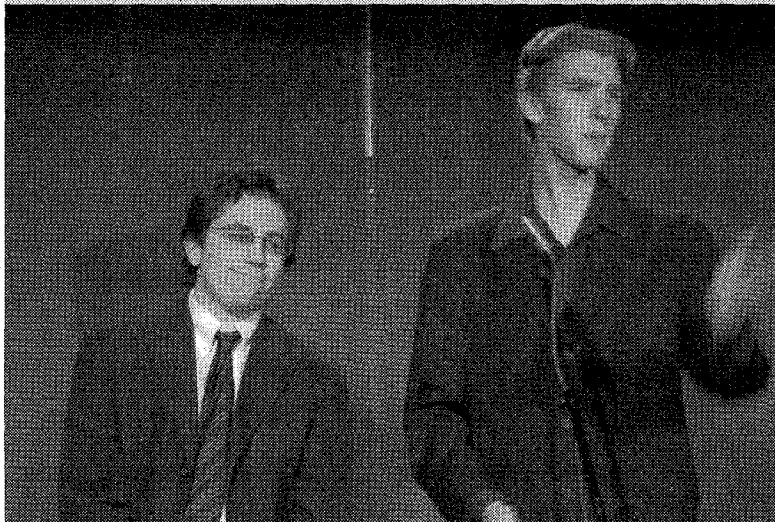
By Sir Alexander von Walshenstein

*A Little Night Music* was a Broadway revue presented by Pocket Theatre at the University Café on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. I attended the second performance, and was very impressed with the show. Co-directors Rob Ryan and Drew Boudreau doubled as hosts and singers, along with a cast of fellow undergrad students. Ryan and Boudreau kept the show moving with skits and banter between acts. Bits like *Dogs: The Musical* – which featured songs written by Rob and his brother Tim – and Eric Calogianes’ hijacking of the show were endearingly corny, which is exactly what one should hope for. By incredible good fortune, the pair happens to fall perfectly into the tall guy/short guy paradigm of event co-hosting, which always makes for comedic gold. The Café was a good choice of venue; apart from the bass-heavy techno that could occasionally be heard from the party on the other side of the wall, it had a pretty neat atmosphere.

Of course, the main attraction wasn’t the hosting or the ambiance, but the singing. *A Little Night Music*, as the name might imply, certainly wasn’t lacking in musical entertainment. The cast, which consisted of Rob Ryan, Adina Silverbush, Rebecca Newman, Eric Calogianes, Drew Boudreau, Shaughnessy McKenna, Bobby Peterson, Selin Senol, Chelsea Stern, and Sophie



JAZZ HANDS! (above)  
Judo CHOP (below)  
Courtesy of Jowy Romano



Varnier, sang a medley of songs from classic Broadway plays. My favorites were Eric Calogianes’ rendition of “Lost in the Wilderness” from *Children of Eden*, Drew Boudreau’s “If I Didn’t Believe In You” from *The Last Five Years*, “Marry the Man Today,” a duet from *Guys & Dolls* performed by Rebecca Newman and Adina Silverbush, and Chelsea Stern’s “Always True to You” from *Kiss Me Kate*.

Although some cast members sang better than others, they were all enjoyable, and the whole ensemble excelled in personality. Drew Boudreau’s emotional performance in “If I Didn’t Believe In You,” leading right into the lighthearted “Suddenly Seymour,” Bobby Peterson’s commanding presence in “All I Ask Of You,” and Chelsea Stern’s playful flirtation in “Always True To You” (backed up by a trio of male actors hamming it up as potential suitors) are great moments where these actors showed their dramatic skills.

Seeing *A Little Night Music* was a great way to spend an evening. The cast and crew pulled off an excellent bit of entertainment that was well worth the optional donation. Pocket Theatre is also presenting two plays later this semester: *Baltimore Waltz* on March 3-5, and *Reckless*, March 24-26. Judging by *Night Music*, these productions are definitely worth checking out.



Celebrating Valentines with man-catching plots.  
Courtesy of Jowy Romano

# The Industry Means Shit to Them

By Lukasz Chelminski

Dillinger Four has been around for more than a decade now. They’ve been on several popular “underground” labels such as Hopeless, No Idea, and the well-known Fat Wreck Chords. Now I know what you’re thinking; those labels aren’t exactly small themselves. The catch is that they’ve only signed to these labels for the purposes of recording and distributing an album. These guys aren’t playing music to earn money. In fact, they try hard not to become a part of the industry. They’ve refused an invitation to the Warped Tour year after year, and you’ll never see them on Conan.

I respect this a great deal. They are a fairly popular band, but don’t turn that popularity into a commodity. They all have jobs, and certainly do not live a rock & roll lifestyle. Their drummer recently got a PhD in psychology and they’ve also opened a bar in their hometown of Minneapolis. Again exemplifying their refusal to become musicians insofar as musicians play music to make money, they hardly ever leave the Midwest out of the belief that taking a road trip to see a band you like is a cool thing to do.

Well, that and the fact that they don’t like big city yuppie-ness. I had the displeasure of having to go to BB King’s in the city to see them once, and anyone that was there could tell you that this is fact. BB King’s is a large, corporate venue (Ticketmaster) and a lot of other bands would have just stayed quiet and played the show, but Brooklyn native Paddy said enough to make sure they’d never play there again. Romanticism aside, they also have normal jobs to hold down. When you play music as a hobby, you are free to play and do what you want, not what will put food on the table.

As if you didn’t know where this was going by now, I’ll mention that in addition to being a cool group of guys, they play some great music. Their songs are pop punk at its best: incredibly catchy music with great lyrics. Dillinger Four manages to avoid the tired clichés. They don’t write about how much the government sucks and how we should grab our pitchforks and take it down, or whatever it is that those revolutionary heroes on the major labels are spewing now.

Their songs are dotted with personal experiences, reactions and hindsight. Instead of making believe they’re informed enough to lead world government coalitions, their lyrics offer clever commentary on society. The vibe of the writing is that a lot of these things either have no attainable solution or will not be solved with a song, but that doesn’t mean we can’t be pissed off about them. Anyone in the position to listen to this kind of music can identify with these songs.

This is why they are great. The band won’t be remembered in the “Top 10 on the Charts” sense, but in a much better way. They’ll stick around in the minds of people like you and I, who really liked what they had to say. Dillinger Four knows they won’t change the world, and by being honest about that they have done more good than a lot of their peers.



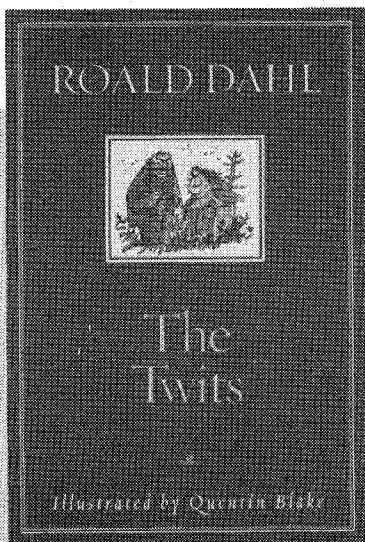
# I Like: Children's Books

By Stephanie Hayes

Because I cannot derive pleasure from an obligation (and because of my blame-happy nature), my coursework often leads me to renounce my love of reading. True, professors never assign books I consider unbearable but the fact that they are *required* reading labels these books as "tasks" and therefore something to put off. So, I steadily set aside assigned books until pressed by an impending quiz or paper. When that terrible day approaches (and my classes always conspire to schedule exams and papers on the same day), I must start plowing like a madman through a pile of books the night before. In the wee hours of the morning, I have a silent freak-out where I'm sure a failing grade is in the making but this panic always turns out to be irrational. Anyway, all that cramming leaves me with wicked eyestrain and I launch into curses on every book ever published. I vow to never again reach for literature of substance but eventually I know I'll have to. I can't dive into "real" books just yet. My safe recovery starts with children's books. Excepting the *Harry Potter* industry, children's books are largely unappreciated by anyone outside the target audience. Sure, there are comics but those have gained enough recognition recently to forego more praise in this article. (Nicole is a big cheerleader for romance novels, which certainly lend their own brand of fluff, but I staunchly refuse to delve into Catherine Coulter until my middle years.) The only genre that suits me is children's literature where vivid imagery and fluff can be blended in a clean, whimsical way, inaccessible in other stories.

## Roald Dahl *The Twits*

Roald Dahl almost always centers his plots around a destitute child with a heart of gold, trapped in a world with loony toon adults (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, etc.). But there's none of that touchy feely hogwash in *The Twits*. These two characters are ugly sons of bitches whose hideous features reflect their dark and miserable souls, a child-friendly parallel to Dorian Gray. Mr. and Mrs. Twit redefine misanthropy, they are fueled entirely on the suffering of other people. Only weeds and thistles are allowed in the garden, Mr. Twit's facial hair is so unkempt that it has trapped a mess of sardines, and Mrs. Twit enjoys popping out her glass eye to hide it in coffee mugs. The entire book is composed of nothing except prank after cruel prank, on and on and on. The plot isn't heading for a higher plateau. Some may argue that this back and forth pointlessness borders on grating and boring reading material but uh..... they'd be wrong.



where chess pieces, giant atlases and salt-shakers are constantly evolving, the reader is both treated to an exquisite story and (dare I go as far to say?) a mini meditation.

## David Wiesner

### *Free Fall*

A Caldecott winner, this picture book is told entirely through surreal illustrations and therefore it is ideal for days when the very thought of seeing text in the smallest doses brings about pain. The story is simple. A boy falls asleep and, as the title implies, his dreamland adventures melt from one beautiful place into the next. These transitions flow effortlessly and the imagined landscapes, even with such incredible detail, are uncomplicated. Read: no active thinking is required. By following Wiesner's protagonist on a wordless journey

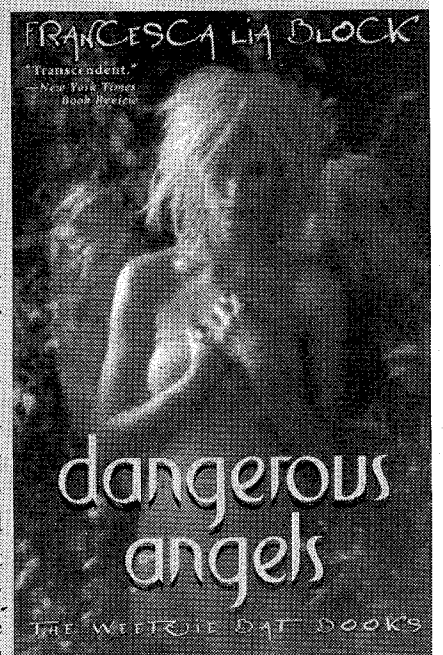
## Francesca Lia Block

### *Dangerous Angels: The Weetzie Bat books*

As a result of having never been to Los Angeles, I've built up a romantically wild idea of it from the Raymond Chandler and Francesca Lia Block's notional descriptions. No doubt I'll be sorely disappointed to discover just another congested city but until reality hits, I'll delude myself. Discounting the godawful *Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys*, Weetzie Bat books paint a mesmerizing picture of Los Angeles. Francesca Lia Block's Shangrai-L.A. is practically a utopia where death does not mark the end of a relationship and it is possible to get your happily ever after. Block celebrates weirdoes in her books, both the good and the creepy. These are odd people valued as the very essence of the city. Even sickos serving drugged milkshakes to prey on teen runaways are a necessary part of these fairy tales. While reading *Dangerous Angels*, your heart completely resides in this fictional west coast, even

when the characters travel east (where, apparently, New

York is a humoresque eyesore noted by the subway that rattles Weetzie's bones). The Weetzie Bat books (or almost anything else by Francesca Lia Block) provide the beauty, color and absurdity that are sorely lacking in the world around us.



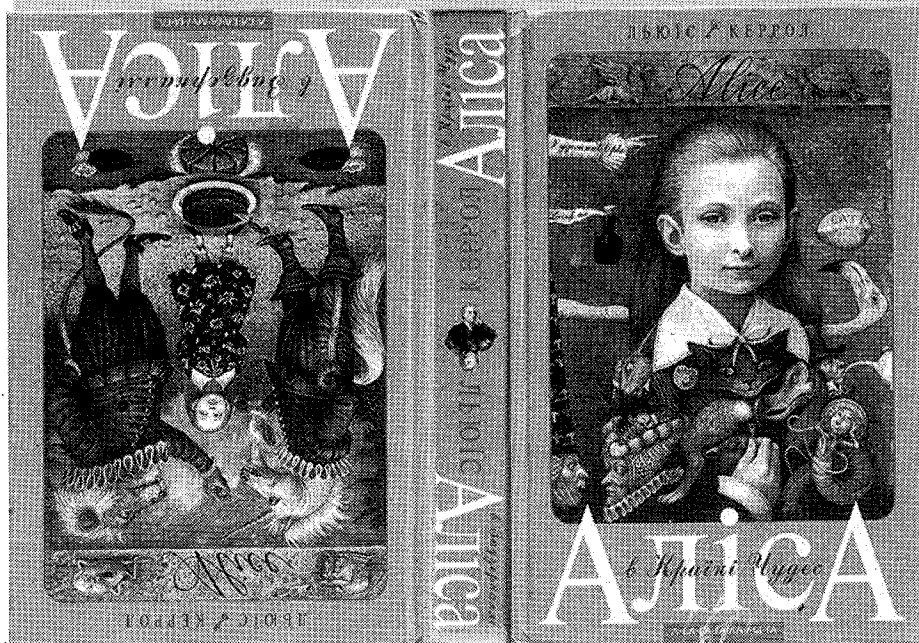
## Lewis Carroll

### *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*

If you've read it before, it may be time to read it again. As a person of few valuables, I own several copies of *Alice* and consider my 10<sup>th</sup> edition of this double book to be my most treasured possession. No doubt the forerunner of children's fanta-

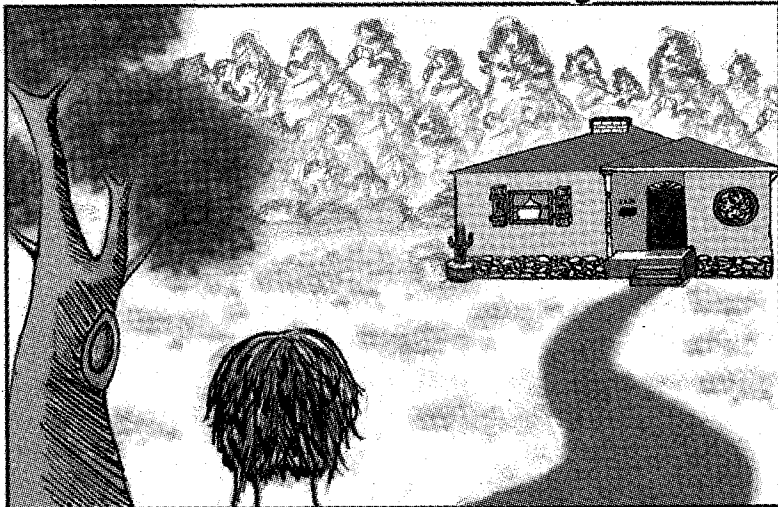
sy (that doesn't suck), Charles Lutwidge Dodgson has written a masterpiece that will continue to charm readers for generations to come. The most highly acclaimed author today would be hard-pressed to write a young protagonist nearly as captivating as the lovably bewildered Alice. While modern audiences may not recognize the satirical attitude towards British school lessons nor allu-

sions to Dodgson's friends, they will still appreciate the puns, outrageous characters and non-stop nonsense. And to top it all off are John Tenniel's brilliant illustrations, which so perfectly complement the story, I can't even begin to tell you. I regard this book as more sacred than religious texts. Under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, Dodgson has created a book that can be enjoyed again and again no matter the reader's age.

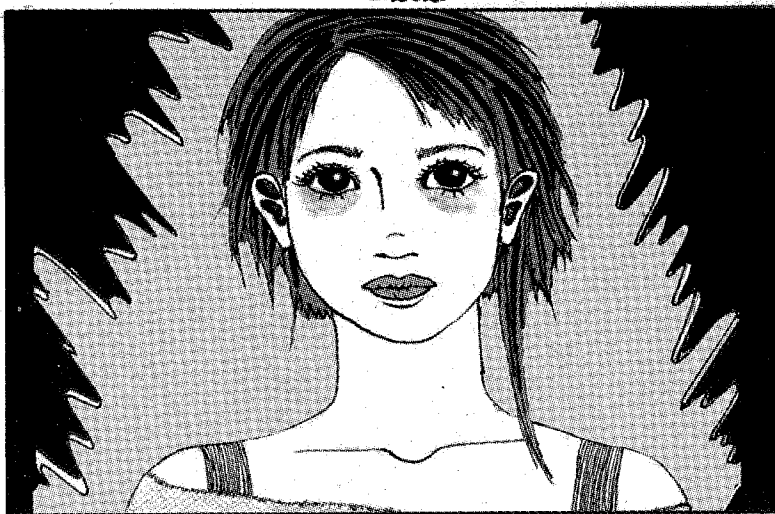




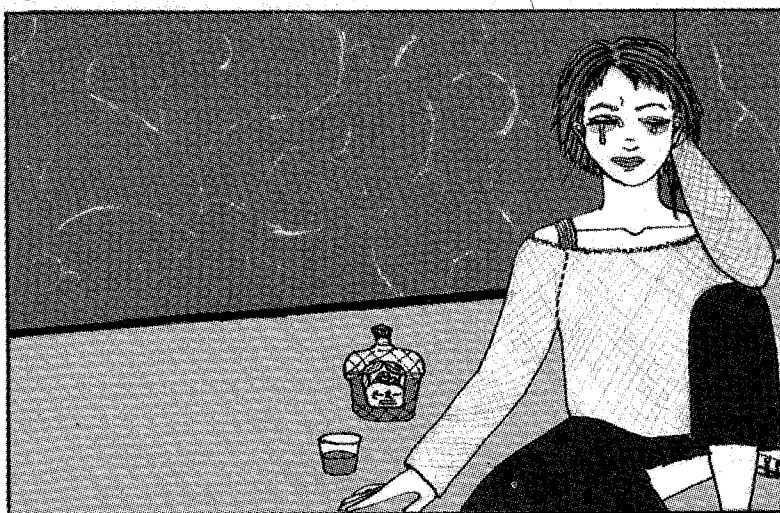
Once upon a time, there was a girl named Ruth. She came home from another monotonous day to discover



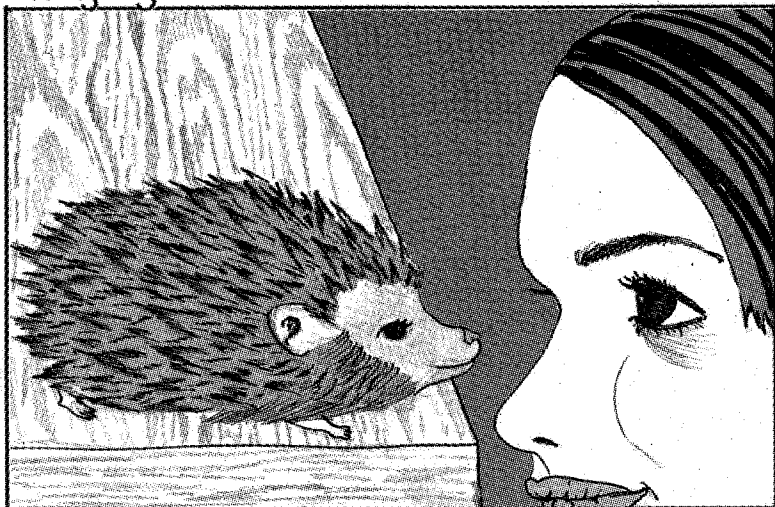
Ruth didn't scream or weep, she could only stare in complete shock.



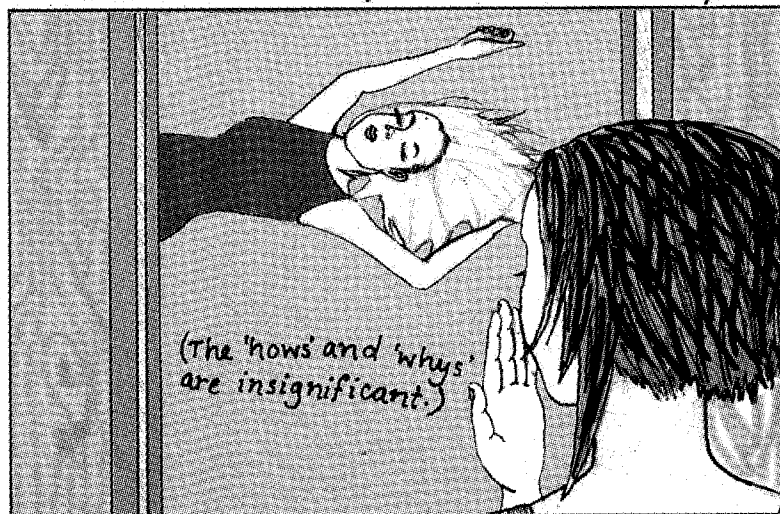
(a few minutes later)



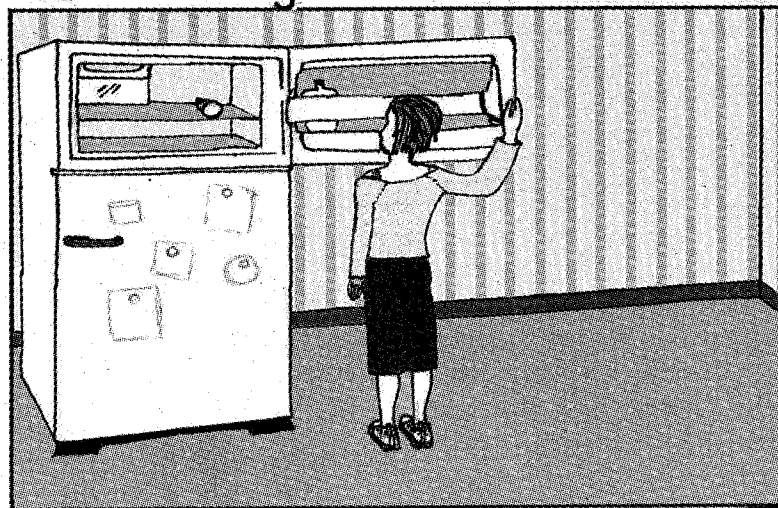
The subsequent explanation is too fuzzy to recount in detail. Suffice it to say, Lana was still kicking- but as a hedgehog.



her housemate and dearest friend Lana, lifeless on the floor.



She needed something to calm her nerves.



(a few minutes after that)



*to be continued*

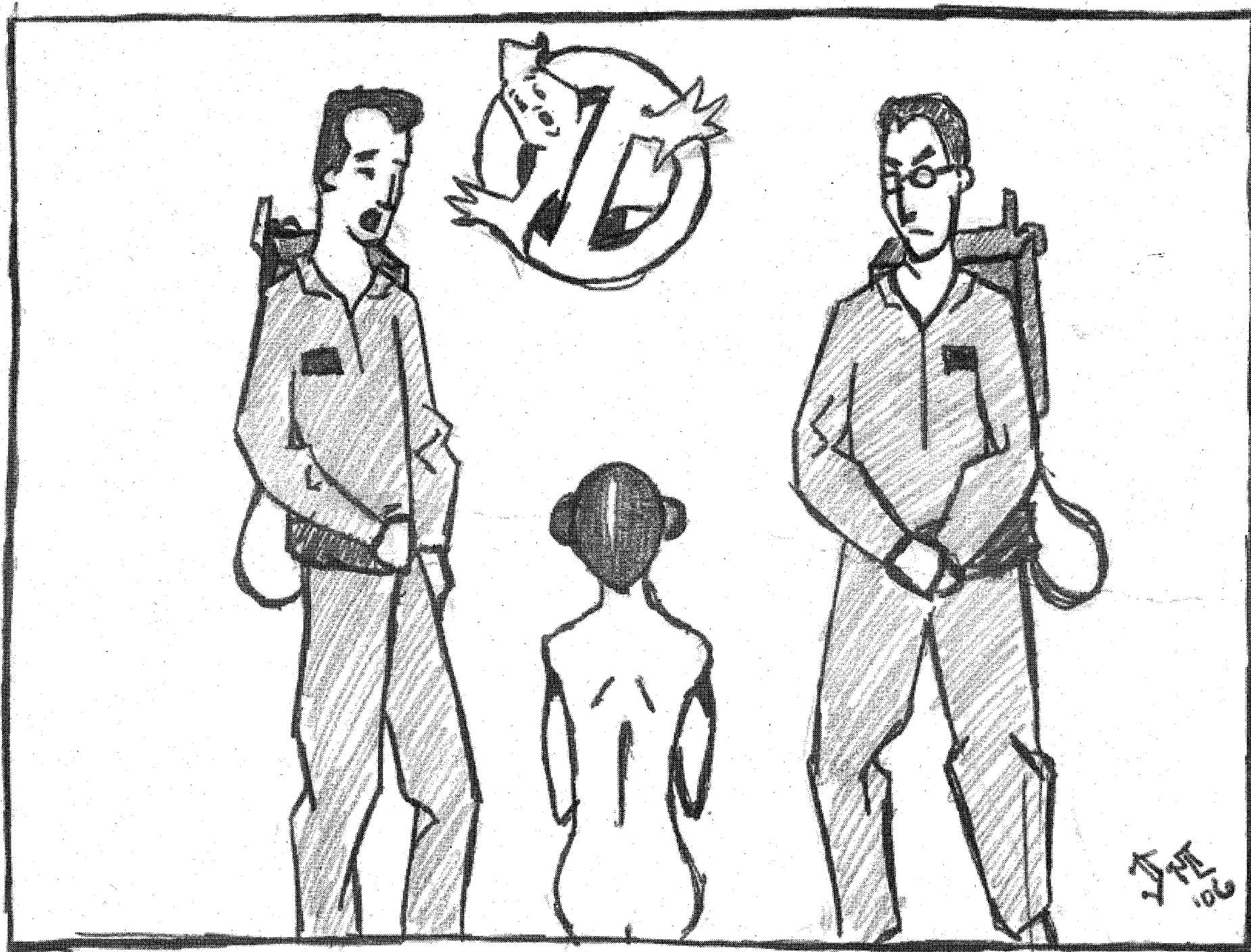
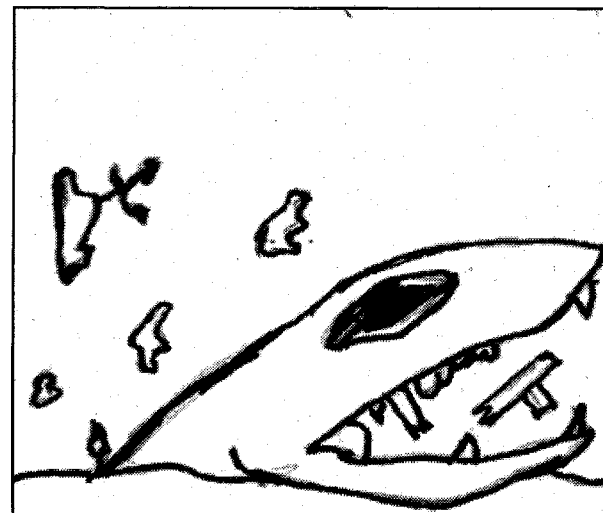
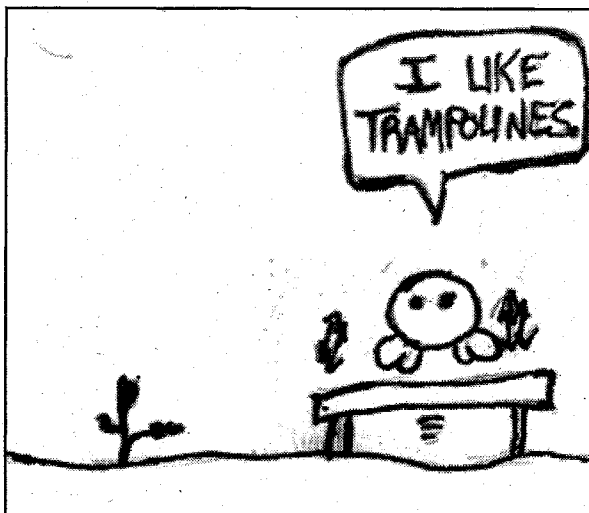
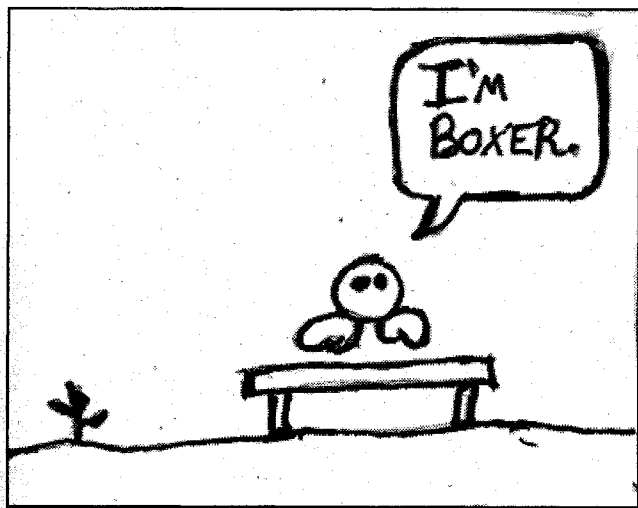


## EXODUS



BY DAVID K. GINN



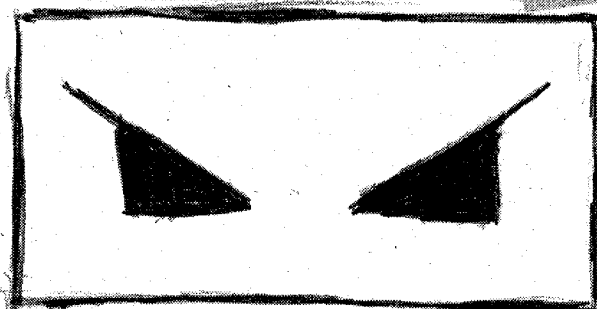


"DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS!"

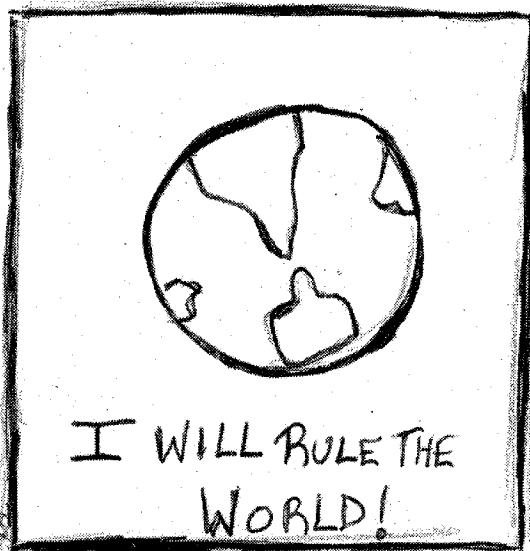


## Mooble, or: The Rise and Fall of Modern Logic

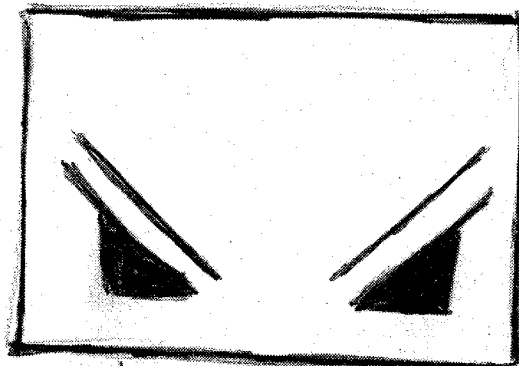
by David K. Ginn



I AM EVIL EYES!



I WILL RULE THE WORLD!



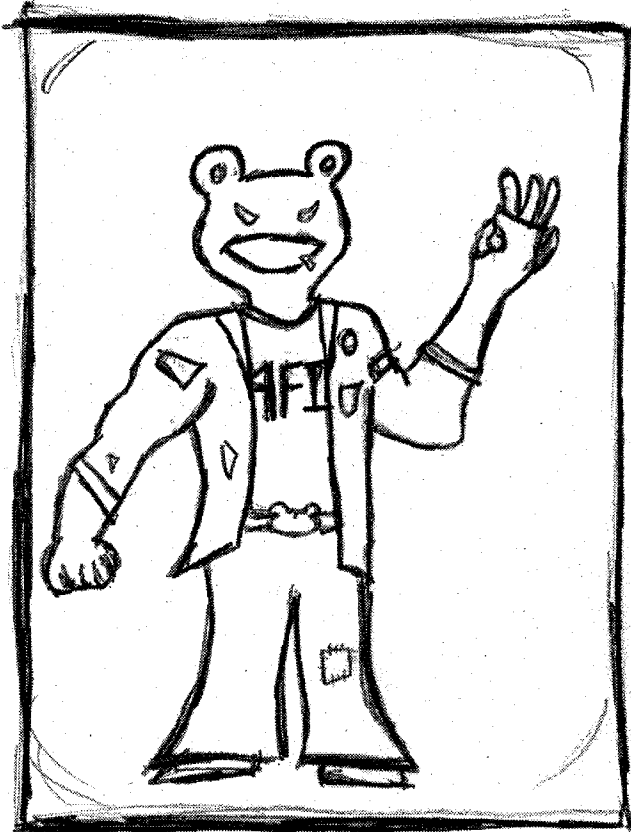
NO ONE CAN STOP ME!



AND HE'LL BE MINE



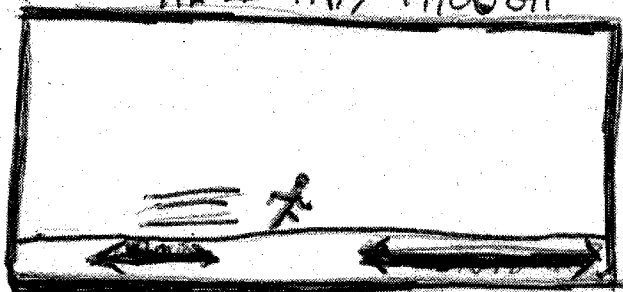
TO BE CONTINUED...



NOT EVEN EMO FROG!



HE'LL TRY, THOUGH



12 mi

5,678 mi

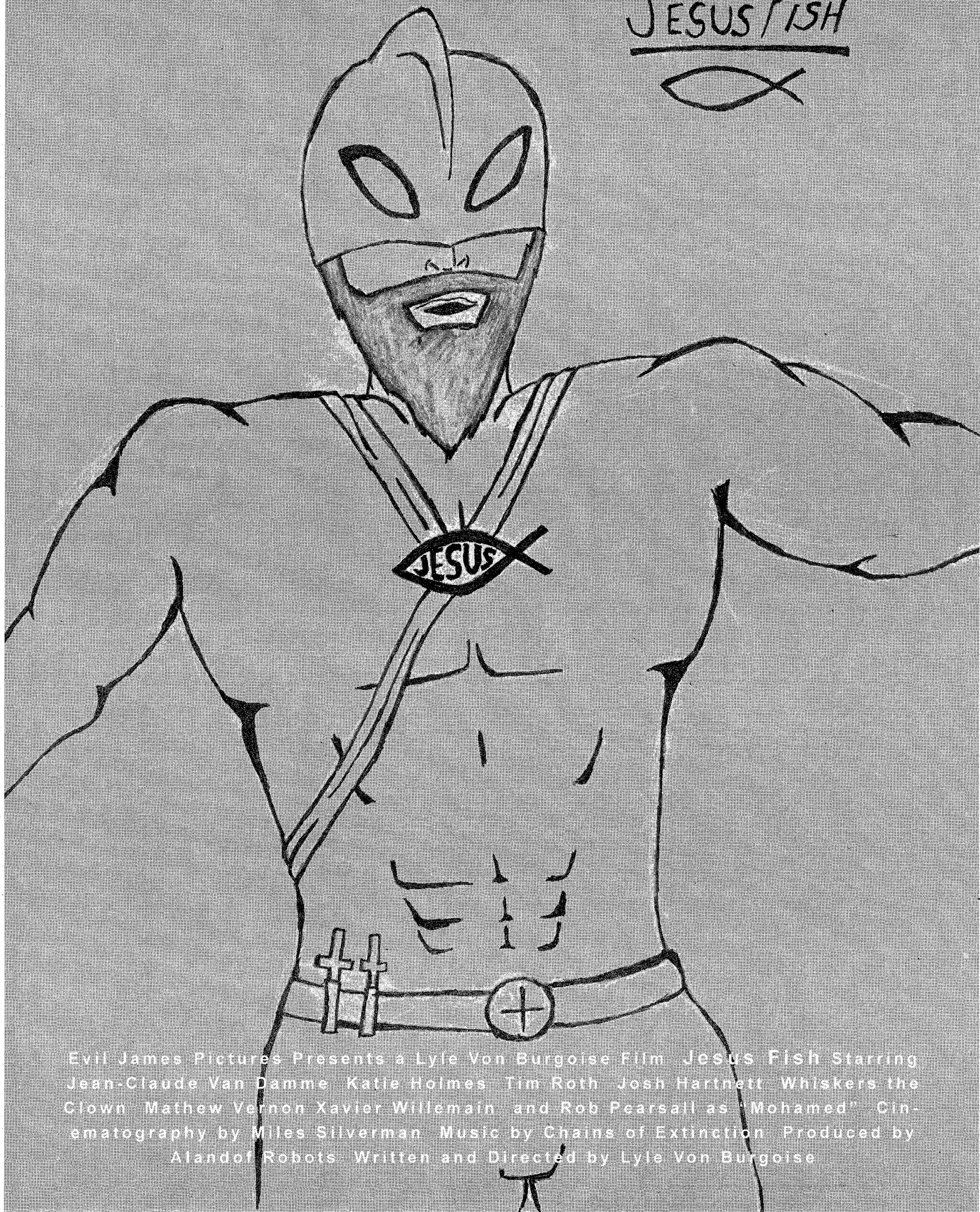


SHIVA: DID WE FORGET TO INVITE SOMEONE TO THE CRAZY HAT PARTY?  
 JESUS: SHHH... DUDE, SHUT UP.



This Summer, all  
heaven breaks loose.

JESUS FISH  
✕



Evil James Pictures Presents a Lyle Von Burgoise Film *Jesus Fish* Starring  
Jean-Claude Van Damme Katie Holmes Tim Roth Josh Hartnett Whiskers the  
Clown Mathew Vernon Xavier Willemain and Rob Pearsall as "Mohamed" Cin-  
ematography by Miles Silverman Music by Chains of Extinction Produced by  
Alandof Robots Written and Directed by Lyle Von Burgoise



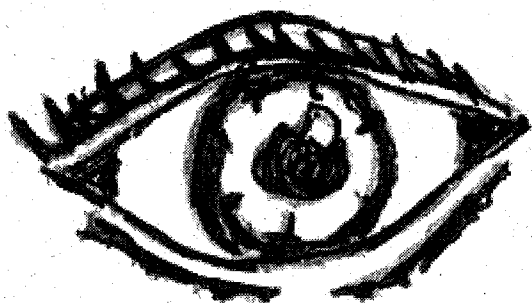


# PRIVATE EYE

CREATED BY DAVID K. GANN

EYE  
OF  
THE  
BEHOLDER  
PART II

ART & STORY BY DAVID K. GANN



SANDY WAS A GIRL WITH NO LIFELINES LEFT. SHE WAS PRETTY, SASSY, AND A REAL DARING AT THAT. PERHAPS ONE TOO MANY TRIPS DOWN THE BOTTLE OR TWO TOO LESS DAYS IN THE COOL AUTUMN AIR HAD LEFT HER FEELING DETACHED AND LONELY IN HER MIDDLE AGES. HER HUSBAND WAS A RICH MAN... WAS. MR. RICHARDS HAD MET HIS UNTIMELY DEATH FACE TO FACE... AND THAT FACE WAS THE COLD, HARD CERAMIC OF A CHINA VASE.

SHE'D BEEN IN PICTURES ONCE UPON A TIME... A BEAUTIFUL STARLET IN A FRIGHTENINGLY BIG UNIVERSE. THE TEARS OF HER SUPERNOVA STILL FALL INTO THE ATMOSPHERE YET CONTINUE TO GET LOST AMONG THE RAIN LIKE NEEDLES IN AN ENDLESS ARRAY OF DESCENDING HAY STACKS.

SHE MOURNS, BUT DOES SHE MOURN ENOUGH?





## Op Ed: Food For Thought

By James Han

The University now has a Task Force to devise a Campus Climate Plan containing specific goals, one of which is an inclusive community. One of the goals is "a campus community that values its members and promotes well-being."

Perhaps for starters, providing role models in upper administration for the 50% of the students who are not white would be a good start.

Just like this school, hypocrisy is going to be a large theme for this piece. See

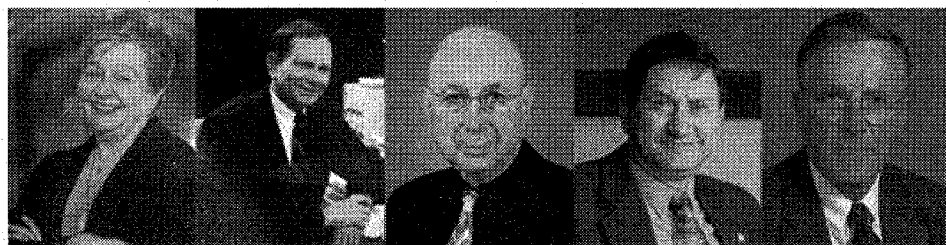
woman! Finally. White though.

\*Lawrence Martin - Dean, Graduate School - Asian woman... just kidding, white male

\*James Staros - Dean, CAS - Un hombre blanco

Honestly, I'm not here to criticize administration for being white. They have their jobs, and to be honest, I have no idea how or even what they do, so I'll just assume they're doing a sufficient job. I was just having a little fun with the list - but you know what's not fun? - being powerless.

When this column was first written in



if you can find the hidden quotes and messages abound in the column!

Stony Brook sure has a deceptive liberal air about it: from the new age philosophy department to the plethora of liberal sociology classes, the breakthrough scientific discoveries, the antiwar protests and all of this wrapped in the diverse student body. If you don't believe me, check the stats in the graph. I'm not quite sure what an International student is. I'm even less sure what an unknown/other is. Is there a secret race that's been slowly forming through centuries of careful breeding and patiently waiting for the day to break loose and terrorize white people? Yeah... anyway...

Who would have believed the place is primarily run by rich white dudes? Okay, I guess it's not that much of a shock. But just to double check -

### Top 10 Coolest Administrators of All Time Right Now (now 11 from when first published)

- \*Shirley Strum Kenny - President - White woman #1
- \*Norman Edelman - VP, HSC - White male
- \*Richard Fine - Dean of the School of Medicine - newly hired - three guesses, first two don't count
- \*Yacov Shamash - VP, Dean of Engineering - Caucasian guy
- \*Robert McGrath - VP, Provost - White dude
- \*Richard Mann - VP, Admin - Opposite of (black woman)
- \*Peter Baigent - Just promoted from Acting VP to the real thing - Some guy who can't jump
- \*Richard Reeder - CIO - Some guy who can't rap (unless he's Eminem)
- \*Gail Habicht - VP Research - Hey look, a

the Fall, the balance of power, already heavily favoring white administrators, seemed about to get a lot more obese. Frederick Preston (a black male) was the VP of Student Affairs, and there was at least one person of color to give a different perspective to the Administration, and life was sunshine and rainbows. Then, Hurricane Wilma struck, Fred retired, and he has been replaced on an acting basis with Peter Baigent (the dude who can't jump). Lady Justice may be blind, but even she can't support such an imbalance of power.

Statesman did an interview with Baigent and he seems like a really decent guy. But the bottom line is: no voice, no power. What voice do we have amongst the up and ups? I have no idea. That's a bad thing.

You hear the propaganda over and over: "Stony Brook is the most diverse campus in the nation; we have every ethnicity from white to black, Latino to Asian, Unknown to Other, Martians to Illegal Aliens." What good is this diversity, though, when we continue to pander to the ways of the old? It's new age philosophy stuck in an old age theocratic rule. Baigent was just made permanent.

Please, at least let us know you've even considered hiring some top level administrators of color as role models before teaching us all about the importance of diversity on campus.

Hidden Quote #1: "A conservative government is an organized hypocrisy." - Benjamin Disraeli

\*Graphs were found at the Stony Brook University Website. Visit <http://www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine/articles/vol13/13N2HanOnAdminWhitenessPress.shtm> for more information regarding graphs and links to admin information.

## [AA]2 @ SBU LIVE!

First Asian American TV Show By and For Students  
Premieres Sunday February 26th

6 - 7 PM

restaurant, soaps, & video reviews  
club spotlights, student chefs, serious interview on serious subjects, and student in the street polls

7 - 7:30 PM

Asian Pop - hot music across eastern Asia

7:30 - 10PM

clips from old shows:

Asian Nights & China Nights, Korean Nights, PUSO Fests, SASA Sholay's & MORE!

AA2 @ SBU LIVE! repeats at 10 PM

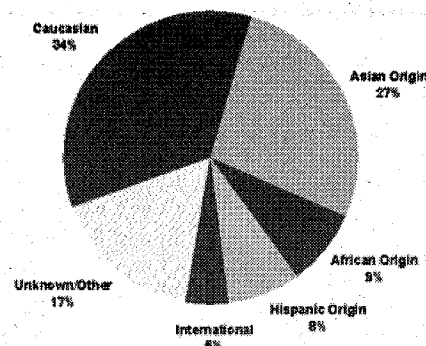
SBU TV  
Channel 20

How often do you see Asian American faces on American TV? In the 13 years of MTV's Real World series, there has never once been an Asian male. Asian faces are so unknown to non-Asian American audiences that Memoirs of a Geisha could have Chinese playing Japanese and few knew the difference. Don't all Asians look the same?

Well, even if MTV ignores us, we aren't going to ignore ourselves. In the Student Union basement is a great resource - a recording studio and everything needed to make a TV show - SBU TV, funded by your student activity fee via USG. So we decided to take advantage of what is there. This is the first monthly special with more to come. Check it out! Then come down and help make the next one better! (This is a lot harder than it looks but 'Oh Sh-t! CUT! fun!)

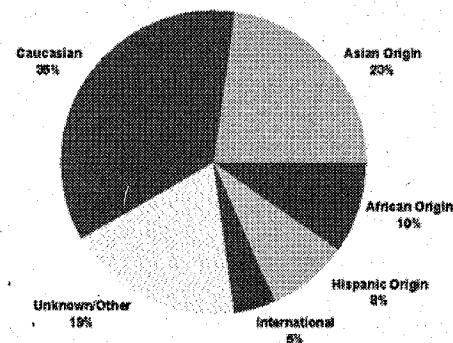
Administrators pictured from left to right are: Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, Dr. Norman Edelman, Dr. Richard Fine, Dr. Yacov Shamash, Dr. Robert McGrath, Dr. Peter Baigent, Dr. Gail Habicht, Dr. Lawrence Martin, Dr. James Staros. (No pictures found for CIO Richard Reeder and VP Admin Richard Mann)  
Demographic graphs represent the breakdown of ethnicities at Stony Brook University during Fall 2004. Changes may have been made for the current year's demographics.

### STONY BROOK Ethnicity of Full-Time Freshmen



Fall 2004

### STONY BROOK Ethnicity of Undergraduate Students



Fall 2004





# TOP TEN

## Reasons to Masturbate on the Wing of a Moving Aircraft

10 The "public indecency" nazis were chasing you down the tarmac



matt

9 All the hotties are inside the cabin



matt

8 You haven't masturbated there yet



matt

7 You've got it bad for someone on the wing... someone... or something...



matt

6 Cropdustin'



matt

5 You just can't get off masturbating on the wing of a still aircraft



matt

4 You were going to catch up on some reading on the wing of a moving aircraft, but a sudden gust of wind tore your book away and your pants off and sent them plummeting, buffeted and adrift, 50,000 feet to a watery resting place



matt

3 You found it prohibitively unsafe to masturbate clinging to the bottom of the wing of a moving aircraft



matt

2 The plane is Air Force One and they put the free speech zone out on the wing



matt

1 You're on the wing of a moving aircraft and you're horny



matt

## Ask The Man With No Name Anything

By The Man With No Name

Dear The Man With No Name,

My friend and I want to make some money but we don't want to work. Is there any way we can swindle people into giving us money for nothing?

Sincerely,

Lazy in Louisiana

Dear Lazy,

First, you or your friend need to become wanted. Get the bounty on your head really high. When the bounty is enough for you and your friend to get some saloon honeys, have your friend pretend to be a bounty hunter and bring you in. Collect the bounty and when you're about to be hanged, have your friend shoot the rope that the noose is tied in and ride away on a horse. Repeat this until your friend leaves you in the desert because he's gotten tired of saving your Italian ass.

Dear The Man With No Name,

I have a hard time doing chores for my father. He wants me to dig holes for him in the backyard. I have a hard time holding the shovel because of my early-onset Parkinson's Disease, but he won't listen. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Shaky in San Jose

Dear Shaky,

I don't care if you do have shaky hands. Digging holes with shovels is easy business and you shouldn't complain about it. What's hard is being in a Mexican standoff with two other guys and coming out on top. Hell, I buried a man with a gun. Then I shot his hat in with him and then I shot his holster and gun in there too. When you can do that, Shaky, you can complain about *just* holes.

3Dear The Man With No Name,

My car won't start and I'm stranded out in the middle of the desert without a hat or a canteen. I don't know how I'll get this letter to you but I want to know what I should do to survive.

Sincerely,

Stuck in Sahara

Dear Stuck,

What you need to do is let your face and lips become chapped beyond all recognition. This will un-appeal you to vultures that will be hopping around. Secondly, come across a wagon and have your captor shoot it up. When the dying man is uttering his last words, listen closely. You can use this information to secure a hat, canteen, horse, Mexican standoff, and treasure buried in a grave.

Dear The Man With No Name,

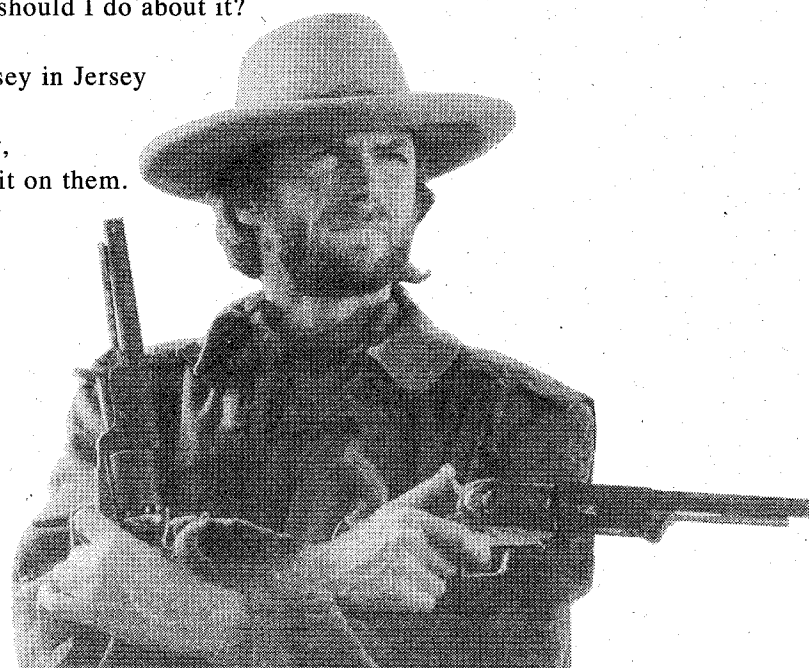
I've got an Indian, his daughter, and a dog following me everywhere I go. What should I do about it?

Sincerely,

Josey in Jersey

Dear Josey,

Spit on them.



You too can contribute to the Top Ten by visitng the Stony Brook Press website and registering an account!  
Visit [www.thwstonybrookpress.com](http://www.thwstonybrookpress.com) now, bitches

# Campus Features

*This is Club and Organization Space. Do you have something you want to announce to the campus?*

## Lectures

2/22

12:30 p.m. Humanities Rm 1008  
Comparative Literary & Cultural  
Studies Lecture  
4:30 p.m. Humanities Rm 1006  
Hispanic Languages & Literature  
Lecture

2/23

4:30 p.m. Humanities Rm 1008  
Lecture: "Cultural Cloning: The  
Race & Gender of Normative  
Preferences"

2/27

7:30 p.m. Library Rm 4340  
Center for Italian Studies Lecture

3/2

4 p.m. SAC Auditorium  
Provost's Lecture Series: Ibrahim  
Agboola Gambari

4:30 p.m. Humanities Rm 1008  
Lecture: "The Logic of Care:  
Active Patients, Capricious  
Technology & the Limits of  
Choice"

3/8

4:30 p.m. Humanites Rm 1006  
Lecture: "Cobbett's Chopstick  
Festival: Event, Representation,  
Context"

## Wang Center Events

### INVOCATION TO NATURE

*Tsunami/Katrina/Earthquake Memorial*  
Wednesday, February 22, 12:45 p.m.,  
Wang Zodiac Lobby

### AGENT YELLOW

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.,  
Wang Theater

### BHAJANS: SONGS OF PRAISE

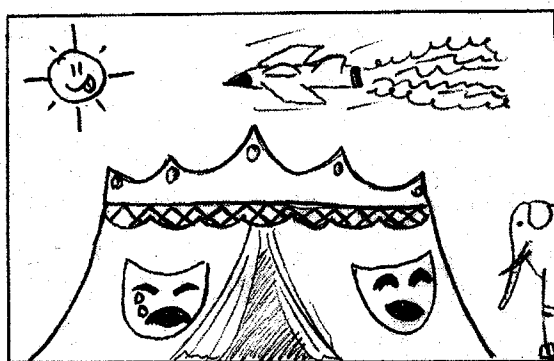
Every Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.,  
starting February 27, Lecture Hall 1

### NEW DIRECTIONS IN INDIAN DANCE

Lecture by Sunil Kothari  
Wednesday, March 1, 12:45 p.m.,  
Wang Lecture Hall 2

### REX NAVARETTE AND AIR COMEDY SHOW

Wednesday, March 8, 8:00 p.m., Wang  
Center



## Athletics

2/22

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Recreational Sports & Fitness  
Day  
1 p.m.  
Women's Basketball vs. Hartford

2/23

7 p.m.  
Men's Basketball vs. Hartford

2/24

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Women's Lacrosse vs. Mount St.  
Mary's

2/25

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Ripken Baseball Coaching Clinic  
8 p.m.  
Women's Basketball vs. Albany

2/26

1 p.m.  
Men's Basketball vs. Maine

3/4

1 p.m.  
Men's Lacrosse vs. Harvard

## More Miscellaneous Events For Your Entertainment

2/22

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Deja Vu Dance Troupe  
8:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Generation Voices of Prayer

2/23

8 p.m.  
Dance Theater: Origins & Destinies  
9 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
SAB Battle of the Bands

2/24

CSTEP Program  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
SCUBA Squad/Movie Club  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Gospel Choir Black Art in Motion

8 p.m.

Dance Theater: Origins & Destinies

2/25

Hillel Foundation Luncheon

2 p.m.

Delta Sigma Theta Cultural Explosion

8 p.m.

Dance Theater: Origins & Destinies

8 p.m.

Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra

2/26

2 p.m. and 8pm

Dance Theater: Origins & Destinies

2/27

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

SAB Rock Mondays

2/28

Stony Brook Day 2006  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Free Blood Pressure & Cholesterol  
Screening

3/4

8 p.m.  
James Carter Quintet Homage to Billie  
Holiday

3/5

2 p.m.  
Sunday Acoustic Concert Series: Jack  
Hardy

3/9

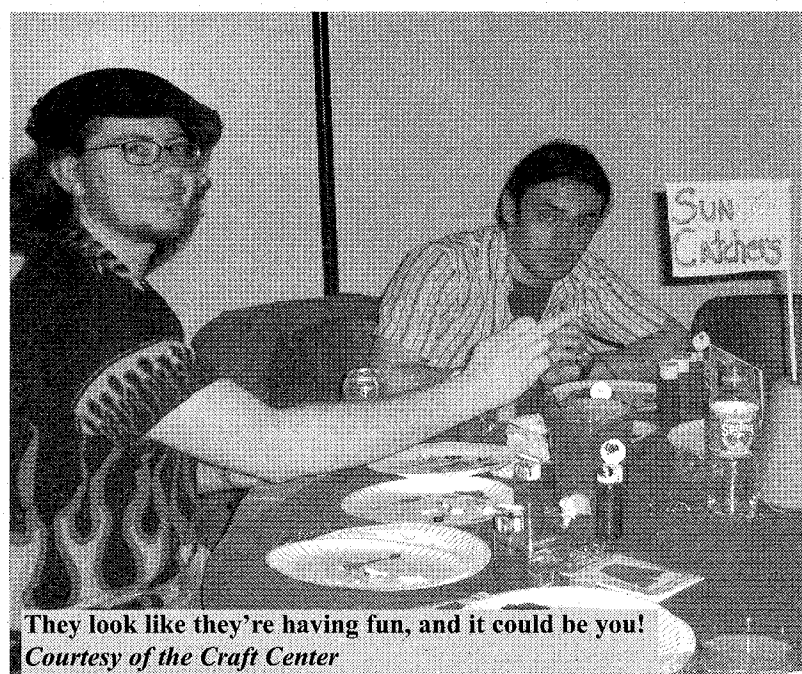
7 p.m.  
Amateur Bengali Cultural Show



# Nifty Things On Campus: Craft Night In the Union

By Nicole L Barry

Of all the events on campus that I look forward to each semester, first and foremost is Craft Night. Held by the Craft center located in the basement of the Union, Craft night is everything it should be- junk food, soda or hot cocoa, and fun crafts. Stephanie and I make it a point to get there as soon as it starts, load up on candy, cookies and chips, and then settle down for what we're really there for: the crafts. Craft Night has the same staples at each: cards, sun catchers, magnets, photo cubes, with a variety of things to embellish and personalize. The one in the fall is Halloween themed, the one in the spring is Valentine's themed, but there's at least one craft there each time you haven't made before, this time it was birdhouses. Stephanie walked out with valentines and magnets, I walked out with a photo cube-turned-box with valentines trinkets for my dearly beloved.



They look like they're having fun, and it could be you!  
Courtesy of the Craft Center

But outside of Craft Night:  
The Craft Center holds classes with a variety of topics.  
Call 632 6822 for prices.

**Defensive Driving:** 3/2 and 3/9 or 4/19 and 4/26. 6 to 9pm.  
**Bartending:** 6 Tuesdays or Wednesdays 2/21 or 2/22. 7 to 9pm.  
**Intro to Photography:** 6 Thursdays, 2/23. 7 to 9pm.  
**Photography II:** 6 Wednesdays, 2/22. 7 to 9pm.  
**Beginning Handbuilding:** 7 Thursdays, 2/16. 6:30 to 8:30pm.  
**Pottery on the Wheel:** 7 classes, Wed, Sat, Mon or Tues.  
**Conceptual Ceramic Sculpture:** 7 Tuesdays, 7-9pm.  
**Intro Drawing:** 6 Thursdays 2/23. 7-9pm.  
**Intro Painting:** 6 Sundays 2/26. 1 to 3pm.  
**Decorative Painting:** 5 Mondays 3/6. 6:30 to 8:30pm.  
**Beaded Jewelry:** Saturday 4/22. 11 to 3pm.  
**Polymer Clay Jewelry:** Saturday 3/4 10:30 to 3pm.  
**Collage Basics:** Saturday 3/25. 10:30 to 2pm.

# Black History Month

2/ 22

**Black History Month Essay and Speech Contest**  
12:40 p.m. to 2:10 p.m., SAC Room 302

**MALIK Fraternity Open House**  
8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., SAC Room 305

2/ 23

**The Untold Story of Emmet Till**, a documentary film by  
Keith A. Beauchamp  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Africana Studies Library, SBS S-224

2/26

**Are We Living Our Dreams?**  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., SAC Room 302?

2/ 24

**Black Art in Motion**  
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., SB Union Auditorium

2/ 27

**A Taste of Food from African Ancestry**  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. HSC Galleria Level 3  
**Cultural Slam**  
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., SB Union Auditorium

2/ 28

**Malcolm X Vigil**  
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., UNITI Cultural Center, SB Union

3/ 1

**Black History Month Closing Ceremony**  
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., SAC Ballroom A

3/2

**A Taste of Africa**  
8:00 p.m., UNITI Cultural Center, SB Union

## The Art Club

*(Campus's first non-departmental creative gathering  
for both science/non-art majors and art majors)*

Refreshments

Stress-free artworks

Contests, crafts, prizes  
every Monday

**7-8:30 pm Union  
Rm. 237**

Discover your outlet in the fine arts and share or  
build on your talent and be rewarded for it!!!  
Don't miss this!! Come and share the fun!!



# It's Hunting Season

By David K. Ginn

**DISCLAIMER:** The following article is a parody of national events. Any similarity to actual events is entirely coincidental.

Vice President Dick Cheney, while out hunting quails, accidentally shot his friend, Attorney Harry Whittington. Apparently, Whittington was about thirty yards away when Cheney fired his 28 gauge shotgun. Whittington was shot in the face, the chest, and the neck. It was, as far as we know, an accident.

The *Stony Brook Press*, however, knows that Whittington is just the first of many victims. A

conservative Republican millionaire attorney, Whittington might as well have just stolen a promo ad from Target and pasted it on his chest.

Whittington was number one on Cheney's list of powerful Republicans to kill in order to taper the party's potential candidates for the 2008 Presidential Primaries. Having lots of money and no clue about politics, Whittington seemed to be the perfect Republican candidate.

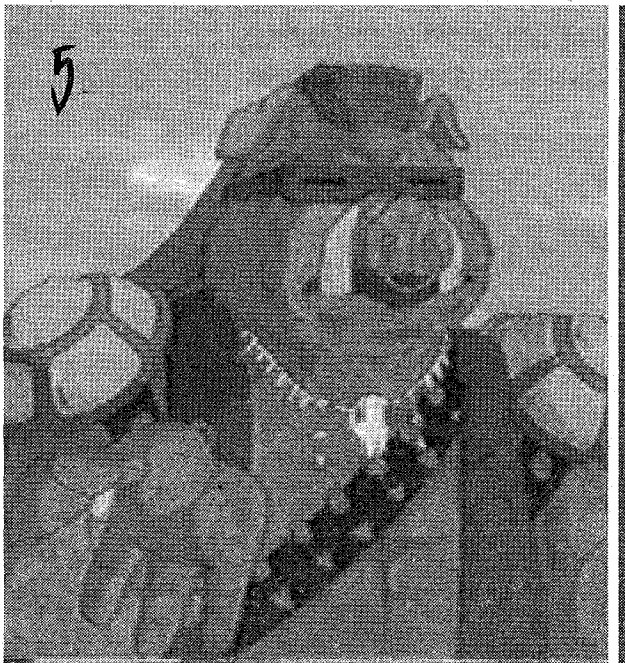
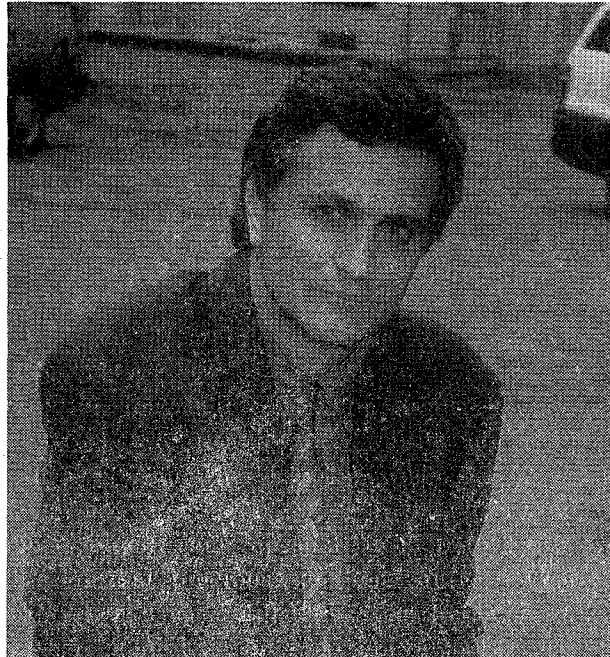
The next people on the list are Kelvin McCluster (R - NH), Johnson Belunger (R - ND), Whiskers the Clown (R - AK), Leonard Jenkins (R - MN), Bebop (R - TX), Evan Pollack (R - CT), Judghead (R - LA), Buffy Summers (R - CA), and

Edward J. Enlirichnersonmeister III (R - KS). The suspected targets have been notified of their pending demise, but red tape has prevented a formal protection, the reason being that if they are protected by the government it can be used as evidence against Cheney. And, since Cheney is not merely the Vice President but actually God himself, this cannot be allowed to happen.

Cheney, in response to related allegations, said "This is just a reminder... that I brought you all into this world, and I can take you out any time I wish."

I wish we fucking knew what was going on.

Courtesy of David K. Ginn where the "K" stands for "konfusion."



## 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!



## Tragedy in the Philippines Continued...

— By Joan Leong

Continued from page 8

so far. More than 1,500 are missing and feared to be dead and those numbers are expected to rise because of the surrounding towns' populations and the continued heavy rainfall.

Australia and China has each already pledged \$1 million in aid and have sent rescue workers there to assist the people. A Chinese road and construction company that was on-site to the tragedy rushed to the rescue efforts and has already begun repairing the damaged roads and bridges. Emergency funds requested by the Red Cross has quickly been delivered and condolences and pledge money has been sent in from all over the world.

This landslide is not a first for the Philippines; they have been hit with similar landslides in 2003 and 2004. While there is no official cause of the landslides yet, the most obvious one is that this tragedy is related to severe illegal logging. Logging is illegal in the Philippines and, because of government corruption and negligence, logging policies have not been enforced. The surrounding region of Guinsaugon is dominated by coconut trees that have short roots and are not able to withstand the amount of rain showers that has

befallen on them. While heavy logging has not occurred in that region for over 10 years, the effects of all the deforestation is now being seen. As soldiers are wading through waist-deep mud and shoveling by hand, falling mud has continued to put them in harm's way. In 1991, 6,000 people were killed in landslides also on the Leyte islands. Since then, landslides and monsoons have continued to threaten the island. As the heavy rain continues to fall, the threat of more landslides may be coming. Reports show that over 27 inches of rain have fallen in the region over the course of two weeks, almost double the normal rainfall for this time of year. Before the landslide on Friday, the coconut trees were already sliding down the mountainside, and officials ordered evacuations early on. However, as the sun started to peek out, the people returned to their villages only to be covered in a landslide a few days later.

Mass burials have already begun for the victims of this tragedy and entire families have been buried together. 2005 was a tremendous year for natural disasters and now 2006 appears to resume Mother Nature's wrath. If humans continue to rape the earth and destroy its natural resources, we can only expect more tragedies to come.

## The Stony Brook Press



**Where *all* the  
lonely women are.**

**Meetings  
Wednesdays  
at 1 pm  
Union room 060**

## Did somebody say Jack Abramoff?



**Cincinatti Republican  
John Boehner is now  
the House Majority  
Leader! Hooray!**

# The Reformation in Central Kentucky Scintillates

By James Messina

Last issue's article featured a brief discussion about polygraphic substitution. I realize, in retrospect, it wasn't the most elucidating account of the subject, and I should perhaps try to learn to write. The chances of me learning to write well are, well, infinitesimal, but I'm going to give it a go. The gist of this article is to continue in the vein I began last time. I'll tell a bit more about polygraphic substitution systems, specifically their decryption, and I'll describe a new system, the Hill cipher. The Hill cipher is too complex to be explained in any great detail here, but I've left a link or two in the article for you to check out if you're still interested. As always, I recommend wikipedia.

I mentioned last article that polygraphic substitution ciphers are harder to crack. This is true. But I also mentioned that it had been cracked in 1914. This is also true. The methods for breaking a polygraphic substitution cipher aren't quite as difficult as I made them out to be. Just as early last semester I described letter frequencies, so too do digraphs have frequencies. It makes sense when you think about it. When you compare the chances you encounter QN or XJ versus TH or LO, it's pretty obvious the latter groups shall occur more often. Using this principle, given a long enough string of letters you can check their frequencies and construct a set of likely letter combinations they represent. Below is a table showing the ten most common digrams in the English language. I realize the second article outlined every letter's frequencies of occurrence in terms of percentage, but as there are 676 possible permutations of digrams with our alphabet, that's an undertaking I'm not willing to go through with. So be happy with a top ten list, for I am the cryptographic Letterman. Though with the exception of one snaggletooth, I do have pretty straight teeth. Oh well, I'll be sure to get back to Letterman at a later time. For now, code! And digraph frequencies!

TH HE IN EN NT RE ER AN TI ES

Another method used to decipher polygraphic substitution ciphers is the hill climbing method. It involves graphing bigrams and successor nodes and uh... alright, I confess. I have no idea how to implement the hill climbing method. I'm including a link which seemed pretty helpful, but was still beyond my cursory examination. I hope you scrutinize it more thoroughly than I did, as this will most assuredly be on the test.

<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/Courses/cs100/2000SP/p7/node34.html#sec-intro-hill>

So now we have an extremely basic comprehension of decrypting polygraphic substitution ciphers. I'll leave it at that, because as I've written before, my practical knowledge of cryptanalysis is weak. On to this issue's cipher, the Hill cipher. The Hill cipher was devised by Lester S. Hill in 1929. In a simple format, it's implementable,

though only just, by hand. It works using matrix mathematics. Despite having to take three (yes, THREE) separate classes involving vectors and determinants this semester, I seem a mite rusty. I shall forge ahead regardless, thanks to wikipedia and another helpful website

(<http://www.math.washington.edu/~king/coursedir/m308a01/Projects/Cryptography.htm>) providing assistance.

I can't find a way to represent matrices efficiently in MS Word, so I'll describe them thusly. A matrix is a box. A determinant is also a box. Both have brackets to signify them – a matrix uses round brackets, and a determinant square. An example is this:

Determinant =  $A = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \end{vmatrix}$  Matrix =  $B = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \end{pmatrix}$

However, this representation doesn't do you much good. For one, I haven't explained anything about it. To, my initial problem. Matrices and determinants may have more than one row, which I'll show like this:

(See figure A).

The letters each represent a number. There's a whole bunch of fun stuff you can do with them, but for now we'll just use multiplication. Multiplication is easier done than said; I can't explain it briefly, so I'll just diagram it. It should become apparent. The rules for multiplying vectors are complex, but for a certain situation it's easy. For multiplication involving two matrices, which have the properties that the number of rows in one equals the number of columns in the other, and that similarly the number of columns equals the number of rows, look to the example below:

(See figure B).

So, knowing that the A matrix in the example is the key, and the B matrix the plaintext, I'll show you how to encode the word "ARC" using a 3-by-3 key matrix.

(See figure C).

That is the greatest level of depth I'll give you. Decryption involves using an inverse matrix,

something I'm none too comfortable with in actual practice. Also, some of the rules regarding the necessary input for encryption I've sipped, working under the assumption that if you're actually curious you'll learn you some linear algebra, because I'm none too eager to teach you.

I realize that this article was disappointingly brief and unclear for the actual cryptological enthusiast, and disappointingly long and dull for the layman, but I couldn't find a middle ground on this. Ret assured, the next article will be more on history which is a much tamer beast. Now, on with the rest of the show.

## PUZZLE THE 8th:

19/11 7/5 8/7 AZM\$ 32/19 40/23 16/11 4/20/13 #NT3 17/10 20/11 1 [R]SD 5/4 28/126/23 XL? 3/2 92/49 8/5 5/3 112/59 29/1~XM@ 0 44/25 52/29 16/9 ...

As I stated in last article, I'm rather proud of this puzzle. But the truth is I shouldn't be, for two reasons. One is that I'd probably still be proud of myself if I got a silver star in kindergarten, and this isn't that much more of an accomplishment. Secondly, I really didn't give you enough to work with. I think for an actual decryption, I should have made a message in the range of two to three hundred characters, but I was pressed for time. The idea behind this code was thus each letter would have a direct correspondence, like the basic Caesar cipher. However, this correspondence was unlike the Caesar cipher in that each symbol was arrived at by using a sequence. I used  $A = 0$ ,  $B = 1$  etc, and encoded by plugging these numerical values into the sequence  $2n/(n+3)$ . Just that simple. If a letter repeated, I used a modulus of 26 to arrive at the next position. For instance,  $E = 4 = 8/7$ . But if I appeared again it would be  $E = 30 = (2*30)/(30+3) = 60/33 = 20/11$ . Also, in order to signify the space between words, and to add confusion, I used non-number sequences for the spaces, e.g. AZM\$. So, there you have it. None too tricky, but extraordinarily simple given how little I gave you to work with. Apologies.

## PUZZLE THE 9th:

Oh, if only it were that simple. You must find this one yourself. It should be pretty obvious. Just look for mistakes in my otherwise impeccable article.

A.)

$$\text{MATRIX} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{DETERMINANT} = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$$

B.)

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} g & h \\ i & j \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (a \times g + b \times h + c \times i) & (a \times j + b \times k + c \times l) \\ (d \times g + e \times h + f \times i) & (d \times j + e \times k + f \times l) \end{bmatrix}$$

C.)

$$\text{KEY} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 5 & 2 \\ 9 & 12 & 18 \\ 23 & 7 & 19 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{WORD} = \text{"ARC"} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 17 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 5 & 2 \\ 9 & 12 & 18 \\ 23 & 7 & 19 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 17 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 0 + 5 \times 17 + 2 \times 2 \\ 9 \times 0 + 12 \times 17 + 18 \times 2 \\ 23 \times 0 + 7 \times 17 + 19 \times 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 + 85 + 4 \\ 0 + 204 + 36 \\ 0 + 119 + 38 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 89 \\ 240 \\ 157 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 11 \\ 6 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{mod } 26$$



# COMIC UPDATE!

BY MO IBRAHIM

We're in a new semester now, a new daily grind if you may. New faces to meet and new faces to "meet", I might add. A little more of classes you don't want to take, with old boring professors that lack a certain teaching quality called charisma. And that new semester smell of fresh books. Everybody loves the smell of a new textbook. It's like bathing into a sea of dead, freshly-cut trees. Every first day of school, right after class, my roommate insists on going to the book store because he cannot wait to get his hands on brand new textbooks.

Think about it, those trees died for your education, you owe them a little something. Hug your book next time you see it, and embrace the quality it provides. Then, when the semester is over and all your classes are a mere memory – you're going to sell that fucker for every penny it's worth, hoping to make the most profit out of it and never see the damn book again. Send it off to some other sucker taking that class from hell. Damn, the harsh life cycle of a tree is pretty brutal.

Along with the new challenges, the fresh new start of a semester, you have an additional challenge. A challenge that no college recruit will ever tell you about. Something college freshman literature doesn't address. This challenge is of such a large scale, I wonder why it was never addressed

formally before. Many of you will agree that this challenge needs to be addressed somehow. That challenge, ladies and gentlemen, is the language barrier between you and your TA's.

Teaching Assistants, also popularly known as TA's, have a language barrier. It's pretty redundant actually, a person with the word TEACHING in their title has a tough time conveying what they want to say because the language they need to teach is not a language they can speak well! As if the application for being a TA consists of two questions:

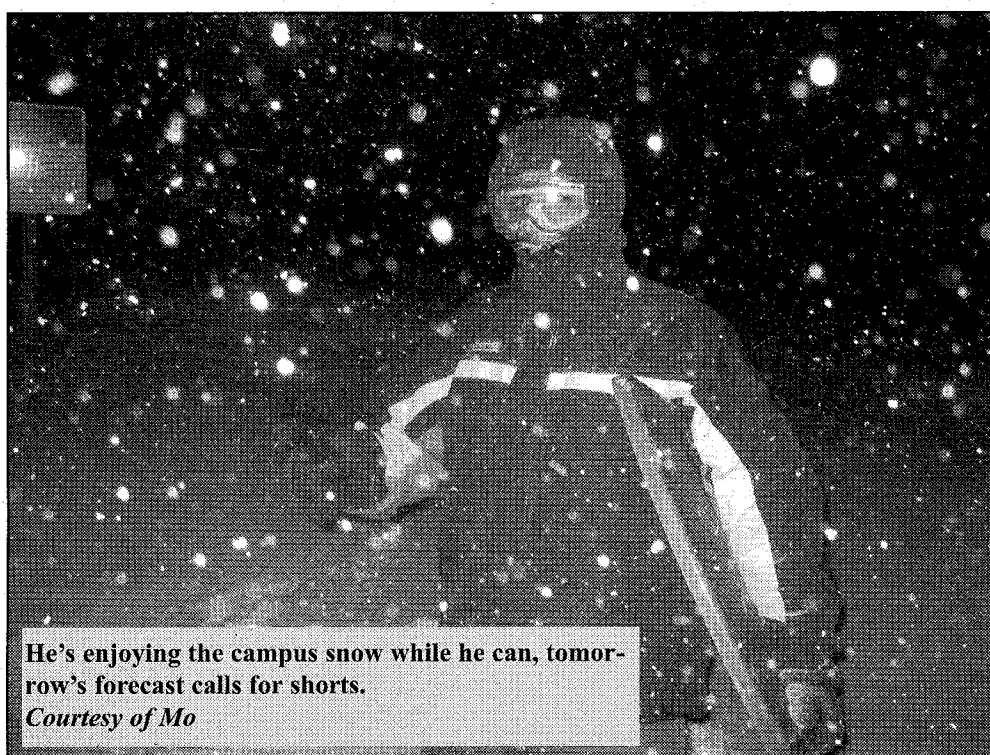
- 1) Did you get an A in this class? yes
  - 2) Can you speak English? no
- GREAT, YOU'RE HIRED!

This is a phenomenon that is sweeping the nation. This educational "pandemic" is so vast among the largest schools that on a website where people rate colleges, one of the categories is "Percentage of TA's that can speak English." If only I remembered the website, I would tell you where I saw it, but I don't so believe me on this one.

I need something more than a confused look and the giggling words of "I don't know" when I ask you a question about chemistry. I don't know, maybe it's just me, but I need someone that can speak my language to teach me something that will count towards my overall GPA. And if you haven't

experienced this yet, be careful, you might be next.

There are some majors that are safeguarded by this issue though. For example, English majors. You will never have to worry about your TA speaking Chinese, because you can be sure as hell bet that a TA for an English class will actually speak English. If you're a Chinese studies major, good for you too, you never have to worry about a shortage of Chinese TA's, there are so many TA's that they're overflowing into the science



He's enjoying the campus snow while he can, tomorrow's forecast calls for shorts.  
Courtesy of Mo

majors. Just so nobody gets offended, I just want to remind you this: I don't *not* like foreign people, I just don't want you to teach me if you can't speak English, that's all.

But while we're on the topic of backwards incompatibility, the weather also deserves mention. At the time of this writing, it is smack dab in the middle of February and we're literally having a bisexual winter. Yes, I said it, winter doesn't know whether to come out of the closet or stay inside, cold and frigid. Seriously, it cannot make up its mind, it's like "Today it will snow... but tomorrow shall be a sunny day... then the day after that will be just right." The weather is reenacting the story of Goldilocks and the three bears. I'm confused!

One day I wore a jacket and a hoodie, but found myself extremely hot. The next day I decided to lighten it up a little bit, so I wore just a jacket with no hoodie underneath. As you may have predicted, it was fucking COLD out. One day we have a blizzard warning, they told us all to prepare for a huge snow storm. And lo and behold, we had the snow storm. The next few days after were so fucking warm, I wouldn't have been surprised if they issued a flood warning in response to all the melting snow.

Basically, every day on my way to class, I have to go through an obstacle course; avoiding pit-

falls everywhere I go. The melting snow has left huge puddles everywhere that I have to tread lightly in case I get splashed. Other paths have deep mud; just the other day I stepped into a huge section of mud – it enveloped half of my shoes. Not one pair of pants endured this week as clean as they were before I wore them.

And you know what dirty clothes means: more laundry. This must be the college student's most annoying task. I usually wait until I'm down to my least favorite underwear. You know it's time to do laundry when all you have left to wear are those pairs of underwear you never liked, and are just there for this occasion. For guys, a lot of us have the "warm" underwear, the ones that are flannel and makes you sweat even in the coldest of temperatures. For girls, you might have those "granny panties" that you keep in the bottom of your drawer just for this occasion.

Some of us try to be clever, and we try to get to the laundry room at a time when we think no one will be doing their laundry. It would be like Thursday night at 12AM, and you think to yourself, "who does laundry on a Thursday night, its party night? I'll have the laundry room all to myself." Then 5 minutes later, when you get to the laundry room, you will almost always find that someone beat you to it, and all the machines are taken. So now you're playing the racing game. You have to see the time left on the machines and come back to the laundry room 5 minutes before the earliest machine finishes, just so no one else comes downstairs and steals the one you've been eyeing.

What's worse is going downstairs to the laundry room, and finding that there are free washing machines – but someone didn't bother to pick up they're clothing from the previous wash. This leaves you in a predicament, asking yourself, "should I take out this guy's clothes and leave it on top of the machine or wait?" Personally, I take it out, but be careful! I've heard horror stories; my favorite one is when a person took out someone's clothes that finished drying and stuck his own clothes instead. He later came back to find that someone threw chocolate in the dryer and I'm sure you could imagine what happened to the clothing.

The moral of this story is that no matter what happens throughout your day, week, month, life, there will always be some stupid shit there to fuck with you. So don't stress about the TA's, or the sexually-confused weather. Perhaps your attention should be focused on other things, like rabid raccoons.



# Ask Amberly Jane

The thing about hearty, bang-on-the-walls sex, is afterward, you could either go to sleep or run a marathon. Mmm. So good. Just finished myself. Thought I'd write a little electric-cum-laden ramblings before retiring at 3:32 AM.

What is it that attracts us to certain people? Pheromones? The curve of award-winning lips? Someone who gets our jokes, reminds us of that skater kid from 8th grade, Johnny Depp, or dad? Is it someone you've been to hell and back with, or ... someone who just shows interest?

I often picture people naked. Random people. Wrinkly. Robust. I don't discriminate. One of the first people I could adequately picture naked was the beer-gutted lead singer of an 80's hair band. I'm not joking. I could picture his penis lounging on his leg while Playboy blondes' tried to untangle his cross from his chest hair. I couldn't get the image out of my 13-year-old mind all night. (Remember, this was before the Internet, where endless streams of naked befuddle the senses and callous the mind.)

But wanting to be in another person's aura is quite different. Smelling their honey musk, eyes altering you just by looking, feeling the velveteen skin, the prickly hairs, breath on your neck, hand on your back pulling you closer – *that* is the stuff that is a million times better than any ecstasy pill during any all-night rave in NYC. When you are genuinely attracted to someone and that voltaic thing happens where warm chemical yolks burst in your throat and you have to sit down because your legs can no longer support you – *that*, my friend, is a damn good time.

I'm still in the glow – off to bed to revel in my sheets.

Sorry, no picture this week, the school vortex sucked me in good and hard.

Quite a few letters though...

Dear Amberly Jane,

I have been a fan of your column for a while now...No I'm not a stalker because of that opening line, lol. Since reading your column, and like any other fan I'm sure, I've been wanting to meet you. Not that I'm obsessed or anything, or that I'm just looking to sleep with you, it's just that I've just always wanted to do the things you do. I want to be like a male version of Amberly Jane, how do I do that? What do you do to have all of your adventures?

I would like to know your circle of sexual friends. I know that sounds scary but I don't know how else to say it. Trying to be honest here. I have always wanted to be in your type of circle of um...sex. I wasn't sure if there was some kind of initiation to know Amberly Jane's circle, who do I gotta bang to get in? Lol, just kidding!

Maybe I'm on a good path, I'm d/d free. I've had my share of sexual experiences, they probably don't compare to yours, but I thought I'd share: I've had sex with one of my friends in front of her boyfriend, I've visited a fetish warehouse and took part in a couple of events there, I've been to strip clubs since I was 14 (not too many people can claim that) and I plan to have an affair with a much older woman who has a husband and two sons younger than me. Yes, I am serious, if you care or are not impressed yet. See, I don't even know if your life is as sexually extravagant as you say it is, you could be just doing all this crazy stuff with one or two people.

Anyway, I just wanted to know how I could lengthen my list of accomplishments and I thought you would know. I've tried fetish clubs, Craig's List (where I met a prostitute who overcharged me, but hey, if you pay for it, it still counts right?), a "pimp" who was a scam artist and ripped me off (don't have much luck with some, eh?) and having kinky friends who also let me eat them out on their parents' bed. That's what friends are for!

Can you please be a dear ole friend and let me know? Yes, you can print this if you want, but please also reply. And if you happen to find out my identity, then keep it on the downlow for now? Hope to hear from you soon...

Thanks, D

P.S.: Are the people at the end of your column real or are they just made-up?

Dear D,

Welcome to Deviant Sexual Lovers Anonymous! You are now a full-fledged member of the club! Your membership (paid by banging anyone who works at Kelly past 2 AM), includes 37 condoms (in a row!), a blow-up sheep with your choice of handle-sized ears or "Baa-Baa Bad Sheep" voice-box, 12 vats of lube, a handful of tokens for Peep Land, and a subscription to Married MILF Monthly. Congrats!

Yeah. Kidding, obviously. But such a club

would be cool.

In answer to your numerous questions: I have great friends who are fun and free and know that I will not judge them for their sexual proclivities. I don't force situations, but instead live by the creed that everything happens for a reason, and if something is meant to happen – it will.

Metaphysical babbling aside, I don't know why I was \*blessed\* with the ability to be magnetically drawn to strange sexual situations. When I was 13, I went downstairs in my parents' friends house to discover their son, 21, face-down on the floor with his pants down and his ass out for the world to see. Hot diggity. No. That's not what I thought. At the time, I poked his dormant body with my foot and stared, unable to fathom the situation. (To this day, I'm not sure.)

That same year I was playing Atari at my friends house, when her 18-year-old neighbor came by and casually suggested we have sex. I just wanted to play Pong. He said if I wasn't going to join in that I couldn't just watch, so he proceeded to roll me up in the carpet. I know how that sounds, but at the time it made perfect sense. I said I couldn't breathe. We went upstairs to her room, and I remember his black pubic bonsai bush, as I peeked out from her closet, trying to balance on top of her pile of Barbie's and My Little Pony's. A few moments later my friend's father came home unexpectedly, and we hid the randy neighbor till we could sneak him out the back.

Sometimes orgies spontaneously occur when I'm around, and once I ended up getting spanked naked on-stage by a goth stripper – maybe you read about that one. I've had sex in movie theaters, given head in the middle of a street, and my professor once jerked off in front of me...

But I'm rambling, and I don't want to get anyone fired. (As an aside, strip clubs are WAY better in Canada, where you can enjoy full nudity, *with* alcohol.)

Most importantly – it is not a contest! The one who dies with the most lays, probably dies because he scratched his crabby dick off. Be careful – for fucks sake man! It's about enjoying the moment, enjoying the person, not racking up dungeon visits or adding notches to your whip.

Also, *everything* in my column is real. All the letters are from real people. All the moments are unembellished. Truth is my catharsis, and a hell of a lot juicier than any fiction.



## Do I sound like I'm on olde timey radio?

All the cool kids (for example, W.C. Fields, pictured here) use their resourcefulness to locate the Stony Brook Press' supplementary audio material on the internet. Jowly says it's a podcast but we're not supposed to use that word.

I don't know, maybe check iTunes, or something?



# Ask Amberly Jane

So thanks for being honest, now let's start with those membership dues!

Dear Amberly Jane,

I have been seeing a girl off and on for several weeks now, and things have been going great. The only problem with the relationship is the sex.

We first made love a week or so into the Spring Semester, and everything was amazing, until she had an orgasm VERY quickly, and then rolled over and went to sleep. It was the first time, so I didn't really press the issue, I liked this girl so I didn't want to fuck things up.

As this became more and more of a regular thing, I decided I had to say something. So one night after we had sex (well, SHE had sex, and I became a human dildo), I turned to her and said "You know I haven't had an orgasm during sex yet ... you always have to give me head."

She said that she was sorry she hadn't been as attentive, but the orgasms she has are so powerful, and the 45 minutes of sex wear her out. Is this a normal thing? I have never been with a girl who would have one orgasm and call it a night. Everyone I've been with in the past can keep up with me, and usually have another orgasm or two before I do. Is this normal?

I've tried "speeding myself up" but I can't think of anyway to hasten the process. We've tried watching porn, we even had one of her more open-minded friends in the room one night masturbating to see if that would get me going (which it did), but it unfortunately got my girlfriend going just as much and she had an orgasm quicker than before.

Help me Amberly! I'm sick of firing off knuckle children while she sleeps like a baby. What should I do?

Handy Man

Dear Handy Man,

Considering that the reverse is usually true: usually the woman is left languishing while the man passes out and drools all over the bed, let me commend you for lasting so long and giving her such a powerful orgasm. Your partner is lucky, and indeed

seems satisfied. Pat yourself on the back with one hand, and finish with the other. Sorry, couldn't resist.

Everything you've described is certainly normal. In a perfect world, you could get off at the same time her honey pot is pulsating and squeezing with orgasm.

Ask her to concentrate on you more before entering her, that way you're closer to the goal. Or at least have her finish you off at the end. Is she really so tired, she can't lick her lips and finish the job? How about this scenario: Have sex with her from behind, (so she's almost laying down - and can continue resting after her tiring orgasm). After she's climaxed, leave your penis inside, and after the first few moments of her post-climax whirl, try gently working it again. Stop if she protests of course, but in my experience, this leads to a loooooonger orgasm for her, and hopefully a happy ending for you.

Dear Amberly Jane,

I've been reading your column since last semester with shock and awe, and I must admit, you've drawn me to confess to you. I am doing another semester here at Stony Brook as an exchange student and so, I can with ease let you know a childhood secret of mine.

When I got into trouble as a young boy in boarding school I used to have to go to the Headmaster's office (with all the other bad little boys) and wait outside the door as he brought each one in and gave him a telling-off. If you were in a little trouble, you sat on the Orange Cushions, but if you were in real big trouble, you sat on the Yellow Cushions.

I was in big trouble on the Yellow cushions. My turn came and I went inside to hear my sentence. I don't remember now what I had done but what I do remember, is that I was surprised to hear that my punishment was going to be administered by the Headmistress instead, and that evening, I wasn't to have supper with all the other boys, but was supposed to go to her. And so, at the boarding house, when the time came I knocked on her door

and waited. I was about to knock again when I heard soft steps approaching, and the door unlatched and swung open.

I looked up anxiously and noticed that my Headmistress was in a T-shirt and sweats. I had never seen her like that before. "Are you a sight for sore eyes!" she said. "Come in," her informality startled me. I followed her and that was when I noticed that she was also barefoot. Walking through her apartment, my tightly held boarding school world unraveled. She took me to a room and pointed at a pile of wet-looking laundry. "My dryer has broken and you'll have to iron out the dampness in my clothes."

I picked up the cold fresh-smelling pile and followed her again. On the way, she drew out an ironing table from behind a door and set it up in the living room and left to bring me the iron. A while later and alone, I had begun to iron-dry her pillow cases, sheets, towels and such when next I noticed shiny items of the most beautiful colours. Otherworldly, satiny-delicate triangles, some with frills, and some with tiny bows. I had arrived at Panty Land.

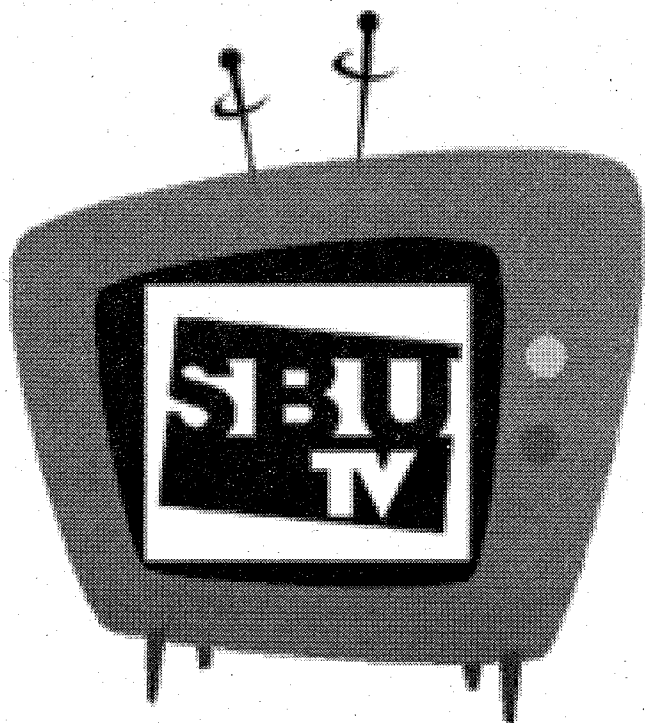
"You'll have to be gentle with those," she said and startled me. "Iron them especially carefully... Or I'll be very cross." "Yes ma'am." I looked up to see a half-smile on her face. Then she turned away and walked to another room. As I worked my way carefully with the iron, I began to feel a hellish fire on my face and low in my stomach as I played with her shimmering candy. And colour after colour, and vision after vision, I spent the entire evening crushed by her restraint as all I wanted to do was to eat each and every one.

Now this is all true, and had planted the seed of my daily reverie at school of being 'sweetened' by her round bottom. And so, I leave you now, a grown man but an unfulfilled naughty schoolboy.

Anon.

Thanks for sharing, you naughty little schoolboy. Now bend over.

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# iRate

A Macintosh Column by Joe Rios



Hello Apple users and curious onlookers! Welcome back to iRate! We have a number of items and programs to see today, so let's get to it!

First off, we have a new browser for OS X. On Valentine's Day, Mozilla, the creators of Firefox, released a new browser called CAMINO. At first glance, Camino looks remarkably like Firefox, but a closer examination makes the differences remarkably clear. Camino blends the simplicity of Safari with the good-looking style of Firefox in a browser that is better than the sum of its parts. Camino features pausable/resumable downloads, integrated Java support, more functional tabs than Firefox, and improved security features.

Furthermore, Camino is more native to OSX, and feels like it is more suited for OSX than Firefox ever was. This is especially useful for people who want the best of both worlds. Bad news for PC users, Camino is for OS X only. The good news is that Camino is of course FREE, and is a Universal Binary for both Power PC and Intel Macs.

For more information on Camino, visit [www.caminobrowser.org](http://www.caminobrowser.org)

Also today, we have a special section on "Choosing the right iPod"

So, you've decided that you're finally going to get an iPod, but you don't have a clue as to which one. For the sake of simplicity, we are going

to stick to what Apple presently offers, and list the prices including the Apple student discount.

If having the cheapest iPod possible is your priority, then the iPod Shuffle is right for you. The Shuffle is a flash mp3 player, so there are no spinning hard drives. The shuffle also has no screen, so it selects songs at random. The drawbacks are a limited size of 512mb-1gb, and no way to control what the iPod plays. The main advantage is that with no screen, no hard drives, and being very light, the Shuffle is almost indestructible. The 512 Shuffle is \$70, and the 1gb Shuffle is \$90.

The next rung of the iPod ladder is the Nano. The Nano is very small (slightly larger than a man's thumb), as light as the Shuffle, and comes in 1gb, 2gb, and 4gb. The downside to the Nano is that it has a soft plastic exterior that is prone to scratching, and there have been numerous reports of cracked screens. There are, however, a number of cases on the market that can protect your Nano from whatever you may throw at it. The Nano is good for people who want a small, lightweight iPod with a screen for pictures. The 1gb, 2gb and 4gb Nanos will run you \$130, \$180 and \$230 respectively.

Apple finally got smart and realized that nobody was interested in paying the excessive amounts that they were charging for the special U2 edition iPod, so when you want the big Mac-Daddy of iPods, the iPod Video is what you want. Coming

in 30 gig and 60 gig models, the iPod Video plays music videos, picture slideshows, even movies. (Note, if you need to convert some movies, we recommend iSquint, which is a free program that is recommended by Apple as well. The disadvantage of the iPod Video is its size. While it is considerably smaller and lighter than the earlier generations of iPods, it is still large enough to the point where you don't want to strap it to your arm when you go jogging. The other disadvantage is that battery life is significantly diminished while playing video. Personally, I purchased the 30 gig Video and have been very satisfied with it thus far, and when I think I'll be playing video for an extended period, I bring my firewire charger with me. The 30 gig iPod is going to cost you \$270, and the 60 gig will cost you a whopping \$370.

The Nano and Video iPods both come in your choice of black or traditional Apple white. The Shuffle unfortunately only comes in white for now. Also if you are considering buying an iPod, jump on the Apple website and look at the HUNDREDS of accessories that are available. If it's made for an iPod, odds are Apple has it for sale.

Thanks for reading, and stay tuned as next time we dive into more Apple goods, software and more!

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My Planet  
By Chris Williams

Did you ever visit my planet?

It was a star.  
Yeah, a star.

We started at a beach  
That we made together.

Nighttime, starry, cool...

With a fire that we made together...

You, in a two-piece swimsuit...  
Me, in shorts.

I think that there was a hut  
And a hammock, too.

We told each other stories  
underneath a starry sky.

It was years ago,  
When I first met you.

FUCK IT....these are two words to live by. Because there is always someone, something out there to rain on your parade. Because being happy can only last for so long. Because it's human nature to have more bad days than good days. Just stop fighting every little thing that comes your way, because you won't always win. No matter how lucky, or how talented you are. You cannot win them all. It's the sad truth. So fuck all those people who take the time out to belittle you. And fuck all those bad moments in your life. The more you hold on to them, the worse off you'll be. So just fuck all that bad shit and live your life as happily as you can manage. Good Luck.

- Yve Koon

My heart beats faster,  
Brown eyes scanning  
All that is around me.  
I don't know what  
I'm looking for,  
But I haven't found it.  
Do I wait or search?  
I am lost in a crowd again,  
In the midst of  
Chaos, noise, life.  
No one is stopping,  
Life is trudging forward  
Relentlessly.  
Hearts keep on beating,  
Bodies keep on moving  
Forward, ever forward.  
I wish they would stop,  
Just pause for one moment  
So that I can breathe,  
For I am stifled here.  
Stifled by excess of life.  
Time! Stop for me!  
Every body – become paralyzed!  
Every cloud in the sky – stop floating!  
Sun – don't rise, don't set!  
The world won't mourn for the past,  
They all just keep going,

Like soldiers in the battle field,  
Rows and rows of men.  
Persisting in conflict, struggle  
Until they meet their death, their fate.  
Why don't they hold back?  
Run away?  
I want to run in the opposite direction,  
Not succumb to what the  
Higher power has planned for me.  
Even if I isolate myself  
In a lone field,  
Or high up on the edge of a cliff  
Where only my voice echoes in the  
silence,  
Elsewhere, the world is spinning.  
People continue to take breaths.  
One cries only for so long;  
Soon, the pain subsides,  
Smiles replacing tears.  
When I fall, I want to take  
My time getting up,  
I want to immerse myself in the intensity.  
Intensity is vitality;  
I want every feeling to wash over me  
Like a wave,  
Immersing me, drowning me, forcing me  
To rise again.

- Karen Shidlo





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