

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

Special USG
Election
Supplement!

VOL XXXI ISSUE 10.5

"VOTE! MARCH 17-24! BITCHES."

MARCH 17, 2010



Also: Don't forget
to pick up Issue
10, right below
this!

WHEN THE ROBOT APOCALYPSE COMES
WHO WILL DEFEND YOU?

FIND OUT INSIDE!

Where the USG Came From

The administration dissolved the once-autonomous student government and seized control of students' money for clubs and events. It was October of 2002, and it was the conception of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG).

For decades, the Student Polity Association, a government created by students, had represented undergraduates at Stony Brook. Agreeing on the best interest of thousands of individuals is always contentious, and Polity was infamous for its fights. At the time, the statewide SUNY administration, following a law recently passed by the legislature, had issued new guidelines for what a student government should be and how it should act. Six different drafts of Polity constitutional reform were circulating in the student senate, and none were collecting enough support to pass.

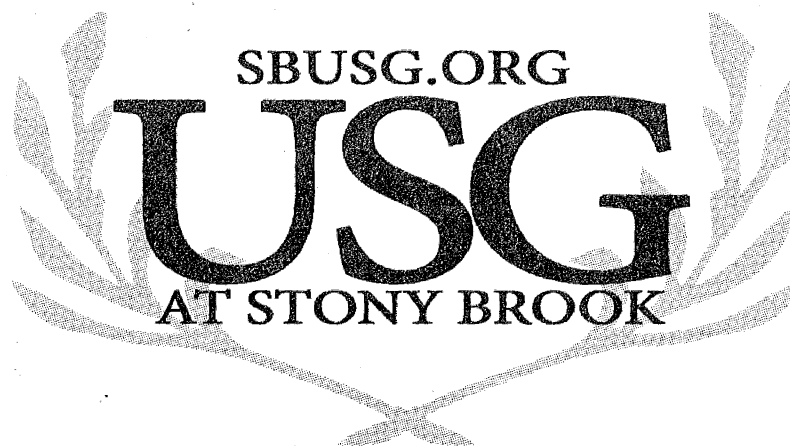
Student president Akelia Lawrence, who believed constitutional reform was being used by the Senate to take power away from the President, appealed to University President Shirley Strum Kenny to "take whatever steps are necessary to reformat the student government." With Lawrence for cover, Kenny did not hesitate. Along with Vice President of Student Life Fred Preston, she "de-certified" Polity. The student government's highest profile function, collecting activity fee money and distributing it to clubs, organizations and campus events, was temporarily taken over by Preston's office. Polity's budget was reduced to zero, and it would not last long.

The administration recognized USG as the new student government the following semester, Spring of 2003. The original USG constitution was written not by legitimately elected student representatives, but by a group of faculty, administrators and some students,

hand-picked by Kenny's administration. The new government featured some interesting structural changes.

An unusually large eleven-member executive, a body padded by several officers with few specific responsibilities, headed USG. By increasing the number of offices available, the USG structure would help to insure that more student leaders would assume office with no contested election. The size of the body would also make it difficult to gather enough votes for the executive to take collective action.

A senate that had been organized into divisions



immediately relevant to students' lives, residents and commuters, was reorganized into Senators from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Health Science Center. In addition to an alienating structure that was meaningless to most students, this created silly, lopsided groups of 17, 2 and 1 Senators, respectively. (Two more Senators are appointed by resident and commuter groups, respectively.) Because few students, and fewer student leaders, come from majors within the CEAS and HSC, virtually every candidate who

stands to represent these schools runs unopposed. Most resident students, who could previously vote by their dorm for a Senator who would live near them and possibly be a part of their social life, would now be voting for 17 at-large Senators from a list of, usually, just over 17 candidates.

The USG constitution had other curious clauses. For example, hidden in an arcane section on tax law, it says that "attempting to influence legislation" could not be "a substantial part of the activities" of the student government. Of course, while distributing money to clubs is valuable to student life, the main purpose of an organized representative of students is to be an instrument for collective action by the students. Students have interests in the larger society that are poorly served by disorganized individual actions. At some points in USG's history, savvy Senators who believe they were elected to represent students have ignored the implication of this clause—that the student government can't fight for students. At other points, Senators have wrung their hands and claimed impotence.

In the Spring 2010 elections, students are electing ten of the eleven members of the Executive Committee (the Freshman Representative is elected in the Fall by the incoming freshmen). At least four (depending on possible disqualifications) of those ten executives are predetermined by uncontested elections. Twenty seats in the Senate are up for election. The would-be Senators from the CEAS and the HSC will take office unopposed. Students in most major programs (which fall into the CAS), or of undeclared major, will be choosing seventeen of twenty-six at large candidates.

Vote Yes for Student Activities

The sanctity of campus life here at Stony Brook is being threatened once again by pointless legislation. Every two years, the student activity fee is put up to a vote. The question is phrased, "should the activity fee be mandatory or optional" to persuade students to vote against it. What is really happening is that students must constantly re-ratify the basic institutions that allow campus clubs and events. Fortunately, the vote has been in favor of a "mandatory fee" in the past. The time for this crucial vote is again approaching.

The student activities fee helps pay for most if not all the campus events, clubs and organizations, which in turn impact the student body, campus and community. Clubs, including *The Press*, would be put in severe jeopardy and would not be able to operate and serve their purposes. While the defunding of this beloved newspaper may be a good thing depending on your outlook, there are a fair number of student-run clubs and events that most would agree service the campus in ways that have a great. Consider events such as the Roth Regatta and Brookstock, and organizations like the numerous diversity clubs and dance crews.



What would happen to all the stray cats descended from callously abandoned student pets if funding for the Cat Network suddenly stopped, because the \$94.25 fee for student activities became optional? Or take the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, which not only offers experience to those who participate, but an invaluable service to the campus—

they save lives, for Christ's sake. How about the student-run radio station, WUSB, that could lose its FCC license and become inoperable if students voted to make the activity fee optional.

We understand that these are economically trying times—but \$94.25 means a lot to a campus struggling to keep its students happy. The Princeton Review rankings may show us to be an unhappy campus, but what little joy there is to be had here is often found in the campus club scene.

The beauty of campus life at Stony Brook is that there is a club for everyone, regardless of whether you are a liberal or conservative, an anime freak or a science-fiction freak, a south-Asian dancer or an east-Asian dancer. The spectrum is so wide that it covers everyone and practically everything.

The vote is months away, but we here at *The Press* feel very strongly. It has an obvious impact on us and our readers—our paper depends on activity-fee funding. But the mandatory student activity fee not only benefits *The Press*, but the campus and community as a whole.

Republished from Issue 9.

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The Press asked every USG candidate the same six questions, via the email addresses they listed with the USG Elections Board. Many candidates failed to reply. The answers of those who did form the bulk of this supplement.

The questions:

- 1) Voter turnout for these elections is usually 5% of the student body. Why do you believe that is so?
- 2) What is your position on Governor Paterson's proposed PHEEIA bill regarding SUNY tuition?
- 3) How would you evaluate the success of Brookfest and other recent campus events?
- 4) Which USG officeholders should be paid from the student activity fee, how much, and why?
- 5) What should the USG's relationship be with student activism?
- 6) Why should students vote for you?

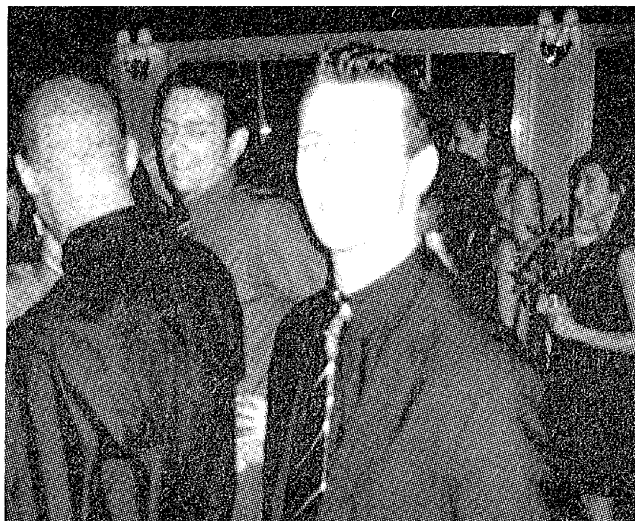
We wrote the questions to focus the candidates both on issues we see as important to our readers and on the USG itself, while also giving them some leeway to talk about whatever they felt best justified their candidacies.

Contributors:

Najib Aminy	James Laudano
Raina Bedford	Alex H. Nagler
Andrew Fraley	Matt Willemain

Matt Graham

USG President



of room for improvement and we certainly could do a better job. This applies to both Brookfest and the other events put on by the USG and its agencies. One thing that needs improvement, is increasing students involvement and attracting them events. This will prove to be a major challenge.

4) USG Paid Stipend

I believe the current pay of USG members is fair and absolutely necessary. Being involved in the USG

1) Low Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is weak simply because students either don't know about the USG elections or don't understand USG's importance to the Stony Brook community. Part of the problem is the large percentage of the undergraduate population that does not stay on campus over the weekends or get involved in the on campus events and activities. Instead of participating in campus events, clubs/organizations or interacting with fellow students, many go home and thus don't know about what is available here at Stony Brook outside of class work. If more people were taking part in clubs/organizations they would be more aware about the USG election. Right now most voters are the students that are involved in clubs, organizations, and campus events. Getting more people involved in these activities will make people more interested and concerned about the elections.

2) PHEEIA

I believe Governor Paterson's proposed PHEEIA bill has several positive aspects to it. If passed, it will represent a significant step for all of SUNY and CUNY schools here in NY. This bill will have the power to take the NYS education system, and our University, to the next level. Because this is such an important issue, I would urge students to understand what the bill means for them and get involved in voicing their support to Albany. Even president Stanly has stressed the importance of this issue and the huge benefits it would have on higher education in NY. This is would truly be a milestone for SUNY and requires our support to help insure victory.

3) Brookfest & Student Life

Student life, and the activities on campus that encompass it, is definitely something that needs improvement. Only a small percentage of students chose to take advantage of all the fun things going on. The USG's main function is to make campus life fun and exciting and provide the resources for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. Over the last year the USG hasn't necessarily failed at this but there is still a lot

requires a significant amount of work and time commitment. If we want to keep our talented students involved in the USG then we will need to continue compensating them monetarily. USG office holders could easily get other paid internships, research positions, or other jobs that without compensation they would immediately go to. Additionally, getting paid for something, has the ability to increase the dedication and quality of work done.

5) USG & Student Activism

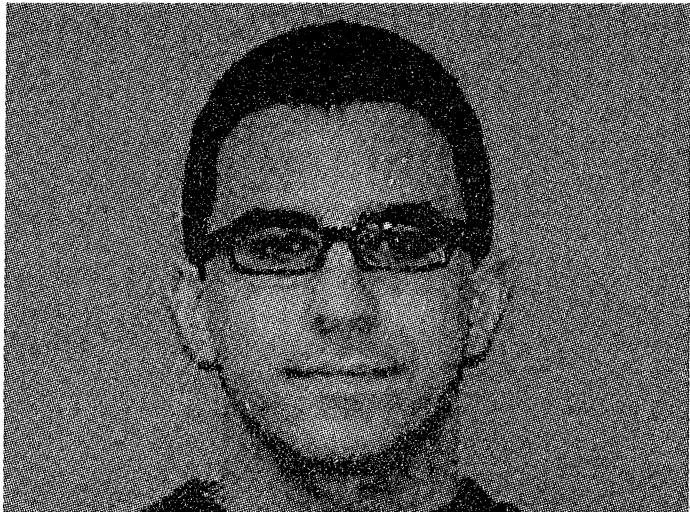
The purpose of the USG is to get students involved in the events sponsored by the USG or by the over 150 clubs and organizations funded by the USG. Though it is great to see student activism on campus, and it shows our university spirit and passion, it shouldn't be associated with the USG. Our engagement in these activities could lead to conflicts of interest and would be against our policy and purpose.

6) Y 4 U?

Throughout my time at Stony Brook as a Chemical Engineering major, I have been very active in a wide range of campus clubs, organizations, events, and sports. Specifically, my involvement in the USG has been working closely with the current President, which has allowed me to learn the intricacies of the USG and the role of its President. Through my work I have seen the problems and issues in the USG and have identified which I should address first. I am committed and will demand nothing but the utmost dedication from my fellow colleges in USG. I will hold my integrity to its highest standard and punish those who abuse their power or privileges. The primary focus of my Presidency will be to get more FUN activities here on campus and get more students involved in them. I will also actively poll the student body to better understand their complaints about Stony Brook and do my best to address them. As an elected official I will be here to represent and serve you, the student body. The Undergraduate Student Government needs a strong leader and I am here to deliver!

Alexander Dimitriyadi

Executive Vice President



1) Low Voter Turnout

I attribute the poor voter turnout on a much larger communication issue that the USG has. I spent two years as a student not involved in USG and the only opinions I encountered were either negative or just a complete lack of knowledge of what the USG was. Therefore when election season comes around, I feel that not many students are motivated to log onto SOLAR to vote for an organization they feel doesn't represent or provide benefit to them. Over the next couple of years the USG is going to have to work very hard to improve their image in the undergraduate community by directly reaching out to students for their input.

2) PHEELA

As a Computer Science major, I am heavily opposed to the differential tuition among academic programs in PHEELA that will most likely target CEAS students. I feel it is unreasonable to ask CEAS students for additional money when a disproportionate amount of engineering resources are spent on revenue generating research rather than improving the quality of education for their students. Since I'm sure PHEELA will pass, I hope the additional money will allow the university to hire instructors with more emphasis on their teaching ability rather than their research CV.

3) Brookfest and Campus Life

During the Roth Regatta last year, the M.C. of the event made two failed attempts of trying to get the crowd of several thousand surrounding Roth pond to create a wave. On the third attempt, the

spectators successfully initiated and sent a wave rippling through the crowd. This was the first time in my two years at Stony Brook that I felt any sense of pride for my school. I think events such as the Regatta set a standard that we should apply to other events on campus. In order to have successful events, the focus within the USG needs to be about planning events that draw out a larger amount of the campus community. Once we accomplish this, then I believe we will have fixed the problem of student life on this campus.

4) USG Paid Stipends

Despite the common perception that the USG is full of people purely looking for resume boosters, I think you'd be quite surprised at the dedication of most of our elected officials this year.

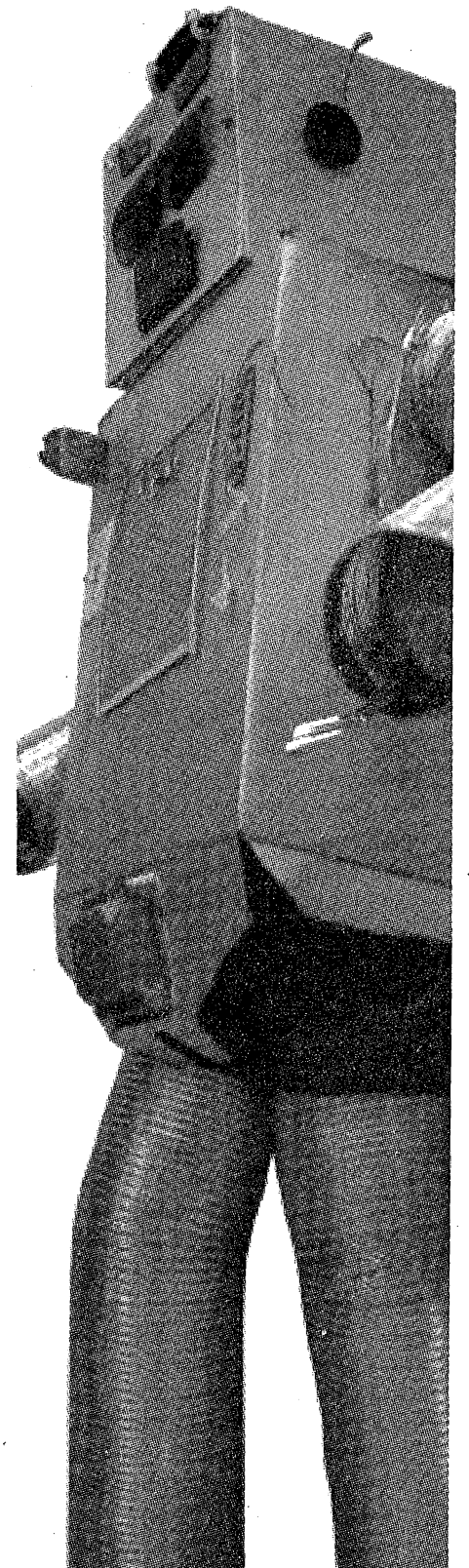
Late nights, weekends, snow days and vacations are all times that you would probably find someone in the USG suite. With some Senators spending 30 - 40 hours per pay period often at the expense of their grades and bank accounts, I think that they more than deserve the \$60 per week they receive. Members of the Executive Council make between \$8 and \$12 per hour for the first 15 hours per week, which I think is more than justified given their respective workloads. Paying USG officials is necessary to ensure that we can have competent representatives whom otherwise would have to seek out alternative jobs instead of working for the greater good of the campus community.

5) USG and Student Activism

Our current Constitution explicitly disallows the USG to participate in student activism that would have any importance outside of the campus community. Until this is changed, the USG must limit its activities to purely facilitating student activism through the funding of organizations such as NYPIRG.

6) Y 4 U?

As a Senator this year, I have been the author of many pieces of legislation that have sought to improve the internal operations of the USG. However, the more I became familiar with the governing documents of the USG, the more I began to be alarmed at the glaring inconsistencies and ambiguities often making interpretation of them difficult. For the remainder of my term this year and if elected, my term next year as Executive Vice President I will seek to remove these problems setting the stage for future administrations to solve more important problems such as establishing student life on campus.



Please Note: All candidates were given questions via emails to the email addresses provided. Six days were given to respond to these questions. The following are candidates who never responded to our request:

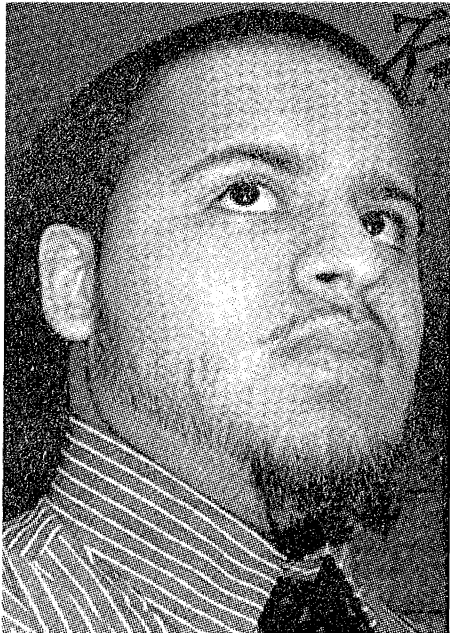
Adeel Anwer, USG President
 Sharlene Felix, VP of Communications
 Shamell Forbes, VP of Academic Affairs
 Joe Russo, VP of Academic Affairs
 Aneta Bose, VP of Student Life
 Peter Molloy, VP of Student Life
 Leili Sarrafha, Sophomore Class Representative
 Emilisa Trotman, Junior Class Representative

Christian Velez, Senator HSC
 Spencer Cushing, Senator CEAS
 Ory Baum, Senator CAS
 Michael Chuprin, Senator CAS
 Samuel Cushner, Senator CAS
 Shawn Hymys, Senator CAS
 Lucy Kang, Senator CAS
 Mahyar Kashan, Senator CAS
 Sidrah Khand, Senator CAS
 Thomas Kirnbauer, Senator CAS

Kirin Mahmud, Senator CAS
 Bhaskar Naran, Senator CAS
 Joy Phillip, Senator CAS
 Shivani Rampersad, Senator CAS
 Benjamin Rappaport, Senator CAS
 Masood Rustemi, Senator CAS
 Harminder Singh, Senator CAS
 Peter Stratoudakis, Senator CAS
 Russel Williams, Senator CAS
 Kekelly Ketemepi, Senator CAS

Moiz Khan

Treasurer



1) Low Voter Turnout

I believe that the low turnout for elections is part a much larger problem on this campus. If someone went about the task of asking the student body if they knew what USG is and what exactly USG does, they would get tons of blank stares. Another major group of people are indifferent to the USG as they do not think that the USG has an effect on their lives. The solution to the first problem is simply better communication and marketing, the solution to the second is expanding the reach of USG to account for the diversity of students.

2) PHEEIA

The proposed bill is the result of the failure of the State to prioritize values. Noam Chomsky puts it well, "*Tough love is just the right phrase: love for the rich, and tough for everyone else.*"

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

The problem with most of the events on campus is that they lack planning. It is almost always the case that events are planned last minute and so while the potential is there, it is rarely realized. Brookfest is a good example of this as last year the artists were not confirmed until two weeks prior to the event. The clubs and organiza-

tions that have annual events such as Roth Regatta or Homecoming are planned well ahead of time and often the only thing they have to do is slightly adjust old contracts. Thus those events are extremely well executed.

4) USG Paid Stipend

Given the current economic climate with jobs as an endangered species, the USG is one of the very few organizations that maintains and continually hires hundreds of student employees. Of course, since the wages and salaries are being drawn from the Student Activity Fee, the USG must be frugal in the amount we compensate employees. However, the USG should be proud that it provides employment opportunities to students on campus. With regards to specific positions, I believe that positions should be compensated for their relative workload. For example, the President and Treasurer are the two highest paid positions at \$12 an hour and they are only compensated for the first fifteen hours. In the case of the Treasurer as that is the position I am most familiar with, in order for me to do my job even remotely effectively it requires at least 40 hours a week. As you go down the list, I believe the pay scale does a fair job of compensating the students for their relative workload.

5) USG & Student Activism

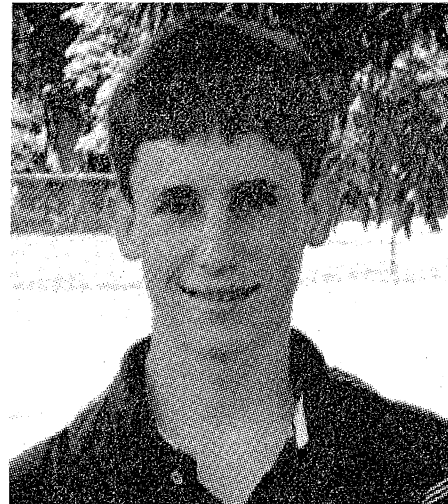
I believe it is the role of the USG to facilitate any activity that Undergraduate Students wish to engage in provided the activity complies with Federal and State laws. I do not believe that it is the role of the USG itself to act as an advocate for any particular political issue. Successful popular movements come from the bottom-up, not top-down.

6) Y 4 U?

In the past 4-5 months I have worked to completely rework the Office of the Treasury. I have begun many initiatives (ALLOCATE, simplifying the budget process, etc) and I would like to see them through.

David Mazza

VP of Communications



4) USG Paid Stipend

The USG is a \$3.1 million dollar corporation, so it's no surprise that you need to pay people to keep an organization that large running properly. It should also be no surprise that an elected official who is required to work 15 hours per week can't afford to do that for free, so we work for just above minimum wage. There are paid positions within the USG that have been used for the wrong reasons. Although I'm not in a position to make such decisions, we have spent much of this year re-examining our payroll, and there will be changes by next year.

5) USG & Student Activism

I don't think student government should ever acquiesce to the wishes or demands of the administration. We should serve as a powerful voice for students as stated in our constitution. I have learned this year that I do not share this view with my co-workers. The USG has failed to do so this year. As a result, I have turned to other methods of student activism, but I still do whatever I can to push the USG to look out for our constituents. Depending on the new Executive Council and Senate, I may begin working again to use USG as an organizing force for student activism.

6) Y 4 U?

I have done my job this year, and I think it's fair to say that I've gone far above and beyond my job description. I developed the new USG website from scratch, and I'm developing a campus social network that will have every event posted on it by this fall if re-elected. I have put out well over a dozen press releases to keep the student media up-to-date with our internal affairs. I am also developing a free marketing service for clubs. None of the above appears in my job description, but I feel that any less would be a disservice to the students. I am happy to post my resume online at <http://davidmazza.net>

I'm not running as an exclusive group of people to fill positions pointlessly, I'm just confident that I am fit to continue in my own position. I look forward to working with anyone who wins in a fair election.

1) Low Voter Turnout

There is no structure in place that makes student government relevant in the lives of Stony Brook students. I have spent much of this year to make students aware of what we do and I have created SBULife.com as a new way to reach students. Still, SBULife will be useless without decent events to advertise. If we spent student money on events that attracted a larger student population, we might see higher voter turnout.

2) PHEEIA

I am proud to be one of the only dissenting voices in the USG on this matter. While I can appreciate the idea that we have more control and flexibility over our own funding, I fear that this will ultimately lead to higher tuition in place of the proper state funding that any public institution should receive. We only receive 23% of our funding by the state, and about the same percent from tuition. The rest is either private funding or government grants for research. SUNY deserves state support, and students should never be taxed as a result of a budget crisis in the worst economic times.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

I am deeply ashamed to be associated with an organization that spends an irresponsible amount of student money on this event each year, while charging students an extra \$20 for tickets. With a \$3.1 million dollar annual budget, USG has the potential to book insane shows and performers every semester. Instead this money is routinely wasted on expensive parties and third-rate artists from more than a decade ago.

Special Thanks To:

David K. Ginn & Justin Meltzer

For letting *The Press* use their "Robotman" costume from their upcoming digital series. Catch *Dino Hunter, MD* soon, on YouTube at the CannibalTrollFilms channel.



Jennifer Chan

VP of Clubs and Organizations



1) Low Voter Turnout

I believe it's because of two things: promotion strategy, and student involvement. The Undergraduate Student Government promotes through fliers, which are helpful and consistent because they are always at one place, and if placed wisely, they can be spotted and attract attention easily. But I believe that promotion can be improved by having really motivated and influential student volunteers going around talking to students and making them aware of how important it is for them to participate in the elections by voting. Getting students to realize how the USG elections can affect them, I believe, would really get students more involved with participating in elections.

2) PHEEIA

I'm for reasonable and consistent tuition increase if it means that the extra money my parents are paying every year is helping to improve the facilities where my classes are held, hire more experienced professors that genuinely love teaching, and improving my overall learning experience during my time in college. It's unfair for students who attend college during the time of economic downfalls to have to pay more money for the same schooling that college students who attended school during economic prosperity.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

Brookfest and other campus wide events have always received good turnouts if not great ones, but I think they can definitely continue to increase their turnout. I feel that the students who help out with marketing/advertising for these great events should try to reach out to a much more diverse group of students (commuter students, international students, transfer students, Freshmans, etc...) by speaking in person and making announcements explaining and describing these events. I know that the students who work together to organize and to put these events together

spend a lot of time and energy to think of all the ways that they can make their event interesting and something fun that students would want to participate in. The key is making sure the students know that there is an event, what the event is about/what will the students be doing in the event, and I think that marketing/advertising the events in person will be able to answer the questions of the students.

4) USG Paid Stipend

I felt that this question was too broad. I would have to go into detail of each position of the Executive Board and their responsibilities, the different Senate Committees, and the different Agencies that makes up the whole USG. I don't feel that it's really up to me to decide how much each officeholder should get paid because we each have our own roles and responsibilities stated in our Constitution, and depending on the student, he/she might sometimes even take up more responsibilities or take the initiative and find ways to improve the efficiency of the Government as a whole. You can't really put a monetary reward on that because it's something that they want to do, that's why they are there.

5) USG & Student Activism

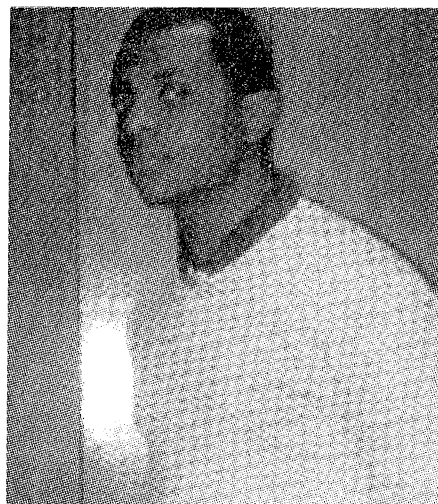
In my opinion, the USG's role/relationship with student activists should be to educate and support them if it is in the interest of the student body as a whole. Everyone has different views and opinions, thoughts and ideas, but USG should mainly provide information and educate the student body in order to help them see the whole issue from both sides before taking any drastic actions because we can only predict so much of what can happen in the long-run.

6) Y 4 U?

Wow, this is a question that I was asked at least 100 times as I was petitioning, going around collecting my 400 signatures to run as a Candidate for the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations position. Why should students vote for me? Well, to start off, I'm a very dedicated and hardworking student in both academics and extracurriculars. I first got involved through my Hall Council; it was there that I really started to learn how to plan events and understood the amount of time and energy an organization would require of me. It wasn't until I started working at USG that I got to meet and learn about the many clubs and organizations that were very much different yet very similar to my Hall Council. I understood the frustration that some clubs and organizations have to go through sometimes if something went wrong in their paperwork, and their request for a certain amount of funding didn't get approved or wasn't ready for their huge event that they have been planning

Franck Joseph

VP of Clubs and Organizations



1) Low Voter Turnout

The reason for the low rate of voter turnout is because of a lack of awareness and promotion. In past years, I personally feel that candidates did not put themselves out in the public enough so that people knew that elections were occurring. Also, the student body in its entirety may not know the effect that USG has on the campus. If USG can put on this class wall complex, so that the people can clearly see what is going on and what is being done the voter turnouts would increase.

2) PHEEIA

The proposed bill by Governor Patterson is, in my opinion, very misleading. It has been said that PHEEIA will increase job rates and will expand the higher education structure. But my concern is for the students, I feel that increased tuition will force people to drop out of school or take semesters off. If this bill goes through, it will effect the future of a lot of students

weeks before. It wasn't until I joined the Executive Board of the very small and growing club (ASCEND), that I experienced just how hard it is to grow the membership of a club, the amount of paperwork that needs to get done to request for funding, and the many other different kind of issues such as room reservations, and basically everything that has to do with creating successful and meaningful events. I think that students should vote for me because I have the knowledge (been with the Undergraduate Student Government for about two years), and the experience (worked on several successful events, assisted in the preparation of USG events, and is currently working with the current VP of Clubs and Orgs. to help carry out some of her responsibilities). I'm very hardworking and dedicated to the things I do, and I really hope to win this election so that I can help improve student life through working with the many different clubs and organizations that USG fund (and also those who would want to get funding).

who go to SUNY & CUNY schools. For example, the average debt of a Stony Brook student after graduating is \$17,375. The PHEEIA bill will increase that by some hundreds of dollars, and that is unacceptable. In theory and on paper the PHEEIA bill sounds good, more jobs, helping the more needy students with aid, strengthening higher education; but I fear its execution will have long-term implications for students.

3) Brookfest & Student Life

Speaking as President of a USG-funded club on campus I feel as if events, Brookfest inclusive, I feel have been taking a hit. The attendance rates for these events have been going in a negative direction. This may be attributed to lack of proper funding for some of these events, and also lack of promotion and awareness from USG. This is something that must change. It is not too late to help in the progression of these events, but we must promote diversity as well as properly fund clubs so they can help promote student life through these events.

4) USG Paid Stipend

I believe any USG officeholders that are giving their services back to the University as well as the student body should be paid. Putting a monetary number on that is an injustice because of the different positions and duties that come with each. Every officeholder has a different task that they are help more accountable for, but each is also equal in importance. The reason I feel they should be paid is because, as I previously stated, of the service they are provided to the University. If they are willing to bear that stress and do their jobs effectively it is only fair that they receive some type of stipend.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG should be the voice of the people when it comes to student activism. If a majority of the student body feels a certain way on an issue, then as the representative for the students, USG should compute that.

6) Y 4 U?

Students should vote for me because it will be a fresh breath to USG. Though I would be new to USG, I am also far from inexperienced when it comes to student leadership. Being the President of a club on campus now, I am the right candidate to become VP of Clubs & Organizations. A true representation of the people who voted for me will be felt being that I am a member of a club. With me, the student body WILL get exactly who they voted for, both before and after the ballots have been cast. My dedication and resilience, as well as my passion and drive are also reasons why students should vote for me.

Dexter Daniel

Senior Class Representative

1) Low Voter Turnout

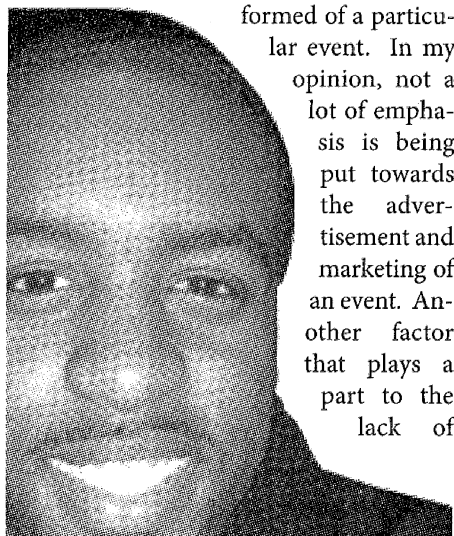
I believe that the voter turnout for these elections is usually 5% of the student body because students don't feel that their votes actually count. It's similar to the U.S. Presidential election where a majority of the younger citizens that are eligible to vote didn't; at least not until President Obama decided to run. Students' may not feel as though that their voices will be heard and that their interest won't really be taken into consideration as promised by the candidate asking for their vote

2) PHEEIA

I am not in favor of anything that will increase tuition costs of the University. With the most recent rise in tuition, it has left a number of students without a place to attend for higher education. Governor Patterson's bill regarding SUNY tuition will make matters even worse, possibly resulting in the leave of even more students which is unacceptable. As a student body, we have been opposing tuition increase and the general consensus has remained the same. We CANNOT afford to pay more than what we are paying already.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

The success of Brookfest has been phenomenal in my opinion. Brookfest is one event that I've managed to attend annually since my freshman year and it is definitely one of the events on campus that I have enjoyed the most. Many recent campus events are successful as well in the sense that they are put together properly and effectively. However, I feel that attendance is a big issue. In personal experience, I've noticed a deficit in the number of people attending particular programs. This is due to three main factors. One, some students are just not interested and may not be taking advantage of the opportunity to experience something new here at the University. They may feel as though nothing has caught their attention and grasped their interest enough for them to attend an event. Another factor is that a large percentage of the student body are not being reached out to. In most cases, students may not be aware or informed of a particular event. In my opinion, not a lot of emphasis is being put towards the advertisement and marketing of an event. Another factor that plays a part to the lack of



attendance for many campus events is the fact that there is a conflict of interest. More times than none, there are multiple events that are taking place at the same exact time. It is an inconvenience for students that want to attend both programs. They either have to leave one early to go to the other later or they may just go to one event and not the other. One would see a vast improvement in the quality of campus programs if the organizations put greater emphasis onto advertising for their event, and if organizations worked together to ensure maximum attendance for their events by not booking at the same time.

4) USG Paid Stipend

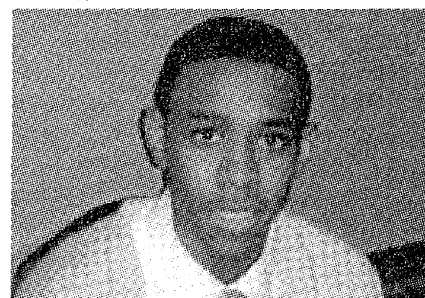
In my opinion, I don't think any of the officeholders should be paid from the student activities fee. When I first learned of the position that I'm running for, I didn't know that any of the officeholders received pay. I agreed to running for the senior class representative position even before I was told that I would receive pay. But thinking from the mindset of a student of the University, my tuition costs and expenses should not be pocketed by another student. The costs of attending college and the fact that tuition is increasing makes it difficult for many to maintain a way to stay enrolled. Even worse, it may turn away some that are interested in attending the University. On top of tuition, you have fees and other expenses that are incorporated into the costs. All of these should be invested into the school and its facilities, not the pockets of another student who are paying the same exact costs as someone who isn't holding an office in USG.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG are representing the student body as a whole. I believe it is the responsibility of USG to uphold the interest of the rest of the student body to their highest of their priorities. USG is to make sure that the experience of the individual is the best that it can be. As a representative, you are wearing the name of the school. These students came to your school to obtain an education. While obtaining that education, their interests need to be met so that their time here is well spent. The easiest way for students to become more active on campus is to attend events and other programs that are held on campus. USG is to work effectively with organizations to ensure that their programming is done to their ability so that students will have the experiences that they were promised when first arriving here. USG is for the students, ran by the students. The success of the University as a whole is dependent upon the well being and involvement of the student body. Encouragement of student activism should be a priority and focus of USG and this needs to be emphasized more.

Neville Hall Jr.

Sophomore Class Representative



1) Low Voter Turnout

Well, voter turnout is very low because the elections do not receive enough promotion, which generates a lack of enthusiasm to the general student body. In addition to not being well informed, student "school spirit" is very low and it reflects in all different sectors of campus life, including elections.

2) PHEEIA

I completely disagree with this proposed bill because, if passed, it will succeed in robbing SUNY students of certain privileges we are accustomed to already. With the amount of effort, time and money it takes to be a college student, raising tuition and cutting classes is never the answer. I feel as if the bill will only take more power away from the students and place it in the hands of the government, to dictate and manipulate how Stony Brook operates. Some students are currently struggling to pay the costs of school fees, so there is no room for an increase in tuition.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

The campus seems much divided when it comes to certain events, even though they may be successful. Some

events that are geared to minorities generally produce a turnout of just Hispanic and African-American students, just as events geared to Asians produce a turnout of Asian-American students. Other than this separation factor, the events planned on campus are rather successful. As for Brookfest, The Student Activities Board does a great job of planning it, so they should be allowed to continue to organize for this event.

4) USG Paid Stipend

My stand on USG officeholders is simple; it is a time consuming, demanding job, which requires highly motivated individuals in order for it to function. It is an essential part of the Stony Brook, therefore, anyone who holds an office should be reimbursed for their hard work and effort.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG should willingly work with student activism because USG officeholders are students as well. If we are able to work with students in regards to activism, then we build better relationships with our constituents, thus making a greater impact on Stony Brook at large.

6) Y 4 U?

Students should vote for me because I am a very passionate young black man who knows how to get things done keeping in mind the goals USG sets out to accomplish. I have a firm understanding of how to communicate with people in order to reach a consensus on how to effectively influence change for the better. Voting for me is a step forward for Stony Brook.

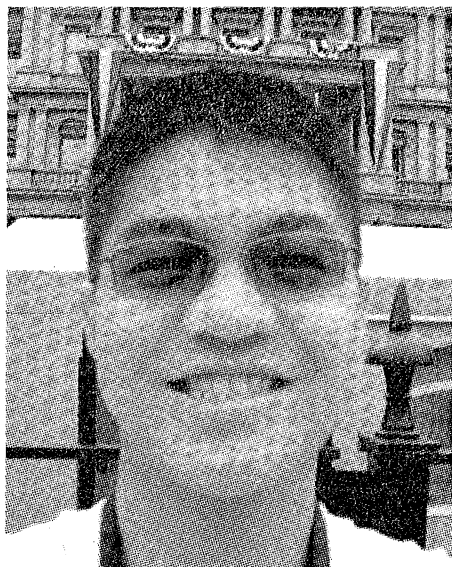
6) Y 4 U?

Students should vote for me not mainly because of what I intend to but mainly because of what they know I am capable of. I carry myself as an individual that is responsible, determined, and enthusiastic of what I put my interest in. A part of my character is that I make myself available for someone in need. When someone's voice needs to be heard, I am usually the one that hears them. When someone needs assistance with something, I am more than willing to lend a hand. My experiences of being President of the Haitian Student Organizations have taught me a great deal about myself. I've learned more and was able to expand on my leadership capabilities. Being a part of an organization has taught me to run my program based on the interests of the student body. The success of the organization is based on the organizations-connection with the student body. I learned what appeals to the students. I learned what students' expectations are of certain aspects of the University. I've learned that the focus of any organization is the student body itself. I will

be taking these skills that I've learned and applying it to my responsibility of becoming the senior class representative. I will be the person that students of the senior class can come to when they need their voices heard. I will do my best to uphold the expectations of my class and make sure that their graduating year at Stony Brook University is completed to their satisfaction. In addition, my intentions are to set an example for those coming up. I will set an example for upcoming senior class representatives so that they will be better capable of meeting the interest of their senior class when their time comes. The bigger picture in this is that I will ensure that proper sanctions are being made to uphold the student body's best interests. No matter what position is being held, bettering the experience of the students and the school overall is the focus for all representatives and office holders. At the end of the day, not only will I be representing the senior class, but I will also represent everyone here at the University.

Ray Fan

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for these elections is usually 5% of the student body. Perhaps it is because not a lot of people know about USG and don't know what USG is or does. It is great that 5% of the student body go out to vote. But we should reach out to the other 95% of the student body to inform them of what student government is and what we do.

2) PHEEIA

I am against the proposed PHEEIA bill because there are three things in the PHEEIA bill that concerns me: flex tuition, differential tuition, and public/private ownership, which gives SUNY the power to raise tuition however much they want, give ability to change tuition based on program, and affect public funding. I am against this because I am a student myself. But this is not something that will only affect me. This will affect the entire student body at Stony Brook. Therefore, I am against the PHEEIA bill.

3) Brookfest and Campus Life

Brookfest and other recent campus events have been successful so far. It is wonderful that we have these events on campus, and it is great that students are getting involved. Student involvement is a really big thing. I think we should have more of these events.

4) USG Paid Stipends

All USG officeholders should be paid from the student activity fee. We all work very hard to contribute to the Undergraduate Student Body. We all put a lot of time and effort into our work. Being a USG officeholder is not easy. I don't have an opinion on how much we should be paid and honestly, I don't care about the pay. As long as I know I did my best and put my best effort to make a difference in the student body, then I am satisfied.

5) USG and Student Activism

USG should definitely support student activism. I think student activism is wonderful and that students should be free to say anything they want and express their opinion. It is the students at Stony Brook that comprise of the Undergraduate Student Government, and therefore student activism should be encouraged.

6) Y 4 U?

I am currently a Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government. I am also a member of the Budget Committee and the *Ad-hoc* committee to examine the proposed tuition increases. I attend all of my Senate meetings, all of my committee meetings, and complete much more than the required amount of office hours so I can make myself more available to address any concerns the students might have. If re-elected, I will continue to work hard and even work a little harder.

Deborah Machalow

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

Unfortunately I believe the students are unaware of what the USG is and how it impacts their lives. Increasing the recognition of the USG and the understanding of its functions would increase turnout drastically, as students would see how these elections impact them directly.

2) PHEEIA

As chair of the Senate's Ad-Hoc Committee to Examine Potential Tuition Changes, I have had the pleasure of reading through PHEEIA. My personal opinion is that it is overall a good idea. I like that the tuition increases would stay on campus and directly benefit the students of Stony Brook University. I however am wary of the fact that if the President of the University (in consultation with the College Council and the student government) requests to the board of trustees tuition increases and the board agrees, there is no limit on how drastically tuition can change. Additionally, I am against the idea of charging students based on program (aka differential tuition) and believe that there should be some form of protection implemented for students who receive merit-based scholarships.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

Unfortunately last year I was unable to attend Brookfest, but the Roth Pond Regatta was quite a success and I look forward to this year's event!

4) USG Stipend

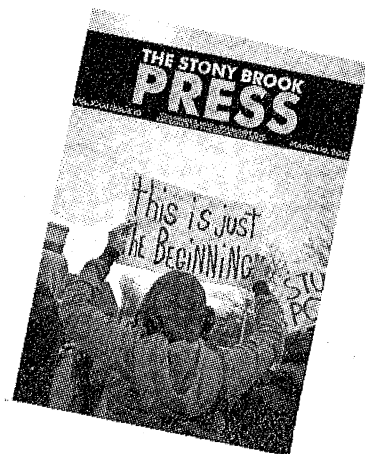
The officeholders who help USG carry out its purpose should be paid, but the amount should depend on how much work they actually are doing. EVP Kriscenski has a sign up in his office that basically says something along the lines of "Remember the STUDENTS they're why we're here." This is the sentiment that should govern who gets paid and how much they receive.

5) USG & Student Activism

The USG should encourage student activism through the continued funding of clubs and organizations that promote student activism.

6) Y 4 U?

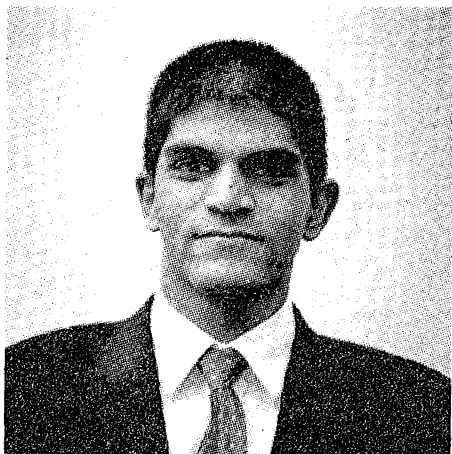
The most important job of the USG, as mentioned in the Preamble of our current Constitution, is to create a community at Stony Brook University. I firmly believe in nurturing the continued growth of a campus-wide community that promotes an ethos of camaraderie and an environment of school spirit, through the development of clubs and organizations of interest to the students. I want what's best for the students, their organizations, and the university itself. I believe I'm an excellent choice to remain in the Senate because I'm articulate, detail-oriented and dedicated to evoking positive change in our campus community. My pet project this year has been to improve the written image of the USG. Additionally, I drafted the resolution that created the Ad-hoc Committee to Examine Potential Tuition Changes, and have been elected Chair of that committee, which recently put out a preliminary report describing the changes PHEEIA would make if passed. The students need Senators who are willing and able to fight for them and handle their concerns. I want to continue to do so in the Senate next year.



**What will you tell your grandkids
When they ask if you read
Issue 10 of the *Stony Brook Press*
On racks and online now?**

Allen Abraham

Senator College of Engineering and Applied Sciences



3) Brookfest & Campus Life

I am currently a freshman so I never attended Brookfest.

4) USG Paid Stipend

Yes because they are representing the whole Undergraduate student government. I believe that the current rates that USG officeholders are being paid are fair for the amount of work they do.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG needs to take a more active role in student activism. We always hear that this campus is dead on the weekends. If the leaders of this campus took a more active role in campus events, others would follow.

1) Low voter Turnout

People are unaware of these elections and view USG as another organization that does nothing. Although this is untrue, these are the views of the students. With that mindset why would anyone vote? We need to rebuild our trust in the students to show that we are more than just another bunch of elected officials that do nothing, rather we encourage students to take a more active role at Stony Brook.

2) PHEEIA

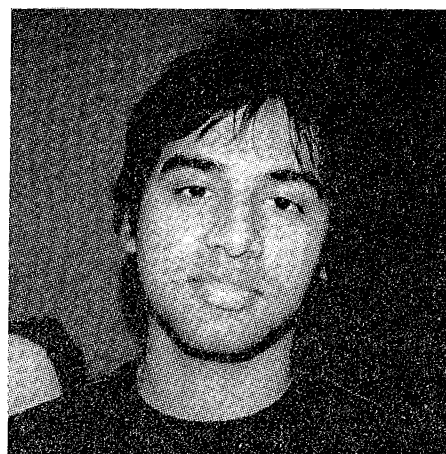
We have one of the lowest in-state tuition fees in the country for a state school. We knew eventually we would have to pay more for a higher education from a SUNY school, but Paterson has to first cut waste from the government. A lot of students, including myself, chose to attend a SUNY school in order to save money. So should the PHEEIA bill be passed? Yes and No. Many of you might disagree with me over what I just said. But the fact of the matter is that prices for everything are increasing and to meet that demand the government needs to have an income. But the tuition increases should be significantly higher considering the fact that many students do come to Stony Brook for their low tuition rate. But again first and foremost we must cut the waste in government, and then we wouldn't be in this much of a deficit.

6) Y 4 U?

There are a few reasons that I should be voted into office. For starters, I want to liven up this campus during the weekends. We need to keep students here on the weekend rather than putting a backup on and taking the LIRR home every Friday. We need to spend more money on hosting activities during the weekends. Another approach we have to take as well is to promote our school outside of New York, let's get more out-of-state students. This brings in more revenue for our tuition and out-of-state students usually stay on campus during the weekends much more than in-state students. I would propose more transparency in our USG meetings; I think that the students of this campus have a right to know how the senators vote on each bill and how we spend every penny of the student's money.

Ahmed Tahir

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



the student body so that I can take a permanent stance.

3) Brookfest and Campus Life

It depends on how you would define success. I personally think we get an alright turnout for Brookfest, but there's always room for improvement. I think the amount of activity that is available for the students is pretty good. What kind of improvement are we talking about? I can't think of any specifics to Brookfest that need improvement, but a bigger turnout will always be better.

4) USG and Paid Stipends

I think all USG officeholders are entitled to a stipend from the student activity fee for their duties fulfilled. How much each office holder is entitled to I think is dependent on their duties as defined by the constitution but should be based on minimum wage.

5) USG and Student Activism

Ideally, USG should represent the student body and generally take an informed stance based on thorough research of student's opinions and of the issue at hand.

6) Y 4 U?

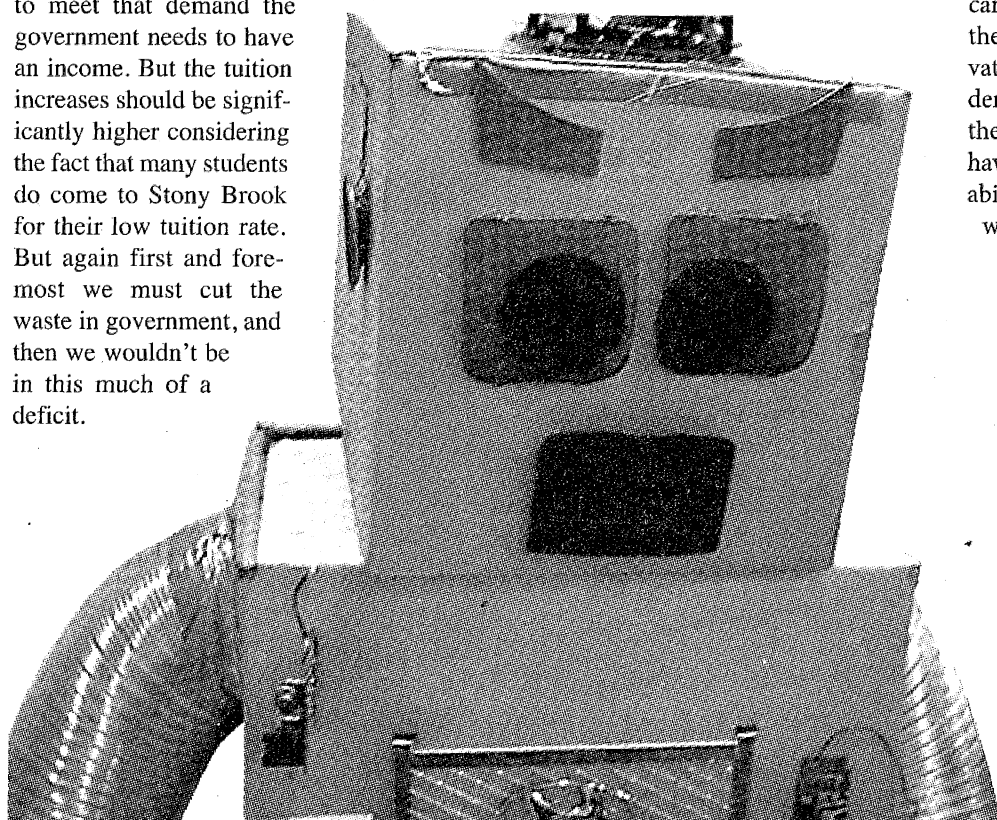
Students should vote for me because I do a great job representing student interests on the senate floor. I think I was excellent in being well informed on all of the votes brought on the floor this year—I took the time out to review all legislation and bylaws that came to the floor for review and for approval to make sure that they are in the best interest of my constituents, both students and clubs and organizations alike. I also take an active role in my committees to come up with new ideas that would benefit the student body and to make sure that USG runs in the fairest and best way possible. I am running again for Senator because I want to continue striving for those who feel underrepresented in the USG—be it clubs that are underfunded or student ideas and interests not having a loud enough voice—residents and commuters alike and if elected will continue to advocate for greater innovations and representation to allow our campus and student life to flourish.

1) Low Voter Turnout

I think the biggest reason why we don't have a large turnout during elections is either that students don't think the vote is important—that these elections won't affect them in a serious manner – or that they are highly uninformed about the student government, its processes and why elections are important. I want to say that it's the latter, but I feel that either could be true.

2) PHEEIA

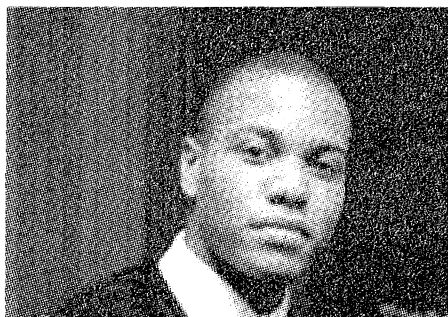
When it comes down to PHEEIA, I think the direction of PHEEIA, benefits wise, is great for our campus. As students we should have pride in our campus, and should have a some kind of concern as to how our school is growing, expanding, developing for the better. More faculty and more classes, more ways to develop campus projects, more ways for Stony Brook to show that it is a world-class education. I think when it comes to PHEEIA, there is a trust issue among the student body and the board of trustees on whether the students can trust the board of trustees not to raise their tuition to great levels like those of private schools perhaps or to the point students can't afford to stay in school. Because the option is available, if the bill passes, to have great control over tuition and have the ability to raise it more than the students would be comfortable with, that option possibility creates distrust over the bill. As for my personal stance, I haven't taken a decision yet as I am still learning more about the bill and its specific contents, and awaiting the results of a future survey by USG of



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Najee Simmons

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

The low voter turnout is probably due to a lack of interest. Perhaps students don't realize how important voting is, even at the student government level. Elected officials need to let the students know just how powerful their influence can be.

2) PHEEIA

I understand the motivation for the bill, but as a student I can't support it at this stage. I've seen friends leave the university for lack of funds and I don't want it to happen to anyone else. Since students pay the price, they should know exactly where the money is going. We need more than generalizations.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

I'm generally happy with the programming at SBU, we do a great job. Brookfest was great, but there could have been a more diverse array of performers to attract more students.

4) USG Stipend

I decline to comment on which officers should be paid. Before I say how much officers should be paid, I first need to understand the breakdown of the student activities fee.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG officers should not organize student activism, but they should represent the interests of their constituents. If students protested tuition hikes, for example, senate members should alert fellow officers as to the students concerns.

6) Y 4 U?

I have nobody to please but the students who elect me. A vote for me is a vote for you.

Yan Leyfman

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

A low voter turnout may be attributed to not enough students understanding the significance of these elections. In addition, some students may not be aware when elections are occurring. We hope to increase voter turnout this year by explaining the significance of voting and the role of USG in campus affairs. We also hope to expand our campaigns so that they reach a more widespread campus community so that more student voices are heard.

2) PHEEIA

I understand that students are unhappy about tuition increases, especially since most students attend Stony Brook for its excellent educational opportunities at its cheaper price, compared to other institutions of its academic caliber. However, I can also understand that the administration is eager to impose a tuition increase so that necessary campus enhancements can be made to propel Stony Brook into the future, such as hiring more faculty and offering a more widespread selection of courses. Although I personally would not like to see a tuition increase, I think it would be best to wait until the student body's opinion has been properly assessed with a far reaching survey to see what is most important to them.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

Brookfest is a campus success every year. Since I matriculated to Stony Brook, this event along with other campus-wide festivities have improved and attracted a greater number of students, each year—and they were all sponsored by USG funds. Most campus events and club activities for students are funded by the USG. As much as these activities have improved, more progress can still be made in this arena to appeal to a greater campus community and to attract bigger talent for campus-wide events

4) USG Stipend

No Response.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG is working assiduously to enhance student activism by setting aside greater funding for clubs and campus-wide activities. This relationship has greatly improved since I matriculated to Stony Brook and I only see it improving in the future. If elected, I hope to continue this tradition and will attempt to expand it, so that more clubs can open in the future, while ensuring that current clubs do not lose funding.

6) Y 4 U?

My name is Yan Leyfman and I am running for the position of Senator in the Undergraduate Student Government. After being a student in Stony Brook for 3 years, I have become accustomed to the environment and feel that I possess the necessary knowledge about the institution and the needs of its students to implement positive change. I am excited about the prospect of becoming more involved in campus activities. I hope to design novel ways of allocating the student activity budget to help all of the clubs and organizations on campus to build a greater sense of camaraderie and campus life.

As an assiduous individual who works to achieve his dreams, I promise that, if elected, I will bring the same zen, enthusiasm and tenacity to the Senate. I promise to work for the needs of the students and do my best to enact policies that serve their and the campus's greater good. I welcome any suggestions from the student body to enhance the "Stony Brook experience" and will do my best to bring them to fruition. I came to Stony Brook because of my sheer love for the education and the wealth of resources that it offers. It would be an honor to serve on the USG Senate and attempt to enact policies and provide funding for the greater good of the campus community so that future generations can enjoy the wealth of SBU that much more! Please Vote Yan Leyfman for Senate! Thank you.

Kevin Sabella

Senator CAS



1) Low Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for these elections is usually 5% of the student body. Why do you believe that is so? I think it is the fact that students think that they have no real say or power in the issues at hand.

2) PHEEIA

What is your position on Governor Patterson's proposed PHEEIA bill regarding SUNY tuition? Its another example of how broken government is just using the students to pay for their mess

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

No Response.

4) USG Stipend

Any body who puts more than three to five hours a week.

5) USG & Student Activism

Well it should be neutral because it's not just a government for student activist groups but for every undergraduate student.

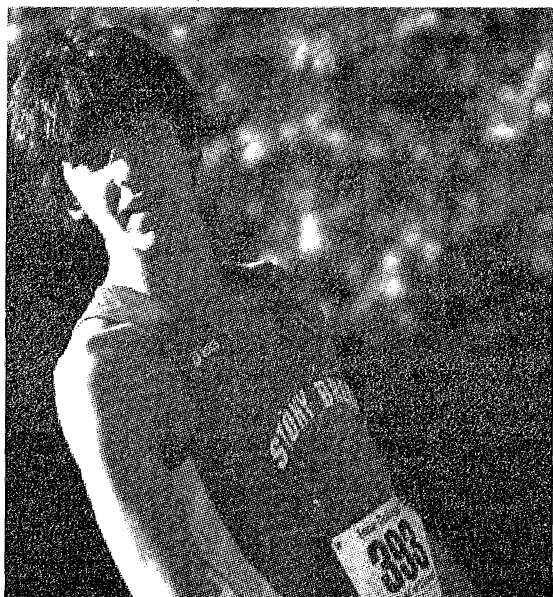
6) Y 4 U?

I will do what I can to gain money for SBU which includes an attempt to go up to SUNY day in Albany to lobby state representatives. I will also come up with ad hoc committees which will consist of average students and the purpose of these committees will be to report to me and the usg on what issues need to be addressed.



Drew Dillingham

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

As is the case in most elections, a large amount of people do not vote for two main reasons: either they are complacent, or they are uninformed. The USG does not have a very good advertising department and few people even know who or what the USG does. Some people are fine with how the University is running right now and don't think any changes need to be made. There are also those who believe that no matter who gets elected nothing will change. Hopefully, this election that attitude will disappear. More people need to realize that the USG strives to represent every student.

2) PHEEIA

Just like pretty much everyone on this campus (and New York State), I oppose Patterson's bill. Many students already work long hours to pay for tuition. This possible increase in tuition would add to the growing debt we all face. A higher price for an education in the middle of a recession can do nothing but harm. In addition, this bill would give power to the SUNY system, rather than the state, in regards to University costs. This is a terrible idea. Giving power to a financial institution rather than a democratically elected assembly is a formula for corruption and greed.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

I believe that Brookfest was definitely a success.

We had some good artists perform, who everyone seemed to like. It gave our campus some much needed entertainment. However, I think more people should try to attend all of the campus events as it would make the experience more enjoyable for all. There are definitely things that could be done to improve attendance at events. As a USG officeholder, I would seek to find out what most of the students are interested in. To conclude, I think our recent events have been okay but there is a lot of room for improvement.

4) USG & Student Activities

I think that all USG officeholders should be paid depending on the difficulty and amount of work they do. Obviously higher positions such as President and Vice President should be paid more than lower level positions. Salaries should also be budgeted so that there is more than enough money for other functions funded by the student activity fee. USG definitely does make a difference on this campus and should be compensated for doing so. Stony Brook students can see their student activity fee at work just by looking at their representatives in the USG.

5) USG & Student Activism

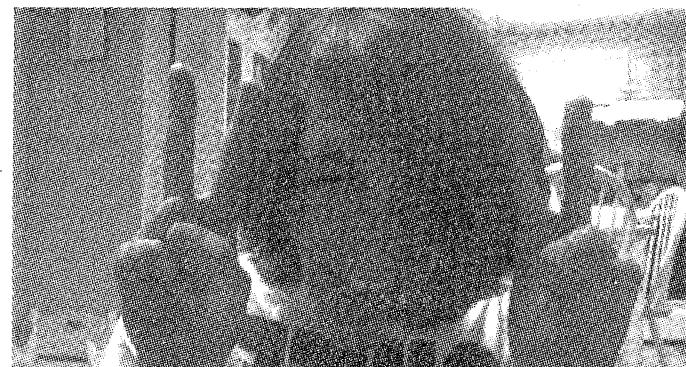
The USG's relationship with student activism should be considered on a case by case basis. Officeholders should only work with campaigns that reflect the general will of the campus. Still, I think it would be beneficial if the USG were to work more with student activists in Stony Brook.

6) Y 4 U?

Before students vote for me they should know my background. I am currently a member of the Cross Country and Track teams, *The Patriot*, and University Scholars. I like to take an active role in making a better campus. In addition, I'm a political science major, philosophy minor with a GPA of 3.95. Students should vote for me because, just like you, I want my friends to come to Stony Brook and say, "your college is pretty cool." I want every Stony Brook student to be happy, and to accomplish that goal I will work hard to represent your needs. Some of the issues I hope to deal with include environmental issues, parking and the budget. I think that Stony Brook can be so much better than it is right now and, as Senator, I would do my best to make it so.

Mike Spinelli

Senator College of Arts and Sciences



1) Low Voter Turnout

Here at Stony Brook, there's not a lot of emphasis placed on the USG elections. When I first came here as a freshman, I had no idea there were even elections. I stumbled upon it one day browsing around solar. It's kind of impressive to have 5% of the student body voting, that's about 1200 students. Almost all of the advertisement for the elections comes straight from the candidates.

2) PHEEIA

At this time the bill still needs some hammering out, but so far the proposed bill has both good and bad. As an out-of-state student I really wouldn't like to see my tuition get any higher, especially if the raise in tuition isn't going to benefit any out-of-state or international students.

3) Brookfest & Campus Life

The events on campus are planned well but advertised poorly. The image that we have conjured up in our minds of student life here is pretty dismal. The funding is there and certainly the ideas are there, we just need the right people to correctly get the word out.

4) USG Stipend

The current standards in place seem sufficient.

5) USG & Student Activism

USG's relationship with student activism needs to be taken into consideration on a case by case basis. USG should embrace the students' wants and needs on an idealistic and realistic standpoint. USG is the mediator between the students' and university's needs.

6) Y 4 U?

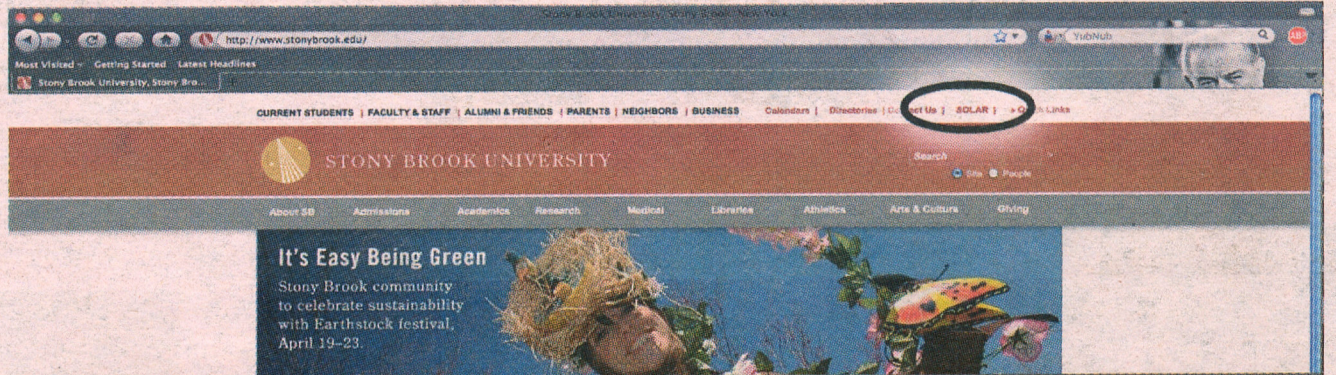
Simple, I stand to improve campus life and to get students involved. The current incompetency of the administration has taken a toll on us and now it's our time to take the power back.

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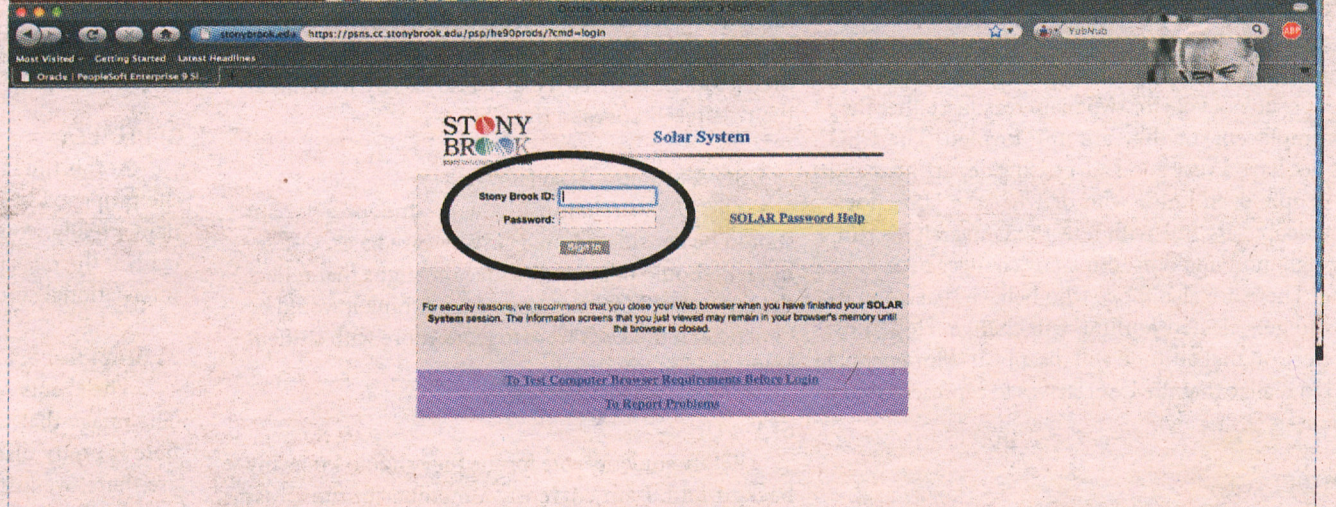
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Click on the SOLAR LOGIN.



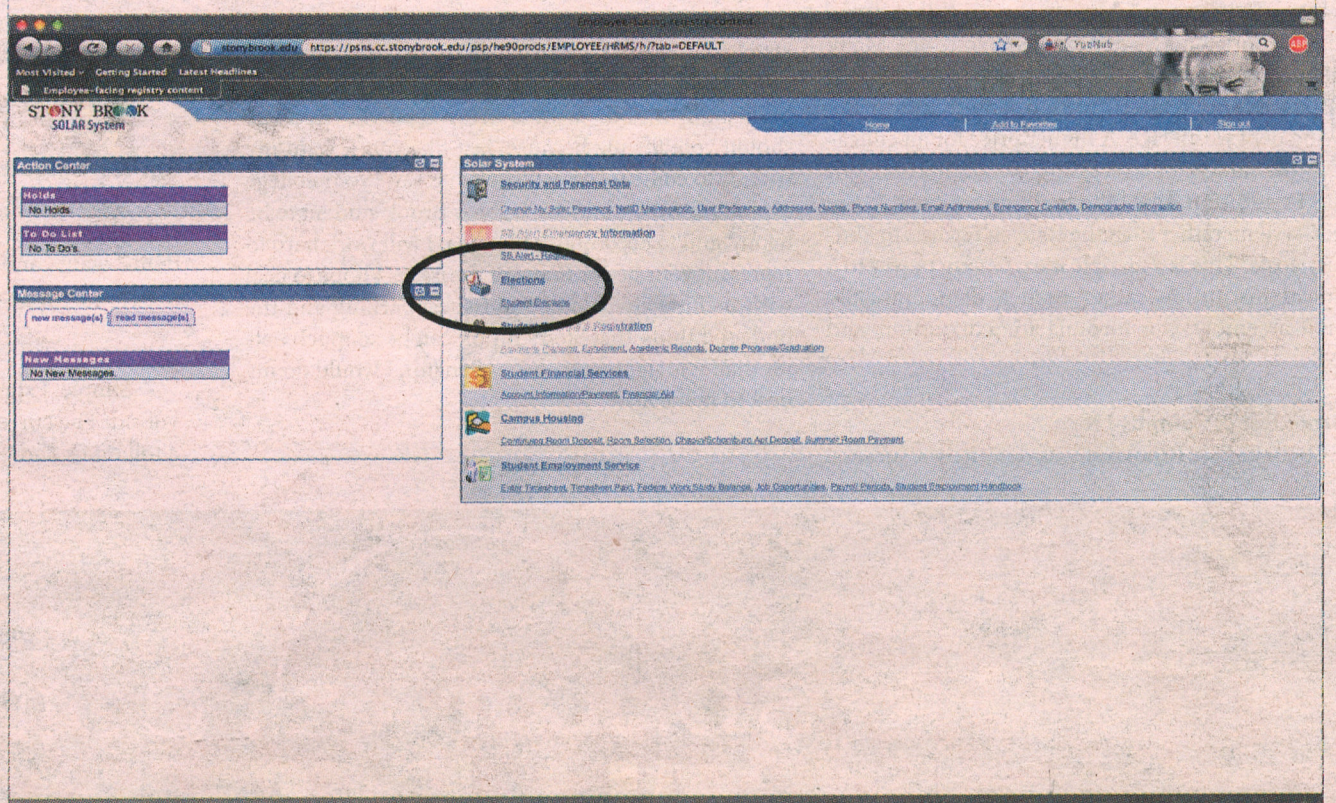
Step 3:

Login with your SBID and password.



Step 4:

Click on the Student Elections Link and vote!



AND REMEMBER, LYNDON B. JOHNSON
WILL B. WATCHING YOU!