



The Patriot

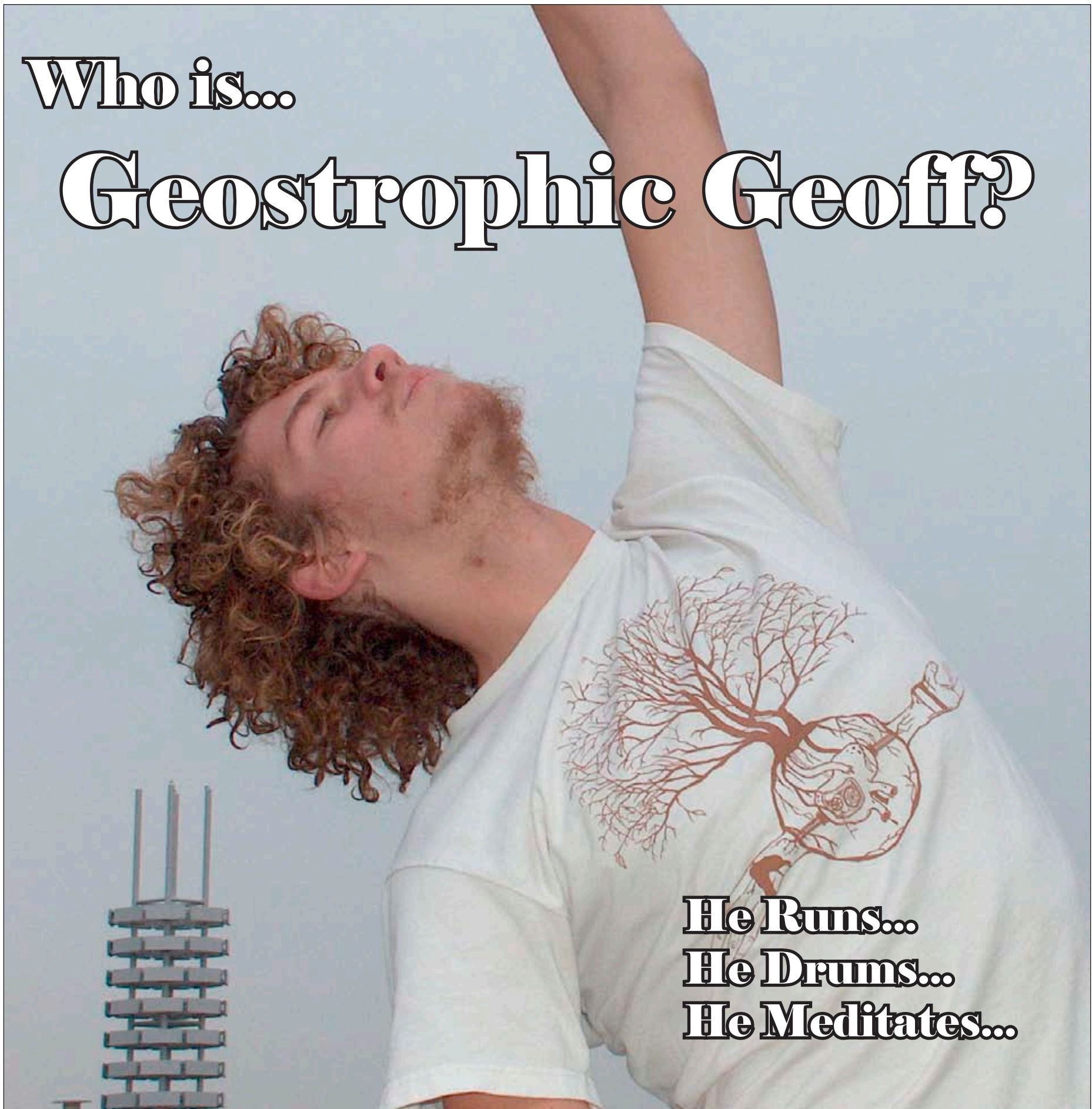
Vol. 2 Issue 3

December 2005

Monthly

Who is...

Geostrophic Geoff?



He Runs...
He Drums...
He Meditates...

Now it Can be Told

By Erik Berte and Brian Holt

At Stony Brook University, squirreled away outside his dorm in the Roosevelt Quad,

Geostrophic Geoff closes his eyes, takes a deep breath, exhales and moves into a Sun Salute. It was a Thursday evening. Earlier, he'd been gaining knowledge into further techniques at a meditation workshop at the Wang Center.

Some college students feel as if they have all the time in the world, but not Geoff. His tight schedule doesn't often permit him much free time, but for tonight it did. So he

ended up here, talking about himself to The Patriot.

He smiled his slightly fractured, slightly vulnerable smile and said that he was really looking forward to the next time he could return to St. Petersburg, Russia. Last summer, he had studied there and discovered something we could all use: growth. But he's not looking for the kind of growth one would seek in a stock portfolio; he's looking for personal

growth.

He wasn't always as curious or as open with others as he is today. Not so very long ago, the idea of the Geostrophic Geoff we know wasn't even a thought in his head. Back in high school, Geoff described himself as very introverted. It was college that turned

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Eminent Domain Battles



Referenda shot down by NY District Court.

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WTF?! Picture

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Sexist Speaker comes to Stony Brook - big surprise, right?

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New! local happy hour listings

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By Rachel O'Brien

There has been a lot of media coverage lately of eminent domain cases, in New York and outside of New York. Most up-to-date Stony Brook students would know that just a month ago, Stony Brook gained ownership of Gyrodyne's Flowerfield site for the purpose of building a 100,000 square-foot building for a Center for Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT).

The Flowerfield site runs alongside the university campus (on the other side of Stony Brook Road) and is a convenient area in which a building such as CEWIT could be built.

The university had been negotiating with Gyrodyne for some time over the price at which to buy Flowerfield. Gyrodyne, a company which designed, tested, developed and produced coaxial helicopters primarily for the use of the U.S. Navy up until 1975, was looking to sell the land and wanted approximately \$100 million for the 314 acres site. Stony Brook presented Gyrodyne with a \$26.3 million offer in August, a figure which Gyrodyne did not accept.

"It was far below what the land is worth," said Stephen Marony, President and Chief Executive of Gyrodyne in a phone interview.

The university and Gyrodyne are now waiting for a court date in the New York State Court of Claims, where a price for the land will be determined.

Through the power of eminent domain, the government can seize private property

and give it to another owner, whether private or public, for public use. The term "public use" or "public benefit" is where the heart of the battle over eminent domain cases lay.

When eminent domain was established, it was for the purpose of obtaining land from a private owner for the purpose of constructing a project that would benefit the greater

resident of New London, Connecticut, where she bought the house of her dreams, a pink cottage located in a cozy neighborhood. Just over a year ago, the New London Development Corp., a privately-owned business, won the support of the U.S. Supreme Court to seize the land and house of Kelo and 14 other families for the purpose of building a new housing community.

However unfair this may seem to a private individual owning a piece of land and a house, it is nevertheless legal.

"The issue in the New London case was when you transfer a title to another private person, does it constitute a public benefit?" said Assemblyman Richard Brodsky in a phone interview. "This is up to the local legislative body and it could be very unfair to a lot of average people."

As Brodsky explained, it is not the fact that the organization seizing the land is private but that the project they are seizing the land for doesn't seem like it is fulfilling the "public use" requirement. This is the dangerous precedent that

has been set with eminent domain decisions where "public use" or "public benefit" can be met without actually being used by the public.

Currently there are many elected officials who are introducing legislation and raising awareness for this law that seemingly violates a person's right to private property. A few of them in New York are Assemb. Richard Brodsky (D-Westchester), State Senator John Flanagan R, C-East Northport), Suffolk County, Legis. Allan Binder (R-Huntington) and State Senator Carl Marcellino (R-Syoset), to name just a few.



Photo Courtesy of James Davis

One of the many entrances to the Flowerfield site. This is the sign from the 25A entrance in Head of the Harbor.

public, such as a bridge, a highway, a railroad line, etc. Without the power of eminent domain, Sunrise Highway, the LIE, the Long Island Railroad and many other public facets of transportation would have been tremendously difficult to construct.

The use of eminent domain has changed over the years and there are now cases upon cases where private property is being taken from private citizens and given to other private citizens, all in the name of a quasi "public use" rationale.

One of these cases is the now-famous Kelo vs. New London. Susette Kelo was a

Stony Brook's Feelings on The Pledge

By Andrew Curran

For over a hundred years, Americans have been reciting different forms of the 'Pledge of Allegiance.' In 1954 the Knights of Columbus headed a campaign to put the phrase "Under God" in the pledge and since then it is a public prayer. Now there is a great debate about whether the word "God" should be in the pledge at all.

I conducted a random poll on campus of 51 people walking in and out of the library to see what side of the debate Stony Brook students are on. Participants were asked, "Do

you think the phrase 'under God' should be in or out of the "Pledge of Allegiance?" The results are as follows: 52.9% of students polled wanted to keep the phrase in, 31.4% wanted it out, and 15.7% had no opinion.

Debate on this issue led to a flood of legal cases with some being brought before the Supreme Court. Supporters of "under God" say it is about standing up for more than just words but about the principles this country fought for throughout history. When commenting on a recent court decision pertaining to the matter, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales stated that, "For more than two

hundred years, many of our expressions of national identity and patriotism have referenced God." In contrast, oppositionists to the "Under God" phrase say that by having the phrase in the pledge, it is excluding some Americans from the flag and that it violates the constitution in failing to separate church and State.

Judging by the large number of people in this country who believe in some form of a higher being and the determination of people who oppose decisions in the court system concerning this issue, the debate is not likely to go away for a long time.

For the last 200 years, this country has stood for truth, justice, natural rights, individual liberty, freedom, and independence. Become a part of the tradition. Contribute to *The Patriot*.

Please send submissions to:
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Visit us online at: www.stonybrookpatriot.com

A paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:
<http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/efa/>

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the opinions columns are not necessarily the opinions of *The Patriot* or its editorial staff.

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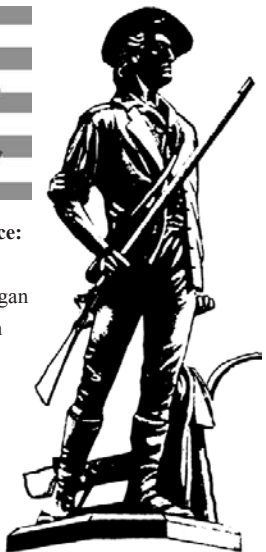
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Press Porno Controversy

By Erica Smith

She wore her short red-tinted hair in pigtails. Bright eyes jumped out from the shadows of a boyish tweed cap. A hint of freckles were across her face.

It was easy to forget that this disarming woman was Amberly Jane Timperio, The Stony Brook Press writer whose famed sexual advice column routinely includes summaries of her wild sexual adventures, lusty fantasies, and light drug use.

Last month, Timperio was involved in a small campus controversy when a pornographic picture of a naked heterosexual couple engaging in intercourse accompanied her column, "Ask Amberly Jane." Timperio selected the photo to be the first of a series entitled "position of the week."

"I wanted to put something that might cause a stir," said Timperio, 28, adding that she thought her readers would enjoy it.

Rob Pearsall, The Press's Editor-in-Chief, said he was not nervous about printing the pornography. The Press had already printed "all the parts" of the human body, "now they're all in just the same spot," he said.

Initially, it did not seem like any of The Press's staff opposed printing the porn, Pearsall said. If there was a disagreement, The Press's executive board would have decided on the issue. After the issue was published, however, Press writer Jorge Sierra resigned because of the pornography, Pearsall said. Sierra declined to comment.

The first day The Press issue was released, the newspaper was contacted by Student Media Advisor, Norman Prusslin, who said that some people had complained about the porn. He advised that the Press limit distribution to keep the issue away from minors.

Pearsall and Timperio said that no one complained to The Press directly. USG President Diana Acosta said a complaint was given by one of the university administrators. In a telephone interview, Prusslin refused to elaborate on where the complaints came from.

Pearsall stopped the distribution to the Staller Center, Sports Complex, Wang Center, Social and Behavioral Science building, as well as to off-campus locations. Warning signs were also placed on some of the newsstands.

Timperio agreed with the decision. "I don't want to warp some little 10-year old girl who's coming in for ballet."

After limiting distribution, Pearsall said he learned that both the University attorney and the Undergraduate Student Government attorney advised USG to retract the pornography issue.

Pearsall refused, calling it "blatant censorship."

At Prusslin's request, Pearsall called the Student Press Law Center, located in Virginia.

According to a telephone interview with the Law Center's New Media Legal Fellow Adam Goldstein, a newspaper that is funded by a public university cannot be prevented from printing pornography, because they are protected by the same first

amendment rights as privately owned media organizations. In addition, after a public university funds a media organization, they cannot withdraw or limit funding because of its content.

The Law Center's Executive Director Mark Goodman, however, said that whether student publications need to take action to prevent minors from seeing pornography, "is not entirely clear." Currently, there are limitations on the sale of adult material to minors. If the publication was engaged in "strategic distribution" to minors, New York State could put limitations on their distribution. Yet "if distribution to minors was incidental, there is a little bit of gray."

Goodman added that it would be unlikely that a guardian of a minor could sue The Press because of exposure to porn. "The government can regulate time, place



Photo Courtesy of Erik Berte

A warning sign The Press put up to prevent minors from getting a copy of the issue with pornography.

and manner, but it has to be reasonable."

Responding to the claim that a student-funded paper should not print things offensive to the student body, Goodman stated, "The student activity fee is going to fund a lot of things that people may not philosophically agree with." He added, "The choice is whether they want to attend the school in the first place." The Press received \$32,000 from the student activity fee this year. Unlike most of the others publications on campus, they rarely charge for advertising.

President Acosta said she decided to bring the matter before the USG Senate after it was suggested by the USG attorney. In an email interview, she said: "We thought the best decision can be made by gathering different perspectives and the best place to do that was and still is the senate. Additionally, consulting the senate on the use of student activity fees on a potentially controversial issue was the right thing to do. We were not hoping for any specific result."

The USG Senate heard the issue on October 25. Pearsall, Timperio and The Press Managing Editor, Jowy Romano, represented the newspaper. After Romano and Pearsall spoke, Timperio explained that the pornography was meant to be "instructive," and told the Senators that she hoped they all could one day enjoy the sexual position.

The Senate decided not to vote to take any action against The Press. Even if they had voted to take action, it is unlikely they would have been successful because of The Press's legal rights.

During a recent senate meeting recess, Senator Abies Omede said, "I am a Christian so I don't approve of pornography, but if it's consistent with the law, there shouldn't be a fight."

During his office hours, Senator Igor Levenberg said "people need to chillax."

Pornography gives "a nice spice to life." He argued that the internet connections provided by student tuition allowed "as much porn as desired" and the university would provide filters to prevent porn access "if they really cared."

Valeria Gallo, a women's studies and psychology major, did not mind the porn, either. "I think people overreacted. People shouldn't be ashamed of that part of their lives. We're all adults."

Laytola, a pre-med student, however, believes the pornography was inappropriate. "A newspaper is to inform you," she said, while taking study break in the Roth cafeteria. "If you want to see that, everyone knows what magazines to go to. It's disrespectful and unethical."

In an email, SUNY Assistant Vice Chancellor Ed Engelbride wrote that The Press was protected by the first amendment, and no action would be taken against them.

Reflecting on the campus response to the pornography, Timperio said, "It always amazes me what gets a reaction. The human animal is interesting and strange," explaining that the Press has printed things she said she thought were more controversial before.

Pearsall and Timperio both said that no one complained when the Press printed a cartoon of Jesus with his genitals extending for eight pages, last year. Included on top of the genitals were cowboys and Native Americans, Betty Page, tango dancers, a bear, a few hands, and the Battle of Hoth, among other things.

Timperio said she thought people got upset over the pornography "because they're not getting enough sex." She added she was glad she got a reaction. "I love it. It gives me impetus to keep going."

Although Timperio did not regret printing the porn, she regretted that other writers' articles might not have been as widely read because of her decision. She said she plans not to print any more pornographic photographs, and in recent issues has used a drawing and an ancient Indian carving to demonstrate sexual positions instead.

Pearsall said he regretted limiting distribution. "There was a lot more than just that picture in that issue. It slights everyone else who wrote something."

When asked for a final comment, Pearsall whipped out a guitar, and started to play a popular song by Green Day. The Press's co-photo, Matt Willemain, sang along.

"It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right. I hope you had the time of your life."

Coach K.

By Frank Loglisci

Much like Duke's Coach K (Mike Krzyzewski) Sam Kornhauser is the coach credited with winning here at Stony Brook. For 22 seasons as the only football coach in Stony Brook team history, Kornhauser rose a program through the D-III level all the way to the D-IAA. Coach K. has won over 100 games in his career but never a victory quite so sweet for him and his Seawolves against a game Central Connecticut team who has shared the NEC crown for the past three seasons. With a last-second touchdown pass from Josh Dudash to Lynell Suggs the Stony Brook Seawolves won a share of their first Division 1-AA NEC Crown.

As the clock wound down to zero and the crowd began to storm the field in victory, Kornhauser was raised in the air by his team. You could feel it in the air at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium throughout the game. This one was for the coach. The Seawolves were not going to allow themselves to lose.

This football season has brought life to Stony Brook athletics. For all those who complained about the lack of school spirit, I truly hope you were in the stands for the team's game winning drive. The fans awoke and the team responded. College football has finally truly arrived at Stony Brook and it is in large part to a great man and a great coach, Sam Kornhauser.

Historic Debate

By Steve Brouard

Did you watch the Bush-Kerry debates in 2004? Do you have an interest for political science or history? If so, you might be interested in what could be the debate of the century!! Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) is currently organizing a debate between the College Democrats and College Republicans. The donkeys and elephants will be debating the philosophical issues of today, but here's the twist: they'll be addressing the issues from the perspectives of former presidents. If you'd like to see FDR fight it out with Reagan or see Teddy Roosevelt bully it up with Kennedy, this debate is for you! Stay tuned for more information on the debate.

In other news, Phi Alpha Theta is also planning a book sale. Make sure to mark November 30 on your calendar. Phi Alpha Theta will be selling books for just 50 cents each on the first floor (entrance) of the SBS building. Get there early for the best ones.

Steve Brouard is the Co-President of Phi Alpha Theta



Our Mission: The goal of *The Patriot* is to offer an alternative point of view to the students of Stony Brook University. It is a paper dedicated to raising awareness of student issues on campus, and conservative issues on the national scene. While it does not actively seek controversy, *The Patriot* strives to offer opinions and news that will encourage the students of this campus to ask themselves what their true values are. It is dedicated to building upon and fostering the conservative views that are strong among so many of us, yet suppressed in our community. But ideology aside, all of our news will be bound to three standards; we will always be *factual, sensible, and reasonable.*

Corrections

In an article printed in the October issue of *The Patriot*, "Leftist Tolerance or Fascism?" Ernesto "Che" Guevara was stated

as having been a native of Cuba. Guevara is actually a native of Argentina but is known for his communist life in Cuba.

A caption for "Stony Brook and Southampton: One Big happy Family?" misstated the contents of the photo. The

photo was of the construction of what would have been a new library for the once-Southampton College campus, not construction of the transition of the campus from LIU Southampton to Stony Brook University, as the caption implied.



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Friday - "The Cutting Edge" Black Angus Burger \$5.99 + tax

Black angus burger w/ garlic sauteed onions, bacon, and melted American cheese on a potato roll.

Let us know you're a university student!

Geoff: The Legend Continues...

Continued from page 1

this all around. Many of the things we know Geoff for, going from class to class barefoot and practicing yoga outdoors just to name a few, he only began as recently as last semester.

“Curious, open, honest.”

A bunch of football players walk by and yell, “Geoff, you stoner!” You might be surprised, however, to find out that Geostrophic Geoff doesn’t use a single drug. Not even alcohol or caffeine. He views such things as useful only for escapists. It simply doesn’t fit into his natural lifestyle.

This viewpoint extends to further trappings, including video games and even movies. For Geoff, these things, “often fail to capture true human interaction.” However, at the same time he does appreciate the art of cinematography.

During the interview, I couldn’t help but notice his demeanor. He seems to approach things in a child-like manner, though he’s by no means naïve. In fact, Geostrophic Geoff is mature beyond his years. He’s also very bright. The full scholarship he received from Stony Brook University was in no small part due to the 1510 he received on his SATs. Clearly, it is not a case of him being ingenuous, but rather it’s as if Geoff has never lost his childhood innocence. He’s interested in anything and expresses that his objective in life is simply to understand his surroundings better. “I try to grow every day,” he often says throughout our interview. This is his approach.

This way of looking at the world is also extended to the way he sees others. When asked how he feels about labeling people, he smiles and sensibly acknowledges that people can’t help but stereotype. However, he insists that once you get to know someone, stereotypes tend to disappear. True to his word, he avoids labeling others based on a single interaction.

Geostrophic Geoff is anything but cliché. You might have the impression that he’s only out there to draw attention. Maybe you think he’s only different for different’s sake. And while there may be many people like that out there, Geoff is not one of them. Once meeting him, you get the feeling that Geoff is always true to his word. By just talking with

him one gets the sense that there is no reason for him to be dishonest. For Geoff, it’s as simple as saying, “why bother with such things?”

“The Name.”

He was born Geoff Grecynski, but many people know him as Geostrophic Geoff. But why? He explains that it’s likely the result of a demonstration a professor once had him do for a Weather and Climate class. While attempting to describe forces affecting the weather here on

walking or running around campus barefoot at all times. Even the cold doesn’t always bother him. He explains that wearing shoes not only cuts off or numbs a “very important sensory organ,” but also are a hotbed for “breeding bacteria.” Geoff admits that while he has cut himself in the past, it’s only been a handful of times, and it’s never been anything serious.

Asked if a professor has ever given him a hard time about his shoelessness he replied, “many of them just think it’s funny, others don’t even notice.”

suggested the practice to him. Since then, the personal growth that he strives for has grown exponentially.

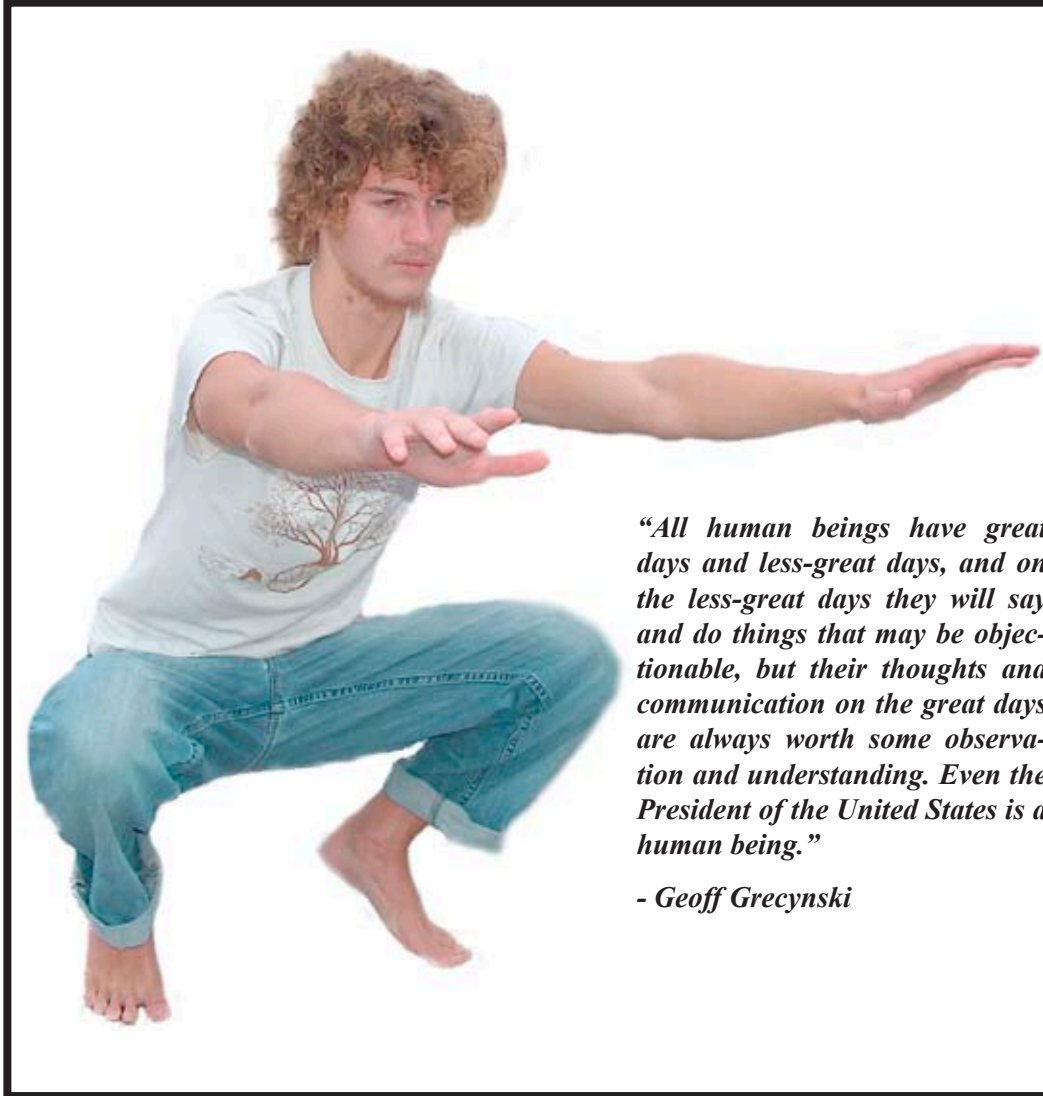
“Commitment is most important for profound change,” he said while sitting in his customary Indian-style position. Meditation, he claims, has not only helped him in his growth, but also contributed to his being more decisive and creative in all his endeavors.

A moment later, Geoff moved into a different yoga position and breathed deeply. His face lit up.

“It’s not too useful a skill if you can only do it in an isolated environ-

“What is natural, is attractive to humans,” he claims. The idea that humans are nothing more than animals never escapes him. In fact, the closer a human lets him or herself get to their natural state, the more impressed Geoff is with them. “Healthy hair and toned muscles are the signs of a healthy animal,” Geoff points out. He made sure to point out that he is attracted to facial hair.

Asked how he felt in particular about mustaches on women, he laughed and answered, “few women our age even have any facial hair.” He did later add that he does prefer



“All human beings have great days and less-great days, and on the less-great days they will say and do things that may be objectionable, but their thoughts and communication on the great days are always worth some observation and understanding. Even the President of the United States is a human being.”

- Geoff Grecynski



Geoff’s “Introverted youth”

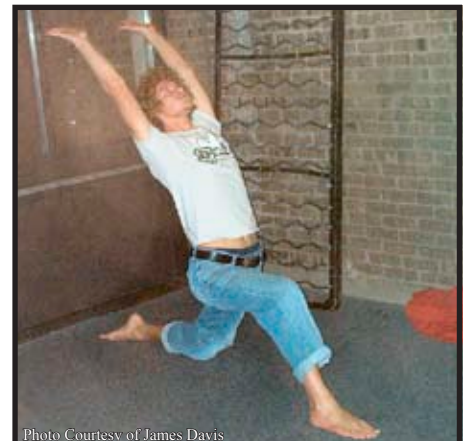


Photo Courtesy of James Davis

Geoff beginning the Sun Salute.

Earth, the professor asked for volunteers to walk around the room and represent a particular weather pattern. As you no doubt have guessed by now, it was Geoff who was assigned Geostrophic forces, though he admittedly doesn’t remember exactly what it is. Apparently, the professor had a thing for alliteration.

Since then, many students from that class have referred to him by that name and it kind of spread from there. It is important to note that while Geoff isn’t bothered by the nickname, he is bothered by those that mispronounce his first name. For the record, it’s like “Jeff” but spelled differently.

“No Shoes, No Shirts, No Service?”

If there is one thing Geoff is really known for, it’s his trademark lack of socks and shoes. He’s seen

Often while practicing yoga or meditating, he can also be found without his shirt. You may wonder how he could get away with not wearing a shirt to class, but he actually has yet to challenge a professor with that predicament. After all, Geoff would never want to upset any of his professors or become any sort of distraction to the rest of the class. Instead, he always carries a pair of flip-flops and a t-shirt around with him just in case.

“Sun Salute”

If most of his views on life haven’t struck a chord with the mainstream, he doesn’t seem to care. He does what he does, and as of late, this has begun to work for him. His practice of a form of yoga called the Sun Salute has given him great benefits. Last spring some of his “elders,” people in their thirties and forties,

ment.” This would explain why he is often seen meditating on the grass beside the busy pathways outside classrooms. His sessions can be anywhere from a couple of minutes to over twenty minutes at a time. You’d be mistaken to view this as a spiritual activity for him, however; he describes himself as an atheist.

Being away in Russia triggered something in him. As a linguistics major studying abroad, Geoff experienced firsthand the differences in people compared to many here at home.

He doesn’t mind any “apparent backwardness,” trying not to take for granted all the conveniences we have here in the U.S. like cars, for example (Geoff has no driver’s license and doesn’t own a car). He adds to that the comfort he often finds in all things that are natural. For often times, what we would consider as backwards, could in reality be seen as closer to nature.

women not to shave at all.

“A Study of Life.”

This is an interesting time in the life of Geostrophic Geoff. He spends his hours in search of personal growth. He finds spirituality in drumming with an African drum circle outside the library during campus life. He immerses himself in techno and electronica and above all else, is not afraid to try new things.

He has found himself with yoga and meditation and has embraced what is natural within humans. He has found ways to help him evolve. Geoff is a good man, but he is becoming an even better man.

People approach him all the time. However, some people, he suggests, may be afraid that he’s unfriendly and are apprehensive about talking with him. Those people should have no such fears.

Ever Wonder What's in the Meat?

Recently, a project initiated by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health to reduce consumption of saturated fats and increase consumption of healthier alternatives to meat, was brought to Stony Brook University. Stony Brook has joined 29 other schools in supporting this campaign known as Meatless Monday.

The campaign is designed to increase awareness of healthier dietary lifestyles through encouragement of student participation in campus based initiatives such as a recent meatless chili competition held in the Student Activities Center.

"It's great to put on nutritious education events at Stony Brook where people are receptive and you can reach thousands of students," said Vera the project manager for



Thinking about trying the program? If you look anything like this guy, maybe you shouldn't be given a choice.

the event.

The program's goal is to make students aware of the dangers of eating too many meals with high levels of saturated fat while at the same time providing information

about alternatives to meat that can have many health benefits.

The saturated fat found in meat as well as other sources can raise blood cholesterol to dangerously high levels. Over time, this is the cholesterol that could clog your arteries and raise your risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

For those who feel that meatless substitutes don't have enough protein to sustain them, remember this: most Americans eat too much of it to begin with, according to materials handed out at the event.

On average, most Americans have trans-fat loving appetites that result in consuming twice as much protein as our bodies require. You only need about 40 to 70 grams of protein a day. So why not at least give this Meatless Monday thing a shot?



Photo Courtesy of Erik Berte

Project manager, Vera (on the right), explaining to a chili-taster what the event is all about.

Advisory Referenda Struck Down

Commentary By Robert Romano

In a recent district court decision of the Northern District of New York, the court handed down a decision striking down advisory referenda for the use of the mandatory student activity fee as unconstitutional.

Building on the principles of viewpoint neutrality, *Amidon v. the Student Association of SUNY Albany and NYPIRG* (See case no.: 1:04-CV-256), said that the "advisory referendum is an unjustified content-based criterion used in a decision making process that requires viewpoint neutrality..."

Plaintiff Eric Amidon and his conservative student organization on campus were denied access to the advisory funding referendum process for their organization, the Collegian Action Leadership League of NY (now CFACT). Though the organization was able to receive a modest sum of \$1,200 for the 2003-04 academic year, it wanted its funding to be considered on a referendum vote, but it could not get the necessary 2/3 majority needed in the student senate to be placed on the ballot.

Though the plaintiff argued against the procedures for getting on the ballot, the court dismissed all counts except for the first, which sought "to prohibit the defendants from using advisory referenda in allocating the money collected from the mandatory fees." This decision, like the principle of viewpoint neutrality, is designed to protect minority viewpoints and guarantee them equal access to the public forum, no matter how unpopular. It guarantees every organization funded by the mandatory fee the same criteria for student-based funding.

NYPIRG Chairperson John Mascher informed the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government Senate of the decision at their November 15th meeting. He expressed his opinion that the decision violated the free speech of the student body to express their will in an advisory referendum and also questioned whether the decision even applied to the USG.

Personally, I see no problem with advisory referenda, as long as they are indeed advisory. The USG cannot agree to be bound by their outcome, and instead the USG must guar-

antee to all clubs the same criteria for funding. Therefore no referendum should affect the funding allocations because then favorable funding would be dependent on majority consent of the electorate.

Previously, the Board of Trustees guidelines were amended to provide for advisory funding referenda instead of binding referenda in order to come into compliance with Supreme Court rulings which had found the latter's use to be unconstitutional. This is the first ruling in which an advisory referendum on the use of the student activity fee has been found to be unconstitutional.

Though the Student Association and NYPIRG argued that the referenda was only advisory, and that the decision for the amount of funding turned on the objective criteria, the court ruled against this argument because "of the obvious gap in logic. The whole point of viewpoint neutral criteria is to insulate applicants from majoritarian views. Using majoritarian viewpoint-based factor is nonsensical."

In particular, if success in the referendum proves beneficial to groups like NYPIRG when the final funding decision is made, is not being in the majority then an obvious advantage over minority viewpoints? It appears that, in this case, it was, since the referendum, even if it was advisory, and even if it was only to determine the amount that a group may be funded, violated the First Amendment on its face. Approval in a non-binding referendum being considered by the representatives is intended to persuade those representatives in their decision to allocate funding for the organization that appeared on the ballot.

The point of referenda is to reflect the public's will. The Supreme Court has specifically ruled against binding referenda as a means of receiving funding. Though in the Albany case the referendum was advisory, that referendum was still intended to persuade public officials with improper criteria since majority consent of an organization's views, or an organization's popularity in a referendum, may not be taken into consideration when making a budgeting decision. There is no constraint on a referendum which would remove viewpoint-based considerations from the ballot, since there is no controlling what criteria the people

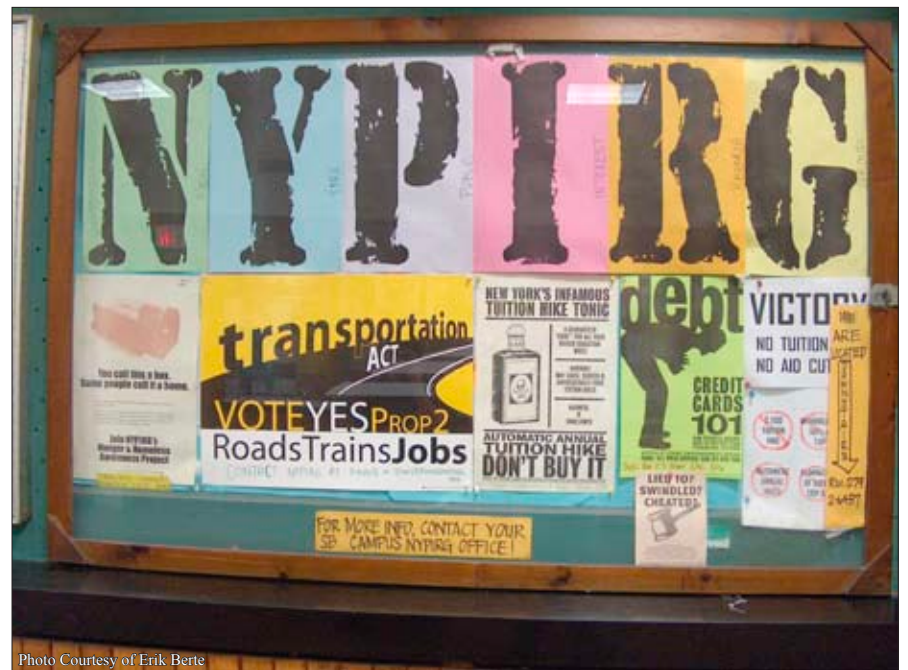


Photo Courtesy of Erik Berte

NYPIRG's bulletin board in the Stony Brook Union. The organization's funding could be in jeopardy after a recent decision by the Northern District Court of New York.

will use when they vote on that referendum. If we continue to allow the use of any referenda on the use of the fee, we will be purposely using biased information when making budgeting decisions.

This has implications for the USG here at Stony Brook. In order to comply with this decision, the USG, and indeed, the SUNY Board of Trustees ought to repeal the use of all funding referenda as it respects particular funding decisions. In a similar vein, we must consider that presently, our constitution enumerates binding referenda, and this is also a significant legal liability, and violates the Southworth decisions perhaps more so than the use of advisory referenda.

In addition, groups like NYPIRG which have previously used binding funding referenda must have their budgets reassessed without using their previous budgets as barometers for how much they ought to receive.

This may be the only way for these groups to prove that their allocations were indeed

based on objective criteria, and not on previous success at the ballot. In the very least, the USG would need to craft an advisory referenda system which is viewpoint neutral in order for it to be deemed constitutionally valid. However, in the final analysis, if the student government may only take into consideration objective criteria, then how can it take into consideration viewpoint-based criteria like funding referenda whether or not they are advisory? NYPIRG chapters, at least in the Northern District, must now justify their budgets based solely upon their merits, and student governments may not agree to be unduly influenced by the electorate in these decisions.

It does not matter, and the student government may not consider, how popular an organization is. Referenda on particular funding decisions, whether advisory or binding, do just that. It is a system which opens the USG up to unnecessary legal liability, especially with the binding referenda enumerated in our constitution, and is one which we can do without.



BEN THE HEBREW HAMMER

answers

AMERICA



Selfish? You Bet I Am!

Nathan Shapiro



In a recent philosophy class, my professor sought to discover the qualities that make a virtuous and good human being by asking us to identify individuals that we admired. The class came up with two lists of people: "Group A" consisted of the Clintons, Oprah, Bill Maher and Donald Trump, whereas "Group B" consisted of Martin Luther King Jr., the Dali Lama and Che Guevara. My professor then asked which group the class would rather be members of.

Being a staunchly pro-capitalist Republican, I would not find myself in good company with

either the Clintons or communist revolutionaries. As a result, I disliked the idea of picking between the two until a fellow classmate came forth with classifications

for the groups. According to him, Group A contained individuals who succeeded in improving their own personal lives as a result of their hard work and Group B contained individuals who sacrificed for the benefits of others. With those classifications, my decision was set: I'd rather be part of Group A.

Immediately I found myself confronted by shocked classmates who condemned me for being selfish and declared I was undeserving of friends or liberty. My answer to all of them is that, yes, I am selfish and proud of it! Being selfish, or, rather, being guided by a rational self-interest, is virtuous behavior not deserving of the contempt it often receives. Our very survival depends on it.

In order to survive and achieve personal happiness, every person has no choice but to pursue personally beneficial values. To pursue anything but self-interest would be to act in a manner which would lead to an individual's self-destruction. By believing that all individuals have an inalienable right to life, then we must accept that they should act in a manner which will make their own and only life as good as possible. To

demand otherwise would be like asking every person to give up the foundations of their liberty. Life, liberty and happiness, the fundamental values of individual rights which all Americans hold dear, require self-interest in order to survive.

Contrary to what my classmates might think, I am no fool. I know that plenty of what I have today is in large part due to the efforts of others. For instance, I am able to enjoy my liberty thanks to the actions of our nation's armed forces both today and historically. For that, I am eternally thankful and in constant awe of their courageous acts and consider them to represent some of our nation's most virtuous individuals. Unlike many, I do not consider them virtuous because they sacrifice



for me. Instead, they are virtuous because they act in defense of their own self-interest to a degree much greater than most people do. By joining the armed forces, they have told the enemies of our country that they will not submit to be any man's slave and that they will fight for their values, families, homes, possessions and their very liberty when necessary even if it might cost them their lives.

In nations such as the United States, every individual's rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are able to exist because we are free to pursue our own selfish values. If we abandoned our so-called "selfish" goals, our lives would be brutal and miserable. Who can live an existence which not only denies us any personal gratification, but denies that we have the right to live for our own sakes? Not only does pursuing self-interests benefit one's self, but it gives others the opportunity to benefit themselves as well. After all, stop and consider how many jobs Donald Trump's businesses have created and how many families those jobs have fed all as a result, not of altruism, but of Donald Trump's much-derided "selfish virtue."

Dear Ben,

What are your thoughts on illegal immigration and President Bush's Guest Worker Program?

-Jane Stein

We've got a problem... thousands of illegal aliens are pouring in over our southern border and no one's doing anything about it. Sure it's nice to have someone mow my lawn for five cents an hour (and believe me, I know a bargain), but lets get real here. We're practically facing an invasion. We've got southwestern states declaring states of emergency and it seems like the President is turning a blind eye.

So what's this I hear about some border patrol speech he's gonna make? He's supposed to talk about

"interior repatriation," meaning returning illegals to central parts of the countries they're coming from rather than just sending them back over the border so they can come back only hours later. This part sounds good to me, but I've heard word that he's gonna be flashing his guest worker bologna at us again too.

Now let's be serious, we're just gonna allow these non-law-abiding people to stay here now so long as they apply for some permit? I don't think so. I've got a better idea! How 'bout we put up signs all across the border with the following words: "minas de la tierra" - translation: "land mines." That'll stop 'em. You don't even really need to put any out there; just the threat alone'll stop 'em.

Alright, so maybe that's not the best idea. I mean, I'm sure it won't

take 'em too long to figure it out. They'll just send a few over to test it. Or they'll add a new section on how to avoid mines in their "The Guide for the Mexican Migrant." Yeah, this book published by Mexico's Foreign Ministry actually teaches illegals how to cross over without getting caught. I guess the only worthy export Mexico has is its illegal migrants. Believe me; I got a bone to pick with that Vincente Fox guy.

And what about terrorism? I mean, law-breaking aside, illegal immigrants could be coming into the country to bomb us for all we know. And we don't know; that's the problem. No one sees what kinds of people are racing over the border. For all we know Al Qaeda's been using it to transport terrorists and nuclear weapons. Oy Vey!

Bush Lied?... C'mon

Erik Berte



I've seen no evidence to support such a statement and it wouldn't make any sense.

With an election coming up a year and a half later, why would the President risk such a scandal? If such a thing had happened it would be enough to end any chance for re-election, that is, if the President wasn't impeached before Election Day. If President Bush lied, which he didn't, does that mean that Tony Blair, John Howard, or even John Kerry and Ted Kennedy, all lied too? All of these men have stated that they believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and they all had access to the same intelligence.

Before the Democrats rewrite history, let's take a quick look at it. For twelve years Saddam Hussein was non-compliant with seventeen resolutions passed by the UN, not to mention all the treaties that were passed after the Gulf War. Saddam was given several "last chances" to prove that he had disarmed, none of which he took.

It often seems that the established media are so concerned with issues of whether Bush misled America in reasons for the Iraq war, that they forget the deception we all saw with Saddam Hussein. Let's not

forget the issues we had when trying to inspect the country for weapons. The inspectors were unable to properly do their job when they had Saddam's officials on top of them every step of the way. How could witnesses possibly give straight answers when they were threatened with death if they gave the UN information? The "scientists" being interviewed by inspectors often turned out to be Iraqi intelligence officers, while the real scientists were instructed in what to say. There was even a fake twelve-thousand page compliance report given to the inspectors.

For someone who supposedly had "nothing to hide", Saddam certainly did a lot of hiding. And although WMDs might not have been found in Iraq, that doesn't mean they do not exist. We still have no proof that these weapons were destroyed. If they're not in Iraq, where are they? Maybe we'll never know. Based on the information President Bush had, and even based on the information we have now, he had to take out Saddam. And you can be sure that if he hadn't and we were later attacked by terrorists with WMD acquired through Saddam, Democrats would crucify President Bush for not doing enough.

Personally Opposed

By Anthony Perez

It never fails. Every time I feel like I can see through the Left's transparent "arguments" as the simplistic rhetoric and conformist slogans they can often be, I hear a new quote from some lib that truly strikes me as profound and changes my views on not only the related subject, but many others as well. These quotes have sometimes even changed my life and caused me to begin leaning more leftward than I previously had on many topics. Take how, in one recent situation, I had just finished a routine outlining of the partial-birth abortion procedure to a peer when I was told, "Well, I'd never have an abortion personally, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell a woman what to do with her own body."

At first, I wasn't too impressed. This woman would "never have an abortion," she had said. Why? If abortion isn't murder, then why does she personally not think she could have one? It can't be that different from any other operation if that's the case. Hence logically, if it's so tough, it must be because a living baby is being murdered and therefore legal abortion is akin to legal genocide.

But then I realized I was being shallow, and I really thought deeply about her comment. I came to the following conclusion: I will now hold her position. I truly will accept her logic. I've also decided to let that line of reasoning influence my position on a few other issues. Hence, I will become more open-minded by advocating the following positions as well:

I'm personally opposed to racism, segregation, and hate crimes, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do with their own feelings.

I'm personally opposed to discrimination, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell employers what they can do with their own hiring practices.

I'm personally opposed to viewpoint discrimination, of which I too have been a victim, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell professors what they can teach in their own classrooms. (Wait, this is already the mainstream position. Can't have that. Cross it off the list.)

I'm personally opposed to the rape of young women and girls, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do within their own sex lives.

I'm personally opposed to child abuse and ritual suicide, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do within the privacy of their own homes.

I'm personally opposed to sweatshop and child labor, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell businesses what they can do with their own employees.

I'm personally opposed to air, water, and noise pollution, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do with their own planet.

I'm personally opposed to slavery, fascism, nazism, communism, and baathism, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do with their own citizens. (By the way, war has never solved anything!)

I'm personally opposed to flying planes into iconic skyscrapers containing thousands of people, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell terror cells what they can do with their own followers.

I'm personally opposed to infanticide, murder, political killings and genocide, but I don't feel we should legislate morality or tell people what they can do to people in their own lives.

I hope that the furthering of these new positions will help to foster a new environment of sensitivity and tolerance for all ideas, for the better good of American society, the greater convenience of us all, and the enlightening of "ignorant conservatives."

Letters

To Brett Denyer,

I appreciate your public declaration of anti-racism in your article "Fighting Racism with Racism." However your article contains several errors of analysis which stem from a very poor reading of history.

First, your definition of racism is severely flawed. You state that racism can be defined as differential treatment based on racial difference (in this way almost any individual can be the victim of racism). This rings historically hollow. Racism in the United States has deep historical and structural roots. It is crucial to note that from 1775 until 1964 people of African descent experienced either a partial or full denial of their rights as citizens. In fact, for a large section of this period, from 1775 until 1865, many were classified as chattel or the personal property of people of European descent. Racism is, therefore, the purposeful use of institutional power to disenfranchise (economically, politically and socially) groups of people based on skin color or ancestry.

The question remains whether this historical experience translated into a pattern of unjust race relations following the end of slavery or the civil rights movement. How did racism (white supremacy) manage to institutionalize itself after emancipation (1865) and the Civil Rights

movement (1964)?

You tend to locate racism as something occurring in the deep historical past (you mention the Civil War). This seems entirely contradictory to the immediate experience of race in the U.S. One need only consider the relationship between racial prejudice and institutional power in the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the mass incarceration of African-American males, and the socio-economic impoverishment of peoples of African descent.

From this error – locating racism in the deep past and giving it a weak individualistic definition – flow a series of errors. First, you proclaim that the civil rights movement was "at its outset...perfectly legitimate." In fact, the movement was quite illegitimate and employed illegal tactics such as civil disobedience to violate then established law. It was a movement against the institutional power of racial segregation.

However, the Civil Rights movement did not end in the South. Even more enlightening, is the fact that when Martin Luther King led the civil rights movement to the North post-1964 he faced violent opposition from white supremacist groups. With this in mind we should not be surprised at the recent re-emergence of American Nazis in Toledo. This reflects the racism simmering in heart of U.S. society.

You further mention that groups such as East European immigrants are not responsible for the crimes of racism in the US. However, we should remember that other European ethnic groups (for example Irish and Italians) have managed over the course of past 100 years to integrate themselves into the new post-emancipation, post-Civil Rights white power structure. They too, are not responsible for the long history of racism but are responsible for participating in and maintaining a social system that distributes rewards and privileges based on skin color.

Finally, a bit of advice. It would seem to be logical, as an anti-racist, that you would make a strong critique of the role of white supremacy. Instead, you reserve your harshest criticism for a social program designed to ameliorate some of the conditions of racism (the lack of a presence of peoples of African descent inside institutions of higher education). Affirmative Action is a program created to serve as a temporary bridge between a racist and raceless society. However, and unfortunately, we have a long road to travel before we cross that bridge. Exploding the bridge now will merely make gulf more impenetrable.

-William Wharton

William,

I appreciate your reading of and response to my article in the last edition of *The Patriot*. However, I believe that you have missed one of the main points of the article: the case against affirmative action does not require an historical examination, but rather an analysis of the moral aspects of such a system that systematically violates the rights of American citizens. While your response is certainly thought-provoking, it completely avoids the issue of the legitimate powers of government, and instead focuses on the issue of racism in society.

As far as the definition of racism is concerned, I believe that the one used is perfectly appropriate. According to <http://dictionary.reference.com>, racism is "Discrimination or prejudice based on race." And while you contend according to my definition that "any individual can be a victim of racism," this is indeed true, whether by my definition or your own. It is your definition that is flawed; racism only as a purposeful use of institutional power to disenfranchise members of an ethnic minority is too narrowly defined. Racism may be directed at any individual of any race, whether by other individuals, a group of individuals, or an institutional power.

Fixing societal racism, however despicable it may be, is not the charge of the government. The case against affirmative action is entirely based on the fact that it grants privileges to some at the expense of others, an idea that is as inconsistent with the principles of this country as slavery. Regardless of the historical and current patterns of race relations, there is no justification for the cessation of the rights of some for the alleged benefit of society. The way to combat racism is not to use the very instrument which one seeks to destroy. This is akin to King Arthur's mythical

attempt to use Might to make Right; the two ideals are mutually exclusive. And so it is with racism and equality. There is no middle ground.

It is with no small irony that I noted the following quote in your response concerning immigrants' participation in the "white power structure"—"...a social system that distributes rewards and privileges based on skin color." Affirmative action is a social system that does just this.

Although a great deal of your response deals with aspects of racism rather than the morality of affirmative action, I feel that it is sufficiently important to warrant further discussion. While I do believe that racism was much more prevalent in the past than at present, I did not say that it was confined to the past, and I explicitly stated that it remains a problem in places. It was not, despite much discussion to the contrary, an issue in the Katrina disaster. New Orleans, with its large population of people of African descent, received federal aid before it reached the 90% Caucasian parishes of St. Bernard, Jefferson, and St. Tammany in Louisiana. The failure of the federal government in disaster relief was not limited to blacks, but affected all residents of the disaster area. Does the enormous outpouring of charity from the rest of the country seem consistent with your remarks, especially those about racism "simmering in the heart of U.S. society?" If so, can you explain why images of poverty and grief-stricken blacks triggered this outpouring of charity, one of the largest in American history? As for the impoverishment of peoples of African descent, racism is neither the cause, nor the cure (in the form of affirmative action). Consider the success of Indian and Pakistani immigrants: according to the Washington Times, they make an average of \$31,077 per year versus \$21,324 for native-born Americans of all races. These are people of a different

race and culture who are willing to work hard to achieve prosperity, and adversity in the form of racism, if it exists, has not impeded them. The beautiful thing about America and its capitalistic system is that it rewards those who are willing to try hard enough to succeed. The same concept applies to "the lack of a presence of peoples of African descent inside institutions of higher education". If anyone wants to succeed in life, they must work in order to achieve their goals, rather than relying on the government to give them an artificial upper hand.

Furthermore, I am confused as to why you consider the Civil Rights movement not to be legitimate at its onset. Is legitimacy defined by law, even if the law is wrong? I maintain that the movement was legitimate irrespective of the law at the time because the movement was railing against a system of laws that clearly violated the rights of United States citizens.

Your remarks concerning the re-emergence of American Nazis in Toledo are misleading. While the appearance of the reprehensible group is disappointing, the American Nazis do not represent mainstream American ideals, and to say that this demonstrates racism "simmering in the heart of U.S. society" is quite a generalization. They are a fringe group of extremists whose views are exceedingly unpopular.

Affirmative action, while you claim it to be a bridge between a racist and raceless society, is in fact a ball and chain that is inhibiting society from true progress in this area. If anything, the issue of affirmative action promotes racial division and exacerbates racial tension in society. Any form of racism cannot be tolerated if we are to be truly free.

-Brett Denyer

Sexist Speaker Event

By Jorge Sierra

On Thursday, November 10, the School of Social Welfare held its Commons Day event in the Student Activities Center. This is a semi-annual tradition for students and professors, and is intended to bring the school community together to discuss relevant topics in social work practice. Billed as a mandatory event, this year's Commons Day focused on violence in social work practice, and featured a keynote address on family violence by New York State Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington, a 1989 graduate of the MSW program. Her address was one of the most blatantly arrogant and bigoted speeches I had ever heard.

Assemblywoman Eddington explained that she had been an advocate on the issue of violence against women for a long time, and ran for public office in order to spend more time doing something called "fighting." Barely two minutes went by before she interjected her personal disapproval of the War in Iraq. What was the connection to the topic? Apparently women who go to war are exposed to violence directed against them. Think about it.

Eddington then subjected

her (predominantly female) audience to a chauvinist tirade against men. She'd had enough of pussyfooting around the real issue, she declared, and was going to lay it all out: men are engaged in a "war against women." To back up her words, our distinguished alumna mentioned how men used to bind up women's feet in China so they'd remain small and cute. Genital mutilation still occurs in parts of Africa, so that women will have no desire to sleep with other men. She also attacked traditional religion, citing how the Catholic Church bars women from entering the priesthood. In Iran, they execute women for committing adultery. And again and again, she talked specifically about "men," "men," "men." "Men" do this. "Men" do that.

Look, I get it. Assemblywoman Eddington was laying out a case against the centuries long, worldwide culture of patriarchy and male domination. I'm 100% against both. Considering how widespread domestic violence and date rape are in this country and how pervasively our culture educates men to demean women, there is ample reason for a social revolution. Just look at what comes goes into

our high school students' ears, and out of their mouths. But she crossed the line when she generalized men per se as villains. Not some men, not men who commit violence against women, not even patriarchy or male culture; she painted men as the enemy. As far as I'm concerned, she single-handedly obliterated any hint of community, or even openness, the event she was speaking at was intended to foster, replacing it with a chilling rhetoric of agitation, blaming, and hubris.

Can you imagine if someone gave a speech to a large university audience on the evils of rap music or gangsta culture, and started saying that "black men" are holding up convenience stores and "black women" are getting pregnant and dropping out of high school? Or a panelist speaking about the AIDS crisis accusing "gay men who know they have HIV" of spreading the virus by having unprotected sex with multiple partners? Or a lecturer on terrorism charging that "Muslims" are blowing up train stations? There would be an inquisition, and many of my classmates and professors would condemn the speakers without reservation. I have a hard time imagining someone

getting away with this rhetoric even about white people. These blanket generalizations are horribly demeaning to those people who are good citizens, and who are busting their asses to do good by other people and set a positive example for their peers. There is no excuse for Assemblywoman Eddington's bigoted words.

Here's the bottom line: social activists will accomplish jack squat if they continue to make war against the very people they need to have on their side. I don't have to listen to myself be insulted, or brainwashed into self-hatred. I left the room and did not return to the event, resolving never to support this woman in anything if I can ever help it. I'll certainly be very cautious about attending school wide community events in the future. Millions of Americans feel the same way when so-called activists attack them personally because of their demographics, and they are abandoning progressive social movements. That's what happens when you hurt your own allies in your pride and try to stir people up against a coalition broader than your own base. Those who live by the sword, die by the sword.

What Grinds My Gears

Peter Griffin



You know what reds my ass?

1. The fact that people still don't respect Johnny Cash.
2. That the majority of the population gets pissed when topics of government interrupt their sitcom-riddled TV.
3. That the Dr. Phil's show is allowed to air a woman saying, "it's not oral sex unless he ejaculates in my mouth," but the Jimmy Kimmel Show and Howard Stern's Radio Show have to bleep the quote when they play it.
4. And what really grinds my gears is the fact that most people know all about Oprah, but don't know who any of their elected officials are.
5. When you're in the middle of a midterm you stayed up till 3AM to cram for and you've got this kid who snorts the snot back from his nostrils down his throat every ten seconds cause he's never seen a Kleenex. You know who you are, Snots McGee!

Windfall Tax: Socialist and Unfair

By Brett Denyer

In the aftermath of the devastation of the record-setting hurricane season of 2005, oil prices soared to new highs. First Katrina, then Rita, ravaged the Gulf states, a major center for oil platforms, refineries, and pipelines that deliver oil to the rest of the country. In response to major supply shortages, the price for gasoline increased markedly all around the country to an average of \$3.07 per gallon, and there were some instances in Mississippi and Louisiana of gas prices as high as \$5.00 per gallon.

In light of these high prices, major oil companies gained record profits in the third quarter of 2005. For this, the government is debating the imposition of a "windfall tax" of \$5 billion on them in the name of allegedly disenfranchised consumers, supposedly to benefit those affected by the hurricanes.

This tax is completely unjustifiable, regardless of the alleged beneficiaries. By doing this, Congress is effectively saying that any private property is available for confiscation, to be handed out at its discretion. The government does not have the right to take money from law abiding companies that work hard for the money, and give it to those who haven't. When the government can take whatever it wants, it is no longer appropriate to call such a system democracy. Such a recklessly tyrannical system is best described as socialism.

Oil companies did not cause the hurricanes, nor the devastation that ensued. All big

oil has done is to efficiently deliver a highly demanded product to consumers, which, in the eyes of the government, is punishable by the confiscation of its profits.

Many claim that the "excess" profits of Big Oil come from the practice of price gouging. But anyone who knows a bit of freshman economics should realize that prices are set by the law of supply and demand. I encourage members of Congress to familiarize themselves with this intuitive concept that has been around for several hundred years. Since the supply of oil was reduced by the hurricanes, and demand is still high, other things being equal, the price must rise. This rise in price is essential in encouraging consumers to conserve gasoline, since it is in shorter supply now. The fact remains that prices are set by the laws of supply and demand, not by Congress, and a review of the 1970s oil crisis will demonstrate this clearly.

So just what does the government intend to do with this massive amount of funds? Perhaps we should first focus on where it isn't going to be used. Since the federal government is stealing this money from law-abiding companies, this is money that will not be available for use in oil exploration, research and development, or payment of dividends to shareholders. Instead, the oil companies, since they are so greedy and evil in the eyes of congress (isn't that a laugh?), are expected to still find more oil and cheaper ways to refine and distribute it with less money to do so.

Allegedly, the government wants to

use the funds from the oil tax to aid the ravaged Gulf Coast region. Maybe this time they'll get the job done right, but somehow I doubt that the star players running the 3-ring circus known as FEMA are quite up to the job. Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. I certainly hope that we all learned a big lesson about the role of the federal government in disaster response from the past several months. And if supposedly evil companies such as Wal-Mart had received the press they deserved, maybe we could have learned something about the role of private industry in disaster response.

Several days before Katrina made landfall, Wal-Mart began to stockpile water and non-perishable goods, and set aside trucks in its distribution centers. Additionally, the hated company offered \$20 million in cash donations, 1,500 truckloads of free goods, and enough food for 100,000 meals. Aaron Broussard, the president of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, went so far as to say on NBC following the disaster: "If the American government would have responded like Wal-Mart has responded, we wouldn't be in this crisis." All this while the FEMA director was sending e-mails asking, "Are you proud of me? Can I quit now? Can I go home?" (these are quotes from actual emails that former FEMA director Brown sent following the disaster), while FEMA took days to reach disaster-stricken areas, and turned away offers of relief from other organizations. They even turned away a Navy hospital ship, and truckloads of water, all while hundreds of American citizens were

dying.

Perhaps one of the more interesting aspects of this larceny is the fact that the Republicans, who have been traditionally viewed by many as great capitalists and defenders of corporate America, were some of the most active proponents of this tax. I was not terribly surprised, since the Republicans have endorsed policies as statist as those of the Democrats for some time now (though typically in different areas). This is yet another sad illustration of the lack of representation—and there is a growing number of us—for those who do not recognize the right of the government to collect and distribute private property as it sees fit, or in general to tell people how they may or may not live their lives.

Regardless of which party actively endorsed it, the above is just a mere taste of the complete waste of funds that this tax will likely result in. But it doesn't matter if the government completely wastes the money, or invests it in a project that returns 500%. The money in question was earned by legitimate companies, and is not subject to confiscation by the government. If the Senate, in its infinite wisdom, wishes to make us all worse off in the future by discouraging research and development and production, thus creating shortages in the future, then it should by all means continue and make this tax plan reality. But if the senate truly wishes to serve the best interests of the people and uphold the principles of this country, it should reject the tax as the un-American despotism that it is.

Excessive Regulation Keeps People Ugly

Recent FDA regulation requires registration in a national database to be able to take a prescription medication that's been called my many, a miracle drug for curing acne. As a former Accutane alumnus, I can truly vouch for that title. The stuff really works! After taking antibiotics up the gazoo and applying every man-made cream on this earth (with the exception of the whipped variety, I suppose) to my face, I saw no lasting results. My acne would go away after a couple of weeks of using something new, but would come back to bite me in the ass (yeah, I did have a few there) only days later. With nothing else to turn to, except the next round of antibiotics that could potentially make me feel like a starving Ethiopian with side effects like diarrhea and stomach pains, I decided to go for the last resort: Accutane.

Oh there were rumors alright. I had heard everything! From "I know this kid who took that stuff and became impotent!" to "Doesn't that stuff make people depressed?" But the worst thing I had been told was that people taking Accutane are more likely to commit suicide.

I was freaking scared! I didn't want to end up on some purple couch in a therapist's office.

The truth is my doctor had recommended that I start taking the drug earlier, but I had been hesitant for these reasons and insisted that we try other things first. But eventually, fed up with nasty red holes on my face, I didn't care if I had to become a suicidal maniac just to have clear skin again. So I went for it.

Before sending my on my way to the pharmacist with my prescription, my dermatologist asked me if I had any concerns or questions about Accutane. To say that I had "concerns" would be an understatement, but I told him, "Yeah, I do." So he explained to me how the drug works (it basically shrinks your oil glands so that they don't produce as much oil) and explained what all the fuss was about as far as side effects.

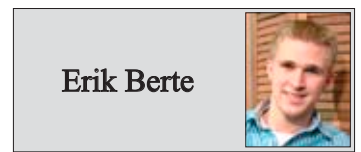
After hearing how he explained it, I wondered why I hadn't thought of that in the first place. What is the age group with the highest suicide attempt rate? Teenagers. What age group is most likely to develop

acne? Teenagers. What conditions could lead to suicidal tendencies? Depression. What social conditions could lead to feelings of depression? Oh I don't know, maybe being stared at in the hall all the time, being laughed at, having low self esteem, thinking your ugly? Is this not something that teenagers with moderate to severe acne (light acne cases don't require Accutane) would never face? I think not. This is the key here and if you think about it this way, it makes sense. The type of people who would be taking this drug are more likely to be the type of people who could possibly face these problems. My doctor, who worked with the doctor who developed the drug, assured me that Accutane is safe and that these rumors are little more than media hysteria, though he did explain to me that there are side-effects that I should watch out for.

So I started taking it, but boy was I lucky... and when I say boy I really mean it. The worst thing I had to deal with was periodic cholesterol tests (which always turned out fine), but had I been a female patient I would have gone through

ridiculous lengths to be able to take the medication. Girls actually had to get regular pregnancy tests and commit to using two forms of contraception just to stay on it. Now I realize that Accutane causes serious birth defects, but let's be serious. This is basically like saying that all women are too irresponsible to know the risk and act accordingly. Alcohol causes birth defects too, but I don't see women lined up at a clinic getting tested before they can buy that. This is truly ridiculous and unnecessary. And if you think that's bad, let me explain to you the new regulations that will be in place as of March 2006.

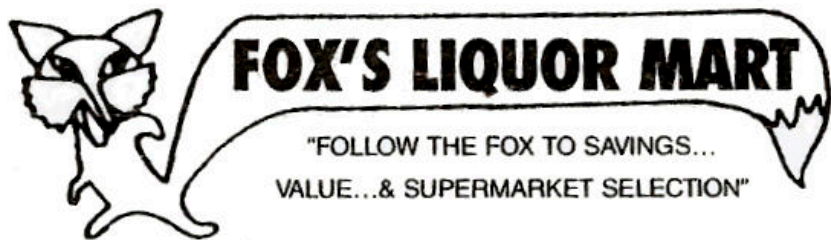
Now all patients taking Accutane must be registered in this iPLEDGE program (yeah, it sounds like something from Apple, but believe me it's not cool like an iPod) that includes all of the aforementioned bologna plus a registration in this national database that doctors as well as pharmacists will have to check before prescribing or filling prescriptions for the drug, respectively. The required pregnancy tests' results must be entered into this database and women must



Erik Berte

agree while self-registering on this database that they will use two forms of birth control. But the biggest change is that this is all truly mandatory now because it's regulated. Before, it was possible for a doctor to prescribe the drug without requiring any of that if he chose and no one was there to stop him, but with the creation of this registry that's become impossible.

Let's just cut to the chase here. People should be responsible on their own for making sure they take the necessary precautions required for Accutane. Like so many things our government does (in this case the FDA), this regulation causes more trouble than it's worth. People are not only afraid to take the drug (because of the rumors), but even if they want to take it, they have to go through hell to get it. Why are we making it so difficult for people to show the beautiful skin they have under their acne?



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Right Wing Girls are Hot!

So maybe Jessica Simpson's not the sharpest tool in the shed, but her father, a youth minister at a baptist church, taught her strong moral values while she was growing up. This is evident in her refusal to use sex to boost her career (for the most part), unlike other teen idols, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. Here at Stony Brook, we've got great-looking conservative-leaning girls who *are* very bright. Some of them recently spoke with The Patriot.



Bridget, 18, Physics Major

Tell us about yourself.

"Well, Hi, I'm Bridget! I love winter and snow and snowboarding, reading, my friends, my family, and everything in between."

Where are you politically?

"I'm a libertarian. My biggest issue is stem cell research and I also believe in the legalization of drugs."



Cameron, 22, Physical Therapy

Is it hard being a conservative on campus?

"The only problem I have is when I talk politics with my friends, who are... you guessed it, liberals. They just don't understand where I'm coming from and frankly I can't figure out where they're coming from. It's just easier not to talk about it with them."

What issues matter to you, personally?

"Well, I'm a firm believer in fair, low taxes, and I feel strongly about the institution of marriage."



Jessica Simpson, 25, Actress and Singer

People often make fun of you and say you're ditz. What say you?

"I think there's a difference between ditz and dumb. Dumb is just not knowing. Ditz is having the courage to ask!"

What are your thoughts on saving the environment?

"Is this chicken, what I have, or is this fish? I know it's tuna, but it says 'Chicken of the Sea.'"

What is your stance on illegal immigration?

"Is there, like, maids for, like, celebrities?"



Got a camera and a conservative girl?
Send submissions to stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com



the stony brook

M E S S S

the communist news and porno rag

Vol. XXX, Issue 69

"Will sell our souls for publicity."

November 25, 2005

Letters



To whom it may concern:

I am a 17 yr. old freshman here at Stony Brook. I'm writing to you because of a recent feature I came upon in your rival paper, The Stony Brook Press. The feature included a pornographic photo of a starlet demonstrating a reverse cowgirl position. I have always been well reserved in my 3 yr. relationship with my beloved boyfriend Chet, but after absorbing this photo, I was a changed girl.

Chet was what I now consider an over zealous Christian. I was raised in a similar household brought up with the same moral values, but through the years of restraint, I was wearing thin. Chet and I always maintained that we would wait for marriage, like Jesus would want us to do, but after viewing that photo, I was suddenly transformed. I suppose you could say my "clam was steamed." I was so overtaken by my urge that I attacked Chet in a whirlwind of 3 yrs. worth of frustration. And as a result, my beloved boyfriend broke the vows he made with God. Though it didn't last long, I'm sure he enjoyed himself because I have never before seen a grown man weep with such passion.

But now I present to you my quandary. As you know my lustful act has caused my boyfriend to break his holy vows and so he has since broken up with me. I find myself pregnant with his baby. Is some higher power punishing me for my lustful rage of sin or is it all coming down to the alluring snapshot published in the Stony Brook Press?

Love Lost on Long Island

TOP TEN

Uses For The Mess

- 10 Last Minute Porn
- 9 Ran Out of T.P.
- 8 Paper Training Your Grandma
- 7 Environmentally-friendly Feminine Hygiene Product
- 6 Baricade to prevent Jeff Goldblum from watching you poop (see page 14 WTF? Pic)
- 5 pulp for reprintings of the communist manifesto
- 4 Padding for Shipping Nukes to 3rd World Countries
- 3 Beating Dead Horses
- 2 Wad it up and plug up the levee in New Orleans
- 1 Fat guys will eat ANYTHING!

Hot Marine Life Action

By Amber Jeanne



Hardcore Prawnography on Page Four!



Crowe Faces Death Penalty

Cranky Actor Slips up in Saudi Arabia

Satire By Erik Berte

While staying at the Hilton Makkah in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Australian actor, Russell Crowe struck again, bashing a maid in the face with a telephone. He wouldn't have been in trouble since she was a woman, but unfortunately, worried that he would, he got himself drunk and ran around the city half-naked singing songs from the movie, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Crowe had recently pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in the U.S., avoiding jail time or even probation. He was charged with assault for throwing a phone at a hotel clerk as part of a tantrum while staying at the Mercer Hotel in Manhattan. Apparently, he was told he had to wait for a moment when he had trouble calling his wife in Australia.



Crowe has reportedly reached a civil settlement with victim, Nestor Estrada, of just above \$100,000.

According to Crowe, this had all simply been a misunderstanding. He explained, "You see, it's an Australian custom to throw hard objects at people when upset. It's how we relieve our angry feelings and it usually works quite well."

However, Nicole Kidman, an

Australian native herself begged to differ. "No, that's just not right... Even when I found out about Katie and Tom or the fact that he's brainwashing my children with Scientology, I never felt the urge to smack one of them in the face with a communication device. I just make better movies that sell, unlike War of the Worlds."

Unfortunately for Crowe, the

law in Saudi Arabia works a tad bit differently than our system here in the U.S. when it comes to singing, with the exception of Florida perhaps, where you can't sing in public with a bathing suit on. As anyone who has seen an episode of American Dad on Fox, knows, singing and dancing don't go over too well in Saudi Arabia. As a result of his unfathomable behavior, Crowe now

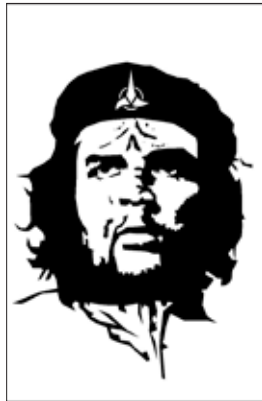
faces public death by stoning.

Luckily, Russell Crowe, used to such situations after filming The Gladiator, was able to escape to the local U.S. Embassy where he's currently staying until his flight back home to Australia.

Sources indicate that for passenger safety, cell phones are no longer permitted on Australian Airlines flights.



Picture Blog: Interesting Pictures we Came Across This Month



Che... Klingon



This one is pretty ironic.



Photo Courtesy of Erik Berte

English-speaking people need not apply. Oh, and don't forget to "take shoes off when come in." Photo taken in Hariman Hall.

Republicans Spotted on Campus

Liberal Establishment Urges Calm

Satire By Nathan Shapiro

The Stony Brook University campus has been thrown into a tizzy these past few weeks with a rash of sightings of what has long been thought to be a mythical creature: College Republicans. The student GOP members have been spotted all around the school grounds, although they appear to be concentrated in SAC room 311 on Tuesday at 5:30 P.M. for no explainable reason.

"I'm positive that is what I saw," said one Stony Brook student, "you don't forget something like that!" Reactions among the student body have varied from shock to downright terror. With a pervasive feeling of uncertainty hanging over the university, the school authorities have implored students and faculty to remain calm.

"We expect every student enrolled at our fine university to show everyone, even Republicans, the same respectful courtesy and tolerance of free expression that we extend to every group," said Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny in a written statement.

While publicly university officials have been preaching tolerance, they have privately been dis-

cussing their own misgiving about the situation.

"The president's entire staff has been caught off-guard," revealed one aide on the condition of anonymity, "we never expected something like this to occur during her tenure. Right now we're assessing our options, but rest assured we won't let this threat to the student body persist for too long."

However, many students

around our campus, the more damage they can do to our social justice."

How they intended to hunt the GOP-ers without invoking their right to bear arms remains unclear.

But they may not get the chance to clarify that point, as it currently appears to be unlikely the Governor will grant the hunting permits. Further frustrating their attempts, legislation has been

introduced in Congress to add Stony Brook College Republicans to the Endangered Species Protection Act.

Senator Stevens, a Republican from Alaska, co-sponsored the bill to protect the newly-discovered Republicans. In a speech on the Senate floor he reiterated the purpose of the act: "College Republicans at Stony Brook University

are a rare and wonderful breed of students. It is only just that we act to preserve their existence for the sake of future generations."

He added, "For years our good colleagues from the Northeast have been protecting our Alaskan wildlife through Congressional action, and I figured I'd return the favor."

However the political maneuvering in Washington and Albany plays out, one thing appears to be certain, which is that the Stony Brook College Republicans do exist, and they won't be going extinct any time soon.



GOP tracks found in the woods on campus.

are outraged by the lack of action from the administration and have taken the problem into their own hands. Some have organized into left-wing, un-armed militias and have appealed to Governor Pataki to issue permits to allow hunting GOP-members on-campus, akin to the bear hunts undertaken in New Jersey to cull the wild bear populations.

"If the campus security won't protect us, we're just going to have to do it ourselves," said a flower-toting militia member to The Patriot. "The longer these beasts roam

Depressing Poetry Corner

For those times when you think *your* life sucks.

One More Time By Aleksandra Borodkin

I have always loved the clear, night air
the gentle twilight, the darkened sea
make it seem as though you are there
standing silently next to me.

One time you seemed so near
and your presence was gentle as before
i swear that i could almost hear
you say my name once more.

I whispered quietly "don't go"
but the fading dark still took you away
the cheery robin does not know
how I hate the coming of day.

Nostalgia: My Only Aphrodisiac (For Kurt) Anonymus

Joyous remembrances between us two
A fondness once shared between you and I
Now we must say our final goodbye
I just can't believe we're really through

An empty hole torn into the depths of my soul
This pain inside me is too unbearable to control
I miss your soulful eyes interlocked with mine
I thought your guitar playing was simply divine

Our cherubic son Tristan the only remnant of what was
once you and I

It is as though you have simply passed away and died
Oh how I cried for the loss that was you
I just can't imagine how I will get through

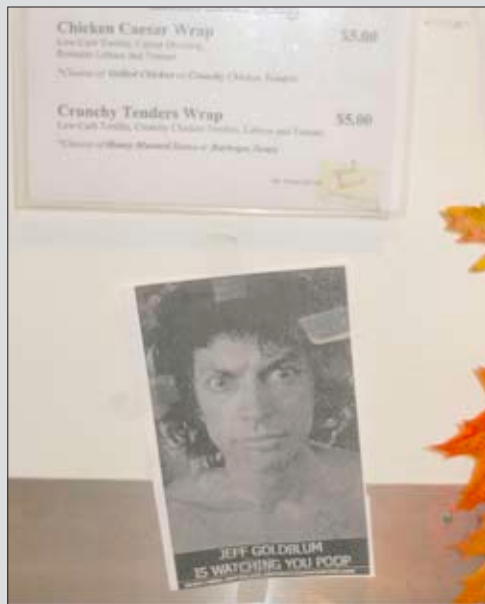
Through treasured years and bickering tears
We have witnessed and experienced it all
Up and downs and in between
How in the world could you be so mean?

To leave me alone to struggle with pain
Without you beside me I go insane
For you was my world, my soul mate best friend
I never thought "we" would come to an end

Through depths of despair I currently dwell
Living in this self induced hell
Of trying to get over this love that you and I did share
That turned into a psychotic sado-masochistic affair

I shall remember the good times and repress the bad
For when I see you in Tristan's eyes I feel only sad
I wish thee only happiness as I bid thee adieu
Just know that forever times infinity I will always love
you

WTF?! Picture of the Month



Can You Identify this Flyer?

Once a month, we shall publish an odd picture that can only make you go, as you would on AOL Instant Messenger, "WTF?!" This month we came across a flyer, or rather a bunch of flyers covering the cafeteria in the Student Activities Center with an old picture of actor, Jeff Goldblum, known for his horrible performance in Independence Day. Under the photo appear the words, "Jeff Goldblum is watching you poop." Underneath it we saw an official website devoted to the cause, www.jeffgoldblumiswatchingyoupoop.com. There can only be one explanation...

And you have it! Please send in your explanations, and we'll publish them alongside the picture as a caption. Tell us what you can discern from this picture, and the events which might have brought it about.

Please send in your submissions to stonbrookpatriot@gmail.com with the subject line, "WTF?!"

This month's photo was taken in the SAC cafeteria.

Submitted Captions:

"Remember the phantom shitter?"

"This is what happens when someone starts talking really dirty to a brick wall."

"Uh Oh... Marilyn Manson got sick while dissecting a frog again."

Last Month's Picture:



Sex at The 'Brook

By Virginia Morgan

When you are single, your mind often drifts back to thoughts of the last relationship you had. You'll think about the good parts and the bad parts but most importantly, you'll think about what went wrong. It always happens. No matter how over them you swear you are, you always dwell on those last few moments of the relationship before it became no more.

But why do we do it and should we do it? When you're newly single, you don't go out on the town right away because you're still trying to deal with the fact you no longer are with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Then, once you get over the break up you realize that you haven't been out on a date in a while so you start to think, "Well I've been out of the dating game for a while now...I guess I could try but I don't know. Who'd want me?" By then it's too late. You are no longer the attractive suddenly single standing by the wall and instead you're the depressed one over in the corner nursing a Jack and Coke.

It's times like these when we start thinking about our former relationship and say to ourselves, "I wonder if I had just...would it have made a difference? Would we still be together?" When we were kids we always had "do overs". If we were playing basketball and missed the hoop, we'd definitely say, "Oh that was just a practice shot. I get to do it over now for real!" and then proceed to "do it over" as many times as it took to sink the shot. Well, what if we had "do overs" in relationships? What if we could go back,



keep changing a few things here or there until the relationship worked? Would it be worth it and more importantly, would they work?

As kids we were so confident that once granted our "do over" we could sink the shot for sure but can we be as confident now as adults? Perhaps the reason we so often dwell on a particular past relationship is because we idyllically think that if granted a relationship "do over" we'd be successful and not single the second time around. We'll tell ourselves, "Well we broke up because I was too clingy, untrustworthy, temperamental etc." and we'll convince ourselves that it will change the second time around because after all, hindsight is twenty-twenty. And of course we'd say it's worth a try; we're single, alone and hanging around with guys named "Ben", "Jerry" and "Jack Daniels."

However, are we really convinced it could change or are we just convinced that it will be easier to try and make it

work with an ex than to try to make it work with someone new? It may be convenient to call up an ex and try to fix what went wrong, but to do so would be a great disservice to you and your ex. There were reasons you stopped seeing each other, valid reasons that aren't going to change magically overnight just because you want them to. You shouldn't force them or yourself back into a relationship that's doomed for failure.

Loneliness and depression are only short term side effects of being single. It's okay to think about past relationships, what went wrong and what didn't. That's what helps us grow and change so our next relationship can be better and stronger. Eventually you'll meet someone and be together and fabulous. If you don't meet someone, it doesn't matter. You can still be single and fabulous as long as you put your past relationships behind you and surround yourself with good friends... who aren't named "Ben" "Jerry" or "Jack Daniels."

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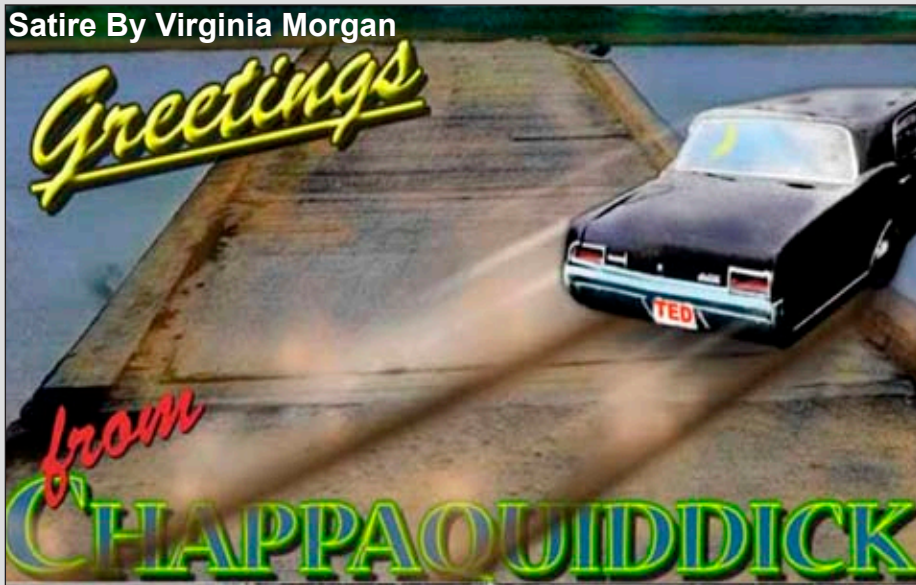
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Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month

Satire By Virginia Morgan



Dear John-

*I'm just wasting away
again in Chappaquiddick.
Weather is here, wish you
were beautiful!*

- Ted



Senator John Kerry

304 Russell Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Margarita

*Not intended for the weak of stomach, faint of heart or for those who are under 21 years of age.

Ingredients:

1/2 oz Cointreau® orange liqueur
1/2 oz Grand Marnier® orange liqueur
2 1/2 oz sweet and sour mix
1 oz lime juice
1 1/2 oz Jose Cuervo® 1800 tequila

Directions:

In a cocktail shaker mix all the ingredients. Enjoy!

Yield: 1 serving

When not ambling through the halls of Congress or filibustering judicial nominees on the floor of the Senate, there's nothing Senator Kennedy likes more than kicking back on the shores of Chappaquiddick with a nice, cold drink in his hand. Each month this column will highlight one of Senator Kennedy's favorite drinks. Ted decided to go classic this week with a Margarita.



Get Wasted Like Ted at These Fine Locations



Stony Brook Area

Three Village Inn

150 Main Street
Stony Brook
751-0555
Happy Hour: 5-7

Station Pizza and Brew

1099 North Country Road
Stony Brook
751-5543

J&R's Steakhouse

1320 Stony Brook Road
Stony Brook
689-5920
Happy Hour: 4-7

Pt. Jefferson Area

Tara Inn

1519 Main Street
Port Jefferson
473-9602
Happy Hour: 5-7

PJ Horsefeathers

1615 Main Street
Port Jefferson
928-9078

Village Way

406 Main Street
Port Jefferson
928-3395
Happy Hour: 5-7

Printers Devil

105 Wynn Lane
Port Jefferson
473-1130
Happy Hour: 4-7

Tommy's Place

109 Main Street
Port Jefferson
473-8778

Billies 1890 Saloon

304 Main Street
Port Jefferson
331-1890
Happy Hour: 5-7

Smithtown Area

Molly Blooms

43 East Main Street
Smithtown
360-8169

Napper Tandy's Irish Pub

15 East Main Street
Smithtown
360-0606

Lake Grove Area

John Harvard's Brewhouse

Smithhaven Plaza
Lake Grove
979-2739
Happy Hour: 4-7