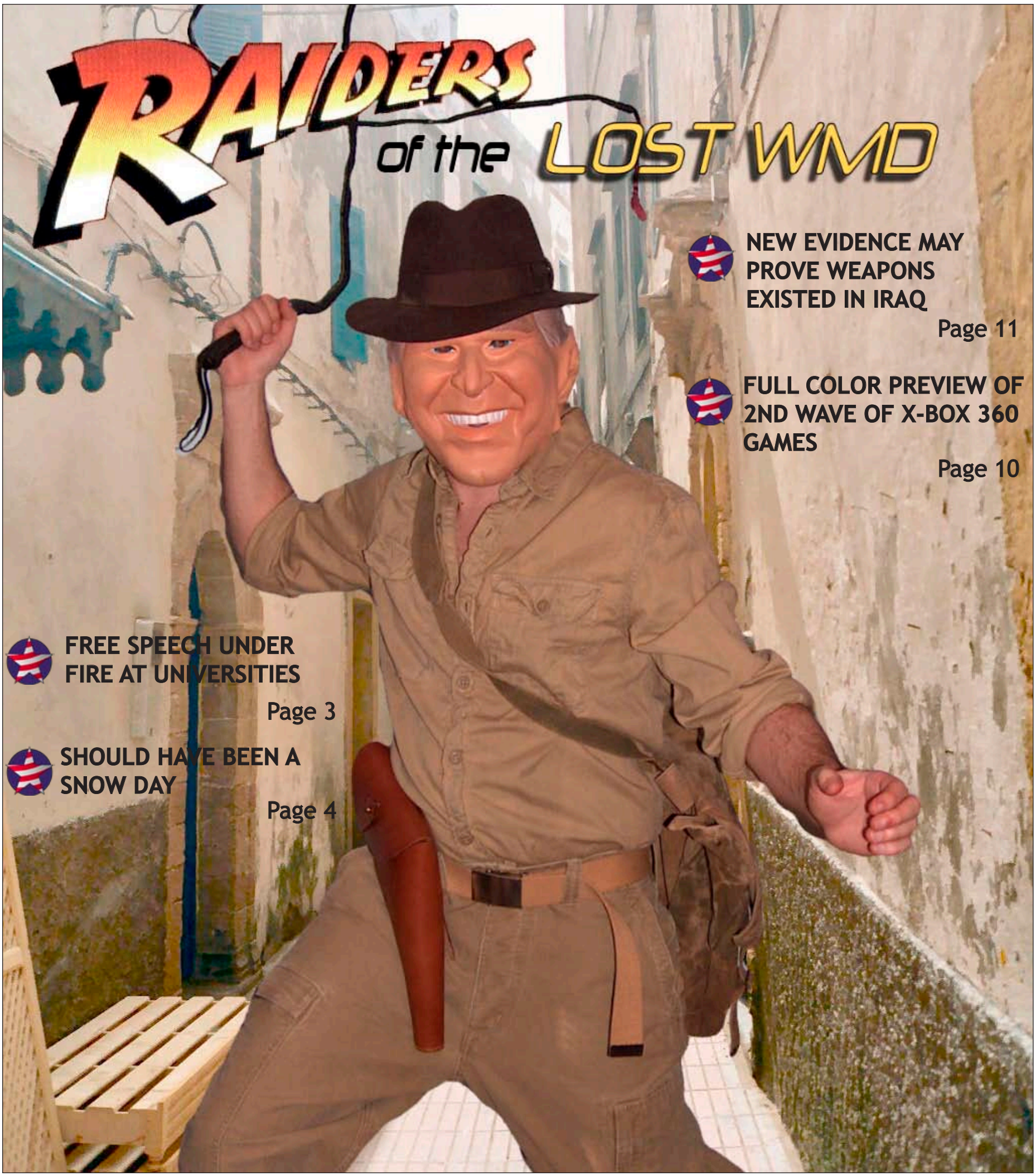
The Patriot

Vol. 2 Issue 5 | March 2006 | Monthly



This Issue

The Brokeback Buzz

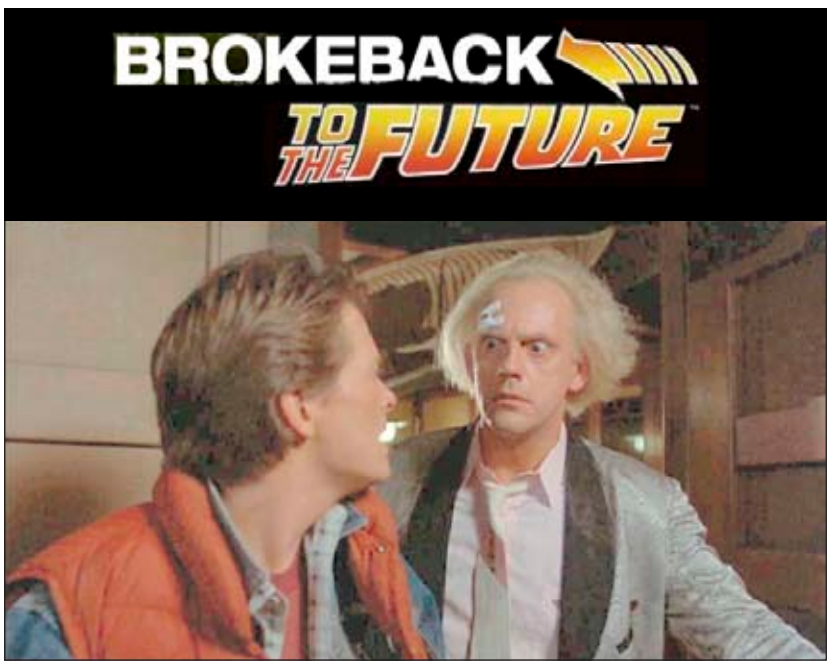
By Jorge Sierra

There's this movie. It's a western-themed romance between two ranchers—well, sheepherders to be specific—originally published in an anthology of short stories set in rural Wyoming. It was directed by Ang Lee of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, received a bunch of rave reviews, has been nominated for eight Oscars, and has grossed over $60 million since opening in a limited number of theaters. It's called Brokeback Mountain, and for some reason it's generated a bit of a buzz. You might even call it a bug. It's sweeping the country, making otherwise sane people so excited about the film, they start babbling gibberish.

It started when The Daily News's film critic Jack Matthews detected a strange "whooshing sound" over the red states as they prepared "a renewed how-dare-they assault on liberal Hollywood" for promoting a movie about two gay lovers. Matthews was genuinely sympathetic to those afflicted, even posting a "Red state Alert!" as the movie picked up awards. The Boondocks creator Aaron McGruder has also been hot on the trail of the Brokeback buzz. He publicized a slang usage of the word "Brokeback" in a January 22 comic about a man-bag that looks suspiciously like a purse. Since the movie came out, some people have actually been concerned that they might be, well, "Brokeback." Fortunately David Letterman educated the public about the "Top 10 Signs You Are a Gay Cowboy." Telltale signs include "Instead of a saloon, you prefer a salon" and "You love riding, but you don't have a horse." Kate Clinton, a lesbian comic quoted in a Jan. 26 USA Today article, seems to have figured out why even small town America has caught the buzz: "They want to be homohip and know what is going on."

If that last quote sounds bad, maybe even downright stereotypical, try to understand that Kate Clinton and many gay-friendly people are actually suffering even more than the red staters. In fact, the comedian has discovered that gays are actually mandated to see this film: "We get our gay card punched on the way out." Well, now you know, straight from one of the foremost experts on the Brokeback buzz: every single gay person in the country is watching Brokeback Mountain.

Even President Bush can't seem to escape it. His audience at Kansas State University broke into booming laughter after a student asked if he had seen the movie—before the President even had a chance to respond. TV powerhouses Oprah Winfrey and Bill O'Reilly respectively rounded out the coverage of the Brokeback epidemic with groundbreaking interviews with the movie's stars ("Let's talk about the kiss") and insightful comments about a certain sex scene's "eww" factor. In a more recent column O'Reilly made a guess at what a Clint Eastwood character might do if he happened upon the movie's gay sex scene. As in, guns blazing.



Even though the Brokeback didn't win all the awards it was supposed to, we should prepare for a lot more gay-themed movies in the future anyway. With three of the top five Best Picture nominees being gay related, expect Hollywood to copy the trend like they do any other until they run it into the ground. Coming your way Summer 2007: BrokeBack to the Future - It will bring a whole new meaning to Huey Lewis's, "The Power of Love."

Here at Stony Brook, the Brokeback buzz is rather muted. Many students were not even familiar with the movie, including freshman Jessica Ramos. "There must be a reason I've never heard of it." Among those who do know about the movie, some are very supportive. Gregory Scott Smith, a junior, saw Brokeback Mountain in Boston with a group of friends. "Some guys didn't want to see it just because it was about homosexuality," he related. "I think they should broaden their minds a little bit." John Paul Martell, an alumnus, was also planning to see it. "I personally feel, having worked with a lot of people who were gay, that they are some of the most intelligent people. Anything that's done to defend a group of people like that, I'm for." But several students, including Heather Miller, a freshman, had no plans to see the movie. "I don't like the idea that someone gets married, and then has a relationship with someone else," she explained. "Marriage is about love."

One searches in vain for strange wooshing sounds, newfangled slang terms, stamped gay cards, and raving commendations or condemnations about sex scenes and kisses, despite the assurances of media figures and comics; despite the airing on mostly pro-gay media reaching millions of Americans—the presidential coverage, USA Today, Oprah and O'Reilly, late night comics—of Brokeback "coverage" that has given face time to virtually every single stereotype about gay people and gayness that exists.

Maybe Annie Proulx would know why some communities are inexplicably unaffected by the Brokeback buzz. She's the one who wrote the damn story in the first place. In her Dec. 15 interview with the Associated Press, she calls Brokeback Mountain "an old, old story. We've heard this story a million times, we just haven't heard it quite with this cast." Okay, actually, she's the most guileless person on the face of the Earth. She claims "It was just another story when I started writing it."

Just another story? Maybe the story that's not being told is that Brokeback Mountain is just... a movie.

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:
submissions@stonybrookpatriot.com

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.

The Patriot

Editor-in-Chief
Erik Berte

Managing Editor
Rachel O'Brien

Design Director
Brian Holt

Legal Advisor
Alexsandra Borodkin

Proofreading Editor
Megan Gaffey

News Editor
Erica Smith

Advertising Manager
Chris Dolley

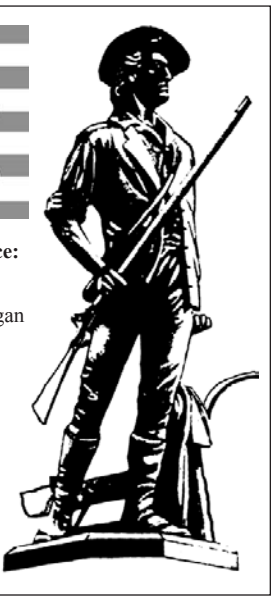
Public Relations Manager
Jason Frank

Staff Photographer
James Davis

Contributing Photographer
Mark Murphy

Staff Writers:
Nathan Shapiro
Damon Vetere
Robert Romano
Jason Frank
Andrew Curran
Jorge Sierra
Davey Jones
Chris Pitera
Byung Min Sa
Brett Denyer

Enduring Freedom Alliance:
President Erik Berte
Vice President Virginia Morgan
Secretary Rachel O'Brien
Treasurer Chris Dolley



Free Speech Under Fire

U.S Supreme Court building in Washington, DC.

Supreme Court Sets Dangerous Precident

By Rachel O'Brien

On Tuesday Feb. 21, the U.S. Supreme Court set a dangerous precedent when it decided not to hear an appeal presented by college students whose First Amendment rights to free speech and free press had been violated. The court refused to hear the appeal in the Hosty v. Carter case that gave university administrators at Governors State University in Illinois prior review rights over a university newspaper.

In November of 2000, Margaret Hosty, a student journalist at Governors State University in Illinois wrote an article for the campus newspaper, the Innovator, attacking the integrity of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Roger K. Ogden, because he had decided not to renew the teaching contract of Geoffrey de Laforcade, the Innovator's faculty adviser.

When Hosty and the Innovator refused to print an apology or retract statements that the administration said were false, the Dean of Student Affairs and Services, Patricia Carter, called Charles Richards, president of Regional Publishing, the publishing company that printed the Innovator. She told him not to print the Innovator unless he was given notice that the university administration had first reviewed it and approved of its content.

Because the Innovator relies on university funds to print, Regional Printing didn't want to risk the chance of printing the paper and not being paid, so they complied with Carter.

This was a clear violation of First Amendment rights for not only Hosty but for the entire staff of the paper. They took the university to court.

Editor-in-Chief of the Innovator Jeni S. Porche and Managing Editor Steven P. Barba were the two other plaintiffs along with Hosty who took all of the university's trustees, most of its administrators and several of its staff members to court.

All administrators, trustees and staff, save Carter, were granted a leave from the case either because there was no case against them for vicarious liability or because they received qualified immunity.

The case went to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which ruled that Carter had a "reasonable misunderstanding of the law", which she violated when she canceled the printing. However, the court also ruled that she had the authority to review and edit the newspaper. The court ruled along the precedent of a similar case, Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, which gave school administration the right to censor and edit a newspaper published by a journalism class in Hazelwood High School.

However, what was shocking about this decision was that Hazelwood was a high school case and hadn't been used as precedent when ruling on this issue with colleges. Why was it such a factor now?

Unsatisfied with this unconstitutional ruling, Hosty, Porche and Barba requested a writ of certiorari, an appeal, from the U.S. Supreme Court, who on Feb. 19 denied their request.

Soon after the ruling was handed down from the Circuit Court on June 20, 2005, many advocates for students' First Amendment rights spoke up, expressing their anger and frustration with the government that is supposed to protect our constitutional rights.

"This decision gives college administrators ammunition to argue that many traditionally independent student activities are subject to school censorship," said Mark Goodman, the executive director of the Student Press Law Center in a press release. "Nowhere is free expression more important than on our college and university campuses where we hope to expose students to a true 'marketplace of ideas'. This court has snubbed its nose at this notion."

Previously, in most cases in which censorship had been an issue on college campuses, the students came out on top. Does this then set a dangerous precedent for college newspapers? The answer is yes. When a university official calls a publisher and tells them not to print a student newspaper, constitutional rights are being violated and that should not be a thing on which precedent is set.

USG Reform Party

Are you tired of the way your Student Government is run? Are you tired of officers not delivering what they promise? Do you say there must be a better way? If this sounds like you your answer is the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government Reform Party. The Reform Party is a non-partisan organization that will stand up for our rights as students and work hard to improve the quality of life on this campus. Party members will also hold officers accountable to the student body. The main goal of the party is to get candidates who run for office on the Reform ticket elected to the USG. Some other party goals include budget reforms, constitutional reforms and getting many more students active in government. In addition the party seeks to improve the relationship between clubs and organizations and USG.

Members of the Reform Party leadership hold important positions in campus clubs as well as USG. You can join the Reform Party in one of two ways. You may join as an individual or encourage your club or organization to join and your organization will become a member of the party's Committee of Member Organizations. For more information contact Alexsandra Borodkin, USG Reform Party Chair at midnightwalk@hotmail.com

Join the Reform Party now and make a difference today.

Member Organizations:

The Patriot

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*.

It was close to impossible to get friend and staff writer, Drew Curran, through Roth Quad to get some dinner at Burger King. We even had a hard time ourselves.

Should Have Been A Snow Day

By Alexander Markow

Feb. 13, 2006 ... a day that will bring back memories of sledding, snowball fights, and a trip to the infirmary? The ice fields of Stony Brook, New York were a sight that many a student had to trek through on this fateful day.

While the brave work staff here on campus tried to salt and scrape all the major pathways, it was just too much of a job for them to handle, apparently. Now if you like a nice stroll through the woods or on a path in the snow at night it would be nice; but for the handicapped or the average Joe and Susie it wasn't such a walk in the park.

A personal story to that effect: We went for a little trip to the Roth food court from the SAC and I can tell you it was an adventure. Aiding one of our disabled friends wasn't easy because the "accessible" handicapped areas on campus were either covered in ice or submerged under a mini glacier. We had to literally push his wheelchair, or rather slide it, through this snow several times.

Not only is this unfair to those students but it presents an obstacle to safely making your way across campus.

This is something that needs to be considered next time there is a brutal snowstorm and the faculty decides to open our school. But let's not forget our commuters! The roads were horrible due to the very cold weather, and the rain prior to that allowed for a dangerous sheet of ice to be formed just under the surface.

Ironically, if one looked online that day to see that school was in session, the first item on the list of winter weather driving tips below the message was, "avoid driving."

So cheers and congratulations to a commendable effort by the survivors of this day! But a message for our administrators: Holding classes is beneficial for us students and our school, but could you please keep us safe just as you keep us educated?

Ramps all over campus were covered in ice and snow for the entire day. This photo was taken near the SAC.

Path from the Student Activites Center toward Roth Quad was still covered in snow and not salted.

Around The World With ERQ

Mini Cultural Festival Held in Greeley College

By Alexander Markow

On Feb. 15, a mini culture festival was held in the lobby of Greeley College in Eleanor Roosevelt Quad. Packed with people from all across campus, the festival lasted several hours featuring food, dancing, music, poetry, raffles and more.

According to co-coordinators (and RHD's) Jennie Goldman and Sherrille Shabazz, the goals of the event were to promote global awareness, portray campus diversity, and to allow these individual cultures to play out in a friendly environment.

It is also well-known that Stimson College houses the most international students of all the dorms. Ricky "Tan" why is Tan in quotes? is that his last name? -Fatcatfireball 2/24/06, 10:45pm of Greeley College said,"I wanted to see different cultures and experience each tradition firsthand. The support for my home quad is also important." One of the performers, Kwame Opam, said, "I like the cultures coming together tonight. It also went well to illustrate the genre of the poem I prepared." do you have any more details on poem? -Fatcatfireball 2/24/06, 10:47pm

While this event was an alternative assignment for the GLS don't abreviate, is that global studies? Do you mean it was extra credit? -Fatcatfireball 2/24/06, 10:47pm classes here at school, there was tremendous support for the festival on a local level. So look forward to more events such as a possible trip to the UN or Ellis Island.

SBU Hosts Chinese Orphanage Benefit

By Erica Smith

The Student Activity Center was transformed into a scene of celebration on Saturday, Feb 19, when Stony Brook University helped bring in the Chinese New Year for dozens of Chinese children and their adoptive families.

One of the ballrooms was packed with more than 40 tables of happy families, red and black balloons, running children in traditional Chinese garb, a magician and Hou-Tien Cheng, the incredible scissor cutter, best known from his performance in a Citibank commercial. Festivities spilled into the second ballroom, which was converted into a craft center, and the glass lobby was filled with vendors selling everything from Chinese shoes to chopsticks.

Leanna Greenberg, who has two adopted sisters, could not stop smiling. "It's a celebration of the adoption and the culture," said Greenberg, 16, who was dressed in a shiny light blue kimono.

The event was held by the Long Island chapter of the global organization, Families with Children from China, in order to raise money for Chinese orphanages. FCC is a volunteer organization intended to support families before, through and after the adoption process.

Dozens of Stony Brook volunteers from Community Service Learning, Asian Student Association, Sigma Beta Honor Society, Women in Science and Engineering, Kappa Phi Lambda and Pi Delta Psi came to lend a hand. Many woke up early to help with the event.

"They're a godsend," said FCC volunteer, Teresa Baldinucci-Greenberg, Leanna's stepmother. "They have been so helpful."

Even the Stony Brook Lion Dance Club made an appearance, dancing as one inside an elaborately crafted beast.

Sharobi Chowdhury, a member of the Sigma Beta Honor Society, had been at the event since 11 a.m., setting up tables and balloons, helping with the craft center and checking guests in. "It's a nice twist for orphanage fund raising," she said. "I think it's really special for the kids and parents, like a big Christmas dinner, but not Christmas."

FCC sold $1,663 in raffle tickets. The group expects more money from the vendors and admission tickets. According to Jayne Hirsch, co-chair of the event, a third of the money will go to "Half the Sky," an organization that seeks to enhance the lives of Chinese children in orphanages. Another third will go to Le Chang orphanage, located in Guangdong province. The rest will be for the FCC Greater New York division, which covers all of New Jersey, New York and portions of Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

In addition to fundraising, FCC said it also meant for the event to provide cultural education and support to adopted children. Baldinucci-Greenberg explained that the for this this was learned from the first generation of adopted Asian children, whose parents did not realize the importance of teaching their children about their birth country. Now these children have grown up and say they felt as if they were "torn away from their home," said Baldinucci-Greenberg.

"We are fortunate to have their adult voices," she added.

Hirsch said she also strongly believes in teaching her 7-year-old daughter, Rebecca, about both American and Chinese culture. She said her family celebrates American, Jewish, and Chinese holidays.

Amanda Vreeland, a volunteer from Women in Science and Engineering and Sigma Beta Honor Society, said she believed the event provided a lot of support to the children. "It's an awkward situation when your families don't necessarily look like you," she said, and explained that she thought it was important for the children to be around others like them.

This is the second year FCC has held its annual New Year's Celebration at Stony Brook. FCC became involved with the school when Missy Kenny-Corron, from the university's department of diversity and affirmative action, joined the organization as she considered adoption. When Kenny-Corron learned that the New Year's event was becoming too large for the restaurant FCC was using, she suggested they come to Stony Brook.

Kenny-Corron could not be at the event Saturday because she was in China, only hours away from meeting her own child.

Top 15 Immigrant Visas Issued
IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED TO ORPHANS COMING TO THE U.S. IN 2005
1. 7,906 – CHINA
2. 4,639 - RUSSIA
3. 3,783 - GUATEMALA
4. 1,630 - S. KOREA
5. 821 - UKRAINE
6. 755 - KAZAKHSTAN
7. 441 - ETHIOPIA (Think Starvin' Marvin)
8. 323 - INDIA
9. 291 - COLOMBIA
10. 271 - PHILIPPINES
11. 231 - HAITI
12. 182 - LIBERIA
13. 141 - CHINA (Taiwan-born)
14. 98 - MEXICO
15. 73 - POLAND

"Dangerous" Professor Responds

Listed in "Most Dangerous Academics in America" Prof. Schwartz Responds to Accusations

By Chris Dolley

The "Die in Protest" was held during the Fall 2004 Semester at Stony Brook, outside the library. Sponsored by the Coalition Against the War group, students and faculty members laid on the pavement to represent the civilians who have supposedly been murdered by our troops in Iraq.

Professor Michael Schwartz of the Stony Brook Sociology Department is included in David Horowitz's new book, "The Professors: 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America." Horowitz, nationally syndicated author and lifelong civil rights activist, said the purpose of his book is to expose some of the thousands of professors that press their radical viewpoints on their students.

Horowitz writes that he considers Schwartz dangerous because of statements like this one, said last November at a Stony Brook anti-war protest: "We as Americans have to hope America will lose [the war in Iraq]. If we win, we have to expect more wars, more destruction." Schwartz, who is currently teaching a class called "Understanding the War in Iraq," maintains this belief. He elaborated on this in a telephone interview.

"I think my comments have been proven right," he said. "The only reason America is not trying to attack Iran is because we don't have control over Iraq" and "there is a policy of continuous U.S. aggression against countries the United States doesn't like." He added that the military is corrupt, and "if we win this war, the United States will become even more aggressive. They have a militaristic, aggressive military policy."

Horowitz also writes that Schwartz has called those who fight the American military "revolutionaries" fighting against "brutal" American tactics. Schwartz tried to defend these statements by pointing to Fallujah, where he said the insurgents were only attacking the American military, and not civilians. Horowitz and the American military obviously disagree.

Horowitz also mentions that Schwartz incorrectly spread the idea of an impending American military draft, which Schwartz had claimed to be an imminent "ticking time bomb" set for the spring of 2005. The professor now says "a draft is much more politically unfeasible than I had thought."

Horowitz also said Schwartz has a "Marxist obsession with class conflict and ruling class oppression." He writes that the professor is an affiliate faculty member of the Center for Study of Working Class Life at Stony Brook, which is "headed by Marxist economist Michael Zweig" and he is also a contributor to Marxist journals such as Science and Society. Horowitz writes that this might explain why there are so many seminars in the sociology department on subjects such as "Advanced Topics in Marxist Theory." Schwartz's response to this was "Sure, I'm a Marxist." Schwartz also maintained that a lot of people and faculty at Stony Brook are.

"Today's radical academics aren't the exception- they're legion. Far from being harmless, they spew violent anti-Americanism," Horowitz wrote, "All the while collecting tax dollars and tuition fees to indoctrinate our children."

Schwartz says he disagrees that Stony Brook has been taken over by radical ideologues. "Horowitz is writing this book because he wants to reorganize American universities," said Schwartz. "He's not the scholar. I am. He wants to think that all scholarly processes of peer review have to be replaced by his viewpoint."

Recycling: Not Just For Hippies

By Erica Smith

Syafrina Sharif, a Cardozo R.A., became very excited when she learned her building was leading the race. "That's great! Now we can buy a new vacuum!" Other Cardozo residents have talked about getting a new microwave or a foosball table if they win. Ultimately, the legislative body (LEG) of the building that wins will decide where the prize money goes.

Recycle Mania is a national competition that currently includes 93 colleges in 33 states. Last year, Miami University won the trophy with an average of 71.9 pounds of recycling for each of its students. The competition is split into two semesters: In the first, the dormitories at individual schools compete, and in the second, the colleges compete against each other. The Recycle Mania in Roth Quad is only a "Stony Brook version" of the event, and is not affiliated with the national competition, says Associate Professor of Marine Science Kamazima Lwiza.

"This is a practice run."

Roth's Recycle Mania was planned over winter break by Lwiza, Recycling and Resource Management Manager Michael Youdelman, and Roth Quad Director Linda Eastman. The $800 prize comes from their pockets. The Environmental Club, a student organization, is also sponsoring the contest.

The way the contest works is as follows. Twice a week, Environmental Club members check the recycling bins in each Roth building. Each bin receives one, three or five points, depending on how clean the bin is. If a bin has many pieces of garbage or bottles and cans still containing liquid, it will receive one or three points. Clean bins get five points. If recyclables are bagged, they need to be in a transparent bag, like those provided to each Roth suite by the custodial staff. Recyclables in garbage or shopping bags will count as trash. The Environmental Club posts recommendations and tips in the recycling rooms after they check them.

Bottles are also supposed to be without caps, and everything should be crushed, but so far, points have not been taken off for these mistakes. They may, however, eventually lead to point reductions, said Lwiza, "when the competition heats up."

After the student volunteers give a point value to the quality of the bins, Recycling and Resource Management determines the "weight" or amount of each building's recyclables when it picks them up to take them to the campus recycling center. The assessments are combined to determine what building is in the lead each week.

Justin Grimm-Greenblatt, president of the Environmental Club, said that his members do not mind digging through the bins. "They all seem very positive about it. They've been coming back with data, looking forward to getting results for each building," he said.

Youdelman also conveyed enthusiasm for the contest. "It's important to be aware of our own individual footprint and to be mindful of the community as a whole. All of us have an effect that's quite major. If you were to take the footprint of our campus, it's quite amazing," he said, explaining that the university effects the environment locally, regionally and even globally.

Both Lwiza and Youdelman would like to see the competition expand next year, encompassing the entire campus.

This semester, however, is not the first time Recycle Mania was attempted at Stony Brook. Four years ago, Tabler Quad participated in the contest. Its discontinuance is a little unclear.

Youdelman said it "turned out well," but there were "mixed reviews," he added. "You need to have everyone on board," he said, including "really positive people like Linda". It seems he was implying that the problem was at the administrative level. He did not elaborate, preferring not to be "negative."

Lwiza said the failure might have been a lack of student awareness and involvement. "But now it's [the students'] own thing, and they're taking charge."

While Recycle Mania only involves the recycling of cans and bottles, Stony Brook campus recycles an array of items, including paper, cardboard, motor oil, grease, tires, ink jets, toner cartridges, pallets, trees, leaves, scrap metal, wooden debris, lead acid batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and computer monitors. Even old clothing can be recycled into new clothes for the needy when placed in one of the seven campus Good Will containers. Details can be found on the Recycling and Resource management website.

"It is unbelievable" how many products are made with recycled material, said Youdelman. He began to tick off a list of everything from carpets to ski jackets. "You could have a 150 page book of them all."

Recycling makes economic, environmental, and social sense, said Lwiza. Everyday, there are about 18 trucks of trash for Brookhaven alone, he said. "Wherever it is going, it is filling up space."

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling prevents the emission of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants, saves energy, supplies valuable raw materials to industry, creates jobs, stimulates the development of greener technologies, conserves resources for our children's future, and reduces the need for new landfills and combustors.

Recycling and composting saved 72 million tons of material from landfills in 2003, up from 15 million tons in 1980, says the EPA website. "Kermit the Frog is wrong- it is easy being green," said Youdelman. "Every person, every student, every faculty person, is an environmentalist. We all want clean air, clean water, and a clean land."

Opinions

BEN THE HEBREW HAMMER answers AMERICA

Dear Hebrew Hammer:

About three weeks ago, I broke up with my girlfriend of two years. She was the first person I felt truly "in love" with, and my first real serious lover. The problem is that whatever I do, I can't seem to get her off of my mind. Do you have any suggestions that will help me move on with my life? Seeing as how you have so many relationship problems yourself, answering this question should come easily to you.
Simon Lefkowitz
Tel Aviv, Israel

The Hammer Says:

As you noted in your letter, the volatile nature of my work means that most of the relationships I have tend not to last that long. However, this does not make breaking up with women any less painful, and there is simply no way to avoid this facet of breakups, Simon. The last time I broke off a relationship, I was so devastated I lost track of my work as the Hebrew Hammer. In fact, this is the exact reason why HAMAS was able to win last month's Palestinian elections. So next time you hear a maniacal terrorist spew his rhetoric on the streets of Gaza City, you can thank none other than my former girlfriend, pop music icon Jessica Simpson.

Dear Hebrew Hammer:

Ever since my husband Al had the 2000 election stolen from him by the vast right-wing conspiracy, he has changed for the worse. He has put on 75 lbs, grown a beard, mumbles to himself incoherently, and has gone off of his psychotropic medication. He has become desperate for attention, even giving speeches in the bus-stop bathrooms of Washington, DC. I blame you, Hebrew Hammer, and your ilk for doing this to my husband! Have you no shame! HAVE YOU ALL NO SHAME!!!
Tipper Gore
Washington, DC

The Hammer Says:

Tipper, me and my friends in the vast right-wing conspiracy did not cost your husband the Presidency; he did. If he did not run such a crappy campaign, he would not have lost to a man like George W. Bush. I mean, after all, do you really think that we Republicans expected this idiot to win? Absolutely not! We just ran him as a test candidate to see what the American public prefers: an alcoholic, coke-sniffing, turd-brained moron, or a Democrat. And seeing as how the people have re-elected this "moron", I realize that we could have run a dirty sock against your husband, and it still would have won.

Dear Hebrew Hammer

As a wealthy Republican plutocrat, I have the highest hopes for my three children. My oldest, Serena, just graduated Harvard University summa cum laude with a degree in Political Science. The problem is that after four years of constant leftist indoctrination, she returned to our mansion a "die-hard postmodern Trotskyist", whatever the hell that means. Is there nothing we can do to reverse this process? More importantly, how do I prevent my two high-school age sons from falling into the same pit that my daughter fell into?
Michael J. Leukoff
CEO, Gruppe Sechs Company

The Hammer Says:

Unfortunately, the only thing that will cure your daughter of the curse of liberalism is a full prefrontal lobotomy, which may be necessary depending on the severity of her case. Otherwise, a healthy regimen of prescription anti-psychotic medication for the rest of her life is the only thing that will keep her condition under control. As for your sons, the only way that you can ensure that they will grow up to be good, decent men is to send them to a good college. This is why you should STRONGLY encourage you sons to apply to West Point. But be warned my fellow Jew, one cannot buy his way into West Point. So your sons will have to really try their best to get into this school, because all daddy's money will not be able them get in.

THIS IS AN URGENT BULLETIN FROM THE HEBREW JUSTICE COALITION

Are you looking for excitement, danger, and scores of hot, young female admirers? Then the Hebrew Justice Coalition is not for you. Seriously, if you want to have a gaggle of young admirers in synagogue, go get yourself an M.D. in Radiology. But if you enjoy long, grueling missions to assassinate evil terrorists in conjunction with the Israeli Army, than the HJL is right for you! Contact 1-800-JEW-BOYZ for a free brochure today!

Constitution is Pro-Life

By Joshua Fritz

Many Americans are outraged, upset, or entirely afraid, that the United States Senate has confirmed Federal Judge Samuel Alito. The fear is that many women across the country will now have no protection under the Constitution to have an abortion, pending the Roe v. Wade (1973) case is overturned. With Senators posing last minute filibusters on the nomination and coming up empty, all hope in the eyes of the pro-choice movement came to a halt. Justice is now available to the unborn.

The preamble of the Constitution is a document that has stood the tests of time. Hardly any homage has been given to our national documents that lie in the archives in Washington D.C. How far have we come?

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

As I look at the latter of the Preamble, why do we deny the "security of the blessings of liberty to our posterity"? Now correct me if I'm wrong, but posterity would have to be to our children, correct? Sure, the blessings of liberty are secure to ourselves.

We have initiatives such as the Patriot Act that protect us, and protect our freedoms and rights in this country to avert future terrorist acts. But at the same time, we are the terrorists, we the United States, are terrorizing the unborn.

This may seem illogical at first, but take a look at this: According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), 39 million abortions have been performed betwern 1973 and 2000. We as a nation have strayed from the intentions of the framers, and have helped ourselves personally, instead of looking out for others. We're moving away from 'forming a more perfect Union'. 'Justice is not established'. Every which way, you see the innocent being convicted, and the guilty being let go. This in turn is not 'insuring domestic tranquility'. Wars are happening, crime is rampant, and 'the general welfare is promoted' but not kept because of empty promises. It seems to me that the only phrase in this Preamble that we are extremely careful of is providing for "the common defense of our country".

The Preamble has everything to do with what this country is facing in the present. Whether it be abortion, wars, crime, foreign policy, presidents, congresses, or the courts, it is relevant.

The confirmation of Justice Alito can be viewed as a step in the right direction in providing justice to the unborn, victims of harsh crimes, and to women who suffer from making past "choices" that have harmed their lives. Justice Alito is deserving of his position as Justice on the Supreme Court because of his track record, and his unwavering positions on issues that matter to the country, (namely abortion). He is the answer to an immediate but long neglected problem of the most recent Holocaust of our country; the merciless murder of the unborn.

Without the Preamble there would be no defense to restricting abortions, and ultimately overturning the laws that have harmed our society. The Preamble stands the test of time in American history because of its relevancy to today's issues and problems before our great country.

Don't be outraged, upset or afraid. With justice finally coming back to our children who need it the most, this country will see future generations that care for each other, and love and welcome everyone with a loving heart.

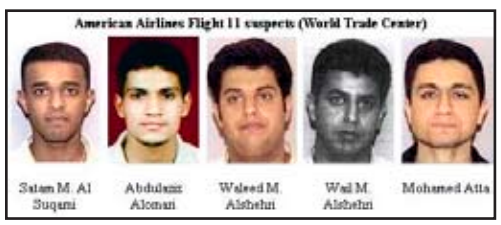
A Select Few?

Jason Frank

When it comes to the issue of Islamic terrorism, a common defense is that only a very small group of Muslims support this kind of activity. Very often people will preach that as a religion, Islam preaches peace and nonviolence. However, I'm not sure this is a very accurate theory. Actually, current events may have shown evidence of just the opposite.

Recently, elections were held in Palestine. These elections enabled many people to vote across Palestine. Prior to the election, the Middle East touted this as a step toward democracy, and said that it would be a true indication of how the Palestinian people felt. Well, it sure was.

In a "surprise" victory, the cut throat terror group Hamas took home the win. For decades, Hamas has been launching attacks throughout the world, killing civilians on a very frequent basis. Yet, they were voted in, by a popular democratic vote of common citizens of Palestine.



The hijackers of 9/11, terrorists in the Madrid subway bombings and London attacks, and rioters in France all seem have one thing in common.

This isn't surprising. The reason that it is not surprising is because the anti-Western and anti-Jewish sentiment that is said to be only held by the few, in reality seems to be held by the many. When it comes to denouncing terror attacks, it takes effort to even recruit groups within our own country to do so, let alone groups in other nations with higher Muslim populations.

Also, in recent years, terrorism seems to have become exclusively a Muslim activity. The attacks of September 11th, the Madrid subway bombing, the London terror attacks, several attacks in Indonesia, Chechnyan rebels in Russia, the riots in France, the shoe bomber, the USS Cole, repeated attacks in Israel, and countless kidnappings show this.

The list could go on forever. But still, people are hesitant to draw a common conclusion from all of these attacks. Be that as it may, I refuse to turn a blind eye. Each and every one of these attacks was conducted by a group at least claiming to be of the Islamic faith. This is not an isolated practice or belief.

Even if you look at the innocent Muslim population, they are not doing enough to prevent their fellow Muslims from committing such atrocities. There is not a united movement amongst good Muslims to reduce this activity, which lends to the question, are they really "good"? We know for sure that Americans would not let that type of behavior be comitted in our good name. It would be immediately squashed by a countermovement for the good of society.

These are questions that must be asked. Political correctness must be put aside to face this very real and glaring problem. There is nothing wrong with hurting a few feelings to save thousands of lives. We must prioritize and we must open our eyes.

Letters

Mr. Berte,

Your article, "What About Microsoft's Rights", appearing in the most recent issue of The Patriot, is based on the flawed premise that corporations are imbued with all of the rights of a person: they are not. Corporate personhood, being a legal fiction, does not accord onto corporations all of the constitutional rights that are granted to citizens, and corporate (commercial) speech is non-protected. In the case Kasky vs. Nike, for example, the California Supreme Court upheld this idea, as many other courts have in other cases. The bottom line is that corporations do not have 1st Amendment rights. This is the same reason that corporate campaign donations can be regulated, and why corporations are liable for the claims that they make in advertising.

Thank you,
Matthew Pancia

Mr. Pancia,

I'm not sure you're completely correct. The case you mention, Kasky v. Nike only ruled that corporations are limited in their First Amendment rights in that they can't lie about their business practices (including labor policies and company operations) in advertisements, press releases, letters to the editor, or public statements. The court deemed Nike's speech in that particular case, commercial. The case didn't touch on the freedom of expression that I used in my analogy. The expression I referred to was copyrighted material such as software or artwork.

However, either way, in principle, I believe that this sort of thing *should* be protected.

Erik Berte
Editor-in-Chief
The Patriot

Jason Frank,

I just want to thank you for the article regarding satellite radio. I feel it is about time someone spoke up and spoke truthfully about the current state of Howard Stern's radio show. As a fan of Opie and Anthony, I whole heartedly agree that they put on a great show from day to day and are far and away the most entertaining radio personalities out there today. Furthermore, you brought up a great point regarding the hardware of both Sirius and XM. I have a friend who has Sirius radio, and the unit he has (I am unsure of the name) is easily twice as heavy as my Xm unit and produces and odd amount of heat. In fact, I have the cheapeast XM unit available (the Delphi Roady 2) and is still far superior to my friends unit, who paid twice as much as I did. Also, I wanted to point out one more thing. Just after your article was printed, Sirius actually raised its monthly subscription rate to 12.95 per month, now making it equal with XM. I guess they need to figure out a new way to pay Howard his 500 million dollar contract over the next 5 years since not as many people followed him to Sirius as they had expected.

-Anonymous

Anonymous,

Thank you for your kind words. I am aware that Sirius has raised their rates to $12.95 per month. Thus, there no longer needs to be justification in spending more money, although there was ample reason to. And I feel that your logic is most likely not far from the truth. A 500 million dollar contract is hefty by itself. Factor in that it is only spread out over the course of five years, and Sirius has some "serious" financial matters to concern themselves with. Thanks for your interest!

Jason Frank
Public Relations Manager
The Patriot

Free Markets in USG

Nathan Shapiro

The Stony Brook Reform Party has proposed an excellent constitution to replace the current Undergraduate Student Government. The new constitution calls for a republic bound by the rule of law and the principles of limited government similar to those found in our own national Constitution. However, I believe the proposed constitution can go a step further in securing the benefits of a free market place for the student body, at least in the realm of club funding.

Student clubs and organizations represent a service provided for the student body. Just as we wouldn't give our state and national governments the authority to determine which services we can receive in the market place, we should not allow the student government.

While the proposed constitution does provide that "the number of students served by the funded activities" shall be one of the criteria for club appropriations, no constitutional provision binds the will of the student government to that sentiment. The final judgment of the financial value of a certain club remains solely in the centralized control of the somewhat arbitrary whims of government.

One possible method of countering this concentration of authority can be a constitutional clause which forces the student government to appropriate some portion of money based on the market place. In a free market, subjective values are transformed into objective ones, and these objective values should be used to determine the value of certain organizations, not the capricious whims of a small body of students. To this end, I propose the following possible solution:

A portion of each student's activity fee, the proportion of which should be determined and fixed by the constitutional framers based upon their own determination of what would be appropriate, should be available for each student to personally direct towards whichever club or organization he or she chooses so long as he or she is a member of said organization.

For those students who do not join a club, or do not personally utilize this option, their unused activity fee will be returned to a general fund which can be apportioned to various clubs based upon the size of the club's active membership, utilized at the discretion of the student government, or returned to the students. Whichever process is ultimately decided upon as most just can be debated by the constitutional framers who are more intimately involved in the process than I currently am.

This proposal is not meant to bind the hands of the student government in creating the budget for student organizations. The careful deliberation on all dimensions of various clubs' needs must continue to play a significant role in determining what funding organizations require. Only a portion of the student activities fee will go towards this suggestion and the remaining funds can proceed to be dispersed in accords with the process currently proposed in the constitution.

All forms of government are resistant to relinquish authority which it has already asserted; our student government is no different. The battle to remove some of the USG's discretion in the appropriation of funds will not be easily won and may not be decisive. However, even if the percentage of the student activity fee that might someday be used in a program such as this is comparatively small, it will still provide a guiding light for the student government in providing funding based upon a club's objective value as determined by the free market place.

The Lost Amendment

Nathan Shapiro

The United States was the first moral government established in the history of mankind because it was philosophically founded in the name of defending individual liberty. Our Constitution, which is a marvel in the development of proper government and can never be taken for granted, has provided the backbone for free government in this nation for over two centuries, providing for the protection of civil liberties, property and limiting the encroachment of big government into our lives. However, we must acknowledge its work was incomplete and has not been completely successful in defending the institution which our liberty requires to thrive: Capitalism.

Capitalism is the only economic system compatible with individual liberty. Under capitalism, physical force is removed from human relationships and all business is done on a voluntary basis with contracts negotiated between free individuals. Everyone in such a system is free to work for his or her own life's improvement and in the pursuit of happiness, which is facilitated by being able to own what they earned in the form of private property. Under capitalism, the only use of force is retaliatory and is used by the government in order to punish those who use force to violate the rights of others. Government has no other role but to protect the rights of individuals, which does not require the large, intrusive government we possess today.

A collectivist system, such as socialism, is incompatible with liberty. Under these ethics, self-sacrifice is the norm and people have no right to pursue their own happiness but must work for the sake of others, making them into slaves to whoever possesses the greatest amount of force. It's clear that such a system requires an immense use of force to drive people to work for the "common good," and as a result the government is required to be large and heavy-handed.

When the Constitution was created, there was little debate as to the merits of private property or working for one's own sake. Indeed, the Constitution contains several explicit defenses of private property from government seizure. Further, it limited the size of the government so that it could not develop the means to use force upon the people, such as is required in a collectivist system. And where the Constitution fell silent, American philosophy of individualism fought against any form of collectivism that would have denied Americans the approximation of a capitalist economy which we were given by our forefathers.

I labeled our economy as "an approximation of capitalism" because we do not have, nor have we ever had, a completely capitalist economy. For all the virtues of the founding generation, theydid not completely understand the philosophical underpinnings of capitalism without any government intrusion into the economy and lives of its citizens. As a result, they held some contradictions which, over time, have been exploited to weaken the philosophy of free markets upon which our liberty is dependent.

When the founders enumerated the power to regulate interstate commerce, they could not have envisaged such powers being construed to establish the extensive market controls that exist, or those which many in this nation have called for. Nor could they have predicted that the power to tax would be used to radically redistribute wealth from one individual to another, or to fund "pork" projects like the "paper industry hall of fame."

However, our founders did provide for us a way out of this predicament: the constitutional amendment process. A good start would be to repeal the 16th amendment authorizing federal income tax, preventing the federal government the means to expropriate an individual's earned wealth. Second, an amendment must be proposed to make whole the incomplete philosophy of capitalism found in the Constitution and, to this end, I propose an amendment to the Constitution which would create a separation of economy and state, which might read similar to a passage found in Ayn Rand's novel Atlas Shrugged:

"He sat at a table, and the light of his lamp fell on the copy of an ancient document. He had marked and crossed out the contradictions in its statements that had once been the cause of its destruction. He was now adding a new clause to its pages: 'Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of production and trade . . .'"

Grinds My Gears

Peter Griffin

1. How Abraham Lincoln could successfully build a cabin out of "Lincoln logs" but whenever I try to build something out of "Peter logs" all I wind up with is a big, messy pile of poo.
2. Drivers who still ride around with the Kerry/Edwards 04' bumper stickers on their cars. Yeah, I realize you're still sore and all that but I mean c'mon, it's been like two years now and it's sad really. It's really sad.
3. I also hate having to call in sick to work on the days when despite the fact that I am legitimately ill, my voice still sounds perfectly fine. So I make an attempt to have my voice sound sick but I can tell the boss isn't buying it so I have to worry all day that everyone thinks I was just faking it when in reality I was sick at both ends.
4. When the media spends 3 days discussing Dick Cheney accidentally shooting another hunter and what makes the national news was that he was missing a hunting stamp.
5. I can't stand the people who hold the door open for you even though you're a good 30 feet away. Then you have to rush over there because they're waiting, smiling and holding that freakin' door and you feel like an idiot, doing the half walk, half run thing. I mean c'mon look at me? I'm fat. It takes me a little longer to get to point A to point B. These door holders not only make me look stupid, but they also force me to get all sweaty. And when I finally get to the door, these do-gooders get pissed at me for not thanking them when the only thing I would thank them for is a nasty case of swamp ass. The freakin' nerve of some people.

The Dizzy Heights of Primitivism

Brett Denyer

As embassies are engulfed in flame, as violence spreads to more Muslim countries, as a fatwa is issued that it is the Islamic duty of Muslims to kill the man responsible for drawing a caricature of the Prophet, the world has finally seen the dramatic result of years of attempting to appease the radical Muslim world.

This latest hostility is yet another powerful demonstration of the values of the radical Islamists: violence, ignorance, and above all, reckless hate.

People living in the West must now make a choice, one that could affect the future course of events significantly. Either we continue to condone, indeed, encourage an acceptance of this ideology of hate, or we recognize it as such and take a stand against it. We may continue to fan the flames—or finally choose to fight back.

This is about more than mere freedom of speech (which is an essential and wonderful part of Western culture, to be sure); this is about sending a message to the radical Muslim world.

A necessary first step would be to forget the multiculturalist crap that your professors shove down your throat. Surely no person with basic spatial reasoning skills could truly believe that Western culture and radical Muslim culture are of equal value.

One culture condones equal rights for all, separation of church and state (in the U.S., anyway), freedom of speech, and tolerance of others; the other culture promotes the subservience of women, violence, and brutal repression of dissent. Note the difference between the normally peaceful protests in this country, and the crazed, violent protests currently raging in the Middle East. Is there really any comparison?

At a time when a terrorist organization now controls the Palestinian parliament (by popular vote!), and when the radical government of Iran, which has proclaimed its desire to wipe Israel off the map, is attempting to gain nuclear capabilities, these protests demonstrate the brutality and primitive nature of the extreme Islamists and should be a wake-up call to all of us.

It is also important to realize that Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton are not entirely to blame for the current state of events. While liberals certainly have their share of the blame, conservatives and liberals alike have helped to bring us to the current state of affairs through different idiotic actions too numerous to mention. For example, under Ronald Reagan, we supplied arms to the Mujaheddin when the USSR invaded Afghanistan; of course, when we later invaded Afghanistan, that turned out not to have been the best idea. Another sore point is leaving Beirut after the marine barracks bombing in 1983, which could be seen as giving in to terrorism. The Iran-Contra scandal probably doesn't help conservatives' case too much, either.

Our current president is also a little bit naïve about who we're dealing with in the Middle East these days: upon the abominable Yasser Arafat's death in 2004, instead of pumping his fist in the air as he should have, he actually said, "God rest his soul." Call me insensitive, but I guess I have a hard time asking God to go easy on a murderous thug.

Just as an amusing aside, the United Nations recently released a report urging the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention center for suspected terrorists on account of alleged "human rights violations" while riots over the cartoons have been spreading throughout the world. The last time I checked, while the alleged rights violations are not a source of national pride at the moment, burning down embassies and publicly calling for the murder of innocent people are not exactly sociable behaviors, either. And surely we all remember the public outcry (the echoes of which no doubt still reverberate through certain lecture halls here at Stony Brook) over the "torture" of the prisoners at Abu Graibh (I wonder what excuses those same professors have for the rioters). Parading prisoners around in their underwear? Completely unacceptable. But please, Mr. Fanatical Muslim, burn down all the embassies and consulates you like. Too bad they didn't burn down the French ones—but then again, not even France is immune from Muslim rioters these days (recall the riots near Paris this past fall, during which nearly a thousand cars and several schools and nurseries were burned).

I wish to point out that throughout this article, I have addressed the cause of this violence as the "radical Muslim world" or "radical Islamists". It is important for all of us to remember that there is also no shortage of peaceful Muslims who are as full of good qualities as the radical Muslims are of the bad ones, and that zealots of any kind—be they Muslim, Christian (no shortage of those, either), Jew, or otherwise—are typically at the root of many of the world's problems. In fact, many moderate Muslims around the world have spoken out against the madness of the extremists.

These protests do not just reflect an isolated conflict centered around freedom of speech, but a much broader war ongoing on all fronts between a culture of reason, peace, and freedom versus a culture of violence, repression, and hate. And now, having allowed the seeds of hatred to take root through decades of appeasement of the radical Muslim world, the West must reap what it has sown. As we stand in the midst of this cultural war, we have two choices. We can continue to appease the radical Muslim world and consequently embolden it, which has resulted in untold violence and unrest; or we can take a stand for the values of the Western world and strive to put out the flames of hate.

Blazing Angels: Squadrons of World War II

Blazing Angels shows off some of the best visuals seen thus far on the 360, with lighting effects and motion blurs that are incredible. Settings such as London and Paris give nice contrast to the open skies that are beautiful to look at. Adding to the beauty is a healthy single-player campaign featuring 38 authentic WWII planes over 18 single-player missions. Additionally, there are 10 co-op missions and a pvp online component.

Thus far, the only complaint from players is that the game feels too realistic, giving a sense of speed and turning that makes some people sick. As far as I'm concerned, that makes the title that much better. Besides, any game that you can destroy Paris has my attention. Vive la France!

Release Date: 3/24/06

GAMER'S GUIDE

By Damon Vetere

It will soon be the start of spring. For gamers, this means that the post-holiday video game drought is nearing its end. Even more important, if you are one of the lucky few who plunked down $400 bucks on an Xbox 360, you can finally pull it out of the closet, dust it off, and get ready for the "real" launch of the system, that is, games worthy of being called "next-gen". While the launch of the 360 in November had its share of stellar titles, such as Call of Duty 2 and Condemned: Criminal Origins (just to name a few), there has been the lack of feeling that the 360 is indeed a generational leap from the Xbox. Hopefully, that's all about to change.

Many of the games that were originally scheduled for a November or December release were delayed until March, mainly due to the fact that Microsoft took a long time to get the final development kits to developers. While this was a major setback to the 360 launch, the many delays gave developers enough time to adjust and polish their games, and that's always a good thing. From what the industry has seen so far, March is going to truly usher in the reign of the 360. So sit back, relax, and start rolling that loose change, because this month's going to be expensive.

Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter — Out: 3/8/06

The third installment (yes, only third; the other games released on Xbox are only considered expansions) of the Ghost Recon franchise has seen some drastic changes from past Ghost games. If you haven't been a fan of past Ghost Recon games (I haven't been), this addition to the series may finally hook you in. Third person perspective is back, a la Ghost Recon 2, and while most of the game-play elements remain the same, the setting has changed drastically. GR:AW takes place in Mexico City, which is fully functional. Thats right, urban combat. Gone is the individual mission format, replaced by a helicopter trip that takes you do different parts of the city after you complete a specific task. This makes the game feel extremely immersive and fluid. Red Storm has also taken advantage of the 360's widescreen aspect ratio, developing a new HUD with lots of things going on at once in real-time. Graphics pop up on screen, giving you satellite pictures and enemy locations. The goal of Ghost Recon 3's single-player campaign is clearly to immerse the player in an experience that feels real, appears seamless, and looks gorgeous.

But what about online play? For starters, the pvp (player vs. player) combat is back and better than ever. While not much has been disclosed on multiplayer, Red Storm promises a killer online experience that Ghost Recon fans will surely enjoy. But what has grabbed my interest the most is the co-op feature in GR:AW. Included will be 4-player co-op missions that take place in a completely different setting than the single-player campaign. Instead of Mexico City's single-player campaign, co-op will have Nicaragua as its host. This means a completely new and different experience when players complete the single-player campaign and are salivating for more. And with Ubisoft's track record for downloadable content, this game might always remain fresh.

Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion — Out: 3/21/06

When it was first announced that Oblivion would not make Microsoft's predicted launch window, cries were heard throughout the gaming community that rivaled the destruction of Alderaan. For those who bought a 360 just for Oblivion (yes, there are many of you out there) it's been a long, long winter. It seems as though Oblivion will finally see the light of retail on March 21st, so you can put World of Warcraft down now. No really...enough already!

Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion is an RPG of epic proportions. Boasting a game-world of a few square miles (yes, miles!) and a ton of hours of game-play (not including side quests), Oblivion will be massive. Like many RPG's (role-playing games), Oblivion will feature character customization to the fullest, from clothing to weaponry to occupations. You can even be a vampire, where you must suck the blood from dead animals and humans to regain health. As you can see, most of the stuff in this game is just cool.

But don't fret, conservative RPG-ers. Oblivion will have tons of dungeons to hack 'n slash through, beasts to maim, and villains to murder. With the massive world squeezed into this tiny disc, RPG fans around the world can finally rejoice and have something to '/dance' about.

RAIDERS of the Lost WMD

(Can we say we told you so?)

By Robert Romano

Before the war on terror and tyranny was expanded into Iraq in 2003, the overarching conventional wisdom was that Hussein's Iraq retained WMD stockpiles and that these were being hidden from the United Nations and the international community, and this view was shared by all of the world's major intelligence agencies, including those of the U.S., UK, France, Russia, and Germany. After the liberation of Iraq by the coalition of the willing, the conventional wisdom shifted and it was believed by many that Iraq did not retain the WMD, and that the frustrated efforts of the coalition and the Iraq Survey Group to locate the WMD inside of Iraq was one of the greatest intelligence failures ever, that the war was a mistake, and even in some quarters that the intelligence had been concocted. Of course, some of the more militant opponents to the war who insist that this theater in the war on terror is based on a lie, never could quite explain how it was the President of the United States managed to get all of these intelligence agencies to "cook up" the proof. In the meantime, conservative critics complained that the shenanigans at the UN Security Council had given Hussein's regime the time it needed to spirit away the WMD, and that the failure to find the WMD in Iraq did not disprove the claims of the intelligence agencies.

Previously, in The Statesman, an author had opened on an open question, "So, Just Where Are Those Weapons?" To date, it remains a fact that the unaccounted for WMD which the UN had confirmed that Iraq had possessed before the war have still not been fully accounted for. According to then U.S. Chief Weapons Inspector, Dr. David Kay, in testifying to Congress on October 2nd, 2003, the unaccounted for stockpiles are relatively small: "[i]t is important to keep in mind that even the bulkiest materials we are searching for, in the quantities we would expect to find, can be concealed in spaces not much larger than a two car garage..." Dr. Kay also confirmed that the Iraq Survey Group had discovered "dozens of WMD-related program activities concealed from the United Nations during the inspections that began in late 2002. The discovery of these deliberate concealment efforts have come about both through the admissions of Iraqi scientists and officials concerning information they deliberately withheld and through physical evidence of equipment and activities that ISG has discovered that should have been declared to the UN."

Despite evidence that Hussein's regime had again defied the international community, and that Iraq had retained the strategic ability and intent to fully reconstitute its WMD programs with fervor if and when sanctions could be lifted, critics of the war were not deterred. Dr. Kay's testimony was later elaborated on by the full report of the Iraq Survey Group: "Saddam [Hussein] so dominated the Iraqi Regime that its strategic intent was his alone. He wanted to end sanctions while preserving the capability to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction (WMD) when sanctions were lifted. Saddam wanted to recreate Iraq's WMD capability—which was essentially destroyed in 1991—after sanctions were removed and Iraq's economy stabilized, but probably with a different mix of capabilities to that which previously existed. Saddam aspired to develop a nuclear capability—in an incremental fashion, irrespective of international pressure and the resulting economic risks—but he intended to focus on ballistic missile and tactical chemical warfare (CW) capabilities..."

By this time, hope of finding the WMD inside Iraq appeared to be all but lost, though the Iraq Survey Group, in Dr. Charles Duelfer's testimony on October 6th, 2004, acknowledged the possibility that the unaccounted for WMD may have been spirited away: "A variety of questions about Iraqi WMD capabilities and intentions remain unanswered, even after extensive investigation by ISG. For example, we cannot yet definitively say whether or not WMD materials were transferred out of Iraq before the war. Neither can we definitively answer some questions about possible retained stocks..." Though President Bush later stated that much of the intelligence was wrong, it appears that after all, it may have been right.

On January 26th, 2006, The New York Sun reported that one of Iraq's top generals under the Hussein regime has confirmed Israeli claims that Iraq had spirited the unaccounted-for WMD to Syria. On December 23rd, 2002, then Prime Minister of Israel, Ariel Sharon stated, "Chemical and biological weapons which Saddam is endeavoring to conceal have been moved from Iraq to Syria." In his interview with The New York Sun, former General Georges Sada stated, "There are weapons of mass destruction gone out from Iraq to Syria, and they must be found and returned to safe hands... I am confident they were taken over." General Sada's story is based on the remarkable tales of the pilots of two airliners who were apparently responsible for moving the WMD inside passenger jets which had had their seats removed. These pilots claimed to have made 56 flights in all. Also, on the January 26th Sean Hannity Show, the General confirmed that WMD had been moved via tractor trailers in the days before the war, which confirms previous reports to that effect. This seems to in part confirm the January 5th, 2005 disclosure to a Dutch newspaper, De Telegraaf, which detailed that the unaccounted for WMD were hidden in three specific locations inside of Syria. These revelations would certainly land the Syrian regime, already under international pressure for its role in the assassination of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, its state sponsorship of terrorism. This places Syria in much hotter water than before, since they were already under speculation for allowing insurgents and terrorists to travel into Iraq since 2003. As before, I believe that the unaccounted for WMD must be accounted for, and that these reports must be investigated thoroughly, as they have significance most importantly to the peace and security of the region, to the historical record, and also importantly to the strategic credibility of the coalition that led the campaign to liberate Iraq. If Syria does indeed have these weapons, the regime there must certainly disarm them, and also be called to account for their role in aiding Hussein's regime in violating its international obligations pursuant to the ceasefire agreement after the first Gulf War and the subsequent UN Security Council Resolutions.

Finally, in another revelation, and perhaps the best piece of evidence to date that Iraq did indeed retain WMD, a series of audio recordings which has been given to The Intelligence Summit, chaired by John Loftus, a frequent contributor to the FOX News Channel and WABC's The John Batchelor Show, which were released on February 17th at the summit, confirms the Iraq-WMD connection. These recordings are of Saddam Hussein himself and top aides discussing the some of Iraq's WMD plans. According to Mr. Loftus: "Saddam's secret office recordings continued well into the year 2000. In all, they contain

Continued on page 15

Surveillance Program Ensures Security

Robert Romano

Last December the New York Times revealed that international communications related to transnational terrorism were being intercepted by the National Security Agency without written warrants. The program was classified and the Times aquired this information through an illegal disclosure. As a result, a debate has been rekindled as to the proper balance between the peace and security of our society, and the privacy of individuals who are either complicit or connected to terrorist networks, and whether their expectation to privacy is at all reasonable considering that they mean America great harm.

Congress is now demanding new oversight to this program, and several critics have contended that the program is beyond the President's authority both under present law and the Federal Constitution.

In a December radio address, the President said that his authorization of this program has addressed a problem which had existed previous to the war on terrorism:

"Terrorists inside the United States were communicating with terrorists abroad before the September the 11th attacks, and the [9/11] commission criticized our nation's inability to uncover links between terrorists here at home and terrorists abroad. Two of the terrorist hijackers who flew a jet into the Pentagon, Nawaf al Hamzi and Khalid al Mihdhar, communicated while they were in the United States to other members of al Qaeda who were overseas. But we didn't know they were here, until it was too late... The authorization I gave the National Security Agency after September the 11th helped address that problem in a way that is fully consistent with my constitutional responsibilities and authorities. The activities I have authorized make it more likely that killers like these 9/11 hijackers will be identified and located in time. And the activities conducted under this authorization have helped detect and prevent possible terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad."

Privacy of an individual ought not be protected by the government if that individual either poses or possesses information about a clear and present danger to the peace and security of our society. It is therefore unreasonable to expect the federal government not to intercept communications between domestic and international terrorists, or those connected to or sponsoring such individuals.

Just because these interceptions were not conducted with written warrants issued by a court, per se, does not mean that they were without warrant. To use an analogy, if a police officer witnesses a crime being committed, it would not be necessary for that officer to run to a court to obtain a written warrant in order to make an arrest. He would need to act quickly and decisively to capture the perpetrator based on probable cause.

Similarly, if the government can obtain intelligence related to a potential attack, or to those who have perpetrated or would commit attacks against the United States, it is reasonable to gather that information based on a sure sign.

According to the President, "Before we intercept these communications, the government must have information that establishes a clear link to these terrorist networks..." This could be probable cause in some cases. These sorts of interceptions could lead to an eventual request for a warrant for broad-based monitoring of a terrorist suspect.

Clearly, with his resignation from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, Judge James Robertson was saying that this possibility is distinctly the reason for his resignation. And now terror suspects are trying to get any evidence which may have originated from the intercepts thrown out of court.

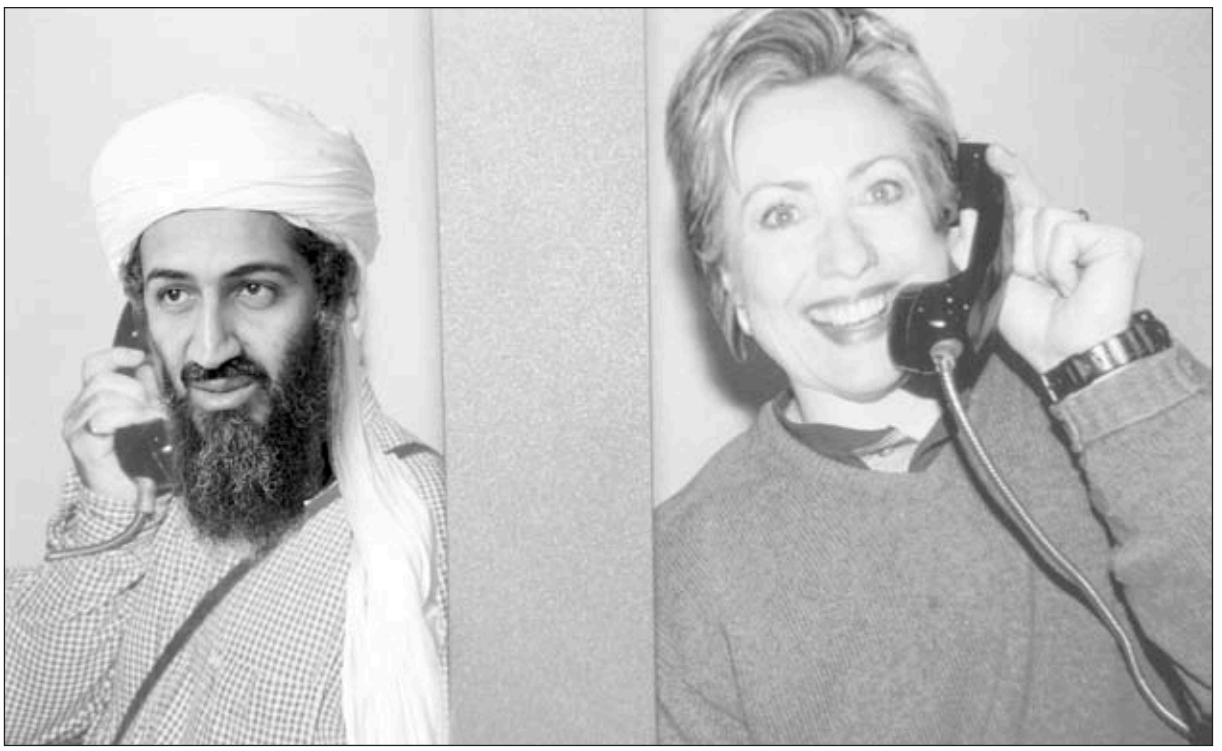
But besides the intercepts, how else could the government know that the person was involved with the enemy? How else would probable cause be established? Are the critics suggesting that the President must prevent future terrorist attacks on the United States, but that he is not allowed to use those technologies which make that possible? If warrants can only issue upon probable cause constitutionally, how is an intelligence agency supposed to establish that without using intelligence-gathering techniques? I think it would be appropriate, when probable cause is established, that a warrant could be obtained when necessary, but not beforehand.

While all actions of the federal government are subject to judicial review, they need not be reviewed before the fact. They can, and in many cases, must be reviewed after the fact.

According to the President, this program is not without oversight and review: "The activities I authorized are reviewed approximately every 45 days. Each review is based on a fresh intelligence assessment of terrorist threats to the continuity of our government and the threat of catastrophic damage to our homeland. During each assessment, previous activities under the authorization are reviewed. The review includes approval by our nation's top legal officials, including the Attorney General and the Counsel to the President. I have reauthorized this program more than 30 times since the September the 11th attacks, and I intend to do so for as long as our nation faces a continuing threat from al Qaeda and related groups... The NSA's activities under this authorization are thoroughly reviewed by the Justice Department and NSA's top legal officials, including NSA's general counsel and inspector general. Leaders in Congress have been briefed more than a dozen times on this authorization and the activities conducted under it. Intelligence officials involved in this activity also receive extensive training to ensure they perform their duties consistent with the letter and intent of the authorization." Also, according to The New York Times' report, "[T]he administration had briefed Congressional leaders about the program and notified the judge in charge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the secret Washington court that deals with national security issues."

What is indeed troubling is not the execution of the President's authorization, but rather the disclosure of this program at all, which on its face violates the principle of security established here, and more importantly violates our own laws which prohibit the disclosure of classified information.

Under the principle, the truth should be known to all unless it poses a danger to peace and security, or violates privacy. In this case, a danger has arisen to our national security, and according to the President, "[O]ur enemies have learned information they should not have, and the unauthorized disclosure of this effort damages our national security and puts our citizens at risk. Revealing classified information is illegal, alerts our enemies, and endangers our country."



"If Hillary is talking to Usama Bin Laden, we wanna know about it."

This program should have remained secret, and its disclosure ought to be investigated extensively by the Department of Justice, and those who illegally provided information about it prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Though The New York Times claimed to have sat on the story for a year, their delay does not in any way mitigate the harm which has been caused to our government's ability to carry out classified operations beyond the public's and our enemies' purview.

We violate the principle of security and laws which are intended to protect classified information at our own peril. The propriety of the President's authorization is an issue which must be dealt with now in the public sphere, and in the context of our political institutions, when it should have never been made public in the first place, and when it was a matter of security which must not be corrupted by politics.

Public officials, in considering the propriety of the program, should carefully weigh the necessity of security versus terrorists' and their ilk's expectation of privacy, and whether such expectation is reasonable from the government's standpoint. If these matters must be brought to a court in order to ascertain whether there was probable cause, this must occur in the same secrecy that the program was intended to be carried out in. Public officials who demand, or anybody who would require, that the constitutionality of a classified program be adjudicated in a public court are irresponsible. The purpose of this program was to gather intelligence, and its functions must remain classified.

Politicians undermine our security at all of our peril, and there can be no exceptions to the principle that security must not be corrupted by politics.

Under the September 18th congressional authorization for the use of force, the President "is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons..." One vital aspect of waging war is gathering intelligence on potential targets, and that is precisely what this program was doing, and should continue doing. The information being gathered by the National Security Agency under this program creates actionable intelligence which is being used in the war effort. Whether or not an attack is imminent, in our war effort against transnational terrorism, gathering intelligence on potential attacks, those who would perpetrate such attacks, and those individuals connected to both is an activity which must and will continue in spite of disclosures of those activities. Protecting the lives of American citizens is our government's foremost responsibility, and without that protection, our liberty will quickly lose its security.

Robert Romano is the President of the Stony Brook University College Republicans.

You can read more from him on his website, www.federalrepublican.com.

What is the Point of This?

By Eli Steier

For a midterm, I was given a study sheet. At home when I studied for the midterm I answered the questions on paper so I could study better. And by study I mean memorize facts from books and regurgitate them back onto the page. I wrote them all out, nicely and neatly; it was quite a feat. When I came into class to take said midterm, it turned out that the official test was the exact same questions, exact same sheet. Basically, all I did then was write over my answers from what I could remember and then handed the test in for an easy A. That really pissed me off.

I thought about what I was actually learning from this midterm exam. I came to the conclusion that I was being tested on my short-term memory skills. The test asked nothing different than the review sheet save only that I complete it in less than two hours in a classroom. A sort of academic beat-the-clock game show. Maybe the teacher just wanted to "test" if any of the material she assigned was read. To be fair some of the questions did ask for my own opinion but largely that was not the case. That is still not a good enough reason to justify writing the same answers all over again.

I am an English Education Major and one of the requirements of this field is to take something called a "Methods" class. This class asks the questions "What is an effective way to teach? Is there a difference between what I think I am teaching and what I am really teaching?" There is also a lot of talk about controlling the classroom. The result of this class changed my perception of what teaching really is. It also made me realize that a lot of teachers in this school and schools I have been in were wasting my time (big surprise).

There should be no reason why any student anytime cannot ask the teacher directly, "What is the point of this?" and not receive a direct answer. It sounds like an offensive question because it actually places you on the same level as your teacher (And yes you are on the same level; we are all equal under our Constitution, right?). You now have to be answered as an equal, a human being. Also it is scary to voice one's own ideas. People may not like your ideas. People may laugh. It takes a great deal of courage and those that do should be commended…even if their ideas are stupid and laughable.

From elementary school on we are taught a lot of things that are not specifically part of the curriculum. We are taught to obey an authority figure who obviously knows more than we do. We are taught that learning is done in 45 minute bursts. We are taught that our feelings do not matter, that the person who gives the fastest answer to a question is the smartest, and that it is wrong to be wrong. We are taught to care about what others think of us. We are taught a wide variety of "truths" that are not even subject for discussion. We are taught that Lincoln freed the slaves, our Forefathers were always honorable, and we live in a free, classless society. Students, in my experience, rarely are asked to think about the truths for themselves, to discover their degree of truth. Rather they are told at an early age that these are truths without question. No one ever told me that textbooks are written by a person, a person that contains his own flaws and biase. This technique does an amazing thing: it creates a passive population of people that do not think for themselves and subjugate their ideas tothose in authority. A person coming out of this system would be perfect to work in a strict business setting. Who wouldn't hire someone who never questions the boss and is used to spending eight hours a day in a dull building?

It should not be the goal of any teacher to tell me what to do with myself. I find it stifling though that most of the classes I have taken have had so little interaction with the world outside school. School exists in its own world. How can one talk about living in a free democratic society in New York State when, if you look at the voting districts online it is clear that the voting districts are completely unfairly drawn? (http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/ Click on an assemblyman link than click on their voting district link.) Today was the first day I even looked at my state's website. I have lived in this country all my life and I can't even name one local councilman, any assemblyman, and only a handful of senators that are splashed about in the media. Perhaps this is only my personal sob story but I feel there are a lot of people out there who couldn't care less.

And I should know, I was one of them until recently. Originally, I went to college to have a good time and come out with a piece of paper that will help me get a good job. Unfortunately, I learned some stuff along the way. Now, my goal is not to have a good time. I want to talk with people that are interested in talking about things. I do not know how it happened but it did and I'm stuck with a vision of the world I cannot change and I do not like it. I would love for someone to change my mind! Save me from this hell!

I consider myself very fortunate to live in this country. I believe I have so much more freedom than I would have in many other places. I also live a relatively stress-free life. I do not have to worry about food or shelter and I can even attend a university. I feel it is very patriotic to question the system that one lives in and find authentic answers that are open to change.

It's hard to talk to people about what they think without them bringing in an authority or institution that they rely on for their wisdom. Talking about what one really thinks is scary because one may learn something that will change his or her world forever. Many times when this happens people pretend they didn't learn anything new at all and will continue to live the old way. Many people I find are more concerned with being right than actually learning something…and that's a shame. It is very hard to learn something when one knows everything. It all goes back to school where we learned that being wrong is bad.

Do you feel school has not had any negative effects on you? Well, I would love to hear from you, my email address is jugglingactor@hotmail.com

What I do now in my classes is question the teacher when I feel it's worth the struggle, or if I seriously do not see the point of the lesson at hand. I encourage you to do the same, after all, you are paying for it; might as well try something brave. Be a hero.

My goal is not to start trouble but to learn what the teacher is planning for me. I do not have any aversion to doing work that I believe could lead to something positive. This means I have to be willing to listen to the teacher's answer. It is just as important as asking why.

What is an "American Conservative"?

Nathan Shapiro

What defines a conservative in America today or in America in times past? This was the topic of a recent discussion I had with a fellow Republican, and it's a subject that I felt needed further study. Such an investigation requires tracing "conservatism" back through American history to the founding of this nation and following its philosophical transformation to today.

It was proposed to me that the original factions began at the time of the founding with the Federalists and the Jeffersonian "Democrats" (which is the direct ancestor of the modern Democrat party).

With this division, he assigned the "liberal" label to the Jeffersonians with the Federalists being named the "conservative" party. I think this is a practical identification, although it is imprecise.

The imprecision of the conservative-liberal breakdown of the Federalists and Jeffersonians is easily seen in the shared limited-government principles of modern conservatives with James Madison, the Father of the Constitution and a staunch Jeffersonian Democrat. However, this cross-appeal doesn't destroy the distinctions between the two parties, and is attributable to the universal acceptance of much of America's founding principles of constitutional government.

What then defined the so-called "conservatives" of America? It was suggested that a belief in a strong executive was the defining attribute of early conservatives. I disagree with that assertion. European conservatism and its alliance with Europe's monarchies, can be defined by this philosophy but not American conservatives. Some conservatives, like Federalist Alexander Hamilton, did share much of the European-conservative appeal for a monarch-like executive, but this is not a defining trend in American conservative parties.

The concern of American conservatives in a strong executive has shifted based on pragmatic concerns. You'll find that in periods of Democratic dominance of the Presidency, such as the immediate post-Civil War era, the Wilson Presidency at the end of World War I or the modern "Contract with America" era ushered in by Newt Gingrich, Republicans have supported legislative dominance where applicable. For this reason, I don't think the establishment of a strong executive is a basic tenet or a defining attribute of conservatives in America.

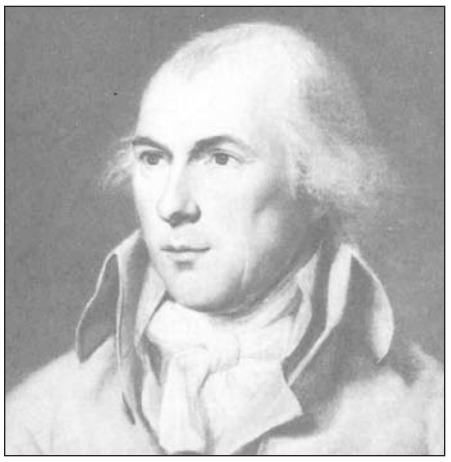
I propose that the founding ideology of conservatism in America is actually classical liberalism, which should not be confused with modern liberalism, because they are very much the antithesis of each other. Classical liberalism is based on individual liberty and support of free-market capitalism. It has taken several shapes, with different policies being implemented at various times in our history.

The defining characteristics on American conservatives, mostly founded in classical liberalism, are as follows:

1.) Conservatives support an effective Republic, but one which has limited powers over the individual, leaving each person free to live their lives as they see fit without government intrusion. That is why modern conservatives adhere to judicial philosophies which do not construe the Constitution as granting more power to the federal government than it was originally intended to.

2.) Conservatives desire a strong national defense. Going back to the time of the Federalists, who can be seen as the historical "conservative" party, they supported a professional army and an effective navy, whereas their counterparts in the Democrat party (dating all the way back to Jefferson) opposed such things. Since the Civil War, the Republican Party understandably emerged as the party of the military. Subsequent Republican presidents that placed an emphasis on building up American military strength, such as Theodore Roosevelt, reinforced the justified image of conservative Republicans as defenders of national security and promoters of a powerful national defense.

3.) Conservatives are promoters of capitalism, with a history of supporting modernized industrialization, banking and free market reform. The very foundation of the Republican Party was free soil for free workers and promoted industrialization. This commitment to capitalism has not always been consistent



and has changed over time, such as a historical support for protectionism until the depression destroyed its facade as a viable system. Yet, overall, from Hamilton's support of capitalist banking to free market supporters like Goldwater and Reagan, conservatives have consistently been the defenders of capitalism in America.

These ideas have been shared by conservatives and the Republican Party throughout America's history, but not always consistently. Furthermore, there can be a genuine debate as to whether certain historical Americans that each side claims as their own would find refuge with modern day conservatives or liberals. However, I think that they do define the beliefs of most American conservatives today and continue to be the source of moral strength behind the conservative movement's success.

Intelligent Design Isn't Science

Erik Berte

Year after year we face this same debate. In the past it was whether or not we should teach creationism in the classroom. Today we face basically the same situation: should intelligent design, which is nothing more than creationism with a new twist, be taught in our public schools? The answer is such an obvious no to anyone who truly understands the scientific method and the theory of evolution. Creationism/ID is not in any way scientific, and furthermore, this debate should not have anything to do with "fairness," as science has nothing to do with what is fair.

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," a famous quote by anthropologist, Theodosius Dobzhansky. Ignorant people often make the argument against accepting evolution by saying that it's "just a theory." This only further proves that they're unacquainted with the scientific method, which is the entire basis of research and development in any science. Many of these people are shocked to hear that gravity is also "just a theory." Germs too are just a theory, but somehow antibiotics help us fight off infections from them. Are germs not real because they're "just a theory?" The problem here is the differences between scientific wordings versus common usage of words. Sure, we often say something is "just a theory" if it's something that's not really proven, but just an idea. However, in the world of science, such a thing would be called a hypothesis.

For scientists, a theory is "a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world; an organized system of accepted knowledge that applies in a variety of circumstances to explain a specific set of phenomena." The theory of evolution is well intertwined in every part of biology, as Dobzhansky suggested. As a biology student at Stony Brook University, I can definitely attest to this. I've seen the theory in action with my own eyes in the laboratory. But most importantly, it makes perfect sense!

I could go on and on discrediting every creationist/ID theory, but I don't have the time or the room here. For those who are ignorant, but willing to learn, just look up information on evolution yourself and you'll see what you've been misunderstanding. You see, the problem with debating people who reject evolution is that they have nothing to back up their claims with about creationism. There simply is no evidence for it. All they have is blind faith and nothing to show for it. They don't understand the theory, so often times, from a biologist's standpoint, their arguments are almost ridiculous (one of my favorites is "why are there still monkeys around then?"). And what it comes down to is your word against theirs, which isn't much from their perspective.

Finally, my last point here is to make the argument that "fairness" is not a concept that the scientific community employs. Creationists often say that it's only fair to present both ideas to students because lots of Americans, right or wrong, do support creationism/ID. Well, guess what? Science isn't democratic. Just because a lot or even most people believe something, doesn't make it right.

This is where the importance of the scientific method comes in, which creationists don't understand. Science is based on evidence that explains things in our world. Without testable evidence, a hypothesis can never be shown to be true or untrue. The creationist argument is such a hypothesis; evolution is not. Americans need to be careful of what they teach their children in science classrooms. How can we explain the basic foundations of science and the scientific method if we advocate that ideas like intelligent design and creationism are as equally valid as tested theories that have been well established and accepted by the scientific community?

Redundancy in the Humanities

Erica Smith

Humanities classes have become increasingly redundant. Too many courses revolve around the same three topics: racism, sexism and slavery.

As an English major in my second year at Stony Brook, I've found that seven of my courses devoted a significant portion of class time to these topics, four of them spending more than half the semester on them. Only one of the course descriptions, an English class cross-listed with women's studies, gave any warning of this limited focus.

Slavery is immoral and a stain on the history of our country. It is wrong to discriminate against someone because of gender or the color of his skin. But how many times do you need to say it? Should an English teacher pick a book for its political message instead of its literary value? Is it appropriate for a survey course that covers American history from its creation to 1865 to devote well over half of the semester to slavery and the customs of American Indians while squeezing 30 years of the presidency into one lecture? Should a summary of Jefferson's life focus almost entirely on his slave ownership? Universities clearly need to re-evaluate their priorities.

And it's not like there's class time to spare. In 2000, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni surveyed the graduating seniors at America's most elite institutions, the U.S. News and World Report's top 55 colleges and universities, and issued a report called "Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century." You'd be shocked to know that only sixty percent of those surveyed knew that the Constitution established the division of power between states and the federal government. Only fifty-three percent of those surveyed knew that the purpose of the Federalist papers was to gain ratification of the U.S. Constitution. What might shock you even more, however, is that there was no difference between the results of history, social science, and other majors. And it's fair to assume that literary knowledge is in a similar state.

Why are professors spending so much time on these politically correct topics? First, it is easy. Novels with obvious messages are not hard to analyze. These topics also allow an entire class to participate passionately, even if the students have never read the material, freeing the teacher from the duties of an extensive lecture. And no one is going to challenge a professor who says slavery is wrong.

Second, these topics allow professors (and students) a self-esteem boost. Expressing outrage of the injustices of the past allows one to feel enlightened. Criticizing Thomas Jefferson for his ownership of slaves allows an ordinary person to feel morally and intellectually superior to a political genius. Not only is this perception completely out of context, but it also allows a person to feel satisfaction and pride for something she did not earn.

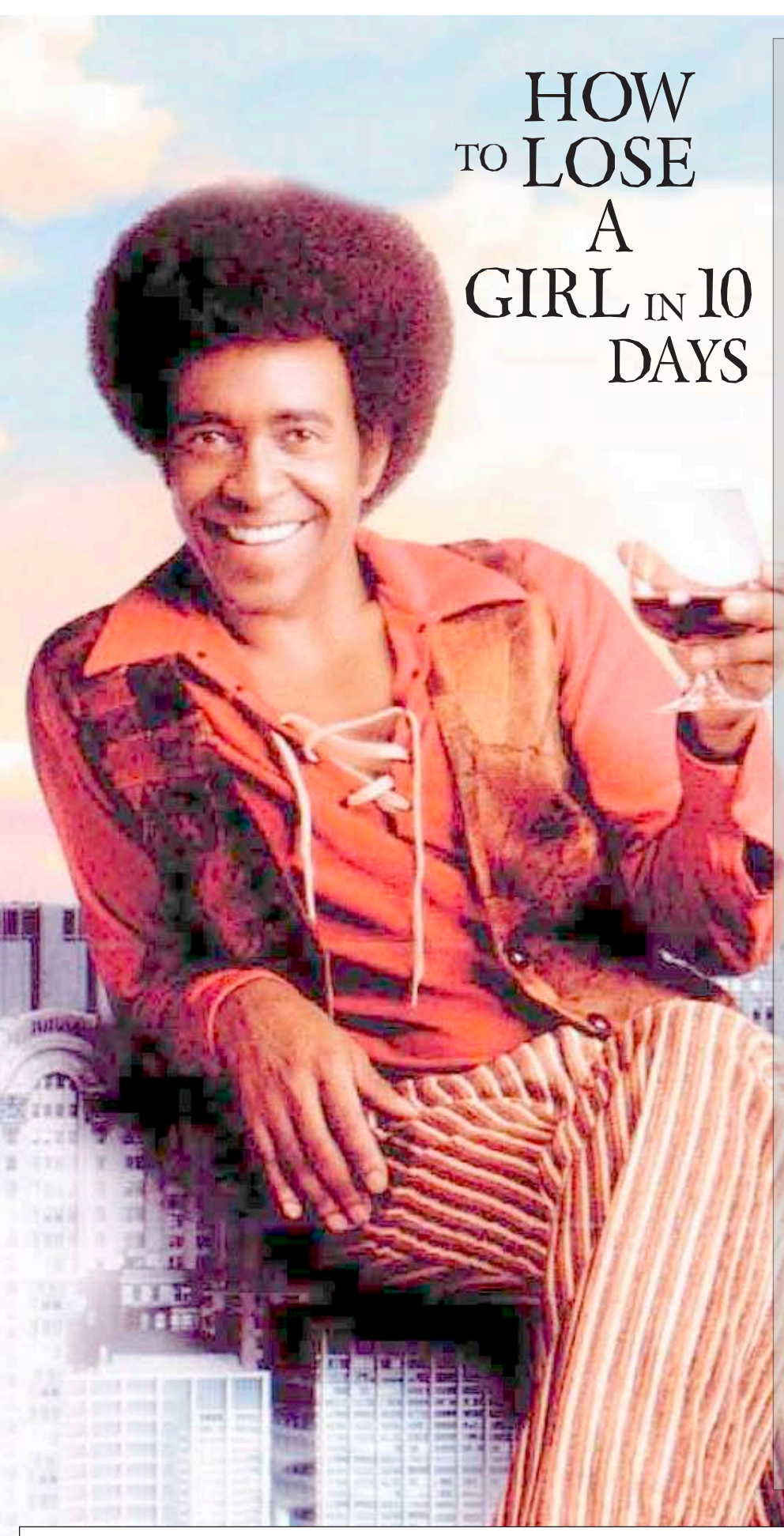
This trend of teaching is slowly changing our society. Not only are students being robbed of an adequate education (and being charged more for it), but it's also making students feel irrational guilt for the actions of others, distorting their view of a country that allows more freedom and opportunity than any other in history. And, finally, it is fueling a culture of victimization. By placing so much emphasis on the wrongs done to certain groups, these groups increasingly identify themselves with the role of the victim.

For example, believing the glass ceiling is the sole obstacle to your success as a lawyer takes away your incentive to work hard toward that goal and provides a convenient excuse in the event of failure. If universities are not careful, their emphasis on past injustices to certain groups will harm these groups even more.

Racism and sexism have caused enormous turmoil in our country, and unfortunately, however, you don't teach people not to be ignorant by saying "Don't be ignorant."

As Ayn Rand put it, "The only purpose of education is to teach a student how to live his life—by developing his mind and equipping him to deal with reality. The training he needs is theoretical, i.e., conceptual. He has to be taught to think, to understand, to integrate, to prove. He has to be taught the essentials of the knowledge discovered in the past—and he has to be equipped to acquire further knowledge by his own effort."

Students should be taught to think by being provided with complex information to analyze, interpret and debate. Focusing a history class on indisputable wrongs, and filling an English class with materials of obvious messages, will not form an enlightened society. It will make an ignorant one.



HOW TO LOSE A GIRL IN 10 DAYS

1. First you must establish that you this is what you want and whether or not there is another man. Once this is done you may begin step 2.

2. This step is kind of unethical, but hey, when it comes to breaking up you need the strategic advantage. Your going to have to rifle through her things, get anything that may give you the upper hand at a later date, like the cell phone. Take down as many numbers as you can, social security number, credit card numbers, embarrassing pictures, and anything she wouldn't want you to have if you ever broke up. Then put them in a safe place so she wont find them, because at this point you haven't broken up yet.

3. Like the previous step you will have to do a bit of light stealing, take anything of yours, or anything that might prevent you from gaining the upper hand. Such as sappy love letters, your tawdry love pictures, stained undies anything like that.

4. At this point if you're lucky you have the upper hand just by the fact that she doesn't know what is going on so the key is to wait and not make any bold moves. You should, however, start working the field for a couple of rebound girls, but this has to be done secretly, very secretly. Most of your friends shouldn't be aware, because you never know who is going to turn after the split. Oh, and stupid, don't go to your local bar or the place you are always at, that's just not smart and I shouldn't have to explain why this move shouldn't be attempted.

5. This step is all about predictions, predictions of what she might be doing (so the longer you have been dating, the easier this step will be). You're going to have to try and find out what she does with her friends and when you're not around. And if she is seeing another man don't get angry don't blow your load just yet, remember stud, your playing the field, but chances are since you're a man you're being smarter about it. So tell everyone how good you have been to her and that you love her so much no matter what she does you'll always love her. Always allude to the fact that she might be cheating, this will give you the AWWW! factor. Mutual friends and other girls including her friends will start thinking you're the one who is getting the shaft.

6. After you have gained some allies start drinking more, seem more affected by the rocky relationship. Then start making awkward situations. When you guys are out together in public places start a small tiff in private and let her drag it out into public making her seem bitchy. This maybe hard depending on the girl, but usually its easy enough; just wait for "AUNT FLOW" to visit.

7. Now is the time to start having the "State Of The Union" conversations with her, while cuddling of course. Then 90% of the time she is going to use the following line on you: "honey I love you, but it like you're a different person when we're out with everyone and I don't like that person." Which is just estrogen jive, pay it no mind and move forward. Because the next thing she is going to say is you drink too much, which for most you reading the article makes her seem incredibly hypocritical, because most girls on Long Island spend more time at the club flirting with guys for drinks or demeaning themselves at the Boardy Barn, than in the kitchen or cleaning. So stay strong and say "I choose the bottle over you baby" or something smooth like that.

8. At this point if she hasn't already broken up with you, you're going to have to make the "BOLD MOVE" I discouraged before. Your going to have break up with citing past discretions. Yup, past discretions even if there weren't any, make them when people ask why you broke up with her, and always say your heart is broken, always.

9. This is a crucial time; don't rush into another girls arms (unless of course it's one of her friends) cause it ruins the "good guy finished last persona." And as for her, just stop talking to her, take it from me. The whole notion that "we can still be friends" is just fem talk for "I'm sleeping with someone else and my friends know it and I don't want to seem like the bad guy."

10. Now it's done just see which of your friends take sides and ditch them and move on dude, your better off. Now you'll have more time to drink and not be bothered. Have one for me, and have one for the memory of the lost love. Hehehehe

Can We Say "We Told You So?"

Continued from page 11

at least 12 hours of totally candid discussions with his senior aides. Clearly, after these tapes have been verified and corroborated, they will be able to provide a few definitive answers to some very important-and controversial-weapons of mass destruction questions." Since then, the National Security Agency has verified positively that the voice on the recordings, which date back many years, is indeed the former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

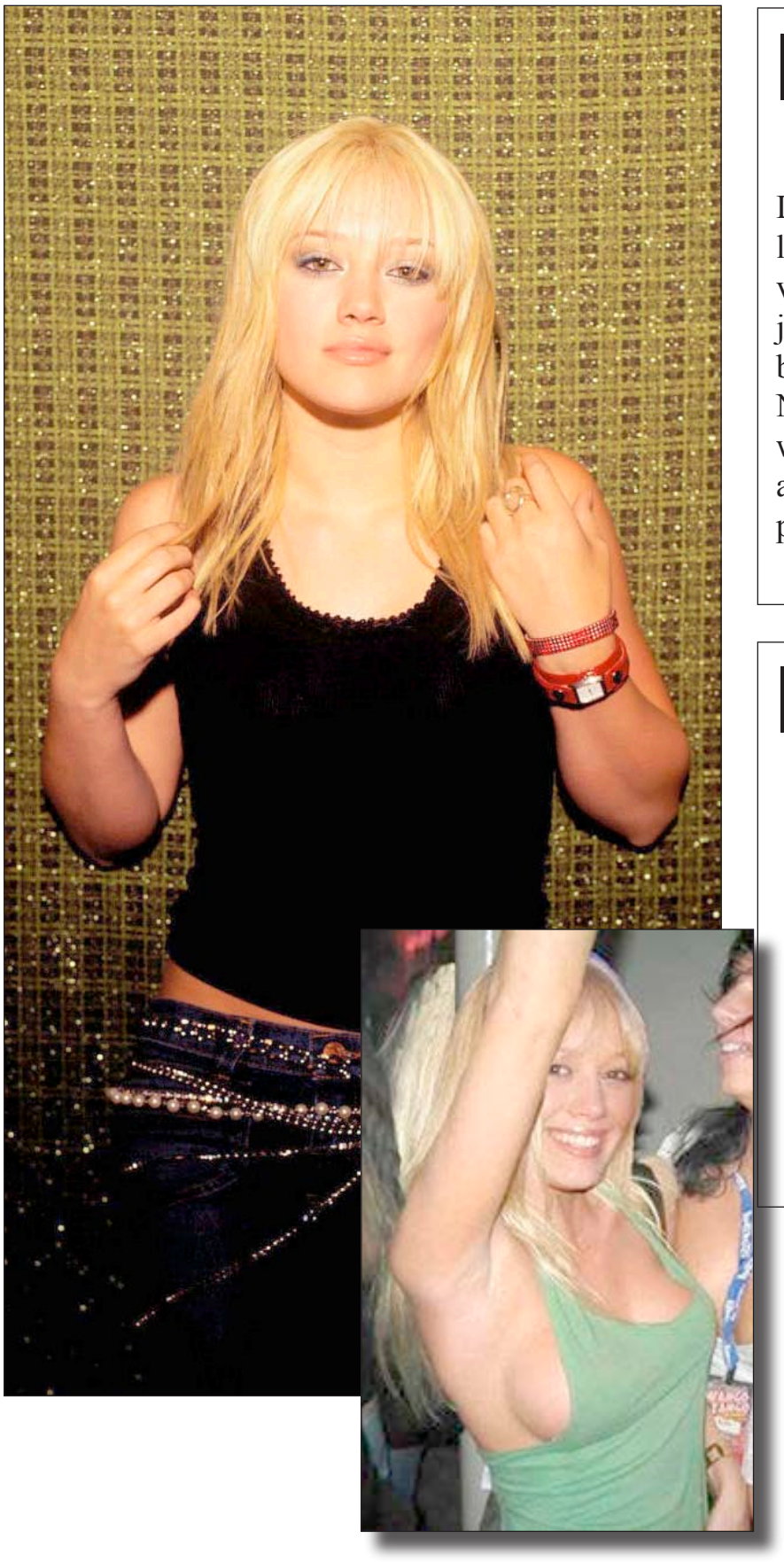
The recordings reveal evidence that Hussein regime's efforts to thwart the UN inspections regime in the decade after the first Gulf War, that warheads were removed from Iraq after the first Gulf War prior to unilateral destruction (and were not reported to the UN), that Iraq changed its story on warhead destruction in order to match the findings of UNSCOM, that Iraq had continuing nuclear weapons aspirations and efforts throughout the 1990's, that Iraq had a plan to explain to the world that dual-use chemical materials and facilities had solely civilian uses even though they had military applications, and that the regime was discussing the option or possibility of attacking America through the use of proxies or terrorists taking matters into their own hands.

On this final count, it is unclear if the regime was saying that an attack from individual terrorists against America were more likely than from a state like Iraq, or if they were saying that through the use of proxies, Iraq would have plausible reason to deny having committed the attack. Though the recordings only provide a small window into the inner workings of the Hussein regime, it does provide evidence of the regime's ongoing campaign of denial and deception of its WMD programs during the post-Gulf War period, all the way through the year 2000, two years after Operation Desert Fox in 1998. Despite aggressive sanctions and ongoing military actions against Iraq throughout the 1990's, the regime was not deterred from pursuing WMD, though these efforts seem to have been increasingly compartmentalized, as the Iraq Survey Group's final report confirms.

The most explosive revelations may be yet to come, as more sources come forward to verify these various pieces of evidence that Hussein's regime did indeed deceive the world and had concealed its WMD stockpiles, and partisans and critics of the war who so quickly claimed that the President had "misled" America into war must be called to account as well.

The American people deserve to know the truth about the depths of Hussein's campaign of denial and deception. And at the end of the day, I wouldn't be surprised if we see the President appearing on television with the UK's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, stating, "We told you so."

Spotlight on Republican Girls



Hilary Duff - Katy, Texas

This mega-successful girl star power continues to rise. The actress and singer showed her true patriotic spirit when she performed for President George W. Bush at his second inaugural bash on Janurary 19, 2005. This "Disney girl" is all grown up now.

Ciara and Laura - Nevada

Ciara hails from Las Vegas and Laura is from Reno. Both of these lovely girls are undergraduates at University of Nevada. Ciara is an art major, while Laura is more interested in business. They were quick to share the Nevada College Republicans slogan, which is "We win, they lose!" They are pro second amendment rights and pro family.

Jessica - Minnesota

This native of the "North Star" state is a graduate student who works for a conservative think tank (she's certainly given us a lot to think about). Jessica has also interned for her Republican congresman.

The Patriot

WANTS **YOU!**

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

The Patriot | Online

Check us out online at www.stonybrookpatriot.com!
Full Color Photos | Related Links | Archive of all Patriot Articles

Write for The Patriot!

"Become a part of the tradition..."

Meetings:

Thursdays

5:30pm

SAC 305

Send Submissions:

submissions@stonybrookpatriot.com

The Patriot

Your Name Here
Your Position Here

stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com www.stonybrookpatriot.com

Write for The Patriot! Send submissions to stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com
Come to a meeting - Thursdays, 5:30PM, SAC 308

Sex at The 'Brook

By Virginia Morgan

"Bros before hoes"- a classic expression we've all heard countless times. It's cute and catchy for sure, but is their any truth to it? Should we really put our "bros" before our "hoes", and if so when? There comes a time in every relationship when both partners are faced with this "make or break" question. If you put your significant other before your friends, you risk alienating life long buddies. However, if you put your buddies before your boyfriend or girlfriend, you risk sleeping on the couch or worse!

So what is the proper etiquette when it comes to "bros" and "hoes"? Well if you are dealing with a literal hoe, you always put your friends first. Why? Simple. You know that warm, tingly feeling they give you? Here's a hint: it's not love and you should go see a doctor ASAP! Seriously though- if you and your significant other aren't that serious or if it's a purely physical thing, don't insult your friends by ditching them for him/her. Now I am not saying you should always pick your friends over him/her but if it came down to choosing to hang out with them or him/her, you should pick them. Chances are you have more emotional ties to your friends and they are going to be there for the long haul. Some random fling might not last and if there's little emotional attachment, there won't be any risk. I know sometimes it's hard because you can do things with him/her that you wouldn't ordinarily do with your friends but resist the temptation to ditch them. If the only thing that keeps you with him/her is the thought of playing some figurative baseball, he/she isn't worth it.

Now if you are dealing with something more than a fling, something perhaps a little more serious, that changes things. Sure- you still shouldn't always pick him/her over your friends but it is acceptable if the odds are more in his/her favor than your friends'. After all, if you liked your friends as much as you liked him/her- you'd be dating them and this wouldn't be a problem! Despite the fact you can pick him/her more than you would your friends, you still have to be careful. If there's something important coming up for one of your friends and you skip out on it for some quality time with the significant other, it's not going to bode well for you. Even though you are romantically involved, you still need to show your friends there's a place for them in your life. What better way to do that then being there for them when it really counts? However, you shouldn't just be there for them when it really counts. You also have to be there every now and then just to hang out. It's ok to ditch the girlfriend once and a while for a guy's night out or vice versa. If you trust your significant other, this shouldn't be a problem at all. In fact, it will help your relationship, trust me!

By now you are probably thinking, "Well can't I do stuff with both my significant other and my friends, at the same time?" and you are correct. That is unless you dealing with a literal hoe. If it's a literal hoe, chances are he/she has been with your friends before and it would just create bad blood if you tried to mix them. On the other hand, if he/she is just a significant other, serious or not, it's ok to hang out with them and your friends simultaneously, just watch out for that pesky PDA. While you are hanging out with both your significant other and your friends, keep in mind that it's just that: hanging out. The reason you spend time with your significant other away from your friends is so you can presumably do more than hang out. I'm not saying you have to act completely platonic with your boyfriend/girlfriend when in mixed company but I am saying be respectful. Not everyone will appreciate it when you and your significant other start playing tonsil hockey like it's the Olympic semi-finals. So just opt for holding hands and the like. Your friends shouldn't have a problem with nonchalant behavior like that and if they do, it's their problem not yours.

So remember- bros before hoes or hoes before bros, it doesn't matter as long as you keep it fair and balanced.

Depressing Poetry Corner

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

My Heart is Elsewhere

By Alexsandra Borodkin

My heart is elsewhere tonight
behind the waters, the troubled seas
beyond the reach of the pale moonlight
away from the humming wind in trees.

My heart is within you tonight
within your soul, your strength, your eyes
shining quietly but bright
like a star in darkened skies

My heart is with you tonight
to comfort you while you're away
to hold you until the sunlight
brings about the lonely day.

WTF?! Picture of the Month

What's with this pastry/cookie/tasty treat? This month's photo was taken in the SAC Cafeteria.

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 pastry/cookie/tasty treat of some kind that for some reason inspired hate and foul language in any Jewish person we showed it to. There can be only one answer...

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.

Send in your submissions to
submissions@stonybrookpatriot.com
with the subject line, "WTF?!"

Submitted Captions:

"Poster child for not smoking crack while pregnant."

"Whateva! I do wut I want!"

"Yeah, I robbed the Ronald McDonald fund too, so wut?"

Last Month's Picture:

Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month

Satire By Virginia Morgan


From the Desk of the Editor Page 4

the stony bro Statesma

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005

VOLUME XLVIII, ISSUE 1

Students organize conservative newspaper

Kick off cere Black Histor

Campus Wide Tsunami Relief Efforts

Irish Flag Shooter

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

Ingredients:

1 oz. Green Creme de Menthe
1 oz. Baileys Irish Cream
1 oz. Grand Marnier

Directions:

Pour ingredients in the order listed into a shot glass or high ball glass. They should separate and form the Irish Flag.

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. This month's drink: Irish Flag Shooter.

OFFICIAL Drunk of the Month

Fred Keller

Best Drinking Story:

Okay... a couple years back Planet Dublin was the weekend haunt for my friends and I. We always had a good time there from what we could remember. One particular night it seemed as though we were all power drinking at the club. Boozin' and dancin' so on and so forth. At one point I could only find my buddy Joe and he suggested some Cuervo shots. Stumbling to the bar, he ordered and the bartender said they were free if we drank right out of the bottle. Needless to say we finished it and went on our way. Now comes the funny stuff… well, it's funny now.

We hop in the car and our driver, Ron, was especially happy that night. So he decides that 347 is a speedway lighting up the tires as we bang a U-turn back towards Nicholls Road. Then he locks the brakes up as we pass our turn off, throws it in reverse, makes the turn, and drives along.

All the while he's laughing his ass off. No sooner did I tell him to slow down... WHOOP WHOOP!! Suffolk County's finest pulls us over. After Ron gets taken away and everyone else admits they're too plastered to drive, the cop takes the keys and says good luck. So now here we are: the four remaining drunks with no ride on some road.

With no other choice but to walk, it took about three hours to get back to Middle Country Road. Along the way we tried to hitch a ride on some dudes ten speed, stumbled into many a mail box, and were mocked by every car passing by. Now what was really funny is that by the time we sobered up, we realized that if we went back towards 347 it only would've taken us fifteen minutes to find a phone, which would have allowed more time to sleep before out trip to the courthouse to bring our buddy home.

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

J&R's Steakhouse
1320 Stony Brook Road
Stony Brook
689-5920
Happy Hour: 4-7

Port Jefferson Area

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

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

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

Lake Grove Area

John Harvard's Brewhouse
Smithaven Plaza
Lake Grove
979-2739
Happy Hour: 4-7

Drinking Philosophy:

Drive fast, take chances, shot's up!!! and Slante'

The Patriot, obviously, does not condone this behavior.

Drunkest Ever:

Oh god, the night I fractured my ankle and unleashed hell in Brookhaven Hospital's Emergency Room.

Favorite Drink:

Harp and Irish Mist, definitely!

Favorite Bar:

That would have to have been Buckley's Irish Pub in Center Moriches before the fire. RIP Buckleys

Favorite Bartender:

Jason Mazzio is a bartender before his time.

The Patriot | Sports

Hockey Lacks Athletics Dept. Funding

By Megan Gaffey

Since my first year here at Stony Brook, I had heard rumors about how great our hockey team was. Apparently, they defeated nearly every opposing team, and going to see their games seemed to be the cool thing to do. I was impressed by what I heard, but I was also slightly confused as to why there was no "Hockey Team" link on the SB Athletics webpage. As a varsity athlete myself, I knew that each team was provided certain links on that webpage which led to rosters, schedules, and athlete bios. So why was there no hockey team link? Why was this group of athletes I had been told were highly accomplished missing from the entire athletic program here?

I decided it was time to get clear answers to my questions. I met with Hould, a senior here at SBU and a member of the team for the past four years, and I asked him, "Why aren't you guys a varsity sport?"

We need to start with definitions of a few technical terms. Stony Brook is NCAA Division I (DI), the most competitive of the three National Collegiate Athletic Association's categories. Beneath us are NCAA DII and DIII. Within our division, different varsity sports play within different conferences. For example, the swim team competes in the America East Conference, while the Football Team competes amongst teams in the Northeast Conference. Swimming and football are both recognized varsity sports; they receive money from the Athletic Department, and are under all NCAA regulations. Varsity athletes are provided (free of charge) coaches, trainers, academic advisors, equipment, transportation to and from competitions, room and board at away competitions, and more. On top of that, some of us have the benefit of receiving athletic scholarships.

Our hockey team differs from our varsity teams in every way possible. Essentially, the hockey team is a Stony Brook club. Not under the oversight of the NCAA, they belong to a body of club hockey teams governed by the Athletic Collegiate Hockey Association. Like the NCAA, the ACHA is divided into divisions, and Stony Brook Ice Hockey falls into DII. However, unlike the NCAA, the ACHA does not provide varsity athletic status or scholarship money to incoming freshmen. Although they are the top team in their league, they cannot offer any monetary compensation to recruits.

SB Hockey's position as a club team does not allow funding by the athletic department so much of the costs fall on the shoulders of the players. This year alone, each of the thirty players spent $900 dollars just to be on the team. If the team needs transportation to an out-of-state game, they need to pay for the bus trip. If one of the players is injured at practice or at a game, the treatment from a trainer has to be paid for by the team. No equipment is provided, and even the coach and officials are employed by the team itself. On top of this, The Rinx, which is the facility at which SB Ice Hockey practices, charges $365 per hour. These expenses rapidly add up, and the combined $27,000 only meets one-third of the team's approximate $85,000 yearly budget. Without the support of the athletic department, the rest of the necessary funds need to be provided by other sources. In the 2004-05 season, USG gave the team $31,000, alumni gave $23,000, and corporate sponsors provided another several thousand.

Granted, there are many NCAA regulations that the hockey team need not worry about, since they are not under such jurisdiction. But the pros of becoming a varsity sport here at SB definitely outweigh the cons, not only financially, but also practically. With rink time costing $365/hr, the team can only spend a maximum of four hours per week on the ice, including game time. This leaves only two hours per week for team practices, which is a mere 1/10th the amount of time most varsity athletes spend in practice. Not only are they only allotted two hours, but also the hours available are extremely inconvenient. Many of the practices end around 12:00 AM, which means that the players are practicing off-campus, late at night, after a full day of class, and with another full day about to begin by the time they change and make it back to their dorms to catch a few hours of sleep. The fact that SB Ice Hockey is the top team in DII ACHA Hockey is astounding, considering they are playing every game on two hours of late night practices per week.

Clearly, the situation should not remain as it is. There are several options available, none of which have been acted upon yet. Currently, the team is too far ahead of their competition to remain in DII ACHA. Every player has come to the program with years of prior experience; this is not a walk-on team. Moving up to DI would be a wise thing to do, but it would only solve the problem of being too good for their league. The monetary situation would actually be worsened as a result of entering a more competitive division, because there would be more traveling and a need for more rink time to sharpen the level of playing. Rink time is actually a major factor, because with the Rinx being the only appropriate facility on Long Island for hockey teams to practice in, it is very crowded and difficult for any team to get more rink time.

With so little time to practice, the team cannot become a varsity sport, because the NCAA will not back a program knowing that the players will have hardly any opportunity to improve their skills on the ice. As a result, the construction of a second rink on Long Island would be a great help to the program, providing the SB team. Of course, this would be a large investment, but one that would be worth it in the end. With the already popular status of hockey on the Island, and the existence of the New York Rangers and Islanders, another rink would promote the sport even more. From Stony Brook's standpoint alone, it seems to be a wise investment. With another rink available, we could become the only college hockey team on Long Island, and SB Athletics could increase its fan base, and ultimately earn revenue from a successful new team on our program.

Asked if, under ideal conditions, he would prefer that the team move completely to NCAA and leave club status behind, Hould replied that if at some point, the team were to become a member of Stony Brook Athletics, there would be no need to eliminate the club team. The club could serve as a stepping stone for players who would come to Stony Brook with prior experience, but who were not ready to play DI NCAA hockey. It would also provide players with a high caliber hockey experience without all of the strict NCAA regulations.

Sean Martin's Sports Minute

The Winter Olympics gives the NHL a chance to showcase its talent on a worldwide stage, as the league's best players suit up for their respective countries in an international tournament. The past two years have been tough for the NHL between the lockout that cancelled the entire 2004-05 season and the recent gambling scandal involving Wayne Gretzky, which made the effort put forth by Team USA this month in Turin that much more disappointing. Given the opportunity to generate excitement about their sport the US produced only 1 win in 6 tries, with the lone win coming against an overmatched team from Kazakhstan. Adding insult to injury were public disagreements between Team USA management and star player Mike Modano. This wasn't exactly helpful for a sport that is desperate for some positive press in this country.

Bryant Gumble has been in the headlines recently for his bitter tirade against the Winter Olympics. He claimed that not only are the Winter Olympics just a scheme to make money, but that the games are not even worth watching because they are racist. (Gumble failed to mention that he himself used to cover the games for CBS without a word of protest) I myself find it hard to believe that an event that hosts over 80 nations is somehow racist. People watch the Winter Games because they get to see events that they themselves often don't have the chance to experience. Racing down an ice shoot at high speeds is not something that many people have access, or the heart to do. Gumble's rant was bitter and insensitive, if he were white he more then likely would have faced serious backlash in the media and probably would have lost his job. Maybe the reason that Gumble was able to avoid repercussions is because Dave Chappelle had it backwards... It is in fact Bryant Gumble that makes Wayne Brady look like Malcolm X.

He makes O.J. Simpson look like he cares about black people.

The New York Knicks pulled off another trade this month, acquiring former Maryland Star and #2 overall draft pick, Steve Francis, from the Orlando Magic. Not only does this move fail to address any current needs for the team, but it also continues to bury the Knicks in the depths of salary cap hell. This story continues to get stranger by the day, and I don't see how anyone can justify the fact that Knicks General Manager Isiah Thomas still has a job. This is a man whose track record as a front office man includes bankrupting an entire league, a failed coaching stint, and sexual harassment allegations. Thomas needs to be fired, immediately.

Spring training has gotten underway for both the Mets and Yankees, without any major news from either camp. The most newsworthy event so far for the Mets has been the status of Pedro Martinez's injured toe. Met fans hold their breathe with every toss and are left to wonder if the trading off of both Jae Seo and Kris Benson is going to come back to haunt them come mid-season. The big story so far for the Yankees has been the semi-annual Gary Sheffield outburst. The diva right-fielder is once again unhappy with his contract status and voiced his frustrations to the media. Personally I find it tough to feel sympathy for a man who has not only threatened to make his team's life hell if traded, but also admittedly committed errors on purpose. What a bitch.