

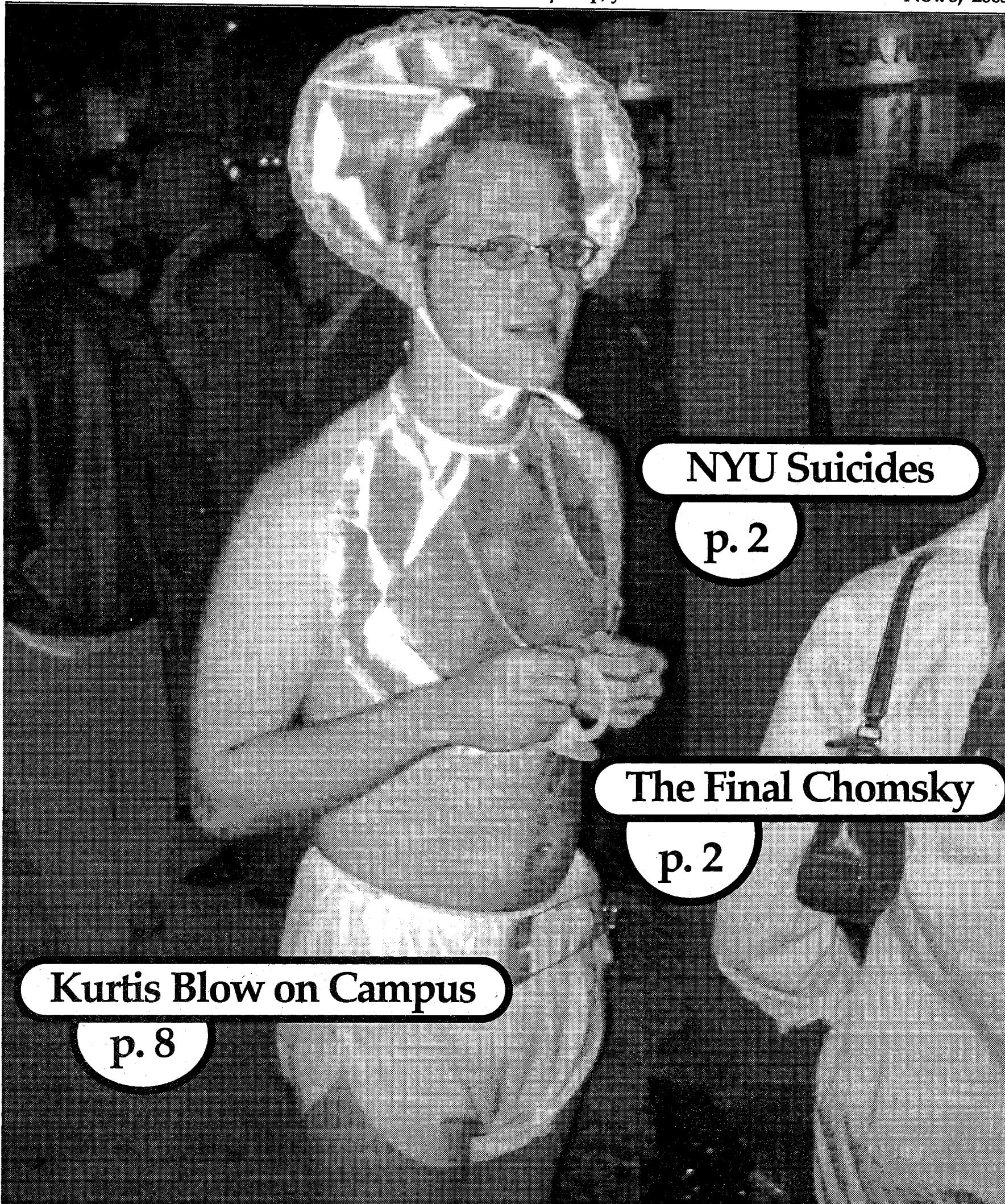
THE STONY  
BROOK

**PRESS**

Vol. XXV, Issue 4

"I'm all about the *hop-hop, yo*"

Nov. 5, 2003



**NYU Suicides**

p. 2

**The Final Chomsky**

p. 2

**Kurtis Blow on Campus**

p. 8

# "The NYU Suicides"

By Gary Lubrat

Suicide is a perplexing thing. There really is no way to adequately explain or properly rationalize a suicide when one thinks about it. When suicide strikes, the most commonly asked question is "Why?" New York University has recently been hit by a wave of sudden, inconclusive suicides. It is not a widely disseminated news story, since the university is attempting to keep this horrific event under wraps. Perhaps it is a bureaucratic way to save face, but it surely is no way for any organization to act. It is necessary to try and see what is behind this awful string of suicides. We're all students and even if you didn't know the three people who have killed themselves, it still affects you on some level. The mental and personal anguish that these three human beings, and I say humans only because the label of student is misappropriate and insulting, must have been going through was so powerful that they took their own lives. We must learn from this.

NYU's actions in regard to the suicides are deplorable and detestable. The university has done its best to keep them concealed and privatized. Lesly Bouchereau, 19, a sophomore psychology major, was quoted as saying, "The first suicide was so covered up. I heard about it through word of mouth. There was no school awareness or prevention." Why would anyone cover this up? There are two possible explanations that I have come up with. One, the university is seeking to save face and keep their admissions rolling for years to come. No students would be all that enticed in attending a university where three people killed themselves. That sort of news coverage would not bode well for a university. Face it, college education is a business and suicide does not help bring in the Benjamins. Two, the university acted nobly to protect the identities of the recently deceased. This second hypothesis is ideal, but judging from the way bureaucracies have acted in the past in regard to atrocities, (ahem, Stony Brook and the rape at Kelly Quad.), I'd say the first hypothesis is more likely to have been the reason for not publicly disclosing the suicides to large media outlets. These people obviously had personal reasons to kill themselves, and I think the only logical way of preventing this from happening again is to learn from this horrible event. NYU officials should have investigated the lives of these suicide victims. The university was unable to even recall the last time a suicide took place on campus, 1993 or 1996. To act as if the suicides never took place and continue on with the semester is appalling and pathetic on NYU's part. It damages and weakens their credibility as an esteemed and highly accredited institution.

The need for public revelation is not an alarmist strategy; rather, it is a useful and intelligent precautionary measure to prevent this from happening again. The Provost of NYU's faculty, David McLaughlin, felt that if this were made into a media frenzy, it would glamorize suicide and somehow encourage other students to do the same. While the media tends to glamorize human suffering, suicide is not an issue that can be glamorized with the typical FOX News media circus. Any half-witted human being knows that suicide is no joking matter. Information, counseling, and an explanation on a news broadcast is what should have been made available to citizens, if in fact this event were allowed to be covered by local news stations. NYU's fear to bring this into the spotlight has hurt the integrity of a prestigious university by not attempting to understand the students' motives. The only thing to logically come from NYU's ignorance is more suicides down the road, unless action is taken, of course.

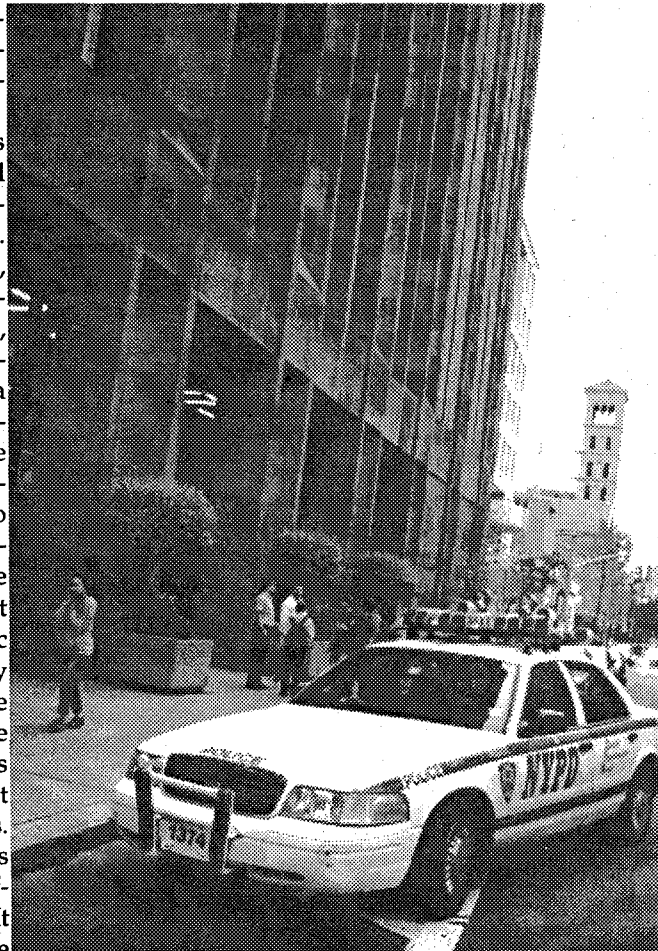
The university has done little to nothing to attempt to understand the intentions and reasons for the suicides. Instead of situational perception and analysis, the university has gone ahead and installed a gate and protective surroundings on the balcony of

the library to keep the balcony safe from future suicides. Please, like that will prevent others from killing themselves. We put safeties on our guns and locks on our medicine chests, but have these precautions prevented suicides? No! People still use guns and pills to kill themselves. This is just a simple way for NYU to circumvent the problem by implementing a quick and easy solution. This solution is stupid, plain and simple. I can't even dignify their decision to build a gate on the balcony with a bigger, and far more intelligent, word than "stupid."

Being students at a university, we all understand the pressures of college life. Tests, papers, peers, drugs, alcohol, girlfriends, boyfriends, professors, and personal choices all take a heavy toll on our well-being. To say we are stressed is an understatement. I am in no way advocating suicide, but one could see the reasoning behind it on a purely aesthetic level. We will probably never know the true meanings behind these suicides, but all signs point to the fact that they were students. The role of a student is immensely self-destructive at times. It is unfortunate that we

lose sight of reality and only see the world through the clouded eyes of a depressed student. It is when a person is in this state of mind that suicide may seem quite attractive. Now, not all students end up killing themselves, but suicide is the third leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15-24. NYU should not be ignoring this little factoid.

Suicide can be defined in terms of sociological or psychological reasons. On a sociological scale, suicide can be defined as the impact that society has on an individual. Psychology may define suicide as any personal manifestation of thoughts that lead to a person's own demise. In the 1940's, Emil Durkheim sought to explain as to why Jews were killing themselves. He knew that a certain percentage of Jews were committing suicide, but he felt that there was a strong sociological reason, and not a personal psychological answer. Durkheim noticed that there was an inundation of anti-Semitism being spread around. He also discerned that all of the Jews that were committing suicide must have had similar logical reasons for doing so. He developed two different schemas to help account for suicide. When one commits an altruistic suicide, a person kills him or herself for the benefit of the group. It is at this point that the person feels an intense attachment to the group. Suicide bombers are altruistic in their suicides. An egoistic suicide is the exact opposite. It's when a person feels a strong detachment from the group and feels as if they can no longer contribute. A feeling of worthlessness and insignificance leads to the aforementioned suicide. Durkheim's second categorization of suicides falls into anomic and fatalistic suicides. Anomic suicide states that when a person is without rules or norms, he or she may end up killing him or herself in an attempt at futility. When there are no laws or norms to govern a person, that person may end up killing him or herself for the rea-



son that they have no guide or set of rules by which to steer their life. A fatalistic suicide is one in which a person kills his or herself under the intense stress and weight of the rules and norms of society. When a person feels controlled and without the ability to dictate his or her own life, he or she may kill him or herself, fearing that their life is without chance and governed by fate. Durkheim discovered that to keep suicide rates at a minimum, people need a moderate amount of laws and norms to govern their lives, while still retaining their own individuality. In response to the first set of suicides, Durkheim surmised that these suicides were at a low when a person did not feel strongly attached to or detached from a group. In other words, one should not become involved to the point of blind loyalty and not detached to the point of loneliness and seclusion. If I could choose a labeled suicide for these students, and mind you I have no idea who these students were, I would imagine that they fell under the heading of fatalistic suicides. The only piece of information that I have is that they were students at

a very prestigious and difficult university. Perhaps the pressures and expectations were too high for these students to take. After all, life is tough, but how tough must it be for a person to take their own life? Maybe society should evaluate the stresses and pressures of being a student. It's not all fun and games, let me reassure you.

I have contemplated suicide and I've sought help for it. It's not exactly the most fun thing to go through, but it's also the most helpful therapy money can buy. Without help and communication, a person feels surrounded and trapped in their life with no way out. When a person sees no way out, suicide becomes the only logical way out. If you know anyone who has talked about committing suicide, please help this person seek professional help. Do not attempt to talk a person out of suicide; you may make it worse, actually. A trained psychologist or therapist can properly aid a person's suicidal thoughts. All you can do is show love and care towards the people around you. It is shown that increased social interaction and meaningful relationships help dispel the thoughts of suicide. There is a suicide hotline at Stony Brook for those who are concerned. The number is 631-751-7500. As Michael Stipe of R.E.M. says, "Take comfort in a friend." The recent events at NYU have only amplified the need for awareness and evaluation of student suicides. We should not ignore what happened and pass it off as "just another suicide." It may be a simple adage, but if you do not learn from the past, you are doomed to repeat it.

Sources:

"Campus Looks Inwards After Deaths" The Los Angeles Times, Geraldine Baum

"Some Students Criticize NYU After Suicides" Newsday, Staff Reports



# Undergraduate Student Government (USG): New Name; New Results?

By Kevin Quan, Editor, Asian American E-zine

Another year of student government elections, another semester of electoral discontent. Although this is arguably a generalizing statement, with the results of the most recent election posted today, one can also argue "The more things change, the more they stay the same." As a student since 1999, I have had the opportunity to witness the demise of what was once known as 'Polity' and the transition into the new USG. Those who have been involved with the university in any period since then could also confirm that many of the problems that student government faced then (leading to tumultuous years of internal/external strife, student and administrative dissatisfaction and subsequent overhaul of the government) are still quite present.

In order for a government to be successful, there must be an active constituency (and venues for them to be active) and legitimate election and legislative processes which are both informative and consistent. As evidenced by the current election results and related occurrences, this does not hold to be true.

According to recently released student statistics, Stony Brook University has over 14,000 undergraduate students enrolled as of the Fall 2003 semester. Of the 14,000 students enrolled, over 2100 were new freshman students. Comparatively, there were two candidates contesting for the post of Freshman Representative, a vote which was decided by 171 votes casted. To be a bit more illustrative, your run of the mill computer science or economics mandatory 100 level course may have as many freshman enrolled as those that helped decide on a member of our student government. To further analyze the election results, of six positions available for College of Arts & Science Senators, six were (obviously) filled...by 6 candidates. In essence, all six candidates ran uncontested (as a side bet, I will give a dollar to whichever administrator or student who names all six).

If my point is not making itself clear, let me again try to reiterate it by focusing on the 'Executive' positions that were vacant. The positions of Executive Treasurer and Executive Vice President were both won by candidates in a landslide fashion when the winners received 100% of votes cast for both positions. Exactly how 'Executive' can a position be when candidates run unopposed?

At such an instance, directions of blame will have as many stripes as a rainbow. Students will be blamed for being inactive in student government, student leaders for making effortless, half hearted attempts at promoting participation in many aspects of government or administrators for being non-receptive to student concerns. Of course, voter non-participation plagues our local and national governments as much as it does USG. However, if the country ever posted voter participation rates of (lets presume) less than 20%, we may be on our way to a dictatorship as soon as a revolutionary comes to the forefront. However, student participation is a challenge which has been apparent to student government for many years. Presently, the government has not fulfilled its duty of creating and promoting an environment to capture active students and judging from off the record experiences of past candidates also fails in its duty to nurture and support those who ARE active.

In the midst of what is an apparent student government crisis, what do we have to show for the past few futile years in which student government crumbled, was reassembled, and perhaps is doomed to crumble again? A plaque. Associate Dean of Students Ronnie Paschkes was quoted as saying that the newly placed Leadership plaque in the SAC was to "...give credence to student leadership..." I hope I am not part of a minority that feels credence is more than a plaque.

It is unfair to solely blame student lead-

ers for failures of student government, whatever they may be. An encompassing purpose of student governments in higher education is to give students the opportunity to blossom into leaders by gaining experience on a large scale level. This situation is present at Stony Brook University (unlike many other schools) in the way that students are given participatory opportunities to preside on the matters of 14,000+ students and a \$ 2 million+ budget. However, it is irresponsible of school administration to throw students into the flame of a failing government scarred by past student discontent, disorder, malfeasance and a flat lined constituency. Developing leaders MUST be properly and actively LED.

I am aware that by writing such an article, there will be many in a position of power (assumed or actual) who will seek to 'teach me a lesson' using the devices at their disposal. I do not seek to hurt the reputation of USG members, who have taken the courageous step of becoming part of the university's student infrastructure, for many of them I know personally and would defend their integrity outright. Consequently, I also expect to hear taunts of "Well, get involved and fix it then." However, like a voter should, I have already fulfilled my duty by bringing up the miscues and injustices that I feel exist in this student government and supporting administration. I refrain from finger pointing and hope there is no evolution towards blaming games ripe with animosity which will become the foundation for a bulwark against communication.

I am aware that university administrators and student leaders often read this publication to grasp the feelings of the student body. To them I say I have stated questions and problems. I beg of you to help me find answers.

With a new name, let's stray from the direction of old results.

## Talking Shop With Chomsky

By Amberly Timperio

*Editor's note: The following interview with social analyst, dissident and MIT professor Noam Chomsky, is the final third in a series from his May 13th discussion at Stony Brook University. Videos of the speech can be downloaded at [www.celt.sunysb.edu/chomsky/wang.html](http://www.celt.sunysb.edu/chomsky/wang.html).*

Amberly Timperio: In the face of the most recent wave of U.S. modern imperialism, what do you think the focus should be of the left-libertarian anti-capitalist movement?

Noam Chomsky: I don't think there's a single focus because the whole attack has many different directions. I mean the International Economic System is part of it. The whole neo-liberal system is a system of control and domination, and the third world knows it very well. The position that was taken in the National Security Strategy, which is not new, but it's extreme - that's very dangerous, it's got the whole world frightened. The U.S. is regarded by most of the world now as the greatest threat to world peace. In fact, it's even frightened the foreign policy elite within the United States because they think, and correctly, that it's extremely dangerous, for their own interests. That's something to focus on. Take say, Brazil, which has the most successful and powerful left popular movements in the world - they succeeded in winning the presidency, with a party that had no counter-part in Europe. But now that they have their

president in there, and he's a very decent person, he can't do very much. And the reason is he's strangled by the neo-liberal rules, so he's pretty much got to follow the orders of the IMF, or otherwise the economy gets wiped out by financial markets. That's why Clinton was pushing for liberalization, it's a stranglehold on development, that's been known for 70 years. You have financial liberalization, and cut back the option for democracy, because there's a class of investors and lenders - they're going to lay that in the contract if they want, they are like a second constituency, which out-votes the voters - and that's the point of it. And the same is true of many other programs. Like privatization - what's the point of privatization, it has no economic motive, but it takes things out of the arena of democratic choice, and puts them into the hands of unaccountable private power. There's now a big effort going on mostly in secret, but you can find out about it, to privatize services. Services means anything that anybody could care about, water, health, education. There have been negotiations going on in Geneva the last couple years, for the General Agreement on Trade and Services it's called. If that gets through, it opens up every country, every state in the union, to take over just about anything in the public arena by unaccountable private power. That should be a focus. And that's one side of another focus, which has to do with war and peace. If you look at military planning - they understand this - it's based on the assumption that

globalization is going to continue. And it's going to lead to a great mass of people who are dispossessed, angry, it's going to lead to the growing economic divide. People are going to be outraged, it's going to lead to resistance and terror, and therefore we will have to see some big military control. I mean, they can see what's happening.

AT: What's wrong with the model of development that Caroli uses in Brazil?

NC: Well, it's an interesting model, but it's not very clear that they can sustain it. They're being wiped out by the neo-liberal way. You travel through it, it's pathetic, they have a very high level of education and literacy and health and so on, but the question is, can they sustain it? The economy is collapsing. You drive around and you see these beautiful rice fields which are fallow, nobody can grow rice, because you can't compete with the industrial imports from cheaper labor. The rubber plantations are dying because multi-nationals can produce rubber cheaper. The economy depended a lot on export of labor, they'd send people, trained people, to the gulf states; all imported labor. A lot of them were from Caroli, but that's changing. Within the framework of so-called globalization, it's not very clear that they can sustain it ... you have to have something productive in the economy. They did a lot with very little, but if they

Continued on page 13

## Editorial: The Holy War

Last week's startling admission by Israel's senior media commander that Israel's military tactics against the Palestinian population were repressive and were fostering explosive levels of "hatred and terrorism" highlights what may be the most difficult, wretched, and explosive conflict over land in the entire history of mankind.

It also highlights the fact that the current M.O for both sides has been, on its face, a total disaster, a vicious circle that only spirals into terror. Israel reinforces its right to its land, then the Palestinian liberation groups react by violence, then Israel bombs Palestine in retaliation, then the "liberation groups" (which, mind you, are nothing more than terrorist groups) get violent again, and so on, and so forth. It's a foreign policy that scores short-term points at home when you can announce you "got the evildoers" (sound familiar?) while actually accomplishing little in the way of actual peace building.

For instance, the Israeli commander, in his remarks, mentions restrictions imposed on the West Bank four weeks ago, after a suicide bomber killed 21 people in Haifa. The current curfews and travel restrictions were preventing Palestinians from carrying out critical food harvests, preventing thousands of children from attending school, and, as a result, strengthening hatred of Israel and

increasing support for terrorist groups. Its very easy to blame either the Palestinians for sending in a suicide bomber which forces Israel to place restrictions, or the Israelis for placing those restrictions which will only foster more hate. But its more important to understand that this dynamic, when repeated thousands of times over decades, creates an atmosphere where security lords over actual peace; where retaliation is preferred over conciliation; where war is viewed, not as another option, not even as the primary option, but as the only option. In the end, nothing is solved. And the military, more so than politicians, are beginning to understand this; many Israeli military personnel believe the conflict simply is not winnable through military force.

Let's face it: When you have two groups of people, each believing that they have nothing less than a Biblical right to control the same patch of land, compromise simply is not the order of the day, and we've seen this borne out in the past forty years or so. But both sides have to try, and it starts at the top. Yasser Arafat and Ariel Sharon, for the sake of the Middle East, have to change their way of thinking. Neither man can endorse violence and force as a method of achieving peace. Anything less than that and the conflict will continue, with no end in sight.

## Editorial: USG or Business?

Four Press members attended the first meeting of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate. It was full of eager new members, many of whom were first - semester freshmen, plus the Executive Council. When we asked how many freshmen knew about last year's Polity scandal, most responded with blank stares, and Dr. Santo Albano gave us a long speech about how the past really isn't important.

Well, guess what: It is.

USG, over the past few months, has become an increasingly image-conscious animal. It erected a narcissistic monument to itself in the SAC. It has demanded that the USG logo be placed on pretty much everything, and has stuffed it down the throats of the student body. It has called the Press in to complain about the articles in our last issue (we stand by them 100%).

But style is absolutely no substitute for substance. And substance is what USG is sorely lacking. That was evident in the number of elected USG senators: three. Three out of TWENTY! The rest of them will end up being appointed by USG President Sandy Curtis.

At the meeting, Dr. Albano stated that "[USG] is essentially a \$2.2 Million dollar business." Well, we have some questions for the CEO:

- How can they claim they are trying to distance themselves from Student Polity when three top members of USG are former Polity members?

- Why was the Student Constitution constructed com-

pletely behind closed doors, and given to the student body only a week before the vote to ratify it?

- Why were students up for election this October given only about a week to advertise the fact that they were up for election? Why weren't they given a chance to at least familiarize themselves with the student body, let alone state a position on anything?

- And most importantly to us, why has USG, without having the respect to tell an organization that has been around for almost 25 years, decided to take away the majority of our funding? We're told a committee will be set up soon to hear the case that we deserve more money for publishing. While the USG claims that it was not their intention to censor us, it is still in fact a censure if we don't get any more funding allocated to us very soon, as we are running low on the funding we were given for the year. All of us agree that the idea of having a media budget committee (often called a publishing board in other schools) is a fantastic one, but don't take away our budget first, and ask questions later. It should never have come to be the way it is now.

When Press members visited with USG President Sandy Curtis early in September, she promised us that history would not repeat itself. So far, it seems like it is. Hopefully the new, incoming USG members can learn from the past to save the present.

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**Letter: What The Public Thinks of Us**

Miss Mignone:

I will like to congratulate you for the article you wrote. Check your premises: A response to an Objectivist Cognitive Dissonance. Page 13 of your Issue 3 Vol. XXV.

When i first read the article that you are responding to, I disagreed on many points with the author, since much of his/her reasonings were baseless and without actual facts nor logical reason.

I'm glad to wrote this since it is important to see the actual truth of the matter.

Some people say that the argument on whether Columbus was a great or bad man say is futile and irrelevant. I happen to disagree. I feel that some of the problems that Latin America still has is mainly due to the colonization period.

On a similar note, Cortez is also misperceived on the same way as Columbus. One would one have to read the letters of Cortez to the king of Spain to realize the atrocities and abuse that our so called conquistadors did to the native tribes of America.

One thing about the article that i failed to realize was the connection with Ayn Rand. This is by no means a criticism, since i'm ignorant of the subject. I actually read the "Fountain Head" and liked it.

Once again, I congratulate you on your article.

Sincerely,

J

Dear Stony Brook Press,

There was a mistake in the article, "AmeriCan't Politics" by Gary Lubrat. In the fourth paragraph, he wrote, "So, a man by the name of Adolf Hitler was elected chancellor of Germany..."

Like George W. Bush, Hitler was not the elected leader of his country. The following is a brief chronology of Hitler's early rise to power:

July 1932 - Hitler ran for president and lost to Paul von Hindenburg.  
Hitler got 13 million votes, and Hindenburg got 19 million votes.

Jan. 1933 - Paul von Hindenburg appointed Hitler chancellor of Germany.

Feb. 1933 - The Reichstag (German Parliament) Building was burned down by a Communist. Hitler blames the German Communist Party and was allowed by von Hindenburg to rule by degree. Hitler suspended freedom of speech, and Communists were arrested wholesale.

Aug. 1934 - von Hindenburg died, and Hitler became Fuhrer (supreme leader) of Germany.

Sincerely, Maury Hirschkkorn  
Student, reporter and  
World War II historian

Dear Stony Brook Press:

I would like to commend you on the articles describing the inefficiencies and wrongdoings of the USG in your October 22 issue. It truly is a disgrace that we still have a corrupt student government. Maybe that's because the new USG gave positions to members from the corrupt Polity behind closed doors. USG Treasurer Clayton John is an incompetent, lazy good ol' Polity Boy who gets a paycheck for grossly mishandling our money. How do you think he got such an important position that endows voting privileges in the USG when he wasn't even elected by the students?

The USG continues to violate the Constitution that they wrote, and have still not made the amendment about officers' eligibility. They make up rules to try to get their way, and then break the real rules when it's to their benefit. Why did we disband Polity in the first place when we're allowing the same people to be in charge again? Don't get me wrong, there are some students and staff on the USG who really do care and are trying to make the USG successful. Unfortunately, the majority of the USG is only concerned with their own interests and has little regard for the betterment of the student body as a whole, even though IT'S OUR MONEY they're fucking around with. Fred Preston is a true failure and disgrace to our student body government system. He tries to do well and disbanded Polity, but he has another failure in his hands. We should use his salary for scholarships instead. Better yet, let's use his salary to pay for the Campus Recreation Center that he so desperately wants to build with our money when we won't even benefit from it. That would be better use of our money.

I am a member of a USG-funded organization and a payer of the student activities fee. I am also involved in a lot of other events and programs that benefit the student body. I care about Stony Brook and I try to do my part to make student life better. And it really pisses me off when I keep hearing about how our USG promotes their own events, and shifts on clubs and organizations that benefit the student body (like the SB Press), because they interfere with USG's agenda. Campus life could be a whole lot better if we had a functional USG, and it's frustrating that, as a senior, I won't be able to experience what that is like.

USG is full of corruption, incompetence, and unfairness. The students need to know how their student activities fee is being misspent. A source in USG has told me that they paid Dave Chappelle approximately \$80,000 to come to Stony Brook. Is this a wise use of OUR money? You can be the judge of that. It sure is a lot of money though.

It's obvious that the majority of students have NO faith in the system. All you have to do is look at the number of people who actually vote in the USG elections. It's a fraction of the student body. Something needs to be done to get more students involved. Instead of have no forum for candidates to speak to students how about a debate on SBU-TV? The first step is to put in place a system with responsible and qualified people.

Let's hope that USG either cleans up its act or has the same fate as Polity.

Concerned Student,  
James Santora

It's great to see our readers are not only paying attention, but care enough to send us feedback. If you all have such strong opinions on these matters, why not do some research, and write some articles. Letters are great for getting your opinions out, articles really drive the facts home.

Love,  
The Stony Brook Press

# He Who Falls Over the Same Stone Twice Deserves To Break His Leg

By Scott M. Perl

The first article I wrote for the Stony Brook Press was some time ago. It dealt with the recent Columbia disaster and the ramifications that the shuttle's destruction would have on the future of American spaceflight. Now, eight months later we are at the edge of the last frontier more than ever before. We've had our sights on Mars and its possibilities of life previously there, cooperation between space agencies have made it possible for many more countries to be involved with the heuristics of spaceflight, and finally, plans have already been made to either revamp the space shuttles' internal design or to make a completely new vehicle to ferry the astronauts to and from space and the International Space Station.

Upon the release of NASA's new or improved method of spaceflight, the data that we will get back from the Mars Exploration Rovers once they land on Mars, and the continued public and financial support from congress, this country, as well as the world, can look forward to accomplishing what we as human being do best: exploring and learning. But it is the learning aspect of the story that is the reason for this article. Not so much the learning and understanding that we will do, but what we should have already done.

It is a well known fact that if our species does not become a space-faring species, then we will become extinct and "go the way of dinosaurs." This is because of several reasons. Some of them being our inability to survive a catastrophic disaster should one come upon the Earth; the "safe zone" that our planet's orbit resides in is expanding further and further outward, but our orbit is not; and lastly, the surface of our planet will become unsuitable for life due to the aforementioned reasons and/or our own impact on the environment. These three examples are by far not the only ones we have to worry about, but they are the most severe.

To make sure that our race as a whole can survive, we have to make sure that we learn from the mistakes that we all have made here on our own Earth. If someone who has never heard of or met a human or known anything about our species saw us as we are today and learned about our history, what conclusion would they come up

with? In my opinion, they would think that our species has come somewhat far in terms of technological advances, but not very far in terms of understanding and growing. Space may give us a second chance to change all that.

For the first time, nations from all around the world are literally working together for one common goal. And it is actually working. There are hundreds of world-wide organizations that benefit from global support, and they too are very successful in what they do but, on the other hand, there are groups and organizations that were created for a common goal but are unsuccessful with completing their main objectives. So what do all of these factors have to do with the need for our species to become space-faring as well as form a new kind of learning? This is simple: our future.

As a species, making mistakes is part of anything new. The act and aftermath of making a mistake is learning from the experience without the benefit of previous knowledge. Once we learn from the mistake, then knowledge is gained. And then we work from there, it's that simple. Or is it? Our species has come a long way but we still are plagued by the same problems that haunted us centuries ago, they are just in new form based upon present day technology and way of life.

So what do we do? If our race is to survive by becoming a space-faring civilization, what steps must we do to insure our understanding of our past to prevent history from repeating itself? We need to get our answers by knowing the questions. What attitudes and backward ideas can prevent us from achieving our goals of space travel and ultimately survival? To begin with, humans have pride for their own "kind." This is different from nationalism. This kind of primitive pride is thinking that one's group is better than another

based upon some bias. Along with this pride, we can lose sight of the bigger picture. Whether the person's own "kind" is American, Iraqi, Asian, or Canadian doesn't matter. Creation of this "arrogant patriotism" can lead to the mental formation of "teams" within our planet, all competing for the same goals without respect to our fellow man.

The existence of the International Space Station is the ultimate show of force against this. The ISS was built with the cooperation of over 16 nations, all with the same common goal in mind and with respect to their fellow peers. Another attitude that can have detrimental effects of our future is what I would like to call "ignorant sight." This is when people think that a certain issue does not have any impact on them because the problem itself won't

come into play many years from now. This is easily seen when someone thinks: 'Oh, by then they would have thought of a way or by then they will have a cure.' What they do in this sense is that they rely on some time in the future to solve a problem whose solution cannot be seen in the present day. If the problem can't be answered now there is no reason why it will be answered at a later date. That is unless work is started to find a resolution.

Furthermore, we have the ability to anticipate what our future in space will be like based upon our actions now and from our newly found understanding based upon mistakes of the past. We can make life for ourselves easier or we can drive it into the ground. All we need to do is learn from our faults and move on from there. We can't be driven away by failure because failure is just as important as success; both of them exist so we can reach our end goals.



LITERARY SUPPLEMENT  
FALL 2003

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THE STONY  
BROOK PRESS



# Enjoy the Fresh Air of Due Praise

By David K. Ginn

So, research done right here at the campus has gone on to win the Nobel Prize decades later. Pretty far out, right?

Well, I suppose most of the student body doesn't really care that much, and it probably won't be long before it's twisted into some form of semi-patriotic iconography, but at least for now we can appreciate it for what it is without all the bullshit that will pile up around it for years to come.

Professor Paul Lauterbur conducted much of his research concerning nuclear magnetic resonance imaging here at the campus during the 1970s. This resonance imaging, known as MRI, is a type of spectroscopy that uses radio waves to zap molecules within a magnetic field. This process enables the detection of different types of cancer in living tissues.

So we have a great invention, one of the most significant advancements in the history of medicine, and the Nobel Prize awarded to a British scientist and a former LI professor. What else, do you ask?

How about that the proper name for this research is actually NMRI, standing for Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Imaging? Is there a reason we call it MRI? You bet your ass there is.

In our politically correct society, the number one concern is with making people feel safe. Of course, there aren't enough people in the world wise enough to realize that the more you try to make someone feel safe the less safe they actually feel. This is obvious, isn't it? The more you try to make people believe they need security, the more afraid they'll become. If someone told me to lock my doors because the boogeyman was coming, that wouldn't make me less fearful. It would scare the shit out of me.

But leave it up to Americans to place fear as their first priority. Leave it up to us to scratch off the N from NMRI because the word nuclear

frightens the hell out of us. I just thought I'd make that nice and clear for everyone while the Nobel Prize news is still bullshit-free.

Pretty soon we'll have a nice little shrine for Prof. Lauterbur, with a wonderful display of (N)MRI and how it works. My question here is: why now? This is the same question that I myself feel guilty about. Why am I writing this article now? Why not before? Why not sometime in the past thirty years while (N)MRI was being researched, conducted, and used?

Because the Nobel Prize is like the Academy Awards of society, where the best indie films don't go into theatres until after they win Best Screenplay. Now that Prof. Lauterbur has media-recognized proof of his brilliance everyone in the world suddenly knows his name. There's a vicious iconography on the rise, and it's headed straight for the good professor.

There's another subject that still remains bullshit-free, and maybe we should talk about that before it rides on the shoulders of the U.S. media.

This is the controversy concerning Raymond Damadian, the third mastermind involved in (N)MRI technology. Dr. Damadian, for reasons still unclear, did not receive the Nobel Prize with Lauterbur and British doctor Peter Mansfield. Why not?

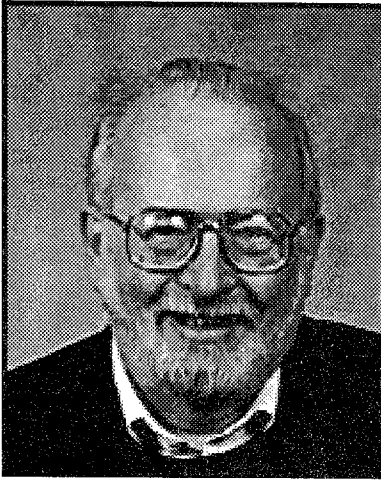
Only a few weeks ago there was an article published in Newsday that asked this very question. Why not Damadian? If you're able to tap into the Newsday archives, this would be a good article to look at. Dr.

Damadian, whose research dates back to 1970, was given the cold shoulder, and needless to say he's a little upset.

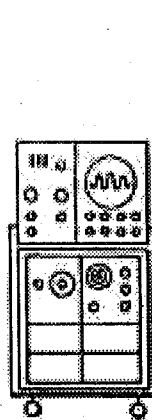
I'm sure Dr. Damadian realizes as much as everyone else that the Nobel Prize is just another media vehicle nowadays, but at its center it means a lot more. He wasn't working towards the Nobel Prize, and neither was anyone else. But the prize was awarded, and by rights he should be sharing that prize right now.

But the Nobel Prize isn't awarded anymore, is it? It's won. Now the entire world is taking place in the largest science fair ever to cover the globe. And the prize is none other than the much beloved (icon!!) Nobel Prize. So what do we do?

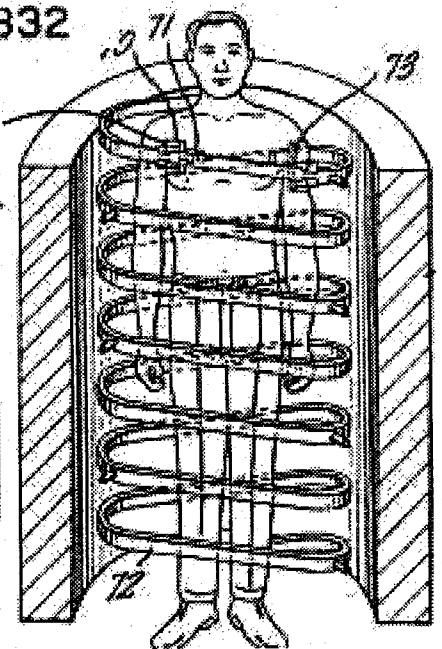
We relish in the clean air of a subject that has gotten surprisingly little media coverage, that's what we do. The PC omission of "N", the belated recognition for the research, the insult to Dr. Damadian's career, the denial of his share of the prize, and the iconography of the whole event are issues which will be butchered by the media within the next calendar year. So enjoy its purity while it lasts, because right and wrong won't be so obvious when politics step in.



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NUCLEAR INDUCTION APPARATUS & DISPLAY



## Texas Chainsaw Massacre

By Gregory Aiello

To listen to what Newsday says about this movie would be wrong. They say the 2003 Texas Chainsaw Massacre is not as good as the original made in 1974, and that they should have just left well enough alone. To me, this is not true in the least. I wonder if they were even watching the movie at all. The original Texas Chainsaw Massacre was a horrible, low budget, jumpy film that in comparison to the 2003 version takes a distant second place in my mind.

It is important to understand that the movie is not based on actual events. The character, Leather Face (Thomas Hewitt), is not running around free anywhere or locked up in a cell for his crimes. Even better, the character of Leather Face, and his entire family, is based on an actual killer named Eddie Gein who in real life did some incredible, horrific things including digging up girlfriends from graveyards, murder, theft, and a list of activities with dead body parts I won't get into. Eddie Gein was real. He died in 1984 but lives on in characters like Leather Face, Norman Bates (from Psycho), Buffalo Bill and Hannibal Lector. There's something scary about that, I'd say.

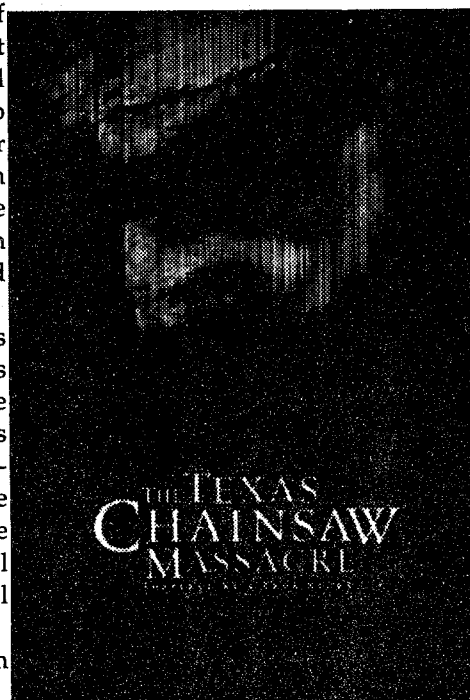
The movie itself is worth seeing in the theaters if you think you can handle it. Gore and violence and misuse of a chainsaw are all encompassed there. It has its moments where you may find yourself jumping out of your seat or clenching your fist so hard it hurts later on, and that makes it good. It also leaves you with that "look over your shoulder" feeling when you get home and your house is very, very dark and quiet. In my mind, definitely a good film.

R. Lee Ermey (why its just 'R.' I'll never know) takes a part of it all as the insane lawman, Sheriff Hoyt. He fits the mold well, but all throughout I couldn't help but chuckle a little at him all the while thinking of the off the wall insults he spun out during Full Metal Jacket.

I did have a problem

with the "teens" of the movie. The five road traveling main characters are supposed to be non-age-specific 70's people, on the border of being college dropout hippies, but in this 2003 version they don't seem like that at all. The lingo wasn't right at all, and they sounded and dressed like a bunch of 2003 alternative kids from the Northeast. It was a little annoying, but you can't sweat the small stuff.

It does indeed look good and smooth throughout the movie, and has a style that leaves a lasting impression and it works for the film, not against it. And might I add that looking at Jessica Biel for an hour and thirty-eight minutes makes it all the more easier. No doubt about it. See it to believe it. This one goes on the recommended list.



# Kurtis Blow, A Forefather of Hip-Hop, Makes A Campus Appearance

By Jackie Hayes

On Tuesday, October 21st, Kurtis Blow, a forefather of hip-hop, made a guest appearance at the WUSB 90.1 FM radio station on Stony Brook's campus. Quinn Hanratty featured Blow on his show "Fast Forward" which airs Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5:30pm. Blow was invited to campus with help from DJ Whatever and Darcel Kennedy. Blow welcomed questions from media groups on campus, discussing in depth the history of hip-hop and its effects on his life.

Blow was born in Harlem on August 9, 1959, as Kurtis Walker, and grew up during a time of social and political turmoil. Racial tension was high following civil rights conflicts that played out in many US cities. In 1963 Medgar Evers, an NAACP official, was killed by a sniper during his campaign to end segregation; in 1964 there were riots in Harlem, mostly due to the horrible slum conditions; in 1965 Malcolm X was shot while speaking in NYC; and in 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was shot in Tennessee, leading to more inner-city riots.

In 1969 Nixon was elected to the presidency and ushered in a period of conservatism, which proved to be devastating for many of New York's urban poor. His administration showed little more than apathy towards the worsening slum conditions. Kurtis Blow explained that during the 1970's, "South Bronx was being burnt down by slum laws and the depression... it was like a war zone." Blow continued, saying "it was a time of despair, a plight for the people of South Bronx and Harlem... yet a reporter had stated that buildings are burning down on one side of the street but kids are building stuff on the other side." Blow explains that the hip-hop culture came out of these conditions as an alternative. He stated, "Hip-hop is a culture, is a way of life... graffiti, DJing, MCing, rapping, we did it for the love. The way we walked, talked, ate, what we wore, it was our livelihood. It said not only are we gonna live, but we're gonna be beautiful." Blow's lyrics put out a positive message of struggle and survival. In "Under Fire" Blow wrote,

"Trying hard to make through the easy way of life  
Thinking you can fake it with a pistol or a knife  
You live it, you give it, you do it, you blew it  
And then you want to tell everybody you knew it  
It's easy to point your fingers  
And say you and you and you're wrong  
But when it's time to be about unity  
Huh-huh-huh you sing another song"

Hip-hop became a voice for the voiceless, a response to the overwhelming conservative voice,

which put the blame for worsening slum conditions on the backs of the poor and under-represented.

Blow enrolled in the City College of NY in 1976 and became program director at the college's radio station. Blow stated, "...college was the solidifying factor, the key to my success." While at college Blow states that he, "studied everyone and got [his] style from studying rappers, MC's, and orators... [I] took speech and tonality classes." Blow met up with Russell Simmons, Grandmaster Flash, and Mele Mel, who became the core of the early 80's hip-hop scene. After college Russell Simmons became Blow's manager and in 1979 Blow recorded, "Christmas Rapping." The single was an almost immediate success and landed him a contract with Mercury Records, making him the first rapper to sign a major record label. Later that year he recorded his self-titled debut, which also received wide support. Rolling Stone later attributed Blow as being, "instrumental in bringing rap from the underground to the masses."

When asked of his inspirations, Blow stated, "James Brown was the godfather of hip-hop, DJ Jones," which he described as, "the funkier cat I've ever heard." Blow also mentioned Cool Herc, DJ Jones, DJ Hollywood, and Lovebug Starsky as instrumental in influencing his musical career. He went on to explain, "hip-hop was a rebellion to the disco era... [it] revolted against disco and harked back to music we grew up on." Along with rappers, DJ's, and MC's, Blow drew his inspirations from famous orators, saying, "I studied all the greatest orators of my time," some of which included Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

Hip-hop has certainly come a long way since the 1970's; many feel it has completely severed itself from its humble roots. When asked to comment about contemporary hip-hop, Blow stated that, "Now hip-hop is more of a business, an industry." Despite hip-hop's stray from the streets to the business world, he emphasized the need to support new hip-hop, instead of criticizing it. Blow stated, "It's hard for me to talk about... I've made albums and never cursed, but overall I think it's taken off as a huge industry, there's work for the masses and I'm not mad at that." He continued stating that instead of

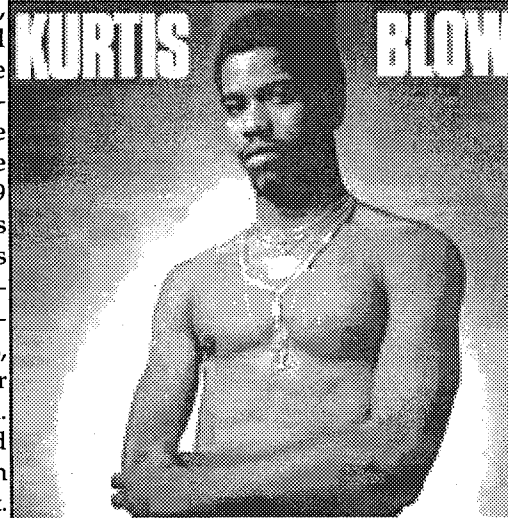
criticizing contemporary hip-hop, "we should reach out to them... you do it with love and supporting them. I'm not here to judge. I should first clean up all the skeletons in my closet before I talk about that." Blow's overall attitude towards contemporary hip-hop seemed to be a positive one. He concluded stating, "They've taken hip-hop to a new level," explaining that, "the older spokesmen of hip-hop have to be intelligent... have to ask them, now that you have this money what are you gonna do with it?" When asked about major musical differences between old school hip-hop and current day hip-hop Blow stated, "Lyrically the raps are faster, for me as an old guy, it's hard for me to keep up."

On October 13th, Blow received the Pioneer Award at the 2003 Source Music Awards, which will be televised on November 11th. This award acknowledges Blow's "contributions to the genre and culture that has become a worldwide, multi-billion dollar, phenomenon." When asked about his experience at the Source Awards, he stated, "I thought it was the best Source Awards ever. It was straight love... they gave me respect ... it was a great vibe, I'll never forget it as long as I live."

Blow's message overall was an inspiring one. His influence cannot be understated and the Source Award is certainly well deserved. As one of the forefathers of hip-hop he has worked hard to promote unity, love, and continued struggle. As he says in "Under Fire,"

"Well I am a member of a new breed  
And the solution is a revolution  
So I hope you all see the light  
Hear my name... Unite! To the next phase"

I'd like to thank Quinn Hanratty, WUSB, Asmar (a.k.a. DJ Whatever), and Darcel Kennedy for helping to bring a hip-hop legend to our campus and also for allowing the Press an interview. I'd like to especially thank Kurtis Blow for appearing at Stony Brook, along with being humble, friendly, and welcoming all our questions with understanding and insight. If you're into great music tune into Quinn Hanratty's show, "Fast Forward" from 2:30 to 5:30 pm on WUSB 90.1 FM.



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# Censorship, MP3s, and Corporate Hitmen?

By Michael Graffam

These are strange times that we live in.

Recently, many peer-to-peer file-sharing systems around campus have stopped working on ResNet. I used to run a Gnutella client for my file sharing needs, which no longer works. I've heard other people complain as well, though others seem to have success. Such are the vagaries of computer networks.

In either case, we all know why universities around the country are cracking down on peer-to-peer file-sharing: piracy.

But this article isn't about piracy. It's about free speech.

The Gnutella protocol was originally developed by Tom Pepper and Justin Frankel, of Nullsoft (makers of Winamp) in March 2000. It was released experimentally then, under a closed license, but version 1.0 was meant to be released under the GNU Public License, making it Free Software (see "The Free Software Foundation" [www.fsf.org], and "The GNU Project" [www.gnu.org]). Nullsoft was subsequently purchased by AOL, and the Gnutella project was killed when AOL found they couldn't make money on it.

But a number of free software hackers, among them Gene Kan, helped to create an entirely free implementation of the Gnutella protocol, insuring that a distributed file-sharing system is available to everyone - and more importantly that the code could be evolved by any programmer that found it interesting.

Soon after, 25-year-old Gene Kan would be found dead of a gunshot wound to the head (www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2002/07/09/gnutella-obit.htm). While officially ruled a suicide, conspiracy rumors abound. A hitman hired by the RIAA? Or perhaps a CIA spook looking to make sure the Internet remains easy to tap? I'd like to

hear Agent Mulder's take on this one.

Kan's genius, however, is the important part. He tweaked the Gnutella protocol in clever ways, and single-handedly advanced Sun's distributed software project. But his most important vision was that of making Gnutella a standard networking protocol by making it a portable library. For the uninitiated, this would allow other programmers to write application software (like web browsers, e-mail programs, and the like) which use Gnutella to transport information rather than the ordinary Internet channels.

Gnutella, and peer-to-peer networking in general, plays an important role in determining whether the Internet is used primarily as a corporate mass-media device, subject to corporate and government censorship, or a distributed network where content is controlled by the users. The majority of material on the Gnutella network is, of course, copyrighted: MP3s, movies, pornography, books, and software - but I have found a number of socialist newsletters, scanned flyers and such, as well.

Politically radical websites have been censored and harassed (see www.raisethefist.com). It is easy to do: intimidate the Internet Service Provider. But imagine a WWW distributed over Gnutella. Imagine being able to 'cache' your favorite websites so that you'll be able to browse them faster, and also so that the content is shared by many people over the Gnutella network and available widely. It would be much more difficult to censor unfavorable content, and physical network outages wouldn't upset information availability. It would be more difficult to monitor who is reading that content. The future evolution of distributed, peer-to-peer file transfer systems has implications far beyond mere copyright infringement,

and extends to free speech and the ability to 'peaceably assemble' on the Internet.

The RIAA certainly has a reason to dislike peer-to-peer networks ... but so do three-letter agency types - and they know it. The Department of Defense makes publicly available much of its computer security criteria. This criteria is published in an odious set of volumes (28, last time I counted) known as the 'Rainbow' books due to the fact that each volume has a different color cover. The practical upshot of these books is that hierarchical systems are good, because they can be monitored. That's what you want in the military, to monitor traffic and make sure there are no spies leaking information and so forth. The intelligence and law enforcement community likes the fact that the Internet is hierarchical: they don't have much control, but the little that they do have comes from this fact. Also, programs like Carnivore, FBI's e-mail eavesdropping system, would be more difficult to implement on a distributed network.

So, where does that leave us?

As always, in a dangerous situation. A lot of people pirate, and don't think of it as morally wrong. And most people think that free speech is a good thing. The technology that allows one, allows the other; we had better be very clear about the choices we make when we try to "crack down" on copyright infringement.

The television could have flooded the population with educational material, or works from the great authors - it could have enriched society, but it hasn't. If we allow the Internet to become a TV, where content is controlled by corporations rather than the masses at large, we will have lost the greatest opportunity ever afforded to us by technology.

## Drugs on Campus

By Nadia A. George

When I first came to SBU, I had made up my mind to get serious about school, quit drugs and videogames and get straight A's. The only flaw in my plan was my weak mind. I am certain that it had nothing to do with the fact my roommate baked out my room every single day. I'm sure it had little to do with my option to smoke on a blunt for free every time my roommate's high wore off; well he started charging when he started his own business (and not selling lemonade).

There are so many dealers in the dorms on campus I'm surprised by the lack of drug-related murders. Doesn't anyone realize they could triple their sales by eliminating the competition? I've smoked on the lawn across from the stadium parking lot, in the train station parking lot, in Kelly Deli (where you walk in), in the hallways of both Wagner and Langmuir, as well as in a room in every single quad.

Drug service on campus is incredibly faster than USB delivery and having the munchies certainly makes campus food more edible. My habit has helped me get a gpa below 1.5 while taking 12 credits. Just for reference there was one semester where I only did drugs twice and reeled in a gpa of 3.1 while taking 17 credits. Still I must be an idiot cause I have also screwed this semester up with drugs. I've watched some nice people who did drugs perhaps 12 times a year before Stony Brook max out at between 200 and 365 times a year once they came here. One I know is on his 3rd semester with an impressive GPA of 0.0. I think if Kelly Deli or the University Cafe sold marijuana cigarettes the school could make up for the decrease in state funds. Due to my own idiocy I've taken drastic measures to prevent myself from wasting my parents' money on weed. I

no longer carry cash on campus, I make sure I spend it all right away on hard liquor.

If you have read this far you might be annoyed by all my ranting about how readily available drugs are on this campus. After all, what can really be done about it if the majority of students don't do drugs? I mean why should SBU care about losers who can't remember or push themselves to excel in their classes while doing drugs? If some stereotypical college slacker can't motivate himself to take charge of his life and do what he needs to do to graduate, where is he going to find the motivation to drag his slob ass to the health center and engage himself in some sort of rehab?

I once confronted an RHD about the rampant drug use in his dorm. The answer I was given was that with no one willing to rat out their peers, nothing could be done. Don't be fooled, folks; this lack of rats at SBU may be conceived as loyalty to one's fellow schoolmates, but this lack of action is also a display of fear, apathy, and indifference as well. When I see that asshole 0.0 gpa motherfucker sitting around doing nothing or getting high. I tell him to go fucking study. I don't suggest it, I do my best to make him fear disobeying my will and kick his ass into gear, and ya know what, he listens...

Drugs are bad...ok maybe they are good, but they definitely are bad for people who just failed all their classes or close to it after spending a semester smoking 3 or more days a week. I'm not telling people not to do drugs, I'm telling people to not let drugs

fuck up your life, because if drugs, video games, and tv are your main extracurricular activities then you're a fucking idiot just like me.

And to those who have friends who are fucking up their academic career with this shit and wasting their parents money as well as breaking some mom's heart don't just stand there and watch them get flushed down the drain. Push them to change their habits. Actually be their friends. Or are you too afraid to tell someone they are fucking up? Are you afraid to keep your niggas in line? A friend is a brother; a friend is like family; you don't let them ignore their own problems and responsibilities. You push them to do well. If they really are your friend, their image reflects on what kind of person you are. It seems no one cares enough to rip the joint out of the idiots' hands. They're afraid of angering their "friend"; too afraid of upsetting the pothead community; they don't think it's any of their business. Well, if they consider you their friend it is your business. That you don't think anything you say will penetrate their thick skull is no excuse to take no action at all. Keep in mind only in the case of people who are going to be kicked out of school of failing their classes or losing their athletic scholarship do I endorse such drastic measures. For those drug users with a 2.0 gpa or higher, I commend your ability to balance drugs with school.

Now I've gotten myself all worked up, I feel like smoking a joint but, since I have no cash, I guess I'll go study for the two tests I have tomorrow. It's a good idea since I haven't gone to classes that much.

# THE COMICS SECTION

## Therev!; Verbatim

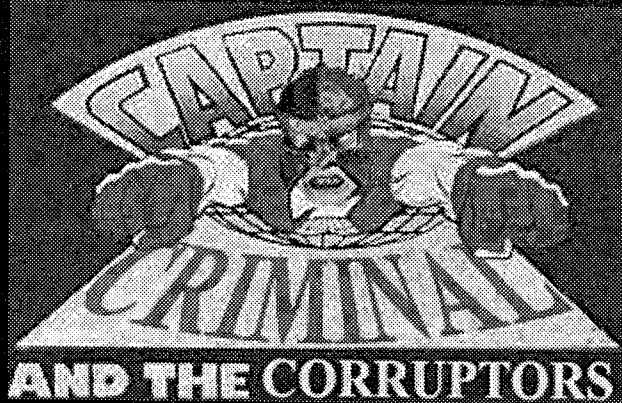
By Bev

I hope the  
revolution doesn't  
happen before noon.

I won't be **V**ery  
helpful before then.

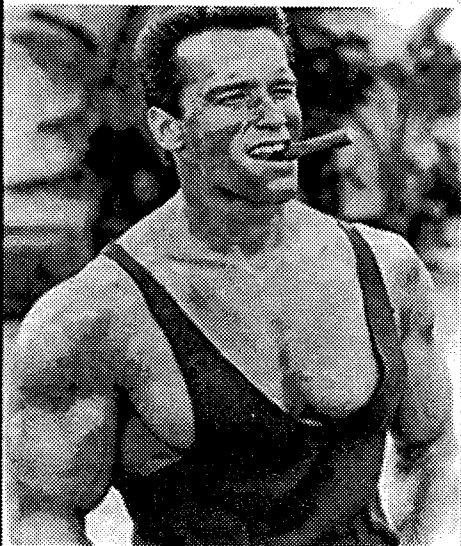




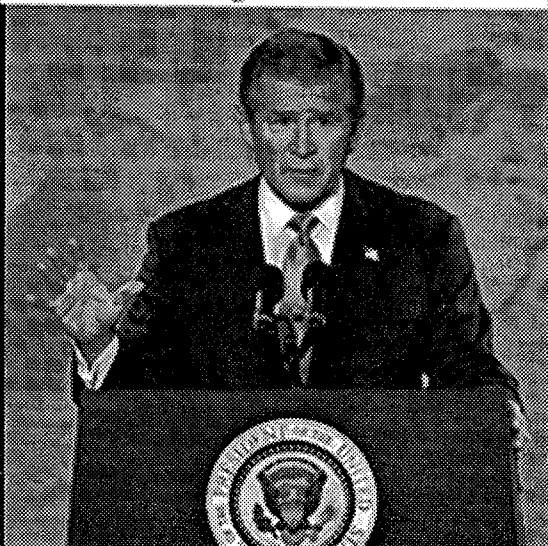


Our world is in harmony. Beelzebub, the Spirit of Hell, can no longer stand the terrible happiness plaguing the Earth. He sends five magic rings to five special young people:

ARNOLD, from Austria, with the power of GROPING.



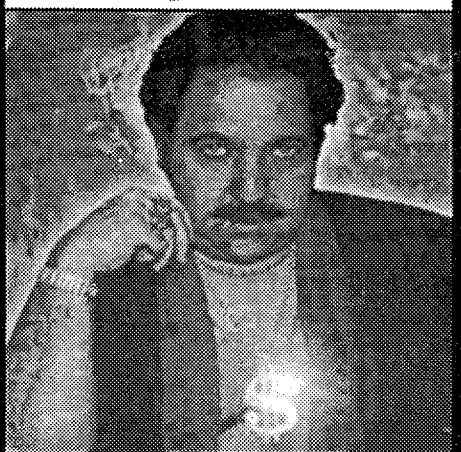
From Connecticut, GEORGE, with the power of SHIT.



From Seattle, BILL, with the power of TECH



From New York, RON, with the power of COCK.



And from New Orleans, RICHARD, with the power of FLAMBOYANCE.



When the five powers combine, they summon Hell's greatest champion, CAPTAIN CRIMINAL!



"GROPING," "SHIT," "TECH," "COCK," "FLAMBOYANCE"  
"Go Corruption!"

"By your powers combined, I am Captain Criminal!"

Captain Criminal, he's the man  
Gonna create crime cause he can  
He's our powers magnified  
And he's not on the planets side  
Captain Criminal, he's the man  
Gonna create crime cause he can  
Gonna help him beat and melt  
Good guys who like to always help

We're the Corruptors  
You can be one too  
Cause destroying our planets fun to do!  
Looting and polluting is the right way  
Hear what Captain Criminal has to say!

**"THE POWER IS OURS!"**

**ACTUAL CAPTAIN  
CRIMINAL  
ADVENTURES  
TO COME SOON**

**BY ADAM SCHLAGMAN**



# Quick Scenes from the Village Parade

by Daniel Hofer



Greenwich Village. The name is synonymous with freaks and weirdoes. Whether it be day or night, a person will be exposed to interesting characters. To most people, it would only make sense for the Village to host a yearly Halloween parade. And it has hosted a parade for the past 30 years.

According to the New York's Village Halloween Parade website, the parade is "the largest grass roots celebration of its kind in the country." A local puppeteer started it in 1973 for his children and their friends. The group walked around the neighborhood displaying their costumes. After the first year, a local group called Theater for the New City asked the puppeteer to make the event larger for their "City in the Streets" program. By the third year, the parade became its own separate non-for profit entity.

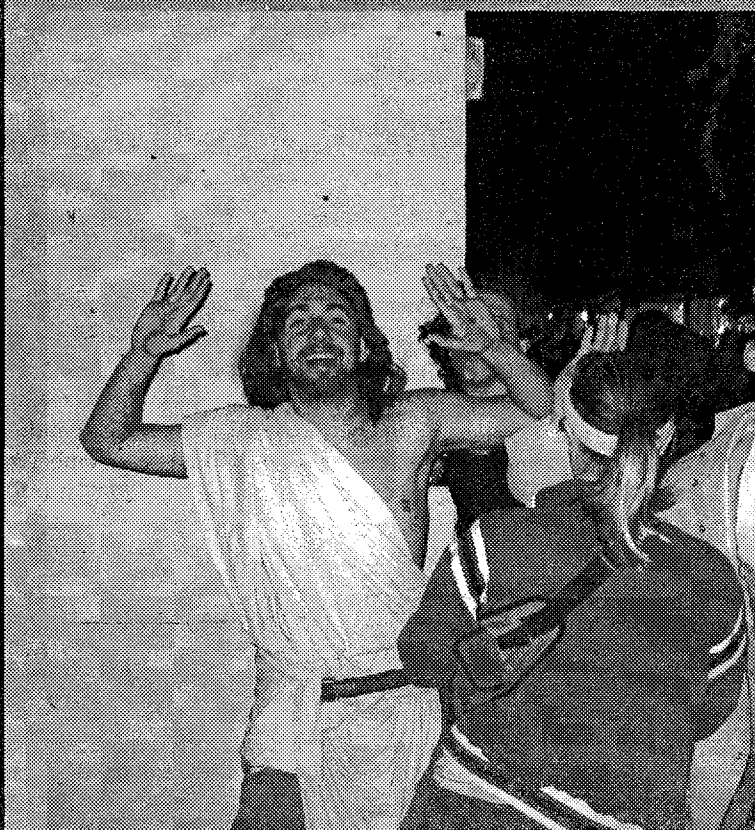
Initially, everyone who went to the parade was a partic-

ipant, and they would see performances along the sides of the route. However, as the parade became larger, it drew more spectators than participants. Nowadays, it is estimated that around 2 million people come to the parade.

One can think of the parade as a giant Halloween party. It is something everyone should experience at least once in his or her life. Unlike a house party, a person can spend hours walking around seeing new costumes over and over.

The crowds, while stifling and slightly insane, are always interesting to see. On the topic of insane, an old man marching in the parade had no costume. He wore a Yankees jacket and was banging a kitchen pan. On the pan was a sign, and it said, "Frightening! Yankees lose to a fish!"

Other costumes of note included a brick wall, Dubya in a tank (the crowds enjoyed booing him), a few priests looking for child daycare work, and a giant baby (who didn't like having his picture taken).





# Talking Shop With Chomsky

Continued from page 3

don't have the economic growth – you can't do it on the basis of nothing, there has to be some income coming in. They're trying now to develop tourism. The problem with tourism is that it's degrading. Tourism is a terrible fate on a country. You've got these rich, young Euro/American tourists coming in on a totally different plane than anybody who lives there, and the population become servants – they clean the tables, clean the restrooms, are prostitutes, taxi drivers, golf attendants. Very bad. And there's environmental degradation, which is dangerous. They have to keep plantations, which are beautiful, but can they sustain it in an international economy when they are competing with subsidized agriculture?

AT: With their literacy rate, do you think they can jump into the information age?

NC: You know, that takes capital investment. The information age is a funny thing because some of the most depressed and poorly paid workers are in the information field. If you call up to get an airline reservation or telephone information, you may be taking to someone in India who being paid pennies in order to answer your questions. And what they actually do in India, they take people, mostly young women, and they train them to talk in Boston accents or Alabama accents, and to ask you some questions about the Boston Red Sox, so you think you are talking to somebody here. But it's actually some poor person in Bombay, whose getting paid zilch. Like this woman working at an electronics assembly plant, she had this little bit of English knowledge, and she said, "but I get 12 hours off." There's things like that all over the world. Information systems is not high-paying; I mean it is for some people; if you're doing corporate engineering or a start-up, or something, you'll get paid a lot. But an awful lot of information systems, clerical work – very poorly paid, rotten conditions. And Caroli did that, but to go more upscale does require capital investment – they're trying.

AT: Where do you get all your sources, if we all want to be down with what you know?

NC: It's all public, if you look in (his books) it's all footnotes. The reason I put in heavy footnotes, is because people ask that question all the time – rightly. It's not gonna be easy sources, like you're not going to find it on the front page of The New York Times, but if you read carefully, like what I just said before about the British Financial Times. We are unusually privileged in that respect. There aren't any other countries that has things like freedom of information, and we have a ton of archival information. You know it's not right in front of you, but everything I said tonight comes straight from public record.

AT: I consider myself an anarchist, is it true that you are not a big fan of that term?

NC: Oh no, on the contrary. It does mean too many things, that's the only problem, it's used for every imaginable thing, including ultra right-wing capitalism. That's an American phenomenon. What's called libertarian in the United States, doesn't fit anywhere else. In Europe, libertarian means Socialist Anarchism, here it means right-wing Capitalism. That's the thing, the term means just about anything you can think of – you don't know what somebody means when they say they are an anarchist.

AT: Do you think we can effect any significant political change without a change in the consumer culture?

NC: No, partly because the consumer culture is a

technique of control. Consumerism, which is forced down your throat from infancy, is a way to control people. I mean, you're supposed to spend your whole life with five maxed-out credit cards ... If you're interested, there's a new book that came out that's not bad called The Consumerist Trap, by Michael Dawson, University of Illinois. Other ones have come before it, but his book is good, it's about how the system is created basically in order to control and trap people.

AT: Would this be a good time for activists to organize something to say, get people to stop drinking Coke? (Chomsky was drinking a Coke.)

NC: (He laughs.) Well, Coke is a special case. (We both laugh.) It's just the mad consumerism. Just not participating is OK, but that's not really breaking it. People have to think through how they want resources to be spent. Do you want decent schools and decent health and a democratic system, or do you want to have a pile of commodities that you don't need, but will have to pay for for the rest of your life. It is a technique of control. The U.S. has now, since Reagan, the highest workload in the industrial world, the lowest wages in the industrial world, and massive debt. So families are just trapped. One of the reasons it's really hard to organize hard-working people, is they work too hard, and they're too indebted, they can't think of anything else – that's the point. So that's got to be broken; it does start with infancy, I sometimes watch television with my grandchildren, they have programs for two-year-olds, they're already trying to force idiotic products on them ... (Advertisements) induce the philosophy of futility, and concentration on the superficial things in life ... So just as the factories are controlling people and turning them into robots on the job, we can control them and turn them into robots off the job; namely by imposed consumerism. If they are really hooked on commodities; What do you see? You see teenage kids walking around, that's their recreation – window shopping – their goal, their ambition.

AT: Did you watch the Michael Moore documentary "Bowling for Columbine?"

NC: (Laughs) Oh yeah. It was the first movie I've been to in 5 years. It was good. He did real good. People have told me he's done better ones, which I haven't seen.

AT: His next documentary particularly has to do with the government and their direct involvement with the events of 9-11. He's been getting a lot of flack over it, of course.

NC: Yes, well I thought his movie was terrific. Actually, you know where I saw him first, it really shocked me. I still don't understand it. I was giving some talks in Milwaukee, last November or something, and in-between talks I had an hour free so I went back to the hotel where I was staying at and I figured I'd try to get BBC or something and I turned on the tube, and I got Oprah which I had never seen before. To look at it, it's pretty amazing, it's like a caricature of middle America; and all the people are sitting there with these blank faces. Well, she had Michael Moore on and he was saying things that I couldn't believe he could say on television. And they showed a clip from his movie and everyone was cheering, and he was telling them how awful they are and how they are slaves – and they loved it.

AT: What I find really amazing is your unwavering optimism. I just feel like I want to crawl in a hole sometimes when I think about the trench-heap state of political affairs we are living in.

NC: Well, that optimism is because things are so much better than they were. Think about things in the 1600's and the 1700's. It's not like that anymore.

And if you go back further it's the same thing. There's just been a big change in consciousness and awareness, and it did not come by magic, it came by a lot of people working on it – hard, and constantly. It's not a victory that you win in a day. It's gonna take a lot of work, but it can be done.

AT: But will humans even make it? Will we ever even see the victory?

NC: It's true, our species is right on edge of extinction. It's a very close call: it could be nuclear weapons, it could be the destruction of the environment.

We are just close to self-destruction.

AT: Yeah, I can feel it.

NC: In fact, Ernst Mayr, the grand old-man of biology, a famous Harvard biologist, about 10 years ago he was in a debate with Carl Sagan about extraterrestrial intelligence. Sagan is an astrophysicist, he was very optimistic about it, but Myer argued that it was extremely unlikely. His argument was very interesting. He said that we only have one example of life, with the Earth. On Earth there has been about 50 billion species, and the one's that are successful are things like beetles, which are stuck in a little niche, or bacteria which can mutate all over the place. But when you go up to organisms that have what we call higher intelligence they get much fewer, much less successful. There is only one, he said, that achieved what we call 'higher intelligence' and that's us. And we have been around very recently – only the last 100,000 years. There is no indication that it is a biological success. In fact, no indication at all, and he ends up saying that have no reason to believe that it is better to be smart than stupid, quite the opposite, in fact, from the biological standpoint. And then he adds that the average lifespan of a species is about 100,000 years, which we've already hit and we've reached the point where we can easily destroy ourselves.

AT: Do you believe in aliens?

NC: (He laughs.) Well, you know about half the population of the United States thinks that aliens are among us, or that their friends have been abducted and had experiments done to them. I remember reading some of my crazy mail in the office and it was about aliens and we were joking. And we've got this place in Arizona and the staff had never heard of people that didn't believe in aliens and that they were among us. And then they started telling us stories about their friends who've been abducted and experimented on. And they literally had never met anyone before – they thought everyone knew it. And these are reasonably educated people with college degrees. You know, Amberly, this is a scary country in a lot of ways.

AT: Yes Noam, yes it is.

# TOP TEN Battle of the Century

## Places To Fuck A Sheep

10

Edge of a cliff, so the sheep will be afraid of falling off the cliff and will push back harder against your dick

9

Damien Hearst Retrospective

8

Frat House (Get it, Greeks are Sheep!)

7

The Petting zoo. Just make sure you romance them a little bit first with some food pellets

6

Canada. Those lousy pancake-flipping sheep fuckers

5

Airplane bathroom

4

The Matrix- "wool-et Time" is almost funny

3

Shari Lewis' burial plot

2

Mouth

1

In the bedroom, under the covers, missionary position, with the lights out. I'm not into all that Kinky stuff

HAL-  
LOWEEN  
TREATS

TURNING  
TRICKS

PRO

- Your candy tastes like Mom

- Cow tails

- Rake in unsupervised kids

- "Trick or treat, smell my feat. Give me something good to eat"

- Bobbin' for apples

- Almond Joy's got nuts

- Your Mom tastes like candy

- Undergraduate tail

- Rake in the cash

- "20 bucks for a handjob"

- Knobbin for money

- Mounds don't

CON

- Leads to obesity

- Lots of cavities

- Candied apple has a razor blade

- Old ladies that give you pennies

- Having to ring all those door bells for a week's supply of sugar

- Candy-induced stomachache that make you cry

- Leads to herpes

- Unlubricated cavities

- "Candy" has an Adam's Apple

- Old ladies that pay in pennies

- Having to suck all those dicks for a day's supply of coke

- Cleveland steamer-induced introspection that makes you cry

# Suffolk College Silences a Reporter (And a Newspaper)

By Maury Hirschhorn

As past editor-in-chief and present assistant editor of the Western Student Press (WSP), the student newspaper of the Michael J. Grant Campus, of Suffolk Community College (SCC), Ursula Monaco, 55, wrote and assigned many articles and editorials critical of the college administration.

Monaco also cursed too often.

This summer, the combination of Monaco's cursing and her articles led to her removal and censorship from all SCC student newspapers for this semester. Some are calling administration's actions payback.

"They seized on this event to silence a critic," said Jeff Kleuwer, Journalism professor and former WSP faculty advisor.

"Because of the critical articles and editorials I wrote and assigned, I got a lot of people angry at me," Monaco said. "[Also], they didn't like that I complained to the legislature about some of their policies... They were looking to get rid of me for a long time."

In May 2003, for an article she was writing, Monaco tried to get a photo from the Compass, the Ammerman Campus student newspaper. Angry that Journalism Professor and Compass faculty advisor Molly Altizer responded that only the WSP editor-in-chief could request a photo and not her, Monaco complained by e-mail to a friend, former WSP faculty advisor and Associate Mathematics Professor Kathryn Benjamin. In her e-mail, Monaco wrote, "Dear Kathy, Can you believe that cunt! And she had the balls to reply all. Ursula."

However, by mistake, Monaco sent that e-mail to Altizer, who contacted college administrators. They had a disciplinary hearing against Monaco in June and found her guilty of violating the college's code of conduct by verbally abusing and threatening Altizer.

The committee ruled that Monaco couldn't participate or have contact with any SCC student newspaper and couldn't visit the offices of a SCC student newspaper. They further ruled that Monaco couldn't submit letters-to-the-editor to those papers, couldn't suggest an article to anyone associated with those papers and couldn't approach a member of the campus community for the purpose of collecting information to write a news article.

Monaco contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), student journalist advocacy organizations, to help her, and they wrote letters to college administrators. Monaco also testified about her situation before the Suffolk County Education and Youth Committee. But, so

far, the penalty still stands.

Members of FIRE and SPLC said that Monaco's e-mail is constitutionally protected speech.

"Cursing is protected by the First Amendment," said Mark Goodman, executive director of the SPLC. "It's offensive but legally protected... If every person in college was held responsible by every off-color remark, many of the college would be under a disciplinary hearing."

"Vulgarity is protected speech under the First Amendment," said Greg Lukianoff, director of legal and public advocacy at FIRE. "You can't make the argument that an e-mail accidentally sent to a professor is harassing and an eminent threat... This was a chance to silence a long-time critic."

In a letter to SCC President Salvatore LaLima, Lukianoff referred to the 1971 Supreme Court case *Cohen v. California*, in which the court ruled that the words "Fuck the Draft" on a Vietnam War protester's jacket were constitutionally protected speech, even if the jacket was worn in a courtroom.

"That hearing was a kangaroo court," Kleuwer said. "Their decision was absurd."

LaLima disagrees. He wrote a letter to Lukianoff, which read in part: "Ms. Monaco's discipline... does not interfere with her First Amendment rights. Participation on the student newspaper is a privilege, not a right... Freedom of speech is not absolute. When speech becomes harassing, intimidating and threatening, it is no longer protected speech."

Other college administrators involved in the case refused to comment, citing confidentiality and FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

Mary Lou Araneo, vice president for institutional advancement at Ammerman Campus, said this particular case is confidential but added that any student who curses at a professor in a threatening way would receive a similar sanction.

Ursula Monaco was a WSP student journalist periodically since 1992. She wanted to go to college sooner but couldn't because she got married and had to raise four children. She's a part-time student and not interested in getting a degree.

One of the more contentious editorials she

wrote was about Lalima creating a commission to look into the possibility of combining the three SCC campus newspapers into one paper. Monaco also complained about the commission to her legislator, which led to a hearing at the Education and Youth Committee in May 16, 2002. Eventually, the committee voted against having a unified newspaper.

Another editorial Monaco wrote, in April 2002, criticized administrators' plans not to appoint the faculty advisors that WSP staff wanted. Jeff

Kleuwer and Kathryn Benjamin were past WSP advisors and popular with students. However, Executive Dean Joann Braxton refused to hire them back as advisor and co-advisor. Instead, she hired Gregg Sarra, Newsday sports editor and not a member of the faculty. The English department passed resolutions against administration's actions, but they not considered, according to Kleuwer and Benjamin.

Braxton would not agree to an interview despite several requests.

Another series of articles Monaco wrote in March and April of 1996, highlighted administrators' and SCC Board of Trustees' attempts to bring a baseball stadium to the Michael J. Grant Campus over faculty objections. The stadium was eventually not built there.

Currently, the WSP is feeling the absence of Monaco, Kleuwer and Benjamin. Staff meetings aren't posted or regularly scheduled. There's a sign on the WSP door that says that students can get staff applications from the student activities office. However, when students ask for applications there, they don't have them. Also, much of the equipment isn't working, which is an old problem. No WSP issues were published this semester.

Gregg Sarra denied he's responsible for the paper not publishing. "Many people don't come to the staff meetings because they have other commitments and engagements," he said.

However, according to Kleuwer, Sarra isn't making a good effort to get new staff members. "I invited Gregg Sarra to speak at my journalism class to get staff for the newspaper," he said. "So far, he hasn't come."

Currently, Monaco is publishing her own small monthly newspaper called the Brentwood Journal, which she distributes around campus and the community. "So far, my newspaper is the only one students see around campus," she said.







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# Ask Amberly Jane

By Amberly Jane

"God-fucking-bless-America," I exclaimed when I was frantically fishing through my bag in search of a writing implement, instead stumbling upon the sweet miracle of gum. What a nice surprise, now I can feel fresh all over – a mandatory endeavor the day after Halloween in New York City, after 16 shots worth of parties and a run-in with the law.

I was sitting on the grass in Washington Square Park, with assorted city-dwellers splayed around me in various stages of undress; some stragglers still in costume, strung-out from the previous night's debauchery. The heat was right for it, a real record-breaker. Even New Yorkers aren't above donning a simple g-string and strutting around when it's above 75 degrees in November. And we survived Halloween, a dicey proposition, but surely something to celebrate nonetheless. One conservatively-dressed woman dropped to her knees in front of me and landed softly, face-first, into the grass, a blissful expression washing over her face. The sun is healing, and we were all serene, recuperating after a night of heavy living.

Halloween in the city was a carnival for the eyes, a voracious feast of every street freak, weirdo and junkie who could fashion a pointy hat and locate a broom – they were already missing several key teeth – so the look was complete.

However, maybe I should start with the night before – a grand house-party with 50 of my closest friends. Memories of this are extremely hazy. I remember getting prodded by an inflatable woman, fondling a few people of my own, an in-depth Star Wars conversation, and a guy with used tampons all over him. I was the Goddess Athena; wreath of leaves, lightning bolt dagger, the whole nine. The only thing: she was virginal, and I ... am not.

Halloween night, like far-off points in all directions, my friends converged on West 8th Street. At first, on our way to the parade, one of our gang got lost in the myriad of costumed creatures – the Mona Lisa, and 7 Skittles girls of various colors, to whom my friend Beatle said he'd like to taste their rainbow. But when one was lost, another was found, and we stopped

briefly, transfixed by the paper snakes and wire bats overhead, before continuing on our original itinerary.

The first party was smallish; Oscar the Grouch and Larry from Three's Company were in attendance. The hostess, who said she was Puss 'N Boots, (although with her shaved head she looked more like Ripley), had an apparatus hanging from her ceiling that looked like a pull-up bar, but on closer inspection, I recognized it as the latching for a Sex Swing. I had a drunken conversation about it with the hostess' 'boyfriend,' only to be informed by the hostess – "Actually, my boyfriend is not a 'he' – 'he' is a 'she', but 'she' likes to live as a 'he.'"

OK. I think I babbled something about loving all different kinds of people, which I realized was probably lame a second after I said it, but at this point I was three sheets to the wind and normal social graces alluded me.

Which may be why I had a problem with the boys in blue.

For the second party we traveled right into the heart of the mob, somewhere around Christopher Street I think. Wall-to-wall people in a lemming-like trance, pushed and maneuvered as a collective. Throngs of young hopefuls cashed in on the warm weather to wear the sluttiest concoctions possible. We watched from the 2nd-story roof as angels and devils caroused below, a glut of superheroes, fuzzies, rednecks, nurses, Storm Troopers, and boys in drag – and I did notice at least three different men with huge fabric cocks protruding from their bellies. The words of Captain Jack resounded through my head – it WAS like some pornographic magazine. I smiled.

Throughout the night, at every turn, someone was handing me some drug to consume. The roof was no different, and as I took a long drag from the pipe, I noticed a cop below had spotted us, and was barking wildly into his shoulder gadget. This shouldn't have surprised me – the street was filled with no less than 45 blue boys, all ready to pounce at a moments notice. I was feeling feisty, and as the pig was pointing at us, I waved and gave him the universal New York hand gesture for 'What's it to you!'

In less than 10 minutes the suits were upstairs, and the heat I had been waving to cornered me in the kitchen. "It's YOU I want to talk to," he said. I felt something between us ... and not his riot gear. (He was cute – too bad he and his fellow law enforcement officials are the real violent element.) The cop informed me, as usual, of their supreme omnipotence. "We know what you are doing, so you'd better stop," was the directive. It could have gone worse, I suspect, but at that point I was drunk and insolent. I had nothing illegal on me, and no ID, so I was in the clear. As he left I told him to 'watch his actions and do the right thing.'

Shortly thereafter, we hoofed it to another shindig somewhere – a make-out party, and cavorted into the wee hours, getting sloppy and silly. Yes, Halloween was filled with spooky revelry and sweets of all kinds. I hope yours was as well.

Q: Dear Amberly Jane,

I really, really, really want to have anal sex with my girlfriend, but she says she tried it once with someone else, and is pretty sure she doesn't like it. I bring it up a lot but she always says 'no.' How can I convince her?

Signed – 'Back-door Man'

A: Dear Back-door,

First of all, you have to face the grim, meat-hook reality that you may NEVER get to plug your girlfriend in the ass. Some people will never be converted, and as we all know you must respect her boundaries. But I definitely condone communication; maybe her previous ass-experience was with a man with a bigger dick and was painful, maybe she didn't use lube, maybe she'll consent if she can use a strap-on and fuck you in the can, so you'll both be even.

Remember, if a girl says she's uncomfortable doing something with you in bed, don't just go and get her another pillow – that's probably not what she means.

E-mail questions or comments to AskAmberlyJane@hotmail.com.



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# Brian & Rob's NES Corner

By Brian Wong and Robert Kruper

In this new and, we hope, regular column (if we can overcome our inherent laziness), we will be reviewing old NES role-playing games. There is no purpose for this other than that we want to.

This week we will be reviewing *Ultima: Exodus*. It was originally developed and released by Origin in 1985 for DOS and then, after some minor tweaking, it was re-released for NES in 1989. This game and the one that preceded it have led to one of the most successful and popular RPG series of all time with the new *Ultima Online* having over a quarter of a million subscribers. In the role playing community, its prestige is only rivaled by the *Final Fantasy* series. The amazing thing is that after playing *Exodus* anyone thought they should release a sequel, but then again if Charlie's Angels got a sequel, what can't?

The first problem is that like all old Nintendo games, you are thrown into the fire without any direction or idea of what is going on. For example, what's the deal with *Super Mario Brothers*? The game starts and next thing you know you are running and jumping and bashing bricks with your head, and the only reason you continue to run right is because you can't go left. Unfortunately, *Ultima* doesn't give you the luxury of being a unilateral game. At first, you think "Wouldn't it be great if in a game I could do anything I want to just like real life, I should be able to go anywhere, talk to or even fight anyone I want?" Well, don't worry; *Ultima* gives you all those choices. Regrettably, in a game with no instructions, this only leads to trouble. Why wander aimlessly to find and kill "Exodus" (we'll get

back to those quotations in a minute) when you could fight a little girl. Just like in real life, fighting little girls is easy; unfortunately, the guards don't like that and aren't as easy. This makes it impossible to get anywhere in the game.

If you do choose to try and beat the game, it's still hopeless. Earlier I said the game gave you no instructions but this was a half-truth. You are told by the king in the beginning that "Exodus" is ravaging the land and it is up to your four characters to stop him. Why you, who is "Exodus" and how you are supposed to stop him are forbidden questions. So, you basically wander around fighting monsters with the worst fighting system I have ever seen. You spend ten minutes on insignificant fights in which half of that time is spent walking next to the monster. All monsters are fought the same way, exchanging blow for blow. To make things worse, level 20 monsters give you the same gold and experience as level 1 monsters. When you are not doing that, you are trying to talk to the people in the towns for some clue as to what is going on. The townsfolk range from dim-witted to downright malicious, with many intentionally misleading tips. At one point in the game, an old man says "Never drink from the fountains in the dungeons" and the man three steps next to him says "Drink from the fountains in the dungeon if you are tired." The only conversation in the whole game is when someone says, "It's late turn the game off and go to bed."

What else made the game horrible you might ask? Well, when you enter a dungeon it sud-

denly becomes first person; because Nintendo is 8 bit, you'd go from one still picture to the next, which made it impossible to keep track of anything. The game also had two moons with different phases that made towns and moon gates appear and disappear at what appears to be random. This meant you could walk past a place 50 times and suddenly there would be what you been seeking for the past 4 hours. Still, the award for biggest flaw goes to (drum roll) ... the fact that there are no places/items to recover health or magic. This means you must walk in circle until your magic goes up and then, if you need health, cast a heal spell. Repeat as necessary.

So let's say you get through all that and make it to the end of the game (thank you, gamefaqs.com). You're in the last castle and reach the last part; it will soon be time to fight "Exodus". Suddenly the game instructs you to place the cards you have collected (which were never mentioned by anyone in the game) in the correct order. This will obviously lead to the final battle of good versus evil; maybe it was all worth it. Carefully, you place the cards and palms sweating hit the button. At this point the game informs you that you have defeated "Exodus" and, like all heroes, you run away. You run out of the castle, the king says three sentences to you, the credits roll, and the game flies across the room like a Frisbee.

All in all, this game was horrible. Never play it.

If you would like to comment on this review or have another Nintendo RPG we should review (especially if we can borrow it) Email us at [brianandrob@mail.com](mailto:brianandrob@mail.com)

Ultima: Exodus

Then 8/10

Named "Role Playing Game of the Year" by Game Players Magazine (1989)

Now 1.5/10

Extremely flawed, crap

## 21st Century Noise Ain't More Than Noise

By Gary Lubrat

This 12 track compilation CD is a collection of bands that have yet to prove much to the musical world. What is so stark is David Bowie's appearance on this collection of poorly arranged songs. There is no need for this rock god to be with the likes of Howie Day and Travis. These songs are not quite impressive and the bands seem like nothing more than flash in the pan, 15 minutes of fame neo-rock stars. Oh, how I miss the days of good music.

Howie Day frightens the hell out of me. Lacking innovation and originality, Howie Day is the third and final missing piece for what I like to call, "The Triumvirate of Bad Acoustic Guitarists." Jason Mraz and John Mayer fill out the aforementioned two positions of the triumvirate. Howie Day first hit the scene with his underground hit LP, "Australia." I am not discrediting Day's ability to play the guitar, but I am certainly downplaying the creative drive in this young man's blood. I've heard the terrible musings of John Mayer and Jason Mraz and just because one can play the guitar does not make one a worthy musician for the general public. There are too many acoustic guitarists saturating the market that are marginally talented and actually believe that they are the next Beatles, or Eric Clapton for that matter. The late Elliott Smith was what a solo acoustic guitarist should be. He epitomized infectious riffs and intelligent lyrics. Day is a John Mayer/Jason Mraz, but in different

clothes.

Travis is a promising young band. Although it seems as if they are trying to hard to follow in the typical British rock band mold, it appears that they definitely have untapped talent. "Re-Offender" and "Beautiful Occupation" are great songs, but one must bear in mind that this is the early sign of perhaps a great band. Radiohead, Oasis, Blur, and even the semi-talented Coldplay have made it big in the United States. Indeed, England seems to have a stranglehold over the music industry. Maybe Travis can hit it big and become another British sensation. And if so, let's hope they take MTV by storm and inject some sorely needed fantastic music.

David Bowie - what more can I say? Out of all of the artists featured on this compilation, Mr. Bowie is the only one who has consistently and continuously proved his worth. His new album, "Reality," isn't exactly groundbreaking, but it's still a great Bowie venture. "New Killer Star" is a great single off of the album and it was the only song off of this CD that I listened to more than once. All hail David Bowie's greatness.

Another band that seems promising, but appears to be stuck in the Andy Warhol era, is the Raveonettes. Seeming to be a neo-Velvet Underground punk act, the Raveonettes show minimal creativity and decent talent. Their first outing, "Whip It On," was quite boorish and their sec-

ond album, "Chain Gang Of Love," does not appear to break the chain, no pun intended. It appears that they are trying to do a White Stripes imitation at times, but sadly, neither member of this band possess the tremendous guitar ability of Jack White.

The other half of the album is decent, at best. Phantom Planet, Wheat, Kittens for Christian, and Porch Ghouls all can be summed up by one word: average. Seriously, I wasn't all too disappointed and not all that impressed with these songs. I think the biggest thing I felt that was missing was innovation. True defenders of quality music are sick and tired of seeing the same neo-punk crap on MTV. That Good Charlotte shit and whoever the hell else impedes the creation of good music needs to go. Every time I turn on that dreaded MTV I see the same junk. And even if it is another band, they all sound alike! This world needs something fresh, something new, and something worth listening to. If this album is indeed an indication of the direction of 21st century music, I'd like to be left behind. Unless David Bowie sticks around for another thirty years (who knows, he is David Bowie, after all), this current century appears to be in for another musical bitch slap, courtesy of MTV and poorly managed bands. Beck, Radiohead, and R.E.M. need to record again, and soon. Save the 21st century, please.



# Will Limp Bizkit Be Eaten Alive?

By Anthony Brancato

The recent Limp Bizkit saga has finally come to a close. The past year has consisted of many ups but mostly downs for the self-proclaimed, non-nu-metal band. In the last year, Limp Bizkit was forced to replace guitarist Wes Borland, deal with the personal life of lead singer Fred Durst, and re-record the new album with new guitarist Mike Smith after Durst had helped record much of the album with different auditioning guitarists. And, oh, not to mention the band had to deal with publicity and avoid embarrassment after they were booed off the stage during a Summer Sanitarium show in Chicago. Also, to add insult to injury, Limp Bizkit is being sued by 172 of these same people because they were forced to shorten their set. And some of you think you've had a bad year, huh?

Limp Bizkit originally burst on the scene in 1997 with Three Dollar Bill Y'all which sold about 1.5 million copies. They became one of the top bands in the nation as they were one of the first bands to really exploit what has become known as nu-metal. They reached new heights with their second album, Significant Other. The lead single "Nookie" helped propel Significant Other onto the top of the Billboard charts in 1999. Their third album Chocolate Starfish and Hot Dog Flavored Water, also hit number one on the Billboard charts in 2001 but the success of that album was short-term. As the nu-metal era seemed to come to an end, so did Limp Bizkit's popularity and they have been on an uphill climb ever since (or downhill stumble, however you want to look at it).

Through all the drama of the past year, Limp Bizkit managed to finally complete their new album in the late spring for a September release date. Due to the departure of Wes Borland, the band actually had to rewrite the album after it was more than half done which postponed the album that was originally due out before they started the Summer Sanitarium tour. After tossing around names such as Bipolar, Less is More and the ever-popular Panty Sniffer, the band finally settled on the less-colorful title *Results May Vary* for their new album that was released a little over a month ago.

The album's instrumental sound is not

like what is typical of Limp Bizkit, not just in the absence of Wes Borland, but it seems Limp Bizkit has changed their style of music. Despite their DJ, Lethal, stating that the whole rap element in metal is "done" and "it's time to move on," rap is still a major presence on *Results May Vary*. In fact, on two of the album's tracks, rap is directly associated in the song.

In the song, "Red Light, Green Light," Durst collaborates with rapper Snoop Dogg, where Snoop shows off the rapping skills that made him into the icon he is today; unfortunately I can't say the same for Durst or DJ Lethal. In this song, Lethal conjures up a soft, bland beat with Fred Durst's voice echoing in the back. This can only make one think that DJ Lethal was probably unaware Limp Bizkit was making a hip-hop track, with rap-metal being "done" in the band's music and all.

On the track "Gimmie the Mic," Fred spoils the perfectly placed power chords of new guitarist Mike Smith, with rapping vintage Durst lyrics such as "fuck all of that shit" and "who's getting their shit tossed?" Then, interestingly enough, as a pre-chorus he covers Rakim's "Microphone Fiend" by screaming "...step into a world that you've never seen when I'm fiending for a microphone." It's also never good when a band has to let their listeners know that they are listening to heavy metal, as he does on this very rap-metal track. The track itself is great once you are able to filter out Fred Durst's rapping and get into Mike Smith's power chords. Mike Smith isn't quite as skilled as Wes Borland, but his power chords will really get you into the music.

Enough Fred Durst bashing; *Results May Vary* has many strengths. Now, Fred Durst can't rap, but he can rock. In Limp Bizkit's first true

hard-rock song since "Faith," "Eat You Alive" tells of one of Durst's ex-girlfriends and how Durst is now better off. It's a very hard rock track as Durst's vocals seem to fit perfectly right into Mike Smith's guitar. The song is easily the best song on the album, which was a big mistake by

the band releasing it as the lead single, but what else would you expect out of Limp Bizkit. Though, when Fred slows down his rapping and the lyrics are deepened, the chemistry is there. On the track "Lonely World", Fred raps much slower and to deeper lyrics revealing his lonely past. It seems Durst may have gotten past the fact that he does give a fuck sometimes and so far at least some good has come out of it. In the song "Drown,"

Durst sings about the tough times that he has faced and thanks everyone who has stuck with him through those times. In the cover of The Who's "Behind Blue Eyes," Durst sings of loneliness and not being able to love. Though if you don't like this sensitive Fred Durst, at least check out the "Behind Blue Eyes" video which includes a Halle Berry cameo.

Overall, the album is a very big improvement over past Limp Bizkit albums and is arguably their best LP yet. Some of Limp's lyrics are much deeper than the "I don't give a fuck" lyrics that are typical of the band and, unfortunately, are still ever-present on *Results May Vary*. Fred Durst's rapping has been cut to a minimum on this album and he has finally shown that he isn't just a bad rapper, but a decent rock vocalist. *Results May Vary*, if you're a rock fan, is at least worth downloading from the internet (legally of course) but I wouldn't suggest actually buying the album. Out of 10, I give this album a 4.5.



## Die Trying - "Die Trying"

By Melanie Donovan

Being the fresh-off-the-assembly-line newest rock band, Die Trying has a lot to live up to. In a world where any old Joe next door can be the next Fred Durst you have to make your band stand out from the rest. That is exactly what Die Trying did not do. After listening to this album you cannot ask me to sing one of their songs because none of them really struck me or even tapped me. Nor could I pick any of them out in a line up of a group of average high school boys because that is how much uniqueness they have. So let's talk about Die Trying's new album called um... *Die Trying*.

This mix of songs that sound exactly the same are about the broken hearts and insecurities of some rebel kids just trying to make it. The first three songs, which sound like one song in my head, are songs that tell the story of crying over girls leaving you and the pain they cause. How sad. In their first single, "Oxygen's Gone" their pain is too much, "I can't sleep, I can't eat/ I cry out to God just to hear me." I guess loss of love can do that to you. This trend continues on through most of the songs and you cannot help but wonder who the bitch was who caused all this.

The song "Turn up the Radio" did sound

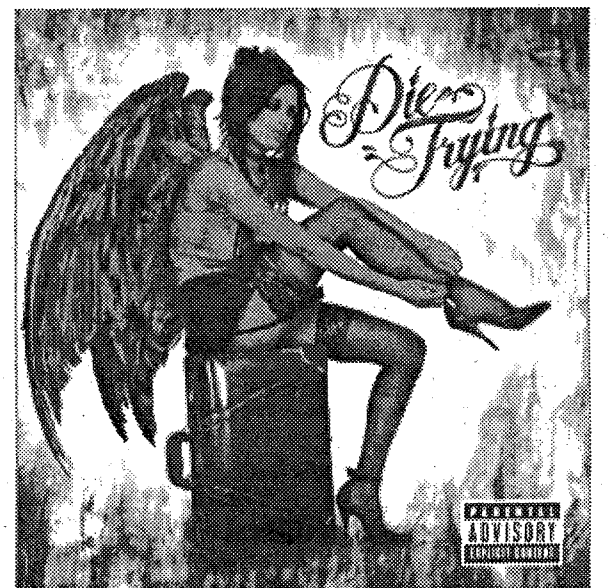
promising with some interesting guitar sounds and intriguing lyrics. "A thousand faces/ A thousand stories I'll never know," I thought this is something I can relate to. Then at the end it loses its stamina and ends up sounding like one of the first three tracks. But I'll give them points for the effort.

The next couple of songs show more of the "tough guy" attitude that we know and love from many bands today. I guess this is a switch from the desperate droning about ex-girlfriends and being lonely. The song "Love and Guns" shows their self esteem rising but ends up coming off as just cocky. Can there be no happy medium? Then the oh-so in depth song called "F\*\*\* You" really hits the spot.

Another track called "Dirty Dirty" samples from a Waitresses' old favorite "I know what boys like." It must be written somewhere in the "new album" handbook that you must have at least one cover song on any new release. And, who knows, the "dirty" part could be an ode to Christina Aguilera, which is something everyone wants to do deep down inside.

Do not even ask me about the last couple of songs. Do not get me wrong, I did listen to them; they were just so bad that I cannot even form a real

opinion about them. I mean come on; one of them is called "Die Trying." Hey guys you used Die Trying for the band name, the album name and a song name. Did you like it that much? Anyway, this album was a waste of my time and definitely a waste of your money. So here is my warning, Die Trying's *Die Trying*: listen at your own risk.





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