

1979-1999 - THE STONY BROOK PRESS - THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FEATURE PAPER -

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years

# THE STONY BROOK **PRESS**

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The Stony Brook Press +5 vs. the Undead

April 23, 1999

# POON

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**ALL THIS AND THE LITERARY  
SUPPLEMENT TOO!!!**

# Taking a Loss—The Move to Division I

By Terry McLaren

Here we come, Division I. Stony Brook students have been hearing about the move up in National Collegiate Athletic Association standing for about a year now. We're getting a new stadium, eventually, and there are these snazzy new parking lots (available to students for the moment) near the Union. Another result of this impending move is the merging of the Seawolves with Coca-Cola (Cokewolves?) and a subsequent reduction of beverage choice on campus.

For a university as bottom-line conscious as Stony Brook, the financial risk of moving to Division I is great, especially when the school is entering Division I-AA, a low level of competition in almighty football.

The games that are televised nationally, the games people line up to see and pay big money to watch, belong to Division I-A, the association's highest ranking. Yet most of the athletic programs at even these top-notch schools take a financial beating every year (according to a biannual NCAA study performed by Dr. Daniel L. Fulks of Transylvania University in Kentucky). In the 1997 fiscal year, expenditures grew significantly faster than revenues for Division I and II schools.

At Division I-A universities, the ones with real profit potential, average expenditures rose 21%, while average revenues went up 15%. The average profit for a Division I-A school in 1997 was \$437,000, but when institutional support (from student fees etc.) is excluded, that profit becomes an \$823,000 deficit, despite ticket sales and television revenues.

Fulks's study reported that Division I-AA

schools took a large loss. Their average deficit was \$743,000 overall in 1997, and \$1,962,000 after institutional support is excluded.

According to Joshua Rolnick ("Finances of Big-Time College Sports...", *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 23, 1998) "For athletics programs outside Division I-A student-activity fees, not ticket sales, are the leading source of revenue."

Dr. Richard G. Sheehan, a professor in Notre Dame's Department of Finance and Business Economics and author of *Keeping Score: The Economics of Big-Time Sports*, wrote to Stony Brook History Professor and faculty senator David Burner regarding the University's move to Division I. His letter stated "Whatever the source of funds, it ultimately comes from elsewhere in the University. If funding came from the most innocuous and painless source, does that make the cost any less onerous?" Who will be shortchanged by these increased sports costs is something the University will have to decide in coming years.

Some have argued that going to Division I will help USB attract more students, and their money with them. Sheehan disagrees; "One might argue that while costs will increase, the sports program will pay for itself with additional student applications to the institution. There is no evidence whatsoever to support this argument." Athletic success and visibility do impact positively on student recruitment, but "administrators must be willing to fund its programs sufficiently to be successful," according to Sheehan. In other words, you have to spend a lot of money before you start to make it back, and you have to win in order to reap the benefits of being in the top division.

Stony Brook has seen skyrocketing enrollment in the past few years and experienced a housing shortage. Is attracting more students really what the University wants to do, when it is already denying housing to students who stay beyond eight semesters?

There are also questions about what type of student an expanded recruitment base might include. Will Stony Brook maintain its academic standards, or will exceptions be made for talented athletes with poor grades? This too remains to be seen.

Some are suspicious of the supposed profit Division I status will bring. David Klein, a returning student, remembers 10 years ago, when students questioned the expense and necessity of building the Indoor Sports Complex, that the University argued it would be a source of revenues that could be used for other areas. "As far as I know, it hasn't panned out that way, and now they are selling us the same story with regard to the stadium and the move to Division I."

A letter from Fulks to Dr. Burner about Stony Brook's athletic move does not make it sound financially profitable. According to Fulks, "it is quite clear that a move to Division I-AA should not be made with the hope of generating additional funds for the institution. Historical data are clear that the largest average deficits reported among all divisions are in I-AA."

These schools do not have the benefit of the major revenue sources that Division I-A schools do. These include "ticket sales in large football and basketball venues, bowl payouts, and conference revenue sharing. These revenue sources simply do not exist at this level, while costs of operating a I-AA program are similar to I-A costs."

## Death By Attrition: Future of Advanced Photo Courses In Question

By Joanna Wegielnik

For the third consecutive semester, no photography classes beyond instructional Photo I and II will be offered in the fall term according to administrators in the Art Department. The primary reason for this is the protracted illnesses of Professor Michael Edelson, who has taught photo classes in the past and is considered the backbone of the photo program.

Professor Edelson left on medical leave at the beginning of the Fall '98 semester and subsequently went on sabbatical in the Spring. It is still not clear whether or not he is

coming back next fall. A temporary adjunct, Jim Cassidy, was hired on short notice to teach Photo I and II during the Fall of '98. "Thanks to Professor Edelson, we were able to locate someone, who on very short notice, literally

a few weeks before the beginning of the semester, said he would be able to take over the class," said James Rubin, Chair of the Art Department. "The other class [Photo III] was canceled because it had very low enrollment...I believe the enrollment was four," said Rubin. A graduate student is currently teaching Photo I this semester.

University policy forbids the funding of sabbatical replacements so until it is known whether or not Professor Edelson is coming back, no full time replacements can be considered. "If Mr. Edelson were to resign or retire, then you could think about hiring a

full time replacement but you can't think like that until that happens and I don't think it's right for us, in the case of a man being ill, to talk about his future because it's really a personal thing," said Rubin.

University priority in funding also plays a role in the Photo III class not being offered. "The College of Arts and Sciences receives many more requests for funds to offer courses taught by adjuncts than we can support. Our highest priority in allocating adjunct dollars is to provide students with courses which are essential to meet graduation requirements (for example: ESL and composition, DEC-satisfying

courses with histories of high demand, and courses required for a major). Courses in photography and studio are, I know, very

popular with students, but these are also areas where unfortunately in many cases student demand exceeds our resources, and I wish we could do more to satisfy that demand without taking funds away from other courses students need to meet their requirements," said Paul Armstrong, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in an email reply last week.

"If the department were to hire someone to replace Professor Edelson, I don't think Photo III would be funded for the simple reason that the real demand and the most students served, which is the philosophy of the University from the President on

down, is to serve the most students possible. The number one priority for replacement would be Photo I and II and the addition of a second section for Photo I," said Rubin. When asked about the possibility of a Photo III class if a student petition was formed Rubin replied, "if Edelson was not to come back in the fall, we would try to replace a Photo I teacher and depending on the enrollment, if it's substantial enough to warrant the expenditure, if a petition were presented early enough in the fall term before planning for the spring term happens, where a sufficient number of students said they definitely want a Photo III, I would take it to the Dean and ask "Can you fund this?" but quite honestly, I don't know what his answer would be."

Richard Mase, one of the students enrolled in Photo II during the Fall '98 semester, started a petition requesting a Photo III class. He said that the petition was passed along to Nina Salvatore, the graduate student who is currently teaching Photo I this semester, then to Dean Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong said he wasn't aware of, nor received the petition. Professor Rubin also said that he didn't receive nor was aware of any such petition.

The future of more advanced photo classes, at this point in time, is very much in doubt. Former Photo I and II students who expressed interest in these classes (both Photo III and independent study) have no guarantees that anything beyond the instructional classes will be offered in the coming semesters. It is not known if Professor Edelson will return in the coming months. It is not known whether enough funding can be secured to offer these courses. However, in a University that has traditionally catered to the science and engineering departments while continually shafting the arts and humanities, it's not very probable.

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# IN A NEW YORK MINUTE: THE INDISCRIMINATE INJUSTICE AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE ROCKEFELLER DRUG STATUTES

By Joanna Wegielnik

Welcome to New York, home of the most punitive and draconian drug laws in the United States. Passed during the tenure of Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1973, the "Rockefeller Drug Laws" mandate harsh punishments for the most minute drug offenses. Possession of 4 ounces of a narcotic drug, for example, is classified as a type A-I felony

which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years to a maximum of life imprisonment. The statutes have been widely criticized by various organizations,

including Human Rights Watch and the Justice Policy Institute, as being excessively harsh and cruel.

This past Thursday, April 15th, AFS 283 sponsored a lecture in conjunction with the Prison Moratorium Project about the Rockefeller Laws in the UNITI Cultural Center. The PMP, based in NYC, is a coalition of students and community activists "dedicated to restoring sanity to our criminal justice system and stopping the growing Prison-Industrial-Complex in its tracks." The lecture featured several guest speakers and a short video about the case of Kemba Smith, a former college student who received a 24-year mandatory minimum sentence at the age of 23 for a first offense with no possibility for parole. Kemba was pushed to plead guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine for her boyfriend's drug dealing activities and received her sentence despite the fact that she was pregnant, in an abusive relationship with the boyfriend, and had no prior criminal record.

Kemba's case, unfortunately, is not very unique. In a lot of ways, it perfectly exemplifies a lot of what is wrong with federal and state mandatory minimum sentencing laws. For one thing, the laws adversely affect inner-city communities because of the huge disparity in sentencing between offenses dealing with possession of crack vs. powder cocaine. As crack cocaine is much cheaper than powder cocaine, it is more prevalent in inner cities.

Five grams of crack cocaine carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment. 500 hundred grams of powder cocaine carries the same sentence. Crack offenses are treated much more harshly; crack cocaine is the only drug for which mere possession constitutes a mandatory conviction. And even though the majority of crack-cocaine users are white, according to several studies by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 90% of the men and 80% of women convicted for crack offenses are African-American and Hispanic.

Women, especially young black women, are now one of the fastest growing prison populations. "In 1991, 43% of the women in state prisons - more than one out of every three women - had been victims of physical or sexual abuse," according to the "Equal Justice" report from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "A survey of one prison revealed that 80% of the female inmates there were incarcerated as a result of their association with

abusive males," the report adds. The National Black Caucus of State Legislators compiled a list of facts about women in U.S. prisons it indicates that most of the women being incarcerated tend to be minorities, young, undereducated, and have, on the average, more than two children:

- Since 1980, the number of women in federal and state prisons has nearly tripled.

- Black women are eight times more likely than white women to go to prison.

- Mothers constitute more than 80% of women in prisons.

- The average mother in prison is 30 years old, undereducated and unskilled.

- More than two-

thirds of women inmates are the mothers of at least two minor children.

- The mother in prison is likely to have been the primary caretaker with legal custody.

Human Rights Watch, released a report in January of this year, criticizing the Rockefeller statutes as unduly harsh. The report, "Human Rights Violations in the United States - Cruel and Usual - Disproportionate Sentences for New York Drug Offenders," suggests that the majority (nearly 80%) of drug offenders sentenced under the Rockefeller laws had never been convicted of a violent felony, tend to be low-level street dealers or "mules" who traffic drugs for others, addicts supporting their habits, or the wives/girlfriends of drug dealers.

"Sentences for drug offenders in New York State are among the most punitive in the country. A person convicted of a single sale of two ounces of cocaine faces the same mandatory prison term as a murderer - fifteen years to life. Long prison sentences may be proportionate for traffickers who run large and violent drug distribution enterprises," the report says. "But in New York, the vast majority of drug offenders sentenced to prison are nonviolent minor drug dealers or persons only marginally involved in drug transactions - people who make \$20 sales on the streets, one-time couriers carrying drugs for a small fee, addicts who sell to finance their own habits. For these people, even a few years of imprisonment can be disproportionately severe punishment that violates the inherent dignity of persons,

States, have been shaped by public concerns and political pressures that have been indifferent to the need of proportionality," said HRW. "Many factors - the persistence of drug use and abuse, the deterioration of inner cities, the rise of symbolic politics, racial undercurrents, a fear of crime, and an unwillingness to tackle social inequalities, among others - have encouraged politicians and public officials to embrace inordinately tough sentences for drug felonies. Those who question such sentences risk political ridicule and ostracism," HTW reports.

Mandatory minimum sentencing has resulted in a 500% increase in prison populations in the last 30 years, according to the Prison Moratorium Project. "While prison populations have gone up 500 to 600 percent in the past 30 years, corrections budgets have increased by almost 900%," said Kevin Pranis, one of the featured guest speakers at the conference. "Now, where does the money to build new prisons and house the prison population come from? As prison spending is going up, spending on SUNY and CUNY is going down on an almost dollar per dollar basis," said Pranis.

The Justice Peace Institute, a left leaning think tank based in Washington D.C., released a report last November highlighting a ten-year trend in state funding which directly shifts public money from SUNY/CUNY budgets into prison construction. "The JPI came out with this study that shows a dollar per dollar trade-off. There were a couple of interesting things in the study, one of them that money taken directly out of SUNY/CUNY budgets is being put into prison budgets. This is a really important issue for students," said Pranis.

The trend of shifting dollars from higher education to prison construction started under the Cuomo administration but accelerated under Pataki. "The Cuomo administration held stewardship of New York prisons and universities for six of the last ten years, and initiated the shifting of public monies from higher education to corrections," says the report, "but the current administration's funding decisions have increased the gap between higher education and corrections spending." During Pataki's first year in office, according to the JPI, New York spent \$1.6 billion on operating prisons and \$1.3 billion on higher education. That year was the first time in the history of New York State that more money was spent on prisons than education. Since then, the funding gap between prisons and higher education has increased on an annual basis.

"The imprisonment of non-violent offenders in New York is not an abstract matter for taxpayers and students," says the JPI report. "While the current administration has been pouring money into the prison budget, students at New York's colleges have been hit with tuition increases, hikes in incidental fees, and composite cuts in student aid."

It costs the taxpayers of New York considerably more money to send someone to prison rather than college. As long as the Rockefeller laws are on the books, this ugly and destructive trend will not only accelerate, but it will continue to destroy

the lives of entire generations of young people. And as long as we have a governor who continues to adamantly support the state prison behemoth industry, we can expect more young people to be "accepted" into prisons rather than universities, a sure recipe for disaster if there ever was one.

**"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted"**

8th Amendment - U.S. Constitution

**"New York has completely lost sight of the true nature of the crimes involved... It is difficult to believe that the possession of an ounce of cocaine or a .... "street sale" is a more dangerous or serious offense than the rape of a ten-year-old, the burning down of a building occupied by people, or the killing of another human being while intending to cause his serious injury."**

Judge James L. Oakes,  
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

the right to be free of cruel and degrading punishment, and the right to liberty," the report says.

Harping on the public's fear of crime and drug related violence, politicians have successfully crafted the debate on this issue to something that is not up for rational discussion. "Unfortunately, drug sentences in New York, as throughout the United

## VOTE NO FOR ADMINISTRATION

Back in November, Vice-President for Administration, Dick Mann, addressed the Polity Senate about what he claimed to be a potential contract with Coca-Cola. But when asked specific questions about the terms of the agreement during the meeting, he deflected them with the following excuses:

- 1) "That's up to the President,"
- 2) "I can't talk about that right now; we're still in negotiations."

Two months ago, Mann returned to tell us it was a done deal. After the contract was signed, he was more than able to answer questions about the terms of the agreement.

Nevertheless, Mann still feigned ignorance on some of the more specific details of the contract. Later, students obtained a copy of the visible parts of the contract (since numerous parts of the contract were concealed) and found that Dick Mann signed on behalf of the University. If he was the one who negotiated the deal, how could he have been unaware of its terms?

Two weeks ago, several concerned and angry students came before the Polity Senate to complain about a new University policy to kick out residents who have lived on campus for more than eight semesters. Apparently, there will be no more room to house these students as administrators carry on with their plan to increase enrollment. The University continues to admit increased numbers of students without considering the fact that there isn't adequate room for those already here. Earlier in the evening, Vice-President for Student Affairs, Fred Preston, talked before the Polity Senate about future plans to build garden apartments on campus; construction won't start for another two years. This past week, however, the academic mall was torn apart, fences were put up, and construction of "the stream" was begun. Isn't it interesting how the Administration can find millions of dollars to build ill-conceived and highly unpopular projects such as this, but there is apparently no immediate money for basic essentials such as housing?

This past Wednesday, Chartwells and FSA representatives introduced a new meal plan to the Polity Senate. Student representatives stated, in at least thirty different ways, how the new plan would be bad for students. But it really didn't matter. Chartwell and FSA weren't there to consider student input. They were only there to inform students about the already implemented changes. Students weren't even notified of any meal plan changes before deciding to live in mandatory meal plan buildings or ones that aren't. Not that that will matter much in the future; the University has already decided to make all of the dormitories mandatory meal plan buildings. Incidentally, the students had no say in this either.

Next week before Polity, someone from Administration is going to discuss the University's plan to build two fountains, a stream, and a clocktower. Once again, they will not be interested in student input since the maze of

fences has already been put up creating what has affectionately been dubbed the "rat cage". They could have waited until after registration, or, better yet, finals. Why did they start the construction now, when we need access to the Administration Building? Again, were students consulted?

Last semester, there were three on-campus rapes in October alone. If the media had not found out and brought attention to the situation, perhaps nothing would have been done. As it turned out, the University made efforts to improve safety and lighting on campus only after the negative press. Since two of the rapes were apparently acquaintance or date rapes, we hope they are also doing something to combat ignorance.

Next semester, the Stony Brook is going to be a Division I school. It seems that only a small percentage of the student body is in favor of this change. And from research presented to *The Press*, it would seem that this is going to cost the University money rather than help bring in revenue (see related story on page 2).

As part of our move to Division I, Albany Central is building us a brand new stadium. So far, only I-CON and Midnight Madness are able to fill the existing Sports Complex, and the latter, a free event, is only able to do so with bribes of free cars and free tuition. With this in mind, it would seem that the only thing that will fill a large venue like a stadium would be a big concert. If the stadium isn't a dome, which it isn't, will the Town of Brookhaven allow us to have any concerts in it?

Now, the Administration wants to move the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps to the Fanny Brice Theater, where the Theater Dept. and the Graduate Student Organization already have a stake. Neither of these two organizations were asked what they thought of the idea. Sound familiar at this point?

Last Thursday, Graduate Students from the English Department and the Comparative Literature Department held a protest in the President's office to show their contempt for the way administration has dealt with Humanities Department. The President, the Provost, and Dean Armstrong then held a meeting with forty students. Following the meeting, the students issued the President an ultimatum (see pg. 19).

How much say does the student body have in regard to major decisions made on this campus? These changes affect us the most, not the administrators. Fred Preston is never going to be forced to eat in questionable dining establishments because he ran out of "campus points" on his meal card. Shirley Strum Kenny will never have to sit in a overcrowded English class because there isn't enough faculty to provide more classes with less students.

Time and time again, the Administration has given ample indication that they don't care about what the students have to say. Nothing short of a massive mobilization of the student body can stop their madness. United, we will stand. Divided, we will, unquestionably, fall.

## VOTE YES FOR NYPIRG!!!

With all the recent turmoil and political monkey-wrenching involved in the Polity election board, many students are sick of our student government. But even if you don't give a rat's ass about the bickering goons in Polity, one group deserves support from every student on campus.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), one of the few truly progressive student organizations on campus, is up for referendum next week. As a non-partisan, not-for-profit advocate of consumer rights, environmental responsibility, and accessible higher education, NYPIRG effects policy reforms while training students in research and lobbying skills.

NYPIRG's 19 college campus chapters consisting of full-time staff organizers and student interns work on projects that bring attention to local issues while supporting the organization's statewide agenda.

Last semester, the Stony Brook chapter registered over 1,000 students to vote in the 1998 elections. They organized trips

to Albany for students to lobby their legislators. In the last few years, NYPIRG activists led the fight against state budget cuts and other assaults on accessible public higher education.

On the local level, NYPIRG's trained counselors reach out to Long Islanders by providing a Small Claims Court Action Center to advise people who are involved in conflicts. NYPIRG volunteers work with local legislators to phase out the use of certain harmful pesticides. Food drives provide much needed groceries for local soup kitchens and pantries. And recently, a detailed study on exorbitant ATM surcharges on Long Island was released.

These are only a few of the campaigns run by NYPIRG. Best of all, Stony Brook students get opportunities to get internships and attend statewide conferences to get experience in political activism.

We need strong watchdog groups like NYPIRG to speak out for people instead of corporate interests. Support grass-roots activism next week by voting YES for NYPIRG!

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# TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

I am one of the mentioned "bogeymen": I am a parent with a child in Prof Sahay's section of freshman writing. I called the head of the writing program 3 times to complain about how my son's section was being run. I am a lower-middle class single mother of a single child. My son spent 3 years of his early schooling receiving speech therapy before his classmates could understand his speech. He only passed the high school writing requirement because the NYS Regents exam thankfully had one essay topic on something that he understood well: the Internet. Stony Brook is the only school which accepted him because SB does not require an essay as part of the application process. He began and ended last semester terrified of writing.

I did ask Prof Losey to get the content

matter of the required essays changed to something which my son understood. He did not, nor does now, having successfully completed Ms Sahay's course, understand what postmodernism is. He did, however, vote on the Liberal ticket in the last election, for which I am proud of him. His chosen topic in a course this semester is "Corporate Welfare", for which I am proud of him.

I asked Ms. Losey to change the topics for the required essays. She replied, in no uncertain terms, that she would not dictate the content of the sections in the writing program. She said that she would not limit academic freedom. She did, however, agree with me that that section was not addressing the needs of the students to learn how to write, which for most students means, to learn how to overcome a fear of writing. She also agreed with my son's evaluation of the course level as being about

that of appropriate for a graduate student in English.

I know what it is to have a fear of writing because I experienced terror about every paper I wrote during my undergraduate years some 30 years ago, when I got my BA in English. I was very pleased, when I returned to work on my master's at a state school 5 years ago, to find that college teachers have become both more clear in their explanations of what is required, and more supportive. From my son's description of the confrontative and needlessly abstruse manner which Ms Sahay used in her section, I would call her teaching style reactionary and a grave disservice to the real needs of her students. This was very like the teaching style I was subjected to 30 years ago.

Sarah Striffler

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## US/NATO OUT OF YUGOSLAVIA

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

As a deadly rain of high-tech bombs falls on Yugoslavia, a deadening rain of propaganda falls on Americans, media-manipulated lies designed to prime the populace into supporting harsher military measures against a sovereign nation, in the name of protecting human rights.

NATO is but a fig leaf for American "interests," and the bombing of Yugoslavia is but a global demonstration of the ruthlessness of the American empire. A demonstration? The monstrous atomic bombing of Japan, after it was virtually beaten in World War II, was not a military necessity, but a political one, designed to demonstrate to the Russians that the U.S. was, and would ever be, boss. It was a massive, deadly demonstration.

So too, the Yugoslavia bombing treats Serbs as the U.S. treated Japanese during the war—as props to demonstrate the power of the empire.

Let us consider the claims that the U.S. is concerned about "human rights" or about the "rights of ethnic minorities," as the corporate press projects hourly. What of America's largest national minority—African Americans? The world-respected Amnesty International group, speaking through its secretary general, Pierre Sane, announced just days before the bombing, "Human-rights violations in the United States of America are persistent, widespread and appear to disproportionately affect people of racial or ethnic minority backgrounds."

Sane was critical of police violence and executions in the U.S. Further, internationally, let's see how the U.S. responds to "liberation movements" of the oppressed. When fighters for Puerto Rican independence began to raise their voices, the U.S. didn't support this "ethnic minority," they sought (and continue) to crush, incarcerate and silence them.

Consider the case of the Palestinians, the Kurds, the East Timorese, the Colombian rebels—who has the U.S. consistently supported, the oppressed or the U.S.-armed governments?

**So too, the Yugoslavia bombing treats Serbs as the U.S. treated Japanese during the war—as props to demonstrate the power of the empire.**

This isn't about "human rights." It isn't about "ethnic minorities." And it also isn't about "genocide." It's about establishing who's "boss" in the next century. It's about keeping Russia in its place. It's about keeping the European Union under the thumb of Wall Street.

The bombing of Serbia is an echo of the bombing of three other countries in the past six

months—of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan. And for precisely the same reason—to show that it can be done, no matter what so-called "international law" states. It is to instill terror throughout the world, in order for U.S. capital to institute what former president George Bush tried to do, but failed: to establish a New World Order.

Days before the bombing, NATO signed up Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) as its newest members, thereby virtually isolating Russia. Only Serbia and the Yugoslav states have refused to join NATO—their bombing is their punishment.

Our brilliant, revered nationalist leader, Malcolm X, taught us to examine history. If we look at history, the bombing of Yugoslavia becomes clear.

Empires are maintained, not by reason, but by ruthless terror. It was so in Rome. It is so in the U.S. The brilliant revolutionary, Dr. Huey P. Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party, explained, "The United States was no longer a

nation. We called it an empire. An empire is a nation-state that has transformed itself into a power controlling all the world's lands and people." (1973)

Huey was right then, and our response then was to oppose the empire. We must do that now.

Down with imperialism! Stop the bombing! NATO/U.S. out of Yugoslavia!

# ISSUES THE CANDIDATES SPEAK

Compiled by Dave Klein

We thought it would be a good idea for students to read about this year's candidates for student government positions in their own words.

Every candidate was given the displayed questionnaire. The ones we received are below. These are their original responses, **unedited** for grammar, spelling or content.

## CANDIDATES FOR POLITY PRESIDENT

### Andy Auguste

**Class:** Junior

**Major(s):** English

**Minor(s):** N/A

**Cumulative GPA:** N/A

**Career Plans:** To achieve a Masters Degree in Social Work and Social Welfare. So, that in the future I can work within the court systems to help out under represented children.

**Prior Experience:** I was the Public Relations officer for the UNITI Cultural Center last year. This year I am the President of the UNITI Cultural Center, an active member in the NAACP and in the Haitian Students Organization, and last but not least I am a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, inc.

**Why USB is cool:** USB is cool because of the large amount of diversity that walks through its campus everyday.

**Why USB sucks:** USB sucks because many times decisions that are made, which effect the students are made without the students knowledge

**Favorite Books:** Stolen legacy and the autobiography of an ex-slave.

I am the best candidate for the position because of my vast involvement in the different clubs and organizations on campus. Due to this fact, in a polity position I will have the best understanding of what the students want. If elected into Polity I will be more of a people's president. I will stay dedicated to students and try to bring a cure for the disease of APATHY on the Stony Brook.

### Andrez Carberry

**Class:** U3

**Major(s):** Political Science

**Minor(s):** English

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:** Attorney

**Prior Experience:** Sophomore Class Rep, Junior Class rep., SASU Bd of Directors, USSA Bd of Directors, President Assistant, Senator

**Why USB is cool:** Allows for involvement on many levels & in almost all areas of concern/interest

**Why USB sucks:** Lack of a combined effort by students &/or student leaders regarding issues concerning all.

**Favorite Books:** A Time To Kill

I am running for the office of Student Government President because like many of you students, I see areas of concern which needs to be addressed. Every year it seems that we as students are constantly faced with the same issues: budget cuts, Division I, meal plan, academic issues, attacks on financial aid and lower income students/families. Every year we are promised changes but in the end find ourselves with our hands in the air and a new Administrative decision stuck to our backs (Coca-Cola Contract).

With all credit to our leaders of the past, there has been tremendous outreach made to strengthen and expand the student voice. What has been missing is what I believe I bring to the table, someone with experience in working with a diverse group and organizing them around issues.

I am presently in my third year as a Bd of Directors member of the United States Student Assoc. (USSA) and Bd of Dir the Student Assoc of State Univ of NY (SASU). Through these organizations which fight through lobbying and campaigning, as well as many other grass roots level actions, we have been able to increase TAP & other financial aid program funding levels while trying to hold on to the little we have in other areas. I have successfully lobbied in Washington D.C and Albany over 3 years, Senator Moynihan, Schumer D'Amato & Assemblyman Englebright on issues previously mention as well as increase child care and diversity on campus to name a few.

Student Apathy has been blamed for the shortcomings of the past and present. It has been a well noted defect in the life of this University for some time now, and has recieved renewed attention in our various mediums of expression campus-wide.

We as a State University face many problems and as involved, active leaders have often seen numerous issues addressed by a handful of students. Our university was built with the idea imbedded in its foundation that it was to provide a Quality, Affordable, Accessible Education for all, yet this seems as far fetched as a free state system.

Who do we blaim for our demise? Apathy seems to take the cake. Apathy, however, is not a fault necessarily of the students themselves, but of the leaders and organizers. It is up to us as elected Representatives to frame the issues in a manner

which appeals to at very least a broad cross-section of the student body. If all else fails one must be willing and able to represent us all (as I have done) in an efficient and appropriate manner.

I don't proclaim by any stretch of the imagination to have all the answers. What I do profess is a willingness to work with others and listen, a sense of urgency and a burning desire to make positive changes to our University.

It is time for us to in unison call for and work toward a campus-wide unity. On a campus filled with energetic leaders, there exist in my mind no reasons we cannot all be professional, put past grievances to rest and work for you the students.

On Election day, vote for the people who will best serve you.

TAKE A STAND!!!

### Vincent D'Amore

**Class:** U4

**Major(s):** History & Sec

**Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:** Teach, work somewhere in the Gov't or go into Politics

**Prior Experience:** Polity Senator, University Senator, Allocations chairman in CSA. I was also put in charge of the Squardner & all night details while I was in the Air Force (under supervision of a sargent of course)

**Why USB is cool:** The diversity on campus

**Why USB sucks:** The Administration sucks, Coke owns our souls... overcrowded classes

**Favorite Books:**

I am running for Presidnet becasue I would like to help bring a better understanding of what Polity does to the students. I would also like to bring a better relationship between Polity Council and the Senate, Becasue most problems that we have come from senate and council not getting along.

If elected I would try to appoint a more diverse SAB Board that represents the student body as a whole. I would also push to bring some real concerts to this campus.

I have a good relationship with both commuters and residents I will try to appoint people to the FSA board that has a good understanding of the

## CANDIDATES FOR POLITY VICE PRESIDENT

### Claudine Stuart

**Class:** U3

**Major(s):** AMS/Education

**Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:** I intend to be a High School Math Teacher. I also plan on continuing my education--receiving my masters and PHD, and to teach College Calculus.

**Prior Experience:** Commuter Student Association Treasurer, Vice President, and currently President. Also I have been a Polity Senator for 3 semesters.

**Why USB is cool:** Well recognized Academically, great diversity.

**Why USB sucks:** student apathy.

**Favorite Books:** College Algebra, The Shining, A Tree grows in Brooklyn

I am running for Polity Office with two clear goals: First, to improve the quality of student representation here at Stony Brook; and second, to accelerate the level of student involvement in major campus decisions.

It is truly a shame that our student representation has been the butt of so many campus jokes this year. While there have been some bright spots-I've

been privileged to work with a number of very passionate students this semester-it is critical that we quickly repair the way in which our student government operates. Specifically, I will spend the great bulk of my tenure empowering our Student Polity Senators to focus exclusively on the important issues we face as students and as members of our growing community. We are in dire need of balanced leadership in this area. I will draw from my experiences as President of the Commuter Student Association, which has worked so hard for students this year, to help the Student Senate become the important forum for which it was designed.

Our campus is growing quickly and important decisions have flown past us during this school year-Coke, meal plans, and our move to Division I, just to name a few. While there are many times when our leaders must make tough decisions for the long-term best interest of this campus, our administration has done an unacceptably poor job of communicating and involving students during these important times. I will work tirelessly to combat both the passiveness of students and the apathy of administration, staff, and faculty on the road to a real campus dialogue. I have endless faith in the creativity of our students-long after I leave this campus, I am confident that my

work as Vice President of Student Polity will continue to increase the value of our undergraduate degrees. It is now your turn to participate. Make a strong decision-invest in your campus. Vote on April 27-28. Thanks in advance for your support.

### Calvin Coleman

My name is Calvin Coleman and I am currently a sophomore at Stony Brook. Once I become a junior and I have to declare a major, I will enter the department of Political Science. After earning my degree, I intend to continue my education by attending graduate school. Once in graduate school my goal is to leave with a Phd in political science. Once grad school is over I will use my new found knowledge to teach political science or even go into the political field myself. Currently I am the sophomore rep of polity, and once the freshman rep, I believe these positions will help achieve my goals.

What I believe is best thing about Stony Brook is the fact that we have the resources to have one of the most powerful student governments in the state. I say this because unlike other state schools we do not have to go directly through administration to get our student activity fee once allocated to us. We What I believe is best thing about Stony Brook is the



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ISSUES

fact that we have the resources to have one of the most powerful student governments in the state. I say this because unlike other state schools we do not have to go directly through administration to get our student activity fee once allocated to us.

We have an executive director which signs our checks who we have the ability to hire and fire. This gives us great power over our activity fee which other school in the state would envy. We have so much resources to make the student voice powerful. The problem is that many students do not know of these great resources and that's what sucks about stony brook. It is up to the leadership of the school to publicize these resources and help use them to the students advantage.

My favorite books are Othello by William Shakespeare and The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison.

The main reason I running for vice president of Student Polity Association is that I believe that the vice president holds one of the most important jobs on the council; S/he is the chair of senate. The senate is one of if not the most important branches of our student government and in the pass two years that I have been in stony brook this branch have not lived

up to its capabilities. The first thing any normal person would do in investigating the problem of a body is first examing the head of that body. In the past two years the leaders of senate, in my opinion, have not been well prepared for their position before taking them which led to chaos. The head of senate this year did not achieve what I expected senate to be until December. Now the vice president has mastered his role, but it took him a couple months. With me I do not see that happening. I have been in senate two years and known the "ins" and "outs" like the back of my hands. The only thing will hindering me from doing an effective job is if a certain amount of senators do not let me. If I recieve the position I assure you those hindering senators will not be a factor, believe it or not.

When it comes to going division one there is two sides to the story; There is what I want and what the students want. From my two years in polity I have learned that what I want does not matter, it's what the students want that I should always take first and foremost. The vibe that I have been recieving from the campus is that they for turning division one. I must admit it is going to be great to see our basketball

team play St. Johns. I do not think the campus is happy about the fact that we have to be virtually slaves to Coca Cola in order for this big move. Is it worth it? Again my opinion does not count, if elected its what the student wants that would be by goal to achieve and push for.

If elected my soul purpose would be what I have been doing for the last two years avocating for students. A major problem I have seen in the leadership of this school is that the leaders fight for what they want, not what the students want. When it comes to subjects like the meal plan its what student wants that goes. I trully believe in the statement, if we unite as a unified block we can make numerous changes on this campus; which includes academic changes, budgets cuts and other things of that nature. A vote for Calvin Coleman on April 27th and 28th will be a vote for a person that will put the will of the students first at all times. This vote will also go to a person that is just to BIG to be pushed around. Hah Hah HEh HEh

## CANDIDATES FOR POLITY SECRETARY

### Lisa LaBarbera

**Class:** Junior

**Major(s):** HIS / SSI

**Minor(s):** WST

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:**

**Prior Experience:** For the past year I have held a board position for a Polity funded club on campus, as well as at the same time holding a job in the Polity office. I've had the experience of not only working with the members of my own club, but also seeing how other clubs and organizations work.

**Why USB is cool:** Stony Brooks diversity is what makes it cool. There are few places, that I can think of, where you can come into contact with so many cultures, perspectives, and ideologies, everyday.

**Why USB sucks:** Two words, STUDENT APATHY !!

**Favorite Books:**

Polity is the voice of the students at Stony Brook. There are so many things which Polity can accomplish, and I want to be a part of it. I believe I have the ability to not only express my own opinion, but accept and work with the opinions of others as well.

Stony Brook campus is well know for its high levels of student apathy. I believe one of the main reasons for this is that many students are not aware of what Polity can offer. Through effective use of the media, I hope to gain the interests of those stu-

dents who usually do not come out to Polity funded events, while at the same time increasing the involvement of those who do. More students need to be made aware of how our student government works, why, as well as how to most effectively utilize it. By first gaining the interests of students, council as a whole, will better be able deal with others issues which directly effect students.

As a member of a campus organization I've seen first hand the work which goes into planning and carrying out an event. I know the dissapointment when not as many students as you had planned on, show up to an event your club has spent weeks organizing. We, as students, need to be more aware of what is on campus for us. Through organizing, going to and taking part in events, each student will be better able to understand what Stony Brook has to offer. I want to be able to make these avenues open to each student.

### Heather Wilbur

**Class:** U1

**Major(s):** Psychology

**Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:** Either become a psychologist or police officer who does psychologist work for the department. (criminal psychologist)

**Prior Experience:** I am the freshman rep., so I have council experience. I was a senator. I know how Polity works.

**Why USB is cool:** Because there are many types of people to meet.

**Why USB sucks:** The costs for tuition, food, housing are way too high. Our facilities suck and people seem to complain & not act on it.

**Favorite Books:** Dante's Inferno

If I were elected as the Secretary, I would do my best to serve the students. I plan on setting up an interclub alliance/communication system and a Polity webpage. Because I have Experience, I feel that I would be the best for the job because I know what to do. I have been active in many clubs such as USSA, SAB, SASU, CSA, Center for Womyns' Concerns, and Animated Perspectives. I have helped to plan several events on campus. I have experience with advertising, producing a newsletter, voicemail, and e-mail. I feel that because many students are apathetic or uninvolved they are forgotten when they decisions are made. Then they complain. I want to find out what they want and get that point of view out to the Council, Senate, and club members. I may have made a few mistakes this year and I'll be the first to point them out. It's because this was my first year and I was learning. I feel that because I have been through the trial & error process, I know how to handle future situations. Hopefully, I will get this position to follow through with my plans. Even if I don't, I'll still be active. I love my job and I love being involved!

## CANDIDATES FOR POLITY TREASURER

### Brad Hausman

**Class:**

**Major(s):** Economics

**Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Career Plans:** Business or Law

**Prior Experience:** Commuter Student Association Vice President, CSA Facilities Chair, Polity Senator, University Senate, President of I-CON at Stony Brook, Inter Collegiate Athletic Board, Student Member of the Alumni Board of Directors, Commuter Student Advisory Board, Dining Services Resolution Committee

**Why USB is cool:** The friends I've made and the people I've met make this school a great place to be.

**Why USB sucks:** There is a lack of understanding between the major groups on campus which severely hinders any major progress.

**Favorite Books:** Lord of the Flies, Hamlet

The object of Polity is to create activities for students. If I'm elected, I'll make that the number one priority. As well, I'll make the organization more efficient and accessible to students. On the subject of Administration and students, my goal would be to

create a committee on undergraduate education. Provost Richmond has already expressed an interest in such an organization, which would work on academic issues such as academic advising and TA's teaching classes instead of professors. I feel that the Coca-Cola contract is a pathetic joke which doesn't add to the well being of students. As for the constant budget cuts, I'm a firm believer that the students voice must be heard each year in Albany. We need more, not less money, especially since we're expecting more students this year than in previous years.

### Renée V. Johnson

**Class:** Sophmore (U2)

**Major(s):** Applied Mathematics & Statistics / Economics

**Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:** 3.66

**Career Plans:** To obtain a position in the feild of Actuarial Science.

**Prior Experience:** Currently employed by Student polity in the Bookeeping office. On two separate boards that are polity funded and go through the procedures.

**Why USB is cool:** Because it is close enough to the

city. and home, but far enough to be away and become an individual.

**Why USB sucks:** Rules are necessary, but Administration needs to loosen up!

**Favorite Books:** Maya Angelou "The Bluest Eye"

Since my first semester here at Stony Brook, I've always been involved in organizations on campus. I see daily where polity stops the flow of fun and interesting programs and activities that "could have been". I want to be part of the solution, and not the problem. I'm running for Polity Tresurer to help make Stony Brook a more interesting place to be. I've realized that without adequate funding, many organizations cannot accomplish as much as they would like. I plan to implement reward programs for organizations that planned and succeed in bringing to the campus, activities that were innovative, exciting and appealing to a diverse group of Stony Brook Students. I plan to do as much as possible to make your activity fee "work for you" in lowering the cost of activities and concerts. My goal is to try to make SB a better place to live and study.

cont'd. pg.8

## CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

**Paulita DaCosta****Class:** Junior (by year) Senior (by credit)**Major(s):** Psychology**Minor(s):** Dance**Cumulative GPA:** 3.54 GPA**Career Plans:** I intend to embark on a career in Elementary Education with a possible focus in either teaching or as a school psychologist. I also intend to continue dancing as a career, but not professionally. I intend to open up a performing arts school and teach dance.**Prior Experience:** Most of my experience has come from being a part of Polity Senate (Commuter Senator) for 3 yrs. Through Senate I have learned a lot about Student Gov't, student issues and issues that need to be worked on. I have worked in the Polity Treasurer's Office, therefore I am familiar with some of the duties and expectations of a Polity officer, specifically Senior Rep. I do not know all, but I am willing to learn and adjust to create a better environment for the students.**Why USB is cool:** USB is a great learning experience and environment. It's a good place to get involved and participate in many enjoyable, as well as educational events. USB can be great if you make it great. You have to care and participate in order to get the best out of the University.**Why USB sucks:** I really dislike the lack of communication on campus. In saying communication I mean the lack of communication between students especially the "commuter vs. resident", between students and faculty & staff, communication in terms of promoting events, communication in terms of ethnicity etc... This is a largely populated and diverse campus. In order for us to make anything work we must improve communication. We must be more friendly

and willing to help each other and we must be more understanding to everyone's needs as individuals and as groups.

**Favorite Books:** Beloved; Brown Girl, Brown Stones

I have always been interested in being a part of Student Gov't. However, I didn't think that I had the time because I commute, I work and I'm involved in a lot of other extracurricular and community activities. Working in the Polity Treasurer's Office this semester changed my mind. I realized that I do have the time and I can commit to being a part of Polity Council. I believe that specifically as Senior Representative I can help to make this senior year the best for all seniors. I believed that throughout college life we work extremely hard. Seniors deserve the best during their last year. For students in general, I believe that I can be a medium between the students and whatever issue that is important to the students. It is strange that in a university that is supposed to be about students, the students seem to be underrepresented. I would try to change that. As students, this is our University and we should have equal say in all that takes places that concerns us. The Students' Voice must be heard!!

If elected, I plan to bridge the gap between Students, between students and faculty and staff. There are also a lot of issues now that are extremely important to many students like the meal plan, the budget cuts, increased tuition, student apathy, poor teachers, TA's and teaching skills etc... I will attempt to work to correct these issues. I will make myself available to the students of this University so that I can be informed of problematic issues. Then I will take the appropriate actions to help the student and

lead them in the right direction. Senior Representative is a leadership position. I believe that I am a qualified leader and can help to improve conditions at Stony Brook University if elected.

**Naomi Johnson****Class:** U3**Major(s):** Political Science**Minor(s):** English**Cumulative GPA:** :3.1**Career Plans:** To become a Cooperate Lawyer**Prior Experience:** RA in Langmuir**Why USB is cool:** We make it cool**Why USB sucks:** Most people are afraid to approach others that may appear different and seem to stay in their own comfort zone**Favorite Books:** The Color of Purple, Beloved, Race Matters

Hello,

My name is Naomi Johnson. I am currently running for Senior Rep. I desire to fulfil this position for a variety of reasons. I feel that we as students do not have enough cohesiveness. I know that most of us do not even know who our colleagues are. As the Senior Rep., I would do my best to make us more aware of each other. I would attempt to do this by having ice breakers, socials, workshops, and educational programs. I would also do my best to work hand in hand with Polity to establish the most student beneficial policies. I am a hard working dedicated person that always strives for perfection. I believe that I am the best person for this position. Remember vote yes for "ME" at the Polity Elections on April 27th and 28th.

"I want every one of those cheap flaky bastards who don't vote... to know that they are the real swine in this queasy generation, and if there is any justice in this world, they will be hunted down like fat animals in winter and chopped into stinking offal."

-Dr. Hunter S. Thompson

## CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

**Persephone DaCosta****Class:** Sophomore**Major(s):** MTD Area of study: African-studies, Theater, Business**Minor(s):** Dance**Cumulative GPA:** 3.69 GPA**Career Plans:** At the present time I have not concretely decided what I would like to pursue as a career. However, I am quite confident that it will eventually lead to something dealing with Public Relations and politics. Currently, I am considering furthering my education & becoming a college professor.

Nevertheless, I am sure that along with whatever career I choose, in my spare time I will open a performing Arts School so that I may give back to my community the best way I know how, through channeling youths energy into creative expression.

**Prior Experience:** For the past two years I have been an active participant of polity Senate. In this body I have been exposed to controversial issues which affect the students of Stony Brook. I have also worked in polity as an Administrative assistant to the Treasurer for the last Semester. In this position I have gained experience & knowledge of Political & Important aspects needed to hold the position of Junior Representative.**Why USB is cool:** There are several reasons USB is "cool". However, the one aspect which distinguishes it from others, and truly makes it "cool" is the increasing diversity of students and the numerous avenues and availability for students input and leadership. Stony Brook is one of the only schools I know that has a club or organization for almost every ethnic & religious group. In addition there are multiple committees & boards, students can sit on and participate in to have their voice heard. For example, Senate & Student Council.**Why USB sucks:** One reason USB sucks is due to the lack of communication among all groups on campus. USB has a lot to offer both students and staff. However, if people don't make use of the opportunities they will become invalid. This is exactly where Stony Brook is heading. The lack of communication between Administration - Students, Residents - Commuters, and Various organizations can cause the downfall of a great university.**Favorite Books:** The Bluest Eyes by Toni Morrison; Catcher in the Rye

There are several reasons I am running for this position. Though Stony Brook is an overall good school in terms of academics & extracurriculum activities, there is always room for improvement. This is why I am running for office. I feel that I have the necessary qualifications to make certain improvements in Stony Brook that can lead it to a better campus for all students and staff. If I was elected Junior Representative my main focus would be giving students a greater voice. I believe Stony Brook is for the students. We make the school. It is our Student Activity fee that allows it to continue to run. For thousands of students, Stony Brook is our home and we should have a say on what goes on in our home. For example, Some issues which I hope to deal with if elected is Meal Plan. the Meal Plan prices are ridiculous and the food is not up to the expectations of the students.

Also, another issue which I will focus on is the Coca-Cola contract issue. It has been brought to my attention through polity senate that many students are not happy with this contract. Students feel students as a whole will not benefit.

In reference to Juniors, this is one of the most important years of college. As Junior representatives,

I will be available to all students especially Juniors to hear their concerns, complaints and solutions so that in our Senior year, it will be our time to shine.

In essence, my goal as Junior Representative will be to get students to come together & voice their opinion. I hope to inform them that their voice is important, this is our school and it can only be what we make it. What we put in, is what we get out of it.

**Verris B. Shako****Class:** U2**Major(s):** Economics**Minor(s):** Business Management**Cumulative GPA:** 3.17**Career Plans:** Lawyer**Prior Experience:** USSA Rep., Vice President/ Senator of Hendrix LEG, SASU**Why USB is cool:** Diversity**Why USB sucks:** Unimpressive faculty to student ratio**Favorite Books:** Disappearing Acts by Terri McMillan

Quite honestly at the end of my freshman year I wanted to get involved but it was too late for Sophomore Rep. and I saw my next opportunity in the Junior Rep. position. As a sophomore I asked the previous Junior Reps about their duties and responsibilities in order to gain understanding of what would be required of me should I be elected Junior Rep. If elected, I plan to assist in creating Polity Pride Week and most importantly allow juniors to get their foot in the door by allowing them to meet companies through job and internship fairs.

Making Junior Year Your Year!



## CONTINUED

## CANDIDATES FOR SOPHOMORE REPRESENTATIVE

Paul F. Defeis**Class:** Freshman**Major(s):** Computer Science**Career Plans:** I am studying to become a computer programmer**Prior Experience:** Currently I am the Historian of the Commuter Student Association and a Polity Senator. I have also taken an active role in programming several Polity funded events such as CSA Springfest, Midnight Scream, and a paintball tournament**Why USB is cool:** The good news is that USB is clearly investing a great deal of time and money into the future of this university.**Why USB sucks:** The bad news is that they seem to be doing this at the expense of current students.**Favorite Books:** \*1984\* (George Orwell), \*The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy\* (Douglas Adams), \*Bartleby, the Scrivener\* (Herman Melville).

First and most importantly, I am running for office to make sure that every student on this campus gets their \$80+ worth of services, clubs, and programming. A large percentage of commuting students leave right after classes for the same reason that a great deal of residents go home every weekend, because quite frankly, there is nothing to do on campus. Anyone who has ever been to Stony Brook on a weekend can tell you that this place is socially and effectively dead. As students we deserve a rock concert on campus that isn't at the spot. In fact, we deserve any concert on campus where more than 500 students will attend. We deserve quality events

on the weekend. We deserve better funding for clubs that aim to serve the student body as a whole. After all, we're paying for it.

Malika L. Granville**Class:** U1**Major(s):** Psychology**Minor(s):** Africana Studies**Cumulative GPA:****Career Plans:** I hope to become a Social Worker of Opportunity Programs Counselor**Prior Experience:** President of neighborhood Youth Organization (in Brooklyn), President of EOP/AIM Student Association**Why USB is cool:** What makes the USB so cool is its diverse population.**Why USB sucks:** Not enough recreational activities  
**Favorite Books:** Acts of Faith, By Iyanla Vanzant.

The reason why I am running for Sophomore Representative is because I feel that my input along with the input of my peers will make for an improved campus life.

One crucial aspect that I would attempt to reform is the meal plan. With the new meal plan students will be limited to how much they can eat per week. With enough help from my peers we can petition against this. Another part of the campus life that I would to improve upon is the lack of recreational activities on campus. I often here students saying that there is nothing to do on campus. I hope to have more activities such as spades and domino

tournaments, dating games, more concerts, and a host of other activities. The last and the most important topic that I would like to improve is the issue of budget cuts. The proposed budget cuts would affect a large chunk of the student population. This being one of the biggest economical issues facing students we must work together to lobby against this.

So when you go to the polls make sure you make the right choice, VOTE MALIKA L. GRANVILLE

Storm Morales**Class:** Freshman**Major(s):** Business, Computer Sci**Minors(s):** Poetry, physics**Cumulative GPA:** 3.0**Career Plans:** to be a millionaire, living the good life, owning a yahat, a great big house in the caribbean, and sipping on Pina Coladas while chill-in' in the heat. when reallity sets in, The same mentioned above :op=**Prior Experiences:** President of Irving LEG(Mendelsohn quad) last semester, President of Sanger(Tabler) LEG this semester, and got a whole lot more experiences to tell when clairifying the question" prior experiences"**Why USB is COOL:** the people ive met, the dorm life experiences... (expecially living in Mendelsohn quad) The academic experiences???**Why USB sucks?** TWO WORDS, DENG LEE'....the food nearly killed me the other day. Everything else is cool

### CANDIDATES FOR SASU (Student Association of the State Universities)

Mfon Akpan**Class:** U3**Major(s):** Biochemistry**Minor(s):** Dance/ Biomedical Engineering**Cumulative GPA:****Career Plans:** Sports Medicine Doctor/ Physical Therapy**Prior Experience:** Senator, Kickline, Step Squad, BWB**Why USB is cool:** USB has great potential...**Why USB sucks:** Atmosphere is too apathetic**Favorite Books:** Les Miserables

After two years at StonyBrook I feel that it is time for change. Running for SASU rep. will give me the opportunity to implement some ideas that will benefit students. I will be that strong voice informing Albany that students need more aid. Tuition roll-backs, full restoration to EOP and the SUNY operating budget among other projects needs to be pushed forward by the student leader with the drive and passion to explicitly represent StonyBrook University.

Take the capitol by storm!

## The following people failed to respond:

Orlando Gonzalez, Junior Representative Nominee

Andrew Ma, Junior Representative Nominee

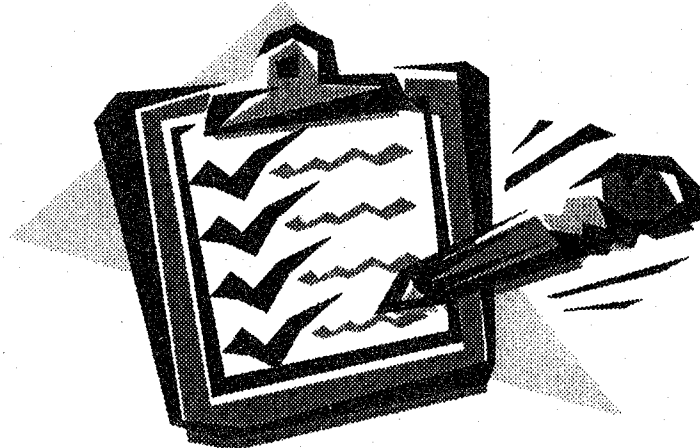
Michelle McCoy, SASU Nominee

Noreen Dixon, USSA (United State  
Student Association) Nominee

# VOTE

## TUESDAY APRIL 27 & WEDNESDAY APRIL 28

*Tune in to the*  
**Polity Debates**  
**on WUSB 90.1 FM**  
 President / Vice-President  
 Secretary / Treasurer  
 Monday, 4/26 @ 10pm



## END THE DISCRIMINATION

By D.J. O'Dell

In early October a death occurred that rose to the forefront of human rights campaigns across the nation. The life taken was that of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay Wyoming college student who was brutally beaten and left chained to a fence because of his sexuality. This event caught the eye of media nationwide, with stories that covered not only his death but that of other gays who have died for the same

reason. The media also covered the defamation which occurred at Shepard's funeral, where protesters held signs proclaiming the immorality of homosexuality. Some of the signs went as far as condemning Shepard's soul to eternal damnation.

With this death, national attention was finally turned to an issue it had long ignored- the hate crimes being committed against homosexuals. Thereafter, many officials called for statutes that would protect gays, but the crimes continue, while the voices who once demanded protection fade back into that peculiar apathy that has allowed these crimes to occur unchallenged.

Later that month, at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, a 22 year old lesbian was also attacked. Ironically, the attack occurred following a vigil held in memory of Matthew Shepard. The Director of Communications at St. Cloud, Barry Wegener, said the attack "appeared" to be a hate crime due to the vulgar slurs being used by the men during the attack. The use of the word appeared exhibits one way in which officials skirt rather than confront this issue. If the assailants had robbed the woman, it would have been termed a robbery. If they had raped her, it would have consequently been termed a rape. The verity of these crimes would not have been questioned because of their appearance, and yet, a college official was reluctant to term the aforesaid crime a hate crime because the slurs didn't totally prove it to be such.

Skipping ahead a few months, though the interim was far from uneventful, another hate crime was committed in Florida. The victim, 25 year old James Gentry, was attacked by three women, suffering wounds that included two deep puncture wounds to the back. Once again, anti-gay slurs were involved. The perpetrators followed Gentry home, and as his cab pulled away, they jumped out of a car and began to assault him. Gentry com

mented on the event, saying, "It would have to be a gay hate crime. I've never seen them [the women] before in my life. They didn't take anything from me. They didn't even go for the \$15 change I had in my hand from the cab ride." Once again, the question could be asked, was this really a hate crime?

Another crime was committed in February. In this case, however, two men

it would discriminate against the victims of non-bias crimes by creating a special class of victims. In other words, they claim it would be unfair to the victims of more "regular" crimes if a hate crimes bill were introduced. This sounds ridiculous to many, who agree with Democratic State Senator David Paterson, saying the bill is meeting opposition due to its inclusion of sexual orientation. Though Pataki urged lawmakers in his 1999 State of the State Address to pass hate crimes legislation, a bill has yet to pass, in large part due to the opposition of State Senate Majority leader Joseph Bruno, who is the main opponent of creating a special class of victims.

It is becoming increasingly harder to pass such legislation due to the opposition from such groups as the Family Research Council and the Christian Coalition. Both right wing radical conservatives use an anti-gay agenda to raise money for funding. Moreover, both groups claim as a membership the majority of the American population. As such, they believe they serve as a majority mouthpiece for the values of America. History has shown repeatedly that it is such majority attitudes that minorities in America need to be protected from.

While politicians and lobbyists spend time trivializing a serious issue, homosexuals continue to fall prey to the actions of homophobic individuals. One only has to consider the deaths of twelve gay Texans in 1994 alone to understand the magnitude of the hate crimes being committed against the gay community. Gays, moreover, are not the only ones who fall prey to hate crimes. When the crimes committed against other minorities are considered, an issue arises that demands immediate attention. Without such attention, the human rights campaign of this nation will be prevented from moving forward.

Violence is only one area in which homosexuals face discrimination; another area is the workplace. A poll conducted by *Newsweek* in 1996 showed 84 percent of Americans as being against workplace discrimination, but it is only now that the fruition of a bill ending workplace discrimination seems likely. ENDA, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is a bill currently being pressed by many officials, including the president. The following passage includes portions taken from a statement by President Clinton concerning ENDA:

"It is about the right of each individual in America to be judged on their merits and abilities and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing unfair discrimination on account of sexual orientation. It is about our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance."

These two instances are only two ways in which homosexuals are discriminated against. Others include the right to marry, partner benefits, and adoption. It seems that in today's society, homosexuality is quickly rising to the forefront of the human rights campaign. In order for human rights to make further strides in creating equality, the issues facing gays today must be confronted and resolved.

**"In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. And then they came for me — and by that time no one was left to speak up."**

**-Pastor  
Martin  
Niemoller**

admitted to killing their victim because he was gay. The victim, 39 year old Billy Jack Gaither, was beaten to death and his body was burned afterwards. One of the men had called Gaither and invited him to a bar. After leaving, the assailants took Gaither to a remote location, bludgeoned him to death with a wooden instrument, and set fire to his body using an automobile tire. Clearly, as stated in their admission, this escapes appearance and is one of the few cases that can be termed a hate crime without question.

These four cases, among many, demand recognition. Tom Duane, New York State's only openly homosexual state senator, is one official who is currently pushing for a hate crimes bill. Duane, also a victim of such crimes, cited many occasions where he was attacked because of his sexuality. In all cases, anti-gay slurs were involved. Duane added, more over, that you never know when verbal harassment will result in violence.

In late January, the Assembly passed a hate crimes bill (113-31) for the tenth year in a row. Currently, New York is one of only nine states without hate crimes legislation. Such a bill would include crimes committed against people on basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or sexual orientation. Under the bill, the offense would be a class C or D felony. As such, it would add up to fifteen years to the perpetrator's sentence, a penalty imposed on top of whatever penalty incurred for the actual assault or murder itself. As of now, Senate Republicans have blocked the bill, arguing



A black and white photograph of a dense forest floor. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a pattern of light and shadow on the ground. The ground is covered with various plants, including ferns and small flowers. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches reaching up towards the sky.

1999

Spring Literary

Supplement

*Photo by Christopher Bullock*

It was there with your sunrise moods.  
The ones that made you curl into a ball.  
A poison stream of fire coursing through your veins  
While you cries "No more... it hurts... just let me die."

I'd hold you close to me and swallow back my bitter tears.  
They tasted like survival and they tasted like guilt.  
Also like night, when I'd watch you sleep.  
Thinking about all the good and evil  
Two pin-pricks and a quick transfusion could cause.

I learned alot about love from that cold unfeeling virus:  
How it can't be measured in T-cell counts and deadly rations;  
How being strong means never giving in to the weakness of fear.

There were many times I was afraid,  
But whenever you asked me how I felt  
I'd keep the terror locked within my heart  
Thinking that was the best thing I could do to help you.  
Looking back I know I was wrong, and I'm sorry.  
In vanity I thought I was strong enough for the both of us.

I'm sure you knew, that you saw it in my eyes  
Every time things took a turn for the worse and I thought  
'Is this the time? Will I spend weeks in a hospital watching you die,  
Only to sign my name to a dotted line and pull a plug... in the end?

I learned love was alot like life- full of Blood, Sweat, and Tears  
And something nameless that made even the pain sweet,  
Sweet like the way your smile tasted caught between our lips,  
When a kiss, in our limitation, held something many others never find.

It was hard knowing that, at times, you hated me  
And the clean possibilities of my life and future:  
How you couldn't understand why I would want  
"A corpse lounging on my living room couch."

The answer was something we shared,  
If not in one way then in another,  
Like you, I was infected with something  
That knew no discrimination-  
Something that made all my I love yous  
Show how much I truly love you.

"What letting go might mean"  
by D.J. O'Dell  
dedicated to R.L.

my friend tells me she was beautiful  
my friends tell me she was wonderful  
dressed in black and leather  
she looked great  
but kissed even better.  
she could dance and move and float  
she could hold on tight  
or she could just let you go  
she could make you feel alive  
for at least a little while

she did gothic  
with style.

my friend tells me about those nights  
her hair, her eyes the way she smiled  
when she smiled of course  
he tells me about all the guys who wanted her  
when she entered the room  
and all the envious looks over beer and other forms  
of alcohol  
he tells me of guys she talked to  
or danced with  
they didn't know what hit them  
when she walked in their lives  
and as easily walked out again  
she burned like the light of religious revival

she was gothic

with style

friend tells me  
he repeats the stories but only after we ask him to  
she was beautiful and wonderful  
but she could hurt you to, if she wanted to  
and when its over its final  
still,  
she did gothic with style.

Gothic with style  
by Chris Gennari

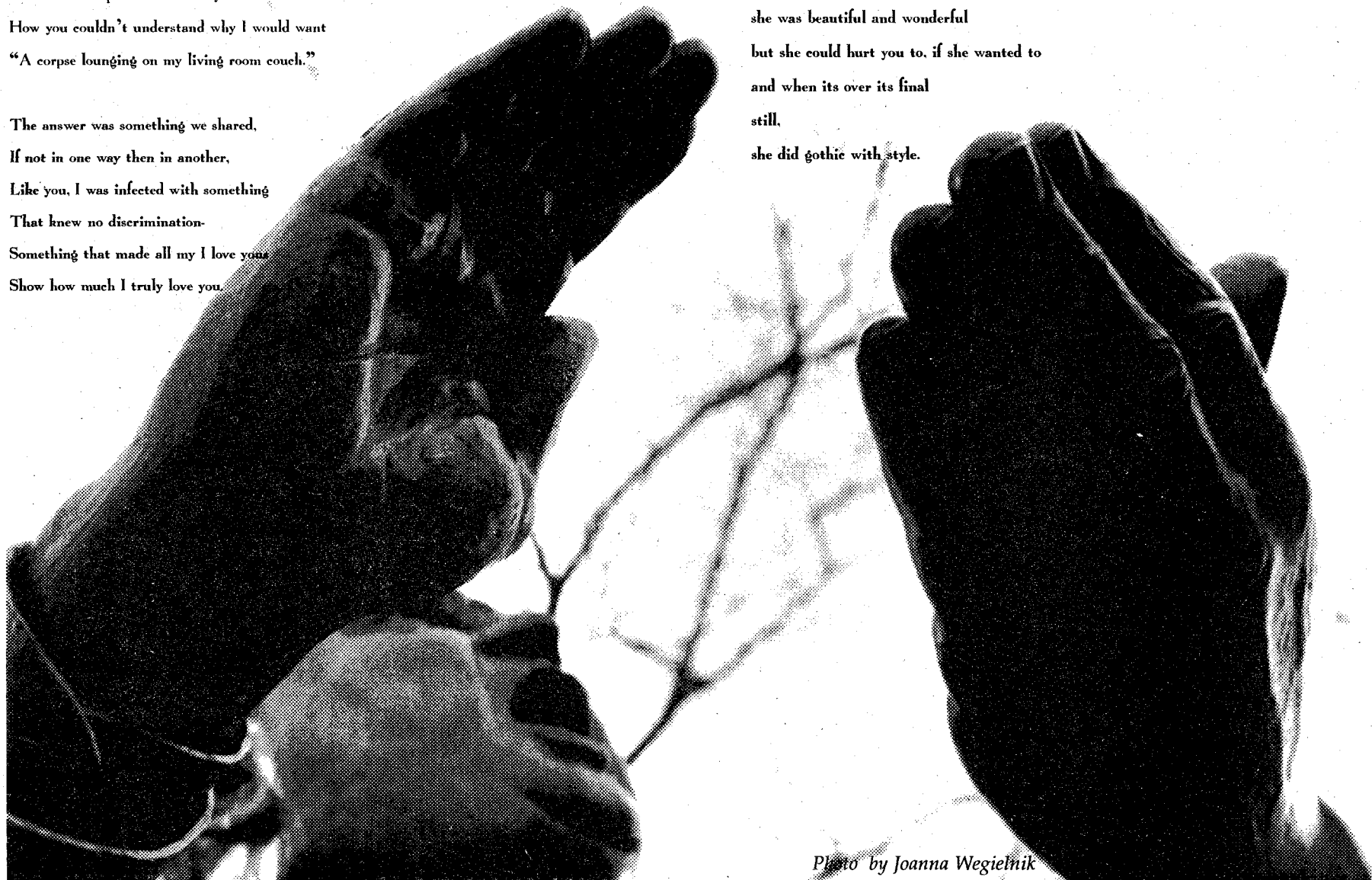


Photo by Joanna Wegielnik





Christopher Bullock

We called our bombing missions 'visitations'  
transported our bodies through the air in floating coffins  
and clicked on targets  
through night vision goggles  
linked with each other but no one said a word  
'til 'good job' barely audible composed of static  
and interference  
gave each and every one of my bombshells to the land  
each bomb a light descending over the sands  
the lights float gently to the earth, from the ground they appear as  
descending alien spacecraft  
drifting for hours, breathing is difficult when you know everybody  
hears you  
even though I know my exact altitude  
I think I'm flying feet off the ground  
waiting for a piece of shrapnel  
to show me my reflection.  
coming home and collapsing  
waiting for death when I finally come in for a landing  
I never met the people I visited  
I'm sure I'll see them on television  
my appearance on the national news going uncredited

Chris Gennari

I know something you don't know, she said to me  
With that childish, excited smile.  
tell me, I mockingly begged her

"I love you," she said.  
"of course, I knew that," I responded  
"how did you know" she asked crestfallen as if I  
had stolen her favorite teddy bear and wouldn't  
give it back

because of the way you walk, and talk and the fact  
you not only call me back, but call me first  
just to see how I'm doing.  
and the way you smile when I tell a bad joke,  
the way you hold my hand when we walk,  
or dance,  
or sit next to each other.

because of the way you ask me what I dreamed about  
and that you don't mind me seeing you  
in the morning,  
or talking about sweden,  
or watching cheesy movies all evening.  
and the way you want to read my poems  
as soon as they're written  
and the way you say goodnight  
the way you kiss me good morning  
the fact you're still there in the morning

because of the way you dress  
because of what you wear  
and what you don't

and because I heard you say it in your sleep  
but you did call me tom  
I figured your dream just had a typo.



Sketchings by Debbie Sticher

Björk and poem by :  
Glenn Given



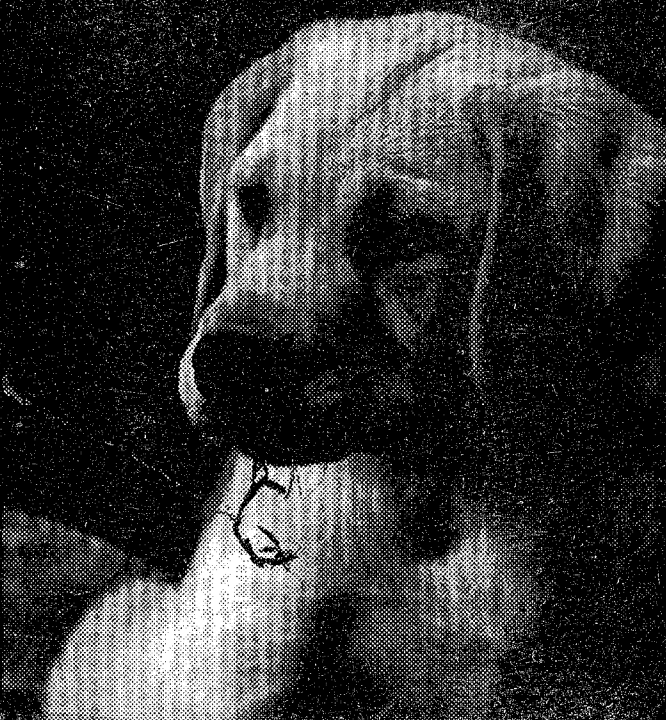
## **SAMSON**

**by Ruby Diceteeth**

**But I juxtapose...ne'er should I extrapolate on the  
myriad of verses that I rhythmically pontificate  
like a neglected seed  
left not to sprout.**

**despair,  
anguish,  
auto-erotica,  
self-flagellation,  
cool whip.**

**myself and my neigh-  
bor's dog, alas, never  
the twain shall meet.**



Your feet are still wet under  
the blankets; from the shower  
you took.

And though it was solitary,  
you could swear that some  
one was hovering over you as  
you looked into you lip-biting  
reflection in the pools of the  
basin.

Maybe... There went the  
geek.

There went the sideshow that  
could have been the compli-  
ment you needed.

Maybe you've looked so high  
that the sun has burned into  
your eyes.

Maybe your eyes are shut.

Maybe your feet are still wet.

1032 steps from a house to the  
3200 kids in school who believe in  
or maybe college,  
or just one more summer of work  
all I need is a computer, or a car, an  
a part from all the rest.  
5 Seven-Elevens, 4 pizza parlors, 12  
a few town drunks; mostly a drunk  
64 oz. of caffeine  
20 cigarettes in a pack  
7 days a week, 24 hours a day  
and a whole lot of cancer (no relation)  
1 christian child (long dead)  
17 gay men huddled in a bistro  
and an all right cause we're all white  
old folks that die  
young girls that cry  
screaming kids, battered wives and  
youth that finds their drugs too soon,  
and their age too late  
1 boy who breaks down crying in the  
he's too young, too promising, and too  
who just can't take it any more?  
This empty town, this glacial refuse.  
This blank screen, glazed eye, and  
This love, this paradise, this Long

nearest 7-11

something after High School

apartment.

bars  
town

attitude

drunken Saturday night men  
their sex too easy

middle of 1 main street, cause  
gullible.

barren street.  
Island.

Photo and Poem by  
Glenn Given



compression

targets detailed by murky green crosshairs

low aural hum of disembodied tank

snow falls and creates visual static

feeling great now that the earth is dead and buried

metronomic hands twitch at captivating rhythm

the vibrations from a nervous grip lull him into a coma

he can feel the gunbursts a mile away

everything is nice and quiet

heavens keeps him warm inside

quiet, still and

motionless

- Christopher Bullock

Photo By Joanna Wegielnik

## *Ode to a Stapler* *By Elvis Duke*

*[also known as 'insult to poets']*

Florescent light shines  
on a shiny metal carapace.  
Reflections in black metal  
a pen, a pad, some scissors.

Curved like the bend of a river  
two bodies, joined as one.  
Metal flows round from base to lever  
in a sublime meeting of form and function.

Your two tone glory  
(black and silver, black and silver)  
makes my heart sing with joy  
(black and silver, black and silver)

Dare I touch your swivel head?  
Cause the staple to pierce my paper?  
Penetrate me, rip and grip me  
Hold it tight from around behind.

I am not man enough for you, Swingline.  
I am not man enough for you.



Stapler Photo

by David Wiemicki

"Fatdude"

by Debbie Sticher



HARDCORE  
(a haiku rap by Ruby Diosteeth)

my rap style kills you  
soufle of phat rhymes explodes  
shrapnel up in you

Photo by Joanna Wegielnik

*Happiness (Fu)*

by Cliff Rivera

Can't say  
I was baptized,  
overshadowed by comic  
book heroes, wooed by supernovas  
shortlived  
straining for gothic enterprises  
until I saw her.

The tattoo said it all:

she's on a shopping spree  
brandishing dull stars just in  
case her American Dream fizzles;  
she has a chip on her shoulder too  
precious for Atlantic City.

She returned home  
unmasked, older--

still ringing our school bells;  
forging through blocks of  
eager dropouts, burnouts, self-  
proclaimed saints; through  
undiscovered campuses,  
Bruce Lee marathons, tongue  
piercings in the Actor's Studio.

I lash out for  
a taste--  
a memory of  
...Adieu...  
a lewd  
aphrodisiac--  
and ask,

"Truly, are you happy...?"



By Sarah J. Fields

There was a mirror on the ceiling.

I watched us in it as she reached for a cigarette

I smelled sulfur and then Marlboro smoke.

Her motion on the waterbed made the two of us bounce for a minute. I giggled.

She turned to me, and out of nowhere said "You're so pretty down there- just like a flower." I kissed her and snuggled closer, amazed I could feel so comfortable in this trashy hotel room.

She called me "sweet baby" and I glowed. Throughout the whole steamy, crazy night I couldn't keep my eyes off that damn mirror. I was still so unfamiliar with the sight of two women's bodies intertwined- I was more transfixed by the act than by her. "Smile baby" I thought, "make his look good for the audience." Watching the two bodies in the mirror was hypnotic. There were moments when I swore we were emmeshed, and I was in heaven. The whole time, through the moans and screams, the professions of love, I kept one eye on the hazy mirror above us, still marveling at the sight. My body was trembling, my mind was racing, and I was fighting like hell to keep my heart from surrendering. Something inside me knew this "love" wasn't long for the world. Whatever I was feeling at the time, I did my best to keep it confined to that tawdry motel, the wild waterbed, and that hazy mirror. That way in the morning, the cold shoulder and the "I've gotta get home. See you later." didn't hurt nearly as bad.



Photo by Joanna Wegielnik



# SPRING SMORGASBOARD

By Chris Sorochin

I think I'm entitled to one article a year that's obviously just some odds and ends thrown together at the last minute. My twisted little mind goes to pieces in the spring. I haven't figured out whether it's the temperature changes, the pollen, or just the fact that the end of the school year is so enticingly near yet so maddeningly far. Maybe it's love, or at least hormones. It's 4 p.m. the day before deadline, and I have no single clear subject to hold forth on, so here's a chop suey of my latest fragmented thoughts:

I had originally intended to address the nauseating hypocrisy of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. Just what is the deal? Aren't all those dead Iraqis (2 million at last count, 700,000 of them children under 5) enough to sate the blood lust of Clinton, Albright, and Cohen? I really do think that the real scandal in the Clinton White House is this: deep in some secret sub-basement is a huge golden idol of Moloch. For those of you who are biblically challenged, Moloch is a deity mentioned in the Old Testament to which people sacrificed children. In true Faustian fashion, Clinton has traded his soul to Moloch for earthly power and in return feeds him blood. As we all know, blood-consuming idols are always hungry for greater and greater servings, just like the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Since Moloch put in lots of overtime saving Bubba from the Republicans; it's now payback time and he's screeching "FEED ME!" So Atrocities R Us has branched out into the Balkans. As I write, NATO has just bombed a convoy of Albanian Kosovar refugees. These are the people this whole bloody fiasco is supposed to be helping.

Anyway, in the last issue, (April 12), my commie pinko comrade Stephen Preston stole my thunder in his brilliantly comprehensive tour-de-force. As I read, I kept looking for something left out ("Krajina! Is he going to mention the cleansing of Serbs from Krajina?) but to no avail. Everything was there.

Except one: it's clear to this observer that the U.S. is hot to get the Cold War rolling again. It's no accident that a few short weeks before the bombing, NATO inducted Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, three countries right up close to Mother Russia. Russian politicians of all persuasions consider this an act of aggression. The U.S. and UK are also bombing Iraq, again very close to Russian territory. Now NATO is bombing Yugoslavia, a traditional Russian ally and also quite close by. The Russian Duma has scrapped plans to ratify the SALT II arms-control treaty and the air is now thick with anti-Americanism and smoke from burning McDonalds restaurants.

Russia was perfectly cast for more than 40 years as the monolithic, implacable enemy and Commiephobia was always good for a couple extra billion for the Pentagon. Things just haven't been the same since the Russkies hung it up in 1989. Pounding on these little non-superpower rogue states just doesn't cut it, and I'm sure it's the fond hope of not a few security-state types and weapons contractors that the big, bad bear start roaring again.

Back home, fascism marches on with further maltreatment of immigrants and refugees by the government. First, aliens who land on these shores without proper documentation, even if they claim to be refugees, are regularly imprisoned. Since they're not citizens, they have no constitutional rights, so they're even more abused than regular prisoners. Privatized prisons play an ugly part in all this and several of these INS holding facilities

have already seen (media censored) riots by those whose only crime is not having proper ID and who have been held indefinitely.

A new wrinkle has just been added. The Supreme Court has recently ruled that immigrants can be deported for their political activities. Although our leaders claim to be making the world safe for democracy, they don't seem to be too hot on extending constitutional rights to people here who aren't citizens. There are a couple of Palestinian emigres out in California who are now facing the threat of deportation because they belong to an organization that advocates freedom for their homeland. Oh, by the way, an organization doesn't have to be violent to be blacklisted by the State Department as a "threat to national security." It's sufficient that it can be linked, however tenuously, with a group defined as "terrorist" by Washington. The African National Congress is a good example. Had these rules been in effect sev-

**RUSSIA WAS PERFECTLY CAST FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS AS THE MONOTHOLIC, IMPLACABLE ENEMY AND COMMIEPHOBIA WAS ALWAYS GOOD FOR A COUPLE EXTRA BILLION FOR THE PENTAGON. THINGS JUST HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE THE RUSSKIES HUNG IT UP IN 1989.**

eral years ago, any immigrant working to end apartheid could be deported--without trial.

Anyway, the beauty (ugly?) part of this is that the accused don't have the right to know why they're being deported. That's right, it's "secret" evidence, much like under the Special Powers Act, which allows Catholics in Northern Ireland on the word of unknown informers in clandestine proceedings.

Along the same lines are laws that allow immigrants to be deported for minor offenses committed years in the past. The textbook example is the middle-aged Dominican man who was nearly booted because as a sixteen-year-old, he'd had consensual sex with his fifteen-year-old girlfriend. The girl's family had him arrested and that trivial bit of harassment almost cost him his residence in the US many years later.

These new, abusive tactics are meant to keep immigrant populations from making too much noise, or getting too comfortable. More ruling through fear.

A study in the October, 1997 *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that teen smoking rose by 23% in communities where laws against it were enforced and dropped by 2% in communities where they weren't. In the immortal words of Nelson on "The Simpsons," "Ha-ha."

There's going to be a rally for peace in the Balkans on Friday, April 23, at 4:30 p.m. at Washington Square Park (the epicenter of Giuliani's heart of darkness). For more info, call the War Resisters League, 212-228-0450.

There will also be yet another Million Marijuana March on Saturday, May 1, also at Washington Square Park, although the local Yuppie Scum have commandeered the actual park. March will begin

about 1 p.m. Call 212-677-4899.

That same day there will be a rally to close the School of the Americas in Washington. That Monday, May 3, there will be a demonstration at that other heart of darkness, the Pentagon at 7 a.m. (yes, a.m.--I'm dreading it, too). Call SOA Watch, 202-234-3440.

## It Ain't Just a River in Egypt:

Even after all the arrests at One Police Plaza, and all the bad publicity and, April 15 a march of thousands over the Brooklyn Bridge, Rudy is still playing stonewall. It looks as if Police Commissioner Howard Safir will be the fall guy, after receiving a vote of no confidence from the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. Good riddance. But more fundamental things need to change. Janet Reno

has gotten into the act and we expect the Fed any day now.

Phony Liberal of the Week

Lets' hear a big Berlin raspberry for Gerhard Schröder and his so-called Red-Green coalition, which some of us foolishly thought would be real leftists.

Things were promising for a while there, with Joschka Fischer urging

NATO to adopt a No First Strike policy (Ha!), but now, guess what? The Luftwaffe is bombing people for the first time since WWII. In that conflict, Belgrade was bombed by both Germany and the US although at different times.

Herr Schröder can now be enshrined in the Phony Liberals Hall of Fame, along with such other noted *Scheissfresser* as Tony Blair and Bill Clinton and whoever's in charge of Italy these days.

The Italians are none too thrilled with being part of the NATO Empire these days, after the pilot of a U.S. Air Force Plane that cut a ski-lift cable while flying too low and doing stunts was acquitted by a military court. Twenty people died in that one. The Aviano Air Base, where the plane was based, is currently being used to run bombing missions.

Earlier this evening, I heard the NATO commander chirping like a cuckoo that they had a really "good night" of bombing last night. Twit. What kind of dehumanized scumbag celebrates this sort of thing?

One of the demands being made on Yugoslav authorities is that they allow uncensored Western media broadcasts. How they'll do that is a mystery, as NATO is bombing broadcasting facilities. I wonder if we'll get to see uncensored Yugoslav media?

Few seem to be really enthusiastic about Clinton's "humanitarian bombing" (Orwell alert!), and if there's any justice, this whole thing will blow up in their sickly, pustulant faces. Say a little prayer.

# I-CON

In The Eye of the

Maelstrom

By Glenn Given

Photos by Donald Toner, Special thanks to Brian Schneider

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00, some-  
time in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century

"So we meet again for  
the vaunted festival of fools,  
or for the layman, I-CON."

Stony Brooks yearly  
Science-Fiction/Star  
Trek/Medieval convention  
steadily plodded into it's  
eighteenth triumphant year,  
and as I continue to attend  
— I've been going since I-  
CON 13, back when my  
mommy was dragging me  
around the Javits center and  
directing me away from the  
Animated porn — I-CON  
continues to amaze.

Littered with the psuedo-famous  
denizens of what is affectionately referred to as  
geek culture, I-CON boast one thing that no  
Movie premiere or Hall of Fame induction can.  
A very devoted, very obsessive, and very  
strange group of fans. These people are the key  
to the conventions success. Some people come  
for the obscure finds in the dealers room —  
a.k.a. the Lions Den —, some come for the  
glimpses of their flickering screen stars, some  
come for the Meat Stand, some for the games,  
but the true attendees are those who come for  
the sideshow.

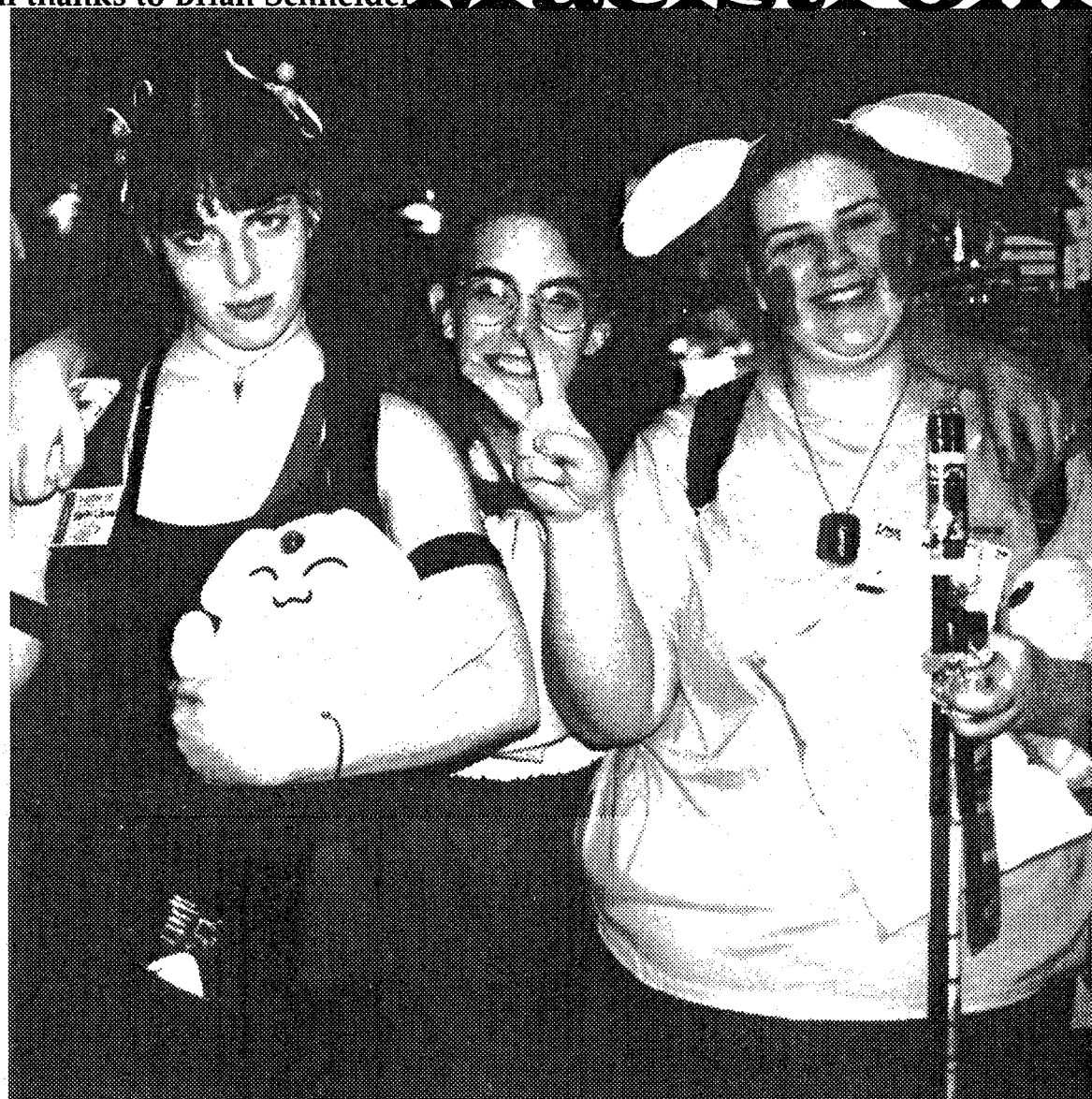
To appreciate I-CON one should enter with an  
un-biased eye, sure the people are freakishly  
different from you or me, but look closely, they  
don't even match each other. As paradoxical as  
it may be this truly is a mass of individuals.  
Every Trekker has something different, be it  
knowledge of Romulan ship specs, or the capac-  
ity to recite *Hamlet* in Klingon, these are the lit-  
tle things that make the convention pulse with  
freakish life.

So armed with a proper state of inebria-  
tion, a camera man, and a new found fear for the  
precarious state of my social life I enter I-CON  
XVIII.

Still the 9<sup>th</sup>, almost midnight, crossing  
the SAC courtyard.

"Since I got this pass to run rampant  
around the convention my mind has been going  
steadily down-hill."

My unnamed compatriots had to raise  
hell with the Staff to get our press badges but it



was well worth it. In only the first moments of  
the night I spotted 5 Vulcans, 14 Goths, 3  
Druids, and one man named Filthy Pierre. It  
boggles the mind. I've been searching frantically  
for Kenny Baker, the guy who played R2D2 in  
the Star Wars movies, and that sort of frightens  
me. All day long I've been making comments to  
the effect of

"Don't drag behind, they pick of the  
weak and infirm" and now I'm beginning to  
believe they've gotten to me. What kind of  
human being gets so excited about meeting a  
man who rattled around in a plastic garbage can  
on wheels. How desperate for a touch of fame  
are these people. Even worse though, is there  
any definitive way to tell said people from the  
rest of the media whoring public. There's one  
thing in their favor, at least they acknowledge  
this as fact. While they may live in denial of  
"normal society", when confronted they aren't  
afraid to admit there obsession with the  
obscure.

Frightening as it may be, this island of  
misfit misfits may be the most prepared for the  
future. With an across the board apprecia-  
tion/mastery of technology, and a voracious  
appetite for media consumption I-CON atten-  
dees represent the perfect slice of American  
public.

Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, noon, my bedroom.

"The Hang-over from last nights revelry  
is beginning to fade"

I'd almost forgotten that I-CON was  
here until I see a group of Elves coming out of  
Burger King from my window. I liken this whole  
she-bang to a deep, drug induced sleep. Like a  
dream that's a bit too freakish and a far too per-  
verse but still you're convinced that you're fully  
awake, staring at your body, but lacking any  
means of control.

I don't remember the events of early  
morning but if they were a natural progression  
of the evenings events, then I more than likely  
have broken a few of the cardinal rules of I-  
CON. Don't burn the locals, don't torment the  
help, and don't assault the guests. Maybe it's  
the product of a self-fulfilling prophecy, when at  
the start of the weekend I said to my self

"You can't treat these people like you  
really want to, they were good to you in your  
formative years,"

But why not, if anything I-CON is about  
tearing loose. Letting it all hang out — as fright-  
ening as that might be — and chasing what ever  
sick little dream you entertain. Be it giddy chil-  
dren bludgeoning a man into submission, or the  
demon rape of 13 year-old Asian school girls.



Reach for those stars I always say.

Why give them any respect, just because they let me in for free doesn't guarantee them protection from my dream. If they're gonna indulge the rest of the unwashed masses, they've got no reason to stop me.

**Still Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Union Bi-Level, The Klingon production of *Hamlet* is in full swing...**

"If I was speaking before of perverse dreams this is my vilification."

Perhaps it's the hallucinations that I've been having all day long, or the endless ranting of my co-journalist Russ about how I-CON is effectively a bunch of mommas-boys taking fine works of art only to masturbate pop-media all

**Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, morning, the storm shows signs of receding...**

"Let go out and get some beers"

From the beginning I sought to divorce myself from the people surrounding me, and invading my campus. Now it's too late, or the attempt was ill planned. Just like how any child of the 80s and 90s can't escape the crushing force of popular media, any sculptor of popular media can't escape the crushing force of children.

This truly is the carnival of the post-modern age. There's no unity, no direction, only an excess of force, and a desire to fulfill those everyday fantasies or at least meet someone

Dr. Frankenstein, something came to life, but it's never what you expected.

**Sunday night, pack your bags, cross your self and run, *Denn die Toten reiten schnell*.**

"There are freaks where I eat"

They file towards the train, or their rooms, me too my office, the staff to the winds; all looking at their feet, pretending they weren't in love. The beratement of I-CONs attendees begins and the staff all takes joy in making themselves feel better because we're better than those freaks.

"Kettle thy name is black," and such nonsense. I begin to collect my thought on the subject and try and explain to myself a reason



over it, and how this is the perfect example, but all of this makes some weird cosmic sense.

Besides Russ is a little too obsessed with auto-erotica as metaphor, and here and now I'm in the midst of the most daring, heartfelt, imaginative albeit poorly executed performance of *Hamlet* I have ever been witness to. These people, are taking culture to frightening new depths and somehow, by retaining my hold on mainstream society I have missed the boat.

It's the polar opposite of the East Village art scene. All invention, no pretension. You don't have to be in the know, nor on the *avant-garde* you just have to be there, not even at any specific time. Although this could be a good example of a focal point in the geek cultures exponential growth.

It doesn't fade, or go out of style, but like some crazed pack rat it just continues growing, piling on reference after reference and work after work. That's the beauty of it. A total suburban, dispersed phenomenon that for a few days here and a few days there comes to a head, with no end in sight.

with that same goal. The horrid reality is that no matter how similar slot A is to tab B the two never shall join. Maybe it's petty infighting, or a fear of losing identity that prevents the dispersed mass from achieving any kind of functional cohesion.

More likely though the problem stems from the same source as the inspiration. Media, the fractured nature of each root obsession prevents co-operation between the shows. Everybody's timeslot is the same but their channels vary.

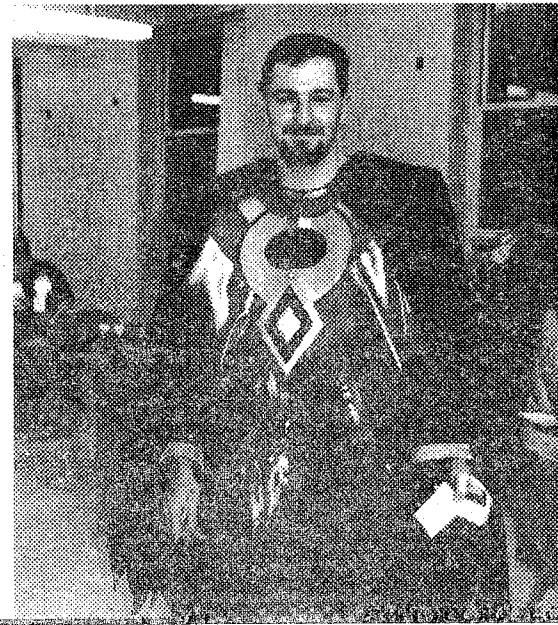
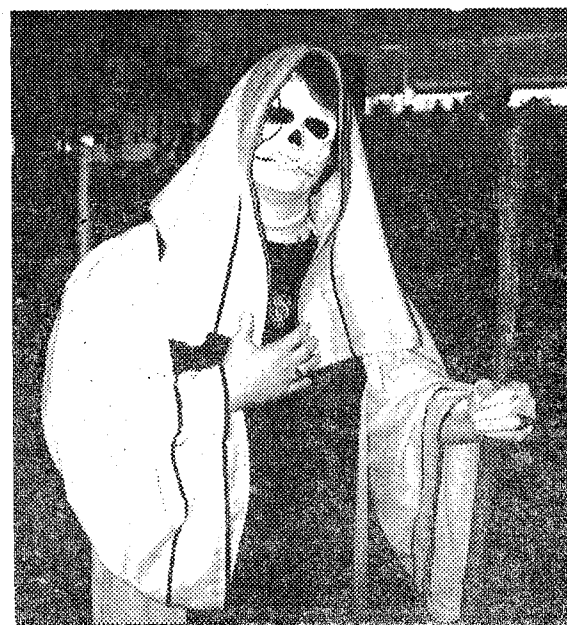
The dream of I-CONs orchestrators showed signs of fraying as I walk through the dealers room for the last time. Sub-groups begin to turn on one another as disdainful looks are passed from Goth to Geek. I wouldn't say that tension filled the air, but there was a certain pulse around me, as if strange lab creation was beginning its death throes.

What did they expect? For the Con to live out its life with out a hitch? Were they looking for a millennial media Woodstock? Like

for the weekends madness. I Try to place these people in the grand scheme of society, and that's where it clicks; They don't fit into it. They don't fit and neither do I, or for that matter anyone that I know. Perfectly useless members of the human race, giving nothing back, just consuming the right amount of cultural product to keep the whole healthy.

I-CON maybe a collection of the useless, trading useless things, being reported on by useless papers, but in the very least it's a keystone of American culture. An example of the perfect balance of consumption. A show of how every one no matter how different from the everyday man can get together and belong to the great society of gluttony.

This is the cold sweat of society, that once and a while one of us gets up and realizes his or her trivial little state and seeks to change it. And for that ray of hope, that promise of a different view and a different future I wholeheartedly salute I-CON and the people who make it happen. We've never gotten along but at least we hate the same people.





# A Droid's Life

By Terry McLaren

"They always put me inside things. They don't like my face, I think," said Kenny Baker about his various movie roles.

Baker, otherwise known as *Star Wars*' lovable robot R2D2, has been involved in various areas of show business for decades. He's done cabaret acts in his native England and other parts of the world, and appeared on various TV shows. With the upcoming prequels and the resurgence of *Star Wars* popularity, Baker's time has been occupied with filming *The Phantom Menace* (the newest *Star Wars* episode, scheduled to come out May 19) and making convention appearances. Baker's first convention was in Australia in 1991.

Baker shared some of his experiences with an enthusiastic audience at this year's I-CON on April 10. The crowd gathered that afternoon at the Sports Complex to hear Baker speak, and later lined up to get his autograph. Among Baker's film appearances are *The Dark Crystal*, *Amadeus*, *Labyrinth*, and *Time Bandits*.

When Baker arrived for his *Star Wars* audition, he reportedly walked in and everyone said "He'll do." Baker then asked if they had a part for his friend Jack, who wound up playing the leader of the Jawas in the movie.

About his successful career and the fame he has achieved, Baker said "I'm about the luckiest dwarf in Europe." Baker, who stands at about waist height, admitted that movie roles for dwarves aren't very dramatically demanding. He said that real acting parts are hard to come by. However the physical rigors of the roles are no

small affair.

For one thing, there are uncomfortable costumes to be endured. "You don't want to be an ewok," Baker advised. "The costume was horrible." The actor would wear pajamas, then a foam rubber suit, and then the fur. The costume's head made seeing impossible and when Baker fell, he wasn't able to stand up on his own.

There are also dangers related to special effects. During the filming of *Labyrinth*, Baker's costume caught fire after a cannonball exploded near him.

Of all his films, Baker enjoyed making *Time Bandits* the most, and out of the *Star Wars* series, says *The Empire Strikes Back* was his favorite film to work on. He called working on the film "great" and "exciting."

Working with Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill in the *Star Wars* series was also enjoyable. Ford, Baker said, was quiet and reserved, but nice.

With regard to *The Phantom Menace*, Baker said "I don't know much about it, so don't ask me any questions. They didn't give me a script." Baker said he just received instructions on the set daily during shooting. He also mentioned a non-disclosure agreement that he and the other actors signed for *The Phantom Menace*. Baker only plays the two-legged R2D2 in the films. The three-legged version of the droid was remote controlled.

There isn't much room inside the R2D2 costume, according to Baker. The head would be removed and he would be placed inside. The head would then be replaced. R2D2's lights are operated through a 12-volt battery between Baker's legs.



Baker also required assistance to get out. He was in the costume about an hour at a time, and said it wasn't too bad or hot inside. He would take the head off and lounge in the costume between takes.

During the question and answer period, an audience member asked "Have people ever walked away, forgotten you were there and left you in the robot costume?"

"Yes, many a time," Baker replied.

Baker spoke about his career in show business, and said he likes doing cabaret acts the best. He likes the instant audience reaction, daily pay, and alcohol that come along with that kind of setting.

Baker was charming and personable during the talk. "I don't smoke. I found that it stopped me growing" the British native quipped to the crowd. At the end of his speech and autograph session, a bunch of *Star Wars* fans left very happy, and Kenny Baker was reminded of how popular one little droid can be.



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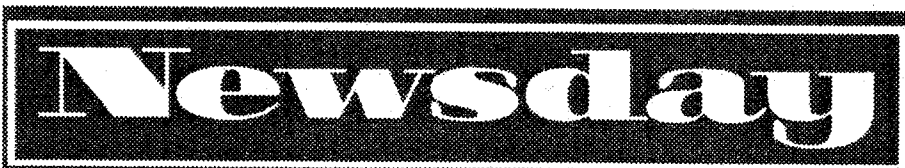
Subjects of discussion will include:

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When: Wednesday, April 28, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
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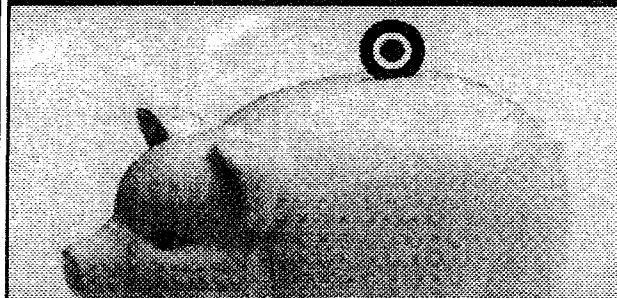


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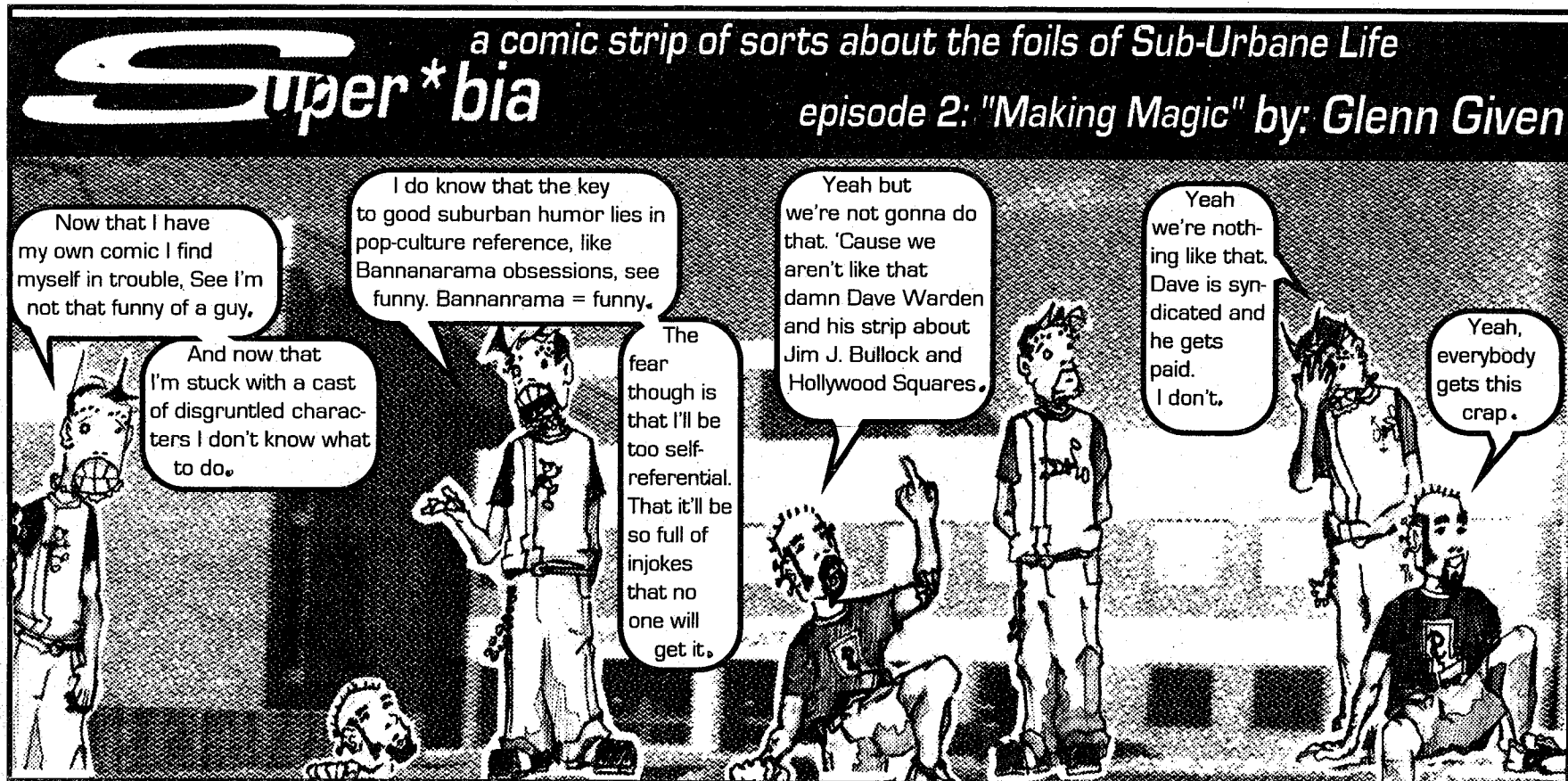


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# Top Ten Post I-CON Reflections

- 10) I-CON was brought to you by the letter **A** and the number **WRONG! THIS IS JUST PLAIN WRONG!**
- 9) I wonder if they're trying to fulfill a stereotype.
- 8) Now *I* masturbate, and I also watch *Star Trek*, and some times they go together, but at least I feel shame.
- 7) It's all deeply, deeply, DEEPLY sexual.
- 6) I-CON is like five people, whilst jacking off to kiddy-porn, just collided in a horrible head-on collision on the Jersey TPKE.
- 5) They're never gonna give us free press passes again.
- 4) Remember, we may be depraved, perverted, hopeless junkies, but those people have REAL problems.
- 3) I guess none of them own mirrors.
- 2) I think I want to have violent geek sex with a teenage girl in a bed of my own filth while *The Empire Strikes Back* plays over and over and over in the background. Just to see what it's like to ride their pony.
- 1) You know, at the heart of it all, maybe we're the bad ones.





# Sacks Speaks of Hillel

By Deborah L. Classi

Kohava Sacks welcomes students of all religious beliefs to take part in HILLEL; a Jewish organization at Stony Brook

"Many people are under the impression that we are a strictly an organization for a specific religious group," Sacks said. 'the fact is that we

bewildered. She needed guidance and had nowhere to go for support," "I reached out to her and over a period of time she went through a dramatic transformation. She definitely felt more focuses, after finding her place at the center.'

Sacks is the assistant director for

four years and prior to that she was a teacher at Torah Academy of Suffolk County and taught Jewish studies.

Sacks says that her work at Torah Academy was a lot of fun. "It was also a challenge. You really had to know your stuff," Sacks said. "I enjoyed my work at Torah, but Stony Brook has so much more to offer."

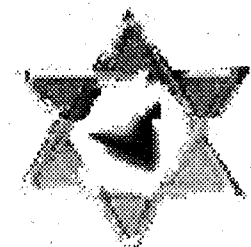
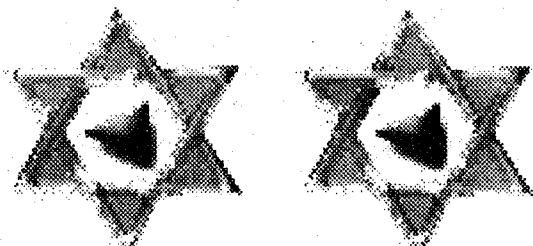
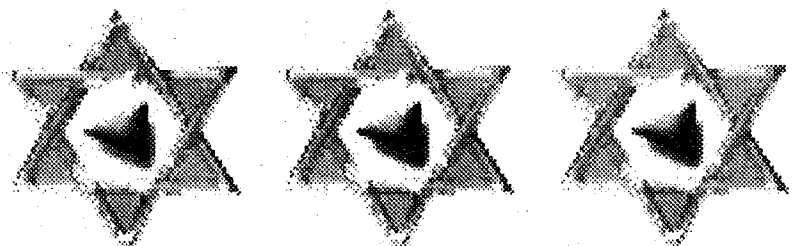
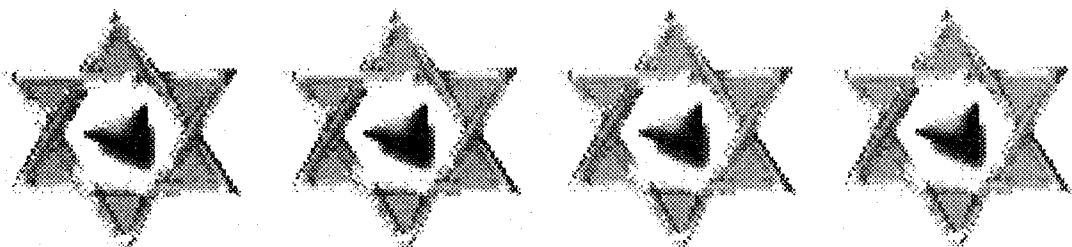
Sacks, is married and has two daughters, Yael and Yocheved. "They keep me busy. Not to mention my cats, Sylvester and Amber," Sacks said. "We may be getting a dog pretty soon. We're real animal lovers."

Sacks says that she feel comfortable with her life. "I love my work here at the school. I like the casual atmosphere. It's a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere," Sacks said. "I like the students being around. It keeps it lively and interesting."

Aside from the atmosphere and the students Sacks comes in contact with, she says that she finds pleasure in many of the social aspects as well. "There is always something going on. We have tons of guest speakers and gatherings where everybody has a place," Sacks said. "It's really something else. There's never a dull moment."

Deborah Menton Peretz, assistant director for program services at HILLEL, describes her relationship with Sacks as close. "We all get along really well. Kohava is very dedicated to her work," Peretz said. "It's a coordinated effort. Everybody has their responsibilities but we all chip in."

Sacks encourages students to take advantage of what HILLEL has to offer. "There is something for everybody," Sacks said. Sacks says that she is happy with her work at the center and has no intention of leaving Stony Brook in the foreseeable future.



do not discriminate, and all students are welcome.'

Sacks says that one experience at Stony Brook stands out in her mind, "A student came to me once

administration and development of HILLEL, which is located in the basement of the Humanities building. She is in charge of activities sponsored by the center, and she answers questions students have about their own beliefs and values.

Sacks says that she meets with about 40 to 50 students a week and that informing them about issues dealing with religious life is the primary focus of her job.

Sacks says that the center has a lot to offer. "It's basically a place and a structure for the student campus life. A place for students to meet each other," Sacks said. "everybody is welcome to all of our events. We offer lots and lots of social stuff like parties and things like that."

Sacks grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is now living in Northport. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1982.

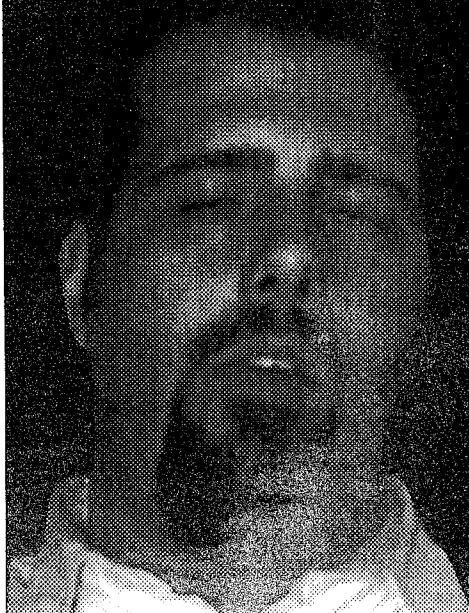
Sacks, 38, is tall, with light brown hair and fair skin. She has been with Stony Brook for

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## GEETCH'S WEB PICKS: ADDICTION

By Donald "Geetch" Toner

In honor of the past few weeks activities, namely ICON and BeerFest, I have decided to explore a most appropriate subject that we can all identify with to some degree. Now it may seem a bit silly or humorous to many but it is a very serious subject. The theme for the week is Addictions. Even if you are not "addicted" to something or know no one who is you probably are or do and just don't realize it. As we all know admitting the addiction is the first step to recovery.

First I searched out a site for all of the alcoholics out there. The site [stayingcyber.org](http://stayingcyber.org). It is an online recovery group with a constant 'therapy' or sharing session. There are a series of guidelines to follow, mainly that if you want to join them you must have a desire to stop drinking. There is nothing complex here to trip you up at all just a quick simple site with fast access to what you desire. There are archives of past sessions and links to other sites which deal with the issue of alcoholism. One other feature I liked about the site was what they called the "coffeepot". This room was the only room for non alcohol related chat. They run a very strict site that wants to help people out there help themselves.

The next addiction I tackled was that of drugs. At [www.narconon.org](http://www.narconon.org) they discuss this issue thoroughly. The table of contents is very simple with nothing to confuse those of you trying to use this site while on drugs. The site is run in an easy to follow question/answer format, so if your question is asked it directs you straight to the answer. There is a page listing its global sites

for help around the world, just incase you don't live around here. Another item of interest is the fact that they have celebrity spokespeople on the site with statements to the youth. Celebrities include Kirstie Alley and LA Raider Willie Gault. One other feature the site has is Solutions Magazine, for those of you who want to read what the magazine has to say about your addiction and how to help.

Next I went to [www.netaddiction.com](http://www.netaddiction.com). This site covers the subject of internet addiction. Many of you know you are addicted to the internet and don't know what to do about it, well this is the site for you my friend. It is easy to follow and best of all it uses your addiction in a way to help you. That's correct it has a virtual therapy room where you 'chat' with others about your problem. Of course it suggests books and other methods of therapy, including over the phone, but how could someone addicted to the net not go for the online discussion room. They have a address to contact the creators of the site at as well. They also offer therapy for those of you, you know who you are, that are addicted to cyberporn. Which leads me into the next group I found.

That's right folks there is help for those of you addicted to pornography at [www.rsts.net/topics/porn.html](http://www.rsts.net/topics/porn.html). This personal site of a former pornography addict tries to reach out and help others. The main idea of this site is to plug a book which is a step by step guide to breaking free from your pornography addiction. The site is set up as a series of responses given to this one person when he asked for help and is very much based in Christian beliefs quoting the Bible often. Although not the best site in the world it

does make its message heard and because of that it gets acknowledged'

One other site I located much later in my search of the web was [www.self-worth.com/life-links.htm](http://www.self-worth.com/life-links.htm). This site has a very monotoned nature when you first enter. It seems bland and cold, but once you get through the welcome page it gets much better. There are jokes, poems, writings, inspiring quotes and more to liven up your day. Then there is the list of links. I have never seen so many links on one persons page before. Any of life's little or big problems could be

found here and wisk you away to a site that could help. Not only were there professional links such as those of AA and Parents United butalso links to peoples personal pages out there who want to help. That is correct, normal everyday people trying to make a difference in this otherwise horrible cruel world. Subjects range from suicide and gambling to support for those who have terminal diseases. Anything you might want to know about or get help for is linked up to this site.

I urge those of you with problems to go out and seek help. If you now someone who has a problem confront them with your thoughts. Help is out there you just have to know where to look. The internet is a valuable resource and there is a site for you. As was stated before and as shall be stated again and again for the rest of eternity, the first step is to accept and admit you have a problem, getting help after that is easy. Someone out there wants to help you, let them. I hope that you all may benefit from those peoples generosity.

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Dear President Kenny, Provost Richmond and Dean Armstrong,

While we thank you for meeting with us earlier today, we are dissatisfied with your failure to address our central concern: the hiring of Modhumita Roy. We were heartened to hear that you would meet together to discuss this issue, but we were disappointed with your unwillingness to set a date by which you would inform us of your decision. Therefore, we ask you to make a decision by 12 noon on Tuesday 27 April. You should understand our serious commitment to this issue. If at that time we cannot come to a mutual agreement on this specific issue, be assured we will take further action.

We feel the administration's handling of this issue has not furthered its purported commitment to the English department and a healthy academic environment in the Humanities (and by extension, the entire university). Roy's hiring would be a good step towards creating a strong department. While we accept that the prospect of multiple hiring lines is an incentive to a new chair, the English department currently has 17 faculty. This administration has promised to increase the numbers to 33: there are, by our calculations, 16 hiring lines available. Roy's hire will not jeopardize any incentive to the new chair.

Yours sincerely,

Gretchen Woertendyke-Rohde  
Sumana Raychaudhuri  
(English representative)  
(Comparative Literature representative)

**Tuesday, April 27th @  
High Noon**

*Protest the Administration's recent decision to freeze all new hires in the English Department, abandoning negotiations in advanced stages for immediate hires, as well as cancelling interviews with candidates put forth by a search committee as potential faculty hires.*

**Show your support this  
April 27th at 12 p.m. in  
front of the Administration  
Building.**

# BjörknGrüven

Bjork,

Hello. I am Russell Heller. You may not remember, but seven years ago, I dragged you out of a burning car. You said you were eternally grateful, and if there was ever anything you could do for me, all I had to do was ask. Well oddly enough, something has come up that I think you could help me with.

A dear friend of mine, Glenn Given, is in bad shape, and I think you can help me help him. Glenn— Neither an Officer, nor a gentleman— is irrepressibly cute, (all prior attempts to repress him have failed,) if somewhat ill-equipped to deal with reality. It has recently come to my attention that every song you have written features Glenn as your central love interest. I know what you must be thinking.

"Wow, the guy who pulled me out of a burning car several years ago knows Glenn Given, the object of my affections and my fantasy companion on many a lonely night in desolate Iceland!"

Well Bjork, this is your lucky day, because whether you realize it or not, I play a very pivotal role in your future. Yep, Bjork-o, just call me Johnny-matchmaker cuz I'm hooking YOU up. That's right, call Frederick's of Hollywood and order some naughty honeymoon lingerie. YOU'RE GETTIN' HITCHED TO THE HAPP'N'IST BACHELOR NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE!! YEA-HAW!

Sit back and accept the hand that fate has electronically dealt you. After all, your newly betrothed is quite a catch. He is willing to change his last name to Gumundsdottir AND get you pregnant before the wedding if it will help explain things to your family.

To say the least, Glenn is such a pathetic creature that for the sake of pity alone you really SHOULD marry him. Behold, thou art affianced to the very incarnation of pity itself. Glenn, or

'Squirrel,' as he is affectionately called, has been victimized for the better part of his life.

Squirrel once innocently ended a relationship with a tyrant of a woman. Her next boyfriend took it upon himself to ejaculate on Squirrel's trench-coat. Squirrel was once dumped for a 14 year old! Another one of Squirrel's many attempts at coupledom ended when his girlfriend dumped his punk ass as a birthday present to herSELF. The final, and worst indignity Squirrel has been made to suffer is

that at 20 years of age, he has not ever shanked an Icelandic She-Viking. I know, it's pathetic.

Women are not the only scoundrels who have wronged our dear Squirrel. Gym teachers, over one with self-pity/ homo-erotic Squirrel dreams, drove Glenn to a dislocated shoulder during his first EVER attempt to play football. Following his injury, Squirrel was taunted with such jeers as "sissy Nancy-Boy" and "Fancy-Lad."

Even Squirrel's prospects for the future warrant pity. For one, he regularly attends Stony Brook University. In addition, he actually plans on being a professional artist. Mmmmm. I can taste the kibble now!!

**\*\*EXTRA BONUS FREAK PITY\*\***

"Squirrel has a scar on his chest which resembles a 3rd nipple- eerie! "Squirrel can swallow his own hand- Uinky! "Squirrel can do this thing with his tongue which makes it pulse- sexual!"

Let us also look at this from a utilitarian perspective. All YOU have to do is marry the big lug. If you DON'T, many, many, MANY good people, who I know and love, will have to endure his incessant whining. Do the greater number a favor and wedlock his ass up tight. C'mon baby, he can last all night. And as we all know, the night in Iceland is SIX MONTHS LONG!! HOW CAN YOU EVER HANDLE THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS STAGGERING MAN-MEAT? Obviously you were made for the tri-nippled rodent. If you don't marry Squirrel the rest of us will suffer. SO LEAN INTO THE STRIKE ZONE AND TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM!

You can contact squirrel via email (gsquirrelgo@hotmail.com). At least if you reply to him with a polite "no," he can gloat about that to a few Doubting Thomases in our newspaper office.

Thanking you in advance for marrying my friend,  
Russell Heller





# THE FINAL WORD

AND NOW... YET ANOTHER COMIC FROM THE LIVES OF Deborah STICHER

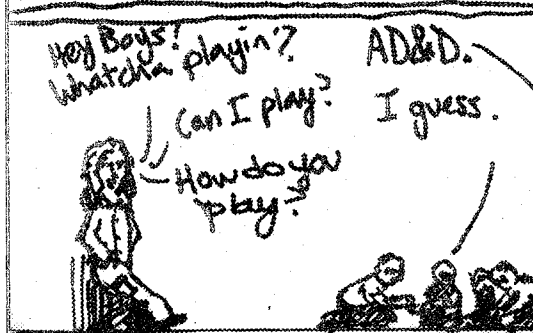
SOMETHING'S AMISS... THERE'S A FORCE IN THE AIR... I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... IT MUST BE...



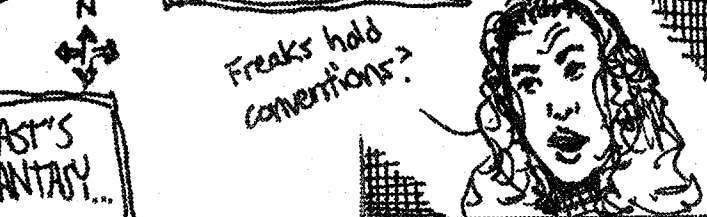
ALL RIGHT HERE BAY-BEE!!!

I-CON IS TO BE EXACT. THE NORTHEAST'S LARGEST CONVENTION OF SCIFI AND FANTASY...

OKAY - SO PERHAPS I'M A BIT OF A SNOT. I DON'T MEAN TO BE PREJUDICED... BUT-



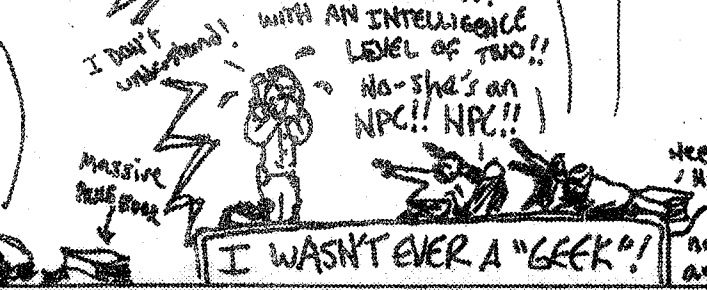
AND I REALLY DO MEAN THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT CAME TO MIND WHEN I FIRST BECAME ENLIGHTENED TO ITS EXISTANCE WAS:



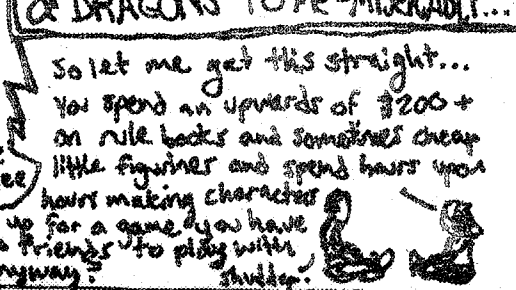
AND THE SECOND:



A HAFLING DEATHLY AFRAID OF HIS OWN FEET! NO! SHE'S AN ELFIN ARCHER WITH NO ARMS!!! WITH AN INTELLIGENCE LEVEL OF TWO!! NO-SHE'S AN NPC!! NPC!!



NOT THAT I NEVER TRIED TO BE A GEEK - MY BROTHER ONCE TRIED TO EXPLAIN DUNGEONS & DRAGONS TO ME - MISERABLY...



I WAS A FAILURE AS A GEEK.



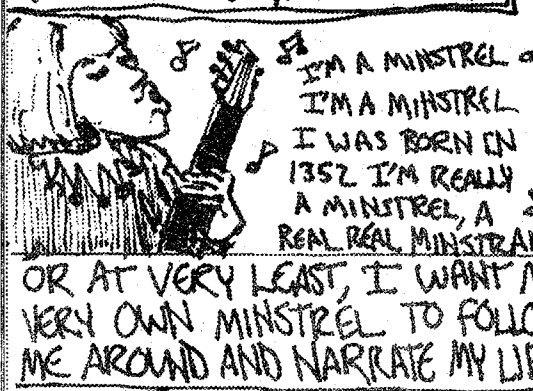
those... those people over on the grass... they're actually frolicking...



...RESURFACED.



IT WAS THEN I REALIZED... I WISH I, TOO, COULD GIVE MYSELF AWAY TO FANTASY AS EASILY AS THE ICONERS DO.



I MEAN, THESE PEOPLE DRESS UP AND HOCK GOODS OF YESTERYEAR FOR FUN. THEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR MODERN LIVES LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...



I'm going to be a PRINCESS!!

