

SPECIAL APRIL FOOL'S EDITION

The Stony Brook

"Let Each Become Aware"
Founded 1957, Incorporated 1976

Stateswoman

Circulated to over 100 off-campus locations
Weekly readership estimated at 30,000.

VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 18

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY



Jokes,
Pranks
and
Stupid
Gags

*Rosie Presents Statesman's
Annual April Fool's Issue*

The Origin of April Fool's

In 16th-century France, April 1 was celebrated as the start of the new year. But in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world and the new year then fell on Jan. 1.

Legend has it that some people refused to believe the date change and continued celebrating New Year's Day on April 1.

Five hundred years later, rubber chickens are selling like hot cakes in their honor.

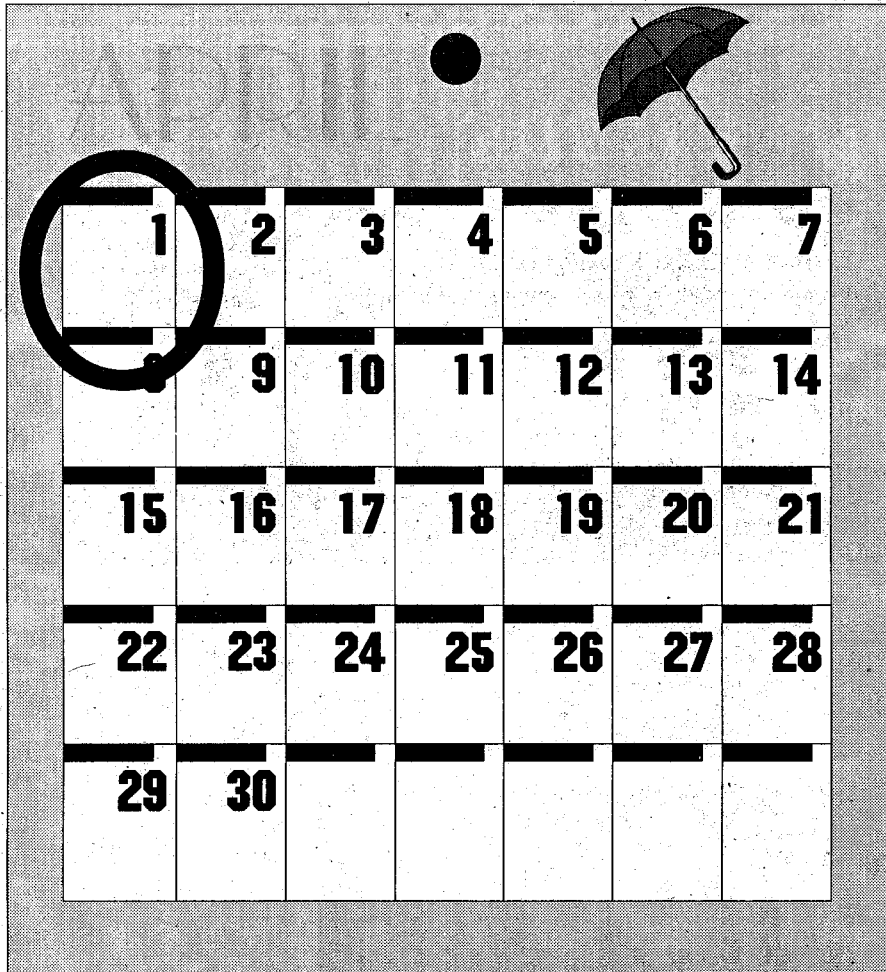
"The people who continued celebrating on the first of April were called April fools and ridiculed by being sent foolish gifts and invitations to nonexistent parties," explains Dr. Judy Byers, director of the West Virginia Folk Life Center at Fairmont State College. "Others played tricks on them or sent them on a 'fool's errand' or tried to make them believe that something false was true," she says.

The celebration of pranks and pranksters continues today partly because people still like a good laugh and partly, Byers says, because they can get away with it.

"It's only on this one day of the year we can try to fool someone or lie to someone and nobody will really get mad.

"We love jokes, we love word play, we love to tease other people. It's just in our psyche. And it seems to be cross-cultural. Many countries have various celebrations," she says.

In France, April 1 is called "Poisson d'Avril," (April Fish). On that day, French children fool their friends by taping a paper maché fish or drawing of a fish to their friends' backs.



When the youngster discovers this trick, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!"

"That tradition came from the fact that if you are fooled, you are hooked - hooked like a fish," Byers says, adding that the French are probably the most involved in celebrating the day.

In Scotland, April Fool's Day is called "April Gawk," and the butt of a prank on that day is called a "gawk." In Germany and Norway, it's not only celebrated on the first day of April, but also on the last day,

as well.

"All Fool's Day is celebrated on Dec. 28 in Mexico and centers around the borrowing of objects," Byers says. "If anyone is foolish enough to lend their items, then those things borrowed on that day are not returned."

The general consensus, though, is that no matter where or when it is celebrated, April Fool's Day always involves pranks, which range from the old standards - putting salt in the sugar bowl, telling people they have a hole in their clothes or food on

their face, making fake phone calls - to the more ingenious and creative.

"We have been selling rubber chickens like crazy," says Monica Lowery, assistant manager at Spencer Gifts in Meadowbrook Mall, Bridgeport. "But I'm not sure exactly what everyone is doing with them. I think I don't want to know."

Lowery says that the most popular April Fool's prank gift this year is a fake lottery ticket.

"You scratch off the front and it says you've won \$10,000. But when you look at the back to see where to redeem it, it says something like 'Gotcha,' or 'Sorry, this isn't real.'"

Another popular item, she says, are fortune cookies with unfortunate fortunes in them.

"April Fool's Day is fun and it gives everybody a chance to play tricks on everybody else," said Lowery.

But Byers believes the celebration goes a bit deeper.

"The more we study folklore, the more we begin to see that we really have very few differences worldwide. Folklore helps us understand people in their own context. We learn that everyone enjoys a practical joke."

Everyone?

"Yes, even me. I love to pull them on people. When my mother was alive, we would always see who would get the other one first. I love to tease my daughter and my husband, too.

"And many times I've walked into my classroom and told the students to take out a pen and piece of paper because we were going to have a test. Then I'd turn around and yell, 'April Fool's Day.'

I loved seeing the looks on their faces. That never gets old," Byers says.

AP

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 3, 2000



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**A Thought
From
Rabbi Adam**



The Jewish month in which Passover falls is Nissan, known as the month of redemption, for the Sages have said that, "[Since] it was in Nissan that we were redeemed, [therefore] it will be in Nissan that we will be redeemed." That since G-d led the nation of Israel from their bondage in Egypt during the month of Nissan, this month is an especially auspicious time for the Jewish people and the entire world to merit redemption-freedom from "bondage". The bondage of the nation of Israel was by way of being enslaved to an Egyptian king who was a self-proclaimed god. The ancient Jews were forced to feed this Pharaoh's ego by building pyramids as a testimony to his false divinity. The world's current "bondage" is similar. Everyone seems to be ruled by some sort of self-proclaimed righteousness. And from the force of self-justification, we are bound to build lives that stand as a testimony to our own subjectivity. To our own falsehoods. To our own Pharaoh. This bondage has been the root of all war, hate and conflict. Through redemption we are freed from all this. With redemption we are released from our skewed assessments of right and wrong. Assessments that are always tainted by our own self-interests. With redemption we come to a realization of truth. Absolute truth. This is true freedom. For it means a world free from war, hate and conflict-a world of peace and love. A world free from selfish egos-a world of unity. A world free from ourselves-a world of G-d.

Readers Tell Us About Their Best April Fool's Pranks

What was the worst April Fool's Day prank you've ever played?

"This year, I kidnapped my friend Hari's most beloved scarf, and I've taken 10 pictures of myself abusing it. So, over the next ten days, I'm going to write him little ransom notes and some dumb stuff like that. Kind of an extended prank."

-Adam

"In high school, I jammed my friend's locker full of cucumbers, which is more of an inside joke."

-Davis

"I used to work in an office. My friends and I hated this one guy there, he was really mean, so we glued down all the stuff on his desk. He couldn't lift anything off it!"

-Harriet

"I put some herbal Riccola into my friends coffee and gave him diarrhea."

-Anthony

"The night of my friends bachelor party, also the night before his wedding, we got him drunk, bought him a one way ticket to Florida and sent him on a plane. His fiancee had to pay to get him back on time."

-Tad

"I put Saran Wrap on our toilet at home. It was a prank I did every year, though, so it didn't work after awhile. But I think it's funny."

-Julie

"In class one April Fool's Day, we turned the professors desk around and all the students' desks too. The professor wasn't very happy when he came in and we were all facing the wrong way."

-Thomas

"One time when I was five I went with my mother to one of her AA meetings. I poked holes in the bottom of one of the styrofoam cups and then put it back in the sleeve. Then some woman poured her coffee into the cup and it spilled all over her open toed shoes."

-James

"When I was in high school in El Salvador, me and some classmates put sugar in the gas tank of a professor's motorcycle. It blue up and he had to go to the hospital."

-Rafael

"When my dad was in the military in Spain, a new guy came to his encampment. The guys that were already there wanted to play a joke so my dad used beer caps to look like military pins and he gave the new guy a broom and told him to sweep the mountain they were camped on. The

guy did it through the night and in the morning, they found out that he had been attacked by a wild boar. My dad spent three months in prison for it."

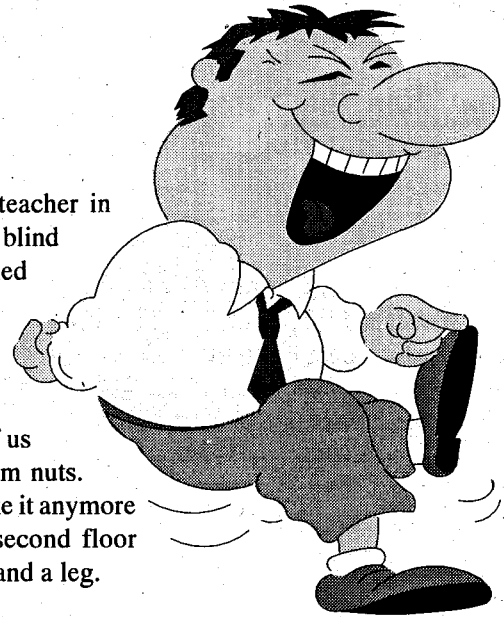
-Enrique

"I was on the kickboxing team in my high school and there was a new guy who joined the team. After practice one day we were all in the showers and the new guy was leaning against the wall. One of my friends came up behind him and sprayed deodorant on his crotch. He had to go to the hospital because it was all swollen, purple and burned."

-Enrique

"We had a really old teacher in high school who was almost blind and every day when he called out the names for the roll, we would repeat the names like there was an echo in the room. The guy couldn't see so he didn't know which of us did it but it really drove him nuts. One day he just couldn't take it anymore so he jumped out of the second floor window and broke an arm and a leg."

-Enrique



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Stony Brook's Hidden

Although the University at Stony Brook recognizes its many talented artists and writers, we at the Statesman have found that one forum for artistic expression at the University has gone unnoticed - the desks in the Melville Library.

Etched into the many desks at the library are poetry, lyrics, short stories and words of wisdom from Stony Brook students who decided to make their mark at the University in a more subtle manner. This article will be a tribute to the efforts of those nameless students who found a voice while studying in the library.

"I've got no feelings
for anybody else
I'm in love with myself.
My beautiful self."

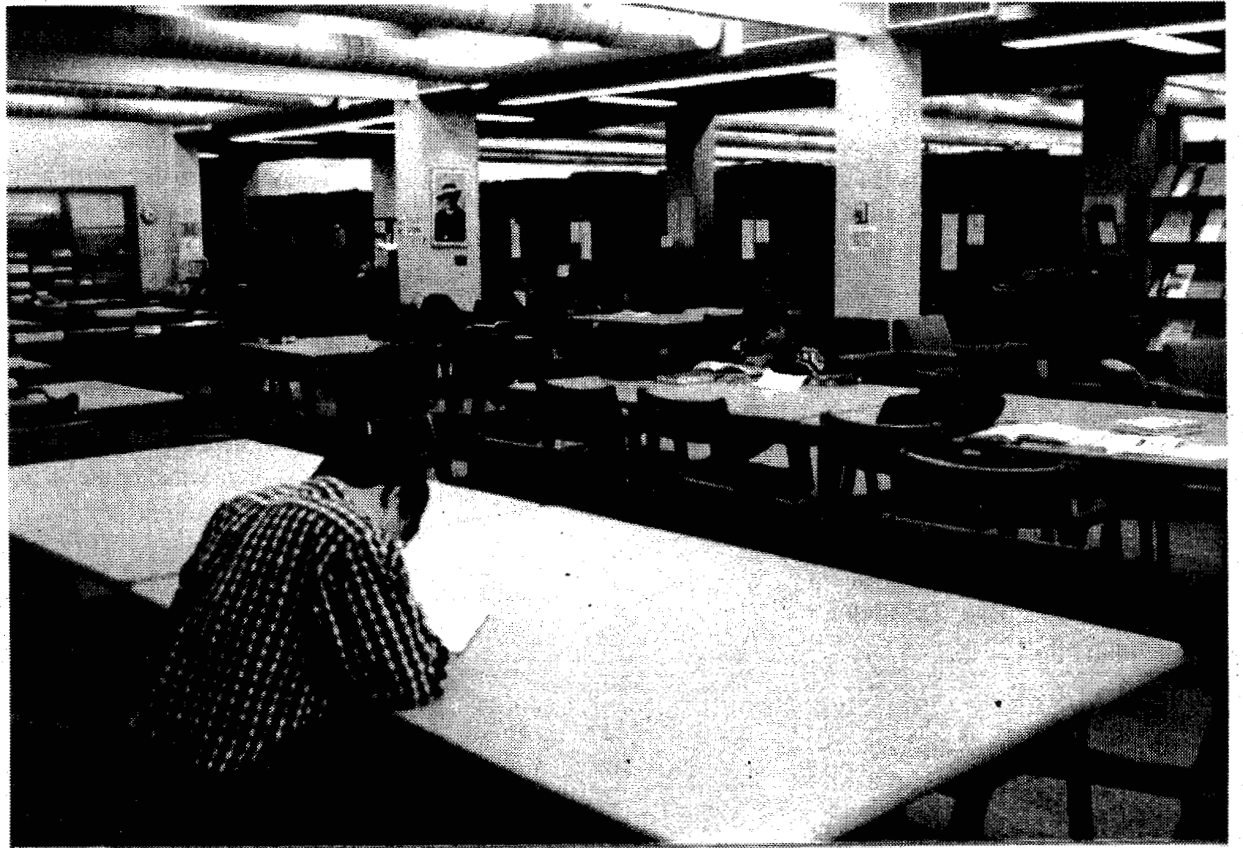
"I am the light of the world. Lucifer?" -Jesus Christ

"Everyone is bisexual."

"Gay is the way."

"Life is like a d---
But most people don't know it.
Most people suck
So they usually blow it." -BHG

"My mind is restless
No dreams in sight.
Sounds have no begining or ends



Are these students studying at the desks or vandalizing them?

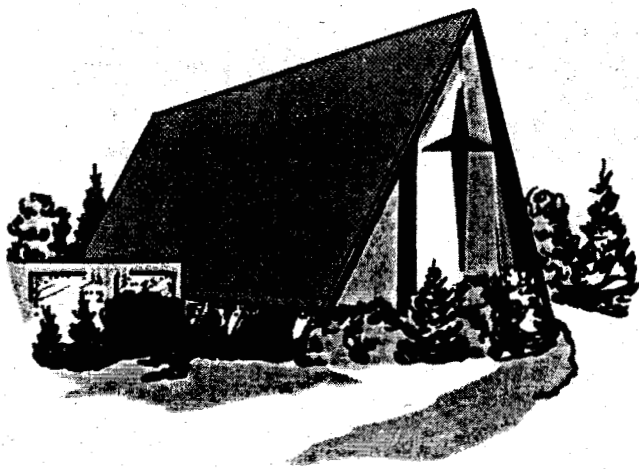
Statesman Archives

that glow is a light!
Walls turn into waterfalls
The thought made is thought upon
It says, "It's ok to tie the glass,

to smile alone or shed a tear."

"I like pizza."

"All of you are sick people."



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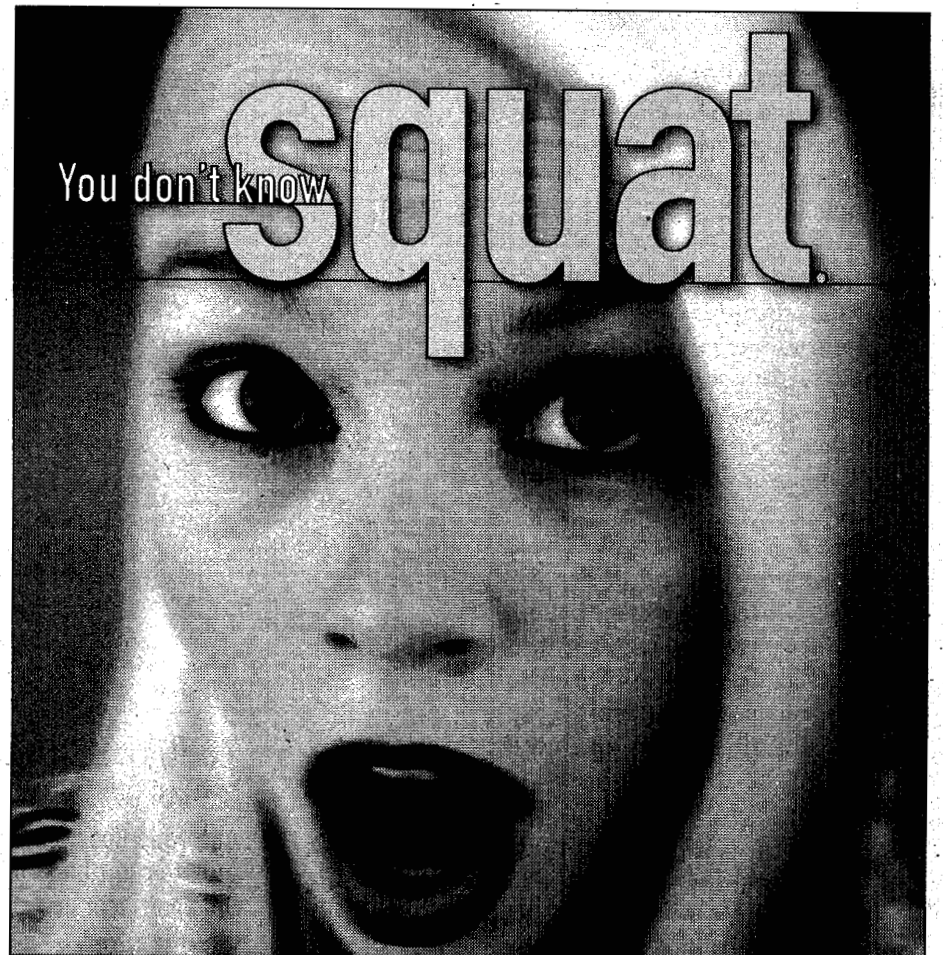
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Prose and Poetry

"This school sucks. A bunch of stupid jocks with their flaky women running around like fools. Long Island is officially the worst and most boring town on earth. Stony Brook can go to hell!!!"

"Long Island is not a town. Go back to the ghetto."

"Chachi lives!"

"Why not me? Why me?"

"I like men and I'm a man. Come out!"

"1/26/00. I was finally able to kiss a really fantastic lady. Her name is Smoothie Bootie. From Fuzzy Wuzzy."

"STD's are no joke."

"I hate this library."

"Study and luck. Key to success."

"I love me. It's great, I never have trouble talking to myself or

sharing my feelings, and I can have sex with myself whenever I want. And best of all, nobody throws out my old socks."

"Oh, so this is what college is about. An intelligent exchange of ideas."

"This school really sucks. People are dying to leave, literally."

"Tears for Fears rocks."

"Ich habe Heine Lust zu Lernen"

"Stony Brook will never understand your sadness."

"Let's talk about sex, baby! Depends on your looks and it looks like your a guy from your writing so forget it."

"The Beast was her '98!"

"Gary-n-Lisa 11-22-86"

"God is good all the time and all the time God is good."

"I love USB students."

"May you all drown in the spit of a

thousand camels, someone please paint this wall.

-Who are you to judge people-God?
-Who are you to insult camels?"

"If I really like a girl when I have sex with her I'll donkey punch her!"

"Please don't write personal opinions on walls.
-Isn't this your personal opinion, butthead?"

"I can do this."

"Stop vandalizing USB property.
-Everyone else is doing it, why don't you?"

"The funny part about this is no matter what I write on this wall, someone will comment on it.
-So stop writing.
-Exactly."

Note to Readers:
All of the advertisements in this issue are real.
- Statesman Editorial Board

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The Stony Brook Statesman, which serves SUNY Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication produced twice-weekly during the academic year and bimonthly during the summer.

First copy is free. Each additional copy is 25 cents. For advertising information, call us at 632-6480 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members.

The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus. Write to:

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The Stony Brook Statesman has been a member of the Associated Collegiate Press since 1994.



Editorials

Wacko Jacko Visits Stony Brook Campus

Wacky Michael Jackson paid a visit to the Stony Brook campus for a panel discussion this past week to discuss his latest plastic surgery, which was performed at University Hospital.

Jackson, known throughout the world for his odd behavior and romps with young boys, went through a radical operation to have his nose removed. The singer claimed to find the smell of his animals in his Neverland Ranch unbearable.

But in spite of the landmark visit by a world renowned celebrity, students at USB were not notified by the event. Students, as well as faculty and staff, began to grow suspicious that something big was going on when helicopters were seen circling overhead and cars were searched as they came onto campus.

When asked why students were not notified of the visit, USB director of media relations told the students to *Beat It* and that the whole event was to be kept *In the Closet*. The director then asked the students if they thought they were *Bad*. A scuffle ensued and President Kenny was injured. She requested to be sent to any hospital other than University Hospital.

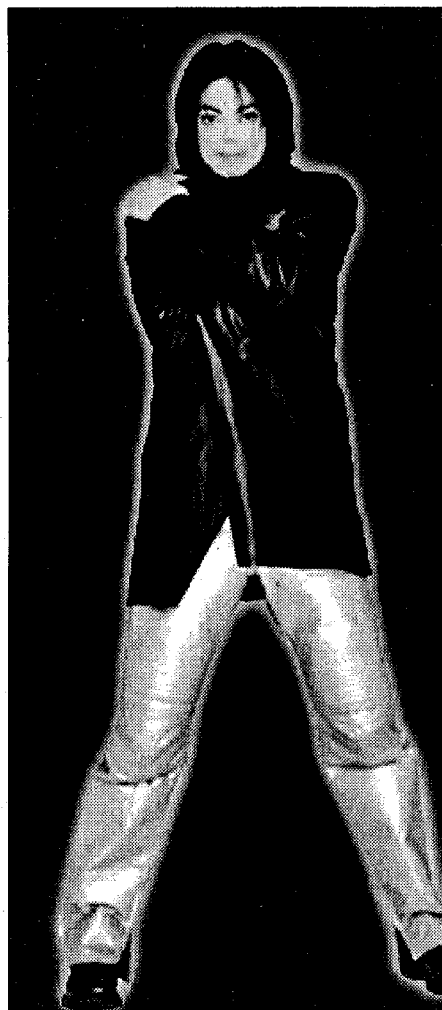
In the panel discussion, Jackson said he was pleased with the outcome of the operation but he admitted to being a bit frightened by the *Man in the Mirror*. But he admitted to the crowd that both his monkey Bubbles and best friends Emmanuel Lewis of Webster fame, and Gary Coleman from *Different Strokes* said he looked like a creature out of *Thriller* with just two holes where his nose used to be.

A woman in the crowd named *Billie Jean* asked the superstar why he continuously undergoes surgery to alter his appearance. Jackson explained that it has been a



Michael Jackson

Courtesy of Michael Jackson's Webpage



Courtesy of Michael Jackson's Webpage.

life long dream to look like his idol Elizabeth Taylor. He asked the audience to recall her younger days. "Do you *Remember the Time* she played in that movie 'Father of the Bride'?" he asked. "That is what I want to look like."

He also added that he couldn't decide if he wanted to look *Black or White*.

Jackson praised the care he received from the Hospital staff, explaining that he was planning on returning for more of the surgical knife because he said that you *Can't Stop Till You Get Enough* when it comes to plastic surgery. However, he was little nervous about the Hospital's policy on cleanliness.

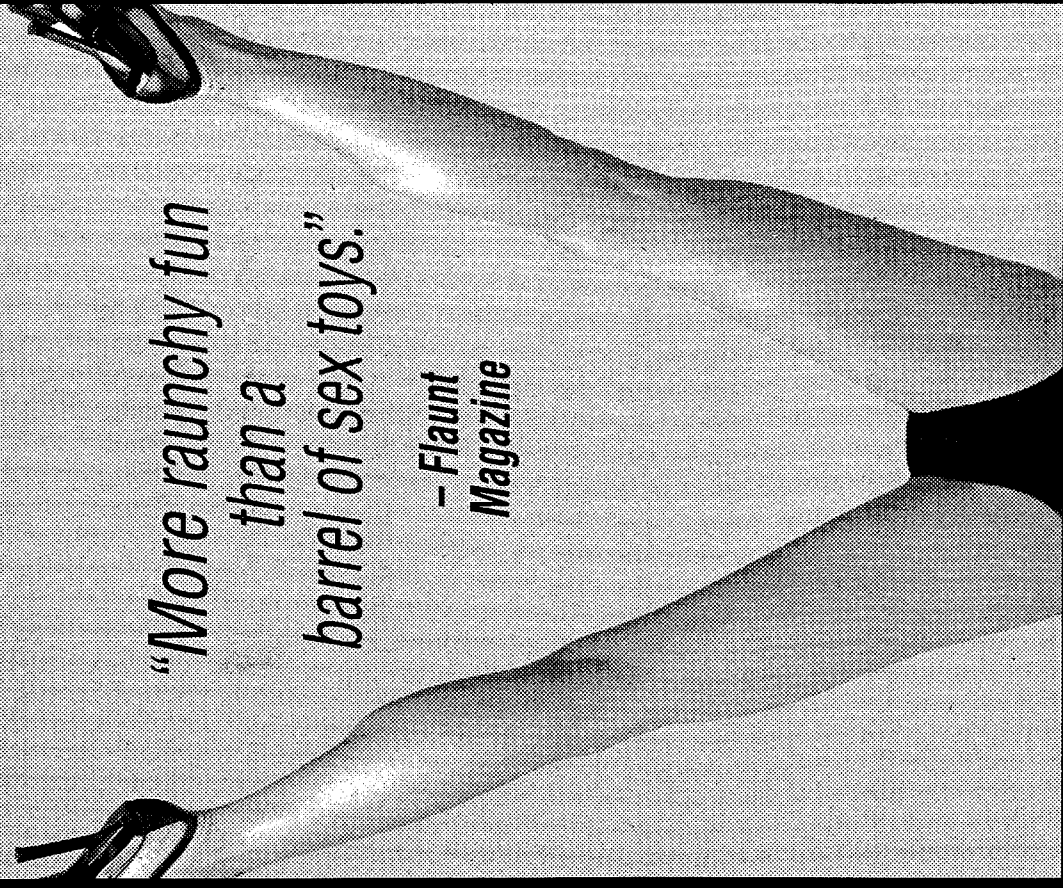
Apparently the doctor that performed the surgery only wore one glove.

After the event, Jackson was whisked away in a waiting limousine. He had to rush from the discussion to be one of the attractions at I-CON 19.

www.whipped.com

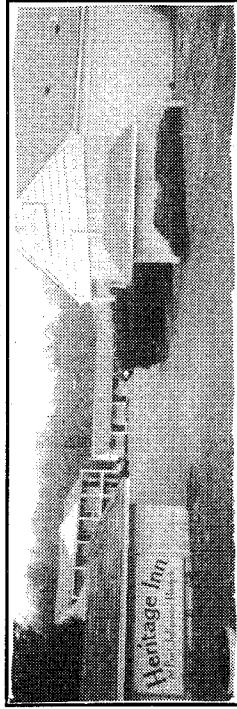
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- *Flaunt*
Magazine



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(Signed) Marcus Pomperinck

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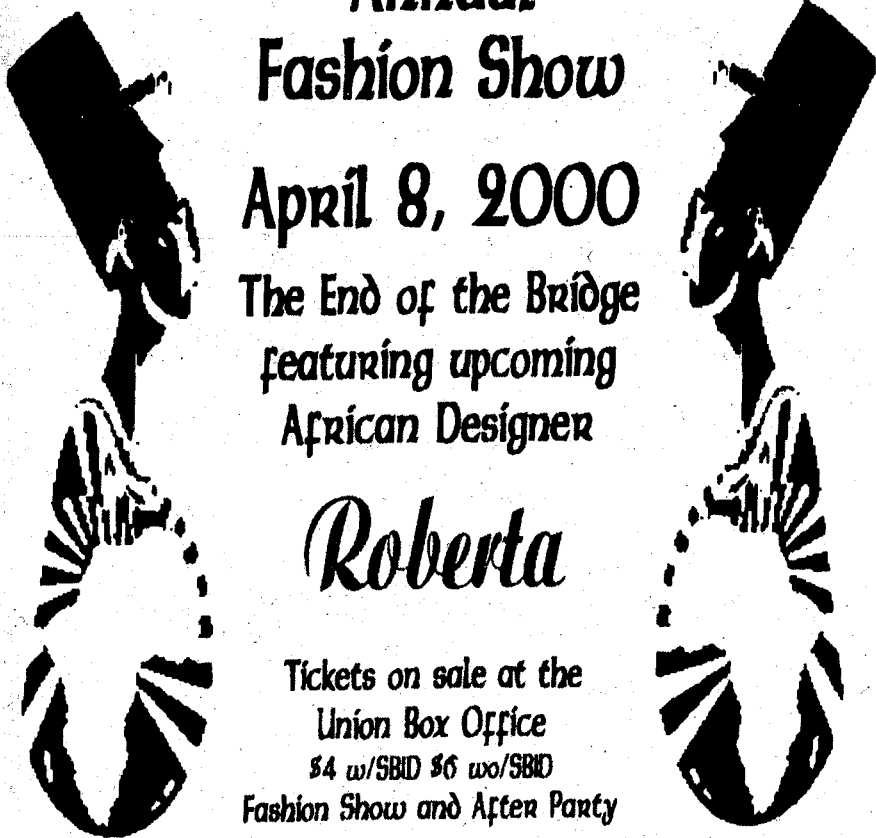
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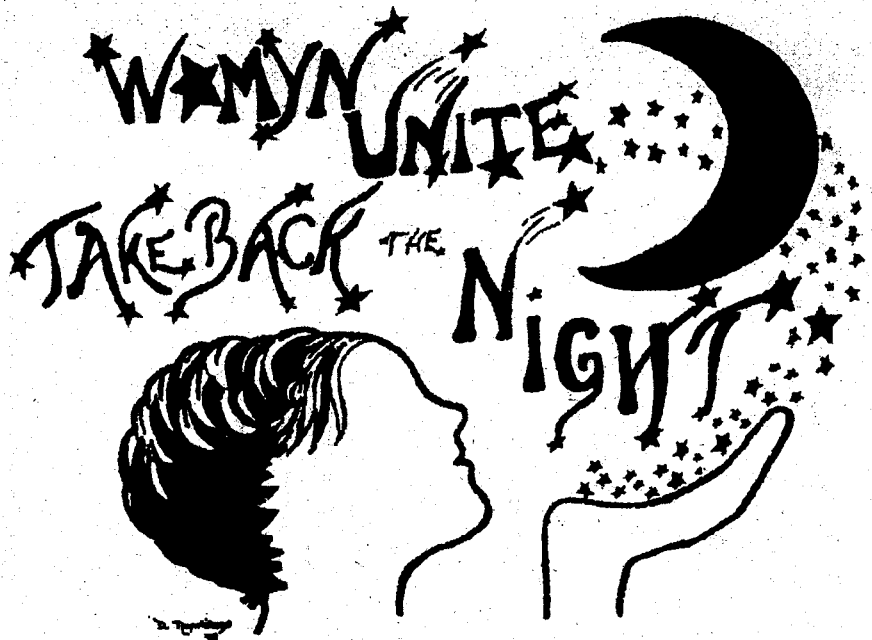
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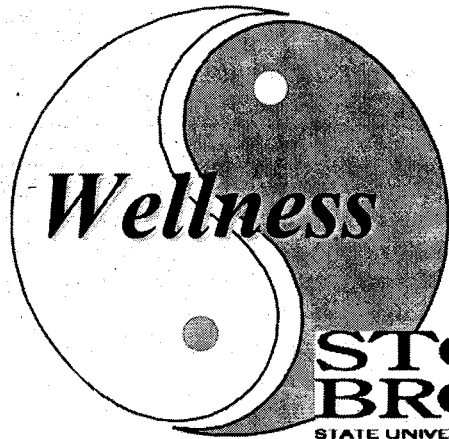
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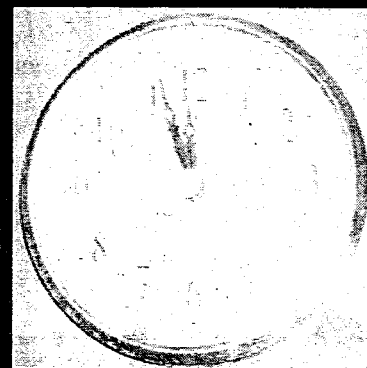
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April 3, 2000

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 3, 2000

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Letters to a John

Two undercover policewomen running a prostitution sting in Dothan, Ala., in October, declined to arrest a pickup-truck-driving john, around age 70, despite his three attempts to procure their services. He first offered to give the women the three squirrels he had just shot, but they ignored him (too much trouble to store the evidence). A few minutes later, he added to the offer the used refrigerator in his truck, but the officers again declined (same reason). On the third trip, he finally offered cash: \$6, but without the squirrels and refrigerator. The officers again declined but said they resolved to arrest him if he returned, but he did not.

Bomb Squad Follies

In November, a patrol officer in San Antonio confiscated two live bombs and nonchalantly took them across town in his squad car to the drug property room, having mistakenly identified them as

elaborate marijuana bong. Two weeks later, police in Cedar Park (near Austin), responding to a check-cashing store's report of a "pipe bomb," sent only an animal control officer to the scene because the 911 operator had instead understood "python."

Flying Trees

A man in Pittsburgh, Pa. who waited too long to dispose of his Christmas tree decided to toss it out the window of his sixth floor apartment. On its trip to the ground, the tree hit a power line and knocked out service to over 400 customers. He was charged with criminal mischief.

Forgot the Big Gulp?

In Fort Collins, Co., a man was arrested after robbing the same 7-Eleven twice in one day. After his second robbery, he told the cashier he would return to the store later on to rob it again. Several hours later, he ran back into the store for a third



courtesy of copcareers.com

time, where police detectives who were still investigating the second robbery arrested him.

Calling All Idiots

In Rotterdam, Holland, two men broke into a large sports arena. Police officers spotted the two prowling around after hearing the sound of breaking glass. One suspect attempted to run away, and several officers ran after him. The other man hid in the restroom, unseen by the other officers. As the police were checking the area, they heard the a cell phone go off. The first suspect had called his friend to see if he was okay.

Drag Yourself to Court

Joshua Marete Mutuma, 32, was arrested in Modesto, Calif., on suspicion of impersonating his wife.

Mutuma's wife had a restraining order against him, and Mutuma arrived at the courthouse dressed as a woman with a long black wig and 5 o'clock shadow, attempting to have the order dismissed, and responding to the clerk's questions in falsetto.

Wake Up and Eat the Donuts

Little Rock, Ark., police officer Carlton Dickerson's 57-day suspension for sleeping on the job was upheld by a city commission in October despite his claim of the disability of sleep apnea. In his four years on the force, he has been caught asleep six times and has wrecked five patrol cars. Dickerson once denied to internal affairs investigators that he was asleep even after two fellow officers said they needed to rap on his desk for 15 minutes to wake him.

Courtesy of hecklers.com,
and twistedhumor.com



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