

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

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at Stony**

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Stony Brook Finally Adds Journalism Major

By Jowy Romano

As far back as 1967 there have been multiple attempts to get a journalism major on the Stony Brook campus. President Shirley Strum Kenny and Journalism Professor Howard Schneider have spearheaded the latest proposal. Last month, after going through many committees on the university and state level, the journalism major proposal was given final approval by the State Education Department.

"[We] took the proposal to the... campus curriculum committee and several other committees and then to the Faculty University Senate and once it was approved by those bodies we went to SUNY and we got SUNY approval and

then... [we] got final approval from the State Education Department," said Schneider in reference to the long road it took to make the major a reality.

Students will have the opportunity to study various fields of journalism including broadcast journalism, print journalism and online journalism. According to Professor Schneider, journalism students will be exposed to all of these fields and then choose a concentration their senior year.

"In terms of credits this will be perhaps the most comprehensive [journalism] program in the United States," said Schneider. The program requires 47 credits in journalism and 80 credits outside of journalism.

Currently, students are able to

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The proposed "newsroom of the future"
Courtesy of Howard Schneider

A Few Good Fellows

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

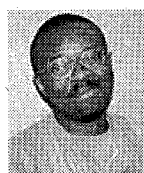
This summer, two Stony Brook University professors have earned prestigious fellowships in order to further important research projects in their respective fields. Brooke Larson, a Professor of History, has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and Olufemi Vaughan, a Professor of African Studies, has earned a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.



Brooke Larson

Brooke Larson, who received her Ph.D. from Columbia University, has taught Latin American History at Columbia and the New School for Social Research. Here at Stony Brook, she recently served as a founding director for the Latin American and Caribbean Center. She was also a Fulbright Scholar in 1990.

Larson's current research is for a book that revolves around the Bolivian Andes. In her own words, her work "probes the ideological battles, cultural politics, and grassroots social practices of rural Indian school reform and popular literacy in the Andean countryside."



Olufemi Vaughan

This year, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation supplied fellowships to 187 Americans and Canadians, with the grants averaging \$40,107. The Foundation received 2,778 applications. Larson hopes to use the money to further her work on the Aymara

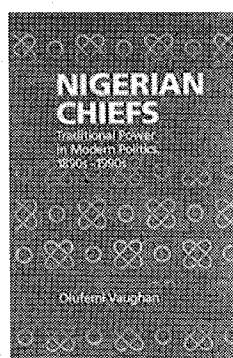
Indians.

Olufemi Vaughan finished his Ph.D. in Politics at Oxford University. Besides publishing work that focuses on African history since the nineteenth century and Africa's international relations, he serves as Associate Dean of Stony Brook's graduate school. He has most recently received the Cecil B. Currey Book Prize in 2001 for his book *Nigerian Chiefs: Traditional Power in Modern Politics, 1890's-1990's*.

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation promotes the continuance of research projects for college professors. All fellowship winners spend one academic year in residency at the Wilson Center in order to facilitate the completion of their projects. This year, 22 fellowships were awarded to a variety of professors from around the world.

The project that Vaughan will be working on is titled "Islam, Christianity, and Indigenous Religions in the Formation of the Modern West African State".

Congratulations to both winners!



Cervical Cancer: Incurable but Preventable

By Adina Silverbush

Worldwide, 400,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and half of them die. This makes cervical cancer the second highest cancer among women, following closely behind breast cancer. This devastating cancer often causes women to lose their ability to bear children. Although the cancer has no cure, a new immunization might prevent women from ever contracting it. The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted virus, and it was found to be the leading causes of this cancer. HPV alone is said to be responsible for 70% of the 15,000 cervical cancer cases diagnosed in the United States each year.

Although pricey at \$360 (the most expensive vaccine ever), Gardasil is given in the form of three shots. The hope is that young girls will receive the vaccine before they become sexually active, but any women age 9-26 years could receive them on doctor's orders. The vaccine also would be able to give women only a 10% chance of contracting an unpleasant condition of genital warts, which is also caused by HPV.

The Federal Advisory Panel

determined that Gardasil should be mandatory for all girls ages 11 and 12. Like the Hepatitis vaccine, girls wouldn't be able to attend school until they were vaccinated. However, controversy surrounds this: first, cervical cancer is greatest amongst the poor, who generally cannot afford the gynecologist's pap smear test that detects cervical cancer. If these women can't afford the screening, then they also won't be able to afford the vaccine. Although state vaccination programs exist, they are already faced with financial hardships, and with the high cost of Gardasil there is no way they'd be able to supply everyone who would benefit. Secondly, conservatives feel this vaccine will send a message to young girls about promiscuity and sexual activity, since they are safe from some of the sexually transmitted diseases.

The Federal government will be buying the vaccine for about 7 million girls, over 2 billion dollars worth, depending on whether The Department of Human Health and Human Services agrees. The insurance company WellPoint Inc. has already stated that they would reimburse their patients for the Gardasil vaccine. Other insurers will probably be making the same promise to their customers soon.

Big Gay Victory

By Joe Safdia

On June 7, the Senate either preserved or destroyed marriage for all Americans (depending on your view of same-sex marriage) by voting not to amend the Constitution to restrict marriage only to heterosexual couples. The Marriage Protection Amendment, which was passed in the House of Representatives with a 136-61 vote, failed to receive the two-thirds approval it needed from the Senate. Receiving only a 49-48 voting count, the amendment failed to even achieve a majority vote.

The Marriage Protection Amendment, which drew large amounts of both criticism and support, subtly places a ban on gay marriage by defining it as "the union of a man and a woman." Supporters of the gay marriage ban rallied behind the amendment due to both religious beliefs and to protect America's families from the perceived danger of same-sex couples receiving marriage licenses. Proponents of the amendment also saw it as the only way to prevent "activist" judges from legislating from the bench by ruling in opposition to the gay marriage bans that exist in many state constitutions and the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Critics view the Marriage Protection Amendment as an attack on the rights of the homosexual community by the religious community, and that gay marriage is as legitimate as straight marriage because both legally require both parties in the union to be consenting and sane-minded adults. A universal argument in opposition of the amendment is that gay marriage does not affect any heterosexual marriage

in any way and this is therefore an example of an expanding government intruding once again in the private lives of its citizens. More optimistic same-sex marriage supporters hold the belief that this is merely another civil rights battle, reminiscent of women's suffrage and the Civil Rights movement on the 1950's and 1960's, and it will end in the favor of the minority in question.

One observation about the Marriage Protection Amendment that certainly holds merit is that it only seems to be a hot button issue during election years. Sure enough, President George W. Bush had tried, and failed, to push this same amendment through Congress in 2004, the presidential election year. 2006 is the midterm election year, and mishandling of the Iraq War and the release of information pertaining to Bush's domestic spying pro-

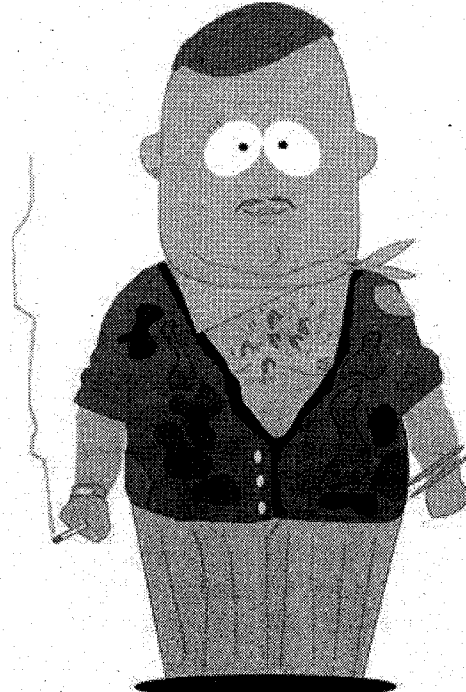
gram certainly leaves the Republican Party in a precarious position when it comes to keeping themselves in power. The Republicans were hoping for this amendment to pass in order to appeal to their conservative voters during the midterm elections. In 2005, however, which was a year with no federal government elections, government officials, including the President, were nearly silent about the issue.

Many opponents of gay marriage, however, also opposed a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. They argue that preserving the institution of marriage is not something that merits an amendment to the Constitution. The Constitution was drafted to create rules of governance and to prevent people's rights from being taken away. It should not be used as a tool to create social policy, legislate morality, or take away the basic rights of the people.

President Bush and other supporters of the Marriage Protection Amendment cite it as a necessary tool to preserve the institution of marriage, which has allegedly remained unchanged for thousands of years. This, however, ignores the many changes that marriage actually *has* faced since the first two (or more) people were joined together in holy matrimony. Marriage, in ancient times, was often polygamous and was an economic transaction rather than an act of love. If one takes this into consideration, as many critics do, then the "sanctity" of same-sex marriage is greater than that of the "traditional" polygamous economic marriage. Another argument in favor of the amendment is the "slippery slope" argument, in which many

believe that the legalization of homosexual marriage will open the door to legalized polygamy, incest, and bestiality.

Whether or not people see it now, the failure of the gay marriage ban's passage is a victory for *all* Americans, not just homosexual Americans. A majority of Americans oppose same-sex marriage (although nearly the same amount of people opposed a constitutional amendment banning it) and many, including Bush, have denounced the Supreme Courts of Massachusetts and other states for defying the will of the people and "legislating from the bench." However, this argument holds no merit and the decision of the so-called activist judges was the proper one. The ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Court was in opposition of the "tyranny of the majority." The will of the people can and does justify many things, but it is never legal justification (let alone moral or ethical justification) for denying or retracting rights from law-abiding, tax-paying American citizens. If the Marriage Protection Amendment had passed, it would have justified the "tyranny of the majority" that often occurs in democratic states, and the will of the people would be all that's needed to take away basic human rights from American citizens (for example, American Muslims in a post-9/11 world). It would have also set a dangerous precedent in creating future amendments, and with that precedent, the Constitution would have been transformed into a document that creates restrictive social policies and allows for the intrusion into the lives of the people by the government.



New Journalism Major *Continued*

Continued from previous page

work for one of the many student news organizations for up to two semesters for credit. Journalism majors will be required to spend at least one semester at one of these organizations. "We think it's so important that students participate in the media-life of the University," said Schneider.

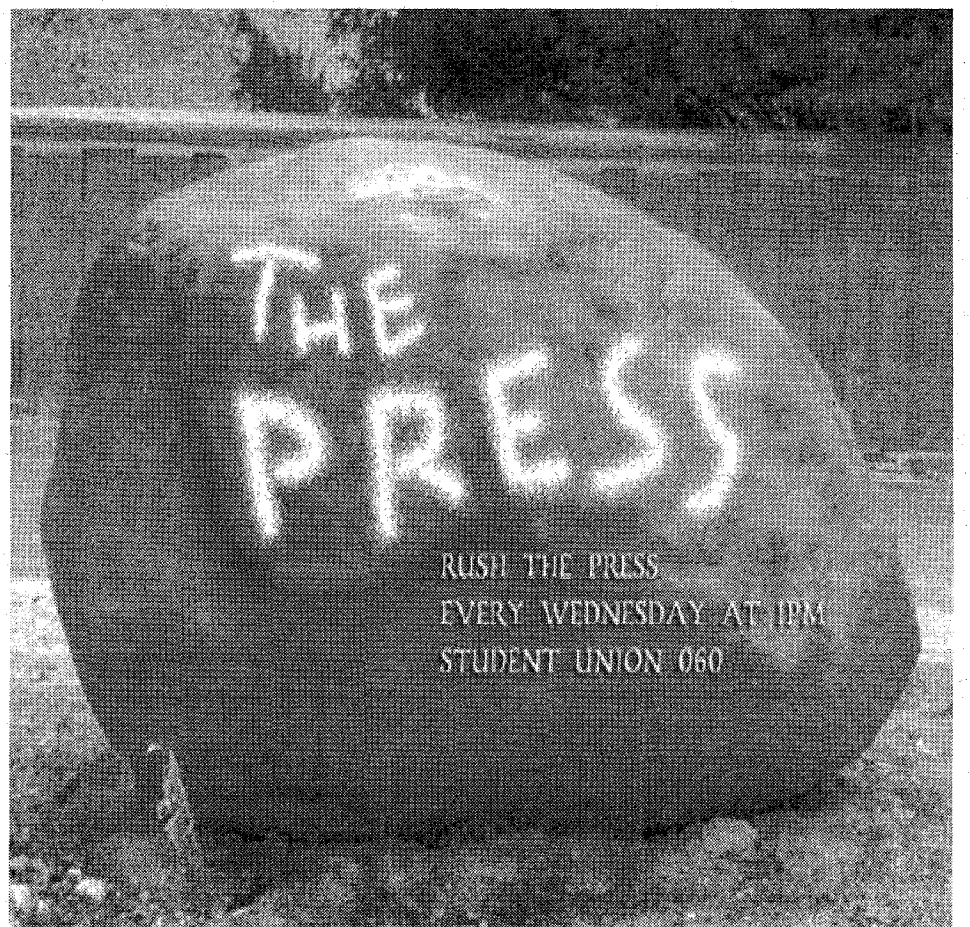
There are plans to build facilities to accommodate the new major. One of the proposed facilities is a two-floor "newsroom of the future" that would be housed in the Melville Library. The top floor will have cutting-edge technology that will "enable students to work in video, audio and text at the same time," according to Schneider. The bottom floor will be a news lab that includes smaller worksta-

tions and a television studio.

Another of the proposed facilities is a small news bureau located at Stony Brook Manhattan.

"The journalism program will be a resource for the entire campus," said Schneider. Majors and non-majors alike will be able to take a class in news literacy for DEC B credit. "The course is designed to help students decide whether the news that they're getting every day is reliable and credible."

Students interested in the Journalism program are encouraged to contact the Journalism office at (631) 632-7403 or visit www.stonybrook.edu/journalism for more info. Also check out www.thestonybrookpress.com for the full interview with Howard Schneider.



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SCOTUS Rules Military Tribunals Unconstitutional

On Wednesday, June 28, the Supreme Court, in a 5-3 decision, ruled that the *ad hoc* military tribunals that would have been used to try detainees held at the U.S. military installation at Guantanamo Bay are unconstitutional.

The case, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, 000 US 05-184 (2006), the latest in a series of crushing blows to the government in the area of terror detainee rights, held that the government overstepped its constitutional authority in requiring that foreign nationals held on terrorism charges defined in accordance with the President's Executive Order on the Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War on Terrorism. As a result, the court held, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, the alleged driver and bodyguard for Osama bin Laden, must be tried in a civilian court and be afforded the full spectrum of rights and opportunities a U.S. citizen would enjoy as a criminal defendant; in short, the court held that Hamdan must be allowed to avail himself in a standard, constitutionally-legitimate trial in a civilian court.

In his majority decision, Justice Souter wrote that, "Congress has not issued the executive a blank check ... Indeed, Congress has denied the President the legislative authority to create military commissions of the kind at issue here."

Previously, the Supreme Court has ruled that Gitmo detainees cannot be held indefinitely without access to an *ad hoc* court established for them to appeal detention; U.S. citizens held in Gitmo must be allowed access to a lawyer; and non-citizens

held in Gitmo must be allowed access to council. The Hamden case, the broadest in scope and repercussions for both the detainees and the administration, adds further rights to those held in Gitmo on suspicion of being "enemy combatants" in the War on Terror.

When Congress drafted the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the set of laws outlining and detailing the criminal provisions of the U.S. military, it did so with the right to council and the right to be present at one's trial held sacrosanct. Article II of the Geneva Convention, which states that all persons held as the prisoners of a war, either declared or undeclared, must be afforded the right to council. The President's Executive Order is an affront to the interests of justice, both national and international, and to our Constitution.

The Supreme Court, in ruling in Hamdan's favor, established that, even, and perhaps especially, in times of war, the Constitution's provisions for the rights of the accused must be maintained. In a so-called war, one that has not been declared by Congress, such as the War on Terror, the Constitution's protections for criminal defendants are of even greater concern, as the Executive's attempts to overstep its authority and strip those it deems enemies of the state of their rights must be held in check by the Judiciary. The Stony Brook Press applauds the Supreme Court in its ruling, concurring in their decision that *ad hoc* military courts should not be used to try those held in detention centers.

The NSA Has Discovered MySpace

Wildly renaissance online communities such as MySpace have become the newest battlefield for the Bush Administration's diaphanous, never-ending, global war on terror-unseen. Cited as an important tool in ongoing counterterrorism efforts, the Pentagon, with blessings from the Executive Branch, has decided to further encroach upon our Fourth Amendment rights to privacy by now monitoring civilian dialogues and social networks on the Internet.

For those of you who have never MySpaced (it's a verb now), it is a social networking website that has become so popular since its creation in 2003, that it has quickly garnered over 26 million members and counting. Recently sold to Rupert Murdoch of media behemoth News Corporation (the parent company of Fox Broadcasting) for \$580 million, this international nexus of mainly high school and college students has data miners and intelligence gatherers at the Pentagon salivating over the potential for invasion of privacy in the name of national security.

Ostensibly, these data mining initiatives are just a small battle in the global war on terror. Truthfully, however, civil liberties mean little to the Pentagon and there is no justification for such a blatant invasion of privacy in the absence of anything that could remotely be considered actionable intelligence on the profiles of teenagers and college students. Simply by having a profile on one of these sites under the auspices of meeting people and expressing an opinion, a dossier has been compiled on your sexu-

al orientation, political affiliation, and anything else deemed "incriminating" by the Defense Department.

The claim is that these websites are an integral resource for determining "who knows who" by linking bits and pieces of information about citizens posted on profiles to "solve some of the most critical problems facing the US intelligence community" according to the Congressional Research Service. An organization called Advanced Research Development Activity uses funds from the National Security Agency to sort through some 4 million gigabytes a month in personal, civilian information. The data is then collected, tracked, and analyzed for the federal government's records.

This is not even the first time the Department of Defense has attempted to spy on the very people it is meant to protect. Other such initiatives to infiltrate the internet in the domain of purely domestic use includes the CAPS II program, the USA Patriot Act, the classified 2003 Defense Appropriations Act, and the since disgraced Total Information Awareness program. In almost every case, the government has been harshly rebuked by organizations such as the ACLU and other advocates of civil liberties internationally.

So just how many terrorist plots have been foiled by those big-mouth, culturally contemporary, college-age fanatics on

Continued on page 9

Wanna Know Where You Can Stick Your Opinions?

(hint: It Rhymes With "Tony took less")

sbpress@gmail.com

or website-it-up big time at

www.thestonybrookpress.com



NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Compiled by Rebecca Kleinhaut and Madeline Scheckter

The
New York
Times

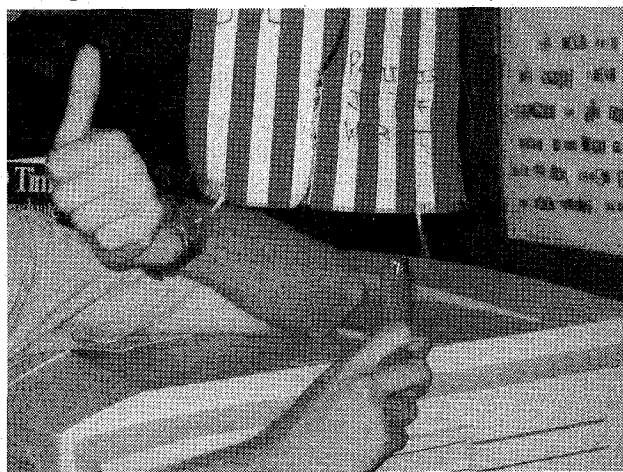
The New York Times Accused of "Treason"

Representative Peter King (R-NY) has called for legal action against *The New York Times* after an article concerning counterterrorism officials' interest in the bank accounts of a few select Americans.

On June 22nd, the *New York Times*, along with *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, ran an article about the SWIFT program, which traces bank transactions of people who are believed to be involved with Al Qaeda. This includes wire transfers and transactions from international banks with the United States. The article explicitly states that the SWIFT program does not monitor transactions that are complete within our borders, but that people who are being tracked can have their ATM withdrawals and credit card transactions monitored. In the United States, 107 banks and institutions are members of SWIFT, while 588 use the system for sporadic monitoring. Eleven million transactions are monitored per day.

On June 27th, King appeared on *The O'Reilly Factor* to discuss the impact of printing an article about the SWIFT program. "The thought that *The New York Times* could run the risk of stopping [prevention of] another type of attack, to me this requires criminal sanctions," said King. "That's why I'm calling on the attorney general to launch a full investigation and prosecution of *The New York Times*." He also stated that he believes that their actions violate the Espionage Act of 1917.

President Bush and Dick Cheney have also rallied against the *Times*, calling the move "disgraceful."



Flag Burning Amendment Loses by One Vote

June 27th, Washington – An amendment that prohibits the desecration of the American flag failed to pass in the Senate by a margin of one vote. The amendment, which was last considered in 2000, left a final vote of 66-34, with 67 affirmative votes needed to ensure its passage.

Dissenters of the amendment claim that it violates free speech under the Bill of Rights, and that the amount of flag desecration incidents per year does not warrant this amount of legal action.

The amendment's supporters, nicknamed "flag hags" by Jon Stewart, assure voters that it has nothing to do with free speech, but, according to *The New York Times*, they believe that it is appropriate to pass it "when American troops are at risk."

According to Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, the flag burning amendment was the beginning of a host of issues that will be addressed after their Fourth of July recess. Other topics on the newly nicknamed "American Values Agenda" are gay marriage, abortion, the Pledge of Allegiance, property rights and eminent domain, and Internet gambling.



Giant Seawolves Banner Turns Up Missing

Who says that Stony Brook lacks school spirit? Some dedicated Seawolves fans are now the proud owners of a five foot by ninety foot "Go, Seawolves!" banner. Police believe that the banner was stolen from LaValle Stadium sometime during the wee hours of the morning on May 16th.

Police are baffled by the removal of the sign, which is estimated to weigh more than sixty pounds, held into place by more than 100 zip ties. After reviewing the data, political analyst and campus life expert Madeline Scheckter has concluded that the only possible explanation involves the use of "thirty foot scissors."

While the sign cost \$3,000 to produce, Stony Brook University Police are offering a \$2,000 "scholarship" for any information that leads to an arrest. All calls are confidential.

Rape and Murder Investigation in Iraq

In March, a woman was allegedly raped and murdered in Mahmudiya, Iraq by American GIs. Her husband, son, and her husband's brother were also murdered. On June 24th, the American military began an investigation after a soldier spoke about them during a therapy session. One soldier has already admitted his role in the slayings and has been arrested. Mahmudiya is in what is called "The Triangle of Death," an insurgent stronghold; therefore the killing was originally reported as insurgent activity.

These allegations of rape and murder come in the wake of the Haditha scandal in which Marines are accused of killing approximately 24 unarmed civilians after a roadside bomb killed one Marine. Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, the Iraqi Prime Minister, says that violence against civilians by the US military has occurred regularly, and the civilian death toll certainly seems to corroborate that

accusation – 840 in June alone, according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

American officials who disclosed information about this and other criminal proceedings were forced to speak anonymously because they are not authorized to give information about possible criminal proceedings. Another official wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals, but it is not clear from whom those reprisals would be.

Excommunication for Stem Cell Scientists?

Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo stated in a recent interview that scientists who do stem cell research should be excommunicated from the Catholic Church. His argument follows the logic that doing research on stem cells is destroying an embryo and that therefore these scientists should be excommunicated, just as women who get abortions and the doctors who perform them are.

It is not clear whether or not the pope agrees with the cardinal's position. Many Catholics feel that excommunication is too strong a punishment, and many people who believe in science are slightly more concerned with science than they are about the Catholic Church.

Supreme Court Geneva Decision, or something cleverer.

One June 29, the Supreme Court ruled that prisoners at Guantánamo Bay can invoke Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention; the article prohibits cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment and torture. The ruling was only 5-to-3, which comes as a shock to anyone who thought that the US still believed in human rights.

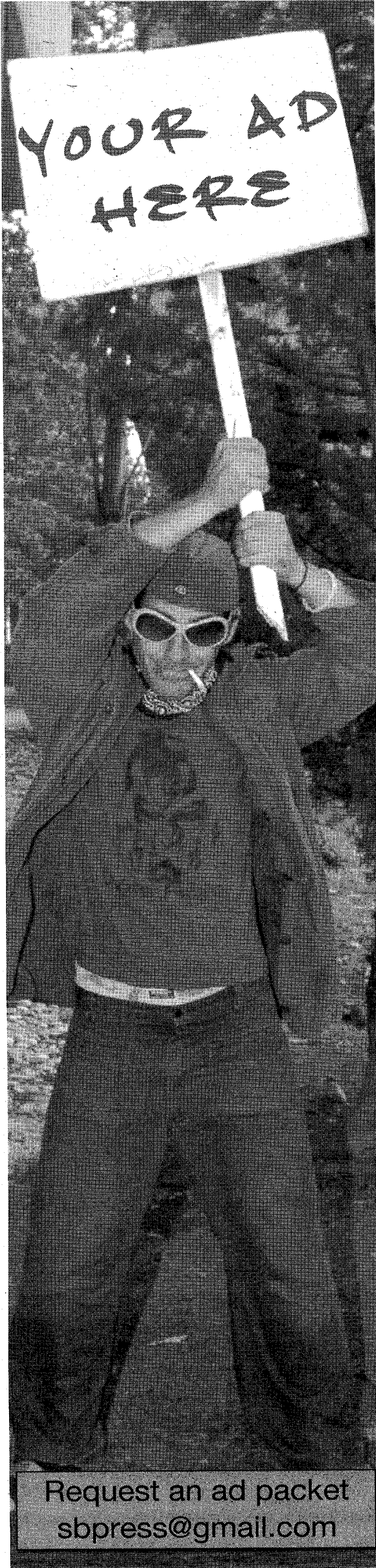
As a consequence of this ruling, the debate over whether new Army Field Manuals will have interrogation instructions which include abusive techniques. It could also give credence to the *habeas corpus* petitions filed on behalf of Guantánamo Bay prisoners. Interrogators in Guantánamo and secret CIA prisons will be more wary in their interrogation techniques because future administrations may hold them accountable. The ruling should change the way that the administration conducts its interrogations because it reaffirms that international and constitutional law apply to the current administration.

Dolph Lundgren Cult on Campus

A cult is being formed around Dolph Lundgren, action star of the 1980s. Recently, it has been brought to the forefront of the public's mind that Lundgren received a Fulbright Scholarship from MIT for Biochemical Engineering. This is the most likely cause for the growing interest in the action star.

"Not only must he break you, but he's actually a genius," said one cult member who wished to remain anonymous. "This isn't any Chuck Norris [expletive deleted], he's for real," said another anonymous source.

The cult bears a similarity to the famed Asia Carrere religion, which focuses not only on her amazing adult film career, but also on her membership in MENSA. No one bothered to get in touch with Lundgren for a comment.



USG UPDATE

USG Budget 06-07

CLUB DESCRIPTION	Final Budget 05-06	06-07 Amount Requested	Eligible 06-07	0.756% CUT	Line Item 06-07	Grant 06-07
Advent Youth Ministries	\$735	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$8	\$992	\$0
African Students Union	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$9,000	\$68	\$8,932	\$0
Amnesty International	\$750	\$7,950	\$4,750	\$36	\$4,714	\$0
Animated Perspective	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$15	\$1,985	\$0
Art4Everyone	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$0
Artemis Hellenic Society	\$1,500	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$14	\$1,836	\$0
ASEAS AAS	\$2,000			\$0		\$0
Asian American E-Zine	\$3,320	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$25	\$3,275	\$0
Asian American Journal	\$2,000	\$40,000	\$8,000	\$60	\$7,940	\$0
Asian Students Association	\$8,700	\$14,270	\$10,000	\$76	\$9,924	\$0
Athletic Training	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$15	\$1,985	\$0
Badminton	\$750	\$2,037	\$2,038	\$15	\$2,023	\$0
Ballroom Dance	\$12,300	\$23,290	\$15,850	\$120	\$15,730	\$3,200
Belly Dance	\$750	\$6,320	\$5,500	\$42	\$5,458	\$1,625
Bengalis Unite	\$2,000	\$8,000	\$5,770	\$44	\$5,726	\$0
Biology Club	\$750	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$38	\$4,962	\$0
Biomedical Engineering Society	\$910	\$1,780	\$1,700	\$13	\$1,687	\$0
Black Women's Weekend	\$22,000	\$25,000	\$22,000	\$166	\$21,834	\$0
Black Women's Weekend Play Writer's Guild	\$1,800	\$5,500	\$2,500	\$19	\$2,481	\$0
Blackworld	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$181	\$23,819	\$0
Blood Drive	\$10,800	\$12,600	\$11,500	\$87	\$11,413	\$0
Caribbean Students Organization	\$12,000	\$45,000	\$28,000	\$212	\$27,788	\$0
Cat Network	\$1,000	\$18,448	\$4,000	\$30	\$3,970	\$0
Catholic Campus Club	\$1,200	\$2,500	\$1,350	\$10	\$1,340	\$100
Center For Womyn's Concerns	\$2,563	\$2,562	\$2,563	\$19	\$2,544	\$0
Chabad Student Club	\$400	\$20,000	\$8,650	\$66	\$8,585	\$0
Cheerleading	\$10,000	\$35,950	\$16,500	\$125	\$16,375	\$0
Chemical Engineers	\$700	\$4,140	\$2,195	\$17	\$2,178	\$0
Chess Club	\$1,275			\$0		\$0
China Blue	\$1,650	\$5,055	\$4,830	\$36	\$4,794	\$225
Chinese Literature Club	\$0	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$12	\$1,588	\$0
Chinese Association of Stony Brook	\$9,563	\$11,000	\$10,850	\$82	\$10,768	\$0
Christian Student Services	\$750	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
CIAO	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Club Om	\$1,500	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$38	\$4,962	\$0
Coalition	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$60	\$7,940	\$0
College Republicans	\$750	\$34,000	\$10,000	\$76	\$9,924	\$0
Company of Archers	\$905	\$3,063	\$2,164	\$16	\$2,148	\$0
Crew Club	\$22,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$189	\$24,811	\$0
Dance Team	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debate Team	\$750	\$750	\$500	\$4	\$496	\$0
Deja Vu Dance Troupe	\$1,500	\$2,350	\$1,850	\$14	\$1,836	\$0
Economics Society	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$26	\$3,474	\$400
Enduring Freedom Alliance	\$1,500	\$6,900	\$6,900	\$52	\$6,848	\$0
Entrepreneur's Club	\$650	\$3,310	\$1,650	\$12	\$1,638	\$0
Equestrian Club	\$9,000	\$46,150	\$12,000	\$91	\$11,909	\$0
Essence of Praise	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$6	\$744	\$0
Feminist Majority	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$30	\$3,970	\$0
Fencing Team	\$4,000	\$15,000	\$9,500	\$72	\$9,428	\$4,000
Film Studies	\$1,100			\$0		\$0
Fine Arts Organization	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$6	\$744	\$0
Gospel Choir	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$11,500	\$87	\$11,413	\$0
Haitian Students Organization	\$7,500	\$11,500	\$8,500	\$64	\$8,436	\$0
Handball	\$600	\$15,000	\$11,951	\$90	\$11,861	\$0
Hillel	\$6,200	\$8,000	\$7,200	\$54	\$7,146	\$0
International Cultural Exchange Buddy	\$700	\$3,713	\$3,213	\$24	\$3,188	\$750
Ice Hockey	\$31,000	\$94,553	\$66,850	\$506	\$66,345	\$6,750
Japanese Cultural Association	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$38	\$4,962	\$0
Korean Life Media	\$1,500	\$3,150	\$3,000	\$23	\$2,977	\$0
Korean Student Association	\$2,000	\$4,720	\$4,570	\$35	\$4,535	\$300
Kumdo Club	\$4,500	\$11,150	\$11,150	\$84	\$11,066	\$0
La Table Ronde - French Club	\$3,063	\$4,000	\$3,100	\$23	\$3,077	\$0
Latin American Students Organization	\$11,000	\$16,000	\$15,250	\$115	\$15,135	\$0
LGBT+	\$4,063	\$4,063	\$4,063	\$31	\$4,032	\$0
Marine Science	\$750	\$3,680	\$3,530	\$27	\$3,503	\$0
Martial Arts Club	\$750			\$0		\$0
Math Club	\$1,500			\$0		\$0
Men's Rugby	\$15,000	\$36,000	\$33,000	\$249	\$32,751	\$7,000
Minorities in Eng. & Applied Sciences	\$5,000			\$0		\$0
Minorities in Medicine - MIM	\$5,500	\$6,500	\$5,700	\$43	\$5,657	\$0
Minorities in Psychology	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$6	\$744	\$0
Musicians Alliance for Peace	\$1,000	\$20,000	\$13,500	\$102	\$13,398	\$0
Muslim Student Alliance	\$2,000	\$12,520	\$4,000	\$30	\$3,970	\$2,000
Neuroscience Axis	\$1,100			\$0		\$0
Organization of Actuarial Studies	\$1,275	\$1,595	\$1,275	\$10	\$1,265	\$0
Pep Band	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Persian Cultural Association	\$1,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$38	\$4,962	\$0
Philosophy Club	\$1,050	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$19	\$2,481	\$0
Philippine United Students Organization	\$4,500	\$8,000	\$7,050	\$53	\$6,997	\$0
Pocket Theatre	\$1,000	\$3,342	\$3,342	\$26	\$3,317	\$3,909
Pre-Med Society	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$45	\$5,955	\$0
Pre-Physical Therapy	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,850	\$14	\$1,836	\$0
Pre-Physicians Assistant	\$3,023	\$3,023	\$2,603	\$20	\$2,583	\$0
Press	\$32,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$264	\$34,736	\$0
Public Speaking Forum	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$15	\$1,985	\$0
Robot Team	\$3,000	\$7,825	\$7,825	\$59	\$7,766	\$0
Roller Hockey	\$1,000	\$39,682	\$11,025	\$83	\$10,942	\$0
Russian Club	\$750	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$19	\$2,481	\$0
Science Fiction Forum	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$49	\$6,451	\$0
Scuba Club	\$2,500	\$8,680	\$8,681	\$66	\$8,615	\$0
Shades of Afrika	\$1,000			\$0		\$0
Sikh Student Association	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$15	\$1,985	\$0
Social Justice Alliance	\$650	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Society of Physics Students	\$800	\$1,350	\$800	\$6	\$794	\$0
South Asian Students Alliance	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$8,150	\$62	\$8,088	\$0
Squash Club	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$13	\$1,687	\$0
Students Taking Aim at Challenges	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$2,500	\$19	\$2,481	\$0
Tai Chi Club	\$750			\$0		\$0
Taiwanese Student Association	\$750	\$1,500	\$800	\$6	\$794	\$0
Thai Student Association	\$1,000	\$1,701	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Thillana	\$1,000	\$14,600	\$7,800	\$57	\$7,543	\$0
Undergraduate Anthropology	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$3,750	\$28	\$3,722	\$0
Undergrad Chemistry	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$6	\$744	\$0
Undergrad Pharmacology	\$3,200	\$6,500	\$4,700	\$36	\$4,664	\$0
Unit Cultural Center	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$83	\$10,917	\$750
Veteran Student Organization	\$1,500	\$11,000	\$7,900	\$60	\$7,840	\$0
Vietnamese Students Association	\$5,000	\$5,625	\$5,550	\$42	\$5,508	\$0
Visions Worldwide	\$1,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$45	\$5,955	\$0
Women's Rugby	\$15,000	\$33,472	\$24,112	\$182	\$23,930	\$0
Wrestling & MMA	\$750	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$19	\$2,481	\$0
WUSB	\$67,000	\$73,150	\$67,000	\$506	\$66,494	\$15,000

USG UPDATE

More Bang for Your Budget

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

If you did not vote in the most recent USG elections, then please stop reading here. If you chose to cast a ballot for (or against) the mandatory Student Activities fee, then congratulations: you are now entitled to know exactly where your hard earned money is going. The Press has crunched some numbers in the 2006-2007 USG budget for your enjoyment.

Next year, USG has over two million dollars to move. While many clubs have received the same amount as last year, give or take a few hundred dollars, there were a few surprises that should be noted. Congratulations are in order for Amnesty International, whose budget exploded from \$750 last semester to almost \$5,000 this year. The Caribbean Students Organization is sure to be a larger presence on campus, for their budget expanded by over \$15,000. The College Republicans received close to \$10,000 after their meager past budget of almost \$800. Other clubs that received drastic increases were Biology Club, Marine Science Club,

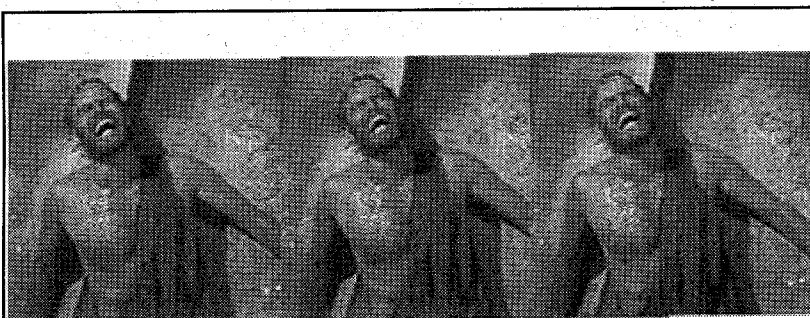
Handball, The Musician's Alliance for Peace, Roller Hockey, and Belly Dance Club. The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps received an increase of close to \$30,000. Also, Roth Regatta received a budget increase of \$5,000, so be prepared for a flashier extravaganza.

However, some clubs were not so lucky. *The Statesman* faces a cut of almost \$25,000, with no money allocated for their advertising, making it the most drastic and dramatic cut in the budget.

The Commuter Student Organization received little readjusting, so commuters can rest easy in their representation. Those of you who dorm can also relax; no major cuts were made. However, no money was gained either, so if you were unhappy with last year's condition, you're out of luck.

Although there have been some drastic readjustments for the upcoming school year, it's safe to say that you won't see any changes if you aren't looking for them. So let this be your first step into keeping up with campus affairs, even if you only read about them right here.

DIRECT PAYS:	\$442,500	\$500,923			\$457,021	\$0
Homecoming	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$76	\$9,924	\$0
Opening Week Activities	\$8,500	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$76	\$9,924	\$0
Roth Pond Regatta	\$14,500	\$25,000	\$20,010	\$151	\$19,859	\$0
CAMPUS-WIDE EVENTS		\$47,000			\$39,708	
Audio Visual	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$264	\$34,736	\$0
Communications	\$5,700		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Elections	\$3,000	\$20,000	\$6,325	\$49	\$6,277	\$1,000
Events Staff	\$18,000	\$23,000	\$19,000	\$144	\$18,856	\$0
Freshman Rep	\$1,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inter-Fraternity Sorority Council	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$14,000	\$106	\$13,894	\$0
Junior Rep	\$1,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Student Activities Board	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$1,662	\$218,338	\$0
SBU-TV	\$60,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$416	\$54,584	\$0
Senior Week	\$8,000	\$8,092	\$8,000	\$60	\$7,940	\$0
Sophomore Rep	\$1,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Specula	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$38,000	\$287	\$37,713	\$0
Special Services Council	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$151	\$19,849	\$0
Ticket Office	\$64,000	\$65,000	\$84,000	\$484	\$83,516	\$0
Large Concerts	\$120,000	\$170,000				
USG AGENCIES	\$613,700	\$693,092			\$475,703	\$1,000
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$777,273	\$721,150			\$617,589	
USG AGENCIES + ADMIN	\$1,390,973	\$1,404,242			\$1,093,292	
TOTAL CLUBS, DIR PAYS, AGENCY, ADMIN	\$2,357,268	\$3,090,937			\$2,378,270	
LEGS						
Amman	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$380
Barauch	\$1,100	\$2,050	\$1,300	\$10	\$1,290	\$0
Benedict	\$1,040	\$2,600	\$2,400	\$18	\$2,382	\$0
Cardozo	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$0
Dewey	\$1,070		NO			PACKET
Douglass	\$1,080	\$1,095	\$1,095	\$8	\$1,087	\$0
Dreiser	\$1,100	\$1,540	\$1,540	\$12	\$1,528	\$0
Eisenhower	\$1,090	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$8	\$1,042	\$0
Gershwin	\$1,100	\$1,600	\$1,350	\$10	\$1,340	\$350
Gray	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$0
Greeley	\$1,500		NO			PACKET
Hamilton	\$1,100	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$12	\$1,588	\$0
Hand	\$1,125	\$1,600	\$1,300	\$10	\$1,290	\$0
Hendrix	\$1,100	\$1,600	\$1,400	\$11	\$1,389	\$380
Iving	\$1,625	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$17	\$2,183	\$0
James	\$1,450	\$2,300	\$1,600	\$12	\$1,588	\$0
Keller	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,763	\$13	\$1,750	\$0
Langmuir	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$15	\$1,985	\$0
Mount	\$1,100	\$1,600	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
O'Neill	\$1,625	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Sanger	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,200	\$9	\$1,191	\$0
Schick	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$0
Stimson	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Toscanini	\$1,100	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$10	\$1,290	\$0
Wagner	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$11	\$1,489	\$0
Whitman	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$8	\$1,092	\$0
West Apts	\$5,840	\$6,000	\$4,250	\$32	\$4,218	\$0
LEG TOTAL	\$38,845	\$44,635			\$38,554	
Commuter -CSA	\$46,210	\$46,210	\$46,000	\$248	\$45,962	\$0
HSCSA	\$17,052	\$17,052	\$12,500	\$84	\$12,406	\$0
LEG + CSA + HSCSA TOTAL	\$101,907	\$107,897			\$96,612	
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,459,175	\$3,198,834			\$2,474,882	
DESCRIPTION		Anticipated 06-07				
ADMINISTRATION						
Auditors fees	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$17,500		\$17,500	
Computer Consultants	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Computer Equipment	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,500		\$1,500	
Computers/Software	\$13,000	\$3,000	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Copier Leases	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$6,000		\$6,000	
Council Programs	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$7,000		\$7,000	
Depreciation Expense	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000		\$12,000	
Disability	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Early Move Ins	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$0		\$0	
F.S.A. Mgmt Fee	\$258,787	\$255,000	\$1		\$1	\$59,999
Accounting Office Salaries			\$183,988		\$183,988	
FICA	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Fringe	\$30,828	\$30,000	\$30,000		\$30,000	
Furniture	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
GA Position	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Health Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Information Tech (website)	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Judiciary	\$1,000	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Legal Fees	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000		\$35,000	
Liability Insurance	\$151,000	\$112,000	\$112,000		\$112,000	
Miscellaneous	\$5,472	\$1,000	\$500		\$500	
Office	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000		\$15,000	
Pres. Discret Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$100		\$100	
Recruitment Advertising	\$0	\$4,000	\$1,500		\$1,500	
Salaries	\$116,936	\$108,000	\$108,000		\$108,000	
Senate	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500		\$500	
Senate Emergency Grants			\$0		\$0	
Senate Parliamentarian	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$8,500		\$8,500	
Statesman Advertising	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Stipends	\$55,000	\$68,000	\$60,000		\$60,000	
Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
Telephone	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$10,000		\$10,000	
Training	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$2,000		\$2,000	
Travel	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$1,500		\$1,500	
Worker's Comp. Ins.	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$777,273	\$721,150	\$617,589		\$617,589	
		TOTAL	\$2,489,022		\$2,474,882	\$108,118
		TOTAL	\$2,597,140		\$2,583,000	
			\$ (14,140)			



USG Senate Meetings

Coming Soon to a University Near You!

Club Spotlight *Pep Band*

Awesome Musical Group or Anagram for Pan Bed P?

By Alex Walsh

Welcome to Club Spotlight! This is a new column in which, each issue, one of our talented, strikingly attractive staff writers will introduce to you, dear reader, one piece of the wide and varied smorgasbord of opportunity that is the "clubs and activities" scene at Stony Brook. There's a lot of stuff out there you've probably never even heard of. Did you know that we have a Scuba Squad on campus? Thrilling and intriguing, I know, but that's a story for another day. No, my friends, today I'm going to focus on a subject much nearer and dearer to some of us here at the Press, the Stony Brook Pep Band. So listen for a while and hear the tale of this plucky collective of pep performers.

If you went to the Roth Regatta this year, you've most likely heard the Pep Band play. This troupe of student musicians has been making the rounds at campus events in its current incarnation since the 2003-2004 school year. Their energetic, ska-influenced sound has been heard at basketball games, Strawberry Fest, Cultural Explosion, and the University Café as well as the aforementioned Regatta.

The absolute beginning of the Pep Band has been lost to the domain of legend, but reliable history (what the oldest of the current members can remember)



picks up a few years ago. The Pep Band at that point was a group of students at SBU and a local high school paid by the University to play at Men's and Women's Basketball games. As is often the case in clubs with paid positions, many of the members were only in it for the cool check on payday. So when Stony Brook pulled the plug in 2003, only the truly peppy among these guardians of Pep stuck around to give a damn.

The ringleaders of the Pep Band reformation, drummer Jowy Romano and Dimitri Vishnepolsky, who played trumpet and guitar, scraped together the remaining Pep Band stalwarts and began anew as an all volunteer club. The revival was a bit shaky at first. "Yes, at first, the number of band members was reduced dramatically," said Romano, "But again, it weeded out the people who only really cared about the money." This new lineup comprised only six members, but they served admirably, proving that the school's attempts to crush the spirits of its students can't *always* succeed.

After three years of working hard to keep the Pep Band alive and playing, the membership has grown and the group is looking to perform at more events. They were recently awarded a grant from the USG budget surplus to purchase new equipment for the club. According to Romano, "The grant was to buy a drum set, amps and a cart to wheel the stuff around campus. Up until we got the grant, we were all using our own instruments and amps. My drums took quite a beating while transporting them around campus for 3 years."

The dedication demonstrated by the members who volunteered their own time and equipment illustrates the quality of enthusiasm that sets the Pep Band apart from other campus ensembles. Because the club is student run, USG funded, and unpaid, anyone who shows up and plays does so because he or she wants to, not to pick up some cash money on the side, as in the Pep Band of yesteryear. It also allows the band a considerable degree of freedom. Not having to answer to an administrative overlord, they can play the songs they

want and choose what events they want to play at. When the band played at Roth Regatta this year, they eschewed the predictable "classics" (such as the Rocky theme or "The Hey Song" (you know, the one they always play at hockey games, and everyone stands up and says "Hey!") It was on Jock Jams or something.)) in favor of less traditional, more fun tracks like the themes from Tetris and Duck Tales, and Reel Big Fish's ska-pop anthem "Sellout."

The Pep Band is always looking for new members and new gigs. Anyone interested in joining up with these wander-

ing minstrels or hiring them to enliven an event can visit their website (<http://www.sinc.stonybrook.edu/Clubs/pepband/index.htm>), or find them on Facebook. Veteran Pep Band member Jowy Romano had this to say to potential clients: "If any club is holding an event that they would like us to play at, I encourage you to contact us. We would be thrilled to." And to aspiring recruits he delivered this glowing testimonial: "We have loads of fun!" What could be more important?

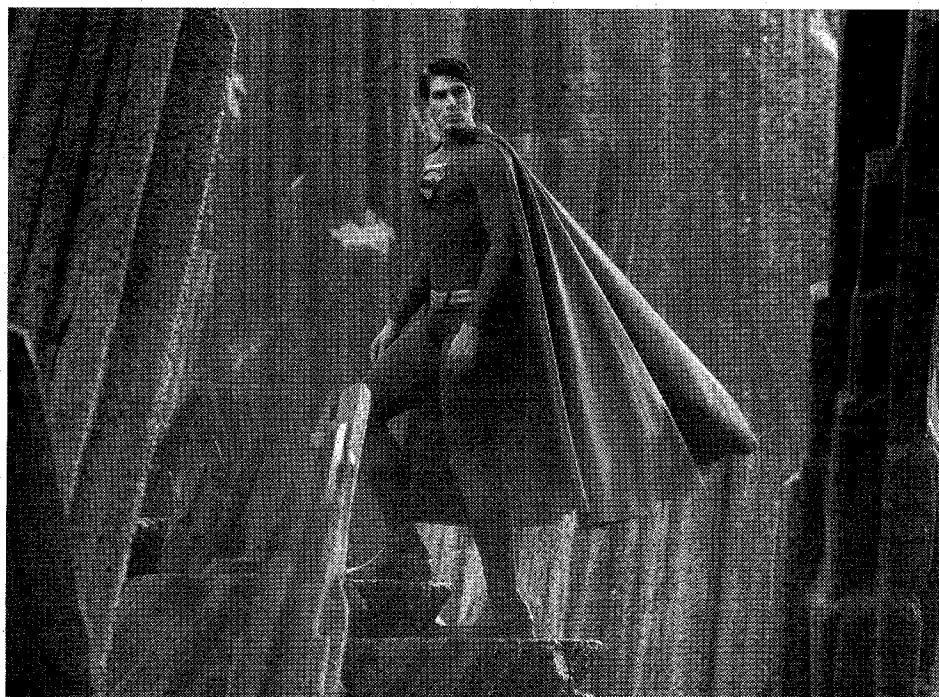


Photos Courtesy of Adina Silverbush

**Would you like your club
to be featured in a future
Club Spotlight?**

E-mail us at sbpress@gmail.com

Extra! Extra! Superman Returns



By Eddie Zadorozny

The dejected yearnings of a woman for a super human being are finally revisited after more than 5 years without correspondence from her desired suitor! However, it's not just any suitor, but a mate that can fly, encompass bouts of super strength, and also promote the concepts of justice and goodwill for all of humanity. It sounds like a woman's embodiment of the perfect manly specimen (it could be Tom Cruise), especially if that man is named Superman.

Five years have passed since the last interlude between the mighty woman reporter, Lois Lane, and the Man of Steel, Superman. He left this universe to return to his home, Krypton, after it was told by scientists that it still existed. He had a new mission in store for his homeland, but soon

learns that it was destroyed. He then returned to Metropolis to return to his crime fighting ways and to rekindle the lust he feels for Lois by resuming his two personas: the goofy, gawky Clark Kent and the treasured and admired Superman. However, Lois has since gotten over him. She has even written a Pulitzer Prize-winning article entitled "Why the World Doesn't Need Superman" and has a son and a new fiancée. Despite it all, she still has a yearning for the romantic bliss with the enigmatic but brooding presence that accompanies Superman. What woman is not looking for the romance of being swept off her feet passionately (which in one scene literally happens) and being adored?

If this sounds a bit sappy and way sentimental, it may be due to the fact that I was feeling vulnerable with my box of 99.9% antibacterial, aloe, hypoallergenic Kleenex that day. Romance is the element

that works well in *Superman Returns*; however, this is a thin building block that gives little credence to the film's larger scale. Superman must save the world from the maniacal and ludicrous aspirations of his foe, Lex Luthor, who attempts to create an eighth continent off of the east coast of North America. This would enable him to acquire ownership rights and to sell the land, thus becoming the world's premier real estate agent. If this sounds believable then maybe I can sell you, as the viewer, the Brooklyn Bridge or, better yet, we can take that viaduct and bridge the gap between the two continents! Its fun to watch, but its so bizarre and wacky. It's just an insane concept.

The film has its moments of exhilaration! In particular, there is a harrowing scene in which Superman saves a jetliner from is plummeting to earth after an attempt to launch a space shuttle from on top of the plane goes awry. Inside the jetliner are media personel and specialists covering this groundbreaking achievement, and Lois is one of the passengers. It all looks spectacular, but I found it so far-fetched that a space shuttle would be launching above a jetliner. It seems to ask a lot of the audience to find this plausible. There is also a scene where Lex Luthor's sidekick, Kitty (played by Parker Posey) has the brakes on her cars tampered with in order to occupy Superman. The scene is spectacularly staged, but it is so ridiculous that the car endures impossible feats.

Brandon Routh as Superman has a nice brooding presence and striking Hollywood looks. I am sure he will become a presence of pinup quality in film. The camera seems to have a fixation with his charm, more so as Superman than

as Clark Kent, but unfortunately he isn't given much to work with. Kate Bosworth as Lois Lane grows on you as the film progresses, but she doesn't possess the spunk and drive that Margot Kidder brought to the role in 1980. The same can be said for Kevin Spacey as Lex Luthor: he is adequate but Gene Hackman brought more charisma to the part.

The one aspect of the film I did enjoy was the romance between Lois and Superman. This does not say much about the film as a whole, but it could have been a building block to grow from. However, the rivalry between Superman and Lex Luthor was not. One facet of this romantic link was the scene in which Superman gives Lois a ride through the city, starting from the top of the Daily Planet building, flying between the building in the night sky and soaring just above the ocean with the NY skyline displayed in the background. It paid homage to the 1980 version and beautifully displayed with affection through the lust between the actors. It's as memorable and aesthetically pleasing here as it was in the 1980 Christopher Reeve/Margot Kidder version.

The film is flawed, but if you can suspend your thoughts and let the preposterous storyline proceed, it has its moments of entertainment value through set pieces, production decisions, and action scenes. However, those moments are not enough to say that this film is the event it could have been, or what I was hoping it would be.

Superman Returns: rated PG-13 (intense scenes and action violence) running time 140 minutes released by Warner Bros directed by Bryan Singer

Editorial: The NSA Has Discovered MySpace *Continued*

Continued from page 4

MySpace? With Tom as my witness and one true friend, the answer is zero. In the time it takes to edit one's profile, a reasonable treatment of the types of information available on such online communities would suggest that the Pentagon has invested our money and its time on an ineffective, incomplete, inaccurate, and incorrigible surveillance program.

In fact, the only discernable utility this kind of snooping has demonstrated thus far is the character assassination and

professional ruin of individuals for ideological and political purposes. For example, 20-year old student Jason Johnson was expelled from a Christian liberal arts college in Kentucky this past April for admitting that he was gay on his MySpace profile. The college deemed this information dangerous enough to eject the college student from their enrollment for "promoting sexual behavior not consistent with Christian principles" according to a statement from the University of the Cumberlands' spokesperson Larry

Cockrum.

So this begs the question: What are the Defense Department's true intentions? It is insulting to be told that MySpace, a veritable billboard for inconsequential bric-a-brac, is a valuable tool for counterterrorism. (Although it's no wonder that the very same Department of Defense who sifts through MySpace for actionable intelligence would not act on an August 2001 memorandum entitled "Bin Laden determined to strike in US.")

We, after all, are the leaders of

tomorrow and the future public servants. I fear that the \$58.8 billion spent this past year on domestic surveillance programs that include social network data mining are nothing more than an insurance policy for our current leaders. They seek only to acquire political ammunition against the voices that diversify and enrich the public discourse and they aim to slowly detract from the ideals that make America such a wonderful place to live.

Time to BOOK IT!®, Bitches!

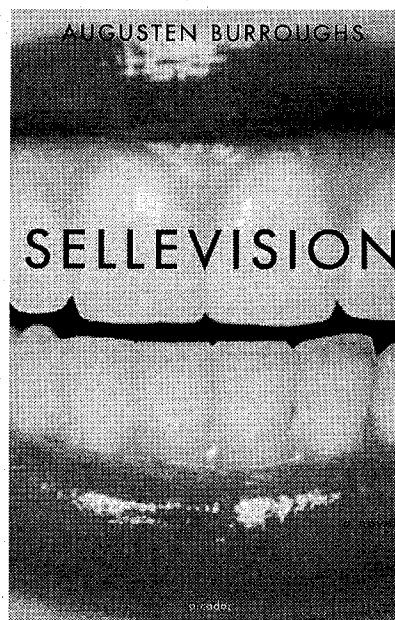
By Rebecca Kleinhaut

Growing up, my sister and I had voracious appetites for two things – carbohydrates and books. Then, Pizza Hut created a program that we thought was just for us. In 1985, the popular chain of pizzerias created BOOK IT!®, which challenges young kids to read for free food, and thus, creates generations of smarter, chubbier children.

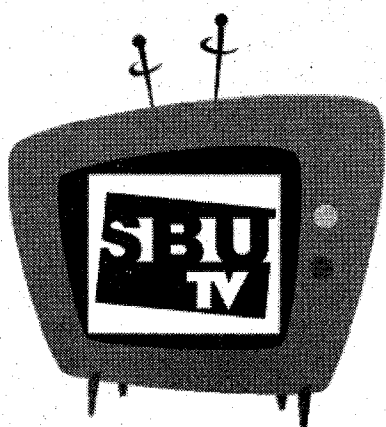
If you have never indulged in the joys of this program, you're now out of luck. However, you still have two options: you can either encourage a younger sibling to read and then steal their pizza, or you can check out some of my favorite summer reads while eating the food of your choice: this way, the opportunities are endless!

Sellelevision: A Novel by Augusten Burroughs

If you've read the 2003 memoir *Running With Scissors*, then I'm sure that no explanation is needed. Just seeing his name on a book makes me want to buy it. *Sellelevision* is Burroughs' first published work and is his only completely fictional novel. It chronicles the comings and goings of a prosperous (and fictitious) home shopping channel, where we learn why the program hosts really have no right to be so condescending to their callers. If you've ever watched QVC just to revel in the mistakes of the perky personalities, then this is the book for you. It begins with one host accidentally flashing his stuff for the camera... during a Toys for Tots segment. How could you not want to read it?



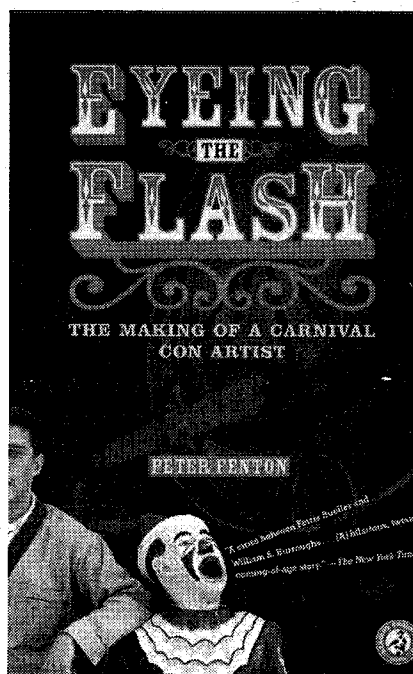
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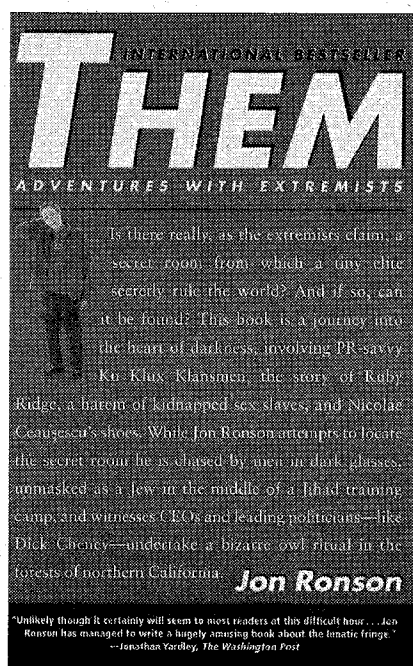
Eyeing the Flash: The Making of a Carnival Con Artist by Peter Fenton

I didn't think of Long Island as being a particularly large breeding ground for rednecks until I went to the Bald Hill Carnival last month. I enjoyed the "big top" circus with a 1,000 pound pig, ten dressed poodles walking on their hind legs, and a clown named Potato. However, after reading Peter Fenton's freaky memoir, I developed a sense of sympathy for the midway workers. Fenton details his traumatic fall from a shy, athletic and intelligent high school kid to an outlandish and crass carnival con artist. You'll also learn why you just can't seem to get one stupid baseball in the stupid bucket.



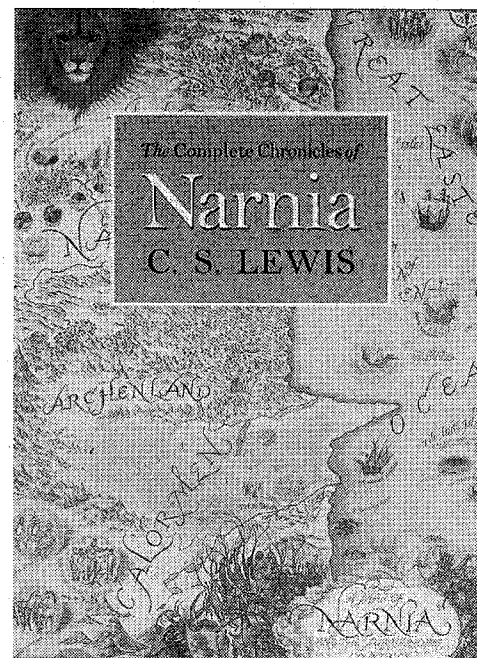
Them: Adventures with Extremists by Jon Ronson

Jon Ronson is a god in the world of journalism. In an age where news can be (and will be) misinterpreted and sensationalized, Ronson embeds himself in the lives of his subjects across the political spectrum with detailed and honest accuracy. Ronson spends his time explaining the conspiracy theories of a whole host of crazies. He becomes so dedicated to uncovering his story that he is even revealed to be a Jew at a militant Islamic terrorist training camp. If you've ever wondered in the recesses of your brain whether groups like the Bilderberg Group or New World Order really exist, then this book is worth your time.



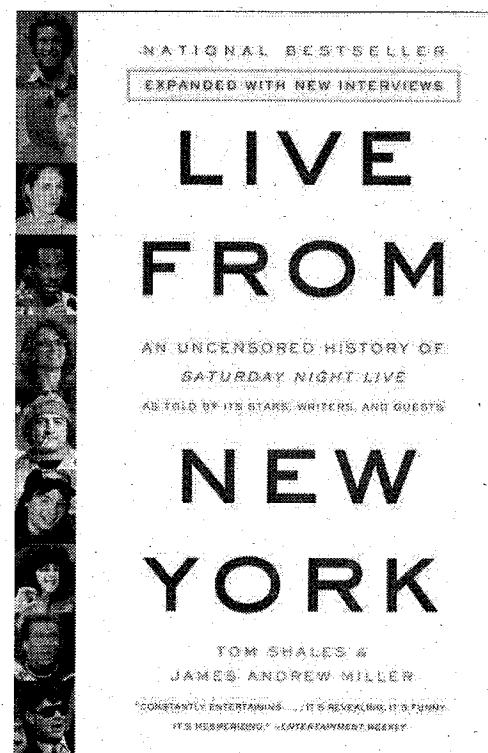
The Complete Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

This book is a must for any summer reading list for all ages. You might think that this is a quick read, but be prepared to spend the next few weeks reliving your childhood. This compilation creates a whole other world beyond the wardrobe. Plus, there's so much controversial symbolism mumbo-jumbo surrounding the book, making it one of the only children's books that you can read in public and still manage to look scholarly.



Live from New York: An Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live edited by Tom Shales and James A. Miller

Let's face it: "Saturday Night Live" has seen better days. Many are convinced that this is the beginning of a final decline. This compilation of interviews from the people who lived through the madness helps to explain why it's not dead yet and why it won't be for a while. It's like being a fly on the wall at some drunken SNL reunion party. Learn why everyone loves and respects Lorne Michaels and despises Chevy Chase, and why hosts Ben Stiller and Jerry Seinfeld are not favorites among the writers. Even though many of us were not around to see the show at its inception, you'll feel like you were after completing this long but satisfying journey.



Summer Reading

By Stephanie Hayes

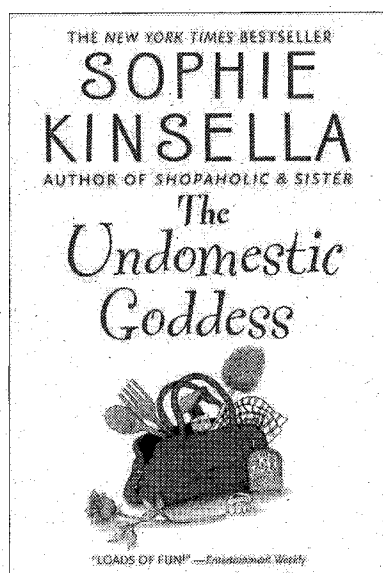
This is what I've been reading:

***The Undomestic Goddess* by Sophie Kinsella**

Although I've yet to read the rest of Kinsella's novels, including her highly successful *Shopaholic* series, I'll hazard a guess that they all have eerily similar plots (a young, professional woman ends up telling a bunch of white lies and those lies build up to something both comical and disastrous. In the end, the heroine emerges victorious and takes with her a heartwarming life lesson, possibly several). You'd think formulaic writing like this would be cheesy and dull but it actually works.

In this case, the story follows workaholic Samantha Sweeting. She's in her late twenties and has worked like a dog in hopes of making partner at London's most prestigious firm. Unfortunately, she loses her promotion because of a single error and in full freak-out mode, she flees to the countryside. Because of a mistake, Samantha is able to fib her way into a job as housekeeper. Nevermind that she has never cooked or cleaned; Samantha sees this job as an opportunity to hide from her botched career in London. And lucky for Samantha, her employers are Trish and Eddie Geiger, a nouveau riche couple who are dazzled by their new "cordon-blue" chef. The Geigers' lack of sophistication makes them easy to fool, certainly, but they are also ideal people for Samantha to surround herself with because they are considerate and well-meaning. At the Geigers', she finds aid in Nathaniel, the attractive gardener who provides her with constant support. Not surprisingly, Nathaniel steps in as Samantha's love interest.

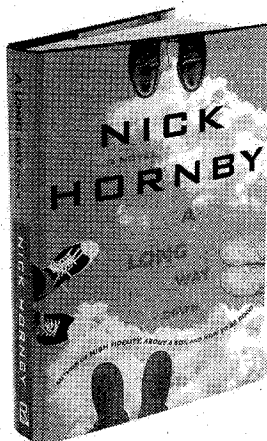
I hardly think I'm giving anything away when I say that Samantha finds herself a changed woman by the end of the book. Luckily, Kinsella knows she is not being judged for her predictable plots. Rather, she hooks readers with charming characters you wish you knew and ideals you've always felt to be true. You'll laugh at Samantha's outlandish lies and root for her as she tries to learn the finer points of laundry. Samantha is a flawed character who grows to discover that her life as a lawyer was not a fulfilling one. What makes *The Undomestic Goddess* such a page-turner are the ways in which Samantha blossoms into her new life and attitude. Ah, the warm, gooey goodness of chick-lit.



***A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby**

If you like Nick Hornby, there's a good chance it's more like love and you've already read this. If you haven't read a single Hornby book, you should probably start with *High Fidelity* or *About a Boy* (*How to be Good* is... good but the other two are better). That being said, I love Nick Hornby and was therefore inclined to enjoy his fourth novel *A Long Way Down*.

It's New Year's Eve and four people find themselves on the top of a building, all ready to jump, or so they think. There's Martin who was once the co-host for a morning talk show, Maureen whose livelihood is stifled by the constant care she must give her disabled son, Jess, a frustrated and emotional teenager, and JJ, an American and failed musician who delivers pizza. They meet on the roof where they exhibit nothing but disdain for one another, yet somehow they talk themselves downstairs and form a sort of motley support group. The four main characters take turns narrating the book, making them each more reliable than they would have been through outward actions alone and exposes them as somewhat vulnerable. Hornby has a way of mixing seemingly cheerless things (in this case, suicidal depression), with humor without cheapening the whole plot. Martin, Maureen, JJ and Jess end up flying off on vacation together but their conflicts seem so ordinary and relatable that the book never seems false. The reader is able to chuckle at the zaniness of these characters and learn what it is that causes unhappy people to jump, or come down.



Books I Might Read/Finish Eventually:

***Utterly Monkey* by Nick Laird:** Protagonist Danny Williams has left behind his past in Belfast but then a high school friend comes and shakes things up.

***Gemma Boverly* by Posy Simmonds:** A contemporary spin on Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* put in graphic novel form.

***The Coma* by Alex Garland:** A man is recovering from an attack in the subway. The novel jumps around the timeline of his life and things are pieced together.

***The Curse of Lono* by Hunter S. Thompson:** A journalist sets out to retrace the steps of Captain James Cook, a guy who was beaten and eaten over 200 years ago. The illustrations look pretty badass.

***The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard:** Another play about complicated relationships but everything Tom Stoppard does is brilliant.

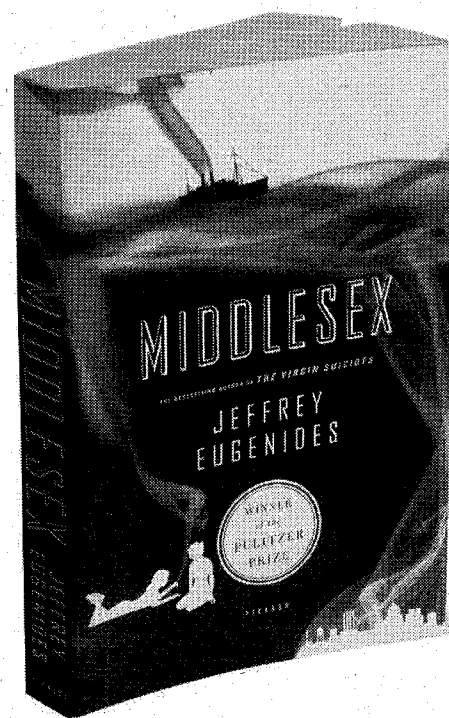
***Hewigan's Haircut* by Jamie Hewlett:** To be perfectly honest, I don't know what this is about and I really don't care. I just know that it's illustrated by Jamie Hewlett (Tank Girl, Gorillaz) and it's really colorful.

***Finnegans Wake* by James Joyce:** Joyce's famous experimental novel. Just not today or tomorrow or ya know, anytime in the near future.

***Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides**

Despite its heavy subject matter, Eugenides' lauded debut novel *The Virgin Suicides* ended up being choice summer reading a couple years ago. I assumed his sophomore effort *Middlesex* would also work well with hot, sunny afternoons. Boy was I mistaken. I don't know if it was the well-expressed insecurities of the narrator or the descriptions of inner city Detroit but this is definitely a story suited to dreary skies and cold weather. Eugenides' writing forced me to think about more serious issues and worry about deeper things (compared to, let's say, Sophie Kinsella). However a great book is a great book, whether it would have been better in late autumn or not. And considering that not everyone has my philosophy on the "right" time to read certain books, I figured this was worth a brief review.

Middlesex is the story of a hermaphrodite named Carl, who was born and raised as "Calliope" by unknowing parents. Carl turns out to be a fantastic narrator who, even if the first fifty pages drag, you become unbelievably attached to. To tell his story, Carl backtracks to Turkey, tracing the family journey of this mutant gene. It begins with his grandparents, who had a very close relationship (wink wink), and moves on to his parents, also too genetically close for comfort. And while I would have liked to shake my head and write these people off as... whatever the Eastern European equivalent is for American rednecks, I found their perspectives were so complete and convincing that to judge them seemed wholly unkind. Instead of the awkward adolescence most people face, Calliope has a terrifying high school experience as a towering, graceless teenager, well aware that she stands apart from other girls. Even if you can't relate to Calliope/Carl's predicament of being born with two sets of genitalia, you feel how painful it is for this character to never fit in; you grasp how weighted down he is by isolation, even if his tone seems a bit removed. The difficulties faced by family and gender roles, the constant fear of forming any sort of lasting relationship--these are things that Jeffrey Eugenides weaves into his story. And luckily, his writing style is so smart and polished that he avoids being melodramatic. So yeah, *Middlesex* is more complex than I'm capable of putting into words.





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