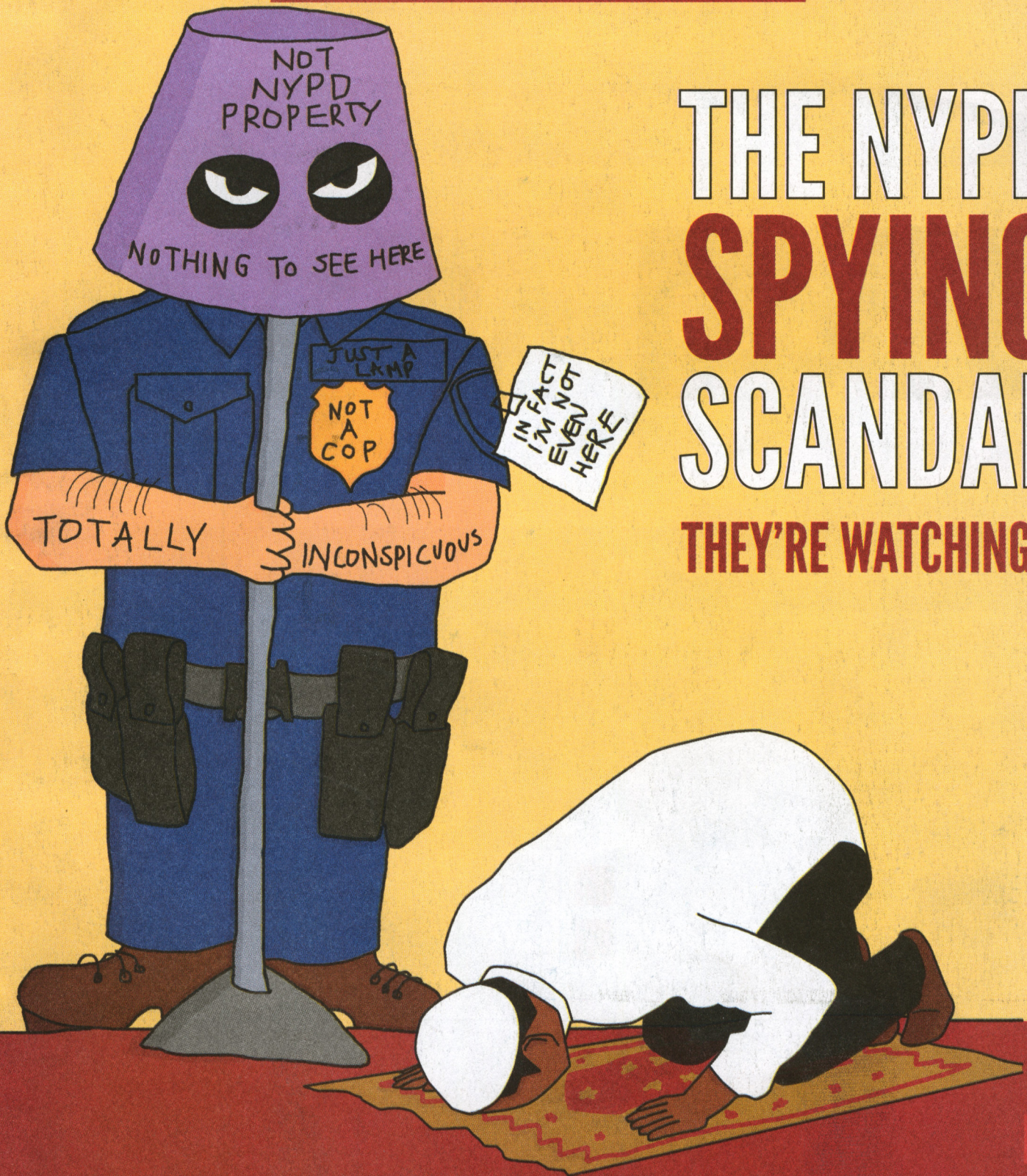


THE STONY BROOK  
**PRESS**



THE NYPD  
**SPYING**  
SCANDAL  
**THEY'RE WATCHING...**

TUESDAY, MAR 6 2012

VOL. XXXIII, ISSUE 10



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Corrections: In our last issue, two names were incorrectly spelled in the article "Changes to Stony Brook's Academic Calendar Inevitable." Stony Brook's rabbi is named Topek, not Tobeck, and USG's VP of Academic Affairs is Adil Hussain, not Hussein.

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# DENIAL OF FREEDOM, DESTRUCTION OF TRUST

Last month saw the full release of files obtained by the Associated Press in regards to widespread spying and monitoring of Muslim Student Associations all over the Northeast. Since October, pieces of a truly frightening series of policies have been trickling out to what should be a significantly more offended public. It's important to recognize the surprising depths to which the New York State Police Department will sink in the name of protecting the populace and the way they'll go about justifying their unreal policies: legally monitoring the phone calls and Internet activity of suspected terror suspects and blatantly targeting a specific ethnic/religious group with unwarranted surveillance are two entirely different things.

"This is college, man. If you can't walk the walk of who you are, then where else?"

The NYPD had been monitoring the Internet exchanges and posts of Muslim students from at least 16 different colleges, even going as far as to send undercover agents to actively spy on the MSAs. This represents not only a misunderstanding of fundamental American constitutional rights, but also a misinterpretation of radical religious extremism. To assume that almost every group of college-age, educated Muslim men and women harbors or encourages religious extremism or terrorism is emblematic of deep-seated fears that we are supposed to be combating through education and tolerance.

It's comforting to think that our law enforcement officials are trying hard to protect us. It would be much more comforting, though, to believe that the highest form of state law enforcement knows the difference between an established member of al-Qaeda—or even those in con-

tact with members of the terrorist organization, as was the case with Jesse Morton—and a member of Yale's Muslim Student Association. By immediately handling them both within a similar spectrum of intensity, it illustrates a severe disconnect that one could excuse or understand if it was an individual police officer profiling someone on a whim or acting on unrestrained ignorance. The NYPD establishing a program with "Weekly MSA Report" documents prepared for Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, however, represents something decidedly more insidious.

The 9/11 attacks had a profound effect on the public perception of the average Muslim man or woman. College campuses are not immune to the continuation of baseless stereotypes and broad generalizations. Chaplain Sanaa Nadim, the head of Stony Brook's MSA, put it quite simply "This is college, man. If you don't walk the walk of who you are, then where else? This is the time when people explore who they are and become the best society has to offer."

The basic rights of privacy that American citizens deserve cannot be discarded for the sake of public well-being when the program infringes on the very rights the government is meant to protect. Of late, three would-be terrorists represent the spoils of this clearly flawed program and others like it. Legitimate police work and reconnaissance on well-documented al-Qaeda sympathizers and religious extremists appear to bear the same results, without brutally ignoring the rights of American citizens based on their religion or ethnic background.

There's an underlying bigotry at work here, perpetuated by the ignorant belief that a tiny fraction of a specific population of peaceful Americans represents anything more than a tiny fraction of that population. "Granted, there are a lot of bad apples, but the bushel is good," said Nadim. Acting as if legitimate religious extremists and terrorists are commonplace and prevalent in Muslim-American society, especially those motivated enough to attend college in a country that suspects every single one of them to be a potential terrorist, is unacceptable.

The MSAs represent groups of students that simply want to be comfortable practicing their religion in a country that has become distinctly hostile. Ignorance is no excuse for poor policy, and the actions of a few radical extremists from a group of 1.6 billion represent nothing more than the criminal percentage found in any population.

Fearing what we don't understand is acceptable; using that fear to restrict the rights of innocent people is not—especially from government groups that should be enlightened and intelligent enough to understand the not-so-subtle differences between terrorists and college associations.

# DEBATE CONTINUES OVER NEW CALENDAR

by John Fischer

As reported in our last issue, Stony Brook University is planning to implement a new academic calendar next fall that schedules classes on religious holidays that have traditionally been days off, an earlier spring break and, possibly, days off for studying before finals week. As the debate over the changes to the calendar continues, students, faculty and religious leaders on campus have reacted.

Specific religious holidays that will be affected include Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the Easter holidays. Vice Provost Charles Robbins maintains that students can ask to be excused in regards to their faith. He said the calendar is not meant to discourage people's beliefs, but to organize scheduling, promote equal respect for all students and increase learning efficiency.

"The goal of the committee is to present an academic calendar that is consistent from year to year, provides equal respect to all faiths in our diverse campus community and maximizes classroom instruction for students in an efficient and effective manner," said Robbins in an email. "Students will not be penalized for observing religious holidays and there will be no exams or assignments due on those dates."

According to President Mark Maloof of the Undergraduate Student Government, students will have off Monday and Tuesday of Labor Day week and the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving weekend. Spring break will be held earlier and traditional reading days, in which students will have no class so that they can study for finals, might be incorporated, in spite of early proposals under which they were eliminated.

"There seems to be a miscommunication by the administration whenever changes are made," Maloof said.

Students, faculty and religious leaders are divided on the issue. Those against the new calendar said it discourages religion, and that student input was not considered when it was first proposed.

"I really feel they should have given students the opportunity to discuss it with them," said Protestant Reverend Brenda D. Ford. "It allows people to have their voice heard, and the student voice is apparently missing here."

Sociology professor Norman Goodman, who practices Judaism, said the administration was wrong for not including student and faculty opinion when the proposal was first drawn up, and that people's religious beliefs are more important than an organized calendar.

"One consensus that everyone shares is that the process [by which] it was done was atrocious," said Goodman. "Students, as well as faculty and staff, will be hurt when administrators take unilateral action without consulting those groups [on] issues that affect them. Respect for faculty and students and staff should be more important than the goal of efficiency."

Journalism major Michelle Okma, an atheist, said that students' beliefs are important and should be respected, even by those who do not agree with them.

"I think it's harmful to enforce on someone who grew up with these beliefs," she said. "You have to be respectful of what they believe even if you're not personally connected to those beliefs."

Those who support the changes do so on the grounds that they promote equality among all students and their religious beliefs. Although a retraction from earlier calendar amending proposals, many also believe that reading days are important and will be more efficient for students during finals week.

"I absolutely encourage religious holidays being dismissed because reading days are more beneficiary," said Julienna Magrid, an English and American studies student and a Christian.

Some feel that students should respect the school's decision because the school is secular and should not follow a religious calendar.

"I feel like in terms of being a state school, [it] makes sense not to have a religious calendar," said music major Kyle Manley, a Catholic. "It is a problem, but at the same time, I'm not sure if that's the school's problem."

"It's fair because it's a public school," said a Muslim student who asked to remain anonymous.

"Obviously, if [students or faculty] wanted to take the days off the school would accommodate their religious commitments."

The original calendar committee was set to meet in 2015 and was expected to address previously unconsidered Muslim holidays. Chaplain Sanaa Nadim of the Interfaith Center said she was hurt that Muslim holidays were not considered earlier, but that she and the Interfaith Center would continue to work with the administration for the betterment of student life.

"For me, it was disappointing because my dream was, after 23 years of service, that the Muslim holidays would finally be observed on the calendar," she said. "I believe the administration is well intended. I believe that we should have had, maybe, more conversation. More conversation and more consensus [incorporating] people who are more involved in religious life on campus."

The date when the calendar will be finalized is still unknown. In regards to the administration incorporating student input, Maloof said he believes both sides need to discuss how they feel in order to compromise.

"In general, I think there needs to be a chance for both groups to air their observations," he said, "and then see how we can meet those from opposite ends."

On Wednesday, students passing through Stony Brook's Melville Library would have come across a crowd of people listening to and reading from Latino history books and novels.

It was a "stand-up, read out" protest of the recent dismantling of the Mexican-American Studies program that was offered to schools in Tucson, Arizona.

The protest was organized by graduate students from the women's and gender studies, art and philosophy departments and provided a forum for people to petition against the banning of Latino books in Tucson, as well as to listen to the content of the books themselves.

Arizona's Superintendent for Public Instruction, John Huppenthal, decided on January 10 that the Mexican-American studies program offered at some schools in Tucson violated Title 15, Article 112 of Arizona's Revised Statutes, which states that school districts cannot provide material that is designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group or "advocates ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of the pupils as individuals."

When discussing the MAS program last year, Huppenthal said the program is ethnically biased.

"If all you're teaching these students is one viewpoint, one dimension, we can readily see that it's not an accurate history," said Huppenthal. "It's not an education at all; it's not teaching these kids to think critically."

The dismantling of the MAS program immediately provoked a protest on the streets of Tucson from enraged students enrolled in the program, 60 percent of whom are of Mexican descent.

It also prompted social justice groups

## STONY BROOK STANDS UP AND READS OUT

by Olivia Burne

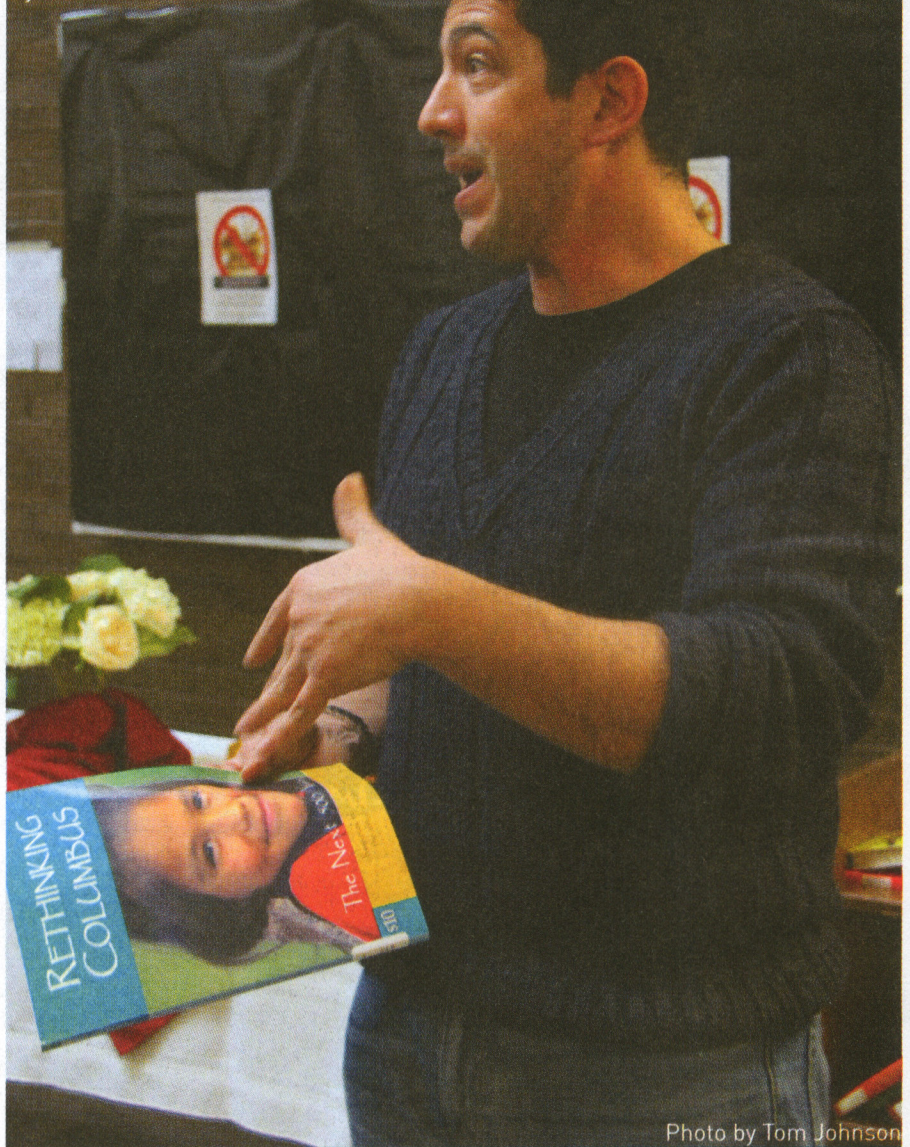


Photo by Tom Johnson

from universities across America to protest the law and the subsequent removal of history books from Arizona classrooms.

Activists from Stony Brook, as well as 11 other universities from around the United States, held read-in protests on campus where students could sign a petition to have the law repealed while listening to speakers reading excerpts from the banned books.

According to Martina Koegeler, a graduate student at Stony Brook who is completing her masters in Comparative Literature and helped organize the read-in, the Latino-authored books are vital to the history of America.

"These are such important books for America," said Koegeler. "Who is one district judge to decide what should be taught? It's setting a precedent

for other schools.”

Tony Diaz, the founder of Nuestra Palabra, an organization that promotes Latino literature, agrees with Koegeler’s perspective.

“With their record of anti-immigration legislation, politicians in Arizona have become experts in making humans illegal,” said Diaz in a press release from his protest organization Librotraficante. “Now these same legislators want to make thoughts illegal. If we allow this to happen, these laws, too, will spread.”

Latino history books and literature were removed from the classrooms and placed in storage, but are still available in school libraries.

The read-in at Stony Brook’s library made use of the banned books, which are still available here. It was also situated in such a way that any student walking through the library would be forced to stop and listen.

One such student, Jenny Hernandez, a junior art history and biological anthropology major, decided to sign the petition for a repeal of the Arizona law after walking past

the read-in.

“I had no idea that this was going on until I came to the library,” said Hernandez. “It’s helping other people get informed,” she said of the read-in.

Other students found the list of banned books to be politically motivated.

Enoch Allotey, a junior biology major, said that one of the banned books, *Voices of a People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn, “talks about America’s history.”

“Everything they’re talking about [in the book] is not mainstream history,” said Allotey. “It’s really controversial, it’s not fiction. I can see why politically they wouldn’t want it out there.”

We have yet to see if the nationwide protest will achieve any law change, but according to Koegeler and the other protest organizers, “it’s important for students to be aware.”

## CAP ON SPEAKER PAY LIFTED IN FINANCIAL BYLAWS REVISION

by Jodie Mann

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate approved a revision to the Financial Bylaws Act on Thursday that will allow clubs to spend as much money as they want on guest speakers.

The act, which strictly limited club spending on certain activities, was passed last fall. The revision removes both the \$2,000 cap on any one speaker as well as the \$6,000 cap on all speakers per academic year.

Members of the Muslim Student Association approached the Senate proposing the \$6,000 limit be raised to \$10,000 in order to fund their annual Islamic Awareness Week, which traditionally features multiple guest speakers in one week.

Sumaiya Iqbal, president of MSA, spoke to the Senate at Thursday’s meeting about the benefits of numerous and diverse lecturers.

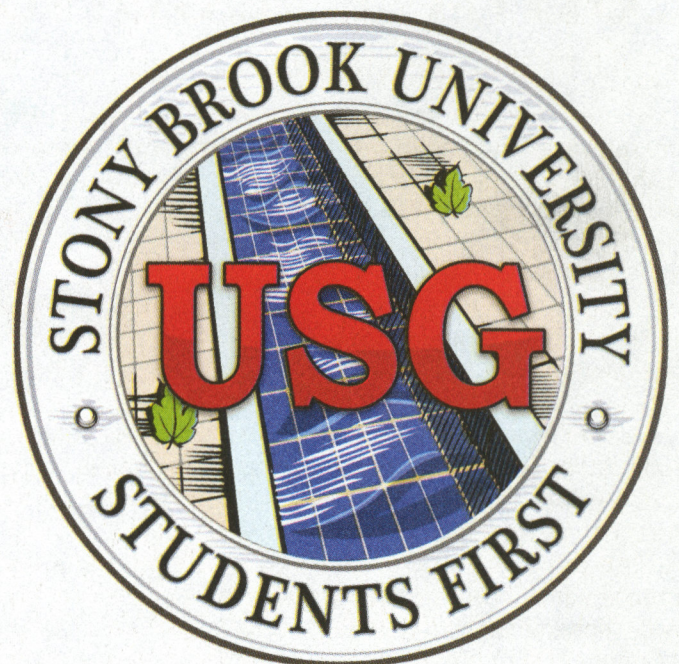
“Members of our club cannot access these speakers normally,” Iqbal said. “It is important for us to provide these opportunities to students.”

Senator David Adams went one step further and amended the modest MSA-inspired revision on the Senate floor to remove all limits on guest speaker funding.

“Bringing known personalities to campus is a great event idea,” Adams said.

The revision will also require that clubs wanting to contract with speakers for more than \$2,000 provide proof

that the speaker has been paid a similar price at a previous event. Clubs will have to provide USG with either an invoice or check from a speaker’s previous event where they were paid within 10 percent of what the club will pay them.



# CHERNOW PROMOTED

by Trevor Christian



Barbara Chernow has been promoted to be the Senior Vice President for Administration, a new position created to encompass both Financial and Human Resource Services as well as the responsibilities of her old job as the Vice President of Facilities and Services.

Chernow started at Stony Brook 14 years ago as a special assistant to former president Shirley Strum Kenny. In addition to her position in admin-

istration, she also serves as the president of the university's Faculty Student Association.

"It's not a short list," Chernow said of the departments, programs and projects she's currently involved in at an administrative level. In both her current and former position, Chernow has played a role in overseeing the non-stop con-

struction going on around campus.

A large 3-D model of the university's proposed Facilities Master Plan, a project Chernow has been an "integral" part of, according to a University Public Relations press release, stood in the corner of her office next to aerial photographs of the campus.

The same press release described Chernow's position as "consolidated," which seems appropriate considering that she'll be chairing the Project 50 Forward Operational Excellence Program Management Office. Last Fall, the University Senate voted to request that the implementation of shared services be halted until the administration had more faculty input.

"No program works if you're just going to do it top down" she said, adding that it's possible that every department's plan could look slightly different.

"It's been very successful with theatre and art," she said, emphasizing that allowing departments to make their own changes wouldn't just make the University Senate happier, but would be better policy.

Chernow said that despite having to oversee even more people, she wasn't worried about being spread too thin. "In administration we work as a team," she said, adding that she'd still be involved in Facilities and Services initiatives. How much time she gives each of her responsibilities will "just depend more on the day," she said.

## LGBTQA'S SECOND CHANCE PROM

by Terichi Bellinger

Under the dim glow of Christmas lights, students dressed in everything from drag to jeans were gathered at the LGBTQA's Fancy-As-You-Want Dance Party/Second-Chance Prom in the Union Ballroom Thursday night. It was the second time the LGBTQA has organized this event, and year's theme was "Forever Alone."

"None of us had dates for Valentine's, so we were like, 'Fuck that! We should just have a dance where we could have a good time as friends and celebrate love in a different way,'" said Laura Drapkin, the club's treasurer.

Traces of Valentine's Day were evident in the decorations. Paper hearts lined the wall opposite the club's large rainbow flag, and heart-shaped candy boxes were among the other treats the club had available for guests.

The prom-goers participated in a walk-off and a very intense game of musical chairs, all set to music provided by DJ Mohammad Osman. "He's a terrific ally," said Colleen O'Connor, LGBTQA president. According to her, Osman DJ'ed the event for free.

"Every minority group needs allies," said attendee Colby Allen. "There are allies here. It's really good to see actually."

The LGBTQA holds the annual prom to give students that may have missed put in high school a second chance at enjoying the event. "Well I didn't even go to prom because I knew that I was queer as a \$3 bill," said O'Connor. "I knew that I wouldn't feel that comfortable at prom because it's just full of people bumping and grinding and doing straight things."

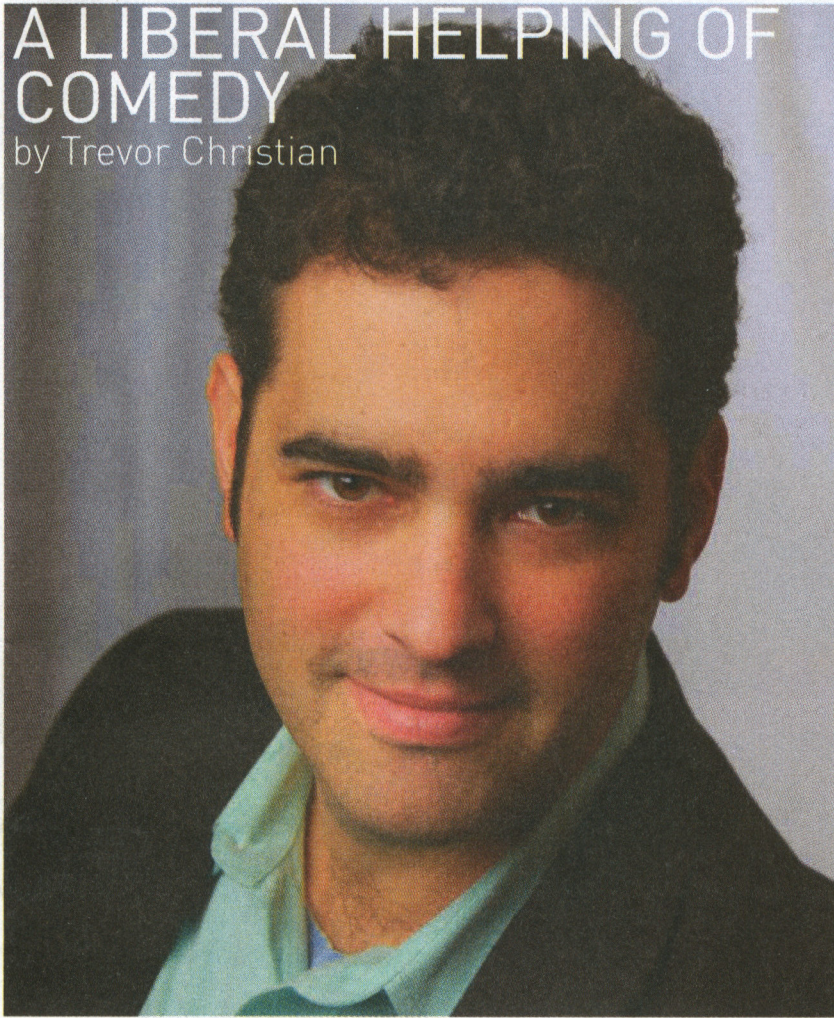
The club's Executive Board and Allen agreed. "You kind of get to go to prom again without fear of being judged or anything like that. It's a really liberating event."

The LGBTQA plans to hold another prom in the future, as well as their upcoming annual Drag Show. "We always want people to come and just know that there's a safe space," said Drapkin. "I think they'll realize pretty quickly that we are not the judgmental type."



# A LIBERAL HELPING OF COMEDY

by Trevor Christian



Comedian Jeff Kreisler's résumé reads like a best-of list for left-leaning comedy consumers.

His coverage of the 2008 election included blogging for Comedy Central's "Indecision" and ObamaGirl's YouTube Channel. He wrote for the Upright Citizens Brigade, was executive editor of a spoof of *The Wall Street Journal* and penned the popular *Get Rich Cheating*, an attack on the practices of the financial industry.

His résumé now includes a performance at Stony Brook University, though it certainly wasn't a career highlight. Many of his jokes, especially those that pushed the envelope, fell short in front of the small crowd. Still, he often had the entire crowd laughing by poking fun at politicians.

For example, he said that he hoped political parties would come to new conclusions regarding women. "Women are such a great resource. We've got to tap that."

The show that was held Wednesday night in the Student Activities Center was paid for by the Stony Brook College Democrats and was part of Kreisler's self-described progressive Comedy Against Evil tour.

Despite heavy advertising for the event, the crowd barely filled the first few rows of the SAC auditorium, something that Kreisler made light of as soon as the show began.

"I'm counting on each of you to laugh for ten people," Kreisler said.

"I wish more people had come out," said Stony Brook College Democrats President Kate Watt, "but we booked a big venue in case there was a lot of interest."

The College Democrats said they enjoyed the performance. As for the controversial material, Watt wasn't surprised.

"He was exactly what we expected." Watt had been trying to get the comedian to perform here since last year.

The small crowd even reacted nervously to some of his jokes, especially those that implied something more sinister about Republicans than even the room full of liberals would think.

When he poked fun at the people who questioned when Obama was born, he suggested that John McCain could have been brainwashed in Vietnam and that it was a much more reasonable thought than any conspiracy involving Kenya.

"Unlike George Bush," he said of McCain, "he did not skip the Vietnam War. He just sucked at it."

Despite his affiliation with Comedy Central, where the two biggest stars argue for sanity in politics, he compared Republicans to Nazis.

"Where are Republicans going to threaten to move?" he asked after observing that Democrats occasionally say they'll move to Canada if things get too bad here. "1930s Germany?"

He even took aim at the President's ethnicity.

"If an African-American can become President of the United States with just a catchy slogan, then shouldn't the rest of us be able to make billions of dollars with just a catchy slogan? Yes we can."

After the performance, Kreisler said he often walked the line between comedy and controversy.

"I like to think that even when I push it a little bit, I just provide a different view," he said.

Because of that attitude, and because of a personality that he called both silly and serious, Kreisler said he was drawn to political comedy.

"It speaks to issues in my mind of the abuse of power," he said of his routine. He added how important it was to generate discussion on the topics he joked about, which include student loans, racism and threats he saw conservatives posing to the poor.

"I found, even in my own life, I'd roll my eyes about boring talks on any topics. When you add humor, you stay engaged."

# SPYING ON CAMPUS: THE REACH OF THE NYPD'S SECRET SURVEILLANCE

by Nick Statt &  
Nick Batson

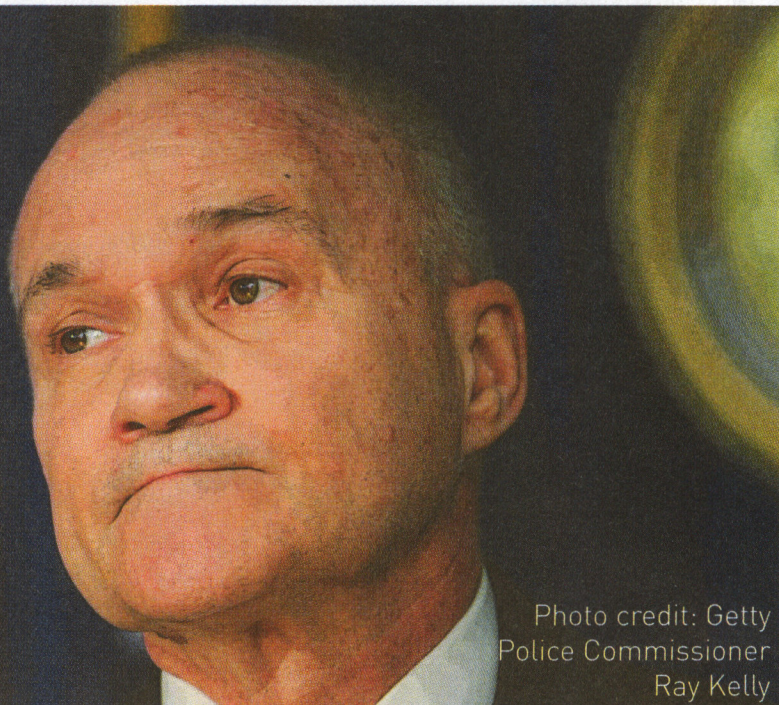


Photo credit: Getty  
Police Commissioner  
Ray Kelly

In November of 2006, a man born as Jesse Curtis Morton, but who went by the name Younus Abdullah Muhammad after converting to Islam, allegedly tried to recruit followers through Stony Brook University's Muslim Student Association. Morton ran the website of the New York-based, jihadist organization Revolution Muslim, and was a leader of the radical Islamic Thinkers Society.

Not only is it unclear whether or not he physically visited campus or simply attempted to contact the MSA online, but there is also no official record of this incident whatsoever. Despite that ambiguity, Stony Brook University became one of the many northeastern schools targeted by the New York State Police Department in their covert spying operation centered on MSAs in the northeast. The operation was highlighted in the Associated Press's multi-month investigative report starting in October of last year and culminating last month with the full disclosure of the files they obtained.

"I didn't know the man. I didn't know his name. I didn't know he came to campus," says Chaplain Sanaa Nadim, the head of Stony Brook's MSA. "Neither me nor my students, past or present, knew anything about this guy." The only official record of this incident and the only explanation for why Stony Brook made the NYPD surveillance list is the response released by police spokesman Paul Browne, which did not clarify the specific circumstances. No mention of Morton can be found in the AP files, and Stony Brook is simply listed at the bottom of a November 22, 2006 NYPD report.

Complicating the situation is the fact that Morton is now considered a validated source of interest to law enforcement and counterterrorism officials for actions he

went on to commit. In April of 2010, Morton encouraged the murder of an artist involved with "Everybody Draw Mohammed Day" and conspired to murder the creators of South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, in response to their 200th episode that depicted Mohammed in a bear suit. In May of last year, Morton was detained in Morocco after fleeing there following the arrest of a co-conspirator, Zachary Chessler. He pleaded guilty to three felonies—conspiracy, communicating threats and internal stalking—on February 13.

But at the time when the NYPD was compiling "Weekly MSA Reports" and sending them to the desk of Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, Morton was a target only for his affiliation with the Islamic Thinkers Society. "Undersigned also visited these Muslim Student Associations and did not find significant information posted on their web sites, forums, blogs and groups," says the November 22, 2006 report before listing numerous colleges including Stony Brook.

The undersigned officer in question is Mahmood Ahmad, though it is unclear whether he was the only one involved with the surveillance of Stony Brook's MSA. Other schools on the list included the University of Buffalo, University of Albany, Syracuse University, Yale, Columbia and Rutgers College, among others.

In addition to monitoring the Muslim Student Association at Stony Brook, the NYPD conducted surveillance of businesses and mosques owned or operated by Muslim Americans in the town of Brookhaven. The locations of these establishments were then plotted on a map of the Town of Brookhaven, with each plot indicating the ethnicity of the owner(s), according to an August 3, 2006 report also

released by the AP.

## "Reason for Great Concern"

Chaplain Sanaa Nadim's sighs carry the weight of decades of misunderstanding. As the first female Chaplain of any Muslim Student Association in America, she has been forced to face more than her fair share of seemingly insurmountable differences. Shaking her head at being reminded once again of the NYPD's profiling of her organization, her students and her religion, she sums up her frustration succinctly, "I'm just amazed at how we paint people with one brush.

"For the last 23 years, we had to deal constantly with current events and things that we didn't even understand, like this. I don't understand this," she says. "These are the future generations of this country. For years, MSAs have brought out the most amazing doctors, engineers; the most prominent members of many different communities came out of MSAs."

In response to the NYPD's actions, Stony Brook University issued the following statement: "Stony Brook University, including the University Police Department, had no knowledge of, nor was ever contacted by the NYPD or any other outside law enforcement agency, or asked to provide any information into the surveillance of the Muslim Students Association or any other religious group in our University community. The Muslim Students Association, and all religious communities, are integral, appreciated and supported members of the Stony Brook University community."

Stony Brook's Office of the President declined to comment further on the matters. But Nadim says that a more direct response, both from the MSA and Administration, is in the works. "I've had meetings with the students, programs with the students. We're working on a campus-wide multicultural program and we'll see," she says. "We're working also with the President's office, through the Dean's office, on a statement that should be made."

Stony Brook's Interfaith Center, which comprises chaplains from six different organizations (Nadim included), released an official statement harshly condemning the NYPD investigation, calling it "a reason for great concern." The statement goes on to say, "While it is important for law enforcement to conduct operations to ensure the safety of all Americans, this does not justify the assumption that because this is a Muslim Students Association it or its members in any way pose a threat."

With respect to drafting an official university response, Nadim is not worried about the administration's support. "Dean Stein," she says before briefly pausing to release another emphatic sigh, "...has been a rock for us."

Stony Brook's MSA sought out Stein's assistance in combating two rather controversial events in the latter half of the last decade. The first of which was the decision



Chaplain Sanaa Nadim, head of Stony Brook University's Muslim Student Association. Photo credit: Stonybrookmsa.org

by the Enduring Freedom Alliance, a conservative campus club, to bring Robert Spencer, an outspoken critic of Islam, in October of 2008. The second was "Blasphemy Day," an incident in which reprints of the infamous Danish cartoon depicting Mohammed were posted around campus alongside religiously offensive images of Jesus Christ and Moses.

Despite her faith that the Administration will stand with the MSA, Nadim did express profound disappointment with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's staunch defense of the NYPD's tactics. "Where is the country I am a citizen of? A country that protects your rights, that you are innocent until proven guilty...where is she? What happened?" Nadim says with a blend of desperation and anger.

Bloomberg, in a public announcement on February 24, said, "Everything the NYPD has done is legal, it is appropriate, it is constitutional." When asked if he thought that the NYPD's planting of an undercover agent at a City College of New York's rafting trip was a step too far, Bloomberg responded with, "No. We have to keep this country safe."

Bloomberg's comments came primarily as a response to one of the first outspoken critics of the NYPD's operation, Yale president Richard Levine, who said that surveillance based on religion was antithetical to the values of Yale. Bloomberg then snarkily remarked that he cannot understand why keeping the country safe was antithetical to Yale's values.

Since that exchange, a firestorm of criticism has arisen, alongside requests for more in-depth investigations into the NYPD's tactics. New Jersey and federal law enforcement officials held a summit on Saturday, March 3 to discuss methods of investigating the surveillance, and Attorney General Eric Holder is currently reviewing complaints.

William Chittick, a professor of Asian-American studies at Stony Brook, wasn't shocked to learn of the NYPD surveillance operation. "It does disappoint me, but, given the current atmosphere, I am not surprised," he said in an email message.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

# 'My Enemy Is Racism'

**RACIST**  
By Chris Fairhall  
When the collective conscience  
of a society intercedes, the way  
attains its measure.

**"Some kids looked at me like they  
have never seen blacks before."**

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make you crawl up the wall. Who  
active and militant, now you just  
the illusion that "we're doing  
instead."



## A RACE-Y HISTORY

by Alyssa Melillo

In a classroom at Stony Brook University, students can always guarantee they will be different from their peers: they will have different skin colors, be of different ethnicities and different religions. Racial diversity is one of the most prominent aspects of this campus, and it is something that is celebrated and embraced.

But Stony Brook did not always relish in this characteristic. Back during the days when students were Patriots instead of Seawolves, the campus community had a much more negative attitude towards minority groups. Students rioted, some professors faced discrimination and even the Administration displayed a prejudice against majors regarding minority cultures. In the years following the Civil Rights Movement racism was an issue that often appeared on the pages of the *Stony Brook Press*.

### Students

In 1976, about ten percent of Stony Brook's student population of approximately 11,000 consisted of minority groups. They included black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaskan students. It was a time when political activism peaked among young, college-going liberals, and protests and rallies were not abnormalities on campus.

In a predominantly white community, black students struggled to achieve both academic and social acceptance during the late 1970s. "Some kids looked at me like they have never seen blacks before," said Patrick Hilton, then the project's coordinator for Black Students United, about when he first came to Stony Brook.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran in 1979 sparked a rally at Stony Brook against the latter country's leader at the time, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Graffiti denouncing

Iranian students covered many surfaces around campus, only to be replaced by pleas such as, "Iranian & U.S. Students Unite!! A racist war, we won't fight!!"

The *Stony Brook Press* ran an interview with an Iranian student about his views on the political strains between the two nations as well as his experience being an Iranian at an American university. The student, under the nom de plum Moshen, openly said he supported Khomeini. A negative response to that interview from an anonymous Iranian student ran in the next issue of the *Press*.

"After reading the article, I was ashamed to be an Iranian," the responding student wrote. "The article most certainly did not represent the majority viewpoint of Iranian students here at Stony Brook." The student questioned the motives of the *Press* in publishing the one-sided story, as it gave readers the wrong impression of Iranian students' beliefs and ideas.

The early 1980s saw a rise in the National Socialist Party, a Neo-Nazi group. Other groups such as the Jewish Defense League, a militant group, opposed this party and often threatened it with violence. This party gained political momentum—embers, mostly Republican, excelled in presidential primaries. And while such groups existed in America, students at Stony Brook were both actors and victims of discrimination, too. In the late 1980s, minority clubs struggled to be treated equally by Polity, the predecessor of today's Undergraduate Student Government.

The members of those clubs put together a Joint Minority Statement in an effort to show Polity that minority clubs did exist on campus, and that they were tired of being excluded from the budget-making and club recognition processes. But the real problem at hand, as a *Press* editorial suggested, was that the clubs felt ignored by not only Pol-

ity, but by campus media, the Administration and the white majority. Recognition, however, was gradually coming to them after the statement was made.

"A people only become the minority when they allow themselves to be ignored by a majority," the editorial read. "Do not be ignored."

But traces of racism showed up within minority groups as well. In 1992, the Minority Planning Board denied a membership to the Hillel Student Organization, a group that emphasizes Jewish campus life. One reason, said Ernesto Isaac, chairman of MPB, was because the board members felt that Hillel was more religious than cultural and did not fit in with the missions of other board members. Members of Hillel argued that MPB denied it membership because it was not close to the black student clubs, which made up most of the board members. The issue resulted in a revision of MPB bylaws.

As the number of minority students increased at Stony Brook—minority groups made up 27 percent of the student population by 1988, then soared to 62 percent in 2010—student leaders attempted to hinder minority clubs once again. In 2003, USG thought to consolidate all of the 11 Asian student organizations into one entity. Many of the groups argued that their missions differed because of various ethnicities, thus making the merger a bad idea.

Steven Chao, then the president of the Chinese Association at Stony Brook, said he did not believe it was an act of racism on USG's part. The Asian-American E-Zine's news editor at the time, Leo Na, however, thought differently. "They don't understand...they probably think Chinese people are the same as Korean people. That's racist."

## Faculty

Faculty members plant the seeds of learning into the rich minds of students. They motivate them, challenge them and ultimately guide them on the paths towards their goals. But professors are not immune to racist acts.

In the 1970s, students accused Stony Brook faculty members of being racist towards minority students. Donna Franklin, who was a member of the Scholastic Achievement for Improvement of Non-Traditional Students, claimed that professors were not willing to spend time outside of class with black students. In turn, there were no programs created to tutor those students.

Professors were also victims of racism. Amiri Baraka, a poet and professor in the Africana Studies department, was arrested in 1979 after a series of incidents involving the police. Baraka was double-parked one night outside a movie theater on University Place in Manhattan when a police officer grabbed him out of his car by the collar and hit him with a nightstick. Three other officers also hit him, then dragged him on the pavement to the police car, shoved him in and held a gun to his head. Baraka said they never asked him what was going on or for him to move his car.

The officers took Baraka and his wife to the 6<sup>th</sup> precinct station in Manhattan. The couple had been fighting when the police came, so when it was time to come up with charges, they said the professor hit his wife, hit the officers and was carrying a deadly weapon. "You know the weapon you people always carry," Baraka recalled an officer saying to him—a switchblade.

In his interview with the *Press*, Baraka said the jury selection at his trial for the arrest included only one black man. He said that if he were white, instead of pulling him out of his vehicle and hitting him, he believed the officers would have questioned him and the situation would have been handled in a more civilized manner.

## Administration

Professors often criticized the Administration for having racist policies in the late 1970s. Academic departments such as Africana Studies had very questionable existences in terms of the support they received. Only one member in that department, Chairperson Leslie Owens, had tenure. Owens resigned from his position to protest the condition of the department because it lacked office space, full-time professors and room in the library for its collection of 2,000 books. Over 300 students also joined Owens in protesting.

Many argued that the Administration should have done more for minorities at Stony Brook. The Vice President of Student Affairs, Elizabeth Wadsworth, said the university did not offer enough to create a culturally diversified campus. And even though Stony Brook attempted to combat racism through holding symposiums, for example, it never put forth consequences for committing racial acts.

The Administration, however, began to accept more minorities as the years passed by, especially in 1988. That year the university implemented a Minority Outreach Program. Since that year, the minority rate at Stony Brook has doubled, and minorities groups have actually become the majority.

Although Stony Brook is more accepting of minorities, problems still arise when it comes to race. Minorities now have higher graduation rates than whites, and reports revealed that the NYPD has been spying on Muslim students here and at other northeastern colleges.

And nationally, affirmative action admissions policies in Texas are being revisited by the Supreme Court because Abigail Noel Fisher, who applied to the University of Texas, claimed she did not gain admittance into the school because she is white.

Stony Brook's history shows that getting rid of racism is not an easy task. Although it is not as common now, it does still exist. But the numerous programs, clubs and organizations dedicated to representing the university's minority groups show that the acceptance of everyone in the campus community, regardless of the color of his or her skin, surpasses the hate.

# A WALK TO REMEMBER

by Arielle Dollinger



Illustration by Sam Liebrand

One night last October, I was hanging out with friends in H-Quad's Benedict College, a world away from my room in building A of the West Apartments. It was nearing 1 a.m., and I decided to finally take my father's advice and call the campus ride service so that I wouldn't be walking back alone. My father had been nagging me about it for over a year.

"You shouldn't walk alone at night, Ari," he'd say, over and over. "Call the walk service; that's what they're there for. Or call the ride service."

So I called the ride service.

"Hello. University Police."

"Hi, can I get a ride back to West from Benedict? I don't feel comfortable walking by myself so late at night."

"Oh, no way!" the dispatcher responded.

I was confused. I'd uttered the ever-important words that no campus official is legally allowed to ignore: "I don't feel comfortable."

At the officer's suggestion, I called the walk service and was told by a female dispatcher, who sounded very reluctant to even speak to me, that I would have to wait 20 minutes. About ten minutes after I hung up the phone, I realized the dispatcher hadn't asked for my phone number or any information at all. I called back.

She said she didn't think I was planning on waiting for the walkers and asked if I wanted to call back in 20 minutes to see where they were. My friend Will then, reluctantly, walked me back to my room—a 20-minute walk from his.

The next day, I started thinking about what the policeman had said to me. I'd asked for a ride, and he'd responded, "oh, no way!"

Something didn't seem right.

Stony Brook University brochures and websites advertise two phone numbers to prospective students and their parents—632-WALK and 632-RIDE—but extensive publicity does not mean that the programs are without their flaws. And I am not the only one who's seen them.

Toni Foster, a senior linguistics major at Stony Brook, often called for rides last summer because she was working in Chapin but living in the West Apartments.

After driving her back to her residence hall on a few occasions, the police would refer her to the walk service, she said, which seemed senseless to her because the walk from Chapin to West takes 35 minutes, and it was dark outside.

According to Foster, the dispatcher would sometimes tell her that the police were not providing rides that night.

"If they really don't want to do it, they shouldn't offer the service," she said.

Her main concern, she said, is the attitude of the campus police department.

"They just don't care about anything," Foster said. "They don't care about the students. They don't care about their responsibilities."

She also said that some of her male friends have called the ride service and been denied.

"I have had to call for friends because if they call they won't get picked up. But if the officer on the other end hears a female, [the student is] more likely to get picked up," Foster said.

Gender, she said, should not be a factor.

"If you feel unsafe, you feel unsafe; it doesn't matter if you're a guy or a girl," she added.

One night, I asked a male friend of mine to take a walk from West to H-Quad with the service.

Five minutes after he called, two male walkers in their sig-

nature neon yellow vests arrived to walk him back. They talked to the student about school and their job, made other small talk and were very polite, the student said. They even complied with no complaint when he asked them to wait outside the Student Union while he went in to buy a drink.

It is unusual that male students use the service, the walkers told the student when he asked.

Two female staff members of the *Stony Brook Press* used the walk service as part of the investigation, and had no problems. In both cases, the Residential Safety Program workers arrived in under 15 minutes.

**A** week after my first brush with the services, I decided to do an experiment. I went to Benedict again, and called the ride service around 2 a.m. I was told that they were "not giving rides" that night, so I asked what the policy was, for future reference.

"The ride policy?"

"Yeah, I mean, the ride policy. Like when you can get a ride."

"I honestly have no idea."

And there it was—proof that my prior experience hadn't been a fluke; proof that it hadn't been an isolated incident of ignorance or neglected duties. There was a problem.

I called the walk service. About 20 minutes after I called, three male walkers in neon yellow vests came to accompany me on the trek back to West.

"We almost weren't going to come walk you back," one of them told me. "It's just so late and we're so tired."

Making me feel embarrassed, he also told me that people normally "use the service once and then realize it's pointless." Not exactly a comforting thought.

We arrived at my building and the guys said good night and good-bye, and went on their way.

The next week, I received a Facebook friend request from one of the walkers, as well as frequent messages from him in the weeks following. According to the Residential Safety Program manual, a copy of which I acquired from a former RSP employee, walkers are not supposed to fraternize with the 10-26—the expression by which they refer to the student they're walking.

The walk service falls under the umbrella of RSP. Though University Chief of Police Robert J. Lenahan said in an email that the program has nothing to do with the police department, the university's website begs to differ.

According to the webpage, RSP is "a professional and student managed organization that promotes safety on campus" and "works with University Police, students, and staff to ensure a safe environment."

The ride service is run completely by the University Police. As of October 2011, the service provided close to 2,000 rides in the past year.

"The program was originally developed to provide transportation to students who were concerned for their safety,"

Lenahan said. "Although the concept has good intentions, throughout the years the program has evolved to a point where many students see the program as simply a free transportation service."

This, Lenahan explained, takes a toll on the resources of the department, as students attempt to use the service for purposes other than protection. The department reserves the right to refuse the service if it deems it unnecessary. Requesting rides with the intent of going to the store or hanging out with friends is not appropriate, he said. Use of the service because of a medical condition is not allowed either.

"If there was not such a large number of students who were using the service as a perceived form of public transportation, then the program would operate at a much higher level of efficiency," Lenahan said.

In an email on October 21, Lenahan said that students and parents have filed complaints about the ride service specifically.

"We provide the ride service to over 4,000 students on a yearly basis," he said. "Although rare, there have been some complaints with regard to the service."

When complaints are received, Lenahan said, the department investigates the claims to determine whether or not the service provided was sufficient, and to check to see that the reason the student called the service was based on safety concerns.

"The rare complaints that we receive typically deal with issues such as promptness, courtesy and service," he said.

But copies of the official complaints are "internal documents," Lenahan told me, which meant I could not see them. I knew he was wrong, and it was confirmed after having consulted my media law professor. The complaints are public information.

I filed a Freedom of Information Law request on October 31. My request was acknowledged with an emailed letter on November 2, and I was asked to further describe the records I was looking for. After speaking to Records Officer Douglas Panico, I did so asking for "any official complaint documents regarding the Residential Safety Program's walk service and the University Police Safe Ride Service" made within the past three years.

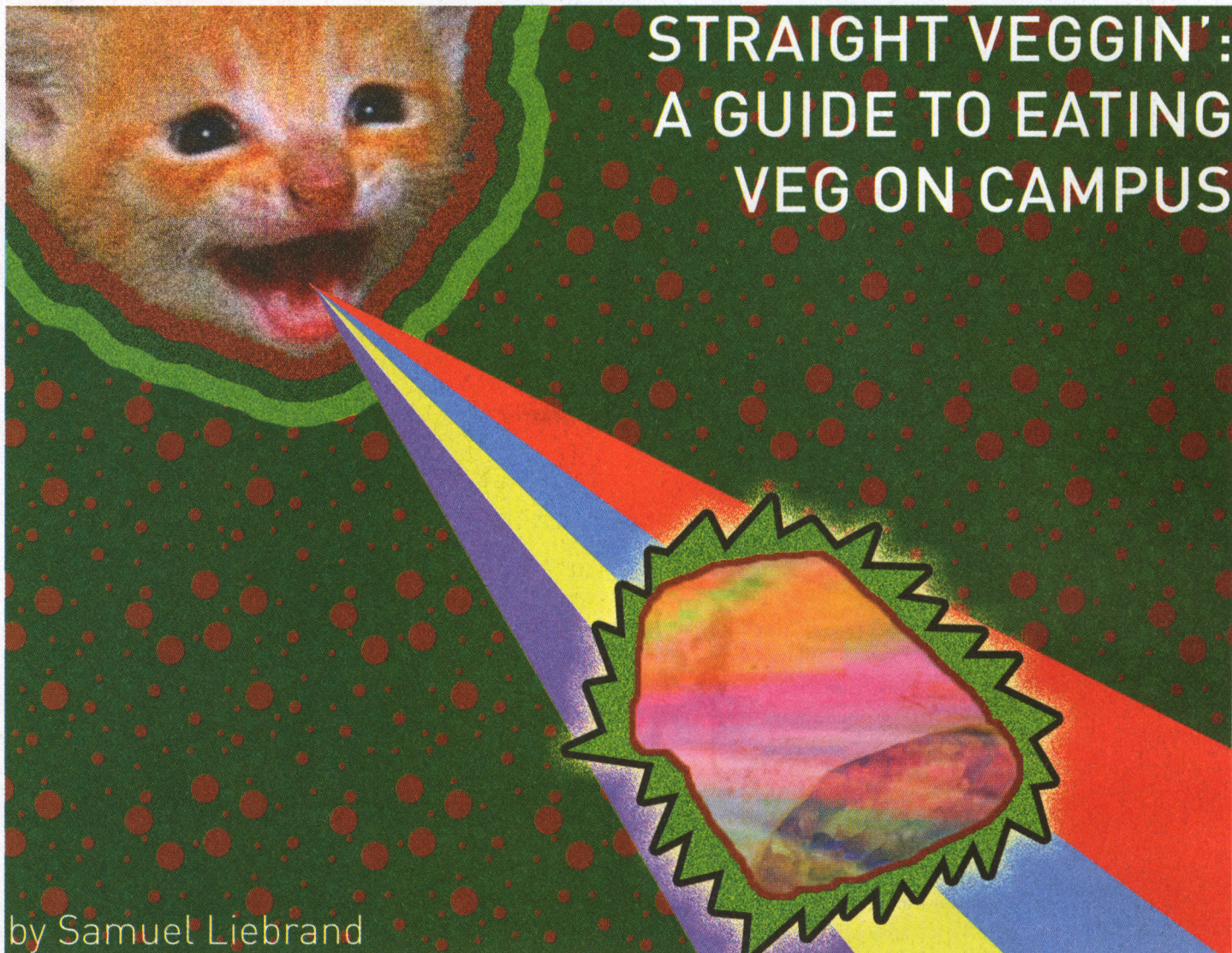
On December 15, I received an email from Panico informing me that there were no records responsive to my query.

Lenahan refused a request to meet in person, and did not respond to an e-mail asking for clarification by publication.

According to the university's 2011 Annual Security and Fire Report, which was released online, there were seven forcible sex offenses, four aggravated assaults and one simple assault on campus in 2010.

Because Lenahan has yet to respond to the email I sent him on February 19 requesting more current statistics and asking about the records discrepancy, many of my questions are still unanswered.

Sometimes silence speaks louder than words.



# STRAIGHT VEGGIN': A GUIDE TO EATING VEG ON CAMPUS

by Samuel Liebrand

Welcome to Campus Guide to Bein' Veg! Us vegetarians have a fraction of the already-sparse food selection at Stony Brook, and if you don't know where to look, you may be stuck with getting the same shitty pre-packaged veggie wrap sold at every dining center. But have no fear: here's a brief, yet comprehensive guide on your options around campus.

**Veggie Burgers, Charcoals** (Kelly, SAC, Union)

If you're willing to wait the 10-20 minutes it takes to make, Charcoal's Veggie Burgers can be well worth it.

-Garden Vegetable Burger - The best of the bunch, this soy, egg, and wheat patty is an easy substitute for a real burger. Suggestion: if you can, sneak some jalapenos on it from the salad bar. Fuck the system.

-Black Bean Burger - Though it tastes fine, the black bean burger has an odd mushy consistency. If you're okay with sloppiness and want a shit-ton of sodium, this is the way to go.

-Cauliflower Burger - Something's just not right about

this one. Good source of protein though.

-Sweet Potato Burger - You'll probably love the first few bites, but it's so dense that it's closer to cake than it is a sandwich.

-Eggplant Burger - Skip it.

**Picantes** (Kelly, Union)

Every trip to Picantes is a gamble. Will they be out of tomatoes again? How could you skimp me out on the cheese like that? That's way too many jalapenos. Uhhhh-hh... I'm pretty sure my quesadilla has been grilling for too long. Even when it comes out fine, it's hardly a meal to be stoked about.

**Wrap It Up** (Kelly, SAC)

Okay, here's what you do: tomatoes, onions, lettuce, and jalapeños, topped with provolone cheese and thousand island dressing, wrapped in a tomato tortilla. Get that bitch toasted.

You're welcome.

**Mulberry Street** (Kelly, SAC)



Probably the best pizza on campus (which is only kind of saying something), Mulberry Street usually has a ready option for vegetarians, mostly in the form of peppers and onions. If you don't eat meat but would still like to feel like a slob, you can't go wrong with a slice.

**Native Spice (Union, SAC)**

Most of these entrees have meat in them, but there are a handful of international veggie dishes. The Italian roasted vegetables are a good bet, as are the smashed sweet potatoes. After visiting Native Spice, you might ask yourself what the fuck mexicorn is. Best let that one remain a mystery.

**Taro 13 (Kelly, Union)**

There is a stark difference between the Taro 13 at Kelly and the one at the Union. While the one at Kelly usually has borderline passable vegetable lo-mein, the one at the Union has a thick and saucy consistency, and tastes like it's been filtered through a pool of salt. In either case, you'll feel so full that you'll be sick to your stomach almost immediately, but you'll somehow be hungry again an hour later.

**Dunkin Donuts (Tabler)** - Hahahaha. Get food here? That's a good one.

**Omelet Pan (SAC)**

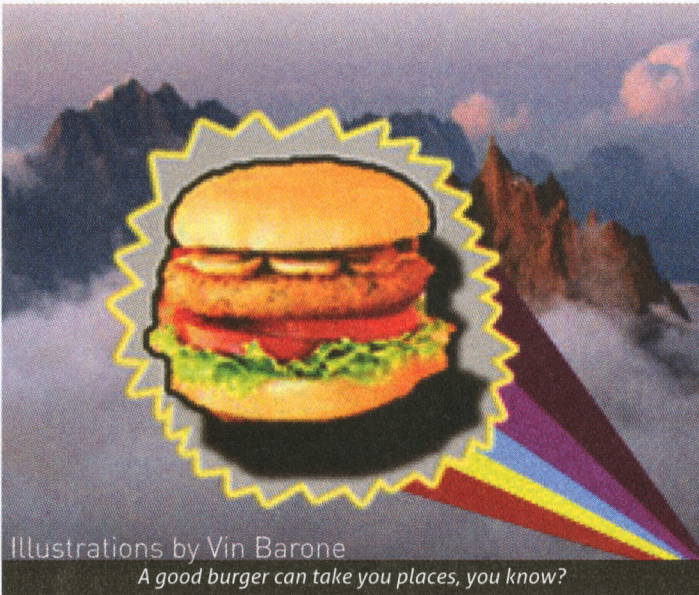
Like waiting on long lines for an omelet from a box? Really? Well try this place, I guess.

**Au Bon Pain (Pretty much everywhere)**

There's always a vegetarian soup available here. I'm partial to good ol' fashioned tomato soup myself, but the garden vegetable is pretty tasty too. I'm not sure if they let the vegetarian chili sit there throughout the week, or if it just naturally looks like that.

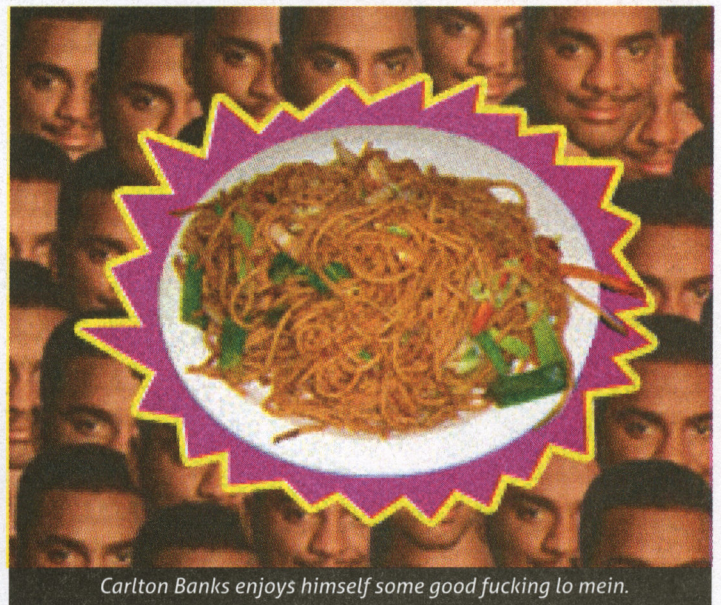
**Eco Cravings (Kelly)**

This entirely vegan restaurant changes its menu daily and weekly, so you'll have to check back to try things for yourself once and a while. However, here's a good rule of thumb: any white meat tofu is usually pretty delicious, as



Illustrations by Vin Barone

*A good burger can take you places, you know?*



*Carlton Banks enjoys himself some good fucking lo mein.*

cretion. Nonetheless, the majority of their non-faux-meat based foods, like the Balsamic Tofu, are pretty awesome, if not filling.

**California Pizza Kitchen (Roth)**

Though those bastards took away the fantastic Broccoli Fusilli earlier this year (R.I.P.), the Vegetable Panini is still available to great acclaim, even if it does take forever. Ask for avocado on it, you won't regret it. As always, stay away from the pizza, it's just not worth it, folks. And seriously, why isn't there a salad on the menu that doesn't have meat in it? Why do you think people eat salads?

**Wendy's (Roth)**

The only full sized vegetarian meal here is the Baja Salad, which comes with an easily disposed of side of meaty chili. What you're left with is something that has a closer resemblance to a bag of Doritos than it does a nutritious salad. But fuck it, why are you going to Wendy's if you're a vegetarian, anyway?

**Roth Market (Roth)**

It's like a shittier Boston Market, and that's saying something.

**Jasmine (Wang Center)** - If you're down with Eastern food, Jasmine can usually somewhat satisfy your craving. You will never finish the rice bowl from the Indian food section, so always only get a side. Also, the Na'an bread is fucking delicious. The Thai restaurant is almost completely vegetarian, and their Thai rolls are a good place to start. The vegetable dumplings at the Chinese section can hardly be considered anything but our best attempt yet at the bastardization of Eastern dishes, but fuck, it's tasty. Just don't go to Jasmine between class blocks, unless you enjoy being cramped by crowds of people in a narrow hallway.



## BIKE SHARE PROGRAM GETS RECYCLED

by Amanda Douville

This summer, Stony Brook University will be ditching the old bike share bicycles for a set of new wheels. Transportation and Parking Services is teaming up with Environmental Stewardship to bring the BIXI bike share program to the university by mid- to late summer.

The university plans on releasing a small-scale version of the bike share system already in effect in major cities around the world including London, Boston, Toronto and Melbourne. Stony Brook will be the third university in the nation, behind Washington State University and Harvard University, to bring the BIXI bike system to students.

"We looked at a lot of other municipalities as well as universities and we benchmarked what was out there, what are the best practices going on," said James O'Connor, the Director of Sustainability and Transportation Operations. "We found out that a lot of them are implementing a higher quality bike and a brand name bike."

The initial bike share pilot program was announced at Earthstock 2011 and implemented during the following summer. The first 25 students chosen by lottery were given a bike for the entire semester after having to pay a \$15 participation fee and another \$15 lock, key and helmet rental fee. Not only did students have to worry about paying the fees but they also had to travel back and forth from

the Campus Operations & Maintenance building to the bursar's office in order to get all the paperwork managed. This system made the program difficult for many students to understand and decreased desire for participation.

"From there we took a lot of good information and deliverables about what we can do in order to grow the bike share program," said O'Connor. "We're also increasing our marketing and our outreach efforts in order to communicate how to participate in the bike share program."

Aside from the lack of accessibility to the system, O'Connor and James Ambriose, the Parking Operations Manager and project manager on the bike share program,

"We think it's going to be a huge hit because at the end of the day it's all about accessibility."

also received feedback from students claiming the bikes could be more appealing and nicer. Not only are the bikes ugly according to some students, but they have also started to build up some wear from the year they have been in use.

Instead of improving on the current bike share program at the university, O'Connor and Ambroise decided to try something entirely new, a true bike share in the image of some of the more successful programs worldwide. In keeping with the Stony Brook tradition of "going green," the new bikes will be stationed at solar-powered kiosks where students will be able to swipe their identification cards and take a bike. That student will then have 24 hours to ride the bike wherever before having to return it to another kiosk where their name will be cleared.

The plan is set to roll out in phases, with the first starting this summer. Phase one entails setting up one kiosk at the Student Activities Center and one in West Apartments, near building D, stationing 25 bikes total. Phase two, which will take effect the following summer, will add a kiosk at South P lot as well as additional kiosks at the Student Activities Center adding 25 more bikes to the program. In later phases of the plan, kiosks will be installed throughout the campus at locations including the railroad station, Chapin Apartments and the Medical Center.

"What we really plan to do is roll this out campus-wide over a number of years," said O'Connor. "We think it's going to be at least a five year plan for a comprehensive, really aggressive bike share program to be in all of the locations that we would like to have them in."

One challenge facing the new initiative would be how to include faculty and staff in the operation. The university plans to include the bike share fee under the transportation fee all students must pay, just as SUNY Buffalo has done. The only problem with that is faculty and staff do not pay for this fee and an alternative form of payment would need to be established.

"We're trying to get their system to communicate with our ID system so this way students can just come in and swipe their card and it could distinguish between an employee and a student," said Ambroise.

The point of the new bike system is to provide students with an easy and accessible alternative to taking the bus or using a car. This sustainable solution will not only give students another means of transportation outside of buses, but it will also help Stony Brook reduce its carbon footprint one bike ride at a time.



*Stony Brook will still be full of bike racks like the one above, but after the new bike share program is implemented, high-tech racks from BIXI, like the one below, will show up around campus, starting at the West Apartments and the SAC.*



"Our intentions are instead of adding more buses to routes, and congestion, traffic and fuel consumption, students would eventually be enticed to grab one of our bikes," said O'Connor. "Grab it, use it, go wherever they need to go, and get rid of it."

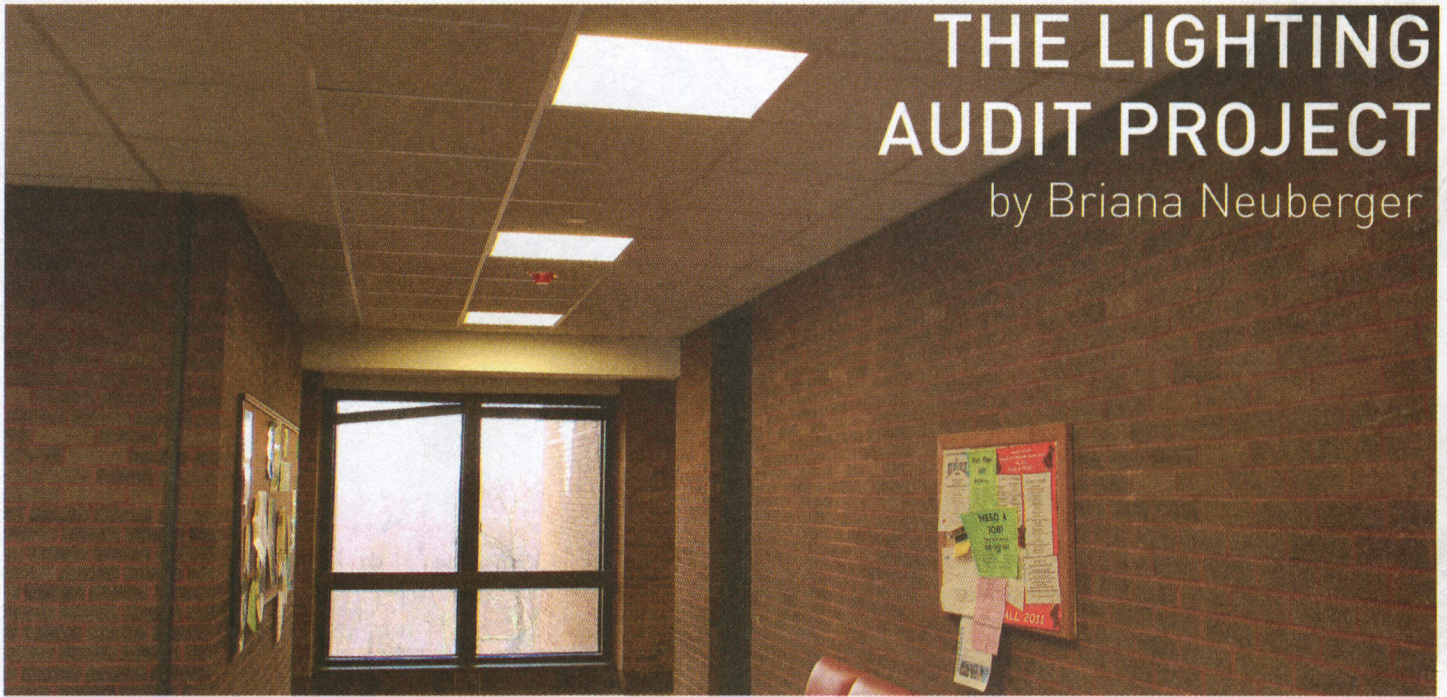
O'Connor and Ambroise hope that the bike share program to be released in New York City this summer through the Public Bike System Company, the same one Stony Brook will be using, will encourage students to become more interested and participate.

"We think it's going to be a huge hit because at the end of the day it's all about accessibility," said O'Connor. "It's a really cool, green technology."

"It's a true bike share program," said Ambroise.

# THE LIGHTING AUDIT PROJECT

by Briana Neuberger



The Stony Brook Environmental Club, in partnership with the Faculty Student Association and the Sustainability Studies Program, is working on initiatives to make the campus greener.

The projects include the introduction of reusable bags, more energy efficient lights and greener food options. They look to join already successful initiatives, such as finding cleaner fuel for campus buses.

Victoria Hargreaves, a sophomore environmental studies major, said, "We need to stress the importance of the environment." She added, "In 50 years we'll be in charge of everything."

Ginny Clancy, the Coordinator of the Sustainability Studies Program, said, "Students get to work together to get experience; they use the campus as a lab to do research."

There are many active initiatives striving for a greener campus, one of which is the Lighting Audit Project. "The project is a collaborative approach to research and learning centered on an issue. The project includes students from different fields of study working with mentors from the Sustainability Studies Program," said Arlene Cassidy, the Director of Sustainability Studies.

The project team includes 25 students who collect data around campus. For phase one, a faculty member and their team are assigned a building to do a lighting audit. The team of students will then take cloudy day readings, and sunny day readings at highly populated places like the Student Activities Center.

"The questions we hope to ultimately investigate include," said Cassidy, "What types of lights are being utilized? Are the present lights meeting standards most efficiently? Are there lighting alternatives that provide the

standards yet decrease energy costs?"

Cassidy's team is in charge of the Social Behavioral and Sciences building and the members are Hargreaves, Daniel Penzi, Faren Islam and Will Polchinski. After they collect the data, they'll move on to proposing solutions.

Although the project is voluntary, the students that are running the Lighting Audit Project are all receiving independent research credits.

"Maybe on a sunny day in June, we won't need all the lights on," said Clancy. "We're trying to reduce our carbon footprint. We maybe can keep some of the lights off when not needed or have alternative lighting."

The Lighting Audit Project team that audited the SBS building took light readings on the seventh floor. When exiting the elevator, the team immediately noticed light fixtures that were in front of a window that was providing the hallway with natural light. "We could use these windows to our advantage," said Penzi. Hargreaves added, "These lights could be off right now."

Using light meters to measure the light intensity of specific areas, the group determined that the seventh floor was overlit. Hargreaves said, "We need to figure out what is best. It's not like we can talk to the building and tell it to turn off specific lights."

The students also take readings inside the building during overcast days, sunny days and at night because the meters pick up both ambient and artificial light.

Although this initiative is fairly new, others have been ongoing. For example, the buses on campus use biodiesel, a clean alternative fuel that contains no petroleum. Biodiesel is biodegradable, nontoxic and essentially free of sulfur.

The FSA has partnered with the Environmental Club for

about three years and they have collaborated on initiatives. One includes composting pre-consumer food waste. If half an onion isn't used, it won't end up in a landfill. Instead, it will be sent to a natural fertilizer compost.

FSA Director of Marketing and Communications Angela Agnello said, "The benefit of these efforts is that it reduces the amount of material sent to landfills, thereby reducing the use of fossil fuels and the carbon footprint on campus. In addition, aerobic composting, unlike anaerobic landfill degradation, does not result in the release of methane, a gas that is reported to be 25 times more powerful as a global warming agent than carbon dioxide. So, the university community's food waste would have an effect on global warming as well."

The efforts also include installing solar trash compactors, using environmentally-friendly cleaning products, providing cell phone battery recycling points, and RecycleMania, a huge effort on campus to get students to recycle. FSA has also installed filtered water stations in the SAC dining hall and in the Melville Library commuter lounge to encourage the campus community to use reusable water bottles.

Though Stony Brook and its Environmental Club work together often, not every project that students want to see is undertaken.

Melissa Czerniawski, the club's president, wants the university to stop using plastic bags and use reusable ones.

She wants to start in places like the SAC or the Student Union, where there is a high volume of people.

"The university ought to be held accountable for their claims of sustainability," Czerniawski said.

She said reusable bags would be made out of cotton and polyester and "you pay a dollar once and reuse it over and over again." She would also want to implement a discount if students have a reusable bag, just like Starbucks does when a student brings a reusable thermos.

The Environmental Club has even taken the lead on carrying out some of the initiatives it works on with the university, such as their organic garden in the South P lot and rooftop garden on the Health Science Center.

Czerniawski says the chefs in the hospital want to use the food from the garden for the patients. She says she wants to get garden spaces on campus so that students don't have to go all the way to South P.

"It would be so much easier if it was only a five minute walk," she said.

In regards to the Lighting Audit Project, Czerniawski said, "It's very basic, turn the lights off at 10 PM and then at 10 AM. It's the easiest thing to do."

When asked what she wants to see from the university in the future, she said she hopes to see more green space and more sustainability programs.

"I hope the school keeps up their sustainable mantra—whatever that claims to be."

## SPYING ON CAMPUS cont.

Sadman Islam, a junior at Stony Brook University, believes that this incident has further ruined the relationship between the government and the Muslim community. "It added a little more oil to a fire that has been raging," he said.

"Just because we are Muslim does not mean we are going to do something terrible," says Firhan Mohl, a junior at Stony Brook University. "How do I know now that when I get in trouble with the law, God forbid, I will get fair and equal treatment?"

Multiple other Muslim students were contacted for this piece, including both members and non-members of Stony Brook's MSA, but they declined to comment on the issue for fear of being associated with views opposing counterterrorism measures.

### The Element of Trust


Nadim feels that the largest impact the NYPD spying has had is on the relationship between Muslim Americans and the community at large, from the institutions that are meant to protect them to the values reinforced by a legal system intended to minimize the infringement of civil rights.

"If we are protecting, then we should have all the citizens be in on the process of protection, without creating an atmosphere of suspicion, without creating an atmosphere of malaise, without creating an atmosphere of non-citizenship.

"It's almost like we're telling the students that they're not citizens: 'We don't really care how you feel because we are afraid of you.'"

It is the element of trust that Nadim sees deteriorating at all levels of the relationship Muslim Americans form with their fellow citizens. "They really need to learn to trust the people that have been here so long. I mean people that are just being American Muslims and just living the life that they have been offered by God. Talk to them," she says, exasperated by the what she feels is a very simple gesture that contains the potential to bridge unfathomable gaps of misunderstanding.

"Some of them [students] say, 'What do you want us to do, Sister Sanaa? What are we suppose to be doing that we are not doing that this is happening to us?'

"I say, 'Nothing, keep doing what you are doing. Pray your five times a day, eat your Hillel food, fast, do your thing.'" 

# SOUTH ASIAN STUDENTS TRAVEL FAR TO PLEASE THEIR PARENTS

by Teena Nawabi

For some students, getting to class is as easy as rolling out of bed and walking to a classroom. For Nisha Choudhary, a Stony Brook student whose name has been changed for privacy, it means waking up five hours before class, taking two trains, and making it to class just barely on time. It means traveling through all sorts of conditions, four hours a day. It means falling asleep on public transportation, doing homework on the road and never missing a train. But above all, it means following the wishes of her parents.

Choudhary is one of several South Asian female students at Stony Brook whose parents have prohibited her from dorming, no matter how convenient it may be for all parties involved. As first generation Americans, these students are exposed to two cultures: a conservative one at home that tells them that leaving the house before marriage is wrong, and the outside world which implores children to become independent at a young age. The result is a backlash from immigrant parents, who try even harder to hold on to the customs they followed back home.

"India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are tra-

**"My mom tells me that as soon as a woman leaves the house, her value drops to zero."**

ditional societies with traditional roles and values for women," said Professor Shikaripur N. Sridhar, Director of Stony Brook's Center for India Studies. "And the culture is extremely protective," added his wife and colleague, Dr. Kamal K. Sridhar.

According to the Sridhars, females are encouraged to get an education in South Asian cultures, but their parents' main goal is to keep them from experiencing temptation. And to them, temptation comes in all forms.

But there is no greater evil enticement in their eyes than the pull towards, as Professor Sridhar says, "sexual promiscuity." According to him, one of the primary aims of

parents in these cultures is to protect their daughters from becoming immersed in a sexual college environment.

"This free sexuality in American society is bothersome," said Dr. Sridhar, an associate director for the Center for India Studies. "Men can fool around, but women cannot succumb to temptation."

The idea that women must protect themselves from sexual activity stems from the notion that they must keep themselves pure in order to be considered for marriage.

"Some more orthodox parents want to preserve their daughters' purities so that they can be offered as perfect brides to future husbands," said Dr. Sunita S. Mukhi, the Director of Asian and Asian American Programs at Stony Brook.

Female commuters agree. "My mom tells me that as soon as a woman leaves the house, her value drops to zero," said a sophomore at Stony Brook who commutes from Huntington and who also wished to remain anonymous.

Another temptation that South Asian parents fear their daughters will be drawn into is independence. The fear that an Asian woman will forgo her traditional role as a wife and mother and instead enter the workforce as an independent seems, to many Asian parents, devastating.

"On the one hand there is protectiveness, and on the other is the fear that their daughters may also be exposed to feminist ideas and freedom, and then become too independent, and cut-off or not want a conservative domesticated life," said Dr. Mukhi.

According to Professor Sridhar, South Asian parents are accustomed to a culture of "emotional enmeshment," a term found in the "Spiritual Self in Indian Psychology" by Alan Roland. It explains that young women are held tightly by their parents in order to be kept under control. Professor Sridhar crossed his arms and squeezed tightly. "Like this," he said.

"For the young woman, it is stifling," his wife added.

Still, many parents are looking forward, and many South Asian parents already let their daughters leave home. "Many parents realize that they must change with the times," said Professor Sridhar. He said that he would be open to letting his daughter leave home for school, if he had a daughter.

Students are optimistic about what the future holds for generations to come. "When my parents hear about a girl who, for example, dorms, they don't look down on her. They just get uncomfortable with the thought of letting me go too," said Choudhary. "They aren't accustomed to this kind of ideology and are not ready to change yet."

# SPIRIT NIGHT'S BIG RED HOWL

by Terichi Bellinger

Microphone in hand and nerves on high, I stood in the middle of Pritchard Gymnasium. A rainbow of colors filled the stands surrounding me for Spirit Night, one of the major events that make up the Big Red Howl, Stony Brook's spirit week. The colors represented each of the six quads on campus, as well as the Chapin, Schomburg, and West Apartments. The students were competing in two areas; the judges would determine which quad had the best skit, and the Residence Hall Association and National Residence Hall Honorary would decide who had been the most spirited that night and present them with the Spirit Stick.

My co-MC was Chris Murray, the Manager of Game Day Presentation and Marketing. He hyped up the crowd by shouting out the name of each residential area. With the students ready to go, I introduced the five judges for the night and the quad directors. After his introduction, Wolfie, our beloved mascot, ran a lap around the gym.

After a piece from the dance team, it was time for the performances to begin. RHA and NRHH went first with a *Wizard of Oz*-themed skit. It made me proud to hear a giggle here and there, even though we weren't being judged for our performance. Mendelsohn Quad went next with a skit that used the strengths of each quad to revive the "Wolfie Bot." Once alive again, Wolfie Bot and his Mendy friends danced to LMFAO's "Sexy and I Know It."



Next, I felt a bit of déjà vu with Roosevelt Quad's rendition of the same song. I did think Rosie's song was clever, and wish I could remember more than "When I walk to the SAC, this is what I see!"

Roth was up next with a skit that involved the quad's built-in water feature and a slow motion run. Like Mendy, Roth's skit incorporated the other quads. They even had another quad win one of the races in their skit.

We took a little break from the performances to wish Wolfie a happy 17th birthday, and almost everyone got out of their seats to dance to his favorite song, "Cotton-Eyed Joe." Once the song ended, the cheerleaders performed a routine for the crowd, and "Big Red Howl" t-shirts were tossed out into the bleachers.

With new shirts in hand and another round of cheering, performances resumed with Kelly Quad. They did their own rendition of "Things Stony Brook Students Say" that included references to their dining center.

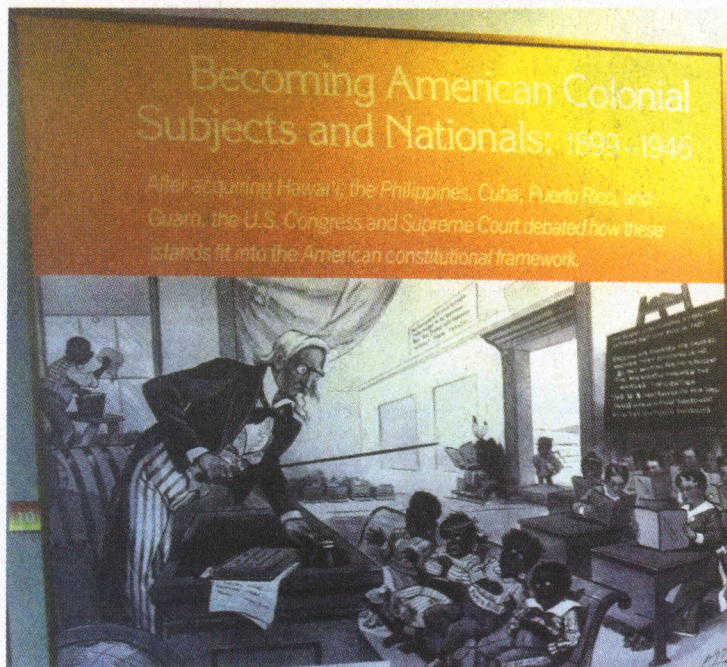
Chapin Apartments followed with their version of *American Idol*. One group of students performed as the "Undergrads," and a little boy danced. He was probably the most adorable thing I've ever seen in my life, especially when he handed out flowers to the two female judges, Gina Vanacore, the Associate Director of Residential Programs, and Dr. Laura Valente, the Dean of Residential Education.

I think everyone in the audience could have watched that little boy dance all day, but it was time for some Tabler love. They performed to a myriad of songs that they had recorded themselves singing, and the audience sang along with them. I had an "Oh, that's my jam!" moment whenever a new song came on.

The performances ended with H Quad's quest to find the hottest place on campus. The skit ended in cheers from H Quad residents, which eventually led to cheering and dancing from the other quads. There was even a dance battle between Wolfie and Mendy's Wolfie Bot as RHA and NRHH decided who would get the Spirit Stick and the judges tallied up their scores.

After thanking the Campus Activities and Major Programs committee for planning Big Red Howl, along with the judges and C-CERT, Michael Cordova, an RHD and member of the CAMP Committee, announced that the judges had chosen Mendelsohn Quad for best skit! RHA and NRHH had picked Mendelsohn as most spirited that night and awarded them with the Spirit Stick.

Overall, Spirit Night seemed to be a fun event that everyone enjoyed. Even though Mendy took home all the gold that night, H Quad picked up the most points through the course of the race. I had a great time serving as MC for the night, and I can't wait for Spirit Night next year!



# SINGGALOT COMES TO STONY BROOK

by Caithlin Pena



Nineteen-year old Jordan Del Fierro was just wandering in the Charles B. Wang Center, waiting for his friends on a Tuesday afternoon. Suddenly, Room 201 caught his eye. Curious, he entered the spacious room and soon noticed the large panels of photographs, charts and information on the walls and the large accordion display at the center of the room. He had unknowingly walked into "Singgalot: The Ties that Bind."

Singgalot is produced by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program. According to the program, the exhibit "details the history of Filipinos in America, honors early immigrant pioneers...and addresses the community and culture of Filipino-Americans through historically-significant photographs."

"It's very informative and really interesting," said Del Fierro, a sophomore and marine biology major. Del Fierro was born into a half-Filipino, half-Caucasian family. "To see my history laid out for me was just amazing."

Each black and white photograph depicts Filipinos throughout history. Most of these film clips of historic moments donated by the Filipino American National Historical Society National Office, *Filipinas* magazine and the descendants of the families displayed. For example, the Borabod Family of New Orleans and the Bacalso Family of Chicago were among the first Filipino immigrants who were hired as "sakadas," or contract laborers, from 1906 to 1935.

There are also charts and graphs showing the "Population of Filipinos in the U.S." This includes the "States with the Largest Concentration of Filipinos in 2000," both pure and mixed, as well as the population of "Filipinos in the U.S. Trust Territories/Micronesia."

But the pictures and charts do not just provide information.

"It shows how they overcome the challenges," ex-

plained Nidihi Nair, a student assistant for the Asian American Program at Stony Brook University.

The panels narrate the fascinating story of an ethnic group colonized by the Spanish for more than 300 years that gained freedom only to be handed over to another colonizer, the United States, after the Spanish-American War in 1898. Each panel told a story of each struggle Filipino immigrants had to face while on American soil before finally being granted citizenship in 1946 along with the independence of their home country.

The exhibit has been touring the country since 2008, visiting states with large Filipino communities such as California, Illinois and Pennsylvania. This year, it has made its final stop in New York, specifically in Stony Brook.

"It's good because it's not in a large area like Manhattan but here in Long Island," said Jennifer Iacona, the Program Coordinator of the Asian-American Program.

Not many students have visited the exhibit since it opened.

"It's mostly been slow for now," Iacona admits.

However, both the Community Opening Program on the March 3 and the Campus Opening Reception a few days later on the March 8 have already received many responses from interested patrons, both students and non-students. Iacona is confident that the number of visitors will grow in the upcoming weeks.

Del Fierro said he would love to attend either one of the programs if his schedule allows him.

"I don't think Filipinos in America realize that there is such a culture," he said. "Just because I'm Filipino doesn't mean I'll just act like a Filipino, or I'm an American so I'll just act like an American. No, there's also a Filipino-American culture."



# CULT CLASSICS COME TO STALLER

by Mike Pedersen



Paul Newland is the Staller Center's Outreach Coordinator. Starting last semester, the Staller Center has been showing classic movies free for Stony Brook students. On February 28, we sat down with Paul to talk about the program.

**Stony Brook Press:** Why did you start this series?

**Paul Newland:** Well, there are a lot of reasons. Part of my job is to get students to come to Staller Center. And we always say around here that we don't want students to come here for orientation, and then come here when they graduate, and then not do anything in between. So I figured starting a movie series that's free for students with cult classics that you haven't necessarily seen on the big screen would be a great opportunity to bring students into the theater.

**SBP:** You show the classic movies once a month, correct?

**PN:** Well, we've only done one so far. That was *Pulp Fiction* in November. We're doing *Clockwork Orange* tomorrow, and I'm hoping, starting next semester in the fall, that we'll do three per semester. Probably one in September, October and November.

**SBP:** Did you come up with the idea and start this program?

**PN:** I did. First I wanted to do the *Star Wars* films, but they weren't available, so I went immediately with *Pulp Fiction* because everyone knew and recognized that film. I thought that would be a great starting point to get students to come in.

**SBP:** How are you paying for the film rights?

**PN:** Well, we're not charging students for the film. All of the funding for this is coming from the Barbara N. Wien (Endowment for Arts and Education). That's where the funding is coming from for the screening and for the student staff that's here that night.

**SBP:** How has the attendance been?

**PN:** We've only done the one, but through limited advertising on campus, we had just over 400 for *Pulp Fiction*.

I'm hoping for a much bigger house for *Clockwork Orange*.

**SBP:** I haven't seen that one yet, but I heard it's good.

**PN:** It is good. It's also a little disturbing. The process of picking out the films has been with the student staff here. I would throw out titles and they would give me suggestions. Maybe some of my ideas didn't float with people who are 20 years younger than me.

**SBP:** Have you gotten any student feedback?

**PN:** Yeah, actually after the *Pulp Fiction* screening, a bunch of students came up to me and had suggestions and I put them on a list. We've got *The Breakfast Club*, *Pink Floyd-The Wall*, *Trainspotting*, and I think I'd really like to do, maybe around Halloween next year, one of the classic horror films. Maybe even a double feature, something like *Night of the Living Dead* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. But this depends on attendance. If we go for the next two without getting a lot of people, I don't know how we're going to continue this.

**SBP:** Have you thought about playing any cult classics that are so bad they're good? Like maybe *The Room*? I've heard of screenings in the city where, since the main character's apartment in the film is decorated with all these weird pictures of spoons, people bring spoons to throw at the screen.

**PN:** Since our theater is so busy and so valuable we won't do films like *The Room* or *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* where people are throwing stuff at the screen.

**SBP:** That movie's so awful that you enjoy it.

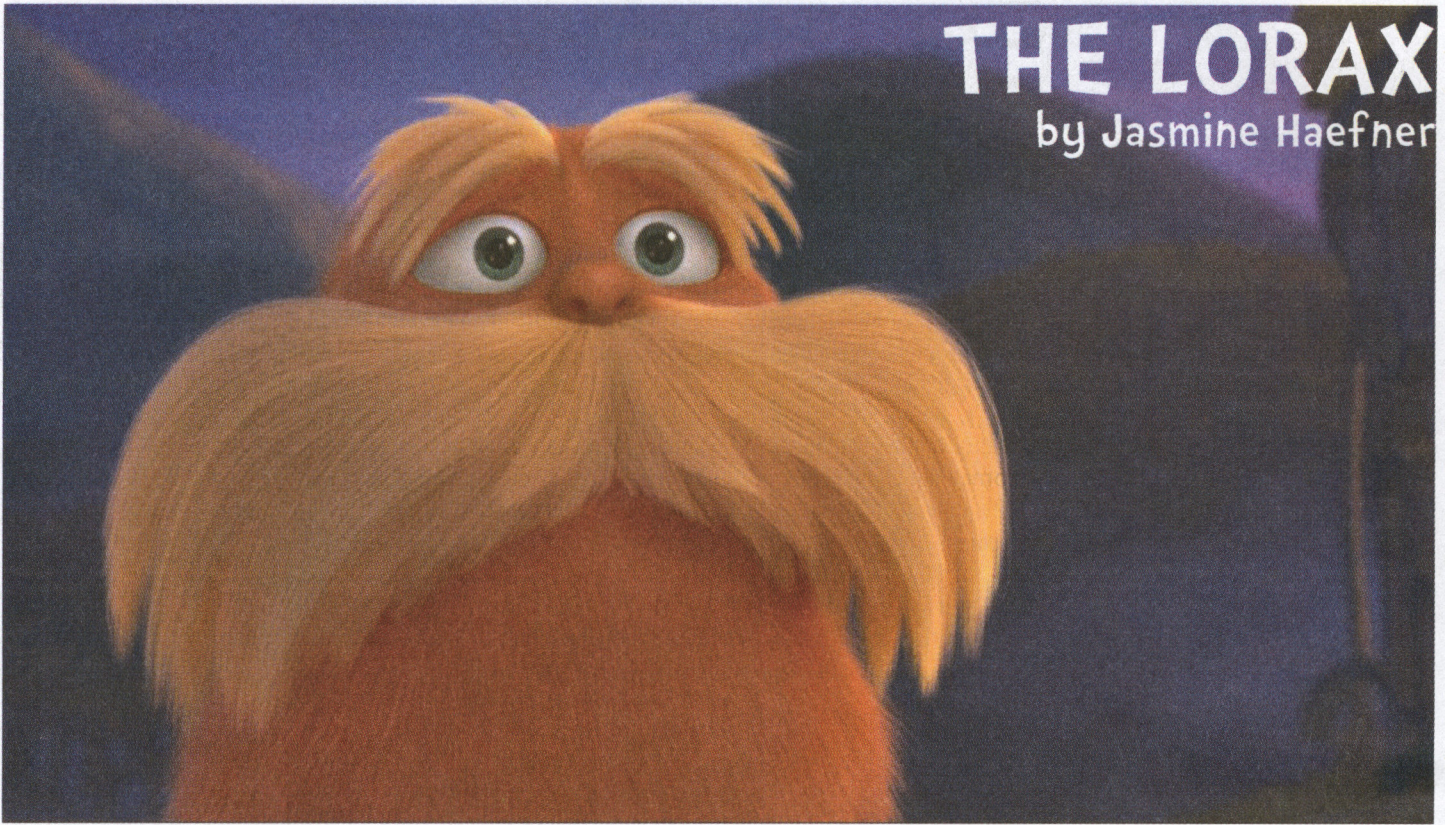
**PN:** Even *Rocky Horror*, I don't know if you've ever seen it in the theater with audience interaction, it's fun. But if you just watch it, it's a terrible movie. I don't think it's enjoyable if people aren't dancing and throwing things at the screen.

**SBP:** Do you have anything else planned for this semester?

**PN:** We have *The Big Lebowski* planned for April 18th.

# THE LORAX

by Jasmine Haefner



Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* is a kid's classic that criticizes big corporations and supports environmentalism. While the new film version proves to be an entertaining watch for most audience members, the simplicity of the film is lost because of the complicated back-story and ridiculous musical numbers. Although it is endearing to see a new generation of kids see my favorite children's story come to life, it left me wondering whether or not they could see the message.

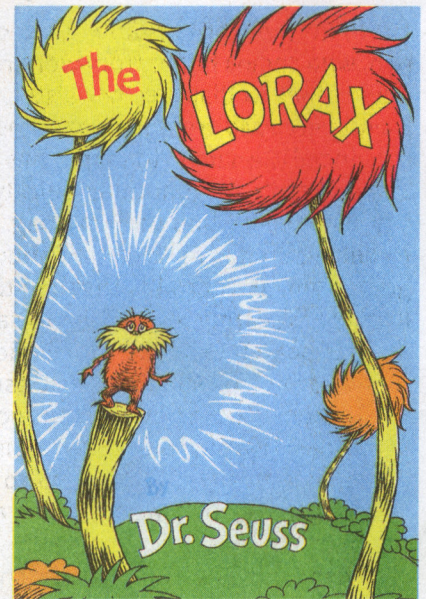
Unfortunately, with this adaption there is a lack of Dr. Seuss' rhyme and creativity. Not only do screenwriters Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio opt to rewrite the dialogue, they made no attempt to rhyme the script at all. When you read the book aloud, as you're meant to, it becomes clear how significant the rhyming is. Lucky for us Paul and Daurio came up with a substitution; they turn it into a musical that made my face fall flat, sans a single raised eyebrow.

As in nearly all of Dr. Seuss's stories, the characters and creatures are supposed to be entirely fictional. While this is not necessarily negated in the movie, it is simply brushed aside. Those things meant to resemble bears? They're actually Brown Bar-ba-loots. Those duck-like things? They're Swomee-swans. The closest they get to the original is the miraculously operatic fish, known as Humming-Fish. The magical world that Dr. Seuss had created came across as cavalier and unimaginative in the film.

But the animations are superb. This is the sole aspect by which the movie improves upon the book. The film manages to show what is imagined in the minds of young chil-

dren on-screen. No longer does a Tuffula Tree appear as an electrified ball of miss-colored grass—it looks like combed cotton candy with tufts soft and light enough to tickle your cheeks.

This film also shows a lack of clarity when it comes to the moral of the story. The main focus changes from moral standards to political ones when O'Hare Air, the antagonist of the film, is put out of business. This is even more convoluted when *The Lorax* is paired with the new 2013 Mazda CX-5 crossover SUV, a gasoline-powered car. Then there is simply too much competition for attention between the Once-ler's story and the puppy love between main characters Ted and Audrey. With the final lines of the movie, the audience is happy that Ted manages to plant a tree and O'Hare goes out of business. However, the story leaves readers with out the knowledge of how easy it is for greed to destroy, and that there is always hope when things go awry.



# WANDERLUST

by Lauren DuBois

The key to great comedy is making an audience laugh so hard that they never want to stop. In *Wanderlust*, a new comedy starring Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston, this action happens rarely, if ever.

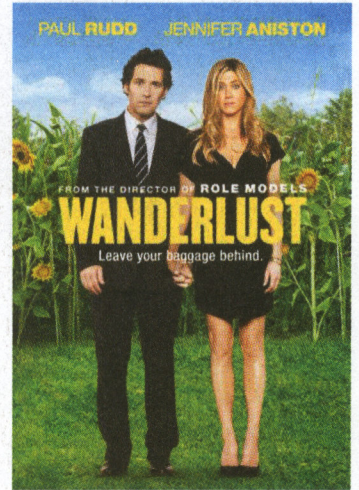
George (Rudd) and Linda (Aniston), are a married Manhattan couple living in a "micro-loft" until George loses his corporate job (which he hates), and Linda fails to sell her documentary about penguins with cancer. The couple then flees the city and hits the road, heading south to Atlanta to live with George's obnoxious brother (Ken Marino). On the way, they seek one night's refuge at Elysium, a hippie commune. After life at the brother's becomes too much, the two head back to Elysium in an effort to give the commune's peace and free love, cannabis consuming, twiggy-beverage lifestyle a try. While there, they are forced to adjust from their former latte- and smart phone-addicted lives. Their new lives include the sexy Eva (Malin Akerman) who turns her charms on to seduce George, as well as the absolutely full-of-shit, but still completely appealing and charming Seth (Justin Theroux).

Unfortunately, what should have been a great set-up and premise with a strong cast of zany characters played by some wonderful comedic actors and director David Wain, falls short of what it could have been. The hefty part of the blame goes to the sad script, which doesn't do either the characters, the actors who play them or the story justice. Many of the gags go on for far too long, falling flat almost immediately, then persist in trying to press the audience

to laugh at them in the hopes that continuing the joke will suddenly make it funny. The one exception to this is a fairly long stretch of time when Rudd's character talks to himself in a mirror, a spot that was hopefully all ad-libbed on Rudd's part. Otherwise, it too is a poorly written joke meant to just stretch the script out long enough to last a minimum of an hour and a half.

There is also a genuine lack of chemistry between Rudd and Aniston, which makes it hard to root for them to work through any issues they may have as a couple. This is in addition to an ironic lack of chemistry between Aniston and other film love interest Theroux, her real life partner. It's hard to believe Linda, after she is fully seduced by commune life, would still go for Seth, because his charm really doesn't go very far.

Overall, the film isn't really worth the ticket price, because the laughs don't sustain the audience over the one-hour thirty-eight minute runtime. You're better off trying to find a commune of your own—chances are it'll provide more laughter than Elysium does.



# GONE

by Nicole Kohn

In the new thriller *Gone*, Amanda Seyfried plays Jill Parish, who comes home from working the night shift at a run down diner to discover her sister, Molly, has disappeared. Having escaped from a kidnapping the year before, she is convinced the same kidnapper has come back for her sister. If she doesn't do something quickly, the next time she sees her sister could be in a body bag. When the police refuse to believe that Jill's so-called abductor is responsible, she grabs a gun and goes in pursuit of the sly killer herself, finding out his secret while trying to save her sister.

Her search is filled with ludicrous breaks, chases on foot and by car and close-call escapes, all while coming up with story after story so that no one she talks to knows she's investigating her sister's disappearance. All of this hustle and clear effort lead up to an absurd and horribly crafted last roll, making you yawn and sneak a peek at your watch to see how much time you wasted.

I hand it to Seyfried, though; she seems to have the role

of an unstable character down pat. Known best for her ditzy performance in *Mean Girls*, she definitely has become a well-rounded actress, able to play different characters and pull them off pretty well. But somehow she always gets stuck playing the role of a beaten down character, making her hold back her true abilities and leaving her in a position where she can't shine on her own.

Besides Seyfried, this film was made up of actors and actresses that are not very well-known, especially the serial killer who was only seen for a few seconds on the big screen.

This so-called thriller wasn't so scary at all, and the spooky scenes, like opening up a door as eerie music plays in the background, didn't make me say, "No, don't go in there!" Instead, it made me hope the end was near.

It is a total letdown. After going non-stop throughout the film, running around like a madwoman with a gun, Seyfried keeps you guessing. That is, until the climatic confrontation leaves you thinking that *Gone* never should have arrived to begin with.



Blackback antelope. Beautiful spiral horns...

2 likes 1 repin



Kat Omnes onto Beauty in Beasts



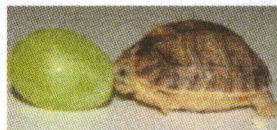
Mike Verdugt onto The Cats Gift Shop

# PINTEREST: PRETTY & USELESS

by Sam Liebrand



3 repins



www.bestweekever....

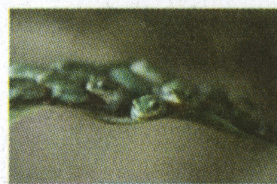
1 like 1 repin



Emily onto Cute things



Darius Gondor Lucy gondor



Adorable tiny froggies.

2 repins



Kelli Morrill onto Too cute



Prez

1 like



Francesca Sandford onto Prez and Pix



In an age when every new social media website is automatically touted as “the next Twitter or Facebook” by the press and wanna-be “pioneer” users, it’s hard to gage their staying power. Take, for example, the release of Google+ last summer. Every nerd on the Internet prophesized that it would bring about the ultimate death to Facebook only to find that it bored early adopters before it was even out of beta. New social media websites have a tendency to be hyped by people trying to be ahead of the curve on new tools to whore their personal brands.

Pinterest, a start-up that has surged in popularity over the past month, is a virtual corkboard for sharing things found on the Internet, from home décor and clothes to memes and videos. Essentially, it’s a mixture of Tumblr and Twitter in that pages are customized to reflect the personality of the user, and there’s no real stigma attached to going on a posting rampage. Though the website’s interface is quite intuitive and thoughtfully designed (think a bigger, more compact version of Facebook’s timeline), its functionality is limited to satisfying only the savviest and most dedicated social media junkies.

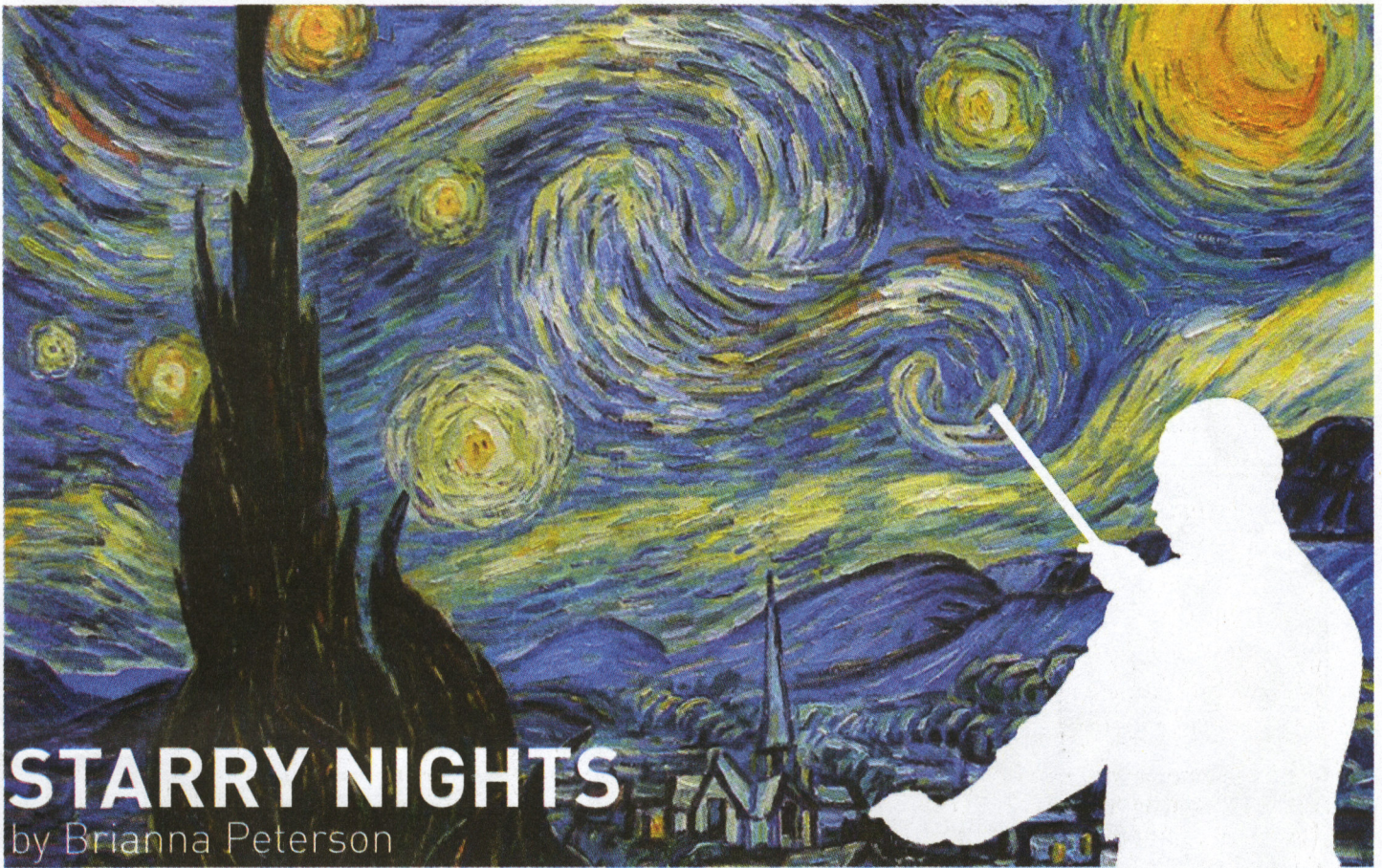
The interesting thing about Pinterest is that its core idea is a move in the opposite direction of most social media sites. Every Facebook profile update has taken a turn downplaying personal identity sections like favorite movies and quotes, with the realization that people care less about who you are than what you’re doing. Twitter doesn’t even bother having these self-identification sections, allowing someone’s posting history to speak for itself.

The only form of interaction on Pinterest is through

pictures and links, limiting the sociality to forms of self-identification. While people can post original content, it’s nearly always re-hashed links from other websites, which are in turn re-digested through “re-pinnings” by other people. Considering that the website is largely reliant on self-interest and building an online personality over real interaction, the resulting news feed leaves users sifting through boring pictures and novelty products, not organized by any useful algorithm.

But it’s hard to argue with numbers: Pinterest is by some estimates said to be the fastest-growing social network in history, with excess of ten million users, even though it is still in invite-only mode. Unlike Google+, which was way too self-aware to succeed, or FormSpring which had a finite usability, Pinterest has the same draw as websites like Last.fm, where the goal is about building a profile that’s of more use to you than it is to your friends. Ultimately, the success of Pinterest will lie in a change in user behavior that hasn’t come yet: some people will need to stop trying too hard to please their followers, and others will need to realize that it’s okay to stop following your friend who only posts pictures of kittens and ice cream. And like Twitter, sometimes it’s better to just stay on the sidelines and watch others.

Pinterest is probably here to stay, but don’t think it’s any sort of new Facebook, Twitter or even Tumblr. It may be drawing interest now (especially from women, who make up 84 percent of users), but the only people likely to end up staying aboard are the most obsessive content-farmers and Internet shopping addicts. For most of us, it’s pretty useless.



## STARRY NIGHTS

by Brianna Peterson

On February 28, a group of students and faculty put on "Starry Nights at Staller Center," a concert featuring renowned musicians, including Metallica's Kevin Cobb and the Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera's Pedro Diaz.

Named for its generally well-known participants, the event is held once a semester on the Staller Center Recital Hall stage.

The series allows both students and faculty to "play to both highlight their abilities, and to show the collaborative spirit which is the core philosophy of the department," said Michael Hershkowitz, director of Concerts at Stony Brook.

Music professor Colin Carr, is the artistic director for the production and even participates in the performances as a cellist. The students, So Young Bae, Alexandria Le, and Susanna Mendlow, as well as the faculty do not attend otherwise typical multiple rehearsal sessions for this type of event.

"Because of the difficulty of trying to schedule rehearsals around the busy teaching and performance schedules of each of the players, the actual preparation time is extremely condensed, and usually consists of a few hours of rehearsals together before the concert," said Hershkowitz.

The players rehearse individually and the preparation for such an event can take "weeks or months" before the actual performance. The limited amount of joint preparation, however, has less effect because the musician's in-

dividual practice allows a "perfect understanding of their individual parts."

The recital consisted of four pieces, the first being Lalliet's "Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano." The piece allows each instrument to play the role that it is best suited for: the piano lightheartedly playing and mediating while the bassoon and oboe engage in a harmonious conversation.

The second piece, Blacher's "Divertimento for Trumpet, Trombone and Piano," consisted of jazz-influence harmonies and melancholy ballads from both the trumpet and trombone.

The audience responded more favorably to the third piece, Martinu's "Revue de Cuisine," a lively movement that is jazz-inspired and contained a march-like tempo. It strongly resembled the Charleston, and engaged the audience.

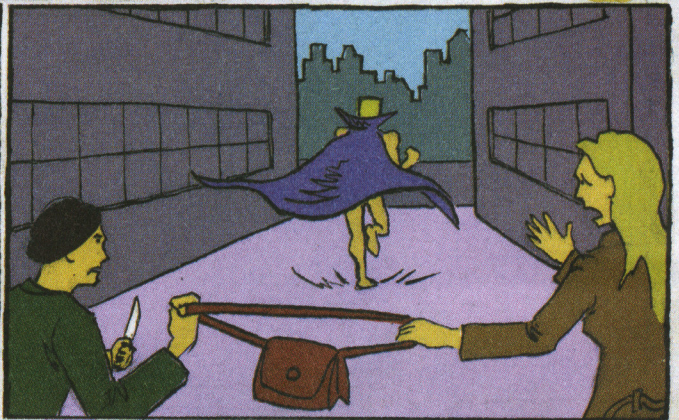
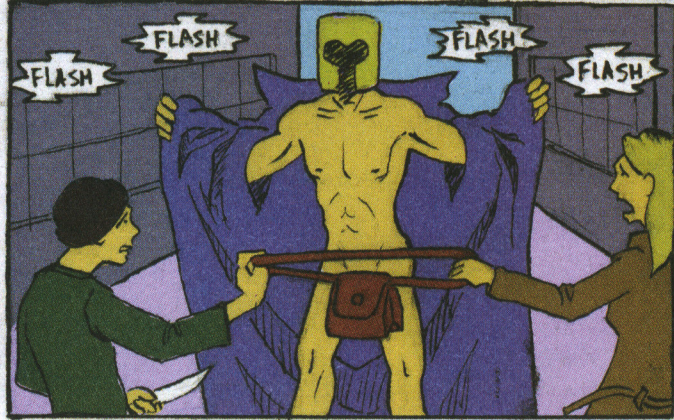
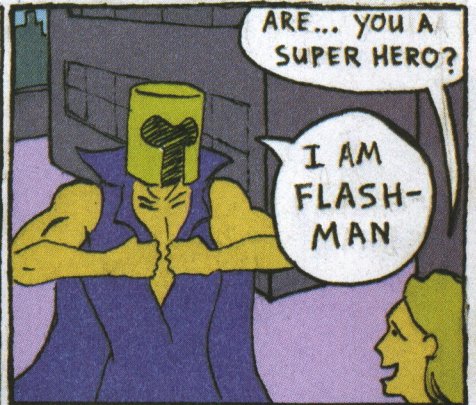
The final piece, Schubert's "Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello, in B-Flat" was performed with melodic beauty and rhythmic inventiveness. It was energetic and served as a great contrast to the modern pieces that came before it.

Overall, the technical ability on display was high, as both students and faculty flawlessly executed each movement with grace and precision. While the students were anxious about performing before the public, they are able to "learn to manage their anxiety," said Hershkowitz.

# FLASH MAN

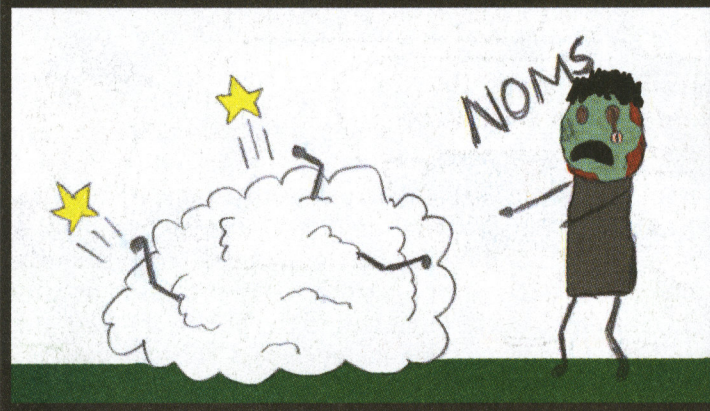
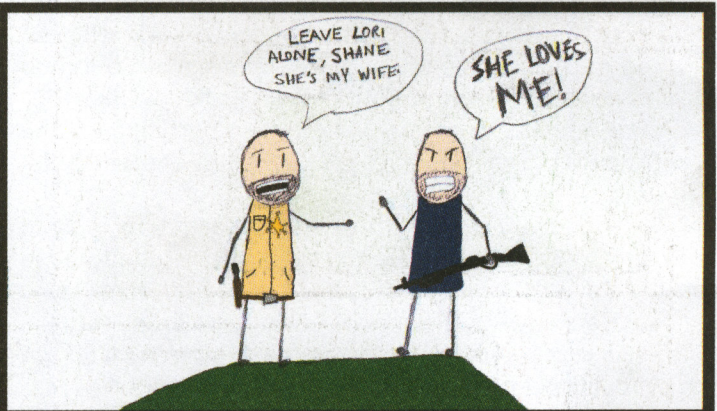


BY ANDREY DOTSENKO & AUSTIN ROSS



out of  
**MANA**

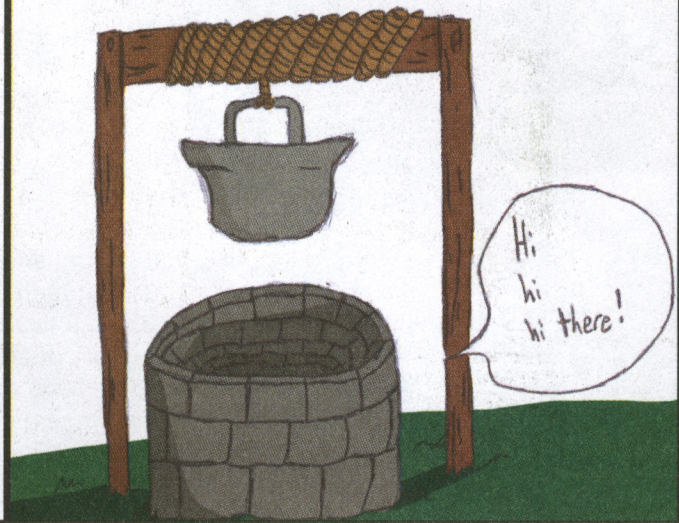
BY:  
Mike Pedersen



**FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS  
NEXT TIME  
ON DEGRASSI**

DRAWN BY DAN CASHMAR COLORED BY MIKE PEDERSEN

# ULTRAVIBRANCE



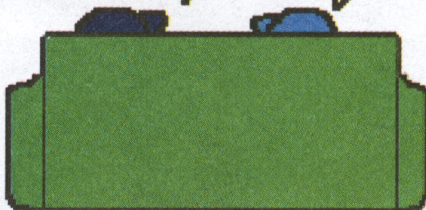
The Triumphant Return Of...

# Sportz

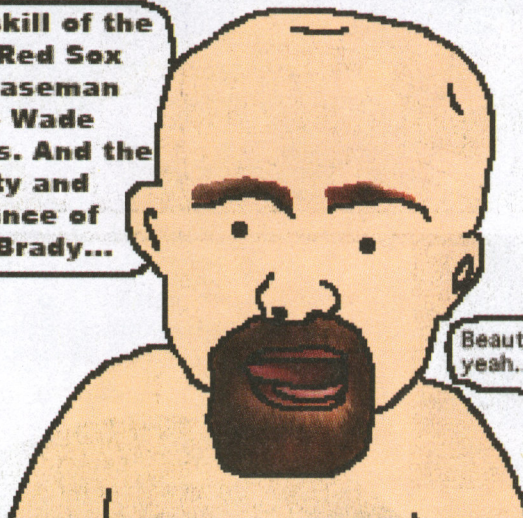
By. Mark Greek

Hey man, did you see Kevin Youkilis married Tom Brady's sister?

That's gonna be one talented Bostonian kid...



The skill of the best Red Sox 3rd Baseman since Wade Boggs. And the beauty and elegance of Tom Brady...



Beauty? uhhh yeah...

But nothing will compare to Gisele and Tom's son, the genuine article. The perfect amalgam of form and function...

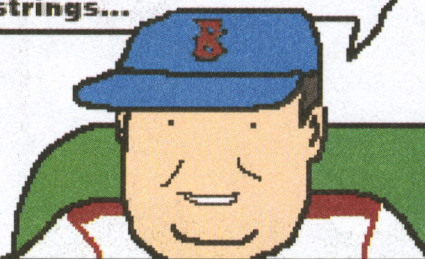
Uhhhhh... You've put a little too much thought into this, I think...



He's going to be perfect...

Yeah, I'm just gonna stop talking to you in general...

Muscular, supple thighs... Chiseled abs and hamstrings...



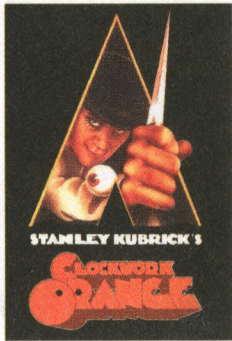


When Stanley Kubrick's 1971 masterpiece *A Clockwork Orange* comes up in polite conversation, one topic inevitably emerges: violence. As originally described in Anthony Burgess's 1962 novel of the same name, Alex, a high school-aged thug with a taste for Beethoven, heads a small gang in a crime-ridden dystopian future England. Through the course of the movie's first act, he and his "droogs" rob, plunder and rape both the rich and poor with impunity, spewing Russian-influenced "nadsat" slang all the while. In order to leave prison early after a robbery goes wrong, Alex participates in an experimental "treatment" for criminal behavior that robs him of his free will.

Not surprisingly, the movie makes most audiences profoundly uncomfortable. Alex and his friends sing and dance as they commit acts of brutal rape and unabashed depravity, backed by a joyful classical score. It's disturbing, but in its own way it's also funny (an irony seemingly lost on some). The pairing of high art with high crime, along with grandiose speech and a cast of patently absurd characters, is a key part of Burgess's darkly comedic novel. It's a statement on the futility of crime control and the confused intentions of bureaucrats fixing not the cause of their society's illness, but merely its symptoms. If you squirm at these images, consider it a good sign. It means that in all likelihood, you're sane.

To be offended by a work of art is fine. In fact, if you find something offensive, it's probably because the creator wanted you to. But when you decide that you are only offended—that is, disturbed with no accompanying intellectual grasp of a work's message or meaning—then you are choosing to ignore what the artist is trying to say. It's a reductive and oversimplified point of view. Burgess himself later said that he regretted the degree to which *A Clockwork Orange* was so often misinterpreted. But I can think of a few stories with less intellectual value than this—including one in which the Romans nail a guy to a cross for encouraging people to be nice to each other.

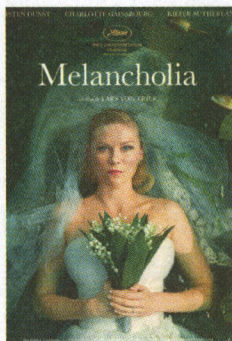
So get out there and get offended. Because if you've made it this far without making an effort to understand the unpleasant, you're doing something wrong. -ANDY POLHAMUS



*Melancholia* drove several Staller patrons from the theatre, but I had no desire to leave even for five minutes. The intricate plot probably contributed most to the exodus, but I'm sure the nudity didn't help either.

There are two sisters, Justine (Kirsten Dunst) and Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg). Justine has just been married, and the wedding reception is being held at her sister's estate. It quickly becomes apparent that Justine is suffering from melancholia, a Greek word meaning "sadness," which was used in ancient times to describe a variety of mental disorders, including depression. The word takes on a double meaning when it is used to name a planet that is on a collision course with Earth.

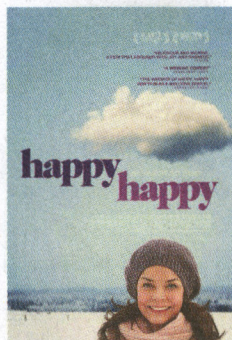
The film is slow at times, and there are a lot of scenes that didn't seem relevant to the plot. If I had those complaints about any other film, I would say, "don't waste your money." However, in this case, it's very worth it. Despite the seeming lack of plot and slow-moving pacing, it is a very captivating film. Also, the last scene alone is one of the most intense things I've seen in a while. -JEN NOVOTNY



After watching the indie film *Happy, Happy* (original title *Sykt Lykkelig*), there is only one thing I can say with certainty: I don't understand Norwegians.

The story is set in the middle of Nowhere, Norway. A couple with marital issues (probably because the husband may or may not actually be homosexual) is renting out their second house next door to another couple with marital issues (mostly because the wife had an affair). Lots of awkward and depressing things happen in the hour-and-a-half film, but the primary awkward scenario is that Wife #1, Kaja (Agnes Kittelsen), begins sleeping with Husband #2, Sigve (Henrik Rafaelsen), and all hell breaks loose. Except that it doesn't because everyone seems to be mostly okay with it.

This film left me contemplating the intricacies of human interaction and how much fun it wouldn't be to run naked through the snow. Ultimately, I think it's worth watching if one is interested in the oddities of relationships, but don't expect something happy or exciting. -JEN NOVOTNY







Alternative hip-hop has been making waves in the music industry and is becoming increasingly popular. Early artists such as Asher Roth introduced the newest wave, which blends electronic beats with catchy rhymes. This has paved the way for other artists to come into the spotlight.

Prominent among them is the Philadelphia-based duo Chiddy Bang, a group that's coming into the mainstream. After gaining critical acclaim for their hip-hop spin on the MGMT hit song "Kids," the duo released two EPs mixing their signature sound: blending electronic beats from Indie-Electronic bands such as Passion Pit with lyrics that anyone can remember such as "will somebody please tell Roth that I don't love college."

Their first studio album, *Breakfast*, features the very sounds that fans have come to love. The problem is that there's not much change in sound between this album and earlier EPs. You can hear the echoes in style from earlier songs like "The Opposite of Adults" and "The Good Life."

That's not to say that this record is bad, though. The rhymes and melodies are memorable, and it certainly puts you in that "feel-good" mood. When it comes to catchy beats to nod your head to, Chiddy's fully stocked and ready to deliver.

"Catchy" may be the best way to describe this release. You'll find yourself humming the melody or chorus from tracks such as "Ray Charles" or "Mind Your Manners" for hours after listening.

However, this album seems more of a continuation of previous releases as opposed to a step in a new direction. It doesn't exactly stand out in any way. Chiddy doesn't distinguish itself in anyway from other artists in the industry. That's one of the major downfalls of *Breakfast*. You can hear the similarities between this release and Hoodie Allen's "Pep Rally" or Childish Gambino's "Camp."

All in all, *Breakfast* is a decent album. It's got some catchy songs, but the lack of variety makes it almost boring. I wouldn't exactly call it the "breakfast of champions." -NICK BATSON



Dear Mr. Springsteen,

I won't pretend we haven't had our ups and downs. My parents never liked you, for one, which I'm sure was tough to hear, considering my whole family is from your home state. Then there was the middle of your career, which is spotty enough to give even your most dedicated fans pause. I mean really, is there *anyone* who thinks *Lucky Town* is a decent album? Outside of jail, I mean.

But we had our good times, too. There was *Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.*, in which you identified yourself as a clever lyricist with a flair for imagery and a strong soul sensibility. And then there was *Born to Run*, which—as everybody knows—set the stage for where you are today. My personal favorite is *Nebraska*. And don't even get me started on the social poignancy of *Born in the U.S.A.* But let's be real with ourselves. After '85, you kind of lose me. I understand that you had just realized you were getting old and sure, that can be scary. But come on. Naming a record *Tunnel of Love* is sort of creepy and just generally not a good career move.

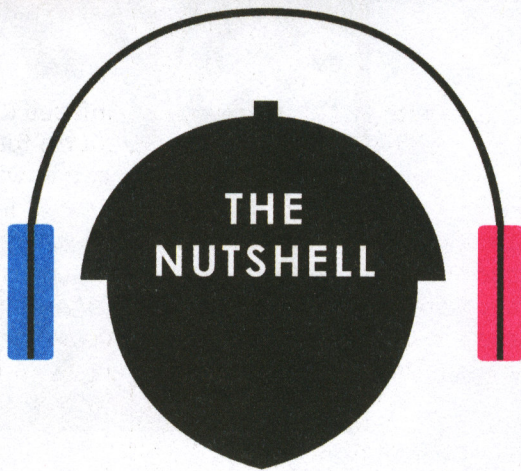
Look, what I'm really writing for is to tell you that even though we don't see much of each other anymore, I respect what you're doing now and I hope we can be friends. Sure, your album of Pete Seeger covers was pretty lame, but it seems like you've finally been able to combine the arena rock that made you famous with the folk influence that so closely echoes your politics. "Shackled and Drawn" is a great song with a stomping rock beat and an Appalachian-style melody, for example, and your new record's title track "Wrecking Ball" is nothing short of beautiful. As usual, you've based your songs around the sociopolitical status quo, so your songs about the Great Recession certainly hit home. On a few other tracks, I can totally hear you getting back to your roots—all that piano, you know? And the way you end on a bright note is awesome.

I thought I'd finish by saying thanks. It was looking shaky there for a pretty long time, but you've come through for us again. It's good to see you're doing well.

Your Friend,

ANDY POLHAMUS

P.S. Sorry to hear about Clarence. I'm sure he's soloing up in heaven, or wherever sidekicks go when they die.



**Xiu Xiu - *Always***

Say "hi" to the harsh world according to Jamie Stewart on the new Xiu Xiu album *Always*; Stewart it is not a happy place. This album can be unsettling to the light-hearted because of the intense lyrics that range from abortion to "an Afghani teenage boy murdered for sport by American soldiers." It captures the damaging, cruel world in a gentle way. The songs are enlightening and the sound is electronic; it can be dreamy at time with strings, like in "Black Drum Machine." Enjoy listening to *Always* in a dark, gothic room in solitude.

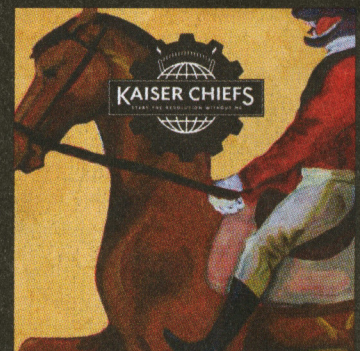
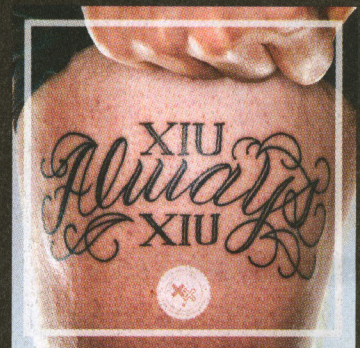
**Kaiser Chiefs - *Start the Revolution Without Me***

British indie rock band, the Kaiser Chiefs' fifth studio album opens with the impossibly catchy "Little Shocks," making it obvious that listeners are in for a treat with this new record. Snarky lyrics and upbeat rock tempos demonstrate that the band has yet to lose its touch for making music, and when it's followed up by the first single off the album, "On the Run," it's evident that the infectious melodies and smooth vocals are only going to get better. Lines like "start the revolution without me. I'll definitely be at the next one," from which the album takes its name, are not only apropos to this day and age when civil unrest seems rampant worldwide, but is also delightfully satirical and show that the band doesn't take itself too seriously. Although, two well-placed ballads near and at the end remind listeners that the Kaiser Chiefs are not all fun and games. *Start the Revolution Without Me* is easily one of the most comprehensively solid albums in recent years and come March 6 when the album is finally released in the U.S., you'll want to leave it on a loop.

**Yellow Ostrich - *Strange Land***

Yellow Ostrich's *Strange Land* is definitely a major step forward for the band. Finally taking advantage of their new full-band setup, they've evolved from clever ideas that aren't always ideally-executed to a solid, well-produced rock album that I'd recommend to anyone. It's ten tracks of creative, hook-driven indie music that blends elements of Radiohead, Neil Young and Paul Simon into something that has to be heard. Repeatedly.

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 EVAN GOLDAPER  
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## CEREMONY / ZOO

**Ceremony - Zoo**

After shocking fans with 2010's southern rock-infused *Rohnert Park*, hardcore punk veterans Ceremony are back with their fourth full-length, *Zoo*. It's a good news/bad news release. First, there's the fact that with *Zoo*, Ceremony have stepped further down the path of traditional guitar-driven rock and roll while maintaining their signature hardcore sound. And the bad news...Well actually, that's the bad news, too. The punk community may have been surprised two years ago when Ceremony first stepped away from their roots. *Zoo* is an impressive continuation of Ceremony's new sound, and is sure to appeal to fans both new and old. That said, listeners aren't likely to find any surprises here.

**Punch Brothers - Who's Feeling Young Now?**

Punch Brothers recently dropped their third and already best-charting album in *Who's Feeling Young Now?*. Even for consistent lead singer Chris Thile, formerly of Nickel Creek, this album is impressive.

Like many of the other alternative folk bands who have found success in recent years, Punch Brothers relies heavily on rich-sounding guitar harmonies and clever lyrics. But their songs are even more free-form than what's typical for the genre, often jumping between wildly different sounds in the course of one track. It doesn't always come together, especially in the song "Hundred Dollars," in which the stronger melody takes a back seat to contrasting, weaker one. When it does work, like on the whimsical, effortless and catchy "Don't Get Married Without Me," it's absolutely brilliant. The track to look out for is "This Girl," which has the melody and energy of radio-ready folk without the cheesiness that so often hinders the genre.

**Burial - Kindred**

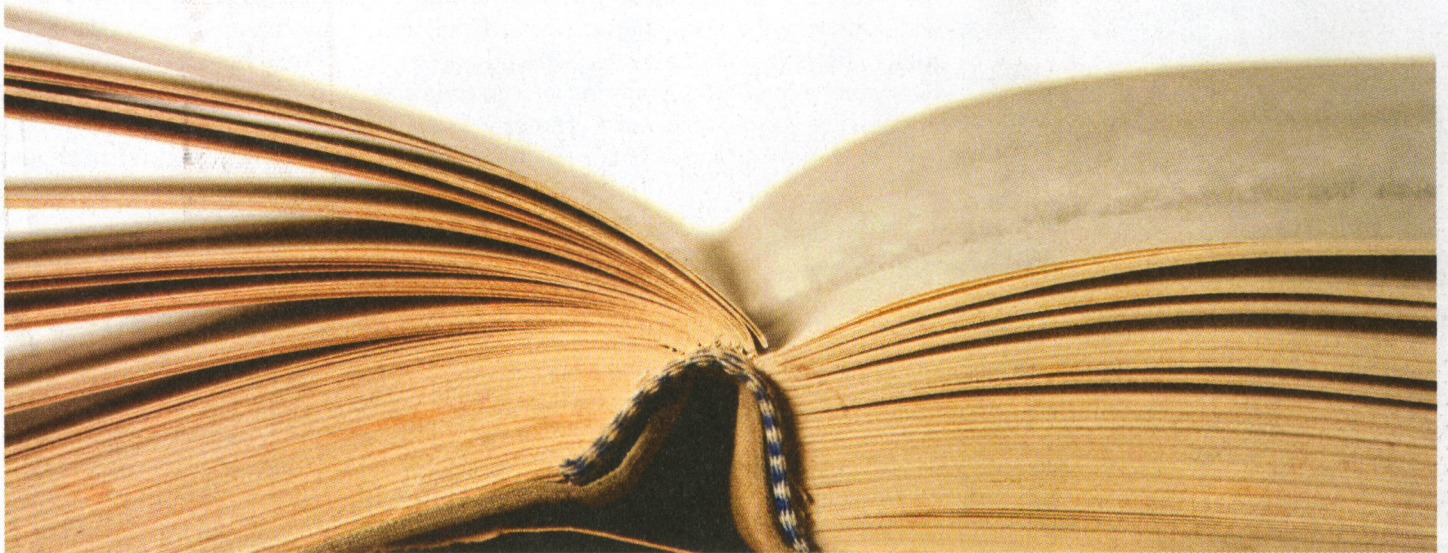
Burial once again has shined a light of creativity into the relatively stale, bass drop-obsessed electronic music scene with his latest EP, *Kindred*. The different elements of this album mesh together seamlessly. From the heavy, distorted bass lines to the reverberant, haunting vocals and two-step percussion, the EP flows fluidly from one track to the next, conveying a tranquil ambience that captivates. I hope this is a sign of what's to come from Burial, as the execution of this EP is truly impressive.

**Magnetic Fields - Love at the Bottom of the Sea**

Abandoning the grinding shoegaze-tinged sounds of *Distortion* and the acoustic crooning of *Realism*—The Magnetic Fields heads back to familiar territory with their eleventh album—synth-pop romance. Fans of early work such as *Holiday* and *The Wayward Bus/Distance Plastic Trees* will rejoice at the sound of this album. The Magnetic Fields continue their gender-bending lyrics with the first single "Andrew in Drag," delivering a solid offering on par with their past classics, The Magnetic Fields can still craft great indie-pop music.

# BOOK REVIEW

by Dan Cashmar



Recently, I had the chance to experience something known as a book. A book is a bunch of paper with dried ink glued together onto a board. They leave some separation so you may turn the paper, which are also individually known as pages.

The best way to describe a book would be to imagine a foreign language film. Remember the subtitles at the bottom that let you know what everyone is saying? Now imagine a medium that was completely subtitles without any actual film in the background. It forces your brain to imagine the scenarios the characters are in: a cop-out on the production team's behalf.

On the other hand, a book can last much longer than a film. If you're really enjoying the subtitles, it can last up to a week. This is quite the double-edged sword, however, because if you don't enjoy the subtitles, you're in for a long car ride with screaming children.

Since books do not actually show you what's happening, they sometimes write sentences that aren't dialogue to describe what characters are doing and where they are. This would have been the most tedious part of a book if you were not required to turn the pages yourself.

Another regrettable decision on the part of book producers is that they cannot be enjoyed at night. Apparently you need light to reflect off the pages and into your eyes to be able to read. This is a massively unbearable situation for those who prefer their foreign language films on paper without film at night.

There are many kinds of books, but all of them involve reading, unfortunately. They have their 3D-movie equivalent books that have pictures stand up as you turn the

glued paper.

Some books have hard covers and others have soft covers. The harder a book is, the more expensive it is. The worst type of book is one that's in a foreign language and doesn't have subtitles of its own. Who thought that would sell well?

I've found many uses of books that weren't their intended use. For example, people who employ the techniques of Pooping 2.0 will find that books raise your feet to an appropriate level for efficient excretion. If you find that your papers fly about on a windy day, try setting a book atop them.

I have also found them quite useful on dates. Say you're waiting on a lady or gentleman at your local teashop and they're a little late; pretend you're interested in the book. For some unknown reason, people assume correctly that I'm quite intelligent when I hold a book. Your date will make this assumption as well. And for the barbarian in us all, books could also be used to bludgeon someone you severely dislike.

My dad told me that the papers in books are made from trees. I went to do some research on this to validate his claim on an Internet website known as "Google," but there were so many words to go through that I never finished my quest. I called up my grandma to see if it's true that paper is made from trees, but she's dead, so she didn't answer.

Overall, I wouldn't recommend books to anyone. They're an outdated medium for story telling. Why would you ride a horse when you could fly an airplane?

# KEEP BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

by Nicole Kohn

Tucson Unified School District has "banned" Mexican-American Studies books from classrooms – well, they may have, depending on your definition of ban.

School textbooks are being taken out of the MAS classrooms, and teachers are being told by administrators that they need to take precautions when teaching from other books, as well as what curriculum they use.

The school district says there are no books being banned; these books are still available in libraries. Still, teachers are being told to stay away from books and lessons that have to do with race, ethnicity and oppression. So why are they banning these books from the curriculum, but still making them available for students to read in the library? It's like telling someone they can't have ice cream, while putting a big bowl of it in front of them.

What I don't get is how throughout our middle school and high school careers, every English teacher tells us that reading is important and it is something we should all do. We were given a certain amount of books throughout the school year to read, like *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. So what has changed?

That list of banned books includes *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, *Rethinking Columbus*, *Critical Race Theory*, *The Tempest* and *Chicano!: the History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*.

What baffles me the most about this ban is the fact that

a school district is taking away an ethnic studies program and its books just because it focuses on Mexican-American life and culture. Haven't we all been taught ever since we started school to accept people and not judge one another? So why is a school district banning books because this focuses on a certain culture and race?

Being a student myself who enjoys reading, and proudly admits that some of my favorite books are the ones I've read in my English classes during high school, I think it's unfair for the students who attend Tucson Unified School District to be restricted in terms of what books they can and cannot read in class.

It makes me think, if they will ban books from teachers' curriculum, what will they do next?



## THE "COOL, HIP" GUIDE TO RELIGION by Father Dean Mean



Father Dean Mean is a locally syndicated columnist. He is a fan of *Genesis* and *Black Sabbath*.

Now, my fellow emissaries and apostettes, before I begin, I would like you all to read the following words in your mind, with a deep, sexy basso voice, much like that of your Morgan Freeman or Pope Benedict XVI: What's the deal with gay marriage, man?

Now, I know I'm going to get a lot of flack from old-fart Fathers claiming that gays having sex is an abomination. But what the Bible specifically

states is; "thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). Now look, God knows, men lie a lot. As a 42-year-old virgin myself, I lie

about my virginity, to men and women, all the time. And I lie in the same way every time: first time, I was on a private jet to Barbados. I believe I named her Kiki. So many Hail Marys.

Now, I know what people are saying, "Father, but the Bible is talking about sex." The first thing I usually say is, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman. I'm not your father." Then, we usually go on *The Maury Show*, and it turns out that I am, in fact, the boy's father. True story.

Anyways, if you want gay people to stop having sex, you should simply let them get married. Everyone knows that once the honeymoon's over, so is the sex. It's the circle of life; first you lose your baby fat and start having sex, then, because of children and pregnancy, you gain back your baby fat and stop having sex. This probably only applies to lesbians. Unless your name is Thomas Beatie. Then you're shit out of luck.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. I'm celebrating early this year.  
Pacem,  
Father Dean Mean, D.O., MFA

# A COMMUTER'S LONG JOURNEY

by Lisa Crimauado

My long journey begins at the bus stop home. I am upset because the Suffolk County Transit buses run hourly, and are usually late. Although I receive a student discount, I do not feel validated. The campus does not value the needs of its commuter students.

My commute benefits from the season's mild weather; however, winters past have been brutal. It is shocking that the SBU buses run timely, on every quarter hour, while I freeze to my seat at the bus stop waiting for a Suffolk County Transit bus. It is a terrible situation because commuters are in the elements without protection.

The rain complicates my journey. Commuters huddle under a small bus stop enclosure while hitting each other with soggy umbrellas. We need more enclosed bus stops that will cover all riders in inclement weather. The action would benefit Suffolk County Transit bus and SBU bus riders.



Unfortunately, I pay a transportation fee, but do not benefit from SBU transportation. It is unfair that I pay for a service that I do not utilize. The campus needs to heed the wishes of its Suffolk County Transit bus-riding commuters. Those who do not use SBU buses or parking in Stony Brook parking lots should be exempt from the transportation fee so that they can pay for their bus rides.

My trip becomes arduous. When I finish late, I am afraid because I am waiting in the dark for an hour. Although I am surrounded by others, I feel agitated. In an effort to alleviate the situation, the Suffolk County Transit buses should run every half-hour during the night run.

My journey becomes a monetary hassle. In the credit and debit card age, I am expected to carry exact change. I do not see the logic. In order to improve the situation, the Suffolk County Transit bus system needs to adopt New York City's metro-bus system, and allow pre-paid Metro Cards on every bus. The card would facilitate matters and allow for an easier ride.

Other Suffolk County Transit bus-riding commuters have a more difficult journey than me. As a result of poor planning, those who do not have a direct route home transfer at the Smith Haven Mall transit hub. These unfortunate riders spend time waiting at campus and longer at the mall. The situation needs to change because it is grossly unfair.

The long road home is frustrating and my patience is at a premium. I have been frozen, chilled and wet, all in the sake of the journey home. I see a better way. The Suffolk County Transit system needs to reorganize itself. Afterwards, this outdated service would run efficiently and facilitate its riders.

# A PC DILEMMA

"Now, I don't want to sound insensitive..."

"I hope I don't offend anyone, but..."

"I know I can't say the word because I'm [insert race]..."

Everyone says it. Everyone does it. And everyone doesn't do it. What is it?

Political Correctness.

As our world has grown more tolerant of diversity, people have slowly realized that certain words have the power to offend or emotionally harm others.

Every race has countless derogatory names. When it was just race that was the issue, being politically correct wasn't a big thing to ask for, though many people still failed miserably.

Today, it's even more complicated. Not only can you not say [insert racial slur] unless you actually are of that race,

by Jen Novotny

but you can't say "firemen" or "retarded."

I know, I know. I'm a terrible person for suggesting that promoting feminine equality is such a big deal. But honestly, what's the difference between "firemen" and "firefighters"?

Historically, "men" was the term used for two reasons: 1) mostly men did that type of job, and 2) "mankind" is kind of a thing. Most extreme women's liberation people like to forget the second part, or at least try to lump it in with the first.

And that's the other issue. Did you notice that I said "extreme?" Because those are really the only people who get offended by certain words.

When did we start caring so much about semantics? We murder the English language countless times on the inter-

# SAY IT AIN'T SNOWE

by Trevor Christian



When Senator Olympia Snowe announced her retirement, I was disappointed, but in no way surprised.

The problems that have driven her from the upper and more dysfunctional house of Congress are easy to see, and anger just about anyone who follows politics. It's obvious why Snowe might be frustrated enough to walk away. But at the same time, her decision is infuriating. Her leaving will make the Senate's most serious problems—brinksmanship and gridlock—that much worse.

I'll miss Senator Snowe. Her opinions on legislation were almost always more nuanced than those of her colleagues. She asked for relevant changes to bills instead of writing alternate, radically-partisan versions or demanding amendments to the constitution in exchange for passing a routine budget. Her constituents were the people of Maine, not the just the Republicans of Maine, something evidenced by the 74 percent of the vote she won in 2006.

In a Senate where the majority party will try to block amendments to their bills (often rightfully) and the minority party threatens to filibuster absolutely everything,

net every day, so why do we suddenly get up in arms over insignificant phrases?

I'm not even going to talk about the ridiculousness of arguing over whether to say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays." And there are plenty of other areas of political correctness that I didn't touch on either.

Of course, there's a flip side to this. Phrases like "that's so gay" or "you're retarded," can actually be emotionally harmful to others. If the other person is homosexual or has a sibling who is mentally handicapped, saying either of those things is definitely insensitive. But just because some phrases offend a fair amount of people doesn't mean everything does.

My main point is this: the worst thing about PC terms is that a lot of people don't get why they're necessary, and a bunch of other people flip out if they aren't used.

Snowe fought to change the filibuster and constantly backed amendments worthy of debate.

But people like her are disappearing.

Scott Brown, who won a special election in Massachusetts after Ted Kennedy's death, isn't seen as a man who accurately represents everyone in the state, but as someone who is vulnerable from both the left and right. Similarly, a number of conservative Democrats from red states are in danger of or already have been replaced by traditional Republicans.

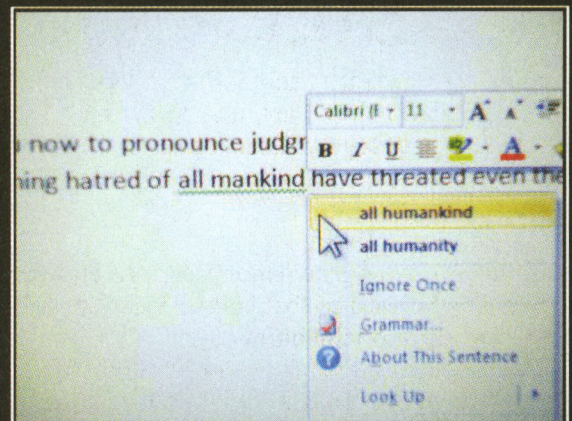
Many of those bold enough to vote outside of their pack relatively often are ideologues like Bernie Sanders, Tom Coburn and Rand Paul. They're certainly not party politicians, but that doesn't mean they can be reasoned with.

And then there are those who went the way of John McCain, sprinting away from the center at full speed when the Tea Party rose to prominence. It all adds up to the increasingly rapid disappearance of reasonable people from the Senate.

Snowe's essay in *The Washington Post* explained her reasoning well enough. She doesn't see the Senate improving any time soon and, after 40 years of public service, she'd rather move on to advocacy, which she now sees as a more noble cause, than spend six more years being hopelessly frustrated.

Like I said, understandable, but horribly deflating for those of us still holding out hope for this country.

The only possible good thing about Snowe's departure is that Maine has a reputation for electing people interested in compromise to the Senate. Susan Collins, the state's junior senator, will likely remain open to negotiations. Hopefully, the same can be said for Snowe's replacement.



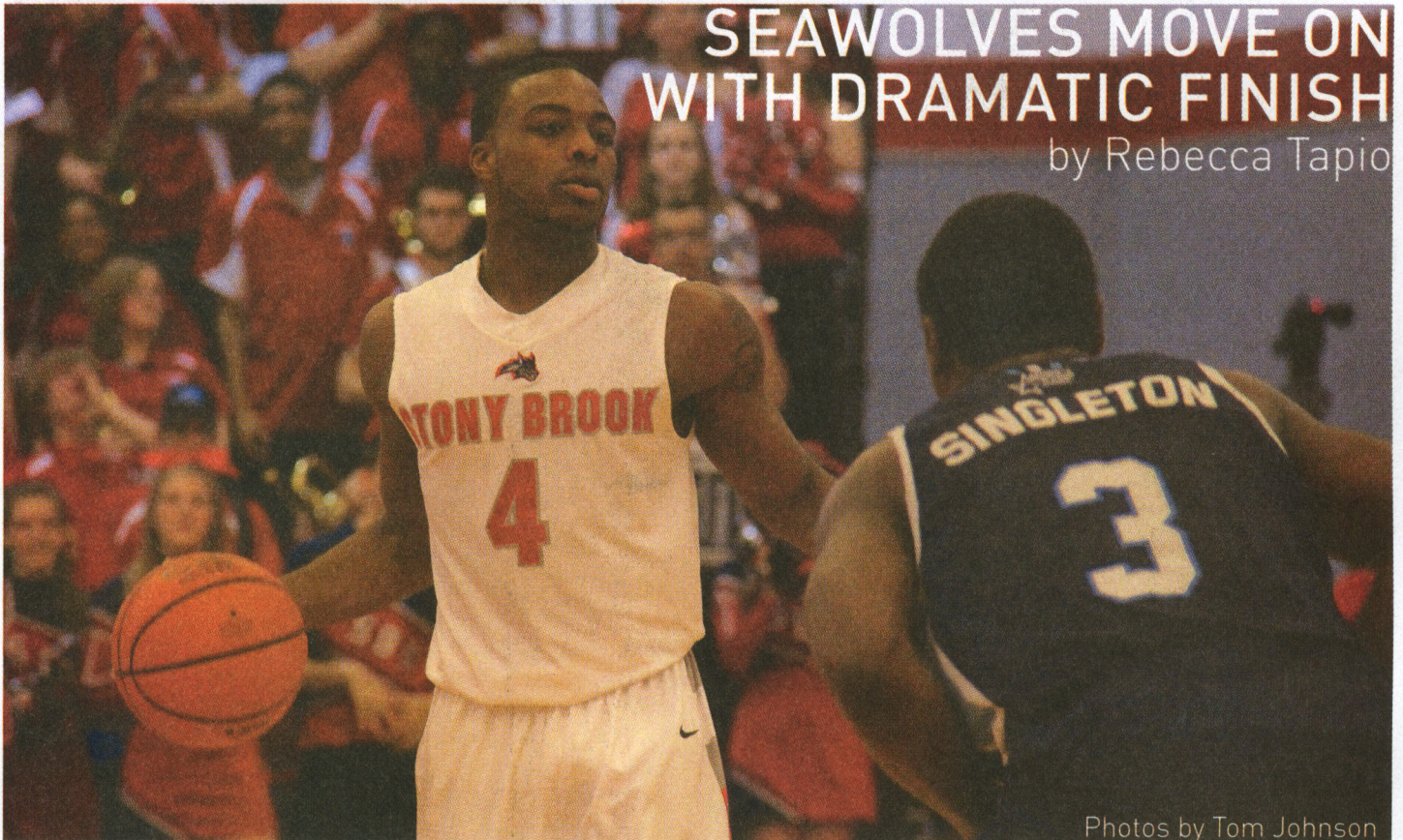
## MICROSOFT WORD

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SEAWOLVES MOVE ON  
WITH DRAMATIC FINISH

by Rebecca Tapio



Photos by Tom Johnson

Stony Brook's men's basketball team will host the America East Conference Championship, thanks to a last-second tip-in by senior forward Dallis Joyner against Albany's Great Danes on Sunday.

Coming within less than half a second before the final buzzer, Joyner's tip sent the Seawolves back to Pritchard Gym, but not in defeat; rather, to prepare for their second bid in as many years to head to the big dance.

They will face off against the University of Vermont Catamounts, who beat the Seawolves in their last meeting, ending an eight-game winning streak.

After besting the Binghamton Bearcats and the Danes, Stony Brook is all warmed up for their toughest match-up yet.

The Seawolves ended their first round with five scorers in double figures, including junior Tommy Brenton with a double-double, leading the team with 14 points, 11 rebounds, 5 steals and 3 assists.

Sophomore Dave Coley also contributed 14 points, and had a killer mid-range game. His pull-up jumper baffled the defense of the Bearcats, and ESPN commentators called his the "most explosive first step in the conference."

Seniors Bryan Dougher and Dallis Joyner and sophomore Anthony Jackson each had 13 points. The Seawolves truly dominated on defense, out-rebounding Binghamton 36-25, 14 of them leading to second chance points.

Though Stony Brook gained a lead early on, the Bearcats

hung in there, hitting key three-pointers and clawing back each time they fell behind.

Ending the game 78-69, the Seawolves pounded the ball into the paint, creating offense using Joyner's skill with the backboard, and maintained a solid and consistent defense, showing exactly why they're the top defensive team in the conference.

Facing off against the Great Danes on Sunday, Stony Brook came out as a force to be reckoned with, scoring quickly and gaining momentum in the first five minutes of play with a 14-8 lead.

Brenton picked up his second foul moments later and was resigned to the bench for the rest of the half, turning the tide to the North as Albany took advantage of the moment to go on an 11-3 run. Dougher led by example with a three-pointer that reclaimed the lead, followed by a hook shot from Joyner, keeping the Seawolves' heads above water.

The teams were tied at the half, and Dougher came back to keep pace with Albany's leading scorer, Gerardo Suero, a player who looked as though his feet could fly out from under him at any moment as he bolted to the basket.

Suero is the leading scorer in the America East Conference, averaging 21.6 points per game.

Dallis Joyner came through in a big way, facing a double team at every turn and still performing well both defensively and offensively.





In the end, the game came down to defense, with Stony Brook shooting at 38.5 percent and Albany shooting 39.6—though the Danes had one more turnover than the Seawolves. The lead changed nine times, Albany laying down three-pointers throughout the night, shooting 55 percent from behind the arc.

The key moment came with seconds left on the clock, as Stony Brook set up for one final play. Dave Coley received the ball, and, facing defenders in the lane, backed out and took a jump shot with four seconds remaining. As the ball bounced off the rim, every player in the paint made a leap for it, but Dallis Joyner was the one who succeeded in tipping the ball into the basket just as the buzzer was about to sound.

After an official review, the play was deemed good, and the Seawolves celebrated as any team after an intense battle deserved to.

Head Coach Steve Pikiell was named Coach of the Year for the America East Conference. Bryan Dougher and Tommy Brenton were both named to the All-Conference Team, with Brenton nabbing the title of Defensive Player of the Year. Dougher ended the first two rounds of play just two points shy of breaking Stony Brook's all-time Division I scoring record, with a career total of 1,589 points.

For a team that will head to the conference championship for the second time as part of Division I basketball, that's a major success.

They don't have time to relax quite yet, however, with just a week to prepare to face the Catamounts, their most challenging opponents so far.

Along with Head Coach John Becker, in his first year with the team, Vermont is looking to head back to the NCAA tournament after a loss in the first round to top seed Syracuse University in 2010.

cuse University in 2010.

After their defeat of the University of Hartford on Sunday in double overtime, the Catamounts won't be going down without a fight.

They won what commentators called a "war of attrition," continuing to put in their best effort even after both teams lost their top scorers and were in the bonus. They persisted through 25 lead changes, eventually besting the Hawks with less than a minute in the second overtime, 73-77.

Stony Brook will have to stick to their guns, taking Vermont out of their game by pounding the ball inside and kicking it out to Dougher behind the arc, as well as continuing their indomitable defense. It would be the Seawolves' first ever trip to the NCAA tournament.

The America East Conference Championship will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 10 in Pritchard Gymnasium. The *Stony Brook Press* will be live-tweeting throughout the game via the handle @sbpress.





# ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

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## Linsanity Rocks Sports World

by Joe Damiani

Since December, Knicks fans have been wondering: "Who's that guy at the end of the bench?" You wouldn't assume the Taiwanese American 23 year-old sitting in the last bench seat at Madison Square Garden would emerge as the NBA's most electrifying young talent.

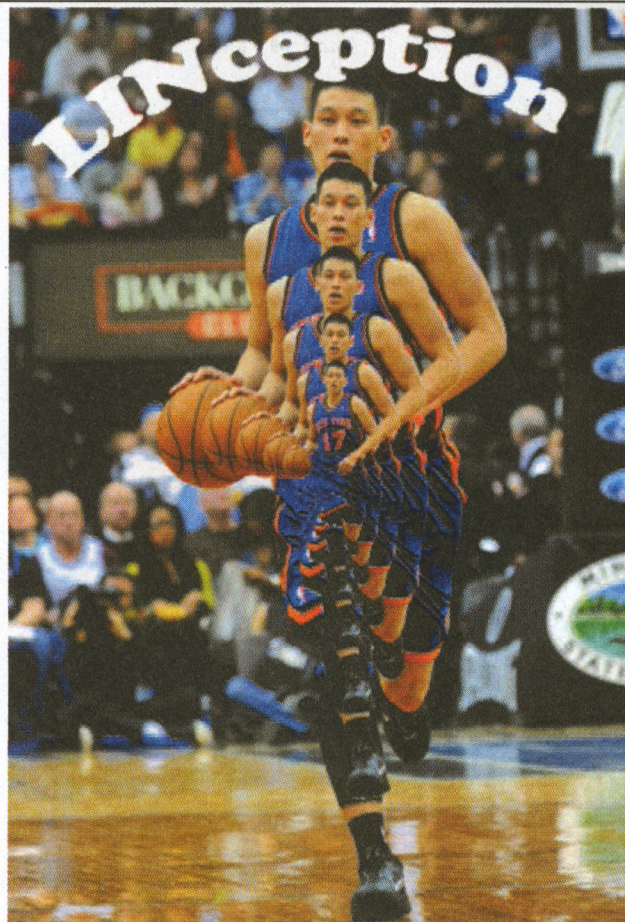
You also wouldn't assume that the same guy, scoring 109 points in his first four career starts, more than any other player in the league's history, was a graduate of Harvard University.

Jeremy Lin has become New York's newest and brightest sports star, coming out of utter obscurity and bursting onto the hardwood as one of the more decorated point guards in the league. After a brief stint last year with the Golden State Warriors and averaging just under ten minutes and 3 points per game, Lin was waived and sent to the Houston Rockets, only to be waived once again at the start of this season.

As one of the very few Asian Americans to ever play in the NBA, Lin is representing one of the smallest ethnic groups in US sports. Receiving no scholarship offers after a successful high school career at Palo Alto H.S. in California, Lin chose to attend Harvard University because he was guaranteed a spot on its basketball team. After graduating with an economics degree, Lin went undrafted in the 2009 NBA Draft. His strong summer league showing didn't lead to playing time, even after he was chosen by the Warriors.

The New York Knicks claimed Lin shortly after Christmas to be a backup for guards Toney Douglas and Mike Bibby. It seemed as though the same affair would occur in the Big Apple, as Lin received hardly any playing time, essentially being a 'benchwarmer.' But as injuries plagued the Knicks roster, with guards Baron Davis, Toney Douglas and Carmelo Anthony hurting, Lin was called upon to try to do something, anything, to revive a slumping Knicks season. Lin entered February 4<sup>th</sup>'s game against the New Jersey Nets and exploded for an unexpected 25 points, after scoring just two in the previous game.

And with that, "Linsanity" was born. His story is one of true perseverance. Lin was on the verge of being cut by his third team in three years, making a meager salary and sleeping on his brother or teammates couches. In a week of superstardom never before seen, Jeremy Lin had risen as a true star; after the win against the Nets, he led Knicks on a 7-game win streak, all while averaging



JEREMY LIN: PHOTO COMPUTER ENHANCED BY TREVOR CHRISTIAN

almost 25 points, gaining the starting point guard job and being signed to an official Knicks contract and receiving a higher salary. He's now got a Trump Tower apartment, a nice upgrade from the living room couch.

Stony Brook students, fans of basketball or not, are also buying into Jeremy Lin's success. "I didn't tell anyone I was a Knicks fan, but now I'll admit it," said Trevor Christian.

Not just in the U.S., Lin's appeal is being felt worldwide. His number-17 jersey is the best-selling item according to NBA.com. In China and Taiwan, he's become a cultural icon and hero; even with a drastic time difference, fans overseas stay up to watch Lin electrify the league.

He's influenced his own breed of terms – "Linsanity," "Linning," "Linspiration;" countless plays on his last name are sweeping the world. Through all of that, he's also hearing the one chant he's waited to hear his whole life: "MVP" - Most Valuable Player.

**Asian American E-Zine / Asian American Journal**

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This is an excerpt from [www.aaezine.org](http://www.aaezine.org) in SB Press March 2012



# ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

WWW.AA2SBU.ORG/AEEZINE

## A Prayer for the Chinese National Soccer Team

by Oliver Hao Li

Which sports team has the most fans in the world? Is it Barcelona for soccer, or Jeremy Lin's New York Knicks, or the New York Giants who just won the NFL Superbowl, or the New York Yankees for baseball? It is none of them. The sports team with the most fans is China's national male soccer team, boasting 1.2 million supporters.

If a team has that many fans, it would only make sense that they would play well, but that's not the case. Currently, China's soccer team's FIFA ranking is 76, just behind Burkina Faso, a small country in Africa.

So, the question can be asked: why is China's team so bad? Looking to pinpoint the problem with their team is much like a person trying to fix his own computer, but still China tries to identify where they fall short.

They moved the team from Beijing to Shanghai, and finally Chengdu. No matter where they went, only tragic memories were left. Some criticized their coach, so they changed from a Chinese coach to an foreign coach. When that didn't work, they switched from a soccer coach to a swimming coach. After changing coaches many times, it became obvious that the coach wasn't the issue with the team's losing record.

Perhaps the problem was in the Chinese soccer league: if none of the players in the league are good, then how will the Chinese national team be good? To fix this problem, they recruited an American major league baseball manager. He tried to implement a competitive system from baseball into the Chinese soccer league. This manager constantly changed the system, and somehow the winning soccer teams in China ended up being sent down to what would be the same as the minor leagues we have here in US baseball. Wanting more tall forwards, he went so far as to change the rules of soccer in the Chinese league (1 point for kicking a goal, 2 points for headers) so the Chinese teams would train tall players to play for the national team. This created a joke in Chinese soccer because short athletes, not being able to score headers as well as tall ones,



SBU SOCCER PLAYER YIMAJIAN YAN PHOTO BY LI HAO

came up with unusual even silly scoring techniques to get the valued headers.

After all these failed attempts, what then, is the true problem with the Chinese national team? Everyone knows, but no one will speak up.

In 2009, several soccer clubs in the Chinese league went on strike, tired of all the

absurd measures China put them through. They held a press conference announcing their intention to go play in other countries. One month later, three out of the seven owners of these soccer clubs were arrested for bribery and corruption, gaining them ten years in prison. The remaining four teams quickly announced that they would play in China again. It's not hard to see why all of this happened, but no one dares to speak up.

From my point of view, the root of the problems lies in the tight grip the Chinese government has on the national soccer association. In most of the world, soccer leagues and associations are independent and not directly controlled by their governments. Since China's national team has so many fans and makes so much money, the government keeps a tight rein. Without transparency, all capable players and coaches have no way to advance to the positions they deserve, and those who do have positions are millionaires. However, these millionaire players and coaches lack proficiency in their sport that true athletes hold. Does all of this sound familiar? Soccer in China is an image of Chinese society: it's just easier to see when it comes to soccer. Soccer is measured by scoring and winning – something we can all see. But these same issues in Chinese culture are also present, though not as apparent. Chinese soccer is profit-driven and controlled by the government, much like China itself.

Without true democracy and freedom, this system will keep these 1.2 billion fans watching those eleven Chinese national players play and be played, losing in front of the whole world.

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**This is an excerpt from www.aaezine.org in SB Press March 2012**

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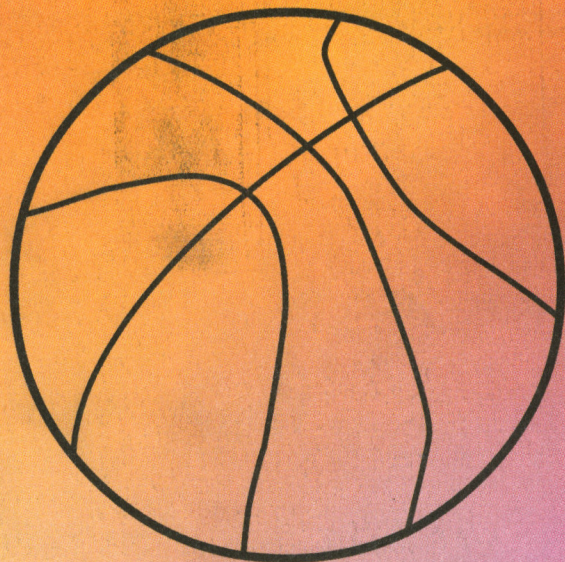
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